

FBI TAMPA

FBI BIRMGHAM

419 PM URGENT 5-1-68 JGA

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS 44-1987 AND TAMPA
FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740 3P

MURKIN.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYEIGHT, LAST, AND TAMPA
TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYNINE, LAST.

JAMES SPARKS, TWO ZERO ZERO ELEVENTH STREET, ROBINWOOD, FOR-
MERLY EMPLOYED BY ROAYL AMERICAN SHOWS, WAS CONTACTED THIS DATE BY
BUREAU AGENTS REGARDING CHARLES RAY JOHNSON, AND FURNISHED THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

HE FIRST OBSERVED JOHNSON WHEN HE (JOHNSON) CAME TO THE WINTER
FAIRGROUND OF ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS AT TAMPA, FLORIDA, ON APRIL
EIGHT, LAST, SEEKING EMPLOYMENT AS AN "EXTRA". JOHNSON APPEARED
NEATLY DRESSED, WAS WEARING A DARK BROWN BUSINESS SUIT, AND IS
DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, SIX FEET TO SIX FEET TWO INCHES TALL,
ONE SIX FIVE TO ONE SEVEN FIVE POUNDS, DARK BROWN HAIR.

SPARKS ADVISED JOHNSON WAS HIRED A A "ROUGHIE" AROUND THE
CONCESSION STANDS TO PERFORM ODD JOBS, SUCH AS, PAINTING, STOCKING
AND MOVING SHOW EQUIPMENT. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH JOHNSON, SPARKS
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1511

PAGE TWO

ADVISED HE BELIEVES JOHNSON IS TOTALLY UNFAMILAR WITH THE OPERATIONS OF AN AMUSEMENT PARK AND THE FUNCTIONS OF A "ROUGHIE." SPARKS STATED HE OBSERVED JOHNSON DAILY FROM THE DATE HE ARRIVED UNTIL FOUR DAYS AGO WHEN HE (SPARKS) LEFT THE COMPANY TO SEEK NEW EMPLOYMENT.

SPARKS FURTHER ADVISED THAT IN HIS OPINION JOHNSON ACTED VERY NERVOUS AND WAS WARY OF STRANGERS AROUND THE SHOW.

SPARKS STATED THAT AS AN "EXTRA", JOHNSON WAS PAID IN CASH ON A DAILY BASIS AND PROBABLY LIVED ON THE TRAIN WITH THE REST OF THE SINGLE MALE EMPLOYEES. SPARKS ADVISED THAT EMPLOYEES HIRED AS EXTRAS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE PAYROLL BY NAME BUT ARE LISTED AS EXTRAS ONLY.

SPARKS ADVISED THAT THE CONCESSION SUPERVISOR FOR ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS IS KNOWN AS "HOTSHOT" AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW JOHNSON. SPARKS STATED HE BELIEVED THE SHOW IS ENROUTE TO MEMPHIS AND WILL, EVENTUALLY SET UP IN CANADA.

MRS. LINDA SPARKS, WIFE OF JAMES SPARKS, ADVISED SHE WAS EMPLOYED ON THE CONCESSION STANDS OF ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, AND AFTER OBSERVING A PHOTOGRAPH OF SUBJECT RAY, SHE STATED THAT THIS WAS A MAN SHE KNEW AS CHARLES RAY JOHNSON.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

TAMPA, WILL RECONTACT ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS AND ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "HOTSHOT" REGARDING JOHNSON.

MEMPHIS, WILL CONTACT ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, IF LOCATED IN MEMPHIS, TO INTERVIEW "HOTSHOT" REGARDING CHARLES RAY JOHNSON.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MJR

FBI TAMPA

CAB

FBI WASH DC

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

F B I

Date: 5/1/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987) and TAMPA
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYEIGHT, LAST, AND TAMPA
TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYNINE, LAST.

JAMES SPARKS, TWO ZERO ZERO ELEVENTH STREET, ROBINWOOD, FOR-
MERLY EMPLOYED BY ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, WAS CONTACTED THIS DATE BY
BUREAU AGENTS REGARDING CHARLES RAY JOHNSON, AND FURNISHED THE
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

HE FIRST OBSERVED JOHNSON WHEN HE (JOHNSON) CAME ON THE WINTER
FAIRGROUND OF ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS AT TAMPA, FLORIDA, ON APRIL
EIGHT, LAST, SEEKING EMPLOYMENT AS AN "EXTRA." JOHNSON APPEARED
NEATLY DRESSED, WAS WEARING A DARK BROWN BUSINESS SUIT, AND IS
DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, SIX FEET TO SIX FEET, TWO INCHES TALL,
ONE SIX FIVE TO ONE SEVEN FIVE POUNDS, DARK BROWN HAIR.

SPARKS ADVISED JOHNSON WAS HIRED AS A "ROUGHIE" AROUND THE
CONCESSION STANDS TO PERFORM ODD JOBS, SUCH AS, PAINTING, STOCKING
AND MOVING SHOW EQUIPMENT. FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH JOHNSON, SPARKS

NGM:mas

(1) *mas*

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

*WA 409 pm
me 414 pm
Sent 4:19 pm M*

Per _____

44-1740-1511
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *B* FILED _____

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO - BH 44-1740

ADVISED HE BELIEVES JOHNSON IS TOTALLY UNFAMILAR WITH THE OPERATIONS OF AN AMUSEMENT PARK AND THE FUNCTIONS OF A "ROUGHIE." SPARKS STATED HE OBSERVED JOHNSON DAILY FROM THE DATE HE ARRIVED UNTIL FOUR DAYS AGO WHEN HE (SPARKS) LEFT THE COMPANY TO SEEK NEW EMPLOYMENT.

SPARKS FURTHER ADVISED THAT IN HIS OPINION JOHNSON ACTED VERY NERVOUS AND WAS WARY OF STRANGERS AROUND THE SHOW.

SPARKS STATED THAT AS AN "EXTRA," JOHNSON WAS PAID IN CASH ON A DAILY BASIS AND PROBABLY LIVED ON THE TRAIN WITH THE REST OF THE SINGLE MALE EMPLOYEES. SPARKS ADVISED THAT EMPLOYEES HIRED AS EXTRAS ARE NOT INCLUDED ON THE PAYROLL BY NAME BUT ARE LISTED AS EXTRAS ONLY.

SPARKS ADVISED THAT THE CONCESSION SUPERVISOR FOR ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS IS KNOWN AS "HOTSHOT" AND WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW JOHNSON. SPARKS STATED HE BELIEVED THE SHOW IS EN ROUTE TO MEMPHIS AND WILL EVENTUALLY SET UP IN CANADA.

MRS. LINDA SPARKS, WIFE OF JAMES SPARKS, ADVISED SHE WAS EMPLOYED ON THE CONCESSION STANDS OF ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, AND AFTER OBSERVING A PHOTOGRAPH OF SUBJECT RAY, SHE STATED THAT THIS WAS A MAN SHE KNEW AS CHARLES RAY JOHNSON.

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

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE THREE - BH 44-1740

TAMPA, WILL RECONTACT ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS AND ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "HOTSHOT" REGARDING JOHNSON.

MEMPHIS, WILL CONTACT ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, IF LOCATED IN MEMPHIS, TO INTERVIEW "HOTSHOT" REGARDING CHARLES RAY JOHNSON.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END AND ACK.

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

F B I SEATTLE

FBI BIRMGHAM

435 PM URGENT 5-1:68 JGA

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 MEMPHIS 44-1987 AND SEATTLE 44-371
FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740

MURKIN.

RE SEATTLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND BIRMINGHAM APRIL TWENTYNINE,
SIXTYEIGHT, SETTING FORTH LEAD TO LOCATE GERALD D. RAY AT HUNTSVILLE,
ALABAMA.

ON APRIL THIRTY, SIXTYEIGHT, WALTER HARGROVE, SECURITY OFFICER
FOR THE HUNTSVILLE DIVISION OF THE BOEING COMPANY, REVIEWED ALL
AVAILABLE PERSONNEL RECORDS AND ADVISED THAT THERE WAS NO GERALD D.
RAY PRESENTLY EMPLOYED AT HUNTSVILLE DIVISION FROM ANY OTHER
BOEING DIVISION. HARGROVE COULD FURNISH NO OTHER INFORMATION RE RAY.
END

JDB

F B I SEATTLE

SAB

FBI MEMPHIS

CAB

FBI WASH DC

44-1740-1512

F B I

Date: 5/1/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND SEATTLE (44-371)
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

MURKIN.

RE SEATTLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND BIRMINGHAM APRIL TWENTYNINE,
SIXTYEIGHT, SETTING FORTH LEAD TO LOCATE GERALD D. RAY AT HUNTSVILLE,
ALABAMA.

ON APRIL THIRTY, SIXTYEIGHT, WALTER HARGROVE, SECURITY OFFICER
FOR THE HUNTSVILLE DIVISION OF THE BOEING COMPANY, REVIEWED ALL
AVAILABLE PERSONNEL RECORDS AND ADVISED THAT THERE WAS NO GERALD D.
RAY PRESENTLY EMPLOYED AT HUNTSVILLE DIVISION OF BOEING NOR WAS THERE
ANYONE BY THIS NAME ON LOAN TO THE HUNTSVILLE DIVISION FROM ANY OTHER
BOEING DIVISION. HARGROVE COULD FURNISH NO OTHER INFORMATION RE RAY.

WAS:mf1
(1)

mf1

44-1740-1512

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED B FILED B

Approved: _____

[Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Wa 433 pm
me 434 pm
Sent 5e M Per Ja
435 pm

F B I

Date: 5/1/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), KANSAS CITY, MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND
SPRINGFIELD.
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

MURKIN.

RE MOBILE TEL TO BIRMINGHAM APRIL TWENTYNINE, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT,
SETTING FORTH NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE FORMER INMATES MISSOURI
STATE PRISON (MSP) AND CURRENTLY UNDER SUPERVISION STATE OF ALABAMA
UNDER INTERSTATE AGREEMENT. TWO OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE HILLARD
SANDERS, UNDER SUPERVISION SINCE NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR, AND JAMES W.
BROWN, REFORM, ALABAMA, UNDER SUPERVISION SINCE NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE.
BROWN INTERVIEWED AND STATES INMATE MSP FROM APRIL, NINETEEN SIXTY
THROUGH JUNE, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE AND ACQUAINTED WITH JAMES EARL RAY
WHILE IN PRISON. BROWN FIRST MADE ACQUAINTANCE OF RAY DURING YEAR
NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE AND CLAIMS HE HAD TALKED WITH RAY PERSONALLY
AND HAD BEEN IN GROUPS WHERE RAY WAS TALKING ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS.
BROWN RECALLS THAT RAY MADE STATEMENT THAT HE WAS GLAD WHEN JOHN F.
KENNEDY WAS KILLED AND MADE SIMILAR STATEMENT AT THIS TIME TO THE
EFFECT "THAT IS ONE NIGGER-LOVING S.O.B. THAT GOT SHOT." BROWN

WAS:mfl
(1)

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 5:10 p.m. M

Per [Signature]
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

44-1740-1513

5:10 p.m.
5:20 p.m.
5:30 p.m.
5:40 p.m.

F B I

BH 44-1740

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

STATED THAT RAY DISLIKED NEGROES AND THAT DURING TIME MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS LEADING DEMONSTRATIONS AND MARCHES HE WOULD BECOME AGGRAVATED AND UPSET WHEN READING THIS INFORMATION IN NEWSPAPERS TO THE POINT THAT HE WOULD CURSE KING AND THE NEGROES. BROWN STATED THAT RAY MADE STATEMENT THAT KENNEDY WAS RUNNING THE COUNTRY AND ESPECIALLY IN THE RACIAL FIELD AND THAT KING COULD GET THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DO ANYTHING HE WANTED THEM TO. BROWN SAID HE HAD HEARD PRISON RUMORS THAT RAY WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE KILLED THREE NEGROES WHILE IN THE MSP.

BROWN ADVISED THAT SOMETIME DURING THE FALL, NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE, RAY MADE STATEMENT THAT HE WAS GOING TO GET MARTIN LUTHER KING WHEN HE GOT OUT. BROWN SAID HE HEARD RAY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT COOLEY (PHONETIC) OR COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION WOULD PAY TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HAVE KING DEAD. BROWN SAID HE COULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS ORGANIZATION AND RAY DID NOT MENTION IT AGAIN IN HIS PRESENCE. BROWN SAID THAT RAY SEEMED TO HAVE A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF MONEY AND THAT HE ALLEGEDLY GOT A CHECK OR MONEY REGULARLY FROM SOME SOURCE OUTSIDE PRISON. HE STATED THAT RAY DID DRINK AND HE HAD DETECTED ALCOHOL ON HIS BREATH ON DIFFERENT OCCASIONS, POINTING OUT THAT CONVICTS MADE WHISKEY IN PRISON AND SOME OF THE GUARDS WOULD

END PAGE TWO

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

BH 44-1740

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE

SELL WHISKEY TO CONVICTS. BROWN SAID THERE WERE NARCOTICS PASSED AROUND IN PRISON AND GUARDS WOULD BRING NARCOTICS AND SOME OF IT WAS BROUGHT IN BY VISITORS. HE SAID HE HAD NO PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE THAT RAY USED NARCOTICS. HE ALSO WAS UNABLE TO NAME ANY SPECIFIC GUARD WHO SOLD CONTRABAND.

BROWN SAID THAT RAY WAS NOT OVERLY FRIENDLY, HOWEVER, IN GROUPS HE WOULD TALK. HE NEVER DISCUSSED HIS PAST LIFE IN BROWN'S PRESENCE AND BROWN HAS NO IDEA WHERE RAY IS FROM. BROWN SAID HE HAS NOT SEEN RAY SINCE HE LEFT PRISON AND NOTED THAT RAY HAD TALKED ABOUT TUNNELING OUT OF PRISON AND GOING TO VIRGINIA AND HIDING IN A CAVE. BROWN SAID THAT RAY MADE STATEMENT THAT HE HAD A LARGE SUPPLY OF GUNS BEFORE HE WAS IN PRISON AND THE ONLY FOREIGN COUNTRY HE EVER HEARD RAY MENTION WAS LIBERIA, AFRICA AND RAY STATED HE HAD A BROTHER-IN-LAW WORKING THERE AND THAT HE WAS MAKING LARGE SUMS OF MONEY.

BROWN SAID THAT A CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF RAY WHILE IN PRISON WAS JOHNNY VALENTI (PHONETIC). VALENTI IS BELIEVED TO BE FROM BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA AND BROWN BELIEVES HE IS STILL IN MSP. VALENTI OFTEN SPOKE ABOUT MEXICO AND COULD SPEAK SPANISH. RAY STATED ONE TIME HE

END PAGE THREE

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

F B I

BH 44-1740

Date:

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

PAGE FOUR

WAS GOING TO VISIT A FRIEND OF HIS AND VALENTI'S, THIS FRIEND'S NAME UNKNOWN, WHO WAS RELEASED FROM PRISON AND GOT MARRIED AND IS BELIEVED TO BE RUNNING A CAFE NEAR MOBERLY, MISSOURI. ANOTHER FRIEND WAS JOHNNY JOHNSON WHO IS FROM THE KANSAS CITY AREA AND IS BELIEVED TO BE STILL IN PRISON AS HE WAS SERVING A TWENTY YEAR SENTENCE. ANOTHER FRIEND "NONEY" EDEN SERVING FIVE YEARS MSP. ANOTHER FRIEND, RICHARD BEEMAN, AND (FNU) MAYBERRY FROM WEST PLAINS, MISSOURI.

