RECEIVED

AUG 1 10 25 AM 1963

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

AUG 14 10 36 AM '63

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[illegible]

[illegible]

FBI

Date: August 12, 1968

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM : CHICAGO (44-1114)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Jackson airtel to Bureau dated August 1, 1968.

Enclosed herewith to Bureau (3 copies) and Memphis (15 copies) is an insert disclosing results of an interview with JAMES ROBERT WILLETT at Joliet, Illinois.

Enclosed for the Atlanta Division is 2 copies of above insert and one photograph of JAMES ROBERT WILLETT for possible future reference.

ENCLOSURE

(3-Bureau ([redacted]) (Encl. 3)
2-Memphis (44-1987) ([redacted]) (Encl. 15)
2-Atlanta (44-2386) (INFO) ([redacted]) (Encl. 3)
2-Chicago
GHB:prk
(9)

C. C. - Bishop

NOT RECORDED
4 AUG 15 1968

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

5

CONFIDENTIAL

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

AUG 16 1968

AUG 15 1968

AUG 1 12 10 PM 1968

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

AUG 15 12 14 PM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

CG [illegible]-1114

GPS:pek

On August 6, 1968, Mr. [illegible] O'SHEA, Record Office, Illinois State Penitentiary (ISP), [illegible] Joliet Branch, Joliet, Illinois, made available to Special Agent [illegible] GEORGE H. MANIGNI the inmate jacket number 61027, for JAMES [illegible] WILLETT. This inmate was received at ISP on May 12, 1967, [illegible] County, Illinois, on a charge of burglary-violation [illegible] being sentenced on May 9, 1967, to a term of 2-5 years.

The inmate's short term will expire on December 28, 1970, and he is due to appear before the parole board in December, 1968. His file jacket disclosed that no detainers have been placed against him.

The following background and descriptive information was obtained from the inmate's jacket:

Name	JAMES ROBERT WILLETT
Number	61027
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	[redacted]
Place of Birth	Huntsville, Alabama
Height	5'9"
Weight	131 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Brown
Scars and Marks	Numerous tattoos on both arms
Federal Bureau of Investigation Number	277341 B
Nationaltiy	English
Marital Status	Married, 1958, Kennett, Missouri Divorced 1964
Children	One
Social Security Number	[redacted]
Occupation	Construction
Brothers	Two
Half-brothers	One
Sisters	Three
Religion	Baptist
Education	Six years
Correspondence	Mrs. BERTHA WILLETT, mother 322 Highland, Elgin Illinois Mrs. GENE (MARTHA) SHELTON, sister Carpentersville, Illinois Mrs. LOUIS BOYD, sister 322 Highland, Elgin, Illinois

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mrs. JOHN (MARGARET) MATHIS, sister
302 Highland, Elgin, Illinois

Mrs. RUBULA ACRES, mother-in-law
[illegible] Anthony, Kennett, Missouri

Mr. O'SHEA made available a copy of a Classification Report dated July 28, 1967, pertinent portions of which are set out below:

Social Factors

This inmate was born [redacted] in Huntsville, Alabama, the fifth of six full siblings. The inmate's father, who owned his own farm, reportedly died of cancer about 1938. At the present time the inmate's mother is living in Elgin, Illinois, and the rest of the family is scattered, with some of the siblings living in Mississippi, and Missouri, while three of them reside in Illinois. Apparently both of the parents had prior marriages; there is at least one half-brother who is reported to be a policeman in Toledo, Ohio. The inmate denies that other members of his immediate family have been involved in criminality. Following his father's death, the inmate was raised alternately by his mother and by the older brother in Deering, Missouri. According to the inmate, he gets along well with all the other family members. The family economic status was considered to be below average. The inmate grew up mostly around Gunison, Mississippi, where he attended public school to about the sixth grade. About this time he was in a serious car accident and because his grades were poor and he was a disciplinary problem, he dropped out of school. He admits that he is unable to read very well at this time. The inmate did considerable farm work in the South before beginning his several periods of incarceration. He married in 1958, in Kennett, Missouri, only about a month and a half after his discharge from the Mississippi State Prison. One child has been born to this union, a son who is eight years old. The inmate says his wife was only fifteen years old when they married and he was twenty-three years of age. There has been considerable marital dissension due to difficulty with him getting along with her family. Also, the inmate describes some problems relating to his desire to be away from home a great deal and "chasing around". Although we do not have verification, the inmate said he got along well while hewas at the State Penitentiary in Parchman, Mississippi, where he was sent when he was nineteen years old. He says that he and three associates had broken into a store. He says all of his work was on the farm and despite having a few fights, he considered his adjustment record satisfactory. This inmate also served at the State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, for forgery, but while assigned to an Honor Farm at that Institution, he escaped and received an additional sentence period. Inside the walls he worked in the Soap Factory, Cannery and Block Factory. Between incarcerations the inmate has worked as a construction laborer and has travelled around the country a great deal. He was in Texas in 1965, then to Missouri, and back to Illinois. He was again in Elgin, Illinois, for only three months when he was arrested on the instant charges. In respect to his drinking activities, the inmate says he occasionally drinks to excess,

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but does not feel that this has particularly interfered with his work. He does admit that there may be some relationship between his drinking and his arrest. He denies any use of narcotics and says his gambling has not been heavy. Leisure time activities include participating in sports, fishing and hunting.

Personality

This is a slender, wiry 31 year old recidivist, who has had major sentences previously for forgery, burglary, and escape. He is a quite unstable individual with very loose family ties and a background of heavy drinking. He impresses us as being a poorly motivated, irresponsible individual who is pleasant enough in the interview situation but usually does pretty much as he pleases and drifts along in life without much ambition or long range goals. He has a number of rather grotesque tattoos on his person which generally detracts from his appearance. He is of dull normal intelligence, according to the psychological screening report. Based upon his background in other institutions, it is quite possible he might have a difficult time serving this sentence.

Classification

Group III. Without need for mental treatment and not mentally retarded. Inadequate and unstable personality with periodic alcoholism. Doubtfully improvable offender. Doubtful prognosis. Dull normal intelligence."

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CG 44-1114
GRB:prk
4

Interview of JAMES ROBERT WILLETT, also known as "Crazy WILLIE", "Mississippi".

JAMES ROBERT WILLETT inmate number 61027, ISP, Joliet Branch, Joliet, Illinois, advised that he is sometimes referred to as "Crazy WILLIE" and "Mississippi". He advised as follows:

He was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) at Jefferson City, Missouri, from approximately December 1, 1960, to March 13, 1965. While at MSP he never had any personal contact with JAMES EARL RAY, although he believes he knew who RAY was by sight. The prison population at MSP approximated 2,400. He had no opportunity to meet RAY prior to MSP or after he left because he was arrested at Blazeville, Arkansas, on or about January 11, 1967, before RAY escaped from MSP.

WILLETT said that while at MSP he celled in "C" house and worked in the Soap Factory, Block Plant and Farm. He formed a close relationship with another inmate, RAY CURTIS, whom he would see for extended periods on weekends in the yard. He never was assigned to the same cell house or work assignment with CURTIS or for that matter with RAY.

CURTIS, to his knowledge, always occupied a one-man cell. CURTIS was in "J" cell house before going to the farm and in "G" or "F" cell house after he returned from the farm. CURTIS was assigned to the "Tag Plant" and farm.

WILLETT stated that some time before his release from MSP he had a falling out with CURTIS, when CURTIS "stooled" on him over an incident that had taken place.

WILLETT said that he can recall no converstaion transpiring in his presence while at MSP to the effect that President JOHN F. KENNEDY had a "bounty" on his head or that Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. had "bounty" on his head. He knew of no conversation to the effect that the "KKK of the South" had raised money to assassinate KING and never was privy to any conversation in this matter.

