

CE 44-1365

PAGE THREE

SHE WOULD HAVE KNOWN. SHE DESCRIBED DUNSTON AS UNRELIABLE AND DOES NOT BELIEVE ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM HIM TO BE RELIABLE OR OF VALUE.

JOHN W. BENNETT, BROTHER OF HENRY BENNETT, ADVISED TODAY THAT DUNSTON AND HENRY BENNETT ARE ALCOHOLICS AND HAVE BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY FOR THE PAST FOUR OR FIVE DAYS. HE ADVISED ANY INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM DUNSTON OR HIS BROTHER WOULD NOT BE TRUTHFUL AS BOTH HAVE BEEN DRINKING AND ARE UNRELIABLE.

POLICE OFFICERS, WHITEVILLE, NC, WHO HAD BEEN ALERTED TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE UNKNOWN WHITE MALE, ADVISED THEY HAD NOT SEEN ANYONE RESEMBLING THIS PERSON AND ALSO HAD NOT SEEN THE NINETEEN SIXTYTWO FORD GALAXIE DESCRIBED BY DUNSTON. POLICE OFFICERS CHARACTERIZED DUNSTON AS DRUNK WHO IS EXTREMELY UNRELIABLE.

NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED CONCERNING UNKNOWN WHITE MALE, WHO ALLEGEDLY CONTACTED DUNSTON APRIL EIGHT LAST.

IN VIEW OF STATEMENTS MADE BY SARAH MOORE TO EFFECT THAT NO WHITE MALE WAS SEEN AT HER RESIDENCE WITH DUNSTON ON APRIL EIGHT LAST, FACT THAT UNKNOWN MALE NOT OBSERVED BY POLICE, AND FACT THAT DUNSTON IS DRUNKARD AND TOTALLY UNRELIABLE, UACB, NO FURTHER EFFORTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE UNKNOWN WHITE MALE;
END PAGE THREE

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PAGE FOUR

AND UACS, RICHMOND AND WFO WILL BE ADVISED TO CANCEL ALERT
WITH VIRGINIA STATE POLICE AND METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
FOR UNKNOWN WHITE MALE.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO RICHMOND AND WFO.

P.

END.

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

CE 44-1365
MP 44-1987
CFW:lrf
1

RE: UNKNOWN WHITE MALE, WHITEVILLE,
NORTH CAROLINA

On April 8, 1968, the Headquarters of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C., advised that information had been received by a secretary in the Attorney General's Office had received a telephone call at 5:30 P. M. that date from an individual who identified himself as FREDRICK DUNSTON, Whitefield, North Carolina, Route 350, who was calling the Attorney General to report that a white man was at his residence, drunk with a gun, who had said he was the person who killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA DAVID W. WATSON:

AT WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

On the night of April 8, 1968, Chief of Police WADE WHITE, Whiteville Police Department; and HORACE SHAW, Superintendent, Columbus County Bureau of Identification, Whiteville, advised they could locate no record of FREDRICK DUNSTON. They advised that there is no Route 350 in that area.

On April 9, 1968, FREDRICK LEON DUNSTON was located on Route 5, Box 150, Whiteville, North Carolina, at which time he advised that he is employed as a long shoreman at Wilmington, North Carolina, and Sunny Point, North Carolina. He advised he previously served three years in the North Carolina Prison Department on charges of receiving stolen property.

DUNSTON stated he had been drinking on April 8, 1968, and did not report for work. Late in the afternoon on that date, while sitting on his porch, an unknown individual described as a white male, twenty-three to twenty-five years of age, blue eyes, black hair, five feet ten inches, medium build, dark complexion, with a tattoo of a heart with the words "Born to Lose," on his upper right arm, walked by his residence. The individual was wearing blue dungarees with white, short sleeve, sport shirt with yellow vertical stripes. In conversation with the individual, he told DUNSTON that he was in bad trouble and asked DUNSTON if he knew Dr. KING. He told DUNSTON that he was the individual who shot Dr. KING but that he did not want to do it. He indicated he was interested in surrendering to Federal authorities and that he wanted to go to Washington, D. C., and turn himself

44-1987-Sub E-84A

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Keenan JPK

CE 44-1635

MP 44-1987

CFW:lrf

2

The unknown man stated he needed two dollars and DUNSTON advised he gave the man three dollars and fifty cents. DUNSTON stated the man remained at his residence until after midnight but he does not know in which direction he went when he departed. The man did not identify himself or say where he was from. DUNSTON advised that this unknown man was extremely scared and appeared to be intelligent and talked in an intelligent manner.

The first bus from Whiteville, North Carolina, departed at 11:40 A. M., and it was observed that an individual fitting this description was not on that bus.

The following investigation was conducted by
SA HOWARD C. BURGIN:

WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

On April 9, 1968, Patrolman RALPH SPAULDING, Whiteville, North Carolina, Police Department, advised at 7:30 P. M. on that date he arrested FREDRICK DUNSTON and placed him in the Columbus County Jail, Whiteville, North Carolina. He was charged with possession of non-tax paid whisky and public drunk. Officer SPAULDING stated he has arrested DUNSTON on numerous occasions for public drunk and disorderly conduct. He stated DUNSTON has a reputation for being a drunk and stated it is doubtful any information DUNSTON furnishes would be reliable.

On April 10, 1968, FREDRICK DUNSTON was interviewed at the Columbus County Jail, at which time he advised that about 7 P. M. on April 9, 1968, he observed the unknown white male who had admitted killing MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., riding in a 1962 Ford Galaxie, beige in color, occupied by two other persons. The car was seen near Smith's Restaurant on 701 Bypass, Whiteville, traveling in a southerly direction.

DUNSTON advised that HENRY BENNETT was with him at the time he observed the car and he commented that a friend of his was in the car.

He stated shortly thereafter, he was arrested by the Whiteville Police and placed in jail. He said he attempted to call the Attorney General in Washington and advise him of the information but he was unable to complete the call.

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CFW:lrf

3

DUNSTON viewed the artist's sketch of KING's assassin and advised that the photograph appeared similar to the unknown man who admitted killing KING; however, he said he would be unable to recognize this man from the sketch.

On April 10, 1968, DENNIS WILLIAMS, Jailer, Columbus County, North Carolina, Jail, Whiteville, North Carolina, advised that at about 7:30 P. M., April 9, 1968, FREDRICK DUNSTON was placed in jail and attempted to make a telephone call to the Attorney General in Washington, and he also attempted to make a telephone call to Raleigh, North Carolina; however, he was in such a drunken condition, he was unable to complete the calls.

On April 10, 1968, SARAH MOORE, Route 5, Box 150, Whiteville, North Carolina, advised that DUNSTON and his wife and two children rent a room in her house. She said that DUNSTON has a reputation for drinking and for being arrested for public drunk. She stated she was at her residence on April 8, 1968, when DUNSTON allegedly was contacted by an unknown white male and she stated that she was not aware of anyone being at her residence and does not believe that there was anybody at her residence as she would have known. She stated that DUNSTON is unreliable and does not believe that any information obtained from him would be of value or reliable.

On April 10, 1968, JOHN W. BENNETT, Funeral Director, Peoples Funeral Home, Whiteville, advised that FREDRICK DUNSTON and his brother, HENRY BENNETT, are both alcoholics and have been drinking heavily for the past four or five days. He stated that any information received from DUNSTON or his brother, HENRY, would not be truthful as both have been drinking and are unreliable.

On April 10, 1968, members of the Whiteville Police Department, who were alerted concerning the unknown white male, advised they have not observed anyone fitting the description of this man in the vicinity of Whiteville. They advised they are not familiar with a 1962 beige Ford Galaxie and have not seen any car fitting this description in the area.

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CFW:lrf

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The following investigation was conducted by
IC MARION E. HILLIARD:

AT RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

On April 10, 1968, Mrs. MARTHA UPCHURCH, Records Section, North Carolina Department of Corrections, Raleigh, North Carolina, advised the records reflect that FREDDIE LEON DUNSTON was received at the Prison Department on June 5, 1959, to serve from three to five years for receiving and possession of stolen property and to serve eighteen to twenty-four months for unlawful entry. He was paroled July 3, 1962, and his parole was revoked December 10, 1962, after he was found guilty of indecent exposure. He was discharged from the North Carolina Department of Corrections on July 13, 1963, and was again received on July 15, 1966, to serve a one month sentence for public drunkenness.

