

Memorandum

TO : Mr. T. W. Leavitt

FROM : J. G. Deegan *JG*SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
*MURKIN*1 - Mr. J. Adams
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: S. Peelman)

DATE: 5/7/76

1 - Mr. E. W. Walsh
(Attn: J. P. Dunphy)
1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. L. M. Quick
1 - Mr. D. RyanAssoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

PURPOSE: To advise identities of Department Task Force charged with the responsibility of reviewing our past investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.

SYNOPSIS: Department Security Officer advised 5/4/76 that the Department intended to appoint Department Attorney Fred G. Folsom, Jr., to Task Force charged with current review of investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr., and pointed out in the past this individual's brother had been associated with the Communist Party and his mother was reported a communist sympathizer. Department records indicate the Task Force leader in the past voluntarily reported the affiliations of his brother and mother. Intelligence Division officials met with Counsel on Professional Responsibility on 5/5/76 and determined complete identity of six-member Task Force. Counsel advised Task Force leader is 30-year employee of Department who is held in high respect and confidence. Department intends to request FBI issue striped credential and identification tag for Task Force members. The Attorney General has been advised of information concerning Folsom.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

APPROVED:

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____

Comp. Syst. _____

Ext. Affairs _____

Gen. Inv. _____

Ident. _____

Inspection _____

Intell. _____

Laboratory _____

Legal Coun. _____

Plan. & Eval. _____

Rec. Mgmt. _____

Spec. Inv. _____

Training _____

NOT RECORDED

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100-106670

1 - 121-6629 (Fred Folsom)

DR:KJ
(9)

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ORIGINAL FILED IN

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

DETAILS: On 5/4/76, D. Jerry Rubino, Chief, Security Programs Section, who serves as the Department Security Officer, contacted SA David Ryan of the Intelligence Division (INTD) to advise that Department Attorney Fred Gorman Folsom had been appointed to a Task Force to review past FBI investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. Rubino advised that in the past Folsom himself voluntarily reported to his supervisor in the Department information relating to the communist background of his brother, Franklin Brewster Folsom. As Rubino intends to request through the FBIHQ Security Coordinator that Folsom be issued a striped credential and identification tag which permits necessary access to FBIHQ building, he desired to alert the INTD to Folsom's background prior to submitting the formal request for identification credential and tag.

Bureau files indicate Fred Folsom is the brother of Franklin Brewster Folsom (Bureau file 100-336509) who originally joined the Communist Party in 1936 and who has been employed by Tass News Agency, the official Soviet news gathering organization. In December, 1973, Franklin Folsom was in correspondence with the People's Republic of China Mission to the United Nations. Fred Folsom's mother in the past was described as a communist sympathizer, a subscriber to a communist newspaper, and friendly with a Communist Party member.

Copies of reports of the investigation of Franklin Brewster Folsom have been furnished to the Department. Fred G. Folsom, in 1959, was the subject of a Security of Government Employees investigation and copies of the investigative reports were forwarded to the Department. In March, 1959, the then Deputy Attorney General furnished this Bureau a three-page statement submitted by Fred Folsom covering his activities and those of his brother and mother, together with a statement concerning the degree of relationship existing between him, his mother and brother. Our files indicate that when Fred Folsom learned of his brother's association with the Communist Party he immediately reported it to his supervisor in the Department.

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Rubino advised Fred Folsom has been associated with the Department since 1939, serving as an Attorney in the Lands Division, Criminal Division, and more recently in the Tax Division. In June, 1956, the Department cleared Fred Folsom for access to "Top Secret" information. According to Rubino, Department records indicate Folsom is a highly loyal employee who readily reported the communist affiliations of his immediate relatives when they became known to him.

On 5/5/76, Inspectors W. O. Cregar and J. O. Ingram of the INTD, it being noted the latter is coordinating the review by the Department of our past investigations of King, met with Michael E. Shaheen, Counsel on Professional Responsibility. At this time Shaheen pointed out he was aware of the background of Fred Folsom, who is a 30-year employee of the Department, and for whom he has "profound respect and confidence," and anticipated he would make an excellent Task Force leader. Shaheen advised he would alert the Attorney General to the background of Folsom.

Shaheen has subsequently advised that he has conferred with the Attorney General and advised the Attorney General of the background of Folsom and the fact Folsom would be the Task Force leader.

Shaheen identified the following Department Attorneys who will work with Folsom in connection with the review of the King investigations: Ms. Hope Byrne, William White, Joseph Gross, James Walker, James Kieckhefer. Shaheen also indicated he anticipated this new review by the Department, which is under the supervision of the Office on Professional Responsibility, will commence in the immediate future.