PITED STATES GOVERNMENT

### Memorandum

J. Stanley Pottinger Assistant Attorney General

Robert A. Murphy Chief Criminal Section

MESCOMMENDATION
Mes Martin Luther King, Jr. Review

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DATE: March 31, 1976

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T recommend against reopening the assassination investipation because there is no evidence that the Bureau had anything to do with the shooting of Dr. King. While I believe
that serious invasions of the privacy of Dr. King and many others
occurred as a result of the Bureau's activity, I do not recommend that any action be taken against any individual for the
following reasons: (1) if criminal acts occurred, the statute
of limitations has long since expired; (2) no one has filed a
civil suit against the Department or the Bureau, in spite of
much publicity about the Bureau's activities, so no decision
need be made as to what position the Department might take;
(2) no Pureau employee who was a section chief or higher who
was involved with the King case still works for the Bureau so
cisciplinary action need be taken. (4)

T recommend against a public report by the Department of the appointing of a "blue ribbon" committee. The Clarch Committee has largely performed that function and the risk of adversely affecting the reputations of many people is too great. I certainly recommend against my report being made public of If make public to My in many in month, we uptition Bulio, was not call privately then

It is clear that steps must be taken to change Bureau procedures to prevent anything like this from ever happening again. The Department was seriously at fault in not supervising the Bureau. I have certain ideas in mind about necessary changes that we can discuss but I have not set them out here because I believe that most, if not all, are being considered by one or more of the study groups and task forces the Attorney General has established. (A)

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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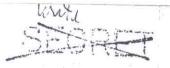
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- III. Concern in the FBI and the Kennedy Administration
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  - B. Allegations About Dr. King During Hearings on the Public Accommodations Act and the Administration's Response: July 1963 (pp. 31-37)
  - C. The Attorney General Considers a Wiretap of Dr. King and Rejects the Idea: July 1963 (pp. 37A-40)
  - D. The Attorney General Voices Concern Over Continuing FBI Reports about King: July August 1963 (pp. 41-44)
  - E. The FBI Intensifies its Investigation of Alleged Communist Influence in the Civil Rights Movement:

    July September 1963 (pp. 45-57) (Δ)
- IV. Electronic Surveillance of Martin Luther King and the SCLC (2)
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- A. Legal Standards Governing the FBI's Duty to Inform the Justice Department of Wiretaps and Microphones During the Period of the Martin Luther King Investigation (pp. 60-62)(u)
- B. Wiretap Surveillance of Dr. King and the SCLC (pp. 63-70) (a)
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  - 2. Evidence Bearing on Whether the Attorneys General Authorized or Knew About the Microphone Surveillance of Dr. King (a)
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