

ATTENTION

BEFORE CHANGING CLASSIFICATION OR PROCESSING ANY DOCUMENT FROM THIS FILE FOR RELEASE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, CONTACT FOI/PA SECTION UNIT D, EXT. 5767.

FBI/DOJ

WORK SHEET - ALROA REQUEST

SUBJECT - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
FILE # - MURKIN

ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # - . 101 PAGES 36 DOCUMENTS

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SUBJECT - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR FILE # - WY URKIN

ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # - PAGE 3

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR VICTIM CHARACTER OF CASE CGR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY REFERENCE: Report of SA ALLEN G. SENTINELLA, 5/17/68. - P - LEADS: ATIANTA AT ATIANTA, GEORGIA. Will continue reporting results of investigation requested of the Atlanta Division. ADMINISTRATIVE: On 5/14/68, wanted flyers were mailed to all laundries and dry cleaning establishments in the Metropolitan Atlanta area - A - (COVER PASE) ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED NONE ONVIC AUTO FUE. FIRES SAVINGS RECOVERIES TALS PERONSO PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS VES END PRODUCE ON VEAR VES END PROVED TO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW BUT CHARGES TO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW DISAPPHANTA (44-1987) 2 - Atlanta (44-2386) DISAPPHANTA (44-2386) PERONSO PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS VES END PROVED TO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW TO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW REC-6: 12 AUG 5 1968 EX-110	REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF	ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD	
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SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE OF

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

AT-44-2386 RRP:mlw

as well as the headquarter cities of all Resident Agencies in the Atlanta Division.

On May 20, 1968, Postal Inspector RAGSDALE, Atlanta, advised that on that date mail held for JAMES EARL RAY at General Delivery, Atlanta Post Office, was due to be returned to the sender of the mail. Mr. RAGSDALE advised there has been no additional delivery of mail since last contacted and the Bureau would be immediately notified if any additional mail for RAY should be sent to the Atlanta Post Office, General Delivery. He stated clerks at the General Delivery window have been alerted concerning this mail.

On June 3, 1968, Postal Inspector BRADY advised that money order number 5615057923, dated March 28, 1968, purchased in Atlanta in the amount of \$7.50, payable to the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, was purchased at Postal Station C, which is located on Fourteenth Street, N.E., Atlanta. It is noted this address is almost directly across from the rooming house which was occupied by the subject in March, 1968.

Results of negative investigation conducted by Atlanta Agents in this matter are not being set forth in this report as they contain no information of value and were primarily elimination—type leads.

All safety deposit boxes in the Atlanta Metropolitan area have been checked for a box rented in the name of the subject or his known aliases with negative results.

Reference to the interviews of RAYMOND CURTIS at Dalton, Georgia is noted that while CURTIS indicates that he would not testify to any information he furnished, he had already in fact written two letters to Ebony Magazine concerning the information contained in these interviews.

All persons departing Atlanta by airline for points in Canada from April 5 - 12, 1968, were eliminated as identical with subject RAY. No reservations could be located in the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD or PAUL BRIDGEMAN.

_ B* _ (COVER PAGE)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of:

SA ROBERT R. PERRY

Date:

July 30, 1968

Field Office File #:

44-2386

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Office: Atlanta, Georgia

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY;

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character:

CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION - CONSPIRACY; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis:

BILLY MAC WISDOM, inmate, U.S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, says he saw person who resembled subject, December, 1967, or January, 1968, at which time a white male he knew as "CHUCK" attempted to sell this individual a rifle with telescopic sight. Two individuals who were guests at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, December, 1967, at the same time of the subject had no information. Itinerary for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. from April, 1967 to time of his death obtained from SCLC Headquarters. ROBERT TATUM, Mableton, Georgia, who purchased .38 caliber revolver found on RAY at time of his arrest in London states sold revolver to a RAY SPAIN of Birmingham, Alabama. RAYMOND CURTIS interviewed at Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised he was trying to sell a story to Ebony Magazine for approximately \$5,000 to help pay off the mortgage on his mother's home. At first interview hedenied statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine concerning he and subject, JAMES EARL RAY. Second interview, same date, he allowed Agent to read his twenty page handwritten story concerning activities of himself and JAMES EARL RAY.

- P -

DETAILS

AT 44-2386 RRP:mcc 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT R. PERRY:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On May 11, 1968, JIMMY GARNER, 107 14th Street, NE; advised he had no additional information concerning the whereabouts of subject. He stated inasmuch as he and the subject had done some drinking together, and there has been no publicity concerning the subject residing at the rooming house on 14th Street, it is possible the subject might recontact him. He stated if he should hear any thing from the subject, he would immediately contact the Atlanta FBI Office.

On May 13, 1968, BILLY MAC WISDOM, contacted by SAs ROBERT R. PERRY and JAMES O. PONDER at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, where he is currently in custody. He was interviewed at the AWB Building where he is being held in administrative segregation for refusing to work where assigned at the penitentiary.

