

U. S. Department of Justice

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

FEDERAL BUREAU

DO NOT DESTROY - PENDING LITIGATION
of
PS 3212

157-3231

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY - PRESERVE FOR SELECT
SEE SEPARATE COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS
1A VOL.

Volume Number
Serials

DO NOT DESTROY

destroyed 4/2/60

157-3231-414

PENDING LITIGATION #1457

4/12/68

Mc Laugh 4-4-68

See
Current Volume

FBI WASH DC

1004PM URGENT 4-4-68 MMS

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RACIAL MATTERS.

IN VIEW OF POSSIBILITY OF RETALIATORY MEASURES TAKEN
AS RESULT OF THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, IMMEDIATELY ALERT
ALL SOURCES (RACIAL, SECURITY, AND CRIMINAL), WHO ARE IN
POSITION TO POSSIBLY LEARN OF INFORMATION OF THIS NATURE.
ANY PERTINENT INFORMATION DEVELOPED SHOULD RECEIVE EXPEDITIOUS
DISSEMINATION, BOTH LOCALLY AND TO BUREAU.

END

MM RGT

FBI MIAMI

TP MJR

FBI TAMPA

JK CJA

FBI JACKSVLE

CO RCN

FBI-COLUMBIA

SV SPT

FBI SAVANNAH

AT LBN

FBI ATLANTA

TO CLR

FBI-COLUMBIA

R

4/4/68
SAC adv. 10⁰⁸ PM
to Bureau 10⁰⁵
OO:ME

157-3231-1

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 4 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

A. McMillan

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Tampa (157-3231) DATE: 4/4/68

FROM : SPC Millard J. Roberts, Jr.

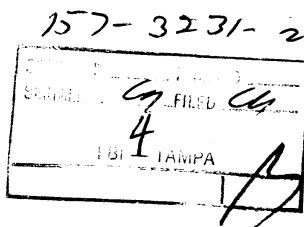
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RACIAL MATTERS.

At 9:45 PM, this date, an UNKNOWN SUBJECT telephonically contacted this office and wanted to know if the stories he had heard concerning the captioned subject were true. This individual wanted to know what was being done by this Bureau, if this story was true. This UNSUB, a Negro male, sounded angry and upset.

The writer advised UNSUB that there was no information available concerning the captioned matter.

SAC SANTOLIANA was advised of the above.

MJR/mjr
(2)



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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/5/68

FROM : IC ALVA E. LOMINACK

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.
Memphis, Tenn.
4/4/68

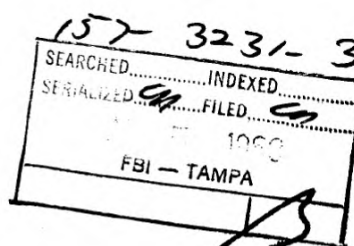
On 4/5/68 at approximately 8:05am the writer received a collect call for SA STEPHEN J. LABADIE. Agent LABADIE was unavailable at the time and the operator was advised that she could leave her number and it would be called by Agent Labadie when he was available. She was advised that I could not accept a collect call.

Upon being advised of the above an individual identifying himself as EMMITT PETER, Leesburg, Fla., telephone number 787-4025 advised that he would pay for the call himself.

Mr. PETER advised that he was a member of the National Civil Rights Committee to ORVILLE FREEMAN and that he had information concerning the assassination of KING.

Mr. PETER was advised by the writer that someone would contact him concerning the above.

2 - Tampa
AEL:ael
(2)



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: 4/5/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR AND SACs MEMPHIS AND JACKSONVILLE

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM

~~EMMETT~~
EMMETT PETER, LEESBURG, FLA., TELEPHONE SEVEN EIGHT
SEVEN DASH FOUR ZERO TWO FIVE, CALLED TAMPA OFFICE, EIGHT

ZERO FIVE A.M., APRIL FIVE INSTANT, AND ADVISED HE WAS

MEMBER OF ^{quote} NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE TO ORVILLE FREEMAN, ^{UNQUOTE}

AND HE HAD INFORMATION RE ASSASSINATION OF KING.

JACKSONVILLE OFFICE TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED OF ABOVE
AND TO HANDLE.1 - Tampa
SJL:av
(1) *av*SEARCHED *on*
INDEXED *on*
SERIALIZED *on*
FILED *on**Send*
*a. Labadie 8/2*Approved: *JF*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

WA 952A
ME 959A
SK 1009A

M

Per *fr*

157-3231-4

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

952AM URGENT 4-5-68 ELW

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS AND JACKSONVILLE
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM.

ERMITT PETER, LEESBURG, FLA., TELEPHONE SEVEN EIGHT
SEVEN - FOUR ZERO TWO FIVE, CALLED TAMPA OFFICE, EIGHT
ZERO FIVE A.M., APRIL FIVE INSTANT, AND ADVISED HE WAS
MEMBER OF "NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMMITTEE TO ORVILLE FREEMAN,"
AND HE HAD INFORMATION RE ASSASSINATION OF KING.

JACKSONVILLE OFFICE TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED OF ABOVE
AND TO HANDLE.

END

BJP

FBI WASH DC

*cc FBI Jacksonville (SRF)
cc FBI Memphis (MCP)
dest. encl*

SEARCHED ☒
INDEXED ☒
SERIALIZED ☒
FILED ☒

157-3231-4

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-³²³¹~~3221~~)

DATE: 4/5/68

FROM : SA HUGH N. SMITH

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
RM

On 4/5/68, CHARLES RUMFORD, 1926 1/2 7th Ave., North, St. Petersburg, Fla., telephone 862-3260, personally contacted the St. Petersburg RA and advised that one JAMES A. POUNCY, 216 S. Albany Ave., Apt. 7, Tampa, Fla., had told him one month prior to the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING that KING would be shot before the summer. POUNCY claimed to have an organization which could deal with "racist rebels."

At the time of the conversation, RUMFORD believed that the man was merely talking, however, it appeared as though POUNCY knew KING would be shot.

The date of the conversation at the Trailways Bus Station was some time at the end of Feb., or early March.

RUMFORD described POUNCY as W/M, 60-65 years old, 5'10", 180 lbs., bald head, no visible scars or marks, well dressed, conservative clothes.

RUMFORD stated that he had seen POUNCY previously entering the Masteries (Ph) Bar, 152 Central Ave., St. Petersburg, Fla. RUMFORD stated that he would endeavor to furnish additional information to the St. Petersburg RA concerning the organizations to which POUNCY allegedly belongs.

2 Tampa
HNS:av
(2) *av*

157-3231-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 5 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

Int. Pounsey



5010-108

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

F B I

Date: 4/5/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR, AND SACS ATLANTA, CHICAGO, DETROIT,
LOUISVILLE AND MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS, FT. MC PHERSON, GA.
FURNISHED MI, ORLANDO, FLA. THIS DATE, A TELETYPE, THE TEXT
OF WHICH IS AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE BLACK LEAGUES IN LOUISVILLE.
BLACK LEAGUES AND OTHERS IN LOUISVILLE ARE PLANNING TO BURN
DOWN THE LOCAL A & P AND KROGER STORES IN SYMPATHY WITH MARTIN
LUTHER KING. THEY ALSO PLAN TO SHUT DOWN LOCAL UNIONS FOR TEN
MINUTES TOMORROW TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR ANGUISH. NINE CARLOADS
OF SYMPATHIZERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON,
AND ONE CAR WITH CALIFORNIA PLATES HAVE LEFT FOR MEMPHIS TO
LEND SUPPORT TO THE RIOTS THERE. THE SUPPORTERS ARE IDENTIFIED
AS MEMBERS OF THE LOUISVILLE PEACE COUNCIL, KENTUCKY CHRISTIAN
ASSOCIATION, AND 'BULK' OF LOUISVILLE. MRS. A. D. WILLIAMS KING,
SISTER-IN-LAW OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, KAREN MULLOY AND MARY
BRITTON ARE PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE RIOTING IN

1 - Tampa
GRM:ad
(1)

1. *Scud* SEARCHED

INDEXED

SERIALIZED

FILED

2. *McGough*Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per

758
812
824 PM
830
834
841

157-3231-6

F B I

Date:

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

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE TWO

LOUISVILLE, CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND DETROIT 'LIKE WATTS WAS'
UNQUOTE.

ABOVE FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU AND OFFICES DESIGNATED,
SAME FURNISHED TAMPA OFFICE BY MI, ORLANDO, NO FURTHER DETAILS
KNOWN.

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

FBI WASH DC

758 PM URGENT 4/5/68 ALS

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA, CHICAGO, DETROIT, LOUISVILLE, AND MEMPHIS
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AM.

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE HEADQUARTERS, FT. MC PHERSON, GA.
FURNISHED MI, ORLANDO, FLA. THIS DATE, A TELETYPE, THE TEXT OF WHICH
IF AS FOLLOWS: "BLACK LEAGUES IN LOUISVILLE. BLACK LEAGUES AND
OTHERS IN LOUISVILLE ARE PLANNING TO BURN DOWN LOCAL A & P AND
KROGER STORES IN SYMPATHY WITH MARTIN LUTHER KING. THEY ALSO PLAN
TO SHUT DOWN LOCAL UNIONS FOR TEN MINUTES TOMORROW TO DEMONSTRATE
THEIR ANGUISH. NINE CARLOADS OF SYMPATHIZERS FROM THE UNIVERSITY
OF KENTUCKY, LEXINGTON, AND ONE CAR WITH CALIFORNIA PLATES HAVE LEFT
FOR MEMPHIS TO LEND SUPPORT TO THE RIOTS THERE. THE SUPPORTERS ARE
IDENTIFIED AS MEMBERS OF THE LOUISVILLE PEACE COUNCIL, KENTUCKY
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, AND 'BULR' OF LOUISVILLE. MAR. A. D. WILLIAMS
KING, SISTER-IN-LAW OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, KAREN MULLOY AND MARY
BRITTON ARE PRESENTLY ATTEMPTING TO ORGANIZE RIOTING IN LOUISVILLE,
CHICAGO, MEMPHIS AND DETROIT 'LIKE WATTS WAS' ".

END PAGE ONE

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157-3231-6

PAGE TWO

IP 157-3231

ABOVE FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU AND OFFICES DESIGNATED.

SAM E FURNISHED TAMPA OFFICE BY MI, ORLANDO, NO FURTHER DETAILS
KNOWN.

END

XXX HAS

FBI WASH DC

LPS- FBI, DETROIT
ARK - FBI, ATLANTA
CAF - FBI, MEMPHIS
RFJ - FBI, CHICAGO
JBR - FBI, LOUISVILLE

Machine copies destroyed 4/7/68
ALS/ *B*

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/5/68

FROM : SA THOMAS C. ALLEN

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
RM

On 4/5/68, RALPH WRIGHT, employed by the Post Office, Orlando, Florida residing 450 Brown Chapel Road, St. Cloud, Florida advised that he wished to furnish the following information as a result of having learned of the assassination of Dr. KING.

In 1965, WRIGHT attended Jacksonville University taking a cram course on insurance which course he completed on about 5/11/65. One of the persons taking this course was a young man named RAY COCHRANE (ph) or something similar whose father runs the Gatorland, St. Augustine, Florida located north of the city on U. S. 1.

WRIGHT stated that COCHRANE was inclined to brag but that there may have been some truth in what he said. COCHRANE made the statement in 1965 that during the racial disorder at St. Augustine roughly during the 1960-61 period, REV. KING was on the scene and COCHRANE claimed that he "drew a bead on KING and could have killed him but did not wish to make a martyr out of him". WRIGHT said that COCHRANE bragged about having lots of ammunition and what amounted to a arsenal of weapons. WRIGHT said that he believed COCHRANE was an honorary deputy sheriff in St. Johns County, Florida at the time. He further said that COCHRANE was the type who bragged about shooting dogs and cats at night with a rifle equiped with a scope.

2-Tampa
TCA:sas
(2)

157-3231-7

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TP 157-3231

WRIGHT said that he had heard from some unrecalled source that COCHRANE supposedly failed the Florida Insurance License test because of his extreme views as to Negroes.

COCHRANE claimed during the 1960-61 racial troubles at St. Augustine to have hauled alligators to the swimming pool which was forcibly integrated by the Negroes at St. Augustine. COCHRANE supposedly put the alligators in the swimming pool at the motel.

WRIGHT said he is not acquainted with the exact whereabouts of COCHRANE who is a possible suspect but he said that Mr. BASIL WOODS age 41-42 a clerk at the Post Office at St. Augustine knows COCHRANE and can be contacted for further information. WRIGHT said that he had heard that COCHRANE had some kind of a travelling job which took him through the state of Colorado. This was some months ago.

WRIGHT furnished the following description for RAY COCHRANE.

Age:	30, approximate
Race:	White
Height:	5'10"
Weight:	180
Original Home	St. Augustine, Florida
Marital Status:	as of several years ago was married with one child who would be 4 or 5 years of age

The foregoing was discussed with Supervisor 4 who indicated that he would possibly call Jacksonville on watts for investigation in Jacksonville to fully identify COCHRANE and possibly check on his whereabouts.

F B I

Date: 4/5/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, AND SACs MEMPHIS AND JACKSONVILLE

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM

RALPH WRIGHT, U. S. POST OFFICE EMPLOYEE, ORLANDO, FLA., ADVISED TODAY, HE ATTENDED A COURSE AT JACKSONVILLE, FLA., UNIVERSITY IN EARLY SIXTY FIVE AND ALSO A STUDENT WAS A RAY COCHRANE (PH), WHOSE FATHER RAN GATORLAND, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., NORTH OF THE CITY, ON U. S. HIGHWAY ONE. ALTHOUGH COCHRANE WAS INCLINED TO BRAG, HE MADE STATEMENT THAT DURING THE RACIAL DISORDER IN ST. AUGUSTINE IN ABOUT SIXTY TO SIXTY ONE, HE QUOTE DREW A BEAD ON KING AND COULD HAVE KILLED HIM BUT DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A MARTYR OUT OF HIM UNQUOTE. COCHRANE ALSO BRAGGED HE HAD LOTS OF AMMUNITION AND AN ARSENAL OF WEAPONS. WRIGHT BELIEVED COCHRANE TO BE AN HONORARY DEPUTY SHERIFF IN ST. JOHN'S COUNTY, FLA., AT THE TIME.

WRIGHT CONSIDERS COCHRANE A POSSIBLE SUSPECT DUE TO HIS ANTI-NEGRO ATTITUDES AS WELL. STATED MR. BASIL

1 Tampa
EJL:av
(1) *av*

1. *Seid*
2. *MacLaughlin* *RM* *AS*
ent

Approved: _____ Sent 755 M Per 12
Special Agent in Charge

858
858 157-3231-8

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

WOODS, FORTY ONE TO FORTY TWO YEARS OF AGE, CLERK IN U.S. POST OFFICE, ST. AUGUSTINE, KNOWS COCHRANE AND MAY KNOW HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS. WRIGHT STATES LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS OF COCHRANE WAS THAT HE HAD TRAVELLING JOB WHICH TOOK HIM TO COLORADO. COCHRANE WHITE MALE, ABOUT THIRTY, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY, ORIGINALLY FROM ST. AUGUSTINE.

