

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL INVESTIGATIVE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

BEING HANDLED

DEC 3 7 51 PM '76

DEC 6 6 44 AM 1976

DEPT OF JUSTICE

PAGE TWO BH 44-1740 E F T O

INFORMATION THAT WILL OPEN WIDE THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION, AND THIS FRIEND IS IN CONTACT WITH A COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, FURNISHING INFORMATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS KNOWN TO HIM WHO WERE INVOLVED. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD COME OUT (BE MADE PUBLIC) TO THE FBI AND TO THE PUBLIC IN THE NEXT WEEK. WINSETT CONVINCED HIS FRIEND, AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION, THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT REVEAL HIS KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THIS MATTER. THE FRIEND DID NOT AND WOULD NOT BRING THIS INFORMATION TO THE FBI BECAUSE OF A PAST CONVICTION IN AN FBI CASE (NATURE OF CRIME NOT SPECIFIED) IN WHICH THE FRIEND TOOK HIS CASE TO THE APPEALS COURT IN NEW ORLEANS AND HAD HIS CONVICTION OVERTURNED. THE COST TO HIS FRIEND WAS SUCH THAT HE WOULD NOT COME TO THE FBI WITH HIS INFORMATION.

THE FRIEND DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH AN UNNAMED FRIEND EMPLOYED BY THE U. S. SECRET SERVICE AND THEN DECIDED TO TAKE HIS INFORMATION TO THE U. S. SENATE.

WINSETT WAS THE SUBJECT OF A BUAP - CLERK CASE IN BIRMINGHAM IN 1967 UNDER THE NAME FRANKIE SIDNEY WINSETT, DOB [REDACTED], AND HE WAS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR EMPLOYMENT

PAGE THREE BH 44-1740 E F T O

BECAUSE HIS FAMILY DOCTOR DESCRIBED HIM AS "EMOTIONALLY  
UNSTABLE". - Bufile 67-643362.

BIRMINGHAM CONDUCTING NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION UACB.

BT.

DEC 3 11 18 AM '67  
RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

DEC 3 7 16 PM '76



FBI

Date: 12/16/76

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Precedence)

*SA*  
*C*  
*encl*  
*4*

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (100-427) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN *JAM*

Re Sacramento teletype dated 12/9/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of an LHM regarding contacts of the Sacramento FBI office with one ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, DOB

Enclosed for other offices is one copy of this LHM.

This matter is being considered RUC as no further leads exist in Sacramento Division.

*24*

*24*  
ENCLOSURE

V-24 EX-105 DE-41

REC-87

44-38861-6167

1-3-1977  
5 DEC 19 1976

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
  - 2 - Denver (Enc. 1)
  - 2 - Kansas City (Enc. 1)
  - 2 - Las Vegas (Enc. 1)
  - 2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1)
  - 2 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
  - 2 - Salt Lake City (Enc. 1)
  - 1 - Sacramento
- BRLK/cw  
(15)

*1-CRD*  
*0-70 (F) HNH: gja*  
*12/22/76*

*[Signature]*

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

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

84 JAN 14 1977

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
DEC 20 6 46 AM 1976

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION  
DEC 18 2 22 PM '76  
F.B.I.  
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Sacramento, California

December 15, 1976

MURKIN

On December 2, 1976, Alfred William Martinez, 807 Green Wood Street, West Sacramento, California, telephone 372-0780, telephonically contacted the Sacramento FBI office and furnished information which he considered might be pertinent to the investigation of the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On December 7, 1976, Martinez was interviewed at 1401 11th Avenue, Sacramento, California, where he was employed on that date. Results of that interview are set forth:

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44-38861-1  
ENCLOSURE

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/76

ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, 807 Green Wood Street, West Sacramento, California, telephone 372-0780, was interviewed at 1401 11th Avenue, Sacramento, California. MARTINEZ was working at this location for the Delk-Terminex Company, an insect extermination business.

MARTINEZ advised he was in the Salt Lake County Jail, Salt Lake City, Utah, for two and a half to three months. He advised that he was in this jail sometime during the latter part of 1966 or early 1967.

MARTINEZ advised that during this incarceration he became friendly with an individual named WILLIAM SIMPONIS. He advised that SIMPONIS would be about 60 years old. He believes that SIMPONIS was in jail on a robbery charge. SIMPONIS was ill with emphysema; and had been sent to Salt Lake County Jail to be tried on a charge. SIMPONIS came to Salt Lake County Jail from the Federal Prison Facility at Springfield, Missouri.

