

LETTER TO MLK: COINTELPRO (1956 to 1971)

KING,

REDACTED

King, look into your heart. You know you are a complete fraud and a great liability to all of us Negroes. White people in this country have enough frauds of their own but I am sure they don't have one at this time that is any where near your equal. You are no clergyman and you know it. I repeat you are a colossal fraud and an evil, vicious one at that.

REDACTED

King, like all frauds you end is approaching. You could have been our greatest leader.

REDACTED

But you are done. Your "honorary" degrees, your Nobel Prize (what a grim farce) and other awards will not save you. King, I repeat you are done.

REDACTED

The American public, the church organizations that have been helping – Protestant, Catholic and Jews will know you for what you are – an evil, abnormal beast. So will others who have backed you. You are done.

King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 34 days in which to do (this exact number has been selected for a specific reason, it has definite practical significant. You are done. There is but one way out for you. You better take it before your filthy, abnormal fraudulent self is bared to the nation.

*On **8 March 1971**, an activist group called the Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI burglarized a local office of the FBI in Media, Pennsylvania and stole classified documents. Part of those documents revealed a secret FBI operation called **COINTELPRO** (an acronym for **CO**unter **INTELL**igence **PRO**gram), which was a series of covert, and at times illegal, projects conducted by the United States Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) aimed at surveilling, infiltrating, discrediting, and disrupting domestic political organizations.*

*As part of COINTELPRO, on **21 November 1964**, a package that contained the letter reproduced above, and a tape recording allegedly of King's sexual indiscretions was delivered to Coretta Scott King, and later to Martin Luther King Jr. The letter is thought to be sent by FBI deputy director William C. Sullivan. A copy of the letter is in J. Edgar Hoover's confidential files at the National Archives.*