

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 9-8-64

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

Tolson	
Belmont	
Mohr	
DeLoach	
Casper	
Callahan	
Conrad	
Felt	
Gale	
Rosen	
Sullivan	
Tavel	
Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Holmes	
Gandy	

**C-28**

*Siph...*

Reference is made to my memorandum to you in this matter dated August 31, 1964, in which the Director approved the recommendation to have Assistant Director Malone orally brief Francis Cardinal Spellman concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.'s communist connections and regenerate make-up to avoid the possibility of having the Pope grant an audience to King in connection with his proposed visit to Rome after this month.

Malone was briefed in this matter and told to stress two things in his contact with Cardinal Spellman, the first being that he should stress of course the confidential nature of our briefing so that the Bureau would not be drawn into the picture, and, secondly, to ascertain if Cardinal Spellman could take the necessary action on his relationship with the Pope so that if he could not, we could take appropriate steps through other channels.

Malone called today and stated that he had discussed the situation with Cardinal Spellman over the weekend and he said that the Cardinal took instant steps to advise the Vatican against granting any audience to King. He stated that Cardinal Spellman assured him that he would respect the confidential nature of the information and added that the Cardinal was most pleased and gratified that the Director thought enough of him to take him into his confidence and to rely upon him to handle such a delicate matter. Cardinal Spellman is going to Rome next week to attend the Ecumenical Council and thus will be on the scene personally and further insure that the Pope is not placed in an embarrassing position through any contact with King.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For your information.

- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. D. J. Brennan
- Mr. Eland
- Mr. Baumgardner
- Mr. Phillips

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DATE 1/5/79 BY 9103 RDD/...

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This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination.

Mr. W. C. Sullivan *WCS*

DATE: August 31, 1964

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner *FJB*

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan *S*
- 1 - Mr. D. J. Brennan *P*
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner *B*

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7/18/99 BY 9903 R00/WP

*9/12/86*  
*Spinaemia*  
*b7c*  
Martin Luther King, Jr., is to be in West Berlin, Germany, for the opening of that city's cultural festival 9/13/64. We have just obtained details of his itinerary for travel abroad which reveals that he will leave the United States either 9/11 or 12/64 and not return until 9/22/64. Included in his itinerary is a visit to Rome, Italy. He is to go there from Madrid, Spain, 9/18/64, and remain in Rome until the morning of 9/20/64 when he will go to London, England.

We have not as yet obtained any information indicating the purpose of his visit to Rome, but it is entirely likely that he may seek and be given an audience with the Pope. This likelihood is clearly evident when one considers that King is receiving more and more acclaim as a leader of the Negro people in this country, plus the fact that he is a clergyman. Further, King we know is being considered for the Nobel Peace Prize and his receiving an audience with the Pope would likely receive considerable publicity, especially in Europe, further enhancing his chances for the Prize.

It would be shocking indeed for such an unscrupulous character as King to receive an audience with the Pope. It is believed that if a plan to see the Pope is in the making, it ought to be nipped in the bud. We have considered different possibilities for meeting this problem and believe that the best one would be to have Assistant Director Malone of the New York Office personally contact [redacted] and on a highly confidential basis [redacted] (1) the fact that King is to visit Rome and the likelihood of his receiving an audience with the Pope and (2) the unsavory nature of King's character, both from a subversive and [redacted] Malone should be able to impress upon [redacted] the likely embarrassment that may result to the Pope should he grant King an audience and King is later discredited. In this light it would hardly even be necessary for Malone to "suggest" what [redacted] should do to forestall any possible audience. Malone should stress the highly confidential nature of this matter with [redacted] and insure that the Bureau is in no

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SEP 16 1964

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EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE.

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan  
RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
100-106670

way associated with any action taken by [redacted] Malone should also obtain from [redacted] a commitment that he will be able to block any attempt by King to gain an audience with the Pope. If [redacted] is not able to give such an assurance, we must immediately know this so that we may explore some other avenue

RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, Assistant Director Malone should personally orally brief [redacted] in accordance with the attached "Top Secret" summary indicating King's communist connections and [redacted] (This is the same summary we previously used in preventing King's receiving an honorary degree from Marquette University.) The attached summary should also be used for telephonically briefing Malone. This matter should receive most expeditious handling because of the time element involved.

*[Handwritten signatures and initials: B., JHK, JAS, W.P.S., G.P.C., O.K., H, J]*

*Sullivan's handoff  
1:30 PM  
[initials]*