



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
May 25, 1974

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

On May 24, 1974, District Attorney General Hugh Stanton, Jr., Memphis, Tennessee, confidentially advised that he had been approached by Mr. Robert Livingston who is one of the attorneys for James Earl Ray. Mr. Livingston insisted that Mr. Stanton not inform the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) of the story that Livingston was to tell Stanton, claiming that his life was in great danger. The story related by Livingston to Stanton is as follows:

During late March, 1974, Livingston was telephonically contacted at Memphis by a man who identified himself as Cliff Andrews, Owen Sound, Ontario, Canada. Andrews told Livingston that he and two others were responsible for the murder of King and that all would testify, provided they were granted total immunity from prosecution. Andrews indicated either on this occasion or later that he and his two friends had been hired by three Memphis businessmen and by a fourth man from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, to murder King. They were to receive \$250,000 for the murder, but due to circumstances not explained by Livingston, they were never paid.

Shortly after receiving this phone call, Andrews came to Memphis and was met by Livingston at the airport. According to Livingston, Andrews searched Livingston's car and later his office and made a big production of being certain that his conversation was not being taped. According to Livingston, Andrews kept one hand in his coat at all times as though he were wearing a shoulder holster.

JAMES EARL RAY;
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VICTIM

Livingston described Andrews as being a large, middle aged white male who spoke with a strong French accent. Andrews had brown hair with streaks of gray and was described by Livingston as being very distinguished looking.

Andrews left Memphis following his discussion with Livingston and returned several days later at which time Livingston and Andrews traveled to Nashville where James Earl Ray is incarcerated in the Tennessee State Prison. Andrews waited in the car while Livingston went in and told Ray that he had someone who wished to see him. Ray claimed not to know Andrews and refused to see him. Livingston is convinced that Ray recognized his description of Andrews and that Ray was afraid to talk with him. Andrews and Livingston separated and arrangements were made for them to meet again in Chicago on April 16, 1974. Ray's other attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, was to be present at this meeting. Livingston received no further confirmation but was later contacted by Andrews, and Livingston and Fensterwald met with Andrews at Detroit on April 20, 1974. A woman named Margaret was accompanying Andrews and he introduced her as his wife. Andrews told Fensterwald and Livingston that his two confederates were also present in the Holiday Inn motel and that they were watching him. He again made his offer to furnish full details of the conspiracy including the identity of the actual killer, provided they could be granted immunity. Livingston and Fensterwald left Detroit with a promise that they would attempt to secure such immunity from the District Attorney General at Memphis, Tennessee. It was for this reason that Livingston has had several meetings with the District Attorney General Hugh Stanton, Jr.

Mr. Stanton stated he is convinced that Livingston is sincere and that Livingston actually believes that there was some sort of conspiracy to murder King, and that Ray was not King's killer. Mr. Stanton said that he believes Livingston is being "conned" by Andrews but he does give Livingston credit for believing that Andrews is what he says he is.

JAMES EARL RAY;
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VICTIM

Mr. Stanton stated he does not want Livingston to know that he has discussed this matter with the FBI and he does not want the FBI to take any action to identify Andrews. He said he feels the only way to resolve this is to have Andrews come to his office with his two confederates. He does not believe that this will ever happen but he does not want to do anything that Livingston could later use to say that he had discouraged or scared off Andrews and his two friends.

Mr. Stanton has told Livingston that he will meet with Andrews but it will be under Mr. Stanton's terms and that the state of Tennessee will not advance any travel funds to bring Andrews and his friends to Memphis. He said that Livingston is disturbed that the state will not provide funds for their travel, and Mr. Stanton believes Andrews may be attempting to swindle Livingston.

In view of Mr. Stanton's request, no investigation is being conducted by the Memphis Office. Mr. Stanton has agreed to keep the FBI informed of any contact which he might have with the alleged conspirators.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Revelations in First Interview With a Memphis Reporter

Ray Says He Wasn't at Scene When King Was Slain

By WAYNE CHASTAIN JR.

Press-Scimitar Staff Writer

A Memphis attorney today said he had been contacted by an intermediary for two professional gunmen seeking immunity from prosecution in connection with the April 4, 1968, assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.



Chastain

The attorney, Robert I. Livingston, represents James Earl Ray, 46, who is now serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty in February 1969 to Dr. King's murder.

In an interview with Ray and Livingston at the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville yesterday, Ray told this reporter he did not shoot and kill Dr. King. His attorney said:

"Within the past 90 days, I have had several contacts with a man who says he is an intermediary for the two men — including the trigger man — who are seeking immunity from prosecution."

Livingston said he provided Hugh Stanton Jr., Shelby County attorney general, with information provided by the intermediary and has offered to take a polygraph or lie detector test.

Stanton confirmed that Livingston had made contact

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

PAGE 1

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 5/24/74

Edition: Final

Author: CHARLES H.

Editor: SCHNEIDER

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

with his office and informed him about the "intermediary's request," but added:

"We will be glad to sit down and talk to either the intermediary, or the two men, but from the information we now have there is no way we can contact them — they must contact us."

Livingston said the intermediary informed him that the gunmen are seeking immunity so they can testify against four wealthy, socially prominent Americans—black and white — who paid to have Dr. King killed.

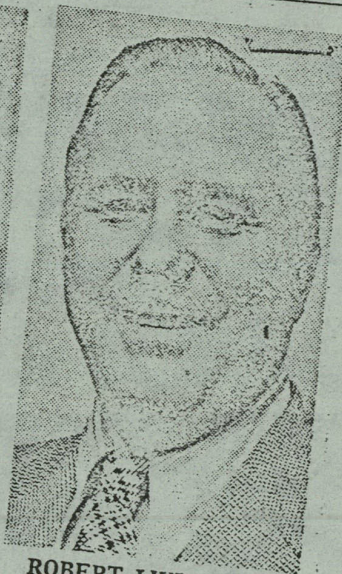
"The gunmen — both white — did it strictly for money," Livingston said. "They had no feelings one way or the other for Dr. King. The motives of the men who paid to have Dr. King killed sprang out of hate, although they could probably rationalize what they did as consistent with national security."

By "national security," Livingston said, he meant that the men paying for Dr. King's death believed King was working for a foreign power and that his "Poor People's March" throughout the South to Washington, D.C., in June, 1968, was a plot to "touch off a racist revolution in the nation."

"One report was that the trigger man was supposed to get at least \$250,000, but was paid \$100,000," Livingston said. "Because he did not get all the money he felt he was entitled to may be his motive for wanting to testify against the men putting up the money."



JAMES EARL RAY



ROBERT LIVINGSTON

In a news conference at the prison, a Nashville television newsman, Stanley Siegel, asked Livingston if the trigger man was famous.

"He is probably the most famous obscure man I have ever heard of," Livingston said. "He is not famous, however, despite many daring escapades. He is known to the FBI, although to my knowledge, they have not connected him with this case."

Livingston said the trigger man is known as "an international gun runner" and is believed to be still living in the continental limits of the U.S.

"Ray did not know this man," Livingston said. "Ray was nothing but a fall guy... a patsy in the murder of Dr. King. They set him up and sucked him in. This is what has made the defense's job so tough. Ray had not been able to tell us what happened, because he does not know himself. He was not there when it happened. He did not know there was a conspiracy to kill Dr. King but thought he was participating in a gun-running venture."

