

MURKIN, Civil Rights VOL. I

4/4/68 - 5/9/68

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 29, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Long 1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. McDonough 1 - Mr. Trotter
1 - Mr. Martindale

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mrs. Homer Lane Bigelow has advised our Denver Office that about a year ago she fell in love with and cohabitated with one Robert Edward Byrne, a Denver oil promoter who claims to be involved in a conspiracy to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. She said she would not have furnished this information except Byrne, who is a heavy drinker, recently told her he was going to marry another woman.

In about October of 1967, Byrne began telling her he was in some type of organized crime syndicate but never was specific as to members or activities. He claimed to have killed many men, but she was never sure that the killings were while he was in the Armed Forces or in connection with a syndicate.

Byrne spent a lot of time out of town and on 5/14/68, he was at her place and was "very drunk." Before they retired for the evening, she told him she was scared and asked him if he had a hand in King's death. He replied "What do you think? Of course." She then asked Byrne if James Earl Ray did the shooting and he replied asking her what made her think Ray did it. She indicated that Ray was probably dead and Byrne said he was not.

On 5/22/68, James Hyer, who had been representing Byrne in court matter involving the adoption of his children by Byrne's ex-wife and her present husband, telephoned Mrs. Bigelow and asked her to locate Byrne as it was an emergency. She was to tell Byrne the following message: "Emergency Tea Cup" and Byrne would know what it meant. Later on Byrne called at which time she gave him the message and he had her repeat it three times, swore and commented "I wonder if mine will be as big as the other." This message frightened her and she has not heard or seen from him since.

REL:cs
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER

RECEIVED - CONRAD

MAY 29 11 52 AM '68

F B I
LABORATORY DIVISION.

RECEIVED - CONRAD
MAY 29 4 38 PM '68
F B I
LABORATORY DIVISION

RECEIVED - CONRAD
MAY 31 4 03 PM '68
F B I
LABORATORY DIVISION

Memo Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Although the information as related by Mrs. Bigelow appears to be rambling and highly imaginative and she appears to be the victim of a love affair, we are attempting to locate and interview Byrne to completely determine the veracity of the facts as related.

Our Dallas Office advised that a potential criminal informant of their office had been in contact with a former gambler, whose identity the informant would not disclose, who had just returned from Monterrey, Mexico. According to the informant this gambler made the statement that James Earl Ray is currently working as a bartender in a bar located near the Chevrolet dealership near Monterrey, Mexico. Legat, Mexico City has advised that their investigative informant has checked the only bar closely fitting the description in this allegation. It is the bar known as "El Rancho" located about thirty yards from the Chevrolet dealership in Monterrey, Mexico. The investigative informant completed a canvass of management personnel and employees of the bar and determined that there are no North Americans employed there in any capacity and no employee resembling description of photograph of subject. Investigation is continuing in nearby restaurants where bar service is available and this is being afforded most expeditious attention.

A person by the name of Eduardo Jose Molina contacted our Brownsville, Texas, Resident Agency and advised that he had received information that about four days ago James Earl Ray was working in a kitchen of a hotel located on Isla Mujeres, off the coast of the State of Quintana Roo, Mexico. Molina who is apparently a mature, intelligent person and who owns property in Brownsville, Texas, gave his permanent address as Yucatan, Mexico. His source of information is the son of the man who owns the hotel. This is presently being checked out.

The Taipei, Taiwan, newspaper is carrying a story of the possibility of James Earl Ray en route to Taiwan. Although there is no apparent basis for this allegation and it appears that Korea National Police, Seoul, Korea, gave a press release asking all to be alert for subject in event he travels to Korea, this matter is being checked out.

ACTION: We are affording this case top priority attention.



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

1 - Mr. Rosen
(Mr. Long 2260)
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Mortimer
1 - Lab File

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 29, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**
Lab. No. **D-680527113 JK**

Examination requested by: **Atlanta**

Reference: **Airtel 5/23/68**

Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**

Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q357.

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
2 - Atlanta (26-43489) (44-2386) Enclosures (2)
(2 Lab report)
2 - Saint Louis (44-775) (26-32047) Enclosures (2)
(2 Lab report)
1 - Bufile (26-**

JHM:AW (13)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

**REPORT
of the**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 29, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR**

FBI File No. **44-38861**
Lab. No. **D-680527113 JK**

Specimens received **5/27/68**

**Q357 Rental Agreement No. 7044348, bearing the signature
"S. H. Schneiderman"**

Result of examination:

Because of the distorted nature of the questioned signature on Q357 and the different style of handwriting employed, it could not be determined whether this signature was prepared by JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G; however, nothing of particular significance was noted between the questioned signature and the known handwriting of RAY from such comparison as could be made.

Q357 will be returned separately. Photographs are retained.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

1 - Mr. Rosen
(Mr. Long 2260)
~~Mr. Conrad~~
1 - Mr. Mortimer
1 - Lab File

[Handwritten signature]

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 28, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis

[Handwritten signature: J. Edgar Hoover]
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 44-38861
Lab. No. D-680527062 JK

Examination requested by: Baltimore
Reference: Airtel 5/24/68
Examination requested: Document
Remarks:

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

RECEIVED DIVISION
MAY 31 1968

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

1 - Baltimore (44-669) Enclosure (Lab report)

JHM:AW (9)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

RECEIVED - CONRAD

MAY 28 11 14 AM '68

F B I
LABORATORY DIVISION

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 28, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-680527062 JK

Specimens received 5/27/68

K276 Four slips of whitepaper each bearing a sample laundry tape obtained from L & H Cleaners, Havre de Grace, Maryland

K277 Slip of white paper bearing three sample laundry tapes obtained from Camelot Cleaners, Laurel, Maryland

Result of examination:

It was concluded that neither of the machines, K276 nor K277, was used to prepare the laundry tapes appearing on Q69 and Q70.

