

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

(C-34)

TO : W. C. Sullivan

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 12/3/64

FROM : F. J. Baumgardner

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - J. F. Bland
- 1 - F. J. Baumgardner
- 1 - S. F. Phillips

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

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Belmont _____
Mohr _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Evans _____
Gale _____
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Sullivan _____
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Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

We know that in the past King has been very friendly with Rockefeller who has been a firm supporter of King and activities in the civil rights movement. We checked with our Albany Office this morning (12/8/64) and find that the Bureau's relations with the Governor are most friendly and that the Governor has been cooperative with the Bureau.

OBSERVATIONS:

100-106670-643

It is believed that we should consider taking steps to orally brief Rockefeller, on a confidential basis, so that he may be fully apprised as to the communist influence on King and King's intentions. Such briefing may well change Rockefeller's intentions, if in fact he has such, to ~~take~~ ~~action~~. There appears to be no reason why such action would work to the Bureau's detriment in any way; more likely, it would probably be received by the Governor with much thanks on his part. We have considered the following courses of action, listed in order of preference, any one of which would serve to implement the suggested action.

Enclosure

REC-10

100-106670-643

ENCLOSURE

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(31)

Memorandum to W. C. Sullivan
From F. J. Baumgardner
RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
100-106670

(1) The Director may desire to personally telephone Governor Rockefeller and brief him.

(2) We could have either Assistant Director Malone (SAC of the New York Office) or SAC Bailey of the Albany Office, acting as a personal representative of the Director, meet with the Governor and orally brief him.

(3) We could have former SAC Arthur Cornelius, who is head of the New York State Police, orally brief the Governor.

(4) We could have a responsible third party who is very influential with Rockefeller, such as New York's former governor, Thomas Dewey, orally brief Governor Rockefeller.

Suggest this as

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Director consider orally briefing Governor Rockefeller, on a confidential basis, concerning King. Attached is a memorandum containing necessary pertinent information which may be used in an oral briefing of Rockefeller should any of the above considered courses of action be decided upon.

ways to as wcl ✓

D. J. [unclear]

Memorandum

Mr. Belmont

UNCLASSIFIED

DATE: December 16, 1971

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/11/80 BY SP-10/AR/ML

F. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT:

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - C

Last evening, Dr. E. H. Edwin Espy, General Secretary, National Council of the Churches of Christ, New York City Headquarters, while en route from the South, stopped at the National Airport for a couple of hours to discuss with me the subject of Martin Luther King. As I have reported in previous memoranda, he has been informed concerning certain basic facts relating to King's ~~background~~ and his connections with communism.

Last night Dr. Espy told me that he has been working on this matter whenever the opportunity presented itself and he said he wanted the FBI to know that steps have been taken by the National Council to make certain from this time on that Martin Luther King will never get "one single dollar" of financial support from the National Council. Further, Dr. Espy told me that since our first conversation he has heard from some ~~other~~ sources concerning King.

In view of this, he felt that he was free to discuss the matter with a few key Protestant clergymen, including Dr. Carson Blake, Presbyterian leader who has been active in the civil rights movement. Naturally, said Dr. Espy, they were horrified and Dr. Blake said that he could not see how a Christian clergyman could give any more support to a man like King. Dr. Espy also told me this week he intends to confer with Roy Wilkins, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, for the purpose of persuading Wilkins that the Negro leaders should completely isolate King and remove him from the role he is now occupying in civil rights activities. In Dr. Espy's opinion, the most effective way to dethrone King and get him out of the public eye is to have the important Negro leaders united in their determination to do this.

Dr. Espy in a few weeks will be leaving for Africa and will return from there in about 2 or 3 months. I will meet again with him at that time.

As I have previously said, Dr. Espy, a Baptist theologian, is a very fine man in every respect. He has a most sensitive

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- FCS:mls (C)
- 1-Mr. Belmont; 1-Mr. Mohr;
- 1-Mr. DeLoach; 1-Mr. Sullivan;
- 1-Mr. D. E. Moore; 1-Mr. J. A. Sizoo;
- 1-Mr. Phillips

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Memo to Mr. Belmont
RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - C

conscience and he is a person on whom considerable reliability can be placed. I know the extent of his concern about King and I feel positive that he will try to do as much as he can to remove King from the powerful social position he now occupies. Dr. Espy deplored to no very strongly the fact that King was able to be named "Man of the Year" by "Time" magazine, was the recipient recently of the Nobel Prize, secured an audience with the Pope, and has been the recipient of different awards from both Protestant and Catholic groups. I agreed with him most heartily and said it was too bad those people responsible for giving such recognition to King were not more circumspect. He replied that it was probably due to their lack of knowledge concerning King's communist connections and [REDACTED] but he believes this condition is being corrected, at least among the clergymen. b7c

ACTION:

For information, ✓

W.C.S.

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