

U. S. Department of Justice

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

REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

WFO

FEDERAL BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION
5242 7/92

of

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/1/01 BY SP1 CER/KCB

INVESTIGATION

44-38861

Bureau File Number

DO NOT DESTROY-PENDING LITIGATION
5006 12/91

DO NOT DESTROY-PRESERVE FOR SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

CLASSIFICATION NO.
44-703

Volume Number
Serials

707
8
Hru

DO NOT DESTROY-PRESERVE FOR SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY-PENDING LITIGATION

DO NOT DESTROY; HISTORICAL
VALUE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES

X DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RUC 12/17/76

SHAW-WALKER 8-20188

ASAc

FILES AND RECORDS DESTRUCTION ORDER

Date 8/24/77

TO: Chief Clerk
FROM: SA EDWIN A. WAITE, JR.
RE: File No. ~~66-44-703~~ 44-703

I have reviewed this file, and under the criteria set forth in Part II, Section 3, of Manual of Rules and Regulations, this file should be:

Destroyed

under the 120-day Rule 1-year Rule 5-year Rule 10-year Rule

Retained for five years

Justification for Retention is as Follows:

Subject of FOIPA request. See
WFO file 190-63

Case Agent's Initials FW

Supervisor's Initials _____

Maintain as top serial

Do Not Serialize

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 5 1968

F.B.I. Studies Order for Books Submitted by 'Eric Starvo Galt'

By HENRY RAYMONT

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is looking into an order for the purchase of a three-volume set on the American Presidency by a man who gave his name as Eric Starvo Galt, an alias used by James Earl Ray, accused as the killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A typewritten order for the boxed set, "The American Heritage History of the Presidents of the United States," was received late last April—presumably after the name "Galt" had been publicized—by the Fulfillment Corporation of America in Marion, Ohio.

The order was processed by computers and the books were sent to the return address, the Lorraine Hotel and Motel of Memphis, Tenn., where Dr. King was shot on April 4. The books were confiscated by the F.B.I.

The bureau has declined any comment on the case. But its interest in the book order appeared to be guided by the hope of closing some of the gaps in Ray's movements after the assassination and determining whether it actually came from a man calling himself "Galt," an associate or a prankster.

James Parton, president of American Heritage, which published the books, said yesterday he was alerted to the purchase order on Wednesday morning by agents of the F. B. I. who visited the offices of the Fulfillment Corporation.

The Fulfillment Corporation, a subsidiary of American Heritage, is a computer billing and distribution service. It handles mail orders for American Heritage magazines and books as well as for several university presses and other magazines, including The Atlantic Monthly and Harper's.

"The order for the three books was a charge order recorded on April 29," Mr. Par-

ton said. "Although the list price on the mailing piece shows as \$35, we offered a pre-publication discount before May 1 which brought the obligation down to \$22.95. The books were shipped and of course their arrival noted by the F. B. I."

A code line on the bill that accompanied the book shipment to Memphis made it possible for the company's computer to trace the order to "Eric Starvo Galt." But Mr. Parton said he doubted whether it would be possible to establish the exact date when the order was mailed because the envelope that contained it had been destroyed.

The possibility that several days might have passed between the arrival of the order in Marion and its being processed by the computer was also raised.

But Mr. Parton suggested that the computer had established one potentially valuable lead: The form filled by "Galt" came from a person whose subscription to the American Heritage magazine expired in April.

"The code on the mailing card clearly established that it must have come from somebody who had just been notified that his subscription was about to expire," he said. "I am not completely sure, but it may be possible to establish precisely to whom it had been sent."

American Heritage, a hard-cover quality magazine, has over 330,000 subscribers who pay \$16.50 a year for six issues. The three volumes on the Presidency is the latest of the company's growing number of book projects. Edited by Marcus Cunliffe, professor of American studies at the University of Sussex, the set was included this month in the Book-of-the-Month Club's special offers.

44-703-707

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<i>Lawson</i>	

King Killing Called Political

LONDON, July 2 (UPI) — A British attorney argued today the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a political crime that does not fall under the Anglo-American extradition treaty. He said the man accused of killing Dr. King should not be deported from Britain.

Barrister Roger Frisby made the argument at Bow Street Magistrate's court to open the second session of a formal hearing into American demands for custody of escaped Missouri convict James Earl Ray.

Mr. Frisby said Ray should not be taken to Memphis, to face charges he shot the Nobel Peace Prize winner to death April 4 because the extradition treaty does not cover political crimes. Mr. Frisby contended Dr. King's 13-year campaign for civil rights had made him a political figure.

Ray, 40, appeared in court under heavy guard, thin and dressed in a rumpled blue suit. He toyed nervously with his heavy-rimmed glasses and mopped sweat from his brow. It was his first appearance in court since Thursday when the extradition hearing opened.

The British court hoped to complete the hearing

today. If Chief Magistrate Frank Milton orders Ray deported, his order automatically will be held in abeyance for 15 days to give Ray time to appeal. Appeal could take the rest of the summer.

Legal sources said the attorney for the U. S. Embassy, David Calcutt, would rebutt the "political crime" thesis developed by Mr. Frisby last Thursday. They said Mr. Calcutt would cite precedents in which the United States has granted British requests for the extradition of persons charged with similar offenses.

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44-703-708

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5/8/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669) P
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles tel to Baltimore and Memphis,
4/26/68.

Mrs. STANLEY STANLEY OLSON (MARGARET SPEDNA OLSON),
age 60, residing in a trailer home behind the Star-Lite Inn,
Pocomoke City, Maryland with mailing address of P.O. Box 245,
Pocomoke City, and having home telephone number (Area 301)
957-2337, provided the following information:

She advised that she is the mother of KATHERINE
PATRICIA OLSON WILLIAR, a white female born [redacted] at
Quantico, Virginia, 5'5" tall, 110-115 lbs., gray-green eyes,
brunette hair, attractive facial features. She is known
generally as PAT OLSON. Her husband, ROBERT WILLIAR, died
in Baltimore, Maryland about 6-7 years ago of a brain tumor.
Her child, DENISE DAWN WILLIAR, born [redacted] resides with
Mrs. STANLEY OLSON at Pocomoke City, Maryland.

About two years ago her daughter, hereafter referred
to as PAT, left Maryland and traveled to Coral Gables, Florida
in the company of an unknown man, leaving her daughter behind.
Her address or employment there unknown. She stayed for a
period in Florida, and then went to New Orleans where she re-
sided for a short period of time. Her address or employment
there also unknown to Mrs. STANLEY OLSON. She apparently ✓

2 - Los Angeles
2 - Memphis
1 - Baltimore
GDM:acn
(5) *110*

709 PPH
44-703-708A

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<i>Adler</i>	<i>ADA</i>

BA 44-669

was taking some type of drugs during this period, and was seldom in contact with her parents. She has no particular occupation, and has become a "drifter", according to Mrs. S. OLSON. She went to Mexico, location not known, after leaving New Orleans and after a short stay there, went to California, where she is currently believed to be residing.

Mrs. S. OLSON provided some letters from PAT from which the following addresses were obtained:

12/20/67 - PAT OLSON, 5842 Carlton Way, Hollywood, California. Letter with this return address was postmarked Los Angeles, California (36) on indicated date.

11/29/67 - PAT OLSON, 5842 Carlton Way, Los Angeles, California, Apt. 3.

11/25/67 - PAT OLSON, St. Francis Hotel, Room 527, Hollywood and Western Blvd., Los Angeles, California.

4/27/67 - PAT OLSON, 1746 North Gramercy Place, Apt. 16, Hollywood, California.

3/31/67 - K. WILLIAR, in care of TERRY CALLIGAN, 1746 South Gramercy Place, Hollywood, California.

Mrs. S. OLSON advised that on a date she recalls to be 3/18/68, PAT telephoned her from somewhere in California. The conversation was general, and PAT mentioned that she was babysitting for some woman in California, city not named. Nothing was said concerning anything relating to MURKIN. On about 4/3-4/68 PAT called again from California and the conversation again was general. PAT spoke most of the time with her daughter DENISE. Several days after receiving that last call on 4/3-4/68 Mrs. S. OLSON received an inquiry from the telephone operator concerning that call. The operator advised her that a PAT OLSON was using a telephone credit card of another person. No inquiries from the telephone company were received after the call of 3/18/68.

BA 44-669

Mrs. S. OLSON advised that she does not know any of PAT's friends in California. She has never heard the name of CHARLES or RITA STEIN, MARIE MARTIN or MARIN. The name, aliases and photograph of JAMES EARL RAY are unknown to her. Mrs. S. OLSON advised that her husband, age 50, is employed with the Contee Construction Co., Baltimore, Maryland, Telephone 636-3758, and is not home during the week. She is certain that he would not be familiar with the names of STEIN or MARIE or RAY.

