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The Attorney General

The Task Force itself notes our previous investigation concerning Ray's family on page 59 wherein it states, "In connection with this search, Ray's family was identified, located, physically surveilled and periodically interviewed for information."

Our observations concerning our extensive previous investigation concerning Ray's family were brought to the attention of Mr. Shaheen and the Task Force on January 17, 1977, for their consideration and evaluation. It is further noted that all of our investigative results, including those involving Ray's family, were promptly furnished to the Civil Rights Division for its consideration as to whether any additional Federal action was warranted.

On page 119 of this report the Task Force states, "Finally, the Task Force observed instances of FBI Headquarter's reluctance to provide the Civil Rights Division and the Attorney General with timely reports on the course of the murder investigation. For example, early in the investigation in a reaction to a press report of Attorney General Clark's expectation of making a progress report to the nation, FBI Director Hoover wrote: 'We are not going to make any progress reports.'"

In its "Recommendations" - "As To The Murder Investigation" the Task Force states:

(1) "The progress of such sensitive cases as the King murder investigation and the development of legally sufficient evidence to sustain prosecution are properly the ultimate responsibility of the Division of the Department having supervision of the kind of criminal prosecution involved. The Division head should delineate what progress reports he wishes. The Bureau should not be permitted to manipulate its submission of reports to serve its purposes, such as the protection of its public relation efforts, or the prevention of the responsible Division of the Department from causing the Bureau to pursue a line of inquiry which the Bureau does not approve. The Attorney General and his assistants are the officers most accountable to the electorate and they, not the police agency, must maintain effective supervision." (page 143).

Observations were made to Mr. Shaheen and the Task Force on January 17, 1977, for their consideration and evaluation, that timely reports were submitted to the Department even though they may have not been labeled "progress reports." It is further noted, as an example, that between April 5, 1968 and April 17, 1968, (the date the complaint

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The Attorney General

was filed in Birmingham, Alabama, discussed hereafter) at least nine memoranda were furnished by the Director of the FBI to the Department concerning the developments of this investigation. Additional pertinent memoranda, of course, continued thereafter on a timely basis. Our Field Offices also submitted timely reports which were furnished to the Department and the following are several examples: A Memphis report dated April 17, 1968, consisting of 136 pages was furnished to the Civil Rights Division (CRD) on May 6, 1968; an Atlanta report dated April 18, 1968, consisting of 123 pages was furnished to the CRD on May 6, 1968; a Birmingham report dated April 17, 1968, consisting of 176 pages was furnished to the CRD on May 6, 1968. Additional reports from our Field Offices continued to be furnished to the Department on a timely basis. It is further noted that it appears "progress reports" to the nation would have been inadvisable and the Task Force in effect answers this issue on page 106 where it cites Departmental rules against disclosure of raw investigative files. The FBI was investigating a criminal matter and reports were submitted on a timely basis to the Department for its consideration as to whether any Federal action was warranted. The Department could have issued its own "progress reports" based upon the timely reports submitted by the FBI. u

In its "recommendations" on page 144, the Task Force states:

(2) "As a corollary of our espousal of tighter Department authority over the FBI, we recommend that the Bureau's public relations activities and press relations be controlled by the Attorney General's Office of Public Information. Clear directives to prevent the development of personality cults around particular Bureau Directors and officials should be drawn. Bureau press releases should be cleared through the Office of Public Information."

It is noted that in the assassination investigation the Director instructed that "no comment" be made during this investigation. When it was necessary to make a major press release in the assassination investigation, it was made with the approval of the Attorney General and was made jointly with the Attorney General.

Departmental Order 124-60 issued September 8, 1933, and periodically restated instructs that "All publicity, whether relating to cases pending or to administrative, business or policy, must be authorized and given to the press through the Office of the Attorney General." The implementation of these instructions is carried out through

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The Attorney General

the Public Information Office of the Department of Justice. Continuous liaison is maintained with the Public Information Office by the External Affairs Division of the FBI and there have been no problems with this arrangement. All press releases, issued by FBI Headquarters, are cleared through the Department's Office of Public Information, as provided for under Departmental Orders.

On page 110, the Task Force states, "The Bureau's preparation and filing of the criminal complaint against "Galt" on April 17, 1968, before a U.S. Commissioner at Birmingham without first clearing with the Department, and the after-the-fact submission to the Attorney General of a draft press release about the complaint are illustrative of the Bureau's disdain for Department supervision (HQ 44-38861-1555, 1565)."

Also in its "recommendations", the Task Force states on page 144:

(3) "The Task Force recommends that no criminal action in sensitive cases should be instituted by the FBI without Departmental approval which would include, in appropriate cases, the approval of the United States Attorneys Offices."

Observations were made to the Task Force on January 17, 1977, that the FBI file on the civil rights assassination investigation (serial 44-38861-1555) reflects the Attorney General authorized the filing of the complaint, and serial 44-38861-2323 reflects the United States Attorney's Office, Birmingham, authorized the filing of the complaint. Mr. Folsom stated the Task Force would take this under review. It is further noted that although the name of the Special Agent(s) of the FBI who contacted the Department is not set forth, serial 44-38861-1555 (a FBI memorandum) reports that on April 16, 1968, the Attorney General authorized the filing of a complaint charging Eric Starvo Galt (an alias for Ray) with violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241 (Civil Rights Conspiracy Statute). Serial 44-38861-2323, (a Birmingham FBI report) reports that on April 17, 1968, the facts of this matter were discussed by the FBI with Assistant United States Attorney R. Macey Taylor, Birmingham, Alabama, who authorized the filing of a complaint charging Eric Starvo Galt for violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241. Serial 44-38861-2323 further reports that a complaint was thereafter filed before United States Commissioner Mildred F. Sprague, Birmingham,

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The Attorney General

on April 17, 1968. It is further noted that in 1968 and up to and including the present time, it was Departmental policy in civil rights matters to obtain authorization from the Department prior to instituting "criminal action" (instituting Federal process such as filing a complaint or seeking an indictment, etc.). Also it was the policy of the FBI in 1968 and up to and including the present time to obtain the authorization of the Department and/or the appropriate U. S. Attorney's Office prior to the institution of any Federal process.

The last "recommendation" concerning the assassination investigation on pages 144-145 states:

(4) "It was observed that almost no blacks were in the FBI Special Agent's corp in the 1960's and none in the Bureau's hierarchy. This undoubtedly had the effect of limiting not only the outlook and understanding of the problems of race relations, but also must have hindered the ability of investigators to communicate fully with blacks during the murder investigation. By way of illustration had there been black Agents in the Memphis field office participating fully in the investigation of Dr. King's murder, it is unlikely that the interviews with at least three black members of the Memphis Police and Fire Department would have been overlooked. It is also very probable that black citizen 'lead' input would have been greater." This appears to be more of an opinion or observation rather than a "recommendation."

This recommendation makes reference to three black members of the Memphis Police and Fire Department whose removal from assignment at a fire station, a surveillance lookout of the motel where Dr. King was staying, was reported as a basis for the House Select Committee to investigate the assassination of Dr. King. (pages 26 and 33). This Task Force report examines the basis for the removal of the black detective concerning a reported threat on his life and also states on page 37 that, "Our investigation has not disclosed any evidence that the detail of Wallace and Newsom (the two black firemen) was in any way connected with the assassination of Dr. King." It is further noted that based upon a request of the Civil Rights Division in September of 1968, we conducted certain investigation concerning the information regarding the removal of this detective and firemen. Although we did not interview these three individuals, we did furnish results of our investigation regarding their removal to the Civil Rights Division by memorandum dated November 21, 1968, and no additional investigation was requested.

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77

The Security Investigation

The following observations concerning the section of OPR's report which deals with the FBI's security investigation of King were brought to the attention of Department representatives at the above mentioned meeting on January 17, 1977, at FBIHQ.

General Observations

(1) In a number of instances the Task Force report refers to "The Deegan File," a cabinet which contained sensitive documents and tapes in the King security investigation. The Bureau uses no such terminology to describe this material. Documents and tapes in this cabinet are properly charged out of official Bureau files and are merely stored in a cabinet located in the office of Mr. Deegan, Chief of the Domestic Security Section, General Investigative Division.

(2) The Task Force report fails to show that the personal life and character of King were significant in making an intelligence assessment of King. This factor stressed by SA Seymour Phillips during interview by OPR, is also omitted in the recorded interview which is contained in Appendix B.

(3) The OPR report makes no recognition of the "tenor of the times" during which King was investigated. Those were the years of considerable racial strife throughout the nation, when subversive and other disruptive elements were attempting to capitalize for their own advantage on the social awakening in our country and on the civil rights issue.

Specific Observations

(1) Page 127 - Concerns installation by the New York Field Office on January 21-24, 1966, of a microphone surveillance against King at the Americana Hotel. It should be noted that documentation for this information is in FBIHQ file 100-106670-2224X rather than 2224 as indicated in the OPR report. The Task Force report states that Assistant to the Director DeLoach ordered the microphone removed at once and advised the Director that "no one here" approved the coverage. A review of this serial indicates these instructions were written by Mr. Tolson and not DeLoach. The OPR report indicates Mr. Sullivan authorized this coverage, but a review of the serial fails to indicate clearly who

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The Attorney General

actually made the authorization. On page 128 the report implies that coverage continued after the microphone was ordered removed. There is no such indication in the Bureau files as to the amount of time that lapsed following instructions to remove the surveillance to when actually removed. Therefore, there is no way to determine if surveillance continued in violation of instructions. *u*

(2) Pages 138-139 - In a discussion of Bureau policy concerning surreptitious entries, the Task Force notes that "such approval was granted with respect to Mr. Levison and Dr. King" (page 139). This implies that the Bureau conducted surreptitious entries against King. There were no surreptitious entries as such conducted against King. In installing some microphone surveillances against King, however, trespass was necessary. (~~Secret~~) *u* *S*

(3) Page 135 - The report notes in passing that the FBI continued to employ an informant in the SCLC despite the fact that the informant conceded to Agents in Atlanta that he had embezzled some SCLC funds. This information, as reported by the OPR, tends to identify our informant reporting on the activities of SCLC. (~~Confidential~~) *u* *S*

(4) Page 146 - The report identifies four Bureau officials who ordered and directed counterintelligence activity and "illicit" dissemination of investigative data to discredit King. It was pointed out to Department officials that identification of present or former Bureau officials responsible for actions against King could jeopardize their personal safety.

The below additional observations, not made during the conference on January 17, 1977, are submitted for consideration of the Department:

(1) Page 112 - The report indicates that Mr. Alex Rosen, Assistant Director of the General Investigative Division, advised Mr. Hoover of information concerning King, as reported in a memorandum from Scatterday to Rosen dated May 22, 1961. A review of this document reveals that Rosen's initials are not on it or is there any indication Rosen was aware of the memorandum. Therefore, there is no indication that Mr. Rosen advised the Director of such information, although it is acknowledged that Mr. Hoover was made aware of the information. *u*

(2) Pages 120 and 124 - In these two instances the OPR report indicates that investigation of King and SCLC was predicated on belief they were under influence

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The Attorney General

of the Communist Party, United States of America (CPUSA). It should be noted that King and SCLC were investigated for communist influence and not just for influence of the CPUSA.

(3) Page 126 - The report refers to informant symbol numbers assigned to microphone surveillances of King. The Department should note that informant symbol numbers are used internally to control and administer informant operation and are not disseminated outside of the FBI.

(4) Page 128 - The report states that the persistent controversy between King and Mr. Hoover was a major factor in the Bureau's determination to discredit King and ultimately destroy his leadership role in the civil rights movement. The report fails to acknowledge that the primary factor in investigating King was the national interest and not the Hoover - King controversy.

(5) Page 134 - With respect to a recommended counterintelligence proposal by the Atlanta Office, the report states the Task Force was unable to determine whether such actions were undertaken since they were neither approved nor disapproved by the Director. It should be noted that the Bureau communication acknowledging receipt of the proposal from Atlanta further instructed that Atlanta would be advised if such a counterintelligence tactic was to be utilized in the future. This additional information is omitted from the OPR report and there is nothing in the files to reveal any approval of the tactic.