BROWN WAS SHOWN I.O. FOUR ONE EIGHT TWO AND STATED THAT THE CENTER PICTURE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE HE REMEMBERED RAY IN PRISON AND OTHER PICTURES RESEMBLED HIM ALSO.

INVESTIGATION AT GADSDEN, ALABAMA REFLECTS HILLARD ALLEN SANDERS LAST EMPLOYED ALABAMA TOOL COMPANY, GADSDEN, MARCH TWENTYONE, NINETEEN SIXTYSIX. MARIE CRESS, SISTER OF SANDERS, ADVISED LAST TIME SHE HEARD FROM SANDERS WAS OVER ONE YEAR AGO AND HE WAS RESIDING WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS. PAUL MINTON, STATE PROBATION OFFICER, ADVISED SANDERS PRESENTLY RESIDING ONE THREE SEVEN EAST ACTON STREET, WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS.

TWO OTHER INMATES MSP INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED NOT ACQUAINTED
END PAGE FOUR

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

BH 44-1740

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE FIVE

NOR COULD THEY RECALL JAMES EARL RAY AT TIME INCARCERATED MSP.
THESE INMATES ARE COLUMBUS JONES, BOLIGEE, ALABAMA, AND CHARLES R.
MASHBURN, OWENS CROSS ROADS, ALA.

KANSAS CITY DETERMINE IF ABOVE INDIVIDUALS LISTED AS FRIENDS
OF RAY STILL INCARCERATED MSP AND INTERVIEW. IF RELEASED, OBTAIN
THEIR FORWARDING ADDRESS OF RECORD AND SET FORTH LEADS TO HAVE THEM
INTERVIEWED RE RAY.

SPRINGFIELD, AT WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS, INTERVIEW SANDERS REGARD-
ING RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI MIAMI

8 10PM EST 5-1-68 URGENT RGT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ATLANTA (44-2386) BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
MEMPHIS (44-1987) NEW YORK AND JACKSONVILLE (44-769)
FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN.

RE HERTZ RENT-A-CAR ABANDONED BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT
APRIL SEVEN-EIGHT LAST.

RE BH TEL TO BUREAU APRIL THIRTY, LAST.

TICKETS AT EASTERN AIRLINES (EAL), MIAMI, INDICATE
PASSENGERS BOARDING EAL FLIGHTS SIX THREE FIVE AND SIX SIX
TWO AT BIRMINGHAM APRIL EIGHT LAST, AS FOLLOWS, WITH EAL FIELD
TICKET OFFICE (FTO) WHERE PURCHASED, DATE AND VALIDATOR (V)
NUMBER WHERE AVAILABLE. UNLESS OTHER WISE SPECIFIED, FORM
OF PAYMENT WAS CASH OR NOT INDICATED.

FLIGHT SIX THREE FIVE:

W.P. MORGAN, JR., PURCHASED APRIL EIGHT, FTO BIRMINGHAM,
V THIRTY SIX.

MR. D. WORNICA, ISSUED APRIL FIVE, FTO, PENSACOLA, FLA.,
V FIVE, INITIAL LEG FLIGHT EAL SIX TWO FOUR, APRIL FIVE,
PENSACOLA TO ATLANTA, FINAL LEG APRIL EIGHT, FLIGHT SIX
THREE FIVE, BH TO PENSACOLA.

44-1740-1514

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 1 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

MM (44-1854)

PAGE TWO

L. NONNALLY, ISSUED APRIL EIGHT, FTO BH, FINAL LEG MOBILE TO BH APRIL NINE, PAID BY CHECK.

M.W. DENT, ISSUED APRIL EIGHT, FTO BH, V TWELVE, PAID BY AMERICAN EXPRESS NUMBER ZERO ONE FOUR-ZERO FIVE SIX-SIX TWO FOUR-ONE-ONE ZERO FIVE, TRAVELED BH TO MOBILE TO BH.

FLIGHT SIX SIX TWO:

DALLAS M. WHITE, ISSUED FTO BH, V THIRTY TWO, APRIL SEVEN. FINAL LEG JACKSONVILLE TO DAYTONA BEACH, FLA., NATIONAL FLIGHT FOUR SEVEN THREE, OPEN DATE.

J.A. GWIN, JR., ISSUED FTO BH, V THIRTY SIX, APRIL SEVEN, FINAL LEG ATLANTA TO JACKSONVILLE, ON EAL FLIGHT FOUR THREE FIVE, OPEN DATE.

MRS. J. WEBB, ISSUED FTO BH, V THIRTY SIX, APRIL SEVEN. FINAL LEG ATLANTA TO JFK, NY, EAL FLIGHT FOUR FIVE ZERO, APRIL EIGHT.

MR. G. MONTGOMERY, ISSUED APRIL FIVE, NY, NY, TICKET AGENT STAMP ILLEGIBLE, INITIAL LEG EAL FLIGHT FOUR FOUR FIVE, NY TO ATLANTA APRIL FIVE, THEN EAL FLIGHT SIX THREE FIVE,

MM (44-1854)

PAGE THREE

ATLANTA TO BH APRIL SIX. FINAL LEG ATLANTA TO NY, EAL FLIGHT FOUR FIVE ZERO, APRIL EIGHT.

J.E. RINGO, ISSUED FTO BH, V THIRTY SIX, APRIL SEVEN.

W.J. POPE, ISSUED NY APRIL FIVE FOR TRAVEL NY TO ATLANTA, OPEN DATE AND FLIGHT WITH SUBSEQUENT TRAVEL ATLANTA TO BH, BH TO ATLANTA, ATLANTA TO NY.

MISS HALLIE OLSON, ISSUED APRIL SEVEN, FTO BH, V TWENTY FIVE.

NY AT EAL, ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE ADDRESS OF PASSENGER G. MONTGOMERY FROM RESERVATION RECORDS, TICKET NUMBER ZERO ZERO SEVEN-FOUR ONE ONE-THREE FOUR THREE-EIGHT FIVE FOUR AND, IF POSSIBLE, ADDRESS OF W.J. POPE, TICKET NUMBER THREE-ZERO ZERO SEVEN-FOUR ONE ONE-THREE FOUR THREE-SIX EIGHT NINE.

JACKSONVILLE AT PENSACOLA, AT EAL, DETERMINE ADDRESS OF PASSENGER D. WORNICA FROM RESERVATION RECORDS.

BIRMINGHAM AT EAL, DETERMINE ADDRESSES OF REMAINING PASSENGERS FROM RESERVATIONS RECORDS.

ALL OFFICES THEREAFTER SET LEADS FOR SHOWING PHOTO OF SUSPECT RAY TO PASSENGERS TO DETERMINE IF RAY OBSERVED AS PASSENGER.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI MIAMI

816PM URGENT 5-1-68 PJJ

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), ATLANTA (44-2386), BIRMINGHAM (44-1740),
MEMPHIS (44-1987), AND CHICAGO
FROM MIAMI (44-1854) 3P

MURKIN.

RE HERTZ RENT-A-CAR ABANDONED BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT
APRIL SEVEN, LAST.

RE BH TEL TO BUREAU APRIL THIRTY, LAST.

NAMES AND PERMANENT ADDRESSES OF FLIGHT CREW EASTERN
AIRLINES (EAL) FLIGHT SIX THREE FIVE, APRIL EIGHT, LAST
FOLLOW:

PILOTS, ALL BASED CHICAGO:

CAPTAIN T.A. MC MILLIAN, THREE SEVEN ONE EIGHT
POPLAR RD., FLOSSMOOR, ILL.

FIRST OFFICER WILLIAM JOHN POWELL, FIVE ZERO
TWO PARK CT., FOX RIVER GROVE, ILL.

SECOND OFFICER RONALD D. SWEEDLER, PO BOX
FOUR SIX SIX, MANHATTAN, ILL.

FLIGHT ATTENDANTS, ALL BASED ATLANTA:

SANDRA CAROL JIMERSON, THREE TWO FOUR FOUR
FULTON AVE., APT. B-EIGHT, HAPEVILLE, GA.

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1515

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 1 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

PAGE TWO

MM 44-1854

LYNDA LAURIE GRAMLING, THREE TWO FOUR FOUR FULTON
AVE., MAPEVILLE, GA.

JANICE LEE COLLINS, SIX SIX TWO ONE WAKEFIELD DR.,
APT. FOUR ONE TWO, ALEXANDRIA, VA.

NAMES AND PERMANENT ADDRESSES OF FLIGHT CREW EAL FLIGHT
SIX SIX TWO, APRIL EIGHT, LAST, ALL BASED ATLANTA, FOLLOW:

CAPTAIN HARRY ROBERT ANDERSON, ELEVEN MAGNOLIA
DR., RT. TWO, NEWNAN, GA.

FIRST OFFICER WENDELL BARRE HALEY, THREE ZERO
EIGHT NINE WASHINGTON ROAD, APT. SIX, EAST POINT, GA.

SECOND OFFICER LANCE C. ANDERSON, ONE NINE THREE
FIVE ALISON CT., S.W., APT. H: SIXTEEN, ATLANTA, GA.

SENIOR FLIGHT ATTENDANT HAROLD J. CORNWELL, ONE ONE
TWO TWO KEY ROAD, S.E., ATLANTA, GA.

FLIGHT ATTENDANT MARJORIE M. EASTERLY, ONE ZERO SIX
EAST TEMPLE AVE., COLLEGE PARK, GA.

CHICAGO, AT EAL, DETERMINE WHERE PILOTS MC MILLIAN,
POWELL AND SWEEDLER CAN BE LOCATED AND SET LEADS TO SHOW PHOTOS

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

MM 44-1854

OF SUSPECT RAY AND DETERLINE IF OBSERVED AS PASSENGER.

ATLANTA, AT EAL, HANDLE SIMILORLY FOR REMAINING -
LISTED PERSONNEL BASED THERE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

R 2 HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU

FBI ATLANTA

8 50 PM EDT URGENT 5/1/68 VSC

TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON, KANSAS CITY, MEMPHIS, MIAMI,

MINNEAPOLIS AND BIRMINGHAM

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386 2P

MURKIN

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL, APR. THIRTY, LAST, AND ATLANTA TELCALLS
TO BIRMINGHAM, MAY ONE, INSTANT.

OFFICES HAVING LEADS TO LOCATE PASSENGERS LEAVING BIRMINGHAM
AS STATED IN RETEL, REQUESTED TO DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION
TO LOCATE PASSENGERS. INVESTIGATION HERTZ CORP., ATLANTA,
THIS DATE REFLECTED RENTAL AGREEMENT DATED APR. SEVEN,
'SIXTYEIGHT FOR 'SIXTYEIGHT AMERICAN MTRS REBEL, TWO-DOOR,

REFERRED TO IN RETEL, RENTED TO J. TERRENCE WOLKERSTORFER UNDER
SINCLAIR CREDIT CARD NO. SEVEN TWO NINE EIGHT ONE NINE THREE EIGHT THREE
APPARENTLY EMPLOYED NOTRE DAME AND AVA MARIA MAGAZINE. RENTAL AGREEMENT
REFLECTS ADDITIONAL DRIVER OF CAR JOHN TEVAHEAY, THREE ONE
SIX SPENCER ROAD, DEVON, PA. WOLKERSTORFER APPARENTLY APPEARED AT
ATLANTA AIRPORT FOUR AM, APR. NINE, 'SIXTYEIGHT, AND ADVISED
HERTZ EMPLOYEE AMERICAN REBEL AUTO LEFT AT BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1516

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 1 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

WITH HERTZ CORP. AND MILEAGE RECORDED FIVE HUNDRED
TEN MILES. CHECK-REPORT MADE IN ATLANTA BY M. STEPHENS. INQUIRY SINCE
OIL CO., ATLANTA, REFLECTS WOLKERSTORFER RESIDES THREE TWO FOUR WOODLAW
AVE., ST. PAUL, MINN. CREDIT CARD NOT REPORTED STOLEN TO DATE AND
NO EXCESSIVE CHARGES LISTED. *SINCLAIR*
WOODLAWN

MINNEAPOLIS AT ST. PAUL, MINN., LOCATE WOLKERSTORFER RE RENTAL
OF AMERICAN MTRS REBEL, TWO-DR, AT ATLANTA, APR. SEVEN, LAST, AND
LEAVING SAME AT BIRMINGHAM. ASCERTAIN IF WOLKERSTORFER IN ANYWAY
CONNECTED WITH CAPTIONED MATTER AND IF HE AND ASSOCIATE, TEVAHEAY
POSSIBLY IDENTICAL TO SUBJECT.

ATLANTA INTERVIEWING M. STEPHENS RE CHECK-IN OF REBEL AUTO.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

END

HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI LOS ANG.

10:12PM URGENT 5-1-68 DPK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, NEW ORLEANS
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN

RE PHONE CALLS FROM RITA STEIN'S PHONE.

RITA STEIN ADVISED SHE CALLED HER SISTER, MARIE LEE,
AT IVANHOE PIANO BAR, NEW ORLEANS IN DECEMBER SIXTY SEVEN
ADVISING CHILDREN ARRIVED SAFELY IN LOS ANGELES. STEIN ADVISED
SHE COMMUNICATES REGULARLY WITH MOTHER IN NEW ORLEANS
DUE TO MOTHER'S POOR HEALTH. DOES NOT RECALL EXACT DATES
OF CALLS TO MOTHER, BELIEVES TO BE IN MARCH AND APRIL SIXTY
EIGHT. EXACT NATURE OF CALLS NOT RECALLED BUT RAY NOT SUBJECT
OF CONVERSATIONS. STEIN ADVISED COLLECT CALL FROM NEW
ORLEANS NUMBER NINE FOUR SEVEN DASH ZERO NINE THREE ZERO
INCORRECTLY CHARGED TO HER BILL. ADVISED THAT MARYLAND
NUMBER NINE FIVE SEVEN DASH TWO THREE THREE SEVEN, CALL OF
MARCH NINETEEN LAST INCORRECTLY CHARGE TO HER.

OZAMA BOVIA, NEW ORLEANS, UNKNOWN TO RITA AND CHARLES
STEIN. PHONE AT LA LISTED IN NAME OF RITA RODE FOR PRIVACY.
OTHER UTILITIES LISTED IN NAME OF ROSAS.
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1517
B

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
MAY 2
FILED

[Signature]

PAGE TWO

LA 44-1574

RITA STEIN ADVISED PHOTO OF RAY TAKEN IN MEXICO FALL OF SIXTY SEVEN DOES NOT LOOK LIKE HIM. CHARLES STEIN ADVISED MEXICO PHOTO OF RAY A LIKENESS OF SUBJECT BUT NOT AS GOOD AS PHOTO ON WANTED FLYER.

RE CALL FROM OZAMA BOVIA, NEW ORLEANS.

RECORDS TELEPHONE COMPANY LOS ANGELES REVEAL CALL FROM BOVIA TO FOUR SEVEN TWO DASH SEVEN SEVEN ZERO NINE, LISTED TO STEVE BOMSE, ONE ONE SEVEN SIX SEVEN, SUNSET BOULEVARD, BEL AIR, CALIFORNIA. SERVICE TO THIS NUMBER DISCONTINUED MARCH TWENTY EIGHT LAST. INVESTIGATION CONTINUES TO LOCATE BOMSE.

MARIE MARTIN BACKGROUND PHASE

RECORDS OF LAPD AND SUPERIOR COURT, LOS ANGELES EXAMINED RE RONALD ROBERT DENINNO, AKA RONALD GERALD DENINNO, MALE CAUCASIAN, BORN [REDACTED] TWO, LOS ANGELES; WHO IS REPORTED TO BE BROTHER OF MARIE MARTIN.

