

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

## Judge Praises Memphis

"I submit that, up to now, we have not done too badly for a 'decadent river town.' If I may be permitted to add a light touch to a solemn occasion, I would like to paraphrase the great and eloquent Winston Churchill who, in defiant reply to the Axis threat to wring England's neck like a chicken, said, 'Some chicken—some neck.'

I would like to reply to Memphis' critic: 'Some river—some town.'"

-Judge W. Preston Battle



MAY 1962 EDITION GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27 UNITED STATES MENT

Memorandum

TO

: Mr. DeLoact

A. Rosen **FROM** 

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: March 13, 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Mallev

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

DeLoach Callahan Conrad. Felt Sullivan Tavel. Trotter Tele. Room Holmes Gandy

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This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King

Reference is made to previous memoranda concerning Jensen's plan to interview subject Ray in the above-entitled matter at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee.

I had previously advised that Jensen had entered the maximum security building of the institution at 3:44 p.m. This information was furnished to the Director's Office immediately thereafter.

It is also pointed out that the steps outlined and the Director's comments concerning the need to make no public statement as the press and TV would descend on the penitentiary en masse were brought to the attention of Assistant Attorney General Leonard of the Civil Rights Division after Jensen had started his interview with Ray today. Mr. Leonard indicated he fully agreed that any publicity at this time would be most undesirable.

Mr. Leonard asked to be informed of developments which might have a bearing on this matter as it will be necessary to decide. in the event Ray is not cooperative and there is no possibility of further getting any cooperation from him, as to whether he should be brought before a Federal Grand Jury and be questioned under oath concerning the existence of coconspirators.

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ACTION TO BE TAKEN: In accordance with the Director's instructions, the results of the interview of subject Ray by SAC Jensen will be furnished to the Director before any further action is taken to disseminate such information to the Department. It is noted that Leonard indicated he was in close touch with the Attorney General in this matter and is anxious to know of developments. The information will therefore not be furnished to Mr. Leonard until it receives the Director's approval.

SEE NOTE ON PRYFRSE SIDE

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Mr. Rosen

FROM : C. L. McGowan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: March 14, 1969

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

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On 3/14/69, Attorney Jack Greenberg, Counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City, contacted the New York Office and advised that he plans to meet with Attorney Russell Phompson, Memphis, Tennessee, at New York City, on Monday, 3/17/69, at 9:00 A.M. Greenberg related that Thompson reportedly has some information concerning a conspiracy in connection with the slaying of Martin Luther King, Jr. which he wished to furnish to Greenberg. Mr. Greenberg requested that the New York Office have an Agent present at his meeting with Mr. Thompson.

SAC Robert G. Jensen, Memphis, was contacted on 3/14/69 to determine what information he might possess concerning Thompson.

SAC Jensen advised that Thompson's full name is Russell X. Thompson and that he is of the white race and was or still is an attorney in an integrated law firm.

SAC Jensen stated that based on his independent recollection, Thompson on either April 10 or 11, 1968, but before James Earl Ray was identified by fingerprints on April 19, 1968, as the assassin, advised the Memphis Office that he was visited by a man who gave the impression that he might want some legal advice in the future. Because of a possible client-attorney relationship, Thompson did not furnish this man's name. Thompson related that the man stated that material found at the scene of the King slaying was false and that the real murder weapon was a Savage rifle which had already melted down. This man also reportedly told Thompson the authorities' interest in a white mustang was wrong because the assassin got away on a motorcycle. The man also told Thompson that a Cadillac was of interest in this case.

Thompson described this man as a blond Latin who had a Denver, Colorado, address.

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Jensen further advised that after Ray had been publicly identified, Thompson was again in contact with the Memphis Office probably

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McGowan to Rosen Memo

Re: MURKIN

early in May of 1968 at which time Thompson advised that the man who had contacted him in early April, 1968, was probably a mental case. On this second contact with the Memphis Office, Thompson still did not reveal the man's name.

SAC Jensen advised that to the best of his knowledge the above two contacts with Thompson are the only contacts the Memphis Office has had with Thompson. Jensen stated he was not aware of any derogatory information concerning Thompson.

#### **ACTION:**

For information.

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Via	AIRTEL	(Priority)		Miss Holmes Miss Gandy
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	TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)		Latoria 9
· \i	FROM:	SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)	MAC DANIE	1-112
	SUBJECT:	MURKIN	0/	
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	ning JAME Examiner BATTLE on which the  of the su instructi which may	Attorney DON OWENS, a former ters to Judge W. PRESTON BATTI IS EARL RAY, advised 3/11/69 to GEORGE BONEBRAKE is scheduled 4/11/69 regarding the possible Bureau is aware.  It is suggested that the Burebject's guilty plea and sentences to discontinue all investoring indicate or tend to prove a we may not have previously be	E in the matter hat Senior Finged to appear before le contempt active eau notify all orange on 3/10/69 igation except to definite conspir	concer- rprint e Judge on of  ffices , with hat
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SAC, MIRMITS (44-1987) (P) MEON:

MURKER SUBJECT:

which the Bureau is aware. BATTLE on 4/11/69 regarding the possible contains action of Examiner GROKEE BONNERARE is scheduled to appear before Judge ning JARES EARL RAY, advised S/11/69 that Genigg Fingerprint the advisers to Judge W. FIRSTON BATTLE in the matter concer-Attorney DON OWANS, a former SA who is now one of

which may indicate or tend to prove a definite constitucty of which we may not have previously been awater. instructions to discontinue all investigation cacepo that it is suggested that the Pereau notes of the subject's guilty plea and servencing on 2/19 30, with

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277-21 Ursuline Street St. Clair Shores, Michigan March 12, 1969 Mr. DeLoc

Mr. Cellahan Mr. Cenvad Mr. Folt Mr. Gala

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Mr. Trotter... Fele. Room.... Miss Holmes. Miss Gandy...