(6) Page 141 - The OPR states that [Levison] disassociated himself from the CPUSA in 1963 because he felt it failed to adequately serve the civil rights movement. Continued investigation of Levison revealed that, after leaving the party, he continued to associate with top Communist Party ~~functionaries~~ ^u ~~(S)~~ This fact is omitted in the OPR report. ~~(S)~~ ^u

(7) The OPR report fails to recognize one other important factor in the Bureau's recognition of King as a security risk. This concerns the fact that King was warned at the highest levels of Government (President and Attorney General) that he should discontinue his association with communists to prevent harm to his movement. His continued association with communists indicates King chose to ignore this responsible advice.

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The Attorney General

While this Bureau's Document Classification Officer (Security Officer) has carefully reviewed and classified on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis the Task Force's "Top Secret" report, he has noted the information in this report is extremely sensitive and if compromised could cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security. Additionally, while the Document Classification Officer has invoked what in his opinion are all available standards relating to areas of classification, in assisting the Task Force in preparing sanitized version of the report, nonetheless because of previously-released information there is concern through logical speculation and processes of elimination that disclosure of the sanitized report could jeopardize this Bureau's sources and methods of intelligence.

- 1 - Deputy Attorney General
- 1 - Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.
Counsel, Office of
Professional Responsibility

APPROVED.

Director.....	Adm. Serv.....	Legal Coun.....
Assoc. Dir.....	Ext. Affairs.....	Plan. & Insp.....
D. of AD Adm.....	Fin. & Pers.....	Rec. Mgt.....
Dep. AD Adm.....	Gen. Inv.....	S. & T. Serv.....
	Ident.....	Spec. Inv.....
	Intell.....	Training.....

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TO: SAC:

- Albany
- Albuquerque
- Alexandria
- Anchorage
- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Boston
- Buffalo
- Butte
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbia
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Honolulu
- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Jackson
- Jacksonville
- Kansas City
- Knoxville
- Las Vegas
- Little Rock
- Los Angeles
- Louisville
- Memphis
- Miami
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Mobile
- Newark
- New Haven
- New Orleans
- New York City
- Norfolk

- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Pittsburgh
- Portland
- Richmond
- Sacramento
- St. Louis
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Seattle
- Springfield
- Tampa
- Washington Field
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- Bern
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- Brasilia
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- Hong Kong
- London
- Madrid
- Manila
- Mexico City
- Ottawa
- Paris
- Rome
- Singapore
- Tel Aviv
- Tokyo

RE: **MURKIN**

Date 2/18/77

- For information Retention optional For appropriate action Surep, by _____
- The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, conceal all sources, paraphrase contents.
- Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____

Remarks: **SuLHM results of contact with Assistant District Attorney General in Tennessee, and conclude LHM with a statement to the effect that before the disposition of any exhibits in this matter, the appropriate Canadian authorities should also consider consulting the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., and that a copy of this communication is being furnished to the U. S. Department of Justice for its information and consideration.**

Enc. **2**

Bufile **44-38861**

Urfile **44-1987**

File Copy

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Director, FBI

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
February 17, 1977
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Lawn
- 1 - Mr. Fehl
- 1 - Mr. Rhyne (Att:
Mr. G. E. Fisher)

ALLEGED INFORMATION REGARDING ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; THE MURDER OF SAM GIANCANA; THE MURDER OF A MAN NAMED MURPHY IN CHICAGO; AND THE THEFT OF PLUTONIUM AND MERCURY IN OKLAHOMA AREA.

Reference is made to my memorandum dated February 3, 1977, to the Civil Rights Division (and the Office of Professional Responsibility) which furnished a copy of a letter dated January 20, 1977, from United States Attorney Cheney C. Joseph, Jr., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Ben D. Gibbens, Investigator, Criminal Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, addressed to Mr. William P. Tyson, Deputy Director, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. This memorandum advised that the FBI was furnishing a copy of this letter for information and no further investigation was being conducted concerning this matter unless specifically requested by the Department.

Reference is also made to the memorandum dated February 3, 1977, from Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility, to the Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division, and the FBI which furnished a copy of this same letter dated January 20, 1977.

It is noted in this letter that the informant "advised that he would not be interviewed locally but would only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington." In addition, the informant, in exchange for his cooperation, requests certain action concerning his local conviction.

Accordingly, no investigation is being conducted by the FBI concerning this matter unless specifically requested by the Department.

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.: _____
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

HNH/gjw. (14)

MAIL V-25 DE-39
FEB 17 1977
FBI

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE

XEROX

FEB 25 1977

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 7/17/84 BY SP5/rlj/bwp

MAR 1 0 1977

GPO : 1976 O - 207-527

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FEB 23 1977

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RECEIVED

- 1 - Mr. Tolson
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Casper
- 1 - Mr. Callahan
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Felt
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Tavel
- 1 - Mr. Trotter
- 1 - Tele. Room
- 1 - Miss Holmes
- 1 - Miss Gandy

SECRET

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

If not already done, you may desire to bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate local authorities in Illinois and Oklahoma.

- 1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

- 1 - New Orleans (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

- 1 - Memphis (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

- 1 - Chicago (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

- 1 - Oklahoma City (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

NOTE: By airtel dated 1/28/77, our New Orleans Office furnished a copy of a letter dated 1/20/77 from the USA, Baton Rouge, and a Louisiana Department of Justice Investigator, addressed to the Deputy Director, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., which states that a previously reliable local informant has information concerning captioned matters. The informant will only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington and in exchange for his cooperation, requests certain action re local conviction. Copies of this letter furnished to Civil Rights Division and OPR by form memorandum 2/3/77 advising this was being submitted for their information and no further investigation was being conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

By memorandum dated 2/3/77, OPR furnished a copy of this same letter dated 1/20/77 to Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division, and FBI stating they should take whatever action is appropriate.

This advises the Civil Rights Division and Criminal Division that we are conducting no investigation concerning this matter unless specifically requested by the Department, and that Department may desire to advise appropriate local authorities. Information copies designated for appropriate FBI Field Offices. No information located in Bufiles identifiable with Ben D. Gibbens.

APPROVED:

OPR
Director.....
Asso. Dir.....
Dep. AD Adm.....
Dep. AD Inv.....

Adm. Serv.....
Ext. Affairs.....
Fin. & Pers.....
Gen. Inv.....
Ident.....
Intell.....

Legal Coun.....
Plan. & Insp.....
Rec. Mgmt.....
Spec. Inv.....
Training.....

