

Case Number:

89-WF-506

Serial(s):

36

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 5/23/77

DOTIE ROSS, Special Assistant to Congresswoman CARDISS COLLINS, Cannon Office Building, Room 113, Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. (WDC), telephone 225-5006, was interviewed at her place of employment by SAs GARY N. FAVITTA and WILLIAM J. MULLIN. At the time of the interview, RICHARD F. XANDER, Lieutenant, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), detailed to the U.S. Capitol Police, and Detective CLAY MOHLER, U.S. Capitol Police, telephone 225-9251, were also present. ROSS was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and the nature of the interview. Thereafter, ROSS provided the following information:

ROSS advised that at approximately 12:30 p.m. on May 6, 1977, a phone call was received by DEBORAH WALKER, receptionist, from an unidentified individual who asked for CARDISS. ROSS advised that any time an individual called and asked for Congresswoman CARDISS COLLINS, the call is automatically transferred to her, in view of the fact that she handles all the personal business for COLLINS. ROSS further explained that she screens all incoming calls before they get to COLLINS. ROSS stated that at the time the call came in, the number that was used was a public number which is listed in the telephone directory and on all public letterhead that is used by Congresswoman COLLINS. She further explained that the telephone number that was used was 225-5006.

ROSS advised that after the call was transferred to her, an individual on the other end identifying himself as a BASIL CORNFIELD stated "Tell CARDISS I had something to do with the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR." He then advised he would be giving himself up on Monday, May 9, 1977, at 2:00 p.m., at Congresswoman COLLINS' office. ROSS then stated that she asked the individual if he knew where the office was located, and he replied that he did, the Cannon Office Building, Room 113. ROSS then advised that abruptly, the individual said, "Take this address," and he then gave 320 New Orleans Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana. ROSS stated that the

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 by SAs GARY N. FAVITTA and WILLIAM J. MULLIN GNF:cmh Date dictated 5/9/77

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individual then advised if COLLINS did not follow his orders, she would be killed also. ROSS stated at that point, she tried to converse with the individual and get a phone number from him, but he then suddenly hung up.

ROSS advised that it sounded like the phone call was long distance, in view of the fact that there was static on the phone line. She further explained that she was not sure, but she believed it sounded like a white male.

ROSS advised that at the present time, Congresswoman COLLINS was in Chicago, Illinois, and was unaware of the threat that was made against her. She explained that when COLLINS is in Chicago, she usually stays at her home, which is located at 1438 South Ridge Way, Chicago, Illinois. ROSS advised that COLLINS is scheduled to leave Chicago on Sunday, May 8, 1977, from O'hare International Airport in Chicago, leaving Chicago at 7:10 p.m. via TWA flight 438, and arriving Washington National Airport at 9:28 p.m. ROSS further explained that COLLINS was holding an additional flight out of O'hare Airport, leaving Chicago at 3:45 p.m. on TWA flight 414, and arriving Washington National at 6:25 p.m. ROSS explained that the holding flight would be used only if COLLINS could get away earlier from Chicago than anticipated. ROSS then advised that when COLLINS arrived at Washington National, she would then be taken to her apartment at 4701 Willard Avenue, Apartment 1716, Bethesda, Maryland. ROSS stated that anytime COLLINS travels, she usually has someone that will drive her from one point to another.

ROSS stated that the only itinerary that she was aware of that Congresswoman COLLINS would follow while in Chicago was on Saturday, May 7, 1977, where COLLINS was to appear at a workshop from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m., at the Pick Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. ROSS advised that any other plans that COLLINS may have were not definite at this time. She did advise, however, that COLLINS may spend some time at her Congressional office, which is located at 3851 Roosevelt Road, Chicago, Illinois. ROSS advised that at the time of this interview, COLLINS was currently meeting with the Mayor of Chicago, and was

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unaware of the threat against her. She further advised that a message had been left with the Mayor's office to have COLLINS contact her as soon as she arrived at the office.

In the presence of interviewing Agents and DOTIE ROSS, Detective XANDER telephonically contacted the Chicago Police Department, and spoke with Captain LYONS, First District, and advised him of the threat against Congresswoman COLLINS. At that time, Captain LYONS telephonically advised XANDER that he would personally contact the Mayor's Office in Chicago, and advise COLLINS of the threat against her. After speaking with LYONS, XANDER also contacted Detective IWANOWSKI, Intelligence Division, Chicago Police Department, and also advised him of the situation. It was determined that the Intelligence Division would handle the dissemination of the information to the appropriate agencies.

ROSS advised that she was aware that an additional threat had also been made on Congressman DIGGS, and advised that DIGGS and COLLINS are both on the same Congressional subcommittee on African Affairs. ROSS further advised that Congresswoman COLLINS has nothing to do with the investigation into the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and ~~JOHN F. KENNEDY~~. ROSS also stated that COLLINS is representing the Seventh District, Chicago, Illinois.

In conclusion, ROSS advised that she could furnish no additional information regarding the telephone call, and stated that she could be contacted at her residence at 2037 Chadwick Terrace, Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, telephone 894-1828.