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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Birmingham, Alabama

Report of: SA JOE C. HESTER
Date: August 22, 1968

Office: Memphis

Field Office File #: ME 44-1987

Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: Following subject's arrest on 6/8/68 by officers of New Scotland Yard, London, England, extradition proceedings were begun by the United States Department of State, and on 7/18/68 subject was released to FBI Agents for return to the United States via military aircraft. Subject landed, United States Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee, on 7/19/68, and was released to custody of Sheriff, Shelby County, Tennessee. Subject now lodged Shelby County Jail, Memphis, Tennessee, awaiting trial for murder. Investigation in Mexico set forth.

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DETAILS:

Following the subject's arrest on June 8, 1968, at London, England, by officers of New Scotland Yard, extradition proceedings were begun by the United States Department of State. On July 18, 1968, the subject was released by English authorities to the custody of FBI Agents JOHN MINNICH, GEORGE ZEISS, HAROLD LIGHT, and WILBUR MARTINDALE. Subject was placed aboard a military aircraft of the United States and was flown to the United States Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee, where at 4:00 a.m. on July 19, 1968, while still aboard the aircraft, he was turned over to Sheriff WILLIAM MORRIS, Shelby County, Tennessee. Subject was then taken to the Shelby County Jail, Memphis, Tennessee, where he is being held awaiting trial for murder.

ME 44-1987

District Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee, have received copies of the New Scotland Yard report, it is not being reported herein.

The period of this report pre-dates the period of the last report submitted by the Memphis Office as this report contains the results of investigation conducted in Mexico during the period 4/12/68 - 7/18/68.

INFORMANTS

The first confidential source abroad mentioned in LHM dated 7/24/68 is SA RICHARD S. CLARK.

The second confidential source abroad is SA RUSSELL JEAN GRAY, JR.

The third confidential source abroad is MEX-24, who has furnished reliable information in the past.

LEADS

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will maintain liaison with the District Attorney General's Office and will report prosecutive action taken in this case by Tennessee authorities.

B*

COVER PAGE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

July 24, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-10-80 BY 6032
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

Information set forth below covers the established activities of captioned individual who, as ERIC STARVO GALT, visited Mexico during October and November, 1967.

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT RECORDS

On April 11, 1968, at Atlanta, Georgia, a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license 1-38993, was recovered. This car had vehicle identification number 6T07C190647, and on the car was Mexican tourist sticker bearing Folio number H294436, showing that the car had crossed the border at Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.

Investigation at Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, on April 12, 1968, showed that this automobile crossed the border on October 7, 1967. Documents for the automobile were issued to ERIC S. GALT, who had tourist card number 7475449 and listed his address as 2608 Highland, Birmingham, Alabama.

At Mexico, D.F., Mexico

On April 24, 1968, a confidential source abroad advised that contact with an official of the Inspection Service of Mexican Immigration in Mexico City disclosed that this agency had searched records for all departures

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by land from Mexico during the second half of November, 1967. This search included all exit points from the Pacific to the Gulf of Mexico, and no record was located of the departure of GALT bearing tourist card mentioned above.

On July 18, 1968, the source advised that the same official was contacted on that date and reported that efforts to locate the Mexican tourist card, which should have been surrendered by GALT upon his departure from Mexico, had been unsuccessful. The official stated that his office had directly contacted every exit point along the border between Mexico and the United States, in an attempt to locate this card, with negative results. He stated, therefore, that GALT probably left Mexico without surrendering his tourist card, which is a fairly common occurrence because of the volume of traffic at all of the border crossing points.

On July 18, 1968, this same source advised that contact had been maintained on a regular basis, since April 12, 1968, with headquarters of the Mexican Federal Automobile Registration Bureau at Mexico, D.F., the agency where all documents issued to vehicles of tourists are eventually received and filed. Officials of this agency have advised that, despite extensive review of their records, the tourist importation permit for the 1966 Mustang which was issued to GALT at the border on October 7, 1967, had not been returned to that agency from any border crossing point. It was the conclusion of these officials, therefore, that GALT left Mexico in the Mustang without surrendering this document.

HOTEL RECORDS

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco

A second confidential source abroad advised on April 14, 1968, that on that same date EDUARDO MARROQUI, owner, Hotel Rio, Morelos 86, advised that ERIC S. GALT was a guest in that hotel from October 19, 1967, through November 5, 1967. MARROQUI stated that,

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according to his recollection, GALT was alone, and MARROQUI did not recall anything concerning GALT's car or possible friendships with other guests.

On April 15, 1968, ROBERTO WONG, clerk, Hotel Rio, furnished the registration card for ERIC S. GALT, giving his address as 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. He occupied Room 212 at the rate of 60 pesos (\$4.80 U.S.) per day. The card shows his arrival on October 19, 1967, and that he checked out on November 6, 1967. It also bears the signature "ERIC S. GALT."

The Document Section of the FBI Laboratory examined two photostatic copies of the registration card of the Hotel Rio in the name of ERIC S. GALT and concluded that the questioned writings on the registration card were prepared by the writer of other specimens received in this matter which have been attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

ROBERTO WONG also advised on April 15, 1968, that there were no long-distance telephone calls charged to GALT's room.

On April 17, 1968, WONG stated that he remembered GALT as a "loner" at the hotel. He said GALT was never seen around the hotel during the day and did not stay around the hotel in the evening. He did come in to eat. He was always alone, with the exception of one occasion on which LUIS GARCIA, a bartender from another hotel, came to the Hotel Rio one morning trying to find GALT since he, GARCIA, stated he had left some important papers in GALT's car.

On May 9, 1968, a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken in California in early 1968 was shown to WONG. He identified this photograph as the same person who had lived in the Hotel Rio as ERIC S. GALT.

The source advised that MARIA DE GUADALUPE DIAZ, Calle Galeano 127, was interviewed on April 25, 1968, and stated that she was formerly employed as a maid at the Hotel Rio. She recognized photographs of RAY as an individual who had been a hotel guest some

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months ago and recalled that he had a white sports car. She said he was friendly but never asked her for a date. She said she did not recall ever seeing anyone visiting the Subject and could not recall the type of luggage he was using. She said she never observed any weapons in his room, but did recall that there were several nights when he apparently had not slept in his bed. She said she mentioned this to the hotel owner, but that there are no records kept concerning incidents of this nature and she was unable to recall the dates when GALT did not spend the night in his room.

The same source advised that the records of the Hotel "Tropicana" were reviewed on April 15, 1968, and showed that ERIC GALT, with an address of 2308 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, registered there on November 7, 1967, and departed on November 13, 1967. He occupied Room number 417 and paid 90 pesos (\$7.20 U.S.) per day. Accountant CARLOS MANZO, made these records available for review and stated that there were no long-distance telephone charges appearing on this account.

On May 10, 1968, OSCAR MENDIOLA, clerk, Hotel "Tropicana," advised the source that, according to the hotel accounting department, GALT probably checked out between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on November 13, 1967.

The Document Section of the FBI Laboratory examined two photostatic copies of the registration card of the Hotel "Tropicana" in the name of ERIC GALT. It was reported that although handwriting characteristics noted indicate the common authorship of the questioned "Galt" signature on this item and the other signatures in this name, a definite conclusion was not reached, partly because of the indistinctness of the photocopies and partly because of the presence of some variations.

On April 23, 1968, FELICITAS ZAVALA, Supervisor, Telefonos de Mexico, Central Exchange, advised the source that all toll tickets for long-distance calls made by anyone from the Central Exchange in Puerto Vallarta during the period from October 15, 1967, through November 20, 1967, had been forwarded to the company's offices at Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico, and were kept on file there.

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At Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico

On May 17, 1968, a third confidential source abroad advised that a review had been made of over twelve thousand toll tickets on file at the Telefonos de Mexico offices in Mazatlan. These toll tickets represented long-distance telephone calls made from the Central Exchange in Puerto Vallarta during the period in which GALT is known to have resided there. The source stated that no record was located of any calls in the name of GALT.

BANK RECORDS

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco

On April 19, 1968, the second source caused the records of the Banco Industrial de Jalisco, S.A. to be reviewed and no account was located for ERIC S. GALT, JOHN WILLARD or HARVEY LOWMYER. Employees of this bank were unable to recognize a photograph of the Subject.

