

Memorandum

TO : The Attorney General

DATE: April 21, 1976

FROM *ew* Richard L. Thornburgh, Assistant
Attorney General, Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King - Your Memorandum of April 15, 1976

Per your request, I offer the following reactions to the material forwarded by the subject memorandum.

1. The review of Bureau files should be completed by the same group which has carried it forward to date.
2. No "advisory committee" or detailed "public report" should be contemplated. Since criminal prosecution is barred by the statute of limitations and the majority of those potentially subject to administrative action are deceased, retired or in very poor health, sanctions based on any culpability disclosed by the review process appear to be out of the question. It would warp the mandate of this Department for any gratuitous "report" to be issued which would usurp the traditional and proper role of the criminal justice or administrative processes.
3. A "report" which stated (if such proves to be the case) no FBI complicity in the assassination and concludes that the investigation was properly processed would be in order.
4. Without the filing of any claim or lawsuit, it would seem inappropriate to single out any person or group of persons (let alone a private charitable foundation) for a payment of the type suggested. Of no little concern here is the perceived (or actual) precedential character of any such payment.
5. As to the disposition of the King material, I have no particular insight into the scope of the questions which might be involved.
6. Because of the importance of these matters, I requested the separate views of my Deputies as well and forward same herewith. *(not attached yet).*



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