Mortrush Luc In The lakes of Police Mentpher Lenn. Usa. Autyet "D" Ting - "Thank on Ray" I am writing you a present tetter in struck confidence, trush you will play ball with the confidence that you will slay ball with the with the with the with the with the with the many in delate may in I from right or wrong, but to me it divulges some Contenting facts. On Wednesday april 17- 68 at 6 Por a fopendo house Cooker he took a rom week! I met an Inst Chap. Over we got Talking 1st he said he was seeling atesting in Montral had office in East tond of Sherbrook & . (a lady claimed a man rented her appartment and suddenly life (R. E. M. P. have this information for follow up, as the came out papers I die not get any finos name for at that time I surperted nothing On april 26 68 hele Magazine pointed in detail a report as released to Press by +18 I It had, pencil drawings I read all with untrist. hit May 8. 68 Mustral dagette comes out with "See Whacked relevel by FBS. Now heres what made me curious. This chap said in Convention, He had mee been in juil Missouri where I did not ash

2nd Said he had been in Merchanto Manue where I did not ask Said while he was away in a trip in return give he had been courting met him at the trint a Told him he had made her daughter, Pregnant . had to many her. He was forcet to I said he was steel married had children by her 3rd Said he had been a bartenders, at homes When he took The nom in Montral the Growing lady was rented the room, immediately falls in live with him , he with her of Inst Waternatity in names This lohat and he was (dul) your old. Conservative in dieds, speaks well Brown hain Nice personalty house the 100 a week a 400. To week in & & Charles I 80 miles from Montral on BPAly when the give visited hop a he is back now in same Johne Other day wounted her to see all he funture for 1500 ". Retime with him to California, where he guting' - Cline you this information; to disclose my name will appreciate the facts, would be to have

Police after time, for I work a this cel would upset the works I would be a sitting duck. How if the should be to your Interests you play ball with me in street confidence I will with you can write The Edites I Legal " Mais in Brief I attention " I will watch for your reply Will answer you follow feeps

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week those my holiday June 1. 15. 68

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JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



UN ED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee May 18, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIN CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT -ROBBERY

The attached letter was received May 17, 1968, by the Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, from an unknown person who signed the letter only "Code Letter G":

Montrush Luc Copie May 14. 1968. In The lake of Police Mentpher Tenn. Usa. Dulyet W: King - Hank on Ray" I am writing you a personal tester in struck confidence, a trush you will play ball with the confidence, touch you will play ball with the with the with the with the with the winter. What I am disclosing in delate, may in time from wight or wrong, but to me it divulyes some linteresting facts. On Wednesday april 17- 68 at 6 Port at a figuredo house Cochere he took week! II met an Inst Chap. Over we got Talking 1st he said he was seeling attesting in Montreal had office in East Fond of Sherborke St. (a lady claimed a man rented her appartment and suddenly less (R. E. M. P. have this information for follow up as the came out time I surperted nothing On april 26 68 hefe Magazine pointed in telast a report as released to Press by 718 I It had period drawings. I read all with intrust. hut May 8. 68 Mutual Tagette comes out with relevel by FBS. " See Wached made me curions. This chap said Now heres which in Conversation, He had mee been in juil Missoun where I did not ash

2nd Said he had been in Merchants Manue when I did not ask Said while he was away on a trip, on return give he had been courting next him a mother of at the Wint a Told him he had made her daughter Pregnant . had to many her. He was forcet to he was steel married a had children I by her 3rd Said he had been a bartenderer, at times When he took the now in Montred, the Growing lady who rented the room, immediately feels in live with him , he with her of Inst Waternetty in names This lohat Sand he was (oful) yours old rine! Consentive in dress speaks well Brown him Mice personalty house, 124 100, a week a 400. In week in \$ 2 Chaber I 80 miles from Montrat on 6 Paly where the give visited hink a he is back now or summe Johns Other day wanted her to seek all her printure for 1500 x. Return with him To baliforhun where he Trung - Cline you this information; to disclose my name you will appreciate the facts, would be to have

Police after bone, for I work a The cel would report the works I would be a sitting duck. How if the should be to your Interests, you plan ball with me in street confidence I will with you can can rinte The Editor Taget " News in Brief attention of I will wonth I am off With on Wednesday or Thursday and Alhe my holidays June 1 15. 68 I might meet you toten at some suggested brist if your consideration. follow top. your consideration. ash lundyludy Mrs Bapter? Memphis her romen was of Insh Naturality. dre her my description, Show her mig enelyed.

