

FBI

Date: 5/6/68

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (44-1242)(P)

RE: MURKIN
CR

*Sub E-721
-721A
H-607*

RE CARS STOLEN FROM STATE OF GEORGIA

Re Atlanta airtel to Bureau and all offices
4/25/68; San Antonio airtel to Bureau 4/25/68.

The files in the 26 classification of the
San Antonio Division, in which San Antonio is origin and
which were opened between 3/23/68 and 4/4/68, were reviewed
with negative results concerning cars recovered which were
stolen in Georgia.

San Antonio is conducting no further investigation
in this phase of this case.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
 - 2 - Atlanta (44-2386)(RM)
 - 1 - Dallas (44-2649)(Info)(RM)
 - 1 - El Paso (Info)(RM)
 - 1 - Houston (44-1509)(Info)(RM)
 - 2 - Memphis (44-1987)(RM)
 - 1 - Savannah (Info)(RM)
 - 2 - San Antonio
- JMK:kfh
(13)

44-1987-Sub E-721B

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 9 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyer

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

4/25/68

AIRTEL

To: SACs Jackson
Dallas
Jacksonville

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Bureau telephone call to Jackson 4/24/68.

The main file on King contains the following threats:

Jackson office, by teletype, 9/17/66, entitled "UNSUB; ALLEGED PLAN TO KILL REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, GRENADA, MISSISSIPPI, RACIAL MATTERS," reported that the Reverend Emmett Barfield, pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Grenada, Mississippi, who requested his identity be concealed, claimed an attorney in his parish told him two white residents of Grenada planned to assassinate King on 9/19/66, at Grenada. These men allegedly wanted to retain the attorney should they be charged.

Sam Holloway Bowers, Jr., aka Sam, Imperial Wizard, WKKK, reportedly made a statement at a Klan meeting near Harrisville, Mississippi, on 11/15/64, that two men had requested his permission to shoot King. Bowers reportedly told the men not to take any chances and stated that any American citizen would consider it his patriotic duty to shoot King if given the opportunity.

Bureau airtel 6/15/67, captioned "ALLEGED OFFER OF \$100,000 BY WHITE KNIGHTS OF KU KLUX KLAN, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, TO ANYONE WHO KILLS MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, RACIAL MATTER," refers to information received from

② - Memphis

44-1987-Sub E-722

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Bayle RB

Airtel to Jackson
Dallas
Jacksonville
RE: MURKIN

the Dallas office that one Donald James Nissen, FBI Number 670120A, then an inmate of the County Jail, Sherman, Texas, reportedly knew of an offer of \$100,000 to kill King which had been made by the KKK.

Bureau files indicate that on 4/28/67, JN 265-R (PSON) advised that L. C. Blalock, owner of Carley's Place, Winona, Mississippi, had indicated that one Julio Romeo of Jacksonville, Florida, would pay the source \$150,000 cash to kill King. At the time this information was received, Jacksonville was unable to identify Romeo and Bureau files were negative on Blalock and Romeo. All offices conduct logical investigation to determine if above persons and incidents are implicated in King's death.

Although subject Ray has been identified as the assailant, you should conduct investigation to determine if any of the above might be implicated as a conspirator.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 5/1/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
 (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)
 MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Jackson, Dallas, and
 Jacksonville 4/25/68.

Referenced Bureau airtel set out instances
 of threats from the main file on KING.

Paragraph 2 of referenced communication con-
 cerning SAM HOLLOWAY BOWERS, JR., Imperial Wizard, WKKKKOM,
 reportedly making a statement at a Klan meeting near
 Harrisville, Mississippi on 11/15/64, that two men had
 requested his permission to shoot KING.

A review of the Jackson file in this matter
 disclosed that two Jackson informants furnished this
 information.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
 - ① - Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (RM)
 - 2 - Jackson (157-9586)
 (1 - 157-18)
- JLP/jdh
 (6)

44-1987-Sub E-422A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED... <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED... <i>h</i>	FILED... <i>h</i>
MAY 3 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Boyle BTB</i>	

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

JN 157-9586

JN 23-R (PROB) advised on 11/16/64 that at a state-wide meeting of the WKKKKOM near Harrisville, Miss. on 11/16/64 SAM BOWERS was asked by an unknown Klansman why MARTIN LUTHER KING was not killed when he came to Miss. during the Summer of 1964. BOWERS allegedly replied that two men came to him who claimed they were good with a rifle and wanted his approval to take care of KING. BOWERS stated at this particular meeting that he gave these two men strict orders not to take any chances whatsoever and added that these two men never returned and he heard no more concerning this matter.

On 11/16/64 JN 55-R (PROB) advised that during the same state meeting as set forth above, some individuals reported that MARTIN LUTHER KING had expected to come to Mc Comb, Miss. on Monday, 11/16/64 and that all business places in Mc Comb would be tested by integrationists on that date. Someone remarked that something should be done about this and SAM BOWERS stated that when MARTIN LUTHER KING last toured the State of Miss., two men were assigned with high-powered rifles to take care of KING, but plans went amiss when KING took a route other than the one he was supposed to. BOWERS stated that these two men are working on this matter. He did not identify the two men.

On 4/30/68 JN 23-R (PROB) ^{closed} was located and interviewed. He could add nothing further to the information he furnished on 11/16/64.

On 5/1/68 JN 55-R (PROB) reported that he had nothing additional concerning the above incident.

JN 55-R (PROB) was contacted during the evening of 4/4/68 immediately after the assassination of KING and he had no information of value at that time.

Other incidents summarized in referenced airtel are being investigated, where possible, to determine if any persons concerned ~~at~~ ^{are} implicated in anyway with KING's death.

F B I

Date: 5/3/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DENVER
FROM MOBILE 157-2627

Sub E-782

MURKIN, CR. MO ME

RE JAMES E. RAY, THREE ELEVEN MAY ST., MONTGOMERY, ALA.

M. L. GRIFFIN, VICE PRESIDENT, RADCLIFF MATERIALS CO.,
MOBILE, ALA., ADVISED JAMES E. RAY, WM, RESIDENCE THREE ELEVEN
MAY ST., MONTGOMERY, ALA., WORKED FOR HIS COMPANY AT MOBILE AS
WELDER FEB. TWENTYSIX THROUGH MARCH ELEVEN LAST, VOLUNTARILY
QUITTING. THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS BORN [REDACTED], CLANTON,
ALA., SOCIAL SECURITY NO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], CLAIMED SERVED USN NINETEEN FORTYTHREE - FORTY
SIX.

GRIFFIN RECEIVED LETTER TODAY FROM JAMES E. RAY, CARE OF
SO WHEATLAND, WYOMING, ASKING THEM TO SEND MONEY DUE FROM EM-
PLOYMENT. GRIFFIN STATED THIS MONEY HAD ^{PREVIOUSLY} BEEN SENT TO RAY'S
HOME ADDRESS IN MONTGOMERY, ALA., AND CHECK HAD NOT BEEN

44-1987-Sub E-702B

END PAGE ONE

JTB:lpw *[Signature]* Memphis (AM)

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED <i>3</i>
SERIALIZED <i>3</i>	FILED <i>3</i>
MAY 6 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>[Signature]</i>	

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

MO 157-2627

PAGE TWO

RETURNED.

IT WAS DETERMINED THAT ONE JAMES E. RAY, SAME HOME ADDRESS, MONTGOMERY, ALA., CLAIMING NSN EIGHT NINE THREE TWO EIGHT SIX THREE HAD GIVEN BLOOD AT LOCAL CENTER, MOBILE MAR. TWELVE LAST.

AS THIS INDIVIDUAL REPORTEDLY SERVED IN USN AND REPORTEDLY OLDER THAN SUBJ RAY IT WOULD APPEAR NOT IDENTICAL WITH SUBJECT.

DENVER SHOULD INTERVIEW JAMES E. RAY AT ^{WHEATLAND} WHEATON, WYOMING SO AND VERIFY NOT IDENTICAL WITH SUBJ AND DETERMINE ANY POSSIBLE RELATIONSHIP WITH SUBJ RAY.

AM COPY TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

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

5/2/68

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, INDIANAPOLIS
SAC, KANSAS CITY
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)

MURKIN

REGARDING INSURANCE CLAIMS IN NAME OF JAMES

RAY.

BERNARD L. HINES, JR., DIRECTOR, "THE INDEX SYSTEM" FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING INSURANCE CLAIMS BY INDIVIDUALS NAMED JAMES RAY.

JAMES E. RAY, BOX NINE FIVE, EIGHT ONE SIX NORTH SUMNER, BELLE PLAINE, KANSAS, A SALESMAN, AGE THREE NINE, SUFFERED AN ACCIDENT JANUARY TWO THREE, LAST, WHEREIN A SMALL BONE PUNCTURED THE EAR DRUM SLIGHTLY. CLAIMANT'S PHYSICIAN WAS DOCTOR WILLIAM H. MITCHELL, TWO THREE NINE WEST FIFTH, BELLE PLAINE, KANSAS. THE INSURED WAS THE ADVANCE PRODUCTS COMPANY AND INSURER WAS THE EMPLOYERS MUTUAL CASUALTY COMPANY, TWO FOUR THREE ONE EAST DOUGLAS, WICHITA, KANSAS.

- ① - Memphis (AM) (RM)
- 1 - ADIC MALONE
- 1 - Supervisor #23

JFS:ljm
(3)

44-1987-Sub E-7220

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle RB

PAGE TWO

JAMES RAY, TWO SEVEN WEST FIFTH STREET, SEYMOUR,
INDIANA, AGE FOUR TWO, SUFFERED AN ACCIDENT APRIL TWO TWO,
ONE NINE SIX SEVEN, AT THE KEENELAND RACE TRACK, LEXINGTON,
KENTUCKY, WHEREIN HE BRUISED HIS RIGHT LEG. THE INSURED
WAS KEENLAND ASSOCIATION AND THE INSURER WAS THE TRAVELERS
INSURANCE COMPANY, FOUR TWO FIVE SOUTH FIFTH STREET,
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY.

KANSAS CITY AND INDIANAPOLIS ELIMINATE OR IDENTIFY
ABOVE INDIVIDUALS WITH SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY.

MEMPHIS ADVISED BY AIR MAIL.

SUBJECT RAY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND
DANGEROUS.

5/3/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Jackson, DL and JK, 4/25/68, regarding alleged offer of \$100,000 by White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Jackson, Mississippi, to anyone who kills MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Jacksonville unable through indices checks, City and Suburban Directories, Telephone Directories, Jacksonville PD, Duval County SO, Drivers License Bureau, City Electric records, and Credit Bureau to identify JULIO ROMEO.

Jackson may wish to make direct contact with L.C. BLALOCK, Winona, Miss., for further information regarding ROMEO.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau
2 - Dallas (44-2649)
2 - Jackson
② - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Jacksonville
TJW:pas
(11)

44-1987-Sub E-122D

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY - 6 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle 168

F B I

Date: 5/3/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL _____
(Priority)

TO: Bureau (44-38861)
Memphis (44-1987)
Louisville

FROM: SAC, Jackson (157-9586) (P)

MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Bureau airtel to Jackson, Dallas, Jacksonville,
dated 4/25/68.

Referenced Bureau airtel indicated that the
main file on MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. had been reviewed
and certain threats against KING were set forth. Among
the alleged threats was the following:

Sub E-722
"Jackson Office, by teletype, 9/17/66, entitled
'Unsub; alleged plan to kill Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,
Grenada, Miss., Racial Matters,' reported that the
Rev. EMMETT BARFIELD, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church,
Grenada, Miss., who requested his identity be concealed,
claimed an attorney in his parish told him two white
residence of Grenada planned to assassinate KING on
9/19/66 at Grenada. These men allegedly wanted to retain
the attorney should they be charged."

A review of Jackson file 157-6712, on 4/27/68,
disclosed no additional information other than as summarized
above.

3-Bureau
②-Memphis
2-Louisville
2-Jackson (1 - 157-6712)
JLP:mah
(5)

44-1987-Sub E-722E

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED <u>2</u>
SERIALIZED <u>4</u>	FILED <u>2</u>
MAY - 7 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle 10/2

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

JN 157-9586

Inquiry at the First Presbyterian Church, Grenada, Miss., disclosed that Rev. EMMETT BARFIELD is no longer located in Grenada, Miss.

On 5/3/68, EDWARD THOMPSON, (Protect), U. S. Postmaster, Grenada, Miss., advised that his records disclose Rev. EMMETT BARFIELD is now located at 113 Woodmont Drive, Paris Kentucky, zip code 40361.

LEAD:

LOUISVILLE DIVISION

AT PARIS, KENTUCKY

Will locate Rev. EMMETT BARFIELD at 113 Woodmont Drive and attempt to determine from him the identity of the attorney at Grenada, Miss., who furnished Rev. BARFIELD with the above information and immediately advise the Jackson Office.

F B I

Date: 5/8/68

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Dallas airtel to Bureau, 5/1/68, regarding alleged offer of \$100,000 by White Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (WKKKK), Jackson, Miss., to anyone who kills MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Enclosed for Jacksonville are two copies each of Dallas airtel to Bureau, 6/6/67, Kansas City airtel to Bureau, 7/21/67 and Dallas airtel to Bureau, 5/1/68.

On 5/8/68, Mr. J. B. MC WHORTER, Spencer International Press, 2335 Brannen Road, Atlanta, Ga., advised DONALD JAMES NISSEM is no longer employed by this company, having left approximately December, 1967, to go to Corpus Christi, Texas, where he was employed by the Americana Encyclopedia Co. MC WHORTER stated he recently learned that NISSEM is working in Panama City, Fla., selling a safety device which operates

E7221P2

- 3 - Bureau
 - 1 - Jackson (Info)
 - 2 - Jacksonville (Enc. 6)
 - ② - Memphis (44-1987)
 - 2 - Atlanta
- JTB:lcc
(10)

44-1987-Sub E-722F

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED <u>5</u>
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MAY - 9 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyer

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

AT 44-2386

as a gyroscope. He stated the name of the unit is the Auto Safety Control and the company office is located in Reno, Nevada. MC WHORTER stated HAROLD B. FITZGERALD is presently located with the Spencer International Press at 3801 Kirbey Drive, Houston, Texas.

LEADS

JACKSONVILLE

At Panama City, Florida:

Will locate DONALD JAMES MISSEN and interview for any information he may have obtained re alleged offer to kill KING since MISSEN's release from jail on 6/19/67. For info Jacksonville, the Jackson Office in July, 1967, advised the WKKKK were in bad financial straights, having a difficult time raising enough money to defend members of this organization after their arrest.

Information copy furnished Jackson inasmuch as present investigation being conducted that Division.

4/25/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO CINCINNATI
FROM CLEVELAND (44-565) 2P

MURKIN

RECORDS OF THE CLEVELAND CREDIT BUREAU REFLECT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONCERNING ONE JAMES E. RAY, RESIDENCE FOUR SEVEN THREE TWO BROADWAY, CLEVELAND; PREVIOUS ADDRESS ONE EIGHT THREE THREE WILBUR AVENUE, FAIRBORN, OHIO. RECORDS HAVE NOTATION THAT ON NOVEMBER FOURTEEN LAST GMAC, FAIRBORN, OHIO, REPORTED ABOVE INDIVIDUAL WAS IN DEFAULT ON A LOAN OF EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTYTHREE DOLLARS WITH BALANCE OF FIVE HUNDRED TWENTYTHREE DOLLARS AT THAT TIME. NO OTHER INFORMATION CONTAINED IN CREDIT BUREAU RECORDS.

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION IN AREA OF FOUR SEVEN THREE TWO BROADWAY, CLEVELAND, FAILED TO DISCLOSE ANY INFORMATION IN CONNECTION WITH JAMES E. RAY AT THIS ADDRESS.

CINCINNATI AT FAIRBORN, OHIO, WILL CHECK RECORDS GMAC CONCERNING JAMES E. RAY, AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND
END PAGE ONE

NPM/clo

(2)

1 - Memphis (AM)

44-1987-Sub E-723

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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APR 26 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle BB

CV 44-565

PAGE TWO

ELIMINATE IN ABOVE CAPTIONED CASE.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

P

END.

F B I

Date: 4/26/68

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

Via TELETYPE DEFERRED
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38361) AND ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM RICHMOND - P -

MURKIN - CR

REF ATLANTA TEL TO BUREAU FOUR TWENTY-FIVE SIXTY EIGHT.
 THIS DATE ALLAN HUMPHRIES, PASSENGER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE
 PAN AMERICAN AIRLINES, DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, CHANTILLY,
 VIRGINIA, ADVISED HIS MANIFEST FOR DELTA AIRLINES FLIGHT ONE
 ZERO SIX DEPARTING ATLANTA FOUR SIX SIXTY-EIGHT, NOT FOUR FIVE
 SIXTY-EIGHT, REVEALED PASSENGER BURNE OCCUPIED SEAT FOURTEEN - E.
 MANIFEST REVEALED FLIGHT DEPARTED ATLANTA FOUR FIFTY PM, FOUR SIX
 SIXTY-EIGHT, ARRIVED DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIX TWENTY FOUR
 PM SAME DATE AND LEFT DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT FOR LONDON,
 ENGLAND SEVEN PM SAME DATE. MANIFEST REVEALED BURNE STAYED ON BOARD AT
 DULLES AND CONTINUED TO LONDON.

HE ADVISED NOT NECESSARY FOR PASSENGERS TO GO THROUGH
 CUSTOMS WHEN DEPARTING COUNTRY BUT NECESSARY WHEN RE-ENTERING
 COUNTRY. FOR INFO ATLANTA, THERE IS NO DELTA INTERNATIONAL BUT
 THERE IS A DULLES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

HUMPHRIES ADVISED PASSPORTS OF PASSENGERS FOR THIS FLIGHT
 WOULD BE CHECKED BY DELTA AIRLINES WHEN BOARDING AT ATLANTA.

44-1987-Sub E-724

- ① - Memphis
- 1 - Richmond

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>ly</i>
SERIALIZED <i>5</i>	FILED <i>ly</i>
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Boyle B313</i>	

F B I

Date: 4/26/68

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

Via TELETYPE DEFERRED
(Priority)

MURKIN (CONT.)

HE ADVISED IF FURTHER INFO RE BURNE COULD BE OBTAINED, IT WOULD
BE FROM DELTA AIRLINES, RESERVATIONS AT ATLANTA.

MAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

RT/LLC

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

F B I

Date: April 26, 1968

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: SAC, JACKSON

FROM: SAC, COLUMBIA (44-289)

MURKIN CIVIL RIGHTS

SGT. ROBERT R. ELDRIDGE, N. CHARLESTON AFS, CHARLESTON, SC. (CONDEAL)
ADVISED TODAY THAT WHILE STATIONED KESSLER AFB, MISS., PRIOR TO SEPT.
SIXTYSEVEN DID BUSINESS AT FERNWOOD TEXACO STATION, FERNWOOD, MISS.
WHICH IS IN PART OF CITY OF BILOXI, MISS.

OWNER OF STATION WAYNE RODGERS AND RODGERS HAD TWO EMPLOYEES.
ONE OF THE EMPLOYEES, NAME UNRECALLED, DESCRIBED WHITE, MALE, FORTY
FIFTY YEARS OLD, FIVE FT EIGHT ENCHES, ONE SEVEN FIVE LBS., STATED
MANY TIMES THAT HE KNEW OF A MAN THAT WOULD PAY THREE HUNDRED FIFTY
THOUSAND TO FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS TO SOMEONE TO KILL KING.
ELDRIDGE DESCRIBED EMPLOYEE AS THE OLDER PERSON OF THE TWO PERSONS
EMPLOYED BY RODGERS.

ELDRIDGE SAID WHEN HE LEFT AREA RODGERS INDICATED MOVING BUSINESS
TO SHELL SERVICE STATION THAT IS LOCATED ACROSS THE STREET FROM GUS
STEVENS, A WELL KNOWN RESTAURANT IN BILOXI, MISS

JACKSON LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RODGERS AND EMPLOYEE RE ABOVE.

MEMPHIS ADVISED BY AM.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

44-1987-Sub E-725

GGR/
Approved: (Signature) MEMPHIS (AM)
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M

F B I

Date: 5/1/68

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586)
MURKIN

Re Columbia teletype to Jackson, 4/26/68, with airmail copy furnished to Memphis.

Referenced teletype sets forth information from Sergeant ROBERT R. EDDRIDGE, AFS, Charleston, South Carolina, (CONCEAL IDENTITY) wherein EDDRIDGE states he was stationed at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, prior to September, 1967, and did business at Fernwood Texaco Station in Biloxi, Mississippi.

He advised that the owner of the station was WAYNE RODGERS and that one of RODGERS's employees, a white male, 40 to 50 years old, was heard to state many times that he knew of a man that would pay a large sum of money for someone to kill KING.

Investigation at Biloxi, Mississippi, disclosed the following:

LOWELL WAYNE ROGERS, Owner, Fernwood Texaco Service Station, located and interviewed and states that prior to September 1967, he and WOODY PRINGLE were partners in the

- ② - Memphis (RM)
 - 1 - Columbia (44-289) (Info) (RM)
 - 2 - Jackson
- JLP:ccs
(5)

44-1987-Sub E-725A

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 3 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle

Approved: *RKM*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

JN 157-9586

Fernwood Texas Station and that during that period of time, in addition to himself and PRINGLE, an individual identified as THOMAS MOODY, a white male, age approximately 44, and JOE SWANIER, a Negro male, approximately 28, were employed at the station.

ROGERS advised that he has never heard either PRINGLE or MOODY make any comment which could be construed to indicate that either of them was aware of an individual who would pay a great sum of money to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ROGERS advised that he has never made such a comment himself.

ROGERS advised that at the present time PRINGLE, MOODY, and SWAINER were working at the Fernwood Service Station, Biloxi, Mississippi. He said that to the best of his knowledge neither MOODY nor PRINGLE were particularly opposed to the civil rights movement and are not known to have ever been members of any organization opposed to the civil rights movement.

THOMAS BLOUNT MOODY was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on 4/26/68. He advised that to the best of his recollection he never made the comment to anyone indicating that he knew anyone who would be willing to pay a large sum of money to see that Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was killed. MOODY indicated that he is not opposed to the civil rights movement although he did not feel that the methods employed by certain civil rights leaders, including Doctor KING, were in the best interest of the country. He indicated that he regretted that Doctor KING had been murdered and felt that it was a tragedy for the nation. MOODY vehemently denied that he has made such a statement concerning the murder of KING. He stated that on occasion when he drinks he might make a statement of this type just to show off. He indicated that if such a statement was made, it was certainly no basis for it in fact.

JN 157-9586

WOODROW W. PRINGLE, JR., was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on April 27, 1968.

PRINGLE stated that he has been acquainted with MOODY for several years and considers MOODY to be an honest, trustworthy individual. In the years that he has known MOODY, he stated he has never heard MOODY make any statement which might indicate that he was violently opposed to the civil rights movement in this country. Specifically, PRINGLE stated he has never heard MOODY make any type of comment which could be construed to indicate that MOODY knew of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to have Doctor KING killed. He stated to the best of his knowledge MOODY has never been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization and has never shown a propensity for violence in regard to the civil rights movement.

JOSEPH (NMN) SWAINER was interviewed at Biloxi, Mississippi, on April 27, 1968.

SWAINER, a male Negro, advised that prior to September, 1967, he was employed by ROGERS and PRINGLE at the Fernwood Texaco Service Station. During this period of time he worked with an individual named THOMAS MOODY, and he indicated he thought he was very well acquainted with MOODY. He said he never heard MOODY make any type of comment which might indicate MOODY was aware of an individual who would pay a large sum of money to see MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., killed.

SWAINER said he has no reason to believe that MOODY is now or ever has been a member of any Klan or hate-type organization.

All of the above investigation was conducted by SA PAUL A. MEISSNER, JR.

JN 157-9586

Inasmuch as the above investigation is purely negative, FD 302s containing description and background information are being retained at Jackson.

4/26/68

CODE

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO CHARLOTTE
FROM COLUMBIA (44-299)

MURKIN, CR, OO: MEMPHIS

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO COLUMBIA, APRIL TWENTYSIX INSTANT.
FOR INFORMATION CHARLOTTE, NICHOLAS NATHANIEL CAULDER
WHO RESIDED AT CAMDEN, S. C., IN SIXTYSIX, WAS FORMERLY
SAVANNAH FOUR SEVEN TWO DASH R (PROB), GO FORTYEIGHT DASH
R AND RICHLAND TWO NINE FOUR DASH R.

HE WAS IN SIXTYFIVE DESCRIBED AS IMPERIAL KLEXTER OF
THE UKA AND WAS DROPPED AS INFORMANT WHEN HE LEFT KLAN. HE
TOLD AGENT IN SIXTYFIVE HE HATED NEGROES AND HE WOULD GLADLY
TAKE PART IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WHICH
WAS REPORTED TO BUREAU.

REFERENCED TELETYPE ADVISED THAT ALTHOUGH JAMES EARL
RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSAILANT, COLUMBIA SHOULD CONDUCT
INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF CAULDER MIGHT BE IMPLICATOR AS A
CONSPIRATOR.

END PAGE ONE
1 - Bureau (Air Mail)
① - Memphis (Air Mail)
1 - Columbia
NSM:jrc (3)

44-1987-Sub E-726

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Boyle 1312

PAGE TWO

CAULDER'S LAST KNOWN ADDRESS IN FEBRUARY, SIXTYSEVEN WAS
ROUTE ONE, LAUREL HILL, N. C., TELEPHONE NUMBER FOUR SIX
TWO DASH TWO SIX FOUR ZERO. CHARLOTTE HANDLE.

BUREAU AND MEMPHIS BEING ADVISED BY AIRMAIL COPIES.

END

4/26/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SACS, SAVANNAH
COLUMBIA

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS REFLECTED IN THE MAIN
BUREAU FILE ON KING:

INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED AT THE BUREAU THAT ON FOUR
FIFTEEN, SIXTY-FIVE, NICHOLAS NATHANIEL CAULDER OF CAMDEN,
SOUTH CAROLINA, DESCRIBED AS THE IMPERIAL KLEKTER FOR THE
UKA, HAD ALLEGEDLY STATED IN THE PRESENCE OF SV FOUR SEVEN
TWO-RAC (PROB) THAT HE WOULD GLADLY PARTICIPATE IN THE AS-
SASSINATION OF KING.

ALTHOUGH SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE AS-
SAILANT, YOU SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF
ANY OF THE ABOVE MIGHT BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS.

② - MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub E-726A

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Boyle RB

F B I

Date: 4-26-68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO SAC, CLEVELAND (44-565)

FROM SAC, LOUISVILLE (44-947)

MURKIN, OO: MEMPHIS

RE CLEVELAND TELETYPE THIS DATE.

VIN IN RETEL REGARDING WHITE SIXTYEIGHT FORD GALAXIE IS
EIGHT W FIVE SIX F ONE THREE EIGHT THREE NINE ONE.

SUTEL TO WHOM DELIVERED.

1 - Memphis.
1 - Louisville
CAK/jbr
(2)

44-1987-Sub E-204

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle 1031

Approved: PMB/Reff Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

4/26/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, HOUSTON

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (44-1242)

MURKIN

RE TEXAS LICENSE NKR FOUR TWO FIVE - LOOK-ALIKE.

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL TO SAN ANTONIO, APRIL TWENTYSIX
INSTANT.

FOR INFO HOUSTON RE TEL STATES BERT HYDE, REPORTER,
STATES ITEM ~~NEWSPAPER~~, NEW ORLEANS, TELEPHONICALLY
~~ADVISED~~ APRIL TWENTYSIX INSTANT THAT OLIVER SALINOVICH,
PORT SULPHUR, LA., OYSTER MAN, ADVISED HIM ON FRIDAY,
APRIL NINETEEN LAST, HE OBSERVED A PERSON DRIVING A GREEN
OLDSMOBILE WITH BLACK VINYL TOP, TEXAS LICENSE NKR FOUR
TWO FIVE, WHO LOOKED LIKE THE PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY.

RE TEL ALSO REQUESTED SAN ANTONIO TO IMMEDIATELY
CHECK OUT, DETERMINE OWNER, LOCATION, DRIVERS INFORMATION,
AND OTHER INFORMATION WHICH WILL ASSIST IN ELIMINATING
THE DRIVER OF INSTANT CAR.

END PG. ONE

1 - New Orleans (AM)
① - Memphis (RM)
1 - San Antonio
JMK:jmb
(3)

44-1987-Sub E-728

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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Boyle 1610

PAGE TWO
SA 44-1242

ON APRIL TWENTYSIX INSTANT TEXAS DPS ADVISED
NKR FOUR TWO FIVE IS LICENSED FOR HARRIS COUNTY; HOWEVER,
DATA ON LICENSE NOT REPORTED TO TEXAS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
BY HARRIS COUNTY TAX OFFICE.

HOUSTON WILL HANDLE LEADS SET FORTH IN RE TEL.

END.

Dear Sir;

I am writing in regard to some events that might and I believe have a great deal to do with the Martin Luther King murder.

I had to go to my mother's funeral on Saturday night April 6.

I saw 5 men at Harrisburg Bus Terminal. I can only remember two enough to describe. One was sorta heavy with D. Brown Hair, Brown eyes had a Roman nose his hair line was same as papers show. Other was 6' or more slim light blond or reddish hair he was starting to get bladd.

When I noticed them in the terminal they sat in the coffee shop. The first one with the ~~black~~ kinda nervous or imp ~~...~~

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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<i>Boyle</i>	<i>BB</i>

44-1987 Sub E-722

He combed his hair while looking in a glass door. He also had a briefcase that looked brand new. They all wore suits.

On the bus that went to Pittsburgh that night. They talked all the way. I listen since they sat right behind me & my children. When we started out one said coffee tea milk anyone cause they had just come from the airport. While passing the capital one remarked that was the third time past. ~~They~~ ^{Woudge who they were} One man did most of the talking. He asked the other man about how things went & Arkansas. Then he wanted to know how he made up the name Stacov and where he got it from. They talked about their wives & how. One talked about being divorced for so many years.

Then there talk about Calif. thing they were going to get started in the back of the man behind me. Also they talked about Newark, N.J. and something that was going to be taken care of and said something to describe the houses and people there. Then they started talking about the Pittsburgh Instit. He told about classes there how the student behaved, as if, he might be a Professor or Dean. They talked so much I was tired and might have not taken it right. They were still talk when we got to Pittsburgh. They got off said something about they ^{didn't} have to travel for a couple of weeks. They would see each other in November.

There was talk about their wives
& home. One talked of being
divorced for so many years. I
heard something about a car red
white a convertible that he paid
cash for was at home. Then
there talk about the Calif. thing
that one of the guys was going to
^{& they were very high up} take care of. Also about Newark,
N. J. and something there about a
certain area and people involved
that he described. Then they talked
about Pittsburgh I recitate, about
classes there how certain students
behaved, as if, he might be a
Professor or Dean. I am sure he's a
Teacher of some sort. When they were
getting out of Pittsburgh they all said
(^{to me} see you in November.) With all
the confusion I couldn't possibly
understand all the talk on the

use. So if you'll excuse my
writing in a mess. Hope you'll
be able to understand this
letter.

Sincerely

Mrs. Jo Ann Cross
436 1/2 E. Chestnut St.
Lancaster, Pa.

4-26-68

Airtel

**To: SACs, Philadelphia
Pittsburgh**

From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Re Mrs. Jo Ann Cross - Complainant.

There are enclosed two copies each for Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and one copy for Memphis of a letter from Mrs. Jo Ann Cross, 438 1/2 East Chestnut Street, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, which was postmarked April 24, 1968.

Philadelphia should immediately interview Mrs. Cross and exhibit to her photographs of James Earl Ray in an effort to determine whether any of the persons she observed on the bus to Pittsburgh is identical with the subject. At time of interview, orally acknowledge receipt of her letter.

① - Memphis

1 enc rec m e

44-1987-Sub E-729A

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Boyer BB

5/2/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, PHILADELPHIA (44-1368)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Sub E-729A

Re Bureau airtel to Philadelphia and Pittsburgh
4/26/68 regarding Mrs. JO ANN CROSS - Complainant.

JO ANN CROSS was interviewed and her letter
orally acknowledged.

CROSS could furnish no additional information
to elaborate on the letter which was furnished as enclosure
to re Bureau airtel and could furnish no information of
specific value.

Her total information appeared to consist of
assumptions on her part formed from overhearing parts of
a conversation of individuals who were discussing the
recent murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

CROSS was unable to make a positive identification
of photographs of JAMES EARL RAY with anyone whom she
observed on the bus as mentioned in her letter.

- 3 - Bureau (44-38861)
- 1 - Pittsburgh
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Philadelphia (44-1368)

MEY:JP
(6)

44-1987-Sub E-729B

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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MAY 4 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Signature]

Capt. William O. Wood, ASB
71 Calvert Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

April 22, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Pennsylvania Avenue at 9th N. W.
Washington, District of Columbia

Subject: INVESTIGATION OF DR. KING'S ASSASSIN, RE: GALT-RAY.

My Dear Mr. Hoover:

I wish to inform you that I have some very 'hot' leads on your 11th most wanted man, James Earl Ray; alias Eric Starvo Galt, John Willard, Harvy Lowmyer and obviously many others.

I do not believe that this man you are really searching for is the true assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who was gunned down in Memphis, Tennessee on the evening of April 4, 1968. It is quite possible he may be connected with a conspiracy plot of which was well planned some time prior to the shooting.

Here are some detailed pointers that have puzzled me in many ways:

1. In the first place when Attorney General Clark went to Memphis after King was slain immediately said there was no conspiracy involved. Later on Galt was charged in conspiring to King's death by a single rifle shot.

2. It was reported that Ray was in the Missouri State Prison during the years of 1964-65. Remember at this same time Galt was taking dancing lessons in New Orleans, Louisiana.

3. How about the true age of the suspect? I believe witnesses at the Lorraine Motel estimated his age at around 25 to 30. Your office in issuing the warrent for Galt gave his date of birth as [redacted]. My calculation by this account would say that he is now 36 years of age. On Friday, April 19, 1968 your headquarters announced he was 40.

4. I have through good sources discovered that Ray was very careless and did not give much of a 'hoot' about his appearances. On the other hand Galt tried his very best to appear very neat and well dressed at all times.

5. Also Galt was quite fond of beer and vodka while Ray was non-drinker.

6. Last but not least Ray was born in Alton, Illinois with obviously no Southern accent wherefore Galt was noted as quite Southern and loved his good ole' Hill-Billy music.

44-1987-Sub E-1130

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Boyer RB

In order that I will be able to conduct a proper investigation that may perhaps lead to the apprehension and arrest of this 'dangerous criminal', I must first have full authority in the form of a Commission issued by your Department or the President of the United States. It must be necessary that I have a proper permit to carry a weapon as authorized for Special Investigators in such cases. I will further need a clear photo (front and side view) of the suspect.

My commission was denied by the Metropolitan Police Department over two (2) years ago. I have written several letters to Chief of Police Layton, Director of Safety Murphy, D. C. Mayor Washington, U. S. President Johnson along with many other high officials. I failed to receive any response whatsoever in most cases. In other words I have not been properly informed as to the reason why my commission is being denied in this instance.

Many times within the past Mr. Hoover, I have had the opportunity to help in the apprehension of criminals, but without the authority, I am more or less just like the other average citizens, "I do not care to get involved".

Another point I would like to mention here if I may; I do not approve of the "Poor Peoples Campaign March" on Washington early in May. Although it is intended as non-violent, it is quite evident that we will witness a lot more looting, rioting and burning. I herewith predict that the worse will come to happen around Monday, May 13, 1968, the week after "MOTHER'S DAY".

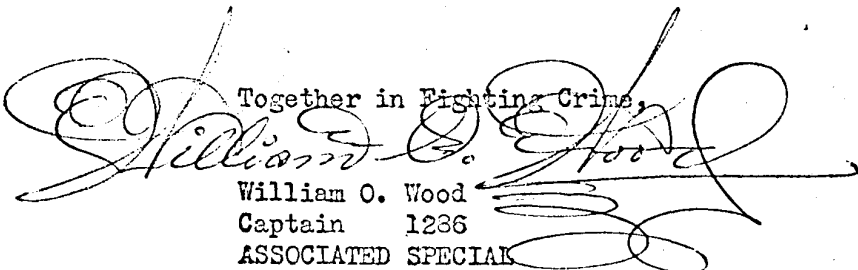
If something isn't soon done in order to combat crime and disorder within our cities, we are heading for one of the worse revolutions of our time. The so called Militant leaders are teaching (behind closed doors) their followers just how they can win by breaking law and order.. They must be punished for the crimes they have committed regardless of the cost.

I honestly believe Mr. Hoover, you and your staff of some 6,000 Special Agents are doing a magnificent job. This is one great reason I would be highly honored to work with you.

I will be expecting a prompt answer along with my Official Credentials before it is too late.

I thank you Mr. Hoover.

Together in Fighting Crime,



William O. Wood
Captain 1286
ASSOCIATED SPECIAL
INVESTIGATORS

4/26/68

Airtel

To: SAC, Washington Field

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re William G. Wood - Complainant.

Enclosed for Washington Field are two copies of a letter from William G. Wood dated 4/22/68. One copy is enclosed for Memphis.

Washington Field should immediately contact Wood and interview him for any information he may have in his possession regarding this case or any other information he may have which would fall within the Bureau's investigative jurisdiction. Submit reply under appropriate caption.

At time of interview, orally acknowledge receipt of his letter and impress upon him that the Bureau can in no way assist him in obtaining a permit to carry a weapon. Also stress that the Bureau cannot grant or award him any "commission." Be certain that he understands he is not to consider himself an employee of the FBI.

See your letter to the Bureau dated 11/16/68, captioned, "William Odus Wood, Identification (Fingerprint Matters)."

Enclosures (2) *WGM*

① - Memphis (Enclosure) (Info)

44-1987-Sub E-730A

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Boyer BB

5/2/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

MURKIN

Re: WILLIAM O. WOOD - COMPLAINANT

ReBuairtel 4/26/68.

WFO has made numerous attempts to contact WOOD at his residence and telephonically each day from 4/29/68, to 5/2/68, with negative results. WFO is continuing efforts to contact WOOD and will appropriately advise the Bureau and Memphis.

ARMED & DANGEROUS

3 - Bureau
1 - Memphis (Info) (44-1987)
1 - WFO

RWD:acd
(5)

AIRTEL

44-1987-Sub E-730B

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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MAY 4 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

IR

Capt. William O. Wood, ASJ
1801 Calvert Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20009

May 2, 1968

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Washington, D. C. 20000

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I regret to report that my letter of April 22, 1968 has not been acknowledged either by you or your agency.

Due to the fact I did not receive your proper authorization to investigate on behalf to the suspected assassin of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. it is now without doubt whatsoever entirely too late to retrace the true evidence before me sometime ago.

If I may, I wish to reiterate my statement in more complete detail sent to you, but obviously ignored: On Thursday April 18th 1968 at approximately 6:40 P.M. I personally met and passed a man bearing almost identical description to the one released by your office on Galt-Ray. I was quite shocked at this encounter. I continued to walk down this street for almost a block. I decided to turn around and see if I could further prove to myself that this was really the "wanted man". Lo and behold, I again met him coming in the opposite direction than seven minutes previously. He was dressed very neatly and was carrying a black brief case under his arm. He even looked worried at this instance. I kept him under surveillance until he disappeared into a new apartment building. I wanted to follow the man, and also make an inquiry at the apartment house, but I have no police or other authority to investigate, especially criminals of Rays' standing. I came very close to calling your office immediately and making a complete report, but something seemed to tell me that you would only drop the inquest and place me on the list as only; "Another 'nut' trying to get publicity and at the same time misleading the F. B. I. in their investigation".

I have only one more thing to say Mr. Hoover. I absolutely do not have any intention in disgrading your Department in any way whatsoever. I am only offering my sincere services to do all within my limited powers to help in the fight against crime and disorder in our country today.

I honestly believe that all murderers should be brought to justice and properly prosicuted, and there should be no rules or regulations forbiding certain law abiding officers to apprehend them.

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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I would appreciate your prompt acknowledgement to this important matter regardless of whether you believe in me or not. Someday I hope to prove my report correct.

Thank you Mr. Hoover.

Very Respectfully yours in
Law and Order for All

William O. Wood

44-1987-Sub E-730c

5-7-68

Airtel

To: SAC, Washington Field (44-703)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re William O. Wood - complainant.

Reurairtel 5-2-68 and Buairtel 4-26-68.

Enclosed for your assistance are two copies of a second letter received from Wood, dated 5-2-68.

One copy is enclosed for Memphis.

Enc. (2)

1 - Memphis (info) (44-1987) Enc.

What was done before?
E-730 A+B
Nothing attempted to contact Wood by WFO negative for of 5/2/68 RB.

44-1987-Sub E-730D

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<i>Boyle RB</i>	

5/10/68

PLAINTEXT

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

MURKIN

Sub E-730

RE: WILLIAM O. WOOD - Complainant

Re Buairtels 4/26/68 and 5/7/68; WFO airtel 5/2/68.

WILLIAM O. WOOD contacted by WFO on 5/3/68 and advised that on 4/18/68, between 6:20 and 6:30 p. m., he observed an individual in the 1800 block of Columbia Road, N. W., who resembled the photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, and that he subsequently saw this individual go to the Promenade Apartments, 1884 Columbia Road, N. W.

Investigation at the Promenade Apartments and vicinity between 5/3/68 and 5/8/68 failed to identify any individual resembling the photograph of RAY.

WFO has alerted sources in this area to advise WFO if the individual described by WOOD is seen in the vicinity of the Promenade Apartments.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 3 - Bureau
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - WFO

RWD:slb
(6)

AIRTEL

E

44-1987-Sub E-730E

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

112

April 26, 1968

PLAINTEXT

URGENT

URGENT

TO: SAC, TAMPA
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE MAIN FILE ON KING:

BY LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR, DATED TWENTYTHREE, NINETEEN SIXTY-THREE, YOU REPORTED THAT ONE REYNOLD RUSSELL DALL ALLEGEDLY STATED THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND KING "WOULD GET THINGS" WITHIN THIRTY DAYS. HE REPORTEDLY APPEARED AT YOUR OFFICE AND SAID HE MADE THESE STATEMENTS WHILE HE WAS DRUNK (SEE YOUR FILE SIX TWO - FOUR SIX TWO).

BY TELETYPE ABOUT TWO, NINETEEN SIXTY-FIVE, YOU REPORTED INFORMATION FROM TAMPA TWO TWO ONE B (FOUR) THAT JOHN D. HAGAN OF THE FLORIDA POWER CLUB (DESCRIBED AS INDEPENDENT KLAN GROUP) CLAIMED AN UNKNOWN MALE IN ALABAMA WAS ALLEGEDLY ATTEMPTING TO DO AWAY WITH KING IN FLORIDA OR WASHINGTON, D. C., AT SOME UNKNOWN DATE.

ALTHOUGH SUBJECT RAY HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS THE ASSAILANT, YOU SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE IF ANY OF THE

2 - SAC, MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub B-731

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FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle 1813

TELETYPE TO SAC, TAMPA
RE: MURKIN

ABOVE MIGHT BE IMPLICATED AS A CONSPIRATOR.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS, ARKID AND BARRINGTON.

4/27/68

PLAIN

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)
MURKIN, CR, OO: MEMPHIS.

RE BUTEL APR TWENTYSIX LAST CONCERNING JOHN D. HAGAN.
TP TWO TWO ONE R, ON APR. TWENTY SIX LAST, STATED HE
RECALLED REMARK ATTRIBUTED TO HAGAN WHICH WAS MADE AUG. TWO,
SIXTYFIVE, AT MEETING OF FORMER FLORIDA PIONEER CLUB, AN
INDEPENDENT KLAN AT ORLANDO, FLA., TO EFFECT THAT UNKNOWN
MALE IN ALA. TO DO AWAY WITH KING IN FLA. OR WASHINGTON, D.C.
TWO TWO ONE R ALSO STATED HAGAN PROBABLY GOT THIS ALLEGED
INFO FROM LAWRENCE D. HARRELL, ELDERLY FORMER KLANSMAN WHO
IS NOW REPORTEDLY SENILE. TWO TWO ONE R UNABLE TO FURNISH
FURTHER DETAILS AND HAS NO REASON TO THINK HAGAN INVOLVED
IN ANY CONSPIRACY TO MURDER KING.

1 - Atlanta (AM)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
4 - Tampa (1 - 170-75A)
(1 - 170-69A)
(1 - 170-201A)

TCA:nh
(6)

44-1987-Sub E-731A

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APR 29 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Bayle BP

(157-3231)

(PAGE TWO)

JOHN DAVIS HAGAN, BUFILE ONE FIVE SEVEN - ONE SIX SEVEN SEVEN, INTERVIEWED IN SIXTYFIVE BY FBI, PHOTOGRAPHED ABOUT SAME TIME, AND HAD HAD LITTLE KLAN ACTIVITY SINCE. HAGAN AND WIFE ARE NOMINAL MEMBERS OF ORANGE COUNTY CITIZENS COUNCIL, ALTHOUGH HAGAN HIMSELF SELDOM ATTENDS.

ON APR. TWENTYSEVEN, TP TWO TWO TWO R AND TP TWO EIGHT FOUR R, WHO KNOW HAGAN, HAD NO INFO REGARDING ANY CONSPIRACY ON HAGAN'S PART.

THESE THREE TAMPA SOURCES STATE HAGAN HAS RESPONSIBLE JOB WITH ORLANDO UTILITIES COMMISSION, ORLANDO, IS NOT LIKED BY KLANSMEN BECAUSE OF HIS DOMINEERING WAYS, AND THEY ALSO SAY HE IS A "LONER".

INFORMANTS SHOWN PHOTO OF JAMES EARL RAY, IO NO. FOUR ONE EIGHT TWO, BUT UNABLE TO IDENTIFY HIM.

AIRMAIL COPY TO MEMPHIS AND ATLANTA.

4/29/68

PLAIN

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR AND TAMPA

TIME: 1:32

FROM: PITTSBURGH (44-678)

MURKIN, CR, OO MEMPHIS

RE TAMPA TEL BUREAU, FOUR TWENTYSEVEN LAST.

SUSPECT RICHARD RUSSELL BALL.

Sub E-731

INVESTIGATION PARKERSBURG, W. VA., FOUR TWENTYSEVEN LAST, DISCLOSED RESIDENCE LOCATED AT FOUR EIGHT ZERO ONE FIRST AVE., VACANT AT THIS TIME.

NO CURRENT RECORD CITY AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES LOCATED IDENTIFIABLE WITH RICHARD RUSSELL BALL.

INVESTIGATION AT POST OFFICE, PARKERSBURG, FOUR TWENTYNINE INSTANT, DISCLOSED CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR BALL DATED AUGUST FOURTEEN SIXTYFOUR, GIVING NEW ADDRESS OF THREE FOUR SIX ZERO DORREEN DRIVE, LAKELAND, FLA.

TAMPA AT LAKELAND, FLA., ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW BALL RE INFO SET OUT IN RETEL.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

AIR MAIL MEMPHIS.

PENDING.

44-1987-Sub E-731B

1 - MEMPHIS (AM)

CDK/emq

(2)

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MAY 1 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Boyle

4/30/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (P)

MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Tampa teletype to Bureau 4/27/68.
Pittsburgh teletype to Director and Tampa 4/29/68.

SUSPECT RICHARD RUSSELL BALL

Sub E-731
-731A

On 4/30/68, BALL, residence 3460 Borreen Drive, Lakeland, Florida was contacted at his place of employment, CARL R. PROFFITT Company, Swindell Road, Lakeland.

Mr. BALL advised he has been living in Lakeland since 8/64, at which time he went to work for Food Transport Company, as terminal manager. He said he left Food Transport Company on 1/20/67 and was unemployed until 4/67, when he went to work for the Lakeland Transit Lines, as a bus driver.

BALL stated he remained at that employment only until the middle of 10/67 and after a week or two, returned to Parkersburg, West Virginia. Mr. BALL said while there he contacted CARL PROFFITT, an old friend, who owned a trucking company at 526 31st Street, Parkersburg, and arranged to open an office for him in Florida.

3-Bureau
2-Memphis
1-Pittsburgh (Info) (44-578)
WKG:BNH
(8)

44-1987-Sub E-731B C

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY - 3 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Payle

TP 157-3231

BALL advised he returned to Lakeland in 11/67 and immediately opened an office for PROFFITT. He explained that PROFFITT sends him a schedule every Saturday, listing the destination in Florida, and the time of arrival, of every company truck, for the following week. It is his job to arrange a load, as close to the period of unloading as possible, for the return trip north.

BALL exhibited the weekly dispatch sheet for the week ending 4/6/68. It showed return loads, arranged by him, for 4/4,5,6,7/68

Wanted flyer #442-A concerning JAMES EARL RAY was shown Mr. BALL. He stated that the name in the photograph was unfamiliar to him. He said further that neither the name RAY nor any of the aliases shown on the flyer were names he was acquainted with.

BALL categorically denied having conspired with RAY or anyone else in the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He referred back to previous interview by the FBI concerning an alleged theft by him against KING and stated that he still did not believe he had made the threat, but was too inebriated to recall.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS