

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - U.S. Attorney, Topeka, Kansas

Report of: SA WEETER S. POND
Date: February 10, 1969

Office: Kansas City

Field Office File #: 87-21205

Bureau File #: 87-95561

Title: FRED ALEXANDER MICHAELSON

Character: INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY

Synopsis: Subject was fingerprinted 11/14/68 by USM Topeka, Ks., as FREDERICK ALEXANDER MICHELSON. He appeared with court appointed counsel on 1/31/69 in USDC, Kansas City, Ks., In connection with his plea of guilty in the same court on 12/16/68 to counts 1, 2, and 3 of the indictment he was sentenced to the custody of the Attorney General to a period of 6 years on each count with each to run concurrent for a total of 6 years for violation Title 18, Section 2314, USC.

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DETAILS

AT KANSAS CITY, KANSAS

On January 24, 1969, Mr. BOB G. LISENBEE, Deputy, U.S. Marshal, Topeka, Kansas, advised that on November 14, 1968, subject was fingerprinted as FREDERICK ALEXANDER MICHELSON, U.S. Marshal Topeka, Kansas, number 0160-3471. Subject was scheduled for sentencing in U.S. District Court, Kansas City, Kansas, on or about January 31, 1969.

On February 6, 1969, Mr. THOMAS E. JOYCE, Assistant United States Attorney, Kansas City, Kansas furnished the following information:

KC 87-21205
WEP:esd

Subject as FREDERICK ALEXANDER MICHELSON appeared with his court appointed counsel on January 31, 1969, in U.S. District Court, Kansas City, Kansas. In connection with subject's previous guilty plea in the same court on December 16, 1968, to counts one, two, and three of the indictment he was sentenced by Judge ARTHUR J. STANLEY, JR., to serve six years in the custody of the Attorney General on each count to run concurrent for a total of six years.

On February 7, 1969, Mr. VANCE W. COLLINS, U.S. Marshal, Topeka, Kansas, telephonically advised that subject was brought into U.S. District Court, Kansas City, Kansas, by writ and subsequent to sentence he was returned on the writ to Clay County Jail, Liberty, Missouri, with a detainer. It is anticipated the local charges will be dismissed and then subject will be removed to a Federal penitentiary.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MOBILE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 7/16/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 7/1-7/14/69
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA DONALD A. FLYNN	TYPED BY /tdr
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY UFAC - ROBBERY	

REFERENCE: Dallas airtel to Bureau, 3/19/69;
Atlanta let to Bureau, 5/27/69.

- RUC -

ENCLOSURE:

Enclosed for the Memphis Division is one copy of Atlanta letter to Director, 5/27/69, enclosing LHM, 3/11/69, at Atlanta, and LHM, 3/19/69, at Dallas captioned "Anonymous Accusation Alleging Participation of Raymond Polacco in Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr."

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE: 2 - Bureau (44-38861) 1 - USA, Montgomery 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Info.) ② - Memphis (44-1987) (Encl. 1) <i>mk</i> 1 - Mobile (157-2627)	

Dissemination Record of Attached Report				Notations <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content;"> SEARCHED.....INDEXED..... SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>.....FILED <i>llh</i>..... JUL 19 1969 FBI - MEMPHIS <i>Hester</i> </div>
Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				

RE: BU AIRTEL DTD 11/3/66

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, Montgomery

Report of: SA DONALD A. FLYNN
Date: July 16, 1969

Office: Mobile

Field Office File #: MO 157-2627

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: On 7/14/69, RAYMOND POLACCO advised he has no knowledge of the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. assassination other than that as received through news media. POLACCO believed that the allegation regarding his participation in this murder was instituted anonymously by JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN, brother-in-law of the sister of his (POLACCO's) former paramour. No evidence found which indicates POLACCO involved in assassination.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent DONALD A. FLYNN in Phenix City, Alabama, on July 1, 1969:

Mrs. JENKINS T. SMITH, 1004 21st Street, advised that her son RAYMOND POLACCO was not at home and referred interviewing agent to his wife, Mrs. RAYMOND POLACCO. On the same date Mrs. RAYMOND POLACCO advised her husband is at home only on weekends. She advised her husband is a salesman and the only method of contacting him during the week would be to have her advise her husband and have him call the interviewing agent.

On the same date review of the arrest records in Phenix City, Alabama, Police Department and the Russell County Sheriff's Office reflected no files identifiable with RAYMOND POLACCO.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 7/16/69

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RAYMOND POLACCO, 5038 Seneca Drive (home address), Columbus, Georgia, telephone number 561-0813, and 1004 21st Street, Phenix City, Alabama, telephone number 298-8347, was interviewed in Phenix City Plaza Shopping Center in the presence of Phenix City, Alabama, Detective H. "BRAD" NOLAN. POLACCO was immediately advised as to identity of interviewing agent and Detective NOLAN. He was informed that the purpose of the interview was to determine if he (POLACCO) had any knowledge of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and to resolve the allegations made in an anonymous letter relating to the same substance.

POLACCO was then advised of his rights by Special Agent DONALD A. FLYNN. POLACCO waived them as shown on an executed warning and waiver form. POLACCO was then specifically asked if he wished to have an attorney present to represent him. POLACCO replied in the negative.

POLACCO stated that he had no knowledge of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., except as he received through news media. He denied that he was, or is, in any way involved in any conspiracy or act connected with the assassination. POLACCO said he has no idea as to who killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He stated that he never met JAMES EARL RAY.

POLACCO then denied the anonymous allegation furnished by Mr. JIM RANKIN of the Atlanta Constitution on March 7, 1969, postmarked Amarillo, Texas, which alleged that POLACCO was a "key pay-off" man in the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. assassination conspiracy.

POLACCO advised that it was his feeling this letter had probably been written by JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN, brother-in-law of the sister of his (POLACCO's) former intimate girl friend, DEBBIE BLACKMAN. POLACCO stated that GRIFFIN and he had a strong mutual dislike for each other which evolved from GRIFFIN's attempt to divorce his wife. GRIFFIN wanted him to take photographs of his wife in the nude with another man in order to facilitate a divorce

On 7/12/69 at Phenix City, Alabama File# MO 157-2627

by SA DONALD A. FLYNN /tdr Date dictated 7/14/69

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MO 157-2627

2

proceeding favorable to GRIFFIN. POLACCO said that he sent GRIFFIN a telegram on or about January 28, 1969, which he signed, "BRUCE MARKS". POLACCO also admitted a conversation regarding the divorce with Mr. DEE MILLER, an attorney in Amarillo, Texas. POLACCO told MILLER he would provide compromising photographs of GRIFFIN's wife if MILLER would send him money for a camera and a \$500.00 fee.

POLACCO stated that the whole matter had come to the attention of GRIFFIN's wife and acrimonious feelings developed among all parties involved.

POLACCO reiterated his denial of any knowledge of the MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. assassination. He concluded that GRIFFIN probably wrote the anonymous letter in order to get revenge for POLACCO's participation in the circumstances surrounding the divorce between GRIFFIN and his wife.

The following description of POLACCO was obtained through observation and interview:

Name	RAYMOND POLACCO, also known as Raymond Polacco, Jr., and Raymon Andino Polacio (as shown on current 1969 Georgia driver's license)
Date of Birth	[REDACTED]
Place of Birth	New York City, New York
Social Security No.	[REDACTED]
Former Military Service No.	-RA56333971
Driver's license No.	-O-487288
Address (on license)	5038 Seneca Drive, Columbus, Georgia
Height	5'9"
Weight	168 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Current Employment	Salesman for Pennsylvania Life Insurance Company, 1214 First Avenue, Suite 422, Columbus, Georgia, 31901 Supervisor, Mr. HUBERT DAVIS, telephone No. 404-322-4844

MO 157-2627

3

Former Employment

POLACCO advised that he was formerly a police officer in California with the following departments:

Los Angeles County, Security Department from November 1964 to April 1966;

Bell Police Department, Bell California, Badge No. 14, from April 1966 until July 1966;

POLACCO then produced a Peace Officers Association of Los Angeles County card dated 1966, No. 488980.

POLACCO was observed in the following vehicle:

Make	Chevrolet
Year	1964
Color	White
Model	Impala, 2-door
License Tag No.	1969 Georgia, 4-18178
Characteristics	Left front fender damaged