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JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Airtel

1 - Mr. J. R. Faulkner 1 - Mr. R. F. Bates

SAC, Jacksonville

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReBuairtel to Jackson, Dallas, Jacksonville, and Memphis dated 4-25-68; Dallas airtel to Bureau, Jackson, Atlanta, and Memphis dated 5-1-68; Atlanta airtel to Bureau, Jackson, Jacksonville, and Memphis dated 5-8-68; Jackson airtel to Bureau, Atlanta, Birmingham, Charlotte, Columbia, Dallas, Kansas City, and Memphis dated 5-15-68 and Bureau telephone call to Jacksonville on 5-22-68, all pertaining to Donald James Nissen and an alleged offer of \$100,000 by the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi to anyone who kills Martin Luther King, Jr.

Upon completion of a thorough review of referenced Jackson airtel dated 5-15-68, Kansas City is instructed to interview Leroy McManaman for all information he possesses concerning my offer by anyone of \$100,000 to kill King.

Tolson

3 - Jacksonville (encl. 6)

(1 - 76 - 1108)

3 - Atlanta (encl. 4)

(1 - 76 - 2876)3 - Houston (encl. 8)

3 - Las Vegas (encl. 8)

2 - Memphis

3 - Phoenix (encl. 6) (1 - 76 - 2865)

REC-110 4+ = > > 6/-

19 MAY 28 1968

DeLoach 1 - 76 - 30305Bishop Casper Callahan

Conrad -Felt ... Gale Rosen .

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE.....

Airtel to SAC, Jacksonville RE: MURKIN

For the information of the recipient offices, Donald Nissen is currently the subject of the case "Donald James Nissen - Fugitive; Parole Violator," office of origin, Phoenix, Phoenix file 76-2865, Bureau file 76-30305.

Enclosed for Atlanta, Houston, Jacksonville, and Las Vegas are two copies each of Bureau letter dated 4/29/68, captioned "Donald James Nissen - Fugitive; PV" and Board of Parole Warrant Application dated 4/2/68.

Enclosed for Houston, Jacksonville, and Las Vegas are two copies each of referenced Jackson airtel dated 5/15/68.

Enclosed for Houston and Las Vegas are two copies each of referenced Atlanta airtel dated 5/8/68.

Enclosed for Phoenix are two copies each of referenced Dallas airtel dated 5/1/68; Atlanta airtel dated 5/8/68; and Jackson airtel dated 5/15/68.

Should Nissen be apprehended by any recipient office, he should be interviewed to determine if he has obtained any additional information since last interviewed on 6/2/67, regarding any offer to kill King.

LEADS:

Atlanta, Georgia. Continue appropriate investigation to locate and apprehend Nissen.

Houston at Corpus Christi, Texas, Referenced Atlanta airtel 5/8/68, indicates Nissen in December, 1967, may have obtained employment with the Americana Encyclopedia Company, Corpus Christi, Texas. Conduct appropriate investigation to locate and apprehend Nissen.

Jacksonville at Panama City, Florida. Conduct investigation requested in referenced Atlanta airtel dated 5/8/68, in an attempt to locate and apprehend Nissen.

Airtel to SAC, Jackson RE: MURKIN

Las Vegas at Reno, Nevada. Referenced Atlanta airtel 5-8-68, indicates Nissen possibly is in the Panama City, Florida, area selling a product known as the Auto Safety Control. The company that manufactures this device is reportedly located at Reno. Nissen's written monthly report to the Parole Board for December, 1967, listed employment with the American Auto Safety Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia. It is possible the home office of this company is located in Reno, Nevada, area. Conduct appropriate investigation to locate and apprehend Nissen.

NOTE:

. . . F

We are conducting investigation of individuals who allegedly made threats or offers to kill King to determine if they are possibly involved in any conspiracy to kill King. Donald Nissen in 1967, furnished information allegedly obtained from Leroy McManaman at Leavenworth Penitentiary that the White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Mississippi had offered \$100,000 to kill King. Nissen is currently a fugitive and it is desired he be interviewed when apprehended to determine if he possesses any additional information regarding threats to slay King. Kansas City is being instructed to interview McManaman for any information he possesses regarding any such threats. Information developed in MURKIN investigation indicates Nissen reported recently in Panama City, Firida, area. Instant communication advises pertinent offices of possible employment held by Nissen and furnishes information regarding his fugitive status.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ТО

: Mr. Rose

DATE: May 27, 1968

DeLoach -

Moht -Bishop

Casper Callahan

C. L. McGowan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Martindale

1 - Mr. Long

MIN

APPROX.

ASAC Karl Stefansson of the San Antonio Office telephonically advised that one Eduardo Jose Molina had contacted the Brownsville, Texas, Resident Agency today and advised that he had received information that James Ray was four days ago working in the kitchen of the Sadzil Ha Hotel, located on Isla Mujeres, off the coast of the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico.

Molina is in Brownsville, Texas, checking on some property and will be there several days. His permanent address is Avenida 505C, Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, and he will return to that address when his business in Brownsville, Texas, is completed.

Molina advised that the Sadzil Ha Hotel which is located about twenty minutes by air from Merida is owned and operated by a man named Lima, who he feels will not cooperate with the FBL. He identified Lima's son as being the source of the information regarding Ray working at the Sadzil Ha Hotel

Stephansson described Molina as being 65 years of age, sensible and knowledgeable, and reportedly a graduate of Boston College.

SAC Gordon Shanklin of the Dallas Office also telephonically advised that a potential criminal informant of the office had been in contact with a small time gambler, whose identity the potential criminal informant would not disclose, who had just returned from Monterrey, Mexico. According to the potential criminal informant this gambler made the statement that James Ray is currently working as a bartender in a bar located near the Chevrolet dealer in Monterrey.

ACTION:

The above information was telephonically furnished to Legat Nathan Ferris at Mexico City for immediate handling. Ferris stated the leads would be afforded top priority investigative attention.

JGK:vea

(6)

57 JUN 41888

Laboratory Transmittal Form -7-72

LABORATORY

1 - Mr. Rosen
 (Mr. Long 2260)
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Mortimer
1 - Lab File

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

May 27, 1968

MURKIN Be-CR

- E

00: Memphis

John Edgar Hoover, Director

H4-38861
FBI File No. D-680523083 JK

St. Louis

Examination requested by:

Airtel 5/21/68

Reference:

Document - Fingerprint

Examination requested:

Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q354.

REC-105 44. 38861-3977 COMM-FBI Endosures (2) (2 Lab report) 2-St. Louis (44-775) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report) 19 MAY 28 1968 M:taw (10) du Tolson DeLoach Mohr -Bishop Casper Callahan Conrad 260 Felt Gale Rosen Sullivan Tavel. Trotter ele, Room 👤 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE Holmes Gandy ..

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REPORT of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date:
FBI File No.

May 27, 1968 44-38861 D-680523083 JK

Re: MURKIN CR

Specimens received 5/23/68

Q354 Signature card of Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company of St. Louis dated 3/9/59 bearing the signature "James Carl O'Connor"

Result of examination:

Because of the presence of some characteristics which could not be satisfactorily explained on the basis of the available known writings, it could not be determined whether the "James Carl O'Connor" signature on Q354 was prepared by JAMES EARL RAY; however, significant similarities were noted between this questioned signature and the available known handwriting of RAY.

Q354 will be returned separately. Photographs are retained.

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LABORATORY

1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Long2260)

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Mortimer

1 - Lab File

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

May 27, 1968

Date

4 (

MURKIN

00: Memphis

John Edgar Hoover, Director

44-38861
FBI File No. D-680523034 JK
Lab. No.

Washington Field Office Examination requested by:

Airtel 5/23/68

Reference:

Document - Fingerprint

Examination requested:

Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results \(\sqrt{} \) of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q352 and Q353.

MAY 2 7 1968 comm-f81

DeLoach . Mohr

Bishop _____ Casper ___ Callahan Conrad ___ Felt ____ Gale ___ Rosen ___ Sullivan __ Tavel ___ Trotter __ Tele, Rosen ___ Holmes ___ Holmes

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REC-105

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

44-38861-3978

1 - Washington Field Office (44-703) Enclosure (Lab report)

1 - Newark (44-854) Enclosure (Lab report)

1 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosure (128) report)

1 - Atlanta (44-2386) Enclosure (Lab report)

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REPORT of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON. D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 27, 1968

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-680523034 JK

Re: MURKIN

CR

Specimens received 5/23/68

- Q352 U.S. Postal Money Order, No. 1,916,211,078, payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, N.J., bearing the handwritten name and address "Eric S. Galt 5533 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90028"
- Q353 U.S. Postal Money Order, No. 5,615,057,923, payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, N.J., bearing the handwritten name and address "Eric S. Galt 113-14th St. N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30309"

Result of examination:

On the basis of the available writings attributed to the subject, James Earl Eay, it was concluded that the questioned hand printing and handwriting appearing on Q352 and Q353 were prepared by this individual.

Specimens Q352 and Q353 will be returned separately. Photographs are retained.

Tolson -

JHM: AW aw (12)

Laboratory Transmittal Form 7-72

*

1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Long 2260)

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Mortimer

1 - Lab File



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

May 27, 1968 Date:

00: Memphis

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No.

Lab. No.

44-38861 D-680524079 JK

Examination requested by:

Airtel 5/22/68

Memphis

Beference:

Document - Fingerprint

Examination requested:

Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q355 and Q356.

This report confirms and supplements Bureau airtel to Memphis and Dallas dated 5/24/68.

(2 Lab report) REC-105 44-38861-3977 Enclosures (2)

1 - Dallas Enclosure (Lab report)

19 MAY 28 1968

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REPORT of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

FBI. Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 27, 1968 FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-680524079 JK

Re: MURKIN CR

Specimens received 5-24-68

Q355 Envelope postmarked 'Dallas, Tex. 1B PM 1 May, 1968," bearing the handwritten address "Mr. Loeb - Mayor of Memphis Memphis, Tenn."

Q356 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "I didnt mean to kill Rev. Luther King ... " and ending "...but not a white man. Black men hired me"

Result of examination:

Specimens Q355 and Q356 were searched through the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File but could not be identified with any prior submissions to this file.

No indented writing, watermarks or other identifying features were noted on either Q355 or Q356 which might indicate the immediate source of these two items.

It was concluded that the questioned writings on Q355 and Q356 were not prepared by James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.

The submitted items are temporarily retained. Photographs were made.

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Airtel

To:

N

BAC's WFO (44-703) - Enc. (2) Memphis (44-1987)

/ran

Director, FBI (44-36861)

MUHAIN

Re WFO sirtel 5/33/66, submitting two U. S. Postal Money orders, Q352 and Q353.

No intent impressions of value developed on the two money orders, which are enclosed to WFO.

Laboratory reporting asparate.

T - Newsrix (44-854)

1 - Los Anceles (44-1574)

1 - Atlanta (64-2366)

1 - Mr. Rosen

(11)

REC-105 44-38861-571

19 MAY 28 1968

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Tolson DeLoach Mohr Bishop Casper Callahan Conrad Felt Gale Rosen Sullivan Tavel Trotters

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SAC, Birmingham (44-1740)

REC-105

Director, FBI (44-36861) 30///

5-27-68

MURKIN

Reurairtel 5-21-68.

Approval granted for Birmingham to secure publicity on James Earl Ray in the periodical issued by the Southern Medical Association. Authority for such publicity was set forth in Bulet of 4-29-68 to all offices and permits the utilization of all cooperative and reputable publications.

Pursuant to existing instructions the Office of Grigin and set forth specific leads regarding such publicity and the disting Bureau press release in this case may be utilized along with depies of Ray's photograph available in all offices.

1 - Memphis (44-1987)

MAILED 12

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Gale

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Approved: Special Agent in Charge Sent M Per

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		Date: 4/27/68	
			Mr. Reference
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1 /	SUBJECT:		
N/	•	(00 Memphis)	
		Re Baltimore teletype to Bureau	dated 4/25/68.
		Enclosed herewith for Bureau and are two (2) copies each of FD-302s	
	break car offer fr	Referenced communication reveals, former IO Fugitive No. 4017, in se, Office of Origin Little Rock, om JAMES (LNU) and EDDIE (LNU) of TIN LUTHER KING in March of 1965.	ITSP prison received an
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S. F.