At SIMPONIS' request, MARTINEZ wrote several letters for him. MARTINEZ advised that he wrote approximately three letters a week during the period he was incarcerated to an individual identified both as JAMES RAY and EARL RAY by SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ advised he mailed these letters to Memphis, Tennessee, but that he could not remember the address. MARTINEZ advised that he bought the stamps and envelopes for these letters and also such things as candy bars for SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ estimates that he spent approximately \$30.00 on these items for SIMPONIS.

MARTINEZ advised that he had kept a shoe box full of letters that he had received from RAY and some personal items which belonged to SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ advised two of these letters were addressed to him and the rest to SIMPONIS. He advised he lost these items four or five years ago and has not been able to locate them.

Interviewed on 12/7/76 at Sacramento, California File # SC 100-427  
 by SA BOYD R. L. KEENAN/cw 2 Date dictated 12/10/76

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MARTINEZ advised that the contents of the letters he wrote usually consisted of information about when SIMPONIS was going to get out of jail, and how the two of them would get together. MARTINEZ cannot think of any other topics about which he wrote.

MARTINEZ was told by SIMPONIS that he should contact RAY when he got out of jail and that, "They had a job going on; they would need some help on it; that I could make quite a bit of money on it and I wouldn't have to worry about work anymore." SIMPONIS never identified any other individuals involved in these plans, either perpetrators or victims. He advised SIMPONIS hated black people very much, but he never specifically mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. or any other blacks that he could remember.

MARTINEZ advised that when he got out of jail, SIMPONIS gave him three letters written by SIMPONIS to be mailed to RAY. MARTINEZ advised that these were sealed, and that he did not read the contents, but that he did send them. MARTINEZ advised he was to maintain contact with SIMPONIS, who would advise him to go to Memphis at a specific time, and that SIMPONIS would have mailed a picture of MARTINEZ to RAY for purposes of identification. When this occurred, RAY was to meet MARTINEZ at the Memphis Airport on a designated date. MARTINEZ advised he never contacted SIMPONIS after he got out of jail in Salt Lake City. MARTINEZ advised that a short time after his release from Salt Lake County Jail, he was arrested for burglary in Canyon City, Colorado, and sent to the Colorado State Prison from May 28, 1967, until the latter part of 1967.

MARTINEZ further advised he wrote letters for SIMPONIS to other individuals. He identified these individuals as follows:

JEANETTE SCOTT, Girlfriend of SIMPONIS  
Pioneer Hotel  
342 5th Street  
Elko, Nevada

(MARTINEZ seemed to recollect SCOTT was part owner of this hotel and was supposed to have a large collection of guns);

SC 100-427

LILLIAN SCHURTER  
1274 West Street  
Possibly Elko, Nevada  
Telephone: TE3-7226;

KALIOPE SOLIATES  
1026 West 20th  
Possibly Elko, Nevada  
Telephone: TE3-3617;

NICK SIMPONIS  
Gardena, California  
Telephone: 434-8747

(Brother of WILLIAM SIMPONIS, street address unknown).

MARTINEZ advised that he does not know if the individual referred to as JAMES RAY or EARL RAY is identical to JAMES EARL RAY convicted in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The following is a description of ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ as obtained through observation and interview:

Race	Mexican	
Sex	Male	
Height	5'9"	
Weight	150	
Hair	Black	
Eyes	Brown	
Date of birth	[REDACTED]	PII
Place of birth	Canyon City, Colorado	
FBI	83901G	
SSAN	[REDACTED]	PII
Address	807 Green Wood Street West Sacramento, California	
Previous address	3427 40th Street Sacramento, California 1651 Illinois Avenue Canyon City, Colorado	

SC 100-427

Mother

ROSE MARTINEZ

1651 Illinois Avenue  
Canyon City, Colorado

Employment

Delk-Terminex Company  
Arden and Fulton Avenue  
Sacramento, California

MARTINEZ is currently on probation for drunk driving.

FBI

Date: 12/16/76

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

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_ AIRMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (100-427) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

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  - 2 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
  - 2 - Salt Lake City (Enc. 1)
  - 1 - Sacramento
- BRLK/cw  
(15)

~~34 JAN 8 1977~~

1-CLD  
D-70 (F) HNH: Jiw  
12/22/76

CARBON COPY

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





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

Sacramento, California

December 15, 1976

MURKIN

On December 2, 1976, Alfred William Martinez, 807 Green Wood Street, West Sacramento, California, telephone 372-0780, telephonically contacted the Sacramento FBI office and furnished information which he considered might be pertinent to the investigation of the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On December 7, 1976, Martinez was interviewed at 1401 11th Avenue, Sacramento, California, where he was employed on that date. Results of that interview are set forth:

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/76

ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, 807 Green Wood Street, West Sacramento, California, telephone 372-0780, was interviewed at 1401 11th Avenue, Sacramento, California. MARTINEZ was working at this location for the Delk-Terminex Company, an insect extermination business.

