

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC

FROM : SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/6/68

On 5/6/68, J.E. CHILDERS, 2046 Verdun, Memphis, Tenn. advised that he thought RUSS HODGE, a newscaster for Channel 3 in Memphis may have had something to do with the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

CHILDERS advised that on the evening of 4/3/68, HODGE, on his evening news program indicated that KING was staying at the Lorraine Motel and gave the address of the motel and the number of KING'S room. During the week of 4/20-4/24, HODGE was not on TV. The TV station said he was on vacation, but CHILDERS ~~FEELS~~ feels that HODGE may have gone somewhere to receive a payoff for some part he may have played in the killing. CHILDERS advised that he has no concrete basis for ~~feeling~~ ~~HODGE is~~ linking HODGE connected with the assassination, it is just a feeling he has.

4/11-1968 - Sub - 165
b. h
Hester *QA*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS 44-1987

DATE: 5/6/68

FROM : SA VERNE D. GAUBY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memo of SA THOMAS O. RONAN, 4/30/68.

~~XX~~

It is noted that the only law enforcement agency within the Murfreesboro RA which ~~has~~ fingerprints arrested individuals or does any processing for latent fingerprints is the Murfreesboro PD. On 5/3/68 Lt. R. L. BLANTON (NA) who handles all such duties for the Murfreesboro PD advised that his Department does not maintain an unidentified latent file but that, over the past years, various unidentified latent prints have been furnished to the Tenn. Bureau of Criminal Identification, Nashville, Tenn.

All other fingerprinting and ~~is~~ latent work throughout the Murfreesboro RA is handled by various TBCI Agents and any unidentified prints which they may have obtained in the past would be contained in the TBCI files maintained in Nashville.

VDG (2)

44-1987-Sub-166

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED <u>5</u>
SERIALIZED <u>4</u>	FILED <u>4</u>
MAY - 7 1968	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

Boyle IRB
Ronan

Handwritten initials/signature



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

FROM : SA STEPHEN M. DARLINGTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 5/7/68

Re memo to SAC from SA MAHLON J. PRICE dated 4/22/68.

Mrs. NOLA D. HANDBERRY, 19 North Bellevue, Memphis, Tennessee, advised on 5/1/68 that she told Attorney ROBERT LIVINGSTONE about a man who had done some damage to his room at 19 North Bellevue, but said that she made no reference to JAMES EARL RAY.

Photographs of RAY were shown to Mrs. HANDBERRY and she stated that the man she was referring to was a man who had moved out, named CECIL MASON, but did not look at all like the pictures of RAY. She said MASON was about 26 years old, with blond hair, about 5'8" to 5'9" tall, and about 145 to 150 pounds. Mrs. HANDBERRY said Mr. LIVINGSTONE must have misunderstood her when she told him about MASON. Mrs. HANDBERRY said she had never seen JAMES EARL RAY before in her life, but would contact the FBI should she obtain any information.

Armed and Dangerous

SMD:wp
(2)



5010-108

44-1987-Sub-167

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 5/7/68

FROM : SA JACK D. VAHRENWALD

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re: JAMES LEE KIDDER

Re Serials 132, 161, 276, and Sub E-1.

The person referenced in above serials determined to be identical with JAMES LEE KIDDER, FBI # 727717F. His fingerprints were eliminated as the subject of 44-1987 as per serial 157 of that file.

KIDDER was determined to be subject of Memphis file 42-9338 and was apprehended by BuAgents at Memphis on 5/3/68.

Armed and Dangerous

JDV:wp
(2)
wp



5010-108

44-1987-Sub-168

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED 5	FILED 8
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Hester</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987) (P)

DATE: 5/7/68

FROM : SPC CARROLL N. FULKERSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 12:35 a.m. 5/7/68 Miss JANET BILLINGS, 30 N. Idlewild, Apt. 104, Memphis, Tenn., telephone 272-1409, contacted this office and related the following information:

She stated that she had observed an individual earlier in the evening who resembled subject JAMES EARL RAY. Miss BILLINGS described this individual as a white male approximately 5' 10" tall, having a long pointed nose, blue eyes, and dark closely-cut hair, GI type; however, she said this individual appeared to be slightly heavier than the photographs of RAY.

Miss BILLINGS stated she had observed this individual at a Loeb's Coin-Operated Laundry located at Belvedere and Madison Ave., Memphis. He acted very strangely and was violently shaking a small bubble gum type vending machine at the laundry when she first observed him.

Miss BILLINGS is employed by the law firm of Armstrong, ET AL, whose office occupies the entire 15th floor of the Commerce Title Building, Memphis. In the event this office desires to contact her regarding this matter, she can be located at work and after 5:30 p.m. at her residence.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

CNF:LF
(2)

ef

assign info lead to Woodhull.
show current photo of Ray to Billings. RB
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

44-1987-Sub-169

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 7 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle RB

6



5010-108

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5/7/68

FROM : SA WILLIAM H. LAWRENCE

*Chgd
to 44-1987-
Sub B81F*

SUBJECT: MURKIN (Re suspects NICK PAPADIKAS, phonetic, and JAKE CHRIS BONNEVECHE, phonetic)

Re Memphis airtel to Denver, 4/12/68, serial 44-1987-519, in which leads were set out regarding an interview on 4/11/68 of RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, attorney, by SA LAWRENCE and Inspector N. E. ZACHERY, Homicide Bureau, Memphis PD, in which THOMPSON felt he may have talked on 4/11/68 with a person who either killed Dr. KING or who may have had knowledge concerning the death of Dr. KING. This person told a weird story which was full of apparent loopholes but, nevertheless, leads were set out for Denver and New Orleans to check out his story.

On 4/14/68, ZACHERY called the writer to state that he thought that two of his men had conducted an interview on 4/13/68 which may tie in with the interview with THOMPSON. He stated that a Rev. JAMES M. LATIMER, pastor, Central Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 944 Linden Avenue, told his officers that on 4/12/68 a person called him saying that he needed spiritual solace in the worst way whereupon LATIMER met him in Jim's Steak House at which time this person, a white male, told LATIMER as follows.

The unknown person gave the name of JAKE CHRIS BONNEVECHE (phonetic). He stated he had recently been working as a "runner" for the Mafia at St. Louis Univesity, St. Louis, Missouri, and recently was running \$400,000 worth of counterfeit American Express travelers checks when he was robbed by two Negroes. He stated that his New York contact upon learning of this did not believe his story and apparently threatened to have him killed whereupon he fled St.

- ② - 44-1987
- 1 - 105-566 (United Klans of America)
- 1 - 157-701 (VERNON DOYLE ELLINGTON)

WHL:peh
(4) *peh*

44-1987-Sub-169A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1968 FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester



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

St. Louis by bus, went to Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and then later came to Memphis. He claimed that he had apparently spent the night of 4/10 or 4/11/68 at the Tennessee Hotel, Memphis; claimed that he is an ex-criminal; and that he has taken a dope cure at Lexington, Kentucky, apparently at the Federal Hospital Reformatory there. He exhibited a Mafia death sign tattooed on his wrists with the initials "T.O.J." He claimed that he was going to Brownsville, Tennessee, to see a parolee with whom he had served time in the Federal Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, several years ago. He claimed that he had not participated in the killing of Dr. KING but that he does know who did it and said that a person named NICK PAPADIKAS (phonetic) is the person who killed Dr. KING, that the Mason Lodge gave NICK \$20,000, to kill Dr. KING. This person claiming to be BONNEVECHE apparently gave LATIMER a note asking him to send it to his wife, LINDA POOL, 1513 Arcadia, Lexington, North Carolina, and he signed it CHRIS, apparently telling her he was safe. He told LATIMER he had killed many people in the past but denied killing Dr. KING. He exhibited his fingertips to the minister claiming that his fingerprints had been removed and LATIMER did note that they were as smooth as glass.

LATIMER described the unknown person as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Complexion	Bronze
Height	6'2"
Hair	Dark
Dress	Tight pants, sport coat, blue shirt; prescription brown sunglasses which he constantly took on and off during the conversation
Scar	Small square scar over right eyebrow.

He told LATIMORE that he could speak eight languages, that he was of Italian-French descent, and that he could speak and write Yiddish. He claimed

ME 44-1987

*Subject
negative
JTB*

that he had arrived in Memphis on about 4/10/68 and later stated that the man in Brownsville, Tennessee, whom he planned to see was named CROCKET. He told LATIMORE that he had many tattoos over his body, and he gave LATIMORE a \$50 American Express travelers check, dated 4/5/68, bearing the number HA69-624-715, account [REDACTED]. In the righthand corner it had the number 71-0696247155. The name written on the check was TOMMIE R. HENDERSON of Denver, Colorado. It appeared as though it was torn out of a book and although the unknown person told LATIMORE it was counterfeit, Inspector ZACHERY pointed out that it did not appear to him to be counterfeit. He claimed to have a leather billfold full of numerous credit cards made out in various names, such as American Express, Diners Card, etc., which had been furnished him by the Mafia. With regard to the killing of Dr. KING, he claimed that NICK who did it is of dark complexion and that he disguised himself as a Negro, came to Memphis, mixed in with the Negroes, killed Dr. KING, and then left Memphis. He claimed that he arrived in Memphis by Continental Trailways bus and left Memphis on 4/11/68 for the purpose of going to Brownsville, Tennessee. He left about 5 P.M.

It would appear that this is the same person who contacted RUSSELL THOMPSON, attorney, on 4/10/68, and SA M. E. MC CLOUGHAN advised that he since interviewed VERNON DOYLE ELLINGTON, Grand Dragon of the United Klans of America, Brownsville, who advised that he has been contacted by a person possibly fitting the description of the above person who contacted LATIMORE and attorney THOMPSON, and the comments of DOYLE ELLINGTON as furnished to SA MC CLOUGHAN are as follows:

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (137-2573)

DATE: 5/7/68

FROM : SA FRANCIS B. COLE

CI SI R (Prob)

PCI PSI R

SUBJECT: JOE B. DAVIS

Dates of Contact		3/27/68, 4/15,24,25/68
Titles and File #s on which contacted		
<u>FNU RUEY; PV</u>		<u>76-3047</u>
<u>Crime Conditions in West Tenn.</u>		<u>92-553-Sub-C</u>
<u>MURKIN</u>		<u>44-1987</u>
<u>JAMES FRANKLIN PANNELL</u>		<u>42-9255</u>
Purpose and results of contact		
<input type="checkbox"/> NEGATIVE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POSITIVE <input type="checkbox"/> STATISTIC		
<p>On the dates contacted, PCI was unable to furnish any information of value in any of the captioned cases other than 42-9255.</p> <p>On 4/25/68 PCI was contacted regarding any information he might have as to the possible whereabouts of the subject. He advised that he was acquainted with a ROY INGRAM, a local farmer of Union City, Tennessee, and knew that he had recently hired a young man fitting the subject's description. He advised that earlier on that day he saw Mr. INGRAM and this unknown individual in a side-panel truck heading toward a farm which INGRAM owns near the Kentucky line in northern Obion County.</p> <p>As a result of the information furnished by the PCI, the subject was located where he was employed with</p>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Informant certified that he has furnished all information obtained by him since last contact	Rating Very Good	Coverage Same
<p>INFORMATION HEREIN OBTAINED CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT'S NAME IS NOT TO BE DISCLOSED IN REPORT OR OTHERWISE UNLESS IT HAS BEEN DECIDED DEFINITELY THAT HE IS TO BE A WITNESS IN A TRIAL OR HEARING.</p>		

2-137-2573
 ① 44-1987- assigned SA HESTER
 1-42-9255
 1-137-550
 FBC:wp
 (5)

44-1987-Sub-169B
 5
 Hester

ME 137-2573

Mr. INGRAM on a farm and incarcerated at the Obion County Jail on 4/25/68 by SA's FRANCIS B. COLE and LAWRENCE A. POLTROCK pending his return to military authorities.

PCI should be credited with furnishing information as to the exact location of subject PANNELL, a fugitive deserter.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 5-8-68

FROM : SA HARLEY E. GYLFE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Mr. CHARLES MALONE, 4493 Sunny View Street, Memphis, Tennessee telephonically advised that he feels he has information concerning JAMES EARL RAY. He said this concerns the photographs appearing in the Commercial Appeal of this date.

Mr. MALONE stated that an individual formerly came into the Thunderbird Lounge which is located in the basement of the Shelburne Apartments. He said this individual was last seen in there by him probably in January or February, 1968. He said the photograph on the right that appeared in the paper very strongly favored this individual. Mr. MALONE explained he recalls this individual sat at the bar, drank beer, was friendly with the waitresses manager and customers and appeared to know his way around.

According to MALONE he has not been in the Thunderbird Lounge for approximately 4 weeks so therefore he does not know if this individual has recently been in there.

Mr. MALONE stated he does not know the name of this individual, his address, acquaintances, employment or any background of this white male. He commented he related this information because the photograph favored this individual and also this individual's general description favors that of JAMES EARL RAY.

Suggest the manager of the Thunderbird Lounge be contacted for information concerning this lookalike.

HEG:heg
(2)

*570 Adams Ave
525-9555*

*Memphis
orig to Fitzpatrick*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 10 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyer RB