

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JAMES EARL RAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

On January 22, 1969, Special Agent Edward M. Cole telephonically attempted to contact Reverend Bevel at approximately 2:30 p.m. The person answering stated Reverend Bevel would not return until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.

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*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

Title JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Character

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as
above at Philadelphia, Pa.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Reverend James Bevel was interviewed at his residence, 919 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., on January 21, 1969. The following are the results of this interview:

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/22
ON 10-16-01

Classified By X 880
Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/EGM 6/9/77

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 1/23/69

Reverend JAMES BEVEL was interviewed for ten minutes at his residence. He stated he was extremely busy as he had appointments through 11:00 p.m. that day. While the interview was in progress, a woman asked BEVEL if he could speak to a member of the press. BEVEL told her to tell the person on the telephone he was tied up until 11:00 p.m.

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BEVEL stated that at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING

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On 1/21/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. 2 File # Philadelphia 44-1368

SA RALPH C. HAMNER and
by SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

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PH 44-1368

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MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

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DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/aa
ON 10-16-81

Classified By 6080
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/EGM 6/9/77

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OTHERWISE

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-5526

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 1/23/69

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On 1/21/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 44-1368

by SA RALPH C. HAMNER and
SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

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FBI WASH DC

RECEIVED
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 8 0 1969

TELETYPE

FBI ATLANTA

3:48 PM URGENT 1/30/69 SAT

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND MEMPHIS

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

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	_____

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TEL TO ATLANTA JAN. TWENTYNINE, SIXTYNINE.

APPOINTMENT WAS MADE THIS DATE FOR INTERVIEW WITH REV. RALPH ABERNATHY. WHEN SA'S O. RICHARD HAMILTON AND ARTHUR L. MURTAGH ARRIVED AT SCLC HEADQUARTERS, ABERNATHY'S SECRETARY ADVISED HE WAS NOT IN BUT SHE WOULD CONTACT HIM ON THE TELEPHONE. SA HAMILTON TELEPHONICALLY TALKED WITH ALBERNATHY WHO APOLOGIZED FOR BEING UNABLE TO KEEP THE APPOINTMENT AND SAID HE WAS "VISITING THE SICK".

ABERNATHY ADVISED CONCERNING HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THAT WHAT HE ACTUALLY STATED WAS IN VIEW OF THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THERE WOULD BE AN INDICATION TO HIM

END PAGE ONE

REC 82

5527

JAN 30 4 30 PM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JAN 30 5 26 PM '69

RE IN ORDER OF THE... LETTER... JAN 30 5 26

[illegible]

