



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

April 10, 1968

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

All investigation into the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., on April 4, 1968, is proceeding on a top priority basis.

It has been determined that a pair of pliers believed to have been abandoned by the killer was one of twelve purchased in October, 1966, by a Los Angeles hardware store. When the pliers were received by the store they were placed in a bargain barrel near the front door. One pair remained in the barrel on April 8, 1968. Employees do not recall any sales of this item but an extensive review is being made of credit sales records for any mention of such pliers.

Klansmen, members of other hate groups, and all persons known to have a potential for a crime of this type are being treated as suspects. Their recent whereabouts and activities are being determined and their fingerprints are being checked against the latent fingerprints that have been developed during this investigation.

In addition to the lines of investigation described above, we are vigorously pursuing every other logical investigative approach to quickly bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.



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4-9

Now
MR. MC GOWAN

4/9/68

Now
A. ROSEN

MURKIN

All Supervisors working on the above-entitled case should be sure to specifically request that any FBI prints be checked against the related service records by Ident. The reason for this being that the FBI numbered prints are not automatically checked against this file.

AR:WW
(2)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION

_____, 1968

Mr. RosenMrs. AdkinsMr. MalleyMiss DoughertyMr. BolzMiss EgglestonMr. McGowanMrs. FeeleyMr. ScatterdayMiss WalshMr. ShroderMiss WrightMr. Cavanaugh,
4239Mr. Morrell,
4718Foreign LiaisonRoomMr. BatesIdent DivisionMr. BoydMechanical Sec.Mr. DeilyRecords BranchMr. EgnorStat. SectionMr. FowlerMr. GehringMr. HelgesonMr. HinesPlace on Record
and ReturnMr. HudsonPlease RedateMr. KellyPlease HandleMr. LongPlease InitialMr. MartindalePlease See MeMr. McDonoughPlease Call MeMr. RowseNote & ReturnNote File # and
Return R/SSearch, Review
& ReturnC. L. MC GOWANSUPERVISOR

2713

Mr. DeLoach

A. Rosen

MURKIN

Memo

April 9, 1968

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

**This is the investigation into the assassination of
Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**With regard to press reports that the FBI has requested
Mexican authorities to look for an individual we do not have any
leads outstanding in Mexico. It should be further noted that we have
not told anybody that we were looking for any individual in Mexico
or had asked any Mexican authorities to locate any individual.**

**CLM:vea
(6)**

m-16

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. DeLoach

April 9, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.,
4/4/68.

One of the most promising leads developed so far is the laundry tags appearing on a T-shirt and a pair of shorts apparently abandoned by the subject with the rifle that is believed to be the murder weapon. It has been determined that these laundry marks were made by a Thermo Seal marking machine manufactured by the Textile Marking Machine Company, Syracuse, New York. The manufacturer of this machine has advised that the laundry marks in question are unusual in that they consist of five characters whereas the usual code contains six characters.

These markings are also unusual because the first two characters are in smaller type while the remaining three characters are in larger type. The normal arrangement is for the first three characters to be in smaller type and for the following characters to be in larger type. The Textile Marking Machine Company has stated only a limited number of machines have been manufactured which print laundry marks in this manner. Investigation is proceeding on an expedited basis to locate these machines for the purpose of identifying the laundry marks.

Richard Helm, Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, has furnished the Central Intelligence Agency file on Robert Ervin Kramer, M. D., Berkeley, California, whom Helm considers a suspect because of his resemblance to an artist's conception of the subject and because of the Central Intelligence Agency's experience with Kramer. The Central Intelligence Agency file states Kramer has a long arrest record and contains a Berkeley Police Department photograph, dated 1/27/66, number 22805.

Enclosure

VLM:vea

M-15a
CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

He has been a chronic letter writer to the Central Intelligence Agency criticizing them and the Government. By letter of 12/29/67 Kramer requested the Central Intelligence Agency to pay him \$100,000 monthly for six months for a paper on geopolitical economy he had previously submitted. He concluded his letter with the statement, "In the event that you fail to acknowledge my request, I can accept no responsibility for any future efforts necessary to gain the combined ends of ideal government and financial recompense."

The only record of Kramer found in Bureau files is a memorandum from the Central Intelligence Agency, 1/18/68, advising us of his letters to the Central Intelligence Agency. No record can be located in the Identification Division but Kramer's fingerprints are being obtained from the Berkeley police.