WILLETT denied knowing a CHARLES WILLIE or a A. D. CARTWRIGHT, owners of a houseboat. WILLETT stated that when he was released from MSP he went to his sisters, Mrs. LLOYD BOYD, Clarksdale, and stayed with her for approximately seven weeks. He was employed at "Billups" Service Station, Route 61, as a night man from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. He spent his leisure time in the taverns in the Clarksdale area. He said that he had never had occasion to go to the Mississippi River.

After leaving Clarksdale, he went to Longview, Texas, for approximately three months, where he was employed by "Miles High Line" Construction Company. He resided at 413 Green Street.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Longview Texas. After leaving Texas, he drifted from Missouri, Michigan, and Illinois.

WILLETT advised that he was not aware of any association between CURTIS and RAY. He said he could not say that if there was some arrangements between CURTIS and RAY that CURTIS would have told him.

WILLETT said subsequent to his release from MSP in March, 1965, he was never in a Vicksburg, Mississippi, except to pass through it on his way to Clarksdale, Mississippi.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

8/12/68

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, Miami (44-1854)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

In view of the alleged mental condition of Mrs. Margaret Capomacchia, mother of Kathleen Ainsworth, and in view of the past performance of the informant, Miami should have no further contact with the former informant in regard to the information that Kathleen Ainsworth and five other individuals were involved in the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

MAILED 6
AUG 12 1968
COMM-FBI

In view of the fact that in interview with Mrs. Capomacchia she denies any knowledge of this alleged participation in the assassination and refuses to discuss it, receiving offices should conduct no further investigation in this aspect.

If any further information comes to your attention regarding this, you should notify the Bureau of same, submit your recommendations and take no further action.

1 - SAC, Jackson (157-9586)
1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

REC-34

19 AUG 13 1968

REL:cs
(6)

EX-100

NOTE: See memo Rosen to DeLoach, dated 8/12/68, captioned MURKIN, REL:cs.

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

55 AUG 19 1968
MAIL ROOM
TELETYPE UNIT

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/7/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MOBILE (157-2627) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re Miami teletype to the Bureau, 8/2/68, setting forth information to Miami by WILLIAM SOMERSETT concerning MARGARET CAPOMACCHIA.

Mobile was requested to be alert as to activities of SIDNEY C. BARNES who reportedly was leaving for Jackson, Miss., 8/2/68.

SIDNEY CROCKETTE BARNES, 1379 East Riviera Drive, Mobile, Ala., is a bombing suspect of the Mobile Office and his activity has been covered in the past month by four different neighborhood sources. No information has been reported by these sources to indicate that BARNES was away from his residence just prior to or subsequent to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. These sources have furnished no information indicating that THOMAS A. TARRANTS, III or KATHLEEN AINSWORTH had stayed at the BARNES' residence.

In the late afternoon of 8/2/68, neighborhood source, Mrs. MARY LONGCRIER, 1382 East Riviera Drive, telephonically advised that at about 5:20 PM that date she had observed BARNES in his stationwagon which vehicle appeared to be packed as if BARNES was moving from the residence. She did not see Mrs. BARNES on that occasion.

C. C. - Bishop

3 - Bureau
2 - Jackson (157-9586)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Miami (44-1854)
4 - Mobile (2 - 174-71)
(2 - 157-494)

REC-34

12 AUG 9 1968

JTB:crb
(13)

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

SIX

79 AUG 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D
MINTELL DIV.

AUG 9 12 07 PM '68

RECEIVED
INVESTIGATIVE

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FBI

AUG 9 10 09 AM 1968

AUG 9 10 15 AM '68

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

1 COPY RECEIVED 5/4/76 BY
RCB/SS MLK Jr.
FOR CONTENT AS PROVIDED BY
TO ISSUE OF JORDAN PARKS 5/3/76
(SEE DUPLE 62-117290)

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

AUG 14 1 26 PM '68

AUG 14 2 30 PM 1969

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

On the morning of 8/5/68, Mrs. LONGCRIER advised that BARNES had returned to his residence at 4 PM, Sunday, 8/4/68, and had left about 5 AM, 8/5/68, apparently enroute to work.

On 8/5/68, neighborhood source, Mrs. GERALDINE WILKINSON, 1383 East Riviera Drive, advised that both Mr. and Mrs. BARNES, according to Mrs. WILKINSON's daughter, were at their residence late in the afternoon of Sunday, 8/4/68, and left in their stationwagon which was loaded down. She had not seen them on the morning of 8/5/68.

It appears that BARNES may be moving, possibly to Miss., since he works in Miss. His activities are being followed in order to determine whether or not he moves and to determine any contacts which may have a bearing on this case.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 7/15/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: LEGAT, PARIS (100-2082) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
~~(OO - ME)~~

ReBucab to Paris 7/12/68.

The following items have been furnished to the Bureau by Paris regarding investigation conducted in Portugal:

1. Application for new passport and related papers furnished by Canadian Embassy, Lisbon, Portugal.

2. Entry and exit cards and hotel registration card furnished by Portuguese Police.

These documents, returned to Paris with FBI Laboratory report dated 6/18/68, have all been returned to the original contributors and they were requested to retain them for possible future use if needed and copies were retained by the FBI Laboratory.

5 - Bureau
(1 - Liaison Section)
(1 - Memphis, 44-1987, Info.)
1 - Paris
NWP:eim
(6)

REC-34

1968

AIRTEL

C. C. Bishop

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

53 AUG 2 0 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JUL 18 9 59 AM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

3. Paris LHM dated 6/13/68.

4. Paris LHM dated 6/18/68.

5. Paris LHM dated 6/24/68.

6. Paris LHM dated 7/1/68.

All of the above material may be furnished to Tennessee authorities for official use in connection with the trial but the information should not be released to the public domain unless necessary through normal judicial procedure.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 7-29-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel AIR COURIER
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

From: Legat, Ottawa (44-4)(P)

Subject: MURKIN

ReBUcab 7-24-68.

There is set forth below a list of reports received from the RCMP in this investigation, all or any portion of which may be made available to Tennessee authorities. The items are listed in the order by date they were forwarded to the Bureau.

Description	Date of Report	Date Sent Bureau
Report RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	4-18-68	4-22-68
Report RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	4-19-68	4-24-68
Report RCMP Sub-Division, London, Ontario	4-18-68	4-26-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	4-22-68	5-6-68
Report RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	4-26-68	5-6-68
Report RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	5-2-68	5-17-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	5-3-68	5-17-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	5-7-68	5-17-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division Montreal	5-13-68	5-17-68
Report of RCMP Sub-Division, Quebec City	5-9-68	5-22-68

5 - Bureau (1 cc - Liaison Direct)
1 cc - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - OTT
MLI:jhc
(6)

EX-100

REC-34

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

51 AUG 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

AUG 15 1966

AUG 15

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

AUG 1 12 22 PM '66

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Description	Date of Report	Date Sent Bureau
Report of RCMP London, Ontario, Sub-Division	5-14-68	5-24-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	5-16-68	5-24-68
Report of RCMP Detachment, Windsor, Ontario	5-27-68	6-4-68
RCMP "A" Division report, Ottawa, Ontario	6-1-68	My telex 6-4-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	5-27-68	6-7-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	5-28-68	6-7-68
Report of RCMP "A" Division, Ottawa	6-5-68	6-7-68
Report of RCMP Sub-Division, London, Ontario	5-30-68	6-11-68
RCMP Headquarters Criminal Investigation Branch letter	6-13-68	6-13-68
RCMP "C" Division report, Montreal	6-7-68	6-17-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	6-7-68	6-17-68
Report of RCMP Detachment, Hamilton, Ontario	6-6-68	6-18-68
Report of RCMP "O" Division, Toronto, Ontario	6-13-68	6-18-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	6-13-68	6-20-68
Report of RCMP Sub-Division, London, Ontario	6-17-68	6-21-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	6-14-68	6-24-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	6-17-68	7-8-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	7-4-68	7-15-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	6-28-68	7-16-68
Letter from RCMP, Toronto, Ontario, to Ontario Provincial Police	7-16-68	7-19-68
RCMP report from "O" Division, Toronto	7-12-68	7-23-68
Report of RCMP "C" Division, Montreal	7-9-68	7-25-68

It should be noted that enclosures to my airtel 6-3-68, may also be utilized. These were(a)Kennedy Travel Bureau letter to Passport Office 4-17-68; (b) application for passport executed by Sneyd 4-16-68; (c) Statutory Declaration in Lieu of Guarantor

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

executed by Sneyd 4-16-68; (d) Passport photograph attached to application by Sneyd.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Form DJ-150
(Ed. 4-26-65)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Felt
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Walters
Mr. Soyars
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: JUL 31 1968

FROM : Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

SUBJECT: Assassination of
Martin Luther King, Jr.

This will acknowledge your memorandum of July 26, 1968, titled as above.

It may well be that Mr. Canale, the State Attorney General of Shelby County, Tennessee, will wish to examine Items 1 and 6 listed in that memorandum. I would doubt that he would have use for the other material, but would appreciate it if you would make known to him its availability.

I spoke to Mr. Canale several weeks ago, and he indicated to me that he would soon commence trial preparation. A substantial amount of the evidence which I am sure he will want to produce at trial comes about through the intensive FBI investigation into this matter, as well as FBI laboratory work. I would suggest that it might be timely to have Mr. Jensen, SAC in Memphis, contact Mr. Canale to be sure that he is aware of the scope and extent of the federal investigation and to proffer him whatever assistance he requires.

EX-100

REC-34

JUL 31 1968

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

AUG 1 11 29 AM '66

JUL 31 3 01 PM '66

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Dear Mr. Hoover: Sunday
July 28, 1968

Ejp I just finished reading an article entitled "The Greatest Manhunt in Law-Enforcement History" by Jeremiah O'Leary of the Washington Star in August 1968 Readers Digest. I was appalled at the amount of evidence against the suspect that is revealed in this article. This certainly does not seem in keeping with the tight security usually practiced by your Bureau. I am as anxious as any American citizen to see that the likes of this

EX-105 REC-1 44-38861-5058

JUL 31 1968

CORRESPONDENCE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1 DIRECTOR

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

JUL 31 10 24 AM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

suspect are brought to a speedy justice. In view of the fact that this man has not even been brought to trial it would seem to me that this article and the information in it refering to the F.B.I would be termed very prejudicial.

I hope you don't feel this to be a crank letter as I am truly concerned about the article. Could you please take a moment to explain this to me?

Sincerely
Vernon Hill

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Hill
622 Garrett Street
Brawley, Calif. 92227

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Walters
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

JUL 30 1968

COPY

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

Sunday
July 28, 1968

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I just finished reading an article entitled 'The Greatest Manhunt in Law Enforcement History" by Jeremiah O'Leary of the Washington Star in August 1968 Readers Digest. I was appalled at the amount of evidence against the suspect that is revealed in this article. This certainly does not seem in keeping with the tight security usually practiced by your bureau. I am as anxious as any American citizen to see that the likes of this suspect are brought to a speedy justice. In view of the fact that this man has not even been brought to trial it would seem to me that this article and the information in it refering to the F.B.I. would be termed very predjudicial.

I hope you don't feel this to be a crank letter, as I am truly concerned about the article. Could you please take a moment to explain this to me?

Sincerly

Vernon Hill

Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Hill
622 Garrett Street
Brawley, Calif. 92227

COPY:nm

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI

AUG 11 12 57 PM '68

AUG 14 4 35 PM '68

REC'D DE DACH

F B I

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

REC-1

August 1, 1968

Mr. Vernon Hill
622 Garrett Street
Brawley, California 92227

Dear Mr. Hill:

I have received your letter dated July 28, 1968, and want to assure you that the FBI did not participate in the preparation of the article by Jeremiah O'Leary which appears in the August, 1968, issue of "The Reader's Digest." Independent investigations made by news reporters do not, of course, have any connection with official investigations conducted by the FBI.

Since James Earl Ray was one of our "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives," the FBI did issue biographical and descriptive data last spring intended to aid in his apprehension. All of that information conformed to the guidelines laid down by the Attorney General and was approved by the Department of Justice.

The interest which prompted you to write me concerning this matter is indeed appreciated.

MAILED 27
AUG 1 - 1968
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,
J. Edgar Hoover

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Rosen

NOTE: Vernon Hill of Brawley, California, is not identifiable in Bufiles. The article to which he refers deals with the identification and apprehension of James Earl Ray in the Martin Luther King murder case. O'Leary's article consists primarily of previously published material, together with information furnished by the Canadians and British to representatives of "The Reader's Digest." The article is not attributed to the FBI.

GWG:mac (8)

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

57 AUG 21 1968

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FRONT OFFICE
TRAINING DIVISION

AUG 13 10 47 AM '68

RECEIVED
F.B.I.

MAIL ROOM
TRAINING DIVISION

AUG 13 11 22 AM '68

RECEIVED
FBI

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach ✓
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 1417

August 7, 1968

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The attached is in response to our inquiry of 8-1-68, concerning the memo of Mr. Vinson of 7-31-68, giving us authority to furnish documents to Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennesseee, as given to us by British authorities. This memo of Mr. Vinson was not clear, and he advised on 8-1-68, he would send us another memo clarifying his memo of 7-31-68, and respond to our other memos requesting him to advise us if he desired pertinent investigative reports be furnished Mr. Canale.

We will disseminate the reports and will advise Mr. Vinson in writing that this is being done in accordance with his instructions. We are obtaining information requested by Mr. Vinson in Document No. 9 in a report of New Scotland Yard and will so advise Mr. Vinson.

REL:hw

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Form DJ-50
(Ed. 4-20-65)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: August 6 1968

FROM : Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

144-72-662

SUBJECT: Assassination of
Martin Luther King, Jr.

This is in further reference to my memorandum of July 31, 1968, and my telephone conversation with Special Agent Long of August 1, 1968, concerning the pending state prosecution of James Earl Ray.

I assume that SAC Jensen has had an opportunity to contact Mr. Canale, the State Attorney General of Shelby County, Tennessee, and has apprised him of the scope and extent of the federal investigation.

This will authorize you to release all results of your investigation to Mr. Canale which are relevant for trial purposes, provided you have determined that such release will not disclose the identity of confidential informants or confidential investigative techniques. This cooperation is deemed to be in the best interests of justice.

This will also acknowledge your memorandum of August 5, 1968, titled as above. This will advise that the report obtained from New Scotland Yard may be disseminated to Mr. Canale.

In connection with Document No. 9 appended to that report, I note that "Sneyd's" possessions, as listed, include one Barclays Bank slip in name of Sneyd. I would appreciate being informed what sort of bank transaction is represented by this document.

EXP. PROC.
39 AUG 6 1968

REC-34

14 AUG 6 1968

EX-100

56 AUG 22 1968

SEXI

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
AUG 7 7 31 AM '68

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
AUG 7 12 58 PM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.
Assistant Attorney General

August 8, 1968

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Long

REC-34

EX-100

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

In accordance with your instructions contained in your memorandum of August 6, 1968, we are disseminating the following reports to Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General of Shelby County, Tennessee:

Report of Special Agent Henry A. Snow dated April 17, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama;

Report of Special Agent Joe C. Hester dated April 17, 1968, at Memphis, Tennessee;

Report of Special Agent Alan G. Sentinella dated April 18, 1968, at Atlanta, Georgia;

Report of Special Agent Leroy W. Sheets dated April 18, 1968, at Los Angeles, California;

Report of Special Agent Stephen M. Callender dated April 29, 1968, at New Orleans, Louisiana;

Report of Special Agent Joe C. Hester dated April 30, 1968, at Memphis, Tennessee;

Report of Special Agent John L. Puddister dated May 2, 1968, at Jackson, Mississippi;

Report of Special Agent Howard H. Rice dated May 13, 1968, at Newark, New Jersey;

Report of Special Agent Raymond B. Howe dated May 15, 1968, at Kansas City, Missouri; and

Report of Special Agent Raymond B. Howe dated June 14, 1968, at Kansas City, Missouri.

MAILED 7
AUG 8 1968
COMM-FBI

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

REL:cs
(4)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

5 C AUG 22 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Fred M. Vinson, Jr.

We are also providing Mr. Canale with the original documents provided to us by the British authorities in regards to the extradition proceedings of James Earl Ray and the most recent report of New Scotland Yard.

NOTE: See memo Rosen to DeLoach, dated 8/8/68, captioned MURKIN, REL:cs.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

6-94 (Rev. 1-31-63)
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-108

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: **August 14, 1968**

ATTENTION: Mr. Pollak

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: **ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____ (your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of ~~the report of Special Agent~~ **a memorandum** dated **8/12/68** at **Birmingham**.

A. [ ] This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. [XXX] The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. [ ] The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. [ ] Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. [ ] Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. [ ] This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. [ ] This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. [ ] This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc **NOTE: In a conversation between Mr. Stephen J. Pollak and Special Agent Richard E. Long on August 9, 1968, Mr. Pollak was informed that in view of the fact it has not as yet been determined if Federal process will be dismissed, we are alerting**

NOTE CONTINUED - OVER....

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NOTE CONTINUED:

the Birmingham authorities of the threats made to Donald Wood and in view of the fact of the Tennessee authorities prosecuting Ray on State charges, we are also notifying Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, of these telephone calls. Mr. Pollak advised he did not desire any further action, however, he would desire that our Birmingham Office apprise the United States Attorney in Birmingham of the calls and the fact that the FBI is conducting no investigation. Mr. Pollak also stated that if Mr. Wood further informs the FBI of any threatening calls received by Donald Wood, they should be channelized in this same manner.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 8/12/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)(P)

MURKIN
CR
OO: BH

Enclosed are five copies of letterhead memorandum suitable for dissemination, setting forth information received from Mr. BOB WOOD, owner of Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama.

Information contained in this letterhead memorandum has been furnished to Chief of Police, Birmingham, and Sheriff, Jefferson County, Alabama.

REC 31

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division
Form 6-94 B. REL/CO
1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT
AUG 14 1968

C. C. - Bishop

EX-100

2 AUG 14 1968

(3) - Bureau (Enc. 5)
2 - Birmingham
NPS:epg
(5)

ENCLOSURE

SIX

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

57 AUG 22 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECD CIV RIGHTS
FBI
AUG 14 10 30 AM '68

RECEIVED
AUG 14 10 22 AM 1968
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Birmingham, Alabama
August 12, 1968

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Civil Rights

On August 9, 1968, Mr. Bob Wood, Owner of Aeromarine Supply Company, advised the Birmingham Office of the FBI that he and his son have been receiving threatening telephone calls for the past few weeks, especially since an article appeared in the "Birmingham News" under Tom Lankford's byline wherein he indicated that Don Wood was to be the government's principal witness in the trial of James Earl Ray.

Wood stated that since the publication of this article, his son has received several telephone calls of an anonymous nature wherein the caller states, "You will not live to testify in this trial" and "You will not live to go to court."

