

memorandum

DATE: March 8, 1977

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: Steven Blackhurst, Assistant Counsel
Office of Professional Responsibility
SBSUBJECT: Prior Dealings with Attorneys for the Estate and Family
of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.TO: Walter Fiederowicz, Special Assistant
to the Attorney General

In the summer of 1975 Jack Fuller, Nino Scalia, Mike Shaheen and I met with Harry Wachtel, attorney for both the estate and family of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Mike Epstein, counsel for the Church Committee, to discuss possible restrictions on documents the Department would give to the Church Committee which was then starting to investigate the FBI's activities with regard to Dr. King. No agreement was reached but the Committee decided it did not want to receive any documents which reflected the "product" of electronic surveillance of Dr. King.

After the Committee's investigation was completed Jack Fuller, Mike Shaheen and I met with Mr. Wachtel, Stanley Levison, also an attorney representing the King estate and family, and Congressman Andrew Young. At that meeting Mr. Wachtel informally requested that the King family be given the following: (1) all FBI materials relating to Dr. King which had previously been given to the Church Committee; (2) all other documents in FBI files relating to Dr. King; (3) copies of the tapes and transcripts of electronic surveillance of Dr. King. Attorney General Levi decided that the documents about Dr. King which were given to the Church Committee should be given to the King family and this was done. No decision was made on the requests for all other materials in FBI files concerning Dr. King.



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