

Additional details:

- 1 - Pierce often flies own private plane to New Orleans. Said to know DA Jim Garrison. Also might check possible flights in direction of Cuba.
- 2 - Pierce and Wilburn said to be related.
- 3 - Lead to Wilburn might be VFW club in Huntsville, where he is supposed to be a member.
- 4 - Rifle is supposed to have been left in furnace of Memphis rooming house, and is believed still there. Must refer to backup man's weapon.
- 5 - Ray now wearing bifocals.
- 6 - White Mustang belonging to Ray was not in Memphis on the day of King slaying, and he did not escape in it. ~~Presumably~~ Presumably it never left Georgia in April.
- 7 - On the day of the killing (April 4) Ray made phone calls from Memphis to Belle Glade. Calls believed to be made from a bus station.
- 8 - In the weeks before the killing, Ray stayed somewhere in Belle Glade.
- 9 - Story of payoffs very complicated. Wilburn posed to have been paid off in Reno. Night before killing, somebody hit a Keno ticket for \$25,000 in Cal-Neva Lodge. Rigged, to pass the money. Done with knowledge of Charlie Gato, 6880 Pebble Beach Drive, Reno, who runs a shift at Cal-Neva. Then there is Ben (or Jack) Sturgis of St. Louis, who used to work bar on 2nd St., Reno. Came into money. Another "contact."

(For LA, see attached.)

Los Angeles:

- 1 - Ray somebody stayed in Clark Hotel, room 700, on April ~~17~~ ~~17-18~~ 17-18.
- 2 - Lamont White, who works for Western Union in Los Angeles. Has sent money to Louisiana. Bought two pistols under his name. They really went to Frank Brickley of Chatanooga, Tenn., who was in prison with Ray. Brickley sposed to be here.
- 3 - Harold's Cafe (555 S. Main). Ray bartender there for week or so. Quiser bar. Guy named Connie knows him there.

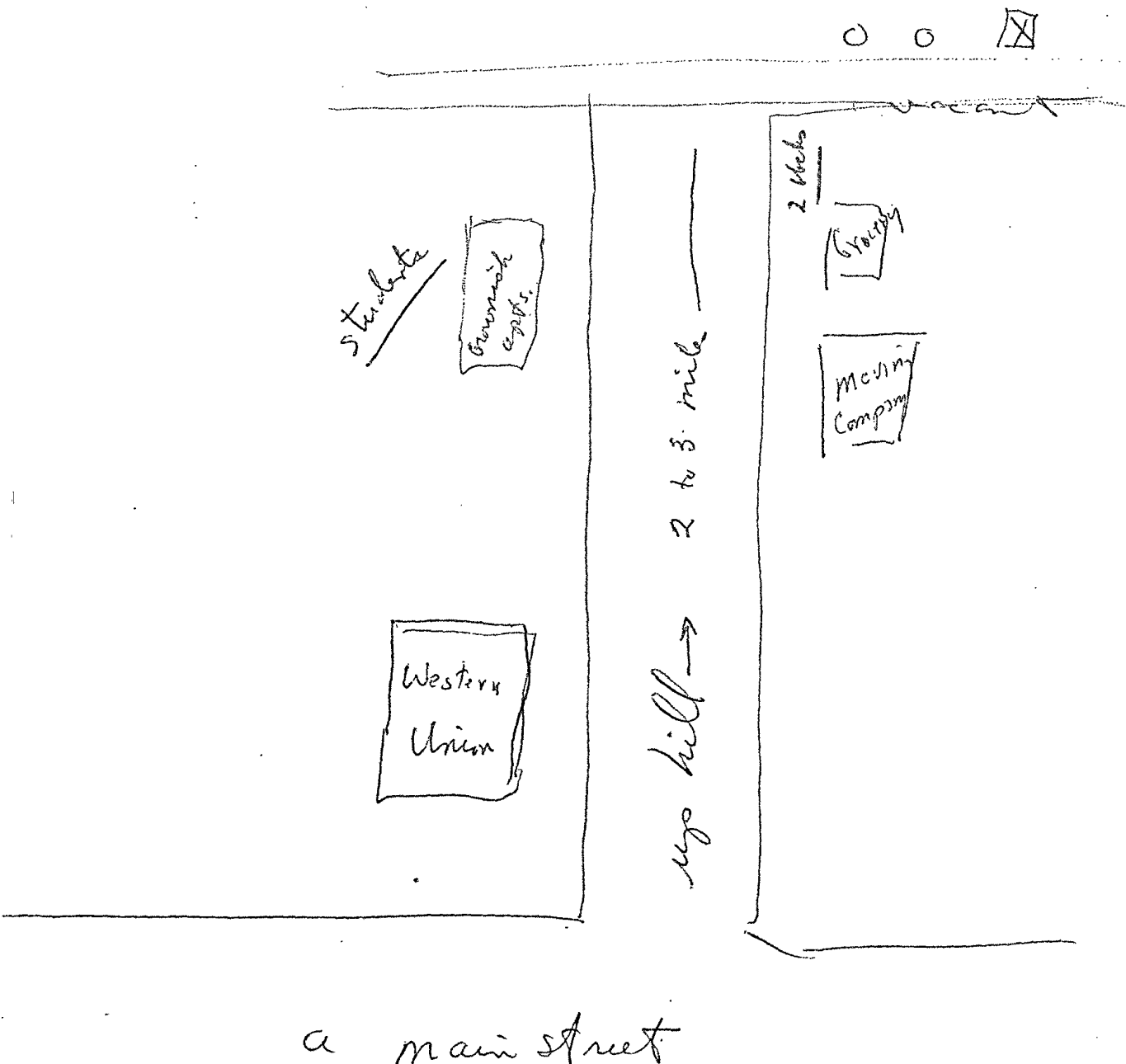
Willi Shea. Once worked Top Rail Bar, 7th and Alvarado. Ray supposedly married to her once. She from Missouri, now lives in North Hwd. Has money. Mother married, lives in Compton, drives a purple Pontiac convertible.