1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

2000 年 12 月 15 日

1. 1975-1976 2. 1977-1978 3. 1979-1980 4. 1981-1982 5. 1983-1984 6. 1985-1986 7. 1987-1988 8. 1989-1990 9. 1991-1992 10. 1993-1994 11. 1995-1996 12. 1997-1998 13. 1999-2000 14. 2001-2002 15. 2003-2004 16. 2005-2006 17. 2007-2008 18. 2009-2010 19. 2011-2012 20. 2013-2014 21. 2015-2016 22. 2017-2018 23. 2019-2020 24. 2021-2022 25. 2023-2024 26. 2025-2026 27. 2027-2028 28. 2029-2030 29. 2031-2032 30. 2033-2034 31. 2035-2036 32. 2037-2038 33. 2039-2040 34. 2041-2042 35. 2043-2044 36. 2045-2046 37. 2047-2048 38. 2049-2050 39. 2051-2052 40. 2053-2054 41. 2055-2056 42. 2057-2058 43. 2059-2060 44. 2061-2062 45. 2063-2064 46. 2065-2066 47. 2067-2068 48. 2069-2070 49. 2071-2072 50. 2073-2074 51. 2075-2076 52. 2077-2078 53. 2079-2080 54. 2081-2082 55. 2083-2084 56. 2085-2086 57. 2087-2088 58. 2089-2090 59. 2091-2092 60. 2093-2094 61. 2095-2096 62. 2097-2098 63. 2099-2100 64. 2101-2102 65. 2103-2104 66. 2105-2106 67. 2107-2108 68. 2109-2110 69. 2111-2112 70. 2113-2114 71. 2115-2116 72. 2117-2118 73. 2119-2120 74. 2121-2122 75. 2123-2124 76. 2125-2126 77. 2127-2128 78. 2129-2130 79. 2131-2132 80. 2133-2134 81. 2135-2136 82. 2137-2138 83. 2139-2140 84. 2141-2142 85. 2143-2144 86. 2145-2146 87. 2147-2148 88. 2149-2150 89. 2151-2152 90. 2153-2154 91. 2155-2156 92. 2157-2158 93. 2159-2160 94. 2161-2162 95. 2163-2164 96. 2165-2166 97. 2167-2168 98. 2169-2170 99. 2171-2172 100. 2173-2174 101. 2175-2176 102. 2177-2178 103. 2179-2180 104. 2181-2182 105. 2183-2184 106. 2185-2186 107. 2187-2188 108. 2189-2190 109. 2191-2192 110. 2193-2194 111. 2195-2196 112. 2197-2198 113. 2199-2200 114. 2201-2202 115. 2203-2204 116. 2205-2206 117. 2207-2208 118. 2209-2210 119. 2211-2212 120. 2213-2214 121. 2215-2216 122. 2217-2218 123. 2219-2220 124. 2221-2222 125. 2223-2224 126. 2225-2226 127. 2227-2228 128. 2229-2230 129. 2231-2232 130. 2233-2234 131. 2235-2236 132. 2237-2238 133. 2239-2240 134. 2241-2242 135. 2243-2244 136. 2245-2246 137. 2247-2248 138. 2249-2250 139. 2251-2252 140. 2253-2254 141. 2255-2256 142. 2257-2258 143. 2259-2260 144. 2261-2262 145. 2263-2264 146. 2265-2266 147. 2267-2268 148. 2269-2270 149. 2271-2272 150. 2273-2274 151. 2275-2276 152. 2277-2278 153. 2279-2280 154. 2281-2282 155. 2283-2284 156. 2285-2286 157. 2287-2288 158. 2289-2290 159. 2291-2292 160. 2293-2294 161. 2295-2296 162. 2297-2298 163. 2299-2300 164. 2301-2302 165. 2303-2304 166. 2305-2306 167. 2307-2308 168. 2309-2310 169. 2311-2312 170. 2313-2314 171. 2315-2316 172. 2317-2318 173. 2319-2320 174. 2321-2322 175. 2323-2324 176. 2325-2326 177. 2327-2328 178. 2329-2330 179. 2331-2332 180. 2333-2334 181. 2335-2336 182. 2337-2338 183. 2339-2340 184. 2341-2342 185. 2343-2344 186. 2345-2346 187. 2347-2348 188. 2349-2350 189. 2351-2352 190. 2353-2354 191. 2355-2356 192. 2357-2358 193. 2359-2360 194. 2361-2362 195. 2363-2364 196. 2365-2366 197. 2367-2368 198. 2369-2370 199. 2371-2372 200. 2373-2374 201. 2375-2376 202. 2377-2378 203. 2379-2380 204. 2381-2382 205. 2383-2384 206. 2385-2386 207. 2387-2388 208. 2389-2390 209. 2391-2392 210. 2393-2394 211. 2395-2396 212. 2397-2398 213. 2399-2400 214. 2401-2402 215. 2403-2404 216. 2405-2406 217. 2407-2408 218. 2409-2410 219. 2411-2412 220. 2413-2414 221. 2415-2416 222. 2417-2418 223. 2419-2420 224. 2421-2422 225. 2423-2424 226. 2425-2426 227. 2427-2428 228. 2429-2430 229. 2431-2432 230. 2433-2434 231. 2435-2436 232. 2437-2438 233. 2439-2440 234. 2441-2442 235. 2443-2444 236. 2445-2446 237. 2447-2448 238. 2449-2450 239. 2451-2452 240. 2453-2454 241. 2455-2456 242. 2457-2458 243. 2459-2460 244. 2461-2462 245. 2463-2464 246. 2465-2466 247. 2467-2468 248. 2469-2470 249. 2471-2472 250. 2473-2474 251. 2475-2476 252. 2477-2478 253. 2479-2480 254. 2481-2482 255. 2483-2484 256. 2485-2486 257. 2487-2488 258. 2489-2490 259. 2491-2492 260. 2493-2494 261. 2495-2496 262. 2497-2498 263. 2499-2500 264. 2501-2502 265. 2503-2504 266. 2505-2506 267. 2507-2508 268. 2509-2510 269. 2511-2512 270. 2513-2514 271. 2515-2516 272. 2517-2518 273. 2519-2520 274. 2521-2522 275. 2523-2524 276. 2525-2526 277. 2527-2528 278. 2529-2530 279. 2531-2532 280. 2533-2534 28

•••••

1. *Chlorophyll a* and *Chlorophyll b* were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971).