A. C. Hayden, Intra-Division Information Unit of the Department, advised on the evening of 4/8/68 that Beatrice Rosenberg, a secretary in the Attorney General's office, had received a telephone call from a man identifying himself as Frederick Dunstan who said he resided at Route 350, Whitefield, North Carolina. Dunstan said he was calling the Attorney General to report that a white man was in his house, was drunk, had a gun and said he had killed Martin Luther King, Jr.

There is no Whitefield, North Carolina. There is a Whiteville, North Carolina. Investigation by the Charlotte Division has failed to locate a Route 350, Box 350, or Highway 350 in the Whiteville area and no record of a Frederick Dunstan has been located. No record of Dunstan could be found in Bureau files.

A pair of duckbill pliers was found among the personal effects believed to have been abandoned by the subject. These pliers bear a trademark of the Rompage Hardware Company, Los Angeles. Employees at the hardware company believe this is one of twelve pliers purchased in October, 1966. Employees have no recollection of the sale of these pliers but an exhaustive search is being made of charge sale records.

It is noted that the rifle believed to be the murder weapon was purchased in Birmingham, Alabama, 3/30/68. Binoculars found with the rifle were purchased in Memphis, 4/4/68. A latent fingerprint found on the rifle is identical with a latent fingerprint found on the binoculars. This presents a strong probability that these fingerprints are those of the subject.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Other major avenues of investigation include checking out white Mustang automobiles, since one was seen leaving at a high rate of speed after the shot was fired; efforts to trace a bedspread or blanket found with the gun, and the immediate processing of all suspects as soon as they are developed.

ACTION:

1. Attached is a memorandum for the White House, the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and the Civil Rights Division.

2. Investigation is continuing on an all-out basis.



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The investigation is nationwide in scope as countless suspects are being processed and physical evidence is being traced.

A rifle, believed to be the murder weapon, and a zipper bag containing a pair of binoculars and a large number of personal items were apparently abandoned by the subject immediately after the shooting. Extensive efforts are being made to identify the source of each of these items as a means of identifying and locating the person or persons responsible for the killing.

In addition to active investigative efforts throughout the field, the many facilities of the FBI Laboratory and Identification Division are continuing to make exhaustive tests of evidence obtained.

You may be completely assured that this investigation will continue on an expedited basis until the matter has been finally resolved.



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Enclosure

WLM:vea

15
CONTINUED - OVER

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4-8

*Rewrite of memo
of same date*

Mr. Bishop

4-8-68

M. A. Jones

*M. A. Jones
L. J. Jones*

**INTERVIEW OF ATTORNEY GENERAL
ON TV PROGRAM "MEET THE PRESS"
SUNDAY, 4-7-68**

On Sunday afternoon, 4-7-68, the Attorney General (AG) appeared on "Meet the Press," and was interviewed by a panel made up of various news correspondents, moderated by Lawrence Spivak, concerning the slaying of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the resulting riots throughout our country. Some of the pertinent questions asked the AG and his replies, including two questions about the FBI, follow in chronological order.

The first question asked the AG was whether the Justice Department knew the name of the man who killed King. The AG replied by stating that there is a large amount of physical evidence and that ballistic tests have been made on the weapon that allegedly was used to kill King. The AG also noted, in response to an inquiry, that there was no evidence of more than one person involved in this slaying.

A statement was then made by one of the panelists to the effect that King espoused civil disobedience and was urging this upcoming march on Washington and the panelist wanted to know if this was a good idea now. The AG replied by stating it is not a good idea to have a march on Washington at this time as it could be very risky, and advised that any demonstrations should be held within the law and after an assurance of minimum risk of violence.

The statement was made by a panelist that "we are a Nation of laws yet there are strong rumors of concentration camps for Negroes." The AG advised that these rumors are false, that there are no concentration camps and that we wouldn't have any such camps.

The AG was then asked whether the Federal Government would turn over to the State of Tennessee for prosecution the slayer of King, since this was a murder and murder was not a Federal offense. The AG replied that the State of Tennessee is very anxious to prosecute the slayer of Martin Luther King and although no definite decision has been made yet he felt that

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Bishop 1 - Mr. Gale
① - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Casper
JCF:emt/mls/cs

CONTINUED-OVER

7/14

Jones to Bishop Memo

RE: INTERVIEW OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

the prosecution of the slayer of King might be turned over to Tennessee. In response to the inquiry as to what is the expected time for arrest of the slayer, the AG noted that he could not say.

The AG was next asked as to his reaction to the statement attributed to Stokely Carmichael for the Negroes to "get guns and go out on the street." The AG advised this is suicidal, it has not happened (Negroes getting guns and going out on the streets) and will not happen. The AG also pointed out that if Carmichael has committed a crime against the Federal Government he will be prosecuted to the limit of the law. In response to the inquiry, "Do you have the man who killed Dr. King on the run or are you checking various organizations," the AG replied that we have the man on the run and that we know more today (Sunday) than we did two days ago.

The AG was then asked if FBI Agents were assigned to protect King in Memphis. The AG stated that the FBI had a limited surveillance on Dr. King but that the FBI does not have jurisdiction to offer protection to King or any other Negro leaders. He noted that there was a "heavy presence" of FBI Agents in Memphis but that they had no authority to protect Dr. King. A question was then asked of the AG to the effect that if there was a "heavy Federal presence" in Memphis how was it possible for the killer of Dr. King to escape. The AG noted that this was a carefully planned assault on Dr. King. In response to the inquiry as to why this "Federal presence" did not advise Dr. King as to the dangers and risks involved in his being in Memphis, the AG noted that Dr. King was fully aware of the dangers and risks but that he still insisted on being in Memphis. There then followed a general discussion concerning the police allowing looting to take place in Washington, D. C., at the beginning of this disorder. The AG disagreed with some of the views given by various panelists and noted that the Metropolitan Police Department acted firmly but did not over react. He stated that the local police had good training, did a good job and gave a good performance when all factors were considered, especially since they were undermanned.

The AG also noted that in connection with the rioters, there did not appear to be any central training or organized rioting by the individuals involved. He also noted that prospects for control of the sale of firearms in our country today should be much better and that the Federal Government and State Governments should act at once to enact proper legislation in this field.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Director's information.

Memo.

Mr. DeLoach

April 8, 1968

A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- ① - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

MURKIN

In connection with the investigation into the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., 4/4/68, it is noted that a rifle which is believed to be the murder weapon and a small bag containing various personal items have been recovered after apparently being abandoned by the subject.

Attached is a set of colored photographs showing these items.

It is noted that the rifle which is believed to be the murder weapon has been traced to a retail gun dealer in Birmingham, Alabama, who sold the weapon on 3/30/68 to an individual using the name of Harvey Lowmeyer. This individual gave an improper address and it appears most likely that the name he used is fictitious.

In the attached photographs is a picture showing a tee shirt and a pair of shorts that were in a small zipper bag. Both of these items bear laundry marks on red tags which were prepared by a Thermo Seal marking machine. It is noted that the front end of these marking tapes have been cut on the bias and the manufacturer of these machines has advised that this peculiarity indicates the laundry marks were made by one of only five or seven machines that have been manufactured by this company. The records of the manufacturer are being checked on an expedite basis to identify the laundries using these particular machines and they will be immediately contacted as soon as their locations are known.

Also included in the attached photographs is a picture of a blanket or a bedspread which was wrapped around the rifle when it was recovered. This appears to be the type of blanket or bedspread often used by motels and extensive investigation is underway in Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi in an effort to identify the source of this item.

Enclosures

WLM:EJM:rnr (9)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

The attached photograph showing binoculars, toilet articles and other personal items found in the blue zipper kit shows two cans of Schlitz beer. These beer cans bear Mississippi tax stamps. These beer cans also have certain numbers on one end of the can which may afford a possible means of identifying the distributor through whom the beer was sold. Photographs showing these markings have been sent to the Jackson Division, which is making every effort to trace the cans of beer.

In addition to the specific items detailed above, extensive investigation is underway throughout the field to trace each of the items that was found with the rifle, which is believed to be the murder weapon.

ACTION:

All phases of this investigation are being vigorously pursued on a top priority basis.

Mr. DeLoach

April 8, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan

**This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.,
4/4/68.**

Attached for approval is a memorandum to the White House summarizing developments since the last memorandum was prepared for the President on 4/6/68. Copies have been prepared for the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, and the Civil Rights Division. The following details are not included in the attached memorandum.