JACKSONVILLE AT ST. AUGUSTINE, INTERVIEW BASIL WOODS, ESTABLISH TRUE NAME OF SUSPECT COCHRANE AND HIS WHEREABOUTS APRIL FOUR LAST.

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

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

755 PM URGENT 4/5/68 ALS

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSONVILLE
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM.

RALPH WRIGHT, U. S. POST OFFICE EMPLOYEE, ORLANDO, FLA., ADVISED TODAY, HE ATTENDED A COURSE AT JACKSONVILLE, FLA., UNIVERSITY IN EARLY SIXTY FIVE AND ALSO A STUDENT WAS A RAY COCHRANE (PH), WHOSE FATHER RAN GATORLAND, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., NORTH OF THE CITY, ON U. S. HIGHWAY ONE. ALTHOUGH COCHRANE WAS INCLINED TO BRAG, HE MADE STATEMENT THAT DURING THE RACIAL DISORDER IN ST. AUGUSTINE IN ABOUT SIXTY TO SIXTY ONE, HE "DREW A BEAD ON KING AND COULD HAVE KILLED HIM BUT DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A MARTYR OUT OF HIM". COCHRANE ALSO BRAGGED HE HAD LOTS OF AMMUNITION AND AN ARSENAL OF WEAPONS. WRIGHT BELIEVED COCHRANE TO BE AN HONORARY DEPUTY SHERIFF IF ST. JOHN'S COUNTY, FLA., AT THE TIME.

WRIGHT CONSIDERS COCHRANE A POSSIBLE SUSPECT DUE TO HIS ANTI-NEGRO ATTITUDES AS WELL. STATED MR. BASIL WOODS, FORTY ONE TO FORTY TWO YEARS OF AGE, CLERK IN U. S. POST OFFICE, ST. AUGUSTINE, END PAGE ONE

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
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157-3231-8

PAGE TWO

IP 157-3231

KNOWS COCHRANE AND MAY KNOW HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS. WRIGHT STATES
LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS OF COCHRANE WAS THAT HE HAD TRAVELLING JOB
WHICH TOOK HIM TO COLORADO. COCHRANE WHITE MALE, ABOUT THIRTY,
FIVE F. TEN IN., ONE HUNDRED EIGHT LBS., ORIGINALLY FROM ST.
AUGUSTINE.

JACKSONVILLE AT ST. AUGUSTINE, INTERVIEW BASIL WOODS, ESTABLISH
TRUE NAME OF SUSPECT COCHRANE AND HIS WHEREABOUTS APRIL FOUR LAST.

END

SVW

FBI WASH DC

TN - FBI, JACKSONVILLE
CAF - FBI, MEMPHIS

Machine copies destroyed
4/7/68 ALS/*AB*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/6/68

FROM : SA JOHN E. BUTENSCHOEN

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
RACIAL MATTERS

At approximately 2:25 p.m., 4/6/68, SA JIM ROSE, Atlanta Office, telephonically advised that the COP of Forest Park, Ga. advised they had found abandoned a white Mustang with black vinyl top, bearing 1968 Florida tag 4D-31921. Atlanta placed a call to Memphis for further information concerning Mustang involved with above captioned matter. Memphis advised that all they had was the make and color of car. NCIC check by Atlanta negative concerning Florida tag.

A check with Florida Highway Patrol by Atlanta determined that 1968 Florida tag 4D-31921 was registered to LLOYD O. MONTGOMERY, 1202 55th Street South, Gulfport, Florida. Tag issued for 1965 Ford, two-door, hardtop, VIN 5707U121857. An NCIC check negative re this VIN.

Supervisor LIONEL E. BELANGER advised of phone call and suggested that SA ONNIE K. WALKER and SA JAMES DELK LELAND from St. Petersburg RA contact local PD concerning MONTGOMERY and thereafter interview MONTGOMERY re this matter.

Atlanta requests this matter be handled expeditiously.

② - Tampa

JEB:hg

(2)

Atlanta called back about 3 PM and asked us to expedite handling lead by telephoning to Gulfport, however it was ascertained there is no listed telephone for Montgomery & Atlanta so advised at 3:35 PM. Atlanta called back at 5:03 PM to say the situation had been resolved completely, and we should discontinue Rm.

#4 advised

5:09/8

157-3231-9

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
APR 8 1968
FBI - TAMPA
McLaughlin
Supv. #4/3

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

DATE: 4/5/68

FROM : SA EDWARD J. TULLY,

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
RACIAL MATTER

On this date racial, security, and criminal informants in Brevard County, Fla. were contacted re captioned matter. In addition, all COPs and the Brevard County SO were alerted. Information received thus far does not reflect any great deal of racial tension over the assassination in Brevard County, however, a memorial march will be held in Cocoa, Fla. on Apr. 7, 1968 beginning at 2:00 p.m. It will originate at Provost Park and will terminate at City Hall, Cocoa. It is being sponsored by the NAACP. It is estimated that 1,200 persons will participate in the march. Cocoa will maintain contact with all liaison sources regarding further developments.

② - Tampa
(1 - 157-1489-Sub.1)

EJT:bg

(2)

Joseph J. (Lt. Col) advised 9:35/A
Dennis M.I. Orlando 31/A
Wm A. Walter advised 10:31/A
SSS, fax.

157-3231-10

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McLaughlin

FBI WASH DC

319PM URGENT 4-7 SAA
TO ALL CONTINENTAL SACS
FROM DIRECTOR 1P

~~MURKIN~~

THIS IS THE CAPTION FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATION
TO IDENTIFY PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINA-
TION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON
APRIL FOUR LAST.

ALL INVESTIGATION MUST BE HANDLE UNDER THE PER-
SONAL DIRECTION OF THE SAC. LEADS ARE TO BE AFFORDED
IMMEDIATE, THOROUGH IMAGINATIVE ATTENTION. YOU MUST
EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES FROM SUCH LEADS AS ANY ONE LEAD
COULD RESULT IN THE SOLUTION OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT INVES-
TIGATION. SAC WILL BE HELD PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY
FAILURE TO PROMPTLY AND THOROUGHLY HANDLE INVESTIGATIONS
IN THIS MATTER.

END

MM..RGT

FBI MIAMI

TP..DGP

FBI TAMPA

JK..JLC

FBI JACKSVLE

CO..JJP

FBI-COLUMBIA

SV..PNR

FBI SAVANNAH

AT..JWE

FBI ATLANTA

TO CLR

157-3231-11

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FBI - TAMPA	

*all ml
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y*

*1. Belanger
2. Mc
3. B. Smith*

FBI LOUISVLE

116 P URGENT 4-5-68 JBR

TO DIRECTOR, CHICAGO, DETROIT, MEMPHIS, ATLANTA AND TAMPA.

FROM LOUISVILLE (157-630)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM.

RE ATLANTA TEL THIS DATE.

