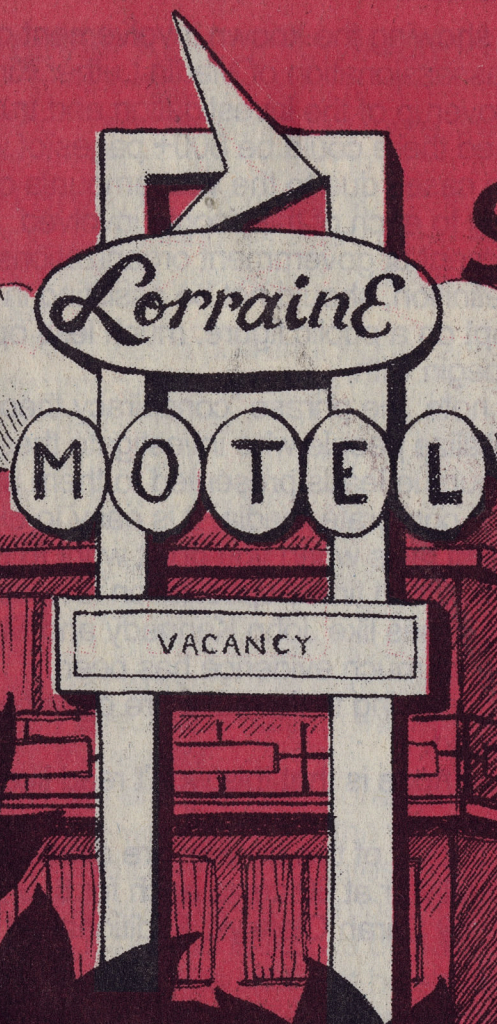


SKO

THE CIA MAKES SCIENCE FICTION UNEXCITING



#1 - The Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. \$1

Hello!

This is the first in a series of zines about the involvement of the CIA and FBI in domestic affairs and assassinations. I feel like a lot of these facts are constantly glossed over and forgotten as the books about these subjects go out of print. I want to preserve these facts and present them to my zine-writing and reading peers. Before I began writing I attempted to find some other zines on similar topics and they were virtually nonexistent. There were a few zines and magazines that looked at the issues at hand but the general mood was "Look at what these crazy, wacko conspiracy theorists believe! How ridiculous."

I want to portray the facts as they are known and in an objective manner. Despite all of these documents and data there is a lot that is unknown because evidence was destroyed or classified in FBI and CIA files to rot for 50 years when people wouldn't be interested anymore. I'm asking you not to take my facts and speculations for granted. I want you to draw your own conclusions and to do your own homework. Sometimes a little investigation yields a fairly obvious conclusion. There is a lot of mystery remaining in these cases, mostly due to the government agencies that are classifying the files pertaining to them. I'm attempting to present facts whenever possible and speculate as little as possible. Some of the books that I read tried to turn speculations into fact and then base other facts on those speculations. That sort of logic will quickly get you labelled as a "conspiracy theorist" with all of the worst connotations.

My only bias is that I am not presenting all

angles. I am simply showing the known involvement of the CIA and FBI in the assassination of Martin Luther King and their resulting coverup of the investigation and truth. If someone was inclined there could be 800+ pages of writing on each of these cases due to the vast amounts of information pertaining to each of the people involved. I am showing the involvement of government organizations that, by their own definition, should not be assisting in an assassination attempt on a public figure, much less operating domestically to begin with.

On a side note, the phrase "conspiracy theory" is often used to marginalize people who investigate these types of cases and pursue leads presented to them by any means other than the corporate media. It is easy to dismiss this evidence and facts when you don't want to really look at the full picture. Often times speculation is necessary when analyzing cases like John Kennedy and Martin Luther King because so much evidence has been destroyed and files pertaining to the case are classified. Please be open minded.

My only real hope is that this won't read like a college term paper...

Additional copies of this booklet are available for \$1 + 1 stamp individually or at 60 cents each for 6 or more. Cover artwork by Sarah Oleksyk. Additional art by Keith Rosson.

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Martin Luther King, Jr: Civil Rights Leader

I'd say that everyone is familiar with Martin Luther King to some degree but there are some important details to understand in order to discern why the FBI and CIA would be so interested in undermining and discrediting his every move (and then later offering substantial assistance in at least covering up his murder).

King was a powerful leader and speaker for a formerly unfocused, yet large group of Americans. He spoke charismatically and articulated things that his followers had only previously understood without words. As he saw it, his struggles to unite and gain equality for the repressed African American population was intrinsically linked to opposing the Vietnam war and the class struggles of all Americans. He organized peaceful marches to gain labor recognition for underprivileged workers. His nonviolent stance was dangerously effective in helping the image and intentions of his movement.

In the end one of the great mistakes that cost him his life was opposing the war in Vietnam. He referred to America as "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today," comparing American practices in Vietnam to practices of Nazi Germans in World War II. His critics said that he should focus on one issue (organizing the sanitation workers of Memphis) when in his mind it was the same issue. He saw the relationship between "...the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism.". It is theorized that King's stance on the war might also have been a result of him losing power with the more radical factions of the black power movement.

King was also rumored to be running in the '68 Presidential election but he denied it.

The FBI, J. Edgar Hoover in particular, had a pathological, malicious hate for King. King had demonstrated his ability to instigate massive direct action campaigns and his supposed Presidential candidacy would appeal to people who were opposed to the war. To Hoover, opposing the war was evidence that King was a communist. Why else would he oppose the war?

COINTELPRO

COINTELPRO is an acronym for the FBI's domestic "counterintelligence programs" to neutralize political dissidents. Although the FBI has always used covert operations, the formal activities of 1956-1971 were broadly targeted against radical political figures such as Martin Luther King and his followers. Its goals are to discredit and undermine activist groups working domestically in the US. Since they believed their aims to be so righteous they would really stop at nothing to accomplish their goals including blackmail, threatening families, and politically lynching people with the media.

The FBI had been wiretapping King for years and planting paid informants inside his organization to gather information. They referred to him as "Zorro", the Spanish word for fox or "The Fake Messiah". In 1968 the FBI increased the surveillance even further as President Johnson feared that King would drive him out of the White House. Bugs were planted at "all present and future addresses" of King under approval from Robert Kennedy. The justification was that he was perceived to be a communist or acting under communist influence. These allegations have never had any supporting evidence.

Hoover interpreted the permission to mean that anywhere King stayed or spent extensive amounts of time could be bugged, such as hotel rooms, friends' houses, families' houses, and more. No substantial evidence was ever produced as a result of this or in support of this justification. King spoke out about how the FBI wasn't doing its job to protect him and other blacks in the south. The FBI took that comment personally and a full scale espionage war was on. In the end the wiretaps broke the privacy rights of 5,000-6,000 people.

Cartha DeLoach was the head of COINTELPRO in 1968. At one point FBI agents including Cartha were trying to get in touch with King to meet with him. His office was particularly busy at this time and their calls were not returned. Being ignored tarnished the FBI's image of King even more than being berated and criticized. Cartha talked about "removing" King and called him "the fake messiah".

One of Hoover's favorite methods was blackmail and the best way for a group of conservative old white religious men to embarrass or discredit someone was with charges of sexual promiscuity or adultery. Often times bugged tapes were doctored or improved to make a stronger blackmail case. It got to the point where they would blackmail King and then send him anonymous letters trying to persuade him to commit suicide. Other letters to his wife included "improved" tapes of King in supposed sexual situations with other women and then they attempted to persuade her to leave him.

COINTELPRO operatives discredited King by infiltrating black movements and turning



James Earl Ray at 30 years old.

marches and protests violent. On King's visit to Memphis on March 28, on a march in support of the sanitation strike, the march was turned violent by undercover police and FBI agents posing as members of a militant group called "The Invaders". The police did nothing to stop the violence and property destruction until the march came through at which point they violently attacked the protestors.

James Earl Ray

Ray was a small time criminal who escaped from prison in 1967. Most of his career was spent committing petty crimes like robbing illegal gambling rings and prostitution circles. Each time that he attacked a legitimate establishment he was caught. He was not a murderer - he was not even a very successful thief. It is not even known that he ever killed anyone or even fired a gun. It seemed that by 1968 he was attempting to get away from crime after his prison break in '67 and to eventually leave the United States for good. Ray was allegedly performing gun running operations for a man that he referred to as "Raoul" at this time. A man he met through hanging out in sailor bars and making it very clear that he was in some sort of legal trouble and seeking money and some new identification. "Raoul" had promised to fulfill those needs. Ray claims that it was Raoul who caused him to purchase the rifle (claimed to be the murder weapon) and to be in Memphis on April 4, 1968. He was eventually convicted of killing Martin Luther King Jr. without a trial. He later wrote an autobiography entitled "Who Killed Martin Luther King Jr?" while in prison (see last page).

One of the more entertaining facts to me about Ray is that after he escaped from prison he went to LA and took dance lessons from 12/5 until 2/12. He also attended bartending school from January 19th until he graduated on March 2. This is interesting because I believe it demonstrates the fact that he was not a career criminal and was trying to break these habits. He was also not the "lone nut" that the media portrayed him as.

The Assassination

On April 4, 1968 Martin Luther King Jr was planning to lead a demonstration for striking African American sanitation workers in Memphis, TN. He was staying in the Lorraine Motel on Mulberry St. in one of the city's seedier neighborhoods. His previous visit on March 28 had erupted in violence and looting, an image that he was not proud of and served to tarnish his image of nonviolent revolution. In the end a child was killed by the police and 60 more were injured. He was hoping to show Memphis the effectiveness of nonviolence. At the moment in question, he was about to enjoy a prime rib and soul food dinner with Samuel B. Kyles.

Slightly before 6 PM King walked out onto the balcony of his hotel room to greet several persons who stood below. He was on the second floor overlooking the motel's courtyard. At 6:01 as King stood alone on the balcony, a single shot from a high powered rifle tore into the right side of King's face, forcing him backward.

An aide came forward and pointed at where he had thought the shot came from, Brewer's Boarding House across the courtyard. It was later suspected, for unrelated reasons, that this aide was an FBI infiltrator. This moment yields us the popular picture of everyone