Livingston said Ray left the upstairs rooming house at 422½ South Main at about 5:20 p.m. on the day King was killed. King was shot as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine about 6:01 p.m. from a shot fired either from the bathroom of the rooming house or bushes outside the rooming house, he added.

"One of the men seeking immunity paid Ray \$200 and told him to go downtown to a movie," Livingston said. "There was supposed to be an important visit from an ex-

Turn to Page 6— RAY'S LAWYER

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Lawyer Tells Of 'Intermediary'

From Page 1

port gun runner about 6 in the room Ray rented for the men."

The trigger man, Livingston said, did not show up until a few minutes before 6.

This reporter, who has investigated the King slaying for some six years, showed Ray some photographs of a man suspected of being the gun runner and trigger man. Ray said:

"Yes, I believe I saw this man in Jan's Cafe (422 S. Main below the rooming house) and Jim's Place (a beer lounge two blocks away) the afternoon before the slaying. I got the feeling he was following me, so I left both places while he was still inside."

Low Tire on Mustang

In his first interview with a Memphis newsman since he pleaded guilty, Ray said that when he left the rooming house about 5:20, he noticed a low tire on the Mustang he had parked in front of Jim's Cafe.

"The man who gave me the money to go to the picture show said I was to leave the Mustang as they would be using it. When I noticed the low tire, I thought I would drive it over to a nearby service station."

At a station at Second and Linden, Ray said he waited for a long time before he got an attendant to fill up the tire.

"When I drove back to the rooming house, the whole block was sealed off and police were all over the place," Ray said. "There was a policeman standing in the middle of the street, and he yelled 'Get out of here!' as I was trying to drive and park somewhere in front of the rooming house."

Ray said he asked the policeman if he could make a U-turn and proceed north on South Main Street. He quoted the policeman as saying:

"I don't care what you do, just get out of here."

Ray said he made the U-turn and proceeded to drive south out of Memphis toward Mississippi.

Turned on the Radio

"It wasn't until I almost got to Grenada, Miss., that I turned on the radio and heard what had happened," Ray said. "The radio broadcast mentioned 422 South Main Street and it wasn't until then I learned that I had been associated with men who conspired to kill Dr. King."

Ray said he did not travel via Interstate 55 to Grenada, but took back roads because he feared he was the object of a search — even before learning of Dr. King's death.

"After all, as an escapee from the Missouri State Prison, I still owed the State of Missouri 18 years," Ray said. "When I saw all those policemen at 422½ South Main Street, I knew something important had happened. The man I noticed who had been following me earlier in the afternoon may have described me to the police. For this reason, I proceeded as cautiously as I could to Atlanta, first through Mississippi, and then through Birmingham, by as many back roads as I could."

Ray said he met a man named "Raoul" when he was a fugitive in Canada in 1967. He was on the docks looking for seaman papers when he met Raoul, Ray said.

Raoul, Ray said, "set him up" by convincing him he could get rich in a "gun running scheme."

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

PAGE 6

MEMPHIS PRESS
SCIMITAR

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 5-24-74

Edition: Final

Author: CHARLES H.

Editor: SCHNEIDER

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Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

Bought Rifle in Birmingham

Ray said he purchased the rifle in front of the rooming house in Memphis from a Birmingham, Ala., sporting goods store in March 1963 on orders of Raoul.

"After buying the rifle, I was then instructed to proceed to Memphis, but take my time, as I was supposed to deliver the rifle either on April 3 or April 4," Ray said.

"Contrary to the story put out by the FBI that I went to Atlanta after buying the rifle, I proceeded toward Memphis, driving less than four hours a day and spending the nights in motels," Ray said.

On the night of April 2, Ray said he spent the night at the DeSoto Motel in DeSoto County, and the Rebel Motel in Memphis on the night of April 3, Ray said.

Ray said he pleaded guilty to the charge because of "misrepresentations" by his former attorney, Percy Foreman, and because of his "mental state" resulting from solitary confinement in the Shelby County jail.

The Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati reversed a federal court ruling in Memphis and held that Ray was entitled to an "evidentiary hearing" as to whether Foreman, a Houston attorney, improperly negotiated a guilty plea with the late Judge W. Preston Battle.

Effort to Get New Trial

Ray is seeking the evidentiary hearing so he can obtain a new trial in the criminal courts of Tennessee, contending Foreman obtained the guilty plea by coercion and misrepresentation.

The State of Tennessee is appealing the Court of Appeals ruling, and the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to rule on the matter any day.

By coercion, Ray said he meant that Foreman had told him that he was going to be electrocuted if he pleaded innocent, because the state had "an air tight case" against him.

He also told him that a book about the murder by William Bradford Huie would "not make any money" if it were about a man who was innocent of Dr. King's murder.

The money from the book, Foreman reminded him, was paying for his defense, Ray said.

How Ray Looks Today

This was the first time this reporter had ever seen Ray in person. He looked just like his pictures, except his hair is rapidly turning gray at the temples.

He looked surprisingly young and healthy in the face. Except for a trace of prison pallor, there was color in his face and his complexion appeared free of wrinkles.

"I exercise, try to keep in good shape, but my waist line is about 34 inches, compared to 30 or 32 before I came in here. It is all this slop I eat in prison that put it here," said Ray, as he slapped a slight bulge over his stomach.

Ray said he had granted only one other interview to a newspaper and that was the National Enquirer in February. Several television newsmen have photographed and gotten brief quotes from him at the prison.

"I rarely feel up to giving interviews," Ray said. "When you have been in solitary confinement for as long as I have, and the only people you have talked to are lawyers and prison guards, you get kinda nervous talking to others."

After an interview with The Press-Scimitar, Ray refused to be photographed and interviewed by a Nashville television crew.

"Interview my attorney — I don't feel up to any more questions today," he told the television crew.

It was at this point, Livingston revealed the information

concerning the intermediary seeking immunity for the two gunmen.

During the interview with Ray, Ray said he had quit reading the books about the King assassination and those contending that he had fired the shot out of "racist motives."

Ray said: "I have never hated blacks. If you will check the psychiatric tests given to me at the Missouri State Prison, you won't find any reference to any prejudice or bias against blacks. If I were prejudicial, you would think it would show up in prison psychiatric interviews."

Ray said he spends most of his reading time studying law books — when he can get them from the prison library. He said he has become very interested in criminal and constitutional law, as well as contracts in the field of civil law.

Another Memphis attorney, Richard Ryan, who has represented Ray in civil matters, told this reporter to ask Ray how he so quickly obtains the decisions of recent cases rendered by U.S. Supreme Court and federal courts.

Ray Gets News Quickly

"Ray finds out about these case holdings before they are in the advance sheets sent by the courts to the lawyers," Ryan said. "Yet, Ray is complaining he does not have access to enough law books."

When asked how he gets access to these court decisions, he grinned:

"The news travels fast in prison — even to a guy in solitary confinement."

Ray explained that when a decision is rendered by a court, the prisoner involved in the case is usually promptly contacted by his lawyer. Then the prisoner tells his fellow prisoners, and the news is rapidly transmitted through the prison population by word of mouth.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Conspiracy' Killed King, Says Lawyer

By MICHAEL LOLLAR

James Earl Ray's Memphis attorney claimed yesterday he has been in periodic contact since March with a representative of "the three men who actually carried out the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

Promoting a "conspiracy theory" behind the April 4, 1968, slaying, Robert I. Livingston said the intermediary is seeking immunity from prosecution for the slaying conspirators. The attorney said the slayers want to testify—"in revenge"—against "four Southern gentlemen" who hired them, not Ray, to murder King.

