

D. Peripheral Matters Related to Magellan

At 3177 Peachtree Road N.E. there is a building which appears to have four establishments in it. They are: (a) Adams Associates, a private detective agency operated by Jerry Adams; (b) Atlantic Clearing Exchange, allegedly a clearing house for trading stamps; (c) E.E. Inc.; and (d) Answering Northside, which apparently purports to be an answering service but does not seem to be wired to conduct this business.

I have gone by there several times but never found anyone there when I knocked on the doors. They are all listed as having the same telephone number, which is also the telephone number which Magellan had when it was in operation.

When I was in Atlanta on August 11, 1970 I called that number (261-4184) and asked for "Gene". The person who answered, who may have been Jerry Adams' employee Buzz McQueen, said he had never heard of Gene. Then he called someone else to the phone who I think may have been Jerry Adams. I told this person that Gene Purcell had given me this number and told me he could always be reached there. I told him I wanted to "do some business" with Gene like I had in the past. He told me Gene was on the West Coast but would be back in about three weeks and would check in with him. I said I would call again.

E. Other Miscellaneous Information from Byron

1. Byron has identified a picture of the Mexican who resembles Raoul as being very like a person whom he saw at least once at Magellan, "except for the pock marks." I noted that Raoul has noticeable pock marks on his face, whereas there are none discernable in the Mexican's picture.

2. Byron has also identified a picture I showed him of Clay Shaw as a person whom he has seen at least once at Magellan.

3. Gene Purcell once told Byron he knew how to reactivate a deactivated machine gun.

4. Byron has seen, in addition to antique firearms, some seven to ten modern rifles at Magellan.

5. Gene had a room in the Magellan basement where he worked on guns.

6. Larry Meier's apartment on the second floor of Magellan was sometimes the scene of homosexual orgies. Byron has seen some Polaroid pictures reflecting this.

7. Purcell bought a new yellow streamlined deluxe Ford pickup truck in March, 1968, just before the meeting on 3/28. He also had a Firebird.

8. Byron saw a 24 carat emerald which Purcell may have smuggled into the United States when he went on a trip abroad with Clifford.

#### F. The Byron Burglary

On December 23, 1970, Byron Watson and two friends, Thad Barnes (19 years old) and Doug Hale (17 years old) drove from Atlanta to Columbus, Georgia. Byron's intention allegedly was to threaten Arnett with exposure of his smuggling and income tax evasion if he did not deliver certain antiques and art objects which Byron and his mother claim belong to Mrs. Watson. Allegedly, Byron and companions went to Arnett's mother's house, where they found no one at home; then to Arnett's house, where they found no one at home; then to Arnett's "Museum Shop." There they allegedly arrive about 1:30 p.m., found no one, but found the back door open. They apparently entered and removed some \$26,500.00 worth (Arnett's estimate) of art objects which they loaded into Thad's car. It is alleged that two little boys, aged 7-8, observed this and called Arnett's wife, Judy, who together with a neighbor called the police and went to the store with a gun. The police allegedly found Byron's pocket filled with Jade and other gems.

The three boys were allegedly charged with burglary; afforded a preliminary hearing on 12/24/70 which received extensive news coverage; and released on bail on 12/26/70. .

Attorney Lynwood Maddox has allegedly had a falling-out with Mrs. Watson, no longer represents her in any connection, and refused to represent Byron in connection with this charge. Byron may be represented by Attorney Paul Killpatrick of Columbus, Georgia.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 3 1971

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mr. Walters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MR. Soy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Holmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Miss Gandy	<input type="checkbox"/>

NR002 ME PLAIN

10:05PM NITEL 2-3-71 DBC

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987) (2P)

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL PHIL CANALE ADVISED THIS DATE THAT TENNESSEE STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT HAWKS HAS INDICATED TO HIM THAT HIS COMMITTEE IN THE TENNESSEE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MAY ELECT TO HOLD HEARINGS CONCERNING THIS CASE AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL SUBPOENA WITNESSES. CANALE STATED HAWKS TOLD HIM THE HEARINGS WERE NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING JAMES EARL RAY'S INNOCENCE OR GUILT, BUT WERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT THERE WERE ANY CO-CONSPIRATORS.

CANALE STATES HE IS CERTAIN THAT IF THESE HEARINGS ARE HELD, HE WILL MOST LIKELY BE THE FIRST WITNESS.

HE STATED HE BELIEVES HE CAN FURNISH THE COMMITTEE WITH SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO SATISFY THEM AND WILL BE ABLE TO CONVINCING THEM THAT NO CONSPIRACY EXISTS.

END PAGE ONE

247  
56 FEB 22 1971  
62 FEB 10 1971

-cc: MR. Bishop

05 FEB 10 1971

ch  
2/10/71  
FEB 9 1971

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR  
F. B. I.

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

FEB 4 2 30 PM 1971

FEB 4 9 22 AM '71

FEB 4 8 25 AM 1971

FEB 4 11 13 AM 1971

REC'D SULLIVAN  
FBI JUSTICE

REC'D SULLIVAN  
FBI JUSTICE

FEB 4 8 55 AM 1971

RECEIVED-TOLSON  
FBI

FEB 4 10 42 AM 1971

RECEIVED-TOLSON  
FBI

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-441100)  
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]  
RE: [Illegible]  
RE: [Illegible]  
RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible text]

ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

ROBERT HAWKS IS A MEMPHIS BUSINESSMAN WHO IS ONE OF THE OWNERS OF A - ONE TRANSFER COMPANY, INC., AT MEMPHIS. HE IS, ACCORDING TO CANALE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, A <sup>Tenn.</sup> MEMPHIS ATTORNEY, IS REPORTEDLY ALSO A MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE. THE BUREAU HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN FURNISHED INFORMATION CONCERNING THOMPSON, A MEMBER OF AN INTEGRATED LAW FIRM WHO IS NOW REPRESENTING A GROUP OF BLACK PANTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ON LOCAL CHARGES.

CANALE HAS STATED HE WILL KEEP THE BUREAU ADVISED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN REGARD TO THESE HEARINGS FOR HAWKS' COMMITTEE.

P. END.



FBI

Date: 2/10/71

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM;  
CR - CONSPIRACY

(OO: MEMPHIS)

Enclosed for the Bureau are 4 copies of an LHM reflecting a search of indices of the Memphis Office.

*J*

EX-117

*rec'd  
c 20 694 (B)  
REH/rif  
2-17-71*

*M*

REC-33

44-38861-5906

*note attached*

2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)  
1 - Memphis

FEB 13 1971

JCH:jap  
(3)

*JCH*

*M*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_



2076-3

FEB 17 1971

FEB 18 1971

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

FEB 16 7 37 AM 1971

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
DIVISION OF IDENTIFICATION  
FEB 13 1 35 PM '71  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-1000) (P)  
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (157-1000) (P)

(RE: MURKIN)

RE: NEW YORK

ARMY

RE: NEW YORK (157-1000) (P)

RE: NEW YORK (157-1000) (P)

RE: NEW YORK (157-1000) (P)

RE: NEW YORK (157-1000) (P)

WASH

END



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
February 10, 1971

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

The Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not in possession of any information identifiable with those persons listed below:

Ralph George Dickerson, also known as  
George Ralph Dickerson, "Raoul," "Rocky";

Becky Hart, also known as Becky Jones;

Martha Fulmer;

Byron Watson;

Gene Purcell, also known as  
Harold Eugene Purcell;

Larry Meier;

Bayne Cully, also known as Bayne Culley;

Lillian Watson;

William S. Arnett, also known as  
William S. Arnowich;

Jean Sayre, also known as Mrs. John Sayre;

William Moog;

William Thibodeaux;

John Seymour;

44-14061-5966

ENCLOSURE

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Jerry Adams;

Ben Sutherland.

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.

2\*

February 4, 1968

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

A committee of the Tennessee State Legislature may hold hearings to determine whether James Earl Ray had any co-conspirators in the killing of Martin Luther King. Our extensive investigation never developed evidence indicating the existence of any co-conspirator. This will be closely followed.

WLM:jak

WBS

7/16

7/16

02/16

FEB 4 11 56 AM '71

F B I  
REC'D BISHOP

FBI

Date: 3/16/71

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Atlanta and Memphis, *see 5904*  
2/5/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM, captioned "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.", dated as above. Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

The source referred to in enclosed LHM is U. S. Secret Service, Atlanta. The information contained in the Secret Service reports pertaining to BYRON and LILLIAN WATSON was furnished by SA JOHN T. COOK. *K*

EX-103

REC-14

ENCLOSURE

*2 CRD-69404E  
2 CPA-64  
REL-1m  
3-18-71*

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
  - 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)
  - 2 - Atlanta
- ORH:pab  
(6)

2 MAR 18 1971

Approved: *[Signature]* 61 MAR 25 1971  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

MAR 19 1971

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 18 2 39 PM 1971

MAR 18 3 03 PM 1971

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

(S)  
TO: SAC, MEMPHIS  
FROM: SAC, JACKSON  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

6

[Illegible typed text]

[Illegible typed text]

[Illegible typed text]

[Illegible typed text]

[Illegible typed text]

[Illegible typed text]

[Illegible typed text]





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

March 16, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

**ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

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On December 3, 1968, Mrs. Jacquelyn Sasnin Parrish, 3449 Peachtree Road, N. E., Apartment Number 2, Atlanta, Georgia, advised she is a professional interior decorator and arrived in Atlanta, Georgia, from Louisville, Kentucky, on October 2, 1968, following marital difficulties with her husband in Louisville. She obtained employment at the Tudor House, 3340 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. When obtaining employment there as an interior decorator, she believed the business was owned by Jean and John Sayre, but ultimately learned it was owned by Harry Wingate. Mrs. Parrish was to act as an interior decorator consultant, but as of the date of the interview she had performed little or no work on a professional basis. She said the place is operated in a very slipshod manner and it is her opinion the business is a front for stolen goods and other illegal enterprises by Wingate and others.

Mrs. Parrish advised that when she arrived in Atlanta, she had, besides her personal car, a Pontiac Firebird and a Chevrolet Van truck. She was financing those cars in Louisville but after leaving Louisville was unable to keep up payments. She allowed Wingate to take over payments on the Pontiac and arranged to sell it to him. A Mrs. Mary Hall Singleton was going to buy the Chevrolet Van truck but withdrew her offer and Mrs. Parrish turned the Chevrolet also over to Wingate. She said Wingate had not transferred the cars in his name and she was not certain whether he was then making payments.

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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.

ENCLOSURE 44-24761-5407



ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mrs. Parrish stated she was confidentially advised by other employees of the company that the antiques and other goods stored at the Tudor House are stolen goods.

Mrs. Parrish stated Wingate has attempted to start an affair with her and has admitted he was involved in anything in which he can make a dollar. He also told her on one occasion that he had killed two men in the past but did not furnish any details.

Mrs. Parrish also advised Wingate was associated with an individual known to her as Harold Bloom. He arrives at the Tudor House periodically and is from the Tampa, Florida area. Mrs. Parrish advised the person she knew as Bloom was making "juice joints" in the basement of the Tudor House, which are described as electrical devices hidden under gaming tables to control the roll of dice.

Mrs. Parrish identified a photograph of Howard Carl Thurber as identical with the individual known to her as Harold Bloom. At that time Thurber was a fugitive on a Federal warrant charging unlawful flight to avoid prosecution-larceny of an automobile, which was outstanding in the Northern District of Florida. Thurber was arrested by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on December 10, 1968, in Atlanta, Georgia on the above Federal process.

As of December, 1968, Mrs. Parrish had moved back to Louisville, Kentucky, and advised the Louisville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that she was then residing at 3900 Spring Hill Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

A report of investigation by the United States Air Force, Office of Special Investigations, dated May 6, 1964, entitled, "William Sidney Arnovich, aka, William Sidney Arenowitch, AB, AF [redacted] Air Force Reserve, Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia", reflects Arnovich was born [redacted] at Columbus, Georgia. His home address was listed as 2104 Cherokee, Columbus, Georgia. He was described as a white male, five feet eight and one half inches tall, 165 pounds, brown eyes, and brown hair. His date of current enlistment was reflected as January 21, 1964, and he had been in the Air Force one month as of the time of investigation. TOP SECRET

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Arnowich was then a member of the 918th Combat Support Squadron, Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia, which was called to active duty March 12, 1964, and directed to report to Lakland Air Force Base, Texas, for a course in basic training for a duration of eight weeks.

The request for investigation was based on information contained in a Statement of Personal History by Arnowich dated March 20, 1964, to the effect that in July, 1963, he visited East Germany, the Soviet controlled sector of Berlin, on pleasure trips and in September, 1963, he drove through Yugoslavia to look at historical and cultural points of interest.

On May 1, 1964, the aforementioned military form was reviewed and reflected that Arnowich has visited Mexico, Canada, England, Belgium, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Morocco, The Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, East and West Germany and Yugoslavia. Arnowich furnished a statement in which he stated he passed through East Germany twice by train but never left the train and stated that in September, 1963, he drove by car through Yugoslavia. He spent five days in that country and stayed with a Yugoslav family overnight. He stated most of his time in Yugoslavia was spent at historical and cultural points of interest, and he made no close friends while in Yugoslavia.

A source, another Government agency which conducts security and personnel investigations, advised on March 12, 1971, that on June 11, 1970, Robert Byron Watson, also known as Byron Watson, and his mother, Mrs. Lillian M. Watson, 764 Wildwood Road, Atlanta, Georgia, appeared at the Northwest Gate of the White House in Washington, D. C. and requested to see the President. They told guards and security personnel they had secret information to pass along concerning the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. They refused to divulge the names of alleged conspirators who they claimed they knew by name. They stated they would reveal that information only to the President in person. At that time they exhibited no hostilities and were released.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

*Robert E. Watson*  
Byron Watson was described as born [redacted] at Atlanta, Georgia, and claimed to be a student at North Fulton High School in Atlanta. He was described as five feet eleven inches tall, 150 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. He claimed to be a collector of rare coins. He stated he has a .38 caliber pistol in his home but claims he does not know how to use it and is not familiar with the use of explosives. He stated his deceased father, Robert W. Watson, was a deputy sheriff in Atlanta, Georgia, and was killed while transporting a prisoner on December 31, 1966.

At the time they appeared at the White House gate, they advised they felt the information they had to relate was so important they purchased \$150 round-trip tickets from Atlanta to relate the information to the President.

Byron Watson stated that one week before the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., he overheard plans being made for it in Atlanta by three men. He stated the discussion took place in a closed meeting at a place where he was then working. He stated he overheard one man say, "I am going to shoot that damn nigger bastard King in the head just like I did Kennedy." Another man in the meeting said, according to young Watson, "We will frame some jailbird like we did Oswald." He stated he and his mother discussed the meeting with attorney, Lynwood Maddox, Atlanta, Georgia. They later talked with Governor Lester Maddox and he told them the Federal Government would not be interested. The Watsons stated they would make the names of the participants in the meeting available only to the President and then would go to Salisbury, South Africa and stay with friends until the conspirators were apprehended. They stated the trip would cost approximately \$5,000 and indicated the mother has that amount of money. Mrs. Watson indicated they would reveal the names of the participants of the meeting if the Government would sign an agreement to reimburse them for leaving the country.

*Lillian Watson*  
Mrs. Lillian Marshelle Watson is described as a white female, born [redacted], at Atlanta, Georgia. She is five feet four inches tall, 130 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

*184 Woodwood Road  
Atlanta, Ga.*

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

*CA*  
The Watsons were subsequently interviewed in June, 1970, in Atlanta, Georgia, and at that time named Gene Purcelle, Lawrence Meier and Bayne Culley as being involved in the conspiracy. During that interview, Mrs. Watson asked for the Government to reward her or agree to her protection. Byron Watson stated he heard the plot at the Magellan Art Gallery, 3100 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia, one week prior to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. He was then fourteen years old. There were about nine men in the room where the meeting occurred.

Investigation in June, 1970, reflected that contact was made with Byron Watson's school counselor who stated that Watson has a very vivid imagination and frequently gets many things out of proportion. Following the investigation, an evaluation was made that Byron and Lillian Watson are "crackpots" and the relationship between them appeared to be a typical situation of a mother's dominance over a son.

On June 24, 1970, Mrs. Lillian Watson wrote a letter to the President of the United States complaining of the treatment received by her and her son when they appeared at the White House as mentioned above. The letter consisted primarily of hinting for a reward to her and her son for their information.

*LAWRENCE MEIER*  
Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Lawrence Walter Meier, Federal Bureau of Investigation Number 823 121 B, was arrested in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17, 1965, on a warrant and was turned over to the Fulton County Probation Office. He was also arrested January 20, 1955, on a charge of forgery and was released to Federal authorities on February 8, 1955. He was incarcerated in the Federal Correctional Institute at Ashland, Kentucky, February 9, 1955, on a charge of forgery of a United States Treasury check.

*Bayne Culley*  
Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Bayne S. Culley, Jr. is a white male, 248 Springdale Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, born [redacted], in Fulton County, Georgia. He was arrested April 9, 1946, for carrying a pistol without a license and received twelve months probation.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

He was also arrested December 18, 1950, for violation of the State Motor Vehicle law and the case was placed on the dead docket (not prosecuted).

A review of Atlanta files contained no identifiable reference to:

Fruitjar  
Ralph George Dickerson  
George Ralph Dickerson  
Raoul  
Doc' Place  
Becky Hart  
Becky Jones  
Martha Fulmer  
Gene Purcell  
Harold Eugene Purcell  
Larry Meier  
Lawrence Meier  
Bayne Culley  
Jean Sayre  
John Sayre  
William Moog  
William Thibodeaux  
Blockade Runners  
Southeast Restoration Laboratories  
Par-Take-Of-Atlanta  
Tudor Fair  
John Seymour  
Jerry Adams  
Buzz McQueen  
Ben Sutherland  
Adams Associates  
Atlantic Clearing Exchange  
E.E., Inc.  
Answering Northside  
Clay Shaw  
Thad Barnes  
Doug Hale  
Judy Arnett  
Paul Killpatrick

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

DATE: 3-9-71

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_.

There is (are) enclosed herewith a copy (copies) of an article(s) which appeared in following newspaper(s):

<u>Name</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Date</u>
COMMERCIAL APPEAL	MEMPHIS TENN.	2-27-71
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

A.  This is submitted for your information.

B.  Investigation is continuing and the results will be furnished when received.

C.  Local developments are being followed.

Enc. (1)

**NOT RECORDED**

**12 MAR 10 1971**

*File - 314*

ENCLOSURE

MAR 10 1971  
*367*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ray's New Trial Petition Is Dismissed By Judge

By MICHAEL LOLLAR

James Earl Ray's plea for a new trial was dismissed yesterday by Criminal Court Judge William H. Williams.

Ray's attorneys argued that the confessed slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. pleaded guilty after he was rendered "docile" and "unresponsible." They said his constitutional rights were violated when his former attorney, Percy Foreman, negotiated the guilty plea and a 99-year sentence with the late Judge W. Preston Battle.

However, Judge Williams' ruling found "great merit in plea bargaining for the defense as well as the state."

The judge said that a guilty plea induced by the defendant's own counsel is not grounds for claiming deprivation of his constitutional rights.

"In order for coercion to be illegal or unconstitutional it must be made by the state or an agency of the state.

"No agency of the state had coerced Ray to plead guilty to the slaying of Dr. King," Judge Williams said.

Ray's attorneys, Robert I. Livingston of Memphis and Bernard Fensterwald of Washington, said they will appeal to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals . . . "and to the United States Supreme Court if necessary" in an attempt to get a new trial.

The attorneys based their request on four related categories of events occurring prior to Ray's entering the guilty plea: The confidentiality of his relationship with his attorney was violated, followed by bribery and intimidation on the part of the attorney.

Plea bargaining between Mr. Foreman and Judge Battle took place, although Ray had made his mind up to plead not guilty the day before his hearing on March 10.

Ray was denied due process of law, undermining any belief he could get a fair trial on a not guilty plea. The accusation claimed Ray was subjected to "trial by the press"; he was doubtful of the judge's impartiality; crucial witnesses were unavailable and "evidence was withheld by the state."

The nature of his confinement in the Shelby County Jail rendered him docile and unresponsive for his guilty plea.

Mr. Livingston said Ray was confined in a "vault" built specially for him. The lights in his "windowless, airless cell burned continuously for eight or nine months" before Ray was brought to court to enter his plea, he said. "A high-intensity microphone inside his cell prevented him from talking in private to his attorney, and the man was unable to (use the toilet) in private."

Asst. Dist. Attys. Gen. Lloyd 'Dusty' Rhodes and J. Clyde Mason taunted the defense lawyers' claims. "After listening to him, I feel a little bit like Alice in Wonderland playing chess," Mr. Mason said. "We go two steps forward and two steps backward." He said the attorneys had only repeated claims made in previous

requests for a new trial for Ray, and "still haven't (shown) any facts nor any abridgment of any constitutional rights."

Mr. Rhodes denied Ray was mistreated in Shelby County Jail. "Extra air conditioning equipment was placed in the cell for him . . . he actually gained weight while in the cell, and was in better health for it."

*Mr. Galloway Long*

- Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Brennan CD \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Dalbey \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Rosen ✓ \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Walters \_\_\_\_\_
- Mr. Soyars \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: 2/27/71  
Edition: Final  
Author:  
Editor: GORDON HANNA  
Title:

Character: ME 44-1987  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: MEMPHIS  
 Being Investigated

ENCLOSURE

44-1987-11

March 29, 1971

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

EX-112

To: SAC, Atlanta (44-3388)  
From: Director, FBI (44-38861) - 3908

MURKIN

Enclosed for Atlanta are two copies of a Departmental memorandum dated March 25, 1971. Two copies of the Departmental memorandum are enclosed for the information of Memphis.

Atlanta will immediately locate and interview Robert Bryon Watson in accordance with Departmental memorandum. In addition, Atlanta will interview Lillian Watson, mother of Robert Bryon Watson, for any additional information she may possess. These interviews must be in depth and resolve all aspects of issues involved.

As stated in the Departmental memorandum, if the statements furnished by Robert Bryon Watson during the interview are substantially similar to that attributed to him by prior memorandum, you should conduct the investigation as requested by the Departmental memorandum of February 1, 1971, paragraph III, Item 4. This memorandum was enclosed to Bureau airtel of February 5, 1971.

Conduct the requested investigation and submit LHM to the Bureau within seven days of receipt of this communication.

Enclosures (2)

2 - Memphis (44-1987) (For info) (Encs. 2)

MAILED 8  
MAR 29 1971  
FBI

- Tolson \_\_\_\_\_
- Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_
- Mohr \_\_\_\_\_
- Bishop \_\_\_\_\_
- Brennan, C.D. \_\_\_\_\_
- Callahan \_\_\_\_\_
- Casper \_\_\_\_\_
- Conrad \_\_\_\_\_
- Daibey \_\_\_\_\_
- Felt \_\_\_\_\_
- Gale \_\_\_\_\_
- Rosen \_\_\_\_\_
- Tavel \_\_\_\_\_
- Walters \_\_\_\_\_
- Soyars \_\_\_\_\_
- Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_
- Holmes \_\_\_\_\_
- Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

REL/jak  
(6)

58  
49  
*[Handwritten signatures and initials]*

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT



261

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 30 9 35 AM 1971

MAR 25 9 25 AM 1971

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 29 1971  
FBI  
MAILED 8

ESTS

NOTE :

Department in a memorandum dated 2/1/71, requested that we conduct considerable and extensive investigation concerning aspects of a possible conspiracy existing in the King assassination. The request was discussed with Mr. James Turner of the Department on 2/5/71, and as a result thereof, the Departmental request was considerably limited. The results of investigation were transmitted to the Department and the Department in their current memorandum is requesting that we interview an individual concerning the conversation which he overheard regarding the King assassination. Atlanta being instructed to conduct the requested investigation.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. [unclear]	_____

# Memorandum

TO : Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: MAR 25 1971

JL:MG:pg  
DJ 144-72-662

FROM : Jerris Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

*jl  
by  
mg 3/25/71*

SUBJECT: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 16, 1971 at Atlanta and to previous communications in the captioned matter.

It appears that Robert Byron Watson (Byron Watson) may have information pertinent to the captioned matter. Please interview Byron Watson fully with respect to all details of this matter and with respect to his background, education, employment, criminal record if any, and any other matters which may cast light on the creditability of his statements in connection with the captioned matter.

If the statement furnished by Byron Watson is substantially similar to that attributed to him and his mother by your source (pp. 3-5 of your memorandum of 3/16) or to the statement attributed to him by Ken Smith (my memorandum of 2/1/71, pp. 5-8 of attachment), please provide full background information on Byron Watson and his parents, and, in addition, please conduct the investigation requested in paragraph III (4.) of my memorandum of February 1, 1971.

*JA*  
**EXP. PROC.**  
36 MAR 26 1971

REC 98

44-38861-5908

EX-112

15 MAR 26 1971

15 FEBRUOR

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 26 5 12 PM 1971

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR  
F. B. I.

MAR 26 3 28 PM '71

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (157-100)  
FROM : SAC, MEMPHIS (157-100) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
RE: MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU, 3/25/71.  
FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN MEMPHIS ON 3/25/71:  
ON 3/25/71, THE MEMPHIS OFFICE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS [REDACTED] AND STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THE INDIVIDUAL STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO OFFERED HIM \$10,000 TO ASSIST IN THE MURDER OF KING, JR. THE INDIVIDUAL STATED THAT HE HAD REFUSED THE OFFER AND WANTED TO REPORT THE MATTER TO THE FBI.

MAR 26 9 40 AM '71

ON 3/25/71, THE MEMPHIS OFFICE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS [REDACTED] AND STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THE INDIVIDUAL STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO OFFERED HIM \$10,000 TO ASSIST IN THE MURDER OF KING, JR. THE INDIVIDUAL STATED THAT HE HAD REFUSED THE OFFER AND WANTED TO REPORT THE MATTER TO THE FBI.

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F B I

Date: 4/7/71

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Atlanta, 3/29/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM; two copies of said LHM are being submitted to Memphis, which is office of origin.

In view of the information furnished by ROBERT BYRON WATSON indicating that the information previously furnished by him was not true, UACB no further investigation is being conducted by Atlanta.

REC-8

*do*

44-38861-5909

8 APR 12 1971

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
  - 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)
  - 2 - Atlanta
- CSH:pab  
(6)

SLX

*do*  
2 CRD-684C  
2 CPA-64  
RSL-1m  
44-13-71

56 APR 21 1971

Approved: FVH Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

20 0000 102

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

APR 14 1971

APR 12 1 37 PM 1971 APR 12 12 51 PM 1971

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

April 7, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

-----

Reference is made to Atlanta memorandum dated  
March 16, 1971.

On April 7, 1971, Robert Byron Watson was interviewed at his residence, 764 Wildwood Road, Atlanta. Watson was referred to the information he had previously furnished concerning his overhearing several individuals discussing the assassination of King and the assassination of Kennedy. Watson stated that the information was untrue. He stated that William S. Arnett, who worked at the Magellan Art Gallery in Atlanta, had defrauded his mother out of \$50,000. He stated she has not gotten any of her money back from Arnett and he has not furnished her art objects which she paid him for. Watson stated he believed that Gene Purcell, Larry Mier and Bane Culley, whom he identified as persons present when the remarks about the assassination were made, had conspired with Arnett in defrauding his mother. He stated he felt that by telling this story he would receive a reward and his mother would thus be partially reimbursed.

Watson further noted that on December 22, 1970, he was arrested by the police department in Columbus, Georgia for burglary. He is presently out on \$5,000 bond. He stated that he went to Columbus in order to obtain some art objects in the possession of William S. Arnett which rightfully belonged to his mother. He entered a shop owned by Arnett

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

4-11 3/21-5114

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

and was arrested while removing objects from the shop. He stated that after he was arrested he told his mother that the story about the alleged assassination plot was untrue and the reason that he had made it up.

On April 7, 1971, Mrs. Lillian Watson, mother of Robert Byron Watson, advised that Byron told her after his arrest that the story concerning the alleged assassination plot was untrue and that he told the story in order to get a reward and reimburse her for losses she incurred in connection with business dealings with William Arnett. She stated that she has retained attorney Frank Blankenship, who is Legal Aide to Lieutenant Governor Lester Maddox, to assist her in her suit against Arnett. He stated that after Byron told her the information he furnished was untrue she has not contacted any individual or organization she formerly furnished information to advise them that the information was not correct.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson	_____
Sullivan	_____
Mohr	_____
DeLoach	_____
Walters	_____
Parsons	_____
Belmont	_____
Mohr	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Callahan	_____
Casper	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Tavel	_____
Walters	_____
Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : MR. WALTERS *L M W*

DATE: 3/22/71

FROM : C. A. Harris

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY;  
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
 APRIL 4, 1968  
 MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
 MURDER

*ON.*

*Handwritten signatures:*  
 MR Jones  
 Mr. [unclear]

On 3/19/71 Delores Danska of Metro Media TV, Channel 5, of New York City, called Fingerprint Examiner George J. Bonebrake, Latent Fingerprint Section, Identification Division, advising that Metro Media TV was planning a telecast for evening of 3/25/71 relative to captioned case, and asking Bonebrake to appear on the show. Miss Danska further advised that she had been in touch with Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., District Attorney General, Memphis, Tennessee, and others who had been primarily involved with this case.

Miss Danska was advised that any such request should be made to Mr. Bishop's office and she stated she would call him.

Crime Records Division has been alerted that Miss Danska may call.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

REC- 66 44-38861-511

ST-113

7 APR 16 1971

44-38861

ADDENDUM: N. E. McDaniel/hs

3-22-71

1 - Mr. Bishop

Mr. Bishop advised that he received a call from Miss Danska on the morning of 3-22-71 and informed her that no FBI employee could appear on the program.

GJB:psp  
(5)

*Handwritten:* 9 APR 20 1971

*Handwritten signature:* [unclear]

*Handwritten signature:* [unclear]

*Handwritten:* L M W

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
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APR 14 10 04 AM 1971

APR 14 1971  
FBI

RECEIVED-DIRECTOR  
F. B. I.

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FBI

MAR 22 1 48 PM '71

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FBI

APR 13 11 30 AM '71

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
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MAR 23 10 52 AM 1971  
REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 22 3 57 PM 1971

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 5/6/71

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CR - CONSPIRACY;  
UFAC - ROBBERY

Enclosed is a clipping from The Oak Ridger newspaper dated 5/3/71, relating an escape attempt by subject.

Subsequent to the publication of this article, contact was made with Warden R. H. MOORE, Brushy Mountain Prison, at which time he furnished the following information:

Warden MOORE stated that he had received information from inside the prison that RAY was going to attempt to escape after "he got a visit". Warden MOORE speculated that "visit" was a code word for outcome of appeal, which appeal was turned down. MOORE advised that RAY attempted his escape as described in the newspaper article taken from The Oak Ridger, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, dated 5/3/71, and that he was accompanied by another inmate by the name of MORELOCK. MOORE stated that MORELOCK had been assigned to inside plumbing, knew the tunnel work and also had access to tools which probably accounted for RAY's choice of MORELOCK as an escape companion.

Warden MOORE was specifically questioned as to whether any outside help had been utilized in attempting to perpetrate RAY's escape and as to the identity of this outside help, if any. He advised that JAMES EARL RAY's brother, name unknown, who was believed to be staying with RAY's lawyer, a Mr. STONE, appeared at Brushy Mountain Prison around 2:00 PM, 5/3/71, and requested to visit RAY. He was questioned by the warden as to why he had happened to be at

- 2 - Bureau (Enc.)
- 2 - Memphis (Enc.)
- 1 - Knoxville

WFE:at

62 MAY 14 1971

REC 18  
EX-104

MAY 11 1971

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5010-108

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

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

MAY 13 9 26 AM 1971

FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAY 12 2 48 PM '71

FBI  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

MAY 12 4 42 PM '71

RECEIVED  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text covering the main body of the document]

MAY 13 9 31 AM 1971

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

KX 44-696

the prison on that date and he replied that STONE had gone to Florida and he decided to visit his brother. After the story of RAY's attempted escape was released to the press and became public, RAY's brother was advised that RAY could not receive visitors.

It is Warden MOORE's theory, although he cannot substantiate it, that RAY's brother was aware of the escape plan well in advance of the attempt and that he was in the area to pick up RAY once he made good his escape.

Foregoing furnished as of possible interest to the Bureau and OO.

# Escape Attempt By James Earl Ray Foiled At Petros

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

James Earl Ray, convicted of killing Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis in April, 1968, broke out of his cell at Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros during the night.

But he was recaptured in the yard of the maximum security

prison as he looked for a way to get over the prison wall.

The escape attempt was confirmed early this afternoon by Mark Luttrell, State Corrections Commissioner in Nashville, after he was asked about unofficial reports of the escape attempt.

Luttrell credited Prison Warden Robert Moore with foiling Ray's escape.

Luttrell said Moore heard a noise in the prison about 3 a.m. and ordered guards to check Ray's cell first.

There, they said, they noticed what appeared to be a man asleep in a bunk, but further examination showed that Ray had somehow come upon a wig and put it atop a roll of blankets in the bunk.

Guards discovered that Ray had chipped through concrete in his cell and sawed through bars to gain access to a heating vent.

Luttrell quoted Moore as saying Ray slipped outside

through the heating vent and into the compound.

Luttrell said Ray was recaptured within 25 minutes after the disturbance in or near Ray's cell was first noticed by the guards.

Ray pled guilty March 10, 1969, to the sniper slaying of King in Memphis on April 4, 1968. He entered the state penitentiary in Nashville the next day and was transferred a year ago to the East Tennessee prison at Petros. At that time Brushy Mountain became the state's maximum security prison under a reclassification of the Tennessee prison system.

Ray has sought several times to get a new trial in the King slaying, each time on grounds that he was pressured into the plea by his attorney. Each time he has lost, the latest turndown coming in Memphis Feb. 27.

No announcement of the incident was made. Confirmation

(Continued on Page 11 No. 13)

Front Page

The Oak Ridger

Oak Ridge

Tennessee



RAY

Date: May 3, 1971

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

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

Character: CR - CONSPIRACY;  
or UFAC-ROBBERY

Classification:

Submitting Office: Knoxville

Being Investigated

Bufile 44-38861

came only after unofficial reports. An anonymous caller said that prison officials were trying to keep the incident "secret" but that he (the caller) felt the public had a right to know about it.

The unidentified caller's information was promptly confirmed by the state corrections commissioner, however.

The unofficial report was that Ray was acting as a janitor at the time the attempted escape was tried. Some new inmates were being transferred in from county jails and Ray is reported to have "traded them out of some street clothes," which he apparently then donned before attempting the break-out.

According to these reports another inmate prisoner was helping Ray with his escape attempt.

Both are today said to be confined in maximum security within the prison.

In late March, during a "Press Day" tour at the prison, Ray granted an exclusive interview to Willard Yarbrough, of The Knoxville News-Sentinel. At that time he had been described by prison officials as a model prisoner.

ENCLOSURE 44-38861-5911

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brennan, C.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dalbey \_\_\_\_\_  
 Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Walters \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soyars \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Callahan *MC*

DATE: 5/20/71

FROM : J. P. Dunphy *JPD*

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, AKA;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., VICTIM;  
CR - CONSPIRACY  
UFAC - ROBBERY

All work requested of Exhibits Section completed.

The following should be placed behind Bureau file:

1. Six original artist's conception drawings
2. Photo copies of each drawing.
3. Five trial aids and copy of each.

Visual Information Specialists Eugene Paul Arey, Horace J. Heafner and George C. Mumford prepared drawings and trial aids.

Enclosures *19*

44-38861

KO  
(2) *X*

**ENCLOSURE**

EX-114  
REC-11

*44-38861-5912*

MAY 24 1971

*Bulky  
Enclosure  
PKB 12/1/74*

*SLA 3/1/W*

70 MAY 25 1971

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

MAY 25 2 26 PM 1971  
MAY 25 1 41 PM 1971

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

( )

To: \_\_\_\_\_  
From: \_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to your letter of May 14, 1971, regarding the above captioned matter.

The Bureau has advised that the information furnished to it by the Atlanta Office on May 14, 1971, is being reviewed.

Very truly yours,  
Director

Enclosure

cc: \_\_\_\_\_



F B I

Date: 11/24/71

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI(44-38861) ATTENTION:

From: SAC, Birmingham  
(44-1740) (RUC)

CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION  
GENERAL INVEST. DIV.  
 DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.

Subject: MURKIN

CR  EL  DIH  CRA-64  
 PA  PE  PF  E  
 EID  Bomb Threats  Extremist Matters  
 White Hate  Black

Summary of Complaint:

Attached are three copies of LHM for the Bureau and one copy for Memphis.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3) ENCLOSURE  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)  
1 - Birmingham  
HAS:mfl  
(4)  
1cc CRU  
CRD  
11/29/71 EX-112  
694(8)  
egm/mhd

REC 16

ACTION: UACB:

No further action being taken and  
 LHM enclosed  Copy furnished to USA  
 FD-376 (enclosure to LHM)  
 LHM being submitted  
 Report being submitted  
 Preliminary investigation instituted  
 Limited investigation instituted

44-38861-591B

NOV 26 1971

Approved: Ralph Miles/mf  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

FILE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
RECEIVED  
INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

Nov 26 5 09 PM 1971  
Nov 26 4 00 PM 1971

x

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

TO :

(4)

MEMO

1 - Birmingham

1 - Memphis (44-1981) (ENC. 1)

2 - Bureau (ENC. 2)

and one copy for Memphis.

Attached are three copies of this for the Bureau

THANKS

(44-1981) (ENC)  
Birmingham

(44-38861)

THANKS

THANKS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama  
November 24, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS CONSPIRACY

Included in this memorandum is a recent  
news release from a daily Birmingham newspaper.

ENCLOSURE

~~ORIGINAL COPY~~

4-1-71 5713

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Charged with conspiracy

**Old Galt warrant  
may be dismissed**

A warrant for the arrest of Eric Starvo Galt (James Earl Ray) issued in Birmingham April 17, 1968, on a conspiracy charge that has been gathering dust in the office of the U. S. marshal here is being considered for dismissal.

A request for dismissal has been received from Bernard Fensterwald Jr., a Washington attorney representing Ray, who is in prison at Brushy Mountain, Tenn., for the fatal shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, U. S. Magistrate R. Macey Taylor notified U. S. Atty. Waymond Sherrer of the request, asking for a response from the Justice

Department, in Washington, within 10 days. After 10 days, Taylor could make a recommendation to U. S. District Judge C. W. Allgood to grant the dismissal and quash the warrant or to set a hearing on the charges, brought by the FBI.

The motion asked for dismissal of the conspiracy charge or for a speedy trial.

According to the warrant of April 17, 1968, Galt and another individual he claimed to be his brother entered into a conspiracy on March 29, 1968. The rifle with which King was shot in April in Memphis was bought by Galt, later identified as Ray, in Birmingham March 30, 1968, it was reported.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 6 The Birmingham Post Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

Date: 11-23-71  
Edition: Final  
Author:  
Editor: Guard Legrand  
Title:

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: Birmingham

Being Investigated

|| PROCESS DISMISSED ||  
12/2/71

EJM 10/2/75

2\*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/19/71

FROM : SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (47-7946) C

SUBJECT: ROBERT LAWRENCE RUSSELL, aka  
James Richard Alexander  
Robert R. Cale  
Bob Kelly  
Eldon Kelly  
James Robert Lawrence  
Robert Lawrence  
Charles Edward Leap  
Sonny Leap  
Bob Rosenberg  
James Russell  
Bob Russo  
Jim Russo  
Harry Ryan  
James Turner  
Robert Turner  
IMP  
OO: SAN FRANCISCO

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM re captioned Subject and two copies each of photo and rap sheet on Subject for possible dissemination to IRS and BNDD, Washington, D. C. Enclosed for each receiving office are one copy of the LHM, two copies of the Fd-302 reflecting interview with Subject, one photo of Subject, and one copy of FBI Identification record #892 144A on Subject.

All offices known to have had prior contact with Subject are included in distribution. One copy each of LHM, photo and rap sheet are being forwarded to IRS, San Francisco, 450 Golden Gate Avenue.

AUSA HAZARD's opinion is being confirmed by separate communication.

CONSIDER SUBJECT ARMED AND DANGEROUS, INASMUCH AS IN 1967, HE WAS CHARGED WITH ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON BY THE HARTFORD, CONN., PD.

- 3 - Bureau (88-41622)(44-38861)(Encls. 9)
- 1 - Newark (INFO)(Encls. 5)
- 1 - New Orleans (88-7556)(INFO)(Encls. 5)
- 1 - New York (88-9388)(INFO)(Encls. 5)
- 1 - Philadelphia (INFO)(Encls. 5)
- 2 - San Francisco (47-7946)(1 - 88-11393)

TRR:rap  
(9)



5010-108

60 AUG 6 1971

NOT RECORDED  
168 JUL 27 1971

ORIGINAL FILED IN

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
San Francisco, California

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

July 19, 1971

ROBERT LAWRENCE RUSSELL  
IMPERSONATION

A copy of this memorandum is being furnished to IRS, San Francisco.

On June 10, 1971, RENA MARLENE DEFOE, 834 Bush Street, Apt. 302, San Francisco, California, appeared at the San Francisco Office of the FBI and alleged that an individual named ROBERT RUSSELL had been representing himself to her and her roommate, JAN HOLDER, as a "secret government agent," working for the FBI and other agencies. DEFOE further alleged that RUSSELL had obtained money from HOLDER on the basis of this representation and that HOLDER plans to marry RUSSELL.

On June 10, 1971, JANET ELAINE HOLDER was interviewed by Bureau agents at the above address. HOLDER stated that RUSSELL had indicated to her that he was affiliated with the Justice Department and Treasury Department as a federal law enforcement agent. She admitted she had given him money, but it was given to him because he told her his funds were presently "frozen" due to legal problems rather than because of any alleged impersonation. She said that she had recently accompanied RUSSELL to the offices of Internal Revenue Service, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, and waited in the lobby, while he allegedly transacted business there with his associates.

On June 10, 1971, Special Agent LARRY BOEHM, Internal Revenue Service, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, identified RUSSELL as an individual who had contacted his office several weeks before, using the name ROBERT KELLY and attempting to impart what he thought to be useful information. Special Agent BOEHM stated that RUSSELL's information on this occasion was judged to be fictitious and worthless, as was the case with information obtained from RUSSELL on previous occasions by Internal Revenue Service in San Francisco, Sacramento, and several Eastern offices.

On June 11, 1971, RUSSELL was interviewed by FBI agents at San Francisco. During this interview, RUSSELL denied

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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.

ENCLOSURE

ROBERT LAWRENCE RUSSELL

having ever represented himself to anyone at any time as a federal law enforcement agent. He stated he merely "helps" the federal government from time to time. Names and addresses in his possession at time of interview included the following:

EDDIE MOINHAN (phonetic), Treasury Agent,  
New York, 212-596-4897

MIKE GALLAGER, Special Agent, Internal Revenue  
Service, Atlantic City, New Jersey, 609-344-4011

DON ABRAMS, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of  
Narcotics, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 215-597-9530  
and 215-597-9541

A review of the San Francisco FBI files reveals that in the past RUSSELL has been known to furnish inaccurate and unreliable information to the San Francisco, Philadelphia, New York and Newark Offices of the FBI.

The facts of this matter were discussed with Assistant United States Attorney JAMES L. HAZARD, San Francisco on July 12, 1971. Mr. HAZARD stated that he would decline prosecution in this matter inasmuch as there is insufficient evidence that RUSSELL actually represented himself to be a federal agent or that anything of value was obtained through such alleged representation.

RUSSELL is described as follows:

Name: ROBERT LAWRENCE RUSSELL  
Aliases: JAMES RICHARD ALEXANDER, ROBERT R. CALE  
BOB KELLY, ELDON KELLY,  
JAMES ROBERT LAWRENCE, ROBERT LAWRENCE,  
CHARLES EDWARD LEAP, SONNY LEAP,  
BOB ROSENBERG, JAMES RUSSELL,  
BOB RUSSO, JIM RUSSO, HARRY RAN,  
JAMES TURNER, ROBERT TURNER  
Sex: Male  
Race: White  
Recent Addresses: 834 Bush Street, Apt. 302, San  
Francisco, California.  
1635 - 39th Street, Sunnyside,  
Long Island, New York.  
1316 Mill Road, Atlantic City,  
New Jersey (home of stepparents  
CLIFFORD and KATHERINE LEAP)

ROBERT LAWRENCE RUSSELL

Dates of Birth:

Places of Birth: Atlantic City, New Jersey;  
Saratoga Springs, New York;  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Height: 5'8"  
Weight: 165 lbs.  
Hair: Brown, medium length  
Eyes: Brown  
Scars: 2" cut outer left eye;  
cut on top left lip;  
1" cut on lower right check

Complexion: Medium  
Occupations: Cook, painter, laborer  
Wife: VALERIE TURNER  
1001 Stewart Street  
Santa Rosa, California

FBI #: 892 144A

CONSIDER RUSSELL ARMED AND DANGEROUS, INASMUCH AS  
IN 1967, HE WAS CHARGED WITH ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON BY  
THE HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, POLICE DEPARTMENT.



*J. Edgar Hoover*  
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER **80-144-A**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

COMMUNITY OR JURISDICTION	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
FD Miami Fla	Robert Lawrence Russell #15319	9-18-51	Inv Vag	10-9-51 to Co (Ferguson) Fed NJ S & E Pend
FD Hays Landing NJ	Charles E. Leap #9919*	10-23-53	Larc & Rec Stolen Goods	
Sher Bordentown NJ	Charles E. Leap #21207	3-25-53	L. of MV	indeterm see suppl
FD Atlantic City NJ	Charles Edward Leap #22-568	4-27-55 prim reg		reg & rel
FD Atlantic City NJ	Charles Edward Leap #22-568	3-30-56	Larc of Auto	see suppl
SPol Hammonton NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #A14587	3-30-56	pos. of stolen veh.	TOT Atlantic City Det Bu
FD Hays Landing NJ	Robert Russell #9919	4-3-56	Larc auto Pend-MVV	5-15-56 4 to 6 yrs SP
SP Trenton NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #33771	5-17-56	Larc of MV (2) Larc of MV (1)	4-6 1-27-59 ret for vic of parole 4-6 yrs trans to NJ SP 2-11-57
Sher Bordentown NJ	Robert L. Russell #22441	11-15-56 in tr fr NJSP#33771	L of MV(3)	
Trenton NJ	Robert L. Russell #35612	4-16-58	larc of MV	indet parole to supervision district parole office in Atlantic City NJ
FD Pleasantville NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #1494	7-13-58	criminal registration	
FD Pleasantville NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #1553	10-18-58	2A:170-1 (Prowler)	30 das in Co J1
PD Atlantic City NJ	Charles Edward Leap #22-568	12-8-58	dis pers failing give good acc of self	\$50 or 30 das

Notations indicated by \* ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

6-23-67

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 692 144 A, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Atlantic City NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #22-568	11-23-58	mol & interf	90 day co 31
PD Atlantic City NJ	Charles Edward Leap #22-568	6-23-60	larc of auto	3-5 yrs 92r
PD Atlantic City NJ	Charles Edward Leap #22-568	10-11-60	att rape mol & interf	see supplement
PD Atlantic City NJ	Charles Edward Leap #22-568	10-13-60	B & E & larc (case A-73961) poss stln prop (A-73962)	see supplement
PD Pleasantville NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #1861	10-12-60	2A 109-1 (BC) (2 cts) 2A 119-2 & 2A 94-1 (B & E & larc) (2 cts)	
SPol Hammonton NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #A19541	10-11-60	3 cts BE & L Atl Co	TOT Abs City for pres
PD Absecon NJ	Robert L. Russell #--	10-17-60	B&E&L	
PD Vineland NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #2326	1-25-61	B&E&L	
SPol Hammonton NJ	Robert Lawrence Russell #A19648	2-14-61	BE&L (2 cts) P&E (1 ct)	
SPr Trenton NJ	Charles E. Leap #39237	10-31-61	Lar MV 3-5 escape 2-3 c/c poss of stolen prop 2-3 c/c rec'g (2) 2-3 c/c RSG 2-3 c/c	3-5

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