

File #:

62-HQ-116395

Serial Scope:

1083, 1086, 1125, 1134, 1153

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RE - HOUSTUDY 62-116464-

OR

SENSTUDY 62-116395- 1153 EBF

THE SERIAL INDICATED ABOVE IS AN OUTGOING MEMO/LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DATED 11-28-75 FURNISHING COPIES OF FBI DOCUMENTS IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST(S) MADE BY EITHER THE U.S. SENATE OR HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEES ON INTELLIGENCE. SINCE THE ATTACHED XEROX COPY/COPIES ARE "JUNE" MAIL, IT/THEY HAS/HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ENCLOSURE TO THE SERIAL INDICATED ABOVE AND IS TO BE FILED IN THE "JUNE" FILE AS INDICATED BELOW:

Fm OR 16
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-1-00 BY SP2 AMT/216

THIS ENCLOSURE MATERIAL IS TO BE FILED IN THE "JUNE" FILE OF

HOUSTUDY 62-116464-

OR

SENSTUDY 62-116395- 1153 EBF

*Enclosure
Behind
File*

RE - HOUSTUDY 62-116464-

OR

SENSTUDY 62-116395-1134
attached

THE SERIAL INDICATED ABOVE IS AN OUTGOING MEMO/LETTER TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL DATED 11-17-75 FURNISHING COPIES OF FBI DOCUMENTS IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST(S) MADE BY EITHER THE U.S. SENATE OR HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEES ON INTELLIGENCE. SINCE THE ATTACHED XEROX COPY/COPIES ARE "JUNE" MAIL, IT/THEY HAS/HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ENCLOSURE TO THE SERIAL INDICATED ABOVE AND IS TO BE FILED IN THE "JUNE" FILE AS INDICATED BELOW:

#m216
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/1/00 BY SP2 AJM/STK

THIS ENCLOSURE MATERIAL IS TO BE FILED IN THE "JUNE" FILE OF

HOUSTUDY 62-116464-

OR

SENSTUDY 62-116395-1134
attached

SSC LETTER 11/7/75
VERBAL REQUEST IN SUPPLEMENT
TO 11/7/75 REQUEST

#mdel6
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-1-00 BY SP2 AEM/STG

Sw 1134

Retain

~~SECRET~~



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. (IS) 100-442529

April 28, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

RE: COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS

#100DR16
DECLASSIFIED BY SP-2 ALM/JTG
ON 12-1-00

A technical surveillance was instituted on the headquarters of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, 330 Auburn Avenue, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, on November 8, 1963. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is a racial-type organization headed by Martin Luther King, Jr.

This technical surveillance has provided considerable valuable intelligence information concerning communist influence on the Southern Christian Leadership Conference through King, as well as the communist influence evident in the outspoken position which King has taken in opposition to the United States foreign policy concerning Vietnam. Some examples include the following:

Information has been furnished relating to contacts between King and individuals with communist backgrounds such as Stanley David Levison, Harry Wachtel, Bayard Rustin, Clarence Jones and Randolph T. Blackwell. This information indicates the extent of the influence being exerted on King by these individuals with present and former communist backgrounds. Information thus obtained reveals the part these individuals play in important policy-making decisions of King relative to his organization; assistance which they render King in his writings and speeches concerning racial matters; and the advice and counsel they give King in his declarations concerning United States foreign policy.

Unless you instruct to the contrary, this technical surveillance will be continued for an additional six months.

NATIONAL SECURITY INFORMATION truly yours,

Unauthorized Disclosure
Subject to Criminal Sanctions

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

5/10/66

REC-57/50-442529-1

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1 JUL 13 1966
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

I think this coverage should be discontinued, particularly in the light of possible changes in the Soviet Union and possible other.

73
53 JUL 14 1966

SSC LETTER 11-7-75

ITEM 2

MDEK
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12-4-00 BY SP-2 ALM/STG

See 1134

Retain

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	✓
Belmont	✓
Mohr	✓
Casper	✓
Callahan	✓
Conrad	✓
DeLoach	✓
Evans	✓
Malone	✓
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tavel	✓
Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Gandy	✓

TO : Mr. Belmont

FROM : C. A. Evans

SUBJECT: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 2-6-64

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/14/00 BY SP-2 HLM/726

Handwritten signature

Reference is made to Mr. DeLoach's memorandum of 2-5-64 in which he reported a conversation he had had with Ed Guthman of the Department concerning letters to members of Congress dealing with Martin Luther King. In this connection the Director has inquired as to my activities with regard to clearance of such communications.

The only letter which I had anything to do with clearing was one from the Attorney General to Senator Richard B. Russell dated 11-1-63. The circumstances surrounding this are as follows: Shortly after noon on 11-1-63 Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Marshall furnished to me the Department's file of correspondence with Senator Russell concerning the association of King with Hunter Pitts O'Dell. A proposed letter to Senator Russell for the Attorney General's (AG) signature dated 11-1-63 was attached. Marshall said he and the AG had discussed the proposed letter with the President. Marshall asked us to consider the language in the proposed letter to Senator Russell to determine if it would jeopardize our informant or otherwise interfere with our investigation of communist matters.

Since time was of the essence I took the proposed letter to Mr. Belmont's office and discussed it with him. We concluded that there were definite objections to the letter as it was written as it specifically referred to sensitive sources available to the FBI. A memorandum was prepared recommending changes in the letter. (This memorandum is attached.)

After the Director's approval had been secured, Marshall was recontacted and the undesirable language discussed with him. He said he could see our point but since the letter had been discussed with the President he thought we should go up together to

- Enc.
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
 - 1 - Mr. DeLoach
 - 1 - Mr. w. C. Sullivan

ENCLOSURE

REC-53

MAR 3 1964

CAE:tjm
(3)

52 MAR 5

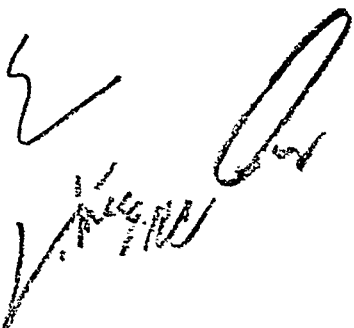
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ENCLOSURE COPY AND COPY OF ENCL. FILED IN 100-3-116

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

see the AG about it. We did this. After the AG read the letter as changed he said he was not certain it would accomplish its purpose. He called the President and told him what had happened. Marshall and the AG tried to redraft a letter which would be in line with our observations. Each draft after written was discussed with the President telephonically by the AG and none of the drafts were satisfactory to the President. He thereafter decided that an innocuous letter saying nothing of substance should be sent to Senator Russell which letter should be delivered by AAG Marshall and me. At the time the letter was delivered the Senator was to be furnished orally by Marshall with detailed information as to Martin Luther King's activities. I was merely to assure the Senator as to the sensitive position of our informant and the fact that information from this informant of a continuing nature was vital to the country's welfare. After the AG had left the city Deputy AG Katzenbach was substituted for Burke Marshall as Katzenbach knew the Senator. An appointment to see the Senator was made for 5:00 p.m., 11-1-63. At this meeting Katzenbach furnished the Senator with information concerning King and his communist connections. It was unnecessary for me to say anything at this conference other than to confirm Katzenbach's statement about the sensitiveness of our source. The Senator indicated satisfaction with the explanation given to him by Katzenbach and said that he did not intend to make any speech on the floor of the Senate about this.

On my return to the Bureau that afternoon I prepared a memorandum on this contact which is attached.

Handwritten signature and initials, possibly "W. J. ...".

February 5, 1964

- Mr. Tolson
- Mr. Belmont
- Mr. Mohr
- Mr. Casper
- Mr. Callahan
- Mr. Conrad
- Mr. DeLoach
- Mr. Evans
- Mr. Gale
- Mr. Rosen
- Mr. Sullivan
- Mr. Tavel
- Mr. Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Miss Holmes
- Miss Gandy

MR. MOHR:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/4/00 BY SP 2ALM/36

RE: DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING

The Atlanta Division has received information indicating that a reporter by the name of Cleghorn, who writes for the Atlanta Journal and also is a free-lancer for the Saturday Evening Post, is doing an article for the Saturday Evening Post on Dr. Martin Luther King. A memorandum, from Mr. Sullivan to Mr. Belmont dated February 4, 1964, reflected this fact inasmuch as the Atlanta Division had written in to tip off the Bureau that Cleghorn might be in contact with FBI Headquarters. Cleghorn apparently has information concerning King's association not only with Hunter Pitts O'Dell but additionally with Stanley Levinson.

Guthman came over to see me February 4, 1964, at 4 PM. He stated that he had been tipped off by Schanke (phonetic) of the Saturday Evening Post that Cleghorn was preparing an article on Dr. Martin Luther King and that the article would expose King's connections with the Communist Party. Guthman stated he was quite concerned inasmuch as it appeared there had been a leak from the FBI in connection with this matter. He told me that the Attorney General had been most hopeful that there would be no "leaks" concerning King. Guthman quickly added that he and the Attorney General, of course, knew that King was no good and that King actually did have communistic connections as well as the fact that King was morally bad. In a very apologetic tone of voice, Guthman added that the Attorney General's record concerning King was perfectly clean and that no exposure of King could have any reaction whatsoever against the Attorney General.

I told Guthman he had raised several points that should be straightened out. I mentioned that there had been no leaks from the FBI concerning Dr. Martin Luther King, however, Congressmen had made speeches concerning King's background and there had been a number of articles in newspapers. I mentioned that the Attorney General's connections with King were none of our business, however, I could understand why Guthman might be somewhat perturbed inasmuch as the Attorney General had made public statements before the Congress which indicated King had no communistic connections.

Guthman stated that he wanted to repeat once again that an exposure of King would not hurt the Attorney General in any way. He stated his only interest, and the Attorney General's only interest, in keeping information concerning King out of the newspapers, was because both he and the Attorney General felt that FBI sources might be unduly exposed. I made no comment to this, however, certainly did not believe Guthman.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Evans
- CDD:ejr (6)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones

REC-53 ENCLOSURE

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Informal Memo to Mr. Mohr
Re: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2/5/64

*We have seen
Yellin
Guthman
2/5/64*

Guthman told me he had no proof whatsoever that the FBI had furnished information to the newspapers concerning King. He stated that obviously the Department had not leaked any information inasmuch as (only four) individuals in the Department, the Attorney General, Katzenbach, Assistant Attorney General Miller and Guthman, were the only ones who knew of King's connections with Stanley Levinson. I told Guthman that Burke Marshall undoubtedly knew of such connections inasmuch as I believe he had talked to King. Guthman admitted this was true.

From the tone of Guthman's entire remarks, it would appear he had two thoughts in mind without actually stating such thoughts. These thoughts were (1) that the Attorney General is most anxious that information concerning King not be released; and (2) that the Attorney General's connections with King, and his defensive statements concerning King to the Congress in Civil Rights hearings, could certainly injure the Attorney General's political chances for the future.

I made it a point to tell Guthman before he left that the Department was, of course, very close to the Saturday Evening Post, particularly in view of the deliberate leaks of information to the Saturday Evening Post on the Cassini and Valachi matters. I told Guthman that if the Saturday Evening Post had obtained information concerning King, it would appear that they might have received such information from the same sources where they had gotten their previous facts. Guthman reacted to this quite anxiously and stated all this may be true, however, under no circumstances would they give any publication the facts concerning King. In a very hurt tone of voice, he told me once again the Attorney General was not worried about what an exposure of King could do to him. He stated he and the Attorney General are only trying to protect FBI sources of information.

There has never been such solicitude in the past - K

Following my conversation with the Director at approximately 10 AM this morning, after the Director had talked with the Attorney General, I called Guthman and told him he apparently had misquoted my conversation with him of last night. I asked Guthman if he had told the Attorney General, in quoting me, that I had been "quite concerned about a letter the Attorney General had written in which he defended Martin Luther King." I told Guthman I had not mentioned any letter in my conversation with him. Guthman replied that the Attorney General had gotten all mixed up in his conversation with the Director. Guthman admitted I made no reference to any letter. He also admitted I had not indicated that I was "quite concerned" in referring to the Attorney General. Guthman explained the basis of the Attorney General's call to the Director by stating that he and Burke Marshall had gone over to see the Attorney General and while in his office had mentioned the information which apparently has been accumulated by the Atlanta, Georgia, reporter. In explaining to the Attorney General, Guthman stated he told the Attorney General he had discussed this matter with me last night and that from the tone of my remarks, Guthman understood that (1) any exposure of King might possibly jeopardize FBI sources; and (2) any exposure of King might react publicly against the Attorney General inasmuch as the Attorney General

Informal Memo to Mr. Mohr
Re: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2/5/64

had defended King before the Congress. I told Guthman my remarks to him had not meant to imply any potential embarrassment whatsoever to the Attorney General and that I had brought the Attorney General's name into the conversation only because of the many newspaper articles which had been written quoting the Attorney General and his defense of King. Guthman stated that the Attorney General was very fond of me, and that he and the Attorney General, though they would not be around much longer, felt their relations with my office had been of the closest nature. He stated the Attorney General did not under any circumstances believe that my remarks had implied possible potential embarrassment but the Attorney General had called the Director merely to keep the record straight.

Guthman referred once again to the so-called "letter" the Attorney General had written concerning King. He admitted once again this matter did not come up in our conversation last night. He stated there had been a letter, however, as a result of the Attorney General's appearance before the Magnuson Committee in the Senate. This occurred at the time of the Attorney General's appearance concerning Civil Rights legislation. Senator Monroney had questioned the Attorney General as to King's communistic connections, according to Guthman. The Attorney General promised to write Senator Monroney a letter. Guthman stated that such a letter had been prepared and had been couched in a very careful language. He mentioned that the letter had been cleared by Assistant Director Evans and had then been delivered to Senator Monroney. He stated that following delivery of this letter, either Katzenbach or Burke Marshall, along with Mr. Evans, had orally briefed Senators Russell and Monroney regarding King's communistic connections.

FACTS FROM BUFILES:

I want to know more about Evans activities in this matter.
Senators Monroney and Magnuson wrote the Director in early July, 1963, inquiring about the current racial agitation and allegations that King and other civil rights leaders had subversive affiliations. The letter from Senator Monroney was referred to the Attorney General on July 17, 1963, with the Senator being so advised on the same date. In the communication to the Attorney General, a summary of the communist association of King was set forth, including the influence which Stanley Levinson, Communist Party member, had with King and Levinson's alleged statement that ("King is a whole-hearted Marxist...") On July 18, 1963, the letter from Senator Magnuson was referred to the Attorney General along with a similar letter from Congressman Jeffrey Cohelan. *Senator Cohelan's letter to the Attorney General - 07/18/63*

No record was located in Bureau files to indicate that the Attorney General or anyone in the Department contacted us regarding what information should be supplied to the Senators and Congressman relative to King. Mr. Evans has declared that he most certainly did not clear any letter written to the Senators or the Congressman on this topic.

Informal Memo to Mr. Mohr
Re: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2/5/64

On July 26, 1963, newspapers throughout the country reported that Senator Monroney had released the contents of a letter to him from Attorney General Kennedy stating there is "no evidence" that King or any of the other top leaders of the civil rights groups is a communist or communist controlled. The letter revealed the Attorney General based his statement "on all available information from the FBI and other sources." This letter was dated July 23, 1963. A similar letter apparently also was sent to Senator Magnuson.

On July 27, 1963, Senator Russell of Georgia wrote the Director inquiring about much the same matter. This letter also was referred to the Attorney General under date of July 31, 1963. On November 1, 1963, Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall contacted Mr. Belmont's Office relative to the letter from Senator Russell and a subsequent letter from the Senator to the Attorney General vigorously complaining about not having received an answer to the earlier communication. A proposed reply to Senator Russell over the Attorney General's signature was provided and Mr. Belmont expressed objections to the wording, particularly since it would jeopardize a most sensitive source. Mr. Evans conferred with the Attorney General and Mr. Marshall later on 11-1-63 and it was determined that the draft of the letter to Russell had been approved by the President. The draft was rephrased three times and each draft was rejected by the President who finally instructed that an innocuous communication be sent to the Senator and delivered personally by Mr. Marshall and Mr. Evans with Mr. Marshall to orally brief the Senator. Subsequently on 11-1-63, Deputy Attorney General Katzenbach and Mr. Evans delivered the communication to Senator Russell and Mr. Katzenbach briefed him about King. Mr. Evans merely verified that a sensitive source was involved.