MARTINEZ advised he was in the Salt Lake County Jail, Salt Lake City, Utah, for two and a half to three months. He advised that he was in this jail sometime during the latter part of 1966 or early 1967.

MARTINEZ advised that during this incarceration he became friendly with an individual named WILLIAM SIMPONIS. He advised that SIMPONIS would be about 60 years old. He believes that SIMPONIS was in jail on a robbery charge. SIMPONIS was ill with emphysema; and had been sent to Salt Lake County Jail to be tried on a charge. SIMPONIS came to Salt Lake County Jail from the Federal Prison Facility at Springfield, Missouri.

At SIMPONIS' request, MARTINEZ wrote several letters for him. MARTINEZ advised that he wrote approximately three letters a week during the period he was incarcerated to an individual identified both as JAMES RAY and EARL RAY by SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ advised he mailed these letters to Memphis, Tennessee, but that he could not remember the address. MARTINEZ advised that he bought the stamps and envelopes for these letters and also such things as candy bars for SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ estimates that he spent approximately \$30.00 on these items for SIMPONIS.

MARTINEZ advised that he had kept a shoe box full of letters that he had received from RAY and some personal items which belonged to SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ advised two of these letters were addressed to him and the rest to SIMPONIS. He advised he lost these items four or five years ago and has not been able to locate them.

Interviewed on 12/7/76 at Sacramento, California File # SC 100-427

by SA BOYD R. L. KEENAN/cw Date dictated 12/10/76

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MARTINEZ was told by SIMPONIS that he should contact RAY when he got out of jail and that, "They had a job going on; they would need some help on it; that I could make quite a bit of money on it and I wouldn't have to worry about work anymore." SIMPONIS never identified any other individuals involved in these plans, either perpetrators or victims. He advised SIMPONIS hated black people very much, but he never specifically mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. or any other blacks that he could remember.

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342 5th Street  
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(MARTINEZ seemed to recollect SCOTT was part owner of this hotel and was supposed to have a large collection of guns);

SC 100-427

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Address	807 Green Wood Street West Sacramento, California	
Previous address	3427 40th Street Sacramento, California 1651 Illinois Avenue Canyon City, Colorado	

SC 100-427

Mother	ROSE MARTINEZ 1651 Illinois Avenue Canyon City, Colorado
Employment	Delk-Terminex Company Arden and Fulton Avenue Sacramento, California

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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SC 100-427

Mother	ROSE MARTINEZ 1651 Illinois Avenue Canyon City, Colorado
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FBI

Date: 12/15/76

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
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Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)  
**MURKIN**  
CR  
(OO: ME)

Re Birmingham teletype to Bureau and Memphis dated 12/3/76, and Birmingham airtel to Bureau, Detroit and New Orleans on 12/12/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three (3) copies of an LHM; for Memphis two (2) copies; and one (1) copy each to Detroit and New Orleans. Also enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis are three (3) photographs of Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR., and one (1) photo of an artist's conception.

The source of the information furnished by FRANK WINSETT (PROTECT) in referenced teletype of 12/3/76 has been identified as a former PCI of the Birmingham Division. This former PCI is identical with the source in referenced Birmingham airtel of 12/12/75. His case is closed in Birmingham and he was last contacted as a PCI in February, 1976.

BH 1079-PCI

This source has functioned for the past year as an informant for DEA, Birmingham, and U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, and has discussed captioned matter with representatives of both agencies. DEA advised on 12/14/76 that his narcotics information is accurate and reliable and both agencies have pending investigations in which he is furnishing worthwhile information on a continuing basis.

- ④ - Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 8)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 6)
- 1 - New Orleans (157-10673) (INFO) (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Detroit (Enc. 1) (INFO)
- 2 - Birmingham (1 - 44-1740)
- PJM:bhn (10) (1 - 137-2089)

ENCLOSURE 44-38861-6168  
DE-41  
1-3-1977  
23 DEC 17 1976  
1-CCB  
0-70(F) HNH: gaw  
12/22/76  
SEE FILE COPY

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

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
who advised on 5/21/77 that he can be identified to the HSCA as the source of the information he furnished; see BH Teletype 5/31/77 and BH AT 6/1/77

84 JAN 14 1977

[Faint, mostly illegible text from a document or letter, possibly containing names and dates.]

