

U. S. Department of Justice

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

FIELD OFFICE FILE  
FOIPA PROCESSED

FEDERAL BUREAU

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10-31-01 BY SP124K/20

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

"DO NOT DESTROY;  
HISTORICAL VALUE  
NATIONAL ARCHIVES"

See also Nos.

SEE VOL 1  
FOR LITIGATION

44-1987 SUB M  
INVESTIGATION AFTER ARREST  
CLASSIFICATION NO.

Volume Number 11  
Serial 1092 - 1139

HESTER  
4/4/68

CEO 005 0282023Z

PP HI ME MM

P 281931Z JAN 77

FM CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY

MIAMI PRIORITY

SAN JUAN PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN.

*✓ 44-1987 Sub M*

RE CHARLOTTE TELEPHONE CALL TO BUREAU, JANUARY 28, 1977.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU AND RECEIVING OFFICES, ON

JANUARY 28, 1977, DR. EUGENE V. GRACE, EYE SURGEON, 911

NORTH BROAD STREET, DURHAM, N. C., WHO ALSO OPERATES MOORE

PUBLISHING COMPANY, 907 NORTH BROAD ST., REPORTED RECEIPT OF

TELEPHONE CONTACT JANUARY 27, 1977, FROM OTIS MOORE, LOMAS

VERDES NUMBER 40, SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO, TELEPHONE NUMBER

780-4533, OFFERING BOOKS BY MOORE FOR PUBLICATION. MOORE

IDENTIFIED SELF AS RETIRED U. S. MASTER SERGEANT AND STATED

*89-12086 2*  
*26-32067 2*  
*91-4111 2*  
*Otis Humphrey 89-82*  
*.D*

*1*

*44-1987-Sub M-1092*  
*W3*  
*CR CR*  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED  
B. JOHNSON 132

PAGE TWO

CE 44-1365

CLEAR

IN BOOK HE IDENTIFIED ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND IMPLIED THIS ASSASSIN HAD FIRST SOUGHT TO HIRE MOORE FOR THE ASSASSINATION. MOORE CLAIMED TO HAVE REPORTED INFORMATION TO FBI AND THAT KELLEY HAD ASSIGNED MOORE A FILE NUMBER. MOORE INDICATES HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH OTHER PROSPECTIVE PUBLISHERS AND ALSO CLAIMS CORRESPONDENCE WITH U. S. SENATORS FRANK CHURCH AND EDWARD KENNEDY. HE FEELS LIFE IS IN DANGER.

GRACE STATES HE HAS SCHEDULED PROSPECTIVE RECONTACT WITH MOORE CONCERNING PUBLICATION ABOUT SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1977. GRACE PLANS TO DEPART DURHAM, N. C., NOON, JANUARY 28, 1977, TO DRIVE TO DIPLOMAT MOTEL, HOLLYWOOD BEACH, FLA., JANUARY 29, 1977, TO ATTEND MEDICAL MEETING. GRACE OFFERED TO FLY TO SAN JUAN SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 1977, AND TAKE FBI UNDERCOVER AGENT AS ASSISTANT PUBLISHER TO MEET WITH MOORE OR OTHERWISE COOPERATE IN ANY WAY. OFFER OF HAVING FBI AGENT PARTICIPATE IN ANY INTERVIEW WITH MOORE DECLINED. GRACE ADVISED HE WOULD REPORT RESULTS OF ANY FUTURE CONTACTS WITH MOORE.

MIAMI AND SAN JUAN BEING ADVISED IN THE EVENT OF ANY FUTURE CONTACT.

PAGE THREE      CE 44-1365      CLEAR

MEMPHIS REVIEW INDICES REGARDING OTIS MOORE AND ADVISE.

CHARLOTTE WILL PROMPTLY FURNISH ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION  
RECEIVED FROM DR. GRACE.

BT

0282030Z ME 1

CCJ,Jr:rh

January 20, 1977

Mr. William P. Tyson  
Deputy Director  
Executive Office for  
United States Attorneys  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Bill:

As you recall, during a recent telephone conversation, you were advised that Ben D. Gibbens, Investigator, Criminal Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, informed the United States Attorney that a previously reliable informant of his claims to have been present during a meeting at which several men discussed the murder of Martin Luther King. The informant advised Gibbens that he can identify two of the men who were present at the meeting and that one of those "put up a considerable amount of money" to have King murdered. The informants said he saw the money change hands. He can identify the man who gave the money but not the man to whom the money was given. The meeting in question, according to the informant, occurred in Memphis, Tennessee, prior to King's death. The informant was himself in jail in Memphis, Tennessee, when King was murdered.

The informant also advised Gibbens that while in Chicago he worked for a "gangster" who offered him money to kill a Chicago man named "Giacanno". That individual was in fact later killed by persons unknown to the informant. The informant surmised that the "gangster" hired others to complete the assassination plot when the informant refused.

The informant also advised Gibbens that he knows who was responsible for the death of a man named "Murphy" whose body was found in the trunk of an automobile on Cicero Avenue in the Chicago area. The informant told Gibbens that Murphy's head looked like it had been mashed in a vise.

The informant also claims to have knowledge of those responsible for the theft of varying amounts of plutonium and mercury in the Oklahoma area.

44-1987 SUB M 1093

AW AW

B. Johnson y

Mr. William P. Tyson  
Page 2  
January 20, 1977

Following the United States Attorney's telephone conversation with you, Gibbens met with the informant who advised that he would not be interviewed locally but would only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington. Gibbens did not seek to obtain more detailed information from the informant, but advises that the informant asserts that he can supply more detailed information to Justice Department investigators.

The informant is an inmate in a Louisiana jail who is presently facing a sentence of life imprisonment. He claims to have been convicted at a trial where perjury was suborned by state law enforcement officials. Gibbens advises that the informant, in exchange for his cooperation, only requests that the matter be looked into by Justice officials. The informant specifically requests that two witnesses, whose testimony he claims was perjured, be interviewed.

Whether this information is valuable or accurate is something that neither Gibbens nor the United States Attorney can assess. Gibbens does not feel that he is in a position to evaluate the accuracy or reliability of the information. He simply requests that the United States Attorney relate these sketchy details to you in the event that someone in the Justice Department might be interested in interviewing his informant. Gibbens would be willing to be present during an interview between Justice investigators and his informant. The informant has indicated that he will discuss the matter with Justice investigators only in Gibbens' presence.

Should anyone decide to pursue this matter further, they can contact Gibbens or the United States Attorney. As indicated on the telephone, the United States Attorney has no idea who the informant is or where he is presently located. The United States Attorney's and Mr. Gibbens' interest in this matter is in seeing that this report is conveyed to the U. S. Department of Justice.

If we can provide further information, please advise.

Very truly yours,

---

CHENEY C. JOSEPH, JR.  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

---

BEN D. GIBBENS, Investigator  
Criminal Division  
Louisiana Department of Justice

Copy to: Elmer Litchfield  
Resident Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

1/28/77

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (RUC)  
MURKIN *✓ 44-1987 sub m*  
OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis, are one copy each of a letter to WILLIAM P. TYSON, from U. S. Attorney CHENEY C. JOSEPH, JR., dated 1/20/77, a copy of which was received by New Orleans FBI on 1/28/77.

Note that CHENEY's letter speaks of information from an informant of BEN D. GIBBENS regarding KING's assassination, and other matters, and also indicates that the informant would not be interviewed locally, desiring to speak to Department of Justice investigators from Washington in the presence of GIBBENS.

This is being furnished to FBI Headquarters for information. No further action being taken by New Orleans.

2-Bureau (Enc. 1)  
②-Memphis (Enc. 1) (44-1987) (Info.)  
1-New Orleans *mp*

CHA:prb  
(4)

*44-1987 SUB M-1094*  
*mp*  
*RLH*  
*Hester*  
*B. Johnson* 7

FBI

Date: 1/28/77

005

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

Via TELETYPE PRIORITY  
(Precedence)

FM MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)  
TO BUREAU (44-38861) (PRIORITY) 2358Z  
CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (PRIORITY) 0016Z  
SAN JUAN (PRIORITY) VIA HQ 2358Z  
MIAMI (PRIORITY) 0300Z

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN.

RE CHARLOTTE TELETYPE DATED JANUARY 28, 1977.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU AND ALL OFFICES RECEIVING THIS COMMUNICATION, OTIS MOORE REFERRED TO IN REFERENCED TELETYPE APPEARS TO BE IDENTICAL WITH OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE IN CASE ENTITLED "OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE; SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY - VICTIM; POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE MATTER." IN BUREAU TELETYPE TO MEMPHIS DATED MAY 17, 1976, IN THE MOORE - KENNEDY MATTER THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS SET FORTH REGARDING OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE:

BFJ:jap  
(1)  
*jap*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED AKS  
INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
FILED AKS

Approved: *J.H.M.*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent see above M Per *JSD*

44-1987 508/1095



F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO (ME 44-1987 SUB M)

ON MAY 14, 1976, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRET SERVICE FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING:

ON MAY 12, 1976, HE INTERVIEWED OTIS HUMPHREY, CALLE 9 NUMBER L-12, ROYALTOWN, BAYAMON, PUERTO RICO: DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] PLACE OF BIRTH, ELAINE, ARKANSAS; RACE - WHITE; SEX - MALE; COMPLEXION - RUDDY; HAIR - BROWN; EYES - GREEN; HEIGHT - 5'3"; WEIGHT - 146 POUNDS; SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER [REDACTED] MILITARY SERIAL NUMBER RA18328349; SMALL SCAR ON BRIDGE OF NOSE. THE SECRET SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE ADVISED THAT MOORE SAID THAT IN 1965, WHILE DRINKING IN A BAR IN TEMPLE, TEXAS, TWO UNKNOWN MALES ENGAGED HIM IN CONVERSATION TO THE EFFECT THAT MOORE WAS OFFERED \$50,000 TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MOORE BELIEVES HE IS IN POSSESSION OF SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION, WHEN, COUPLED WITH THE INFORMATION IN POSSESSION OF JAMES EARL RAY AND SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, WILL BE ABLE TO "PUT IT ALL TOGETHER" AND RESOLVE THE MATTER OF KING'S ASSASSINATION ONCE AND FOR ALL.

ACCORDING TO THE SECRET SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE, MOORE WAS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FROM ROOSEVELT ROADS NAVAL BASE IN PUERTO RICO ON MAY 15, 1976, DESTINED TO CHARLESTON, S. C.

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 SUB M)

MOORE VOWED THEREAFTER TO MAKE HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON, D. C., BY WHATEVER MEANS AVAILABLE AND SIT IN THE OFFICE OF SENATOR KENNEDY AND PESTER THE OFFICE PERSONNEL UNTIL ABLE TO SEE SENATOR KENNEDY PERSONALLY. HE ALSO STATED HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO SEE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, MENTIONING BY NAME REPRESENTATIVE WILBUR MILLS. THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT NOTED THAT MOORE APPEARED TO BE MENTALLY UNSTABLE DURING THE INTERVIEW.

ON MAY 15, 1976, MOORE WAS INTERVIEWED BY THE FBI AT HIS RESIDENCE. HE REITERATED HIS INTENTION OF ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN AN INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR KENNEDY REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND PRESIDENT KENNEDY. MOORE ADVISED THAT IF SENATOR KENNEDY WOULD NOT SEE HIM HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INTERVIEWS WITH SENATORS DALE BUMPERS AND HENRY JACKSON. HE ALSO INTENDED TO CONTACT THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE TO OBTAIN AN INTERVIEW WITH JAMES EARL RAY, WHOM MOORE FELT DID NOT TELL THE TRUE STORY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. WHEN QUESTIONED REGARDING HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, MOORE FURNISHED THE SAME INFORMATION HE HAD PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED THE SECRET SERVICE AGENT, ADDING ONLY THAT A "MULTI-MILLIONAIRE LAWYER FROM

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 44-1987 SUB M)

DALLAS" WAS PRESENT WHEN HE WAS OFFERED \$50,000 TO ASSASSINATE KING. MOORE ADVISED HE HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION BUT WOULD ONLY GIVE IT TO SENATOR KENNEDY BECAUSE HE HAD CONTACTED THE FBI IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OFFER HAD BEEN MADE AND NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MOORE'S WIFE, LYDIA M. MOORE, NEE TORRES, REVEALED THAT MOORE HAD BEEN PLANNING TO TAKE THIS TRIP FOR SOME TIME BUT THAT SHE HAD BEEN ABLE TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT. AT THE TIME SHE ADVISED THAT UNTIL RECENTLY HER HUSBAND HAD BEEN UNDER CARE OF A DR. GARCIA FOR A NERVOUS DISORDER AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR TREATMENT. SHE STATED THAT THE NIGHT IN 1965 HER HUSBAND CAME HOME WITH THE ASSASSINATION STORY HE WAS EXTREMELY DRUNK AND DID CALL THE FBI.

MOORE MADE AVAILABLE HIS DISCHARGE PAPERS WHICH REVEALED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION: DATE OF BIRTH, ; PLACE OF BIRTH, ELAINE, ARKANSAS; SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER,  HOME OF RECORD, CARESIO - ANTION RIOG NUMBER 63, HUMACO, PUERTO RICO; OCCUPATION IN MILITARY, COOK AND MESS

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

F B I

Date:

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

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

PAGE FIVE (ME 44-1987 SUB M)

STEWARD; LAST UNIT ASSIGNED, COMPANY A 75TH RANGER BN FIRST ARMORED DIVISION, FT. HOOD, TEXAS. UNIT RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO: USAR CON OP (RETIRED) RCPAC 9700 PAGE BOULEVARD, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. WEAPON QUALIFICATION: M14 SHARPSHOOTER. OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS: 1965, WURTZBURG, GERMANY; 1967-68, VIETNAM; 1970-71, THAILAND. REASON FOR DISCHARGE: RETIREMENT IN DECEMBER, 1974.

MOORE ADVISED THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN VIOLENCE, THAT HE HAS NO WEAPONS AND DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ANY WEAPONS. MOORE'S WIFE ADVISED HER HUSBAND IS NOT PRONE TO VIOLENCE AND SHE IS OF THE OPINION HE WOULD NOT RESORT TO VIOLENCE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES.

IT WAS THE OPINION OF THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS THAT MOORE WAS IN AN EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE STATE OF MIND AND SEEMED TO BE DETERMINED TO ACCOMPLISH HIS MISSION. PHOTOGRAPHS OF MOORE AVAILABLE IF NEEDED.

A REVIEW OF MEMPHIS INDICES AND FILES REVEALED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE WITH MOORE.

NO FURTHER ACTION CONTEMPLATED BY THE MEMPHIS OFFICE.

BT

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : See Distribution

DATE: FEB 3 1977

FROM: *MESSE* Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel  
Office of Professional Responsibility

SUBJECT:

Attached is a letter from the United States Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana and an investigator for the Louisiana Department of Justice to the Deputy Director of the Executive Office for United States Attorneys. The letter says that a previously reliable informant in jail in Louisiana alleges to have information about the following matters: the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the murder of Sam Giancana, the murder of a man named Murphy in Chicago, and the theft of plutonium and mercury in Oklahoma.

We think the Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division and Federal Bureau of Investigation should take whatever action is appropriate in light of this information.

## DISTRIBUTION

Civil Rights Division, AAG  
Criminal Division, AAG  
Director, FBI

cc: William B. Gray, Director, EOUSA

44-1987 Sub-M 1096  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
FEB 22 1977  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
*WJ*



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

United States Department of Justice

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
AND REFER TO INITIALS

CCJ, Jr:rh

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70801

January 20, 1977

JAN 23 1977  
RECEIVED  
GENERAL

Mr. William P. Tyson  
Deputy Director  
Executive Office for  
United States Attorneys  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Bill:

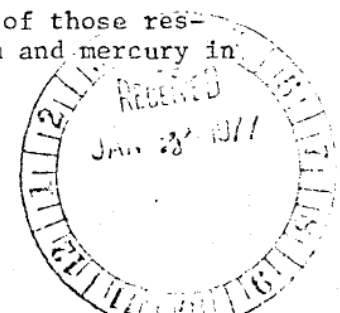
As you recall, during a recent telephone conversation, you were advised that Ben D. Gibbens, Investigator, Criminal Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, informed the United States Attorney that a previously reliable informant of his claims to have been present during a meeting at which several men discussed the murder of Martin Luther King. The informant advised Gibbens that he can identify two of the men who were present at the meeting and that one of those "put up a considerable amount of money" to have King murdered. The informant said he saw the money change hands. He can identify the man who gave the money but not the man to whom the money was given. The meeting in question, according to the informant, occurred in Memphis, Tennessee, prior to King's death. The informant was himself in jail in Memphis, Tennessee, when King was murdered.

The informant also advised Gibbens that while in Chicago he worked for a "gangster" who offered him money to kill a Chicago man named "Giacanno". That individual was in fact later killed by persons unknown to the informant. The informant surmised that the "gangster" hired others to complete the assassination plot when the informant refused.

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The informant also claims to have knowledge of those responsible for the theft of varying amounts of plutonium and mercury in the Oklahoma area.

JAN 23 1977



Mr. William P. Tyson  
Page 2  
January 20, 1977

Following the United States Attorney's telephone conversation with you, Gibbens met with the informant who advised that he would not be interviewed locally but would only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington. Gibbens did not seek to obtain more detailed information from the informant, but advises that the informant asserts that he can supply more detailed information to Justice Department investigators.

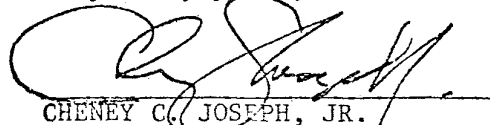
The informant is an inmate in a Louisiana jail who is presently facing a sentence of life imprisonment. He claims to have been convicted at a trial where perjury was suborned by state law enforcement officials. Gibbens advises that the informant, in exchange for his cooperation, only requests that the matter be looked into by Justice officials. The informant specifically requests that two witnesses, whose testimony he claims was perjured, be interviewed.

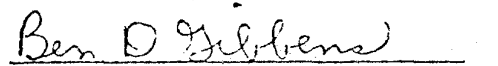
Whether this information is valuable or accurate is something that neither Gibbens nor the United States Attorney can assess. Gibbens does not feel that he is in a position to evaluate the accuracy or reliability of the information. He simply requests that the United States Attorney relate these sketchy details to you in the event that someone in the Justice Department might be interested in interviewing his informant. Gibbens would be willing to be present during an interview between Justice investigators and his informant. The informant has indicated that he will discuss the matter with Justice investigators only in Gibbens' presence.

Should anyone decide to pursue this matter further, they can contact Gibbens or the United States Attorney. As indicated on the telephone, the United States Attorney has no idea who the informant is or where he is presently located. The United States Attorney's and Mr. Gibbens' interest in this matter is in seeing that this report is conveyed to the U. S. Department of Justice.

If we can provide further information, please advise.

Very truly yours,

  
CHENEY C. JOSEPH, JR.  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
BEN D. GIBBENS, Investigator  
Criminal Division  
Louisiana Department of Justice

Copy to: Elmer Litchfield  
Resident Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : See Distribution

DATE: FEB 3 1977

FROM: *MES* Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel  
Office of Professional Responsibility

SUBJECT:

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## DISTRIBUTION

Civil Rights Division, AAG  
Criminal Division, AAG  
Director, FBI

cc: William B. Gray, Director, EOUSA



5010-110

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



United States Department of Justice

ADDRESS REPLY TO  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
AND REFER TO INITIALS

CCJ, Jr:rh

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA 70801

January 20, 1977

JAN 23 1977  
DEPUTY  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Mr. William P. Tyson  
Deputy Director  
Executive Office for  
United States Attorneys  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C. 20530

Dear Bill:

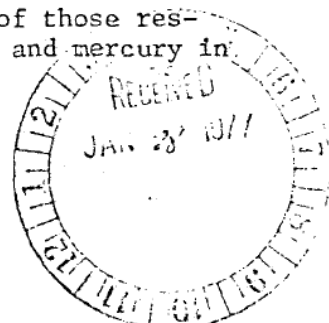
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JAN 23 1977



Mr. William P. Tyson  
Page 2  
January 20, 1977

Following the United States Attorney's telephone conversation with you, Gibbens met with the informant who advised that he would not be interviewed locally but would only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington. Gibbens did not seek to obtain more detailed information from the informant, but advises that the informant asserts that he can supply more detailed information to Justice Department investigators.

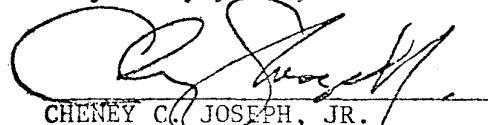
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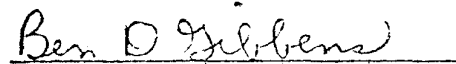
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Should anyone decide to pursue this matter further, they can contact Gibbens or the United States Attorney. As indicated on the telephone, the United States Attorney has no idea who the informant is or where he is presently located. The United States Attorney's and Mr. Gibbens' interest in this matter is in seeing that this report is conveyed to the U. S. Department of Justice.

If we can provide further information, please advise.

Very truly yours,

  
CHENEY C. JOSEPH, JR.  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

  
BEN D. GIBBENS, Investigator  
Criminal Division  
Louisiana Department of Justice

Copy to: Elmer Litchfield  
Resident Agent in Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

February 17, 1977

Director, FBI

ALLEGED INFORMATION REGARDING ASSASSINATION  
OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; THE MURDER OF SAM GIANCANA;  
THE MURDER OF A MAN NAMED MURPHY IN CHICAGO; AND THE  
THEFT OF PLUTONIUM AND MERCURY IN OKLAHOMA AREA

*97-985-3pl  
11676  
C  
119*

Reference is made to my memorandum dated February 3, 1977, to the Civil Rights Division (and the Office of Professional Responsibility) which furnished a copy of a letter dated January 20, 1977, from United States Attorney Cheney C. Joseph, Jr., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Ben D. Gibbens, Investigator, Criminal Division, Louisiana Department of Justice, addressed to Mr. William P. Tyson, Deputy Director, Executive Office for United States Attorneys, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. This memorandum advised that the FBI was furnishing a copy of this letter for information and no further investigation was being conducted concerning this matter unless specifically requested by the Department.

Reference is also made to the memorandum dated February 3, 1977, from Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility, to the Civil Rights Division, Criminal Division, and the FBI which furnished a copy of this same letter dated January 20, 1977.

It is noted in this letter that the informant "advised that he would not be interviewed locally but would only discuss these matters with Justice Department investigators from Washington." In addition, the informant, in exchange for his cooperation, requests certain action concerning his local conviction.

Accordingly, no investigation is being conducted by the FBI concerning this matter unless specifically requested by the Department.

*44-1987 Sub m 1091*

SEARCHED <i>mp</i>	INDEXED <i>mp</i>
SERIALIZED <i>mp</i>	FILED <i>mp</i>
FEB 22 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*y*

Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

If not already done, you may desire to bring this matter to the attention of the appropriate local authorities in Illinois and Oklahoma.

1 - Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

1 - New Orleans (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

① - Memphis (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

1 - Chicago (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

1 - Oklahoma City (Enclosures 2) (Enclosed are copies of incoming from Office of Professional Responsibility) (For information, noting no investigation should be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department).

2/9/77

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)

FROM: LEGAT, OTTAWA (44-4) (P)  
JAMES EARL RAY;  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CR - CONSPIRACY

Enclosed are original and two copies of RCMP  
letter dated 2/3/77.

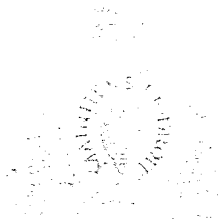
Memphis requested to contact local authorities  
and advise.

4 - Bureau (Enc. 3)  
(1 - Foreign Liaison-Direct)(Enc. 1)  
(1 - Memphis)  
1 - Ottawa

JAM/bad  
(5)

44-1987 Sub m 1098  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
FEB 22 1977  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
B. Johnson J

PLEASE ADDRESS  
CORRESPONDENCE TO:  
THE COMMISSIONER  
ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
OTTAWA, CANADA  
K1P 5K6



LE COMMISSAIRE  
GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA  
OTTAWA, CANADA  
K1P 5K6

HEADQUARTERS  
DIRECTION GÉNÉRALE

YOUR NO. 44-4  
VOTRE NO.  
OUR NO. 68HQ-791-Q-60  
NOTRE NO.

February 3, 1977


Mr. Joseph A. Marion (Jr.)  
c/o United States Embassy  
100 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, Ontario

Re: James Earl RAY  
Dr. Martin Luther KING, Jr. -  
Victim  
Civil Rights - Conspiracy

Reference is made to your Memphis report dated July 22, 1975 concerning disposition of exhibits being held by our Force in respect to captioned matter.

It would be appreciated if your Memphis office could once again cause enquiries to be made with Mr. Terry LAFFERY, Assistant District Attorney General, to determine the present status of matters before the Courts in respect to James Earl RAY.

Your assistance is appreciated.

  
R.R.L. Ostrum, Insp.  
Officer in Charge  
General Section  
Federal Policing Branch

Routing Slip  
0-7 (Rev. 12-17-67)

(Copies to Of ; Checked)

TO: SAC:

- Albany
- Albuquerque
- Alexandria
- Anchorage
- Atlanta
- Baltimore
- Birmingham
- Boston
- Buffalo
- Butte
- Charlotte
- Chicago
- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbia
- Dallas
- Denver
- Detroit
- El Paso
- Honolulu
- Houston
- Indianapolis
- Jackson
- Jacksonville
- Kansas City
- Knoxville
- Las Vegas
- Little Rock
- Los Angeles
- Louisville
- Memphis
- Miami
- Milwaukee
- Minneapolis
- Mobile
- Newark
- New Haven
- New Orleans
- New York City
- Norfolk

- Oklahoma City
- Omaha
- Philadelphia
- Phoenix
- Pittsburgh
- Portland
- Richmond
- Sacramento
- St. Louis
- Salt Lake City
- San Antonio
- San Diego
- San Francisco
- San Juan
- Savannah
- Seattle
- Springfield
- Tampa
- Washington Field
- Quantico

TO LEGAT:

- Beirut
- Bern
- Bonn
- Brasilia
- Buenos Aires
- Caracas
- Hong Kong
- London
- Madrid
- Manila
- Mexico City
- Ottawa
- Paris
- Rome
- Singapore
- Tel Aviv
- Tokyo

RE: MURKIN

Date 3/16/77

- For information  Retention optional  For appropriate action  Surep, by \_\_\_\_\_
- The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report,  conceal all sources,  paraphrase contents.
- Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_

Remarks: BULM results of contact with Assistant District Attorney General in Tennessee, and conclude BULM with a statement to the effect that before the disposition of any exhibits in this matter, the appropriate Canadian authorities should also consider consulting the U. S. Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., and that a copy of this communication is being furnished to the U. S. Department of Justice for its information and consideration.

44-1987 Sub M 1099

Enc. 2

Bufile 44-38861  
Urfile 44-1987

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
MAR 20 1977  
FBI - MEMPHIS

B Johnson J

Memphis, Tennessee  
March 2, 1977

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

This communication is predicated upon the following:

By letter dated February 3, 1977, directed to Mr. Joseph A. Marion (Jr.), c/o United States Embassy, 100 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, R. R. L. Ostrum, Inspector, Officer in Charge, General Section, Federal Policing Branch, Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Ottawa, Canada, requested that Mr. Terry Lafferty, Assistant District Attorney General, be contacted to determine the present status of matters before the courts in respect to James Earl Ray. Inspector Ostrum made reference to exhibits being held by the RCMP relating to this matter.

On February 24, 1977, Mr. Terry Lafferty, Assistant District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit, State of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, advised there is currently no litigation pending in the various courts in the State of Tennessee involving James Earl Ray. Mr. Lafferty stated he would direct John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, on the District Attorney General's Staff to discuss the disposal of exhibits being maintained by the RCMP with Mr. Hugh W. Stanton, Jr., District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit, Memphis.

On February 28, 1977, John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, 15th Judicial Circuit, State of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that Mr. Hugh Stanton, Jr., was out of the City of Memphis but would return to his office on the morning of March 2, 1977, at which time he will discuss this matter with Mr. Stanton.

On March 2, 1977, Hugh W. Stanton, Jr., District Attorney General, 15th Judicial Circuit, State of Tennessee, advised that James Earl Ray has exhausted all of his legal remedies in the Tennessee State courts and, therefore, there is no pending litigation involving him. Mr. Stanton is of the opinion that exhibits maintained by the RCMP should be retained at this time, pointing out that the House Select Committee on Assassinations created by the United States House of Representatives in 1976 might desire to examine these exhibits in the future.

6-Bureau (44-38861)  
2-Memphis (44-1987-SUB M)  
BFJ:cjs  
(8)

44-1987-Sub M 1100



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

The appropriate Canadian authorities should also consider consulting with the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., before disposing of any exhibits in this matter. A copy of this communication is being furnished to the United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., for its information and consideration.

**2\***

3/2/77

AIRTEL

A IR MAIL

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

Re Legat, Ottawa airtel to Bureau 2/9/77 captioned  
"JAMES EARL RAY; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CR -  
CONSPIRACY.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 6 copies of an LHM re-  
garding matters referred to in referenced airtel.

The Bureau is requested to forward a copy of enclosed  
LHM to Legat, Ottawa, for transmittal to the RCMP.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 6)  
2 - Memphis

BFJ:cjs  
(4)

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED  
mep  
mep

R. Johnson

44-1987 Sub M 1101

3/3/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

Re Birmingham airtel to Director, 12/15/76;  
Memphis airtel, 12/20/76.

The following is for information:

The former Birmingham PCI who furnished the information in referenced Birmingham communication of 12/15/76, contacted the Birmingham Office telephonically from time to time regarding captioned matter.

On 3/3/77, he telephonically contacted Birmingham wondering if, "LIBERTO" had been investigated in New Orleans in the past. He was told that investigation regarding a family of LIBERTOS had been conducted back in 1968. Source mentioned that the LIBERTO in New Orleans has a brother in the produce business in Memphis, Tennessee, and also expressed the thought that "No one can convince me that it (the KING assassination) was not a conspiracy."

Source advised he received two recent telephone calls, the last on 2/28/77, from a Mr. EVANS, a deputy chief of the House of Representatives Committee on Assassinations. EVANS told him that if they get their appropriation, EVANS will want to talk to the source about this matter, and the source told EVANS that he would, but would not discuss it on the telephone. *44-1987 Subm-1102*

2 - Bureau  
① - Memphis (44-1987) (Info.)  
1 - New Orleans (157-10673) (Info.)  
1 - Birmingham  
PJM:bsg  
(5)

*cr cr*

*u*

BH 44-1740

Source advised that he had Birmingham Secret Service check on ~~EVANS~~ after the first telephone call and established that EVANS was, in fact, with the committee.

Source expressed his belief that the FBI in Washington must have furnished his information to the House Committee.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Charlotte, North Carolina

March 4, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

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

On January 27, 1977, ALLEN RAY HALL, an inmate of North Carolina Central Prison, wrote a letter to Mr. DAN RINZEL, United States Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, making certain allegations regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. On February 4, 1977, ALLEN RAY HALL was interviewed at the New Hanover County Jail, Wilmington, North Carolina, by Special Agents of the FBI and furnished the following information:

During a period of racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1971, ALLEN RAY HALL testified as a state witness against a group of defendants known as the "Wilmington Ten" in which the subjects were convicted and sentenced to varying prison terms. HALL has now recanted his testimony in that trial in 1972 and has been reinterviewed on several occasions by Special Agents of the FBI in which he has given conflicting stories as to his participation in the racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, as well as allegations against law enforcement officers who interviewed him at the time of the "Wilmington Ten" trial.

During the interview on February 4, 1977, HALL stated that during the period of racial unrest in Wilmington, North Carolina, in 1971, he had been interviewed by Special Agent BILL WALDEN, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. He stated that at the time of his conversation with WALDEN, they also discussed the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and WALDEN drew him a map indicating how Dr. KING was killed and where everyone was standing at the time of Dr. KING's assassination.

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER RECOMMENDATIONS  
NOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE FBI. IT IS THE PROPERTY  
OF THE FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR AGENCY; IT  
AND ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED  
OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.

44-1987-Sub-m-1103  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FBI - MEMPHIS  
Handwritten initials and a signature are present over the stamp.



JAMES EARL RAY

HALL stated that he was later confined at Central Prison, Raleigh, North Carolina, awaiting trial at Wilmington, North Carolina. He stated that while at Central Prison, he was interviewed on several occasions by North Carolina Central Prison Superintendent of Transportation, STEPHEN ALBERT BERRY, and HALL alleged that BERRY apparently found out about the sketch which had been given to him by Special Agent BILL WALDEN of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Division, and that BERRY came to his cell at Central Prison and requested that HALL give him the sketch. HALL stated he told BERRY he did not have the sketch and then BERRY searched his cell and found it. According to HALL, BERRY then stated that JAMES EARL RAY had been gotten out of the country, and the same method could be used to get him (HALL) out of the country. From this statement, HALL alleged that he assumed BERRY had some knowledge of the KING murder, and believed that BERRY might be somehow involved in the murder.

HALL further stated that, during an interview on February 9, 1977, that North Carolina Central Prison Superintendent of Transportation, STEPHEN ALBERT BERRY, told him that he, BERRY, was a member of the Ku Klux Klan and they, BERRY and other prison officials, would help him the same way "they" helped JAMES EARL RAY when he killed MARTIN LUTHER KING.

STEPHEN ALBERT BERRY on interview on February 8, 1977, stated his job at Central Prison is to review all grievances filed by the inmates at Central Prison. BERRY stated that HALL's most recent incarceration at Central Prison was on December 7, 1976. BERRY stated that he estimates HALL has filed between ten and fifteen grievances since the above date which referred to alleged threats or mistreatment against him, and these grievances have been investigated and have failed to substantiate that HALL was ever threatened or mistreated. BERRY stated HALL has accused him of being a member of the Ku Klux Klan and also alleged that BERRY said that when Dr. KING was killed, they did not get the right man and that it would be the same way with him; they would have him killed and put the blame on a white inmate at Central Prison.

HALL's most recent allegation at North Central Prison is that attempts are being made on his life by putting razor blades in his prison food.

2\*

F B I

Date: 3/4/77

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

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)  
From: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365)  
Subject: MURKIN

ATTENTION:  
 GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION  
 CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION  
 CRIMINAL SECTION  
 INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

- CR  EL  DIH  CRA-64
- PA  PE  PF  E
- DAMV  DAMV-FR  CAA
- AP  IWFC  CWAA  FI
- EID  Bomb Threats  Extremist Matters
- White Hate  Black

Summary of Complaint:

Re Bureau airtel dated 2/1/77.

ALLEN RAY HALL interviewed regarding his allegations as to the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. HALL contended North Carolina Central Prison Officers were familiar with JAMES EARL RAY. Prison officials deny HALL's allegations.

INDICES:  Negative  See Summary

ACTION: UACB:

- 3 - Bureau (Encs. 5)  No further action being taken and
- ② - Memphis (44-1987)  LHM enclosed
- (Encs. 2)  FD-376 (Enc. to LHM)
- 2 - Charlotte  LHM being submitted
- (1 - 44-3093)  Report being submitted
- LHM:paa  Preliminary investigation instituted
- (7)  Limited investigation instituted
- Investigation continuing

Copy to:  USA

44-1987-Sub m-1104

SEARCHED  INDEXED

SERIALIZED  FILED

MAR 9 1977

FBI - MEMPHIS

Hester

D. Johnson

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

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Ray To Talk About King Murder

By PHIL WEST  
Banner Staff Writer

Representatives from the House select committee probing the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King will take preliminary depositions from convicted assassin James Earl Ray in prison next week, Ray's attorney said Tuesday night.

Jack Kershaw, retained as Ray's attorney three weeks ago, said the deputy chief legal counsel for the assassinations panel and two court reporters will take statements from Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros.

Ray is serving a 99-year sentence



**JAMES EARL RAY**  
New Evidence?

for the April 4, 1968 slaying of the civil rights leader as he spoke from a balcony in Memphis.

Kershaw, however, said Ray will not testify before the select panel merely to support his original guilty plea made before a Memphis jury.

"Like Mr. Ray just said, he wouldn't go before them just to prove he was guilty," Kershaw said while viewing a CBS television program in which Ray was interviewed.

The attorney said he has new evidence from two sources which will aid the assassinations probe. However, he declined to reveal the information. Kershaw said he will corroborate Ray's statements after the depositions are taken next week and will then read FBI files on King which "are relevant to the case." The attorney said he will demand a public hearing when Ray appears before the committee.

Meanwhile, the attorney said, a lot of questions concerning the assassination remain unanswered. A major "piece of the puzzle," he said, concerns the Latin named Raoul who Ray said was his contact before King was slain.

"He (Ray) was contacted by a man in Canada, he called him Raoul, a small man who he said smoked a lot of cigarettes," Kershaw said.

A pair of trousers fitting a "small man" were found in the boarding house room from which the fatal shot was allegedly fired, Kershaw explained. In addition, he said the white Mustang allegedly used as a getaway car by Ray contained an

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

PAGE **29**

NASHVILLE BANNER

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Date:  
Edition:  
Author:  
Editor:  
Title:

**2/16/77**

Character:

**44-1987 SUBM 1105**

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
#4 Desk  
BAP



ashtray filled with cigarette butts.

"And Ray doesn't smoke," Kershaw said.

Transcripts from the murder trial showed ballistic experts could not match the bullet which killed the civil rights leader, Kershaw pointed out.

"People keep asking why Ray hasn't told his story before," the attorney said. "He hasn't had a forum before. He tried to tell it the next day (after pleading guilty) but the trial judge wouldn't let him.

"At that time the establishment was looking for a victim. Right then Ray was victimized.

"It will be my contention that he never plotted together, never breathed together, to murder King. He was a victim of a conspiracy just like King was."

Kershaw, who said he was first contacted by letter from Ray when the prisoner was attempting to be freed from solitary confinement at Brushy Mountain, said "a day or two after I was retained (U.S.) Atty. Gen. (Griffin) Bell evidenced his interest in the case. I sent Mr. Bell a mailgram saying Ray would be happy to take the witness stand."

Bell, however, has not contacted the Nashville attorney.

Is Kershaw optimistic about obtaining a new trial for Ray after he was denied by appellate courts including the U.S. Supreme Court?

"Optimistic might be too strong a word. It's possible and even

probable," responded the 63-year-old attorney.

Meanwhile, Kershaw said he plans to talk with U.S. Rep. Henry Gonzales, D-Tex., former chairman of the select panel investigating the assassinations of King and President John F. Kennedy.

"Mr. Gonzales has a lot of explaining to do. He said some organization that was more powerful than the U.S. government was behind the assassination. There had to be some sort of conspiracy," Kershaw said.



**JACK KERSHAW**  
To Corroborate Statements

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M)

DATE: 3/21/77

FROM : SA CHARLES J. GISLER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 3/21/77 MARVIN MARSHAL telephonically contacted the Nashville RA. MARSHAL advised that he had been a witness in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and had given a deposition to the FBI in Memphis, Tennessee. He further advised that he desired to notify the FBI of his change of address. MARSHAL currently resides at 505 White Oak Street, Newport, Tennessee.

CJG:rsb  
(2) *rsb*

44-1987 SUB M 1106

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>rsb</i>	FILED <i>rsb</i>
MAR 21 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*rsb*



5010-108

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

3/21/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

Re Birmingham airtel dated 3/3/77.

The following is for information:

The former Birmingham PCI of referenced communication was in telephonic contact with Birmingham on 3/21/77 and furnished the following information:

He continues to conduct his own inquiries regarding captioned matter and the FRANK LIBERTO previously mentioned by him, currently resides in Memphis, Tennessee, at an unknown address. At the time of the King murder, FRANK LIBERTO had an office in Memphis and is believed to still have the office at 327 South Main Street, Memphis, in the back of a whiskey store which he owns. He has additional businesses in Memphis, identity unknown to source.

Mr. EDDIE EVANS of the House of Representatives Committee (referenced airtel) first met personally with source on March 10 or 11, 1977, in Birmingham and is in touch with source on a daily basis. EVANS went to the Birmingham Police Department after he talked to source and obtained some records at that institution where he was

2 - Bureau  
① - Memphis (44-1987) (Info)  
1 - New Orleans  
PJM:jab 1 - Birmingham  
(5)

44-1987 SUB M 1107

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Johnson (ch) y

BH 44-1740

apparently in touch with Captain LEGRAND. EVANS told source that he had been riding around with the Birmingham Police and source complained to EVANS in this regard and expressed concern to EVANS that source's identity would be compromised. In the week of March 14, 1977, source saw and heard Captain LEGRAND on a local television station making a press release regarding this matter.

Source was contacted in the week of March 14, 1977, by Birmingham newspaper reporters, believed to be FNU BRAY and FNU KILPATRICK, and he told them to "go to hell" and he denied any knowledge of this matter or being a source of information.

Source advised further that Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR. (BH airtel 12/15/76) and FRANK LIBERTO were very big in the drug traffic in the Southeast and he has been and continues to furnish such information to DEA, Birmingham.

Routing Slip  
0-7 (Rev. 12-17-73)

(Copies to \_\_\_\_\_ Copies Checked)

TO: SAC:

<input type="checkbox"/> Albany	<input type="checkbox"/> Houston
<input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque	<input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis
<input type="checkbox"/> Alexandria	<input type="checkbox"/> Jackson
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<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore	<input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville
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<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah
<input type="checkbox"/> Seattle
<input type="checkbox"/> Springfield
<input type="checkbox"/> Tampa
<input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field
<input type="checkbox"/> Quantico

TO LEGAT:

<input type="checkbox"/> Beirut
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<input type="checkbox"/> Bonn
<input type="checkbox"/> Brasilia
<input type="checkbox"/> Buenos Aires
<input type="checkbox"/> Caracas
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<input type="checkbox"/> London
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<input type="checkbox"/> Ottawa
<input type="checkbox"/> Paris
<input type="checkbox"/> Rome
<input type="checkbox"/> Singapore
<input type="checkbox"/> Tel Aviv
<input type="checkbox"/> Tokyo

RE: MURKIN  
CR

Date March 23, 1977

For information     optional     Retention     For appropriate     action     Surep, by \_\_\_\_\_

The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report,  conceal all sources,  paraphrase contents.

Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA \_\_\_\_\_ dated \_\_\_\_\_.

Remarks:

Enc. 1  
Bufile (44-38861)  
Urfile

3/16/77

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: LEGAT, OTTAWA (44-4) (RUC)

MURKIN  
CR

Re ME airtel and LHM, 3/2/77.

Info referenced LHM furnished RCMP.

For info HQ and Memphis, RCMP, Ottawa, advise that a request has been received from the House Select Committee on Assassinations for production of all pertinent RCMP records.

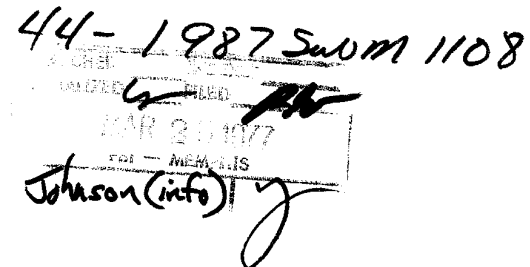
On 3/15/77, Legat, Ottawa, was advised that due to existing Canadian Government policy, the RCMP was unable to comply with the request of the Committee.

RCMP have been requested to be advised when the House Select Committee terminates, as a decision to dispose of evidence will be made at that time.

Ottawa setting an administrative tickler for a six-month period.

4 - Bureau  
(1 - Foreign Liaison-Direct)  
(1 - Memphis (44-1987-Sub M))  
1 - Ottawa

JAM/bad  
(5)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Charlotte, North Carolina  
March 22, 1977

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

On January 28, 1977, Dr. EUGENE V. GRACE, Eye Surgeon, 911 North Broad Street, Durham, North Carolina, who also operates Moore Publishing Company, 907 North Broad Street, reported receipt of a telephone contact on January 27, 1977, from OTIS MOORE, Lomas Verdes Number 40, San Juan, Puerto Rico, telephone number 780-4533, offering GRACE an opportunity to publish a book by MOORE. MOORE identified himself as a retired United States Army Master Sergeant. He stated in his book, he identified the assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and implied this assassin had first sought to hire MOORE for the assassination. MOORE, during his telephone call, claimed to have previously reported this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and said KELLEY had assigned him a file number. MOORE stated he was in contact with other prospective publishers. He also claimed correspondence with United States Senators FRANK CHURCH and EDWARD KENNEDY. During his call, MOORE said he felt his life was in danger.

GRACE indicated there was a possibility he would be back in contact with OTIS MOORE about January 30, 1977, concerning publication of the book referred to by MOORE.

On March 17, 1977, Dr. GRACE advised he had not had any contact with OTIS MOORE during the latter part of January or early February, as previously proposed. However, since GRACE had returned to Durham, North Carolina, in mid-February, 1977, MOORE had contacted GRACE's residence at Durham, North Carolina, on two occasions. During one of these calls during the latter part of February, 1977, MOORE told GRACE's wife he was staying in Alexandria, Virginia, and was trying to arrange for an appearance before the United States House Committee conducting investigation into the death of

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SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 25 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

*Johnson (int) 2*

*44-1987 SWM-1109*



JAMES EARL RAY.

MARTIN LUTHER KING. He indicated his intention to stay in the Washington area until someone heard his story. He left a telephone number for GRACE to reach him in Alexandria, but later when GRACE called this number, he determined that the number was to a pay telephone and that MOORE was not available there. During the other telephone contact at about the same time, MOORE stated that he was currently preparing the manuscript for his book. GRACE indicated a desire to see this manuscript when it was completed. Since that call, GRACE has written to MOORE in Puerto Rico to indicate again an interest in seeing the completed manuscript. MOORE, in his conversations, again indicated he had corresponded with Senator FRANK CHURCH and Senator EDWARD KENNEDY. GRACE stated since that time he has had no additional contact with MOORE, and noted that he had never had any personal contact with MOORE, nor had MOORE indicated any intention of visiting GRACE in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. GRACE did not know if MOORE appeared before the House Committee in 1977.

2\*



F B I

Date: 3/22/77

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

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

ATTENTION:

- GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION
- CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
- CRIMINAL SECTION
- INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

From: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365)(RUC)

Subject: MURKIN

- CR  EL  DIH  CRA-64
- PA  PE  PF  E
- DAMV  DAMV-FR  CAA
- AP  IWFC  CWAA  FI
- EID  Bomb Threats  Extremist Matters
- White Hate  Black

Summary of Complaint:

Re Charlotte teletype to Bureau, 1/28/77.

OTIS MOORE, Lomas Verdes Number 40, San Juan, Puerto Rico, has been in telephonic contact with Dr. EUGENE V. GRACE at Durham, North Carolina, operator of the Moore Publishing Company, to sell a manuscript to GRACE by MOORE in which MOORE states he identified assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and implied this assassin had first sought to hire MOORE for the assassination.

INDICES:  Negative  See Summary

ACTION: UACB:

- 3-Bureau (Encs. 5)  No further action being taken and
- 2-Memphis (44-1987)  LHM enclosed
- (Encs. 2)  FD-376 (Enc. to LHM)
- 1-San Juan (Info.)  LHM being submitted
- (Enc. 1)  Report being submitted
- 1-Charlotte  Preliminary investigation instituted
- CSM:lct  Limited investigation instituted
- (7)  Investigation continuing

Copy to:  USA  Secret Service

44-1987 Sub M-1110

SEARCHED	<input type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAR 25 1977			
FBI - MEMPHIS			

Johnson (info)

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

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

CE 44-1365

ADMINISTRATIVE:

By teletype to the Bureau, dated 1/28/77, Memphis advised the OTIS MOORE referred to appears to be identical with OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE, born 12/23/27, at Elaine, Arkansas, a white male, Army serial number RA 18328349, SSAN [REDACTED], who on 5/15/76, in part related that in 1965, while drinking in a bar in Temple, Texas, MOORE was engaged in conversation by two unknown males who offered MOORE \$50,000.00 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. One of those present was identified by MOORE as "a multi-millionaire lawyer from Dallas".

2\*



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Louisville, Kentucky

March 30, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On March 20, 1977, M. G. (Gene) Snyder, United States Representative, 4th Congressional District, Kentucky, appearing on WHAS-TV "News Conference", taped March 18, 1977, at Louisville, Kentucky, revealed that he believed investigation by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) would be productive in light of some recent revelations even though he did not initially vote for funding of same. Snyder indicated that he had changed his mind in light of some recent information which he carefully explained so as to not "drop somebody in" or "say anything wrong about somebody, that shouldn't be said."

Snyder indicated that he had received a letter a few weeks ago from a "citizen" whom Snyder described as being retired after many years from a responsible police department and that this "citizen", not further described, claimed to have been approached by three (3) "FBI officers" and three (3) or four (4) "prominent people at that time in that police department." Snyder noted that this unnamed "citizen" received this "offer" on two (2) separate occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder secreted. Tapes were made of the "offer" on both occasions, however, one tape was subsequently stolen. Snyder noted that the other tape was retained by the "citizen" and has been furnished to HSCA by the unnamed "citizen" when the latter reportedly traveled to Washington, D. C., at his own expense in order to bring the above information to the attention of said committee.

44-1987 Sub M-1111

4-7-1987

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.



**ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

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Snyder has spoken with the unnamed "citizen" personally and in Snyder's opinion, the "citizen" appears to be responsible. Snyder believed that the above "lead" and other leads should be "checked out" and that because of same, United States Representative Samuel L. Devine (Ohio), Ranking Minority Member of HSCA, now intends to vote for continuation of HSCA funding.

Snyder revealed that the letter written by unnamed "citizen" was received in the "regular United States Mail" and that the basic allegation is that the unnamed "citizen", who is a retired policeman, was approached by "members of the FBI and unnamed police department" and encouraged to assassinate Martin Luther King, Jr. When asked why Snyder received the letter, Snyder replied, "Time will have to tell." Snyder added that he "didn't want to go into that."

Snyder further revealed that the unnamed "citizen" had been to Washington and that the HSCA now has possession of the above mentioned tape recording which is being "washed down" to eliminate background noises such as a running automobile engine. Snyder has listened to the tape recording himself and describes same as having "some pretty inaudible sections" which are being worked on at the present. Snyder noted that the tape purports to deal with instant subject matter. Snyder indicated that he could not attest to the authenticity of the tape recording since he did not consider himself to be an electronics expert but noted same must be determined.

Snyder declined to answer interrogatories as to whether the letter came from his Congressional District or Louisville, Kentucky, noting he did not think he ought to place the unnamed "citizen" in jeopardy in the event the allegation is true, or people mentioned therein in jeopardy if the allegation is false. Snyder believed that the HSCA will have to decide when the names of individuals allegedly involved are to be released and made public.

Snyder declined any further comment on the matter, noting that if allegations were in fact true, the unnamed

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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"citizen" furnishing the basis for same would be in jeopardy from "FBI and others named" in the letter, and if allegation was not true, "responsible persons" would likewise be in jeopardy. Snyder assumed that the HSCA would give the individuals named in the letter an opportunity to express themselves at the appropriate time.

Included herein are various accounts of revelations concerning the above mentioned allegation which have appeared in sundry newspapers throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky as indicated:

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# Snyder gives panel allegation of plot to assassinate King

By JIM ADAMS  
Courier-Journal Staff Writer

U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-4th District, said yesterday that he has turned over to the House Assassinations Committee an allegation that FBI agents and police plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said that in late February he received a letter from "a former policeman" who claims he was twice offered \$500,000 to kill King.

Snyder made his comments yesterday while taping a WHAS-TV News Conference program, which will be broadcast at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow on WHAS television and radio.

Snyder would not reveal the name of the former policeman making the charge, or the names of three FBI agents and several policeman who allegedly were involved in the plot. Snyder also declined to name the police force that the man worked on for more than 20 years.

Snyder made no connection between the offer allegedly made to the policeman and the actual killing of King.

"I have always had confidence in the major law enforcement agencies of this country, and I had to assume that what they determined (about the slaying) was accurate," Snyder said. "Now I think this is something that needs to be investigated."

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, last night confirmed that Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation, but refused to answer questions about it.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," he said by telephone from Philadelphia.

King was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968, and James Earl Ray was convicted of killing him. The House committee last fall began investigating the assassinations of King and President John Kennedy. The committee's funding expires March 31.

Snyder, who voted against the committee initially, told The Courier-Journal in an interview last night that he will vote to continue funds for its investigation solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

Snyder said he had no explanation for why the policeman brought the charges to him, rather than directly to the committee. The policeman asked Snyder to put him in touch with the committee, the congressman said.

He said the former policeman had attempted to turn a tape recording of the \$500,000 offer over to Ray's attorneys, but finally was asked by one of the attorneys' investigators "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

Asked if he believes the man's allegation, Snyder said, "I don't know. But I think charges such as this need to be investigated."

Snyder said he has discussed the charges with U.S. Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member on the committee. He said Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be "a solid citizen." Devine could not be reached last night.

Snyder told WHAS, "I have talked to him (the policeman) personally and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen. . . ."

He told the television station, "He (the former officer) was approached to assassinate Martin Luther King. He names three FBI officers, he names three or four prominent people at that time in the police department. He indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder, that he taped those items. One of them (the tapes) was stolen, the other he still has."

Snyder said the man went to Washington and either appeared before the committee or was interviewed by its staff. Snyder said the committee has the tape. Asked if he has a copy of the tape,

"Courier-Journal",  
daily newspaper  
of general  
circulation,  
Louisville, Kentucky  
March 19, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# Snyder Contacted By Man Who Claims Police And FBI Plotted To Kill King

By BILL HENDRICK  
Associated Press Writer

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., said Saturday the House Assassinations Committee is investigating an allegation from a "logical, rational" man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said he met the man "face to face" and that "he appeared to be rational, a logical kind of man."

Snyder said he received a letter from the man and listened to a tape

recording the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. He refused to say whether the man or the police department involved were in Kentucky.

Asked why the man contacted him and let him listen to a copy of the tape recording, Snyder said "he may have just been looking for someone with nerve, a fighter."

Snyder read part of the letter and used the word "blank" where the man had used names.

"I retired from (blank) police department in (blank) after serving (blank) years," the letter said. "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King."

"Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," Snyder said, continuing to read the letter. "Members of the (blank) police department, chief of detectives, captain (blank), lieutenant (blank), officer (blank), lieutenant (blank) of the homicide bureau and president of the FOP sergeant (blank)."

"State Journal",  
daily newspaper  
of general  
circulation,  
Frankfort,  
Kentucky,  
March 20, 1977

ASSASSINATION ( )  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# Alleged Police Plot To Kill Dr. King Now Being Probed, Rep. Snyder Says

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Rep. M. Gene Snyder (R-Ky.) said Saturday the House Assassinations Committee is investigating an allegation from a "logical, rational" man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said he met the man "face to face" and that "he appeared to be rational, a logical kind of man."

Snyder said he received a letter from the man and listened to a tape recording the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. He refused to say whether the man or the police department involved were in Kentucky.

"I RETIRED from (blank) police department in (blank) after serving (blank) years," the letter said. "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King.

"Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," the letter said, as Snyder read it, citing but not naming several other officers.

Snyder said he could not divulge the names or the identity of the man who contacted him.

"What I'm saying," Snyder said, "is, those blanks need to be protected if there's nothing to this. And if it is an accurate allegation that he's made, then the author of the letter needs to be protected. The committee is investigating it."

SNYDER SAID the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted (a man) who, he says, is James Earl Ray's attorney. . . ."

Ray is serving a life term in prison in connection with the assassination of the late civil rights worker who was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Snyder said the former policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia lawyer who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation, and that it "is under investigation."

The former policeman, Snyder said, tried to turn over a tape recording of the alleged \$500,000 offer to Ray's lawyers, but one of their investigators finally asked "where he planned to hide if he tried to do anything with the tape."

SNYDER SAID he has discussed the allegation with Rep. Samuel L. Devine of Ohio, the ranking minority member of the committee. Devine, a former FBI agent, checked into the man's background and found him to be a "solid citizen," Snyder said.

Snyder said the man told him the offers for him to kill King were made in his automobile, where he had a tape recorder. Snyder quoted the man as saying he had two tapes, one of which was either stolen or lost. The other tape has been turned over to the committee, Snyder said.

"Most of it was inaudible to me," he said. "I could make out a little. I made out enough to believe and ascertain that a discussion was being had about King and money, but I didn't even listen to all of it."

SNYDER SAID he wants the allegation to be thoroughly investigated "and this guy ought to be protected from any problems. If it is inaccurate, then those people who he names need to be protected. He names three alleged FBI agents, four or five members, prominent members at the time, of a police department."

The man has been interviewed by the committee's investigative staff, Snyder said.

Snyder said he received the letter from the man on Feb. 28.

"I don't know if it is valid," he said. "It is up to the committee to investigate it."

"Kentucky Enquirer",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Covington, Kentucky,  
March 20, 1977



ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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# Assassination proposal told

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — U.S. Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., says he has referred to the House Assassination Committee a retired police officer who claims FBI agents propositioned him to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In statements broadcast Friday on WHAS-TV, Snyder said the former officer, whom he declined to name, has a tape recording of a purported conversation between himself and FBI agents in which an alleged suggestion was made to murder King.

According to Snyder, the former policeman "names three FBI officers (and) three or four prominent people at that time in the police department (and) indicates that the offer was made on two occasions in his automobile where he had a tape recorder."

Snyder, who represents Kentucky's 4th District, declined to name dates and the city where the purported offers were

made.

Snyder also declined to specify whether the former officer was from Kentucky. He said the man contacted him by letter recently and that he later met the man and listened to one tape recording.

Part of the tape was inaudible, Snyder said, but he was able to discern that the subject was King's assassination.

"I have talked to him and in my opinion he appears to be a responsible citizen and I think these kinds of leads need to be checked out," Snyder said.

Snyder said Assassinations Committee now has the tape recording and is investigating the matter.

King was assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968. The Assassinations Committee recently said it had new information on King's murder, but has not produced any evidence of involvement by anyone other than the convicted killer, James Earl Ray.

"Sun-Democrat",  
daily newspaper of general circulation,  
Paducah, Kentucky, March 20, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

# Snyder says man revealed police plots to kill King

By BILL HENDRICK  
Associated Press Writer  
LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) —  
Rep. Gene Snyder, R-Ky., said Saturday the House Assassinations Committee is investigating an allegation from a "logical, rational" man who claims several members of a police department and FBI agents plotted to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Snyder said he met the man "face to face" and that "he appeared to be rational, a logical kind of man."

Snyder said he received a letter from the man and listened to a tape recording the man said he made of the alleged assassination plot. He refused to say whether the man or the police department involved were in Kentucky.

Asked why the man contacted him and let him listen to a copy of the tape recording, Snyder said "he may have just been looking for someone with nerve, a fighter."

Snyder read part of the letter and used the word "blank" where the man had used names.

"I retired from (blank) police department in (blank) after serving (blank) years," the letter said. "While I was in the police department I was innocently involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King.

"Involved in this conspiracy were agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, agents (blank), (blank) and (blank) and others that I did not know," Snyder said, continuing to read the letter. "Members of the (blank) police department, chief of detectives, captain

(blank), lieutenant (blank), officer (blank), lieutenant (blank) of the homicide bureau and president of the FOP sergeant (blank)."

FOB stands for Fraternal Order of Police, a collective bargaining organization for police officers.

Snyder said he could not divulge the names listed in the letter or the identity of the man who contacted him.

"What I'm saying," Snyder said, "is those blanks need to be protected if there's nothing to this. And if it is an accurate allegation that he's made, then the author of the letter needs to be protected. The committee is investigating it."

Snyder said the man "indicates further in the letter that after he retired he contacted who he says is James Earl Ray's attorney..."

Ray is serving a life term in prison in connection with the assassination of the late civil rights worker who was slain in Memphis, Tenn., in 1968.

Snyder said the former policeman claimed he was offered \$500,000 on two occasions to kill King.

Richard A. Sprague, the Philadelphia attorney who is chief counsel for the assassinations committee, confirmed Snyder had turned over material containing the allegation.

"The matter you refer to has been referred to the committee and is under investigation," Sprague said.

Snyder said he would vote to continue funds for the committee's continued existence solely on the basis of the allegation brought to him.

"Sun-Democrat",  
daily newspaper of  
general circulation,  
Paducah, Kentucky  
March 20, 1977