He stated he has no knowledge of the whereabouts of subject, RAY, and no knowledge of any plot to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He stated that in November, 1967, he saw a person in the 14th Street area of Atlanta, who closely resembled the subject.

WISDOM stated he has never resided in the 14th Street area himself. He stated this individual who he had seen believed to have a 1956 or 1957 Oldsmobile automobile.

WISDOM further stated that he would not furnish any information concerning subject. RAY. if he had such information.

AT 44-2386 RRP:ces The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT R. PERRY: On May 29, 1968, BILLY MACK WISDOM was interviewed at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, where he is an inmate. He stated since last interviewed he had recalled some additional information and wished to furnish all information he had concerning the person he believed identical with JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that a white male, who he knew as "Chuck", blond, and probably in his early twenties, and who drove a red and white 1966 Mustang convertible with an unknown license, tried to sell a rifle to this individual who he believed identical with RAY either in December, 1967, or January, 1968. He said he recalled it was right after he was released from the Fulton County Jail following his arrest and in December, 1967. He stated this attempted sale took place on the corner of Barnett and St. Charles Streets in Northeast Atlanta where several hippie-types were residing in an apartment house which faced St. Charles Street on the corner of Barnett, and would be located on the southwest corner of the intersection. He stated JIM NEIMAN, a singer at the Catacombs, also might know the person he believed identical with RAY. He stated CHUCK was visiting the girl who resided in this apartment, which he described as the first apartment on the right, and two hippies who he knew only as "WEASEL" and "JCHN", also living there. Both were bike-riders who wore leather jackets and hung out around the Catacombs. He stated he believed CHUCK resided in the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Street area near Peachtree Street and stated he was not the hippie type but a veteran, 21 or 20 years old, 140 pounds, 5 feet 8 inches, blond hair, and not employed. WISDOM stated he first saw this person he believed identical with RAY in September or October, 1967, at the Regency Hyatt House in downtown Atlanta when he was with a BOB JONES of Decatur, who is believed to operate a nightclub in Daytona Beach, Florida. He said he saw this person other 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

times at the Catacombs, a hippie coffee house on Fourteenth Street in Atlanta. He stated he talked with NEIMAN at that time.

He stated the last time he saw this individual was at the intersection of St. Charles and Barnett Streets; however, he could not be certain as to whether it was before or after he was in the Fulton County Jail. He stated CHUCK had tried to sell this rifle for \$150.00 because the rifle was in a case and had a telescope. He stated after thinking about the matter further he recalled he was in jail at Christmas-time, 1967, and this attempted sale probably took place before he was placed in Fulton County Jail about December 8, 1967.

He stated CHUCK was in town in early January, 1968, and believes he may be from Tennessee. He stated WEASEL and JOHN had lived on Vedado Way.

On May 29, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. BARBOUR, who reside at 865 St. Charles Street and on the apartment listed at 869 St. Charles, which is the southwest corner of the intersection bordered by St. Charles and Barnett, stated at one time there had been a Mr. and Mrs. W. T. JONES residing in the right-hand apartment at 869 St. Charles. They were described as hippie-types, and asked to leave because of the many hippies who were apparently spending the night there. Mrs. BARBOUR stated there was always a crowd, and there would be as many as ten motorbikes parked in front of the house at one time. She described Mr. and Mrs. JONES as young white male and young white female, who did not dress like hippies, however, had hippie-type friends. She stated Mrs. JONES' name was RHONDA and a Mrs. LILLIAN JONES at 15 Habersham, telephone 261-7818, was apparently the mother of W. T. JONES.

She stated Mrs. LILLIAN JONES indicated she would pay the rent if W. T. JONES was unable to do so.

On May 29, 1968, records of the Atlanta Police Department reflected BILLY MACK WISDOM was arrested on December 11, 1967, released on December 30, 1967, on bond, and sentenced in United States District Court, Atlanta, on January 29, 1968.

On May 31, 1968, Mrs. LILLIAN JONES, Apartment B-9, 15 Habersham, N.E., advised she has two sons, KELLY JONES, who is in school, and W. T. JONES. She stated W.T.'s full name is WILLIAM THOMAS JONES and he is presently on probation for theft of motor vehicles, and his probation officer is JAMES HUDSON, United States Probation Officer. She stated she had no idea of his whereabouts and knows that he moved recently from North Highland Avenue. She stated her parents are presently financing her rent, and she is unable to work at this time. She stated she has met "WEASEL" and "JOHNNIE", who she described as a tall person, and also noted that her daughter-in-law RHONDA is pregnant. She stated RHONDA's parents, who reside somewhere in Alabama, are presently paying the rent for her son and his wife. She stated if she obtains any information concerning his whereabouts. she will advise the FBI.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reviewed on May 31, 1968, reflected WILLIAM THOMAS JONES, Atlanta Police Department number 189931, FBI number 179 306 D, white male born was indicted by Fulton County Grand Jury on May 3, 1968, charged with robbery and rape. He is described as white male, 5 feet 11 inches, 177 pounds, black hair, hazel eyes, tattoo upper right arm of "LONIE", numerous cut scars.

