

PAGE TWO

LA 44-1574

FORTY YEARS OF AGE, DARK COMPLEXION, WINO, LAST SEEN AT ST. FRANCIS HOTEL ON APRIL THIRTEEN OR FOURTEEN LAST. PENDLETON ADVISED DENNIS WAS NARCOTIC USER AND HE PRESUMED RAY SELMA ALSO A USER. (DENNIS HAS BEEN INTERVIEWED AT MILWAUKEE).

PHOTOGRAPHS OF JAMES EARL RAY SHOWN PENDLETON WHO STATED HE COULD NOT RECOGNIZE THEM AS IDENTICAL TO RAY SELMA.

PRIOR INVESTIGATION AT LOS ANGELES INDICATES RAY SELMA REFERRED TO BY PENDLETON MAY BE IDENTICAL TO RAY FERNANDEL. INVESTIGATION CONTINUES AT LOS ANGELES TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RAY FERNANDEL.

RE PUERTO VALLARTA

INVESTIGATION AT LOS ANGELES CONTINUES TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HOTEL GUESTS AT THIS RESORT AT SAME TIME AS SUBJECT. THOSE INTERVIEWED, NEGATIVE TO DATE.

RE QUOTE THE LOCAL SWINGER END QUOTE.

RECEIPIENTS OF "LOCAL SWINGER" INTERVIEWED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS RE WHEREABOUTS OF SUBJECT OR ANY CONTACT WITH HIM.

TELEPHONE SUBSCRIBERS ON VARIOUS LEADS ON LONG DISTANCE CALLS DECEMBER FIFTEEN THROUGH SEVENTEEN SIXTY SEVEN OBTAINED AND ALL BEING INTERVIEWED.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES.

AIR MAIL COPIES TO MILWAUKEE AND ATLANTA.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

TUO

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI MIAMI

751PM EST 5-6-68 URGENT RGT

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN

RE TAMPA TEL TO BUREAU MAY SIX, INSTANT.

REGARDING SUSPECT JESSE (LNU) RESIDENT BEAUNA
VISTA HOTEL, WEST PALM BEACH, FLA., WILLIAM COCKRIN,
MANAGER, THAT HOTEL, STATES RUDY JESSE SMITH REGISTERED
THERE APRIL NINETEEN, LAST AND HAS DEPARTED, ADDRESS
UNKNOWN. STATES SMITH DEFINITELY NOT IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.
SMITH AT LEAST SIX FEET TALL, LESS THAN THIRTY YEARS OLD, HAS
VERY CROOKED QUOTE DICK TRACY TYPE UNQUOTE NOSE AND LARGE PROMINENT
CHIN. SMITH OBVIOUSLY OF LOW MENTALITY, POSSIBLY MORON.

USC, NO FURTHER ACTION CONTEMPLATED REGARDING SMITH.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

2

44-1987-1632

[Handwritten signature]

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI TAMPA

8 33 PM URGENT 5/7/68 ALS

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

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL TO BUREAU AND TAMPA MAY SIX LAST.

TP TWENTY-FOUR - C AND GUY GARDNER, SECRETARY-TREASURER AND BUSINESS MANAGER, ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, INC., TAMPA, FLA., ADVISED THAT THE SHOW HAS NOT ISSUED "PERSONNEL IDENTIFICATION" CARDS DURING PAST TWENTY-ONE YEARS DURING TIME THEY HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE SHOW. DRAW RECEIPTS MADE AVAILABELE BY SPARKS WERE NOT ISSUED BY ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS. WITHDRAWAL FORMS USED BY ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS BEAR THE COMPLETE NAME OF THE SHOW. GARDNER RECALLED THAT DURING SHOWING IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, OCTOBER EIGHT THROUGH FIFTEEN LAST, IDENTIFICATION CARDS SIMILAR TO ONE PRESENTED BY SPARKS, WERE OFFERED FOR SALE BY UNKNOWN COMPANY AT SITE OF SHOW, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI.

RUSSELL C. BREWER OPERATED OPERATED RIDE BATCAVE DURING NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN. PRESENT ADDRESS NINE SIX THREE ZERO BURNSIDE PORTLAND, OREGON. TAMPA FAIR HELD FEBRUARY SIX THROUGH SEVENTEEN LAST.

END PAGE ONE

no need to cover

44-1740-1633

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McIntire

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

TED AND JOE WILLIAMS, OPERATORS OF COOKHOUSE, ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS, NOT AVAILABLE. WILL REJOIN ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS AT DAVENPORT, IOWA, JUNE ONE NEXT.

LEADS TO INTERVIEW BREWER AND WILLIAMS BEING LEFT TO DISCRETION OF BIRMINGHAM.

WITHDRAWAL FORMS AND MANIFEST CARD USED BY ROYAL AMERICAN SHOWS BEING SUBMITTED AMSD, BIRMINGHAM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

TITLE MURKIN YS OK

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

•

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P) DATE: 5/6/68

FROM : SA ALLEN J. GILSON, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re telephone call of SA NEIL G. MARTIN, Birmingham,
on 5/3/68.

Telephone conversation on Friday morning, 5/3/68, of SA NEIL G. MARTIN advised that a RODNEY GENTLE, who works for the Civil Defense Mobilization Board at Scottsboro, Alabama, telephoned and advised that a 1967 blue Stingray automobile, 1968 Alabama License 39-2400, was stolen from the County Square in Scottsboro, on 5/2/68. GENTLE advised that a person said one of the men who stole the car looked like JAMES EARL RAY. On 5/3/68, Mr. MAX ROBERTSON, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, advised that License 39-2400 belongs to a RODNEY GENTLE. Mr. ROBERTSON advised that GENTLE has a reputation in the Scottsboro, Alabama area as being a drunk and going on three and four day binges. ROBERTSON advised that he was on duty last night when GENTLE's wife came in about 12:00 midnight looking for her husband, whom she said was on a drunk. Mr. ROBERTSON further advised that the 1967 Stingray in question was found wrecked in Jackson County.

State Trooper BENNY LEVELL was contacted and advised he handled the wreck of the 1967 blue Stingray. Trooper LEVELL advised that the car was driven by Miss SUE MORRIS, 309 E Laurel Street, Scottsboro, Alabama. Trooper LEVELL advised that he interviewed Miss MORRIS and she advised that she was with RODNEY GENTLE until about 11:30 P.M., and she was driving his car. She advised him that he was in a drunken condition and she left him off and went to a party, and on the way to the party she wrecked the 1967 blue Stingray. Trooper LEVELL advised that during the interview with Miss MORRIS she advised that there was never another man in the car. This automobile is currently stored at Hardin Ford, Scottsboro, Alabama, in a wrecked condition.

In view of the above information, it is suggested that no further investigation be conducted concerning this lead.

AJG:cap
(3) *cap*



5010-108

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

44-1740-1634
13
[Handwritten signature]

F B I

Date: MAY 3, 1968

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, (44-38861)

FROM: NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)

MURKIN

RE: LETTER SIGNED BILLY BOB DAVID AND
~~XXXXXXXX~~
ASSOCIATES TURNED INTO MONROE, LA.POLICE DEPARTMENT JUNE TWENTY TWO
NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE.

WILLIAM R. DAVID, DALE TAYLOR, G.E. JOHNSON, DICKIE MC INTOSH AND KENT HALE HAVE ALL BEEN LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED. THEY ALL STILL RESIDE IN AREA OF CALHOUN, LA. THEY ALL ADVISE THEY HAVE NO INFORMATION ~~WHATEVER~~ WHATEVER RELATIVE TO THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY STATED THAT THE LETTER WRITTEN , BUT NOT MAILED, IN NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE WAS MERELY A PRANK OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND WAS NEVER INTENDED AS A THREAT AGAINST AGAINST THE PRESIDENT OR MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY ALL DENIED EVER BEING ASSOCIATED WITH ANY KLAN OR HATE*
~~xx~~ TYPE ORGANIZATION. WHEREABOUTS OF ABOVE PERSONS FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT ACCOUNTED FOR. *THEY ALL ADVISE THAT JAMES EARL RAY IS UNKNOWN TO THEM.*

RE: CONTACTS WITH MOTELS LOCATED

ALONG TULANE AVE. NEW ORLEANS

Approved: 1AAM copy to ME, BH, AT, L.A.

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 5:10 PMPer [Signature]

44-1740-1635

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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[Handwritten signature]

F B I

Date:

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

INASMUCH AS IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT JAMES EARL RAY WAS IN NEW ORLEANS PROBABLY ON THE EVENING OF MARCH TWENTY ONE SIXTY EIGHT, MOTELS LOCATED ALONG TULANE AVE WHICH IS ADJACENT TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA OF NEW ORLEANS WERE CONTACTED. MOTEL RECORDS CHECKED AND CONTAINED NO INFO IDENTIFIABLE WITH RAY UNDER HIS TRUE NAME OR KNOWN ALIASES. PERIOD CHECKED WAS FROM MARCH SEVENTEEN THRU TWENTY FOUR SIXTY EIGHT.

RE: CONTACT IN RESIDENTIAL AREA'S
KNOWN TO BE FREQUENTED BY HIPPIES.

CONTACTS IN ABOVE AREAS IN LOUISIANA BEING CONTINUED
AND TO DATE CONTACTS REGARDING JAMES ~~XXXX~~ EARL RAY IN
THESE AREAS HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE.

RE: INFORMANT CONTACTS

TO DATE CONTACTS WITH CRIMINAL AND APPROPRIATE
SECURITY AND RACIAL INFORMANTS HAVE BEEN UNPRODUCTIVE
IN REGARDS TO RAY. CONTACTS CONTINUING.

AM COPIES TO MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, ATLANTA AND LOS ANGELES.
INVESTIGATION AT NEW ORLEANS CONTINUING . ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P) DATE: 5/6/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

On 4/6/68, Mr. CHARLES C. DAWSON, 1723 11th Place South, Birmingham, personally appeared at the Birmingham Office of the FBI and advised that he desired to furnish some information concerning the KING assassination in Memphis, Tennessee. He advised that he and his wife occupy a downstairs apartment at 1723 11th Place South, and that on 3/30/68, a man and woman came to look at the upstairs apartment at 1723 11th Place South, and that they moved into this apartment on 4/1/68. He said that he has not observed this individual since this day, and pointed out that when he first observed this individual, he closely resembled ERIC STARVO GALT, being sought in connection with the KING assassination. He said that he did not know if this individual could be identical, but desired to furnish this information to the FBI for whatever action they deemed necessary.

On 4/7/68, SA's WILLIAM A. SAUCIER and ROBERT M. BARRETT contacted Mrs. MALTA VINES, 1727 11th Place South, who advised that she owns the property at 1723 11th Place South, which consists of a downstairs apartment and upstairs apartment. She said that Mr. CHARLES C. DAWSON and wife occupy the downstairs portion, and that Mr. JOHNNIE RAY SHORE and wife occupy the upstairs apartment, having moved in on 4/2/68. She said that Mr. SHORE allegedly is employed at a filling station and described him around 30 years of age, 5'10", 160 pounds, with light brown hair.

On the same date, JOHNNIE RAY SHORE was contacted at the above residence, and through personal observation, it was determined that he was not identical with ERIC STARVO GALT.

WAS:cap
(3) *cap*

44-1740-1636
B

jae



5010-108

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

5/8/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769) (P)
SUBJ: MURKIN

Re Birmingham tel 5/3/68 re JAMES CURTIS WOODS.

Records Bureau of Vital Statistics, Jacksonville, Florida, reflect no death record on information or dates supplied in referenced tel.

Records do reflect JAMES CURTIS WOODS died 11/7/67 at Inverness, Citrus County, Florida. He was a resident of Starnes Park, Gadsden, Alabama. He was described as white male, age 56, born Alabama, unemployed and died of a heart blockage. He was buried at the Clayton Cemetery, Clayton, Alabama.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

discontinued re him -

2 - Bureau
2 - Memphis
2 - Birmingham (44-1740)
2 - Jacksonville (1 - 66-297)
TJW:rhv
(9)

44-1740-1637

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY - 8 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Know - 1 km

Joe Seame

F B I

Date: 5/6/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plain text or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SAC BALTIMORE (44-669)

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

MURKIN

REBATEL TO EP MAY SIX INSTANT.

