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FBI

Transmit in PLAINTEXT Via FACSIMILE URGENT
 (Type in plaintext or code) (Priority)

To: SACs Boston (Enclosures 3)
 Columbia (Enclosures 3)

030

-4/26/74
(Date)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Enclosed are communications from the Department.

For info of receiving offices you will note the Civil Rights Division requests we interview appropriate Bureau personnel concerning comments made in correspondence from Bernard Fensterwald, attorney for James Earl Ray. Fensterwald asserts that based on correspondence of George McMillan which he obtained, authors Gerold Frank, William Bradford Huie and McMillan have had access to FBI reports in the King assassination case. In the letter referred to, McMillan states "sometime before I write this section I am going to Memphis and look at the FBI file on the case; that's been made available to me. Knowing what I know some of the things in that file might look different to me from what they looked to Frank and Huie."

Bufiles show McMillan has contacted the Bureau previously for information on the Ray case and other Civil Rights cases and there is no indication that he has been furnished information by the Bureau from Bureau files. Our files do show that in January, 1971, in response to his request for data in the Ray case, the Civil Rights Division of the Department advised McMillan that the only information which could be made available to him consisted of documents filed on behalf of the States of Tennessee and Missouri in the extradition proceeding against Ray in British Court.

Appropriate personnel at the Bureau and in the Memphis Office advise that they have no information that Bureau reports were furnished McMillan, Frank or Huie in this matter.

(Do not type below this line.)

1 - Memphis (Info) (Enclosures 3)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
 COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

285
 APR 26 1974

TELETYPE

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

APR 24 1974

JED:FDA:SR:hmp

J. Stanley Postinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DJ 44-72-652

Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reference is made to your investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bureau file #44-38861, and the attached correspondence between this Division and Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, attorney for James Earl Ray.

Mr. Fensterwald asserts that authors Gerald Frank, William Bradford Huie and George McMillan have had access to FBI reports in connection with this matter.

Please interview the appropriate Bureau personnel who may have information, or comments, with regard to Mr. Fensterwald's assertion and advise us whether there is any indication that these authors had access to the reports as asserted.

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 24 1974

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Law Offices
Fensterwald and Chlhausen
910 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

This is to reply to your letter of March 27, 1974, enclosing a letter from one George McMillan to [REDACTED] [REDACTED], and requesting access to our investigative file pertaining to the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King.

As an investigative file pertaining to a possible violation of federal criminal statutes, this material is specifically exempted from disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. See 5 U.S.C. §552. Any disclosure of the contents of this file would be contrary to Department policy and regulations.

I regret that we could not be of more assistance.

Sincerely,

K. William O'Connor
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Law Offices
FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

210 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 322-1857

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN
GORDON F. HARRISON
OF COUNSEL

NEW YORK ASSOCIATES
BARRY S. ULLMAN
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

March 27, 1974

Mr. William O'Connor
550 11th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

I enclose a copy of a letter which I obtained, and which should be of interest to you. It is from George McMillan, well known writer and hopeful biographer of James Earl Ray; it is to [REDACTED] James's brother.

As you will note, McMillan claims access to the FBI file and asserts that both Gerold Frank and William Huie had access.

If this is true, and I have reason to believe it is true at least in the cases of Huie and Frank, I believe that I, as Ray's attorney, am entitled to access. In fact, I believe I'm entitled under the FOI Act as an individual. It would be to everyone's advantage, I believe, to let me examine it quietly rather than after a big, public flap.

Would you look into this and take it up with your elders.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Bud
Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crf
Encl
PS.

Despite our best efforts, Ray is still in solitary;
starting his 10th month.

We go to Houston to depose Percy Foreman on April 2, 1974
Oh joy!!

144-72-662
APR 2 1974
FBI - NEW YORK
RECEIVED
APR 2 1974
FBI - NEW YORK
RECEIVED

GEORGE McMILLAN
12 HILLIARD STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138
PHONE 877-547-4260

Sept 14, 1973

Dear [REDACTED]

That was a good letter you wrote about the blackberries, etc. Peacock is now living in Lewiston, not far from Ewing. I heard that his wife is an alcoholic and that he isn't doing much of anything himself.