On May 31, 1968, Lieutenant C. J. STRICKLAND, Atlanta Police Department, Homicide Squad, advised WILLIAM T. JONES is presently on Federal probation, and his probation officer is JAMES HUDSON. Lieutenant STRICKLAND stated he was one of the detectives assigned to the robbery-rape case and to contact Mr. HUDSON for any additional information.

On June 4, 1968, United States Probation Officer JAMES HUDSON advised WILLIAM T. JONES is under supervision until July, 1971, and is on parole, not probation. He stated he is not in possession of a present address for JONES; however, JONES is due to report that week and noted that he has always done so promptly. Mr. HUDSON stated he considers JONES' mother a "nut" and stated that his grandmother, Mrs. G. A. CHRISTIAN, 3729 Dunbarton Road, N.W., telephone 233-5223,

apparently has some money and is financing JONES' mother. He also stated a Mrs. HARRINGTON, telephone 688-7279, resides at 1083 Culpwood Avenue, may have some information concerning JONES. JONES reportedly stole her car and used it in some armed robberies in Dekalb County.

Inquiries in the area of the Catacombs May 29, 31, June 4, 5, and 6, 1968, have failed to find anyone who knew the whereabouts of WEASEL, JOHN, or CHUCK. Several persons recalled knowing WEASEL and CHUCK, but were unable or declined to furnish any information as to their present whereabouts.

AT 44-2386 RRP:mcc 1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT R. PERRY on May 10, 1968; and May 13, 1968:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

LOUIS KLAUBER, 1145 Peachtree, NE, Georgia Laundrys and Cleaners Association, advised he has a list of approximately 700 cleaning establishments located throughout the state of Georgia, which contains the listing of all except plants that are not covered by employment compensation. He stated this list is very complete and he would be happy to make a copy of it available.

On May 13, 1968, LOUIS KLAUBER, Room 438, 1145 Peachtree Street, NE, made available listing at no cost.

AT 44-2386 RRP:mcc

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT R. PERRY:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On May 15, 1968, R. C. MATTHEWS, JR., Group Vice President, Trust Company of Georgia, 2126 Mabry Road, NE, advised he had been in New Orleans at the Provincial Motel, in December, for about 3 days, however, did not recall the exact dates. He stated he and his wife were there on a short vacation, and proceeded from New Orleans to Birmingham, for Christmas. He stated they talked to no one while at the motel, and he stated the photograph of the subject is not familiar. Mr. MATTHEWS stated he recalled work being done on the swimming pool at that time, and that he and his wife had stopped to watch this construction.

On May 29, 1968, N. R. HINES, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, 1610 Southland Avenue, advised that he had been at the Provincial Motel at 1024 Chartres Street in New Orleans, December, 1967, for one night on business. He stated he was at the motel very little, arrived late after dinner, and just spent one night there. He recalled that the room he had faced the street, and he was unable to recall seeing anyone who resembled the subject. He stated he was not at the motel during the day.

AT-44-2386 RRP:mlw

On May 20, 1968, DORA MC DONALD, Secretary to the late Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, made available to Mrs. WILLINGHAM of the Accounting Division of SCLC, two copies of a memorandum directed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflecting the itinerary of Doctor KING for April 15, 1967, to the time of his death. This information was obtained from airline billings and reservation records and may not indicate all of the late Doctor KING'S travels.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FROM: SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

TRAVEL ITINERARY FOR DR. KING RE:

DATE: MAY 20, 1968

DATE .

July 28

PLACE

Hilton Inn - San Francisco, California April 15, 1967 April 22-24 New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center May 6, 1967. Louisville, Kentucky May 12 Terrace Motor Inn - Appleton, Wisconsin May 14 New York May 19 From Chicago to Detroit May 20 Summit - New York City May 27 New York City May 29 thru June 3 Frogmore, South Caroline Tune 5 and 36 New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center une 12 Seagill Restaurant -- Chicago June 15 Sheraton Cleveland Hotel New York City and Sheraton Cleveland, Clevelend June 22 June 24 Ted's Rhivcho Restaurant -- Malibu, Calif. Hyatt House Hotel -- Los Angeles, California June 25 July 9, 1967 Cleveland and Chicago July 13 Chicago and Cleveland July 18--23 Chicago and Cleveland July 23 New York Hilton Sheraton Chicago - Chicago July 26 Cleveland to Pittsburgh July 29