On April 19, 1968, the same source was advised by PASCUAL MORAN GONZALEZ, Manager, Banco de Comercio de Guadalajara, S.C., that no record could be located in the files of that bank for any transactions by ERIC S. GALT, JOHN WILLARD or HARVEY LOWMYER. Employees of this bank were unable to recognize a photograph of the Subject.

On April 25, 1968, MARCO ANTONIO ROMO, Assistant Manager, Banco de Comercio de Guadalajara, S.A., advised the source that no record is kept in that bank of travelers checks issued or cashed there. He said that he had personally reviewed the files of all Americans opening accounts in the bank for the past year without encountering the name of any individual who might be identical with GALT.

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At Mexico, D.F., Mexico

On June 28, 1968, an official of the Special Investigations Department of the Bank of Mexico advised the first source that there is only one bank in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, with safety deposit boxes, and this is the Banco Industrial de Jalisco, S.A. This official determined that no safety deposit boxes had been rented at that bank in the second half of October or the first fifteen days of November in 1967. He also determined that the bank has no safety deposit boxes rented to anyone but Mexican citizens.

ASSOCIATES AND GIRLFRIENDS

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

On April 15, 1968, LUIS GARCIA, bartender, Hotel Oceano, advised that he knew ERIC GALT when the latter was staying in Puerto Vallarta. He said that GALT came to the Oceano Hotel bar several times. He said GALT told him he had served nine years in the U. S. Army, but never went anywhere and was now just traveling around. He said GALT spoke little Spanish, had a serious demeanor, and his walk was slow and very erect. He also described him as an individual who was dark from sunburn, had a sharp nose, and wore his hair in a crew cut.

GARCIA said that he and GALT had gone out together on two separate occasions after GARCIA finished work. He said GALT always drank screwdrivers, but only one or two at a time. He said GALT was not a big spender and recalled that GALT once paid a bill with a U.S. five dollar bill, but usually paid in pesos.

GARCIA told of a night when he and GALT were at the Posada Vallarta to see a floor show and, upon leaving, saw a girl named ELICA waiting for a bus to return to downtown Puerto Vallarta. They offered this girl a ride and the three went to the Club Los Lobos where GALT became drunk or a little ill and went

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out to sit in the car. Afterwards, GALT took GARCIA to the latter's home and said he wanted to stay with the girl.

GARCIA described the car as a white Mustang with automatic transmission and a red interior. He said the car had blue license plates with letters of another color. He said he told GALT that the plates said "La Habana," and joked with him about FIDEL CASTRO. GALT corrected him, replying that the plates were from Alabama. GARCIA also recalled that GALT complained that one tire on the car was too large.

GARCIA said that he went to GALT's room at the Hotel Rio on the morning after he and GALT had picked up ELISA. He said he saw a portable typewriter there, but no firearms.

On May 9, 1968, the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which was taken in California in early 1968 was shown to LUIS GARCIA, and he told the source that this photograph was identical with ERIC GALT.

On April 23, 1968, MARGARITA MONTES MEZA, a prostitute employed at the Casa Susana, Matamoros 503, advised the second source that she recalled the Subject, but could not remember his name. She said she also uses the name "La Chilindrina." She said the first night that Subject came to this house, which she estimated as being in October or November, 1967, he told her he was on a forty-day vacation in Puerto Vallarta, but did not say where he came from or where he was going. She explained that she has a very limited capability in the English language and that he could speak hardly any Spanish. She said he told her he had a car outside and wanted to take her to the Posada Vallarta where they could spend the night. She refused to leave the Casa Susana, and told him he could spend the night in her room, which he did, leaving the following morning at about 8 a.m.

Continuing, MARGARITA MONTES said that she was absent from the city about eight days, and that

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when she returned, the Subject was going with "IRMA," another girl employed at the Casa Susana. She recalled that one day when the Subject came in, IRMA was drunk and Subject tried to renew his association with MARGARITA. She told him he had better stay with IRMA, but he replied that he was through with IRMA. He then left the Casa Susana and she never saw him again.

On May 9, 1968, a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken in California in the early part of 1968 was shown to MARGARITA MONTES MEZA, and she stated that this was the same individual about whom she had furnished the above information.

On April 23, 1968, ARCELIA GONZALEZ, another prostitute employed at the Casa Susana, advised the second source that she remembered the Subject as having come to the Casa Susana in about November, 1967, but did not recall his name. She said she saw him at least three times in one week, and that she slept with him on one occasion, but that he was mainly interested in IRMA. She recalled that he had a white Mustang automobile and invited her to go to Yelapa, a nearby recreation area on the coast, but she refused to go. She recalled that he was using both pesos and U.S. dollars in paying his bar bills, but was not able to remember the denominations of the bills he used.

On May 10, 1968, ARCELIA GONZALEZ examined one photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in which the Subject was wearing sunglasses, and a second photograph which was taken in California in early 1968. She said she recognized the photograph with sunglasses as the person about whom she furnished the foregoing information, but she did not think the second photograph was a very good likeness.

On April 23, 1968, RODIMIR BISCARA, bartender, Casa Susana, advised the second source that he recalls the Subject and that at one time he was talking about buying the Subject's Mustang. He said that he did not have sufficient money for the car and had discussed trading some land for it. He said he went out in the car with the Subject and IRMA, and the three of them went

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to see some lots which BISCARA owned. He said that they looked at the lots, but that no serious discussion regarding the trade ever took place. He said the Subject invited him to go to Mismaloya, a beach area near Puerto Vallarta. He said that he and the Subject and IRMA all went there and spent some time at the beach.

BISCARA also stated that, while at the Casa Gusana, Subject usually drank tequila and Squirt, or a drink made from Bacardi rum. He did not recall that the Subject smoked, and stated that he knew nothing about the Subject seeking or using marijuana.

On April 23, 1968, the second source was advised by JOSE MANUEL GUZMAN GARCIA, Boca de Mismaloya, that GUZMAN and his brother, ELENO, operate a cantina and beach-front recreation area. He recalled the American with the white Mustang who came to the beach with IRMA, a cabaret girl, and "RODI," a bartender from Puerto Vallarta, several months earlier. He said he did not get a good look at the American because the latter stayed on the beach, but that "RODI" said that the American was spending a great deal of money on IRMA.

GUZMAN said the American came back two more times and that he had a different American girl with him on each occasion. He did not know these girls and presumed they were tourists. He said all of this activity was within the space of about one week's time, and took place several months ago.

On May 3, 1968, ELENO GUZMAN GARCIA, Boca de Mismaloya, advised the second source that he immediately recognized the photograph of the Subject with sunglasses as a man who had been at this beach several months earlier in a white Mustang, accompanied by IRMA, a bar girl, and a Mexican whom he believes was RODIMIR from the Casa Gusana in Puerto Vallarta. He stated that this man had a noticeable scar on his forehead. He recalled that the Subject was fully dressed at all times and did not wear sunglasses that day. He said that the Subject spoke very little Spanish.

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On April 17, 1968, RODOLFO GONZALEZ, photographer, Posada Vallarta, advised the second source that ELISA had been a cigarette girl at the Posada Vallarta and also worked as a camera girl. He remembered that she told him that she had an American boyfriend with a nice car, some kind of Ford. He said this man gave ELISA enough money to get a place to live by herself so he could visit her but, instead, she took the money and left for Guadalajara.

On May 3, 1968, FRANCISCO PEREZ GOMEZ, captain of the main bar, Posada Vallarta, stated to the second source that he recalled the Subject only vaguely and knew very little about him or his activities. He said he did recall that the Subject was dating a girl named ELISA who worked in the bar selling cigarettes. PEREZ stated that one evening ELISA asked him to write a note for her in English to the Subject, whose name PEREZ could not recall. He said it seemed that ELISA had accepted some 500 pesos (\$40 U.S.) from the Subject to rent an apartment for them, but that she had used the money to take two of her children to Guadalajara. The note was to explain to the Subject how she had spent his money and to ask his pardon. He recalled that the Subject came into the bar, perhaps that same evening, and PEREZ delivered the note to him. PEREZ said all this took place about four or five months ago, and that he did recall the Subject had a white Mustang. He did not remember ever seeing him again, and was not certain that he could even recognize him if they should meet.

