

PAGE FOUR

SE 44-371

CLEAR

ABOVE FURNISHED FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU FOR REFERRAL
TO DEPARTMENT. ALL OFFICES HOLD SPECIFIC LEADS IN ABEYANCE
PENDING INSTRUCTIONS FROM BUREAU

BT

DL1082 1540055 HE0079 1540055

PP SE DL KX ME NO

DE HQ

P 030010Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

TO SEATTLE (44-371) (PRIORITY)

DALLAS (PRIORITY)

KNOXVILLE (PRIORITY)

MEMPHIS (PRIORITY)

NEW ORLEANS (PRIORITY)

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

RESETEL JUNE 2, 1977.

SEATTLE INSURE THAT KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA IS COGNIZANT OF THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ORDER QBD 2110.2 REGARDING WITNESS PROTECTION. THIS ORDER STATES UNDER "CONDITIONS FOR PROTECTION" THAT THE PROTECTION OF A WITNESS AND MEMBERS OF A WITNESS FAMILY IN A FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROCEEDING IS A LOCAL OR STATE POLICE MATTER TO BE HANDLED BY THOSE AUTHORITIES. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY UPON THE FINDING OF THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE CONCERNED DIVISION THAT THE

44-2649-706

INDEXED
FILED
JUN 2 1977

Wm

Subs
(Info) 107

PAGE TWO SE (44-371) CLEAR

PROPOSED WITNESS MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- (1) THE PERSON IS A QUALIFYING WITNESS IN A SPECIFIC CASE IN PROCESS OR DURING OR AFTER A GRAND JURY PROCEEDING;
- (2) EVIDENCE IN POSSESSION INDICATES THAT THE LIFE OF THE WITNESS AND/OR THAT OF A MEMBER OF THE WITNESS FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD IS IN IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY AND (3) EVIDENCE IN POSSESSION INDICATES IT WILL BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE FEDERAL INTEREST FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO PROTECT THE WITNESS AND/OR A FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER. THIS ORDER STATES THAT REQUESTS FOR PROTECTION OF A WITNESS SHALL BE MADE THROUGH THE U. S. ATTORNEY OR BY A DIVISION ATTORNEY OF THE DEPARTMENT. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT LAMONICA IS ADVISED THAT IF HE DESIRES TO PURSUE THIS MATTER UNDER THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM, HE SHOULD CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE U. S. ATTORNEY AND/OR THE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE IS A QUALIFYING WITNESS AS SET FORTH ABOVE. YOU SHOULD ALSO ADVISE LAMONICA TO NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE FEARS HE HAS FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY.

PAGE THREE SE (44-371) CLEAR

ALL OFFICES CONDUCT NO INVESTIGATION CONCERNING
THIS LAMONICA ALLEGATION SINCE THIS MATTER HAS BEEN
REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND NO INVESTIGATION IS BEING
CONDUCTED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

BT

DL1032 1540055 HE0079 1540055

PP SE DL KX HE NO

DE HQ

P 030010Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

TO SEATTLE (44-371) (PRIORITY)

DALLAS (PRIORITY)

KNOXVILLE (PRIORITY)

MEMPHIS (PRIORITY)

NEW ORLEANS (PRIORITY)

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

RESETEL JUNE 2, 1977.

SEATTLE INSURE THAT KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA IS COGNIZANT OF THE SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE ORDER OJD 2110.2 REGARDING WITNESS PROTECTION. THIS ORDER STATES UNDER "CONDITIONS FOR PROTECTION" THAT THE PROTECTION OF A WITNESS AND MEMBERS OF A WITNESS FAMILY IN A FEDERAL CRIMINAL PROCEEDING IS A LOCAL OR STATE POLICE MATTER TO BE HANDLED BY THOSE AUTHORITIES. EXCEPTIONS TO THIS POLICY WILL BE ALLOWED ONLY UPON THE FINDING OF THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE CONCERNED DIVISION THAT THE

Keep Rec

44-2649-706
JUN 2 1977
Wm

PAGE TWO SE (44-371) CLEAR

PROPOSED WITNESS MEETS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

- (1) THE PERSON IS A QUALIFYING WITNESS IN A SPECIFIC CASE IN PROCESS OR DURING OR AFTER A GRAND JURY PROCEEDING;
- (2) EVIDENCE IN POSSESSION INDICATES THAT THE LIFE OF THE WITNESS AND/OR THAT OF A MEMBER OF THE WITNESS FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD IS IN IMMEDIATE JEOPARDY AND (3) EVIDENCE IN POSSESSION INDICATES IT WILL BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE FEDERAL INTEREST FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO PROTECT THE WITNESS AND/OR A FAMILY OR HOUSEHOLD MEMBER. THIS ORDER STATES THAT REQUESTS FOR PROTECTION OF A WITNESS SHALL BE MADE THROUGH THE U. S. ATTORNEY OR BY A DIVISION ATTORNEY OF THE DEPARTMENT. ACCORDINGLY, YOU SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT LANONICA IS ADVISED THAT IF HE DESIRES TO PURSUE THIS MATTER UNDER THE WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAM, HE SHOULD CONTACT THE APPROPRIATE U. S. ATTORNEY AND/OR THE DEPARTMENT FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT HE IS A QUALIFYING WITNESS AS SET FORTH ABOVE. YOU SHOULD ALSO ADVISE LANONICA TO NOTIFY THE APPROPRIATE LOCAL AUTHORITIES OF THE FEARS HE HAS FOR HIS PERSONAL SAFETY AND THAT OF HIS FAMILY.

PAGE THREE SE (44-371) CLEAR

ALL OFFICES CONDUCT NO INVESTIGATION CONCERNING
THIS LANONICA ALLEGATION SINCE THIS MATTER HAS BEEN
REFERRED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND NO INVESTIGATION IS BEING
CONDUCTED UNLESS SPECIFICALLY REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

BT

DLI 124 1542305 NNO 125 1542305

RR HQ DL KX ME NO SE

DE MH

R 032300Z JUN 77

FM MIAMI (44-1354) RUC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

DALLAS ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

NEW ORLEANS ROUTINE

SEATTLE (44-371) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

WORKIN.

REBUTEL TO SEATTLE, JUNE 3, 1977.

ON JUNE 3, 1977, KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA LOCATED PALM BEACH HAWAIIAN MOTEL, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, AND AT THIS TIME MADE AWARE OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REGULATIONS CONCERNING WITNESS PROTECTION. THIS INFO INCLUDED WHOM HE SHOULD CONTACT IN EVENT HE DESIRES OR IS ELIGIBLE FOR PROTECTION AND THE THREE CONDITIONS NECESSARY

44-2649-707
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 3 1977
FBI - DALLAS
gr

PAGE TWO MM 44-1854 CLEAR
TO QUALIFY.

LAMONICA ADVISED THAT WHILE HE HAS SOME CONCERN FOR PROTECTION, HIS MAIN INTEREST IS TO DETERMINE IF RAFAEL MARTINEZ, AN ALLEGED "HIT MAN" IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, DOES ACTUALLY POSE A THREAT TO HIM. LAMONICA WAS ADVISED THAT NO SUCH DETERMINATION COULD BE MADE AND HE STATED HE IS PROBABLY GOING TO NEW ORLEANS IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND WILL PURSUE THIS LOCALLY; HOWEVER, CLAIMED HE WOULD PROBABLY CONTACT FBI AT NEW ORLEANS WHILE THERE. LAMONICA CONTENDED HIS INVESTIGATION INTO CAPTIONED MATTER HAS PRODUCED NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND THAT HE INTENDS TO PURSUE HIS INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION.

BT

ON JUNE 3, 1977, KEITH ERNEST LAMONICA LOCATED PALM BEACH HAWAIIAN HOTEL, PALM BEACH, FLORIDA, AND AT THIS TIME MADE AWARE OF SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE REGULATIONS CONCERNING WITNESS PROTECTION. THIS INFO INCLUDED WHOM HE SHOULD CONTACT IN EVENT HE DESIRES OR IS ELIGIBLE FOR PROTECTION AND THE THREE CONDITIONS NECESSARY

44-2649-707
me me
Q

PAGE TWO NM 44-1854 CLEAR

TO QUALIFY.

LAMONICA ADVISED THAT WHILE HE HAS SOME CONCERN FOR PROTECTION, HIS MAIN INTEREST IS TO DETERMINE IF RAFAEL MARTINEZ, AN ALLEGED "HIT MAN" IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, DOES ACTUALLY POSE A THREAT TO HIM. LAMONICA WAS ADVISED THAT NO SUCH DETERMINATION COULD BE MADE AND HE STATED HE IS PROBABLY GOING TO NEW ORLEANS IN THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND WILL PURSUE THIS LOCALLY; HOWEVER, CLAIMED HE WOULD PROBABLY CONTACT FBI AT NEW ORLEANS WHILE THERE. LAMONICA CONTENDED HIS INVESTIGATION INTO CAPTIONED MATTER HAS PRODUCED NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND THAT HE INTENDS TO PURSUE HIS INVESTIGATION INTO THE ASSASSINATION.

BT

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.
MURKIN.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FURNISHED FOLLOWING:

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, AN INDIVIDUAL
WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON TELEPHONICALLY
CONTACTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE AT THE SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE SUB-STATION, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. WILSON FURNISHED SHERIFF
BARKSDALE BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING BARKSDALE AND INFOR-
MATION REGARDING PERSONS KNOWN TO BARKSDALE AS MEMBERS OR FORMER
MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS,
IN WHICH BARKSDALE HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR 26 YEARS. WILSON RELATED

X-WIFE

BETTY LOU WADE
233 SMITH
BURLESTON, TENN

STEVEN MARK ANTHONY

DIANNE ANN JONES

Chd PRC

44-3649-108

AUG 18 1978

PAGE TWO ME 44-1987 SUB M UNCLAS E F T O

INFORMATION REGARDING PLACES AND TRIPS HE HAD MADE WITH BARKSDALE WHICH INDICATED THAT WILSON WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS.

WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE HE HAD COMMITTED A FAMOUS CRIME- THAT HE WAS THE MAN WHO KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HE RELATED THAT HE WAS THE TRIGGER MAN AND WAS STANDING ABOUT 65 FEET FROM DR. KING IN A POSITION BELOW THE BALCONY WHERE DR. KING WAS STANDING. ABOUT THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEATH OF DR. KING WILSON'S DAUGHTER, WHOSE IDENTITY HE DECLINED TO FURNISH, DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE WOULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE STORAGE OR USE OF THIS WHITE MUSTANG AFTER THE MUSTANG REACHED MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE DECLINED TO FURNISH ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE KILLING OF DR. KING OTHER THAN NOTED ABOVE, BUT STATED THAT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY JAMES EARL RAY IS ACCURATE.

WILSON REQUESTED THAT SHERIFF BARKSDALE MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 9:30 AM, AUGUST 20, 1978. BARKSDALE WAS INSTRUCTED TO ENTER THE DINING ROOM AT THE HOLIDAY INN WITHOUT A COAT AND THAT WILSON WOULD SURRENDER TO

PAGE THREE ME 44-1987-SUB M E F T O

HIM THERE. HE INSISTED THAT BARKSDALE BE ALONE, THAT HE NOT BE MISTREATED AFTER HE SURRENDERED AND THAT BARKSDALE NOT INFORM THE FBI, AND IF BETRAYED, HE WOULD NOT SURRENDER.

WILSON DECLINED TO FURNISH BARKSDALE HIS LOCATION, BUT BARKSDALE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS A LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL.

AT APPROXIMATELY 11:45 PM, WILSON AGAIN TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED BARKSDALE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

HE HAD A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, HAD TALKED WITH HIS FAMILY, AND WAS READY TO CONFESS TO SHERIFF BARKSDALE ALONE. HE AGAIN REQUESTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE TO MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 9:30 AM, AUGUST 18, 1978 IN THE DINING ROOM WITHOUT HIS COAT ON AND ALONE. SHERIFF BARKSDALE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT HE, BARKSDALE, WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY MEETING HIM AT GULFPORT AT THE APPOINTED TIME AND REQUESTED THAT THEY ARRANGE A MEETING AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. WILSON COUNTERED BY INFORMING BARKSDALE THAT BARKSDALE WAS A PILOT AND HAD ACCESS TO AIRCRAFT AND THAT HE COULD OBTAIN A PLANE AND REACH GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. WILSON ABSOLUTELY DECLINED TO MEET WITH BARKSDALE IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE THAT HE WAS THEN IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AND THAT

PAGE FOUR ME 44-1987-SUB M E F T O

HE COULD REACH GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI IN ABOUT ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS.

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:45 AM, AUGUST 18, 1978, REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 875-0654, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

REVEREND FANNON WAS IN A CAFE IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 18, 1978, HAVING BREAKFAST. BURGESS WILSON APPROACHED HIM AND RELATED INFORMATION INDICATING HE, WILSON, HAD SHOT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE IN APRIL OF 1968. HE INFORMED REVEREND FANNON THAT HE WAS TO MEET SHERIFF BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AND REQUESTED REVEREND FANNON TO FOLLOW HIM TO THE HOLIDAY INN.

PAGE FIVE ME 44-1987-SUB M E F T O

WILSON ALSO TALKED WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE ON THIS OCCASION AND ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FAILURE OF SHERIFF BARKSDALE TO MEET WITH HIM AT 9:30 AM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED. SHERIFF BARKSDALE INFORMED WILSON THAT HE HAD BEEN ON DUTY ALL NIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRIKE INVOLVING THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE MATTERS SO THAT HE COULD MEET WITH HIM. BARKSDALE INFORMED WILSON THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH HIM. WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE THAT HE WOULD STAY IN THE VICINITY OF THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, AND WOULD CONTACT THE DESK CLERK AT THE HOLIDAY INN PERIODICALLY IN ORDER FOR BARKSDALE TO ARRANGE TO MEET WITH HIM. WILSON FURNISHED BARKSDALE TELEPHONE NUMBER 601-864-4310 AS THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF A HOLIDAY INN HE WOULD PERIODICALLY CONTACT.

