

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO ME 44-1987

ON MAY 29, 1967, RAY ENTERED PLEA OF GUILTY IN USDC, MEMPHIS,
AND WAS SENTENCED ON JUNE 1, 1967, TO EIGHTEEN MONTHS PROBATION.

MRS. BRASHEAR STATES RAY NOW RESIDING AT UNKNOWN ADDRESS IN
NEW ORLEANS, LA., WITH HIS WIFE AND FAMILY.

MEMPHIS SEES NOTHING TO BE GAINED BY PURSUING THIS MATTER
FURTHER AND NO LEADS BEING SET OUT FOR NEW ORLEANS.

BT

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

HQ0034 3500315

PP ME

DE HQ

P 152105Z DEC 76

FM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

TO MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

REBUTEL DECEMBER 10, 1976, AND YOUR TELETYPE DECEMBER 14,
1976.

OBTAIN ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION MRS. BETTY RAY BRASHEAR
MAY HAVE AS TO THE SPECIFIC LOCATION OF JIMMY WAYNE RAY IN
NEW ORLEASN AND SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEAD TO HAVE JIMMY WAYNE
RAY INTERVIEWED IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS IN REBUTEL.

BT

44-1987-Sub M-1075

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>us</i>	FILED <i>us</i>
DEC 15 1976	
MEMPHIS	

Hester
Hester
JH

FBI

Date: 12/16/76

005

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

Via TELETYPE PRIORITY/ROUTINE
(Precedence)

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) (ROUTINE) 0334Z
NEW ORLEANS (PRIORITY) 0015Z

BT
CLEAR
MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO MEMPHIS, DECEMBER 15, 1976.

ONE ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ HAS ADVISED SACRAMENTO OFFICE THAT WHILE IN SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL ABOUT JANUARY TO MARCH, 1968, HE MET WILLIAM B. SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ CLAIMS TO HAVE WRITTEN LETTERS FOR SIMPONIS, ADDRESSED TO JAMES EARL RAY IN MEMPHIS, TENN. SIMPONIS ALLEGEDLY TOLD MARTINEZ TO GO TO MEMPHIS WHEN HE GOT OUT AND TO CONTACT RAY TO PULL OFF A BIG JOB. MARTINEZ COULD NOT GET CLOTHES AND MONEY FOR TRAVEL SO HE NEVER WENT TO SEE RAY.

44-1987-Sub M-1076

JCH:jap
(1)
jap

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED W/B
INDEXED _____
FILED W/B

Approved: _____
[Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent see above M Per JSO

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO ME 44-1987

NEW ORLEANS NOTE THAT JAMES EARL RAY IS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN RESIDING AS A FUGITIVE IN LOS ANGELES DURING THE PERIOD MARTINEZ AND SIMPONIS WERE INCARCERATED TOGETHER AT SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL.

SIMPONIS WAS SENTENCED AUGUST 12, 1966, AT SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, FOR ITSMV VIOLATION. HE WAS CONVICTED UNDER TITLE 18, SECTION 4246, HAVING BEEN FOUND INCOMPETENT TO STAND TRIAL. HE WAS COMMITTED TO MEDICAL CENTER FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS (MCFP), SPRINGFIELD, MO., AUGUST 21, 1966, AND RELEASED JANUARY 27, 1968. HE RETURNED TO COURT AND WAS AGAIN COMMITTED TO MCFP MARCH 2, 1968, AND DIED THERE ON JULY 14, 1968. WHILE AT MCFP SIMPONIS REQUESTED TO CORRESPOND WITH ONE JIMMIE W. RAY, 492 CLARICE DRIVE, MEMPHIS. HIS REQUEST WAS APPROVED. ON APRIL 1, 1969, ONE JIMMIE W. RAY, P. O. BOX 6, OLIVE BRANCH, MISS., INQUIRED OF SYMPONIS THROUGH MCFP AND WAS ADVISED OF SIMPONIS' DEATH.

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

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE THREE ME 44-1987

MEMPHIS OFFICE HAS LOCATED MRS. BETTY RAY BRASHEAR, 491 CLARICE, MEMPHIS, THE SISTER OF JIMMIE WAYNE RAY WHO PREVIOUSLY RESIDED 492 CLARICE, MEMPHIS. JIMMIE WAYNE RAY, FBI NO. 904936F, WAS ARRESTED AT MEMPHIS JANUARY 19, 1967, FOR TFIS AND ON FEBRUARY 7, 1967, [REDACTED] SPRINGFIELD, FOR OBSERVATION. HE REMAINED MCFP UNTIL MAY, 1967, AND APPARENTLY KNEW SIMPONIS DURING THAT TIME.

THE BUREAU HAS INSTRUCTED THAT RAY BE LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED "TO DETERMINE IF SIMPONIS CORRESPONDED WITH HIM WHILE IN JAIL IN SALT LAKE CITY, NATURE OF ANY SUCH CORRESPONDENCE, AND WHETHER HE HAS ANY ASSOCIATION WITH JAMES EARL RAY OF CAPTIONED MATTER." MRS. BRASHEAR DOES NOT KNOW RAY'S ADDRESS BUT STATES HE RESIDES IN NEW ORLEANS, LA., AND IS EMPLOYED BY A BOAT COMPANY. RAY DOES NOT WORK ON A BOAT BUT WORKS FOR A COMPANY WHICH OPERATES BOATS. RAY IS A WHITE MALE, BORN [REDACTED], [REDACTED], AT LEWISBURG, MISS. IN 1967 HE WAS DESCRIBED AS 6'1" TALL,

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

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE FOUR ME 33-1987

176 POUNDS, BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES. HE WAS DISCHARGED FROM THE
ARMY IN 1963 FOR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SINCE SIMPONIS WAS INCOMPETENT TO STAND
TRIAL AND SINCE RAY HAD SUFFERED A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN AND HAD
ATTEMPTED SUICIDE, IT WOULD APPEAR THEY HAD MUCH IN COMMON AT
MCFP AND WERE VERY LIKELY ACQUAINTED. MEMPHIS IS CONVINCED THAT
JIMMIE WAYNE RAY IS THE INDIVIDUAL TO WHOM MARTINEZ ADDRESSED
LETTERS FOR SIMPONIS, AND THAT MARTINEZ IS OBVIOUSLY MISTAKEN
IN BELIEVING HE WROTE LETTERS TO JAMES EARL RAY AT MEMPHIS.

NEW ORLEANS AT NEW ORLEANS, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE JIMMIE WAYNE
RAY AND INTERVIEW. BUREAU HAS REQUESTED TO SUTEL RESULTS TO
BUREAU.

BT

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama

December 15, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

On December 14, 1976, BH T-1, who has furnished insufficient information to establish his reliability, furnished the following information:

Source met Dr. Gus Prosch, M.D., for the first time in late 1967 or possibly January, 1968, at Gulas' Restaurant and Lounge on Highway 78 East, Birmingham, Alabama. Prosch had just moved to Birmingham from northern Alabama, possibly Albertville, and was "down and out and bitter" since his wife had run off with another man and he had suffered financial reverses. Prosch and the source became regular drinking partners at Gulas' and on occasions the source loaned Prosch money, perhaps \$20 at a time. At this time, Prosch did not want people to know his identity, probably since he was a doctor, and he used the name John Willard and often introduced himself to people at Gulas' as John Willard. In early 1968 Prosch was setting up a medical practice in Birmingham.