Journal of Management Education 30(6)

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY AMONG THE "FORCES OF EVIL" TO DO AWAY WITH ANY YOUNG "MILITANT" WHO STANDS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ABERNATHY STATED HE HAS NO EVIDENCE NOR HAS HE HEARD FROM ANY SOURCE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THIS MATTER. HE ADVISED THAT THE STATEMENT MADE TO THE PRESS CONCERNING A CONSPIRACY CONCERNED THE ASSASSINATIONS OF ALL THE ABOVE MEN.

ABERNATHY ADVISED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, REV. JAMES LAWSON, MINISTER OF CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH, MEMPHIS, TOLD HIM IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DAY PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WHO WORKED IN THE FIRE STATION ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WERE MOVED, LEAVING SOME UNMANNED FIRE EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO LAWSON, THE TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WERE MOVED TO FIRE STATIONS WHICH WERE ALREADY FULLY MANNED AND EQUIPPED. ALSO ACCORDING TO LAWSON, A NEGRO POLICEMAN WHO WORKED THE BEAT WHICH INCLUDED THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WAS MOVED OFF OF THAT BEAT THE DAY KING WAS KILLED.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE 4 FEB 85

THAT INFORMATION ALONG WITH WHAT HE HAS HEARD AND READ CONCERNING UNIDENTIFIED RADIO CALLS WHICH DIVERTED A SEARCH FOR A WHITE MUSTANG LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER.

MEMPHIS CONTACT REV. JAMES LAWSON CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER IF NOT ALREADY DONE AND CONDUCT ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

END

P

ERT

FBI WASH DC

TU@

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT
JAN 30 3 53 PM '69

100

FBI WASH DC

FBI

B

FBI

RECEIVE THE MATTER.

IS NOT AHEAD OF TIME AND CONDUCT THE NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO
REVEAL CONTACT WITH JAMES GANSON CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER
A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER.

FOR A WHILE LONGER LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE
CERTAIN UNIDENTIFIED RADIO STATIONS WHICH DISCLOSE A SEVERAL

THAT INFORMATION WOULD WITH WHAT HE HAS HEARD AND HEAR CON-

BTCHFFBEE

F B I

Date: 1/21/69

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

To: Director, FBI

ATTENTION:

From: SAC, PHILADELPHIA
(44-1368)☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION☒ GENERAL INVEST. DIV.☐ DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.Subject: MURKIN

☒ CR ☐ EL ☐ VRA-65 ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF
☐ BM ☐ BM-Threats ☐ Racial Matters
☐ Klan ☐ Organization

Summary of Complaint:

Remytels 1/19/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of a self-explanatory LHM. Info copies furnished Memphis and Atlanta.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 3) (RM)
 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) (RM)
 1 - Atlanta (Enc. 1) (RM)
 2 - Philadelphia
 1 - 44-1368
 1 - 100-47194 (SCLC)

JRW/JBK
(8)

REC-91

11 JAN 23 1969

ACTION: UACB:

☒ No further action being taken and
☒ LHM enclosed ☒ Copy furnished to USA, EDPa.
☐ LHM being submitted
☐ Report being submitted
☐ Preliminary investigation instituted
☐ Limited investigation instituted

Approved

57 FEB 7 1969

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

25 FEB 1 1969

JAN 31 1969

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
JAN 23 4 55 PM 1969
REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JAN 23 4 51 PM '69
F. B. I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 23 1969

REC'D
JAN 30 1 25 AM 1969

TO: SAC, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
FROM: SAC, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
JAN 23 1969

- (8)
- 134/28K
- 1 - 100-44701 (20FC)
- 1 - 100-1388
- 1 - BUREAU (100-1388)
- 1 - MEMPHIS (100-1388) (RM)
- 1 - MEMPHIS (100-1388) (RM)
- 1 - BUREAU (100-1388) (RM)

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of a

MEMPHIS 1/23/69

WOKKIA

(100-1388)

BUREAU (100-1388)

(6)

REGISTERED MAIL

1/23/69

PH 44-1368

WF 1928-PRI advised 1/14/68 that Reverend JAMES BEVEL at an SCLC meeting recently held at Frogmore, S. C., wanted the Reverend RALPH ABERNATHY of SCLC to step down in favor of the Reverend JESSE JACKSON. WF 1928-PRI also said BEVEL was returning to Philadelphia to create a furor in the next four to six months.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 21, 1969

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

Philadelphia news media on January 19, 1969, carried information that the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, Southern Christian Leadership Council of Philadelphia, Pa., sent a telegram to JAMES EARL RAY stating RAY did not kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and BEVEL, who was present at KING's death, offered to testify in RAY's behalf.

