U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERA



Bureau File Number

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED

FOR HISTORICAL

DECLASSIFICATION

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY_

PRESERVE FOR SELECT

COMMITTE ON ASSASSINATIONS

UNITED STATES GERNMENT

Memorandum

то : '			DATE:
;			
FROM	٠.	Routing Slip FD-4 (Rev. 4-28-67) To:	Date 4-18-68
SUBJECT:	4	Director	FILE 44-2386. Title 100000
		Att.:	
		□ SAC	Title MURKIN
1	•	ASAC	•
1	:	F Supv. 7/3	
· · /		Agent	
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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1962 EDITION GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ro : SAC(44-2386)

DATE: 2 /17/68

FROM

SA ROBERT R. PERRY

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

The Press Release was handed to the following individuals at the time noted, on 4/17/68:

BEN PERRY, WAOK 5:56PM

JOE ZELLNER, AP 6:07PM

SERIALIZED FILES
APR 1 8 1968



OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1912 EDITION GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.8

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

SAC (44-2386)

DATE: 4/17/68

FROM

SA Edward U. Crim

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

Press release dated 4/17/68 in captioned case delivered to:

WERD, Radio Station, 330 Auburn Ave., N. E. Mr. Jerome Johnson, Program Director - 6 FM 4/17/68.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
1211 Williams St., N.W., Mr. LOUIS ATKINS,
news reporter, photo section. Two photos
of GALT left with Mr. ATKINS. 6:24 PM, 4/17/68.

CFU - 2386-EARCHED INDEVED SECULIZED FILED APR 1 © 1968 FUI—ALLANTIA





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Atlanta, Georgia April 17, 1968

NEWS RELEASE

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

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

The FBI complaint charges that "On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to

49-2326 540

APR 1 8 1968

him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle in Birmingham, Alabama."

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

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

The FBI Director stated that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates, which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham, on August 30, 1967. The Mustang's odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August, 1967 and early April, 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travels in the Mustang include trips to Los Angeles, California, New Orleans, Louisiana, Birmingham, Alabama, and Mexico, as well as Nemphis, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

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

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

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

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

Galt has brown hair which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes, his nose is straight and narrow. His teeth are straight and clean and he has given his date of birth as July 20, 1931.

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

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

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1952 EDITION
OSA GEN. 460. NO. 27
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

то :	Routing Slip 7D-4 (Rev. 6-14-66)	Date _ 4-19-25	
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FROM :	Director	FILE	_
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	Correct	Return assignment card	
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	Deadline passed	Return serials	•
	Delinquent	Search and return	
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	anne adama K	Gentlement, et 2:10 pm	
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OPRO NO. 10 \$5010-106 MAY 1512 EDITOR OSA OST, RECTINO. 27 UNITEE STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) DATE: 4/19/68

FROM

SA DONALD F. TACKITT

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

The following radio stations were furnished the News Release dated 4/19/68, concerning JAMES EARL RAY:

> WERD JEROME JOHNSON, Program Director

WDGL BOLLING BRANHAM, Owner

DFT:1cc



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia April 17, 1968

NEWS RELEASE

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

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him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle in Birmingham, Alabama."

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Galt has brown hair which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes, his nose is straight and narrow. His teeth are straight and clean and he has given his date of birth as July 20, 1931.

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Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

GPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1962 EDITION ISA GEN, REG, NO. 27

1010-104

WNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) DATE: 4/20/68 (P)

FROM

SA JOSEPH PATRICK AYERS

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

RE: PRESS RELEASE

Copies of press release concerning identity of subject as JAMES EARL RAY furnished to the following:

Mrs. MARY ANN ROBERTS, Manager, Station WYZE, 1111 Boulevard, S.E., at 3:04 p.m., on 4/19/68.

Mr. LARRY POLK, Owner of Station WYNX, 507 N. Atlanta Road, Marietta, at 4:15 p.m., 4/19/68.

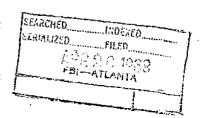
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5010-104

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

EACH RESIDENT AGENT

DATE: 4/19/68

FROM

SAC, FRANK V. HITT

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

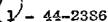
RE: CONTACT WITH NEWS MEDIA

Each Resident Agent has been furnished the full physical description of subject ERIC STARVO GALT, photographs depicting GALT with eyes opened and closed and also copies of press release received from the Bureau concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and the events following that incident.

Each Resident Agent is requested to contact all news media within your respective territory, supply them with copies of the press releases; however, no other information other than is contained in the press releases is to be furnished, and you should continue to maintain a "no comment" attitude toward the news media.

LEADS

Each Resident Agent immediately furnish above information to all news media, including television, radio and local newspapers.



1 - SAC

1 - ESAC

1 - #3 Supv.

1 - #4 Supv.

1 - #5 Supv.

1 - EACH RESIDENT AGENT (Copy of News Release attached)

JJR:lcc

(¥5)



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia April 19, 1968

NEWS RELEASE

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that the FBI has identified James Earl Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary, as Eric Starvo Galt against whom a Federal complaint was filed last Wednesday in connection with the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said that a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against the fingerprints of the over fiftythree thousand persons for whom "Wanted Notices" have been posted in the files of the FBI's Identification Division led to the determination that Galt and Ray are identical.

Mr. Hoover said that Ray, who is forty years of age, was reported missing from the Missouri State

Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, since April 23,

1967. He had been received at that institution on March 17,
in St. Louis for Armed Robbery and for Operating a motor

wehicle without permission of the owner.

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

According to Mr. Hoover, Ray has a known arrest record dating back to 1949. Prior to the 1960 conviction for which he received the twenty-year term, Ray had been convicted of burglary in Los Angeles, California in 1949; armed robbery in Chicago, Illinois in 1952; and forging United States Postal Money Orders in Missouri in 1955.

