MY 100-111180

SECRET

I. BACKGROUND

A. Residence

B. Employment

On April 14, 1970, Special Agent (SA)
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) determined from the records of the Ansonia Station, United States Post Office, 1980 Broadway, New York City, that a change of address was submitted by STANLEY LEVISON from 1841 Broadway, New York City to 110 Bast 59th Street, New York City, 14th floor. The change of address for the Park Hanagement Corporation; Atlantic Coast Realty; Loewi Properties, Incorporated; Loewi-Wells Corporation and the "L" Realty was to 2204 Cedar Avenue, Bronx, New York.

676

The Bronx telephone directory lists IRENE BROOKINS at the address of 2204 Cedar Avenue.

CENTET

According to STANLEY LEVISON, he was getting out of the real estate business and going into business with JOE FILMER because FILMER was buying into a brokerage house and he, LEVISON, was going to take an office with FILMER. or the play Provide asias MY 100-111180

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The "Daily World" is an east coast communist daily newspaper.

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MY 100-111180

DEOXIES.

A number of confidential sources, who have furnished reliable information in the past and who are familiar with CP activities and personalities in the New York City area were contacted during April, 1969, but had no information concerning STANLEY LEVISON.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York May 6, 1970

In Reply, Plane Refer to PR-No. Bufile 100-392452 WYfile 100-111180

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Htle

Stanley David Levison

Character

Reference

Racial Matter
Internal Security-C
is made to report of Special
dated and captioned as above

Agent (SA) at New York.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

SKRET

This document contains seither recommendations nor conclusions of the PBI. It is the property of the PBI and is leased to your expensy; it end its contents are not to be distributed outside your expensy.



Memorandum100-392452) DATE: 8/18/71 Director, FBI (Bufile-SAC. NEW YORK (100-111180) Cards UTD Carde Sent 00 STANLEY DAVID LEVISON EM, IS-C (00:NY) The Security Index Card on the captioned individual should X be changed as follows (specify change only): It is recommended that a Security Index Card be prepared on the above-captioned individual. Name Aliases Priority I .. Mative Both Natura li zed Priority II Priority III 🔲 Alies DINC . PRN ☐ ANA DPP T PLP T SPL SDS. ☐ AWC TON F □ PPA COMMUNIST Miscellaneous (Specify) . ☐ JFG **■ BNT** Place of Birth Date of Birth Business Address, Name of Employing Concern and Address, Nature of Employment, and Union Affiliation, if any. Residence Address UNIVERSAL NICKEL CORPORATION 919 3rd AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK Key Facility Data Geographical Reference Number

REGISTERED MAIL

2-Bureau 1-New York

67C

Male Femle



UNCED STATES DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION NEW YORK, NEW YORK August 18, 1971

In Reply, Plance Refer to Pile No.

Bufile 100-392452 NYfile 100-111180

SUBJECT:

STANLEY DAVID LEVISON

CHARACTER:

EM, IS-C

REFERENCE:

NEW YORK REPORT DATED 5/6/70

Referenced communication contained subject's residence and/or employment address. A recent change has been determined and is being set forth below (change only specified):

Residence:

Employment: UNIVERSAL NICKEL CORPORATION

919 3rd AVENUE NEW YORK, NEW YORK

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brc

100-392452-

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the PBI. It is the property of the PBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



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UNITED STATE GOVERNMENT emorandum DIRECTOR, FBI (100-392452) SAC, NEW YORK (100-111180) (P) NIL INFORMATION CONTATION HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWE SUBJECT: STANLEY LEVISON OTHERWISE EM; IS-C (OO:NY) ReNYrep of SA JAMES F. O'CONNELL, dated 5/6/70. STANLEY LEVISON continues to reside in an apartment building at 585 West End Avenue, NYC. He is currently associated with the Universal Nickel Corporation, at 919 3rd Ave., MY, MY, and an FD-122 was submitted to the Bureau on 8/18/71, reflecting that change in his employment address. **67**C 676 DEGAL 100=392452 (2-bureau I-New York Liss. & Ert. Br. St. 6500 MEASON-PCIN II, 1-2.4.8 NIE OF BEATER bay U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings I



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	For your information:
Ø	The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages: 100 - 392452-363 Page 2

XXXXXXX XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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MY 100-111180

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Marie Landon Garaffaren Barralland

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Next report is due at the Bureau 5/6/72.

ULY.

SECRET

FD-400 (3-6-68 UNITED STATA GOVERNMENT Memorandumirector, FBI (100-392452) DATE: 5/3/72 MIL INFORMATION CONTAINED MEW YORK (100-111180) (c) MEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED > EXCEPT WHERE SHOWS -DIHERWISE _ STANLEY DAVID LEVISON boc REFERENCE: New York report of SA This letter is submitted in lieu of a report inasmuch as no pertinent data has been developed since date of referenced communication. FD-305 enclosed. Subject's employment Tresidence Tremains the same. Bource 1 Subject a emproyment by residence has changed to: Source: ACTIVITY: 679 EX-116 **b7C**

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SUPPLEMENTAL CORRELATION SUMMARY (See Correlation Summaries dated 3/31/60, 2/12/65 and 9/1/67 filed as 100-392452-127, 239 and 286 respectively)

Main File No: 100-392452

Subject: Stanley David Levison

Date Searched: 11/22/7.