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DEC 17 1 26 PM '76  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

BH 44-1740

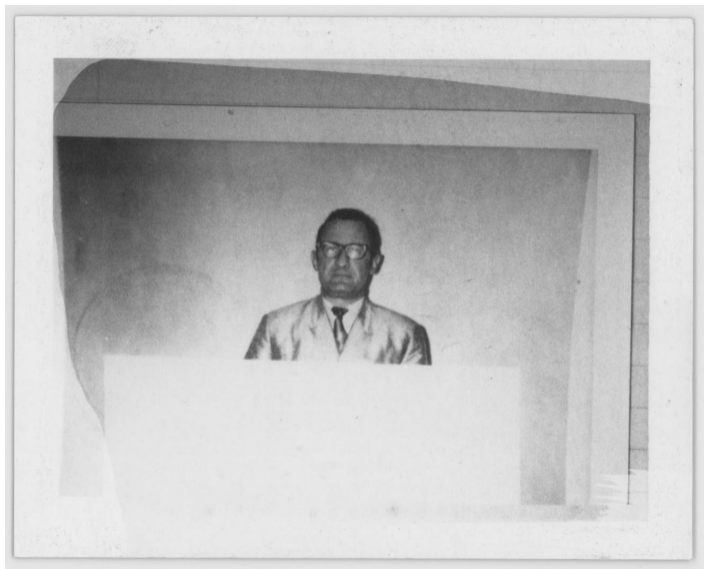
On 12/14/76, this source was interviewed by SA PATRICK J. MOYNIHAN of the Birmingham Office at the DEA Office in Birmingham in the presence of DEA Agent LARRY HAHN. The source did not desire to come to the FBI Office for interview and explained his reluctance to talk to the FBI since he was convicted in an ITSP case at Birmingham, Ala., in 1969 or 1970, which conviction was subsequently reversed in the 5th Circuit Court and cost the source a large amount of money to defend himself. He claims he was afraid to furnish the detailed information of the enclosed LHM shortly after the assassination of Dr. KING because he was afraid and at that time, or shortly after, he became involved in a variety of personal problems including his FBI case. Later, when he talked about this matter, people always "turned me off".

Source has not talked to any group from the U. S. Senate or House of Representatives, contrary to information furnished in referenced Birmingham teletype of 12/3/76, but he has discussed this matter with U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, DEA, Birmingham, and with an Assistant U. S. Attorney at Birmingham, Alabama.

The enclosed photographs of Dr. GUS PROSCH were obtained by the source from U. S. Secret Service at Birmingham and he identified the enclosed artist's conception as a newspaper or magazine representation of an individual who registered at the hotel in which Dr. KING was killed, as JOHN WILLARD, on 4/4/68. It is source's understanding that JOHN WILLARD was never identified and he believes WILLARD could be identical with Dr. GUS PROSCH who used the name JOHN WILLARD in Birmingham, Alabama, in the early part of 1968.

Memphis should give this matter due consideration and furnish the Bureau any comments or recommendations. No further investigation is being conducted at Birmingham UACB.

This former PCI expressed fear for his life and does not want his identity revealed.

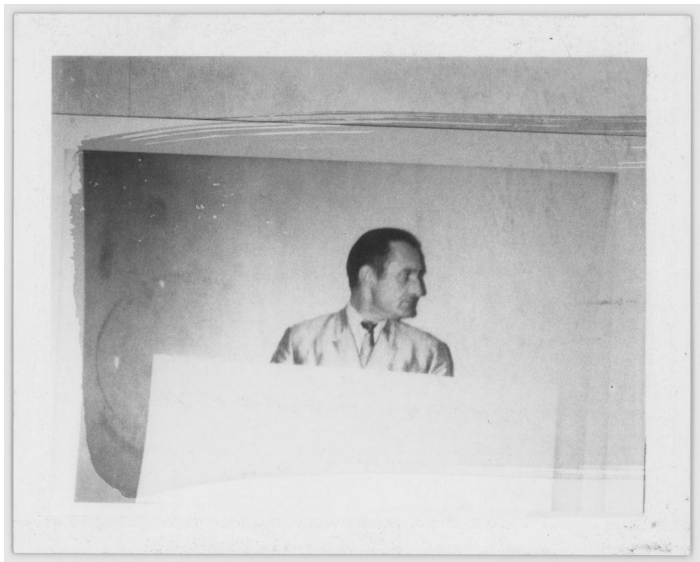


2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR.