My lawsuit to see you goes on, in fact my lawyers expect some kind of decision from the federal judge here in Boston within next two weeks. But, even if he acts in my favor, the government has recourses which will still delay my seeing you. I am now well along with my book and am working against a hard deadline of March 15, 1973. It is the absolute last date on which I can do anything with my manuscript. That means it will be published in the Fall of 1974, about a year from now. Book publishing is a very slow affair.

The thing I want to talk with you about now is xxxxxxxx about what went on between you and Jimmy and [REDACTED] and Jimmy in that year between the time he escaped from Jeff City and was arrested in London. I especially want to know about the time between Jeff City and Memphis. What I most want to do is check with you the story Jerry told me in Chicago in the summer of 1972 when I went out there two times to interview him. He told me one hell of a lot stuff. Then he sent me a tape on which he said he had conned me. I put all the stuff I got from him aside, telling myself it was probably all a lot of shit. Then the other day I looked at it again, read it all over carefully. I changed my mind about it. I decided that Jerry had told me the truth, that all the stuff was pretty much true, that maybe he had lied to me about some names, invented something here or there, but that the general story he told me was true. That's what I believe now, and I mean to use the stuff.

But I want to check it as much as I can. I've already checked a couple of things & they've turned out to be true. Sometime before I write this section I am going to Memphis and look at the FBI file on the case; that's been made available to me. Knowing what I know now of the things in that file, that file might look different to me from what they looked to Frank and Hula.

(More)

PS I thought a man named Carson ran the pool hall? Or did Carson own it and Pat run it? Did he come before or after Pat Brown?

GEORGE MANNING
12 WILLIARD STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASS. 02138
PHONE 617-547-6260

What I would like more than anything is to check Jerry's story with you. What do you think about doing it by mail? I've just been taking for granted that this is something you wouldn't want to write me about. Am I wrong? Let me know. If it's OK with you, it's OK with me.

And I will pay you something for your help. Not a big sum. And I won't pay in advance. I've been had too often for that. But I will pay as we go along.

And if we don't do it now, I don't know when we will ever do it. Time is running out for me. And I'm going to use something so it might as well be the straight story.

I would like to talk with Jimmy. The Tennessee officials have given me permission. But Jimmy won't see me, just as he hasn't seen any writer. [redacted] says that if Jimmy's current appeal is turned down in Cincinnati that Jimmy is going to talk, hold a press conference. Well, I doubt that there would be much for me in that press conference. Both Stoner and Foreman have urged Jimmy to talk with me but Fensterwald does not want him to.

I think he should. Mine is the last book that's going to be done in the foreseeable future. And he can't sell another "story" like he sold to Huie. Nobody is going to pay him anymore unless they check the story in advance. Oh, maybe some TV network might pay him a relatively small sum for an on-camera interview. But that wouldn't help anybody.

One more question. Do you have any pictures of your family? Your mother? Any old pictures of any kind of any member of the family?

Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
GM

Mr. [redacted] #66798
Marion
Illinois

FS is moving South Octobr 1st so answer this letter to
me at
Coffin Point
Progreso, South Carolina 29920

Law Office
HENDERWALD & OHLHAUSEN
915 15TH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20005



GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

Mr. William O'Connor
~~550 11th Street, N.W.~~
Washington, D.C.

20530

GROUP 1 EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC att SA Richard M Kirby (157-644)

FROM : SA John E Keary

SUBJECT: Murkin

DATE: 6/7/68.

Rememo to all agents dated 5/23/68.

On dates indicated the following contacts were made with lower class rooming houses, all with negative results:-

Kennmore Hotel	144 Third St.,	Fall River Mass.	(6/6/68)
Hotel Quaker	104 Second St.	" "	(")
Hotel Plaza	379 S Main St.	" "	(")
Drake Hotel	427 S Main St.	" "	(")
Harris Hotel	965 Purchase St.	New Bedford, Mass.	(6/7/68)
Hotel Atlantic	420 Purchase St.	" "	(")
Hotel Harvey	151 Middle St.	" "	(")
New Bedford Mens Mission	151 N 2nd St.	" "	(")

157-644-286
JH
7M

George Mc Millan called
Boston Office two hours later
and asked that he be contacted
for interview 4-29-74..

Boston will ~~perform~~ interview
Mc Millan 4-29-74 ~~for~~
to resolve any possible
allegation that he may

Have received Bureau
reports on the matter

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC att SA Richard M. Kirby (157-644) DATE: 6/7/68

FROM : SA John E. Keary

SUBJECT: Murkin

Rememo of Supv Bernard T McCabe dated 5/21/68.

The following Medical Examiners were contacted on 6/7/68 and all advised they knew of no unidentified male corpses since 4/5/68:-

Dr. Stanley KOCZERA, 36 E. Clinton St, New Bedford, Mass.

Dr. Othelia PETRONE 140 Winter St. Fall River, Mass.

Dr. William H Bennett Jr. 79 Church Green, Taunton, Mass.

Dr. Raymond Baxter, 12 South St., Marion Mass.

Dr. William C. Gould 214 Main St., Kingston, Mass.

157-644-287
X
X
X
X
X

157

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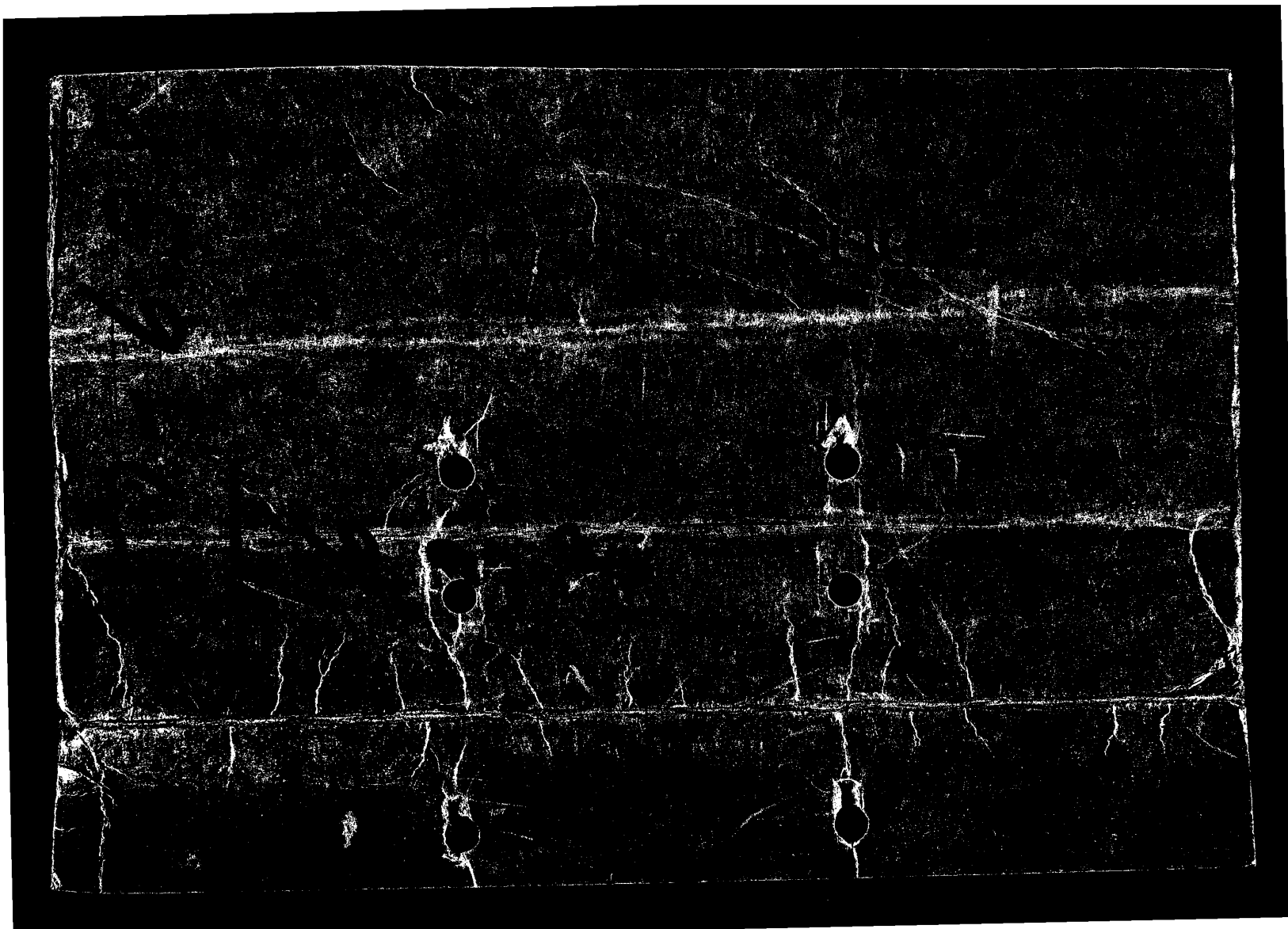
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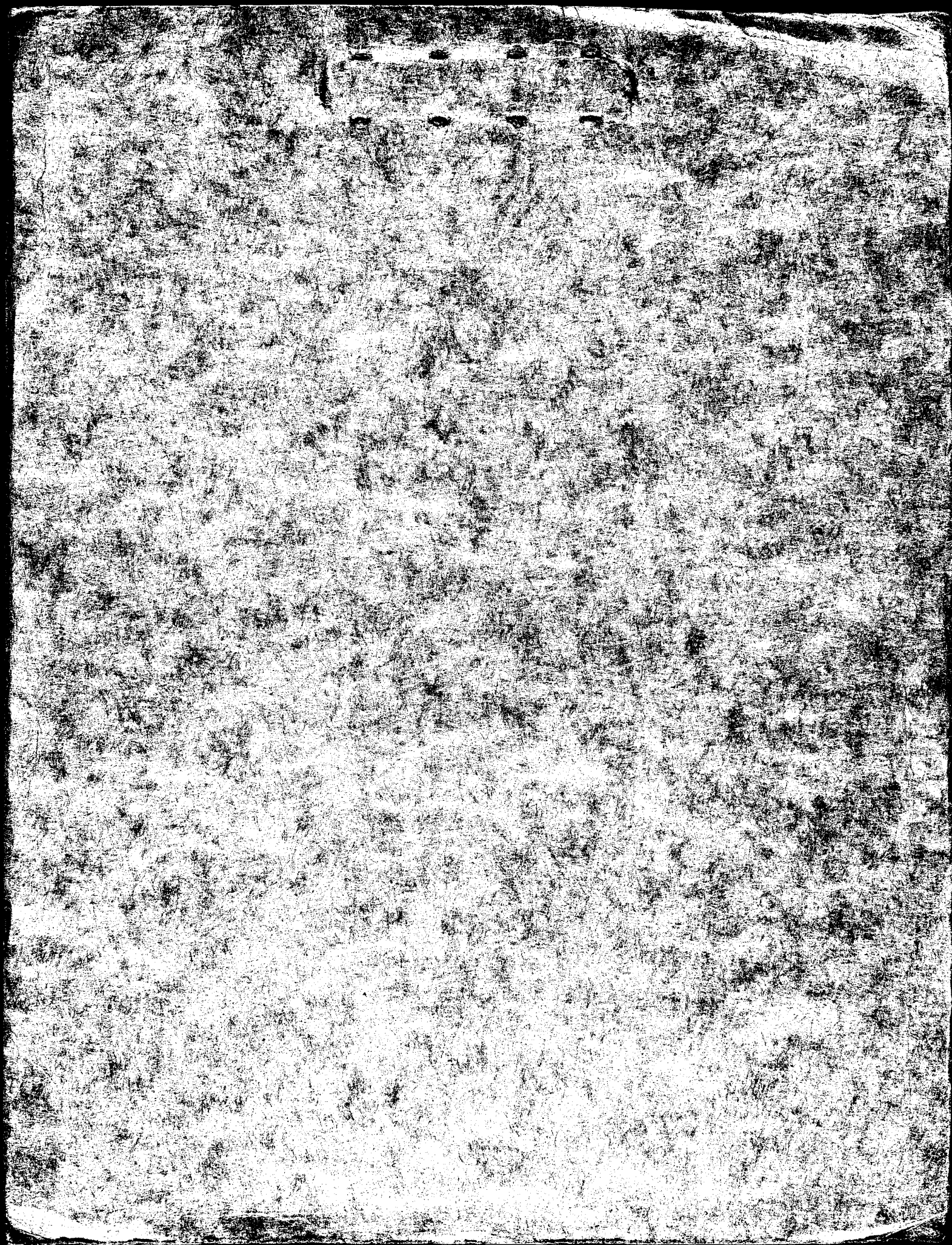
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