

Ban on Comment

Assassin's Sketch Withheld by FBI

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — The FBI is withholding nationwide distribution of a composite drawing of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin, police sources said Sunday.

"They haven't given us anything but a physical description," said one police official. "They aren't handing out pictures of the man. They

either don't have a good one, or they're going it alone."

The official asked that his name not be used, citing the FBI's ban on comment about the investigation.

When Jacksonville, Fla., police questioned a Louisville, Ky., man Saturday night about the King slaying — the man since has been cleared of any connection — Police Lt. M. P. Richardson said, "It's a long shot, but he looks too much like the sketch of the man who is wanted in the King slaying."

Jacksonville police said Sunday the man was arrested after a resident noted a likeness to a composite picture which appeared in Florida newspapers. This sketch was prepared by a newspaper artist from the description given of the slayer. It was not released — nor endorsed — by the FBI.

FBI officials rejected reporters' requests for a composite drawing of the man they are seeking. They refuse to say whether they have prepared such a sketch.

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Miami, Florida

Date 4/15/68

44-1854-96

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 15 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

H. Newman

NEW EVIDENCE

FBI Finds Clues In King Murder

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (AP) — FBI agents have uncovered "very substantial" physical evidence as they work "around the clock pursuing every lead" in the search for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin, says Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

"The FBI is devoting every possible resource to this investigation," Clark said. "... While it remains impossible to predict when the killer will be arrested, I remain hopeful that it will be soon."

A Justice Department spokesman said the statement issued in Washington last night, Clark's first public pronouncement on the case in five days, was in response to newsmen's queries.

But Clark, like FBI officials, refused to answer newsmen's questions. "All I can say is no comment," said Robert Jensen, special agent in charge of the Memphis FBI office.

In New York, the Daily News reported today it had learned that the FBI had definitely established that the white Mustang sports car abandoned in Atlanta was the same car seen driving away from the murder scene after the assassination.

The Daily News said witnesses in Memphis gave investigators the license number of the car. It quoted unnamed sources as saying the plate numbers matched those of the car found in Atlanta. The FBI in Memphis said it had no comment on the News report.

The search for the assassin has spread hundreds of miles from Memphis, sources report, and involves thousands of investigators.

The scope of the investigation was evident yesterday in both Memphis and Birmingham. Newsmen seeking to question persons who might have information about the case were told repeatedly: "The FBI has already been here."

At the Memphis rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired, Charles Q. Stevens said FBI agents had shown him two composite drawings of the suspected slayer — one a partial profile and the other a full-face view.

Stevens said he could identify the partial view, but not the full-face view. He said he saw the gunman flee after hearing a shot fired from a

communal bathroom next door to his room. The bathroom window affords a clear view of the motel balcony where King was standing when shot.

And at a rooming house in Birmingham, residents said FBI agents had questioned them about Eric Starvo Galt, a white man named in an FBI bulletin issued, then withdrawn, in Florida, Thursday night.

The message sent over the state police teletypewriter network in Florida asked help in locating Galt. It said Galt was driving a white Mustang.

Federal authorities in Atlanta impounded Thursday night a white Mustang which had been abandoned in a parking lot near the Georgia State Capitol. Residents of the neighborhood said the car had been there since the day after King was shot.

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SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 15 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

H Newman

THE STRANGER AT KING'S FUNERAL

ATLANTA, Ga. — (AP) — A white man who was an usher at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was not authorized by the arrangements committee despite security precautions for Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey.

It was learned yesterday that the usher was an encyclopedia salesman named Floyd "Buddy" Ayers of Stone Mountain, Ga.

The King family thought he was with the Secret Service, the minister in charge of arrangements thought he was a governor's aide and the Secret Service apparently thought he had clearance.

Ayers, who had seated former Vice President Richard M. Nixon, also led Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-N.Y.), to a pew.

An Associated Press newsman overheard him say to the senator, "come right this way, Robert. We have security here."

The reporter first met Ayers when the salesman attended a murder trial with the defense counsel, James Venable, who heads the National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan Inc.

Ayers, who sat down after busily seating many dignitaries, gave up his seat to basketball player Wilt Chamberlain later and stood near the casket of King.

Federal sources confirmed the reporter's identification of Ayers. It was learned that the FBI had studied Ayers and concluded he was seeking the limelight. The FBI declined comment, but a spokesman said the bureau had nothing to do with security arrangements at the funeral.

A. B. Wentz, Secret Service chief in Atlanta, declined comment.

"on the run." He indicated that the name the man had used to register at a flophouse from which King was shot, John Willard, was not believed to be his right name.

Atlanta residents who spotted the Mustang before the FBI hauled it in noticed a Mexican "Turista" sticker on the windshield. It had been reported in Memphis that a man answering the description of the King suspect had sought a tourist card at the Mexican Consulate there.

More and more, the hunt appeared to concentrate on the Birmingham man, although the FBI notice pointed out no warrant had been issued for Galt.

Little was known about Galt. Several persons in the Highland Avenue neighborhood said they were acquainted with him, but had

not seen him for about three months.

The manager of a sporting goods firm near the Birmingham airport said the FBI had seized his sales records after questioning him about purchasers of Remington rifles.

The apparent murder weapon, which killed King with a single shot, was a .30-06 caliber Remington pump

rifle abandoned near the slaying scene.

Other Birmingham arms dealers said Federal agents wanted to know if a man had

questioned them recently about various types of rifles, and their capabilities.

First reports said the slayer of King raced away in a

White Mustang with Arkansas plates. Arkansas, just across the Mississippi River from Memphis, has red and white tags — like Alabama.

As the investigation of King's murder entered its second week, the mystery seemed to deepen. Federal agents were known to be checking sales records of gunshops in Birmingham, and several dealers told reporters that investigators had ordered them not to talk to the press.

There was one news report that agents had taken the records of Aero Marine, a boat and sporting goods dealer near the terminal of Birmingham Municipal Airport.

Don Wood, who said he is the store owner's son, said agents had been at the store to go through its records, but he refused to elaborate.

"Thousands of rumors are going around town," he said.

One of the few details of the investigation that has leaked out is that investigators suspect that the .30-06 caliber rifle abandoned near the Memphis murder scene was bought in Birmingham.

King was fatally wounded

April 4 as he stood on the balcony outside his Memphis motel. The shot that killed him came from a rooming house bathroom across the street.

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THE MURDERER is believed to have checked into the house and rented an \$8.50-per-week room using the name John Willard. Persons at the murder scene reported that soon after the fatal shot was fired a man sped off in a white Mustang.

A few minutes later, there were reports on the Memphis police radio frequency of a high-speed chase involving a white Mustang. Later, it was learned that a motorist with a citizen's band radio overheard the reports. He said he knew they were false reports because the signals of the transmitting car never wavered, indicating it was not moving.

Investigators were asked if this meant someone was setting up a decoy, but they replied, "No comment."

U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark said in New York Thursday night that he remains optimistic that King's murderer will be found.

"We will report on some developments that should be made public soon," he said. "When there are facts, a report will be made."

KING SLAYING CLUES?

Assassin Hunt On, Off Here

By WILLIAM TUCKER
Miami News Reporter

The FBI issued a pickup order in Florida for a man wanted for questioning in the Martin Luther King murder at about the same time the man's car was located in Atlanta, it developed today.

The pickup order was on the Florida police network for four hours last night before it was withdrawn by the FBI with the explanation that it had been issued "by mistake."

The Miami FBI, which issued the order, refused any further comment as did Attorney General Ramsey Clark's office in Washington.

The pickup notice added further mystery to the FBI's intensive but secrecy-wrapped hunt for the assassin who shot the civil rights



A Memphis newspaper artist made this sketch from a description of the slaying suspect by a man who saw him at hotel.

leader to death in Memphis a week ago.

But the public now has a name linked with King's

assassination and the FBI has an automobile with which to broaden its investigation.

The name is Eric Starvo Galt, a white man born July 20, 1931, described as 5-feet-11, 175 pounds, blue eyes and brown hair. His last known address was 2608 Highland Ave., Birmingham, Ala., once a fashionable address in that city. But a Birmingham newspaper reporter who went there found a decaying rooming house and got no answer to his knock on the door.

Galt, it was learned, is a merchant seaman by profession. He has no police record in Birmingham and apparently is little known there.

The FBI notice said that Galt was driving a 1966 white Mustang hardtop, license tag 1-38993, Alabama 1968. The "1" in the number

denotes Jefferson County, or Birmingham.

With the FBI notice freshly in circulation, word came from Atlanta that a Mustang with the Alabama tag described had been impounded there by the FBI.

The car had been parked since last Friday, the day after the assassination, at Capitol Homes, a housing project near the Georgia capitol in Atlanta. Atlanta is about 400 miles driving distance from Memphis.

The FBI announced shortly after the slaying that the hunt for King's assassin had stretched "several hundred miles" from Memphis.

Attorney General Clark said then that FBI agents were seeking a white man

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SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 15 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

H. Newman

Assassin Hunt Adds A Mystery

By ARNOLD MARKOWITZ
Herald Staff Writer

Eric Starvo Galt? There may be no such person. It may be only the fake name of a fugitive.

Friday, while the Federal Bureau of Investigation in half a dozen cities was saying "no comment," reporters were scurrying about the South, doing their own detective work.

They were trying to find out what connection, if any, a man using that name may have had with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King — and whether there is such a man. The name caused a flurry of excitement Thursday when the FBI asked Florida police to look for Galt and his white Mustang — a car similar to one used by a man who is a suspect in the murder of King.

The police bulletin said no arrest warrant had been issued.

The lookout alarm was withdrawn after a white Mustang was found parked in Atlanta. It bore the Alabama license plate number 1-38993, the same license number mentioned in the Florida police message.

As facts gradually fell into place, it became increasingly likely that there is no Eric Starvo Galt; that the name is an alias.

The car registration, issued Oct. 2, 1967, carried an address: 2608 Highland Ave., a Birmingham, Ala., rooming house. Residents there said the FBI had been questioning them about Galt for four or five days, and one of them said he last saw Galt there about three months ago. He could not say how long Galt had lived there.

Peter Cherpes, owner of the Economy Grill and



—Associated Press Wirephoto

TWO ARTISTS draw their versions of suspect in Martin Luther King slaying. At top is Mexican police artist Sergio Jaubert's recreation, based on FBI description. At bottom is Memphis Commercial-Appeal artist Bill Herrington's version, based on eyewitness descriptions.

Rooms, refused to talk about Galt. He said he had turned his records over to the FBI.

In Montgomery, Ala., state records show that a man named Galt applied in September 1967 for a driver's license. The applicant listed his occupation as "merchant seaman, unemployed."

Maritime sources were checked in Louisiana, Alabama, New York and Washington but reported there are no records of seaman's papers being issued to an Eric Starvo Galt. Federal agents also made these checks.

Whether or not the name is fake, it was used more than once. Other Alabama records show that a man named Galt bought a 1966 Mustang last August from William D. Paisley of Birmingham. Paisley would not talk about it.

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ALABAMA records also show that Galt requested a duplicate driver's license which was mailed to him last month at the Highland Ave. rooming house. It was not learned whether he ever got it.

FBI men were asked why the lookout alarm for Galt himself was not continued after the car was found in Atlanta. To this, as to all other questions, they answered, "No comment."

Sources in Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia said they had seen no further word on the man on police communication wires.

In Birmingham, reporters began the tedious job of checking birth records, in hopes of finding the name of Eric Starvo Galt. The Florida police bulletin Thursday gave Galt's date of birth as July 20, 1931. The source of the birth date was not given, but it could have come from the Alabama driver's license application.

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SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 15 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

H. Newman

Willie said he saw the man hurrying down the hall, a long, paper-wrapped object and a blue bag in his hand, and one arm thrown up by his face.

"That sounded like a shot," Willie observed.

"Yes, it was," confirmed the killer, without looking around or stopping.

He next appeared in front of Guy Canipe's amusement company — "Records 25 Cents."

He ducked into the recessed doorway of Canipe's place and what Canipe did thereafter depended upon when you talked to him. The day after the killing, Canipe said he saw the man drop a rifle and a blue bag — "like a typewriter case" — in the doorway.

"I didn't go out. If you had seen a man drop a rifle in your doorway, what would you have done?" Canipe asked — then he got busy in the back of his store.

But a week after the shooting, Canipe sat with his brown hat on behind a desk and, carefully spitting into a wastebasket, told how he had gone to the front of the store to see the man race off in a white Mustang. Canipe said he was reluctant to say so much because he was afraid he might get shot himself.

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THERE WERE two white Mustangs parked on the 400 block of South Main on the evening of April 4. One roared away seconds after King died and the other, said the boys in Jim's Grill, got away 14 minutes later.

Police Director Holloman had about 40 policemen in the area around the Lorraine because he was worried about King staying in a rough neighborhood. Last time King was in Memphis he had stayed at the fashionable Holiday Inn Rivermont.

Police flooded the area in seconds, and within minutes all Memphis was in confusion.

Half an hour after the shooting, from a point 10 miles across the city, a police car began relaying reports of a hot pursuit. Actually, the police car was parked next to the car of a college student, who had a citizens band radio in his car. Over this radio, he was picking up reports from what identified itself as a blue Pontiac, also with CB equipment. The broadcaster in the blue Pontiac said he was chasing a white Mustang. He kept pouring on the details, and the police car radioed them to headquarters. Speeds were rising, 75 miles an hour, now 100 miles an hour.

Three police cars were dispatched to take up the chase, running north of Memphis. The blue Pontiac reported the white Mustang,

with three white men in it, had opened fire.

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Radio Signal Wasn't Fading

BUT THEN the youth receiving the calls noticed that the signal strength meter on his receiver was not fading; it was not even fluctuating. The blue Pontiac was not going 100 miles an hour; it wasn't even moving.

Was this, perhaps, an effort to draw police off to the north, opening escape routes to the south?

It is a leisurely eight-to-10-hour drive from Memphis to Atlanta.

Sometime between 7 and 9 a.m. the next day a man roughly fitting the description of Galt was seen parking a white Mustang in Atlanta. When residents finally got concerned about the abandoned car on Thursday, six days later, and reported the incident, the car turned out to be Galt's.

The Mexican consul got worried about a man to whom he had provided a tourist visa. The investigation roared into Mexico. But it turned out the man with the visa was merely a Memphis State University student, innocent.

A hitchhiker got nervous watching television accounts of King's death in Joplin, Mo. He was hauled in and questioned, but he cleared himself.

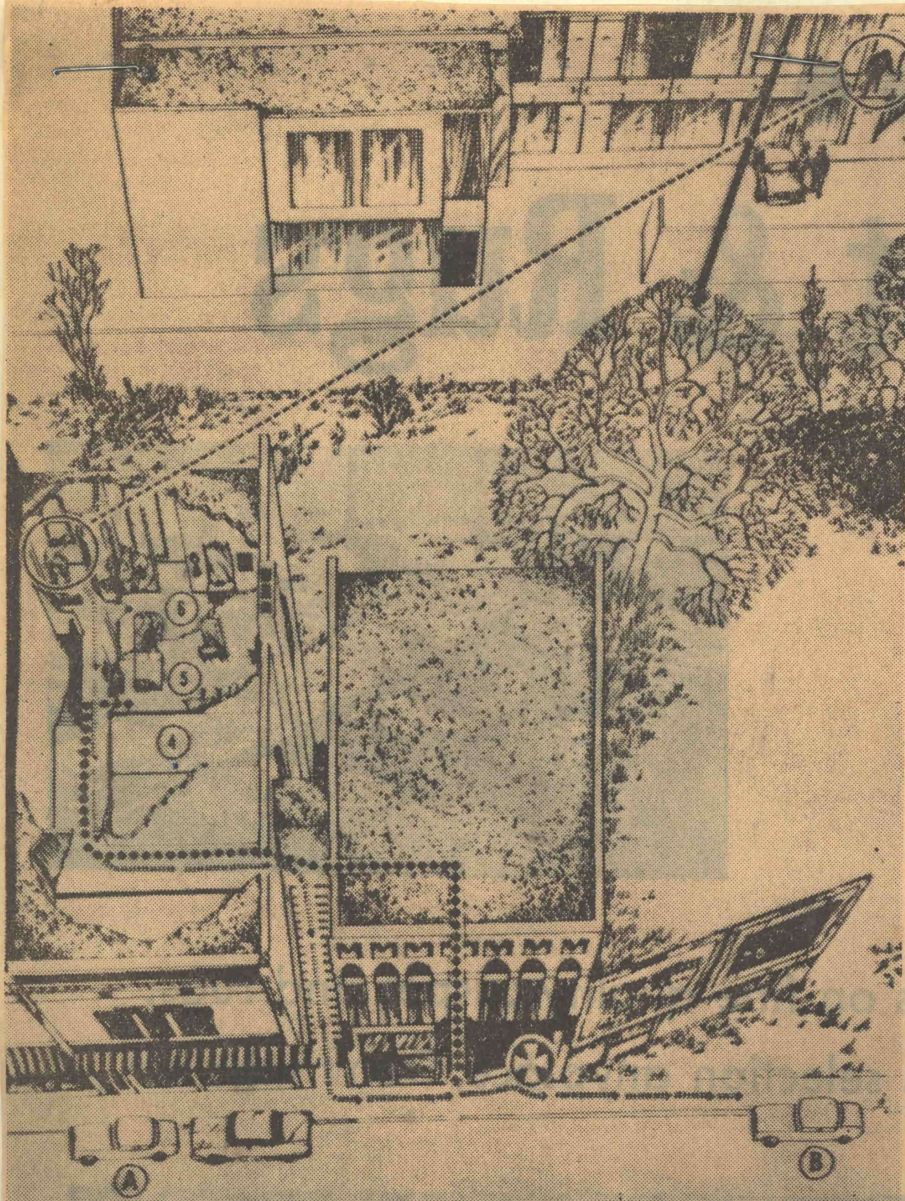
Reports flow in to Memphis and Washington from every FBI bureau in the nation. The search for Galt has gone from Mississippi to Alabama to Georgia to Florida.

The bullet was recovered from King's body, but the indications are that it was too severely broken up for ballistics tests. A fingerprint, or a palm print, or both, were found — either in the bathroom or on the rifle. But indications are that authorities don't expect much from

them.

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THE MANHUNT continues

— massive, secret, for one man, perhaps for several men.



THIS DIAGRAM, based on police information, was drawn by John Jacobs of the Memphis Commercial Appeal. The drawing shows how the killer of Martin Luther King entered flophouse, went upstairs and across passageway (line of black dots) and rented Room 5. The assassin later fired the fatal shot from the bath-

—United Press International Telephoto

room window (broken lines). He then ran along the hall (hash lines) and down the steps between the two buildings. He reportedly dropped rifle (cross) in front of Canipe Amusements Co. A white Mustang (B) was seen leaving after the shooting and a second one (A) left a short time later.

THE 400 block of South Main St. in Memphis is not an appealing avenue. On the east side there is a big cafe; fixtures store with coffee machines and hot dog cookers in its windows; Jim's Grill, a rundown but clean cafe with a jukebox belting out blues, and white and Negro help and white and Negro patrons. Next to this are two flights of stairs leading up to Mrs. Brewer's flophouse. One is an entrance and the other is an exit.

Behind the two buildings that comprise the flophouse — a guest goes from one to the other through a battered passageway — there is a vacant lot. It is overgrown with vines and mimosa trees and a high fence separates it from the machinery sales parking lot.

It is a drop of about nine feet from the back lot to the sidewalk of Mulberry St., and the dirt embankment is held up by a cement wall. Across the street there is the Lorraine Hotel — an old hotel with a modern wing on the rear.

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AT 3:15 p.m. on April 4, a dark-haired man with a sharp nose and a neat, dark suit walked up the yellow-walled entrance stairs to Bessie Brewer's place. He asked for a room. Bessie showed him No. 8, on her side of the building, which had a kitchenette. It cost \$10 a week. But he said:

"I only want a sleeping room."

So she took him through



—Associated Press Wirephoto

Memphis FBI Agent Robert Jensen Is Mum ... on questions in King assassination

the broken mortar into the other building, where Rooms 4, 5 and 6 are located. She showed him Room 5 and he said, "this will be fine."

He paid his \$8.50 rent with a \$20 bill and two quarters and signed "John Willard" on the register. Mrs. Brewer remembered his smile.

"He had a silly smile," she said.

She didn't remark upon his dress — the sort of elegance not usually found in her establishment — nor upon the fact that he carried nothing with him.

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He Went Out For Binoculars

SOMETIME during the next couple of hours he went out again. He went about six blocks away, to York's Arms, and bought a pair of binoculars.

The rest of his gear consisted of a Remington .30-06 pump action rifle with a telescopic sight, wrapped in brown paper. A hunter's gun, not an assassin's.

There were reports that he had a bite to eat in Jim's Grill.

He sat in his room for a while. He left a depression on the mattress. Then he went into the bathroom and locked it. He was in there for half an hour. Willie Anchutz, who lived in No. 6, wanted in. He knocked on the door. He got no answer.

The window is jammed open. It hasn't been closed all winter, another hardship on Mrs. Brewer's guests. In order to get the rifle trained on Room 306, the assassin probably stood in the bathtub, or on it, while Willie was hammering impatiently on the door.

After Willie went away, King emerged on the balcony across the street. He came in and out of his room three times. The third time he died.

The shot shook Mrs. Brewer's boarding house like a clap of thunder. Willie Anchutz ran to his door.

King's Death: A Hodgepodge of Mysteries

On April 4, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was slain by a sniper, throwing the nation into mourning and violence. The mourning and the violence are subsiding, but the massive manhunt for the killer continues, from a Memphis flophouse to a Birmingham boarding house, from Mexico to Atlanta, in an air of unprecedented secrecy. Here's an in-depth report on the search.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — (UPI) — In the dingy flophouse the bathroom window is still jammed open, and across the street the wreaths are wilting on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel.

In the gutter, spoiled Polaroid pictures flutter and tourists trample over a placard which says "I Am a Man." They can see it all, the place where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. died.

The tears have dried and

the eulogies echoed away, the violence is subsiding and the flowers are dying, but the man who killed King still is free.

Within hours after King fell dying, the FBI launched a massive manhunt for a shadowy sailor named Eric Starvo Galt. It searched for Galt in utter secrecy, and those few police departments asked to look out for him were asked only to locate him — not to arrest him. No

warrant was issued for him.

Officially the FBI will not even concede that it wants a man named Eric Starvo Galt. The name became known only after the FBI issued — an later hastily withdrew — a "locate and notify" order for him.

No such bulletin was issued in Memphis, where King died. No such bulletin was issued in Birmingham, Galt's last known residence.

ERIC GALT is an enigma.

In fact there is some official suspicion that Eric Galt may not exist, for it is very hard

for a man to leave so few traces of himself. As far as can be determined, his trail

grows cold in Atlanta, where agents found his white Mustang Thursday. It had been abandoned there the morning of April 5, one day after the killing.

He was traced to a rooming house in Birmingham where no one has seen him since November — although a duplicate driver's license was mailed to him there last month.

Where he came from, where he has gone — they

are mysteries. The death of Martin Luther King Jr. is a hodge-podge of mysteries — of mysterious men in white hoods, of mysterious radio messages, of mysterious cars and total secrecy.

On Friday, the day after the killing, and on Sunday and Monday on television programs, Attorney General Ramsey Clark talked freely and optimistically.

The attorney general now avoids reporters. Sources which normally provided guidance in criminal investigations say they have never seen such secrecy. Normally in a search for a suspect, the FBI freely publicizes descriptions and likenesses. But this secrecy, sources indicate, comes from beyond the FBI, beyond the Justice Department — from the White House.

The day after the slaying,

Miami Herald
Miami, Florida

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SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 15 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

H. Newman

Clark said "we are very hopeful that we can have an early and successful conclusion" and later he said "our evidence points very strongly" toward only one man being involved in the assassination.

But the FBI did not want Eric Galt touched, bothered or chased. Even though it had not found him, it apparently did not want him to know he was hot. Did it, perhaps, hope that Galt might lead agents to someone else?

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IN THE office of R. S. Lewis and Sons Funeral Home in Memphis, Solomon Jones paused in his narrative occasionally to smile at mourners entering the front door. There was a body on view in the chapel.

Jones told in a soft, funereal voice the story of King's last day. He was driving for King on Thursday, April 4.

He said he was standing on the pavement beside King's car, the engine running, and King was turning to leave the balcony and come down to be driven to a friend's house for dinner.

"I heard the shot, and I felt it go past me. Believe me, gentlemen, if it had been a little lower it would have killed me and not Dr. King. I ran to the street and I looked across, and I saw a man jump up from behind the bushes and run back toward Main Street. He had something white on his head, like a hood."

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How the Police Say It Happened

ACCORDING to Memphis Police Director Frank Holloman, the assassin stood in the bathroom of a nameless flophouse to make his shot.

He rented a room, locked himself in the bathroom and fired out the window, at the back of the building. Then he fled down the stairs and out

onto Main Street, one block over from the hotel, which is on Mulberry Street.

He dodged into the doorway of Canipe Amusements Co., one door up the street, and dumped his rifle and a small case containing binoculars in the doorway. Then he leaped into a white Ford Mustang and roared away.

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THAT IS how police say it happened, and it is constructed from testimony of witnesses and, presumably, from evidence.

But Sidney Walker also claims to have seen something strange. Walker, a tall, wizened Negro, said he was in Jim's Grill, below the flophouse, having coffee when he heard the shot. Walker said he sprinted out the door, around the corner, down Huling Street and into Mulberry Street by the hotel. He saw King's aides gathering around him on the balcony,

and, he said, he saw a man running down the street, away from him, with a white hood on his head. The police had not yet arrived, he said.

But, according to Holloman, 150 officers converged on the scene in a matter of seconds.

Chauncey Eskridge, King's lawyer, was standing in the parking lot with Jones when the shot rang out. He, too, ran to the street. He said he saw no one with a hood, but claimed that a group of policemen leaped out of the bushes — the same bushes from which Jones said he saw a hooded man run.

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THE WHITE stucco house with a red tile roof at 2608 Highland Ave. in Birmingham has a red and white neon sign insistently announcing:

ECONOMY SLEEPING ROOMS BY THE DAY OR WEEK Air Conditioned Dining Room

Room and board at 2608 Highland costs \$27 a week, and most of its guests stay only two or three weeks before they move on. Eric Starvo Galt used to live there.

Peter Cherpes runs the place and he says he talked to the FBI and won't talk to anyone else. Only one of the roomers has been there long enough to remember Galt and that roomer, Percy Strickland, doesn't recall much.

"He was just one of the boys," Strickland said. He said he figured Galt had lived there no more than six months — a long time at 2608 Highland — and doesn't recall seeing him since November.

"The FBI has been asking about him plenty the last week," said Strickland.

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Mustang Bought In Birmingham

GALT BOUGHT the white Mustang, which was so passionately sought for a week

from William D. Paisley of Birmingham on Aug. 30, 1967. Paisley said the FBI told him not to talk to reporters.

The Alabama State Employment Office never heard of Eric Galt. The Birmingham police never heard of him, and the Birmingham Credit Bureau has no file on him. No one knows, now, where Eric Galt has been since November.

But it was in Birmingham, four days before King died, that a sporting goods store sold the gun that killed him.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM : SA HAROLD K. PARSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/15/68

Re Bureau teletype to all offices 4/8/68, & 4/10/68.

Contact with MM 996-R revealed that H. LEON BLANTON and FRANK J. CAPO, Bombing Suspects, attended a meeting of the Wallace for President committee on the evening of April 4, 1968 at Vero Beach, Florida.

A review of city directories, telephone directories, drivers license records, bank records, savings and loan company records, credit bureaus, arrest records and voter registration records was made at the following cities located within the territory of the Ft. Pierce RA with negative results concerning the name ERIC STARVO GALT:

Ft. Pierce, Fla.
Vero Beach, Florida
Stuart, Florida
Okeechobee, Florida
Lake Placid, Florida
Sebring, Florida
Avon Park, Florida

The above record checks included the counties of Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin, Okeechobee, Highlands and smaller communities thereof.

see serial 17, 28

44-1854-101

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 16 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison *pnf*



5010-108-01

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

F B I

Date: 4-15-68

PLAINTEXT

SENT BY CODED TELETYPE

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via Radio TELETYPE

DEFERRED

(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS
FROM MIAMI (44-1854) (P)

MURKIN.

RE NEW YORK TEL TO BUREAU APRIL TWELVE LAST.

THOMAS ROOD, WHITE MALE, BORN MAY TWO NINETEEN THIRTY THREE,
COLCHESTER, VERMONT, FORMER ASN US FIVE ONE THREE ZERO TWO FOUR
SIX THREE, INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED HE WAS IN VERO BEACH, FLORIDA,
DURING PERTINENT PERIODS. TWO WITNESSES CORROBORATE STORY. NO
FURTHER INVESTIGATION RE ROOD BEING CONDUCTED.

INFO COPY SENT NEW YORK AIRMAIL

1 - New York (AM)

DCC/al

(2) *al**see serial 59
156
198*

Searched _____
Indexed _____
Serialized *h* _____
Filed _____

*44-1854-102*Approved: *h*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

ME@4:38P M

Per

*2/E**WA-4:27 PM - Rge.*

4/15/68

AIRTEL

REGISTERED MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)
RE: MURKIN

ReButel to all offices, 4/14/68.

ERIC STARVO GALT - DANCING SCHOOL CHECKS

All dancing schools checked this date in the Miami Division for any prior or current record of ERIC STARVO GALT, KARL GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER and JOHN WILLARD, as being members of any dancing classes. All checks met with negative results.

SUSPECT ERIC STARVO GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED & DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau
2 - Birmingham (RM) (44-1740)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
① - Miami (RM)
DNJ: jgm
(8)

*see serial 92 166
123 169
439
H5
JH*

m
Searched
Indexed
Serialized
Filed

44-1854-103

Jellison ong

F B I

Date: **4-13-68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **Airtel** **Airmail** _____
(Priority)**To: SAC, Miami (44-1854)****From: Director, FBI (44-38861)****MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS****Re Miami airtel 4-9-68, submitting envelope and
handwritten message, Q 87 and Q 88.****No latent prints developed on specimens.****Laboratory report and disposition of specimens separate.****Unidentified latent fingerprints this case are not
identical fingerprints of following persons, one of whom maybe
identical with named suspect;
Samuel Thomas Nash, Jr., born 8-10-31, Birmingham, Alabama.
Shafter Thomas Nash, FBI #667 489 C.****2- SAC, Memphis (44-1987)****1- SAC, Atlanta (44-2386)***see serial 25
61
104**44-1854-104*

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>✓</i>	FILED <i>✓</i>
APR 16 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

J. L. Sullivan *1 Dny*

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC MIAMI (44-1854)

DATE: 4/16/68

FROM : LANCE C. VAN ATTA, SPC

SUBJECT: MURKIN
INFO CONC.

At 1:00 A.M. this date this office was telephonically contacted by Audrey Boyer, 2247 S.W. 59 Avenue (665-7388). Boyer advised that she is a cashier and hostess at the bar in the Danker Hotel, 5890 S.W. 8 Street, Miami. She claims a man, who resembles the depiction of the alleged assassin as it appears in the newspaper, registered at the Danker Hotel last Tuesday. He has frequented the bar on numerous occasions and has been heard to comment that "they would never get him", meaning King's assassin. During conversation, he revealed that he was from Philadelphia and had worked in the respiratory section of a hospital. Boyer advised she thinks the man's name is Reese and is staying in room 140 at the hotel. She understands he is checking out this A.M. Boyer was repeatedly assured that the source of this info would be held strictly confidential.

See serial 121
121

44-1854-105

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 16 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

J. Llesia



5010-108-01

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

'KING SLAY SUSPECT RENTED MY ROOM'

THE MIAMI NEWS
Miami, Florida
Date: 4/15/68

Alabama Landlord Identifies 'Galt'

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (AP) — The owner of a boarding house said today he had identified a drawing of a man sought in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a roomer known by the name Eric Galt.

"It's him, I'm sure," said Peter Cherpes, 72, who runs a boarding house on Birmingham's South Side. Cherpes consented to talk after the FBI responded to his request to be released from a secrecy pledge.



Sketch of Galt

44-1854-106

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 16 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

Jellman *ony*
#5 Desk *it*

Cherpes said FBI agents showed him drawings about last Wednesday, or two days before a car registered in the name of Eric Starvo Galt was found abandoned in Atlanta. The car, a white Mustang with an Alabama license tag, matched the description of a car seen leaving the assassination scene in Memphis, Tenn., where King was shot April 4.

Cherpes was shown a newspaper artist's drawing of the assassin today and he said it was such like the drawings exhibited by federal agents. Cherpes said the sketches "looked exactly like Galt."

The man known as Eric Starvo Galt has become the object of a widening search by FBI agents, who have been contacting persons with the same name or similar names from Virginia to Florida and sifting through dozens of stores and businesses in Birmingham for clues to the missing man.

The FBI issued an alert, called a "locate and notify" dispatch, in Florida for Galt last Friday at about the time the white Mustang was being impounded in Atlanta. The alert was withdrawn four hours later with the explanation that it had been erroneous.

Since then, the FBI has declined to say anything about Galt. There was no warrant for Galt, the FBI said last Friday.

Galt rented a room from him, Cherpes said, last fall, at about the time the hunted man obtained an Alabama driver's license.

He also purchased with cash a white Mustang from a Birmingham car salesman. He listed his occupation as merchant seaman, unemployed.

In Search for King's Killer

Landlord 'Sure' FBI Sketch Is Mystery Man Eric Galt

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — (AP) — The owner of a boarding house Monday said he had identified a drawing of a man sought in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as a roomer known by the name Eric Galt.

"It's him, I'm sure," said Peter Cherpes, 72, who runs a boarding house on Birmingham's South Side. Cherpes consented to talk after the FBI responded to his request to be released from a secrecy pledge.

Cherpes said FBI agents showed him drawings about last Wednesday, or two days before a car registered in the name of Eric Starvo Galt was found abandoned in Atlanta.

The car, a white Mustang with an Alabama license tag, matched the description of a car seen leaving the assassination scene in Memphis, Tenn., where King was shot April 4.