All logical variations of subject's name and aliases were searched and identical references were found as set out on page 2:

This is a summary of information obtained from a review of all "see" references to the subject in Bureau files under the names and aliases listed on page 2. All references under these names containing data identical with the subject have been included except any indicated at the end of this summary under the heading REPERENCES NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SUMMARY. References indicated in the block as SI contain the same information as the foregoing serial although the information may have been received from a different source.

THIS SUMMARY HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR USE AT THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION. IT IS DESIGNED TO PURNISH A SYNOPSIS OF THE INFORMATION SET OUT IN EACH REFERENCE AND IN MANY CASES THE ORIGINAL SERIAL WILL CONTAIN THE INFORMATION IN MORE DETAIL.

Analyst

Supervisory Clerk

Approved

routing slip dated advised file reviewed and subject do Boot ADEX criteria, SEC Kemo 21

E2 Jun 12 1972

CLISS. & ELT. ST. RELSON-PCIN II. I

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SUMMARY OLevison, 5. stenley David CLevison, S. D. ason, Stanley CLevison, Stan inson, Stan OLevison, Stanely inson, Stanley Dievison, Stanley Olevison Stanley B. inson, Stanley C. nson, Stanley D. OLevison, Stanley D. OLevison, Stanley E. inson, Stanley David inson, Stanley G. Clevison, Stoney OLewison, Stanley sion, Stanley son, One

ARBREVIATIONS

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

RELATIVES WHO HAVE BUREAU MAIN FILES

The relationship of Stanley Levison was set forth in a first of the main file on his relative, as follows:

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RELATIONSHIP

REPERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

F Bennett

Twin Brother

100-392451-59 p.1,2

(28)



CONSCENTIAL

The following additional main files on relatives of Stanley . David Levison were disclosed during preparation of this summary:

NAME

Language Manager Ball attil attention of the second second second

で、当日で自然地域の西方の政権が行為という。

RELATIONSHIP

FILE NUMBER

Pearl Bennett

Sister-in-law

100-440557

Beatrice Levison

Wife

100-440509

GLOSSARY

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr......President of SCLC, Atlanta, Qa.

61

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

8

5) b2

advised that on 10/5/66, Stanely Levison planned to hold a meeting at his office, 1841 Broadway, NYC. Hunter Pitts O'Dell (100-358916) was to attend this meeting, the purpose of which was unknown.

Add. info.

100-358916-351 p.D,Q,1,13,14 (23)

CONFDENTIAL

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on 10/29/66 advised that Martin Luther King, Jr. bad stated to Stanley Levison (locality not given) that Richard Russell, a multi-millionaire, was in favor of organizing a new company which would be half owned by the SCLC. The source further advised that on 11/12/66 Levison and Russell conferred as to a time when they could discuss in detail Russell's willingness to set up a business for the SCLC:

This serial revealed that Russell was the owner of the American Dodge, Inc., Hartford, Conn.

Add. info.

100-445393-54 p.1,4,5 (177 SI 100-445393-109 p.28,29 (177 (Add. info.)

Bureau memo dated 4/27/67 concerned Martin Luther King and Stanley David Levison. King had been under active and tight control of the communists with Levison, a lawyer in New York and secret member of the CP, writing King's speeches and statements made to the public. They met at the inn at the Kennedy Airport* and generally went over matters and various decisions as to what King was to do and say at various places. Levison was a smooth, clever manipulator behind King in his activities.

105-138315-5823 p.2 (204

• NYC

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620

former, advised that on 5/11/67 Stanley Levison and Andrew Young, Executive Assistant to Martin Luther King, were in contact (locality not given). Young disclosed that Cora Weiss contacted him and advised that the North Vietnamese representatives in Stockholm, Sweden, would like to meet with a group from the US peace movement on 5/15/67 in Paris, France. The North Vietnamese wanted an appraisal of the situation in the US. Levison did not have faith in Weiss' judgment and felt she contrived the meeting. On 5/12/67 Levison, Young and King discussed the above meeting. Levison suggested that a group of responsible and reasonable people make an honest appraisal of the peace sentiment in this country and offer it to the North Vietnamese through an agency like the UN. Levison promised to contact Weiss in an effort to dissuade her from making the trip to Paris and to urge her to follow recommendations that more influential people communicate



(continued)

CUIT VENTIAL

through the UN.

This serial revealed that Weiss was the wife of Peter Weiss (138-4897).

Add. info.

138-4897-22 ep.22,23 (17)

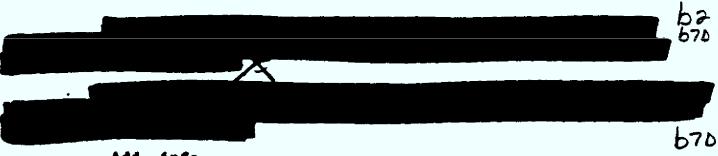
advised that on 7/19/67 there was a contact 570 between Ann Jones, wife of Clarence Jones, and Stanley Levinson (locality not given). Jones remarked "it is this weekend for Harlem". She wanted Martin Luther King to know "what is brewing in New York. Everybody was looking for somebody like Malcom X, but they would settle for King. All the rest of the leaders from Stokley (Carmichael) through Whitney (Young) were 'for the birds'."