BARKSDALE REPORTED THAT WILSON APPEARED TO BE COHERENT AND THIS INFORMATION WAS ALSO FURNISHED TO BARKSDALE BY REVEREND FANNON.

BARKSDALE FURNISHED INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, INDICATING THAT BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, FBI NUMBER 879 421 E, WAS ARRESTED AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON MAY 14, 1964, BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 26, 1964, AND BY THE

PAGE SIX ME 1987-SUB M E F T O

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON MAY 27, 1964 AND MARCH 24, 1965, WITH RESIDENCE AT 3612 COVINGTON PIKE, MEMPHIS. WILSON WAS ARRESTED BY THE BEXAR COUNTY, TEXAS AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 12, 1972 FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT DRAWING OUT OF THE CHILD SUPPORT QUESTIONED IN BEXAR COUNTY. AT THE TIME WILSON RESIDED AT 1505 WEST CANYON LAKE DRIVE, CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HIS EMPLOYMENT WAS SHOWN AS A JEWELER.

THE FBI FINGERPRINT RECORD INDICATES THAT WILSON IS KNOWN AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. HE IS A WHITE MALE BORN AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, 5'10" TALL, 155 POUNDS, BROWN EYES AND BROWN HAIR. WHEN ARRESTED IN MAY OF 1964, HE RESIDED AT 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DURING CONVERSATION WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE, WILSON INDICATED HE HAS A FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 3095

PAGE SEVEN ME 44-1987 SUB M E F T O

RISKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 386-4628, AND THAT HIS FATHER WAS FORMERLY PASTOR AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, CHELSEA AND HOLLYWOOD AVENUES, MEMPHIS, AND AT THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS TO BUREAU SUPERVISOR DREW CLARK, AUGUST 18, 1978. SUCOP

MEMPHIS INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WAS ELIMINATED AS A SUSPECT IN AN 87 MATTER INVOLVING THE TRANSPORTATION OF JEWELRY IN 1973. AT THE TIME, IT WAS DETERMINED HE HAD BEEN IN BUSINESS AS THE NORTH STAR DIAMOND CIRCLE, VALLEY HILL MALL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, FROM EARLY 1971 TO MIDDLE 1971.

JACKSON AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF RECORDS AT LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., FBI NUMBER 879-421 E.

SAN ANTONIO AT BEXAR, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW APPROPRIATE RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., NOTING HE WAS BOOKED AT BEXAR COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972, FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT GROWING OUT OF CHILD SUPPORT QUESTION IN BEXAR COUNTY.

BT

HERE 3053

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 3988, JEH BUILDING,
WIRKIN.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FURNISHED FOLLOWING:

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:15 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, AN INDIVIDUAL
WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON TELEPHONICALLY
CONTACTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE AT THE SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S
OFFICE SUB-STATION, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. WILSON FURNISHED SHERIFF
BARKSDALE BACKGROUND INFORMATION REGARDING BARKSDALE AND INFOR-
MATION REGARDING PERSONS KNOWN TO BARKSDALE AS MEMBERS OR FORMER
MEMBERS OF THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS,
IN WHICH BARKSDALE HAS BEEN ACTIVE FOR 26 YEARS. WILSON RELATED

44-2649-708

Mua

AUG 18 1978

FOUNDALES

g

PAGE TWO ME 44-1987 SUB M UNCLAS E F T O

INFORMATION REGARDING PLACES AND TRIPS HE HAD MADE WITH BARKSDALE WHICH INDICATED THAT WILSON WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS.

WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE HE HAD COMMITTED A FAMOUS CRIME- THAT HE WAS THE MAN WHO KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HE RELATED THAT HE WAS THE TRIGGER MAN AND WAS STANDING ABOUT 65 FEET FROM DR. KING IN A POSITION BELOW THE BALCONY WHERE DR. KING WAS STANDING. ABOUT THREE DAYS PRIOR TO THE DEATH OF DR. KING WILSON'S DAUGHTER, WHOSE IDENTITY HE DECLINED TO FURNISH, DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE WOULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION REGARDING THE STORAGE OR USE OF THIS WHITE MUSTANG AFTER THE MUSTANG REACHED MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE DECLINED TO FURNISH ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND THE EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE KILLING OF DR. KING OTHER THAN NOTED ABOVE, BUT STATED THAT INFORMATION FURNISHED BY JAMES EARL RAY IS ACCURATE.

WILSON REQUESTED THAT SHERIFF BARKSDALE MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 9:30 AM, AUGUST 20, 1978. BARKSDALE WAS INSTRUCTED TO ENTER THE DINING ROOM AT THE HOLIDAY INN WITHOUT A COAT AND THAT WILSON WOULD SURRENDER TO

PAGE THREE ME 44-1987-SUB M E F T O

HIM THERE. HE INSISTED THAT BARKSDALE BE ALONE, THAT HE NOT BE MISTREATED AFTER HE SURRENDERED AND THAT BARKSDALE NOT INFORM THE FBI, AND IF BETRAYED, HE WOULD NOT SURRENDER. WILSON DECLINED TO FURNISH BARKSDALE HIS LOCATION, BUT BARKSDALE BELIEVED THAT IT WAS A LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALL.

AT APPROXIMATELY 11:45 PM, WILSON AGAIN TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED BARKSDALE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

HE HAD A CLEAR CONSCIENCE, HAD TALKED WITH HIS FAMILY, AND WAS READY TO CONFESS TO SHERIFF BARKSDALE ALONE. HE AGAIN REQUESTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE TO MEET HIM AT THE HOLIDAY INN IN GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 9:30 AM, AUGUST 18, 1978 IN THE DINING ROOM WITHOUT HIS COAT ON AND ALONE. SHERIFF BARKSDALE POINTED OUT TO HIM THAT HE, BARKSDALE, WOULD HAVE DIFFICULTY MEETING HIM AT GULFPORT AT THE APPOINTED TIME AND REQUESTED THAT THEY ARRANGE A MEETING AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. WILSON COUNTERED BY INFORMING BARKSDALE THAT BARKSDALE WAS A PILOT AND HAD ACCESS TO AIRCRAFT AND THAT HE COULD OBTAIN A PLANE AND REACH GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI IN A RELATIVELY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME. WILSON ABSOLUTELY DECLINED TO MEET WITH BARKSDALE IN JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THIS CONVERSATION, WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE THAT HE WAS THEN IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, AND THAT

PAGE FOUR ME 44-1987-SUB M E F T O

HE COULD REACH GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI IN ABOUT ONE AND ONE HALF HOURS.

AT APPROXIMATELY 9:45 AM, AUGUST 18, 1978, REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 575-0654, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SHERIFF BARKSDALE AND FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

REVEREND FANNON WAS IN A CAFE IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 18, 1978, HAVING BREAKFAST. BURGESS WILSON APPROACHED HIM AND RELATED INFORMATION INDICATING HE, WILSON, HAD SHOT DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE IN APRIL OF 1968. HE INFORMED REVEREND FANNON THAT HE WAS TO MEET SHERIFF BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AND REQUESTED REVEREND FANNON TO FOLLOW HIM TO THE HOLIDAY INN.

