

F B I

Transmit in \_\_\_\_\_ Via airtel \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code) (Precedence)2/17/76

(Date)

To: SAC, Albany

*Crnk*  
From: Director, FBIMARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW  
COST DATAReBunitel 12/12/75. Reports concerning cost data  
on captioned matter may be discontinued.

2 - Each Field Office

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157-61-198

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FEB 20 1976	
FBI - SAN JUAN	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, SAN JUAN (157-61)

FROM : SUPERVISOR ROBERT H. DWYER

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
BUFILE 44-38861

DATE: 5/20/76

Re phone call from Bureau Supervisor, HAL N. HELTERHOFF, Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, to San Juan, 5/17/76.

Referenced phone call referred to our case captioned OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE; Senator EDWARD M. KENNEDY - VICTIM, POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL ASSASINATION MATTER, SJ 89-0-41, and directed that a summary of the facts in the MOORE case be submitted to the Bureau <sup>and</sup> an LHM captioned Assasination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and that it is sufficient to summarize the teletypes in the MOORE matter in this LHM. The LHM should be forwarded to the Bureau with a covering airtel captioned MURKIN.

The Bureau further advised that this LHM should in no way be construed as impinging on the 89 investigation and that investigation should continue on any leads that have been deemed logical.

*djm*  
1-157-61  
1-89-0-41  
RHD:djm  
(2)



5010-108-02

*Re O*  
*A*

157-61-199

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAY 20 1976	
FBI - SAN JUAN	

*Wood* *RAW*  
*see me pls*

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

6/14/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, SAN JUAN (157-61) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone from Bureau Supervisor HAL N. HELTERHOFF, Civil Rights Unit, 5/17/76.

Enclosed herein are five copies of an LHM dated and captioned as "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO."

The representative of Secret Service referred to in the enclosed LHM is SA ROBERT OBERHOLTZ. The representatives of the FBI referred to in the enclosed LHM are SAs DENNIS W. BRAIDEN and BRUCE M. DOVE.

Insofar as no further investigation is contemplated in this matter at San Juan, this case is accordingly placed in a closed status at San Juan.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)  
2 - San Juan  
(1 - 89-0-41)

RCW/pms  
(4) *[signature]*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

*[Handwritten marks and a large 'C' shape are present around the stamp.]*

*Wood RCW*

*[Handwritten initials]*

*157-61-200*

6/14/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, SAN JUAN (157-61) (RM)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone from Bureau Supervisor E. H. HEISTERHOFF, Civil Rights Unit, 5/17/76.

Enclosed herein are five copies of an LHM dated and captioned as "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AT SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO."

The representative of Secret Service referred to in the enclosed LHM is SA ROBERT OBERHOLTZ. The representatives of the FBI referred to in the enclosed LHM are SAs DENNIS W. BRAIDEN and BRUCE M. DOVE.

Insofar as no further investigation is contemplated in this matter at San Juan, this case is accordingly placed in a closed status at San Juan.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 5) (RM)

2 - San Juan

(1) - 89-0-41)

RCW/pms

(4)

SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒

157-61-200



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Charlotte, North Carolina

March 22, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

On January 28, 1977, Dr. EUGENE V. GRACE, Eye Surgeon, 911 North Broad Street, Durham, North Carolina, who also operates Moore Publishing Company, 907 North Broad Street, reported receipt of a telephone contact on January 27, 1977, from OTIS MOORE, Lomas Verdes Number 40, San Juan, Puerto Rico, telephone number 780-4533, offering GRACE an opportunity to publish a book by MOORE. MOORE identified himself as a retired United States Army Master Sergeant. He stated in his book, he identified the assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and implied this assassin had first sought to hire MOORE for the assassination. MOORE, during his telephone call, claimed to have previously reported this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and said KELLEY had assigned him a file number. MOORE stated he was in contact with other prospective publishers. He also claimed correspondence with United States Senators FRANK CHURCH and EDWARD KENNEDY. During his call, MOORE said he felt his life was in danger.

GRACE indicated there was a possibility he would be back in contact with OTIS MOORE about January 30, 1977, concerning publication of the book referred to by MOORE.

