

~~SECRET~~CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505Rev  
5/2/68

O MURKIN

16 MAY 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Attention: Mr. S.J. PapichMcGowan  
LofSUBJECT : Investigation in Japan of Report on Suspicious  
Actions of Gerald Lee Richards, Originally  
Described as Resembling Suspected Assassin of  
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.1. Reference is made to the report concerning the above  
subject made by telephone to Mr. S.J. Papich at 0930 on 17 April  
1968. Following is a full account of the investigation made in  
this case:

JAPAN

CALIF.

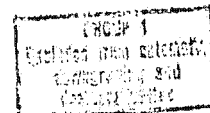
A. On 16 April 1968 a United States National Maritime Union official in Yokohama reported that one Gerald Lee Richards, who bore a general physical resemblance to the description given of the suspected assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. had arrived in Japan about 15 April 1968 and requested a position aboard any ship going anywhere. Richards became agitated when asked for a contact address in Japan and refused to divulge his Japanese residence. The National Maritime Union official described Richards as 5' 10" tall, 155 pounds, with brown hair, a receding hairline on both sides, and a not very prominent scar two and one-half inches long traversing the center forehead; his most outstanding characteristic being a disconcerting, idiotic grin resembling a constant grimace. According to Richards' documents and statements, he was born 8 April 1937, applied for seaman's papers in San Pedro, California, 16 June 1964 and registered there as a United States National Maritime Union member on 21 February 1968 but never shipped out. His Social Security Number is 562-46-5078; his United States Coast Guard Number Z-2711-782.

ALL FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 10/10/01 BY SPICER/SPKcc Delivered, CRD  
2258 716

REC 11

14 MAY 22 1968

66 MAY 20 1968

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

B. A subsequent check with the Japanese National Police Agency confirmed the biographic data supplied by the National Maritime Union official. A ward check indicated that Richards originally resided in Japan from 1963 to 1964 and married TAKAYAMA Michiko in 1963. Both Richards and his wife left Japan for the United States in 1964. Richards returned alone to Japan about 15 April 1968. His wife's address in the United States is listed as 160 Hosoi (phonetic) Street, Carpinteria, California, 93013.

C. A photograph of Richards obtained from the Japanese police was shown to the National Maritime Union official and identified by him as the individual in subparagraph 1A above who had applied for a seaman's berth. The photograph of Richards bears no apparent resemblance to photographs of suspected assassin James Earl Ray provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

2. The above information has been given to the Legal Attache of the United States Embassy in Tokyo.

FOR THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR PLANS:

*James A. Angleton*  
JAMES ANGLETON

CSCI-316/01774-68

~~SECRET~~