

PAGE 4 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

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MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT THERE WAS A GARBAGE STRIKE IN PROGRESS AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND THAT MITCH CALLED HIM AT HIS STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND TOLD HIM THAT KING WAS COMING TO MEMPHIS FOR A RALLY AND INSTRUCTED WILSON TO COME TO MEMPHIS WHERE HE WAS TO MEET TWO MEN AT THE WONDER BAR LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF SUMMER AVENUE AND WHITE STATION ROAD.

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HE ADVISED THAT DEBORAH AND HER MOTHER, BETTY LOU, WERE STAYING AT THE RESIDENCE OF WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN ROAD, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. HE STATED THAT HOOTEN HAD HAD A HEART ATTACK AND THAT HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTER WERE TEMPORARILY STAYING AT THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE.

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WILSON STATED THAT ON THE DAY OF THE MURDER HE WAS IN THE CROWD STANDING NEAR A WOOD FENCE APPROXIMATELY 60 FEET FROM WHERE KING WAS STANDING AND THAT WHEN KING RAISED HIS ARMS THE SECOND TIME HE SHOT HIM.

MR. WILSON ADVISED THAT HE HAD THE RIFLE WHICH HE USED STRAPPED TO HIS BELT UNDER A SUIT COAT AND ATTACHED TO HIS BELT ON A SWIVEL. HE STATED THAT THE BARREL PROTRUDED FROM BELOW HIS COAT BUT NO ONE QUESTIONED HIM CONCERNING IT. HE SAID THAT HE HAD PRACTICED A GREAT DEAL SWIVELING THE RIFLE AND FIRING IT.

HE ADVISED THAT AFTER THE SHOOTING, HE WAS STOPPED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE, BUT HE SHOWED THEM THE CREDENTIALS, AND THEY LET HIM GO, AND HE WALKED ON DOWN THE STREET APPROXIMATELY TWO BLOCKS TO WHERE HE HAD LEFT THE MUSTANG PARKED. HE ADVISED THAT HE GOT IN THE MUSTANG AND DROVE BACK TO THE HOOTEN RESIDENCE, AND HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH, THEN TOOK HIM TO THE AIRPORT, AND HE GOT HIS PLANE AND FLEW BACK TO KANSAS CITY. HE STATED THAT THE AIRPORT

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WILSON ADVISED THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK BEFORE THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM \$25,000 IN \$20 BILLS, AND FOLLOWING THE MURDER, MITCH GAVE HIM ANOTHER \$25,000, AT WHICH TIME HE GAVE THE CREDENTIALS BACK TO MITCH.

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THE ABOVE INFORMATION REFLECTS COMPLETE DETAILS OF INTERVIEW WITH WILSON.

WILSON HAS SIGNED EXTRADITION PAPERS, AND EXTRADITION IN PROGRESS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

APPROPRIATE RECIPIENTS REQUESTED TO REINTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE INCONSISTENCIES CONCERNING HIS APPEARANCE IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 4, 1968.

CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ALLOWING TWO AGENTS FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION WHO ARE THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH THE MURKIN MATTER TO REINTERVIEW WILSON CONCERNING HIS ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING AND ALSO INTERVIEW

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BY POLYGRAPH OPERATOR FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS PLESASE CONTACT JACKSON

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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

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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

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BY POLYGRAPH OPERATOR FROM MEMPHIS DIVISION.

BT

FOR ANY CORRECTIONS PLESASE CONTACT JACKSON

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

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

DALLAS PRIORITY

JACKSON PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU AUGUST 18, 1978, NO COPIES
TO BIRMINGHAM OR DALLAS.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF BIRMINGHAM AND DALLAS, ON AUGUST 18,
1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., ADVISED THAT ON
THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED 2 TELEPHONE CALLS
FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE
TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENN., WITH
BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT MEMPHIS ; THAT HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUS-
TANG FROM KANSAS CITY MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS 3 DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S
DEATH AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO

8/19 Perry Cole
given for
to your hands
by Ed Coleman

(Chadwick)
M/K

1 PM
Meyling
adding to call
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Cole *AK*

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BARXSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR WILSON AND COMPANION REV. NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., TO APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS., 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.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON AND OPAL HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN RD., BARTLETT, TENN., THE FORMER FATHER-IN-LAW AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF WILSON, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON AND THEIR DAUGHTER BETTY LOU, AGE 47, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER PRESENT HUSBAND KEITH WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, WERE MARRIED IN THE 1940'S AND THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR 1973. THE WILSONS HAD 3 CHILDREN, DEBORAH ANN, AGE 28, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER HUSBAND CHARLIE JONES IN BELLEVIEW, ILL., SPECIFIC ADDRESS NOT KNOWN; STEVEN, AGE 26, AND MARK ANTHONY, AGE 21, BOTH OF

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WHOM RESIDE IN BURLESON, TEXAS, SPECIFIC ADDRESSES UNKNOWN. WILSON HAS ONE BROTHER AL WILSON, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND 2 SISTERS, LYDA MC GAHA, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, WHO RESIDES IN RULTON, MISS. HIS PARENTS ARE DECEASED.

