

By your plea of guilty you are also waiving your rights to (1) Motion for a New Trial; (2) Successive Appeals to the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals and the Supreme Court of Tennessee; (3) Petition for Review by the Supreme Court of the United States.

By your plea of guilty you are also abandoning and waiving your objections and exceptions to all the Motions and Petitions in which the Court has heretofore ruled against you in whole or in part, among them being:

1. Motion to withdraw plea and quash indictment
2. Motion to inspect evidence
3. Motion to remove lights and cameras from jail
4. Motion for private consultation with attorney
5. Petition to authorize defendant to take depositions
6. Motion to permit conference with Huie
7. Motion to permit photographs
8. Motion to designate court reporters
9. Motion to stipulate testimony
10. Suggestion of proper name"

DEFENDANT "Yes"

JUDGE "Has anything besides this sentence of ninety-nine years in the penitentiary been promised to you to get you to plead guilty? Has anything else been promised you by anyone?"

DEFENDANT "No"

JUDGE "Has any pressure of any kind, by anyone in any way been used on you to get you to plead guilty?"

DEFENDANT "No"

JUDGE "Are you pleading guilty to Murder in the First Degree in this case because you killed Dr. Martin Luther King under such circumstances that would make you legally guilty of Murder in the First Degree under the law as explained to you by your lawyers?"

DEFENDANT "Yes"

for

P. 7

Page 3
Voir Dire of Defendant on Waiver and Order

JUDGE "Is this Plea of Guilty to Murder in the First Degree with agreed punishment of ninety-nine years in the State Penitentiary, freely, voluntarily and understandingly made and entered by you?"

DEFENDANT "Yes"

JUDGE "Is this Plea of Guilty on your part the free act of your free will, made with your full knowledge and understanding of its meaning and consequences?"

DEFENDANT "Yes"

JUDGE "You may be seated."

James Earl Ray

Percy Foreman

EXHIBIT 17
(Classified)

-200-



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1977

AG
202-739-2028

The FBI conducted a thorough investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a Department of Justice task force concluded in a report released today by Attorney General Griffin B. Bell.

The 149-page report was submitted by the task force of the Office of Professional Responsibility following an eight-month intensive review of FBI files and interview of witnesses. The purpose of the study was to examine FBI activities involving Dr. King and to evaluate the effectiveness of the assassination investigation.

The report concluded that the FBI had conducted a painstaking and successful investigation of the 1968 assassination in Memphis, Tennessee.

The task force also found no evidence of FBI complicity in the murder.

The only new evidence that was developed related to details that did not affect the ultimate conclusion that James Earl Ray was the properly convicted murderer.

③ # 3 *[initials]*
④ # 4 *[initials]*
⑤ # 5 *[initials]*
⑥ # 6 *[initials]*
⑦ MORGAN *[signature]*

157-3231-573
SEARCHED *[initials]*
SERIALIZED *[initials]*
INDEXED *[initials]*
① SAC *[initials]*
② ASAC *[initials]*

The task force of five attorneys and two research analysts reviewed more than 200,000 documents from FBI Headquarters and Field Office files and interviewed some 40 witnesses in its study of the King case.

On April 26, 1976, then Attorney General Edward H. Levi directed the Office of Professional Responsibility, headed by Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., to review Department files to determine:

(1) Whether the FBI investigation of Dr. King's murder on April 4, 1968, at Memphis, Tennessee, was thorough and honest;

(2) Whether there was any evidence of FBI involvement in Dr. King's death;

(3) Whether any new evidence had come to the attention of the Department bearing on the assassination which should be dealt with by the proper authorities; and

(4) Whether the relationship between the FBI and Dr. King called for criminal prosecution, disciplinary proceedings, or other appropriate action.

After reviewing the murder investigation, the task force turned to the pre-assassination security investigation of Dr. King. The task force found that there may have been an arguable basis for the FBI to initiate a security investigation on Dr. King, but continued that the security investigation should have been ended in 1963 and not continued until his death five years later.