KC 44-760

TAMPA:

AT FT. MYERS, FLORIDA:

Attempt to locate and interview BARBER's parents operating trailer park in 1965.

NEW ORLEANS:

AT NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA:

Conduct investigation at Canal Bank Inn to confirm story or further identify individuals.

MEMPHIS:

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE:

Attempt to identify JAMES (LNU), owner of large parking lot that area.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date	4/26/68	
Date	4/20/00	

MELVIN LEMONS, Secretary to the Director, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, advised CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, FBI # 368794A, is at the Medical Center for psychiatric treatment with the long-term goal of an eventual return to the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas.

He stated on April 2, 1968, the Nedical Center directed a letter to the U.S. Probation Office at Little Rock, Arkansas, stating that although BILLINGS now appears to be competent, several months ago he was too psychiatrically disturbed to participate in any court here. A plan is to examine him again in a month to determine whether or not he is competent to participate in legal proceedings.

LEMONS stated that while BILLINGS was at the Medical Center on a previous occasion a psychiatric report prepared April 17, 1967, by Dr. ANDREW F. GUSCHWAN, M.D., Staff Psychiatrist, contained the following diagnosis:

"Schizophrenic Reaction, chronic undifferentiated type, sociopathic personality disturbance, anti-social type, migraine headaches, with possible brain damage."

44 38561-377-

O_n	4/26/68 at_	Springfield, Missouri	K File#	C 44-760	·
bу	SA JAMES A.	MITCHELL - LAC	Date dictated	4/26/68	
Ьу		FNGLOSUR	Date dictated_		

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date	4/26/68

1

CARLOS LEE BILLINGS, inmate, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri, was advised of the identity of JAMES A. MITCHELL as a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was told the purpose of the interview concerned a report he had made sometime ago to the FBI that he had been offered \$50,000. to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING by two individuals identified only as JAMES and EDDIE. This took place in Columbia, South Carolina, in about March, 1965. He was furnished a warning and waiver form, which he read and executed. He then furnished the following oral information:

In early 1965, in Columbia, South Carolina, he met a soldier stationed at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, who was to be discharged within a few days. His name was JIM or GLENN BARBER, but he is not sure of the first name or the spelling of the last name. He had just returned from Panama, and he believes he held the rank of Corporal. BARBER had marijuana and pep pills in his possession and was a very convincing talker. BARBER had met a female in Columbia named JOHNNIE BLACKWELL. She worked as a waitress at a lounge he believes was called the "Downtown," located near Chubby's Steak House in Columbia. She was from a little town twenty miles south of Columbia, name unknown. BLACKWELL roomed with a girl named JUNE TAYLOR, somewhere on Bull Street in Columbia. Both girls were prostitutes, and BILLINGS lived part of the time with TAYLOR. TAYLOR worked at a night club there called the "Red Rooster."

BLACKWELL had met two men known as JAMES and EDDIE and had filled a prostitution date with JAMES for \$50. The initial meeting took place in some club, name unknown, located near Chubby's Steak House, possibly the "Downtown." BLACKWELL told JIM she had to leave because she had a date with a soldier from Fort Jackson, South Carolina, named BARBER. JAMES asked her to ask BARBER if he could get ahold of any weapons, whereupon she told him BARBER had a machine gun.

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On	4/26/68	Springfield, Miss	ouri File#	KC 44-760		
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by	SA JAMES A	. MITCHELL - LAC	Date dict	ated 4/26/68		

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KC 44-760

JAMES expressed an interest in buying it from BARBER and told her to pass this on to him, which she agreed to do. The prostitution date was filled in a motel in town, name unknown.

