



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York

April 18, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Bufile 100-106670

~~SECRET~~

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN  
OTHERWISE~~

Martin Luther King, Jr.;  
Southern Christian Leadership Conference  
(SCLC) - Racial Matters

On April 17, 1968, a confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past, ascertained that on that date Stanley Levison was in contact with Dora McDonald, Secretary to Martin Luther King, Jr., deceased head of the SCLC, and thereafter Coretta King, wife of Martin Luther King. McDonald told Levison that "Meet the Press" wants Ralph Abernathy, successor to Martin Luther King as head of the SCLC, to appear on this program as soon as possible and Coretta King at a later date. She stated that she had not talked to Abernathy who was still in Memphis. Levison questioned if Martin Luther King had not been scheduled to appear on "Face the Nation" then added that "Meet the Press" was the roughest one. He said he had talked with Abernathy and advised him not to appear on "Face the Nation" at the present time because he believed Abernathy was gambling with his reputation and if Abernathy "falls on his face" he would do so before the whole nation. He said Abernathy agreed. Levison added that as far as Abernathy is concerned, it would be best if he put off any appearance until just before the Washington Campaign (Poor People's Campaign scheduled for Washington, D.C.) and that Abernathy acknowledged that he needs to study up on current legislation and political facts. (S)u

4/18/83  
Classified by SP4 CLW/LVA  
Declassify on: OADR

~~SECRET~~

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER  
RECOMMENDATIONS NOR CONCLUSIONS  
OF THE FBI. IT IS THE PROPERTY  
OF THE FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR  
AGENCY; IT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE  
NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE  
YOUR AGENCY.

~~GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification~~

62-108052  
ENCLOSURE

4-18-68

~~SECRET~~

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Levison referred to Coretta King's possible appearance at the major mass anti-Vietnam war demonstration scheduled for New York City on April 27, 1968. He said he had checked with Dave Dellinger's (National Director, National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam) office and that he, Levison, feels that it is alright for her to appear on this program and also to participate in the Mothers' March (in Washington, D.C. in connection with the Poor People's Campaign) as long as she does not do anything else.

Levison then told Coretta King that he had checked with Dave Dellinger's office and that there is a good platform so that if she is inclined to participate, they should be promptly advised so they can have the benefit of the publicity. He emphasized that she should not do other things because it would be too much exposure. Comparing her situation with that of Jackie Kennedy, Coretta commented that she believes many people see that her life was not the same, that people understand how she was "in the picture" and have now given her a mandate that she must remain "in the picture". Levison agreed but counselled this should be done gradually and in good taste.

Coretta asked about requests for articles about herself and Levison advised that, as a general principle, proceeds for such articles should go to her because the subject of the articles will command the price. He said if thousands are paid for an article, then a few hundred is all the writer is entitled to.

Levison mentioned that Grosset and Dunlap, an old publishing firm, is coming out with a book, "I Had A Dream", about Martin Luther King which is unauthorized. He said Harper and Rowe are willing to have their lawyers prepare an injunction preventing or stopping the publication and distribution of this book, but a telegram is needed from Coretta to proceed. Levison then read a telegram for her signature and she agreed to have Dora McDonald send it immediately.

- 2 -

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Coretta discussed requests she had received for appearances and Levison stated that she would receive many requests but that she will have to be selective and turn many down. He counselled that she should adopt the position that, for the present, she feels that activity in King's behalf has to be toward his memorial and that it would not serve anyone if her name is used by everyone. He added that this says she is using her name in the area she knows would be closest to King, his family and his organization. He said it is important in preserving the strength of a name that it not be overused.

Finally, Levison asked if Coretta wanted him to contact Dave Dellinger. She stated that he should call Dellinger and point out that her exposure must be limited and that she must be protected because she is only doing the things she feels very strongly about, that is, those things that are related to the work of her husband.

A confidential source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised in April, 1964, that Stanley Levison was a secret member of the Communist Party, United States of America (CP, USA), in July, 1963. In late 1963, and early, 1964, he criticized the CP for not being sufficiently militant in the civil rights struggle. Levison was described by certain CP leaders as being to the "left" of the CP in his position on civil rights. His differences with the CP, however, are merely tactical and he continues his ideological adherence to Communism.

~~(S)~~ (U)

~~SECRET~~