On January 19, 1969, BEVEL appeared on WCAU-TV, Philadelphia, special news program during the half-time of the National Football League All-Star Game, stating that he had evidence that JAMES EARL RAY did not kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BEVEL refused to divulge his evidentiary information but offered to defend RAY in court though he (BEVEL) was not a licensed attorney, but was learned in the law and had had much experience in defending cases in the courts. BEVEL said he analyzed all the facts and concluded RAY was not guilty.

BEVEL said he was speaking for his friends in SCLC including the Reverend RALPH ABERNATHY.

The television interview said that an unnamed official of the SCLC in Atlanta, Ga., had told WCAU-TV that BEVEL has been under pressure and was speaking for himself, not SCLC.

The following is a verbatim tape transcription of the KYW Television news, 11 p.m., January 19, 1969:

Eleven o'clock report in color with BERT ROSELL and the eyewitness news team.

ROSELL: Good evening. There is a bizarre twist of events today in the case of JAMES EARL RAY. RAY is accused of killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and goes on trial in Memphis, Tenn., March 3. The Reverend JAMES BEVEL is Director of Non-violent

ENCLOSURE

44-3886 / 5528

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

Education and Direction Action for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He was with KING when the civil rights leader was gunned down. BEVEL says that RAY is innocent and has offered to serve as RAY's attorney, free of charge. I talked to BEVEL this afternoon at his Philadelphia headquarters.

ROSELL: Reverend, how do you know that he is not guilty?

BEVEL: Well, in terms of gathering evidence, being present, studying the whole problem of men being murdered, how it is done, from all the logical conclusion and evidence that I have gathered my conclusion, based on the knowledge, in terms we built it to experience, knowledge to the sense that the five senses and even the sixth sense, my conclusion is that JAMES EARL RAY did not kill Dr. KING.

ROSELL: What evidence do you have to support your conclusions that JAMES EARL RAY is innocent?

BEVEL: Well, I would not like to get into my evidence and my information in terms of that because if he asks me to take the case, and I don't know whether he will or not, for me to give that information now would not be to his advantage.

ROSELL: Why have you held back this long in offering your services and proclaiming the innocence of JAMES EARL RAY?

BEVEL: Well, I don't know, probably because I have never (pause) I was involved in developing as I am now, because I was in a movement here in Philadelphia and I just haven't thought in terms of offering this free kind of service to him. When I started thinking about this particular predicament, then I thought about.....

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

The following is an interview of Reverend JAMES BEVEL by JAY SILVA, over television station WCAU, Philadelphia. This is the local CBS affiliate. The announcer was RON MILLER. The person interviewing BEVEL was JAY SILVA.

MILLER: Reverend JAMES BEVEL of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) says he will keep the evidence he has which he says would prove that JAMES EARL RAY did not assassinate Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, if RAY does not accept BEVEL's offer of legal representation. Reverend BEVEL sent a telegram to RAY yesterday offering to represent him in court without a fee. The telegram added, "I was present on April 4th at the Lorraine Motel when Dr. KING died. You have been accused of murdering him; of course, I know you aren't guilty." Today, newsmen JAY SILVA asked Reverend BEVEL about the proof he says he has concerning RAY's innocence.

BEVEL: Number one, based on the evidence that I have in terms of the incident that took place and based on the opinion of all of my friends, I don't have a friend that I know that thinks that he did it. I thought (inaudible) that the man is not guilty and have come to my conclusions, and based on my evidence.

SILVA: What specifically is the evidence that leads you to this conclusion?

BEVEL: At this time, I don't want to tell about that because if I was going to defend him, you see, then I would have to present that information to the jury. So, I would not go into the details of my evidence at this time because I would have to deal with that with the jury.

SILVA: You say that you have specific evidence that shows JAMES EARL RAY was not the man who murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BEVEL: Mhm.

SILVA: Then, do you have any idea who did, that shows JAMES EARL RAY was not the man who murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING?

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

BEVEL: Mhm.

SILVA: Well then, do you have any idea who did?

