

MEMORANDUM

February 12, 1998

To: T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director

From: Laura Denk
Chief Analyst for FBI Records

Subject: Records and Information Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr. in the FBI's John F. Kennedy Assassination Records

In the FBI's records concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, Review Board analysts occasionally encounter records, or information within records, regarding Martin Luther King, Jr. Review Board staff members review the King information under the standards of the JFK Act where the King information is relevant to the Kennedy assassination. In some rare instances, however, Review Board staff members review records that are not relevant to the Kennedy assassination, and in those cases, the Review Board staff recommends that the Review Board designate the record, or information within the record, as not believed relevant, or "NBR."

Description of Information Concerning Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a general rule, the FBI has kept King materials separate from Kennedy assassination materials. In a few cases, however, King materials do appear in the records that the FBI has gathered to process under the standards of the JFK Act. The primary example is within the Church Committee records. As you know, the Church Committee investigated both the King and the Kennedy assassinations and the FBI gathered all of its Church Committee materials together to process under the JFK Act. The Review Board staff believes, however, that the Church Committee's investigation into the King assassination is not relevant to the Kennedy assassination.

Applying the Review Board's "NBR" Guidelines to King Assassination Materials

The Review Board's Guidelines for "NBR" records, or information within records, state that where information in a record under review truly has no apparent relevance to the assassination, the record may fit within the Review Board's definition of an "NBR" record.

Presumably, records and information within records concerning Martin Luther King, Jr. are not relevant to the Kennedy assassination. The Review Board staff is aware that some issues do arise in

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records regarding King that are also relevant to the Kennedy assassination. Specifically, the Review Board staff is aware that Army surveillance on Martin Luther King, Jr. is potentially relevant to the Kennedy assassination. In addition, the Review Board staff considers relevant any King records regarding Eugene Hale Brading -- a figure whom some researchers believe was connected to both the King and Kennedy assassinations. *Relevant records such as these will be processed according to JFK Act standards, as will all information relevant to the Kennedy assassination.* The only remaining question, then, is how the Review Board staff should handle those King records that are *not* related to the Kennedy assassination.

Recommendation

The Review Board staff recommends that the Review Board designate as not believed relevant, or "NBR" those FBI records, or information within FBI records, concerning Martin Luther King, Jr., ***provided that*** the information is truly not believed relevant to the Kennedy assassination.