

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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TO : The Attorney General

DATE: April 20, 1976

FROM : Harold R. Tyler, Jr.  
Deputy Attorney General

SUBJECT: Civil Rights Division Report -  
Your Memorandum of April 15, 1976

As best I can understand the Civil Rights memorandum to you dated April 9, 1976, it makes three "qualified" recommendations as follows:

1. That a task force of Department attorneys, etc., be established to take charge and complete the investigation of all three allegations.
2. That an advisory committee of "distinguished citizens" be appointed to oversee the investigation and somehow approve or endorse the recommendations.
3. That the Department consider an appropriate remedy or remedies for damage allegedly done to the family of Dr. King.

In my opinion, the second and third recommendations are at the very least premature - and I am tempted to add that they do not make much sense in any event for the simple reason that if we are capable of doing this investigation, we ought to complete the job without any outside help.

In any case, the key point in all of this is that we should finish the investigation as speedily as can properly be accomplished. In fact, I read the Civil Rights Division report to indicate that the investigation is pretty much completed in any case. I think the real problem may be that the lawyers working on the matter are not sure what to conclude. To accomplish the completion, I would suggest that we consider bringing in two or three young assistants from the east coast offices who can lend an immediate hand. There is no reason why the Civil Rights Division, with a little outside help cannot do this job fairly soon. I recognize that the work is tedious, particularly for lawyers in the Division who have been through this subject in some way before. But, I believe that Mr. Pottinger can be



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persuaded to get a minimum of outside help with the expectation that the job can be completed quicker and better than he now seems to advise you.