

Examining

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. T. W. Leavitt

TW
TEW

FROM : J. G. Deegan

SUBJECT: "NEWSDAY" ARTICLE CONCERNING
INVADERS AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR., DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1976

- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
- 1 - Mr. D. W. Moore, Jr.
- 1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: H. N. Helterhoff)

DATE: 3/2/76

- 1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
- 1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
- 1 - Mr. J. D. Powell

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir. _____
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

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The purpose is to obtain approval for letter to the Attorney General advising him of the results of a review of FBI files in response to a "Newsday" article which infers that because of FBI and Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department infiltration of black youth group called the Invaders, the FBI was responsible for Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination.

The 2/1/76 issue of "Newsday" has an article captioned "FBI Tied To King's Return to Memphis" by Les Payne. This article alleges that the FBI through informants and the Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department through an undercover officer infiltrated a Memphis black youth group called the Invaders. The Invaders were particularly militant. On March 28, 1968, there was a march in Memphis led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in support of striking Memphis sanitation workers. Serious violence erupted during this march. Dr. King and his associates considered this violence a threat to Dr. King's reputation for leading nonviolent demonstrations. This fact was instrumental in Dr. King's return to Memphis in April, 1968, at which time he was assassinated.

A review of our files at FBIHQ and Memphis has determined that we had five informants providing coverage of the Invaders, but none of them were in a leadership position and none of them were involved in planning, inciting or participating in violence. Only one of these informants was ever a member of the Invaders.

The Memphis Police Department did have an undercover officer who was a member of the Invaders, but there is no indication that he was involved in the violence associated with the Invaders.

Enclosures - sent 3-5-76

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ORIGINAL FILED IN 157-8460

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: "Newsday" Article Concerning
Invaders and Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr., Dated February 1, 1976
157-8460

Attached letter provides details regarding the
above to the Attorney General for his information.

ACTION:

That attached letter to the Attorney General be
approved.

J.D. Jones

TW/ris det

Walter

G/King

Pun

Gail

[Handwritten signature]

K/