INFO IN RETEL WAS FURNISHED LOUISVILLE EARLY TODAY BY
MEMPHIS AS HAVING BEEN RECEIVED FROM MILITARY INTELLIGENCE,
ORLANDO, FLA. INFO RESOLVED WITH MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, LOUISVILLE
AS BEING "WITHOUT SOUND BASIS" AND NOT INTENDED FOR DISSEMINATION
OUTSIDE OF MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BECAUSE OF DOUBT AS TO RELIABILITY.
MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, LOUISVILLE, IS NOW THROUGH MILITARY
CHANNELS SENDING MESSAGE INDICATING THAT INFO WAS BASED UPON
SPECULATION BY SOURCE OF HIGHLY QUESTIONABLE RELIABILITY AND
SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS DO NOT SUPPORT ANY OF THAT SPECULATION.

OACB, NO FURTHER ACTION LOUISVILLE.

END

DGB

FBI MEMPHIS

LSN

FBI ATLANTA

DGP

FBI TAMPA

TO CLR

*SA Grimes advised
9:37/A*

*#4 advised
1:25 AM 4/6/68
JBR*

Noted

157-3231-12

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McHugh

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

1117 PM URGENT 4/7/68 ALS
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN; CR. OO:ME.

RE DETROIT TEL THIS DATE.

MARIE MARYLAND, PALM HARBOR, FLA., ADVISED JAMES KIDDER AND WIFE, VIRGINIA, WERE TENANTS FOR THREE WEEKS UNTIL ABOUT FOUR WEEKS AGO WHEN KIDDER DEPARTED. KIDDER EMPLOYED HOOD'S JUICE COMPANY, DUNEDIN, FLA. WITH MR. MARYLAND AND RODE WITH MARLYAND TO WORK. MR. MARYLAND STATES KIDDER SAID ARRIVED PALM HARBOR FROM FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA. WHERE HAD RESIDED THREE YEARS AND MENTIONED PRIOR RESIDENCES IN CALIFORNIA AND ELSEWHERE. KIDDER DESCRIBED AS W/M, AGE THIRTY-THREE, BROWN HAIR, FIVE FT. FIVE IN., ONE THIRTY LBS., VERY SMALL BUILD. ALLEGEDLY IN MILITARY SERVICE AND RECEIVED BACK INJURY. PURCHASED OLD MODEL DODGE AUTO, COLOR WHITE, TOP VALUE USED CARS, CLEARWATER, FLA. WHICH ALLEGEDLY NOT PAID FOR AND COULD FURNISH NO PRIOR FLA. CREDIT.

END PAGE ONE

157-3231-13

Supv #4

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McAughlin

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

VIRGINIA, CONSIDERABLY OLDER THAN KIDDER AND POSSIBLY NOT MARRIED TO HIM, TOLD MRS. MARYLAND SHE WAS LEAVING KIDDER DUE TO HIS EXCESSIVE DRINKING AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND RETURNING TO MEMPHIS, TENN. VIRGINIA ALLEGEDLY HAS DAUGHTER WHO IS MARRIED TO SON OF A GREYHOUND TRACK OWNER, ORLANDO, FLA., WITH SIMILAR INTEREST IN MEMPHIS. MARYLAND'S STATE KIDDER AT NO TIME COMMENTED ON RACIAL MATTERS AND NOT KNOWN TO POSSESS FIREARMS. BOTH STATE SOME SIMILARITY BETWEEN SKETCH OF ASSASSIN AND KIDDER, BUT SKETCH APPEARS OLDER THAN KIDDER AND WITH LESS HAIR.

DAVE WARD, TRACK SUPERINTENDENT, ORLANDO - SEMINOLE DOG TRACK, ORLANDO, FLA., ADVISED TRACK OWNED BY JERRY COLLINS AND THAT SON JACK IS MARRIED BUT ADDITIONAL DETAILS UNKNOWN. JACK COLLINS, SARASOTA KENNEL CLUB AND ORLANDO - SEMINOLE DOG TRACK ADVISES HE AND HIS FATHER HAVE NO INTEREST IN DOG TRACK IN MEMPHIS AREA AND THAT HIS WIFE'S MOTHER NOT NAMED VIRGINIA AND THAT JAMES KIDDER UNKNOWN TO HIM. FURNISHED NAMES OF FOUR INDIVIDUALS NOW ASSOCIATED WITH ORLANDO TRACK WHO HAVE YOUNG MARRIED SONS WHO MAY POSSIBLY BE MARRIED TO VIRGINIA (LNU'S) DAUGHTER.

TAMPA WILL ON FOUR EIGHT INTERVIEW INDIVIDUALS ORLANDO DOG TRACK IN AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN DATA THAT WILL ENABLE MEMPHIS TO IDENTIFY VIRGINIA (LNU). TAMPA WILL CONTACT HOOD JUICE CO., AND TOP VALUE MOTOR CO., FOR ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND RE JAMES KIDDER.

AIRMAIL COPY TO DETROIT.

END

MXS

FBI WASH DC

CAF, FBI Memphis

cc D 41-4-7-68

AS

F B I

Date: 4/5/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN; CR. 00:ME.

RE DETROIT TEL THIS DATE.

MARIE MARYLAND, PALM HARBOR, FLA., ADVISED JAMES KIDDER AND WIFE, VIRGINIA, WERE TENANTS FOR THREE WEEKS UNTIL ABOUT FOUR WEEKS AGO WHEN KIDDER DEPARTED. KIDDER EMPLOYED HOOD'S JUICE COMPANY, DUNEDIN, FLA. WITH MR. MARYLAND AND RODE WITH MARLYAND TO WORK. MR. MARYLAND STATES KIDDER SAID ARRIVED PALM HARBOR FROM FT. LAUDERDALE, FLA. WHERE HAD RESIDED THREE YEARS AND MENTIONED PRIOR RESIDENCES IN CALIFORNIA AND ELSEWHERE. KIDDER DESCRIBED AS W/M, AGE THIRTY-THREE, BROWN HAIR, FIVE FT. FIVE IN., ONE THIRTY LBS., VERY SMALL BUILD. ALLEGEDLY IN MILITARY SERVICE AND RECEIVED BACK INJURY. PURCHASED OLD MODEL DODGE AUTO, COLOR WHITE, TOP VALUE USED CARS, CLEARWATER, FLA. WHICH ALLEGEDLY NOT PAID FOR AND COULD FURNISH NO PRIOR FLA. CREDIT.

END PAGE ONE

JAA/WRS/JJR/:AS

SA Tindle
advised + given lead
7:00 AM
JB

157-3231-13
SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED 2
FILED 1

Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in ChargeSent 1113 M Per 12
1124

VIRGINIA, CONSIDERABLY OLDER THAN KIDDER AND POSSIBLY NOT MARRIED TO HIM, TOLD MRS. MARYLAND SHE WAS LEAVING KIDDER DUE TO HIS EXCESSIVE DRINKING AND PHYSICAL ABUSE AND RETURNING TO MEMPHIS, TENN. VIRGINIA ALLEGEDLY HAS DAUGHTER WHO IS MARRIED TO SON OF A GREYHOUND TRACK OWNER, ORLANDO, FLA., WITH SIMILAR INTEREST IN MEMPHIS. MARYLAND'S STATE KIDDER AT NO TIME COMMENTED ON RACIAL MATTERS AND NOT KNOWN TO POSSESS FIREARMS. BOTH STATE SOME SIMILARITY BETWEEN SKETCH OF ASSASSIN AND KIDDER, BUT SKETCH APPEARS OLDER THAN KIDDER AND WITH LESS HAIR.

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AIRMAIL COPY TO DETROIT.