BURGESS AND BETTY LOU WILSON RESIDED IN MEMPHIS, TENN., AT VARIOUS TIMES, SPECIFIC PERIODS OF TIME NOT RECALLED, AT KANSAS CITY, MO., AND CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THEY MOVED TO KANSAS CITY, MO., IN 1963 FROM MEMPHIS WHERE THEY OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE. BETTY LOU WILSON LEFT BURGESS AT KANSAS CITY AFTER THEY HAD RESIDED THERE 2 OR 3 YEARS AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS. WHILE RESIDING IN KANSAS CITY, MO., BURGESS PURCHASED A WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE FOR HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH. THE HOOTENS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE WAS NEVER TRANSPORTED TO MEMPHIS, TENN. AFTER BETTY LOU AND THE CHILDREN LEFT KANSAS CITY AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS, BURGESS FOLLOWED AND THE FAMILY RESIDED IN MEMPHIS AS A FAMILY UNIT FOR A YEAR OR 2 BEFORE MOVING TO CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR

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Ø73. BURGESS WILSON WAS SELDOM GAINFULLY EMPLOYED BUT DID FROM TIME TO TIME ATTEMPT TO OPERATE JEWELRY STORES AND WATCH REPAIR SHOPS.

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 PM. WILSON ASKED GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE HOOTENS AND REMARKED THAT HE RESIDED IN NEW ORLEANS, LA. WILSON FURNISHED NO OTHER PERSONAL DATA REGARDING HIMSELF AND THE PHONE CALL WAS TERMINATED AFTER THE LAPSE OF A FEW MINUTES. ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN TALKED WITH HIS SON JAMES HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, AND HIS SON INFORMED HIM THAT BURGESS WILSON HAD ALSO CALLED HIM ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978. WHILE WILSON WAS TALKING WITH EITHER JAMES HOOTEN OR HIS WIFE MARIE, HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. JAMES AND MARIE HOOTEN ARE OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON WAS EXAGGERATING AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE IN FACT PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING.

THE HOOTENS DESCRIBED WILSON AS A VERY HEAVY DRINKER; HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT WHEN DRINKING HE TALKS COHERENTLY

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AND HIS MOVEMENTS DO NOT GIVE EVIDENCE THAT HE IS INTOXICATED. HE IS A BOASTFUL TALKER AND OFTEN MAKES EXAGGERATED STATEMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WHO ARE LISTENING TO HIM. HE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSIVE TOWARD HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ON ONE OCCASION HELD HIS FORMER WIFE'S HEAD UNDER WATER IN THE BATHTUB FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. HE HAS MADE THREATS TO KILL VERNON HOOTEN AND HIS FORMER WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON. ON ONE OCCASION HE CHECKED IN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, TENN., DATE NOT RECALLED, AND COMPLAINED OF A HEART ATTACK; HOWEVER, MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NO HEART PROBLEM. ON ANOTHER OCCASION HE CHECKED IN AT THE VA HOSPITAL AND COMPLAINED OF A CRIPPLED LEG AND AGAIN MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH HIM. VERNON HOOTEN BELIEVES THAT WILSON WOULD FALSELY CONFESS TO A CRIME IN ORDER TO HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP AND EAT IF HE WAS IN NEED OF FOOD AND SHELTER. IN THE OPINION OF THE HOOTENS, WILSON IS A COMPULSIVE LIAR AND BOTH ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY CANNOT RECALL SPECIFICALLY WHERE HE

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RESIDED IN 1968 BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT MAINTAIN A RESIDENCE IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE EVER OWNED OR POSSESSED A GUN OR OTHER WEAPON BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, JAMES HOOTEN, 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, TENN., FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ABOUT 9:30 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BILL WILSON, CALLED JAMES HOOTEN STATING HE WAS CALLING FROM CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HE MADE GENERAL INQUIRIES REGARDING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF JAMES HOOTEN AND HIS WIFE MARIE, AND THEN HE REQUESTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE FOR HIM. HOOTEN QUESTIONED HIM REGARDING THE NATURE OF HIS REQUEST, AND WILSON TOLD HIM HE HAD TELEPHONED BARKSDALE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978, AND HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ON AUGUST 20, 1978, PLACE NOT STATED. HE INFORMED HOOTEN HE HAD CALLED BARKSDALE AND WAS MEETING WITH HIM TO SURRENDER HIMSELF BECAUSE HE SHOT AND KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. HE WANTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHERIFF BARKSDALE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING HIS, WILSON'S, IDENTITY

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AND THE APPOINTMENT. HOOTEN REFUSED TO HONOR WILSON'S REQUEST AND QUESTIONED HIS SINCERITY REGARDING HIS CLAIM FOR BOTH THE KILLING AND THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SHERIFF. WILSON INSISTED HE HAD KILLED KING AND STATED HE HAD MET WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE PERSONALLY ABOUT 2 WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. HE TERMINATED THE CALL WHEN HE REALIZED HOOTEN WOULD NOT CALL THE SHERIFF AS HE REQUESTED.

