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This represents a standard FBI
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~~TOP SECRET~~

-MUSSELMAN

NOTE IN ENVELOPE

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

JUNE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. H. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

June 10, 1969

- 1 - Mr. Gale (Attention: Mr. Devic)
- 1 - Mr. C. C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
(Attention: Mr. Rozamis)
- 1 - Mr. Glass

(1)

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1963, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of King's communist associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in travel status practically all the time, the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such a surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that the feasibility of such coverage would be determined and an appropriate recommendation would be submitted to him.

On July 25, 1963, Mr. Kennedy changed his mind concerning his request and thought it ill advised at that time, but on October 7, 1963, a request for authority to place a telephone surveillance on King's residence was sent to Mr. Kennedy. On October 10, 1963, he authorized this 100-106670

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

CEG:ekw
(10)

DECLASSIFIED BY 3830
2/16/78

~~TOP SECRET~~

Group 1

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declassification

492

~~TOP SECRET~~

The Attorney General

surveillance, and a surveillance on any future residences of King, by his written signature.

This telephone surveillance was installed on November 6, 1963, and was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

NOTE:

Because of the considerable publicity concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., occasioned by the court hearings in the Selective Service case of Cassius Clay, the facts concerning the original request for this coverage by Robert F. Kennedy, are being furnished to the Attorney General.

Classified "Top Secret" because of sensitive nature of the information contained therein, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

~~TOP SECRET~~

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

MR. W. C. SULLIVAN

MR. G. C. MOORE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

JUNE

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. T. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

June 9, 1969

- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
(Attention: Mr. Rozamus)
- ① - Mr. Glass

Pursuant to your request the following facts concerning electronic surveillances on Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and former Attorney General Ramsey Clark's knowledge of these surveillances are set forth.

A wiretap was installed at King's address in Atlanta, Georgia, on 11/8/63 and was discontinued 4/30/65 when he moved. It was not reinstated at his new address. Former Attorney General Robert Kennedy approved this 10/10/63. In addition, on Kennedy's 10/10/63 authorization, wiretaps on King were instituted at the Hyatt House Motel in Los Angeles (4/24-26/64 and 7/7-9/64; at 125 East 72 Street, New York City, temporary address, 6/14-9/8/64); and the Claridge Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey, (8/22-27/64). These were discontinued when King left these addresses.

Wiretaps were installed at SCLC headquarters in New York City, 10-24-53-1/24/64 and 7/13/64-7/31/64. The discontinuance 1/24/64 was for lack of productivity; the discontinuance on 7/31/64 was because the office moved. There was a wiretap on the SCLC Atlanta headquarters 11/8/63 to 6/21/63 when former Attorney General Katzenbach ordered it discontinued because of the involvement of an SCLC official in a car theft case. These authorizations were also given by Kennedy on 10/10/63 and 10/21/63.

Former Attorney General Clark became Acting Attorney General on 10/3/68, he was confirmed by the Senate on 3/2/67, and was sworn in 3/10/67. On 1/2/68 Clark's approval was requested for a wiretap on SCLC headquarters in Atlanta, which authority he denied on 1/3/68. Authority was again requested on 4/2/68 and authority was denied by Clark in a memorandum to the Director 1/17/69. On 5/17/68 Mr. DeLoach discussed the King wiretaps with Assistant Attorney General Edwin L. Weisl. However, Weisl did not mention that Clark was aware of Weisl's inquiry concerning the King wiretaps.

ACTION:

None. For information.

100-100570

CDG:etw (7)

WANT TO SEE THE ORIGINAL AUTHORIZATIONS

#94

TOP SECRET
ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

June 16, 1959

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Gale (Attention: Mr. Devic)
- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore

BY LIAISON

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

JUNE

- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan (Attention: Mr. Rozamus)
- ① - Mr. Patterson

Dear Mr. President:

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1953, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of King's communist associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in travel status practically all the time, the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such a surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that

WCP:ekv
(9)

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ON 2/16/78

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~~TOP SECRET~~

The President

The feasibility of such coverage would be determined and an appropriate recommendation would be submitted to him.

On July 25, 1963, Mr. Kennedy changed his mind concerning his request and thought it ill-advised at that time, but on October 7, 1963, a request for authority to place a telephone surveillance on King's residence was sent to Mr. Kennedy. On October 10, 1963, he authorized this surveillance, and a surveillance on any future residence of King, by his written signature.

This telephone surveillance was installed on November 8, 1963, and was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

This information has been furnished the Vice President and the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

NOTE:

See memorandum G. C. Moore to W. C. Sullivan, dated 6/16/69, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist," prepared by IJD:fsk.

Classified "Top Secret" because of sensitive nature of the information contained therein, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

~~TOP SECRET~~

NOTE IN ENVELOPE

Ed Glass

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

June 16, 1969

G. C. Moore

JUNE

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

Pursuant to the Director's instructions, the facts concerning the telephone surveillance of the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., are being furnished the President by the attached letter.

In view of the interest of the Vice President in urban affairs, it is felt this information would also be of interest to the Vice President and a letter to him is attached. The information in these letters has also been furnished the Attorney General.

ACTION:

That attached letters concerning the telephone surveillance on Martin Luther King, Jr. be furnished the President and the Vice President. This mail should be returned to Mr. DeLoach's office for delivery.

Enclosures - 2

100-106570

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. T. E. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. J. H. Gale
Attn: Mr. Devic
- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
Attn: Mr. Rozamus
- ① - Mr. Patterson

TJD:feh
(8)

#96

ROUTE IN ENVELOPE

- TOP SECRET 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Gale (Attn: Mr. Devic)
- 1 - Mr. G. C. Moore
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
- (Attn: Mr. Rozamus)
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Patterson

June 16, 1969

JUNE

BY LIAISON

Honorable Spiro T. Agnew
The Vice President
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Vice President:

The following facts are being furnished for your information concerning the telephone surveillance on the residence of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., authorized by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and installed by this Bureau.

On July 16, 1962, an official of this Bureau saw Mr. Kennedy at the latter's request. On that occasion, Mr. Kennedy said he was considering the possibility of a telephone surveillance of King because of King's communist associations. He was advised by the Bureau official that since King was in travel status practically all the time, the productivity of such a surveillance was doubtful and he was asked to consider the repercussions if it ever became known that such surveillance had been instituted on King. Mr. Kennedy said he was not concerned about possible repercussions and that he thought it advisable to have as complete coverage as possible in view of the possible communist influence in the racial situation. He was told that the feasibility of such coverage would be determined and an appropriate recommendation would be submitted to him.

100-106670

~~TOP SECRET~~

WCP:mms
(9)

GROUP 1

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ON 2/16/78

497

~~TOP SECRET~~

Honorable Spiro T. Agnew

On July 25, 1963, Mr. Kennedy changed his mind concerning his request and thought it ill-advised at that time, but on October 7, 1963, a request for authority to place a telephone surveillance on King's residence was sent to Mr. Kennedy. On October 10, 1963, he authorized this surveillance and a surveillance on any future residence of King by his written signature.

This telephone surveillance was installed on November 8, 1963, and was discontinued on April 30, 1965.

The President and the Attorney General have also been furnished this information.

Sincerely yours,

NOTE:

See memorandum G. C. Moore to Mr. C. D. DeLoach, dated 6/16/69, captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr., Security Matter - Communist," prepared by TJD:fsh.

Classified "Top Secret" because of sensitive nature of the information contained therein, the unauthorized disclosure of which could result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security.

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