

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE

AUG 14 10 31 AM '68 RIGHTS  
FBI

AUG 14 2 00 PM 1968

F. B. I.  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
AUG 14 2 23 PM '68

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# Memorandum

**AUG**

TO : Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
SJP  
Stephen J. Pollak  
Assistant Attorney General

FROM : Civil Rights Division

DATE: August 6, 1968  
SJP:ash  
DJ 95-100-473

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray

Attached is a copy of a letter received in the Department, in which the writer suggests that he saw James Earl Ray in Bisbee, Arizona.

I attach same for whatever action you consider appropriate in connection with the pending investigation. A response to the letter has been prepared by this Division.

Attachment

**EXP. PROC.**  
34 AUG 13 1968

EQ-1

22 AUG 13 1968

ENCLOSURE

Set to PX  
REL  
8/14/68

SEARCHED

INDEXED

Aug 13 1958

RECEIVED  
FBI  
AUG 13 10 57 AM '58

July 27, 1968

Bur 552

Bureau Memo 85603

Mist. Atty Gen.  
Hon. Phil Canale  
Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1968

CRIMINAL DIVISION

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1968

ADMINISTRATIVE  
REGULATIONS SECTION

Dear Sir:

Subject James Earl Ray

On April 7 or 8 that looked like James Earl Ray, ask me for the name and address of a cheap hotel where he could do some cooking. He had a air force bag about 27x8x12 inches and was wearing a sweater, coat, pants. He got out of a small car, sky blue color. Car fire plates was white with red numbers, but he did not talk like he was from the South.

I after seeing his picture I felt sure it could be Ray. I ask the local Police to check it out, but they did not.

I would like to know if he Ray did stop over in Bishop Arizona.

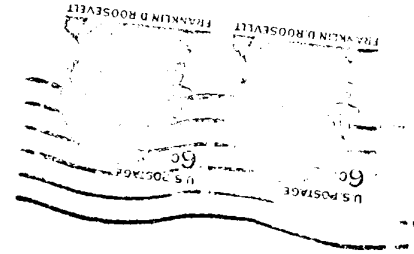
Yours truly,  
James Tully

95-1024  
14 31 29

Director

Letter Bounding  
Box 552  
Bisbee Ariz. 85603

VIA AIR



Justice Dept. Atty. Gen's office  
Washington, D.C.

Mr. Stephen J. Pollak  
Assistant Attorney General  
Director, FBI

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long

August 14, 1968

EX-100

REC-35 ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Donald Woods, the salesman for the Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, who sold the rifle recovered at the scene of King's assassination, contacted our Birmingham Office to advise he has been contacted by Arthur Hanes, the attorney for James Earl Ray.

Hanes advised Woods that Ray was a "little fuzzy" on the details of the purchase of the gun and for that reason Hanes would like to interview Woods to obtain more specific information.

We have offered no advice to Woods concerning this matter; however, we did tell him that the request of Hanes would be brought to the attention of the state and Federal authorities concerned with the prosecution of Ray.

This matter was brought to the attention of Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, and the United States Attorney in Birmingham.

The above is for your information.

COMM. FILED DATE 5-18-78 BY  
 TWB:spg MURKIN  
 FBI  
 TO  
 (SEE...)  
 5-16-78

MAILED 7  
 AUG 14 1968  
 COMM-FBI

REL:hw  
(8)

NOTE: See Rosen to DeLoach memo dated 8-13-68, captioned "MURKIN," JGK:vea.

- Felton \_\_\_\_\_
- DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Trotter \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

54 AUG 20 1968

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

REC'D CIV RIGHTS  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

AUG 14 11 32 AM '68  
AUG 15 3 25 PM 1968  
AUG 16 3 29 PM '68  
F. B. I.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

AUG 14 11 33 AM '68  
REC'D DE LOACH  
F B I

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: August 13, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. McGowan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

SAC Joseph Gamble of the Birmingham Office has telephonically furnished the following information.

Donald Woods, the salesman for the Aeromarine Supply Company, Birmingham, Alabama, who sold the rifle recovered at the scene of King's assassination to Ray, has been contacted by Ray's attorney, Arthur Hanes.

Hanes advised Woods that Ray was a "little fuzzy" on the details of the purchase of the gun and for that reason Hanes would like to interview Woods to obtain more specific information.

Woods contacted our Birmingham Office today to inquire as to whether he should consent to an interview with Hanes.

Birmingham furnished no advice to Woods concerning the matter but advised him that the request would be brought to the attention of the appropriate State and Federal authorities concerned with Ray's prosecution.

SAC Gamble has advised the Memphis Office of Hanes' request and instructed Memphis to bring the matter immediately to the attention of Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, who is handling the State prosecution. Since Federal process charging Ray with violation of the Civil Rights Statute (Section 241, Title 18, U. S. Code) is outstanding in Birmingham, SAC Gamble is also bringing Hanes' request to the attention of the U. S. Attorney in Birmingham.

Any instructions to Woods relating to the interview requested by Hanes will be issued by State Attorney General Phil M. Canale, Jr., and/or the U. S. Attorney at Birmingham and the Birmingham Office will furnish absolutely no advice to Woods on the matter.

ACTION:

Information relating to Hanes' request for an interview with Woods is also being brought to the attention of the Civil Rights Division of the Department.

JGK:vea  
(6)



100-100000-100000

AUG 13 12 43 PM '68  
REC'D DE LOACH  
F B I

AUG 15 8 43 AM '68  
REC'D DE LOACH  
F B I

100-100000-100000  
100-100000-100000  
100-100000-100000

FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE

FBI KAN CITY

422 PM URGENT 6/11/68 WSA

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861, MEMPHIS, OKLAHOMA CITY  
FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 2P

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	.....

*Spr*

*M. C. ...*  
*Bo*

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE, JUNE ELEVEN LAST.

RE COMMUNICATION REVEALED THAT A REVIEW OF RAY'S INMATE FILE AT MSP, JEFFERSON CITY, MO. REVEALED THAT JOSEPH SEIBERT INMATE NO. W ZERO NINE ONE ONE ONE, ALSO MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM MSP ON MARCH ELEVEN, SIXTYSIX. KANSAS CITY WAS REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW SEIBERT TO ASCERTAIN IF HE HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S ESCAPE PLANS AND IF SEIBERT POSSESSES ANY INFORMATION REGARDING ESCAPE ROUTE TO CANADA AND MEANS OF OBTAINING CANADIAN PASSPORT.

REC 4

HARRY LAUF, RECORDS CLERK, MSP, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT JOSEPH SEIBERT WAS TAKEN TO JACKSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE, JACKSON COUNTY, MISSOURI, ON A WRIT ON OCTOBER ELEVEN, SIXTYSEVEN; HE ESCAPED FROM THERE OCTOBER THIRTEEN, SIXTYSEVEN. HE WAS ARRESTED OCTOBER TWENTYSIX, SIXTYSEVEN, BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES  
END PAGE ONE

55 AUG 21 1968

*cc. ...*

*S...*

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

KC 44-750

PAGE TWO

AT TULSA, OKLA., FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND WAS TO BE PROSECUTED BY DISTRICT ATTORNEY, TULSA, OKLA. MSP RECORDS FURTHER REVEAL THAT ON NOV. TWENTYNINE, SIXTYSEVEN, SEIBERT WAS TAKEN TO THE EASTERN STATE HOSPITAL, VENITA, OKLA., FOR NINETY DAYS OBSERVATION. MSP RECORDS COULD FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE SEIBERT.

OKLA. CITY, AT TULSA, OKLA., ATTEMPT TO LOCATE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF SEIBERT AND INTERVIEW HIM AS REQUESTED BY THE BUREAU.

RE COMMUNICATION FURTHER ADVISED THAT ALTHOUGH JAMES EARL RAY HAS BEEN ARRESTED, IT IS IMPERATIVE WE CONTINUE EFFORTS TO ACCOUNT FOR RAY'S ACTIVITIES AND WHEREABOUTS DURING ENTIRE PERIOD OF FREEDOM FROM APRIL TWENTYTHREE, SIXTYSEVEN, TO JUNE EIGHT LAST, IN VIEW OF WORLD WIDE PUBLICITY ATTACHED TO POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY IN REGARD TO DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. IT IS ESSENTIAL WE DETERMINE KNOWN ASSOCIATES OF RAY DURING HIS PERIOD OF FREEDOM, HIS SOURCE OF FUNDS AND DEPOSITORY FOR KEEPING FUNDS, HOW HE GAINED KNOWLEDGE OF NECESSARY DOCUMENTS NEEDED TO OBTAIN CANADIAN PASSPORTS, HIS CONTACTS IN CANADA IN ORDER TO OBTAIN SUCH DOCUMENTS, AND HIS TRAVEL DURING THIS PERIOD.

END

~~CORR PAGE ONE DATE SHLD BE 6/12/68~~

~~PAGE TWO LINE FOURTEEN WD ONE, DEATH~~

~~PAGE TWO LINE EIGHTEEN WD TEN SHLD BE.... HIS~~

END

GFH

FBI WASH DC

F B I

JUN 12 5 29 PM '69

August 14, 1968

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

TO: SAC, Los Angeles  
FROM: Director, FBI (44-38861)

REC-44

MURKIN

Bureau is in receipt of a letter from Frances Welker of 1858 Amador, Ontario, California, letter dated August 8, 1968. Letter states in essence that she would like to see an Agent regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

You should interview her within three days of receipt of this communication and take whatever action necessary as a result of an interview.

Based upon available data no information recorded in Bureau files concerning Frances Welker.

REL:pjl  
(4)

NOTE:

Bureau received a letter from Frances Welker letter dated August 8, 1968. Letter stated that she would like to see an Agent regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Los Angeles is being instructed to interview her within 3 days of receipt and take whatever action necessary. Bureau files contain no information regarding her.

MAILED 9  
AUG 14 1968  
COMM-FBI

*[Handwritten signature]*

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

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

70 AUG 21 1968

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DIVISION 5100

AUG 14 10 31 AM '68

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

Aug. 8, 1968

J. Edgar Hoover.  
F.B.I.  
Wash. D.C.

Dear Sir -

I would like to see you regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King. This is very confidential.

REC 82

Sincerely yours  
Frances Weikert  
1558 Amador  
Ontario, Calif  
91762

CORRESPONDENCE



RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 15 4 30 PM 1968

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

FBI

13 4 31 501.  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
U.S. POSTAGE



1858 Amador  
Ontario, Calif.  
91762

J. Edgar Hoover  
F. B. I.  
Washington, D.C.

10/19/01 SP-1 CLK/tjt on this envelope



ENCLOSURE

44-3861-5011



DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

IN REPLY REFER TO:

DATE: August 13, 1968

TO: The Honorable  
J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

FROM: Chief, Division of Investigations *KLB*  
Office of Security

SUBJECT: RAY, James Earl

Reference is made to your request for certain information regarding the above-captioned individual.

In connection with this case, herewith is one copy of a report of investigation dated August 6, 1968, at Pretoria. The attachments mentioned in the report are also herewith. The case is closed.

ATTACHMENTS:

As stated

*10/19/01 SP-1 CLKHjt*

REC 13

~~██████████~~  
ST-101

**54 AUG 26 1968**

Declassified in accordance with Executive Order 14176

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, [illegible]  
SUBJECT: [illegible]

RE: [illegible]  
FBI

DATE: 12-13-68

CONFIDENTIAL

FORM DS-638  
4-26-56

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
OFFICE OF SECURITY

TITLE

RAY, James Earl

CASE CLASSIFICATION

Special Inquiry/F.B.I.

FIELD OFFICE

Pretoria

DATE REPORTED

6 August 1968

DATES INVESTIGATED

REPORTING AGENT

J. C. Kolesnik

SYNOPSIS

Negative report on RAY from Salisbury Police. South African Police also submit negative report on RAY. Attached is a report from SAP dated 21 June 1968 and results of inquiries at PPT/LAD and Durban re one John W. PROPHET, aka: Beverley Harcourt/PROPHET, an American who self admittedly looks somewhat like James Earl RAY.

-CLOSED-

REFERENCE: Headquarters Memorandum dated 14 May 1968.

DETAILS:

RECORD CHECKS

Salisbury, Rhodesia:

The Rhodesian CID reported on 25 July 1968 that they were unable to find any trace of a person who was or looked to be identical to Mr. RAY.

South African Police:

In reply to our request for information about an ad placed in the "lonely hearts" column of the Sunday Times supposedly by an American, aged 40, 6 ft. tall, the South African CID informed the RSO that the ad was placed by one John W. PROPHET, 111 Sarie Marais, 542 Point Road, Durban. It was pointed out that he was in possession of two

APPROVED

*James C. Kolesnik*  
James C. Kolesnik  
Regional Security Officer  
(Special Agent in Charge)

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

DATE RECEIVED

COPIES REFERRED

2-Headquarters      1-RSO Pretoria

REVIEWED BY AGENT SUPERVISOR

(Date)

(Initials)

CONFIDENTIAL

10/19/01 SP-1 CLKHJ

THIS REPORT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND ITS CONTENTS MUST NOT BE DISCLOSED TO UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.

GPO 891584

CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

(2) U. S. passports, and was from the Miami, Florida area.

MISCELLANEOUS

Attached to the original of this report are a copy of the SAP report of 21 June 1968, from Maj. Gen. JOUBERT, as well as various reports on Mr. PROPHET's passports. The 2 August 1968 OM from Durban, page 2, last paragraph, reports that Mr. PROPHET himself told the Vice Consul in Durban that he looks somewhat like "James Earl Ray".

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

-2-

(2) U. S. passports, and was from the Miami, Florida area.

MISCELLANEOUS

Attached to the original of this report are a copy of the SAP report of 21 June 1968, from Maj. Gen. JOUBERT, as well as various reports on Mr. PROPHET's passports. The 2 August 1968 OM from Durban, page 2, last paragraph, reports that Mr. PROPHET himself told the Vice Consul in Durban that he looks somewhat like "James Earl Ray".

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

A. H. TERRY

5 AUG 1968

PRETORIA

# OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: RSO, AmEmbassy, PRETORIA

DATE: August 2, 1968

FROM: AmConGen DURBAN *[Signature]*

SUBJECT: Citizenship and Passports: Beverley Harcourt Prophet (AKA, John W. Prophet)

REF: Your memorandum of July 24, 1968

Beverley Harcourt Prophet reported to the Consulate General on August 1, 1968, and voluntarily submitted the two U.S. Passports in his possession. One of which was retained by this office for transmittal to PPT/LAD ( see enclosure one).

Mr. Prophet is an interior decorator. He showed the reporting officer:

1. Certificate of Naturalization No. [REDACTED] issued December 1, 1950, via petition No. [REDACTED] by the Superior Court of Alameda County in Oakland, California, in the name of Beverley Harcourt Prophet.
2. State of Florida driver's license No. [REDACTED] issued in the name of Beverley Harcourt Prophet.
3. Birth Certificate, Province of Ontario, Prophet, Beverley Harcourt, born [REDACTED] in "Orillia, Simcoe Co.," registered Sept. 15, 1936, under number [REDACTED], card issued May 20, 1964. Number on back of card [REDACTED].
4. Social Security Card number [REDACTED] to Beverley Harcourt Prophet.

Mr. Prophet plans to stay in South Africa for anywhere up to five more months. His address in the United States is, and will be, c/o Mr. Joseph Kordsmeier, 1895 Venice Gardens, Miami (north), Florida.

Mr. Prophet has used the names "John", "John B.H." and perhaps "John W." Prophet for business purposes in the United States as he found the name Beverley to be embarrassing and a drawback in his business contacts. He estimates he has been known professionally as "John Prophet" for about twenty years. He has never used this name on a government form, state or national, to the best of his knowledge. He showed the reporting officer a large number of club and credit cards in this name however. He said he was so well known in the area he never had to show a birth certificate etc. to get credit or membership

*Remove everything for Memphis*

CONFIDENTIAL

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/19/01 BY SP-1 CLK/ST

01-483

CONFIDENTIAL

2


cards. One example was noted by the reporting officer, should further investigation become necessary: "Coral Ridge National, 2626 East Oakland Park Blvd., P. O. Box 11004, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, 33306, Customer Ident. 074 7505, John Prophet INTERIORS".

Enclosure number two is a report on the passport still in Mr. Prophet's possession. Enclosure number three is a report on the passport returned to PPT/LAD. Visas and other pertinent information are included on these reports.

Mr. Prophet was extremely cooperative and expressed his regrets at the problems he caused the passport office. The Regional Security Officer's interest in the matter was not mentioned to Mr. Prophet nor was the interest of the CID. Of possible interest, however, Mr. Prophet was quite aware that he was being investigated by the CID and also that he looked somewhat like "James Earl Ray". He said the CID were polite to him at all times and he in no way wished to complain about their activities although he was disturbed by them quite a bit.

Enclosures:

1. OM to PPT/LAD, August 2, 1968
2. Report on US Passport No. [REDACTED]
3. Report on US Passport No. [REDACTED]

RSavage:bvt 8/1/68

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

## OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of State (PPT/LAD) DATE: August 2, 1968  
FROM: PSO, AmConGen DURBAN *JRS*  
SUBJECT: Citizenship and Passports: Beverley Harcourt Prophet (aka John Prophet  
and John W. Prophet)  
REF: Your OM to AmConGen, Johannesburg of July 11, 1968 -- referred to  
Durban for action by the Regional Security Officer, AmEmbassy PRETORIA

Consulate General Durban herewith returns United States Passport number [REDACTED] issued to Beverley Harcourt Prophet on June 8, 1966, by the Consulate General of the United States of America in Toronto, Canada. Mr. Prophet remains in possession of U. S. Passport number [REDACTED] issued to Beverley Harcourt Prophet on June 1, 1966. The enclosed passport has not been cancelled by the Consulate General as we assume that PPT/LAD will take whatever final action is necessary.

Mr. Prophet apologized for not returning the passport as requested by the Tugayye ConGen. He noted it had expired and therefore felt it was unnecessary.

Beverley Harcourt Prophet used the name "John" on other than official government documents for business purposes only. His driver's license - Florida and London - were in his correct name as is his Social Security card. Because people kept mixing Beverley up and thinking he was a she, Mr. Prophet, in his area of business operations, took to using "John". He has not, however, officially changed his name or officially registered his AKA.

A full report on his travels and use of the name "John" is being sent to the Regional Security Officer, American Embassy, Pretoria. It may be noted, however, that Mr. Prophet created no suspicions on the part of the reporting officer.

Enclosure:  
Passport number [REDACTED]

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DATE 10/19/01 BY SP-1 CLK/Hjt

*JRS*  
JRSavage:ibt 8/1/68

cc: RSO - AmEmb Pretoria  
Mr. Otis, Joburg

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

US Passport No. [REDACTED] issued to Beverly Harcourt Prophet  
Birth date - [REDACTED] in Canada

Height 6 ft. 0 in. Hair - black, Eyes - Hazel

Passport issued June 1, 1966

Beside picture stamped - United States Immigration  
Miami, Florida 39  
October 4, 1967

<u>Visas</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Length of Visa</u>
United Kingdom	3 Mar, 1967	3 months
United Kingdom	10 Aug 1967	3 Oct. 1967
South Africa (issued in London)	18 Jan 1968	10 Jan 1969
Mozambique (transit visa issued in London)	12 Jan 1968	3 days

Alien registration in London on 14 Aug, 1967, certificate [REDACTED]

Entry stamped to UK at London airport on 3 Oct. 1967, 16 Jan, 1968,  
6 Jan, 1968

US Passport No. [REDACTED] issued to Beverly Harcourt Prophet

Born April 22, 1921, Hair - Black, Eyes - Hazel

Height 6 ft. 0 in.

Passport issued June 8, 1966 at the ConGen Toronto, Canada

Passport stamped:

Passport limited to October 8, 1966 it cannot be extended without the authorization of the Department of State.

Signed by Consul General, Toronto

Visa for UK - June 9, 1966 until Sept. 8, 1966

The number [REDACTED] written on the last page of both passports.