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Marriott Twin Brdgs - Washington, D.C.
July 28
August 4
                               Boston, New York City and Louisville, Kentucky
                               Laramie, Wyoming and New York
August 3
August 10
                               Los Angeles
August 13
                               Washington, D.C.
                               Howard Johnson's -- Cleveland
August 22 and 23
August 28
                               Chicago
                              International Hotel - Los Angeles, California
August 11
Auguak 9
                               Los Angeles
Augusz
                               Sheraton Palace - San Francisco, California
                               Howard Johnson - Cleveland
Sept. 7 and 8
Sept. 8 and 9
                               Netherland Hilton, Cincinnati, Ohio
                               Fairmont Hotel and Tower - San Francisco, California
Sept. 22
                               Independence, Ohio
Sept. 24
                               Howard Johnson - Cleveland
October 2 --7
                               Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.
October 20
Nov. 9
                               Cleveland
Nov. 12-14
                               London Hilton Park Lane, Wl.
Nov. 3
                               Birmingham, Alabama - A.G. Gaston Motel
Nov. 26
                               Americana of New York
Dec.
                               Savannah, Georgia to Atlanta
Dec. 14 and 15
                               New York Hilton, New York
Dec. 28--Jan 1, 1968
                               Miami, New York, and Chicago
Tan 1, 1968
                               Chicago to Atlanta
                               Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Wayne, Cleveland, New York and Atlanta
January 31 to Feb. 3
                               New York Hilton, Rockefeller Center
Feb. 2 and 3
 reb. 5
                               New York Hilton
 'eb. 10
                               International Hotel, Jamaica, New York
'eb. 12
                               Holiday Inn of Washington, D.C.
 eb. 14 and 16
                               Mississippi and Alabama Tour
                               Dallas Texashard
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March 10 and 11	New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center
March 15	Detroit
March 17	Los Angeles
March 18	Hotel Acapulco
March 19	Alamo Plaza Hotel Courts Mississippi
March 22	Washington, New York, Virginia and Georgia
July 3	N. Randa, Ohio
April	Memphis
•	

AT-44-2386 RRP:mlw

By communication dated June 10, 1968, the Los Angeles Division advised that JAMES EARL RAY was apprehended in London, England and he had in his possession a .38 caliber Liberty Chief revolver, serial number 715, manufactured by Miroku Firearms Manufacturing Company in Japan. MILA SVOBODA, owner, Liberty Arms Company and the Solinger Cutlery Company, Montrose, California advised that the above described revolver had been sent to R. TATUM, New and Used Guns, 118 Edwards Drive, Mableton, Georgia, on October 3, 1966, under invoice from Solinger Cutlery in Montrose, California. The revolver was the only item in the shipment.

AT MABLETON, GEORGIA.

On June 11, 1968, ROBERT TATUM, 118 Edwards Street, Mableton, Georgia, advised Special Agent JAMES RICHARD FLICK he had purchased a .38 caliber revolver, serial number 715, a Japanese make from the Solinger Cutlery Company, Montrose, California for \$40, on October 11, 1966. On December 3, 1966, he sold the gun for \$50 to WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904 42nd Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. He obtained SPAIN'S name and address from a driver's license and described SPAIN as a white male, thirty to thirty-five years of age with brown hair. He stated SPAIN is not identical to subject RAY.

By communication dated July 2, 1968, the Bureau advised that RAYMOND CURRUS, Whitfield County Jail, had written two letters to Ebony Magazine who had referred these letters to the Bureau. These letters are as follows:

"Box 21, Tunnel Hill "Georgia "June 22, 1968

"Mr. Clarles L. Sanders

"Dear Mr. Sanders:

"I thank you for your answer to my letter. I think that details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

"Well, Sir, I have written a story. No one but myself has read it but me. At this time I know that it will have to be re-wrote for I am not a writing it as bad as it is.

AT-44-2386
RRP:mlw

"It all about the crime I did and a a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther Research

"It all about the crime I did and about a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther King, Jr. We talk of killing King for three years. And we talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK businessman association that was to put up the money to kill King. I also know the men from Mississippi.

"In that three years we made maps just had to find the right place to kill King. Well I have made the maps over myself. They are with the story also.

"And just where we would go after we killed King so yes when we talk about it I was to be in on it. But I was not. The story has it all in it. All the big thing and the little one also. And what Ray like and what he did not like. This story could get me killed. I know that. That is why. I won't send the story by mail. I know that this is getting to be a long letter. But when you read this if you want the story O.K. If not just let me know, O.K. That way I won't talk to men about it.

"Mr. Sanders there are men in five states that is behind the King killing and they don't know what I know. But James Earl Ray did not. Now that they have Ray Tenn. will trial him if they get him back.

"Well, they want me to testify. Well, I just don't know yet what I will do.

"You see, me and Ray were pal. I could tell what I have to the news. That not much. Or I could not say everything. And I did not tell the FBI. Well, this is not a book. I am just trying to tell you what you ask of me in your letter.

"If you have a man or have someone down this way, if you will have them stop by the jail I will let them read the story and you can go from there. O.K.

