

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Gebhardt

DATE: 12/27/73

FROM : C. L. McGowan

- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Franck
- 1 - Mr. E.S. Miller

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the case involving the assassination of Martin Luther King on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray was convicted in State Court of the murder and is currently serving a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee State Prison.

SAC Theodore L. Gunderson of the Memphis Office telephonically advised that an article appeared in this mornings "Commercial Appeal", a daily Memphis newspaper quoting representatives of television station WSM in Memphis as stating that Ray had reportedly mailed a document to the U. S. District Court (USDC) in which he named several persons whom he claims were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate King. According to the TV station sources Ray's statement was attached to a Writ mailed to the USDC on Saturday.

According to the article, however, U. S. District Judge L. Clure Morton when contacted late Wednesday stated he had received no documents from Ray. Officials of the Federal Court Clerk's Office were also quoted as saying that they could find no record of having received Ray's petition.

The article pointed out that last week State Corrections Commissioner Mark Luttrell stated he had approached the U. S. Bureau of Prisons concerning the possibility of getting Ray transfered to a Federal maximum security prison. Sources of the TV station stated that Ray reportedly opposed the idea of such a transfer and reportedly drew up the Writ and forwarded it to Federal Court in an effort to block the transfer.

WSM TV was quoted as stating that Ray reportedly has dismissed his latest attorney, Washington attorney Bernard Fensterwald and is apparently representing himself in the matter.

44-38861

JGK/pwl )6

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REC-48 44-5861-5930

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REC'D GEBHARDT  
FBI

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 5710

REC'D GEBHARDT  
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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JUSTICE  
DIVISION

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

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

Memorandum for Mr. Gebhardt  
RE: MURKIN  
44-38861

ACTION: The above information was brought to the attention of Frank M. Dunbaugh, Deputy Assistant Attorney General of the Civil Rights Division who advised that such information had just been brought to his attention through the Department Public Information Office. Dunbaugh stated that the Department has contacted the United States Attorney and instructed him to obtain a copy of Ray's alleged statement at such time as it is received in the U. S. District Court.

Dunbaugh requested that our Memphis Office take no further action at this time but maintain close liaison with the United States Attorney.

SAC Gunderson has been so advised.

*CLM/JM REB*

*[Handwritten signature]*

December 28, 1973

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case involving the assassination of Martin Luther King on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray was convicted in State Court of the murder and is currently serving a 99-year sentence in the Tennessee State Prison.

A Memphis newspaper printed an article 12/27/73, indicating that Ray had reportedly mailed a document to U. S. District Court (USDC), Nashville, Tennessee, in which he named several persons whom he claims were involved in the assassination of King.

Attached teletype indicates that information sent by Ray to USDC failed to disclose any substantive information re conspiracy or complicity in the King assassination.

On 12/27/73, Frank M. Dunbaugh, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, had requested that no further action be taken at this time. Memphis Division cognizant.

JCL:cjm

*CLM/DK*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
DIVISION

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JAN 11 1974

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DEC 27 1973

TELETYPE

NR 02 ME PLAIN

5:09 PM IMMEDIATE 12/27/73 FLG

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P INACTIVE)

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
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Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

*WRD/TO*

*get Moore*

*m. [unclear]*

*MURKIN*

ON 12/27/73, USDC CLERK, MDT, NASHVILLE, TENN., RECEIVED FROM JAMES EARL RAY, INMATE, TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY (TSP) ONE PETITION AND ONE COMPLAINT. THE PETITION IS FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER ATTEMPTING TO PREVENT THE CONTEMPLATED TRANSFER OF RAY FROM TSP TO A FEDERAL PENITENTIARY. THE COMPLAINT IS A \$10,000 SUIT AGAINST TENNESSEE STATE OFFICIALS ALLEGING VIOLATIONS OF CIVIL AND NATURAL RIGHTS BECAUSE OF TREATMENT, OR LACK THEREOF, WHILE INCARCERATED IN SHELBY COUNTY JAIL AND TSP.

SET FORTH ON PAGE 6, PARAGRAPHS 15 AND 16 OF THE COMPLAINT, RAY STATES HE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED HIS ATTORNEY, PERCY FOREMAN, A TELEPHONE NUMBER IN BATON ROUGE, LA., WHICH FOREMAN EITHER "1) NEGLECTED TO INVESTIGATE; 2) INVESTIGATED AND SUPPRESSED IN RESULTS THEREOF; 3) FURNISHED SAID INFO TO THE PROSECUTION AND HIS LEGAL ASSOCIATE, THE LATE JOHN J. HOOKER, SR. OF THE NASHVILLE BAR OR, 4) AWAILED SAID INFO TO HIS (FOREMAN'S) LITERARY CONFIDANTS, WILLIAM BRATFORD HUIE AND GEROLD FRANK."

RAY FURTHER ALLEGED THAT A TELEPHONE NUMBER IN BATON ROUGE, LA., FURNISHED TO FOREMAN, AND INVESTIGATED THROUGH FOREMAN WAS

REC 44

*44-38861-5931*

JAN 3 1974

*ST [unclear]*

*SIX*

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REC'D - RIGHTS

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DEC 27 6 39 PM '73

DEC 28 8 52 AM '73

F. B. I.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MILLER  
JUSTICE  
DEC 28 5 50 PM '73

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, possibly a letter or report, with some words like 'RECEIVED', 'ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR', and 'U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE' visible.]

TO: SAC, NEW YORK (100-1000) (P)  
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-443000)  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

LISTED TO A PARRISH OFFICIAL UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF A TEAMSTER UNION OFFICIAL AND THAT A TELEPHONE NUMBER IN NEW ORLEANS, LA., AREA WAS LISTED TO "AN AGENT OF A MID-EAST ORGANIZATION DISTRUST BECAUSE OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S REPORTED FORTHCOMING, BEFORE HIS DEATH, ARAB PUBLIC SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINE CAUSE."

THE ABOVE COMPLAINT CONSISTING OF 15 PAGES AND EXHIBITS A-M FAIL TO DISCLOSE THE TELEPHONE NUMBERS OR IDENTITIES OF ANY INDIVIDUALS WHO MAY POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CAPTIONED MATTER.

A COPY OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED RESTRAINING ORDER AND COMPLAINT ARE BEING FURNISHED THE BUREAU BY AIRTEL.  
END.

MES FBIHQ CLR

*CC MR FRANCIS*  
*CC MR WANNALL*



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TELETYPE UNIT  
6:17 PM '73

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