ACCORDING TO HOOTEN, WILSON IS AN EXTREMELY HEAVY DRINKER. HE FEELS THAT WILSON WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL WHEN CALLED AND THAT HIS HEAVY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL HAS HAD AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON HIS MIND. WILSON WAS AT ONE TIME PLACED IN AN UNKNOWN HOSPITAL IN TEXAS BY HIS SON, STEVEN, TO HAVE HIM TREATED FOR ALCOHOLISM. HOOTEN IS OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING BUT DUE TO THE MENTAL DETERIORATION OF HIS MIND MAY BELIEVE HE DID. HOOTEN IS NOT CERTAIN BUT BELIEVES WILSON WAS NOT IN THE MEMPHIS AREA AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED.

DALLAS WILL CONTACT BETTY LOU WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PAGE EIGHT (ME 44-1987 SUB M) UNCLAS E F T O
REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AS WELL AS THE ADDRESSES OF WILSON'S
CHILDREN DEBORAH ANN, STEVEN, AND MARK ANTHONY. STEVEN AND
MARK ANTHONY WILSON SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED FOR INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO THEM REGARDING BURGESS WILSON AND APPROPRIATE
LEADS SHOULD BE SET FORTH REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF DEBORAH ANN
WILSON JONES, BELLEVIEW, ILL.

THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE WILL INTERVIEW LYDA MC GAHA AND AL
WILSON AT REFORM, ALA., AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION
RE BURGESS WILSON FROM HIS BROTHER AND SISTER.

JACKSON WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CHRISTINE
WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, AT FULTON, MISS., AND DEVELOP
ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON RE VERACITY
OF HIS ALLEGATIONS AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING THE
CRITICAL PERIOD (APRIL 4, 1968) AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY
OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS.

ALL OFFICES NOTE THESE LEADS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPEDITE
ATTENTION.

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

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

DALLAS PRIORITY

JACKSON PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU AUGUST 18, 1978, NO COPIES
TO BIRMINGHAM OR DALLAS.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF BIRMINGHAM AND DALLAS, ON AUGUST 18,
1978, GENE BARKSDALE, SHERIFF, SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., ADVISED THAT ON
THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, HE RECEIVED 2 TELEPHONE CALLS
FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. WILSON, WHO WAS FORMERLY IN THE
TENNESSEE AIR NATIONAL GUARD UNIT AT MEMPHIS, TENN., WITH
BARKSDALE, INFORMED THE SHERIFF THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING IN 1968 AT MEMPHIS ; THAT HIS DAUGHTER DROVE A WHITE MUS-
TANG FROM KANSAS CITY MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS 3 DAYS PRIOR TO KING'S
DEATH AND WISHED TO SURRENDER TO

44-2649-713

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

BARKSDALE AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS. ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR WILSON AND COMPANION REV. NOEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., TO APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN, GULFPORT, MISS., 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.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON AND OPAL HOOTEN, 3095 RUSKIN RD., BARTLETT, TENN., THE FORMER FATHER-IN-LAW AND MOTHER-IN-LAW OF WILSON, FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

WILSON AND THEIR DAUGHTER BETTY LOU, AGE 47, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER PRESENT HUSBAND KEITH WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BIRLESON, TEXAS, WERE MARRIED IN THE 1940'S AND THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR 1973. THE WILSONS HAD 3 CHILDREN, DEBORAH ANN, AGE 28, WHO NOW RESIDES WITH HER HUSBAND CHARLIE JONES IN BELLEVUE, ILL., SPECIFIC ADDRESS NOT KNOWN; STEVEN, AGE 26, AND MARK ANTHONY, AGE 21, BOTH OF

PAGE THREE (ME 44-1987 SUB M) UNCLAS S F T O

WHOM RESIDE IN BURLESON, TEXAS, SPECIFIC ADDRESSES UNKNOWN. WILSON HAS ONE BROTHER AL WILSON, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND 2 SISTERS, LYDA MC GAHA, WHO RESIDES IN REFORM, ALA., AND CHRISTINE WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, WHO RESIDES IN RULTON, MISS. HIS PARENTS ARE DECEASED.

BURGESS AND BETTY LOU WILSON RESIDED IN MEMPHIS, TENN., AT VARIOUS TIMES, SPECIFIC PERIODS OF TIME NOT RECALLED, AT KANSAS CITY, MO., AND CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THEY MOVED TO KANSAS CITY, MO., IN 1963 FROM MEMPHIS WHERE THEY OPERATED A JEWELRY STORE. BETTY LOU WILSON LEFT BURGESS AT KANSAS CITY AFTER THEY HAD RESIDED THERE 2 OR 3 YEARS AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS. WHILE RESIDING IN KANSAS CITY, MO., BURGESS PURCHASED A WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE FOR HIS DAUGHTER DEBORAH. THE HOOTENS ARE OF THE OPINION THAT THIS WHITE MUSTANG AUTOMOBILE WAS NEVER TRANSPORTED TO MEMPHIS, TENN. AFTER BETTY LOU AND THE CHILDREN LEFT KANSAS CITY AND RETURNED TO MEMPHIS, BURGESS FOLLOWED AND THE FAMILY RESIDED IN MEMPHIS AS A FAMILY UNIT FOR A YEAR OR 2 BEFORE MOVING TO CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. THE MARRIAGE WAS TERMINATED IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BY DIVORCE IN ABOUT 1972 OR

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D73. BURGESS WILSON WAS SELDOM GAINFULLY EMPLOYED BUT DID FROM TIME TO TIME ATTEMPT TO OPERATE JEWELRY STORES AND WATCH REPAIR SHOPS.