U.S. Atty. Thomas F. Turley Jr. was doubtful of the intermediary's claims, and an investigator who was closely associated with the King case said, "I can't get excited about it."

Any renewed federal investigation of the slaying would be at Turley's request. But, he said, "This office has not received any evidence from anybody which changes the conclusions about this case reached years ago after exhaustive review of the results of a thorough worldwide investigation."

"If Mr. Ray, his latest lawyer or both have any such evidence we will be pleased to receive and pursue it. Meanwhile, we are not going to be made pawns in a publicity game, nor inveigled into chasing easily fabricated self-serving rumors."

"Mr. Livingston may have been denied such experiences, but this office is contacted regularly by intermediaries of unidentified persons said to be willing and claimed to be able to solve, in exchange for immunity, crimes ranging from the so-called 'Donation of Constantine' to the murder of Cock Robin. And we have no intention of running such rabbit tracks in the Ray case or any other. As Justin Wilson (the comedian) says, 'We've been dar.'"

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

PAGE 23

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 5/25/74

Edition:

Author:

Editor: GORDAN HANNA

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

Shelby County Atty. Gen. Hugh Stanton Jr. said he discussed the conspiracy theory with Livingston yesterday morning. "It was all real secret until he later got on television," Stanton said he "got the impression" that the intermediary actually was one of the "three men" Livingston claims to be the slayers.

"I told him I would be glad to talk to anybody who has any information about the case or any other case. But I can't grant immunity to anyone without knowing what they're talking about. I'll have to talk to them before making a decision. You can't call balls and strikes from left field."

Livingston had said earlier: "They all think this is a hoax, a farce and a sham, a grandstand play, but if they find my dead body lying out here somewhere they'll say, 'Well, maybe there was a conspiracy.'"

He said he doesn't believe a "lone gunman theory" in any political assassination.

The attorney said he has met the intermediary—a 50- to 60-year-old educated white man — in person twice and talked to him by telephone on several occasions. He doesn't know where the telephone calls originated.

Livingston said the man did identify himself, "but I'm sure it was a bogus name." He refused to divulge the name. "I wouldn't even tell the FBI that. I'd rather die. I'm not trying to set anybody up."

He said the intermediary has told him eight men were involved altogether, including Ray as the "patsy." He said Ray was chosen as the patsy because, "He's just a gullible-type sort of fellow, easily influenced and led around. He had never been a high-powered criminal all his life, just penny ante stuff like sticking up grocery stores and things like that."

Livingston said four Southern men — at least one of whom is black — originated the murder plot. He said their motive was either "hate" or the belief that "eradication of Dr. King would be for the good of the American nation."

The attorney said the intermediary strongly indicated one of the four — "each socially and financially prominent" — is from Memphis. "I didn't ask for any names. When someone is volunteering information you can't push them, because all they have to do is stop talking."

Supposedly, they hired three men to carry out the murder. Two of the men were professional gunmen, the third "something else." Livingston said each of the three is a white male, and one, the actual gunman, "is a professional triggerman known to the FBI because of other offenses and wild escapades he's been involved in."

According to his conspiracy theory, the three slayers were promised \$250,000, of which \$100,000 would go to the triggerman. Their current efforts to seek "revenge" stem from a "failure to make the full payoff and possibly other things," Livingston said.

Denying a publicity scheme, Livingston said, "They (disbelievers) think the same thing about me that they think about UFOs, but I know what I've seen and heard."

5/17/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)(P*)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Buairtel, 5/14/74.

On 5/13/74, Mr. JOHN CARLISLE, Chief Investigator, Shelby County Attorney General's Office, Memphis, Tennessee, advised SA JOE C. HESTER that all of the documents turned over to that office by the FBI continue to be locked up with the evidence in that case. He said that access to this material is extremely limited and that no one has made anything available to any of the various authors who have written books about this case.

Mr. CARLISLE noted that the various pleadings in this case contain a great deal of information concerning the evidence, and he feels certain that many outsiders have reviewed these court records which are public records.

②-Bureau
2-Memphis
JCH:bc
(4)

5/15/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BOSTON (157-644) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Boston nitel 5/10/74.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM concerning interview of author GEORGE MC MILLAN in connection with captioned matter. Two copies are enclosed for Memphis, Division.

The representative of the FBI with whom MC MILLAN and his attorney were in telephonic contact on 4/27, 29, and 30/4 is SA ROGER J. CORKE.

Inasmuch as there are no further leads outstanding in the Boston Division, this matter is hereby being RUC'd.

②-Bureau (Encs. 5) (RM)
2-Memphis (44-1987) (Encs. 2) (RM)
1-Boston
JNO:cms
(5)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Boston, Massachusetts

May 15, 1974

**JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY**

George McMillan, 12 Hilliard Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, telephonically advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Boston, Massachusetts, on April 27, 1974, that he is an author of material on James Earl Ray; however, he declined to be interviewed. He said that James Earl Ray's attorney, Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., habitually makes wild accusations and he, McMillan, did not feel any response was warranted. McMillan noted he has written letters to "Jack," described by him as being John Larry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray. McMillan said he had a second reason for not wishing to be interviewed, stating that correspondence between himself and John Larry Ray concerned a suit in Federal Court by McMillan to gain access to John Larry Ray, currently an inmate at Federal Prison, Marion, Illinois. This suit is presently on appeal to the United States Supreme Court, according to McMillan.

Two hours later on the same date, April 27, 1974, McMillan telephonically requested he be contacted on April 29, 1974, to arrange for interview.

On April 29, 1974, McMillan was telephonically contacted by a representative of the FBI. McMillan stated he had decided to consult with an attorney prior to interview and desired to have an attorney present if interviewed. He said he would contact the Boston Division of the FBI in several days.

**JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY**

On April 29, 1974, McMillan telephonically advised he was willing to be interviewed May 2, 1974, in the presence and in the office of his attorney, John T. Williams, of the Boston law firm of Hausserman, Davison and Shattuck.

On April 30, 1970, McMillan telephonically cancelled his appointment. He stated he was willing to have Attorney Williams interviewed in his behalf, but he did not wish to be present himself. He said he was leaving the Boston area immediately to spend three or four days in Tennessee. He volunteered that he had not reviewed any FBI files and had only hearsay knowledge of any such review by other authors.

On April 30, 1974, Attorney John T. Williams telephonically advised he had talked with McMillan several hours earlier, at which time McMillan was willing to be interviewed personally. Williams stated he knows only that McMillan did not review FBI files. He added he would contact the Boston Division of the FBI concerning possible interview, after conferring with McMillan upon McMillan's return from Tennessee.

On May 8, 1974, Attorney Williams telephonically advised that his client, George McMillan, would be in Boston on May 10, 1974, and available for interview in Williams' office on that date.

On May 10, 1974, George McMillan was interviewed by Special Agents Kenneth L. Hansen and John N. Ouellette in the office of his attorney, John T. Williams, of the firm Hausserman, Davison and Shattuck, 1 Boston Place, Boston, in the presence of Williams.

McMillan advised he has never seen or had access to any FBI files, or portions thereof, concerning the James Earl Ray case or any other case. He said no FBI personnel, anywhere, ever indicated they would make such material available to him. He recalled he once visited the office of former FBI Assistant Director Tom Bishop at FBI Headquarters, Washington, D.C., to request material for his book on James Earl Ray; however, Mr. Bishop, who was then handling press relations, told McMillan he could not give him anything regarding that case.

McMillan further advised that the Tennessee State Attorney-General's Office in Memphis was in possession of what was commonly referred to as "FBI files" in order to

**JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.-VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY**

conduct its prosecution of James Earl Ray. McMillan said he heard rumors from sources in Memphis, whose identity he does not recall, that those files were made available to authors Gerold Frank and William Huie by either state or county officials or personnel. McMillan added these were merely rumors of unknown origin and he possessed no specific information as to whether either Frank or Huie had access to the files.

McMillan stated the aforementioned rumors led him to believe he could have the FBI files made available to him. McMillan was asked if any state or local official or personnel in Tennessee ever offered to make the FBI files available to him. McMillan replied by saying that he refuses to answer that question.

McMillan went on to relate he has been attempting to compile material regarding James Earl Ray in order to determine a personal motive for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., so as to disprove theories that a conspiracy may have been involved. He said he was previously retained by the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) and Time Magazine, Inc., to conduct a study of Lee Harvey Oswald in connection with the assassination of former United States President John F. Kennedy and that study led him to the conclusion Oswald acted on his own and there was no conspiracy involved.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

AIRTEL

5/14/74

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)
MURKIN

1 - Mr. McDonough

ReBStel 5/10/74.

If not already done, the Memphis Office should contact appropriate current and former Tennessee State authorities to ascertain if they have any information that FBI files previously in possession of state authorities were made available to Frank and Huie or anyone else by state or county personnel.

1 - Boston (INFO) (157-644)

EJM:bap (5)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 10 1974
Dew
TELETYPE

NR 024 BS PLAIN

10:13 PM NITEL MAY 10, 1974 JWH

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM BOSTON (157-644)

MURKIN

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

RE BOSTON NITEL TO BUREAU, 5/8/74.

GEORGE MC MILLAN INTERVIEWED THIS DATE IN
OFFICE OF HIS ATTORNEY, JOHN T. WILLIAMS, OF FIRM
HAUSSERMAN, DAVIDSON AND SHATTUCK, 1 BOSTON PLACE,
BOSTON, IN PRESENCE OF WILLIAMS.

MC MILLAN ADVISED HE HAS NEVER SEEN OR HAD
ACCESS TO ANY FBI FILES OR PORTIONS THEREOF, CONCERNING
THE JAMES EARL RAY CASE OR ANY OTHER CASE. ALSO
STATED THAT NO FBI PERSONNEL ANYWHERE EVER INDICATED THEY
WOULD MAKE SUCH AVAILABLE TO HIM.

MC MILLAN FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE TENNESSEE
STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE IN MEMPHIS HAD IN ITS
END PAGE ONE

Lam
O. J. McCon

BS 157-644

PAGE TWO

POSSESSION WHAT WAS REFERRED TO AS FBI FILES IN ORDER TO
CONDUCT ITS PROSECUTION OF RAY AND HE HEARD RUMORS
FROM SOURCE, NOW UNRECALLED, THAT THOSE FILES WERE MADE
AVAILABLE TO AUTHORS GERALD FRANK AND WILLIAM HUIE BY STATE
OR COUNTY PERSONNEL. AS A RESULT OF THESE RUMORS,
MC MILLAN FELT THE FILE WOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO HIM.
WHEN ASKED IF ANY TENNESSEE STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIAL
OR PERSONNEL EVER OFFERED TO MAKE THE FBI FILES
AVAILABLE TO HIM, MC MILLAN REPLIED BY SAYING HE REFUSES
TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION.

LHM WILL BE SUBMITTED.

END

JXS FBI HQ CLR FOR 2

DEPT. OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. A.D.-Adm.	
Dep. A.D.-Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
Ident.	
Insp.	
Intell.	
Lab.	
Legal Coun.	
Off. Cong. & Public Affs.	
Rec. Mgmt.	
Tech. Serv.	
Training	
Off. of Liaison & Int. Affs.	
Director's Sec'y	

NR014 BS PLAIN

12:45P URGENT MAY 8, 1974 DAD

TO: DIRECTOR 44-38861

MEMPHIS 44-1987

FROM: BOSTON 157-644

MURKIN.

RE BOSTON NITEL MAY 1, 1974.

ATTORNEY JOHN T. WILLIAMS TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED DURING AM OF THIS DATE THAT HIS CLIENT GEORGE MCMILLAN WILL BE IN BOSTON, FRIDAY, MAY 10, 1974, AND AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW IN WILLIAMS' OFFICE 3:15 PM THAT DATE.

BOSTON DIVISION ARRANGED TO INTERVIEW MCMILLAN AT THAT TIME, AND WILL SUTEL SUMMARY OF RESULTS, FOLLOWED BY LHM.
END.3

①
MURKIN

Assoc. Dir. _____
 Dep. AD Adm. _____
 Dep. AD Inv. _____
 Asst. Dir.:
 Admin. _____
 Comp. Syst. _____
 Ext. Affairs _____
 Files & Com. _____
 Gen. Inv. _____
 Ident. _____
 Inspection _____
 Intell. _____
 Laboratory _____
 Plan. & Eval. _____
 Spec. Inv. _____
 Training _____
 Legal Coun. _____
 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director Sec'y _____

McDonough

5-6-74

McGowan

33 3A

RAY 5-6

NASHVILLE, TENN. (UPI)--A FEDERAL JUDGE MONDAY DENIED SEVERAL REQUESTS BY JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED ASSASSIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., SEEKING ADMITTANCE INTO NORMAL PRISON ENVIRONMENT.

U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE L. CLURE MORTON TURNED DOWN RAY'S REQUEST THAT HE BE RELEASED FROM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT TO MIX WITH THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION, DAILY ACCESS TO THE MAIN PRISON LIBRARY, AND FINALLY THAT HIS ENTIRE SUIT BE WITHDRAWN.

THE ACTION SEEKING TO WITHDRAW HIS SELF-DRAWN SUIT WAS FILED AFTER THE STATE ASKED THE COURT TO ORDER RAY TO UNDERGO PSYCHIATRIC EXAMINATION.

RAY'S COMPLAINT SAID HE WAS SUFFERING BOTH PHYSICAL AND MENTAL DETERIORATION BECAUSE OF HIS LACK OF EXERCISE AND CONTACT WITH OTHER HUMAN BEINGS AT THE TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY, WHERE HE IS SERVING A 99-YEAR SENTENCE FOR KILLING KING.

MORTON RULED THAT RAY RECENTLY UNDERWENT A COMPLETE PHYSICAL EXAMINATION AND "HAS SUFFERED NO DETECTABLE PHYSICAL DETERIORATION DURING HIS INCARCERATION."

DUPLICATE TO B-WIRE POINTS

UPI 05-06 11:17 PED

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Director, FBI

May 7, 1974

1 - Mr. Franck
① - Mr. McDonough

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

I have received your memorandum dated April 24, 1974, and its enclosures in the captioned matter, your reference JSP:FDA:SH:bmp; DJ 144-72-662.

