

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

F. O. I. P. A.

REQUEST

DO NOT DESTROY UNTIL 1-27-83

FOLPA
FEDERAL BUREAU

REQUEST See 190-JN-26834

DO NOT DESTROY UNTIL 2/2006



INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

See also Nos.

157-9586-SF-1 News Clippings

157-9586-SF-2 Orig 302's

Separate 1A Vol.

#4

Puddister 4-5-68

CLASSIFICATION NO.

157-9586

Volume Number 14
Serials 576 — 670

SAC, JACKSON

6/18/68

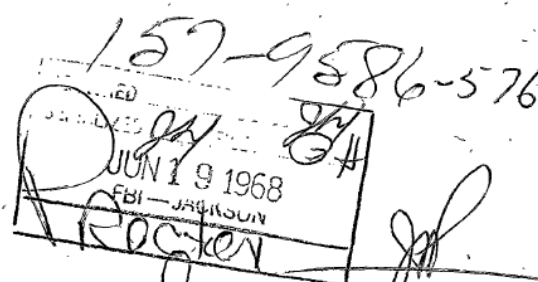
41
SAC, ATLANTA (62-0)

9
CHARLES K. SINCLAIR
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed for Jackson is a letter sent to RALPH MC GILL, publisher of the Atlanta Constitution, by the subject. This is being submitted to Jackson for any action considered appropriate since subject mailed letter from Meridian, Mississippi.

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2 Jackson (Enc. 1)
Atlanta
CSH:jlh
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SAC, JACKSON

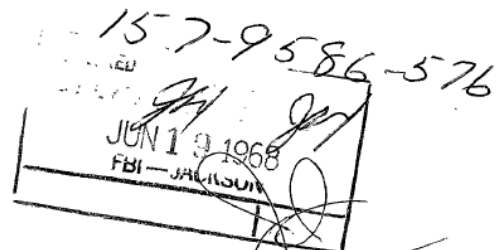
6/18/68

SAC, ATLANTA (62-0)

CHARLES K. SINCLAIR
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed for Jackson is a letter sent to RALPH MC GILL, publisher of the Atlanta Constitution, by the subject. This is being submitted to Jackson for any action considered appropriate since subject mailed letter from Meridian, Mississippi.

2 - Jackson (Enc. 1)
1 - Atlanta
CSH:jlh
(3)



6/19/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : SAC, MILWAUKEE (44-388) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 6/18/68, DELBERT NEEDERIK, Laboratory Aide, Radio Isotope Section, Wood Veterans Hospital, Wood, Wisconsin, furnished the following information concerning instant case:

NEEDERIK, a recovered alcoholic, with a record of numerous arrests for drunkenness and disorderly conduct by the Milwaukee Police Department, advised that approximately 5/27/67, he was staying at the Maidens Hotel in Gulfport, Mississippi. He stated that he occupied an upstairs front room on the southeast corner of the Hotel, and that the room directly west of him was occupied by an individual he described as a muscle man for the Klan. He also stated that an individual known to him as RICH (LNU) occupied the room west of the Klansman's room. He stated that while staying at the Hotel, he was employed at Oberlies Radio and TV Company as a repair technician.

NEEDERIK stated that on approximately 5/27/67, he invited a man known to him only as RICH (LNU), and who was reportedly to be a guitar player, into his room for a glass of beer. He stated that while he and RICH were drinking beer, they noticed a large black automobile, which appeared to be an executive limousine, drive up in

- 1 - Bureau (44-38861) (AM-RM)
 - 2 - Jackson (AM-RM)
 - 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM-RM)
 - 2 - Milwaukee (44-388)
- WFB/hdb
(9)

157-9586-57

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SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - JACKSON	

W. J. ...

front of the Holiday Hotel. They saw a man get out of the car and heard him running up the stairs of the Hotel toward HENDERIK's room. HENDERIK stated that at about this time RICH put a handlock on HENDERIK and whispered, "Make it look real." At about this point, the man who was in the black automobile entered HENDERIK's room and said, "RICH, leave him alone." HENDERIK stated that at this point RICH and the unidentified man from the automobile left the room together, and he, HENDERIK, has never seen either of them since. HENDERIK stated that recent photographs of JAMES EARL RAY in which RAY was wearing glasses as on Canadian passport photo have caused him to believe the man in the black automobile was, in fact, JAMES EARL RAY. HENDERIK offered the following descriptions:

1) RICH LEE

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'9"
Weight	175 lbs.
Complexion	Buddy
Hair	Sparsely, light brown-reddish; combed straight back
Eyes	Blue
Age	Approximately 19 years old

2) Man in black automobile

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'9"
Weight	160 lbs.
Hair	Dark
Glasses	Worn
Age	30 years old

HENDERIK stated he never reported the above-described incident to anyone in Gulfport, Mississippi, and unless he had seen the photographs of RAY in the paper, he would not have reported it at all.

DELBERT HENDERIK is described as follows:

MI 44-388

Race,
Sex
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Misc.

White
Male

[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Chronic alcoholic between
1938 and present;
presently practicing member
of Alcoholics Anonymous
and considered a recovered
alcoholic

BERDERIK also stated that being involved in radio and television work as he was, he had a special radio antenna and equipment in his automobile. He also used to spend many hours sitting by the window of the hotel with binoculars just watching the general public. BERDERIK said that for these reasons he was probably considered a suspicious character, and for that reason believed that RICH (LNU) was an FBI Agent or some other type of Agent who was assigned to surveil him.

LEAD

JACKSON DIVISION

At Gulfport, Mississippi

Will at Holders Hotel, attempt to determine occupants of above-described rooms during pertinent period and evaluate significance of above information.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

front of the Holders Hotel. They saw a man get out of the car and heard him running up the stairs of the Hotel toward NEEDERIK's room. NEEDERIK stated that at about this time RICH put a handlock on NEEDERIK and whispered, "Make it look real." At about this point, the man who was in the black automobile entered NEEDERIK's room and said, "RICH, leave him alone." NEEDERIK stated that at this point RICH and the unidentified man from the automobile left the room together, and he, NEEDERIK, has never seen either of them since. NEEDERIK stated that recent photographs of JAMES EARL RAY in which RAY was wearing glasses as on Canadian passport photo have caused him to believe the man in the black automobile was, in fact, JAMES EARL RAY. NEEDERIK offered the following descriptions:

1) RICH LEE

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'9"
Weight	175 lbs.
Complexion	Ruddy
Hair	Sparse, light brown-reddish; combed straight back
Eyes	Blue
Age	Approximately 29 years old

2) Man in black automobile

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5'9"
Weight	160 lbs.
Hair	Dark
Glasses	Hornrimmed
Age	30 years old

NEEDERIK stated he never reported the above-described incident to anyone in Gulfport, Mississippi, and unless he had seen the photographs of RAY in the paper, he would not have reported it at all.

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MI 44-388

Race
Sex
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Misc.

White
Male
[REDACTED]
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Chronic alcoholic between
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NEEDERIK also stated that being involved in radio and television work as he was, he had a special radio antenna and equipment in his automobile. He also used to spend many hours sitting by the window of the hotel with binoculars just watching the general public. NEEDERIK said that for those reasons he was probably considered a suspicious character, and for that reason believed that RICH (LNU) was an FBI Agent or some other type of Agent who was assigned to surveil him.

LEAD

JACKSON DIVISION

At Gulfport, Mississippi

Will at Holders Hotel, attempt to determine occupants of above-described rooms during pertinent period and evaluate significance of above information.

FBI JACKSON 135

SOE P. 87 URGENT 7/3/68 WLT

TO DIRECTOR AND JACKSON

FROM ATLANTA 44-1386

MURKIN

Indy

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ATLANTA JULY TWO LAST.
COURTIS WAS INTERVIEWED BY WILKINS CO. SAIL,
MILWAUKEE, WIS., JULY THREE INSTANT BY AGENT J. H. BERRY,
JULY, AND ALBERT T. WILLIAMS. COURTIS IS CURRENTLY CONFINED TO
MILWAUKEE CO. SAIL AWAITING APPEAL OF LIFE SENTENCE FOR
MURDER. COURTIS WAS ADVISED OF THE IDENTITY OF THE INTER-
VIEWERS AND HIS WIFE'S DISPLAY OF CREDENTIALS. HE WAS
FURNISHED A MIRROR AND VIEWER OF VISITS FROM HIS HOME,
INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD, AND REFUSED TO SIGN. HE ADVISED
THAT HE WAS BEING INTERVIEWED CONCERNING HIS WIFE. HE
WAS IN A LETTER HE HAD WRITTEN TO MR. BARBERS IN JULY
OF FIFTY-FOUR. COURTIS STATED HE WAS TRYING TO SEE A
DOCTOR TO TRY FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO
HELP HIS WIFE PAY OFF A MORTGAGE ON HER HOME, WHICH SHE
WANTED TO OBTAIN WITHOUT PAID FOR HIS DEBT. HE
STATED HE STATED, WITH REFERENCE TO THESE STATEMENTS, HE
WAS AT JAIL IN EARLY FIFTY-FOUR, WHICH
WAS FIFTY-FOUR IN JOLIET, ILL., IN JULY, OF FIFTY-FOUR, FIFTY-FOUR
HE HAD POINTED OUT TO COURTIS THAT CERTAIN
AND PAGE ONE

157-9586-578

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JUL 3 1968	
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WILSON	

Ingram advised 9:30 7/3/68 @
Wilson advised 10:00 7/3/68 @

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Jou Willett? p7*

PAGE 1

THAT HE HAD BY HIM IN HIS LETTER TO BOY COULD POSSIBLY
INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSPIRACY WITH RAY CONCERNING THE KILLING
OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS CATHARTICALLY DENIED THE
FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH WERE IN HIS LETTER TO BOY

STATEMENTS:

1. THAT HE AND BOY HAD LATE RAY PULLED A CHILL IN
FIFTYFOUR.
2. THAT RAY WANTED THE JOB OF KILLING KING.
3. THAT HE AND RAY TALKED ABOUT KILLING KING FOR THREE
YEARS.
4. THAT RAY BELONGED TO THE BAR FROM MISSISSIPPI THAT
HE TALKED ABOUT THE MK BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION THAT WAS TO
PUT UP THE MONEY TO KILL KING.
5. THAT HE KNEW THE BAR FROM MISSISSIPPI.
6. FOR THREE YEARS, THAT HE AND RAY WERE ALWAYS GOING TO
FIND THE RIGHT PLACE TO KILL KING AND THAT HE HAD MADE THE
MAPS OVER HIMSELF.
7. HE AND RAY KNEW JUST WHERE THEY WOULD GO AFTER THE
KILLING OF KING.
8. THAT HE WAS THERE IN THE KILLING OF KING.

