

5/23/69

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987) (3P)

MURKIN.

SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY HAS BEEN RETURNED TO THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL AT MEMPHIS, TENN., FROM THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON AT NASHVILLE, TENN., FOR A HEARING ON MAY TWENTYSIX NEXT ON HIS MOTION FOR A NEW TRIAL.

JERRY RAY WAS DISCOVERED BY BUAGENTS TODAY VISITING THE SUBJECT AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL. AS JERRY RAY WAS LEAVING THE JAIL, HE WAS APPROACHED IN THE CORRIDOR BY BUAGENTS WHO REQUESTED THAT HE ACCOMPANY THEM TO SOME PLACE SUITABLE FOR INTERVIEW. JERRY AGREED TO GO WITH THE AGENTS INTO ONE OF THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT OFFICES, AND AS JERRY AND BUAGENTS WERE ENTERING THIS OFFICE, THEY WERE JOINED BY THE SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY'S ATTORNEY, J. B. STONER. STONER REFERRED TO THE BUREAU AS THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INTEGRATION AND ADVISED

Airtel JERRY NOT TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS. INTERVIEWING AGENTS

- Teletype 1 - Birmingham (AM)
- 1 - Chicago (AM)
- A.M. 1 - Kansas City (AM)
- 1 - Savannah (AM)
- A.M.S.D. 1 - St. Louis (AM)

JCH:jap

Spec. Del (6)

Reg. Mail

Registered

44-760-1309

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 23 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe *RAA*

5/23/69

ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

REMINDED JERRY THAT HE HAD BEEN WIDELY QUOTED IN THE NEWSPAPERS AS HAVING SAID THAT JAMES EARL RAY WAS A PART OF A CONSPIRACY TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING. JERRY WAS ADVISED THAT IF HE HAS ANY INFORMATION OF A CONSPIRACY HE SHOULD TURN IT OVER TO THE FBI. STONER AGAIN ADVISED JERRY RAY NOT TO TALK, AND JERRY RAY THEN SAID HIS INFORMATION WOULD BEST BE GIVEN AT A TRIAL. JERRY WAS REMINDED THAT AT THIS TIME THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THERE WILL BE A TRIAL, AND JERRY RAY WAS ASKED IF BY THE TERM TRIAL HE MEANT HE INTENDED TO TESTIFY BEFORE A GRAND JURY. STONER AGAIN CAUTIONED RAY NOT TO TALK AND SAID HE IS CONVINCED JAMES EARL RAY WILL BE GIVEN A TRIAL FOR THE KILLING OF KING.

AS THE AGENTS TURNED TO LEAVE STONER AND RAY, STONER CALLED OUT TO THE AGENTS TO "BE GOOD" AND TO "PROTECT ALL THE NIGGERS." MOMENTS LATER RAY AND STONER WERE OBSERVED TALKING TO A REPORTER FROM ONE OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPERS.

NO FURTHER CONTACT IS CONTEMPLATED WITH EITHER JERRY RAY OR WITH STONER.

ME 44-1987

PAGE THREE

SAC AT MEMPHIS HAS RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM LOCAL NEWS REPORTER. REPORTER WANTED TO CONFIRM THAT AGENT HAD BEEN IN CONTACT WITH JERRY RAY AND WANTED TO KNOW WHAT MATTERS HAD BEEN DISCUSSED. REPORTER WAS ADVISED THAT NO COMMENT COULD BE MADE BY THE SAC RE THIS MATTER. SAC DID CONFIRM THAT AGENT BY THE NAME OF JOE C. HESTER IS ASSIGNED TO THIS OFFICE, BUT DECLINED FURTHER COMMENT RE NATURE OF INTERVIEW. REPORTER DID HAVE NAME OF AGENT, WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM HIS EDITOR. NO OTHER INQUIRIES RECEIVED, HOWEVER, MEMPHIS DIVISION WILL CONTINUE WITH NO COMMENT IN REGARD TO INQUIRIES FROM NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS REPRESENTATIVES.

AM COPIES TO BIRMINGHAM, CHICAGO, KANSAS CITY, SAVANNAH, AND ST. LOUIS. P. END.

SAC (44-760)

6/11/69

SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD -P-

MURKIN

Re Indianapolis letter to Kansas City 4/30/69
and Kansas City letter to Memphis 3/7/69.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD:

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:

On 5/21/69 FRED ALEXANDER MICHELSON, Inmate,
U.S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, #85514-L, advised that he
served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson
City, Missouri, with ~~NAMES~~ EARL RAY. He stated that in
order to tell his knowledge of RAY it would take a long time
and that he also knew valuable information regarding the
assassinations of President and Senator KENNEDY. He stated
that he has written a book on the three cases and that since
he has such extensive knowledge it would take an exceptional
amount of time to discuss them. He stated that he is
currently attempting to obtain a furlough from the prison
to visit his ill mother in Liberty, Missouri, and that
if this furlough were granted he would talk to FBI Agents
while he was in Liberty, Missouri, visiting his sick mother.

On 5/29/69 CARL F. ZARTER, Administrative Assistant,
U.S. States Penitentiary, furnished the following record for
MICHELSON:

Name	FRED ALEXANDER MICHELSON
USP #	85514-L
FBI #	2914E

The record indicates that MICHELSON was sentenced
on 2/17/69 in Kansas City, Kansas, to serve 6 years for
interstate transportation of false securities.