CONFIDENTIAL

# OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM

TO: Amconsul JOHANNESBURG

DATE: JUL 11 1968

FROM: Department of State (PPT/LAD) *K*

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS: PROPHET, John W.\*

REF: Your OM, June 26, 1968

The records of the Passport Office show that on June 1, 1966 the Miami Passport Agency issued Passport No. [REDACTED] to Beverley Harcourt Prophet who was born in Canada on April 22, 1921 and who was naturalized at Oakland, California on December 1, 1950. At the time the passport was issued, Prophet was residing at 2301 NW. 60th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in care of Max Shaffer.

On June 8, 1966 the subject executed an application for a passport at Toronto, Canada. He executed an affidavit in which he stated that while awaiting the arrival of his passport he traveled to Toronto and made arrangements to fly to England. The last available opportunity for his trip was June 8. His passport had been mailed to him in Toronto on June 6 but had not arrived. He requested the emergency passport to enable him to travel, and stated that when the original passport was received, his brother would deliver it to the Consulate General at Toronto. He was thereupon issued Passport No. [REDACTED].

GROUP 4  
Downgraded at 3 year  
intervals; declassified  
after 12 years

TO	ACT	INF.	INT
CONGEN.			<i>[initials]</i>
ADMIN.			
COMM.			
CONS.			
LARGE			
VEN.			
USIS.			
DESTROY			
FILE			
ACTION			

JLR:jc 7/10/68

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DATE 10/19/01 BY SP-1 CLK/Hjt

CONFIDENTIAL

S.A.P. 51 (B).

No 4/8/2/72

SUID-AFRIKAANSE POLISIE.



SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE.

Privaatsak Private Bag | 94.

Telefoon Telephone |

Telegramadres Telegraphic Address | "KOMPOL".

HOOFKANTOOR. HEAD OFFICE.

PRETORIA.

CONFIDENTIAL:

J.C. Kolesnik, Esq.,  
c/o United States of America Embassy,  
PRETORIA.

Sir,

RE : JAMES EARL RAY @ ERIC STARVO GALT.

Your conversation with the writer went the above has reference.

You will recall having drawn attention to an advertisement in the Personal Column of the Johannesburg "Sunday Times" of 19th May, 1968, concerning an American in Durban.

Discreet enquiries elicited the following in regard to the person who placed the advertisement:-

He is one John W. Prophet and he resides at 111, Barie Marais, 542. Point Road, Durban. He is in possession of passport No. [redacted] issued at Toronto, Canada, on 8th June, 1966, by the United States Consul-General there, as well as passport No.G. [redacted] issued at Miami, Florida, on 1st June, 1966, both passports in favour of Beverley Prophet with the following particulars:-

Date of Birth	:	[redacted]
Place of Birth	:	Canada.
Description	:	6' tall, black hair, hazel eyes.

Both passports are valid to 1st June, 1969, and the holler is described as a tourist. According to the passports, Prophet went to the United Kingdom from Canada and thence to Lourenco Marques, where he arrived on 17th January, 1968. He subsequently arrived in Johannesburg on 19th

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/19/01 BY SP-1 CLK/tyt



-2-

January, 1968, where he is believed to have stayed at the Skyline and Summit Hotels. He thereafter went to Durban where he presumably still is.

The above information was obtained very circumspectly and is being furnished for such steps as you may consider warranted in the circumstances.

*J. J. ...*  
Major-General.  
f/COMMISSIONER : SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE.

F B I

Date: 8/2/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, LAS VEGAS (157-133) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

*1 copy ... 5/4/78 BY  
RCB/SS m.l. King, Jr.  
FOR READING ...  
TO ... 5/3/78  
(via ...)*

Re Las Vegas telephone call to Memphis, 7/31/68.

On 7/31/68, RON BATISTE, City Editor's Desk, "Las Vegas Review Journal" contacted SAC HAROLD E. CAMPBELL, JR., and advised that one BILLY JOE CHEEK, aka Scott Owen Bell, had told him that CHEEK was a bodyguard for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. in Memphis when KING was assassinated. According to BATISTE, when BELL heard the shots, he and another bodyguard ran toward the motel where KING was staying. As they approached the area of the boarding house, a man was observed running in the street who obviously had come from the boarding house. CHEEK tackled this man, who he now identifies as JAMES EARL RAY. RAY struck CHEEK forcefully and was able to escape. CHEEK told BATISTE that the FBI and the Memphis PD have been unsuccessfully looking for him since the assassination of KING. CHEEK said the FBI wished to interview him concerning his activities that night and his involvement in the general situation.

SCOTT OWEN BELL was located at 1025 Desert Inn Road, Apartment 7, Las Vegas, Nevada, and interviewed by SA JOHN E. KINSINGER and SA JOHN A. NORRIS, JR.

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BELL, who is 18 years of age, gave a rambling and at times incoherent account of his activities over the past

- 2 - Bureau
  - 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)
  - 2 - New York
  - 2 - WFO
  - 1 - Las Vegas
- JAN/kmm  
(8)

51 AUG 30 1968

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ 1968

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

70 AUG 27 1968

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seven months. He states that while in Los Angeles during April, 1968, he became involved with the Southern Christian Conference League (SCCL) and after working in the Watts area he was sent by the SCCL to Washington, D.C. as a "Tennessee Ranger" or "Tent City Ranger". As such, he was to help erect Resurrection City in Washington, D.C., and then to police same.

In late April or early May, 1968, BELL with other Rangers traveled to Atlanta then to Memphis to act as bodyguards for KING.

On April 24, 1968, BELL and "JOHNNY" LNU were relieved as guards and proceeded to a nearby bar to eat breakfast. They saw KING come onto the balcony of his hotel and saw him fall. BELL heard no shot. BELL looked at his watch and noted the time to be 10:30 AM. BELL and "JOHNNY" had started back to the hotel when a man came out of a building next door to the hotel and knocked BELL down and slugged "JOHNNY". BELL said this man was JAMES EARL RAY.

BELL carried no identification and at the beginning of interview stated he had no Selective Service registration card. Later he volunteered the fact he was registered with Selective Service System, LB#43, 1916 "G" Street, Washington, D.C.

BELL said he had been in Bellevue Hospital, New York City, in 1967, after trying to commit suicide. He also stated he had escaped from Brentwood Reform School on Long Island, New York, where he had been sent as a runaway juvenile. BELL further stated he had been at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Washington, D.C. from late February, 1968, until March 28, 1968, when he went AWOL. During the "Poor People's March" BELL said he had been arrested by WMPD, Washington, D.C., and was in jail for a time there.

ROBERT E. MURRAY, Shield Number 110, Las Vegas PD, on 7/31/68 advised SCOTT OWEN BELL is his cousin. MURRAY said BELL had appeared at the Las Vegas PD 7/26/68 and asked for MURRAY. MURRAY said BELL is known to lie and a year or so ago had written MURRAY's mother and an uncle, STERLING BELL, saying that he, SCOTT BELL, was in Bellevue Hospital in New York City. MURRAY had no personal knowledge that BELL

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had been in a mental hospital or in jail. On Saturday, 7/28/68, BELL passed out and MURRAY took him to the Southern Nevada Memorial Hospital in Las Vegas for treatment of an enlarged intestine. At this time MURRAY and STERLING BELL spoke with a doctor re the possibility of having BELL committed. The doctor said there was insufficient evidence indicating that BELL should be committed.

The following is a description of BELL obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Nationality	American
Age	18 years
Date of birth	
Place of birth	El Paso, Texas
Height	5'11"
Weight	130 pounds
Hair	Brown, short
Eyes	Brown
Build	Slender
Scars	Upper right arm and on back, allegedly inflicted during a beating by a motorcycle gang
Relatives	
Father	GEORGE ALONZO BELL
Mother	MARYANN EDWARDS, deceased
Step-mother	VIOLET BELL
Sister	PATRICIA ANN BELL

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK, NEW YORK

1. Will review records NYCPD to determine if BELL wanted.
2. Will determine if BELL is an escapee of Brentwood Reform School.

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3. Will determine if BELL was a patient at Bellevue Hospital, NYC.

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

1. Will determine if BELL a patient of St. Elizabeth's Hospital, WDC, and if he is an escapee of that institution.

2. Will review records of the WMPD for any information concerning BELL.

3. Will determine through records of LB#43, WDC, if BELL is registered with Selective Service System.

BELL MAY HAVE SUICIDAL TENDENCIES.

SEP 19 1968  
NK