END PAGE 1

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PAGE FOUR

SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN, WA, WHO IS SHERIFF OF WHITFIELD CO., GA., AND OPERATES THE COUNTY JAIL, ADVISED CURTIS HAD SENT NO LETTERS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JAIL WHICH WENT OVER THE JAILERS DESK. HE SAID CURTIS WOULD PROBABLY SEND ALL MAIL OUT WITH VISITORS AND JAIL TRUSTEES AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BY MEN OF HIS DEPT. IT IS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT CURTIS' ATTORNEY, ERWIN MITCHELL, FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR THE SEVENTH DISTRICT OF GA., IS OF THE OPINION THAT MOST OF CURTIS' COMMENTS CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S ASSASSINATION OF KING ARE PURE FABRICATIONS ON THE PART OF CURTIS OR AS A RESULT OF SOMETHING CURTIS HAS READ IN LOCAL PAPERS.

APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, HE SENT A NOTE TO SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN REQUESTING TO AGAIN SEE AN FBI AGENT, THAT HE NOW WANTED TO TELL THE ENTIRE TRUTH. CURTIS WAS AGAIN INTERVIEWED BY SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR., AND AGAIN FURNISHED A RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE REFUSED TO SIGN. HE THEN STATED THAT APPARENTLY IN HIS LETTER TO ESCNY HE USED THE WORK "WE" INDICATING THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY HAD PLANNED THE KING MURDER WHICH WOULD INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSYRACY AND FOR

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

THAT PERSONAL REMIND THE STATEMENTS IN LETTER TO LARRY. HE
WAS ADVISED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY WHICH HE INTENDED TO
SELL TO LIFE MAGAZINE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING MONEY
FOR HIS MOTHER WHICH STORY WAS STILL IN HIS POSSESSION AND
WHICH HE HAD NOT YET SENT OUT TO BE TYPED. HE ALLOWED DA ARLEY
TO READ THIS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PAGE STORY, HANDWRITTEN,
ONE PAGE AT A TIME. HE DECLARED THIS STORY WAS TRUE. THE FIRST
FIVE OR SIX PAGES OF THIS STORY MERELY SET OUT HIS EARLY
LIFE IN CHINA AND THE PRISON SENTENCES HE HAD SERVED AS
A RESULT OF THESE CRIMES FROM THE AGE OF FIFTEEN. THE
REMAINDER OF THE STORY IS THE SAME AS WAS SET FORTH IN THE
ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH CORNIE IN APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT CONCERNING
HIS COLLAPSE AND ASSOCIATION WITH RAY. THIS STORY FURTHER
REFLECTS THAT HE FIRST BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH RAY IN FIFTYFOUR
WHEN THEY PULLED A PAYROLL HEIST IN QUINCY, ILL., WITH A
THIRD INDIVIDUAL. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE LOST CONTACT WITH
RAY AND THIS THIRD INDIVIDUAL WERE CAUGHT IN A FIFTY-
SIX THOUSAND DOLLAR BANK ROBBERY AT SOUTHWEST CITY, MO.
AFTER THAT HE AGAIN BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH RAY IN PRISON
AND WHILE IN PRISON THEY BOTH LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF
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PAGE SEVEN

GO TO VICKSBURG FOLLOWING THE MURDER, CONTACT THE MAN FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., WHO HAD THE HOUSEBOAT, AND THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE HIM EITHER TO NEW ORLEANS OR CANADA VIA THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW, CURTIS STATED HE WOULD NOT TESTIFY TO ANY OF THE ABOVE. HE DID ADVISE IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL ON THE HOUSEBOAT IN VICKSBURG, MISS., WAS ~~(FNU) WILLETT~~, ALSO KNOWN AS MISSISSIPPI WHO SERVED TIME IN THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY.

THE STORY ALSO MENTIONED A MAN FROM NEW ORLEANS WHO COULD OBTAIN ANY KIND OF IDENTIFICATION AND CURTIS LATER IDENTIFIED THIS MAN AS ~~JOE COIN~~, WHICH INFORMATION HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN SET OUT IN AN INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS. THROUGHOUT THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, AND WHILE READING CURTIS' STORY, HE CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE THE FACT THAT HE WOULD NOT TESTIFY AGAINST RAY AS HE FEARED FOR HIS LIFE. HE INDICATED THAT ANY STATE PRISON HE WAS SENT TO WOULD PROBABLY HAVE INDIVIDUALS WHO WOULD KILL HIM AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS INFORMATION HE FURNISHED THE PRESS AND TV MEDIA AND IT IS FELT HE WAS USING THIS AS AN EXCUSE AS TO WHY HE

END PAGE SEVEN

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI JKSN MISS

932 PM 8P URGENT 7/3/68 ELS

TO DIRECTOR AND JACKSON

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ATLANTA JULY TWO LAST.

