

NY Post MAY 6, 1976

U. S. Aides Linked to King Smear

WASHINGTON (AP) — High officials in the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations must share the blame for the FBI's campaign to destroy Dr. Martin Luther King, a Senate intelligence committee staff report says.

There was no evidence, according to the report, that anyone outside the FBI approved the campaign against King. But it concludes that "officials responsible for supervising the FBI received indications that such an effort . . . might be taking place and failed to take adequate steps to prevent it."

The report said evidence showed that:

¶ Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy was given a summary of information obtained from bugs placed in King's hotel rooms.

¶ Attorney General Nicholas DeB. Katzenbach and Asst. Attorney General Burke Marshall told President Johnson that the FBI had offered to play tape recordings of the bugs to reporters.

¶ The FBI offered to play the tape recordings for Johnson aide Walter Jenkins.

¶ Johnson aide Bill Moyers approved sending FBI reports containing derogatory personal information about King to other government agencies.

"The evidence reveals a disturbing attitude of unconcern by responsible officials and a failure on their part to make appropriate corrective measures," the report said.

One FBI memo quoted in the report stated that Jenkins had suggested leaking the hotel room tapes to the press. However, the report added that in a sworn interview "Jenkins expressly denied" making such a suggestion.

The 105-page study, which contained few new disclosures concerning the bureau's

self-described campaign "to completely discredit King as the leader of the Negro people," was released as a supplementary volume to the intelligence panel's final report made public last week.

A total of 13 supplementary volumes will be released "in order that the American public may fully know the extent of the crimes" committed by U. S. intelligence agencies, chairman Frank Church (D-Idaho) said.

Church made it clear that the release of the volumes was intended to bolster the case of Senators calling for the creation of a new Congressional panel to monitor intelligence agencies.

The report suggested that the FBI attack against King was motivated both by a suspicion that Communists were serving as advisers to the civil rights leader and by director J. Edgar Hoover's personal feeling that King was "no good."

The staff said they had found no evidence that any of King's advisers "attempted to exploit the civil rights movement to carry out the plans of the Communist Party."