The FBI's COINTELPRO-type harassment of Dr. King and efforts to drive him out of the civil rights movement were found to have been clearly improper.

Mr. Shaheen's report concluded that any criminal action against FBI participants in the harassment campaign was barred by the statute of limitations. The task force recommended no disciplinary action because the chief FBI officials responsible for the harassment are dead or retired.

The task force submitted recommendations for tighter supervision of the FBI's domestic intelligence activities and endorsed the Department's new guidelines in this area. The task force also proposed outright prohibition of COINTELPRO-type activities against domestic intelligence subjects.

TRANSMIT VIA: Airtel

PRECEDENCE: _____

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: 3-1-77

To: SAC, Albany

From: ~~not~~ Director, FBI

BUREAUWIDE INFORMATION PROGRAM, 77-5

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT
ON FBI INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

*Assassination of
Martin Luther King Jr.
157-3231**

Attached is a copy of a three-page news release which was made by Attorney General Griffin B. Bell on 2/18/77 pertaining to the report prepared by the Department of Justice Task Force which conducted a review of our security investigation, as well as our investigation regarding the assassination, of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

There also is attached a copy of the Task Force's report, together with its exhibits. Copies of this report, including its exhibits, have been made available to news media by the Department of Justice.

I have made the following statement in response to inquiries regarding the Task Force's report which have been received at FBIHQ:

"I noted with great satisfaction the conclusions of the task force that the FBI's assassination probe of the Martin Luther King slaying was 'credible and thorough'; that there was no evidence of a conspiracy; and that the report clearly indicates no complicity on the part of the FBI in this assassination.

Enclosures (2)

- 1 - All Field Offices - Enclosures (2)
- 1 - Each Legat - Enclosures (2)

(Do not type below this line.)

157-3231-574

③ #3
④ #4
⑤ #5
⑥ #6
⑦ MORGAN

CC IN
80-707

① SAC
② ASAC

FBI/DOJ

Airtel to SAC, Albany

RE: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE REPORT
ON FBI INVESTIGATIONS INVOLVING
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

"There are portions of the report which describe objectionable actions on the part of the FBI.

"Guidelines, procedures and our determination to be completely observant of civil rights and the dignity of man will prevent a recurrence of these activities."

If requested to comment regarding any of the conclusions of the Task Force or concerning the contents of its report, you should feel free to quote my above-cited statement. However, you should not expand on my statement or volunteer observations of your own.

In addition, you should not hesitate to refer news media representatives who make inquiries about matters covered in the Task Force report to the Press Services Unit (Ext. 3691) of the External Affairs Division.

Should you receive inquiries regarding the availability of copies of the Task Force report, you should state that the report was released by the Department of Justice and that the FBI has been advised that copies of the report are being printed and will be available for purchase through the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (RUC)

DATE: 3/15/77

FROM : AMY M. WEISNER
SC

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
ASSASSINATION

EVAN DESSASSAU, 3417 26th St., Tampa, Fla., 33605, no telephone, employed by YELLOW CAB, 401 Oregon St., Tampa, Fla. telephone 253-0131 personally appeared at the Tampa Office this date and furnished the following information:

DESSASSAU advised he picked up a white female at the Holiday Inn, near Airport, and during trip to 4011 West Dale, they began talking. She told DESSASSAU that she is a student at the University of Alabama. DESSASSAU, a negro male, asked her about the racial situation and during the discussion, she mentioned that her father could have killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. or had something to do with the murder.

DESSASSAU advised he went back to the Holiday Inn, spoke with the porter who put her in the cab to attempt to establish her identity. He determined that she came from Rm. 411, and that the porter will try to find out who was registered in Rm. 411 and contact DESSASSAU feels this information will be of importance as she appeared to be very sincere in the matter.

DESSASSAU stated she told him she was going to be in town for a few days and was going to the beach at Clearwater, Fla. today.

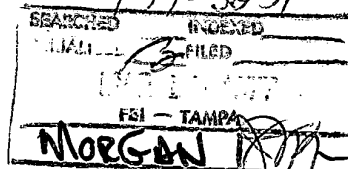
UNSUB, described as W/F, approx. 5'5", 130#, light complexion, and blond hair.

DESSASSAU was advised this information would be referred to a Supervisor for whatever action deemed necessary.

AW
(1)



5010-110



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

memorandum

DATE: 3/18/77

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SA JOHN N. MORGANSUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR?
ASSASSINATION

TO: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) (Close)

Re memo of SC AMY M. WEISNER dated 3/15/77.

On 3/18/77 HARRY CHAMP, Resident Manager, Tampa-International Airport Holiday Inn checked records of the motel and stated he could locate no record of room 411 having been rented out to anyone on 3/14/77 or 3/15/77. He stated he could locate no record of a female having registered in that room for the past month. He stated the room in question is a display room normally used by traveling salesmen to display their wares. No further investigation is contemplated in this case.

JNM

157-3231-575A

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MAR 19 1977	
FBI - TAMPA	
MORGAN <i>[Signature]</i>	



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

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-76)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
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FM TAMPA (157-3231) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

ATLANTA (44-2386) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

RE TAMPA AIRTELS JULY 2, 1974 AND DECEMBER 19, 1975,
WITH ENCLOSED LHMS CAPTIONED, "JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM."

ON JULY 26, 1978, SGT. ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR.,
HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON, MAC DILL AFB (MAFB), TAMPA, FLA.,
HOME ADDRESS, 3109 HARTNETT AVE., TAMPA, FLA., CAME TO THE
TAMPA OFFICE (TPO) OF THE FBI AND ADVISED THAT HE HAD READ AN
ARTICLE IN "THE TAMPA TRIBUNE" OF JULY 26, 1978, TO THE EFFECT
THAT A RUSSELL G. BYERS HAD TOLD THE HOUSE ASSASSINATION
COMMITTEE THAT HE HAD BEEN OFFERED MONEY ON BEHALF OF A GROUP OF

157-3231-576

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PAGE TWO TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

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PAGE THREE TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

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PAGE FOUR TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

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MY NAME IS ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR. OF 3109 HARTNETT AVE., TAMPA, FLA. 33611 - TEL. 839-7281. I WORK AT A 56 HEADQUARTERS SQ. MACDILL AFB, TEL 830-3942-2724.

MY FATHER HAD A NICK NAME OF TWILIKER. (SPELLING UNKNOWN). I TALKED TO CPT. WHITE, LEGAL OFFICE AT MAC DILL WHO DIRECTED ME HERE AFTER TALKING TO HIS FRIEND, A FBI AGENT IN CALIFORNIA. SIGNED: ROBERT T. WEHUNT, JR."

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BT

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☒ ~~SECRET~~ UNCLAS

Date 7-26-78

10
FM TAMPA (157-3231) (RUC)TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE 2325ATLANTA (44-2386) ROUTINE 2050MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE 2315

BT

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Approved: *[signature]*Transmitted 5

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(Time)

Per *[signature]*

TAMPA-FBI

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TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

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☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

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PAGE TWO TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

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Approved: _____

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(Time)

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Date _____

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Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

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Date _____

13
PAGE FOUR TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

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BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

memorandum

DATE: 7/26/78

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

TO: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

SGT. ROBERT T. WEHUNT, JR., Headquarters Squadron, Mac Dill AFB, telephone 830-3942, home address, 3109 Hartnett Ave., Tampa, Florida personally appeared at the Tampa Office this date and furnished the attached information which is being made a 1A exhibit.

SGT. WEHUNT advised he had furnished the same information in 1974, however, felt appropriate action had not been taken, inasmuch as his mother or sister had never been interviewed. SGT. WEHUNT stated after reading the morning paper concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING investigation, decided he should come back to the FBI.

SGT. WEHUNT stated he talked with legal adviser at Mac Dill AFB concerning matter and advised that he should recontact this office. SGT. WEHUNT requested my name and name of Supervisor. I furnished him my name and SAC PHILIP A. MC NIFF.

I advised SGT. WEHUNT information would be furnished Supervisor immediately.

A review of 157-3231 reveals information furnished by SGT. WEHUNT was furnished to Bureau by LHM 7/2/74, serial #547.

AW
(1) encl. 1

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

☆ U.S.GPO:1977-0-241-530 3089

Info you furnished to B.

157-3231-577

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 26 1978	
FBI-TAMPA	
SAC	

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
(REV. 7-76)
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6
5010-112

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 7-27-78

Sergeant ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR., Headquarters Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base (MAFB), Tampa, Florida, home address, 3109 Hartnett Avenue, Tampa, Florida, appeared at the Tampa Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and furnished a statement which he had handwritten. Sergeant WEHUNT advised that he had furnished the same information to the Tampa Office of the FBI in 1974, however, he felt that appropriate action had not been taken on the information that he had furnished, as his mother and sister had never been interviewed.

Sergeant WEHUNT stated that after reading the Tampa morning paper concerning a statement made by an individual that he had turned down an offer of \$50,000 to arrange the death of Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., he had discussed this matter with the Legal Advisor at MAFB who suggested that he recontact the Tampa Office of the FBI. The statement furnished by Sergeant WEHUNT is as follows:

"In 1966-67 my father, Robert T. Wehunt, had statements that I saw that was made by App-3 prisoners at the Fulton County Jail that stated they were offered large sums of money to kill Martin Luther King, Jr. My father was a Deputy Sheriff of Fulton County and was working at the Fulton County Jail at the time. (over 9 years). I saw the statements. I do not remember the names, however, I do remember that there were three people my father described as influential business men who offered the money. Later my father told me he had tried to turn the statements over to the GBI and was told he had better not if

157-3231-578

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUL 27 1978	
FBI-TAMPA	

Investigation on 7-26-78 at Tampa, Florida File # Tampa 157-3231

by SC AMY M. WEISNER;mab Date dictated 7-27-78

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.

"he wanted to live. Later he told me that he had been told if he told any one they would kill my father and his entire family. My father also told me that he kept the statements and a large sum of money that he hinted to being around \$3 million to 3½ million dollars. Later my mother told me she though my father told her he turned the statements over to a man who was going to write a book. The man's name is Bob something. My mother knows his name. My father died in 1973 and I told all this to the FBI in 1974.

"I do not know the name of the bank where my father kept the statements but it was located in Little Five Points in Atlanta, Georgia. My sister, now Mrs. Wayne Upshaw of Stone Mt. Georgia, said she typed the statements for my father. My mother, Alma L. Wehunt of 3015 Albatross Lane, Decatur, Georgia knows, probably, more than I, however I know she is scared about talking about it.

"My name is Robert Thomas Wehunt, Jr. of 3109 Hartnett Ave., Tampa, Fla. 33611 - Tel. 839-7281. I work at a 56 Headquarter Sq., MacDill AFB, Tel.# 830-3942-2724.

"My father had a nick name of Twiliker. (spelling unknown). I talked to Cpt. White, Legal Office at MacDill who directed me here after talking to his friend, a FBI Agent in California.

"/s/ Robert T. Wehunt, Jr."

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7-27-78

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Investigation on 7-26-78 at Tampa, Florida File # Tampa 157-3231-578
by SC AMY M. WEISNER:mab Date dictated 7-27-78

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.

TP 157-3231

"he wanted to live. Later he told me that he had been told if he told any one they would kill my father and his entire family. My father also told me that he kept the statements and a large sum of money that he hinted to being around \$3 million to 3½ million dollars. Later my mother told me she though my father told her he turned the statements over to a man who was going to write a book. The man's name is Bob something. My mother knows his name. My father died in 1973 and I told all this to the FBI in 1974.

"I do not know the name of the bank where my father kept the statements but it was located in Little Five Points in Atlanta, Georgia. My sister, now Mrs. Wayne Upshaw of Stone Mt. Georgia, said she typed the statements for my father. My mother, Alma L. Wehunt of 3015 Albatross Lane, Decatur, Georgia knows, probably, more than I, however I know she is scared about talking about it.

"My name is Robert Thomas Wehunt, Jr. of 3109 Hartnett Ave., Tampa, Fla. 33611 - Tel. 839-7281. I work at a 56 Headquarter Sq., MacDill AFB, Tel.# 830-3942-2724.

"My father had a nick name of Twiliker. (spelling unknown). I talked to Cpt. White, Legal Office at MacDill who directed me here after talking to his friend, a FBI Agent in California.

"/s/ Robert T. Wehunt, Jr."

memorandum

DATE: 8/2/78

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: SC IDA M. HUGHES

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

TO: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231)

On this date, SGT. ROBERT T. WEHUNT, JR., telephonically contacted this office and advised he had additional information re KING's assassination that he wanted to furnish other than what he had given Mrs. WEISNER on 7/26/78.

He advised that his father was given a drug by a military doctor approximately six months before his death, that was a "Mind Altering Drug". He stated that his mother would know the doctor's name and also information regarding the drug which was given to his father. He also stated he believed his father committed suicide and the autopsy showed "brain damage", which he believed was caused from the drug his father was taking.

SGT. WEHUNT was advised information would be furnished to appropriate supervisor for whatever action he deemed appropriate.

ADDENDUM:

At 11:05 a.m. this date (8/2/78), SGT. WEHUNT again contacted the office and advised that he had gone to MacDill Hospital Commander and OSI with the above information.

1 - Tampa
IMH
(1)
[Signature]



157-3231-579

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - TAMPA	
1/82	

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

TP0005 2152217

RR HQ AT ME

DE TP

R 032101Z AUG 78

FM TAMPA (157-3231)(RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

ATLANTA (44-2386) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN.

RE TAMPA TELETYPE, JULY 26, 1978.

ON AUGUST 2, 1978, SGT. ROBERT T. WEHUNT, JR., RECONTACTED THE TAMPA OFFICE AND ADVISED HE HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING ABOVE-CAPTIONED CASE. HE ADVISED HIS FATHER WAS GIVEN A DRUG BY A MILITARY DOCTOR APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS BEFORE HIS DEATH THAT WAS A "MIND ALTERING DRUG." HE SAID HIS MOTHER WOULD KNOW THE DOCTOR'S NAME AND ALSO HAVE INFORMATION REGARDING THE DRUG WHICH WAS GIVEN TO HIS FATHER. HE ALSO STATED HE BELIEVED HIS FATHER HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE, AND THE AUTOPSY SHOWED "BRAIN DAMAGE," WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS

157-3231-580

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INDEXED
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FILED

PAGE TWO TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

CAUSED FROM THE DRUG HIS FATHER WAS TAKING. SGT. WEHUNT WAS ADVISED THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU'S ATTENTION.

BT

FBI

H-9
+

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☒ ~~XXXXXX~~ UNCLAS

Date 8/3/78

FM TAMPA (157-3231) RUC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

ATLANTA (44-2386) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE

BT

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①-Tampa
GLH: fwh
(1)
fwh

157 3231-580
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Approved: *PAN*
*4212*Transmitted *5*

(Number)

2017

(Time)

Per *#6*
4212

TAMPA-FBI

AUG 3 5 01 PM 1978

H-10

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ E F T O
- ☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

CAUSED FROM THE DRUG HIS FATHER WAS TAKING. SGT. WEHUNT WAS ADVISED THAT THIS INFORMATION WOULD BE FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU'S ATTENTION.

BT

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____