

Clarence Kelley, Director
FBI

July 14, 1976

Edward H. Levi
Attorney General

Request of the Estate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As you know, the estate of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has asked to obtain copies of various materials from FBI files concerning Dr. King. I believe that the Department should turn over to the estate the documents provided to the Church Committee concerning Dr. King. These should be turned over with only such deletions as are necessary to protect the privacy of individuals unless the individual's consent can be obtained and to protect information that is appropriately classified or that would clearly compromise an ongoing investigation. I would like the deletions to be kept to a minimum.

Because there are at least two civil suits pending concerning the electronic surveillance of Dr. King, the Civil Division has recommended that no materials that embody, characterize or describe the contents of electronic overhearings of Dr. King should be turned over to the King estate. I have accepted this recommendation.

Michael Shaheen will coordinate the turning over of documents to the King estate. I think it should proceed as quickly as possible.

cc to : Michael Shaheen
Rex Lee
Richard Thornburgh
Deputy Attorney General