

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)

FROM : IC KEN PAUL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/24/68

HOWARD STAFFORD called long distance at 11:45 this morning and advised he is staying with his brother ARNOLD GENE STAFFORD in Victoria, Texas, telephone 573-2017. STAFFORD stated at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was shot, he was living in a rooming house at 336 Hyde Park Avenue, Tampa, Florida. He stated two days after KING was shot a man moved into the rooming house whose name he does not know. He stated he had observed this man on occasions and only from the back. He stated his appearance was most unusual in that his ears did not match. He stated by that he means one was larger and protruding out from his head more than the other one. He stated his build appeared to be the same as JAMES EARL RAY. STAFFORD stated the man's actions were most unusual in that he very seldom left his apartment and on those few occasions that he did leave, it was always late at night or in the early morning hours. He stated he is quite sure that this man was having an affair with a woman who had an apartment adjoining his (STAFFORD). He does not know the name of this woman, but she has been residing at the rooming house for some time. He stated that the owner of the rooming house, a Mrs. SCHUSTER, would be able to furnish the names of the woman and the man. STAFFORD stated he left the rooming house last Sunday and came to Victoria and at that time, the man was still residing at the rooming house.

KP:lb

(1) *llb*

157-3231-300B

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APR 27 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Dehman



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

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

TO: SAC, TAMPA
 FROM: *WJH* SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)
 RE: MURKIN

Remy call to Tampa this PM.

Enclosed is a memorandum from Complaint Clerk KENNETH PAUL 4/24/68 which is self-explanatory.

Tampa at Tampa: Will contact Mrs. SCHUSTER, owner of rooming house at 336 Hyde Park Avenue, and determine if anyone meeting description of subject JAMES EARL RAY is or has been residing there since the shooting of KING.

2 - Tampa (encl 1) *rw*
 1 - Memphis (info) *(ENCL 1)*
 1 - Houston

WTW:mec
 (4)

*SA Balange notified
 4:30 PM 4/27/68 JWC*

file w/

157-3231-300 C

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
 Special Agent in Charge

American Is Freed in Mexico

In King Case, With Apologies

HERMOSILLO, Mexico (UPI) — A bearded American tourist from Baltimore, Md., arrested and questioned by Mexican police in their hunt for a suspect in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., yesterday was released with apologies by state authorities.

Daniel D. Kennedy, 42, had been arrested Wednesday in a small cafe in Caborca, 80 miles southwest of Nogales, Ariz., and questioned for 12 hours before being brought in handcuffs to this Sonora state capital.

State police turned him loose with apologies less than two hours after his arrival in Hermosillo. Kennedy left state police headquarters saying he wanted to continue his trip to Guaymas, a small fishing and resort town on the Pacific Coast about 80 miles south of Hermosillo.

American Vice Consul Arnold Denys in Hermosillo said Kennedy has been "eliminated" as a suspect through a thorough check by Hermosillo "judicial police" of his background, circumstances, facial features and fingerprints.

Denys said Kennedy was traveling on his own, very nicely trying to learn about the Mexican people, when he was picked up because a hotel manager thought he matched the description of the suspect.

Denys said Kennedy was "very upset" and insisted on being returned to Caborca, where he was picked up, and where he had a \$5 a day hotel room.

Denys said he felt the request justified and state police had returned Kennedy to Caborca.

"We turned him loose less than two hour after he was brought here," state police said. "We had a complete set of photographs here from the FBI, and fingerprints of the

"This man didn't match the photographs or fingerprints at all."

Hotel Manager Carlos Valencia Beltran in Caborca said he had told police his guest "resembled" pictures of James Earl Ray, wanted by the FBI in connection with King's assassination.

In Baltimore, when notified of her son's arrest, Kennedy's 68-year-old mother, Pearl,

said "it would take a blind man to say that he resembled the man the FBI is looking for."

She said her son had been wounded and awarded the purple heart in combat in Germany in World War II, and that he had left Baltimore March 24. She said he received a monthly veteran's compensation check from the government.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 7-A
TAMPA TRIBUNE
TAMPA, FLORIDA

Date: 4/26/68
Edition: LOCAL
Author:
Editor: JAMES A. CLENDINEN
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: TAMPA
☐ Being Investigated

157-3231-301

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APR 26 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : STENO E. MASON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

SA CECIL FRANKLIN, Jacksonville Division, telephonically dictated the following to me at 3:50 P.M. this date:

By teletype dated 4/26/68, Savannah advised Jacksonville that "Captain REX STONE, Savannah PD, advised that Colonel JAMES A. EVANS, USA Retired, advised him (STONE) that a '67 or '68 brown Plymouth station wagon, a rental car from Florida, bearing a Florida license #3E 5643, met him head-on on U. S. Highway 17 South, turned around, and followed him to his place of employment on Bay Street, Savannah, Georgia, which would be U. S. Highway 17 North. STONE got a good look at the driver and believed him to be identical to JAMES EARL RAY, except that the driver of the vehicle wore horned rimmed glasses."

Records in the Motor Vehicle Bureau, Tallahassee, Fla., show Florida license 3E 5643 registered for 1965 Plymouth Fury II, ID #P 252267608. Automobile owned by Automotive Rentals, Inc., care of HENRY W. ERWIN, JR., 7411 Maple Avenue, Pennsauken, New Jersey.

EDWARD BEEGIN, Gen Mgr., Automotive Rentals Inc, 1720 3RD AVE, Tampa advised SA Hegarty that his company has 150 cars but does not have any Plymouths.
em
(1)

Mr BEEGIN stated his company not connected with N.J. company of the same name. Above listed car not from his company.

APR 26 1968

Hegarty

157-3231 - 304



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Booklet No. 19118
Judge Charles . . . Hittaker

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Kansas City, Missouri
April 26, 1955

WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

PRESENTENCE REPORT

NAME James Earl Ray

CITIZENSHIP

United States

ADDRESS Transient

MARITAL STATUS

Single

AGE 27 years (Born March 1, 1928)

NUMBER OF DEPENDENTS

None

SEX Male

OFFENSE

Forgery of U. S. Postal Money Order

RACE White

I. OFFENSE:

This defendant on April 1, 1955 entered a plea of guilty to an information in one count which charges that he on or about March 21, 1955 at Kansas City, Missouri knowingly, wilfully, unlawfully, and feloniously forged a material endorsement on a U. S. Post Office Department Money Order No. 7-42,239,597. On this same date a companion, Walter Terry Rife, entered a plea of guilty in Booklet No. 19119 to an information in one count charging him with the forgery on March 21, 1955 of postal money order No. 7-42,239,598. Imposition of sentence as to defendant and his companion was deferred and this presentence investigation was ordered.

The facts of the case are as follows: On March 7, 1955 the U. S. Post Office at Belleville, Illinois was burglarized and sixty-six blank U. S. Postal Money Orders, Serial Nos. 7-42,239,535 to 7-42,239,600 inclusive, and the office validating stamp were stolen. On March 8, 1955 at Alton, Illinois an unsuccessful attempt was made to cash one of these stolen money orders. On March 21, 1955 one of the stolen money orders, order No. 7-42,239,597, was presented to Askin's Clothing Company, 1206 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, by an unknown person in payment for a suit of clothes which was never picked up after alterations had been made. This money order, which was in the amount of \$75.00, was made payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. On this same date an unknown person presented stolen money order No. 7-42,239,568 to the Chaffee Office Machine Company, 1810 Grand Avenue, Kansas City, Missouri, in payment for a used portable Remington typewriter. This money order, too, was in the amount of \$75.00 payable to Willard J. McBride with the purchaser being shown as Vernon McBride. The manager of this firm, being suspicious of this transaction, directed an employee to follow the customer. The employee noted the model and make of the automobile entered by the customer and the license number of the car. Later when this money order was ascertained

15)-3231-303

1 Kerot made

W R
McBride

to have been stolen a description of the customer and his automobile was given to post office inspectors who alerted the Missouri State Highway Patrol. A highway patrolman on March 23, 1955 at Hannibal, Missouri arrested in this automobile Walter Terry Rife, James Earl Ray, and a woman companion who has been released. Thirty-four of the money orders stolen from the Mollerville, Illinois Post Office were found hidden under the dash above the glove compartment in this automobile. All of them had been stamped with the validating stamp. Some were made out ready for cashing while others were not.

On March 24, 1955 Rife executed a statement for postal inspectors in which he admitted he had prepared, forged and uttered the postal money order presented to the Chaffee Office Supply Company in Kansas City. He admitted preparing the money order which was uttered on forged endorsement at Askin's Clothing Company, Kansas City, Missouri. He admitted that he had prepared the face of the money orders made ready for cashing and which were found in the automobile in which he was arrested. He admitted cashing numerous other money orders on forged endorsements in the states of Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Missouri. He recalled unsuccessfully attempting to cash the money order at Alton, Illinois on March 8, 1955. In his statement he admits that he purchased in Quincy, Illinois the stolen money orders. They were sold to him by an unidentified man for \$20. On March 24, 1955 Ray, declining to execute statement for postal inspectors, did verbally state that he had participated with Rife in the cashing of the stolen money orders in the various states. He denied actually knowing that the money orders were stolen. However, he admittedly presumed that they were for he had been told by Rife that they had been purchased for \$20. He admitted that it was he who forged and uttered the money order presented at Askin's Clothing Company in Kansas City, Missouri. He stated that he purchased for \$1 in St. Louis, Missouri from a "Wino" named Willard J. McBride the identification he and Rife used in uttering the money orders.

The two money orders uttered by Rife and Ray in Kansas City, Missouri and as well the money order Rife attempted to utter in Alton, Illinois have been recovered. As noted previously thirty-four of the money orders were recovered in the automobile. On April 18, 1955 when reinterviewed by postal inspectors Rife and Ray gave particulars relating to the cashing of twenty-seven additional stolen money orders located by the Regional Accounting Office. The particulars are as set out in the following table:

Last three digits	Cashed by	Cashed at	Second Endorser	Date of earliest discernible bank stamp	Am.
538	Rife	St. Louis, Mo.	(Illegible)	Mar. 10	\$50
543	Ray	do	Domas Men's Shop	Mar. 17	\$55
547	Ray	Hot Springs, Ark.	Esskay Art Galleries	Mar. 21	\$75
548	Rife	do	Brown's Dept. Store	Mar. 21	\$75
550	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Topp's	Mar. 15	\$75

552	Rife	Memphis, Tenn.	Borg & McGargo	Mar. 11	\$75
557	Ray	New Orleans, La.	Bright Tailors	?	\$75
558	Rife	do	Schmolders	Mar. 21	\$75
559	Rife	do	Todd's Sportswear Shop	Mar. 16	\$50
560	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	None apparent	Mar. 21	\$50
561	Ray	do	Dinos (?) J. C. Ross	Mar. 21	\$75
562	Rife	do	Lockwood's Men's Store	Mar. 23	\$50
577	Rife	do	Pfelfers of Arkansas	Mar. 21	\$75
578	Ray	do	Biles Music Co.	Mar. 21	\$75
582	Rife	Daytona Beach, Fla.	Squires, Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
583	Ray	do	C. K. Slaughter	Mar. 15	\$50
585	Rife	St. Petersburg, Fla.	(Ivan C. Whipple I. Zucker)	Mar. 16	\$50
586	Ray	do	Arnold's Mens Wear	Mar. 14	\$75
587	Ray	do	Dunoffs Footwear	Mar. 14	\$50
589	Rife	do	Isabelle Abrams	?	\$75
591	Ray	Tampa, Fla.	Rio Liquors Inc.	Mar. 16	\$50
592	Rife	do	Enox (?) Bar & Luncheonette	Mar. 18	\$75
593	Rife	do	The Hub	Mar. 14	\$50
595	Ray	Tallahassee, Fla.	Alford Bros. Inc.	Mar. 12	\$50
596	Ray	St. Petersburg, Fla.	Kings Credit Clothing	Mar. 14	\$50
598	Ray	Daytona Beach, Fla.	(Illegible)	Mar. 15	\$75
599	Rife	Hot Springs, Ark.	Chas. Hearn(?)	Mar. 21	\$75

*Paquette
DeMingo advised
that purchased
1958 by
him & he
will be
alert
+ w.f.'s given
him
S.H.*

*Both Rife and Ray say no money orders cashed by them in banks.

Two of the stolen money orders have not yet been recovered. They, however, are accounted for as Ray has admitted cashing one of them at a luggage store in Kansas City, Kansas and Rife admits cashing one of them at Miami Beach, Florida.

It is pertinent to note that following the apprehension of Rife and Ray postal inspectors obtained from the room which they occupied a quantity of merchandise they had acquired by passing the stolen money orders. Found in their room were a typewriter, several pieces of luggage, a radio, a camera, a wristwatch, a considerable quantity of new wearing apparel for men, and other items. They have authorized the postal inspectors to return this merchandise to the stores or individuals from whom it was obtained.

II. PRICE RECORD:

Defendant's F. B. I. Fingerprint Return No. 306 h43 A reveals the following arrests and dispositions:

10-11-49 : Sheriff's office, Los Angeles, California - suspicion of burglary. 12-30-49 sentenced to 6 months in county jail for burglary. Served 90 days and released on probation for period of 2 years. Defendant states that he was drink-

ing in the rear of a cafe when he was seen by the cafe manager. He ran from the scene and was later apprehended. He says that after being placed on probation he went to Chicago, Illinois to reside and that he reported to a probation officer in Los Angeles, California by mail.

- 1-18-50 : Sheriff's office, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. - vagrancy. Disposition not shown, but defendant states he was released and instructed to leave town.
- 7-23-51 : Alton, Illinois Police Department - no operator's license, no state license, no city license. Released to pay later. Defendant states he was fined \$55 and required to purchase the necessary licenses.
- 5-6-52 : Chicago, Illinois police - robbery. 6-13-52 sentenced to term of 1 to 2 years in Illinois State Penitentiary, Joliet, Illinois. Defendant reluctantly admitted to the writer that while intoxicated he held up a taxicab driver. On 7-7-52 he was received at the Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois in transfer from Joliet, Illinois institution. He was released by minimum expiration on 3-12-54.
- 8-30-54 : Sheriff, Edwardsville, Illinois - burglary and larceny. Defendant states that he burglarized a cleaning shop in East Alton, Illinois but denies stealing anything. Although no disposition has been made on this charge of burglary he apparently is not wanted.
- 3-23-55 : Hannibal, Missouri police for instant offense. Released to federal authorities following day.

III. FAMILY HISTORY:

Defendant

This defendant, age 27, was born [redacted] in Alton, Illinois.

He is an only child. He resided in the parental home in Alton until age 18. During that time, however, he frequently visited with his paternal grandparents in Quincy, Illinois. When about age 18 he entered the army. Following discharge from military service in 1948 he resided for a short time in Quincy, Illinois. He then moved to Chicago, Illinois where he resided for a period of about six months before moving to Los Angeles, California. As noted in the section, Criminal Record, he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to jail in Los Angeles. When released on probation from that sentence he returned to residence in Chicago where he lived alone until he was committed in June of 1952 to the Illinois State Penitentiary. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March of 1954 he has been rather transient living principally in Quincy, Illinois.

Father

19. He was an employee of the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad and reportedly had no arrest record.

George Ray reportedly died of a heart condition in 1947 at age about

Mother

Lucille (nee Maher) Ray died of a liver condition in 1949 at age 51.

Other relatives

in Quincy, Illinois.

Defendant refuses to identify his several aunts and uncles who reside

IV. HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

When not incarcerated defendant has lived principally in Alton and Quincy, Illinois. Since his release from the Illinois State Penitentiary in March 1954, he has been rather transient. His last known residence for any period of time was at the Virginia Hotel in Quincy, Illinois.

V. EDUCATION:

Defendant states that he completed the 1st through the 8th grades at St. Mary's School in Alton, Illinois. He states that in 1952 while residing in Chicago, Illinois he attended the Academy of Adults and obtained the equivalent of a two-year high school education.

VI. RELIGION:

Defendant denies any affiliation. His mother was Catholic, and his father was Protestant. While in military service he infrequently attended Catholic services.

VII. INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

None.

VIII. HEALTH:

Defendant is 5' 10 1/2" tall, weighs 170 lbs., has a ruddy complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. There are no apparent marks or scars of identification. He apparently is in good health. He states that before becoming involved in the instant offense he was in the process of petitioning for admittance to a Veterans Hospital in Illinois for a general physical checkup. He denies a history of surgery other than a tonsillectomy in Chicago in 1952. He denies a history of venereal disease or the use of narcotics. He states that he is a "moderate drinker."

IX. EMPLOYMENT AND MILITARY HISTORY:

Defendant states that at Alton, Illinois on February 19, 1946 he enlisted in the U. S. Army. He received his basic training at Camp Crowder, Missouri. He was then transferred to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey to await transportation to the European Theater of Operations. He states that he left the continental limits of the United States for Germany in July of 1946. Overseas he was attached to the 382nd Military Police Battalion. He admits that he was once AWOL for a period of two days which resulted in a suspended sentence to confinement for a period of sixty days. He returned to the United States from Germany in December of 1948 and was, he states, on December 23, 1948 given a general discharge under honorable conditions.

Defendant states that his last employment was with an uncle whom he refuses to identify but who resides in Quincy, Illinois. He worked for this uncle as a painter for a period of time in the summer of 1954.

He claims that from August 1951 to May 1952 he was employed by the Borg Erickson Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. This employment was terminated when he was arrested for robbery, which eventually resulted in a penitentiary sentence.

He states that from July of 1950 to June 1951 he was employed by the Arboy Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. He was discharged from this employment for absenteeism caused by his arrest in Alton, Illinois for vagrancy when visiting in that city.

He claims that from April 1950 to July of 1950 he was employed as a laborer at a wage of 90¢ per hour by the Neo Produce Company, Chicago, Illinois. He claims to have left this employment to accept more lucrative employment.

From July 1949 to September 1949 defendant states he was employed as a laborer at a wage of \$1.10 per hour by the Dryden Rubber Company, Chicago, Illinois. He quit this job to move to California.

He purports that from May 1944 to December of 1945 he was employed at a wage of 65¢ per hour by the International Shoe Company, Hartford, Illinois. He indicates he was laid off by this employer in a general reduction of forces and that he then entered the army.

X. RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES:

None.

II. SUMMARY:

This defendant, white male, age 27, no dependents, has entered a plea of guilty to an Information in one count which charges that he at Kansas City, Missouri

on or about March 21, 1955 forged a stolen U. S. Postal Money Order. This money order was one of sixty-six such orders stolen in a burglary of the U. S. Post Office, Kellerville, Illinois on March 7, 1955. Defendant emphatically denies the burglary of the post office. He states that his companion, in the instant offense, Walter T. Rife, when he met at a bar in Quincy, Illinois, suggested that he accompany Rife and cash the money orders which Rife reportedly had purchased from an unknown person. Defendant states that he purchased for \$1 the identification he and Rife used in uttering these stolen orders in various states. When arrested for the instant offense defendant was in possession of thirty-four money orders which had been stolen from the Kellerville, Illinois Post Office. He admits the forgery and uttering of fourteen money orders. His companion, Rife, has admitted the forgery and uttering or attempting to utter eighteen of the stolen money orders.

Approximately one year before becoming involved in the instant offense defendant was released from service of a sentence of one to two years for armed robbery in the Illinois State Penitentiary. In August of 1954 he burglarized a cleaning establishment in East Alton, Illinois. Although he admittedly was charged with burglary he apparently has never been before the appropriate court and apparently is not presently wanted on this charge. In 1949 in Los Angeles, California he was convicted of burglary and sentenced to eight months in the county jail. After serving ninety days of this sentence he was released on probation for a period of two years.

Defendant shows absolutely no remorse at this time. He anticipates receiving a substantial sentence for the instant offense. In writer's opinion he is a confirmed criminal and a menace to society when in the free world.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward B. Murray
U. S. Probation Officer

EBM:lo

F B I

Date: 4/23/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

MURKIN

Enclosed for each Office is one copy of a pre-sentence report prepared regarding JAMES EARL RAY for the U. S. District Court, Western District of Missouri, Kansas City, Missouri, dated April 26, 1955. This report contains background information regarding JAMES EARL RAY, including his travel through numerous states in connection with the theft and passing of stolen money orders in March, 1955.

RIFE located and interviewed Quincy, Illinois.

LEADS

All Offices are requested to review the enclosure thoroughly for the purpose of covering all pertinent leads suggested in the enclosure. This coverage should include, if not already done, a check of all places where the subject is listed as having been incarcerated, all places at which he is believed to have visited in the passing of stolen money orders, and any other investigation, including contact of law enforcement agencies, credit bureaus, public sources, informants and any other logical investigation suggested by the enclosed material which might assist in developing information helpful in locating JAMES EARL RAY at this time.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
2 - Chicago (Enc. 1)
2 - Jacksonville (Enc. 1)
2 - Little Rock (Enc. 1)
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1)

JLK:ak
(25)

2 - Miami (Enc. 1)
2 - New Orleans (Enc. 1)
2 - Omaha (Enc. 1)
2 - St. Louis (Enc. 1)
2 - Springfield (Enc. 1)
2 - Tampa (Enc. 1)
2 - Kansas City

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC 157-3231

DATE: 5/10/68

FROM : SA William B. Gandy

SUBJECT: MURKIN
RM

KC Airtel to ML 4/23/68 sets forth some
places in St Petersburg, as well as other places,
where subject (James Ray) and Walter Rife
carried same Stalem money orders in 1955.

The City Directories were reviewed & the
following places were still revealed as
existing:

- ① TOPP'S 370 75 ave St Pete Beach
- ② I. ZUCKER'S Mens Shop 16 9 ST So.
- ③ Arnold's Mens wear 584 Central
- ④ Kings Mens wear 868 Central.

file with

157-3231-304A

#4



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

on the dates indicated the following persons
were seen at the places listed and they all
said James Earl Ray (Photo Exhibited to them)
was unknown to them and they said there
is no way to trace the financial
transaction which may have occurred in
their store in 1955:

ARNOLD ARGINTAR	}	ARNOLD'S	5/7/68
FRANK RABIN			5/8/68

ISIDORE ZUCKER	}	TUCKER'S Pawn Shop	5/7/68
----------------	---	--------------------	--------

STEWART HESS	}	TOPP'S	4/30/68
--------------	---	--------	---------

BETTY LOU DAILY	}	KINGS	5/7/68
JOSEPH LIMA			
JOE HUNTER			

PD, credit & other logical records re
Ray have previously been checked in
St. Pete.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)(P)

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : SA ERNEST J. KIRSTEIN, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

On 4/24/68, Chief Deputy JOHN SHANNON, Charlotte County SO, and Identification Officer ROBERT PRESCOTT were furnished additional identification orders of subject JAMES EARL RAY, IO # 4182. Chief Deputy SHANNON advised that on that date he had had contact with one ALFRED T. LANG, Clerk, Charlotte County Courthouse in Punta Gorda, Fla., to the effect that LANG may know the subject.

On 4/24/68, ALFRED T. LANG, Clerk, Charlotte County Courthouse, Punta Gorda, Florida, advised that he, LANG, was a clerk at the Duval County Court of Court Office, Jacksonville, Florida, from 1958 to June of 1966, at which time he left Jacksonville and arrived in Punta Gorda, Fla. He advised that while in Jacksonville he became familiar with the RAY brothers who consisted of JAMES RAY, ROBERT RAY, (FNU) RAY, a fourth brother who was drowned 4 or 5 years ago, and a fifth brother - (FNU) RAY.

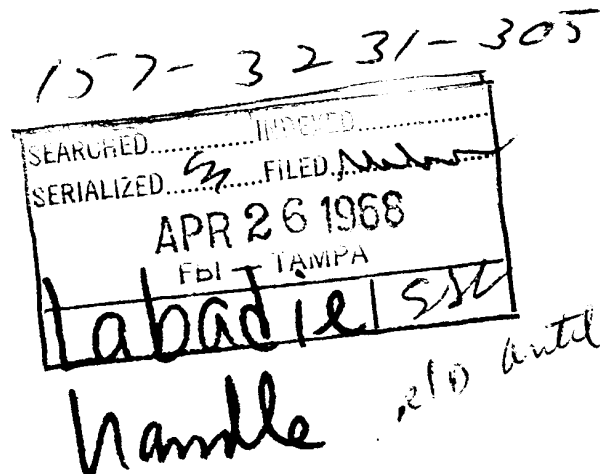
LANG was shown the identification order of the subject (JAMES EARL RAY) and he advised that it (the identification order) looks quite a bit like the JAMES RAY whom he knew in the Jacksonville area, but this photograph depicts a person who has gained much weight.

MR. LANG described the JAMES RAY who he knew as follows:

② - Tampa
EJK:fw
(2) *fw*



5010-108



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

TP 157-3231

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	35 to 40
Height	5 feet 10
Weight	125
Hair	Dark

He stated that he is not certain that the identification order is the same as the JAMES RAY whom he knew.

LANG explained that while he was employed at the Clerk's Office at Duval County, the RAY brothers, each of whom were married and each of whom had families, obtained control of one of the volunteer fire departments, in particular the Oakwood Community Volunteer Fire Department. During the course of examination of the records of the department, it was determined that the inventories were false and subsequently the Oakwood Community Volunteer Fire Department was disbanded and moved to another location in order to get the RAY brothers out of it.

MR. LANG advised that the signature on the identification order also looks somewhat like the signature of the JAMES RAY whom he knew. He further stated that the family came from the St. Louis, Missouri, area. He has not seen or heard from any of the RAYs since he departed Duval County in June of 1966, and he has no information whatsoever which might be of assistance in locating the family other than the information as set forth above. He advised that his only contact with them was because he was a member of the Clerk's Office of the Duval County Courthouse.

On 4/24/68, Sergeant W. SOURS, Punta Gorda PD, was contacted regarding this matter and was furnished

TP 157-3231

additional identification orders. He was unable to furnish any information of value.

LEAD

TAMPA

AT TAMPA, FLA.

It is requested that the Agent to whom this case is assigned review all background information pertaining to RAY to ascertain if he might be identical to the JAMES RAY about whom ALFRED T. LANG furnished information and, if so, submit leads to the Jacksonville Office.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Gavia Lawrence

Did Castro Hire Dr. King's Killer?

WASHINGTON — Who hired the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.? This is the challenging question being discussed behind the scenes as the law enforcement agencies of the Federal, state and local governments are combining their efforts to capture the fugitive.

Suspicion points in the direction of Castro's Cuba, where the Red Chinese brand of communism is popular. It relies heavily on terrorism, political bombings and guerrilla tactics. A small clique of criminals has been engaging in conspiracies to carry on these activities in other countries in this hemisphere. Within the past three years there have been attempted assassinations in Brazil and Bolivia and actual assassinations in Venezuela and Guatemala. In each case, a high official or former official active in public affairs was the target.

THE FBI on Monday night sent out an order to police in Florida to be on the lookout for and pick up Eric Starvo Galt, the prime suspect in the killing of Dr. King.

An exhaustive check of fingerprints shows that Galt is the same person as James Earl Ray, who escaped from the Missouri state penitentiary in April, 1967. An examination of Ray's crime record — covering a number of years and imprisonment several times — gives the impression that he is not an overly intelligent individual. His fellow prisoners say he was fanatically eager to accumulate money by any means possible. He was the type of man who might readily have been enticed by the prospect of being paid a large sum if he disposed of Dr. King.

It seems unlikely that any of the racial groups inside the United States would have taken the risk of hiring someone to kill the Negro minister, particularly when there are so many other leaders to carry on with even more intensity the campaign he started. The search for a motive, therefore, turns toward the international side.

WHAT ADVANTAGE would it be to the Communists, for example, to trigger Negro ~~re~~ by the killing of Dr.

King and thus provoke disorders throughout the United States? Obviously, the assassination of one of the principal Negro leaders would cause deep emotion to be manifested and increase bitterness between the races. The Communists would look upon this as the fulfillment of one of their objectives.

The Red Chinese especially would like to see America in such great disorder that the government here would turn its attention from military operations in Vietnam and be compelled to concentrate on the home front.

Cuba as a base of operations is rather handy for the Communists. Their agents can come and go almost at will throughout the hemisphere. Several times in recent weeks planes have been hijacked over Florida and flown to Havana. Definite proof has been obtained that some of the troublemakers detected in different Latin-American countries had come from Cuba and had been trained in provoking disorders. It is natural, therefore, for law enforcement agencies here to assume that the killer of Dr. King either has escaped to Cuba or is hiding in Florida in the hope of being smuggled to Havana.

A LARGE AMOUNT of reward money, totaling more than \$100,000, has been offered for the capture of the assassin. Many people do not realize that a portion of the fund would go to anyone who furnished a clue which could lead to the capture of either Eric Starvo Galt or his fellow conspirators. A small bit of information might prove very significant and result directly or indirectly in the arrest of the murderer. The wide publicity given the pictures of the suspected assassin is part of the effort to remind people who may have had some contact with the killer that the knowledge they possess could be of value in piecing together the story of what happened prior to the assassination.

A belief prevails here that Galt or Ray — whatever the name he uses — was not himself capable of planning the crime and that he must have had the guidance, if not the assistance, of other persons in a conspiracy. The general feeling now among those officials studying the case is that the killer was hired and was promised a large sum of money to perpetrate the crime.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 18-A
TAMPA TRIBUNE
TAMPA, FLORIDA

Date: 4/25/68
Edition: LOCAL
Author:
Editor: JAMES A. CLENDINEN
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: TAMPA
☐ Being Investigated

157-3231-305

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FBI — TAMPA	



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Maybe Ray Wasn't Loner

By MAX LERNER

Consider the man called James Earl Ray, who also seems to have used a number of other names, among them Eric Starvo Galt, and is now the target of a vast manhunt. When Martin Luther King was killed, the first widespread impulse — which I shared with others — was to assume that the bullet had been governed by the assassin's passion of racist hatred.



LERNER

I wrote that the man, like the act, had been "sick, sick," but if Ray is in fact the man who pulled the trigger — and obviously that must remain an "if" until all the evidence is in — the theory of a single hate-governed assassin may not hold up.

Another theory, which cannot be ignored and is gaining some credence, is that it was a "contract job," much like any gangland murder, with some petty criminal punk serving as the gunman, but also with precise planning for the murder and getaway.

This does not rule out racist hatred on the part of the gunman himself, who may have lent himself more readily to the killing because it jibed with his own twisted broodings about how to set the world right, but it puts the focus not only on the killer but on whatever other men used him.

FROM THIS ANGLE of vision many of the details now emerging about Ray — his criminal convictions, his jail terms and escape, his travels, his bank account, his purchases and expenditures — seem to fall into a meaningful pattern. The trail will probably cool and warm again a number of times before the FBI catches up with him — if it ever does. For Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark's early description of the killer as "a lone man on the run" may no longer be true.

It seems probable now that he was not a lone man, and he may no longer be on the run. If, in fact, there were others who used him for their purposes, his capture now would be intolerable to them, and the indicated course for them would be to kill him before he can be caught. If they are not able to — and that, too, is possible — his capture should uncover quite a story.

Inevitably, of course, one thinks of another killer in another assassination — that of John Kennedy — which has not been cleared up in the minds of many people and may never be wholly resolved. There is even the weird coincidence in the evidence that Galt-Ray made one or several trips to New Orleans, which awakens memories of Lee Harvey Oswald's stay in that city, and of the erratic efforts of Jim Garrison to prove a New Orleans conspiracy using Oswald as a "patsy" and to hang it on the CIA and the FBI.

It all adds up to a climate of conspiracy along with the climate of hate. It is well to be on our guard against both. There is hot violence and there is cold violence — the kind that springs out of massive anger and the kind that comes from calculated plan.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 21-A
TAMPA TIMES
TAMPA, FLORIDA

Date: 4/25/68

Edition: LOCAL

Author:

Editor: C. W. JOHNSON

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44

Submitting Office: TAMPA

☐ Being Investigated

SENT TO BU. / 68
4/26/68

157-3231-307

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

FBI TAMPA

733727PM URGENT 4-24-68 BJP

TO ALL SACS - RELAY MESSAGE PLAN

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

MURKIN

CONTACTS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED WITH ALL MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN YOUR TERRITORY TO INSURE THAT THERE IS FREQUENT REFERENCE TO RAY AND HIS CONNECTION WITH THIS CASE.

SINCE YOU HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN ADVISED THAT JAMES EARL RAY IS IDENTICAL WITH ERIC STARVO GALT AND YOU HAVE BEEN FURNISHED IO'S AND WANTED FLYERS ON RAY, YOU ARE TO BE CERTAIN THAT ALL APPROPRIATE STOPS HAVE BEEN RENEWED ON JAMES EARL RAY AND UNDER ALL OF HIS KNOWN ALIASES AS SET FORTH ON THE IO'S AND WANTED FLYERS. THIS IS TO INSURE THAT THE BUREAU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED IF THE SUBJECT IS ARRESTED OR COMES TO THE ATTENTION OF AUTHORITIES WITH WHOM STOPS PLACED.

OFFICES COVERING DEPARTURE OR ARRIVAL OF OVERSEAS FLIGHTS SHOULD HAVE RENEWED STOPS AND SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPH SHOULD BE DISPLAYED APPROPRIATELY.

END PAGE ONE

Belanger advised 7:55 PM
Pitchey 8:20 PM (Tully advised as
11:32 PM (Tully will be in
Barnett 11:32 PM Tampa 4/25/68)
Harner 9:00 PM
Hofley 8:15 PM
Burns 9:30
R. Smith 8:30 PM
Labadie 8:07 PM

157-3231-308

Labadie

*We need out top for
rechecked (4/25/68) &
this copy to review, radio, TV & law end.*

PAGE TWO

ALL OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION
AT ALL "HIPPIE" ROOMING HOUSES AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS TO
OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION WHATSOEVER CONCERNING RAY.

APPROPRIATE LEGATS BEING ADVISED SEPARATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

ROB

FBI TAMPA

TU

Note: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Subject's name and aliases MICHAEL RANDOLPH LUND		Address of subject		Character of case 79-0	
Complainant BERNICE LUND		Complainant's address and telephone number 7605 Laverne Clairmell Tampa 626-1052		Complaint received ☐ Personal ☒ Telephonic Date <u>4-24-68</u> Time <u>7:45 PM</u>	
Subject's Description	Race W	Sex ☒ Male ☐ Female	Height 5' 5"	Hair brown	Build
	Age 16		Weight 145	Eyes brown	Complexion
	Scars, marks or other data				

Facts of complaint

One week ago the subject disappeared with Don Hartley, (17 yrs old, address 3415 Santiago, Tampa). The subject is the complainant son but is in the custody of her x-husband Dr Lund address in Briarwood here in Tampa. Neither boy has been seen since last Wednesday. Hartleys grandfather, Mr. Young who lives at 3415 Santiago advised Bernice Lund he has reason to believe that the two boys left with and individual whom he believes to identical with James Earl Ray, in a 1968 Yellow Camaro, lic. state not verified #365-171. This Unsub claims to have been in Birmingham about two weeks ago. He was staying in a "Hippie" apartment house behind the Santiago address.

Complainant was advised of Bureau policy re missing person investigations and advised she was going to contact the TPD.

#4 advised 7:55 PM
SA Zuberlie 7:59 PM

2 copies to
open 79 new

157-3231-309

as memo

Action Recommended

NC ROBERT J. O'BRIEN

(Agent)

1. Labadie
Semenov re Muckin
Angle
#4 B

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : SA S. J. LABADIE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Mrs. BERNICE LUND, 7603 Lavender, Clair Mel City, Tampa, Fla. was contacted and interviewed at her residence about 9:30 PM April 24, 1968. She stated she had not anticipated the FBI to contact her. She was advised that the FBI desired to exhibit to her a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, aka. to determine if he had any connection with her missing son. She related she had not read any of the newspapers of late and was not familiar with the KING murder case. She was exhibited a W.F. of RAY and stated she had never seen anyone similiar.

Mrs. LUND advised that she is divorced from her husband, JACK LUND and JACK LUND was given the two sons. JACK LUND has since re-married a young, twenty-three year old, airline hostess, and troubles have ensued in the LUND family. Her sone MICHAEL RANDOLPH LUND, 16 years of age, 5'5, 145 lbs. was last known to her to have been employed washing cars at Britton Plaza car wash with a boy she has now determined to be DON HARTLEY who reportedly lives at 3415 Santiago Tampa with his grandfather, a Mr. YOUNG, about 55-60 years of age. She has since the disappearance of her son, MICHAEL, been calling around and trying to find out something. She said she now understood that MICHAEL and DON HARTLEY have apparently taken off for parts unknown as of Wednesday, April 17, 1968 and they haven'tt been seen since. She said MICHAEL has done this before and they have had to "fly him back."

Mrs. LUND stated she has been told now that DON HARTLEY reported his parents had been killed in an automobile accident and the driver of the car was a negro. She said in trying to find out something about her son she talked telephonically with Mr. YOUNG, whom she described as "all of them are ignorant people", and the most she could find out was that there had been a yellow Camaro, bearing license 365-171, State Unknown, parked in an apartment house dwelling area in the rear of Mr. YOUNG's - also a Cadillac was mentioned - and these cars had not been seen in the apartment house area since April 17, 1968 and it was assumed the two boys could have gone off with the cars or with whoever had them. She said Mr. YOUNG had reported the above to the Police Dept. when she tried to find out who had been in the apartment area from YOUNG, he told her people lived there who resembled different persons, and that he had given all information to the Police and poss. resembled the fellow's picture who had been in the



5010-108

2

157-3231

1-79-252

SJL

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 26 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

157- 3231- 310

Mrs. LUND stated she works at MacDill AFB and came to Tampa about one year ago from Oregon. She said she formerly worked in the Internal Revenue Service Office in Jacksonville, Florida. She said she had reported her missing son to the Tampa Police Dept. She related that she had to go to work early in the morning and she still had her hair to do (it was all up wrapped in towel), and she was advised she would be contacted subsequently relative to the FBI assistance in placing fingerprint and name stops in the Identification Bureau. She said she would subsequently have a photograph of her son available.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

4-23-68 307 HJC

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 WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Army	James Earl Ray [REDACTED]	February 19, 1946		
Sheriff's Office Los Angeles, California	James Earl Ray #B-119908	October 11, 1949	suspicion of burglary	
Police Department Los Angeles, California	James Earl Ray #139648	October 11, 1949	suspicion 459 Penal Code (burglary)	8 months County Jail suspended; 2 years probation served; first 90 days County Jail; 146 December 30, 1949 Cs129438
Sheriff's Office Cedar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	April 18, 1950	vagrancy	
Police Department Alton, Illinois	James Earl Ray #7514	July 23, 1951	no operator's license - no State License - no City License	released to pay later
Police Department Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #D90696	May 6, 1952	robbery (Gun)	Grand Jury \$3000
Cook County Jail Chicago, Illinois	James Ray #131165	May 9, 1952	robbery	June 13, 1952 sentenced to penitentiary 1 to 2 years
State Penitentiary Joliet, Illinois	James E. Ray #32419	June 13, 1952	robbery	1 to 2 years
State Penitentiary Pontiac, Illinois	James E. Ray #19121	July 7, 1952 in transfer from Joliet	robbery	1 to 2 years March 12, 1953 discharged

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

John Edgar Hoover
 Director

157-3231-311

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>en</i>	FILED <i>en</i>
APR 24 1968	
FBI — TAMPA	

[Signature]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

4-23-68 307 HJC

2

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Sheriff's Office Edwardsville, Illinois	James Earl Ray #2640	August 30, 1954	burglary and larceny	
Police Department Hannibal, Missouri	James E. Ray #40714	March 23, 1955	investigation of breaking and entering Post Office	
State Highway Patrol Macon, Missouri	James Earl Ray #B-3376	March 23, 1955	cashing stolen postal money orders	released to Postal Inspector Kansas City, Missouri March 24, 1955
United States Marshal Kansas City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #12018	March 28, 1955	forgery United States Postal Money Order	sentenced to 15 months custody of Attorney General
Sheriff's Office Kansas City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #29637	March 28, 1955	Forgery - Government	July 7, 1955 3 years and 9 months
United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas	James Earl Ray #72498-L	July 7, 1955	Post Office Laws Forge Money Orders	3 years and 9 months May 20, 1958 conditional release March 25 1959 maximum April 5, 1959 conditional release on charge of Post Office forgery Post Office Money Orders
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #1071	October 10, 1959	suspicion of robbery	

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John Edgar Hoover
Director

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4-23-68 307 HJC

3

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #81071	October 16, 1959	suspicion of robbery stealing and fugitive other authorities	
State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri	Janes Earl Ray #00416	March 17, 1960	"TC" operating motor vehicle without permission of owner robbery first "b/m DDW" (2 charges)	20 years (20, 7, 5, concurrent)
State Hospital Number 1 Fulton, Missouri	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	September 8, 1966	Patient	

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John Edgar Hoover
Director

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4

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	WANTED: James Earl Ray for escape April 23, 1967 (operating motor vehicle without permission of owner; robbery first degree "b/m of a D & DW") (will extradite) Notify Warden State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri information received May 10, 1967.			

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John Edgar Hoover
Director

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1-Bureau

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	WANTED BY BUREAU: James Earl Ray, also known as, James McBride, James Walyon, W.C. Herron, James O'Conner, Jim, for unlawful flight to avoid custody-robbery first Fugitive Index #121426 Bureau file #38-41730 Office of Origin Kansas City information received July 27, 1967. CAUTION: ARMED AND DANGEROUS Alias: James Walton WANTED BY BUREAU: Eric Starvo Galt, also known as Harvey Lowmyer, John Willard, Civil Rights-Conspiracy Fugitive Index #127540 Bureau File #44-38861 Office of Origin Memphis. Information received April 19, 1968. CAUTION: ARMED AND DANGEROUS			
	WHEN IN A SUGGESTION NOT BE ASSUMED TO CHARGE SOURCE OF ORIGIN OF FINGERPRINTS.			

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John Edgar Hoover
Director

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Sheriff's Office Cedar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	April 18, 1950	vagrancy	

57-3231-311

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 24 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #1071	October 10, 1950	suspicion of robbery	Office Money Orders
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John Edgar Hoover
Director

4-23-68 307 HJC

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John Edgar Hoover

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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

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	NOTES: * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.			

John Edgar Hoover

SAC, TAMPA (100-1195) (C)

4/26/68

SA John E. HEGARTY

UNSUB
IS - C

Re memo of ~~SA~~ Clerk Ron Menitt 4/25/68.

ON 4/24/68 WILLARD L. Shingleton, 203 North Delaware Tampa Florida telephonically contacted the Tampa office and advised that he had some information pertaining to the national security and desired to talk with an SA.

Subsequently on 4/25/68 Shingleton again contacted the Tampa office and advised that he had talked to a man who resembled JAMES EARL RAY.

ON both occasions Shingleton appeared to be intoxicated.

ON 4/26/68 Shingleton was interviewed by SA Hegarty. He advised that he did not remember contacting the Tampa office on 4/24/68 and did not have any information to furnish concerning the national security.

Shingleton advised that on 4/25/68 he was drinking at the Retreat Tavern, Hyde Park Ave, Tampa, Florida and while at the bar, he saw an unknown individual who resembled Ray. The wanted flyer of James Earl Ray was exhibited to Shingleton at which time he stated that he was mistaken and the person he saw did not resemble RAY.

1-157-3231

157-3231 - 312

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>lm</i>	FILED <i>lm</i>
APR 26 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/25/68

FROM : RONALD P. MERRITT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

2-56-1

Mr. WILLARD L. SHINGLETON, 203 No. Delaware, Tampa, Fla., telephonically advised writer at 12:25 pm this date that he had just attempted to talk with a man who resembled that of JAMES EARL RAY. Complainant advised that this man was having a drink at one of the local Tampa bars and ran from complainant.

SHINGLETON further advised that he did not care to discuss this matter any further over the phone and requested that an agent contact him.

Writer advised SHINGLETON that his information would be furnished to a supervisor for appropriate action.

SHINGLETON appeared to be either drugged or intoxicated during conversation with writer.

RPM:cj
(2)

IP lead

157- 3231- 313

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 25 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Deputy
covered



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

F B I

Date: 4/27/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: SAC NEWARK (44-854)
 FROM: SAC TAMPA (157-3231) (P)
 MURKIN, CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE NEWARK TEL APR. TWENTY SEVEN INSTANT.

ON APR. TWENTYSEVEN INSTANT, J. RALPH CAMERO, OWNER, C & R AUTO SALES, FOUR THREE ONE SIX FLORIDA AVE., TAMPA, ADVISED DID NOT PURCHASE SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH FURY FROM AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC., AND EXHIBITED RECORDS FOR CARS PURCHASED FROM DEC. ONE LAST AND NO RECORD LOCATED OF INSTANT PLYMOUTH.

HENRY ERWIN, JR., THREE ZERO NINE BEN AVON DR., TEMPLE TERRACE, FLA., ADVISED AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC., PURCHASED A SIXTYEIGHT GALAXIE FIVE HUNDRED WHICH HE PICKED UP AT BILL CURRIE FORD, INC., FLORIDA AVE., TAMPA, FLA. IN DEC. SIXTYSEVEN. STATES HE TURNED OVER THE SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH STATION WAGON TO BILL CURRIE FORD AT TIME HE PICKED UP NEW VEHICLE. STATED AT TIME HE OFFERED TO BUY INSTANT STATION

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM) (Enc. 1)

1 - Savannah (AM)

1 - Tampa

JJG:nh

(3)

P

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 FILED 44

Approved: S/er
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent 8 35 M Per Ar

157- 3231 - 314

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Date:

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

(157-3231)

(PAGE TWO)

WAGON FROM CURRIE FORD FOR ONE THOUS^{AND} DOL^{LARS} BUT WAS LATER
INFORMED SAME WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS INSTANT VEHICLE HAD
BEEN SOLD FOR ELEVEN HUND^{RED} DOLLARS.

STEVE KOVACH, SALES MGR, CURRIE FORD, ADVISED SIXTYEIGHT
GALAXIE FIVE HUNDRED, ID NO. EIGHT N FIVE EIGHT ONE ONE
ONE FOUR THREE FOUR HANDLED UNDER BILL CURRIE FORD, INC.
SERVICE ORDER NO. TWO SEVEN SEVEN FIVE FOUR, DATED DEC.
EIGHTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN, FOR RICE AND HOLMAN SALES AND SERVICE,
UNION AVE. AND MOORESTOWN PIKE, PENNSAUKEN, N.J. STATES
RECORDS REVEAL INSTANT GALAXIE TURNED OVER TO HENRY ERWIN
AND THAT HE LEFT A SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH FURY, ID NO. P TWO
FIVE TWO TWO SIX SEVEN SIX ZERO EIGHT, HOWEVER RECORDS DO
NOT SHOW DISPOSITION OF INSTANT VEHICLE. STATES THIS IS
NORMAL PROCEDURE IN HANDLING OF FLEET AUTOS FOR OTHER
DEALERS. STATES HE BELIEVES HE RECALLS INSTANT PLYMOUTH
STATION WAGON AND THAT SAME WAS SOLD TO A DEALER FROM GA.,
BUT HAS NO RECORD TO VERIFY SAME. STATES THAT RICE AND
HOLMAN WOULD HAVE TO HAVE RECORD OF INSTANT PLYMOUTH TO

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Special Agent in Charge

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Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

(157-3231)

(PAGE THREE)

COMPLETE SALES TRANSACTION WITH AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC.

JIM CORBETT, FLEET SALES MGR., BILL CURRIE, FORD,
TAMPA, UNABLE TO BE LOCATED TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE HAS
ANY RECOLLECTION OF INSTANT VEHICLE OR NOT.

NEWARK DIV AT PENNSAUKEN, N.J. WILL CONTACT RICE AND
HOLMAN SALES AND SERVICE, TO ASCERTAIN FROM WHOM THEY
RECEIVED REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE SIXTYFIVE
PLYMOUTH TURNED IN BY ERWIN.

IF RICE AND HOLMAN UNABLE TO FURNISH FROM WHOM PAYMENT
RECEIVED, THEN AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC. SHOULD BE RECONTACTED
FOR SOURCE OF PAYMENT ON INSTANT PLYMOUTH.

AIRMAIL COPIES BEING FURNISHED SAVANNAH AND MEMPHIS
AND ALSO COPY OF RE NEWARK TELETYPE BEING FURNISHED MEMPHIS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI TAMPA

835 PM URGENT 4/17/68 ALS

TO NEWARK (44-854)

FROM TAMPA (157-3231) (P)

MURKIN, CR. OO: ME.

RE NEWARK TEL APRIL TWENTY SEVEN INSTANT.

ON APRIL TWENTYSEVEN INSTANT, J. RALPH CAMERO, OWNER, C & R AUTO SALES, FOUR THREE ONE SIX FLORIDA AVE., TAMPA, ADVISED DID NOT PURCHASE SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH FURY FROM AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC., AND EXHIBITED RECORDS FOR CARS PURCHASED FROM DEC. ONE LAST AND NO RECORD LOCATED OF INSTANT PLYMOUTH.

HENRY ERWIN, JR., THREE ZERO NINE BEN AVON DR., TEMPLE TERRACE, FLA., ADVISED AUTOMITIVE RENTALS, INC., PURCHASED A SIXTYEIGHT GALAXIE FIVE HUNDRED WHICH HE PICKED UP AT BILL CURRIE FORD, INC., FLORIDA AVE., TAMPA, FLA. IN DEC. SIXTYSEVEN. STATES HE TURNED OVER THE SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH STATION WAGON TO BILL CURRIE FORD AT TIME HE PICKED UP NEW VEHICLE. STATED AT TIME HE OFFERED TO BUY INSTANT STATION WAGON FROM CURRIE FORD FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS BUT WAS LATER INFORMED SAME WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE AS INSTANT VEHICLE HAD BEEN SOLD FOR ELEVEN HUNDRED DOLLARS.

END PAGE ONE

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157- 3231- 3/4

PAGE TWO

TP 157:3231

STEVE KOVACH, SALES MGR, CURRIE FORD, ADVISED SIXTYEIGHT GALAXIE FIVE HUNDRED, ID NO. EIGHT N FIVE EIGHT ONE ONE ONE FOUR THREE FOUR HANDLED UNDER BILL CURRIE FORD, INC. SERVICE ORDER NO. TWO SEVEN SEVEN FIVE FOUR, DATED DEC. EIGHTEEN, SIXTY-SEVEN, FOR RICE AND HOLMAN SALES AND SERVICE, UNION AVE. AND MOORESTOWN PIKE, PENNSAUKEN, N. J. STATES RECORDS REVEAL INSTANT GALAXIE TURNED OVER TO HENRY ERWIN AND THAT HE LEFT A SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH FURY, ID NO. P TWO FIVE TWO TWO SIX SEVEN SIX ZERO EIGHT, HOWEVER RECORDS TO NOT SHOW DISPOSITION OF INSTANT VEHICLE STATES THIS IS NORMAL PROCEDURE IN HANDLING OF FLEET AUTOS FOR OTHER DEALERS. STATES HE BELIEVES HE RECALLS INSTANT PLYMOUTH STATION WAGON AND THAT SAME WAS SOLD TO A DEALER FROM GA., BUT HAS NO RECORD TO VERIFY SAME. STATES THAT RICE AND HOLMAN WOULD HAVE RECORD OF INSTANT PLYMOUTH TO COMPLETE SALES TRANSACTION WITH AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC.

JIM CORBETT, FLEET SALES MGR., BILL CURRIE FORD, TAMPA, UNABLE TO BE LOCATED TO DETERMINE WHETHER HE HAS ANY RECOLLECTION OF INSTANT VEHICLE OR NOT.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

TP 157-3231

NEWARK DIVISION AT PANNSAUKEN, N. J. WILL CONTACT RICE AND HOLMAN SALES AND SERVICE, TO ASCERTAIN FROM WHOM THEY RECEIVED REIMBURSEMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF THE SIXTYFIVE PLYMOUTH TURNED IN BY ERWIN.

IF RICE AND HOLMAN UNABLE TO FURNISH FROM WHOM PAYMENT RECEIVED THEN AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC. SHOULD BE RECONTACTED FOR SOURCE OF PAYMENT ON INSTANT PLYMOUTH.

AIRMAIL COPIES BEING FURNISHED SAVANNAH AND MEMPHIS AND ALSO COPY OF RE NEWARK TELETYPE BEING FURNISHED MEMPHIS.

END

JON

FBI NEWARK

4/24/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231-284) (P)

MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

ReATairtel to Bureau, 4/22/68.

Car recoveries in Tampa Division checked during referenced period with negative results. All vehicles recovered in near future will be given same consideration.

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis
1 - Birmingham (Info)
1 - Atlanta (Info)
1 - Tampa
DPJ:oj
(8)

ASAC WBS
Info

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INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED CS
FILED mm

157- 3231- 315

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861), SACs BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS, *MIAMI*
 FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)
 MURKIN, CR, OO: MEMPHIS.

DAVID O. CONGER, THE THIRD, EIGHT SIX NINE SEVEN DASH
 ONE ONE SEVEN ST., NORTH, LARGO, FLA., ADVISED ON APRIL
 TWENTY FOUR INSTANT, THAT ON APRIL EIGHT LAST, HE HAD
 FLOWN FROM MIAMI, FLA., TO ST. CROIX, VIRGIN ISLANDS ON
 PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT NO. FOUR TWO NINE, DEPARTING MIAMI
 NINE THIRTY A.M. ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL ABOARD THIS FLIGHT
 RESEMBLED THE ARTIST CONCEPTION OF ERIC STARVO GALT, WHICH
 WAS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER. COPIES OF IO AND WANTED
 FLYER DISPLAYED TO CONGER AND STATES HE DOES NOT BELIEVE
 INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL RAY, HOWEVER, NOT
 CERTAIN. CONGER STATED THIS INDIVIDUAL SEATED IN TOURIST
 CABIN AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SEATED IN SEAT SEVEN
 F, IF SEATS ARE NUMBERED FROM REAR OF CABIN OR SEAT
 NINE F IF NUMBERED FROM FRONT OF CABIN. THIS INDIVIDUAL

1 - Tampa
 JDL:ay
 (1)

1. Send

2. File

SEARCHED
 INDEXED
 SERIALIZED
 FILED

Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

Per _____

mm 405
 WA 408
 BL 420
 ME 425

157-3231-316

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

READING AN ELECTRONICS MAGAZINE, SIMILAR TO POPULAR MECHANICS. CONGER EXPLAINED HE DID NOT OBSERVE THIS INDIVIDUAL CLOSELY AND COULD ONLY DESCRIBE HIM AS A W M, FORTY YEARS, DARK THIN HAIR, COMBED STRAIGHT BACK, AND DID NOT APPEAR TYPE TO BE TRAVELING TO ST. CROIX. CONGER APPEARS TO HAVE SOMEWHAT OF A QUOTE DETECTIVE COMPLEX END QUOTE.

MIAMI AT MIAMI, FLA., WILL OBTAIN PASSENGER MANIFEST AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED ABOVE TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

408PM URGENT 4-24-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), BIRMINGHAM , MIAMI AND MEMPHIS
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN, CR, OO MEMPHIS.

DAVID O. CONGER, THE THIRD, EIGHT SIX NINE SEVEN -
ONE ONE SEVEN ST., NORTH, LARGO, FLA., ADVISED ON APRIL
TWENTY FOUR INSTANT, THAT ON APRIL EIGHT LAST, HE HAD
FLOWN FROM MIAMI, FLA., TO ST. CROIX, VIRGIN ISLANDS ON
PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT NO. FOUR TWO NINE, DEPARTING MIAMI
NINE THIRTY AM. ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL ABOARD THIS FLIGHT
RESEMBLED THE ARTIST CONCEPTION OF ERIC STARVO GALT, WHICH
WAS PUBLISHED IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER. COPIES OF IO AND WANTED
FLYER DISPLAYED TO CONGER AND STATES HE DOES NOT BELIEVE
INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL RAY, HOWEVER, NOT
CERTAIN. CONGER STATED THIS INDIVIDUAL SEATED IN TOURIST
CABIN AND IS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN SEATED IN SEAT SEVEN
F, IF SEATS ARE NUMBERED FROM REAR OF CABIN OR SEAT
NINE F IF NUMBERED FROM FRONT OF CABIN. THIS INDIVIDUAL
END PAGE ONE

*ccs FBI Miami (P 94)
FBI Birmingham (L J D)
FBI Memphis (MCP)
all dest. info*

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INDEXED	<u>cm</u>
SERIALIZED	<u>cm</u>
FILED	<u>cm</u>

157-3231-316

PAGE TWO

READING AN ELECTRONICS MAGAZINE, SIMILAR TO POPULAR MECHANICS. CONGER EXPLAINED HE DID NOT OBSERVE THIS INDIVIDUAL CLOSELY AND COULD ONLY DESCRIBED HIM AS A W/M, FORTY YEARS, DARK, THIN HAIR, COMBED STRAIGHT BACK, AND DID NOT APPEAR TYPE TO BE TRAVELING TO ST. CROIX. CONGER APPEARS TO HAVE SOMEWHAT OF A "DETECTIVE COMPLEX."

MIAMI AT MIAMI, FLA. WILL OBTAIN PASSENGER MANIFEST AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY INDIVIDUAL MENTIONED ABOVE TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

WPK

FBI WASH DC

F B I

Date: 4/25/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND
ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Atlanta airtel to Director, 4/22/68.

3 - Bureau	2 - Jackson	2 - Phoenix
2 - Albany	2 - Jacksonville	2 - Pittsburgh
2 - Albuquerque	2 - Kansas City	2 - Portland
2 - Anchorage	2 - Knoxville	2 - Richmond
2 - Baltimore	2 - Las Vegas	2 - Sacramento
2 - Birmingham	2 - Little Rock	2 - St. Louis
2 - Boston	2 - Los Angeles	2 - Salt Lake City
2 - Buffalo	2 - Louisville	2 - San Antonio
2 - Butte	2 - Memphis	2 - San Diego
2 - Charlotte	2 - Miami	2 - San Francisco
2 - Chicago	2 - Milwaukee	2 - San Juan
2 - Cincinnati	2 - Minneapolis	2 - Savannah
2 - Cleveland	2 - Mobile	2 - Seattle
2 - Columbia	2 - Newark	2 - Springfield
2 - Dallas	2 - New Haven	2 - Tampa
2 - Denver	2 - New Orleans	2 - WFO
2 - Detroit	2 - New York	2 - Atlanta
2 - El Paso	2 - Norfolk	JLL:rjb
2 - Honolulu	2 - Oklahoma City	(119)
2 - Houston	2 - Omaha	
2 - Indianapolis	2 - Philadelphia	

Approved: TP cm

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per Joyce