RE PASSENGER RESEMBLING RAY ON AMERICAN AIRLINES
FLIGHT THREE THREE EIGHT.

MRS. JODY FARMER, TICKET SALESMAN, AIRLINES
TRAFFIC OFFICE, FORT BLISS, TEXAS, ADVISED THIS DATE
PRIVATE PAUL E. REID WAS ACCOMPANIED ON AMERICAN AIRLINES
FLIGHT THREE THREE EIGHT TO BALTIMORE APRIL SIX LAST BY
PRIVATES JAMES D. FERGUSON, RA ONE EIGHT EIGHT ONE FOUR
EIGHT SIX EIGHT; SIDNEY J. BACA, RA FIVE FOUR FOUR NINE
THREE SEVEN SIX FIVE; LARRY R. LARK, RA ONE EIGHT EIGHT ONE

1 El Paso
1 Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
① Birmingham (44-1740) (AM)
1 New York (44-1609) (AM)
DJR:CLB

(4)

44-1740-1638

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in ChargeSent _____ M Per [Signature]

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority)EP 157-186
PAGE TWO

FOUR EIGHT SEVEN TWO; AND WAYNE J. PRESTON, RA ONE FIVE
EIGHT SEVEN FIVE THREE ZERO FIVE. POST LOCATER, FORT
BLISS, ADVISED ALL FOUR ASSIGNED TO USAAC AND S, ABERDEEN.

BA INTERVIEW FOUR ABOVE LISTED INDIVIDUALS IN
ACCORDANCE WITH SAME INSTRUCTIONS FOR INTERVIEW OF
PRIVATE REID.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM, AND
NEW YORK.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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

5/6/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND
SAC, DALLAS (44-2649)

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

MURKIN.

RE DL TEL TO DIRECTOR, MAY THREE, LAST.

RE TELEPHONE CALLS BY SUBJECT RAY EN ROUTE FROM LOS
ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS.

LEAD, PAGE TWO, RETEL, RE TELEPHONE CALL FROM ALPINE,
TEXAS, DECEMBER FIFTEEN, LAST, ELEVEN FIFTY P.M., TO FIVE
FOUR FOUR DASH ONE ONE EIGHT ONE, EL PASO, DETERMINED TO BE
TELEPHONE NUMBER OF AMERICAN AIRLINES. AMERICAN AIRLINES
REPRESENTATIVE, EL PASO, ADVISED THIS DATE ABOVE TELEPHONE
NUMBER ANSWERED ONLY AT AMERICAN AIRLINES OFFICE, GREATER
SOUTHWEST AIRPORT, FT. WORTH, TEXAS.

DALLAS HANDLE.

AM COPIES MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 1 - El Paso
- ① - Birmingham (44-1740) (AM)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)

DJR/bad
(3)

44-1740-1639

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5/6/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND
SAC, LOS ANGELES

FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)

MURKIN.

RE EP AIRTEL TO DIRECTOR, COPIES TO LA, DATED APRIL
THIRTY, LAST.

RE TELEPHONE CALLS BY SUBJECT RAY ENROUTE FROM LOS
ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS.

DALLAS TEL TO DIRECTOR, MAY ONE, LAST, SET OUT INFO
FROM RECORDS, SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE CO., LUBBOCK,
TEXAS, THAT TELEPHONE CALL WAS MADE FROM ALPINE, TEXAS,
DECEMBER SIXTEEN, LAST, SEVEN ZERO SIX PM, TO FIVE THREE
THREE DASH FIVE FOUR ONE ONE, EL PASO.

THIS NUMBER BELONGS TO CONTINENTAL AIRLINES. CONTINENTAL
AIRLINES REPRESENTATIVE, EL PASO, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT
ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBER ONLY ANSWERED BY CONTINENTAL HOME
OFFICE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

LOS ANGELES CHECK OUT ABOVE CAR PER BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS
SET OUT IN REFERENCED AIRTEL.

AIR MAIL COPIES BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS, AND DALLAS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

1-El Paso
1-Birmingham (44-1740) (AM)
1-Dallas (44-2649) (AM)
1-Memphis (44-1987) (AM)

DJR/bad
(4)

44-1740-1640

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FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

JRS

F B I

Date: 5/6/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (157-186) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re SA airtel to the Bureau, 5/3/68.

RE: TELEPHONE CALLS BY SUBJECT RAY ENROUTE
FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS

Referenced airtel sets out information to the effect that there was no such place as Fratt, Texas, telephone number 512-655-1196.

On 5/6/68, SA JACK KEMMY, San Antonio Office, was advised of the following by FTS telephone call:

It had been determined that the telephone call made on 12/17/67, from Van Horn, Texas, had been directed to San Antonio, Texas, and not Fratt, Texas, the telephone number in San Antonio being 512 655 1196.

SA KEMMY advised that the San Antonio Office would check out this telephone number.

3-Bureau
2-Memphis (44-1997)
①-Birmingham (44-1740) (Info)
2-San Antonio (44-1242)
1-El Paso

DJR:s1
(9)

44-1740-1641

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MAY - 8 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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

5/7/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Birmingham teletype to Director, 5/3/68.

Enclosed herewith for the Memphis Office is one photograph of TOM BRITTON, MSP #10980 and 3 pages from his penitentiary file containing complete background information regarding him. This is being furnished per request of referenced communication to assist in locating BRITTON in the Birmingham area.

3 - Bureau
2 - Birmingham
2 - Memphis (Enc. 4)
2 - Kansas City
RBH:WSA
(9)

Me - will send encs to BH

44-1740-1642

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

JAL

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 17, 19681

WAYNE RUSSELL, Assistant Auditor, Exchange Security Bank, Birmingham, Alabama, advised that when a customer purchases a bank draft, the customer will fill out a requisition form or application, or may submit to the teller a piece of paper containing necessary information for the preparation of a bank draft, and that this will be submitted to a teller, who will then type out the original and two copies of the bank draft, and will then have one of the bank officers sign the draft as the authorized signer.

