

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

5/6/71

SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)

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

Enclosed is a clipping from The Oak Ridger newspaper dated 5/3/71, relating an escape attempt by subject.

Subsequent to the publication of this article, contact was made with Warden R. H. MOORE, Brushy Mountain Prison, at which time he furnished the following information:

Warden MOORE stated that he had received information from inside the prison that RAY was going to attempt to escape after "he got a visit". Warden MOORE speculated that "visit" was a code word for outcome of appeal, which appeal was turned down. MOORE advised that RAY attempted his escape as described in the newspaper article taken from The Oak Ridger, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, dated 5/3/71, and that he was accompanied by another inmate by the name of MORELOCK. MOORE stated that MORELOCK had been assigned to inside plumbing, knew the tunnel work and also had access to tools which probably accounted for RAY's choice of MORELOCK as an escape companion.

Warden MOORE was specifically questioned as to whether any outside help had been utilized in attempting to perpetrate RAY's escape and as to the identity of this outside help, if any. He advised that JAMES EARL RAY's brother, name unknown, who was believed to be staying with RAY's lawyer, a Mr. STONE, appeared at Brushy Mountain Prison around 2:00 PM, 5/3/71, and requested to visit RAY. He was questioned by the warden as to why he had happened to be at

2 - Bureau (Enc.)
② - Memphis (Enc.)
1 - Knoxville
WFE:at
(5)

44-1987-Sub M 780

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1971	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

KX 44-696

the prison on that date and he replied that STONE had gone to Florida and he decided to visit his brother. After the story of RAY's attempted escape was released to the press and became public, RAY's brother was advised that RAY could not receive visitors.

It is Warden MOORE's theory, although he cannot substantiate it, that RAY's brother was aware of the escape plan well in advance of the attempt and that he was in the area to pick up RAY once he made good his escape.

Foregoing furnished as of possible interest to the Bureau and OO.

AMERICAN BANK & TRUST

ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA 29115

W. HERSHEL CAVER
TRUST OFFICER

October 7, 1971

Mr. Clifton O. Halter
Assistant Special Agent in Charge
FBI
841 Clifford Davis Federal Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

Dear Clif:

RE: James Earl Ray Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution--Murder;
Martin Luther King--Victim

What I am about to disclose for your information and such official use which the Bureau may decide is something that may already be known to the Memphis Division and/or the Bureau; but I feel constrained to supply this data inasmuch as it may be in some manner helpful to the complete solution of this case which I feel, based on press accounts, has not yet been completely solved due mainly, in my opinion, to the rather obvious conclusion that James Earl Ray did not have the mental capacity to plan and execute this murder and then make his getaway via Canada under devious circumstances. However, this is enough as far as my personal opinion is concerned and I do not presume to inject or substitute my opinion for the real facts known to the FBI.

On Saturday, October 2, 1971, while attending the X-FBI Agents Annual Convention in Atlanta, I flew on Delta Airlines from Atlanta to Memphis to meet with my sister and brothers for a family conference. I do not remember my flight number, but it departed Atlanta at 12:05 P. M. and landed in Memphis exactly one hour later. During the course of this flight, I sat by a man to whom I introduced myself for conversational purposes and learned his name was Oscar Middlebrook, 889 Mosby, Memphis Tennessee, 38105. Mr. Middlebrook is of the Negro race.

The "cab driver" probably refers to Solomon Jones who was the driver for King. There is nothing to link Jones with Ray and no reason to believe King was "set up" by Jones. King's appearance at that time was logical and expected and shows no evidence of a "set up". No further action believed to be necessary.

44-1987-Sub M 780A
my my

PH

Mr. Clifton O. Halter

October 7, 1971

Page 2

Mr. Middlebrook was an extremely intelligent person and advised me that he was 69 years of age and a retired employee of the City Government of Memphis. I did not ask in what capacity he had been employed, but he said that he had served, as I best recall, 32 years before retiring. He also advised me that he was returning to his home in Memphis after a visit with his daughter who resides in Miami, Florida. After talking to Mr. Middlebrook for approximately 30 minutes, it became apparent to me that he was not only a very intelligent man but extremely perceptive and possessed of good judgment. During this time we discussed some of the nation's problems and, more particularly, racial matters, during which time Mr. Middlebrook made the observation that there were "Niggers" and Negroes among the black race. He explained that by the "Niggers" he meant the "no-good" blacks who did not want to work for a living, and included in that group were those blacks who wanted to stir racial strife in every area of the nation. This gave me an opportunity to ask Mr. Middlebrook as to how the late Martin Luther King was regarded among the Negroes of Memphis, and he replied that the late Martin Luther King was one of those men who "talked out of both sides of his mouth" and did whatever necessary to advance his own image in the USA and abroad. We then discussed to some extent King's murder, and Mr. Middlebrook made the observation that James Earl Ray was part of what he felt was a rather broad conspiracy of people involved in this murder which included at least one member of the Negro race. He continued by saying that a Negro taxi cab driver in Memphis, whom he declined to identify, had "set up" King for the actual shooting in the following manner. King had been in the edge of his room at a door leading to a small balcony and the unidentified Negro taxi cab driver had called him from the ground level of the motel or building in which King was located and got King out on the balcony and had told him, as an excuse for the conversation, "Be sure and wear your coat. It's going to be cold tonight.", and approximately at the end of this statement by the unidentified Negro taxi cab driver, King was hit by the bullet fired by James Earl Ray. Thereafter, the unidentified Negro taxi cab driver so as not to draw any attention to himself and the part he played in "setting up" Martin Luther King continued

Mr. Clifton O. Halter
October 7, 1971
Page 3

to live in Memphis for approximately 30 days, then left and was gone from Memphis until several months ago when he returned and either died or was killed under somewhat mysterious circumstances which indicated to Mr. Middlebrook that the conspirators involved in the King murder had "gotten this man out of the way" so he could never make any disclosures to the FBI or other authorities regarding his part in the murder and the overall conspiracy leading to King's death.

I spent several minutes trying to convince Mr. Middlebrook that he should come to the FBI office or arrange for a rendezvous with some Memphis agent of the FBI knowledgeable about the King murder inasmuch as it was possible that the information he had could be important in this case. Mr. Middlebrook, however, said that he did not want to talk to the FBI because he feared for the safety of himself and his wife if it should accidentally become known to members of his race that he was furnishing information to the FBI. I did everything possible to convince him of the complete confidentiality of any relationship he might arrange with the FBI but he was adamant in this regard.

As stated before, the above information may already be known to the Bureau and it may be a figment of Mr. Middlebrook's imagination, but I do not believe so and would stake my judgment of human beings on the fact that he is completely convinced of the correctness of the information he disclosed to me.

I sincerely hope that the above may be of some help to the Bureau in the captioned matter.

Inasmuch as I was very much impressed with the intelligence and affability of Mr. Middlebrook, I promised to write him, and a copy of my letter to him is attached. Should it become necessary

Mr. Clifton O. Halter
October 7, 1971
Page 4

at some future time to establish a relationship between the Bureau and Mr. Middlebrook to more fully explore the potential of his story, I would be happy to act as a go-between with him, and the letter will serve as evidence of my sincerity in Mr. Middlebrook's mind.

With highest personal regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Hershel Caver". The signature is written in dark ink and has a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

W. Hershel Caver

hll
Enclosure

11/9/71

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, DALLAS
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P*)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

A private investigator at Memphis, Tenn., has filed suit in the U. S. District Court against the District Attorney General at Memphis, Tenn., seeking to obtain possession of the rifle used by JAMES EARL RAY in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. This case has recently been heard in the U. S. District Court with the judge ruling in favor of the District Attorney General; however, it is anticipated that an appeal will be filed in the Sixth Circuit at Cincinnati, Ohio.

The District Attorney General's Office believes there was a similar suit and appeal concerning the rifle used by LEE HARVEY OSWALD in the murder of President JOHN F. KENNEDY and they desire to know the citation of such appeal.

LEADS:

THE DALLAS DIVISION

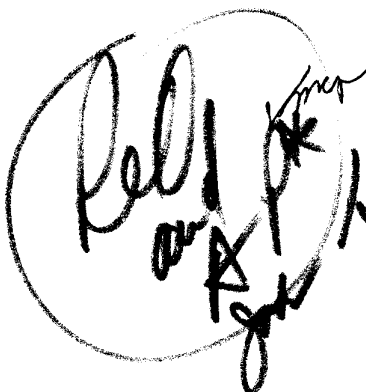
AT DALLAS, TEXAS

1) Will promptly advise Memphis whether or not a suit was filed against the Government to obtain the rifle used by LEE HARVEY OSWALD and the outcome of this case.

2) Will furnish the citation of any appellate ruling in connection with the OSWALD murder weapon.

2 - Dallas
① - Memphis

JCH:cjs
(3)



Hester

44-1987-Sub M 781

F B I

Date: 11/16/71

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC DALLAS (44-2649)(RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel to Dallas, 11/9/71.

On 10/30/67 JOHN J. KING, a wealthy Denver oil man, and MARINA OSWALD PORTER, wife of LEE HARVEY OSWALD, instituted actions against the United States under public law 89-318 which vested title to the Warren Commission exhibits in the United States and permitted claims for just compensation to be filed against the United States. The specific civil actions are identified as follows:

"JOHN J. KING v. NICHOLAS deB. KATZENBACH (U.S.D.C. Colo., Civil Action No. 9168)
JOHN J. KING v. United States of America (U.S.D.C. Colo., Civil Action No. 67-C-518)
MARINA N. OSWALD PORTER, et al. v. United States (U.S.D.C. N.D. Tex., Civil Action No. CA-3-2282, Dallas Div.)"

The two above cited cases involving KING relate to the assassination rifle used by LEE HARVEY OSWALD and the murder revolver used by him in the killing of the Dallas police officer. The MARINA OSWALD PORTER civil action involves personal property of LEE HARVEY OSWALD which was seized. The two civil actions involving KING were handled by Departmental Attorney WILLIAM A. GERSHUNY and the MARINA OSWALD PORTER civil action was handled by Departmental Attorney ERWIN GOLDBLOOM of the General Litigation

② - Memphis
1 - Dallas
RPG:jls
(3)

*Gene Seering
advised 11/24/71
RHS*

44-1987-Sub M782

*map map
Jester jls*

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

DL 44-2649

Section of the U. S. Department of Justice.

The final outcome of these cases is unknown to the Dallas Office and it is not known if there has been any appellate ruling in connection with any of these cases. It would appear that Memphis could obtain such information through the Bureau who has had close liaison with the above named Departmental Attorneys or have the District Attorney General's Office at Memphis, Tennessee, communicate directly with such Departmental Attorneys.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama
November 24, 1971

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

Included in this memorandum is a recent
news release from a daily Birmingham newspaper.

44-1987 Sub M 783

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
NOV 26 1971	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Zester | *mp*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Charged with conspiracy**Old Galt warrant
may be dismissed**

A warrant for the arrest of Eric Starvo Galt (James Earl Ray) issued in Birmingham April 17, 1968, on a conspiracy charge that has been gathering dust in the office of the U. S. marshal here is being considered for dismissal.

A request for dismissal has been received from Bernard Fensterwald Jr., a Washington attorney representing Ray, who is in prison at Brushy Mountain, Tenn., for the fatal shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Monday, U. S. Magistrate R. Macey Taylor notified U. S. Atty. Waymond Sherrer of the request, asking for a response from the Justice

Department in Washington, within 10 days. After 10 days, Taylor could make a recommendation to U. S. District Judge C. W. Allgood to grant the dismissal and quash the warrant or to set a hearing on the charges, brought by the FBI.

The motion asked for dismissal of the conspiracy charge or for a speedy trial.

According to the warrant of April 17, 1968, Galt and another individual he claimed to be his brother entered into a conspiracy on March 29, 1968. The rifle with which King was shot in April in Memphis was bought by Galt, later identified as Ray, in Birmingham March 30, 1968, it was reported.

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

Page 6 The Birmingham Post Herald

Birmingham, Ala.

Date: 11-23-71

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Duard Legrand

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Birmingham

 Being Investigated

F B I

Date: **11/24/71**

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

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

From: SAC, Birmingham CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
(44-1740) (RUC) GENERAL INVEST. DIV.
Subject: **MURKIN** DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.

- CR EL DIH CRA-64
- PA PE PF E
- EID Bomb Threats Extremist Matters
- White Hate Black

Summary of Complaint:

Attached are three copies of LHM for the Bureau and one copy for Memphis.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1) *BM*
- 1 - Birmingham
- HAS:mfl
- (4)

ACTION: UACB:

- No further action being taken and
- LHM enclosed Copy furnished to USA _____
- FD-376 (enclosure to LHM)
- LHM being submitted
- Report being submitted
- Preliminary investigation instituted
- Limited investigation instituted

*R/S
8/13
4*

44-1987 Sub M784
 SERIALIZED *map*
 NOV 26 1971
 FBI - MEMPHIS
Feater

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/23/72

1.

Date of transcription

Mrs. EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO, 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, telephone 667-4793, was interviewed at her residence by SA LEON E. FISH of the Miami Office of the FBI, and at the outset of the interview Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO was advised that she was being interviewed in connection with a complaint regarding the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, which complaint she had furnished to the City of Coral Gables Police Department on August 3, 1972. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO declined to furnish a signed statement but stated she would willingly discuss the matter with the interviewing agent.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO advised that sometime between July 28 and August 1, 1972, at approximately 4:15 p.m., she left her residence and headed north on Lajeune Road to do some shopping. As she approached the corner of University Drive at a stoplight, she observed a Negro female standing near a bus stop heavily laden with packages and perspiring heavily. She stated that she could tell that the Negro female was exhausted. At that moment, the Negro female walked over to her car to an open window and asked Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO for a ride and where she was going. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO told her that she was going to 27th Avenue and Flagler Street and allowed the Negro female to get in.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO described this Negro female as being approximately 45-50 years of age, approximately 5'5" tall, weighing 170 pounds, medium black complexion, large lips, and possibly a maid by profession.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO stated that as the two of them began to talk, the Negro female stated that white people were not always good to black people. However, the Negro female stated that in her opinion there were many good white people. Her conversation led to the accused killer of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JAMES EARL RAY. She described RAY as being not guilty. She stated that everyone in the Negro neighborhood knew that RAY did not kill Dr. KING. She advised that she knew a boy who was in jail who had been given \$5,000 by CORETTA KING, the wife of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, and instructed him to arrange for the assassination of her husband.

Interviewed on 8/22/72 at Coral Gables, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SA LEON E. FISH :apj Date dictated 8/23/72

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.

According to the Negro female, the boy was known both by Dr. KING and his wife. The boy allegedly killed KING and then gave the gun to RAY and asked him to say that he had killed Dr. KING. According to the Negro female, CORETTA KING had a "lover", named DEE or LEE, a married man who could not or would not divorce his wife to marry CORETTA KING.

ABBONDANDOLO stated that she asked this Negro female why she did not go to the police or the FBI and give them this information and the Negro female stated that she was afraid to talk about it and if she did she would be killed. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO stated that soon they reached 27th Avenue and Flagler Street and she dropped the Negro female off at that point and went on her way. ABBONDANDOLO stated that she has no way of determining the woman's name, nor has she seen her again since that date, nor does she know where the woman might reside.

ABBONDANDOLO is described as follows:

Name:	EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO
Sex:	Female
Race:	White
Date of Birth:	<input type="text"/>
Place of Birth:	Paolisi, Italy
Height:	5'4½"
Weight:	138 pounds
Hair:	Reddish
Eyes:	Blue
Marital Status:	Widow
Husband:	RENDO ABBONDANDOLO, deceased doctor of law, real estate broker

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/22/72

Officer MICHAEL GLASHEEN was interviewed at the Coral Gables Pistol Range Clubhouse located at Coral Way and S.W. 73rd Avenue and at the outset of the interview, Officer GLASHEEN was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent. He was advised that he was being interviewed in connection with a complaint he had taken on August 3, 1972 from a Mrs. EMILIA D. ABBONDANDOLO of 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, regarding the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Officer GLASHEEN declined to furnish a signed statement but indicated he would willingly discuss the matter with the interviewing Agent.

GLASHEEN stated that Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO is an elderly woman estimated to be in her 70s. He described her as rather feeble minded and "hungry for attention". He stated that to the best of his knowledge she has called the FBI and the Secret Service on matters before.

GLASHEEN stated that on August 3, 1972, at approximately 2:37 p.m. he answered a call over his car radio to respond to 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, to interview a woman regarding information she had concerning the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Upon arriving at Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO's residence, he was told by her that approximately July 28, 1972, a Friday, she was in the downtown Miami, Florida, area, possibly near S.W. 8th Street or Flagler Street and she offered a Negro female who was standing at a bus stop a ride to the downtown Miami, Florida area. While riding together the two of them talked about matters such as crime in the streets and the Negro woman allegedly then told Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO that she knew something that all colored people knew but were afraid to tell the police. According to the Negro female, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's wife, CORETTA KING, had a boyfriend and she gave this boyfriend \$5,000 to see that her husband was killed. According to the Negro female, as related by Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO, the boyfriend contacted someone in a bar and a "hit" was set up on Dr. KING. According to the story, Mrs. CORETTA KING was in love with her boyfriend and wanted her husband out of the way.

On 8/21/72 at Coral Gables, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SA LEON E. FISH:bja

Date dictated 8/22/72

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.

Officer GLASHEEN stated that from the information he received, this boyfriend of CORETTA KING's was allegedly somewhere in jail in the State of Florida at the present time.

GLASHEEN stated that to the best of his knowledge and in his opinion, even though Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO might be feeble she did not make the story up, but actually received said information from the person she picked up.

GLASHEEN stated that ABBONDANDOLO had described this Negro female as approximately 45 years of age, 5'2" in height, weighing 145 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He stated that he could furnish no further information than this.

The following descriptive data regarding Officer GLASHEEN was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	MICHAEL (No Middle Name) GLASHEEN
Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Date of birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of birth	White Plains, New York
Height	6'
Weight	165 pounds
Marital status	Divorced
Years with Coral Gables Police Department	Six
Scars	Gun shot wound on right knee

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 8/28/72

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (RUC)

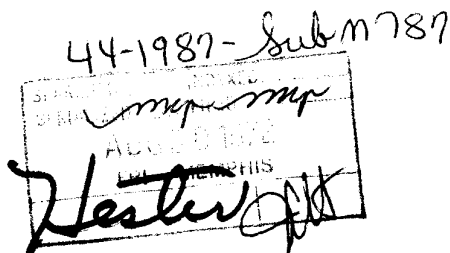
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis, the Office of Origin in this matter, is one copy each of two FD-302s reflecting investigation conducted by the Miami Division on 8/21/72 and 8/22/72, which relate to this matter.

On 8/7/72, the City of Coral Gables, Florida, made available to the Miami Office of the FBI a complaint report in which on 8/3/72, an officer from that Police Department had taken a complaint from a resident of Coral Gables, Florida, in which the resident stated that on or around 7/28/72, she had picked up an unknown Negro female near a bus stop and had driven her to the downtown Miami, Florida, area. En route, the Negro female advised that the wife of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, CORETTA KING, had paid an unknown Negro male \$5,000 to have her husband killed. According to this unknown Negro female, all Negroes knew this fact, but were afraid to tell the police.

A review of the Miami indices fails to reflect any identifiable information with the complainant in this matter, a resident of Coral Gables, Florida, Mrs. EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (Info) *sk*
1 - Miami
LEF:nlm
(4)



8/31/72

Airtel

TO: ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Miami airtel to Bureau, 8/28/72.

Inasmuch as JAMES EARL RAY is now serving a 99 year sentence following a plea of guilty to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, and since the information contained in referenced letter appears to have no basis and fact, no action is being taken by the Memphis Office.

2 - Bureau
1 - Miami (44-1854)
2 - Memphis

JCH:jlj

(5) *jlj*

men

men

men

44-1987-Sub M 788

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 12/26/72

FROM : *[Signature]* SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

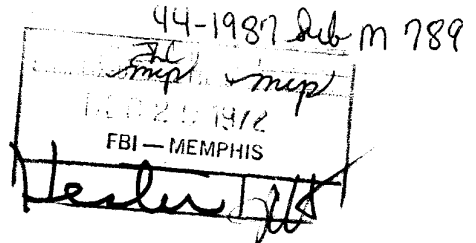
On 12/24/72, at approximately 9:34 AM, the Chattanooga, Tennessee, telephone security operator telephonically advised the Security Patrol Clerk RONALD CRUM of the Knoxville Office that one of the Chattanooga telephone operators had on that date received a call from Tulsa, Oklahoma, from an unknown person. The person calling stated that a Dr. W. R. REID (phonetic) of Tulsa, Oklahoma, knew all about Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING'S death and stated that it would be worth while to notify the FBI and have it investigated. No reason was given by the caller for not contacting the FBI directly.

This is furnished for possible information.

W.R. Reid 80-12-3138 1/1954?

- ② - Memphis
- 1 - Oklahoma City
- 1 - Knoxville

WFE/wsw
(4)



5010-108

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

LLOYD A. RHODES
DEPUTY ASSISTANT

WILLIAM D. HAYNES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

JOHN L. CARLISLE
E. L. HUTCHINSON, JR.
CLYDE R. VENSON
CARROLL G. MANNON
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

NON SUPPORT DIVISION
EARL E. FITZPATRICK
ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL
H. J. BEACH
INVESTIGATOR
PHONE 534-9250

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
PHONE 901-534-9251

July 7, 1972

ASSISTANTS

EWELL C. RICHARDSON
JEWETT H. MILLER
J. CLYDE MASON
LEONARD T. LAFFERTY
ARTHUR T. BENNETT
DON D. STROTHER
DON A. DINO
JOSEPH L. PATTERSON
EUGENE C. GAERIG
HARVEY HERRIN
JOHN W. PIEROTTI
JAMES G. HALL
JAMES H. ALLEN
THOMAS F. GRAVES
T. E. CRAWFORD
RAYMOND S. CLIFT
DON F. YOUNG
LELAND M. MCNABB
WAYNE EMMONS
MICHAEL W. HUGHES
ALAN E. GLENN

A. T. McHaffie, Superintendent
Assistant Officer in Charge
Criminal Investigation Branch
Royal Canadian Mounted Police
Ottawa 7, Canada

RE: Your No. 68HQ-791-Q-60 (V 6)

Dear Superintendent McHaffie:

In reference to your letters of June 28, and April 28, 1972, this is to advise that while the Supreme Court of the State of Tennessee has affirmed the conviction and guilty plea of James Earl Ray, it is our understanding from the defense attorneys that they intend now to file further proceedings in the Federal Court system. We should know something on this within the next six (6) months.

We should like to prevail on your good offices and continued cooperation in this matter to preserve the evidence in this matter until it is finally terminated.

Thank you again for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

J. Clyde Mason (sd)

J. CLYDE MASON
ASSISTANT DISTRICT
ATTORNEY GENERAL

JCM/sd

44-1987-Sub M 790

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 20 1973	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

[Handwritten signatures and initials over the stamp]

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
EXHIBIT REPORT

RCMP FILE REFERENCES 63 C 190-19	DIV. C	SUB-DIV. Montreal C.I.B.	DATE 24-1-68
63 CIG 790-107	DET. Montreal C.I.S.	EX-REPORT NO. 37	PAGE 2
RE: Dr. Martin Luther KING - Murder of: ASSISTANCE TO F.B.I.			
I, <u>Cst. G.W.J. Housseau</u> CAME INTO POSSESSION OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED GOODS ON <u>18 APR 68</u> AT <u>Point Neuf, Quebec</u> BY <u>having same</u> <u>voluntarily handed over by the owner of Barkay Apts., 2589 Notre</u> <u>Dame West, Montreal, Quebec, one Harry Rothman.</u>			

EXHIBITS LISTED BELOW ARE TO BE GIVEN ITEM NUMBERS IN CONSECUTIVE ORDER

EXHIBIT ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	RECIPIENT SIGNATURE AND DATE	WITNESS INITIALS
1	1 Lease, duly signed by Rothman and Galt, dated the 19 JUL 67 Cst. (G.W.J. Housseau) 22370. Mtl. C.I.B. G.I.S.		

44-1987 Sub M 791

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 20 1973	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
EXHIBIT REPORT

RCMP FILE REFERENCES 6884-771-1-60 688-170-19	DIV. MTL	SUB-DIV.	DATE 10 JUN 68
68813-750-107	DET. Montreal CIB-G14	EX. REPORT No. 68/41	PAGE 1
RE: Dr. Martin Luther KING - Murder of Assistance to F.B.I.			
R.P.T. PORTER, Corporal			
CAME INTO POSSESSION OF THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED GOODS ON 15 JUN 68 AT Montreal, Q13980 BY obtaining same through investigation and holding same for investigation and evidence purposes.			

EXHIBITS LISTED BELOW ARE TO BE GIVEN ITEM NUMBERS IN CONSECUTIVE ORDER

EXHIBIT ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	RECIPIENT SIGNATURE AND DATE	WITNESS INITIALS
#1	Sample of material for Order #11526		
#2	Order and Measurements #1-11526		
#3	Receipt #320422 for Order #11526, with sample of material attached.		
#4	Store Record for order #11526		
#5	Letter received from GALT, dated the 9-6-67		
#6	Canadian Postal Receipt dated SEP 9-67 for Order #11526.		
#7	A Canada Justice Court-Entry Form, Form 3522 for Order #11526.		
#8	Label from the BIRCH AND SUTTON WOOLLEN CO. L.C.		
#9	Sales slip #SB-239778, dated the 19-7-67		

CERTIFIED CORRECT:

Cpl.
(R.P.T. PORTER) 1/4/68
Montreal C.I.B. - 11

NOTE: Above items
are held in Mtl GI
Section strong box
pending further investigations.

PLEASE ADDRESS
CORRESPONDENCE TO:

THE COMMISSIONER
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2



HEADQUARTERS
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

PRIÈRE D'ADRESSER LES
LETTRES COMME SUIT:

LE COMMISSAIRE
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2

YOUR NO.
VOTRE NO.

OUR NO. 68HQ-791-Q-60
NOTRE NO.

February 8, 1973.

Mr. Moss Lee Innes,
c/o United States Embassy,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Re: Martin Luther KING

On 23 OCT 68, exhibits, as shown on the attached forms C-246 (Exhibit Reports #68/37 and 68/41) were handed to you for furtherance to your office in Memphis, Tennessee and were presumably entered into evidence at the trial of James Earl RAY.

It was requested that the exhibits be returned after their purpose was served, and our office in Montreal have been keeping their file open for this reason.

Additionally, our Toronto office has been holding exhibits since 1968. These exhibits are as listed on the attached letter dated 21 APR 70 to Mr. Clyde Mason, Assistant District Attorney General, Memphis, Tennessee.

The latest communication we have from Mr. Mason is a letter dated 7 JUL 72 (copy attached) which you will find self-explanatory. Please note that this letter appears to deal only with the exhibits we are holding at Toronto, and does not make any reference to the exhibits seized in Montreal which your office took possession of.

It would be appreciated if the Bureau could make enquiries with Justice officials in Memphis, Tennessee to determine:

- (a) if the Montreal exhibits sent to them through the F.B.I. are available for return, and
- (b) whether the exhibits being held by our Toronto office can now be disposed of,

W.J. Halloran, Insp.,
Officer in Charge,
General Investigation Branch.

Attach. ✓
c.c. CO's "C" and "O" DIVISIONS
68C-790-19; 68-0-790-205

44-1987-Sub M 792

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 20 1973	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Jester

PLEASE ADDRESS
CORRESPONDENCE TO:

THE COMMISSIONER
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2



HEADQUARTERS
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

PRIÈRE D'ADRESSER LES
LETTRES COMME SUIT:

LE COMMISSAIRE
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA
OTTAWA, CANADA
K1A 0R2

YOUR NO.
VOTRE N°

OUR NO. 68HQ-791-Q-60
NOTRE N°

February 8, 1973.

Mr. Moss Lee Innes,
c/o United States Embassy,
OTTAWA, Ontario.

Re: Martin Luther KING

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It was requested that the exhibits be returned after their purpose was served, and our office in Montreal have been keeping their file open for this reason.

Additionally, our Toronto office has been holding exhibits since 1968. These exhibits are as listed on the attached letter dated 21 APR 70 to Mr. Clyde Mason, Assistant District Attorney General, Memphis, Tennessee.

The latest communication we have from Mr. Mason is a letter dated 7 JUL 72 (copy attached) which you will find self-explanatory. Please note that this letter appears to deal only with the exhibits we are holding at Toronto, and does not make any reference to the exhibits seized in Montreal which your office took possession of.

It would be appreciated if the Bureau could make enquiries with Justice officials in Memphis, Tennessee to determine:

- (a) if the Montreal exhibits sent to them through the F.B.I. are available for return, and
- (b) whether the exhibits being held by our Toronto office can now be disposed of.

W.J. Halloran, Insp.,
Officer in Charge,
General Investigation Branch.

Attach.
c.c. CO's "C" and "O" DIVISIONS
68C-790-19; 68-0-790-205

44-1987 Sub M 793

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>mm</i>	FILED <i>mm</i>
FEB 20 1973	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Stater</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

April 21, 1970.

Mr. J. Clyde Mason,
Assistant Attorney General,
Shelby County Office Building,
157 Poplar Avenue,
Memphis, Tenn, 38103,
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

While assisting in the investigation of the murder of Martin Luther King, this Force came into possession of the following exhibits:-

On June 3, 1968, from Mrs. Loo, at 962 Dundas Street, West Toronto:-

- 1) One blue vinyl flight bag, dark blue in colour
- 2) One metal strong box, grey in colour
- 3) Six rolls of "Super 8" Kodachrome II Colour Movie film cartridges
- 4) One jar of Stein's Cold Cream, 8 oz. size.
- 5) One bottle of Lepage's Mucilage
- 6) Ten Band-Aids
- 7) Two identical keys for strong box
- 8) One street Map for City of Montreal, Que.
- 9) One map of Canada and the Northern United States
- 10) One Nights combination street map and directory for the City of Toronto

44-1987 Sub M 793

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 20 1973	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester [Signature]

Three brown paper bags. One containing the name "Mac's Milk".

- 12) One Polaroid Self-Timer #192
- 13) One Cardboard Folder (Advertisement for Seal-Rite Plastics).


One June 5, 1968, from Mabel M. Agnew at the Arcade Photo Studio, 137 Yonge Street, Toronto:-

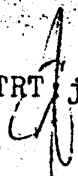
- 14) One photo-negative of a Passport type Photograph purporting to be that of one, Paul Bridgeman.
- 15) One copy of the Bill of Sale dated 11 APR 68, covering the sale of the photographs produced from the above negative.

Provided the items are not now required as exhibits in the Ray case, we propose returning the photograph and Bill of Sale to Arcade Photo Studio and destroying the remainder of the exhibits, they having no commercial value. Prior to doing so, however, I would appreciate confirmation that they are no longer required by your office.

Your early consideration of this matter would be appreciated.

Yours truly,


R.E. Muir, S/Insp.,
Assistant Officer in Charge,
Criminal Investigation Branch.

TRT jv


Date: **2-12-73**

To: Director, FBI

(Bufile : **44-28861**)

Attention : _____

From: Legal Attache, Ottawa

(**44-4**)

Title MURKIN	Character
	Reference

Enclosed are the following communications received from the RCMP: **Original and four copies of RCMP letter dated 2-8-73, together with three copies of the enclosure thereto.**

Remarks:

Note RCMP request and advise.

(S)

(S)

10/31/01
CLASSIFIED BY SP-1 CLK/Hjt
DECLASSIFY ON 25X
6

Dissemination

- May be made as received
- May be made as indicated by stamp on enclosure
- May not be made without further clearance with RCMP

Following offices would be interested in receiving copies of enclosures:

Memphis (44-1987)

Status with this office:

- RUC
- Pending

**3 - Bureau (1 cc - Memphis)
(Enc. 7)**

**MLI:jhc
(3)**

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SEARCHED <i>mp</i>	INDEXED <i>mp</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
FEB 20 1973 FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>Dexter</i>	
44-1987 Sub M 794	

F B I

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel _____
(Type in plaintext or code) (Priority)

Date 2/16/73

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

MURKIN
CR

Enclosed are two copies each of a communication from Legat, Ottawa, and its enclosures.

If your file does not indicate any other disposition of the materials referred to in the attached, contact appropriate Tennessee State Authorities to ascertain what response they desire to make to RCMP. Suggest that they may want to communicate with Inspector W. J. Halloran, RCMP, directly. Advise the Bureau of their determination in this matter by LHM and include therein information to the effect that state authorities advised that they would communicate directly with Inspector Halloran, if this is in fact the action to be taken by Tennessee State Authorities. Furnish LHM to the Bureau promptly so that Legat, Ottawa, can advise RCMP. Handle and suLHM within five days.

Enc. - ⁷2

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(Do not type below this line.)

Betty Inade
1-5

44-1987 Sub M 795
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *com* FILED *map*
FEB 20 1973
FBI - MEMPHIS
Hester

Memphis, Tennessee
February 22, 1973

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

On February 20, 1973, Mr. J. Clyde Mason, Assistant District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that James Earl Ray has exhausted his remedies in the Tennessee State courts and has now filed suit in the U. S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee at Nashville in an effort to win a new trial.

Mr. Mason has stated that until such time as James Earl Ray has been heard and denied by the U. S. Supreme Court, it will be necessary for him to retain all evidence in this case for use in any trial which Ray might be granted.

Mr. Mason stated he regrets any inconvenience that this might cause the Royal Canadian Mounted Police but he hopes they will be assured he will return to them any evidence in which they have an interest as soon as it can be safely determined that Ray will not be granted a new trial in this case.

5 - Bureau (44-38861)
① - Memphis (44-1987)

JCH:cjs
(6)

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED *mp*

INDEXED _____

mp
44-1987 Sub 4 776

2/21/73

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

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

Re Bureau airtel 2/16/73.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of an LHM for dissemination to the RCMP through the Legat, Ottawa.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 5)
① - Memphis

JCH:cjs
(3)

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED *mp*

INDEXED _____

mp

44-1987 Sub M 797

F B I

Transmit in _____ Via Airtel _____
(Type in plaintext or code) (Priority)

Date 2/23/73

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

✓ From: Acting Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN
CR

Reurairtel and LHM 2/21/73.

The comments of Mr. Mason, as set forth in reLHM are in reference to the evidence the State of Tennessee is holding but not to that being held by RCMP on behalf of Tennessee State authorities. If not already done, cover this aspect with Mr. Mason and submit amended LHM covering both aspects.

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Beth 1/24
1-2/24

44-1987-1798
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
FEB 26 1973
FBI - MEMPHIS
Sub M
Hester

Memphis, Tennessee
March 1, 1973

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

On February 20, 1973, Mr. J. Clyde Mason, Assistant District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that James Earl Ray has exhausted all remedies in the Tennessee State Courts and has now filed suit in the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee at Nashville, Tennessee, in an effort to win a new trial.

Mr. Mason has stated that until such time as James Earl Ray has exhausted all remedies in the Federal Court system, the State of Tennessee must be prepared to go to trial in this case if so ordered.

Mr. Mason stated he regrets any inconvenience that this might cause the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, but he must request that they retain all evidence in their possession concerning James Earl Ray. Mr. Mason further stated that it will be necessary for him to retain all evidence now in his possession. Mr. Mason said that when this case is finally concluded, he will return to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police all evidence which they have furnished him and which they may desire to have returned to them.

5-Bureau
1-Memphis (44-1987)
JCH:wp
(6) *wp*

cm

Sub M
44-1987-1799

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *mp*
INDEXED _____
FILED *mp*

3/1/73

AIRTEL

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

ReBuairtel to Memphis 2/23/73.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 5 copies of LHM dated 3/1/73 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CR - CONSPIRACY."

2-Bureau (Encs. 5)
1-Memphis
JCH:wp
(3)

wp

*P **
Curtis

Sub M
44-1987-A800

[Signature]

Hester

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *[initials]*
INDEXED _____
FILED *[initials]*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Claim Filed Against 1969 Officers

City Councilmen serving in 1968 might become personally liable for paying a \$100,000 reward posted during the investigation of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King.

The prospect arose in Chancery Court yesterday when a suit seeking to collect reward money for Charles Quitman Stephens, 51, a material witness in the King case, was amended to include the councilmen as additional defendants.

The motion, filed by Harvey Gipson, Stephens' attorney, said the councilmen made themselves individually liable when they passed a resolution in April, 1968, authorizing the \$100,000 reward.

The only 1968 council member not named in the motion was former Councilman Jerred Blanchard. The suit says Blanchard was absent when the unanimous vote was taken.

Stephens' suit was filed in 1969. It claims he is due all reward money because he identified photographs of James Earl Ray, who was later convicted in the King death. The suit says Stephens' information was "the prime factor" in Ray's eventual capture. Stephens was a tenant at the rooming house where the fatal shots were fired.

*Jura copies fwd Bureau
6-13-73*

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

13 PAGE

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date: **6/5/73**
Edition:
Author:
Editor: GORDON HANNA
Title:

Character:
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated *sub m*

44-1987-801

A later

Stephens is also seeking \$91,000 in other reward money posted by the state of Tennessee, the Memphis Publishing Co., Scripps-Howard, the National Alliance of Postal Employees, Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Association of Memphis, Future Memphis and Councilman Gwen Awsumb, who offered a \$1,000 reward.

The 1969 councilmen added as defendants are Downing Pryor, Thomas Todd, Philip Perel, J. O. Patterson, James Netters, W. T. McAdams, Robert James, Billy Hyman, Lewis Donelson III, Fred Davis and Wyeth Chandler. Still on the council are Todd, Perel, James Parhouse and Davis.

Gipson said trial has been delayed by defendants' motions which claim litigation cannot begin until Ray's conviction becomes final.

At present Ray is appealing his conviction in the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 8-2-73

FROM : SA THOMAS O. RONAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN

44-1987-Sub 0-5

On 8-2-73, HARVEY GIPSON of the firm of GIPSON & TUCKER, Attorneys at Law, appeared at the Memphis Office and advised as follows:

His office is Suite 1104 of the Exchange Building, Memphis 38103.

He has been retained by CHARLES STEPHENS in seeking the reward offered at the time of the slaying of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. This reward, which varies between \$100,000 and \$192,000 was offered by the "Press-Scimitar," Downtown Association, and about 12 other groups, for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the assassin or assassins of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

On the day RAY was convicted, GIPSON filed a civil action before Chancellor (FNU) ROND of the Chancery Court, seeking the reward in behalf of STEPHENS.

GIPSON has obtained copies of records of the Police investigation and statements furnished to the Attorney General's Office. The latter were obtained from AG PHIL CANALE.

GIPSON states he is aware that there are several signed statements in the possession of the FBI furnished by STEPHENS in connection with the investigation. He desires copies of these statements. He stated he desires the statements furnished to him voluntarily as he knows he can get them, if necessary, through court proceedings.

The existence of any statements by STEPHENS was not admitted to and he was advised this matter would be discussed with the Special Agent in Charge and he would be notified accordingly.

*TOR:BN
(2)
I see no need to
contact GIPSON
but may need a letter
later.*

*Joe
Advise for
And request guidance
after receiving in any
statements we have.
pls. expedite
get*

44-1987 Sub M 802

SEARCHED
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FILED
mp



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

8/6/73

AIRTEL

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

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of three FD-302s reflecting interviews with CHARLES Q. STEPHENS at Memphis, Tennessee, on 4/5/68, on 4/5/68, and on 4/24/68. Also enclosed are two copies of a sworn affidavit given by STEPHENS during June, 1968.

Mr. HARVEY GIPSON, an attorney at Memphis, Tennessee, has contacted the Memphis Office and has advised that he is representing CHARLES Q. STEPHENS, who is attempting to collect approximately \$100,000 in reward monies which were offered by local newspapers and by others at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING was killed.

GIPSON stated he has filed a civil suit in the Shelby County Chancery Court at Memphis. He indicated he has obtained copies of statements furnished to the State Attorney General's Office and he indicated he is aware that there are several signed statements furnished by STEPHENS to the FBI during this investigation. Mr. GIPSON stated he hopes the FBI will turn these statements over to him voluntarily; but indicated he will seek them through court action if necessary.

No admission was made to GIPSON as to whether or not STEPHENS had furnished any signed statements to the FBI. A review of the Memphis file does not indicate that STEPHENS has ever furnished a signed statement to the FBI, and the only signed document which can be located is the enclosed affidavit. The Bureau will note that a copy of this affidavit was previously furnished to the Bureau by Memphis airtel dated 6/13/68. It is

2 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
① - Memphis

JCH:plc
(3)

plc
JCH

W

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INDEXED _____

FILED *mep*

44-1987 Sub M 803

ME 44-1987

believed that this affidavit was furnished to a departmental attorney and it may have been used in connection with the extradition of JAMES EARL RAY from England.

It is suggested that the Bureau discuss with the Department what action is desired regarding GIPSON's request for information appearing in FBI files. It is strongly recommended that we decline to furnish GIPSON any information, as it is believed that any cooperation on our part will encourage GIPSON to seek more and more information to substantiate his client's claim. It is also felt that the information furnished by STEPHENS was not of sufficient importance to justify any reward.

Memphis Office is having no further contact with GIPSON UACB.

F B I

Transmit in _____ Via AIRTEL _____
(Type in plaintext or code) (Priority)

Date 8/9/73

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

Reurairtel 8/6/73.

SuLHM suitable for dissemination.

Include statement therein that if Mr. Gipson makes any further inquiries relating to this matter, he will be advised that any inquiries should be directed to the Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

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Re - Advice Gipson as above. JH

44-1987 Sub M 804

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
AUG 11 1973
FBI - MEMPHIS
Jester

Memphis, Tennessee
August 17, 1973

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

Mr. Harvey L. Gipson, Attorney-At-Law, Exchange Building, Memphis, Tennessee, has advised the Memphis Office of the FBI that he is representing Mr. Charles Q. Stephens in the latter's efforts to obtain some or all of the reward money offered by local newspapers, and others, for information leading to the arrest of the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. According to Mr. Gipson, a number of different reward offers were made shortly after King's murder, and these total more than \$100,000.

Mr. Gipson desires to have copies of all signed statements which Stephens may have furnished to the FBI. Mr. Gipson has been advised to direct his request to the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C.

It is noted that Stephens was a roomer in the rooming house from which James Earl Ray fired the shot that killed King. Stephens was interviewed by FBI Agents, but no signed statements were taken.

Much later, Stephens was interviewed by one or more representatives of the Department of Justice, and at that time he furnished a signed affidavit, the original of which is not in the possession of the FBI.

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.

4 - Bureau (44-38861)
① - Memphis (44-1987)

JCH:ca (5)
ca

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44-1987-~~1000~~
Sub M 805
JCH

Memphis, Tennessee
August 17, 1973

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

Mr. Harvey L. Gipson, Attorney-At-Law, Exchange Building, Memphis, Tennessee, has advised the Memphis Office of the FBI that he is representing Mr. Charles Q. Stephens in the latter's efforts to obtain some or all of the reward money offered by local newspapers, and others, for information leading to the arrest of the killer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. According to Mr. Gipson, a number of different reward offers were made shortly after King's murder, and these total more than \$100,000.

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4 - Bureau (44-38861)
① - Memphis (44-1987)

JCH:ca (5)
ca

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44-1987-~~1000~~
Feb 11 805
JST

8/17/73

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

ReBuairtel to Memphis 8/9/73.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of an LHM, dated as above, reflecting the interest of HARVEY GIPSON, Attorney, Memphis, Tenn., in obtaining statements made by CHARLES Q. STEPHENS to the FBI at Memphis, Tenn.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
① - Memphis

JCH:ca
(3) *ca*

TV

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FILED *mp*

44-1987 sub M 806

Hester JCH

Memphis, Tennessee
September 24, 1973

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

On September 24, 1973, there was received at the office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Memphis, Tennessee, a letter dated September 21, 1973, addressed to Special Agent in Charge Joseph V. Baker, signed by Attorneys Harvey L. Gipson and Robert A. Tucker. Enclosed with this letter was a copy of a Motion for Discovery filed in the Chancery Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, in the case styled Charles Quitman Stephens, Complainant, versus State of Tennessee Et Al, Defendants.

On September 24, 1973, a copy of the letter and the enclosed Motion for Discovery were furnished to U. S. Attorney Thomas F. Turley, Western District of Tennessee, Memphis. Mr. Turley stated he had not received any notification and that service had not been made on him and this letter did not constitute service under the State law. He recommended that Mr. Baker not appear in Chancery Court on October 5, 1973, as requested and stated if necessary, a member of the U. S. Attorney's staff would appear and request that the complainant's Motion for Discovery be dismissed.

On September 24, 1973, Attorneys Gipson and Tucker were contacted by Special Agent Joe C. Hester and were advised that this matter had been referred to the U. S. Attorney. They advised that a similar letter had been directed to U. S. Attorney Thomas F. Turley. They also advised they had written a letter to the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., several weeks ago requesting certain documents in this case and not having received a reply to their request, had filed this Motion of Discovery in the Shelby County Chancery Court.

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.

4 - Bureau (44-38861)
① - Memphis (44-1987)
JCH:ca
(5) *ca*

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED *mp*

INDEXED

FILED *mp*

44-1987 Sub M 807

9/24/73

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTN: LEGAL COUNSEL

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Memphis airtel to the Bureau 8/17/73.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 4 copies of an LHM dated as above reflecting the fact that Attorneys HARVEY L. GIPSON and ROBERT A. TUCKER have filed a Motion for Discovery in the Chancery Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, and have requested that SAC JOSEPH V. BAKER appear in that court on 10/5/73. Also enclosed are two copies each of letter dated 9/21/73 from Attorneys GIPSON and TUCKER to SAC BAKER and two copies of a Motion of Discovery filed by these attorneys in the Chancery Court of Shelby County, Tennessee.

As set out in the LHM, USA THOMAS F. TURLEY, WDT, Memphis, has recommended that SAC BAKER not make such a court appearance. SAC BAKER will not appear UACB.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
① - Memphis

JCH:ca
(3) *ca*



SEARCHED _____
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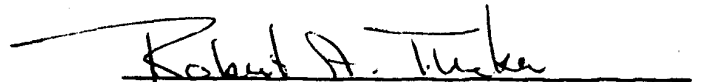
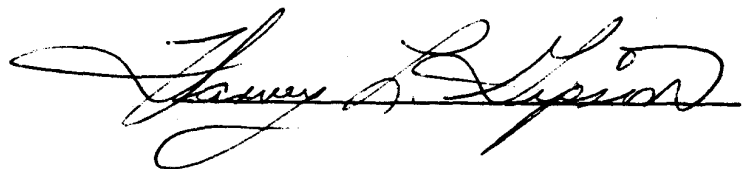
44-1987 Sub M 808

WHEREFORE PETITIONER PRAYS:

(1) That all defendants herein in addition to the Memphis office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the local office of the Attorney General of the United States of America, the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, The Shelby County Sheriff's Office, and the Memphis Police Department, be ordered by this Honorable Court to make available to your Complainant, through his attorneys of record, all documents, photographs, drawings, writings, electronic recordings, mock-ups, and oral statements reduced to writing and things pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, on April 4, 1968, and offers of rewards published in connection with said incident.

(2) For such other, and further relief as your Complainant is entitled.

GIPSON & TUCKER
Attorneys for Complainant



GIPSON AND
TUCKER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
EXCHANGE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103
AC 901/525-6331

(2)

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GIPSON AND TUCKER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
EXCHANGE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38103
AC 901-525-6331

HARVEY L. GIPSON
ROBERT A. TUCKER

September 21, 1973

Mr. Joseph V. Baker
Special Agent in Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
167 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38102

Re: Charles Q. Stephens
vs
State of Tennessee, et al
#72333-3 R.D.

Dear Mr. Baker:

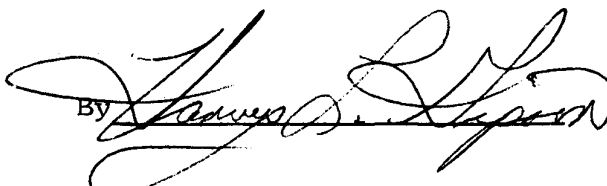
This is to advise that this office has put down a motion in Part III of the Chancery Court of Shelby County, Tennessee on the reference case, a copy of which motion is attached to this letter.

The aforesaid motion will be heard at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 5, 1973.

Your presence is requested.

Very truly yours,

GIPSON & TUCKER

By 
Robert A. Tucker

Enclosure

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QAT

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

CHARLES QUITMAN STEPHENS, *

Complainant *

VS *

NO: 72333-3 R.D.

STATE OF TENNESSEE et al, *

Defendants. *

Motion for Discovery and Production of
Documents and Things for Inspection,
Copying or Photographing.

Comes now your Complainant, Charles Quitman Stephens, through his attorneys of record, and would respectively show unto this Honorable Court as follows:

That all Defendants herein, in addition to the Memphis office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the local office of the Attorney General of the United States of America, the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee for the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit, the Shelby County Sheriff's Office and the Memphis Police Department, have in their possession certain documents, photographs, drawings, writings, electronic recordings, mock-ups and oral statements reduced to writing and other things which are material to the prosecution of your Complainant's cause herein and that under Rule 34 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure 1971 your Complainant is entitled to the discovery and production of the aforementioned documents, photographs, writings, electronic recordings, mock-ups, oral statements reduced to writing and things for inspection, copying or photographing.

GIPSON AND
TUCKER
ATTORNEYS AT LAW
EXCHANGE BUILDING
MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103
AC 901/525-6331

(1)

September 25, 1973

Gipson & Tucker
Attorneys at Law
Exchange Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

44-1987 Subm 803

Gentlemen: Re: Charles Q. Stephens
v.
State of Tennessee, et al
Shelby Chancery 72,333-3 R.D.

The United States of America is not a party to the above suit, nor are the

"Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation"

or the

"local office of the Attorney General of the United States of America",

neither of which latter is a suable entity, so your notice to me that your "Motion For Discovery and Production of Documents and Things For Inspection, Copying or Photographing" will be called for disposition at 10:00 a.m. Friday, October 5, 1973, was a waste of your time to write and mine to read it.

If and when you get your suit in such shape that it would be appropriate for me to respond on behalf of the United States or any of its instrumentalities I shall be pleased to do so promptly, as I am confident the Chancellor well knows, but I

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