

AT 44-2386

For information those offices not receiving reairtel, it was pointed out therein that Subject JAMES EARL RAY, aka. was last known to be in the Atlanta, Georgia, area on 4/5/68. Intensive investigation by Atlanta to date has not established mode of transportation RAY may have used after 4/5/68. Receiving Offices were requested in reairtel to check cars recovered their division that were stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 4/4/68, and where the transporter of same was not identified or otherwise accounted for, investigation should be conducted to determine if RAY was person who may have stolen and transported same.

Investigation reflects Subject RAY can be placed in the Atlanta, Georgia, area 3/24/68.

In view of the above, all Continental Offices are requested to review car recoveries within their respective territories of cars stolen from the State of Georgia subsequent to 3/23/68, and where the transporter of same is not otherwise eliminated or accounted for, consider Subject RAY as suspect. Where there is any remote indication that Subject RAY may have been person transporting such a car, exhaustive and intensive investigation should thereafter be conducted.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

4/26/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

Re Atlanta airtel to Director, 4/25/68.

All car recoveries subsequent to 3/23/68 in
Tampa Division reviewed with negative results.

3 - Bureau
1 - Atlanta (info) (44-3286)
1 - Memphis (info) (44-1987)
1 - Tampa
DPJ:bjn
(6)

[Handwritten signature]

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED 4
FILED 3

317 A

157-3231-358

4/26/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Memphis airtel to all continental offices
dated 4/19/68.

Enclosed for the FBI Laboratory are three
samples of laundry marks "20 R-3" on yellow marking
tape as manufactured by the Textile Marking Company,
Syracuse, New York for comparison with similar
tapes described in re airtel.

For information Bureau and Memphis, above
samples obtained 4/25/68 from Winter Park laundry
161 West Fairbanks Avenue, Winter Park, Florida.
Owner signifies week of the year, in this instance week
of January 7, 1968 and number "3" indicates bundle
number.

Search of records determined customer
with this symbol was Mrs. K. B. KING, 247 Virginia
Drive, Winter Park, Florida.

3-Bureau (Encls 3) (RM)
2-Memphis
1-Tampa
RCB:sas
(6)

SEARCHED _____
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SERIALIZED by
FILED by

157- 3231- 318

TP 157-3231

Mrs. KING contacted 4/26/68 advised she is not missing any sheets and upon being shown I.O. for JAMES EARL RAY stated this person unknown to her.

4/24/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

[Handwritten star]
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231-264)
MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

RE: SUSPECT DENNIS A. HOLT

ReNYtel to TP, 4/22/68.

City and telephone directories, Clearwater, Fla., reflect DENNIS A. HOLT, 3262 San Pedro, Clearwater, telephone #726-2348, is operator of Holt Motors, 2107 U. S. Highway 19 South, Clearwater, telephone #531-2939 and 531-3162.

Pretext inquiry at Holt Motors reflected that HOLT is on vacation and is not expected to return for possibly one week.

Mrs. DENNIS A. HOLT, 3262 San Pedro, Clearwater, advised that her husband departed from Miami on Thursday, April 18, 1968, accompanied by a minister and possibly another individual to serve as an interpreter, en route to Brazil and other parts of South America in connection with missionary work. Mrs. HOLT observed photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, aka, and stated that he does not bear even a remote resemblance to her husband.

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Miami (Info)
1 - New York (Info)
1 - Tampa
JJR:cj
(8)

*Relates to
Ser. 264*

SEARCHED _____
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FILED *2*

157-3231-319

TP 157-3231-264

Miss PATTY LANIER, Pinellas Co. SO, Clearwater, advised that DENNIS ALVIN HOLT was arrested 3/30/67 on request of Manatee County, Fla. No charge shown. She said that HOLT, Pinellas County SO #54008, is described as a white male, born [REDACTED], Clearwater, Fla., 5'11", 160 lbs., brown hair, blue eyes, ruddy complexion, residence 3262 San Pedro, Clearwater. She said HOLT was fingerprinted at the time and return was received from the Identification Division of the FBI indicating no prior record.

4/28/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Memphis airtel to all continental
offices dated 4/19/68.

Referenced airtel reflects the FBI advised
that pillow case and bed sheet located in
Atlanta on 4/11/68 contained Thermo-seal laundry
tapes, yellow in color, containing the code
"20E-3" with the first three characters of the code
being 15 point type and the last two characters
being 18 point type.

Enclosed herewith for the FBI Laboratory
are four pages of sample laundry marks bearing the
code, "20E-3" as made by four Thermo-seal machines,
located at the Oak Park Cleaners, 3210 East Broadway,
Tampa, Florida on 4/25/68. These machines contained
the serial numbers 31689, 31693, 31781, and
32140, and produce a five character laundry mark
with the first three characters being a 15 point type
and the last two characters 18 point type.

3-Bureau (Encls 4) (RM)
1-Memphis (Info) (44-1987)
1-Birmingham (Info) (44-1740)
2-Tampa
BDD:sas
(7)

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157- 3231- 320
328

TP 157-3231

The laboratory is requested to compare the enclosed samples of laundry tapes with the laundry tapes mentioned in referenced airtel to determine if they have been produced by the same machine.

F B I

Date: 4/27/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)
SAC PITTSBURGH

FROM: SAC TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN.

RE BUTEL ALL SACS APRIL TWENTY SIX LAST AND BUTEL TO
TAMPA APR TWENTYSIX LAST.BUTEL TO TP ADVISED INFO CONTAINED IN MAIN FILE ON
KING THAT BY LETTER TO DIRECTOR, DEC. TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYTHREE,
TP OFFICE REPORTED THAT ONE RICHARD RUSSELL BALL ALLEGEDLY
STATED THE ATTORNEY GENL. AND KING "WOULD GET THEIRS" WITHIN
THIRTY DAYS.BALL INTERVIEWED DEC. SIXTEEN, SIXTYTHREE AND ADVISED HE
HAD BEEN SO DRUNK HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION HE HAD SAID ANYTHING
ABOUT ATTN. GENL. OR KING, NEVER THREATENED ANYONE, DID NOT
OWN A GUN, AND ANY STATEMENT MADE WITHOUT INTENT. AT SUCH
TIME BALL WAS TRUCK DRIVER FOR COASTAL REFRIGERATION SERVICE,
NINE ZERO FIVE E. LAFAYETTE, TAMPA.NO COASTAL REFRIGERATION SERVICE LISTED IN CURRENT
TAMPA CITY AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES, NOR IS RICHARD RUSSELL
BALL. NO RECORD BALL TAMPA PD, NOR SO.1 - TAMPA
SJJ:nhSEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
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FILED by
PApproved: S/PR
Special Agent in ChargeSent WA 2 45 PM
PG 2 44 PM M Per cmj

157-3231-321

F B I

Date:

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

(157-3231)

(PAGE TWO)

BALL, IN NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE, DESCRIBED WHITE, MALE,
BORN [REDACTED], ROCKPORT, W. VA., SIX FT. ONE IN.,
ONE SEVENTY FIVE LBS., MARRIED, WIFE AND CHILDREN RESIDED
FOUR EIGHT ZERO ONE FIRST AVE., PARKERSBURG, W. VA., WHERE
THEY RESIDED PAST TWELVE YEARS.

PITTSBURG, AT PARKERSBURG, ASCERTAIN PRESENT LOCATION,
WHEREABOUTS BALL AND CONDUCTED INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE
IF HE MAY BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR AND THOROUGHLY
RESOLVE AS INSTRUCTED REBUTEL ALL SACS.

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

FBI WASH DC

2:45 PM URGENT 4-27-68 CNJ
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND PITTSBURGH
FROM TAMPA (L57-3231) 2P

MURKIN

RE BUTEL ALL SACS APRIL TWENTY SIX LAST AND BUTEL TO
TAMPA APRIL TWENTYSIX LAST.

BUTEL TO TP ADVISED INFO CONTAINED IN MAIN FILES ON
KING THAT BY LETTER TO DIRECTOR DEC. TWENTYTHREE, SIXTHTHREE,
TP OFFICE REPORTED THAT ONE RICHARD RUSSELL BALL ALLEGEDLY
STATED THE ATTORNEY GENL. AND KING "WOULD GET THEIRS" WITHIN
THRITY DAYS.

BALL INTERVIEWED DEC. SIXTEEN, SIXTHTHREE AND ADVISED HE
HAD BEEN SO DRUNK HE HAD NO RECOLLECTION HE HAD SAID ANYTHING
ABOUT ATTN. GENL. OR KING, NEVER THREATENED ANYONE, DID NOT
OWN A GUN, AND ANY STATEMENT MADE WITHOUT INTENT. AT SUCH
TIME BALL WAS TRUCK DRIVER FOR COASTAL REFRIGERATION SERVICE,
NINE ZERO FIVE E, LAFAYETTE, TAMPA.

NE COASTAL REFRIGERATION SERVICE LISTED IN CURRENT
TAMPA CITY AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES, NOR IS RICHARD RUSSELL
BALL. NO RECORD BALL TAMPA PD, NOR SO.

END PAGE ONE

*cc FBI Pittsburgh (SAM)
dist. sub*

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157- 3231- 321

PAGE TWO

BALL, IN NINETUOO SIXTYTHREE, DESCRIBED WHITE, MALE,
BORN [REDACTED], ROCKPORT, W. VA., SIX FT. ONE IN.,
ONE SEVENTY FIVE LBS., MARRIED, WIFE AND CHILDREN RESIDED
FOUR EIGHT ZERO ONE FIRST AVE., PARKERSBURG, W. VA., WHERE
THEY RESIDED PAST TWELVE YEARS.

PITTSBURGH, AT PARKERSBURG, ASCERTAIN PRESENT LOCATION
WHEREABOUTS BALL AND CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE
IF HE MAY BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR AND THOROUGHLY
RESOLVE AS INSTRUCTED REBUTEL ALL SACS.

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

KBJ

X

FBI TAMPA

FBI PITTSBGH

R3X PM@ 4/29/68 URGENT RAN

TO DIRECTOR AND TAMPA

FROM PITTSBURGH (44-578)

MURKIN, CR, OO: MEMPHIS.

RE TAMPA TEL BUREAU< FOUR T-ENTYSEVEN LAST.

SUSPECT RICHARD RUSSELL BALL>

INVESTIGATION PARKERSBURG, --VA., FOUR T-ENTYSEVEN LAST<
DISCLOSED RESIDENCE LOCATED AT FOUR EIGHT ZERO ONE FIRST AVE>,
VACANT AT THIE TIME.

NO CURRENT RECORD CITY AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES LOCATED
IDENTIFIABLE WITH RICHARD RUSSELL BALL.

INVESTIGATION AT POST OFFICE, PARKERSBURG, FOUR TWENTYNINE<
INSTANT, DISCLOSED CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR BALL DATED AUGUST
FOURTEEN SIXTYFOUR, GIVING NE- ADDRESS OF THREE FOUR SIX ZERO
DORREEN DRIVE, LAKE LAND< FLA.

TAMPA AT LAKE LAND< FLA.< ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW
BALL RE INFO SET OUT IN RETEL>

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIR MAIL MEMPHIS. to

PENDING.

END

DPD

FBI TAMPA

file w/
lakeland lead
157-3231-321A
Guinness

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APR 29 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Guinness

F B I

Date: 4/26/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) ^{SAC's} MEMPHIS (44-1987),
BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) HOUSTON
KANSAS CITY (44-760)

From: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN

BOB FELLOWS, NEWSMAN, W.F.L.A. CHANNEL THIRTEEN, TAMPA ADVISED THIS DATE HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY A SOURCE, WHOSE RELIABILITY IS UNKNOWN, AS TO DESIRING TO FIND OUT IF CHANNEL 13 WAS INTERESTED IN PAYING ~~ANY~~ MONEY FOR INTERVIEW WITH A PERSON WHO KNEW JAMES EARL RAY, AKA. FELLOWS SAID SOURCE CALLED HOUSTON, TEXAS FOR A GEORGE RUSSELL, EMPLOYED REPORTEDLY ^{When source} TRAILER SALES. ⁱⁿ DID NOT GET ANSWER, CALLED ~~THE~~ (FNU) STORZ, SUPPOSEDLY SOURCE'S SISTER, WHO LIVES NEXT DOOR TO TRAILER SALES. SOURCE SAID GEORGE RUSSELL SERVED TIME IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON AND HAS KNOWN RAY SOME YEARS. FELLOWS ADVISED SOURCE HIS TV STATION NOT INTERESTED BUT PERHAPS C.B.S. ATLANTA MAY BE INTERESTED.

SEARCHED _____
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FILED ca

* SQL MS
Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

WA 405P
Me 408
BH 414P
HO 420M
KC 420P

157-3231-322

F B I

Date:

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

~~AFTER ABOVE INFORMATION FURNISHED,~~ FELLOWS ^{Then}
~~RECONTACTED SOURCE~~ ^{who} ~~AND TALKED WITH SOURCE~~
~~CALLED SHE~~ CALLED HOUSTON TELEPHONE
 MI THREE THREE THREE FIVE ZERO AND Reached ^{RUSSELL}
 FELLOWS ASKED RUSSELL IF HE WOULD TALK TO
 C.B.S. NEWSMAN ABOUT KNOWLEDGE OF RAY and
 RUSSELL SAID "HELL NO". FELLOWS SAID SOURCE
 REPORTED RUSSELL TO BE ^{HER} BROTHER ~~AND HE~~ who
 SERVED time ⁱⁿ MISSOURI STATE PRISON 1957 until 1967.

TAMPA OFFICE RECORDS SHOW JUAREZ ROETTGER
 CALLED TAMPA OFFICE NOVEMBER 1967 AND ADVISED BROTHER,
 GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, LIVING IN HOUSTON, MAY BE
 WANTED BY F.B.I., TELETYPE SENT BUREAU, ST. LOUIS AND
 HOUSTON NOVEMBER 19, 1967 UNDER HIS NAME AND
 BUREAU AND ST. LOUIS ADVISED RUSSELL NOT WANTED.

KANSAS CITY ^{AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO.} DETERMINE IF RUSSELL SERVED
 time with RAY.

HOUSTON INTERVIEW RUSSELL AS ^{former fellow} ~~JUST ONE~~
~~PRISONER OF RAY~~ FELLOWS DOES NOT DESIRE SOURCE
 (JUAREZ ROETTGER) BE INVOLVED,

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

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

405PM URGENT 4-26-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, HOUSTON, AND KANSAS CITY
FROM TAMPA (157-3231) 2P

MURKIN

BOB FELLOWS, NEWSMAN, WFLA CHANNEL THIRTEEN,
TAMPA ADVISED THIS DATE HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY
A SOURCE, WHOSE RELIABILITY IS UNKNOWN, AS TO DESIRING TO
FIND OUT IF CHANNEL THIRTEEN WAS INTERESTED IN PAYING
MONEY FOR INTERVIEW WITH A PERSON WHO KNEW JAMES EARL
RAY, AKA. FELLOWS SAID SOURCE CALLED HOUSTON, TEXAS
FOR A GEORGE RUSSELL, REPORTELY EMPLOYED IN TRAILER
SALES. WHEN SOURCE DID NOT GET ANSWER, CALLED (FNU)
STORZ, SUPPOSEDLY SOURCE'S SISTER, WHO LIVES NEXT
DOOR TO TRAILER SALES. SOURCE SAID GEORGE RUSSELL
SERVED TIME IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON AND HAS KNOWN
RAY SOME YEARS. FELLOWS ADVISED SOURCE HIS
TV STATION NOT INTERESTED BUT PERHAPS CBS ATLANTA
MAY BE INTERESTED.

END PAGE ONE

*FB 2 Memphis (MCP) FB 2 Houston (KEK)
FB 2 Birmingham (FAS) FB 2 Kansas City (PHM)
all destroyed
in*

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INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *CS*
FILED *CS*

157-3231-322

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

FELLOWS THEN RECONTACTED SOURCE WHO CALLED HOUSTON TELEPHONE MI THREE THREE THREE FIVE ZERO AND REACHED RUSSELL. FELLOWS ASKED RUSSELL IF HE WOULD TALK TO CBS NEWSMAN ABOUT KNOWLEDGE OF RAY AND RUSSELL SAID, "HELL NO." FELLOWS SAID SOURCE REPORTED RUSSELL TO BE HER BROTHER WHO SERVED TIME IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON NINETEEN FIFTYSEVEN UNTIL NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN.

TAMPA OFFICE RECORDS SHOW JUAREZ ROETTGER CALLED TAMPA OFFICE NOVEMBER NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN AND ADVISED BROTHER GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, LIVING IN HOUSTON, MAYBE WANTED BY FBI. TELETYPE SENT BUREAU, ST. LOUIS AND HOUSTON NOVEMBER NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN UNDER HIS NAME AND BUREAU AND ST. LOUIS ADVISED RUSSELL NOT WANTED.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO DETERMINE IF RUSSELL SERVED TIME WITH RAY.

HOUSTON INTERVIEW RUSSELL AS FORMER FELLOW PRISONER OF RAY AS FELLOWS DOES NOT DESIRE SOURCE (JUAREZ ROETTGER) BE INVOLVED.

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : SPC AL L. SMITH

SUBJECT: MURKIN,
CR
(OO:ME)

At 7:50 PM, this date, Mrs. JUAREZ ROETTGER, 1713 Sagasta St., Tampa, telephone 248-2742, telephonically contacted this office and advised as follows:

ROETTGER advised that she received information from one of her sisters in Houston, Texas tonight that her brother, GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, (see Tampa reference 88-0-507) arrested by FBI, Houston, this date in connection with captioned matter and according to sister based on information furnished by Roettger to FBI. Roettger requested that this office attempt to determine if brother in fact arrested and if possible to advise her of same.

Above information discussed with Supervisor Belanger and S. Hagy, acting for Supervisor # 4 this date, and determined in Houston already advised re RUSSELL per information received from Tampa television newsman who received his information from Roettger.

Submitted for information.



5010-108

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

filed at 157-3231-3224
SEARCHED
SERIAL

APR 27 1968

FBI TAMPA

1252PM URGENT 4-27-68 KOB

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, KANSAS CITY, AND TAMPA
FROM HOUSTON (44-1509)

MURKIN; CR

RE TAMPA TEL TODAY

GEORGE WILLIAM RUSSELL, SALESMAN, PAT LAPE MOBIL HOMES,
THREE SEVEN ONE TWO TELEPHONE ROAD, HOUSTON, INTERVIEWED
APRIL TWENTY SIX AND ADVISED JAMES EARL RAY UNKNOWN TO HIM
BY NAME OR PHOTO. RUSSELL WAS INMATE AT MO. STATE PEN DURING
PERIOD RAY WAS INCARCERATED. RUSSELL RELEASED IN SIXTY SIX
AND CAME TO HOUSTON FROM ST. LOUIS SIX MONTHS AGO. RUSSELL
SERVED TIME FOR BURGLARY. RUSSELL ESTIMATED FOUR THOUSAND
FIVE HUNDRED INMATES AT MISSOURI STATE PEN. NAME NEIL EGAR
AEBY NOT KNOWN TO HIM. AEBY WAS INMATE FRIEND OF RAY AND
INTERVIEWED BY HOUSTON, APRIL TWENTY FIVE, LAST.

END

JTK

FBI TAMPA

X

Balanger - advised 2:45 PM 4/27/68 - gdc

file w/

157-3231-3226

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APR 27 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Kabadie

F B I

Date: 4/27/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)
 MURKIN, CR, OO: MEMPHIS.

RE BUTEL APR TWENTYSIX LAST CONCERNING JOHN D. HAGAN.

TP TWO TWO ONE R, ON APR. TWENTY SIX LAST, STATED HE RECALLED REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO HAGAN WHICH WAS MADE AUG. TWO, SIXTYFIVE, AT MEETING OF FORMER FLORIDA PIONEER CLUB, AN INDEPENDENT KLAN AT ORLANDO, FLA., TO EFFECT THAT UNKNOWN MALE IN ALA. TO DO AWAY WITH KING IN FLA. OR WASHINGTON, D.C. TWO TWO ONE R ALSO STATED HAGAN PROBABLY GOT THIS ALLEGED INFO FROM LAWRENCE D. HARRELL, ELDERLY FORMER KLANSMAN WHO IS NOW REPORTEDLY SENILE. TWO TWO ONE R UNABLE TO FURNISH FURTHER DETAILS AND HAS NO REASON TO THINK HAGAN INVOLVED IN ANY CONSPIRACY TO MURDER KING.

1 - Atlanta (AM)
 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
 4 - Tampa (1 - 170-75A)
 (1 - 170-69A)
 (1 - 170-201A)

TCA:nh
 (6) *h*

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 SERIALIZED *dy*
 FILED *dy*

Approved: *S. J. [signature]*
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent 501 P M Per CW

157-3231-323

F B I

Date:

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

(157-3231)

(PAGE TWO)

JOHN DAVIS HAGAN, BUFILE ONE FIVE SEVEN - ONE SIX SEVEN SEVEN, INTERVIEWED IN SIXTYFIVE BY FBI, PHOTOGRAPHED ABOUT SAME TIME, AND HAD HAD LITTLE KLAN ACTIVITY SINCE. HAGAN AND WIFE ARE NOMINAL MEMBERS OF ORANGE COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH HAGAN HIMSELF SELDOM ATTENDS.

ON APR. TWENTYSEVEN, TP TWO TWO TWO R AND TP TWO EIGHT FOUR R, WHO KNOW HAGAN, HAD NO INFO REGARDING ANY CONSPIRACY ON HAGAN'S PART.

THESE THREE TAMPA SOURCES STATE HAGAN HAS RESPONSIBLE JOB WITH ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION, ORLANDO, IS NOT LIKED BY KLANSMEN BECAUSE OF HIS DOMINEERING WAYS, AND THEY ALSO SAY HE IS A "LONER".

INFORMANTS SHOWN PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY, IO NO. FOUR ONE EIGHT TWO, BUT UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS AND ATLANTA.

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

FBI WASH DC

5:01 PM URGENT 4-27-68 CNJ
TO DIRECTOR (44-3886)
FROM TAMPA (157-3231) (P)

MURKIN

RE BUTEL APR TWENTYSIX LAST CONCERNING JOHN D. HAGAN.
TP TWO TWO ONE R, ON APR. TWENTY SIX LAST, STATED HE
RECALLED REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO HAGAN WHICH WAS MADE AUG. TWO,
SIXTYFIVE, AT MEETING OF FORMER FLORIDA PIONEER CLUB, AN
INDEPENDENT KLAN AT ORLANDO, FLA., TO EFFECT THAT UNKNOWN
MALE IN ALA. TO DO AWAY WITH KING IN FLA. OR WASHINGTON, D. C.
TWO TWO ONE R ALSO STATED HAGAN PROBABLY GOT THIS ALLEGED
INFO FROM LAWRENCE D. HARRELL, ELDERLY FORMER KLANSMAN WHO
IS NOW REPORTEDLY SENILE. TWO TWO ONE R UNABLE TO FURNISH
FURTHER DETAILS AND HAS NO REASON TO THINK HAGAN INVOLVED
IN ANY CONSPIRACY TO MURDER KING.
END PAGE ONE

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157-3231-323

PAGE TWO

JOHN DAVIS HAGAN, BUFILE ONE FIVE SEVEN - ONE SIX SEVEN SEVEN, INTERVIEWED IN SIXTHFIVE BY FBI, PHOTOGRAPHED ABOUT SAME TIME, AND HAD HAD LITTLE KLAN ACTIVITY SINCE. HAGAN AND WIFE ARE NOMINAL MEMBERS OF ORANGE COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH HAGAN HIMSELF SELDOM ATTENDS.

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THESE THREE TAMPA SOURCES STATE HAGAN HAS RESPONSIBLE JOB WITH ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION., ORLANDO, IS NOT LIKED BY KLANSMAN BECAUSE OF HIS DOMINEERING WAYS, AND THEY ALSO SAY HE IS A LONER".

INFORMANTS SHOWN PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY, IO NO. FOUR ONE EIGHT TWO, BUT UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS AND ATLANTA.

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

FBI WASH DC

445 PM URGENT 4/26/68 GFH

TO TAMPA

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE MAIN FILE ON KING:

BY LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR, DECEMBER TWENTYTHREE, NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE, YOU REPORTED THAT ONE RICHARD RUSSELL BALL ALLEGEDLY STATED *Labadie* THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND KING "WOULD GET THEIRS" WITHIN THIRTY DAYS. HE REPORTEDLY APPEARED AT YOUR OFFICE AND SAID HE MADE THESE STATEMENTS WHILE HE WAS DRUNK (SEE YOUR FILE ^{6 2 4 6 2} SIX TWO - FOUR SIX TWO). *Antel* *P. 96* BY TELETYPE AUGUST TWO, NINETEEN SIXTY-FIVE, YOU REPORTED INFORMATION FROM TAMPA TWO TWO ONE R (PROB) THAT JOHN D. HAGAN OF THE *157-1067* *allen* FLORIDA PIONEER CLUB (DESCRIBED AS INDEPENDENT KLAN GROUP) CLAIMED AN UNKNOWN MALE IN ALABAMA WAS ALLEGEDLY APPOINTED TO DO AWAY WITH KING IN FLORIDA OR WASHINGTON, D. C., AT SOME UNKNOWN DATE.

ALTHOUGH SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSAILANT, YOU

END PAGE ONE

*allen
handling inv.
of HAGEN
at Orlando.
H*

*Labadie
advised
545 pm
4/26/68
H*

157-3231-324

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SERIALIZED <i>ky</i>	FILED <i>ky</i>
<i>Labadie</i>	

PAGE TWO

SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF ANY OF THE ABOVE MIGHT
BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

BLW

FBI TAMPA

TUX

FBI TAMPA

FBI WASH DC

445 PM URGENT 4/26/68 GFH

TO TAMPA

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE MAIN FILE ON KING:

BY LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR, DECEMBER TWENTYTHREE, NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE, YOU REPORTED THAT ONE RICHARD RUSSELL BALL ALLEGEDLY STATED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND KING "WOULD GET THEIRS" WITHIN THIRTY DAYS. HE REPORTEDLY APPEARED AT YOUR OFFICE AND SAID HE MADE THESE STATEMENTS WHILE HE WAS DRUNK (SEE YOUR FILE SIX TWO - FOUR SIX TWO).

BY TELETYPE AUGUST TWO, NINETEEN SIXTY-FIVE, YOU REPORTED INFORMATION FROM TAMPA TWO TWO ONE R (PROB) THAT JOHN D. HAGAN OF THE FLORIDA PIONEER CLUB (DESCRIBED AS INDEPENDENT KLAN GROUP) CLAIMED AN UNKNOWN MALE IN ALABAMA WAS ALLEGEDLY APPOINTED TO DO AWAY WITH KING IN FLORIDA OR WASHINGTON, D. C., AT SOME UNKNOWN DATE.

ALTHOUGH SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSAILANT, YOU

END PAGE ONE

Allen advised
535 pm 4/26/68
A

A

Orlando
lead
to

157-3231-324

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TAMPA	

Allen TR

Chambers
JCA

with 157-1062-96, 97, 114

PAGE TWO

SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF ANY OF THE ABOVE MIGHT
BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

BLW

FBI TAMPA

TUX

Date: 4/27/68

Transmit the following in **PLAIN**

(Type in plaintext or code)

TELE TYPE

URGENT

(Priority)

TO; SAC, NEWARK (44-854)

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

MURKIN, CR. OO MEMPHIS

RE NEWARK TEL APRIL TWENTY SEVEN INSTANT AND TAMPA

TEL APRIL TWENTY SEVEN INSTANT.

RE: 1965 Plymouth -

JIM CORBETT, FLEET SALES MANAGER, BILL CURRIE FORD

**TAMPA ADVISED HAS NO RECOLLECTION AND UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY
RECORD AS TO DISPOSITION OF SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH OWNED BY
AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC. STATES TONY CREA, AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS
INC., PENNSAUKEN, N.J. WOULD HAVE COMPLETE INFO AND WILL NEED
FOLLOWING DATA TO LOCATE THE RECORD. PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER
THREE SIX ZERO DASH TWO TWO ZERO FOUR ZERO A, COVERING PURCHASE
OF SIXTY EIGHT GALAXIE AND VEHICLE NUMBER THREE SIX ZERO DASH
TWO TWO ZERO FOUR ZERO AS NUMBER OF SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH.**

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

**1 - Tampa
1 - MEMPHIS
JJG;jjg
(2)**

**SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED**

FBI NEWARK

FBI TAMPA

840 PM URGENT 4/27/68 ALS

TO NEWARK (44-854)

FROM TAMPA (157-3231) (P)

MURKIN, CR. OO: ME.

RE NEWARK TEL APRIL TWENTY SEVEN INSTANT AND TAMPA TEL
APRIL TWENTY SEVEN INSTANT.

RE: NINETEEN SIXTY-FIVE PLYMOUTH STATION WAGON.

JIM CORBETT, FLEET SALES MANAGER, BILL CURRIE FORD, TAMPA,
ADVISED HAS NO RECOLLECTION AND UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY RECORD AS
TO DISPOSITION OF SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH OWNED BY AUTOMOTIVE
RENTALS, INC. STATES TONY CREA, AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC.,
PENNSAUKEN, N.J. WOULD HAVE COMPLETE INFO AND WILL NEED
FOLLOWING DATA TO LOCATE THE RECORD: PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER
THREE SIX ZERO - TWO TWO ZERO FOUR ZERO A, COVERING PURCHASE OF
SIXTY EIGHT GALAXIE AND VEHICLE NUMBER THREE SIX ZERO - TWO
TWO ZERO FOUR ZERO AS NUMBER OF SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END

JON

FBI NEWARK

TU CLR X

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED 6
FILED 9

157- 3231- 325

1 copy made 4-27-68
1 Xerox copy sent me 4/27/68

FBI TAMPA

FBI NEWARK

1145

URGENT 4/27/68 PAC

TO TAMPA AND SAVANNAH

FROM NEWARK (44-854) (P)

MURKIN

RE SAVANNAH TEL TO JACKSONVILLE, APRIL TWENTY SIX, LAST

RE JACKSONVILLE AND NK TELS, APRIL TWENTY SIX, LAST.

FOR INFO TAMPA, A NINETEEN SIXTY SEVEN OR SIXTY EIGHT

BROWN PLYMOUTH, STATION WAGON, BEARING FLA LICENSE THREE

E FIVE SIX FOUR THREE SEEN BY MAN IN SAVANNAH, GA., APRIL

TWENTY SIX, LAST, BEING DRIVEN BY MAN DESCRIBED AS

RESEMBLING SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY. JACKSONVILLE LEARNED

LICENSE THREE E FIVE SIX FOUR THREE REGISTERED TO HENRY

ERWIN, JR., IN C/O OF AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC., SEVEN FOUR

ONE ONE MAPLE AVE., PENNSAUKEN, N.J., FOR CAR HAVING VIN

P TWO FIVE TWO TWO SIX SEVEN SIX ZERO EIGHT. TODAY RICHARD

R. RUTTER, SERVICE DEPARTMENT, MGS., AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS,

PENNSAUKEN, SAID COMPANY RECORDS SHOW FLA. LICENSE THREE E

FIVE SIX FOUR THREE ON A NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH

TWO DOOR SEDAN WITH VIN SAME AS ABOVE. THAT CAR FORMERLY

END PAGE ONE

157-3231-326

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PAGE TWO

LEASED BY AUTOMOTIVE TO HENRY B. ERWIN, JR, EMPLOYED BY
OAKITE PRODUCTS, INC., ERWIN RESIDES THREE ZERO NINE BEN
AVON DR., TEMPLE TERRACE, FLA. IN DECEMBER, NINETEEN SIXTY
SEVEN ERWIN RETURNED CAR TO AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS IN EXCHANGE
FOR A NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT YELLOW FORD TWO DOOR HARDTOP
BEARING FLA. LICENSE THREE E FOUR NINE SEVEN THREE FOUR.
ON JANUARY EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, INSTANT NINETEEN
SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH SOLD BY AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS TO C AND R
AUTO SALES, FOUR THREE ONE SIX FLORIDA AVE., TAMPA, FLA.
ROTTER UNABLE TO FIND RECORD OF FLORIDA LICENSE THREE E
FIVE SIX FOUR THREE EVER BEING ON CAR OTHER THAN DESCRIBED
NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE PLYMOUTH SEDAN.

TAMPA AT TAMPA, FLA., WILL DETERMINE AT C AND R
AUTO SALES PRESENT OWNER OF INSTANT NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE
PLYMOUTH. SET FORTH LEAD TO HAVE OWNER INTERVIEWED TO
DETERMINE WHO HAS FLORIDA LICENSE THREE E FIVE SIX FOUR
THREE. THEREAFTER, CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

TO DETERMINE IF THIS MAN IS IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

CNJ

FBI TAMPA

X

F B I

Date: 4/24/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) -P-
 MURKIN
 OO MEMPHIS

Re Tampa airtel to Director 4/16/68; in case entitled "JOHN A. CHAMBLEE, RACIAL INFORMANT, OO JACKSON" the following references: Jackson airtel to Oklahoma City 3/23/65, Oklahoma City airtel to Jackson 3/29/65; in case entitled "WHITE KNIGHTS OF KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, RACIAL MATTER" the following references: Jackson airtel to Bureau 4/2/65, Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau 4/8/65, Jackson airtel to Bureau 4/8/65, Jackson airtel to Bureau 4/22/65, Phoenix airtel to Jackson 4/27/65, and Oklahoma City airtel to Bureau 5/17/65.

RE: DONALD EUGENE SPARKS, FBI # 716 18A
FORMER TOP TEN SUBJECT

Enclosed herewith for the information purposes to Jackson and Atlanta, is one copy of Tampa airtel to Director, 4/16/68, for background information.

Set forth hereafter is a recapitulation of investigation concerning DONALD EUGENE SPARKS (former Top Ten Fugitive) and his allegedly being offered money by the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi to murder Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in 1964.

Jackson Division by airtel to the Bureau 4/2/65 in case "WHITE KNIGHTS OF KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, RACIAL MATTER"

3 Bureau
 1 Atlanta (Info)(Enc. 1)
 2 Birmingham
 1 Jackson (Info)(Enc. 1)
 2 Memphis
 ① Tampa (Info)(157-3231)
 3 Oklahoma City (2-44-686)
 (1-170-5)

GWS:JRI
 (13)

157-3231-327

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[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

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

forwarded to the Bureau an original and 7 copies of a letterhead memorandum showing information received from JOHN ARTHUR CHAMBLEE, a detective of the Jackson, Mississippi Police Department, considered by Jackson a reliable individual who is acquainted with members or former members of the WKKKKOM. CHAMBLEE, in reporting this information that was overheard as general rumor among Klansmen and he did not know the source, was doubtful of its truthfulness.

The information in substance was that on 3/17/65, CHAMBLEE advised that he had received unverified information that in 1964, the original Knights of the KKK of Mississippi had hired a "killer" from the State of Oklahoma to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. when KING was in Jackson, Mississippi. This "killer" was known as "TWO JUMPS" and came to Jackson, Mississippi to "case" the layout and while in Jackson, stayed at the Terrymore Motel. He was to use a high-powered rifle with telescopic sights. This deal allegedly fell through when the Klansmen could not raise the \$13,000 demanded by "TWO JUMPS."

CHAMBLEE also reported "TWO JUMPS" was allegedly also the killer of a Bureau Top Ten fugitive later identified as JOHN GIBSON DILLON. "TWO JUMPS" allegedly killed DILLON at the Flamingo Motel in Jackson, Mississippi and thereafter transported the body to Oklahoma or Kansas where it was dumped in an old well.

The Oklahoma City Division by airtel of 4/8/65, advised Bureau and Jackson Division that complete background in the case involving Top Ten Fugitive JOHN GIBSON DILLON did not substantiate that DILLON was killed in Mississippi. From facts available to Oklahoma City, it was doubtful in fact if DILLON was killed in Mississippi.

The Jackson Division on 4/2/65 interviewed PCI CLENNIE JOE BUCHANAN, described by Jackson as a notorious confidence man and gambler who had at that time been under development as an informant of the Jackson Division for some two months.

BUCHANAN was asked if he knew an individual named DONALD SPARKS or GENE SPARKS to which he promptly replied, "Who, TWO JUMPS?" He was thereafter shown a photograph of DONALD EUGENE SPARKS, Tulsa, Oklahoma Police Department Number 38224 dated September 7, 1963. BUCHANAN promptly identified this photograph of SPARKS as being identical to the person he has known for many years as "TWO JUMPS." BUCHANAN went on to relate that SPARKS got the nickname of "TWO JUMPS" from his ability as a cowboy and according to BUCHANAN, SPARKS was an excellent "broncho buster" and could ride almost any horse. BUCHANAN considered SPARKS to be an extremely hard and tough individual who would not hesitate to kill anyone. Extensive investigation was conducted in several field offices to concretely identify "TWO JUMPS" and from the identification of PCI CLENNIE JOE BUCHANAN, Jackson, Mississippi, it was felt that DONALD EUGENE SPARKS was identical to "TWO JUMPS."

Investigation by the Jackson Division at the Terrymore Motel in Jackson failed to disclose any registration that could be identified as being that of SPARKS. In addition to the above identification of SPARKS as "TWO JUMPS", Phoenix CI PX 737-C was interviewed at Phoenix on 1/26/65. This informant advised he knew DONALD EUGENE SPARKS and was well aware that SPARKS' nickname is "TWO JUMPS."

Based on this identification on 5/14/65, an attempt was made to interview DONALD EUGENE SPARKS, Inmate Number 71755, at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary. Following his being advised of his rights, SPARKS stated at the outset he would not furnish any information. He did deny being contacted by anyone at any time to commit a murder and said he did not kill anyone for money or any other reason. He denied ever being hired by anyone in the South and specifically in Mississippi to commit any murder. He denied knowing anyone connected with the Ku Klux Klan.

SPARKS at this time stated he had never cooperated with any police officers and did not intend to start doing so now. He said he had been contacted by numerous officers and would appreciate it if police officers would not bother him again since they wasted his time, as he was working in the plumbing shop in the Penitentiary and could not be away from his job. SPARKS terminated the interview by getting up and leaving the room.

OC 44-686

By airtel to the Bureau dated 5/17/65, in case "WHITE KNIGHTS OF KU KLUX KLAN OF MISSISSIPPI, RACIAL MATTER", the Bureau was advised of the attempted interview with SPARKS. Additionally, 9 copies of an FD 302 dated 5/17/65, was furnished to the Jackson Division. This showed the interview with SPARKS. At that time, it was the considered opinion of Agents that had worked cases involving SPARKS, his associates, and Agents who handled the former case involving former Top Ten Fugitive JOHN GIBSON DILLON, that information that SPARKS was hired to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and that he did kill DILLON was not accurate nor truthful information. It was pointed out that following DILLON's murder there was a massive amount of rumor, speculation and hearsay information circulated among the criminal element concerning the death of DILLON. It was this hearsay information that was probably being reported by Jackson's informant in all honesty.

The Bureau's attention is directed to the fact that HERMIT EUGENE WING, aka, ANTI-RACKETEERING, is the subject of a current pending file, Oklahoma City 92-588, Bureau file 92-9329. He is an Oklahoma ex-convict, Burglar, Armed Robber, who travels extensively throughout the United States. He was last interviewed by Bureau Agents, 3/5/68, where he was living at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He was at that time employed at Jeanie's Lounge in Bartlesville.

LEADS

ATLANTA, JACKSON AND TAMPA DIVISION (INFORMATION)

Information copies of this communication are being furnished to Divisions above in the event additional inquiry appears necessary.

BIRMINGHAM DIVISION

At Fort Payne, Alabama

Although DONALD EUGENE SPARKS is notorious for his failure to cooperate with police officers, it is suggested an attempt be made to interview him concerning his using the name "TWO JUMPS" and being offered money by the Ku Klux Klan of

OC 44-686

Mississippi in 1964 to murder Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
An attempt should be made in the interview with SPARKS
to determine if he is at all familiar with JAMES EARL RAY,
present fugitive being sought for the murder of Dr. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., and exhibit photograph of RAY to him.

JAMES EARL RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND
DANGEROUS.

4/27/68

TELETYPE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987), ATLANTA
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN. CR

RE OKLAHOMA CITY AIRTEL TO BUREAU, APRIL TWENTY FOUR LAST.
BUREAU AGENTS ATTEMPTED TO INTERVIEW DONALD EUGENE SPARKS,
FBI NUMBER SEVEN ONE SIX EIGHTEEN A, FORMER TOP TEN SUBJECT,
AT DE KALB COUNTY JAIL, FORT PAYNE, ALABAMA THIS DATE. SPARKS
REFUSED TO BE INTERVIEWED OR TO DISCUSS ANYTHING WITH AGENTS AND
WAS EXTREMELY UNCOOPERATIVE.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO JACKSON, TAMPA AND OKLAHOMA CITY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1-Birmingham
1-JACKSON (AM)
1-TAMPA (AM)
1-OKLAHOMA CITY (AM)
RJJ:seb
(4)

sch

157-3231-328

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F B I

Date: 4/26/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI, SAC, MIAMI, AND SAC, ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (3PP).

MURKIN. CR.

RE ATLANTA TEL DATED APRIL TWENTYFOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT; SPRINGFIELD TELEPHONE CALL TO MIAMI APRIL TWENTYFIVE, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT.

RE PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., AKA.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE ST. LOUIS DIVISION, ONE LEWIE RAYMOND DOWDA CONFINED COUNTY JAIL, MARIETTA, GEORGIA, ON ARMED ROBBERY CONVICTION INTERVIEWED. DOWDA WAS ACQUAINTED WITH RAY AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FOR THREE YEARS, ENDING SEPTEMBER TWENTYTHREE, NINETEEN SIXTY SIX, WHEN DOWDA RELEASED. DOWDA STATED RAY WAS DOPE ADDICT, USING INJECTIONS AND WAS ADDICTED PRIOR TO INCARCERATION. RAY USED AMPHETIMINE. DOWDA STATED HAROLD SCHAEFFER, GUARD ON GATE AT THE PRISON, WAS FRIENDLY WITH RAY AND BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE SELLING THE AMPHETIMINE. DOWDA CLAIMED RAY HAD UNKNOWN OUTSIDE SOURCE OF INCOME TO SUPPORT A THIRTYFIVE TO FORTY DOLLAR PER WEEK DOPE HABIT AS WELL AS FIFTEEN TO TWENTY DOLLARS PER WEEK OTHER EXPENDITURES. DOWDA CLAIMS THREE NEGRO PRISONERS KILLED IN PRISON AFTER PROTESTING DEMIAL OF BLACK

1 - Springfield (44-561)
 ① - Tampa (AM)

1 - Memphis (AM)

1 - Atlanta (AM)

WR:skt

(4)

157-3231-329

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[Handwritten signature/initials over stamp]

Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO.

MUSLIMS TO WORSHIP. CLAIMED RAY KILLED THE NEGROES OR KNOW WHO DID. DESCRIBED RAY AS RACIST WHO FELT ALL NEGROES IN THAT PRISON SHOULD BE KILLED AND SAID RAY MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS TO EFFECT IF PRICE WAS RIGHT WOULD KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. DOWDA STATED RAY'S CLOSEST FRIEND IN PRISON WAS NEIL ABBEY (PHONETIC) WHO HANDLED DOPE AND GOT RAY A JOB IN THE KITCHEN. DOWDA DOES NOT KNOW NEIL ABBEY'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS BUT ABBEY WAS AT ONE TIME CHIEF COOK AT THE PRISON. ANOTHER CLOSE FRIEND WAS DONALD DEAN RIGGER FROM CALIFORNIA WHOSE WIFE WAS A PSYCHIATRIST AT NAPA STATE HOSPITAL LOCATED ABOVE SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. DOWDA STATED RAY WOULD ONLY HAVE AN ADDRESS FOR HIM IN CARE OF DOWDA'S FATHER, CHARLES ALFRED DOWDA, FORMERLY ROUTE ONE, SANFORD, FLORIDA, BUT PRESENTLY ONE ONE ZERO SOUTH CHANDLER STREET, DELAND, FLORIDA, DOWDA DENIES CONTACT IN ANY MANNER WITH RAY SINCE DOWDA'S RELEASE. STATED ANOTHER FORMER INMATE, PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., AKA PAUL ALVIN CARTER, THIRTYFOUR BARBODOS DRIVE, PALM SPRINGS, WEST PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, WAS FRIENDLY WITH RAY AND DOWDA SAW LAIL EARLY MARCH, SIXTY EIGHT, BUT NO MENTION MADE OF RAY. DOWDA HAS NO IDEA WHY RAY WOULD GO TO ATLANTA.

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

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE.

A REVIEW OF SPRINGFIELD FILES RE CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL REFLECTED HIM AS SUBJECT OF NINETEEN SIXTY THREE UFAC CASE, OFFICE OF ORIGIN ST. LOUIS, IN WHICH HE IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

PAUL ARTHUR LAIL, JR, AKA PAUL ALVIN LAIL, JR., AKA PAUL LAIL, JR., AKA PAUL ARTHUR CARTER, FBI NUMBER SEVEN FIVE FOUR DASH FOUR EIGHT THREE A, WHITE, MALE, AMERICAN, DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED], AT MARION, NORTH CAROLINA, SIX FOOT FIVE INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY POUNDS, RED HAIR, BLUE EYES, NO UPPER TEETH, SCAR ON LEFT KNEE, OCCUPATION SIGN PAINTER, ELECTRICIAN, TRUCK DRIVER, RADIO REPAIR MAN, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED].

ST. LOUIS REQUESTED TO REVIEW FILES RE LAIL AND FURNISH INFORMATION OF VALUE TO MIAMI DIVISION SO THAT LAIL MAY BE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED REGARDING THE SUBJECT.

THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH IDENT RECORD OF LAIL FBI NUMBER SEVEN FIVE FOUR DASH FOUR EIGHT THREE A TO INTERESTED OFFICES.

P.

END.

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

FBI TAMPA

FBI MIAMI

748 PM URGENT 4/26/68 LCC
TO ALL SACS RELAY MESSAGE PLAN
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN.

THE MAIN FILE ON KING HAS BEEN REVIEWED AT THE BUREAU
AND LEADS ARE BEING SENT OUT CONCERNING PERSONS INVOLVED IN
PRIOR THREATS AGAINST KING. THESE LEADS AS WELL AS LEADS
CONCERNING ANY OTHER SUSPECTS DEVELOPED FROM ANY SOURCE
MUST BE GIVEN IMMEDIATE AND THOROUGH HANDLING ON A TOP PRIORITY
BASIS. PROCESS HAS BEEN OBTAINED AGAINST JAMES EARL RAY AND
EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING TO LOCATE RAY AND TO
ESTABLISH MOTIVE OF CRIME. YOU HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE
FURNISHED INFORMATION RELATING TO OTHER POSSIBLE CONSPIRATORS.
THESE MUST ALL BE THOROUGHLY RESOLVED NO MATTER HOW REMOTE.

END

ALS

FBI TAMPA

157-3231-330

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Lalonde

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-3231)

DATE: April 21, 1968

FROM : SA Joseph J. Pieper

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

On 4/20/68 Mrs. Sophie M. Strause, 3726 Tangerine So., St. Petersburg, Florida, telephone 867-5711, whose husband operates the M & S Roofing Co., 3522 Tangerine So., telephone 867-5604, advised that on 4/19/68 the Florida State Employment sent to them for a few hours work a man named RICHEL WHITE, though on his card the name was shown as Richard White. Because of the temporary employment she did not take any background information, nor get his Social Security Number.

She described him as 40; 5'10"; 180; muscular build; blue eyes; brown hair; his ears were the same as the photograph and the picture of Galt on TV.

She was not positive in the identification, but thought several items of his story was suspicious. He said that he had been in St. Petersburg since January, but his complexion was white. After working in the sun for 3 1/2 hours he came in beet red. When he reported for work he wore a white shirt and was clean and neat. He said that he had just retired from Service, and had worked as a file clerk. He had no military carriage.

The man was soft spoken, but had no particular southern or rural accent. She does not remember his hair exactly.

When he came back in from the job, he cleaned up before he left. He worked for 3 hours for \$1.50 an hour.

He told the man with whom he worked that he was living at the Fairfax Hotel. He had not been able to get any steady employment since coming to St. Pete.

ACTION:

Will further check identity of Richel White.

JJP
(2)

*he has been
seminated
& he will summo.*

*St. Pete
Dead*

157-3231-331

62 67

*Pieper
Gunn*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-3231)

DATE: April 25, 1968

FROM : SA Joseph J. Pieper

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re previous memo re suspect: RICHEL WHITE

On 4/22/68 James Connors, Florida Employment Service, 1011 1st Ave. No., St. Petersburg, Florida, advised that Michel White has registered with the FES and has been sent out on several work assignments. He is from Mr. Airy, N.C.; a veteran of 14 years in the Air Force. He has been a dishwasher at the Tides Motel, Redington Beach, and lived there; but now lives at Fairfax Hotel, 2832 4th St. No; SSNo [redacted].

Connors advised that White has no resemblance to subject Galt, and though he cannot place him definitely on 4-4-68 he believes he was in St. Pete. He advised that White also worked at the Vinoy Hotel.

Mrs. Mildred Papier, office manager, Vinoy Hotel, St. Petersburg, Fla. advised on 4/25/68 that Richel O. White, Route 7, Box 118, Mt. Airy, N.C., mother Mrs. S. E. White, same address; dob [redacted]; worked as a pastry server from 2/26/68 to 3/15/68. His SSN is [redacted]. Address: Fairfax Hotel.

Amile Fregeau, day clerk, Fairfax Hotel, 2832 4th St. No., advised on 4/25/68 that Michel White has continuously lived at the hotel from the early part of March, 1968 to the present.

ACTION:

No further action as White was in St. Pete on pertinent dates.

JJP
(1)

157-3231-332

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[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/22/68

FROM : SA JOHN R. HIPPARD

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO:ME)

On ~~8/~~ 4/19/68, Brigadier Warren Fulton, Salvation Army, 400 N. Ft. Harrison, Clearwater, Fla. advised SA John R. Hippard as follows; via telephone:

On 4/19/68, an individual, (FNU) ~~XXXXXXXX~~ O'BRIEN, entered the Salvation Army office and requested aid in obtaining some sort of "nerve medicine". FULTON stated that his group could not get this medicine for O'BRIEN, because it was a type of drug which took a prescription from a physician to obtain it.

FULTON advised O'BRIEN that he could get him in the VA Hospital (Bay Pines) and in that manner, O'BRIEN could get medication. O'BRIEN advised that he was, in fact, a veteran and had an honorable discharge from the military; however, O'BRIEN stated that Veterans hospitals were "nothing but a slaughter house", as he had been in one at one time and they had removed part of his spinal column, and that this is what caused his nervousness.

FULTON STATED that O'BRIEN was extremely nervous and appeared to not want FULTON to call anyone on the phone; he also, pulled at his ear in a nervous gesture. FULTON said that he offered to get ~~xxx~~ O'BRIEN a bus ticket to St. Petersburg, Fla., as ~~xx~~ O'BRIEN had advised that he was going to stay with "friends" in St. Petersburg. FULTON stated that after making this offer, ~~xxx~~ O'BRIEN abruptly left the office.

FULTON advised that O'BRIEN had been referred to his office by the CHURCH BY THE SEA on Clearwater Beach, Fla. FULTON said that about 1 hr. after O'BRIEN had left his office he (FULTON) thought that O'BRIEN resembled ERIC STARVO GALT, aka., and he called the CHURCH BY THE SEA.

2-Tampa
JRH



5010-108

157-3231-333

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FBI - TAMPA	

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

where he talked to the Church Secretary (Name unknown) who had referred O'BRIEN to the Salvation Army. FULTON advised that she stated that she only vaguely remembered O'BRIEN as someone who had walked in the Church and was seeking aid, when he contacted her after O'BRIEN'S appearance at his office.

FULTON described O'BRIEN as follows:

Name	(FNU) O'BRIEN
Height	5'7"-5'8"
Weight	150-170 lbs.
Clothes-	Sportshirt and slacks
eyes-	Blue
Hair	Dark brown, a little longer than photo in paper.
Age	About 40

Subsequently to this, FULTON was contacted by SA KIRKMAN and displayed additional photos of subject. FULTON advised that after viewing the additional photos, he did not feel that O'BRIEN was identical to subject.

Mrs. Helen Beach, Secretary, CHAMBERLAIN BY THE SEA, Clearwater Beach, Fla., advised that she remembered the incident of the individual appearing at the Church and requesting money for medicine; however, she could not remember what he looked like, and advised that photos of the subject did not seem to be identical to those of subject.

4/23/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, JACKSONVILLE
FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374) (P)
MURKIN

On 4/22/68, **EDWARD R. ROSEYK**, 90 Cleveland Avenue, Salamanca, New York, advised that about 10:30 A. M., that date, he was in Langworthy's Restaurant, on Killbuck, when a man entered the restaurant and sat a stool away from him. He was wearing a white shirt, no tie; blue sports coat, checked; light gray pants, and sunglasses. He was driving a 1964 or 1965 two-door, either white or light tan, Ford, with Florida License 4W 69100.

ROSEYK had seen photographs of RAY on television the preceding night and felt that this individual bore a close resemblance.

The driver proceeded west on Route 17, towards Jamestown, New York.

Lookouts placed with State Police and Sheriff's Office failed to locate the car.

Jacksonville, at Tallahassee, Florida, will determine to whom Florida Registration 4W 69100 is issued.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- ② - Jacksonville (AM)
1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (Info) (AM)
1 - Kansas City (Info) (AM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
1 - Buffalo
RHE:mfm
(7)

157-3231-334

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 27 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

H. N. Smith

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 26 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

F B I

Date: 4/26/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, TAMPA
FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769)
RE: MURKIN

Re Buffalo airtel to Jacksonville 4/23/68,
re suspect driving vehicle containing Fla. License 4W-69100.

MVB, Tallahassee, Fla., reflects vehicle registered
JAMES PETERSON, 463 Eighth Ave., NE, St. Petersburg
Fla., for 1964 Ford.

Tampa ascertain if suspect identical with RAY.

Enclosed for information Tampa is one copy of
referenced communication.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2-Tampa (Enc. 1) *for*
2-Jacksonville
TJW:bet
(4)

*SA Balanog notified
4:30 PM 4/27/68 JPK
SA H.K. Smith notified
4:50 4/27/68 JPK
SA Smith adv
not used over 70*

157-3231-335

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 27 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	
<i>H. N. Smith</i>	

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

4/29/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, JACKSONVILLE(44-769)

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) P

MURKIN
CR

Re JK airtel to Tampa dated 4/26/68

On 4/27/68 Mrs. EVELYN PIEPER, Records and Identification Division, St. Petersburg PD, St. Petersburg, Fla., advised that she had no record concerning a JAMES PETERSON at 463 8th Avenue, N.E., St. Petersburg, Fla.

On 4/27/68 Mrs. JANETTE HUGHES, Telephone Operator, Palm Shores of St. Petersburg, 830 North Shore Drive, St. Petersburg, Fla., made available the records of Palm Shores Apartments which showed JAMES PETERSON had resided with his wife at 463 8th Avenue, N. E., St. Petersburg, Fla. for a period of eight years.

On the same date Mr. FRANK WALTEMAR, Administrator, Palm Shores of St. Petersburg, advised that he was personally acquainted with JAMES PETERSON and had known him during his eight years residence at the Palm Shores Apartments.

He described PETERSON as white male, 5'8" tall, 150#, approximately 70 years old. WALTEMAR was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and stated that there was no resemblance between RAY and JAMES PETERSON. WALTEMAR further advised that PETERSON has no children or relatives that show any resemblance to RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

2 - Jacksonville

2 - Tampa

HNS:ad

(4)

ad

B

file w/ 157-3231-335 A

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED cy
SERIALIZED cy
FILED cy

FBI TAMPA

6:12PM URGENT 4-29-68 RCM

TO TAMPA (157-3231)

FROM NEWARK (44-854)

MURKIN, OO:MEMPHIS.

RE TAMPA TELETYPE TO NEWARK FOUR TWENTY SEVEN LAST.

TODAY, RICHARD RUTTER, AUTOMOTIVE RENTALS, INC., PENNSAUKEN, NJ, SAID THAT COMPANY'S RECORDS SHOW J. CORBETT OF BILL CURRIE FORD AGENCY, TAMPA, FLORIDA, SUBMITTED TO AUTOMOTIVE A BID OF ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS TO BUY INSTANT PLYMOUTH ON BEHALF OF C AND R AUTO SALES, TAMPA. AUTOMOTIVE ACCEPTED THIS BID AND AUTOMOTIVE INVOICE NUMBER X THREE ZERO ONE SIX TWO SHOWS INSTANT PLYMOUTH SOLD BY AUTOMOTIVE TO C AND R ON ONE EIGHT, LAST. C AND R PAID AUTOMOTIVE WITH A BANK DRAFT FOR ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS DRAWN ON THE BROADWAY NATIONAL BANK, TAMPA. RUTTER SAID THE TITLE NUMBER FOR INSTANT PLYMOUTH IS SEVEN TWO FIVE NINE FIVE EIGHT TWO. FOR INFO TAMPA, RUTTER SAID RICE AND HOLMAN IS A PARENT COMPANY TO AUTOMOTIVE, BUT RICE AND HOLMAN DO NOT HAVE RECORDS OF ANY SALES OF USED CARS BY AUTOMOTIVE.

TAMPA RECONTACT C AND R AUTO SALES TO ASCERTAIN TO WHOM THEY SOLD INSTANT PLYMOUTH.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

MAIL COPIES TO SAVANNAH AND MEMPHIS.

END...ROB

FBI TAMPA

157-3231-336

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	