

Department of Justice

REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

NOT DESTROY
OR SELECT COMMITTEE
ASSASSINATIONS
BUREAU

FBI - CENTRAL RECORDS CENTER

SI - SPRINGFIELD

SI-0044-0001B: SI

Class / Case #	Sub	Vol.	Serial #	
0044 561		19	860	OPEN

8/08/449061



RRP000RCAT

44-561

CLASSIFICATION NO.

Volume Number

19

Serials

860

~~"DO NOT DESTROY
PENDING LITIGATION"~~

12-30-88
12-30-88
12-30-88

Cancelled per 12/11/88
per Bu 12/11/88

~~"DO NOT DESTROY
PENDING LITIGATION"~~

12/11/88
per Bu 12/11/88

108

Enc

Per 4-9-88

DO NOT SERIALIZE

KEEP AT TOP OF LAST SECTION
OF FILE.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

James Earl Ray, a Missouri prison escapee who has been sought under the alias Eric Starvo Galt in connection with the gunshot slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., is one of the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives."

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover ordered the special addition of Ray to the "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list, which already contains ten fugitives, to insure the widest possible dissemination of Ray's photograph and description to help effect his prompt location. Ray has been the subject of a massive search since the gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel.

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom FBI wanted notices have been posted determined that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray, who escaped on April 23, 1967, from the Missouri State Penitentiary, is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery.

Possessing an arrest record dating back to 1949, Ray has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders.

A 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on March 10, 1928, Ray is approximately 5'10" tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and short brown hair. He has a nervous habit of tugging at an ear lobe and his left ear protrudes noticeably.

Described as a "loner and "drifter," with a "rural" quality in his speech, Ray has worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher. He has taken dancing lessons and completed a course at a school of bartending.

Consider Ray armed and extremely dangerous. Report any information concerning him to the nearest FBI office.



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DO NOT SERIALIZE

KEEP AT TOP OF LAST SECTION
OF FILE.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 20, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY, also known as
Eric Starvo Galt, Harvey Lowmyer,
John Willard, James McBride, James
Walton, W. C. Herron and James
O'Conner

FUGITIVE

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ARMED ROBBERY

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM

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Ray has been the subject of a massive and intensive search since the brutal gunshot slaying of Dr. King on April 4, 1968, as he stood on the balcony of a Memphis, Tennessee, motel. One rifle bullet, believed fired from the window of a nearby rooming house, felled the victim.

An exhaustive FBI fingerprint search, comparing latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against fingerprints of over 53,000 persons on whom wanted notices have been posted in the FBI's Identification Division, succeeded in determining that Galt and Ray are identical.

A Federal warrant, issued at Birmingham, Alabama, on April 17, 1968, charges Ray, under the alias Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a United States citizen. Ray is also sought for unlawful interstate flight to avoid confinement after conviction for armed robbery, based on a Federal warrant issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri. He had been confined at the Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri, in March, 1960, with a 20-year sentence following conviction for armed robbery and operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In September, 1966, while serving the sentence, he was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at the State Hospital, Fulton, Missouri. He was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary since April 23, 1967.

Ray, who has an arrest record dating back to 1949 and has been convicted of burglary, armed robbery and forging United States Postal Money Orders, has also been confined in the Los Angeles County Jail, the Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois, State Prisons and the United States Penitentiary, Leavenworth, Kansas.

He served in the Army between February, 1946, and December, 1948, received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest and was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service.

Ray is a 40-year-old white male, reportedly born in Illinois on March 10, 1928. He is approximately 5'10" inches tall, weighs from 163 to 174 pounds, has blue eyes and brown hair which he has worn cut short. He has a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand. He has been described as having a straight, narrow nose and straight and even teeth and to have a nervous habit of occasionally tugging at an ear lobe. His left ear protrudes noticeably.

Acquaintances describe him as a "loner" and "drifter" whose language and diction reflect a "rural" quality and indicate he has had limited education.

He is reportedly a fan of western and country music, drinks vodka and beer, dresses neatly and claims past employment as a merchant seaman and cook on Mississippi River vessels. He is known to have worked as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

He is known as an avid dancer who has taken dancing lessons. He also completed a course at a school of bartending in the Los Angeles area early in 1968.

Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone with information concerning this fugitive is requested to immediately contact the nearest office of the FBI, the telephone number of which may be found on the first page of local telephone directories.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

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NR059 WA CODE

10:53PM NITEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ATLANTA

BIRMINGHAM

CHARLOTTE

CHICAGO

NEW ORLEANS

NEW YORK

SPRINGFIELD

ST. LOUIS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SELF FD 160-attached

REBUTEL TO ALL OFFICES DATED JULY 28, 1976, WHICH SET FORTH BACKGROUND INFORMATION CONCERNING REVIEW OF OUR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., INVESTIGATIONS BY A TASK FORCE OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

PURPOSE OF THIS TELETYPE IS TO ALERT RECIPIENTS REGARDING PLANS OF OPR TASK FORCE PERSONNEL TO VISIT THEIR OFFICES TO CONTINUE REVIEW OF OUR KING INVESTIGATIONS.

DURING AUGUST, 1976, TASK FORCE PERSONNEL FRED FOLSOM, LEADER; JAMES WALKER; JOSEPH GROSS; JAMES KIECKHEFER AND WILLIAM WHITE WILL ARRIVE AT THE FOLLOWING OFFICES ON DATES INDICATED: ATLANTA AUGUST 2-3, 1976; BIRMINGHAM AUGUST 4-5,

*Sub Downum
adv 7/29/76 7:30/76 Det*

*SAC on the ground
7/29/76 8:51A
JWM*

*No action
Till A.M.
J*

*① SAC
③ ASAC
(the new
Cognate
from)*

44-561-960

SEARCHED <i>Q</i>	INDEXED <i>Q</i>
SERIALIZED <i>Q</i>	FILED <i>Q</i>
JUL 29 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

② *Swartney*

PAGE TWO

1976; AND NEW ORLEANS AUGUST 5-6, 1976. PRIOR TO JOINING THE GROUP IN ATLANTA, WALKER WILL ARRIVE AT THE CHARLOTTE OFFICE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 30, 1976. WITH EXCEPTION OF ATLANTA THE TASK FORCE DESIRES TO REVIEW KING ASSASSINATION FILES (MURKIN), THE INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ALL KING RELATED SECURITY FILES. IN ATLANTA THE TASK FORCE IS ONLY INTERESTED IN REVIEWING MURKIN FILES AND PLANS A SECOND TRIP TO ATLANTA AT A LATER DATE TO REVIEW ALL SECURITY FILES.

DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16-20, 1976, TRAVEL IS PLANNED TO CHICAGO, ST. LOUIS AND SPRINGFIELD, ALTHOUGH DURATION OF TIME IN EACH OFFICE IS UNKNOWN AT PRESENT. ALL KING RELATED FILES ARE TO BE REVIEWED IN ST. LOUIS AND SPRINGFIELD. IN CHICAGO THE TASK FORCE IS INTERESTED INITIALLY IN REVIEWING ONLY THE MURKIN FILE AND PLANS A LATER VISIT TO REVIEW THE KING INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. ADDITIONAL DETAILS REGARDING TRAVEL OF THE TASK FORCE DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 16-20, 1976, WILL BE PROVIDED. NO SPECIFIC DATES FOR TRAVEL TO NEW YORK HAVE BEEN SET OTHER THAN IT WILL BE AFTER AUGUST 20, 1976.

IT IS NOTED THAT ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO PERTINENT FILES AND SUBFILES AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD REGARDING INVESTIGATION OF KING, HIS FAMILY MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF

PAGE THREE

COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY.

// INFORMANT FILES ARE NOT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHOUT PRIOR FBIHQ AUTHORITY.

BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY INVOLVING OUR INVESTIGATION OF STANLEY DAVID LEVISON, IT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT HIS FILE AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD BE RESTRICTED TO REVIEW BY FOLSOM ONLY. THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RENDERED A DECISION ON THIS RECOMMENDATION. THEREFORE, UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, RECIPIENTS // ARE TO DENY ALL TASK FORCE PERSONNEL ACCESS TO LEVISON'S FILE. //

RECIPIENTS ASSIGN COORDINATOR TO HANDLE LIAISON WITH TASK FORCE PERSONNEL AND PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE IN WHICH TO CONDUCT REVIEW. CONFIRM THEIR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE BY TELETYPE AND KEEP FBIHQ ADVISED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.
END

PLS RETURN TO TALK

DJK-FBI-EL

PM NITEL 07/29/76 MDP

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)
157-1920* *FD-160 Attached*
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976

FOR INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT THIS REVIEW IS A TASK FORCE WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INDICATED THE REVIEW IS TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION THOROUGH AND HONEST? (2) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION? (3) IS THERE ANY NEW EVIDENCE WHICH HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION? (4) DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND KING CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION?

THIS REVIEW IS A CONTINUATION OF A "PARTIAL REVIEW" RECENTLY

① SAC
③ ASAC

44-561 - P61

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
SERIALIZED <i>h</i>	FILED <i>h</i>
JUL 30 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

② *Shannon*
Oct 14 1976

PAGE TWO

CONDUCTED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT AG J. STANLEY POTTINGER. ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO OUR FILES PERTAINING TO KING'S ASSASSINATION, OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ANY FILES RELATING TO BASIS FOR THESE INVESTIGATIONS. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY.

TO DATE THE TASK FORCE HAS REVIEWED FBIHQ AND WFO FILES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF KING CAPTIONED "MURKIN, BUREAU FILE 44-33861. TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED TO MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE, KANSAS CITY, OMAHA, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES AND REVIEWED MURKIN AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FILES OF THOSE OFFICES. FUTURE TRAVEL BY THE TASK FORCE IS PLANNED FOR ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS.

AFTER ABOVE TRAVEL IS COMPLETED AND KING RELATED SECURITY FILES AT FBIHQ ARE REVIEWED, THE TASK FORCE WILL HAVE SEEN THE MAJORITY OF SERIALS IN OUR FILES RELATING TO THE KING INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS THE GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW KING RELATED FILES IN EVERY FIELD OFFICE, IT WILL BE

PAGE THREE

NECESSARY TO FORWARD XEROX COPIES OF FILES FROM THE REMAINING OFFICES TO FBIHQ FOR REVIEW.

THEREFORE, ALL RECIPIENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE OFFICES NAMED ABOVE, FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL CONTAINED IN YOUR KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED "MURKIN." IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ PRIOR TO AUGUST 9, 1976. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.

IF MURKIN FILES CONTAIN ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND ITS LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING THE DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

END

AA

NR0071 WA CODE

7:08PM NITEL 7-30-76 CMB

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976.

REBUTEL TO ALL SACS JULY 28, 1976.

FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE HAS RESULTED IN THE FOLLOWING CHANGE REGARDING REPRODUCTION OF FIELD OFFICE SERIALS IN THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION, AS OUTLINED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR MURKIN FILE IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE BOTH DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS. ANY DOCUMENTS IN YOUR MURKIN FILE, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE SERIAL NUMBER IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONOLOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL.

END

44-561-862

SEARCHED <i>W</i>	INDEXED <i>W</i>
SERIALIZED <i>W</i>	FILED <i>W</i>
JUL 30 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	
<i>Schmitt</i>	<i>27</i>

Downum

NR090 WA PLAIN

8:20PM NITEL 08-06-76 SRS

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA

REBUTEL JULY 29, 1976. IN ORDER THAT COSTS INCURRED
IN CONNECTION WITH THIS MATTER MAY BE COMPILED, YOU ARE
REQUESTED TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. MANPOWER: THE NAME, GRADE AND SALARY STEP, AND
HOURS SPENT, BOTH REGULAR AND OVERTIME, BY EACH EMPLOYEE
WHO WORKED ON THIS MATTER.

2. UNUSUAL COSTS: ANY UNUSUAL OR OUT-OF-THE-
ORDINARY COSTS. THESE COSTS SHOULD BE ITEMIZED AND THE
COST OF EACH ITEM SHOWN SEPARATELY.

ALL REPORTS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUREAU,
ATTENTION BUDGET AND ACCOUNTING SECTION, FINANCE AND
PERSONNEL DIVISION. THE FIRST REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
THROUGH AUGUST 31, 1976, AND FOR EACH MONTH THEREAFTER
SHOULD REACH THE BUREAU BY THE FIFTH WORKDAY OF EACH
MONTH.

END

FBI SPRINGFIELD CLR FOR TWO TELS PLG

*no action necessary
till AM 8-9-76/spe*

44-561-863

SEARCHED <i>SV</i>	INDEXED <i>SV</i>
SERIALIZED <i>MB</i>	FILED <i>MB</i>
AUG 6 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

EOJ

NR0033 WA CODE

7:15PM NITEL 8/10/76 SLR

TO CHICAGO

SPRINGFIELD

ST. LOUIS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REBUTEL JULY 29, 1976, WHICH ADVISED OF TRAVEL BY OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR), DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TASK FORCE PERSONNEL TO YOUR OFFICES DURING THE WEEK OF AUGUST 16-20, 1976.

ON AUGUST 9, 1976, FRED FOLSOM, TASK FORCE LEADER ADVISED THAT HE, JAMES WALKER, JAMES KIECKHEFER AND WILLIAM WHITE WILL ARRIVE AT THE CHICAGO OFFICE ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 16, 1976. THEY TENTATIVELY PLAN TO REVIEW CHICAGO FILES CONCERNING ASSASSINATION OF KING (MURKIN) AND KING SECURITY FILES. BALANCE OF KING RELATED FILES WILL BE CONDUCTED DURING ANOTHER TRIP TO CHICAGO AT A LATER DATE.

TASK FORCE MEMBER JOSEPH GROSS WILL ARRIVE AT THE SPRINGFIELD OFFICE ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 16, 1976, TO REVIEW

NO action
TTL AM
J

Donum
Gregory
Jackson
Knapp
Maynard
DSA
MRK
TM

44-561-264

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 10 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	
ASAC	MDM

30 AM 11:00

PAGE TWO

ALL KING RELATED FILES. UPON COMPLETION, HE WILL TRAVEL TO ST. LOUIS TO CONDUCT SIMILAR REVIEW.

ALL MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE PLAN TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, D.C., BY AUGUST 20, 1976.

YOU ARE REMINDED THAT ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO PERTINENT FILES AND SUBFILES AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD REGARDING INVESTIGATION OF KING, HIS FAMILY MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATES. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THE TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY. INFORMANT FILES ARE NOT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE WITHOUT PRIOR FBIHQ AUTHORITY.

FOR INFORMATION OF CHICAGO AND SPRINGFIELD, BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY INVOLVING OUR INVESTIGATION OF STANLEY DAVID LEVISON, IT HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT HIS FILE BE RESTRICTED TO REVIEW BY FOLSOM ONLY. SINCE THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RENDERED A DECISION ON THIS RECOMMENDATION, YOU ARE TO DENY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL ACCESS TO LEVISON'S FILE.

PAGE THREE

RECIPIENTS ASSIGN COORDINATOR TO HANDLE LIAISON WITH TASK
FORCE PERSONNEL AND PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE IN WHICH TO CONDUCT
REVIEW. CONFIRM THEIR ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE BY TELETYPE AND
KEEP FBIHQ ADVISED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

END

X

DJK FBI SPRINGFIELD CLR TKS

SL0002 2291944Z

RR HI SI

DE SL

R 2291840Z JUL 76

FM ST. LOUIS (100-17801) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (100-106670) ROUTINE

SPRINGFIELD ROUTINE

BT

C L E A R

ATTENTION INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. *100-10392*
44-561

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE LAWYER JOSEPH F. GROSS,
JR. ARRIVED ST. LOUIS DIVISION 12:50 PM, AUGUST 16, 1976, AND
COMMENCED FILE REVIEW.

BT

WVO

2291948Z SI 1

44-561-865

SEARCHED <i>ms</i>	INDEXED <i>ms</i>
SERIALIZED <i>ms</i>	FILED <i>ms</i>
AUG 16 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	
<i>ABAC</i> <i>MM</i>	

Schmitt

SLO008 SLO008 2321905

PP HQ SI

DE SL

P 191847Z AUG 76

FM ST. LOUIS (100-17801) (C)

TO DIRECTOR (100-106670) ROUTINE

SPRINGFIELD PRIORITY

BT

C L E A R

44-561-

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

RE ST. LOUIS TELETYPE TO FBIHQ AUGUST 16, 1976.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE MEMBER JOSEPH F. GROSS,
JR. COMPLETED REVIEW OF ST. LOUIS FILES AND DEPARTED 12:05 PM,
AUGUST 19, 1976.

GROSS EXPECTS TO ARRIVE IN SPRINGFIELD DIVISION ON THE
MORNING OF AUGUST 20, 1976 FOR A FILE REVIEW OF ONE DAY
DURATION.

BT

2321903Z SI 1

44-561-866

SEARCHED <i>MM</i>	INDEXED <i>MM</i>
SERIALIZED <i>MM</i>	FILED <i>MM</i>
AUG 19 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Ed

ASAC *MOM*

F B I

Date: 8/20/76

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

006

FM
TO DIRECTOR

BT

CLEAR

ATTENTION INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

RE BUTEL TO SPRINGFIELD, AUGUST 10, 1976.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE ATTORNEY JOSEPH F. GROSS,
JR. ARRIVED AT SPRINGFIELD DIVISION 12:45 PM, AUGUST 20, 1976,
AND COMMENCED FILE REVIEW. COMPLETED FILE REVIEW AND DEPARTED
SPRINGFIELD DIVISION 5:10 PM, AUGUST 20, 1976.

BT

SI 44-661
EAS/bjl
(1)

Lyl

#

44-661-867

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 20 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

9

Approved: *C/S*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

7:45

M

Per

[Signature]

8/23/76

PLAINTEXT

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (ATTENTION: INTELLIGENCE DIVISION)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) -RUC-
SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Re Springfield teletype to Bureau dated 8/20/76.

During file review Springfield Division, Department of Justice Task Force Attorney JOSEPH F. GROSS, JR. requested and was furnished xerox copies of the following serials in Springfield file 44-561:

Serial 259 Photostat of undated Western District of Missouri pre-sentence report block-stamped Springfield 4/24/68.

Serial 260 Chicago airtel to Bureau dated 4/20/68 transmitting copies of JAMES EARL RAY's file at Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Illinois.

Serials 261-265 Enclosures for serial 260 (enclosures were also furnished Bureau)

Serial 324 Springfield teletype to Bureau and Chicago dated 4/26/68.

Serial 325 Springfield teletype to Bureau, Miami and St. Louis dated 4/26/68.

Serial 414 Memorandum of SA ELYON H. DAVIS dated 5/2/68 to SAC, Springfield (contained background information on JAMES EARL RAY).

23 - Bureau
D - Springfield (44-561)
EAS/ssj
96 (3)

VAS/MOM

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

SAC [Signature]
44-561-868

SI 44-561

- Serial 415 Memorandum of SA ELYON H. DAVIS dated 5/2/68 to SAC, Springfield (contained information furnished on a confidential basis by Circuit Judge RICHARD SCHOLZ, Quincy, Illinois).
- Serial 797 Memorandum from SA WILLIAM J. BILLEAUD to SAC, Springfield dated 11/26/68 (contained information concerning purchase of an automobile by JOHN L. RAYNS).
- Serial 805 LHM concerning JAMES EARL RAY (copy furnished Bureau by Springfield airtel dated 11/29/68).
- Serial 810 Bureau airtel to Springfield and Chicago dated 12/5/68.

Prior to commencing file review, Mr. GROSS inquired of the identity of the serials contained in Springfield file on LEVISON. Per telephonic instructions received from FBIHQ, Mr. GROSS was advised that the first serial was a communication from the Bureau and that second serial was a communication from Springfield to Chicago and New York. No other information concerning these serials was furnished.

F B I

Date:

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

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA
RE BUREAU TEL TO ALL SACS DATED AUGUST 6, 1976.

FOLLOWING PERSONNEL, SPRINGFIELD DIVISION, WORKED ON CAPTIONED
MATTER DURING AUGUST, 1976: SUPERVISOR EMMETT A. SCHMITT, GS 14,
STEP 6, FOUR HOURS REGULAR; CLERK LAWRENCE R. FAGG, GS 4, STEP 3,
TWO HOURS REGULAR; CLERK DAVID J. KAPP, GS 5, STEP 10, TWO HOURS
REGULAR; CLERK BRIAN R. CONLON, GS 5, STEP 4, TWO HOURS REGULAR;
CLERK PHILIP GRUSSENMEYER, GS 3, STEP 4, ONE HOUR REGULAR.

UNUSUAL COSTS: 100 PAGES XEROXING AT FIVE CENTS PER PAGE.

BT

#

SI44-561

44-561-869

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 14 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

EAS/bbs

(1) bbs

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

HQ 305

M

Per

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

9/18/76

SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (RUC)

MURKIN

OO: Memphis

All of the Springfield Division's files in the caption matter are being retained by the Springfield Division in the absence of a specific request from the Memphis Division.

- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- ① - Springfield (44-561)

HAW/bps

(3)

HAW

EG

mtb
mtb
44-561-890

003
FBI

Date: 10/4/76

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

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA

RE BUREAU TEL TO ALL SACS DATED AUGUST 6, 1976.

SPRINGFIELD HAS INCURRED NO COSTS ON CAPTIONED MATTER DURING
MONTH OF SEPTEMBER.

BT

#

(1) - SI 44-561

EAS/bbs

(1) bbs

44-561-541

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 4 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

3:58p

M Per

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

HQ00048 2800105

RR AFD

DE HQ

R 052115Z OCT 76

FM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

TO ALL SACS ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ^{FD-160}

BUDED OCTOBER 26, 1976

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPES TO ALL OFFICES DATED JULY 28, 1976 AND JULY 30, 1976 WHICH PROVIDED BACKGROUND MATERIAL REGARDING REVIEW OF OUR KING INVESTIGATIONS CURRENTLY BEING CONDUCTED BY THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. TELETYPES ALSO PROVIDED INSTRUCTIONS FOR CERTAIN FIELD OFFICES TO FURNISH TO FBIHQ A COPY OF ALL SERIALS CONTAINED IN THE KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED, "MURKIN".

PURPOSE OF THIS TELETYPE IS TO INSTRUCT MAJORITY OF FIELD OFFICES TO REPRODUCE AND SEND TO FBIHQ KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES FOR REVIEW BY THE OPR TASK FORCE.

*No action to
be taken page 3*
D
*No action
Till AM*
X

Schmitt
SAC

44-361-892

SEARCHED <i>[initials]</i>	INDEXED <i>[initials]</i>
SERIALIZED <i>[initials]</i>	FILED <i>[initials]</i>
OCT 5 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

[initials]

PAGE TWO (100-106670) E F T O

THE TASK FORCE DESIRES TO REVIEW FIELD OFFICE FILES AND SUBFILES IN THE FOLLOWING INVESTIGATIONS: (1) MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., SM-C, BUFILE 100-106670; (2) COMMUNIST INFILTRATION OF SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, IS-C, BUFILE 100-438794; (3) COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN RACIAL MATTERS (CIRM), BUFILE 100-442529; (4) CPUSA - NEGRO QUESTION, BUFILE 100-3-116; (5) STANLEY DAVID LEVISON, SM-C, BUFILE 100-392452.

IT IS NOTED THAT EACH FIELD OFFICE PROVIDED A COMPLETE INVENTORY OF THE ABOVE FILES IN RESPONSE TO FBIHQ TELETYPE TO ALL OFFICES DATED DECEMBER 9, 1975 CAPTIONED, "MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR".

THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO ATLANTA AND CHICAGO BECAUSE TASK FORCE PERSONNEL HAVE PARTIALLY REVIEWED FILES OF THESE OFFICES AND PLAN TO RETURN THERE IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO COMPLETE REVIEW.

THE BELOW INSTRUCTIONS DO NOT APPLY TO NEW YORK AND BALTIMORE BECAUSE TASK FORCE PERSONNEL PLAN TRAVEL TO THESE OFFICES IN THE NEAR FUTURE TO REVIEW ALL ABOVE FILES.

PAGE THREE (100-106670) E F T O

BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, KANSAS CITY, LOS ANGELES, MEMPHIS,
MILWAUKEE, NEW ORLEANS, OMAHA, ST. LOUIS, SAN FRANCISCO,
SPRINGFIELD AND WASHINGTON FIELD DISREGARD BELOW INSTRUCTIONS SINCE
OPR REVIEW OF YOUR KING RELATED FILES HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

SAN JUAN DISREGARD BELOW INSTRUCTIONS SINCE YOUR FILE
INVENTORY RESPONSE SHOWS YOUR OFFICE HAS NO SECURITY FILES
RELATING TO KING.

ALL OTHER RECIPIENTS FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH
SERIAL CONTAINED IN THE ABOVE SPECIFIED FILES.

IT WILL BE NECESSARY ONLY TO XEROX THE FIRST PAGE OF
ANY DOCUMENT IN YOUR FILES IF A COPY OF THAT DOCUMENT HAS BEEN
SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ. THIS WILL INCLUDE DOCUMENTS ORIGINATING
IN YOUR OFFICE AND THOSE RECEIVED FROM OTHER FIELD DIVISIONS.
IT IS NOTED THAT THIS FIRST PAGE SHOULD CONTAIN THE FIELD OFFICE
SERIAL IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT CAN MAKE A COMPLETE CHRONO-
LOGICAL ACCOUNTING OF EACH FIELD OFFICE SERIAL. ANY DOCUMENTS
IN YOUR FILES, COPIES OF WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SUBMITTED TO FBIHQ,
MUST BE REPRODUCED IN THEIR ENTIRETY AND FORWARDED TO FBIHQ.

IF ANY FILE CONTAINS PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS, OR OTHER

PAGE FOUR (100-106670) E F T O

ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED, A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING DESIRED DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

WITH RESPECT TO FILES CONCERNING CIRM AND CPUSA - NEGRO QUESTION, THE OPR TASK FORCE HAS AGREED TO A CUTOFF YEAR OF 1960. THEREFORE, NO SERIAL IN THESE FILES DATED PRIOR TO JANUARY 1960 NEED BE SUBMITTED. THIS CUTOFF DATE DOES NOT APPLY TO INVESTIGATIVE FILES CONCERNING KING, SCLC AND LEVISON.

IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL DESIRED BY THE TASK FORCE BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ BY OCTOBER 26, 1976. THE MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR JAMES O. INGRAM, GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION.

SINCE THE DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE MUST SEE EVERY SERIAL IN OUR INVESTIGATION OF KING AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD, IT IS ECONOMICALLY BENEFICIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT TO REPRODUCE AND MAIL THESE DOCUMENTS RATHER THAN HAVING TASK FORCE PERSONNEL TRAVEL TO ALL FIELD OFFICES. ABOVE MENTIONED OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY THE TASK FORCE WILL BE FURNISHED TRAVEL INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE.

BT

F B I

Date: 11/2/76

col

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

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA

RE BUREAU TEL TO ALL SACS DATED AUGUST 6, 1976.

SPRINGFIELD HAS INCURRED NO COSTS ON CAPTIONED MATTER DURING
MONTH OF OCTOBER.

BT

44-561-813

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 2 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

SI 44-561

EAS/ldl

(1)

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Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

7²⁷ P

M

Per

GPO: 1975 O - 590-992

FBI

Date:

11/15/76

605

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____

(Precedence)

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561) (P)

✓ TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

✓ MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN.

88-5361 9-924-4
 44-561 88-2145
 88-9050

JERRY RAY, BROTHER OF JAMES EARL RAY WAS INTERVIEWED
 INSTANT DATE BY WGEM-TV IN QUINCY, ILLINOIS, AND INTERVIEW WILL
 BE CARRIED ON LOCAL STATION. WGEM-TV IS AN NBC AFFILIATE.

SENIOR RESIDENT AGENT ELYON H. DAVIS, QUINCY, ILLINOIS,
 MONITORED THE TV BROADCAST. JERRY RAY STATED IN INTERVIEW THE
 CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER
 KING IS "ON THE LEVEL". HE STATED "LOTS OF GOOD THINGS CAN COME
 FROM THIS IF JAMES EARL RAY GETS TO TESTIFY". JERRY RAY STATED
 HE WILL VISIT JAMES EARL RAY IN TENNESSEE ON NOVEMBER 20, 1976.
 JERRY RAY FURTHER STATED HE KNEW PERSONALLY THAT A CONSPIRACY
 EXISTS CONCERNING THE DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. IN ADDITION,
 RAY STATED ATTORNEY GENERAL LEVIN IS ALSO CONDUCTING AN

SI 44-561

EHD:VRS/cml
 (1) CM

Mag conc
 corrected
 11/15/76 cml

SEARCHED ☒	INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒	FILED ☒
NOV 15 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

ASAC NOM
 Schmitt
 Downum

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

HQ-6157P
 ME-7123P

M

Per

44-561-894

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO SI 44-561 CLEAR

INVESTIGATION WHICH WILL BE A COVER UP AND WHITEWASH. IT IS
ESTIMATED THE INTERVIEW LASTED APPROXIMATELY ONE MINUTE.

SPRINGFIELD DOES NOT KNOW THE CURRENT STATUS OF ANY
INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER. THIS IS BEING FURNISHED FOR
BUREAU'S INTEREST IN THE EVENT OF ANY PRESS INQUIRIES. ANY
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RECEIVED IN THIS REGARD WILL BE FURNISHED
TO THE BUREAU AND MEMPHIS.

BT

#

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

F B I

Date: 12/1/76

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

005

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA

RE BUREAU TEL TO ALL SACS DATED AUGUST 6, 1976.

FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL, SPRINGFIELD DIVISION, WORKED ON CAPTIONED
MATTER DURING NOVEMBER, 1976: SPECIAL AGENT ELYON H. DAVIS, GS 13,
STEP 8, TWO HOURS REGULAR.

BT

SI 44-561

EAS/bjl *bjl*

#

44-561-875

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>RLS</i>	FILED <i>RLS</i>
DEC 1 1976	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

ED

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

534

M

Per

FBI

Date:

1/3/77

005

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

FM SPRINGFIELD (44-561)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.; DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW; COST DATA

RE BUREAU TEL TO ALL SACS AUGUST 6, 1976.

SPRINGFIELD HAS INCURRED NO COSTS ON CAPTIONED MATTER
DURING MONTH OF DECEMBER.

BT

*Discontinue monthly T
Re Butts all SAC
+ submit in cover
entitled Cost Accounting
to Springfield etc*

SI 44-561EAS/cml
(1)
cm

44-561-896

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 3 1977	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

4³² P

M

Per

[Signature]

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Author to speak here on King assassination

Donald Freed, a founding member of the Citizens Commission of Inquiry, will speak on the topic of "Who Killed Martin Luther King?" at 8 p.m. Saturday at Lincoln Land Community College.

Freed will discuss the King assassination in light of alleged security lapses by Memphis police on the day of the shooting, FBI involvement and the roles played by convicted assassin James Earl Ray and his lawyer.

Freed and a team of investigators began to study the assassination in 1973 and he believes his findings point to a "massive conspiracy involving two plots" on King's life.

Freed will corroborate his findings with tape recordings and other information at his LLCC appearance.

Freed co-authored "Executive Action," a book that alleged a CIA plot was responsible for the assassina-



Donald Freed

tion of John F. Kennedy.

He has taught linguistics, world literature, anthropology and philosophy on the college level.

An admission fee will be charged for the lecture scheduled to be held in the Menard Hall union.

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

Page 3

State Journal
Register

Springfield, Ill.

Date: 1/20/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor: EDW. H. ARMSTRONG

Title:

MURKIN

Character:

or

Classification: 44-561

Submitting Office: ST

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

JAN 20 1977

FBI - SPRINGFIELD

F B I

Date: 2/7/77

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

004

FM SPRINGFIELD (62-2567) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

ATTENTION GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION,
CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT.

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS, BUDED FEBRUARY 11, 1977.

RE SPRINGFIELD TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 6, 1977, AND
BUREAU TELETYPE TO ANCHORAGE, FEBRUARY 4, 1977.REVIEW OF ALL SPRINGFIELD FILES ON JOHN F. KENNEDY AND MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR. ASSASSINATIONS (MURKIN) AND RELATED CASES INDICATES
ONLY FILE DESTROYED WAS SI 62-1911 ENTITLED "PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION
ON ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY" (WARREN REPORT), DESTROYED
SEPTEMBER 15, 1976.

NO FURTHER FILES ON THESE MATTERS WILL BE DESTROYED, UACB.

BT

SI 62-2567

RAM/ldl
(1) *ldl*

Handa - p/male cc for
44-561
89-23
44-383
105-1601
DeWitt
ASAC MMH
(FYI)

44-561-818

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>MB</i>	FILED <i>MB</i>
FEB 7 1977	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

BP

Approved: *VPSB*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

3:05 P

M

Per

MSC

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-561)

FROM : SA ROBERT DALE SCHULER

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis

DATE: 2/10/77

Re telephone conversation between ASAC MORROW and
SA SCHULER, 2/9/77.

Information had been obtained through Lt. DONALD SANDIDGE (NA), Alton, Illinois Police Department, approximately two weeks ago stating that [Sergeant CONRAD PETE BAETZ of the Madison County Sheriff's Office had been requesting all available information regarding JAMES EARL RAY, including police reports regarding a grocery store robbery in Alton in 1963, along with police reports on the robbery of the Bank of Alton which occurred in 1967. Lt. SANDIDGE advised BAETZ informed him he was collecting information regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING at the request of the United States Department of Justice. Lt. SANDIDGE advised his department had furnished Sergeant BAETZ all available information regarding JAMES EARL RAY and it was Lt. SANDIDGE's understanding that Sergeant BAETZ was collecting the information and would in turn deliver it to the Departmental attorney in Washington, D. C.]

For the information of the file, neither Sergeant BAETZ nor a representative of the Madison County Sheriff's Office, Edwardsville, Illinois, has contacted the Alton RA in writing or orally requesting any information regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING or any information relating to JAMES EARL RAY.]

The above information was supplied to ASAC MORROW at which time writer was instructed to prepare a memorandum regarding the above information. It was pointed out in referenced conversation that Sergeant BAETZ was requesting FBI reports on the robbery of the Bank of Alton in 1967 as well as the robbery of the First National Bank in St. Peters, Missouri, in 1970. ASAC MORROW advised that Sergeant BAETZ would not furnish explanation for requesting the information.

② Springfield (1: 44-561)
(1: 91-3699)

RDS/dc

(2)



5010-110

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

44-561-879

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 10 1977	
FBI - SPRINGFIELD	

2/11/77

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)
SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.;
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW

Lt. DONALD SANDIDGE (NA), Alton Police Department, Alton, Illinois, advised SA ROBERT DALE SCHULER that approximately two weeks ago, Sergeant CONRAD PETE BAETZ of the Madison County Sheriff's Office had been requesting all available information regarding JAMES EARL RAY, including police reports regarding a grocery store robbery in Alton in 1963, along with police reports on the robbery of the Bank of Alton which occurred in 1967. Lt. SANDIDGE advised BAETZ informed him he was collecting information regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING at the request of the United States Department of Justice. Lt. SANDIDGE advised his department had furnished Sergeant BAETZ all available information regarding JAMES EARL RAY and it was Lt. SANDIDGE's understanding that Sergeant BAETZ was collecting the information and would in turn deliver it to the Departmental Attorney in Washington, D. C.

For the information of the Bureau, neither Sergeant BAETZ nor a representative of the Madison County Sheriff's Office, Edwardsville, Illinois, has contacted the Alton RA of the FBI in writing or orally requesting any information regarding the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING or any information relating to JAMES EARL RAY.

The above information is being furnished FBIHQ for information and possible dissemination to U. S. Department of Justice.

2 - Bureau (100-106670)
1 - Springfield (44-561)
EAS/ssj
(3)

44-561-280

ASAC

MMY

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

Springfield, Illinois
July 18, 1977

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On June 21, 1977, Kent Collins, Newscaster, KHQA TV, Quincy, Illinois, advised that on night of June 20, 1977, Jerry Ray, the brother of James Earl Ray, contacted KHQA - TV and wanted to be interviewed concerning James Earl Ray.

Jerry Ray advised that he has been employed as a greens keeper at a country club in suburban Chicago, Illinois area. However, Jerry Ray has lost his jobs due to Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) pressure after Jerry Ray stated that the country club also employs a number of illegal aliens and the country club did not want Federal authorities messing around the country club.

Jerry Ray stated James Earl Ray does not want to go to a Federal prison because Justice Department people will see that James Earl Ray is never heard of again.

Jerry Ray stated that Jerry Ray has been in contact with members of the House Committee on assassinations and that during the past few days he has talked to Walter Fanteroy. This has been since James Earl Ray's escape and recapture.

James Ray claimed that a business card was found in the car James Earl Ray drove in Memphis at the time of the assassination of King. This card belongs to an individual who also had the use of the car and it has been established

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.

SA EMMETT A. SCHMITT/bbs
(8) *bbs*

cy

44-561-881

WUB
WUB

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

that this person was connected with Central Intelligence Agency. Jerry Ray claimed his brother, James Earl Ray, was set up concerning King's assassination and that there is a witness who was four blocks away at the time of King's death who can verify Ray could not have killed King.

Jerry Ray saw James Earl Ray a few days before the escape and at that time James Earl Ray was very despondent so Jerry Ray was not surprised at the escape attempt.

Jerry Ray stated that definitely James Earl Ray does not want to go to the Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois. He stated that at one time before, Federal authorities attempted to place James Earl Ray in the Federal hospital at Springfield, Missouri, in attempt to keep James Earl Ray from talking.

The Quincy Herald-Whig, Quincy, Illinois, dated June 21, 1977, contained the following article concerning an interview by Jerry Ray:

Brother says Ray saw escape as last hope

By PAUL COLGAN

James Earl Ray was despondent over reports the House Assassination Committee was to be disbanded when he tried to escape from a Tennessee prison earlier this month, his younger brother, Jerry, said in Quincy Monday.

Jerry, 41, who lost his job as a nightwatchman at a country club near Chicago last week because of the attention his brother's escape brought, was in Quincy to visit his sister at a nursing home.

Both Rays lived in Quincy for a time in their youth.

Jerry talked about his brother in a two-hour interview. The following is a portion of that interview.

Jerry Ray said his brother considered the Congressional investigation his last hope to be exonerated in connection with the 1967 Martin Luther King slaying.

Jerry Ray maintained that his brother was innocent of the killing and was "set-up" by others to take the blame.

"He was depressed because he knew they had a thing underway to discredit the assassination committee and try to abolish it," Jerry Ray explained.

Jerry had talked with James on the Sunday before June 10 when James and six fellow prisoners scaled the wall of the Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tenn.

"He told me 'that's the only hope I've got left,'" Jerry Ray explained. "He said 'if they abolish the committee, I'll just have to get out some other way.'"

"At the time it didn't hit me, what he meant," Jerry said. A New York Times article about trouble in the committee and

moves to abolish it published a couple of weeks before his escape was the cause of James' depression, according to Jerry Ray.

"The New York Times article set him off," Jerry Ray said.

James Earl Ray has exhausted nearly every legal avenue he had, including a review by the U. S. Supreme Court, in attempts to have his case retried. Ray had pleaded guilty to the killing in return for a life sentence instead of death in 1968 for the King killing.

Later, after he was sentenced, Ray began to talk of a conspiracy and that he had not acted alone in the killing.

Now his brother Jerry maintains that James had nothing to do with the killing but rather was used as a "set-up guy" to take the blame for the killing.

"He has witnesses to prove he was at a service station four blocks away," at the time of the assassination, Jerry claimed.

"The only evidence they could use against him was that he had his fingerprints on the rifle," Jerry Ray said. He claimed James bought the rifle but didn't shoot it.

A rifle found after the King shooting in Memphis, which is believed to be the murder weapon, had James Earl Ray's fingerprints on it.

Because he believes his brother innocent, Jerry said he feared for his brother during the escape, thinking that other involved in the conspiracy might have arranged the escape to kill him. "There was something strange about it," Jerry said.

"A lot of people would like to see him dead," Jerry added.

"I don't know if he was tricked out or if it was a legal escape," Jerry Ray explained. "The reason I thought he might have been tricked out was because so many guys went and he never did operate that way before. Before every time he escaped it was by himself. And this time they had seven of them that took off so I figured there might have been some trickery going on."

Jerry Ray said he didn't believe his brother planned the escape.

"The guys he hung around with, they didn't escape with him."

Jerry said he has not talked with his brother since the escape because James is being held in solitary confinement for 30 days after the escape.

But prison officials contradict Jerry's version, saying it was a well-planned escape complete with a diversion to draw attention away from the secluded section of the walled prison where James Ray and his comrades used a pipe ladder to climb a wall and escape.

Ray was captured four days later hiding under a pile of leaves in the wooded mountains surrounding the prison.

Brushy Mountain was considered escape proof but Ray had always contended he could escape from any prison. He had been on the run from an escape from Jefferson City prison in Missouri when he became involved in the King assassination.

Also, Jerry Ray claims that the federal officials did not want a Congressional investigation into the King assassination and that the FBI and CIA were trying to stop Ray from talking.

Jerry claimed the name of a

man on a card James had at the time of the assassination, and given him by the mysterious "Raoul" who Fay claims planned the assassination, has been traced to the CIA.

Jerry said that James believes the Congressional inquiry is his "last hope" in getting to the truth in the events surrounding the assassination of King.

Because of this, Jerry said James has been extremely cooperative with the panel giving them all the information he has, including the name on the card and some phone numbers given to him by "Raoul."

"He has given them every bit of information he knows," Jerry said.

Jerry said he is constantly besieged by reporters and FBI men. "You just kind of live with it," he says.

He was working as a nightwatchman at a country club near Chicago for the last four years, but when the FBI and reporters came looking for him, the club asked him to leave.



JERRY RAY

X

7/18/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (44-561)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Springfield airtel to the Bureau dated 6/23/77,
captioned "JAMES EARL RAY, Aka, ET AL, UFAC - ESCAPE".

Enclosed herewith for is the original and four
copies of an LHM in captioned matter.

Enclosed for Chicago are two copies of LHM. Chicago
should disseminate information to Immigration and Naturalization
Service locally.

- 2 - Bureau (44-38861) (Encls. 5)
2 - Chicago (Encls. 2)
① - Springfield (44-561)

EAS/bbs

(5) *bbs*

44-561-882
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED *MB*
INDEXED _____
FILED *MB*