

U. S. Department of Justice

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

10024560



FEDERAL BUREAU

X DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/14/01 BY SP-1 CLK/Hjt

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

44-38861

DO NOT DESTROY -
PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

See also Nos.

~~DO NOT DESTROY~~
~~PENDING LITIGATION~~

~~DO NOT DESTROY~~
~~PENDING LITIGATION~~

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

DO NOT DESTROY;
HISTORICAL VALUE,
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

CLASSIFICATION NO.

Volume
Serials

44-1574-E

LA ---86--- SD ---82--- 852 PM RDR

URGENT 4-17-68 RNK

TO ALL SACS PLAINTEXT
FROM DIRECTOR 5P

RECEIVED BY CODED TELETYPE

MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE WAS ISSUED AT WASHINGTON, D.C., AT 5:45 P.M. THIS AFTERNOON. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RELEASE AT 6:00 PM E. S. T. ALTHOUGH IT IS REALIZED THE WIRE SERVICES WILL CARRY THE FULL TEXT, YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV STATIONS IN YOUR DIVISION TO INSURE IT RECEIVES IMMEDIATE WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION. YOU ARE ALSO AUTHORIZED TO IMMEDIATELY MAKE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES COPIES OF THE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS ALREADY IN YOUR POSSESSION. THE DESCRIPTIVE DATA ON THE BACKS OF THESE PHOTOGRAPHS SHOULD BE DELETED. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER ONE WITH EYES CLOSED SHOULD CARRY THE CAPTION, "ERIC STARVO GALT, ALSO KNOWN AS HARVEY LOWMYER^y AND JOHN WILLARD." PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER TWO SHOULD CARRY THE CAPTION, "ERIC STARVO GALT, ALSO KNOWN AS HARVEY LOWMYER AND JOHN WILLARD (EYES DRAWN IN BY FBI ARTIST)." YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPRODUCE LOCALLY ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS AS REQUIRED. YOU SHOULD ATTEMPT TO INSURE THAT THIS RELEASE AND PHOTOGRAPHS RECEIVE REPEATED COVERAGE BY RADIO AND TV STATIONS. YOU ARE TO MAKE NO ELABORATION WHATSOEVER REGARDING THIS RELEASE.

44-1574-E-1

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI — LOS ANGELES	

PAGE TWO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 17, 1968

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ERIC STARVO GALT IS BEING SOUGHT BY THE FBI AS A FUGITIVE ON A FEDERAL CHARGE ARISING FROM THE FATAL SHOOTING OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ^{on April} ~~1968~~ 4, 1968.

DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER STATED THAT A FEDERAL COMPLAINT WAS FILED BY THE FBI IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, TODAY CHARGING GALT ^T WITH CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF DR. KING IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, SECTION 241, OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.

THE FBI COMPLAINT CHARGES THAT "ON OR ABOUT MARCH ²⁹ ~~1968~~ 1968, AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA,...ERIC STARVO GALT AND AN INDIVIDUAL WHOM HE ALLEGED TO BE HIS BROTHER, ENTERED INTO A CONSPIRACY WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL ON OR ABOUT APRIL 5, 1968, TO INJURE, OPPRESS, THREATEN, OR INTIMIDATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,...IN THE FREE EXERCISE OR ENJOYMENT OF A RIGHT SECURED TO HIM BY THE CONSTITUTION OR LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES; NAMELY, THE RIGHT TO FREELY TRAVEL FROM STATE TO STATE. IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS CONSPIRACY, ERIC STARVO GALT DID, ON OR ABOUT MARCH 30, 1968, PURCHASE A RIFLE AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA...."

PAGE THREE

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, ^A~~30.06~~ 30.06 RIFLE EQUIPPED WITH A TELESCOPIC SIGHT WAS FOUND NEAR A ROOMING HOUSE ON SOUTH MAIN STREET IN MEMPHIS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FATAL SHOOTING OF DR. KING OCCURRED. THE ROOMING HOUSE OVERLOOKS THE LORRAINE HOTEL AND MOTEL WHERE DR. KING WAS STAYING.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT FBI AGENTS DETERMINED THAT THE 30.06 RIFLE HAD BEEN PURCHASED FROM A GUN DEALER IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ON MARCH ^h

30, 1968. THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT ALSO WAS PURCHASED FROM THIS DEALER.

THE FBI DIRECTOR SAID THAT GALT, WHO HAS USED THE NAMES OF JOHN WIL

↓
LARD AND HARVEY LOWMYER IN THE PAST, IS THE OWNER OF A 1966 WHITE MUSTANG BEARING ALABAMA LICENSE PLATES WHICH WAS LOCATED ABANDONED IN ATLANTA, GABRGIA, ON APRIL 11, 1968. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT GALT PURCHASED THIS CAR FROM A PRIVATE CITIZEN IN BIRMINGHAM ON AUGUST 30, 1967. THE MUSTANG'S ODOMETER SHOWED THAT IT HAD BEEN DRIVEN MORE THAN 19,000 MILES BETWEEN LATE AUGUST, 1967, AND EARLY APRIL, 1968.

PAGE FOUR

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, GALT'S TRAVELS IN THE MUSTANG INCLUDED TRIPS TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA; BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; UND MEXICO, AS WELL AS TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND ATLANTA, GEORGIA. GALT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 3 AND ~~4~~⁴ 1968, AND TO HAVE DEPARTED FROM THERE FOR ATLANTA.

INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION BY THE FBI HAS DISCLOSED THAT GALT HAS CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED AS A COOK ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER VESSELS AND AS A MERCHANT SEAMAN. HE IS SAID TO BE AN AVID DANCER AND TOOK DANCING LESSONS IN NEW ORLEANS IN 1964 AND 1965; IN BIRMINGHAM DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1967; AND IN LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, FROM DECEMBER, 1967, TO FEBRUARY, 1968.

GALT LEFT LOS ANGELES ON DECEMBER 15, 1967, AND DROVE HIS WHITE MUSTANG TO NEW ORELANS, WHERE HE CLAIMED HE CONTACTED EITHER AN ENGINEERING OR A CONTRACTING FIRM. HE LEFT NEW ORLEANS ON DECEMBER 19TH AND ARRIVED BACK IN LOS ANGELES ON DECEMBER 21, 1967.

WHILE IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA EARLY THIS YEAR, GALT TOOK A COURSE AT A SCHOOL OF BARTENDING AND WAS GRADUATED ON MARCH 2, 1968.

THE FUGITIVE IS DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE. HE IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 8 INCHES TO 5 FEET 11 INCHES TALL AND WEIGHS BETWEEN 160 AND 175 POUNDS. HE IS SAID TO BE A NEAT DRESSER AND HAS A MEDIUM BUILD.

PAGE FIVE

GALT HAS BROWN HAIR, WHICH HE WEARS IN A "BRUSH" CUT. HE REPORTEDLY HAS BLUE EYES; HIS NOSE IS STRAIGHT AND NARROW; HIS TEETH ARE STRAIGHT AND CLEAN; AND HE HAS GIVEN HIS DATE OF BIRTH AS

THE FUGITIVE IS SAID TO HAVE A NERVOUS HABIT OF OCCASIONALLY PULLING AT AN EAR LOBE WITH HIS HAND. HIS LEFT EAR PROTRUDES FARTHER FROM HIS HEAD THAN HIS RIGHT EAR.

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, PERSONS WHO HAVE MET GALT DESCRIBE HIM AS A "LONER" AND STATE HIS LANGUAGE AND DICTION HAVE A "RURAL" QUALITY AND SUGGEST THAT HE PROBABLY DOES NOT HAVE A HIGH DEGREE OF EDUCATION. HE IS SAID TO DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND HAS A PREFERENCE FOR VODKA AND BEER. HE IS A FAN OF WESTERN AND COUNTRY MUSIC.

GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS. ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM SHOULD BE FURNISHED IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST FBI OFFICE.

END

LA...KH FBI LOS ANGELES

SD...ATJ FBI SAN DIEGO

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 4/17/68

FROM : SA J. CLARE WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Writer called on above date by one KIRA APPEL who identified herself as publisher American editor of French newspaper, "France-Soir", published in France with a European circulation of over two million.

Stated that they are not connected with national wire service, have no correspondant in Washington, D.C. Stated that would appreciate call from FBI should subject this case be apprehended. Can be contacted at tel# HO 3-1033.

1 - LA
JCW/me

Open Press Section

44-1574-E-2

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Sheets

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM : *P* ASAC RICHARD D. ROGGE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/18/68

At 10:50 AM on 4/18/68, DEAN SANDER, KLAC Radio, telephone 937-0110, called in the absence of the writer and inquired as to whether the story carried over radio station KFWB on the evening of 4/17/68 regarding an interview of JOHN WILLARD of Long Beach, whose name was one of the aliases used by GALT, was factual. WILLARD reportedly stated he was approached by the FBI and questioned not only after the assassination of Dr. KING but several months prior. SANDER desired to know if this was responsible reporting or not.

At 11:03 AM, SANDER was recontacted by the writer, and he was courteously advised that this office had nothing further to add to the press release issued on the evening of 4/17/68, which SANDER acknowledged he had received. SANDER reiterated his request but was courteously advised I had no further comment to make in this matter.

In view of the above, the case agent should set out hereinafter the complete identity of the WILLARD who was interviewed in Long Beach. The dates of the interview should be incorporated and a summary of the information he furnished. It should also be established if he was ever interviewed prior to 4/4/68 in any matter involving FBI jurisdiction, and if so, any such contact should be summarized.

*John Willard
an alias not
even in plane book
(number untitled)*

*See my
838-4846
(K1)*

RDR/sjl
(1) *sjl*

*194
44-1574-241,254
8*

J TEMPLE

44-1574-3
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

FBI - LOS ANGELES

SAN DIEGO --2-2-

LOS ANGELES --3-- 3130PM EXR

URGENT 4-19-68 EXR

TO ALL SACS (PLAINTEXT)
IS, ALL SACS:59RLAINTXT)

FROM DIRECTOR

RECEIVED BY CODED TELETYPE

MURKIN.

THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE HAS JUST BEEN ISSUED AT WASHINGTON THIS AFTERNOON AND YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO MAKE IT IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE TO THE LEADING NEWSPAPERS AND RADIO AND TV STATIONS IN YOUR DIVISION. EVERY EFFORT MUST BE MADE TO INSURE REPEATED AND WIDESPREAD DISTRIBUTION OF THIS INFORMATION. COPIES OF THE 1968 PHOTOGRAPH OF SUBJECT ALREADY IN YOUR POSSESSION AND WANTED FLYERS SHOULD ALSO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MEDIA CONTACTS. NO ELABORATION WHATSOEVER MAY BE MADE REGARDING THIS RELEASE. ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING INVESTIGATIVE LEADS WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY.

END PAGE ONE

orig to Wiers & Saks
Shay

44-1574-E-4

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PAGE TWO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 19, 1968

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT THE FBI HAS IDENTIFIED JASS EARL RAY, AN ESCAPEE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AS ERIC STARVO GALT, AGAINST WHOM A FEDERAL COMPLAINT WAS FILED LAST WEDNESDAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FATAL SHOOT-
IN OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER SAID THAT A SYSTEMATIC AND EXHAUSTIVE SEARCH OF LATENT FINGERPRINTS UNCOVERED IN THE DR. KING CASE AGAINST THE FINGERPRINTS OF THE OVER 53,000 PERSONS FOR WHOM "WANTED NOTICES" HAVE BEEN POSTED IN THE FILES OF THE FBI'S IDENTIFICATION DIVISION IDENTICAL DIPUYFON LED TO THE DETERMINATION THAT GALT AND RAY ARE IDENTICAL.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT RAY, WHO IS 40 YEARS OF AGE, WAS REPORTED MISSING FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, SINCE APRIL 23, 1967. HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED AT THAT INSTITUTION ON MARCH 17, 1960, TO SERVE A 20-YEAR SENTENCE FOLLOWING CONVICTION IN ST. LOUIS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND FOR OPERATING A MOTOR VEHICLE WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE OWNER.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

IN SEPTEMBER, 1966, WHILE SERVING THIS SENTENCE, HE WAS CONFINED FOR A TIME IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WARD AT THE STATE HOSPITAL AT FULTON, MISSOURI.

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, RAY HAS A KNOWN ARREST RECORD DATING BACK TO 1949. BACK TO 1949. PRIOR TO THE 1966 CONVICTION FOR WHICH HE RECEIVED THE 20-YEAR TERM, RAY HAD BEEN CONVICTED OF BURGLARY IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, IN 1949; ARMED ROBBERY IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, IN 1952; AND FORGING UNITED STATES POSTAL MONEY ORDERS IN MISSOURI IN 1955.

HE HAS SERVED TERMS IN THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY JAIL IN 1949; IN STATE PRISONS AT JOLIET AND PONTIAC, ILLINOIS, IN 1952-54; AND IN THE FEDERAL PENITENTIARY AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS, IN 1955-58.

RAY WAS AN ENLISTED MAN IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY FROM FEBRUARY, 1946, TO DECEMBER, 1948, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS GIVEN A

GENERAL DISCHARGE DUE TO INEPTNESS AND LACK OF ADAPTABILITY TO MILITARY SERVICE.

WHILE IN THE ARMY, HE RECEIVED A THREE-MONTH SENTENCE AT HARD LABOR FOR BEING DRUNK AND BREAKING ARREST.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT DURING HIS CRIMINAL CAREER, RAY HAS ALSO USED THE NAMES OF JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALTON, W. C. HERRON AND JAMES O'CONNER. HE IS A WHITE MALE; CLAIMS TO HAVE

END PAGE THREE

②
SAN DIEGO --2-2-

LOS ANGELES --3-- 3130PM EXR

URGENT 4-19-68 EXR

TO ALL SACS (PLAINTEXT)

IS, 49L 5845:59RLAINTX)

FROM DIRECTOR

RECEIVED BY CODED TELETYPE

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END PAGE ONE

*Compared with
dictated release
from Bureau
OK
P*

44-1574-E-4

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Sheets

SAC *[Signature]*

Sat Supv
Night Supv

PAGE TWO

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END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

BEEN BORN [REDACTED] IN ILLINOIS; IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 10 INCHES TALL AND WEIGHS ABOUT 163 TO 174 POUNDS. HE HAS BLUE EYES AND BROWN HAIR. THERE IS A SMALL SCAR ON THE CENTER OF HIS FOREHEAD AND A SCAR ON THE PALM OF HIS RIGHT HAND.

RAY HAS CLAIMED THAT HE ATTENDED SCHOOL THROUGH THE 10TH GRADE IN ALTON, ILLINOIS. HE HAS HAD THE REPUTATION OF BEING A "DRIFTER" SINCE LEAVING SCHOOL. HIS VOCATIONAL EXPERIENCE INCLUDES WORKING AS A BAKER, LABORER AND COLOR MATCHER.

IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY, AN FBI COMPLAINT WAS FILED IN JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, ON JULY 20, 1967, CHARGING RAY WITH UNLAWFULLY FLEEING FROM THE STATE OF MISSOURI TO AVOID CONFINEMENT. HE HAS BEEN A FEDERAL FUGITIVE SINCE THEN.

RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. ANYONE HAVING INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D. C., OR THE NEAREST FBI OFFICE.

END

NJZ

FBI LOS ANGELES

CND

FBI SAN DIEGO

PAGE FOUR

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END

NJZ

FBI LOS ANGELES

CND

FBI SAN DIEGO

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 4/19/68

FROM: *(P)* ASAC RICHARD D. ROGGE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 10:15 A.M. 4/19/68 Supervisor HAROLD D. LEINBAUGH, Crime Records Division, telephonically contacted Los Angeles in conference with Atlanta, Memphis, Baltimore and Kansas City, and dictated an approved press release in above matter. It was stressed that no release was to be issued prior to Bureau authorization, which was expected within approximately one hour. LEINBAUGH instructed that the release should be kept under tight security in the front office.

At 11:08 A.M. 4/19/68 SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN, Memphis, advised the writer that the press release was approved with certain corrections. The corrections were noted on the press release, and he also advised that the Bureau had instructed that they would make the release nationally at 2:30 P.M. EST, and that locally at Los Angeles the time would be at 11:30 A.M. PST.

RDR:CM
(2)

SAC [Signature]
W. NOXAN [Signature]

44-1574-E-4/a

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[Signature]

SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

4/19/68

ASAC RICHARD D. ROGGE

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RDR:CM*
(2)

44-1574-E-4/A

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SAC, LOS ANGELES (94-1414)

4/19/68

SA RICHARD G. DOUCE

"THE FBI"
QM - WARNER BROTHERS -
SEVEN ARTS, INC. PRODUCTION
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Attached is a revised announcement on the fugitive
JAMES EARL RAY, which has been approved by the Bureau for
broadcast Sunday night, 4/21/68, at the conclusion of "The
FBI" television show.

① - 44-1574 (MURKIN)

RGD/sjl
(2)

Pres

44-1574-E-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

JAMES EARL RAY

Good evening. The FBI is engaged in a nationwide search to locate James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, in connection with the fatal shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is forty years old, five feet ten, one-hundred seventy four pounds, has brown hair, blue eyes, and a medium build. Consider him armed and extremely dangerous.

If you have seen Ray, notify the FBI immediately.

Thank you.

Complaint Form
FD-71 (Rev. 10-26-65)

NOTE: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Indices: ☐ Negative ☐ See below

Subject's name and aliases				Address of subject		Character of case MURKIN
Complainant KIRA APPEL				Complainant's address and telephone number 1962 N. Beechwood Hollywood 28 HO 31033		Complaint received ☒ Personal ☐ Telephonic Date <u>4-22-68</u> Time <u>11:18am</u>
Subject's Description	Race	Sex ☐ Male ☐ Female	Height	Hair	Build	Birth date and Birthplace
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion	
	Scars, marks or other data					

Facts of complaint

C stated she is a writer for the France-Soir, a French speaking newspaper. C stated she covers the western states, and she would like to be notified of any press releases regarding James Earl Ray, especially if he is apprehended in this area.

C stated she would appreciate this office putting her on a list to be notified.

C stated she can be contacted at the above telephone number.

Ev. Add to Press List

44-1574-E-6

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APR 22 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Action Recommended	44-1574
	IC RICHARD T. VOYLES
	(Agent)

Complaint Form
FD-71 (Rev. 10-26-65)

NOTE: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Indices: ☐ Negative ☐ See below

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Action Recommended				44-1574-E-16 <table border="1"> <tr> <td>SEARCHED</td> <td>INDEXED</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SERIALIZED</td> <td>FILED</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">APR 22 1968</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">FBI - LOS ANGELES</td> </tr> </table>				SEARCHED	INDEXED	SERIALIZED	FILED	APR 22 1968		FBI - LOS ANGELES	
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44-1574 IC RICHARD T. VOYLES (Agent)															

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 4/25/68

FROM : SA J. CLARE WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

SA SADDLER received calls from KFWB, KABC and KNXT around 12:15 AM on above date. These stations all advised that they had a teletype dispatch from Associated Press in Mexico City just put out that stated an individual, name not given, had been arrested at 6:00 PM, 4/24/68 by the Caborca, Mexico Police Department on suspicion that he was the KING murder suspect, JAMES EARL RAY.

Stations stated that release advised the man arrested was an American citizen who had entered into Mexico through Nogales on 4/17/68, that his physical description ~~and photos~~ and appearance matched RAY's. Caborca was described as being approximately 80 miles south of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

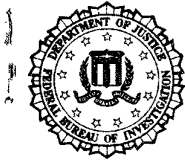
Writer contacted Supervisor RICHARD S. BATES, Division Six, SOG and advised him of above. He stated that SOG has UPI ticker and nothing regarding above had been received on that ticker and that he was not otherwise aware of this situation except for call few minutes before writer's call, from another SOG Supervisor in Crime Records Division to the effect that he had received the same type of inquiry from local Washington, DC news agency.

BATES stated matter would be checked out.

1 p LA
JCW/me

44-1574-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 25 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, also known as
Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer,
John Willard, James McBride, James
Walton, W. C. Herron and James
O'Conner

FUGITIVE

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ARMED ROBBERY

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has been added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his earliest possible location.

Ray has been the subject of a massive and intensive search since the brutal gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. One rifle bullet, believed fired from the window of a nearby rooming house, felled the victim.

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44-1574-E-8

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom wanted notices have been posted in the FBI's Identification Division, succeeded in determining that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery, based on a Federal warrant issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri. He had been confined at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in March, 1960, with a 20-year sentence following conviction for armed robbery and operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In September, 1966, while serving the sentence, he was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at the State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri. He was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary since April 23, 1967.

Ray, who has an arrest record dating back to 1949 and has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders, has also been confined in the Los Angeles County Jail, the Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois, State Prisons and the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

He served in the Army between February, 1946, and December, 1948, received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest and was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Ray is a 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on [REDACTED] He is approximately 5'10" inches tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair which he has worn cut short. He has a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand. He has been described as having a straight, narrow nose and straight and even teeth and to have a nervous habit of occasionally tugging at an ear lobe. His left ear protrudes noticeably.

Acquaintances describe him as a "loner" and "drifter" whose language and diction reflect a "rural" quality and indicate he has had limited education.

He is reportedly a fan of western and country music, drinks vodka and beer, dresses neatly and claims past employment as a merchant seaman and cook on Mississippi River vessels. He is known to have worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

He is known as an avid dancer who has taken dancing lessons. He also completed a course at a school of bartending in the Los Angeles area early in 1968.

Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information concerning this fugitive is requested to immediately contact the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories.

SAC, LOS ANGELES (94-1414)

4/26/68

SA RICHARD G. DOUCE

"THE FBI"
QM - WARNER BROTHERS -
SEVEN ARTS, INC. PRODUCTION
RESEARCH (CRIME RECORDS)

Re my memo dated 4/19/68 concerning the televised announcement on JAMES EARL RAY.

The Bureau authorized today a rerun of the video-taped announcement on JAMES EARL RAY at the conclusion of "The FBI" show Sunday evening, 4/28/68, over ABC Television.

The new 35 mm black and white slide of RAY just released by the Bureau will be electronically dubbed onto last week's video-taped announcement. This new slide is said to give RAY a much more natural appearance as his own eyes were actually lifted from an older photograph by the FBI Laboratory and superimposed on the most recent picture of him obtained by the Los Angeles Office.

The Bureau is currently considering the possibility of accepting an offer by ABC Television to televise the announcement on RAY as many times as possible during the next few weeks as a public service. As soon as this situation is resolved, the office will be immediately notified.

Suggest Sunday Supervisor be alerted to the impending announcement on RAY as the office will no doubt receive many calls following the conclusion of the program at 9:00 PM.

① - 44-1574 (MURKIN)

RGE/sjl

(2) *sjl*

44-1574-E-9

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APR 26 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Los Angeles

DATE: April 29, 1968

JRM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE
I.O. #4182; W. F. #442-A
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ARMED ROBBERY
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM
NEWSPAPER MAT

Being forwarded under separate cover is a supply of newspaper mats and proofs for expeditious distribution to all cooperative daily and weekly newspapers in your territory. Additional publications such as shoppers' guides should not be overlooked in obtaining the greatest possible publicity regarding this fugitive.

In most cases, these mats and proofs may be distributed by mail but when circumstances warrant they may be personally delivered by Special Agents. A form letter over the signature of the Special Agent in Charge may be utilized in distributing this material by mail and this letter should point out that the FBI is requesting the aid of the Nation's press in bringing about the prompt apprehension of this badly sought fugitive.

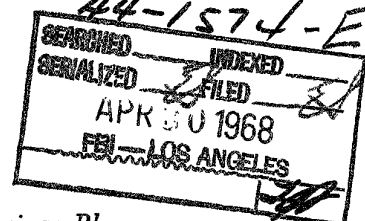
Prompt distribution should be made and additional supplies, if needed, are available at the Bureau. The following number of mats and proofs are being forwarded to your office under separate cover: 400.

As an additional means of securing widespread publicity concerning Ray, offices covering the place of publication of magazines which have previously cooperated in publicizing FBI fugitives should request the assistance of such publications in carrying an article on captioned fugitive. The Bureau press release, copies of which are available in each office, along with a glossy photograph of this fugitive can be furnished. The earliest possible utilization of this material should be encouraged and special attention should be given to publications aimed at minority groups.



5010-108

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



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC ATTN: W. J. NOLAN

DATE: 5/4/68

FROM : SA BURL P. MIDDENDORF

SUBJECT: MURKIN

JERRY COHEN, LA TIMES, Phone 625-0471, called to advise that GARRISSON (New Orleans) told LAUREN HALL to tell COHEN that if he checked closely on the Wallace Headquarters at Lankershim Blvd., No. Hollywood, they would learn something significant to the Gault Case. Garrison alleged that BRADLEY and GAULT had been habitues of the Wallace Hq. on Lankershim.

COHEN said in checking he did learn that the Wallace Hq. on Lankershim is closed. He checked at Wallace Hq. in Bell Gardens and learned that Bradley was a Wallace fan and did attend Wallace rallies. He was unable to establish any association or acquaintance between Bradley and Gault but thought is significant that Gault was known at Wallace HQ in No. Hollywood and that Bradley was known at Wallace HQ in Bell Gardens.

BPM
(1)

[Handwritten signature]
44-1574-E-11

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[Handwritten signature]

5/3/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED R.R.R.

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) (ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY)
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles telephone call to Bureau today.

Enclosed herewith in a cellophane envelope is a type-written letter captioned "Dear Editor" and ending "JAMES RAY; an envelope attached addressed to the "Editor in Chief, the Los Angeles Times Newspaper, Los Angeles, California"; and a Los Angeles Police Department original record card in the name of JAMES E. RAY, which card bears his description, prints and samples taken on 10/11/49 of his handwriting.

The letter was received from Deputy Chief of Police ROBERT HOUGHTON, Los Angeles Police Department, by SAC WESLEY G. GRAPP and Supervisor WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN on 5/3/68. HOUGHTON advised that he had received the letter from JERRY COHEN, a staff writer for the Los Angeles Times, who had brought the letter to Deputy Chief HOUGHTON in the hopes of being able to determine if it had any authenticity. Deputy Chief HOUGHTON advised that he desired to make this available to the FBI for examination, and also that COHEN had requested of him that COHEN be advised if the letter is authentic or the work of some prankster. Deputy Chief HOUGHTON has advised COHEN that he has turned the letter over to the FBI.

The Bureau is requested to compare the signature on the enclosed letter with all known handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY.

- 4 - Bureau (Encs. - 3) (AM-RM) (RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) (AM)
- 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (AM)
- ② - Los Angeles

(9)

WJN:CM

SEARCHED

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OFFICE COPY

44-1574-E-12

LA 44-1574

in an effort to determine whether or not this is an authentic letter. Also, the Bureau is requested to conduct a latent fingerprint examination for fingerprints of RAY. In addition, a typewriter examination should be conducted, as well as a comparison of the contents, spelling, spacing, typing ability, etc., to determine if RAY is the author. The Bureau is also requested to examine and advise of any data pertaining to the paper and the envelope and to conduct all other possible examinations to develop the fullest amount of information.

The letter has been touched by Deputy Chief HOUGHTON, whose prints should be on record; JERRY COHEN, staff writer, Los Angeles Times; JACK GOULDING, Assistant City Editor, and one MIKE STRAZER (or STRAUZER), also of the Los Angeles Times; and their female secretary. Of the male individuals involved, it is believed that they have all served in the military.

The original police card is to be returned to Los Angeles for return to the Los Angeles Police Department.

The Bureau is requested to advise Los Angeles of results.

Dear Editor,

By the time that you get this letter I wont be in Los Angeles no longer. I am going to leave this city and go somewhere where no body is ever going to find me. There is no use for you to go to all the trouble of finding where I sent this or anything because since I killed the nigger leader and came out here I have not talked to any one and no body knows that I was ever here.

While I was in Los Angeles I went to see the movie In Cold Blood and I got all shock up and felt real bad because of the terrible crime that was done in Kanes a few years ago. I got real sick for myself too because I realized what I had done and that is why I am writting to you right now. I want you to put this in the papers or give it to the FBI because I want you to know how misserable I am. Did you know that the day after I killed King that I was so sick about what I had done that I actually threw up all over a hotel room? I am so sorry that I did it now and with my pictures all over the place I am sure that someday I still might get caught. I am afraid to look at anyone in the face anymore because I am afraid that they know who I am and they will tell the police. I will kill myself before I will get caught for I will never again spend many time in no damn prison. But the reason that I am writting you this letter now, is because that I have to let someone know how x I really feel about what I did.

First of all I want to tell you that the only reason I did it was for money. If you really want to know I was hired to do it for \$3,000 dollars which seemed like a hell of a lot of money. I always hated Martin King like a lot of people do but it was because he was a rebel rouzer and because he tried to make a bunch of inferior people (the negroes) as good as every other american white person and even college professors have said that that is not true. Anyways I only did it for the money. I hate alot of people in the world like Cathy Norton who said I was clumsy in the newspapers, and some of the other son of a bitches who now want to put there two damn cents in every magazine saying what a rotten guy I am. But when they say it I promise myself that I will kill them to for saying those things about me. Why they didn't even know me, how can they say those things about me? The same goes for Hatold Swensen. He never took the time of day to give a damn about me. But now they all think they are big shots in the papers and magazines. They all make me sick. They are all a bunch of phonies and if I ever get caught I can tell a few stories about some of those guys at the Missouri Penitentiary that would really shake some people up, just like I could tell you some things about the whites and niggers in those civil rights marches that you wouldn't believe. The whole thing is phoney. But I'm still sorry for what I have done for I once said to myself when I planned the job in Alton for which I got about two thousand dollars that I would never ever kill anybody. And now I killed a guy, and even though I hatted him with all my heart and for what he stood for I' would never do it again for even a million dollars. I am really sorry for what I have done. Somehow I hope it will be straightened around and I can pay some body back for what I did.

I just got all the rest of my \$3,000 dollars today and am leaving the place where I am at. But I am 100% positive that nobody could ever find me or recognize me in a million years. So if I have to leave something to my country and If you and everybody else in the world want to know my only thoughts about this whole thing all I can say is I am now sorry. I am really sorry that I did it at all. I could never kill again.

James Ray

LOS ANGELES ---1--- 635AM MSE

URGENT 5-4-68 MSE

TO LOS ANGELES 44-1574 MEMPHIS 44-1987
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

RECEIVED BY CODED TELETYPE

MURKIN.

RE LA AIRTEL MAY THREE LAST SUBMITTING LETTER AND ENVELOPE
ADDRESSED TO "THE LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWSPAPER."