157-6-34-2092 p.1 (28)

Bureau memo dated 8/28/67 revealed that Stanley Levison and Clarence Jones, advisers to Martin Luther King, Jr., recently held a conference (locality not given) regarding future activities of SCLC. Jones indicated that H. Rap Brown, leader of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (100-439190), had been so won over by the Progressive Labor Party, a pro-Chinese Marxist-Leninist group, that he was not only useless but dangerous. Levison commented that Brown's actions were due either to immaturity or to insecurity.

Add. info.

100-439190-1447 p.1;ep.2,3 (12)

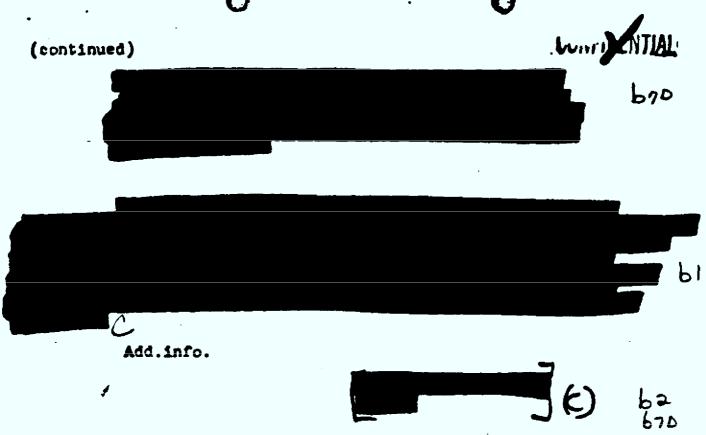


Add. info.

100-361072-178 p.3 (214

(continued)

CONTONTIAL



On 1/10/68 advised that Tudja Crowder, who was affiliated with the New York Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, discussed with Stanley Levison a National Conference for New Politics (NCNP) Madison Square Garden Rally, NYC, 2/5/68, in defense of Dr. Benjamin Spock and those indicted with him for urging resistance to the military draft. Crowder wanted Martin Luther King to attend the rally so King and Spock could unite on a platform and provide new leadership for the peace movement. Levison opposed this idea and suggested publishing a clear militant statement of the issues involved, signed by a hundred major leaders throughout the country. On 1/10/68 Levison counseled King regarding this proposed meeting indicating that King had to back Spock but he was not happy about King appearing on the NCNP platform. He also received King's opinion of his suggested statement.

Add. info.

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105-138315-8754 p.1,2;ep.1-4 (17%)

advised that on 1/22/68 Stanley Levison (locality not given) was contacted by an unknown individual from London, England, who stated he had come to the US on behalf of a canon of St. Paul's Cathedral named Collins. He was concerned with

(continued)

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62

a proposed meeting in London, at the end of February, 1968, to establish an International Ad Hoc organization for the purpose of conducting a mass media campaign against the Vietnam War. He told Levison of negotiations or discussions having been carried on in Western Europe and in the US regarding the above proposed meeting.

Add. info.

109-12-241-270x p.1,2;ep.1-4 (174

advised that on 1/31/68 William Rutherford, Executive Director, SCLC, Atlanta, informed Stanley Levison of NYC, that Martin Luther King, Jr. would have "a clergy march on Monday". This march was apparently in connection with King's visit to WDC.

This serial revealed that on 2/5 - 6/68 the Clergy and Laymen Concerned About Vietnam (105-170160) held a conference and demonstration in opposition to the war in Vietnam in WDC.

Add. info.

105-170160-26 p.1;ep.1 (174

advised that on 2/23/68 Stanley Levison was going to meet Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Kennedy International Airport, NYC, to take him to the "Freedomways" Magazine sponsored affair at Carnegie Hall, NYC, that night. On 2/24/68 Levison commented to Clarence Jones about this affair on 2/23/68. Referring to King's speech Levison said that King read his speech as if he did not understand what he was reading and that King had never read anything as badly.

This serial revealed that "Freedomways" was published by Freedomways Associates, Inc. (100-434819), and the aforementioned affair was in observance of the 100th Anniversary of the birth of W.E.B. DuBois.

Add. info.

100-434819-198 p.1,2;ep.1,2



CUNHUENTIAL

The following references in the file captioned "Racial Mitters, Atlanta" pertain to the activities of Stanley Levison, a No-York confident and adviser to Martin Luther King from 4/5-9 in Atlanta, Ga. Levison attended an SCLC Executive Staff in the ling and participated in discussions with SCLC Executive Board in the bers and Executive Staff members. King had been assassinated Levison was reportedly proceeding to King's funeral.

F. BRENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

1: -6-2-2418 p.2,3 -2428 p.19 -2449 p.1;ep.3,9

(177) 1177 1187

• ... 4/4/68

The following references in the file captioned "Poor Files Campaign" (POCAM) pertain to the activities of Stanley I son from approximately 1/31/68 to 6/13/68 in Georgia and New Y. L. Lévison, a long-time secret CP member, was the principal iser to Martin Luther King, Jr. He was in frequent contact SCLC headquarters advising SCLC leaders regarding finances the POCAM which was sponsored by SCLC. Levison refused to be further assistance to the SCLC unless Ralph D. Abernathy, SCLC President, exercised proper control over the organization to avoid it decisions.