PAGE FIVE ME 44-1987-SUB M E F T O

WILSON ALSO TALKED WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE ON THIS OCCASION AND ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING THE FAILURE OF SHERIFF BARKSDALE TO MEET WITH HIM AT 9:30 AM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED. SHERIFF BARKSDALE INFORMED WILSON THAT HE HAD BEEN ON DUTY ALL NIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH THE STRIKE INVOLVING THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ARRANGE MATTERS SO THAT HE COULD MEET WITH HIM. BARKSDALE INFORMED WILSON THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A MEETING WITH HIM. WILSON INFORMED BARKSDALE THAT HE WOULD STAY IN THE VICINITY OF THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, AND WOULD CONTACT THE DESK CLERK AT THE HOLIDAY INN PERIODICALLY IN ORDER FOR BARKSDALE TO ARRANGE TO MEET WITH HIM. WILSON FURNISHED BARKSDALE TELEPHONE NUMBER 601-864-4310 AS THE TELEPHONE NUMBER OF A HOLIDAY INN HE WOULD PERIODICALLY CONTACT.

BARKSDALE REPORTED THAT WILSON APPEARED TO BE COHERENT AND THIS INFORMATION WAS ALSO FURNISHED TO BARKSDALE BY REVEREND FANNON.

BARKSDALE FURNISHED INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM THE BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION, SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, INDICATING THAT BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, FBI NUMBER 879 421 E, WAS ARRESTED AT THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON MAY 14, 1964, BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 26, 1964, AND BY THE

PAGE SIX ME 1937-SUB M E F T O

SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ON MAY 27, 1964 AND MARCH 24, 1965, WITH RESIDENCE AT 3612 COVINGTON PIKE, MEMPHIS. WILSON WAS ARRESTED BY THE BEKAR COUNTY, TEXAS AUTHORITIES ON JUNE 12, 1972 FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT DRAWING OUT OF THE CHILD SUPPORT QUESTIONED IN BEKAR COUNTY. AT THE TIME WILSON RESIDED AT 1505 WEST CANYON LAKE DRIVE, CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HIS EMPLOYMENT WAS SHOWN AS A JEWELER.

THE FBI FINGERPRINT RECORD INDICATES THAT WILSON IS KNOWN AS BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. HE IS A WHITE MALE BORN AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, 5'10" TALL, 155 POUNDS, BROWN EYES AND BROWN HAIR. WHEN ARRESTED IN MAY OF 1964, HE RESIDED AT 3099 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DURING CONVERSATION WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE, WILSON INDICATED HE HAS A FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 3095

PAGE SEVEN ME 44-1987 SUB M E F T O

RISIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 386-4628, AND THAT HIS FATHER WAS FORMERLY PASTOR AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, CHELSEA AND HOLLYWOOD AVENUES, MEMPHIS, AND AT THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH, GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS TO BUREAU SUPERVISOR DREW CLARK, AUGUST 18, 1978. SUCOP

MEMPHIS INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WAS ELIMINATED AS A SUSPECT IN AN 87 MATTER INVOLVING THE TRANSPORTATION OF JEWELRY IN 1973. AT THE TIME, IT WAS DETERMINED HE HAD BEEN IN BUSINESS AS THE NORTH STAR DIAMOND CIRCLE, VALLEY HILL MALL, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, FROM EARLY 1971 TO MIDDLE 1971.

JACKSON AT JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF RECORDS AT LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., FBI NUMBER 879-421 E.

SAN ANTONIO AT BEXAR, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW APPROPRIATE RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., NOTING HE WAS BOOKED AT BEXAR COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972, FOR CONTEMPT OF COURT GROWING OUT OF CHILD SUPPORT QUESTION IN BEXAR COUNTY.

BT

GAO 094 2310245Z

OO HQ ME JN

DE SA

O 180245ZAUG 78

FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.
MURKIN.

RECORDS, IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, BEXAR COUNTY JAIL,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, INDICATE BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE, BORN AUGUST 28, 1931,
5 FT., 11 INCHES, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, BOOKED INTO BEXAR
COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972 ON CONTEMPT OF COURT OUT OF STATE
DISTRICT COURT 57 (CASE NUMBER F 248-084). WILSON SERVED
TWELVE DAYS AND WAS RELEASED JUNE 30, 1972.

CENTRAL RECORDS, BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, WILL
NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UNTIL AUGUST 21, 1978.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TEL, AUGUST 18, 1978.

SAN ANTONIO INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE, BORN 8/28/31, TEXAS DRIVERS LICENSE (TDL) *44-2649-709*

Geary

Cale PFC

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 18 1978	
FBI - DALLAS	

af

PAGE TWO SA 44-1242 EFTO

NUMBER 7911315 EXPIRING 8/28/80, PREVIOUS ADDRESS,
113 MILLS STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS IS SUBJECT OF SAN ANTONIO
FILE 29-2620 CAPTIONED "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.: BF&E";
OO: SAN ANTONIO. WILSON ALLEGEDLY DEFAULTED ON A \$1,000
NOTE AT KYLE STATE BANK, KYLE, TEXAS AND IN A
SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FINANCING STATEMENT FILED WITH THE
HAYES COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE, WILSON INDICATED THAT
THE \$1,000 NOTE WAS OBTAINED TO PURCHASE CATTLE.

NCIC INQUIRY REVEALED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.,
BORN 8/28/31 IN MISSISSIPPI, SSAN [REDACTED] TDL
77911315 WANTED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AS
PROBATION VIOLATOR, DATE OF WARRANT 4/18/78.

SAN ANTONIO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW BEXAR
COUNTY DISTRICT COURT RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR. IN EFFORT TO LOCATE FORMER WIFE FOR INTERVIEW.

AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF RECORDS OF
LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.,
SSAN [REDACTED]

AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, WILL CONDUCT DISCREET INQUIRY TO
DETERMINE IF RESIDENCE OF FORMER WIFE AND FAMILY FOR INTERVIEW.
BT

GAO 394 2310245Z

OO HQ ME JW

DE SA

O 180245Z AUG 78

FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) P

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRES UNIT, ROOM 8983, JEN BUILDING.
MURKIN.

RECORDS, IDENTIFICATION BUREAU, BEXAR COUNTY JAIL,
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, ON AUGUST 13, 1978, INDICATE BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHITE MALE, BORN AUGUST 28, 1931,
5 FT, 11 INCHES, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, BOOKED INTO BEXAR
COUNTY JAIL JUNE 19, 1972 ON CONTEMPT OF COURT OUT OF STATE
DISTRICT COURT 57 (CASE NUMBER F 248-384). WILSON SERVED
TWELVE DAYS AND WAS RELEASED JUNE 30, 1972.

CENTRAL RECORDS, BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT COURT, WILL
NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UNTIL AUGUST 21, 1978.

