

Threat to Rev. King Sent by FBI: Panel

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, Nov. 18 (News Bureau)—The FBI sent an anonymous letter to the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in 1964 that King took as a suggestion to commit suicide or be publicly discredited, the Senate Intelligence Committee said today.

The letter was found in the files of William Sullivan, retired FBI domestic intelligence chief, who contends it was "planted" there.

Written a month before Dr. King received the Nobel Peace Prize, the letter warned him: "You have just 34 days left ... You are done. There is just one way out for you."

Considered A Warning

Committee sources said that the King family interpreted the letter as a warning to him to commit suicide or risk exposure of elements of his personal life.

Dr. King, a bitter critic of the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, was just one of thousands of Americans — ranging from the Black Panthers to women's liberation groups — who were infiltrated, wiretapped or harrassed by FBI domestic intelligence programs in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Senate committee staffers testified today.

But Curtis Smothers, an assistant counsel for the committee, said that an extensive review of FBI records failed to show that many arrests or even much important intelligence resulted from the program. He said that 530,000 intelligence dossiers were compiled.

Aimed to Reduce Influence

No public figure received the attention the FBI gave King after he began publicly to criticize Hoover, whose agency employed only a handful of blacks at the time.

In 1963, Sullivan presented a plan "to reduce King completely in influence. Obvious confusion will reign." In 1963 and 1964, the FBI planted microphones in the New York and Atlanta offices of King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference, in King's home, and in his hotel rooms at the Republican and Democratic national conventions.

Cartha (Deke) DeLoach, a top Hoover aide who was liaison to the Johnson White House, headed the King surveillance at the 1964 Democratic National Convention in Atlantic City. An FBI memo notes that DeLoach was able to advise the White House in advance of King's plans.

litical dissidents, black and white hate groups were:

- A New York FBI office proposal to sabotage a printing press being brought into the country by the U.S. Communist Party.
- A successful program to prevent an antiwar group from renting a plane and dropping flowers over Washington in symbolic protest. An FBI agent answered the group's advertisement for a pilot, but failed to show up at the airport, sticking



Dr. Martin Luther King

the protest leader with 200 pounds of flowers.

- Investigating Black Muslims and their children in an effort to shut down their elementary school in Washington.

Some FBI agents attended Southern Christian Leadership press conferences posing as NBC reporters — with the cooperation of NBC, the committee said.

Detail FBIs Tactics

Other FBI tactics against King included:

- Trying to prevent him from meeting with Pope Paul in 1964 by asking the late Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York to protest to the Vatican. The cardinal did so, but the Pope met with Dr. King anyway, the committee said.
- A proposal in the 1960s that FBI agents ask then — New York Gov. Rockefeller, planning a Latin American trip, not to meet with King first. The committee had no record that the FBI plan was successful.
- A program to influence "friendly" congressmen to oppose legislation pending in Congress that would have made King's birthday a national holiday.

Smothers said that the anti-King program continued even though FBI intelligence experts had reported that Communist Party efforts over 40 years to take over black protest groups had failed.

Among other harassment tactics against antiwar groups, pro-