After World War II throughout the twentieth century, communist governments and free market governments were fighting for global dominance in ideology in what became known as the Cold War Era. In this era, the FBI, under the leadership of J. Edgar Hoover, conducted “witch hunts” by collecting information through illegal way on known Muslims and other people who were not Christians, Communist Party members, and homosexuals who spoke out in public against the American way of life. Hoover, who had a lot of power in the government, did not trust anyone who did not support the American way which was white, middle-class, straight, and Christian. He and a large part of American people thought there was a connection between communism and the people mentioned above. After all there were common things communists and homosexuals had secret coded language that they spoke to each other, and they had secret lives, they met in strange places, they had different cultures. He was not alone in his beliefs and political ideas--Senator McCarthy and the majority of the Republicans in this era had this way of thinking.

Hoover was intent on getting information civil rights leaders because he thought communists had “infiltrated the civil rights movement,” says Weiner, a respected Hoover historian. Equal rights for all citizens regardless of race, beliefs, etc. was a big part of communism and therefore civil rights leaders who protested the “Separate but Equal” American culture were viewed as a communist threat and treated as such. An example of this would be Hoover’s treatment of Martin Luther King, Jr.. He instructed his intelligence chief bug King's bedroom, and then sent the civil rights leader a copy of the sex recordings his intelligence chief had taken of King — along with an anonymous letter from the FBI. (Weiner, History.com)

The limited declassified FBI information presented in the file for this topic showed the demographics, criminal records, religious beliefs, daily life of Malcolm X including his letters and to knowing when he goes to the doctor. They just knew he was seeing a doctor they didn’t know why. While some of this information such as a criminal record and letters to others sharing his beliefs to stand against everyone who wasn’t the Nation of Islam maybe pertinent in assessing the “threat” to the United States, other information could have been gathered as a fear tactic communist people or parties letting the people that know “we’re watching you at all times”. Therefore they would want to scare them to keep them in fear. The FBI was fearful of communist getting power and stepping from under them and having a voice for the people who was afraid to speak up. Malcolm demonstrated he was

There are no judgments made nor are there any indications the document was meant to be used as a persuasive device except in choice of information collected and the reason why it was collected which was stated earlier in the paper. The document outlines facts that support Hoover’s arguments against the civil rights leaders.