ADMINISTRATIVE: RE MEMPHIS TEL, AUGUST 18, 1978.
SAN ANTONIO INDICES AND FILES REVEAL BURGESS AUDIE WILSON,
JR., WHITE MALE, BORN 8/28/31, TEXAS DRIVERS LICENSE (IDL)

44-2649-709
Clerk
W

PAGE TWO SA 44-1242 EF10

NUMBER 7911315 EXPIRING 4/23/80, PREVIOUS ADDRESS,
113 MILLS STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS IS SUBJECT OF SAN ANTONIO
FILE 29-2623 CAPTIONED "BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.: BF&E";
OO: SAN ANTONIO. WILSON ALLEGEDLY DEFAULTED ON A \$1,000
NOTE AT KYLE STATE BANK, KYLE, TEXAS AND IN A
SECURITY AGREEMENT AND FINANCING STATEMENT FILED WITH THE
HAYES COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK'S OFFICE, WILSON INDICATED THAT
THE \$1,000 NOTE WAS OBTAINED TO PURCHASE CATTLE.

NCIC INQUIRY REVEALED BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.,
BORN 8/28/31 IN MISSISSIPPI, SSAN [REDACTED] TDL
77911315 WANTED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT AS
PROBATION VIOLATOR, DATE OF WARRANT 4/18/78.

SAN ANTONIO AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, WILL REVIEW BEXAR
COUNTY DISTRICT COURT RECORDS RE IDENTITY OF CHILDREN OF BURGESS
AUDIE WILSON, JR. IN EFFORT TO LOCATE FORMER WIFE FOR INTERVIEW.

AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WILL CAUSE A REVIEW OF RECORDS OF
LOGICAL POLICE AGENCIES REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.,
SSAN [REDACTED]

AT SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, WILL CONDUCT DISCREET INQUIRY TO
DETERMINE IF RESIDENCE OF FORMER WIFE AND FAMILY FOR INTERVIEW.

BT

02 2321500Z

OO HQ DL JN

DE ME

0201500Z AG 78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIREIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN.

RE DALLAS TEL TO BU 8-19-78.

CHICAGO TEL TO BU 8-20-78, NO COPY TO DALLAS.

FOR INFORMATION DALLAS, ON 8-19-78 DEBRA ANN JONES, BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS, DAUGHTER OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ADVISED WILSON FAMILY RESIDED KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI FROM 1964 TO SEPTEMBER, 1968. IN 1968 HER FATHER GAVE HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG AS GRADUATION PRESENT. SHE NEVER DROVE THIS VEHICLE TO MEMPHIS, TENN. SHE AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU WADE VISITED HER MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO WAS IN HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, AT TIME OF THE KING MURDER. THEY USED COMMERCIAL AIRLINE FOR ROUNDTRIP TRANSPORTATION, . DURING TIME THEY WERE IN MEMPHIS AREA BETTY WADE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HER HUSBAND, BURGESS WILSON TWO TIMES IN KANSAS CITY WHERE HE REMAINED

Cole
advised
11:00 AM
8-20-78

Cole *AK*

44-2649-710

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 21 1978	
FBI - DALLAS	

19

PAGE TWO ME 44- WITH HER TWO

WITH HER TWO BROTHERS, STEVEN AND MARK WILSON.

BURGESS WILSON WHO WAS INTOXICATED, TELEPHONED DEBRA JONES ON EVENING OF 8-17-78 AND TOLD HER FBI WAS GOING TO PUT HIM IN JAIL FOR THE MURDER OF KING AND THAT FBI HAD GIVEN HIM A POLYGRAPH TEST. HE TOLD HER SHE WOULD BE CONTACTED BY THE FBI AND TOLD HER TO SAY NOTHING.

MRS. OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, CONTACTED 8-20-78 AND UNABLE TO RECALL VISIT OF BOTH BETTY LOU WADE AND DEBRA JONES ON OCCASIONS HER HUSBAND VERNON HOOTEN SUFFERED HEART ATTACKS, BUT RECALLS BETTY LOU WADE VISITING ON OCCASIONS WHEN BOTH SHE AND MR. HOOTEN WERE ILL. SHE WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES BUT WILL CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS AND ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC DATES OF MR. HOOTEN'S ILLNESSES.

DALLAS WILL RECONTACT BETTY LOU WADE REGARDING VISIT TO MEMPHIS NOTED ABOVE AND ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY INFORMATION SHE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED REGARDING LACK OF OWNERSHIP OR ACCESS TO WHITE MUSTANG VEHICLE BY WILSON. INTERVIEW STEVEN AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF BURGESS WILSON'S ALLEGATIONS THAT HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD OF 4-4-68 AND WHETHER WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ATTEMPT TO VERIFY INFORMATION FURNISHED BY DEBRA JONES.

HANDLE IMMEDIATELY AND ADVISE FBIHQ, MEMPHIS AND JACKSON.

BT.DL 1

0000 2301500Z

00 HQ DL JN

DE ME

0 201500Z AG 78

FM MEMPHIS (44-1937 SUB M)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIREIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEN.

MURKIN.

RE DALLAS TEL TO BU 8-19-78.

CHICAGO TEL TO BU 8-20-78, NO COPY TO DALLAS.

FOR INFORMATION DALLAS, ON 8-19-78 DEBRA ANN JONES, BELVIDERE, ILLINOIS, DAUGHTER OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ADVISED WILSON FAMILY RESIDES KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI FROM 1964 TO SEPTEMBER, 1968. IN 1968 HER FATHER GAVE HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG AS GRADUATION PRESENT. SHE NEVER DROVE THIS VEHICLE TO MEMPHIS, TENN. SHE AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU WADE VISITED HER MATERNAL GRANDFATHER, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO WAS IN HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, AT TIME OF THE KING MURDER. THEY USED COMMERCIAL AIRLINE FOR ROUNDTRIP TRANSPORTATION, . DURING TIME THEY WERE IN MEMPHIS AREA BETTY WADE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HER HUSBAND, BURGESS WILSON TWO TIMES IN KANSAS CITY WHERE HE REMAINED

44-2649-710

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 19 1978	
FBI - DALLAS	

g

PAGE TWO ME 44- WITH HER TWO

WITH HER TWO BROTHERS, STEVEN AND MARK WILSON.

BURGESS WILSON WHO WAS INTOXICATED, TELEPHONED DEBRA JONES ON EVENING OF 3-17-78 AND TOLD HER FBI WAS GOING TO PUT HIM IN JAIL FOR THE MURDER OF KING AND THAT FBI HAD GIVEN HIM A POLYGRAPH TEST. HE TOLD HER SHE WOULD BE CONTACTED BY THE FBI AND TOLD HER TO SAY NOTHING.

MRS. OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, CONTACTED 4-20-78 AND UNABLE TO RECALL VISIT OF BOTH BETTY LOU WADE AND DEBRA JONES ON OCCASIONS HER HUSBAND VERNON HOOTEN SUFFERED HEART ATTACKS, BUT RECALLS BETTY LOU WADE VISITING ON OCCASIONS WHEN BOTH SHE AND MR. HOOTEN WERE ILL. SHE WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES BUT WILL CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS AND ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SPECIFIC DATES OF MR. HOOTEN'S ILLNESSES.

