

Mr. Rosen

C. L. McGowan

MURKIN

Retype
June 2, 1968

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. Gordon

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

At 9:30 p.m., 6/1/68, Moss Innes, Legal Attache, Ottawa, Canada, telephonically advised that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) are conducting a survey of Canadian passports in an attempt to locate James Earl Ray. RCMP investigators have located Canadian passport number DJ909324 for one Ramon George Sneyd issued 4/24/68, at Ottawa. This passport contains a photograph of Sneyd which RCMP advises is very definitely similar to Ray and there is good probability it is a photograph of Ray.

Sneyd's application for passport was filed on his behalf by the Kennedy Travel Bureau, 962 Dundas Street West, Toronto, and was handled by Miss L. Spencer who RCMP is attempting to locate for interview. Sneyd filed an affidavit in lieu of listing a guarantor that he had only been in Toronto three weeks and did not know a guarantor. Passport data listed Sneyd as white male, born 10/8/32, at Toronto, five feet ten inches in height, 168 pounds in weight, black hair, blue eyes, residence 968 Dundas Street, Toronto (RCMP established this to be a Chinese rooming house where Sneyd arrived 4/19/68, and roomed for three weeks). He also listed as a friend Paul Bridgman, 102 (or 108) Ossington Street, Toronto (RCMP has been unable to locate Bridgman to date).

The purpose for the Canadian passport was for Sneyd to fly to London, England, 5/6/68, via British Overseas Airlines Company (BOAC) and return to Canada 5/21/68. RCMP as yet has no information as to what BOAC flight Sneyd may have taken to London and there is no indication he has returned to Canada.

JCG:erg;vea
(8)

CONTINUED - OVER

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Mr. Rosen

June 2, 1968

C. L. McGowan

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JCG:erg;vea
(8)

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Rosen

DATE: June 2, 1968

FROM : C. L. McGowan

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following action was taken by Extra-Duty Supervisor Hunter E. Helgeson on 6-2-68, regarding location by Canadian authorities of a passport issued to Ramon George Sneyd:

Legal Attache John Minnich, London, England, was telephonically contacted. He advised that there would be no record maintained on an individual entering England or any of the Commonwealth under Canadian passport. He pointed out that if a person arrived on a plane from Canada at London, he would merely present his passport to Immigration officials who would stamp the passport but no record would be made of the person's entry.

Minnich stated there were several avenues of investigation possible in London which are: (1) check of British Overseas Airlines Company (BOAC) passenger manifests to determine if a person by the name of Sneyd was on an incoming flight. In this connection, he noted that this is a holiday weekend in England and that Monday, 6-3-68, is a holiday, similar to our Labor Day, and he doubted if such a check of BOAC records could be undertaken before 6-4-68; however, he would explore the possibility on 6-3-68. (2) Circularize the name of Ramon George Sneyd through the Hotel Security Officers Association to determine if Sneyd was registered in a London hotel. He pointed out that there was no guarantee that such circularization would not be leaked to the press. (3) Circularization through the Metropolitan Police Gazette which is a periodical sent to all police agencies in the United Kingdom. Here again while the Gazette is supposedly restricted to police agencies, information contained therein very often comes to the attention of the press. (4) Arrange for widespread publicity through news media of subject's photograph and descriptive data.

Minnich was instructed that at this point all investigation should be handled in a discreet fashion and that he should take no action concerning circularization through the Hotel Security Officers Association or the Metropolitan Police Gazette and no publicity to news media unless specifically authorized by the Bureau. He was instructed to have a check of BOAC records instituted as soon as possible.

HEH:erg
(5)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
RE: MURKIN

In connection with past information indicating Ray might desire to travel to Rhodesia, Minnich advised that all British are banned from travel to Rhodesia and, therefore, he would have extreme difficulty using a Canadian passport to leave London for Rhodesia but he did point out that a person could fly from London to some point on the continent and from there travel to Rhodesia.

Legal Attache Moss Innes, Ottawa, Canada, advised at 1:45 p. m., 6-2-68, that Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) had reported no new developments to him and that if he did not hear from them by 5:00 p. m., he would call them and thereafter call the Bureau bringing the Canadian investigation up to date. He pointed out that RCMP is checking regarding whether or not there was a legitimate birth certificate filed for Sneyd. In connection with the handwriting examination being done by RCMP, he said a comparison was being made with the signature on the lease executed by Galt in Montreal. RCMP is also checking to determine what records BOAC maintains in Canada concerning London passengers. Innes was advised that an FBI Identification Record was located for one Paul Osborn Bridgeman, FBI number 352 520 C, indicating Bridgeman had been fingerprinted by the Department of Correction, Jefferson City, Missouri, on 4-23-65, and could very well have been confined to the Missouri State Penitentiary at the time Ray was confined there.

Innes will attempt to get passport application and photograph of Sneyd in the mail to the Bureau 6-3-68.

Innes was instructed that all investigation in Canada regarding this matter should be handled in a discreet fashion.

ASAC Cliff Halter, Memphis Office, was telephonically advised of the developments concerning the Canadian passport issued to Sneyd. SAC Robert Jensen, Memphis Office, subsequently called and suggested that Legat, Ottawa be requested to have laundries in the vicinity of the Chinese rooming house checked to determine if photographs of Ray could be identified by them. SAC Jensen also suggested that as soon as photographs of Sneyd are obtained from Legat, Ottawa, copies should be sent to St. Louis and Chicago to be shown to Ray's relatives.

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CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
RE: MURKIN

SAC Karl Dissly, Kansas City Office, was telephonically advised of the Canadian developments and was furnished background concerning Paul Bridgeman, FBI number 352 520 C. SAC Dissly advised that the Department of Correction, Jefferson City, Missouri, is the Missouri State Penitentiary. He was instructed to immediately have appropriate record reviewed and set out necessary leads to locate and interview Bridgeman concerning his knowledge of subject Ray and present whereabouts and to determine if Bridgeman is now or was in Toronto, Canada, in April of this year.

ACTION: For information.



531

Mr. Rosen

May 31, 1968

C. L. McGowan

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

MURKIN

Today Legal Attache Nate Ferris of Mexico City called relating to the lead furnished by Eduardo Jose Molina to the effect that James Ray was reportedly working at the Sadzil Ha Hotel, Isla of Mujeres, off the coast of Mexico.

Ferris advised that an American was a guest at the Sadzil Ha Hotel from 5/9/68 to 5/12/68 at which time he reportedly left Isla of Mujeres for Merida, Mexico. Efforts to locate this individual in Merida have been unsuccessful to date.

Ferris advised that investigation disclosed that this individual arrived in Mexico City, 5/1/68, using the name James H. Anderson or James Anderson. He stayed at the Maria Isabella Hotel, Mexico City, from 5/1/68 to 5/4/68 and at the Alfaro Hotel, Mexico City, from 5/5/68 to 5/6/68 before leaving for Isla of Mujeres. In connection with his hotel registrations he listed his profession as teacher and businessman and gave a permanent address of 800 Pennsylvania Avenue, Savannah, Georgia. He also listed a Diners' Club Card, number 2207-1386-1DC.

According to Ferris this individual generally answers the physical description of Ray. Four witnesses have said that Anderson resembles Ray while several others have expressed the opinion he does not. According to witnesses Anderson has obviously dyed blond hair and has in his possession an automatic pistol. He also had a noticeable limp.

ACTION:

The above was telephonically furnished to ASAC Thomas Westfall of the Savannah Office with instructions to conduct immediate investigation to determine whether Anderson is a legitimate existing person and if so, his current whereabouts.

JGK:vea
(6)

CONTINUED - OVER

SEE ADDENDUM PAGE THREE

Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
RE: MURKIN

Supervisor Roger Young of the New York Office was also furnished the above information and instructed to contact the Diners' Club headquarters in New York to obtain full details regarding the holder of Diners' Club Card number 2207-1386-1DC.

ASAC Thomas Westfall, Savannah, advised that inquiry has established that James H. Anderson is Vice President of the L & A Supermarket, 804 Pennsylvania Avenue, Savannah, Georgia. He has resided in Savannah for a number of years where he has operated the above supermarket with his father.

Anderson admitted that he had been in Mexico earlier this month and was on the Isla of Mujeres from 5/9 to 12/68. He is 33 years old, has bleached blond hair, is somewhat effeminate, and does limp from a permanent ankle injury sustained several years ago. Anderson denied currently possession a pistol or having possessed one while in Mexico.

Anderson further advised that he did use Diners' Club Card number 2207-1386-1DC while in Mexico.

The Agents who interviewed Anderson advised that he does not resemble James Ray.

Supervisor Roger Young of the New York Office advised that the records of the Diners' Club in New York City reflect that Diners' Club Card number 2207-1386-1DC was issued to James H. Anderson, Vice President of the L & A Supermarket, 800 Pennsylvania Avenue, Savannah, Georgia, on 10/24/67. At the time the card was issued to him he was 32 years of age and his father, L. E. Anderson, was identified as owner of the L & A Supermarket.

The credit bureau in Savannah was contacted in connection with his application for a Diners' Club Card and verified Anderson's position as Vice President of the L & A Supermarket. He had been known to the credit bureau since 1960 and a credit rating of excellent.

On 3/30/68 he reported he had lost his original card issued to him and was issued a duplicate card under the same number.

ACTION:

The above information was furnished to Legat Nate Ferris in Mexico City. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO FERRIS THAT THE ORIGINAL ALLEGATION WAS THAT RAY WAS EMPLOYED IN THE KITCHEN OF THE SADZIL HA HOTEL AND THE IDENTIFICATION OF ANDERSON AS A LEGITIMATE PERSON DID NOT RESOLVE THE ORIGINAL ALLEGATION. HE STATED HE WAS AWARE OF THIS, HAD DESIRED TO DETERMINE ANDERSON'S IDENTITY, EVEN THOUGH A GUEST ON POSSIBILITY HE MIGHT BE IDENTICAL TO RAY, AND THAT EXPEDITE INQUIRY WAS CONTINUING TO RESOLVE THE ORIGINAL ALLEGATION.

MEMO

Mr. Rosen

May 31, 1968

C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
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1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Kelly

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On 3/30/68 he reported he had lost his original card issued to him and was issued a duplicate card under the same number.

ACTION:

The above information was furnished to Legat Nate Ferris in Mexico City. It was pointed out to Ferris that the original allegation was that Ray was employed in the kitchen of the Sadzll Ha Hotel and the identification of Anderson as a legitimate person did not resolve the original allegation. He stated he was aware of this, had desired to determine Anderson's identity, even though a guest on possibility he might be identical to Ray, and that expedite inquiry was continuing to resolve the original allegation.

5-29

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

May 29, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to my memorandum dated May 27, 1968, relative to the body of an unidentified deceased person found in a grave near Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania.

On May 27, 1968, Sergeant George Durilla, Pennsylvania State Police, Reading, Pennsylvania, advised that skull X-rays of James Earl Ray, subject of captioned case, were compared with the lower jaw of the above body by Dr. Joseph E. Conrad, radiologist, and Dr. Thomas Buckley, pathologist, Good Samaritan Hospital, Pottsville, Pennsylvania, and they stated there was no similarity whatsoever between the bone structure or dental work of the body and those of James Earl Ray.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General

EJM:cs
(9)

NOTE: Attorney General was previously advised of the finding of this body near Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania, on 5/8/68. There had been unsubstantiated reports that it might be Ray's body and the original examining physician and an archaeologist were in conflict as to the possible length of time the body had been in the grave, one claiming six months and the other four to six weeks. This is to furnish the Attorney General up-to-date information on this development.

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May 29, 1968

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1 - Mr. McDonough

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 29, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mrs. Homer Lane Bigelow has advised our Denver Office that about a year ago she fell in love with and cohabitated with one Robert Edward Byrne, a Denver oil promoter who claims to be involved in a conspiracy to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. She said she would not have furnished this information except Byrne, who is a heavy drinker, recently told her he was going to marry another woman.

In about October of 1967, Byrne began telling her he was in some type of organized crime syndicate but never was specific as to members or activities. He claimed to have killed many men, but she was never sure that the killings were while he was in the Armed Forces or in connection with a syndicate.

Byrne spent a lot of time out of town and on 5/14/68, he was at her place and was "very drunk." Before they retired for the evening, she told him she was scared and asked him if he had a hand in King's death. He replied "What do you think? Of course." She then asked Byrne if James Earl Ray did the shooting and he replied asking her what made her think Ray did it. She indicated that Ray was probably dead and Byrne said he was not.

On 5/22/68, James Hyer, who had been representing Byrne in court matter involving the adoption of his children by Byrne's ex-wife and her present husband, telephoned Mrs. Bigelow and asked her to locate Byrne as it was an emergency. She was to tell Byrne the following message: "Emergency Tea Cup" and Byrne would know what it meant. Later on Byrne called at which time she gave him the message and he had her repeat it three times, swore and commented "I wonder if mine will be as big as the other." This message frightened her and she has not heard or seen from him since.

REL:cs
(14)

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Memo Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Although the information as related by Mrs. Bigelow appears to be rambling and highly imaginative and she appears to be the victim of a love affair, we are attempting to locate and interview Byrne to completely determine the veracity of the facts as related.

Our Dallas Office advised that a potential criminal informant of their office had been in contact with a former gambler, whose identity the informant would not disclose, who had just returned from Monterrey, Mexico. According to the informant this gambler made the statement that James Earl Ray is currently working as a bartender in a bar located near the Chevrolet dealership near Monterrey, Mexico. Legat, Mexico City has advised that their investigative informant has checked the only bar closely fitting the description in this allegation. It is the bar known as "El Rancho" located about thirty yards from the Chevrolet dealership in Monterrey, Mexico. The investigative informant completed a canvass of management personnel and employees of the bar and determined that there are no North Americans employed there in any capacity and no employee resembling description of photograph of subject. Investigation is continuing in nearby restaurants where bar service is available and this is being afforded most expeditious attention.

A person by the name of Eduardo Jose Molina contacted our Brownsville, Texas, Resident Agency and advised that he had received information that about four days ago James Earl Ray was working in a kitchen of a hotel located on Isla Mujeres, off the coast of the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico. Molina who is apparently a mature, intelligent person and who owns property in Brownsville, Texas, gave his permanent address as Yucatan, Mexico. His source of information is the son of the man who owns the hotel. This is presently being checked out.

The Taipel, Taiwan, newspaper is carrying a story of the possibility of James Earl Ray en route to Taiwan. Although there is no apparent basis for this allegation and it appears that Korea National Police, Seoul, Korea, gave a press release asking all to be alert for subject in event he travels to Korea, this matter is being checked out.

ACTION: We are affording this case top priority attention.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 29, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

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ACTION: We are affording this case top priority attention.

5-28

Mr. DeLoach

May 28, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

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

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

PURPOSE:

To recommend the Liaison Section contact the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare to determine if a review of new applications received by them for Social Security Numbers can be conducted as it is possible that subject James Earl Ray has applied for a new Social Security Number since April 23, 1967.

BACKGROUND:

The subject James Earl Ray in a prior employment* utilized Social Security Number [REDACTED]. Our investigation disclosed that Ray has been gainfully employed only a few times and these have been for periods of short duration only. In view of his fugitive status and his past history of changing his identity, it is possible that he may apply for a new Social Security Number.

Our Baltimore Office advises that there are between three and four million Social Security applications received each year, the majority of these received during the summer months. Information including name, date of birth, sex, color or race is taken from the application and is placed on computer tape. The Social Security Administration is approximately eight weeks behind in recording this data. Our Baltimore Office advises that on the surface, to obtain the desired information appears to be a tremendous task; however, in view of the fact the computer tape stores eliminating information, it is possible to program the computer to obtain information regarding all white males over 30 years of age in a simplified manner.