Los Angeles, determine if PAT OLSON is known to STEIN's and interview OLSON for knowledge of subject.

F B I

Date: 7/3/68

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

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL
(Priority)

TO: SAC, WFO (44-703)
FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (44-669)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles airtel to Baltimore, dated 6/21/68.

Enclosed for WFO is a copy of Baltimore airtel to Los Angeles dated 5/8/68.

By teletype 4/26/68 Los Angeles advised that telephone records on the home of RITA and CHARLES STEIN reflect a call on 3/19/68 to Pocomoke City, Maryland, telephone number (301) 957-2337. This phone is listed to Mrs. STANLEY WHITNEY OLSON, mother of KATHERINE PATRICIA OLSON WILLIAR.

Enclosed BA airtel sets forth the results of interview of Mrs. STANLEY OLSON.

Referenced Los Angeles airtel requests recontact of parents to determine whereabouts of KATHERINE WILLIAR. Los Angeles advised that investigation determined that KATHERINE WILLIAR lived for a time with RITA STEIN. JAMES EARL RAY made a special trip to New Orleans to pick up STEIN's children and returned them to STEIN's address, 5656 Franklin Avenue, Los Angeles, at which location KATHERINE WILLIAR was reported to have left subsequent to RAY's trip to New Orleans.

On 7/3/68 STANLEY OLSON, father of KATHERINE OLSON WILLIAR was contacted at his place of employment

② WFO (Enc. 1)
1 - Baltimore
JJG:aen
(3)

ERT

Johnson
44-703-709A
SEARCHED *25* INDEXED
SERIALIZED *PPH* FILED *PPH*
JUL 7 1968
FBI - WASH. F. O.
Cochran
Holland

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

BA 44-669

Contee Sand and Gravel Company Field Office, Brooklyn Park, Maryland. He advised that he was called by his daughter on 7/2/68 and she informed him she had moved to Washington, D. C. with an unidentified young girl from Baltimore and was attending some school of Scientology. She said her present address is 1735 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Apt. 404, Landlady, Mrs. NEWMAN, telephone number 387-0808.

Mr. OLSON said his daughter had been living in Baltimore but he did not know what employment she had there. He said she usually only contacts him when she is in need of some money. He commented that she does not seem to be able to settle down, and has been associated with what he called "hippies". He commented that his daughter has been interested in astrology, and also had some association with a group called the Rosicrucians.

LEAD:

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will locate and interview KATHERIN OLSON WILLIAR.

NEW YORK TIMES

JUL 7 1968

LAWYER SAYS RAY GAVE HIM NAMES

Reports 'Leads' for Defense
—Calls Suspect 'Sane'

LONDON, July 6 (AP)—The American lawyer for James Earl Ray, accused assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., talked with the suspect in prison today and said afterward that he had gotten "names and other leads" to help build a case for the defense and that he had found the prisoner "perfectly rational, sane and lucid."

The lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., met with Ray for an hour in an interview room at Wandsworth Prison. Mr. Hanes said he had found the conditions there somewhat restrictive.

British prison officials did not permit him an interview in confidence, as is usually accorded a British lawyer, he said.

Mr. Hanes and Ray were separated by a glass screen. Mr. Hanes said that when he wanted to exchange something confidential with Ray he would either whisper or pass notes to him.

The Alabama lawyer said he was beginning to build his case and organize a defense for the day that Ray might be extradited by the British to stand trial for the murder of Dr. King.

Calls Meeting 'Fruitful'

"Our meeting was most helpful, most fruitful and beneficial," Mr. Hanes said. "We got to know each other better. He is relaxed and feels good. He is perfectly rational, sane and lucid."

Mr. Hanes spoke to reporters on emerging from the prison. He said he had no cause to complain about the restrictions placed upon him because "that's the system here."

Apparently alluding to security, Hanes said: "I think the procedure over here is rather good. There have been people hurt in other cases like this and I didn't like that at all."

Mr. Hanes declined to give any details about the names or other information Ray had given him. He also refused to answer a question about Ray's political orientation.

Mr. Hanes said he planned to leave London tomorrow and did not foresee another trip to Britain to interview Ray unless the need arose.

He said Ray had been receiving "many messages of support from the United States and he is grateful for it."

Denies 'Trapped' Remark

LONDON, July 6 (UPI)—Mr. Hanes also said that Ray categorically denied he had collapsed when arrested in London, muttering: "Oh my God, I feel so trapped."

Mr. Hanes quoted Ray as saying: "You might expect a 10-year-old girl to make such a remark, but not a grown man."

The lawyer said that the prison guards had described Ray as "very cooperative" and with "good rapport with those around him."

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Dawson

'Black Plot' Defense Hinted in Ray's Case

By Karl E. Meyer

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, July 6—Defense lawyers for James Earl Ray may contend in America that the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed by political conspirators—but that the conspiracy was master-minded by black instead of white extremist groups.

This became known today as Alabama attorney Arthur J. Hanes had a second prison visit with the 40-year-old Ray, who is facing extradition to the United States on charges of murdering Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn.

Hanes agreed to discuss his client's state of mind with reporters but declined to say anything about the precise line of defense he might argue in the event that Ray is returned for trial in Memphis.

But it can be stated reliably that a likely contention will be that Dr. King was as much hated by Black Nationalists who regarded him as an "Uncle Tom" as he was by white supremacist groups. Such a line of argument would not necessarily preclude an admission that a white gunman could have been hired to execute the murder.

Hanes will only say that he intends to enter a "not guilty" plea if Ray is extradited and that he now has the names of some witnesses he plans to see in America. He intends to go to Memphis, where the murder occurred on April 4, the latter part of next week.

Hanes, a former Mayor of Birmingham, flew to London yesterday for a first visit with his client. He is due to depart Sunday. He spent 70 minutes with Ray at London's Wandsworth prison today, speaking with his client through a glass partition while two guards stood by.

Hanes and Ray exchanged several written notes, since

the guards could overhear their conversation.

Hanes said the prison restrictions were "austere and severe," but added, "I find this rather good. There have been people hurt in other cases like this and I didn't like that."

He said he had been frisked for possible guns but that this precaution was "fine with me."

According to the Alabaman, Ray is "quite pleased and satisfied with the treatment accorded him" by British authorities.

"The only thing he was slightly perturbed about," Hanes told a news conference, "was Mr. Butler's testimony about his alleged behavior. He said to me, 'You might expect a 10-year-old girl to make that remark but certainly not a man.'"

This referred to court testimony by Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard that Ray had allegedly said "Oh God, I feel so trapped" when he was informed that British police believed he was the man wanted for the murder of Dr. King.

Hanes said he has received about 100 letters from all over the United States about his accepting Ray's defense. The only money sent to him, he said, was a check for \$5 from "a sweet dear lady in Columbus, Ohio."

Hanes was Mayor of Birmingham from 1961 to 1963 during the period when Dr. King's protest marchers came into dramatic confrontation with former City Police Commissioner Bull Connor. As a result, Hanes also had encounters with President Kennedy and Robert Kennedy, giving him the mordant distinction of personal acquaintance with all three victims of assassination.

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[Handwritten signature]

Attorney Sees Ray, Plans A Not Guilty Plea at Trial



American counsel Arthur Hanes Sr. talks to newsmen outside Wandsworth prison, London, after visit to James Earl Ray, alleged killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

United Press International

By Karl E. Meyer
Washington Post Foreign Service
LONDON, July 5--Alabama attorney Arthur J. Hanes saw his client James Earl Ray for the first time today and said that a "not guilty" plea would be entered in the event that Ray is extradited to face trial for the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes spent about 40 minutes talking with Ray in London's Wandsworth prison. He said he was fully satisfied that Ray could pay his legal fees but declined to say how big the charge would be or who would pay it.

"A minister doesn't say how big his collection is," Hanes told a press conference. "I can tell you that I expect somebody to pay me."

Hanes told reporters that no organization, "leftwing or rightwing," had approached him to offer paying for Ray's defense. Asked why he had taken the case, Hanes replied: "Because it's a big case, it's a challenge. It's a ballgame to me and I have no feeling one way or another about it. It's another contest, another case."

He said he was already compiling a defense file under the name Ramon George Sneyd, the name under which Ray was arrested at London Airport on June 8. "As far as I'm concerned, he's R. G. Sneyd," Hanes said. "The letters he sent me were signed R. G. Sneyd."

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Warman

A British court ruled Tuesday that Sneyd was actually Ray, the man the United States charges with killing Dr. King in Memphis last April 4. The ruling is under appeal. Hanes said he has taken no part in his client's British legal case and that he would be returning to America on Sunday. He plans to see Ray again on Saturday.