A report in the Department of Corrections files by J. F. OWEN, psychiatrist, revealed that DUNSTON was diagnosed as adult situational reaction -provisional. This report revealed DUNSTON received an injury in an automobile accident in 1958. Since that time, his mother had noted a definite change in his reaction and definite change in his attitude toward community affairs. His own family relationship became fraught with irritations and certain difficulties.

The files also revealed that during an interview with a prison official on June 10, 1959, the official noted, "DUNSTON extremely suave and smooth-talking individual, who boasts of his social activities and accomplishments in life. DUNSTON stated he is not guilty of charge that he is serving time for and knows nothing about the crime."

F B I

Date: 4/12/68

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1635) (P)
MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call 4/8/68 to Charlotte;
Charlotte teletype to Bureau, Memphis, Richmond, and WFO
dated 4/9/68; and Charlotte teletype to Bureau and Memphis
dated 4/10/68.

As indicated in referenced Charlotte teletype
dated 4/10/68, UACB, no further efforts being made to locate
the unknown white male in view of the statements made by
SARAH MOORE, the fact that the unknown male was not observed
by police; and the fact that DUNSTON is a drunkard and
totally unreliable.

Enclosed for Memphis are nine copies of insert
re FREDRICK LEON DUNSTON's information re Unknown White male
at Whiteville, North Carolina.

*Fredrick
44-1987-Sub E-84*

② - Memphis (Encl. - 9) *ju*
1 - Charlotte
CFW:lrf
(3)

E

44-1987-Sub E-84-1

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Kearney

Approved: *M* Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI DALLAS

501PM URGENT 4-10-68 SCW

TO DIRECTOR (44--38861) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM DALLAS (44-2649)(2P)(P)

[Handwritten signature]

MURKIN; OO-MEMPHIS

REBUTEL APRIL EIGHT AND NINE LAST.

CONTINUING INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE PERSON WITH SURNAME
LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER NEGATIVE TO DATE.

CONTACTS WITH LAUNDRIES, DALLAS DIVISION, DISCLOSES
THERMO SEAL MARKING MACHINE IS USED BY VERY FEW LAUNDRIES
AS IT IS VERY EXPENSIVE AND HASNOT BEEN COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY.
LAUNDRIES UTILIZING THIS MACHINE CONTACTED TO DATE HAVE BEEN
ELIMINATED AS SOURCES OF LAUNDRY MARKS IN SUSPECTED CLOTHING.

INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED DALLAS TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS
OF WILLIAM HENRY GATES, FBI NO. SEVEN SEVEN ONE TWO FOUR NINE D,
BUFILE ONE SEVEN FOUR-ONE NINE ZERO, AND JAMES TIMOTHY CARROLL,
FBI NO. EIGHT ZERO THREE SIX THREE E, BUFILE ONE SEVEN FOUR-TWO
ONE THREE, POTENTIAL BOMBING SUSPECTS, DALLAS DIVISION, DURING
PERTINENT PERIODS HAS BEEN INCONCLUSIVE. GATES LIVES ALONE

END PAGE 1

[Handwritten initials]

44-1987-Sub E-25
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FBI - MEMPHIS
[Handwritten signature]
Ramsay

PAGE 2

IN LARGE APARTMENT PROJECT AND IS UNEMPLOYED. CARROLL LIKEWISE LIVES ALONE IN AN APARTMENT. HE IS ONLY EMPLOYEE OF SYSTEX CORPORATION, RICHARDSON, TEXAS. OWNER OF THIS FIRM TRAVELS EXTENSIVELY. CARROLL INTERVIEWED AND CLAIMS HE WAS IN DALLAS DURING PERTINENT PERIODS. CARROLL CLAIMS FREQUENT CONTACT WITH GATES AND STATES GATES WAS ALSO IN DALLAS DURING THESE PERIODS.

BUREAU REQUESTED COMPARE SUSPECT LATENT FINGERPRINTS WITH FINGERPRINTS OF GATES AND CARROLL.

END

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

X

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

533PM URGENT 4-10-68 BGM

TO HOUSTON 44-1509 MEMPHIS 44-1987

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN

RE HOUSTON TELETYPE APRIL TEN.

LATENT FINGERPRINTS THIS CASE ~~NOT IDENTICAL~~
FINGERPRINTS JAMES HERMAN SILVER, ARMY SERVICE NUMBER
THREE THREE EIGHT NINE SEVEN TWO NINE FIVE, FBI NUMBER
FIVE ZERO FIVE THREE FIVE EIGHT EIGHT. NO PALM PRINTS
SILVER BUFILES. PHOTOGRAPHS OF SILVER SEPARATE.

END

KCPP

Eliminated

FBI MEMPHIS

COULD I HAVE THE INITIALS AGAIN

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

P

Photos

44-1987-Sub E-86

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Kearney

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI-HOUSTON

1012 AM 4-10-68 URGENT LME

TO DIRECTOR ATTENTION: LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM SAC, HOUSTON (44-1509)

44-1987-Sub E-86
WDE

MURKIN, CR.

0
MRS. JANE MATHIS, HOUSTON, ADVISED THAT SHE SAW A COMPOSITE PHOTO OF MURDER SUSPECT AND THIS PHOTO STRONGLY RESEMBLES HER EX HUSBAND, JAMES HERMAN SILVER. SILVER DESCRIBED AS AGE FORTY TWO BUT LOOKS THIRTY TWO, SIX FEET, ONE EIGHTY LBS., SANDY HAIR, THINNING, MEDIUM BUILD, IMMACULATE DRESSER, ASN THREE THREE EIGHT NINE SEVEN TWO NINE FIVE. BELIEVED TO HAVE RECEIVED DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE FROM FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA, JANUARY TWO LAST. BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN IMPRISONED IN THE LEAVENWORTH PENITENTIARY. HAS A STRONG DISLIKE FOR NEGROES AND HAS VISITED MEMPHIS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST. HE IS AN EXPERT SHOT AND CAN HANDLE ANY WEAPON. HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN BUT FAMILY LIVES THROUGHOUT NORTH CAROLINA.

BUREAU REQUESTED TO CHECK LATENT FINGERPRINTS AVAILABLE THIS CASE. FORWARD PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUSPECT TO MEMPHIS IF AVAILABLE.

NO OTHER LEADS BEING SET FORTH AT THIS TIME.

END

44-1987-Sub E-86A

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Jester

(E)

Kearney

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI CHARLT

5:40PM 4-10-68 URGENT CPO

TO DIRECTOR /44-38861/, MEMPHIS /44-1987/, AND SALT LAKE CITY
FROM CHARLOTTE /44-1365/ 3P

MURKIN

TODAY WILLIAM CLYDE MILLSAPS, GASTONIA, NC, FURNISHED
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS:

HIS NEPHEW, JOHN CLINTON MILLSAPS, WHITE MALE, AGE TWENTY,
SIX FEET ONE INCH TO SIX FEET TWO INCHES, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY
POUNDS, BLOND HAIR, WHO RESIDES EIGHTYSEVEN WEST SOUTH NORTH
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, UNLISTED TELEPHONE THREE FIVE NINE FOUR
EIGHT NINE SEVEN, WAS DISCHARGED U. S. ARMY SUMMER OF SIXTYSEVEN.
NEPHEW INHERITED CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND IS INDEPENDENTLY
WEALTHY. IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY LAST, JOHN MILLSAPS AND WIFE
VISITED WILLIAM MILLSAPS FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS. DURING
VISIT, JOHN MILLSAPS STATED HE WAS GOING TO PURCHASE A HIGH-
POWERED RIFLE TO SHOOT NEGROES WITH. HIS NEPHEW DID NOT INDICATE
END PAGE ONE

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Hester golt

CE 44-1365

PAGE TWO

HE WAS A MEMBER OF ANY ORGANIZATION. NEPHEW REPORTEDLY A CRACK SHOT WITH RIFLE.

WILLIAM MILLSAPS DID NOT HEAR FROM HIS NEPHEW AGAIN UNTIL APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, AT WHICH TIME HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM NEPHEW WHO WAS IN RICHMOND, VA., WORKING FOR A SIGN COMPANY, NAME UNKNOWN. JOHN

MILLSAPS

THEN WOULD GO TO ATLANTA, GA. WHEN NEPHEW FAILED TO ARRIVE, WILLIAM MILLSAPS CALLED HIS RESIDENCE IN SALT LAKE CITY AND TALKED WITH HIS WIFE WHO STATED NEPHEW EMPLOYED WITH A MACHINE COMPANY, NAME NOT MENTIONED. HE HAS NOT HEARD FROM HIS NEPHEW SINCE THAT TIME.

AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS KILLED, WILLIAM MILLSAPS OBSERVED DRAWING OF ASSASSIN WHICH STRONGLY RESEMBLES HIS NEPHEW. HE STATED HE IS AFRAID THAT THE KILLER OF KING COULD BE HIS NEPHEW DUE TO RESEMBLANCE OF THE BOY TO THE PICTURE AND THE FACT THAT HIS NEPHEW STATED HE WAS GOING TO PURCHASE A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE TO USE ON NEGROES.

AT ONE TIME, JOHN MILLSAPS OWNED A CADILLAC AND ALTER PURCHASED A NEW CHEVROLET BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF AUTOMOBILE HE HAS AT THIS TIME. HIS NEPHEW POSSIBLY USES COMMERCIAL

END PAGE TWO

CE 44-1365

PAGE THREE

AIRLINES INASMUCH AS HE INDICATED HE WOULD CALL WILLIAM
MILLSAPS FROM AIRPORT UPON ARRIVAL.

SALT LAKE CITY, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE JOHN CLINTON MILLSAPS
AND INTERVIEW OR OTHERWISE DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS DURING PERTINENT
DATES OF MARCH THIRTY AND APRIL FOUR LAST.

NO LEADS BEING SET OUT FOR RICHMOND TO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE
PENDING RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION AT SALT LAKE CITY.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, AND RICHMOND.

END.

CORR PAGE TWO LINE SEVEN SHOULD BE
MILLSAPS INDICATED HE WAS COMING TO VISIT FOR THREE DAYS AND
THEN WOULD GO TO ATLANTA

END

ME..MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

CLRK

4-11-68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-3861)
FROM: RICHMOND (44-697)
MURKIN; CR CO: MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-87

RE JOHN CLINTON MILLSAPS, POSSIBLE SUSPECT. MILLSAPS LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AT DANVILLE, VA. HE DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF INSTANT CRIME AND CLAIMED TO HAVE NOT LEFT VA. BETWEEN MARCH TWENTY FIVE LAST AND PRESENT, EXCEPT FOR ONE DAY HE SPENT IN ROCKY MOUNT, N.C. MILLSAPS STATED HE HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY PLASTIC VAC CORP., RICHMOND, VA., SINCE MARCH TWENTY SIX LAST AND HAS SPENT MOST OF THIS TIME WITH HIS BOSS, LLOYD PETERSON.

LLOYD PETERSON, DISTRICT MANAGER, PLASTIC VAC CORP., RICHMOND, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT MILLSAPS WAS IN HIS, PETERSON'S PRESENCE IN HAMPTON, VA., ON MARCH TWENTY NINE AND THIRTY LAST AND AT HAMPTON, VA., ON APRIL FOUR LAST.

AIRMAIL COPIES SENT MEMPHIS, CHARLOTTE, ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM AND SALT LAKE CITY. END P

- 1 - Atlanta (AM)
 - 1 - Birmingham (AM)
 - 1 - Charlotte (AM) (44-1365)
 - 1 - Richmond
- WPD:jll
(6)

- ① - Memphis (AM) (44-1987)
- 1 - Salt Lake City (44-253)

JL

③

44-1987-Sub E-87A

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Kearney

MP 44-1987

CE 44-1365

CFW:lrf

1

RE: JOHN CLINTON MILLSAPS

The following investigation was conducted by
IC RALPH D. HILL:

AT CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA

On April 10, 1968, Mr. WILLIAM CLYDE MILLSAPS, 926 Howard Avenue, Gastonia, North Carolina, advised that he would like to furnish the following information to the FBI on a confidential basis:

He stated that he has a nephew by the name of JOHN CLINTON MILLSAPS, white male, age twenty, six feet one inch to six feet two inches, two hundred twenty pounds, blond hair, dresses well, who resides in Salt Lake City, Utah, telephone number 1-801-359-4897, which is an unlisted number. He stated the boy was discharged from the Army in the summer of 1967, and that the boy inherited a considerable amount of money from his father and is now wealthy.

Mr. MILLSAPS stated that in January or February, 1968, the boy and his wife visited him for approximately three days. He stated that during this visit, the boy advised him that he was going to purchase a high-powered rifle to shoot Negroes with. He stated he advised the boy at that time not to get involved in any type of violence. He stated the boy did not indicate that he was a member of any type of organization during his conversation regarding the purchase of the rifle. Mr. MILLSAPS stated the boy is reportedly a "crack-shot" with a rifle.

Mr. MILLSAPS stated he did not hear from his nephew again until approximately one week prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated he received a telephone call from the boy from Richmond, Virginia. He advised the boy told him he was working for a sign company but did not mention the name of the company. He stated that the boy advised him he was coming to visit him for about three days and then would go on to Atlanta, Georgia. He stated that during the telephone conversation he asked the boy why he was working as a traveling salesman but the boy did not say. He stated he told the boy that he did not have to do that type of work due to the large inheritance he had received. Mr. MILLSAPS stated the boy did not come to his home as he said he would. Therefore, he called the boy's residence in Salt Lake City and talked with the boy.

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APR 12 1968
FBI - MEMPHIS
JPH

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CFW:lrf

2

wife, who advised him that his nephew was not at home due to his employment with a machine company, name of company not mentioned. Mr. MILLSAPS thought it was strange that the boy advised him he was working for a sign company and the boy's wife advised he was employed by a machine company. He stated he requested the boy's wife have him call, but has not heard from the boy yet.

Mr. MILLSAPS stated that after MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed, a composite drawing of the subject responsible was published in the newspaper. He stated that viewing the picture, he feels his nephew strongly resembles the individual. Mr. MILLSAPS stated he is afraid that the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING could possibly be his nephew due to the resemblance of the boy with the picture in the paper and the fact that the boy had stated that he was going to purchase a high-powered rifle to use on Negroes. He stated he had no other reason to suspect his nephew other than the reasons mentioned above.

Mr. MILLSAPS stated he does not know what kind of automobile his nephew drives but at one time had a Cadillac and later purchased a new Chevrolet. He stated he feels the boy is not driving around the country in connection with his employment but feels he is flying on commercial airlines because the boy stated during the telephone call mentioned above that he would call him from the Charlotte Airport when he arrived.

Mr. MILLSAPS advised that his nephew's address is 87 West South North Street, Salt Lake City, Utah. He advised he does not have a photograph of his nephew.

F B I

Date: 4/12/68

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

MURKIN

Re Charlotte teletype to Bureau, Memphis, and Salt Lake City dated 4/10/68; and Salt Lake City teletype to Bureau, Memphis, Charlotte, and Richmond dated 4/10/68.

Enclosed for Memphis are nine copies of insert re JOHN CLINTON MILLSAPS

44-1987-Sub E-87-87A
44-1987-Sub-A-127

Mr. MILLSAPS requested that this information be held in strict confidence, and he was advised that it would be treated as such.

Investigation concerning suspect is continuing at Richmond, Virginia.

adm data

② - Memphis (Encl. - 9)
1 - Charlotte
CFW:lrf
(3)

44-1987-Sub E-87B-1

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

PK

Approved: *[Signature]* Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

557AM URGENT 4-10-68 MXS

TO CINCINNATI 157-1893 MEMPHIS 44-1987

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN.

RE CI TEL APRIL NINE LAST.

REMAINING LATENT FINGERPRINTS THIS CASE NOT IDENTICAL
FINGERPRINTS DAVID ALLEN KROGOL, FBI NUMBER EIGHT NINE EIGHT THREE
FOUR ZERO C. NO PALM PRINTS V AVAILABLE.

END

GB

FBI MEMPHIS

*True suspect
Eliminated*

44-1987-Sub E-88
SEARCHED
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Kearney

Job

4/9/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS INDIANPOLIS
ST. LOUIS

INDEX

FROM DIRECTOR FBI

MURKIN.

DALLAS OFFICE RECEIVED ANONYMOUS CALL FROM FEMALE
TO EFFECT THAT SUBJECT OF THIS CASE HAD ARMY SERIAL
NUMBER RA TWO FOUR FIVE FIVE THREE TWO SIX EIGHT.

ARMY SOURCES ADVISED THIS SERIAL NUMBER ASSIGNED
TO DONNIE LEON HARDEN WHO ENTERED U. S. ARMY MAY ONE,
FIFTY-EIGHT, AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, RECRUITING STATION.
HARDEN DESCRIBED AS SEVENTY-THREE INCHES TALL, ONE NINE
SEVEN POUNDS, BLUE EYES, BLOND HAIR, BORN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], IN CONECUH COUNTY, ALABAMA.

ST. LOUIS AND INDIANAPOLIS SHOULD CHECK ARMY
PERSONNEL RECORDS FOR INFORMATION AS TO CURRENT MILITARY
OR CIVILIAN ADDRESS FOR SUSPECT HARDEN. SUTEL MEMPHIS
AND APPROPRIATE OFFICE. COPY BY MAIL TO MEMPHIS AND
DALLAS.

- 1 - SAC, Dallas
- 1 - SAC, Memphis

*Eliminated
44-1987-sub E-89*

44-1987-Sub E-89A

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Kearney

(E)

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

559AM URGENT 4-10-68 MXS
TO MEMPHIS 44-1987
FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 1P

MURKIN.

REURTEL APRIL NINE LAST.

REMAINING LATENT FINGERPRINTS THIS CASE NOT IDENTICAL
FINGERPRINTS ROBERT BOLIVAR DE PUGH, FBI NUMBER ONE SEVEN NINE
EIGHT E OR WALTER PATRICK PEYSON, FBI NUMBER FOUR SEVEN EIGHT FOUR
THREE SEVEN F. IN ADDITION LATENT FINGERPRINTS ARE NOT IDENTICAL
FINGERPRINTS DONNIE LEON HARDEN, ARMY SERVICE NUMBER RA TWO FOUR
FIVE FIVE THREE TWO SIX EIGHT OR RALPH MEREDITH CARPENTER, BORN
[REDACTED], MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AIR FORCE SERVICE
NUMBER ONE FOUR FIVE ONE SEVEN TWO ZERO NINE. NO PALM PRINTS
AVAILABLE.

END

DGB

FBI MEMPHIS

Misc Suspects

44-1987-Sub-E-89

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Jab

Kearney

F B I

Date: APRIL 12, 1968

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)
RE: MURKIN

Re Mobile teletype to Houston, Jackson,
Memphis 4/11/68.

Enclosed for Memphis Division is one (1) photograph
of DONNIE LEON HARDEN, obtained from Ingalls Shipyard,
Pascagoula, Miss.

The following investigation was conducted by SA
EDGAR L. O'NEILL, JR., at Pascagoula, Miss., on 4/11/68:

LEROY HAMILTON, Guard, Ingalls Shipyard, Pascagoula,
Miss., advised that the shipyard was closed until Tuesday
4/16/68. He made available the personnel file of one DONNIE
LEON HARDEN, and also furnished a photograph of HARDEN. The
following background data was obtained re HARDEN:

Name	DONNIE LEON HARDEN
Address	Route "C", Evergreen, Alabama (As of 11/16/67)
Prior address	162 Alverson Road, Mobile, Alabama (As of 10/28/66)

- ② - Memphis (Enc 1) *WGM*
 - 2 - Mobile
 - 1 - Houston
 - 2 - Jackson
- ELO:yv
(7)

44-1987-Sub E-89B

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[Handwritten signatures]

Approved: *RKM* Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

JN 157-9586

Employment number at Ingalls Shipyard	9-34813
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth	Wetumpka, Alabama
Social Security No.	[REDACTED]
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	6 feet 3 inches
Weight	240 pounds
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Remarks	In file it was noted that HARDEN stated he had a Top Secret Crypto clearance from 1958 to 1961; and again from 1963 to 1965 in the United States Army Security Agency.

LEROY HAMILTON checked with (FNU) GOLDMAN in Number 9 Headhouse Office at the shipyard, and learned that HARDEN was not reported absent on 4/4/68. An additional check with BOB HART at the Time Office at the Shipyard revealed that HARDEN credited with working from 7:00 A. M., to 3:30 P. M., on 4/4/68.

F B I

Date: 4-8-68

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760)

*44-1987-196
-260A
-899
-156
-Sub E-89*

MURKIN

Enclosed herewith are two photos of WALTER PATRICK PEYSON and ROBERT BOLIVAR DE PUGH and one photo of WALTER PATRICK PEYSON showing right side profile and front view.

misc Suspects

*4-12-68
Compendium
rejects photos
RJR*

photos

44-1987-Sub E-89C

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GAA/eln
2 MEMPHIS (ENCL. 5)
1 KANSAS CITY

*Fletcher H
Kearney*

Job Approved: KWD/247
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 10, 1968

A review of the Army service record for **DONNIE LEON HARDEN**, Army Serial Number RA24553268, on file at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri, disclosed that **HARDEN** served in the U. S. Army on active duty from May 1, 1958 at Montgomery, Alabama, to honorable discharge from active duty and transferred to the Reserve at Oakland, California, March 31, 1961. He thereafter entered on active duty in the Army at Montgomery, Alabama on May 22, 1963, and served until honorable discharge due to hardship at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, June 4, 1965. Rank at time of discharge was Specialist Fourth Grade. He also had inactive service in the Alabama National Guard, April 21, 1955 to April 30, 1958, and May 15, 1962 to December 17, 1962. He served in the inactive U. S. Army Reserve from April 1, 1961 to April 30, 1962. His military occupation was listed as Communications Center Specialist. His civilian occupation was listed as Welder, Farmer and Musician (singing and guitar). The file failed to show any courts-martial or absences without official leave but did indicate a reduction in rank in December, 1962, while in the National Guard due to inefficiency. No details appear.

Top secret clearance was granted him on September 30, 1958, based on a background investigation completed September 24, 1958 by the Army Security Agency, Third Army Area, Dossier Number H3008562.

The following description appeared in the file:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	6' 2"
Weight	235 pounds
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Born	<input type="text"/>
Relatives	Conecuh County, Alabama VADA HARDEN , nee Colburn, wife; born <input type="text"/> , Texas; date and place of marriage - not shown.

On 4/10/68 at St. Louis, Missouri File # SL 44-775

by IC R. DOUGLAS KING/jtc

Date dictated

44-1987-Sub E-89D

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OK

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.

2
SL

44-775

Parents LEON and ALICE HARDEN,
Route C,
Evergreen, Alabama

Brother PAUL M. HARDEN,
Route C,
Evergreen, Alabama

Brother LARRY H. HARDEN,
Route C,
Evergreen, Alabama

Parents-in-law SAM and SYBIL COLBURN,
701 Roxella,
Houston, Texas

Social Security Number [REDACTED]

Selective Service Registrant of Local Board 18,
Evergreen, Alabama,
#1-18-38-69

Character (All Evergreen, Alabama)

References J. C. JOHNSON, Sheriff's Department;
DELMA BOWERS, Southern Coach and Body
Company;
ROBERT KENDALL, State Senator;
WILEY SALTER, State Representative;
MABRY COOK, Cook's Service Station.

