ASSASSINATION OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, April 4, 1968

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Alleged Plot In New York City, New York, to Harm or Kill a Prominent Negro Woman

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY, DALLAS, TEXAS, November 22, 1963

## POOR PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN

by private nurses. I brought a specialist from New York to see him recently, a Dr. Donald Louria; he told me frankly that my husband's destruction of mind and body had led to his present dying condition. If I knew who the thugs were I'd kill them, myself, so that some 'rule' of Earl Warren's would not set them free again to murder over and over.

"N.B. By the way, the Internal Revenue Service Center at Andover, Mass., has been opening letters addressed to me from all over the country, and then stamping the envelope: 'Opened by mistake.' I thought they were genuine 'mistakes,' and threw away all letters but one - and you may see it if you wish. For instance, how could a letter addressed to me by a fan from Syracuse, N.Y., find its way to Andover, Mass.? That was the one I kept. I can't imagine what the rascals are up to, but I have long had reason to suspect them, as files in your office will show."

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Miss CALDWELL stated she is extremely busy and upset, that her husband is at the brink of death in the hospital, that she is in the midst of preparing two speeches for delivery in California later this month, and that she would have no time for a personal interview for at least two weeks or perhaps longer. She stated all the facts known to her are set forth in her letter. She pointed out that under no circumstances would she disclose the identity of the friend who had supplied her with the information set forth in the letter. She said she no longer has any of his letters because in keeping with a promise made to him, she burns them immediately after reading them.

When asked for the name of the New York lawyer she mentions in the second paragraph of her letter, Miss CALDWELL replied that this lawyer's name is WILLIAM KUNSTLER, adding she had previously advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation that KUNSTLER in her opinion is a Communist.

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described himself in his letters as a Negro businessman who owns a business in Harlem. He has written to Miss CALDWELL from four or five different addresses, which she states indicates to her that he has had to move around for fear of his life. She has written back to him on several occasions, and two or three of her letters were returned to her marked "Unknown at this address," but most of her letters were delivered. On several occasions when she knew she was going to be in New York City, she wrote to her friend requesting that he come to see her at her hotel, but he never came. She recalled that one address he had given her was somewhere on West 114th Street.

Miss CALDWELL added she believes her friend is a member of the John Birch Society, because he has made reference frequently to articles she has written for the publication of this society entitled "American Opinion." She added that when this man first started writing to her, the letters were merely friendly and pleasant, expressing admiration of her writing and dealing with general political observations of World War I and World War II. However, commencing in the Fall of 1967, he began writing about his knowledge of the assassination plot of a prominent Negro leader, ultimately designated as Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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In this connection, it is noted that according to articles which appeared in the local press, two armed men had broken into Miss CALDWELL's residence on March 20, 1967 when she, her husband, and their housekeeper were all present, had demanded jewelry, and beaten and attempted to smother Miss CALDWELL, but then had fled empty-handed.

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File No.

#### ITED STATES DEPARTMENT JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Buffalo, New York 14202 June 5, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, Also known as Eric Starvo Galt

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TAYLOR CALDWELL is a world famous novelist, whose true name is Mrs. JANET T. C. REBACK. She is referred to from time to time in news articles as an outspoken foe of Communism. She is known as and admits to be an inveterate letter writer. She has frequently engaged in literary battles with persons who opposed her private and public statements. Close associates have described her imagination as vivid, and many of her statements as tending toward exaggeration.

On one occasion, Miss CALDWELL wrote an article which appeared in the October, 1960, issue of "The American Mercury," in which she alleged that an unnamed, American-born distinguished professor, in one of the large universities, was a Communist. When an attempt was made by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to arrange an interview

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"He wrote me, if I remember accurately - as I immediately destroy his letters at his urgent request - that a meeting was held in New York the latter part of last September, in which plans were laid to 'throw the country into chaos and revolution. 1 It was suggested that a prominent Negro leader be assassinated, or at least badly injured, in early 1968, 'as a start to revolution.' He said that New York lawyer and novelist, about whom I have written you before, discussed this at length, and then remarked the matter would be given considerable thought - later. My friend was not invited 'later,' for some reason or other which alarmed him. But he was able to gether together a few facts last October and write me about them. He did not give me the source of his information.