On March 17, 1977, Dr. GRACE advised he had not had any contact with OTIS MOORE during the latter part of January or early February, as previously proposed. However, since GRACE had returned to Durham, North Carolina, in mid-February, 1977, MOORE had contacted GRACE's residence at Durham, North Carolina, on two occasions. During one of these calls during the latter part of February, 1977, MOORE told GRACE's wife he was staying in Alexandria, Virginia, and was trying to arrange for an appearance before the United States House Committee conducting investigation into the death of

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OF THE FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR AGENCY; IT  
AND ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE  
YOUR AGENCY.



SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
MAR 26 1977	
FBI - SAN JUAN	

157-61209

JAMES EARL RAY.

MARTIN LUTHER KING. He indicated his intention to stay in the Washington area until someone heard his story. He left a telephone number for GRACE to reach him in Alexandria, but later when GRACE called this number, he determined that the number was to a pay telephone and that MOORE was not available there. During the other telephone contact at about the same time, MOORE stated that he was currently preparing the manuscript for his book. GRACE indicated a desire to see this manuscript when it was completed. Since that call, GRACE has written to MOORE in Puerto Rico to indicate again an interest in seeing the completed manuscript. MOORE, in his conversations, again indicated he had corresponded with Senator FRANK CHURCH and Senator EDWARD KENNEDY. GRACE stated since that time he has had no additional contact with MOORE, and noted that he had never had any personal contact with MOORE, nor had MOORE indicated any intention of visiting GRACE in Durham, North Carolina.

Dr. GRACE did not know if MOORE appeared before the House Committee in 1977.

2\*

F B I

Date: **3/22/77**Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)

From: SAC, **CHARLOTTE (44-1365)(RUC)**

Subject: **MURKIN**

157-61

## ATTENTION:

☒ GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION  
☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION  
☐ CRIMINAL SECTION  
☐ INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

☒ CR ☐ EL ☐ DIH ☐ CRA-64  
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF ☐ E  
☐ DAMV ☐ DAMV-FR ☐ CAA  
☐ AP ☐ IWFC ☐ CWAA ☐ FI  
☐ EID ☐ Bomb Threats ☐ Extremist Matters  
☐ White Hate ☐ Black

## Summary of Complaint:

Re Charlotte teletype to Bureau, 1/28/77.

OTIS MOORE, Lomas Verdes Number 40, San Juan, Puerto Rico, has been in telephonic contact with Dr. EUGENE V. GRACE at Durham, North Carolina, operator of the Moore Publishing Company, to sell a manuscript to GRACE by MOORE in which MOORE states he identified assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and implied this assassin had first sought to hire MOORE for the assassination.

INDICES: ☐ Negative ☐ See Summary

## ACTION: UACB:

3-Bureau (Encs. 5) ☒ No further action being taken and  
 2-Memphis (44-1987) ☒ LHM enclosed ☐ Copy to: ☐ USA  
 (Encs. 2) ☐ FD-376 (Enc. to LHM) ☐ Secret Service  
 1-San Juan (Info.) ☐ LHM being submitted ☐ ATF  
 (Enc. 1) ☐ Report being submitted  
 1-Charlotte ☐ Preliminary investigation instituted  
 GSM:let ☐ Limited investigation instituted  
 (7) ☐ Investigation continuing

157-61-210

SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAR 26 1977	
FBI - SAN JUAN	

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge



CE 44-1363

ADMINISTRATIVE:

By teletype to the Bureau, dated 1/28/77, Memphis advised the OTIS MOORE referred to appears to be identical with OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE, born 12/23/27, at Elaine, Arkansas, a white male, Army serial number RA 18328349, SSAN [REDACTED] who on 5/13/76, in part related that in 1963, while drinking in a bar in Temple, Texas, MOORE was engaged in conversation by two unknown males who offered MOORE \$50,000.00 to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. One of those present was identified by MOORE as "a multi-millionaire lawyer from Dallas".



HQ0810 1651537

PP AFD

DE KX

P 141455Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7225)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

DOUGLAS SWANE SHELTON, AKA - FUGITIVE; JAMES EARL RAY; ET AL,  
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE, OO: KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT SHELTON APPREHENDED IN A STOLEN AUTOMOBILE BY  
TENN. STATE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS APPROXIMATELY 14 MILES FROM  
THE PRISON.

SHELTON IS THE LAST OF THE ESCAPEES.

KNOXVILLE WILL SUBMIT A SUMMARY AIRTEL IN THIS MATTER.

BT

157-614

157-61-311

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUN 14 1977	
FBI - SAN JUAN	

PH 11/3 1977

# FBI files reveal plot to curtail Dr. King

WASHINGTON (UPI) — An unidentified black leader apparently worked with the FBI in the 1960s in an effort to remove Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from national prominence in the civil rights movement, according to just-released FBI files.

The secret office files belonging to former FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover were obtained under a Freedom of Information Act request made by the Center for National Security Studies, a private organization.

They "reveal the extent to which King and his close associates were perceived as a threat by the FBI and kept under government surveillance during the five-year period before King's assassination" in 1968, the center said.

It said, for instance, a Dec. 1, 1964, interoffice memo to William Sullivan, then No. 3 in the FBI hierarchy indicated "the FBI and a black leader apparently worked together in an effort to eliminate King."

The name of the collaborator was blanked out in the released document.

"(Blank) stated to (Cartha) DeLoach (another top FBI official) that he was faced with the difficult problem of taking steps to remove King from the national picture," a copy of the memo showed. "He indicates in his comments a lack of confidence that he, alone, could be successful. It is therefore suggested that consideration be given to the following course of action:

"That DeLoach have a further discussion with (Blank) and offer to be helpful in connection with the problem of removal of King from the national scene."

The memo then suggested that (Blank) get together with black leaders such as James Farmer and labor leader A. Philip Randolph, and "on a highly confidential basis could brief such a group on the security background of King." The briefing would include "the use of a tape, such as contemplated in your memorandum, with a transcript for convenience in following the tape, (and) should be most convincing."

"This might have the effect of increasing the stature of

(Blank) who is a capable person and is ambitious," it said.

The Senate intelligence committee reported in 1976 that the FBI had "bugged" hotel rooms used by King.

With the purpose of "destroying his marriage," the Senate report said, the FBI mailed King a copy of the recording, with an accompanying note "which Dr. King and his advisers interpreted as threatening to release the tape recording unless Dr. King committed suicide."

Another document made public Sunday referred to the Sept. 9, 1964 "monitoring" at Atlanta, Ga., of a conversation between King and Muhammed Ali, who was then facing federal draft evasion charges. In another document, Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach gave Hoover blanket authority to carry out electronic surveillance in his absence without prior authority as was required at the time.

King was shot and killed in Memphis, Tenn., April 4, 1968. James Earl Ray, an escaped convict, pleaded guilty to the murder and is serving a 99-year prison sentence.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

175-00-40  
157-61\*

157-61-212  
APR 1968  
JPM

Date: 5/20/77	(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)  157-61* 175-00-40
Edition:	
Author:	
Editor:	
Title:	
Character:	Being Investigated
or	
Classification:	
Submitting Office:	

Notification of Document Classification Action  
4-724 (Rev. 2-16-79)

This form is: ☐ Top Secret ☐ Secret ☐ Confidential ☒ Unclassified

TO: SAC:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> SAC, Brooklyn-Queens (MRA) |  |  |

RE:

*Martin Luther King, Jr.*  
*Ended: Post*

Counting of Paragraphs:

Reference-counted as first para.; last para. on page continued to next page counted on first page only; page beginning with continued para. - first full para. counted as para. one; para. followed by (:) - material thereafter counted as part of original para. or referred to as "line \_\_\_\_"; info. not in para. form identified as "line \_\_\_\_", or subject matter.

Bu file 100-106670-4061

Ur file 157-61

If document has been destroyed or cannot be located, reply with FBIHQ is unnecessary.

Date JUN 27 1980

Re: San Juan  
(Division)

- ☐ Report of SA \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Letter ☐ Airtel ☒ Teletype
- ☐ LHM ☐ Memo ☐ Other

To: Dir Dated 12-17-75

☐ Classification retained (see below)

☐ Declassified by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Classified ☐ Top Secret

☐ Upgraded To: ☐ Secret

☐ Downgraded ☒ Confidential

Classified and extended by SP3 on 6-25-80

Reason for extension

FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2. ☐ 1 ☒ 2 ☐ 3

Date of review  
for declassification 12-17-95

(Division)

- ☐ Cover Communication:
- ☐ Letter ☐ Airtel ☐ Report cover pages

To: \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Classification retained (see below)

☐ Declassified by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Classified ☐ Top Secret

☐ Upgraded To: ☐ Secret

☐ Downgraded ☐ Confidential

Classified and extended by \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for extension

FCIM, II, 1-2.4.2. ☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3

Date of review  
for declassification \_\_\_\_\_

The above indicated changes in classification have been made at FBIHQ. You are requested to make the changes indicated on your referenced communication(s) and all other file copies in your division. Advise local agencies previously receiving copies of communication(s) of change(s). This routing slip can be destroyed after changes have been made.