The original draft and one copy will be returned to the customer and the second copy will be retained by the bank for their records. The application or requisition form or piece of paper handed to the teller will then be destroyed at the end of the day.

On 4/16/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740 - 16
by SA ROBERT J. YARNALL:cap Date dictated 4/17/68

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 17, 19681

A review of records of the Exchange Security Bank, Birmingham, disclosed that on September 28, 1967, ERIC S. GALT purchased a bank draft [REDACTED] from the Exchange Security Bank's Five Points South Branch Office.

This draft was dated September 28, 1967, made payable to Superior Balk Film Company, in the amount of \$337.24, and was drawn on the City National Bank of New York, New York, and authorized signature contained thereon was BOB SELLERS. This draft did not contain any endorsement.

In the event the above document is to be introduced in court, a subpoena duces tecum should be addressed to BOB CRADDOCK, Exchange Security Bank, Birmingham, Alabama.

On 4/16/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740-1648
by SA ROBERT J. YARNALL:cap Date dictated 4/17/68

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.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740) (P)

DATE: 4/26/68

FROM : SA DAVID T. DALY

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO:ME

ReMeairtel to all continental offices, 4/19/68.

Referenced airtel advised that the FBI Laboratory stated that a pillowcase and bed sheet were found in the trunk of the 1966 Mustang registered to GALT which was located in Atlanta, 4/11/68.

These items contained Thermo-Seal laundry tapes of approximately the same size as tapes on items previously recovered but were yellow in color and contain the code "20R-3".

In the opinion of the Textile Marketing Machine Company, Syracuse, New York, the tapes were produced by a different machine than previous tapes, since the first three characters are 15 point type and the last two characters are 18 point type.

The company suggests the 20 in the above code would be the lot number; the R may mean that this was a return of a batch of laundry; and the 3 is the bundle number.

The Memphis Division set forth a lead for all offices to recontact laundries determined to be operating the Thermo-Seal marking machines in an effort to locate laundry using the code 20R-3.

The following should be recontacted in the Birmingham Division:

DTD:scb
(3)

scb

No!

*See me a/t 4/25
to Discontinue*

44-1740-1649

[Handwritten signatures and initials]



5010-108

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

BH 44-1740

AT HUNTSVILLE, ALA.:

Homer L. Corum, 2508 Memorial Parkway, South;
Oakwood College, Laundry Dept., Huntsville;
JAMES F. O'DELL, Huntsville, Alabama;
White Swan Laundry, Huntsville, Ala.

AT TUSCALOOSA, ALA.:

Northington's Laundry.

AT BIRMINGHAM, ALA.:

Aladin Laundry; and
Mayfield Cleaners

FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

FBI WASH DC

708PM URGENT 5/7/68 LCC

TO ALL SACS RELAY MESSAGE PLAN
FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN

TWO ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY WERE RELEASED TODAY TO NEWS MEDIA IN WASHINGTON. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER ONE SHOULD BEAR CAPTION "JAMES EARL RAY (PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN IN MEXICO)." THIS IS THE PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY IN DARK GLASSES AND SPORT SHIRT. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER TWO SHOULD BEAR CAPTION "JAMES EARL RAY (PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT IN CALIFORNIA)." THIS IS HEAD SHOT OF RAY IN BUSINESS SUIT WHICH SHOWS MARKED CLEFT IN CHIN. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPRODUCE COPIES OF THESE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS LOCALLY AND YOU SHOULD INSURE THEY RECEIVE WIDE-SPREAD DISTRIBUTION THROUGH ALL MEDIA CONTACTS. FIVE COPIES OF EACH OF THESE PHOTOGRAPHS PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED ALL OFFICES. LEGATS OTTAWA AND MEXICO ADVISED.

END

GDM

FBI BIRMGHAM

TUO

44-1740-1650

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 7 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

[Signature]

•
FBI BIRMGHAM

FBI ATLANTA

7:57PM

THIS A RELAY MESSAGE

F B I

Date: 5/8/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI, KANSAS CITY, MEMPHIS
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN

THOMAS BRITTON, HALEYVILLE, ALABAMA, REINTERVIEWED IN DEPTH CONCERNING KNOWLEDGE OF JAMES EARL RAY. BRITTON ADVISED HE WAS RECEIVED IN MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY SEPTEMBER SIXTY FIVE, AND AFTER PERIOD OF QUAR^{an}TINE, ASSIGNED TO "J" HALL DURING NOVEMBER SIXTY FIVE. FIRST MADE ACQUAINTANCE OF RAY, WHO WAS ALREADY ASSIGNED TO J HALL, AS THE "WALK BOY". ADVISED RAY'S DUTIES AS WALK BOY WERE TO TAKE ORDERS FOR CIGARETTES, CANDY, ETC., WHICH COULD BE PURCHASED WITHIN PRISON, AND TO BRING HOT WATER TO PRISONERS. SAID RAY ONLY WALK BOY IN J HALL AND THEREFORE WAS FREE TO CONTACT ANY INMATES AND COULD MOVE THROUGHOUT HALL FREELY. STATED FIRST CONVERSATION WITH RAY TOOK PLACE WHEN RAY OBSERVED HIM READING BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA POST HERALD NEWSPAPER, WHICH HE HAD SUBSCRIPTION TO WHILE IN PRISON. RAY INQUIRED OF HIM IF HE WAS FROM STATE OF ALABAMA AND SAID HE HAD VISITED OR STAYED IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA AREA IN PAST AND MENTIONED SEVERAL TAVERNS

WAS:scb
(1)

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 11A 230 PM M

Per [Signature]

44-1740-1651
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

LOCATED IN JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA, WHICH WERE KNOWN TO BRITTON. STATED RAY NEVER MENTIONED ANY ASSOCIATES, ACQUAINTANCES, FRIENDS, RELATIVES OR EMPLOYMENTS, STATE OF ALABAMA. HE ADVISED CONVERSATION ENDED WITH RAY ASKING HIM IF HE COULD HAVE HIS BIRMINGHAM NEWSPAPERS WHEN HE FINISHED READING THEM EACH DAY, WHICH WAS AGREEABLE TO BRITTON. BRITTON ADVISED THEREAFTER RAY ^{Came} ~~WOULD COME~~ BY HIS CELL EACH EVENING AND PICK UP HIS NEWSPAPER, WHICH HE WOULD PLACE BETWEEN THE CELL BARS.