END

NAS

FBI WASH DC

JOE GIRARD - Dog man
DICK MANNING - Ont. Mutual Mgr.
EUGENE LNU - Money Room Mgr.
G.A. "Sonny" ALDERSON

FBI TAMPA

FBI DETROIT

103PM URGENT 4/7/68 BCS

TO DIRECTOR, TAMPA, MEMPHIS

FROM DETROIT 157-2362

index
MURKIN

ON THIS DATE, CAPT. DONALD E. SLOAN (NA), PORT HURON, MICH PD ADVISED THAT MR. & MRS. WALTER LESTER, TWO FIVE TWO FOUR SPRUCE, PORT HURON, MICH, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED PD TODAY AND INDICATED THEY RECENTLY RETURNED FROM PALM HARBOR, FLA. THE LESTERS INDICATED THEY HAD SEEN A SKETCH OF UNSUB IN CAPTIONED MATTER AND SAID SKETCH WAS SIMILAR AND DESCRIPTION MATCHES THAT OF JAMES KIDDER, WHO IS A W/M, LATE THIRTIES OR EARLY FORTIES, & WAS RESIDING IN A GARAGE APARTMENT AT OHAMA & ILLINOIS AVES., PALM HARBOR, FLA., WHICH IS OWNED BY MRS. MARIE MARYLAND. KIDDER WAS RESIDING WITH A WOMAN, VIRGINIA KIDDER, WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE HIS WIFE.

KIDDER WAS EMPLOYED AT THE HOOD JUICE CO., DUNEDIN, FLA., AND WAS FIRED BECAUSE OF DRINKING. (61)

KIDDER HAS ALSO PURCHASED A NEW SUIT AT A GENERAL CLOTHING & GROCERY STORE, NAME UNKNOWN, AT PALM HARBOR. KIDDER IS BEING SOUGHT FOR NON-PAYMENT OF RENT AND FAILURE TO PAY FOR SUIT.

ND PAGE ONE

E

4
advised
1:15 PM
4/11/68
OJ

Advised advised
1:30 PM 4/12/68
OJ

copy-42-33394

157-3231-14

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 11 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

McLaughlin
Supv. # 4

PAGE TWO; DE 157-2362

PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF KIDDER UNKNOWN BUT VIRGINIA KIDDER IS BELIEVED TO HAVE RETURNED TO MEMPHIS, TENN., WHERE SHE WORKS IN BARS AND NIGHT CLUBS.

MEMPHIS--ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW VIRGINIA KIDDER, W/F, ABOUT FORTY, RE THIS MATTER.

TAMPA AT HARBOR, FLA.--WILL CONTACT MARIE MARYLAND,

DISPLAY SKETCH OF UNSUB TO DETERMINE IF POSSIBLY IDENTICAL AND DEVELOP BACKGROUND RE KIDDER.

AT DUNEDIN, FLA.--CONTACT HOOD JUICE CO., DISPLAY SKETCH AND OBTAIN BACKGROUND RE KIDDER.

DETROIT AT PORT HURON--WILL INTERVIEW MR. & MRS. WALTER LESTER, TWO FIVE TWO FOUR SPRUCE, FOR ADDITIONAL PERTINENT INFORMATION FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF INFORMATION REQUESTED FROM MEMPHIS.

MEMPHIS--SUTEL DETROIT SUMMARY OF FACTS INCLUDING BEST AVAILABLE DESCRIPTION OF ASSASSIN TO FACILITATE INTERVIEW OF THE LESTERS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

P2, PARA 2, MEMPHIS ATTEMPT TO ,...

END

DGP

FBI TAMPA

X

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC(157-3231)

DATE: 4-7-68

FROM : SA JOHN A. AMBLER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 8:25 PM SA DAVID GRIMES, Orlando RA, telephonically advised that he had talked with DAVE WARD, Track Sup't., Orlando-Seminole Dog Track, who advised that the owner was JERRY COLLINS and that this person has a son JACK COLLINS who is married to a girl from Tenn. but WARD unable to furnish any information concerning Mrs. COLLINS. WARD advised that JACK COLLINS and presumably his wife were in Sarasota as JACK COLLINS is involved in the operation of the Sarasota Kennel Club. WARD remarked that to his knowledge the COLLINS family does not own a dog track in the Memphis area but that JACK COLLINS and his wife do go to that area when the dog tracks in Fla. not operating. WARD unable to identify VIRGINIA LNU.

*See
A-32*
SAC and Supr. BELANGER immediately advised of the above and on orders of Supr. BELANGER SA WILLIS R. SMITH was advised to immediately locate and interview JACK COLLINS and wife to (1) further identify and locate VIRGINIA LNU (2) if either acquainted with JACK KIDDER obtain full descriptive data and available background info.



5010-108

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

157-3231-15

SEARCHED *R* INDEXED *CM*
SERIALIZED *R* FILED *CM*
APR 10 1968
FBI - TAMPA
McLaughlin
Supr. #4 *B*

FBI MEMPHIS

922PM URGENT 4/7/68 CAF
TO ALL SACS
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 2P

MURKIN; CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE BUTEL TO ALL SAC'S APRIL SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT.

FOR INFO ALL OFFICES, PERTINENT PERIODS IN INVESTIGATION
ARE MARCH TWENTY NINE AND THIRTY IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA., AND
APRIL FOUR, SIXTY EIGHT, IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

IN EVENT ANY DATA DEVELOPED RE SUSPECTS, IF INTERESTED
OFFICES CAN ESTABLISH WHEREABOUTS OF SUSPECTS ON DATES ABOVE,
THIS MAY ELIMINATE SUSPECT. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE, EFFORTS
SHOULD BE MADE TO SECURE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUSPECTS IN QUESTION AND
FORWARD PHOTOS TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM FOR POSSIBLE ELIMINATION.
PERTINENT DESCRIPTIVE DATA SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH PHOTOS.

IF UNABLE TO ELIMINATE ON BASIS OF ESTABLISHED WHEREABOUTS
IN PERTINENT PERIODS, INTERESTED OFFICES SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS
TO SECURE FINGERPRINTS OF SUSPECT IN QUESTION AND SUBMIT SAME TO
BUREAU FOR ELIMINATION.

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION, BASED ON DATA DEVELOPED IN BIRMINGHAM
AND MEMPHIS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

END PAGE ONE

*SAC Belanger advised 10:30 P
SAC advised 10:30 P*

SEARCHED <i>AB</i>	INDEXED <i>CM</i>
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APR 7 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	
<i>McLaughlin</i>	

157-32 31-16

PAGE TWO

SUSPECT MALE WHITE, AGE TWENTY SIX TO FORTY YEARS, HEIGHT FIVE FT. EIGHT TO FIVE FT. ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TO ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY LBS.; DARK BROWN OR SANDY HAIR, COMBED STRAIGHT BACK. EYES BLUE OR GREEN; MEDIUM BUILD; COMPLEXION AVERAGE, SMOOTH. GENERAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE; NEAT.

POSSIBILITY EXISTS SUSPECT IS NON-SMOKER. INDICATIONS WERE THAT SUSPECT RENTED ROOM BETWEEN THREE AND THREE THIRTY PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND DEPARTED ROOM SHORTLY AFTER SIX PM. NO MATCHES OR CIGARETTES FOUND DURING THAT PERIOD, WHICH SUGGESTS SUSPECT MAY BE NON-SMOKER.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION MUST BE PROMPTLY FURNISHED BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM. P.

END

JK

BBI JACKSVLE

JK...TN

FBI JACKSVLE

ALS

FBI TAMPA

VMF VFP

FBI MOBILE

RML

FBI MIAMI

JK AGAIN THREE INITIALS

TXN

FBI JACKSVLE

TU CLR@DN

F B I

Date: 4/5/68

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)TO: DIRECTOR,
JACKSON,
NEW ORLEANS,
MEMPHIS,

FROM: JACKSONVILLE (157-1534)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE TAMPA TELEPHONE CALL TO JACKSONVILLE TODAY.

