

BU 44-374

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MURKIN

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F B I

Date: 6/5/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT Code
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, AND
SACS, ATLANTA
MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374)

MURKIN

REMYTELEPHONE CALLS TO BUREAU, JUNE FOUR LAST, AND
MYLET TO FBI LAB JUNE FOUR LAST TRANSMITTING HANDWRITING
SPECIMENS OF SUSPECT RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.

FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFO DEVELOPED AT TORONTO,
ONTARIO RE SUBJECT AND USE OF NAME AND IDENTITY OF RAMON
GEORGE SNEYD.

AMONG ITEMS RECOVERED FROM ROOM PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED
BY HIM AT FOUR SIX TWO DUNDAS STREET WEST, TORONTO, UP
UNTIL MAY NINE LAST, WERE FIVE ROLLS OF KODAK SUPER EIGHT
CARTRIDGE TYPE COLOR MOVIE FILM, LOT NO. K A FOUR SIX FOUR,
EXPIRATION DATE NOV. NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT, REPEAT NOVEMBER,
NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT. ONE EIGHT OUNCE JAR COLD CREAM, NUMEROUS

1 - Birmingham (Info) (AM)
1 - Kansas City (Info) (AM)

JPMcM:pas
(3)

44-374-284
Searched _____ Serialized X
Indexed _____ Filed X

Approved: W
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 11:05 AM 12:20 AT 12:45 ME M Per EC

6/6/68

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

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PAGE TWO

MISCELLANEOUS BANDAIDS AND THREE BROWN PAPERSACKS, A GRAY METAL STRONGBOX, AND A DARK BLUE ZIPPER-TYPE FLIGHT BAG. ALL ABOVE ITEMS PROCESSED BY RCMP, TORONTO, ONTARIO, BUT ONLY ONE FINGERPRINT OF QUESTIONABLE VALUE DEVELOPED.

ALSO LOCATED IN ROOM WERE MAPS OF CANADA AND OF CITIES OF TORONTO AND MONTREAL. TWO PARTIAL PALM LATENT PRINTS DEVELOPED ON MAP. ONLY ONE OF THE PACKS OF FILM APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN OPENED BUT NOT KNOWN WHETHER CONTAINS ANY EXPOSURES. THIS BEING PROCESSED BY KODAK AT TORONTO.

LILLIAN SPENCER, MANAGER OF KENNEDY TRAVEL AGENCY, TORONTO, ONTARIO, WHO HANDLED FLIGHT BOOKING AND OBTAINING OF PASSPORT FOR SUBJECT, INTERVIEWED IN DETAIL TODAY. SHE COULD NOT MAKE POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY OR RECALL ANY DETAILS OF TRANSACTION WHICH WOULD FIRM UP SNEYD'S IDENTIFICATION AS RAY. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION FURNISHED BY HER GENERALLY FITS RAY AND NOTATION MADE BY HER ON SNEYD'S PASSPORT APPLICATION REGARDING SCAR OVER

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

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PAGE THREE

CENTER OF NOSE NOW BELIEVED BY HER TO HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN
IN CENTER OF FOREHEAD.

SPENCER STATES SNEYD PURCHASED ROUND TRIP TICKET,
TORONTO TO LONDON, VIA BOAC, PAYING THREEHUNDRED FOURTYFIVE
DOLLARS IN CANADIAN MONEY ON MAY TWO LAST, WITH LIMIT OF
TWENTYONE DAYS FROM MAY SIX LAST FOR USE OF RETURN HALF
OF TICKET. STATES TO GET REFUND FOR UNUSED PORTION SNEYD
WOULD HAVE TO RETURN IT TO BOAC, TORONTO, OR KENNEDY
TRAVEL AGENCY.

INVESTIGATION AT TORONTO ESTABLISHED THAT IN ADDITION
TO CANADIAN PASSPORT IN NAME RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, SUBJECT
ALSO HAS BIRTH CERTIFICATE IN THAT NAME WHICH HE OBTAINED
FROM BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS, TORONTO, BY LETTER DATED
APRIL SIXTEEN LAST. CERTIFICATE ATTESTING TO HIS BIRTH AT
TORONTO ON OCT. EIGHT, NINETEEN THIRTYTWO, BEARS THE NAMES
OF PARENTS AS FATHER GEORGE SNEYD AND MOTHER MAIDEN NAME
GLADYS MAE KILNER (THESE ARE THE CORRECT NAMES OF THE PARENTS
OF THE REAL RAMON GEORGE SNEYD.)

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)

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PAGE FOUR

RCMP AND METROPOLITAN TORONTO PD (MTPD) CONDUCTING
EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION OF THE REAL RAMON GEORGE SNEYD WHO
IS A POLICE OFFICER ON THE TORONTO, ONTARIO PD, TO ASCERTAIN
HOW SUBJECT OBTAINED THE NECESSARY BACKGROUND DATA TO OBTAIN
FRAUDULENT BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND CANADIAN PASSPORT.