RAYMOND CURTIS WAS INTERVIEWED AT WHITFIELD CO. JAIL, DALTON, GA., JULY THREE INSTANT BY SAS THOMAS R. HENRY, JR., AND ALBERT D. MILLARD. CURTIS IS CURRENTLY CONFINED WHITFIELD CO. JAIL AWAITING APPEAL ON LIFE SENTENCE FOR MURDER. CURTIS WAS ADVISED OF THE IDENTITY OF THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS THROUGH DISPLAY OF CREDENTIALS. HE WAS FURNISHED A RIGHTS AND WAIVER OF RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE READ, INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD, AND REFUSED TO SIGN. HE ADVISED HE KNEW HE WAS BEING INTERVIEWED CONCERNING STATEMENTS HE MADE IN A LETTER HE HAD MAILED TO MR. SANDERS OF EBONY MAGAZINE. CURTIS STATED HE WAS MERELY TRYING TO SELL A STORY TO EBONY FOR APPROXIMATELY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HELP HIS MOTHER PAY OFF A MORTGAGE ON HER HOME, WHICH SHE MORTGAGED TO OBTAIN ATTORNEY FEES FOR HIS DEFENSE. AT FIRST HE STATED, WITH REFERENCE TO THESE STATEMENTS, THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY PULLED A CRIME IN FIFTYFOUR, WHICH WAS A BURGLARY IN JOLIET, ILL., IN OCT, OR NOV., FIFTYFOUR. AT THIS POINT IT WAS POINTED OUT TO CURTIS THAT CERTAIN

END PAGE ONE

cc To
Wilson

157-9586-578

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Huddleston	

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PAGE TWO

STATEMENTS MADE BY HIM IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY COULD POSSIBLY INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSPIRACY WITH RAY CONCERNING THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS CATAGORICALLY DENIED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS WHICH WERE IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY MAGAZINE:

1. THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY PULLED A CRIME IN FIFTYFOUR.
2. THAT RAY WANTED THE JOB OF KILLING KING.
3. THAT HE AND RAY TALKED ABOUT KILLING KING FOR THREE YEARS.
4. THAT THEY TALKED TO THE MAN FROM MISSISSIPPI THAT KNEW ALL ABOUT THE KK BUSINESSMANS ASSOCIATION THAT WAS TO PUT UP THE MONEY TO KILL KING.
5. THAT HE KNEW THE MEN FROM MISSISSIPPI.
6. FOR THREE YEARS, THAT HE AND RAY MADE MAPS JUST TO FIND THE RIGHT PLACE TO KILL KING AND THAT HE HAD MADE THE MAPS OVER HIMSELF.
7. HE AND RAY KNEW JUST WHERE THEY WOULD GO AFTER THE KILLING OF KING.
8. THAT HE WAS TO BE IN ON THE KILLING OF KING.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

9. THAT THERE ARE MEN IN FIVE STATES THAT ARE BEHIND THE KING KILLING AND THAT DO NOT KNOW WHAT HE KNOWS.

DURING THE INTERVIEW, CURTIS DREW CRUDE MAPS SETTING OUT HOW HE THOUGHT RAY WOULD STALK KING. THIS MAP SHOWED THE FOLLOWING TOWNS WHERE HE SAID KING MADE MOST OF HIS SPEECHES: ATLANTA, LITTLE ROCK, BIRMINGHAM, MOBILE, SELMA, JACKSON, VICKSBURG, MISS., AND MARKS, MISS. HE FURTHER POINTED OUT THERE WAS A MAN LIVING ON A HOUSEBOAT IN VICKSBURG ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER (WHOSE FIRST NAME HE KNEW BUT WOULD NOT DIVULGE). THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE RAY DOWN THE RIVER ON HIS BOAT TO NEW ORLEANS AFTER THE KILLING. HE STATED IN THE PAST HE (CURTIS) HAD PULLED SEVERAL BURGLARY AND ARMED ROBBERIES (HE WOULD NOT COMMENT ON PARTICULARS) IN TOWNS ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND WHILE POLICE WERE LOOKING FOR HIM ON THE HIGHWAY HE WOULD BE ON A BOAT DOWN THE MISSISSIPPI. HE FURTHER STATED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY CONCERNING THE KING KILLING WHICH WAS CURRENTLY OUT BEING TYPED AND IT WAS THE STORY HE MENTIONED IN THE LETTER TO EBONY AND INTENDED TO SELL TO EBONY.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN, NA, WHO IS SHERIFF OF WHITFIELD CO., GA., AND OPERATES THE COUNTY JAIL, ADVISED CURTIS HAD SENT NO LETTERS OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE JAIL WHICH WENT OVER THE JAILERS DESK. HE SAID CURTIS WOULD PROBABLY SEND ALL MAIL OUT WITH VISITORS AND JAIL TRUSTEES AND WOULD PROBABLY NOT HAVE BEEN OBSERVED BY MEN OF HIS DEPT. IT IS FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT CURTIS' ATTORNEY, ERWIN MITCHELL, FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN FOR THE SEVENTH DISTRICT OF GA., IS OF THE OPINION THAT MOST OF CURTIS' COMMENTS CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S ASSASSINATION OF KING ARE PURE FABRICATIONS ON THE PART OF CURTIS OR AS A RESULT OF SOMETHING CURTIS HAS READ IN LOCAL PAPERS.

APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS, HE SENT A NOTE TO SHERIFF G. T. MAULDIN REQUESTING TO AGAIN SEE AN FBI AGENT, THAT HE NOW WANTED TO TELL THE ENTIRE TRUTH. CURTIS WAS AGAIN INTERVIEWED BY SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR., AND AGAIN FURNISHED A RIGHTS FORM WHICH HE REFUSED TO SIGN. HE THEN STATED THAT APPARENTLY IN HIS LETTER TO EBONY HE USED THE WORK "WE" INDICATING THAT HE AND JAMES EARL RAY HAD PLANNED THE KING MURDER WHICH WOULD INVOLVE HIM IN A CONSYRACY AND FOR

PAGE FIVE

THAT REASON HE DENIED THE STATEMENTS IN LETTER TO EBONY. HE THEN ADVISED HE HAD WRITTEN A STORY WHICH HE INTENDED TO SELL TO SOME MAGAZINE FOR THE PURPOSE OF OBTAINING MONEY FOR HIS MOTHER WHICH STORY WAS STILL IN HIS POSSESSION AND WHICH HE HAD NOT YET SENT OUT TO BE TYPED. HE ALLOWED SA HENRY TO READ THIS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY PAGE STORY, HANDWRITTEN, ONE PAGE AT A TIME. HE DECLARED THIS STORY WAS TRUE. THE FIRST FIVE OR SIX PAGES OF THIS STORY MERELY SET OUT HIS EARLY LIFE IN CRIME AND THE PRISON SENTENCES HE HAD SERVED AS A RESULT OF THESE CRIMES FROM THE AGE OF FIFTEEN. THE REMAINDER OF THE STORY IS THE SAME AS WAS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH CURTIS IN APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ASSOCIATION WITH RAY. THIS STORY DOES REFLECT THAT HE FIRST BECAME ASSOCIATED WITH RAY IN FIFTYFOUR WHEN THEY PULLED A PAYROLL HEIST IN QUINCY, ILL., WITH A THIRD INDIVIDUAL. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, HE LOST CONTACT WITH RAY WHEN HE AND THIS THIRD INDIVIDUAL WERE CAUGHT IN A FIFTY-SIX THOUSAND DOLLAR BANK ROBBERY AT SOUTHWEST CITY, MO. AFTER THAT HE AGAIN BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH RAY IN PRISON AND WHILE IN PRISON THEY BOTH LEARNED OF THE DEATH OF

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY. RAY THEN STATED IT SOUNDED LIKE A BIG JOB AND HE WAS ALWAYS ON THE INSIDE OR A PRISON WHEN BIG JOBS AND BIG MONEY WERE TO BE HAD.

SHORTLY AFTER THE DEATH OF JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR ., BECAME PROMINENT AND RAY STATED ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT SOMEBODY WAS GOING TO KILL KING. THE STORY WENT ON TO REFLECT THAT DURING THIS PERIOD AN INDIVIDUAL CAME INTO THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., AND WHO, UPON LEARNING OF JAMES EARL RAY'S FEELINGS TOWARD KILLING KING, ADVISED HIM OF THE KK BUSINESSMEN ASSOCIATION OF THE SOUTH AND OF THE FACT THAT PEOPLE IN FIVE STATES WERE PUTTING UP MONEY FOR KING'S ASSASSINATION. THE STORY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT RAY INFORMED HIM THAT HE INTENDED TO HAVE EVERYTHING SET WHEN HE KILLED KING AND THAT RAY, THROUGH MAPS, LEARNED OF KING'S MOVEMENTS SO HE COULD LATER STALK HIM TO THE POINT OF ASSASSINATION. THE STORY FURTHER POINTED OUT THAT RAY ADVISED HE WOULD LEAVE A FALSE GUN AND FALSE TRAIL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE MURDER. RAY WAS SUPPOSED TO

END PAGE SIX

PAGE SEVEN

GO TO VICKSBURG FOLLOWING THE MURDER, CONTACT THE MAN FROM VICKSBURG, MISS., WHO HAD THE HOUSEBOAT, AND THIS MAN WAS TO TAKE HIM EITHER TO NEW ORLEANS OR CANADA VIA THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

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END PAGE SEVEN

PAGE EIGHT

DID NOT WANT TO BE SENT TO A STATE PRISON ON HIS CURRENT LIFE SENTENCE. HE STATED HE WOULD NOT ALLOW HIS STORY TO BE XEROXED NOR WOULD HE WRITE IT OVER AGAIN OR ALLOW THE PAGES TO LEAVE HIS CELL. HE DID STATE HE WOULD TRANSCRIBE HIS STORY OVER A DICTATING MACHINE AND WOULD REDRAW CERTAIN MAPS HE PRODUCED FOR HIS STORY.

HE THEN PRESENTED CRUDE SKETCHES OF THE FED. PENITENTIARY AT LEVENWORTH, THE MISSOURI STATE PEN, IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE MENTIONED MAP CONCERNING THE TOWNS WHERE KING MADE NUMEROUS SPEECHES.

UACB, CURTIS WILL BE ALLOWED TO DICTATE HIS STORY ON A DICTATING MACHINE IN THE PRESENCE OF SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR.

DUE TO THE UNRELIABILITY OF CURTIS, NO LEAD FOR AN EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS BEING SET FORTH FOR JACKSON IN CONNECTION WITH IDENTIFYING (FNU) WILLETT; AKA MISSISSIPPI UACB.

END

JWD

FBI JKSN MISS

PT

F B I

Date: 7/5/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)

MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype 7/3/68.

RE RAYMOND CURTIS
INTERVIEW IN COUNTY
JAIL AT DALTON, GA.Enclosed herewith for Little Rock and Memphis
is one copy of referenced teletype.

Does not know "Miss" will ex other 7/9 - neg.