In the letter from Mr. George McMillan to John Larry Ray furnished you by Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Attorney for James Earl Ray, it is stated "Sometime before I write this section I am going to Memphis and look at the FBI file on the case; that's been made available to me. Knowing what I know, some of the things in that xxxx file might look different to me from what they looked to Frank and Huie." This apparently refers to Gerold Frank and William Bradford Huie, authors who have written material on the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., murder case.

Appropriate personnel of this Bureau have advised that they have no information that FBI reports have been made available to these individuals by this Bureau. In order to resolve this matter, efforts have been made to interview Mr. McMillan concerning the statement in his letter.

On April 27, 1974, Special Agents of our Boston Office contacted Mr. McMillan and he advised he did not wish to be interviewed. He stated that Mr. Fensterwald habitually makes wild accusations and Mr. McMillan does not feel any response to these is warranted. He added that another reason for not wishing to be interviewed is that correspondence between himself and John Larry Ray concerns a suit in Federal Court by Mr. McMillan to gain access to John Larry Ray, who is an inmate at the Federal Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois.

On April 29, 1974, Mr. McMillan recontacted our Boston Office and advised he was willing to be interviewed

EJM:bap (6)

44-38861

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

**Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division**

on May 2, 1974, in the presence of and in the office of his Attorney, John T. Williams of Hausserman, Davison and Shattuck, 15 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

On April 30, 1974, Mr. McMillan contacted the Boston Office and cancelled the appointment. He stated he was willing to have Attorney Williams interviewed in his behalf but did not wish to be present himself. He advised he was leaving the Boston area immediately to spend three or four days in Tennessee and volunteered he had not reviewed any FBI files and had only hearsay knowledge of such review by other authors.

On April 30, 1974, John T. Williams stated he had last talked with Mr. McMillan a few hours earlier and at that time Mr. McMillan was willing to be interviewed personally. Mr. Williams stated he knows only that Mr. McMillan did not review any FBI file.

No further efforts are being made to interview Mr. McMillan; however, any information he may desire to furnish our Boston Office will be accepted.

In addition to the above, you are referred to a letter to this Bureau from then Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division, Jerris Leonard, dated January 15, 1971, entitled "Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr."; your file JL:MG:pg; 144-72-66, enclosing a letter from the Civil Rights Division to Mr. George McMillan in which Mr. McMillan, in essence, was advised that Department of Justice files pertaining to James Earl Ray are confidential and his request for further information based on the FBI's investigation could not be complied with. Mr. McMillan was advised by the Department that documents and exhibits which were filed on behalf of Tennessee and Missouri in the Ray extradition proceedings in the British Court do not come within this rule and would be available for inspection at the Civil Rights Division in Washington, D. C.

NOTE: This is to advise the CRD of results of our inquiries into this matter. If McMillan and/or his attorney contact our Boston Office, any pertinent information will be obtained and if appropriate, will be forwarded to the CRD.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 01 1974

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep. A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep. A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
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Intell.	_____
Lab.	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR007 BS PLAIN

5:40 PM NITEL 5-1-74 DAO

TO: DIRECTOR 44-38861

MEMPHIS

FROM: BOSTON 157-644 P

MURKIN

RE BOSTON TT DATED APRIL 29, 1974.

ON APRIL 29, 1974, ^{Mr}GEORGE MC MILLAN RECONTACTED ~~THE~~ BOSTON OFFICE AND ADVISED HE WAS WILLING TO BE INTERVIEWED ON MAY 2, 1974, IN THE PRESENCE OF AND IN THE OFFICE OF HIS ATTORNEY JOHN T. WILLIAMS OF HAUSSERMAN DAVISON AND SHATTUCK, FIFTEEN STATE ST., BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

ON APRIL 30, 1974, ^{Mr}MC MILLAN CONTACTED THE BOSTON OFFICE AND CANCELLED ^{the}APPOINTMENT. HE STATED HE WAS WILLING TO HAVE ATTORNEY WILLIAMS INTERVIEWED IN HIS BEHALF BUT DID NOT WISH TO BE PRESENT HIMSELF. HE ^{stated}STATED HE WAS LEAVING THE BOSTON AREA IMMEDIATELY TO SPEND THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN TENNESSEE. ^{He}HE VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD NOT REVIEWED ANY FBI FILES AND HAD ONLY HEARSAY KNOWLEDGE OF SUCH

END PAGE ONE

4/26/74

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P*)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

5/7

Re Bureau telephone call 4/26/74.

The Memphis Office has not at any time made available information concerning this case to WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, GEROLD FRANK, GEORGE MC MILLAN, or to any other unauthorized persons.

2-Bureau
1-Memphis
JCH/mah
(3)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 27 1974

TELETYPE

NR 003 BS PLAIN

7:55 PM URGENT APRIL 29, 1974 JWH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM BOSTON (157-644) (P)

MURKIN

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
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Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

RE BUTEL APRIL 26, 1974.

ON 4/27/74, GEORGE MC MILLAN, 12 HILLARD STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASS., ACKNOWLEDGED BEING AUTHOR OF MATERIAL ON JAMES EARL RAY BUT DECLINED INTERVIEW. STATES FENSTERWALD HABITUALLY MAKES WILD ACCUSATIONS AND HE DOES NOT FEEL ANY RESPONSE TO THESE IS WARRANTED. MC MILLAN STATES HE HAS WRITTEN LETTERS TO "JACK" WHO IS JOHN LARRY RAY, BROTHER OF JAMES EARL RAY. SECOND REASON FOR HIS NOT WISHING TO BE INTERVIEWED IS THAT CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND JOHN LARRY RAY CONCERNS A SUIT IN FEDERAL COURT BY MC MILLAN TO GAIN ACCESS TO JOHN LARRY RAY, AN INMATE AT FEDERAL PRISON, MARION, ILLINIOS. SUIT APPARENTLY ON APPEAL TO UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT.

END PAGE ONE

BS 157-644

PAGE TWO

REVIEW BY OTHER AUTHORS.

ON APRIL 30, 1974, JOHN T. WILLIAMS STATED
HE HAD LAST TALKED WITH MC MILLAN A FEW HOURS
EARLIER AND AT THAT TIME MC MILLAN WAS WILLING
TO BE INTERVIEWED PERSONALLY. WILLIAMS STATED
HE KNOWS ONLY THAT MC MILLAN DID NOT REVIEW FBI
FILES. HE STATED HE WOULD CONTACT BOSTON
OFFICE CONCERNING POSSIBLE INTERVIEW AFTER
CONFERRING WITH MC MILLAN UPON MC MILLAN'S RETURN
FROM TENNESSEE.

BOSTON WILL ARRANGE INTERVIEW WITH MC MILLAN
IF POSSIBLE AND KEEP BUREAU ADVISED.

END

HOLD

BS 157-644

PAGE TWO

GEORGE MC MILLAN CALLED BOSTON OFFICE TWO HOURS
LATER AND ASKED THAT HE BE CONTACTED FOR INTERVIEW
4/29/74.

BOSTON WILL INTERVIEW MC MILLAN 4/29/74 TO RESOLVE
ANY POSSIBLE ALLEGATION THAT HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED
BUREAU REPORTS IN THIS MATTER.

END

PAW FBIHQ

CLR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

APR 27 1974

NR02 CO PLAIN

1:51PM URGENT APRIL 27, 1974 RCA

TELETYPE

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

BOSTON

FROM COLUMBIA (44-299) (RUC) (IP)

MURKIN

REBUREAUTEL TO COLUMBIA, APRIL 26, 1974.

ON APRIL 27, 1974, MRS. J.E. MCTEER, COFFIN POINT,
FROGMORE, S.C., A NEIGHBOR OF GEORGE MCMILLAN, ADVISED
MCMILLAN'S HOUSE IS CLOSED FOR THE SUMMER AND HE HAS RETURNED
TO 12 HILLIARD STREET, CAMBRIDGE, MASS., TELEPHONE 547-680.

BOSTON INTERVIEW MCMILLAN AT CAMBRIDGE ADDRESS.

END

RHXXX RXH FBIHQ ACK FOR ONE

CLR

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
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Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

Lubin
5/7

MS Gowan

PLAINTEXT

FACSIMILE

URGENT

To: SACs Boston (Enclosures 3)
Columbia (Enclosures 3)

4/26/74

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

1 - Mr. McDonough

MURKIN

Enclosed are communications from the Department.

For info of receiving offices you will note the Civil Rights Division requests we interview appropriate Bureau personnel concerning comments made in correspondence from Bernard Fensterwald, attorney for James Earl Ray. Fensterwald asserts that based on correspondence of George McMillan which he obtained, authors Gerold Frank, William Bradford Huie and McMillan have had access to FBI reports in the King assassination case. In the letter referred to, McMillan states "sometime before I write this section I am going to Memphis and look at the FBI file on the case; that's been made available to me. Knowing what I know some of the things in that file might look different to me from what they looked to Frank and Huie."

Bufiles show McMillan has contacted the Bureau previously for information on the Ray case and other Civil Rights cases and there is no indication that he has been furnished information by the Bureau from Bureau files. Our files do show that in January, 1971, in response to his request for data in the Ray case, the Civil Rights Division of the Department advised McMillan that the only information which could be made available to him consisted of documents filed on behalf of the States of Tennessee and Missouri in the extradition proceeding against Ray in British Court.

Appropriate personnel at the Bureau and in the Memphis Office advise that they have no information that Bureau reports were furnished McMillan, Frank or Huie in this matter.

1 - Memphis (Info) (Enclosures 3)

EJM/pwl)3(

SEE NOTE PAGE 2 . . .

Facsimile to SACs Boston
Columbia

Re: MURKIN
44-38861

Bureau files indicate that McMillan in December, 1973, was in Coffin Point, Frogmore, South Carolina, although the letterhead on his letter of 9/14/73 sets forth a Cambridge, Massachusetts, address.

The Boston and Columbia Offices should immediately attempt to ascertain whereabouts of McMillan in order that he can be interviewed to resolve any possible allegation that he, Frank or Huie have received Bureau reports in this matter. Handle immediately and keep Bureau advised of developments. Sutel summary of results of interview of McMillan and follow with LHM. This is to be vigorously pursued until resolved.

NOTE: See General Investigative Division informative note dated 4/26/74, EJM/bap.

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION 44-38861-100

Civil Rights Division requests we interview appropriate Bureau personnel concerning comments made in correspondence from Bernard Fensterwald, attorney for James Earl Ray. Fensterwald asserts that based on correspondence of George McMillan which he obtained, authors Gerold Frank, William Bradford Huie and McMillan have had access to FBI reports in the King assassination case. In the letter referred to, McMillan states "sometime before I write this section I am going to Memphis and look at the FBI file on the case; that's been made available to me. Knowing what I know some of the things in that file might look different to me from what they looked to Frank and Huie."

Bufiles show McMillan has contacted the Bureau previously for information on the Ray case and other Civil Rights cases and there is no indication that he has been furnished information by the Bureau from Bureau files. Our files do show that in January, 1971, in response to his request for data in the Ray case, the Civil Rights Division of the Department advised McMillan that the only information which could be made available to him consisted of documents filed on behalf of the states of Tennessee and Missouri in the extradition proceeding against Ray in British Court.

Appropriate personnel at the Bureau and in the Memphis Office advise that they have no information that Bureau reports were furnished McMillan, Frank or Huie in this matter. /

It is recommended we interview McMillan and pin this down and upon receipt of results, Civil Rights Division and Fensterwald will be appropriately advised.

JM:bap

McDonough

APR 24 1974

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

JSP:FDA:SH:bmp

J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DJ 144-72-662

Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reference is made to your investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bureau file #44-38861, and the attached correspondence between this Division and Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, attorney for James Earl Ray.

Mr. Fensterwald asserts that authors Gerold Frank, William Bradford Huie and George McMillan have had access to FBI reports in connection with this matter.

Please interview the appropriate Bureau personnel who may have information, or comments, with regard to Mr. Fensterwald's assertion and advise us whether there is any indication that these authors had access to the reports as asserted.

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 24 1974

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Law Offices
Fensterwald and Ohlhausen
910 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

This is to reply to your letter of March 27, 1974, enclosing a letter from one George McMillan to John Larry Ray, and requesting access to our investigative file pertaining to the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King.

As an investigative file pertaining to a possible violation of federal criminal statutes, this material is specifically exempted from disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. See 5 U.S.C. §552. Any disclosure of the contents of this file would be contrary to Department policy and regulations.

I regret that we could not be of more assistance.

Sincerely,

K. William O'Connor
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Law Offices
FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

910 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 223-1667

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN

GORDON F. HARRISON
OF COUNSEL

NEW YORK ASSOCIATES

BASS & ULLMAN
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

March 27, 1974

Mr. William O'Connor
550 11th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

I enclose a copy of a letter which I obtained, and which should be of interest to you. It is from George McMillan, well known writer and hopeful biographer of James Earl Ray; it is to John Ray, Jame's brother.

As you will note, McMillan claims access to the FBI file and asserts that both Gerold Frank and William Huie had access.

If this is true, and I have reason to believe it is true at least in the cases of Huie and Frank, I believe that I, as Ray's attorney, am entitled to access. In fact, I believe I'm entitled under the FOI Act as an individual. It would be to everyone's advantage, I believe, to let me examine it quietly rather than after a big, public flap.

Would you look into this and take it up with your elders.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Bud

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crf
Encl
PS.

Despite our best efforts, Ray is still in solitary; starting his 18th month.

We go to Houston to depose Percy Foreman
Oh joy!!

144-72-662
APR 2 1974
O.H.O.M.
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.
RECORD

GEORGE McMILLAN
12 HILLIARD STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASS 02138
PHONE 617-547-6260

Sept 14, 1973

Dear Jack:

That was a good letter you wrote about the blackberries, etc. Peacock is now living in Lewiston, not far from Ewing. I heard that his wife is an alcoholic and that he isn't doing much of anything himself.

My lawsuit to see you goes on, in fact my lawyers expect some kind of decision from the federal judge here in Boston within next two weeks. But, even if he acts in my favor, the government has recourses which will still delay my seeing you. I am now well along with my book and am working against a hard deadline of March 15, 1973. It is the absolute last date on which I can do anything with my manuscript. That means it will be published in the Fall of 1974, about a year from now. Book publishing is a very slow affair.

The thing I want to talk with you about now is ~~xxxxxxx~~ about what went on between you and Jimmy and Jerry and Jimmy in that year between the time he escaped from Jeff City and was arrested in London. I especially want to know about the time between Jeff City and Memphis. What I most want to do is check with you the story Jerry told me in Chicago in the summer of 1972 when I went out there two times to interview him. He told me one hell of a lot stuff. Then he sent me a tape on which he said he had conned me. I put all the stuff I got from him aside, telling myself it was probably all a lot of shit. Then the other day I looked at it again, read it all over carefully. I changed my mind about it. I decided that Jerry had told me the truth, that all the stuff was pretty much true, that maybe he had lied to me about some names, invented something here or there, but that the general story he told me was true. That's what I believe now, and I mean to use the stuff.

But I want to check it as much as I can. I've already checked a couple of things & they've turned out to be true. Sometime before I write this section I am going to Memphis and look at the FBI file on the case; that's been made available to me. Knowing that the FBI file might look different to me from what they looked to Frank and Julie.

(More)

PS I thought a man named Cason ran the pool hall? Edx And barber shop. Did he come before or after Pat Brown? Or did Cason own it and Pat run it?

Page 2 -- Sept 14, 1972

GEORGE McMILLAN
12 HILLIARD STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138
PHONE 617-547-6260

What I would like ~~xx~~ more than anything is to check Jerry's story with you. What do you think about doing it by mail? I've just been taking for granted that this is something you wouldn't want to write me about. Am I wrong? Let me know. If it's OK with you, it's OK with me.

And I ~~will~~ ~~xxxx~~ pay you something for your help. Not a big sum. And I won't pay in advance. I've been had too often for that. But I will pay as we go along.

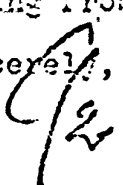
And if we don't do it now, I don't know when we will ever do it. Time is running out for me. And I'm going to use something so it might as well be the straight story.

I would like to talk with Jimmy. The Tennessee officials have given me permission. But Jimmy won't see me, just as he hasn't seen any writer. Jerry says that if Jimmy's current appeal is turned down in Cincinnati that Jimmy is going to talk, hold a press conference. Well, I doubt that there would be much for me in that press conference. Both Stoner and Foreman have urged Jimmy to talk with me but Fensterwald does not want him to.

I think he should. Mine is the last book that's going to be done in the foreseeable future. And he can't sell another "story" like he sold to Huie. Nobody is going to pay him anymore unless they check the story in advance. Oh, maybe some TV network might pay him a relatively small sum for an on-camera interview. But that wouldn't help anybody.

One more question. Do you have any pictures of your family? Your mother? Any old pictures of any kind of any member of the family?

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,


Mr. John Larry Ray #26798
Marion
Illinois

PS I ^{am} moving South October 1st so answer this letter to me at
Coffin Point
Frogmore, South Carolina 29920

Law Offices
FENSTERWALD & OHLHAUSEN
910 16th STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006



*Postage and postage
paid at your nearest office*

Mr. William O'Connor
~~550 11th Street, N.W.~~
Washington, D.C.

70530

*Postage and postage
paid at your nearest office*

(Copies to Offices Checked)

To: ☒ Director, Att. **Supervisor THEODORE M. GARDNER**
☐ SAC, **Room 2258, Division 6**

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ Alexandria
☐ Anchorage
☐ Atlanta
☐ Baltimore
☐ Birmingham
☐ Boston
☐ Buffalo
☐ Butte
☐ Charlotte
☐ Chicago
☐ Cincinnati
☐ Cleveland
☐ Columbia
☐ Dallas
☐ Denver
☐ Detroit
☐ El Paso
☐ Honolulu

☐ Houston
☐ Indianapolis
☐ Jackson
☐ Jacksonville
☐ Kansas City
☐ Knoxville
☐ Las Vegas
☐ Little Rock
☐ Los Angeles
☐ Louisville
☐ Memphis
☐ Miami
☐ Milwaukee
☐ Minneapolis
☐ Mobile
☐ Newark
☐ New Haven
☐ New Orleans
☐ New York City
☐ Norfolk

☐ Oklahoma City
☐ Omaha
☐ Philadelphia
☐ Phoenix
☐ Pittsburgh
☐ Portland
☐ Richmond
☐ Sacramento
☐ St. Louis
☐ Salt Lake City
☐ San Antonio
☐ San Diego
☐ San Francisco
☐ San Juan
☐ Savannah
☐ Seattle
☐ Springfield
☐ Tampa
☐ Washington Field

Date 4/19/74

RE:

MURKIN

REMARK **Re Dr. RUSSELL HADLEY. Enclosed is Xeroxed copy of Los Angeles airtel to the Bureau dated 10/9/68, enclosing copy of FD-302 regarding interview with Dr. HADLEY.**

Re XAVIER VON KOSS. Enclosed is Xeroxed copy of Los Angeles teletype, dated 4/13/68, and FD-302, dated 4/16/68, regarding negative interview of VON KOSS. Enclosed is Xeroxed copy of Los Angeles teletype dated 4/16/68, regarding positive interview with VON KOSS. No FD-302 is available for VON KOSS.

BU **44-38861**

FILE #: **LA 44-1574**

// **SAG JAMES L. STARTZELL**

OFFICE LOS ANGELES

Mr. Franck

11-27-73

G. E. Malmfeldt

GEORGE McMILLAN
FROGMORE, SOUTH CAROLINA
REQUEST FOR DATA FROM OUR FILES ON JAMES EARL RAY

Captioned individual called Bureau Headquarters on 11-26-73 and was referred to Farrington of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Unit. Mr. McMillan advised that he was working on a book concerning James Earl Ray which he hoped to eventually be published by Little, Brown and Company. In this regard, he stated that he had received various data on Ray which he feels is accurate but which he would like to have verified by the FBI. This information included evidence that there was, in fact, no conspiracy involved in Ray's slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King. He would also like to verify some information coming to his attention concerning Ray's activities while in prison and his association with one Stumm.

The provisions of the FOIA, particularly the exemption covering investigatory files compiled for law enforcement purposes that were not over 15 years old, were explained to him. Although he was quite disappointed over our inability to cooperate with him, he claimed that he fully understood. He stated that he would be back in touch with us some time in the future to determine if our position on furnishing him data on James Earl Ray had changed.

Our files reveal that Mr. McMillan is a free-lance writer who has contacted the Bureau on a number of occasions previously concerning the James Earl Ray case and various civil rights investigations conducted by the FBI in the South. As recently as January, 1971, in response to his request for data from the James Earl Ray case, the Department advised him that the only information which could be made available to him consisted of documents filed on behalf of the States of Tennessee and Missouri in the extradition proceedings concerning

- 1 - Mr. Franck
- 1 - Mr. Miller
- 1 - Mr. Gohardt
- 1 - Mr. Heil
- 1 - Mr. Malmfeldt

JCF:law (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

G. E. Malmfeldt to Mr. Franck memo
Re: George McMillan

Ray in the British Court. Since it was the Department's intention to make those limited papers available in the future to authors, publishers or members of the public who wished to inspect them, Mr. McMillan was invited, by the Department, to review those documents only.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information in the event Mr. McMillan contacts the Bureau in the future.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

4/23/74

MURKIN

~~5/23~~

DJ-144-72-662

your

4/15/74

JSP:FDA:SH:bmp

XX C

2

NOTE: Reference is made to my memorandum dated 4/19/74. Enclosed is a copy of interview of Dr. Russell Hadley dated 10/2/68 in Los Angeles and a copy of a negative contact with Xavier Von Koss on 4/13/68.

4/17/74

AIRTEL

5/3

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call to Memphis, 4/16/74.

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and 4 copies of LHM dated and captioned as above.