AT-44-2386 RRP:mlw "I thank you again. "I will be looking to hear from you soon. "Raymond Curtis "I am still in the Dalton County, Jail." "Box 21, Tunnel Hill "Georgia "May 30, 1968 "Mr. John H. Johnson (evidentally connected with Ebony Magazine) "Sir: "I am Raymond Curtis, a man that said we talk about killing King. Will, Sir, there is things that have never been told. Thing he did and better. Things that would make a story so if you are interested and want the story then I will look to hear from you or someone you send if you are not interested and you know someone that is I would appreciate it if you would tell them about me and give my address. O.K. I am still at the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia. My home address is at the top. Sir, I would appreciate if if you would let me hear from you. "Thank you for your time. "Raymond Curtis" - 16 -2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

July 5, 1968

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was contacted at the Whitfield County Jail and advised of the identities of Special Agents THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. and ALBERT D. MILLARD. He was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he read, indicated he understood, but refused to sign. He was advised that he was being interviewed concerning statements he made in a letter he had mailed to Mr. SANDERS of Ebony Magazine.

CURTIS stated he was merely trying to sell a story to Ebony for approximately \$5,000 to help his mother pay off a mortgage on her home. She had obtained this mortgage as a result of paying attorney's fees for the defense of CURTIS at a previous trial.

CURTIS stated that he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a burglary in Joliet, Illinois, in October or November, 1954. It was pointed out to CURTIS that certain statements made by him in his letter to Ebony Magazine could possibly involve him in a conspiracy with JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS then stated he wished to go on record as to the statements made in his letter to Mr. SANDERS. He categorically denied the following statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine:

- 1) That he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a crime in 1954;
- 2) That RAY wanted the job of killing KING;
- 3) That he and RAY talked about killing KING for three years;
- 4) That he and RAY talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK Businessmen's Association which Association was to put up the money to kill KING;
- 5) That he knew the men from Mississippi;
- 6) That for three years he and RAY made maps just to find the right place to kill KING and that he made the maps over himself;
- 7) That he and RAY knew just where they would go after the killing of KING;
- 8) That he was to be in on the killing of KING;
- 9) That there are men in five states who are behind the killing of KING and these men do not know what he (CURTIS) knows.

- 17 -

On	7/3	6/63	_at	Dalton, Georgia		AT _File#	44-2336	
	SA	ALBERT	D.	MILLARD and				<i>;</i>
bv	SA	THOMAS	R.	HENRY, JR.	:jlh	Date dictated	7/5/68	

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.

AT 44-2386 2

During this interview CURTIS drew two maps setting out how he thought RAY would stalk KING. This map indicated the following towns where he said KING made most of his speeches: Atlanta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Birmingham, Mobile, and Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Vicksburg, and Marks, Mississippi.

CURTIS further advised that there was a man living on a houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River whose name he would not divulge who was to take RAY down the River on his boat to New Orleans after the killing. CURTIS further advised that in the past he had pulled several burglaries and armed robberies in towns along the Mississippi River and while police were looking for him on the highway he would be on a boat down the Mississippi. He added that he had written a story concerning the KING killing which was currently being typed and this was the story he mentioned in the letter to Ebony Magazine and which he intended to sell to Ebony.

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

On July 3, 1963, Sheriff G. T. Mauldin, Whitfield County, Georgia, advised that Curtis sent no letters or communications from the Whitfield County Jail which passed over the jailer's desk. He stated Curtis probably sent his mail out with visitors and jail trustees which would probably not have been observed by men of his department. Sheriff Mauldin stated that Curtis' attorney, Erwin Mitchell, former U. S. Congressman from the Seventh District of Georgia, is of the opinion that most of Curtis' comments concerning his knowledge of Ray's alleged assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. are pure fabrications on the part of Curtis or the result of something Curtis has read in the newspapers.

Approximately one hour following the conclusion of the interview with Curtis, he sent a note to Sheriff Mauldin requesting to again see an FBI Agent and stating that he wanted to tell the entire truth. Curtis was re-interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail.

FE RAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July	5,	1968
Date		

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he refused to sign. He then stated in connection with the previous interview that apparently in his letter to Ebony Magazine, he used the word "we" indicating that he and JAMES EARL RAY had planned the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and he realized now this would involve him in a conspiracy. For that reason in the previous interview he denied the statements he had made in his letter to Ebony Magazine. CURTIS then advised he had written a story which he intended to sell to some magazine for the purpose of obtaining money for his mother. He stated the story was still in his possession and had not yet been sent out to be typed. He permitted SA HENRY to read this 20-page handwritten story one page at a time and he declared this story was true. The first five or six pages of the story merely set out his early life in crime and the prison sentences he had served as a result of the crimes, starting at the age of 15. The remainder of the story is the same as he originally furnished in an interview in April, 1968, concerning his knowledge and association with JAMES EARL RAY. The story reflects that he first became associated with RAY in 1954 when they pulled a payroll robbery together in Quincy, Illinois, with a third individual. Shortly thereafter CURTIS lost contact with RAY when RAY and this third individual were apprehended in connection with a bank robbery at Southwest City, Missouri. After that CURTIS again became acquainted with RAY in prison and while in prison they both learned of the death of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. At this time RAY stated the murder of KENNEDY sounded like a big job and he was always on the inside of a prison when big jobs and big money were to be had.