Wood stated also that earlier this date one of his employees received an anonymous telephone call from an individual whom, she believed to be a Negro, who advised that he was a member of the "Black Pamphlets" (presumably Panthers) which was "black power". The caller stated, "You'd better stock up with sawed-off shotguns because we are going to burn you out."

Wood indicated that he did not fear for the personal safety of either his son or himself, but he did want to make these threatening calls a matter of record. He advised that he had already reported these calls to the local authorities.

ENCLOSURE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
Civil Rights

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.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
AUG 12 1968

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

449

PM URGENT 8-12-68 DJM

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (2PP)

MURKIN.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR DATED AUGUST TEN, LAST.

ROBERT RIZZI, DEPUTY, MADISON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFICE, EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS, ADVISED AUGUST TWELVE, INSTANT, DELMAR GRINDSTAFF, BELIEVED ARRESTED BY THAT DEPARTMENT FOR POSSESSION OF SAWED OFF SHOTGUN IN COLLINSVILLE, ILLINOIS. HE ADVISED THAT HE BELIEVED GRINDSTAFF ARRESTED IN THE COMPANY OF JOHN MC CLINTOCK. RIZZI ADVISED HE WOULD OBTAIN ALL THE INFORMATION HIS OFFICE HAS ON GRINDSTAFF AND FURNISH IT TO THE FBI. RIZZI FURTHER ADVISED THAT WILLIE LEE HAS AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PUBLIC DEFENDER, ROBERT TRONE, MADISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE, ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST SIXTEEN, NEXT, EXACT TIME UNKNOWN.

REC-78

22 AUG 14 1968

SPRINGFIELD WILL ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW WILLIE LEE AT

END PAGE ONE

53 AUG 20 1968

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

AUG 12 6 35 PM '68
F. B. I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

AUG 13 10 59 AM '68

FBI

AUG 13 7 18 AM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

MADISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE IN EDWARDSVILLE, ILLINOIS, ON AUGUST SIXTEEN, NEXT, AND WILL OBTAIN INFORMATION PERTAINING TO DELMAR GRINDSTAFF. WILL KEEP BUREAU ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. P.

END.

GMA

FBI WASH DC

X

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

AUG 1 5 53

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
AUG 13 1968
TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI SPRNGFLD

540PM URGENT 8-13-68 DJK

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) 1P

MURKIN

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU DATED AUGUST TWELVE, LAST.

SI ONE SIX ONE FOUR - C ADVISED HE HAD BEEN UNABLE TO GATHER FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING HAROLD RICHARD COVINGTON AND ASSOCIATES. HE ADVISED HE WOULD CONTINUE TO DEVELOP INFORMATION THAT WOULD AID IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THE BANK ROBBERY OF THE BANK OF ALTON.

WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO INTERVIEW WILLIE LEE AND OTHER ASSOCIATES OF HAROLD COVINGTON AND WILL KEEP THE BUREAU ADVISED.

AIRMAIL COPIES OF THIS TELETYPE HAVE BEEN SENT TO CHICAGO, MEMPHIS, AND ST. LOUIS.

~~CORR: LINE 4, WORD II, "AID"~~

REC-1

END

AUG 15 1968

JTM

FBI WASH DC

67 AUG 26 1968

CC -

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1/17/22

PERSONNEL
ADMIN. ADMINISTRATOR
DIVISION 5

AUG 13 7 31 PM '68

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

TELETYPE UNIT

AUG 13 5 41 PM '68

REC'D - LIV RECORDS
FBI

AUG 14 7 15 PM '68

AUG 21 2 31 PM '68

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

SAC, Phoenix

August 14, 1968

Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Enclosed you will find two copies of a Departmental letter dated August 9, 1968, together with two copies of its enclosures.

You should within three days of receipt of this letter interview Walter Brumby, Box 552, Bisbee, Arizona and conduct appropriate investigation from the results of the interview.

Based upon available data no information recorded in Bureau files regarding Walter Brumby.

6

MAILED 9
AUG 14 1968
COMM-FBI

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176