

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : THE FILE

DATE: June 7, 1976

FROM : *JF* Jack Fuller

SUBJECT: Dr. Martin Luther King documents

On May 19, 1976, Mike Shaheen, Steve Blackhurst, and I met with Harry Wachtel and Stanley Levinson, who represent the estate of Dr. Martin Luther King. Also at the meeting was Congressman Andrew Young.

Mr. Wachtel and the others made three requests; the first they described as the most immediate. First, that representatives of the estate have access to documents involving Dr. King delivered to the Church Committee; second, that the representatives of the estate have access to other FBI documents and materials pertaining to Dr. King; third, that representatives of the estate have a part in the investigation in the King matter being run by the Office of Professional Responsibility.

They were ambivalent on the subject of destruction, even though I told them that personally I would like to see the tapes and transcripts of electronic overhearings destroyed.

I told them we wanted to be cooperative and to meet their requests if it is possible. I told them that the Freedom of-Information Act and Privacy Act might erect some legal difficulties. Mr. Wachtel seemed irritated at that and said he didn't want to be tied up by red tape and technicalities. I told him that it is possible that none of the requests could be met until after the Shaheen investigation is complete, and this, too, irritated Mr. Wachtel.

I told Mr. Wachtel that I would talk with the Attorney General as soon as I could to tell him the nature of the requests. Because of the turnout over the Boston busing case I did not speak with the Attorney General about the matter until June 2. He told me to have Mike Shaheen prepare a recommendation and discussion of the requests.



On June 4 I told Mr. Wachtel that the Attorney General had asked that the legal issues involved in the requests be explored.