

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM : SA ARTHUR L. MURTAGH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/17/68

Sources referred to in this memorandum are as follows:

- Source one - AT [REDACTED]
- Source two - AT [REDACTED]
- Source three - AT [REDACTED]
- Source four - AT [REDACTED]

The following information is being submitted for possible use in the evaluation of the theory that the unknown subject of this case may be part of an international conspiracy participated in by militant black nationalists, and particularly SNCC. This is offered as a summary of information which has accumulated in connection with the investigation of SNCC and black nationalist activities, and by no means is intended to include all of the minor bits of information which might tend to support such a theory.

Informants reported as early as October, 1967, statements by HULON MITCHELL, former Minister of Muhammad's Mosque #15 in Atlanta, NOI, to the effect that a coalition of militant black nationalists throughout the world was needed and that resorting to violence and guerrilla warfare tactics would be necessary to accomplish the aims of the black man in America.

Informant furnished information in January, 1968, indicating that from a review of SNCC financial records SNCC was almost broke. Informant, who is very close to numerous SNCC members in Atlanta and New York, advised in February, 1968, that in conversations with [REDACTED] a staff member of SNCC who recently transferred [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] stated as follows:

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The black nationalists' objective is worldwide revolution.

Blacks outnumber whites in the world.

Blacks are organizing now and are being organized by SNCC and other black nationalist organizations throughout the U.S.

Russia would ultimately support the U.S. against black people of the world and communist countries such as Cuba and China, because the battle will be between the nations who have exploited and the nations who have been exploited.

In response to query about blacks being outnumbered in the U.S. and without power, [redacted] responded that when properly organized and with correct timing and careful planning, blacks could bring white America to its knees, and gave Watts and Detroit as evidence of what can be done.

[redacted] argued that CASTRO had been successful in Cuba against the government supported by the U.S., and discussed the tactics of ERNESTO CHE GUEVARA on guerrilla warfare.

In response to the argument that white America's power would be overwhelming, [redacted] responded that most black militants feel that white America would not stand by and see its existing wealth such as homes, skyscrapers, and city transportation systems destroyed by revolution on a guerrilla basis, but would give in to a demand by black nationalists and that when this was accomplished the revolution would have been considered a success.

[redacted] was insistent that nothing could be accomplished by peaceful means since whites would never give in without being forced. [redacted] stated that once the revolution was accomplished, black people in America would be able to go on in society and get the same benefits from society that whites get from the same effort, and that this was basically the purpose for the revolution.

[redacted] used the Vietnam war to illustrate how the U.S. had overextended itself militarily throughout the world and thus made the type of revolution that the militant black nationalists advocate very possible. She said that the U.S. could not fight in Vietnam and fight all the black people

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of the world at the same time, and for this reason time was essential.

[redacted] stated that if weapons were obtained and stored in strategic spots throughout the U.S. and at the proper moment were distributed to the masses of the black people, it would be possible to bring the white population to its knees.

[redacted] pointed out that STOKELY CARMICHAEL and other SNCC functionaries have been to Cuba and that they have talked with people in Cuba, and they are on the side of the black people in this struggle.

A second informant recently advised the Atlanta Office that [redacted] a staff member of SNCC in Atlanta who is known to have visited Cuba in [redacted] [redacted] remarked in [redacted] in [redacted] in [redacted] which she had been discussing her vacation and talked about being in a sunny climate and staying at a plush hotel, "I had been told that CASTRO would talk for four hours, and while sitting and listening to CASTRO, the thought crossed my mind 'Even if we do get the financial support from these people for our revolution, won't we have the same problems over again trying to deal with white people?'"

The same informant has advised [redacted]

The first informant mentioned above recently furnished a copy of a speech given by STOKELY CARMICHAEL in which CARMICHAEL outlined the organization of a revolution which he said would take a period of twenty years and would require the sacrifice of his generation to the cause. This informant, who is [redacted] has stated several times that the SNCC people constantly talk of their objective as "creating chaos."

Information from the above mentioned informants and three other informants furnished considerable data on SNCC and SNCC personalities. These informants noted ex-

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tremely tight secrecy surrounding all SNCC meetings and activities. These informants have noted that while the SNCC people in Atlanta are, for the most part, young college graduates and meet socially with other young college graduates in the Negro community, their meetings are held in secrecy from their regular associates.