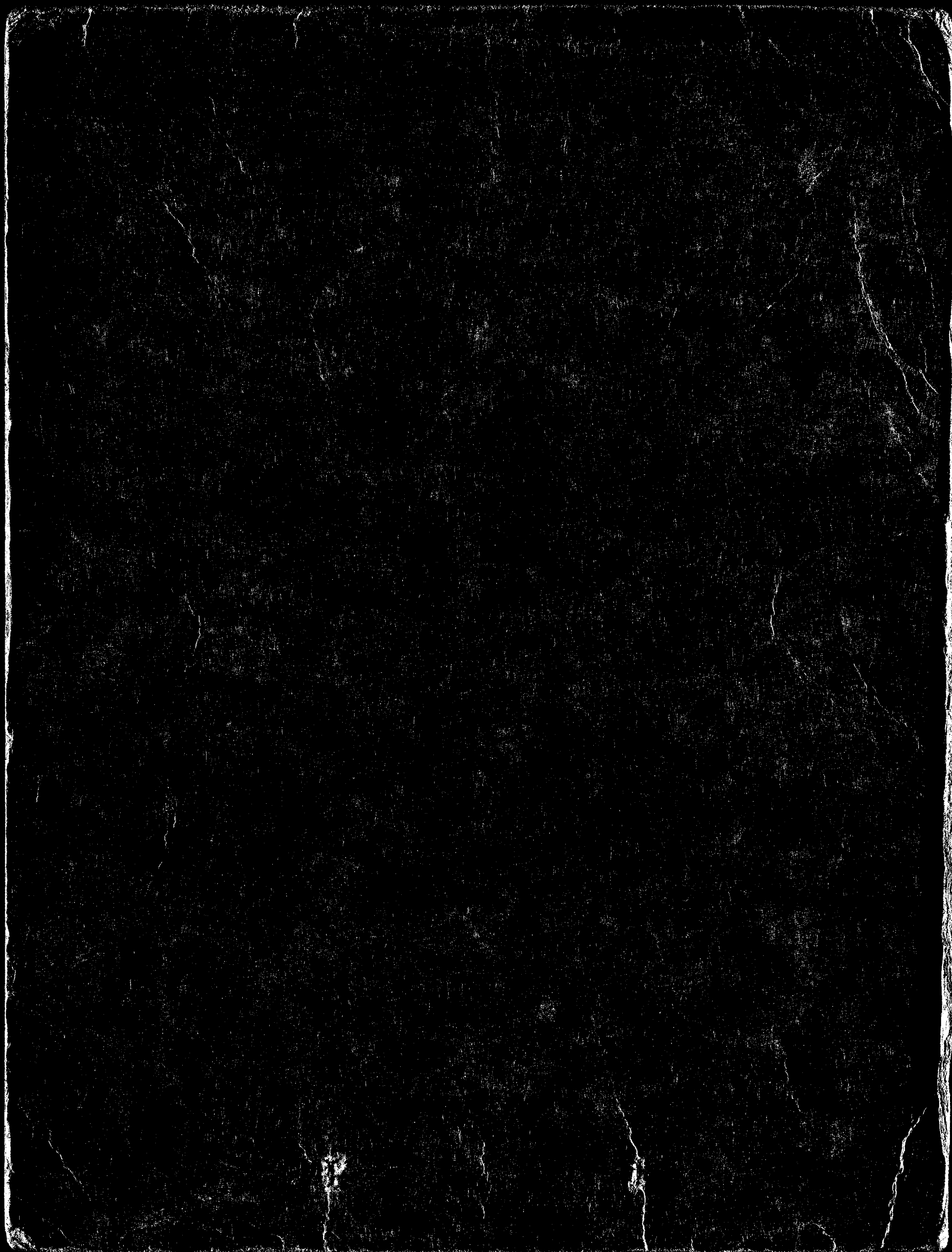
Page	Paragraph	Line	Classification
1	3	157	<input type="checkbox"/> TS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C
2	1		<input type="checkbox"/> TS <input type="checkbox"/> S <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C
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☐ See reverse side for additional listings.

FBIHQ Division 4 ☐ Other ☒ DCRU ☐ Other

This form is: ☐ Top Secret ☐ Secret ☐ Confidential ☒ Unclassified





2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176