

FBI WASH DC

530PM CAF

FBI ATLANTA

624PM URGENT 5-23-68 LGS

TO DIRECTOR, WFO, AND MEMPHIS

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

MURKIN

SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN THE ATLANTA
DIVISION MAY TWENTYTWO INSTANT.

POSTAL INSPECTOR, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, TODAY ADVISED
THERE IS AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF POSTAL
INSPECTOR, WASHINGTON, D.C., A LIST OF ALL DESCENT
PEN-PAL CLUBS IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH ARE PRESENTLY
UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT. //

POSTAL INSPECTOR ELMER GILLISPIE, ATLANTA, ADVISED
THERE ARE NO SUCH CLUBS OPERATING IN ATLANTA AT THE
PRESENT TIME AND THAT THE CHIEF POSTAL INSPECTOR CAN
FURNISH A CURRENT PRINT-OUT OF THIS LIST CONTAINING //
IDENTIFICATION OF APPROXIMATELY SIXTYFIVE SUCH PEN-PAL
AND LOVELY HEARTS CLUBS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.
THIS LIST PRESENTLY INCLUDES THE CLUB IN LOS ANGELES
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL SWINGER AND NUMEROUS OTHERS OF A
SIMILAR NATURE.

END PAGE ONE

44-703-519

SEARCHED 12 INDEXED 12
PPH PPH

Dawson Ad
Rocke SHR

PAGE TWO

A LOOK-ALIKE FISCIPING IN A MONT FOR ALCOHOLICS IN
HOGANSVILLE, GA., ELIMINATED THIS DATE BY FINGERPRINTS.

CHECK OF SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES AND CHECK OF LARGE
WITHDRAWALS FROM BANKS CONTINUING.

WFO, AT WASHINGTON, D.C. WILL OBTAIN ABOVE LIST
FROM CHIEF POSTAL INSPECTOR AND WILL SET OUT APPROPRIATE
LEADS. //

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

LAC

FBI WFO

TUP

5/23/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN

RE LOS ANGELES TELETYPE MAY TWENTYTWO LAST.

RE D. C. LICENSE FIVE SEVEN TWO ZERO FOUR SIX.

DETECTIVE THOMAS YOUNG, MPD, ADVISED ABOVE LICENSE REGISTERED TO FRITS RASOE, ONE EIGHT SIX EIGHT COLUMBIA ROAD, N. W., WDC. FOR SIXTYSEVEN FORD, VIN SEVEN T ZERO ONE C TWO ONE FIVE EIGHT FIVE THREE. INVESTIGATION AT ABOVE ADDRESS REFLECTS RASOE DEPARTED MIDDLE APRIL, SIXTYEIGHT, IS FROM INDONESIA AND DOES NOT RESEMBLE SUBJECT RAY. CHANGE OF ADDRESS OBTAINED AS A. F. RASOE, ONE EIGHT THREE FIVE SOUTH WOOSTER STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA AS OF MARCH TWENTYONE LAST.

LOS ANGELES CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- for*
- 1 - Teletype Unit
 - ② - WFO
- See serial 518*

RWD:tab
(3)

tab

TODD

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PPH
PPH

44-703-520

5/9/68

AIRTEL

TO: SAC, RICHMOND
FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)
MURKIN

At 9:45 a.m. 5/9/68, Miss DAWN MILLER, Apt. 504, 101 Lincolnia Road, Alexandria, Va., telephone 751-4734, called WFO and furnished the following information: (Miss MILLER is a dancing teacher for the Fairfax County Recreation Department, Telephone # 273-9320)

Miss MILLER saw a poster with photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and noted a resemblance of the 1960 photograph to a man with whom she had the following dealings:

Miss MILLER put an ad in the Classified Sections of the Sunday Star and Washington Post advertising a sofa for sale for \$175.00. She believed that the ad appeared in the April 7 or 14th issues. On a Wednesday night after the ad appeared she received a telephone call from a man asking about the sofa. It was late, 11:30 p.m., and the man said he would come to see the sofa the next evening.

He came to Miss MILLER's residence in a station wagon with a male companion and bought the sofa. He paid for the sofa with a check drawn on the Suburban Trust Company, Hyattsville, Maryland. The names DAVID and LALAH COOPERMAN, Account # [REDACTED] was printed on the check, but no address was listed. The purchaser of the sofa wrote the following addresses and telephone number on the check and signed it "DAVID COOPERMAN".

2- Richmond
2- Baltimore
1- Memphis (Info)
1- WFO
MGM:js
(6) AIRTEL

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[Signature]

WFO 44-703

7930 15th Avenue, Adelphi, Maryland. (Miss MILLER checked the telephone directory and learned this is the address of DAVID and LALAH COOPERMAN.)

8107 Eastern Avenue, Silver Springs, Md. (Miss MILLER later learned that this address is listed to IRVING and REBECCA COOPERMAN.) She called them and determined that they are no relation to above DAVID COOPERMAN and knew nothing of the transaction.

Telephone # 526-4042 (Miss MILLER learned from the Telephone Company that his phone is subscribed to by a person named PORTER, 1915 Otis St., N.E., WDC.) She has been unable to reach this person by phone.

Re the purchaser: Miss MILLER described him as about age 37, 5'10", slender build, sandy blonde hair, eye color not known, just a trace of Southern accent. She did not know the make of station wagon, thought it was late model, license number unknown, light colored with wood tone trim. The companion of the purchaser is described as early twenties, "cute, slim, blonde". No names were exchanged between the two men.

The check was returned with a note "Non sufficient funds" and was dated 4/26/68.

Miss MILLER said that last Sunday, 5/5/68, she drove out to the residence of DAVID and LALAH COOPERMAN and spoke to them. They knew nothing about the transaction, but stated that ~~there~~^{THEIR} checkbook had been lost about two^c months previously and that they had learned that someone had purchased a refrigerator using one of their checks.

Miss MILLER stated that she ^{has} the check for the sofa in her possession and ^{can} be reached at her home phone or at the Fairfax Recreation Department.

Richmond should show additional photographs of RAY to Miss MILLER for possible identification .

Baltimore should determine possible ITSP violations.

5/21/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (ATTENTION: FBI LABORATORY)
FROM: SAC, RICHMOND (67-NEW) -P-
SUBJECT: UNSUB, aka
David Cooperman,
Lalah Cooperman
ITSP

(OO: RH)

Re WFO airtel to Richmond and Baltimore, 5/9/68
under caption "MURKIN."

Enclosed for the Bureau is one check in the amount of \$175.00, drawn on the Suburban Trust Company, Hyattsville, Md. Enclosed for the Baltimore Division is one Xerox copy of same check. Enclosed for each office is a copy of re airtel.

For the information of the Bureau, re airtel advised DAWN MILLER, apartment 504, Landmark Towers, 101 Lincolnia Rd., furnished information that an individual resembling JAMES EARL RAY identified himself as DAVID COOPERMAN and purchased a used sofa from her on approximately April 14, 1968. COOPERMAN paid for the purchase with a check which is enclosed, and the check was subsequently returned to Miss MILLER marked, "Insufficient funds."

On 5/16/68, Miss MILLER was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, by SA RICHARD D. BATISTE, JR. and she indicated that she could not positively state that the unsub is identical with RAY. She furnished the check received from

- 3 - Director (Enc. 1) (RM)
- 1 - Baltimore (info) (Enc. 2)
- 1 - Memphis (info) (Enc. 1)
- ① - WFO (info) (Enc. 1)
- 3 - Richmond
(1 - 44-657)

RDB:jon
(9)

44-703-522

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Dawson
index to serial 1

RM 87-NEW

COOPERMAN to SA BATISTE for latent fingerprint and handwriting examination by the FBI Laboratory.

Inasmuch as Miss MILLER was not positive in her identification of COOPERMAN as RAY, and the apparent ITSP violation, the laboratory is requested to make a latent fingerprint and handwriting for comparison with the known prints and handwriting of JAMES EARL RAY and search the enclosed check through the National Fraudulent Check file.

Results of the above examination should be furnished all offices receiving this communication and the check returned to the Richmond Division.

Pending determination of an ITSP violation, by the Baltimore Division, no further leads are being set forth at this time. Information copies are being forwarded to those offices having an investigative interest in this matter.

2*

MAY 23, 1968

AIRTEL

REGISTERED AIR MAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re WFO airtel to Bureau dated 5/10/68.

On 5/10/68, SA E. BRUCE GALLAGHER drove by New Hampshire and Adelphi Roads, Hyattsville, Maryland, in an attempt to observe individual possibly identical with JAMES EARL RAY, referred to in re WFO airtel.

On 5/14/68, Mrs. HAROLD SHIRK, 8419 Rambler Lane, Adelphi, Maryland, observed various photographs of JAMES EARL RAY exhibited by SA ROY G. WETZEL. Mrs. SHIRK could not definitely identify a photograph of RAY.

Mrs. SHIRK advised that she was driving in a car along New Hampshire Avenue, when she observed an individual walking toward her near Adelphi Road, whom she though looked familiar.

After getting home, Mrs. SHIRK observed a photograph in the newspaper of JAMES EARL RAY and felt that the photograph resembled the individual she noticed walking on New Hampshire Avenue.

Mrs. SHIRK advised that she has not seen this individual since and was not positive how strong a resemblance the individual had to RAY since she passed him rather quickly.

Baltimore conducting no further investigation.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

2 - Memphis (REGISTERED AIR MAIL)
① - WFO (44-703) (REGISTERED MAIL)
1 - Baltimore
RGW:kss
(4)

*See Serials
44-703
x50*

44-703-523
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MAY 24 1968
FBI - WASH. F. O.

Dawson

FBI WFO

FBI WASH DC --

427 PM WPK

URGENT 5/24/68

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861\ CLEVELAND 44-565 AND WASHINGTON FIELD \PLAINTEXT\
WASHINGTON FIELD VIA WASHINGTON
FROM MIAMI 44-1854 2 P

MURKIN\ CIVIL RIGHTS

THREATS AGAINST SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY\ MIAMI\ FLA. FOLLOWING
ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING\ JR. BY ROLAND CHESLEY
TALBOTT\ JR.\ INFORMATION CONCERNING

RE CLEVELAND TELETYPES \TWO\ TWO BUREAU\ MAY TWENTYTHREE\
SIXTYEIGHT.

INDIVIDUAL NAMED ROLAND REFERRED TO IN REFERENCED TELETYPES
IDENTIFIED AS ROLAND CHESLEY TALBOTT\ JR.\ FORMER KLANSMAN\
KLAVERN SIX\ UKA\ FT. LAUDERDALE\ FLA.\ AND RICHMOND\ VA.\ AREA.
MIAMI FILE ONE FIVE SEVEN DASH ONE NINE NINE THREE\ BUREAU FILE
ONE FIVE SEVEN DASH SEVEN TWO EIGHT SIX.

TALBOTT INTERVIEWED\ MIAMI\ THIS DATE AND ADVISED HE HAS
BEEN "SHOOTING HIS MOUTH OFF" SYMPATHIZING WITH INDIVIDUALS
RESPONSIBLE FOR KING,S DEATH EVER SINCE APRIL FOUR. STATES HE
END PAGE ONE

cc: 62-NEW

*Leads handled
in 62-NEW*

44-703-524
SEARCHED INDEXED
PPH PPH

DANSON
RMD

MM 44-1854

PAGE TWO

IS OF OPINION ADAM CLAYTON POWELL\ H. RAP BROWN AND STOKELY CARMICHAEL SHOULD ALSO BE SHOT. STATES THAT HE BELIEVES BOBBY KENNEDY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE RACIAL UNREST IN THIS COUNTRY AND THAT HE SHOULD ALSO BE STOPPED\ BUT NOT THROUGH VIOLENT MEANS. STATES HE IS A FORMER KLANSMAN AND BELIEVES IN THE SUPREMACY OF WHITE RACE. STATES EVEN THOUGH HE MAKES THESE STATEMENTS\ HE HAS NO INTENTION OF PERPETRATING ANY SUCH ACTION AND IS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH ANYONE WHO WOULD DO SO.

RECORDS\ MC GAHEY CHRYSLER\ PLYMOUTH\ INC.\ MIAMI\ FLA.\ INDICATE TALBOTT AT WORK ON PERTINENT DATE.

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE NOTIFY OFFICE OF SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY\ U.S. SECRET SERVICE\ AND OTHER APPROPRIATE AGENCIES IN WASHINGTON\ D.C. OF ABOVE THREAT.

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ADVISED.

LHM FOLLOWS.

AIRMAIL COPIES TO MEMPHIS AND RICHMOND.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

CLEVELAND ADVISED SEPARATELY.