PAUL J. DENNIS, Vice-President, Vicksburg Mid River Service, Inc. advised on 7/5/68, that (FNU) WILLETT owned a houseboat known as the "Nell Willie", a diesel-powered ship capable of travel on the Mississippi. (FNU) WILLETT was described as an elderly man who was crippled and used a cane. He and his wife, whose name is believed to be NELL, took vacation trips on his houseboat approximately twice a year, securing the services of a Mississippi River pilot to operate the boat for them. (FNU) WILLETT is believed to have died approximately two years ago. He is believed to have been a resident of the State of Arkansas and to have docked his houseboat at the Greenville, Miss. Yacht Club.

WILLIE SMITH, a Negro male employee of the Greenville, Miss. Yacht Club, advised on 7/5/68, that the correct name of the houseboat is the "Nell Willis" and that it was owned by a (FNU) WILLIS, who died about two or three years ago. NELL WILLIS, wife of (FNU) WILLIS, is still living and

3-Bureau (RM) 2-Little Rock (Enc. 1)
2-Memphis (Enc. 1)

2-Jackson
JGW/jrs (9)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Searched

Serialized

Indexed

Filed

JN 157-9586

residing in or around Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

Following the death of Mr. WILLIS, the houseboat was sold to SONNY (LNU), a member of the Memphis, Tenn. Yacht Club, who is believed to be a Mississippi River pilot.

WILLIE SMITH advised that Mr. WILLIS was always considerate of Negroes and gave no indication of anti-Negro sentiments.

UACB the following leads will be covered:

LEADS:

LITTLE ROCK DIVISION

AT PINE BLUFF, ARK.

Will locate and interview NELL WILLIS in order to substantiate information set out in enclosed teletype.

MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENN.

Will attempt to locate and interview SONNY (LNU) in order to either prove or disprove the information contained in enclosed teletype.

F B I

Date: 7/5/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)
MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype 7/3/68.

RE RAYMOND CURTIS
INTERVIEW IN COUNTY
JAIL AT DALTON, GA.

Enclosed herewith for Little Rock and Memphis
is one copy of referenced teletype.

PAUL J. DENNIS, Vice-President, Vicksburg Mid River Service, Inc. advised on 7/5/68, that (FNU) WILLETT owned a houseboat known as the "Nell Willie", a diesel-powered ship capable of travel on the Mississippi. (FNU) WILLETT was described as an elderly man who was crippled and used a cane. He and his wife, whose name is believed to be NELL, took vacation trips on his houseboat approximately twice a year, securing the services of a Mississippi River pilot to operate the boat for them. (FNU) WILLETT is believed to have died approximately two years ago. He is believed to have been a resident of the State of Arkansas and to have docked his houseboat at the Greenville, Miss. Yacht Club.

WILLIE SMITH, a Negro male employee of the Greenville, Miss. Yacht Club, advised on 7/5/68, that the correct name of the houseboat is the "Nell Willis" and that it was owned by a (FNU) WILLIS, who died about two or three years ago. NELL WILLIS, wife of (FNU) WILLIS, is still living and

3-Bureau (RM) 2-Little Rock (Enc. 1)
2-Memphis (Enc. 1)

(2) Jackson

JGW/jrs (9)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

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Serialized _____

Indexed _____

Filed _____

157-9586-579

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

F B I

Date: July 5, 1968

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC's, Jackson, Atlanta

✓ FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

ReAttel 7/3/68.

Jackson should make reasonable efforts to identify and interview (FNU) Willett, and run out any pertinent information developed and surep or LHM.

Since Curtis refuses to furnish "his story" for appropriate copying, it will not be necessary for an Agent to have him dictate on a dictating machine in the Agent's presence. Curtis is not to set the terms on which he will furnish information to the FBI, particularly since to date he has not furnished anything of substantive value. Atlanta Su LHM.

For information of Memphis, "Ebony" Magazine forwarded letters from Raymond Curtis, inmate of Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, in which he alleged among other things that he and Ray planned the King killing and businessmen put up money for the King murder. Curtis was previously interviewed and furnished nebulous information along the same lines which was run out and nothing of substantive value was developed (See report of Alan G. Sentinella dated 5/17/68, at Atlanta, copies to Memphis). On re interview on 7/3/68, Curtis originally recanted substantially the whole story he had set out in his letters to "Ebony" but then recontacted the Agents and claimed that the "story" was true. Among his allegations, he indicated that an individual named (FNU) Willett who was also known

1 - SAC, Memphis (for info)

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

157-9582-580

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

Handled
Su LHM
Wilson

AIRTEL, SAC'S Jackson, Atlanta
RE: MURKIN

as "Mississippi" was supposed to be contacted by Ray at Vicksburg, Mississippi, after the murder and Willett was to take Ray to either New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River in Willetts' houseboat.

As indicated above, the Jackson Office is being instructed to run out the Willett allegation.

July 5, 1968

AIRTEL

TO: SAC's, Jackson, Atlanta

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

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1 - SAC, Memphis (for info)

157-9586-580

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 5 1968	
FBI-JACKSON	

AIRTEL, SAC'S Jackson, Atlanta
RE: MURKIN

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As indicated above, the Jackson Office is being instructed to run out the Willett allegation.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

DATE: 7/5/68

FROM : SA JOHN H. PROCTOR, Jr.

SUBJECT: CHARLES K. SINCLAIR
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference Atlanta letter to Jackson dated 6/18/68.

The writer of the letter sent to RALPH MCGILL, Publisher of the Atlanta Constitution is former Sgt. MARTIN BULLOCK. BULLOCK has written numerous letter of this type and was discharged by the US ARMY for medical reasons.

