Mr. Stephen J. Pollak Assistant Attorney General

Director, FBI

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. September 0, 1968

(1)- Mr. Long

Mr. William Bradford Huie was interviewed at his home in Hartselle, Alabama, at his request. He advised that while James Earl Ray was incarcerated in London, England, he (Huie) entered into a contract with Ray to write the true account of Ray's activities and background concerning the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. This contract is also of interest to Arthur Hanes, Ray's attorney, inasmuch as the cost of the trial, including attorney's fees, is dependent upon the commercial success of the contract.

Mr. Huie has advised that to date he has invested approximately \$20,000 in this venture.

Mr. Huie further related he is in constant contact with Ray through Attorney Hanes in the form of written questions and answers by Ray. These items include names of cities, states, places, maps and individuals contacted by Ray as well as activities from the date of his escape from prison to his apprehension in England.

Mr. Huie stated that he has been refused personal contact with Ray by Judge W. Preston Battle, the judge who will handle the trial. Mr. Huie further stated that he desires to obtain current nonpublicized photographs of Ray and he would be most willing to divulge all information he has received to date to the Bureau on a confidential basis provided his request could be met. Mr. Huie was advised that this Bureau would not attempt to influence, interfere with, or suggest action taken by state officials or courts.

On August 27, 1968, Mr. D. Robert Owen of your Division was advised that William Bradford Huie has obtained notes from James Earl Ray, and Mr. Huie is preparing an article in "Look" magazine based on these notes. Mr. Owen advised that he will consider the question of obtaining a search warrant or subpoena duces tecum for Mr. Huie's notes and/or calling Mr. Huie before a grand jury.

REL:rpr

Mr. Stephen J. Pollak

In view of the forthcoming state trial of Ray in Memphis, Tennessee, which is scheduled to start on November 12, 1968, the Department should give consideration to the urgency of reaching a determination as to the course of action it desires to follow in this matter.

Unless you promptly advise to the contrary, we will furnish this information to Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, who is handling the state prosecution.

Mr. DeLoach

A. Roson

September 5, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Walley

1 - Mr. McGowan

D- Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Bishop

MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On September 1, 1968, William Bradford Huie, author, whose books include "Three Lives for Mississippi," dealing with the murder of three Civil Rights workers in June of 1964, was contacted by our Birmingham Agents at his home in Hartselle, Alabama, upon his request. Huie requested that the interview be kept in confidence for reasons depicted in the information furnished.

Huie stated that while James Earl Ray was incarcerated in London, England, he (Huie) entered into a contract with Ray to write the true account of Ray's activities and background concerning the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. This contract is also of interest to Ray's attorney, Arthur Manes, insamuch as the cost of the trial, including attorney fees, is dependent upon the commercial success of the contract. Mule has advised that to date he has invested approximately \$20,000 in this venture. Mule further relates he is in constant contact with subject Ray through Attorney Hanes in the form of written questions and answers by Ray, which includes names of cities, states, places, maps and individuals contacted by Ray, as well as activities from the date of his escape from prison to his apprehension in England.

Huie stated that to date he has been refused personal contact with Ray by Judge W. Preston Battle, the judge who will handle the trial, state of Tennessee. He stated that he is highly desirous in obtaining current non-publicized photographs of Ray which would be the character type rather than the mug shots.

Rule stated he would be most willing to divulge all information he has received to date to the Bureau on a confidential basis, as well as all information he may receive in the future on a current basis, provided the requests could be mot.

REL: jms

(6) CONTINUED - OVER

Rosen to DeLoach memorandum RE: MURKIN

Mr. Hule advised that the Bureau is not attempting to influence, interfere, or suggest action taken by state officials or courts.

We are running out information in Huie's possession developed through sources, regarding previously unknown activities of Ray between the time of his escape in April, 1967, and his apprehension on June 8, 1968. The Department has been alerted to Ruie's contemplated "Look" story on Ray and has under consideration the question of obtaining a search warrant or subpossa duces tecum for his notes and/or calling Huie before a Federal Grand Jury. If Department declines to take any action on this information, we will furnish the information to the appropriate local authorities. This is being followed closely with the Department.

ACTION:

It is recommended that the request of Muie not be honored, and that Birmingham be instructed that under no circumstances should they "bargain" with him. It is further recommended that this new information be provided to the Department and authority be requested to furnish this information to appropriate local authorities. Attached for approval is a letter to the Department incorporating therein the results of contact with Rule as set forth in this memorandum, and requesting Departments decision on a matter previously discussed with them.

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

PROM:

SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

(OO: MEMPHIS)

On 9/1/68, WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIR, Author, Hartselle, Alabama, was contacted by SAs WILLIAM H. LEE and STEPHEN L. CRABBE at his home in Hartselle upon his request. HUIE requested that this contact be kept in confidence for reasons depicted in the information furnished. He stated as follows:

While JAMES EARL RAY was incarcerated in London, England, he (HUIE) entered into a contract with RAY to write the true account of RAY's activities and background concerning the assassination of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. This contract is also of interest to RAY's attorney, ART HANES, inasmuch as the cost of the trial, including attorney fees, is dependent upon the commercial success of the contract. HUIE advised that to date he has invested approximately \$20,000 in this venture. He advised that he is in constant contact with RAY through Attorney HANES in the form of written questions and answers by RAY, which includes names of cities, states, places, maps and individuals contacted by RAY, as well as activities from the date of his escape from prison to his apprehension in England.

He stated that to date he has been refused personal contact with RAY by Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Trial Judge, State of Tennessee, Memphis. Also, he highly desires obtaining current non-publicized photographs of RAY of character type rather than mug shots or those depicting RAY in manacles.

(3) - Bureau (AM)

2 - Memphis (44-1987)

2 - Birmingham SIC:hes

(7)

BH 44-1740

HUIE further advised he would be most willing to divulge all information he has received to date to the Bureau on a confidential basis, as well as all information he may receive in the future on a current basis, provided the two above requests could be met.

He requested that he be contacted at his residence in Hartselle, Alabama, to avoid divulging his contact with the Bureau in this matter. It was suggested to Mr. HUIE that the Bureau does not attempt to influence, interfere, or suggest action taken by state officials or courts.

The above is being furnished to the Bureau and Memphis for information and/or action deemed advisable.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach

FROM: A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: September 11, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach

Tolson .

Casper Callahan Conrad

Sullivan Tavel

Holmes 🚤

Gandy .

Mohr Bishop

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Arthur J. Hanes, attorney for James Earl Ray, filed the following motions on August 16, 1968, in Criminal Court of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, in relation to the state's prosecution of Ray.