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SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

-8428-109 p.1,2;ep.1,2 -161 p.1,2;ep.1,2,4 -248 p.1;ep.1,2 -323 p.1;ep.1,2 -392 ep.2,3;outgoingp.2 -453 p.1,2;ep.1-3 -700 p.1,2;ep.1-3,outgoing p.1-3 -709 p.1,2;ep.1,2,outgoing p.1,2 -1095 p.2 -2409 ep.1,2

Hunter Pitts O'Dell (100-358916) and Stanley Levison (locality nigiven) were to meet on 12/7/68 to discuss O'Dell's relationship in the SCLC and the possibility that O'Dell could re-affiliate in the SCLC and become involved with a planned movie on the life of the line Luther King.

100-358916-373 p.1 (5Y

COMPRENTIAL

The following references in the file captioned "Black Nationalist Movement" pertain to a discussion between Stanley Levison and Larry Horowitz from Detroit, Mich., on 2/24/69 (locality not given) regarding proposing a statement to counteract Negro anti-Semitism. Levison was to help Horowitz prepare the above statement placing the blame for the rash of anti-Semitic statements by militant blacks on the Christian community. The statement was to be issued by the members of high standing in the Negro community and published over the period of 4/4 - 5/69 in the leading newspapers in the country. Levison's proposed contacts for endorsing this statement were set out.

REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

157-8415-34-44 p.1;ep.1 cover pg.1 -56 p.1;ep.1,2 (18) (18)



This serial revealed that Wachtel was the Executive Vice President of the Gandhi Society for Human Rights, NYC, formed for the purpose of developing a philosophy and technique of non-violent civil rights protests.

157-6-2-2678 p.1;ep.1,2 (18)

The following references in the file captioned "Martin Luther King, Jr." pertain to the activities of Stanley David Levison with King and/or his associates from approximately 8/22/44 to 6/25/69 in Plorida, Georgia and New York. Levison was the principal adviser to King in connection with SCLC problems and activities. He authored speeches and statements for King and advised him concerning his, King's, position on Vietnam and the Middle East.

REPERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

100-106670-2828 p.E,3,6-11,13-17,19,

23,29,30

-2831 p.1;ep.1-3

-2834 p.1;ep.1,2

-2835 p.1;ep.1,2

(27

27

(continued)

CONFRENTIAL

REPERENCE

SEARCH SLIP PAGE NUMBER

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100-106670-2836 p.1;ep.1-3
            -2863 p.1,2;ep.1-3
            -2867 ep.2
            -2879 p.1;ep.1,2
             -2881 p.1;ep.1
             -2884 p.1,2;ep.1-3
             -2889 p.1; outgoing p.1
             -2894 p.1;ep.1,2,outgoing p.1,2
             -2897 p.1,2;ep.1-3
             -2912 p.1, outgoing p.1,2
             -2913 p.1, outgoing p.1,2
-2916 p.1; ep.1,2
             -2935 p.1, outgoing p.1,2
             -2958 p.1;ep.2,3
             -2970 p.1,2 (Summary)
             -2996 p.1,2;ep.1-3
             -2997 p.1, outgoing p.1,2
-3007 p.1,2;ep.1,4
             -3017 p.1;ep.1-3
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The following references in the file captioned "Coretta Scott King" pertain to the activities of Stanley Levison with King and her associates from approximately 7/21/68 to January, 1970 in Georgia and New York. Levison was a member of the SCLC Research Committee. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Center. Levison frequently advised and counseled King on a variety of matters. He wrote her speeches and



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red suggestions on her book "My Life with Martin Luther King, Jr."

B as praised by Martin Luther King, Sr., father of Martin Luther King,
and disliked by the individual in charge of the Memorial Center.

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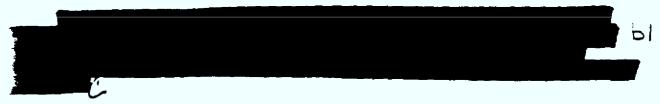
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08052-35 p.2,3 -38 p.1 -44 ep.1,3 -45 p.1 -46 p.1-3 -59 p.1,2

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advised that during the first part of June,
, Stanley Levison (locality not given) discussed with Harry
tel certain aspects of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial
er (MLKMC) and Vincent Gordon Harding's (100-448519) connection
ewith. Levison commented on Harding's general demeanor.



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100-448519-11 p.B,2,7 (174

The following references in the file captioned "Communist luence in Racial Matters" pertain to Stanley D. Levison from roximately 1/17/66 to the latter part of January, 1970 in Georgia, York, Virginia and WDC. Levison was on the SCLC Executive of as a Director and general supervisor of the SCLC NYC office. Lacted as an adviser and consultant to the SCLC leadership luding the late Martin Luther King, Jr. and King's widow, Coretta to King, on matters concerned with strategy, organization, finances, licies and activities. Levison helped organize the Southern listian Leadership Foundation, the tax arm of SCLC. He wrote SCLC eches and participated in SCLC meetings and affairs. He was noted one of the most devoted supporters and advisers of SCLC. Levison was on the National Executive Board of the American Jewish gress.



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The following references in the file captioned "Southern Christian Leadership Conference" pertain to the activities of Stanley David Levison in connection with this organization from approximately 8/19/65 to the middle of September, 1970 in Georgia, Illinois, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia and WDC.

