

~~U. S. Department of Justice~~

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FIELD OFFICE FILE
FOIPA PROCESSED

FEDERAL BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY
PENDING LITIGATION

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

2778 3/85 (Serial 732^{of} 735) - covered 8/1/85 - 8/30/85

INVESTIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Bureau File Number 44-38861

"DO NOT DESTROY:
HISTORICAL VALUE,
NATIONAL ARCHIVES"

See also Nos.

SEE VOL 1
FOR LITIGATION

CLASSIFICATION NO. 44-1987-Sub-M
Serials 690-836
Volume Number 7

1 CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ENCLOSED

See New
Section
44-100

FBI

Date: 10-9-69

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)
✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

News reports indicate James Earl Ray petitioned the Tennessee Supreme Court to grant him a full trial in the Martin Luther King, Jr., murder case.

If not already done, obtain copy of petition and forward to the Bureau.

Done

44-1987-Sub-M-180

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>lls</i>	FILED <i>lls</i>
OCT 10 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Sent Via _____ M Per _____



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama
October 10, 1969

Re: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS CONSPIRACY

Assistant United States Attorney R. Macey Taylor, Birmingham, Alabama, advised on September 25, 1969, that he had been in conversation with Arthur Hanes, former defense counsel for subject Ray. Assistant United States Attorney Taylor related certain allegations that Hanes had proposed to him to the effect that one James Robert Blow, a former resident of Cahaba Heights, a Birmingham suburb, may have conspired with other named individuals and subject Ray in interstate transportation of weapons to Memphis, Tennessee, where Hanes believed they were intended for black militant groups.

On October 10, 1969, Attorney Arthur J. Hanes was interviewed at his office, 617 Frank Nelson Building, after the absence of a week from Birmingham. Hanes entered into a lengthy discourse of his theories concerning the James Earl Ray case and stated that although Ray undoubtedly was involved, it was his theory that Ray had been led or instructed in his actions by other unknown individuals. He stated that he had two theories of groups who may have led Ray; one being the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the other being black militant groups. He had no definite information in this connection whatsoever. He also commented that he had, while serving as Ray's defense counsel, observed the bullet which was alleged to have been fired from the rifle involved in this matter, and it was his personal opinion that the bullet was sufficiently intact to be identified as the murder projectile.

Regarding his former client, James Robert Blow also known as Robert Blow, Hanes related as follows.

44-1987-Sub-M-691

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>lll</i>	FILED <i>lll</i>
OCT 13 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Re: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS CONSPIRACY

On December 18, 1968, the residence of Mr. J. E. Woods, III, 2432 Crest Road, Mountain Brook, a residential suburb of Birmingham, had been burglarized, and numerous shotguns, including automatic shotguns together with silver service, had been taken by a local thief, James Warren Carlisle, who is now serving a penitentiary term for burglary. Carlisle had informed Deputy Sheriff Walter Dean, Birmingham, that some of the stolen effects might be located in the residence of James Robert Blow and wife Janice Blow who at that time were living at 3218 Greendale Road, Cahaba Heights. This led to Dean securing a search warrant for the residence and the recovery of the silver service belonging to the Woods family. Blow was subsequently charged with receiving and possessing stolen goods.

Hanes by reference to his file related that on May 15, 1969, he appeared with Blow in the Jefferson County Courthouse at which time Grand Jury action was waived. On that date, Hanes discussed with Deputy Walter Dean possible cooperation of his client Blow in connection with recovery of the numerous guns taken from the Woods residence. Blow agreed to cooperate and in the presence of Deputy Dean and an agent of the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Treasury Department identified a photograph of one Claude Cockrell of Memphis, Tennessee, as being the owner of a Cadillac into which he had observed Carlisle and Cockrell loading the weapons which were then taken to Memphis, and it was the information of Hanes that Cockrell was later charged by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division with having transported automatic weapons from Birmingham to Memphis. Hanes stated that a local Birmingham hoodlum, Bob Loveless, had also assisted in loading the weapons into Cockrell's Cadillac according to information furnished by his client Blow. He stated that it was his opinion also that weapons such as these had been intended for black militant groups in Memphis, who might have intended to use them in King's assassination. It should be noted that all weapons involved in the transportation by Cockrell to Memphis which had been stolen from the Woods residence were shotguns and not rifles.

Re: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS CONSPIRACY

Mr. Hanes stated that he had read of weapons being brought to the United States through Gulf Coast ports such as Mobile, Alabama, and Pascagoula, Mississippi, and thought possibly some of these weapons may have been intended for use in the murder of Dr. King.

Hanes stated that his client James Robert Blow was arraigned on June 20, 1969, and on August 21, 1969, was sentenced to one year and one day which was suspended and he was placed on probation for two years.

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.

10/10/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)
MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Birmingham, dated 10/6/69.

Attorney ARTHUR HANES was interviewed by SA HENRY A. SNOW upon HANES' return to Birmingham, stating that he had spent the entire week in eastern North Carolina in the defense of criminal cases there.

During interview, HANES was very indefinite in any of his statements and appeared to merely wish to discuss his theories on the MURKIN case. The information he related as far as gunrunning would appear to in no way relate to JAMES EARL RAY, and for that reason, Birmingham suggests no further action in this matter concerning information furnished by HANES.

2 - Bureau (Enc.4)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc.2) *lh*
2 - Birmingham
HAS: cab
(6)

44-1987-Sub-M-693

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>llc</i>	FILED <i>mq</i>
OCT 21 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester

Oct. 9 - 1969

Res. Richford, New York
Schoharie County
P.O. address Harford Mills
N.Y.

Warden

Wm. S. Neil

Tennessee State Prison

Dear Sir: - I live next door to a church
on Route 79 in town of Richford New York
state, Schoharie County, I have given the police
here information about various things from
time to time.

I heard a bunch of people plan the
murder of Martin Luther King and a white
car driven by undersheriff peramble of
Onego N.Y. left the church nowing to go and
shoot Mr. King.

The car returned here to the church and
its driver told of having shot Mr. King.

I sent a certified letter to Schoharie County
sheriff Paul Taylor telling him about it,
I also sent a certified letter to Ramsey
Clark in Washington D.C. I supposed
his killer was convicted and in jail. Mr.
Clark hollered treason at me for two
weeks just for trying to help the government
I was to be honored but it never happened

page 2

I bought a paper yesterday and saw the
writeup in the new york city inquirer about
James E. Ray.

could you please see that the defense
attorneys get this information.

if it can help you further please
request aide for Mr. Ray.

I am an elderly woman age 72 but
~~spiky~~ and able to travel if you provide a
~~spiky~~ way and can support me while there. I
would be pleased to do all I could.

very truly

Mrs. Lavina Martz

LAVINA - MARTZ.

use this in court same as a statement
if the will please accept it as such.

L. Martz

137

FBI - MEMPHIS	
OCT 12 1968	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

77-1015-77-10-102

10/15/69

Handwritten notes, possibly a letter or report, containing several paragraphs of text. The text is mostly illegible due to blurriness and cursive handwriting.

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
OCT 15 1969
FBI - MEMPHIS

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including a date "OCT 15 1969" and some illegible text.

Stamp: SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED OCT 15 1969 FBI - MEMPHIS

44-1987-Sub M-193

LAVINA-MARTZ
HARFORD-MILLS
NEW-YORK.

ZIP CODE



VIA AIR MAIL

CERTIFIED
No. 732350
MAIL

State prison warden
Wm. S. Neil
Tennessee State prison
Tennessee.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION



Tennessee State Penitentiary

STATION A • NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203


October 10, 1969

Mr. William Hobbs
Agent-in-Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
U S Court House
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear Bill:

I am enclosing herewith a letter from a Mrs. Lavina Martz and a copy of my reply to her. I believe this is self-explanatory.

Sincerely yours,


W. S. Neil
Warden

WSN:vst
enclosures

44-1987-Sub-M-694-627

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>lll</i>	FILED <i>lll</i>
OCT 15 1969	
FBI — MEMPHIS	

12

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

10/20/69

SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) -P-

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM;
CR - CONSPIRACY;
UFAC - ROBBERY

(OO-Memphis)

Re Phoenix letter to Bureau, dated 9/4/69.

On 9/26/69, Senior Officer Specialist CLYDE STEWART, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised SA WALTER A. WITSCHARD that inmate JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS #83856 was "out to Court" since 9/11/69. STEWART advised that it would be impossible to anticipate MORRIS' return but that he would notify SA WITSCHARD upon MORRIS' return.

LEADS:

KANSAS CITY DIVISION:

AT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS:

Will at USP-L at Leavenworth, interview JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, USP-L #83856, Cell B 576, employed Shoo Factory, reference Phoenix letter to Bureau, 9/4/69, upon MORRIS' return from Court.

2 - Bureau
② - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - New York
2 - Kansas City
WAW:ENL
(8)

44-1987-Sub-M-695

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 22 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Shaw
Hester

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

October 15, 1969

J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

Harold Weisberg

On June 13, 1969 Harold Weisberg, a free-lance writer who resides at Route 8, Frederick, Maryland, requested an interview with a Departmental attorney.

Later the same day he visited this Division and discussed certain Haitian exile revolutionary activities. He again visited this Division on October 8, 1969 and continued his discussion of Haitian exile activities. The information he furnished regarding those activities was of no value.

During the course of the interview on October 8, 1969, Mr. Weisberg advised that he had recently received a telephone call from J. B. Stoner, National Chairman of the National States Rights Party. He said that Stoner told him that two men in his Party formerly served as informants of the FBI. Stoner allegedly said that these two men are prepared to testify in court that the FBI offered them \$25,000 to frame James Earl Ray for the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Weisberg said that the testimony presumably would be furnished in a habeas corpus proceeding.

This information is being forwarded as a matter of possible interest to your Bureau.

44-1987-Sub-11-191
ll
ll
OCT 15 1969
FBI - MEMPHIS
qu

F B I

Date: 10-21-69

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

To: SACs, Memphis (44-1987) (Enclosure)
Savannah (44-1768) (Enclosure)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Enclosed for each office is a copy of a letter from the Internal Security Division of the Department dated 10-15-69.

For your information Bureau files show that one Harold Weisberg who is probably identical with the Weisberg mentioned in the attached letter, has been most critical of the Bureau in the past. He is the author of several books including one entitled, "Whitewash - The Report of the Warren Report" and has been critical of the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies and other branches of Government. He was one of ten employees fired by the State Department during 1947 because of his loyalty being suspected. He was later allowed to resign. Weisberg by letter in April, 1969, requested information on the King murder case for a forthcoming book. It was approved that his letter not be acknowledged.

J. B. Stoner, one of the present attorneys for James Earl Ray who has petitioned the Supreme Court of Tennessee for a Writ of Certiorari in connection with his motion for a new trial, is a notorious segregationist who continually attacks the Bureau and the Director. On the basis of the information furnished the two alleged former informants referred to cannot be identified in Bureau files.

In view of the nature of the information in the attached letter and the background on Weisberg and Stoner they are not being interviewed regarding this matter.

44-1987-Sub-M-1097
SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED *llh* FILED *llh*
OCT 20 1969
FBI - MEMPHIS
llh

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

Airtel to SACs, Memphis
Savannah

RE: MURKIN

The Savannah Office which is the office of origin in the case covering activities of the National States Rights Party and Stoner and the Memphis Office which is following the court action in the James Earl Ray case should be alert for any additional information along these lines from any source including future court proceedings and immediately advise the Bureau of such information.

The Memphis Office should advise appropriate responsible Tennessee state officials handling the King murder case of the information from the Department and that there is no basis to the allegation that the FBI offered anyone any money to frame Ray for the assassination of King. Information furnished Tennessee state authorities is to be confirmed in writing.

REGISTERED NO. **66641**

Value \$ <i>N.</i>	Special Delivery \$ <i>45</i>
Reg. Fee \$ <i>80</i>	Return Receipt \$ <i>15</i>
Handling Charge \$	Restricted Delivery \$
Postage \$ <i>107</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIRMAIL



INSTRUCTIONS TO DELIVERING EMPLOYEE

Show to whom and when delivered

Show to whom, when, and address where delivered

Deliver ONLY to addressee

(Additional charges required for these services)

RECEIPT

Received the numbered article described below.

REGISTERED NO. **66641**

CERTIFIED NO.

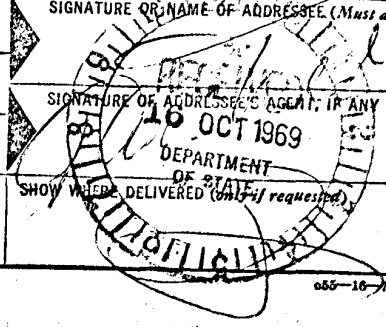
INSURED NO.

DATE DELIVERED

SIGNATURE OR NAME OF ADDRESSEE (Must always be filled in)

SIGNATURE OF ADDRESSEE'S AGENT, IF ANY

SHOW WHERE DELIVERED (only if requested)



POSTMASTER (By) *E.H.*

MAILING OFFICE

FROM *Shelly Co. Office*

CITY *Shelby* ZIP CODE *38103*

TO *H. Rowan Jett*

CITY *Memphis* ZIP CODE *38103*

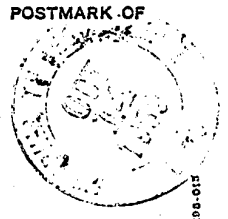
POD Form 3806, Feb. 1968

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED MAIL

655-10-71648-7 GPO

REGISTERED NO. **66641**

Value \$ <i>N.</i>	Special Delivery \$ <i>45</i>
Reg. Fee \$ <i>80</i>	Return Receipt \$ <i>15</i>
Handling Charge \$	Restricted Delivery \$
Postage \$ <i>107</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AIRMAIL



POSTMASTER (By) *E.H.*

MAILING OFFICE

FROM *Shelly Co. Office*

CITY *Shelby* ZIP CODE *38103*

TO *H. Rowan Jett*

CITY *Memphis* ZIP CODE *38103*

POD Form 3806, Feb. 1968

RECEIPT FOR REGISTERED MAIL

44-1987-Sub-M-698
10-16-69

Copy also in Property Release File

24 1969
Hester

L/SCA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE U. S. A.

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

Honorable Phil M. Canale, Jr.
District Attorney General
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
Shelby County Office Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103





DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 13, 1969

Honorable Phil M. Canale, Jr.
District Attorney General
Fifteenth Judicial Circuit
Shelby County Office Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Canale:

Regarding our telephone conversation of last week, I wish to request your office to transmit to the Department of State the original certified copy of the transcript of the proceedings in the James Earl Ray extradition case before the Bow Street Court, London, in July of 1968. Insofar as that court is concerned, that transcript was intended for delivery to the Department of State. It was apparently handed to the agents of the United States who escorted Ray from the United Kingdom to the United States.

You have indicated that a certified copy of this transcript is in your possession and I request that it be transmitted directly to the Department of State by registered mail. Upon receipt, I will obtain a photographic copy of the documents which I will transmit to you. This photographic process will not require the breaking of the seals.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

H. Rowan Gaither
Attorney
Office of the Legal Adviser

44-1987-Sub-M-699

Copy sent to
Bureau 10/27

llh
24 llh
Hester Jlt

LLOYD A. RHODES
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

WILLIAM D. HAYNES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN L. CARLISLE
H. J. BEACH
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.
CLYDE R. VENSON
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

EARL E. FITZPATRICK
NON-SUPPORT DIVISION

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SHELBY

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
157 POPLAR AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

ASSISTANTS

EWELL C. RICHARDSON
JEWETT H. MILLER
J. CLYDE MASON
SAM J. CATANZARO
LEONARD T. LAFFERTY
ARTHUR T. BENNETT
DON D. STROTHER
DON A. DINO
JOSEPH L. PATTERSON
BILLY F. GRAY
EUGENE C. GAERIG
HARVEY HERRIN
F. GLEN BISSON
JOHN W. PIEROTTI
JAMES G. HALL
JAMES H. ALLEN

October 14, 1969

Mr. H. Rowan Gaither
Attorney
Office of Legal Advisor
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Gaither:

In response to your request contained in your letter to me of October 13, 1969, I am forwarding to you and enclosing herewith the original, certified copy of the transcript of the proceedings in the James Earl Ray extradition case before the Bow Street Court, London, in July of 1968.

There was also delivered to this office three (3) additional official papers of a single page each, two of these being warrants of apprehension, and the third appearing to be a mittimus to the Governor of Her Majesty's prison at Wandsworth. I am also enclosing these three papers in case you have any need for them.

I have made copies of these three single sheets for my file, and will await your sending me a copy of the transcript of the extradition proceedings when you make same.

Sincerely yours,

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.
District Attorney General

PMCJr:MEF
Enclosures

AIRMAIL, REGISTERED
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

*copy sent
to Bureau
10/27*

44-1987-Sub-M-768
lll llh
24
Hester *gpa*

LLOYD A. RHODES
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

WILLIAM D. HAYNES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN L. CARLISLE
H. J. BEACH
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.
CLYDE R. VENSON
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

EARL E. FITZPATRICK
NON-SUPPORT DIVISION

PHIL M. CANALE, JR.
DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE
COUNTY OF SHELBY

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
157 POPLAR AVENUE
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

ASSISTANTS

EWELL C. RICHARDSON
JEWETT H. MILLER
J. CLYDE MASON
SAM J. CATANZARO
LEONARD T. LAFFERTY
ARTHUR T. BENNETT
DON D. STROTHER
DON A. DINO
JOSEPH L. PATTERSON
BILLY F. GRAY
EUGENE C. GAERIG
HARVEY HERRIN
F. GLEN SISSON
JOHN W. PIEROTTI
JAMES G. HALL
JAMES H. ALLEN

October 24, 1969

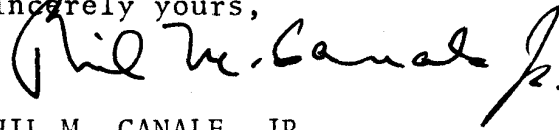
Mr. Robert Jensen
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Federal Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Bob:

As a matter of information and for your file in the James Earl Ray case, I am enclosing herewith copies of letters from Mr. Gaither of the State Department in Washington and my reply to him.

This correspondence is with reference to the request from the State Department for me to forward to them the original transcript of the extradition proceedings of Ray in London.

Sincerely yours,



PHIL M. CANALE, JR.
District Attorney General

PMCJr:MEF
Enclosures 4

44-1987-Sub-17-701
llc llc
24
Hester JH

841 Federal Office Building
167 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
October 27, 1969

Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr.
District Attorney General
Shelby County Office Building
157 Poplar Avenue
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Mr. Canale:

Mr. Harold Weisberg, a free-lance writer who resides at Frederick, Maryland, advised an official of the U. S. Department of Justice on October 8, 1969, that he had recently received a telephone call from Mr. J. B. Stoner, National Chairman of the National States Rights Party. According to Mr. Weisberg, Stoner told him that two men in the National States Rights Party formerly served as informants for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and that these two men are prepared to testify in court that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had offered them \$25,000 to frame James Earl Ray for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Weisberg indicated that testimony in this regard presumably would be furnished in a habeas corpus proceeding.

Since you are in possession of all of the evidence in this case, I am certain it is obvious to you that there is no basis to the allegations that the Federal Bureau of Investigation offered anyone any money to frame James Earl Ray.

Yours very truly,


ROBERT G. JENSEN
Special Agent In Charge

2 - Addressee
1 - Bureau (44-38861)
① - Memphis (44-1987)

JCH:lfm

(4) *Am*

llc

44-1987-Sub-M-902

10/27/69

Airtel

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of a letter dated 10/13/69 from H. ROWAN GAITHER, Department of State, Washington, D. C., to District Attorney General PHIL M. CANALE, JR., Memphis, Tennessee, and Mr. CANALE's reply to Mr. GAITHER, dated 10/14/69, by means of which Mr. CANALE forwarded to the Department of State the original, certified copy of the transcript of the proceedings in the JAMES EARL RAY extradition case. Other documents which were also forwarded with enclosed letter are described in Mr. CANALE's letter.

2 - Bureau (Encls-4)
2 - Memphis

JCH:lfm

(4)

llc

llc

44-1987-Sub-111-703

10/27/69

Airtel

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

llh

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis and Savannah,
10/21/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy of the
letter directed to District Attorney General PHIL
M. CANALE, JR., Memphis, Tennessee, advising him that
there is no basis to the allegations made by
J. B. STONER to HAROLD WEISBERG that the FBI had
offered persons \$25,000 to frame JAMES EARL RAY for
the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

2 - Bureau (Encl-1)
② - Memphis

Airtel

JCH:ifm

Teletype

(4) *ifm*

A.M.

A.P.

Special

Exec.

Reg.

R

llh

llh

44-1987-Sub-M-104

9/26/69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN

On 9/25/69, AUSA R. MACEY TAYLOR, Birmingham, was interviewed, at his request, stating that he had been in conversation with Attorney ART HANES, Birmingham, former defense counsel for subject RAY. AUSA TAYLOR related that the information set forth below, as obtained from HANES, was being passed on for whatever it might be worth.

TAYLOR stated that HANES contends that subject RAY had been engaged in transportation of weapons (rifles and other automatic weapons), and that the reason he was in Memphis was his interest in disposing of such weapons to black militant groups in that city. HANES contends that there had existed a conspiracy in the transportation of such weapons on the part of RAY whom he contends was operating with one JAMES ROBERT BLOW, formerly of Cahaba Heights, a Birmingham suburb, who is supposed to work for some printing company in Birmingham known as the P&L Printing Co., and according to HANES, BLOW had previously been charged in Jefferson County Court, at Birmingham, by Deputy Sheriff WALTER DEAN on some unknown charge, the status of which he does not now know. RAY and BLOW were supposed to have been engaged in their gun transportation details by one BOB LOVELESS, believed from Birmingham, one CLAUDE COCKRELL, believed to be a Memphis resident, and one JAMES CARLISLE, believed to be of Birmingham. According

2 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Birmingham
HAS:bag
(6)

44-1987-Sub-M-705
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
SEP 29 1969
FBI - MEMPHIS
Hester
(see me & see re this junk)

BH 44-1740

to HANES' conjectures, BLOW and the others were obtaining these weapons through Pascagoula, Mississippi, implying that they were from out of the country.

Aside from the above, TAYLOR stated that during his conversation with HANES, that individual had mentioned that while he was employed by RAY, he had filed a motion in Memphis to observe the physical evidence, and noted that one rifle slug, which had been obtained from the body of the victim, was not mutilated to such an extent that it could not be identified by laboratory examination, although he had been informed that only partial fragments of the fatal bullet were recovered which precluded any positive identification.

As stated above, AUSA TAYLOR did not consider information furnished by HANES to be of material value, but stated that due to HANES' proclivity for publicity, he did not desire to be placed in the position of not having passed on to authorities any information furnished by HANES. He suggested that the Bureau may consider informing the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division of the Treasury Department of information relating to instant transportation of weapons on the part of RAY, BLOW and others.

The Bureau is familiar with the fact that HANES is very closely allied with the UKA and previous information has been furnished to the Bureau that he received a sum of \$12,500 as an attorney for Klan members charged in North Carolina, and also met with UKA officials recently in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

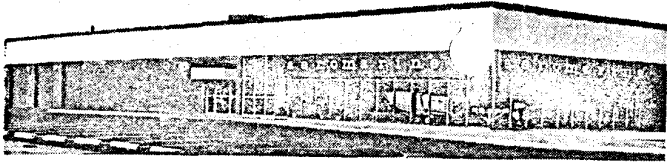
A file review of this matter fails to reflect any reference of individuals mentioned by HANES.

REQUEST OF BUREAU:

Birmingham does not intend to contact HANES or otherwise institute further investigation in this matter UACB. The Bureau is requested to advise Birmingham whether

BH 44-1740

the meager information furnished by HANES regarding instant transportation of weapons on the part of those named by him should be given to the Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms Division.



AEROMARINE

7605 EASTWOOD MALL
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA 35210

PHONE 595-2141

October 24, 1969

United States Department of Justice
Federal Bureau of Investigation
1400 - 2121 Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Gentlemen:

In April of 1968, we gave you our Invoice 2251 A, dated March 29, 1968. This invoice was made out to Harvey Lowmeyer and as we understand, used in a trial for James Earl Ray.

If you are through with this invoice, we would appreciate your returning it to us.

Yours very truly,

AEROMARINE

Robert E. Wood, Owner

REW/md

*Copy furnished to
att. Dist. Atty. Clyde Mason
Memphis, Tenn.
11/6/69
JH*

44-1987-Sub-M-706

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>lls</i>	FILED <i>lls</i>
NOV 3 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester JH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

[Handwritten initials]
TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: ME

DATE: 10/30/69

Re Birmingham letter, 7/5/69, and
Memphis reply, 7/9/69.

Enclosed are two copies of a letter dated
10/24/69, from Aeromarine, Birmingham, requesting the
return of the invoice previously mentioned.

Please discuss this request with a repre-
sentative of the District Attorney's Office, Memphis,
and if agreeable, have them correspond direct with Mr.
WOOD. Note Aeromarine has a new location for its business.

② - Memphis (Enc. 2)
2 - Birmingham
HAS:cap
(4)

44-1987-Sub-M-787

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 3 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]



5010-108

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New York, New York
November 5, 1969

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

James Earl Ray
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. -
Victim

Peter Goldman, Senior Editor, Newsweek Magazine,
444 Madison Avenue, New York City furnished the following
information to Special Agent O. Eugene Smith on November
3, 1969:

He cannot recall having ever met or having ever
received correspondence from a John Hamilton Morris. A
review of the files of the Letter Department of the
Magazine failed to reveal that he ever received a letter
from John Hamilton Morris.

He has never heard of anyone referred to as
"Big D" in connection with the James Earl Ray case and
he has no knowledge of any statement being made that James
Earl Ray was paid by "Big D".

He receives numerous "crank" letters which he
deposits in the waste basket. No record is kept of these
"crank" letters.

**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.**

~~44-1987-Sub-A-68~~

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED <i>llh</i>
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Wesler *llh*

~~44-1987-Sub-17-687A~~ -707A

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

11/5/69

SAC, NEW YORK (44-1609)(RUC)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CR - CONSPIRACY;
UFAC - ROBBERY
(OO: ME)

Re: Phoenix letter dated 9/4/69

Enclosed for Bureau are four copies of LHM.
Enclosed for Kansas City and Memphis are two copies each
of LHM. Enclosed for Phoenix is one copy of LHM for
information.

Numerous efforts were made by New York to
contact PETER GOLDMAN, Senior Editor, Newsweek Magazine,
444 Madison Avenue, New York City during the period
9/8/69 through 10/29/69 with unsuccessful results.

2 - BUREAU (Encl 4)
2 - Kansas City (Encl. 2)
② - Memphis (44-1987)(Encl. 2) *llh*
1 - Phoenix (44-371)(Encl. 1)
1 - New York (44-1609)
(8)
OES:oes

44-1987-Sub-M-707B

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
NOV 10 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Chatter
Hester

November 7, 1969

Mr. Robert E. Wood ✓
Aeromarine
7605 Eastwood Mall
Birmingham, Alabama 35210

Dear Mr. Wood:

Your letter of October 24, 1969 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation has been referred to this office for answer.

Your Invoice No. 2251A, dated March 29, 1968, was introduced into evidence on a guilty plea of James Earl Ray. As that matter is now on appeal to the Tennessee Supreme Court, the invoice can not be released at this time, and the same must be kept as evidence until the termination of the appeal.

We apologize for this inconvenience, and thank you for your continued cooperation with the Bureau and ourselves in this matter. If you have any further questions, please advise.

Very truly yours,

JESSIE C. MASON
Assistant Attorney General

JCM/bk

cc: Special Agent Joe Hester
Federal Bureau of Investigation

44-1987-Sub-M-709

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 10 1969	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

apt

11-10-69

AIRTEL

To: SAC, Kansas City (44-760)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReNYlet 11-5-69, one PXlet 9-4-69 and KClet 10-20-69.

If not already done, Kansas City interview John Hamilton Morris and suLHM within three days of receipt without fail.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)

44-1987-Sub-M-1020 767D

SEARCHED	INDEXED <i>ll</i>
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FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Hester</i>	<i>gja</i>

11-13-69

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

ReBuairtel to Kansas City 11-10-69.

Enclosed for the Los Angeles Office are one copy each of letter from Phoenix to the Director 9-4-69 with LHM and xerox copy of letter from JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS; also enclosed for Los Angeles is copy of New York letter to the Director 11-5-69 reflecting results of interview with PETER GOLDMAN.

On 11-13-69, CARL F. ZARTER, Administrative Assistant, U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas, advised that inmate JAMES HAMILTON MORRIS, #83856, was released to the custody of the USM on 9-11-69 to be produced in the USDC, Los Angeles, California. MORRIS has not as yet returned to Leavenworth. Authorities at Leavenworth are unable to anticipate his return. It is therefore suggested that the interview set forth in Phoenix communication for the Kansas City Division be handled by the Los Angeles Division. Los Angeles should be able to determine whereabouts of MORRIS through the USM's office in that area.

It is to be noted that the copy of the handwritten letter from MORRIS to GOLDMAN is barely readable. If Los Angeles decides a more legible copy is needed, it is suggested they obtain one from the Phoenix Office. Kansas City believes that the individual mentioned in the letter as Big D, who was apprehended in New Mexico two weeks ago is possibly ROBERT DE PUGH, head of the Minutemen organization, who is also currently incarcerated at Leavenworth Penitentiary.

2 - Bureau (44-38861)
② - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 5)
1 - Kansas City (44-760)
RBH:mts
(7)

44-1987-Sub-M-708
llc llc
Hester

KC 44-760

For the information of the Los Angeles Office,
reairtel from the Director instructed Kansas City to inter-
view JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS and submit LHM within three days
of receipt without fail.

SAC, MIAMI

11/25/69

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

Copy

MURKIN

On 11/25/69, Mrs. ANNIE PATTERSON, 320 NE 19th Street, Miami, Florida, made a long distance telephone call to the Memphis FBI Office to advise that she is writing a book and that she knows the real killer of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., to be the same individual who killed the late President JOHN F. KENNEDY and to also be the person who trained the assassin of the late ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

Mrs. PATTERSON talked at great length about the information in her possession regarding Communist plots and threats against the Government. She also mentioned that she has corresponded with District Attorney JIM GARRISON at New Orleans, Louisiana.

Since it appears that Mrs. PATTERSON is a mental case, no investigation is being conducted and this is furnished for the information of Miami in the event she should contact the Miami Office.

Hester

2-Miami
1-Memphis

JCH:PEH
(3) *ew*

SEARCH _____
SERIALIZED llh
INDEXED _____
FILED llh

44-1987-Sub-M-709



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Los Angeles, California

December 10, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

On December 1, 1969, John Hamilton Morris was interviewed at the Los Angeles County Jail, Los Angeles, California, regarding information contained in a letter written by him on July 22, 1969, to Peter Goldman, 444 Madison Avenue, New York, New York. This letter contained information that James Earl Ray was paid by "Big D".

Morris stated that he is a journalist, that as a journalist he has his sources, and that as a journalist he does not reveal the identity of his sources. Morris stated it was common knowledge that Ray was paid to kill Martin Luther King. Morris was asked to explain what he referred to as common knowledge. He said that everyone knew that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was behind the murder of Martin Luther King. He continued that the CIA backed the Minutemen and Robert De Pugh of the Minutemen. The CIA wanted King out of the way so it had De Pugh make the arrangements. Ray being a small time criminal, was selected to do the actual killing and CIA the brains behind the whole scheme. When De Pugh was no longer needed by the CIA, he was arrested. Morris said that this scheme is common knowledge.

Morris volunteered that he has been declared medically and criminally insane.

Records of Atascadero State Hospital, Atascadero, California, as of April 13, 1959, revealed that John Hamilton Morris, born [redacted], at Martin, Michigan, was admitted to that hospital on September 22, 1958, as criminally insane. At that time, he had a criminal record dating back to September 26, 1940, and had over 20 arrests, including grand theft, car theft, mail fraud, postal loss, forgery, and money postal orders. These records reveal that Morris was not found criminally insane by this hospital and had been turned over to the court in San Mateo, California, for further action.

44-1987-Sub-M-710
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MEMPHIS
Hester

JAMES EARL RAY,
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

John Hamilton Morris appeared at U. S. District Court, Southern District of California, Los Angeles, on February 23, 1967, for jury trial. At the conclusion of the trial on February 24, 1967, Morris was found guilty of violation of Title 18, Section 2113 (a), U. S. Code. On March 20, 1967, Morris was sentenced to 15 years custody of the U. S. Attorney General.

Morris filed an appeal of this conviction April 21, 1969, before the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. He based his appeal on his not having been protected under Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 4244, in that under this statute, the U. S. Attorney failed in his responsibility to move for a determination of competency where he had reasonable cause to believe the accused might be incompetent. His appeal argues that under the same section and by Constitutional mandate, it was incumbent on the court to order a determination of competency, where reasonable cause appeared to indicate the accused might be incompetent; said failure violated Morris's guarantee of due process under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

The appellant further argues that the court-appointed counsel failed to provide that assistance guaranteed by the Sixth Amendment of the Constitutional rights of due process in the fair trial.

The final point of the appellant's argument is that the Court's sentencing procedure was both a failure of its statutory responsibility and an abuse of its discretion under Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 4244; and under 4208 (b) which provides for committment of the accused to the custody of the Attorney General for a period of time not to exceed six months, for the purpose of evaluation to assist the trial court in passing a meaningful rehabilitative sentence.

On July 28, 1969, Assistant U. S. Attorney Darrell Mac Intyre, Los Angeles, advised that on July 24, 1969, a decision was received from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that the conviction of John Hamilton Morris had been reversed.

JAMES EARL RAY,
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

Morris appeared at U. S. District Court, Los Angeles, and entered a plea of guilty to violation of Title 18, Section 2113 (a), U. S. Code. Trial was set for November 4, 1969. Morris was to be afforded psychiatric examination prior to trial date. As of December 9, 1969, the trial of Morris had not commenced.

The Los Angeles Herald Examiner, daily metropolitan Los Angeles newspaper, in its issue of July 5, 1968, carried an article on Page A-1 captioned, "Dynamite Hijack Try Just a Dud", datelined Las Vegas, Nevada (UPI). This article reported that a Federal prisoner identified as John Hamilton Morris, 48 of Martin, Michigan, tried to hijack a commercial airliner, July 4, 1968, by falsely reporting he had dynamite on his person. His high altitude plot failed completely.

The U. S. Attorney at Las Vegas was expected to take this incident before the Grand Jury and ask for an indictment charging Morris with attempted hijacking.

The following is an arrest record of John Hamilton Morris, FBI Number 4 222 144:

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12-14-66
 (139-1131)

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
War Dept Wash DC	John Hamilton Morris #6578257	enlisted 8-23-39		
PD Honolulu TH	John H. Morris #A-11460-D-1	2-26-40	vag	to Mil Auth
PD Sacramento Calif	John Hamilton Morris #28181	12-28-44	enrt to Martinez Calif BT and enrt to Los Angeles Calif PT	taken to Martinez 12-30-44 *rel disc because resitution was made.
SO Martinez Calif #27961	John Hamilton Morris #-- SO Sacramento Calif	12-30-44	503 CVC	1-22-45 rel 1-22-45 on 2 y prob
PD Los Angeles Calif	John Morris #75882	2-18-45	GT fug from Seattle	3-15-45 rel to Seattle Wash Auth 5-28-45 sent to time served and rel to return to Calif
SO Los Angeles Calif	John H. Morris #A-57532	3-9-45	GL - Wash	3-20-45 rel to Seattle Wash
PD Seattle Wash	John Hamilton Morris #30521	3-21-45	GL-money from hotel	5-26-45 time spent in jail
SO Seattle Wash	John Hamilton Morris #22088	3-26-45	GL	5-28-45 sent to time served to return to Calif
PD Jersey City NJ	John H. Morris #10578	4-7-47	poss stolen auto and RS 2-109-6	4-17-47 paper to SJ 5-20-47 bill on book
SO Jersey City NJ	John Hamilton Morris #31492	4-18-47	rec stolen motor vehicle mal burning of a motor vehicle.	5-20-47 no rel of indictment No. 250 App term 1947
SO Jersey City NJ	John Hamilton Morris #31492	5-1-47	Vio Postal Laws	

- 4 -

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

16-70532-2 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12-14-66
 (139-PLH)

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director.

2 The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM, Newark, NJ	John Hamilton Morris, #11520	custody 5-1-47	Vio. of Lyer Act	6-16-47, 3 yrs.
USM, Newark, NJ	John Hamilton Morris, #11520	not given	forging checks, etc.	sent. 3 yrs. 6-16-47
Federal Ref., Chillicothe, Ohio	John H. Morris #27423	7-9-47	NMFTA, using mails to defraud	3 yrs.
USP, Terre Haute, Ind	John H. Morris #5090	8-27-47 (in trans. from Chillicothe)	trans. stolen auto int. Using mails to defraud	3 yrs.
USP, Leavenworth Kans	John H. Morris #64506	11-5-47 (in trans. from USP Terre Haute, Ind)	mails to defraud and NMFTA	3 yrs.
Medical Center for Fed Prisoners Springfield Mo	John H. Morris #6954-H	1-11-49 trans from USP Leavenworth	NMFTA & using mails to defraud	3 yrs. (3-3 yrs conc 2-13-50 disch CR pend.
USM, Springfield, Mo.	John Hamilton Morris #1211	2-13-50	forged Securities in Interstate Commerce	2-15-50, removed to Kans.
PD, Topeka, Kans.	John Hamilton Morris #7945	3-21-50	interstate vio (checks)	USM prisoner

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12-14-66
 (139-PLM)

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director.

3 The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM Topeka Kans.	John Hamilton Morris #CR-13666	2-21-50	Interstate Comm. Viol.	3-21-50, sent. 5 yrs. on ct. 1; 5 yrs. on ea. of cts. 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, & 8 to run concurrent & to run concu- rent with part of imprisonment imposed on ct. 1. and pay costs of this prosecution. serve at USP, Leavenworth, Kans.
US Penty Leavenworth Kans	John H. Morris #66575	4-20-50	transp I/S forged Secur	5 yrs 9-27-53 Cond Rel
SO Riverside Calif	John Hamilton Morris #61246	3-1-56	Title 18 Sec 500 USC	Federal
PD Indio Calif	John Hamilton Morris #20787	3-1-56	raising & cashing US Postal Money Orders	held for USM
USM Los Angeles Calif	John H. Morris #24036	3-6-56	forg postal Money Order	11-12-57 case dism
SO Los Angeles Calif	John Hamilton Morris #A-57532/ B-412495	3-6-56	forgery Postal Money Orders	5-2-56 rel ca Springfield Mo
USM Los Angeles Calif	John H. Morris #24242	4-27-56	subversive use of US Mails	
Med Center for Fed Prs Springfield Mo	John Hamilton Morris #P-185-H	5-5-56 MCFP Rec fr. USM S-Calif	altering P.O. money orders	T-18 Sec. 4200 return to court 3-27-57

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

16-70582-2 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12-14-66
 (139-PLM)

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director.

4 The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO Springfield Mo	John Hamilton Morris #S-20937	8-27-57	H/F U SCM (subversive use of mails Postal MO viol)	to be TOT US Calif
PD Los Angeles Calif	John Hamilton Morris #LA 75 882-M	11-12-57	forg of fict name forg 4 cts	nt gilty by reason of insanity D45 1-29-58 Cs 196783 on chg of warr 130792(4) for fict name for 4 cts
SO Los Angeles Calif	John Hamilton Morris #A-57532/B-516022	11-7-57	failure to appear for jury trial	11-12-57 rel case disp & cust Los Ange PD
PD San Mateo Calif	John Hamilton Morris #28219	6-6-58	forg (chex)	7-10-58 held ans Sup Crt see supplement
SO Redwood City Calif	John Hamilton Morris #24505	7-10-58	forg & ETE Fresno & San Jose PD	1-26-59, 1 Co J susp on 1-27-59 to Fresno 1-5-59 disc
St Bu Sacramento Calif	John Hamilton Morris #ASH 6096	9-22-58	criminally Insane 1368 PC Atascadero St Hosp Atascadero Calif	
SO Fresno Calif	John Hamilton Morris #60409	2-12-59	PC 836 escape	2-12-59 no chgs filed
PD Fresno Calif	John Hamilton Morris #12972	2-18-59	forg-PT escape	see supplement
FBI Chgo Ill	John Hamilton Morris #--	8-24-59	bank robb	

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12-14-66
 (139-PLH)

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director.

5

The following FBI record, NUMBER 4-222 144, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
PD Chgo Ill	John H. Morris #E-48842	8-24-59	GP	TOT USM Chgo 8-25-59
USM Chgo Ill	John H. Morris #60391	8-25-59	bank robbery	2 yrs & \$500. 12-23-59
Cook Co Jail Chgo Ill	John H. Morris #239175	8-25-59	safe keeping USM	1-10-60 del USM
USP Leavenworth Kans	John Hamilton Morris #77308-L	1-11-60	bank rob	2 yrs
USP McNeil Isl Wash	John Hamilton Morris #28201-M	6-22-60	bank robb & armed bank robb	10 yrs & 5 m & 11 das
USPen Leavenworth Kans	John Hamilton Morris #77308-L	5-31-61	Bank Robbery	5-31-61 Rec from USP McNeil Islav as transfe 8-10-66 MR
USM Los Angeles Calif	John Hamilton Morris #089-21749	12-7-66	Bank robbery	

- 8 -

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data formerly furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

16-70582-4 U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12-14-66
 (139-PII)

J. Edgar Hoover
 Director.

6 The following FBI record, NUMBER 4 222 144 , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	As John Hamilton Morris wanted by Los Angeles Calif PD petty theft. John H. Morris inf appre prior to 9-21-54 notify Chief US Prob Off US Crt House Rm 826 Chgo Ill per inf rec therefrom 10-1-53. WANTED: John H. Morris for viol of cond rel - warr issued 12-23-53. Notify US Bd of Par Wash DC by telephone per inf rec therefrom 1-6-54. IN CUSTODY PER PRINT No 24242 USM Los Angeles Calif. NO LONGER WANTED: per inf rec US Bd of Paroles Wash DC 5-23-56 (Warr withdrawn 5-17-56 & Case closed) NYC NY 1947 fraud use of mails; 7 yrs (as on prt #24242) #12972, 2-4-59 & 2-19-59 2-4-59 forg disa interest of justice no chgs filed on PT 2-19-59 escape red to PC 650½, 3 yrs prob 180 das SS deft PG to PC 650½. #28219, 1-26-59 final disp subj sent to one year Co Jail susp. WANTED: John Hamilton Morris Location Desired Notify by phone USSS Intell Div Rm 825 1800 G St NW Wash DC inf re 4-20-66 (To remain in effect until 4-18-69) Federal Parole or mandatory release extends to 12-4-69 inf rec Chgo Ill			

- 9* -

SUPPLEMENT

Notations indicated by * ARE NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data furnished this Bureau concerning individuals of the same or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS INVESTIGATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 12/10/69

FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
OO: Memphis

Re Kansas City airtel to the Director dated 8/13/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of a Letter-head Memorandum (LHM) and for Memphis two copies of an LHM recording interview of JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS regarding his allegation that JAMES EARLY RAY was paid to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A review of Los Angeles files reveals MORRIS to be the subject of Bureau files 91-25689 and 91-12519.

44-1957-Sub-M-711
INDEXED 24
FILED 24
1969
FBI MEMPHIS
[Signature]

2 - Bureau (Encls. 4)
② - Memphis (Encl. 2) (44-1987)
1 - Los Angeles

TJA/jah
(5)



5010-108

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

Judge to Rule Whether Ray's Solitary Confinement Is Cruel

NASHVILLE, Tenn. —

(UPI) — Does the solitary confinement of James Earl Ray, the convicted murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., constitute "cruel and unusual punishment?"

This is what Federal Court Judge William E. Miller will be asked to decide Monday when Ray is whisked into court here amid tight security precautions.

Miller named the issue himself.

It's whether "Ray's present incarceration in solitary confinement constitutes the sort of cruel, unusual punishment which is prohibited by the Eighth Amendment to the Constitution," he said.

ON THE OTHER side of the argument, State Correc-



James Earl Ray
... 'Nazi tactics'

tion Commissioner Lake Russell has said it was in Ray's "best interest" that he be kept in maximum security until settlement of various suits brought in his behalf.

Ray and his attorneys differ with the commission on his "best interest."

"I do not believe that I can withstand either mentally or physically this type of imprisonment much longer," Ray said in an affidavit notarized June 23, 1969.

One of his attorneys, Robert Hill Jr. of Chattanooga, compared Ray's imprisonment since his capture in London to Nazi torture.

IN AN emotionally worded brief dealing mainly with Ray's imprisonment in Memphis before his trial, Hill said:

"To systematically strip away all inner psychological defenses through nine months of constant light, sound and observation is as legally diabolical as many of the Nazi practices which we so often condemn."

The Chattanooga attorney was referring to Ray's constant surveillance by closed-circuit television cameras while in his cell in Memphis.

Ray said he was not asking to be let out into the regular prison population. However, he said he knew of jobs he could do that would make his exposure minimal.

THE STATE has said it would seek to prove that Ray's release from maximum security would endanger his life.

In his affidavit, Ray referred that one of his former attorneys, Percy Foreman, and the prosecution at Mem-

The MIAMI HERALD
Miami, Florida
Date 12/28/69

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phis may have made a deal to ~~keep~~ him in maximum security at the state prison.

"I suggest if state officials wanted to keep me in maximum security cells as a form of punishment they should of took (sic) me before a jury and tried to get the maximum penalty instead of dealing with Mr. Percy Foreman," Ray said.

The convicted murderer has also charged that he was placed in maximum security in Nashville because he refused to give certain information to former State Correction Commissioner Harry S. Avery and the FBI.

He did not say what the information was.

IN ANY EVENT, Avery, along with Gov. Buford El-

lington, may be required to appear.

The defense has filed a motion requesting that the former correction commissioner and the governor, along with a Vanderbilt University psychiatrist, be present. Miller said he would rule on the motion at the hearing.

When Ray walks into the eighth-floor courtroom in the Federal Building Monday, security will be tight.

U.S. Marshal Leon Campbell said that all persons would be searched before being allowed to enter the courtroom and, that after the hearing has started, no one would be allowed to enter the courtroom.

Ray has been in maximum security at the state prison here since March 11, the day after he pleaded guilty in return for a 99-year sentence — to the King assassination.

He has been in cell No. 4, an isolated six-by-nine-foot cubicle which is one of 41 cells in the maximum security building.

F B I

Date: 12/31/69

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

✓ TO: SAC, Memphis
✓ FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Enclosed is a copy of an article from the "Miami Herald" 12/28/69, in which reference is made to a statement by Ray to the effect that he was placed in maximum security because he refused to give certain unidentified information to a state official and the FBI.

If information available in your files, furnish clarification of this if possible. Also insure Bureau has all pertinent facts relating to Ray's current appeals and status.

Enclosure

44-1987-Sub-M-713

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Handled
JH

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

1/5/70

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 12/31/69.

As the Bureau is aware, only one attempt has been made by Bureau Agents to interview the subject JAMES EARL RAY. This was an attempt made with Bureau approval by SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN shortly after RAY was transferred from the Shelby County Jail at Memphis, Tenn., to the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville, Tenn., following his plea of guilty to the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. The subject was uncooperative at that time, and it has not been deemed worthwhile to make any additional efforts to interview him.

The subject RAY was incarcerated under maximum security conditions at the Shelby County Jail while awaiting trial, was transferred to the State Prison with very elaborate security precautions, and has been kept in the maximum security building at the State Prison, all for the purpose of protecting him from both the general public and from other inmates. The State Prison System has been under the direction of two different commissioners during RAY's incarceration, and the prison at Nashville where RAY is confined has had two different wardens during RAY's incarceration. All of these persons have felt it necessary to keep RAY in maximum security in order to prevent his being murdered by other inmates.

Memphis will continue to keep the Bureau advised of all litigation on behalf of the subject RAY.

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