Cherpes was shown a newspaper artist's drawing of the assassin suspect Monday and he said it was much like the drawings exhibited by federal agents. Cherpes said the sketches "looked exactly like Galt."

The man known as Eric

Starvo Galt has become the object of a widening search by FBI agents, who have been contacting persons with the same name or similar names from Virginia to Florida and sifting through dozens of stores and businesses

in Birmingham for clues to the missing man.

The FBI issued an alert, called a "locate and notify" dispatch, in Florida for Galt last Friday at about the time the white Mustang was being impounded in Atlanta. The alert was withdrawn four hours later with the explanation that it had been erroneous.

Since then, the FBI has declined to say anything about Galt. There was no warrant for Galt, the FBI said last Friday.

Galt rented a room from him, Cherpes said, last fall, at about the time the hunted man obtained an Alabama driver's license.

He also purchased with cash a white Mustang from a Birmingham car salesman. He listed his occupation as merchant seaman, unemployed.

Cherpes said that when Galt registered he noted on the registration card that he last had worked at the Ingalls Shipbuilding Corp. at Pascagoula, Miss.

Cherpes said Galt came to the boarding house in August 1967 and left Oct. 7, 1967, saying he was going to Mobile to look for a job.

Miami Herald
Miami, Florida

Date 4/16/68

44-1854-107

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 16 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

Jellman ong
#5 Desk A

MM 44-1854

WBP:vc

1.

The following laundries and cleaners were contacted in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, on April 10, 1968, by SA WILLIAM B. PULLEN, however, none of them used the code 0(D)2B-6 as a laundry mark, nor have they in the past.

Haworth's Laundry and Dry Cleaning Company
23 North New River Drive-West
Miss MILDRED KING

Kent Cleaners and Laundry
1719 South Andrews Avenue
Mrs. FLORENCE NICHOLAS

Lauda Mar
713 East Broward Boulevard
MIKE CAPUTO

Paris Cleaners and Laundry, Inc.
609 S. W. 1st Avenue
FRED LUZAK

Seven Hour Laundry and Dry Cleaners, Inc.
307 N. W. 1st Avenue
Mrs. BETTY DE JOHN

Sunshine Laundry and Linen Supply, Inc.
101 S. W. 7th Street
ARLENE PAYNE

Searched _____
Indexed _____
Serialized m
Filed h

see serial 56, 23

44-1854-108

DMJ

4/15/68

AIRTEL

REGISTERED MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)
RE: MURKIN

Re Atlanta tel to the Bureau and Miami, 2/12/68.

ERIC STARVO GALT - Check of Eastern Airlines Ticket
Passengers Departing Atlanta, INS, Customs and Shipping
Companies

All passenger-carrying airlines departing Miami carrying revenue passengers to foreign ports checked for record of ERIC STARVO GALT, KARL GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER, HARVEY LOWMEYER and JOHN WILLARD with negative results. Eastern Airlines foreign flights partially checked with negative results. Eastern Airlines tickets for flights departing Atlanta, 4/7/68 checked for above names with negative results. Tickets for 4/8/68 will be available 4/16/68 as will other tickets for foreign travel.

SUSPECT ERIC STARVO GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
ARMED & DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Birmingham (4401740) (RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
2 - Atlanta (44-2386) (RM)
① - Miami
HCB: jgm
(10)

im

#5 11
gjh

see serial 55
77

14
Searched _____
Indexed _____
Serialized _____
Filed _____

Jellman DNG
44-1854-109

4/16/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

RE: MURKIN

Re Atlanta teletype to Bureau and Miami, 2/12/68.

ERIC STARVO GALT - Check of Eastern Airlines
Ticket Passengers Departing Atlanta, INS, Customs and
Shipping Companies

Tickets of all passengers departing Atlanta 4/8/68 reviewed for names ERIC STARVO GALT, KARL GALT, HARVEY LOWMYER, HARVEY LOWMEYER and JOHN WILLARD with negative results. Remainder of Eastern Airlines tickets for foreign flights checked for above names with negative results.

SUSPECT ERIC STARVO GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Birmingham (44-1740) (RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
2 - Atlanta (44-2386) (RM)
1 - Miami
HCB/mgc
(10) *mgc*

*see serial 77
55*

Searched _____
Indexed _____
Serialized *2* _____
Filed *1* _____

11

44-1854-110

Bell JCB

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM : SA ROGER B. COLTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/15/68

On 4/10/68, the files of the following agencies were caused to be searched by SA ROGER B. COLTON which failed to locate any record identifiable with ERIC STARVO GALT:

Deerfield Beach Police Department
Margate Police Department
Lauderdale By the Sea Police Department
Hillsboro Beach Police Department
Lighthouse Point Police Department
Selective Service System, Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,
(Which covers all of Broward County, Fla.,)
(Protect Identity)
Pompano Beach Credit Bureau

The following telephone and city directories for Pompano Beach and Deerfield Beach, Fla., were also searched but failed to locate any reference to GALT:

see serial 28

1 - 157-MURKIN
RBC/pmg
(1) *ones*



5010-108-02

44-1854-111

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 16 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison ong

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM : SA KENNETH D. SCHEIWE

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/15/68

Re ERIC STARVO GALT, white male.

Following individuals searched records indicated
on 4/10/68 with no result:

BCS/O
Driver's License Bureau
Voter's Registration
Plantation
Davie

DORIS PETERSON
MABEL TRICKEL
EASTER LILLIE GATES
COP HANK DONATH
Officer DAVID KEELEY

see serial 28

1 - 44-1854
(KDS/pmg
(1) *One*



5010-108-02

44-1854-112

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>m</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
APR 16 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

Jellison Dnf

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM : SA KENNETH D. SCHEIWE

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/15/68

Re Thermo Seal Marking Machine Manufactured by
Textile Marking Machine Co., of Syracuse, N.Y., Model # 5L4,
Serial #32614. Last known to be in possession of New
Peerless Laundry, 110 NW 55th Ave., Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The above Thermo Seal Marking Machine with
plate showing Model # as 5L4 and serial # 32614, was shown
to SA KENNETH D. SCHEIWE, 4/10/68, by ROBERT STANLEY,
Manager of the Peerless Uniform Service, 110 NW 55th Ave.,
Fort Lauderdale, Fla. This machine was not operable and
was in storage. The machine was acquired by Mercury Linen
Service Corp., Parent Corporation of the Peerless Uniform
Co., from the New Peerless Laundry, Co., in December, 1966.

It was determined from ROBERT STANLEY this
machine has not been used since December, 1966.

see serial 22

44-1854-113

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 16 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison Dmy

1 - 44-1854

KDS/pmg

(1)

Emey



5010-108-02

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-

DATE: 4-10-68

FROM : SA ERNEST HARRISON, JR. ATTN: SA BELL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re telephone call from SA BELL 4-10-68:

The following were contacted this date for the name of
ERIC STARVO GALT with negative results:

Bank of Naples (Marlene Iamurri);
First National Bank (Darlene Iamurri);
First Federal S & L (Don Zumfield);
Citizens Bank of Naples (Nancy Kelly);
First Bank of Immokalee (Bill Price - telephonically);
Credit Bureau of Naples (Ruth Anderson);
Collier County Sheriff's Office (J. M. Singletary, Records);
Naples Police Dept (June Moltzhausen-records);
Voter Registration (Edna Santa);
Drivers License Section (Iona Patrick);
WESLEY DOWNING, Realtor;
JANE RUSSELL, Records, Beach Club Motel;
Naples City Directory;
Naples, Immokalee, Everglades City, Marco, Bonita telephone book;
GAC Finance Company (W. W. Selz).

The only GALT located living in this County is GEORGE GALT, 1910
Gordon Drive, who advised he has never heard of the name ERIC
STARVO GALT.

EW
(1)

see serial 28

44-1854-114

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 11 1968	
FBI	

Jellison Long



5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM : SA GILBERT E. TODD

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/16/68

On 4/10/68, records checks at the following agencies failed to reflect any information identical to HARVEY LOWMEYER or LOWMYER or ERIC STARVO GALT:

Key West, Florida Police Department

Key West, Florida Credit Bureau

Monroe County Sheriff's Office

Monroe County Voter's Registration List

Driver's License Bureau, Monroe County

Key West State Bank

Florida First National Bank

First Federal Savings and Loan Association of Key West

A review of the Key West and Florida Keys City and Telephone Directories failed to reflect any information identical to the above names.

On 4/10/68, the following persons were contacted in connection with the laundry tag found at the crime scene. No information concerning the origin of the tag was obtained nor was any information received as to the meaning of the laundry mark on the tag.

WILLIAM ED DICKINSON, Manager, Columbia Laundry

LOUIS CIROTTI, Manager, Vogue Laundry

CLYDE BROCK, Manager, U.S. Navy Laundry, Naval Station, Key West, Florida.



5010-106-01

1-44-1854
GET:pab
(1)

see serial 10, 28, 23, 56, 83
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

44-1854-115

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 16 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

ong

F B I

Date: 4/15/68

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

To: SAC, Miami (44-1854)

✓ From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Reurairtel 4/11/68.

One latent fingerprint of value was developed on label attached to a piece of wrapping paper, Q124. One latent fingerprint and five latent palm prints were developed on submitted box, Q126. No latent impressions of value were developed on piece of brown wrapping paper, Q125, shipping slip or three-inch piece of paper ripped from shipping slip, and a piece of cellophane tape.

One latent fingerprint on Q126 is identical with a finger impression of SA Daniel Niel Jellison. The remaining latent fingerprint is not identical with fingerprints of Jellison. Palm prints of Jellison are not available in our files for comparison purposes.

The unidentified latent impressions are not identical with the latent impressions previously reported and remaining unidentified in this case.

Specimens are being returned under separate cover.

Laboratory report separate.

Submit appropriate elimination prints.

- 1 - Cleveland
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740)

44-1854-116

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 16 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison *ong*

see serial 51 229
39 361
124 140
141

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

F B I

Date: 4/16/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: Memphis)

Re Tampa teletype to the Bureau, Memphis and Birmingham dated 4/10/68, and Tampa teletype to Bureau, Memphis, Atlanta, Jacksonville and Miami dated 4/15/68.

INVESTIGATION REGARDING INDIVIDUAL OBSERVED
AT EATONVILLE AND ORLANDO, FLORIDA, 4/7 AND 8/68.

A. J. STROUDMIER and CHARLES TITUS, Greyhound Bus drivers, who made runs from Orlando to Miami, Florida, on 4/8/68, interviewed Miami, Florida. Neither driver recalls seeing unidentified white male as described in referenced teletype of 4/15/68 on their Orlando to Miami runs on 4/8/68.

Artist's conceptions of unknown subject as described by witnesses in Birmingham and Memphis exhibited to both drivers and they were unable to recognize either drawing.

SUSPECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Birmingham (44-1740) (RM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
- 2 - Atlanta (44-2386) (RM)
- 2 - Jacksonville (44-769) (RM)
- 2 - Tampa (157-3231) (RM)
- ① - Miami

DNJ:vc
(14)

Searched _____
Indexed _____
Serialized _____
Filed _____

44-1854-117

Approved: H
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

see serial 93, 119, 120

Cover Sheet for Informant Report or Material
FD-306 (3-21-58)

Date received 4/8/68	Received from (name or symbol number) CHARLES B. DENNARD - PRI	Received by SA ROGER B. COLTON
--------------------------------	--	--

Method of delivery (check appropriate blocks)

☒ in person ☐ by telephone ☐ by mail ☒ orally ☐ recording device ☐ written by Informant

If orally furnished and reduced to writing by Agent:

Dictated Date **4/9/68** to _____

Transcribed _____

Authenticated
by Informant _____

Date of Report

4/8/68

Date(s) of activity

4/4/68

4/5/68

4/6/68

4/7/68

Brief description of activity or material

Open NOI meeting, Mosque 29, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. held 4/5/68. Muslim newspaper sold N.W. colored area Ft. Lauderdale 4/4 and 7/68. Closed meetings of NOI reportedly held 4/6 and 7/68. No talk of violence as result of murder Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

File where original is located if not attached

170-234 Sub A 5

Remarks:

- 1 - 105-544 (NOI)
- 1 - 157-2299 (NOI, Mosque 29, Ft. Lauderdale)
- 1 - 105-1268 (ISHMAEL KNOX)
- 1 - 157-1268 (CHARLES DENNARD)
- 1 - 157-2398 (PHINAZEE SMITH)
- 1 - 157-1087 (PRV)
- 1 - 44-1854 (MURKIN)

RBC/lht

lht

ACTION:

Return original for authentication

44-1854-118

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
APR 16 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

see serial 14

Fort Lauderdale, Florida
April 8, 1968

On Friday, April 5, 1968, a regular meeting of the NOI, Mosque 29, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, was held at 670 N.W. 22nd Road, from 8:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m. Approximately 70 negro men and women (including members and non-members) attended. Noted in attendance were the following persons:

PHINAZEE SMITH
ISHMAEL KNOX
CHARLES DENNARD

The speakers for the evening were two negro women who urged those in attendance to unite and push for better jobs and better education opportunities for the negro.

The murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was discussed; however, there was no talk of violence or other repercussions.

PHINAZEE SMITH is in charge of recruiting new members.

Everyone was also urged to purchase and distribute the Muslim newspaper.

The Muslim newspaper was being sold in the northwest colored section of Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Thursday, April 4, 1968.

On Saturday, April 6, 1968, reportedly a closed meeting of the NOI was held at 670 N.W. 22nd Road. Approximately 12 or 13 cars were seen in the area of the meeting place; however, it was not known if the occupants of the cars attended the alleged meeting.

On Sunday, April 7, 1968, the Muslim newspaper was being sold in the durgstore located at N.W. 9th Avenue and N.W. 6th Street.

- On Sunday, April 7, 1968, reportedly another closed meeting of the NOI was held; however, youngsters ages about 12-13, dressed in blue, were also in the area and proceeded to participate in the memorial services for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. at Sunland Park, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI

FROM : SA DAVID N. JELLISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/17/68

Re Tampa teletype to the Bureau, Memphis, Atlanta, Jacksonville, and Miami dated 4/15/68.

On 4/16/68, CHARLES TITUS, 17621 N. W. 10th Court, Miami, Florida, Greyhound Bus Driver, advised that he made Greyhound Run 363 from Orlando, Florida, to Miami, Florida, on 4/8/68. This run departed Orlando at 9:20 a.m. 4/8/68. TITUS did not recall seeing an unidentified white male as described in referenced Tampa teletype on this run.

Artists' conceptions of unknown subject as described by witnesses in Birmingham and Memphis exhibited to TITUS, and he was unable to recognize either drawing.

1 - 44-1854
DNJ:vc
(1)

HC

See Serial 93 & 117, 120

44-1854-119

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>m</i>	FILED <i>m</i>
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison *10mg*



5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI

FROM : SA DAVID N. JELLISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/17/68

Re Tampa teletype to the Bureau, Memphis, Atlanta, Jacksonville and Miami dated 4/15/68.

On 4/15/68, A. J. STROUDMIER, Greyhound Bus Driver, 11780 S. W. 188th Street, South Miami Heights, Florida, was interviewed by SA FRANCIS J. MC CARRON. STROUDMIER advised that on 4/8/68 he made Greyhound run 311 from Orlando to Miami departing Orlando at 8:15 a.m.

The unknown white male as described in referenced teletype not observed on this run by STROUDMIER. Artist's conceptions of unknown subject as described by witnesses in Birmingham and Memphis exhibited to STROUDMIER and he advised he was unable to recognize either drawing.

1 - 44-1854
DNJ:vc
(1)

VC

See Serial 93 & 117, 119

44-1854-120

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>n</i>	FILED <i>n</i>
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison



5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI

FROM : SA DAVID N. JELLISON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/17/68

Re memo of SPC LANCE C. VAN ATTA dated 4/16/68.

EDGAR J. REESE, Room 140, Danker Hotel, 5890 S. W. 8th Street, Miami, Florida, was interviewed this date by SAs DAVID N. JELLISON and JOHN J. MC BREEN at Room 140, Danker Hotel. DANKER advised that he is employed as an Inhalation and Therapy Technician at the Pennsylvania Hospital, 8th and Spruce Streets, Philadelphia, Pa.

REESE advised that he has been in Miami since 4/2/68 on a vacation. REESE is described as follows:

Name	EDGAR J. REESE
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	4/4/36
Place of birth	Collingdale, Pa.
Height	5'7"
Weight	155 pounds
Hair	Reddish brown
Eyes	Hazel
Complexion	Red face - freckles

REESE advised that he did not drive through Tennessee or visit Tennessee while en route to Miami on 4/1/68.

Mr. D. WOLFE, desk clerk, Danker Hotel, advised that EDGAR J. REESE has occupied Room 140, Danker Hotel, since 4/2/68, and to the best of WOLFE's knowledge, REESE has not left the hotel since checking in on 4/2/68.

1 - 44-1854
DNJ:vc
(1)

See serial 105
see serial 105

44-1854-121

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison



5010-108-01

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

MM 44-1854

Inasmuch as REESE has been at the Danker Hotel since 4/2/68, and does not fit the description of the unknown subject, in this case, he is no longer being considered as a suspect in this matter.

- 2 -

F B I

Date: 4/15/68

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

TO: SAC, RICHMOND (44-657)
 FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (44-1365) (P)

MURKIN
 CR

(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Miami teletype to Bureau, 4/12/68, with copies to offices receiving this communication; and Charlotte telephone call to Richmond, 4/13/68.

Investigation, Charlotte Division, 4/13/68, failed to reflect any significant information concerning JOHN A. GALT, who is mentioned in referenced teletype as departing Greensboro, N. C., at 2:01 PM, 4/9/68, via Eastern Air Lines Flight 621 for Atlanta, Ga., and thereafter departing Atlanta for Houston, Texas.

Investigation, Greensboro, N. C., failed to reflect any information identifiable with Associated Pipeline Contractors and on 4/13/68, and on 4/13/68 pertinent information contained in retel pertaining to JOHN A. GALT was furnished telephonically to the Richmond Division with the request that GALT's point of contact concerning his airline reservations be checked out for any further identifiable information.

Referenced teletype reflected GALT's contact point as telephone number 793-2731, Room 608, Danville, Va.

Investigation continuing at Charlotte.

- 2 - Richmond
- 1 - Atlanta (44-2386)
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740)
- 2 - Houston
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)
- ① - Miami (44-1854)
- 1 - Mobile
- 2 - Charlotte

CCK:dh
 (11)

44-1854-122

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

see serial 55
63
Jellison *DMJ*

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

F B I

Date: **4/15/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIR TEL** _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, NEWARK (44-854)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re: Miami teletype to Bureau, Birmingham, New York, St. Louis, Tampa and Memphis; dated 4/12/68; and Miami teletype to Bureau, Birmingham, Newark, St. Louis and Memphis; dated 4/12/68.

For the information of Philadelphia, this investigation is being conducted to eliminate possible suspect DONALD CAMERON GAULT.

DONALD CAMERON GAULT, 171 Myrtle Avenue, Millburn, New Jersey, advised on 4/13/68, that he does not know anyone with the name of ERIC STARVO GALT.

GAULT advised that he is employed by Continental Assurance, 76 William Street, New York City, and has home office located at 310 South Michigan Street, Chicago. He advised that he was at work on April 4, 1968, and traveled to Garden City, New York, on company business.

3-Bureau
1-Birmingham (Info.)
1-St. Louis (Info.)
1-Memphis (Info.)
1-Miami (Info.)
2-New York
2-Philadelphia
2-Newark (44-854)
BHR:ent
(13)

see serial 64465 89
267 157

44-1854-123

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
APR 17 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	
<i>Johnston</i>	

Approved: _____
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

NK 44-854

GAULT is member of Naval Reserve, attached to Anti-Submarine Warfare Group VP 933, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, and required to make frequent week end flights. On the evening of 3/29/68, he flew from Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, to Coco Beach, Florida. He stayed at the Satalite Motel, Coco Beach, Florida, on the nights of 3/29/68, and 3/30/68, with return flight to Willow Grove, Pennsylvania, on 3/31/68.

GAULT described as white male, American, 6'2", 205 lbs., dark blond curly hair, blue eyes; married, wife JANET, and two children; owns only two automobiles, a 1962 Chevrolet station wagon, and a 1959 Hilman station wagon.

LEADS:

NEW YORK

AT NEW YORK CITY

Verify GAULT's employment on 4/4/68.

PHILADELPHIA

AT WILLOW GROVE, PENNSYLVANIA

Verify GAULT's whereabouts on 3/29-31/68.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

4/17/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY
LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

Re Bureau airtel to Miami dated 4/15/68.

Referenced airtel states that one latent fingerprint on Q126 is identical with a finger impression of SA DANIEL NIEL JELLISON of the Miami Office.

Enclosed for elimination purposes are a set of palm prints taken from SA DAVID N. JELLISON of the Miami Division and a set of fingerprints and palm prints taken from KATHRYN HOBSON, Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company, Miami, Florida.

HOBSON advised that she has no idea how many other persons may have handled Q126 since the package came through a regular delivery service.

- 4 - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)
- 1 - Cleveland (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Memphis (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Birmingham (Info) (RM)
- 1 - Miami

DNJ:vc
(8)

MC

*see serial 116
51
39*

*229
361
140
141*

44-1854-124

Jellison png

11

Searched _____
Indexed _____
Serialized _____
Filed _____

Was King's Killer a Hired Pro?

By PAUL VALENTINE
Miami Herald-Washington Post Wire

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — There is growing speculation among Memphis police detectives that the Rev. Martin Luther King's assassin was a disinterested professional killer — not a racist ideologue — who left an elaborate trail of phony clues to confuse his pursuers.

They won't say who they think hired the killer or why, but the evidence, they say, points to a well-paid professional job.

Frank C. Holloman, director of fire and police, has maintained a stony silence on progress of the

April 4 murder investigation, as has his chief of detectives, William Huston. But sources in the department indicate that the "hired-killer" theory is gaining momentum.

One notion is that the killer began his preparations six or eight months ago by dissolving his real identity and manufacturing a new personality known as "Eric Starvo Galt, 36, unemployed merchant seaman."

Surrounding himself with phony credentials, he waited patiently in various cities for the right opportunity to fulfill his assignment.

In Birmingham, where Galt once lived, Jefferson

County Sheriff Mel Bailey said he believes the assassin originally may have planned to kill King in the Alabama city.

Bailey, who threw a protective net around King when he was in Birmingham last October to serve five days in jail, said he thinks a conspiracy existed to murder the civil rights leader. The sheriff said his theory is only conjecture, but, "It is based on the evidence uncovered so far in the case."

Galt, who has been identified by fellow boarders in a rooming house in Birmingham as being the same man shown in FBI sketches of the suspected assassin,

lived in the city ~~when King~~ was serving his jail term, Bailey said.

The opportunity came April 4 in Memphis. Dr. King had arrived the day before, and both television and local newspapers had announced the motel and room number where Dr. King was staying.

The assassin rented a room in an adjacent building under the name "John Willard," fired the fatal shot and fled, leaving an enormous trail of fingerprints, clothing, binoculars, a rifle and an expended shell in his wake.

Federal authorities said here Tuesday they are satisfied John Willard and Eric Starvo Galt are the same person.

Memphis detectives say evidence that the killer was hired at a substantial price is reflected by his ability to purchase a "white Mustang" automobile and follow Dr. King around the country for several months without apparently holding a job.

The detectives are leery of the physical evidence left behind by the killer.

"He was supposed to have shot King with a pump rifle,"

Miami Herald
Miami, Florida

Date 4/17/68

44-1854-125

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 17 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

DSG

one said. "Well, there was a spent shell found on the bathroom floor of the rooming house, and a pump rifle won't eject a shell automatically. It won't come out unless you pull back on the pump mechanism."

He noted that the discarded Remington .30-06 pump rifle found on the street near the rooming house was inside a Browning Automatic Rifle packing box. He suggested that the assassin actually had two rifles, using the Browning automatic to kill Dr. King and planting the Remington as a red herring. Even if the expended shell found in the bathroom matches the Remington, he said, the killer could have fired it at an earlier date and planted the shell to match the Remington.

The FBI has the Remington and other physical evidence at its laboratories in Washington and has not revealed its findings.

Memphis detectives look at the assassin as an incredibly "cool" character who didn't seem to mind being obvious. Dressed neatly in a business suit and necktie, he rented an \$8.50-a-week room in a flop house, paying in advance with a clean, new \$20 bill. He then proceeded to leave finger and hand prints

around the bathroom and dump a bag full of clothing, a rifle with telescopic sight and a pair of binoculars on the street as he fled.

"It was better than a television show, the way he did it," one officer said.

Most of the items dumped in the street, they speculate, will lead up blind alleys. The killer was casual about his finger and hand prints either because he is an alien or because he thinks he is one of the few American adults who has not been fingerprinted at one time or another, they say.

In Atlanta, meanwhile, two cab drivers said they gave rides to the man identified as Galt immediately after the assassination. They made the claims after identifying Galt from sketches circulated by the FBI.

Both drivers said the trips were in Atlanta's "hippie" neighborhood around Peachtree Street and 14th Street. The area is about seven miles from the public housing project where a white Ford Mustang, registered to Galt, was located by FBI agents last Thursday.

Both taxi drivers work for the Atlanta Million Cooperative Cab. Co. Their names were withheld at the request of the firm.

4/17/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS

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

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Bureau teletype to All Offices, 4/7/68.

RE: POSSIBLE SUSPECT

For the information of Memphis, on 4/16/68, ELDER S. BARROW, 434½ 20th St., Apt. 1, West Palm Beach, Fla., contacted SA ROBERT SCHACHNER of the West Palm Beach Resident Agency, and advised as follows:

BARROW stated he had just seen the current issue of "Jet Magazine." On Page 43 is a photo of the composite of the suspect in captioned matter. He stated on Page 47 of the same magazine was a photo of a man who had previously made an attempt against Dr. KING in Selma, Ala.

BARROW stated, in his opinion, there was a definite resemblance between the 2 photos.

Memphis at Memphis, Tenn., obtain a copy of "Jet Magazine" and if appropriate, exhibit the photo appearing on Page 47 to known witnesses to determine if this individual could possibly be identical with suspect.

SUSPECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Memphis
1 - Birmingham
① - Miami

RS:jth
(4)

Searched
Indexed
Serialized
Filed

44-1854-126

Jellison mg

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM : SA HAROLD K. PARSON

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/16/68

Re Bureau teletype 4/15/68.

The following are the only dancing studios with-
in the territory of the Miami Division. Contacts with
each revealed no record of ERIC STARVO GALT, JOHN WILLARD
or HARVEY LOWMEYER.

Carlson School of Dance, Vero Beach, Florida
Haid Studios, Ft. Pierce, Florida
Jacobso Studios, Ft. Pierce, Florida

44-1854-107

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI — MIAMI	

pmg

see serial 103
92



5010-108-01

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

FROM : SA JOHN F. HANLON, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

DATE: 4/17/68

This date, the following news media were contacted:

ASSOCIATED PRESS, MELVIN LANG
UNITED PRESS, JEFF REYNOLDS
CHANNEL 4, RON BEASLEY
CHANNEL 6, ROGER BURNHAM
CHANNEL 7, MIKE MC DONALD
CHANNEL 10, STEVE PATTERSON
MIAMI HERALD, BOB BENTLEY
MIAMI NEWS ROBERT SCHOFIELD
MIAMI BEACH SUN, NO ANSWER
FT LAUDERDALE NEWS, NOV ROGGEN
ORAL GABLES TIMES AND THE GUIDE, NO ANSWER
WIOD, PAUL ROBERTS
WQAM, BOB GARY
WGBS, JIM BRUNS
WINZ, NO NOAME OBTAINED AS INFO ALREADY RECEIVED FROM AP
WKAT, JOE WALTON
WVCG, MARTY GILES
WAME, BORTHER RAY
WMIE, NO ANSWER
WFUN, KEN SCOTT
WOCN, RON NOVINSON
WIXX, JAY ROBBINS
WMJR Jeff Bryan
WHRN, BERT ERICKSON - Ft. Pierce

#5 *IV*
24

1 - Miami
JFH/jfh
(2)



5010-108-01

44-1854-128

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 18 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

see serial 129

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 17, 1968

ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT ERIC STARVO GALT IS BEING SOUGHT BY THE FBI AS A FUGITIVE ON A FEDERAL CHARGE ARISING FROM THE FATAL SHOOTING OF THE REVEREND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON APRIL 4, 1968.

DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER STATED THAT A FEDERAL COMPLAINT WAS FILED BY THE FBI IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, TODAY CHARGING GALT WITH CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF DR. KING IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, SECTION 241, OF THE UNITED STATES CODE.

THE FBI COMPLAINT CHARGES THAT "ON OR ABOUT MARCH 29, 1968, AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ...ERIC STARVO GALT AND AN INDIVIDUAL WHOM HE ALLEGED TO BE HIS BROTHER, ENTERED INTO A CONSPIRACY WHICH CONTINUED UNTIL ON OR ABOUT APRIL 5, 1968, TO INJURE, OPPRESS, THREATEN, OR INTIMIDATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,... IN THE FREE EXERCISE OR ENJOYMENT OF A RIGHT SECURED TO HIM BY THE CONSTITUTION OR LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES; NAMELY, THE RIGHT TO FREELY TRAVEL FROM STATE TO STATE. IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS CONSPIRACY, ERIC STARVO GALT DID, ON OR ABOUT MARCH 30, 1968, PURCHASE A RIFLE AT BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA..."

44-1854-129

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 17 1968	
FBI - MIAMI	

Jellison *mg*
see serial 128

PAGE TWO

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, A 30.06 RIFLE EQUIPPED WITH A TELESCOPIC SIGHT WAS FOUND NEAR A ROOMING HOUSE ON SOUTH MAIN STREET IN MEMPHIS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FATAL SHOOTING OF DR. KING OCCURRED. THE ROOMING HOUSE OVERLOOKS THE LORRAINE HOTEL AND MOTEL WHERE DR. KING WAS STAYING.

MR. HOOVER SAID THAT FBI AGENTS DETERMINED THAT THE 30.06 RIFLE HAD BEEN PURCHASED FROM A GUN DEALER IN BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ON MARCH 30, 1968. THE TELESCOPIC SIGHT ALSO WAS PURCHASED FROM THIS DEALER.

THE FBI DIRECTOR SAID THAT GALT, WHO HAS USED THE NAMES OF JOHN WILLARD AND HARVEY LOWMYER IN THE PAST, IS THE OWNER OF A 1966 WHITE MUSTANG BEARING ALABAMA LICENSE PLATES WHICH WAS LOCATED ABANDONED IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ON APRIL 11, 1968. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT GALT PURCHASED THIS CAR FROM A PRIVATE CITIZEN IN BIRMINGHAM ON AUGUST 30, 1967. THE MUSTANG'S ODOMETER SHOWED THAT IT HAD BEEN DRIVEN MORE THAN 19,000 MILES BETWEEN LATE AUGUST, 1967, AND EARLY APRIL, 1968.

PAGE THREE

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, GALT'S TRAVELS IN THE MUSTANG INCLUDED TRIPS TO LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA; NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA; BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA; AND MEXICO, AS WELL AS TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND ATLANTA, GEORGIA. GALT WAS REPORTED TO HAVE BEEN IN MEMPHIS ON APRIL 3 AND 4, 1968, AND TO HAVE DEPARTED FROM THERE FOR ATLANTA.

INTENSIVE INVESTIGATION BY THE FBI HAS DISCLOSED THAT GALT HAS CLAIMED TO HAVE BEEN EMPLOYED AS A COOK ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER VESSELS AND AS A MERCHANT SEAMAN. HE IS SAID TO BE AN AVID DANCER AND TOOK DANCING LESSONS IN NEW ORLEANS IN 1964 AND 1965; IN BIRMINGHAM DURING SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER, 1967; AND IN LONG BEACH CALIFORNIA, FROM DECEMBER, 1967 TO FEBRUARY, 1968.

GALT LEFT LOS ANGELES ON DECEMBER 15, 1967, AND DROVE HIS WHITE MUSTANG TO NEW ORLEANS, WHERE HE CLAIMED HE CONTACTED EITHER AN ENGINEERING OR A CONTRACTING FIRM. HE LEFT NEW ORLEANS ON DECEMBER 19TH AND ARRIVED BACK IN LOS ANGELES ON DECEMBER 21, 1967.

WHILE IN THE LOS ANGELES AREA EARLY THIS YEAR, GALT TOOK A COURSE AT A SCHOOL OF BARTENDING AND WAS GRADUATED ON MARCH 2, 1968.

THE FUGITIVE IS DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE. HE IS APPROXIMATELY 5 FEET 8 INCHES TO 5 FEET 11 INCHES TALL AND WEIGHS BETWEEN 160 AND 175 POUNDS. HE IS SAID TO BE A NEAT DRESSER AND HAS A MEDIUM BUILD.

PAGE FOUR

GALT HAS BROWN HAIR, WHICH HE WEARS IN A "BRUSH" CUT. HE REPORTEDLY HAS BLUE EYES; HIS NOSE IS STRAIGHT AND NARROW; HIS TEETH ARE STRAIGHT AND CLEAN; AND HE HAS GIVEN HIS DATE OF BIRTH AS JULY 20, 1931.

THE FUGITIVE IS SAID TO HAVE A NERVOUS HABIT OF OCCASIONALLY PULLING AT AN EAR LOBE WITH HIS HAND. HIS LEFT EAR PROTRUDES FARTHER FROM HIS HEAD THAN HIS RIGHT EAR.

ACCORDING TO MR. HOOVER, PERSONS WHO HAVE MET GALT DESCRIBE HIM AS A "LONER" AND STATE HIS LANGUAGE AND DICTION HAVE A "RURAL" QUALITY AND SUGGEST THAT HE PROBABLY DOES NOT HAVE A HIGH DEGREE OF EDUCATION. HE IS SAID TO DRINK ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND HAS A PREFERENCE FOR VODKA AND BEER. HE IS A FAN OF WESTERN AND COUNTRY MUSIC.

GALT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS. ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING HIM SHOULD BE FURNISHED IMMEDIATELY TO THE NEAREST FBI OFFICE.

END AND HOLD PLS