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Page 77

JK 44-769

TJW:cag

3

with negative results.

Leading newspapers, radio and television stations were contacted April 17, 1968, and furnished a press release regarding the Federal complaint filed against ERIC STARVO GALT, and available photographs furnished to them. Contact has been maintained with all mass communications' media in the Jacksonville Division, to insure frequent communications with this case and photographs of subject have been made available to them.

Criminal informants and appropriate racial and security informants have been contacted.

As previously reported, Thermo-Seal Tapes were found on a pillow case and bed sheets in the trunk of the 1966 white mustang registered to ERIC STARVO GALT. All laundries in the Jacksonville Division, determined to be operating Thermo-Seal Marking Machines, were contacted in an effort to locate a laundry using a similar code, with no positive information being obtained.

On April 29, 1968, LEO BARNETT, Age 37, from Flat River, Missouri, and presently incarcerated at the Florida State Prison, Raiford, Florida, advised SA THOMAS J. WALSH he knew JAMES EARL RAY in the Missouri State Prison, from about 1962, until August 1, 1966, however, not well. He said RAY was in a different cell block than he, and RAY worked in the kitchen while BARNETT worked in the Soap Factory. BARNETT ordinarily only saw RAY approximately once a week. He met him through a mutual friend, BILLY MILES, and only associated with RAY because of MILES, who is presently at New Pennitentiary, Moberly, Missouri. BARNETT recalled RAY as quiet, not saying much, and bothering nobody. He described him as a loner with no close friends and as having a bad nervous condition and a definite mental problem. RAY, in his opinion, was taking powdered

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amphetamine while in prison and although he had no knowledge of the amount RAY was using, he suspected it was a great quantity during the times when the supply was available and on other occasions, none, due to weight loss and gains of RAY from 10 to 15 pounds over short periods of time. BARNETT noted that amphetamine taken in quantities would produce a substantial rapid weight loss. According to BARNETT the supply of amphetamine prior to 1964 was readily available at \$5 a shot or less. After 1964, amphetamine was very scarce, however, was available and the price remained at \$5 a shot. BARNETT recalled that in 1964, three Negroes were killed in the Missouri State Penitentiary, however, he was certain RAY was not involved in this killing since BARNETT was aware of those actually involved. The only place BARNETT heard RAY speak of was Raytown near Kansas City, Missouri. BARNETT said he found it hard to believe RAY could be completely responsible for the killing of KING since he was of the impression RAY was too stupid and would not have enough initiative.

Other than MILES, the only other individual that BARNETT knew that would know RAY well would be LOUIE "WHITEY" DALTA.

A review of the files of the Jacksonville Office was made in an effort to locate a vehicle recovered in the Jacksonville Division that had been stolen from the State of Georgia, subsequent to March 23, 1968, and recovered subsequent to April 4, 1968, that may have been utilized by subject RAY. Agents further doublechecked law enforcement agencies in the Jacksonville Division to be certain all Georgia cars found abandoned had been reported.

On April 30, 1968, photographs and information regarding JAMES EARL RAY were furnished to the State

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Beverage Department, who volunteered to make a copy available to each of its district offices so their agents would be familiar with the photograph of RAY when they made their daily contacts in bars throughout the State.

Subscribers to telephone numbers receiving calls from coin telephones along the route taken by RAY for December 15, 1967, through December 17, 1967, were contacted. There was no indication RAY had called any of these subscribers.

On April 30, 1968, law enforcement officers maintaining unidentified latent fingerprints in connection with matters under their jurisdiction were requested to compare these latents with fingerprints of JAMES EARL RAY.

Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 3-31-67)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC,

☐ Albany
☐ Albuquerque
☐ 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
☐ St. Louis
☐ Salt Lake City
☐ San Antonio
☐ San Diego
☐ San Francisco
☐ San Juan
☐ Savannah
☐ Seattle
☐ Springfield

☐ Tampa
☐ Washington Field
☐ Quantico

TO LEGAT:

☐ Bern
☐ Bonn
☐ Buenos Aires
☐ Hong Kong
☐ London
☐ Manila
☐ Mexico, D.F.
☐ Ottawa
☐ Paris
☐ Rome
☐ Santo Domingo
☐ Tokyo

Date May 3, 1968

RE:

MURKIN

☐ 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:

Enclosed are copies of another
photograph taken of James Earl Ray, aka
Eric S. Galt in Fall of 1967.

Enc. 5
Bufile (44-38861)
Urfile

*Place
in
1-A*

44-769-384

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 6 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Jacksonville, Florida
May 14, 1968

Gentlemen:

Enclosed is a mat and proof and two additional photographs of James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee, sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, in connection with the gunshot slaying of Civil Rights leader Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Ray is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

Photograph #1, taken in 1968, should bear the caption, "James Earl Ray," and is the photograph of Ray in dark glasses.

Photograph #2 should bear the caption, "James Earl Ray," and was taken in 1968. This is the head shot of Ray in a business suit.

The FBI is requesting the assistance of the nation's press in bringing about the prompt apprehension of this badly sought fugitive.

Your cooperation in this matter and other matters of mutual interest are deeply appreciated by me.

Very truly yours,

Robert E. Gebhardt
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures: 4

*Sent all news
Media
5/14/68*

44-769-385

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Albany

DATE: May 20, 1968

JW
FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MURKIN
PUBLICITY ON REWARDS OFFERED

Each Special Agent in Charge and Legal Attache is instructed to promptly remind their established cooperative news sources, in a discreet and tactful manner, of the existence of substantial reward money for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King. This money now totals at least \$100,000. The FBI should not, however, be publicized as the source of this reminder.

While the Bureau's continuing policy is to encourage the public to furnish information to law enforcement authorities as a matter of good citizenship, without expectation of financial reward, it is fully recognized that monetary rewards are often necessary to motivate some individuals. The knowledge of the existence of the substantial rewards available in the Murkin case could possibly prove of value in the solution of this major investigation.

1 - Copies to all Special Agents in Charge and Legats



5010-108

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

DECODED COPY

☒ Radio

"U R G E N T"

☐ Teletype MAY 21, 1968

TO: ALL FIELD DIVISIONS

FROM: DIRECTOR, F.B.I.

MURKIN.

INASMUCH AS RAY IS KNOWN TO STAY AT "FLOPHOUSES" AND LOWER CLASS ROOMING HOUSES, ALL OFFICES WILL FURNISH COPY OF IDENTIFICATION ORDER REGARDING RAY TO SALVATION ARMY AND OTHER CHARITABLE TYPE MISSION ALL OFFICES COVERING STATE CAPITALS, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, WILL AT DRIVERS LICENSE BUREAUS CHECK ALL DRIVERS LICENS APPLICATIONS FOR MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY, 1968, CONCERNING ALL MALE CAUCASIANS OVER 30 YEARS OF AGE AND UNDER 55 YEARS, IN VIEW OF FACT IT IS POSSIBLE SUBJECT SECURED DRIVERS LICENSE USING ANOTHER NAME OTHER THAN ALIASES KNOWN. AS RESULT OF REVIEWING THESE APPLICATIONS, YOU SHOULD CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF ANY SUCH INDIVIDUAL IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.

XM ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

TOR: 3:59 PM 5-22-68 JKA

CODE: JC.

44-769-388

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 22 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

FROM : SPC JASPER L. CARTER, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 5/22/68

76-1108*

MR. LONG, Division 6, Bureau, telephonically contacted the office this date in reference to DONALD JAMES NISSEN. He advised that a name check at the Bureau on NISSEN reveals that NISSEN is subject of a Parole violation case with Phoenix origin. He advised that NISSEN is possibly bureau fugitive in this case. He stated that ~~Jax~~ Jacksonville's file number on NISSEN is 76-1108. He advised that he was calling to advise this office of this in view of possibility NISSEN in Panama City. Mr. LONG was advised that an airtel was sent this date concerning this matter and that NISSEN is not presently in Panama City but possibly in Reno, Nevada. He was advised that a lead was set out for Las Vegas to ascertain if NISSEN could be located and interviewed at Reno. He was further advised that according to Jacksonville file 76-1108, NISSEN not fugitive at this time in it.

Mr. LONG suggested that Jacksonville send copy of airtel to Phoenix for their information.

JDC/jlc



5010-108-01

44-769-388

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 22 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

Done

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

JK 44-769

He stated the name of the unit is the Auto Safety Control and the company office is located in Reno, Nevada.

Investigation by the Jacksonville Division at Panama City, Florida, has determined that as of 5/16/68, the files of the Bay County SO and the Panama City PD failed to reflect any information concerning DONALD JAMES NISSEN.

On 5/16/68, Mrs. MARY HUCKABEE, Credit Bureau of Panama City, advised the only information in her files concerning DONALD JAMES NISSEN is a notation indicating that as of January, 1966, he was residing at 5612 East Highway 98, which is the address for the Paradise Trailer Park.

On 5/20/68, ERNEST L. THRONE, Operator, Paradise Trailer Park, 5612 East Highway 98, advised that his records are not available prior to 1/67, and that he has no record of DONALD JAMES NISSEN having ever residing at the Paradise Trailer Park.

On 5/20/68, D. R. HINTON, JR., Manager, Gulf Power Company, Panama City, Florida, advised that his files contained no record of DONALD JAMES NISSEN.

LEADS

LAS VEGAS

AT RENO, NEVADA

Will locate DONALD JAMES NISSEN through the company offices of Auto Safety Control and interview him for any information he may have obtained regarding the alleged offer to kill KING since NISSEN's release from jail on 6/19/67.

For the information of the Las Vegas Office, the Jackson Office, in 7/67, advised the WKKKK were in bad financial strait, having a difficult time raising enough money to defend members of this organization after their arrest.

Information copy being furnished to Jackson inasmuch as present investigation being conducted by that Division.

5/22/68

PLAINTEXT

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: Memphis)

Re Dallas airtel to Bureau 5/1/68 regarding alleged offer of \$100,000 by White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKKK) Jackson, Mississippi, to anyone who kills MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and Atlanta airtel to Bureau dated 5/6/68.

Enclosed for Las Vegas is one copy each of Dallas airtel to Bureau dated 5/6/67, Kansas City airtel to Bureau 7/21/67, and Dallas airtel to Bureau 5/1/68, which are background information.

By communication dated 5/8/68, Atlanta advised that on 5/6/68, Mr. J. B. McWHORTER, Spencer International Press, Atlanta, Georgia, advised DONALD JAMES NISSEN is no longer employed by that company, having left approximately 12/67, to go to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he was employed by the Americana Encyclopedia Company. McWHORTER stated he recently learned that NISSEN is working in Panama City, Florida, selling a safety device which operates as a gyroscope.

3-Bureau
2-Las Vegas (Enc. 3)
1-Jackson (DATE 2-5-75)
2-Memphis (44-1987)
2-Jacksonville
WLB/sal
(10) eal

CONSOLIDATED:
INITIALS 18

ICC in 76-1108

44-769-389

Searched _____
Serialized fr
Indexed fr
Filed fr

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769

252

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for.

200

70

389