FBI 655 815 H

F 0 4 2 5 A D G



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



601 JOSEPH PROSCHA JR.  
M.D.

W/M

791# 655 815H

PII



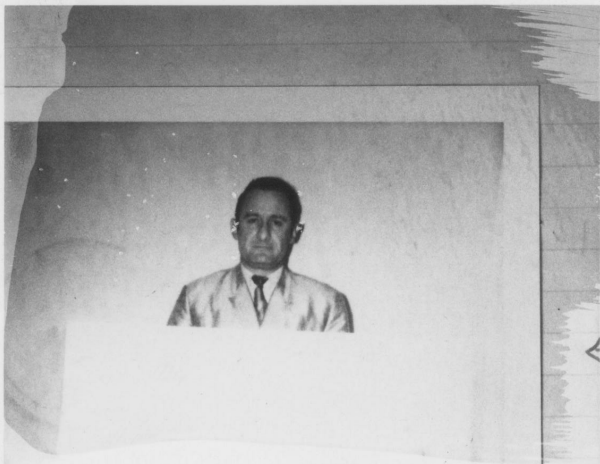
89 N. ALA.

5' 11 1/2" - 170 # (12/70)

BRO W/ HAWK EYES

Photo Taken 1971.

F 6 0 4 2 2 A D G



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR.

BI 655 815H

F 0 0 4 2 5 A D G



*Artist sketch of suspect.*

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

F 0 4 2 5 A D G

ARTIST CONCEPTION  
of  
JOHN WILLARD

9



TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)

MURKIN  
CR  
(OO: ME)

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PROSCH, JR., and one photo of an artist's conception.

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6168



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama

December 15, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

RE: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.,  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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On December 14, 1976, BH T-1, who has furnished insufficient information to establish his reliability, furnished the following information:

Source met Dr. ~~Gus~~ Prosch, M.D., for the first time in late 1967 or possibly January, 1968, at Gulas' Restaurant and Lounge on Highway 78 East, Birmingham, Alabama. Prosch had just moved to Birmingham from northern Alabama, possibly Albertville, and was "down and out and bitter" since his wife had run off with another man and he had suffered financial reverses. Prosch and the source became regular drinking partners at Gulas' and on occasions the source loaned Prosch money, perhaps \$20 at a time. At this time, Prosch did not want people to know his identity, probably since he was a doctor, and he used the name John ~~Willard~~ and often introduced himself to people at Gulas' as John Willard. In early 1968 Prosch was setting up a medical practice in Birmingham.

In approximately February, 1968, at Gulas', Prosch introduced a friend of his to the source and this man's name was Frank Liberto (Phonetic). The source saw Frank Liberto at Gulas' with Prosch in February or March, 1968, usually on a weekend, as many as six or seven times. He described Frank Liberto (Phonetic) as a white male, in his late thirties, or early forties at the time, six feet tall, 190 pounds, dark complexioned, with a full head of black hair and dark eyes. Liberto was well built, well dressed, and a nice looking man. The source learned that Liberto owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans and Prosch described him to the source as the head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans.

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ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.,  
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Source never saw Liberto drive an automobile and did not know if he came to Birmingham in a car or by plane. On most occasions, when he saw Liberto with Prosch at Gulas', Liberto had one or two male companions in his company. His impression was that Liberto's companions were body guards and/or underlings.

At sometime in February, 1968, Prosch started showing affluence and definitely had money. Prosch was intensely interested in guns of all kinds and always had pistols on his person. The source believed that Prosch and Liberto had some kind of a gun deal in operation.

On or about March 15, 1968, the source was at Gulas' Restaurant with Prosch and Liberto. Looking out the window to the parking lot he observed a grey colored car park and a black man came from the car to the restaurant. He recognized this individual as the Rev. (First Name Unknown) Shuttleworth, a black male, personally known to the source at the time, as very active in civil rights matters at the time. Rev. Shuttleworth sent a message into the restaurant and Dr. Prosch and Frank Liberto left the restaurant and went out to the car that Rev. Shuttleworth had returned to. Prosch and Liberto got into the back of this car and Shuttleworth was in the front along with another black male whom the source recognized as Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who was also well known to the source. These four men sat in the car for a period of approximately one hour and during this time the source, at a corner booth in Gulas', observed them through the window. Prosch and Liberto returned to the restaurant and the car with Shuttleworth and Abernathy drove off. Prosch and Liberto said nothing regarding this meeting and the source wondered but did not ask any questions.