In approximately February, 1968, at Gulas', Prosch introduced a friend of his to the source and this man's name was Frank Liberto (Phonetic). The source saw Frank Liberto at Gulas' with Prosch in February or March, 1968, usually on a weekend, as many as six or seven times. He described Frank Liberto (Phonetic) as a white male, in his late thirties, or early forties at the time, six feet tall, 190 pounds, dark complexioned, with a full head of black hair and dark eyes. Liberto was well built, well dressed, and a nice looking man. The source learned that Liberto owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans and Prosch described him to the source as the head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans.

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-SUBM-1077

ml
Foster *OK*

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

Source never saw Liberto drive an automobile and did not know if he came to Birmingham in a car or by plane. On most occasions, when he saw Liberto with Prosch at Gulas', Liberto had one or two male companions in his company. His impression was that Liberto's companions were body guards and/or underlings.

At sometime in February, 1968, Prosch started showing affluence and definitely had money. Prosch was intensely interested in guns of all kinds and always had pistols on his person. The source believed that Prosch and Liberto had some kind of a gun deal in operation.

On or about March 15, 1968, the source was at Gulas' Restaurant with Prosch and Liberto. Looking out the window to the parking lot he observed a grey colored car park and a black man came from the car to the restaurant. He recognized this individual as the Rev. (First Name Unknown) Shuttleworth, a black male, personally known to the source at the time, as very active in civil rights matters at the time. Rev. Shuttleworth sent a message into the restaurant and Dr. Prosch and Frank Liberto left the restaurant and went out to the car that Rev. Shuttleworth had returned to. Prosch and Liberto got into the back of this car and Shuttleworth was in the front along with another black male whom the source recognized as Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who was also well known to the source. These four men sat in the car for a period of approximately one hour and during this time the source, at a corner booth in Gulas', observed them through the window. Prosch and Liberto returned to the restaurant and the car with Shuttleworth and Abernathy drove off. Prosch and Liberto said nothing regarding this meeting and the source wondered but did not ask any questions.

Shortly after this meeting, possibly a week later, Dr. Prosch came to Gulas' with another white male and introduced this individual to the source as Mr. Gault. The source could not remember the first name used. He described Gault as a white male, in his 30's, approximately 5'10", 160 pounds, neat in appearance (work clothes) and respectable. On this occasion Prosch, Liberto and Gault had a private conversation.

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

When the conversation broke up, Gault left Gulas' Restaurant and Prosch and Liberto stayed on and continued drinking. They made no comment whatever regarding their conversation with Gault. The source later came to know, from the newspapers and publicity, that the man introduced to him as Gault was James Earl Ray, and the source saw Gault on two occasions only in Birmingham.

Approximately one week later the source again observed a meeting between Dr. Prosch and Frank Liberto on the one hand and Dr. Abernathy and Rev. Shuttleworth on the other. The meeting took place at the same location, the parking lot of Gulas' Restaurant, and these four men sat in the same car for a period probably in excess of one hour. The black men left in their car and Prosch and Liberto returned to the restaurant but said nothing regarding the meeting.

A few nights later, again at Gulas' Restaurant, probably very late in March, 1968, Liberto was at Gulas' Restaurant when Dr. Prosch brought Gault to the restaurant for the second time. These three had a private conversation and Gault left the restaurant by himself. Nothing was said by Prosch or Liberto regarding this conversation. Source believes this was the last occasion that he saw Frank Liberto in Birmingham, Alabama.

On April 3, 1968, the source met Dr. Prosch at the bar in Gulas' at about 4:15 P.M. Prosch had been drinking quite a bit and the source had a drink. Prosch then took the source for a ride in his new car, a red Cadillac convertible with a white top. Prosch drove him around some and they went to the Aeromarine Company at the Birmingham Airport. Prosch went into Aeromarine leaving the source in the car. After ten minutes, he came out with a wooden crate approximately four feet by ten inches by eight inches, and put it in the trunk of the Cadillac. They drove back to Gulas' Restaurant and parked the car on the lot.

When they got out of the car, Prosch took the source to the rear of his car and told him he wanted to show him something. He opened the trunk and pried the top off the wooden box which contained a rifle. He talked about the rifle

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

and then told the source that this was the rifle that was going "to kill Martin Luther King". This was a bolt-action rifle, with a short clip and no scope.

Still standing behind the car on the parking lot, Prosch told the source that Dr. Abernathy and Rev. Shuttleworth had bought a contract for \$265,000 to have Martin Luther King killed. They felt that King had gone soft with his non-violence and the money coming into the SCLC and civil rights movement had fallen off considerably. The civil rights movement was coming to a halt and King was no longer effective but was very popular. They believed that if he were killed, he would become a martyr and the money would come flowing in to advance the civil rights movement and to influence Congressional sentiment to enact into law civil rights bills that were being held up.

Prosch said that Frank Liberto had gone on to Detroit and Gault had purchased another gun. Gault was to be the "decoy" to take the heat off the man who would do the killing. Prosch said Gault was to lay his gun down after he saw the killer leave the building. Then Gault was to meet Frank Liberto in Detroit and get the rest of his money and the necessary papers to get out of the country. This whole conversation took place on the parking lot near Dr. Prosch's car. Prosch and the source went into Gulas' and drank until 9:00 or 10:00 PM, at which time each went home for the night. This source has not seen Prosch since that night.

On April 4, 1968, the source was present at his place of business in Birmingham the whole day and had a business meeting at the Parliament House Hotel in Birmingham in the early evening with business associates. It was at this location that the source learned that Martin Luther King, Jr., had been killed on that day in Memphis, Tennessee. He tried to put what he knew out of his mind and was afraid to talk to anyone at the time regarding this matter.

Source followed the newspaper publicity and accounts regarding the killing at the time it occurred and has been interested in them ever since. Over the years he has commented to many people that he did not believe that James Earl Ray killed Dr. King. Recently, he became even more interested when he learned of the renewed interest on the part of the Congress and their intent to conduct investigations regarding assassinations. He also recently read

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

for the first time the alleged fact that a person using the name John Willard registered at 3:30 PM on April 4, 1968 at the hotel in Memphis where Dr. King was staying and it was his understanding that the landlady or hotel clerk could not identify James Earl Ray as identical with John Willard. Source believes that John Willard could be identical with Dr. Gus Prosch who used that name in early 1968 in Birmingham, Alabama. The source also believes that the bullet taken from Dr. King was not identified as having come from the rifle picked up at or near the scene of the assassination.

The source knows that Dr. Prosch picked up a rifle at Aeromarine on April 3, 1968 and he does not believe there is any record at Aeromarine of the sale of this rifle. This rifle, purchased by Prosch, was a bolt-action type rifle and an artist's drawing, that the source saw in a newspaper somewhere, depicting the rifle found at the scene of the assassination as a bolt-action weapon. The source's understanding is that the second rifle purchased by James Earl Ray using the name Harvey (Last Name Unknown) at Aeromarine in Birmingham, Alabama, was a Remington, Model 760, 30.06 caliber pump action rifle and the source believes that the previously described Remington rifle was probably used for the actual killing. In the second week of December, 1976, the source was told when he discussed Gus Prosch with an individual in Birmingham, that Prosch and his associates were storing guns in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1968 in connection with a gun running operation and that the gun that killed Dr. King was shipped out of the country to Costa Rica.

FBI

Date: 12/15/76

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (RUC)
MURKIN
CR
(OO: ME)

Re Birmingham teletype to Bureau and Memphis dated 12/3/76, and Birmingham airtel to Bureau, Detroit and New Orleans on 12/12/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and three (3) copies of an LHM; for Memphis two (2) copies; and one (1) copy each to Detroit and New Orleans. Also enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis are three (3) photographs of Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR., and one (1) photo of an artist's conception.

The source of the information furnished by FRANK WINSETT (PROTECT) in referenced teletype of 12/3/76 has been identified as a former PCI of the Birmingham Division. This former PCI is identical with the source in referenced Birmingham airtel of 12/12/75. His case is closed in Birmingham and he was last contacted as a PCI in February, 1976.

This source has functioned for the past year as an informant for DEA, Birmingham, and U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, and has discussed captioned matter with representatives of both agencies. DEA advised on 12/14/76 that his narcotics information is accurate and reliable and both agencies have pending investigations in which he is furnishing worthwhile information on a continuing basis.

- 4 - Bureau (44-38861) (Enc. 8)
- ② - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 6) *me*
- 1 - New Orleans (157-10673) (INFO) (Enc. 1)
- 1 - Detroit (Enc. 1) (INFO)
- 2 - Birmingham (1 - 44-1740)
- PJM:bhn (10) (1 - 137-2089)

44-1987 Sub M-1078

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>CS</i>	FILED <i>me</i>
DEC 17 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Hester
WJone

Approved: _____ Sent _____
Special Agent in Charge M Per

BH 44-1740

On 12/14/76, this source was interviewed by SA PATRICK J. MOYNIHAN of the Birmingham Office at the DEA Office in Birmingham in the presence of DEA Agent LARRY HAHN. The source did not desire to come to the FBI Office for interview and explained his reluctance to talk to the FBI since he was convicted in an ITSP case at Birmingham, Ala., in 1969 or 1970, which conviction was subsequently reversed in the 5th Circuit Court and cost the source a large amount of money to defend himself. He claims he was afraid to furnish the detailed information of the enclosed LHM shortly after the assassination of Dr. KING because he was afraid and at that time, or shortly after, he became involved in a variety of personal problems including his FBI case. Later, when he talked about this matter, people always "turned me off".

Source has not talked to any group from the U. S. Senate or House of Representatives, contrary to information furnished in referenced Birmingham teletype of 12/3/76, but he has discussed this matter with U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, DEA, Birmingham, and with an Assistant U. S. Attorney at Birmingham, Alabama.

The enclosed photographs of Dr. GUS PROSCH were obtained by the source from U. S. Secret Service at Birmingham and he identified the enclosed artist's conception as a newspaper or magazine representation of an individual who registered at the hotel in which Dr. KING was killed, as JOHN WILLARD, on 4/4/68. It is source's understanding that JOHN WILLARD was never identified and he believes WILLARD could be identical with Dr. GUS PROSCH who used the name JOHN WILLARD in Birmingham, Alabama, in the early part of 1968.

Memphis should give this matter due consideration and furnish the Bureau any comments or recommendations. No further investigation is being conducted at Birmingham UACB.

This former PCI expressed fear for his life and does not want his identity revealed.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Sacramento, California

December 15, 1976

MURKIN

On December 2, 1976, Alfred William Martinez, 807 Green Wood Street, West Sacramento, California, telephone 372-0780, telephonically contacted the Sacramento FBI office and furnished information which he considered might be pertinent to the investigation of the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On December 7, 1976, Martinez was interviewed at 1401 11th Avenue, Sacramento, California, where he was employed on that date. Results of that interview are set forth:

44-1987 sub M-1079

WB ml

Hester

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/76

ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, 807 Green Wood Street, West Sacramento, California, telephone 372-0780, was interviewed at 1401 11th Avenue, Sacramento, California. MARTINEZ was working at this location for the Delk-Terminex Company, an insect extermination business.

MARTINEZ advised he was in the Salt Lake County Jail, Salt Lake City, Utah, for two and a half to three months. He advised that he was in this jail sometime during the latter part of 1966 or early 1967.

MARTINEZ advised that during this incarceration he became friendly with an individual named WILLIAM SIMPONIS. He advised that SIMPONIS would be about 60 years old. He believes that SIMPONIS was in jail on a robbery charge. SIMPONIS was ill with emphysema; and had been sent to Salt Lake County Jail to be tried on a charge. SIMPONIS came to Salt Lake County Jail from the Federal Prison Facility at Springfield, Missouri.

At SIMPONIS' request, MARTINEZ wrote several letters for him. MARTINEZ advised that he wrote approximately three letters a week during the period he was incarcerated to an individual identified both as JAMES RAY and EARL RAY by SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ advised he mailed these letters to Memphis, Tennessee, but that he could not remember the address. MARTINEZ advised that he bought the stamps and envelopes for these letters and also such things as candy bars for SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ estimates that he spent approximately \$30.00 on these items for SIMPONIS.

MARTINEZ advised that he had kept a shoe box full of letters that he had received from RAY and some personal items which belonged to SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ advised two of these letters were addressed to him and the rest to SIMPONIS. He advised he lost these items four or five years ago and has not been able to locate them.

Interviewed on 12/7/76 at Sacramento, California File # SC 100-427

by SA BOYD R. L. KEENAN/cw 2 Date dictated 12/10/76

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.

SC 100-427

MARTINEZ advised that the contents of the letters he wrote usually consisted of information about when SIMPONIS was going to get out of jail, and how the two of them would get together. MARTINEZ cannot think of any other topics about which he wrote.

MARTINEZ was told by SIMPONIS that he should contact RAY when he got out of jail and that, "They had a job going on; they would need some help on it; that I could make quite a bit of money on it and I wouldn't have to worry about work anymore." SIMPONIS never identified any other individuals involved in these plans, either perpetrators or victims. He advised SIMPONIS hated black people very much, but he never specifically mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. or any other blacks that he could remember.

MARTINEZ advised that when he got out of jail, SIMPONIS gave him three letters written by SIMPONIS to be mailed to RAY. MARTINEZ advised that these were sealed, and that he did not read the contents, but that he did send them. MARTINEZ advised he was to maintain contact with SIMPONIS, who would advise him to go to Memphis at a specific time, and that SIMPONIS would have mailed a picture of MARTINEZ to RAY for purposes of identification. When this occurred, RAY was to meet MARTINEZ at the Memphis Airport on a designated date. MARTINEZ advised he never contacted SIMPONIS after he got out of jail in Salt Lake City. MARTINEZ advised that a short time after his release from Salt Lake County Jail, he was arrested for burglary in Canyon City, Colorado, and sent to the Colorado State Prison from May 28, 1967, until the latter part of 1967.

MARTINEZ further advised he wrote letters for SIMPONIS to other individuals. He identified these individuals as follows:

JEANETTE SCOTT, Girlfriend of SIMPONIS
Pioneer Hotel
342 5th Street
Elko, Nevada

(MARTINEZ seemed to recollect SCOTT was part owner of this hotel and was supposed to have a large collection of guns);

SC 100-427

LILLIAN SCHURTER
1274 West Street
Possibly Elko, Nevada
Telephone: TE3-7226;

KALIOPE SOLIATES
1026 West 20th
Possibly Elko, Nevada
Telephone: TE3-3617;

NICK SIMPONIS
Gardena, California
Telephone: 434-8747

(Brother of WILLIAM SIMPONIS, street address unknown).