*Now lives at 812 S. Westlake, L.A.
with man who owns a bar, she's blond, about 38.*

More supplemental data:

- 1 - Telephone credit card supposedly used by Ray was issued to Ridell (sp?) Catering, U.S. Rubber, Detroit. Either in name of Ridell (no first name) or a Robert Brinkley. Ridell reportedly lives in Harper Woods, Mich. Calls on card reported made from Memphis to Belle Glade, Fla., among others.
- 2 - Samuel Lewis, second man in rooming house, discharged 1963 from Milan, Mich. Also served time in Chillicothe and Terre Haute. (Warden at Milan says no record of Lewis.)
- 3 - Lewis took bus to Los Angeles from Knoxville on April 27. Came through Memphis and El Paso.

Drawn by City Editor WILLIAM THOMAS,
"Los Angeles Times"; 5/17/68, and
given to SAC WESLEY G. GRAPP and
Supervisor WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN as to
possible location of hideaway house
allegedly utilized by RAY at Kansas
City. (See Item 5, page 1)



5/17/68

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL - REGISTERED

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
(ATTENTION: IDENTIFICATION DIVISION,
LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION)

FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles teletype 5/17/68.

Enclosed herewith for the Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, is one Greyhound Bus ticket, No. 3 00002229 42, covering passage from Knoxville to Los Angeles via Memphis and El Paso.

Enclosed for the Bureau, Kansas City and other offices is one rough map drawn by City Editor WILLIAM THOMAS of the "Los Angeles Times" based on information furnished to him by their informant, known as "BOB" (LNU), which supposedly depicts the location of the house in Kansas City where JAMES EARL RAY allegedly stayed overnight. This appeared as Item 5, Page 1, of Mr. THOMAS's notes, as set forth in referenced Los Angeles teletype. The reference is as follows:

"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 have rough location.)"

The Identification Division, Latent Fingerprint Section, is requested to examine the bus ticket in question for any

- 4 - Bureau (Encs. - 2)(AM-RH)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)(Enc. - 1)(AM)
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740)(Enc. - 1)(AM)
- 1 - Kansas City (44-760)(Enc. - 1)(AM)
- 1 - Knoxville (Enc. - 1)(AM)
- 2 - Los Angeles (44-1574)

WJH:GM
(10)

SEARCHED
FILED

1cc Lab file

44-1574-E-25

LA 44-1574

possibility of latents or any other information that could be gleaned that would relate to other data in this case. The envelope has been handled by numerous persons, and City Editor WILLIAM THOMAS advised that the ticket has been handled by quite a number of persons on his staff. The pertinent examination would seem to be whether or not JAMES EARL RAY left a latent print on this ticket.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



Search Continues for Ray

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is intensifying its search for James Earl Ray, sought in connection with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Recently released photographs show Ray in a business suit when he was in California during January or February and in Mexico during November, 1967. Government forces under the direction of Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark are pressing one of the biggest manhunts in history. Ray is thought to be a loner.