Levison was a former clandestine member of the CP USA who gravitated to the SCLC. He subsquently became the principal advisor of Martin Luther King, Jr. on SCLC activities and policies including agreeing with violence and preparing a statement on the emergence of anti-semitism. Levison was a member of the Executive Committee of SCLC Board of Directors and general supervisor of the NYC SCLC Office. He participated in the initial organization of the Southern Christian Leadership Foundation, the "tax arm" of SCLC. He attended SCLC meetings, wrote speeches and statements for and gave advice and counsel to SCLC leaders on policy and finances. Levison was dissatisfied with the administration of SCLC President Ralph D. Abernathy and Abernathy detested him. Levison appeared to be continuing a determined effort to achieve a stronger influence in SCLC operations. Levison also was on the Executive Board of the American Jewish Congress.

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REFERENCES NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SUMMARY

The following references on Stanley Levison maintained in the Special File Room of the Records Branch, Files and Communications Division, were not reviewed, and it is not known whether they are identical with the subject of this summary.

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See the search slip filed behind file for other references on this subject which contain the same information (SI) that is set out in the main file. Although the information is the same it may have been received from different sources.



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King Influencer' Named

By Laurence Stern

The mysterious political influence whose name the FBI secretly invoked to persuade Rober. F. Kennedy to permit the wiretapping of Martin Lither King Jr. was a New York lawyer who had been a close friend and supporter of King.

King.

"He is Stanley Levison a civil rights activist who helped hing since the days of the springham bus boycott with free legal and financial advice, according to a 1971 book

account whose accuracy was confirmed yesterday by a former high-ranking Justice Department official.

The issue of King's bugging and wiretapping during the Kennedy and Johnson administrations was revived last week in the Senate intelligence committee, which maintained the high classification on Levison's identity accorded it by the FPI.

A spokesman for the committee said yesterday that the identity of the King

associate who triggered the wiretap and bugging was being kept secret for "national security" reasons rather than privacy grounds.

Levison's role in the King surveillance was described in detail, however, in the 1971 book "Kennedy Justice" by New York writer Victor Navasky. The account received virtually no attention in the news media and neither the FBI nor Justice Department has previously com-

See KING, AS, Col. 2

Alleged Influencer' of Rev. King Is Identified



NICHOLAS KATZENBACH

KING, From Al

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Hover memoranda hearing the initialed approval of Kennedy's successor, Nicholas Katzenhack, also said the installation of a bug was necessary in a New York City hotel room hecause of the influence on King of "individuals with subversive backgrounds."

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"WASHINGTON POST" 12/8/75 Pages 1 & 8

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Katzenbach testified last week that as a deputy to Kennedy he revalled seeing in 1962 "one or more memoranda stating, in substance, that an important secret member of the Communist Party, known to be such to the FBI, was in close contact with Dr. King and might be influencing the actions of Dr. King's movement in ways amicable to the interests of the Soviet Union and contrary to those of the United States."

Katzenbach said that Robert Kennedy had a member of the Justice Department's civil rights division call upon King and suggest that "it was not in his interest nor in the interest of his movement to have further contact with this person." Katzenbach did not name the person.

followed King suggestion for a while, Katzenbach testified, but then his contacts. resumed Afterward Hoover prepared a detailed memorandum about Dr. King, referring to the fact of Communist infiltration in the movement and discussing questions of moral

character," said Katzenbach. When Honver gave the memorandum wide eirculation in the government, Katzenhach related, Kennedy became furnous and ordered him to withdraw all copies.

Later, however, Kennedy authorized the wiretaps.

According to Navasky's account, the Justice Department failed to provide King' with the evidence be requested to substantiate the allegations against Levison and justify the request that he

King, under prodding from allegations against Levison the Attorney General and President, agreed to stop his association with Levison but then reconsidered and resumed the personal and working relationship. "If anybody wants to make something of it let them dry." King is reported by Navasky to have told Levison.

"According to the Kennedyites, when the FBI naw that King hadn't really broken with Levison, this confirmed Hoover's WOTEL Mr. suspicions-that King was either under Communist control or a conscious fellow travelor," Navasky wrote.

In all the controversy over the responsibility for the King wiretaps and buggings there has never been any substantiation of the Hoover

that furnished the PBI rationale for the surveillance

Levison, who was away from his New York home yesterday recuperating from Burgery and therefore unavailable for comment, is still active in civil rights legal. work in New York.

In her memoir, "My Life with Martin Lather King Jr .. Coretta King recounted that in the various crises of his life-from his indictment in 00 Montgomery, Ala. trumped-up tax falsification charges in 1956 to his assassination 12 years later—Levison was always on hand "to offer assistance . . . always working in the background, his contribution has been indispensable."



Den. AD Adm. Est. Affairs Talaphona Rm Director Sec'y King Influencer' Named account whose accuracy was associate who triggered the confirmed yesterday by a wiretap and bugging was By Laurence Stern confirmed yesterday by a former high-ranking Justice Walnington Publ Stell Strike being kept secret for "national security" reasons rather than. The mysterious political Department official. influence whose name the FBI 1 The issue of King's bugging privacy grounds. secretly invoked to persuade Robert F. Kennedy to permit Levison's role in the King and wiretapping during the b10 Kennedy and Johnson adsurveillance was described in the wirelapping of Martin detail however, in the 1971 b book "Kennedy Justice" by New York writer Victor Latter Eing Jr. was a New ministrations was revived last York hwyer who had been a week in the Senate inclose (riend and supporter of King. telligence committee, which The account Navasky. maintained the high classification on Levison's seccived virtually no attention. He is Stanley Levison, civil rights ectivist who helped identity accorded it by the in the news timble and mather the FBI nor Justice Depart-King since the days of the? FBL Birmingham has boycott with A . spokesman for the ment has previously comfree_legal airi financial adcommittee said yesterday that wee, according to a 1971 book) the identity of the King See KING, AS, Col. 2 The Washington Post . Washington Star-News . Daily News (New York) = The New York Times . The Wall Street Journal . The National Observer. The Los Angeles Times. 12/8/25 Date _ **DEC 19 1975**

Alleged Influencer of Rev. King Is Identified

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BY

King Adviser Says FBI 'Used' Him

Dop. AD Adm. ...

