

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FEB 10 1976

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

2

The following FBI record, NUMBER 48 876 D, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

COMPONENT OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	NAME AND NUMBER	DATE OF RECORD	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
FD Atlanta Ga	Lee Cody Godfrey #174514	1-4-67	and son (armed robbery larc of auto) In transit	
Diagnostic & Class Ctr Jackson Ga	Lee Godfrey #A-43562	1-11-71	Rape (3) Cnt Cdr Dist Rape (2) speeding	10 20-yr (3CC) 2-7 yrs CC, 2- yrs CC, 4-20 y CC, 2-20-yr C 12 mos CC, 12 mos CC, 12 mos CC 8 mos CC
<p>Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested</p>				

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/6/76

DOROTHY DAVIS, Locust Grove, Georgia, was telephonically contacted and advised she has no knowledge or possession of any records in reference to her husband's former place of business known as "Pete's Bar", on Moreland Avenue. She is sure all of these records have been destroyed.

She stated she does not know the name of any accounting firm or law firm which handled the tax or account matters of her husband's place of business. There is no one in the family who would have this information.

Interviewed on 2/5/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :CW Date dictated 2/5/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/17/76

DOROTHY DAVIS, Locust Grove, Georgia, was contacted at her residence and advised that she has searched and has been unable to locate any records regarding her husband's former place of business "Pete's Bar" in Atlanta, Georgia.

She advised her husband never told her about the operation of the bar or any incidents which happened at the bar. She has never heard her husband discuss anything about the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. She was not sure of the exact dates her husband owned the bar, but thought he sold it in 1966, however, that could have been 1965 or 1967. Her husband sold the bar and went to work for an oil company in Saudi Arabia. He worked there for about nine months and returned to the United States. She does not recall any of the names of any of the employees.

Interviewed on 2/9/76 at Locust Grove, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
 by SA THOMAS J. WILSON and SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/13/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

DIANE BRADY, 1140 Moreland Drive, SE, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She is the owner and operator of The Office Bar located at Moreland and Flat Shoals Road, Atlanta, Georgia. She has never employed any band at her place of business. Every once in a while RAY GODFREY does come into the bar and does play his guitar, however, she could not recall any other individuals ever playing with him. At that she telephonically contacted her day bartender and asked him if GODFREY had ever played at the bar during the day with anyone else. The day bartender advised he had never seen RAY GODFREY play at the bar with any other individuals. BRADY was unable to pick out the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown this photograph, she advised she had never seen this individual. She is positive that the person whose likeness is represented by the artist's conception is not the person whom she knows as "DUKE".

After PETE DAVIS sold the bar to "BUCK" BAILEY, she went to work for the Driftwood Lounge which is located one block south of Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue. She never worked at Bill Bailey's and was never employed by LEWIS CLARK.

It was her understanding that after PETE DAVIS sold the bar he went to work in Saudi Arabia for one year. She is unable to supply any of the names or addresses of any of the old-time customers of Pete's Bar. Every once in a while some of them drop in at her bar, but not on a regular basis.

She again stated that she does not know any friends of RAY GODFREY named RALPH. She does not know anyone named RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER. She also does not know anyone named LEE GODFREY.

Interviewed on 2/19/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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She stated that she thought she knew RAY GODFREY fairly well and that she finds it hard to believe that RAY GODFREY could be in any sort of trouble. She also knows the PCW-ELL brothers and considers them to be harmless hard drinkers. She stated all of these individuals are very friendly and could not do anything wrong. RAY GODFREY is a very friendly, amiable individual and has no violent tendencies. Even though there has been periodic fights at both Pete's Bar and The Office Bar, she has never seen RAY GODFREY enter into any of these problems.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

LEWIS W. CLARK, 2950 Catherine Valley Drive, Decatur, Georgia, was contacted and advised that he managed Bill Bailey's Lounge located at 1455 Moreland Avenue, from September, 1966, through 1973. He personally acted as the bartender ~~there~~ numerous times. He advised that JUNE HALL was the day bartender at Bill Bailey's and that she might be able to furnish information regarding individuals who frequented Bailey's. He could not recall any other employees who worked at the lounge on a fulltime or regular basis. DIANE BRADY was never employed at Bill Bailey's.

CLARK picked out from a spread of photographs the pictures of RAY GODFREY and CLAUDE POWELL, as being individuals who frequented the bar. He did not recognize the picture of LEON POWELL. He advised that CLAUDE POWELL was a very quiet individual and never knew him to be in any sort of trouble. GODFREY was an extremely extroverted individual and always wanted to play the guitar in the bar. GODFREY was a country and western singer who had had some records recorded by Columbia Records. GODFREY was always playing these records on the juke box.

Back in 1966 and 1967 and 1968, the mood in the bar was probably anti-Negro, however, as far as he knows, there was never any discussion about the harming of any blacks.

He was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (LNU). He advised that none of the individuals in the spread had ever been in the bar when he was there.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Decatur, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
 by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW: CW Date dictated 2/17/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 2/23/76

JUNE HALL, Killian Road, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that in 1967 and 1968, she was employed as the day bartender at the lounge known as Bill Bailey's. She picked from a spread of photographs the photograph of CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY as individuals who frequented the lounge. HALL advised that CLAUDE was a very quiet individual when sober, however, would be very unruly when drinking.

RAY GODFREY was a very likable individual and she would be quite surprised if he were in any trouble. HALL was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artists' conception of RALPH (LNU). When specifically shown the composite of RALPH (LNU), she was positive she had never seen the individual. She advised that she would have remembered the individual if he had ever been in the bar because of his good looks.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and
SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. T.JW:cw Date dictated 2/23/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

HAZEL EVANS, 788 Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She worked as a bartender at Bill Bailey's Lounge from 1966 to 1969. She worked the night shift and generally came on duty at 6:00 P.M. and worked until 2:00 A.M. The day bartender was JUNE HALL. A couple of times her niece, PAT BOOZER, worked in the bar, however, she was not a regular employee. "BUCK" BAILEY owned the bar in 1966, however, LEWIS CLARK managed the business the whole time that BAILEY owned it. Sometime in 1967 or 1968 LEWIS CLARK bought out "BUCK" BAILEY and owned it himself. BAILEY had very little to do with the bar and it was very seldom that he would come out to the location.

She picked out the photograph of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY from a spread of photographs and advised she had known him since he moved to Atlanta from Copperhill, Tennessee. She advised he was a very quiet individual and could not believe he could be in any trouble. GODFREY was a very likeable individual and almost everybody seemed to be friends with him. She also picked out the picture of CLAUDE POWELL as being a frequent customer of the bar known as Bill Bailey's Lounge. She was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) as being a customer of the bar or a friend of RAY GODFREY. When specifically shown the artist's conception, she stated she did not remember any individual looking like that as being at the bar. She advised GODFREY never worked as a bartender at Bill Bailey's Lounge. She knows of no other individual who frequented the bar named RALPH. She advised she does not know where any of the former patrons of Bill Bailey's Lounge can be located. She stated that the whole neighborhood where Bill Bailey's Lounge was located has changed racially and that all of the former patrons have moved to different parts of the city.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, Jr.
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

PATSY BOOZER, 1202 Fleetwood Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She advised that approximately seven years ago, she had worked for a LEWIS CLARK at Bill Bailey's Lounge. She stated she was a bartender at this lounge. From the spread of photographs shown to her, she picked out the photograph of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY as a frequent customer at Bill Bailey's Lounge. As far as she knew, GODFREY had a good reputation and was not known to be a trouble-maker with the police department. She did not know of any of RAY GODFREY's friends. She was not familiar with the photograph of CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. She was unable to select a composite of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown an artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) she advised she had never seen this individual.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR.
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription, 2/23/76

WILLIAM SANFORD VENABLE advised he and ROBERT MCGARITY previously owned the property located at 1455 Moreland Avenue. He was sure that the bar located at that address had been in the past named both "Pete's Place", and "Bill Bailey's". Back in 1966, BUCK BAILEY took over the lounge and named it "Bill Bailey's". Sometime later, LEWIS CLARK obtained the liquor license and ownership of the bar. However, prior to that LEWIS CLARK had managed the bar for BUCK BAILEY.

VENABLE does not know anyone by the name of POWELL nor does he know anyone with the name of "DUKE". He was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the photograph of CLAUDE or LEON POWELL. VENABLE advised that he had been in the bar a couple of times possibly during the period of 1967 or 1968.

The name RAY GODFREY is familiar to him, however, he has never personally met GODFREY. The only reason he knows the name is that GODFREY was supposed to be a country and western singer and was "fairly well known", at Bill Bailey's. He does not know any of GODFREY's associates.

He does not know any individual named RALPH (LNU) who is connected with the bar known as "Pete's Place" or "Bill Bailey's".

VENABLE stated he is not related to JAMES VENABLE, the founder of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
 by SA THOMAS J. WILSON, and SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR. TJW:cw Date dictated 2/17/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3-5-76

WILLIAM LOWERY was contacted at his place of employment, Lowery Music Incorporated, and furnished the following information:

In 1966, he handled a professional country and western singer named RAY GODFREY. His records show that GODFREY's real name was R. A. GODFREY. He did not have any personal contacts with GODFREY but mainly dealt with him on a professional basis.

His opinion of GODFREY was that GODFREY was just a "good ole country boy" and that GODFREY could not be in any sort of trouble.

LOWERY viewed a spread of photographs which included RALPH (Last Name Unknown) and was unable to identify any of the individuals. When specifically shown the photograph of RALPH (Last Name Unknown), LOWERY advised that he had not seen this individual.

LOWERY again stated he did not know any of RAY GODFREY's friends or associates. GODFREY would merely come to Lowery Music to record his songs and be paid.

LOWERY was not familiar with any musician with RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER.

Interviewed on 2-27-76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON:dd Date dictated 3-3-76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 3/2/76

RAYMOND GODFREY, 5228 Kingswood Circle, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

He is familiar with an individual named ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY was known to everyone as RAY GODFREY and he is known to everyone as RAYMOND GODFREY. Both he and RAY GODFREY frequented a bar on Moreland Avenue known as Pete's Place. He picked from a spread of photographs the pictures of CLAUDE POWELL and RAY GODFREY as frequent patrons of Pete's Place. He stated that CLAUDE POWELL had a reputation around the bar as having a boastful manner while he was drunk, however, being a very friendly fellow while sober. He never knew CLAUDE POWELL to be in any sort of trouble or to be vicious in any way.

He was quite friendly with RAY GODFREY, however, is not related to him in any way. He described RAY GODFREY as being a "good old boy" who would not be in any trouble. RAY GODFREY is a very friendly individual and he never saw RAY GODFREY cause any trouble in the bar. He was unable to identify from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown this photograph, he advised he had never seen this individual. He advised that he was in Pete's Place or Bill Bailey's Lounge almost every night from 1966 to 1967. RAYMOND GODFREY advised that through his association with RAY GODFREY, he knew that GODFREY had no use for Blacks, but would not harm anyone. GODFREY was not unique in his dislike for Blacks among the patrons of the bar, however, RAY GODFREY was an individual who would not resort to violence.

Interviewed on 2/19/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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AT 44-2386

TJW:cw

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia, on the dates indicated:

CLARENCE FISHER, Owner, of Fisher Wall, 326 Patterson Road, Scottdale, Georgia, advised he does have an employee named RAY COOLEY, however, COOLEY was out on a job at the time and he would have COOLEY call on his return.

RAY COOLEY advised he is familiar with CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. He was running his own business in 1967 or 1968 and at the time he did have employed CLAUDE and LEON POWELL as dry wall installers. His records, however, are kept at home. He would attempt to review them and see if there would be some paperwork showing that CLAUDE and LEON POWELL were working for him in October or November, 1967.

On February 13, 1976, MARJORIE COOLEY, wife of RAY COOLEY advised she kept the records for her husband when he was in business for himself. She has been unable to find any records going back to 1967 or 1968, regarding any individuals employed for her husband. Her husband at that time was self-employed and did have a couple of individuals working for him. She specifically remembers that she moved into her own house in November 1967. Her husband installed the dry wall in her home. The individuals actually installing the dry wall were CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. Therefore, she is positive that CLAUDE and LEON POWELL worked for her husband in late October, or early November, 1967.

She feels quite certain that CLAUDE and LEON POWELL worked for her husband from 1966 until 1969.

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia on February 23, 1976:

Lieutenant STRICKLAND, Permit Section, Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta, Georgia, advised DIANE BRAND also known as Diane Brady took over the management of the bar named "The Office" on August 28, 1974. The previous owner was THOMAS M. HYATT, 2131 Flat Shoals Road, Atlanta, Georgia. HYATT owned the bar from February, 1972 until 1974. JAMES MAYNARD LIVINGSTONE, 622 Farrar Court, Decatur, Georgia, previously owned the bar from 1969 until 1972. The bar originally opened up in 1969.

PATRICIA BLUE, manager, apartments located at 4131 Flat Shoals Road advised THOMAS M. HYATT has not lived at that address for the last two years. She has been the manager of that complex for that period of time. She was unable to find any material in her file regarding THOMAS M. HYATT.

Records of the United States Post Office, East Atlanta Branch, Metropolitan Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, were reviewed with negative results regarding any forwarding address for THOMAS M. HYATT. The carrier for that route advised THOMAS HYATT has been gone from 4131 Flat Shoals Road for approximately three years.

A review of the Atlanta City Directory and the Atlanta suburban directory reflects approximately 104 RALPH or R. SMITHs. The Greater Atlanta Southern Bell telephone directory lists in excess of 104 RALPH or R. SMITHs. Neither the city directory nor the telephone book shows any listing for R. SETZER.

On February 24, 1975, BARBARA WAGER, Department of Motor Vehicles, State of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and requested to review the state tax records for any automobile owned by ARNOLD RAY GODFREY from 1967 to 1968.

AT 44-2386

2

On February 25, 1976, BARBARA WAGER, Department of Motor Vehicles, Atlanta, Georgia, advised her records reflect that in 1968 A. R. GODFREY of 569 Gresham Road, Atlanta, Georgia, had license in the State of Georgia for a 1960 Chevrolet Impala, Georgia license 2J40393. Ms. WAGER advised that there are no other cars registered to A. R. GODFREY.

On February 24, 1976, JOE WALLACE, Security Office, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that the air lines do not keep the names of individuals who fly on their air lines longer than 90 days. According to the Civil Aeronautics Board, the actual tickets are maintained for 90 days. A computer run showing the history of the ticket is maintained in the air lines files for 30 days, therefore, after 90 days the air lines would not be able to supply any passenger information.

AT 44-2386

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON on February 26, 1976, at Atlanta, Georgia.

A review of the Greater Atlanta Southern Bell Telephone Directory failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERN COOK or LAVENE COOK. A review of the Cobb County and City of Marietta Directory also failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERN COOK or LAVENE COOK.

Attached hereto is a xerox copy of a portion of an Atlanta city map showing:

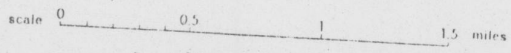
- (1) location of hotel RAY GODFREY stayed
- (2) where RAY GODFREY's car was recovered
- (3) location of Pete's Bar.



ATLANTA STREET MAP

- Limited Access Divided Highways
- Other Divided Highways
- National Interstate Highways
- U.S. Highways
- State
- City Limits
- Railroads
- NATIONAL INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS
- (Dark markers indicate signs erected. Red markers show route identification only, signs not erected.)
- Pending definite decisions, no attempt has been made to illustrate alignments of proposed future sections of this system.
- Completed (Open to traffic)
- Under Construction (No traffic)

One inch equals approximately 0.71 miles.



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AT 44-2386

A review of the records at the Federal Records Center, Military Branch, St. Louis, Missouri, disclosed LEON POWELL had army serial service number RA14478523, Social Security Account Number [redacted] date of birth [redacted] at Toccoa, Georgia and enlisted in the U. S. Army at Atlanta, Georgia. He served active duty from September, 1952, to December 21, 1955. He was honorably released from active duty as a private (high weapons infantry) at Fort Benning, Georgia, and transferred to U. S. Army Reserve. He was honorably discharged from the U. S. Army Reserve on December 23, 1960 by reason of expiration of service.

PII

LEON's report of medical examination dated December 19, 1955, disclosed "multiple psychosomatic complaints". LEON did not keep his appointment and did not desire to remain in service for further treatment.

LEON was tried and convicted by summary court marshal January 23, 1953 for Absence Without Leave and sentenced to 45 days hard labor. He had a special court marshal on September 14, 1954 for breaking restriction and by a special court marshal on August 26, 1955 for Absence Without Leave. No other medical records were found for POWELL other than dental claim.

No military service record was located for CLAUDE POWELL.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/27/76

In addition to information furnished by ARNOLD RAY GODFREY of 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, on interview transcribed January 14, 1976, that to the best of his recollection, he was in Nashville, Tennessee, "shacked up" on the day MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was killed. GODFREY thought he could verify this through some personal records.

Interviewed on 1/13/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386
 by SA BERNARD R. BERRY
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/20/76

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★ U.S. GPO: 1974-555-294

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

FROM : J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: MURKIN

- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- DATE: 4/2/76
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Helterhoff
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Leavitt

- Assoc. Dir.
- Dep. AD Adm.
- Dep. AD Inv.
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin.
- Comp. Syst.
- Ext. Affairs
- Files & Com.
- Gen. Inv.
- Ident.
- Inspection
- Intell.
- Laboratory
- Legal Coun.
- Plan. & Eval.
- Spec. Inv.
- Training
- Telephone Rm.
- Director Sec'y

PURPOSE: To advise of results of a conference with Assistant Attorney General (AAG) J. Stanley Pottinger, Civil Rights Division (CRD), and representatives of the General Investigative Division (GID), concerning results of our investigation pertaining to the allegation by Leon Owen Powell and his brother Claude Powell, Jr. that prior to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they were offered payment to murder King.

SYNOPSIS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. In January of 1976, Leon Owen Powell and his brother Claude Powell, Jr., made an allegation that they were offered payment to murder King prior to his actual death. Their accounts of this alleged payment offer differ in many respects. We conducted an extensive investigation and did not develop any information to substantiate this allegation and there is no indication it is anyway connected with James Earl Ray. The results of our investigation were closely coordinated with the CRD. Per the request of AAG Pottinger, a conference was held on 4/2/76 wherein Mr. Pottinger was briefed by representatives of the GID concerning results of our investigation re the Powell allegation. After briefing, Pottinger instructed another Departmental Attorney to prepare a Departmental memorandum summarizing the results of the Powell investigation and pointing out there is no indication of any conspiracy or any indication the Powell allegation connected with James Earl Ray. Pottinger still undecided as to whether the Powell allegation merits presentation to a Federal Grand Jury (FGJ). Mr. Pottinger stated the CRD would advise if a determination is made to present this matter to a FGJ. No additional investigation was requested of the FBI.

RECOMMENDATION: For information. You will be advised if the Department decides to present the Powell allegation to a FGJ.

- APPROVED: *[Signature]*
- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Assoc. Dir. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Comp. Syst. <input type="checkbox"/> | Laboratory <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dep. AD Adm. <input type="checkbox"/> | Ext. Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> | Legal Coun. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dep. AD Inv. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Gen. Inv. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Plan. & Eval. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asst. Dir.: | Ident. <input type="checkbox"/> | Rec. Mgmt. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Admin. <input type="checkbox"/> | Inspection <input type="checkbox"/> | Spec. Inv. <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Intell. <input type="checkbox"/> | Training <input type="checkbox"/> |

DETAILS - CONTINUED - OVER *[Signature]*

44-38861
HNH/pwl)9(

84 APR 21 1976



5010-108

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

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
FBI

APR 7 3 42 PM 1976

RECEIVED DIRECTOR

APR 6 9 22 AM 1976

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

APR 7 9 5 AM '76

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

APR 5 9 43 AM '76

RECEIVED

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

APR 7 3 00 PM 1976

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

FBI
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RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN
44-38861

DETAILS

This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. King on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. You were advised in previous memoranda that we were conducting an investigation at the request of the CRD to resolve the Powell allegation.

Leon Owen Powell claims he and his brother, Claude, while in Pete's Bar in Atlanta in November of 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey stated he could put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. Approximately one week later, while at the same bar, the Powells were approached by a Ralph Last Name Unknown (LNU) who stated "I guess you know why I'm here." Ralph displayed what he said was \$25,000 and then said "If you decide to take the job, there's \$50,000 more when its completed." Leon stated that Claude then replied they needed time to think it over and Ralph stated "If your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Leon stated neither he nor his brother were involved in King's murder. Leon also advised that Ralph never actually said money being offered was to kill King. Subsequently, however, Leon stated Ralph had only said "25" and there would be "50" when King was buried, and changed other aspects of this alleged meeting.

Claude Powell, Jr., was interviewed and although he also said a meeting did occur, his account differs from Leon's. He states meeting occurred in about March of 1968 and furnished other information which differed from Leon's.

Leon stated Pete Davis, the bar owner, observed the meeting. Claude also stated he thinks Davis was present at bar at time of alleged meeting. Our investigation showed that Pete Davis did not own the bar at time of alleged meeting.

Bureau polygraph examinations were afforded to Leon and Claude Powell. Leon's examination was determined to be "inconclusive" and Claude's was determined to be "truthtelling."

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN
44-38861

Godfrey was interviewed and denied any involvement. Godfrey was recontacted as to whether he would take a polygraph examination and he referred Agents to his attorney. CRD contacted his attorney and his attorney subsequently advised CRD that Godfrey is innocent; however, he will not consent to any further interview.

Other extensive investigation did not develop any information to substantiate this allegation and there is no indication it is in anyway connected with James Earl Ray.

The results of our investigation were closely coordinated with the CRD and the CRD has been reviewing the results of our investigation to determine if it should be presented to a FGJ.

Per the request of AAG Pottinger, a conference was held on 4/2/76 in Mr. Pottinger's office wherein Mr. Pottinger was briefed concerning the results of the investigation of the Powell allegation by Section Chief James S. Peelman and SA Hal N. Helterhoff, Civil Rights Section of the GID. Also in attendance was Departmental Attorney Stephen A. Horn of the CRD. After the briefing, Mr. Pottinger instructed Departmental Attorney Horn to prepare a Departmental memorandum summarizing the results of the Powell investigation and pointing out there is no indication of any conspiracy or any indication the Powell allegation was connected with James Earl Ray. Mr. Pottinger stated he still was undecided as to whether the Powell allegation merits presentation to a FGJ. Mr. Pottinger stated the CRD would advise if a determination is made to present this matter to a FGJ. No additional investigation was requested of the FBI.

- 1 - J. B. Adams
- 1 - T. J. Jenkins
- 1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: J.S. Peelman)
- 1 - Mr. D. W. Moore

3/30/76

Mr. T. W. Leavitt

- 1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
- 1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
- 1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

MURKIN

PURPOSE: This memorandum advises of statement by Robert Murphy of Civil Rights Division (CRD) of Department that recent news article concerning Department's study of Martin Luther King, Jr., case was incorrect.

DETAILS: Recent memoranda have advised that Department was winding up its study of Bureau files to determine whether investigation of King's assassination should be reopened. An article appeared in "The Washington Post" 3/23/76, attribution to "informed sources," presumably in the Department, and indicated possibility CRD would recommend to Attorney General (AG) that a blue-ribbon committee of persons outside the Government be formed to look at all aspects of the case. On 3/29/76, Murphy, who has been the Department's principal reviewer of our files, telephoned Supervisor S. F. Phillips and volunteered that the article in question is incorrect in that no recommendations have yet been made to the AG.

Although Murphy told us on 3/24/76, that he has completed his specific request for documents in our files, on 3/29/76, he asked for additional information and indicated he would continue to make some further requests as he is currently engaged in preparing his summary and recommendations for the AG. Our continued cooperation to him was reiterated and we will continue to service his needs in this respect.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For Information.

100-106670

① 44-38861

SFP:lhb
(10)

44-38861-

NOT RECORDED

APR 12 1976

Original Filed In 100-106670-417

R-288

55 APR 16 1976

March 17, 1976

Ms. Margaret Gentry
Room 606
2021 K Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Ms. Gentry:

This is to acknowledge receipt by the FBI on February 13, 1976, of your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) request dated February 11, 1976.

In connection with your request concerning Martin Luther King, Jr., this particular case involves voluminous material which will take considerable time to review and process.

In light of the privacy aspect of the amended FOIPA, we will require a notarized authorization from the heirs of Martin Luther King, Jr., granting approval to release any information that we may be able to furnish you. A notarized authorization from Judith Campbell Exner is also required. Submission of these documents should not be interpreted as a guarantee that you will be furnished all of the material, if any, you requested.

An exceedingly heavy volume of FOIPA requests has been received these past few months. Additionally, court deadlines involving certain historical cases of considerable scope have been imposed upon the FBI. Despite successive expansions of our staff responsible for FOIPA matters, substantial delays in processing requests continue.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General - Enclosure
Attention: Susan M. Hauser

jsh/vas (7)

1 - (62-115530-12288)

① - (44-38861)

5 JAN 19 1977

44-38861-
FEB 23 1976
FOLLOW TO FILE
jsh

62-115530-14834
ORIGINAL FILED IN

Ms. Margaret Gentry

Since January 1, 1975, the FBI has received a total of 16,112 FOIPA requests. Of these, our present backlog is 6,715. In an effort to deal fairly with any request requiring the retrieval, processing and duplication of documents, each request is being handled in chronological order based on the date of receipt. Please be assured that your request is being handled as equitably as possible and that all documents which can be released will be made available at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

- 1 - Mr. . . B. Adams
- 1 - Mr. T. J. Jenkins
- 1 - Mr. D. W. Moore
- 1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: J. S. Peelman)

3/22/76

Mr. T. W. Leavitt

- 1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
- 1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
- 1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips

J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

PURPOSE: This memorandum advises of current Department considerations relating to its review of Bureau files to determine whether investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr., assassination should be reopened.

SYNOPSIS: Robert Murphy of Department, who is reviewing our King and related files in Department's study to determine if assassination investigation of King should be reopened, advised that he intends to recommend to Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Pottinger that investigation not be reopened; however, Pottinger may disagree and only Pottinger's recommendation will go to Attorney General (AG) for final judgment. In summary being prepared by Murphy, he will also take cognizance of FBI actions to discredit King but has not yet formulated any recommendation pertaining thereto. During discussion with Supervisor S. F. Phillips, Murphy sought information relating to following matters, with responses as indicated. Phillips has no personal knowledge of any other person who was the target of as concerted a discrediting effort as was King. Origins of ways and means to discredit King are not generally documented in Bureau files and could have been with anyone from Director Hoover down to case supervisor. Identities of Headquarters (HQ) personnel who participated in King investigation furnished to Murphy who desired to know whether it was Hoover or former Assistant to the Director W. C. Sullivan who was principal motivating force behind King investigation. He

100-106670

1 - 44-38861

44-38861
NOT RECORDED

SFP:lhb

(10)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-26-80 BY SP 2 DB/dkc

APR 31 1976
CONTINUED - OVER

51 APR 26 1976

RECORDED & INDEXED 4171

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

was told Phillips was not knowledgeable as to private conversations between Sullivan and Hoover and Clyde Tolson, but from written record, conversations with Sullivan and general atmosphere in the Intelligence Division at the time, it was Phillips' personal opinion Sullivan was architect of King investigation.

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

DETAILS: Since early December, 1975, the Department has been studying whether or not to reopen the investigation of the assassination of King and has been reviewing our HQ files on King and related matters. Principal reviewers have been Robert Murphy, Chief of Criminal Section; and James Turner, Deputy AAG, and Stanley Pottinger, AAG, all of the Civil Rights Division (CRD). Murphy has assignment to formulate CRD's recommendations to be made to the AG. After winding up the file reviews on 3/19/76, Murphy asked Phillips for certain additional information and also wanted Phillips to know of certain Department procedures relating to the Department's deliberations in this matter. As you are aware, we have been cooperating fully with the Department in this study. The following summarizes the conversation between Murphy and Phillips.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

Murphy said that he will prepare a lengthy summary on this matter, including his recommendation which will be that the investigation of King's assassination not be reopened. This will be turned over to Pettinger and his Deputy, Turner, and thus will be subject to change before forwarding to the AG for a final judgment. Only Pettinger's recommendation will go to the AG. In other words, if Pettinger believes the investigation should be reopened, only that recommendation will be sent to the AG and Murphy's recommendation to the contrary will not go forward.

Murphy also intends to take cognizance in his summary to the actions which the FBI took to discredit King and refer to the statement by Deputy Associate Director James B. Adams before a public hearing of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities that there was no legal basis for such actions. Phillips asked Murphy if the study relating to the discrediting of King was included in the mandate which the CRD had received from the AG. Murphy responded that it was not but that he believes he will be expected to comment on this aspect. He said that he had not yet decided what recommendations he might make in this area.

Murphy inquired as to whether Phillips knew of any other subject of FBI investigation who had been the target of activities to discredit as was King. Phillips told him that, from his personal experience, he could recall no one else to fit such a condition. In giving this reply, Phillips pointed out the very unique position which King held at the time during the 1960's in relation to the civil rights movement and Murphy's attention was also directed to the tenor of the times.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

Murphy desired to know with exactly what personnel the various ideas originated which resulted in the actions taken to discredit King. He was told it would be very difficult to determine from the written record the precise originator of the various actions taken and that the ideas could have been from the minds of anyone from Director Hoover on down to the case supervisor or could have been a combination of the ideas of one or more persons. It was pointed out that if a particular action had achieved a desired result it would have, of course, taken no particular imagination to repeat the action under similar circumstances. As an example, it was pointed out that early on, action initiated by the Bureau resulted in King not being given an honorary degree by Marquette University, although he had been considered for same. As a consequence, when the Bureau would learn that some other institution of higher learning was considering giving King a honorary degree, it naturally followed that some steps would be considered, and in some cases efforts actually launched, to attempt to effect the same result as at Marquette.

Murphy desired to know the identities, at HQ only, of the principal personnel involved in the King investigation, the chain of command and where these personnel are now located. He was, of course, already exposed through the files to all of the names furnished to him and desired principally to know how they fit into the scheme of things at the time. Reading from top to bottom, he was furnished the names of Hoover, Associate Director Tolson, Assistant to the Director A. H. Belmont, Assistant Director W. C. Sullivan, Inspector Joseph Sisco, Section Chief Fred Baumgardner, Number One Man to Baumgardner - Charles D. Brennan, and Phillips as case supervisor. It was pointed out that a number of others may have assisted or had a hand in some way in the King investigation, but

CONTINUED - OVER

**Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Lavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670**

not to any appreciable degree. For example, after Phillips left the Section in late 1965, a succession of other supervisors handled the case.

Murphy inquired specifically into the role played by Cartha DeLoach and where he fit into the chain of command. It was pointed out that, at the time, DeLoach was Assistant Director of the Crime Records Division and thus was responsible for contacts on the Hill, with the media; and he also maintained a personal liaison with the White House on the Bureau's behalf. Because certain aspects of the King case related to such matters as congressional, media and White House contacts, DeLoach was obviously personally involved. Murphy mentioned the name of John Mohr and wanted to know how he fit into the picture. It was Phillips' recollection that much of DeLoach's work was channeled through Mohr to Tolson and the Director at the time.

Murphy asked whether Sullivan dealt directly with Phillips or whether he always went through the chain of command; that is, through Phillips' Section Chief - Baumgardner. It was explained that many times Sullivan dealt directly with Phillips. Their offices were just across the hall from each other, a fact which may have contributed. Also, when Sullivan wanted expedite action, it was not unusual for him to deal directly with a supervisor. It was explained to Murphy, however, that in such instances of direct dealing, Phillips made it a point to keep both Baumgardner and Sullivan's Number One Man, Sizoo, advised.

Murphy then desired to know whether it was Sullivan or Hoover who was the principal motivating force behind the King investigation. Phillips pointed out that he, of course, was not knowledgeable firsthand of the

CONTINUED - OVER

**Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670**

private conversations between Sullivan and Hoover or Sullivan and Tolson. For an answer, Phillips would have to rely only on what he could recall was on the record and it was his personal opinion from that record that Sullivan was the architect of the King investigation.

So that Murphy could better understand some of the information he had seen in our files, the following was specifically brought to his attention. In the Fall of 1963, a paper dispute arose between Hoover and Sullivan because of the former's displeasure with the synopsis of a briefing paper prepared for Hoover. Hoover thought that the synopsis, written by Sullivan, downgraded the communist influence in the racial movement. For some time thereafter, Hoover regularly appended critical remarks on communications from the Division relating to King and the communist influence in the racial situation. Some of Hoover's remarks were poor sarcasm and obviously designed to "needle" Sullivan and his associates in the Division. It was, therefore, suggested to Murphy that he view Hoover's remarks during that period in this context.

It should be noted that Phillips was quite candid with Murphy in respect to many of the matters discussed, primarily because Murphy had already been exposed to much of the information from his review of our files. It also demonstrated the atmosphere of full cooperation which we are giving to the Department in this matter.

This is to also record that, in winding up his file review, Murphy reviewed a number of our more sensitive documents relating to King (not including any tapes or transcripts thereof), as well as references to King

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

in selected "O & C" files. He also examined a few of the sections of our 44-38861 file which relates to the investigation of the King assassination.

FBI

Date: 4/9/76

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987 Sub B)(C)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

HAROLD WEISBERG v.
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
USDC, D. C.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 75-1996

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 3/31/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau under separate cover are the following:

Item #1: 47 crime scene photographs taken by the Memphis Police Department, 4/5/68, at and in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-26).

Item #2: 3 photographs (2 color and 1 black and white) of ERIC S. GALT, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Los Angeles Office, 4/16/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-87).

Item #3: 1 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, taken in 1966, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Kansas City Office, 4/26/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-124).

③ Bureau (1-package)(Encs. 168)
1-Memphis
BFJ:mab
(4)

*cc returned
FOIA, OLC
4/13/76*

~~ENCLOSURE~~ ENCLOSURE BULKY ROOM

120-351938

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

44-38861-6112X

W. S. ...

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

[Handwritten signature]

JUN 14 1976

Special Agent in Charge

4/12/76

100-100000

APR 12 11 40 AM '76

RECEIVED GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

APR 12 11 40 AM '76

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)

DATE: 4/12/76

RE: [Illegible]

[Illegible]

[Illegible]

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

APR 12 11 40 AM '76

RECEIVED GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

ME 44-1987 Sub B

Item #4: 1 photograph of ERIC STARVO GALT, obtained by the Memphis Office 4/18/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-127).

Item #5: 1 photograph of individual purported to be JAMES EARL RAY, taken in November, 1967, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Bureau in April, 1968. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-140).

Item #6: 1 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, taken in the fall of 1967, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Bureau, 5/3/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-147).

Item #7: 1 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and WALTER T. RIFE, dated 3/28/55, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Kansas City Office, 4/20/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-148).

Item #8: 1 photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Bureau, 4/30/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-149).

Item #9: 2 copies of artists' conception of UNSUB, furnished the Memphis Office by the Bureau, 4/13/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-150).

Item #10: 1 photographic print containing three photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, taken in 1960 and 1968, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Bureau on 5/8/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-161).

Item #11: 1 copy of photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, dated 9/8/66, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Kansas City Office on 4/20/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-188).

Item #12: 1 copy of artist's conception of UNSUB, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Bureau, date not listed. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-189).

Item #13: 1 composite of UNSUB, aka ERIC STARVO GALT, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Bureau, date not listed. (MEfile 44-1987-1A-192).

Item #14: 105 photographs of crime scene taken at and in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel by Life Magazine photographer JOSEPH LOUW, furnished to the Memphis Office by the Bureau on 4/24/68. (MEfile 44-1987-1B-6).

Item #15: 1 canister containing photographic negatives of aerial view of Lorraine Motel and vicinity, taken in April, 1968, by personnel of the U. S. Corps of Engineers.

For the information of the Bureau, Memphis file contains black and white photographs of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'s body, taken on 4/4/68, at the St. Joseph Hospital and color photographs of KING's body taken at the Office of the State of Tennessee Medical Examiner, date not indicated on photographs. It appears that the photographs taken at the Medical Examiner's Office were taken on 4/5/68 or immediately thereafter.

The photographs taken by JOSEPH LOUW of Life Magazine were furnished to SA VINCENT P. DOHERTY on 4/18/68. These were transported to the Bureau and the Bureau subsequently furnished them to the Memphis Office, none of which were retained at the Bureau. Memphis file indicates that some of these photographs appeared in the 4/12/68 issue of Life Magazine. The Memphis Office suggests that the Bureau, without clearance of the photographer or the firm, may not desire to furnish copies of these photographs if requested to WEISBERG, since they were taken by a commercial photographer and furnished to the Bureau by either the photographer or his firm.

In addition, the Memphis file contains a nude photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, which the Memphis Office is not enclosing with this communication. This photograph was taken aboard the aircraft on which he was transported from London to Millington, Tennessee, just prior to the time he left the aircraft to be transported to the Shelby County Jail, Memphis, Tennessee.

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Office, U.S. Corp...
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*4/21/68
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FBI

Date: 4/8/76

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) *pac*

MURKIN.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three copies of an LHM, prepared at Atlanta, dated and captioned as above.

Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the above LHM

LHM contains photograph of corrected artist's conception of RALPH (LNU) as described by LEON POWELL

mb

REC-45 44-38861-6112

SI-116

20 APR 16 1976

mb
ENCLOSURE

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
 - 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
 - 2 - Atlanta
- TJW:cw
(6)

*070-C
1-CRU
1-CRO
HMH
4/13/76*

[Signature]

TJW

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

84 APR 21 1976

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

F. B. I.

APR 12 11 48 AM '76

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

8 4 APR 21 1976



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

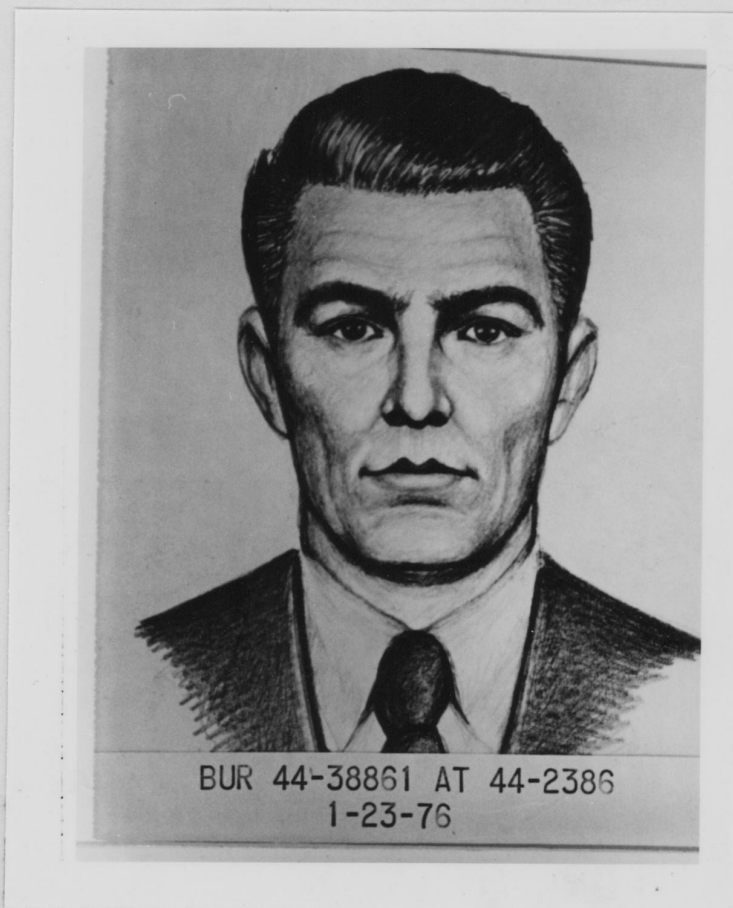
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

April 8, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

MURKIN



Artist's Conception of Ralph (Last Name Unknown) as described by Leon Powell.

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

44-38861-6112



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

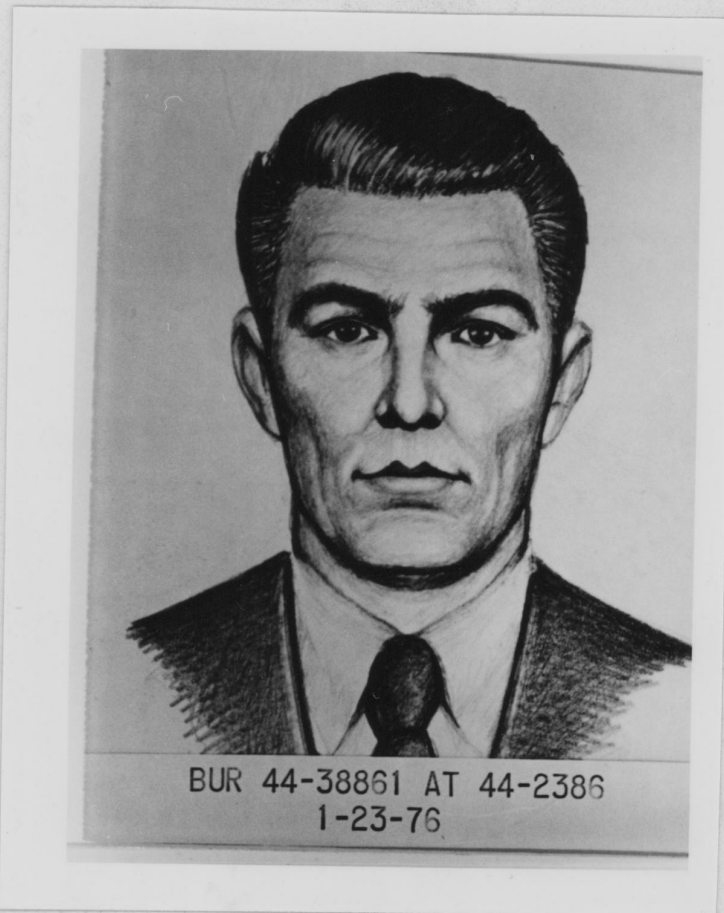
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

April 8, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

MURKIN



Artist's Conception of Ralph (Last Name Unknown) as
described by Leon Powell.

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 con-
tents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/14/76

Relto

FROM : SAC, PHOENIX (44-371)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed is a copy of a letter received by SA DUNCAN M. DEW, III, of the Tucson RA from ROBERT B. DONFELD, Attorney, representing Mrs. GLADYS MINNITT.

By way of background, Mrs. MINNITT, aka Mrs. JOE F. MINNITT, was opened in the Phoenix Office as a Ghetto Informant in June, 1968. She furnished no information until the file was closed in October, 1968. In September, 1975, she was re-opened as a PCI. Through information furnished by Mrs. MINNITT, The Tucson PD was able to locate some stolen jewelry. From September, 1975 to January, 1976, she furnished information of little value and was closed 1/8/76.

Her husband, JOE FRANK MINNITT, is presently a subject in Phoenix file 52-4894, which is scheduled for trial on 4/20/76. Bufile is 52-101165.

Bureau is requested to acknowledge Mr. DONFELD's letter. Mr. DONFELD has been advised by letter that the information requested has been forwarded to our headquarters for handling.

Phoenix indices fail to reflect any record of Mrs. MINNITT in connection with JAMES EARL RAY.

Let to Attorney Donfeld
1 - SAC, MP (Enc)
1 - SAC, PH (Enc)
1 - PAC, CRD
1 - SAC, PHOENIX
HAWK made 4/20/76

REC 12

44-371-113

ENCLOSURE

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
1 - Phoenix

20 APR 15 1976

RWD:gle
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SECRET



5010-110

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

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APR 16 10 30 AM 1976

RUSSO, COX, DICKERSON & CARTIN, P.C.

RUSSELL RUSSO
THOMAS G. COX
VERNON F. DICKERSON
JEROLD A. CARTIN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
4545 EAST 5TH STREET
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85711

TELEPHONE 795-8200
AREA CODE 602

J. JAMES MURPHY
WILLIAM F. McDONALD
ROBERT G. CLARK
THOMAS P. SYLVESTER

April 5, 1976

Duncan M. Dew, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
P. O. Box 2910
Tucson, Arizona 85702

Re: Gladys Minnitt

Dear Agent Dew:

Pursuant to our recent telephone conversation the following is a synopsis of Mrs. Minnitt's claim to a reward offered for information in James Earl Ray and the assassination of Martin Luther King. I would appreciate it if you would make a determination as to whether or not there is any reward money and, if so, what amount Mrs. Minnitt is entitled to receive. Please make any further communications with Mrs. Minnitt through my office regarding this matter.

Mrs. Minnitt contacted the F.B.I. in Washington, D.C. approximately 2 weeks after the death of Martin Luther King. Mrs. Minnitt first noticed Mr. Ray in Tucson a few weeks prior to the assassination of Dr. King. Apparently, Mr. Ray attended various church services and posed as a missionary. As you know, Mrs. Minnitt is an ordained Minister in the Pentecostal Church. Mrs. Minnitt had a newspaper clipping of James Earl Ray after the assassination. Mrs. Minnitt compared the newspaper clipping with the individual who reappeared at Church after the assassination and concluded that James Earl Ray was the individual attending the church services. Apparently, in the newspaper clipping Mr. Ray's hair was long and dark but was sandy and crewcut while in Tucson. As you know, the F.B.I. contacted Mrs. Minnitt approximately 24 hours after her telephone conversation with Washington. Mrs. Minnitt mentioned to F.B.I. agents that she was not sure whether she was interested in any reward for her services. I might add that Mrs. Minnitt mentioned that the first time, prior to the assassination, Mr. Ray looked in poor condition but after the assassination when he reappeared in Tucson he was dressed very nice and looked in good condition.

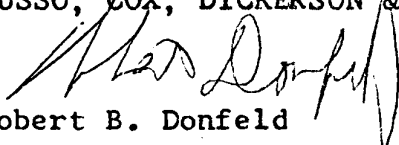
ENCLOSURE

-2-

I believe that the above is an accurate summation of my conversation with Mrs. Minnitt regarding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. If there are any questions which you have regarding this matter or if you wish to discuss the assassination with Mrs. Minnitt I will be most happy to convene an interview at your convenience. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

RUSSO, COX, DICKERSON & CARTIN, P.C.


Robert B. Donfeld

RBD/dp

REC 12

111-34861-6113

April 20, 1976

1 - Mr. Helterhoff

EX-111

Mr. Robert B. ~~Donfeld~~
Attorney at Law
4545 East 5th Street
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Dear Mr. Donfeld:

Reference is made to your letter to the FBI, Tucson, Arizona, dated April 5, 1976, pertaining to Mrs. Gladys Minnitt, a copy of which has been forwarded to FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

For your information, the FBI has no "reward money" to pay Mrs. Minnitt for information she furnished allegedly concerning James Earl Ray.

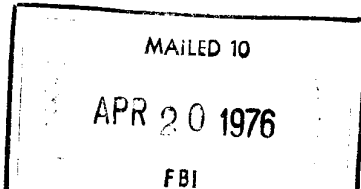
I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions about the information Mrs. Minnitt furnished, it is suggested that you communicate directly with the CRD, Washington, D. C. 20530.

You may also desire to communicate directly with the State of Tennessee authorities where James Earl Ray was ultimately prosecuted in connection with the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director



man

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. 1
- Asst. Dir.: _____
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs 1
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. 1
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)
Civil Rights Division

1 - SAC, Phoenix (44-371) (Info) (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)

1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)

HNH:mlr (6)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

70 MAY 3 1976

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C. M. KERR

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

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Mr. Robert B. Donfeld

NOTE: This case pertains to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder in the state of Tennessee and is presently in local confinement.

Our Phoenix Office forwarded a copy of a letter from Attorney Robert B. Donfeld wherein he makes inquiry as to whether any "reward money" available for Mrs. Minnitt. Phoenix requested FBIHQ acknowledge Donfeld's letter. Bufile 44-38861-3703 reflects Mrs. Minnitt was interviewed in May of 1968 in connection with the civil rights investigation relating to the assassination of King. Mrs. Minnitt at that time stated a photograph of James Earl Ray looked similar to a man she saw in revival meetings at the Church of God in Christ, Tucson, Arizona. This information furnished by Mrs. Minnitt was not substantiated. No other references contained in Bufiles re Mrs. Minnitt. Phoenix advised Mrs. Minnitt, a former ghetto informant and potential criminal informant of Phoenix Division.

This appropriately responds to Mr. Donfeld with copy to the AAG, CRD, and to our Phoenix and Memphis (the office of origin) Field Offices for information.

APPROVED:	Comp. Syst.....	Laboratory.....
Assoc. Dir	Ext. Affairs.....	Legal Coun.....
Dep. AD Adm.....	Gen. Inv..... <i>GJKW</i>	Plan. & Eval.....
Dep. AD Inv..... <i>SSA/p</i>	Ident.....	Rec. Mgmt.....
Asst. Dir.:	Inspection.....	Spec. Inv.....
Admin.....	Intell.....	Training.....

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

FILE
COPY

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: **April 13, 1976**
ATTN: MR. STEPHEN A. HORN

FROM : Director, FBI

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

Handwritten initials

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ LHM
dated **April 8, 1976** at Atlanta.

A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

6 APR 16 1976

Enc. 1

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

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COPY

84 APR 20 1976

**Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division**

NOTE: Reference is made to a conference between Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger and Departmental Attorney Stephen A. Horn of the Civil Rights Division and Section Chief James S. Peelman and SA Hal N. Helterhoff of the FBI on 4/2/76, concerning the allegation made by Leon Owen Powell and Claude Powell, Jr. The Civil Rights Division requested no additional investigation concerning the Powell allegation and advised it would advise if a determination is made to present this matter to a Federal grand jury. A copy of the final artist's conception of Ralph (Last Name Unknown) is enclosed for the completion of your file.