An interesting parallel to the situation occurred on August 1, 1963, when the Attorney General gave Mr. Evans a report submitted by our New York Office on July 22, 1963, on King asking that it be resubmitted to him with a cover memorandum detailing exact evidence to support a statement contained therein to the effect that King had been "described as a confirmed Marxist-Leninist as of June, 1963." He told Mr. Evans that if this report got up to the Hill at this time he would be impeached. He stated Assistant Attorney General Marshall had reviewed the entire report and stated there was nothing new concerning King's alleged communist sympathies and that it

Director J. Edgar Hoover
- 4 -
Intelligence Operations

Informal Memo to Mr. Mohr
Re: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

2/5/64

was the timing of the report and its possible misuse which concerned him. The statement the Attorney General objected to previously had been furnished to him on several occasions including the letter to him on July 17, 1963, forwarding to him the letter from Senator Monroney. The Attorney General was advised by memorandum of August 2, 1963, that "the description of King was made by Stanley Levinson first in 1962 and again in 1963."

RESPECTFULLY,

C. D. DE LOACH

Sensitive
of info
Intelligence
operation

AM



Keenan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Belmont ✓
 Mohr ✓
 Casper ✓
 Callahan ✓
 Conrad ✓
 DeLoach ✓
 Evans ✓
 Gale ✓
 Rosen ✓
 Sullivan ✓
 Tavel ✓
 Trotter ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Holmes ✓
 Gandy ✓

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: February 7, 1964

FROM : C. A. Evans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 12/4/00 BY SP2 ALM/STG

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, NEGRO QUESTION
 COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS
 INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall was contacted last evening on his return from the Hill and again informed that the decision as to whether he is to see Martin Luther King again to warn him about communist efforts is one for Marshall to make. It was further pointed out that any detailing of specifics as to meetings might well endanger our confidential sources, but if he felt he had to name one definite meeting he could refer to the one at the airport in New York. Marshall said he recalled this one generally and asked about the specifics. He was told that this was contained in a memorandum sent to the Attorney General, with a copy for him, dated November 26, 1963.

Marshall said that he still hadn't made up his mind as to whether or not to see King. He noted he had warned him before, which admonition King had obviously ignored, so Marshall didn't know if any further warning would be effective. He said if he decided to see King he would, of course, advise us as to the results of the meeting.

CAE:vap
(10)

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Bland

[Handwritten initials and scribbles]

REC-34

10 FEB 17 1964

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: February 5, 1964

FROM : C. A. Evans

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/4/00 BY SP-2 AMT/STG

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST PARTY, USA, NEGRO QUESTION
COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Assistant Attorney General Burke Marshall of the Civil Rights Division telephoned. He said he had two matters he wanted to discuss.

The first of these concerns a scheduled visit to the Department of Justice this week of Reese Cleghorn, a free-lance writer who has written one article on Martin Luther King for the "Saturday Evening Post" and who has been authorized by this magazine to write another article, also on King. Marshall was aware of the fact that Cleghorn allegedly has information concerning King's association with Stanley David Levison, a secret member of the Communist Party. Marshall indicated that he did not intend to furnish Cleghorn with any information about Martin Luther King's alleged communist connections but that if he developed anything at all with regard to Cleghorn's source of information, he would pass this along to us for our information. (According to information developed by our Atlanta Office on February 4, 1964, Cleghorn had in his possession what appeared to be a blind memorandum containing information as to Levison's Communist Party connections.)

The second matter which Marshall discussed related to Marshall's previous warning to King to avoid any connection with the communist element and particularly the need to avoid any relationship with Levison. Marshall said King has obviously ignored this admonition. He is currently considering whether he should warn King again because of the reports furnished to him by the Bureau showing a continued relationship between King and Levison. In considering this matter, Marshall observed that he had told King once, and if King were going to go ahead and make a fool of himself Marshall didn't know that the Department of Justice should try and prevent it. On the other side, he pointed out that King is obviously headed for trouble and this could seriously affect the Negro movement directed at securing legitimate civil rights.

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
- 1 - Mr. Bland

REC-34

100-2-116-116

10 FEB 17 1964

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FEB 19 1964

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