Bop. AD Inv. ...

Asst. Dir.:

Admin. ...

Comp. Syst. ...

Ent. Affairs ...

Files & Com. ...

Gen. Inv. ...

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By Don Oberdorfer Manipulation Part Short With

Stanley Levison, the New York civil rights activist secretly cited by the FBI in allegations that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was under Communist influence, says he was merely an FBI-"scapegoat."

Levison spoke up in a telephone interview last week after being identified in press reports as the "mysterious political influence" whose name the FBI had used in warnings to the highest officials of the Kennedy administration more than a decade ago.

Now in poor health and retired from most business and civic activity, Levison said the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's "primary objective was to 'get' Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. My conclusion is that I was a scapegoat Hoover was using for this purpose."

New information about the FBI warnings—and the wiretapping and bugging of King—aurfaced in the current Senate intelligence committee hearings.

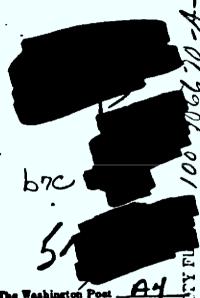
The details of the PBI's allegations against Levison have never been made public. Various reports have quoted the FBI as claiming that a mysterious "secret Communist" close to King was a danger to national security.

"I was never a member of the Communist Party," said Levison. "I did know some people who were . . . Particularly in the 1930s and 1940s you scarcely could have been an intellectual in New York without knowing some."

Levison said the charges against him were a case of "guilt by association" compounded by allegations from a former business associate who fakely named other persons as "secret Communists" in order to clear himself.

Levison, who is 63, calls himself "a political kind of person." He was a prominent member of a New York businessmen's committee for the re-election of President, Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944 and at various times a vice president of the Metropolitan New York Council of the American Jewish Congress, treasurer of an Episcopal Church magazine called The Churchman, an adviser in the organizing efforts of the New York Hospital Workers Union and a guiding force behind the New York Citizen's Inquiry on Parole and Criminal Justice. He has also been an attorney, a real estate man, a Ford Motor Co. dealer and in the import-export business among others.

His most noteworthy activity, as a friend, financial backer and adviser of the late Dr. King, began during the days of the Montgomery bus boycott 20 years ago. Levison was introduced to King by Bayard Rustin, a black leader in New York. Levison did true legal work for King, and devised fund-raising appeals for King's Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. .. rejected warning

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Despite the warmings—which arose from FBI reports—neither senior Justice Department officials nor anyone else could produce any hard information against Levison, Young recalled. King flatly disbelieved the allegations, according to Young.

"We knew what communism was. There had never



J. EDGAR HOOVER
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been anything in his (Levison's) influence on the movement that suggested anything more radical than we were suggesting ourselves . . . If anything, he was a conservative influence. He was very cautious about becoming involved with the war in Vietnam, for example," Young said.

Levison said he refused on Fifth Amendment grounds to answer questions in a closed session of the Senate Internal Security Committee in 1862. Levison said he did so because he feared the session—evidently based on his former business associate's charges—would amount to an attack on King.

In fact, he said, King's name never came up at the hearing, which centered on the names of New York lewyers—many unknown to him. A spokesman for the Senate committee could find no record of the Levison hearing in a search of committee files last week.

Despite lack of evidences. King terminated his relation; with Levison for a time after Kennedy's warnings. After is few months, however, King began calling on Levison for advice again. According to Levison, King said the breaking off of relations had been "a mistake."

King's resumed relationship with Levison is believed to have been cited by the FBI when it obtained approval from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy in October, 1963, for wiretaps on King. The Senate intelligence committee published documents leading to this conclusion, though Levison's name was deleted.

Levison said he did not believe his own telephone half been routinely tapped, nor did the FBI ever interview him. "I was in the telephone book—both my business and residence. But nobody was sent to see me."

The New York attorney said Hoover was only interested in him as a means for attacking King. "You remember when Hoover called King." a notorious Har." ... Well, I'm delighted that now the Senate hearings have disclosed it was Hoover that was a notorious liar rather than Martin Luther King," Levison declared.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams Memorandum- Mr. R. J. Gallagher - Mr. J. A. Mintz W. R. Wannall William - Mr. W. R. Wannall DATE: 12/16/75 Mr. J. G. Deegan FROM : J. G. Deegan Jay subject: Hartin Luther King, Jr. This informative memorandum to record for the file discussion held 12/15/75 by Supervisor Intelligence Division, with Robert Murphy, Criminal Section Chief, Civil Rights Division of the Department, concerning a project underway involving Departmental review of King and related files. Inasmuch as we have canvassed all field offices, at the Department's request, for inventories of pertinent files, inquiry was made of hurphy as to whether or not the Department visualized some time reviewing field files. He stated that this might occur but, if so, it would likely be on a limited basis. For example, Departmental personnel might visit some key offices such as Atlanta and New York. b7C Attempt was made by to obtain some assessment as to how long this project would continue. Murphy advised that early next week, definitely before Christmas, the Civil Rights Division will furnish the Attorney General a status report which will emphasize the enormity of the task given them if all relevant files were actually to be reviewed. It is intended that the Attorney General be told that it is impossible for the limited number of personnel now assigned to this project (three individuals, including Assistant Attorney General Pottinger), to complete the task of reviewing all serials in all files unless they were given years to do so. Murphy visualized the possibility that the Attorney General might assign a staff of attorneys who would work on the file review for several months. Because the Department requested as the first file to be priewed that of King's former close advicate Davi Levison, inquired as to the Rashall 100-106670 JAN 2 1976