The following night, at the V.F.W., he, JAMES, EDDY and BARPER met. TAYLOR and BLACKWELL were present, as well as two other girls who worked at the "Red Rooster," but this was their night off. He does not recall their names. This was the first time he had met JAMES and EDDY. The men went outside and BARBER gave them each a stick of marijuana which he had brought back from Panama. sat in JAMES's white 1964-65 Lincoln Continental and smoked marijuana. The Lincoln had a Tennessee license plate beginning with the number 2, which designates Memphis. was always smoking big cigars and wore a large diamond ring. He understood JAMES has money in Mississippi and Tennessee. He owns land in Clarksdale, Mississippi, has a big car lot in Memphis and a night club. In the old days he was a bootlegger. JAMES despises the Negro race and, particularly, any with Communist leanings.

While in the car, JAMES told BARBER he understood he had a .50-caliber machine gun and BARBER said he did.

JAMES asked if he wanted to sell it and he said, "Yes."

Either JAMES or EDDIE asked where the machine gun was and how long it would take to get it. BARBER said three days because it was in Westwego, Louisiana, in care of a friend who ran a night club, The Canal Bank Inn. He never heard this man's name. JAMES or EDDIE asked BARBER if he had any ammunition for it, and he said he had a whole belt. One of the men then offered him a thousand dollars for the machine gun.

They all met again the next night at the largest drive-in restaurant in Columbia, name unrecalled. JAMES or EDDIE asked him if he had ever used the machine gun before, and he said he used one while in military service. It was agreed that BILLINGS would take BARBER to Westwego, Louisiana, which is on the west bank of New Orleans, to get the machine gun. They were to meet JAMES and EDDIE on a certain unrecalled date in Columbia and collect \$1,000. for the machine gun. The meet was to be at some unrecalled motel. BILLINGS stated he has trouble remembering things that happened this long ago.

KC 44-760

He drove BARBER to get the machine gun at the Canal Bank Inn, and BARBER contacted some man outside of his presence who reportedly told him the weapon had not arrived. He and BARBER stayed in an apartment house at the rear of the Canal Bank Inn for two days waiting for the weapon to arrive, but it never did. He became irritated with BARBER and then felt BARBER never had such a weapon. BILLINGS returned alone to Columbia, South Carolina, and he understood BARBER was going to his home in Fort Myers, Florida. BARBER's parents reportedly lived in and operated a trailer park at Fort Myers. BILLINGS stated that at the time all this was going on he had and was driving a 1959 Chevrolet convertible, maroon in color, bearing a Maryland Temporary Tag. He bought the car under his true name from Luby's Chevrolet in Baltimore, Maryland.

Upon his return to Columbia he met with JAMES and EDDIE and informed them he did not get the weapon. He was told the plan was for him and BARBER to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING for \$50,000. \$5,000. was to be in advance, with the remaining \$45,000. to be paid to them in Greenville, South Carolina. JAMES said KING had to be "wiped out" because J. EDGAR HOOVER had reported KING to be a confirmed Communist and the most notorious liar of our day. The killing was to take place along a scheduled march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama. The machine gun was to be placed in the back of a paneled truck and driven to a spot on the Selma-to-Montgomery route. When the front line of marchers, including Dr. KING, approached the spot, the rear doors of the truck would be opened and the marchers machine-gunned. The truck was to come from some other state and purchased legally in the name of a deceased person. They would then drive the paneled truck away from the line of march to a country road where a passenger car would be parked. The truck would be abandoned and then they would travel into Montgomery, Alabama, by a devious backroads route. They would then travel to Greenville, South Carolina, where they would meet JAMES and EDDIE. JAMES would tell them how to get to Sydney, Australia, via Mexico, on a freighter.

JAMES has a friend who formerly lived in Mississippi but now has a sheep ranch in Broken Bow, Australia. This man would help set them up in a bar or some other type of legitimate business. KC 44-760

When he told JAMES and EDDIE that BARBER could not produce the machine gun, they said the plan had been dropped because MARTIN LUTHER KING announced he was not going to participate in the march.

B. ARTHUR. 1915

He described JAMES as white male American, age 40; 5 feet, 10 inches; 210 pounds; blue eyes; brown hair, graying on the sides. JAMES lives on a farm eight miles from Memphis, in Mississippi.

EDDIE described as white male American; 6 feet, 1 inch; 100 pounds; brown hair; age 38, good dresser, residence Memphis, Tennessee.

