

File #:

62-HQ-116395

Serial Scope:

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62- HQ-116395

Serial 789



62-HQ-116395-789

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SSC LETTER 7/8/75
ITEM # 2

Doc 789

JFK Law 10(a)1

JFK Law 10(a)1

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

- 1 - Mr. C. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. J. P. Mohr

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

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: April 10, 1967

FROM : C. D. Brennan

- 1 - Mr. R. E. Wick
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. C. D. Brennan
- 1 - Liaison
- 1 - Mr. Shackelford
- 1 - Mr. D. M. Wells

SUBJECT: COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS - A CURRENT ANALYSIS

PURPOSE:

To obtain authorization for high level dissemination of a document captioned as above which shows the degree of communist influence on Martin Luther King.

Enclosed is a document captioned as above, which depicts communist influence in the civil rights field, emphasizing the key role of Martin Luther King, Jr. This document is a current revision of the previous analysis captioned "Communism and the Negro Movement - A Current Analysis," prepared and disseminated in November, 1964. In updating it, we have emphasized these areas: (1) continued reliance of King upon former Communist Party, USA, members, particularly Stanley David Levison; (2) facts relating to King's moral degeneracy; and (3) communist goal of uniting the peace and civil rights movements and King's adherence to this communist long-range objective.

King's strong criticism and condemnation of the Administration's policy on Vietnam in a speech he made at New York on 4/4/67 shows how much he has been influenced by communist advisors. His speech was a direct parallel of the communist position on Vietnam.

It is felt that the President would be interested in a summary on King which shows the degree of communist influence on him. The attached paper constitutes a complete picture and strong indictment of King in that regard.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that

- (1) The attached letters, with enclosures, to the White House and the Attorney General be forwarded to Assistant to the Director DeLoach for transmittal to Mrs. Mildred Stegall, the White House, and the Attorney General.

Enclosure
100-442529

CONTINUED - OVER 10 MAY 16 1967

RLS:DMW/jav/cst

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by your Committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.

5 6 MAY 22 1967

Memorandum to Mr. Sullivan
Re: COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL
MATTERS - A CURRENT ANALYSIS
100-442529

(2) The attached letters, with enclosures, to the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of the Secret Service be forwarded to the Liaison Section for transmittal.

*Small
not
done*

to Weis

P

RM

✓

GH

✓

SSC Letter, 7/8/75 -- Item 2a

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: 11/26/62

FROM : A. H. Belmont *ahb*

cc Mr. Belmont
 Mr. Sullivan
 Mr. DeLoach
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. McGowan

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION, Albany, Ga.,
 RACIAL MATTERS (Article by
 Martin Luther King, Jr.,
 critical of FBI) *HT/2.2.62*

Reference is made to the memorandum from Mr. Rosen to Mr. Belmont, 11/20/62 (copy attached), referring to the article of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., criticizing the work of the FBI in relation to the Albany situation. The question has been raised as to whether we should not try to talk to King and set him straight as to the Bureau's approach and activities.

At the outset, it should be stated that it is questionable whether an interview with King will be fruitful. *some time ago*
~~We have picked up information in the past that King admits to being a Marxist, but cannot afford to admit this publicly.~~ *intell copy*
 We know of his close tie-in with Hunter Pitts Odell, a member of the National Committee of the Communist Party, and we have seen various instances where King received advice and his actions were apparently controlled, at least to some extent, by the Communist Party.

On the other hand, we do know that King has been in touch with the Attorney General from time to time, and in view of the public image he has built up as a Negro leader he may fancy himself as a leader using the assistance of, but independent of, the Communist Party.

(1) Mr. DeLoach feels that it would be desirable to interview King. He recommends that he and Assistant Director Sullivan jointly interview King. He feels that two Bureau representatives should interview King in order that there will be a witness and there can be no charge of provincialism inasmuch as DeLoach comes from the South and Mr. Sullivan comes from the North.

EX - 116

REC-4

154-1-2-763

(2) Mr. Sullivan feels that King should be interviewed. He feels, however, that if two Bureau representatives approach King, King will be immediately on the defensive and no progress will be made. He feels that King should be interviewed, initially, on a broad basis,

AHB:CSH (6)
 Enclosure
ENCLOSURE

memo DeLoach to Sullivan 11/26/62

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by your Committee and the content may not be disclosed to any person without the express approval of the FBI.

2-1
 12 JAN 2 1963

67 FEB 6 - 1963

Mr. Tolson

showing the Bureau's understanding of the racial and sociological problems of the Negro, and thereafter the Bureau's position should be built into this frame of reference. He believes that either Mr. DeLoach or himself should undertake the interview, individually.

(3) Mr. Sullivan suggests a third alternative. He is very well acquainted with Dr. Douglas Jackson, a well known sociologist (white) and a member of the faculty of Southern Methodist University in Dallas. Dr. Jackson is known to Sullivan as a man thoroughly and soundly interested in solving the racial question in the South. He is well known in different Negro areas for the stand that he has taken and he is respected by them. Additionally, Dr. Jackson has been quite interested in the work of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which King is president.

Jackson has told Sullivan, as recently as a week and a half ago in Indianapolis, that if he at any time can do anything which would assist the FBI he should simply make the request of him. Sullivan believes we should also give consideration to having Dr. Jackson approach King and discuss this whole matter with him very thoroughly, from a racial and sociological point of view, and ultimately clarify in this discussion King's ideas on the FBI, and lay the groundwork for King's support of the FBI. Sullivan would be perfectly willing to brief Jackson on this entire matter and set the machinery in motion, if it is so desired.

RECOMMENDATION:

The above three courses of action are set forth for the Director's consideration. I personally favor #2.

I favor #1
D. 11/26

Suggest Sullivan and DeLoach handle. 2

Don
11/26

I agree
Yes.
H.

Handwritten initials: "Hrd 2"

Mr. Belmont

11/20/62

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Lavin

A. Rosen

**RACIAL SITUATION
ALBANY, GEORGIA
RACIAL MATTERS**

An article has appeared in the "Atlanta Constitution," Atlanta, Georgia, on 11/19/62 which article was taken from the "New York Times." In the article, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., stated he agreed with the report written by Howard Zinn issued by the Southern Regional Council concerning the recent racial situation in Albany, Georgia. The report referred to criticized the work of this Bureau in relation to the Albany situation. King has stated among other things that "Agents of the FBI in Albany, Georgia, sided with segregationists."

There are no facts to support this and it is noteworthy that the comments by King would appear to dovetail with information which has been furnished to this Bureau indicating that King's advisers are Communist Party (CP) members and he is under the domination of the CP.

King is the President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and it should be noted that on 10/23/62 a communist infiltration investigation of this organization was initiated. (100-438794)

DETAILS:

The "New York Times" quoted King as stating he agreed with report issued 11/14/62 by the Southern Regional Council that the FBI had not been vigorous in looking into denials of civil rights in Albany and the surrounding areas. He stated "Agents of the FBI in Albany, Georgia, sided with segregationists." "One of the great problems we face with the FBI in the South, "according to Reverend Mr. King, "is that the Agents are white southerners who have been influenced by the mores of their community. To maintain their status they have to be friendly with the local police and people who are promoting segregation. Every time I saw FBI men in Albany they were with the local police force." It should be noted there are five Agents assigned to the Albany, Georgia, Resident Agency. One is from Indiana, one is from Massachusetts, one is from New York, one is from Minnesota and one is from Georgia.

157-6-2

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

RBL:cag
(9)

ENCLOSURE

This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your Committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by your Committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized personnel without the express approval of the FBI.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
RE: RACIAL SITUATION

Howard Zinn, the author of the report for the Southern Regional Council, was mentioned in my memorandum 11/15/62 and has been the subject of a security investigation by this Bureau (100-380217). Zinn was reportedly a member of the CP from 1949 through 1953 and attended CP meetings during that period. Zinn is a history professor at Spellman College in Atlanta. It was the second slanted and biased document written by Zinn on the Albany situation.

Reverend Mr. King is the President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference who arose to prominence during the 1955 - 1956 successful boycott which ended bus segregation in Montgomery, Alabama. He has been active in Negro segregation matters since that time.

NY 694-S*, a top-level informant, has advised that Stanley Levison, a secret CP member, sent word to Gus Hall, General Secretary, CP USA, during February, 1962, that King is a wholehearted Marxist who had studied it, believed in it and agrees with it. He cannot, however, publicly espouse it in view of his position as a minister of religion. Levison is an Associate Director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and is actively involved in the operations of that organization.

The New York representative of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is Hunter Pitts O'Dell who was elected under a pseudonym, Cornelius James, to the National Committee of the CP USA in December, 1959. On 3/7/62 James Jackson then Editor of "The World" told NY 694-S* that an article attributed to King in the 3/3/62 issue of "The Nation" magazine was actually written by O'Dell. The article was captioned, "Fumbling on the New Frontier," and purports to be a report on Civil Rights.

NY 694-S* advised that Lement Harris, CP USA functionary, had commented that Stanley Levison by reason of his association with the Martin Luther King Movement was doing the most important work in the CP at that time. Harris stated "The party has the Kennedys in its pocket" since the Kennedy Administration is politically dependent upon King. This was furnished to the White House and to the Attorney General on 5/4/62.

NY 3580-S* advised on 8/7/62 that while in conversation with O'Dell, Levison asked how things were in Albany, Georgia. O'Dell replied that there was a leadership problem down there and things could get quite disorganized if "our" staff was not there.

Memorandum to Mr. Belmont
REF: RACIAL SITUATION

TSR
On 9/10/62 NY 3580-S* advised that on the afternoon of that date Clarence Jones, a member of the Labor Youth League in 1954 (a cited organization) and Levison were discussing burning of churches in the South, both expressed the opinion that King should not be silent in this matter but should send a hot wire to "Kennedy" expressing his indignance at the Government's failure to control one small community. This was furnished to the Attorney General on 9/11/62.

RECOMMENDATION:

Consideration has been given to contacting King to straighten him out; however, this seems undesirable in view of the above facts and it is recommended he not be contacted.

The background information regarding King, Levison and Zinn has been furnished to the Department.

Nothing would seem to be gained by contacting the "New York Times" or the "Atlanta Constitution" as we obviously cannot give them background data we possess on the CP influence of King.

The Department and the Attorney General have been publicly criticized on many occasions by King and yet they are cooperating with him.

It is recommended that the Liaison Section of the Domestic Intelligence Division bring King's comments in the article to the attention of Staff Director Berl L. Bernhard of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights and point out to him that there is no basis in fact for King's remarks and in addition point out that 4 of the 5 Resident Agents assigned at Albany, Georgia, are from northern states and one is from Georgia.

ACTION:

✓ Being done
That this memorandum be referred to the Domestic Intelligence Division for appropriate handling.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

DATE: January 15, 1963

SUBJECT: RACIAL SITUATION, Albany, Ga.,
RACIAL MATTERS (Article by
 Martin Luther King, Jr., *Atlanta*
 critical of FBI)

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

Mr. Belmont's memorandum of November 26, 1962, reflected the alternatives in interviewing Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., who had criticized the work of the FBI in relation to the Albany situation. The Director approved the suggestion that Mr. Sullivan and I handle the interview with Rev. King.

Following approval, I immediately tried to contact Rev. King telephonically on November 27, 1962.

Rev. King does not have a phone at his residence. We then attempted to contact him at his church in Atlanta. His secretary advised, upon being told who was trying to contact him, that Rev. King was "off in another building writing a book." She further stated that Rev. King preferred not to be disturbed and that it would be impossible to talk to him. That same day I called the SAC at Atlanta and instructed him to attempt to contact Rev. King and set up an interview for Mr. Sullivan and me. SAC Atlanta advised the following day, November 28, that Rev. King had left instructions with his secretary that he did not have time for an interview, that he was moving around the country. The secretary further advised the SAC that Rev. King would call us when he was willing to sit down for an interview. Rev. King has not called since that date.

It would appear obvious that Rev. King does not desire to be told the true facts. He obviously used deceit, lies and treachery as propoganda to further his own causes.

Realizing the above, I recommended, the Director approved, that I talk with Mr. MacKay, publisher of the four Afro-American newspapers. This interview was handled and reported by memorandum. The interview was based on the fact that the Afro-American newspapers had published Rev. King's lies, quoting him exclusively. In talking with Mr. MacKay I carefully went over each allegation by Rev. King and set him straight with respect to these lies. MacKay offered no

Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones

EX-114

REC-21

over 157-6-2-965

12 JAN 27 1963

CDD:ejr (7)

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UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-100000

Memo DeLoach to Mohr
Re: Racial Situation, Albany, Ga.,
Racial Matters (Article by
Martin Luther King, Jr.,
critical of FBI)

1/15/63

argument and in the following week's issue of his newspapers quoted us for the record. A letter was also prepared to John H. Sengstacke, Publisher, "Chicago Defender," dated November 29, 1962, (copy attached) setting the record straight. Sengstacke, whom we know most favorably, published the letter putting the lie to Rev. King's allegations. *Handled separately*

ACTION:

The record concerning Rev. King's allegations has been covered. Interviews with the publishers of the newspapers who carried Rev. King's lies have been conducted and they have been set straight. I see no further need to contacting Rev. King inasmuch as he obviously does not desire to be given the truth. The fact that he is a vicious liar is amply demonstrated in the fact he constantly associates with and takes instructions from Stanley Levison who is a hidden member of the Communist Party in New York.

V. K. [unclear]
WCS
D. 1/15
concur.
J

The Attorney General

January 18, 1963

Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Lavin
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Evans

RACIAL SITUATION
ALBANY, GEORGIA
RACIAL MATTERS

Numerous attempts have been made by officials of this Bureau to contact Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., to point out to him the inaccuracies in his unfounded allegations about the work of this Bureau in connection with Albany, Georgia, which allegations appeared in the November 19, 1962, issue of "The New York Times." It is obvious to the Bureau that Reverend Mr. King has evaded contact and has no desire to be told the true facts concerning this situation.

An attempt was made by an official of this Bureau to contact Reverend Mr. King on November 27, 1962. Upon learning the identity of the caller, his secretary advised that Reverend Mr. King was "off in another building writing a book." She further stated that he preferred not to be disturbed and it would be impossible to talk with him. (157-6-2-965)

Another attempt was made on November 28, 1962, and it was ascertained that Reverend Mr. King had left instructions with his secretary that he would not have time for an interview and that he was moving around the country. The secretary further advised that Reverend Mr. King would call this Bureau when he was willing to sit down for an interview. He has not called since that date.

Attached for your information is a copy of a letter to Mr. Berl I. Bernhard, Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, 726 Jackson Place, Northwest, Washington, D. C., pointing out to him Reverend Mr. King's conduct in this matter.

MAILED 44
 JAN 13 1963
 COMM-FBI

JAN 19 11 36 AM '63
 RECV-READING ROOM

REC-1
 Ref

911 - X
 REC-43
 157-6-2-965
 19 JAN 18 1963

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

RBL: cag

(14)

SEE MEMO ROSEN TO BELMONT, ABOVE CAPTION, 1/17/63, RBL: cag.

67 JAN 18 1963
 This document is prepared in response to your request and is not for dissemination outside your committee. Its use is limited to official proceedings by your committee and the content may not be disclosed to unauthorized persons without the express approval of the FBI.

The Attorney General

As I have pointed out in my letter to Mr. Bernhard, in view of Reverend Mr. King's evasive conduct, no further attempts are being undertaken by this Bureau to contact him.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

**1 - Mr. Burke Marshall (Enclosure)
Assistant Attorney General**

