

~~SECRET~~

Memorandum

Mr. Mohr

DATE: April 8, 1964

C. D. DeLoach

CLASSIFIED BY 6076 WAN/ma
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 2
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

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

Mr. Baumgardner's memo to Mr. Sullivan 4/2/64 recommended that I briefly brief Senator Saltonstall in accordance with an attached "Top Secret" summary relating Reverend Martin Luther King's communist connections and the purpose of such action was because Reverend King had been [redacted] Senator Saltonstall is on the Board of Trustees of Springfield College.

I called upon Senator Saltonstall at 10:30 a.m., 4/7/64 in his office. At the beginning of our conversation I told the Senator that my remarks should be held in the strictest confidence. He agreed to this. I then mentioned that he had long been a critic of the FBI's anti-communism, therefore, the Director wanted me to brief him concerning a matter of potential embarrassment to a college he obviously was very personally interested in. Senator Saltonstall was told that captioned individual was to [redacted]

He was advised that King for some time has been maintaining close liaison with [redacted] members of the Communist Party. I told him that King had received assistance and counsel and had relied greatly upon one of these members. I told Senator Saltonstall also that King was known to be [redacted]

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DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]
11-20-80

Senator Saltonstall told me he was shocked to receive this information. He stated it was hardly believable. He said if it were not for the integrity of the FBI he would not believe such facts. I told him that our information was very obviously truthful and based upon indisputable facts.

Senator Saltonstall told me that while he wanted to respect our confidence, the information placed a great burden upon him. He stated he felt duty bound to tell Glenn Olds. I reminded Senator Saltonstall that I had advised him of the above-mentioned facts in strict confidence. He then inquired if I would speak to Dr. Olds. He described Dr. Olds as a very outstanding individual who could be trusted implicitly.

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Baumgardner

REC-33

~~SECRET~~ 100-106670-349

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(6)

Loach to Mohr Memo
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

told the Senator I preferred not to speak with Dr. Olds about this matter and that I wanted him, Senator Saltonstall, to know that under no circumstances should this information be attributed to the FBI. The Senator assured me that he would treat our information on a confidential basis; however, he might possibly have to take Dr. Olds into his confidence.

I had been back in my office approximately 30 minutes when Senator Saltonstall called me. He stated that Dr. Olds was in his office at the time, having dropped by as result of a trip to Washington to work on the President's poverty program. Senator Saltonstall inquired if I would see Dr. Olds right away. I told him that I was tied up on other matters and it would be impossible. He next inquired if I could see Dr. Olds at 8:00 a. m. on the morning of 4/8/64. I told Senator Saltonstall I couldn't do this inasmuch as I had a commitment to attend a breakfast meeting of a civic group. He then closed the conversation by stating Dr. Olds would call me and arrange an appointment. I asked Senator Saltonstall if he had disclosed the remarks made during our previous conversation to Dr. Olds. He stated that he had inasmuch as he wanted it absolutely certain that ~~under the circumstances then that I would see Dr. Olds.~~ I told him ~~under the circumstances then that I would see Dr. Olds.~~

Dr. Olds, after making an appointment, came by my office at 4:00 p. m., 4/8/64. He opened the conversation by stating that he fully recognized the necessity to keep the information concerning King in strict confidence. He stated he wanted us to know that he would maintain this confidence and would not advise anyone of this information. He pointed out that he had been very shocked when Senator Saltonstall told him of these facts and had insisted that Reverend King be prevented ~~from appearing~~. Dr. Olds, who impressed me as being a very sensible, intelligent individual, stated that due to the fact that he will keep this information confidential, it would be impossible for him to "uninvite" King ~~from appearing~~. He stated that the "liberals" on his Board of Trustees could probably tear him to bits if he now cancelled King's appearance. I told Dr. Olds at this point that any action he took in this regard was entirely up to him but that no information was to be attributed to the FBI and that we were to be kept strictly out of this matter. He stated he fully recognized this fact and no one would ever know that the FBI had given Senator Saltonstall this information. Dr. Olds did say that he would take immediate steps to ~~take care of the situation~~. He said he wanted to think about the possibility of ~~canceling King's appearance~~ but at this step of the game he did not see how it could be done.

Dr. Olds expressed a desire to shake hands with the Director some day. He indicated he had issued the Director two invitations in the recent past to receive an honorary degree and make the commencement address at Springfield College. However,

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The Director's schedule had caused him to not accept these invitations. I explained the Director's heavy schedule and the fact that he was reluctant to leave Washington while Congress was in session.

Upon leaving, Dr. Olds assured me that no information would be released and none would be attributed to the FBI. I told him that we would, of course, deny any such information had been furnished. At this point he advised me that, of course, his main reason for coming to the FBI was to determine if we could suggest any course of action he might take. I told him we could suggest nothing, that any action taken was entirely up to him.

ACTION:

For record purposes.

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For 0.27
new with
EJC

SEP 24 1975

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FROM: Mr. V. J. O'gardner
SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bland
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Ryan

My memorandum to you March 19, 1964, concerning the con-
influence in racial matters advised that we had learned that Spri-
College, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Yale University, New Hav-
Connecticut, were considering the conferring upon Martin Luther K-
of honorary degrees in June, 1964, but that to date no definite p-
had been perfected relative to either institution. We indicated
we were initiating appropriate checks as to the availability of s-
established and reliable sources at these institutions which would
permit the heading off of the conferring of honorary degrees to K-
We indicated an intention to proceed along lines similar to that i-
recently which prevented King from getting an honorary degree from
Marquette University. The Director noted "OK" relative to these
intentions of ours. Instant memorandum recommends that an extreme
discreet contact be made with Senator Leverett Saltonstall (Republ-
Massachusetts) who appears to be in a position to assist the Burea-
in the matter relating to Springfield College. A separate memoran-
will follow relative to Yale University.

Boston SAC Handley has advised that although the Boston
Office files are negative concerning Springfield's President, Dr. C
Olds, Handley has been able to determine that Olds is very close to
Sargent Shriver and Olds spends half of his time in Washington, D.
assisting Shriver in matters relating to the Peace Corps and study
on poverty. Bureau files on Olds are favorable; he is a theologian
and has visited Russia on one occasion.

Handley suggested [redacted] as a possible contact
as he is a member of the Board of Springfield College. [redacted]
is on the Special Correspondents' List and we have had limited but
friendly relations with him for a number of years. He is usually
written a congratulatory letter upon his re-elections.

Enclosure

100-106670

EX-115

REC-33

100-106670-348-5-FL

100-3-116 (Communist Party, USA, Negro Question, Communist
Influence in Racial Matters)

SEP:pwd

(10)

SEP 29 1964

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DATE 11/20/80 BY SP4/MLK

OBSERVATIONS:

Because of Olds' close association with [redacted] it would not appear to be prudent to attempt to deal with him. It appears from our study that [redacted] is the most logical individual to deal with and that if he were personally approached by Assistant Director DeLoach and orally briefed, in the strictest confidence, concerning King, he would be in a position to take the necessary action to prevent King from receiving an honorary degree from Springfield College. b7

RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, DeLoach 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 the Marquette University situation). It should be made clear to Saltonstall that the information is being given him in the strictest confidence with the thought that he might desire to use it in preventing King from receiving an honorary degree from Springfield College and thus save that institution from embarrassment because of King's connections and character. It should be emphasized to [redacted] that under no circumstances may this information ever be attributed to the Bureau. b

Handwritten notes and signatures:
D.H.
W.C.F.
C.K.
C.
J.P.W.
✓