BARBER described white male American, 22; 5 feet, 8 inches; 170 pounds; black hair; husky build, and good looking. He believes BARBER a psychiatric case and believes this was the reason he was discharged from the military.

He has seen JAMES and EDDIE since the above incident; however, he is not going to say more unless the Government dismisses an Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle charge against him. He has two detainers against him, and one is a State detainer. The federal detainer is from U. S. District Court, Montgomery, Alabama, and this detainer prevents him from making parole. He is eligible for parole on his current 5-year sentence in September 1968. He might get a parole to a State detainer, but parole would not be favorably acted upon with a federal detainer on file. If this detainer were removed he would furnish the full names of JAMES and EDDIE and where they could be located, in addition to subsequent contacts he has had with these men. He was told that no promises of any kind could be made in this regard.

A photograph of JAMES EARLY RAY, FBI # 308443A, taken at the Missouri Department of Corrections, Jefferson City, Missouri, on March 17, 1960, was shown to BILLINGS. and he stated that he does not know this individual either by name or photograph.

BILLINGS admitted he was at the Medical Center for psychiatric treatment. He has a writ in federal court under the provisions of Title 13, Section 2255, U. S. Code,

KC 44-760 5

trying to get his original Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle conviction set aside on the grounds he was incompetent at the time. He was at the U. S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, but was recently transferred to the Medical Center because he has been seeing a red man with a green coat and alligator shoes. This red man is responsible for all his troubles. He is not visible to him now, but he does see him when he is alone, but not since he arrived here in February 1968.

The following is a description of BILLINGS as obtained through observation and interview.

Race White Sex Male American Nationality Height 6.1 Weight 190 lbs. Hair Brown Eyes Blue Born in North Carolina (no town) FBI # 368794A Wife OMA BILLINGS Box 214, Toughkenamon, Pennsylvania Mother VIRGINIA BILLINGS Father P. B. BILLINGS (Address same as above)

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1962 EDITION GGA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GO RNMENT

$oldsymbol{l}{emorandum}$

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) TO

5-21-68 DATE:

SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947) (P)

SUBJECT:

CR 00: Memphis

INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 4-29-80

Re Los Angeles airtel to Director, 5-14-68, transmitting a copy of a letter from ALMENA LOMAX, editor-publisher of the Lomax Poll and Tribune, in which she suggested as "professional Leftists who use the Negro cause"..."the BRADENS, the Southern Patriot, 3210 W. Broadway, Louisville, Ky." and "Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. (SCEF), 822 Perdido St., New Orleans, Louisiana."

Referenced airtel suggested that interview of CARL and ANNE BRADEN for any information they might have concerning the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING be considered.

CARL and ANNE BRADEN, Louisville Security Index subjects, are former CP leaders in Louisville, Ky. and currently head the Louisville based Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. (SCEF), formerly of New Orleans, La., which organization publishes the "Southern Patriot", as its official organ.

> SCEF is successor to the HCUA-cited Southern Conference for Human Welfare (SCHW) and has long been active in the integration and civil rights fields. Currently, SCEF is ætive in the socalled "peace movement."

The BRADENS have twice been indicted under Kentucky Sedition Statutes (1954 and 1967). In 1954, CARL BRADEN was convicted and served 8 months of a 15-year sentence before being released on \$40,000 appeal bond. A Bureau informant was largely responsible for the 1954 conviction of BRADEN

(2) - Bureau (RM)

1 - Los Angeles (44-1574) (Info) (RM)

2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)

5 - Louisville (2 - 44-947)

(1 - 100 - 197)(1 - 100 - 3346)

(1 - 100 - 3533)

GWH/ds **(**0)

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

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LS 44-947

On both occasions the Kentucky Sedition Statutes under which the BRADENS were prosecuted were held to be unconstitutional.

CARL BRADEN also served approximately 9 months on a year and a day sentence for contempt of Congress. The contempt conviction grew out of his refusal to answer questions before a Congressional investigating committee in 1958.

The BRADENS have been interviewed on one occasion in connection with a civil rights matter in which they had an interest. They were pleasant but CARL BRADEN was obviously untruthful.

Any interview with the BRADENS should have sound investigative basis, and it is felt that they should not be interviewed unless they can be questioned re specific, pertinent matters concerning which they might logically be expected to have information.

If an interview with them gave the impression that they were suspected of being implicated in the assassination of Dr. KING, or that the FBI was engaged in a fishing expedition, they would quickly seize upon the situation to ridicule and otherwise criticize the FBI for floundering in the investigation.

If there are specific, pertinent matters concerning which the BRADENS should be interviewed in connection with this case, Louisville will conduct such interview.

Inasmuch as the BRADENS are Security Index subjects, it is felt that Bureau authorization should be obtained prior to conducting such interview.

Airtel

To:

SAC's St. Louis (44-775) - Enc. Memphis (44-1987)

Prom:

Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURI-IN

Re St. Louis airtel 5/21/68, submitting a signature card of Manufacturers Bank and Trust Company of St. Louis, Q354, for examination.

No intent impressions of value developed on the signature card, which is enclosed to St. Louis.

Laboratory reporting separate.

1 - Mr. Rosen

REC-105 44. 38861-

19 MAY 28 1968

DeLoach _ Mohr . Conrad _ Gale

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Louisville (44-947) REG-105

5-27-68

Director, FBI (44-38861) 3913

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Hudson

Reference is made to LSlet of 5-21-68.

It is not necessary to interview Carl and Anne Braden at this time.

1 - Memphis (info)

MAILED 12 Tolson . DeLoach _ MAY 27 1968 Mohr _ Bishop Casper -COMM-FBI Callahan -Conrad __ Felt_ Gale. Rosen Tavel __ Trotter _ Tele. Room -MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT Holmes Gandy -

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1962 EDITION GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

то

DIRECTOR, FBI

(44-38861)

DATE: 5/24/68

FROM

SAC, MINNEAPOLIS

(157-450)

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

3

Rebuairtel 5/16/68 relative to information received from JOHN EUGENE GAWRON concerning a \$50,000 bank robbery.

Based on information available, a review of the Minneapolis files failed to disclose a bank robbery similar to that described by GAWRON.

2-Bureau 1-Memphis 2-Minneapolis FRG/cjp (5)

REC 11

15 MAY 27 1968

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FBI

Date:	5/	2	0	/	6	8

		Date: 5/2	20/68	1
Transmit	the following in	(Type in plaintext or code	e)	
Via	AIRTEL	(Priority)	A.	
	TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) Attention: FBI Laboratory	, 10	
	FROM: SUBJECT:	SAC, Philadelphia (44-1368) MURKIN	6805	21090
y C	dated 4/1 Pueblo, N	Enclosed is a letter and env LLOYD, United Presbyterian Ch 7/68, bearing the return adda . Korea, signed ERIC S. GALT of Mansfield, Ohio, p.m. 4/23	nurch, Germantown, ress of Cloud 13, , and bearing the	
	Philadelp Avenue, F	Mr. SHERMAN A. HARMON, who mailedelphia, Pa., and who is hia Redevelopment Authority, hiladelphia, made available to about which he advised as followers.	employed with the 54th and Haverfor the above letter a	rđ
20102	Tulpehock was telever received of which mentary.	On Easter Sunday, 4/14/68 Ren Presbyterian Community Chur en Streets, Philadelphia, Parised to several states. Sind numerous letters in response were complimentary and some of These letters concern the progroes in this country.	rch, Green and ,, made a sermon we ce that time LLOYD to his sermon, so of which were unco	which has me
	and notic	HARMON was reviewing some of ed that one of the letters wa		
	l - Cleve l - Memph l - Phila	u (44-38861)(RM) (Encl. 2) land (Info) is (44-1987)(Info delphia (44-1368)	4-3886/ 25 MAY 21 1968	-398
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The FBI Lab is requested to compare the signature on the enclosed envelope and letter with the known handwriting and signature of JAMES EARL RAY.

The Latent Fingerprint Section of the Identification Division is requested to process the enclosed letter and envelope for any identifiable latents. If any identifiable latents are developed, the Latent Fingerprint Section is requested to compare the latents with RAY's known fingerprints and also to search the latent prints through appropriate sections of the Single Fingerprint Files.

The Identification Division is requested to return the enclosed letter and envelope to the Philadelphia Office.

Information copies of this letter being furnished to Cleveland and Memphis Offices.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.