HE SAID ~~THAT~~ RAY NEVER DISCUSSED HIS FAMILY, NOR DID HE EVER INDICATE FROM WHICH PART OF THE UNITED STATES HE CAME. ~~FROM.~~ ~~HE ADVISED THAT~~ HE BELIEVED RAY TO BE FROM THE SOUTH ONLY BECAUSE HE NEVER INDICATED WHERE HE WAS FROM, COUPLED WITH HIS INTEREST IN A SOUTHERN NEWSPAPER.

HE STATED ~~THAT~~ HE PERSONALLY GAVE RAY HIS PRESENT ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER ON ONE OCCASION, TELLING RAY TO STOP BY SOMETIME IF HE EVER GOT OUT OF PRISON AND THEY WOULD HAVE A DRINK TOGETHER. BRITTON SAID ~~THAT~~ RAY DID NOT ASK HIM FOR HIS ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AND THAT HE MERELY FURNISHED HIM THIS, KNOWING THAT HE WAS DOING A TWENTY YEAR SENTENCE AND MORE THAN LIKELY HE WOULD NEVER AGAIN SEE RAY AFTER HE LEFT PRISON. HE STATED ~~THAT~~ WHEN HE GAVE

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RAY HIS ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER, ^{RAY} ~~HE~~ REPLIED, "DON'T BE SURPRISED IF I CALL YOU UP SOMETIME".

BRITTON SAID ~~THAT~~ RAY WAS A VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL, SOFT SPOKEN, NEVER LAUGHED OR ENJOYED A GOOD STORY, SOLEMN FACED, AND REMAINED TO HIMSELF MOST OF THE TIME. ~~HE SAID THAT~~ HE WOULD OFTEN SEE RAY IN THE PRISON YARD AND ON OCCASIONS ATTEMPTED TO STRIKE UP A CONVERSATION WITH RAY, BUT HE NEVER APPEARED INTERESTED, SO HE GAVE UP TRYING TO MAKE CONVERSATION.

~~HE ADDED THAT~~ THE ONLY TOPIC WHICH WOULD AROUSE RAY'S INTEREST WAS THE SUBJECT OF MONEY. HE STATED ~~THAT~~ ON ONE OCCASION DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH RAY, HE WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW HE WAS GOING TO MAKE BIG MONEY WHEN HE GOT OUT OF PRISON BY ROBBING BANKS, ETC. HE SAID RAY AT THIS TIME MADE THE STATEMENT, "I HAVE A PLAN AND WHEN I GET OUT, I AM GOING TO MAKE BIG MONEY, AND IT IS NOT GOING TO BE ROBBING BANKS." ~~HE SAID THAT~~ HE ASKED RAY WHAT HIS PLAN WAS, TO WHICH ^{RAY} ~~HE~~ REPLIED, "THE BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION HAS OFFERED ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR KILLING MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND HE'S FIVE YEARS PAST DUE". BRITTON SAID HE THEN ASKED RAY WHAT THE BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION WAS, TO WHICH HE REPLIED, "I DON'T

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KNOW BUT I WILL FIND OUT." BRITTON SAID THAT THIS WAS THE FIRST AND LAST TIME RAY EVER MENTIONED MARTIN LUTHER KING, NOR DID HE EVER AGAIN MENTION THE BUSINESS MEN'S ASSOCIATION IN HIS PRESENCE.

HE SAID ~~THAT~~ RAY TOLD HIM HE ALWAYS WORKED ALONE AND THEREFORE LIMITED THE POSSIBILITY OF BEING CAUGHT AND SAID, "I HAVE GOT A PLACE PICKED OUT WHERE I CAN HIDE", NEVER MENTIONING WHERE THE PLACE WAS LOCATED.

BRITTON STATED ~~THAT~~ THERE WAS A PRISON CIGARETTE LOTTERY GOING ON ALMOST DAILY IN J HALL AND THAT RAY WAS INVOLVED IN THIS LOTTERY, DELIVERING WAGERING TICKETS AS WELL AS PICKING THESE UP AND WOULD DELIVER THE WINNINGS EACH NIGHT. HE SAID THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE LOTTERIES IN J HALL, ~~ONE~~ RUN BY TWO INMATES, ^{one} NAMED JOHNNY VALENTI AND ^{another} A FELLOW FROM ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, NAME UNKNOWN, DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, ITALIAN, AGE FORTY-THREE TO FORTY-SIX, DARK COMPLEXION, WITH GUN-SHOT WOUND IN FACE, AND NICKNAME "DAGO". HE SAID OTHER LOTTERY IN J HALL RUN BY INDIVIDUAL, NICKNAME "BOSTON", WHO WAS DOING TWENTY YEARS, DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, FORTY-FIVE YEARS, VERY SHORT, AND OCCUPIED EITHER CELL TWENTY-THREE, TWENTY-FOUR OR TWENTY-FIVE ON THE FLAG IN J HALL, MEANING FIRST FLOOR.

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HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT LIKE VALENTI'S ODDS, SO HE ALWAYS PLACED HIS WAGERS WITH "BOSTON". STATED RAY WOULD HANDLE WAGERS, SINCE HE COULD TALK TO ANYBODY IN CELL BLOCK AND WAS REIMBURSED BY VALENTI AND BOSTON FOR THIS SERVICE.

BRITTON ESTIMATED THAT THERE WERE APPROXIMATELY TWO DOZEN LOTTERIES BEING OPERATED IN MSP WHICH CONSISTS OF FIVE SEPARATE HALLS HOUSING PRISONERS.