On April 18, 1968, the second source was advised by Mr. and Mrs. SALVADOR MEZA, proprietors of a cheap motel at Playa la Gloria, that they remembered an American who drove a white Mustang and came to the hotel in about November, 1967, with ELISA, who was the girlfriend of the photographer at the Posada Vallarta. They said he came to the hotel once with ELISA and twice alone, and on the latter occasions took a corner room. He left about dawn and returned sometime later, locking himself in the room all day. They stated that they considered this very strange behavior.

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Mrs. MEZA also stated that she recalls the same individual coming back a fourth time with a prostitute whose name she did not know. She said this woman had left Puerto Vallarta for Tijuana, Baja California, some time ago.

At Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

On April 18, 1968, the third source advised that ELISA ARELLANO TORRES, age 20, was located at Guadalajara on the night of April 17, 1968. She was living at Apeninos 1764, Colonia Independencia, and stated that she was born on [redacted] at Durango, Durango, Mexico.

ELISA ARELLANO said that she had been employed as a cigarette girl and photographer at the Fosada Vallarta at Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, in November, 1967. She said that one night after work she was offered a ride back to the central part of town by the bartender of the Oceano Hotel and a white male American, who later identified himself to her as ERIC STARVO GALT. She said that GALT at that time lived at the Hotel Rio, but later moved to the "Tropicana" Hotel. She recalled his automobile as a white Mustang with Alabama license plates. She stated that after this first meeting she had marital relations with GALT for about five days at a place she identified as the Hotel Las Glorias, which is located on the road to the airport from Puerto Vallarta.

ELISA ARELLANO said that she parted company with GALT because he wanted her to buy marijuana, which she refused to do. She said he told her he had made various trips to Yelapa in order to buy marijuana. She said she saw him around Puerto Vallarta for about fifteen days after they parted company. She described him as a white male American, about 36 years old, five feet eleven inches tall, regular to slender build, brown hair and a thin nose.

On April 18, 1968, ELISA ARELLANO told the third source that while she and GALT were going together, he had asked her to rent an apartment. She said he gave

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her 600 pesos (\$48 U.S.) and was to get more money from the bank. She said she went to a person called "CHICO" PEREZ in the main restaurant of the Posada Vallarta, and asked him to write a letter to GALT apologizing and stating that she could not see him again.

Continuing, ELISA ARELLANO said that she recalled that GALT only had two or three drinks during the time she spent with him, and recalled that he had a screwdriver or a vodka and tonic. She said he did not smoke, and she never saw him smoking marijuana. He told her that he had gone to Yelapa several times and he seemed to have a lack of energy, and it appeared to tire him to carry on a conversation. She described him as a complete introvert. She said he did not like noisy crowds or sounds, and stated that he did not like children. One of his favorite expressions was that he was very tired, and she thought that he might be a mental case. She said that he had no scars on his body and appeared to have thin legs with a heavy upper trunk.

On June 6, 1968, ELISA ARELLANO advised the third source, after examining photographs of the Subject wearing sunglasses and the photograph taken in California in early 1968, that she recognized both of these photographs as being the same individual whom she knew in Puerto Vallarta, but that in the California photograph he appeared heavier than when she knew him.

On April 21, 1968, the third source advised that IRMA MORALES, the prostitute who was formerly employed at the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta, had been identified as MANUELA AGUIRRE MEDRANO. She was born on [redacted], at Rancho San Isidro, which is in the municipality of Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico.

At Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico

On April 22, 1968, MANUELA AGUIRRE MEDRANO advised the third source that she was formerly employed at the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, as a

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prostitute. She identified a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY as the individual known as ERIC GALT whom she had met one night at the Casa Susana. She said she could not be certain of the date, but thought it might have been about October 24, 1967. She recalled that during this first visit, GALT spent the evening with another prostitute called "La Chilindrina."

The next day, GALT came to the house looking for "La Chilindrina," who was out of town. He then began his friendship with MANUELA and, she stated, slept with her nearly every night for the next several days during his visits to the house.

She recalled that GALT was very methodical and had allowed himself 100 pesos (\$8 U.S.) for drinking money and another 100 pesos each day for a girl. She recalled that he drank beer during the daytime and gin at night. She said he invited her to go to Mismaloya, a nearby beach, and that, after postponing the trip for two or three days, they did go to Mismaloya with RODIMIR BISCARA, the bartender. She described GALT's automobile as a white automobile with Alabama license plates, and as having a red interior with reclining seats. She said this was a two-door automobile, but she could not remember the make. She said that after swimming, drinking beer and having a seafood lunch, they began the return trip to Puerto Vallarta at about 4 p.m. About half-way along the distance from Mismaloya to Puerto Vallarta, GALT stopped the car and took what appeared to be a new Polaroid camera from an ice chest in the back. He said that this was one of the first rolls of film in the camera and that there were only two pictures left. He mentioned that the camera had cost him a little less than \$80. He took a photograph of MANUELA seated at the steering wheel of the car with her skirts up. This photograph was bad and he destroyed it. A little farther on, they stopped at a place called Punta Negra, where GALT took another photograph which was also bad, and he tore it up. She recalled that this was a Saturday and that they arrived back at the Casa Susana about 5 p.m. and GALT departed saying that he would not return that night.

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On the next day, a Sunday, MANUELA stated that GALT arrived at the Casa Susana about 9 p.m. She believed that this might have been on October 29, 1967. GALT drank with MANUELA and noted that there were four Negroes and some white people seated at a nearby table. These were sailors from a yacht or private boat which had stopped at Puerto Vallarta.

She said that one Negro was very tall and another was short and fat, about five feet four inches tall. The latter was very drunk, and the whole group was rowdy and having a good time. GALT appeared angry at the Negroes and said insulting things concerning them. He said he hated Negroes. He left his table, said something insulting to the short Negro and returned to his table. All of the individuals at the other table appeared to be talking about GALT.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT then went to his car and came back to the table. He went again to the table where the Negroes were seated and insulted them and returned to his own table. He asked her to feel his pocket and she felt what appeared to be an automatic-type pistol. She believed it to be something similar to a Walther .380 automatic. GALT said he was going to kill them. The tall Negro came to GALT's table and said something in a peaceful manner, but GALT replied in an insulting manner. The tall Negro then returned to his table and took the shorter Negro in his arms and took him out of the house. GALT wanted to go after them, but MANUELA told him this would not be a good idea since it was about 10 p.m. and the police were scheduled to visit the house momentarily. GALT said he wanted nothing to do with the police.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT visited the house again on the following day and told her that he would not see her for several days. He said he wanted to rest and would only sleep and eat. He next returned on what MANUELA recalled as a Thursday of the same week and told her that he planned to move to the "Tropicana" Hotel. He spent more than 200 pesos (\$16 U.S.) for drinks and left about midnight.

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On the following day, according to MANUELA AGUIRRE, GALT arrived between 8 and 9 p.m. and she, MANUELA, was drunk and said that she did not want to go to bed with him. GALT remained to drink at one of the tables and there was a photographer present, causing MANUELA to request that a photograph be taken of GALT with her. GALT did not want his photograph taken, but she insisted. He told her that he planned to go to Yelapa on Saturday or Sunday, and that he did not like to go out in Puerto Vallarta on Saturday or Sunday because there was so much noise and so many people around.

She said that GALT arrived at the house between 8 and 9 p.m. on the following Monday. He invited MANUELA for one drink and was very serious and impolite. He was angry with her for her actions on the previous Friday. He asked her to marry him and she refused. She said that he had previously asked her to marry him. He said that if she would not marry him he was going to invite out some of the other girls. He spent the rest of that evening with ARCELIA and went to bed with ARCELIA.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that she saw GALT again about three days later, but did not talk with him. She said she did not believe that he saw ARCELIA or any of the other girls again, and that she herself did not see him again.

She recalled that GALT drank gin or whatever other drink the bartender at the Casa Susana served him. He did not smoke, and sometimes stated that he did not smoke anything except marijuana. She stated, however, that she never saw him smoke marijuana.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT spoke practically no Spanish and the bartender interpreted for him. She said that GALT had an old pair of sandals that he liked very much and which he said had been bought in Europe. She said she told him to throw the sandals away and buy new ones, but he did not want to get rid of them. She recalled that he definitely could not dance.