Among the items recovered near the crime scene were an undershirt and a pair of shorts, each bearing the same printed laundry mark. It has been determined that the mark was made by a Thermo Seal marking machine manufactured by the Textile Machine Company. Headquarters of the manufacturer cannot identify the laundry involved but believes the marking code indicates a laundry in the Northeastern states. All laundries using these marking machines are being contacted.

It is noted that the rifle believed to be the murder weapon was sold by a Birmingham dealer on 3/30/68. It has been determined that the person who purchased this weapon handled other guns in the store and three of these weapons are presently being processed for fingerprints by the Identification Division.

ACTION:

1. Attached for approval is a memorandum for the White House with copies for the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and the Civil Rights Division.

2. All-out investigation is continuing on an expedite basis.

**Enclosure
WLM:ves (11)**

M-12a



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

April 8, 1968

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Investigation into the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., is proceeding on a top priority basis and the complete facilities of the FBI are committed to the identification and apprehension of the person or persons responsible.

Additional evidence is being steadily developed and investigation has eliminated a number of suspects. In addition to exploiting all available direct evidence that could lead to the subject, we are also checking a large number of persons considered capable of this crime because of their past activities.

Every logical avenue of investigative approach is being vigorously pursued to resolve this matter as quickly as possible.

Mr. DeLoach

April 8, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

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1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Martindale
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Enclosure
WLM:vea (11)

m-12



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4-0

Mr. DeLoach

April 6, 1968

A. Rosen

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Martin
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Sullivan

There is attached a letterhead memorandum for the President, the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and the Civil Rights Division setting forth information developed to date. It is pointed out in the memorandum that Laboratory examination of the bullet removed from King has established that the bullet could have been fired from the rifle found near the scene, however, due to mutilation it cannot be stated that it was actually fired from this one rifle; investigation has determined that the rifle was obtained in the Birmingham area on 3/30/68 by an individual giving the name of Harvey Lowmeyer; and that the binoculars found in the zipper bag were purchased in Memphis, Tennessee, on the afternoon of 4/4/68.

The following details do not appear in the letterhead memorandum:

The individual using Room 58 at the flophouse had given the name of John Willard. Investigation has eliminated John Hubert Willard, FBI Number 534 454-C as being the individual who was at the flophouse inasmuch as his whereabouts have been accounted for during the pertinent period.

A check of all airlines, motels and hotels in the Birmingham area has determined that an individual using the name of W. J. Lowmeyer made telephonic reservation at Southern Airlines, Birmingham, for travel on 3/27/68 from Birmingham to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Lowmeyer never appeared for flight and gave places of contact as Parliament House and Airport Hotels, Birmingham. Investigation failed to locate Lowmeyer as guest. Records of Delta Airlines indicate that on 3/27/68 W. J. Lowmeyer purchased ticket for flight from Birmingham

Enclosure

CLM:wjc
(11)

CONTINUED - OVER

m-10-15

Memorandum Rosen to DeLoach
Re: MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

enroute to Memphis then leaving Memphis enroute to Chicago and thereafter space on Northwest Airline from Chicago to Minneapolis, Minnesota. Airline personnel at Birmingham unable to say if LeMayer traveled to Minneapolis, but can state this individual did pass through gate for flight to Memphis. This matter being thoroughly checked out.

ACTION:

1. Attached is a letterhead memorandum for the White House, the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General and the Civil Rights Division.

2. All-out investigation is continuing on a top priority basis.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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April 6, 1968

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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It has been determined that the rifle was obtained in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968. Employees of Aero Marine Supply Company in Birmingham have advised that an individual using the name of Harvey Lowmeyer purchased a caliber 243 W Remington rifle on March 29, 1968. He had a Redfield scope mounted on the rifle at this time. Lowmeyer indicated he planned to go to Wisconsin to hunt. The following day, March 30, 1968, Lowmeyer returned the rifle to the store and exchanged it for a Remington 760 Model .30-06 caliber. The scope was then mounted on the second rifle by the store. It appears that the name Lowmeyer is fictitious, as is the address given by him.

Extensive efforts are being made to identify the person who purchased the rifle.

The binoculars, which were in the zipper bag found by Canipe, were purchased during the afternoon of April 4, 1968, at York Arms, 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

The full investigation is continuing and every effort is being made to identify the individual or individuals responsible for this murder.

I am advised also that the Memphis Police Department is utilizing its full facilities to solve this crime.



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