THESE RECORDS INDICATE DENINNO HAS ARREST RECORD DATING BACK TO FEBRUARY FIFTY FIVE, WHEN WAS DECLARED WARD OF COURT FOR THEFT OF PELLET GUN AND TRUANCY. OTHER ARRESTS AS JUVENILE FOR THEFT, PURSE SNATCHING AND SUSPICION OF POSSESSION OF MARIJUANA. SUBSEQUENT ADULT ARRESTS FOR ROBBERY, BURGLARY, GRAND THEFT, AND SALE AND POSSESSION OF NARCOTICS, AND ASSULT WITH DEADLY WEAPON (BUTCHER KNIFE). MARIE MARTIN WAS WITNESS TO LATTER OFFENSE.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

LA 44-1574

PROBATION OFFICER COMMENTED, WITH REGARD TO LAST ARREST FOR POSSESSION AND SALE OF MARIJUANA IN DECEMBER SIXTY SEVEN, QUOTE ALTHOUGH ONE OF LESSER LIGHTS IN THIS PARTICULAR TRANSACTION, APPARENTLY IS MORE DEEPLY INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC THAN HE CARES TO ADMIT END QUOTE.

AIR MAIL COPY FOR BALTIMORE.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AT LOS ANGELES.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

GR

FBI BIRMGHAM

TU

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI TAMPA

1 017PM URGENT 5/17/68 MJR

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), BIRMINGHAM (44-1740), AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN.

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE APRIL TWENTYEIGHT, LAST, TAMPA TEL
APRIL TWENTY NINE, LAST AND BIRMINGHAM TEL MAY ONE INSTANT.

L. B. DEMAY, WHOSE IDENTITY IS KNOWN TO BUREAU, IS ALSO
KNOWN AS QUOTE HOTSHOT UNQUOTE.

DEMAV ADVISED HE HIRES AND PAYS PERSONALLY ALL QUOTE EXTRAS
UNQUOTE AND QUOTE ROUGHIES UNQUOTE ON FAIRGROUNDS, TAMPA. HE HAS
NOT HIRED ANY EXTRA OR ROUGHIE SINCE IN TAMPA QUARTERS. ONLY HIS
REGULAR CREW ARE EMPLOYED, HE KNOWS EACH PERSONALLY, AND NONE
ARE IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL RAY. THE NAME OF CHARLES RAY JOHNSON
IS UNKNOWN TO HIM AND HE HAS NEVER BEEN HIRED BY HIM AND HE COULD
NOT ASSOCIATE ANY PERSON WITH A DESCRIPTION OF CHARLES RAY JOHNSON.
NO ONE DEFINITELY SLEEPS ON ANY TRAIN AND NO EXTRAS ARE TO BE HIRED
UNTIL THEY REACH THE ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS FIRST STOP. THE SHOWS
ARE NOT TO MOVE OUT TO TAMPA QUARTERS UNTIL MAY TWENTYFIVE, SIXTY
EIGHT. DEMAY STATED HE COULD NOT RECALL JAMES SPARKS NOR WIFE,
BUT IF SPRAKS IS THE PERSON HE THINKS HE IS QUOTE HE IS HALF CRAZY
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1518

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>12</i>
MAY 1 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Jab

PAGE TWO

UNQUOTE. HE SAID NO PERSON ANSWERING JOHNSON'S DESCRIPTION NOR DESCRIPTION OF JAMES EARL RAY HAVE APPEARED AT THE GROUNDS LOOKING FOR ANY EMPLOYMENT AND SINCE SEEING NUMEROUS PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAMES EARL RAY, AND HAVING BEEN IN CONTACT WITH THE FBI AGENTS SINCE MURKIN, HE COULD DEFINITELY STATE NO ONE ANSWERING RAY'S DESCRIPTION HAS BEEN SEEN ON THE GROUNDS BY HIM. DEMAY POINTED OUT SPARKS PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED CHARLES RAY JOHNSON WAS CONCESSIONAIRE WITH HEART OF AMERICA SHOWS IN TAMPA, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN IN TAMPA AND NOW CLAIMS WITH ROYAL AMERICAN, AND SUCH DEFINITELY NOT TRUE.

IN VIEW OF DESCREPANCIES IN SPARK'S INFORMATION, TAMPA WILL NOT PURSUE MATTER FURTHER UACB. MEMPHIS SHOULD DISREGARD LEAD IN RETEL AS ROYAL AMERICAN HAS NOT LEFT TAMPA.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

@

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI SPRNGFLD

1031

PM URGENT 5-1-68 DJK

TO DIRECTOR (MAIL), MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) 1P

MURKIN

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL INSTANT.

RE HILLIARD ALLEN SANDERS.

SANDERS, RESIDING ONE THREE SEVEN E. ACTON, WOOD RIVER,
ILLINOIS, INTERVIEWED BY BUAGENTS TODAY. SANDERS ADVISED INCARCERATED
AT MISSOURI STATE PEN, JEFFERSON CITY, MO., FROM JANUARY TWENTY,
NINETEEN FIFTY TWO TO SEPTEMBER ONE, NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR ON ARMED
ROBBERY CHARGE, OUT OF ST. JOSEPH, MO. NEVER MET OR KNEW OF JAMES
EARL RAY DURING TIME HE WAS IN MISSOURI STATE PEN. SANDERS INDICATED
ON RELEASE ON PAROLE IN NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR HE WENT TO GADSDEN,
ALABAMA WHERE WORKED EIGHTEEN MONTHS, THEN TO CAMDEN, SOUTH
CAROLINA WHERE WORKED NINE MONTHS FOR E. I. DUPONT. CAME TO
WOOD RIVER, ILLINOIS AND HAS BEEN WORKING AS PIPEFITTER, SHELL
OIL COMPANY, SINCE JULY SIXTYSEVEN. LAST TWO JOBS IN PEN
WERE SEWING MACHINE MECHANIC AND HALL TENDER.

AIRMAIL COPY KANSAS CITY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

44-1740-1519

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
MAY 1- 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

1 111 PM URGENT 5-1-68 ARK
TO BIRMINGHAM
FROM ATLANTA (44-2386)

MURKIN OO: MEMPHIS.

RE BH AIRTEL FOUR TWELVE SIXTYEIGHT, REGARDING UNUSUAL TRAVEL
OF ONE L. D. KENDRICK LATTER PARK MARCH NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT
BETWEEN ATLANTA, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM. DELTA OFFICIALS ADVISE
IMPOSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY DELTA PASSENGER KENDRICK WITHOUT
FLIGHT NUMBERS.

AMSD COPY MEMPHIS (44-2386)

END.

HEP

FBI BIRMGHAM

44-1740-1520

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
MAY 1 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

@

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

9 40A EDT URGENT 5/2/68 VSC

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, JACKSONVILLE, NEW YORK,
MIAMI AND MEMPHIS
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386 1P

MURKIN

RE MIAMI TEL, MAY ONE LAST AND ATLANTA TELCALL TO ABOVE
OFFICES, MAY TWO, INSTANT.

DISCONTINUE LEADS TO CONTACT AIRLINES EMPLOYEES AND
PASSENGERS AS SIXTYEIGHT AMERICAN REBEL RENTED AT HERTZ
ATLANTA, APR. SEVEN, 'SIXTYEIGHT, BY J. TERRENCE WOLKERSTORFER,
ST. PAUL, MINN. AND LEFT AUTO AT BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT, APR. NINE,
LAST.

INVESTIGATION ST. PAUL, MINN., AND ATLANTA, GA., CONTINUING
TO IDENTIFY WOLKERSTORFER.