Specimens K276 and Q277 are retained.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

JHM:AW (9)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

1 - Mr. Rosen
(Mr. Long 2260)
~~Mr. Conrad~~
1 - Mr. Mortimer
1 - Lab File

yz

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 28, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**
Lab. No. **D-680527001 JK**

Examination requested by: **Cleveland**
Reference: **Airtel 5/23/68**
Examination requested: **Document**
Remarks:

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
2 - Cleveland (44-506) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
JHM:AW (10)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

RECEIVED - CONRAD

MAY 28 9 23 AM '68

FBI
LABORATORY DIVISION

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 28, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR.

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-680527001 JK

Request received 5/24/68
Specimens received
XXXXXXXXXXXX

Request for comparison of evidence submitted with Philadelphia communication dated 5/20/68 and evidence submitted with Miami communication dated 4/11/68

Result of examination:

The items submitted with Miami communication dated 4/11/68 (Q124, Q125 and Q126) contain only questioned hand printing while the letter and envelope (Q347 and Q348) submitted by Philadelphia communication dated 5/20/68 bear only typewriting and the handwritten signature "Eric S. Galt."

Because of the different means employed to prepare the questioned items previously mentioned they could not be satisfactorily compared.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

JHM:AW (10)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

1 - Mr. Rosen
(Mr. Long2260)
~~1 - Mr. [redacted]~~
1 - Mr. Mortimer
1 - Lab File

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 27, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**
Lab. No. **D-680523034 JK**

Examination requested by: **Washington Field Office**

Reference: **Airtel 5/23/68**

Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**

Remarks:

**You will be advised separately regarding the results
of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q352 and Q353.**

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

- 1 - Washington Field Office (44-703) Enclosure
(Lab report)**
- 1 - Newark (44-854) Enclosure (Lab report)**
- 1 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosure (Lab report)**
- 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) Enclosure (Lab report)**

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

JHM:AW (12)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐ **ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE**

**REPORT
of the****FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**Date: **May 27, 1968**Re: **MURKIN
CR**FBI File No. **44-38861**Lab. No. **D-680523034 JK**Specimens received **5/23/68**

Q352 U.S. Postal Money Order, No. 1,916,211,078, payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, N.J., bearing the handwritten name and address "Eric S. Galt 5533 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90028"

Q353 U.S. Postal Money Order, No. 5,615,057,923, payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, N.J., bearing the handwritten name and address "Eric S. Galt 113-14th St. N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30309"

Result of examination:

On the basis of the available writings attributed to the subject, James Earl Ray, it was concluded that the questioned hand printing and handwriting appearing on Q352 and Q353 were prepared by this individual.

Specimens Q352 and Q353 will be returned separately. Photographs are retained.



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

1 - Mr. Rosen
(Mr. Long 2260)
~~1 - Mr. Conrad~~
1 - Mr. Mortimer
1 - Lab File

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 27, 1968**

MURKIN
Re: **CR**
OO: Memphis

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**
Lab. No. **D-680524079 JK**

Examination requested by: **Memphis**
Reference: **Airtel 5/22/68**
Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**
Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q355 and Q356.

This report confirms and supplements Bureau airtel to Memphis and Dallas dated 5/24/68.

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

1 - Dallas Enclosure (Lab report)

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

RECEIVED - CONRAD
MAY 28 9 03 AM '68
FBI
LABORATORY DIVISION

**REPORT
of the**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 27, 1968**

FBI File No. **44-38861**

Re: **MURKIN
CR**

Lab. No. **D-680524079 JK**

Specimens received **5-24-68**

Q355 Envelope postmarked "Dallas, Tex. 1B PM 1 May, 1968," bearing the handwritten address "Mr. Loeb - Mayor of Memphis Memphis, Tenn."

Q356 Accompanying one-page handwritten letter beginning "I didnt mean to kill Rev. Luther King..." and ending "...but not a white man. Black men hired me"

Result of examination:

Specimens Q355 and Q356 were searched through the appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File but could not be identified with any prior submissions to this file.

No indented writing, watermarks or other identifying features were noted on either Q355 or Q356 which might indicate the immediate source of these two items.

It was concluded that the questioned writings on Q355 and Q356 were not prepared by James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.

The submitted items are temporarily retained.
Photographs were made.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

JHM:AW (9)



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

1 - Mr. Rosen
(Mr. Long 2260)
~~1 - Mr. Conrad~~
1 - Mr. Mortimer
1 - Lab File

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 27, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR**

OO: **Memphis**

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**
Lab. No. **D-680523083 JK**

Examination requested by: **St. Louis**

Reference: **Airtel 5/21/68**

Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**

Remarks:

**You will be advised separately regarding the
results of the fingerprint examination and disposition
of Q354.**

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
2-St. Louis (44-775) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

JHM:taw (10)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

**REPORT
of the**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **May 27, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR**

FBI File No. **44-38861**

Lab. No. **D-680523083 JK**

Specimens received **5/23/68**

**Q354 Signature card of Manufacturers Bank & Trust Company
of St. Louis dated 3/9/59 bearing the signature
"James Carl O'Connor"**

Result of examination:

Because of the presence of some characteristics which could not be satisfactorily explained on the basis of the available known writings, it could not be determined whether the "James Carl O'Connor" signature on Q354 was prepared by JAMES EARL RAY; however, significant similarities were noted between this questioned signature and the available known handwriting of RAY.

Q354 will be returned separately. Photographs are retained.

JHM:taw (10)

Mr. DeLoach

May 25, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen 1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Malley 1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Long 1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. McDonough 1 - Mr. Trotter
1 - Mr. Martindale

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

In continuing to run out the story reportedly furnished the Los Angeles "Times" by an individual identified only as "Bob," information has been developed indicating that the individual known to Leamont Anderson White, an effeminate Negro, employee of Western Union in Los Angeles, as Bob Brickley is in reality Lester Edward Packett, FBI Number 827170A. This individual has been the subject of Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property and Interstate Transportation of Stolen Motor Vehicle cases investigated by the Bureau. A photograph of Packett was exhibited to Leamont Anderson White who identified it as the photograph of the individual he knew as Bob Brickley.

The manager of an apartment house located at 812 South Westlake, Los Angeles, identified this same photograph as a former resident of that apartment house. The manager stated that the individual resided in an apartment with Odela A. Packett who is currently serving a 30-day sentence for prostitution in Los Angeles.

Jerry Cohen of the Los Angeles "Times" advised that the newspaper had promised their informant, "Bob," that they would not reveal his identity nor furnish information which would lead to his location. Cohen did advise our Los Angeles Office that he would advise if any of the photographs exhibited to him were identical with his informant, "Bob." Cohen stated that the photograph of Frank Brickley, an ex-convict who has been primarily suspected as being "Bob," was not identical with his informant but Cohen "declined to comment" when the photograph of Lester Edward Packett was exhibited to him.

EJM:vea
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Page 1
JUN 6 1968

RECEIVED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)

SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RECEIVED JUN 6 2 34 PM '68
PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, BIOLOGY
LABORATORY

Enclosed for the Laboratory are two copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated and captioned as above. The LHM contains information regarding the results of the examination of the evidence submitted to the Laboratory for analysis.

RECEIVED - GENRAB JUN 6 5 04 PM '68
FBI LABORATORY DIVISION

Enclosed for the Laboratory are two copies of a letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated and captioned as above. The LHM contains information regarding the results of the examination of the evidence submitted to the Laboratory for analysis.

Very truly yours,

[Illegible signature and text]

[Illegible text]

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Lester Packett's wife, Odela Packett, was interviewed in the Los Angeles County Jail and she stated that she filed for divorce from Packett two months ago on grounds of desertion, cruelty and nonsupport. She stated her legal fees were being paid by her relatives and she added that she was so mad at Packett at the time of the filing of the divorce that she tore up all of the photographs she had of him. She described him as a shiftless drifter who never held a job during their five years of marriage. She stated she does not know his present whereabouts.

Background information on Lester Packett and interview with Odela Packett indicates he has spent time in Belle Glade, Florida; Reno, Nevada; various locations in Tennessee; Chicago, Illinois; and Kansas City. These areas were mentioned in connection with the story furnished the Los Angeles "Times" by "Bob." Leamont Anderson White believes Packett is the individual who took his two guns and is the only individual outside of Frank Brickley and a person whom he knew as Brickley's cousin whose name he could not recall that would have known he even possessed the guns.

John Eugene Gawron, the old man who lived with Ray's mother from 1954 until her death in 1961, previously advised he taught Ray to be a burglar. He previously stated that he and Ray cased a bank in 1958 or 1959 but did not rob it because Gawron injured his leg. Gawron furnished varying information regarding subject's alleged involvement in a bank robbery following his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary on 4/23/67. After numerous efforts to elicit the truth from Gawron, he has now revealed that the bank allegedly robbed by Ray and an accomplice is located in Alton, Illinois. Gawron stated that Ray's accomplice in the bank robbery told him, Gawron, that his name was "Jimmy," last name unknown. Gawron stated that the last time he saw "Jimmy" he was with a man previously unknown to him who was named "Johnny," last name unknown, and they visited him on the nights of 5/13 and 14/68. Ex-convicts John Paul Valenti and James H. Carpenter are known to have visited Gawron on those dates.

Bureau files show that at approximately 1 p.m. 7/13/67, two unknown subjects wearing stocking masks entered the side door and robbed the Bank of Alton in Alton, Illinois. One subject proceeded directly

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

to the tellers' area, walked behind the counter, emptied cash from two tellers' cages and left the bank by the same route. Unknown subject number two stood outside the side door flourishing a sawed-off shotgun and covered the customers and employees until unknown subject number one left. Then he backed out of the bank. The robbers obtained \$27,230 in loot, not \$50,000 as alleged by Gawron.

St. Louis City Jail records establish that James H. Carpenter was in City Jail, St. Louis, from 6/5/67 to 3/1/68 and could not, therefore, have participated in the bank robbery or have contacted Gawron as Gawron had claimed in 1967. Carpenter's description does not fit either of the unknown subjects; although Ray's description could approximate that of unknown subject number two.

Gawron led Agents to the above bank and identified it as the one he and Ray had cased in 1959. The modus operandi planned was substantially the same as that used in the actual bank robbery. Gawron stated that he had deliberately misled Agents as to the amount involved and the location of the bank to gain time to be sure he would be in the clear. Investigation of the bank robbery mentioned above is being intensified to ascertain whether Ray could have possibly been involved, thereby accounting for his source of funds.

ACTION:

Vigorous investigation is continuing in order to bring this matter to a prompt conclusion.



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

Mr. Rosen
(Long 2540)
Mr. Conrad
1 - Lab File
1 - Mr. Mortimer

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **April 29, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**
Lab. No. **D-561599 JK**

Examination requested by: **San Francisco**

Reference: **Airtel 4/23/68**

Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**

Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the result of the fingerprint examination and disposition of the submitted items.

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
2 - San Francisco (173-65) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

JHM:SAW (9)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

RECEIVED - CONRAD
APR 29 10 07 AM '68
F B I
LABORATORY DIVISION

b

**REPORT
of the**



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **April 29, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR**

FBI File No.

44-38861

Lab. No.

D-561599 JK

Specimens received **4-25-68**

**Q289 Registration card bearing handwritten address and the
signature "Tom Rozell"**

**K197 White sheet of paper containing ten thermo-seal laundry
tapes obtained from Bariteaus Laundry, Santa Cruz,
California**

Result of examination:

**It was concluded that the questioned writings on Q289
were not prepared by JAMES EARL RAY, K171.**

**It was concluded that the marking machine used to
prepare specimen K197 was not used in preparing the tapes
previously designated Q69, Q70, Q97 and Q99.**

**The evidence submitted is temporarily retained.
A photograph of Q289 was made.**

JHM:SAW (9)



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

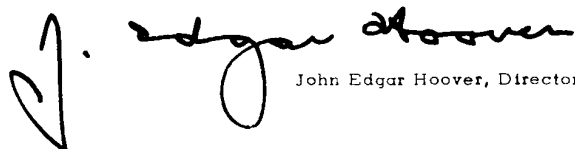
1 - Mr. Rosen
(Long 2260)
1 - ~~Mr. Conrad~~
1 - Lab File
1 - Mr. Mortimer

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **April 29, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR**

OO: Memphis


John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No.
Lab. No.

**44-38861
D-561622 JK
D-561624 JK
D-561625 JK**

Examination requested by: **Savannah, Miami**

Reference: **Airtels 4/23/68 and 4/24/68**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
1 - Savannah (44-1786) Enclosure (Lab report)
1 - Miami (44-1854) Enclosure (Lab report)**

JHM:NB (9)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

RECEIVED - CONRAD

APR 29 10 07 AM '68

FBI
LABORATORY DIVISION

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)
Re: MURKIN
CR

Date: April 29, 1968
FBI File No. 44-38861
Lab. No. D-561622 JK
D-561624 JK
D-561625 JK

Specimens received from Savannah, 4/25/68

K198 Six samples of laundry tape obtained from the Rogers Laundry, Savannah, Georgia

Specimen received from Miami, 4/25/68

K199 Eight thermo-seal laundry tapes obtained from Famous Cleaners, Miami, Florida

Specimen received from Savannah, 4/25/68

K200 Four samples taken from a Thermo Seal marking machine used by the White Way Laundry, Port Wentworth, Georgia

Result of examination:

Differences were noted which indicate that the laundry tags on Q97 and Q99 may not have originated from any of the machines which were used to prepare specimens K198, K199 and K200. These differences are not considered of such significance, however, that a definite opinion can be stated.

The submitted items have been retained.

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____ JHM:NB (9)
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

*Gr - last page
replan*

~~1-Mr. Conrad-Enc.~~
1-Mr. Clark-Enc.
1-Mr. Frazier-Enc.
4-29-68
1-Lab Files-Enc.
1-Office, 7133-Enc.

Mr. Conrad

R. H. Jevons

MURKIN

There is attached a report to the Memphis Police Department covering the examinations of evidence collected and turned over to the Bureau by personnel of that Department in this case. The evidence has been sent to our Memphis Office for return to the Police Department pursuant to Mr. DeLoach's memorandum of 4-24-68.

ACTION: The proposed report is attached for approval.

44-38861

1-Mr. Mohr-Enc.
1-Mr. DeLoach-Enc.
1-Mr. Rosen-Enc.

RMJ:alb (9)

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Long
(Room 2260)
① - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. Griffith
(Attn: Mr. Mortimer)
1 - Mr. Frazier
1 - Mr. Stombaugh
1 - Lab Files
1 - Office, 7133

To: Chief of Police
Memphis, Tennessee 38100

April 29, 1968

This examination has been made with the understanding that the evidence is connected with an official investigation of a criminal matter and that the Laboratory report will be used for official purposes only, related to the investigation or a subsequent criminal prosecution. Authorization cannot be granted for the use of the Laboratory report in connection with a civil proceeding.

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
VICTIM;
MURDER

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

YOUR NO.
FBI FILE NO.
LAB. NO.

44-38861
PC-A5498 BX IZ KS GH
D-560096 JK
E-565 JZ
PC-A5505 BX IZ
PC-A5530 BX GH JV
PC-A5694 IZ

Examination requested by:

FBI, Memphis

Reference:

(see below)

Examination requested:

Specimens:

Firearms - Microscopic - Spectrographic -
Chemical Analyses - Document - Engineering -
Fingerprint

Evidence personally delivered on 4/5/68, by Special Agent Robert Fitzpatrick, from FBI, Memphis, under cover of letters dated 4/4/68 (PC-A5498 BX IZ KS GH, D-560096 JK and E-565 JZ)

Submitted as recovered by Inspector N. E. Zachary, Memphis Police Department, in vicinity of 424 South Main Street:

- Q1 Rifle box for Browning .243 Winchester caliber rifle, Serial Number 474425
- Q2 .30-06 Springfield caliber Remington "Gamemaster" slide-action rifle, Model 760, Serial Number 461476, with Redfield telescope sight, Serial Number A17350, with clip

2 - FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Page 1

PMS:jfk (14)

(continued on next page)