DALLAS WILL RECONTACT BETTY LOU WADE REGARDING VISIT TO MEMPHIS NOTED ABOVE AND ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY INFORMATION SHE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED REGARDING LACK OF OWNERSHIP OR ACCESS TO WHITE MUSTANG VEHICLE BY WILSON. INTERVIEW STEVEN AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF BURGESS WILSON'S ALLEGATIONS THAT HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD OF 4-4-68 AND WHETHER WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ATTEMPT TO VERIFY INFORMATION FURNISHED BY DEBRA JONES.

HANDLE IMMEDIATELY AND ADVISE FBIHQ, MEMPHIS AND JACKSON.

BT,DL 1

VZCZCHQ0047 231203

OO HQ BH DL HO ME SA

DE JN

O 191925Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

////////ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ////////

HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

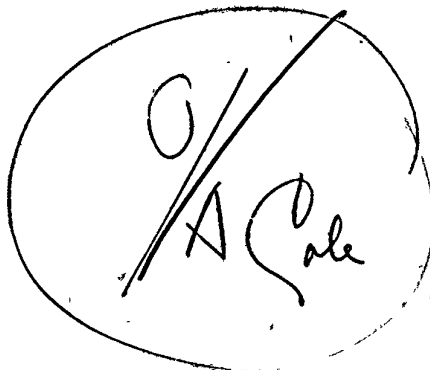
BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

FOR INFORMATION OF HOUSTON, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ADVISED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED TWO TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WITH BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT



Cole *MC*

44-2649-711

File FILED *File*

AUG 19 1978

File *g*

PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

MEMPHIS; THAT HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS THREE DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S DEATH, AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR WILSON AND COMPANION REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TO APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 6:30 PM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT WHICH TIME THEY WERE TO BE CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE. WILSON WAS CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE; HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS INFORMATION REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN, LUTHER KING WITH THEM.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL WILSON, WAS ARRESTED BY OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT, 7:35 PM, AUGUST 18, 1978, BASED ON PROBATION VIOLATOR WARRANT DATED APRIL 18, 1978, ISSUED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT. WILSON PRESENTLY INCARCERATED OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT. OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THE LATTER DESIRES HIS RETURN TO TEXAS.

WILSON CONTACTED AM, AUGUST 19, 1978, BY FBI AND FURNISHED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

PAGE 3 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

HE WAS BORN ON AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, AND RESIDED WITH HIS FAMILY AT GOLDEN, MISSISSIPPI, UNTIL 1936, WHEN THEY MOVED TO ELDRIDGE, ALABAMA, WHERE HE WENT TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE EIGHTH GRADE AND THEN WENT TO CARBON HILL, ALABAMA, HIGH SCHOOL, UNTIL 1947.

ON MAY 2, 1947, HE ENTERED U. S. AIR FORCE AND WAS DISCHARGED 1950. AFTER BEING OUT OF THE AIR FORCE FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS, HE WAS RECALLED INTO THE KOREAN WAR UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FEBRUARY, 1960.

HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU WILSON, MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE AND WORKED FOR PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. AFTER LEAVING PRUDENTIAL, HE OPERATED A LAUNDRY AND CLEANING BUSINESS IN MEMPHIS. DURING THIS TIME HE WAS ALSO IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

HE LEFT MEMPHIS, WENT TO GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, WHERE HE BECAME A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND REMAINED WITH THE RESERVE UNTIL 1970. ALSO, FROM 1966 UNTIL 1970, HE OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE BUSINESS.

IN 1970, HE AND WIFE BETTY WILSON MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND OPENED A JEWELRY BUSINESS IN BARTLETT, TENNESSEE. IN ADDITION

PAGE 4 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

TO JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE BUILT ALUMINUM STORAGE BUILDINGS, BUT IN JUNE, 1970, HIS BUSINESS WAS DESTROYED BY A TORNADO.

HE THEN WENT TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND BECAME EMPLOYED BY AIR FORCE RESERVE AS A FLIGHT ENGINEER. HE ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE IN SAN ANTONIO UNTIL 1974, AND AT THIS TIME HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY, WERE DIVORCED. HE THEN MOVED TO MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, OPENED A JEWELRY STORE, AND MARRIED AVIS LEA HUNTER. HE WAS MARRIED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND THEY WERE DIVORCED. SHE NOW RESIDES AT 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE. HE THEN WENT TO COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, WHERE HE WORKED IN THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR CLIFF FINCH. WHILE IN COLUMBUS, HE MARRIED PATRICIA SHINDALA OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN IT WAS SUGGESTED HE TELL PEOPLE HE WAS A RETIRED COLONEL AND AN EX-PRISONER OF WAR. HE LEFT COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, JANUARY, 1976, WENT TO TYLER, TEXAS, AND STAYED WITH LARRY HUGHEY, A FRIEND. HE WENT TO TEXAS FOR PURPOSE OF CLEARING UP SOME CHARGES AGAINST HIM AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS. HE WENT TO DALLAS, TEXAS, TO SEE A FRIEND, AND WHILE THERE CALLED HIS SON, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER POLICE ARRIVED AND ARRESTED HIM ON CHARGE OF NON CHILD SUPPORT ON A WARRANT ISSUED FOR HIM AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS. HE WAS RELEASED

TO AUTHORITIES FROM NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WHERE HE PLED GUILTY TO A CHARGE OF THEFT BY CHECK AND RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS PROBATION. HE THEN STAYED IN VICINITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS WHERE HE WAS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK. HE HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE AND WAS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF HIS PROBATION BUT WAS RELEASED A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER. HE CONTINUED WORKING AROUND NEW BRAUNFELS AND WAS AGAIN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MERCHANDISE, BUT THE CHARGES WERE LATER DROPPED. HE CONTINUED IN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS AND MARRIED JO ANN CHILDRESS AND WAS DIVORCED AFTER THREE MONTHS. IN JANUARY, 1978, HE DEPARTED FOR HOUMA, LOUISIANA, AND WORKED FOR LOUISIANA OFF-SHORE CATERERS UNTIL APRIL, 1978, WHEN HE WENT TO WORK FOR GULF COAST CATERERS OF NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, 1978. HE CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, AND OPENED A JEWELRY SHOP AND RESIDED AT TWIN PINES APARTMENTS IN OCEAN SPRINGS FOR THE FIRST THREE WEEKS THEN MOVED TO ROUTE 6, BOX 387.

WILSON IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL; DOB AUGUST 28, 1931; BOB FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; 5 FEET 11 INCHES; 170 POUNDS; BROWN EYES; GRAY HAIR; SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED] HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

PAGE 6 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

MILITARY SERVICE, U. S. AIR FORCE, 1947 - 1960; FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, SR. (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; MOTHER MITTIE DALE (DECEASED); STEPMOTHER LILLIE MAE WILSON (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; BROTHER ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; SISTER LYDA MC GAHEY, 2002 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI; SISTER CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; EX-WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, BURLESON, TEXAS; EX-WIFE AVIS LEA HUNTER, 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE; EX-WIFE PATRICIA SHINDALA, STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI (BELIEVED KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT); EX-WIFE JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 MILL STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS; DAUGHTER DEBORAH ANN JONES, HUSBAND CHARLES, BELVEDERE, ILLINOIS; SON STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS; SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS.

BIRMINGHAM REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, BROTHER, REFORM, ALABAMA.

DALLAS INTERVIEW BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, EX-WIFE, BURLESON, TEXAS, AND SONS STEVEN WAYNE WILSON AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON. IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS OF DEBORAH ANN JONES, DAUGHTER, FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW, WHO IS REPORTEDLY RESIDING IN EITHER BELVEDERE OR BELLVIEW, ILLINOIS.

PAGE 7 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSTON REVIEW POLICE RECORDS AT ^{Cleburne} ~~CLEVELAND~~, TEXAS, FOR FULL
DETAILS OF NON CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT ISSUED BY THAT DEPARTMENT
AGAINST WILSON.

MEMPHIS INTERVIEW AVIS LEA HUNTER, EX- WIFE.

SAN ANTONIO INTERVIEW JO ANN CHILDRESS, EX-WIFE, AND ALSO
REVIEW RECORDS AT THE AIR FORCE RESERVE CENTER.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND
INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED DR.
MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING THE CRITICAL
PERIOD OF APRIL 4, 1968, AND IF WILSON MAY HAVE HAD A HISTORY OF
PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ALL LEADS SHOULD BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY
AND KEEP FBIHQ, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSON APPRISED.

INTERVIEW OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., CONTINUING AT
OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, CONCERNING ASSASSINATION.

BT

VZCZCH00047 031203
OO HQ SH DL HQ ME SA
DE JN

O 191905Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

////////ALL OFFICES VIA FBING////////

HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 3988, JEH.

MURKIN: OO: MEMPHIS.

FOR INFORMATION OF HOUSTON, ON AUGUST 18, 1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ADVISED THAT ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED TWO TELEPHONE CALLS FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WITH BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT

44-2649-711

See to

AUG 19 1978

FBI-MEMPHIS

g

PAGE 2 IN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

MEMPHIS; THAT HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUSTANG FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS THREE DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S DEATH, AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR WILSON AND COMPANION REVEREND NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, TO APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI, AT 5:30 PM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT WHICH TIME THEY WERE TO BE CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE. WILSON WAS CONTACTED BY SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON OFFICE; HOWEVER, HE DECLINED TO DISCUSS INFORMATION REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING WITH THEM.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL WILSON, WAS ARRESTED BY OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, POLICE DEPARTMENT, 7:35 PM, AUGUST 18, 1978, BASED ON PROBATION VIOLATOR WARRANT DATED APRIL 13, 1978, ISSUED BY NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT. WILSON PRESENTLY INCARCERATED OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT. OCEAN SPRINGS POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND THE LATTER DESIRES HIS RETURN TO TEXAS.

WILSON CONTACTED AM, AUGUST 19, 1978, BY FBI AND FURNISHED FOLLOWING BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

PAGE 3 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

HE WAS BORN ON AUGUST 28, 1931, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, AND RESIDED WITH HIS FAMILY AT GOLDEN, MISSISSIPPI, UNTIL 1936, WHEN THEY MOVED TO ELDRIDGE, ALABAMA, WHERE HE WENT TO SCHOOL UNTIL THE EIGHTH GRADE AND THEN WENT TO CARBON HILL, ALABAMA, HIGH SCHOOL, UNTIL 1947.

ON MAY 2, 1947, HE ENTERED U. S. AIR FORCE AND WAS DISCHARGED 1950. AFTER BEING OUT OF THE AIR FORCE FOR APPROXIMATELY EIGHT MONTHS, HE WAS RECALLED INTO THE KOREAN WAR UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE FEBRUARY, 1950.

HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU WILSON, MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, FOLLOWING HIS DISCHARGE AND WORKED FOR PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR. AFTER LEAVING PRUDENTIAL, HE OPERATED A LAUNDRY AND CLEANING BUSINESS IN MEMPHIS. DURING THIS TIME HE WAS ALSO IN THE TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD.

HE LEFT MEMPHIS, WENT TO GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, WHERE HE BECAME A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND REMAINED WITH THE RESERVE UNTIL 1970. ALSO, FROM 1955 UNTIL 1970, HE OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE BUSINESS.

IN 1970, HE AND WIFE BETTY WILSON MOVED TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND OPENED A JEWELRY BUSINESS IN BARTLETT, TENNESSEE. IN ADDITION

TO JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE BUILT ALUMINUM STORAGE BUILDINGS, BUT IN JUNE, 1970, HIS BUSINESS WAS DESTROYED BY A TORNADO.

HE THEN WENT TO SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, AND BECAME EMPLOYED BY AIR FORCE RESERVE AS A FLIGHT ENGINEER. HE ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE IN SAN ANTONIO UNTIL 1974, AND AT THIS TIME HE AND HIS WIFE, BETTY, WERE DIVORCED. HE THEN MOVED TO MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS, OPENED A JEWELRY STORE, AND MARRIED AVIS LEA HUNTER. HE WAS MARRIED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND THEY WERE DIVORCED. SHE NOW RESIDES AT 1010 WICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE. HE THEN WENT TO COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, WHERE HE WORKED IN THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN FOR GOVERNOR CLIFF FINCH. WHILE IN COLUMBUS, HE MARRIED PATRICIA SHINDALA OF STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI. DURING THE GUBERNATORIAL CAMPAIGN IT WAS SUGGESTED HE TELL PEOPLE HE WAS A RETIRED COLONEL AND AN EX-PRISONER OF WAR. HE LEFT COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, JANUARY, 1976, WENT TO TYLER, TEXAS, AND STAYED WITH LARRY HUGHEY, A FRIEND. HE WENT TO TEXAS FOR PURPOSE OF CLEARING UP SOME CHARGES AGAINST HIM AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS. HE WENT TO DALLAS, TEXAS, TO SEE A FRIEND, AND WHILE THERE CALLED HIS SON, AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER POLICE ARRIVED AND ARRESTED HIM ON CHARGE OF NON CHILD SUPPORT ON A WARRANT ISSUED FOR HIM AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS. HE WAS RELEASED

TO AUTHORITIES FROM NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS, WHERE HE PLED GUILTY TO A CHARGE OF THEFT BY CHECK AND RECEIVED A SENTENCE OF EIGHT YEARS PROBATION. HE THEN STAYED IN VICINITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS WHERE HE WAS INVOLVED IN CONSTRUCTION WORK. HE HAD AN ALTERCATION WITH AN EMPLOYEE AND WAS ARRESTED FOR VIOLATION OF HIS PROBATION BUT WAS RELEASED A COUPLE OF WEEKS LATER. HE CONTINUED WORKING AROUND NEW BRAUNFELS AND WAS AGAIN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF STOLEN MERCHANDISE, BUT THE CHARGES WERE LATER DROPPED. HE CONTINUED IN CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS AND MARRIED JO ANN CHILDRESS AND WAS DIVORCED AFTER THREE MONTHS. IN JANUARY, 1978, HE DEPARTED FOR HOUMA, LOUISIANA, AND WORKED FOR LOUISIANA OFF-SHORE CATERERS UNTIL APRIL, 1978, WHEN HE WENT TO WORK FOR GULF COAST CATERERS OF NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA, WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL THE END OF JUNE, 1978. HE CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, AND OPENED A JEWELRY SHOP AND RESIDED AT TWIN PINES APARTMENTS IN OCEAN SPRINGS FOR THE FIRST THREE WEEKS THEN MOVED TO ROUTE 6, BOX 387.

