

## HOOVER AND KING DISCUSS DISPUTE

### Negro Leader Reports F.B.I. Chief Forecast Arrests in Rights Killings Soon

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—The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said today that J. Edgar Hoover had told him there would be arrests "in the next few days" in the murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi.

Dr. King made the statement after having met for more than an hour with Mr. Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Neither the F.B.I. nor the Department of Justice would comment on the likelihood of early arrests.

The meeting today came as a surprise. It had been requested by Dr. King to try to calm the dispute that arose two weeks ago when Mr. Hoover called him "the most notorious liar in the country."

#### 'Amicable Discussion'

Nothing was said afterward by either side about the state of personal relations between the two men. But indications were that both wanted to ease the tension and that the meeting had made at least some progress toward that end.

Dr. King told reporters they had had a "quite amicable discussion." He said he was pleased, because "a nonviolent leader must seek to maintain communications" with all who are in a position to help the disadvantaged Negroes of the South.

"There must not be misunderstanding between the F.B.I. and civil rights leaders," Dr. King said.

"I sincerely hope we can forget the confusions of the past and get on with the job that Congress, the Supreme Court and the President have outlined, the job of providing freedom and justice for all citizens of this nation."

The three civil rights workers — Michael H. Schwerner, Andrew Goodman and James E. Chaney—were arrested on a traffic violation charge in Philadelphia, Miss., last June 21. After their release they vanished

The difficulty has been getting persuasive legal evidence. The Justice Department thought it had a case and presented it to a Federal grand jury in Mississippi, but the jury declined to return indictments.

#### President's Forecast

No grand jury is known to be meeting now. Ordinarily the Justice Department does not make arrests in civil rights cases of this kind without grand jury action, but that is no rule. Arrests could be made and then cases presented to a grand jury.

President Johnson said last Aug. 8 that the Philadelphia investigation was "going exceedingly well" and that "substantive results can be expected in a very short period of time."

The Philadelphia case has been cited by civil rights groups critical of the F.B.I.

After Mr. Hoover's verbal attack on Dr. King two weeks ago, a number of civil rights groups called for the director's resignation. He turns 70 on Jan. 1, but President Johnson has waived compulsory retirement for him at that age.

Dr. King has not been among those urging Mr. Hoover's removal. He responded to the director's attack by saying Mr. Hoover had "apparently faltered under the awesome burdens, complexities and responsibilities of his office."

Mr. Hoover's "liar" charge was made on a reported statement by Dr. King that F.B.I. agents in Georgia were failing to act on Negroes' complaints because the agents were Southerners.

The meeting today was in Mr. Hoover's fifth-floor office in the Justice Department building. With the director was his assistant, Cartha DeLoach.

Accompanying Dr. King were three of his associates in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which the Atlanta minister heads. They were the Rev. Walter Fauntroy and the Rev. Andrew Young.

#### Stronger F.B.I. Role Urged

The American Civil Liberties Union urged yesterday a strengthening of the F.B.I.'s role in civil rights complaints.

In a letter to Acting Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach, the civil liberties group said the F.B.I. record in the civil rights area had been inadequate.

The letter, signed by John de J. Pemberton Jr., executive director of the A.C.L.U., urged Mr. Katzenbach to give the F.B.I. "explicit instructions that investigation of civil rights complaints is a number one priority" and "that because violations of civil rights laws concern human beings, their safety and their right to equal protection of the laws, the F.B.I. is to show as much vigor in these investigations as those where private property is involved — regardless of the fear

more drastic action might be required. Such action, the letter suggested, may be the creation of a separate civil rights investigatory unit within the bureau, or the establishment of an independent investigatory division under the Justice Department but free of any connection with the F.B.I.

The letter said a problem existed in the bureau's attitude toward civil rights — what it called "the absence of a psychology of commitment to enforcing laws which guarantee Negroes equal rights."

The letter also urged Mr. Katzenbach to press for amending the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to make clearer the grounds under which local law-enforcement officers may be arrested for depriving persons of civil rights.

"Currently," the A.C.L.U. said, "to obtain a conviction where a person is mistreated by police, it is necessary to prove that the official had specific intent to deprive him of a constitutional right."