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

This letter to you is prompted by the sentencing yesterday of the confessed murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. to a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee State Prison along with the statement of the sentencing Judge that if the murder was indeed part of a conspiracy, the other members of that conspiracy would not sleep well in the future.

The fact that the sentenced man stated his disagreement with the former Attorney General, Ramsey Clark, who had stated that he didn't believe that there was a conspiracy, nothing more was said about the conspiracy aspects during this most unusual court proceeding.

Nevertheless, most people, who have any interest at all in the case, are convinced that the man sent to prison yesterday was only part of an actual group of conspirators. His affluence after the murder, his extensive traveling, which in addition to money, also required sophisticated identity arrangements, is in glaring contrast with everything else known—or printed—about the man's past. What has been divulged points to some kind of coordinated effort by more than one person.

It is well known, of course, that during his lifetime the Reverend King incurred your displeasure from time to time. No doubt his regard for you was not high, either. However, these are irrelevant factors today when a great body of opinion believes King was a conspiracy victim, and that any real effort to search out the members of that conspiracy has been effectively blocked by sentencing one man.

You have directed the Federal Bureau of Investigation during its development from a small, rather ineffective agency into a truly magnificent public service and protective organization, with a secure niche in history.

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CORRESPONDENCE

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Mr. J. Edgar Hoover page 2
March 12, 1969

The Justice Department yesterday announced that the "conspiracy" investigation as it may or may not pertain to King's death is not closed—whatever such an announcement means. What I believe is this: The FBI has sufficient competence to ascertain as a matter of fact whether there was a conspiracy, and if there was, to identify its members.

You are the Director of the FBI. You did not like King. You referred to him in derogatory fashion in print on several occasions. He was murdered. One man has been sentenced for that murder, but most people believe that more than one man was involved with the killing, and that it could not have been accomplished as it was, except by virtue of a conspiracy.

Don't you believe that, not only that the ends of justice require, but that the hard won and well earned reputation of the FBI and its Director requires that this uncertainty be resolved? I do.

Too, I held Dr. King in high regard, and sympathized with the goals he espoused as I sympathized with you when he irritated you into, let's say, colorful comment.

The manner of King's death was ugly for this country in all of its implications. To have a large body of public opinion believe that it was the result of a conspiracy, and that there is a larger effort on the part of many persons to blur that picture and to eventually prevent its disclosure conjures up uglier implications.

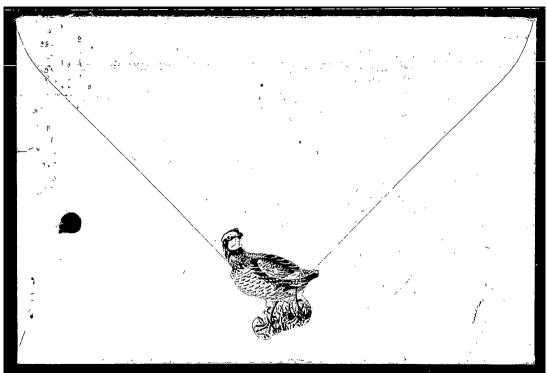
It is my hope that the FBI will undertake to resolve fall the unanswered questions about King's death; that it will eventually prove or disprove that there was a conspiracy so that hurtful conjecture and speculation can end.

Sincerely yours,

W. J. Haney

William J. Haney

1380 Winslow Olio. Chiou, n.J. 07083 The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover, Head of the Bureace of Investigation Washington D. E.



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

1380 Winslow Que. Unioce Clase Janse Mouch 11, 1969 Hon. J. Edgare Howen The F. B. I. Nas Keieglose 7).6 My dear Mr. Hoover, I have just read of the Dentencier of Jacobs Earl RAY, afterse Rés Confession of Cherity to the moved eve of Dr. Moester Luthen King gr. coerencies à Conspirace eves an idle theory, and dive always thought there was a Conspicace, There are literally milliones of White aus Magro cetizeus of their Country who evered in spored by Dr. Martin duther King for Primaples for her was treely a Martyr. CORRESPONDED CORRESPONDED CONTRACTIONS OF THE AVERAGE AVERAGE AND

Mantessanas ales frustrationes ap the found people today Die coured, by the Victnam Was, ares the untimedy mendans of Dr. King fr., and Senator Robert Kennedy, Dr. Rieg Jus mueder was a Nould-wide Frustration. I, as a trees Cleverican citizen weger you to please use Every possible quick masses to solve their Compinery, so that the quilly our, or Ones, male be appreheereded beg Hame and freitly punished, for the Future Aparal Safety of us all. Sincresole yours, Helaco E. Hunch 5.9. hly 60.01 & 1 hly 83° MA EN Y EL HAM Show To Hoose RECID - CORH & TOURS

#### TRUE COPY

1380 Winslow Ave. Union, New Jersey March 11, 1969

Hon. J. Edgar Hoover The F.B.I. Washington D.C.

My dear Mr. Hoover,

I have just read of the sentencing of James Earl Ray, after his Confession of Guilty to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I do not think Ray's statement concerning a Conspiracy was an idle theory, and I've always,

thought there was a Conspiracy.

There are literally millions of White and Negro citizens of this Country who were inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's Principles: he was truly a Martyr.

And, I feel the great restlessness, and frustrations of the Young people today are caused by the Vietnam War, and the untimely murders of Dr. King Jr., and Senator Robert Kennedy. Dr. King Jr's murder was a Worldwide Frustration.

I, as a true American citizen urge you to please use Every possible quick means to solve this Conspiracy, so that the Guilty one, or Ones, may be apprehended by Name - and Justly punished, for the Future Moral Safety of us All.

Sincerely yours,

Helen C. Yunck

TRUE COPY

12 MAR 17 1969

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March 14, 1969

1 - Mr. Long

REC 101

Miss Helen C. Yunck 1380 Winslow Avenue Union, New Jersey 07083

Dear Miss Yunck:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 11, 1969, and your comments have been noted.

You may be assured that this Bureau will continue to fully discharge its investigative responsibilities in all matters coming within our jurisdiction.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

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MAR 14 1969

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

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#### NOTE:

Helen C. Yunck, Union, New Jersey, wrote a letter to the Bureau and expressed her views concerning the sentencing of James Earl Ray and states that she has always thought there was a conspiracy. She also in this letter extends laudatory remarks regarding Martin Luther King, Jr. She concludes her letter by urging every possible quick means to solve this conspiracy.

Our investigation to date does not indicate any evidence of a conspiracy and it is felt that we should not make any comments relative to this aspect. Bureau indices contained no information identifiable with Helen C. Yunck,

FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNICATION SECTION

MAR 14 1969

FBI MEMPHIS

TELETYPE

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TO DIBÆCTOR 44-38861

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987

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Mr. Mohr.

Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Casper. Mr. Callahan. Mr. Conrad.

Miss Holmes. Mice Gandy.

Mr. Felt Mr. (

Mr. I Mr. Sullivan Mr. Tavel Mr. Trotter. Tele. Room

To the Destroach

MURKIN

AT APPROXIMATELY TEN A.M. THIS DATE, SUBJECT RAY ADVISED SAC. MEMPHIS. AFTER THINKING MATTER OVER LAST NIGHT HE WOULD NO LONGER SPEAK WITH SAC. WHEN QUERIED AS TO REASONS. RAY SAID IN REGARD TO HIS TRIP TO NASHVILLE HE ONLY SAID THREE WORDS TO THE PEOPLE WHO BROUGHT HIM TO NASHVILLE AND THEN THE NEWSPAPERS WROTE ABOUT THREE PAGES CONCERNING WHAT HE WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE SAID. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO RAY THAT FBI HAD NO INTENTION TO RELEASE ANY INFORMATION TO NEWSPAPERS AND. IN FACT, DID NOT RELEASE ANY INFOR-MATION REGARDING CONTACT MADE YESTERDAY. RAY SAID HE REALIZED THIS BUT FELT WE WERE "ADVERSARIES." HE SAID HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY AND REQUESTED THAT HE BE RETURNED TO HIS CELL. HE DID. HOWEVER. STATE. THAT IF HE CHANGED HIS MIND HE KNEW HOW HE COULD GET IN TOUCH WITH SAC. SAC IN PARTING TOLD RAY "I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN. PERHAPS IN THIRTY DAYS." RAY DID STATE THAT WAS ENTIRELY UP TO SAC.

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CC-MR. ROSEN

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

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## EASTLAND SEEKING 'FACTS'

# Little Light Shed in Ray 'Plot'

By RICHARD STARNES Scripps-Howard Staff Writers

Informed sources said today it is unlikely there will be conclusive new findings in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., despite the doubt voiced by Sen. James O. Eastland, D-Miss., that the slaying was "the work of one man."

Sen. Eastland, who heads the Senate Internal Security subcommittee, said he was "assembling all the available facts" in the case in an attempt to answer questions in his own mind as to whether the assassination of Dr. King was the result of a "conspiracy."

"The obvious question is were there Communists involved?" Sen. Eastland said.

He noted that James Earl Ray, who was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment Monday after a ritual trial at which he pleaded guilty to the murder. had indicated there was a conspiracy with a "blond Latin" man who supplied him with funds.

#### MAY TALK TO RAY

Meanwhile, sources here indicated that Ray "may be talked. with again" in jail in the course of the continuing official investigation of the King assassination. The Justice Department said Monday the case had not been closed.

One source made it clear, however, that no one familiar with the case expects Ray to enlarge on the cryptic hint of conspiracy that he made in a mumbled exchange with Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle at the climax of his pro forma trial in Memphis, Tenn.

"In the first place," the source continued, "Ray does not have to talk to anyone he does not want to talk to. He has the same rights in that respect that a free man has. It is logical to assume that the FBI will try to interview him again, to see if he can add anything to what he said in court Monday. But he doesn't have to agree to talk to

#### MUST BE-WARNED

If Ray does agree to talk to Federal officers, the law requires that he be warned of hist rights, just as anyone else is, and he must also be represented by counsel.

Whatever chance existed that Ray's trial would close the books on the case was doomed by the hangdog defendant him-

self when he insisted that he did not accept the "theory of Mr. Clark" (former U. S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark) that no conspiracy existed. His remark, coupled with the bizarre circumstances of the trial, brought an inevitable fallout of speculation

See our Editorial. Questions About Ray, on Page 22.

that Ray was not alone in the assassination of the civil rights leader last April. The question was further compounded when a Justice Department spokesman offered the opinion that the case is "still open and the FBI probe is continuinze"

This, officials insisted today, is true - but only in a strictly technical sense.

"Everything in the case that could be investigated has been investigated." one source wearily explained. "Every scintilla of information in the Huie series was checked and rechecked. Every possible avenue of investigation was explored before Ray's trial Monday. Except for trying again to see if Ray can produce anything, there is no place to go."

(The Look magazine series by William Bradford Huie quoted EC 13
Ray as describing the mysteri ous "Raoul" who may have been | a go-between in an assassination conspiracy.)

"The FBI," an official well acquainted with the case said today, "never was able to identify Raoul, or to find one shred of evidence that he had ever existed outside of Ray's imagination."

#### DOUBTS CONSPIRACY

· Mr. Huie himself told a TV a u d i e n c e immediately after Ray's trial that he himself now doubted the conspiracy theory, and had reached the conclusion that Ray alone made the decision to kill Dr. King. "But," Mr. Huie added, "I do not know this and Ray insists otherwise. Ray has a strange mind and a sharp one. He takes great satisfaction out of the fact that we still have

doubts, that we still have unanswered questions. He wants continuing drama in his life."

Tele, Room . Holmes \_ Gandy

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The Washington Post Times Herald. The Washington Daily News The Evening Star (Washington) The Sunday Star (Washington) \_ Daily News (New York) \_\_ Sunday News (New York) New York Post \_\_\_ The New York Times \_\_\_\_\_ The Sun (Baltimore) -\_\_\_\_ The Daily World .... The New Leader ... The Wall Street Journal The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_ People's World \_ Examiner (Washington)

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### March 14, 1969

## GENERAL INVESTIGATI DIVISION

The Director instructed that he be advised of the results of the interview with James Earl Ray. The attached sets forth Jensen's interview with Ray. Jensen plans to go back to see Ray today.

The Director stated that he did not want the results of the interview furnished to the Department until he had a chance to see it. If approved, the attached information will be prepared in proper form for transmittal to AAG Leonard who has stated that he is keeping in close touch with the Attorney General in this matter in view of the outside pressures which have developed.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE COMMUNICATION SECTION

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THE ENTRY

FBI MEMPHIS

705 PM URGENT 3-13-69 DND

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ATTN: MR. AL ROSEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

INFORMATION CONTAINED

Mr. Conrad. Mr. Felt\_

Mr. Gale Mr. Sullivan

Mr. Tavel Mr. Trotter

Tele. Room Miss Hol

MURKIN .- ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

AT APPROXIMATELY TWO FORTYFIVE PM. INTERVIEW WAS BEGUN WITH JAMES EARL RAY BY SAC, MEMPHIS AT TENNESSEE STATE PRISON. INTERVIEW CONCLUDED AT APPROXIMATELY THREE THIRTYFIVE PM. RAY ON ENTERING ROOM SAID. "YOU'RE THE GUY WHO TESTIFIED. I DON'T WANT TO TALK I TO YOU OR ANYBODY FROM THE FBI. RAY WAS ASKED TO SIT DOWN AND WAS TOLD IT WAS POSSIBLE WE HAD THINGS WE COULD TALK ABOUT. SAID. "I'M NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT CASE AS I'VE BEEN MISQUOTED ENOUGH." HE WAS UNABLE TO POINT OUT ANY SPECIFICS WHERE FBI HAD EVER MISQUOTED HIM. HE WAS ALSO TOLD FBI HAD NOT INTERVIEWED HIM SO IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO MISQUOTE HIM. RAY INDICATED HE BETTER GO BACK TO CELL AS SAC WAS ONLY TRYING TO TRICK HIM INTO TALKING ABOUT CASE. HE WAS THEN REMINDED OF HIS GUILTY PLEA IN OPEN COURT AND WAS ASKED IF HE INTENDED TO CHARGE THES 18 MAR 17 1969 SAID NO.

RAY THEN CRITICIZED HIS ATTORNEY ART HANES. SAT HE SAID HANES WAS NOT GOOD ATTORNEY AS HE REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE CASE. SAC INTERJECTED THAT HIS ATTORNEY HAD HIRED INVESTIGATOR. TO SEE NOTE ON REVERSI

6 MAR 21 1969

MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

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WHICH RAY REPLIED. "HE'S NO GOOD EITHER, AND HE ONLY BEGAN TO
INVESTIGATE A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE TRIAL." RAY STATED HANES REALLY
WASN'T HIS ATTORNEY AS WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE HAD HIRED HANED TO
GO TO LONDON TO ACT AS ATTORNEY FOR RAY, IN RETURN FOR STORY
CONTRACTS. RAY WOULD NOT AMPLIFY ON CONTRACTS BUT DID STATE HE
HAD TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CONTRACTS OUT. RAY SAID HE
HADN'T RECEIVED ANY MONEY ON ANY OF THESE CONTRACTS YET. HE ALSO SAND
HE HAD CONTRACTED WITH PERCY FOREMAN REGARDING POSSIBLE STORY.