WILSON IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL; DOB AUGUST 28, 1934;
JOB FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; 5 FEET 11 INCHES; 170 POUNDS; BROWN EYES;
GRAY HAIR; SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED] HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

PAGE 6 JN 62-344 UNCLAS E F T O

MILITARY SERVICE, U. S. AIR FORCE, 1947 - 1960; FATHER BURGESS AND IE WILSON, SR. (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; MOTHER MITTIE DALE (DECEASED); STEPMOTHER LILLIE MAE WILSON (DECEASED), GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI; BROTHER ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; SISTER LYDA MC GAHEY, 2002 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI; SISTER CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; EX-WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, BURLESON, TEXAS; EX-WIFE AVIS LEA HUNTER, 1010 HICKORY HILL LANE, HERMITAGE, TENNESSEE; EX-WIFE PATRICIA SHINDALA, STARKVILLE, MISSISSIPPI (BELIEVED KILLED IN CAR ACCIDENT); EX-WIFE JO ANN CHILDRESS, 113 MILL STREET, SAN MARCOS, TEXAS; DAUGHTER DEBORAH ANN JONES, HUSBAND CHARLES, BELVEDERE, ILLINOIS; SON STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS; SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BURLESON, TEXAS.

BIRMINGHAM REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW ALLISON TOWERS WILSON, BROTHER, REFORM, ALABAMA.

DALLAS INTERVIEW BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, EX-WIFE, BURLESON, TEXAS, AND SONS STEVEN WAYNE WILSON AND MARK ANTHONY WILSON. IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ASCERTAIN WHEREABOUTS OF DEBORAH ANN JONES, DAUGHTER, FOR IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW, WHO IS REPORTEDLY RESIDING IN EITHER BELVEDERE OR BELLVIEW, ILLINOIS.

PAGE 7 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSTON REVIEW POLICE RECORDS AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, FOR FULL DETAILS OF NON CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT ISSUED BY THAT DEPARTMENT AGAINST WILSON.

MEMPHIS INTERVIEW AVIS LEA HUNTER, EX- WIFE.

SAN ANTONIO INTERVIEW JO ANN CHILDRESS, EX-WIFE, AND ALSO REVIEW RECORDS AT THE AIR FORCE RESERVE CENTER.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON FOR FULL BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND VERACITY OF HIS ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. DETERMINE HIS WHEREABOUTS DURING THE CRITICAL PERIOD OF APRIL 4, 1968, AND IF WILSON MAY HAVE HAD A HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS. ALL LEADS SHOULD BE HANDLED IMMEDIATELY AND KEEP FBIHQ, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSON APPRISED.

INTERVIEW OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., CONTINUING AT OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, CONCERNING ASSASSINATION.

BT

VZCZCHQ0049 2312325

OO HQ BH DL ME SA

DE JN

I 19 2242Z AUG 78

FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE ALL OFFICES VIA FBIHQ

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., INMATE, OCEAN SPRINGS CITY JAIL, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, WAS INTERVIEWED BY FBI AGENTS, AUGUST 19, 1978, REGARDING HIS ALLEGED KNOWLEDGE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AFTER HAVING WAIVED HIS RIGHTS, AND HE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON ADVISED THAT THE TIME PRIOR TO THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, HE WAS LIVING IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, IN A HOUSE ON

44-2649-712

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 19 1978	
FBI - DALLAS	

Cole *PPC*

PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

BYERS ROAD WITH HIS WIFE, BETTY LOU, AND HIS THREE CHILDREN, DEBORAH, STEVE, AND MARK. HE WAS IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVE AND ALSO OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE.

IN THE COURSE OF HIS JEWELRY BUSINESS, HE MET A WHITE MALE ITALIAN WHO WAS IN HIS LATE SIXTIES AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 9 INCHES TALL, WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 230 POUNDS, AND WHO OPERATED A JEWELRY TRADE SHOP ON WALNUT STREET. HE STATED THAT THIS WHITE MALE INTRODUCED HIM TO ANOTHER WHITE MALE ITALIAN BY THE NAME OF MITCH (LNU), WHO WAS IN HIS MID FIFTIES AND WAS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 10 INCHES TALL, AND WEIGHED APPROXIMATELY 190 POUNDS, WHO HAD BLACK, WAVY HAIR AND HAD SOME CONNECTION WITH A BONDING COMPANY, AND ALSO MITCH'S BROTHER, NAME NOT RECALLED, WHO FIT THE SAME PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION AS MITCH, BUT WHO HAD NUMEROUS CUT SCARS ON HIS FACE.

HE STATED THAT MITCH STARTED DELIVERING JEWELRY TO HIM FOR THE PURPOSE OF HAVING THE STONES REMOVED FROM THE FITTINGS. HE STATED MITCH USUALLY MET HIM AT A BAR ON WALNUT STREET WHICH WAS RUN BY A WHITE FEMALE AND IT ALSO APPEARED THAT MITCH MIGHT HAVE BEEN A PART OWNER OR HAD AN INTEREST IN THIS BAR. HE STATED THAT DUE TO THE VOLUME OF JEWELRY THAT MITCH WAS BRINGING TO HIM, HE

ASKED MITCH ABOUT IT, AND MITCH ADVISED HIM THAT IT WAS STOLEN JEWELRY. MITCH TOLD HIM, HOWEVER, THAT HE, WILSON, WAS IN AS DEEP AS HE, MITCH, WAS AND THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH MITCH. HE STATED THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH MITCH CONTINUED UNTIL 1970.

HE STATED THAT MITCH BROUGHT UP THE IDEA OF KILLING KING AND SAID THAT THERE WAS A \$50,000 CONTRACT ON HIM. HOWEVER, HE NEVER SAID WHO PUT OUT THE CONTRACT BUT SAID THAT HE COULD GET THE MONEY FOR WILSON IF HE KILLED KING.

WILSON STATED THAT MITCH WAS WELL AWARE OF HIS, WILSON'S, THOUGHTS CONCERNING KING AND THE BLACK CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT, IN THAT HIS FATHER, WHO WAS A PASTOR OF THE CENTRAL BAPTIST CHURCH AT GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI, DIED OF A HEART ATTACK WHICH HE, WILSON, THOUGHT WAS CAUSED AS A RESULT OF RACIAL TENSIONS AT GRENADA BROUGHT ON BY THE FORCEFUL INTEGRATION OF HIS FATHER'S CHURCH.

WILSON STATED THAT APPROXIMATELY FIVE OR SIX MONTHS BEFORE KING'S MURDER, HE STARTED GATHERING INFORMATION ON THE MOVEMENTS, HABITS, AND WHEREABOUTS OF KING.

WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE AIRCRAFT, WHICH