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

Ray was an enlisted man in the United States

Army from February, 1946, to December, 1948, at which time

he was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and

lack of adaptability for military service. While in the

Army, he received a three-month sentence at hard labor for

being drunk and breaking arrest.

Mr. Hoover said that during his criminal career,
Ray has also used the names of James Mc Bride, James Walton,
W. C. Herron and James O'Conner. He is a white male;
claims to have been born March 10, 1928, in Illinois; is
approximately five feet ten inches tall and weighs about

163 to 174 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair. There is a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand.

Ray has claimed that he attended school through the tenth grade in Alton, Illinois. He has had the reputation of being a "drifter" since leaving school. His vocational experience includes working as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

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

Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone having information concerning him should immediately contact FBI Headquarters in Washington, D. C., or the nearest FBI Office.

SAC (44-2386)

4/22/68

SUPV. CHARLES S. HARDING

MURKIN CR (OO: MEMPHIS)

On 4/21/68, HUGH PARK, columnist, "Atlanta Constitution", telephonically inquired if he could be furnished the number of complaints this office had received concerning people who look like Subject RAY. He was advised that this information was not available, but that the number was considerable. Mr. PARK then asked if this office had any comment to make concerning the rumor that RAY may be dead now as the result of either assassination or suicide. He was advised that this office had no comment to make other than the information furnished in the two press releases made.

(2)- Atlanta CSH:rjb (2) APR 22 1988

OPTIONAL PORA NO. EN

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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SAC (44-2386)

DATE:

4/22/68

FROM:

SUPV. CHARLES S. HARDING

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

CR

(OO: MEMPHIS)

JACK NEISON, Southeastern Bureau, "Los Angeles Times", telephonically contacted the writer on 4/20 and 21/68, to inquire about any additional information we had on the location of RAY. In each instance, Mr. NEISON was advised Atlanta had no further comment to make other than was set forth in the two press releases.

Mr. NEISON stated that he thought the two press releases furnished by the Bureau were very informative, were excellent as a news source, and that by furnishing him copies of these releases expeditiously as we had done was of great assistance to him in carrying forth his responsibilities. He stated in each instance he was able to inform his parent newspaper in Los Angeles of the contents of the press releases which had not yet been received in Los Angeles. He expressed great appreciation for this office making the releases available in an expeditious manner.

2 Atlanta

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APR 20 1000

5/6C MINIA

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

4/22/68

SA PAUL LEE MILLER

MURKIN

On 4/17/68, at 6:15 p.m., SA PAUL LEE MILLER delivered an authorized press release to RODNEY FORD, Radio Engineer, for WLTA - FM, 944 Gordon Street, S. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

Also on 4/17/68, SA MILLER delivered the same authorized press release to DON JOHNSON, Announcer and Sales Manager, for WTJH, 4146 Dodson Drive, East Point, Ga. This was accepted by Mr. JOHNSON at 6:50 p.m. and immediately put contents of news release on the air.

2-Atlanta PLM:bjc (2)

4/23/68

SAC (44-2386)

SUPV. CHARLES S. HARDING

MURKIN

On the afternoon of 4/23/68, I received a call from BILL FREDERICI, reporter for the "New York Daily News", New York. He inquired about the status of our investigation. I advised him I could make no comment concerning the investigation other than was in the two press releases previously made.

Mr. FREDERICI then stated that he has never seen such inaccurate reporting as has been done by the United Press International (UPI). He stated that HANK LIEFERMAN, head of the Southeastern Bureau for UPI in Atlanta, has come out with some "fantastic" statements and that LIEFERMAN has been a problem to his newspaper.

2 - Atlanta CSH:rjb (2)

E file

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

4/24/68

SA BERNARD R. BERRY

MURKIN

Re SAC memo dated 4/19/68, contact with news media.

On 4/22/68, the following were contacted and furnished information contained in news releases:

MARK PACE, Editor, Dalton Daily Citizen;

GEORGE BUNCH, owner, Ellijay Times-Courrier;

FRED HACKNEY, owner, Blue Ridge Centennial;

E.P. HALL, Editor, Walker Co. Messenger;

DIANNE BAGLEY, Circulation Manager, Dade Co. Centennial;

MIKE DODD, station manager, WRCD, Dalton;

MORT LLOYD, owner, WTTI, Dalton.

2-Atlanta

BRB/hjm

SEARCHED THOUSED

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

4/24/68

SA JACK B. SIMPSON

MURKIN

RE: PRESS RELEASE, 4/19/68

KEELER MC CARTNEY was given release at Constitution 2:35 P.M., 4/19/68.

HARRY MURPHY, Journal, was given release as GANES was out, 2:41 P.M., 4/19/68.

MC CARTNEY advised he would notify GAINES and see that GAINES saw release this date.

At 2:53 P.M. release put in door mail slot of Los Angeles Times as NELSON not in and office locked.

JBS:lcc

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

SA JAMES JOSEPH DOLAN

MURKIN

On April 19, 1968, SA JAMES JOSEPH DOLAN delivered press release dated April 19, 1968, to the following:

Name	Time	Station	Address
WADE MEDLOCK	2:51 p.m.	WGST	165 8th Street, NW
JIM ROBINSON	3:00 p.m.	WKLS	1655 Peachtree St., NE
BOB NEAL	3:17 p.m.	AOXI	2970 Peachtree Rd., NE
BILL BUCKNER	3:44 p.m.	Channel 11	1113 W. Peachtree St.
JACKIE BERRY	4:10 p.m.	WGUN	217 W. Ponce de Leon, Decatur, Georgia

2 - Atlanta JJD:els (2)

Sub file