Shortly after the death of JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. became prominent, and RAY stated on several occasions that somebody was going to kill KING. During this period an individual came into the Missouri State Penitentiary from Vicksburg, Mississippi. This individual upon learning of JAMES EARL RAY's feelings toward killing KING advised RAY of the KK Businessmen's Association of the South

	·		- 20 -			
On	7/3/68	atDalton, Geor	rgia	File#_AT 44-2	386	
bv.	SA THOMAS	R. HENRY JR.	:jlh	Date dictated	7/5/63	* •••

and stated that people in five states were putting up money for KING's assassination. The story further reflected that RAY informed this individual that he intended to have everything set when he killed KING. RAY followed KING's movements through maps so that he could later stalk KING to the point of assassination. RAY indicated during the time that he would leave a false gun and false trail immediately following the murder. RAY was supposed to go to Vicksburg, Mississippi, following the murder, contact the man from Vicksburg who had the houseboat, and this man was to take him either to New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River.

At the conclusion of the interview CURTIS stated he would not testify to any of the above information. He did advise that the name of the individual on the houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was (first name unknown) WILLETT, also known as "Mississippi," who served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

CURTIS refused to allow his story to be copied and stated he would not write it over again nor would he allow the pages to be removed from his prison cell. CURTIS then presented crude sketches of the Federal Pententiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Missouri State Penitentiary.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
JUL 2 4 1968

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE

FBI MEMPHIS

653 PM URGENT 7-24-68 DND

TO BURKAU (44-38861)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

medin

Casper...

Mr. Tavel_ Mr. Trotter. Tole. Room_

Miss Holmes.

RE MEMPHIS AIRTELS TO BUREAU DATED JULY TWENTY THREE AND TWENTY FOUR LAST AND DIVISION SIX SUPERVISOR JOSEPH KELLY'S TELEPHONE CALL TO MEMPHIS THIS DATE.

on July Twenty Two Last Martha Johnson, Secretary to Shelby County, Tenn., Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle, Received via regular mail at Judge's office an anonymous post Card directed to the Judge on which appeared the message "Boy, your verdict better be our verdict; or you go the way of king!

KKK." This Card was postmarked p.m. July Twenty Last at New York, New York.

EX-100 REC 74 UU-38

SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., SHERIFF WILLIAM MORRIS, RECEIVED VIA REGULAR MAIL AT SHERIFF'S OFFICE A POST CARD DERECTED TOWTHE SHERIFFUGONS 1968 WHICH APPEARED THE MESSAGE DEAR BLLL, GLAD RAY'S IN YOUR HANDS.

OVER HERE WE ALL KNOW NO WHITE MAN IS GOING TO DIE FOR A NIGGER.

LET'S US WHITE FOLKS SHOW THEM. LET RAY GO FREE LIKE WE ALWAYS DO."

END PAGE ONE

54 AUG- 9 1968

Suk

JUL ZN 8 32 PM 789

REC'D + CIV RIGHTS FBI

Jul 25 7 31 AH '68

PAGE TWO

SIGNED "JAKE HARRIS, MARTIN, TENN." THIS CARD WAS POSTMARKED P.M. JULY NINETEEN LAST, NEW YORK, NEW YORK. THE HANDWRITINGS ON BOTH OF THESE CARDS MAY HAVE BEEN PREPARED BY SAME INDIVIDUAL.

THESE TWO POST CARDS WERE FORWARDED TO FBI LARORATORY

REQUESTING HANDWRITING COMPARISON AS WELL AS LATENT FINGERPRINT

EXAMINATION BY MEMPHIS AIRTEL DATED JULY TWENTY THREE LAST

CAPTIONED "Unknown Subject Preston Battle - Victim; Extortion - Racial Matter."

ON JULY TWENTY FOUR INSTANT SHERIFF WILLIAM MORRIS, MEMPHIS, RECEIVED AN ANONYMOUS POST CARD DIRECTED TO MR. E. RAY, MEMPHIS, TENN., ON WHICH APPEARED THE MESSAGE "YOU ARE NEXT TO DIE." THIS CARD WAS POSTMARKED P.M. JULY TWENTY TWO LAST, NEW YORK, NEW YORK. THIS CARD WAS FORWARDED TO THE FBI LABORATORY REQUESTING APPROPRIATE EXAMINATION ON JULY TWENTY FOUR INSTANT BY MEMPHIS AIRTEL CAPTIONED "UNSUB; E. RAY - VICTIM; EXTORTION - RACIAL MATTER."

