TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

Two copies of letter dated 9/10/69, addressed to Warden of TSP, Nashville, which enclosed duplicate copy of property receipt of property taken from RAY at time of arrest.

Two copies of an order signed by Shelby County Criminal Court Judge FACQUIN, allowing subject's attorneys to talk with subject in an open conference room.

RE: ME airtel to BUREAU, 9/12/69.

374



44-38861-5816

ENOTOS UNE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

### Memorandum

TO

Mr. Mohr

**FROM** 

J. J. Casper

SUBJECT:

JAMES EARL RAY

**IDENTIFICATION MATTER** 

9/5/69

In an addendum to a memorandum, same caption, of 9/2/69, Trotter to Mohr, suggesting preparation of an interesting identification write-up on captioned case, the statement is made that "the danger of prejudicing a case by publicity only applies prior to and during the actual trial of the case. Publicity cannot prejudice a case in the appeals stage since this stage is concerned only with matters of law rather than fact." The Director underlined this quoted statement and said: "Have we any legal support of this? H."

Strong support for the referenced statement is found in the records of convictions successfully attacked on the ground of prejudicial publicity. Our review of decisions in such cases, from the Supreme Court on down, reveals that the "prejudicial publicity" attack is confined to jury cases. We have not located a single case in which a conviction has been reversed for prejudicial publicity prior to or during a trial before a judge only, or prior to or during an appeal on the legal merits.

The record of the cases reviewed is consistent with constitutional theory. The Sixth Amendment gives the accused a right to trial by "an impartial" jury." As the Supreme Court has said, this is a "requirement that the jury's verdict be based on evidence received in open court, not from outside sources." Sheppard v. Maxwell, 384 U. S. 333 (1966). Publicity that is prejudicial prevents the jury from being impartial.

The current campaign against prejudicial publicity seems directed entirely at the pretrial and trial phases, and to assume a jury trial. The controversy generated has been labeled "Fair Trial v. Free Press." Department of Justice restrictions on news release cover "a criminal offense until the proceeding has been terminated by trial or otherwise," forbids anything which might influence "the outcome of a defendant's trial" and adds that "because of the particular danger of prejudice resulting from statements in the period approaching and during trial,

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Rosen

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2 56 TSIOS & CHEMISTR FBI LABORATORY LAEOFATOR DIVISION JWB: 455 FOR TO • •  Memorandum to Mr. Mohr Re: James Earl Ray Identification Matter

Regulations 50.2. The American Bar Association Report on "Fair Trial and Free Press" is directed toward the problem existing in jury trial situations. At one point it suggests that in cases in which publicity may have created a problem an alternative would be for the defendant to waive trial by jury "on the theory that a judge is less likely to be susceptible to outside influences." Page 129. Further, in a published discussion between himself and Clifton Daniel of the New York Times, Justice Reardon (Supreme Court of Massachusetts), principal architect of the American Bar Association Report on "Free Trial and Free Press," said "If you will read our report you will see that we are not holding up the release of information until the case has come through the appellate court... The report proposes the withholding of that information until the conclusion of the trial and the sentence of the defendant." Source: "Fair Trial and Free Press," Rational Debate Seminars, American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, D. C.

The decisions and the law review commentaries also assume the publicity problem to exist in jury trial cases only. The single exception that we found is in a Second Circuit Court of Appeals case in which Judge Clark said, in dictum having nothing to do with the decision, that "Chief Judge Lumbard and Judge Friendly authorize me to state that they agree with the writer that the publication by former special prosecutors of accounts and comments regarding this case and the appellants, while this appeal was pending, was improper."

U. S. v. Bufalino, 285 F2d 408 (1960) (the Apalachin hoodlum case).

Conviction does not, of course, end all possibility of a jury trial. If the present conviction of Ray should be reversed and remanded by the Supreme Court, Ray could demand a jury trial the second time around. Prior publicity would then most likely become an issue in the case. But this possibility is not confined to the Ray case. It exists in all cases in which we issue interesting case write-ups, for so long as the convict is serving his term.

The legal problem on whether to issue the proposed publicity at this time boils down to speculation on whether Ray will or will not win a new

Memorandum to Mr. Mohr Re: James Earl Ray Identification Matter

trial. If he does not, there is no legal objection to issuing the publicity at this time. If he does, this publicity will most likely be attacked at the trial as prejudicial.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

Suggest we go ahead and use the proposed Ray write-up.

J.P. Mohr

9/8/69

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\*UNITED STATES GERNMENT

### Memorandum

TO

Mr. Mohr

DATE: 9-2-69

FROM

C. L. Trotter

SUBJECT:

JAMES EARL RAY

**IDENTIFICATION MATTER** 

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Confident Condy

On 3-10-69 Ray, who had been charged with the murder of Martin Luther King, plead guilty in Tennessee State Court and was sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville. In addition, he still has 13 years to serve in Missouri. The judge who sentenced Ray was W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee. Battle is dead, the victim of a heart attack in his chambers on 3-31-69. On 4-7-69 Ray filed a motion for a new trial in Memphis and on 5-26-69 Judge Arthur Faquin dismissed this. On 6-16-69 a "prayer for appeal" was denied by Judge Faquin. On 6-25-69 Ray appealed to the Tennessee State Court of Criminal Appeals for a court review of the trial record and this was denied on 7-15-69. There are no court-imposed restrictions on discussing the evidence in this case.