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

Page 5

Daily Breeze

Torrance, Calif.

Date: 5-15-68
 Edition: Home
 Author:
 Editor: Robert L. Curry
 Title:

Character:
 or 44-1574

Classification:

Submitting Office: LA

☒ Being Investigated

44-1574-E-26

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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

Dark Glasses

Mexico - 11/67

Suit - cal - 10/2/68

44-1574-E-27

SEARCHED ☒	INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒	FILED ☒
MAY 20 1968	
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10

Date _____

To:

☐ Director

FILE

Att.: _____

Title MURKIN

☐ SAC _____

☐ ASAC _____

☒ Supv. 1

☐ Agent _____

☐ SE _____

☐ IC _____

☐ CC _____

☐ Steno _____

☐ Clerk _____

RE: Attached

☐ Rotor #: _____

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign _____ Reassign _____

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline _____

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Recharge serials

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Return serials

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Send Serials

to _____

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by _____

☐ Type

Prep

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sf

*Photos furnished to City Editors
Burbank Daily Review &
Glendale Newspress on
5/17/68*

SAC McNulty

Office Burbank P.A.

☒ See reverse side

SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

May 17, 1968

SA WILLIAM B. NOLAN, JR.

MURKIN

Re memo of Supervisor JOHN WILLIAM NOLAN dated 5/9/68 at Los Angeles.

On 5/17/68, two 3 x 5 photographs of JAMES EARL RAY taken in October, 1967, and January or February, 1968, were furnished to the editor of the Santa Maria Times newspaper, Santa Maria, California, and to the editor of the San Luis Obispo Telegram-Tribune newspaper, San Luis Obispo, California. Both editors stated that they would give the photographs appropriate attention in their newspapers.

44-1574-1-28

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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Pur

44-1574-E-28

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 5/17/68

FROM : SA STEPHEN L. DURKIN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memorandum from Supervisor WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN to SAC dated 5/9/68 regarding contacting newspapers and furnishing them with recent photographs of subject RAY.

On 5/13/68, SA LOREN BROOKS furnished RAY's photographs and a press release to JIM BOX, City Editor, "The Daily Breeze, Torrance, California.

On 5/14/68, SA JAMES FREEMAN furnished photographs and a news release to ROBERT BECK, Managing Editor, "News Pilot," San Pedro, California.

On 5/15/68, SA MARK LAFE THOMPSON furnished photographs and a news release to BILL HAZLETT, City Editor, "Press Telegram," Long Beach, California.

All advised they would run photographs of subject RAY at the earliest possible opportunity.

On 5/15/68, the home edition of "The Daily Breeze," Torrance, California, ran subject RAY's photograph along with the news release.

SLD:elc
(2) *elc*

Press

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SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

5/17/68

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SLD:ele

(2) *ele*

44-1574-E-29

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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SUBJECT: MURKIN

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I. O. #4182 W.F. 442-A
TOP TEN FUGITIVE
OO: MEMPHIS
Bufile 44-38861

ATTENTION: ALL SENIOR RESIDENT AGENTS

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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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.

Photos and releases to following on 5-15-68:
Joe O'Hara, Oxnard Press-Courier
Robert Hanfey, Camarillo Daily News
John Mac Donald, Santa Paula Chronicle
cc. Press File

TJA:CM

Note to Ventura Star-Free Press
in view of unfavorable editorial, this case,
which was submitted to the Bureau, 44-1574-E-30

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 5/21/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM C. CARROLL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 5/13/68, a MAT photograph and article were furnished to Lt. CHARLES B. TYLER, Informational Service, El Toro Marine Air Station, El Toro, California. Lt. TYLER advised that the photograph and article would appear in the 5/17 issue of the Flight Jacket, the Base newspaper published at the El Toro Marine Air Station, El Toro, California. Lt. TYLER stated that this paper has a circulation of approximately 7,000 copies.

On 5/9/68, this same MAT photograph and article was furnished to the Daily Pilot newspaper with headquarters in Costa Mesa, California. Mr. LORENZO WHITE advised that attempts would be made to run this photograph and article in all six additions of the Daily Pilot which is published in Orange County, California. Total circulation for these additions would be approximately 26,000 copies.

WCC/mdm
(1)

Press

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FBI MEMPHIS.

FBI LOS ANG.

1203PM URGENT 5-21-68 SMS

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ATTENTION CRIME RECORDS,
AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

MURKIN.

RE LOS ANGELES TEL TO BUREAU MAY SEVENTEEN LAST IN
CONNECTION WITH LOS ANGELES TIMES INFORMANT - QUOTE BOB UNQUOTE
PAREN LNU PAREN.

JERRY COHEN, STAFF WRITER, LOS ANGELES TIMES NEWSPAPER,
TODAY CONTACTED LOS ANGELES OFFICE AND ADVISED HE AND WILLIAM
THOMAS, CITY EDITOR, LOS ANGELES TIMES, HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED BY
THOROUGHNESS OF FBI INVESTIGATION BOTH IN IDENTIFYING JAMES EARL
RAY AND EFFORTS BEING MADE TO APPREHEND HIM AT THIS TIME. MR.
COHEN ADVISED THE LOS ANGELES TIMES WOULD LIKE TO RUN AN ARTICLE
CONCERNING THE VAST VOLUME OF LEADS BEING COVERED BY FBI IN ITS
INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER, AND THAT THE PAPER DID NOT DESIRE
ANY SPECIFIC NAMES OR PLACES BUT DID, IF SUCH STORY MET WITH
APPROVAL OF FBI, WANT TO HAVE INCIDENTS SUCH AS LICENSE PLATES
OF OUT OF STATE CARS BEING TRACKED DOWN AND OCCUPANTS CHECKED
END PAGE ONE

Prison

SEARCHED _____
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44-1574-E-32

PAGE TWO

OUT, ETC. 4. COMEN REQUESTED THE BUREAU BE CONTACTED FOR POSSIBILITY OF APPROVING SUCH STORY. STORY IN GENERAL WILL BE SOMEWHAT SIMILAR TO ARTICLE RK PREPARED BY COLUMNIST BOB PARSON WHICH APPEARED IN SOME OF LOCAL PAPERS ON MAY SIXTEEN LAST INDICATING THE WIDESPREAD, EXHAUSTIVE MANHUNT BEING CONDUCTED BY FBI.

BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE LOS ANGELES.

END

SAB

FBI MEMPHIS

SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

5/21/68

SUPERVISOR WILLIAM JOHN NOLAN

MURKIN

At 10:50 A.M. this date JERRY COHEN, "Los Angeles Times", was in telephonic contact with the writer. Mr. COHEN advised that he had been extremely impressed by the thoroughness of the FBI investigation in this matter, and that he and BILL THOMAS, City Editor, had been talking about the great volume of leads that the FBI has painstakingly sifted in order to identify and attempt to apprehend JAMES EARL RAY.

Mr. COHEN advised that THOMAS requested him to contact the FBI and see whether or not Mr. GRAPP would consider contacting his Washington headquarters to approve a story by the "Los Angeles Times" on the vast coverage given to this matter. The "Times" did not desire any specific data, but if such a story were approved, they would like certain incidents, like out-of-state cars being referred into the Bureau and painstakingly found and the occupants checked out, etc.

Mr. COHEN was advised that the writer had no authority to handle matters such as this, but that it would be referred to the Special Agent in Charge for his further consideration.

WJN:CMC
(2)

44-1574-1-22

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Albany

DATE: May 20, 1968

JWA FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: MURKIN
PUBLICITY ON REWARDS OFFERED

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

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

1 - Copies to all Special Agents in Charge and Legats



5010-108

V
44-1574-E-34

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J

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

LS/

LOS ANGELES 2 404 PM HWL

MURGENT 5/22/68 JDR

TO LOS ANGELES (PLAINTEXT)

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

RECEIVED BY CODED TELETYPE

MURKIN

REURTEL MAY TWENTY-ONE LAST.

ADVISE MR. COHEN, LOS ANGELES TIMES, THAT ALTHOUGH HIS INTEREST APPRECIATED, NOT POSSIBLE FOR FBI TO BE OF ASSISTANCE RE HIS PROPOSED STORY. FURTHER ADVISE HIM THAT STATISTICAL INFORMATION RE LICENSE PLATE CHECKS, NUMBER OF LEADS COVERED, ET CETERA, NOT READILY AVAILABLE. IF COHEN DOES PREPARE WRAP-UP STORY BASED ON ARTICLES PREVIOUSLY IN PRINT, SUGGEST HE HIGHLIGHT THE FACT THAT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN REWARDS PRESENTLY OUTSTANDING FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO RAY'S ARREST.

END

NJZ

FBI LOS ANGELES

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LS/

LOS ANGELES 2 404 PM HNL

MURGENT 5/22/68 JDR

TO LOS ANGELES (PLAINTEXT)

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

RECEIVED BY CODED TELETYPE

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LIGHT THE FACT THAT ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN REWARDS
PRESENTLY OUTSTANDING FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO RAY'S ARREST.

END

NJZ

FBI LOS ANGELES

Cohen advised 5/22/68

44-1574-E-35

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Press

SAC, LOS ANGELES

7/18/68

ASAC RICHARD D. ROGGE

JAMES EARL RAY

At 4:44 P.M., 7/18/68, Section Chief JAMES F. BLAND telephonically dictated the attached potential press release to be issued on 7/19/68.

BLAND instructed that this release under no circumstances is to be put out before Bureau authorization is telephonically given and will be put out ten minutes after the Bureau puts out its release. BLAND indicated he was desirous of obtaining as wide coverage as possible in the Los Angeles area. He stated certainly the Director is extremely interested in this matter and that, if possible, the Director's name can be inserted in any additional previously approved facts furnished with the attached release.

BLAND stated as things stand at this time they expect RAY to arrive in Tennessee at approximately 4:00 A.M., which is 1:00 A.M. Los Angeles time. He stated that Los Angelex should insure that a capable Agent is on duty to handle this matter in accordance with the Bureau's desires and will be in a position to answer additional press inquiries.

RDE/jae
(2)

44-1574-E-36
②

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES *44-1574* DATE: 7/18/68

FROM *(P)* ASAC RICHARD D. ROGGE

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY

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SAC *WJ*

LARUE *L*

NOLAN *N*

C. WILLIAMS *CS*

RDR/jae
(2) *jae*

44-1574 E-36
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

FBI — LOS ANGELES
[Signature]



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

July 18, 1968

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

James Earl Ray, who is charged with the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., was returned safely to the United States today.

British authorities turned Ray over yesterday evening to the custody of FBI Agents who accompanied him on a nonstop flight ^{from London} aboard a U. S. Air Force ^{C-135} plane to Memphis, Tennessee.

The plane left Great Britain at 7:38 p.m., EDT, yesterday, and arrived at the Memphis Naval Air Station at 4:37 a.m., EDT, today.

Upon arrival he was turned over by the FBI to the Shelby County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office and was lodged in the Shelby County Jail.

The transportation of Ray to the United States was accomplished without incident.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

DATE: 7/19/68

FROM : SA J. CLARE WILLIAMS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo ASAC ROGGE, 7/18/68, regarding Bureau instructions for issuing press release advising of arrival JAMES EARL RAY in United States.

At 2:35 AM, writer called by CARL HALL, Bureau who stated that the following should be either added to or corrected in, the press release that was provided Los Angeles by the Bureau earlier in the day:

In second paragraph, third line, "from London" should be inserted after word "flight", and in same line, "C135" should be inserted after "Air Force".

The plane left Great Britain at 7:38 PM, EDT and arrived Memphis Naval Air Station at 4:37 AM, EDT.

After HALL provided the above, Section Chief JAMES F. BLAND got on line and advised that while strictly adhering to info as set forth in release, it should be stressed that it was FBI Agents that accompanied RAY from London to Memphis, and not U. S. Marshalls, as has been rumored. Stated that should press make further inquiry, info may be provided only out of releases previously approved by Bureau.

Stated that writer was to begin disseminating the release at 2:47 AM.

In accordance with these instructions, writer made following dissemination:

2:47 AM, TONY PROFUMO, City News Service

3:04 AM

2:57 AM, JIM LAWRENCE, AP

3:04 AM, DAVE LINTON, UPI

3:09 AM, JOE BARRONERAZ, Times

3:13 AM, DAVE CASLER, Herald Examiner

2 - IA
JCW/jcw

SAC
NOLAN

Crump
44-1574-E-37

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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~~3:04 AM~~

2:57 AM, JIM LACIER, AP

3:04 AM, DAVE LINTON, UPI

3:09 AM, JOE HAMBLERAZ, Times

3:13 AM, DAVE CASLER, Herald Examiner

2 - LA
JCW/jew

44-1574-E-37

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	