- Q3 .30-06 Springfield caliber Remington-Peters cartridge case
- Q4 - Q12 Nine .30-06 Springfield caliber cartridges (five Remington-Peters and four R-A-55) in Peters cartridge box, Index Number 3033.
- Q13 Large green and brown cloth
- Q14 "Banner" binoculars (Bushnell) 7 by 35, Serial Number DQ408664 (allegedly in zipper bag when recovered)
- Q15 Zipper bag
- Q16 Duck-bill pliers and tack hammer marked "MAGNETIC"
- Q17 Box of "BAND-AID sheer strips"
- Q18 Georgia-Alabama Standard Oil map
- Q19 "Commercial Appeal" Memphis newspaper, first section only, issue of April 4, 1968
- Q20 Standard Oil map of the United States
- Q21 Partial roll of toilet paper
- Q22 Binocular case with instruction booklet, lens cloth and guarantee card
- Q23 Binocular box, cardboard
- Q24 "Gillette" travel kit purchased at Oliver Rexall Store, Whitehaven, price \$1.89, with razor, lotion shaving cream, deodorant, hair cream and razor blade in dispenser
- Q25 Gray paper sack bearing marking "YORK ARMS CO." with receipt dated 4/4/68 in amount of \$41.55
- Q26 White and yellow towel
- Q27 White handkerchief
- Q28 Tube of "Colgate" toothpaste

Q29 - Q30 Pair of black socks

Q31 Seven-ounce can of "RIGHT GUARD" deodorant

Q32 Channel Master radio

Q33 Bottle of "BUFFERIN"

Q34 Elastic belt

Q35 Tube of "BRYLCREEM"

Q36 Bottle of "ONE A DAY" vitamins

Q37 Small bar of "Cashmere Bouquet" soap

Q38 Hairbrush

Q39 Bar of "Dial" soap, bath size

Q40 Tube of "Head & Shoulders" shampoo

Q41 Can of brown "KIWI" boot polish

Q42 Can of "PALMOLIVE RAPID-SHAVE" shaving cream

Q43 Gray-brown button (in sack with beer)

Q44 Black button (in sack with beer)

Q45 Toothbrush, "Pepsodent"

Q46 Safety razor, without blade

Q47 Plastic bottle of "MENNEN afta" lotion

Q48 Small bar of "Cameo" toilet soap

Q49 Small bar of "Cashmere Bouquet" soap, bearing advertisement of Friendship Inns

Q50 - Q51 Two bobby pins

Q52 - Q53 Two cans of "Schlitz" beer, pull tab

Q54 Plastic "six-pack" carrying device

Q55 Brown paper sack (containing beer)
Q56 Small brown paper sack, empty
Q57 Key
Q58 Toothpick
Q59 Metal ring
Q60 - Q61 Two coat hangers
Q62 Two links from "ADJUST-O" watchband
Q63 Gray-brown button
Q64 Bullet from body

Q68 Fingerprint card for Bessie Ruth Brewer

Evidence personally delivered on 4/8/68, by Special Agent Robert Fitzpatrick, from FBI, Memphis, under cover of letter dated 4/6/68 (PC-A5505 BX IZ)

Q69 Undershorts
Q70 T shirt

Also Submitted: Ten latent lifts

Evidence received 4/8/68, from FBI, Memphis, under cover of letter dated 4/4/68 (PC-A5530 BX GH JV)

CLOTHING FROM MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Q76 Shirt
Q77 Necktie
Q78 Suit coat
Q79 Trousers

Q80 - Q81 Pair of socks

Q82 Undershorts

Q83 Undershirt

Q84 - Q85 Pair of shoes

Evidence received 4/16/68, from FBI, Memphis, under cover of letter dated 4/12/68 (PC-A5694 IZ)

Q204 Pillow

Q205 Pillowcase

Q206 Green sofa pillow

Q207 Bed sheet

Q208 Bed sheet

Q209 Black leather strap, 11/32" wide

Q210 Black leather strap, 5/8" wide

Q211 Dried plant material

Q212 Towel with white, blue, green and yellow stripes

Q213 Red, white and blue plastic pin and portion of pin

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION:

FIREARMS - TOOLMARKS EXAMINATIONS

The serial number on the black rifle box, Q1, was determined to be 4744Z5. This box originally contained a .243 Winchester caliber Browning rifle.

The Q3 cartridge case was identified as having been fired in the Q2 rifle. The only marks found on Q3, other than marks made during manufacturing procedures, were one extractor mark which was identified as having been made by the extractor of the Q2 rifle and the marks left on Q3 by the Q2 rifle when Q3 was fired.

The bullet, Q64, from the victim is a .30 caliber metal-jacketed "soft-point" sporting-type bullet of Remington-Peters manufacture which was fired from a barrel rifled with six lands and grooves, right twist. Based on the physical characteristics of the general rifling impressions, the Q64 bullet could have been fired from the Remington rifle, Q2. The Q64 bullet has been distorted due to mutilation and insufficient marks of value for identification remain on this bullet. Therefore, it was not possible to determine whether or not Q64 was fired from the Q2 rifle.

The Q64 bullet is identical in all remaining observable physical characteristics to the 150 grain bullets in the five loaded .30-06 Springfield caliber Remington-Peters cartridges, Q4 through Q8.

Based on physical characteristics, specimen Q64 and the cartridge case, Q3, could originally have been portions of the same cartridge, which would be the same as the Q4 through Q8 cartridges. No marks are present on Q64 of the type which would permit determining positively whether or not the Q64 bullet was originally a portion of the cartridge represented by Q3.

The five cartridges, Q4 through Q8, conform in description to the type of cartridges packaged by the manufacturer in the Peters cartridge box in which they were submitted. Because of the manner in which cartridges are boxed at the factory, it is not possible to determine whether or not the cartridge represented by Q3 or any of the

Q4 through Q8 cartridges were packaged in the same box by the manufacturer.

The Peters cartridge box in which Q4 through Q8 were submitted also contained four U. S. Military cartridges, containing full-metal jacketed 150 grain bullets, different from Q64. The manufacturer's headstamp on these cartridges is "R A 55." The "R A" indicates that these cartridges were manufactured by Remington Arms Company, Incorporated, Bridgeport, Connecticut. Cartridges bearing "55" are those normally manufactured in 1955.

Examination of the four cartridges, Q9 through Q12, revealed no marks indicating these cartridges had ever been loaded into a weapon. The only marks on these cartridges appear to be marks produced by the manufacturer's machines and marks of the type produced by metal-link ammunition belts of the type used with machine guns. The link belt marks on Q9 through Q12 are suitable for comparison with the metal links from which the cartridges were withdrawn. In metal-link belts, each cartridge serves to hold adjacent links together. As each cartridge is withdrawn, a link (which is expendable) separates from the rest of the belt.

No aluminum, screen-type scratches, paint, wood or other foreign material was found on the muzzle or side of the barrel of the Q2 rifle.

No record was located in the National Stolen Property Index or the National Crime Information Center for a Browning rifle, Serial Number 4744Z5, as originally contained in Q1; for the Q2 rifle; for a Redfield 2X-7X variable telescope sight, Serial Number A17350 (which is mounted on Q2), or for the Bushnell binoculars, Q14, Serial Number DQ408664.

No serial number which would facilitate tracing was found on the Weaver telescope sight mount and base on Q2. The screws used to secure the sight tube to the mount were "finger" tight. No tool was required to loosen them and no toolmarks of value for comparison are present.

The magnification setting of the telescope sight tube was "6 $\frac{1}{2}$ x" when the Q2 rifle was received. Therefore, objects viewed would be enlarged to approximately 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ times normal size.

HAIR EXAMINATION

Numerous brown head hairs of Caucasian origin were found on or in specimens Q13, Q15, Q26, Q29, Q30 and Q38. Numerous dark brown to black beard fragments of Caucasian origin were removed from the Q24 and Q46 razors. All of these hairs and beard fragments have been mounted on glass slides for comparisons with any suspects you may develop.

Several Caucasian head hairs were found on the Q206 sofa pillow and on the Q208 sheet and numerous such hairs were found on the Q207 sheet. Some of these hairs are like the previously described hairs from the Q38 hairbrush and other items and could have come from the same person. It is pointed out that hairs do not possess enough individual microscopic characteristics to be positively identified as originating from a particular person. Most of the hairs from Q206, Q207 and Q208 are different from the previously described hairs from Q38 and other items and did not originate from the same person.

No hairs were found on the Q69 undershorts or Q70 T shirt.

FIBER EXAMINATION

Brown cotton fibers, green cotton fibers and lustrous green viscose fibers like those composing the Q13 bedspread were found on the Q2 rifle and in the debris removed from the Q1 box. These fibers could have originated from specimen Q13.

Brown cotton fibers, green cotton fibers and lustrous green viscose fibers that could have come from the Q13 bedspread were found on Q207 and Q208. None were found on Q204, Q205, Q206 or Q212.

SOIL EXAMINATION

Fine smears and deposits of brown silty soil having the appearance of being deposited while wet were found on Q13. The soil in these smears and deposits is suitable for comparison purposes. The specific origin of the soil cannot be determined by a Laboratory examination.

BLOOD EXAMINATION

Group "O" human blood was identified on Q76, Q77, Q78, Q79 and Q83.

Human blood, too limited in amount for grouping purposes, was found on Q82, Q84 and Q85.

Preliminary chemical tests for blood indicated the possible presence of blood on Q80 and Q81. However, there was an insufficient amount of material on these items to permit the necessary additional chemical tests to definitely establish the presence of blood.

DOCUMENT EXAMINATION

Specimens Q18, Q19, Q20, Q23, Q25, Q55 and Q56 were examined for writings and pertinent indented impressions, but nothing of significance was found.

The Q55 bag is imprinted "HOMESTEAD" and "STUBBY." Information available in the Laboratory shows that the "HOMESTEAD" brand name is registered to the Graham Paper Company, 1014 Spruce Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63102, while "STUBBY" refers to the type of bag.

MISCELLANEOUS EXAMINATIONS

Specimen Q1 is a black cardboard box measuring 6 3/4" x 2 1/2" x 44 1/4". Printing on the box indicates it contained a Browning Mauser rifle, "SAFARI" grade. The number "130712" is printed on the end of the box and "4744Z5" has been hand printed on the same end.

Specimen Q13 is a large green and brown bedspread. It is composed of approximately 50% brown cotton, 25% green cotton and 25% lustrous green viscose fibers. It measures 106 1/4" x 85 1/4" and has a herringbone design. The ribs of the herringbone have a 40° angle and each rib is 3/4" in width. No visible, invisible or manufacturer's markings were found on Q13. It exhibits above-average wear and is of the type sometimes found in hotels or motels.

The Bushnell Q14 binoculars were manufactured in Japan. Bushnell binoculars are distributed by Bushnell and Company, Incorporated, 639 Bushnell Building, Pasadena, California. Specimen Q14 bears number "DQ408664." A paper label on the center post indicates Q14 was passed by the "Japan Telescopes Inspection Institute."

The Q15 zipper bag measures 15" x 20" x 5 1/4" and is an inexpensive bag of Japanese manufacture. The bag is a "Tel-Star" model that retails for about six to seven dollars. This model bag comes in six different sizes, 16", 18", 20", 22", 24" and 26". The importer or jobber for "Tel-Star" luggage is the United Products Corporation, 2500 Genessee, Kansas City, Missouri 64141.

The Q16 duck-bill pliers are 7 3/4" in length and the jaws are 1 3/8" long. A price tag on one handle bears "ROMPAGE HARDWARE \$1.98." Just above the word "Rompag" are three characters printed in blue. Two characters on the left appear to be "10." The single character on the right appears to be "0." No other data was noted on the label.

Also in Q16 is a small tack hammer with a metal head 4 1/8" long. Imprinted on the wooden handle is "MAGNETIC." The handle is painted white with a blue band around the end of the handle. The U. S. Patent Office has no record of the trademark on this hammer.

The Q17 metal "BAND-AID" box contains twenty-one regular adhesive bandages and ten "JUNIOR" adhesive bandages. The number of bandages in the box agrees with the count printed on the box. A small round price tag on top of Q17 has the numerals ".57."

Nothing of significance was noted concerning the partial role of toilet paper, Q21.

Specimen Q22 is a black binocular case for Bushnell binoculars. Inside Q22 was found an instruction booklet, lens cloth and guarantee card.

Specimen Q23 is a cardboard box for Bushnell binoculars. A price tag on Q23 has the numerals "11-67" and "\$39.95" printed on it. Also on this box was hand printed:

"3995
160
4155"

Specimen Q24 is a travel kit manufactured by Gillette. It is clear plastic and contains the following:

- 1 - Safety razor with double-edge blade
- 2 - Package of "Gillette" stainless steel double-edge blades
- 3 - 1.3 ounce can of "foamy" shaving cream
- 4 - 1 ounce can "RIGHT GUARD" deodorant
- 5 - 1/2 ounce bottle "Sun Up" after shave lotion
- 6 - 3/8 ounce tube "HEADS UP" hair dressing

A price tag on the top of Q24 has the following printed on it: "OLIVER REXALL," "WHITEHAVEN PHONE 397-2301," "\$1.89," "E" and "OO."

The Q25 gray paper bag has the name and address of the "YORK ARMS CO." of Memphis printed on it. Inside this bag was found a cash register receipt dated "APR 4" in the amount of "\$041.55 CBH." The numerals "083" also appear on the receipt.

The Q26 white and yellow checkered towel is 26" x 15". No labels or visible or invisible markings were found on Q26.

Specimen Q27 is an inexpensive common man's handkerchief measuring 14 1/2" x 15". No labels or markings were found on Q27.

Specimen Q28 is a partial tube of "Colgate" toothpaste, 3.25 ounce size.

The Q29 and Q30 socks are a pair of black knee length synthetic stretch socks. No markings or labels were found on these socks.

The Q31 can of "RIGHT GUARD" deodorant is a 7 ounce size. "M313" is printed in black on the bottom of the can.

Specimen Q32 is a Channel Master radio receiver. A label affixed to the inside of the rear cover indicates that the receiver is Model 6502, 6 transistor, super heterodyne, with a frequency range of 535-1605 Kc/s and operates on a 9-volt battery supply. The words "CHANNEL MASTER CORP." are imprinted on the bottom of the label. The words "HONG KONG" are molded on the outside of the light-colored plastic cover; however, some components are marked "JAPAN." A 9-volt Eveready battery, #216, was connected inside the case. The front of the case is made of polished or plated metal and is stamped "6 TRANSISTOR CHANNEL MASTER." The remainder of the case, about one-third down each side, is maroon-colored plastic. The case measures approximately 4" x 2 3/8" x 1 1/4".

Radio products bearing the Channel Master name are very common.

When received, the dial indicated approximately "10" and was turned to approximately 1020 Kc/s. The tuning range of the receiver is approximately 530 Kc/s to 1660 Kc/s, which covers the regular broadcast band. The receiver was operational when received.

The Q32 radio bears scratches on one end interpreted to read "00416."

The Q33 plastic "BUFFERIN" bottle is a 60-tablet size and contained 10 whole tablets and 2 partial tablets, all bearing the letter "B."

Specimen Q34 is a man's elastic belt bearing Greek or Roman heads on the buckle. The belt is 3/4" wide and 31" long, unstretched. The waist measurement of the wearer could not be determined in view of the type of belt.

Specimen Q35 is a partial tube of "BRYLCREEM" hair dressing, 3 ounce size.

Specimen Q36 is a bottle of "ONE A DAY" vitamins, 25-tablet size. There were 21 tablets in the bottle.

Specimen Q37 is a small hotel-size bar of "Cashmere Bouquet" soap.

Specimen Q38 is a clear plastic hairbrush with white synthetic bristles. "U.S.A." has been molded to the underside of the handle.

The Q39 bar of "dial" soap is a 4 7/8 ounce size and has the price "2/45¢" stamped on one end in blue ink.

The Q40 tube of "Head & Shoulders" shampoo is a 2.7 ounce size. It bears a price label with "LIGGETT-REXALL 1678 1.10" on the side.

The Q41 can of "KIWI" brown boot polish is a 1 1/8 ounce size. Some of the polish has been used.

A price tag on the Q42 can of "PALMOLIVE RAPID-SHAVE" menthol shaving cream bears "LIGGETT-REXALL 3478 .79."

Nothing of significance was noted about the Q43, Q44 or Q63 buttons; however, they are suitable for comparison with other buttons present on suspect garments.

Specimen Q45 is a used red-handled "Pepsodent" brand toothbrush. "U.S.A. M K5" is present on the underside of Q45.

The Q46 razor is a "Gillette" make and has no blade in it.

A price tag is on the Q47 3.75 ounce bottle of "MENNEN afta" after shave and skin conditioner lotion bearing "\$1.00 PLS TAX." "202x" is printed in blue ink on the bottom of Q47.

Specimen Q48 is a small bar of "Cameo" soap manufactured by the Brunswick Soap Company, Brooklyn, New York.

Specimen Q49 is a small bar of "Cashmere Bouquet" soap, a product of Colgate-Palmolive Company, New York. A shield with "Member Friendship Inns" has been printed on the wrapper.

The Q50 and Q51 bobby pins are light brown colored, common pins.

Specimens Q52 and Q53 are full cans of Schlitz beer. "MISSISSIPPI TAX PAID 4 CENTS" has been printed in black on the bottom of each can. "03 has been stamped into the 158"

metal in the bottom of each can. Both cans are alike. These cans were found attached to the Q54 carrying device in the Q55 paper bag.

Nothing of apparent significance was noted about the 4"by 6" brown paper Q56 bag.

The Q57 key fits the lock on the Q15 zipper bag and probably belongs to this bag.

Specimen Q58 is a common, round, used toothpick.

The metal split ring, Q59, has overlapping ends. It appears to be the type of ring that new keys are attached to.

Nothing of significance was noted about the Q60 and Q61 coat hangers.

Specimen Q62 is a two-link portion of an "ADJUST-O" silver-colored watchband. The links may be compared with the watchband should same be recovered.

The Q69 undershorts and the Q70 T shirt each bears a laundry tag with what appears to be the characters "02B-6." Only a portion of the first character is present on each tag. The Laboratory does not maintain a file of visible laundry marks. No invisible laundry marks were found on the undershorts or T shirt.

The pair of undershorts is small in size while the T shirt is large.

Page 14
Pc-A5498 BX

(continued on next page)

The pair of undershorts does not have a brand label. The T shirt has a "JOCKEY" brand label.

The T shirt label is held flat with a folded piece of 3/4" wide cellophane tape. The piece of tape is about 1" long. One end has been cut, and the other end has been torn.

The crotch seams of the undershorts have been repaired in two places with brown thread. The repaired areas are hand stitched.

The Q209 strap, which appears new, measures 37 1/2" in length. This strap fits the strap guides on the Q14 binoculars and could be the strap for Q14. No strap is presently on Q14.

A short hand strap is presently on the Q22 binoculars case. The Q210 strap has the same appearance as the hand strap on Q22 except that it is longer. Specimen Q210 could be the shoulder strap for the Q22 case. The Q210 strap appears new and measures 37" in length.

No marks to indicate source were found on Q213. The Q213 pin appears to be a patriotic emblem.

There is a large hole in the right front portion of the collar of the Q76 shirt. The Q77 necktie has been forcibly torn apart in the right front neck portion also. The object or objects causing the damage were larger than a bullet of .30 caliber size and irregular in shape as all of the yarns were broken, not cut. One or more segments of bone could not be eliminated as the cause of the damage.

The right lapel of the Q78 coat has three damaged areas on the surface of the fabric. These areas have been torn by some object or objects, but the damage does not extend through the lapel. The torn areas vary from 1/4" to 1" in length and the condition of the yarns indicates the object or objects struck the coat from above and probably glanced off the coat.

Due to the sizes and ragged edges of the damaged areas of the Q76 shirt, Q77 necktie and Q78 suit coat, it was not possible to recognize any bullet holes or to

determine from visual examination whether or not a bullet or any bullet fragments had passed through or struck these items.

No bullet holes were found in Q79 through Q85.

The edges of the hole torn in the Q76 shirt collar, the edges of the three tears on the collar of the Q78 suit coat and the material near the ends of the Q77 necktie were contaminated with traces of lead which could have come from a bullet or from bullet fragments. The lead contamination of these items could not be associated with a particular bullet or lead source.

FINGERPRINT EXAMINATION

Specimens Q1 through Q63, Q69, Q70, Q209, Q210, Q213, and ten transparent lifts of latent prints from room at 420 South Main Street examined and latent prints of value found or developed as follows:

- One palm print on black rifle box, Q1
- One fingerprint on side of rifle, Q2
- One fingerprint on telescopic sight on rifle, Q2
- One fingerprint on binoculars, Q14
- One fingerprint on front page of newspaper, Q19
- One fingerprint on after shave lotion bottle, part of Q24
- One fingerprint on Schiltz beer can, Q53
- One fingerprint on lift marked in part "Lifted from Dresser top"
- One fingerprint on lift marked in part "Rt. side of fireplace (front)"

No other latent impressions of value found or developed.

The latent fingerprint on the rifle, Q2, the latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight of the rifle, Q2, the latent fingerprint on the binoculars, Q14, the latent fingerprint on the newspaper, Q19, the latent fingerprint on the after shave lotion bottle, part of Q24, and the latent fingerprint on the Schiltz beer can, Q53, have all been identified as fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY, FBI#405942G.

The latent palm print on the rifle box, Q1 has been identified as the right palm print of Birmingham gun store clerk Donald F. Wood. The latent fingerprint on the lift marked in part "Lifted from Dresser top" has been identified as a fingerprint of Memphis police officer Glynn King.

The remaining latent fingerprint is not identical with the fingerprints of RAY or with the fingerprints submitted for elimination purposes. Photographs of this latent fingerprint are being retained in our files for any additional comparisons you may desire.

DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE

The submitted evidence will be returned to you by our Memphis Office.

Page 17
PC-A5498 BX

44-38861-2750

The remaining latent fingerprint is not identical with the fingerprints of RAY or with the fingerprints submitted for elimination purposes. Photographs of this latent fingerprint are being retained in our files for any additional comparisons you may desire.

DISPOSITION OF EVIDENCE

You will be subsequently advised regarding the disposition of the evidence.



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**

gr
1 - Mr. Rosen (Mr. Long
Room 2260)
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Lab File
1 - Mr. Mortimer

To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**

Date: **April 20, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN
CR**

OO: **MEMPHIS**

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**
Lab. No. **D-561681 JK**

Examination requested by: **Washington Field Office**

Reference: **Letter 4/26/68**

Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**

Remarks:

**You will be advised separately regarding the results
of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q292.**

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

2 - Washington Field Office (44-703) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

1 - Knoxville (44-696) Enclosure (Lab report)

JHM:jp (10)

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE