

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)  
(ATTN: DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM,  
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION)  
SAC, HOUSTON (100-10148) (RUC)

8/4/76

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
BUDED: August 9, 1976

Re Bureau nitels to All SACs, 7/29 and 7/30/76,  
and Houston telephone call to Mr. J. ALTHEISER, 7/30/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are xerox copies of  
serials in the file entitled "MURKIN", Houston file 44-1509,  
Bureau file 44-38861, in accordance with instructions set  
forth in referenced teletypes. These include 510 serials  
in the main file, 52 serials in Sub 2 (newspaper clippings  
file), and 18 IA exhibits, with the exceptions noted below.

It is noted that serial 15 is missing. The file  
contains no explanation or the reason, although it is felt  
that this is connected with the transfer of serials 16 and  
17 to the Sub 2 section of the file (newspaper clippings).  
The Agent to whom the case was assigned has been contacted  
and can offer no explanation.

Serial 364 is designated "SECRET" and is the first  
page only of a letter from Central Intelligence Agency to  
the Director, FBI.

It is noted there are two serials designated  
number 441. One of those serials could have been designated  
441(a) by Houston prior to submission but no changes have  
been made by Houston.

It is noted that in addition to the serials, Houston  
has xeroxed the file jacket cover which shows the actual  
serials that are supposed to have been in the file. This  
includes the IA section of the file. In addition to the  
file jacket cover of the IA section, Houston has xeroxed the

3 - Bureau (Enclosures)  
① - Houston  
RSR:cap  
(4) cap

44-1509-511

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HO 100-10148

large envelopes containing the IA exhibits as well as the IA exhibit envelopes themselves. No attempt has been made to xerox the items included in those envelopes.

Time has been accounted for and is contained in a serial in the file. It can be furnished in the event Bureau requests.

SAC, HOUSTON (100-10148)

8/5/76

SA ROBERT S. REA

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Re HO let to Bu, 8/4/76.

The following computation of hours of agents and clerks utilized in zeroxing of materials for the Department of Justice Task Force Review:

Agent	GS13, Step 9	18½ hours
Clerk	GS3, Step 1	3½ hours
Steno	GS6, Step 4	½ hour

- ② - Houston (1 - 100-10148)
- ① - 44-1509)

RSR:skc  
(2)

*PK*

44-1509-512

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 4 1976	
FBI - HOUSTON	

DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)  
(ATTN: DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM,  
INTELLIGENCE DIVISION)  
SAC, HOUSTON (100-10148) (RUC)

8/4/76

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
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file jacket cover of the 1A section, Houston has xeroxed the

3 - Bureau (Enclosures)

① - Houston

RSR:cao

(4)

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44-1509-513

Searched \_\_\_\_\_  
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HO 100-10148

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NR0071 WA CODE

7:35PM NITEL 7-30-76 CMB

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976.

REBUTEL TO ALL SACS JULY 28, 1976.

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING CHANGE REGARDING REPRODUCTION OF FIELD OFFICE SERIALS IN THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION, AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR MURKIN FILE IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE BOTH DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS. ANY DOCUMENTS IN YOUR MURKIN FILE, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE SERIAL NUMBER IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL.

END

*100-10148*

*1cc 44-1509  
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100-10148-47*

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FBI - HOUSTON	
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HOLD

NR073 WA CODE

11:59PM NITEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976

FOR INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT THIS REVIEW IS A TASK FORCE WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INDICATED THE REVIEW IS TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION THOROUGH AND HONEST? (2) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION? (3) IS THERE ANY NEW EVIDENCE WHICH HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION? (4) DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND KING CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION?

THIS REVIEW IS A CONTINUATION OF A "PARTIAL REVIEW" RECENTLY

44-1509-516

~~100-10148-46~~

(a)  
 100-44-1509  
 DO NOT DESTROY  
 PRESERVE FOR SELECT  
 COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

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*Rea Rll*

PAGE TWO

CONDUCTED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT AG J. STANLEY POTTINGER. ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO OUR FILES PERTAINING TO KING'S ASSASSINATION, OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ANY FILES RELATING TO BASIS FOR THESE INVESTIGATIONS. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY.

TO DATE THE TASK FORCE HAS REVIEWED FBIHQ AND WFO FILES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF KING CAPTIONED "MURKIN, BUREAU FILE 44-33861. TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED TO MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE, KANSAS CITY, OMAHA, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES AND REVIEWED MURKIN AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FILES OF THOSE OFFICES. FUTURE TRAVEL BY THE TASK FORCE IS PLANNED FOR ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS.

AFTER ABOVE TRAVEL IS COMPLETED AND KING RELATED SECURITY FILES AT FBIHQ ARE REVIEWED, THE TASK FORCE WILL HAVE SEEN THE MAJORITY OF SERIALS IN OUR FILES RELATING TO THE KING INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS THE GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW KING RELATED FILES IN EVERY FIELD OFFICE, IT WILL BE



PAGE THREE

NECESSARY TO FORWARD XEROX COPIES OF FILES FROM THE REMAINING OFFICES TO FBIHQ FOR REVIEW.

THEREFORE, ALL RECIPIENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE OFFICES NAMED ABOVE, FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL CONTAINED IN YOUR KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED "MURKIN." IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHAV PRIOR TO AUGUST 9, 1976. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION. *1883 Joe Deighn*

IF MURKIN FILES CONTAIN ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND ITS LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING THE DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

END

PLS RETURN TO TALK

TZNOIGLSQCF

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12/22/77

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY  
UNIT, SUPV. JACK MC GIRL)  
FROM SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509) (C)  
SUBJECT MURKIN

Re telephone call of Bureau Supv. JACK MC GIRL to  
Houston, 12/22/77; and NY airtel to Director, dated 4/18/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one (1) xerox copy of  
Houston teletype to Memphis, Et Al, dated April 20, 1968.

No FD-302 regarding interview with THOMAS JOSEPH  
COX could be located.

2-Bureau (Encs. 1)  
1-Houston

APT:cjb  
(3)

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

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

HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS F F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JFH.

MURKIN; 00: 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 AND IF 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

44-1509-517

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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 MOFL 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 12, 1972, 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 F F T O

HE WAS BORN ON [REDACTED] AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, AND RESIDED WITH HIS FAMILY AT GOLDEN, MISSISSIPPI, UNTIL 1936, WHEN THEY MOVED TO FLDORIDGE, 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 F 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 AUIS LEA HUNTER. HE WAS MARRIED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND THEY WERE DIVORCED. SHE NOW RESIDES AT 1919 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 HUGHES, 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.

PAGE 5 JN 62-544 UNCLAS F F T O

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 [REDACTED]  
DOB FULTON, MISSISSIPPI; 5 FEET 11 INCHES; 170 POUNDS; BROWN EYES;  
GRAY HAIR; SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED] HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE;

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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 GAFY, 2002 EAST EIGHTH AVENUE NORTH, COLUMBUS,  
MISSISSIPPI; SISTER CHRISTINE GUNTHORPE, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI;  
EX-WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, BURLFSON, TEXAS; EX-WIFE AVIS LEA  
HUNTER, 1010 WICKORY 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, BURLFSON, TEXAS;  
SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BURLFSON, TEXAS.

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

DALLAS INTERVIEW BETTY LOU WILSON WADE, EX-WIFE, BURLFSON,  
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 F 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

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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 F T O

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MURKIN: 00: MEMPHIS.

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*Rea advised 5:05 pm 8/19/78. R. Kalisher advised 5:13 pm 8/19/78. BNG*

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<i>Kalisher</i>	

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PAGE 4 IN 62-544 UNCLAS F B I 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 AUCIE LEA HUNTER. HE WAS MARRIED FOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS AND THEY WERE DIVORCED. SHE NOW RESIDES AT 1919 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 STARVILLE, 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 HURHEV, 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

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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 MOIMA, 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 397.

WILSON IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

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

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MILITARY SERVICE, U. S. AIR FORCE, 1947 - 1959; 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 GUNTHER, MILTON, MISSISSIPPI;  
EX-WIFE BETTY LOU WILSON MADE, BURLISON, TEXAS; EX-WIFE AUIS 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,  
BELLEVILLE, ILLINOIS; SON STEVEN WAYNE WILSON, BURLISON, TEXAS;  
SON MARK ANTHONY WILSON, BURLISON, TEXAS.

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

DALLAS INTERVIEW BETTY LOU WILSON MADE, EX-WIFE, BURLISON,  
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 BELLEVILLE OR BELLEVUE, ILLINOIS.

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

MEMPHIS INTERVIEW AUDIE LEA HUNTER, EX-WIFE.

SAN ANTONIO INTERVIEW JO ANN CHILDRESS, EX-WIFE, AND A.L.CO. 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 ADVISED.

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

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FM HOUSTON (44-1509)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987, SUB M) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEW.

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

REFERENCE JN TEL TO DIRECTOR 8/19/78.

ON 8/19/78, LARRY ALLEN, PATROLMAN, CLEVELAND, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT (CPD), REVIEWED CPD FILES AND COULD LOCATE NO RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., DOB [REDACTED] ALLEN ADVISED NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT, IS FILED IN CLEVELAND, TEXAS, PROBABLY FILED THROUGH CLEVELAND CITY COURT AND WARRANT ISSUED BY CITY JUDGE GLEN JONES. RECORDS CITY COURT NOT AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UNTIL 9 AM, 8/21/78 AND JUDGE GLEN JONES CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE.

LEAD: HOUSTON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS:

ASAP, MONDAY, AM, WILL REVIEW CLEVELAND CITY COURT RECORDS PER LEAD SET OUT IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

BT

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FM HOUSTON (44-1509)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 3988, JEH.

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

REFERENCE JN TEL TO DIRECTOR 8/19/78.

ON 8/19/78, LARRY ALLEN, PATROLMAN, CLEVELAND, TEXAS POLICE DEPARTMENT (CPD), REVIEWED CPD FILES AND COULD LOCATE NO RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH BURGESS ANDIE WILSON, JR., DOB [REDACTED] ALLEN ADVISED NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT, IF FILED IN CLEVELAND, TEXAS, PROBABLY FILED THROUGH CLEVELAND CITY COURT AND WARRANT ISSUED BY CITY JUDGE GLEN JONES. RECORDS CITY COURT NOT AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW UNTIL 9 AM, 8/21/78 AND JUDGE GLEN JONES CURRENTLY UNAVAILABLE.

LEAD: HOUSTON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS:

ASAP, MONDAY, AM, WILL REVIEW CLEVELAND CITY COURT RECORDS PER LEAD SET OUT IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

BT

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PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date 8/21/78

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FM HOUSTON (44-1509) (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 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  
 AUDIE WILSON, JR.:

*RUC*  
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44-1509-519

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Transmitted 000 (Number)

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 DL-1557  
 ME-1808  
 JN-1800

Per LR

FBI/DOJ

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
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PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
- E F T O
- CLEAR

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_

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FM HOUSTON (44-1509) (RUIC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

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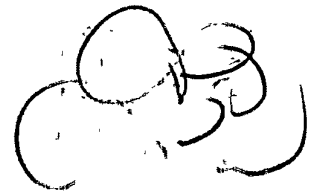
UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 2988, FJH.

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  
AIDIE WILSON, JR.:



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PAGE TWO 40 44-1529 UNCLAS

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

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

LEADS. DALLAS AT CLERBURN, TEXAS. WILL COVER LEAD AS SET  
OUT FOR HOUSTON AT CLEVELAND, TEXAS, IN ABOVE REFERENCED  
JACKSON TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, AUGUST 19, 1979.

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-5119 M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

HOUSTON (44-1509) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JFH

MURKIN

RE JACKSON TELETYPE TO BUREAU AUG. 19, 1978, AND HOUSTON  
TELETYPE TO BUREAU AUG. 21, 1978.

WHEN INTERVIEWED BY BUREAU AGENTS ON AUG. 19, 1978, AT  
OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., BURGESS AUDIE WILSON FURNISHED THE  
FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE, MITCH (LNU), WITH WHOM WILSON HAD  
BEEN IN PREVIOUS CONTACT RE THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, FURNISHED WILSON A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE. HE  
THEREAFTER INSTRUCTED WILSON TO PROCEED TO MEMPHIS AND MEET TWO  
MEN AT THE WONDER BAR AS KING WAS TO BE AT A RALLY RELATING TO  
A GARBAGE STRIKE. WILSON FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENN., IN A RED AND  
WHITE ROMANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NO. 34L, AND LANDED AT AN  
AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF RALEIGH, TENN. THE AIRPORT WAS OPERATED

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44-1509-520

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FBI HOUSTON	

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

BY A LONG-TIME ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS WHO ATTENDED CHURCH WHICH WAS PASTORED BY WILSON'S FATHER IN THE PAST. WILSON WAS PICKED UP AT THE AIRPORT BY HIS DAUGHTER, DEBRA, IN HER 1965 WHITE MUSTANG, WHICH WILSON HAD PREVIOUSLY BOUGHT FOR HER. AFTER WILSON ALLEGEDLY SHOT DR. KING, HE WAS RETURNED TO THE AIRPORT BY DEBRA, AGE APPROXIMATELY 13, AND HE FLEW THE BONANZA BACK TO KANSAS CITY, LANDING AT AN AIRPORT LOCATED IN KANSAS ON THE HIGHWAY TO CLATHE, KANSAS. THIS AIRPORT WAS OPERATED BY (FNU) FISHER FROM WHOM WILSON HAD PURCHASED THE BONANZA AIRCRAFT.

ON AUG. 21, 1978, NINA SOPPELL, WHO IS EMPLOYED AT THE BAPTIST HOSPITAL, MEMPHIS, ADVISED HER FORMER HUSBAND WAS FORMERLY ASSISTANT MANAGER OF THE CHARLES BAKER AIRPORT, MEMPHIS, AND ATTENDED CHURCH IN MEMPHIS PASTORED BY BURGESS WILSON, SR., AND IS ACQUAINTED WITH BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. BOB SOPPELL IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED BY SWISS CHEMICALS, P. O. BOX 2175, BEAUMONT, TEXAS. HE RESIDES AT MUNITZ, TEXAS, IN A TRAILER PARK. HIS CURRENT RESIDENCE ADDRESS IS NOT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE.

HOUSTON WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW BOB SOPPELL FOR BACKGROUND INFO REGARDING BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR. ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH WHETHER WILSON DID FLY TO MEMPHIS FROM KANSAS CITY ON OR ABOUT



PAGE THREE ME 44-1987-CUB M UNCLAS F E T O

APRIL 4, 1968, THE DATE DR. KING WAS KILLED, AND WAS PICKED UP AND RETURNED TO THE CHARLES BAKER AIRPORT IN A 1965 WHITE MUSTANG BY HIS DAUGHTER, DEBRA. ALSO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF (FNU) FISHER FROM WHOM WILSON ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED THE RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRCRAFT AND LOCATION OF AIRPORT IN KANSAS CITY AREA UTILIZED BY WILSON ON RETURN FLIGHT TO KANSAS CITY. PROMPTLY FURNISH KANSAS CITY OFFICE ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION DEVELOPED INVOLVING WILSON IN THAT AREA.

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)  
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE  
HOUSTON (44-1509) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH  
MURKIN

RE JACKSON TELETYPE TO BUREAU AUG. 19, 1978, AND HOUSTON  
TELETYPE TO BUREAU AUG. 21, 1978.

WHEN INTERVIEWED BY BUREAU AGENTS ON AUG. 19, 1978, AT  
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ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE, MITCH (LNU), WITH WHOM WILSON HAD  
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LUTHER KING, FURNISHED WILSON A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE. HE  
THEREAFTER INSTRUCTED WILSON TO PROCEED TO MEMPHIS AND MEET TWO  
MEN AT THE WONDER BAR AS KING WAS TO BE AT A RALLY RELATING TO  
A GARBAGE STRIKE. WILSON FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENN., IN A RED AND  
WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NO. 34L, AND LANDED AT AN  
AIRPORT JUST NORTH OF RALEIGH, TENN. THE AIRPORT WAS OPERATED

44-1509-520

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

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PAGE THREE ME 44-1987-SUB M UNCLAS E F T O  
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THE RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRCRAFT AND LOCATION OF AIRPORT  
IN KANSAS CITY AREA UTILIZED BY WILSON ON RETURN FLIGHT TO  
KANSAS CITY. PROMPTLY FURNISH-KANSAS CITY OFFICE ANY  
PERTINENT INFORMATION DEVELOPED INVOLVING WILSON IN THAT AREA.  
BT

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO  
RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON THAT HE  
ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND TO DETERMINE

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PAGE TWO DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE MITCH (LNU) FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST, AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY POLICE.

JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS (WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI) THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON, SISTER, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER, WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS, OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR GRANDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

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APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL  
OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL  
INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING  
4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED  
FOR USA MEMPHIS.

BT

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FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN -44-1509

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON THAT HE ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND TO DETERMINE

*Note - Submit report 44-1509-521*

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WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE MITCH (LNU) SUPPLIED HIM A JAPANESE SHOTGUN RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST, AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY POLICE.

JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS (WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI) THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN EULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

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WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON, SISTER, AT MILTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

ORAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU MADE, WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER, WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS, OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR GRANDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

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APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

ROUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL  
OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL  
INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING  
4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED  
FOR IISA MEMPHIS.

BT

9983

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- Teletype
- Facsimile
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PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

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- TOP SECRET
- SECRET
- CONFIDENTIAL
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Date 8/22/78

FM HOUSTON (44-1509) (P)  
 TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE  
 JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE  
 MEMPHIS (44-1987) IMMEDIATE

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

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, AUGUST 21, 1978.

ON AUGUST 22, 1978, BOB SORRELL, ROUTE ONE, BOX 260,  
 (BEAUMONT COLONY), KOUNTZE, TEXAS, TELEPHONE 246-2705,  
 (UNLISTED), WAS CONTACTED AT HIS RESIDENCE WHERE THE FOLLOWING  
 INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED. SORRELL BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH  
 BILL WILSON THROUGH HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST  
 CHURCH IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, WHICH WAS PASTORED BY BROTHER  
 WILSON. SORRELL HAD NO OTHER ASSOCIATION WITH BILL WILSON

REK/sap  
 (1) shk/sap

*[Handwritten initials]*

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Approved: Rea/  
*[Signature]*

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Per [Signature]  
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EXCEPT THROUGH CONTACT AT CHURCH. SORRELL ATTENDED THAT CHURCH AS A YOUNGSTER AND CONTINUED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1958, WHEN HIS FAMILY MOVED FROM THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND ATTENDANCE STOPPED.

HE, SORRELL, HAD NO OTHER CONTACT WITH BILL WILSON UNTIL AFTER 1967, WHEN SORRELL EMPLOYED AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE, CHARLES W. BAKER AIRPORT, MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE, TELEPHONE 872-2261. SORRELL WAS PART-TIME EMPLOYEE AT HAGLER UNTIL OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER OF 1967, WHEN HE BECAME FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE AS A LINEMAN.

SORRELL RECALLED THAT SOMETIME AFTER BECOMING A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE BILL FLEW INTO THE AIRPORT, EXACT DATE UNRECALLED, IN A TWIN BEACHCRAFT (D-18) BELIEVED RED AND WHITE IN COLOR WITH POSSIBLY A BLUE STRIPE. SORRELL RECALLED THAT HE REFUELED THIS AIRPLANE, BUT THE TIME OF DAY OF ARRIVAL WAS UNKNOWN. AS RECALLED WILSON WAS WEARING CIVILIAN CLOTHING AND PAID CASH FOR THE FUEL PURCHASE. SORRELL AND WILSON HAD LITTLE CONVERSATION OTHER THAN GREETING. AS BEST RECALLED BY SORRELL, WILSON STAYED OVERNIGHT AND LEFT THE FOLLOWING DAY, TIME UNKNOWN. SORRELL DOES NOT KNOW HOW WILSON WAS

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TRANSPORTED FROM AND TO THE AIRPORT.

WITHIN TWO OR THREE MONTHS WILSON MADE A SECOND VISIT TO HAGLER IN THE SAME AIRCRAFT WHERE HE RECEIVED GAS, PAID CASH AND LAID OVER FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS. AGAIN, SORRELL HAS NO IDEA AS TO HIS TRANSPORTATION FROM AND BACK TO THE AIRPORT. SORRELL HAS NO INFORMATION AS TO WHERE HE CAME IN FROM OR HIS DESTINATION UPON DEPARTURE FROM THE AIRPORT. SORRELL COULD SUPPLY NO INFORMATION ABOUT A 1965, WHITE MUSTANG AND DID NOT KNOW THAT WILSON HAD A DAUGHTER NAMED DEBORAH.

SORRELL HAS NOT SEEN NOR HEARD FROM WILSON SINCE THE LAST VISIT TO HAGLER.

SORRELL TERMINATED HIS EMPLOYMENT AT HAGLER IN OCTOBER OF 1976. HE CANNOT RECALL THE EXACT TIME OF ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE BUT DOES BELIEVE BOTH VISITS OCCURRED IN EITHER 1968 OR 1969. SORRELL ADVISED FUEL RECEIPTS BROKEN DOWN BY SINGLE ENGINE OR MUTLI-ENGINE AIRCRAFTS ARE MAINTAINED ON A MONTHLY BASIS. SORRELL ADVISED THAT MR. GLENN MITCHELL, MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR, HAGLER AERO SERVICES, COULD ASSIST WITH REVIEW OF GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF ARRIVAL.

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SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION HOW WILSON CAME INTO POSSESSION OF AIRCRAFT AND DOES NOT KNOW WHETHER IT WAS LEASED OR OWNED BY HIM. IN RECALLING THE TWO VISITS BY WILSON, SORRELL HAS A GUT FEELING THAT SOMEONE MAY HAVE BEEN WITH HIM ON EACH OCCASION, BUT THIS IS JUST A FEELING ON HIS PART AND HE CAN SUPPLY NO INFORMATION TO CONFIRM THIS FEELING. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT AN AIRPORT IN OLATHA, KANSAS, WHERE WILSON ALLEGEDLY LANDED AFTER DEPARTURE FROM MEMPHIS.

AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, SORRELL RECALLED THAT DURING ATTENDANCE AT THE HOLLYWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH HE GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON WAS IN AND OUT OF TROUBLE, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT KNOW THE TYPE. HE MAY HAVE RECEIVED THIS INFORMATION FROM ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS, NAMES UNRECALLED. THROUGH CONTACT WITH WILSON AT CHURCH, WILSON IMPRESSED SORRELL AS THE TYPE OF GUY WHO ALWAYS HAD A "BIG DEAL", "KIND OF A CONMAN PERSONALITY". AGAIN, AND IT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF WILSON'S SISTERS WHO MENTIONED IT, SORRELL GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT WILSON HAD BEEN ARRESTED AND RECEIVED TIME FOR AN UNKNOWN OFFENSE. SORRELL ADVISED THAT CONTACT WITH WILSON'S

SISTERS WAS AT CHURCH. HE AGAIN STATED THAT HE HAS A GUT

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FEELING THAT ONE OF THEM MAY HAVE BEEN AT THE AIRPORT ON ONE OF THE ABOVE OCCASIONS.

SORRELL DID NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT WILSON SERVED IN THE U.S. AIR FORCE, BUT RECALLED THAT WILSON WORE A UNIFORM AT CHURCH ON OCCASION. SORRELL WAS NOT AWARE THAT WILSON WAS EMPLOYED AT PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY BUT DOES RECALL HIS MARRIAGE TO BETTY LOU, MAIDEN NAME UNKNOWN, BECAUSE BETTY LIVED IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD. SORRELL HAD NO INFORMATION ABOUT WILSON'S CLEANING BUSINESS OR TIME SPENT IN THE TENNESSEE NATIONAL GUARD OR THAT WILSON HAD EVER LIVED IN THE MEMPHIS AREA.

SINCE NO INFORMATION WAS DEVELOPED FROM SORRELL CONCERNING THE AIRPORT IN KANSAS AND DID NOT KNOW (FIRST NAME UNKNOWN) FISHER, FROM WHOM WILSON ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED THE AIRCRAFT, ANY LEADS FOR KANSAS WILL BE LEFT UP TO THE DISCRETION OF MEMPHIS. LEADS. MEMPHIS AT MILLINGTON, TENNESSEE. CONTACT GLENN MITCHELL AND ATTEMPT TO REVIEW LOGICAL GAS RECEIPTS TO DETERMINE EXACT DATE OF WILSON'S REFUELING AT HAGLER AERO SERVICE.

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HOUSTON AT HOUSTON. WILL SUBMIT REPORT.

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