4-596 (REV. 11-20-73)

U. S. Devartment of Justice

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FOR HISTORICAL DECLASSIFICATION

of

44-HQ-38861-82

44- HQ-38861

SECTION 88

INVESTIGATION

ATTENTION

BEFORE CHANGING CLASSIFICATION OR PROCESSING ANY DOCUMENT FROM THIS FILE FOR RELEASE TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC, CONTACT FOI/PA SECTION UNIT D, EXT. 5767.

FBI/DOJ

USE GAKE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

SECTION 82 SERIALS 5851--5885

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WORK SHEET - KIROX REQUEST

SUBJECT - MARTINI LUTHER KING JR FILE # - MURKIN ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # - 218 PAGES 36 DOCUMENTS

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WORK SHEET - KI:ROX REQUEST

SUBJECT - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR
FILE # - MURKIN

ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # -

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WORK SHEET - KI:ROX REQUEST

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ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # -

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THE LISTED SERIALS CONTAIN INFORMATION WHICH IS CLASSIFIED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS of EXECUTIVE ORDER 12958

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Date February

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FBI WASH DC COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FBI MEMPHIS

502 PM DEFERRED 1-12-70 MCP

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 FROM MÉMPHIS 44-1987 2 P

MURKIN

REBUTELCALL THIS DATE.

ON JANUARY TWELVE INSTANT JESSE CLYDE MASON. ASSISTANT STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHELBY COUNTY, MEMPHIS, TENN., ADVISED THAT THE ONLY OTHER APPEAL RECOURSE THAT JAMES EARL RAY HAS IN CONNECTION WITH HIS CONVICTION IN THE MURDER OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING. JR. IS TO FILE A MOTION UNDER THE TENNESSEE "POST CONVICTION RELIEF ACT." HE STATED THAT ATTORNEYS FOR RAY HAVE NOT FILED SUCH A MOTION TO DATE: HOWEVER. HE ANTICIPATES THAT SUCH A MOTION WILL BE FILED 102 WITHIN THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS.

HE ASSERTED THAT THERE IS NO TIME LIMITATION FOR SUCH A MOTION TO BE FILED IN RAY'S BEHALF; HOWEVER. THE LONGER THAT RAY WAITS TO FILE SUCH A MOTION HINDERS HIS CHANCES OF $_{15~\mathrm{JAN}}$ $_{20~1970}$ HAVING A SUCCESSFUL OPINION RENDERED IN HIS BEHALF. IF SUCH A MOTION IF FILED AND IS DECLINED AT THE THE SHELBY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT LEVEL. RAY DOES HAVE RECOURSE THROUGH THE In the Rose of the Look END PAGE ONE

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Mr. Tolson. Mr. DeLoach Mr. W liers. Mr. Mohr. Mr. B. hop. Mr. Camer. Mr. Callanan Mr. Corrad. Mr. Felt. Mr. Gelow Mr. Recom Mr. Su . van Mr. Takki N S Tele. Room. M as E imes. Miss Gandy.

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PAGE TWO

APPELLATE COURT AND STATE SUPREME COURT ON THIS PARTICULAR ISSUE.

MASON STATED THAT IF RAY IS UNSUCCESSFUL IN OBTAINING
A NEW TRIAL UNDER THE TENNESSEE "POST CONVICTION RELIEF ACT,"
HE THEN HAS RECOURSE THROUGH THE FEDERAL COURTS BY A HABEAS
CORPUS ACTION CLAIMING THAT HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS HAVE
BEEN VIOLATED IN THAT HIS PLEA OF GUILTY TO THE MURDER CHARGE
WAS NOT GIVEN VOLUNTARILY.

MEMPHIS WILL KEEP THE BUREAU ADVISED OF FURTHER LITIGATION ON BEHALF OF RAY IN THIS MATTER. P.

END

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FBI WASH DC

TELETYPE UNIT

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FBI

Date:

1-20-70

Tran	smit the following	in				
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Via	AIRTEL		AM			
					(Priority)	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

Submitted herewith for the Bureau's assistance and completion of its files is LHM setting forth correspondence furnished by one Mrs. BEVERLY JEAN EVANS, 1693 Market Street, San Francisco, California. Based on the information set forth in an initial letter written by Mrs. EVANS to Warden W. S. NEIL, Tennessee State Prison, in which she reports she saw JAMES EARL RAY in Dallas, Texas, in 1963, it is readily apparent that she has no information pertinent to the MURKIN case. As the Bureau is aware, JAMES EARL RAY was confined in the Missouri State Prison from 1960 until his escape in 1967, and it therefore would not have been physically possible for him to have been in Dallas and been seen by Mrs. EVANS as she alleges.

The San Francisco Office should review its indices regarding Mrs. EVANS and conduct a local credit and criminal check, and results furnished the Bureau. No effort should be made by San Francisco to interview Mrs. EVANS, UACB.

District Attorney General PHIL CANALE, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, has been advised separately of the contents of the letter which Mrs. BEVERLY JEAN EVANS forwarded to W. S.

NEIL, Warden, Tennessee State Penitentiary.

2 BUREAU (Enc. 4) (AM)
2 SAN FRANCISCO (Enc.)
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN

(5)

Per Special Agent in Charge

VIELEL

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) J. C. . .

BLC, MEMBRIS (44-1087) FMON:

MURKIK

and been soon by Mrs. BVAMS as she alteges. not have been physically possible for him to have been in Dallas Prison from 1960 until his escape in 1867, and it therefore would as aware; JAMES MARL RAY was confined in the Eissour; Trate haz no information pertinent to the MURKIN dase. As the Sureau MAY in Dalias, Texus, in 1962, it is readily apparent that whe Tennossee State Prista, in which she reports she saw JAMES PARI. in an anitial letter written by Ans. Byans to Warden B. S. Majin, den Francisco, California: Based on the intermation set forth. furnished by one Ars. BEVELLY JEAN HVAUS, 1600 Market Street, completion of its files is hill setting forth correspondence Submitted berewith Ior the Bureau's assistance and

by San Erancisco to interview Mrs. Stake, of de. check, and results furnished the Bureau. No effort should be made regarding Mrs. BVAMS and conduct a Meeal predit and eriminal The fan grancisco effice should review its indices

Mail, Warden, Tonnessee State Ponftentiary. of the letter which Mrs. BRVINLY JUAN HVAMS Terminded to N. S. Memphis, Tennessee, has been advased sonsrately or the contours District Attorney General PHIL CAMER, Shelby County,

REC TH

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REMOURS

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In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee January 20, 1970

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. JR.

On January 19, 1970, the Memphis Office of the FBI received a copy of the following letter:

"Office of Clerk of Supreme Court State of Tennessee Knoxville 37901 January 16, 1970

"Honorable David M. Pack Attorney General of Tennessee Supreme Court Building Nashville, Tennessee 37219

"Attention: Hon. Thomas E. Fox, Deputy Attorney General

Re: STATE OF TENNESSEE

vs.

JAMES EARL RAY

(MURDER)

"Dear Sir:

"The accompanying letter was delivered to my office on January 16, 1970, and is being relayed to interested prosecutive and investigative agencies for such action as they doem necessary.

"The writer purports to be Mrs. Beverly Jean Evans, 1800 Market Street, San Francisco, California, with whom a personal interview would appear to be indicated to develop further information as to her allegations.

"Very truly yours,

/s/ John A. Parker Clerk of the Court

"Jar:br Enclosure

cc: Mr. Charles W. Bates, SAC
Federal Bureau of Investigation
450 Golden Gate Ave., Box 36015
San Francisco, Caif. 94102 (Enc.)

44-38601-5302

Memorandum dated 1/20/70

Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

"cc: Mr. Robert G. Jensen, SAC

Federal Bureau of Investigation

841 Federal Office Bldg.

Memphis, Tennessee 38103 (Enc.)

"cc: District Attorney General Shelby County Court House Memphis, Tenn. 38103 (Enc.)

"cc: Hon. Ross W. Dyer, C. J.
Tennessee Supreme Court
Halls, Tenn. 38040 (Enc.)"

The above-quoted letter furnished an enclosure which is a letter dated January 11, 1970, from Mrs. Beverly Jean Evans, 1693 Market Street, San Francisco, California. This letter is set out hereafter:

"1-11-70

"suPreme court. Knoxville, Tenn.

"gentlemen!

"My name Is Mrs Beverly Jean Evans, 1693 Market street. San francisco. calif Please Listen:

"You have a man In the state prision called James Earl Ray. charged with the shooting at Rev King Memphis. tenn. he Is not the killer of Rev. Martin Luther King! Only a crack pot!

"there are 6-men Involved In three killing of President Kennedy Nov 22 - 63, Dallas texas! Robert Kennedy Los Angels Calif. & Memphis, Tenn.!

"this man called James Ray Looks Like the killer. But Is not the same man! Martin Luther Kings killer Is still free! I want you people there In the suPreme court to know the truth. I sure can prove It, as I Have It In writing In notes Letters!

Memorandum dated 1/20/70
Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King. Jr.

" I'm signing my name to this Letter also my address!

/s/ Mrs. Beverly Jean Evans 1693 Market St. S. F. Calif."

In addition to the above letter to the Supreme Court, Mrs. Beverly Jean Evans directed a letter to W. S. Neil, Warden, Tennessee State Penitentiary at Nashville, which is set out as follows:

"1-1-70

"Warden in Charge Tennessee State Penitentiary Nashville, Tennessee

"Dear Sir:

"My name is Beverly Jean Evans. I would like for you to listen to what I now have to tell you. Three weeks prior to Nov. 22 - 1963. I was in a restaurant 2 blocks this side of 30 - and Mission three men came in and sat next to me. The one man was taking about Kennedy. I overheard this. How all 3 men had planned to kill the President Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Rev. King. three weeks prior to the Dalas killing! I approached the 3 men and asked him your not really going to kill Kennedy are you. the next day I went back into the restaurant for coffee. the one man came in and I asked him are you really going to shoot all 3 persons in a head with a rifle. and he said we are going to blow all there brains out and that there are 6 of us. 2 Rifles will be used, in Datas, Tex. Nov. 22-63. I figured they were nuts. On Nov. 22-33 it became no longer a joke. Kennedy was shot. I wanted than to go to the Police and my husband, threathening phone calls came to our home. If you love your husband Mrs. Evans and chidren youll for get what you seen and head. Otherwise they will get what Kennedy got! (I don't get much of a chance to read newspapers until yesterday. Then I had seen this man's picture in the paper, named James Earl Ray. : I remembered the man's face in the restaurant. This same man now in the newspaper is one of the 3 men which planned to shoot all 3 men.

Memorandum dated 1/20/70
Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

" I have a very good memmoire Warden. This man was in San Francisco 3 weeks prior to Nov. 22-63.)

"I can assure you Warden I am no nut! I have a good memmoire for faces. The second rifle used in Dalas, Tex. is in Nashville, you may turn my letter over to the Police, FBI, or who ever you wish because I'm not a nut. there are 6-men involved in this. One of the 6 men I have just seen now in the paper & thats James Earl Ray. I would like to hear from you.

Please keep my address listed unknown because I have gotten threathenig letters and phone calls since Nov. 22-63. Please acknowledge.

/s/ Mrs. Beverly Jean Evans
1693 Market St.
S. F. Calif."

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.

F B I

	Date: 1/23/70	
insmit the	following in(Type in plaintext or code)	_
_	AIRTEL	
a	(Priority)	
	TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)	
	FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)	
	SUBJECT: MURKIN	
	Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are two xeroxed copies of a petition filed with the Shelby	7
	County Criminal Court Clerk's Office, Memphis, Ter on behalf of JAMES EARL RAY, wherein RAY is reques	nnessee, sting
	that the Shelby County Court compel PERCY FOREMAN,	RAY's
	former attorney, to turn over certain personal lead and other documents, in possession of FOREMAN, etc.	tters ther to
	the court or to Mr. RICHARD RYAN, one of RAY's cur attorneys, Memphis, Tennessee.	
<u>;</u>	On 1/23/70, Mr. JOHN CARLISLE, Investiga State's Attorney General's Office, Memphis, advise	ed that
	a hearing in connection with the smallered metatal	, hoa
	a hearing in connection with the enclosed petition been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II. St	l nas
	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, St. County Court, Memphis, Tennessee.	nelby
	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, St County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this ma	elby itter
	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action takes.	nelby ntter nen in
	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action take connection with the following of the enclosed petitions.	elby atter sen in ation.
A1rte:	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action take connection with the following of the enclosed petitions.	elby tter en in tion.
,	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action take connection with the following of the enclosed petitions.	elby tter en in tion.
7 1917	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action take connection with the following of the enclosed petitors of the EX-109 1 - Bureau (Enc.2) 1 - Memphis PEG-22 44 - 3886	tter sen in tion.
7 1917	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action take connection with the following of the enclosed petitors of the EX-109 1 - Bureau (Enc.2) 1 - Memphis PEG-22 44 - 3886	tter sen in tion.
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T lety	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action take connection with the following of the enclosed petitory. EX-109 FEG-22 FEG-22 FEG-22 FEG-22 FEG-22 FINITY CRD 4946 FINITY Del. "ENCLOSURE ATTACHED" FINITY Civil Right Seattle Civil Right Civil Right Civil Right	tter sen in tion.
A A. A. Ma	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action take connection with the following of the enclosed petitory. EX-109 FEG-22 FEG-22 FEG-22 FEG-22 FEG-22 FINITY CRD 4946 FINITY Del. "ENCLOSURE ATTACHED" FINITY Civil Right Seattle Civil Right Civil Right Civil Right	tter sen in tion.
Approve	been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, She County Court, Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Division will follow this may and will advise the Bureau of the final action take connection with the following of the enclosed petitory of the enc	tter sen in tion.

1/23/70

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do : DIBECION, BEL (CAUSSEL)

ABCA: : SVC' HEBIAIS; (RV-1984) - (B)

Enclosed berewith for the Bureau are two servered capies of a potition filed with the Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk's Office, Weschis, Tennessee, on behalf of James MAID SAY, wherein RAY is requesting that the Shelby County Cenrt connel PMRCY WORMAN, RAY'A. Former attorney, to turn ever certain personal letters and other documents, in possession of MARWAN, either to the court or to Mr. MICHANN BYAN, one of ANY's current attorneys, Wemphis, Tennessee.

On 1/33/70, Wr. MORE CARLIBLE, Investigator, State's Attorney General's Calice, Teaphis, Advised that a bearing in connection with the enclosed petition has been set for February 20, 1970, in Division II, Sholby County Centt, Membias, Tennosses.

The Memphis Division will follow this patror and will povise the Dureau of the Tinal action talled to comedian with the following of the enclosed petition.

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ME FILE 44-1987 BUFILE 44-38861

RE: MURKIN

ENCLOSED FOR BUREAU:

Two (2) xeroxed copies of petition filed with the Shelby County Criminal Court Clerks Office, Memphis, Tenn. on behalf of JAMES EARL RAY.

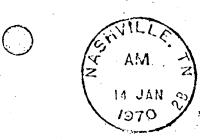


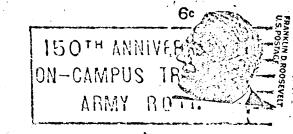
ENCLOSURE

44-38861-5853

274

JAMES E. PAY-65477 STATION-1A-WEST O MSB 3014 NASHVILLE, TENN. 37203





To, Hon, arthur Fraquin Judge of the criminal Court Shelly county-157-poplar Menphis, Tennessee 38103 44-38861-5853

HANES AND HANES

ATTORNEYS AT LAW 617 FRANK NELSON BLDG.

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35203

ARTHUR J. HANES ARTHUR J. HANES, JR.

September 8, 1969

TELEPHONE 824-9536

AIR MAIL

Mr. James Earl Ray 65477 Station "A" West MSB Hon 3 Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Jim:

I have received your recent letter and request for delivery to you of items of business and personal mail relating to the matter in which we recently represented you. Those items of mail, along with all other material, research, and investigative reports were turned over to your former attorney, Mr. Percy Foreman of Dallas, Texas, shortly after he entered the case. None of these items have been returned to us, and none are in our possession. I assure you again, however, that we willingly delivered these for your benefit and would be happy to do so again if we retained any of the items you requested.

With best wishes, I am

Yours very truly

Arthur J. Hanes

AJH/sr

cc: Mr. Richard J. Ryan
Attorney at Law
Falls Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Executive Secretary

Birmingham Bar Association

900 Jefferson County Courthouse

Birmingham, Alabama 35203

To, Hon, arthur Hoguin, sidge Oriminal Courts Menphis, henry.

Den dir, P622

FILED 1-20-70

J. A. BLACKWELL, CLERK

BY Range P. G.

While I was incorrected in the Itelly Courty Joil waiting trust, Various items of moil was sent to me of bith a personal and legal business notice, some of the leter at the original of petitioner to use for his defence.

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The petition has since attempted to get this most from the above attempt via their respective bor associations. and petitioner present consul ms. Richard J. Rejen has personally wrote mr. Florenon requesting the motional.

Mr. Hour orsered through the Burnington Bersee letter attacked- soughing he had given all such material to Mr. percy Frommer. The Tefor Bor clicket onser; However Mr. Fromm wrote Mr. Ryon refusery him

Would some how be used against him. Relitimer connat see how petitioner mail Could hie Used against Mr. Forenon, althou ext Could hinder petitioner in his past concertions Priceding Therefore petitioner respectfully requester-assum Court has jurisdiction over the miller that The Lonorable Court ussue necessary arders compeling pery Foremon to return this moterial either to the court directly, or, alterny Richard J. Regen of the Menphie Box. petitioner waved emplyise he wonth 'mo" moterial Mr. Foremon or his orgente might of come by independently; and that petitines needs this motion in order to pripare for his post concertion hearing. MESPECTFULLY MRE Ray SWORN TO AND SUBSCRIBED BEFORE ME; This THE 12 DAY OF JANUARY-1970 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 4-26-1972 4

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Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

January 21, 1970

AR BURNER

DirectREC-21 44-38861-5854

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HEREIN IS DATE 101

HEREIN IS DATE 1017188 BY SPSCILONIS

On March 10, 1969, James Earl Ray pleaded guilty in Shelby County Criminal Court at Memphis, Tennessee, to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He received a 99-year sentence.

Soon after his arrival at the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville on March 11, 1969, Ray began maneuvering to have his guilty plea set aside and a new trial declared. On January 8, 1970, the Tennessee State Supreme Court denied a petition by Ray for a new trial.

On January 12, 1970, Mr. Jesse Clyde Mason, Assistant State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, advised that the only action still remaining to Ray under Tennessee law would be to file a motion under the state's "Post Conviction Relief Act." Mr. Mason said that no such motion has been filed on Ray's behalf; however, no time limit exists for such a motion to be filed.

If Ray should file a motion under the state's "Post Conviction Relief Act"--and if the motion were unsuccessful--he, of course, would still have recourse to the Federal Courts. In other words, despite the fact that he openly acknowledged his guilt in court more than 10 months ago, it is conceivable that he could keep his case before various courts for years to come.

Because Ray pleaded guilty, much important information which the FBI gathered in its investigation of the King murder-data clearly establishing Ray's guilt-was not presented in court. The absence of such authoritative facts and information on the public record has contributed in no small measure to the false rumors, the misrepresentations, and the distortions of fact which continue to prevail in the King murder case.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1/- Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. McGowan

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MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

See Note Next Page

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division Since April, 1968, when we began our investigation which led to the identification and apprehension of James Earl Ray, we have been requested by numerous well-known writers and publications to assist them in publishing a factual account of our investigation. We have declined all such requests for assistance. As you are aware, the Federal complaint which was filed against Ray (as Eric Starvo Galt) at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charging him with violating Title 18, Section 241, United States Code, in the King case is still outstanding. As a result of the Tennessee State Supreme Court's action in denying Ray's petition for a new trial, we have begun to receive more requests for essential facts -- facts which would have come out at Ray's trial if he had not pleaded guilty--which will dispel the unfounded rumors and falsehoods that persist in the King murder case and present a potential for exploitation, particularly by individuals and organizations seeking to spread misunderstanding and unrest among Negro citizens. If you concur, we will consider assisting a reliable writer in preparing a factual account of the King murder case which can serve as an authentic document in refuting the tremendous amount of misinformation about the case which currently exists. NOTE: See A. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach Memo dated 1/16/70, captioned "Murkin." 2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

MAY, 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ТО

Mr. DeLoach

FROM

A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: January 16, 1970

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. McDonough 1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Mohr

Sullivan
Tavel _

Trotter

Holmes

Tele. Room

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. Set forth hereunder is the current status of prosecutive action relative to the subject, James Earl Ray who is serving a 99 year sentence for murder in the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee.

STATUS OF STATE PROSECUTION:

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED 268,038
DATE 1012198 BYSPSCI 10ms

On January 8, 1970, the Tennessee State Supreme Court denied a petition by James Earl Ray for a new trial. In handing down the unanimous (four judges sitting) decision, the court noted that Ray had knowingly pleaded guilty in State Criminal Court to the slaying of King, that he had been represented by competent counsel and had waived all rights of appeal in entering his plea.

SAC, Memphis has advised that on January 12, 1970,

Jesse Clyde Mason, Assistant State Attorney General, Shelby County,
Memphis, Tennessee, advised that the only other appeal recourse that
James Earl Ray has in connection with his conviction in the murder of EC-21

Martin Luther King, Jr., is to file a motion under the Tennessee "Post
Conviction Relief Act." He stated that attorneys for Ray have not filed
such a motion to date; however, he anticipates that such a motion will be
filed within the next thirty days. He asserted that there is no time
limitation for such a motion to be filed in Ray's behalf; however, the
longer that Ray waits to file such a motion hinders his chances of having a successful opinion rendered in his behalf. If such a motion is filed and
is declined at the Shelby County Circuit Court level, Ray does have recourse
through the Appellate Court and State Supreme Court on this particular
issue.

Mason stated that if Ray is unsuccessful in obtaining a new trial under the Tennessee "Post Conviction Relief Act," he then has recourse through the Federal courts by a habeas corpus action claiming that his constitutional rights have been violated in that his plea of guilty to the murder charge was not given voluntarily.

EJM:cs (8) 0

(SEE ADDENDUM ON PAGE 3.)

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

JAN 29 1970

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Memo Rosen to DeLoach RE: MURKIN

STATUS OF FEDERAL PROSECUTION:

Federal process is still outstanding on Ray charging that he and an individual who he alleged to be his brother conspired to interfere with a constitutional right of Martin Luther King, Jr., namely, the right to travel freely from state to state.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION:

It is noted that consideration was previously given to the release of information regarding the Bureau's outstanding handling of this investigation. Ray currently still has possible avenues of appeals in state courts and through the Federal courts and Federal process is still outstanding on the conspiracy charge which the Department previously declined to have dismissed even though it is within their province to do so. Investigation has indicated that Ray acted alone and no evidence of a conspiracy has been developed and, therefore, the Department is not in a position to proceed on the conspiracy charge. However, inasmuch as he never was tried by a jury and has not exhausted the possibility of an appeal in State court and as Federal process is still outstanding, it is felt that the releasing of any information of a possible evidentiary nature should be taken up with the Department prior to making any such release and assuming such a responsibility.

ACTION:

For information. Any further appellate action by Ray will be closely followed and you will be kept advised.

Eym

-2-

Rosen to DeLoach Memorandum

RE: MURKIN

ADDENDUM BY C. D. DE LOACH, 1/15/70:

I agree thoroughly that the Department should be consulted prior to any cooperation being given by the FBI to anyone. However, I believe that our chances for good public relations and solid credit in this particular case are being gradually eroded away by those critics who are constantly harping about the wiretap on Martin Luther King as well as his (King's) criticisms against the FBI. Frankly, considerable aspects of this case are already within the public realm. This includes the Reader's Digest article by Jerry O'Leary as well as hundreds of articles which have appeared in the press and programs on radio and television. Consequently, there is not a great deal more that could be said in a book.

Ray can always launch an appeal. He could actually do so ten to twenty years from now. Therefore, we are always faced with this prospect regardless of the circumstances. I believe that a "reasonable time" has elapsed and the consideration should be given at this time to granting the Reader's Digest request that Jim Bishop be allowed to write a book on this case.

Admittedly, Jim Bishop is somewhat pompous, however, he is cooperative, friendly and perhaps the most thorough, exacting author in this particular category of books. As stated above, however, we should get the views of the Department in writing before proceeding.

CDD:amr
(7)

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2/3/70

1 - Mr. McDonough

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, Memphis (44-1987) REC 71

FROM: Director, FBI (44-38861)—

MURKIN

Reurairtel 1/29/70 and its enclosure.

Incorporate pertinent information in referenced communication and Cincinnati airtel 6/25/68 in LHM suitable for dissemination to Department.

EJM:js
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Date: **1-29-70**

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TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN

Submitted herewith for the information and completion of Bureau files is copy of letter received from JOHN A. PARKER, Clerk of the Supreme Court, Knoxville, Tennessee. It is noted PARKER has furnished copies to numerous people in the State of Tennessee, including the SAC at Memphis, and also furnished a copy to the SAC, Cincinnati.

In addition to PARKER's letter, a copy of a letter written by ROBERT C. COLE was also furnished. Xerox copy of this letter is also enclosed to Burau.

The Memphis Division has furnished a letter to Mr. PHIL M. CANALE, District Attorney General, Shelby County, advising of receipt of PARKER's letter and the enclosure from ROBERT C. COLE. Mr. CANALE has been advised this office contemplates no additional action in this matter.

For the information of the Bureau, Cincinnati by Airtel 6-25-68 in captioned case furnished a 5-page Airtel re ROBERT CLAYTON COLE, who appears identical with correspondent in this matter. COLE at that time was described by Cincinnati as a chronic alcoholic who has not been employed on any regular basis since about 1956. COLE had been in the Veterans Hospital at Cincinnati, as well as the Veterans Hospital at Chillicothe. He has also been committed on one occasion to the Longview Mental Hospital at Cincinnati, Ohio.

Memphis indices disclose that in December, 1968, ROBERT CLAYTON COLE had telephonically contacted Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE re information in the KING killing. COLE claimed that he knew of a conspiracy to kill Dr. KING and that he had mentioned his knowledge to the Cincinnati Office. Cincinnati did furnish Memphis a copy of its 5-page Airtel concerning COLE. RECTO 444-286/

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Special Agent in Charge

OFFICE OF

GLERK OF SUPREME GOURT

STATE OF TENNESSEE

JOHN A.PARKER, CLERK ANNA B.BOYD, D.C. HELEN BIBHOP, D.G.

KNOXVILLE **B7901**

P.O.BOX 444 TEL. 010/828-8171

January 28, 1970

Mr. Robert C. Cole Veterans Hospital Chillicothe, Ohio 45601 Re: STATE OF TENNESSEE VS.

JAMES EARL RAY

Shelby County - Murder

Dear Sir:

I have received your letter addressed to the Supreme Court of Tennessee dated January 27, 1970, but postmarked January 26, 1970, at Chillicothe, Ohio.

Inasmuch as you claim to have been with James Earl Ray before he was supposed to have shot Martin Luther King, I am relaying copies of your letter of January 27th to appropriate investigative and prosecutive agencies who have a possible interest in this matter. Robert Claytion Cole

John A. Parker Clerk of the Court

JAP: br

Hon. David M. Pack Attorney General of Tennessee Supreme Court Bldg. Nashville, Tenn. 37219 (Encl.)

cc: Hon. Phil M. Canale, Jr. District Attorney General Shelby County Court House Memphis, Tenn. 38101 (Encl.)

Hon. Ross W. Dyer, Chief Justice Supreme Court of Tennessee Halls, Tenn. 38040 (Encl.) (Info.) 44-38861-5

Mr. Harry J. Morgan, SAC Federal Bureau of Investigation

Mr. Robert G. Jensen, SAC F.B.I. 841 Federal Office Bldg. Memphis, Tenn. 38103 (Encl.)

cc: Gov. Buford Ellington State Capitol Nashville, Tenn. 37219 (Encl

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

RECEIVED JAN 28 1970 January 27, 1970 JOHN A. ARKER, Clork Dear Sir; Ву I was very sad and disappointed, when you denied James Carl Kay a new trial! I can see now, very clearly that you and the people of the State of I ennessee and the Federal Loverment are afraid of the the truth. You are afraid of trouble from sugroes, if the truth is told. I was with James Carl Kay, before he was supposed to have slot martin Luther King. Under Circum's stance, that will prove a grant Conspinacy, by many people to kell Martin King. I told the Cincinnate, ohis FBI office about Kay The first part of May 1968. Lovernor Cllington of Tenninee also knows my story. It told Judge William Ruston Battle my sty about 2 weeken before Kry's Trial and everything went wrong for blan. Because you people are afraid of the truth to be told. I believe that Key deserves a new but with me as a witness. I hope to shear from you soon, if you are not too cowardly to answer. yours truly, Robert C. Cole Robert C. Cole Veterans Hospital Chillieothe, ohio

> State of Tennesse Supreme Court Koropville, Vennesse

44-38961-5855

Federal Bureau Of Investigation Washington, D. C.

I am working on a research paper, while in college, and I am hoping you may give me some needed information. I wish to know if Mr. Earl Ray, Dr. King's assassin, had any dealings or acquaintences with any Communists, Communist organizations or Communist countries. Also his birth place and any other information will be helpful.

Sincerely,

Justin Rutan

Justin Rutan Ripley Star Rt. Box 36 Blythe, Calif. 92225

10 FEB 6 1970

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CORRESPONDENCE

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1 - Mr. McDonough

AIRTEL

TO: SACs, San Francisco

Memphis (44-1987) (Information)

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

ReMEairtel 1/20/70 and its enclosures.

If not already done, San Francisco respond to MEairtel 1/20/70 and include recommendations as to whether Evans should be interviewed.

EJM: js (6)

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FEB 1 1 1970

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6 1970 TELETYPE UNIT

REC-10

44-38861-5857

19 FEB 12 1970

February 6, 1970

44-34961-5956

Mr. Justin Rutan Ripley Star Route, Box 36 Blythe, California 92225

Dear Mr. Rutan:

Your letter was received on February 4th.

Dist.

While I would like to be of assistance to you in connection with your research paper, information contained in the files of the FBI must be maintained as confidential pursuant to regulations of the Department of Justice. I regret I cannot be of help to you in this instance.

Sincerely yours,

Trivar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

B

NOTE: Bufiles contain no information identifiable with correspondent.

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Commission 3-5-70.

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MAN: SAC, MARGHES (ME-1987)

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ing The second of the same of the second DIRECTOR, FBI (ATTN: FBI LABORATORY) (44-38861) 1/5/70

MURKIN

The following items are enclosed herewith to the Bureau:

- (1) Envelope postmarked Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 30, 1969, addressed, "U. S. District Court Judge, Robert M. Mc Rae, Jr. Memphis, Tenn."
- (2) Xerox copy of Item No. 1.

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

- (3) Original 2-page letter dated December 29, 1969, addressed to U. S. District Court Judge, ROBERT M. McRAE, JR., and ending "Learn to pray to 'God'," which was received in Item No. 1.
- (4) Newspaper article captioned, "James Earl Ray Loses Court Suit," which was contained in envelope described as Item No. 1.
- (5) Pamphlet entitled, "It Can Happen Here," which also was contained in envelope described as Item #1.
- (6) Xerox copies of Items 3, 4, and 5.
- (7) Envelope postmarked Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dec. 17, 1969, addressed, "U. S. District Court Judge, Robert M. McRae, Jr., Memphis, Tenn."
- (8) Christmas card which was received in Item No. 7. This card contains a handwritten message beginning, "Judge McRae, Jr. You are wrong..." and ending, "U. S. Security Training 1942 1969."
- (9) Xerox copies of Items 7 and 8.

Xerox copies of Items 1, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 are also being forwarded with copies of this communication to the Philadelphia Office

3 - Bureau (Enc.-12) (REGISTERED MAIL) 2 - Philadelphia (Enc.-6) (Info.)

(2) - Memphis

COH: ME

44-38861-5858 4

ME# 44-1987

United States District Judge ROBERT M. McRAE, JR., Memphis, Tenn., made the original items described above available to the Memphis Office, January 2, 1970. Judge McRAE stated that obviously these communications were directed to him as a result of newspaper publicity about his having ruled against JAMES EARL RAY in RAY's suit seeking to void a series of contracts between JAMES EARL RAY and his former attorneys and to forbid publication of certain information in connection with the slaying of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Judge McRAE gave this ruling in U. S. District Court, Memphis, Tenn., 12/1/69.

Judge McRAE stated he realizes that the contents of the two communications in question do not constitute a violation of any Federal Law and that these communications do not contain threats to do bodily harm. He stated that these communications have been handled by numerous friends and that he wanted to make these communications available to the FBI in view of the fact that perhaps the same anonymous person may have written similar communications to other people connected in some way with this case. Judge McRAE was also of the opinion that the FBI perhaps maintained a file on such anonymous communications. Judge McRAE stated he would abide by any decision the FBI makes in connection with action to be taken on these letters. In summary, he stated his reason for referring the letters to the FBI is merely informative and that he does not desire to know the results of any possible action taken.

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU:

The Laboratory is requested to search the handwriting on the original communications through the Anonymous Letter File.

- LEADS -

THE PHILADELPHIA DIVISION (INFORMATION)

Copies of this communication and copies of the enclosures described above are being made available to Philadelphia inasmuch as the envelopes bear the Philadelphia postmark and it is possible the same anonymous person may have written other letters to the Philadelphia Office.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10 MAY 1962 EDITION GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6 UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

2/11/70 DATE:

FROM:

SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) (RUC)

MURKIN

SUBJECT:

Re Memphis airtel to Bureau, dated 1/20/70.

The files of the San Francisco Office did not contain any information identifiable with BEVERLY JEAN EVANS.

DIANA WILLSON, Counselor, Credit Bureau Metro, Inc., San Jose, California, advised that their records cover San Francisco, but that she was unable to locate any record identifiable with BEVERLY JEAN EVANS.

The records of the San Francisco Police Department were checked on 2/2/70 by SE DONALD CLOWARD and no record identifiable with BEVERLY JEAN EVANS was located with the exception of a report involving the loss of a This report has been reproduced as the next page in this communication.

1.LC-10

(2)- Bureau (RM)

2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)

1 - San Francisco

MTG/crv

(5)

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