UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

emorandum

SAC 44-1365

DATE:

5/22/68

FROM :

SA DONALD M. MURRAY

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

Rebusirtel 5/9/68

On 5/20/68 Cecil Lloyd, Director, and Glenn Flinchum, Section Chief, N.C. Bureau of Vital Statistics, Raleigh, N.C., advised this agency maintains records of unidentified deceased, only after buriel of same, and currently there is only one such record, and that concerns a wf found murdered in Wake Co., N.C. several weeks ago.

The identities of bodies not buried, would be known only to the Coronor of the various counties throughout N.C.

On 5/22/68 Chief Tom Davis, Rsleigh, N.C. PD, and Sheriff Bob Plessants, Wake Co., Sheriffi Office, Releigh, N.C. advised they are aware of no male unidentified bodies recovered in their erea's.

2 - 44-1365



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

Routing Slip 0-7 (Rev. 3-31-67)	(Copies to Offices Checked)
TO: SAC,	
Albany Albuquerque Anchorage Atlanta Baltimore Braningham Boaton	Hosston New York City Tampa Indianapolis Noriolk Washington Field Dickson Jacksonvills Ometa Kanada City Philadelphia TO LEGAT: Knoxville Phoenix Born Law Yegas Plitsburgh Bonn
Boston Beffale Butte X Cherlotte Chicage Cincinetti Cleveland Columbia Delian Denver Detroit El Paso	Little Rock Portland Buenos Aires Los Angeles Richmond Hong Kong Louinyille St. Louis London Memphis Salt Lake City Monila Misma Misma Son Diego Oitswa Mismapolis Son Francisco Paris Mosile San Juan Newark Savannah Sonto Demingo New Hayen Springfield
Honolulu	Date5-22-68
RE: MURKI PUBLIC	CITY ON REWARDS OFFERED HH-1365-714
	Betention F SEARCHED LOW INDEXED
For information	The state of the s
The enclosed	The state of the s

In the event of inquiries regarding the identity of the sources of the reward money offered in the Murkin case, you may confidentially advise established sources that according to a compilation set forth in the April 27th 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 thousands more and the Memphis City Council has underwritten the reward up to a total of \$100,000.

Bufile Urille FBI

Dates	More	23	1968
Date	may	21,	1200

(Priority)

Transmit the following in		an, 21, 220		
		(Type in plaintext or code)		
Vin	Airtel			

To: All SACs

LEGATS, Mexico City Ottawa

AMP F

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

For your information and investigative assistance, subject James Earl Ray has been known to consort with prostitutes and "street bums." A photograph of subject was obtained from a prostitute in Mexico. This photograph showing subject wearing sunglasses was previously forwarded to your office.

This should be borne in mind in your daily contact with informants, officers of vice squads and prostitutes in covering leads in connection with this and other cases.

Armed and dangerous.

SERIALIZED FILED MAY 2 3 1968

Sent Via __

_M Per ____



United Campus Pristian Ministry

NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE AT DURHAM Box 754 — Telephone 682-2171 Ext 219 Durham, North Carolina 27707

HERBERT H. EATON, Director

May 20, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This letter comes to report to you conversations that were overheard on the eve of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The conversation might be a lead into the solution of this murder.

This conversation was overheard in a community in Granville County, North Carolina. A Negro overheard two white men talking. One of the white men was considered as being rich and both were known as being members of the Klu Klux Klan. One man was heard saying to the other, "That big mouth down there won't live to carry out what he aims to do the day after tomorrow. We have a man on the way down there to take care of that guy and he don't miss. The bullets he use really do the job".

The day after the assassination the Negro recalled overhearing the conversation and reported it to me, not knowing what else to do. He did not hear them mention the name of Martin Luther King, nor did he understand them to have been referring to a Negro.

The person will talk to FBI officials only in my presence and at night, for he is afraid for the safety of his family if it is known that he fingerpointed any individual in his community.

If you think that this has any merit, your agents may contact me for further exploration.

Very truly yours,

Herbert H. Eato

HHE/e

SERIALIZED.

FBI

Date: 5/22/68

ransmit	the following in	+ 2 · 2 · 2 · 2 · 2 · 1
	(Type in pla	uintext or code)
ia	Airtel	(Priority)
		(17,11114)7
7		
	To: SAC, Charlotte (44-1365)	
1	From: Director, FBI (44-38861)	
100	MURKIN	
	Re Herbert H. Eaton - c	omplainant.
	Enclosed are two copies complainant dated 5/20/68, indicat	of a letter from
	possession of information which is	pertinent to this
	case.	1001 Plan
	Vou should immediately	interview Mr. Enton 596-38
	and orally acknowledge receipt of	his letter at that
	time. Conduct necessary interview	s and set out appropriate
	leads.	Ra- 312
	Enclosures (2)	al Holdy-
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AGENTS' MEMO NO. 209 SERIES 1968 CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

MEMO ALL AGENTS:

RE: MURKIN

By airtel to all SACs dated 5/9/68, the Bureau advised as follows:

In order to cover the possibility that subject, JAMES EARL RAY, may have died since commission of the crime, each office covering state capitals should check to ascertain if any record of unidentified dead is maintained and if so, records should be checked for the period from 4/5/68, to date, for any information which might possibly identify subject RAY with an unidentified deceased person. If no central record repository is maintained, you should in connection with your contacts with law enforcement agencies, make appropriate inquiry relative to unidentified dead.

On 5/20/68, contact was made with officials at the North Carolina Bureau of Vital Statistics, Raleigh, N. C., who advised that agency maintains records of unidentified deceased, only after burial of same. Currently, there is only one such record which concerns a white female found murdered in Wake County recently. The officials advised that the identities of bodies not buried would be known only to the coroner in various counties throughout North Carolina.

Coroners in all counties should be contacted upon the next visit by an Agent to that county.

By letter to all offices dated 5/20/68, the Bureau advised all SACs should promptly remind established, cooperative news sources in a discreet, tactful manner of the existence of

May 23, 1968

CFW: cbw

1 - 44-1365 1 - 66-138 SEARCHED_INDEXED (4)

SERIALIZED OF SENSO (4)

44-1365-718

RE: MURKIN substantial reward money leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer of KING. This money now totals at least \$100,000. The FBI should not, however, be publicized as the source of this reminder. Contacts with cooperative news sources is being handled separately. However, the Bureau by routing slip dated 5/22/68, advised, "in the event of inquiries regarding the identity of the sources of the reward money offered in the MURKIN case, you may confidentially advise established sources that according to a compilation set forth in the 4/27/68, edition of the "Commercial Appeal", Memphis, Tenn., \$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 thousands more and the Memphis City Council has underwritten the reward up to a total of \$100,000. By airtel dated 5/21/68, to all SACs, the Bureau advised as follows: "For your information and investigative assistance, subject JAMES EARL RAY has been known to consort with prostitutes and 'street bums'. A photograph of subject was obtained from a prostitute in Mexico. This photograph showing subject wearing sunglasses was previously forwarded to your office. "This should be borne in mind in your daily contacts with informants, officers of vice squads, and prostitutes in covering leads in connection with this and other cases." SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS. Robert Murphy SAC -2-

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

5/22/68 DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) TO: FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609) SUBJECT: MURKLIN Re Publicizing Subject RAY in "Men's Hair Stylists" and "Professional Barber." Re Bureau letter to Chicago dated 5/17/68. On 5/22/68, FRANK MILHAFT, President, Professionelle Inc., which company publishes "Professional Barber" and Miss ANN CHARLES, Editor, "Men's Hair Stylists", both accepted photographs and narrative data concerning Subject JAMES EARL RAY and agreed to publish same in the near future. Both magazines are monthly magazines, however, "Professional Barber" mails 70,000 free copies whereas "Men's Hair Stylists" has 65,000 paid subscribers.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau 1 - Memphis 1 - Charlotte 1 - New York

JFS:pab

SERIALIZED FILED SERIALIZED FILED MARLOTTE FILED CHARLOTTE

FD-209 (Rev. 9-13-55) Officinal FDNs NO. 18 MAY 1942 EDITION GSA GEN. NG. NO. 17

GBS:gc (3)



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

SAC CHARLOTTE (170-				
	650)	DATE:	5/24/	68
SA GUY B. SODEN		□ cı	□ SI	R (Prob)
		PCI	PSI	R
CT: EDDIE B. BATTLE		X PR	I GHET	TO
Dates of Contact				
4/19, 30/68; 5/2/68, Titles and File #s on which contacted	5/9/68.			
MURKIN			4	4-1365
POCAM				7-5541
Purpose and results of contact NEGATIVE POSITIVE STATISTIC				
	stated that 1			
concerning any plann chath of MARTIN LUTHE nothing concerning a attempting to cause People's March.	ed retaliation R KING and for my individual	on in connurther adv	ection ised h ps of	with the e has heard individuals
concerning any plans chath of MARTIN LUTHE nothing concerning a attempting to cause	ed retaliation R KING and fundividual trouble in co	on in connurther advis or grou	ection ised h ps of with t	with the e has heard individuals

OPTIDAL FORM NO. 18
MAY 1882 EDITION
GRAPPMR (6: CPR) 101-11.8

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

DATE: 5/24/68

FROM :

SA CRAWFORD F. WILLIAMS

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

By radiogram dated 5/22/68, to all SACs, the Bureau advised as follows:

"Inasmuch as RAY is known to stay at 'flophouses' and lower class roominghouses, all offices are to furnish copy of Identification Order regarding RAY to Salvation Army and other charitable-type missions."

Each Senior Resident Agent is requested to have the Salvation Army and other charitable-type missions contacted as instructed by the Bureau. For use in this regard, there are attached two (2) I.O.s and 2 Wanted Flyers concerning subject RAY. In the event additional I.O.s or Wanted Flyers are needed, Charlotte should be advised in order that same can be obtained from the Bureau.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

CFW: cbw
(19) WW

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED OF
MAY 2 1968

PBI - CHARLOTTE

WILLIAM

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

FBI

				Chicken.
Date:	35635	20	75.00	12.25
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Transmit the following in	Plaintext	
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Via Teletype	URGENT	
*	(Priority)	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SACA (14-44 plais:

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (hb-1574)

RE: MURKIN

RE LA PHONE CALL TO BURBAU AND LA TEISMAY SEVENTEEN LAST CONCERNING LA TIMES INFORMANT - "BOB" LNU.

INFORMATION DEVELOPED WHICH INDICATES INDIVIDUAL.

KNOWN TO LEAMONT ANDEASON WHITE, EMPLOYEE OF WESTERN UNION,

LOS ANGELES, AS BGB BRIGKLEY (ALLEGED TO BE BROTHER OF

FRANK BRICKLEY) IS IN REALITY LESTER EDWARD PACKETT FBI

HUMBER EXIGHT TWO SEVEN ONE SEVEN ZERO A, SUBJECT OF BUFILE

EIGHTY SEVEN DASH FOUR SIX TWO EIGHT TWO, IN WHICH KC WAS

OO; KG FILE EIGHTY SEVEN DASH EIGHT TWO ZERO NINE: KX FILE

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ONE ZERO FOUR NINE MINE. ALSO SUBJECT OF KX FILE TWENTY SIX

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OGS 1 - FVS ARBYS

Approved: Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

(12) GGE

2 LA 1:11-1571;

NINE FOUR ZERO ZERO, AND TWENTY SIX DASH THREE THREE NINE SIX ZERO.

