

157-1067-205

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Priority URGENT

SAC, MEMPHIS
DIRECTOR, FBI

Subject: N

23

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Approved: *WRU*
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157-1067-205

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FEB 3 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

THURSDAY 1-31

ADV FOR 6:30 A.M.

SUN 2-1

NEW YORK (UPI)

FBI INFORMANTS WERE ACTIVE IN THE 1968 RIOTS THAT BROUGHT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BACK TO MEMPHIS, TENN., WHERE HE WAS ASSASSINATED, NEWSPAPER SAID TODAY.

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER QUOTED TWO UNDISCLOSED SOURCES AS SAYING SEVERAL FBI AGENTS AND AT LEAST ONE MEMPHIS POLICE OFFICER PENETRATED THE BLACK MILITANT GROUP KNOWN AS THE "INVADERS" -- A 100-MEMBER FACTION IN THE VANGUARD OF RIOTING ON MARCH 28, 1968, IN OPPOSITION TO KING'S POLICY OF NON-VIOLENT CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. ONE YOUTH WAS KILLED, SCORES WERE INJURED AND 238 PERSONS WERE ARRESTED BEFORE THE MELEE WAS QUENCHED.

NEWSPAPER QUOTED THE REV. JESSE JACKSON, ONE OF KING'S AIDES AT THE TIME OF INCIDENT, AS SAYING KING NEVER WOULD HAVE RETURNED TO MEMPHIS FOLLOWING HIS ABORTED ATTEMPT TO LEAD A PEACEFUL MARCH ON BEHALF OF THE CITY'S SANITATION WORKERS HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE INVADER-LED DISTURBANCE.

"WE NEVER INTENDED TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN MEMPHIS," HE SAID. NEWSPAPER SAID A FORMER LEADER OF THE INVADERS TOLD ONE OF ITS REPORTERS HE LATER LEARNED THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE POLICE OFFICER WHO WORKED UNDERCOVER, POSING AS A MEMBER OF THE GROUP.

"HE HAD A 7.62 RUSSIAN AUTOMATIC RIFLE AND HE WAS ARMED EVERY TIME WE WERE ARMED," THE FORMER GANG-LEADER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. "HE WAS ALWAYS SUGGESTING ACTIONS THAT WE SHOULD TAKE. I NEVER SAW HIM PHYSICALLY ATTACK ANYONE, BUT HE WAS ONE OF THE MOST PROVOCATIVE MEMBERS OF THE INVADERS."

NEWSPAPER SAID BOTH THE FBI AND MEMPHIS POLICE HAVE VERIFIED THAT THEIR AGENTS WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AT THE TIME OF THE RIOTS AND KING'S ASSASSINATION.

THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED THE REV. ROSEA WILLIAMS, ATLANTA DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOUNDED BY KING, AS SAYING THE SCLC FREQUENTLY USED INVADER GANG MEMBERS AS PARADE MARSHALS OR SECURITY GUARDS.

"THEY WOULD NEVER HAVE HURT DR. KING," WILLIAMS WAS QUOTED AS SAYING. "BUT THOSE WHO INFILTRATED OUR GROUPS, AND WE COULD NEVER IDENTIFY THEM, TRIED TO EXPLOIT THE YOUNGSTER'S FRUSTRATIONS AND NEGLECT AND TURN THEM AGAINST US."

ADV FOR 6:30 A.M. EDT SUN 2-1

UPI C1-31 09:03 PES

FBI

Date: 2/2/76

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT code
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TELETYPE IMMEDIATE
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR *WA 138/m CMB/BES*
FROM: MEMPHIS (157-1067) (C)
"NEWSDAY" ARTICLE RE INVADERS AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1976. EM.

RE BUREAU FACSIMILE TO MEMPHIS, FEBRUARY 1, 1976.

THE INVESTIGATION OF THE INVADERS WAS INSTITUTED PER
INSTRUCTION OF BUREAU DATED JANUARY 15, 1968, TO KEEP
BUREAU ADVISED OF THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT KNOWN AS THE
INVADERS.

THE INVADERS, ALSO KNOWN AS BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT,
A BLACK MILITANT ORGANIZATION THAT ADOPTED THE PHILOSOPHY
NIHILISM AND ANARCHY, WAS ORGANIZED IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,
IN 1967. THE INFLUENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS WEAKENED
BY ARREST OF NUMEROUS MEMBERS AND ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN 1969.
IN AUGUST, 1970, THE ORGANIZATION SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS AND
IN OCTOBER, 1970, THE TWO GROUPS DISCONTINUED ALL ASSOCIATION
WITH EACH OTHER AND THE INVADERS BECAME A DEFUNCT ORGANIZATION.

DURING THE 1968 RIOTS IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, THE
MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI WAS OPERATING FIVE INFORMANTS
WHO WERE FURNISHING INFORMATION REGARDING EXTREMIST

HSL:rsb
(1)

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *157-1067-2056* M Per *Lowell*

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ACTIVITIES AT MEMPHIS. NONE OF THESE INFORMANTS ^{was} WERE ON A POLICY MAKING LEVEL WITH ANY ORGANIZATION AT MEMPHIS. ONLY ONE OF THESE INFORMANTS WAS A MEMBER OF THE BLACK MILITANT GROUP KNOWN AS THE INVADERS. HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THIS ORGANIZATION. NO SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE FBI AT ANY TIME PENETRATED THE INVADERS. ONE UNDERCOVER OFFICER OF THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT PENETRATED THE INVADERS AND WAS A MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION DURING THE 1968 RIOTS. HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP NOR WAS HE IN A POSITION TO FORMULATE POLICY FOR THIS ORGANIZATION.

THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI HAS NEVER PUBLICLY REPORTED "THAT THEIR AGENTS WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION" NOR HAS THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI PUBLICLY REPORTED THAT THEIR INFORMANTS OR SOURCES WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION.

SOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE MEMPHIS OFFICE HAVE ADVISED THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1968 RIOTS AT MEMPHIS, SCLC DID USE INVADER MEMBERS AS PARADE MARSHALS AND AS SECURITY GUARDS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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SOURCES UTILIZED BY THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI NEVER AT ANY TIME MADE ANY EFFORT TO TURN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AGAINST THE SCLC.

THE MEMPHIS POLICE OFFICER WHO WORKED UNDERCOVER IN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION IS MARRELL MC COLLOUGH. MC COLLOUGH, WHO HAS BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS AN UNDERCOVER OFFICER, IS NO LONGER EMPLOYED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1968 RIOTS IN MEMPHIS, FORMER [REDACTED] WAS A MEMBER OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AND FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMANTS AND FORMER INFORMANTS REPORTED ON ACTIVITIES OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION DURING 1968 BUT WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION: FORMER [REDACTED] FORMER [REDACTED] FORMER [REDACTED]

THESE SOURCES FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP, FINANCES, ACTIVITIES, AND PLANS OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION, BUT AT NO TIME DID THEY ADVOCATE RIOTS NOR DID THEY TAKE PART IN THE PLANNING OF ANY RIOT AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge