

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : LEGAT, MEXICO CITY (173-1)

DATE: 4/17/68

FROM : SA JJFoarde

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At approximately 9 a.m., 4/17/68, SA RUSSELL JEAN GRAY, JR., called from Puerto Vallarta with the following information:

The bar tender, LUIS GARCIA, who knew ERIC STARVO GALT briefly, has been cooperating and it has been determined that GALT probably spent the evening of 11/6/67 with a girl in Puerto Vallarta prior to checking in at the Tropicana Hotel. GRAY said that GARCIA had agreed to assist in locating this girl or finding out where she might be if she has left Puerto Vallarta.

GRAY also stated that it has been difficult to locate anyone at the Tropicana Hotel who remembers GALT well, but that a number of those interviewed do remember the white Mustang which GALT was using.

GRAY stated that he might be in need of funds for expenses and arrangements were made with SA ROBERT J. OGLESBY, JR., at Guadalajara to send money to GRAY with MEX-38 who was leaving Guadalajara to return to Puerto Vallarta today.

At 3:45 pm, 4/17/68, SA ROBERT J. OGLESBY, JR., advised that GRAY had contacted him to say that the girl who apparently spent at least one night with GALT was tentatively identified as ALICIA or ELISA ARELLANO TORRES and it is believed her address is Contreras Medellin 77, in Guadalajara. Information was also developed that her mother is MARGARITA TORRES, living at Calle L Samaniego 409, Colonia Durango in Juarez, Chihuahua.

OGLESBY stated that MEX-24 believes that he knows who this girl is and was being instructed to locate her and interview her very discreetly. OGLESBY was requested to bear in mind, while instructing the informant, that current instructions call for the utmost discretion and that arrangements should be made, if at all possible.



JJF:imt
(1) *imt*

5010-108-01

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

173-1-26

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LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO	

MEX 173-1

to interview this girl privately and to refrain from mentioning GAT's name to her unless she herself recalls the name from their alleged brief association.

F B I

Date: 4-17-68

Transmit the following in CODE
(Type in plain text or code)Via CABLE PRIORITY
(Priority or Method of Mailing)
172 BY: [Signature]

MURKIN.

RE KEY FOUND IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

REBUCAB APRIL ONE FOUR LAST.

ASSISTANT MANAGER, HOTEL MARIA ISABEL, PASEO DE LA REFORMA THREE TWO FIVE, MEXICO CITY, ADVISES ALL ROOM KEYS HAVE BRASS TAG WITH REQUEST IN SPANISH THAT KEY BE RETURNED TO HOTEL AT THAT ADDRESS. IN ADDITION KEYS ARE STAMPED QUOTE ALBA, UNQUOTE NAME OF LOCAL KEY MANUFACTURER, AND ALL CARRY THE NUMBER QUOTE MIR THREE NINE ZERO THREE FOUR, UNQUOTE WHICH IS A CODE NUMBER FOR KEYS FROM THIS HOTEL.

REVERSE SIDE OF BRASS TAG HAS A MONOGRAM OF THE HOTEL INITIALS QUOTE MI. UNQUOTE

REGISTRATION CARDS NOT FILED BY ^{Room} NUMBER, AND NO RECORD KEPT OF MISSING KEYS. HOWEVER, REGISTRATION CARDS BEING CHECKED FOR OCCUPANTS OF ROOM ONE ONE THREE ONE IN RECENT PAST AND RESULTS WILL BE FURNISHED BUREAU.

UNSUB ARMED AND DANGEROUS

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY
FBI AUTOMATICALLY
DATE 3-25-85
FS4M45K51

173-1
JJF:esc
(2) [Signature]
4417
142

CLASSIFICATION ON INDEFINITE 173-1-27

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 1:30 PM [Signature]

F B I

Date: 4/17/68

Transmit the following in CODE
(Type in plaintext or code)Via CABLE PRIORITY
NO. 173 BY [Signature] (Priority)

MURKIN.

RE ERIC STARVO GALT.

INFORMATION DEVELOPED AT PUERTO VALLARTA, JALISCO, THAT GALT SPENT ONE NIGHT, PROBABLY NIGHT OF NOVEMBER SIX LAST, WITH WOMAN BEFORE MOVING INTO TROPICANA HOTEL. THIS WOMAN TENTATIVELY IDENTIFIED AS ALICIA OR ELISA ARELLANO TORRES, LAST KNOWN ADDRESS CONTRERAS MEDELLIN SEVEN SEVEN, GUADALAJARA, JALISCO.

EFFORTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE AND ARRANGE DISCREET INTERVIEW WITH ARELLANO BY INVESTIGATIVE INFORMANT AT GUADALAJARA.

TO ASSIST AGENT ON SCENE AT PUERTO VALLARTA, BUREAU REQUESTED TO ADVISE AMOUNT OF GALT'S TIME ALREADY ACCOUNTED FOR IN CALIFORNIA DURING NOVEMBER AND/OR DECEMBER LAST, THAT IS, SINCE DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING DATE OF DEPARTURE FROM MEXICO HAVE NOT YET BEEN LOCATED, APPROXIMATELY WHAT ADDITIONAL AMOUNT OF TIME SUBSEQUENT TO CHECKING OUT OF

173-1
JJF:imt
(2) [Signature]

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

173-1-28

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 6:50 P

M

Per [Signature]

F B I

Date: _____

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

TROPICANA HOTEL ON NOVEMBER ONE THREE LAST SHOULD BE THE
SUBJECT OF FURTHER INVESTIGATION IN MEXICO.

CABLE REPLY WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

UNSUB ARMED AND DANGEROUS

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

DECODED COPY

☐ Radio

PRIORITY

☐ Teletype

TO: LEGAT, MEXICO

DATE SENT: 4/17/68

FROM: WASHINGTON, D.C.

DATE REC'D 4/18/68

NO: 121 BY: RGB/TN

TIME REC'D: 8:25 AM

SEE ADMINISTRATIVE * MURKIN.

THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED AT WASHINGTON, DC, AT PAREN SEE END OF MESSAGE PAREN P.M. THIS AFTERNOON. ALTHOUGH IT IS REALIZED THE WIRE SERVICES ~~WILL~~ WILL CARRY THE FULL TEXT, YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV STATIONS IN YOUR DIVISION TO INSURE IT RECIVES IMMEDIATE WIDE= SPREAD DISTRIBUTION. YOU ARE ALSO AUTHORIZED TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COPIES OF THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS ALREADY IN YOUR POSSESSION. THE DESCRIPTIVE DATA ON THE BACKS OF THESE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE DELETED. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER ONE WITH EYES CLOSED SHOULD CARRY THE CAPTION, QUOTE ERIC STALVO GALT, ALSO KNOWN AS HARVEY LOWMYER AND JOHN WILLARD. UNQUOTE PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER TWO SHOULD CARRY THE CAPTION, QUOTE ERIC STARVO GALT, ALSO KNOWN AS HARVEY LOWMYER AND JOHN WILLARD PAREN EYES DRAWN IN BY FBI ARTIST EMPAREN. UNQUOTE YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPRODUCE LOCALLY ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS AS REQUIRED. YOU SHOULD

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☐ Radio☐ Teletype

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ATTEMPT TO INSURE THAT THIS RELEASE AND PHOTOGRAPHS RECEIVE REPEATED COVERAGE BY RADIO AND TV STATIONS. YOU ARE TO MAKE NO ELABORATION WHATSOEVER REGARDING THIS RELEASE.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL ONE SEVEN, 1968

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ERIC STARVO GALT IS BEING SOUGHT BY THE FBI AS A FUGITIVE ON A FEDERAL CHARGE ARISING FROM THE FATAL SHOOTING OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON APRIL 4, 1968.

DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER STATED THAT A FEDERAL COMPLAINT WAS FILED BY THE FBI IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, TODAY CHARGING GALT WITH CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF DR. KING IN VIOLATION OF TITLE EIGHTEEN, SECTION 241, OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.

THE FBI COMPLAINT CHARGES THAT QUOTE ON OR ABOUT MARCH TWO NINE, 1968, AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA,.. ERIC STARVO GALT AND AN INDIVIDUAL WHOM HE ALLEGED TO BE HIS BROTHER, ENTERED INTO A CONSPIRACY WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL ON OR ABOUT APRIL FIVE, 1968, TO INJURE, OPPRESS, THREATEN, OR INTIMIDATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,... IN THE ~~XXXX~~ FREE EXERCISE OR EMPLOYMENT OF A RIGHT SECURED TO HIM BY THE CONSTITUTION OR LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES; NAMELY, THE RIGHT TO FREELY TRAVEL FROM STATE TO STATE. IN FURTHERANCE OF

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PAGE THREE

THIS CONSPIRACY, ERIC STARVO GALT DID, ON OR ABOUT MARCH THREE ZERO, 1968, PURCHASE A RIFLE AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.... UNQUOTE

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, A 30.06 RIFLE EQUIPPED WITH A TELESCOPIC SIGHT WAS FOUND NEAR A ROOMING HOUSE ON SOUTH MAIN STREET IN MEMPHIS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FATAL SHOOTING OF DR. KING OCCURRED. THE ROOMING HOUSE OVERLOOKS THE LORRAINE HOTEL & MOTEL WHERE DR. KING WAS STAYING.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT FBI AGENTS DETERMINED THAT THE ~~XXXXX~~ 30.06 RIFLE HAD BEEN PURCHASED FROM A GUN DEALER IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ON MARCH 30, 1968. THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT ALSO WAS PURCHASED FROM THIS DEALER.

THE FBI DIRECTOR SAID THAT GALT, WHO HAS USED THE NAMES OF JOHN WILLARD AND HARVEY LOWMYER IN THE PAST, IS THE OWNER OF A 1966 WHITE MUSTANG BEARING ALABAMA LICENSE PLATES WHICH WAS LOCATED ABANDONED IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ON APRIL 11, 1968. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT GALT PURCHASED THIS CAR FROM A PRIVATE CITIZEN IN BIRMINGHAM ON AUGUST 30, 1967. THE MUSTANG'S ODOMETER SHOWED THAT IT HAD BEEN DRIVEN MORE THAN 19 THOUSAND MILES BETWEEN LATE AUGUST, 1967, AND EARLY APRIL, 1968.

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, GALT'S TRAVEL IN MUSTANG INCLUDED TRIPS TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA; BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; AND MEXICO, AS WELL AS TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE,

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AND ATLANTA, GEORGIA. GALT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 3 AND 4, 1968, AND TO HAVE DEPARTED FROM THERE FOR ATLANTA.

BY
INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION ~~OR~~ THE FBI HAS DISCLOSED THAT GALT HAS CLAIMED TO ~~XXXXX~~ HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED AS A COOK ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER VESSELS AND AS A MERCHANT SEAMAN. HE IS SAID TO BE AN AVID DANCER AND TOOK DANCING LESSONS IN NEW ORLEANS IN 1964 AND 1965; IN BIRMINGHAM DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1967; AND IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, FROM DECEMBER, 1967 TO FEBRAURY, 1968.

GALT LEFT LOS ANGELES ON DECEMBER 15, 1967, AND DROVE HIS WHITE MUSTANG TO NEW ORLEANS, WHERE HE CLAIMED HE CONTACTED EITHER ANENGINEERING OR A CONTRACTING FIRM. HE LEFT NEW ORLEANS ON DECEMBER 19 AND ARRIVED BACK IN LOS ANGELES ON DECEMBER 21, 1967.

WHILE IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA EARLY THIS YEAR, GALT TOOK A COURSE AT A SCHOOL OF BARTENDING AND WAS GRADUATED ON MARCH 2, 1968.

THE FUGITIVE IS DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE. HE IS APPROXIMATELY 5'8" TO 5'11" TALL AND WEIGHS BETWEEN 160 AND 175 LBS. HE IS SAID TO BE A NEAT DRESSER AND HAS A MEDIUM BUILD.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ GALT HAS BROWN HAIR, WHICH HE WEARS IN A QUOTE BRUSH UNQUOTE CUT. HE REPORTEDLY HAS BLUE EYES; HIS NOSE IS STRAIGHT AND NARROW; HIS TEETH ARE STRAIGHT AND CLEAN; AND HE HAS GIVEN HIS DATE OF BIRTH AS JULY 20, 1931.

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PAGE FIVE

THE FUGITIVE IS SAID TO HAVE A NERVOUS HABIT OF OCCASSIONALLY PULLING AT AN EAR LOBE WITH HIS HAND. HIS LEFT EAR PROTRUDES FARTHER FROM HIS HEAD THAN HIS RIGHT EAR.

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, PERSONS WHO HAVE MET GALT DESCRIBE HIM AS A QUOTE LONER UNQUOTE AND STATE HIS LANGUAGE AND DICTION HAVE A QUOTE RURAL UNQUOTE QUALITY AND SUGGEST THAT HE PROBABLY DOES NOT HAVE A HIGH DEGREE OF EDUCATION. HE IS SAID TO ~~X~~ DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND HAS A PREFERERNC~~E~~ FOR VODKA AND BEER. HE IS A FAN OF WESTERN AND COUNTRY MUSIC.

SEE ADMINISTRATIVE ~~X~~ THE FEDERAL STATUTE UNDER WHICH GALT HAS BEEN CHARGED PROVIDES A MAXIMUM PENALTY OF TEN YEARS' IMPRISONMENT ~~XXXX~~ AND/OR FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FINE. BOND OF 50 THOUSAND DOLLARS HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED.

GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS. ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM SHOULD BE FURNISHED IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST FBI OFFICE.

ADMINISTRATIVE LEGAT OTTAWA ADVISED. PAREN PLEASE CORRECT FIRST SENTENCE TO READ AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED AT WASHINGTON, DC, AT 5:45 PM THIS AFTERNOON. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RELEASE AT SIX PM EST. ALTHOUGH IS IT ETC.. UNQUOTE ALSO DELETE THORD PARAGRAPH FROM THE END WHICH READS QUOTE QUOTE THE FEDERAL STATUE UNDER WHICH ETC UNQUOTE. END PAREN TKS

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

PRESS RELEASE

Washington, D.C.
April 17, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the FBI as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the FBI in Birmingham, Alabama, today charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

The FBI complaint charges that "On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, ... Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., ... in the free exercise or employment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or Laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Alabama..."

173-1
JJF:wr

According to Mr. Hoover, a 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel & Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that FBI Agents determined that the 30.06 rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight also was purchased from this dealer.

The FBI Director said that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. The Mustang's odometer showed that it had been driven more than nineteen thousand miles between late August, 1967, and early April, 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travel in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; Birmingham, Alabama; and Mexico, as well as to Memphis, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. Galt was reported

to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

Intensive investigation by the FBI has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman. He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during September and October, 1967; and in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967 to February, 1968.

Galt left Los Angeles on December 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He left New Orleans on December 19 and arrived back in Los Angeles on December 21, 1967.

While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The fugitive is described as a white male. He is approximately 5' 8" to 5' 11" tall, and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair, which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes; his nose is straight and narrow;

his teeth are straight and clean; and he has given his date of birth as July 20, 1931.

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt describe him as a "loner," and state his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of western and country music.

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous.

FREDERICK COUTTS
General

GLENN RYAN
Comandante Territorial



EJERCITO DE SALVACION

BRIGADIER HARLAN CLEVELAND
Comandante Divisional

FUNDADO EN 1865 POR WILLIAM BOOTH

CUARTEL DIVISIONAL

BUCARELI 53-22
MEXICO 6, D. F.

APDO. POSTAL 5-410
MEXICO 5, D. F.

TELEFONO:
35-62-48

Today Is Thursday
April 11, 1968

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

The Honorable Ambassador
Fulton Freeman
United States Embassy
Mexico, D.F.

Ray Fitz

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

This is not an easy letter for me to write, but I feel that I must.

Yesterday morning, approximately 9:15 a.m., while transacting some business at the First National City Bank, Reforma Branch, I happened to notice a young American man in his late twenties or early thirties enter and ask to purchase some Travelers Checks. From his facial features, which immediately caught my attention, there was a striking resemblance to the description the newspapers have given of the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King. Also his other physical features, such as weight (in the vicinity of 170 lbs.), in height (not over 6 ft.), and I would add, he possessed a decided athletic build. He was also dressed very neatly (in a dark grey suit) and spoke with a decided southern accent. Outwardly, at least, he seemed calm, but I had the distinct feeling he was rather nervous. He frequently glanced around, and I would say, overly so. I tried hard not to arouse any suspicions that I was observing him.

Upon concluding my business (before he did) I hurried left the bank, but felt an obligation to return and report my feelings to the bank manager, to Mr. Ray Fitzsimmons, who very kindly listened to me and then himself made two trips from his desk to observe the man. He stated that he had seen this man in the bank before, once when he brought a letter of credit from New York for a negotiation, I understood him to say.

The last thing I want to do is jump to conclusions and cause anyone any embarrassment and inconvenience, however, I do feel this man could be the one being sought in the Martin Luther King slaying. If I could be of any further help, please count on my full co-operation.

Sincerely yours,

Wilton H. Atkins
Wilton H. Atkins
Captain

Main DF lead - 888

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO	
BILLS	

173-1-31



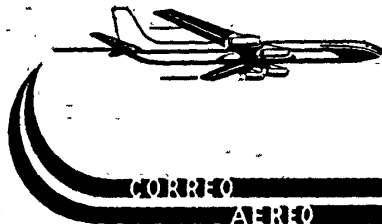
EJERCITO DE SALVACION

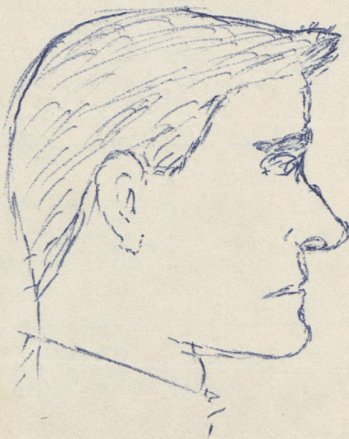
ESCUELA DE CADETES

IMPRESA 163 - MEXICO 2, D. F.

PERSONAL and CONFIDENCIAL

The Hon. Fulton Freeman, Ambassador
American Embassy
Mexico, D. F.,





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APR 18 1968	
LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO	
BILLS	<i>[Signature]</i>

173-1-32

Legat, Mexico (173-1)

4/18/68

SA Richard S. Clark

MURKIN

On 4/18/68 MARIO DEL X VALLE, Assistant Chief of the Inspection Service of Mexican Immigration advised that they had received notification from the office of the District Attorney (Agente del Ministerio Publico) in San Miguel de Allende that they had an American who greatly resembled the artist's conception of the ~~subject~~ assassin of King.

This is assumed to be the version by Sergio Jaubert which was released in the Mexican papers.

The American was named LANG CARPENTER, white, male, born Dec. 28, 1919, Missouri, U.S. passport [REDACTED].

Del Valle noted that he had entered Mexico on 3/30/68 on a one entry visa so that it was unlikely that he had anything to do with an incident in the U.S. on April 4.

It was pointed out to him that photographs of GALT were appearing that morning in the Mexican papers and that this information should be relayed to San Miguel de Allende.

He later advised that he had relayed this information to San Miguel and anticipated that CARPENTER would be released. They were to communicate with him if not.

RSC (1)

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
APR 19 1968
LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO
13

173-1-33

SECRET

18 April 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Nathan L. Ferris
Legal Attache

FROM : Winston M. Scott *WMS*

SUBJECT : BEANBALL - Unidentified Visitor to the Soviet
Embassy

1. Reference is made to your oral request of 16 April 1968 for a check of the records of this office for identification of a possible visitor to the Soviet or Cuban Embassy who could be identical with the subject of composite photographs provided by your office.

2. Subject could not be identified as being in contact with the Cuban Embassy during the period 11 August 1967 through 10 April 1968.

3. One unidentified person who claimed to be an American citizen was in contact with the Soviet Embassy on 30 January 1968. This subject was described as 22-27 years of age, approximately 5' 9" to 5' 11" in height, approximately 175 to 180 pounds, light brown hair and slightly ruddy complexion. He claimed that he was in a business relating to fertilizers for farm use. A comparison of photographs of this person and the Subject of your composite photographs and their descriptions indicate that your Subject is not identical with the unidentified visitor of 30 January 1968. Your Subject reportedly had dark brown straight hair combed straight back. The unidentified person had light brown hair with a slight wave and a deep receding hairline at each side of his forehead.

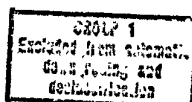
4. This photograph may be used in the course of an investigation so long as it is not connected in any way with this office and so long as Mexico is not revealed as the location where it was taken. There is no information available on where the person stayed in Mexico or any name which he may have used.

Original with Attachments: Addressee

#12,845

DECLASSIFICATION AUTHORITY DERIVED FROM:
FBI AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION GUIDE

DATE 3-25-23
FS4MVS KSI



SECRET

173-1-33A

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LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO	

Crapp and KSI
Respect one nkt

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PRIORITY☐ Radio☐ Teletype

TO: LEGAT, MEXICO
FROM: BUREAU
NO.: 125 BY: RGB

DATE SENT: 4/18/68
DATE REC'D: 4/19/68
TIME REC'D: 8:30 A.M.

MURKIN.

CONTACTS SHOULD BE MAINTAINED WITH ALL MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA IN YOUR TERRITORIES TO INSURE THAT THERE IS FREQUENT REFERENCE TO PHOTOGRAPH OF GALT AND HIS CONNECTION WITH THIS CASE. IF NOT ALREADY DONE, PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE SHOWN OR DISTRIBUTED TO LAW ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN YOUR AREAS TO INSURE THE BROADEST POSSIBLE PUBLICATION OF SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPH AND BACKGROUND.

OFFICES COVERING POINTS OF ENTRY OR EXIT FROM COUNTRY INSURE THAT SUBJECT'S PHOTOGRAPH AND BACKGROUND HAVE BEEN WIDELY DISTRIBUTED AND/OR APPROPRIATELY DISPLAYED AND THAT STOPS ARE BEING MAINTAINED.

OFFICES COVERING DEPARTURE OR ARRIVAL OF OVERSEAS FLIGHTS SHOULD ALSO RENEW STOPS AND DISPLAY PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUBJECT APPROPRIATELY.

SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS. OTTAWA ADVISED.

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

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PRIORITY

☐ Radio☐ Teletype

TO; LEGAT, MEXICO

DATE SENT: 4/18/68

FROM: BUREAU

DATE REC'D: 4/19/68

NO.: 126 BY: RGB

TIME REC'D: 8:30 A.M.

MURKIN.

REURTEL APRIL 17 LAST.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION GALT RESIDED IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA FROM NOVEMBER 19, 1967 TO JANUARY 20, 1968. YOU SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT DURING THE ABOVE PERIOD THE DAILY ACTIVITY OF GALT CANNOT BE ACCOUNTED FOR. DURING THIS PERIOD GALT DEPARTED LOS ANGELES FOR NEW ORLEANS DECEMBER 15, 1967 AND RETURNED FROM NEW ORLEANS DECEMBER 21, 1967.

*Gray advised
4/19/68/br*

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Legat, Mexico (173-1)

FROM : SA Richard S. Clark

SUBJECT: ~~Murkin~~

DATE: 4/19/68

On 4/19/68 Mrs. EDITH STENSBY of Citizenship indicated that a person she considered suspicious and possibly related to this case had applied for a passport.

She showed a photograph of this individual which did not in any way resemble GALT, nor does his description.

She considered him furtive in manner and strange-acting. He at first said that he was going to Nicaragua and then said he was returning to New Orleans, although he gave a New York address. He also asked if the passport could be mailed to him.

Following description from his application forms:

Name: ~~LOUIS JOEL LANDRY~~
Sex: Male
Race: White
Birth: 9/27/37, New Orleans, La.
Height: 5'5"
Hair: Brown (almost bald)
Eyes: Hazel
SSN: [REDACTED]
Address: 336 East 61st St. NYC
Parents: Catherine Kiefer and Louis Landry, ~~xxx~~ Slidell, New Orleans
Person to notify: cousin ~~Sam~~ George Yrigoyen, same address in NYC

Entered Mexico 4/15/68 at Laredo.

No further action recommended. Mrs Stensby request photos
RSC(1) of suspects when more available.



5010-108-01

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SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan 73-1-36

JAMES EARL RAY
alias ERIC STARVO GALT.

Profugo Norteamericano con orden de aprehension en relacion
asesinado del Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Despues de una intensa busqueda ha determinado el FBI
que huellas digitales halladas en este caso correspondan
a un tal JAMES EARL RAY usando alias ERIC STARVO GALT.

RAY tambien es profugo por fugarse de la Penitenciaría del
Estado de Missouri donde fue sentenciado a 20 años por
robo de coches y robo de mano armada. Se escapo en
abril de 1967, hace un año. Antes fue sentenciado en
Los Angeles, California por robo de casa habitada en 1949,
robo de mano armada en Chicago, Illinois en 1952 y
pasar giros del Correo de los EEUU en Missouri en 1955.
Ha cumplido sentencias en la Carcel del Condado de Los
Angeles, California, las Penitenciarías del Estado de
Illinois en Joliet y Pontiac en 1952-52 y la Penitenciaría
Federal de Leavenworth en Kansas en 1955-1958.

Estuvo en el Ejercito de los EEUU en 1946-1948, donde
fue sentenciado una vez a tres meses y finalmente dado de
baja.

Ha usado los nombres JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALTON,
W.C. HERRON, JAMES O'CONNER.

Tiene 40 años de edad ab
Nacio el 10 de marzo de 1928 en el Estado de Illinois.
Mide 1.78 metros
Pesa 78 kilos
Ojos azules
Pelo castaño
Cicatrices en el centro del frente y del mano derecha.
Ha trabajado como panadero, obrero, vagabundo

ARMADO Y SUMAMENTE PELIGROSO

B to Vazquez Roldan, Galt
4-19-68 psc (4)

001

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

173-1-37

A I R T E L

To: Director, FBI

Date: April 19, 1968

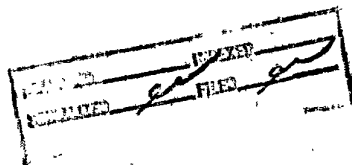
From: *JH* Legat, Mexico City (173-1) (P)

Subject: MURKIN

Re: ERIC STARVO GALT

Enclosed are two copies of the registration card for GALT at the Hotel Rio, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, showing his address as 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, and his residence at this hotel from October 19 to November 6, 1967.

UNSUB ARMED AND DANGEROUS



5 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
(1 - Liaison Section)

1 - Mexico City

JJF:esc

(6) *[Signature]*

173-1-38

DECODED COPY

PRIORITY

☐ Radio☐ Teletype

TO: LEGAT, MEXICO DATE SENT; 4-19-68
 FROM: WASHINGTON, D.C. DATE RECEIVED: 4-19-68
 NO: 128 BY: DAH/TN TIME RECEIVED: 5:25PM

+
 129 SEE PAGE 3 FOR SEARCHING

MURKIN.

= THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE HAS JUST BEEN ISSUED AT WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE IT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV STATIONS IN YOUR DIVISION. EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE ~~XXXXXXXX~~ TO INSURE REPEATED AND WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF THIS INFORMATION. COPIES OF THE 1968 PHOTOGRAPH OF SUBJECT ALREADY IN YOUR POSSESSION AND WANTED FLYERS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEDIA CONTACTS. NO ELABORATION WHATSOEVER MAY BE MADE REGARDING THIS RELEASE. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING INVESTIGATIVE LEADS WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE.

APRIL 19, 1968.

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE FBI HAS IDENTIFIED JAMES EARL RAY, AN ESCAPEE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AS ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM A FEDERAL COMPLAINT WAS FILED LAST WEDNESDAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FATAL SHOOTING OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER SAID THAT A SYSTEM

173-1-39

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 19 1968	
LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO	

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF LATENT FINGERPRINTS UNCOVERED IN THE DR. KING CASE AGAINST THE FINGERPRINTS OF THE OVER 53,000 PERSONS FOR WHOM "WANTED NOTICES" HAVE BEEN POSTED IN THE FILES OF THE FBI'S IDENTIFICATION DIVISION LED TO THE DETERMINATION THAT GALT AND RAY ARE IDENTICAL.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT RAY, WHO IS 40 YEARS OF AGE, WAS REPORTED MISSING FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, ON APRIL 23, 1967. HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED AT THAT INSTITUTION ON MARCH 17, 1960, TO SERVE A 20 YEAR SENTENCE FOLLOWING CONVICTION IN ST. LOUIS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OWNER.

IN SEPTEMBER, 1966, WHILE SERVING THIS SENTENCE, HE WAS CONFINED FOR A TIME IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WARD AT THE STATE HOSPITAL AT FULTON, MISSOURI.

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER , ~~XXXXXX~~ RAY HAS A KNOWN ARREST RECORD DATING BACK TO 1949. PRIOR TO THE 1960 CONVICTION FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED THE 20 YEAR TERM, RAY HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF BURGLARY IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, IN 1949; ARMED ROBBERY IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, IN 1952; AND FORGING AND CASHING UNITED STATES POSTAL MONEY ORDERS IN MISSOURI IN 1955.

HE HAS SERVED TERMS IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL IN 1949; IN STATE PRISONS AT JOLIET AND PONTIAC, ILLINOIS, IN 1952-54; AND IN THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, IN 1955-58.

RAY WAS AN ENLISTED MAN IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY FROM FEBRUARY, 1946, TO DECEMBER, 1948, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS GIVEN A

DECODED COPY☐ **Radio**☐ **Teletype**

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

GENERAL DISCHARGE DUE TO INEPTNESS AND LACK OF ADAPTABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE. WHILE IN THE ARMY, HE RECEIVED A 3-MONTH SENTENCE AT HARD LABOR FOR BEING DRUNK AND BREAKING ARREST.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT DURING HIS CRIMINAL CAREER, RAY HAS
ALSO USED THE NAMES OF JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALTON, W.C. HERRON
AND JAMES O'CONNER. HE IS A WHITE MALE; CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN BORN
MARCH 10, 1928, IN ILLINOIS; IS ~~XXXXXX~~ APPROXIMATELY 5 FT. 10 IN.
TALL AND WEIGHS ABOUT 163 TO 174 POUNDS. HE HAS BLUE EYES AND BROWN
HAIR. THERE IS A SMALL SCAR ON THE CENTER OF HIS FOREHEAD AND A
SCAR ON THE PALM OF HIS RIGHT HAND.

JESSE Mc BRIDE 26-11-146 P2 *J. E. Mc BRIDE 87-0-178* *W. N. HERRON 10-5-3-2A file destroyed 1964 lab*

RAY HAS CLAIMED THAT HE ATTENDED SCHOOL THROUGH THE 10TH. GRADE IN ALTON, ILLINOIS. HE HAS HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING A "DRIFTER" SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL. HIS VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE INCLUDES WORKING AS A BAKER, LABORER AND COLOR MATCHER.

IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AN FBI COMPLAINT WAS FILED IN JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, ON JULY 20, 1967, CHARGING RAY WITH UNLAWFULLY FLEEING FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO AVOID CONFINEMENT. HE HAS BEEN A FEDERAL FUGITIVE SINCE THEN.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., OR THE NEAREST FBI OFFICE.

DECODED COPY☐ **Radio**☐ **Teletype**

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

April 19, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that the FBI has identified JAMES EARL RAY, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary, as ERIC STARVO GALT, against whom a federal complaint was filed last Wednesday in connection with the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Director J. EDGAR HOOVER said that a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. KING case against the fingerprints of the over 53,000 persons for whom "Wanted Notices" have been posted in the files of the FBI's Identification Division led to the determination that GALT and RAY are identical.

Mr. HOOVER said that RAY, who is 40 years of age, was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, on April 23, 1967. He had been received at that institution on March 17, 1960, to serve a 20 year sentence following conviction in St. Louis for armed robbery and for operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner.

In September, 1966, while serving this sentence, he was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at the State Hospital at Fulton, Missouri.

According to Mr. HOOVER, RAY has a known arrest record dating back to 1949. Prior to the 1960 conviction

173-1-40

for which he received the 20 year term, RAY had been convicted of burglary in Los Angeles, California, in 1949; armed robbery in Chicago, Illinois, in 1952; and forging and cashing United States Postal Money Orders in Missouri in 1955.

He has served terms in the Los Angeles County Jail in 1949; in state prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois, in 1952-54; and in the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1955-58.

RAY was an enlisted man in the United States Army from February, 1946, to December, 1948, at which time he was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service. While in the army, he received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest.

Mr. HOOVER said that during his criminal career, RAY has also used the names of JAMES, MC BRIDE, JAMES WALTON, W. C. HERRON, and JAMES O'CONNER. He is a white male; claims to have been born March 10, 1928, in Illinois; is approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs about 163 to 174 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair. There is a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand.

RAY has claimed that he attended school through the tenth grade in Alton, Illinois. He has had the reputation of

being a "drifter" since leaving school. His vocational experience includes working as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

In connection with his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary, an FBI complaint was filed in Jefferson City, Missouri, on July 20, 1967, charging RAY with unlawfully fleeing from the State of Missouri to avoid confinement. He has been a Federal fugitive since then.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

DECODED COPY

PRIORITY☐ **Radio** (PART ONE OF TWO PARTS)☐ **Teletype**

TO: LEGAT, MEXICO

DATE SENT: 4/19/68

FROM: BUREAU

DATE REC'D: 4/20/68

NOS.: 131 & 132 BY: RGB

TIME REC'D: 9:15 A.M.

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA., EARL JAMES RAY, W. C. HERRON, EARL JAMES, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JIM - FUGITIVE; UFAC - ROBBERY FIRST, BUFILE 88-41730. OO: KANSAS CITY, KC FILE 88-9449; DETERMINED TODAY BY BUREAU TO BE IDENTICAL WITH ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM FEDERAL COMPLAINT FILED APRIL 17 LAST IN CONNECTION WITH FATAL SHOOTING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

JAMES EARL RAY, INMATE, MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., ESCAPED PEN APRIL 23, 1967. INVESTIGATION INDICATED RAY CONCEALED HIMSELF IN A BREAD BOX AND ESCAPED FROM TRUCK MAKING DELIVERY TO AN AUXILIARY FARM. RAY WAS SERVING TWENTY YEARS ON CHARGE OF ARMED ROBBERY - FIRST DEGREE AND FOR OPERATING A

(ARMED AND DANGEROUS)

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APR 20 1968	
LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO	

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

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☐ RadioPAGE TWO☐ Teletype

VEHICLE WITHOUT OWNER'S CONSENT. ON JULY 20, 1967, FEDERAL COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY AUSA WILLIAM A. KITCHEN, WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, KANSAS CITY, MO., FILED BEFORE USC, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., CHARGING RAY WITH VIOLATION TITLE 18, SECTION 1073, USC. WARRANT ISSUED.

INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED BY CHICAGO, SPRINGFIELD, ST. LOUIS, AND KANSAS CITY OFFICES IN UNPRODUCTIVE EFFORT TO LOCATE THIS FUGITIVE. KANSAS CITY IS INSTITUTING A FULL AND COMPLETE RE-INVESTIGATION IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND DATA, RELATIVES AND ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECT, WHO MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO ASSIST IN HIS LOCATION.

IN THIS CONNECTION, JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE⁰ ON MARCH 7, 1955, BURGLARIZED THE US POST OFFICE AT KELLERVILLE, ILL., AND STOLE 66 BLANK US POSTAL MONEY ORDERS WHICH THEY PASSED DURING MARCH, 1955, IN NUMEROUS STATES, WITH THE RESULT THAT BOTH WERE SENTENCED IN USDC, KANSAS CITY, MO., ON JULY 1, 1955, TO USP, LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS. SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS A LONER AND RIFE APPARENTLY IS ONE OF HIS FEW CLOSE ASSOCIATES, SUGGESTING POSSIBILITY THEY COULD HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATES IN MURDER OF DR. KING, AND INVESTIGATION ALSO INSTITUTED IN KANSAS CITY AIRTEL TO SPRINGFIELD MARCH 11 LAST TO DEVELOP BACKGROUND INFO RE RIFE AND TO LOCATE HIM FOR INTERVIEW. THIS INVESTIGATION SHOULD ALSO BE RECOVERED

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

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☐ RadioPAGE THREE☐ Teletype

AND EXPEDITED TODAY, IT BEING NOTED RIFE AND RAY HAVE BACKGROUND HISTORY IN THE QUINCY, ILL., AREA.

PHOTOS OF JAMES EARL RAY AND WALTER TERRY RIFE ARE BEING FORWARDED AMSD TO BUREAU AND ALL OFFICES.

(PART TWO OF TWO)

FOLLOWING IS DESCRIPTION OF JAMES EARL RAY AS FURNISHED BY FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION UNDER FBI NO. 306443A:

WHITE MALE, DOB MARCH 10, 1928 OR 1929, ATDECATUR, QUINCY OR ALTON, ILL.; APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 10; 174 LBS., IN SEPTEMBER 1966; RUDDY COMPLEXION; BLUE EYES; BROWN HAIR; MEDIUM BUILD; OCCUPATIONS LABORER AND BAKER; SCARS AND MARKS - SMALL SCAR ON CENTER OF FOREHEAD AND SCAR IN PALM OF RIGHT HAND ADDRESSES - ST. LOUIS, MO., MARCH 1960; 2015 PARK, ST. LOUIS, MO., OCTOBER 1959; QUINCY, ILL., JULY 1955, MARCH 1955, AND APRIL 1950; HOTEL QUINCY, QUINCY, ILL., MARCH 1955; VICTOR HOTEL, QUINCY, ILL., MARCH 1955; 853 WEST FULLERTON, CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 1952; 805 ALBY STREET, ALTON, ILL., JULY 1951. FPC - 16, M OVER M, 9 OVER 4, U OVER W, 000 OVER 101, 12, REF 9 OVER 12. NCIC FPC DASH [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. MILITARY RECORD - JAMES EARL RAY, SN [REDACTED], ENLISTED US ARMY FEBRUARY 1946, AT EAST ST. LOUIS, ILL., AND SERVED ON ACTIVE ~~DUTY~~ DUTY UNTIL DECEMBER 23, 1948, AT WHICH TIME GIVEN GENERAL DISCHARGE AS PRIVATE FIRST CLASS AT CAMP KILMER, NJ, BY REASON OF INEPTNESS AND

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

DECODED COPY

PAGE FOUR☐ Radio☐ Teletype

LACK OF ADAPTABILITY FOR MILITARY SERVICE. RECORDS ALSO INDICATE HE RECEIVED TREATMENT FOR GONORRHEA AND SYPHILIS WHILE A MEMBER OF THE MILITARY.

FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF WALTER TERRY RIFE, FBI NO. 4558766, AS OBTAINED FROM FILES OF USP, LEAVENWORTH:

WHITE MALE, AGE 44, DOB APRIL 19, 1924, 5 FEET 9 1/2, 161 LBS., BROWN HAIR, EYES BLUE GRAY.

KANSAS CITY IS SETTING OUT ALL PERTINENT LEADS TODAY BY TELETYPE AND TELEPHONE FOLLOWED UP BY TELETYPE CONFIRMATION. ALL LEADS MUST BE COVERED WITHIN 24 HOURS WITH BUREAU, KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS BEING KEPT ADVISED BY APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATION OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

SUGGEST BUREAU MAKE IMMEDIATE COMPARISON OF ANY LATENT FINGERPRINTS DEVELOPED DURING KING INVESTIGATION WITH THOSE OF WALTER TERRY RIFE TO DETERMINE IF IDENTICAL.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT ANCHORAGE HONOLULU AND SAN JUAN.

LEGAT OTTAWA AND ALL SACS ADVISED.

SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH DEADLY WEAPON, HAS BEEN CONFINED IN STATE HOSPITAL, FULTON, MO., IN 1966, AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P.

(END OF TWO PARTS)

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

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PRIORITY

☐ Radio☐ Teletype

TO: LEGAT, MEXICO
FROM: BUREAU
NO.: 133 BY: RGB

DATE SENT: 4/19/68
DATE REC'D: 4/20/68
TIME REC'D: 9:15 A.M.

MURKIN.

VIGOROUSLY PURSUE ALL LEADS CONCERNING SUBJECT AT
PUERTO VALLARTA, JALISCO, MEXICO.

PHOTOS OF SUBJECT BEING FORWARDED SEPARATELY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

*Gray advised
4/20/68
RGB*

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (173-1)

DATE: April 20, 1968

FROM : *NLF* LEGAT N. L. FERRIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following leads have been assigned in connection with captioned case:

(1) Check with narcotics contacts in Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta in view of indications that ERIC S. GALT had been interested in obtaining marijuana, provided such can be done discreetly. If the need for discretion indicates this should not be done, then contact should be established with the Narcotics Officer in the Embassy to ascertain if the sources available to that office can be utilized to determine if GALT is now endeavoring to obtain marijuana in Mexico. (lead assigned to SA FOARDE.)

(2) Reinterview all persons previously in touch with GALT to insure that all details have been obtained concerning his previous trip to Mexico, where he stopped en route to Puerto Vallarta and how much did he know about Mexico which might indicate a place where he would go back, if returning to this country. (Lead assigned to SA FOARDE for transmittal to SAs OGLESBY and GRAY.)

(3) For coverage in Merida and Progreso concerning possibility that GALT might be in those areas attempting to go to Cuba. Consul HARBEN and Identification Officer ARBEU should be advised by mail with copies of GALT's photographs. (Lead assigned to SA CLARK.)

(4) With regard to the possibility that GALT might go to Veracruz in an effort to go to Cuba, contact should be made with Consul SAM YOUNG and the Veracruz police, furnishing them appropriate photographs. (Lead assigned to SA PAGE.)

CC: SA FOARDE
SA CLARK
SA PAGE
SA RUDD
SA JAMILLER
LEGAT FERRIS

NLF:ako

(7)



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Forde

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan *173-1-43*

MEX 173-1

(5) With regard to the possibility that GALT may go to Tampico in an effort to go to Cuba, appropriate sources in Tampico should be alerted and photographs furnished them. (Lead assigned to FERRIS for transmittal to SA MILLER in Monterrey.)

(6) Check appropriate hotels and motels for first night stops in Monterrey, Saltillo, and San Luis Potosi, to locate where GALT may have overnighted on his original trip from Laredo to Puerto Vallarta. (Lead assigned to FERRIS for transmittal to SA MILLER in Monterrey.)

(7) Ascertain from San Antonio approximate time of day GALT's tourist card to enter Mexico was obtained at Nuevo Laredo, based on the sequence of immigration card numbers. (Lead assigned to SA FOARDE for referred to the Bureau by cablegram.)

(8) Check with Bureau regarding background and identity of individual recently in Veracruz trying to arrange travel to Cuba, to see if he is actually a real person or if he might be GALT. (Lead assigned to SA PAGE.)

*Handled by
Rudd 4/20/68*
(9) Talk to Mrs. HELEN PAGE at Maria Cristina Hotel for further details regarding individual reported by her to Security Officer JOHN ELLIS on 4/19/68. (Lead assigned to SA RUDD.)

(10) Arrange to issue Consular circular as soon as possible with photographs of GALT. (Lead assigned to SA CLARK.)

(11) Establishment of coverage in Acapulco to determine whether GALT may have gone there. (Lead assigned to SA FOARDE for referral to MEX-34.)

(12) Establishment of coverage in Mazatlan to determine if Subject may go to that area. (Lead assigned to SA FOARDE for transmittal to SA KAISER.)

*Handled by
Clark 4/20/68*
(13) Establishment of coverage on the Guatemalan border through Gobernacion to ascertain if GALT should try to exit Mexico for Guatemala or Belize, British Honduras. (Lead assigned to SA JA. MILLER.)

MEX 173-1

*Handled by
communication
to Consul in Guatemala
1/30/68 for
Jama*

(14) Alert Guatemalan Immigration Officers through Chief of Immigration at the Guatemala City Airport, transmitting photographs for dissemination to Guatemalan Immigration Officers at the airport and at logical points along the Guatemalan side of the border with Mexico. (Lead assigned to SA J. A. MILLER.)

(15) Insure that fisurs have up to date photographs of GALT. (Lead assigned to SA CLARK.)

(16) Ascertain if it would be necessary to reimburse investigative informant connected with Gobernacion to spend extensive time going through cancelled tourist cards to locate one turned in by GALT when he departed Mexico. (Lead assigned to SA CLARK.)

F B I

Date: 4/20/68

Transmit the following in CODE
(Type in plaintext or code)Via CABLEGRAM IMMEDIATE
BY: RAB NO: 177 (Priority)URGENT
MURKIN

REMYCAB APRIL ONE SEVEN LAST.

ELISA ARELLANO TORRES LOCATED AT GUADALAJARA, JALISCO AND RECALLED MEETING ERIC STARVO GALT AT PUERTO VALLARTA, JALISCO, WHILE GALT WAS THERE IN OCTOBER DASH NOVEMBER LAST AND WITH ALABAMA PLATES SHE KNEW HIM BY THIS NAME. HE WAS IN WHITE MUSTANG/AND PICKED HER UP ABOUT MIDNIGHT AS SHE LEFT WORK AS CIGARETTE GIRL AT HOTEL POSADA VALLARTA. THEY THEREAFTER LIVED TOGETHER FOR FIVE DAYS BUT BROKE UP, SHE SAYS, BECAUSE HE WANTED HER TO BUY MARIJUANA FOR HIM. NEITHER SHE OR ANY OTHERS INTERVIEWED TO DATE RECALLS SEEING HIM USE MARIJUANA. SHE SAW HIM AROUND TOWN FOR AN ESTIMATED TEN DAYS THEREAFTER AND KNOWS THAT HE LIVED AT BOTH RIO AND TROPICANA HOTELS. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ THEIR TRYSTS, HOWEVER, USUALLY TOOK PLACE IN ~~XXXXXX~~ ANOTHER HOTEL CALLED QUOTE LAS GLORIAS. UNQUOTE. HE WENT SEVERAL TIMES TO YALAPA, SMALL NEARBY RESORT AREA FREQUENTED BY QUOTE HIPPY UNQUOTE TYPES, ALLEGEDLY TO BUY MARIJUANA.

ARELLANO DESCRIBED GALT AS ABOUT THREE SIX YEARS OLD, FIVE FEET TEN TO ELEVEN INCHES, REGULAR BUILD BUT A LITTLE THIN, BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES, HABIT OF SCRATCHING

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

173-1
RJO/JJF/s
Approved: [Signature]
(2) Special Agent in Charge

Sent 430 P M Per [Signature]

173-1-44

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

ARRANGING HAIR. SHE STATED ~~SKETCH~~ ^{SKETCH} WITH SHORT OR BUTCH HAIRCUT IS GOOD LIKENESS AND DESCRIBED GALT AS COMPLETE INTROVERT WHO WAS ALWAYS TIRED AND, IN HER OPINION, MIGHT BE A MENTAL CASE. HE SPOKE NO SPANISH AT ALL AND CONSTANTLY USED DICTIONARY TO CONVERSE WITH HER. BEFORE THEY BROKE UP, HE TOLD HER HE COULD REMAIN IN PUERTO VALBARTA UP TO TWO MONTHS IF SHE WANTED HIM TO. HE SPOKE OF RETURNING TO THE U.S. THROUGH MEXICO CITY BUT SHE IS UNCERTAIN CONCERNING HIS EXACT & DATE OF DEPARTURE.

ARELLANO HAS NOT SEEN OR HEARD FROM GALT SINCE HE WAS IN PUERTO VALLARTA. IF HE WERE LOOKING FOR HER, HE WOULD TRY IN PUERTO VALLARTA SINCE HE WOULD NOT KNOW SHE IS NOW IN GUADALAJARA AND WOULD PROBABLY CONTACT BARTENDER LUIS GARCIA, WHO HAS BEEN COOPERATING CLOSELY WITH AGENT ON SCENE AND FIRST FURNISHED INFORMATION LEADING TO ARELLANO. CONTACT BEING MAINTAINED, THROUGH INVESTIGATIVE INFORMANT, WITH ARELLANO ON REGULAR BASIS IN CASE SHE DOES RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION FROM OR CONCERNING GALT.

FIRESTONE GENERAL MANAGER ^{FOR} ~~THE~~ MEXICO, BENJAMIN P. COOPER, ADVISES RECORDS OF CENTRAL OFFICE, MEXICO CITY, DO NOT SHOW IDENTITY OR OTHER DATA ON PURCHASER OF TIRE FOUND ON MUSTANG. HE IS DISCREETLY CANVASSING ALL HIS LOCAL OUTLETS TO DETERMINE

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

WHERE TIRE WAS SOLD.

SIX MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES HANDLE TRIP INSURANCE FOR TOURISTS TRAVELING IN MEXICO AND KEEP RECORDS AT BORDER POINTS WHERE POLICIES ARE USUALLY SOLD. SUGGEST SAN ANTONIO, AT LAREDO, TEXAS, AND NUEVO LAREDO, TAMAULIPAS, CHECK FOR ANY RECORD OF POLICY ISSUED TO GALT AT LOCAL OFFICES OF LA PROVINCIAL, SEGUROS AMERICA, AZTECA, TEPEYAC AND LA COMMERCIAL COMPANIES. LA LIBERTAD, THE SIXTH COMPANY, DOES NOT MAINTAIN AGENCIES AT BORDER, ACCORDING TO INSURANCE OFFICIALS HERE.

COPIES OF REGISTRATION CARD FOR GALT AT HOTEL RIO, PUERTO VALLARTA, WITH SIGNATURE AND SOME OTHER HANDWRITING, FORWARDED TO BUREAU BY COURIER POUCH APRIL ONE NINE LAST WITH COVER AIRTEL.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AT PUERTO VALLARTA, GUADALAJARA AND MEXICO CITY WITH STOPS PLACED AT MEXICAN IMMIGRATION FOR ALL POINTS OF DEPARTURE. PRESS COVERAGE EXTENSIVE AND BEING FURTHER STIMULATED HK THROUGH PRESS OFFICERS OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATES WITH MATERIAL APPROVED BY BUREAU FOR RELEASE. BUREAU WILL BE IMMEDIATELY ADVISED OF ALL PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE

FROM : LEGAT N. L. FERRIS (173-1)

SUBJECT: MURKING

DATE: 4/20/68

At 4:30 p.m., 4/19/68 Assistant to the Director C. E. DE LOACH telephonically advised that ERIC S. GALT had been identified through fingerprints as JAMES EARL RAY, as a result of which the following aliases have been determined to have been used by RAY:

JIM McBRIDE
HARVEY LOWMYER
JAMES WALYON
W. C. HERRON
JAMES O'CONNER
JOHN WILLARD
"JIM".

Mr. DE LOACH instructed that in view of the Subject's previous experience in Mexico, we should scour the area for him especially in the vicinity of Puerto Vallarta. He also instructed that appropriate stops should be placed at all points of exit from Mexico, especially those utilized for departure for Cuba.

NLF:ako
(2)

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LEGAL ATTACHE - MEXICO	

173-1-45



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Legat, Mexico City (173-1) (P)

DATE: April 22, 1968

FROM : SA DOUGLAS G. BILLS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

SA RICHARD W. KAISER telephonically advised at 5 p.m., April 21, 1968, he received a call from SAC, El Paso, Texas, at 1:45 p.m., same date, stating Bureau instructed he call KAISER about receipt by New York Office of a telegram at 9:40 a.m., same date, from ALEJANDRO RIVERA CERVANTES stating, "I HAVE LOCATED PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSASSINATION," giving return address telephone 3-29-85, Hermosillo, Sonora.

MEX 59 had contacted RIVERA at his hotel (not identified) in Hermosillo. RIVERA claimed on April 5, 1968, in Mazatlan, Sinaloa, near an unidentified beach at about 10 a.m., an UNSUB held him up with a lugar, but RIVERA had no money, so UNSUB left in a new red Datson with no license plates. UNSUB described as American.

RIVERA said he checked out of his hotel, name not given, at Hermosillo and left the same day in his 1966 Opel, which is registered to his wife, [REDACTED], 17 years old, who lived at Nonualco 45-C, Apartment 305, Ciudad Tlaltelolco, Mexico. [REDACTED]'s mother (FNU) GONZALEZ SOTO, lives there and her telephone is 29-46-08.

RIVERA said he had been joined by his wife in Hermosillo and they proceeded direct to Mexico, DF, along the route he claimed he followed UNSUB in his car arriving Mexico City about 4 p.m., April 6, 1968. He proceeded to the Hotel York in Mexico, DF, where he registered.

It is not clear why he was not with his wife at this time or needed transportation, but he stated to MEX 59 he left the hotel, proceeding to a near-by taxi stand (name of taxi company not identified and presumably only one near-by) whose telephones are 15-50-20 and 15-85-20.

He took a taxi and found UNSUB who had attempted the holdup riding as a passenger trainee. The driver (not



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Mexico DF lead

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

173-1-46

MEX 173-1

described) was apparently familiarizing UNSUB with the streets in Mexico City prior to the latter's going to work as a driver.

RIVERA said he was frightened and did not talk with UNSUB while he was being driven to his wife's address in Tlaltelolco.

At that time RIVERA claimed he did not suspect the identity of UNSUB. He said he left Mexico City on April 8, 1968, via train to Ciudad Obregon, arriving April 10, 1968. He saw a newspaper with an artist's conception of subject in this case (which drawing or newspaper not identified) and concluded attempted assailant (the UNSUB) is the assassin in this case. Incidentally, he also said he had seen subsequent photographs of JAMES EARL RAY or ERIC STARVO GALT (which not stated) and was finally convinced that this was the man who had tried to hold him up.

RIVERA said he had written to Mr. BAYARD RUSTIN, Negro leader in the United States identified as Executive Director of the Institute Phillip Randolph, New York, New York, but received no reply.

RIVERA proceeded to Hermosillo and on April 21, 1968, sent the telegram mentioned above. RIVERA is going to be in Hermosillo for two days and his local address will be Zacatecas 731 Sur, Ciudad Obregon, where he allegedly is employed by the Liga de Comunidades Agrarias y Sindicatos Campesinos Obregon.

MEX 59 noted that RIVERA has another wife named LIDIA ZACUETA NIEDLAS DE RIVERA and at times appears to be irrational and wandering in his accounts of his activities.

Of possible interest, MEX 59 noted that RIVERA said he was more than willing to return to Mexico City to point out UNSUB and reasoned RIVERA wanted his fare paid here.

RIVERA said he guessed the girl who is the radio operator at the taxi stand near the Hotel York would know the identity of the cab driver who was supposedly familiarizing UNSUB with the city.

MEX 173-1

RIVERA described UNSUB, whom he presumes to be JAMES EARL RAY, as WMA, 40 years old, 5 feet 10 inches, 180 pounds, blue eyes, pale complexion, always seen wearing gray Western-type hat but not with wide brim and a gray gabardine raincoat.

LEAD

MEXICO CITY

At Mexico, DF. Assign source to contact cab stand near Hotel York to display photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and attempt to identify driver mentioned above.

JAMES EARL RAY CONSIDERED ARMED AND
EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

April 22, 1968

UNCLASSIFIED

VIA Pouch

Mr. Neil Marshall Ruge
Consul
Embassy of the United States of America
Guatemala City, Guatemala

Dear Mr. Ruge:

I am enclosing five sets of photographs concerning James Earl Ray, together with four Spanish language summaries regarding this individual.

I will sincerely appreciate if you will retain one set of the photographs for your information and make the other four sets, together with the Spanish language summaries, available to Mr. Alberto Argueta Mendez, Director, General of Immigration in Guatemala City. I would appreciate it if you would suggest to Mr. Argueta that he make one set available to immigration at La Aurora Airport and furnish the other three for ports of entry from Mexico.

While we have no information that Ray might travel to Guatemala, we do know that he has visited Mexico and the possibility exists that he may have entered or try to enter Guatemala.

We would appreciate it if you would advise Guatemalan Immigration to notify your office immediately of any information received regarding this individual in order that you might be able to furnish such information to this office.

Enclosures (20)

173-1
JAM:ako
(2)

UNCLASSIFIED

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173-1-47

I appreciate your cooperation in this matter and look forward to seeing you during my May trip to Guatemala City.

Sincerely,



JAMES A. MILLER
Assistant Legal Attache

P.S.

Also enclosed are six Wanted Flyers which were published under the name Galt, prior to his identification as Ray.

The Foreign Service
of the United States
of America

American Embassy
Mexico, DF
April 22, 1968

CONSULAR CIRCULAR 12

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, alias: Eric Starvo Galt

Attached are photographs of this subject who, as you know from newspaper publicity, is wanted in connection with the assassination of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King.

Subject is a white male, age 40, who claims to have been born on March 10, 1928, in Illinois. He is approximately 5 feet 10 inches tall and weighs about 163 to 174 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair. There is a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand.

He has also used the names JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALTON, W. C. HERRON, and JAMES O'CONNER.

He has an extensive criminal record in the United States and is also currently wanted as an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary where he was serving twenty years for armed robbery.

It is requested that you be alert for any information relating to this individual and that any information developed be immediately relayed to the Legal Attache.

SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND
EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

Attachments

L: NLFerris

173-1
RSC:esc
(46)

[Handwritten signature]

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173-1-48