MR. EMMETT PETER, ONE THREE ONE NINE, S. EIGHTH STREET,
LEESBURG, FLORIDA, TELEPHONICALLY FURNISHED THE FOLLOWING
INFORMATION TO SA TED R. TUCKER TODAY.

PETER STATED HE HAS BEEN A MEMBER FOR THREE YEARS OF THE
NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE, WHICH IS HEADED BY
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ORVILLE FREEMAN. THE COMMITTEE HAS
FIFTEEN MEMBERS COMPOSED CHIEFLY OF VARIOUS COLLEGE PRESIDENTS
AND REPUTABLE INDIVIDUALS, BOTH NEGRO AND WHITE. THE COMMITTEE
WHICH MEETS FOUR TIMES A YEAR IN VARIOUS LOCALES, TAKES
TESTIMONY MAINLY FROM VARIOUS CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS, WELFARE
PEOPLE, AND THOSE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES
PROGRAM.

157-3231-17
ACCORDING TO PETER, A SOURCE WHOM HE DID NOT WISH TO① Tampa (AM)
TFT:cal
(2)*McGuire*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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M	Per

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

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Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)PAGE TWO
JK 157-1534

IDENTIFY BUT WHO ACCORDING TO PETER, IS ABSOLUTELY RELIABLE, ADVISED THAT ON THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE RECENT ELECTIONS HELD IN MISSISSIPPI IN WHICH NEGRO NAACP LEADER CHARLES EVERS WAS A CANDIDATE FOR NATIONAL OFFICE, A ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST IN LOUISIANA, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, RECEIVED A CONFESSION FROM A YOUNG WHITE MALE THAT A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS HAD GIVEN THIS PERSON TWENTYFIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO ASSASSINATE EVERS. ACCORDING TO PETER, THE PRIEST WAS TORN BETWEEN HIS LOYALTY AND DUTY TO THE CHURCH TO MAINTAIN THIS INFORMATION IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE OR TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION TO THE PROPER OFFICIALS IN ORDER TO POSSIBLY AVERT THIS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT. PETER STATED IT WAS RESOLVED TO MAKE THIS INFORMATION KNOWN AND HE BELIEVES THAT BOTH EVERS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN MISSISSIPPI WERE NOTIFIED.

PETER ADVISED THAT FATHER LOUIS TOOMEY, PRESIDENT, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH, NEW ORLEANS, AND ONE AARON HENRY, NEGRO DRUGGIST, CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI, BOTH OF WHOM ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, ARE AWARE OF THIS PLOT AND SHOULD

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

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Priority)PAGE THREE
JK 157-1534

KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE PRIEST INVOLVED. ACCORDING TO PETER, HENRY IS THE LEADER OF THE NAACP IN CLARKSDALE.

PETER STATED HE BELIEVES EITHER PERSON WOULD BE RECEPTIVE TO INTERVIEW, HOWEVER, SUCH INTERVIEW SHOULD BE MOST CIRCUMSPECT SINCE THIS INVOLVED A BREACH OF PRIEST AND WORSHIPER RELATIONSHIP SINCE THE INFORMATION WAS OSTENSIBLY OBTAINED BY THE PRIEST IN THE FORM OF A CONFESSION DURING A CONFESSIONAL PERIOD.

PETER ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW IF THIS REPORTED PLOT HAS ANY CONNECTION WITH THE MARTIN LUTHER KING ASSASSINATION, BUT HE FELT THAT THIS COULD BE A POSSIBILITY AND SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE FBI.

PETER STATED IN THE EVENT HE RECEIVES ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE OCALA RESIDENT AGENCY AND MAKE THIS KNOWN.

JACKSON AT CLARKSDALE, MISSISSIPPI. DETERMINE IF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE PLOT ON THE LIFE OF CHARLES EVERS WAS MADE KNOWN TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES. IF NOT AND IF NO REASON EXISTS NOT TO CONTACT AARON HENRY, JACKSON SHOULD INTERVIEW HIM FOR PERTINENT DETAILS CONCERNING THE INFORMATION

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

F B I

Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Priority)

PAGE FOUR
JK 157-1534

FURNISHED BY EMMETT PETER AND THEN ADVISE NEW ORLEANS
WHETHER OR NOT FATHER TOOMEY SHOULD BE INTERVIEWED
CONCERNING THIS MATTER.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

FROM : SA GORDON W. TINDLE

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING

DATE: 4/5/68

RONALD JERNIGAN, Investigator, MI, Orlando, furnished writer with text of teletype quoted below, which information furnished from its headquarters, Ft. McPherson, Ga., to MI, Orlando, with copy to MI Office at Memphis, Tenn., under their caption "Possible Civil Disturbances". He advised source of this information is a confidential Louisville PD source of undetermined reliability. The teletype sent from MI headquarters, Ft. McPherson, Ga., to MI, Orlando, with copy to MI Office at Memphis:

"Black Leagues in Louisville"

"Black Leagues and 'others' in Louisville are planning to burn down the local A & P and Kroger Stores in sympathy with MARTIN LUTHER KING. They also plan to shut down local unions for ten minutes tomorrow to demonstrate their 'anguish'.

"Nine carloads of sympathizers from the University of Kentucky, Lexington, and one car with California plates have left for Memphis to lend support to the 'riots' there. The supporters are identified as members of the Louisville Peace Council, Kentucky Christian Association, and 'BULK' of Louisville.

"Mrs. A. D. WILLIAMS KING, sister-in-law of MARTIN LUTHER KING, KAREN MULLOY, and MARY BRITTON are presently attempting to organize rioting in Louisville, Chicago, Memphis, and Detroit 'like Watts was'."

It is noted Lt. JERNIGAN had no knowledge of whether dissemination has or has not been made to the FBI.

2 - Tampa
GWT:em
(2) *em*



5010-108

157-3231-18

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 5 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (157-³²³¹~~2324~~)

FROM : SAC SANTOIANA

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
RACIAL MATTERS

DATE: 4/5/68

At 1:45 a.m. on 4/5/68, I received a telephone call from SAC, Jacksonville, who was relaying instructions from Inspector JOE SIZOO at the Seat of Government.

SIZOO said that reports were being received at the Bureau of civil disturbances occurring in New York, Chicago, and some of the larger cities as a result of KING's assassination, and he instructed that we do the following:

1. Maintain adequate coverage at the office.
(I had previously instructed Supervisor 4 to have SA GRUNDLER be on duty midnight to 8:00.)
2. Make certain that any personnel going to and from the office is aware of the situation and stays clear of any problem areas.
3. Keep the Bureau advised immediately of all pertinent developments.

JFS:KH
(2)



5010-108

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

3231-19
157-2324

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APR 5 1968	
FBI - TAMPA	



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Tampa, Florida
April 5, 1968

RACIAL INCIDENTS
TAMPA, FLORIDA,
April 5, 1968

Officer J. C. SCOTT, Tampa, Florida Police Department, telephonically advised the Tampa Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at 12:30 a.m., April 5, 1968, that a racial disturbance had developed in the area of 22nd Street and Lake Avenue, and at the Paradise Bar, located at 22nd Street and 28th Avenue. Officer SCOTT advised that two Sergeants and twenty police officers had been dispatched to the area, and there were reports of breaking and entering and looting, and of one small fire in the area.

Appropriate personnel of the offices of the United States Attorney, Military Intelligence and U. S. Secret Service were immediately advised of the above.

Officer GEORGE J. DRAGNEFF, Tampa Police Department, telephonically advised at 1:15 a.m., April 5, 1968, that the situation had intensified in the above mentioned area, and that Negro participants were stoning cars, breaking windows, and "rocking" police patrol cars and other cars moving in the area of the disturbance. He stated that several persons had sustained minor injuries and that there was one ambulance patient, the extent of whose injuries was not known. A fire bomb had been thrown at a residential dwelling in the 1700 block of 5th Avenue and other disturbances were developing on Central Avenue, 30th Street and Hillsboro Avenue, and Buffalo Avenue and 22nd Street, according to DRAGNEFF.

11 - Bureau (RM)
1 - USA, Tampa (RM)
1 - OSI, Robins AFB, Ga. (RM)
1 - NISO, Charleston, S. C. (RM)
1 - SS, Tampa (RM)
1 - MI, Tampa (RM)
④ - Tampa (157-3232)
 (1 - 157-1489)
 ① - 157-3231)
 (1 - 80-139)
 GRM:lp
 (20) *LP*

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SERIALIZED *en*
FILED *en*

157-3231- 20

RACIAL INCIDENTS,
TAMPA, FLORIDA,
APRIL 5, 1968

JAMES W. DOWNUM, Captain, Tampa Police Department, telephonically advised at 1:45 a.m., that the disturbance in Tampa included several hundred Negroes who were milling in groups of less than 200 persons over a wide area, and that approximately 50 police officers had been dispatched to handle the situation. He indicated that several minor injuries had been reported, and that ten or twelve buildings had been broken into. He said the situation seemed to be under control at the time, and that the department was pulling men out of the area to handle their regular duties.

Officer J. C. SCOTT again telephoned at 4:50 a.m., April 5, 1968, to say that all police personnel who had been dispatched to handle the above described racial disturbance had been "pulled back" and that police personnel were there on standby in the event of other disturbances. He advised that the police personnel had been "pulled back" at about 4:00 a.m.

Officer SCOTT said that there had been one fire of an old two-story residential dwelling, located at 5th Avenue and 18th Street, which fire could not be extinguished by the Fire Department, but which the Fire Department had been able to contain to the one dwelling. He further advised that one arrest had been made in connection with the disturbance; however, he did not know the details concerning this arrest.

Officer SMITH, Booking Department, Tampa Police Department, advised about this time that two persons had been arrested in connection with the racial disturbance. He identified these individuals as DONALD BAGLEY, a Negro male, age 21 years, arrested for "Disturbance"; and CHESTER CROMORTY, a Negro male, arrested for displaying a deadly weapon.

RACIAL INCIDENTS,
TAMPA, FLORIDA
APRIL 5, 1968

It is to be noted that the above described racial disturbances apparently resulted from the announcement on the evening of April 4, 1968, that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been assassinated at Memphis, Tennessee, according to Tampa police.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

- 3* -

F B I

Date: **4/8/68**Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI
 From: SAC, TAMPA, (157-3231) (P)
 Subject: RACIAL INCIDENTS,
TAMPA, FLORIDA
APRIL 8, 1968

ATTENTION:

☐ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION☐ GENERAL INVEST. DIV.☒ DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.

☐ CR ☐ EL ☐ VRA-65 ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PE
☐ BM ☐ BM-Threats ☒ Racial Matters
☐ Klan ☐ Organization

Summary of Complaint:

Re Tampa teletype, 4/5/68.

Enclosed for the Bureau are appropriate copies of LHM, suitable for dissemination purposes. Single copies of LHM have been furnished locally to SAA, MI, SE, Tampa; NIO, Charleston, S. C., OSI, Robins AFB, GA.,

Appropriate informants and sources are being contacted in the Tampa area in order that the Tampa Office may keep abreast of possible racial incidents and any potential racial disturbances in the area, and the Bureau will be kept advised of pertinent developments in this matter.

2 - Bureau (1 Enc.) (RM)

② - Tampa (1 - 157-1429) (1 - 80-139)

(1 - 157-3231) *mm*

ACTION: UACB:

☐ No further action being taken and
☒ LHM enclosed ☒ Copy furnished to USA TAMPA,
☐ LHM being submitted
☐ Report being submitted
☐ Preliminary investigation instituted
☐ Limited investigation instituted

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INDEXED _____

SERIALIZED esFILED chApproved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

157-3231-21

SAC, TAMPA (157-1489-Sub.2)

4/6/68

SA A. LEWIS BARNETT

POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE
MAJOR URBAN AREAS
RACIAL MATTERS

On 4/6/68 it was announced on radio station WINK, Ft. Myers, Florida, that the Ft. Myers NAACP would sponsor a memorial service for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING at the Ft. Myers Exhibition Hall at 12 noon, Monday, 4/8/68.

Racial sources being contacted and matter will be followed through established sources. No indication of violence.

② - Tampa
ALB:bg *Bj*
(2)

157-3231-22

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED
McGuffey

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ~~TO~~ ALL AGENTS

DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO:MEMPHIS

No doubt the widespread publicity given to the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING will give rise to many leads re possible suspects for the killing. Captioned is the code name given by the Bureau for the investigation following the assassination. The Bureau has advised that pertinent periods in the investigation are March 29 and 30, 1968 in Birmingham, Ala. and April 4, 1968 in Memphis, Tenn. In the event any data develops regarding the suspects and the whereabouts of suspects on the above dates can be established definitely, the particular suspects may be eliminated from consideration in this case. In the event that it cannot be definitely established where the particular suspect was on the dates in question, efforts should be made to secure photographs of suspects developed and these photographs should be forwarded to Memphis and Birmingham for possible elimination. In all cases pertinent descriptive data should be included with photos. In addition, fingerprints of the suspects should also be secured for submission to the Identification Division for elimination purposes.

In order to assist investigation for any suspects developed, an artist's conception of the assassin taken from the "Tampa Tribune", for April 6, 1968, is set forth below.



White male, age 26 to 40, height 5'8" to 5'11"
150-170#, hair is dark brown or sandy combed
straight back. Eyes, blue or green, build -
medium, complexion - average and smooth
Characteristics - makes neat physical appearance
and in all probability is a non-smoker.

ALL LEADS DEVELOPED THIS CASE MUST BE
HANDLED IMMEDIATELY AND RESULTS MUST BE
IMMEDIATELY FURNISHED TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS
AND BIRMINGHAM.



85 - Tampa
1 ea. agent
LEB:ad
(85)

157-3231-23

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED <i>en</i>	FILED <i>en</i>
FBI - TAMPA	

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

FBI WASH DC

HOLD FOR 3 MESSAGES

810PM LCC URGENT 4/8/68 GJM

TO ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

MURKIN

THIS IS THE CASE INVOLVING THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR., ON APRIL FOUR, LAST, IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD ANYONE BE TOLD THIS
INVESTIGATION IS IN CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED MATTER.

IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT A RIFLE ABANDONED NEAR
SCENE OF CRIME WAS PURCHASED BY INDIVIDUAL USING THE NAME
HARVEY LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER.

LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER IS GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS WHITE
MALE, THIRTYSIX YEARS OLD, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES TALL, ONE
HUNDRED FIFTY - ONE HUNDRED SIXTY POUNDS, BLACK OR DARK BROWN
HAIR.