- 1. Motion for leave to withdraw plea and to quash indictment for carrying a dangerous weapon.
- 2. Motion for leave to withdraw plea and to quash indictment for murder.
- 3. Motion to produce firearms, automobiles, records, etc., pertaining to this case which are now in the possession of the attorney for the State.

On September 6, 1968, Judge W. Preston Battle, Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, considered the above motions and according to Mr. Robert K. Dwyer, Executive Assistant, State Attorney General's Office, Shelby County, Tennessee, Judge Battle took the following action:

- 1. Denied motion for leave to withdraw plea and to quash indictment for carrying a dangerous weapon.
- 2. Denied motion for leave to withdraw plea and to quash indictment for murder.
- 3. To the best of Mr. Dwyer's recollection Judge
 Battle instructed that the State Attorney General's
 Office make available to the defense on September 18,
 1968, the weapon, automobile, and records or documents regarding residency of Ray between April 23,
 1968, and June 8, 1968; records where Martin Luther
 King, Jr. resided between March 25, 1968, and
 April 3, 1968; photos of Ray; penal records for

REL: jms, p
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Rosen to DeLoach memorandum. RE: MURKIN

Ray including medical and psychiatric reports; military records; passport and visa applications and records of entry and exit to and from this or any other country; and objects handled by defendant such as papers and maps. Mr. Dwyer further stated that Judge Battle ordered that the evidence examined by the FBI be made available to the defendant; however, the defendant was not entitled to reports concerning the opinion or conclusion reached as result of FBI examination of the evidence.

Mr. Dwyer stated that these items as enumerated were not the only items mentioned in the Judge's instructions to the court clerks; however, these were the only items he could specifically recall.

It is noted that the evidence as recovered by the Memphis Police Department at the scene of the murder is in possession of the Memphis authorities. It is also to be noted that the automobile of subject Ray under the name of Eric S. Galt recovered at Atlanta, Georgia, is presently stored in our space at Atlanta, Georgia. The Department has been considering the disposition of the vehicle and we are, of course, following this with the Department, which has not yet reached any decision. It is further noted that upon authority of the Department the State Attorney General's Office, Shelby County, Tennessee, was provided with our investigative reports which included information pertaining to the items enumerated by Mr. Dwyer.

ACTION:

- 1. The above will be brought to the immediate attention of the Department, and it will be confirmed in writing.
- 2. SAC, Jensen of our Memphis Office has been instructed to contact the Memphis authorities and discuss with them the safeguarding of this evidence during the inspection of the evidence by the defense.

BN Elm

L

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: September 9, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. McGowan

Mr. Long

Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conred
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele, Room
Holmes
Gandy

DeLoach .

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

William Bradford Ruie, author, whose books include "Three Lives for Mississippi," dealing with the murder of three Civil Rights workers in June, 1964, has reportedly bought James Earl Ray's story and is preparing an article to appear in the November 10, 1968, issue of "Look," proofs of which are to be ready September 10, 1968.

We are running out information in Huie's possession developed through sources, regarding previously unknown activities of Ray between the time of his escape in April, 1967, and his apprehension on June 8, 1968. The Department has been alerted to Huie's contemplated "Look" story on Ray and has under consideration the question of obtaining a search warrant or subpoena duces tecum for his notes and/or calling Huie before a Federal Grand Jury. This is being followed closely with the Department.

Along these lines, William N. Morris, Jr., Sheriff, Shelby County, Tennessee, place of incarceration of Ray, provided us a copy of the following documents:

1. A map which purports to show how the subject,
Ray, escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary. It appears this map is intended for Huie,
and it also appears that Ray walked out the
front gate not escaping using the bread truck.
(It is noted that we had previously developed
similar conflicting information relative to Ray's
method of escape and the exact method of his
escape has not been determined to date.)

Letter addressed by the subject, Ray, to his sister, Mrs. Carol Pepper in Maplewood, Missouri. This letter in essence states that Arthur Hanes, Ray's attorney, will probably want to talk to some of Ray's relatives.

Enclosures (3)

REL: jms (6)

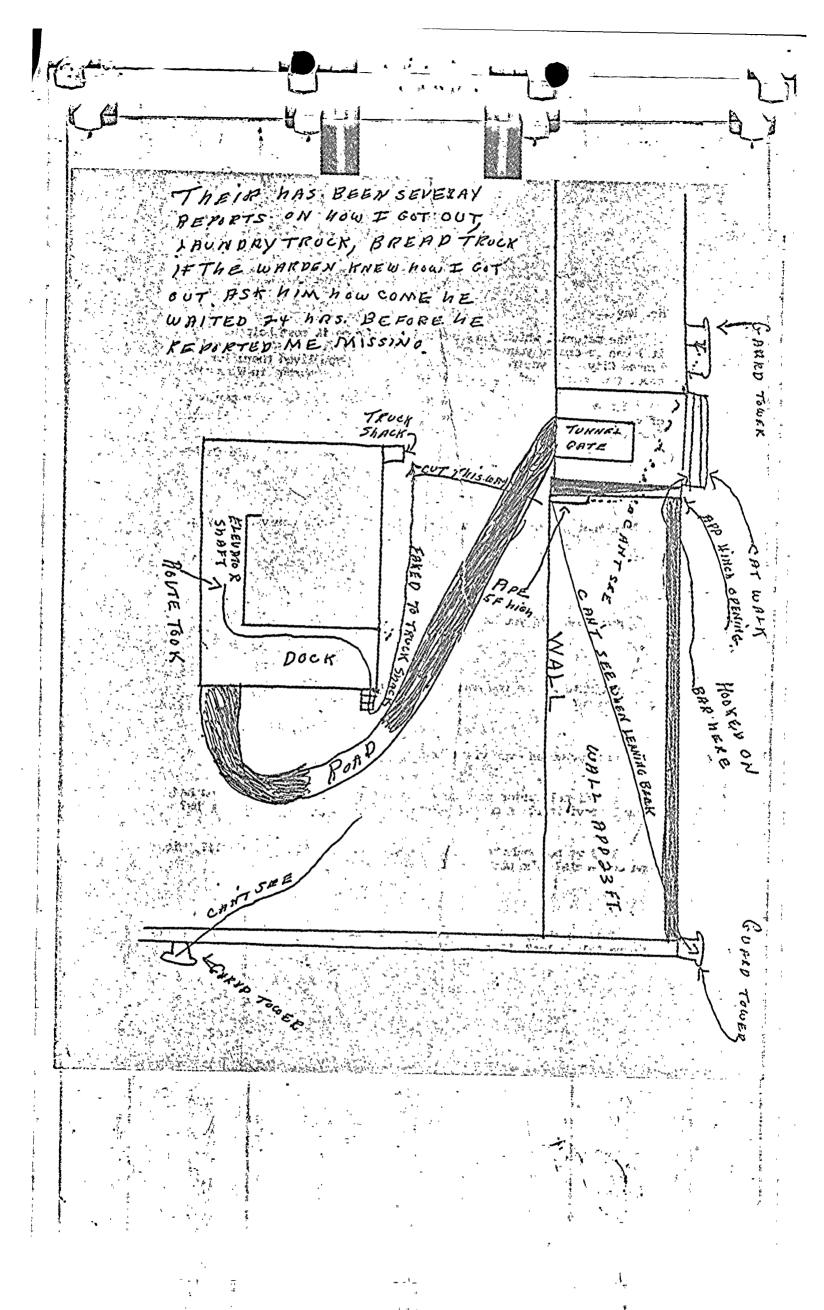
CONTINUED - OVER

Rosen to DeLoach Memorandum RE: MURKIN

3. List of questions, unanswered, which appear to have been prepared for subject, Ray, by William Bradford Huie.

SAC, Jensen of our Memphis Office, has advised that this material was furnished by Sheriff Morris on a strictly confidential basis and any disclosure outside the Bureau would seriously jeopardize our relation with him. SAC, Jensen has advised that Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, is also in possession of this data.

ACTION:
For information. The documents are attached for inspection.



814-68 Dens Jul coul; Tell fork & got his letter, sales got one from ferry Tell fack I wert fory asking him to come down but om not suce be got it since I Couldn't hordly tall what Its allness was be bod on Its letter, Tellhin The Judge has O.K. on hours wint. I won't to Talk to him about Stoner also & that I get some mein of interest for his of fork solly and that Hines will probely word to see blemso bring enough to sty a couple days in Burnington, 5 consepting Eurything when I see them. Try the come only day except wed. + Jun, Topis Ent In

> Mrs. Corol pepper 2025 Bel vue Maplewood, Missouri

Mr. Ray.... The material which you have written for me is most helpful. With it I can re-create your escape on April 23, 1967, your walk toward Kansas City, how you reached Chicago, and how you lived there for about two months, working at the Indian Trail Restaurant in Winnetka. T need exactly this sort of information for every other period of your life from the day you lieft Chicago fon Canada....This 11 months from your escape down to about March 1, 1968. I also need some additional detail as to your way of life inside the prison during the seven years prior to your escape. Here are more questions: Vin that seven years name for me all the people who visited you. How often did you have a visit from somebody? Estimate for me how many times you had a visitor during that seven years? Did any woman ever visit you? Immediately prior to your escape on April 23rd, when had you had your last visitor? A month? Three months? Christmas? Six months? Tell me how and where you slept in prison? Alone in a cell? With one cell-mate? Who was your last cell-mate? Tell me about this last cell-mate? Who? What crime was he in for? Did he talk a lot? What about?

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9-6

Mr. Bishop

M. A. Jones

Morking Folder

DAVID L. LEWIS
REQUEST TO INTERVIEW DIRECTOR
CONCERNING CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE
LATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SYNOPSIS:

Lewis, an Associate Professor of History at Morgan State College, who is writing a biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has written the Director requesting an interview. Desires to know background of dispute with Dr. King and Bureau's role in civil rights field during early and middle 1960's. Bureau and WFO files negative concerning Lewis, but we have had cordial correspondence with some Morgan State College staff members.

DETAILS:

David L. Lewis, an Associate Professor of History at Mergan State College, Baltimore, Maryland, but who resides in the District of Columbia, has written the Director requesting an interview (no date specified). He is preparing "a political biography of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." to be published by Penguin Books, Inc., and would like to question Mr. Hoover concerning the FBI's role in civil rights as well as the background of the publicized dispute between the Director and Dr. King.

Bufiles, Identification Division records, District of Columbia Credit Bureau records and arrest files of the Metropolitan Police Department contain no information identifiable with Lewis. He is, however, listed in the Current District of Columbia telephone directory at the return address given in his letter.

Penguin Books, Inc., is a well-known publisher of paperback editions. We have conducted no investigation concerning the organization, however, references to it appear in some obscene matter investigations

Enclosures

1 - Mr. DeLoach - Enclosure

1 - Mr. Bishop - Enclosure

JHC:jak (9)

1 - Miss Gandy - Enclosure

1 - Miss Holmes - Enclosure

1 - Tour Room - Enclosure

CONTINUED - OVER

Jones to Bishop memo RE: DAVID L. LEWIS

wherein it was alkged this firm printed some risque books. Our files contain no other pertinent data regarding Penguin.

While we have had no previous contact with correspondent Lewis, we have enjoyed cordial correspondente with a number of other faculty members at Morgan State College, Baltimore, Maryland.

There is no point in the Director having an interview with Lewis for the purpose of discussing FBI civil rights jurisdiction or any differences between Mr. Hoover and the late Dr. King. Both areas have been adequately publicized through public source material which may be furnished to Lewis in response to his questions.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. That the Director not take the time from his busy schedule for an interview with Lewis.
 - 2. That the attached letter be sent to Lewis.

September 9, 1968

Mr. David L. Lewis 510 2nd Street, Southeast Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Your letter of September 3rd has been received, and I appreciate your interest in writing.

While I would like to have the occasion to discuss with you the questions raised in your letter, the pressing demands of my official commitments do not permit me this opportunity. I have, however, enclosed material which delineates FBI civil rights jurisdiction and accomplishments for the period of your interest. As for the comment concerning the late Dr. King I made at a press conference on November 18, 1964, the background and reasons for my statement are fully and accurately set forth in an article appearing in the December 7, 1964, issue of "U. S. News and World Report," a copy of which article I have also enclosed.

I trust this material will serve your needs.

Sincerely yours.