No local dissemination is being made of this LHM.

As set forth in enclosed LHM, information contained in Memphis files reflect that for several days prior to 4/3/68, the date of KING's arrival in Memphis, members of his staff were registered at the Lorraine Motel, and KING himself upon his arrival at Memphis went directly to the Lorraine Motel and registered. There is no indication whatsoever that he was registered at the Holiday Inn Rivermont or that he had any intention of staying at the Holiday Inn Rivermont on his 4/3/68 trip to Memphis.

(3 - Bureau (Encs. 5)
2 - Memphis
HSL:mrp
(5)

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

4/19/74

Muskin

THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

FDA:sh

your
DJ 144-72-662

4/15/74

4/17/74

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxletterhead memorandum
Memphis

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4/17/74

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call to Memphis, 4/16/74.

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and 4 copies of LHM dated and captioned as above.

No local dissemination is being made of this LHM.

As set forth in enclosed LHM, information contained in Memphis files reflect that for several days prior to 4/3/68, the date of KING's arrival in Memphis, members of his staff were registered at the Lorraine Motel, and KING himself upon his arrival at Memphis went directly to the Lorraine Motel and registered. There is no indication whatsoever that he was registered at the Holiday Inn Rivermont or that he had any intention of staying at the Holiday Inn Rivermont on his 4/3/68 trip to Memphis.

③ - Bureau (Encs. 5)
2 - Memphis
HSL:mrp
(5)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
April 17, 1974

RE: MURKIN

On March 28, 1968, Mr. D. A. Murphy, Chief, Reservation Section, American Airlines, Memphis, Tennessee, advised Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., arrived Memphis Municipal Airport from Atlanta, Georgia, at 10:22 A.M. on March 28, 1968.

Lt. E. H. Arkin, Intelligence Unit, Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, advised on March 28, 1968, that a motorcycle escort provided by the Memphis Police Department escorted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his party to the intersection of Hernando and Linden Avenue, Memphis, where King joined a massive march of approximately 7,000 persons. This march primarily sponsored by the Memphis sanitation workers had begun at 10:00 A.M. from Clayborn Temple and had proceeded to the intersection of Hernando Street and Linden Avenue when Dr. King joined the march on foot at 10:50 A.M.

Lt. Arkin advised as this march continued at 11:10 A.M. on March 28, 1968, the marchers became completely unruly, store windows were broken, looting began, and at 11:15 A.M. Dr. King made the statement that he had to get out of there.

Lt. M. E. Nichols of the Memphis Police Department advised that at approximately 11:15 A.M. Dr. King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and three others of Dr. King's staff ran from the head of this march to Front Street between McCall and Gayoso where they attempted to commandeer a white panel truck in an effort to get away from the march. The driver of the white panel truck refused to help. One of Dr. King's associates then stopped a white Pontiac occupied by two Negro women and they were asked if they would assist in getting King out of danger. One of King's aides slid behind the steering wheel, King and three other members of his staff entered the rear seat of the Pontiac, and the car was driven

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to McCall and Front Street, and at this point the car was surrounded by approximately 50 individuals, all black.

Lt. Nichols cleared the crowd from around the Pontiac and asked the driver of the Pontiac where he wanted to go. The driver stated he had Rev. King in the back seat, that he had to get away, and asked the officer to escort them to the Hotel Sheraton-Peabody.

Lt. Nichols explained that due to the rioting they could not get to the Peabody Hotel and asked if they desired to go to another place. The Negro driver stated, "Just get us away from trouble."

Lt. Nichols then escorted the car containing Dr. King to the Rivermont Motel where Lt. Nichols went to the desk clerk and asked if she had space for five Negroes, including Rev. King. The desk clerk told Lt. Nichols the Negroes could remain in the lobby and an effort would be made to obtain a room for them.

Lt. Nichols stated that a room was found for Dr. King and his party of four and that this group checked into the Rivermont Motel at 11:24 A.M. on March 28, 1968.

On March 29, 1968, Lt. E. H. Arkin advised that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spent the night of March 28, 1968, at the Rivermont Motel and at 2:30 P.M. on March 29, 1968, he and his staff were escorted by the Memphis Police Department to the Memphis Municipal Airport where Dr. King left Memphis via Eastern Airlines for Atlanta, Georgia, at 3:20 P.M. on March 29, 1968.

On April 1, 1968, Inspector G. P. Tines, Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, advised that the following members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) staff were in Memphis and currently registered at the Lorraine Motel: R. B. Cottonreader, James Orange, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and James L. Bevel.

Hosea L. Williams, Director of Voters Registration, SCLC, advised Inspector Tines on April 1, 1968, that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., would arrive in Memphis April 2, 1968, staying at the Lorraine Motel and that a mass march would be held April 5, 1968, led by Dr. King.

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On April 3, 1968, Lt. E. H. Arkin advised that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his aides Ralph D. Abernathy, Bernard Lee, and Andrew M. Young arrived at Memphis Municipal Airport at 10:15 A.M. from Atlanta, Georgia, via Eastern Airlines. According to Lt. Arkin, Dr. King was met by local SCLC leaders James Morris Lawson and Mrs. Thomas Matthews.

According to Lt. Arkin, a security detail of the Memphis Police Department was on hand to escort Dr. King; however, upon approaching Mrs. Thomas Matthews this security detail was informed that the SCLC had not requested police protection and that the security detail was not welcome. This security detail contacted Rev. Lawson and asked as to Dr. King's schedule so that security could be arranged, and Lawson stated that he did not know what Dr. King's schedule was.

Dr. King and his group were taken by private car to the Lorraine Motel where they were registered.

Lt. Arkin advised Dr. King spent the night of April 3, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel and was at this motel at the time he was shot at approximately 8:00 P.M., April 4, 1968.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MURKIN

Bufile 44-38861

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

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JSP:FDA:SH:bmp

J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DJ 144-72-662

The Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King

Reference is made to Bureau File #44-38861, the investigation of the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Recently, the allegations listed below have come to our attention, and we examined the investigative reports which were previously furnished to us, and found no reference in them which bore on the accuracy of these allegations.

It is, therefore, requested that your agents cause a search of any files you might have to determine whether there is any reference to:

(1) A Reverend Xavier Von Koss, a hypnotist who James Earl Ray allegedly visited in Los Angeles on January 4, 1968;

(2) Dr. Russell C. Hadley, a plastic surgeon located in Hollywood, California, who allegedly performed cosmetic surgery on Ray's nose on March 5, 1968; and,

(3) An alleged decision to change Dr. King's Memphis accommodations from the Holiday Inn to the Lorraine Motel just prior to the assassination, as well as an alleged change in his room accommodations at the Lorraine Motel.

This request is only for a search of your files, and no field investigation is requested or desired.

4/16/74

Spur Ted O'Hearn, LA, will furnish copies of interviews of Koss and HADLEY.

SAC GUNDERSON, KC, will furnish LHM re hotel accommodations of KING.

JSL

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

3/26/74

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*Memphis advised 4/16/74 new trial date not set
but presiding judge will be Judge Robert M. McRae Jr.*

1 NOTE: ENCLOSED ARE 1 COPY OF WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS
DATED 12/4/72 AND ONE COPY OF ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN
NASHVILLE BANNER 3/15/74 ADVISING THAT THIS CIVIL ACTION
WAS TRANSFERRED TO USDC MEMPHIS.