

**Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach**  
**RE: MURKIN**

Although Captain Steele concluded that Ray escaped in the bread truck, he pointed out that it would have been necessary for Ray to use a false bottom in the bread box if the bread was neatly stacked as described by two guards. No false bottom was found and Steele raised the question, "Why should the inmate dispose of the false bottom when the bread was mangled beyond use?"

Carmen E. Ramage, Oklahoma City, advised that she is acquainted with Robert Dale Porter who was released from Missouri State Penitentiary, 12/8/67. Porter told Ramage that Ray had not escaped in a bakery truck as reported in the newspapers but had escaped in a guard's uniform which he obtained when he was working in the dry cleaning plant at the prison. Porter said that Ray and the guard had been good friends and that the guard has since been fired. It is noted that one inmate previously interviewed stated that Ray had actually walked out the front door instead of hiding in a bread truck.

**ACTION:**

**Vigorous investigation is continuing to locate Ray as quickly as possible.**

*Handwritten scribbles and signatures at the top right of the page.*

Mr. DeLoach

May 3, 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

*Handwritten note: Kelly 7621*

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

Attached is a photograph of Ray that has just been obtained from the Postal Inspector of Los Angeles. It has been determined from identifying numbers on the back of this Polaroid print that the film was manufactured in August, 1967. The photograph was mailed on or about 2/17/68 to a girl Ray had written through a correspondence club. This is considered the best picture of Ray yet obtained since it shows more detail of the lines and features of his face than previous photographs have shown.

ACTION:

This photograph is being duplicated for wide distribution through field offices and Legats.

Enclosure  
W.L.M.aga  
(14)

RECEIVED DIVISION

RECEIVED DIVISION  
MAY 1 2 1968

RECEIVED  
MAY 1 1968

RECEIVED

MAY 7 12 50 PM '68

PHYSICS & CHEMISTRY  
FBI  
LABORATORY

MAY 7 11 50 AM '68

RECEIVED - CONRAD

MAY 3 2 34 PM '68

FBI  
LABORATORY DIVISION

FBI  
LABORATORY DIVISION

MAY 7 2 40 PM '68

RECEIVED - CONRAD

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

- 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 - Mr. Tele. Room
- 1 - Miss Holmes
- 1 - Miss Gandy

1 - Mr. McGowan, 2712  
~~1 - Mr. Conrad~~  
1 - Mr. Griffith  
1 - Mr. Devine

5/3/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

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

MURKIN

REURAIRTEL MAY TWO SUBMITTING HERTZ RENTAL AGREEMENT  
SIGNED JAMES E. BODKER, LOOK-ALIKE FOR SUBJECT RAY.  
DIFFERENCES NOTED INDICATE THAT BODKER SIGNATURE ON  
RENTAL AGREEMENT NOT EXECUTED BY JAMES EARL RAY, SUBJECT  
IN THIS CASE; HOWEVER, LIMITED NATURE OF QUESTIONED  
WRITING PRECLUDES A DEFINITE OPINION.

LATENT RESULTS FURNISHED SEPARATELY. COPY BEING  
SENT AIRMAIL TO MEMPHIS.

1 - MEMPHIS (44-1987) - Airmail

NOTE FOR MEMPHIS: No Laboratory report will be submitted  
regarding the results of the examination  
set out above.

FMD:taw (7)

Mr. Conrad

May 3, 1968

W. D. Griffith

MURKIN  
CR

The Bureau has received a picture post card postmarked "SAINT PAUL MINN APR 29 '68" addressed to "F.B.I., Washington, D.C." This card is hand printed and handwritten and bears the message "Happy Hunting Sincerely Eric Galt."

It was concluded that the handwriting and hand printing appearing on the post card referred to above were not prepared by James Earl Ray, the subject in this case.

The above described material has been forwarded to the Latent Fingerprint Section for appropriate examination.

Recommendation: None. For information.

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

JHM:AW (7)

1 - Mr. McGowan, 2712  
~~1 - Mr. Conrad~~  
1 - Mr. Griffith  
1 - Mr. Mortimer  
5/3/68

*Jr*

**PLAIN TEXT**

**TELETYPE**

**URGENT**

**TO SAC DENVER (157-203)  
FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN.**

**REDNAIRTEL APRIL TWENTYNINE LAST SUBMITTING  
REGISTRATION CARD OF THE ROCKLAND HOTEL, DENVER, FOR ONE  
SAM MAJEY OR MASEY.**

**DIFFERENCES NOTED INDICATE REGISTRATION CARD NOT  
EXECUTED BY SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY; HOWEVER, LIMITED AND  
DISTORTED NATURE OF HANDWRITING AND HAND PRINTING PRECLUDE  
DEFINITE OPINION.**

**LATENT RESULTS FURNISHED SEPARATELY. COPY BEING  
SENT AIRMAIL TO MEMPHIS.**

**1 - Memphis (44-1987) - Airmail**

**NOTE FOR MEMPHIS: No Laboratory report will be submitted regarding  
the results of the examination set out above.**

**F B I**

**JHM:mb (7)**

**MAY 3 11 20 AM '68**

**RECEIVED - CONRAD**

RECEIVED - CONRAD

MAY 3 11 50 AM '68

F B I  
LABORATORY DIVISION

TO: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) FROM: SAC, PHOENIX (100-100000)

RE: MURKIN (100-100000)

PHOENIX TELETYPE TO NEW YORK, MAY 2, 1968.

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS ADVISED THAT IT HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS

JOHN J. CONRAD, TELEPHONED

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT ON MAY 1, 1968, AND STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MURKIN CASE.

CONRAD STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL WHO OFFERED HIM \$50,000 TO ASSIST IN THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CONRAD STATED THAT HE HAD REFUSED THE OFFER AND WANTED TO REPORT THE MATTER TO THE PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT.

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT

IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER AND HAS ADVISED THAT IT HAS NOT YET IDENTIFIED THE INDIVIDUAL WHO OFFERED CONRAD THE \$50,000.

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT IS CURRENTLY ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE CONRAD AND IS REQUESTING YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS REGARD.

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT (100-100000)

PHOENIX POLICE DEPARTMENT (100-100000)

PHOENIX

PHOENIX

PHOENIX

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
MAY 3 1968  
FBI - PHOENIX




**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 3, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-562090 JK**

Examination requested by: **Omaha**  
Reference: **Airtel 4/30/68**  
Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**  
Remarks:

**You will be separately advised regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q302 and Q303.**

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**  
**2 - Omaha (44-310) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**JHM:AW (10)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE



REPORT  
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

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

Date: **May 3, 1968**

FBI File No. **44-38861**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR**

Lab. No. **D-662090 JK**

Specimens received **5/1/68**

- Q302 White envelope postmarked "OMAHA, NB APR 26 AM" bearing handwritten address "F B I Omaha Neb."**
- Q303 Accompanying sheet of ruled paper bearing handwritten message beginning "James Earle Rays girl..."**

**Result of examination:**

Specimens Q302 and Q303 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 Q302 or Q303.

It was concluded that the questioned writing on these items was not prepared by JAMES EARL RAY, K171 and K211.

The submitted material 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 2, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-580794 JK**

Examination requested by: **Louisville**

Reference: **Airtel 4/13/68**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks: **Specimens received 4/15/68**

**K156 Two Special Attention tags manufactured by Stry-Lenkoff Company, Louisville, Ky.**

**K157 Two color samples of paper used in manufacture of tags by Stry-Lenkoff Company**

**Remarks:**

**Referenced Louisville airtel submitted samples of paper tags obtained from the Stry-Lenkoff Company, Louisville, Kentucky, similar to one of the tags recovered in the Mustang automobile of Galt in Atlanta, Georgia.**

**The specimens have been retained for possible future comparisons.**

**No Laboratory report is being submitted.**

**1 - Louisville (44-947)**

**1 - Chicago (44-1114)**

**JHM:AW (10)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

RECEIVED - CONRAD

MAY 2 12 34 PM '68

FBI  
LABORATORY DIVISION

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION  
MAY 2 10 34 AM '68  
MAY 2 9 29 AM '68

DEPT. OF JUSTICE

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED



**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 2, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561800 JK**

Examination requested by: **Los Angeles**  
Reference: **Airtel 4/25/68**  
Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**  
Remarks:

**You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q296 and Q297.**

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)  
2 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**JHM:AW (10)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

**REPORT  
of the**



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

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

Date: **May 2, 1968**

FBI File No. **44-38861**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR**

Lab. No. **D-561889 JK**

Specimens received **4/30/68**

**Q296 White envelope postmarked "LOS ANGELES CALIF. PM 24  
APR 1968" bearing typewritten address "FBI 1340 West  
6th Street Los Angeles, Calif."**

**Q297 Piece of paper to which is attached a mailing address  
sticker for "Mr. Eric S. Galt 1535 N. Serrano L. A.  
90027"**

**Result of examination:**

**Specimens Q296 and Q297 were searched through the  
appropriate sections of the Anonymous Letter File but could  
not be identified with any prior submissions to this file.**

**The typewritten impressions on Q296 and Q297 differ  
from each other and from those impressions appearing on items  
received in this case attributed to Eric S. Galt.**

**Q296 and Q297 are temporarily retained. Photographs  
were made.**



**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 1, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561288 JK**  
**PC-A5960 IZ**

Examination requested by: **Los Angeles**

Reference: **Airtel 4/12/68**

Examination requested: **Document - Microscopic**

Remarks:

**In view of the elimination of Jerome Vernon as a suspect in this matter, the items designated in the attached report as K207 and ALSO SUBMITTED were not treated for latent fingerprints.**

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**2 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**JHM:AW (10)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

**REPORT  
of the****FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**Date: **May 1, 1968**Re: **MURKIN  
CR**FBI File No. **44-38861**Lab. No. **D-561288 JK  
PC-A5960 IZ**Specimens received **4/22/68**

**K207 Laundry list No. 3065, containing one sample laundry tape obtained from Home Service Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Los Angeles, California**

**ALSO SUBMITTED: Spiral notebook, ledger sheets, tablet and University Notebook all containing laundry records**

**Result of examination:**

**The K207 laundry tape is similar to the Q69 and Q70 laundry tapes in color, construction and composition. The K207 tape measures 1/4 inch by 1 1/8 inches. The Q69 and Q70 tapes measure 1/4 inch by 1 1/16 inches.**

**The size of type and printing characteristics of K207 are similar to those on Q69, Q70 and K10 indicating that all may have been prepared by the same machine. The lack of significant identifying features precluded a definite conclusion from being reached.**

**The submitted material is temporarily retained.**



1 - Mr. Rosen  
(Mr. Long 2360)  
1 - Mr. Conrad  
1 - Mr. Mortimer  
1 - Lab File

*gr*

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

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

Date: **May 1, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561772 JK  
D-561773 JK  
D-561774 JK**

Examination requested by: **Tampa, San Francisco**

Reference: **4/26/68, Airtels**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

**Enclosures (2) (3 Lab report)**

**1 - San Francisco (173-65) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**1 - Tampa (157-3231) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**JHM:AW (10)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE



**REPORT  
of the****FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**Date: **May 1, 1968**Re: **MURKIN  
CR**FBI File No. **44-38861**Lab. No. **D-561772 JK  
D-561773 JK  
D-561774 JK**Specimens received **4/27/68, from FBI, Tampa****K208 Four sheets of ruled paper each containing samples of laundry tapes obtained from four Thermo-Seal machines located at Oak Park Cleaners, Tampa, Florida**Specimen received **4/29/68, from FBI, San Francisco****K209 Three pieces of white cloth containing sample of laundry tapes obtained from Economy Cleaners, San Carlos, California (three different Thermo-Seal machines)**Specimen received **4/28/68, from FBI, San Francisco****K210 Four pieces of cloth containing a total of sixteen laundry tapes obtained from Deluxe Laundry, Oakland, California****Result of examination:**

**It was concluded that the questioned laundry tapes appearing on Q97 and Q99 were not prepared by the machine with serial number 30942 (a portion of K210) or the machine with serial number 32667 (a portion of K209). Differences were noted between the questioned laundry tags and the other known specimens but the lack of significant differences precluded a definite opinion from being reached.**

**The submitted items described above have been retained.**

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



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

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

Date: **May 1, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-661887 JK  
D-661888 JK  
D-661817 JK**

Examination requested by: **Tampa, Charlotte,  
Jacksonville**

Reference:

Examination requested: **Airtels, 4/26/68  
Document**

Remarks:

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**1 - Tampa (157-3231) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**1 - Charlotte (44-1265) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**1 - Jacksonville (44-769) Enclosure (Lab report)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

**JHM:AW (11)**

**REPORT  
of the****FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535****To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)****Date: May 1, 1968****Re: MURKIN  
CR****FBI File No. 44-38861****Lab. No. D-561857 JK  
D-561858 JK  
D-561817 JK****Specimens received 4/29/68, from FBI, Jacksonville****K212 Piece of cloth containing fourteen samples of laundry  
tape obtained from Tillman Laundry and Cleaners,  
Jacksonville, Florida****Specimen received 4/29/68, from FBI, Charlotte****K213 Eight sample laundry tapes obtained from two  
Thermo-Seal machines located at Canton Laundry,  
Canton, North Carolina****Specimen received 4/29/68, from FBI, Tampa****K214 Three sample laundry tapes obtained from Winter Park  
Laundry, Winter Park, Florida****Result of examination:**

**Differences were noted between the laundry tags represented by K212, K213 and K214 when compared with the laundry tags appearing on Q97 and Q99, but the lack of significant characteristics precluded a definite determination regarding these specimens.**

**K212, K213 and K 14 have been retained.**



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

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

*Jr*

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

Date: **May 1, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561775 JK**

Examination requested by: **Kansas City**

Reference: **Airtel 4/27/68**

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**2 - Kansas City (44-760) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**1 - Birmingham (44-1740) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**1 - Atlanta (44-2386) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**1 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**JHM:AW (13) ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE**

RECEIVED - CONRAD

APR 30 5 22 PM '68

F B I  
LABORATORY DIVISION

**REPORT  
of the****FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**Date: **May 1, 1968**Re: **MURKIN  
CR**FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561775 JK**Specimens received **4/29/68**

**K211 Various documents comprising thirty-four pieces of paper bearing purported known handwriting and hand printing of JAMES EARL RAY, obtained from his file at Missouri State Penitentiary**

**Result of examination:**

**It was concluded that the questioned hand printing appearing on items attributed to Eric S. Galt was prepared by JAMES EARL RAY, K171 and K211.**

**Because of the presence of characteristics which cannot be explained on the basis of the known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY, it cannot be definitely determined whether the "Harvey Lowmyer" signature on Q72 was prepared by this individual; however, significant handwriting similarities were noted.**

**Specimen K211 has been photographed and is temporarily retained.**

*J*



**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: **April 30, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561771 JK**

Examination requested by: **Los Angeles**  
Reference: **Airtel 4/26/68**  
Examination requested: **Document - Fingerprint**  
Remarks:

**You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q293 and Q294.**

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**  
**2 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**JHM:AW (10)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

RECEIVED - CONRAD

APR 30 11 10 AM '68

F B I  
LABORATORY DIVISION

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INDEXED - 1  
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**REPORT  
of the****FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535**To: **FBI, Memphis (44-1987)**Date: **April 30, 1968**Re: **MURKIN  
CR**FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561771 JK**Specimens received **4/29/68**

**Q293** Air Mail envelope postmarked "LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 4B  
PM 26 FEB 1968" bearing typewritten address "TIFFANY  
ENTERPRISES. 8512 WHITWORTH DR. LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.  
90035 " and typewritten return address "ERIC S. GALT  
5533-HOLLYWOOD, BLVD. HOLLYWOOD: CALIF. 90028."

**Q294** Accompanying sheet of paper bearing typewritten message  
dated 2/26/68, signed "Eric S. Galt"

**Result of examination:**

The typewritten impressions appearing on Q293 and Q294 are the same style as those appearing on items previously submitted in this case attributed to Eric S. Galt. Because of the lack of identifying defects, it could not be definitely determined whether the same typewriter was used in preparing Q293 and Q294 and the other items submitted, but no significant differences were noted.

It was concluded that the "Eric S. Galt" signature on Q294 was prepared by the writer of the signature in this name appearing on numerous other specimens previously received.

Q293 and Q294 are temporarily retained. Photographs were made.

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



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

*Jr*

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

Date: **April 30, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561749 JK  
D-561745 JK  
D-561711 JK**

Examination requested by: **Oklahoma City, Phoenix,  
Dallas**  
Reference: **Airtels, 4/24/68, 4/25/68,  
4/25/68**  
Examination requested: **Document**  
Remarks:

- Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**
- 1 - Oklahoma City (44 - 686) Enclosure (Lab report)**
- 1 - Phoenix (44-371) Enclosure (Lab report)**
- 1 - Dallas (44-2649) Enclosure (Lab report)**

**JHM:AW (11)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

**REPORT  
of the**



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

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

Date: **April 30, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR**

FBI File No. **44-38861**

Lab. No. **D-561749 JK**

**D-561745 JK**

**D-561711 JK**

Specimens received **4/26/68, from FBI, Oklahoma City**

**K202 Piece of white cloth containing nine yellow laundry tapes obtained from Clinton Laundry and Cleaners, Clinton, Oklahoma**

**K203 Two pieces of white paper, one containing three sample laundry tapes and the other containing ten sample laundry tapes from Stillwater Laundry, Stillwater, Oklahoma**

Specimen received **4/26/68, from FBI, Dallas**

**K204 Three pieces of white cloth containing a total of ten yellow sample laundry tapes obtained from White Star Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Dallas, Texas**

Specimens received **4/26/68, from FBI, Phoenix**

**K205 White handkerchief containing nine sample laundry tapes obtained from Glover Cleaners and Laundry, Tucson, Arizona**

**K206 Fifteen sample laundry tapes obtained from Varsity Cleaners and Laundry, Tucson, Arizona**

**Result of examination:**

It was concluded that the machine used to print specimen **K206** was not used to imprint either of the marks appearing on **Q97** or **Q99**.

Page 1 (continued on next page)

JHM:AW (11)

The spacing on specimens represented by K202 through K205 differs from that on the laundry marks appearing on Q97 and Q99 indicating the questioned tapes may not have been prepared on any of the machines used to prepare K202 through K205. The limited nature of the questioned material involved precluded a definite determination from being reached.

K202 through K206 have been retained.

Page 2  
D-561749 JK  
D-561745 JK  
D-561711 JK

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



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

*Jr*

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

Date: **April 30, 1968**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR  
OO: Memphis**

*J. Edgar Hoover*  
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. **44-38861**  
Lab. No. **D-561680 JK**

Examination requested by: **San Antonio**

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

Examination requested: **Document**

Remarks:

**Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**2 - San Antonio (44-1942) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)**

**JHM:AW (10)**

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

RECEIVED - CONRAD

APR 29 4 34 PM '68

F B I  
LABORATORY DIVISION

APR 29 1968  
FBI LABORATORY DIVISION

**REPORT  
of the**



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

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

Date: **April 30, 1968**

FBI File No. **44-38861**

Re: **MURKIN  
CR**

Lab. No. **D-561680 JK**

Specimens received **4/26/68**

**K201 Six sample laundry tapes and four samples of cloth  
obtained from White Star Laundry, San Antonio, Texas**

**Result of examination:**

**It was concluded that the machine used to prepare  
the laundry tapes comprising K201 was not used in the  
preparation of the laundry tapes appearing on Q69, Q70, Q97  
and Q99.**

**K201 has been retained.**

1 - Mr. McCowan, 271Z  
1 - Mr. Conrad  
1 - Mr. Griffith  
1 - Mr. Devine

4/29/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN, CR

RELAIRTEL APRIL TWENTY-FIVE LAST SUBMITTING BUSINESS  
CARD BEARING HANDWRITING "WILLIAM JUNEAU SIX EIGHT EIGHT  
TWO THREE EIGHT NINE CECIL HOTEL, SIX FOUR ZERO S. MAIN ST."  
JUNEAU CONSIDERED LOOK-ALIKE FOR SUBJECT RAY.

LACK OF COMPARABLE MATERIAL AND LIMITED NATURE OF WRITING  
ON BUSINESS CARD PRECLUDED DEFINITE OPINION WHETHER THIS  
WRITING PREPARED BY JAMES EARL RAY, HOWEVER, SOME HANDWRITING  
DIFFERENCES NOTED IN WRITING ON BUSINESS CARD WHEN COMPARED  
WITH AVAILABLE WRITING OF RAY.

LATENT RESULTS FURNISHED SEPARATELY. COPY BEING SENT  
AIRMAIL TO MEMPHIS.

1 - MEMPHIS (44-1987) - Airmail

NOTE FOR MEMPHIS: No Laboratory report will be submitted  
regarding the results of the examination  
set out above.

FMD:taw (7)



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

To: FBI, Memphis

Date: April 11, 1968

Re: MURKIN

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. PC-A5505 BX IZ

Specimens analyzed personally delivered on 4-8-68 by SA Robert Fitzpatrick,  
Memphis

Q69 Undershorts  
Q70 T shirt  
Q71 Board from windowsill in bathroom

## Results of examination:

The undershorts and the 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.

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.

No hairs were found on the undershorts or T shirt.

The Q71 board bears a recent dent which could have been produced by a light blow from the muzzle of a weapon such as the Remington rifle, Serial Number 461476

previously submitted in this case. The dent contains microscopic marks of the type which could be produced by the side of the barrel at the muzzle but insufficient marks for identification were left on the board due to the physical nature of the wood. The microscopic marks present are different from the type which would be produced by the duck-bill pliers or tack hammer which were in the blue zipper bag previously submitted. No other marks were found on the board.

No gunpowder or gunpowder residues were found on the Q71 board.

No wood, paint, aluminum or other foreign material was found on the rifle barrel nor were any significant marks found on the rifle barrel.

# Memorandum



Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:  
 Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Insp. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lab. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Off. Cong. &  
 Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rec. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

To *JCC* Mr. Cook

Date April 12, 1984

From *S* S. I. Wiles

Subject: **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)  
 REQUEST OF HAROLD WEISBERG FOR RECORDS CONCERNING THE  
 ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (MURKIN)**

**PURPOSE:** To place on record ticklers of the Laboratory Division pertaining to the Murkin investigation and have them made a permanent part of Bufile 44-38861.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Laboratory Division Murkin ticklers be made an enclosure to this memorandum and maintained as a bulky exhibit to Bufile 44-38861, inasmuch as they have been reviewed under the FOIA and portions made public through litigation with captioned requester.

DE-220 44-38861-6380

**DETAILS:** Ticklers maintained by the Laboratory Division pertaining to the Murkin investigation were reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the FOIA, and portions were released to requester, Harold Weisberg, by letter dated February 21, 1980. The review was made at the behest of Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., former Director of the Office of Privacy and Information Appeals, Department of Justice, who was at that time conducting a Second Administrative Appeal Review of the FBI's FOIA processing of Murkin and related documents. This second review was ordered by District Judge June L. Green in Harold Weisberg v. U. S. Department of Justice U.S.D.C., D.C; C.A. No. 75-1996. Three of the denied documents became the subjects of further litigation when Judge Green ordered them

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3-1-77

To: SAC, Albany

From: Director, FBI

BUREAUWIDE INFORMATION PROGRAM, 77-5

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT  
ON FBI INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Attached is a copy of a three-page news release which was made by Attorney General Griffin B. Bell on 2/18/77 pertaining to the report prepared by the Department of Justice Task Force which conducted a review of our security investigation, as well as our investigation regarding the assassination, of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There also is attached a copy of the Task Force's report, together with its exhibits. Copies of this report, including its exhibits, have been made available to news media by the Department of Justice.

I have made the following statement in response to inquiries regarding the Task Force's report which have been received at FBIHQ:

"I noted with great satisfaction the conclusions of the task force that the FBI's assassination probe of the Martin Luther King slaying was 'credible and thorough'; that there was no evidence of a conspiracy; and that the report clearly indicates no complicity on the part of the FBI in this assassination.

Enclosures (2)

1 - All Field Offices - Enclosures (2)  
1 - Each Legat - Enclosures (2)

1 - Mr. Held - Enclosures (2)  
1 - Mr. Adams - Enclosures (2)  
1 - Mr. McDermott - Enclosures (2)  
1 - All Assistant Directors - Enclosures (2)

GWG:slr (35)

100-114 (37)

- 1 - Mr. Tolson - Washington (3)
- 1 - Mr. DeLoach - Washington (3)
- 1 - Mr. Mohr - Washington (3)
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - Washington (3)

- 1 - Mr. Casper - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Callahan - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Conrad - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Felt - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Gale - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Rosen - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Tavel - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Trotter - Washington (1)
- 1 - Mr. Tele. Room - Washington (1)
- 1 - Miss Holmes - Washington (1)
- 1 - Miss Gandy - Washington (1)

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 MAR 4 3 03 PM '71  
 FBI STSD

ON THE BASIS OF THE FACTS SET FORTH IN THE ABOVE  
 REPORT, IT IS THE OPINION OF THE LABORATORY THAT THE  
 SAMPLES SUBMITTED WERE IDENTICAL TO THE SAMPLES  
 OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED CASE. THE LABORATORY HAS  
 BEEN ADVISED THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED CASE IS  
 CURRENTLY BEING HANDLED BY THE FBI.

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 ANALYSIS

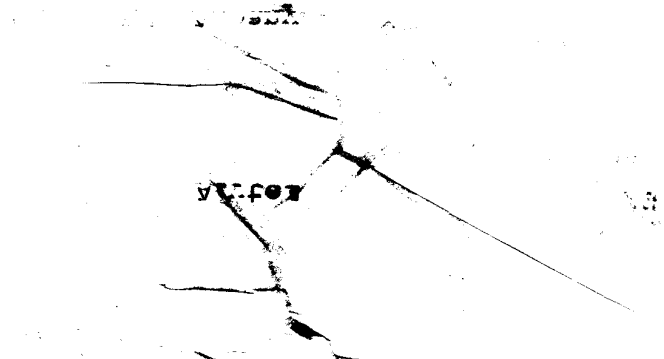
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 CURRENTLY BEING HANDLED BY THE FBI.

DR. MURPHY  
 FBI LABORATORY  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

LABORATORY OF FORENSIC SCIENCE  
 FBI



Airtel to SAC, Albany

RE: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT  
ON FBI INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"There are portions of the report which describe objectionable actions on the part of the FBI.

"Guidelines, procedures and our determination to be completely observant of civil rights and the dignity of man will prevent a recurrence of these activities."

If requested to comment regarding any of the conclusions of the Task Force or concerning the contents of its report, you should feel free to quote my above-cited statement. However, you should not expand on my statement or volunteer observations of your own.

In addition, you should not hesitate to refer news media representatives who make inquiries about matters covered in the Task Force report to the Press Services Unit (Ext. 3691) of the External Affairs Division.

Should you receive inquiries regarding the availability of copies of the Task Force report, you should state that the report was released by the Department of Justice and that the FBI has been advised that copies of the report are being printed and will be available for purchase through the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.



# Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1977

AG  
202-739-2028

The FBI conducted a thorough investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Department of Justice task force concluded in a report released today by Attorney General Griffin B. Bell.

The 149-page report was submitted by the task force of the Office of Professional Responsibility following an eight-month intensive review of FBI files and interview of witnesses. The purpose of the study was to examine FBI activities involving Dr. King and to evaluate the effectiveness of the assassination investigation.

The report concluded that the FBI had conducted a painstaking and successful investigation of the 1968 assassination in Memphis, Tennessee.

The task force also found no evidence of FBI complicity in the murder.

The only new evidence that was developed related to details that did not affect the ultimate conclusion that James Earl Ray was the properly convicted murderer.

The task force of five attorneys and two research analysts reviewed more than 200,000 documents from FBI Headquarters and Field Office files and interviewed some 40 witnesses in its study of the King case.

On April 26, 1976, then Attorney General Edward H. Levi directed the Office of Professional Responsibility, headed by Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., to review Department files to determine:

(1) Whether the FBI investigation of Dr. King's murder on April 4, 1968, at Memphis, Tennessee, was thorough and honest;

(2) Whether there was any evidence of FBI involvement in Dr. King's death;

(3) Whether any new evidence had come to the attention of the Department bearing on the assassination which should be dealt with by the proper authorities; and

(4) Whether the relationship between the FBI and Dr. King called for criminal prosecution, disciplinary proceedings, or other appropriate action.

After reviewing the murder investigation, the task force turned to the pre-assassination security investigation of Dr. King. The task force found that there may have been an arguable basis for the FBI to initiate a security investigation on Dr. King, but continued that the security investigation should have been ended in 1963 and not continued until his death five years later.



The FBI's COINTELPRO-type harassment of Dr. King and efforts to drive him out of the civil rights movement were found to have been clearly improper.

Mr. Shaheen's report concluded that any criminal action against FBI participants in the harassment campaign was barred by the statute of limitations. The task force recommended no disciplinary action because the chief FBI officials responsible for the harassment are dead or retired.

The task force submitted recommendations for tighter supervision of the FBI's domestic intelligence activities and endorsed the Department's new guidelines in this area. The task force also proposed outright prohibition of COINTELPRO-type activities against domestic intelligence subjects.