Enclosures (5)

"The FBI--Guardian of Civil Rights"

"The FBI's Role in the Field of Civil Rights"

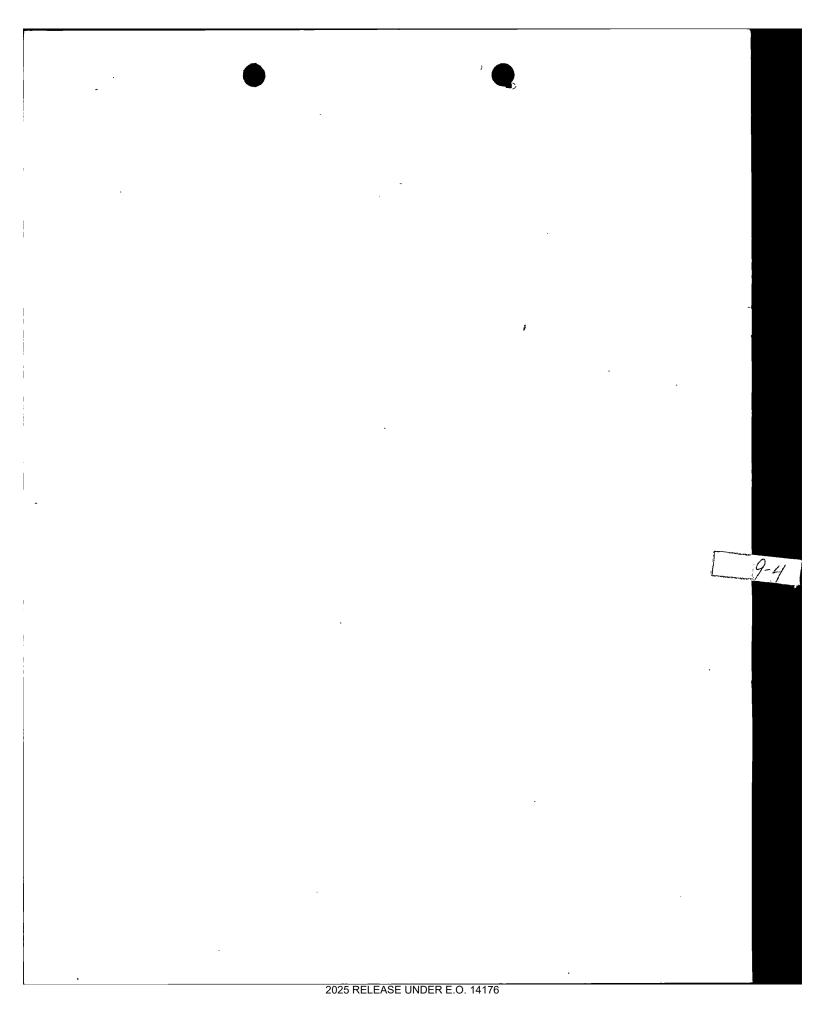
"Next: A Mational Police Force?" 12-7-64 U.S. News & World Report 1965 and 1966 Appropriation Testimony excerpts

1 - Mrr.DeLoach (detached) 1 - Mr. Bishop (detached)
1 - Mr. Rosen (detached) 1 - Miss Gandy (detached)

1 - Miss Holmes (detached)

1 - Tour Room (detached)

NOTE: See Jones to Bishop, 9-6-68, "David L. Lewis, Request to interview Director Concerning Civil Rights and the Late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr." JHC:iak (11)



AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

For information of the Bureau and Memphis, New Orleans received a telephonic inquiry on 8/30/58 from Mr. KEN ZIMMERMAN, Associated Press, New Orleans, as to what records were taken by the FBI from the Provincial Motel in New Orleans concerning ERIC STARVO GALT. He was advised this office had no comment to make.

When queried as to his reason, ZIMMERMAN advised that his New York headquarters was endeavoring to obtain all information concerning the whereabouts of subject from the time he was released from the penitentiary, and had instructed various AP offices to develop all information they could.

Above for information.

(3)- Bureau

- Memphis (44-1987) (Info)

2 - New Orleans

JTS:sam

(6)

Mooking Color

Mr. DeLoach

September 4, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

A. KOSON

1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Walley

MURKIN

1 - Mr. McGowan

(1) - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The New Orleans Division, on August 30, 1968, received a telephonic inquiry from Mr. Ken Zimmerman, Associated Press (AP), New Orleans, Louisiana, as to what records were taken by the FBI from the Provincial Motel in New Orleans concerning Eric Starvo Galt. He was advised that we had no comment to make. It is noted that the subject, in December of 1967, resided at the Provincial Motel in New Orleans for a few days under the name of Eric Starvo Galt.

Mr. Zimmerman was queried as to his reason for wanting this information. He advised that his New York Headquarters was endeavoring to obtain all information concerning the whereabouts of subject Ray from the timeche escaped from the penitentiary on April 23, 1967, and Headquarters of AP had instructed various AP offices to develop all information they could.

ACTION:

For information.

REL: jms (7)

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By note of 8/28/68, the Attorney General was	Mr. Tolson	ĺ
sent 20 copies of reports in the James Earl Ray, Top Ten Fugitive, Ma Luther King, Jr.,	Mr. DeLoach	
Ray, Top Ten Fugitive, Mach Luther King, Jr.,	PARTMENT OF Mr. Monr.	1
Victim, Civil Rights-Conspiracy; Unlawful Flight	Mr. Casper	ĺ
to Avoid Confinement case. These reports are	Mr. Callahan	ŀ
now being returned.	Nr. Conrad	
	Mr. Gale	-
TO Director	DATE: Aug! Mr. Rosen	ŀ
Federal Bureau of Investigation	8/30/68 Mr. Sullivan Mr. Tavel	
	Mr. Trotter	
FROM Sol Lindenbaum	Tele. Room. Miss Holmes	
Executive Assistant to the Attorne	ey General Miss Gandy	
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SUBJECT:	200	
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The Attorney General will no	ot require these copies	
since copies are available in the C	Criminal and Civil Rights	
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AUG 30 1968

1-29 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Membralar Folder

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

August 29, 1968

G. C. Moore

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Sullivan

I - Mr. Rosen

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC., KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN RACIAL MATTERS (KLAN)

1 - Mr. G. C. Moore,

1 - Mr. Walsh

- Mr. Long

PURPOSE:

To advise of a recent contact by Robert M. Shelton, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America (UKA), with Arthur Hanes, attorney for James Earl Ray, and who has also represented klansmen in the past.

BACKGROUND:

Shelton was convicted of contempt of Congress in 1966. His appeal was turned down by the United States Court of Appeals on August 14, 1968.

CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS:

A racial informant of our Birmingham Office advised that Shelton contacted Hanes in an attempt to engage him in Shelton's behalf in connection with an appeal to the Supreme Court. The informant advised that Hanes told Shelton he was too busy with the King case and felt that if he filed a brief for Shelton, he would damage both Shelton and James Earl Ray. Hanes recommended to Shelton and Fel Blanton, a Birmingham, Alabama, attorney, to handle his appeal.

The informant advised that Blanton het with Shelton on August 16, 1968, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, when Shelton gave Blanton a \$1,000 check as a retainer fee. The informant also learned that a defense fundlas been started for Shelton's appeal to raise \$6,000 which Blanton told Shelton the appeal

JVW:rmm (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan RS: UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.

would cost. Informant stated the UKA National Office is composing a letter to be sent to all klansmen in the United States in order to raise this money.

Birmingham is submitting a letterhead memorandum which will be disseminated only to the Internal Security and Civil Rights Divisions of the Department in order to protect this very sensitive source. At this time only the source, national officials of the UKA, Blanton, and Hanes are aware of the above-mentioned arrangement.

It is interesting to note that a racial informant of our Memphis Office previously advised as set forth in memorandum Rosen to Deloach, August 26, 1968, that Shelton told him he had been approached by Henes who allegedly told Shelton that Ray had no money. Shelton then inquired of the Memphis informant regarding the possibility of klansmen in the Memphis area being amemable to donating money for Ray's defense.

ACTION:

For information. We are closely following this matter.

Muerin Memo

Mr. W. C. Sullivan

August 29, 1968

G. C. Moore

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Sullivan

- Mr. Rosen

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC. I - Mr. G. C. Moore KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN RACIAL MATTERS (KLAN)

PURPOSE:

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JVW:rmm (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. W. C. Sullivan RE: UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.

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ACTION:

For information. We are closely following this matter.



Mr. Callahan

8-29-68

J. B. Adams

EVA JEAN STEPHENS EOD 2-15-65, GS 5, \$5,924 Clerk-Typing, Personnel Section

Mrs. Stephens is the wife of Mr. Perry R. Stephens, an officer of the Alexandria, Virginia, Police Department. She has advised that it has been ascertained that one Charles Q. Stephens, who is a material witness in the trial scheduled to start in State Court in Memphis, Tennessee, on 11-12-68 in connection with the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., is an uncle of her husband.

Mrs. Stephens advised that they did not at first connect this uncle with the individual named in early press dispatches since the name was misspelled Stevens. Recently a photograph appeared in a local paper with the name correctly spelled and her husband recognized his uncle. Contact with her husband's father verified the fact that Stephens is his brother and therefore the uncle of Mrs. Stephens' husband. Mrs. Stephens advised that Charles Q. Sephens for many years has been a "floater" who has never had any substantial, gainful employment, and contact with members of his family is very infrequent. Mrs. Stephens states that to the best of her knowledge she has only met him once and doubts if she would recognize him.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information only.

LLD:nmm

1 Civil Rights Section

August 28, 1968

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXXXXXX a memorandum Washington D. C.

XXX (F) EJM: jms

August 28, 1968

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A source of this Bureau, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that he was recently in contact with Robert M. Shelton Imperial Wizard of the United Klans, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Shelton inquired as to Klan members who could be trusted and also whether or not members of the Klan within Tennessee would be amenable to donating money to James Earl Ray.

Shelton advised the source that he had been approached by Arthur Hanes, attorney for Ray, who allegedly told Shelton that Ray had no money. Shelton told the source that he was coming to Memphis in the near future to look at a jury list that would be given to him by Hanes. The source further stated that Shelton asked him to look over the list with him when he comes to Memphis.

This information is being furnished to Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, who is handling the state's prosecution of Ray. This is for your information.

- 1 Civil Rights Division
- 1 Criminal Division

EJM:jms (4)

Memorandum

TO

Mr. CotterQ

DATE: 8/27/68

FROM

G. A. Strong

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

Mohr Blahon

Casper Callaha

Sulliva Tavel Trotter Tele, Roo

Holmes

Mrs. Ona Kennedy, who resides in San Diego, California, and is known to the San Diego Office, personally contacted me in Washington, D. C.

She stated she was en route New York City, New York, from Memphis, Tennessee, where she had been visiting relatives. She related while in Memphis she had received thirdhand information to the effect that James Earl Ray was not the individual who killed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mrs. Kennedy advised that the person who did kill Dr. King, according to information she received, was the brother of an individual who owned a sporting goods store near the place of the murder.

She stated Ray was in the rooming house across from Dr. King's motel to shoot Dr. King in the event the other individual did not. In addition, Mrs. Kennedy advised that the landlady of the rooming house where Ray was allegedly seen is a Mrs. Yarborough who reportedly grew up with Ray in Missouri.

Mrs. Kennedy further advised that rumors were being circulated in Memphis to the effect that Mrs. Yarborough had received \$2,000 from persons unknown to testify in court that she did not recognize Ray.

The above conversation with Mrs. Kennedy was of short duration and in an establishment not conducive to thorough and exhaustive interrogation and only the above information was obtained.

Mrs. Kennedy was in a travel status and her exact date of return to San Diego is unknown.

ACTION:

It is recommended that this memorandum be forwarded to the division handling this matter.

- Mr. Rosen GAS:mkm (3)

return of the glaster to matter. 8/28/68

8-26

Hr. DeLoach

A. Rosen

MURKIN

August 26, 1968

1 - Mr. Deloach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. NcGowan'

1 - Mr. Bullivan

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

A reciel informant of our Memphis Office has advised that while in attendance at a rally of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan at Ridgetop, Tennessee, on 8-17-68, he met and spoke with Robert M. Shelton, Imperial Vizard, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, concerning James Earl Ray.

Informant advised that Shelton questioned him regarding the men in the Memphis area within the Klan that he could trust and also whether or not members of the Klan within Tennessee would be amenable to donating money for Ray.

Shelton told informant that he was approached by Arthur Hanes, attorney for Ray, who allegedly told Shelton that Ray had no money. The informant stated that Shelton told him he was coming to Memphis in the near future to look at a jury list that would be given to him by Hanes. Informant further stated that Shelton asked him to look over the list with him when he comes to Memphis.

ACTION:

Memphis is being instructed to keep in close touch with the informant so that all details currently in his possession and additional details which he might obtain will be furnished the Bureau. Memphis is also being instructed to alert Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, who is handling the state's prosecution of Ray, of this information and further advise him any additional details will be furnished to him. Department will also be advised.

REL; jms (7)

and The 8/27/68

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

8-24

August 24, 1968.

GENERAL INVESTIGA WE DIVISION
William Bradford Hule, author whose
books include "Three Lives for Mississippi,"
dealing with the murder of three civil rights
workers in June, 1964, has reportedly
bought James Earl Ray's story and is preparing an article to appear in "Look,"
proofs of which are to be ready 9-10-68.

Ray escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary, 4-23-67, and his whereabouts from 4-23-67, until he appeared in Montreal, 7-17-67, have previously been unknown.

This will be discussed with the Department to determine if material given Huie by Ray through his attorney can be seized as evidence and if Federal action in this regard is not possible, it will be discussed with state authorities who will also be informed so the local judge can determine whether his order against discussing the case is being violated. Above action will be taken, if approved, and Department will also be asked to consider bringing Huie before a grand jury.

WLM:erg

FRI WASH DC

FBI CHICAGO

1154PM INGENT 8-23-68 RFJ

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM CHICAGO (44-1114)

mc Most

Mr. Mohr.
Mr. Pishon
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivah
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Mr. Tolson..... Mr. DoLoach...

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

HARVEY A. AND CLARA S. KLINGEMAN, OWNERS OF INDIAN TRIAL

POLICE DEPARTMENT NATIONAL PROBLEMY PO-FOLLOWING CONTACT BY THEM WITH WINNEIKA CHIEF DONALD DERNING.

THEY WERE CONTACTED TUESDAY, AUGUST TWENTY, LAST, BY
WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, HARTSELLE, ALABAMA, AUTHOR OF "THREE LIVES
FOR MISSISSIPPL" AND "LOOK" MAGAZINE PHOTOGRAPHER HANSEN. HUIE
EXHIBITED LETTERS PURPORTEDLY FROM SUBJECT RAY ADDRESSED TO RAY'S.
ATTORNEY AND GIVEN TO HUIE. HUIE SAID HE HAS OBTAINED ALL
COMMERCIAL RIGHTS TO RAY'S STORY AND IN RETURN IS UNDERWRIING
COSTS OF RAY'S DEFENSE. LETTERS WRITTEN ON HALF SHEETS OF YELLOW
LEGAL FOOLSCAP AND KLINGEMANS CLAIM RECOGNIZED SUBJECT RAYS HANDWRITENG

BOTH KLONGEMANS PSITIVELY IDENTIFIED PHOTO POFFICUBJECT

RAY AS MAN EMPLOYED BY THEM FROM MAY THREE, SIXTYSEVEN, TO

JUNE TWO FOUR, SIXTYSEVEN, AS DISHWASHER AND COOKS HELPER, WITH

TOTAL PAY OF ABOUT EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY DOLLARS. WAS EMPLOYED.

UNDER NAME JOHN L. RAYNS, SOCIAL SEQURITY NO. THREE ONE EIGHT DASH

TWO FOUR DASH SEVEN ZERO NINE EIGHT.

END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

BROTHER AND SUBSEQUENTLY MAILED LETTER TO RESTAURANT REQUESTING
PAY DUE BE SENT TO HIS BROTHER IN NORTHBROOK, ILLINOIS. KLINGEMAN
DID MAIL CHECK WHICH WAS CASHED. ALL PAY CHECKS OBTAINED AND
WILL BE FURNISHED FBI LAB ALONG WITH FORM W DASH FOUR. GAVE LOCAL
ADDRESS OF TWO SEVEN THREE ONE, SHEFFIELD, CHICAGO, BUT CHECK
MAILED TO BROTHER CONTAINS ADDRESS ONE SIX FOUR EIGHT LUNT,
CHICAGO WITH DATE JULY THREE. SIXTYSEVEN.

SUBJECT WAS EXCELLENT EMPLOYEE, QUIET, HAD NO FRIENDS OR VISITORS, BUT RECEIVED THREE OR FOUR PHONE CALLS DURING LAST WEEK OF EMPLOYMENT FROM PERSON STATING HE WAS BROTHER.

AUTHOR HUIE SHOWED LETTERS FROM RAY TO KLINGEMANS IN WHICH
HE LISTED EMPLOYMENT AT INDIAN TRAIL RESTAURANT (AN OLD, LARGE,
UPPER CLASS RESTAURANT OF EXCELLENT REPUTATION).

HUIE DESCRIBED METHOD OF ESCAPE OF SUBJECT FROM

JEFFERSON CITY VIA BREAD TRUCK AND CLAIMED RAY WALKED TO CHICAGO,

BECOMING VERY SORE FOOTED. (KLINGEMAN RECALLS WHEN RAY EMPLOYED

HE HAD SORE AND SWOLLEN LEGS). AFTER BECOMING EMPLOYED, HUIE

ALLEGES RAY WAS CONTACTED BY CONSPIRATORS WHO THREATENED TO REVEAL

HIS IDENTITY AND CAUSE HIS RETURN TO PRISON IF HED DID NOT WORK

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

FOR THEM. HUIE SAYS RAY WAS GIVEN TWELVE HUNDRED DOLLARS DURING INITIAL CONTACTS AND ULTIMATELY WAS PAID FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS, BUT WAS TO RECEIVE MORE.

WPON LEAVING RESTAURANT EMPLOYMENT, HUIE ALLEGES RAY

MADE TWO TRIPS TO CANADA THROUGH DETROIT TUNNEL, TESTING DIFFICULTY

OF ENTERING AND LEAVING CANADA. HE ALSO MADE THIRD TRIP TO CANADA

AND ACCORDING TO HUIE, "WAS INSTRUCTED" TO OBTAIN FORTY YEAR OLD

NEWSPAPER, OBTAIN NAMES OF MALES BORN, THEN SEARCH CURRENT PHONE

BOOKS FOR SIMILAR NAMES. THEN SURVEIL INDIVIDUALS WITH SIMILAR

NAMES TO FIND OUT WHETHER THEIR PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS MATCHED HIM.

THEREAFTER HE TELEPHONED PERSONS OF HIS LIKE DESCRIPTION USING

PRETEXT AND FOUND MAN WHO HAD NEVER APPLIED FOR PASSPORT. THEN

APPLIED FOR PASSPORT IN THIS NAME.

CAR, WHICH WAS TO BE DRIVEN TO ACAPULCO, MEXICO, TO OBTAIN TOURIST STICKER, THEN DRIVEN THROUGH MEXICO TO WEST COAST. HUIE CLAIMS RAY WAS FLOWN TO ATLANTA FROM WEST COAST, BUT TIME WAS NOT RIPE, SO WAS RETURNED TO CALIFORNIA. HE WAS GIVEN MONEY TO BUY BINOCULARS AND SHOTGUN AND WAS TO GO TO MEMPHIS AT CERTAIN TIME AND PLACE.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

G 80 E

HUIE ALLEGES A NEGRO CALLED KING TO BALCONY, WHERE HE
WAS SHOT. ACTUAL MURDERER WAS NOT RAY, ALTHOUGH RAY WAS PRESENT,
AND AT LATER TIME RAY WILL IDENTIFY MURDERER. RAY DID PICK UP
RIFLE, RAN TO HIS CAR AND PROCEDED TO RENDEZVOUS AT ATLANTA,
HOWEVER, CONSPIRATORS DID NOT APPEAR WITH REMAINING "BUNDLE OF MONEY."

RAY WAS THEN TO FLEE TO MEXICO, BUT IMMEDIATELY FLY NORTH
TO THROW OFF PURSUIT AND TO STEER ALL INVESTIGATION TO MEXICO.