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
 Dep. AD Adm. _____
 Dep. AD Inv. _____
 Asst. Dir.:

- Adm. Serv. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 2/25/77

FROM : J. S. Peelman

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Lawn
- 1 - Mr. Moore
- 1 - Mr. Mintz

SUBJECT: MURKIN

PURPOSE: To advise of an inquiry from the Office of Public Information, United States Department of Justice (USDJ), as to how many times the FBI attempted to interview James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

APPROVED:	Adm. Serv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
	Ext. Affairs _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Director _____	Fin. & Pers. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____
Assoc. Dir. _____	Gen. Inv. _____	S. & T. Serv. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____	Ident. _____	Spec. Inv. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____	Intell. _____	Training _____

DETAILS: This is the case involving the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68 at Memphis, Tennessee. On 3/10/69, James Earl Ray entered a plea of guilty to a local charge of the murder of King in Tennessee and received a 99-year sentence. He presently is in local confinement.

The Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), U.S.D.J., recently completed a review of the FBI's investigation of King. On 2/18/77, OPR issued a publicly releasable report concerning the FBI's investigation of King and it is noted therein that Ray agreed with the advice of his attorney and did not consent to an interview by OPR.

REC-71

44-38861-6184

HNH/gjw
H(9) gjw

CONTINUED - OVER

MAR 3 1977

SI 109



84 MAR 17 1977

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

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FBI

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
FRONT OFFICE

FEB 25 4 38 PM 1977

FBI
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FOR THE DIRECTOR	BY	DATE
FOR THE ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL		
FOR THE CHIEF OF BUREAU		
FOR THE SAC		
FOR THE SQUAD		
FOR THE SUPERVISOR		

Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: MURKIN

On 2/24/77, Mr. Robert J. Havel, Office of Public Information, U.S.D.J., telephonically advised that he had received an inquiry as to how many times the FBI attempted to interview Ray, and requested we furnish him with this information.

A review of the civil rights assassination investigative file (44-38861) reveals the following:

Ray was taken into custody by officers of New Scotland Yard on 6/8/68, and an article in the "London Times" dated 6/10/68 reported that Ray had been interviewed in London by a "United States Department Chief" (Assistant Attorney General Fred Vinson). It was determined that Ray was not interviewed by Vinson, however, Vinson did see Ray momentarily through a slot in the cell door. (Serial 44-38861-4507).

On 7/17/68, Vinson advised that Ray's attorney had requested that Ray not be interviewed and if he was interviewed it should be done in his presence. Vinson also advised that Ray had sent a letter to the Attorney General in which he mentioned he had obtained a lawyer and did not intend to talk. Vinson said this raises a question as to whether the FBI should interview him at all in view of the fact he will be transported (back to the United States) as a prisoner. He said, of course, if Ray volunteers any information, we, of course, would listen. (Serial 44-38861-4892).

Ray was returned to the United States from London on 7/19/68 and during the flight no effort was made to interview Ray and he volunteered no information. (Serial 44-38861-4910).

On 3/10/69, Ray entered a plea of guilty to a local charge of murder of King in Tennessee and received a 99-year sentence. On 3/11/69, Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard, Civil Rights Division, U.S.D.J., requested that the FBI try to interview Ray to determine whether he will give any information concerning possible conspirators. (Serial 44-38861-5612).

On 3/13/69 and again on 3/14/69, Ray, then incarcerated at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee, was contacted by the Memphis Office of the FBI and he declined to be interviewed concerning captioned matter. (Serial 44-38861-5709).

Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: MURKIN

On 2/24/77, Mr. Havel was furnished the above information and was also reminded that Ray had recently not consented to an interview by OPR. Mr. Havel stated this satisfied his inquiry and made no further request of the FBI.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Associate Director

FROM : Legal Counsel *JDM*

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY;
INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 2/28/77

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Fin. & Pers. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

This reports receipt of anonymous telephone call concerning James Earl Ray.

DETAILS:

On February 25, 1977, Ann Collins, Office of Legislative Affairs, U. S. Department of Justice, advised Dennis Miller of the Office of Congressional Affairs that at approximately 5 p.m., February 25, 1977, she received a telephone call from an individual who refused to identify himself.

The caller told Collins that the brother of the caller's former employer was in prison--perhaps in Kentucky. The brother of the caller's former employer said James Earl Ray had an extensive network of people who "passed money back and forth."

Collins said the caller would not name the prison, the name of the brother or the name of the former employer. She suggested that he contact the FBI office nearest to him and report as much information as he could.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Daly

JDM:jsr
(4)

REC 61
ST 109

44-38861-6185

MAR 11 1977

APPROVED: *Legal Counsel*

Director.....	Adm. Serv.....	Legal Coun.....
Assoc. Dir.....	Ext. Affairs.....	Plan. & Insp.....
Dep. AD Adm.....	Fin. & Pers.....	Rec. Mgnt.....
Dep. AD Inv.....	Gen. Inv.....	S. & T. Serv.....
	Ident.....	Spec. Inv.....
	Intell.....	Training.....

84 MAR 18 1977

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DIVISION

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FBI
U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE

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LEGAL COUNSEL

MAR 2 9 06 AM '77

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FBI

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RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

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F. B. I.
DEPT OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED

MAR 10 9 52 AM 1977

LEGAL COUNSEL

FBI

Date: 3/2/77

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

Via AIRTEL A IR MAIL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

John

Re Legat, Ottawa airtel to Bureau 2/9/77 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CR - CONSPIRACY.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 6 copies of an LHM regarding matters referred to in referenced airtel.

The Bureau is requested to forward a copy of enclosed LHM to Legat, Ottawa, for transmittal to the RCMP.

ENCLOSURE

② - Bureau (Encs. 6)
2 - Memphis

BFJ:cjs
(4)

KA

ST 109
REC 61 44-38861-6186

(2) Routing Slip to Ottawa.
AMH/gjd
3/8/77

MAR 5 1977

070-3/8/77

1-CRD
1-OLA
1-SIL
1-GW

SEE FILE COPY

Approved: *[Signature]* Sent _____ M Per _____
84 MAR 1 1977 Special Agent in Charge

not changed 1/23/77
cont

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5636 J.E.H.

MAR 5 3 20 PM '77

F. B. I.
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F B I

MAR 7 8 36 AM 1977

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, possibly a memorandum or report body]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
March 2, 1977

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

This communication is predicated upon the following:

By letter dated February 3, 1977, directed to Mr. Joseph A. Marion (Jr.), c/o United States Embassy, 100 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, R. R. L. Ostrum, Inspector, Officer in Charge, General Section, Federal Policing Branch, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Ottawa, Canada, requested that Mr. Terry Lafferty, Assistant District Attorney General, be contacted to determine the present status of matters before the courts in respect to James Earl Ray. Inspector Ostrum made reference to exhibits being held by the RCMP relating to this matter.

On February 24, 1977, Mr. Terry Lafferty, Assistant District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit, State of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, advised there is currently no litigation pending in the various courts in the State of Tennessee involving James Earl Ray. Mr. Lafferty stated he would direct John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, on the District Attorney General's Staff to discuss the disposal of exhibits being maintained by the RCMP with Mr. Hugh W. Stanton, Jr., District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit, Memphis.

On February 28, 1977, John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, 15th Judicial Circuit, State of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that Mr. Hugh Stanton, Jr., was out of the City of Memphis but would return to his office on the morning of March 2, 1977, at which time he will discuss this matter with Mr. Stanton.

On March 2, 1977, Hugh W. Stanton, Jr., District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit, State of Tennessee, advised that James Earl Ray has exhausted all of his legal remedies in the Tennessee State courts and, therefore, there is no pending litigation involving him. Mr. Stanton is of the opinion that exhibits maintained by the RCMP should be retained at this time, pointing out that the House Select Committee on Assassinations created by the United States House of Representatives in 1976 might desire to examine these exhibits in the future.

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6486

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

The appropriate Canadian authorities should also consider consulting with the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., before disposing of any exhibits in this matter. A copy of this communication is being furnished to the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., for its information and consideration.

2*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
 Dep. AD Adm. _____
 Dep. AD Inv. _____
 Asst. Dir.:

- Adm. Serv. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Gen. Inv. ✓
- Ident. _____
- Inspection ✓
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director Sec'y _____

TO : Assistant Director
 General Investigative Division

FROM : Legal Counsel *JSR*

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY;
 INFORMATION CONCERNING

DATE: 3/1/77

Page

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise of a contact by Christopher Nelson, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Lester L. Wolff (New York), regarding captioned individual. *Coulson*

DETAILS:

On 2/28/77, Christopher Nelson, Administrative Assistant to Congressman Lester L. Wolff (New York), advised SA Danny O. Coulson, Office of Congressional Affairs, Legal Counsel Division, that he had recently read newspaper articles which attributed statements to Attorney General Griffin Bell concerning the activities of James Earl Ray during his fugitive status following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The articles indicated an interest in Ray's source of income during this period. Nelson advised that he recalls that approximately three years ago he had a conversation with an individual named Dave Bryant who is currently the Metro Editor for the newspaper, Cocoa Today, 308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida. In this conversation Bryant advised him that he has a younger brother who several years ago went to the State of Kentucky to reside on a commune. While there, he and others were arrested by law enforcement officers for growing marijuana on the commune premises. According to

24

REC 6T

ST 109

44-38861-6187

MAR 11 1977

- 1 - Assistant Director
 General Investigative Division
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Lawn
- 2 - Mr. Daly
- 1 - Mr. Coulson

CONTINUED - OVER

DOC:jsr (7)

JSR

070-ORD

OPR

3/3/77

SEE FILE COPY

HMM/GJM

44-38861

LEGAL COUNSEL

JSR



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

FBI/DOJ

R/S a. e.

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
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LEGAL COUNSEL

RECEIVED
MAR 1 3 55 PM '77
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
MAR 1 4 26 PM 1977

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
FRONT OFFICE
MAR 2 10 33 AM 1977
FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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MAR 16 9 43 AM 1977
LEGAL COUNSEL

Legal Counsel to the Assistant Director
General Investigative Division
RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Bryant, his younger brother, name unknown, ended up in prison with James Earl Ray. While there he became friendly with Ray and allegedly became involved with Ray in a prison narcotics enterprise. This younger brother of Bryant allegedly worked as a runner for Ray in this undertaking.

Nelson advised that there is a possibility that James Earl Ray might possibly have been involved in some sort of narcotics undertaking while in a fugitive status indicating the possibilities that the younger brother of Bryant might possibly have some information concerning this activity. He further advised that he does not want to be revealed as a source of this information in the event the FBI feels it is necessary to contact Dave Bryant to determine the identity of his younger brother and to obtain further details regarding his association with James Earl Ray. Nelson advised that he is certain that Bryant has told this same story to numerous individuals and contact with him would not divulge Nelson's identity unless his name was mentioned.

RECOMMENDATION:

That General Investigative Division conduct appropriate investigation.

SEE FILE COPY
DTE - CRD / OAR 5/13/77
NAN/CSW

APPROVED:

Director.....
Assoc. Dir.....
Dep. AD Adm.....
Dep. AD Inv. *Jan*

Adm. Serv.....
Ext. Affairs.....
Fin. & Pers.....
Gen. Inv. *W/S*
Ident.....
Intell.....

Legal Coun. *m/jct*
Plan. & Insp.....
Rec. Mgt.....
S. & T. Serv.....
Spec. Inv.....
Training.....

FBI

~~OUTSIDE SOURCE~~

MURKIN

Re: The Martin Luther King Investigation

A few weeks before Martin Luther King was killed the report was spread abroad among black Baptist memberships that there was a bitter split in the National Baptist Convention's black clergy and leadership. This bit of news came to me while I was a missionary worker in the Concord Baptist Church, on the corner of Warren Avenue and West Brookline Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

SARA L. WELLS - JONES
27 1/2 9054
SEATTLE, WA 98109

There were about 500 members of the Concord Baptist Church at the time I worked in that church. During my service at this church the pastor who had been there for years died and left the church without a pastor for a year or more. The trustees and deacons would send invitations to ministers throughout the United States to come and preach to their congregation. Finally, a student who was studying at the Harvard School of Divinity, one Charles Adams, was recommended to Concord Baptist Church as a temporary pastor until he received his degree in theology from Harvard University. Charles Adams was only 26 years of age while Concord's membership was used to and desired an older pastor. But he managed to win the membership in spite of his education and gross ignorance on the part of the members; for the membership consisted largely of domestic workers, janitors, and ordinary common labor type of people.

DE-54 44-38861-6184

EX-108

REC-39

MAR 8 1977

Charles Adams ~~whhhhh~~ home was in Detroit, Michigan where he was reared in the Hartford Baptist Church, a church which was reported to be the biggest "numbers racket" church in Detroit, and whose pastor's name was Carter.

Adams came into Concord Baptist Church and changed the humble mood of the membership by introducing coffee hours, miniskirts, and popular ways of modern society which he had been accustomed to in Detroit. He even preached that no one could live perfect and holy. He took par-

MAR 2 1977
Div 9

ENCLOSURE

6-9715

CORRESPONDENCE

MAR 9 1977

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FEB 23 3 08 PM 1977

FEB 22 1977

44-38

particular pains in changing the membership from the meek to the proud. After he had seduced and caused many of the young girls to lust after and desire him for a husband, he declared from the pulpit one Sunday that he was going to Detroit to marry a girl he knew in Hartford Baptist Church. He said he always vowed to marry the girl with whom he had his first affair.

So the membership bought him a \$3,000 Pontiac car for a wedding gift and gave him \$1,500 cash plus his fare to Detroit. Adams had a paralyzed mother whom the membership sent to the wedding by air plane. After he arrived in Detroit the congregation took up \$500.00 more and sent it to him. After the marriage he returned to Boston and became full-fledged pastor of Concord Baptist Church of 500 members. He was the proudest preacher in Boston to come right out of Harvard School of Divinity and receive a salary of \$500 per month plus all the gifts. After he returned to Boston with his wife, Layne Fountaine, he wanted a new home in Dorchester which the church willingly bought for him. Within a few months he asked the church to give him a \$5500²²⁵/Electra Buick. By this time the membership began to wrangle over his asking for so many gifts and they claimed that they had done enough and that they needed to make repairs on the church. They argued over it in their business meetings until they had a hair-pulling and fist fight right in the church while he stood in the pulpit watching them. This is when I made myself unpopular with him! I walked up to the pulpit and asked him: "Would you stand here and allow your members to fight over giving you a Buick car while they have just given you a new \$3,000 Pontiac? You should tell them 'well if you are going to fight over buying me another car, I do not want it!'" He ignored my advice altogether and he finally got the majority vote on the Buick. I was utterly ashamed of Charles Adams that night.

As time rolled on he began to plan how to get more money out of the membership by taxing each member \$10 on Easter Sunday. He would make the congregation and visitors pay for palms on Palm Sunday. I had never heard of such before! I told him so too.

After a while he began to preach that his members did not care for him like Martin Luther King's members cared for him. He said "You have not bought me a Mohair suit like all the other big preachers throughout the country. It was so pitiful to hear one of the poor domestic workers say to him "Revun, we's goin t git you a Mohair."

I asked Adams while I sat at a banquet table with him and his wife one Sunday afternoon: "Man, how can you claim to hold a Master's Degree from Harvard University and be content to live on the sweat of these poor humble ignorant members? Man, I would rather play the horses than to take these poor people's money! How can you be content with them ignorant and giving you all of their earnings?" He could not answer me on this question.

The time rolled around for the National Baptist Convention to meet in a certain city down south, but Adams together with many other ministers including Martin Luther King split from the National Baptist Convention and organized the Progressive Baptist Convention which was to be held in Memphis, Tennessee the same time. But just a week or two before the convention started in Memphis, Charles Adams was invited to run a revival in Martin Luther King's church in Atlanta, Georgia. But Martin Luther King was not in Georgia at that time, but was in Memphis arranging for a march in that city.

It appeared from the tone of Adams' conversation after he returned to Boston that certain deacons and trustees of King's church in Atlanta were not pleased with King stirring up the white "folks"

down there. After visiting Martin Luther King's church, Charles Adams appeared guilty for some unknown reason. He turned grimly against me, for he said that I was the one who was waking up his membership. As we had always held our Sunday School teachers' meetings in Charles Adams Study Room, we were all seated and discussing the lesson when Adams walked in. He took a sharp look at me and said "Mrs. Jones, you are not one of us! You are not a Baptist! You are not of our faith, so I am asking you to leave this meeting now." I was very surprised and disappointed for I had done some good work among the membership and I loved some of the teachers dearly. But I left the room as he demanded of me. When I left and someone closed the door I decided to eavesdrop him to see what he was going to tell them further about me. I even put my face on the floor to listen to him.

This is what I heard him tell those teachers: "Now I want to tell you all this: We, as the Executive Committee of the Progressive Baptist Convention are removing Dr. King from leading the marches. He is not competent enough to stage the marches. The Committee feels that he should not fight the hands that feed us. So we have decided to remove him and disqualify him for leadership. We are going to take over the marches ourselves and we will decide when and if they should be staged."

My what a shock! I went home as fast as I could and typed a letter to Benjamin Hooks who was also a member of that Committee and and I did not know it until later. I saw his name in the church news. I wrote Hooks and told him to tell Martin Luther King that Adams and his committee were planning to oust him from his marches. I did this thinking Hooks was a friend to King, but I found out he was not when he refused to reply to my letter. Hooks was a key figure in the Convention at Memphis.

it
And/was apparent that whosoever controlled the marches would be eligible to control the donations from all over the country. If King collected 3 million dollars all by himself it would certainly attract men like Adams who was so greedy for filthy lucre.

So, the night it was announced over the radio that King was shot and died....

I ran over to the church, for I lived only two blocks away, and told Adams and his deacons and trustees the news. But! Adams never stopped to say he was sorry or anything. He just kept on conducting his business meeting. I thought it was so funny that he was not alarmed

So, when the Boston Post announced an award of \$5,000 for any cue leading to the slaying of Martin Luther King, I at once went to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and told them what I heard Adams was plotting against King. When FBI did not investigate Adams at all then I felt like everyone else "FBI's Edgar Hoover did not like Martin Luther King at all and the Boston Agency had to be in sympathy with Hoover.

My deductions were: Could Hooks and Hoover have agreed to release Raye the killer, Hooks being a judge in the Memphis Courts? And could Abernathy and Jesse Jackson have been told to lead King out on the porch of that motel to his doom? King was not wanted in Memphis by his Progressive Baptist Convention leaders including Hooks. And as soon as Jesse Jackson started leading marches like King led, Hoover appointed Hooks head of Federal Communications. We felt he did this to curb Jackson if he got too ambitious with marches. These are my leadings and impressions. I feel until this day that FBI had a right to investigate Charles Adams who was so strong in removing King from his office.

(over)

Finally, Concord Baptist Church ousted Charles Adams and he went back to Detroit, Michigan where he is pastor of the Hartford Baptist Church where the "numbers racket" is reported to be prevalent. The former Pastor Carter is reported to have died a few years ago.

Adams was positively no friend to Martin Luther King.

Confidentially submitted,

Sara F. Wells Jones

~~Sara F. Wells-Jones~~
~~P. O. Box 9054~~
Seattle, Washington 98109
Telephone: 206-284-7451

Note: This may throw a different light on your investigation as to who killed King.

This is strictly Confidential

Note: There have been many fights in those Baptist Conventions over money. In Chicago they had fights with chairs right in the church. The Head Minister was L. K. Williams when that happened at Olivet Baptist Church. I cannot and will never believe that Abernathy was a friend of King's.

44-38861-6188

ENCLOSURE

* LAST PAGE of LET

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: March 4, 1977

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

FILE - 6. JTA
44-38861-

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

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.

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.

Enc. - 1 Enclosed is correspondence received from Sara F. Wells - Jones. It is noted Jones is apparently identical to individual who has previously written similar letters to the FBI. She was interviewed in 1968 at which time she was described by associates as chronic complainer who claimed conversations with God and walked barefoot in the snow. Her letter is not being acknowledged and no further action is being taken unless requested by the Department.

44-38861-6189

CHANGED TO

62-117290-182X

JUL 20 1978

CMK/INK

This document is a copy from the FOIA file. The original document was not in the file.

FBI

Date: 3/3/77

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

(Priority)

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

H. [Signature]

Re Birmingham airtel to Director, 12/15/76;
 Memphis airtel, 12/20/76.

The following is for information:

The former Birmingham PCI who furnished the information in referenced Birmingham communication of 12/15/76, contacts the Birmingham Office telephonically from time to time regarding captioned matter.

(X)

On 3/3/77, he telephonically contacted Birmingham wondering if, "LIBERTO" had been investigated in New Orleans in the past. He was told that investigation regarding a family of LIBERTOS had been conducted back in 1968. Source mentioned that the LIBERTO in New Orleans has a brother in the produce business in Memphis, Tennessee, and also expressed the thought that "No one can convince me that it (the KING assassination) was not a conspiracy."

TA

Source advised he received two recent telephone calls, the last on 2/28/77, from a Mr. EVANS, a deputy chief of the House of Representatives Committee on Assassinations. EVANS told him that if they get their appropriation, EVANS will want to talk to the source about this matter, and the source told EVANS that he would, but would not discuss it on the telephone.

6189

44-38861-6189

- Bureau
- Memphis (44-1987) (Info.)
- New Orleans (157-10673) (Info.)
- Birmingham: The CS is [redacted] who

REC-62

ST-126

7 MAR 4 1977

JM:bsg

(5)

advised on 5/31/77 that he can be identified as the source of the information he furnished. See [redacted] Teletype 5/31/77 Airtel 6/1/77

Approved: _____

Sent _____

M

Per _____

84 MAR 23 1977 Special Agent in Charge

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1968 O - 346-000 (111)

BH 44-1740

Source advised that he had Birmingham Secret Service check on ~~EVANS~~ after the first telephone call and established that EVANS was, in fact, with the committee.

Source expressed his belief that the FBI in Washington must have furnished his information to the House Committee.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: **March 3, 1977**

FROM : Director, FBI

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

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

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.

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.

44-38861-

NOT RECORDED

4 MAR 16 1977

Enc.

1 - Office of Professional Responsibility, U.S.D.J.

File copy /

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

44-38861

84 MAR 18 1977

Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

NOTE: On 2/28/77, Christopher Nelson (protect identity as set forth below), Administrative Assistant to Congressman Lester L. Wolff (New York), advised that he had recently read newspaper articles which attributed statements to Attorney General Griffin Bell concerning the activities of James Earl Ray during his fugitive status following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The articles indicated an interest in Ray's source of income during this period. Nelson advised that he recalls that approximately three years ago he had a conversation with an individual named Dave Bryant who is currently the Metro Editor for the newspaper, Cocoa Today, 308 Forrest Avenue, Cocoa Beach, Florida. In this conversation Bryant advised him that he has a younger brother who several years ago went to the State of Kentucky to reside on a commune. While there, he and others were arrested by law enforcement officers for growing marijuana on the commune premises. According to Bryant, his younger brother, name unknown, ended up in prison with James Earl Ray. While there he became friendly with Ray and allegedly became involved with Ray in a prison narcotics enterprise. This younger brother of Bryant allegedly worked as a runner for Ray in this undertaking.

Nelson advised that there is a possibility that James Earl Ray might possibly have been involved in some sort of narcotics undertaking while in a fugitive status indicating the possibilities that the younger brother of Bryant might possibly have some information concerning this activity. He further advised that he does not want to be revealed as a source of this information in the event the FBI feels it is necessary to contact Dave Bryant to determine the identity of his younger brother and to obtain further details regarding his association with James Earl Ray. Nelson advised that he is certain that Bryant has told this same story to numerous individuals and contact with him would not divulge Nelson's identity unless his name was mentioned.

In view of the previous investigation conducted concerning interviews of former inmates of James Earl Ray, who furnished information regarding Ray's use and sale of drugs, and in view of the recent report by the Office of Professional Responsibility, no further investigation is being conducted concerning the above unless specifically requested by the Department.

FBI

Date: 3/4/77

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

ATTENTION:

- GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
- CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
- CRIMINAL SECTION
- INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

From: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

Subject: MURKIN

- CR EL DIH CRA-64
- DAMV DAMV-FR CAA
- EID Bomb Threats Extremist Matters
- White Hate Black
- PA PE PF E
- AP IWFC CWAA FI

TA

Summary of Complaint:

Re Bureau airtel dated 2/1/77.

ALLEN RAY HALL interviewed regarding his allegations as to the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. HALL contended North Carolina Central Prison Officers were familiar with JAMES EARL RAY. Prison officials deny HALL's allegations.

1- CRD, U.S.D.J.
 1- OPR, U.S.D.J.
 1- Congressional Inquiry Unit
 0-70(6) 3/10/77
 HNH/ddp

INDICES: Negative See Summary

ACTION: UACB

No further action being taken and

- ③ - Bureau (Encs. 5)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) LHM enclosed
- 2 - Charlotte (1 - 44-3093) FD-376 (Enc. to LHM)
- LHM:paa (7) LHM being submitted
- Report being submitted
- Preliminary investigation instituted
- Limited investigation instituted
- Investigation continuing

REC-62

Copy to: USA

~~Secret Service~~

ATF
MAR 9 1977

Approved: EMB
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

84 MAR 23 1977

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON

MAR 9 12 53 PM '77

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

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Faint, illegible text, possibly a date or reference number.

F B I

Date: 3/4/77

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

From: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

Subject: MURKIN

ATTENTION:

- GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
- CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
- CRIMINAL SECTION
- INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

- CR EL DIH CRA-64
- DAMV DAMV-FR CAA
- EID Bomb Threats Extremist Matters
- PA PE PF E
- AP IWFC CWA FI
- White Hate Black

Summary of Complaint:

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ALLEN RAY HALL interviewed regarding his allegations as to the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. HALL contended North Carolina Central Prison Officers were familiar with JAMES EARL RAY. Prison officials deny HALL's allegations.

INDICES: Negative See Summary

ACTION: UACB:

- No further action being taken and
- 3 - Bureau (Encs. 2) LHM enclosed Copy to: USA _____
- 2 - Memphis (44-1967) FD-376 (Enc. to LHM) Secret Service _____
- (Encs. 2) LHM being submitted ATF _____
- 2 - Charlotte Report being submitted
- (1 - 44-3893) Preliminary investigation instituted
- LHM:pan Limited investigation instituted
- (7) Investigation continuing

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Charlotte, North Carolina

March 4, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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

On January 27, 1977, ALLEN RAY HALL, an inmate of North Carolina Central Prison, wrote a letter to Mr. DAN RINZEL, United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, making certain allegations regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. On February 4, 1977, ALLEN RAY HALL was interviewed at the New Hanover County Jail, Wilmington, North Carolina, by Special Agents of the FBI and furnished the following information:

During a period of racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1971, ALLEN RAY HALL testified as a state witness against a group of defendants known as the "Wilmington Ten" in which the subjects were convicted and sentenced to varying prison terms. HALL has now recanted his testimony in that trial in 1972 and has been reinterviewed on several occasions by Special Agents of the FBI in which he has given conflicting stories as to his participation in the racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, as well as allegations against law enforcement officers who interviewed him at the time of the "Wilmington Ten" trial.

During the interview on February 4, 1977, HALL stated that during the period of racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1971, he had been interviewed by Special Agent BILL WALDEN, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. He stated that at the time of his conversation with WALDEN, they also discussed the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and WALDEN drew him a map indicating how Dr. KING was killed and where everyone was standing at the time of Dr. KING's assassination.

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

44-38861-6190



JAMES EARL RAY

HALL stated that he was later confined at Central Prison, Raleigh, North Carolina, awaiting trial at Wilmington, North Carolina. He stated that while at Central Prison, he was interviewed on several occasions by North Carolina Central Prison Superintendent of Transportation, STEPHEN ALBERT BERRY, and HALL alleged that BERRY apparently found out about the sketch which had been given to him by Special Agent BILL WALDEN of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division, and that BERRY came to his cell at Central Prison and requested that HALL give him the sketch. HALL stated he told BERRY he did not have the sketch and then BERRY searched his cell and found it. According to HALL, BERRY then stated that JAMES EARL RAY had been gotten out of the country, and the same method could be used to get him (HALL) out of the country. From this statement, HALL alleged that he assumed BERRY had some knowledge of the KING murder, and believed that BERRY might be somehow involved in the murder.

HALL further stated that, during an interview on February 9, 1977, that North Carolina Central Prison Superintendent of Transportation, STEPHEN ALBERT BERRY, told him that he, BERRY, was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and they, BERRY and other prison officials, would help him the same way "they" helped JAMES EARL RAY when he killed MARTIN LUTHER KING.

STEPHEN ALBERT BERRY on interview on February 8, 1977, stated his job at Central Prison is to review all grievances filed by the inmates at Central Prison. BERRY stated that HALL's most recent incarceration at Central Prison was on December 7, 1976. BERRY stated that he estimates HALL has filed between ten and fifteen grievances since the above date which referred to alleged threats or mistreatment against him, and these grievances have been investigated and have failed to substantiate that HALL was ever threatened or mistreated. BERRY stated HALL has accused him of being a member of the Ku Klux Klan and also alleged that BERRY said that when Dr. KING was killed, they did not get the right man and that it would be the same way with him; they would have him killed and put the blame on a white inmate at Central Prison.

HALL's most recent allegation at North Central Prison is that attempts are being made on his life by putting razor blades in his prison food.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Charlotte, North Carolina

March 4, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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

On January 27, 1977, ALLEN RAY HALL, an inmate of North Carolina Central Prison, wrote a letter to Mr. DAN RINZEL, United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, making certain allegations regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. On February 4, 1977, ALLEN RAY HALL was interviewed at the New Hanover County Jail, Wilmington, North Carolina, by Special Agents of the FBI and furnished the following information:

During a period of racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1971, ALLEN RAY HALL testified as a state witness against a group of defendants known as the "Wilmington Ten" in which the subjects were convicted and sentenced to varying prison terms. HALL has now recanted his testimony in that trial in 1972 and has been reinterviewed on several occasions by Special Agents of the FBI in which he has given conflicting stories as to his participation in the racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, as well as allegations against law enforcement officers who interviewed him at the time of the "Wilmington Ten" trial.

During the interview on February 4, 1977, HALL stated that during the period of racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1971, he had been interviewed by Special Agent BILL WALDEN, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. He stated that at the time of his conversation with WALDEN, they also discussed the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and WALDEN drew him a map indicating how Dr. KING was killed and where everyone was standing at the time of Dr. KING's assassination.

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JAMES EARL RAY

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