Shortly after this meeting, possibly a week later, Dr. Prosch came to Gulas' with another white male and introduced this individual to the source as Mr. Gault. The source could not remember the first name used. He described Gault as a white male, in his 30's, approximately 5'10", 160 pounds, neat in appearance (work clothes) and respectable. On this occasion Prosch, Liberto and Gault had a private conversation.

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When the conversation broke up, Gault left Gulas' Restaurant and Prosch and Liberto stayed on and continued drinking. They made no comment whatever regarding their conversation with Gault. The source later came to know, from the newspapers and publicity, that the man introduced to him as Gault was James Earl Ray, and the source saw Gault on two occasions only in Birmingham.

Approximately one week later the source again observed a meeting between Dr. Prosch and Frank Liberto on the one hand and Dr. Abernathy and Rev. Shuttleworth on the other. The meeting took place at the same location, the parking lot of Gulas' Restaurant, and these four men sat in the same car for a period probably in excess of one hour. The black men left in their car and Prosch and Liberto returned to the restaurant but said nothing regarding the meeting.

A few nights later, again at Gulas' Restaurant, probably very late in March, 1968, Liberto was at Gulas' Restaurant when Dr. Prosch brought Gault to the restaurant for the second time. These three had a private conversation and Gault left the restaurant by himself. Nothing was said by Prosch or Liberto regarding this conversation. Source believes this was the last occasion that he saw Frank Liberto in Birmingham, Alabama.

On April 3, 1968, the source met Dr. Prosch at the bar in Gulas' at about 4:15 P.M. Prosch had been drinking quite a bit and the source had a drink. Prosch then took the source for a ride in his new car, a red Cadillac convertible with a white top. Prosch drove him around some and they went to the Aeromarine Company at the Birmingham Airport. Prosch went into Aeromarine leaving the source in the car. After ten minutes, he came out with a wooden crate approximately four feet by ten inches by eight inches, and put it in the trunk of the Cadillac. They drove back to Gulas' Restaurant and parked the car on the lot.

When they got out of the car, Prosch took the source to the rear of his car and told him he wanted to show him something. He opened the trunk and pried the top off the wooden box which contained a rifle. He talked about the rifle

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
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and then told the source that this was the rifle that was going "to kill Martin Luther King". This was a bolt-action rifle, with a short clip and no scope.

Still standing behind the car on the parking lot, Prosch told the source that Dr. Abernathy and Rev. Shuttleworth had bought a contract for \$265,000 to have Martin Luther King killed. They felt that King had gone soft with his non-violence and the money coming into the SCLC and civil rights movement had fallen off considerably. The civil rights movement was coming to a halt and King was no longer effective but was very popular. They believed that if he were killed, he would become a martyr and the money would come flowing in to advance the civil rights movement and to influence Congressional sentiment to enact into law civil rights bills that were being held up.

Prosch said that Frank Liberto had gone on to Detroit and Gault had purchased another gun. Gault was to be the "decoy" to take the heat off the man who would do the killing. Prosch said Gault was to lay his gun down after he saw the killer leave the building. Then Gault was to meet Frank Liberto in Detroit and get the rest of his money and the necessary papers to get out of the country. This whole conversation took place on the parking lot near Dr. Prosch's car. Prosch and the source went into Gulas' and drank until 9:00 or 10:00 PM, at which time each went home for the night. This source has not seen Prosch since that night.

On April 4, 1968, the source was present at his place of business in Birmingham the whole day and had a business meeting at the Parliament House Hotel in Birmingham in the early evening with business associates. It was at this location that the source learned that Martin Luther King, Jr., had been killed on that day in Memphis, Tennessee. He tried to put what he knew out of his mind and was afraid to talk to anyone at the time regarding this matter.

Source followed the newspaper publicity and accounts regarding the killing at the time it occurred and has been interested in them ever since. Over the years he has commented to many people that he did not believe that James Earl Ray killed Dr. King. Recently, he became even more interested when he learned of the renewed interest on the part of the Congress and their intent to conduct investigations regarding assassinations. He also recently read

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN  
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for the first time the alleged fact that a person using the name John Willard registered at 3:30 PM on April 4, 1968 at the hotel in Memphis where Dr. King was staying and it was his understanding that the landlady or hotel clerk could not identify James Earl Ray as identical with John Willard. Source believes that John Willard could be identical with Dr. Gus Prosch who used that name in early 1968 in Birmingham, Alabama. The source also believes that the bullet taken from Dr. King was not identified as having come from the rifle picked up at or near the scene of the assassination.