SINCE CONSPIRATORS DID NOT APPEAR, HE FLED TO CANADA AND HUIE

ALLEGATIONS THEN FOLLOW SUBSEQUENT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS. HUIE

DID SAY RAY ROBBED BANK IN LONDON BECAUSE HE GOT REAL LOW ON MONEY.

HUIE DID NOT AT ANY TIME IDENTIFY ANY ALLEGED CONSPIRATORS.

HUIE SWORE KLINGEMANS TO SECRECY, SAYING HE WOULD MAIL

THEM "LOOK" PROOFS ON SEPT. TEN, NEXT, COPIES OF WHICH WILL BE

FURNISHED BY KLINGEMANS TO CHICAGO FBI, AND STORY IS TO BE IN "LOOK"

NOVEMBER TEN, NEXT, ISSUE. KLINGEMANS BROKE PROMISE OF SECRECY

UPON REFLECTION. BELIEVING THEIR PUBLIC DUTY WAS TO CONTACT POLICE.

HUIE NOT AWARE OF THEIR TALKING WITH FBI AND THEY WILL NOT TELL

HIM WITHOUT APPROVAL OF FBI THROUGH CHIEF DERNING, NA.

CHICAGO SUGGESTS BUREAU CONSIDER NOTES AND LETTERS FROM END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

RAY IN POSSESSION OF HUIE MAY CONSTITUTE EVIDENCE OF FEDERAL CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS, NOTABLY CONSPIRACY, AND EVEN THOUGH OBTAINED BY RAY ATTORNEY LOSE THEIR PRIVILEGE WHEN SHOWN TO OUTSIDERS.

K INGEMANS ARE ELDEDERLY, REPUTABLE CITIZENS, WHO ARE WILLING TO ASSIST BUREAU IN ANY WAY DESIRED.

HUIE OBTAINED PHOTOSTATS OF PAYROLL LEDGERS AND TOOK
MANY PHOTOGRAPHS AT INDIAN TRAIL RESTAURANT AS WELL AS AT RAY'S
CHICAGO RESIDENCE, ACCORDING TO KLINGEMANS.

CHICAGO CONTINUING INVESTIGATION INCLUDING ADDRESSES MENTIONED.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.

END

SVM

FBI WASH DC

P

"CC- M Conrad

8-23 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mush W Folds

Mr. DeLoach

August 23, 196

1 - Mr. Deloach 1 - Mr. Rosen

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

MURKIN

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long 1 - Mr. Gale

SYNOPSIS:

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. Donald James Niesen furnished us information on June 2, 1967, based upon rumor he heard, of a \$100,000 bounty placed on King's head. Investigation failed to verify this. After the slaying of King, leads were set out to interview Nissen to determine if he had learned of any more information concerning such an offer. It was determined Nissen was declared a Federal Fugitive parole violator on April 2, 1968. He turned himself in to Agents in St. Louis on 8/5/68, and furnished no additional information regarding the \$100,000 bounty. Nissen advised a probation officer he violated parole because of information he possessed concerning King bounty. Special Investigative Division submitting letterhead memorandum to U. S. Parole Board containing interview of Missen.

ACTION:

For your information. You will be advised of pertinent developments.

DETAILS:

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

We have been, in the past, investigating every complaint and allegation of a conspiracy nature regarding the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. We have had several instances where persons incarcerated at various times advised that King had a bounty of \$100,000 placed on his head. We, of course, are continuing to thoroughly check out every allegation of this nature.

On June 2, 1967, Donald James Nissen advised our Dallas Office that while incarcerated at Leavenworth Penitentiary, he heard rumors that \$100,000 had been offered by

REL: 11d **(7)**

CONTINUED - OVER

Memo Rosen to Deloach RE: MURKIN

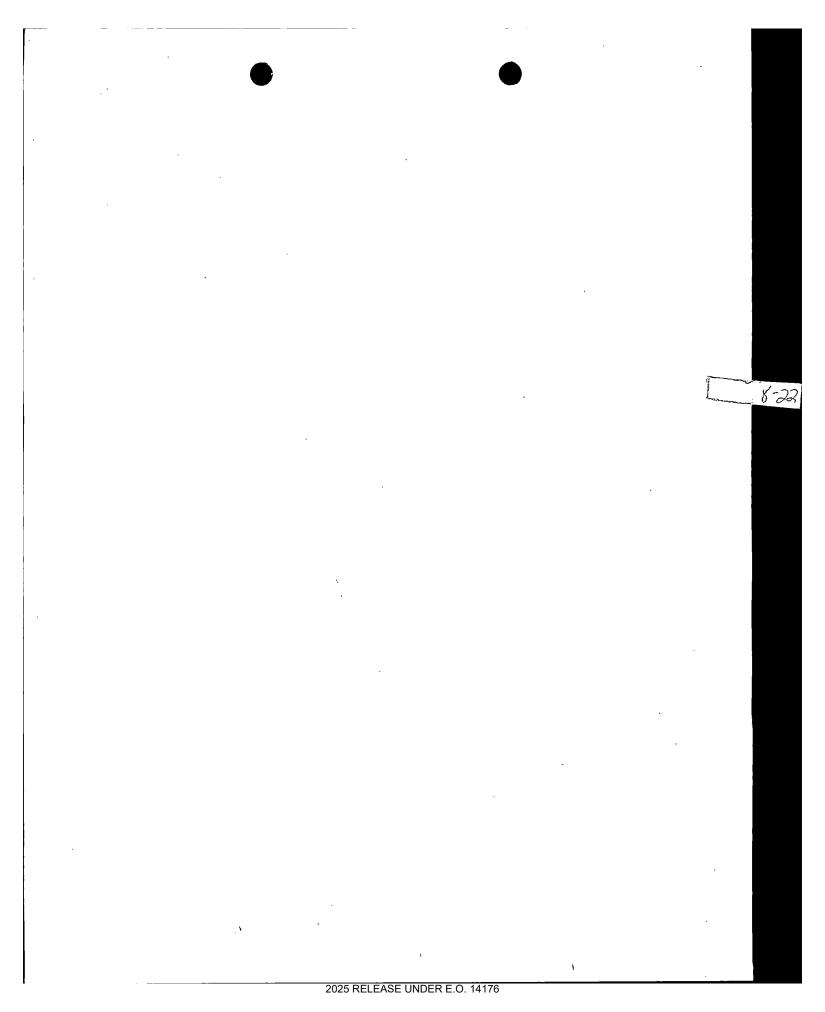
the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi to anyone who would kill Martin Luther King, Jr. Subsequent investigation never uncovered any information which would, in any way, verify the \$100,000 offer. However, after the slaying of King, leads were set out to interview Nissen to determine if he had learned of any more information concerning such an offer.

It was determined that Nissen was declared a Federal fugitive parole violator on April 2, 1968. One July 31, 1968, Nissen telephonically contacted SA G. Wayne Mack of the Phoenix Office, and arrangements were made for Nissen to surrender himself to SA Mack at St. Louis on August 5, 1968. At this time SA Mack planned to stop in St. Louis on that date en route to an In-Service class at the Bureau beginning August 12, 1968. St. Louis was instructed to interview Nissen should he surrender as planned.

Nissen turned himself in to Agents at St, Iouis on August 5, 1968, and stated his decision to do this was prompted partly by fear for his safety after having furnished information to the FBI concerning the alleged offer mentioned and partly by his desire to "get things straightened out" since he is now married and his wife is pregnant. Nissen said he had received no new information concerning the alleged offer for the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr., since interviewed by Dallas Agents on June 2, 1967.

This matter has been coordinated with the Special Investigative Division in view of his fugitive status. The Special Investigative Division directed a communication to St. Louis to the effect that an official of the United States Board of Parole advised that they received information from the Probation Officer in St. Louis to the effect that Nissen is claiming he absconded and violated parole because he possesses information concerning the Martin Luther King, Jr., assassination and fears for his life.

The Special Investigative Division requested the St. Louis Division to furnish the results of the interview of Nissen. They then intend to submit an IHM to the United States Board of Parole.



Place Mushing SAC, Memphis (44 - 1987)

August 22, 1968

Director, FBI

(44 - 38861)

- Mr. Long

MIRKIN .

ReMEairtel to the Bureau dated 7/29/68.

You should conduct no further investigation regarding the radio transmission made on a citizens band radio on April 4, 1968. You should, however, if any further complaints or information received regarding this broadcast, make a thorough and complete investigation and keep the Bureau advised.

REL: bf (4)

NOTE:

See Rosen to DeLoach Memorandum, 8/19/68, captioned "MURKIN", REL:sld:cs.

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

,

FROM: A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: August 19, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

(1) - Mr. Long

Tolson Delooch Mohr Bishop Casper Callahan Conrad Felt Gale Rosen Sullivan Tavel Trotter Tele Room Holmes Gandy

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

SYNOPSIS:

A radio transmission was made at 6:33 p.m., April 4, 1968, (date of assassination of King) by an unidentified individual on a citizens band radio stating he was in a vehicle pursuing the assailants in a Mustang responsible for the murder of King. Messages from the individual relayed through police radio and no police officers ever observed the chase of the vehicle. Extensive investigation conducted by Memphis Police Department and FBI in Memphis. Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D. C., states it is impossible to identify sender of transmission unless the sender identifies himself by name or call letters. Recommend no further investigation.

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the extensive investigation conducted by the Memphis Police Department and our own independent investigation which fails to identify the person responsible for making the broadcast, and in view of the fact that a ranking official of the Memphis Police Department is of the firm opinion that this matter has no basis in fact and has no bearing on the assassination, it is recommended that no further investigation be conducted.

BACKGROUND:

Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated in Memphis, Tennessee, at approximately 6:01 p.m. (Memphis time), April 4, 1968. As a result of this, police officers from the Memphis Police Department and officers of the

REL: sld: csCS

(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memo Rosen to DeLoach RE: MURKIN

Shelby County Sheriff's Office were positioned at numerous points within the city and county. At approximately 6:33 p.m., April 4, 1968, an individual approached one Lieutenant Bradshaw and stated that he had been listening to traffic on Channel 17 of his citizens band radio and the traffic was to the effect that an individual was presently involved in the chase of a white Mustang automobile; the automobile containing individuals responsible for the assassination of King. Lieutenant Bradshaw, at this point, provided this information by radio to the dispatcher at the Memphis Police Department and he in turn relayed this information to various units of the Memphis Police Department and the Shelby County Sheriff's Office in order to pinpoint the location of the alleged chase and for officers to intercept this chase to effect any possible It is noted at this point that the information apprehension. which came over the citizens band radio is not recorded on police tape, the only traffic being contained on the police radio tape is that of Lieutenant Bradshaw relating information and the orders given out by the dispatcher.

In brief, the individual making the transmission over the citizens band radio stated he was in a blue Pontiac chasing the individuals in the Mustang at the rate of from 75 miles per hour to 100 miles per hour and the individuals from the Mustang were shooting at thim. He could not get close enough to obtain the license plate data on the Mustang. He kept giving out information as to his location and direction of travel. The chase, according to the person making the braodcast on the citizens band, came to a climax as the individuals in the Mustang got away.

It is noted that numerous discrepancies exist in this entire situation being that the individual making the transmission never identified himself, his locations as given out by him were manned by officers and the officers never observed any such chase taking place or vehicles as described by this individual. The time of 6:33 was over thirty minutes from the assassination which would not lend credence to the chase, and the directional equipment observed by another individual indicates that the information was coming from a base station rather than from a mobile unit.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memo Rosen to DeLoach RE: MURKIN

Inspector N. A. Zachary (National Academy) has personally listened to the Memphis Police Department tapes, as well as conducted interviews with individuals involved, including officers and possible witness, and Inspector Zachary advised that it is his confirmed opinion that the entire matter has no basis in fact and has no bearing on the assassination.

We have interviewed several individuals who could possibly have made this citizens broadcast. Edward LeMaster Montedonico, Jr., age 18, of Memphis, Tennessee, considered to be most likely suspect by the Memphis Police Department and us, advised that there are thousands of licensed citizens band operators in Memphis as well as thousands of operators who are not licensed. He also told us there is no way for anyone, including the Federal Communications Commission, to identify the sender of a transmission such as that one unless the individual who made the transmission said that he was the individual who made the broadcast. He, of course, denied making such a broadcast.

Mr. M. Bolkoff, Chief of Investigations, Federal Communications Commission Headquarters, Washington, D. C., advised it is impossible to identify the sender of a transmission unless the sender identifies himself by name or by call letters.

It is noted that the father of Montedonico advised us his son does operate a citizens band radio and his son was home during the time the broadcast was made. It is further noted that Montedonico resides in the general area from which the broadcast was believed to have eminated and he operates a citizens band base station.

The Memphis Police Department, who made an extremely extensive investigation concerning this, is of the confirmed opinion that every possible minute aspect of this has been thoroughly investigated and checked out; and they feel that no further investigation is warranted. We have thoroughly reviewed this report with the Memphis Division independently with that of Memphis Police Department and our Memphis Office recommends that no further investigation be conducted. Memphis will, of course, make a thorough and complete investigation if any further complaints or information are received regarding this broadcast or any such allegations.