*Glen Echo Country Club, St. Louis, Missouri, May, 1958,

REL:cs
(8)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memo Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare should be contacted to determine if a review of new applications for Social Security Numbers can be made. It should be determined if a review of this nature can be handled, how many applications involved, what information is reported on these applications and how current the applications are.

This should be a survey type of request and upon receipt of this information, further recommendation will be instituted.

2. If approved, the Liaison Section should handle this matter as outlined above. The information from our Baltimore Office is not to be disseminated outside this Bureau, however, it may be used to appropriately handle an intelligent interview.

Mr. DeLoach

May 28, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Gale

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BACKGROUND:

The subject James Earl Ray in a prior employment* utilized Social Security Number [REDACTED]. Our investigation disclosed that Ray has been gainfully employed only a few times and these have been for periods of short duration only. In view of his fugitive status and his past history of changing his identity, it is possible that he may apply for a new Social Security Number.

Our Baltimore Office advises that there are between three and four million Social Security applications received each year, the majority of these received during the summer months. Information including name, date of birth, sex, color or race is taken from the application and is placed on computer tape. The Social Security Administration is approximately eight weeks behind in recording this data. Our Baltimore Office advises that on the surface, to obtain the desired information appears to be a tremendous task; however, in view of the fact the computer tape stores eliminating information, it is possible to program the computer to obtain information regarding all white males over 30 years of age in a simplified manner.

*Glen Echo Country Club, St. Louis, Missouri, May, 1958,

REL:cs

(8)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memo Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare should be contacted to determine if a review of new applications for Social Security Numbers can be made. It should be determined if a review of this nature can be handled, how many applications involved, what information is reported on these applications and how current the applications are.

This should be a survey type of request and upon receipt of this information, further recommendation will be instituted. *New Social Security Numbers are received at rate of 110,000 per week - the tape is 2 mos behind & contains only the name & date of birth. BFR 6-4-68*

2. If approved, the Liaison Section should handle this matter as outlined above. The information from our Baltimore Office is not to be disseminated outside this Bureau, however, it may be used to appropriately handle an intelligent interview.

Mr. Rosen

May 28, 1968

C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

~~1 - Mr. Long~~

1 - Mr. McGowan

MURKIN

ASAC Stefansson of the San Antonio Office was telephonically contacted on the morning of 5/28/68 concerning the check of driver's license records in Texas.

It was pointed out it did not appear practical that if rolls of film were available there was no way to visually review the film except by having copies made of negatives. ASAC Stefansson was instructed to ascertain specifically what type of film was used, that is make and size and also ascertain whether or not mechanical equipment could be rented locally to review such film. If such can be handled, he is to advise the Bureau of the approximate cost. If such equipment cannot be obtained locally, he is to advise the Bureau so that a check may be made nationally to determine whether or not appropriate machines are available to visually review negatives.

It was pointed out that such material should be afforded expeditious attention because it would be necessary for Bureau personnel to review the records in an effort to determine whether or not subject has obtained a driver's license in the State of Texas. This is not a project which could be left up to individual clerical employees by leaving a copy of an IO and hoping that they pay some attention to it sometime during the day.

CLM:vea
(5)

527

memo

Mr. Rosen

May 27, 1968

C. L. McGowan

MURKIN

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

ASAC Karl Stefansson of the San Antonio Office telephonically advised that one Eduardo Jose Molina had contacted the Brownsville, Texas, Resident Agency today and advised that he had received information that James Ray was four days ago working in the kitchen of the Sadzil Ha Hotel, located on Isla Mujeres, off the coast of the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Molina is in Brownsville, Texas, checking on some property and will be there several days. His permanent address is Avenida 505C, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, and he will return to that address when his business in Brownsville, Texas, is completed.

Molina advised that the Sadzil Ha Hotel which is located about twenty minutes by air from Merida is owned and operated by a man named Lima, who he feels will not cooperate with the FBI. He identified Lima's son as being the source of the information regarding Ray working at the Sadzil Ha Hotel.

Stefansson described Molina as being 65 years of age, sensible and knowledgeable, and reportedly a graduate of Boston College.

SAC Gordon Shanklin of the Dallas Office also telephonically advised that a potential criminal informant of the office had been in contact with a small time gambler, whose identity the potential criminal informant would not disclose, who had just returned from Monterrey, Mexico. According to the potential criminal informant this gambler made the statement that James Ray is currently working as a bartender in a bar located near the Chevrolet dealer in Monterrey.

ACTION:

The above information was telephonically furnished to Legat Nathan Ferris at Mexico City for immediate handling. Ferris stated the leads would be afforded top priority investigative attention.

JGK:vea
(6)

Memo

SAC, Birmingham (44-1740)

5-27-68

Director, FBI (44-30861)

MURKIN

Reurairtel 5-21-68.

Approval granted for Birmingham to secure publicity on James Earl Ray in the periodical issued by the Southern Medical Association. Authority for such publicity was set forth in Bulet of 4-29-68 to all offices and permits the utilization of all cooperative and reputable publications.