Employments were listed as follows:

June, 1956 to August, 1956: A. W. Williams Drilling
Company, West Virginia Street, Mobile, Alabama, supervisor,
SAM HAGERMAN;

September, 1956 to November, 1956: Fletcher and King,
Andalusia, Alabama; LEELAND FLETCHER, supervisor;

November, 1956 to April, 1958: Southern Coach and
Body Company, Evergreen, Alabama; supervisor, DELMA BOWERS;

April, 1961 to December, 1961: Southern Coach and
Body Company, Evergreen, Alabama;

May, 1962 to August, 1962: Conecuh County Survey
Department, Evergreen, Alabama; supervisor, MARLON WILKINS;

3

SL

44-775

September, 1962 to November, 1962: Brown and Root Construction Company, Houston, Texas; PAUL JAMES, supervisor;

November, 1962 to March, 1963: Peden Iron and Steel Company, Houston, Texas; ARCHIE VERHAGEN, supervisor;

April, 1963 to May, 1963: Southern Coach and Body Company, Evergreen, Alabama; supervisor, CLEVE GARNLY.

Throughout his service his home address is listed as Route C, Evergreen, Alabama. In 1963, an address of 6125 Ridgemont Avenue, Houston, Texas appeared and his address at the time of final discharge was listed as 701 Roxella, Houston, Texas.

He has blood group "O". He received an expert's badge in the M1 carbine. He had foreign service of one year, eight months, and 15 days in the Pacific Theater.

A letter from his wife appeared in the file dated April 2, 1965, addressed to Lieutenant General J. L. RICHARDSON, Fort Houston, Texas, which alleged that HARDEN had made false statements in applying for a hardship discharge. She stated HARDEN had indicated he was going to run his father's firm in Evergreen, Alabama, and that she was a nervous wreck worrying about him going overseas, all of which was untrue. She stated that he had a job waiting for him at Brown and Root Construction Company as a heavy equipment operator. She further stated that he had been a different man since his service in Okinawa as he had beaten her several times and had spent one night in jail on arrest by the Alamo Heights Police Department in San Antonio, Texas for having beaten her. She stated his temper and filthy language were terrible. She stated she had tried to leave him but had been told by him he would kill her and all three of their children if she did. She stated he purchased a rifle and cartridges the following day. She stated he had torn up several pieces of their furniture, half of her clothing, broken her watch, and had choked her on several occasions. She further alleged mistreatment of their 15 month old son.

The file further reflected a statement by HARDEN that his wife had previously suffered a complete nervous

4
SL

44-775

breakdown and that she apparently was approaching a similar breakdown at the time of his discharge.

A 1963 photograph of HARDEN appears in the file.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS

DATE: 4/10/68

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: Memphis)

Re Bureau teletype to Indianapolis and St. Louis, 4/9/68, and St. Louis teletype to Memphis, Houston, and Mobile, 4/10/68.

Re: Suspect DONNIE LEON HARDEN *Sub E-89*

Enclosures: For Memphis, 9 copies of FD-302 concerning review of military record for HARDEN; for Mobile, Houston and Dallas, one copy each of FD-302 concerning HARDEN's military record.

LEADS:

MOBILE and HOUSTON DIVISIONS

Conduct appropriate investigation to locate HARDEN and determine if he may be logical suspect.

2 - Memphis (Encs. 9) *MS*
2 - Houston (Enc. 1)
2 - Mobile (Enc. 1)
2 - Dallas (Enc. 1)
1 - St. Louis
HRD/jtc
(9)

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5010-108

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

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI JACKSVLE

5:00 PM EST URGENT 4/10/68 JLC

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS
FROM JACKSONVILLE (44-769) 1P

MURKIN. CR.

RE TAMPA TELETYPES TO BUREAU APRIL EIGHT LAST AND
APRIL NINE LAST.

MR. JAMES G. WHITE, RT. ONE, BOX THIRTYTHREE A, CLERMONT,
ADVISED THAT THOMAS THORMAN AND FAMILY HAVE RESIDED ON HIS PROPERTY
IN RENTAL HOUSE SINCE FALL, SIXTYSEVEN. CLAIMS THORMAN AND
FAMILY HAVE BEEN COMING TO CLERMONT FROM THEIR RESIDENCE IN OHIO
FOR PAST THREE OR FOUR YEARS. THORMANS LEFT FOR EVERGLADES VACATION
AND PLAN TO RETURN TO OHIO NEXT WEEK.

HERBERT ROGERS, OWNER, ROGERS REST HOME, CLERMONT, ADVISED
THORMAN HAS BEEN EMPLOYED BY HIM AS A PAINTER DURING PAST FOUR
MONTHS AND WORKED A TEN HOUR SHIFT AT THE ROGERS REST HOME
ON APRIL FOUR LAST.

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED CONCERNING THORMAN.

TAMPA ADVISED BY AIRMAIL.

END

FBI MEMPHIS

THIS IS JACKSONVILLE PLS ACK FOR TEL JUST SNE TOXX SENT TO YOU

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-90

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Kearney *Hester* *glt*

FBI MEMPHIS

(

FBI CLEVELAND

603 PM URGENT 4-10-68 GDS
TO DIRECTOR, CHICAGO AND MEMPHIS
FROM CLEVELAND (44-565) 1P

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TEL TO BUREAU, ET AL, APRIL TEN, SIXTYEIGHT.
JACK CODY RESIDES TWO NINE TWO NINE CHAUCER DR., NORTH
CANTON, OHIO, TELEPHONE FOUR NINE TWO DASH SIX FOUR NINE
SEVEN. CONTACT WITH NEIGHBORS REFLECTS CODY PRESENTLY VISITING
WIFE'S RELATIVES, CHICAGO, ILL., WHOSE NAME AND ADDRESS UNKNOWN,
AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL APRIL FIFTEEN, SIXTYEIGHT.

CHICAGO IS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN THROUGH PETER WUKOVICH
LOCATION OF CODY AT WIFE'S RELATIVES, IF POSSIBLE, AND OBTAIN
ALL POSSIBLE INFORMATION.

AIR MAIL COPY TO BIRMINGHAM.

END

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

X

44-1982-Sub E-91

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Hester
Kearney

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI BIRMGHAM

710PM URGENT 4-10-68 HEP

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS (44-1987) AND NEW YORK
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) 1P

MURKIN. CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE NEW YORK REPORT DATED APRIL NINE, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE,
CAPTIONED "DONALD WALTER PACCIO, AKA J. D. WILLIAMS; REVEREND MARTIN
LUTHER KING - VICTIM, EXTORTION - RACIAL MATTERS", NEW YORK FIVE
NINE - FOUR ZERO FOUR ONE, BUFILE NINE - FOUR THREE FIVE FIVE THREE.

REREP SHOWS DONALD WALTER PACCIO, USING NAME J. D. WILLIAMS,
MARCH THIRTY NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA MINISTER FROM LYNBROOK, N.Y. STATING HE WANTED
TO KILL VICTIM KING AND THAT HE WANTED TO BE PUT IN CONTACT WITH
MEMBERS OF THE "KU KLUX KLAN". PACCIO, WHEN INTERVIEWED IN
NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE ADMITTED MAKING ABOVE CALL, BUT DENIED MAKING
THREAT AND STATED HE HAD NO INTENTIONS OF HARMING KING.. PACCIO
THEN RESIDED AT ONE ZERO CRAB AVENUE, LYNBROOK, N.Y.

NEW YORK AT LYNBROOK WILL DETERMINE PACCIO'S WHEREABOUTS
DURING PERTINENT PERIOD OF APRIL FOUR LAST.

END

FBI MEMPHIS

Miss Suspect

Jed

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FBI BIRMGHAM

771XX 712PM URGENT 4-10-68 HEP

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS (44-1987), MOBILE, NEW ORLEANS..
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) 2P

MURKIN. CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE BALTIMORE TEL DATED JANUARY ONE EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE,
CAPTIONED "UNSUB; ALLEGED THREAT ON LIFE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING,
JANUARY ONE EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE, SELMA, ALABAMA, RACIAL MATTERS,
OO MOBILE", AND NEW ORLEANS TEL DATED JANUARY ONE NINE, NINETEEN
SIXTYFIVE CAPTIONED, "REGISTRARS OF VOTERS - DALLAS COUNTY, ALABAMA,
VOTER DISCRIMINATION, CR - EL", NEW ORLEANS FILE ONE FIVE SEVEN -
THREE THREE FOUR FIVE, MOBILE FILE FOUR FOUR - FIVE FIVE SEVEN.

RE BALTIMORE TEL REFLECTS NATIONAL CITIZENS COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT WHITLEY HOTEL, MONTGOMERY, ALA., JANUARY FOURTEEN - SIXTEEN,
NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE. RETEL REFLECTS ON JANUARY SIXTEEN, NINETEEN
SIXTYFIVE, JOSEPH MITCHELL, WHILE ALONE WITH ONE NORMAN KILPATRICK,
ADVISED KILPATRICK THAT HE (MITCHELL) HAD BEEN TOLD THAT MARTIN
LUTHER KING WOULD NOT LIVE THIRTY SIX HOURS. RETEL REFLECTS THAT
MITCHELL AND KILPATRICK WERE DELEGATES TO THE ABOVE DESCRIBED
CITIZENS COUNCIL MEETING, AS WAS A DELEGATE FROM SELMA, ALABAMA,
END PAGE ONE

Misc Suspect

Joe

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PAGE TWO.

NAME NOT RECALLED.

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL REFLECTS JAMES CARL PAFFORD, BOX ONE NINE FIVE, CULLEN, LOUISIANA, WHO REPORTEDLY ATTENDED ABOVE CITIZENS COUNCIL MEETING AND MADE STATEMENT "HE SHOULD STOP AT SELMA TO SEE WHAT HE COULD DO" ABOUT "MARTIN LUTHER KING". RETEL REFLECTS PAFFORD INTERVIEWED AT SPRING HILL, LOUISIANA, ON JANUARY ONE EIGHT, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE. RETEL STATES PAFFORD REFUSED TO FURNISH INFORMATION ABOUT ABOVE MEETING EXCEPT TO STATE HE HEARD NOTHING ABOUT THREATS OF VIOLENCE TO KING.

NEW ORLEANS AT CULLEN, LOUISIANA, DETERMINE PAFFORD'S WHEREABOUTS DURING PERTINENT PERIOD OF APRIL FOUR LAST.

MOBILE AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, WILL CONDUCT LOGICAL INVESTIGATION AT WHITLEY HOTEL IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IDENTITY OF DELEGATE FROM SELMA, ALABAMA, TO ABOVE NATIONAL CITIZENS COUNCIL MEETING, JANUARY, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE, WHO MAY HAVE REGISTERED AS GUEST AT HOTEL. IF IDENTITY ASCERTAINED, DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS DURING PERTINENT PERIOD APRIL FOUR LAST.

END

TSJ

FOR 3

FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MOBILE

724 PM

URGENT 4/10/68 VFP

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM.

FROM MOBILE 157-2627

MURKIN. OO ME.

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS AND MOBILE APRIL
TEN INSTANT.

MRS KATHRYN MOORE, CLERK, PRATTVILLE, ALA., PD
ADVISED IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED WITH PERCY D. STRICKLAND, JR.,
AND HIS WIFE OLLIE R. STRICKLAND, WHO RESIDE AT NINE ONE
SEVEN LODER ST., PRATTVILLE, ALA. HE IS EMPLOYED SOUTHERN
BELL TELEPHONE CO., BIRMINGHAM, ALA., AND COMES HOME TO
PRATTVILLE EACH WEEKEND. HIS WIFE IS EMPLOYED ALA. STATE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN CLINIC ON HIGH STREET, MONTGOMERY, ALA.

RECORDS ALA. SELECT-E SERVICE DEPARTMENT REFLECT
PERCY D. STRICKLAND, JR., A WM, BORN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], BRAGGS, ALA., AND AS OF NINETEEN FORTYTWO WAS
DESCRIBED AS SIX FEET TALL, ONE HUNDRED FIFTYTHREE LBS.,
BLACK HAIR, BLUE EYES, RUDDY COMPLEXION; SERVED IN U.S.
NAVY MARCH FORTYFIVE, HONORABLY DISCHARGED, SN SIX ZERO FIVE
DASH FIVE ONE DASH ZERO FOUR.

END PAGE ONE

Job

Misc Suspect

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Kearney

P
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GE TWO

IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT STRICKLAND WHILE EMPLOYED
BIRMINGHAM IS RESIDING AT OR IN NEIGHBORHOOD OF TWO SIX
ZERO EIGHT HIGHLAND AVE., AND POSSIBLY CALLED HIS WIFE
IN PRATTVILLE ON THE DATES IN QUESTION WHICH WERE WEEKDAYS.

ACCORDINGLY SUGGESTED THAT BIRMINGHAM CONSIDER
DESIRABILITY OF INTERVIEW WITH STRICKLAND AT TELEPHONE CO.,
IN BIRMINGHAM. NO FURHTER INVESTIGATION CONCERNING
STRICKLAND BEING MADE BY NOBILE.

END

ME CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

X

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F B I

Date: 4/10/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: ATLANTA
FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN, CIVIL RIGHTS.

RECORDS AT THE HOWARD JOHNSON'S, ONE THREE ONE EIGHT LAMAR, MEMPHIS, REFLECT A LACY HARLAN, FOUR SIX SIX LADDEN DRIVE, MABLETON, GEORGIA REGISTERED APRIL THREE THROUGH FIVE, LAST, DRIVING A MUSTANG, BEARING GEORGIA LICENSE SEVEN D SEVEN THREE SEVEN EIGHT.

ATLANTA ELIMINATE HARLAN AS SUSPECT.

END.

JWB:jms
(1)

44-1987-Sub E-95

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED lll
INDEXED lll
FILED lll

Approved: [Signature] Sent 6:55 M Per Taj
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 4/10/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: LITTLE ROCK
FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN, CIVIL RIGHTS.

RECORDS, HOWARD JOHNSON'S MOTEL, ONE THREE ONE EIGHT
BAMAR, MEMPHIS, REFLECT A REX WATKINS, ROUTE THREE,
JONESBORO, ARKANSAS, WAS REGISTERED APRIL ONE THROUGH FOUR,
LAST, DRIVING A SIXTYSEVEN MUSTANG, BEARING ARKANSAS
LICENSE PLATE.

LITTLE ROCK ELIMINATE WATKINS AS SUSPECT.

END.

JWB:jms
(1)

44-1987-Sub E-96

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Approved: [Signature] Sent 7 07 M Per [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI NEW ORLS

916 PM 4-10-68 URGENT NRB

TO: MEMPHIS (44-1978)

FROM: NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (P)

MURKIN.

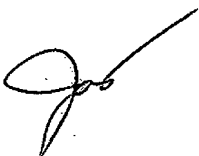
RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE APRIL NINE, INSTANT, ELEVEN FORTY TWO A.M. LUBERT (NOT HUBERT) FONTENOT WAS CONTACTED AT WELSH, LA., THIS DATE. FONTENOT ADVISED HE WAS IN MEMPHIS ON UTESDAY, APRIL TWO LAST AND LEFT MEMPHIS FOR WELSH, ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL THREE, LAST. HE ARRIVED IN WELSH APRIL FOUR, LAST, BEFORE DEATH OF KING. FONTENOT WAS DRIVING SIXTY FOUR FORD TRUCK, TWENTY SEVEN FT. LONG WITH TILT CAB, BEARING LA. LICENSE TWO NINE TWO ZERO TWO EIGHT. FONTENOT IS REPUTABLE BUSINESSMAN AND IN OWNER LOCAL FORD AGENCY.

END.

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

TUCLR



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Kearney

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SACTO

9:25PM URGENT 4/10/68 JEM

TO DIRECTOR(44-38861), ^{Salt Lake City} ~~SAN FRANCISCO~~, MEMPHIS, BIRMINGHAM
FROM SACRAMENTO (100-427) 4P

MURKIN, CR.

RE LA TEL TO BUREAU, APRIL NINE LAST, ELEVEN THIRTY TWO PM;
NO CC SU.

FOR INFO SU, FOLLOWING SET FORTH IN RETEL:

JERRY HEDGEMAN, ONE ZERO THREE NINE SIXTH AVENUE SOUTH, ST.
PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, ADVISED ONE BURNS LYMAN AN EXPERT TREE TRIMMER
FOR WHOM HE WORKED AT ST. PETERSBURG ABOUT SIXTYTHREE, HAD EXPRESSED
A GREAT DISLIKE FOR DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. HEDGEMAN SAID LYMAN
HAD FOUR OR FIVE GUNS HE HAD ALLEDGEDLY USED FOR HUNTING BEAR IN
UTAH. HE ALLEDGEDLY MADE STATEMENTS TO HEDGEMAN SEVERAL TIMES
THAT HIS AMBITION WAS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING AMONG OTHERS.

HEDGEMAN FURNISHED BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE LYMAN WHICH
IDENTIFIED HIM WITH ONE THERAL BURNS LYMAN, WM, BORN [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AT MOAB, UTAH, FIVE FEET NINE, ONE THREE ZERO
POUNDS, BROWN HAIR AND EYES, ONE OF THE SUBJECTS OF CASE ENTITLED
"THERAL BURNS LYMAN, AKA - FUGITIVE: DAVID JOSEPH JIRON, UFAP -
FORGERY, ITSMV: ITSP: SSA, NINETEEN FORTY EIGHT, OO SAN DIEGO.

REPORT OF SA THEODORE S. KRAMER, JULY TWO EIGHT, NINETEEN
SIX FOUR, RE THIS MATTER INDICATED LYMAN THEN IN CUSTODY IN MICHIGAN

HAD INDICATED A DESIRE TO WAIVE EXTRADITION AND WAS TO

END PAGE ONE

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Kearney

PAGE TWO

TO SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, TO FACE CHARGES ON A FORGERY WARRANT.

SAN DIEGO WAS REQUESTED TO ASCERTAIN DISPOSITION RE LYMAN AND CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION IN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A SUSPECT IN INSTANT CASE.

FILES SAN DIEGO REVEAL FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND RE LYMAN;

RUDDY COMPLEXION, TOTOO OF FLOWER ON HIS CHEST, OCCUPATION BARTENDER, TREE TRIMMER, CARD DEALER, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

[REDACTED], PARENTS ROBERT LYMAN, FATHER, ONE FOUR SEVEN OR ONE FOUR NINE EIGHT STREET EAST, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH. ARLENE LYMAN, MOTHER, BLACKFOOR, IDAHO, WIFE MARY EAGLAN LYMAN, LAST KNOWN ADDRESS SEVEN ONE FOUR AND A HALF GROVE STREET, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA, FBI NUMBER NINE ZERO EIGHT ONE THREE ZERO E.

LA DIVISION ADVISED NO RECORD LOCATED AT CHINO STATE PENITENTIARY FOR LYMAN. PRISON OFFICIALS ADVISED IF LYMAN RELEASED FROM CHINO MORE THAN ONE YEAR AGO RECORD WOULD BE LOCATED CALIFORNIA MEDICAL FACILITY, VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

RECORDS CALIFORNIA MEDICAL FACILITY, VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA, REVIEWED INSTANT DATE REVEAL THERAL B. LYMAN HAD PRISON NUMBER A DASH EIGHT SIX FOUR FOUR THREE FBI NUMBER SUPRA, CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION AND INVESTIGATION (CII) NUMBER ONE SIX EIGHT THREE EIGHT ZERO FOUR, ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION TATTOOS THREE HEARTS OUTSIDE UPPER LEFT ARM; "KEY TO MY HEART" IN A SCROLL, UPPER LEFT ARM; FLOWER ON THE CENTER OF HIS CHEST. LYMAN PAROLED ON OCTOBER NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE TO UTAH, HIS PAROLE OFFICER BEING IDENTIFIED AS CHARLES D. LE BARON, NINE ZERO EAST THREE HUNDRED NORTH, PROVO, UTAH. LYMAN DISCHARGED FROM PAROLE APRIL NINETEEN, NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN, AT WHICH TIME HE RESIDED AT FOUR SIX TWO WALKER STREET, MOAB, UTAH, AND WAS SELF EMPLOYED IN A BUSINESS CALLED KOM-LETE, A LANDSCAPING AND TREE SERVICE IN MOAB. PARENTS LISTED AS MR. AND MRS. E.R. LYMAN, BOX ONE SIX ONE, BLANDING, UTAH; GRANDFATHER, EDWARD P. LYMAN, BOX THREE FOUR ONE, BLANDING; BROTHER KIRK C. LYMAN, TWO SIX FIVE RUBY, BLACKFOOT, IDAHO; FRIEND, JOHN E. STOLL, SEVEN ONE FOUR GROVE STREET, ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA.

FILES CII, SACRAMENTO, REVEAL LYMAN ALSO ARRESTED PD, ATLANTA, GA., NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE, S. POL. CHEBOYGAN, MICHIGAN, NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR, AND PD SAN DIEGO NINETEEN SIXTYFOUR.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

SALT LAKE CITY DETERMINE PRESENT WHEREABOUT OF LYMAN AND IF
LOCATED DETERMINE WHEREABOUT DURING PERTINENT PERIOD, MARCH
TWENTYNINE - THIRTY LAST, AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA AND APRIL FOUR
LAST AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. BUREAU INSTRUCTS LEADS IN CAPTIONED
MATTER BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY AND NO INDICATION IS TO BE GIVEN
THAT THIS LEAD IS IN CONJUNCTION WITH MURKIN CASE.

PHOTOS OF LYMAN OBTAINED FROM FILES OF CII AND CALIF. DMV
WILL BE FORWARDED TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM BY SEPERATE COVER.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SACTO

9:33PM URGENT 4/10/68 JEM

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS

FROM SACRAMENTO (100-427) 1P

MURKIN

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL TODAY TO ALL CONTINENTAL FIELD OFFICES
AT TEN FORTY-TWO P.M.

DMV SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA, ADVISED THIS VEHICLE NOT
REGISTERED IN STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

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Job

misc Suspect

44-1987-Sub E-99

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Kootney

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI-SLC-CITY

9:37 PM MST U R G E N T 4/10/68 LES

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), MEMPHIS (44-1987), CHARLOTTE (44-1365),
AND RICHMOND.

FROM SALT LAKE CITY (44-253)

MURKIN. OO - MEMPHIS.

FOR INFORMATION RICHMOND, CHARLOTTE BY TELETYPE THIS DATE
ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

"TODAY WILLIAM CLYDE MILLSAPS, GASTONIA, N.C., FURNISHED
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS:

"HIS NEPHEW, JOHN CLINTON MILLSAPS, WHITE MALE, AGE TWENTY,
SIX FEET ONE INCH TO SIX FEET TWO INCHES, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY
POUNDS, BLOND HAIR, WHO RESIDES EIGHTYSEVEN WEST SOUTH NORTH
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, UNLISTED TELEPHONE THREE FIVE NINE FOUR
EIGHT NINE SEVEN, WAS DISCHARGED U.S. ARMY SUMMER OF SIXTYSEVEN.
NEPHEW INHERITED CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND IS INDEPENDENTLY
WEALTHY. IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY LAST, JOHN MILLSAPS AND WIFE
VISITED WILLIAM MILLSAPS FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE DAYS. DURING
VISIT, JOHN MILLSAPS STATED HE WAS GOING TO PURCHASE A HIGH-
POWERED RIFLE TO SHOOT NEGROES WITH. HIS NEPHEW DID NOT INDICATE
END PAGE 1

Lead Richmond

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Kearney

gms

PAGE 2 SU 44-253

HE WAS A MEMBER OF ANY ORGANIZATION. NEPHEW REPORTEDLY A CRACK SHOT WITH RIFLE.

"WILLIAM MILLSAPS DID NOT HEAR FROM HIS NEPHEW AGAIN UNTIL APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, AT WHICH TIME HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM NEPHEW WHO WAS IN RICHMOND, VA., WORKING FOR A SIGN COMPANY, NAME UNKNOWN. JOHN MILLSAPS INDICATED HE WAS COMING TO VISIT FOR THREE DAYS AND THEN WOULD GO TO ATLANTA, GA. WHEN NEPHEW FAILED TO ARRIVE, WILLIAM MILLSAPS CALLED HIS RESIDENCE IN SALT LAKE CITY AND TALKED WITH HIS WIFE WHO STATED NEPHEW EMPLOYED WITH A MACHINE COMPANY, NAME NOT MENTIONED. HE HAS NOT HEARD FROM HIS NEPHEW SINCE THAT TIME.

"AFTER MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS KILLED, WILLIAM MILLSAPS OBSERVED DRAWING OF ASSASSIN WHICH STRONGLY RESEMBLES HIS NEPHEW. HE STATED HE IS AFRAID THAT THE KILLER OF KING COULD BE HIS NEPHEW DUE TO RESEMBLANCE OF THE BOY TO THE PICTURE AND THE FACT THAT HIS NEPHEW STATED HE WAS GOING TO PURCHASE A HIGH-POWERED RIFLE TO USE ON NEGROES.

"AT ONE TIME, JOHN MILLSAPS OWNED A CADILLAC AND AFTER PURCHASED A NEW CHEVROLET BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF AUTOMOBILE

END PAGE 2

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HE HAS AT THIS TIME. HIS NEPHEW POSSIBLY USES COMMERCIAL AIRLINES INASMUCH AS HE INDICATED HE WOULD CALL WILLIAM MILLSAPS FROM AIRPORT UPON ARRIVAL."

MRS. TRUDY MILLSAPS, WIFE OF JOHN CLINTON MILLSAPS CONTACTED TODAY, ADVISED HUSBAND IS IN RICHMOND, VA., PHONE SEVEN ZERO THREE DASH TWO THREE THREE DASH FOUR FOUR NINE SIX, WORKING WITH JAY CUMMINGS, SALESMAN FOR PLASTIC-VAC INC. RICHMOND REPRESENTATIVE FOR PLASTIC-VAC IS LLOYD PETERSON. MILLSAPS AND CUMMINGS LEFT SALT LAKE CITY MARCH TWENTYSIX LAST VIA UNITED AIRLINES. RICHMOND ADDRESS FOR MILLSAPS UNKNOWN, HOWEVER, USUALLY STAYS HOLIDAY INN WHERE DISPLAY IS SET UP. SINCE LEAVING SALT LAKE CITY MILLSAPS HAS SUPPOSEDLY BEEN ONLY IN VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.

MRS. MILLSAPS STATED HUSBAND HAS EXPRESSED STRONG DISLIKE FOR NEGROES BUT NEVER MADE THREATS AND DOES NOT OWN GUN. MILLSAPS FURTHER DESCRIBED, SIX FOOT FOUR; TWO-HUNDRED LBS.; BROWN HAIR AND EYES; PARTIAL TATTOO OF ANCHOR ON LEFT HAND; BORN [REDACTED] [REDACTED], SALT LAKE CITY.

RICHMOND DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF MILLSAPS DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

AM COPIES TO ATLANTA AND BIRMINGHAM.

END

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI SAN FRAN

1038PM URGENT 4/10/68 NJM

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861), BIRMINGHAM, DALLAS, LOUISVILLE, MIMPHIS
(44-1987), AND RICHMOND
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (173-65) (P) 3P

MURKIN

MR. GRANT AHRENS, TWO SEVEN THREE SIX DOLORES STREET, ANTIOCH,
CALIFORNIA, ADVISED ON APRIL NINE, LAST, AS FOLLOWS;

HE STATED THAT HE WAS TRAVELING ON BUSINESS TO DALLAS, TEXAS,
VIA AMERICAN AIRLINES ON MARCH TWO EIGHT, LAST. AT DALLAS HE BOARDED
AMERICAN AIRLINES FLIGHT TWO NINE SIX WHICH DEPARTED DALLAS AT ONE
TWENTY P.M. FOR LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY. THIS FLIGHT MADE A STOP IN
MEMPHIS.

AS AIRCRAFT PREPARED TO LEAVE MEMPHIS, AHRENS NOTED THAT A YOUNG
MAN WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS WMA, IN HIS LATE THIRTIES OR EARLY FORTIES,
APPROXIMATELY ONE FIVE ZERO TO ONE FIVE FIVE POUNDS, FIVE FEET EIGHT
INCHES TALL, SLENDER BUILD, LIGHT HAIR, POSSIBLY BLOND, WITH RECEDING
HAIRLINE, WEARING DARK GRAY CASUAL BUSINESS OR SPORTS TYPE SUIT, NO
GLASSES, NO HAT, LIGHT SHIRT, AND DARK TIE, TOOK THE SEAT DIRECTLY
TO THE REAR OF AHRENS' SEAT.

AHRENS RECALLED THAT THIS AIRCRAFT WAS A SEVEN TWO SEVEN JET AND
THAT HE WAS SEATED ABOUT THE FOURTH ROW FORWARD OF THE REAR LOADING
ENTRANCE ON THE RIGHT-HAND SIDE, POSSIBLY SEAT NUMBER TWO ONE OR
TWO TWO.

END OF PAGE ONE

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44-1987-Sub E-101

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Kearney

PAGE TWO

AHRENS STATED THAT THIS UNKNOWN MALE MADE A STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT, "MARTIN LUTHER KING HAS BEEN SHOT AND KILLED." AHRENS STATED HE TURNED AND LOOKED THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE FACE AND SAID, "REALLY, IS HE DEAD?" IN REPLY THE UNKNOWN MALE STATED, "YES." AHRENS COMMENTED, "THAT'S TOO BAD."

AT THE TIME AHRENS RELATED HE PLACED NO CREDENCE IN THE STATEMENT AND RECALLED NOTHING FURTHER REGARDING THIS INCIDENT OTHER THAN THAT THERE WAS SOME TYPE OF DEMONSTRATION OR MARCH IN MEMPHIS ON THAT PARTICULAR DAY. AHRENS FURTHER STATED HE WAS POSITIVE OF THE DATE AS MARCH TWO EIGHT, LAST, WHICH WAS ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE DAY OF THE ASSASSINATION

IT WAS ALSO DETERMINED FROM AHRENS THAT THE SEATING ON THIS AIRCRAFT WAS THREE ABREAST AND IMMEDIATELY TO HIS LEFT WAS A YOUNG AIRMAN, FIRST OR SECOND CLASS, ONE NINE TO TWO ZERO YEARS OF AGE, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES TALL, ONE SIX ZERO POUNDS, SLENDER BUILD, WHO HAD BOARDED THE PLANE IN DALLAS AND HAD INDICATED HE WAS RETURNING FROM VIETNAM, HAVING SERVED ON A MEDICAL EVACUATION TEAM ABOARD A HELICOPTER. THE AIRMAN WAS RETURNING TO HIS HOME IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA. AHRENS COULD NOT RECALL HIS LAST NAME, BUT IT WAS A SIMPLE NAME, POSSIBLY WHITE. AHRENS STATED THAT THE AIRMAN MUST HAVE HEARD THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE

END OF PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

UNKNOWN MALE SEATED DIRECTLY TO AHRENS' REAR.

ALSO, AHRENS RELATED THAT ON HIS RIGHT SAT A WM IN UNIFORM, A CAPTAIN IN THE AFGHANISTAN ARMY, WHO HAD A LONG UNPRONOUNCEABLE FIRST NAME AND LAST NAME OF JUST FOUR LETTERS, SOUNDING SIMILAR TO BEJA. THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS EN ROUTE TO FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY, FOR SEVERAL MONTHS TRAINING AND DEPARTED AIRCRAFT AT LOUISVILLE.

DALLAS DETERMINE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL OCCUPYING THE SEAT TO THE REAR OF AHRENS ON FLIGHT TWO NINE SIX FROM DALLAS ON MARCH TWO EIGHT, LAST. ALSO DETERMINE IDENTITIES OF OTHER TRAVELERS MENTIONED ABOVE IN ORDER THAT THEY CAN BE QUESTIONED BY RECIPIENT OFFICES CONCERNING IDENTITY OF UNKNOWN MALE IN THE EVENT HE IS NOT FULLY IDENTIFIED AT DALLAS.

END

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

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