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 17, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AT APPROXIMATELY 8:00 PM. WILSON ASKED GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE HOOTENS AND REMARKED THAT HE RESIDED IN NEW ORLEANS, LA. WILSON FURNISHED NO OTHER PERSONAL DATA REGARDING HIMSELF AND THE PHONE CALL WAS TERMINATED AFTER THE LAPSE OF A FEW MINUTES. ON AUGUST 18, 1978, VERNON HOOTEN TALKED WITH HIS SON JAMES HOOTEN, WHO RESIDES AT 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, AND HIS SON INFORMED HIM THAT BURGESS WILSON HAD ALSO CALLED HIM ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978. WHILE WILSON WAS TALKING WITH EITHER JAMES HOOTEN OR HIS WIFE MARIE, HE REMARKED THAT HE HAD KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. JAMES AND MARIE HOOTEN ARE OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON WAS EXAGGERATING AND DO NOT BELIEVE THAT HE IN FACT PARTICIPATED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING.

THE HOOTENS DESCRIBED WILSON AS A VERY HEAVY DRINKER; HOWEVER, THEY POINTED OUT THAT WHEN DRINKING HE TALKS COHERENTLY

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AND HIS MOVEMENTS DO NOT GIVE EVIDENCE THAT HE IS INTOXICATED. HE IS A BOASTFUL TALKER AND OFTEN MAKES EXAGGERATED STATEMENTS IN AN EFFORT TO IMPRESS PEOPLE WHO ARE LISTENING TO HIM. HE HAS IN THE PAST BEEN PHYSICALLY ABUSIVE TOWARD HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN AND ON ONE OCCASION HELD HIS FORMER WIFE'S HEAD UNDER WATER IN THE BATHTUB FOR A CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME. HE HAS MADE THREATS TO KILL VERNON HOOTEN AND HIS FORMER WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON. ON ONE OCCASION HE CHECKED IN THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) HOSPITAL AT MEMPHIS, TENN., DATE NOT RECALLED, AND COMPLAINED OF A HEART ATTACK; HOWEVER, MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NO HEART PROBLEM. ON ANOTHER OCCASION HE CHECKED IN AT THE VA HOSPITAL AND COMPLAINED OF A CRIPPLED LEG AND AGAIN MEDICAL EXAMINATION REVEALED NOTHING WAS WRONG WITH HIM. VERNON HOOTEN BELIEVES THAT WILSON WOULD FALSELY CONFESS TO A CRIME IN ORDER TO HAVE A PLACE TO SLEEP AND EAT IF HE WAS IN NEED OF FOOD AND SHELTER. IN THE OPINION OF THE HOOTENS, WILSON IS A COMPULSIVE LIAR AND BOTH ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE HAD NOTHING WHATSOEVER TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY CANNOT RECALL SPECIFICALLY WHERE HE

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RESIDED IN 1968 BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT MAINTAIN A RESIDENCE IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME.. THEY DO NOT KNOW WHETHER HE EVER OWNED OR POSSESSED A GUN OR OTHER WEAPON BUT ARE OF THE OPINION THAT HE DID NOT.

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, JAMES HOOTEN, 2081 ST. ELMO, MEMPHIS, TENN., FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ABOUT 9:30 PM ON AUGUST 17, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, COMMONLY KNOWN AS BILL WILSON, CALLED JAMES HOOTEN STATING HE WAS CALLING FROM CANYON LAKE, TEXAS. HE MADE GENERAL INQUIRIES REGARDING THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF JAMES HOOTEN AND HIS WIFE MARIE, AND THEN HE REQUESTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE FOR HIM. HOOTEN QUESTIONED HIM REGARDING THE NATURE OF HIS REQUEST, AND WILSON TOLD HIM HE HAD TELEPHONED BARKSDALE ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 17, 1978, AND HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIM ON AUGUST 20, 1978, PLACE NOT STATED. HE INFORMED HOOTEN HE HAD CALLED BARKSDALE AND WAS MEETING WITH HIM TO SURRENDER HIMSELF BECAUSE HE SHOT AND KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968. HE WANTED HOOTEN TO CALL SHERIFF BARKSDALE FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONFIRMING HIS, WILSON'S, IDENTITY

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AND THE APPOINTMENT. HOOTEN REFUSED TO HONOR WILSON'S REQUEST AND QUESTIONED HIS SINCERITY REGARDING HIS CLAIM FOR BOTH THE KILLING AND THE APPOINTMENT WITH THE SHERIFF. WILSON INSISTED HE HAD KILLED KING AND STATED HE HAD MET WITH SHERIFF BARKSDALE PERSONALLY ABOUT 2 WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. HE TERMINATED THE CALL WHEN HE REALIZED HOOTEN WOULD NOT CALL THE SHERIFF AS HE REQUESTED.

