In the year 1953, the United States feared the spread of communism throughout the nation, and this became a major subject for bias within many cases. Malcolm Little, otherwise known as Malcolm X, followed the Cult of Islam, a group that advocated for the civil rights of black Americans during the era of segregation, and because of this, he was one of many who was labeled as a communist by the FBI. In the given file, headquarters provided information on the relationships, creed, and personal events that defined Malcolm’s life. The United States government saw Malcolm’s religious affiliation with the Muslim Cult of Islam as a red flag when trying to build a case against him, and most of the information provided calls upon his involvement in the organization. The Muslim Cult of Islam encouraged their members to break laws and renounce their affiliations with the United States.The FBI’s judgment about Malcolm, though not completely accurate, created a compelling story of his purported ties to communism in order to appeal to the politically charged, anti-communist society of the United States in the 1950s.

In our opinion, the document solely highlighted the negative aspects of Malcolm’s life rather than pulling from a broader range of information. With the information provided in the document, we could not find a concrete piece of evidence to suggest that Little had communist tendencies or connections, but instead, our team saw a markedly biased effort to solve a case by forcing Little’s public image into the mold of communism. Because of Little’s association with a civil rights group, the bureau skirted around Little’s beneficial contributions to the cause of equality in order to skew public opinion of Little in a negative way. We also feel that the FBI’s judgments of Little were incorrect in that Malcolm’s intentions were very different from his actions. Whereas Little sought to promote the common good through the creation of a safe, integrated, and equal society for black people, the execution of these desires through the committing of crimes led to the Bureau’s labeling of Little as a communist, regardless of the detail that Little’s actions were in no way associated with a communist group. Although communism does promote equality among races and genders, the concept of equality does not strictly belong to communism. Therefore, we can conclude that the Bureau’s classification of Little as a communist is derived from some source other than factual analysis.

Whether racial prejudice motivated the Bureau’s decision to flag Little as a communist is not completely clear. The Bureau’s operation also does not definitively correlate to religious discrimination. However, the likelihood of racial prejudice influencing the Bureau’s decision to label Little as a communist is greater than that of religious discrimination because the majority of Little’s actions with the Cult of Islam are rooted in the promulgation of racial equality rather than the proselytizing in the name of Islam.