WAW:jlh
(2)

44-1760-1310

[Handwritten initials]

[Handwritten initials]

KC 44-760

It is noted that the case worker's analysis indicates that MICHELSON has a tendency to exaggerate his abilities and that he was for one year in a mental institution and that he had a "sociopathic personality with alcoholism". The record stated that MICHELSON is not insane or mentally incompetent but tends to exaggerate very greatly. He claimed to have 3 years of college but investigation revealed that he has had only one night course. He talks at length and claims to have written a book about history with a "mathematics theory in conjunction with it".

In view of the apparent attempt of MICHELSON to use the FBI to obtain a furlough and his questionable mental competence, it is recommended that no further contacts be made with him.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760)

DATE: 6/11/69

FROM : SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD -P-

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Indianapolis letter to Kansas City 4/30/69
and Kansas City letter to Memphis 3/7/69.

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and that he also knew valuable information regarding the
assassinations of President and Senator KENNEDY. He stated
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he has such extensive knowledge it would take an exceptional
amount of time to discuss them. He stated that he is
currently attempting to obtain a furlough from the prison
to visit his ill mother in Liberty, Missouri, and that
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WAW:jlh
(2)



5010-108

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

KC 44-760

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6/24/69

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, BUTTE (173-2) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN ✓
CR
OO: Memphis

ReBuairtel to Butte, 4/23/69, and myairtel,
5/2/69.

Investigation has been conducted by the Butte Division to locate MORRIS R. McCARVER in the Idaho Falls, Idaho, area for the purpose of getting written permission from him to review his hospital records at Topeka State Hospital, Topeka, Kansas.

It was recently learned McCARVER is residing at the ROBERTS HOTEL, Roberts, Idaho. On 6/19/69, McCARVER was contacted and it was pointed out to him the Bureau desired to have his written consent to check his record at Topeka State Hospital. He stated at the time he would like to think this matter over and stated he could be contacted the following day. At the time of contact on 6/19/69, he was concerned as to whether or not the information he had furnished had been handled on a confidential basis and indicated he was still of the opinion if his identity was divulged his life might be in danger.

He seemed somewhat suspicious and unsure.

On 6/20/69, efforts were made to again contact

2 - Bureau (AM) (Reg.)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM) (Reg.)
① - Kansas City (AM) (Reg.) (Info)
2 - Butte
BSP/lly
(7)

44-760-1311

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe RBA

BT #173-2

McCARVER for his written permission to check his record at the Topeka State Hospital; however, McCARVER did not show for this contact.

The Butte Division will continue to endeavor to get written consent from McCARVER to check the Topeka State Hospital records, Topeka, Kansas. If obtained, this written consent will be immediately sent to the Kansas City Division.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

June 16, 1969

Carl T. Rowan
The Evening Star
225 Virginia Avenue, S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Sir:

My attention has been called to the malicious article which you wrote in the Sunday Star on June 15, 1969, concerning Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the FBI.

For your information, the wire tap on Martin Luther King, Jr., was specifically approved in advance in writing by the late Attorney General of the United States, Mr. Robert F. Kennedy. This device was strictly in the field of internal security and, therefore, was within the provisions laid down by the then President of the United States.

It is to be hoped that you will give the same publicity to this letter as was given to your scurrilous editorial.

Yours truly,

Clyde A. Tolson

Clyde A. Tolson

cc Mr. Newbold Noyes
Editor
The Evening Star
225 Virginia Avenue, S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

44-160-1312

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 9 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

(12)

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
- Sacramento
- 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 6/17/69

RE:

Newbold Noyes ^{orig} *Carl T. Rowan 157-0-41*
~~*Clyde A. Tolson negative*~~ *Carl Thomas Rowan 161-185*

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: For your information and guidance.

Enclosures (3)

AKC
[Signature]

SEARCHED *MOC* INDEXED _____
 SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
 JUN 13 1969
 FBI — KANSAS CITY
[Signature]

Enc.
Bufile
Urfile

7/24/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BUTTE (173-2) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN ✓
CR
OO: Memphis

ReBulet, 7/2/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of LIM,
which is self-explanatory.

Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of this LIM.

MORRIS R. McCARVER was determined to be residing
at the present time in Mud Lake, Idaho, and he will be
contacted in the immediate future and advised that the
FBI will await his decision to review his hospital records
at Topeka State Hospital, Topeka, Kansas, and that if he
decides to give his consent to have the Bureau check these
records, he should contact the FBI Office at Idaho Falls,
Idaho. As soon as he is contacted and advised of this
fact, the Butte Division will close its case administratively.

2 - Bureau (Enc.4) (AM) (Reg.)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc.2) ((AM) (Reg.)
① - Kansas City (Info) (AM) (Reg.)
2 - Butte
BSP/sdj
(7)

44-760-1313

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 26 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Howe IRB

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

7/31/69

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

MURKIN

Re Indianapolis letter to Kansas City, 4/30/69.

On 5/21/69, FRED ALEXANDER MICHELSON, Inmate, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, #85514-L, advised SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD that he had been in the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, at the same time as JAMES EARL RAY. He stated that in order to tell his knowledge of RAY it would take an exceptionally long amount of time. He further advised that he is currently attempting to obtain a furlough from the prison to visit his ill mother in Liberty, Missouri. If the furlough is granted, he would talk to FBI Agents while he was in Liberty, Missouri, visiting his sick mother.

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2 - Memphis
2 - Kansas City
RBH:elc
(4) *cl*

44-760-1314

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Serialized	_____
Indexed	_____
Filed	_____

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

7/31/69

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

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2 - Memphis
2 - Kansas City
RBH:elc
(4) *cl*

44-760-1374
Searched _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____
Date _____

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Alleges 'Federal Agents' Killed Dr. Martin Luther King

St. Louis (AP)—A television station quoted James Earl Ray yesterday as saying federal agents killed Dr. Martin Luther King, jr., and "used me to be the fall guy."

Station KMOX-TV said this was part of a statement dictated by Ray to his brother, Jerry Ray, in the Tennessee State prison in Nashville. Jerry Ray read the statement on camera to Barry Serafin, a KMOX-TV reporter who accompanied Jerry to Nashville Wednesday.

James Earl Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State prison, pleaded guilty to killing King and was sentenced to 99 years. His attempts to obtain a new trial so far have been unsuccessful.

The statement was written in long hand by Jerry Ray, who signed his brother's name, Serafin said.

The statement said James Earl Ray was working with federal agents—not otherwise identified by name or organi-



James Earl Ray

zation—during the spring of 1968.

"They told me I was helping them to supply arms and guns to Cuba refugees to overthrow Castro and the Communists in Cuba," the statement continued. "The reason why I've

made trips to Mexico was in regard to helping the agents of the federal government to supply arms to Cuban refugees there to overthrow Castro. The federal agents led me to believe that I was in Memphis in April for the same purpose."

At another point that statement said: "I knew nothing about King being in Memphis until after King had been killed. I could not argue with the federal agents I worked for because they would have put me back in the Missouri State prison at Jefferson City if I failed to take orders from them. I know that the federal agents merely used me to be the fall guy when they killed King."

The statement said Ray hopes some high government official "will expose the whole deal" so he will be freed.

"If they don't, we have more information which we will release in the near future. I don't know what motives the federal agents had for killing King. Ask former Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Maybe he knows."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 Kansas City Times

Kansas City, Mo.

Date: 8/15/69

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor: Paul V. Miner

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Kansas City

Being Investigated

44-76-1315
 mlc mlc

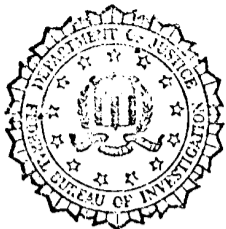
(15)

Re: U.S. v. Morris, No. Cr-LV 1779 - Las Vegas, Nevada

22 July, 1969

Dear Mr. Goldman, there is somewhat of a similarity between Tennessee v. Ray and the above cause - via the plea of guilty to alleged charges - but more I say that my attorney and I find your observation of March 24 a bit naïve, when you assert that "a plea is normal enough in U.S. Court - in a time - and money-saving convenience that permits authorities to settle far more cases than they bring to trial." Not exactly so, Pete - by reason of the following examples in both cases, suave. In the 4th day of July, 1968, I attempted to commit Air-craft Piracy (i.e., the attempted hijacking of a TWA jetliner with 71 passengers aboard) while in the custody of U.S. Government Marshalls. The Government made a "deal" with the defendant [pursuant to Fed. R. 1, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure - which provides for a Pre-trial Conference] - not because of any "time - and money saving convenience" - but did not want any of those seventy-one passengers to file a multi-million dollar civil action damages suit against the U.S. Attorney, Chap. 171, Sections 1346 and 2671. The magnitude of this case provided a "flexibility" beyond the "normal" routine of the so-called "top-out."

In the Ray "deal" the same "convenience" applies - but since the apprehension of the "big" in New Mexico two weeks ago 44-1987-Sub M-647 was made will now backfire! SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED the shocking events unfold - with the AUG 2 1969 the shock placed source within the PERM Ray himself was paid by big "X" 3*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Phoenix, Arizona
September 4, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

JAMES EARL RAY
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

On July 25, 1969, C. R. CRANK, JR., Superintendent, Federal Detention Center, Florence, Arizona, made available the attached copy of a letter written by JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, inmate of that institution to Mr. PETER GOLDMAN, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York. Mr. CRANK pointed out that the significance of this letter was the fact that MORRIS indicated that JAMES EARL RAY had been paid by an individual known as "BIG D". Mr. CRANK advised that MORRIS was received at that institution on July 19, 1969, and was incarcerated there until July 25, 1969.

MORRIS was maintained at that institution as a stop-over while en route from San Francisco, California, to Leavenworth, Kansas. He explained that MORRIS was serving a sentence at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, and had been removed from that institution to San Francisco, where he was afforded a hearing on a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Mr. CRANK advised that an information card maintained by that institution on MORRIS indicated that he had been convicted for crimes of bank robbery in 1949, bank robbery in 1969 and aircraft piracy in 1969. His attorney was listed as PAUL L. LARSEN, 309 South Third Street, Las Vegas, Nevada.

MORRIS is described as follows:

44-760-1316

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 8 1969	
FBI - PHOENIX	

JAMES EARL RAY

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of Birth	Michigan
Weight	165 pounds
Hair	Gray
Eyes	Hazel
Tattoos	Multiple tattoos on both arms
Occupation	Journalist
Marital Status	Single
Social Security Number	<input type="text"/>

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

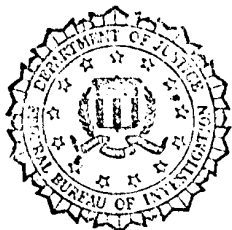
Re: U.S. v. Mov: S, No. Cr-LV 1779 - LaRocca, Headed

22 July, 1969

Dear Mr. Goldman, there is somewhat of a similarity between Tennessee v. Ray and the above case - via the plea of guilty to alleged charges - but more I say that my attorney and I find your observation of March 24 a bit naïve, when you assert that "a plea is normal enough in U.S. Court some authorities to settle far more cases than they bring to trial". Not exactly so, Pete - by reason of the following examples in both cases, supra. In the 4th day of July, 1968, I attempted to commit Air-craft Piracy (i.e., the attempted hijacking of a TWA jetliner with 71 passengers aboard) while in the custody of U.S. Government Marshalls. The Government made a "deal" with the defendant [pursuant to Rule 17.1, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure - which provides for a Pre-trial Conference] - not because of any "time - and - money - saving convenience" - but because the Government did not want any of those seventy-one passengers to file a multi-million dollar civil action damages suit against the U.S. Attorney, Chap. 171, Sections 1346 and 2671. The magnitude of this case provided a "flexibility" beyond the "normal" routine of the so-called "top-out".

In the Ray "deal" the same "convenience" applies - but since the apprehension of the defendant in New Mexico two weeks ago, the "deal" which was made will now backfire! While the shocking events unfold - with the shocking source within the "deal" - Ray himself was paid by "big" to know not the intricacies of the deal.

44-1987-Sub M-647
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUL 23 1969
FBI - MEMPHIS



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Phoenix, Arizona
September 4, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

JAMES EARL RAY
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

On July 25, 1969, C. R. CRANK, JR., Superintendent, Federal Detention Center, Florence, Arizona, made available the attached copy of a letter written by JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, inmate of that institution to Mr. PETER GOLDMAN, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York. Mr. CRANK pointed out that the significance of this letter was the fact that MORRIS indicated that JAMES EARL RAY had been paid by an individual known as "BIG D". Mr. CRANK advised that MORRIS was received at that institution on July 19, 1969, and was incarcerated there until July 25, 1969.

MORRIS was maintained at that institution as a stop-over while en route from San Francisco, California, to Leavenworth, Kansas. He explained that MORRIS was serving a sentence at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, and had been removed from that institution to San Francisco, where he was afforded a hearing on a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

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MORRIS is described as follows:

44-760-1316

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 8 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

Wilson TW

JAMES EARL RAY

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of Birth	Michigan
Weight	165 pounds
Hair	Gray
Eyes	Hazel
Tattoos	Multiple tattoos on both arms
Occupation	Journalist
Marital Status	Single
Social Security Number	<input type="text"/>

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

9/4/69

SAC, PHOENIX (44-371) (RUC)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CR - CONSPIRACY;
UFAC - ROBBERY

OO: ME

Re PX airtel to ME, 8/6/69; ME let to PX, 8/22/69.

There is enclosed for the Bureau original and three copies of Letterhead Memorandum reflecting information furnished by Mr. C. R. CRANK, Superintendent, Federal Detention Center, Florence, Arizona, regarding JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, an inmate who was temporarily incarcerated at that institution from 7/19-25/69, indicating that he had knowledge of who paid JAMES EARL RAY.

Enclosed for Kansas City, Memphis and New York are two copies each of above LHM.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

Will interview JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS regarding the contents of his letter to PETER GOLDMAN, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York.

- 2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
- 2 - Kansas City (Encs. 2) *W*
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Encs. 2)
- 2 - New York (Encs. 2)
- 1 - Phoenix

WKP/wpj
(9)

83856
B5 5/16
S/100

44-760-1317

SEARCHED	<i>R</i>	<i>R</i>
SERIALIZED		

Witchard *W*

PX 44-371
WEP/wpj

NEW YORK DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

Will interview PETER GOLDMAN, 444 Madison Avenue,
for his knowledge of JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS and his evaluation
of statement that JAMES EARL RAY was paid by "BIG D".

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

9/4/69

SAC, PHOENIX (44-371) (RUC)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CR - CONSPIRACY;
BFAC - ROBBERY

OO: ME

Re PX airtel to ME, 8/6/69; ME let to PX, 8/22/69.

There is enclosed for the Bureau original and three copies of Letterhead Memorandum reflecting information furnished by Mr. C. R. CRANK, Superintendent, Federal Detention Center, Florence, Arizona, regarding JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, an inmate who was temporarily incarcerated at that institution from 7/19-25/69, indicating that he had knowledge of who paid JAMES EARL RAY.

Enclosed for Kansas City, Memphis and New York are two copies each of above LHM.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY DIVISION

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

Will interview JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS regarding the contents of his letter to PETER GOLDMAN, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York.

- 2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
- 2 - Kansas City (Encs. 2)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)(Encs. 2)
- 2 - New York (Encs. 2)
- 1 - Phoenix

WEP/vpj
(9)

44-760-1317

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

17

PX 44-571
WEP/wpj

NEW YORK DIVISION

AT NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

**Will interview PETER GOLDMAN, 444 Madison Avenue,
for his knowledge of JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS and his evaluation
of statement that JAMES EARL RAY was paid by "BIG D".**

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

9/12/69

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

MURKIN
OO MEMPHIS

Re Kansas City letter to Director, 4/29/69.

Referenced communication contained information from a Mr. KARL RAPP, Kansas City, Missouri, regarding a former SS general by the name of HEINZ MUELLER, aka HEINZ MANGER, who he had previously met in Puerto Vallarta. MUELLER was reportedly also a member of Odessa, an organization of former SS officers.

RAPP also had advised that he was previously in correspondence with a JOHN MATHIESON, a retired American formerly living in Puerto Vallarta and over 70 years of age. RAPP visited Puerto Vallarta during spring of 1969 and advised that he determined JOHN MATHIESON was no longer living in that area.

