

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SECRET

April 8, 1964

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Mr. Mohr

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

CLASSIFIED BY 6076 JEM/MLK
EXEMPT FROM GDS CATEGORY 5
DATE OF DECLASSIFICATION INDEFINITE

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

Mr. Baumgardner's memo to Mr. Sullivan 4/2/64 recommended that I orally brief [redacted] in accordance with an attached "Top Secret" summary indicating Reverend Martin Luther King's communist connections. The purpose of such action was because Reverend King had been invited to make the commencement address and receive an honorary degree from Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts.

[redacted] I called upon [redacted] at 10:30 a. m., 4/7/64 in his office. At the beginning of our conversation I told [redacted] that my remarks should be held in the strictest of confidence. He agreed to this. I then mentioned that he had long been a supporter of the FBI's and, therefore, the Director wanted me to brief him concerning a matter of potential embarrassment to a college he obviously was very personally interested in. [redacted] was told that captioned individual was to receive an honorary degree and make the commencement address at Springfield College at the end of this scholastic year, June, 1964. He was advised that King for some time has been maintaining a close liaison with a number of secret members of the Communist Party. I told him that King had received guidance and counsel and had relied greatly upon one of these members. I told [redacted] also that King [redacted]

[redacted] I further mentioned that Reverend King, in some of his activities, [redacted] b7(c)

[redacted] b7(c) told me he was shocked to receive this information. He stated it was hardly believable. He said if it were not for the integrity of the FBI he would disbelieve such facts. I told him that our information was very obviously truthful and based upon indisputable facts.

[redacted] told me that while he wanted to respect our confidence, this information placed a great burden upon him. He stated he felt duty bound to tell [redacted] I reminded [redacted] that I had advised him of the above-mentioned facts in strict confidence. He then inquired if I would speak to [redacted] He described [redacted] as a very outstanding individual who could be trusted implicitly.

- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Baumgardner

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EX-115

DECLASSIFIED BY SP4 JEM/MLK
ON 11-20-80

CDD:amr (5)

SP 6076

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DeLoach to Mohr Memo
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

b7(c)
I told the [redacted] I preferred not to speak with [redacted] about this matter and that I wanted him, [redacted] to know that under no circumstances should this information be attributed to the FBI. [redacted] assured me that he would treat our information on a confidential basis; however, he might possibly have to take [redacted] into his confidence.

b7(c)
I had been back in my office approximately 30 minutes when [redacted] called me. He stated that [redacted] was in his office at the time, having dropped by [redacted] [redacted] inquired if I would see [redacted] right away. I told him that I was tied up on other matters and it would be impossible. He next inquired if I could see [redacted] at 8:00 a. m. on the morning of 4/8/64. I told [redacted] I couldn't do this inasmuch as I had a commitment to attend a breakfast meeting of a civic group. He then closed the conversation by stating [redacted] would call me and arrange an appointment. I asked [redacted] if he had disclosed the remarks made during our previous conversation [redacted] He stated that he had inasmuch as he wanted to make it absolutely certain that Reverend King did not appear at Springfield College. I told him that under the circumstances then that I would see [redacted]

b7(c)
[redacted] after making an appointment, came by my office at 4:00 p. m., 4/8/64. He opened the conversation by stating that he fully recognized the necessity to keep the information concerning King in strict confidence. He stated he wanted us to know that he would maintain this confidence and would not advise anyone of this information. He pointed out that he had been very shocked when [redacted] told him of these facts and had insisted that Reverend King be prevented from making the commencement address at Springfield College. [redacted] who impressed me as being a very sensible, intelligent individual, stated that due to the fact that he will keep this information confidential, it would be impossible [redacted] to "uninvite" King to make the appearance at Springfield College. [redacted]

[redacted] I told [redacted] at this point that any action he took in this regard was entirely up to him but that no information was to be attributed to the FBI and that we were to be kept strictly out of this matter. He stated he fully recognized this fact and no one would ever know that the FBI had given [redacted] this information. [redacted] immediate steps to prevent Reverend King from receiving an honorary degree. He said he wanted to think about the possibility of preventing King from making the address but at this step of the game he did not see how it could be done.

b7(c)
[redacted] expressed a desire to shake hands with the Director some day. [redacted] the Director two invitations in the recent past to receive an honorary degree and make the commencement address at Springfield College. However,

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the Director's schedule had caused him to not accept these invitations. I explained the Director's heavy schedule and the fact that he was reluctant to leave Washington while Congress was in session.

Upon leaving, [REDACTED] ^{b7(c)} assured me that no information would be released and none would be attributed to the FBI. I told him that we would, of course, deny any such information had been furnished. At this point he advised me that, of course, his main reason for coming to the FBI was to determine if we could suggest any course of action he might take. I told him we could suggest nothing, that any action taken was entirely up to him.

ACTION:

For record purposes.

✓
D.H.P.
1-11-68
[Signature]

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