ALSO SAID PART OF HIS CONTRACT WITH FOREMAN WAS THAT RAY WOULD
NOT EMBARRASS FOREMAN IN COURT. WHEN ASKED IF THAT IS WHY HE
SAID NO MORE IN COURT WHEN HE ROSE TO MAKE COMMENT, RAY SAID HE
WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE.

HE THEN BECAME CRITICAL OF FOREMAN, SAYING HE WOULDN'T INVESTIGATE HIS CASE EIGHER. SAID THAT FOREMAN CAME TO HIM WITH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, SAYING "YOUR BEST DEFENSE IS TO PLEAD GUILTY OR YOU'LL GET THE DEATH SENTENCE." RAY INDICATED DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS PAST ATTORNEYS. HE SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET AN ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA NOW. HE REFUSED TO INDENTIFY THIS ATTORNEY. (SAC HAD PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH WARDEN LAKE RUSSELL AT PRISON AND WARDEN HAD ADVISED RAY HAD TOLD HIM HE END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO GET J. B. STONER, AN ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA,

TO REPRESENT HIM. J. B. STONER WELL KNOWN FIGURE IN VARIOUS WHITE

HATE GROUPS IN GEORGIA.)

RAY ALSO SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ANY MORE ABOUT ANYTHING, AS HE FELT HIS ATTORNEY WOULD BE ABLE TO REOPEN HIS CASE. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD LETTER PREPARED TO SEND TO SENATOR EASTLAND AND THEN IN ABOUT TWO OR THREE MONTHS HIS CASE WOULD BE CLEARED UP. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT THEN BE WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE CASE FULLY.

ADDITIONAL SMALL TALK OCCURRED AND RAY BROUGHT UP FBI TV
SERIES. HE WONDERED WHY FBI ALWAYS HAD TO LET THE CRIMINALS
DRAW FIRST BEFORE THEY WERE SHOT. HE WAS TOLD THIS IS ONLY
CONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS, AS OUR WEAPONS ARE USED ONLY IN SELF
DEFENSE. HE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM. HE THEN ASKED IF FBI
THOUGHT HE WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO LEAVE HIS FINGERPRINTS IN THE
AREA WHERE A PUBLIC FIGURE WAS KILLED. HE WAS ASKED IF HE WAS
TRYING TO TELL SAC THAT SOMEONE PLANTED HIS PRINTS, AND IF SO
HIS STORY WAS GETTING THIN AND SAC WOULD LEAVE. HE THEN RAISED
SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT NOT EVER HAVING BEEN IDENTIFIED IN A

#### PAGE FOUR

LINEUP AND WAS NOT SURE THAT ANYONE COULD IDENTIFY HIM. HE THEN INDICATED HE HAD READ IN A CANADIAN PAPER THAT ONE CHARLIE STEPHENS COULD PROBABLY DENTIFY HIM AS HE THOUGHT CHARLIE STEPHENS HAD A GOOD LOOK AT HIM IN ROOMING HOUSE. HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

HE THEN FURTHER CLAIMED THAT NO ONE HAD IDENTIFIED HIM WITH A PHOTOGRAPH UNTIL HE MADE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ON THE WEST COAST. THE ABSURDITY OF THIS STATEMENT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM AS HE KNEW THE STATE HAD SEVERAL WITNESSES WHO COULD IDENTIFY HIM.

HE WAS ASKED IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, SUCH AS HIS TRIP FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS. HE SAID NO.

THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE GETTING MIXED UP WITH STEIN. HE SAID

STEIN WAS ONLY A "HIPPIE." HE WOULD NOT TALK FURTHER ABOUT STEIN.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COVERED WITH RAY INDICATED HE SAID HE NEVER RECEIVED A PROPERTY RECEIPT FROM BUTLER OF SCOTLAND YARD, WHEN ARRESTED THERE. HE SAID THIS RECEIPT MIGHT BE OF VALUE AT SOME FUTURE DATE. HE REFUSED TO CLARIFY THIS.

RAY WOULD NOT AT ANY TIME DISCUSS CONSPIRACY OR ANY ASPECTS
OF IT. HE CONTINUOUSLY CLAIMED THIS WOULD BE MATTER FOR HIS
END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

ATTORNEY TO HANDLE AND POSSIBLY SENATOR EASTLAND'S COMMITTEE.

Attorney General
HE ALSO EXPRESSED DISLIKE FOR FORMER OF CLARK BECAUSE OF HIS
STATEMENTS BUT WOULD NOT CLARIFY WHAT STATEMENTS. HE DID, HOWEVER,
SAY ABOUT CLARK THAT IF HE WAS SOFT ON CRIME AS THE NEWSPAPERS
SOMETIME REPORTED THIS WAS OKAY.

AT THIS TIME SAC ASKED RAY IF HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO MEET A
PAIR OF ASSOCIATES OF SAC, AGENTS JOE C. HESTER AND ROBERT F. BOYLE.
RAY SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO FBI BECAUSE ALL THEY WANTED TO
DO WAS TRICK HIM. RAY AT CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW SAID HE DID
NOT WANT TO TALK TO ANY OTHER AGENTS AT THIS TIME. HE WAS TOLD
THERE WERE TWO OTHER AGENTS WITH SAC. HE DID MEET THESE TWO AGENTS
JUST PRIOR TO BEING RETURNED TO HIS CELL. HIS PARTING COMMENT
WHEN GOING THROUGH CELL DOOR WAS, "TAKE A GOOD LOOK AS YOU MAY BE
LOOKING FOR ME AGAIN."

SAC TOLD RAY THAT HE WOULD RECONTACT HIM AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING AND PERHAPS WE COULD AGAIN ENGAGE IN SMALL TALK. RAY SAIE "MAYBE I WILL NOT TALK WITH YOU AGAIN."

ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO SEEK SECOND INTERVIEW IN A. M. WITH RAY.

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

RAY'S COMMENT ABOUT TAKING A GOOD LOOK WAS SPECIFICALLY

POINTED OUT TO THE OFFICERS ON DUTY IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY

SECTION AND IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POINTED OUT TO WARDEN RUSSELL.

IN ADDITION, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH WARDEN RUSSELL, SAC REQUESTED

THAT VISIT OF FBI TO TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY SHOULD BE HELD

CONFIDENTIAL. WARDEN INDICATED HE WOULD DO SO BUT, OF COURSE,

STORY WOULD STILL GET AROUND IN THE PRISON YARD.

END

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FBI WASH DC

P

CC-MR. ROSEN

## RECEIVED

# TELETYPE UNIT

# MAR 13 8 18 PM '69

44-38861-5623

REC-64

March 17, 1969

1 - Mr. Long

Reverend John E. Hunter
President
The Midtown Ministerial Alliance
1920 Tyler Court
Gary, Indiana 46407

Dear Mr. Hunter:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your telegram dated March 14, 1969, and your comments have been noted.

You may be assured that this Bureau will continue to fully discharge its investigative responsibilities in all matters coming within our jurisdiction.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

REL:ergevq (3)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Tolson
DeLoach
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PERSONAL RESIDENCE

. Cix. Long · HISP ISCO

#### NOTE:

Reverend John E. Hunter, President of The Midtown Ministerial Alliance, Gary, Indiana, sent a telegram to the Bureau on 3-14-69, stating to close the case of James Earl Ray at this point would be a great mockery of justice. He is calling for a complete investigation on any possible conspiracy involved and states to this end he is calling upon the good offices of our President of the United States, Attorney General, and Justice Department to act now in the matter of reopening this case.

Bureau Indices indicate that Reverend Hunter, who is past President of the National Association For The Advancement of Colored People, Gary, Indiana, has been active in racial matters in Gary and has been the representative of various groups for the establishment of a human relations council in Gary, Indiana, in 1963.

Our investigation to date does not indicate any evidence of a conspiracy and it is felt that we should not make any comments relative to this aspect.

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Meverend John E. Hunter, President of The Hidtown Ministerial Alliance, Cary, Indiana, sent a telegram to the Unread on 3-14-69, stating to close the case of James Fari Ray at this point would be a great incekery of justice. He is calling for a complete investigation on any possible conspiracy involved and states to this end he is calling upon the good offices of our President of the United States, Attorney General, and Justice Department to acc now in the matter of reopening this case.

Bureau Indices indicate that Meverend Einter, who is past President of the National Association For The Advancement of Colors. People, Gary, Indiana, has been active in racial matters in Cary and has been the representative of various groups for the establishment of a human relations council in Gary, Indiana, in 1965.

Our investigation to date does not indicate any evidence of a conspiracy and it is felt that we should not make any comments relative to this aspect.

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MR J EDGAR HOOVER F B 1

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WASHDC Murkin

TO CLOSE THE CASE OF JAMES EARL RAY, SELF CONFESSED SLAYER OF THE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AT THIS POINT, WHEN

THE CONFESSED KILLER HIMSELFHAS PUBLICLY CHALLENGED THE VIEW OF THOSE WHO SAY THERE WASNO CONSPIRACY, WOULD BE A GREAT MOCKERY

OF JUSTICE IN THE EYES OF AMERICA AND THE WHOLE WORLD. WE HEREBY

REGISTER OUR DEEPEST DISAPPROVAL OF AND STRONGEST PROTEST AGAINST THIS MOCK TRIA AND URGENTLY INSIST THAT THE ACASE BE RE-OPENED.

FOR A COMPLETE INVESTIGATION ON ANY POSSIBLE CONSPIRACY INVOLVED.

TO THIS END WE CALL UPON THE GOOD OFFICES OF OUR PRESIDENT

OF THE UNITED TATES OF AMERICA, OUR ATTORNEY GENERAL AND OUR

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO ACT NOW IN THE MATTER OF RE-OPENING THIS

CASE AND SEEKING TO RESOLVE THE ISSUES AT STAKE OF COME

SNA

Mr. Tolson\_ Mr. DeLoach

Mr. Mohr... Mr. Bishop

Mr. Casper\_ Mr. Callahan

Mr. Conrad Mr. Felt Mr. Gale Mr. Rosen

Mr. Sulliva Mr. Tavel

Mr. Trotter. Tele. Room

Miss Holmes Miss Gandy BEC'D-CORR & TOURS

MAR 14 8 50 AM '69

MEC.O. CHARLEN

THE MIDTOWN MINISTERIAL ALLIANCE GARY, INDIANA REV JOHN E
HUNTER, PRESIDENT, COMMITTEE MEMBERS REV A W MURPHY REV CARRELL
CARGLE REV MILTON E JOINER

Mar 14 | 31 AM 1969

REC'D-TELETYPE UNIT

E. S. Coull P. O. Box 254 Chapala, Jalisco Mexico (March 10, 1969) Mix Tolson
Mr. DeLoacil
Mr. Mar
Mr. Mar
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Var
Mr. Kafe
Mr. Kafe
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

hody.

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

Dear Sir:

I am an American Citizen age 73 years old, active and healthy. I thank God and Alcoholics Anonymous for my good health. Am living permantely in Chapala Mexico My income is \$90.40 Social Security per month. A. A. meets in my home 3 nights per week, 2 meetings in Spanish for Mexicans and 1 meeting per week for Americans. I meet many Ex-Convicts like my self. I served time in Milan Michigan which ended in 1966. I try to help the law when ever it is possible.

Shortly after Martin Luther King was shot, Ray was here and met with some Canadians, possibly received his Canadian pasports while here, in Chapala, Mexico. I recognized Ray from his pictures in the papers and other information. Reported same to your Agent at Quadalajara. The next day a Mexican federal Agent called on me, said he looked this man over in a resturant where I had reported seeing him, said he did not think this was Ray as he looked to old, his disguise fooled this man. Ray was not seen anymore in Chapala. He could easily have been captured here, before going to England. I feel that my report to your Agent was ignored, perhaps a few of your men need A. A. "But that is water under the bridge now" I do have the satisfaction of knowing, I tried to help the law."

I am Yours Respectfully and Sincerely,

E. S. Coull

P.S. God Bless you and yours.

E.S.C.

COPY:nm

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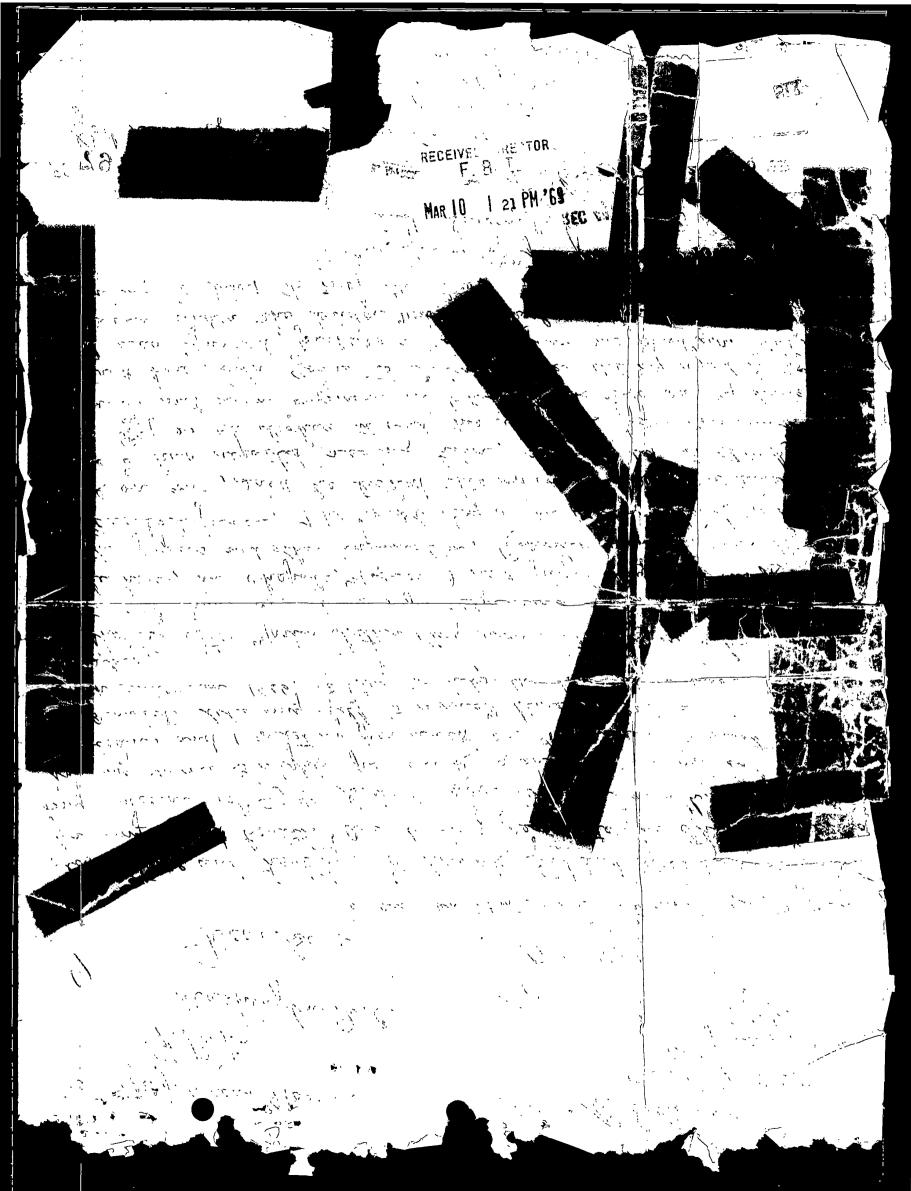
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MAR 10 5 24 PM 289 BO MAR ID JOESON . REC-D BISHOP

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REC'D-CORK & TOURS

To Ming. Edgar Hoover PO, Box 254 Washington D. C. Dear Sir: Murlan American teligen age 73 years for ony income is 90 40 Social Security a month. At in my home 3 nights per week 2 mention on Spanis for ony health, am living permetally in Change sicans and I meeting per week for the line on filan Shortly after Martin Luther King was shot was here a winth some Canadiana providely was shot was here in the papers and other information, Reported to your A Enadalajara, The four A The nest day a metrical and one one of the son and one have I had reported seeing him, Gray as he looked to old his disserted for the looked to old his disserted for the looked to old his disserted for the continued here helm a seen anymore in Bhap we see to was ignored perhaps a few of some men need A.A. was ignoled perhaps a favore under the bridge now J. I tried to help the law I am Jours Regulation and Surcerely 186 44 Rosen to Nedwoch m chapela, Jalisco,



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

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Mr. DeLoach

FROM

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: March 14, 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach

DeLoach

Callahan Conrad \_

Tele, Room

Holmes

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Bishop

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

Bureau is in receipt of a letter from a person who identifies himself as E. S. Coull, P. O. Box 254, Chapala, Jalisco, Mexico, in which he states that he is 73 years of age, a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, and is living permanently in Mexico. He advises that he has served time in Milan, Michigan, and he tries to help the law whenever it is possible.

Coull states that shortly after Martin Luther King, Jr., was shot (April 4, 1968) James Earl Ray was in Mexico, met with some Canadians, and possibly received his Canadian passports while in Mexico. He further advised that he has the satisfaction of knowing he tried to help the law. Coull advised that he reported this matter to our Agent in Quadalajara.

It is noted that Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated on April 4, 1968, and James Earl Ray departed Memphis on April 4, 1968, and arrived in Atlanta on April 5, 1968.

Ray arrived in Toronto, Canada, on April 8, 1968, applied for a passport on April 16, and was issued this passport on April 24, 1968. (Documented by interviews.) Ray departed Toronto on May 6, 1968, arriving in London on May 7, 1968, and immediately left for Lisbon. Ray returned to London on May 17, 1968, and stayed there until he was arrested by New Scotland Yard on June 8, 1968. This would preclude the statement that Ray was in Mexico after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Review of Bureau files indicate that Coull has been the subject of Bureau cases and has been incarcerated on Federal offenses.

B MAR 19 1969

ACTION - PAGE TWO

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SENERAL TOLOVER DIVISION STREET RECEIVE MARIJ MARIA CO CO REC'D DELOACH U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE RECEIVED-TOLSON A The state of the control of the state of the prika to parties on her system thereings in lander on her to the solution of here of the total action of the solution of the s - Tub Gradanor at Gradou June 1 Page 1 Pages 1 (भेर्निका हो उद्धा क्षेत्र (महरूप (महरूप) They ampleed in Torcato, Spaces, on April 3, leads, now provided, and April 3, leads, now provided to provide the power. There are the car found of the contract the found of the contract to the contract of the contr No in horse ther isothe Jakery class ្តិត១៩១ រដ្ឋាទ នេះ ಬಾಕಕ್ಷ್ಮೇಳ್ನವರು ಕ್ರಾಕಿಸರ ಸರ್ಕಾಣಕಾರಿ ಬೀಟು ಅಂದರಲ್ಲಾರು ಈ ತಿಳುಗಳ the participation of imparis no press, is part of for aare an porreporte patte ta narion. Die invitor bevieed vin in နှင့်သင်မျှားနှင့် အသည် လည်သည် နေတာ့တွင် နေထုံမှုမှုမှုမှုသည်။ မေသည် သည်။ မေသည် မေသည် မေသည် မြေသည် ्रिक्षित्र (प्रतिकृति प्रतिकृति क्षेत्र (प्रतिकृति के प्रतिकृति कार्यात्र क्षेत्र प्रतिकृति के स्वतिकृति के स् विकृति के स्वतिकृति 2 Brother 701 Man, bridition, and he writes to have the foundament ingramenty in Burrley. He reviewe that he has common ខាង នៃ សមារិក្សាស្រ្តាំ ស្ថិត្ត Vac Year ខ្លែង ប្រទះប្រកិច្ចាក់ ប្រធាន បាន បាក ប្រធាន បាក្រាស ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្ធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន បាន ប្រធាន ប្រធាន បាក្ត បាក្ត ប្រធាន បាក្ត ប្រធាន ប្រធាន បាក្ត कारते १,५०० ११३ १३० अस्तर्भ अस्तर्भ एक भेर ५० अववाही अर्थ ६० अवस्र ५० ही remedia in the property of a factor when his pa TO THE ARREST OF THE PORT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE and the open summantantal sho energy on 第二、新古典的。 TO BUH 3.40 P.T. 3 (7) 7.75 7.30.33 न्द्रधान्त्र ५ - रस्तु 1994年,1994年

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HAMBERT.

Rosen to DeLoach memorandum RE: MURKIN

## ACTION:

There appears that no useful purpose could be gained in making any further inquiry regarding this matter as Coull is an ex-convict and an admitted alcoholic. It is recommended that Coull's letter not be acknowledged as no useful purpose could be served.

Jan Kylen

D OK.

WORK SHEET - KI:ROX REQUEST

SUBJECT - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR FILE ! - IMURKIN

ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # - 32 PAGES 55 DOCUMENTS

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SUBJECT - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR FILE # - MURKIN ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # - PAGE 2

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