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"The man finally chosen was a white man, between the ages of 25 and 30, named Robert W---, some simple name such as Watson or Watkins or Wellock or Wilkins, from the vicinity of New Jersey, a crack shot, of fair complexion, light eyes either very light brown or blue-gray, medium brown hair, gong thin face, very agile - and a 'Marxist.' My friends say you have had a dossier on him for several years in either New Jersey or New York. He followed Martin Luther King for several months before the assassination, which was scheduled for early March, not April, but the opportunity did not arise. 'They' wanted a larger city than Memphis, especially Washington. had thought of Carmichael or Brown, then settled on King. It was remarked that they had 'failed' with Mr. Kennedy, because they had thought to start nationwide riots against 'right wing extremists, ' and a general bloodbath, and nothing happened. 'Only Oswald got caught, they remarked, which led my friend to believe that others were implicated, too, in the Marxist assassination. Apparently 'they' don't believe in the Warren Commission Report, either, for good and sufficient reasons.

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"He writes that a woman will be the focuspoint of the 'much worse,' and almost immediately,
but does not know who the woman is. She is a
Negro, however. He also writes that the man you
are looking for is working either in New Jersey or
'just outside of New York,' and is or was in the
Army and received a 'discharge without prejudice,'
whatever that means, though not an honorable discharge. I thought they were the same. At any rate,
he is often in New York at 'conferences.' Then
it was decided to send him to Washington with the
'Poor People," and is probably there now. (By the
way, he had accomplices in Memphis.)

"He never liked Martin Luther King, my friend wrote last September, but reproaches me that if I had written you in October you might have prevented him from being murdered.

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"This new information is also vague, but it may serve some purpose, though I don't see how. But remembering that letter of last October I thought it only right to let you know now. My friend also says that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Humphrey 'had better not' show themselves too openly in Washington, or be too available, in the very near future, but what threatens them he does not know. He just overheard 'hints."

"He fears, now, that he is suspected, so if you do any investigation on this information, don't try to find him or question him. He has a family. I know I will do all I can to protect him.

"Sincerely,

"(Miss) /s/ Taylor Caldwell

"P.S. My poor husband now lies at the point of death in the hospital - where he has been since March, 1967 - after he was attacked in our house by two of Earl Warren's pampered thugs. He is completely shattered in body and mind. He was a most brilliant man, and he has now become a confused, wandering, disoriented old shadow, and is unable even to feed himself or even to sit up, and is attended constantly

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In Reply, Please Refer to File No. ALL INTORMATION CONTAINED

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#### U LITED STATES DEPARTMENT C JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Buffalo, New York 14202 June 5, 1968

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TAYLOR CALDWELL is a world famous novelist, whose true name is Mrs. JANET T. C. REBACK. She is referred to from time to time in news articles as an outspoken foe of Communism. She is known as and admits to be an inveterate letter writer. She has frequently engaged in literary battles with persons who opposed her private and public statements. Close associates have described her imagination as vivid, and many of her statements as tending toward exaggeration.

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The above mentioned letter received from Miss CALDWELL on June 4, 1968, reads as follows:

"As I am always wary of giving you any information which even vaguely sounds 'kooky' to me, I now deeply regret that I did not

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inform you of something which my terrified Negro businessman friend in New York wrote me last October. It still disturbed me, however - though it sounded very improbable - that I incorporated it as a sort of warning in my article in the Buffalo Evening News concerning events of 1968, earlier this year, which you may have read, yourself. ESP had nothing to do with that!

"He wrote me, if I remember accurately - as I immediately destroy his letters at his urgent request - that a meeting was held in New York the latter part of last September, in which plans were laid to 'throw the country into chaos and revolution. It was suggested that a prominent Negro leader be assassinated, or at least badly injured, in early 1968, 'as a start to revolution. 1 He said that New York lawyer and novelist, about whom I have written you before, discussed this at length, and then remarked the matter would be given considerable thought - later. My friend was not invited later, for some reason or other which alarmed him. But he was able to gether together a few facts last October and write me about them. He did not give me the source of his information.