The source knows that Dr. Prosch picked up a rifle at Aeromarine on April 3, 1968 and he does not believe there is any record at Aeromarine of the sale of this rifle. This rifle, purchased by Prosch, was a bolt-action type rifle and an artist's drawing, that the source saw in a newspaper somewhere, depicting the rifle found at the scene of the assassination as a bolt-action weapon. The source's understanding is that the second rifle purchased by James Earl Ray using the name Harvey (Last Name Unknown) at Aeromarine in Birmingham, Alabama, was a Remington, Model 760, 30.06 caliber pump action rifle and the source believes that the previously described Remington rifle was probably used for the actual killing. In the second week of December, 1976, the source was told when he discussed Gus Prosch with an individual in Birmingham, that Prosch and his associates were storing guns in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1968 in connection with a gun running operation and that the gun that killed Dr. King was shipped out of the country to Costa Rica.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama  
November 22, 1971

DR. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR.

On March 8, 1971, Former Sheriff of Dallas County, Alabama, James G. Clarke, Jr., (who is presently under Federal indictment in Birmingham) telephonically contacted the Montgomery FBI Office to advise that he had an "Informant" who desired to furnish information relative to "stolen Government Property". Former Sheriff Clarke stated that for reasons known only to the "Informant" he desired to furnish information to the FBI in Montgomery, Alabama. Clarke was advised that any information volunteered would be accepted if the "Informant" desired to contact the FBI of his own volition at Montgomery, Alabama. Clarke requested that a meeting be arranged for 8:00 PM on the evening of March 10, 1971 at the Plaza Restaurant, Highway 31 North, Montgomery, Alabama.

On the night of March 10, 1971, former Sheriff Clarke did not appear, however, an individual appeared who identified himself as Gus J. Prosch, a doctor from Birmingham, Alabama. He stated he was the individual sent by Clarke and furnished the following information concerning himself:

He is the Gus J. Prosch who was arrested by the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Investigators (ATF) in cooperation with the Sheriff's Office of Jefferson County Alabama in about December, 1970 after a truck load of guns and other articles was found and traced to him. He explained that he

CP 100 157-1900

44-3-61-0  
ENCLOSURE

DR. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH

had gone to Kentucky in 1968 to assist in Governor George C. Wallace's campaign for President. While in Kentucky he met a "retired priest" from the Catholic Church who told him some very "enlightening" things about World Wide Politics, how the country was being "sold out", and how the late President John F. Kennedy and Bishop Fulton Sheen had "conspired" to start the War in Vietnam. When he returned to Birmingham, Alabama, he realized that he should do something to attempt to save the country from the inevitable fate so he began to purchase weapons.

Many of these weapons were purchased from advertisements in the newspaper and a long-time friend of his, Bob C. Long, who sells insurance in Birmingham, would advise him of weapons and ammunition for sale. He said also that Bob Long had brought him at one time some material he identified as "plastic explosives" which was a greenish-yellow in color. He stated he thought the material looked to him more like "play dough" so he did not buy any of this. He accumulated some \$10,000 to \$20,000 worth of weapons which he stored in a semi-trailer van. He moved this trailer himself with a Mack Tractor he rented some time in November or the first of December, 1970. While moving it he got it stuck near a small motel "out in the country" in the Birmingham area and subsequently all his guns were found by the Sheriff and ATF Agents who subsequently traced a trailer containing the guns to him.

He further advised that he feels that Bob C. Long is the individual who "set him up" for this arrest and that Long actually is the individual who deals in guns and ammunition in the Birmingham area.

He stated that recently a gun dealer at Birmingham named Thompson advised him that Bob Long had 100,000 rounds

DR. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH

of M-1 carbine ammunition available for purchase at the price of 5 cents a round. PROSCH pointed out that this is a good buy and he had an individual that was willing to "make a buy" to determine if Long, in fact, had this ammunition and if the ammunition was possibly Government ammunition that could be traced. PROSCH pointed out that he does not know of any M-1 carbine ammunition which is available on the market that is not military ammunition and he feels that Long obtained this ammunition through a close friend of his who is on the Police Department, in Anniston, Alabama. He stated that he feels this policeman possibly obtained it from Ft. McClellan if Long does, in fact, have 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

Prosch stated that he was interested "in discrediting Rob C. Long" as Long is the "chief witness" against him in the ATF case and he would "set him up" for the buy.