Pursuant to existing instructions the Office of Origin may set forth specific leads regarding such publicity and the existing Bureau press release in this case may be utilized along with copies of Ray's photograph available in all offices.

- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Gale

JRH:djr
(10)

Long

MAY 31 5 34 PM '68

REC'D - FBI

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 27, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

An individual by the name of Rex Basinger, Denver, Colorado, advised our Denver Office he received a telephone call on two separate occasions from a friend, Edgar Eugene Bradley. According to Basinger, he and Bradley formerly lived in Ruby, Arkansas, attended school in Alma, Arkansas, but Basinger lost track of Bradley when Bradley went into the United States Navy in 1933. He subsequently saw Bradley in Dallas, Texas, in 1963.

According to Basinger, Bradley called him on 5-17-68, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and stated that he had Eric Galt with him. Basinger did not know who Galt was and Bradley told him he was also known as James Ray. Basinger related to Bradley that he did not know Ray and Bradley stated that Ray was the man who killed Martin Luther King, Jr. Bradley claims to have lived with Ray for about one week in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Basinger continued to state that Bradley called him again on 5-23-68, and stated that he was at the Old South Restaurant, Fort Smith, Arkansas, and was working his way West. Bradley claimed he was eating his meals at the Old South Restaurant which is operated by Basinger's cousin, Elba Basinger Thompson. Basinger stated that Bradley was allegedly under subpoena by District Attorney James Garrison, New Orleans, Louisiana, in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Thompson, operators of the Old South Restaurant, Fort Smith, Arkansas, were interviewed and they advised that Bradley is unknown to them and they could not identify a photograph of James Earl Ray. Relatives of Basinger advised that Basinger is a mental case, tends to associate himself with criminal cases of national

REL:erg
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

prominence and he was last in Fort Smith, Arkansas, about three years ago at which time he claimed he had been in a cell with Jack Ruby in Dallas, Texas. Investigation revealed this was a false statement and a doctor at Parkland Hospital, Dallas, examined Basinger and found probable psychosis and possible brain syndrome.

Relatives of Edgar Eugene Bradley were interviewed at Fort Smith, Arkansas, and they advised that Bradley currently resides at North Hollywood, California, and is presently employed as West Coast radio representative of Carl McIntyre, an evangelist. Relatives advised that Bradley was definitely not in Tulsa, Oklahoma, or Fort Smith, Arkansas, as alleged, and an uncle of Bradley's talked to him on 5-23-68, as Bradley was calling from North Hollywood, California. The relatives also advised that Bradley has been charged by James Garrison with conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy and is due to have extradition hearing before Governor Reagan of California on June 5 and 6, 1968.

We are presently conducting investigation to determine the whereabouts of Bradley on 5-17-68, and 5-23-68, and we will ascertain if he has any information concerning James Earl Ray.

Circuit Judge John C. Casey, St. Louis, Missouri, previously advised our St. Louis Office he sentenced James Earl Ray to 20 years in a penitentiary for armed robbery in 1959. Ray was serving this sentence when he escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary in April, 1967. Judge Casey also previously advised a motion to set aside this conviction was filed before Ray's escape and is still pending. He believes in view of recent Supreme Court decisions, Ray would stand a good chance of reversing his conviction and he contemplated filing an order on 5-24-68, or his action will be dismissed. Judge Casey asked the FBI for advice as to whether he should delay this matter as he feels publicity of the order would cause wide-spread disorder. Judge Casey was told that the FBI cannot advise him as to what course of action to take; but that if he feels publicizing the order would cause disturbances, he should take necessary steps to alert law enforcement agencies after the order is entered and before it is publicized.

Hearing on this motion did not develop in the manner anticipated by Judge Casey. The attorney for Ray stated in open court he had been appointed subsequent to escape and has never seen or been contacted by Ray. The attorney objected to attempted state introduction of escape notation on Missouri State Penitentiary record as insufficient evidence of escape. The attorney took the position that the appearance of Ray unnecessary on motion to vacate as same based solely on record which is available. Judge Casey has taken this matter under advisement and no publicity developed.

ACTION: The investigation is being afforded top priority.

The Attorney General

May 27, 1968

Director, FBI

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

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On May 8, 1968, the body of an unknown deceased was found partially buried in a grave near Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. A powder believed to be lime was also in the grave. The body was clothed only in shorts and an undershirt. The examining pathologist found three bullet holes in the chest cavity, body was in advanced state of decay, and pathologist stated in his opinion the body had been in the grave for six months.

On May 17, 1968, Dr. Wilton M. Krogman, archeologist, University of Pennsylvania, examined the body and stated that in his opinion the body had been in the grave only from four to six weeks and is of the opinion that the body is that of a middle-aged white male, five feet nine inches to six feet one inch in height, muscular build, weighing about 200 pounds, and descendant of Northern Italy or Central Europe.

According to the examination, there is no possibility of fingerprints being obtained, teeth in the upper jaw are missing or dislodged, but teeth in the lower jaw are intact and contain several fillings. Certain remains of the body are presently in possession of Pennsylvania State Police, Reading, Pennsylvania.