IN VIEW OF THE UNUSUAL NATURE OF THE NAMES LOWMEYER
AND LOWMYER, ALL OFFICES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CHECK YOUR
INDICES, ALL CITY DIRECTORIES, ALL TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES COVERING
YOUR TERRITORIES, ALL DRIVERS LICENSE RECORDS, ALL AUTOMOBILE
END PAGE ONE

Trinkle advised 10:00 PM
Allen advised 10:05 PM
Rutland advised 10:30 PM
Dayle Plant City
WJD

157-3231-25

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 8 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

McHugh

PAGE TWO

REGISTRATION RECORDS, VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS, AND CREDIT AND CRIMINAL RECORDS ON THE SURNAMES LOWMEYER AND LOWMYER, IN VIEW OF THE UNUSUAL NATURE OF THE NAMES, DO NOT CONFINE YOUR CHECK TO HARVEY LOWMEYER AND LOWMYER ONLY. ANY INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AS BEARING THESE SURNAMES SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY CHECKED OUT COVERING THE PERTINENT PERIOD. YOU SHOULD ALSO APPROPRIATELY CHECKOUT ALL BOMBING SUSPECTS IN YOUR TERRITORIES.

HANDLE IMMEDIATELY AND GIVE TOP PRIORITY ATTENTION.

BUFILES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE ON HARVEY LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER.

END

PLSE HOLD ALS

FBI TAMPA

Memorandum

TO : (157-3231)

DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SA JOHN R. BRETT

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR

At 7:30 AM, Mr. EDGAR HUBER, 498 North Orange Blossom Trail, Lot 63, Telephone number, Garden 2-3581, called. He said the sketch of the suspect in this matter, which was shown on TV, looks like ~~THOMAS THORMAN~~, a house painter, who spends his winters in Florida and summers in Ohio. He is a religious fanatic, a loner, but with a wife and 4 or 5 children. When in Ohio he is in Spencerville and in Florida he used to stay in Eustis. He used to buy paint at Artcraft Paint Co. He was here this winter as he stopped by to see HUBER, after hearing him on the radio.

He can furnish more information on THORMAN and will be at home all day today, 4/8/68.

See A. 29

Hafley adv.
10:40 PM 4/8/68

(2)
JRB/

5010-108

157-3231-24

INDEXED	en
FILED	en
FBI - TAMPA	

AB

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

F B I

Date: 4/8/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR AND SACs BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN, RM

ON APRIL EIGHT INSTANT, TAMPA PD FURNISHED INFO THAT
A W/M, DRIVING SIXTY EIGHT WHITE THUNDERBIRD, TENNESSEE
LICENSE A B ONE SEVEN TWO TWO, WAS OBSERVED BY A CITIZEN
AT THE HOLIDAY INN MOTEL, FOWLER AVE, TEMPLE TERRACE, FLA.

REGISTRATION RECORDS, HOLIDAY INN, TEMPLE TERRACE,
FLA., REFLECT W. R. THOMPSON, ONE ZERO NINE SEVEN LYNWOOD,
NASHVILLE, TENN., REGISTERED INTO ROOM ONE ZERO FOUR, AT
HOLIDAY INN, ELEVEN FIFTY ONE A.M., APRIL SEVEN LAST. HE
IS REGISTERED WITH WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN, CLAIMS EMPLOYMENT
AT GENESCO, INC., AND PRODUCED AMERICAN EXPRESS CREDIT
CARD [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RESERVATIONS PREVIOUSLY MADE
ON APRIL TWO SIXTY EIGHT AT WEST END HOLIDAY INN, NASHVILLE,
TENN. DEPARTURE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL NINE NEXT.

1 Tampa
JRMW:ay
(1) *av*

SEARCHED
INDEXED
SERIALIZED
FILED

1. *End*

157-3231-26

2. *Whelan*

3. *McLaughlin*

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *WA 12:50* M Per *me 13p Bk 12p*

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO

ON INTERVIEW BY BUAGENTS, THOMPSON, WHO BEARS SOME RESEMBLANCE TO ARTIST CONCEPT PHOTO OF SUBJECT, ADVISED ON VACATION FROM APRIL ONE TO APRIL FIVE LAST, ~~AT~~, AND SPENT ALL OF THIS TIME SPECIFICALLY, APRIL FOUR LAST, AT HIS RESIDENCE IN NASHVILLE. DEPARTED NASHVILLE MORNING OF APRIL SIX LAST EN ROUTE TAMPA. STATES NEIGHBORS CAN VERIFY PRESENCE AT RESIDENCE IN NASHVILLE. THOMPSON'S WIFE ^{STATED} ~~VERIFIED THE FACT THAT~~ HE WAS AT RESIDENCE DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL ONE THROUGH SIX LAST. HE SMOKED CIGARETTES, CONSTANTLY, THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW.

MEMPHIS, VERIFY THOMPSON'S RESIDENCE AND PRESENCE IN NASHVILLE APRIL FOUR LAST.

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

FBI WASH DC

FBI TAMPA

126PM URGENT 4-8-68 BLW

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS
FROM TAMPA (157-3231) 2P

MURKIN, RM.

ON APRIL EIGHT INSTANT, TAMPA PD FURNISHED INFO THAT
A W/M, DRIVING SIXTYEIGHT WHITE THUNDERBIRD, TENNESSEE
LICENSE A B ONE SEVEN TWO TWO, WAS OBSERVED BY A CITIZEN
AT THE HOLIDAY INN MOTEL, FOWLER AVE., TEMPLE TERRACE, FLA.

REGISTRATION RECORDS, HOLIDAY INN, TEMPLE TERRACE,
FLA., REFLECT W.R. THOMPSON, ONE ZERO NINE SEVEN LYNWOOD,
NASHVILLE, TENN., REGISTERED INTO ROOM ONE ZERO FOUR, AT
HOLIDAY INN, ELEVEN FIFTY ONE A.M., APRIL SEVEN LAST. HE
IS REGISTERED WITH WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN, CLAIMS EMPLOYMENT
AT GENESCO, INC., AND PRODUCED AMERICAN EXPRESS CREDIT
CARD [REDACTED] -
[REDACTED] RESERVATIONS PREVIOUSLY MADE
ON APRIL TWO SIXTY EIGHT AT WEST END HOLIDAY INN, NASHVILLE,
TENN. DEPARTURE SCHEDULED FOR APRIL NINE NEXT.

END PAGE ONE

*cc FB 2 Memphis (MEN)
4 FB 2 Birmingham (AMB)
dest
mhr*

157 3231-25

SEARCHED _____
INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED *CS*
FILED *CS*

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

ON INTERVIEW BY BUAGENTS, THOMPSON, WHO BEARS SOME RESEMBLANCE TO ARTIST CONCEPT PHOTO OF SUBJECT, ADVISED ON VACATION FROM APRIL ONE TO APRIL FIVE LAST, AND SPENT ALL OF THIS TIME SPECIFICALLY, APRIL FOUR LAST, AT HIS RESIDENCE IN NASHVILLE. DEPARTED NASHVILLE MORNING OF APRIL SIX LAST EN ROUTE TAMPA. STATES NEIGHBORS CAN VERIFY PRESENCE AT RESIDENCE IN NASHVILLE. THOMPSON'S WIFE STATED HE WAS AT RESIDENCE DURING THE WEEK OF APRIL ONE THROUGH SIX LAST. HE SMOKED CIGARETTES, CONSTANTLY, THROUGHOUT INTERVIEW.

MEMPHIS, VERIFY THOMPSON'S RESIDENCE AND PRESENCE IN NASHVILLE APRIL FOUR LAST.

END

CAB

FBI WASH DC