BUREAU ADVISE LEGAT, LONDON RE BIRTH CERTIFICATE AND
HAVE CANADIAN EMBASSY, LONDON ALERTED REGARDING SNEYD.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING IN TORONTO, ONT.

AMCCS TO BIRMINGHAM AND KANSAS CITY.

P.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ 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
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern
☐ Bonn
☐ Buenos Aires
☐ Hong Kong
☐ London
☐ Manila
☐ Mexico, D.F.
☐ Ottawa
☐ Paris
☐ Rome
☐ Santo Domingo
☐ Tokyo

Date 6-4-68

RE:

MURKIN

☒ For information ☐ Retention optional ☐ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks:

Neil -

Photo of Ray fingerprints sent to ASAC 6/5/68 per ASAC n.

per conversation

44-374285

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 15 1968	
FBI - BUFFALO	

file

Enc.
Bufile
Urfile

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC 44-374

DATE: 6/4/68

FROM : SA Paul A. Joensen

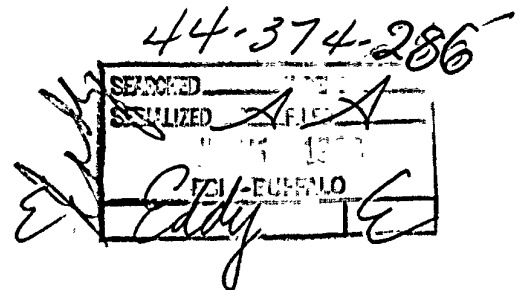
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

On 6/3/68, SA PAUL A. JOENSEN lectured before a Rochester, NY Police Bureau recruit class at the Police Academy, Rochester, NY. Captioned matter was thoroughly reviewed with this class and IO's were made available to the entire group.

PAJ:paj
1



5010-108-01



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

5/31/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ~~ALBANY~~ (44-493) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to All SACS, 5/9/68.

On 5/20/68, Miss LAURA GALLUZZO, New York State Department of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Albany, New York, advised SE VINCENT H. MC PEAK that her department maintains records for unidentified deceased persons in New York State. However, no fingerprint record is kept.

On 5/29/68, Mrs. CATHERINE KOSTERS, Identification Analyst, Bureau of Identification, New York State Identification and Intelligence System, advised IC FRANCIS M. HICKEY that her department maintains a fingerprint record of unidentified deceased persons for the State of New York. Mrs. KOSTERS stated that to her knowledge, all police departments contribute fingerprints of unidentified deceased to the State Bureau of Identification.

Mrs. KOSTERS advised a search of the Identification Bureau's unidentified deceased file failed to locate any fingerprints identifiable with subjects.

3-Bureau
2-Memphis (44-1987)
1-New York (Info)
①-Buffalo (Info)
2-Albany
(9)

44-493-287

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 5 1968	
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adg

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ALL AGENTS

FROM : SAC NEIL J. WELCH

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 6/5/68

EACH AGENT IS REQUESTED TO CAREFULLY READ THIS MEMORANDUM AND TO BE ALERT TO DISCUSS THIS CASE WITH EACH PERSON CONTACTED. SINCE THIS CASE IS RECEIVING NATION-WIDE PUBLICITY, IT IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT EVERY AGENT TAKE EVERY POSSIBLE STEP TO BRING THIS CASE TO A SPEEDY SOLUTION.

REWARDS

The Bureau has advised that a number of rewards have been issued for the apprehension of JAMES EARL RAY. This money now totals at least \$100,000.00.

The Bureau desires this information be handled in a discreet and tactful manner and THE FBI SHOULD NOT BE PUBLICIZED AS THE SOURCE OF THIS REMINDER.

The Bureau's continuing policy is to encourage the public to furnish information to law enforcement authorities as a matter of good citizenship, but it is recognized that monetary rewards are often necessary to motivate some individuals. The knowledge of the existence of the substantial rewards available in the MURKIN case could possibly prove of value in a solution of this case.

In the event of inquiries regarding the identity of the sources of the reward money, established sources MAY BE CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED that according to a compilation set forth in the April 27, 1968 edition of the "Commercial Appeal," Memphis Tennessee, \$25,000 each has been offered by the "Commercial Appeal" and "Scripps-Howard Newspapers," and that in addition, businessmen and citizens in Memphis have offered several thousand more. The Memphis City Council has underwritten the reward up to \$100,000.00.

① - 44-374
1 - Each Agent
RGE:cah
(75) *uw*

44-374-288

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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BU 44-374

CONTACTS WITH PROSTITUTES
AND "STREET BUMS"

The Bureau has advised that JAMES EARL RAY is known to consort with prostitutes and "street bums." The photograph of RAY wearing dark glasses, which has been furnished to all Agents, was obtained from a prostitute in Mexico.

The Bureau has instructed that in daily contacts with informants, officers of the Vice Squad, and prostitutes, this information should be borne in mind.

CONTACTS WITH ROOMING HOUSES,
SALVATION ARMY, AND OTHER
CHARITABLE TYPE MISSIONS

Investigation in this case has developed that RAY is known to stay at "flop houses" and lower class rooming houses.

Agents in contacts with rooming houses, as well as the Salvation Army and other charitable type missions, will make available to appropriate persons the Identification Order (IO) of RAY or a photograph of him. Additional copies of the IO or of RAY's photograph can be obtained from SA R. GORDON EDDY.

DESCRIPTION

There is set forth hereafter a composite description of JAMES EARL RAY. Attached hereto is a Xerox photograph of RAY, which Memphis says is the best likeness. It will be noted this photograph shows a distinct cleft in RAY's chin, which should be a key factor in identifying him:

Name	JAMES EARL RAY, Also known as Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Earl James, Harvey Lowmyer,
------	--

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Name (continued)	James McBride, James O'Conner, Earl James Ray, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, Jim
Race	White
Sex	Male
Born	3/10/28 or 3/10/29
Age	39 or 40
Place of Birth	Decatur, Quincy or Alton, all Illinois
Height	Approximately 5'10"
Weight	174 pounds in 9/66
Complexion	Ruddy
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown (brush cut)
Build	Medium
Occupations	Laborer; baker; graduate of bartending school, Los Angeles, California, 3/2/68
Scars and Marks	Small scar center of forehead; scar on palm of right hand; cleft chin
Education	Claims 10th grade
Characteristics	Avid dancer, but described by some as poor dancer; Loner, but described by some as introvert; Neat dresser; Drinks alcoholic beverages, but has preference for vodka and beer; Fan of country and western music; Language and diction of rural quality;

BU 44-374

Characteristics
(continued)

Has nervous habit of pulling
on ear lobe;
Left ear protrudes farther
from head than right ear;
Drifter;
In some photos, appears to
have cleft chin;
Hangs around with pros-
titutes and "street bums"
Frequently stays at cheap
rooming houses and "flop
houses"

Army Serial No.
Military Record

16163129
Enlisted in Army 2/46; given
general discharge 12/23/48
by reason of ineptness and
lack of adaptability for
military service

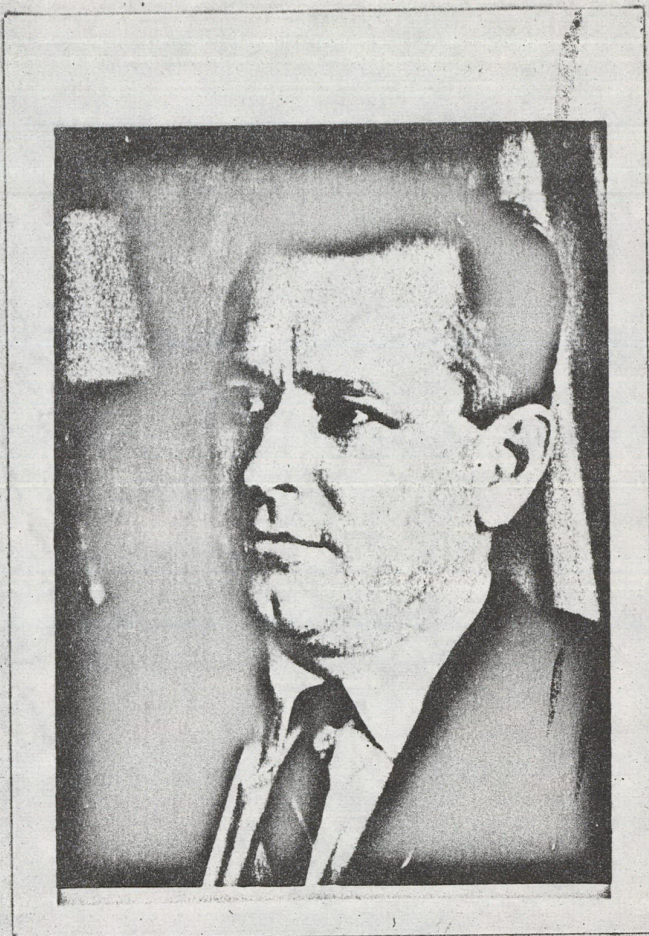
FBI No.
FPC

306 443 A
16 M 9 U 000 12
M 4 W IOI Ref 9
12

NCIC FPC
Medical History

161311001212III12III17
Treated for gonorrhea and
syphilis while in service;
Has been confined State
Hospital, Fulton, Missouri

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

F B I

Date: 6/5/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374) (P)

MURKIN
(OO Memphis)UNSUBS; Alleged Plot in
New York City, New York,
to Harm or Kill a Prominent
Negro WomanASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN
FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS,
TEXAS, 11/22/63POCAM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

There are enclosed herewith for Bureau 10
copies of an LHM setting out a letter received at
Buffalo Office on 6/4/68 from TAYLOR CALDWELL, which

- 6 - Bureau (Enc. 12) (RM)
 - (1 - 62-10960) (ASSASSINATION OF PRES.
J. F. KENNEDY)
 - (1 - 100-106670) (WILLIAM MOSES KUNSTLER)
 - (1 - 157-8428) (POCAM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 3 - New York (Enc. 3) (RM)
 - (1 - 100-146994) (WILLIAM MOSES KUNSTLER)
- ⑤ - Buffalo
 - (1 - 62-1827) (ASSAS. OF PRES. J. F. KENNEDY)
 - (1 - 62-1305) (Mrs. JANET REBACK)
 - (1 - 157-623) (POCAM)

TJS:cah
(16) *cah*

Searched _____ Serialized _____
Indexed _____ Filed _____

44-374-289

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

BU 44-374

deals with all four captioned matters. Two copies of LHM are enclosed for Memphis as OO in MURKIN case, and three copies of LHM are enclosed for New York, since it is alleged locus of plots set forth, with one of these copies being for New York file on WILLIAM MCSES KUNSTLER.

For info of Bureau, information previously received on various matters from TAYLOR CALDWELL has been set forth in following communications to Bureau:

(1) Buffalo let to Bureau, 7/23/62, captioned "AMERICAN NAZI PARTY, RM."

(2) Buffalo let to Bureau, 8/15/63, captioned "MRS. JANET T. C. REBACK, aka, INFO CONCERNING."

(3) Buffalo let to Bureau, 12/18/63, captioned "TAYLOR CALDWELL, aka, INFORMATION CONCERNING."

(4) Buffalo let to Bureau, 9/16/64, captioned "WILLIAM KUNTZLER, aka, SM-C," (Bureau file 100-106670).

(5) Buffalo let to Bureau, 4/30/65, captioned "TAYLOR CALDWELL, aka, INFO CONCERNING."

(6) Buffalo let to Bureau, 10/27/65, captioned "TAYLOR CALDWELL, aka, INFO CONCERNING."

(7) Buffalo airtel to Bureau, 11/18/66, captioned "ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, 11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS."

These communications have been itemized so Bureau itself can better evaluate Miss CALDWELL and information furnished by her.

The above communications and a review of Buffalo Office files reflect that TAYLOR CALDWELL (whose true name is Mrs. JANET T. C. REBACK) is a world famous novelist, that she is an inveterate letter writer, possessed of a vivid imagination, and is inclined to intermingle fact with fiction indiscriminately; that she is prone to carry on literary battles through the mails and in publications

BU 44-374

with various and sundry persons throughout the world; and that she has a proclivity for furnishing information to other government agencies in addition to the FBI.

The information set forth in the LHM is being furnished to the Bureau and interested Offices, principally because of the serious nature of the charges, Miss CALDWELL's prominent position, and the possibility that she may at some future time claim she furnished pertinent information to the FBI, which received no attention.

Buffalo is making no local dissemination of the LHM, and whether or not any dissemination should be made at Washington, D.C., is being left to the discretion of the Bureau.

No action, other than possible dissemination at the Seat of Government to Secret Service because of intimation of threats of harm to President JOHNSON and Vice President HUMPHREY included in the material furnished by Miss CALDWELL, is recommended, on the basis that prior experience with Miss CALDWELL reflects she is unreliable and possibly demented. It would appear that a person in her position would place the welfare of the U.S. above an alleged loyalty to a correspondent, whom she has never met, and that she would disclose the identity of her correspondent so he could be located and questioned if he does, in fact, exist and if he did in fact send her the information she claims to have received.

It is pointed out that in the telephonic interview conducted with Miss CALDWELL by SA THADDEUS J. SZYMANSKI on 6/4/68, it was suggested to her that in the future she send any letters received from her friend to the FBI, deleting his signature if she feels so obligated, but so the FBI would have his exact wording for purposes of evaluation. She first replied this would be a violation of her promise to destroy her friend's letters. She then stated possibly she could Xerox the letters, and send the Xerox copies to the FBI, and then destroy the originals, which would mean she was honoring her promise. Finally, she stated that doing this would bother her conscience, and that anyway she felt her friend would not write anymore because he sounded

BU 44-374

so terrified in his last letter. Miss CALDWELL's responses throughout the telephonic interview of 6/4/68 emphasized her unwillingness to be interviewed in person concerning this matter, and reflected a desire on her part to go into great detail on extraneous matters rather than on the alleged plots.

It is acknowledged by the Buffalo Office that there is considerable detail in the LHM dealing with Miss CALDWELL herself and prior FBI experiences with her. It is felt this data is essential to an appropriate evaluation of the serious charges contained in her letter should the Bureau feel compelled to disseminate the LHM.

Unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau, the Buffalo Office will make no further effort to personally interview Miss CALDWELL re instant matters, and will simply acknowledge receipt of any further data from her in this matter without incorporating the information into LHMs for the Bureau.



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Buffalo, New York 14202

June 5, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, Also known
as Eric Starvo Galt

ASSASSINATION OF REV. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., MEMPHIS,
TENNESSEE, April 4, 1968

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Alleged Plot
In New York City, New York, to
Harm or Kill a Prominent
Negro Woman

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN
FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS,
November 22, 1963

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

On June 4, 1968, there was received at the Buffalo, New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a letter, dated May 31, 1968 from TAYLOR CALDWELL, 34 Audley End, Buffalo (26), New York, the contents of which will be set forth below.

TAYLOR CALDWELL is a world famous novelist, whose true name is Mrs. JANET T. C. REBACK. She is referred to from time to time in news articles as an outspoken foe of Communism. She is known as and admits to be an inveterate letter writer. She has frequently engaged in literary battles with persons who opposed her private and public statements. Close associates have described her imagination as vivid, and many of her statements as tending toward exaggeration.

On one occasion, Miss CALDWELL wrote an article which appeared in the October, 1960, issue of "The American Mercury," in which she alleged that an unnamed, American-born distinguished professor, in one of the large universities, was a Communist. When an attempt was made by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to arrange an interview

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November 22, 1963

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

with Miss CALDWELL concerning this story, her husband, MARCUS REBACK, a former official of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, and who scheduled appointments for Miss CALDWELL, stated it would serve no purpose for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to interview Miss CALDWELL regarding the article in "The American Mercury" because the unnamed professor was non-existent, a figment of Miss CALDWELL's imagination and a hypothetical situation employed by Miss CALDWELL to provoke public opinion.

On another occasion in September, 1964 when Miss CALDWELL was being interviewed by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the presence of her husband concerning an occurrence she had brought to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miss CALDWELL's husband flatly stated that the true circumstances of the occurrence were completely different from the version given by Miss CALDWELL, after which the latter materially modified her earlier statement.

The above mentioned letter received from Miss CALDWELL on June 4, 1968, reads as follows:

"As I am always wary of giving you any information which even vaguely sounds 'kooky' to me, I now deeply regret that I did not

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as Eric Starvo Galt

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inform you of something which my terrified Negro
businessman friend in New York wrote me last
October. It still disturbed me, however - though
it sounded very improbable - that I incorporated
it as a sort of warning in my article in the Buffalo
Evening News concerning events of 1968, earlier
this year, which you may have read, yourself. ESP
had nothing to do with that!

"He wrote me, if I remember accurately - as
I immediately destroy his letters at his urgent
request - that a meeting was held in New York
the latter part of last September, in which
plans were laid to 'throw the country into
chaos and revolution.' It was suggested that
a prominent Negro leader be assassinated, or at
least badly injured, in early 1968, 'as a start
to revolution.' He said that New York lawyer
and novelist, about whom I have written you
before, discussed this at length, and then re-
marked the matter would be given considerable
thought - later. My friend was not invited
'later,' for some reason or other which alarmed
him. But he was able to gether together a few
facts last October and write me about them.
He did not give me the source of his informa-
tion.

JAMES EARL RAY, Also known
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"The man finally chosen was a white man, between the ages of 25 and 30, named Robert W---, some simple name such as Watson or Watkins or Wellock or Wilkins, from the vicinity of New Jersey, a crack shot, of fair complexion, light eyes either very light brown or blue-gray, medium brown hair, long thin face, very agile - and a 'Marxist.' My friends say you have had a dossier on him for several years in either New Jersey or New York. He followed Martin Luther King for several months before the assassination, which was scheduled for early March, not April, but the opportunity did not arise. 'They' wanted a larger city than Memphis, especially Washington. 'They' had thought of Carmichael or Brown, then settled on King. It was remarked that they had 'failed' with Mr. Kennedy, because they had thought to start nationwide riots against 'right wing extremists,' and a general blood-bath, and nothing happened. 'Only Oswald got caught,' they remarked, which led my friend to believe that others were implicated, too, in the Marxist assassination. Apparently 'they' don't believe in the Warren Commission Report, either, for good and sufficient reasons.

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"Now he writes that 'something much worse' is 'going to happen soon.' He doesn't know what it is, because he is being included less and less in 'conferences,' and is very frightened. He had asked me to write you last October about the planned assassination, and I did not, and he now wonders 'if I can trust you.'

"He writes that a woman will be the focus-point of the 'much worse,' and almost immediately, but does not know who the woman is. She is a Negro, however. He also writes that the man you are looking for is working either in New Jersey or 'just outside of New York,' and is or was in the Army and received a 'discharge without prejudice,' whatever that means, though not an honorable discharge. I thought they were the same. At any rate, he is often in New York at 'conferences.' Then it was decided to send him to Washington with the 'Poor People,' and is probably there now. (By the way, he had accomplices in Memphis.)

"He never liked Martin Luther King, my friend wrote last September, but reproaches me that if I had written you in October you might have prevented him from being murdered.

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"This new information is also vague, but it may serve some purpose, though I don't see how. But remembering that letter of last October I thought it only right to let you know now. My friend also says that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Humphrey 'had better not' show themselves too openly in Washington, or be too available, in the very near future, but what threatens them he does not know. He just overheard 'hints.'"

"He fears, now, that he is suspected, so if you do any investigation on this information, don't try to find him or question him. He has a family. I know I will do all I can to protect him.

