Memorandum

TO Mr. W. C. Sullivan
FROM Mr. F. J. Baumgardner
DATE April 2, 1964
SUBJECT MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
       SECURITY MATTER - COMMUNIST

My memorandum to you March 19, 1964, concerning the communist influence in racial matters advised that we had learned that Springfield College, Springfield, Massachusetts, and Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, were considering the conferring upon Martin Luther King, Jr., of honorary degrees in June, 1964, but that to date no definite plans had been perfected relative to either institution. We indicated that we were initiating appropriate checks as to the availability of such established and reliable sources at these institutions which would permit the heading off of the conferring of honorary degrees to King. We indicated an intention to proceed along lines similar to that taken recently which prevented King from getting an honorary degree from Marquette University. The Director noted "OK" relative to these intentions of ours. Instant memorandum recommends that an extremely discreet contact be made with [redacted] who appears to be in a position to assist the Bureau in the matter relating to Springfield College. A separate memorandum will follow relative to Yale University.

Boston SAC Handley has advised that although the Boston Office files are negative concerning [redacted], Handley suggested [redacted] as a possible contact is on the Special Correspondents' List and we have had limited but friendly relations with him for a number of years. He is usually written a congratulatory letter upon his re-elections.

Enclosure
100-106670

100-106670-348

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREBIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
[redacted] 29 1964

MAY 21 1964

REFERENCES Attached
Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan  
RE: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
100-106670  

OBSERVATIONS:

Because of [redacted] close association with [redacted] it would not appear to be prudent to attempt to deal with him. It appears from our study that [redacted] is the most logical individual to deal with and that if he were personally approached by Assistant Director DeLoach and orally briefed, in the strictest of confidence, concerning King, he would be in a position to take the necessary action to prevent King from receiving an honorary degree from Springfield College.

RECOMMENDATION:

If approved, DeLoach should personally orally brief [redacted] in accordance with the attached "T-3 Secret" summary indicating King's communist connections and [redacted] (This is the same summary we previously used in the Marquette University situation). It should be made clear to Saltonstall that the information is being given him in the strictest of confidence with the thought that he might desire to use it in preventing King from receiving an honorary degree from Springfield College and thus save that institution from embarrassment because of King's connections and character. It should be emphasized to [redacted] that under no circumstances may this information ever be attributed to the Bureau.