BEVEL: Now, I am not a district attorney. It is the responsibility of the district attorney to find out who killed people. And it is the responsibility of the defense attorney to prove that a particular person is not guilty. So that, in the way the courts work, it is never the responsibility of the defense attorney to prove who did kill someone. It is his job to defend the person who has been accused, that they are not guilty.

SILVA: You said you would defend JAMES EARL RAY without any fee. Are you a lawyer?

BEVEL: No, I am not a licensed lawyer. I have handled cases in court for the last few years. I have been in court quite a bit and I have handled most of my cases. The other thing is that I do know the law.

SILVA: The one thing that intrigues is, why have you held back this information for so long?

BEVEL: Well, number one, I hadn't thought about offering him my services. Now, the reason I, like I said, when you bind information together then you can come to conclusions. The first I said, he is not guilty. The next thing I said, he needs a good lawyer. He needs the best lawyer that the country can afford. And, of course, that means a lawyer who has knowledge enough in that situation and who knows the law. He needs a lawyer that can convince the jury that he is not guilty. And that's why I offered him my services, because I was interested in his having the best possible lawyer with the maximum amount of knowledge in law to defend him before the jury, because the jury and the country pretty much has resigned the motion that the man is guilty and they are just waiting to have a lynching party with him, you know. It is very difficult at this point considering the emotional attachment to Dr. KING that most people had, to have a fair trial.

SILVA: Do you speak for yourself on this issue?

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

BEVEL: For my friends? Ah, yes, my friends, RUTH BASCOMBE, BEVERLY ERIC, REVEREND SHEPPARD, DU BRADY, REVEREND ABERNATHY, MRS. ABERNATHY, MRS. KING, ANDY YOUNG.

SILVA: Do you say Reverend ABERNATHY agrees with you? You said your friends come to the same conclusion as you have.

BEVEL: I don't have any friends who ever told me that EARL RAY was guilty.

SILVA: So, inasfar as you know, Reverend ABERNATHY agrees with you.

BEVEL: Certainly, in terms of his ^{LAFAYETTE} position on him and I just talked to BERNARD LOVIER who is our Program Director and I pointed out that if RAY would give me the case, he would help me to do a lot of the research and defend him.

MILLER: In Atlanta, Georgia, a spokesman for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said he, Reverend BEVEL, has been under a lot of pressure recently. Since Dr. KING's death he has gone into a deep depression and if he sent the telegram, he is speaking for himself.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE PHILADELPHIA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN PHILADELPHIA	DATE 1/31/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/23/69 - 1/29/69
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; REVEREND JAMES BEVEL - VICTIM o MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY EDWARD M. COLE	TYPED BY BSM
		CHARACTER OF CASE POSSIBLE EXTORTION	

REFERENCES

Bureau teletype to Philadelphia, dated 1/23/69.
 Philadelphia teletypes to Bureau, dated 1/23/69, 1/24/69, 1/27/69, 1/28/69, and 1/29/69.
 Memphis teletype to Bureau, dated 1/24/69.

- C -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☐ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☐ NO
APPROVED						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPIES MADE: <u>COPY INFORMATION ON PAGE AA</u>						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
						44-38861- NOT RECORDED 149 FEB 6 1969	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency							
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

9 MAR 13 1969

PH 9-3113

COPIES MADE:

4 - Bureau
1 - 44-38861
1 - 100-448006

1 - USA, EDPA (JRS)

1 - Atlanta (Info)

1 - Memphis (9-1501) (Info)

4 - Philadelphia
1 - 9-3113
1 - 157-2845 (SCLC)
1 - 157-2979 (J. BEVEL)
1 - 100-Dead (C. MOORE)

- AA -
COVER PAGE

PH 9-3113

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Four copies of this report are being submitted to the Bureau since the Bureau may desire to forward one copy to the Department.

Captain CHARLES CONROY, Intelligence Squad, Philadelphia Police Department, advised on 1/30/69 his squad is investigating this matter.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, EDPA (JRS)

Report of: SA EDWARD M. COLE
Date: 1/31/69

Office: Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

Field Office File #: 9-3113

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
REVEREND JAMES BEVEL - VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE EXTORTION

Synopsis: Telegram sent by CEDRIC MOORE to Director, FBI, President RICHARD M. NIXON, Philadelphia Police Department Commissioner FRANK RIZZO, and Philadelphia Mayor JAMES H. J. TATE stating that someone was going to kill the Reverend JAMES E. BEVEL, Southern Christian Leadership Conference official in Philadelphia, because of BEVEL's statements that JAMES EARL RAY was innocent in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Southern Christian Leadership Conference President. MOORE and BEVEL interviewed regarding threat and telegrams, and both stated MICKEY MC MILLAN, not further identified, told them at Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters on January 20 or 21, 1969, about the people he had heard stating they would burn down the building in which BEVEL resides, and also that a "contract was out" on BEVEL. No letter through mail, interstate telephone calls, or telegrams involved in threat. United States Attorney declined.