MARTINEZ advised that he does not know if the individual referred to as JAMES RAY or EARL RAY is identical to JAMES EARL RAY convicted in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The following is a description of ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ as obtained through observation and interview:

Race	Mexican
Sex	Male
Height	5'9"
Weight	150
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Date of birth	[REDACTED]
Place of birth	Canyon City, Colorado
FBI	83901G
SSAN	[REDACTED]
Address	807 Green Wood Street West Sacramento, California
Previous address	3427 40th Street Sacramento, California 1651 Illinois Avenue Canyon City, Colorado

SC 100-427

Mother

ROSE MARTINEZ
1651 Illinois Avenue
Canyon City, Colorado

Employment

Delk-Terminex Company
Arden and Fulton Avenue
Sacramento, California

MARTINEZ is currently on probation for drunk driving.

FBI

Date: 12/16/76

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (100-427) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN *44-1987 sub m*

Re Sacramento teletype dated 12/9/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of an LHM regarding contacts of the Sacramento FBI office with one ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, DOB

Enclosed for other offices is one copy of this LHM.

This matter is being considered RUC as no further leads exist in Sacramento Division.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
 - 2 - Denver (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - Kansas City (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - Las Vegas (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - Memphis (Enc. 1) *mp*
 - 2 - Salt Lake City (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - Sacramento
- BRLK/cw
(15)

44-1987 sub m-1080

SEARCHED <i>mp</i>	INDEXED <i>mp</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
DEC 20 1976	
<i>Hester</i>	

gt

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

12/20/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

Re Birmingham airtel to Bureau and LHM, both bearing date 12/15/76.

It is obvious from reading referenced LHM that the Birmingham source of this information has done some research on the murder of Dr. KING, however, he may simply have read one of the numerous books written on the subject. Memphis will research the KING case and will attempt to discover information to either prove or disprove allegations made by this source.

2-Bureau
2-Birmingham
2-Memphis
JCH:bc
(6) *lc*

JCH

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	<i>WB</i>
INDEXED	_____
FILED	<i>WB</i>

44-1987 sub M-1081

NO0993 3561753Z

RR HQ ME

DE NO

R 211715Z DEC 76

FM NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU AND NEW ORLEANS DATED
DECEMBER 15, 1976.

THE NEW ORLEANS CITY DIRECTORY AS WELL AS THE NEW
ORLEANS SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY CONTAIN NO
LISTING IDENTIFIABLE WITH JIMMY WAYNE RAY. CONTACT AT THE
U.S. PROBATION AND PAROLE OFFICE, NEW ORLEANS, DETERMINED
THAT AGENCY HAD NO RECORD IDENTIFIABLE WITH RAY. THE
NEW ORLEANS INDICES WERE SEARCHED AND CONTAINED NO INFORMATION
IDENTIFIABLE WITH RAY.

44-1987 sub m - 1082
CB WB
G. Hester
G. Hester JD

PAGE TWO NO 157-10673 CLEAR

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THERE ARE FIVE PAGES OF BOAT AND BOAT RELATED INDUSTRIES CONTAINED IN THE NEW ORLEANS TELEPHONE DIRECTORY.

RECORDS OF THE NEW ORLEANS POLICE DEPARTMENT IN GREATER NEW ORLEANS RETAIL CREDIT ASSOCIATION CONTAINED NO INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE WITH RAY.

A CHECK OF THE LA. DRIVER'S LICENSE RECORDS DETERMINED THERE IS ON FILE A DRIVER'S LICENSE ISSUED TO ONE JIMMIE W. RAY, P. O. BOX 506 AMA, LOUISIANA AND THIS INDIVIDUAL IS DESCRIBED AS A WHITE MALE, BORN BROWN EYES, 6'1", 205 POUNDS.

NEW ORLEANS AT AMA, LOUISIANA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW JIMMIE W. RAY THROUGH P.O. BOX 506 TO DETERMINE IF HE IS IDENTICAL TO THE INDIVIDUAL LISTED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE AND IF SO WILL INTERVIEW HIM RE THE PERTINENT INFORMATION DESIRED.

THE RESULTS WILL BE FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU AND MEMPHIS.

BT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

FROM ✓ Director, FBI (44-38861)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO:ME

DATE: 11/8/76

ReMEairtel to Bureau 10/29/76.

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are the 13 photographs received in referenced communication. Negatives and prints were made from these photographs and are being maintained in the Bureau files.

Enc. [ⓐ]

2 - Memphis

44-1987 SUBM 1083
ALL ALL
ALL



5010-110

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

January 11, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: WILLIAM BRADLEY
7075 Havens Road
Black Lick, Ohio

On January 6, 1977, William Bradley was interviewed by Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation after Bradley had previously telephonically contacted the Columbus Resident Agency stating he had information concerning the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The results of the interview with William Bradley are set forth as follows:

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-SVA-M-1084
CR

Hester
B. Johnson



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/11/77

WILLIAM BRADLEY, 7075 Havens Road, Black Lick, Ohio, telephone number 614-855-7070, is currently employed as a millwright by Western Electric, Columbus, Ohio. BRADLEY stated he was formerly a school teacher and had attended law school at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, but withdrew due to ill health. BRADLEY was interviewed at his place of residence and after being apprised as to the official identities of the interviewing Agents furnished the following information:

When questioned as to why information concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING had not been brought to the attention of the proper authorities, BRADLEY advised that he did not call the FBI in view of the fact he assumed that the information he had received was already known by the Bureau. BRADLEY further stated that he had contacted several news agencies during the time immediately following his receipt of this information, none of which were interested in any information concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING. BRADLEY stated that he is bringing the information he learned to the attention of the FBI at this time in view of the fact that Congress has expressed an interest in the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING and was currently conducting investigations regarding KING's death.

BRADLEY stated that he and his wife (HALEY), also present during the interview, own approximately 240 acres of land near Iron Bridge, Ontario, Canada, which he had purchased from CLARE LE PAGE, telephone number 705-843-5534, Iron Bridge, Ontario, Canada, where he and his wife spend several weeks each year hunting and fishing. BRADLEY related that in October 1967, while visiting the cabin of CLARE LE PAGE, (LE PAGE currently owns approximately five acres of land adjacent to BRADLEY's property), he and his wife observed three men leaving the hunting cabin. BRADLEY stated that these individuals had just completed a hunting trip utilizing as their guide, SIMON EDWARD FRAZIER. BRADLEY stated that he later learned that one of these individuals was reportedly a Federal Judge from Louisiana named BRIGHAM YOUNG and the other two lawyers, names not known.

Interviewed on 1/6/77 at Black Lick, Ohio File # 157-1893

SAs MICHAEL T. GEARY
H. MICHAEL WARREN

HMW:naa

Date dictated 1/7/77

BRADLEY stated that he particularly remembers the name BRIGHAM YOUNG since he is familiar with the Mormon Church and its founder BRIGHAM YOUNG and said that his wife also recalled the name BRIGHAM YOUNG. BRADLEY stated that he thought nothing of seeing these individuals at the cabin in view of the fact that he and his wife frequently see hunters at the LE PAGE cabin in that LE PAGE is a well-known hunting guide in the Iron Bridge area. BRADLEY stated that both LE PAGE and FRAZIER utilize old logging cabins on his property and property owned by the Canadian Government in a 50 mile radius of his property for hunting expeditions.

BRADLEY advised that in October 1968 he and his wife were hunting with CLARE LE PAGE when they were reminded of the three individuals they had seen the previous year by LE PAGE. BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE asked "do you remember when you were coming to my place in '67 and those three SOBs were leaving, did you notice they were acting funny?" BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE went on to say that FRAZIER had said that these men had offered him (FRAZIER) money to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. while they were sitting in ROBERT DUNN's cabin (the ROBERT DUNN cabin is located on property in the vicinity of the property owned by LE PAGE) and Ole FRAZIER had kicked them out. BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE then related the following which LE PAGE stated FRAZIER had told him:

"FRAZIER stated that BRIGHAM YOUNG had contracted him to guide a party of three men on a hunting trip in the bush around Iron Bridge, Ontario. FRAZIER stated that YOUNG wanted to hunt but the two other men seemed to have no interest in hunting and that they wanted to stay in the cabin. The two men had been in the cabin approximately three days and had 'not picked up a gun.' On the third day they were sitting in the cabin when YOUNG made the comment to FRAZIER 'would you like to be a millionaire?' FRAZIER stated he wouldn't mind being a millionaire at which time YOUNG again stated 'I can make you a millionaire ED but you've got to do a job for me.' FRAZIER stated that at this point he became suspicious and somewhat angry but began to ask questions and play along. FRAZIER stated

that YOUNG said 'we want MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. killed and we could pay you a million dollars for killing KING.' YOUNG went on to state 'we don't have the money with us but we could get the money for you if you agree to do it.' YOUNG continued 'we would give you 1/3 now, 1/3 when you kill KING, and after safe passage to another country of your choice where you will receive the remaining 1/3 at which time you will be on your own.' FRAZIER stated that at this point he became extremely angry and threw the men out of the cabin telling them never to return"

BRADLEY related that FRAZIER is approximately 80 years old, is in excellent physical condition, and is in his opinion a well-educated individual "who reads the Wall Street Journal daily." BRADLEY further advised that FRAZIER is employed as a guide in the Iron Bridge area and also is a guard for a gold mine approximately 25 miles from Iron Bridge near the Little White River. BRADLEY further advised that FRAZIER is "a very private individual who wouldn't talk to you unless he knows you very well" and in fact, FRAZIER has never related the aforementioned incident to him (BRADLEY) or anyone except LE PAGE due to the best of his knowledge.

BRADLEY further advised that he does not think that LE PAGE has related this story to anyone else although he is not sure.

BRADLEY described YOUNG and the two other men as white males, all in middle age, all huskily built, 180 to 200 pounds.

1/11/77

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: ME

Enclosed for the Bureau are 6 copies of an LHM captioned WILLIAM BRADLEY, 7075 Havens Road, Black Lick, Ohio.

Enclosed for Memphis is one copy of LHM for information.

Additional copies of the LHM have been furnished the Bureau should the Bureau desire to forward copies to Legat, Ottawa.

Cincinnati indices regarding WILLIAM BRADLEY negative.

No further investigation is being contemplated by Cincinnati UACB. Cincinnati is placing this case in RUC status.

3-Bureau (Enc. 6)
(2-44-38861)
(1-100-106670)
①-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)
2-Cincinnati *mf*
(1-157-1893)
(1-100-14700)

EMW:naa
(6)

44-1987-SVA m -1085

WB

[Handwritten signature]

~~Hester~~
B. Johnson *[initials]*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

New Orleans, Louisiana
January 19, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Jimmie Wayne Ray, Apartment #1, Delta Apartments, Luling, Louisiana, was located and interviewed at his residence on January 11, 1977. At the outset of the interview the identity of the interviewing Agent, Special Agent Stephen M. Callender, was made known to Ray as well as the purpose of the interview.

Ray related that to the best of his recollection he was incarcerated at the Medical Center for Federal Prisoners (MCFP), Springfield, Missouri, for observation and evaluation from approximately January, 1967 to March or May, 1967. He was sent to this facility after having been convicted in U. S. District Court for Theft From Interstate Shipment and after it became known that he previously had received a medical discharge from the U. S. Army after having suffered a nervous breakdown which resulted in an attempt to commit suicide.

During the time Ray was incarcerated at the MCFP he became acquainted with another inmate by the name of William B. Simponis. From the time that Ray was released from MCFP until approximately June, 1968, he corresponded with Simponis. During this period Simponis wrote approximately six to eight letters addressed to Ray at then Ray's address, 492 Clarice, Memphis, Tennessee.

During the first part of 1968, the exact date not recalled, but believed probably from January to March, 1968, Simponis wrote approximately two letters to Ray from Salt Lake City, Utah, where Simponis was in jail. In these letters

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

44-1987-5013 m
1086
JAN 22
3

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Simponis talked about his mother and girlfriend and also about getting released from jail and proposed that he and Ray go into the motel business in Elko, Nevada, where Simponis related he had a girlfriend.

In one of the letters Simponis mentioned the name of a fellow inmate at Salt Lake City by the last name of Martinez, first name not recalled. Simponis told Ray that Martinez would be getting out of jail and "heading east" and that he had furnished Martinez with Ray's name and address in Memphis. Ray related that he was never contacted by Martinez.

Ray related that he believed the two letters he received from Simponis during Simponis' incarceration in Salt Lake City were written by Simponis as to the best of Ray's recollection these letters were hand printed and all correspondence Ray received from Simponis was handwritten.

Ray related that all of the other letters received from Simponis were general in nature in their content and related to life in prison and what Simponis anticipated on doing when he was released.

Ray related that to the best of his recollection he answered Simponis correspondence on two occasions. The content of Ray's letters were also general in nature with always wish that Simponis would be released soon from jail.

Ray related that after he did not get a letter from Simponis over an extended period of time he wrote the MCFP and was subsequently informed of Simponis' death. Ray related he has not retained any of Simponis' letters.

Jimmie Wayne Ray advised that he is not related in any manner to James Earl Ray and has never had any type of association with James Earl Ray.

1/19/77

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)(RUC)
MURKIN - 44-1987
OO: Memphis 157-1107-1

Re New Orleans teletype to Memphis, 1/14/77.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies and for Memphis two copies of an LHM setting forth the results of an interview with JIMMIE WAYNE RAY on 1/11/77 at Luling, Louisiana.

Inasmuch as there is no outstanding investigation to be conducted or reported by New Orleans, this case is being considered RUC.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 8)
2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) *BKS*
1 - New Orleans

SMC:ebc
(5)

44-1987-SUB m-1087

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>fm</i>	FILED <i>WV</i>
JAN 22 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>R. Johnson</i>	

000158 0141940Z

RR HQ ME

DE HQ

R 0141940Z JAN 77

FM NEW ORLEANS (157-12673) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE DECEMBER 21, 1976.

JIMMIE WAYNE RAY FINALLY LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED AT LULING, LA. RAY RELATED HE WAS INCARCERATED AT THE MEDICAL CENTER FOR FEDERAL PRISONERS (MCFP), SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, FROM APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 1967 TO MARCH 1967.

DURING THIS TIME HE BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH ANOTHER INMATE BY THE NAME OF WILLIAM B. SIMPONIS. FROM MARCH 1967 UNTIL APPROXIMATELY JUNE 1968 HE CORRESPONDED WITH SIMPONIS.

44-1987-Sub-m-1088
u u
W. Johnson

PAGE TWO NO 157-10673 CLEAR

DURING THIS PERIOD OF TIME SIMPONIS WROTE APPROXIMATELY SIX TO EIGHT LETTERS ADDRESSED TO RAY AT THEN RAY'S ADDRESS 492 CLARICE, MEMPHIS, TENN.

DURING THE FIRST PART OF 1968 THE EXACT DATE NOT RECALLED BUT BELIEVED PROBABLY FROM JANUARY TO MARCH 1968 SIMPONIS WROTE ABOUT TWO LETTERS TO RAY FROM SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, WHERE SIMPONIS WAS IN JAIL. IN THESE LETTERS SIMPONIS TALKED ABOUT GETTING RELEASED FROM JAIL AND PROPOSED THAT HE AND RAY GO INTO THE HOTEL BUSINESS IN ELKO, NEVADA, WHERE SIMPONIS RELATED HE HAD A GIRLFRIEND.

IN ONE OF THESE LETTERS SIMPONIS MENTIONED THE NAME OF A FELLOW INMATE IN SALT LAKE CITY BY THE LAST NAME OF MARTINEZ, FIRST NAME NOT RECALLED. SIMPONIS TOLD RAY THAT MARTINEZ WOULD BE GETTING OUT OF JAIL AND HEADING EAST AND HE HAD FURNISHED MARTINEZ WITH RAY'S NAME AND ADDRESS IN MEMPHIS.

RAY RELATED HE BELIEVED THE TWO LETTERS HE RECEIVED FROM SIMPONIS DURING SIMPONIS' INCARCERATION IN SALT LAKE CITY WERE WRITTEN BY SIMPONIS. AS TO THE BEST OF

PAGE THREE NO 157-10673 CLEAR

RAY'S RECOLLECTION THESE LETTERS WERE HAND-PRINTED AND ALL CORRESPONDENCE RAY RECEIVED FROM SIMPONIS WAS HAND-PRINTED.

RAY RELATED THAT THE OTHER LETTERS WHICH HE RECEIVED FROM SIMPONIS WERE GENERAL IN NATURE IN THEIR CONTENT AND RELATED TO LIFE IN PRISON IN REGARDS TO SIMPONIS AND WHAT HE ANTICIPATED ON DOING WHEN HE WAS RELEASED.

JINNIE WAYNE RAY RELATED THAT HE IS NOT RELATED IN ANY MANNER TO JAMES EARL RAY AND HAS NEVER HAD ANY TYPE OF ASSOCIATION WITH JAMES EARL RAY. LHM FOLLOWS.

BT

0141947Z ME 1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/18/77

MARVIN MARSHALL called the FBI Office at Memphis, Tennessee, by telephone and furnished the following information:

He does not have a permanent address but temporarily rooms with Mrs. JULIA WILKINS, Merriwether Street near Whitney in the Frayser area of Memphis. He did not know the address and Mrs. WILKINS does not have a telephone. MARSHALL is unemployed and is a disabled veteran. His disability involves "a nervous condition" but he is "not out of touch with reality".

On the date that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING was murdered in Memphis, MARSHALL lived at 922 North Hollywood, Memphis. His residence was three doors down from a Gulf service station which was located at the corner of Hollywood and Jackson, Memphis. Around 7:00 P.M. on the date of Dr. KING's murder, MARSHALL saw JAMES EARL RAY make a telephone call from the coin operated telephone inside the above mentioned service station. MARSHALL did not see RAY arrive at or depart from the station and had no information regarding any car being driven by RAY. At the time, MARSHALL had pulled into this service station to get some gasoline. He then walked inside the door of the service station and, at this time, saw the man he has since recognized as RAY using the telephone. He recognized this man as RAY from photographs he has seen of JAMES EARL RAY. When MARSHALL walked into the service station, he stood about 3½ to 4 feet away from the man he saw using the telephone. MARSHALL described the man he saw using the phone as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	35-45
Height	5'11" - 6'
Weight	165-175
Hair	Black, but looked like a wig
Clothing	Dark colored suit
Miscellaneous	Wore glasses

Interviewed on 1/18/77 at MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE File # ME 44- 1987-^{SUB}M-1089
 by SA HOLLOWAY/CROMER/mg Date dictated 1/18/77

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.

ME 44-1987

MARSHALL did not hear any of the conversation of this man.

The owners of this Gulf service station were two white men, names unknown. Shortly after the murder of Dr. KING, these two men closed this service station but reopened another service station between the Holiday Inn and the Quality Motel near the old bridge over the Mississippi River at Memphis. This new station was either a Phillips 66 station or a "76" station. These two men no longer operate this station.

MARSHALL described these two men as follows:

#1

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	45
Height	5'8" - 5'9"
Weight	250-300
Hair	Reddish; short

#2

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	35-40
Height	6'3" - 6'4"
Weight	175-180
Build	Slender
Miscellaneous	Talked slowly

For a few days before the murder of Dr. KING and for a few days after his murder, several police cars were parked at the above mentioned Gulf service station. MARSHALL did not know the names of the police officers in these cars but one of the officers who frequently was there was a lieutenant or a captain. He was a white man and was described by MARSHALL as "elderly".

ME 44-1987

When asked why he had waited so long to report this information, MARSHALL replied, "I didn't give it too much thought". He said he had been "so upset" about Dr. KING getting killed.

MARSHALL said he had reported this information by telephone to the FBI around September to November, 1976, but he did not know the name of the person with whom he had spoken.

Memphis, Tennessee
January 18, 1977

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

On December 14, 1976, a source who has furnished insufficient information to establish his reliability, advised that Dr. Gus Prosch, who often introduced himself as John Willard, Frank Liberto, who source learned owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, Louisiana, and whom Prosch described as the head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans, Reverend (first name unknown) Shuttleworth, personally known to the source in 1968 as very active in civil rights matters, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, and a Mr. (first name unknown) Gault met a number of times in the Birmingham, Alabama, area in 1968. Following one of the meetings, Dr. Prosch informed the source that Dr. Abernathy and Reverend Shuttleworth had bought a contract for \$265,000 to have Martin Luther King, Jr. killed.

On November 29, 1970, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, received a report that a trailer loaded with guns was bogged down at Parkwood Trailer Park, Parkwood Community, in Jefferson County near Bessemer, Alabama. This trailer, whose ownership was subsequently traced to Prosch, was found to contain a huge quantity of shoulder and hand firearms, ammunition of various caliber, hand grenades, dynamite, sawed off shotguns, a 60 mm mortar, black powder, capped bottles containing gas, bayonets, food stuff, camping equipment, medical supplies, and other unnamed materials. Some of the weapons in this cache were traced to Dr. Prosch, a Birmingham physician whose practice was limited to treating overweight persons. Dr. Prosch, a white male,

SERIALIZED *CS*

44-1987 Sub M1090 INDEXED

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

4-Bureau (44-38861)
1-Birmingham (44-1740)

2-Memphis (44-1987 SUB M
BFJ:rsb (7)

17

**RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM**

born [redacted] at Birmingham, Alabama, then resided at 2640 Paden Place, Jefferson County, Alabama, and maintained an office at 2154 Highland Avenue South, Birmingham.

On April 6, 1968, John McFerren, Somerville, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, McFerren traveled from Somerville, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee, to pick up supplies for his grocery store. While in Memphis he went to the place where he normally bought his produce which he said was possibly the L L & L Produce Market, 814 Scott Street. According to McFerren, this business was operated by a heavy set white man, who weighed approximately 300 pounds, who appeared to be possibly of Puerto Rican extraction. After McFerren arrived at this company he walked up to the door of the office and noticed that the heavy set man was sitting at his desk with his back to the door and talking on the telephone. McFerren stated he heard this heavy set man say "kill the S.O.B. on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000."

McFerren reported that he went back to the rear portion of this office and shortly thereafter heard the telephone ring. The phone was answered by a white man, thin in build, who had a scar on his right cheek. McFerren could not hear what this man said when he answered the phone, but after answering the phone, he handed it to the heavy set man. McFerren heard the heavy set man say "Don't come out here. Go to New Orleans and get your money. You know my brother."

McFerren reported that approximately a week prior to April 4, 1968, he was at the L L & L Produce Market, at which time the heavy set man, the man with the scar, and approximately three other white males were

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

in a group talking. He heard the heavy set man say at this time, "they ought to shoot the S.O.B." Immediately after making this statement, the heavy set man walked over to McFerren and said "what do you think about King and his mess?" McFerren reported that he told the heavy set man that he tended to his own business.

On April 19, 1968, Frank Camilla Liberto, who resided at 3271 Powers Street, Memphis, Tennessee, and was employed as President of L L & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis, furnished the following information:

To the best of his knowledge, he was at his place of business on April 4, 1968. Liberto emphatically denied having any knowledge of the identity of the person responsible for the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968. He emphatically denied ever discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting King, although he admitted he had made the usual derogatory remarks about King's actions in Memphis, Tennessee, and also made remarks about the fact King was partly responsible for the curfew imposed on the city of Memphis resulting in loss of revenue by his business establishment in the Memphis area. He acknowledged he may have made statements to the effect that King should be killed, although he does not recall any specific statements made by him to this effect. He stated that due to the curfew, he suffered approximately \$40,000 in loss sales at the produce company.

Liberto stated he frequently made trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, to purchase produce, and also because members of his family resided in the New Orleans area. Most of his co-workers, employees, and customers at the produce company, knew of his travels to New Orleans.

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

Liberto specifically denied making or receiving any telephone calls on April 4, 1968, wherein there was conversation regarding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He pointed out that most of his business transactions are made through use of the telephone and that these conversations frequently result in talking about large sums of money. He stated that he would have no reason for becoming involved in any action directed at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He stated he frequently taunted various individuals regarding racial matters and may have made disparaging remarks to some of his customers involving King, but did not consider this uncommon among various co-workers at his place of business.

Liberto advised that the following members of his family reside in New Orleans, Louisiana:

- 1 - Emily Liberto, mother, 2219 Altomaster Street;
- 2 - Tony Liberto, brother, residing two houses down from his mother, specific address not known;
- 3 - Vincent Liberto, brother, who worked for the Viking Truck Company, New Orleans;
- 4 - Salvadore Liberto, brother, who worked as a truck driver for West Brothers in New Orleans.

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

**RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM**

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	<input type="text"/>
Place of Birth	Memphis, Tennessee
Height	5'10-11"
Weight	285 pounds
Eyes	Grayish blue
Hair	Brown

On April 4, 1968, Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, 690 LaVerne Drive, Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, and furnished the following information:

Reverend Abernathy described himself as Vice President at large and Treasurer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He stated he was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s closest associate and that he and Dr. King always shared a room whenever they traveled together.

At about 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968, Reverend Abernathy and Dr. King registered at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee. On April 4, 1968, he and Dr. King did not leave the motel and spent most of the day at their room, number 306, which was located on the second floor of the motel. Reverend Abernathy and Dr. King had been away from their room for approximately one hour or less when they returned to the room at 5:30 p.m. They dressed because they were going to dinner at the home of Reverend Billy Kyle and at almost exactly 6:00 p.m., started to leave the room. Reverend Abernathy stopped for a moment and Dr. King walked out onto the balcony just outside the door to their room. Reverend Abernathy stated he heard what sounded like a firecracker and heard the screams of persons to whom Dr. King had been talking. Reverend Abernathy went to the balcony and observed Dr. King lying there wounded in the right side of the face and neck. He instructed someone to call an ambulance and accompanied Dr. King in the ambulance to the hospital where Dr. King died.

**RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM**

Reverend Abernathy reported that while he and Dr. King were in the motel room, Dr. King did not, to his knowledge, receive any telephone calls of a threatening nature or calls from persons who would not identify themselves. He said Dr. King had not feared that any particular persons might harm him and Reverend Abernathy was unable to suggest any suspects or to provide any other information which might assist in identifying Dr. King's killer.

On April 11, 1968, Miss Anna Christine Kelly, Manager, Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information from records maintained by the Rebel Motor Hotel:

On April 3, 1968, Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, registered in room 34 and departed on April 4, 1968. He stated on his registration card that he was driving a Mustang bearing Alabama license plate 1-38993. Miss Kelly stated that she could not remember Eric S. Galt.

On April 5, 1968, Mrs. Bessie Brewer, 422½ South Main Street, Apartment 2, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

She was the manager of the boarding house at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis. On Thursday, April 4, 1968, between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m., a white male individual knocked on the door of her apartment which also served as the office, and he inquired about renting a room. She subsequently rented him Apartment 5-B, which rented for \$8.50 per week, paid in advance. The individual identified himself as John Willard and paid her with a \$20 bill he took from his right front pants pocket and also gave her fifty cents in coin. She described John Willard as a white male, 30 to 35 years of age, six feet, weighing approximately 190 pounds.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY:
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

On April 5, 1968, Charlie Quitman Stephens, Room 6-B, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

In the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, he and his wife were in their room at 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis. He heard what he is certain was a shot, and was certain that the shot he heard came from the bathroom located a few feet from where he was sitting. He had no way of knowing, but estimated it was some time between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Upon hearing this shot, he walked out of the bathroom, through his living-bedroom, and opened the door leading to the hallway and observed a man running west down this hallway, and this man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. The man continued to run to the end of the hallway, turned left and apparently thereafter ran down the stairway onto the street, although he could not actually see the man going down the stairway. It immediately occurred to Mr. Stephens that this was the same man he had observed earlier in the afternoon, possibly around mid afternoon, standing at the door to Room 5-B, which was located immediately west of Mr. Stephens' living-bedroom. He stated that around mid afternoon he had seen the man with Mrs. Brewer standing in the hallway at the entrance to Room 5-B looking into the room. He assumed that this was some new guest looking for a room. He later heard someone in Room 5-B and assumed that the man he observed with Mrs. Brewer had rented the room next door. He recalled that on several different occasions he heard footsteps in this room and also heard a person leaving the room and walking past his, Mr. Stephens, room, and entering

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

a common bathroom at the end of the hall. He was aware that the person who went from room 5-B to the bathroom remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time.

On April 24, 1968, photographs of James Earl Ray taken in 1955, 1960 and 1966 and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Charlie Quitman Stephens. Stephens said the 1955 and 1960 photographs of Ray were not familiar to him, but that the 1966 profile photograph of Ray appearing in wanted flier 442-1, dated April 19, 1968, and identification order 4182, dated April 20, 1968, looked like the man he saw in Apartment 5-B on April 4, 1968, talking to Mrs. Bessie Brewer. He said he had never seen the bedspread or any similar bedspread at the boarding house or anywhere else.

Mr. Bernell Finley, 1468 Kyle, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information on April 5, 1968:

At approximately 5:20 p.m. on April 4, 1968, he and an acquaintance of his drove to the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis. Around 6:00 p.m. Mr. Finley heard a noise that sounded like a shot. Shortly thereafter and certainly within a matter of just a minute or so, he heard a second noise near the front door of the Canipe Store. He and others immediately looked to the front door where they saw a box, package or bundle lying immediately in front of the store. He also observed a man walking rapidly south on the sidewalk on the east side of Main Street, and it was obvious that this was the person who had dropped or thrown the package in front of the store. Minutes later, Mr. Finley heard the "screech" of tires and looked up and saw a white Mustang speeding north on Main Street past Canipe Store. He explained that there was a car parked in front of the store and he did not get a full view of the car which had sped away, but he did see the rear portion of the roof line, as well as the trunk, and there is no question in his mind that this was a white car and there was no question in his mind that the car was a white Mustang.

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

At the time Mr. Finley did not associate the speeding white Mustang with the man who had dropped the box or package in front of the Canipe Store, but after he had learned what had occurred and reflecting on the matter, he is of the opinion that the man who dropped the package and walked south on the sidewalk past the store was possibly the man who got into the white Mustang and sped away from the area.

On April 5, 1968, Mr. Julius L. Graham, Apartment 5, 805 North Fifth Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he accompanied Mr. Bernell Finley to the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, arriving there about 5:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He recalled that as they were looking for a parking space he observed two white cars parked in the vicinity of the Canipe Store, one of which was definitely a white Mustang. He later heard tires screech in the vicinity of the store and observed a white Mustang speed north on Main Street. He is positive that the car he observed speeding away from the area was a white Mustang and there was no question in his mind that it was the same white Mustang he had observed earlier when he and Mr. Finley arrived in the vicinity of the store.

In April, 1968, records of Jefferson County Department of Revenue, Birmingham, Alabama revealed 1968 Alabama license plate 1-38993 was issued to Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, for a 1966 Ford Mustang.

On April 11, 1968, a white Ford Mustang, subsequently determined to be a 1966 model, was observed in parking area nine of Capitol Homes, Atlanta, Georgia. This automobile bore 1968 Alabama license plate 1-38993.

1/18/77

AIRTEL

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

Re Birmingham airtel with enclosed LHM, 12/15/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies and for Birmingham one copy of an LHM dated 1/18/77 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CR."

The source referred to in the enclosed LHM is FRANK WINSETT (protect) who furnished this information to the Birmingham Office.

A review of indices of the Memphis Office reveals that FREDERICK LEE SHUTTLEWORTH was formerly affiliated with the Southern Conference Educational Fund. It is not known by the Memphis Division whether FREDERICK LEE SHUTTLEWORTH is the individual referred to in the Birmingham LHM.

For the information of the Bureau, in 1971 the Birmingham Office requested the Memphis Office to determine the subscriber to a telephone number relating to an investigation being conducted by Birmingham regarding Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR. Memphis determined that this telephone

2-Bureau (Enc. 4)
1-Birmingham (Enc. 1) (44-1740)
2-Memphis
BFJ:rsb
(5) *W*

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *CR*
INDEXED _____
FILED *CR*

Mr. Johnson

44-1987 SUB M 1091

ME 44-1987 SUB M

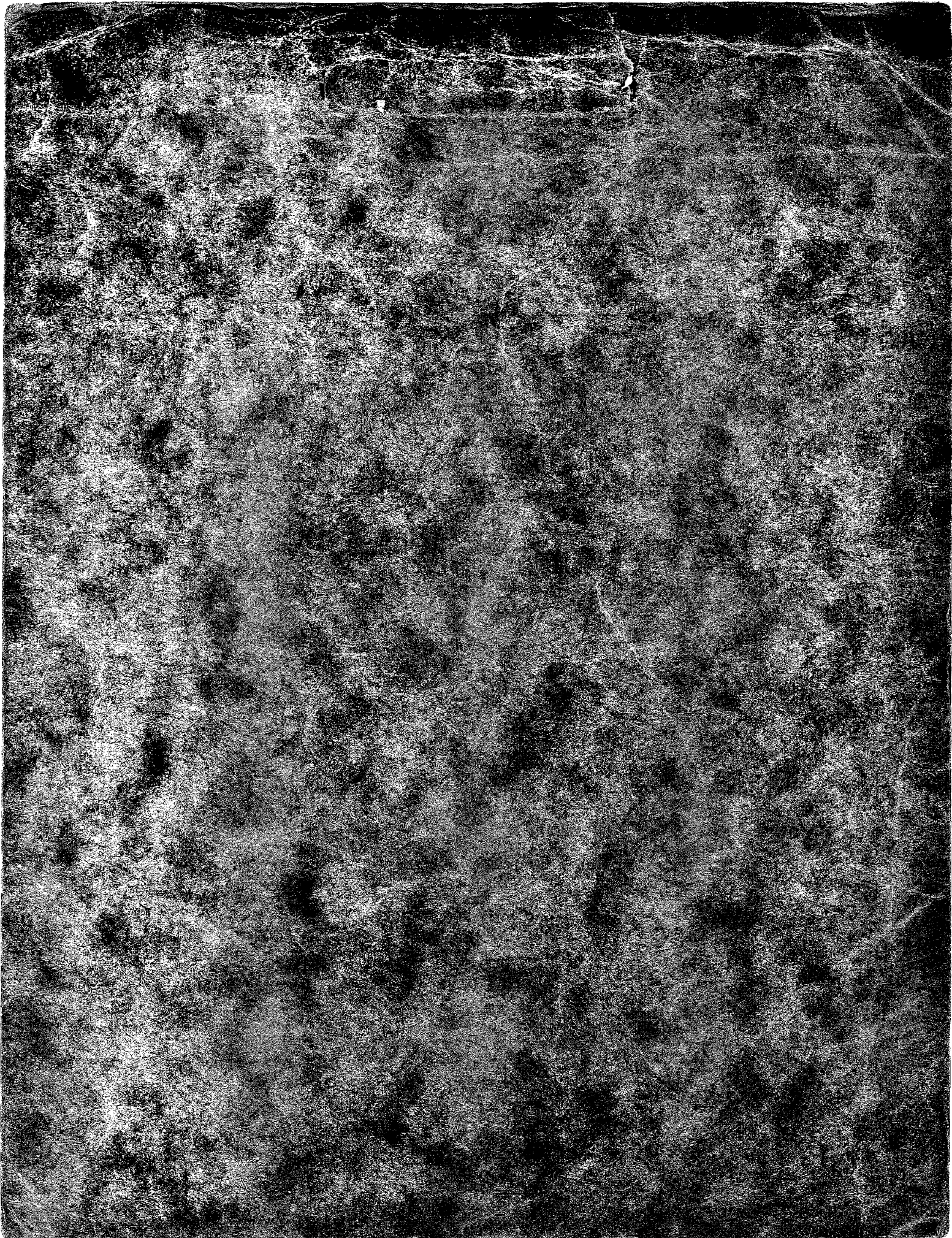
number was listed to J. E. BUNT, 2597 Tutwiler, Memphis, Tennessee.

On 3/4/71 Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Division, Memphis PD, advised that BUNT was arrested for violation of the Memphis City Curfew Law during the riots which ensued after the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. The Memphis Office has no information indicating the relationship between Dr. PROSCH and BUNT.

SEE

NEXT

SECTION



2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176