ACCORDING TO HOOTEN, WILSON IS AN EXTREMELY HEAVY DRINKER. HE FEELS THAT WILSON WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL WHEN CALLED AND THAT HIS HEAVY CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL HAS HAD AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON HIS MIND. WILSON WAS AT ONE TIME PLACED IN AN UNKNOWN HOSPITAL IN TEXAS BY HIS SON, STEVEN, TO HAVE HIM TREATED FOR ALCOHOLISM. HOOTEN IS OF THE OPINION THAT WILSON HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING BUT DUE TO THE MENTAL DETERIORATION OF HIS MIND MAY BELIEVE HE DID. HOOTEN IS NOT CERTAIN BUT BELIEVES WILSON WAS NOT IN THE MEMPHIS AREA AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED.

DALLAS WILL CONTACT BETTY LOU WADE AT 233 SMITH ST., BURLESON, TEXAS, AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION

PAGE EIGHT (ME 44-1987 SUB M) UNCLAS E F T O
REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON AS WELL AS THE ADDRESSES OF WILSON'S
CHILDREN DEBORAH ANN, STEVEN, AND MARK ANTHONY. STEVEN AND
MARK ANTHONY WILSON SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED FOR INFORMATION
AVAILABLE TO THEM REGARDING BURGESS WILSON AND APPROPRIATE
LEADS SHOULD BE SET FORTH REQUESTING INTERVIEW OF DEBORAH ANN
WILSON JONES, BELLEVUE, ILL.

THE BIRMINGHAM OFFICE WILL INTERVIEW LYDA MC GARA AND AL
WILSON AT REFORM, ALA., AND OBTAIN ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION
RE BURGESS WILSON FROM HIS BROTHER AND SISTER.

JACKSON WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CHRISTINE
WILSON, MARRIED NAME NOT KNOWN, AT FULTON, MISS., AND DEVELOP
ALL PERTINENT BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE BURGESS WILSON.

ALL OFFICES INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON RE VERACITY
OF HIS ALLEGATIONS AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING THE
CRITICAL PERIOD (APRIL 4, 1968) AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY
OF PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS.

ALL OFFICES NOTE THESE LEADS SHOULD BE GIVEN EXPEDITE
ATTENTION.

BT

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FM HOUSTON (44-1502) (RUC)
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8938, EJH.

44-2649
MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

Murkin Material 190-39*

RE JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978;
HOUSTON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 20, 1978.

ON AUGUST 21, 1978, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AT THEIR
RESPECTIVE AGENCIES WERE CONTACTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS
CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT OR ANY
TYPE OF CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCESS CONCERNING A BURGESS
AIDIE WILSON, JR.:

Cole *MC*

44-2649-71A

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FBI - DALLAS	

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PAGE TWO HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

1. GLENN JONES, CITY JUDGE, CLEVELAND, TEXAS;
2. LOUIS HOUGH, SECRETARY FOR JACK HARTELL,
COUNTY ATTORNEY, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;
3. LOUISE MORRIS, CLERK, LIBERTY COUNTY DISTRICT
COURT, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;
4. NELL WHITTINGTON, IDENTIFICATION DIVISION,
LIBERTY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LIBERTY, TEXAS.

FOR INFORMATION, THE SUBJECT MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO
CLEBURNE, TEXAS, RATHER THAN CLEVELAND, TEXAS, INASMUCH AS
CLEBURNE IS RELATIVELY CLOSE TO DALLAS WHERE SUBJECT WAS
ARRESTED ON THE NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT.

LEADS DALLAS AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS, WILL COVER LEAD AS SET
OUT FOR HOUSTON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, IN ABOVE REFERENCED

JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978.

BT

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FM HOUSTON (44-1589) (RUC)
TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (60-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

INCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, EJH.

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978;
HOUSTON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 20, 1978.

ON AUGUST 21, 1978, THE FOLLOWING PERSONS AT THEIR
RESPECTIVE AGENCIES WERE CONTACTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS
CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT OR ANY
TYPE OF CIVIL OR CRIMINAL PROCESS CONCERNING A BURGESS
ANDIE WILSON, JR.:

44-2649-714

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PAGE TWO HO 44-1509 UNCLAS

1. GLENN JONES, CITY JUDGE, CLEVELAND, TEXAS;
2. LOUIS HOUGH, SECRETARY FOR JACK HARTELL,
COUNTY ATTORNEY, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;
3. LOUISE MORRIS, CLERK, LIBERTY COUNTY DISTRICT
COURT, LIBERTY COUNTY, TEXAS;
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LEADS. DALLAS AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS, WILL COVER LEAD AS SET
OUT FOR HOUSTON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, IN ABOVE REFERENCED
JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1978.

BT

FBI

Date:

8/19/78

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(Precedence)

988

FM DALLAS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY 1947

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY 1950

JACKSON (INFO) 1950⁰⁷

SAN ANTONIO (INFO) 1958

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH. MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPES TO BUREAU 8/18/78 AND SAN ANTONIO
TELETYPE TO BUREAU 8/18/78.

ON 8/19/78 BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMITH RD. BURLESON, TEXAS WHO
IS FORMER WIFE OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, STATES SHE WAS MARRIED TO
WILSON ON 4/4/68 AND CAN POSITIVELY STATE WILSON WAS AT GRANDVIEW,
MISSOURI, THAT DATE AND COULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS, TENN.,
AS HE IS CLAIMING. SHE SAID THEY RESIDED AT AN UNRECALLED
ADDRESS ON HERRICK ST. AND WILSON HAD A JEWELRY BUSINESS AT
THE KATZ DRUG STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WADE SAID MR. KATZ
SUBSEQUENTLY SOLD THE DRUG STORE AND THE BUSINESS WAS MOVED TO
ELTON, MISSOURI, WHERE IS WAS ESTABLISHED IN A SMALL SHOPPING
CENTER UNDER THE NAME OF WILBUR'S JEWELRY.