- C -

DETAILS: This case is predicated on a telegram received by the FBI on January 23, 1969, from CEDRIC MOORE, Assistant Non-Violent Education, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Philadelphia, Pa. The telegram states, "I am informing you that a serious threat is being made on Rev. JAMES BEVEL life concerning his defense of JAMES EARL RAY."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 31, 1969

1
CEDRIC MOORE, currently residing at 919 North 18th Street, Southern Christian Leadership Conference Headquarters of Philadelphia, was interviewed regarding a telegram he sent to J. EDGAR HOOVER, President NIXON, Philadelphia Police Commissioner RIZZO, and Philadelphia Mayor JAMES H. J. TATE, stating a serious threat was being made on the life of Reverend JAMES BEVEL concerning his defense of JAMES EARL RAY.

MOORE stated he is not familiar with many Philadelphia people as he just came to Philadelphia from Memphis. He has been in Philadelphia for a little over one week.

MOORE stated that on either January 20 or 21, 1969, an individual named MICKEY MC MILLAN, who occasionally visits Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, stated that a group of "cats" were incensed at BEVEL's statements that JAMES EARL RAY, alleged killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was innocent. MC MILLAN stated these "cats" made the statement they would burn the building down in which BEVEL resides.

MOORE could not identify MC MILLAN further, nor could he furnish MC MILLAN's residence address or telephone number.

MOORE also advised that on either January 20 or 21, 1969, while walking past a room at 919 North 18th Street, he heard someone say, "BEVEL should be careful." He could not identify the person who spoke nor could he identify anyone else in the room.

On 1/28/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 9-3113
by SA'S EDWARD M. COLE
and JOHN R. WINEBERG EMC:BSM Date dictated 1/30/69

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 29, 1969

On January 29, 1969, the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, Philadelphia Branch, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), was interviewed regarding the threats made to his life by an unknown group of individuals after BEVEL sent a telegram to JAMES EARL RAY proclaiming RAY innocent of the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BEVEL said that on either Monday or Tuesday, January 20 or 21, 1969, an individual known to him only as MICKEY MC MILLAN of Philadelphia, Pa., who has drifted in and out of the Philadelphia SCLC Office, was in the building, and told BEVEL that since BEVEL had sent the telegram to RAY, that some "cats" in Philadelphia were mad at BEVEL's telegram. MC MILLAN did not describe where he heard these people talking, who they were, or when it was said, but the "cats" were talking about blowing up the SCLC building in which BEVEL lived and that a "contract" (to kill) was out for BEVEL. BEVEL said there was no mention made of a telegram, interstate telephone call, or a communication through the mail. It was all oral.

BEVEL again said that he had information and evidence that would prove RAY had not killed KING, but he said he would not divulge this information unless he was allowed to defend RAY in court. He did say that RAY had a psychomotor defect that would preclude RAY shooting a rifle accurately.

He also said that he was not concerned about the threats made against him by disgruntled "brothers" because he had lived with threats since 1961, when he had joined KING and the SCLC.

On 1/29/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 9-3113

SAS JOHN R. WINEBERG
and DONALD G. COX JRW:BSM

by

Date dictated 1/29/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. 3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 31, 1969

CEDRIC MOORE, 919 North 18th Street, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Aide to the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, was interviewed, and he advised that he had no information that the threats to the life and safety of BEVEL had been made by interstate telephone, telegraph, or through the United States Mail.

On 1/29/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 9-3113
by SAS JOHN R. WINEBERG
AND DONALD G. COX JRW:BSM Date dictated 1/29/69

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency. 4

PH 9-3113

Assistant United States Attorney JOHN R. SUTTON, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., was advised by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG of the above information on January 29, 1969, and stated that Federal prosecution was being declined because the facts did not constitute a violation of Federal law.