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"The man finally chosen was a white man, between the ages of 25 and 30, named Robert W---, some simple name such as Watson or Watkins or Wellock or Wilkins, from the vicinity of New Jersey, a crack shot, of fair complexion, light eyes either very light brown or blue-gray, medium brown hair, gong thin face, very agile - and a 'Marxist.' My friends say you have had a dossier on him for several years in either New Jersey or New York. He followed Martin Luther King for several months before the assassination, which was scheduled for early March, not April, but the opportunity did not arise. 'They' wanted a larger city than Memphis, especially Washington. had thought of Carmichael or Brown, then settled on King. It was remarked that they had 'failed' with Mr. Kennedy, because they had thought to start nationwide riots against 'right wing extremists, ' and a general blood-'Only Oswald got bath, and nothing happened. caught, ' they remarked, which led my friend to believe that others were implicated, too, in the Marxist assassination. Apparently 'they' don't believe in the Warren Commission Report, either, for good and sufficient reasons.

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"Now he writes that 'something much worse' is 'going to happen soon.' He doesn't know what it is, because he is being included less and less in 'conferences,' and is very frightened. He had asked me to write you last October about the planned assassination, and I did not, and he now wonders 'if I can trust you.'

"He writes that a woman will be the focuspoint of the 'much worse,' and almost immediately,
but does not know who the woman is. She is a
Negro, however. He also writes that the man you
are looking for is working either in New Jersey or
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In Reply, Please Refer to

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#### TED STATES DEPARTMENT **JUSTICE**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION Buffalo, New York 14202 June 5, 1968

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inform you of something which my terrified Negro businessman friend in New York wrote me last October. It still disturbed me, however - though it sounded very improbable - that I incorporated it as a sort of warning in my article in the Buffalo Evening News concerning events of 1968, earlier this year, which you may have read, yourself. ESP had nothing to do with that!

"He wrote me, if I remember accurately - as I immediately destroy his letters at his urgent request - that a meeting was held in New York the latter part of last September, in which plans were laid to 'throw the country into chaos and revolution. It was suggested that a prominent Negro leader be assassinated, or at least badly injured, in early 1968, 'as a start to revolution.' He said that New York lawyer and novelist, about whom I have written you before, discussed this at length, and then re-marked the matter would be given considerable thought - later. My friend was not invited 'later,' for some reason or other which alarmed him. But he was able to gether together a few facts last October and write me about them. He did not give me the source of his information.

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UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; Alleged Plot In New York City, New York, to Harm or Kill a Prominent Negro Woman

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"The man finally chosen was a white man, between the ages of 25 and 30, named Robert W---, some simple name such as Watson or Watkins or Wellock or Wilkins, from the vicinity of New Jersey, a crack shot, of fair complexion, light eyes either very light brown or blue-gray, medium brown hair, tong thin face, very agile - and a 'Marxist.' My friends say you have had a dossier on him for several years in either New Jersey or New York. He followed Martin Luther King for several months before the assassination, which was scheduled for early March, not April, but the opportunity did not arise. 'They' wanted a larger city than Memphis, especially Washington. 'That thought of Carmichael or Brown, then settled on King. It was remarked that they had 'failed' with Mr. Kennedy, because they had thought to start nationwide riots against 'right wing extremists, and a general blood-'Only Oswald got bath, and nothing happened. caught, they remarked, which led my friend to believe that others were implicated, too, in the Marxist assassination. Apparently 'they' don't believe in the Warren Commission Report, either, for good and sufficient reasons.

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"Now he writes that 'something much worse' is 'going to happen soon.' He doesn't know what it is, because he is being included less and less in 'conferences,' and is very frightened. He had asked me to write you last October about the planned assassination, and I did not, and he now wonders 'if I can trust you.'

"He writes that a woman will be the focuspoint of the 'much worse,' and almost immediately,
but does not know who the woman is. She is a
Negro, however. He also writes that the man you
are looking for is working either in New Jersey or
'just outside of New York,' and is or was in the
Army and received a 'discharge without prejudice,'
whatever that means, though not an honorable discharge. I thought they were the same. At any rate,
he is often in New York at 'conferences.' Then
it was decided to send him to Washington with the
'Poor People," and is probably there now. (By the
way, he had accomplices in Memphis.)

"He never liked Martin Luther King, my friend wrote last September, but reproaches me that if I had written you in October you might have prevented him from being murdered.

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"This new information is also vague, but it may serve some purpose, though I don't see how. But remembering that letter of last October I thought it only right to let you know now. My friend also says that Mr. Johnson and Mr. Humphrey 'had better not' show themselves too openly in Washington, or be too available, in the very near future, but what threatens them he does not know. He just overheard 'hints."

"He fears, now, that he is suspected, so if you do any investigation on this information, don't try to find him or question him. He has a family. I know I will do all I can to protect him.

"Sincerely,

"(Miss) /s/ Taylor Caldwell

"P.S. My poor husband now lies at the point of death in the hospital - where he has been since March, 1967 - after he was attacked in our house by two of Earl Warren's pampered thugs. He is completely shattered in body and mind. He was a most brilliant man, and he has now become a confused, wandering, disoriented old shadow, and is unable even to feed himself or even to sit up, and is attended constantly

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by private nurses. I brought a specialist from New York to see him recently, a Dr. Donald Louria; he told me frankly that my husband's destruction of mind and body had led to his present dying condition. If I knew who the thugs were I'd kill them, myself, so that some 'rule' of Earl Warren's would not set them free again to murder over and over.

"N.B. By the way, the Internal Revenue Service Center at Andover, Mass., has been opening letters addressed to me from all over the country, and then stamping the envelope: 'Opened by mistake.' I thought they were genuine 'mistakes,' and threw away all letters but one - and you may see it if you wish. For instance, how could a letter addressed to me by a fan from Syracuse, N.Y., find its way to andover, Mass.? That was the one I kept. I can't imagine what the rascals are up to, but I have long had reason to suspect them, as files in your office will show."

On June 4, 1968, a telephone call was made to Miss CALDWELL by a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, requesting an interview with her for any additional details she might be able to furnish in connection with the contents of the above letter.

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Miss CALDWELL stated she is extremely busy and upset, that her husband is at the brink of death in the hospital, that she is in the midst of preparing two speeches for delivery in California later this month, and that she would have no time for a personal interview for at least two weeks or perhaps longer. She stated all the facts known to her are set forth in her letter. She pointed out that under no circumstances would she disclose the identity of the friend who had supplied her with the information set forth in the letter. She said she no longer has any of his letters because in keeping with a promise made to him, she burns them immediately after reading them.

When asked for the name of the New York lawyer she mentions in the second paragraph of her letter, Miss CALDWELL replied that this lawyer's name is WILLIAM KUNSTLER, adding she had previously advised the Federal Bureau of Investigation that KUNSTLER in her opinion is a Communist.

Miss CALDWELL was then asked if she could furnish any data on the source of her information which would aid in evaluating the reliability of this source. She then replied she has never met this source, but that he is a person who started writing to her about five years ago after reading one of her books. He has

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described himself in his letters as a Negro businessman who owns a business in Harlem. He has written to Miss CALDWELL from four or five different addresses, which she states indicates to her that he has had to move around for fear of his life. She has written back to him on several occasions, and two or three of her letters were returned to her marked "Unknown at this address," but most of her letters were delivered. On several occasions when she knew she was going to be in New York City, she wrote to her friend requesting that he come to see her at her hotel, but he never came. She recalled that one address he had given her was somewhere on West 114th Street.

Miss CALDWELL added she believes her friend is a member of the John Birch Society, because he has made reference frequently to articles she has written for the publication of this society entitled "American Opinion." She added that when this man first started writing to her, the letters were merely friendly and pleasant, expressing admiration of her writing and dealing with general political observations of World War I and World War II. However, commencing in the Fall of 1967, he began writing about his knowledge of the assassination plot of a prominent Negro leader, ultimately designated as Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.