Although there is no indication that this unknown body is that of subject James Earl Ray, a comparison of the dental charts of Ray with the remains of the deceased is presently being conducted by the Pennsylvania State authorities.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General

REL:cs
(10)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

NOTE:

On 5-8-68, a body of an unknown deceased clothed only in shorts and an undershirt was found partially buried in a grave near Mahanoy City, Pennsylvania. A powder believed to be lime was also found in the grave. The examining pathologist found three bullet holes in chest cavity and body in advanced state of decay. No possibility of fingerprints being obtained and pathologist stated he is of opinion body had been in grave for six months.

On 5-17-68, Dr. Wilton M. Krogman, archeologist, University of Pennsylvania, examined the body and stated he is of the opinion body in grave only four to six weeks and is also of the opinion the body is that of a middle-aged white male, five feet nine inches to six feet one inch in height, muscular build, 200 pounds, descendant of Northern Italy or Central Europe. The teeth in upper jaw missing or dislodged but teeth in lower jaw intact and contain several fillings. The lower jaw is in possession of Pennsylvania State Police who are retaining. Our Philadelphia Office suggested that the teeth of this unknown deceased be compared with dental record of James Earl Ray, the subject in the King assassination. Dental records as well as photographs of cavities of the skull concerning James Earl Ray, were obtained from the Missouri State Penitentiary and have been forwarded to our Philadelphia Office. Philadelphia has turned these records over to the Pennsylvania State Police and they are in the process of comparing these records with the remains of the unknown deceased. It is anticipated that it will take several days to complete the examination.

This letter is prepared in accordance with instructions of Mr. DeLoach, Assistant to the Director, as a result of his conference with the Attorney General on May 24, 1968. The Attorney General made inquiry concerning the unknown body recently recovered in Pennsylvania, and he was advised that the information would be forwarded to him.

5-25

Mr. DeLoach

May 25, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

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

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In continuing to run out the story reportedly furnished the Los Angeles "Times" by an individual identified only as "Bob," information has been developed indicating that the individual known to Leamont Anderson White, an effeminate Negro, employee of Western Union in Los Angeles, as Bob Brickley is in reality Lester Edward Packett, FBI Number 827170A. This individual has been the subject of Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property and Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle cases investigated by the Bureau. A photograph of Packett was exhibited to Leamont Anderson White who identified it as the photograph of the individual he knew as Bob Brickley.

The manager of an apartment house located at 812 South Westlake, Los Angeles, identified this same photograph as a former resident of that apartment house. The manager stated that the individual resided in an apartment with Odela A. Packett who is currently serving a 30-day sentence for prostitution in Los Angeles.

Jerry Cohen of the Los Angeles "Times" advised that the newspaper had promised their informant, "Bob," that they would not reveal his identity nor furnish information which would lead to his location. Cohen did advise our Los Angeles Office that he would advise if any of the photographs exhibited to him were identical with his informant, "Bob." Cohen stated that the photograph of Frank Brickley, an ex-convict who has been primarily suspected as being "Bob," was not identical with his informant but Cohen "declined to comment" when the photograph of Lester Edward Packett was exhibited to him.

EJM:vea
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Lester Packett's wife, Odela Packett, was interviewed in the Los Angeles County Jail and she stated that she filed for divorce from Packett two months ago on grounds of desertion, cruelty and nonsupport. She stated her legal fees were being paid by her relatives and she added that she was so mad at Packett at the time of the filing of the divorce that she tore up all of the photographs she had of him. She described him as a shiftless drifter who never held a job during their five years of marriage. She stated she does not know his present whereabouts.

Background information on Lester Packett and interview with Odela Packett indicates he has spent time in Belle Glade, Florida; Reno, Nevada; various locations in Tennessee; Chicago, Illinois; and Kansas City. These areas were mentioned in connection with the story furnished the Los Angeles "Times" by "Bob." Leamont Anderson White believes Packett is the individual who took his two guns and is the only individual outside of Frank Brickley and a person whom he knew as Brickley's cousin whose name he could not recall that would have known he even possessed the guns.

John Eugene Gawron, the old man who lived with Ray's mother from 1954 until her death in 1961, previously advised he taught Ray to be a burglar. He previously stated that he and Ray cased a bank in 1958 or 1959 but did not rob it because Gawron injured his leg. Gawron furnished varying information regarding subject's alleged involvement in a bank robbery following his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary on 4/23/67. After numerous efforts to elicit the truth from Gawron, he has now revealed that the bank allegedly robbed by Ray and an accomplice is located in Alton, Illinois. Gawron stated that Ray's accomplice in the bank robbery told him, Gawron, that his name was "Jimmy," last name unknown. Gawron stated that the last time he saw "Jimmy" he was with a man previously unknown to him who was named "Johnny," last name unknown, and they visited him on the nights of 5/13 and 14/68. Ex-convicts John Paul Valenti and James H. Carpenter are known to have visited Gawron on those dates.

Bureau files show that at approximately 1 p.m., 7/13/67, two unknown subjects wearing stocking masks entered the side door and robbed the Bank of Alton in Alton, Illinois. One subject proceeded directly

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

to the tellers' area, walked behind the counter, emptied cash from two tellers' cages and left the bank by the same route. Unknown subject number two stood outside the side door flourishing a sawed-off shotgun and covered the customers and employees until unknown subject number one left. Then he backed out of the bank. The robbers obtained \$27,230 in loot.

St. Louis City Jail records establish that James H. Carpenter was in City Jail, St. Louis, from 6/6/67 to 3/1/68 and could not, therefore, have participated in the bank robbery or have contacted Gawron as Gawron had claimed in 1967. Carpenter's description does not fit either of the unknown subjects; although Ray's description could approximate that of unknown subject number two.

Gawron led Agents to the above bank and identified it as the one he and Ray had cased in 1959. The modus operandi planned was substantially the same as that used in the actual bank robbery. Gawron stated that he had deliberately misled Agents as to the amount involved and the location of the bank to gain time to be sure he would be in the clear. Investigation of the bank robbery mentioned above is being intensified to ascertain whether Ray could have possibly been involved, thereby accounting for his source of funds.

ACTION:

Vigorous investigation is continuing in order to bring this matter to a prompt conclusion.

Mr. DeLoach

May 25, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

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

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EJM:vea
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

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Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

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ACTION:

Vigorous investigation is continuing in order to bring this matter to a prompt conclusion.

5-24

Mr. Rosen

May 24, 1968

C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen	1 - Mr. Bates
1 - Mr. Malley	1 - Mr. Rowse
1 - Mr. McGowan	1 - Mr. Hudson
1 - Mr. McDonough	1 - Mr. Gehring
1 - Mr. Long	

MURKIN

There is set out hereunder the extra-duty schedule for the captioned case:

Saturday, 5/25/68

8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon, SA Frank J. Hudson
(Stand-By Shift)

12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m., SA Richard F. Bates
(Stand-By Shift)

4:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight, SA Henry G. Rowse
(Regular Extra-Duty Shift)

Sunday, 5/26/68

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., SA Richard E. Long
(Regular Extra-Duty Shift)

4:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight, SA Marlin P. Gehring
(Regular Extra-Duty Shift)

Other Agents assigned to the Murkin Special will, of course, work during the normal working hours as well as any additional period required by the developments in the case.

EJM:mt
(10)



522

May 23, 1968
GENERAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Local Judge John C. Casey, St. Louis sentenced Ray to 20 years in 1959 for armed robbery. A motion to set aside the conviction was filed before Ray's escape and is still pending. Judge Casey believes in view of recent Supreme Court decisions Ray would stand a good chance of reversing his conviction and contemplates filing order on 5/24/68 for Ray to appear by 6/3/68 or his action will be dismissed.

Judge Casey has asked Bureau advice as to whether he should delay until after Poor Peoples Campaign as he feels publicity of his order could cause widespread disorder. Casey is being advised we cannot advise him but if he feels publicizing his order could cause disturbance he should take necessary steps to alert law enforcement agencies after his order is entered and before it is publicized. Department being
REL/r1 Advised.

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 22 1968

TELETYPE

FBI ST LOUIS

712PM URGENT 5-22-68 JJR

TO: DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS
FROM: ST. LOUIS (44-775)

MURKIN

TRAINER DIV-5

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

Long

RE SL TELS NINE TWO SEVEN AM AND TWO ZERO EIGHT PM MAY ELEVEN,
AND BUTEL TEN SEVENTEEN AM MAY THIRTEEN LAST, RE SL CIRCUIT JUDGE
JOHN E. CASEY.

JUDGE CASEY TODAY ADVISED CIRCUIT ATTORNEY FILED NOTICE MAY FIFTEEN
TO TAKE UP STATE MOTION TO DISMISS RAY MOTION TO VACATE, ON MAY
SEVENTEEN. ON THAT DATE RAY ATTORNEY, WHO HAS NEVER SEEN RAY AS
WAS APPOINTED BY COURT SUBSEQUENT TO ESCAPE, FILED MEMO FOR
CLERK ALLEGING INSUFFICIENT NOTICE, CITING MO. FIVE DAY RULE.
COURT SUSTAINED. NEW NOTICE ISSUED THAT DATE TO TAKE UP MOTION ON
MAY TWENTY FOUR.

CASEY INTENDS THAT DATE TO ISSUE PUBLIC ORDER FOR SUBJECT TO
APPEAR PERSONALLY AND PROSECUTE MOTION WITH ATTORNEY BY JUNE
THIRD OR FACE DISMISSAL. IS CONSIDERING STATEMENT FROM BENCH THAT
RAY MOTION APPEARS TO BE GOOD ONE IF PROPERLY PRESENTED AND PURSUED.

END PAGE ONE

orig to Mr. Tolan

PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

BELIEVES THIS WILL RESULT IN PUBLICITY AND THAT MAXIMUM PUBLICITY DESIREABLE ON REMOTE CHANCE RAY MIGHT GIVE SELF UP.

IS MINDFUL OF FACT OF POCAM CONTINUING THRU END OF MAY, AND IS CONCERNED LEAST ACTION BE SEIZED UPON BY MASS OF NEGROES THERE AS EVIDENCE OF ESTABLISHMENT INTENTION TO WHITWASH KING KILLING, VIZ COME HOME ALL IS FORGIVEN, WHICH MIGHT RESULT IN CIVIL INSURRECTION.

CAN POSTPONE ORDER AND REMARKS UNTIL AFTER DISPERSAL OF POCAM IF RIOT RISK DEEMED TO GREAT.

CASEY SINCERELY BELIEVES GREATER THE PUBLICITY, THE GREATER THE POSSIBILITY OF RAY SURRENDER AS WELL AS POSSIBLE POCAM DISTURBANCE, WHICH HE DOES NOT DESIRE TO PRECIPITATE. EXPRESSED URGENT DESIRE FOR MORE INFORMED CONFIDENTIAL OPINION AS TO WHETHER POSSIBLE POCAM DISTURBANCE RISK MIGHT BE AS GREAT AS APPEARS TO HIM.

HE WAS ADVISED BUREAU WOULD PROBABLY NOT PRESUME TO ADVISE HIM AS TO PROPRIETY OF POSTPONEMENT, OR OTHER ACTION IN MATTER, AS SAME ENTIRELY WITHIN HIS OWN DISCRETION, BUT AT HIS INSISTENCE IT WAS AGREED THAT MATTER WOULD BE BROUGHT TO BUREAU ATTENTION FOR WHATEVER OBSERVATIONS IT MIGHT CARE TO MAKE.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

SL 44-775

NOTE CASEY APPEARS DESIROUS OF COOPERATING FULLY WITH BUREAU IN ANY MANNER POSSIBLE, AND IS MINDFUL OF URGENT NECESSITY FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE APPREHENSION OF SUBJECT.

SL NOT IN POSSESSION OF SUFFICIENT OVERALL INFORMATION RE POCAM OR INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED, TO MAKE INTELLIGENT RECOMMENDATION, BUT SINCE POSTPONEMENT TO AFTER POCAM DISPERSAL WOULD INVOLVE NO HARDSHIP, AND SINCE PUBLICITY AT ANY TIME WOULD APPEAR HIGHLY TENUOUS MEANS OF SECURING APPREHENSION, SL IS INCLINED TO RECOMMEND CONFIDENTIAL SUGGESTION OF POSTPONEMENT IF ANY RISK OF POSSIBLE POCAM DIFFICULTY APPEARS.

END.

BGM

FBI WASH DC

T

U

The Attorney General

May 23, 1968

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Circuit Court Judge John C. Casey, St. Louis, Missouri, has advised our St. Louis Office he sentenced James Earl Ray to twenty years in the penitentiary for armed robbery in 1959. James Earl Ray was serving this sentence when he escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary in April of 1967.

Judge Casey advised a motion to set aside this conviction was filed before Ray's escape and is still pending. He believes, in view of the recent Supreme Court decisions, Ray would stand a good chance of reversing his conviction, and he contemplates filing an order on May 24, 1968, for Ray to appear by June 3, 1968, or his action will be dismissed.

Judge Casey has asked this Bureau for advice as to whether he should delay this matter as he feels publicity of his order would cause widespread disorder. Judge Casey is being told that this Bureau cannot advise him as to what course of action to take; but if he feels publicizing the order would cause disturbance, he should take necessary steps to alert law enforcement agencies after the order is entered and before it is publicized.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General

1 - Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

REL:cs
(8)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

NOTE:

This is to advise the Department in writing concerning the contemplated action of Judge John C. Casey of St. Louis.

Local Judge Casey, sentenced Ray to 20 years in 1959 for armed robbery. A motion to set aside the conviction was filed before Ray's escape and is still pending. Judge Casey believes in view of recent Supreme Court decisions, Ray would stand a good chance of reversing his conviction and contemplates filing order on 5/24/68, for Ray to appear by 6/3/68, or his action will be dismissed.

Judge Casey has asked Bureau advice as to whether he should delay until after Poor Peoples' Campaign as he feels publicity of his order could cause widespread disorder. Casey is being advised we cannot advise him but if he feels publicizing his order could cause disturbance he should take necessary steps to alert law enforcement agencies after his order is entered and before it is publicized.

Mr. DeLoach

May 23, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

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

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Cecil Clayton Lillibridge, Cole County (Missouri) Jail, was a cellmate of Ray's at Missouri State Penitentiary and has previously furnished background information regarding Ray. Lillibridge has been reinterviewed and has advised as follows.

When they were cellmates, Lillibridge and Ray discussed a newspaper article concerning the escape of an Italian criminal from the United States to Italy through the use of a Canadian passport. Ray was aware that a Canadian passport may be readily obtained under a false identity. (This appears to be true and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are checking all passports issued since Ray's escape from prison.)

Ray expressed more interest in hiding in Mexico than in Canada and did not seem impressed when Lillibridge suggested it would be easier for an American to blend into the scene in Canada. Ray said he had once considered Australia as a place to hide and sometime prior to 1962 had written to Queensland inquiring about employment opportunities but had lost interest in Australia because it is sparsely populated and there are few tourists.

Ray spoke to Lillibridge about changing the color of his eyes by wearing colored contact lenses. He also said he had experimented on darkening his skin with a walnut dye that had to wear off.

Lillibridge described Ray as too tight to play poker but said he loaned money to poker players and required repayment of \$3 for every \$2 loaned.

WLM:vea
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

In addition to the widespread investigation being conducted throughout the United States, Mexican and Canadian authorities are conducting extensive inquiries at our request and specific inquiries have also been made in various other foreign countries including England, Rhodesia, the Netherland Antilles, Guatemala, Venezuela, New Zealand, and Australia. Newspaper publicity of Bay's fugitive status has literally blanketed the free world with articles appearing in such disparate areas as Germany and Hong Kong.

ACTION:

This investigation is being afforded top priority.