Cule *AKC*

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

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Per _____

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

44-2649-715

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(Precedence)

PAGE TWO DALLAS UNCLAS E F T O

WADE SAID WILSON NEVER OWNED OR HAD ACCESS TO A WHITE MUSTANG VEHICLE AND HER DAUGHTER DEBRA ANN JONES NEE WILSON NEVER DROVE ANY VEHICLE FROM KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, TO MEMPHIS, TENN., ON OR ABOUT 4/4/68.

WADE ADVISED SHE HAS BEEN DIVORCED FROM WILSON FOR OVER 5 YEARS. SHE SAID WILSON HAS EXPERIENCED MENTAL PROBLEMS FOR YEARS AND SHE DESCRIBED HIM AS A "LIAR AND CON ARTIST WHO CAN'T DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN TRUTH AND FANTASY". SHE SAID HE DEFINITELY NEEDS MEDICAL HELP.

WADE SAID SHE HAS RECEIVED NUMEROUS THREATENING AND HARASSING TELEPHONE CALLS FROM WILSON OVER THE PREVIOUS 5 YEARS AND HAD HIM ARRESTED AT CELBURN, TEXAS IN 1976 FOR NON-CHILD SUPPORT AND HARASSMENT. SHE SAID WILSON WAS COMMITTED TO A HOSPITAL AT NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS IN 1974-1975 FOR HIS UNSTABLE MENTAL CONDITION. WADE STATES WILSON ALWAYS CARRIES A 38 CAL. PISTOL AND SHE WOULD CONSIDER HIM DANGEROUS.

SHE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF WILSON'S RELATIVES WHO CAN SUBSTANTIATE HIS MENTAL CONDITION: SISTERS, LYDA MOGAHEY, 2002 EAST 8TH AVE. NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 327-

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Special Agent in Charge

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Date:

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PAGE THREE DALLAS UNCLAS E F T O

1141, CHRISTINE GUNTHORP, ROUTE 1 BOX 36, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI;
BROTHER, ALLISON WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; CHILDREN, STEPHEN
WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSOON, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TELEPHONE
NUMBER 923-9414, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, APT.
132, BURLESON, TEXAS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 295-2854, DEBRA ANN JONES,
2628 NEWBURG RD. LOT NUMBER 106 AT BELVDERE, ILLINOIS, TELEPHONE
NUMBER 543-9734.

DALLAS INDICES SEARCH NEGATIVE RE WILSON.

FURTHER LEADS BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS.

BT

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

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DE DL

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TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

JACKSON (INFO)

SAN ANTONIO (INFO)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988 JEH. MURKIN.

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TELETYPE TO BUREAU 8/18/78.

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MISSOURI, THAT DATE AND COULD NOT HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS, TENN.,
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THE KATZ DRUG STORE IN GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WADE SAID MR. KATZ
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PAGE TWO DALLAS UNCLAS E F T O

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SHE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF WILSON'S RELATIVES WHO CAN SUBSTANTIATE HIS MENTAL CONDITION: SISTERS, LYDA MCGAHEY, 2002 EAST 8TH AVE. NORTH, COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI, TELEPHONE NUMBER 327-

PAGE THREE DALLAS UNCLAS E F T O

1141, CHRISTINE GUNTHORP, ROUTE 1 BOX 36, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI;
BROTHER, ALLISON WILSON, REFORM, ALABAMA; CHILDREN, STEPHEN
WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSOON, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TELEPHONE
NUMBER 923-9414, MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, APT.

132, BURLESON, TEXAS, TELEPHONE NUMBER 295-2854, DEBRA ANN JONES,
2628 NEWBURG RD. LOT NUMBER 106 AT BELVDERE, ILLINOIS, TELEPHONE
NUMBER 543-9734.

DALLAS INDICES SEARCH NEGATIVE RE WILSON.

FURTHER LEADS BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS.

BT

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Date:

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

FM DALLAS (44-2649) RUC
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE 2204/2
MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE 2230
JACKSON IMMEDIATE 2245Z

BT

INCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR 8-20-78.

BETTY LOU WADE RECONCATED 8-20-78, AND STATES VISIT TO MEMPHIS
TO SEE VERNON HOOTEN, BAPTIST HOSPITAL, WAS SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER KING
MURDER.

WADE CONFIRMS WILSON BOUGHT DAUGHTER A CREAM COLORED MUSTANG
IN FEBRUARY 1968, BUT SAYS HE NEVER DROVE VEHICLE ON ANY TRIPS
TO HER KNOWLEDGE. SHE ALSO RECONFIRMS THAT WILSON WAS AT HOME IN
GRANDVIEW, MO. AT TIME KING MURDERED. SHE STATED THAT SHE HAS NEVER
HEARD WILSON MAKE ANY STATEMENT THAT HE KILLED MARTIN
LUTHER KING.