PHOTO OF LESTER PACKETT EXHIBITED TO LEAMONT ANDERSON WHITE WHO IDENTIFIED IT AS INDIVIDUAL HE KNEW AS BOB BRICKLEY. NANCY BURGDORF, APT. MANAGER, EIGHT ONE TWO SOUTH WESTLAKE, L.A., IDENTIFIED SAME PHOTO AS FORMER RESIDENT THAT APT. WITH ODELA A. PACKETT WHO IS IDENT WITH FBI NUMBER THREE NIME ZERO EIGHT SEVEN SEVEN A; AND SHE IS CURRUNTLY SERVING THIRTY DAYS FOR PROSTITUTION IN L.A. PHOTO OF LESTER PACKETT WAS TAKEN BY KNOXVILLE PD DECEMBER SEVENTEEN, NIMETEEN FIRTY EIGHT.

POLAROID COPY OF PHOTO OF LESTER PACKETT BEING FORWARDED AMED TO AL FOR EXHIBITION TO RAY ANDREW YOUNG, MASSENA, N.Y., TO DETERMINE IF THIS WAS INDIVIDUAL WHO APPROACHED HIM WHILE HE WAS STAYING AT CLARK HOTEL APRIL SEVENTHEN LAST.

JERRY COHEN, LA TIMES NEWSPAPER, ADVISES PAPER PROMISED
THEIR INFORMANT "BOB" LNU, THEY WOULD NOT REVEAL HIS IDENTITY
OR HOW TO LOCATE. COHEN DID HOWEVER TELL THIS OFFICE HE WOULD
ADVISE IF ANY PHOTOS EXHIBITED WERE NOT IDENTICAL WITH INFORMANT.
COHEN STATED PHOTO OF FRANK BRICKLEY NOT IDENT, BUT QUOTE DECLINED
TO COMMENT END QUOTE, WHEN PHOTO LESTER PACKETT EXHIBITED TO HIM.

3 LA 141-1574

WIFE, ODELA PACKETT, INTERVIEWED AT LENGTH IN LA COUNTY JAIL. STATES FILED FOR DIVORCE FROM PACKETT TWO MONTHS AGO THROUGH ATTORNEY PHIL CLOUGH ON GROUNDS OF DESERTION, CRUELTY, AND NONSUPPORT. LEGAL FEES PAYED BY HER RELATIVES. SAID SHE WAS SO MAD AT PACKETT AT TIME OF FILING FOR DIVORCE THAT SHE TORE UP ALL PHOTOS SHE HAD OF HIM. DESCRIBED HIM AS SHIPTLESS DRIFTER, WHO NEVER HELD JOB DURING THEIR FIVE YEAR MARRIAGE. SHE DOES NOT KNOW HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

REVIEW OF LA FILES RE LESTER PACKETT AND INTERVIEW WITH ODELA PACKETT INDICATES HE HAS SPENT TIME IN BELLE GLADE, PLORIDA; RENO, NEVADA; VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN TENNESSEE; CHICAGO AND KANSAS CITY. LEAMONT WHITE BELIEVES HE IS INDIVIDUAL WHO TOOK HIS TWO GUNS, AND IS ONLY INDIVIDUAL OUTSIDE OF FRANK BRICKLEY AND PERSON HE KNEW AS BRICKLEY'S COUSIN (WHOSE NAME HE CAN NOT RECALL) THAT WOULD HAVE KNOWN HE EVEN OWNED THE GUNS.

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. OTHER THAN SHOWING HIS PHOTO TO RAY

ANDREW YOUNG, MASSENA, N.Y., TO WRAP UP THIS ASPECT OF CASE, T I NO FURTHER INVESTIGATIVE EFFORT FEING CONDUCTED IN LA RE "BOB"

LNU.

4 LA 44-1574 AIRMAIL COPIES BEING SENT FOLLOWING OFFICES; WITH PHOTO ENCLOSED FOR ALBANY TO DISPLAY AS INDICATED ABOVE: ALBANY, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, KAMSAS CITY, MIAMI, LAS VEGAS, DETROIT, MOBILE, KNOXVILLE, CHARLOTTE. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING LA. ARMED AND DANGEROUS. - 4 == -2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

5/28/68 AIRTEL TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P) SUBJECT: MURKIN RE: HERBERT H. EATON - COMPLAINANT Re Bureau airtel dated 5/22/68. On 5/24/68, HERBERT H. EATON, 1001 Plum St., Durham, N. C., N. C. College Chaplain, was contacted by SA CHARLES S. MILLER re contents of letter to Bureau dated 5/20/68. EATON stated he would make contact with his source on Sunday, 5/26/68, and arrange for a meeting with SA CHARLES S. MILLER. On 5/27/68, EATON reported arrangements for contact with source that night, On 5/27/68, CLARENCE ROYSTER, Rt. 1, Box 110B, Clarksville, Va., Oxford, N. C. Telephone Number 919-693-5205, a Negro male, approximately 47 years old, who requested his identity protected, advised on 4/3/68, at approximately 9:00 p.m., he went to the Puckett Grocery and Drug Store at Stovall, N. C., where he awaited the return of a drugist to fill a prescription. He waited for approximately 30 minutes. During part of this time, he heard the grocer, MELVIN PUCKETT, a white male, in his 60's, talking with a white farmer, also in his 60's, approximately 6' and medium size, in overalls. PUCKETT was discussing the recent declaration of ROBERT KENNEDY as a candidate for President. ROYSTER said he had not paid close attention to the conversation until he heard PUCKETT say something about a man "carrying on down yonder." He then continued saying in effect "that big mouth down there won't live to carry out what he aims to do the day after tomorrow." He continued to say "they have a man on the way down to take care of him who wouldn't miss because he was a good shooter." 3. - Bureau 2 - Charlotte CSM: cg (5) 0 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CE 44-1365 ROYSTER stated that from previous acquaintance with PUCKETT, he was aware PUCKETT did not like the late President KENNEDY or his brother. At no time did ROYSTER hear any mention of the name of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and he did not have any specific information as to the identity of the intended victim nor the name of the person "they" sent to shut him up. ROYSTER emphasized that he had reported the information to his minister, FLOYD EATON, Creedmoor, N. C., on a confidential basis on the possibility that it might have bearing on the assassination of Rev. KING, but he, ROYSTER, had no additional information in the matter whatsoever. ROYSTER added further that he had been the only other individual present in the store at the time of the conversation. At about the time the above comments were made, MELVIN PUCKETT'S brother, ULYSSES C. PUCKETT, came to the store and filled the prescription and RDYSTER left. ROYSTER expressed the opinion that PUCKETT was a member of the local unit of the KKK. He based this opinion on the fact PUCKETT has a Citizens Band Radio in the store and one of the numbers on his list was that of the KKK. ROYSTER further reported that three PARHAM brothers operated a garage at Bullock, N. C., known as the Bullock Garage. He understood DAVE PARHAM left Bullock, N. C., about two days prior to 4/4/68, driving a red Mustang. He was gone for approximately one week before returning driving a light blue Mustang. He stated DAVE, a white male, in his 30's or 40's, who, insofar as he knew, had moved to the vicinity of Bullock during the summer of 1967. ROYSTER stated that he thought possibly DAVE PARHAM could have been the person referred to by PUCKETT although he was unaware of any association whatsoever between PUCKETT and PARHAM. Furthermore, he had heard some conversation indicating DAVE PARHAM had been gone during the week of 4/4/68, on duty with the National Guard. -2-2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CE 44-1365 LEAD: CHARLOTTE AT STOVALL AND BULLOCK, N. C. Will conduct appropriate investigation re PUCKETT and PARHAM and keep the Bureau advised. -3-

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL POINT NO. 55
MAY 1908 EDICTION
GEA FFMM (4: CFM) 101-11.4
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

DATE: 5/28/68

FROM :

SA ANTHONY PALMISANO

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

Re Memo of SA CRAWFORD F. WILLIAMS dated 5/24/68.

On 5/27/68 Mrs. E.M. DANIELS, Secretary, Salvation Army, 1001 East King St., Kinston, N.C., was furnished with a copy of I.O. 4182. On 5/28/68 Mrs. M. ELLIS, Secretary, Salvation Army, 610 North William St., Geldsboro, N.C., was also furnished with a copy of I.O. 4182.

Both Mrs. DANIELS and Mrs. ELLIS were advised of the fugitive status of JAMES EARL RAY and both stated they would be alert for his presence, should be appear at either of the above establishments. Both stated they would advise the FBI if they received any information concerning the whereabouts of RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

AP/ap

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

5/29/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

PROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReBuairtel to Charlotte 5/22/68, re HERBERT H. EATON, and CE airtel to Bureau 5/28/68.

On 5/28/68, MELVIN PUCKETT, Puckett's Grocery Store, Stovall, N. C., advised that he and his brother, ULYSSES, operate a combination drug store and grocery store in the Stovall Community, of Granville County, N. C. PUCKETT stated that he cannot recall any conversation in which he was alleged to have participated on 4/3/68, concerning the announced candidacy of BOBBY KENNEDY or could be recall making any statement to the effect that "That man won't live to carry out what he aims to do, we have a man on the way to get him." PUCKETT advised that he often discusses current events with customers and that he would be unable to even guess the identity of the farmer with whom he was speaking on 4/3/68. PUCKETT advised that the statement as described above, does not sound familiar to him and that he could not imagine any conversation where he would have made or even recall hearing such a statement.

3 - Bureau

1 - Memphis (Info.) (44-1987)

1 - Charlotte

JJR: jmh

SERIALIZED SERIALIZED

CE 44-1365

PUCKETT stated that the only group that he is a member of is the Stovall Baptist Church. He stated he had no further information which could shed any light on the conversations in referenced Bureau airtel.

On 5/28/68, ROBERT HYLER, Grocery store owner, Bullock, N. C., advised he is acquainted with the PARHAM Brothers who own and operate the Bullock Garage. HYLER advised that the PARHAM brothers have operated this garage since 2/68; to the best of his knowledge are law-abiding citizens. He advised he believes there are three brothers, D. A. PARHAM, LEMIS DARHAM and GRAHAM PARHAM. HYLER advised that all three brothers reside in Granville County, N. C.

On 5/28/68, DAVID A. PARHAM, JR. was contacted at his place of employment, the Bullock Garage, Bullock, N. C., and he advised that he and his brothers have been operating the garage since early in 1968, and that he is the mechanic, LEWIS is employed by IBM Corporation in Durham, N.C., and his brother, GRAHAM is a farmer in Granville County, N.C.

PARHAM advised he does not nor ever has owned a Mustang of any color; however, he was driving a red Camaro, Chevrolet, around the beginning of April, 1968, for a couple of days. He advised that he did not leave Granville County, N. C., during April, 1968, until he was called up as a member of the N. C. National Guard on 4/5/68, as a result of the racial disturbances at that time.