JUDGE BATTLE IS AWARE OF THE POST CARD DIRECTED TO HIM BUT IS NOT AWARE OF THE SIGNED POST CARD RECEIVED BY SHERIFF MORRIS OR THE POST CARD RECEIVED BY THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE DIRECTED TO E. RAY. END PAGETWO

PAGE THREE

United States Attorney

MR. THOMAS L. ROBINSON, USA, WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, MEMPHIS, HAS ADVISED THAT THE CONTENTS OF BOTH POST CARDS CONTAINING THE THREATS DO CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF TITLE EIGHTEEN, SECTION EIGHT SEVEN SIX, USC, AND THAT HE WOULD AUTHORIZE PORSECUTION TO THE INDIVIDUAL IF THE INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR SENDING THESE THREATENING POST CARDS, ARE IDENTIFIED.

NEW YORK DIVISION HAS BEEN FURISHED XEROX COPPLES OF ALL THE ABOVE DESCRIBED POST CARDS AS WELL AS COMMUNICATION; HOWEVER, THE NEW YORK AND THE MEMPHIS DIVISIONS ARE NOT CONDUCTING ANY ACTIVE INVESTIGATION UNLESS SPECIFICALLY ADVISED TO DO SO BY THE BUREAU.

THE SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE IS NOT CONDUCTING ANY ACTIVE INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY THE SENDERS OF THESE POST CARDS.

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FBI WASH DC

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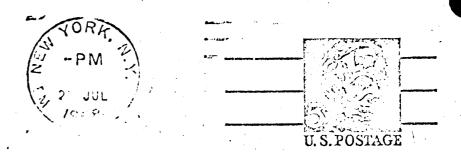
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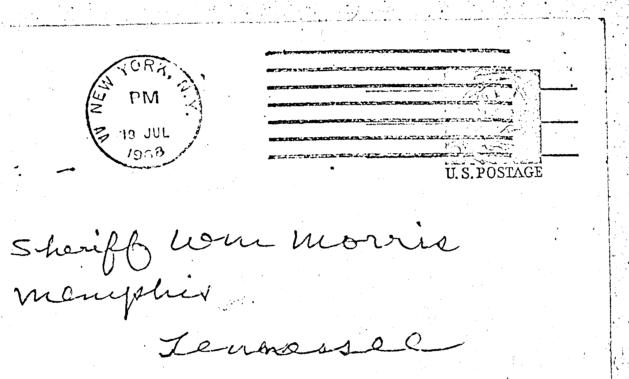
your verdict better be our Verdict; 7-20-68



W. Preston Battle
Shelley Country Criminal Court
Menephis, Zentnessee.
V.SA

Martin,

111-30 56/1984



Memorandum

TO

: DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE:

7-25-68

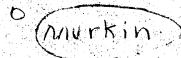
FROM

LEGAT, MEXICO (62-168) (RUC)

SUBJECT:

KENNETH MC KEE

INFORMATION CONCERNING



1)

Re Mexico City cable 6-6-68.

If any action is desired by the New York Office in Mexico, or if the New York Office is in possession of information of interest here, the New York Office should advise.

No further apparent action to be taken in Mexico.

30

5 - Bureau (1 - Liaison Section) (2 - New York)

1 - Mexico City

DGB:wr

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EX-100

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90-38861-0-46

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

 $Memorandum_{\star}$

TO

Mr. Conrad

DATE: July 31, 1968

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SUBJECT:

FROM

MURKIN

CR

00: Memphis

W. D. Griffith

Legat, London, has forwarded to the Bureau photocopies of numerous documents pertaining to James Earl Ray which were obtained from British authorities on a confidential The exact nature of these documents is set forth in a memorandum dated July 26, 1968, from Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach. In general, these items are letters sent under the name Ramon George Sneyd to Mr. J. B. Stoner, Attorney at Law, Savannah, Georgia; Mr. Arthur J. Hanes, subject Ray's attorney; the Attorney General; John Ray, subject's brother and Mr. Edward Heath, of the House of Commons. Also included in the material submitted was a letter from John Ray to the subject and observations of British prison personnel concerning the subject's activities during his incarceration.

It was determined from an examination that the questioned handwriting and hand printing appearing on the items which emanated from Ramon George Sneyd were prepared by the subject JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

44-38861

1-Mr. Mohr

1-Mr. DeLoach

1-Mr. Rosen

1-Mr. Conrad

1-Mr. Griffith

1-Mr. Mortimer

1-Foreign Liaison

1-Lab File

WA: ME (8) **REC- 78**

44-38661-4986

EX-100

56 AUG 13 1968

JUL 31 1 19 PM : 68 U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTIC AUG 1 N 9 52 AH '66

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

F B I

Date:	8	3/1	/68

Transmit the following in _				
	AIRTEL		(Type in plaintext or code)	
Via				
			(Priority)	

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)

MURKIN

Re Kansas City letter to the Bureau 7/24/68 and Atlanta teletype to the Bureau, Interview in County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, 7/3/68.

