

KRAUT, Gary Lee

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PRIOR RECORD:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Illinois Correctional system, and the Mississippi State Penitentiary has the following record for Mr. Kraut:

P.D. Quincy, ILL (age 15)	10/8/59	Larceny of Motor Vehicle	Committed to Chaddock Boys' School
Springfield, ILL (age 16)	5/11/60	Patient at Alton State Hospital	
Decatur, ILL (age 16)	9/17/60	Larceny of Auto	No disposition shown
Hardin, ILL (age 19)	8/10/64	Theft of \$20	9 months

With at least one other, subject was involved in an armed robbery where a .22 darringer was used. He was discharged on 4/10/65.

Chicago, ILL	5/10/65	Criminal Trespass	Charge dismissed
Chicago, ILL	6/18/65	Auto Theft	No disposition listed
Macon, MO	3/7/66	Theft over \$50	1 yr. county jail
Vandalia, ILL	3/28/66	Deceptive Practices	75 days
St. Farm Vandalia, ILL	1/6/67	Attempted Theft	6 months; discharged 3/30/67
P.D. Quincy, ILL	12/14/67	Forgery/Flee to Avoid Arrest/ Reckless Driving/ No Driver's License	All charges dismissed

KRAUT, Gary Lee

PRIOR RECORD: (CONT'D)

Fort Madison, IA	7/19/68	Breaking & Entering	Released to Illinois authorities
State Penitentiary Menard, ILL	7/31/68	Forgery/Bail Bond violation	1-5 yrs. on each charge, concurrent

Subject cashed a \$48 bogus check at a local tavern.
He was paroled on 2/11/70

PD Hannibal, MO	5/9/70	Parole Violation	Returned to Illinois
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He was parole violated because he issued no account checks in two cities and was fired from his place of work for failure to report. He was reinstated 11/70 to parole supervision.

State Penitentiary Parchman, MI	5/27/71	Uttering Forgery	3 yrs.; discharged 8/1/73; returned to Illinois as parole violator
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While employed, subject cashed two forged checks on his employer. He absconded in his roommate's automobile.

State Prison Menard, ILL	4/23/74	Forgery/Bail Bond violation	Released to MR supervision
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He was discharged on 10/23/74.

FAMILY HISTORY:

Records from Illinois and Mississippi prison systems indicate that this defendant was born on [redacted] His adopted mother indicates that his real name was Kenneth Ray Wilkenson. He was given the name of Gary Lee Kraut upon adoption.

FAMILY HISTORY: (CONT'D)

According to Mrs. Kraut, he was the product of an affair between a married woman, whose husband was overseas, and a man who was a local resident. While this defendant indicates that he was immediately placed out for adoption, Mrs. Kraut indicates he was 22 months old when he was received into their home.

According to this defendant, his parents were alcoholics, who kept reminding him that he was adopted, and this was the major disruptive element. Mrs. Kraut states that they worshiped the boy as he was the first one in their home, but that from a very early age, he began to indulge in attention-getting behavior, which made him very difficult to control.

When he was approximately 3 years old, the couple adopted a second child, who was 4 years old. The two boys did not get along well.

Mrs. Kraut indicates that Gary began indulging in rebellious behavior when he entered school, which included lying and stealing. Psychiatric intervention was tried for about 8 months with no effect, and Gary was finally placed with another family at age 9. He returned to the Kraut home at age 14, after several home placements did not work. He was with the Krauts until age 15, when he was arrested for auto theft. Mrs. Kraut indicates that they have seen little of him since then.

Upon leaving the home, Gary was, according to prison records, placed in a series of foster homes and juvenile institutions until he became an adult.

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson reports to this writer that he did locate and visit his mother and her family, but that they have nothing in common.

MARITAL HISTORY:

This defendant reports that he married using the name of Tanner in early November of 1974. Mrs. Carol Tanner reports that she met this defendant and married him three days later in Fielding, Illinois.

MARITAL HISTORY: (CONT'D)

She is unsure of the date, but feels that it was before Thanksgiving day. This was her third marriage. She reports that she felt sorry for him because he did not have many friends.

Mrs. Tanner reports that the main problem with their marriage was Mr. Kraut's inability to find work. She confidentially states that her father tried to get him a job, but it just seemed that he didn't want to work. In addition, he had a temper which was worse when he was drinking.

While she was confined in the hospital with pneumonia, Mrs. Tanner reports that her husband wrecked her automobile, fleeing from the armed robbery in Alton, Illinois. This was the last time that she has seen him.

No children were born to this union, although Mrs. Tanner reports that she miscarried about three weeks ago. She has one child by a prior marriage.

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson reports to two prior marriages, both of which were dissolved by divorce while he was confined in Illinois and in Mississippi respectively. Each wife bore him one child. Prison records indicate limited contact with these families, and no attempt on his part to support them. Their current whereabouts is unknown.

HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

During his early years, Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson was raised in a rural setting in western Illinois, along the Mississippi River. Upon leaving his adopted home, he was placed in a series of state homes and institutions. Most of his adult life has been lived in various jails and prisons.

EDUCATION:

Prison records confirm this defendant's assertion that he graduated from Tri-City High School, Buffalo, Illinois. He indicates

KRAUT, Gary Lee

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EDUCATION: (CONT'D)

average performance, however, Illinois prison records reveal that he was socially promoted. Although he appears to have normal ability, his disruptive classroom behavior made it very difficult for him to learn.

RELIGION:

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson is a Catholic.

INTERESTS AND LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITIES:

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson indicated to this writer that he enjoys fishing, hunting, and swimming as his major leisure-time pursuit.

HEALTH:

Kenneth Ray Wilkenson or Gary Lee Kraut is 30 year old. He stands 5'8½" tall and weighs 160 pounds. He has brown hair and blue eyes. He has numerous tattoos on both arms, including a panther on his left arm and a joker on his right.

His adopted mother and prison records indicate that he is in good physical health, although Mrs. Kraut advises that when he returned to their home at age 14, his toes were so badly infected with athletics foot, that his big toe nails had to be removed. Prison records indicate that he suffered a gunshot wound in 1967.

He has an extensive psychiatric history. Prison records reveal that he was confined as a juvenile and as an adult for three suicidal attempts. He is described in prison reports as an emotionally unstable personality, dependant type. Both his adopted mother and his current wife indicate that he has an extremely violent temper that is very unpredictable. Mrs. Kraut also reveals that until Gary or Kenneth was 13 years old, he would become so uncontrollably angry that he would soil himself. Psychiatric records from Illinois have been requested and will be appended to this document upon receipt.

KRAUT, Gary Lee

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EMPLOYMENT:

Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson's prior employment history is almost non-existent. He reports to working two days in November for a cablevision company in Illinois in 1974.