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON SAYS HE WAS 15 ON 4-4-68, AND RECALLS
SEEING OF KINGS DEATH ON TV AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, MO. HE CONFIRMS
FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON WAS ALSO HOME AT THAT TIME. STATES THAT
THERE WAS NO WAY HIS FATHER COULD HAVE KILLED KING.

Approved: TAMMIS / NYKD
Special Agent in Charge

Per _____

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Date:

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PAGE TWO DALLAS 44-2649 UNCLAS E F T O

STEPHEN WILSON CONFIRMED SISTER OWNED 1965 MUSTANG AND FATHER DROVE IT ON OCCASION BUT DOES NOT RECALL HE EVER DROVE IT TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DESCRIBES FATHER AS ALCOHOLIC WITH SERIOUS MENTAL PROBLEMS. SAID HE PLACED FATHER IN ALCOHOLIC REHABILITATION CLINIC AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS FOR 3 - 4 DAYS IN JANUARY 1976 TO DRY HIM OUT. FATHER LIVED WITH HIM FOR BRIEF TIME AFTERWARDS AND WOULD DRINK CONSTANTLY AND DO AND SAY CRAZY THINGS. SAYS NEVER HEARD FATHER EVER MAKE STATEMENT THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

MARK ANTHONY WILSON INTERVIEWED 8/20/78 AND STATED FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON IS A VERY SICK MAN AND POSSIBLY INSANE. SAYS HIS FATHER COULD NOT HAVE KILLED DR. KING SINCE TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION BURGESS WILSON WAS AT HOME IN GRAND VIEW, MO. ON THAT DATE. THINKS MOTHER AND SISTER VISITING GRANDMOTHER AT MEMPHIS, TENN. AND FATHER WAS HOME WITH HIM AND BROTHER STEPHEN.

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

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(Precedence)

PAGE THREE DL 44-2649 UNCLAS E F T O

WILSON DESCRIBES FATHER AS HABITUAL LIAR AND ALCOHOLIC WHO "WOULD WALK AROUND THE TRUTH TO TELL A LIE." SAYS FATHER HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT AND HAS EXPRESSED THE OPINION NUMEROUS TIMES THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS CRAZY AND HE IS THE ONLY SANE PERSON IN IT. STATES FATHER WAS PRIVATE PILOT AT ONE TIME AND DID HAVE BONANZA AIRCRAFT WHILE THEY LIVED AT GRANDVIEW, MO. CONFIRMS SISTER HAS CREAM MUSTANG AND FATHER DROVE IT ON OCCASION BUT NEVER TOOK IT OUT OF TOWN.

HE SAYS HE LAST SAW HIS FATHER IN SAN MARCUS, TEXAS IN JANUARY 1978 WHEN STEPHEN AND HE HAD DINNER WITH THEIR FATHER. SAID HE SEEMED TO BE DOING OK AND NO INDICATION OF ANY PROBLEMS AT THAT TIME. SAYS HE NEVER HEARD HIS FATHER MAKE ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

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

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FM DALLAS (44-2649) RUC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR 8-20-78.

BETTY LOU WADE RECONCATED 8-20-78, AND STATES VISIT TO MEMPHIS TO SEE VERNON HOOTEN, BAPTIST HOSPITAL, WAS SEVERAL WEEKS AFTER KING MURDER.

WADE CONFIRMS WILSON BOUGHT DAUGHTER A CREAM COLORED MUSTANG IN FEBURARY 1968, BUT SAYS HE NEVER DROVE VEHICLE ON ANY TRIPS TO HER KNOWLEDGE. SHE ALSO RECONFIRMS THAT WILSON WAS AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, MO. AT TIME KING MURDERED. SHE STATED THAT SHE HAS NEVER HEARD WILSON MAKE ANY STATEMENT THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON SAYS HE WAS 15 ON 4-4-68, AND RECALLS SEEING OF KINGS DEATH ON TV AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, MO. HE CONFIRMS FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON WAS ALSO HOME AT THAT TIME. STATES THAT THERE WAS NO WAY HIS FATHER COULD HAVE KILLED KING.

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PAGE TWO DALLAS 44-2649 UNCLAS E F T O

STEPHEN WILSON CONFIRMED SISTER OWNED 1965 MUSTANG AND FATHER DROVE IT ON OCCASION BUT DOES NOT RECALL HE EVER DROVE IT TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

DESCRIBES FATHER AS ALCOHOLIC WITH SERIOUS MENTAL PROBLEMS. SAID HE PLACED FATHER IN ALCOHOLIC REHABILITATION CLINIC AT SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS FOR 3 - 4 DAYS IN JANUARY 1976 TO DRY HIM OUT. FATHER LIVED WITH HIM FOR BRIEF TIME AFTERWARDS AND WOULD DRINK CONSTANTLY AND DO AND SAY CRAZY THINGS. SAYS NEVER HEARD FATHER EVER MAKE STATEMENT THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

MARK ANTHONY WILSON INTERVIEWED 8/20/78 AND STATED FATHER BURGESS AUDIE WILSON IS A VERY SICK MAN AND POSSIBLY INSANE. SAYS HIS FATHER COULD NOT HAVE KILLED DR. KING SINCE TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION BURGESS WILSON WAS AT HOME IN GRAND VIEW, MD. ON THAT DATE. THINKS MOTHER AND SISTER VISITING GRANDMOTHER AT MEMPHIS, TENN. AND FATHER WAS HOME WITH HIM AND BROTHER STEPHEN.

PAGE THREE DL 44-2649 UNCLAS E F T O

WILSON DESCRIBES FATHER AS HABITUAL LIAR AND ALCOHOLIC WHO "WOULD WALK AROUND THE TRUTH TO TELL A LIE." SAYS FATHER HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO BE SOMEONE IMPORTANT AND HAS EXPRESSED THE OPINION NUMEROUS TIMES THAT THE WHOLE WORLD IS CRAZY AND HE IS THE ONLY SANE PERSON IN IT. STATES FATHER WAS PRIVATE PILOT AT ONE TIME AND DID HAVE BONANZA AIRCRAFT WHILE THEY LIVED AT GRANDVIEW, MO. CONFIRMS SISTER HAS CREAM MUSTANG AND FATHER DROVE IT ON OCCASION BUT NEVER TOOK IT OUT OF TOWN.

HE SAYS HE LAST SAW HIS FATHER IN SAN MARCUS, TEXAS IN JANUARY 1978 WHEN STEPHEN AND HE HAD DINNER WITH THEIR FATHER. SAID HE SEEMED TO BE DOING OK AND NO INDICATION OF ANY PROBLEMS AT THAT TIME.

SAYS HE NEVER HEARD HIS FATHER MAKE ALLEGATION THAT HE KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BT

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☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☒ CLEAR

Date 8/21/78

895

FM DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE 21 1/2

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE 21 4/2

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE 21 5/2

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.
 MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELCALL TO DALLAS, AUGUST 21, 1978.

BY REFERENCE, MEMPHIS REQUESTED STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON
 BE RECONTACTED RE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE SNIPER
 RIFLE WHICH HIS FATHER, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ALLEGED TO
 HAVE OBTAINED FROM A MITCH, NO DATE INDICATED.

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSTON, FORT WORTH,
 TEXAS, CONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED AS
 FOLLOWS:

/ THE WILSONS WERE CLOSELY-KNIT FAMILY, AND WERE VERY

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Date _____

UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE TWO

CONSCIOUS OF EACH OTHER'S ACTIVITIES. HE IS POSITIVE HIS FATHER OBTAINED THE JAPANESE RIFLE FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE AFTER HE WAS IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN AFTER 1970. ^{HO} / RECALLED HIS DAD SHOWING IT TO HIM WHEN HE CAME HOME ON MILITARY LEAVE. STEVEN NEVER FIRED THE WEAPON BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID THAT IT WOULD NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY, AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE THEY NEVER HAD ANY AMMUNITION FOR THE RIFLE. HE PERSONALLY NEVER KNEW OF HIS DAD USING THE WEAPON. HIS DAD HAD THE STOCK OF THE WEAPON WORKED ON BY A FRIEND WHO WAS A FURNITURE REFINISHER IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY WORK EVER DONE ON THE RIFLE. THE GUN WAS OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURER, AS IT HAD JAPANESE PRINTING ON ITS VARIOUS PARTS.

WILSON'S DAD GAVE THE GUN TO HIM WHILE HE WAS IN THE SERVICE, AND HE HOCKED THE RIFLE AT A PAWN SHOP IN SAN ANTONIO SOMETIME IN THE EARLY 1970'S, DATE UNRECALLED. HE HAS NO RECEIPT OR BILL OF LADING FOR THE RIFLE. //

MARK WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, BURLESON, TEXAS, CONTACTED AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THE FOLLOWING:

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(Number) (Time)

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UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE THREE

HE PERSONALLY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS FATHER'S WEAPONS, AS HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THEM. HIS DAD WAS DEFINITELY AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, TEXAS, TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS. HIS DAD FLEW HIS PLANE, A BONANZA BEECH-CRAFT, USUALLY ON WEEKENDS, FROM A SMALL AIRFIELD NEAR TOWN. HE BELIEVED HIS DAD OWNED THE PLANE, HOWEVER, HE IS NOT POSITIVE. WILSON STATED HIS DAD WAS NOT AWAY FROM THE HOUSE ON THE DAY DR. KING WAS KILLED, AS HE WAS TAKING CARE OF HIS BROTHER AND HIMSELF AT THE TIME, WHILE HIS MOTHER AND SISTER FLEW TO MEMPHIS TO SEE THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

MRS. BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMITH ROAD, BURLESON, TEXAS, RECONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THAT SHE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF HER FORMER HUSBAND HAVING A JAPANESE RIFLE. SHE STATED SHE SEPARATED FROM BURGESS WILSON IN 1974, WHICH WOULD MEAN HE MOST PROBABLY OBTAINED THE RIFLE AFTER THAT PERIOD. SHE IS SURE SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE GUN, IF HE HAD BOUGHT IT

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CLASSIFICATION:

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☐ CLEAR

Date _____

UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE FOUR

WHILE THEY WERE LIVING TOGETHER.

ADMINISTRATIVE

DALLAS IS NOT COVERING LEAD AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS,
REGARDING NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT FOR WILSON, AS IT
HAS NO BEARING ON PERTINENT FACTS OF CASE, UACB.

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FM DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

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