On 9/9/69, KARL RAPP telephonically advised Kansas City Office that he had received a letter from MATHIESON on 9/8/69 from Puerto Vallarta. In this letter, which was mostly personal in nature, MATHIESON stated that HEINZ MUELLER is now residing in Weisbaden, Germany. The letter did not elaborate and RAPP could furnish no more information regarding HEINZ MUELLER or MANGER. RAPP stated that MATHIESON did not give a return address but his former address had been Post Office Box 53, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

RAPP advised if any additional information comes to his attention he will immediately contact the Kansas City Office.

Leads in this matter are being left to discretion of office of origin or Bureau.

This case is remaining pending inasmuch as a lead was set out to interview JOHN MORRIS, Leavenworth, Kansas, in Phoenix letter to Director, 9/4/69.

2 Bureau (RM)
1 Memphis (44-1987)(RM)
2 Kansas City

RBH:jrt
(5) *lit*

Pond
147

44-760-1318

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

9/12/69

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) P

MURKIN
OO MEMPHIS

Re Kansas City letter to Director, 4/29/69.

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2 Bureau (RM)
1 Memphis (44-1987)(RM)
2 Kansas City

RRH:jrt
(5) *hit*

44-760-1318

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

10/20/69

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM;
CR - CONSPIRACY;
UFAC - ROBBERY

(OO-Memphis)

Re Phoenix letter to Bureau, dated 9/4/69.

On 9/26/69, Senior Officer Specialist CLYDE STEWART, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD that inmate JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS #83856 was "out to Court" since 9/11/69. STEWART advised that it would be impossible to anticipate MORRIS' return but that he would notify SA WITSCHARD upon MORRIS' return.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY DIVISION:

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:

Will at USP-L at Leavenworth, interview JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, USP-L #83856, Cell B 576, employed Shoe Factory, reference Phoenix letter to Bureau, 9/4/69, upon MORRIS' return from Court.

2 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - New York
② - Kansas City
WAW:ENL
(8)

44-760-1319
Searched
Serialized
Indexed
Filed

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

10/20/69

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM;
CR - CONSPIRACY;
UFAC - ROBBERY

(OO-Memphis)

Re Phoenix letter to Bureau, dated 9/4/69.

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LEADS:

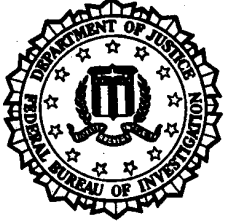
KANSAS CITY DIVISION:

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:

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2 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - New York
② - Kansas City
WAW:ENL
(8)

44-760-1319



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
November 5, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

James Earl Ray
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -
Victim

Peter Goldman, Senior Editor, Newsweek Magazine,
444 Madison Avenue, New York City furnished the following
information to Special Agent O. Eugene Smith on November
3, 1969:

He cannot recall having ever met or having ever
received correspondence from a John Hamilton Morris. A
review of the files of the Letter Department of the
Magazine failed to reveal that he ever received a letter
from John Hamilton Morris.

He has never heard of anyone referred to as
"Big D" in connection with the James Earl Ray case and
he has no knowledge of any statement being made that James
Earl Ray was paid by "Big D".

He receives numerous "crank" letters which he
deposits in the waste basket. No record is kept of these
"crank" letters.

**This document contains neither
recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI. It is the property
of the FBI and is loaned to your
agency; it and its contents are
not to be distributed outside
your agency.**

44-960-1320

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 3 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

NOV 11 1969



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
November 5, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -
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recommendations nor conclusions
of the FBI. It is the property
of the FBI and is loaned to your
agency. It and its contents are
not to be distributed outside
your agency.

44 1760-1328

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

11/5/69

SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)(RUC)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CR - CONSPIRACY;
UFAC - ROBBERY
(OO: ME)

Re: Phoenix letter dated 9/4/69

Enclosed for Bureau are four copies of LHM.
Enclosed for Kansas City and Memphis are two copies each
of LHM. Enclosed for Phoenix is one copy of LHM for
information.

Numerous efforts were made by New York to
contact PETER GOLDMAN, Senior Editor, Newsweek Magazine,
444 Madison Avenue, New York City during the period
9/8/69 through 10/29/69 with unsuccessful results.

2 - BUREAU (Encl 4)
2 - Kansas City (Encl. 2) *W*
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(Encl. 2)
1 - Phoenix (44-371)(Encl. 1)
1 - New York (44-1609)

(8)
OES:oes

44-760-1321

SEARCHED <i>W</i>	INDEXED <i>W</i>
SERIALIZED <i>W</i>	FILED <i>W</i>
NOV 8 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

W *W*

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

11/5/69

SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)(BUC)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CR - CONSPIRACY;
UFAC - ROBBERY
(OO: ME)

Re: Phoenix letter dated 9/4/69

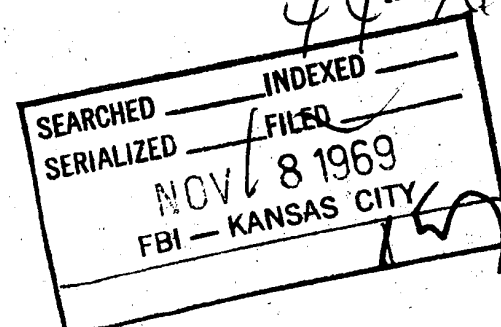
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9/8/69 through 10/29/69 with unsuccessful results.

- 2 - BUREAU (Encl 4)
- ② - Kansas City (Encl. 2)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)(Encl. 2)
- 1 - Phoenix (44-371)(Encl. 1)
- 1 - New York (44-1609)

(8)

OES:ces



F B I

Date: 11-10-69

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

✓ To: SAC, Kansas City (44-760)
✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReNYlet 11-5-69, one PXlet 9-4-69 and KClet 10-20-69.

If not already done, Kansas City interview John Hamilton Morris and suLHM within three days of receipt without fail.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)

11-13

44-760-1322

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
NOV 12 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

11-10-69

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Kansas City (44-760)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReNYlet 11-3-69, one FXlet 9-4-69 and Xlet 10-30-69.

**If not already done, Kansas City interview John
Hamilton Morris and SMITH within three days of receipt without
fail.**

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)

44-760-1322

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 12 1969	
FBI - KANSAS CITY	

[Handwritten signature]

11-13-69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReBuairtel to Kansas City 11-10-69.

Enclosed for the Los Angeles Office are one copy each of letter from Phoenix to the Director 9-4-69 with LHM and xerox copy of letter from JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS; also enclosed for Los Angeles is copy of New York letter to the Director 11-5-69 reflecting results of interview with PETER GOLDMAN.

On 11-13-69, CARL F. ZARTER, Administrative Assistant, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised that inmate JAMES HAMILTON MORRIS, #83856, was released to the custody of the USM on 9-11-69 to be produced in the USDC, Los Angeles, California. MORRIS has not as yet returned to Leavenworth. Authorities at Leavenworth are unable to anticipate his return. It is therefore suggested that the interview set forth in Phoenix communication for the Kansas City Division be handled by the Los Angeles Division. Los Angeles should be able to determine whereabouts of MORRIS through the USM's office in that area.

It is to be noted that the copy of the handwritten letter from MORRIS to GOLDMAN is barely readable. If Los Angeles decides a more legible copy is needed, it is suggested they obtain one from the Phoenix Office. Kansas City believes that the individual mentioned in the letter as Big D, who was apprehended in New Mexico two weeks ago is possibly ROBERT DE PUGH, head of the Minutemen organization, who is also currently incarcerated at Leavenworth Penitentiary.

2 - Bureau (44-38861)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 5)
1 - Kansas City (44-760)
RBH:mts
(7)

44-760-1323
RUC
17
Fico

KC 44-760

For the information of the Los Angeles Office,
reairtel from the Director instructed Kansas City to inter-
view JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS and submit LHM within three days
of receipt without fail.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, 44-760

DATE: 11/14/69

FROM : SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD P

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. - VICTIM
CR-Conspiracy; UFAC-Robbery
OO ME

Re Phoenix letter to Director, 9/4/69.

On 9/26/69, and 11/4/69, Sr. Officer Specialist CLYDE STEWART, United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised that inmate JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, USPL#83856, was still out to court since 9/11/69. Mr. STEWART advised that he will notify the writer when MORRIS returns from his court appearance.

LEADS

KANSAS CITY

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

Will interview JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, 83856, in accordance with referenced letter upon his return from court.

see serial 1329 lead 2a (12)

44-760-1304
(12)

WAW:jmb
(2) *jmb*



SAC, 44-760

11/14/69

SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD P

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. - VICTIM
CR-Conspiracy; UFAC-Robbery
OO ME

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court appearance.

LEADS

KANSAS CITY

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS

Will interview JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, 83856, in
accordance with referenced letter upon his return from court.

WAW:jmh
(2) *jmh*

44-760-1324
[Handwritten signature]
[Handwritten initials]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge Orders More Exercise and a Job For James Earl Ray

Nashville, Tenn. (AP)—A federal judge ordered Tennessee state prison officials yesterday to provide more exercise and a job to James Earl Ray, who says he prefers the threat of death at the hands of fellow inmates to remaining in solitary confinement.

Judge William E. Miller's order could result in Ray's becoming a part-time food server and janitor in the prison's maximum security section. Ray is the admitted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, jr.

Orders Plan by State

Miller ordered the state to submit by January 12 a plan incorporating "recreation, work and exercise" for Ray, who had sought an injunction against continued maximum security confinement. He contended it was impairing his health and violating his rights.

The state said Ray, who was sentenced to 99 years in King's slaying, was being kept in the 6-by-9-foot cell here for his own protection.

"Enforced idleness can be cruel punishment," Judge Miller said in handing down his order, "particularly when

it is only to protect him from bodily harm."

Miller described as constructive a suggestion by W. S. Neil, warden, that Ray be allowed to help serve food to other maximum security prisoners while they were locked up, and help janitors with cleanup. The judge reserved final judgment, however, until he received the written plan.

Expresses a Wish

Ray was asked at the day-long hearing whether he feared harm from other inmates, and replied, "I'd rather face that than 99 years in solitary."

Miller said at the outset he would decide only if the confinement violates Ray's rights under the eighth amendment which prohibits cruel and unusual punishment.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 Kansas City Times

Kansas City, Mo.

Date: 12/30/69
 Edition: Morning
 Author:
 Editor: Paul V. Miner
 Title:

Character:
 or
 Classification:
 Submitting Office: Kansas City

Being Investigated

44-760-1325

SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
 SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
 JAN 5 1970
 FBI - KANSAS CITY
 ATN

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

JAMES RAY INTO COURT

Claim That Maximum Security Violates His Rights Is Pressed by Man Serving 99 Years for Martin King's Slaying

A HEAVY GUARD

Ten Carloads of Federal and Tennessee Offi- cers Stand By

BULLETIN

Nashville, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray, seeking to win a transfer from a maximum security cell at Tennessee state penitentiary, told a federal court today that if authorities believe a conspiracy was responsible for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, jr., they should have a trial.