On two occasions, the record indicates that he has taken checks from his employers, forged and cashed them.

He indicates he is a small engine mechanic, although his prison work record does not support his claim. He does not have any employment plans at this time.

MILITARY SERVICE:

Prison records indicate that Mr. Kraut joined the Navy shortly after he graduated from high school. He indicated no military service to this writer, which is probably more accurate as his juvenile record would preclude induction.

FINANCIAL CONDITION:

This defendant indicates no assets or liabilities.

KRAUT, Gary Lee

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EVALUATIVE SUMMARY:

After this 30 year old, married defendant was released from the Illinois State Penitentiary at Menard on April 23, 1974, he continued what appears to be a life totally committed to criminal behavior. Since age 19, he has spent less than three years outside of jails and prisons. Currently, there are five known felony offenses in other states, in addition to the offense that brings him before this Court. It does appear that most of these charges will be dropped, however, in favor of the federal prosecution.

He has a history of suicidal attempts, a violent temper, violent mood swings, and a penchant for the use of weapons, which in this writer's mind makes him extremely dangerous.

It is this writer's recommendation that Mr. Kraut or Mr. Wilkenson be confined for a substantial period of time for the protection of society.

Respectfully submitted,

John C. Powell
U. S. Probation Officer

JCP/em

KRAUT, Gary Lee

SUPPLEMENT TO FAMILY HISTORY:

FAMILY MEMBERS:

Mother: Zeta Manzullo, age 52, address 622 E. Buena Vista, Chester, Illinois.*

Father: Tommy Wilkenson, age 63, believed living in Missouri.*

Adopted Mother: Bertha Kraut, age 55, address Star Rt. 1, Kampsville, Illinois. She is a housewife who reports that she has never worked outside of the home.

Adopted Father: Elmer Kraut, age 57, address Star Rt. 1, Kampsville, Illinois. He currently works a small 20 acre farm part-time and works full-time as a welder.

In addition, Mr. Kraut-Wilkenson reports that he has three brothers, three half-brothers, and one half-sister. His family is unknown to him.

*According to the defendant's report

CUMULATIVE CASE SUMMARY
LEGAL STATUS

COMMITMENT NAME		DOP	AGE	BIRTHPLACE	RACE
KRAUT, Gary Lee			33	ILLINOIS	WHITE
RECEIVED (DATE)	COUNTY	JUDGE	CASE NUMBER		
4-22-78	NEW MEXICO	HOWARD BRATTON	31702-138H		
SENTENCING DATA					

KIDNAPPING 50 years

ISL	DSL
MINIMUM TERM	TOTAL TERM
*MINIMUM ELIGIBLE PAROLE DATE	MAXIMUM RELEASE DATE
FIRST BOARD APPEARANCE	TOTAL GOOD TIME CREDITS AVAILABLE (DAYS)
WEAPON	MINIMUM RELEASE DATE WITH FULL GOOD TIME CREDITS
PRIOR FELONY	MINIMUM RELEASE DATE ADJUSTED BY GOOD TIME CREDITS LOST (penal only)
CRIME PARTNER	DISPARATE REVIEW
	*PRECONFINEMENT CREDITS

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KRAUT B-92457

RCC-CIM 5/13/78 MLK/lmd

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CHS TRANSCRIPT CII/A06292368 REQUESTED FOR CASDCORR CHINO
REQUESTED BY CA0319401 MNEMONIC - CFS 07/27/78 11123104

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CII NUMBER A06292368

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION
PAGE 1

***** THE FOLLOWING RECORD IS FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY *****

DATE OF THIS REPORT
07/27/78

NAME
KRAUT, GARY LEE

SEX DOB RAC WGT WGT HAI EYE DEN PAR
M [REDACTED] M 508 170 BRO BLU FAR IL

FPC HENRY

FPC NCIC
17AAAAAT103SR04AAAA04

FBI

OLN

SEC

L 1 AAT 3
M 1 U2A 1 4

OCCUPATIONS: BARBER

DESCRIPTORS: NUMEROUS TATS

NO CRIME SUMMARY DATA IN THIS RECORD

CYC SEQ AGENCY/FILE NO. DOE NMC ACH ACTIONS/DISPOSITIONS

1 1 CASDCORR CHINO 042478 1 1 INITIAL CUSTODY CHARGE NOT SPECIFIED
B-92457 COMMENT: CHRG-STATE BORDER FROM IL

END OF TRANSCRIPT

02344

CASE SUMMARY

PARENTS:		Age	Occupation	Address	
Father:	Thomas Wilkerson	63	Unk.	Unk. Missouri	
Mother:	Zeta Mae Manzullo	55	Housewife	622 E. Buena Vista, Chester, Ill.	
Ad. Parents * see next page					
SIBLINGS: Subject		33	unstable-Transient		
1. Claims 3 half brothers and 1 half sister names and whereabouts unknown					
2. (Ad.) Leroy Kraut		34	Unk	Unk.	
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
MARRIAGES:		Age	Place	Date	Outcome
1. Glenda Shields		23	Quincy, Ill.	1966	Divorced 1968
2. Betty Tournear		32	Palmira, Mo.	1968	Divorced 1969
3. Carol Tanner		30	Fielding, Ill.	11-74	Divorced 11-2-76
			303 McClure St., Alton, Ill.		
CHILDREN:		Age	Support	Residing	
1. Brian Kraut		11	Mother-Glenda	w/ mother	
2. Jerry Lee Kraut		9	Mother-Betty	w/mother-305 S. Main	
3.				Camp Point, Ill.	
4.					
FAMILY ARREST HISTORY					
(E) None					
RESIDENTIAL PATTERN: Born Chester, Ill., reared Hardin, Ill. 1945-60, Transient 1960-75, Ill.					
(K) Youth Commission 1958-63, Ill. S.P. 1968-70, 1973-74 *** see next page					
RELIGION: Subject: Cath Spouse: n/a Parents: Cath					
EDUCATION: Age Left School: 17 Claimed Grade: 12th Measured Grade: refused Verify:					
INTELLIGENCE LEVEL: refused					
JOBS: Firm		Address	Title	Length	Verify
1. Continental Cable Vision		Quincy, Ill.	Line Tech	1974-8mos.	No
2. Claims no other significant employment					
3.					
Disability: None		Union: None			
S.S. No.: Unk.		Occupation: (H) T.V. Line Tech.			
FINANCIAL: No assets or debts					
MILITARY: Service Branch: U.S. Navy Rank: E Verify: Serial No. Unk.					
Date Entered: 1964		Date Discharge: 1964		Type Discharge: Gen.	
Disciplinary: None		Duties: Recruit		Disability: None	
Time in State Before Comm. Offense: 3 days		Age 1st Arrest: 9		Age 1st Comm. 14	
Offense and Inst. of 1st Commitment: Auto Theft-Chaddock Boy's School					
Escape History: 7-74 Escape from Jacksonville, Fla. County Jail					
DELINQUENCY HISTORY:					
1964 - 65 Auto Thefts - Boy's school, Ill. Youth Commission					
ALCOHOL: (F) - chronic excessive - unrelated					
NARCOTICS and DRUGS:					
None		Heroin		Other Opiate	
LSD -1974		claims couple of times		Addict	
First Used in:		Rate of use:		Suspect	
COMMENTS: (A)		claims 4 prior jail sentences		(L)	
(C)					

No. B-92457 Name KRAUT, Gary L. RCC-CIM 5/13/78 lmd Page 2

CASE SUMMARY CONT'D

* Ad. Parents

Elmer Kraut 60

Bertha Kraut 58

Welder

Housewife

Star Rt. 1, Kampsville, Ill.

" " " " " " " "

*** Residential Pattern

Miss. S.P. 1971-73, Federal Prison, 1975-78

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RCC-CIM

5/13/78

lmd

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INSTITUTION PROGRAMMING SUMMARY

SOURCES FOR REPORT: The following is excerpted from the Federal case file, as no POR is available at the time of dictation; Kraut refused to take the psychological and educational testing, therefore we were unable to utilize test results in the overall evaluation; and through interviews with Kraut.

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION: See Confidential File.

TO BE VERIFIED/COMPLETED:

Holds/Detainers: Kraut has a Federal detainer as a result of having to serve a concurrent sentence with his present confinement.

Records/Transcripts: Request the probation report relating to instant offense.

Crime Reports: None.

Casework Follow-up: Request a duplicate and verify Kraut's Social Security number.

INSTITUTION PROGRAMMING RECOMMENDATIONS:

Medical: Full duty no camp with medical restriction convulsive disorder. Avoid driving, machinery, and working at heights.

Dental: Class 1 - 5.

Psychiatric: No referral indicated.

Counseling: Kraut maintains a system of defenses marking him as a poor candidate for psychotherapy. He presently indicates no interest in any such involvement. Kraut has a prior history of chronic excessive use of alcohol and drug habituation. It is recommended that he be urged to become involved in a program dealing with these type of abuses.

Education: Kraut expresses an interest in furthering himself academically. He proved to be uncooperative during the administration of testing, and therefore no grade point level or intellectual potential is available. Further testing should be done at the receiving institution and he should then be given an opportunity to be placed in the appropriate grade level.

Vocational Training: Kraut indicates during his previous periods of confinement he has obtained various training allowing him to develop skills as a welder, TV technician, and electric motor repairman.

KRAUT

B-92457

RCC/CIM

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5-16-78

jm

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He refuses to become involved in any further vocational training program.

Work Assignment: Institution discretion.

Criminal History: Kraut is known to have first come to the attention of the authorities when he was nine years of age. From that point on until the present he continued acting out his inner rage and hostility through his antisocial and delinquent activities leading him to serve commitments in various boys schools and the Illinois Youth Commission. He has since served various terms of confinement in county facilities, as well as the state penitentiary in Illinois and Mississippi, in addition to his Federal sentence. His crimes have been directed both against property as well as persons, and he is presently committed to this Department on an offense similar to his Federal commitment. He shows little evidence of altering his long term criminal identification, and will in all likelihood continue becoming involved in further delinquent behavior.

Evaluation: Kraut is reported to have been born to a casual relationship of his natural parents. His mother reportedly was married and her husband was serving in the armed forces overseas. Evidently she had an affair with his natural father, leading to her pregnancy. He apparently was given away by his mother shortly after his birth and placed in a foster home. He was later placed with his adopted parents, whom he indicates finally adopted him when he was twenty-two months of age. Kraut began to show signs of early disturbance by the time he was three years of age. His erratic and chaotic responses and behavior appear to be correlated with the time his adopted parents adopted a second child who was one year his senior. Kraut describes his adopted parents as alcoholics who were constantly reminding him of his being an adopted child. The parents previously had described him as beginning to seek attention through behaviors making it difficult for them to control him. Shortly after entering school he began to act out his hostility through excessive rebellious behavior, which included lying and stealing. His parents attempted to obtain psychiatric intervention, but apparently this had no effect on him. When he was nine years of age he was placed in a foster home, and it was at this point he began to act out delinquently coming to the attention of the authorities. Kraut relates he spent the next five years in either foster placements or juvenile homes, and did not return to the home of his parents until he was fourteen years of age. At fifteen he was arrested for auto theft, and indicates he was committed to the Illinois Youth Commission. Kraut relates he has not had much contact with his parents during the ensuing years. Kraut indicates his mother has four children from her marriage, but at this point he cannot recall the names of his three half brothers and his one half sister. He states he later contacted his mother and the family, but apparently he was rejected by her as he felt rejected by his adopted parents.

KRAUT

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RCC/CIM

5-16-78

Jm Page-5

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Kraut states his first marriage occurred in 1966, but this relationship ended shortly after he was committed to the Illinois State Penitentiary. He reports while he was in prison his wife obtained a divorce. Immediately after his release he married his second wife, and again this union was dissolved upon his return as a parole violator. Kraut indicates he married his third wife in November of 1974. Within a short period of time he had taken and crashed her car, leading to his crime spree leading to his Federal commitment and present confinement. He reports his wife divorced him while he was in the Federal institution. Kraut relates he has two children as a result of his first two marriages, but apparently he has had little or no contact with either youngster for many years. Despite this he claims his second wife and youngster are residing Camp Point, Illinois. It appears she may have had contact with him during the time he was in Federal custody.

Kraut approached the interview situation displaying a high level of anxiety leading him to experience difficulty in handling his ensuing hostility. He proved to be highly manipulative, and would use conscious prevarication in his efforts to obtain satisfactory placement. He is an institutionalized emotionally volatile individual with a good deal of underlying explosive features. The overall impression is of an antisocial-sociopathic man who utilizes passive-aggressive defenses. He tends to be overwhelmed with self pity, and this needs to be expected considering his projected lengthy term of confinement. Kraut relates he has at times used his given name of Kenneth Ray Wilkenson. He reports after his adoption he was given the name of Gary Lee Kraut. He apparently has used either name alternately, as well as other aliases. His crime spree finally culminated in his capture in Florida, after he and his crime partners committed numerous offenses in other states. During the period of two days he and his crime partners have been involved in shootouts with the police, and during each of these one and then the other of his crime partners were killed by the authorities.

RE-ENTRY PROGRAM:

Parole Location: Not applicable at this time.

Residence: Not applicable at this time.

Employment: Not applicable at this time.

Resources: It is highly unlikely Kraut can depend upon any significant emotional or financial support from either his adopted parents or real mother, or his adopted brother.

Parole Conditions: Not applicable at this time.

TRANSFER:

Institution: CMC-East.

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KRAUT

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Custody: Medium to close - his projected release date precludes lesser than recommended security. Kraut's emotional instability or impulse control strongly indicate he should be maintained in an institution where psychiatric management and controls are available.

Camp Potential: E - history of escape.

Crime Partners: Kraut's crime partners were killed in shootouts with the police. Neither of these men have been identified in earlier reports, or by Kraut.

ENDORSEMENTS:

Correctional Counselor I: Ora Tarrson 5-10-78

Supervisor: Federal boarder. OMC, Cat. P appears most appropriate placement.

5/17/78

L. Robertson, CC II

CSR: OMC-E, Cat. P transfer endorsed. S is a Federal boarder with a 1989 minimum release date. Note confidential file. If Subject is unable to make GP at OMC for any reason, he is to be referred to the Interstate Unit to be returned to the Federal System.

5/19/78

Peggy Kernan, CSR

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KRAUT

B-92457

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5-16-78

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FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date 5/11/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (2) (RUC)
 RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM
 CIVIL RIGHTS
 OO: Memphis

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of a letterhead memorandum, and two copies for the Memphis Division.

The confidential source mentioned in the body of the letterhead memorandum is VERNON LA VERN ADLER, inmate, California Mens Colony (CMC), East Facility, San Luis Obispo, California.

For information, on 5/2/79, VERNON LA VERN ADLER, California Prison Number B35449, date of birth [redacted] Millville, Minnesota, Social Security Number [redacted] was interviewed by SA ROBERT L. BOYD at his request. He is currently serving a life sentence for murder, having been sentenced on 6/29/71, by the Superior Court, County of San Diego, California.

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

rlb/bef
 (5)

44-1987-Subm-1288

SEARCHED INDEXED
 SERIALIZED FILED

Approved: [Signature] Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

LA 44-1574

ADLER advised that he wished to furnish information pertaining to GARY LEE KRAUT, another inmate, who is a federal prisoner, and who is serving a 50 year sentence for kidnaping at the CMC, San Luis Obispo. He requested that his name be concealed as the source of the information. He was specifically informed that his name would be concealed in the communication setting forth the information; however, there could be no guarantee of complete confidentiality as a result of the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act as now interpreted. He still requested that the information be submitted to the proper authorities for their consideration. He further advised that if the fact that he had informed on another person was made known in the California Prison System that his life would be in immediate jeopardy.

During the course of the interview, ADLER appeared to be stable, sincere, and no signs of vindictiveness were evident in his demeanor. It is felt that he is sincere in what he has stated whether it is valid or not. He stated that he would definitely agree to take a polygraph examination pertaining to the information.

On 5/4/79, a cursory examination of ADLER's prison file reflected that he has been in and out of jail since he was eight years old. His longest term of freedom since that time was for a period of three months. On 10/12/71, he was diagnosed by a medical doctor as being a schizoid personality.

The record reflects the following descriptive information:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Millville, Minnesota
Height	5'6"
Weight	130 pounds
Social Security Number	
Criminal Identification and Investigation Number	2 745 725

He was sentenced in the Superior Court, County of San Diego, to a life sentence on 6/29/71, for Murder One, in violation of California Penal Code, Section 187 (Murder).

LA 44-1574

It is noted from a review of the FBI identification record contained in GARY LEE KRAUT's prison file that his whereabouts on the pertinent date of 4/4/68, the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING, cannot be ascertained from the identification record, although he still could have been incarcerated and the fact not represented in the identification record.

A review of the indices of the Los Angeles Division failed to reveal any information identifiable with GARY LEE KRAUT, aka Gary Lee Wilkenson, or VERNON LA VERN ADLER.

In view of the above, no further investigation is being conducted in this matter by the Los Angeles Division UACB.

- 3* -

xx Airtel

6/7/79

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

Re Los Angeles airtel and LHM, 5/11/79.

A review of indices of the Memphis Office failed to reveal any information pertaining to GARY LEE KRAUT, aka Gary Lee Wilkenson or Vernon LaVern Adler.

Memphis is taking no further action regarding this matter.

2 - Bureau
1 - Memphis

JRF:tjm
(3)

44-1987-Sub M-1289
SEARCHED _____
SERIAL _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

[Handwritten signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 8/2/79

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for Memphis is the original of a letter from WYNDELL SPIVEY received 7/25/79.

For information of Memphis, enclosed letter was received by National Personnel Records Center, Military Branch, St. Louis, Mo., and furnished to the FBI on 7/25/79, by J. D. KELGORE, Director.

The letter indicates that SPIVEY has a "confession" to make relating to the murder of Doctor KING.

Memphis should interview SPIVEY.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
1 - St. Louis
CLS:cms
(3)



5010-110

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

memorandum

DATE: 8/28/79

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SA FRANCIS M. CRISTINA

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: ME)

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987-Sub M) (C)

Re St. Louis letter to Memphis dated 8/2/79.

In referenced communication, St. Louis forwarded a letter from WYNDELL SPIVEY, inmate number 73511, State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee, dated 7/23/79. In this letter, SPIVEY confesses to the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. In the letter it appears that SPIVEY may not be in complete control of his mental faculties, i.e. he says "I did it legally, I just failed to report it to the proper officials. I was just slowing them down just a little bitty bit."

On 8/24/79, Warden JIM ROSE, Nashville Penitentiary, advised that he has talked to the prison psychologist regarding inmate WYNDELL SPIVEY. He said that the records show SPIVEY has a long history of mental problems and is currently incarcerated in the Psycho Ward at the State Penitentiary. He is currently there having been convicted of rape at Memphis, Tennessee. Warden ROSE advised even though SPIVEY is in the Psycho Ward, he is not a violent type and therefore could be interviewed.

On 8/27/79, inmate WYNDELL SPIVEY, prison number 73511, advised that he is the individual who wrote the letter to the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri, on or about 7/23/79 and confessed to the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He furnished the following information:

He was in Atlanta, Georgia about the time JOHN F. KENNEDY was running for President of the United States and he noticed all the destruction that was going on during his demonstrations. He said at that point he decided he was going to kill him. He said he actually killed Dr. KING by accident while he was living at 1772 Brown Street in

1 - 44-1987-Sub M
FMC:sle
(1)



44-1987-Sub M-1290A

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1979	
FBI-MEMPHIS	

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

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-76)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-112

ME 44-1987-Sub M

Memphis, Tennessee. He pointed out that he had been released from the Shelby County Jail on 3/5/68 and he killed Dr. KING on or about 3/24/68. It was pointed out to him that KING was actually killed on 4/4/68, but he noted that the newspapers or someone must have withheld the story for several weeks and not let the information out. He said that JAMES EARL RAY was unjustly blamed for the murder of Dr. KING and actually RAY was in custody and on trial in Judge BATTLE's court in Memphis for the murder before he, SPIVEY, actually killed KING. He said that the murder weapon was a .22 caliber Remington automatic model 66 nylon rifle. He said he fired .22 caliber extra long hollow point bullets. He said that KING actually upset him very much inasmuch as he would preach peace and actually there would be total destruction after he left and while he was there. He pointed out that he shot KING from a boarding house across the parking lot from the Lorainne Motel in Memphis. SPIVEY again pointed out that the murder of KING was on or about 3/24/68 and no later than 3/26/68. He again explained that KING was not killed on 4/4/68, and that someone must have withheld the story because he killed him himself. SPIVEY said he had nothing else to add to the statement and probably would be released within a week or two.

In view of the above, it is quite obvious that WYNDELL SPIVEY is not in complete control of his mental faculties and it is recommended that no further investigation be conducted into this statement of his.

2*

xx Airtel

9/4/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: FOIPA BRANCH, SA PRON W. BREKKE, ROOM 6984

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
FOIPA MATTER

Re Bureau telephone request 8/31/79.

On 9/4/79, Office Services Manager (OSM) JAMES W. BRADY, after reviewing current indices available in the Memphis Division, determined there is no special indices existing in the Memphis Division pertaining specifically to the Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

OSM BRADY has been employed in the Memphis Division since before the assassination of Rev. KING and recalls there was a special index created concerning the assassination of Dr. KING, which index lasted for the duration of the investigation involving the assassination.

While there is no record available as to the specific date this index was consolidated into the general indices of the Memphis Division, OSM BRADY, to the best of his recollection, recalls this consolidation took place in approximately 1970.

2 - Bureau
① - Memphis

JWB:cjs
(3)

JWB

44-1987-Sub m-1290 B

JWB

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

airtel

9/4/79

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

(OO: ME)

Re St. Louis letter to Memphis dated 8/2/79.

In referenced communication, St. Louis enclosed a letter from WYNDELL SPIVEY, Tennessee State Penitentiary (TSP), inmate number 73511, in which he claims that he killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. This letter reads as follows:

"Mr. WYNDELL SPIVEY RA
SS [REDACTED]

Honorable discharged 8-27-57

Joined Ku Klux Klan 5 or 6-65

Confession to make for killing Dr. MARTIN L.

KING date 3-24-1968 on about 12:00 noon or little after with Remington nylon 66 extra long rifle hollow point I left weapon with Mr. JOHN ONEAL last worked at Alex's Tavern Jackson & Watkins He lived on street running behind tavern. I'm in prison now for a rape charge. This all took place in Memphis Tenn. and please let it be known I did it legally. I just failed to report it too the proper officials. I was just slowing them down just a little bitty bit.

Yours truly Prison No.73511
WYNDELL SPIVEY"

The envelope of this letter was addressed to the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132 with a return address of WYNDELL SPIVEY,

gml 2 - Bureau
1 - Memphis
FMC:sle
(3)
ple

44-1987-Sub M-1290B

SEARCHED _____

SERIALIZED *W*

INDEXED _____

FILED *W*

ME 44-1987

73511, Station A West, W-100-Hosp. Nashville, Tennessee 37203, letter postmarked 7/23/79.

On 8/24/79, Warden JIM ROSE, TSP, advised that he has talked to the prison psychologist regarding inmate WYNDELL SPIVEY. He said records show SPIVEY has a long history of mental problems and is currently incarcerated in the Psycho Ward at the TSP. He is currently there, having been convicted of rape at Memphis, Tennessee. Warden ROSE advised even though SPIVEY is in the ward for the mentally disturbed, he is not a violent type and therefore could be interviewed.

On 8/27/79, inmate WYNDELL SPIVEY, TSP number 73511, advised that he is the individual who wrote the letter to the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri on or about 7/23/79, and confessed to the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He furnished the following information concerning this:

He was in Atlanta, Georgia about the time JOHN F. KENNEDY was running for the President of the United States. At this time he noticed all the destruction and demonstrations that were prompted by Dr. KING's speeches. He decided he was then going to kill KING. He said he actually killed Dr. KING by accident while he was residing in Memphis at 1772 Brown Street. He pointed out that he had been released from the Shelby County, Tennessee Jail on or about 3/5/68 and he killed Dr. KING on or about 3/24/68. SPIVEY was advised that KING was not actually killed until 4/4/68, SPIVEY said that he killed KING on or about 3/24/68 and no later than 3/26/68, and that either the newspapers or someone else withheld the story for several weeks and would not let this information out. He said JAMES EARL RAY was unjustly blamed for the murder of Dr. KING and said RAY was actually in custody and on trial in Judge BATTLE's courtroom in Memphis for the murder of KING before he actually killed him. He said the murder weapon was a .22 caliber Remington automatic, model 66 nylon, rifle. He said he fired .22 caliber extra long hollow point bullets. He pointed again the reason why he killed KING was that KING would preach peace and actually cause violence and destruction. He said he shot KING from an old boarding house across the parking lot from the Lorainne

ME 44-1987

Motel in Memphis. SPIVEY reiterated that he did kill KING on 3/24 or 3/26/68, and not on 4/4/68. He said he could add nothing to the statement and thought he might be released from the penitentiary in a week or two.

In view of the above, it is quite obvious that WYNDELL SPIVEY is not in complete control of his mental faculties and it is obvious his statement is false. Therefore, it is recommended no further investigation be conducted re this statement.

3*

Airtel

DATE: 9/11/79

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReMEairtel to the Bureau dated 9/4/79.

Although this matter is no longer being actively investigated, all information coming to the attention of the FBI is still being furnished to the Department.

Incorporate contents of reairtel into an LHM for dissemination to the Department.

44-1987-Sub M 1291

Jackie

*~~Barry~~
Cristina*

w/ 44-1987-Sub M 1290B

FBI/DOJ

X Airtel

9/24/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: TRON W. BREKKE, FOIPA BRANCH,
ROOM 6984, FBIHQ

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call to Memphis 9/24/79.

Enclosed for the Bureau are duplicate copies of 48 index cards on some of the following names. All of the following names were searched through the general indices of the Memphis Division and the indicated number of cards were found on each name:

MURKIN	1
MARTIN KING	1
DR. MARTIN L. KING	1
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.	15
JAMES RAY	2
JAMES E. RAY	5
JAMES EARL RAY	22
JAMES EARLE RAY	1
ERIC STARVO GALT	0
HARVEY LOWMYER	0
RAYMON GEORGE SNEYD	0

The above cards are the only cards in the Memphis general indices regarding the MURKIN case under the name of the victim or subject with aliases and variations of spelling.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 48)
① - Memphis

JWB:cjs
(3)

[Handwritten initials]

44-1987 Sub M-1292

SEARCHED	_____
SERIALIZED	<u> m </u>
INDEXED	_____
FILED	<u> m </u>

Memphis, Tennessee

September 24, 1979

RE: MURKIN

On July 23, 1979, WYNDELL SPIVEY, Tennessee State Prison inmate number 73511, sent a letter to the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Boulevard, St. Louis, Missouri 63132, containing a letter in which he alleges to have killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. The envelope contained his return address which was Tennessee State Penitentiary number 73511, Station A West, West - 100 Hospital, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203. His enclosed letter reads as follows:

"Mr. WYNDELL SPIVEY RA [REDACTED]
SS [REDACTED]

Honorable discharged 8-27-57

Joined Ku Klux Klan 5 or 6-65

Confession to make for killing Dr. MARTIN L. KING date 3-24-1968 on about 12:00 noon or little after with Remington nylon 66 extra long rifle hollow point I left weapon with Mr. JOHN ONEAL last worked at Alex's Tavern Jackson & Watkins He lived on street running behind tavern. I'm in prison now for a rape charge. This all took place in Memphis Tenn. and please let it be known I did it legally. I just failed to report it too the proper officials. I was just slowing them down just a little bitty bit.

Yours truly Prison No. 73511
WYNDELL SPIVEY"

On August 24, 1979, JIM ROSE, Warden, Tennessee State Prison, advised SPIVEY has a long history of mental problems and is currently incarcerated in the Psychiatric Ward at the prison. He is currently incarcerated, having been convicted of rape at Memphis, Tennessee. Warden ROSE pointed out that even though SPIVEY is in the Ward for the mentally disturbed, he is not a violent type of individual.

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

4 - Bureau (44-38861)

1 - Memphis (44-1987)

FMC:sle
me

44-1987 Sub M-1213
SEARCHED

SERIALIZED *ms*

INDEXED

FILED *ms*

RE: MURKIN

On August 27, 1979, WYNDELL SPIVEY, inmate, Tennessee State Prison, #73511, stated he is the person who wrote the letter to the National Personnel Record Center in St. Louis, Missouri, on or about July 23, 1979, and confessed that he is the individual who killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He also furnished additional information regarding his alleged involvement:

He was in Atlanta, Georgia about the time JOHN F. KENNEDY was running for the President of the United States. At this time he noticed all the destruction and demonstrations that were prompted by Dr. KING's speeches. He decided he was then going to kill KING. He said he actually killed Dr. KING by accident while he was residing in Memphis at 1772 Brown Street. He pointed out that he had been released from the Shelby County, Tennessee Jail on or about March 5, 1968 and he killed Dr. KING on or about March 24, 1968. SPIVEY was advised that KING was not actually killed until April 4, 1968. SPIVEY said that he killed KING on or about March 24, 1968 and no later than March 26, 1968, and that either the newspapers or someone else withheld the story for several weeks and would not let this information out. He said JAMES EARL RAY was unjustly blamed for the murder of Dr. KING and said RAY was actually in custody and on trial in Judge BATTLE's courtroom in Memphis for the murder of KING before he actually killed him. He said the murder weapon was a .22 caliber Remington automatic, model 66 nylon, rifle. He said he fired .22 caliber extra long hollow point bullets. He pointed again the reason why he killed KING was that KING would preach peace and actually cause violence and destruction. He said he shot KING from an old boarding house across the parking lot from the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. SPIVEY reiterated that he did kill KING on March 24 or March 26, 1968 and not on April 4, 1968. He said he could add nothing to the statement and thought he might be released from the prison in a week or two.

9/24/79

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (C)

MURKIN
(OO: ME)

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

Re Memphis airtel to Bureau dated 9/4/79
and Bureau airtel to Memphis dated 9/11/79.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and
three copies of an LHM suitable for dissemination to the
Department of Justice. This LHM contains information
concerning WYNDELL SPIVEY, inmate number 73511, Tennessee
State Prison, and his alleged confession in the killing of
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
1 - Memphis
FMC:sle
(3)
cc

Close 6 9/24/79
action
44-1987 Sub M-1294
SEARCHED
SERIALIZED *MC*
INDEXED
FILED *MC*



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Savannah, Georgia
September 21, 1979

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

MURKIN

On September 18, 1979, Special Agent Ned R. Garner, Jr., Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Statesboro Resident Agency, interviewed Earnest Drummer, inmate, Georgia State Prison, Reidsville, Georgia, regarding a letter he sent to FBI Headquarters, advising that he knew who killed Martin Luther King, Jr., and it was not James Earl Ray. Drummer advised he did not have personal knowledge of this, but had been told some of the details by another inmate, Undell Lay, whom he alleges to have direct personal knowledge of this matter. Drummer advised that he had written the FBI for Lay as Lay did not want anyone in the prison to know that he was attempting to reveal this information. Drummer advised that he has also written to the Governor of Tennessee and to James Earl Ray. He advised that he and Lay have agreed to reveal this information if certain things can be done to help them, specifically that Drummer be released from prison, that Lay receive \$2,000 and that both share in any reward that may be offered and that Lay's mother be released from prison.

Drummer did allege that it was a brother of Lay, who killed King and alleges that the brother, a Negro, was paid \$41,000 by the Mafia and is currently working for the Mafia in a northern city and is protected by the Mafia by armed guards. Drummer refused to reveal any other information until a deal could be worked out meeting the demands mentioned above.

Drummer advised that Lay is serving two life sentences for murder and was transferred to Leesburg, Georgia, Correctional Institute on September 18, 1979. He advised that Lay's prison number is 64970.

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.

FBI/DOJ

44-1987-Sub M-1295

as' cos

A-

MURKIN

Drummer advised that he has a long criminal record and is currently serving a 30 year sentence for armed robbery and assault.

The following description of Earnest (no middle name) Drummer was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	Negro
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Statesboro, Georgia
Height	5'10"
Weight	178
Eyes	Brown (wears glasses)
Hair	Black (balding and greying)
Social Security Account Number	
Prison Number	70254
Prior Arrests	Numerous, dating back to 1955, most recent conviction January 17, 1976, Chatham County, Georgia, for Armed Robbery and Assault; sentenced to 30 years (eligible for parole in 1983)
Miscellaneous	Crooked ring finger on right hand

xx Airtel

9/21/79

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH (44-1763) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed are four copies of a letterhead memorandum regarding interview of EARNEST DRUMMER for the Bureau. Also enclosed is one copy of above letterhead memorandum for Memphis.

This matter is being RUC'd.

2- Bureau (Encls. 4)
1- Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (Encl. 1)
1- Savannah
NRG:maw
(4)

44-1987-Sub-M-1296
Ces Ces
[Signature]

Indicate page number of newspaper and state.)
MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR
MEMPHIS, TENN. PAGE- 1

Date: **11/5/79**

Edition:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray Escape Attempt Fails

Title: **JAMES EARL RAY ESCAPE ATTEMPT FAILS**

Character: *MURKIN*
 or
 Classification: *74-*
 Submitting Office: **MEMPHIS**



JAMES EARL RAY

FROM PRESS DISPATCHES

PETROS, Tenn. — James Earl Ray, the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., attempted to escape from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary today but was spotted crawling on his belly outside the walls and captured, prison officials said.

Ray, serving 99 years for King's 1968 assassination plus two years for an escape in 1977, climbed three floors to the prison's roof and then back down to the ground outside the fortress before officials were aware of the break.

Prison Sgt. Ray Tucker said a guard in a tower at the prison's southwest corner spotted Ray crawling along the base of the wall on his stomach under a green blanket being used as camouflage at 1:05 a.m. (Memphis time). Ray was about 60 feet inside a chain-link fence surrounding the building, Tucker said.

The guard fired one shot as a warning and Ray stood up, offering no resistance as other guards darted out of the prison to take him back inside, Tucker said.

Acting Warden Herman Davis said Ray's cellmate, Donald Eugene Wolverton, was found hiding behind an air conditioning unit on the prison's grounds. Wolverton, 31, is serving a 30-year sentence for burglary and robbery with a deadly weapon from Shelby County.

The attempt was Ray's fourth effort at escaping from the 85-year-old white stone fortress.

Only once, on June 10, 1977, has Ray succeeded in getting beyond the walls and fences to the rugged woods that serve as a natural barrier outside the prison. He was captured then after leading bloodhounds on a 5½-hour chase.

Tucker said Ray and Wolverton, using a hacksaw blade, cut through a vent at the back of their cell on the ground floor to an open space called a pipe chase, where most of the prison's plumbing is located.

Ray and Wolverton left stuffed dummies, covered with blankets, in their beds behind them.

44-1987-Sub m-1297
 (u) (u)
 going to the Bureau
 11/7/79
 (u)

FBI/DOJ

ROUTING SLIP:

1. SAC
2. ASAC
3. #3 SUPV.
4. #4 SUPV.

TO BE PLACED IN FILE?

YES **NO**

"The dummies were the best I've ever seen," Tucker said. "One even had a foot covered with a sock sticking out from under the blanket. It was so good you could see the outline of toes in the sock."

Both prisoners were confined in a disciplinary cellblock, officials said.

Tucker did not say how Ray and Wolverton obtained the saw blade.

Twice before the 1977 escape Ray had attempted escapes but was captured before getting outside. On May 3, 1971, Ray removed a concrete block from his cell, crawled into an air duct, ripped bars from a ventilation shaft and crawled into the prison courtyard. He crawled into a concrete tunnel leading outside but the tunnel was full of steam and the heat forced him back into the yard, where he was captured.

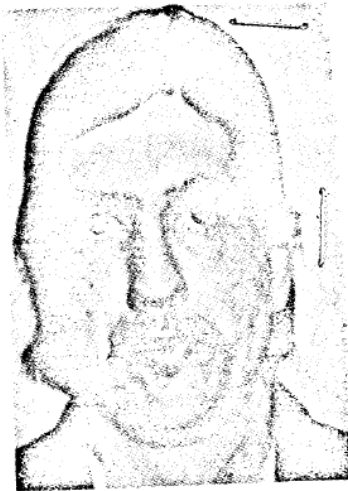
Ray made another attempted break on Feb. 5, 1972. He slipped out of a room where inmates were watching a movie and was trying to hack his way through the ceiling of an adjoining room when guards sudden-

ly turned on the lights for an inmate check and spotted him.

When Dr. King was killed with a single shot from a hunting rifle on April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Ray was an escapee from a Missouri penitentiary.

Wolverton also has a history of escapes and escape attempts. In 1977, when he was a prisoner in City Jail awaiting trial on drug store holdup charges, he complained of pains and was taken to City of Memphis Hospital. He was handcuffed to a bed while waiting to be seen by a doctor, but managed to slip the cuffs and escaped.

He was later arrested in Phoenix, Ariz., and returned to Memphis, where he was sentenced on several armed robbery charges and sent to Fort Pillow state prison. Authorities in La Jolla, Calif., near San Diego, later asked that he be transferred there to be tried in connection with the robbery of a jewelry store. On Oct. 11, 1978, the day after he arrived in San Diego, he escaped from his cell.



DONALD EUGENE WOLVERTON

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

9/15/80

LEGAT, OTTAWA (44-4)(P)

MURKIN

Enclosed for FBIHQ and Memphis is one copy each of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) letter dated 9/10/80, which is self-explanatory.

RCMP letter of 1/19/79 referred to in the above enclosure was forwarded to FBIHQ by Ottawa letter 1/24/79.

Please note information furnished by RCMP may not be reclassified or further disseminated without prior RCMP authority.

4-Bureau (Enc. 2)
(2-Memphis)(44-1987 Sub M)
1-Ottawa
RLM:d1b
(5)

44-1987-Sub M-1298

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 14 1980	

F. Lake
with enclosure
Hemphill / Nashville



Royal Canadian Mounted Police Gendarmerie royale du Canada

1980-09-10

Your file Votre référence
44-4

Our file Notre référence
68HQ-791-Q-60

Mr. Robert L. Moore
Legal Attache
c/o United States Embassy
100 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1P 5T1

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

This is further to our letter of January 19, 1979 regarding disposition of exhibits being held by our Force, and your reply of March 9, 1979.

It would be appreciated if we could once again cause enquiries to be conducted through the Assistant District Attorney in Memphis to determine if we can now dispose of the exhibits in this case.

Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

G. Timko, Inspector
Officer in Charge
Federal Policing Branch

1200 Alta Vista Drive
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0R2

This document is the property of the Government of Canada. It is loaned to your Agency only and it is not to be reclassified or further disseminated without the consent of the originator.

Le présent document est la propriété du gouvernement du Canada. Il est mis à la disposition de votre seul organisme; sa cote de sécurité ne peut être modifiée et il ne doit être transmis à nul autre organisme sans l'accordement de l'expéditeur.

DGI/cp

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 10/8/80

FROM: Director, FBI (44-38861)

TO: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

MURKIN

Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of a letter from Legat, Ottawa, and one copy of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) letter.

Memphis contact appropriate officials regarding evidence maintained by RCMP.

Enc. (2)

Re O 1/18/81

44 A-1987-Sub M-1297

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 14 1980	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

Flake
Nashville
Hempel

memorandum

DATE: 11/21/80

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SA JAMES P. WATTS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987SubD)(P)

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 10/9/80.

On 11/21/80, JAMES WATTS, Executive Administrative Assistant to Bush Stanton, District Attorney General, was contacted re disposition of evidence in this matter and advised by court order, Stanton has been removed from legal proceedings in this case since he was with the Public Defenders office during the defense of James Earl Ray and that office was court appointed co-counsel for Ray. The court decided it would be a conflict for Stanton to be involved in this matter and it is the opinion of Stanton that order extends to the assistants of his office. The last action for a new trial by Ray was handled by the State Attorney General's Office, Nashville and responsibility for the case now rests with that office.

WATTS advised it is his personal opinion no evidence in this matter should be destroyed however a formal ruling must now come from Nashville and not his office.

Lead:
Memphis
at Nashville, Tenn.

Contact State Attorney General's office and obtain an opinion re the destruction of evidence in this case.



2-Memphis
mw/jrf

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

☆ GPO: 1979 0-281-187 P.O. 4304

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-76)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-112

*Assign lead
to Nashville
with serials
44-1987-Sub D-1300
ES ES*

*Hempel
11/25/80
RHS*

*Nashville
with serials*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
memorandum

DATE: 12/8/80

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SA ROBERT G. KEMPEL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44A-1987-Sub M-1300) (P)

Re memo of SA Flake dated 11/21/80.

On 12/5/80, Joe Haynes, trial attorney, State Attorney General's office, Nashville, telephonically advised that all evidence in captioned matter should be retained for an indefinite period of time.

Haynes stated that Ray has filed at least four petitions for post-conviction relief and that one is now pending in the State Criminal Court of Shelby County. While Haynes believes these petitions to be wholly without merit, he is also of the opinion that it will take some considerable length of time for all these petitions to clear the full appellate process in Tennessee. Also, presumably Ray may continue to file motions, in which case the evidence would have to be available.

Haynes, a trial attorney for the post-conviction relief hearings, would be the proper individual to contact in the future for evidentiary decisions of this type.

2 - Memphis
RH/jn
(2)

44-1987-Sub M-1301
ES ES
Flake J



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

GPO: 1979 0-281-187 P.O. 4304

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-76)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-112

xx Airtel

12/11/80

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

Re Bureau airtel to ME, dated 10/8/80.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and four copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CR - CONSPIRACY".

3-Bureau (Encs. 5)
(1-Legat Ottawa) (44-4)

1-Memphis

JRF:vse

(4) *we*

Chapman
CP (6)

DESTROY
6 MOS.
5 YRS.
10 YRS.

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

44-1987-Sub M-1308

Memphis, Tennessee
December 11, 1980

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

On November 21, 1980, Jewitt Miller, Executive Administrative Assistant to Hugh Stanton, District Attorney General, Memphis, Tennessee, was contacted by a Special Agent of the FBI regarding exhibits which pertain to the captioned matter.

Mr. Miller advised by court order, Hugh Stanton has been removed from legal proceedings in this case since he was with the Public Defender's Office during the defense of James Earl Ray and at the time the Public Defender's Office was the court appointed co-counsel for Ray. The court decided it would be a conflict of interest for Stanton to be involved in this matter, and it is the opinion of Stanton the order extends to the assistant district attorneys of his office. The last motion for a new trial by Ray was handled by the State Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee, and responsibility for the case now rest with the State Attorney General, Nashville, Tennessee.

On December 5, 1980, Joe Haynes, Trial Attorney, State Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee, informed a Special Agent of the FBI all evidence in the captioned matter should be retained for an indefinite period of time. Haynes advised James Earl Ray has filed at least four petitions for post conviction relief and one of the petitions is now pending in the State Criminal Court of Shelby County. While Haynes believes these petitions to be wholly without merit, he is also of the opinion it will take a considerable length of time for all of the petitions to clear the full appellate process in Tennessee. It is also believed Ray may continue to file motions, in which case the evidence would be required to be available.

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.

5-Bureau
1-Memphis
JRF:vse
(6) *use*

SEARCHED *L*
SERIALIZED *L*
INDEXED *L*
FILED *L*

44-1987-Sub M-1302

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

An inquiry should also be made with the U. S.
Department of Justice, Washington, D. C., relative to the
disposition of exhibits in this matter.

2*

12/18/80

LEGAT, OTTAWA (44A-4)(P)

MURKIN

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

ReOTTlet, 9/15/80, enclosing Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) letter, 9/10/80.

MEMPHIS is requested to respond to request made by RCMP concerning disposal of exhibits in this matter, as set forth in RCMP letter of 9/10/80.

4-Bureau
(2-Memphis)(44-1987 Sub M)
1-Ottawa
RLM:dlb
(5)

44-1987-Sub M-1303

ES

JAN 8 1981

Flaker

Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 5-13-77)

(Copies to _____ Places 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:

☐ Bern
☐ Bonn
☐ Buenos Aires
☐ Caracas
☐ Hong Kong
☐ London
☐ Madrid
☐ Manila
☐ Mexico City
☐ Ottawa
☐ Paris
☐ Rome
☐ Tokyo

☐ SAC, New Rochelle (MRA) ☐ ASAC, Rapid City ("Mini") 1/6/81
(Date)

RE:

MURKIN

Retention For appropriate
☐ For information ☐ optional ☐ 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:

ATTACHED ARE MEMPHIS COPIES OF LEGAT
LETTER TO BUREAU.

Enc.

Bufile

Urfile

44-38861

JAN 8 1981
F. L. L. C.
Do better pointing out
our 12/11/80 LHM was
response to be forwarded to Legat
FBI/DOJ

X Airtel

1/14/81

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

Reference Bureau airtel to Memphis, dated 10/8/80 enclosing Legat, Ottawa letter, dated 9/15/80; Memphis airtel and LHM, dated 12/11/80; Bureau routing slip to Memphis, dated 1/6/81 with attached Legat, Ottawa letter to the Bureau, dated 12/18/80.

Investigation requested by the referenced Legat, Ottawa letter, dated 9/15/80, was furnished to the Bureau by the referenced Memphis airtel and LHM.

3-Bureau
(1-Legat, Ottawa 44A-4)
①-Memphis
JRF:pyb
(4)

44-1987-Sub M-1364

SEARCHED *nee*
INDEXED
FILED *nee*