The following description was obtained from interview and observation:

CE 44-1365

Name DAVID ALGER PARHAM, JR. Race White Sex Male DOB 10/31/43 Granville Co., N.C. POB 5'9" Height Weight 180 lbs. Eyes Hazel Sandy blond Hair Build Husky Marital Status Married

Mechanic

In view of the foregoing information, the Charlotte Division is conducting no further investigation regarding this matter.

Occupation

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1982 EDITION
GRAPPMR (RI CPR) 101-11.8
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC(44-1365)

DATE: 5/28/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM HARRIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Agent's Memo dated 209

On 5/24/68 Dr. JOHN L. WILLIAMS, Coroner, Stanly County, Albemarle, N.C. advised that he had no unidentified dead.

on 5/28/68 Rufus Honeycutt, Coroner, Rowan County, China Grove, N.C. advised that there are no unidentified dead in county.

WH

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FBI CHARLOTTE



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

FD-20 9 (Rev. 9+)3-65) OFTIOHAL FORM HO. 18 MAY 1762 EDITION OSA SEN. RES. NO. 27



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

OM SA	(137-3129)		DATE: May	29,1968
	David W. Wa	tson	x ci □	SI R (Prob)
			PCI 🗆	PSI R
JECT	CE-2236-C			
Dates of Conta				
Titles and File	May 4 and 28,	1968		
-	Stereo-Roy March 23-2 16- UNSUB- The from Curt	y's Jewelry, 1 24, 1968- ITSP oft of \$45,000	. in Watches, utaw Shopping	nd 1 Bulove Porteb. , Moorewille, N.C. Rings and Dismonds Cneter, Fayettevi
44-1369	MURKIN sults of contact			
NEGATI				
POSITIV	E Informant	advised he hase listed case		ion on any of the
	informatio	ormant has not on for long pe case be CLOSE		y pertinent it is recommended
Informant (pertified that he has all information obtained the last contact.	Rating V. Good	Cover	age hange
Turnished a			Tss	ARCHEDINDEXES

5/31/68 AIRMAIL AIRTHL TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) FROM: SAC, ALBANY (44-493) (P) RE: MURKIN CR Re Los Angeles airtel to Bureau 5/22/68. RAYMOND ANDREW YOUNG was recontacted 5/29/68, at Docktor's Pet Center, Fairmount Shopping Center, Syracuse, N.Y., and he identified the photograph of LESTER EDWARD PACKETT, FBI #827170A as being the individual he met at the bar in the vicinity of the Clark Hotel on 4/17/68. He stated that he recalled this individual had a southern accent and made some comment about being from Tennessee. In view of this identification no further investigation being conducted regarding this aspect of case. ARMED AND DANGEROUS 2-Los Angeles 2-Memphis (44-1987) 1-Atlanta (44-2386) (Info) 1-Hrmingham (44-1740) (Info) 1-Charlotte (Info) 1-Detroit (Info)
1-Kansas City (Info)
1-Knoxville (Info)
1-Las Vegas (Info)
1-Miami (44-1864) (Info) 44-1365-728 1-Mobile (Info) 1-Albany RSR:ad (3.4)

OPTIGHAL FORM HO. 10
1010-104
UNITED STATES GOERNMENT

Memorandum

TO SAC(44-1365)

DATE: 6/3/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM HARRIS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memo of SA C.F. WILLIAMS dated 5/24/68

On 5/29/68 Sheriff Ralph McSwain, Albemarle, N.C. advised that there was no Salvation Army Mission or Transit Home in Stanly County.

On 5/29/68 Capt. Richard Jones, Salvation Army, Brinkle Ferry Road, Salisbury, N.C. was alerted as to the subject and furnished an I.O.

SA Vander Gast Covering lead in Cabarrus County.

WH

SERIALIZED INDEXES SERIALIZED FILED FILED

FD=289 (Rev. 9-(3-65) OPTIONAL TORS NO. 10-OPTIONAL TORS NO. 10-





Memorandum

M SA	Daniel W. V.		□ cı	SI R (Prob)
	David W. Wa	tson	PCI X	PSI R
ECT:	Stephen F.	Janco		
Dates of Con	tact			
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POSITION STATE	INFORMANT	advised he ha	d no informa	tion re the above
Informani furnished by him s	certified that he has all information obtained ince last contact.	Rating V. Goo		werage No Change
1- 137 1- 87-		Inness R. Car	lson	44-1365-78 SERIALIZED OF FILED
1-0/-	11716			MAY 3 0 1968

6/4/68

AIRTEL.

TO:

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FEOM:

SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel to all offices dated 4/19/68, regarding MURKIN costs.

Following are the costs for the Charlotte Division for May, 1968:

1. MAN HOURS SPENT ON CASE

		Regular	Overtime	Total
(a) (b)	Special Agent Clerical	244 112	35	279 112
				391

2. TOTAL MILEAGE

2,150 miles

3. UNUSUAL OR OUT OF ORDINARY COSTS

Telephone Calls (Tol1) \$125.00 Photographs and photographic Supplies 43.00 \$168,00

4. PEAK NUMBER OF SPECIAL AGENTS WORKING ON CASE IN MAY

13 Agents

2 - Memphis - Charlotte

CLW:jw (4) yw

ME 44-1987
CE 44-1365
CFW:cbw
1

RE: INDIVIDUAL RESEMBLING
JAMES EARL RAY,
TRYON PLAZA MOTEL,
TRYON, NORTH CAROLINA

By communication dated May 22, 1968, the Columbia Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation advised as follows:

On the night of May 18, 1968, BILL REID, a former officer of the Greer, South Carolina, Police Department, who now resides at Tryon, North Carolina, advised that he had observed an individual at the Tryon Plaza Motel at Tryon, North Carolina, on May 18, 1968, who fits the description of and bears a resemblance to JAMES EARL RAY. REID stated he did not know the name of this individual but he was occupying the third room east of the office at the motel.

The following investigation was conducted by SA JOHN C. HENNIGAR at Tryon, North Carolina:

On May 27, 1968, Mrs. RUTH GORDON, Tryon Plaza
Motel, Tryon, North Carolina, advised that she recalls
May 18, 1968, as her daughter, Mrs. THELMA BURGETT, worked part
of the day on Saturday. Mrs. GORDON advised that three doors
east of the office would be Room 9 at the Tryon Plaza Motel.
Mrs. GORDON advised that her registration cards reflect that
Room 9 on May 18, 1968, was occupied by J. FLEETWOOD SIENIER,
148 East Seventh Street, Jacksonville, Florida, representing
the Massey Company. Mrs. GORDON advised that the registration
card indicates he drove a Plymouth with Florida license 2-66110.

Mrs. GORDON further advised that Room 9 was occupied by R. L. BONE, 2103 South Main Street, Greenwood, South Carolina, on May 19, 1968. This card indicated that Mr. BONE represented the Saco Lowell Shops and was driving a 1965 Chevrolet with South Carolina license E-131608. Mrs. GORDON advised that she has always been an avid detective story reader and has been following the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING very closely. Mrs. GORDON advised that she has not seen anyone at the motel who resembles the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the local paper.

Mrs. GORDON advised that she and her daughter, Mrs. THELMA BURGETT, have talked about the assassination and no mention of any individual in the motel resembling RAY has been discussed.

ME 44-1987 CE 44-1365 On May 27, 1968, Mrs. THELMA BURGETT, Tryon Plaza Motel, advised that she recalls working part-time on Saturday, May 18, 1968. Mrs. BURGETT advised she does not recall anyone resembling the photograph of RAY registering at the motel. Mrs. BURGETT advised there was an incident at the motel at that time as an individual had come to the motel, registering as a single and later she found out he had a woman in the room. Mrs. BURGETT advised she approached this individual and told him to come to the office, and pay the additional price for a second person in the room. Mrs. BURGETT advised that when he got to the office, she discovered he had not registered and asked him to register at that time. Mrs. BURGETT advised that this individual refused to register, stating that it was too late. Mrs. BURGETT advised that this individual was a nice-looking man; however, he did not fit the description or photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the local paper. 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

6/5/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

There are being furnished Memphis herewith 15 copies of an insert concerning an individual who reportedly fits the description of subject RAY observed at the Tryon Plaza Motel, Tryon, N. C.

BILL REID, mentioned in the enclosed insert, furnished the information telephonically to SA JACK C. WARD at Greenville, S. C., on 5/18/68.

2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Encl. 15) 1 - Charlotte (44-1365)

(3) cha-

GAROLEO PLENTE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

44-1365-733 CFWilliamy GPTICHAL FORM NG. 19
AKT 1942 ZENTION
GSA 5FAR (41 CFR) 181-11.4

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

DATE:

6/4/68

FROM :

IC MARION E. HILLIARD

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

Re Bureau radiogram to all SACs dated 5/23/68.

Mr. EDWARD WADE, Director, Driver's License Section, North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles, Raleigh, North Carolina, on May 23, 1968, advised that if possible, he would be happy to furnish the FBI a list of all driver's license issued from April 1 through May, 1968.

Mr. WADE further advised that Mr. LAERON ROBERTS is the programmer of the Data Processing Unit of the Driver's License Section and that this job would have to be performed by Mr. ROBERTS.

On May 23, 1968, Mr. ROBERTS advised Mr. WADE and IC MARION E. HILLIARD that he would be happy to do this job for the FBI; however, it would take him some time to program and run the magnetic tape as the magnetic tape for all driver's licenses issued in the State of North Carolina would have to be screened.

On May 31, 1968, Mr. ROBERTS was recentacted, at which time he advised that he was working on this project and that it was very possible that he would finish this project by June 7, 1968.

MEH:1rf (2)

cy

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED TILED 1968
EDIT CHARLOTTE

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

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 18
MAY 1908 ENTITION
USAF PRINT (8) CPR) 181-15.4

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

(44-1365)
SAC, MEMPHIS (14-

DATE: 6/4/68

FROM

TO

SA JOHN C. HENNIGAR (1)

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

Re Columbia airtel to Charlotte dated 5/22/68.

On 5/27/68, Mrs. RUTH GORDON, Tryon Plaza
Motel, Tryon, N. C., advised that she recalls 5/18/68
as her daughter, Mrs. THELMA BURGETT, worked part on
of the day on Saturday. Mrs. GORDON advised that three
doors east of the office would be Room 9 at the Tryon
Plaza Motel. Mrs. GORDON advised that her registration
cards reflect that Room 9 on 5/18/68, was occupied by
J. FLEETWOOD SIENIER, 148 East Seventh Street, Jacksonville,
Florida, representing the Massey Company. Mrs. GORDON
advised that the registration card indicates he drove
a Plymouth with Florida license 2-66110.

Mrs. GORDON further advised that Room 9 was occupied by R. L. BONE, 2103 South Main, Greenwood, S. C., on 5/19/68. This card indicated that Mr. BONE represented the Saco Lowell Shops and was driving a 1965 Chevrolet with S. C. license E131608. Mrs. GORDON advised that she has always been an avid detective story reader and has been following the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING very closely. Mrs. GORDON advised that she has not seen anyone at the motel who resembles the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the local paper.

Mrs. GORDON advised that she and her daughter, Mrs. THEIMA BURGETT, have talked about the assassination and no mention of any individual in the motel resembling RAY has been discussed.

On 5/27/68, Mrs. THEIMA BURGETT, Tryon Plaza Motel, advised that she recalls working part-time on Saturday, 5/18/68. Mrs. BURGETT advised she does not recall anyone resembling the photograph of RAY registering at the motel.

2 - Memphis 2 - Columbia (44-299) 1 - Charlotte JCH:bsh

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

CE 44-1365

Mrs. BURGETT advised there was an incident at the motel at that time as an individual had come to the motel, registering as a single and later she found out he had a woman in the room. Mrs. BURGETT advised she approached this individual and told him to come to the office, and pay the additional price for a second person in the room. Mrs. BURGETT advised that when he got to the office, she discovered he had not registered and asked him to register at that time. Mrs. BURGETT advised that this individual refused to register, stating that it was too late. Mrs. BURGETT advised that this individual was a nice-looking man; however, he did not fit the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which appeared in the local paper.

SA CRAWFORD F. WILLIAMS SUBJECT: MURKIN On the afternoon of 6/3/68, JOHN GRIMES, U.S. Secret Service, Charlotte, telephonically advised that he had just received a telephone call from a Mrs. FITCH, Mt. Holly, N.C., telephone 827-5679 who advised that she thinks she was in a taxi cab with JAMES EARL RAY in Mt. Holly just prior to the time his photograph appeared in the newspapers. GRIMES stated that while talking with the writer CLAUDE DAVIS had come into the office and had informed him that Mrs. FITCH is a mental case. He said in view of this we may desire to forget the matter entirely. W On the morning of 6/4/68, Mrs. ROSE FITCH, Route 1, Mt. Holly, telephonically advised that the day following the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., she was at Jones' Market on the main street of Mt. Holly shopping for groceries. As she came out of the store she observed a man with a beard. Both she and the man with the beard took the same taxi cab with the bearded man sitting in the front seat with the driver. The driver took her to her residence where the man with the beard helped her carry her groceries in the house. He then left with the cab driver. She stated that several days later she saw a photograph of the subject who shot KING in the paper and believes this was the bearded man. She described this man as a white male, age about 35, brown eyes, long brown hair, brown beard, small build, %%% 5'7", 140 pounds. She stated that he walked with a very noticable limp. In view of the possible mental condition of Mrs. FITCH and the obvious discrepancy between her discription of this man and RAY no further action is being taken. For file. 44-1365-736 CFW: SERIALIZED CO Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

DATE: 6/4/68

CONTIONAL FORM NO. 15 MAY 18E KONTION ESA FONS (4) CFE) 101-11.5

Memorandum

SAC (44-1365)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Probe Near Sensational Turn: Agents Now Eye King's Red Friends

By PAUL SCOTT

WASHINGTON - The Fedmassive probe of the assassination of Dr. Martin Lather King is taking a possibly sensational turn

With James Earl Ray, the suspected assessin, apprently either outside the U.S. or now dead, FBI agents have increased their surveillance of several American Communists known to have been closely associated with King, includone who wrote speeches for him in the past.

This new development was triggered by evidence gathered by the more than 1,000 agents who have worked on the mysterious King shooting and by several "tips" and letters sent to the FBI

One of the most interesting of these "tips" came from an alert TV viewer and concerns the now famous "Mountain Top" speech King made on April 3, the night before his slaying, showing a promoni-tion of his impending death.

"If the speech was truly made in Memphis on April 3 as reported," the letter pointed out, "then how can one account for King stating his age as 35 (instead of 39) and why does he speak of demonstrating in Alabama twice during

UNANSWERED QUES-PIONS - After checking out. the time and location of King's final speech, several of the crack FBI agents assigned to the case decided to begin seeking answer to a number of their own questions, includ-

"If Kink had personally written that speech, why would be make mistakes like eral Bureau of Investigation's those contained in it-especially the one involving his

> "If the speech was written by someone other than King, who was the author and when was it written?"

The answers to these questions are considered highly important to the investigation, since, if another person was concerned in the preparation of that speech, the writer might be able to shed new light on it - especially those mistakes

Also, if King had received help with the speech, the passages dealing with the civil rights leader's premonition of death would probably have been fully discussed. King's request to the Detroit police department for protection

when he visited that city a few weeks before his death indicated he feared for his life

Information gathered by the FBI on King, prior to his as-sassiantion, showed that a secret member of the Communist Party's executive committoe was one of King's closest advisers and speech writers.

This ghost writer for King prepared many of his most famous speeches, according to testimony given by FBI Di-rector J. Edgar Hoover during a closed door meeting of a House Appropriations subcommittee

Since Ray during his trips prior to King's assassination visited the same city in which this ghost writer lives, the FBI is now investigating to deter

mine if the two met covertly

WIDENING THE INVESTI-GATION - Recent evidence in one of the most massive probes in the nation's bistory has forced serious investigation of these possibilities:

-That somebody close to King or within his own or ganization tipped off his ast assain as to the civil rights leader's routine on the day of his slaying.

-That Ray was hired directly by certain black nationalists who paid him with money made available by foreign sources.

-That an international Communits to "assassin squad" was involved in the slaying.

Because of Ray's myster-lous trips to Mexico and Canada shortly before the assas-

sination, the entire U.S. intelligence operation, ranging from the Central Intelligence Agency to the Defense Intelligance Agency, has been pressed into the hunt for King's killer.

One CIA report indicates that Ray, who is linked to the murder weapon by fingerprints and ballistic data, may have visited Cuba during his Mexican trip, according to information furnished by a Mexican airline official

The FBI assumption is that, if there was a conspiracy to kill King, those involved made arrangements to spirit their hired killer out of the U. S. to Cuba via either Mexi(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

B-A COURIER-TRIBUNE Asheboro, N.C.

Dates 5-31-68 Edition: Authors

Editors Titles

Characteri

Classifications Submitting Office: CE

Being Inventigated

44-1365-1 SEARCHED / DIDEXED

Probably the greatest from the probe of King's assessingtion is that FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, one of the civil rights leader's severest critics when he was alive, is doing everything in his power to solve the case.

On the other hand, King's closest aides in the Southern Christian Leaders hip Conference are showing little or no interest in whether the killer is found.

When Rev. Ralph Abernathy, King's successor as president of the SCLC, presented a series of demands to Attorney General Ramsey Clark for the "Poor People's" campaign none of these called for more intensive effort to solve King's assassination.

According to persons who attended the meeting, nothing was said about King's death

or the FBI investigation, although a number of the poor in "Ressurcetion City" had urged Abernathy to press for a more vigorous probe.

Congressional supporters of Hoover say there are a number of compelling ceasons for Abernathy's ellence Most important of these is King's instruction to key aides of his Sauthern Christian Leadership Conference not long before his death that no verbal attacks were to be made against Hoover or the FBI for fear of counter action by the FBI director.

The last time King blasted Hoover and the FBI publicly, these lawmakers pointed out, the FBI director called the Negro leader the "most notwious liar" that he had ever known — a statement Hoover has never retracted.

At the time, the King-Hoover exchange resulted in a White House arranged meeting at which the veteran FRI director did most of the talking.

According to an unpublished account given to House Appropriations subcommittee members, Hoover frankly told King that if King ever repeated his unfounded charges against the FBI, everything is knew about King would be made public.

After that blust warning ting refrained from ever repeating his attack against cher Hoover or the FBI. Rev. Abernathy, who accompanied King to Washington for that meeting with Hoover, adopted the same pelicy.



DECODED COPY

JUNE 6, 1968

X Radio

Teletype

ALL SACTS

FROM: DIRECTOR, FB1

URGENT

MURKIN.

FOR INFORMATION ALL OFFICES AND NOT TO BE DISCLOSED TO ANYONE OUTSIDE OF OFFICE IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THROUGH INVESTIGATION THAT SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY RESIDED IN CANADA FROM APRIL 8, 1968 UNTIL MAY 6, 1968 UNDER NAMES PAUL BRIDGMAN AND RAMON GEORGE SNEYD. SUBJECT DEPARTED CANADA FOR LONDON, ENGLAND, ON MAY 6 LAST AS SNEYD AND IS BELIEVED USING CANADIAN PASSPORT IN THAT MAME. SUBJECT BELIEVED TO BE WEARING GLASSES.

IN VIEW OF ABOVE DEVELOPMENTS REVIEW OF DRIVER'S LICENSE BUREAU RECORDS AS REQUESTED IN BUREAU RADIOGRAM MAY 21 LAST MAY BE DISCONTINUED.

OFFICES COVERING POINTS OF ENTRANCE INTO U.S. SHOULD PLACE APPROPRIATE STOPS WITH BORDER AND CUSTOM AUTHORITIES UNDER NAME OF PAMON GEORGE SNEYD. HERE IS ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN SNEYD AND KING ASSASSIMATION. ADVISE AUTHORITIES THAT INDIVIDUAL USING NAME SNEYD IS BEING SOUGHT Y FBI FOR UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT FOR CHARGE OF ROBBERY.

IN TORONTO, CANADA, WHO IS EMPLOYED BY TORONTO POLICE MAMED RAMON GEORGE SNEYD. THIS INDIVIDUAL'S MANE AND SOMEONED.

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Eureau's cryptographic systems. Eleager &

SERIALIZED SHADON T

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-280 (Bev. 8-28-58)





DECODED COPY

Radio

☐ Teletype

(CON'T)

USED BY SUBJECT IN OBTAINING PASSPORT. THIS IS FOR YOUR INFORMATION
IN EVENT BORDER STOPS DISCLOSE THAT INDIVIDUAL NAMED SNEYD IS
ENTERING YOUR TERRITORY. COPIES MAILED WFO.
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

TOR: 2:49PM OHN TOD: 3:24PM OHN

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.







TREASURY DEPARTMENT UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE

P. O. Box 1424 Charlotte, N. C. 28201

June 5, 1968

Mr. Robert M. Murphy Special Agent in Charge Federal Bureau of Investigation Jefferson Standard Building Charlotte, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Murphy:

This letter will confirm telephone conversation with Special Agent Crawford Williams of your office on June 3, 1968. At that time Special Agent Williams was advised that a Mrs. Fitch, not further identified, of Mount Holly, N. C., telephone 827-5679, alleged that she had information concerning the individual believed to have been responsible for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Mrs. Fitch was informed that I would have a representative of your Bureau contact her rather than have her furnish the information to me and then have it repeated to you.

Special Agent Claude E. Davis, Jr., of this office, has advised that he is acquainted with Mrs. Fitch and that it is his opinion that she may be eccentric; however, indices of this office do not reflect she has ever officially come to the attention of this Service.

Should additional information come to our attention, you will be advised.

Sincerely,

John H. Orimes, Jr.

Special Agent in Charge

SEARCHED



JUN 6 1968



Keep Freedom in Your Future With U.S. Savings Bonds