TYPEWRITING ON ABOVE ITEMS NOT IDENTICAL WITH THAT RECEIVED
IN THIS CASE ATTRIBUTED TO ERIC S. GALT.

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES INDICATE JAMES RAY SIGNATURE ON
LETTER PROBABLY NOT BY JAMES EARL RAY. OVERWRITING OF PORTION
OF SIGNATURE AND LIMITED QUESTIONED HANDWRITING PRECLUDED
DEFINITE OPINION.

TYPING HABITS; SPELLING AND PUNCTUATION AT VARIANCE WITH
TYPEWRITTEN LETTERS RECEIVED IN GALT NAME AND KNOWN HANDWRITING
OF SUBJECT RAY.

NO LATENTS DEVELOPED ON SPECIMENS.

SPECIMENS ARE TEMPORARILY RETAINED IN THE LABORATORY.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO SAC'S BIRMINGHAM AND ATLANTA.

END

RJM

FBI LOS ANGELES

44-1574-E-13

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FBI LOS ANG.

FBI WASH DC

718PM URGENT 5/7/68 LCC

TO ALL SACS RELAY MESSAGE PLAN
FROM DIRECTOR IP

MURKIN

TWO ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF RAY WERE RELEASED TODAY TO NEWS MEDIA IN WASHINGTON. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER ONE SHOULD BEAR CAPTION "JAMES EARL RAY (PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN NINETEEN SIXTY-SEVEN IN MEXICO)." THIS IS THE PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY IN DARK GLASSES AND SPORT SHIRT. PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER TWO SHOULD BEAR CAPTION "JAMES EARL RAY (PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY NINETEEN SIXTY-EIGHT IN CALIFORNIA)." THIS IS HEAD SHOT OF RAY IN BUSINESS SUIT WHICH SHOWS MARKED CLEFT IN CHIN. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPRODUCE COPIES OF THESE TWO PHOTOGRAPHS LOCALLY AND YOU SHOULD INSURE THEY RECEIVE WIDE-SPREAD DISTRIBUTION THROUGH ALL MEDIA CONTACTS. FIVE COPIES OF EACH OF THESE PHOTOGRAPHS PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED ALL OFFICES. LEGATS OTTAWA AND MEXICO ADVISED.

END

DPK

FBI LOS ANG.

TUX

44-1574-E-14

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FBI LOS ANG.

FBI WASH DC

718PM URGENT 5/7/68 LCC

TO ALL SACS RELAY MESSAGE PLAN
FROM DIRECTOR 1P

MURKIN

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END

DPK

FBI LOS ANG.

TUX

Photograph submitted to all SAs 5/9/68 for dissemination to newspapers

Postcard release from P. L. Lane for Press signed into him two photos

44-1574 E-14

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See if Black is can have follow up on release

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM : SUPERVISOR WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/9/68

JAMES EARL RAY, aka
I. O. #4182 W.F. 442-A
TOP TEN FUGITIVE
OO: MEMPHIS
Bufile 44-38861

ATTENTION: ALL SENIOR RESIDENT AGENTS

The Bureau has directed that widespread distribution be given the most recent photographs of subject. The enclosed photograph of subject with sun glasses and sport shirt was taken during October 1967 while he was at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The photograph of subject in business suit, which shows marked cleft chin, was taken during January or early February 1968.

You should contact friendly news media your territory and make photographs available unless there is a reason to preclude any contact. Advise of positive results.

Enclosed for each Senior Resident Agent in connection with this project are two 8 x 10 and three 3 x 5 photographs of RAY, along with press release authorized by the Bureau dated May 7, 1968.

Each Senior Resident Agent should contact appropriate newspaper within their territory in compliance with the above instructions and advise Desk #1 by memorandum no later than 5/19/68 of the coverage to be effected.

cc. Press File

TJA:CM

44-1574-E-15

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 5/9/68

FROM : SUPERVISOR WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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I. O. #4182 W.F. 442-A
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cc. Press File

TJA:CM

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44-1574-E-15



—United Press Telephoto

LATEST PHOTO SHOWS SUSPECT IN CALIFORNIA BUSINESS SUIT

Photo at right was taken of James Earl Ray in Mexico

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Releases Two New Pictures of Suspect Ray

WASHINGTON (UPI) —The FBI has distributed two more photographs of the accused killer of Dr. Martin Luther King—one of them “an extremely good likeness.”

Both were snapshots of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, an escaped convict accused of shooting King to death in Memphis April 4.

The “extremely good likeness” is a candid photograph of Ray in a business suit and tie and shows almost his full face, taken in late January or early February somewhere in California.

The other, which the FBI said was taken last November somewhere in Mexico, shows him wearing sun glasses and what appears to be a white sports shirt. The FBI said Ray is known to wear sun glasses frequently.

The two new photographs—the FBI refused to say where or how they were obtained—will be displayed throughout the country along with three other pictures of Ray which now appear on FBI’s wanted posters.

Ray, who escaped from prison April 23, 1967, by hiding in a truck, is wanted by the FBI for

illegal flight to avoid prosecution in Tennessee for King’s murder.

The civil rights leader was shot to death on a motel balcony, apparently by a rifleman 200 feet away in a rooming house bathroom.

Thirteen days later the FBI announced it had issued a warrant for Galt, but after checking some 53,000 fingerprints, the FBI said two days afterwards that Galt and Ray were the same man.

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

A-2 Herald-Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 5-8-68
Edition: Night Final
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: LA

☐ Being Investigated

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1 MAY 9 1968	
FBI—LOS ANGELES	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LA (44-1574)

FROM : SA H.L. PELLEGATTA

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/10/68

Re memo Supervisor NOLAN, 5/9/68.

On 5/10/68 two 8x10 photos of RAY were furnished to AL PERRIN, City Desk, Press-Enterprise and LYNN MC QUERN, staff writer. They advised the photos would be run in the paper.

HLP

*Press
Reversible*

44-1574-E-17

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI — LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI Passes Out 2 New Ray Pictures

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The FBI distributed today two more photographs of the accused killer of Dr. Martin Luther King — one of them “an extremely good likeness.”

Both were snapshots of James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, an escaped convict accused of shooting King to death in Memphis April 4.

The “extremely good likeness” is a candid photograph of Ray in a business suit and tie and shows almost his full face. It was taken in late January or early February somewhere in California.

The other, which the FBI said was taken last November somewhere in Mexico, shows him wearing sun glasses and what appears to be a white sports shirt. The FBI said Ray is known to wear sun glasses frequently.

The two new photographs — the FBI refused to say where or how they were obtained — will be displayed throughout the country along with three other pictures of Ray which now appear on FBI's wanted posters.

One of the earlier photographs was taken when Ray was graduated from bartending school in Los Angeles early this year.

Ray was added to the FBI's list of 10 Most Wanted Criminals April 20. There have been reports of the search extending to various foreign countries, including Australia, and authorities along the U.S. borders have been alerted to watch for him.

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

11

EVENING OUTLOOK
SANTA MONICA, CALIF.

Date: 5/7/68

Edition:

Author:

Editor: Robert McClure

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-1574

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI — LOS ANGELES	



New Photos Of Suspect

FBI today released two newly obtained photos of James Earl Ray, ex-convict sought in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Photo at left shows Ray wearing dark glasses and was taken in Mexico, November 1967. At right, photo of Ray in a business suit was taken in California late January-early February 1968.

—UPI Telephoto

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) P

DATE: 5/13/68

FROM : SA GORDON B. PLAYMAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

JAMES EARL RAY, aka
I.O. #4182, W.F. 442-A
TOP TEN FUGITIVE

Rememo Supervisor WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN 5/9/68.

On 5/13/68 City Editor JOHN BALL, Santa Barbara News-Press, was provided with press release dated 5/7/68 and the two latest photos of RAY. BALL stated that he would run X these items in the next issue of the News-Press.

GBP/gbp
(1)

Pres

44-1574-E-19

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FBI — LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC LOS ANGELES

DATE:

FROM : SA ROBERT J. BARRY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Director letter to Los Angeles dated 4/29/68.
Memorandum SA NOLAN to SAC Los Angeles dated.

On 5/13/68 the proof and new photographs of the subject were furnished to Associate Editor DONALD TANNER, Westchester Star-News, 8606 Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., 90045.

The above is the only newspaper in the vicinity of the Los Angeles International Airport Resident Agency.

(2)
RJB

44-1574-E-20

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC LOS ANGELES

FROM : SA ROBERT J. BARRY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE:

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Memorandum SA NOLAN to SAC Los Angeles dated.

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(2)
RJB

Puro

44-1574-E-20

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FBI — LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 5/14/68

FROM : SA CURTIS H. HOLT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memo of Supv. WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN, 5/9/68.

LANCASTER RA TERRITORY

The following newspapers were furnished with photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in October 1967 and January or February, 1968. They were also furnished with a copy of the press released dated 5/7/68. All those contacted stated they would run the above items in one of forthcoming issues.

LEDGER-GAZETTE, Lancaster, California - Daily paper

ANTELOPE VALLEY PRESS, Palmdale, California - Daily

DAILY PRESS, Victorville, California - Daily

1 - 44-1574
CHH

Press

44-1574-E-22

SEARCHED ☒	INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒	FILED ☒
MAY 15 1968	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

TELEVISION

PROGRAMMING

Wall Street, Play by Play

Of all the things television does badly, the stock market may be the worst. Despite the fact that 24 million Americans now own stocks, TV coverage of the market is almost universally restricted to a brief and bewildering recital of the Dow-Jones averages and the ten most active stocks. But now, from the never-never land of UHF, comes a startling switch. Eight U.S. TV stations, most of them new, have gone on the air with a play-by-play account of market transactions from open to close, Monday through Friday.

Originated 18 months ago by Los Angeles' Channel 22 ("The Station That Means Business"), the programs run nonstop for six to eight hours, as computerized figures sweep constantly across the picture, reproducing the tapes of both the New York and American Stock Exchanges. Behind the figures, an announcer or a licensed stockbroker answers telephone inquiries from viewers and delivers a running commentary on market trends, business news and transactions on local exchanges.

The comments are not uniformly enlightened. Houston's Channel 16, which began broadcasting only two months ago, hired a former science reporter and a dark-haired young actress to keep its audience informed. "We are only now at the point," admits the show's M.C. Jeff Thompson, "where we can spot trends and correlate what is happening." There are other dangers involved. To avoid SEC charges of stock manipulation, all stations forbid their commentators from paying particular attention to any single stock. They also discourage their employees from playing the market. Says News Director

Ben Larsen of Chicago's Channel 26: "I sold out all my stocks when we started. I'm scared to death of someone accusing me of jockeying a stock."

So far, the exchange programs seem to be accomplishing their intended purpose: to attract a marketable audience for potential advertisers. The fare obviously appeals to a large number of elderly people who otherwise would have to trudge downtown to the broker's office to watch the tape, although some studies show that the average viewer earns about \$15,000 a year and is between 38 and 45 years of age.

So enthusiastic is the audience that country clubs now keep their sets tuned to the market action, as do expensive bars, barbershops, beauty salons and doctors' offices. The most ebullient response, however, comes from businessmen's wives who suddenly find that they can talk intelligently about the market with their husbands. One overwhelmed Dallas woman recently wrote Channel 39 that "your stock-market show is the greatest thing that has happened to me since sex." And Seattle's Channel 13, which because of the time difference begins its Wall Street report at 7 a.m., received a telephone call from a housewife who said that "for the first time in 17 years, I had breakfast with my husband this morning."

OPINION

The Assassination

According to Capote

On the rare occasions when writer Truman Capote agrees to submit to a television interview, it is usually because he has something that he wants to say. Last week, when he appeared (for the first time) on Johnny Carson's *Tonight* show, he wasted little time in



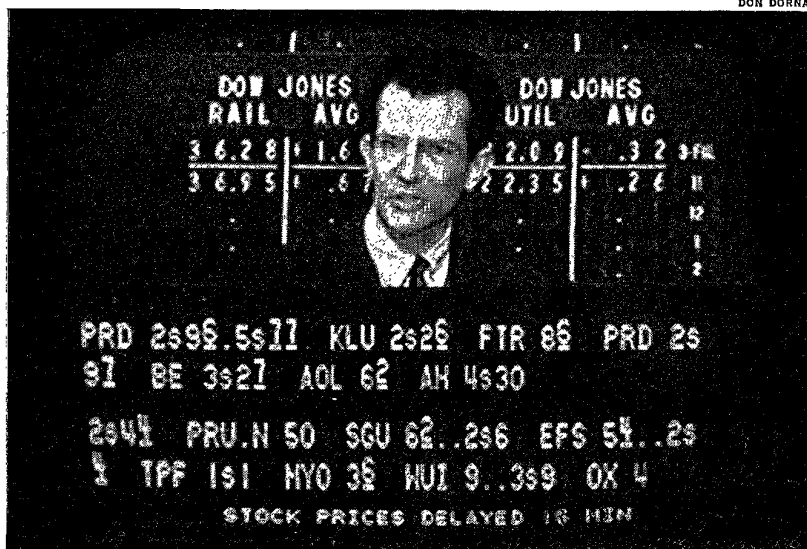
CAPOTE ON "TONIGHT" SHOW
Were there two Eric Starvo Galts?

getting to the point. "I have a theory," announced the author of *In Cold Blood*, "about the murder of Martin Luther King."

So, of course, does almost everybody else, but Capote's credentials make him worth listening to—wild though his theory may be. The FBI, he says, is looking for the wrong man. James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, was indeed in on the assassination plot—which Capote believes was carried out by "leftists, not rightists," for political gain. Ray did not, however, kill Martin Luther King. "I have studied his record very carefully, and in my experience with interviewing what I call homicidal minds [Capote has talked at length with 100 murderers in the past nine years], he's simply a man not capable of this particular kind of very calculated and cruel, and exact and precise kind of crime."

In Capote's reconstruction of the crime, in fact, Ray's only function was to throw the FBI off the assassin's trail, first by assuming the name of Eric Starvo Galt ("My theory is that there are two Eric Starvo Galts"), and finally by planting his fingerprints on the gun that was later to be used for killing King. "This was a setup," Capote believes. "The central factor of what happens is that, after the assassination, this assassin rushes out of the rooming house, and what does he do? He does a very amazing, unusual thing. He takes a suitcase and very carefully props it up in front of a store. And in this suitcase there is a shotgun, very carefully left. And what is on it is Mr. James Earl Ray's fingerprints."

And where was Ray at the time? "Dead." Capote believes he was killed "and disposed of" at least ten days before the assassination. "He didn't quite understand," said Capote with a grimace, "what his part in the plot was going to be."



MARKET PROGRAM IN LOS ANGELES

Next to sex

MAY 14 1968

FRI MAY 10 1968

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM : SUPERVISOR WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/9/68

JAMES EARL RAY, aka
I. O. #4182 W.F. 442-A
TOP TEN FUGITIVE
OO: MEMPHIS
Bufile 44-38861

ATTENTION: ALL SENIOR RESIDENT AGENTS

The Bureau has directed that widespread distribution be given the most recent photographs of subject. The enclosed photograph of subject with sun glasses and sport shirt was taken during October 1967 while he was at Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. The photograph of subject in business suit, which shows marked cleft chin, was taken during January or early February 1968.

You should contact friendly news media your territory and make photographs available unless there is a reason to preclude any contact. Advise of positive results.

Enclosed for each Senior Resident Agent in connection with this project are two 8 x 10 and three 3 x 5 photographs of RAY, along with press release authorized by the Bureau dated May 7, 1968.

Each Senior Resident Agent should contact appropriate newspaper within their territory in compliance with the above instructions and advise Desk #1 by memorandum no later than 5/19/68 of the coverage to be effected.

PHOTO & RELEASE FURNISHED BY WILLIAM C CARROLL

SANTA ANA REGISTER 5/8/68

DAILY PILOT COSTA MESA 5/9/68

cc. Press File ANDHEIM BULLETIN 5/9/68 44-1574-E-23

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 5/15/68

FROM :SA CARL V. PORTER

SUBJECT:MURKIN

Re Memo of Spervisor WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN to SAC 5/9/68.

The most recent photographs of RAY were furnished to Mr RON FUNK, Managing Editor, Evening Outlook Newspaper, Santa Monica, Calif. on 5/10/68. He stated these photos were the same as those that appeared in the 5/7/68 issue of the Outlook which were released by UPI. This article with the photos was previously clipped and forwarded to the LA office.

The photos were made available to BILL FENDERSON, Staff Editor, Evening Star News, Culver City, Calif. on 5/10/68 and he stated they would ~~be~~ appear in his paper in the near future.

CVP
(1)

Pres

44-1574-E-24

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According to our information, here were Ray's movements:

- 1 - The day before the shooting, Ray was picked up in Athens, Alabama, and was taken to Memphis.
- 2 - He registered in rooming house, and was accompanied by ~~another man who~~ registered as Samuel Lewis. (Lewis was supposed to be backup man, kill King at rally that night if Ray missed his chance on the balcony.)
- 3 - After shooting King, Ray walked two or three blocks to the getaway car, accompanied by a girl and a guy. The car is a new blue Buick, with Alabama plates. First digits are believed to be 14. Car is owned and was driven by Eddie Wilburn of Huntsville, Ala. It is equipped with a police radio. (Second man stayed overnight, took early bus to Knoxville.)
- 4 - Ray, two girls^s and a child were driven out of Memphis by Wilburn in the blue Buick. Went to Kansas City. Trip took 6½ hours. Girls, child, Wilburn all from Huntsville.
- 5 - In Kansas City, Ray stayed overnight at a home. It is a small, gray, shingled, one-bedroom house about three miles from central Kansas City. (We ~~xxx~~ have rough location.)
- 6 - At dusk the next day (April 5) Ray was flown to Belle Glade, ~~xxxxxx~~ Florida, in a private plane. Took off from private field, also used as training field for military. Ray arrived early April @ 6.
- 7 - Plane in which Ray was flown is owned by a William Pierce (Pearce?), a wealthy man who owns or operates an airport in Belle Glade, and once owned a contracting company in Cuba. Not known ~~xxxxxx~~ whether Pierce flew the plane. Pierce also owns motel in Belle Glade and cottages on the lake in nearby Okeechobee (or maybe on nearby Lake Okeechobee). Pierce said to be KKK member.
- 8 - Theory: Ray stayed in motel or in cottage. May be still there. Or in Cuba.
- 9 - On April 11, Ray got on yacht (probably charter boat) in Key West. Boat owned by Ben Thompson. (A Ben Thompson of Miami owns three fishing boats.)