Enclosed herewith for Chicago is one copy of each referenced communication.

For the additional information of Chicago, it has been determined the houseboat capable of travel on the Mississippi River was at one time owned by one CHARLES WILLIE, now deceased, a well-respected and wealthy plantation owner of Wabbaseka, Arkansas. One A. D. CARTWRIGHT, JR., owner of the Cartwright Nursery Company, Collierville, Tennessee, obtained possession of the houseboat in February, 1966. The results of interview with CARTWRIGHT are not known to Jackson.

1 - Memphis	(RM) (Enc. 2) (RM) (44-1987) (Info)	REC 74 44 (RM)	38861 11981
2 - Jackson JGW:mif (8)	yne 5 3 31 shift	10 AUG 2	1968

C. C. Bishop

SIA

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Sent _____ M Per ____

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known to Joshson. 1956. The results of interview with CARTHRIGMT are not Tennersee, obtained possession of the househost in February, JR., owner of the Certuright Murseyy Company, Collicaville, tion owner of Wabbaseka, Arkansas. One A. D. CANTWARGET, William, now decessed, a well-respected and weelchy planta-Mississipat Civer was at one time owned by one CHARLES been determined the housebost capable of trayel on the For the additional information of Chicago, it base

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JN 157-9586

The following lead will be given expeditious attention, UACB:

LEAD:

CHICAGO

AT ILLINOIS STATE PENITENTIARY. Will, if JAMES ROBERT WILLETT is still incarcerated at Illinois State Penitentiary, determine if he is the individual referred to by RAYMOND CURTIS as "Mississippi," and will thereafter conduct exhaustive interview concerning the allegations made by RAYMOND CURTIS.

Will furnish results of the interview to the Bureau by report or LHM.

If WILLETT is no longer incarcerated at the Illinois State Penitentiary, will set out such leads as are necessary to locate and interview him, as above.

UACB, interview of DONALD ROY WILLETT and MILTON LAWRENCE WILLETT, the other inmates of the Missouri State Penitentiary by the name of WILLETT, who were incarcerated subsequent to 1960, will not be conducted, as no information was contained in the Missouri State Penitentiary Records indicating that these individuals have ever resided in, or had contacts in, the state of Mississippi.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

то

Mr. Mohr

DATE: 8/1/68

FROM

N. P. Callahan

DATE: 8/1/08

SUBJECT:

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

LMY

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Mr. Al Long, Budget, Justice, telephonically contacted this office this afternoon and stated that the Department had received a bill for the airplane furnished by the Department of Defense used by this Bureau to transport James Earl Ray, subject, from England to Memphis, Tennessee. Long stated that the bill was in the amount of \$8,500; that Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr., Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division, had sent the bill to Mr. L. M. Pellerzi, Assistant Attorney General for Administration, with a request that he see him concerning it. Mr. Long knew nothing about the background and the purpose of his call was to find out what he could in order to brief Mr. Pellerzi. He expressed the opinion that it appeared to him that the charge was properly an investigative expense and therefore should be paid for from FBI funds. Long was advised that the matter would be looked into and he would be contacted.

This matter was discussed with Agent Supervisor Joseph G. Kelly, General Investigative Division, who advised that all of the arrangements for the plane had been made at the highest level in the Department of Justice; that Mr. Rosen and Mr. DeLoach had both informed the Department officials that the Bureau's funds were not available for paying the cost of the plane; and that this view had been concurred in by the Director. On the basis of this information, Mr. Long was informed that it was felt that this Bureau's funds were not available to pay this cost and that this view had been communicated to the top level of the Department of Justice. Long stated that he would be governed accordingly and so inform Mr. Pellerzi.

ACTION:

None; informational.

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WCJ:bjg

Y- Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)

1 - Mr. Rosen (sent direct)

1 - Mr. Mohr (sent direct)

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Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr. ssistant Attorney General NEC-78 44-3/86/ _ 4989 Director, FBI

August 5, 1968

1 - Mr. Long

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Enclosed you will find a copy of a report furnished to us by New Scotland Yard. This report contains information concerning the activities of subject James Earl Ray while in London, England, from May 7, 1968, to the date of his apprehension on June 8, 1968. This report also contains a summary of investigation conducted by New Scotland Yard.

Officials of New Scotland Yard have advised this report may be disseminated to Tennessee authorities for assistance in preparing their case for prosecution.

In view of this, you are requested to advise if you desire that this report of New Scotland Yard be furnished to Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee.

Enclosure

REL:cs (4)

NOTE:

See Memo A. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach, dated 8/1/68. captioned MURKIN. REL:cs.

Tolson DeLoach Mohr _ Bishop Casper. Conrad . Felt_ Gale . Rosen _ Tavel Trotter_

Tele. Room

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