The state of the state of the state of

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall Re: Martin Luther King, Jr. 100-106670

Department's extreme interest in this particular file and how it is visualized that the Levison investigation would have any bearing on the completeness of our investigation of the assassination of King. Murphy responded that its interest in the Levison case stems only from their interest in insuring we originally had a firm basis for the King investigation. Their interest is also tied in with an earlier suspicion that Levison might have been a Bureau informant. (This matter was covered in a prior memorandum reporting Pottinger's inquiry on this point and dispelling any such thought to Pottinger.)

Murphy was advised that because the Department's original request in this matter dated 12/4/75 asked for inventories "in your field offices," we had canvassed only field offices, to the exclusion of Legats. He was told of our procedure on file destruction by Legats, but that there might be some material in some Legats' offices, particularly in lexico City. He indicated that for the time our carvass of field offices only is sufficient and that we should take no action as to inventorying Legats' offices.

Finally, Murphy was briefed concerning certain material in our files in late 1963 and early 1964 which refer to some differences between Mr. Hoover and the then Domestic Intelligence Division on the King and related investigations. Hurphy was told that some of Mr. Hoover's remarks written into the files were of a sarcastic nature and for a full understanding he should be aware of the atmosphere then existing between Hoover and then Assistant Director William C. Sullivan in that they apparently disagreed on the interpretation of communist RECOMENDATION: influences in racial matters.

None. For information and record purposes.

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Mr. J. J. McDermott

(Atta:

- Mr. V. R. Vannell

J. G. Deegan

G. Deegen Mr. J.

Mr. P. E. Nugent

In connection with an ongoing project being handled in the IS-1 Section, INTD, wherein Department personnel are reviewing our files concerning Mertin Luther King, Jr., and related matters, it is necessary that we have on hand and readily available all sections, including JUNE folders, of the files relating to King and the four other matters moted. below for copy designation of this memorandum. These files are quite voluminous ranging from 14 to 162 sections in size?

To facilitate the maintenance of these files in the most practical manner for file review, it is suggested of the authority be granted for their maintenance on a temporary basis in Room 4077, J. Edgar Hoover Building, and charged to Voit Chief P. E. Nugent & "June sections of there files will be

recommendation:

Upon approval, Records Section, Files and Communications Division, recharge the designated files to Mr. Hugens, When the need no longer exists for this special maintenance of these files, appropriate action will be taken to return them to the Records Section,

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- 100-442529 (Communist Influence In Raciel Matters)

- 100-3-116 (CP, USA - Negro Question - Communist Influence. In Reciel Metters) - 🖓

100-392452 (Stanley David-Levison)_

100-106670

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By Doc Oberdaries

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Levison, who is 63, calls himself "a political kind of person." He was a prominent member of a New York businessmen's committee for the re-election of President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944 and at various times a vice president of the Metropolitan New York Council of the American Jewish Congress, treasurer of an Episcopal Church magazine called The Churchman, an adviser in the organizing efforts of the New York Hospital Workers Union and a guiding force behind the New York Citizen's Inquiry on Parole and Criminal Justice. He has also been an attorney, a real estate man, a Ford Motor Co. dealer and in the import-export business among others.

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Leadership Conference. 📥 100.10610 July A

lemorandum J. B. Adams TO 71: Mr. T. W. Leavite W. 6 (Attn: Mr. G. R. Steel) DATE: 2/14/77 - Mr. T. W. Leavittby E. C. Peterbel 大学 | 100 man | Mr. E. C. Peterson STANLEY DAVID LEVISON LASS. & EXT BY REACON - FOUR BILL PURPOSE: Advises results of discussions with Department of Justice (DOJ) personnel regarding captioned individual. (U) DETAILS: cc-37 100- 392452-366 (S) 114 CONTINUED - OV 100-392452 Enclosure Classified by 7329 PM Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite bac bac 7 19774 Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan



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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT emorandum 1 - Mr. A.J. Decker 1 - Special File Room DATE: 3/10/77 E. C. Peters FIECT: STANLEY DAVID LEVISON PURPOSE: Recommends Bureau file regarding captioned individual be maintained in the Special File Room (SFR). (U) DETAILS: RECOMMENDATION: In view of sensitivity, it is recommended the Bureau file be maintained in SFR with access limited to personnel authorized by Section Chief of CI-1, Intelligence Division, during normal working hours or extra duty Supervisors. Legal Coun. Adm. Serv.... Pinn. & Insp. Ext. Affairs_ Ret. Met. Assoc. Dr. Dep. AD Adm DATE OF REVIEW. 3 -67C 100-392452 Classified by 7339 W Exempt from DS, Categories 2 and 3 (4) Date of Deglassification Indefinite Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

New York Lawyer Had a Key Role
in S.C.L.C. Efforts to Further
Civil Rights Movement

Stanley David Levison, a New York lawyer and businessman, who was a key adviser to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and an important behind-theacenes figure in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, died Wednesday at his home after a long Illness. Mr. Levison, who lived at 85 East End Avenue, was 67 years old.

