

State of North Carolina



Segregation L



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COMMUNICATIONS & TRANSPORTATION

MAJOR CHARLES A. SPEED
DIRECTOR, SAFETY DIVISION

MAJOR C. RAYMOND WILLIAMS
ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

Department of Motor Vehicles
State Highway Patrol
Raleigh

21 December 1962

MEMORANDUM TO: Governor Terry Sanford, Governor's Office
State Capitol, Raleigh, North Carolina

SUBJECT: Visit of Reverend Martin Luther King to
North Carolina as Reported by Sergeant Logan B.
Lane, State Highway Patrol, Elizabeth City,
North Carolina

Prior to the arrival of Reverend Martin Luther King, a conference was held with Doctor F. C. Cook, who is President of the Local NAACP in Elizabeth City. Chief of Police, Clarence Owens, and Sergeant Lane conferred with Doctor Cook. Doctor Cook requested that on the arrival of Reverend King that there would be a motorcade of about 40 cars to meet him at Morgans Corner, North Carolina.

Chief Owens was advised that Reverend F. H. LaGarde, Doctor Cook and other officials of the local NAACP were in the party that would go to the Norfolk Municipal Airport to meet Reverend King, and return to North Carolina by US 13 or US 17. They would meet the motorcade at Morgans Corner, twelve miles north of Elizabeth City on US 17. At the meeting, Doctor Cook was assured there would be ample police to handle the traffic at the three churches where Reverend King would speak in Elizabeth City. Chief Owens stated further that he would have a motorcycle Patrolman meet the motorcade at the city limits on US 17, north of Elizabeth City, and escort them from one location to another.

Sergeant Lane and Chief Owens advised Doctor Cook that they had a meeting prior to this and had worked out assignments together in connection and cooperation with the city police and Highway Patrol; that he would have at least four Patrol cars to keep Doctor King and the motorcade under surveillance at all times he was in North Carolina, including his visit to Elizabeth City. Reverend King had speaking engagements in Hertford, and the Edenton National Guard Armory was referred to as the finale. After his speaking engagement in Edenton, we advised we would keep the motorcade under surveillance on their return to the North Carolina-Virginia Line on US 17. These commitments were kept and no incidents occurred; Reverend King departed from North Carolina.

Governor Sanford

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21 December 1962

Reverend Martin Luther King arrived at the North Carolina Line at 3:52 P.M. on Thursday, 20 December 1962. When he arrived, Corporal L. S. Meiggs was at the North Carolina-Virginia Line and kept the convoy under surveillance along with Sergeant Logan B. Lane, Troopers Rawls and Cook until he arrived in Elizabeth City.

After his departure from Elizabeth City to Hertford and Edenton, Sergeant Lane, Corporal Meiggs, Troopers Rawls and Cook kept the motorcade under close surveillance.

At the completion of his speaking engagement in Edenton, Reverend King departed at 12:30 A.M. on the 21st and went directly to the North Carolina-Virginia Line, travelling north on US 17.

The Mayor of Edenton introduced Reverend King at his appearance at the Armory in Edenton. Chief of Police in Edenton, Mr. Laboie, was at the Armory for the entire time of the speaking engagement. He escorted Reverend King to another place where they had a closed door session with the local Negro ministers and other NAACP officials. After this meeting, Reverend King departed from Edenton and subsequently left North Carolina.

Policeman Clemets of the Edenton Police Department made a statement to Corporal Meiggs that Reverend LaGarde told him the Highway Patrol really let him down on this important assignment by not escorting Reverend King to and from Edenton from the Virginia Line.

On three different occasions, Sergeant Lane met with the FBI, who were very much concerned with Reverend King arriving and departing from North Carolina safely and during this motorcade from the time it arrived in North Carolina until it departed. Reverend King was kept under close surveillance by FBI Agents.

Throughout the entire visit of Reverend King, the four Highway Patrol cars assigned to keep Reverend King and the motorcade under close surveillance, were in a position at all times to intercede in case a difficulty arose. Sergeant Lane will contact Reverend LaGarde and again explain the Highway Patrol policy regarding escort and explain the surveillance by the Highway Patrol involved more personnel and was more effective for the more obviously important aspects of this type than a simpler escort would have involved. In addition to the four Patrol cars assigned to the surveillance, all the cars in the District were alerted and available.

The Highway Patrol, City Police, Sheriff Department, and the FBI had several meetings and briefed their officers under their command on the entire operation and coordination, and was carried out efficiently, the main objective being to assure Reverend King safe travel in North Carolina. This was achieved.

Governor Terry Sanford

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21 December 1962

DAVID T. LAMBERT, COLONEL
COMMANDING
STATE HIGHWAY PATROL

C.R.Williams /g

C. Raymond Williams, Major
Director, Enforcement Division

LBL:kb

CC: Mr. Tom Lambeth
Mr. Hugh Cannon
Mr. Edward Scheidt
Mr. Dave Watson
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