F B I

Date: 1/23/69

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	

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

Executive Assistant Attorney General ROBERT K. DWYER, Memphis, Tenn., has requested that Mr. IAN COLVIN, a reporter for the "Daily Telegraph," London, England, be re-interviewed in detail concerning attempts made by the subject to contact him for assistance in joining an army of white mercenaries. Mr. DWYER requests that COLVIN be sounded out as to his willingness to come to this country to testify in subject's trial, beginning about 3/3/69.

REC 11

44-38861-5529

W. C. Bishop

Airtel _____

Teletype _____

③ - Bureau
 2 - Memphis

A.M. _____

JCH:jap
 (5)

A.M.S.D. _____

Spec. Del. _____

airtel to Legat, London
 1-31-69
 REC. JMS
 CC-711E
 JAN 23 1969
 2-4
 [Stamp]

Approved: Regener Reg. Mail _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
 Special Agent in Charge Registered _____

RECEIVED - ROSEN
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5710
REC'D - ROSEN
FBI

JAN 25 3 54 PM '69
FEB 3 3 55 PM '69
F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JAN 25 1 21 PM '69
JAN 27 7 06 PM '69
DELOACH
FBI

4 DIRECTOR
JAN 25 '69

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]

January 31, 1969

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long

To: Legat, London

REC 11

From: Director, FBI (44-38861) - 5529

MURKIN

ReMKAirtel to the Bureau dated 1-23-69.

Mr. Robert E. Dwyer, Executive Assistant to the State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, who is handling the state prosecution of James Earl Ray, has requested that Mr. Ian Colvin, a reporter for the "Daily Telegraph," London, England, be re-interviewed to determine if he can recall any conversation with James Earl Ray beyond that information previously furnished to New Scotland Yard. It is noted that Ray contacted Mr. Colvin in June of 1968, and requested assistance in joining an army of white mercenaries.

Mr. Dwyer did not have the opportunity to interview Mr. Colvin during Dwyer's stay in London (October 20, 21, 1968) when he interviewed other witnesses in this matter.

Mr. Dwyer further requested that Mr. Colvin be interviewed regarding his willingness to come to Memphis, Tennessee, to testify in Ray's trial beginning on or about March 3, 1969.

You should make the appropriate arrangements to have Colvin interviewed in accordance with the above request. Expedite.

1 - Memphis

1 - Foreign Liaison (Cleared with SA Graham Day)

REL:sds/jms
(6)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

57 FEB 12 1969

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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

2 FEB 1969

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATION
DIVISION 510

(e) JAN 31 10 57 AM '69
REC'D BY: [illegible]

FBI

F. B. I.

REC'D MAIL ROOM

JAN 31 12 04 PM '69

JAN 31 12 14 PM '69
REC'D DELOACH
FBI

JAN 31 2 04 PM '69

JAN 31 12 46 PM '69

MAILED 1
JAN 31 1969
COMM-FBI

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

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J - AL FOUR

NOTE:

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

The office of the State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, is prosecuting the state's case against James Earl Ray. This case is scheduled for trial in Memphis, on March 3, 1969. In preparation of the state's trial Mr. Robert K. Dwyer, Executive Assistant to the State Attorney General, requests that Mr. Ian Colvin, a reporter for the "Daily Telegraph," London, England, be re-interviewed concerning the contact with him by Ray, and Colvin's willingness to come to Memphis to testify at the trial.

SAC, Memphis, has advised that Mr. Dwyer did not have the opportunity to interview Mr. Colvin and he would desire to determine if Mr. Colvin can recall any additional conversation he had with Ray beyond that previously furnished by Colvin to New Scotland Yard authorities.

Legat, London, is being instructed to make appropriate arrangements to have Colvin interviewed in accordance with request of Memphis authorities.

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	

CONFIDENTIAL

WA3 FBI PHILA

926PM 1-21-69 URGENT JLK

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 (CODE)

FROM PHILADELPHIA 44-1368 3P

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S)
DATE 1-21-69

MURKIN

REMYTELS DATED ONE NINETEEN SIXTYNINE AND ONE TWENTYONE SIXTYNINE.

REVEREND JAMES BEVEL INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AT HIS RESIDENCE,
NINE ONE NINE NORTH EIGHTEENTH ST., PHILA., PA. AGENTS WAITED THIRTY
MINUTES FOR BEVEL WHO WAS HOLDING A MEETING IN THE NEXT APARTMENT.