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MANUELA AGUIRRE made available the photograph of GALT wearing sunglasses, which had been taken at the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, on or about November 3, 1967. She said the photograph was taken by a traveling group known as "Foto Rapida."

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco

On April 22, 1968, CARLOS PEREZ, Foto Taurino, Hotel Oceano, advised the second source that Foto Rapida was a concern made up of four or five men who came to Puerto Vallarta in the fall of 1967 and were there less than a month. This group spent most of its time in the nightclubs, bars and other places frequented by tourists. They used only Polaroid cameras, and there were no negatives or records kept of the photographs taken. He said all members of this group had left Puerto Vallarta and that their current whereabouts was unknown.

On April 24, 1968, LEOPOLDO CISNEROS, Assistant Manager, Dairy Queen Shop, Main Plaza, advised the second source that in the fall of 1967 this shop was known as the Discotheque Cafe. He recognized a photograph of the Subject immediately as an almost daily customer for a period during the fall of 1967. He said that Subject came in for three or four weeks about 3 p.m. each day and had a hamburger and a Pepsi Cola. He said that the Subject, in the beginning, usually ate a half-dozen small green chilies with his hamburger. After he stopped ordering these chilies, he told CISNEROS that a doctor had advised him to stop eating them.

CISNEROS recalled that the Subject drove a white Mustang which he parked outside the shop. He said he had also seen the Subject around the Hotel Rio. He said that on two occasions, the Subject was accompanied by a heavy-set Mexican man whose name was not known to CISNEROS. CISNEROS said this man had been a regular customer in the past and is believed to be a United States citizen. When CISNEROS asked the Subject whether he had known this man in the United States, the Subject replied that he was just someone he had met on the beach.

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With regard to the information that the Subject may have consulted a physician in Puerto Vallarta, the second source contacted the following doctors on the dates indicated with negative results:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
April, 1967	
24	Dr. ERNESTO CORDOVA IBARRA, Director Public Health Juarez 71
24	Dr. ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ G. Physician for Hotel "Tropicana" Morelos 74
24	Dr. ANTONIO R. SAHAGUN Juarez 178
26	Dr. AGUSTIN LOPEZ Y ALCALA Juarez 259
26	Dr. ANTONIO TOPETE PALERMO Zaragoza 30
26	Dra. A. ELIZABETH ORTIZ M. Public Health Clinic and Hospital
26	Dr. LIZANDRO NAVARRO PORTILLO Hotel Rosita Building
29	Dr. PABLO MORRIS and Dra. ANA JOSEFA RAMIREZ Clinic of Las Glorias

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

FIRESTONE DELUXE CHAMPION TIRE, SIZE 7.50 X 14

In connection with the recovery of the white 1966 Mustang at Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968, it was discovered that the right front tire on this car was a Firestone Deluxe Champion, size 7.50 x 14, six-ply rating. Stamped on the tire were the words "Hecha en Mexico," with the following identifying numbers: 2-ME-2; BD-33595; N20Z031154. The tube of this tire had a stamp thereon: "G7, General Popo 7.50 x 14. Made for Helke Poc, General Popo, S.A., Mexico D.I."

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

On May 7, 1968, JUAN MANUEL FREGOSO GUTIERREZ, Avenida Mexico 50, advised the second source that he operates a gasoline station at the corner of 31 de Octubre and 31 de Mayo, and that his wife operates a Firestone tire store which he owns at Avenida Mexico 50.

On May 7, 1968, Mrs. GENOVEVA CURIEL DE FREGOSO, proprietor of the Firestone Store, advised the second source that she did not personally recall seeing the Subject or his car since she was upstairs in her apartment at the time of the transaction. She did recall that an American came in several months earlier to buy a 7.45 x 14 tire and, since they did not have one in stock, the clerk sold him a 7.50 x 14. Mrs. FREGOSO said that this man asked for a discount because the tire was the wrong size, and the clerk called up to the apartment for authority to give the discount. Mrs. FREGOSO said she authorized a ten percent discount on the sale.

Mrs. FREGOSO could recall nothing further about the actual sale, and stated that her brother had mounted the tire on the car, but could recall nothing of the incident. She said the store kept no record of tire serial numbers except to note them on the sales slip at the time of the sale for guaranty purposes. She searched invoices of tires received by the store from the Firestone factory and noted that there were no serial numbers in these invoices. She was, therefore, unable to state whether a particular tire had ever been in their inventory.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

TERESA FERNANDEZ, clerk, Firestone Store, Avenida Mexico 50, advised the second source on May 7, 1968, that the photograph of the Subject wearing sunglasses was immediately recognizable as a man who came into the store one morning to buy a tire. She said he had apparently come from the General Popo Tire Store two doors away. She could not recall the date, but believed that it was in January, 1968.

Miss FERNANDEZ remembered that the Subject's white Mustang had a tire which was badly road-damaged and he asked for a replacement, size 7.45 x 14. Since there were none of this size in stock, she said, he took a size 7.50 x 14 Firestone tire, but requested a discount since it was the wrong size. Miss FERNANDEZ said she spoke to Mrs. FREGOSO, who was in the upstairs apartment, and a ten percent discount was authorized. She said that, since the tire was slightly larger, and because the use of tubes is always recommended due to the difficult terrain, the Subject walked to the General Popo Store and came back with a tube which he had purchased himself. The tire was mounted outside the store by Mrs. FREGOSO's brother.

Miss FERNANDEZ searched for the sales slip recording this transaction, but was unable to locate it. She said that the Subject did not give her his name, and that, since he was not a Mexican, she did not bother to ask his name or to note the serial number of the tire on the sales slip, since this is only done for guaranty purposes.

Continuing, Miss FREGOSO said she lives near the Casa Susana and, after she sold the tire, she remembered seeing the same white Mustang parked on Calle 31 de Octubre around the corner from the Casa Susana. The car was parked in front of a vacant lot and she thought this strange since she saw it there about 3 in the morning on several occasions while she was walking to work. On one occasion as she was on her way to lunch, she saw the Subject park his car and walk up and turn into Matamoros Street. She said she never saw him with any other person and that he was alone the day he came to the store to purchase the tire.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

On May 7, 1968, ANA MARIA MADERO, clerk, General Popo Tire Store, Avenida Mexico 32, advised the second source that the code "G7" indicates that a tube with this marking will fit a 7.50 x 14 tire. She said she did not recognize the photograph of the Subject or recall his car. She could find no record of a sale of any item to ERIC GALT from October 7, 1967, to May 7, 1968.

Miss MADERO stated that if she did not know the name of the person to whom she made a sale, but knew that the sale was connected with a purchase made at the Firestone Store, she normally put the name of MANUEL FREGOSO on the sales slip. In this connection, a review of the sales slips showed that a G7 tube was sold for cash to MANUEL FREGOSO on October 26, 1967, and on January 13, 1968. In each case, the price was 57 pesos (\$4.56 U.S.).

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U. S. Attorney, Birmingham, Alabama

Report of: SA JOE C. HESTER
Date: August 22, 1968

Office: Memphis

Field Office File #: ME 44-1987

Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: Following subject's arrest on 6/8/68 by officers of New Scotland Yard, London, England, extradition proceedings were begun by the United States Department of State, and on 7/18/68 subject was released to FBI Agents for return to the United States via military aircraft. Subject landed, United States Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee, on 7/19/68, and was released to custody of Sheriff, Shelby County, Tennessee. Subject now lodged Shelby County Jail, Memphis, Tennessee, awaiting trial for murder. Investigation in Mexico set forth.

-P-

DETAILS:

Following the subject's arrest on June 8, 1968, at London, England, by officers of New Scotland Yard, extradition proceedings were begun by the United States Department of State. On July 18, 1968, the subject was released by English authorities to the custody of FBI Agents JOHN MINNICH, GEORGE ZEISS, HAROLD LIGHT, and WILBUR MARTINDALE. Subject was placed aboard a military aircraft of the United States and was flown to the United States Naval Air Station, Millington, Tennessee, where at 4:00 a.m. on July 19, 1968, while still aboard the aircraft, he was turned over to Sheriff WILLIAM MORRIS, Shelby County, Tennessee. Subject was then taken to the Shelby County Jail, Memphis, Tennessee, where he is being held awaiting trial for murder.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

July 24, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

Information set forth below covers the
established activities of captioned individual who, as
ERIC STARVO GALT, visited Mexico during October and
November, 1967.

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established activities of captioned individual who, as
ERIC STARVO GALT, visited Mexico during October and
November, 1967.

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT RECORDS

On April 11, 1968, at Atlanta, Georgia, a 1966
white Mustang bearing Alabama license 1-38993, was
recovered. This car had vehicle identification number
6T07C190647, and on the car was Mexican tourist sticker
bearing Folio number H294436, showing that the car had
crossed the border at Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas.

Investigation at Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, on
April 12, 1968, showed that this automobile crossed the
border on October 7, 1967. Documents for the automobile
were issued to ERIC S. GALT, who had tourist card number
7475449 and listed his address as 2608 Highland,
Birmingham, Alabama.

At Mexico, D.F., Mexico

On April 24, 1968, a confidential source abroad
advised that contact with an official of the Inspection
Service of Mexican Immigration in Mexico City disclosed
that this agency had searched records for all departures

ME 44-1987

District Attorney, Memphis, Tennessee, have received copies of the New Scotland Yard report, it is not being reported herein.

The period of this report pre-dates the period of the last report submitted by the Memphis Office as this report contains the results of investigation conducted in Mexico during the period 4/12/68 - 7/18/68.

INFORMANTS

The first confidential source abroad mentioned in LHM dated 7/24/68 is SA RICHARD S. CLARK.

The second confidential source abroad is SA RUSSELL JEAN GRAY, JR.

The third confidential source abroad is MEX-24, who has furnished reliable information in the past.

LEADS

MEMPHIS

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Will maintain liaison with the District Attorney General's Office and will report prosecutive action taken in this case by Tennessee authorities.

B*

COVER PAGE

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

by land from Mexico during the second half of November, 1967. This search included all exit points from the Pacific to the Gulf of Mexico, and no record was located of the departure of GALT bearing tourist card mentioned above.

On July 18, 1968, the source advised that the same official was contacted on that date and reported that efforts to locate the Mexican tourist card, which should have been surrendered by GALT upon his departure from Mexico, had been unsuccessful. The official stated that his office had directly contacted every exit point along the border between Mexico and the United States, in an attempt to locate this card, with negative results. He stated, therefore, that GALT probably left Mexico without surrendering his tourist card, which is a fairly common occurrence because of the volume of traffic at all of the border crossing points.

On July 18, 1968, this same source advised that contact had been maintained on a regular basis, since April 12, 1968, with headquarters of the Mexican Federal Automobile Registration Bureau at Mexico, D.F., the agency where all documents issued to vehicles of tourists are eventually received and filed. Officials of this agency have advised that, despite extensive review of their records, the tourist importation permit for the 1966 Mustang which was issued to GALT at the border on October 7, 1967, had not been returned to that agency from any border crossing point. It was the conclusion of these officials, therefore, that GALT left Mexico in the Mustang without surrendering this document.

HOTEL RECORDS

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco

A second confidential source abroad advised on April 14, 1968, that on that same date EDUARDO MARROQUI, owner, Hotel Rio, Morelos 86, advised that ERIC S. GALT was a guest in that hotel from October 18, 1967, through November 5, 1967. MARROQUI stated that,

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

according to his recollection, GALT was alone, and MARROQUI did not recall anything concerning GALT's car or possible friendships with other guests.

On April 15, 1968, ROBERTO WONG, clerk, Hotel Rio, furnished the registration card for ERIC S. GALT, giving his address as 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. He occupied Room 212 at the rate of 60 pesos (\$4.80 U.S.) per day. The card shows his arrival on October 19, 1967, and that he checked out on November 6, 1967. It also bears the signature "ERIC S. GALT."

The Document Section of the FBI Laboratory examined two photostatic copies of the registration card of the Hotel Rio in the name of ERIC S. GALT and concluded that the questioned writings on the registration card were prepared by the writer of other specimens received in this matter which have been attributed to ERIC S. GALT.

ROBERTO WONG also advised on April 15, 1968, that there were no long-distance telephone calls charged to GALT's room.

On April 17, 1968, WONG stated that he remembered GALT as a "loner" at the hotel. He said GALT was never seen around the hotel during the day and did not stay around the hotel in the evening. He did come in to eat. He was always alone, with the exception of one occasion on which LUIS GARCIA, a bartender from another hotel, came to the Hotel Rio one morning trying to find GALT since he, GARCIA, stated he had left some important papers in GALT's car.

On May 9, 1968, a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken in California in early 1968 was shown to WONG. He identified this photograph as the same person who had lived in the Hotel Rio as ERIC S. GALT.

The source advised that MARIA DE GUADALUPE DIAZ, Calle Galeano 127, was interviewed on April 25, 1968, and stated that she was formerly employed as a maid at the Hotel Rio. She recognized photographs of RAY as an individual who had been a hotel guest some

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

months ago and recalled that he had a white sports car. She said he was friendly but never asked her for a date. She said she did not recall ever seeing anyone visiting the Subject and could not recall the type of luggage he was using. She said she never observed any weapons in his room, but did recall that there were several nights when he apparently had not slept in his bed. She said she mentioned this to the hotel owner, but that there are no records kept concerning incidents of this nature and she was unable to recall the dates when GALT did not spend the night in his room.

The same source advised that the records of the Hotel "Tropicana" were reviewed on April 15, 1968, and showed that ERIC GALT, with an address of 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, registered there on November 7, 1967, and departed on November 13, 1967. He occupied Room number 417 and paid 90 pesos (\$7.20 U.S.) per day. Accountant CARLOS MANZO, made these records available for review and stated that there were no long-distance telephone charges appearing on this account.

On May 10, 1968, OSCAR MENDIOLA, clerk, Hotel "Tropicana," advised the source that, according to the hotel accounting department, GALT probably checked out between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on November 13, 1967.

The Document Section of the FBI Laboratory examined two photostatic copies of the registration card of the Hotel "Tropicana" in the name of ERIC GALT. It was reported that although handwriting characteristics noted indicate the common authorship of the questioned "Galt" signature on this item and the other signatures in this name, a definite conclusion was not reached, partly because of the indistinctness of the photocopies and partly because of the presence of some variations.

On April 23, 1968, FELICITAS ZAVALA, Supervisor, Telefonos de Mexico, Central Exchange, advised the source that all toll tickets for long-distance calls made by anyone from the Central Exchange in Puerto Vallarta during the period from October 15, 1967, through November 20, 1967, had been forwarded to the company's offices at Mazatlan, Jalisco, Mexico, and were kept on file there.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

At Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico

On May 17, 1968, a third confidential source abroad advised that a review had been made of over twelve thousand toll tickets on file at the Telefonos de Mexico offices in Mazatlan. These toll tickets represented long-distance telephone calls made from the Central Exchange in Puerto Vallarta during the period in which GALT is known to have resided there. The source stated that no record was located of any calls in the name of GALT.

BANK RECORDS

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco

On April 19, 1968, the second source caused the records of the Banco Industrial de Jalisco, S.A. to be reviewed and no account was located for ERIC S. GALT, JOHN WILLARD or HARVEY LOWMYER. Employees of this bank were unable to recognize a photograph of the Subject.

On April 19, 1968, the same source was advised by PASCUAL MORAN GONZALEZ, Manager, Banco de Comercio de Guadalajara, S.C., that no record could be located in the files of that bank for any transactions by ERIC S. GALT, JOHN WILLARD or HARVEY LOWMYER. Employees of this bank were unable to recognize a photograph of the Subject.

On April 25, 1968, MARCO ANTONIO ROMO, Assistant Manager, Banco de Comercio de Guadalajara, S.A., advised the source that no record is kept in that bank of travelers checks issued or cashed there. He said that he had personally reviewed the files of all Americans opening accounts in the bank for the past year without encountering the name of any individual who might be identical with GALT.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

At Mexico, D.F., Mexico

On June 28, 1968, an official of the Special Investigations Department of the Bank of Mexico advised the first source that there is only one bank in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, with safety deposit boxes, and this is the Banco Industrial de Jalisco, S.A. This official determined that no safety deposit boxes had been rented at that bank in the second half of October or the first fifteen days of November in 1967. He also determined that the bank has no safety deposit boxes rented to anyone but Mexican citizens.

ASSOCIATES AND GIRLFRIENDS

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

On April 15, 1968, LUIS GARCIA, bartender, Hotel Oceano, advised that he knew ERIC GALT when the latter was staying in Puerto Vallarta. He said that GALT came to the Oceano Hotel bar several times. He said GALT told him he had served nine years in the U. S. Army, but never went anywhere and was now just traveling around. He said GALT spoke little Spanish, had a serious demeanor, and his walk was slow and very erect. He also described him as an individual who was dark from sunburn, had a sharp nose, and wore his hair in a crew cut.

GARCIA said that he and GALT had gone out together on two separate occasions after GARCIA finished work. He said GALT always drank screwdrivers, but only one or two at a time. He said GALT was not a big spender and recalled that GALT once paid a bill with a U.S. five dollar bill, but usually paid in pesos.

GARCIA told of a night when he and GALT were at the Posada Vallarta to see a floor show and, upon leaving, saw a girl named ELICA waiting for a bus to return to downtown Puerto Vallarta. They offered this girl a ride and the three went to the Club Los Lobos where GALT became drunk or a little ill and went

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

out to sit in the car. Afterwards, GALT took GARCIA to the latter's home and said he wanted to stay with the girl.

GARCIA described the car as a white Mustang with automatic transmission and a red interior. He said the car had blue license plates with letters of another color. He said he told GALT that the plates said "La Habana," and joked with him about FIDEL CASTRO. GALT corrected him, replying that the plates were from Alabama. GARCIA also recalled that GALT complained that one tire on the car was too large.

GARCIA said that he went to GALT's room at the Hotel Rio on the morning after he and GALT had picked up ELISA. He said he saw a portable typewriter there, but no firearms.

On May 9, 1968, the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which was taken in California in early 1968 was shown to LUIS GARCIA, and he told the source that this photograph was identical with ERIC GALT.

On April 23, 1968, MARGARITA MONTES MEZA, a prostitute employed at the Casa Susana, Matamoros 503, advised the second source that she recalled the Subject, but could not remember his name. She said she also uses the name "La Chilindrina." She said the first night that Subject came to this house, which she estimated as being in October or November, 1967, he told her he was on a forty-day vacation in Puerto Vallarta, but did not say where he came from or where he was going. She explained that she has a very limited capability in the English language and that he could speak hardly any Spanish. She said he told her he had a car outside and wanted to take her to the Posada Vallarta where they could spend the night. She refused to leave the Casa Susana, and told him he could spend the night in her room, which he did, leaving the following morning at about 8 a.m.

Continuing, MARGARITA MONTES said that she was absent from the city about eight days, and that

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when she returned, the Subject was going with "IRMA," another girl employed at the Casa Susana. She recalled that one day when the Subject came in, IRMA was drunk and Subject tried to renew his association with MARGARITA. She told him he had better stay with IRMA, but he replied that he was through with IRMA. He then left the Casa Susana and she never saw him again.

On May 9, 1968, a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY taken in California in the early part of 1968 was shown to MARGARITA MONTES MEZA, and she stated that this was the same individual about whom she had furnished the above information.

On April 23, 1968, ARCELIA GONZALEZ, another prostitute employed at the Casa Susana, advised the second source that she remembered the Subject as having come to the Casa Susana in about November, 1967, but did not recall his name. She said she saw him at least three times in one week, and that she slept with him on one occasion, but that he was mainly interested in IRMA. She recalled that he had a white Mustang automobile and invited her to go to Yelapa, a nearby recreation area on the coast, but she refused to go. She recalled that he was using both pesos and U.S. dollars in paying his bar bills, but was not able to remember the denominations of the bills he used.

On May 10, 1968, ARCELIA GONZALEZ examined one photograph of JAMES EARL RAY in which the Subject was wearing sunglasses, and a second photograph which was taken in California in early 1968. She said she recognized the photograph with sunglasses as the person about whom she furnished the foregoing information, but she did not think the second photograph was a very good likeness.

On April 23, 1968, RODIMIR BISCARA, bartender, Casa Susana, advised the second source that he recalls the Subject and that at one time he was talking about buying the Subject's Mustang. He said that he did not have sufficient money for the car and had discussed trading some land for it. He said he went out in the car with the Subject and IRMA, and the three of them went

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

to see some lots which BISCARA owned. He said that they looked at the lots, but that no serious discussion regarding the trade ever took place. He said the Subject invited him to go to Mismaloya, a beach area near Puerto Vallarta. He said that he and the Subject and IRMA all went there and spent some time at the beach.

BISCARA also stated that, while at the Casa Susana, Subject usually drank tequila and Squirt, or a drink made from Bacardi rum. He did not recall that the Subject smoked, and stated that he knew nothing about the Subject seeking or using marijuana.

On April 23, 1968, the second source was advised by JOSE MANUEL GUZMAN GARCIA, Boca de Mismaloya, that GUZMAN and his brother, ELENO, operate a cantina and beach-front recreation area. He recalled the American with the white Mustang who came to the beach with IRMA, a cabaret girl, and "RODI," a bartender from Puerto Vallarta, several months earlier. He said he did not get a good look at the American because the latter stayed on the beach, but that "RODI" said that the American was spending a great deal of money on IRMA.

GUZMAN said the American came back two more times and that he had a different American girl with him on each occasion. He did not know these girls and presumed they were tourists. He said all of this activity was within the space of about one week's time, and took place several months ago.

On May 3, 1968, ELENO GUZMAN GARCIA, Boca de Mismaloya, advised the second source that he immediately recognized the photograph of the Subject with sunglasses as a man who had been at this beach several months earlier in a white Mustang, accompanied by IRMA, a bar girl, and a Mexican whom he believes was RODIMIR from the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta. He stated that this man had a noticeable scar on his forehead. He recalled that the Subject was fully dressed at all times and did not wear sunglasses that day. He said that the Subject spoke very little Spanish.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

On April 17, 1968, RODOLFO GONZALEZ, photographer, Posada Vallarta, advised the second source that ELISA had been a cigarette girl at the Posada Vallarta and also worked as a camera girl. He remembered that she told him that she had an American boyfriend with a nice car, some kind of Ford. He said this man gave ELISA enough money to get a place to live by herself so he could visit her but, instead, she took the money and left for Guadalajara.

On May 3, 1968, FRANCISCO PEREZ GOMEZ, captain of the main bar, Posada Vallarta, stated to the second source that he recalled the Subject only vaguely and knew very little about him or his activities. He said he did recall that the Subject was dating a girl named ELISA who worked in the bar selling cigarettes. PEREZ stated that one evening ELISA asked him to write a note for her in English to the Subject, whose name PEREZ could not recall. He said it seemed that ELISA had accepted some 500 pesos (\$40 U.S.) from the Subject to rent an apartment for them, but that she had used the money to take two of her children to Guadalajara. The note was to explain to the Subject how she had spent his money and to ask his pardon. He recalled that the Subject came into the bar, perhaps that same evening, and PEREZ delivered the note to him. PEREZ said all this took place about four or five months ago, and that he did recall the Subject had a white Mustang. He did not remember ever seeing him again, and was not certain that he could even recognize him if they should meet.

On April 18, 1968, the second source was advised by Mr. and Mrs. SALVADOR MEZA, proprietors of a cheap motel at Playa la Gloria, that they remembered an American who drove a white Mustang and came to the hotel in about November, 1967, with ELISA, who was the girlfriend of the photographer at the Posada Vallarta. They said he came to the hotel once with ELISA and twice alone, and on the latter occasions took a corner room. He left about dawn and returned sometime later, locking himself in the room all day. They stated that they considered this very strange behavior.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

Mrs. MEZA also stated that she recalls the same individual coming back a fourth time with a prostitute whose name she did not know. She said this woman had left Puerto Vallarta for Tijuana, Baja California, some time ago.

At Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico

On April 13, 1968, the third source advised that ELICA ARELLANO TORRES, age 20, was located at Guadalajara on the night of April 17, 1968. She was living at Apeninos 1764, Colonia Independencia, and stated that she was born on [] at Durango, Durango, Mexico.

ELICA ARELLANO said that she had been employed as a cigarette girl and photographer at the Posada Vallarta at Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, in November, 1967. She said that one night after work she was offered a ride back to the central part of town by the bartender of the Oceano Hotel and a white male American, who later identified himself to her as ERIC STARVO GALT. She said that GALT at that time lived at the Hotel Rio, but later moved to the "Tropicana" Hotel. She recalled his automobile as a white Mustang with Alabama license plates. She stated that after this first meeting she had marital relations with GALT for about five days at a place she identified as the Hotel Las Glorias, which is located on the road to the airport from Puerto Vallarta.

ELICA ARELLANO said that she parted company with GALT because he wanted her to buy marijuana, which she refused to do. She said he told her he had made various trips to Yelapa in order to buy marijuana. She said she saw him around Puerto Vallarta for about fifteen days after they parted company. She described him as a white male American, about 36 years old, five feet eleven inches tall, regular to slender build, brown hair and a thin nose.

On April 13, 1968, ELICA ARELLANO told the third source that while she and GALT were going together, he had asked her to rent an apartment. She said he gave

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

her 600 pesos (\$48 U.S.) and was to get more money from the bank. She said she went to a person called "CHICO" PEREZ in the main restaurant of the Posada Vallarta, and asked him to write a letter to GALT apologizing and stating that she could not see him again.

Continuing, ELISA ARELLANO said that she recalled that GALT only had two or three drinks during the time she spent with him, and recalled that he had a screwdriver or a vodka and tonic. She said he did not smoke, and she never saw him smoking marijuana. He told her that he had gone to Yelapa several times and he seemed to have a lack of energy, and it appeared to tire him to carry on a conversation. She described him as a complete introvert. She said he did not like noisy crowds or sounds, and stated that he did not like children. One of his favorite expressions was that he was very tired, and she thought that he might be a mental case. She said that he had no scars on his body and appeared to have thin legs with a heavy upper trunk.

On June 6, 1968, ELISA ARELLANO advised the third source, after examining photographs of the Subject wearing sunglasses and the photograph taken in California in early 1968, that she recognized both of these photographs as being the same individual whom she knew in Puerto Vallarta, but that in the California photograph he appeared heavier than when she knew him.

On April 21, 1968, the third source advised that IRMA MORALES, the prostitute who was formerly employed at the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta, had been identified as MANUELA AGUIRRE MEDRANO. She was born on [redacted] at Rancho San Isidro, which is in the municipality of Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico.

At Atotonilco, Jalisco, Mexico

On April 22, 1968, MANUELA AGUIRRE MEDRANO advised the third source that she was formerly employed at the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, as a

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

prostitute. She identified a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY as the individual known as ERIC GALT whom she had met one night at the Casa Susana. She said she could not be certain of the date, but thought it might have been about October 24, 1967. She recalled that during this first visit, GALT spent the evening with another prostitute called "La Chilindrina."

The next day, GALT came to the house looking for "La Chilindrina," who was out of town. He then began his friendship with MANUELA and, she stated, slept with her nearly every night for the next several days during his visits to the house.

She recalled that GALT was very methodical and had allowed himself 100 pesos (\$8 U.S.) for drinking money and another 100 pesos each day for a girl. She recalled that he drank beer during the daytime and gin at night. She said he invited her to go to Mismaloya, a nearby beach, and that, after postponing the trip for two or three days, they did go to Mismaloya with RODIMIR BISCARA, the bartender. She described GALT's automobile as a white automobile with Alabama license plates, and as having a red interior with reclining seats. She said this was a two-door automobile, but she could not remember the make. She said that after swimming, drinking beer and having a seafood lunch, they began the return trip to Puerto Vallarta at about 4 p.m. About half-way along the distance from Mismaloya to Puerto Vallarta, GALT stopped the car and took what appeared to be a new Polaroid camera from an ice chest in the back. He said that this was one of the first rolls of film in the camera and that there were only two pictures left. He mentioned that the camera had cost him a little less than \$80. He took a photograph of MANUELA seated at the steering wheel of the car with her skirts up. This photograph was bad and he destroyed it. A little farther on, they stopped at a place called Punta Negra, where GALT took another photograph which was also bad, and he tore it up. She recalled that this was a Saturday and that they arrived back at the Casa Susana about 5 p.m. and GALT departed saying that he would not return that night.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

On the next day, a Sunday, MANUELA stated that GALT arrived at the Casa Susana about 9 p.m. She believed that this might have been on October 29, 1967. GALT drank with MANUELA and noted that there were four Negroes and some white people seated at a nearby table. These were sailors from a yacht or private boat which had stopped at Puerto Vallarta.

She said that one Negro was very tall and another was short and fat, about five feet four inches tall. The latter was very drunk, and the whole group was rowdy and having a good time. GALT appeared angry at the Negroes and said insulting things concerning them. He said he hated Negroes. He left his table, said something insulting to the short Negro and returned to his table. All of the individuals at the other table appeared to be talking about GALT.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT then went to his car and came back to the table. He went again to the table where the Negroes were seated and insulted them and returned to his own table. He asked her to feel his pocket and she felt what appeared to be an automatic-type pistol. She believed it to be something similar to a Walther .380 automatic. GALT said he was going to kill them. The tall Negro came to GALT's table and said something in a peaceful manner, but GALT replied in an insulting manner. The tall Negro then returned to his table and took the shorter Negro in his arms and took him out of the house. GALT wanted to go after them, but MANUELA told him this would not be a good idea since it was about 10 p.m. and the police were scheduled to visit the house momentarily. GALT said he wanted nothing to do with the police.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT visited the house again on the following day and told her that he would not see her for several days. He said he wanted to rest and would only sleep and eat. He next returned on what MANUELA recalled as a Thursday of the same week and told her that he planned to move to the "Tropicana" Hotel. He spent more than 200 pesos (\$16 U.S.) for drinks and left about midnight.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

On the following day, according to MANUELA AGUIRRE, GALT arrived between 8 and 9 p.m. and she, MANUELA, was drunk and said that she did not want to go to bed with him. GALT remained to drink at one of the tables and there was a photographer present, causing MANUELA to request that a photograph be taken of GALT with her. GALT did not want his photograph taken, but she insisted. He told her that he planned to go to Yelapa on Saturday or Sunday, and that he did not like to go out in Puerto Vallarta on Saturday or Sunday because there was so much noise and so many people around.

She said that GALT arrived at the house between 8 and 9 p.m. on the following Monday. He invited MANUELA for one drink and was very serious and impolite. He was angry with her for her actions on the previous Friday. He asked her to marry him and she refused. She said that he had previously asked her to marry him. He said that if she would not marry him he was going to invite out some of the other girls. He spent the rest of that evening with ARCELIA and went to bed with ARCELIA.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that she saw GALT again about three days later, but did not talk with him. She said she did not believe that he saw ARCELIA or any of the other girls again, and that she herself did not see him again.

She recalled that GALT drank gin or whatever other drink the bartender at the Casa Susana served him. He did not smoke, and sometimes stated that he did not smoke anything except marijuana. She stated, however, that she never saw him smoke marijuana.

MANUELA AGUIRRE said that GALT spoke practically no Spanish and the bartender interpreted for him. She said that GALT had an old pair of sandals that he liked very much and which he said had been bought in Europe. She said she told him to throw the sandals away and buy new ones, but he did not want to get rid of them. She recalled that he definitely could not dance.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

MANUELA AGUIRRE made available the photograph of GALT wearing sunglasses, which had been taken at the Casa Susana in Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, on or about November 3, 1967. She said the photograph was taken by a traveling group known as "Foto Rapida."

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco

On April 22, 1968, CARLOS PEREZ, Foto Taurino, Hotel Oceano, advised the second source that Foto Rapida was a concern made up of four or five men who came to Puerto Vallarta in the fall of 1967 and were there less than a month. This group spent most of its time in the nightclubs, bars and other places frequented by tourists. They used only Polaroid cameras, and there were no negatives or records kept of the photographs taken. He said all members of this group had left Puerto Vallarta and that their current whereabouts was unknown.

On April 24, 1968, LEOPOLDO CISNEROS, Assistant Manager, Dairy Queen Shop, Main Plaza, advised the second source that in the fall of 1967 this shop was known as the Discotheque Cafe. He recognized a photograph of the Subject immediately as an almost daily customer for a period during the fall of 1967. He said that Subject came in for three or four weeks about 3 p.m. each day and had a hamburger and a Pepsi Cola. He said that the Subject, in the beginning, usually ate a half-dozen small green chilies with his hamburger. After he stopped ordering these chilies, he told CISNEROS that a doctor had advised him to stop eating them.

CISNEROS recalled that the Subject drove a white Mustang which he parked outside the shop. He said he had also seen the Subject around the Hotel Rio. He said that on two occasions, the Subject was accompanied by a heavy-set Mexican man whose name was not known to CISNEROS. CISNEROS said this man had been a regular customer in the past and is believed to be a United States citizen. When CISNEROS asked the Subject whether he had known this man in the United States, the Subject replied that he was just someone he had met on the beach.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

With regard to the information that the Subject may have consulted a physician in Puerto Vallarta, the second source contacted the following doctors on the dates indicated with negative results:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>
April, 1967	
24	Dr. ERNESTO CORDOVA IBARRA, Director Public Health Juarez 71
24	Dr. ALFONSO RODRIGUEZ G. Physician for Hotel "Tropicana" Morelos 74
24	Dr. ANTONIO R. SAHAGUN Juarez 178
26	Dr. AGUSTIN LOPEZ Y ALCALA Juarez 259
26	Dr. ANTONIO TOPETE PALFRMO Zaragoza 30
26	Dra. A. ELIZABETH ORTIZ M. Public Health Clinic and Hospital
26	Dr. LIZANDRO NAVARRO PORTILLO Hotel Rosita Building
29	Dr. PABLO MORRIS and Dra. ANA JOCEFA RAMIREZ Clinic of Las Glorias

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

FIRESTONE DELUXE CHAMPION TIRE, SIZE 7.50 X 14

In connection with the recovery of the white 1966 Mustang at Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968, it was discovered that the right front tire on this car was a Firestone Deluxe Champion, size 7.50 x 14, six-ply rating. Stamped on the tire were the words "Hecha en Mexico," with the following identifying numbers: 2-ME-2; BD-33595; N20Z031154. The tube of this tire had a stamp thereon: "G7, General Popo 7.50 x 14. Made for Helke Poc, General Popo, S.A., Mexico D.I."

At Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico

On May 7, 1968, JUAN MANUEL FREGOSO GUTIERREZ, Avenida Mexico 50, advised the second source that he operates a gasoline station at the corner of 31 de Octubre and 31 de Mayo, and that his wife operates a Firestone tire store which he owns at Avenida Mexico 50.

On May 7, 1968, Mrs. GENOVEVA CURIEL DE FREGOSO, proprietor of the Firestone Store, advised the second source that she did not personally recall seeing the Subject or his car since she was upstairs in her apartment at the time of the transaction. She did recall that an American came in several months earlier to buy a 7.45 x 14 tire and, since they did not have one in stock, the clerk sold him a 7.50 x 14. Mrs. FREGOSO said that this man asked for a discount because the tire was the wrong size, and the clerk called up to the apartment for authority to give the discount. Mrs. FREGOSO said she authorized a ten percent discount on the sale.

Mrs. FREGOSO could recall nothing further about the actual sale, and stated that her brother had mounted the tire on the car, but could recall nothing of the incident. She said the store kept no record of tire serial numbers except to note them on the sales slip at the time of the sale for guaranty purposes. She searched invoices of tires received by the store from the Firestone factory and noted that there were no serial numbers in these invoices. She was, therefore, unable to state whether a particular tire had ever been in their inventory.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

TERESA FERNANDEZ, clerk, Firestone Store, Avenida Mexico 50, advised the second source on May 7, 1968, that the photograph of the Subject wearing sunglasses was immediately recognizable as a man who came into the store one morning to buy a tire. She said he had apparently come from the General Popo Tire Store two doors away. She could not recall the date, but believed that it was in January, 1968.

Miss FERNANDEZ remembered that the Subject's white Mustang had a tire which was badly road-damaged and he asked for a replacement, size 7.45 x 14. Since there were none of this size in stock, she said, he took a size 7.50 x 14 Firestone tire, but requested a discount since it was the wrong size. Miss FERNANDEZ said she spoke to Mrs. FREGOSO, who was in the upstairs apartment, and a ten percent discount was authorized. She said that, since the tire was slightly larger, and because the use of tubes is always recommended due to the difficult terrain, the Subject walked to the General Popo Store and came back with a tube which he had purchased himself. The tire was mounted outside the store by Mrs. FREGOSO's brother.

Miss FERNANDEZ searched for the sales slip recording this transaction, but was unable to locate it. She said that the Subject did not give her his name, and that, since he was not a Mexican, she did not bother to ask his name or to note the serial number of the tire on the sales slip, since this is only done for guaranty purposes.

Continuing, Miss FREGOSO said she lives near the Casa Susana and, after she sold the tire, she remembered seeing the same white Mustang parked on Calle 31 de Octubre around the corner from the Casa Susana. The car was parked in front of a vacant lot and she thought this strange since she saw it there about 3 in the morning on several occasions while she was walking to work. On one occasion as she was on her way to lunch, she saw the Subject park his car and walk up and turn into Matamoros Street. She said she never saw him with any other person and that he was alone the day he came to the store to purchase the tire.

JAMES EARL RAY, aka

On May 7, 1968, ANA MARIA MADERO, clerk, General Popo Tire Store, Avenida Mexico 32, advised the second source that the code "G7" indicates that a tube with this marking will fit a 7.50 x 14 tire. She said she did not recognize the photograph of the Subject or recall his car. She could find no record of a sale of any item to ERIC GALT from October 7, 1967, to May 7, 1968.

Miss MADERO stated that if she did not know the name of the person to whom she made a sale, but knew that the sale was connected with a purchase made at the Firestone Store, she normally put the name of MANUEL FREGOSO on the sales slip. In this connection, a review of the sales slips showed that a G7 tube was sold for cash to MANUEL FREGOSO on October 26, 1967, and on January 13, 1968. In each case, the price was 57 pesos (\$4.56 U.S.).

F B I

Date: 9/5/68

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

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Birmingham Airtel to the Bureau, 9/2/68.

The Memphis Office is of the opinion that WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE should not dictate circumstances under which he furnishes information to the Bureau. Memphis Office also is of the opinion that no contact should be made with Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE to secure any favor whatsoever for WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE nor should any photographs of JAMES EARL RAY be made available.

No further action in this matter being taken by Memphis Division.

3 - Bureau
2 - Birmingham (44-1740)
1 - Memphis
RGJ:ME
(6)

REC 102

SEP 7 1968

SLX

51 SEP 13 1968

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : MR. TROTTER *cl. for*

DATE: 8-30-68

FROM : S. F. Latona *A*

SUBJECT: MURKIN

LATENT PRINT ON PAYROLL CHECK

A latent print developed on a payroll check of the Indian Trail Restaurant, Inc., Winnetka, Illinois, dated 6-18-67, and payable to John L. Rayns, has been identified as the right thumbprint of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.

Chicago and Memphis Divisions have been advised.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

1 - Mr. Rosen

GJB:emg
(4)

44-38861-

56 SEP 12 1968

F B I

Date: 9-6-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTN: ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISIONFROM: ~~NLF~~ LEGAT, MEXICO (173-1) (P)MURKIN
COST DATA

Re Mexico City airtel 8-2-68.

Cost data set forth below represents the best figures available, based partially on estimates, from 8-1/31-68.

I. Total Man Hours

	<u>Regular</u>	<u>Overtime</u>	<u>Total</u>
Special Agent	12	4	16
Clerical	4	0	4

II. Total Mileage: None

III. Unusual Costs: None

IV. Peak Number of Special Agents Working
on Case During Period: 2

4 - Bureau
(1 - Liaison Section)
1 - Mexico City

JJF:wr
(5)

NOT RECORDED
4 SEP 9 1968

Approved: _____

Sent _____

M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

56 SEP 11 1968

REC'D-CALLAHAN
FBI

SEP 10 9 28 AM '68

REC'D - 40-40000
FBI

SEP 9 4 57 PM '68