Some very excellent latent fingerprint identification techniques employed in this case resulted in Ray's identification by the Bureau's Identification Division.

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached interesting identification be approved for classroom and speech use.

Enc. ENCLOSURE

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Rosen

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#### 9/3/69 JGK:cs ADDENDUM GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Although Ray's appeal in Tennessee State Court was denied by the court on 7/15/69, the State Prosecuting Attorney previously advised that Ray can continue his appeals by filing petitions for Writs of Habeas Corpus in State Court and if these are unsuccessful, he can do the same in Federal Court. The prosecuting attorney anticipates that Ray will avail himself of such remedies, although there is no current indication as to when he will do so.

In light of this, it is not felt desirable for the Bureau to comment beyond that which is a matter of public record, that is, what has been publicly testified to in open court.

#### ADDENDUM CRIME RECORDS DIVISION 9-4-69 TEB:hak

Every convicted person has the privilege of filing a Writ of Habeas Corpus while a prisoner. If we allow the possibility of Ray doing so to prevent us from getting out to the public the story of the excellent work done by the FBI in this case, it will never be possible to get it out so long as Ray is serving his life sentence, if the feelings of the General Investigative Division are followed. In addition, it should be born in mind that the danger of prejudicing a case by publicity only applies prior to and during the actual trial of the case. Publicity cannot prejudice a case in the appeals stage since this stage is concerned only with matters of law rather than fact.

The FBI has done an outstanding job in this case and we should now start letting the public know of this job through items like the attached, through articles, and through cooperating with a good author like Jim Bishop, who has been commissioned by Reader's Digest to prepare a comprehensive

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## JAMES EARL RAY INTERESTING IDENTIFICATION

Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed on April 4, 1968, while standing on a balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. The unknown killer made good his getaway, but in so doing, left behind evidence that would eventually help lead to his identification, apprehension and imprisonment. Items left behind were a .30-06 Remington rifle with attached Redfield telescopic sight, binoculars, and a blue zipper bag containing clothing and personal articles. These items were found in the vicinity of a rooming house across from the Lorraine Hotel. Investigation determined that subject had rented a room at the rooming house using the name John Willard, and it was from the bathroom in this establishment that the fatal shot was fired. The rifle and other evidence was delivered to the FBI Laboratory and Identification Division by a Special Agent of the Memphis Division.

Several latent prints of value were developed on the items submitted. Two of these latent prints, one on the rifle and one on the binoculars were found to have been made by the same finger and the position of these prints, as well as the shape and slope of the ridges, indicated the prints were probably from the left thumb.

Thorough investigation developed considerable information relative to the murderer. The rifle had been purchased in Birmingham by an individual using the name Harvey Lowmeyer; the white Mustang believed to be the getaway car was registered to an Eric Starvo Galt who had spent the night preceeding the murder at the Rebel Motel in Memphis. Galt was further traced to a rooming house in Atlanta where additional evidence was recovered, including a map of Mexico. A latent fingerprint developed thereon was identified with the latent prints on the rifle and binoculars. This identification enabled the FBI fingerprint experts to say that this print, in addition to probably being from the left thumb, was an ulnar loop of 12 ridge counts.

The latent prints developed on the rifle, binoculars, the map, and other evidence had been compared during the eleven days following the murder with approximately 400 suspects, had been searched through all sections of the FBI's single fingerprint file and compared with all outstanding FBI identification orders.

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Based on the premise that the latent fingerprint recovered from the rifle, binoculars and map of Mexico was probably from the left thumb and was an ulnar loop of 12 ridge counts, a review of the fingerprint records of the 53,000 fugitives on file was undertaken and it was found that approximately 1900 of these fugitives had ulnar loops of 10 - 14 ridge counts in the left thumb. Comparisons were started and on April 19, 1968, 15 days after the crime, the latent fingerprints were identified with the fingerprints of James Earl Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary where he had been serving time for robbery.

The fingerprint identifications with James Earl Ray triggered an intensive man hunt involving law enforcement officers and investigative personnel, not only in the United States, but also Mexico, Canada, England, and other countries.

The possibility that Ray himself might have been killed was not overlooked and all unknown deceased fingerprint cards received by the FBI were referred to the Latent Fingerprint Section for comparison. One case of this type concerned a body found buried on the beach at Acapulco, Mexico. Fingerprints taken by local authorities from this body were examined in the Latent Fingerprint Section but, because of the condition of the body, were of no value. An examiner from the FBI's Latent Fingerprint Section flew to Mexico and on examining the flesh of the fingers was able to determine that the body was not that of James Earl Ray.

Another phase of the investigation led to Canada, and there, following an exhaustive search of passport applications, it was determined that Ray had obtained a passport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and had taken an airplane flight to London.

Copies of the FBI Identification Order prepared following Ray's identification by latent prints were immediately furnished to Scotland Yard and on June 8, 1969, while attempting to board a flight for Brussels, Belgium, Ray was arrested at London Airport.

Ray was subsequently ordered extradited to Memphis, Tennessee, to stand trial for murder and to Missouri as an escaped felon. On March 10, 1969, Ray plead guilty to King's murder and was sentenced to 99 years in the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

LLOYD A. RHODES EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT PHIL M. CANALE, JR.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF BHELBY

WILLIAM D. HAYNES

JOHN L. CARLISLE
H. J. BEACH
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.
CLYDE R. VENSON
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

EARL E. FITZPATRICK NON-SUPPORT DIVISION . SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING 187 POPLAR AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

September 10, 1969

EWELL C. RICHARDSON
JEWETT H. MILLER
J. CLYDE MAGON
BAM J. CATANZARO
LEONARD T. LAFFERTY
ARTHUR T. BENNETT
DON D. STROTHER
DON A. DINO

ASSISTANTS

DON D. STROTHER
DON A. DINO
JOSEPH L. PATTERSON
BILLY F. GRAY
EUGENE C. GAERIG
HARVEY HERRIN
F. GLEN BISSON
JOHN W. PIEROTTI
JAMES G. HALL
JAMES H. ALLEN

The Honorable W. S. Neal, Warden State Penitentiary Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Re: James Earl Ray, inmate

Dear Sir:

On August 13, 1969, James Earl Ray made a written request of the United States Marshal to forward to him a duplicate copy of a property receipt of property confiscated by the Scotland Yard Police.

The United States Marshal forwarded this request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation who in turn forwarded same to this office. I am enclosing a list of property which accompanied James Earl Ray to this jurisdiction and which bears the signature of the Federal Agents who took Ray into custody and delivered him to the Chief Jailer of this county whose name also appears on the list of property.

If this meets with your approval, it would be appreciated, at your convenience, to forward this copy on to James Earl Ray.

Very truly yours,

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.

JOHN L. CARLISLE

Criminal Investigator

JLC:MEF Enclosure

Copy to Mr. Joe Hester, Special Agent Federal Bureau of Investigation Federal Building Memphis, Tennessee 38103

24

IN THE CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
VS
JAMES EARL RAY,
Defendant

NO. 16645

### AMENDED ORDER

This cause having come to the attention of this Court, and it appearing to the Court that the Honorable Richard J. Pyan and the Honorable J. B. Stoner are now representing the above styled defendant;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING to the Court that an ORDER was heretofore directed to the Warden of the State Penitentiary at Nashville. Tennessee, or any other person charged with the care and custody of the defendant was directed to permit the Honorable Richard J. Ryan and Honorable J.B.Stoner to visit and consult with the defendant as above styled:

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING to the Court that the visitation and consultation of the defendant has been restricted to conversations behind glass partition with the use of a telephone system in communicating with their client, all of which is not conducive to good client and attorney consultations;

AND IT FURTHER APPEARING to the Court that there is available a consultation room in the Maximum Security Building wherein it is possible for the said attorneys to converse with their client, said conversations having taken place in the past in said consultation room;

That this Court is of the opinion that the Orders heretofore entered in this cause directing the Warden to permit the attorneys, the Honorable Richard J. Ryan and the Honorable J. B. Stoner, to visit and consult with their client should be amended, and that they be allowed to visit and consult with their client in the open conference room available to them now as in the past in the Maximum Security Building.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Honorable Richard J. Ryan and the Honorable J. B. Stoner be and they are hereby permitted to visit and consult with their client, James Earl Ray, as above styled in the open conference room in the Maximum Security Building without the necessity of communication by a telephone system behind glass partitions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Warden or any other person charged with the care and custody of the defendant is hereby directed to permit the Honorable Richard J. Ryan and the Honorable J. B. Stoner to visit and consult with their client, James Earl Ray, in the open conference Room in the Maximum Security Building without the necessit of consulting behind glass partitions or with a telephone communication system.

	•
in application too by Richard Ryanie	
9/10/69	
On application to by Restruct Ryan,	Zin.

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1 - Mr. McDonough

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

REC 82

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From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to Legat, Ottawa dated 8/28/69, received 9/5/69, at the Bureau.

It is noted that the RCMP was only instrumental in the identification and location of the fugitive subject in this matter and was not concerned with the evidentiary or prosecutive aspects.

You should contact appropriate Tennessee State authorities and advise them of the contents of this letter and suggest that they may desire to communicate directly with the RCMP concerning the inquiries set forth in the letter as they may pertain to Tennessee State interests. The Tennessee State authorities should be requested to furnish you a copy of any reply they may make to the RCMP.

MAILED Z If Tennessee State authorities request that their reply be SEP -forwarded to the RCMP by the Bureau in light of the fact that the RCMP had made its inquiries through the Bureau, there is no objection to doing COMMERCIAL the Tennessee State authorities should furnish the reply in writing for forwarding to the RCMP.

The Bureau is contacting the Civil Rights Division relative to this matter and you will be advised of results.

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO..

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#### NOTE:

RCMP by letter to Legat, Ottawa advises that a national magazine will be publishing articles on the RCMP's work and one of the subjects to be covered is the commendations given to two members of the RCMP who participated in the James Earl Ray investigation. RCMP requests to be advised of the status of the Ray case prosecution including any appeal action as they would not want to release information which would affect the case.

Since RCMP was only involved in the fugitive aspects it is not felt that release of information by them of their role and commendation given their men would affect prosecution or evidentiary aspects; however, this matter is being referred to appropriate Tennessee State authorities and the Civil Right's Division for their consideration. RCMP requests prompt reply.

As a matter of cooperation, if the Tennessee State authorities request that we forward their reply to the RCMP, it is not felt that we should object since the RCMP was of invaluable assistance in locating the subject and their inquiry was addressed to our Legal Attache in Ottawa. Tennessee State authorities will be requested to furnish their reply in writing for forwarding to RCMP.

Since Department has not yet dismissed Federal process and has requested that we still continue to run out any subsequent information reported, views of the Civil Rights Division will be obtained on Federal interests and results will be confirmed in writing and furnished to RCMP.

MR. MOSS LEE INNES,

O UNITED STATES EMBASSY,

100 VILINGTON STREET,

OTTA A, ONTARIO.

FOR TRANSMITTAL TO: DIRECTOR, F.B.I.

YOUR FILE

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4-3886

STATUS

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH R.C.M. POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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**REV. 1-5-68** 

ORRESPONDENCE TO BE ADDRESSED

THE COMMISSIONER ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE OTTAWA 7, CANADA



TOUTE CORRESPONDANCE DOLT ÊTRE ADRESSÉE COMME SUIT:

LE COMMISSAIRE GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA OTTAWA 7, CANADA

HEADQUARTERS - DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

YOUR NO. VOTRE No OTTAWA 7, CANADA

OUR NO. NOTRE Nº G 516-275

August 28, 1969.

Mr. Moss Lee Innes, c/o United States Embassy. OTTAWA, Ontario.

James Earl RAY

A national magazine will be publishing various articles showing different aspects of the Force's work in the near future. One of the subjects which will be covered is that of commendations given to members of the Force and we are considering discussing very briefly the commendations given to the two members of the Force who participated in the James Earl RAY investigation.

- 2. Naturally if the RAY case is still before the courts in the United States or if any other legal action is intended or pending, we would not release this information as the defence could contend that publicity was detrimental to the case.
- 3. Could you therefore let us know if any case arising out of the RAY case or the RAY case is now or will be heard in the United States; this will also include any intended appeal action by either the defence or the prosecution.

As we must provide the magazine in question with an early reply, your prompt attention to this particular matter would be much appreciated.

REC 82

5 SEP 5 1969

J.A. Macauley, Insp.,

Assistant Officer in Charge,

Criminal Investigation Branch.

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9-18-69

**REC 82** 

Director, FBI (44-38861) 5820 1 - Foreign Liaison Desk

Mareled

MURKIN

Enclosed are two copies of an LHM from the Memphis Office dated 9-12-69.

Reference is made to letter from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to Legat, Ottawa, dated 8-28-69, in which RCMP advised that a national magazine will be publishing articles on the RCMP's work and one of the subjects to be covered is the commendations given to members of the RCMP who participated in the James Earl Ray investigation. RCMP requested to be advised of the status of the Ray case prosecution including any appeal action as they would not want to release information which would affect the case.

The RCMP inquiries were referred to state of Tennessee authorities and Tennessee Assistant District Attorney General J. Clyde Mason, Memphis, Tennessee, has advised that he would review the Ray case and would respond directly to the RCMP regarding its inquiries. For your information, Tennessee state authorities will furnish the Bureau a copy of its letter to the RCMP.

The RCMP inquiries have also been referred to the Civil Rights Division and they are reviewing the matter and will furnish their views when a determination is reached. continues to be closely followed with the Department. If publication date is imminent, advise promptly so Department and Tennessee state authorities can be advised.

You should advise RCMP of Mr. Mason's response and also inform RCMP that the Civil Rights Division is also reviewing the matter and RCMP will be advised of the outcome.

Tolson -

Enclosures (2)

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#### NOTE:

RCMP inquiries referred to Tennessee state authorities and Civil Rights Division. RCMP was primarily concerned with identification and location of fugitive but did conduct some investigation at our request based on William Bradford Huie's articles as told to him by Ray, relating to an alleged conspiracy with one "Raoul" who has not been identified.

The RCMP inquiries have been referred to Department Attorney J. H. Flannery who is now handling this case since the departure of former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, D. R. Owen. Flannery has been followed and on 9-15-69, he advised that they still have the matter under consideration but he desired to confer with Tennessee state authorities who he would contact telephonically. Mr. Flannery indicated the final Department determination may have to be made by AAG Jerris Leonard who has been and is still on the scene in Louisiana in connection with school integration matters.

The Department will continue to be followed closely on this matter.

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			Mr. Callahan Mr. Callahan Mr. Conrad
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	Date: <b>9/12/69</b>		Mr. Rosen Mr. Sullivan
ansmit the fol	llowing in		Mr. Tavel Mr. Trotter
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AIRT	(Priority)		
TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)		
FROM	A: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)		
SUBJ	JECT: MURKIN		
	Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 9/8/69.		•
	Enclosed for the Bureau are 5 copies		for
J. C	On 9/11/69, Assistant District Attor CLYDE MASON, District Attorney General's Of a., advised that he would furnish us a copy the RCMP at Ottawa, Canada.	fice, Memp	his, $ \langle \rangle \rangle$
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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, STEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: NUREIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 9/8/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 5 copies of an LHM for transmittal to the Legat, Ottawa, concerning the RCMP's desire to mention 2 memors of the RCMP in a magazine article in connection with their work in this case.

On 9/11/69, Assistant District Attorney General J. CLYDS MASON, District Attorney General's Office, Memphis, Tenn., advised that he would furnish us a copy of his letter to the RCMP at Ottawa, Canada.

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#### UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Memphis, Tennessee September 12, 1969

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

On September 11, 1969, Assistant District Attorney General J. Clyde Mason, Memphis, Tennessee, was advised of the letter addressed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police under the date August 28, 1969. Mr. Mason said he would review the case against James Earl Ray and would advise the Royal Canadian Mounted Police directly as to whether or not he had any objection to the mention in a magazine article of the two Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers who were commended for their work in this case.

44-38861-5890

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES VERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

9/19/69 DATE:

FROM

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SUBJECT:

(MURKIN

Reference is made to the RCMP's inquiry directed to Legat, Ottawa, under date of 8/28/69, asking whether or not it would be proper for them to make mention in a magazine article of commendations given to two RCMP officers for their work in this case.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 2 copies of a letter dated 9/17/69 from Assistant District Attorney General J. CLYDE MASON to the Commissioner of the RCMP at Ottawa.

Bureau (Encs. 2)
Memphis

1 - Memphis JCH: jap

(3)

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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LLOYD A. RHODES

WILLIAM D. HAYNES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN L. CARLISLE
H. J. BEACH
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.
CLYDE R. VENSON
GRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

EARL E. FITZPATRICK NON-SUPPORT DIVISION

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SHELBY

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING 187 POPLAR AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

September 17, 1969

ABS SANTS

EWELL G. RICHARDSON JEWETT H. MILLER J. CLYDE MASON SAM .. CATANZARO COONARD T. LAFFERTY ASTHUR T. BENNETT . ON D. STROTHER GON A. DINO SEPH L. PATTERSON BILLY F. GRAY ELGENE C. GAERIG W. RYCY HERRIN F GLLN SISSON JOHN W. PIEROTTI JAMES G. HALL JAMES H. ALLEN

The Commissioner
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Ottawa 7, Canada

Attention: Inspector J. A. Macauley

Dear Sir:

Your letter of August 28, 1969 to Mr. Moss Lee Innes, United States Embassy, Ottawa, Ontario, has been referred to our office for answer.

This is to advise that the guilty plea in the da Case is at this time on appeal. A question of law had arisen due to the death of the trial judge who handled the guilty plea. The appeal has been denied by the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals and a Writ of Certification is being sought to the Tennessee Supreme Court by defense counsel at this time.

If we can provide any further information, we will be happy to do so.

Very truly yours,

J. CLYDE MASON

Assistant Attorney General

JCM/bk

ENGLOSURE.

44. 28861-50

~ KK

SAC, San Francisco

9-11-69

MEG 24

Director, FBI (44-38861) — 5822 1 - Mr. McDonough

MURKIN

FX-102

6. Por Enclosed for each office is a copy of a copy of a letter addressed to the Attorney General along with a copy of the envelope.

The San Francisco Office should evaluate the contents of this letter based on your knowledge of the activities of Bobby Seale during the pertinent period and check your indices on the writer and include information as to the nature of the Jack Tar Hotel.

If no further action appears warranted, suLHM suitable for dissemination and furnish copies to Memphis.

Conduct no investigation UACB.

Respond within 5 days.

#### Enclosures (2)

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enclosures 2)

5961 COMM-FBI 20

EJM: jmv

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

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Mr. Tolson Mr. DeLoach Mr. Mohr Mr. Bishop Mr. Casper 9/5/69 Mr. Callahan Mr. Conrad Mr. Felt -Mr. Gale Mr. Rosen Attorney General Mitchell: Mr. Sullivan Mr. Tavel Mr. Trotter Tele. Room Miss Holmes Now that there is evidence that Black Panthe Miss Gandy Bobby Seale is able to take part in or direct activities involving mu all the way across the country from San Francisco, I wonder if the fol ing strange and unusual fact has been brought back to the attention of Federal or other authorities. Some time ago Seale had been arrested in this area and was supposed to appear in court on a certain day. He did not appear and both his attorney and his wife indicated they did not know where he was.. that nobody had seen him in this entire area that day. ABOUT FIVE HOURS LATER ON THAT SAME DAY THE NEWS FLASHED ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING HAD BEEN KILLED. T. Wayner SAN FRANCISCO, CAR cc Mr. J. Edgar Hoover T. Wayne San Francisco, Cali FC. Market for ER SEP 23 1969 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

9/5/69 Attorney General Mitchell: Now that there is evidence that Black Panther, Bobby Seale is able to take part in or direct activities involving murder all the way across the country from San Francisco, I wonder if the following strange and unusual fact has been brought back to the attention of Federal or other authorities. Some time ago Seale had been arrested in this area and was supposed to appear in court on a certain day. He did not appear and both his attorney and his wife indicated they did not know where he was.. that nobody had seen him in this entire area that day. ABOUT FIVE HOURS LATER ON THAT SAME DAY THE NEWS FLASHED ACROSS THE COUNTRY THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING HAD BEEN KILLED. T. Wayner SANFRANCISCO, CAR co Mr. J. Edgar Hoover T. Wayne San Francisco, Call 50 Month 22 SEP 23 1969 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 5010-106 GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

### Memorandum

Т	O	

Mr. DeLoach

**FROM** 

SUBJECT: C MURKIN

DATE:	Sep	tember	16.	1969
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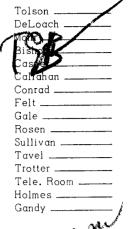
1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. McDonough

1 - Mr. Bishop



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

The Memphis Office has advised that Tennessee Assistant District Attorney General J. Clyde Mason informed that in recent conversation with one of James Earl Ray's attorneys, Richard J. Ryan, it was determined that Ryan intends to appeal this matter to the Tennessee Supreme Court. Ryan has until 10-13-69, to perfect his appeal to that court and Ryan has indicated he intends to meet that deadline. James Earl Ray, the subject in this case, is presently incarcerated in the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee, based on his plea of guilty of murder charges on 3-10-69, for which he received a 99 year sentence.

The basis for the appeal is that under Tennessee law when a judge dies before ruling on a motion for a new trial, the defendant is automatically granted a new trial on the basis that only the trial judge would have been aware of errors in the previous trial and the defendant should, therefore, be entitled to a new trial. The State contends that this law does not apply in the Ray case since Ray was sentenced on a plea of guilty and was never tried. The defense contends that a letter written by Ray to the late Judge Preston Battle, who died of a heart attack several weeks after the sentencing of Ray, constituted a motion for a new trial and since Judge Battle died without ruling on this matter Ray is entitled to a new trial. Mr. Mason further stated that Ryan indicated to him that if Ray is unsuccessful before the Tennessee Supreme Court, they will then attempt to seek relief through some other avenue of appeal.

#### ACTION:

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San Francisco is of the opinion that no additional

investigation should be conducted in this matter in view of the fact that BOBBY SEALE at the time of KING's death appeared to be involved in some type of quarrel with his attorney.

Division

Ice: AAG Civil Rights Form 6-94 (6) 22

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Bureau (Encs. 6) (RM) - Memphis (44-1987) (Encs. 2) (AM) (RM) 1 - San Francisco

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6 ENCLOSURE 36 (5)

**REC- 65** 

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

#### FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

San Francisco, California
September 16, 1969

## T. WAYNE

The files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C., contain the following letter:

"9/5/69

"Attorney General MITCHELL:

"Now that there is evidence that Black Panther, BOBBY SEALE, is able to take part in or <u>direset</u> activities involving murder all the way across the country from San Francisco, I wonder if the following strange and unusual fact has been brought back to the attention of Federal or other authorities.

"Some time ago SEALE had been arrested in this area and was supposed to appear in court on a certain day. He did not appear and both his attorney and his wife indicated they did not know where he was...that nobody had seen him in this entire area that day. About five hours later on that same day the news flashed across the country that...MARTIN LUTHER KING had been killed.

"T. WAYNE San Francisco, Cal.

"cc: Mr. J. EDGAR HOOVER"

The files of the San Francisco Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation do not contain any information identifiable with "T. WAYNE."

The Jack Tar Hotel is located in the block bounded by Van Ness Avenue, Franklin Street, Geary Boulevard, and Post Street, and is one of the most recent hotels built in the City of San Francisco and is considered to be a first-class botel.

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.

INSURF 44-38-66 5743

ENCLOSURE

BLACK PANTHER PARTY, aka Black Panther Party for Self Defense

According to its official newspaper, the Black Panther Party (BPP) was started during December, 1966, in Oakland, California, to organize black people so they can take control of the life, politics, and the destiny of the black community. It was organized by Bobby George Seale, BPP Chairman, and Huey P. Newton, BPP Minister of Defense. Newton is presently serving a sentence of 2 to 15 years on a conviction of manslaughter in connection with the killing of an Oakland police officer.

The official newspaper, "The Black Panther," which further describes itself as the "Black Community News Service," states that the BPP advocates the use of guns and guerrilla tactics in its revolutionary program to end oppression of the black people. Residents of the black community are urged to arm themselves against the police who are consistently referred to in the publication as "pigs" who should be killed.

"The Black Panther" issue of September 7, 1968, contains an editorial by BPP Minister of Education, George Mason Murray, which ends with the following:

"Black men. Black people, colored persons of America, revolt everywhere! Arm yourselves. The only culture worth keeping is a revolutionary culture. Change. Freedom everywhere. Dynamite! Black Power. Use the gun. Kill the pigs everywhere."

Included in the introduction to an article appearing in the October 5, 1968, edition of "The Black Panther" is the statement, "...we will not dissent from American Government. We will overthrow it."

Issues of "The Black Panther" regularly contain quotations from the writings of Chairman MAO Tse-tung of the People's Republic of China and feature MAO's statement that "political power grows out of the barrel of a gun."

The national headquarters of the BPP is located at 3106 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley, California. Branches have been established at various locations throughout the United States.

APPENDIX

The "San Francisco Chronicle," a doily newspaper published in San Francisco, California, in the edition dated April 5, 1968, corried an article contioned "No Show--Warrant for BOBBY SEALE." This article stated that a bonch warrant for the arrest of Black Panther leader BOBBY SEALE was issued yesterday (April 4, 1968) after he failed to appear on an old charge of carrying a loaded shotgun in the Oakland Hall of Justice. SHALE had been scheduled to appear before Alameda County Superior Judge REDMOND C. STAATS at 9:30 a.m. SHALE's counsel explained that be had seen SHALE approximately one-half hour before "tying his tie--and he was supposed to be here." Counsel requested a postmonement of SHALE's hearing.

The "San Francisco Chronicle" in the edition dated April 9, 1968, entitled "SEALE In Court. . . Attorney Trouble," stoted that BOBBY SEALE, Chairman of the Black Panthers, appeared with his attorney in an Oakland court yesterday thus abrogating a beach warrant for his arrest.

SEALE stated in court that he was actually en route to the court when he "got mad at his lawyer."

At this point in the proceedings, SEALE's new autorney took over saying it was indeed true that SEALE and his former counsel had a falling out but that it was an embarrassing matter to bring up in open court since it involved client-attorney relationships.

A characterization of the Black Panther Party is attached hereto.

Sent.

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1969

Special Agent in Charge

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Special Agent to Charge

LEGAT, Ottawa (44-4)

9-25-69

1 - Foreign Liaison Desk
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1 - Mr. McDonough

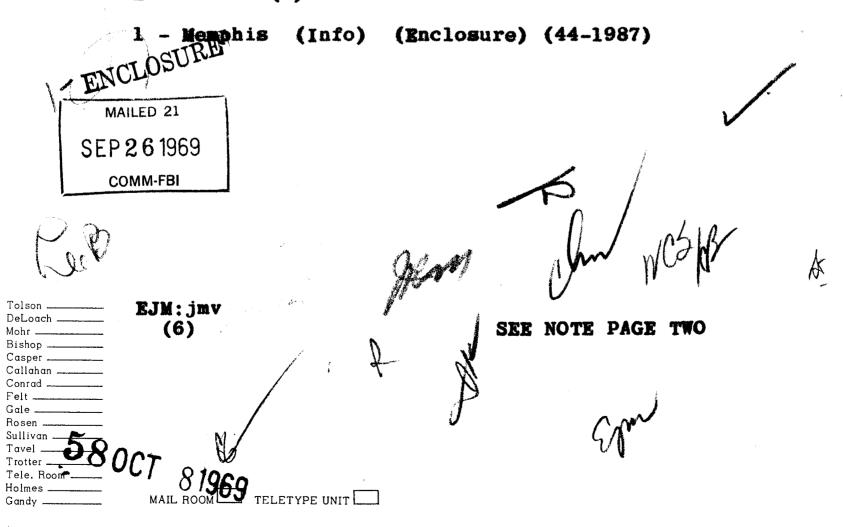
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ReBulet 9-18-69.

Enclosed are two copies of a letterhead memorandum setting forth views of the Civil Rights Division relative to the RCMP's inquiry on possible publication in a national magazine of the commendations given members of the RCMP in connection with the James Earl Ray investigation.

You may furnish a copy of this letterhead memorandum to the RCMP and if they have any further questions suggest that they may desire to communicate directly with Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. Of course there is no objection to you forwarding any further inquiries from the RCMP along these lines.

#### Enclosures (2)



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1 - Mr. McDonough review) (Boate through for 1 - Foreign Liatson Desk

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

### NOTE:

RCMP inquiries as to prosecutive status of Ray case and as to whether publicity of its commendations to RCMP members might prejudice case were forwarded to Tennessee state authorities and Civil Rights Division. Tennessee state authorities advised that they would review matter and advise RCMP directly furnishing us a copy of their letter. Legat, Ottawa was instructed to advise RCMP of comments of Tennessee state officials.

Civil Rights Division has now advised in essence that if Tennessee state authorities have no objection to release of such information that the RCMP should limit its release to its role in the apprehension of the fugitive and not include any investigation it may have conducted relative to alleged conspiracy. Legat, Ottawa being instructed to advise RCMP. (No information has been developed to date to substantiate the existence of a conspiracy). In view of RCMP's outstanding cooperation in this case there is no objection to Legat forwarding any additional inquiries RCMP may have.

September 25, 1969

1 - Mr. McDonough

JAMES EARL RAY ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

With respect to the inquiry by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) relative to publication in a magazine of information concerning commendations given to members of the RCMP in the James Earl Ray case, the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., has advised as follows:

"Assuming that the prosecutive authorities of Shelby County, Tennessee, have no objection to the release of such information, on the basis of the prior court order limiting pre-trial publicity, or otherwise, it is our view that the R.C.M.P. should limit their release of information to their role in apprehending the fugitive; and that their other investigative activity, particularly with respect to whether Ray was part of a conspiracy to kill Dr. King, should not be discussed."

This is for your information.

44-38861

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## UNITED STATE

# Memorandum

TO

: Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: SEP 23 1969

JL:JHF:dcr

DJ 144-72-662

Jerris Leonard

Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray - Subject;

Martin Luther King, Jr. - Victim.

Conspiracy Against Rights

CIVIL RIGHTS

This is to confirm the telephone conversation of this date between Mr. McDonough of your Bureau and Mr. Flannery of this Division, concerning information to be

released by the R.C.M.P. with respect to their assistance in apprehending the fugitive James Earl Ray.

"Assuming that the prosecutive authorities of Shelby County, Tennessee, have no objection to the release of such information, on the basis of the prior court order limiting pre-trial publicity, or otherwise, it is our view that the R.C.M.P. should limit their release of information to their role in apprehending the fugitive; and that their other investigative activity, particularly with respect to whether Ray was part of a conspiracy to kill Dr. King, should not be discussed. "

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1 - Mr. McDonough

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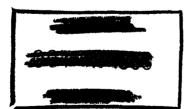
Director, FBI (44-38861) — EX-111

MURKIN

Reurlet 9-29-69.

As you were previously instructed, it is no longer necessary to pursue this aspect unless you can furnish logical reason for doing so. If so, advise by return airtel or close your case.

MAILED Z OCT - 2 1969 COMM-FBI



DeLoach \_\_ Mohr -Bishop -Casper \_ Callahan \_ Conrad \_ Felt\_ Gale Rosen -Sullivan ... Tavel Trotter
Tele. Ro**54**Holmes

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1962 EDITION GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6 UNITED STATES COVERNMENT Memorandum DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) DATE: 9/29/69 SAC, BUTTE (173-2) (RUC) SUBJECT: MURKIN CR 00: Memphis Remyairtel, 7/24/69. On 8/21/69, MYRNA McCARVER was contacted at 1060 Katherine Avenue, Idaho Falls, Idaho, at which time she advised that she is married to MORRIS McCARVER. Mrs. McCARVER stated that MORRIS McCARVER was working for RANDELL BARNEY, out of Mud Lake, Idaho, during the early summer of 1969, and quit that job because of some comments made by BARNEY sometime around the first of August, 1969. She stated that BARNEY gave she and her husband a ride to Mud Lake where she stayed at a motel. She assumed that her husband was also staying there; however, he left the area and has not returned. She has not heard from him since that time, but thinks that he is in the area somewhere working. However, she is not going to make any effort to locate him. Mrs. McCARVER stated that she feels sooner or later McCARVER will be in touch with her. She pointed out that McCARVER is a good man when he is sober and is a hard working individual. She stated that she feels sometimes, when he starts drinking a little bit excessively, he gets "wild ideas" and does certain things which she cannot explain. Mrs. McCARVER stated that she will certainly tell MORRIS McCARVER, when she sees him, that if he is desirous of having the FBI check his record at the Topeka State Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, he can stop at the FBI Office in Idaho Falls and advise them personally that they can check his record. - Bureau (Reg.) - Memphis (44-1987) - Butte BSP/sdt Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan