

Memorandum TOP SECRET

TO : J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: March 31, 1975

FROM : Robert A. Murphy
Chief
Criminal Section

RAM:vap

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King, Jr.

TOP SECRET

*This is not
put in your
by Pottinger
in his file
to file*

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to the direction of November 24, 1975 of the Attorney General, a review was undertaken of the files of the Department and the FBI that pertain to Martin Luther King, Jr. The purpose of the review was to make a recommendation as to whether the investigation of the assassination of Dr. King should be reopened. On December 1, you elaborated on the Attorney General's direction and set as goals for the review the answering of two questions: (u)

Smith

- 1) What action, if any, was undertaken by the FBI which had or may have had an effect, direct or indirect, on the assassination of Martin Luther King? (u)
- 2) What action, if any, was undertaken by the FBI which had or may have had any other adverse effect, direct or indirect, on Martin Luther King?(u)

*or it got turned
around + they did not
inquire into need to
open 11/2/75*

At various times you, Mr. Turner and I participated in the review. I saw nothing in the files that I read that indicates any involvement of the FBI in the assassination of Dr. King. However, there was a campaign by the FBI to discredit and to neutralize Dr. King and to remove him from a leadership role in the civil rights movement. There are many examples of improper FBI activity that were directed against Dr. King, his associates and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). (u)

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