A & D

P

END

JGA

FBI BIRMGHAM

44-1740-1521

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED <u>13</u>
MAY 2 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

1159AM 5-2-68 URGENT AMB
TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND NEW ORLEANS
FROM BIRMINGHAM 44-1740 (P)

MURKIN. CR. OO:MEMPHIS 3P

WHEN INTERVIEWED MAY ONE , LAST, NEAR TUSCALOOSA, ALA.,
JAMES W. BROWN, PRESENTLY UNDER SUPERVISION ALABAMA STATE
PAROLE BOARD, ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

RE COOLEY (PH) OR COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION:

BROWN WAS CONFINED MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY , JEFFERSON
CITY, MO., FROM APRIL, SIXTY, TO RELEASE ON PAROLE, JUNE
FIFTEEN, SIXTY FIVE. WHILE THERE HE BECAME FAIRLY WELL ACQUAIN-
TED WITH SUBJECT RAY, AND DURING SIXTY THREE, RAY WAS VEHEMENT
IN HIS RACIST ATTITUDE TOWARDS VICTIM. DURING FALL OF SIXTY
THREE, HE MADE STATEMENT THAT HE WAS GOING TO GET MARTIN LUTHER
KING WHEN HE GOT OUT. BROWN DURING CONVERSATION THEN WITH RAY
HEARD RAY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THAT COOLEY (PH) OR COOLEY'S
ORGANIZATION WOULD PAY TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HAVE KING DEAD.
NO FURTHER INFORMATION IN BROWN'S POSSESSION RE THIS.

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1522

BH 44-1740

PAGE TWO

BIRMINGHAM FILES NEGATIVE RE THIS INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION. SUGGEST BUREAU ATTEMPT THROUGH FILE SEARCH TO IDENTIFY COOLEY AND OR ORGANIZATION. IF NOT IDENTIFIABLE, SUGGEST BUREAU MAY DESIRE CORRESPOND EACH CONTINENTAL OFFICE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

RE JOHNNY VALENTI (PH):

IN INTERVIEW, BROWN RECALLED RAY CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF VALENTI. BELIEVED FROM BATON ROUGE, LA., ORIGINALLY, AND POSSIBLY STILL CONFINED IN PRISON. RECALLED THAT VALENTI COULD SPEAK SPANISH AND HE AND RAY TALKED ABOUT VISITING MEXICO. ON ONE OCCASION RAY STATED THAT WHEN RELEASED HE WAS GOING TO VISIT A MUTUAL FRIEND OF HIS AND VALENTI, NAME UNKNOWN, WHO HAD BEEN RELEASED, WAS MARRIED AND BELIEVED OPERATING A CAFE NEAR MOBERLY, MO.

NEW ORLEANS, AT BATON ROUGE, LA., ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY VALENTI AND IF NOT NOW LOCATED THERE, SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEADS FOR INTERVIEW, IF NOT PREVIOUSLY DONE. IT IS RECALLED THAT BANK RECORDS, BIRMINGHAM, CONTAIN NOTATION THAT SUBJECT, AS GALT, WHEN RELEASING HIS SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX ON DEC. THIRTEEN, SIXTY SEVEN, WAS THEN IN BATON ROUGE, ALTHOUGH ENVELOPE BEARING POSTMARK NOT RETAINED BY BANK.

END PAGE TWO

BH 44-1740

PAGE THREE

AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

END

LCC

FBI WASH DC

@ mmw - FBI - NO

F B I

Date: 5/2/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND NEW ORLEANS
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)(P)

MURKIN. CR. OO: MEMPHIS

WHEN INTERVIEWED MAY ONE, LAST, NEAR TUSCALOOSA, ALA.,
JAMES W. BROWN, PRESENTLY UNDER SUPERVISION ALABAMA STATE
PAROLE BOARD, ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

RE COOLEY (PH) OR COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION:

BROWN WAS CONFINED MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON
CITY, MO., FROM APRIL, SIXTY, TO RELEASE ON PAROLE, JUNE
FIFTEEN, SIXTY FIVE. WHILE THERE HE BECAME FAIRLY WELL ACQUAIN-
TED WITH SUBJECT RAY, AND DURING SIXTY THREE, RAY WAS VEHEMENT
IN HIS RACIST ATTITUDE TOWARDS VICTIM. DURING FALL OF SIXTY
THREE, HE MADE STATEMENT THAT HE WAS GOING TO GET MARTIN LUTHER
KING WHEN HE GOT OUT. BROWN DURING CONVERSATION THEN WITH RAY
HEARD RAY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THAT COOLEY (PH) OR COOLEY'S
ORGANIZATION WOULD PAY TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HAVE KING DEAD.
NO FURTHER INFORMATION IN BROWN'S POSSESSION RE THIS.

1 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)
HAS:jbt
(2) *jbt*

44-1740-1522

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____

SERIALIZED *B* FILED *B*

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *Dir 11:59*
NO 12:09 PM AM

Per *[Signature]*

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)BH 44-1740
PAGE TWO

BIRMINGHAM FILES NEGATIVE RE THIS INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION.
SUGGEST BUREAU ATTEMPT THROUGH FILE SEARCH TO IDENTIFY
COOLEY AND/OR ORGANIZATION. IF NOT IDENTIFIABLE, SUGGEST
BUREAU MAY DESIRE CORRESPOND EACH CONTINENTAL OFFICE FOR THIS
PURPOSE.

RE JOHNNY VALENTI (PH):

IN INTERVIEW, BROWN RECALLED RAY CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF VALENTI,
BELIEVED FROM BATON ROUGE, LA., ORIGINALLY, AND POSSIBLY STILL
CONFINED IN PRISON. RECALLED THAT VALENTI COULD SPEAK SPANISH
AND HE AND RAY TALKED ABOUT VISITING MEXICO. ON ONE OCCASION
RAY STATED THAT WHEN RELEASED HE WAS GOING TO VISIT A MUTUAL
FRIEND OF HIS AND VALENTI, NAME UNKNOWN, WHO HAD BEEN RELEASED,
WAS MARRIED AND BELIEVED OPERATING A CAFE NEAR MOBERLY, MO.

NEW ORLEANS, AT BATON ROUGE, LA., ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY
VALENTI AND IF NOT NOW LOCATED THERE, SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEADS
FOR INTERVIEW, IF NOT PREVIOUSLY DONE. IT IS RECALLED THAT
BANK RECORDS, BIRMINGHAM, CONTAIN NOTATION THAT SUBJECT, AS
GALT, WHEN RELEASING HIS SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX ON DEC. THIRTEEN,
SIXTY SEVEN, WAS THEN IN BATON ROUGE, ALTHOUGH ENVELOPE BEARING
POSTMARK NOT RETAINED BY BANK.

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

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

**BH 44-1740
PAGE THREE**

AIR MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

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

5-2-68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
 FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)
 SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA
 Re MEairtel 4-19-68.

Following is the cost data for the Birmingham Division for the month of April, 1968:

1.	MAN HOURS SPENT ON CASE:	<u>REGULAR</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
	A. SPECIAL AGENTS	3433:00	1948:00	5381:00
	B. CLERICAL	<u>1444:00</u>	<u>307:00</u>	<u>1751:00</u>
	TOTALS	<u>4877:00</u>	<u>2255:00</u>	<u>7132:00</u>
2.	TOTAL MILEAGE BUCARS:			20,112
3.	OTHER COSTS:			
	Transportation (Common Carrier)			\$416.00
	Per Diem			<u>494.00</u>
	Total			\$910.00
4.	PEAK NUMBER SPECIAL AGENTS WORKING CASE:			58

2-Memphis
 1-Birmingham
 BWS:a
 (3)

44-1740-1523
 SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
 SERIALIZED B FILED B

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740) (P)

DATE: 5/1/68

FROM : SA PETER JOHN BODKIN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Rememo of SA ERIC L. WILSON, 4/19/68.

HOMER AARON, part owner, Porter Radio Cab Company, 1918 4th Alley, Bessemer, Ala., was contacted on 4/23/68, by the writer and stated that on 4/11/68, at 8:14 a.m., his company received a telephone call from Jim Smith Super Shell Service Station, 19th Street and 9th Avenue, Bessemer, Ala., to pick up a fare. AARON advised that the fare consisted of two white men who wanted to go to Tuscaloosa, Ala. AARON stated he drove these two white men to Tuscaloosa, Ala., and during the trip one of the men stated that they had to go to Memphis, Tenn., and be back that afternoon. AARON advised one of these men mentioned they had blown the transmission in their car, but did not say where. AARON advised that one of these men also mentioned he had a sister in Tuscaloosa, Ala. AARON advised that both of these men had been drinking, but were not drunk.

AARON advised when they arrived at Tuscaloosa, Ala., he took these men to the National Car Rental where they attempted to rent a car, but none were available for a one-way trip. He advised he then took these men to the Municipal Airport, where they rented a car from Hertz. AARON advised the car they rented was a 1967 or 1968 four-door maroon Chevrolet.

AARON described these men as follows:

Number 1:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	30 - 40
Height:	5' 5" - 5' 10"
Weight:	155 - 160 lbs.
Hair:	Dark brown, not a crew cut
Build:	Medium
Characteristics:	Smokes

PJB:mfl
(3) *mfl*



5010-108

44-1740-1524

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
MAY 1 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

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

BH 44-1740

Number 2:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Age:	35 - 40
Height:	Over 6'
Weight:	180 - 190 lbs.
Build:	Heavy
Hair:	Blond
Face:	Round
Characteristics:	Smokes

AARON advised the No. 1 man did all the talking.

He advised this was the first time he has seen either of these two men and has not seen them since that time.

AARON viewed the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and stated neither of these individuals was identical with RAY.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740) (P)

FROM : SA CLARENCE E. WRIGHT

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO:ME

DATE: 5/1/68

On April 30, 1968, JAMES W. BROWN, Route 1, Box 176-B, Reform, Alabama, advised that he was sentenced to the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in April of 1960 and was released on June 15, 1965. He stated that he knew JAMES EARL RAY while he was in prison and first met him sometime in 1963. He stated that he had been in groups where RAY was talking on several occasions and had talked to him personally a few times.

BROWN stated that RAY made the statement that he was glad when JOHN F. KENNEDY was killed, and had made some statement at this time to the effect "That is one 'Nigger'-loving S.O.B. that got shot." He stated that RAY did not like Negroes and that during the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was leading some of his demonstrations and this information was being published in the newspapers, RAY used to curse KING and the Negroes. The news of the demonstrations and marches used to aggravate him considerably. He stated that RAY made the statement that KENNEDY was running the country and especially in the racial field, and that MARTIN LUTHER KING could get the Federal Government to do anything he wanted them to. BROWN further advised that he had heard some prison rumors that RAY was supposed to have killed three Negroes while he was in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

BROWN advised that sometime in the Fall of 1963, RAY made the statement that he was going to get MARTIN LUTHER KING when he got out. He stated that he

3-44-1740
CEW:rte
(3) *kte*

Snow *KAW*
on mat for rept -
Inmate

44-1740-1525

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>B</i>	FILED _____
MAY 2 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]



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

BH 44-1740

heard him say something about COOLEY(phonetic) or COOLEY's organization would pay \$10,000.00 to have KING dead. He stated that he could furnish no further information concerning this and RAY did not mention it again in his presence.

BROWN further advised that RAY seemed to have a sufficient supply of money and that he gambled with the other convicts continuously in the prison yard. The convicts used chips made from bottle caps or gambled for cigarettes and they would settle their gambling losses at the end of the month. He stated that RAY indicated at one time that he got a check or money regularly from some source on the outside. He stated that RAY did drink some and he had detected alcohol on his breath on different occasions. The convicts made whiskey in the prison and some of the guards sold whiskey to the convicts also. He stated there was a lot of narcotics passed around in the prison and the guards would bring some of it in and some of it was being brought in by visitors. He never had any personal knowledge that RAY used narcotics. He was unable to name any specific guard that sold contraband to the convicts; however, he did say that one guard was caught selling contraband to the convicts in 1962 or 1963 and was fired. He stated that RAY did talk to one particular guard a lot; however, he does not remember the guard's name.

BROWN stated that he has not seen RAY since he left prison and has no idea where he might have gone. He stated that RAY had talked about tunnelling out of prison and going to Virginia and hiding in a cave. He heard RAY say that he had a large supply of guns before he was in prison and heard him mention a submachine gun. The only foreign country he ever heard RAY mention was Liberia, Africa, and RAY stated that he had a brother-in-law working there and that he was making a lot of money.

BH 44-1740

BROWN advised that RAY was not too friendly; however, he would talk in groups. RAY told BROWN once that he had been in Birmingham, Alabama, and that BROWN had stated that Birmingham was a good town to steal in. He never discussed his past life in BROWN's presence and BROWN has no idea where RAY is from or anything about his family.

His close associates in prison were:

JOHNNY VALENTI (phonetic)

VALENTI is believed to be from Baton Rouge, Louisiana and BROWN believes he is still in prison. VALENTI talked about Mexico a lot and could speak Spanish. RAY stated one time that he was going to visit a friend of his and VALENTI's, (this friend's name unknown) who was released from prison and got married and it is believed that he is running a cafe near Moberly, Missouri.

"TICK" WILSON, who was killed while in Missouri State Prison.

JOHNNY JOHNSON, who is from the Kansas City area and is believed to be still in prison as he was serving a twenty-year sentence.

"NONEY" EDEN - EDEN was serving five years.

RICHARD BEEMAN

(FNU) MAYBERRY, from West Plains, Missouri.

BROWN was shown a copy of I.O. 4182 and he stated that the center picture looks exactly like he remembered him in prison and the other pictures resemble him also.

BROWN advised he is going to Talladega, Alabama, on May 1, 1968. The Rehabilitation Center is

BH 44-1740

getting him a job there either in a greenhouse or a service station. He stated that THELMA C. PATE, who owns a trailer house where he now lives will know his new address.

BROWN is described as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
DOB:	<input type="text"/>
POB:	Pickens County, Alabama
Height:	5' 7"
Weight:	190 lbs.
Hair:	Brown
Eyes:	Brown

BROWN is currently under the supervision of the State Parole Board.

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI WASH DC

3 48PM URGENT 5/2/68 WPK

TO BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) MEMPHIS (44-1987) KANSAS CITY SPRINGFIELD
AND ST. LOUIS
FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861) 2P

MURKIN

RE BIRMINGHAM TELETYPE MAY ONE LAST, NO COPIES
ST. LOUIS, CONCERNING INTERVIEW OF JAMES W. BROWN AND
INFORMATION HE FURNISHED REGARDING RAY'S COMMENT THAT
COOLEY (PHONETIC) OR COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION WOULD PAY TEN
THOUSAND DOLLARS TO HAVE KING DEAD. FOR INFORMATION OF
ST. LOUIS, BROWN WAS INMATE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY FROM
APRIL NINETEEN SIXTY THROUGH JUNE NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE AND
ACQUAINTED WITH JAMES EARL RAY WHILE IN PRISON.

BIRMINGHAM REINTERVIEW BROWN THOROUGHLY REGARDING
RAY'S STATEMENT TO OBTAIN ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO
COOLEY. DETERMINE ANYONE ELSE FAMILIAR WITH THAT STATEMENT
AND IF COOLEY WAS IN OR OUT OF PRISON AT THE TIME. ATTEMPT TO
ESTABLISH WHERE RAY KNEW COOLEY.
END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1526

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>in</i>	FILED _____
MAY 2 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

or Lander

PAGE TWO

ALL OTHER OFFICES WHEN INTERVIEWING RAY'S PRISON
ASSOCIATES, ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP INFORMATION TO IDENTIFY
COOLEY OR INFORMATION WHICH WOULD SUBSTANTIATE OR ELIMINATE
THE STATEMENT ATTRIBUTED TO RAY.

