

CONFIDENTIAL

CLASSIFIED BY 1076 WAN/OP - FBI
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE Date: 2/24/66

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

Transmit the following in _____ (Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL AIRMAIL (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
 ATTENTION: Assistant Director WILLIAM C. SULLIVAN
 FROM: SAC, CHICAGO ON 3/2/66
 RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
 SM-C (Security matter - Communist)

Re Bureau phone call from Assistant Director SULLIVAN to SAC JOHNSON 2/23/66.

Today I visited His Excellency, the Most Reverend JOHN P. CODY, Archbishop of Chicago, at his residence, as had a most pleasant visit concerning matters in general, during which time His Excellency expressed his very high regard for the Director and the work of the FBI. He indicated that he had had the opportunity during past years to cooperate with the Bureau representatives and he appeared most appreciative of my visit. He indicated that during the past six months, he has tried to become acquainted with the various problems which face his church in the Chicago area, but that a big part of the six months he has spent in traveling and, therefore, is not as well versed in the entire situation concerning Chicago as he would like to be.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP



3 - Bureau
 1 - Chicago
 NWJ/arc
 (4)

REC-10
 100-106670

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EXCISIONS

• SAME AS P91

AW
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At this point he commented that he was worried about the presence of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING in Chicago and stated that KING had visited him here in Chicago some time ago. This gave me an opportunity to ask him his impression of KING. His Excellency stated that this was the first occasion he had talked with KING and he was "not impressed". He stated that during the conversation, KING exhibited a very glib tongue and His Excellency could not help but question his sincerity. His Excellency stated that he felt KING was not a truthful man and gave as an example that KING agreed that the conversation between KING and His Excellency would remain in strictest confidence. He pointed out, however, that the press was "conveniently available" outside the Archbishop's residence upon the departure of KING and KING spoke at length to the press concerning his visit with the Archbishop, even though the two men had agreed the conversation was confidential. ASL

I then, in strictest confidence, briefed His Excellency along the lines discussed with Assistant Director SULLIVAN. It was obvious that His Excellency sincerely appreciated receiving this information and indicated to me that he would be most circumspect in his dealings with KING. ASL

His Excellency is a very forceful individual, and from his comments and demeanor, I feel certain that he will do everything possible to neutralize KING's effect in this area. ASL

I feel that this visit was highly productive. He has accepted my invitation to visit the Chicago Office. He gave me his private telephone number and asked that we stay in very close touch on matters of mutual interest.

Bureau will be kept advised of developments.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~

CLASSIFIED BY 60764/N/...
CATEGORY 2
DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE
11/6/78

TO : Mr. Sullivan
DATE: 2/18/68

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Baugardner
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Bland
1 - Mr. Wick
1 - Mr. Bates
1 - Mr. Sullivan

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

100-106670-230g
FBI

This document is prepared in response to your request and is for official use only. Its use is limited to official business and its contents are not to be disclosed to unauthorized persons without the express approval of the FBI.

Sergeant Edward McClellen, Human Relations Unit, Chicago, Illinois, Police Department, advised that on 2/3/68 Martin Luther King, Jr., President, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), met with Reverend John P. Cody, Archbishop of the Chicago Diocese of the Roman Catholic Church. The meeting was in the nature of a courtesy visit, at King's request, during which King reportedly informed the Archbishop of the nature and purpose of his campaign to end segregation and discrimination against the Negro in Chicago. King has selected Chicago to be the site of the first SCLC invasion into the northern civil rights problem. It is recognized by King that the future of his organization may well rest in the success or failure of the SCLC Chicago program.

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ON 3/12/90

King stated at a press conference, after his meeting with the Archbishop, that he and Archbishop Cody were in substantial agreement upon the goals they were both seeking and intended to keep in touch with each other. King declared he was hopeful of the active participation of priests and nuns in connection with his SCLC program in Chicago and had gained the impression from the Archbishop that such participation was a matter of individual conscience and would not be a matter of discipline insofar as the Diocesan hierarchy was concerned.

King continues to rely heavily on the advice of his New York foursome, Stanley Levison, Harry Wachtel, Clarence Jones and Bayard Rustin, in connection with all major SCLC problems and activities. These individuals have all been members of the Communist Party or Communist Party front groups in the past. As long as King utilizes these advisors with subversive backgrounds, the danger remains that his SCLC activities will be influenced by communist-oriented thinking. Should communists or communist sympathizers succeed in influencing the SCLC Chicago program, it would be a major breakthrough for the communists in the civil rights field.

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EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2
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Baumgardner to Sullivan
Re: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
100-106670

King's meeting with Archbishop Cody has been discussed with Special Agent in Charge Marlin W. Johnson of our Chicago Office. Johnson has given assurance that he can talk to Archbishop Cody in complete confidence and Archbishop Cody will not violate this confidence. Bureau files show that Archbishop Cody, while serving as a Bishop in the St. Louis Archdiocese in the early 1950's, *CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE* At that time, he reportedly had an excellent knowledge

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It is felt it would be desirable to have Special Agent in Charge Johnson brief Archbishop Cody regarding the subversive backgrounds of King's key advisors and to emphasize to the Archbishop the vast influence these individuals exert on King. In addition, Special Agent in Charge Johnson would disclose to the Archbishop King's own sordid activities such a briefing would benefit the Archbishop in determining the degree of cooperation his archdiocese will extend to King's program in Chicago and would probably result in a lessening of King's influence in Chicago. This would be a serious blow to any possible communist attempt to exploit King's program in Chicago.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Assistant Director Sullivan be authorized to telephonically contact Special Agent in Charge Johnson and instruct him to brief Archbishop Cody regarding the strong influence being exerted on King by his key advisors with communist backgrounds and to inform him of King's own hypocritical behavior. Special Agent in Charge Johnson will inform the Archbishop that under no circumstance may there ever be any attribution to the FBI for the information furnished him.

Handwritten notes and signatures:
① Baumgardner
re: King
11-23-66
was
10/24
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A
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SECRET

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