BEVEL STATED HE WAS EXTREMELY BUSY AS HE HAD APPOINTMENTS THROUGH
ELEVEN PM, ONE TWENTYONE SIXTYNINE. BEVEL STATED THAT HE HAD PROOF
OF THE INNOCENCE OF JAMES EARL RAY AND THAT SINCE THE FBI WAS THE
PROSECUTOR AND HE WAS INVOLVED WITH THE DEFENSE, HE FELT HE SHOULD
NOT FURNISH THE INFORMATION. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO BEVEL THAT THE FBI
DID NOT PROSECUTE ANYONE BUT ALWAYS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN ALL
FACTS AVAILABLE. FURTHER, BEVEL STATED HE SENT TELEGRAM TO RAY ON
SATURDAY, JANUARY EIGHTEEN SIXTYNINE, AND AS YET HAS RECEIVED
NO ANSWER. BEVEL STATED HE PLANS TO CALL PERCY FOREMAN, ATTORNEY FOR RAY

END PAGE ONE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

REC-33

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/ao
ON 10-19-01

12 FEB 4 1969

57 FEB 17 1969

Classified by 6080
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/EGM 6/9/77

CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DIVISION 5712

JAN 22 8 29 AM '69

RECEIVED
F B I

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JAN 21 10 09 PM '69

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

JAN 22 11 10 AM '69

F B I
REC'D - CIVIL RIGHTS

JAN 22 1 45 PM '69

RECEIVED
F B I

F B I
REC'D BISHOP

REC'D - BISHOP

JAN 22 12 00 PM '69

JAN 24 8 30 AM '69

RECEIVED
F B I

JAN 23 10 07 AM '69

PAGE TWO

PH 44-1368

TONIGHT, AND OFFER HIS SERVICES. BEVEL STATED HE WOULD TELEPHONE CONTACTING AGENTS ON ONE TWENTYTWO AND ADVISE IF FOREMAN ACCEPTS HIS OFFER. IF FOREMAN DOES NOT ACCEPT HIS OFFER HE PLANS TO DROP ENTIRE MATTER AS HE FEELS HE HAS NO MORAL OBLIGATION TOWARD RAY TO PRODUCE HIS EVIDENCE OF RAY'S INNOCENCE IF HIS OFFER OF HELP WAS REFUSED.

BEVEL STATED HE WAS AT LORRAINE MOTEL ON THE GROUND UNDERNEATH BALCONY AT THE TIME KING WAS SHOT.

PH EIGHT NINE SEVEN R ADVISED TODAY HE SPOKE TO BEVEL WITH OTHERS CONCERNING BEVEL'S STATEMENT ON RAY'S INNOCENCE. DURING DISCUSSION WITH BEVEL IT WAS THE GENERAL FEELING OF THE MILITANTS THAT RAY WAS GUILTY AND BEVEL SHOULD EITHER FURNISH WHAT EVIDENCE HE HAS OR KEEP QUIET. (C)

BEVEL TOLD THIS GROUP HE HAS NO EVIDENCE BUT THAT HE FEELS THE "SYSTEM" IS KILLING A MAN NOT WORTH ANYTHING WHILE THIS MAN KILLED A GREAT MAN. (C)

BEVEL STATED THAT IF HE IS ALLOWED TO DEFEND RAY HE WILL BRING OUT EVERYTHING THAT THE "SYSTEM" DID TO CAUSE THE DEATH OF KING. (C)

END PAGE TWO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE THREE

PH 44-1368

BEVEL ALSO STATED HE FEELS THIS IS A METHOD TO REJUVENATE
SCLC IN PHILA. AS SCLC HAS FALLEN OFF TO ALMOST NOTHING IN PHILA.
IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BEVEL STATED HE IS TO RECEIVE A CHECK BY
WESTERN UNION FROM SCLC, ATLANTA, FOR FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. (u)

END

WA...EFH

FBI WASH DC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JAN 21 9 37 AM '69

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January 22, 1969

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

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

The attached is results of an interview with Reverend James Bevel, Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, Pa. regarding his statement on a television interview on 1/19/69 that he had evidence that James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bevel stated he was at Lorraine Motel on the ground underneath balcony at the time King was shot (4/4/68). It is noted that Bevel was a registered guest at the Lorraine Motel during this period of time, however he refused to be interviewed in April '68.

You will be advised of additional pertinent developments.

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1037.

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1. *Pharmaceutical Innovation and the Role of the State*
 2. *The Impact of Patent Law on Drug Development*
 3. *The Role of Government in Regulating Pharmaceuticals*
 4. *The Impact of Health Insurance on Drug Access*
 5. *The Role of the Pharmaceutical Industry in Public Health*