Nashville, Tenn. (AP)— James Earl Ray went into federal court today to argue that his confinement in the maximum security section of the Tennessee State penitentiary here constitutes cruel and inhuman treatment.

Ray, serving 99 years for the sniper slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was transferred in a heavy rainstorm from the prison to a cell in the federal courthouse before dawn today. He was guarded closely by 10 carloads of state and federal officers.

Ray, appearing pale after 18 months behind bars here and in Memphis, was shackled as he was whisked into the courthouse. He claims maximum security confinement violates

his rights and is damaging his health.

A Motion Rejected

Judge William E. Miller of the U. S. District court ruled that Ray should be present at the hearing, but denied a state motion that he be given a physical examination first.

The state maintains Ray's confinement is for his own good and that his health is fine.

Ray contended in a hand-written petition that it is causing him "untold anxiety, apprehension and ill health" to the point that he believes he "cannot cope with it further."

Among those Ray's attorneys subpoenaed for the hearing were a male nurse and doctor from the prison.

Ray's counsel also sought to call the chief of Vandervilt hospital's psychology section, but Miller reserved judgment on that until today.

Seized In London

Ray has been under tight security since his arrest in London after King's assassination in Memphis, April 4, 1968. He was held in a special cell in the Shelby County jail while awaiting trial and was brought to the prison March 11, the day after he pleaded guilty.

Ray has remained in maximum security since then except for one trip to Memphis where his bid for a new trial on the basis that his guilty plea was forced upon him was turned down.

An appeal of that ruling was turned down by the state Court of Criminal Appeals. An appeal to the state Supreme court is pending.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

6 Kansas City Star

Kansas City, Mo.

Date: 12/29/69
Edition: Final
Author:
Editor: Paul V. Miner
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Kansas City
 Being Investigated

44-760-1376
SEARCHED.....INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....FILED.....
JAN 5 1970
FBI - KANSAS CITY
AN



ARRIVING FOR A HEARING, James Earl Ray, convicted of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, jr., Negro civil rights leader, is escorted into the federal court house in Nashville, Tenn., today seeking release from maximum security at Tennessee state prison—(Wirephoto).

SAC, MEMPHIS

2/5/70

SAC, KANSAS CITY (62-0)

44-760
INFORMATION CONCERNING CONSPIRACY TO
ASSASSINATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
July, 1966,
Oxford, Mississippi

Enclosed for Memphis are 2 copies of an FD-302 on RAYMOND LEON YOUNT, and 1 copy of Missouri Department of Corrections report concerning YOUNT. Information copies along with 2 copies each of FD-302 on RAYMOND LEON YOUNG, and 1 copy each of Missouri Department of Corrections report concerning YOUNT, are being sent to Denver and Seattle, who had cases on YOUNT and SELLERS in the past.

On 1/26/70 RAYMOND LEON YOUNT, Missouri State Penitentiary #16900 was interviewed at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri. After the interview Warden HAROLD SWENSON, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, was interviewed by Special Agents ROWEN B. AYERS and KEITH M. HUNTER, at which time he made available a copy of Missouri Department of Corrections report of Division of Classification and Assignment concerning RAYMOND LEON YOUNT.

It is noted that this report states that the subject has an extensive medical history of both psychiatric and physical problems. "This inmate has received numerous psychiatric evaluations. He has been described as an 'emotionally unstable personality of long standing'. He was diagnosed as 'psycopathic personality with emotional instability'."

The report also states that the subject has served in the United States Navy and was given an administrative discharge after appearing before a psychiatric board and receiving a discharge because of emotional instability.

The above is being furnished for information and evaluation by your office. In view of the above, no leads have been set out by the Kansas City Division.

2 Memphis (Encs. 3)
1 Denver (Encs. 3) (Info)
1 Seattle (Encs. 3) (Info)
1 Kansas City

KMH/joe
(5)

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

44-760-1327

2/16/70

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) C

INFORMATION CONCERNING CONSPIRACY TO
ASSASSINATE DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
July, 1966,
Oxford, Mississippi

Re Kansas City letter to Memphis, 2/5/70.

The following is a correction of the FD-302 of
SA KEITH M. HUNTER:

Page 6, Paragraph 4, Line 9, last three words,
"not be contacted" to "be contacted".

jeo
1 Memphis
① Kansas City
JEO/jeo
(2)

M

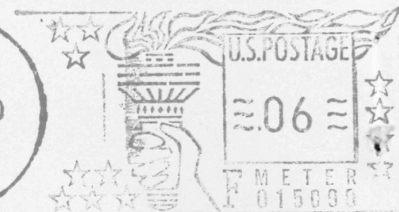
Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

44-760-1328

Bill G. Steinhoff,
#19026,
P.O. Box 2,
Lansing, Kansas

JR

3x 855 69201



Mr. Johnson, Special Agent,
Federal Bureau of Investigation,
~~Petroleum Building,~~
Wichita, Kansas

Dear Sir,

12 February 1970

I am writing this letter in regards to our conversation in the Sedgewick County Jail, at which time you took a statement from me for the Justice Department. I have been trying to get in touch with you since Dec. 1969, and have been unable to do so. If you will remember this matter was very important to the Justice Department. I am now ready to give you the rest of the names and places you needed. And I am no longer afraid for you to use this information. Two Officers here talked to me this morning. One of them told me he talked to one of the local Agents here and they said they did not want to talk to me. You know that I have not discussed this case with any Agent except your self. So if you can possibly do it come and see me as soon as you can, it was told this morning that it would be made to return to population whether I want too or not. So I am sure you realize how imperative it is I see you as soon as I can. And please acknowledge this letter. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Bill G. Steinhoff

44-766-1329

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 20 1970	
FBI - [unclear]	

Wilschard

14026
Clerk with serial 69
Lead January 13/12

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-760) C

DATE: 3/13/70

FROM : SA LOY O. HICKMAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 2/20/70, BILL GORDON STEINHOFF was interviewed at KSP, Lansing, Kansas, upon his request. During the course of the interview, STEINHOFF was vague as to why he wanted to talk to an FBI Agent, referring to a previous interview with an FBI Agent, (FNU) JOHNSON. STEINHOFF advised he had talked to JOHNSON in Wichita, Kansas, during 11/68. SA HICKMAN asked STEINHOFF the nature of the interview at which time he stated that the interview was relative to facts concerning the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. STEINHOFF was reluctant to furnish any information concerning his prior interview, and in view of this, no further attempt was made to extract information from STEINHOFF.

LOH:clc
(1)

clc

44-760-1330

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 8/19/70

FROM : SAC, PITTSBURGH (44-578) (C)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 7/31/70, GEORGE BEN EDMONDSON, a former Top Ten Fugitive, who is presently residing and working in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, under the assumed name of ALEX BORMANN, personally appeared at the Pittsburgh Office at which time he furnished the following information:

EDMONDSON advised that he is presently residing with his wife JINETTE and his young son at Brighton Terrace, Apartment 403, 721 Brighton Road, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15233, after having recently moved to Pittsburgh from Montreal, Canada, where he had been living and working since his release from the Missouri State Prison (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, on \$5,000 bond pending an appeal with the Missouri Supreme Court on his armed robbery sentence. EDMONDSON stated that since his release from MSP he has been living and working under the assumed name of ALEX BORMANN. He stated he is employed as a project engineer by Rust Associates, Ltd., Montreal Canada, a Division of Litton Industries and was recently transferred to Rust Engineering, Pittsburgh, Pa., for a new work assignment. EDMONDSON stated that officials of Rust Associates, Ltd., and Rust Engineering, Pittsburgh are cognizant of his present status and his background as a former Top Ten Fugitive.

EDMONDSON advised that his purpose in contacting FBI, Pittsburgh at this time was because he was greatly disturbed over some recent developments that have come to his attention which could result in his identity being exposed, thereby jeopardizing his employment and all that he has accomplished since his release from prison.

② - Bureau
2 - Pittsburgh
1 - 88-5467

① - Kansas City (Info.)
1 - Memphis (Info.)

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(6)

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

EDMONDSON stated that he recently learned that a book entitled, "I Slew a Dreamer," written by WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE, published by Delacorte Press, New York City, is being sold throughout the United States and Canada. He stated that this book is a story about JAMES EARL RAY and the events leading up to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated that upon reading this book, he determined that his name and some of his aliases, including ALEX BORMANN, are frequently mentioned in several chapters of the book with regard to the author's suspicions that he, EDMONDSON may have been involved with and influenced JAMES EARL RAY in the plot to murder KING, while both he and JAMES EARL RAY were serving prison sentences together in the MSP.

EDMONDSON stated he is fearful that notoriety of this book will lead to his subsequent exposure by some news media tracing him to Pittsburgh. He stated he has already received one anonymous telephone call at his place of employment wherein the caller suggested he go to a bookstore and read, "I Slew a Dreamer" which he would find very interesting.

EDMONDSON stated that he immediately notified his attorney, JAMES A. DUNN, Carthage, Missouri, of the contents of the book and mailed him a copy to read. He stated that he has also brought this book to the attention of his superiors at Rust Engineering, Pittsburgh. He stated that if he should be exposed he will consider filing a damage suit for slander against the author and publisher of the book. He stated that insofar as the author's suspicions, that he was involved with JAMES EARL RAY in the murder of KING are concerned, they are not true and FBI records would substantiate him on this as he was extensively interviewed along these lines by the FBI after his apprehension as a Top Ten Fugitive.

EDMONDSON stated that he was merely bringing the above mentioned developments to the attention of the FBI for informational purposes. He stated he is awaiting instructions from his attorney as to what action he should take with regard to his problems.

The above information is being forward to the Bureau for informational purposes only.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray In Civil Appeal

Memphis (AP)—An attorney for James Earl Ray, self-confessed slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King jr., says a ruling in a civil suit on Ray's behalf probably will be appealed to the U. S. Supreme court.

The comments of Richard J. Ryan came after the U. S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed Ray's attempt to void contracts between himself and Percy Foreman of Houston and Arthur Haynes, sr. of Birmingham, lawyers and William Bradford Huie, a writer.

Ray contended in his suit that the three men duped him into signing a contract and that they were more interested in getting him to enter a guilty plea to King's death in 1968 than they were in seeing that he had an adequate defense.

Ray had charged that an open trial would have diminished royalties to Huie and the two lawyers from writings about the slaying, since facts would have been placed on open record. The guilty plea did not require a full-scale trial.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 Kansas City Star

Kansas City, Mo.

Date: 4/30/71

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Paul V. Miner

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Kansas City

Being Investigated

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