END

JRS

FBI WFO

\



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Miami, Florida
May 24, 1968

Re: THREATS AGAINST SEN. ROBERT F.
KENNEDY, MIAMI, FLORIDA, FOLLOWING
ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR. BY ROLAND CHESLEY TALBOTT, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On May 23, 1968, a confidential source advised the Cleveland Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that his wife had recently returned from Miami, Florida, where she had worked in a bar. During her stay in Miami she met a man named Roland (last name unknown), who stated he was a Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon and who drove a white Mustang. Roland stated to her after King's death that he had knowledge of it, and that Adam Clayton Powell, Stokely Carmichael, and H. Rap Brown were also scheduled for assassination and that "we will take care of Bobby Kennedy so he will never become president."

Roland reportedly carries weapons in his car and is accompanied by a large, vicious Doberman pinscher dog.

Roland was identified by the Miami Office of the FBI as Roland Chesley Talbott, Jr. Talbott operates a white Mustang and breeds Doberman pinscher dogs. He is a former member of Klavern #6, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and last attended a meeting of Klavern #6 on September 11, 1967.

A characterization of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, is contained in the appendix section of this memorandum.

Talbott is described as follows:

Name	Roland Chesley Talbott, Jr.
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Richmond, Virginia
Height	6'
Weight	170 pounds

44-703-525

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
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FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Jansson

Re: THREATS AGAINST SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY,
MIAMI, FLORIDA, FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION
OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BY
ROLAND CHESLEY TALBOTT, JR.

Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Occupation	Auto mechanic
Home address	525 N. E. 129th Street Miami, Florida
Wife	Louise

Talbott was interviewed on May 24, 1968, at his place of employment, McGahey Chrysler-Plymouth, 1930 N. E. 2nd Avenue, Miami, Florida. He stated he has been "shooting his mouth off" sympathizing with individuals responsible for or connected with the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr. ever since April 4, 1968.

Talbott further stated that he is of the opinion that Adam Clayton Powell, H. Rap Brown, and Stokely Carmichael should also be assassinated and that Bobby Kennedy should be stopped by non-violent means so he can never become president. Talbott believes Kennedy is responsible for all the current racial unrest in this country.

Talbott advised that he believes in the supremacy of the white race and stated that he is a former Klansman. Talbott stated even though he makes many controversial statements, he has no intention of perpetrating any such act such as shooting a Negro or political leader and is not acquainted with anyone who would do so.

Talbott advised that on occasion he carries firearms in his automobile but not for the purpose of shooting anyone.

The employment records of McGahey Chrysler-Plymouth were reviewed with reference to Roland Talbott and these records indicate that Talbott was at work at McGahey, Miami, Florida, on April 4, 1968.

The above information was immediately furnished by telephone to the 111th M. I. Group, Miami, Florida, U. S. Secret Service, Miami, Florida, United States Attorney,

Re: THREATS AGAINST SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY,
MIAMI, FLORIDA, FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION
OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BY
ROLAND CHESLEY TALBOTT, JR.

Miami, Florida, and the Intelligence Units of the Miami
Police Department and the Dade County Department of Public
Safety.

Copies of this memorandum are being furnished
locally to the 111th M. I. Group, Miami and Orlando,
Florida, the U. S. Secret Service, Miami, and the
United States Attorney, Miami, Florida.

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.

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INC.
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans; Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy, and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised on July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. (The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South, with units in several southern states.)

Second source advised that at a meeting in Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Third source advised on May 25, 1966, that the UKA is currently an active organization, with Klaverns in several states. This source said that ROBERT M. SHELTON is the Imperial Wizard of this organization and was elected to this position on September 5, 1964, at a National Klonvocation in Birmingham, Alabama. Source stated that during April, 1966, the National office was moved from Suite 401, Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to the carport of SHELTON's residence, #18 Lake Sherwood, Star Route, Northport, Alabama, which space he had converted into a room.

4 4



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Miami, Florida
May 24, 1968

Title	THREATS AGAINST SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MIAMI, FLORIDA, FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BY ROLAND CHESLEY TALBOTT, JR.
Character	INFORMATION CONCERNING
Reference	Memorandum dated and captioned as above at Miami, Florida.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

F B I

Date: 5/24/68

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

(OO: Memphis)

THREATS AGAINST SEN. ROBERT F. KENNEDY
MIAMI, FLORIDA, FOLLOWING ASSASSINATION
OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BY
ROLAND CHESLEY TALBOTT, JR.
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Re Cleveland teletypes (2) to Miami dated 5/23/68,
and Miami teletype to Bureau dated 5/24/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 11 copies of an LHM
suitable for dissemination. Four copies of this LHM are
being furnished to Washington Field and Atlanta. Two
copies of this LHM are being furnished to Cleveland,
Memphis and Richmond.

Miami will furnish Memphis investigative inserts
concerning captioned matter under separate cover.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 11) (RM)
- 2 - Washington Field (Enc. 4) (RM)
- 2 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Enc. 4) (RM)
- 2 - Cleveland (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 2 - Richmond (Enc. 2) (RM)
- 2 - Miami (1 - 44-1854) (1 - 157-1993)

DNJ:vc
(15)

cc: 62-9769 - w/ 2 copies
(CUNNINGHAM) of enclosures.

*Handled
in 62 case*

44-703-526

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Dawson

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

MM 44-1854

Source referred to in LHM is CV 346-C, whose identity is known to the Bureau.

SINCE TALBOTT OFTEN CARRIES FIREARMS IN HIS
AUTOMOBILE, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

- 2 -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/15/681

Captain GEORGE CLEVELAND, Eastern Airlines Flight 910 delivered an envelope to SA ROGER D. ASHLAND at Dulles International Airport, Virginia at 10:30PM on May 11, 1968. Flight 910 had arrived from Mexico City, Mexico. The envelope was addressed to the FBI, Washington, D. C. and was from the American Legation, Mexico City, Mexico.

This envelope was given to GEORGE BONEBRAKE, Identification Division of the FBI by SA ROGER D. ASHLAND on May 11, 1968 at 11:25PM.

On 5/11/68 at Dulles International Airport, Virginia File # WFO 44-703 -527
by SA ROGER D. ASHLAND: rda Date dictated 5/15/68

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

FBI WASH DC

722PM WPK

FBI MIAMI

652PM EDT URGENT 5/17/68 LAS

TO WFO

FROM MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN

RE JACKSONVILLE TEL TO MIAMI, MAY SIXTEEN, LAST.

RETEL ADVISED LATE MODEL BUICK BEARING FLA. LICENSE
ONE W ONE NINE FOUR ONE ZERO THREE OBSERVED WASHINGTON, D. C.
TRAVELING ON NEW YORK AVE. ON MAY SIXTEEN, LAST, BY INDIVIDUAL
RESEMBLING SUBJECT.

ON MAY SEVENTEEN, INSTANT, ALBERTO VADIA, EXECUTIVE,
PAN AMERICAN LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP., TWO THREE ZERO ZERO CORAL WAY
MIAMI, ADVISED ABOVE LICENSE IS ISSUED FOR SIXTYEIGHT PONTIAC
GTO OWNED BY HIM. CAR BEING USED BY HIS SON, ALBERT VADIA, JR.,
ONE EIGHT THREE ONE BELMONT RD. NW, APT. THREE ZERO ONE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., WHO IS A FRESHMAN AT CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

WFO CONTACT ALBERT VADIA AT RESIDENCE OR UNIVERSITY AND
DETERMINE DRIVER OF CAR ON MAY SIXTEEN, LAST, AND ELIMINATE
DRIVER AS SUSPECT.

MEMPHIS ADVISED AIRMAIL.

END

WPK

FBI WASH DC*

VCH

FBI WFO

MORE COMI NG PLS HOLD

44-703-528
SEARCHED WMA INDEXED PPH
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MAY 17 7 20 PM '68

Dawson Paul
Ashland RPH

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703)

DATE: 5/29/68

FROM : SA ROGER D. ASHLAND

SUBJECT: MURKIN

(Person resembling JAMES EARL RAY driving car with Fla. license 1w194103 on New York Ave. on 5/16/68)

On 5/20/68 SAS ROGER D. ASHLAND and JOSEPH CHIARAMONTE contacted the following:

Mrs. ROBERT NUTTALL, Resident Manager,
1801 Belmont Street, North West, Washington, D. C.
said ALBERTO VADIA resides in Apartment # 301 at that address. She was shown a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and she said photo does not resemble ALBERTO VADIA very much. She described VADIA as 21 years old, 5' 4-5" tall, stocky. He formerly resided at 13811 Congress Drive, Rockville, Md. His application for a lease to Legum & Gerber Realty Co., 3315 Conn. Ave., N. W., WDC on 4/5/68 listed employment with Nelson Carbonell, telephone 949-7125. She added he has a lot of men visitors. Also he is from Florida.

① - WFO (44-703) (MURKIN)
RDA:rda

RDA

See serial 488

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DAWSON



5010-108

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

WFO 44-703

ALBERTO VADIA, Jr., Apt. # 301,
1831 Belmont St., N. W., WDC said he has a
Pontiac GTO bearing Florida license 1W194103.
No one else has keys to this car and he does
not loan the car to other persons. He said
he was driving the car on New York Avenue on May 16,
1968.

He was shown photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and
he said he does not know any person who might be RAY.
VADIA attends Catholic University, Washington Hall Junior
College. He was unable to furnish any information
concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

ALBERTO VADIA, Jr. was observed to be of
the following description:

White, male, 5' 7", 20 years old, 190 pounds,
Brown eyes, Medium complexion.

He was determined not to be JAMES EARL RAY.

- 2* -

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/29/681

WARDELL HICKS also known as "Bubble Eye" MASON, 1201 Q Street, North West, Apartment # 6, telephone 234-4876 said he does not know JAMES EARL RAY. HICKS added he does not have any information concerning RAY. HICKS said he does not know anything about RAY being interested in a contract to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING or about a hideout used by RAY in Mexico.

HICKS also said he has seen photographs in newspapers of JAMES EARL RAY but does not know anyone who might be RAY. HICKS added he was never in prison with RAY. HICKS indicated he served time in local prisons and never in prison in Missouri. HICKS listed prisons he, HICKS has been in as: Maryland State Reformatory
District of Columbia Jail
Workhouse, Lorton, Virginia
Lorton Reformatory, Lorton, Virginia

HICKS said he, HICKS got out of prison on May 8, 1968 when he was released from the District of Columbia Reformatory, Lorton, Virginia. HICKS is unemployed.

He added he would gladly furnish information concerning JAMES EARL RAY to the FBI in the event he obtains information about RAY.

On 5/29/68 at Washington, D. C.

File # WFO 44-703-530

by SA ROGER D. ASHLAND:RDA

Date dictated 5/29/68

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/29/681

WARDEN HICKS also known as "Bubble Eye" WILSON,
1201 Q Street, North West, Apartment # 5, telephone
234-4876 said he does not know JAMES EARL RAY.
 HICKS added he does not have any information concerning
 RAY. HICKS said he does not know anything about
 RAY being interested in a contract to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING
 or about a hideout used by RAY in Mexico.

HICKS also said he has seen photographs in
 newspapers of JAMES EARL RAY but does not know anyone
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 District of Columbia Jail
 Workhouse, Lorton, Virginia
 Lorton Reformatory, Lorton, Virginia

HICKS said he, HICKS got out of prison on
 May 8, 1968 when he was released from the District of
 Columbia Reformatory, Lorton, Virginia. HICKS is
 unemployed.

He added he would gladly furnish information
 concerning JAMES EARL RAY to the FBI in the event he
 obtains information about RAY.

Searched _____
 Serialized PPH
 Indexed PPH
 Filed PPH

On 5/29/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 44-703-537
 by SA GORDON D. ANDERSON Date dictated 5/29/68

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

5/28/68

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

DEFERRED

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE MAY TWENTY THREE LAST.

MR. MERVIN KAUTEN, SECTION CHIEF, FRAUD AND MAILABILITY
DIVISION, UNITED STATES POST OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D. C.
ADVISED THIS DATE THAT LOCAL SWINGER CLUB IN LOS ANGELES
CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION BY POST OFFICE CASE NUMBER
THREE SIX FOUR DASH FOUR FOUR SIX ZERO SIX DASH E. L. O.
POINDEXTER OR DONALD SCHOOF OF UNITED STATES POST OFFICE,
LOS ANGELES CAN MAKE THIS INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO FEDERAL
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

WFO OBTAINING LIST OF ALL OBSCENE PEN DASH PAL CLUBS
IN UNITED STATES UNDER INVESTIGATION BY POST OFFICE AND WILL
SET OUT LEADS WHEN INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

- 2 - Bureau
- 3 - Teletype Unit
- 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (AM)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) (AM)
- 2 - WFO

SHR:pgp
(9)

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

44-703-531

WFO 44-703

PAGE TWO

LOS ANGELES CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO
LOCATE RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

F B I

Date: 5/27/68

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

To: SAC's WFO (44-703) - Enc. (2)
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re WFO airtel 5/23/68, submitting two U. S. Postal
Money Orders, Q352 and Q353.

No latent impressions of value developed on the two money
orders, which are enclosed to WFO.

Laboratory reporting separate.

- 1 - Newark (44-854)
1 - Los Angeles (44-1574)
1 - Atlanta (44-2386)

44-703-532

ms
PCH PPH

Cawson

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 27, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-680523034 JK

Specimens received 5/23/68

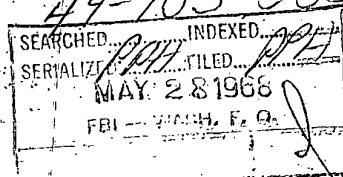
Q352 U.S. Postal Money Order, No. 1,916,211,078, payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, N.J., bearing the handwritten name and address "Eric S. Galt 5533 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90028"

Q353 U.S. Postal Money Order, No. 5,615,057,923, payable to Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, N.J., bearing the handwritten name and address "Eric S. Galt 113-14th St. N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30309"

Result of examination:

On the basis of the available writings attributed to the subject, James Earl Ray, it was concluded that the questioned hand printing and handwriting appearing on Q352 and Q353 were prepared by this individual.

Specimens Q352 and Q353 will be returned separately. Photographs are retained.





FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: May 27, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 44-38861
Lab. No. D-680523034 JK

Examination requested by: Washington Field Office

Reference: Airtel 5/23/68

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q352 and Q353.

DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE
PAGE(S) INFORMATION IN
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

① - Washington Field Office (44-703) Enclosure
(Lab report)

1 - Newark (44-854) Enclosure (Lab report)

1 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosure (Lab report)

1 - Atlanta (44-2386) Enclosure (Lab report)

44-703-534

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 28 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	

Dawson

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703)

FROM : SA ROGER D. ASHLAND, C-3

SUBJECT: MURKING

DATE: 5/29/68

CHARLES WILLOGHBY, Record Examiner, District of Columbia Jail advised on 5/29/68 file concerning WARDELL HICKS, District of Columbia Department of Correction 99311 contains the following information concerning HICKS:

Mother: ELOISE HALL,
7230 / Booker Drive,
Seat Pleasant, Maryland

Father: WILLIAM H. HICKS
5111 D St., S. E., WDC

Wife: ROBERTA HICKS (Telephone 234-4876)

Girl friend: PATRICIA A. HARRIS
1502 Fort Dupont Street, S. E., WDC

Residence: 1911 8th Street, N. W., WDC

Contacted in jail by: Internal Revenue Office Agent,
ROBERT R. BRIGHT

① - WFO (44-703) MURKIN
1 - WFO (137-NEW) (WARDELL HICKS)
RDA:rda
(2)

RDA

See serial 494

*INDEX
Pg 1, 2*

44-703-535

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 29 1968	
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Dawson	Ran



5010-108

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

WFO 44-703

Fugitive indices negative re WARDELL HICKS on 5/29/68.

Identification Division advised on 5/29/68 address for WARDELL HICKS, FBI 448038B in 1967 was 1911 8th Street, North West, Washington, D. C. In 1960 his address was listed as 1311 Rhode Island Avenue, North West, WDC. He has Metropolitan Police Department # 137889 and District of Col. Department of Corrections number 99311.

The following persons were contacted on May 21, 1968 by SAS ROGER D. ASHLAND and JOSEPH CHIARAMANTE:

Miss DALY MEREDITH, 1602 6th Street, North West, WDC. She said she does not know WARDELL HICKS and he does not live at 1602 6th Street, N. W. She added he might live at 1610 6th St., N. W.

JACK SOLOMON, Owner, 1610 6th St., N. W. said he does not know WARDELL HICKS and he does not live at that address. He added a woman with the last name MASON resides at 1616 6th St., N. W. who may be related to HICKS aka MASON.

An unidentified woman at 1616 6th St., N. W. said she does not know WARDELL HICKS. Also Mrs. A. MASON at that address works and is not home during hours 6:30AM - 5:30PM.

CARROLL JOHNSON, Owner of Joe Caplan's Liquor Store, 1913 7th St., N. W., WDC since November, 1967 said WARDELL HICKS aka "Bubble Eye" MASON is not employed by him and does not know him.

CLIFFORD MAE WILLIAMS, 1911 8th St., N. W., WDC said WARDELL HICKS used to live at that address but she has not seen him for about two years. She heard he was serving time in the Workhouse in Lorton, Va. She added she last saw his wife ROBERTA just before Christmas, 1967 but does not know where ROBERTA is living now.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/15/68

1

ROWENIE HEDWANT, General Manager, Travel Consultants,
Room # 700, 1612 K Street, North West furnished a list
of persons who contacted Travel Consultants from January 1, 1968
to May 15, 1968 for information about travel to Rhodesia.
Some of these persons made arrangements to travel to
Rhodesia with tour groups. The list is entitled
"Friends of Rhodesia List".

Searched _____
Serialized PPH
Indexed PPH
Filed PPH

On 5/15/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 44-703-536

by SA ROGER D. ASHLAND: rde Date dictated 5/15/68

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May 15, 1968

WFO 44-703

2

FRIENDS OF RHODESIA LIST

Mr. J. W. Merchant
J. W. Merchant's
P.O. Box 1384
1021 17th Street
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601

Mr. Robert Miller
P.O. Box 1049
Kerrville, Texas

Mr. Garvey G. McBride
33 Friendship Lane
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904

Mr. Niels Schultz
147 Bon Air Shopping Center
Greenbrae, California 94904

Mrs. Marguerite C. Cargile
Box 282
Star Route
Anza, California 92306

Mr. Frederick B. Forbes
2066 S. Stage Coach Lane
Fallbrook, California

Miss Esther Goodale
129 West Street
Reading, Massachusetts 01867

Mr. Francis Goodale
Box 39, RD #4
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18360

Mr. Herb Schurter
5225 Revnier Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90056

Mr. Samuel A. Swayne
P.O. Box 368
Nampa, Idaho 83651

Mr. Donald Cooke
Box 350
Pine Hurst, North Carolina 28374

Mr. A. H. Vogel
P.O. Box 2339
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Dr. Alan Brinsmade
1510 Hermann Professional Building
Houston, Texas 77027

Mrs. Helen Scheubert
1210 North Ridgeland Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Mrs. Ruth M. Dawson
5012 Boxhill Lane
Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Mrs. William L. Ewart
512 Ohio Street
Corpus Christi, Texas

Mrs. Jean A. Bandy
Wickenburg, Arizona

Mrs. W. A. Mumro
9 Country Club Park
Box 1449
Wickenburg, Arizona 85358

Mrs. Landon Thomas
2226 Picketts Road
Augusta, Georgia 30904

FRIENDS OF RHODESIA (Continued)

Mr. Vernon Kelsay
Rocky Spring Farm
Box 59, R.D. 1
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

Miss Herberta Ann Leonardy
239 Fluvia Avenue
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Mr. Harry Thompson
West Department Stores
Jasper, Texas

Mr. Irvin C. Chapman
Chapman Ranch
P.O. Box 3008
Fullerton, California 92634

Mr. J. Waterhouse
Black Canyon State Box 114
Phoenix, Arizona 85020

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 5/15/68

1

ROWENE TENNANT, General Manager, Travel Consultants, Room # 700, 1612 K Street, North West furnished a list of persons who contacted Travel Consultants from January 1, 1968 to May 15, 1968 for information about travel to Rhodesia. Some of these persons made arrangements to travel to Rhodesia with tour groups. The list is entitled "Friends of Rhodesia List".

On 5/15/68 at Washington, D. C. File # WFO 44-703-536
by SA ROGER D. ASHLAND:rda Date dictated 5/15/68

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.

May 15, 1968

WFO 44-703

2

FRIENDS OF RHODESIA LIST

Mr. J. W. Merchant
J. W. Merchant's
P.O. Box 1384
1021 17th Street
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601

Mr. Robert Miller
P.O. Box 1049
Kerrville, Texas

Mr. Garvey G. McBride
33 Friendship Lane
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904

Mr. Niels Schultz
147 Bon Air Shopping Center
Greenbrae, California 94904

Mrs. Marguerite C. Cargile
Box 282
Star Route
Anza, California 92306

Mr. Frederick B. Forbes
2066 S. Stage Coach Lane
Fallbrook, California

Miss Esther Goodale
129 West Street
Reading, Massachusetts 01867

Mr. Francis Goodale
Box 39, RD #4
Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania 18360

Mr. Herb Schurter
5225 Reynier Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90056

Mr. Samuel A. Swayne
P.O. Box 368
Nampa, Idaho 83651

Mr. Donald Cooke
Box 350
Pine Hurst, North Carolina 28374

Mr. A. H. Vogel
P.O. Box 2339
Salt Lake City, Utah 84110

Dr. Alan Brinsmade
1510 Hermann Professional Building
Houston, Texas 77027

Mrs. Helen Scheubert
1210 North Ridgeland Avenue
Oak Park, Illinois 60302

Mrs. Ruth M. Dawson
5012 Boxhill Lane
Baltimore, Maryland 21210

Mrs. William L. Ewart
512 Ohio Street
Corpus Christi, Texas

Mrs. Jean A. Bandy
Wickenburg, Arizona

Mrs. W. A. Munro
9 Country Club Park
Box 1449
Wickenburg, Arizona 85358

Mrs. Landon Thomas
2226 Pickens Road
Augusta, Georgia 30904

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3

FRIENDS OF RHODESIA (Continued)

Mr. Vernon Kelsay
Rocky Spring Farm
Box 59, R.D. 1
Glen Mills, Pennsylvania

Miss Herberta Ann Leonardy
239 Fluvia Avenue
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Mr. Harry Thompson
West Department Stores
Jasper, Texas

Mr. Irvin C. Chapman
Chapman Ranch
P.O. Box 3008
Fullerton, California 92634

Mr. J. Waterhouse
Black Canyon State Box 114
Phoenix, Arizona 85020

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, WFO (44-703)

DATE: 5/29/68

FROM : SA ROGER D. ASHLAND

SUBJECT: MURKIN

(Persons who contacted Travel Consultants, 1612 K St., N. W., WDC between 1/1/68 and 5/15/68 for information about travel to Rhodesia or arranged to go on a tour group to Rhodesia. Listed on list entitled, "Friends of Rhodesia".)

On May 16, 1968, the names of men on this list were checked at the State Department Passport Office to determine if one of them could be JAMES EARL RAY. This check was made by SAS ROBERT W. DAWSON and ROGER D. ASHLAND with negative results.

① - WFO 44-703

RDA:rda

(1)

RDA

44-703-537

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 29 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
<i>DAWSON</i> <i>Am</i>	



5010-108

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

5/29/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

MURKIN

ReBurad, 5/21/68, concerning review of
drivers' license.

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV),
Washington, D.C. (WDC), issues learner's permits to
applicants for driver's license who do not hold a
valid permit from another jurisdiction. A Polaroid
photo is made and retained with application at DMV
and can be reviewed by WFO. Review must be conducted
during evening and weekend hours when DMV personnel
are available and is being handled as WFO personnel
are available in accordance with fulfilling other
Bureau responsibilities. Approximately 250 learner's
permits are issued each day and files are maintained
for six months or longer; therefore, the review will
cover approximately 30,000 applications in this category.

DMV, WDC, does not record on driver's license
or application the race of the applicant; however, a

3-Bureau
1-Memphis (44-1987)
1-WFO

RWD
RWD:dan
(5)

AIRTEL

[Handwritten signature]
Searched _____
Serialized *PPH*
Indexed _____
Filed *PPH*

44-703-538

WFO 44-703

color photo is made a part of the license issued. Negatives are available from the Metropolitan Police Department for all permits issued. At the conclusion of search of learner's permits, WFO will obtain these negatives, have the Laboratory reproduce them as positives on 35mm black and white movie film, and review them on microfilm viewers. Approximately 600 to 1,000 permits are issued each workday and approximately 30,000 have been issued since 4/1/68. Approximately 50 one hundred foot rolls of 35mm black and white film will be required for above project. This film costs \$2.90 per hundred foot roll, plus 46 cents for developing chemicals. Labor will amount to approximately 50 hours at \$2.85 per hour. Total cost about \$310.50.

It is recommended the Bureau approve the above as the cost of Agent time and use of Bureau equipment to resolve the identities of permit holders would exceed the above many times. It is noted DMV personnel estimate that only 10 to 15 per cent of permits issued are to white males 30 to 55 years of age, and since race is not listed on application, it would be necessary to conduct investigation to eliminate a great number of non-whites if above costs are not approved.

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Richmond (87-NEW)

Date: May 29, 1968

Re: UNSUB, aka
DAVID COOPERMAN,
LALAH COOPERMAN
ITSP

FBI File No.

Lab. No. D-680523082 JK

Specimen received 5/23/68

SPECIMEN	CHECK #	AMOUNT	DATE	PAYABLE TO	SIGNED	BANK
Q1	147	\$175.00	4/15/68	Valerie Dawn Miller	David Cooperman	Suburban Trust Company, Hyattsville, Md.

Result of examination:

Specimen Q1 was searched through the appropriate sections of the National Fraudulent Check File but could not be identified with any prior submissions to this file.

Where fingerprint cards were located for individuals using the name "David Cooperman" the signatures thereon were compared with Q1 but no identification could be effected. No fingerprint cards were located for individuals using the name "Lalah Cooperman."

It was concluded that the questioned writings on Q1 were not prepared by subject JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G.

Q1 will be returned separately. Photographs are retained.

44-703-539

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAY 31 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
DAWSON RMB	



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Richmond (87-NEW)

Date: May 29, 1968

Re: UNSUB, aka
DAVID COOPERMAN
LALAH COOPERMAN
ITSP
OO: Richmond

44-703-522
44-703-522

John Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No.
Lab. No. D-680523082 JK

Examination requested by: Richmond

Reference: Airtel 5/21/68

Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint

Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q1.

DO NOT INCLUDE ADMINISTRATIVE
PAGE(S) INFORMATION IN
INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

- 1 - Richmond (44-657) Enclosure (Lab report)
- 2 - Baltimore (1-44-493) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987) Enclosure (Lab report)
- ② - Washington Field Office (1-44-703) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)

cc

*cc to 57-0
also serial 539*

See serial 522

44-703-540

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAY 31 1968	
FBI - WASH. F. O.	
<i>Dawson</i>	<i>RAW</i>

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

THE EVENING STAR
Washington, D. C., Wednesday, May 29, 1968

A-19
**

CARL T. ROWAN

Trail of King's Killer Leading to Dead End

The disappearance of the slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King becomes more eerie and revolting with every passing day.

The FBI has not come up with a single meaningful trace of James Earl Ray, the number one suspect, since I revealed 21 days ago that the investigation had taken on international implications.

Even with \$100,000 or so of reward money lying around, the FBI hasn't so much as a hot tip or a rumor worth pursuing with hope.

In my earlier column, I deliberately did not reveal that a massive dragnet had been set up in Mexico. It was there that Ray had met with some characters who led FBI and other intelligence agents to suspect involvement of a foreign power. But investigators did not want the suspect tipped off as to the intensity of the search south of the border.

But it has revealed nothing. "We've covered Mexico, Canada, and the United States like a blanket," one high-level source tells me. "If Ray were alive in any of these places, I

can't conceive of our not locating him by now."

Thus, the men who were clinging doggedly to the theory that King's killer was a berserk loner have now swung over to the belief that a hired killer planned the murder and the escape meticulously. But was it Ray—or were the seemingly clumsy clues left behind just decoys? And who did the hiring?

The truth is that the FBI has not located a single trace of Ray since he supposedly abandoned his white Mustang in Atlanta on April 5, the day after the Nobel Prize-winning Negro clergyman was slain in a Memphis, Tenn., motel. In fact, the FBI does not really have solid evidence that it was Ray who abandoned the car in Atlanta.

But the massive investigation has turned up more information about Ray and his family. The most significant—and most galling in some Washington circles—is that Ray was peddling dope while in prison in Missouri State Penitentiary from 1960 to April 1967.

As the magnitude of Ray's

narcotics peddling has been revealed, top law enforcement officers here have stared aghast at the evidence that guards in most prisons are so easily bribed into sending almost anything into or out of a prison.

Some investigators have concluded that our penal system is rotten to the core, and they have sent screams to the top of our government that it is high time someone planned a complete overhaul.

A serious question arises now as to how long the FBI can, or will, continue a concentrated search for Dr. King's killer. Already, student turmoil on scores of campuses has dictated the shifting of considerable manpower to the watching of these activities.

There are some worrisome connections between rioters on the various campuses. For example, one of the leaders of the Columbia University demonstrations recently showed up at American University here, trying to agitate students into putting some "muscle" into their protest.

So this confluence of de-

mands on the time of the agents has led even some FBI personnel to echo earlier pessimistic predictions that "they'll never catch Dr. King's killer."

© 1968

44-703-541

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIAL	PPH
MAY 31 1968	
FBI - WASH.	

Cawson (3m)

6/3/68

AIRTEL

TO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)
MURKIN - COST DATA

1)	Number of man hours spent on case:	<u>REGULAR</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>
	Agent	2,454	622
	Clerical	80	---
2)	Total miles driven:	250	
3)	Out-of-ordinary costs:	none	
4)	Maximum number of Agents working on case:	36	

2 - Memphis
2 - WFO
(1 - 44-633)

RWD:acd
(4)

AIRTEL

*See serials
222
326*

Searched _____
Serialized PPH
Indexed _____
Filed POW

44-703-542

6/3/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703) (P)

MURKIN

Re WFO telephone call to Bureau, 6/1/68.

POSSIBLE LOOK-A-LIKE OF JAMES EARL RAY
AT SHOREHAM HOTEL, WDC, ON 6/1/68.

On 6/1/68, at about 4:45 p.m., Detective CHASE, Intelligence Division, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., telephonically advised SA ALLAN M. POWER that STEVE ISAACS, City Editor, "The Washington Post," reported a female reporter covered a meeting that date where RALPH ABERNATHY for the Poor People's Campaign was supposed to speak. For some reason, ABERNATHY was replaced by ANDY YOUNG. The female reporter mentioned to ISAACS that a "red neck" in the crowd closely resembled JAMES EARL RAY. This reporter noted the "red neck" left abruptly when it was learned ABERNATHY would not speak. ISAACS indicated another reporter covering this meeting also thought the "red neck" resembled RAY.

At 5:03 p.m. on 6/1/68, Mr. STEPHEN ISAACS, City Editor, "The Washington Post", advised SA ROBERT W. DAWSON that reporter CAROL HONSA (Mrs. CARL BERNSTEIN) covered a

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
① - WFO

RWD:bjr *bjr*
(6)

Searched _____
Serialized _____
Indexed _____
Filed _____

44-703-543

WFO 44-703

conference of the Capital ^{PRESS} Trust Club at the Shoreham Hotel this date, and that at about 10:30 a.m. she saw a white man, who was wearing no socks, that she believed to look like an old photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and like the artist's sketch which appeared in the "Commercial Appeal," a Memphis, Tennessee, newspaper. She said that LARRY STILL, who was formerly a reporter for "The Evening Star," a Washington, D. C., newspaper, had also seen this individual.

On 6/1/68, CAROL HONSA, City Editor, "The Washington Post," whose married name is Mrs. CARL BERNSTEIN, advised that she was assigned to cover the Capital Press Club, Washington, D. C., conference at the Shoreham Hotel concerning the urban crisis. She said that she arrived at the Palladium Room of that hotel at about 10:45 a.m., at which time a conference concerning religion and the ghetto was just ending. She observed a young white man sitting in the rear of the room studying the program of the conference. This individual did not appear to be listening to the proceedings, and he was not observed to talk to anyone. HONSA stated that because of his dress he appeared out of place; and she was suspicious of him. She said that most persons were dressed in business clothing, but this individual wore a sport shirt, open at the neck, possibly beige or dirty white, a long sleeve rust colored cardigan sweater, dark trousers, possibly gray, and black shoes with no socks. She said that she had never seen this individual attending any meeting of this type on previous occasions. HONSA stated that this individual appeared to be waiting for the next ^{SESSION} sermon of the conference, which concerned civil rights organizations and the ghetto; Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, President of the Southern Christain Leadership Conference, was scheduled to speak.

HONSA stated that after a coffee break, about 11:00 a.m., speakers for the conference were introduced; and at this time the above mentioned individual was standing at the rear of the

WFO 44-703

room near a steel service door. He appeared to be confused, and shortly after the speakers were announced, he left the room by the steel service door. She said that she did not know why he was standing, as there were plenty of seats with only about 70 - 75 people present at the meeting. About 10 minutes later he re-entered the room but left again almost immediately.

HONSA stated that because of this man's appearance and actions, she was suspicious of him; and when he left immediately after it was learned that Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY would not be a speaker, she suspected he might be there to cause some harm to ABERNATHY. She said that she spoke to LAWRENCE STILL, President of the Capital Trust Club, about this individual; and at the time she talked to STILL, AL SWEENEY was present.

HONSA stated that she had never seen this individual before or since he left the meeting, and that she could furnish no information to identify him. She suggested that he might be known to STILL or SWEENEY.

HONSA commented that her husband considers her an "alarmist".

HONSA advised that as she returned to the Washington Post offices around 4:00 p.m., she was thinking about this individual and about the possibility of ABERNATHY being assassinated as KING was; and at this time she thought about this individual possibly looking like JAMES EARL RAY. Upon arriving at the newspaper offices, she had the photographs of RAY obtained from the newspaper morgue and reviewed them. She stated that the individual she had seen somewhat resembled the 1966 Missouri State Penitentiary photograph of RAY and the "Commercial Appeals" artist's sketch.

WFP 44-703

HONSA described the individual she had seen as a white male, approximately 30 - 35 years of age, 6 feet tall, slender build, 160 - 180 pounds, thin face, light brown cropped hair with side burns to the middle of the ears, fair complexion which was slightly pink as though sun burned or wind burned. She said the individual reminded her of a "red neck".

At approximately 7:00 p.m. on 6/1/68, SA DAWSON was unable to find any individual in the lobby of the Shoreham Hotel fitting the description as furnished by HONSA.

On 6/2/68, Mr. LAWRENCE STILL, 5704 New Hampshire Avenue, N. E., advised SA DAWSON that he did not see the individual that HONSA had spoken to him about. He said that he may have seen the individual, but did not recall him. STILL stated that he did not have any recollection of seeing anyone at the meeting mentioned by HONSA that looked like RAY. STILL stated that he would immediately report any such thing to authorities. STILL advised that ALFRED L. SWEENEY, who is Chairman of the conference, Telephone 593-5023, could possibly furnish additional information.

On 6/2/68, Mr. SWEENEY, who resides at 1105 Lamberton Court, Silver Spring, Md., advised that he had seen the individual pointed out by CAROL HONSA, and that he had not been disturbed by this person present at the above mentioned conference. He said that his first thoughts were that the person was a worker at the hotel, but he had no information in this connection. He said that he had no way of identifying the individual. Mr. SWEENEY stated that he has seen photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and he does not consider the individual mentioned by HONSA to at all resemble RAY. SWEENEY further stated that because of his interest in civil rights and the urban crisis, he would be the first to notify authorities in the event he saw an individual he believed to resemble RAY.

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In view of no identifying information being obtained by HONSA, and since other individuals do not believe the individual resembled JAMES EARL RAY, WFO is taking no further action in this matter.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537



REPORT

of the

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO.

FBI FILE NO.

LATENT CASE NO. 92993

June 3, 1968

TO: SAC, Richmond

RE: UNSUB., AKA
 DAVID COOPERMAN,
 LALAE COOPERMAN;
 ITSP

REFERENCE: Airtel 5/21/68
 EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Richmond
 SPECIMENS: Q1, check #147

Two latent fingerprints developed on
 enclosed check.

Latent fingerprints are not identical
 with fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G.
 Latent fingerprints also compared but are not
 identical with fingerprints of following individuals,
 one of whom may be person whose name appears in title
 of this case:

Enc.

- 1 - Richmond (44-657)
- 1 - Baltimore (44-493)
- 1 - Memphis (44-1987)
- ① - WFO (44-703)

44-703-544

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 4 1968	
FBI - WASH. D.C.	

John Edgar Hoover, Director

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SAC, Richmond

June 3, 1968

David Cooperman, born [redacted]
New York, N. Y.
David Cooperman, born [redacted]
Buffalo, N. Y.

Basis of information furnished, no fingerprint record located Identification Division files for Salah Cooperman.

Latent fingerprints lack sufficient pattern detail for search in single fingerprint file.

Laboratory report separate.

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LC #92993