Hanes said the question of his client's name did not come up in his Friday interview. He greeted the prisoner by saying, "Hello, how are you?" Ray, according to Hanes, was "in good health, getting plenty of sleep and rest. He feels good."

Hanes amiably brushed aside needling questions from reporters about his own political beliefs. He acknowledged that he had defended three members of the Ku Klux Klan in an Alabama murder case but said that he would have taken Ray as a client even if the American were a Negro.

Asked if he wanted the publicity, Hanes snapped, "That's ridiculous." He denied that he intended to run for Governor of Alabama, saying he would not swap places with the Governor "for all the tea you have in England." Hanes said he had met Dr. King several times in Birmingham, but as to his opinion about the Negro leader, "let's leave that to history."

Prison officers were present in the cell during Hane's interview with Ray today, the Home Office said. The Home Office would not say whether Hanes was searched for weapons before the interview, but it is deemed likely that such security precautions were taken.

In all, Hanes said, he had received three letters from "R. G. Sneyd" and was returning to the United States with some messages for his client's family.

Ray Case Witness Taken Into Protective Custody

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 5 (AP) — Charles Q. Stevens, identified as a key witness against James Earl Ray in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has been taken into protective custody. "He wasn't as impressed at the danger as police and the District Attorney General's staff were," a source said in confirming that Stevens had been talked into submitting to protective custody.

Stevens is expected to remain in custody for several months, since Ray's trial is not anticipated before late fall.

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His Attorney Says Ray Has Given Him Leads

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray's American lawyer talked with him in prison today and said he got "names and other leads" to build a case for the defense of Ray, accused of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr.



ARTHUR J HANES

Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., met with Ray for an hour in an interview room at Wandsworth Prison. Hanes said afterward he found the conditions somewhat restrictive. He said he was not permitted an interview in confidence. He and Ray were separated by a glass screen.

The Alabama lawyer said he was beginning to build his case and organize a defense for the day that Ray might be extradited to stand trial for the murder of the American civil rights leader.

"Our meeting was most helpful, most fruitful and beneficial," Hanes said. "We got to know each other better. He is relaxed and feels good. He is perfectly rational, sane and lucid."

Hanes said he plans to leave London tomorrow and did not foresee another trip to Britain.

He said Ray had been receiving "many messages of support from the United States and he is grateful for it. He also has received many offers of help for his defense."

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Dawson

WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY JR.

Strange Episodes Fill Ray Story

There are strange and interesting elements in the unfolding story of James Earl Ray. It is reported that in London, where extradition proceedings were instituted on the ground that he had murdered Dr. Martin Luther King, he slumped down and sighed "Oh my God, I feel trapped." But Ray's demoralization was only temporary, and it soon transpired that he had hired a prominent Birmingham attorney to go to London, and that said attorney was the very same man who managed the successful defense of those who were accused of killing Mrs. Liuzzo.

Although this is the land of John Birch and Mark Lane and highly inflamed political imaginations, it cannot be imagined by the average American how gleefully Europeans leap to conclusions of Florentine complexity whenever political assassinations are involved. A fortnight ago, Prince Rainier of Monaco asked a visitor whether he had meditated on the first initial of the last name of the three great recent American victims of assassination? — K(ennedy) K(ing) K(ennedy). The visitor confessed that he had not reflected on the three initials' significance, and forebore going on to say that no American who knows anything at all about anything at all would invest any meaning in the coincidental K's.

most prominent liberal politician in the world, as Monaco is of deposing De Gaulle. It is hard for a people whose history is watered with organized connivings for power to imagine individualistic assassination.

★

Having said all of which, there is something about the James Earl Ray case which does suggest that if indeed it was he who fired the shot, that he did not work alone in the tradition of Leon Czolgosz and Lee Harvey Oswald. Too much is known about Ray, and he is more readily imaginable as a hired killer than a lusting fanatic. He has been small-time always.

Moreover, the escape from Memphis suggested the cooperation of at least one ally. Assuming Ray was the assassin, the escape required a kind of cosmopolitan sophistication one does not learn at Midwest penitentiaries. The ample supply of cash isn't particularly surprising, inasmuch as the professional training of James Earl Ray is in acquiring fairly large amounts of cash on short, stick-em up notice. But the exhaustive research necessary, for instance, to appear half-way plausible when applying for foreign passports was more likely supplied by someone other than himself.

Truman Capote ventured early during the mystery that the killer was a paid assassin, and was in all likelihood dead. If the FBI's contentions are validated, then Ray is the killer, and is most certainly not dead, nor will he die, except many years from now—from

arteriosclerosis or whatever—Tennessee having abolished the death penalty. But as long as he is alive, he of course jeopardizes his silent partners, and it is supremely in the interest of the state to establish who they are, and to discover what was the motivation for the killing of Dr. King.

If the idea of killing Martin Luther King was that of the KKK, or some local white supremacist group, then in the light of the experience with the Birmingham church, the three civil rights workers in Mississippi, Mrs. Liuzzo and the others—the killing of which consolidated national sentiment in favor of more and more civil rights legislation—then the KKK is even more stupid than it is supposed to be, which is an extraordinary achievement.

★

Such stupidity does not go hand in hand with the super-sophisticated provisions made for the assassins' escape: does not explain the easy success he had in eluding the greatest manhunt in the history of the world (yes, in the history of the world), until, by committing a foolish mistake of the kind that catches up with the suspect in second-rate detective stories, the accused is good as turned himself in.

Up until now, Ray has kept his mouth shut. And no doubt the Birmingham lawyer will counsel him to continue to do so. But Ray is not the type to suffer in order to sustain the underworld's code. If he is the assassin, he is likelier to crack up when he realizes fully that he is indeed trapped.

★

The Ku Klux Klan is as capable of organizing the killing of a President of the United States, the most prominent Negro in the world, and the

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Rawson

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)
Re: MURKIN
CR

Date: July 8, 1968
FBI File No. 44-38861
Lab. No. D-680705006 JK

Specimens received 7/5/68

Q385 Sheet of paper bearing typewritten letter dated 2/4/68, beginning "I RECENTLY RECEIVED..." and signed "Eric S. Galt"

Result of examination:

The typewritten impressions on Q385 are the same style as those appearing on other items received in this matter attributed to "Eric S. Galt."

Because of the lack of identifying features it could not be definitely determined that the same typewriter was employed to prepared Q385 and the other items but no significant differences were noted.

It was concluded that the "Eric S. Galt" signature on Q385 was prepared by the writer of other signatures in this name appearing on specimens previously received some of which have been investigatively identified as having been prepared by James Earl Ray.

Q385 will be returned separately. Photographs are retained.

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[Handwritten signature]



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: July 8, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR
OO: Memphis

J.

John Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

FBI File No. 44-38861
Lab. No. D-680705006 JK

Examination requested by: Los Angeles
Reference: Airtel 7/1/68
Examination requested: Document - Fingerprint
Remarks:

You will be advised separately regarding the results of the fingerprint examination and disposition of Q385.

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

- Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
- 2 - Los Angeles (44-1574) Enclosures (2) (2 Lab report)
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740) Enclosure (Lab report)
- ① - Washington Field Office (44-703) Enclosure (Lab report)

44-703-716

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Dawson

ADMINISTRATIVE PAGE

CHARLES F. MAYER, PH.D., J.D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY

FAIRMOUNT PROFESSIONAL BUILDING
3614 FAIRMOUNT STREET
DALLAS, TEXAS 75219

JUL 18
Twenty-eighth
1968

Mr. Lloyd Rhodes,
Assistant Attorney General,
Memphis, Tennessee.

Dear Mr. Rhodes:

I hope that your Dallas visit proved productive.

However, what I am writing to you about has to do particularly with evidence which you will need when the suspect, Ray, actually comes to trial.

In the wake of every assassination, a spate of rumors always develops. Most of them, unfortunately lead nowhere.

Incidentally, with reference specifically to the assassination of Rev. Martin Luther King, I wonder whether any follow-up has ever been made on the testimony educed during the 1965 and 1966 Congressional hearing about the Ku Klux Klan.

On page 3625, in the testimony of a Mr. Hanna, he said: She (Mrs. Eloise Witte) says, when Martin Luther King arrived in Cincinnati, he spoke at the Music Hall. She said there is two guns shipped into town from a personal friend of hers. She didn't mention which organization this person represented. She said that one was a German MP-40 Schmeisser submachine gun and one was an M-I Geraud gun 45 caliber." MR. MANUEL (questioning for the Committee): And did she tell you that these would be used in any possible assassination on Mr. King's life? MR. HANNA: Yes sir; she did.

Mrs. Witte was identified as an active "EMPRESS" in the Klan membership drive.

All of the above, and more, appears in the booklet entitled "ACTIVITIES OF KU KLUX KLAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES." The testimony was given before the Committee On Un-American Activities, of the House of Representatives, 89th Congress, Second Session. This volume may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. for \$1.75.

It appears to me that such a lead should certainly be investigated in connection with the impending legal proceedings against the suspect, Ray.

Sincerely yours,

44-703-717

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CHARLES F. MAYER, Ph.D.

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7/3/68

AIRTEL

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

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau and WFO are two copies each of a letter dated 6/28/68 from CHARLES F. MAYER, Dallas, Texas, directed to Mr. LLOYD RHODES, Assistant Attorney General, Memphis, Tenn.

LEAD

WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Will review the House Un-American Activities booklet entitled "Activities of Ku Klux Klan Organizations in the United States" for full testimony of Mrs. ELOISE WITTE concerning possible assassination on "Mr. King's life." Will ascertain if Mrs. WITTE has been interviewed by Bureau Agents concerning the matters contained in her testimony, and if she has not been interviewed, leads should be set forth to have her interviewed.

3 - Bureau (Encs. 2)
2 - WFO (Encs. 2)
2 - Memphis
RFB:LF
(7)

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44-703-718

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Dawson
Coghlan
have done 7/8/68

2/14/66

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (157-5)

FROM: SAC, WFO (157-744)

ATTN: F. J. BAUMGARDNER
SECTION CHIEF

HOVA KLAN HEARINGS
EM (KLAN)

Re WFOairtel dated 2/11/66.

The House Sub-Committee investigating Klan activities heard the following witnesses and none were represented by counsel:

WITNESS: WALTER MOYER

This witness gave an account of his own Klan membership since 1924. He said he was Regional Grand of the Federated KKK at the time it became defunct and admitted that during a 1949 Alabama Grand Jury investigation, he was arrested for contempt of the Grand Jury because he refused to identify the Klan group which was not involved in the case.

4 - Bureau

1 - [unclear]
1 - [unclear]

- 3 - [unclear]
- 2 - [unclear]
- 2 - [unclear]
- 1 - [unclear]

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MDF:ell
(11)

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WFO 157-744

He said he served on the Board of the National Knights of the KKK (NKKKK) with JAMES VENABLE and H. J. HILL, but later resigned from that Board and formed the Knights of the Klu Klux Klan (KKKK), and is now Emperor of that group. He said he was unable to furnish records of the Federated Klan as ordered because his house burned in 1954 or 1955 and destroyed all such records and also said that he has no records pertaining to the KKKK although he later stated he had some material which he will search out and make available to the committee. He refused on the basis of constitutional privilege to identify members of the Imperial Concilliam. He took this privilege in refusing to furnish the identity of persons in attendance in April, 1955, at the organization meeting of the KKKK.

He stated he was aware of the "assassination letter" written by DANIEL WAGNER and that he had discussed this letter with ELOISE WITTE, but said that both regarded the letter as ridiculous, and he said he never administered any oath or any part of the Klan ritual in WAGNER's presence or to WAGNER as he regarded him as a "mad dog" in his thinking. He said he did tell WAGNER to write out the specifics contained in that letter but never investigated any part of it and had not informed any law enforcement agency of its contents. He stated he talked to the FBI concerning the letter but only after the FBI initially contacted him in regard to it.

WITTE stated he knew nothing concerning the reported trip of WAGNER and CLARK GILLHAM to Georgia to get dynamite and knew nothing of any dynamite being transported from Georgia to Ohio.

He stated the Klan rally held at MARIE SCOTT's farm was advertised as being a KKKK rally but was a joint venture as JAMES VENABLE was in attendance. He said approximately 300 people signed applications and 100 paid the \$15 initiation fee which was placed in trust for

WFO 157-744

He said the KKKK has no Klaverns as it is just in a formation stage and stated members received into the Klan at the rally at PAXIE SCOTT's farm may be in the NKKKK. He identified JIM HARRIS of Cincinnati as Great Titan in the KKKK and FNU LOUIS of Alton as an officer in that group. He said he only knew of HARRIS' reported meeting with ROBERT SHELTON through rumor.

MORRIS stated he did not know of any dynamite stored in the area of Barnesville, Georgia, and said WALTER M. HUFF (ph) is not an Imperial Officer of the KKKK, and he did not know if he was an officer in the NKKKK.

Witness was continued ^{under} subpoena until 3/1/66, to produce records called for by the committee.

ELOISE WEINE

This witness stated she is currently a member of the NKKKK and two years ago was commissioned Grand Empress. She stated she maintains no records pertaining to the NKKKK or the KKKK and produced only two letters from WEINABLE. She stated she has had correspondence with HARRIS about rallies but generally does not save this correspondence. She said she attended the rally at PAXIE SCOTT's farm but did not attend rallies at Farnsworth or Lodi, Ohio. She cited constitutional provisions in referring to identify individuals active in the Cleveland area in the NKKKK or number of Klaverns of that organization in Ohio.

She stated she also considered the "assassination letter" of WEINER to be ridiculous and stated he had never discussed the details of this letter with her. She said she immediately said no that she did not believe in violence, which was the way her impression that he believed the Klan was engaged in violent and action, and she said she would not let him join the Klan because he seemed emotionally upset in this regard. She stated she did not intend to let him join the National States

WFO 157-744

Rights Party meeting to put him in touch with a gun dealer but stated DAVIS was just one of numerous people she introduced WAGNER to at that meeting. She said whenever WAGNER became emotional in conversation, she would change that conversation before he detailed any of his plans, repeatedly telling him that the Klan was not a violent organization. She stated she knew (ph) ALMA as a former member of the American Nazi Party and also regarded him as a psychopath. She said she had felt initially that she could help straighten WAGNER out but he later became a source of irritation to her and her family.

EARL DONALD HOYCUMB

This witness cited constitutional privilege in refusing to answer questions of the Sub-Committee and added to the privilege that to testify might jeopardize my life or that of my family. He said he did not have any records pertaining to the Klan but took the 5th amendment in refusing to state whether he had such records or if he destroyed them after receiving the subpoena. He refused to answer the following:

1. If he was a member of the Klan.
2. If he was wearing a Klan lapel pin.
3. If he was a member of the Klan.
4. If he had any records pertaining to the Klan.
5. If he had given information to the FBI.
6. If he had any information regarding the activities of the Klan.
7. Whether statement by WAGNER that he had information regarding the activities of the Klan.

WFO 157-744

Sub-committee recessed until 2/15/66.

7/10/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

MURKIN

ReMEairtel, 7/3/68, enclosing copy of letter dated 6/28/68, from CHARLES F. MAYER, Dallas, Texas, to LLOYD RHODES, Assistant Attorney General, Memphis, Tennessee; Citel to WFO, 7/2/64, captioned "COMMITTEE OF ONE MILLION CAUCASIANS TO MARCH ON CONGRESS" (CI 157-234); and WFOairtel to Director, 2/14/66, re HCUA Klan Hearings, RM (Klan) (copies to Cincinnati).

Enclosed for Cincinnati are two Xerox copies of referenced letter from CHARLES F. MAYER. Also enclosed is one copy of Part 5 of Activities of Ku Klux Klan Organizations, Hearings Before Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 89th Congress.

Two copies of referenced airtel to Director, 2/14/66, re HCUA Klan Hearings enclosed for Memphis.

- 3-Bureau
- 2-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
- 2-Cincinnati (Enc. 3)
- ①-WFO

RDA: dan
(8)

AIRTEL

Searched	____
Serialized	____
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Handwritten: BAC, INDEX pg. 2, 3, 4

Handwritten: 44-703-720

WFO 44-703

Referenced teletype indicates ELOISE WITTE head of Committee of One Million Caucasians to March on Congress, Cincinnati, in July, 1964.

Referenced WFO airtel, 2/14/66, re HCUA Klan Hearings, RM (Klan) (a copy enclosed for Memphis) contains information about ELOISE WITTE's testimony before HCUA on 2/14/66. This testimony included the following:

ELOISE WITTE, in 1966, an Empress of National Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (NKKK) in Ohio. Also, WITTE considered "assassination letter" of WAGNER to be ridiculous and stated WAGNER had never discussed the detailed violence in that letter with her. ELOISE WITTE said she repeatedly told WAGNER the Klan did not believe in violence.

WFO indices reviewed and do not contain any information that ELOISE WITTE, 1654 Otte Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio, was interviewed concerning her testimony before House Committee on Un-American Activities on 2/14/66.

"Activities of Ku Klux Klan Organizations in the United States," Part 5, Hearings Before the Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, 89th Congress, Second Session, published by U.S. Government Printing Office in 1966, reviewed concerning testimony of ELOISE WITTE on 2/14/66 and RICHARD JOSEPH HANNA on 2/15/66.

Page 3543 of Mrs. WITTE's testimony contains the following:

Mr. MANUEL: "Did you ever make the statement to Mr. WAGNER that the Klan had hired a gunman for \$25,000?"

WFO 44-703

Mrs. WITTE: "Heavens, no."

Mr. MANUEL: "Did you have any conversation with Mr. WAGNER regarding the appearance of MARTIN LUTHER KING at Antioch College in Yellow Springs, Ohio?"

Mrs. WITTE: "No."

WITTE added that WAGNER read of this in newspaper, wrote a letter to WITTE, and phoned her about KING's appearance at Antioch College. DANNY WAGNER said he hoped WITTE would not be alarmed with him but he had some ideas he wanted to carry out. She added that WAGNER never told her what these plans were that he had for MARTIN LUTHER KING.

Page 3545 contains information from WITTE that Mr. MORRIS told her he had heard of a plot underfoot to do away with the President, Mr. WITTE, ELOISE WITTE's husband, Mr. MORRIS, MARTIN LUTHER KING, and HUMPHREY. Mrs. WITTE said she did not know the above plot in a letter written by DANNY WAGNER. She described the plot as ridiculous and WAGNER, a psychopathic case. Mrs. WITTE said she did not furnish this information to law enforcement officers as she did not think WAGNER would carry through on anything as ridiculous as this. Mrs. WITTE thought WAGNER might have taken this method of retaliation for being denied membership in the Klan.

Mrs. WITTE stated she did not introduce WAGNER to W. A. DAVIS at National States Rights Party to put WAGNER in touch with a gun dealer.

Page 3631 contains portion of testimony of RICHARD JOSEPH HANNA on 2/15/66. HANNA said Mrs. ELOISE

WFO 44-703

WITTE said "Mr. WAGNER to do some work for her. Mr. JOHNSON, if he needed assassination, Mr. WAGNER could do it." Mrs. WITTE added, "Right now, we are interested in other people." WITTE said "MARTIN LUCIFER COON" was one, according to HANNA. Above name described by HANNA as right wing expression for MARTIN LUTHER KING.

LEADS

CINCINNATI

AT CINCINNATI, OHIO.

1) Will ascertain if Mrs. ELOISE WITTE was interviewed by Bureau Agents concerning matters contained in her testimony before HCUA on 2/14/66, including possible assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

2) Forward enclosed copy of Part 5 of Activities of Ku Klux Klan Organizations, Hearings Before Committee on Un-American Activities, House of Representatives, to Memphis when interview of Mrs. ELOISE WITTE completed.

7/9/68

AIRTEL

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

Re WFO airtel to Bureau, 7/3/68.

Inasmuch as WALTER PACKARD, JR., Penfield, N. Y.,
is obviously a mental case, Buffalo should not bother to
interview him UACB.

- 3 - Bureau
- 1 - Buffalo (INFO)
- ① - WFO (44-703) (INFO)
- 2 - Memphis

JCH:mjh
(7)

Airtel _____

Teletype _____

A.M. _____

A.M.S.D. _____

Spec. Del. _____

Reg. Mail _____

Registered _____

TYPE

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Ashland	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Washington, D. C. 20537



REPORT

of the

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

LATENT FINGERPRINT SECTION

YOUR FILE NO. 44-1574
FBI FILE NO. 44-38861
LATENT CASE NO. 91075

July 11, 1968

TO: SAC, Los Angeles

RE: MURKIN
CR

REFERENCE: Airtel 7/1/68
EXAMINATION REQUESTED BY: Los Angeles
SPECIMENS: Letter, Q385

Seven latent fingerprints of value developed on letter, Q385.

Latent fingerprints not identical with fingerprints of James Earl Ray, FBI #405942G, or Special Agent Leon J. Meyer.

On basis of information furnished, no fingerprint record located here for Ronald G. Hewitson.

Specimen enclosed.

Laboratory report separate.

- Inc.
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - Birmingham (44-1740)
- ① - WFO (44-703)

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J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover, Director

Dawson

THIS REPORT IS FURNISHED FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

A-4

James Ray Extradition Appeal Set

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, July 9—An appeal of the extradition ruling against James Earl Ray, 40, will be heard July 29, before the Divisional Court of the High Court, it was learned today.

The date was set by mutual agreement between court officials and British lawyers representing Ray, whom the United States is seeking to extradite to face charges of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray lost the first round in Bow Street Court last Thursday when Frank Milton, the chief metropolitan magistrate, upheld a U.S. request for his extradition on the murder charge and on the charge of armed robbery, an offense for which he was serving a jail sentence until his escape from prison last year.

Ray has denied murdering Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn., and on the court docket he is still listed as "Ramon George Sneyd," the name under which he was arrested at London Airport on June 8. Chief Magistrate Milton has ruled that he is in fact Ray.

The expectation is that Ray's court-appointed lawyers will reiterate the argument that the murder of Dr. King was a political offense and hence not subject to extradition. Appearing for Ray at the Law Courts will be Roger Frisby, who as a barrister has right of audience in the High Court.

DATE 7-10-68

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Dowson

Ray receives extradition decision with little emotion

By PETER J. SHAW and SCOTT B. BRUNS

LONDON (UPI) — He was restless in the morning, heat, bouncy and somewhat nervous when he complained to the court.

But James Earl Ray showed no more emotion than a professional gambler who has failed to fill a straight flush when he heard the judge order him sent back to the United States.

The accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was looking down at the narrow table before him when Chief Justice Frank Milton announced his extradition decision.

THE MAGISTRATE rejected the argument by Ray's counsel that the sniper slaying of King in Memphis April 4 did not fall under the Anglo-American Extradition Treaty because the crime was "political." Political crimes are not covered by the treaty.

Ray glanced up quickly when he heard the announcement and there was no discernable change in his facial expression. The jaw did not twitch, the eyes did not blink, the hairy hands did not roam over his face as they had during the morning session.

For a man a big leap nearer to being tried for murder, Ray appeared remarkably calm. It was as if the decision was not unexpected.

EARLIER, he had displayed less composure. He whispered three times to the Scotland Yard detectives flanking him in the prisoner's dock in the wood-paneled Victorian courtroom. Once he cracked a trace of a smile.

He returned to an almost empty courtroom during the lunch recess and spoke for nearly five minutes in a staccato voice, tinged with the deep south, that even shorthand-taking newsmen could not record precisely.

He bounced from his heels to his toes as he complained that he had been denied access to visitors and the chance to write letters.

THE COURTROOM was packed again with spectators for the afternoon session. A large colored woman in a brown-and-white sleeveless dress sat in the front row next to a white woman in a yellow bonnet.

Ray wore a fresh white shirt buttoned at the neck. He smiled at a detective preceding him to the dock. His tongue pushed against

his left cheek several times, the nerves in the jaws worked.

His hands shot up once in almost an appealing gesture as the magistrate led up to his decision, then fell back to the table.

"...Far too far ... falls far short ..."

THE JUDGE'S words were tipping off what was to come. Ray coughed once, then assumed the almost-detached, almost-disinterested facade he had worn throughout most of the extradition hearings.

No ear-tugging, no chin-scratching, no swipe of the hand across the moist brow.

"I remand you for extradition ..."

Ray reacted to the words with the air of a man who had heard a judge's unfavorable decision before. The public gallery at the rear of the court was equally calm.

Then Ray was on his feet to be told his rights.

DATE 7-6-68

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MILTON GAVE Ray 15 days to appeal his decision to the Queen's Bench Division of the British High Court of Justice. The Court is comparable to the U. S. Court of Appeals.

Should the High Court reject Ray's appeal, a further appeal to the House of Lords is possible. But legal sources said that if the bench division upholds the magistrate's decision, it probably also will refuse recourse to the House of Lords. If this happens, Ray

could be sent back to the United States before the end of the month.

Milton said he found no evidence to support the claim of Ray's counsel the slaying of King was "political."

"If the only evidence is that a public figure, a political figure, a controversial figure has been killed, then this is not enough," Milton said.

The detectives closed in and escorted Ray out of the courtroom and into a waiting black maria for the trip back to his cell.

THERE was no sign of the little old lady of 71, Mary Brown, a hospital worker, who was first in line Tuesday as on fast Thursday.

"I came back because it was the American," she told newsmen. "I wanted to see him. I've never seen an American in court before."

The Daily Express said Tuesday, Scotland Yard was checking safe deposit vaults in the London area in an effort to clear up some unanswered questions in Ray's case.

The paper said detectives were trying to determine if Ray left money or other evidence in a safety deposit box. He had only a small amount of money in his possession when he was arrested. Investigators also were trying to trace Ray's movements in London from May 27 when he was thought to have arrived from Portugal.

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PLANS INSANITY PLEA

Earl Ray expects to be extradited

LONDON — Earl Ray expects to be extradited to the United States to stand trial for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

That is why he has hired a lawyer from Alabama who has twice flown to London to see him but who cannot practice in this country.

The lawyer, Arthur Hanes, former mayor of Birmingham, in a heated press meeting on Friday, said his client would plead innocent, possibly on grounds of insanity, if sent back to the United States.

Hanes didn't like it because reporters insisted on trying to determine who would be paying the costs of his services.

BACK IN Memphis, with the possibility of the trial being set in the September session growing more likely, Atty. Gen. Phil Canale announced he would head the courtroom prosecution.

He will be assisted by Asst. Attys. Gen. Robert K. Dwyer, a courtroom veteran, and James Beasley, an expert in research and tactics.

Canale said the government might have an observer on hand but would not participate in the trial in Memphis.

It was almost certain to be in Memphis and Hanes admitted that with the wide publicity given the case people most everywhere would be familiar with the case.

HANES SAID he felt "more confident of a successful defense" after talking for 30 to 35 minutes with Ray across a wire barrier at Wandsworth prison in West London.

"For me a successful defense means a verdict of not guilty," the attorney told news reporters.

Asked how Ray would
(Continued on Page 18)

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OEC

—Ray expects

(Continued from Page 1)

plead, Hanes replied, "Not guilty, not guilty to anything."

Earlier, after his arrival at London airport, he said the plea might include innocent by reason of insanity.

Hanes said the innocent plea would apply to bank robbery charges in Missouri on which the United States sought extradition as well as to the King murder charge filed in Memphis. London court last Tuesday ordered Ray extradited to America on both charges but Ray appealed.

EMERGING FROM the grayness of Wandsworth prison into bright sunlight, Hanes exuded a spirt of optimism.

He qualified all discussion of appeals by saying "only if he is extradited. I am not certain he will be."

He insisted on identifying the defendant as "R. G. Sneyd," the name on one of the two forged Canadian passports Ray was carrying at the time of his arrest. Hanes said the U.S. government would have to prove the accused man was anybody else, including James Earl Ray.

British attorneys are appealing a magistrate's

prohibit speech or protest, does not cover "accidental or inadvertent" desecration, and does not prevent burning old and worn flags to dispose of them.

The Justice Department was cool toward the bill, suggesting the problem would be better dealt with under state or local laws. But it promised to enforce the legislation.

order extraditing Ray.

Hanes said he and Ray talked about Ray's defense and payment of the lawyer's fees. The lawyer engaged in a heated argument with reporters after he insisted "No organization, no one, only Sneyd himself" had contacted him about paying his fee.

The reporters questioned how Ray would be able to take care of the expenses of Hanes' two transatlantic flights plus trial costs.

"He assured me he could take care of my fee," Hanes replied, on the verge of losing his temper. "He has indicated he may be able to raise money from his family. He ain't going to pay me with love, I can tell you that."

His face reddening, the attorney almost shouted at the British reporters, "I'm not on trial. Bear that in mind. The source of any money is not relevant to the case."

When newsmen pressed whether Hanes would drop the case should Sneyd turn out to be Ray, Hanes roared, of course, I wouldn't drop the case. I am representing this man if he is extradited."

"This is a challenge and a big case," the attorney said. "The man needs help, and I intend to give it. It's a big ballgame. I would do the same for anyone, black or white. I am made that way."

The lawyer said that for the moment he was not considering asking for a change in venue for any trial in Tennessee. He said what with the extensive news coverage, people all over America knew as much about the case as those in Memphis.

DATE 7-9-68

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Letter Shows Ray Is Sneyd, Paper Says 5

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Daily News said today in a copyrighted story that a letter written by James Earl Ray to his brother removes any doubt that Ray and Ramon George Sneyd are the same person.

Sneyd was the name under which Ray was arrested in London in connection with the April 4 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The Daily News said the letter was written to John Ray and was signed "Lord R. G. Sneyd."

John Ray told the paper the handwriting was his brother's. Asked about the use of the title "Lord," he said, "That's probably his idea of a joke."

The letter was mailed to the address of a married sister who lives in a suburb of St. Louis, the Daily News said. It was not dated.

U.S. officials working on obtaining Ray's extradition have said they are convinced that Ray and Sneyd are the same person but the fact that the alias was used caused a point of legal confusion. The magistrate who on July 2 ordered the extradition — now being appealed — agreed.

The letter also implied that Ray would have sufficient funds to finance his defense when he is returned to Memphis to stand trial.

"If you could," the letter said, "I would like for you to give the attorney Arthur Hanes \$600. You can get some of it off Jerry (another brother) and I will straighten it up with you when I get back." Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., is representing Ray in London.

Neither John nor Jerry Ray — whose addresses were not given — would speculate on where their brother would obtain the money.

DATE 7-15-68

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Ray Letter to Brother Is Signed Sneyd

From News Dispatches

CHICAGO — The Chicago Daily News said today that it has obtained a copy of a letter in which Ramon George Sneyd makes it clear he is James Earl Ray.

The News, in a copyrighted story, said the letter is the first communication from Ray to be made public since his arrest in London in connection with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The letter from Heathfield Road Prison in London was in response to one sent by Ray's younger brother, John, and was addressed to the home of Ray's married sister in a suburb of St. Louis, the News said.

It is signed "Lord R. G. Sneyd." The News quoted John Ray as saying "that's probably his little joke." John Ray is convinced from the handwriting and personal comments in the letter that the man who wrote it is his brother, the News said.

The newspaper said the letter also suggests that Ray originally intended to return to the United States voluntarily to face trial.

Although authorities in England and the United States have never expressed any doubt that the man who calls himself Sneyd is Ray, he and his lawyer have never said so.

John Ray said he had written the man in Heathfield Prison to make sure he was his brother, the News said. In response he received an undated letter addressed "Dear John" and written on prison stationery. The news-

paper quoted the letter as saying in part (spelling and punctuation errors corrected):

"I will just write you a

few lines to let you know everything is all right. I will probably be back shortly. Anyway, don't come over; for one, you couldn't get in. Attorney Hanes couldn't, and two, it's too expensive."

(The reference to Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's defense attorney, helps date the letter. Hanes arrived in London on June 20, was at first denied a visit with Ray, and eventually met the accused on July 5.)

The letter also says:

"If you could, I would like you to give the attorney Arthur Hanes \$600. You can get some of it off Jerry and

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Lawrence

I will straighten it up with you when I get back.

(Jerry Ray is another brother. While the letter implied they would be reimbursed for the \$600, neither Jerry nor John would speculate on where the money would come from.)

"You mention Percy Foreman. He is a good attorney, but I will wait until I get back as I want some attorneys who can work together, so I will let Hanes decide on someone he thinks would be best.

"I could appeal my extradition hearing but I am getting tired of listening to these liars, so I might close it up about Tuesday."

John Ray said the letter constituted "strong evidence" that his brother did not kill Dr. King.

"If he really did it, he wouldn't be thinking about signing those extradition papers, would he?" John asked.

A British court ordered Ray extradited to the United States during a hearing on July 2 at which he was represented by a court-appointed attorney.

Since that ruling, due for an appeal July 29, and since his meeting with Hanes, who has agreed to represent him, Ray apparently has decided to fight efforts to return him to this country.

Both John and Jerry Ray, the News said, contended their brother had been "set up" to act as a decoy in the King assassination, while the "real killer" escaped. The two were interviewed by the News at a motel in an unnamed Southern city.

Dear John

I will just write you a few lines to let you know my things is alright I will probably be back shortly. my way dont come out from you would get in, being James and I and two sets to appear about judge case wanting to reverse my case I dont want it reverse I will explain later but you know these things are not doing anything to benefit me. I paid I would like for you to give the attny Arthur Hanes \$6000 you can get some of off Jerry and I will

© The Chicago Daily News via Associated Press

Page of letter signed Sneyd, which John Ray says is from brother James.

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2 Brothers Seek Ray Trial Fund

By Jerry Lipson
Chicago Daily News Service

CHICAGO, July 16—Two brothers of James Earl Ray are moving to Memphis to be near him when, and if, he stands trial for the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

John Ray, 35, said he has turned over to a manager the daily operation of a tavern he owns in southeast St. Louis, and expects to rent an apartment in Memphis, probably this week.

He'll be joined by another brother, Jerry, 32, who quit his job with a suburban Chicago country club shortly after James Earl Ray was identified as the wanted fugitive in the slaying.

The brothers prepared to move shortly after receiving a letter from James, written from the London prison where he has been held since his arrest June 9. In it, Ray indicated he was ready to return voluntarily to the U.S. to stand trial.

John Ray told the Chicago Daily News his first move will be to set up a "James Ray defense fund" to help pay his brother's legal expenses.

"If it was just a question of \$3000 or \$4000, I could raise that," John said, "but this is going to cost a lot more than that."

John said he last saw his older brother on April 22, 1967; the day before he broke out of the Missouri State Prison by hiding in an out-bound bakery truck.

"I guess we talked about an hour," John Ray said. "He seemed in good spirits, but I never actually saw him brood in my whole life. He wasn't that way."

John said James gave no indication of any plans for an imminent escape.

"I knew he wanted to get out though. I could tell. They nicknamed him 'the mele' because he tried to escape so much."

James Ray twice tried to flee the graystone prison fortress in Jefferson City, Mo. before he finally made it after serving seven years of a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

John Ray said he saw no connection between the escape and any plot to murder Dr. King.

"All the time I talked to him, he never mentioned King at any time. I don't know if he had any opinions on him," John said.

John also said that, despite a record of armed robbery convictions, his brother never used a pistol on any of his victims.

Recalling a police chase in 1969 after a supermarket holdup in Alton, Ill., John said, "Even when they were shooting at him he never fired back. He threw his gun away."

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Ray Waives Appeal, Will Return to U.S.

By Karl E. Meyer

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, July 16—James Earl Ray instructed his lawyers today to waive his appeal of a British extradition order. This means he will probably return in a few days to the United States, where he faces charges of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray's surprise decision became known after he saw his British attorneys in Wandsworth prison this morning and gave them a signed statement saying he had voluntarily decided not to file an appeal of a July 2 extradition

ruling against him in Bow Street Police Court.

The 40-year-old American said he had made the decision after considering all the facts and believed it was the best thing for him to do. The 250-word typed statement was signed "Ramon George Sneyd," the name under which Ray was arrested at London Aiport on June 8. It will be submitted to Home Secretary James Callaghan, who must give final approval to Ray's return.

Word of Ray's decision was

See RAY, A4, Col. 5

RAY, From A1

immediately telephoned to his American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, a former Mayor of Birmingham, Ala. Hanes was due to arrive here Wednesday to confer again with his client, who has denied killing Dr. King in Memphis last April 4.

In his statement, Ray made no complaints about his legal defense in Britain. Instead, he expressed specific thanks to Michael Eugene, his court-appointed solicitor, and to Roger Frisby, his barrister.

Ray's decision may have

been anticipated by a letter he sent last week to his family in America. According to the Chicago Daily News, Ray wrote, "I could appeal my extradition hearing but I am getting tired of listening to these liars so that I might close it up about Tuesday."

Concerning the word "liars," Ray has twice denied in court police testimony that he cried "Oh, my God, I feel so trapped" when informed that Scotland Yard believed he was the man wanted in the death of Dr. King.

Ray's decision came as his British lawyers were readying

the formal appeal to the Divisional Court of the High Court to meet the deadline of 4 p.m. Wednesday. A hearing date of July 29 had already been set. It will now be cancelled.

This morning Ray made what will probably be his last courtroom appearance in Britain when he was briefly brought before Bow Street Court on two lesser charges of possessing a forged passport and carrying an unlawful revolver. The charges were remanded until July 24, and now will almost surely be dropped.

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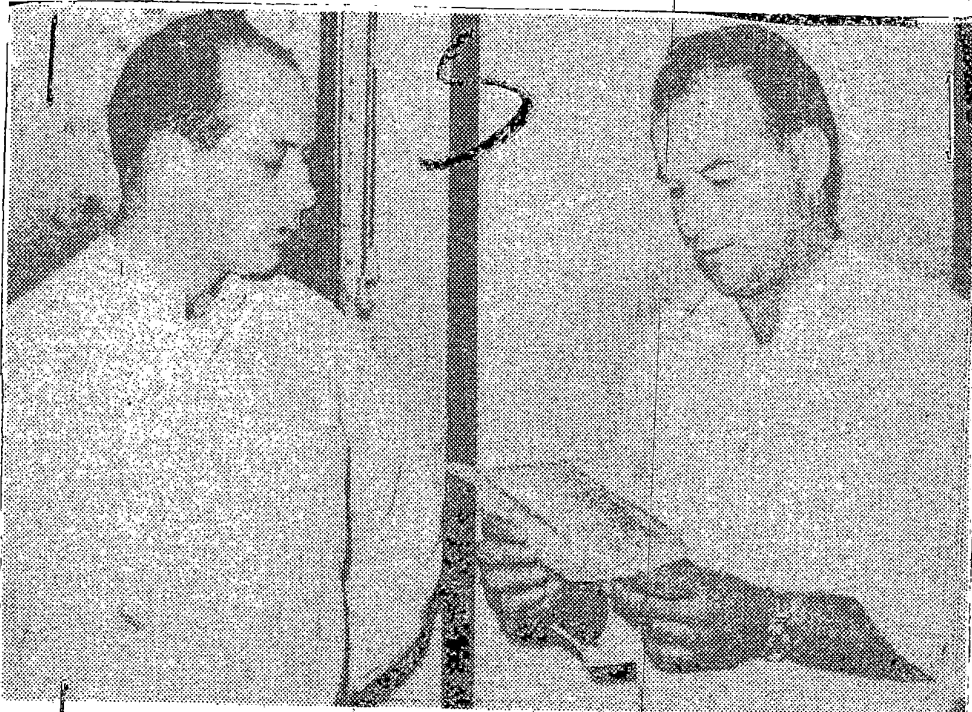
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—UPI Photo

James Earl Ray's brothers, Jerry (left) and John Sneyd are the same person, and despite the accused's attempts to prevent extradition to the U.S., he may have originally intended to return voluntarily. The letter illuminates two points: that James Ray and Ramon George

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Bound Over for Another 8 Days

Ray's Appeal Hampered

LONDON, July 16 (UPI) — A British court today bound over James Earl Ray, accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., for another eight days on charges of violating gun and passport laws.

Sources close to Ray's defense said his lawyers were running into "local difficulties" hampering his appeal against a court-ordered extradition to America to stand trial for Dr. King's murder.

Ray's appearance at Bow Street Magistrates Court was routine. The law says he must be taken before a magistrate every eight days while held on the charges of carrying a gun and two forged passports, charges on which Ray was arrested June 8 to end a worldwide manhunt.

Defense sources said the "difficulties" they were talking about were not administrative and not connected with legal obstacles to their contention that Dr. King's slaying was a political crime.

Political crimes are not subject to the Anglo-American extradition treaty.

Ray's British lawyer, Michael Eugene, has only one day left to file an appeal of Ray's extradition order, issued two weeks ago.

Frank Milton, chief metropolitan magistrate, ordered Ray held until July 24 on the gun and passport charges.

Only a few spectators were on hand when Ray arrived from Wandsworth Prison in a black Maria escorted by three Jaguar police cruisers.

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LAWSON

FBI

Date: 7/16/68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: ALL SACs
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Memphis, 7/9/68.

The Bureau has requested that all divisions continue to submit monthly cost data until further notice.

In view of the above, all divisions are requested to comply with the Bureau's instructions, including offices who have negative cost data to report.

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[Handwritten signature]

2 - ALL OFFICES
2 - Memphis
RFB:jap
(4)

Approved: *R. Jensen* Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

Ray's Attorney Protests Flight Plans A-3

By Karl E. Meyer

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, July 17—James Earl Ray's American attorney angrily asserted today that his client's constitutional rights were being violated by a decision in Washington to fly the accused man back to the United States without a lawyer at his side.

Arthur J. Hanes demanded that he be allowed aboard the extradition flight, and told a press conference that Ray feared being alone with Justice Department officials while he is being returned to face charges in the April 4 slaying in Memphis, slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes, arrived here this morning following Ray's deci-

sion not to appeal a British extradition order and spent 40 minutes with the prisoner.

Of Ray's decision, which clears the way for his return on Thursday or Friday, Hanes said: "This man is innocent and we want to get back to Memphis and prove this as soon as possible."

He went on to criticize "the unprecedented, vicious and libelous press and television campaign (in the United States) to portray him as a convicted murderer, a monster."

Hanes said that with Ray's approval he had appealed directly to Attorney General Ramsey Clark for permission to fly back with his client.

The Alabaman said his request

was "in keeping with our Supreme Court decisions holding that no agent of the law has the right to question a suspect except in the presence of the suspect's attorney." Under questioning, he acknowledged that no specific high court ruling dealt with the transportation of a suspect.

U.S. Embassy officials declined to comment on Hanes's complaints, saying that any statement must come from Washington.

A second legal complaint made by Hanes was that the day after Ray's arrest at London Airport on June 8, the accused man was "seen" by Fred M. Vinson Jr., head of the criminal division of the Justice Department. Vinson has denied that he talked with Ray without legal counsel

being present and said that in using the word "seen" he meant only to say that he looked at the cell and glimpsed the prisoner inside.

A remaining formality in British courts will take place Thursday morning when Bow Street Police Court will consider disposition of two lesser charges against Ray, the allegations that he carried a forged passport and possessed a revolver without a permit. It is expected that the charges will be adjourned sine die, meaning that they will cause no delay in his extradition.

The final approval of the extradition order rests with Home Secretary James Callaghan, who will probably approve the U.S. request for Ray's return on Thursday.

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Lawson Rnd

Bad Times

JAMES EARL RAY, who has given up his fight against extradition to America to stand trial for the slaying of Martin Luther King Jr., could be in Memphis, Tenn., by this week-end, his British lawyer said.

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Sawyer

Extradition Fight Off, Ray's Return Due Soon

LONDON (AP) — American authorities pursued top secret plans today for a quick return to the United States of James Earl Ray to face trial for the assassination in Memphis, Tenn., of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray could be on his way by tonight or early tomorrow.

"I suspect the first word that Ray has left London will be news of his actual arrival in Memphis," one source said.

Ray cleared the way for his return by signing a declaration yesterday that he did not want to appeal the order for his extradition issued July 2 by London's chief magistrate, Frank Milton.

(His U.S. lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes Sr., said after visiting him for 45 minutes at London's Wandsworth Prison today that Ray wanted to return to the United States immediately. "So my client and I can begin without further delay to combat and counteract the unprecedented, vicious and libelous press and television campaign to portray him as a convicted murderer, a monster, a degenerate and a dope addict.")

(Hanes said Ray is innocent of the King murder and referred to the prisoner as "R. G. Sneyd," the alias on the passport Ray used and the name under which he was held in Britain, United Press International reported.)

(The lawyer, former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., said the visit of U.S. Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr. to London, where he was allowed to see Ray but not to talk with him, "was high-handed and wrong and I think highly prejudicial." He charged that Vinson's action in seeing Ray violated Ray's constitutional rights and U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

(Ray has asked Justice De-

partment authorities that Hanes accompany him at all times in the extradition process, Hanes said.)

The 40-year-old prisoner, a fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary, spent his remaining hours in prison under heavy guard.

Informed sources speculated that Ray would be flown back with a heavy guard aboard a U.S. military plane or a chartered civilian jet. They indicated Hanes would not be allowed to accompany him.

Home Secretary James Callaghan was to sign the order for Ray's extradition. He would then be delivered to U.S. Justice Department officials for the trans-Atlantic flight.

Ray's decision not to appeal the extradition order came after a routine court hearing yesterday at which he sat quietly while his British lawyers agreed to have him held in prison another eight days on charges he entered Britain on a forged Canadian passport and carried an unlicensed gun.

These were the charges on which he was arrested June 8 at London Airport, ending a two-month, worldwide search following the slaying of the civil rights leader April 4.

Ray's British lawyers had been preparing an appeal based on the contention that King's slaying was a political crime and that Ray therefore could not be extradited under British law. A hearing on the appeal had been tentatively set for June 29 even though it had not yet been filed.

In his declaration saying he would submit to extradition, Ray wrote: "I have made this decision after considering all the facts, and I believe that this is the best course of action for me to adopt."

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FBI - WASH

~~SECRET~~ Legat, Bern (88-21)

July 17, 1968

Director, FBI (44-38861)

~~MURKIN~~
MURKIN

~~REGISTERED MAIL~~

Attached is the translation which you requested by letter dated **6/26/68**.

The contents thereof, where pertinent, must be reported under appropriate captions and afforded whatever investigative attention is necessary.

Disposition of the foreign language material submitted in this connection is set forth below:

Retained in Bufile.

- ① - Washington Field - Enclosures (2) (1 translation, 1 relet)

Enc. (2)

44-703-736

PPH PPH

JUL 21 1968

FBI - WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE

Dawson

TRANSLATION FROM FRENCH

Republic and Canton of Geneva

Department of Justice and
Police

Police Department
Safety

Geneva, June 15, 1968

REPORT BY INSPECTOR THOMKINS TO THE CHIEF OF THE SAFETY POLICE

PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATION:

Item No. 20-724, Federal Police Division, Bern, reference
B-12220 HPW.

Request to investigate the possibility of the presence in Geneva of
James Earl Ray.

On June 13, 1968, the Federal Police Division in Bern transmitted
to us by mail a request by the FBI dated June 4, 1968. The request was for the
identification of an American observed in the Landolt Restaurant one Saturday
evening toward the end of April. The subject answered the description of the
alleged assassin of Doctor Martin Luther King, a subject named:

JAMES EARL RAY

alias

ERIC STARVO GALT
W. C. HERRON
HARVEY LOWMYER
JAMES O'CONNOR or O'CONNER
JAMES WALTON
JAMES WALYON
JAMES MC BRIDE
JAMES WILLARD
"JIM"

In the first place, I wish to point out that according to the press, James Earl Ray was arrested in London on Saturday, June 8, 1968, under the following alias:

RAYMON GEORGE SNEYD

or

RAYMON GEORGE SNEYDA

The request of the FBI specified that their Washington office had received, on May 14, 1968, an anonymous telephone call from a man who claimed to be a journalist. This man had just had a conversation with certain persons who likewise desired to remain anonymous. These persons believed to have seen -- at the Landolt Restaurant in Geneva, one Saturday evening toward the end of April 1968 -- an American answering James Earl Ray's description. They furnished the following information:

The unknown subject had entered the restaurant with a man and an approximately forty-year-old woman with blond-tinted hair. The two persons in the unknown subject's company appeared to be Swiss. The American was well dressed and had a mid-west accent. His language was coarse and vulgar. He appeared to desire the services of a prostitute. The previously mentioned blond woman suggested a homosexual dressed up as a woman, but he replied that he wanted a woman. The American ordered expensive and exotic dishes which the restaurant personnel had to go get elsewhere. The personnel in attendance were very solicitous but did not appear to know the American. The unknown blond must have been acquainted with the maitre d'hotel because she kissed him before leaving the restaurant with her two escorts.

The inquiries made of Mr. Francis Longchamp, operator of the Landolt Beer Garden, 2 Rue de Candolle, near the University, did not provide confirmation of the facts described above. It is to be noted that the clientele is a very cosmopolitan clientele and that it includes many Americans, but the restaurant never had to send elsewhere for exotic dishes. As to the old maitre d'hotel who knows the employees and clientele very well, he has no recollection of having been kissed by a forty-year-old blond woman in the restaurant.

The same inquiries were made in the Buffet de la Gare des Eaux-Vives, whose operator is Mr. Charles Landolt, a chef specialized in Oriental dishes. It is a small restaurant just as renowned and with a clientele which is just as cosmopolitan (as the above beer garden). Regrettably enough, the book of table reservations from April 4 to April 29, 1968, has been destroyed. In this

restaurant, the customers are waited on by waitresses and there is neither a first-class chef nor a maitre d'hotel. However, the owner, wearing a chef's apron, remembers having been kissed several times by unknown females pleased with his cuisine.

Mr. Landolt made it clear that he had never had any exotic dishes brought into his place from the outside. Quite the opposite is true. People come to him to get them there because this is his specialty.

In short, with the information available to us, it has not been possible to establish the identity of the unknown American subject.

A search of our hotel reservation card file for the name James Earl Ray, his known aliases and the name Raymon George Sneyd or Sneyda has yielded no results. Even so, we wish to point out that from April 2 to April 4, 1968, the Hotel Intercontinental had a guest named:

James Cyril O'Connor
Born: [redacted] in Ceylon, Canada,
Residing at 180 Iowa Street, Ottawa,

stating he had arrived from London, passport number SP-21440.

I wish to recall that on April 30, 1968, Inspector Marchesi of the Federal Police informed our services that an American woman thought she had seen James Earl Ray in the company of another American woman on Saturday, April 27, 1968, at 2:00 p.m., in the Restaurant Movenpick, in Geneva. The inquiries made there yielded no results and no concrete element was picked up.

Mr. James Earl Ray is listed on the MSP 1967, page 938, item 7-4317, an arrest warrant has been issued against him, the charge is assault with a deadly weapon and suspicion of assassination committed in the United States. Prior to this listing, the subject had never been involved in cases handled by our services.

SIGNED:

E. (?) Thomkins

JAMES EARL RAY
born: [redacted]
Quincy or Alton County, Illinois
American, baker, laborer