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RFK Signed Wiretap Order, Hoover Quoted

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Evening Star quoted FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover today as saying that wiretapping of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King's telephone was proposed by the then Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy in June 1963 and carried out with the signed authorization of Kennedy a few months later.

The Star, in a copyrighted story, quoted Hoover as saying the FBI has in its files two memorandums which make it clear that Kennedy conceived the wiretap on King and subsequently authorized the bureau to proceed with the wiretapping on Oct. 10, 1963.

Kennedy initiated the idea for the tap in a conversation with Courtney Evans, then assistant director of the FBI and liaison officer between the agency and the Justice Department, the Star story quoted Hoover as saying.

THE FBI refused a request today that it release the text of the authorization it had reported. A Justice Department spokesman likewise said the department had no intention of doing so.

The Star story, by Jeremiah O'Leary, reported:

Hoover said the FBI has a memorandum in its files from Evans to Hoover, dated in

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June, 1963. Evans reported that Kennedy said he was concerned about allegations that King was a student and believer in Marxism. Kennedy, according to the Evans memorandum, expressed concern that Marxism might infiltrate the race issue in the United States because of King's leadership of Negroes through his Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

EVANS REPORTED in the memo to the FBI director, Hoover said, that the attorney general was alarmed by alleged associations between King and a New Yorker with Marxist connections.

On Oct. 7, 1963, following subsequent discussions Hoover said he sent a memorandum to the attorney general in which he reported that it was now technically feasible to apply telephone wiretaps to King's telephone at SCLC headquarters in Atlanta, and at an unnamed address in New York City. This was, in effect, a request for authori-

zation to proceed, the director said.

bear the signature of "Robert F. Kennedy" in the lower left-hand corner over the handwritten date "10-10-63."