BULLOCK is subject of Jackson case file number 62-30.

1 - Jackson (157-9586)
JHP:jp
(1)

157-9586-581

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[Handwritten signature/initials over the stamp]

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

7/9/68

SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)

MURKIN - COST DATA

Re Jackson airtel 6/4/68.

Cost data for the Jackson Division from 6/1/68 to 6/30/68 is as follows:

1. A. Special Agents:
 - Regular Man Hours: 327 (hours)
 - Overtime 187 (hours)
- B. Clerical Employees
 - Regular Man Hours 52 (hours)
 - Overtime None
2. Total Mileage (Estimated) 287 (miles)
3. Unusual or out-of-the-ordinary Expenses None
4. Peak Number of Special Agents Working on Case at Anytime During the Month: 7

2 - Memphis

1 - Jackson

JOL:isk

(3)

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia
July 5, 1968

Index

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

~~Raymond Curtis~~ submitted a letter to Mr. Charles L. Sanders, Ebony Magazine, which letter is as follows:

"Mr. Charles L. Sanders

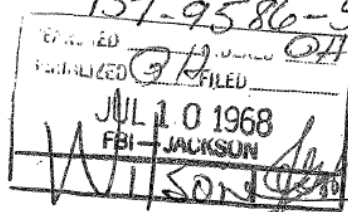
"Dear Mr. Sanders:

"I thank you for your answer to my letter. I think that details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

"Well, Sir, I have written a story. No one but myself has read it but me. At this time I know that it will have to be re-written for I am not a writing it as bad as it is.

"It all about the crime I did and about a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther King, Jr. We talk of killing King for three years. And we talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK businessman association that was to put up the money to kill King. I also know the men from Mississippi.

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JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

"In that three year we made maps just had to find the right place to kill King. Well I have made the maps over myself. They are with the story also.

"And just where we would go after we killed King so yes when we talk about it I was to be in on it. But I was not. The story has it all in it. All the big thing and the little one also. And what Ray like and what he did not like. This story could get me killed. I know that. That is why I won't send the story by mail. I know that this is getting to be a long letter. But when you read this if you want the story O.K. If not just let me know, O.K. That way I won't talk to men about it.

"Mr. Sanders there are men in five states that is behind the King killing and they don't know what I know. But James Earl Ray did not. Now that they have Ray Tenn. will trial him if they get him back.

"Well, they want me to testify. Well, I just don't know yet what I will do.

"You see, me and Ray were pal. I could tell what I have to the news. That no much. Or I could not say everything. And I did not tell the FBI. Well, this is not a book. I am just trying to tell you what you ask of me in your letter.

"If you have a man or have someone down this way, if you will have them stop by the jail I will let them read the story and you can go from there. O.K.

"I thank you again.

"I will be looking to hear from you soon.

/s/ "Raymond Curtis

"I am still in the Dalton County Jail."

On July 3, 1968, CURTIS was interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, and furnished the following information:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 5, 1968

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was contacted at the Whitfield County Jail and advised of the identities of Special Agents THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. and ALBERT D. MILLARD. He was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he read, indicated he understood, but refused to sign. He was advised that he was being interviewed concerning statements he made in a letter he had mailed to Mr. SANDERS of Ebony Magazine.

CURTIS stated he was merely trying to sell a story to Ebony for approximately \$5,000 to help his mother pay off a mortgage on her home. She had obtained this mortgage as a result of paying attorney's fees for the defense of CURTIS at a previous trial.

CURTIS stated that he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a burglary in Joliet, Illinois, in October or November, 1954. It was pointed out to CURTIS that certain statements made by him in his letter to Ebony Magazine could possibly involve him in a conspiracy with JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS then stated he wished to go on record as to the statements made in his letter to Mr. SANDERS. He categorically denied the following statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine:

- 1) That he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a crime in 1954;
- 2) That RAY wanted the job of killing KING;
- 3) That he and RAY talked about killing KING for three years;
- 4) That he and RAY talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK Businessmen's Association which Association was to put up the money to kill KING;
- 5) That he knew the men from Mississippi;
- 6) That for three years he and RAY made maps just to find the right place to kill KING and that he made the maps over himself;
- 7) That he and RAY knew just where they would go after the killing of KING;
- 8) That he was to be in on the killing of KING;
- 9) That there are men in five states who are behind the killing of KING and these men do not know what he (CURTIS) knows.

- 3 -

On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
 by SA ALBERT D. MILLARD and
SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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AT 44-2386

2

During this interview CURTIS drew two maps setting out how he thought RAY would stalk KING. This map indicated the following towns where he said KING made most of his speeches: Atlanta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Birmingham, Mobile, and Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Vicksburg, and Marks, Mississippi.

CURTIS further advised that there was a man living on a houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River whose name he would not divulge who was to take RAY down the River on his boat to New Orleans after the killing. CURTIS further advised that in the past he had pulled several burglaries and armed robberies in towns along the Mississippi River and while police were looking for him on the highway he would be on a boat down the Mississippi. He added that he had written a story concerning the KING killing which was currently being typed and this was the story he mentioned in the letter to Ebony Magazine and which he intended to sell to Ebony.

