

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On 9/12/70, ROBERT SHELTON and MELVIN SEXTON stayed at the Darlington Motel, Darlington, S. C. Prior to the rally, SHELTON played the tape recording he had in his possession concerning the warrants mentioned in the attached report for the source. The source believed the Congressmen SHELTON mentions as being aware of his request for warrants are Congressmen BUCHANNAN and CRAMER (phonetic).

SHELTON told the source that he had gone to Birmingham to see the U. S. Commissioner. Upon arrival in Birmingham, SHELTON said it was evident that word concerning his request for the warrant had leaked out to the press and he noted the press and TV cameras at the Commissioner's office. However, upon going by the building and looking for a parking place, upon his return to the building none of the TV and press representatives were present.

SHELTON stated the U. S. Commissioner in Tuscaloosa also refused to furnish him with warrants and suggested that he go to the Attorney General of the United States.

The tape recording played for the source also contained news items which were recorded from the radio regarding the request and refusal in connection with the warrants.

SHELTON told the source he had interceded a message from the Attorney General of the United States addressed to Loyal Members of the White House Staff. SHELTON did not have any such message in his possession but said anything he stated was documented. He said the Attorney General had told the White House staff that the white leadership in the South had been lost to President NIXON and as a result, NIXON will lose the South in the next election because of the school situation. MITCHELL told them that GEORGE WALLACE would get the white vote. MITCHELL suggested that the only course of action now

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was for NIXON to start his appeal to the minority and as a start, had arranged with the Health, Education and Welfare Department to grant loans of \$50,000 per welfare mother for them to purchase homes in white sections of southern cities. Within trade unions still segregated, a tax will be made within the unions to replace whites with Negroes. NIXON will also send 10,000 troops to Israel just prior to the election in order to secure the Jewish vote.

SHELTON further told the source that five charters had been issued within the past 30 days to the S. C. Realm.

Upon arrival at the rally grounds, on 9/12/70, BOB JONES approached the source and had a long discussion with him concerning SHELTON. JONES mentioned that SHELTON should have run for re-election at the last national meeting; however, he did not. JONES noted that MELVIN SEXTON did, however. BOB JONES stated certain people had asked him to run against SHELTON for the position of Imperial Wizard.

JONES mentioned he had been in Tuscaloosa with SHELTON and SEXTON for one week. JONES further stated he had received no correspondence from the national office within the past two months. In reference to SHELTON, JONES also advised he had noted that SHELTON did not belong to any local klan unit.

JONES further stated it was his opinion that the klan defense fund should not only pay the attorneys' fees for those arrested in the North Carolina "shootout", but should also pay the fines for the klansmen who pled not guilty. JONES stated he suspected that MELVIN SEXTON had received a kickback in the attorneys' fees paid to ART HAYNES.

DEAN WILLIAMS has been in contact with the source and asked his opinion and further asked the source to talk to SHELTON regarding the position of the Titans. WILLIAMS said the Titans were not doing the job for which they were

being paid. However, they were still getting the Titan fees. WILLIAMS suggested making all the Titans Kleagle and then just paying them for the work they do. The source then got in contact with ROBERT SHELTON and presented this matter to him ; however, SHELTON stated he did not want to adopt WILLIAMS' suggestion.

While at the rally on 9/12/70, the source was approached by an unknown man who was only identified as a printer employed by a newspaper or a printing office in Sumter, S. C. This man exhibited to the source a .32 caliber snub nose revolver in a shoulder holster under his coat. This person also had in his possession advertisements for a rally for BOB SCOGGIN to be held in Sumter, S. C., on 9/13/70. The unknown man told the source that the advertisement had been paid for by an unknown female who was having illicit relationships with BOB SCOGGIN.

While in private conversations with ROBERT SHELTON, the source was informed by SHELTON of his attitude concerning BOB JONES. SHELTON stated he had learned that BOB JONES is drinking quite heavily and "is going sour". SHELTON is aware of the information BOB JONES is spreading concerning him.

MELVIN SEXTON mentioned that JAMES SPEARS is now out of the UKA, Inc. SEXTON mentioned that SPEARS was caught stealing \$1,000 from the state office in Alabama.

SHELTON, in private conversation with the source, told the source that the klan in Georgia, the year stated was not recalled by the source, had infiltrated the Communist school in Monteagle, Tenn., and it was this klansman who made the now famous photograph of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr., at the school. SHELTON stated the klan then went to Governor GRIFFIN of Georgia and made a deal with him. The photograph was turned over to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation in return for a legal charter for the UKA, Inc., within the State of Georgia.

- E\* -  
(COVER PAGE)

9/13/70

On Saturday, September 12, 1970, the United Klans of America, Inc. (UKA), Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (KKKK), South Carolina Realm, held a state rally at a race track located just outside of Hartsville, S. C.

The rally started at approximately 9:00 p.m., and was opened by Younger MAC NEWTON. Klansman BILLY BARNES gave the opening prayer and the pledge of allegiance. Afterwards BILLY BARNES gave a short talk. Klansman BOB JONES then gave a short talk prior to the introduction of the Imperial Wizard ROBERT SHELTON.

After being introduced, the Imperial Wizard had in his possession a tape recording which he played for those in attendance at the rally. The tape recording was allegedly a telephone conversation between him, SHELTON, and a representative from the U. S. Attorney's Office in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The date the recording was made was not stated. In the recording SHELTON told the representative of the U. S. Attorney's Office that he would like to obtain some warrants. When asked what kind of warrants, SHELTON told the man he wanted some warrants to make a citizen's arrest for violation of a federal statute, a section of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and a section of the 1970 Civil Rights Act, the Whitten Amendment.

SHELTON, on the tape recording, said he wanted to obtain warrants for local judges in and around Tuscaloosa, Ala., who wrote the order to bus school children in order to achieve racial balance. SHELTON also wanted citizens' arrest warrants for the bus drivers, the school board, and all the school officials. SHELTON said he felt all of them had violated the law.

The man to whom SHELTON was speaking on the tape recording said he would not issue any warrants and referred SHELTON to the U. S. Commissioner.

After the recording was played, SHELTON mentioned he had discussed this matter with U. S. Senator ALLEN and other Congressmen.

After SHELTON's presentation, several cakes were auctioned off and raffle prizes were awarded. Fifteen robed klansmen participated in a collection which was taken up. Twenty-three robed klansmen participated in the cross lighting ceremony. Some of the participants in the cross lighting ceremony were women.

The rally was attended by approximately 150 people.

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9/13/70

The South Carolina Realm of the United Klans of America, Inc. (UKA), Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (KKKK), held a state klonvocation at the klavern hall in Florence, S. C., on September 13, 1970. The meeting was attended by approximately 40 people and started at 11:00 a.m.

Among those in attendance were the following:

DEAN WILLIAMS

MELVIN SEXTON

ROBERT SHELTON

BUSTER LAMB

BILLY BARNES

CAPERS HIERS

WILLIAM MARTIN

HUBERT MARTIN

H. L. SUMNER

DALLAS CAREY

PELHAM ROSS

E. C. CASH

BRANNON

BONEY

ELIAZER

BEN MORGAN



The meeting was opened by DEAN WILLIAMS and klansman BILLY BARNES gave the opening prayer. The meeting was opened under the veil of secrecy.

Imperial Wizard ROBERT SHELTON was introduced and he told those in attendance that the "Firey Cross" the klan magazine, was being distributed to colleges, universities and congressmen. SHELTON indicated he desired that more klansmen participate in the selling of this magazine.

SHELTON, then as part of his talk, related the following story:

JAMES EARL RAY was a "fall guy" in the shooting of MARTIN LUTHER KING, Jr. The reason for this statement was given as because of the fact that KING's wife, CORETTA KING, was having illicit relations with a Negro whose last name was ANDERSON. This relationship allegedly was going on prior to the shooting of KING. At the present time, Mrs. KING and RALPH ABERNATHY are at odds and Mrs. KING is trying to move her boyfriend, ANDERSON, into a position of leadership within KING's former organization. On the day KING was shot, ANDERSON allegedly guided KING into position on the balcony for the kill. Two identical Mustang automobiles were utilized in the escape of the man who did

the shooting. One of the cars was a decoy and the other car was equipped with a two-way radio which allowed them to listen to police broadcasts and thereby evade capture. SHELTON said a lot of arrangements had been made in order to get passports for RAY to go to Canada and then to England. SHELTON said he is now attempting to find out who made such arrangements.

SHELTON said it is his belief that there will be a spontaneous revolution of the black people in this country within a twelve month period. He told all those present to collect all of the ammunition they could obtain and store it in preparation for the revolution. He told them they would have ample opportunity to use it.

SHELTON also stated he believed that if racial equality was going to be a guideline in the schools, racial equality within each and every state should also be a guideline and the government should use buses to transport Negroes into various states in order to achieve a racial balance. He commented the only problem this would produce would be a problem with the Welfare Department in changing the addresses of all the Negroes being transported.

SHELTON apologized to those in the audience because he had produced no financial report. He explained the delay as a delay in his correspondence and the fact that he was behind with a very heavy work load.

After SHELTON's speech, DEAN WILLIAMS furnished a financial report concerning recent rallies. He indicated a profit had been shown.

After these comments by DEAN WILLIAMS, SHELTON then suggested that rallies receive more publicity and suggested the appointment of an advertising committee. This was done and Younger MAC NEWTON and BRANNON were appointed to this committee.

Klansman BRAZELL from the Florence Klavern in which the klonvocation was being held, then took the stand and stated he built the klavern hall in which they were meeting and now found himself unable to keep up with the payments. He solicited some help and told those in attendance that the klan could buy the hall, that is, his interest in the hall for an amount of approximately \$500 and then take over the payments. This amounts to the klavern hall and approximately  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres of land. DEAN WILLIAMS then appointed a committee to look into this and appointed

BILLY BARNES, Younger MAC NEWTON, ROBERT SHELTON, MELVIN SEXTON, STEVE BROADWAY and BRANNON to a committee to look into the acquisition of the building for the state organization. DEAN WILLIAMS he will be willing to borrow the money if the need arises and hold the building for the South Carolina Realm under the terms of a perpetual auction.

An announcement was made concerning a rally which is scheduled for the Blythewood area. There was also mention made of a new klavern to be started at Smoaks, S. C., after a forthcoming rally is held at that location.

Prior to the end of the meeting, DEAN WILLIAMS announced that \$36 had been collected at the rally at Hartsville, S. C., on the previous day.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Knoxville, Tennessee  
December 31, 1970

**JAMES EARL RAY, also  
known as;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID  
CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY**

On December 31, 1970, Warden Lewis S. Tollett, Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, advised James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. is incarcerated at Brushy Mountain State Prison. Warden Tollett stated a Christmas greeting had been sent to Ray addressed to "Mr. James Earl Ray, in care of Federal Prison System, Memphis, Tennessee, United States of America."

Tollett advised this piece of mail had been forwarded to his prison and noted the envelope bore what is believed to be a registry number 4808 from Walton-on-Thames, in Great Britain and was sent by airmail.

Warden Tollett stated the back of the envelope contains a return address:

"Mr. William Paton Caan  
ex AF [REDACTED]  
White Willows  
Cricket Way  
Weybridge,  
Surrey, Great Britain

Tollett stated the bottom of the envelope on the reverse side contains a message:

"P.S. Colonel Glen Hempleman  
has said he will vouch for  
my innocence, 437 M.A.W.  
Charleston, South Carolina"

44-1987-Sub-M-765  
llb llb  
Hester gbs

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

Warden Tollett advised the Christmas card contains a printed greeting under which was the following:

"Merry Christmas Mr. Ray  
from William Paton Caan  
½ of the original "Eric  
Starvo Galt."

The back of the card contains this message:

"Dear Mr. Ray, I do not  
approve of capital punishment.  
I believe that I probably did  
not shoot the Reverend Martin  
Luther King. I would like to  
see you recieve a fair, open,  
honest, merciful trial. I  
believe that my brother Michael  
Nowlin Caan probably did not  
shoot the Reverend King either.  
Yours truly, William Paton Caan."

Warden Tollett stated inside the front cover of the greeting card is the following:

"p.s. I do not like the Klu Klux  
Clan. Please to not publizise  
this Christmas card. It could  
start a race war, then a civil  
war, and then World War three.  
Cool it Man, I have a lot of  
friends. Use your head, turn  
around what's in it. Cool it.

-2\*-

This document contains neither recommendation 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.

F B I

Date: 12/31/70

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861) ATTENTION:

From: SAC, ~~KNOXVILLE (44-696)~~  CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION  
GENERAL INVEST. DIV.

Subject: JAMES EARL RAY, aka,  DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM

CR - CONSPIRACY;

UFAC - ROBBERY (OO: MEMPHIS)  CRA-64

- CR  EE  DM  PA  PE  PF  E
- BM  BM-Threats  Racial Matters
- Klan  Organization

Summary of Complaint:

On 12/31/70 Warden LEWIS S. TOLLETT, Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, advised he had received a Christmas card mailed from Walton-on-Thames, GB. This card was addressed to Mr. JAMES EARL RAY, Federal Prison System, Memphis, Tennessee, and contained a greeting and note from WILLIAM PATON CAAN. The card indicated CAAN was "1/2 of the original Eric Starvo Galt." CAAN noted neither he nor his brother shot the Reverend KING and advised his brother was MICHAEL NOWLIN CAAN.

Warden TOLLETT stated the envelope contained a message that a Colonel GLEN HEMPLEMAN would vouch for his, CAAN's innocence, and HEMPLEMAN's apparent address is 437 M.A.W. Charleston, South Carolina. CAAN further indicated he had a former service number of AF [REDACTED]

ACTION: UACB:

- No further action being taken and
- LHM enclosed  Copy furnished to USA
- LHM being submitted
- Report being submitted
- Preliminary investigation instituted
- Limited investigation instituted

44-1987-Sub M-766

llh, llh

*Aske*

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
- 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2)
- 1 - Knoxville
- TVR/kem
- (5)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

002

F B I

Date: 2/3/71

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)  
Via TELETYPE ~~DEFERRED~~ NITEL  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (2P)

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL PHIL CANALE ADVISED THIS DATE THAT TENNESSEE STATE REPRESENTATIVE ROBERT HAWKS HAS INDICATED TO HIM THAT HIS COMMITTEE IN THE TENNESSEE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES MAY ELECT TO HOLD HEARINGS CONCERNING THIS CASE AT WHICH TIME THEY WILL SUBPOENA WITNESSES. CANALE STATED HAWKS TOLD HIM THE HEARINGS WERE NOT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING JAMES EARL RAY'S INNOCENCE OR GUILT, BUT WERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF DETERMINING WHETHER OR NOT THERE WERE ANY CO-CONSPIRATORS.

CANALE STATES HE IS CERTAIN THAT IF THESE HEARINGS ARE HELD, HE WILL MOST LIKELY BE THE FIRST WITNESS.

~~Airtel~~ HE STATED HE BELIEVES HE CAN FURNISH THE COMMITTEE ~~Teletype~~ WITH SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO SATISFY THEM AND WILL ~~A.M.~~ BE ABLE TO CONVINCING THEM THAT NO CONSPIRACY EXISTS.

A.M.S.D. JCH:lfm

Spec. Del. (1) lfm

Reg. Mail

44-1987-Sub-m-767

SEARCHED llh  
SERIALIZED llh

Registered \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 10:05 p M Per llh  
R<sup>2</sup> 5:33p<sup>m</sup>



F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

ROBERT HAWKS IS A MEMPHIS BUSINESSMAN WHO IS ONE OF THE OWNERS OF A - ONE TRANSFER COMPANY, INC., AT MEMPHIS. HE IS, ACCORDING TO CANALE, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE TENNESSEE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, A MEMPHIS ATTORNEY, IS REPORTEDLY ALSO A MEMBER OF THIS COMMITTEE. THE BUREAU HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN FURNISHED INFORMATION CONCERNING THOMPSON, A MEMBER OF AN INTEGRATED LAW FIRM WHO IS NOW REPRESENTING A GROUP OF BLACK PANTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN ARRESTED ON LOCAL CHARGES.

CANALE HAS STATED HE WILL KEEP THE BUREAU ADVISED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN REGARD TO THESE HEARINGS FOR HAWKS' COMMITTEE. P. END.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge



Memorandum

TO : K. William O'Connor  
Chief, Criminal Section

DATE: January 25, 1971

MG:pg

FROM : Monica Gallagher  
Attorney  
Criminal Section

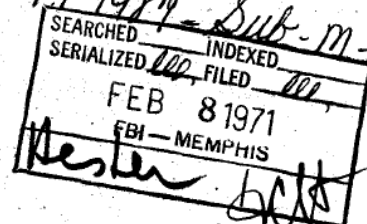
SUBJECT: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

At your request Mr. Queen and I met on January 13, 1971 for some four hours with Mr. Ken Smith, a self employed "researcher" and sometime investigator for the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations" which is headed by Attorney Bud Fensterwald. The following is a report of the significant or possibly significant matters which Mr. Smith reported to me. Mr. Smith advised that he can supply addresses and further information in connection with some of the persons referred to if we so desire. Mr. Smith did not interrogate me or Mr. Queen about our knowledge of the case, nor did either of us volunteer any information whatever. Mr. Smith advised as follows:

I. Personal Data

I retired in 1960 from my employment with the U.S. Treasury after 22 years as an investigator with the Alcohol-Tobacco-Tax unit. During my government employment I worked mainly out of Chicago although I also had other assignments. During a portion of my government employment I worked for the Internal Security Division as a supervisor of criminal investigations, and I was a deputy chief of an investigative unit.

After my retirement I opened a real estate office in Washington, D.C., and I still work in real estate part time. Recently I have been spending much of my time as a contract researcher for various clients. For example, I did research for a legislative lobby seeking



ENCLOSURE

prohibition of the "soreing" of Tennessee Walking Horses; I am now engaged to do research on baby seals in the Alleutian Islands. I accept these projects when my services are not needed by my old friend Bud Fensterwald, who has first call on my time. Also I work for Mr. Fensterwald for \$50 per day plus expenses, whereas my usual rate is \$100 plus expenses.

I met Fensterwald when I testified before Senator Long's Committee on Wiretapping, of which Fensterwald was Chief Counsel. Thereafter I worked as Chief Investigator for the Committee for about three years, until the whole staff resigned when Senator Kennedy assumed the chair.

In checking my references, you will find that a bad report will be given by the Assistant Commissioner for Internal Revenue. Otherwise, I believe my superiors have thought reasonably highly of me and my work.

II. The Ray - Raoul Linkup in Atlanta

I have a source nicknamed Fruitjar, whose full identity I do not care to disclose at this time. Fruitjar (hereinafter FJ) is a former small-time criminal. He is about my age; in poor health (in and out of, mostly in, a government hospital in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area); married to a much younger woman (possibly 30 or so), a former prostitute. FJ got his nickname because he sold moonshine out of a fruit jar during prohibition. I do not believe FJ is presently engaged in any criminal activities.

FJ came to Fensterwald in approximately February, 1970, and volunteered that he had information concerning James Earl Ray's activities in Atlanta. I was asked to and did check out FJ's background. He has in the past been a paid informant for the A.T.U., and an agent whom I knew while working for the government told me this man had sometimes furnished reliable information.

When I went to interview FJ I found him difficult to draw out. I thought at first he wanted money - more than I was able to offer; but it turned out what he really wanted was legal representation in some civil suit he wanted to bring. I think it may have been against the government. Fensterwald agreed to represent him; but as far as I know the action has not yet been filed.

FJ said he knew a man in Atlanta called "Starvo" whom he identified from pictures as identical with James Earl Ray. He said that in Atlanta I would find other individuals, frequenters of the 10th and Peachtree area or people who "hang out" there, probably mainly small time criminals, who would remember Starvo and his association with Raoul. FJ said Starvo, Raoul and two girls went away for several days to a fishing camp together. The leads furnished by FJ were checked out by me as follows.

A. Ralph George Dickerson or George Ralph Dickerson, aka Rocky, aka Raoul, is an ex-prize fighter. He is half Norwegian (paternal) and half Indian (maternal), has a swarthy complexion, is a "torpedo" or muscle man, and was or may have been in army intelligence at some time in the past. He is now an alcoholic and on the two occasions I saw and spoke to him he was pretty well gone on alcohol. Accordingly, I got no useful information from him. I do know he speaks Spanish and I have heard him called Raoul, although he is apparently more often called Rocky. Raoul hangs around a bar called "Doc's Place" at 10 xx Peachtree.

I understand from FJ that Starvo had let it be known in Atlanta that he was a "safe man", i.e. that he specialized in safecracking. FJ says he tried to interest Starvo in a safe "job" involving \$200,000 in cash, and that Starvo told Raoul he would do it. However, this job never came off.

I do not have a picture of Raoul but I do have a picture of a Mexican friend of Fensterwald's who looks quite a lot like Raoul. Sometimes I show people this picture of the Mexican in seeking an identification of Raoul.

B. Becky aka Bea Mart aka Becky Jones (allegedly after a man named John whom she lived with for a while) and Martha aka Martha Palmer. I believe that these two girls went with Starvo and Raoul to a fishing camp for several days. Neither of these girls provided me with any directly useful information, but that did not surprise me greatly.

Becky and Martha are hustlers. Becky is on and off drugs. It was once reported to me that Becky had died of an overdose in St. Louis; but I saw her subsequently. Becky and Martha lived at a rooming house operated by Mrs. FNU Edwards at 107 6th Street, N.E. in Atlanta. Mrs. Edwards told me she remembered the girls' driving a white Mustang, sometimes alone and sometimes with two men who meet the descriptions of Starvo and Raoul.

C. FJ had described to me roughly the place where he thought Starvo and Raoul had gone with the girls. I followed his directions to a fishing camp about 10-12 miles from Perry (phonetic), Florida, where Route 14, a gravel road, goes down toward the gulf and dead-ends. The camp is called Nutall Rise. The operator of the camp, name unrecalled, told me he vaguely remembered a white car, red-headed girl, blond girl, Indian fellow and white fellow being around the area for several days. He did not think they stayed at his camp, but wasn't sure.

As I was walking back to my car on Route 14 I saw what appeared to be a "path" leading to a still, and I found and interviewed the moonshiner, name unknown. He was driving a 1951 or 52 faded blue Chevrolet quarter-ton pickup. He said he remembered these four people clearly, as they were doing a lot of shooting, possibly target shooting, in the area (which made him nervous) and it was after the Turkey season. He identified pictures of Ray and of the Mexican who resembles Raoul. He described the girls as one redhead and one short brunette, and thought they were driving a car with Georgia plates.

D. A person who told me he remembered Raoul (Rocky) and Starvo hanging around together, and going on a fishing trip together, is Henry (I think that is his first name but it could be his last name). He is a "wino" and an itinerant house painter, and possibly a small time criminal, who hangs around 10th and Peachtree.

### III. The Overhead Conversation

#### A. The Substance

Byron Watson is a boy now 17 years old. His father, a former Deputy Sheriff, was killed in December 1966. His mother, Lillian Watson, is an overbearing individual and the boy's principal companion. The boy is extremely intelligent but in my judgment very strange or "weird". He has been preoccupied since childhood with antiques, relics, rare coins, etc., to the exclusion of usual youthful interests. I understand he is reputed to be one of the most skilled coin appraisers in the United States. He impresses me as a modern but non-hippe type boy, mildly anti-establishment as today's youth tend to be; he reminds me of the fellow on "Laugh In" who carries the flower (Harry Gibson). He does not smoke; uses no drugs (except for his asthma); drinks only wine with dinner. He impresses me asexual with a potential for homosexuality.

In the spring of 1968 Byron (then 14) was employed part-time after school and on Saturdays at an establishment in Atlanta called Magellan, 3340 Peachtree Road, apparently a semi-museum and semi-sales outlet for antiques, rare coins, gems, relics, etc. I believe that Magellan or its associates may also have been involved with smuggling, as appears below. Byron was being paid \$5.00 per hour plus the opportunity to buy coins at wholesale prices.

On a Thursday in March 1968, which I believe to have fixed as March 28, 1968, (Byron remembers hearing the noon news about the garbage workers strike), Byron reported for work at about 12:30 p.m. There was no school that day. In the building occupied by Magellan there is a room just to the right of the main entrance which was used as the office; it was a "den" when the building was

formerly occupied as a residence. Byron went into the office where he observed a meeting in progress. Present were Gene Purcell, Larry Meier, Bayne Culley, and five or six other men unknown to him, of which he thinks perhaps one and possibly two were Negroes, although because of the physical layout and lighting he is not at all sure. Gene Purcell handed him \$2.00 and said "Go get yourself some lunch." Byron told Gene he had just had lunch. Gene said then "go get me a pack of cigarettes, and get yourself a coke, and take your time about it." Byron left with the \$2.00. Outside in the rear he saw parked a black Cadillac, thought to have had New York license plates, which he associated with the unknown persons inside at the meeting.

Byron returned in about 10-15 minutes with Gene's cigarettes. He found that he had left the door slightly ajar and, as he stood in the entryway, he overheard the following conversation:

Gene said: "I'm going to kill that nigger bastard King next Thursday in Tennessee just like I killed Kennedy."

Larry Meier said: "You sure pulled that one off good. They'll never know in a hundred years who did it."

Gene: "I've got a jailbird set up to take the rap on this one just like the other one."

Byron became frightened. He rattled the door which had been ajar as though he was just coming in, entered and delivered the cigarettes to Gene. The meeting seemed to be breaking up or broke up shortly afterward.



When the meeting had broken up, Gene and Larry Meier interviewed Byron about whether he had been eavesdropping. Their manner was very threatening, and although Byron denied having overheard anything, they seemed to be suspicious. Byron thinks it is possible someone in the office may have seen him as he approached the house or just before he came in. At one point in the interview Gene threw a bowie knife into the wall near Byron and said that it could as easily have gone through him, or words to that effect.

Byron claimed he wasn't feeling well, called his mother, and went home with her. He told his mother about the conversation that afternoon. Both became frightened and decided that Byron should not continue working at Magellan. However, they decided they should go back on Saturday to make an explanation rather than just having him fail to return.

On Saturday Mrs. Watson took Byron to Magellan where she explained to Gene Purcell that Byron could not work there any more because it was interfering with his school work. While Mrs. Watson was talking to Purcell in the office, Byron was taken by Larry Meier to Meier's apartment on the second floor, where he was again interrogated about overhearing the conversation, which he continued to deny. During this interview Meier threatened Byron, saying in effect that if he had overheard anything he had better forget it fast, or a bomb might explode in his mother's car or he could be shot by a high powered rifle from a long way away.

On or about April 1, 1968, Purcell, Meier and Culley left Magellan and are believed to have left

Atlanta. They did not return until June 10 or 11, 1968. During this interval Jean Sayre operated Magellan.

### B. Other Accounts

The preceding information reflects what Byron and Mrs. Watson told me. I understand they have reported substantially identical information to others, as described below. What follows incorporates information received from the Watsons, Mr. Fensterwald and Atlanta attorney Lynwood Maddox.

At some point Mrs. Watson became concerned about the fact that the information she and Byron had concerning the overheard conversation had not been communicated to the proper authorities. She wrote a letter to the White House, possibly addressed to President Nixon, in which she said she had some information. Thereafter she and Byron were called on by two Secret Service agents, one of whom was named Manning. According to the Watsons the Secret Service agents received this information with open disbelief and hostility, one of them saying to Byron, among other things, "Don't tell me what happened in Dallas; I was there." Mrs. Watson and Byron were badly frightened by this interview.

Attorney Lynwood Maddox represented Mrs. Watson in connection with a civil suit she wanted to file or filed against William S. Arnett, an individual formerly associated with Magellan and who she claims defrauded her of some \$50,000. Trusting Mr. Maddox, Mrs. Watson reported to him both the substance of the overheard conversation (as substantiated by Maddox to me) and the incident with the Secret Service.

Mr. Maddox arranged for Mrs. Watson and Byron to have an appointment with Governor Maddox of Georgia, during which, in Attorney Maddox's presence, the story was repeated. According to Attorney Maddox, Mrs. Watson insisted to the Governor during this interview that they were entitled to some reward as a result of furnishing this information; the Governor was unreceptive; and the interview was not successful. The Governor's position was, in effect, that the matter was a federal one and should be taken up with federal authorities.

After this interview Attorney Maddox contacted Congressman Weltner, who knew of the work of the Committee to Investigate Assassinations and referred Maddox to Mr. Fensterwald. This is how we learned of the Watsons' story, and this happened about the first week in August 1970.

Mr. Fensterwald thereafter arranged for Byron to submit to a polygraph examination. This was done by an expert named (FNU) Baxter in New York. I have listened to the tape recording of this examination and I believe that the results are utterly invalid. It appears from the tape that within a few hours prior to the examination Byron had had some six shots of isoprill (medication for his asthma), which would alone completely negative the possibility of reaching any conclusions from the polygraph. Also in my judgment the examiner used an overbearing tone and manner which would tend to intimidate the person questioned, thus affecting the polygraph results. I understand that Mr. Baxter's report indicates that the examination was "partly inconclusive and partly negative," suggesting that Byron was lying in certain areas. I think this examination must be regarded as wholly inconclusive. While Byron may be lying about whether he deliberately eavesdropped (he says it was accidental and not deliberate, whereas I

believe it was probably deliberate), I honestly believe from my interviews and impressions that he is telling the truth about what he heard or thought he heard.

C. Persons Associated with Magellan

The following are people who have been associated with Magellan:

1. William S. Arnett, aka William S. Arnowich, of Columbus, Georgia. Arnett managed Magellan for a period of time on a 10% commission basis until December 1967, when he was "thrown out," possibly because he is Jewish. (This version reported by Byron and confirmed by Arnett). He is engaged in antique dealing. Mrs. Watson thinks Arnett defrauded her of \$50,000 in connection with antique transactions. Mrs. Watson also claims to have evidence against Arnett of smuggling and income tax violations. (See the Byron burglary, below). Arnett admitted to me that he has been arrested for smuggling but told me that he beat the rap. Arnett told me Magellan robbed him and that he is now being "extorted" of \$500 per month by Magellan interests. Arnett was financially backed in Magellan by William Moog, a real estate developer. Arnett told me that Adams, Sutherland and Nelson were all admitted John Birchers. He also said he thinks Purcell, Culley and Meier are violent or potentially violent individuals.

Arnett told me that Sutherland told him that Purcell is now occupied as a part-time gun-runner in or near Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

2. FNU Clifford, financially backed by William Thibodeaux, Atlanta-Decatur real estate speculator and bank president. He leased the premises at 3340

Peachtree and was licensed as Magellan, Blocade Runners, and Southeast Restoration Laboratories.

3. Harold Eugene Purcell, aka Gene Purcell, knowledgeable about guns and relics and in charge of that phase of the Magellan operation, as well as apparently exercising the biggest share of control over the whole Magellan operation. Purcell has bragged of "beating the rap" in connection with the burning of a Negro church in Tennessee in the late 1950's. Also he is proud of having his picture in Life Magazine in connection with the Clinton, Tenn. "school riots" during the same era. He allegedly told Arnett he had been tried and acquitted three times for aggravated assault on "niggers".

4. Jean (Mrs. John) Sayre (phonetic), who managed Magellan for a short time. She and her husband have disappeared from Atlanta and can't be found. Her husband was president of a corporation called "Par-Take-Of-Atlanta" which may have been a non-existent corporation. They are originally from Virginia, she from an old-line Virginia family. After Magellan closed, she also operated the premises for a short time doing business as "Tudor Fair".

5. Lawrence (Larry) Meier, who is now teaching in a high school in Six Flags, Georgia. Meier is a notorious homosexual and has been involved in a car theft ring. He specialized at Magellan in restoration and appraisal of antique pottery.

6. Bayne Culley, a muscle man whose association with the others is unknown.

7. John Seymour, executive at Lockheed in Atlanta, who was involved in an unknown way, and was apparently the largest stockholder (of a total of 22) in Magellan.

8. Jerry Adams, private detective and possible wiretapper, sometimes operating as a TV-radio repairman. Formerly employed Jimmy Kempf, now deceased. Present employer of Buzz McQueen, a bill collector and "tail".

9. Ben Sutherland

10. FNU Nelson

11. FNU Sutton

D. Peripheral Matters Related to Magellan

At 3177 Peachtree Road N.E. there is a building which appears to have four establishments in it. They are: (a) Adams Associates, a private detective agency operated by Jerry Adams; (b) Atlantic Clearing Exchange, allegedly a clearing house for trading stamps; (c) E.E. Inc.; and (d) Answering Northside, which apparently purports to be an answering service but does not seem to be wired to conduct this business.

I have gone by there several times but never found anyone there when I knocked on the doors. They are all listed as having the same telephone number, which is also the telephone number which Magellan had when it was in operation.

When I was in Atlanta on August 11, 1970 I called that number (261-4184) and asked for "Gene". The person who answered, who may have been Jerry Adams' employee Buzz McQueen, said he had never heard of Gene. Then he called someone else to the phone who I think may have been Jerry Adams. I told this person that Gene Purcell had given me this number and told me he could always be reached there. I told him I wanted to "do some business" with Gene like I had in the past. He told me Gene was on the West Coast but would be back in about three weeks and would check in with him. I said I would call again.

E. Other Miscellaneous Information from Byron

1. Byron has identified a picture of the Mexican who resembles Raoul as being very like a person whom he saw at least once at Magellan, "except for the pock marks." I noted that Raoul has noticeable pock marks on his face, whereas there are none discernable in the Mexican's picture.

2. Byron has also identified a picture I showed him of Clay Shaw as a person whom he has seen at least once at Magellan.

3. Gene Purcell once told Byron he knew how to reactivate a deactivated machine gun.

4. Byron has seen, in addition to antique firearms, some seven to ten modern rifles at Magellan.

5. Gene had a room in the Magellan basement where he worked on guns.

6. Larry Meier's apartment on the second floor of Magellan was sometimes the scene of homosexual orgies. Byron has seen some Polaroid pictures reflecting this.

7. Purcell bought a new yellow streamlined deluxe Ford pickup truck in March, 1968, just before the meeting on 3/28. He also had a Firebird.

8. Byron saw a 24 carat emerald which Purcell may have smuggled into the United States when he went on a trip abroad with Clifford.

#### F. The Byron Burglary

On December 23, 1970, Byron Watson and two friends, Thad Barnes (19 years old) and Doug Hale (17 years old) drove from Atlanta to Columbus, Georgia. Byron's intention allegedly was to threaten Arnett with exposure of his smuggling and income tax evasion if he did not deliver certain antiques and art objects which Byron and his mother claim belong to Mrs. Watson. Allegedly, Byron and companions went to Arnett's mother's house, where they found no one at home; then to Arnett's house, where they found no one at home; then to Arnett's "Museum Shop." There they allegedly arrive about 1:30 p.m., found no one, but found the back door open. They apparently entered and removed some \$26,500.00 worth (Arnett's estimate) of art objects which they loaded into Thad's car. It is alleged that two little boys, aged 7-8, observed this and called Arnett's wife, Judy, who together with a neighbor called the police and went to the store with a gun. The police allegedly found Byron's pocket filled with Jade and other gems.



The three boys were allegedly charged with burglary; afforded a preliminary hearing on 12/24/70 which received extensive news coverage; and released on bail on 12/26/70.

Attorney Lynwood Maddox has allegedly had a falling-out with Mrs. Watson, no longer represents her in any connection, and refused to represent Byron in connection with this charge. Byron may be represented by Attorney Paul Killpatrick of Columbus, Georgia.

2/5/71

**Airtel**

**To: SACs, Atlanta (44-3386) (Enclosures 2)  
Memphis (44-1987) (Enclosures 2)**

**From: Director, FBI (44-38861)**

**MURKIN**

Enclosed for Atlanta and Memphis are two copies of a memorandum received from the Department as an enclosure to their memorandum, dated 2/1/71, which is not being forwarded with this communication.

Atlanta and Memphis check all names appearing in the memorandum with the exception of Mr. Queen, Monica Gallagher, Mr. Ken Smith, Bud Fensterwald, Senator Kennedy, Lynwood Maddox, Governor Maddox through your office indices and the records of local authorities.

Atlanta through discreet public sources check the existence of the companies mentioned in the Departmental memorandum.

According to Departmental memorandum it appears that Secret Service in Atlanta made an investigation concerning Byron Watson and Lillian Watson. Atlanta should determine if such an investigative report exists and if so if it can be obtained and forwarded to the Department for their information.

The above investigation must be conducted on a most discreet basis and no indication should be given that these inquiries are connected with the investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Atlanta and Memphis submit the information by LHM as this information will be disseminated to the Department. Handle this investigation on an expedited basis.

44-1987-Sub-M-770

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 8 1971	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*[Handwritten signature]*

Memphis, Tennessee  
February 10, 1971

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

The Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation is not in possession of any information identifiable with those persons listed below:

Ralph George Dickerson, also known as  
George Ralph Dickerson, "Raoul," "Rocky";

Becky Hart, also known as Becky Jones;

Martha Fulmer;

Byron Watson;

Gene Purcell, also known as  
Harold Eugene Purcell;

Larry Meier;

Bayne Cully, also known as Bayne Culley;

Lillian Watson;

William S. Arnett, also known as  
William S. Arnowich;

Jean Sayre, also known as Mrs. John Sayre;

William Moog;

William Thibodeaux;

John Seymour;

4 - Bureau  
① - Memphis (44-1987)  
JCH:jap  
(5)

*jap*

*44-1987-Sub-M-791*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
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FILED \_\_\_\_\_

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

Jerry Adams;

Ben Sutherland.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2\*

2/10/71

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)  
SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;  
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM;  
CR - CONSPIRACY  
  
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Enclosed for the Bureau are 4 copies of an LHM  
reflecting a search of indices of the Memphis Office.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)  
① - Memphis

JCH:jap  
(3)

*jap*

*J* 44-1987-Sub-M-142

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED *lll*  
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FILED *lll*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia

March 16, 1971

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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On December 3, 1968, Mrs. Jacquelyn Sasnin Parrish, 3449 Peachtree Road, N. E., Apartment Number 2, Atlanta, Georgia, advised she is a professional interior decorator and arrived in Atlanta, Georgia, from Louisville, Kentucky, on October 2, 1968, following marital difficulties with her husband in Louisville. She obtained employment at the Tudor House, 3340 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. When obtaining employment there as an interior decorator, she believed the business was owned by Jean and John Sayre, but ultimately learned it was owned by Harry Wingate. Mrs. Parrish was to act as an interior decorator consultant, but as of the date of the interview she had performed little or no work on a professional basis. She said the place is operated in a very slipshod manner and it is her opinion the business is a front for stolen goods and other illegal enterprises by Wingate and others.

Mrs. Parrish advised that when she arrived in Atlanta, she had, besides her personal car, a Pontiac Firebird and a Chevrolet Van truck. She was financing those cars in Louisville but after leaving Louisville was unable to keep up payments. She allowed Wingate to take over payments on the Pontiac and arranged to sell it to him. A Mrs. Mary Hall Singleton was going to buy the Chevrolet Van truck but withdrew her offer and Mrs. Parrish turned the Chevrolet also over to Wingate. She said Wingate had not transferred the cars in his name and she was not certain whether he was then making payments.

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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-M-723

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAR 22 1971	
FBI - ATLANTA	

glt

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mrs. Parrish stated she was confidentially advised by other employees of the company that the antiques and other goods stored at the Tudor House are stolen goods.

Mrs. Parrish stated Wingate has attempted to start an affair with her and has admitted he was involved in anything in which he can make a dollar. He also told her on one occasion that he had killed two men in the past but did not furnish any details.

Mrs. Parrish also advised Wingate was associated with an individual known to her as Harold Bloom. He arrives at the Tudor House periodically and is from the Tampa, Florida area. Mrs. Parrish advised the person she knew as Bloom was making "juice joints" in the basement of the Tudor House, which are described as electrical devices hidden under gaming tables to control the roll of dice.

Mrs. Parrish identified a photograph of Howard Carl Thurber as identical with the individual known to her as Harold Bloom. At that time Thurber was a fugitive on a Federal warrant charging unlawful flight to avoid prosecution-larceny of an automobile, which was outstanding in the Northern District of Florida. Thurber was arrested by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on December 10, 1968, in Atlanta, Georgia on the above Federal process.

As of December, 1968, Mrs. Parrish had moved back to Louisville, Kentucky, and advised the Louisville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that she was then residing at 3900 Spring Hill Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

A report of investigation by the United States Air Force, Office of Special Investigations, dated May 6, 1964, entitled, "William Sidney Arnowich, aka, William Sidney Arenowitch, AB, AF [REDACTED], Air Force Reserve, Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia", reflects Arnowich was born [REDACTED] at Columbus, Georgia. His home address was listed as 2104 Cherokee, Columbus, Georgia. He was described as a white male, five feet eight and one half inches tall, 165 pounds, brown eyes, and brown hair. His date of current enlistment was reflected as January 21, 1964, and he had been in the Air Force one month as of the time of investigation.

## ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Arnovich was then a member of the 918th Combat Support Squadron, Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia, which was called to active duty March 12, 1964, and directed to report to Lakland Air Force Base, Texas, for a course in basic training for a duration of eight weeks.

The request for investigation was based on information contained in a Statement of Personal History by Arnovich dated March 20, 1964, to the effect that in July, 1963, he visited East Germany, the Soviet controlled sector of Berlin, on pleasure trips and in September, 1963, he drove through Yugoslavia to look at historical and cultural points of interest.

On May 1, 1964, the aforementioned military form was reviewed and reflected that Arnovich has visited Mexico, Canada, England, Belgium, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Morocco, The Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, East and West Germany and Yugoslavia. Arnovich furnished a statement in which he stated he passed through East Germany twice by train but never left the train and stated that in September, 1963, he drove by car through Yugoslavia. He spent five days in that country and stayed with a Yugoslav family overnight. He stated most of his time in Yugoslavia was spent at historical and cultural points of interest, and he made no close friends while in Yugoslavia.

A source, another Government agency which conducts security and personnel investigations, advised on March 12, 1971, that on June 11, 1970, Robert Byron Watson, also known as Byron Watson, and his mother, Mrs. Lillian M. Watson, 764 Wildwood Road, Atlanta, Georgia, appeared at the Northwest Gate of the White House in Washington, D. C. and requested to see the President. They told guards and security personnel they had secret information to pass along concerning the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. They refused to divulge the names of alleged conspirators who they claimed they knew by name. They stated they would reveal that information only to the President in person. At that time they exhibited no hostilities and were released.



ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Byron Watson was described as born [redacted] [redacted] at Atlanta, Georgia, and claimed to be a student at North Fulton High School in Atlanta. He was described as five feet eleven inches tall, 150 pounds, with brown hair and brown eyes. He claimed to be a collector of rare coins. He stated he has a .38 caliber pistol in his home but claims he does not know how to use it and is not familiar with the use of explosives. He stated his deceased father, Robert W. Watson, was a deputy sheriff in Atlanta, Georgia, and was killed while transporting a prisoner on December 31, 1966.

At the time they appeared at the White House gate, they advised they felt the information they had to relate was so important they purchased \$150 round-trip tickets from Atlanta to relate the information to the President.

Byron Watson stated that one week before the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., he overheard plans being made for it in Atlanta by three men. He stated the discussion took place in a closed meeting at a place where he was then working. He stated he overheard one man say, "I am going to shoot that damn nigger bastard King in the head just like I did Kennedy." Another man in the meeting said, according to young Watson, "We will frame some jailbird like we did Oswald." He stated he and his mother discussed the meeting with attorney, Lynwood Maddox, Atlanta, Georgia. They later talked with Governor Lester Maddox and he told them the Federal Government would not be interested. The Watsons stated they would make the names of the participants in the meeting available only to the President and then would go to Salisbury, South Africa and stay with friends until the conspirators were apprehended. They stated the trip would cost approximately \$5,000 and indicated the mother has that amount of money. Mrs. Watson indicated they would reveal the names of the participants of the meeting if the Government would sign an agreement to reimburse them for leaving the country.

Mrs. Lillian Marshelle Watson is described as a white female, born [redacted], at Atlanta, Georgia. She is five feet four inches tall, 130 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Watsons were subsequently interviewed in June, 1970, in Atlanta, Georgia, and at that time named Gene Purcelle, Lawrence Meier and Bayne Culley as being involved in the conspiracy. During that interview, Mrs. Watson asked for the Government to reward her or agree to her protection. Byron Watson stated he heard the plot at the Magellan Art Gallery, 3100 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia, one week prior to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. He was then fourteen years old. There were about nine men in the room where the meeting occurred.

Investigation in June, 1970, reflected that contact was made with Byron Watson's school counselor who stated that Watson has a very vivid imagination and frequently gets many things out of proportion. Following the investigation, an evaluation was made that Byron and Lillian Watson are "crackpots" and the relationship between them appeared to be a typical situation of a mother's dominance over a son.

On June 24, 1970, Mrs. Lillian Watson wrote a letter to the President of the United States complaining of the treatment received by her and her son when they appeared at the White House as mentioned above. The letter consisted primarily of hinting for a reward to her and her son for their information.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Lawrence Walter Meier, Federal Bureau of Investigation Number 823 121 B, was arrested in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17, 1965, on a warrant and was turned over to the Fulton County Probation Office. He was also arrested January 20, 1955, on a charge of forgery and was released to Federal authorities on February 8, 1955. He was incarcerated in the Federal Correctional Institute at Ashland, Kentucky, February 9, 1955, on a charge of forgery of a United States Treasury check.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Bayne S. Culley, Jr. is a white male, 248 Springdale Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, born [redacted] in Fulton County, Georgia. He was arrested April 9, 1946, for carrying a pistol without a license and received twelve months probation.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

He was also arrested December 18, 1950, for violation of the State Motor Vehicle law and the case was placed on the dead docket (not prosecuted).

A review of Atlanta files contained no identifiable reference to:

Fruitjar  
Ralph George Dickerson  
George Ralph Dickerson  
Raoul  
Doc' Place  
Becky Hart  
Becky Jones  
Martha Fulmer  
Gene Purcell  
Harold Eugene Purcell  
Larry Meier  
Lawrence Meier  
Bayne Culley  
Jean Sayre  
John Sayre  
William Moog  
William Thibodeaux  
Blockade Runners  
Southeast Restoration Laboratories  
Par-Take-Of-Atlanta  
Tudor Fair  
John Seymour  
Jerry Adams  
Buzz McQueen  
Ben Sutherland  
Adams Associates  
Atlantic Clearing Exchange  
E. E., Inc.  
Answering Northside  
Clay Shaw  
Thad Barnes  
Doug Hale  
Judy Arnett  
Paul Killpatrick

3/16/71

**AIRTEL**

**AIR MAIL**

**TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)**  
**FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)**  
**SUBJECT: MURKIN**

Re Bureau airtel to Atlanta and Memphis,  
2/5/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM, captioned "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.", dated as above. Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

The source referred to in enclosed LHM is U. S. Secret Service, Atlanta. The information contained in the Secret Service reports pertaining to BYRON and LILLIAN WATSON was furnished by SA JOHN T. COOK.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)  
2 - Atlanta  
ORH:pab  
(6)

44-1987-Sub-171-774  
llh llh  
glt

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

MAR 25 1971

JL:MG:pg  
DJ 144-72-662

Jerris Leonard  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 16, 1971 at Atlanta and to previous communications in the captioned matter.

It appears that Robert Byron Watson (Byron Watson) may have information pertinent to the captioned matter. Please interview Byron Watson fully with respect to all details of this matter and with respect to his background, education, employment, criminal record if any, and any other matters which may cast light on the creditability of his statements in connection with the captioned matter.

If the statement furnished by Byron Watson is substantially similar to that attributed to him and his mother by your source (pp. 3-5 of your memorandum of 3/16) or to the statement attributed to him by Ken Smith (my memorandum of 2/1/71, pp. 5-8 of attachment), please provide full background information on Byron Watson and his parents, and, in addition, please conduct the investigation requested in paragraph III (4.) of my memorandum of February 1, 1971.

44-1987-Sub M-775

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>map</i>	FILED <i>ll</i>
MAR 23 1971	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *qst*

March 29, 1971

Airtel

To: SAC, Atlanta (44-3386)  
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Enclosed for Atlanta are two copies of a Departmental memorandum dated March 25, 1971. Two copies of the Departmental memorandum are enclosed for the information of Memphis.

Atlanta will immediately locate and interview Robert Bryon Watson in accordance with Departmental memorandum. In addition, Atlanta will interview Lillian Watson, mother of Robert Bryon Watson, for any additional information she may possess. These interviews must be in depth and resolve all aspects of issues involved.

As stated in the Departmental memorandum, if the statements furnished by Robert Bryon Watson during the interview are substantially similar to that attributed to him by prior memorandum, you should conduct the investigation as requested by the Departmental memorandum of February 1, 1971, paragraph III, Item 4. This memorandum was enclosed to Bureau airtel of February 5, 1971.

Conduct the requested investigation and submit LHM to the Bureau within seven days of receipt of this communication.

Enclosures (2)

② - Memphis (44-1987) (For info) (Encs. 2) *me*

44-1987-Sub M-776

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 31 1971	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Hester* *gld*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
 FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

April 7, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to  
 File No.

ASSASSINATION OF  
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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Reference is made to Atlanta memorandum dated  
 March 16, 1971.

On April 7, 1971, Robert Byron Watson was inter-  
 viewed at his residence, 764 Wildwood Road, Atlanta. Watson  
 was referred to the information he had previously furnished  
 concerning his overhearing several individuals discussing  
 the assassination of King and the assassination of Kennedy.  
 Watson stated that the information was untrue. He stated  
 that William S. Arnett, who worked at the Magellan Art  
 Gallery in Atlanta, had defrauded his mother out of \$50,000.  
 He stated she has not gotten any of her money back from  
 Arnett and he has not furnished her art objects which she paid  
 him for. Watson stated he believed that Gene Purcell, Larry  
 Mier and Bane Culley, whom he identified as persons present  
 when the remarks about the assassination were made, had  
 conspired with Arnett in defrauding his mother. He stated  
 he felt that by telling this story he would receive a reward  
 and his mother would thus be partially reimbursed.

Watson further noted that on December 22, 1970,  
 he was arrested by the police department in Columbus, Georgia  
 for burglary. He is presently out on \$5,000 bond. He stated  
 that he went to Columbus in order to obtain some art objects  
 in the possession of William S. Arnett which rightfully  
 belonged to his mother. He entered a shop owned by Arnett

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions  
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 outside your agency.

44-1987-Sub-M-777

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SERIALIZED <i>llh</i>	FILED <i>llh</i>
APR 10 1971	
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*Hester* *llh*

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

and was arrested while removing objects from the shop. He stated that after he was arrested he told his mother that the story about the alleged assassination plot was untrue and the reason that he had made it up.

On April 7, 1971, Mrs. Lillian Watson, mother of Robert Byron Watson, advised that Byron told her after his arrest that the story concerning the alleged assassination plot was untrue and that he told the story in order to get a reward and reimburse her for losses she incurred in connection with business dealings with William Arnett. She stated that she has retained attorney Frank Blankenship, who is Legal Aide to Lieutenant Governor Lester Maddox, to assist her in her suit against Arnett. He stated that after Byron told her the information he furnished was untrue she has not contacted any individual or organization she formerly furnished information to advise them that the information was not correct.



4/7/71

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Atlanta, 3/29/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM; two copies of said LHM are being submitted to Memphis, which is office of origin.

In view of the information furnished by ROBERT BYRON WATSON indicating that the information previously furnished by him was not true, UACB no further investigation is being conducted by Atlanta.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM) ml  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)  
2 - Atlanta  
CSH:pab  
(6)

44-1987-Sub-M-778

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# Escape Attempt By James Earl Ray Foiled At Petros

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

James Earl Ray, convicted of killing Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis in April, 1968, broke out of his cell at Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros during the night.

But he was recaptured in the yard of the maximum security

prison as he looked for a way to get over the prison wall.

The escape attempt was confirmed early this afternoon by Mark Luttrell, State Corrections Commissioner in Nashville, after he was asked about unofficial reports of the escape attempt.

Luttrell credited Prison Warden Robert Moore with foiling Ray's escape.

Luttrell said Moore heard a noise in the prison about 3 a.m. and ordered guards to check Ray's cell first.

There, they said, they noticed what appeared to be a man asleep in a bunk, but further examination showed that Ray had somehow come upon a wig and put it atop a roll of blankets in the bunk.

Guards discovered that Ray had chipped through concrete in his cell and sawed through bars to gain access to a heating vent.

Luttrell quoted Moore as saying Ray slipped outside

through the heating vent and into the compound.

Luttrell said Ray was recaptured within 25 minutes after the disturbance in or near Ray's cell was first noticed by the guards.

Ray pled guilty March 10, 1969, to the sniper slaying of King in Memphis on April 4, 1968. He entered the state penitentiary in Nashville the next day and was transferred a year ago to the East Tennessee prison at Petros. At that time Brushy Mountain became the state's maximum security prison under a reclassification of the Tennessee prison system.

Ray has sought several times to get a new trial in the King slaying, each time on grounds that he was pressured into the plea by his attorney. Each time he has lost, the latest turndown coming in Memphis Feb. 27.

No announcement of the incident was made. Confirmation (Continued on Page 11 No. 13)



RAY

— From Page One

came only after unofficial reports. An anonymous caller said that prison officials were trying to keep the incident "secret" but that he (the caller) felt the public had a right to know about it.

The unidentified caller's information was promptly confirmed by the state corrections commissioner, however.

The unofficial report was that Ray was acting as a janitor at the time the attempted escape was tried. Some new inmates were being transferred in from county jails and Ray is reported to have "traded them out of some street clothes," which he apparently then donned before attempting the break-out.

According to these reports another life term prisoner was helping Ray with his escape attempt.

Both are today said to be confined in maximum security within the prison.

In late March, during a "Press Day" tour at the prison, Ray granted an exclusive interview to Willard Yarbrough, of The Knoxville News-Sentinel. At that time he had been described by prison officials as a model prisoner.

Front Page

The Oak Ridger

Oak Ridge

Tennessee

Date: May 3, 1971

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

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

Character: CR - CONSPIRACY;  
or UFAC-ROBBERY

Classification:

Submitting Office: Knoxville

Being Investigated

Bufile 44-38861

44-1987-Sub M 779

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