

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1 - Criminal Investigative  
Division (Attn:

Mr. M. V. Hale)

DATE: 4/27/78

1 - Legal Counsel Division

Attn: Mr. D. O. Coulson

1 - Mr. Bassett

1 - Mr. Foster

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. AD Adm.	_____
Dep. AD Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Servs.	_____
Crim. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Plan. & Insp.	_____
Rec. Mgnt.	_____
Tech. Servs.	_____
Training	_____
Public Affs. Off.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director's Sec'y	_____

TO : Mr. Bassett *HNB/R*

FROM : D. Ryan *R*

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

PURPOSE: To advise that the HSCA has requested [redacted] *HSCA* and to recommend that access to these files by the HSCA be restricted only to Mr. G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA.

DETAILS: In connection with its investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., the HSCA, by letter to the Attorney General dated April 12, 1978, requested [redacted] *HSCA*

Through review of the Invaders' file at FBIHQ, the HSCA learned that the Memphis Office had 5 informants who were providing coverage of the Invaders. Mr. G. Robert Blakey, Chief Counsel and Director, HSCA, has advised Legal Counsel Division that the HSCA is trying to resolve the issue as to whether or not the Invaders fomented racial violence to get King to return from Atlanta to Memphis where he was killed. The HSCA desires to review these informant files to determine if any of them acted as "agent provocators" in starting this violence.

**EX-101** REC-65 62-117270-759

To date the only informant files made available to the HSCA have been in instances where the informant has been publicly identified or where an informant, during interview by the HSCA, has admitted his relationship with the Bureau and signed a waiver authorizing release to the HSCA all FBI information concerning him. The latter has occurred on three occasions.

2 MAY 23 1978

Discussions concerning release of these informant files have been conducted by representatives of the Legal Liaison and Congressional Affairs Unit, Legal Counsel Division, Top Echelon and Criminal Informant Unit, Criminal Investigative

JTA:pfm (5)



7 JUN 9 1978

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

*4 - Foster*

FBI/DOJ

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS  
U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (HSCA)

Division and Congressional Inquiry Unit, Records Management Division. Conclusions are as follows: (1) Protection of our informants and sources throughout the course of the HSCA investigation is of paramount importance. (2) If release of these 5 files, with all informant identifying data excised, could satisfy the HSCA that these informants were not responsible for violence which occurred in Memphis at the time King was killed, then the best interests of the FBI are served; (3) To avoid precedent of the HSCA's staff reviewing informant files, only Mr. Blakey should be given access to these 5 informant files. <sup>at FBIHQ.</sup>

On April 26, 1978, Mr. Blakey advised that it would be acceptable that only he be given access to the Invader informant files.

If approved, files will be processed by the Congressional Inquiry Unit and prior to being made available to Mr. Blakey, excisions will be reviewed by the Top Echelon and Criminal Informant Unit.

RECOMMENDATION: That approval be granted to process these 5 individual informant files for access of Mr. Blakey in order to comply with HSCA request of April 12, 1978.

*[Handwritten signature]*

APPROVED:	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Director	Crim. Inv. _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Assoc. Dir. <i>[Signature]</i>	Ident. _____	Rec. Mgmt. <i>[Signature]</i>
Dep. AD Adm. <i>[Signature]</i>	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____	Laboratory _____	Training _____
		Public Affs. Off. _____