"Sincerely,

"(Miss) /s/ Taylor Caldwell

"P.S. My poor husband now lies at the point of death in the hospital - where he has been since March, 1967 - after he was attacked in our house by two of Earl Warren's pampered thugs. He is completely shattered in body and mind. He was a most brilliant man, and he has now become a confused, wandering, disoriented old shadow, and is unable even to feed himself or even to sit up, and is attended constantly

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by private nurses. I brought a specialist from New York to see him recently, a Dr. Donald Louria; he told me frankly that my husband's destruction of mind and body had led to his present dying condition. If I knew who the thugs were I'd kill them, myself, so that some 'rule' of Earl Warren's would not set them free again to murder over and over.

"N.B. By the way, the Internal Revenue Service Center at Andover, Mass., has been opening letters addressed to me from all over the country, and then stamping the envelope: 'Opened by mistake.' I thought they were genuine 'mistakes,' and threw away all letters but one - and you may see it if you wish. For instance, how could a letter addressed to me by a fan from Syracuse, N.Y., find its way to Andover, Mass.? That was the one I kept. I can't imagine what the rascals are up to, but I have long had reason to suspect them, as files in your office will show."

On June 4, 1968, a telephone call was made to Miss CALDWELL by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, requesting an interview with her for any additional details she might be able to furnish in connection with the contents of the above letter.

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Miss CALDWELL stated she is extremely busy and upset, that her husband is at the brink of death in the hospital, that she is in the midst of preparing two speeches for delivery in California later this month, and that she would have no time for a personal interview for at least two weeks or perhaps longer. She stated all the facts known to her are set forth in her letter. She pointed out that under no circumstances would she disclose the identity of the friend who had supplied her with the information set forth in the letter. She said she no longer has any of his letters because in keeping with a promise made to him, she burns them immediately after reading them.

When asked for the name of the New York lawyer she mentions in the second paragraph of her letter, Miss CALDWELL replied that this lawyer's name is WILLIAM KUNSTLER, adding she had previously advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation that KUNSTLER in her opinion is a Communist.

Miss CALDWELL was then asked if she could furnish any data on the source of her information which would aid in evaluating the reliability of this source. She then replied she has never met this source, but that he is a person who started writing to her about five years ago after reading one of her books. He has

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described himself in his letters as a Negro businessman who owns a business in Harlem. He has written to Miss CALDWELL from four or five different addresses, which she states indicates to her that he has had to move around for fear of his life. She has written back to him on several occasions, and two or three of her letters were returned to her marked "Unknown at this address," but most of her letters were delivered. On several occasions when she knew she was going to be in New York City, she wrote to her friend requesting that he come to see her at her hotel, but he never came. She recalled that one address he had given her was somewhere on West 114th Street.

Miss CALDWELL added she believes her friend is a member of the John Birch Society, because he has made reference frequently to articles she has written for the publication of this society entitled "American Opinion." She added that when this man first started writing to her, the letters were merely friendly and pleasant, expressing admiration of her writing and dealing with general political observations of World War I and World War II. However, commencing in the Fall of 1967, he began writing about his knowledge of the assassination plot of a prominent Negro leader, ultimately designated as Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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She said her first reaction was that his statements along this line sounded "kooky" so she ignored them, except for the fact that in a newspaper article she wrote in October, 1967, which was not published until February, 1968, and in which she made a predication of major events to occur in 1968, she did predict the assassination of a prominent Negro leader, being influenced in this predication by what her friend had written to her.

Miss CALDWELL was then asked whether she would suggest to her friend that he contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York City. She replied she knows he would not do so, because he had written to her in the past that about four years ago he had contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation to furnish information that "an FBI under-cover agent in an organization" was under suspicion. However, according to the friend, the Federal Bureau of Investigation wanted more and more information, so he broke off contact with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The friend also claimed that shortly after contacting the Federal Bureau of Investigation, he had begun to receive anonymous threatening letters, making him realize that his contacts with the Federal Bureau of Investigation had been observed. Miss CALDWELL stated that based on the letters received from her friend, she believes him to be a very intelligent man, but who is now completely terrified by the plot of which he is aware and also apparently by the fear that

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he himself is under suspicion, as indicated by a comment in one of his letters that he was not even invited to "Resurrection City" and cannot understand why, unless it is because he is no longer trusted.

Miss CALDWELL stated at one point in the conversation that she had just received another letter from her friend "yesterday," but when questioned about the contents, completely ignored the questions and then reverted to a statement that the last letter from her friend arrived a few days before her own letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Miss CALDWELL then proceeded to state that because of her husband's confinement, everything at her residence is in a state of chaos and that she is "simply going out of my mind." She said that previously her husband had taken care of all her business affairs, that she is killing herself going back and forth to the hospital, that she has had to give up her whole career to take care of her husband, and that "all this is too much for me." She said she herself is under constant medical care and does not know why she has "to put up with all of this mess."

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Miss CALDWELL continued by stating her husband's critical condition and the resultant "messaging up" of her own life is all the fault of "Warren of the Supreme Court who let all those criminals loose," and made it possible for them to viciously attack her husband and rob their house.

In this connection, it is noted that according to articles which appeared in the local press, two armed men had broken into Miss CALDWELL's residence on March 20, 1967 when she, her husband, and their housekeeper were all present, had demanded jewelry, and beaten and attempted to smother Miss CALDWELL, but then had fled empty-handed.

On March 27, 1967, Miss CALDWELL had written a letter to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in which she related the circumstances of the above break-in, and in which she stated that the man who had seized her husband at the time of the break-in had forced him down on the stairs with a gun at his back, but "made no effort to otherwise hurt my husband." Miss CALDWELL in the letter said she believed the objective of the break-in had not been robbery, but an attempt to kill her because of her anti-Communist activity.

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.

F B I

Date: 6/5/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL - REGISTERED
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BUFFALO (44-374) (P)

MURKIN
(OO Memphis)UNSUBS; Alleged Plot in
New York City, New York,
to Harm or Kill a Prominent
Negro WomanASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN
FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS,
TEXAS, 11/22/63POCAM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACYThere are enclosed herewith for Bureau 10
copies of an LHM setting out a letter received at
Buffalo Office on 6/4/68 from TAYLOR CALDWELL, which

- 6 - Bureau (Enc. 12) (RM)
 - (1 - 62-10960) (ASSASSINATION OF PRES. J. F. KENNEDY)
 - (1 - 100-106670) (WILLIAM MOSES KUNSTLER)
 - (1 - 157-8428) (POCAM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 3 - New York (Enc. 3) (RM)
 - (1 - 100-146994) (WILLIAM MOSES KUNSTLER)
- ⑤ - Buffalo
 - (1 - 62-1827) (ASSAS. OF PRES. J. F. KENNEDY)
 - (1 - 62-1305) (Mrs. JANET REBACK)
 - (1 - 157-623) (POCAM)

TJS:cah
(16)

44-374-289

Searched _____ Serialized _____
Indexed _____ Filed _____

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

BU 44-374

deals with all four captioned matters. Two copies of LHM are enclosed for Memphis as OO in MURKIN case, and three copies of LHM are enclosed for New York, since it is alleged locus of plots set forth, with one of these copies being for New York file on WILLIAM MCSSES KUNSTLER.

For info of Bureau, information previously received on various matters from TAYLOR CALDWELL has been set forth in following communications to Bureau:

(1) Buffalo let to Bureau, 7/23/62, captioned "AMERICAN NAZI PARTY, RM."

(2) Buffalo let to Bureau, 8/15/63, captioned "MRS. JANET T. C. REBACK, aka, INFO CONCERNING."

(3) Buffalo let to Bureau, 12/18/63, captioned "TAYLOR CALDWELL, aka, INFORMATION CONCERNING."

(4) Buffalo let to Bureau, 9/16/64, captioned "WILLIAM KUNTZLER, aka, SM-C," (Bureau file 100-106670).

(5) Buffalo let to Bureau, 4/30/65, captioned "TAYLOR CALDWELL, aka, INFO CONCERNING."

(6) Buffalo let to Bureau, 10/27/65, captioned "TAYLOR CALDWELL, aka, INFO CONCERNING."

(7) Buffalo airtel to Bureau, 11/18/66, captioned "ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, 11/22/63, DALLAS, TEXAS."

These communications have been itemized so Bureau itself can better evaluate Miss CALDWELL and information furnished by her.

The above communications and a review of Buffalo Office files reflect that TAYLOR CALDWELL (whose true name is Mrs. JANET T. C. REBACK) is a world famous novelist, that she is an inveterate letter writer, possessed of a vivid imagination, and is inclined to intermingle fact with fiction indiscriminately; that she is prone to carry on literary battles through the mails and in publications

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with various and sundry persons throughout the world; and that she has a proclivity for furnishing information to other government agencies in addition to the FBI.

The information set forth in the LHM is being furnished to the Bureau and interested Offices, principally because of the serious nature of the charges, Miss CALDWELL's prominent position, and the possibility that she may at some future time claim she furnished pertinent information to the FBI, which received no attention.

Buffalo is making no local dissemination of the LHM, and whether or not any dissemination should be made at Washington, D.C., is being left to the discretion of the Bureau.

No action, other than possible dissemination at the Seat of Government to Secret Service because of intimation of threats of harm to President JOHNSON and Vice President HUMPHREY included in the material furnished by Miss CALDWELL, is recommended, on the basis that prior experience with Miss CALDWELL reflects she is unreliable and possibly demented. It would appear that a person in her position would place the welfare of the U.S. above an alleged loyalty to a correspondent, whom she has never met, and that she would disclose the identity of her correspondent so he could be located and questioned if he does, in fact, exist and if he did in fact send her the information she claims to have received.

It is pointed out that in the telephonic interview conducted with Miss CALDWELL by SA THADDEUS J. SZYMANSKI on 6/4/68, it was suggested to her that in the future she send any letters received from her friend to the FBI, deleting his signature if she feels so obligated, but so the FBI would have his exact wording for purposes of evaluation. She first replied this would be a violation of her promise to destroy her friend's letters. She then stated possibly she could Xerox the letters, and send the Xerox copies to the FBI, and then destroy the originals, which would mean she was honoring her promise. Finally, she stated that doing this would bother her conscience, and that anyway she felt her friend would not write anymore because he sounded

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so terrified in his last letter. Miss CALDWELL's responses throughout the telephonic interview of 6/4/68 emphasized her unwillingness to be interviewed in person concerning this matter, and reflected a desire on her part to go into great detail on extraneous matters rather than on the alleged plots.

It is acknowledged by the Buffalo Office that there is considerable detail in the LHM dealing with Miss CALDWELL herself and prior FBI experiences with her. It is felt this data is essential to an appropriate evaluation of the serious charges contained in her letter should the Bureau feel compelled to disseminate the LHM.

Unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau, the Buffalo Office will make no further effort to personally interview Miss CALDWELL re instant matters, and will simply acknowledge receipt of any further data from her in this matter without incorporating the information into LHMs for the Bureau.



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Buffalo, New York 14202
June 5, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, Also known
as Eric Starvo Galt

ASSASSINATION OF REV. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR., MEMPHIS,
TENNESSEE, April 4, 1968

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Alleged Plot
In New York City, New York, to
Harm or Kill a Prominent
Negro Woman

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN
FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS,
November 22, 1963

POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

On June 4, 1968, there was received at the Buffalo, New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a letter, dated May 31, 1968 from TAYLOR CALDWELL, 34 Audley End, Buffalo (26), New York, the contents of which will be set forth below.

TAYLOR CALDWELL is a world famous novelist, whose true name is Mrs. JANET T. C. REBACK. She is referred to from time to time in news articles as an outspoken foe of Communism. She is known as and admits to be an inveterate letter writer. She has frequently engaged in literary battles with persons who opposed her private and public statements. Close associates have described her imagination as vivid, and many of her statements as tending toward exaggeration.

On one occasion, Miss CALDWELL wrote an article which appeared in the October, 1960, issue of "The American Mercury," in which she alleged that an unnamed, American-born distinguished professor, in one of the large universities, was a Communist. When an attempt was made by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to arrange an interview

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with Miss CALDWELL concerning this story, her husband, MARCUS REBACK, a former official of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service, and who scheduled appointments for Miss CALDWELL, stated it would serve no purpose for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to interview Miss CALDWELL regarding the article in "The American Mercury" because the unnamed professor was non-existent, a figment of Miss CALDWELL's imagination and a hypothetical situation employed by Miss CALDWELL to provoke public opinion.

On another occasion in September, 1964 when Miss CALDWELL was being interviewed by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the presence of her husband concerning an occurrence she had brought to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Miss CALDWELL's husband flatly stated that the true circumstances of the occurrence were completely different from the version given by Miss CALDWELL, after which the latter materially modified her earlier statement.

The above mentioned letter received from Miss CALDWELL on June 4, 1968, reads as follows:

"As I am always wary of giving you any information which even vaguely sounds 'kooky' to me, I now deeply regret that I did not

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inform you of something which my terrified Negro
businessman friend in New York wrote me last
October. It still disturbed me, however - though
it sounded very improbable - that I incorporated
it as a sort of warning in my article in the Buffalo
Evening News concerning events of 1968, earlier
this year, which you may have read, yourself. ESP
had nothing to do with that!

"He wrote me, if I remember accurately - as
I immediately destroy his letters at his urgent
request - that a meeting was held in New York
the latter part of last September, in which
plans were laid to 'throw the country into
chaos and revolution.' It was suggested that
a prominent Negro leader be assassinated, or at
least badly injured, in early 1968, 'as a start
to revolution.' He said that New York lawyer
and novelist, about whom I have written you
before, discussed this at length, and then re-
marked the matter would be given considerable
thought - later. My friend was not invited
'later,' for some reason or other which alarmed
him. But he was able to get together a few
facts last October and write me about them.
He did not give me the source of his informa-
tion.

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"The man finally chosen was a white man, between the ages of 25 and 30, named Robert W---, some simple name such as Watson or Watkins or Wellock or Wilkins, from the vicinity of New Jersey, a crack shot, of fair complexion, light eyes either very light brown or blue-gray, medium brown hair, long thin face, very agile - and a 'Marxist.' My friends say you have had a dossier on him for several years in either New Jersey or New York. He followed Martin Luther King for several months before the assassination, which was scheduled for early March, not April, but the opportunity did not arise. 'They' wanted a larger city than Memphis, especially Washington. 'They' had thought of Carmichael or Brown, then settled on King. It was remarked that they had 'failed' with Mr. Kennedy, because they had thought to start nationwide riots against 'right wing extremists,' and a general blood-bath, and nothing happened. 'Only Oswald got caught,' they remarked, which led my friend to believe that others were implicated, too, in the Marxist assassination. Apparently 'they' don't believe in the Warren Commission Report, either, for good and sufficient reasons.