As a lawyer, Mr. Levison played a prominent role in civil rights, peace and labor causes. He was known for his strong support of the S.C.L.C., the non-violent group that Dr. King headed and forged into a powerful arm of the civil rights movement in the 1900's.

Andrew Young, former chief United States delegate to the United Nations, who is now in Douala, Cameroon, said of

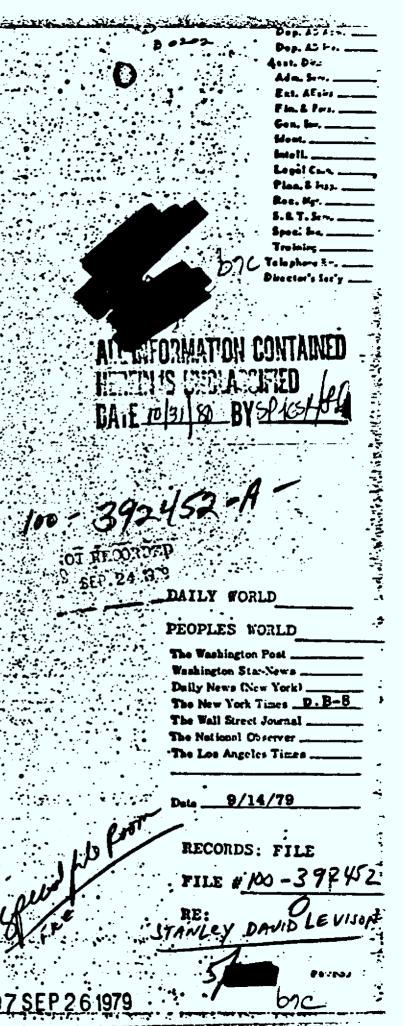
Mr. Levison:

"Stan Levison was one of the closest
friends Martin King and I ever had. Of all
the unknown supporters of the civil rights



Stanley David Levison

enovement, he was perhaps the most important. He never pushed his own views on us, but was always willing to be critiical and to think-through ideas with us. Stan and his wife and his son have been part of my family."



Tribute From Corotto King

From Atlanta, Dr. King's widow, Coretta Scott King, paid tribute to Mr. Leviaon, saving:

son, saying:

"I was deeply suddened to learn of the death of Stanley Levison. Stanley Levison was more than one of my husband's most loyal and supportive friends. He was a trusted and dedicated adviser, a role he continued to play in support of my work at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Social Change. Because he was such a suodest man, few people know of the magnitude of his contributions to the labor, civil rights and peace movements. He was truly one of the greatest unsung latroes in the nonviolent struggle for justice and social decency in 20th-century America."

Mr. Levison, a real estate investor and Ford dealer who was active in the American Jewish Congress, influenced the financial policies, strategy and tactics used by Dr. King and the S.C.L.C. In the past, the Federal Bureau of In-

In the past, the Federal Bureau of investigation asserted that Mr. Levison was a Communist influence on the movement and used the assertion to justify its electronic monitoring of Dr. King's activities.

The bureau never offered any proof of its allegation, and friends noted that Mr. Levison was never indicted for any alleged failure to register as a member of the Communist Party. And in 1978, after selevision programs had revived the fester, Mr. Levison asserted in an interview, "I was not nor am I now a member of the Communist Party.

Removes to Communical Charge

"No one with a modicum of sense could have concluded that a man with the force of intellect and flerce independence that Martin King had could have been domimeted by anybody."

Mr. Levison worked for the S.C.L.C. as an unpaid volunteer. His son, Andrew, said that Mr. Levison had been instrumental in giving Dr. King the idea for the Poor People's Campaign, the march on Washington that Dr. King had been planning shortly before he was assassinated in 1966.

Some conference staff members, in private conversations among themselves in the 1980's, questioned whether it was appropriate for Mr. Levison, an outsider, to exercise such extensive influence in matture that mainly concerned blacks.

And President Kennedy warned Dr. King in 1963 that he should dissociate himself from Mr. Levison to help protect the movement from allegations of Conmunist ties, Victor Navasky, said in his prize-winning book "Kennedy Justice."

Nevertheless, Mr. Levison remained influential with Dr. King until the black leader was killed, and worked afterward with Mrs. King.

Mr. Levison lived in New York, where he was born on May 2, 1912, the son of Harry Dudley Levison, a susinessman, and Esther Kirstein Levison.

In the early 1930's, Mr. Levison studied at the University of Michigan, Columbia University, and the New School for Social Research before taking a bachelor of laws degree in 1932 at St. John's University, which also awarded him a master of laws the next year.

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Mr. Levison began practicing law is New York in 1836, served with the Coast Guard in World War II, and was active in a variety of businesses, including the Ford dealership, a tool and die company, and a nickel company.

Mr. Levison is survived by his wife, the former Beatrice Merkin, a reading specialist at the Northside Center for Child Development; a son, Andrew of Atlanta, and a brother, Roy Bennett.

A memorial service will be held next Monday, Sept. 34, at 6 P.M. at the Martin Luther King Jr. Labor Center at District 1199, 30 West Atth Stepet.