A third informant furnished an account of the circumstances in the Negro community immediately following the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., through the night of the funeral for KING. This informant was in the SNCC office within two hours following the death of KING in the company of about 18 others, most of whom were SNCC associates. These persons learned that students were meeting at nearby Atlanta University for a march on the downtown section of Atlanta. A plan was formulated to stop the march and it consisted of having the 18 go to the campus and circulate in the crowd urging the following three points:

- (1) regular student leaders should be given a chance to retain control of the crowd.
- (2) the police department was out in force and it would be slaughter if they went downtown.
- (3) the students should go to Archer Hall and formulate a meeting where a plan could be worked out.

One individual who was at the SNCC headquarters, but concerning whom very little is known as yet, made a statement to the effect that "we have to wait for our leadership."

This informant advised that 800 to 1000 students gathered at Archer Hall and that from about 9:30 p.m. on 4/4/68 to 3:30 a.m. on 4/5/68, it was "touch and go" as to

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whether or not the crowd would go downtown to riot. He noted peculiarly that the SNCC people throughout this gathering worked to quiet the crowd and prevent rioting. He said, however, there was contradiction within the positions taken by SNCC persons themselves. This informant stayed with the militants and activists almost constantly until the night following the funeral of KING and witnessed a circumstance at Hunter Street in front of Paschal's Restaurant where a crowd estimated at 200 to 400 listened to JAMES FORMAN, a known SNCC functionary speaking in a tone obviously calculated to incite riots. This informant advised that FORMAN was unsuccessful and so were other speakers who followed him.

Sources stated that CARMICHAEL and almost all the SNCC functionaries in Atlanta were in a dining room at Paschal's Restaurant during FORMAN's speech outside which lasted 2½ hours, but CARMICHAEL never made an appearance to the crowd.

The first informant mentioned above was contacted during the demonstration at Paschal's and advised that he would state positively that there would be no riot based on his conversations with SNCC members and others in the Negro community. He said that the burial of KING had created a mood among the Negroes which made incitement to riot virtually impossible at this time. He pointed out that many of the moderate Negro leaders had become active in the days following KING's death in efforts to quiet the more militant young leaders and the reaction was that FORMAN would be unsuccessful.

This informant furnished information on 4/16/68 to the effect that

[REDACTED] SNCC is undergoing a re-evaluation of its position, due to KING's death, and that they now seem to feel that violence or the violent approach may have less chance now than before KING's death.

[REDACTED]

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In addition to the above, it is noted that just before KING's death, [redacted], a Negro [redacted] in the Atlanta area furnished a complaint to the Atlanta Office in which circumstances were related alleging he had been drugged by [redacted] of Muhammad's Mosque [redacted] while at [redacted] restaurant, and later met with [redacted] and went through a period of excruciating fear during which he claims he thinks he committed himself to support of the Muslim cause which he stated would be completely against all he stands for. [redacted] supported his story by stating he had visited a psychiatrist who turned out to be an apparently reputable white psychiatrist in Atlanta who stated frankly that [redacted] had "taken a trip on LSD", and that he had known [redacted] for two or three years and that BELL was normal in the sense that he was sufficiently competent to conduct a successful [redacted] as a result of his encounter with [redacted] had evolved the theory that there was a movement underway among the militant black nationalists with whom he has no sympathy to eliminate the moderate civil rights leaders, of whom [redacted] is one, by blackmail, intimidation, or drugs. [redacted] pointed out that many of the persons he worked with a few years ago in the civil rights movement in Atlanta have according to [redacted] mysteriously withdrawn from the field of civil rights. He said that these persons are the type that would be adamant in their opposition to CARMICHAEL and his group unless they were under some type of intimidation.

[redacted]

On 4/16/68, the first informant mentioned above and an informant not previously mentioned who has considerable

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contact with the Muslims, mentioned that a rumor has been circulated in Atlanta to the effect that CARMICHAEL had something to do with the murder of KING. This comment was seized as an opportunity to discuss the plausibility of such a theory with this informant. Both these informants pointed out that they personally were repulsed by the theory because even in the case of the first informant mentioned above who has considerable knowledge of SNCC's theory of revolution could not accommodate his mind to the idea that even SNCC people would resort to such a crime against the black people of America; however, both of these informants after giving this matter careful consideration stated they could see the logic and plausibility of such a scheme. The first informant pointed out that if this should be the case the white population of America would be in an impossible situation since from his knowledge of the Negroes no amount of evidence would ever convince the masses of the Negro population that Negroes had anything to do with killing KING.