It was pointed out to Prosch that possibly Long might be "setting him up" instead of having any ammunition available for sale. It was further pointed out to Prosch that any violation of a Federal statute wherein the FBI would have jurisdiction such as Theft of Government Property would have occurred in the Northern District of Alabama and the Middle District of Alabama, Montgomery, was not the proper place to report this.

It was suggested that Prosch report this information to the FBI Office in Birmingham, Alabama, as venue in this matter would lie in that District if a theft of Government property had occurred.

Prosch terminated the meeting after stating that Sheriff Clarke could not be present because he had taken a position with the Aristocrat Motel in Hot Springs, Arkansas and was traveling to that area to take over this motel as manager.

DR. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH

Inasmuch as all investigation to date has failed to reflect that Dr. Prosch is a member of the Minutemen or has any connection with this organization, this matter is being placed in a closed status.

The Minutemen is a paramilitant group organized in June, 1960, by Robert B. DePugh in Norborne, Missouri, as a resistance to the spread of communism in the United States by use of guerrilla tactics. DePugh is currently incarcerated in a Federal penitentiary for violation of the Federal Firearms Act.

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FBI

Date: 12/15/76

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)  
MURKIN  
CR  
(OO: ME)

Re Birmingham teletype to Bureau and Memphis dated 12/3/76, and Birmingham airtel to Bureau, Detroit and New Orleans on 12/12/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three (3) copies of an LHM; for Memphis two (2) copies; and one (1) copy each to Detroit and New Orleans. Also enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis are three (3) photographs of Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR., and one (1) photo of an artist's conception.

The source of the information furnished by FRANK WINSETT (PROTECT) in referenced teletype of 12/3/76 has been identified as a former PCI of the Birmingham Division. This former PCI is identical with the source in referenced Birmingham airtel of 12/12/75. His case is closed in Birmingham and he was last contacted as a PCI in February, 1976.

This source has functioned for the past year as an informant for DEA, Birmingham, and U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, and has discussed captioned matter with representatives of both agencies. DEA advised on 12/14/76 that his narcotics information is accurate and reliable and both agencies have pending investigations in which he is furnishing worthwhile information on a continuing basis.

- ④ - Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 8)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 6)
- 1 - New Orleans (157-10673) (INFO) (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Detroit (Enc. 1) (INFO)
- 2 - Birmingham (1 - 44-1740)
- PJM:bhn (10) (1 - 137-2089)

*1-CEO  
6-70 (F) HNH:jjw  
12/22/76*

**CARBON COPY**

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

BH 44-1740

On 12/14/76, this source was interviewed by SA PATRICK J. MOYNIHAN of the Birmingham Office at the DEA Office in Birmingham in the presence of DEA Agent LARRY HAHN. The source did not desire to come to the FBI Office for interview and explained his reluctance to talk to the FBI since he was convicted in an ITSP case at Birmingham, Ala., in 1969 or 1970, which conviction was subsequently reversed in the 5th Circuit Court and cost the source a large amount of money to defend himself. He claims he was afraid to furnish the detailed information of the enclosed LHM shortly after the assassination of Dr. KING because he was afraid and at that time, or shortly after, he became involved in a variety of personal problems including his FBI case. Later, when he talked about this matter, people always "turned me off".

Source has not talked to any group from the U. S. Senate or House of Representatives, contrary to information furnished in referenced Birmingham teletype of 12/3/76, but he has discussed this matter with U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, DEA, Birmingham, and with an Assistant U. S. Attorney at Birmingham, Alabama.

The enclosed photographs of Dr. GUS PROSCH were obtained by the source from U. S. Secret Service at Birmingham and he identified the enclosed artist's conception as a newspaper or magazine representation of an individual who registered at the hotel in which Dr. KING was killed, as JOHN WILLARD, on 4/4/68. It is source's understanding that JOHN WILLARD was never identified and he believes WILLARD could be identical with Dr. GUS PROSCH who used the name JOHN WILLARD in Birmingham, Alabama, in the early part of 1968.

Memphis should give this matter due consideration and furnish the Bureau any comments or recommendations. No further investigation is being conducted at Birmingham UACB.

This former PCI expressed fear for his life and does not want his identity revealed.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama

December 15, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

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LUTHER KING, JR.,  
CIVIL RIGHTS

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