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

On July 3, 1968, Sheriff G. T. Mauldin, Whitfield County, Georgia, advised that Curtis sent no letters or communications from the Whitfield County Jail which passed over the jailer's desk. He stated Curtis probably sent his mail out with visitors and jail trustees which would probably not have been observed by men of his department. Sheriff Mauldin stated that Curtis' attorney, Erwin Mitchell, former U. S. Congressman from the Seventh District of Georgia, is of the opinion that most of Curtis' comments concerning his knowledge of Ray's alleged assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. are pure fabrications on the part of Curtis or the result of something Curtis has read in the newspapers.

Approximately one hour following the conclusion of the interview with Curtis, he sent a note to Sheriff Mauldin requesting to again see an FBI Agent and stating that he wanted to tell the entire truth. Curtis was re-interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 5, 1968

Date _____

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he refused to sign. He then stated in connection with the previous interview that apparently in his letter to Ebony Magazine, he used the word "we" indicating that he and JAMES EARL RAY had planned the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and he realized now this would involve him in a conspiracy. For that reason in the previous interview he denied the statements he had made in his letter to Ebony Magazine. CURTIS then advised he had written a story which he intended to sell to some magazine for the purpose of obtaining money for his mother. He stated the story was still in his possession and had not yet been sent out to be typed. He permitted SA HENRY to read this 20-page handwritten story one page at a time and he declared this story was true. The first five or six pages of the story merely set out his early life in crime and the prison sentences he had served as a result of the crimes, starting at the age of 15. The remainder of the story is the same as he originally furnished in an interview in April, 1968, concerning his knowledge and association with JAMES EARL RAY. The story reflects that he first became associated with RAY in 1954 when they pulled a payroll robbery together in Quincy, Illinois, with a third individual. Shortly thereafter CURTIS lost contact with RAY when RAY and this third individual were apprehended in connection with a bank robbery at Southwest City, Missouri. After that CURTIS again became acquainted with RAY in prison and while in prison they both learned of the death of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. At this time RAY stated the murder of KENNEDY sounded like a big job and he was always on the inside of a prison when big jobs and big money were to be had.

Shortly after the death of JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. became prominent, and RAY stated on several occasions that somebody was going to kill KING. During this period an individual came into the Missouri State Penitentiary from Vicksburg, Mississippi. This individual upon learning of JAMES EARL RAY's feelings toward killing KING advised RAY of the KK Businessmen's Association of the South

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On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
by SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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AT 44-2386

2

and stated that people in five states were putting up money for KING's assassination. The story further reflected that RAY informed this individual that he intended to have everything set when he killed KING. RAY followed KING's movements through maps so that he could later stalk KING to the point of assassination. RAY indicated during the time that he would leave a false gun and false trail immediately following the murder. RAY was supposed to go to Vicksburg, Mississippi, following the murder, contact the man from Vicksburg who had the houseboat, and this man was to take him either to New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River.

At the conclusion of the interview CURTIS stated he would not testify to any of the above information. He did advise that the name of the individual on the houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was (first name unknown) WILLETT, also known as "Mississippi," who served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

CURTIS refused to allow his story to be copied and stated he would not write it over again nor would he allow the pages to be removed from his prison cell. CURTIS then presented crude sketches of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Missouri State Penitentiary.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia
July 5, 1968

**JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS**

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"Mr. Charles L. Sanders

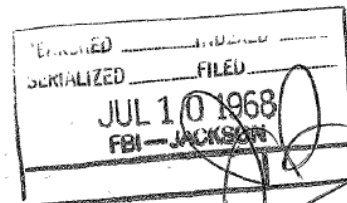
"Dear Mr. Sanders:

"I thank you for your answer to my letter. I think that details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

"Well, Sir, I have written a story. No one but myself has read it but me. At this time I know that it will have to be re-written for I am not a writing it as bad as it is.

"It all about the crime I did and about a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther King, Jr. We talk of killing King for three years. And we talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK businessman association that was to put up the money to kill King. I also know the men from Mississippi.

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"And just where we would go after we killed King so yes when we talk about it I was to be in on it. But I was not. The story has it all in it. All the big thing and the little one also. And what Ray like and what he did not like. This story could get me killed. I know that. That is why I won't send the story by mail. I know that this is getting to be a long letter. But when you read this if you want the story O.K. If not just let me know, O.K. That way I won't talk to men about it.

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"You see, me and Ray were pal. I could tell what I have to the news. That no much. Or I could not say everything. And I did not tell the FBI. Well, this is not a book. I am just trying to tell you what you ask of me in your letter.

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

AT 44-2386

2

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CURTIS further advised that there was a man living on a houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River whose name he would not divulge who was to take RAY down the River on his boat to New Orleans after the killing. CURTIS further advised that in the past he had pulled several burglaries and armed robberies in towns along the Mississippi River and while police were looking for him on the highway he would be on a boat down the Mississippi. He added that he had written a story concerning the KING killing which was currently being typed and this was the story he mentioned in the letter to Ebony Magazine and which he intended to sell to Ebony.

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 5, 1968

Date

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- 6 -

On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File# AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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AT 44-2386

2

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- 7* -

7/5/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-3886)

SUBJECT: MURKIN⁰

157-9586

Re Atlanta tel 7/3/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 10 copies of LHM suitable for dissemination. Two copies each are being submitted to Memphis and Jackson.

[Handwritten signature]

3 - Bureau (Encs. 10)
1 - Jackson (Encs. 2)
1 - Memphis (Encs. 2)
1 - Atlanta
CWH:jlh
(8)

157-9586-584

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1968	
FBI - JACKSON	

[Handwritten signature]