EJD

JGA

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI WASH DC

619PM URGENT 5/2/68 WPK

TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, JACKSON, KANSAS CITY,
MEMPHIS, MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS, ST. LOUIS, SAVANNAH AND
SPRINGFIELD

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861) 2P

MURKIN

IT IS NOTED THAT SUBJECT APPARENTLY WAS NEAT IN HIS
DRESS AND REGULARLY UTILIZED LAUNDRY AND DRY CLEANING
SERVICES.

THE ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, JACKSON, MEMPHIS, MOBILE AND
SAVANNAH OFFICES SHOULD GIVE CONSIDERATION TO CIRCULARIZING
IO'S AND/OR WANTED FLYERS TO ALL LAUNDRIES AND DRY
CLEANING ESTABLISHMENTS IN YOUR HEADQUARTERS CITY AND
OTHER LOGICAL POINTS IN YOUR TERRITORY. IN THE OTHER
OFFICES THIS CIRCULARIZATION MAY BE LIMITED TO SUCH
ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE LARGER CITIES AT THIS TIME. IT IS
SUGGESTED THAT THOSE ESTABLISHMENTS LOCATED IN THE LOWER
CLASS ROOMING HOUSE AREAS BE CONTACTED FIRST. IN ADDITION
PERSONAL CONTACT FOR PURPOSE OF SHOWING SLICK PHOTOGRAPHS
OF SUBJECT SHOULD BE UTILIZED WHERE JUSTIFIED.

END PAGE ONE

44-17410-1527

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 2 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*LAUNDRIES
FACILITIES*

PAGE TWO

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATELY FURNISH EACH OFFICE SUFFICIENT
BACKGROUND REGARDING LAUNDRY MARKINGS AND ANY OTHER
PERTINENT INFORMATION ON THE LAUNDRY ASPECTS OF THIS CASE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

HEP

FBI BIRMINGHAM

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

9 09A EDT URGENT 5/2/68 VSC

TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, LOS ANGELES, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY
AND SPRINGFIELD
FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION, MAY ONE, SIXTYEIGHT.

INDIVIDUAL KNOWN TO SOURCES IN HIPPIE AREA OF ATLANTA AND BELIEVED BY SOME TO BE IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT RAY, IDENTIFIED AND INTERVIEWED MAY ONE INSTANT. NAME PAUL SAXON, W/M, AGE FORTYSEVEN, FROM MISS. HE IS PROGRAMMER FOR OXFORD INDUSTRIES, ATLANTA. OTHER SOURCES IN HIPPIE AREA BEING CONTACTED ON REGULAR BASIS AND INVESTIGATION OF NARCOTICS PHASE CONTINUING.

EXPANDED AIRLINES CHECK CONTINUING. NEGATIVE TO DATE.

INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ABANDONED HERTZ RED REBEL AUTO AT BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT INDICATES CAR HAD BEEN RENTED AND NOT BELIEVED CONNECTED WITH THIS CASE. HOWEVER, LEAD SET FORTH TO INTERVIEW PERSON WHO RENTED CAR DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

JIMMIE DELTON GARNER REINTERVIEWED THIS DATE AT LENGTH. HE COULD FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFO.

END PAGE ONE

44-1740-1528

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
MAY 2 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

ABANDONED FARM OWNED BY ALLEGED LEADER OF MINUTEMEN IN RURAL AREA CHECKED MAY ONE. NO EVIDENCE OF HUMAN HABITATION OR BEING USED AS HIDE-OUT.

TAXICAB TRIP SHEETS OF PERTINENT PERIODS BEING SCRUTINIZED AND LOGICAL LEADS BEING CHECKED OUT.

CONTACT WITH INDIVIDUALS ADVERTISING CARS FOR SALE IN CLASSIFIED ADS OF ATLANTA NEWSPAPERS CONTINUING, NEGATIVE TO DATE.

INVESTIGATIONS OF ALL STOLEN CARS IN ATLANTA DURING PERTINENT PERIOD, INCLUDING THOSE FURNISHED BY NCIC CONTINUING. NO PERTINENT INFO OBTAINED TO DATE.

COMPLAINTS OF LOOK-A-LIKES BEING RECEIVED ON CONTINUING BASIS AND BEING CHECKED OUT.

PLACES FEATURING COUNTRY MUSIC CHECKED OUT WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

A & D. P

END

JGA

FBI BIRMGHAM

April 30, 1968

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO DIRECTOR(44-38861) AND LITTLE ROCK(157-1215)

FROM SAC, LOS ANGELES(44-1574)

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TEL TO BUREAU APRIL TWENTY-NINE LAST RE TELEPHONE BOOTHS, ST. FRANCIS HOTEL, LOS ANGELES AND LITTLE ROCK TEL TO BUREAU THIS DATE.

RE-CHECK OF PACIFIC TELEPHONE CO. RECORDS THIS DATE REVEAL THAT ON FEBRUARY SIXTEEN, SIXTY-EIGHT AT ONE FORTYSEVEN P.M. A COLLECT TELEPHONE CALL WAS PLACED TO AREA CODE FIVE ZERO ONE, TELEPHONE NUMBER SIX SIX FOUR DASH ONE FOUR SEVEN EIGHT FROM PUBLIC COIN TELEPHONE NUMBER TWO ONE THREE DASH FOUR SIX TWO DASH NINE NINE ONE ZERO. THE CALL LASTED FOR THREE MINUTES AND TWENTY-FOUR SECONDS. TOLL TICKET INDICATES PARTY RECEIVING CALL ACCEPTED CHARGES.

LITTLE ROCK SHOULD CHECK TELEPHONE COMPANY TOLL TICKETS FOR FEB. SIXTY-EIGHT FOR TELEPHONE NUMBER SIX SIX FOUR DASH ONE FOUR SEVEN EIGHT TO DETERMINE IF COLLECT CALL RECORDED. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] IF TOLL RECORD VERIFIES CALL, RE-INTERVIEW SUBSCRIBER IN ACCORDANCE WITH LEAD SET FORTH IN REFERENCED LOS ANGELES TEL DATED FOUR DASH TWENTYEIGHT LAST.

AIR MAIL COPIES SENT MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

1 - cc Memphis(44-1987)(AM)

1 - cc Birmingham(AM)

BDH/

44-1740-1529

B

[Handwritten signature]

4/26/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)

MURKIN

ALFRED T. LANG, Clerk, Charlotte County Court-
house, Punta Gorda, Florida, advised SA ERNEST J. KIRSTEIN,
JR., on 4/24/68, that he was a Clerk at the Duval County
Court Office, Jacksonville, Florida, from 1958, to June
1968. While in Jacksonville, he became acquainted with
the RAY brothers, JAMES RAY, ROBERT RAY, (FNU) RAY,
a fourth brother who was drowned four to five years ago,
and a fifth brother (FNU) RAY.

LANG was exhibited I. O. of JAMES EARL RAY
and he advised JAMES RAY of Jacksonville favored JAMES
EARL RAY. LANG stated that JAMES RAY of Jacksonville
was white; male; thirty-five to forty years of age; 5'10";
175 lbs.; with dark hair. LANG was not certain this indi-
vidual was, in fact, the same as JAMES EARL RAY.

LANG advised the RAY brothers were married,
that they had formerly been connected with a volunteer fire
department, the Oakwood Community Volunteer Fire Department,
and subsequently an audit of such records determined some
falseness and the Department was disbanded. Mr. LANG said

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- ② - Birmingham (44-1740) (RM)
- 2 - Jacksonville (44-789) (RM)
- 3 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
- 2 - Tampa

SJL:lp
(11)

44-1740-1530

B

[Handwritten signature]