BRITTON SAID THAT HE NEVER SAW RAY RUN NARCOTICS OR HANDLE CONTRABAND AT ANY TIME AND ON ONE OCCASION, RAY SHOWED HIM HIS ARMS TO PROVE THAT HE HAD NEVER BEEN ADDICTED TO NARCOTICS. HE ADDED THAT HE NEVER OBSERVED RAY WITH ANY LARGE SUMS OF MONEY.

BRITTON WAS QUESTIONED CONCERNING THE COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION", AND STATED THIS WAS A PROTECTOR AND ENFORCER ORGANIZATION THAT OPERATED IN THE PRISON. HE STATED THAT WHILE ~~IN~~^{EN} ROUTE TO MSP, HE WAS LODGED IN THE COUNTY JAIL IN SPRINGFIELD, MO. FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH A PRISONER, FNU CRAIG, WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS A FOUR TIME LOSER. HE SAID THAT CRAIG HAS A BROTHER WHO IS A DETECTIVE ON THE SPRINGFIELD, MO. PD. HE ADVISED THAT CRAIG HAD PREVIOUSLY SERVED TIME AT MSP AND WAS BEING RETURNED TO MSP. HE SAID WHEN CRAIG LEARNED HE ALSO WAS ~~ON~~^{EN} ROUTE TO MSP,

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HE ADVISED HIM TO JOIN THE COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION AT MSP SINCE HE WOULD NEED TO GET ALONG WITH PRISONERS AND BY BEING A MEMBER, HE COULD OBTAIN "SPECIAL FAVORS". CRAIG ALSO INFORMED HIM THAT THE COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION WOULD SETTLE ANY GRIEVANCES HE MAY HAVE AGAINST OTHER PRISONERS AND THAT THIS WAS A VERY POWERFUL ORGANIZATION AT MSP, HAVING INFLUENCE WITH GUARDS AND COULD EVEN ARRANGE "A MURDER".

BRITTON SAID AFTER QUARANTINE, HE SAW CRAIG, WHO WAS WORKING IN MESS HALL AT MSP. HE APPROACHED CRAIG AND TOLD HIM HE DESIRED TO JOIN THE COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION AND GAVE HIM A TEN DOLLAR CANTEEN BOOK, POINTING OUT THAT MEMBERSHIP FEE TO JOIN WAS TEN DOLLARS, WHICH WOULD LAST AS LONG AS AN INDIVIDUAL WAS IN PRISON. CRAIG ADVISED BRITTON THAT HE WOULD GET HIM HIS MEMBERSHIP, AND THE SAME NIGHT, JAMES EARL RAY CAME TO HIS CELL AND SAID, "HERE IS YOUR CARD", AND NOTHING ELSE, AND THEREFORE HE ALWAYS FELT RAY WAS A MEMBER SINCE HE WAS SO TRUSTED. RAY NEVER SAID HE WAS A MEMBER, NOR DID HE ASK HIM.

HE SAID THIS MEMBERSHIP CARD WAS TYPE-WRITTEN WITH HIS NAME ON IT AND HAD THE HEADING THEREON "MEMBERSHIP, COOLEY'S CLUB". HE SAID THAT THIS CARD WAS LIKE A CREDIT CARD AND IT COULD GET A

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PERSON CREDIT OR PURCHASES OF CANDY, ETC., BUT COULD NOT BE USED FOR CREDIT WITH LOTTERIES.

BRITTON SAID THAT HE HAD TWO OR THREE DIFFERENCES WITH PRISONERS OVER WAGERS AND UPON GETTING NO SATISFACTION, HE PERSONALLY CONTACTED FNU CRAIG IN THE MESS HALL, AT WHICH TIME HE DISPLAYED HIS MEMBERSHIP CARD AND FILED HIS COMPLAINT WITH CRAIG. CRAIG INFORMED HIM THAT HE WOULD HANDLE THIS GRIEVANCE; HOWEVER, THE FEE FOR HANDLING A GRIEVANCE WAS FIFTY PERCENT OF WHAT WAS DUE ~~to~~ A PRISONER. HE SAID THAT SUBSEQUENTLY RAY APPEARED AT HIS CELL WITH HIS SHARE OF THE CIGARETTES COLLECTED FROM HIS GRIEVANCE.

HE ADDED THAT CRAIG WAS LATER TRANSFERRED FROM THE MESS HALL TO THE CHURCH FARM OUTSIDE THE PRISON WALL. HE SAID THAT PRIOR TO CRAIG'S DEPARTURE, CRAIG CONTACTED HIM AND INSTRUCTED HIM WHO TO SEE TO TAKE CARE OF FUTURE COMPLAINTS IN THE MESS HALL, BUT BRITTON WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH ANY DESCRIPTION OR NAME OF THIS INDIVIDUAL SINCE HE NEVER FILED COMPLAINT WITH HIM AND WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE RENZ FARM LOCATED OUTSIDE THE PRISON.

HE ADDED THAT THE COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION WAS OPERATING WHEN HE ARRIVED AND WAS STILL DOING BUSINESS WHEN HE DEPARTED AND HE FELT THIS OPERATION HAD BEEN STARTED BY "OLD CONS WHO ARE NOW

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TRUSTEES AND WHO RESIDE IN A HALL WHICH IS TRUSTY BARRACK".

HE SAID THAT DURING THE TIME RAY WAS ASSIGNED TO J HALL, HE ATTEMPTED ^{AN} ~~TO~~ ESCAPE, WHICH WAS UNSUCCESSFUL, AND THEREAFTER HE NEVER SAW RAY AGAIN, SINCE RAY WAS NOT RETURNED TO J HALL AND HE WENT TO RENZ FARM.

BRITTON SAID THAT THE INMATES LOCATED ON EITHER SIDE OF HIS CELL IN J HALL, FNU SPRATT, CELL ONE EIGHTY SEVEN, AND GENE LNU, CELL ONE NINETY, ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE AND OVERPOWERED GUARD, TAKING GUARD'S UNIFORM, THEN MADE SUCCESSFUL ESCAPE. ADVISED THAT INMATE, NAME UNKNOWN, WHO OCCUPIED CELL ONE EIGHTY NINE, WAS LOTTERY PLAYER AND THAT POSSIBLY INMATE, NAME UNKNOWN, NICKNAME "COWBOY", HOLDING TENDER IN CHARGE OF CONVICTS J HALL, COULD POSSIBLY FURNISH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING RAY AND THE COOLEY'S ORGANIZATION.

KANSAS CITY, ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY INMATES FNU CRAIG, FNU SPRATT, GENE LNU, "COWBOY", "BOSTON", "DAGO", ALL INMATES J HALL, AND DESCRIBED ABOVE. WILL INTERVIEW EACH INMATE CONCERNING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF RAY AND IF NO LONGER INCARCERATED, OBTAIN ADDRESS OF RECORD AND SET FORTH LEADS TO HAVE THEM INTERVIEWED. PROTECT IDENTITY OF BRITTON WHEN ~~ALL ABOVE~~ INTERVIEWS ARE CONDUCTED AND IN ANY LEADS SET FORTH.

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BIRMINGHAM, DURING INTERVIEW WITH BRITTON, INFORMED HIM OF THE POSSIBILITY OF A ^{PAYMENT} GRATUITY FOR SERVICES RENDERED, BUT NO SPECIFIC AMOUNT STATED. HE APPEARS TO BE SOMEWHAT INTERESTED; HOWEVER ~~MADE NO STATEMENT AS TO AMOUNTS~~. *Comment. He stated not interested in posted reward because he feared Coley Organization if it were claimed.*

BIRMINGHAM MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH BRITTON FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, COUPLED WITH FACT RAY MAY ATTEMPT CONTACT.

BIRMINGHAM OBTAINING TOLL CALLS ON BRITTON'S TELEPHONE AND WILL INTERVIEW BRITTON'S WIFE THIS DATE. TAVERNS MENTIONED BY RAY AS HAVING ^{been} FREQUENTED ^{BY RAY} IN THE PAST BEING CONTACTED. *NO attempt to being made*

to END. verify newspaper subscription as this would alert press. James BROWN ex-convict being re-interviewed.

A q D.

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Special Agent in Charge

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Date: 5-7-68

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Via Airtel _____

(Priority)

To: SAC, Birmingham

✓ From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Re Marvin P. Littrell.

Enclosed for Birmingham are two copies of a (S) communication from CIA regarding information received from Roderick Claflin Brown, a Panamanian. Also enclosed are two copies of the translation of a Spanish language deposition made by Brown, as well as two copies of a letter dated 2-2-63, addressed to Brown from Marvin P. Littrell. One copy of each is enclosed for Memphis.

Birmingham, conduct necessary investigation to eliminate Littrell or to establish him as a co-conspirator in this case.

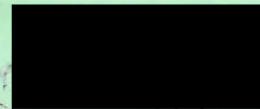
No pertinent identifiable information was located in Bureau files regarding Brown or Littrell.

Enc. (6)

1 - Memphis (Enc. 3)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT
WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

10/13/01
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44-1740-1646

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MAY 8 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

2 MAY 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

SUBJECT : Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr.

1. Reference is made to this Agency's out message number 94270 dated 25 April 1968 concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr.

2. On 16 April Roderick Claflin BROWN, a Panamanian national born 1 July 1917 in British Honduras, voluntarily appeared at the Department of National Investigations (DENI) of the Republic of Panama and signed a deposition, the highlights of which are as follows:

(1) On 26 October 1962 he served as cook/seaman aboard the Texaco S.S. Southhampton which docked at Mobile, Alabama.

(2) While on a shore visit to the Mobile airport on the morning of 26 October 1962 in the company of two fellow Panamanian seamen, he was approached by Marvin P. LITTRELL, owner of LITTRELL Motor Co., 921-25 South Clinton Street, Athens, Alabama, who after ascertaining BROWN was a Panamanian seaman, asked if he knew of Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr.

(3) LITTRELL inquired whether BROWN was interested in employment, the details of which were unspecified. He went on to describe Dr. KING as "Our greatest problem who is causing us much trouble." He gave BROWN a business card to use in the event he was interested in pursuing the employment offer.

(4) On 28 January 1963 BROWN wrote LITTRELL from New York City, stating he was interested in a job and

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requested \$75 for travel from New York City to Mobile. On 2 February 1963 BROWN received a reply from LITTRELL, restating that he had a job waiting for BROWN in Alabama, but questioning why \$75 was needed since the fare was less than \$40 by bus.

(5) After discussions with a relative and friends in New York City, BROWN suspected that the LITTRELL job offer was related with assassination plans for Dr. KING. Therefore he did not respond to the LITTRELL letter and dismissed the incident until the death of Dr. KING in April 1968. BROWN returned to Panama in 1964.

3. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the LITTRELL letter and the Spanish language deposition made by BROWN, as well as an English translation of the deposition as described in paragraph 2 of the referenced out message.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS:

Signed: James R. Hunt

JAMES ANGLETON

CSCI-316/01702-68

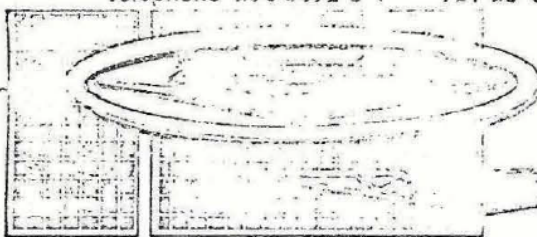
3 Enclosures

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LITRELL MOTOR CO.

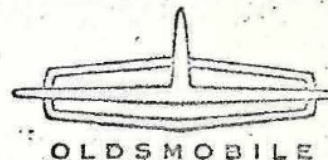
Telephone 232-5592-3-4 921-25 So. Clinton St. - U. S. 72 Bypas

ATHENS, ALABAMA



CHEVROLET

CORVETTE



OLDSMOBILE

February 2, 1963

Roderick C Brown
c/o B.L. Brown
318 165 St Apt 2 B
Bronx 53, N.Y.

Dear Rod:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 28th concerning our conversation at the Mobile Ala Airport last October.

Please be advised that I have a job waiting for you in Alabama as soon as you are able to make your arrangements to come here, however, I do not understand why you need \$ 75.00 when a bus ticket from New York to Alabama costs less than \$ 40.00.

I am willing to help you in any way that I can but I am not clear on this part of your letter and will expect to hear from you again.

Very truly yours,

M. P. Littrell

Marvin P. Littrell

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44-1740-1644

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Report submitted by Roderick Claflin Brown

In Panama City at 2:45 p.m. on 18 April 1968, Roderick Claflin Brown appeared before the undersigned Chief of the Homicide Section of the National Investigation Department to submit a report dealing with the present investigation. Unsworn and without any hurry, and in complete liberty to answer or not the question put to him. Asked to identify himself, he said his name is as given, male, Honduran national, Negro, 50 years old, born on [REDACTED] in British Honduras; married, barber by trade, son of Charles T. Brown (deceased) and Drucilla Elizabeth Castro de Brown, with personal Identity Card [REDACTED] residing at Pueblo Nuevo, Calle 5, house # 4505, room #3, lower floor.

QUESTION: Declarant, explain the reason why you have come to the Homicide Section today?

ANSWER: Because of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, about which I learned from the press, radio, and television in this country; after thinking over the problem that the United States was living through because of the crime against Dr. King, and having gone through an experience there in the United States that may throw some light on that crime. I communicated to a friend of mine here in Panama City, and he advised me to talk to Inspector Córdoba, of the National Investigation Department; the latter suggested that I present and sign a declaration to that effect, and I gave him a letter which I am keeping to have a photo-copy made so that it can be added to my declaration. On 18 April 1962 I left Tocumen airport here in Panama City, for Port of Spain, where I was to go on board the SS SOUTHAMPTON TEXACO, on which I was to be the cook. I was employed on this ship for six months: I travelled throughout Africa, Venezuela, Trinidad, Canada, and Mobile, Alabama. We arrived in Alabama on 26 October 1962 around 10:30 in the morning. We left the pier toward the Mobile airport at 12:30 P.M. along with two friends who were also sailors on their way to Panama, Pedro ROUSE, son of Dr. Pedro ROUSE, and Victor RODMAN, who lives at #5268 1st St., Juan Díaz, here in Panama City.

While waiting for the airplane Mr. Marvin LITRELL called me to his table in the airport cafeteria. Up to that moment I did not know his name nor had I met him. Later on he asked me to have a cup of coffee, and he asked the following question: "Are you students or tourists?" I replied that we were neither, only sailors on our way to Panama or home. He kept asking questions, and asked if I had visited the United States previously, and whether I liked the U.S. I answered that I did not like the United States, I simply adored it, which gave way to more questions.

He asked if I would like to stay. I asked how I could do that, and he replied: "My Party is in power." Besides, he owned one or two automobile dealerships, and owned real state.

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For that reason he could get favors from the government at anytime. That is when he said: "I'll employ you, and get an apartment for you." But he then asked me a question: "Do you know Martin Luther King?" I replied that I did not, but that I had read something about him and his activities. Then Mr. Littrell said: "This man is the only problem that we have in our way; he is causing us a great deal of inconvenience." I said that our time at the airport was very limited, and we were to leave in ten or fifteen minutes, and for that reason we could not evaluate our conversation carefully.

At that moment he took one of his cards, and said: "As soon as you get to Panama write to me at this address if you are interested in working for me."

When I left his table I told Pedro and Victor about the subject of conversation, and we all agreed that what this man wanted was for us to kill Dr. Luther King, and we reached that conclusion because of the conversation with Mr. Littrell.

On that occasion we returned to Panama, but upon reaching Miami, Florida, around 10:30 P.M., I was told at the airport that I could not leave for Panama because I needed a visa in order to return. I immediately went to Immigration at the airport and reported what was happening to me, and with the aid of Immigration I was able to find the agent of the ship in which I travelled, and he got me a room at the airport hotel.

Because this happened on a weekend I had to stay at the airport until Monday, when I got to the Panamanian Embassy and got a visa; arriving in Panama on 31 October 1962.

I was in Panama during the celebration of the national holidays, and on 5 November I got a visa for New York. I stayed in Panama until 23 December and left for New York at 12:05 on 24 December and arrived in the airport in New York at 12:30 the same day.

I stayed in New York until 28 January 1963. While in New York I decided to write to Mr. Marvin P. LITRELL to get more information about the job about which we had talked. It was then that I received the letter dated 2 February 1963, copy of which, signed by Mr. Littrell, is in the photocopy that I am giving to this office. I am keeping the original. In the letter that I sent him I asked him to send me \$75 (US), which I was to use on a trip to Mobile, Alabama.

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I did not know how much the ticket from New York to Alabama was, but I thought that \$75 was sufficient for the trip, because I had previously travelled from New York to New Orleans by train and it had cost me only \$46, and thinking that Mobile, Alabama, was farther down than New Orleans, it was going to cost more than \$45.

But this gentleman told me in his reply that he did not understand why I needed \$75, since bus fare from New York to Mobile was less than \$40. Then I took his letter and had a meeting with my relatives in New York, and they advised me not to answer the letter, let alone take the trip to Mobile, Alabama, to find out what kind of job it was. Because of the conversation that this man and I had at the airport, and this letter, my relatives understood that the only job that this man might give me was to murder Dr. Martin Luther King. If I were to go to Mobile and refuse the job I was sure that I would not leave Mobile, Alabama, alive.

It was then that I decided to follow the advice of my family. Nevertheless, I spoke with some other people in New York City to get their opinion. They had the same idea that my family had. I forgot about the matter after that, but I kept the letter.

I remained in New York until 30 May 1964, when I returned to Panama. I am not sure that this is the man who organized the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, but this may be a clue leading to the person or persons responsible for the act. He was asked the following: Has the declarant anything to add about which he has not been questioned during this inquiry? He answered: This is all that I have to say about this case.

And that being the case, this inquiry is declared completed. It was read and found in order and signed by all those concerned.

The informant

The investigator

(s) Roderick CLAFLIN Brown

Inspector Domitilo A. CORDOBA

(s) Inspector Tomas ROYAL P.
Chief of the Homicide Section

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