

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Moore said after calling the FBI Office he believes he went straight to his residence in Copperas Cove and "fell into a pretty good sleep". He did not recall hearing the phone ring during the entire evening and he did not awake until the next morning. (SA Boyhan attempted to telephonically contact Moore at his residence on numerous occasions following his telephone call to the San Antonio Office. When no answer was received efforts were discontinued at approximately 10 p.m.)

Moore apologized for calling the FBI Office and advised that he only did so due to his drunken condition. He indicated that there would be no similar incidents in the future.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 15 1976
^{for}
TELETYPE

MURKIN

SJ 787

NR 001 SJ PLAIN

1:47 PM IMMEDIATE MAY 15, 1976 EZP

TO DIRECTOR BOSTON
COLUMBIA WASHINGTON FIELD
LITTLE ROCK

////////// ALL OFFICES VIA HEADQUARTERS
FROM SAC, SAN JUAN (89-0)

OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE; SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY - VICTIM. *re Moore.*

POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE MATTER.

RE SAN JUAN TELETYPE TO BUREAU MAY 14, 1976, AND BUREAU TELETYPE TO
SAN JUAN MAY 14, 1976.

ON INSTANT DATE MOORE INTERVIEWED AT HIS RESIDENCE RE CAPTIONED
MATTER. MOORE REITERATED HIS INTENTIONS OF ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN
AN INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR KENNEDY REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING AND PRESIDENT KENNEDY. MOORE ADVISED IF
SENATOR KENNEDY WILL NOT SEE HIM HE WILL ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INTER-
VIEWS WITH SENATORS DALE BUMPERS AND HENRY JACKSON. HE ALSO INTENDS
TO CONTACT THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE TO OBTAIN AN INTERVIEW WITH
JAMES EARL RAY WHOM MOORE FEELS DID NOT TELL THE TRUE STORY RE THE
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

WHEN QUESTIONED RE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF THE ASSASSINATION OF KING,
MOORE ONLY FURNISHED THE SAME INFORMATION HE GAVE PREVIOUSLY TO THE

TELETYPED TO:

All listed

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

*McDonough
Coigto Rutter*

*Nothing in Bufile identifiable
with Moore or in Dallas per Sup.
Gerald Geary on 5/15/76
John Kelly, SA, sending
in another LHM*

*5/15/76 SA
Patterson advised
On 5/18/76 Sup. Bob Dwyer
instructed to SUMMA under Markin.*

SECRET SERVICE AGENT, ADDING ONLY THAT A "MULTIMILLIONAIRE LAWYER FROM DALLAS" WAS PRESENT WHEN HE WAS OFFERED \$50,000 TO ASSASSINATE KING. MOORE ADVISED THAT HE HAD ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, BUT HE WOULD ONLY GIVE IT TO SENATOR KENNEDY, BECAUSE HE HAD CONTACTED THE FBI IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE OFFER HAD BEEN MADE AND NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN.

INTERVIEW WITH MOORE'S WIFE, LYDIA M. MOORE, NEE TORRES, REVEALED THAT MOORE HAS BEEN PLANNING TO TAKE THIS TRIP FOR SOME TIME, BUT UP TILL NOW SHE HAS BEEN ABLE TO TALK HIM OUT OF IT. SHE FURTHER ADVISED THAT UNTIL RECENTLY HER HUSBAND HAS BEEN UNDER CARE OF A DOCTOR GARCIA FOR A NERVOUS DISORDER, AND WAS TO HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED FOR TREATMENT.

MRS. MOORE STATED THAT THE NIGHT IN 1965, HER HUSBAND CAME HOME WITH THE ASSASSINATION STORY, HE WAS EXTREMELY DRUNK, AND DID CALL THE FBI.

MOORE MADE AVAILABLE HIS DISCHARGE PAPERS WHICH INDICATED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

DOB: DECEMBER 23, 1927; POB: ELAINE, ARKANSAS; SSAN: [REDACTED]
HOME OF RECORD: CARESIO - ANTION RIGG NUMBER 63, HUMACAO, PUERTO
RICO. OCCUPATION IN MILITARY: COOK AND MESS STEWARD. LAST UNIT
ASSIGNED: COMPANY A 75TH RANGER BN FIRST ARMORED DIVISION, FT.
HOOD, TEXAS.

UNIT RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO: USAR CON OP (RETIRED) RCPAC 9700 PAGE
BOULAVARD, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI. WEAPON QUALIFICATION: M1A SHARPSHOOTER
OVERSEAS ASSIGNMENTS: 1965, WURTZBURG, GERMANY; 1967-68, VIETNAM;
1970-71, THAIAND. REASON FOR DISCHARGE: RETIREMENT IN DECEMBER 1974.

MOORE ADVISED THAT HE DOES NOT BELIEVE IN VIOLENCE, THAT HE HAS NO
WEAPONS AND DOES NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ANY WEAPONS. MOORE'S WIFE ADVISED
HER HUSBAND IS NOT PRONE TO VIOLENCE AND SHE IS OF THE OPINION
HE WOULD NOT RESORT TO VIOLENCE TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES.

A PHOTOGRAPH OF MOORE WAS OBTAINED DURING THE COURSE OF THE
INTERVIEW.]

IT IS THE OPINION OF THE INTERVIEWING AGENTS THAT MOORE IS IN AN
EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE STATE OF MIND AND SEEMS TO BE DETERMINED IN
ACCOMPLISHING HIS MISSION, SUPRA.

SJ 89-0

PAGE FOUR

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED INSTANT DATE, TO APPROPRIATE PERSONNEL AT ROOSEVELT ROADS NAVAL BASE, PUERTO RICO, WHERE MOORE INTENDS TO EMBARK ON HIS FLIGHT TO THE UNITED STATES.

END

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

IMMEDIATE

MAY 14, 1976

TO SACS, SAN JUAN (87-0)

BOSTON (INFO)

COLUMBIA (INFO)

WFO (INFO)

LITTLE ROCK (INFO)

FROM DIRECTOR, FBI

OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE; SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY - VICTIM.

POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE MATTER.

RE SAN JUAN TELETYPE MAY 14, 1976.

SAN JUAN OFFICE IS INSTRUCTED TO IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEW MOORE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE TO CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA. OBTAIN FROM MOORE DETAILS OF HIS STATEMENT REGARDING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. ALSO DETERMINE IF MOORE HAS ANY VIOLENT TENDENCIES, IS ARMED AND/OR IF ACCESS TO ANY WEAPONS, HIS SPECIFIC INTENTIONS REGARDING SENATOR KENNEDY AND CONGRESSMAN MILLS, AND ASSESS HIS MENTAL CONDITION.

FURNISH RESULTS TO FBIHQ AND ABOVE-LISTED OFFICES.

END

1 - Mr. Nettles

1 - Mr. McDonough

JBL:pdh (3)

MAY 14 2 20 PM '76

RECEIVED VICTIM

MESSAGE RELAY

Date May 14, 1976Transmit in ☒ Plaintext
☐ Code

Via Teletype the Attached

☒ Immediate☐ Urgent☐ Nitel

Message

From: Director, FBI

To: SACs: COLUMBIA
LITTLE ROCK
WFO

To: Legats:

To: RUEADWW/ ☐ The President☐ The Vice President☐ White House Situation Room☐ Attn:☐ Attn:RUEBWJA/ ☐ Attorney General ☐ Deputy Attorney General☐ Attn: Analysis and Evaluation UnitRUEBWJA/ ☐ Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights DivisionRUEBWJA/ ☐ Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Division☐ Attn: Internal Security Section ☐ Attn: General Crimes SectionRUEABND/ ☐ Drug Enforcement AdministrationRUEANAT/ ☐ National Aeronautics & Space Adm.RUEBWJA/ ☐ Immigration and Naturalization ServiceRUEOIAA/ ☐ National Security Agency

(DIRNSA/NSOC (Attn: SOO))

RUEBWJA/ ☐ U. S. Marshal's ServiceRUEBDUA/ ☐ Department of the Air Force (AFOSI)RUEBARE/ ☐ Naval Investigative ServiceRUEACSI/ ☐ Department of the ArmyRUEAUSA/ ☐ U. S. Postal Service (if Classified)

(Use RUEVDFB if Unclassified)

RUEAIIA/ ☐ Director, CIARUEHSE/ ☐ U. S. Secret Service (PID)RUEBJGA/ ☐ Commandant, U. S. Coast GuardRUEHC/ ☐ Secretary of StateRUEKJCS/ ☐ Director, Defense Intelligence AgencyRUEBJGA/ ☐ Department of TransportationRHEGGTN/ ☐ Energy Research and Development
Administration

Attn: Director of Security

RUEOGBA/ ☐ Federal Aviation AdministrationRUEATRS/ ☐ Department of TreasuryOther than ☐☐ Attn: U. S. CustomsListed ☐☐ Department of Treasury☐ Attn: Bureau of Alcohol

Tobacco & Firearms

☐ Top Secret☐ SecretClassification: ☐ Confidential☒ Unclassified

Foreign Liaison Unit.

☐ Route through for review☐ Cleared telephonically

with _____

Subject (Text begins next page):

OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE; SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY -
VICTIM. POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE
MATTER.

SJ 767

NR003 SJ PLAIN

5:15 PM URGENT MAY 14, 1976 SAA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TELETYPE

TO: ~~DIRECTOR~~

~~BOSTON~~

~~VIA HEADQUARTERS~~

FROM: ~~SAN JUAN (89-5)~~

~~OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE; SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY - VICTIM -~~

~~POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE MATTER.~~

SAC, SAN JUAN BY TELETYPE MAY 14, 1976, ADVISED:

A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRET SERVICE ADVISED ON MAY 14, 1976,

THAT ON MAY 12, 1976, HE INTERVIEWED (X) OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE,

CALLE 9 NUMBER L-12, ROYALTOWN, BAYAMON, PUERTO RICO: DATE OF

BIRTH DECEMBER 23, 1927; PLACE OF BIRTH, ELAINE, ARKANSAS; RACE -

WHITE; SEX - MALE; COMPLEXION - RUDDY; HAIR - BROWN; EYES -

GREEN; HEIGHT - 5'3"; WEIGHT - 146 POUNDS; SOCIAL SECURITY

ACCOUNT NUMBER [REDACTED]; MILITARY SERIAL NUMBER [REDACTED];

SMALL SCAR ON BRIDGE OF NOSE (X). THE SECRET SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE ADVISED THAT MOORE SAID THAT IN 1965, WHILE DRINKING

IN A BAR IN TEMPLE, TEXAS, TWO UNKNOWN MALES ENGAGED HIM IN CON-

VERSATION TO THE EFFECT THAT MOORE WAS OFFERED \$50,000 TO

ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MOORE BELIEVES HE IS IN

POSSESSION OF SIGNIFICANT INFORMATION, WHEN, COUPLED WITH THE

INFORMATION IN POSSESSION OF JAMES EARL RAY AND SENATOR EDWARD

KENNEDY, WILL BE ABLE TO "PUT IT ALL TOGETHER" AND RESOLVE THE

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. Assoc. Dir.
Dep. Assoc. Dir.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Ext. Affairs
Files & Com.
Gen. Inv.
Ident.
Insp.
Intell.
Lab.
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Eval.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Training
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

TELETYPED TO:
[Signature]

MATTER OF KING'S ASSASSINATION ONCE AND FOR ALL.

THE SECRET SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE ADVISED THAT MOORE IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART FROM ROOSEVELT ROADS NAVAL BASE IN PUERTO RICO ON SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1976, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 AND 8:00 PM, DESTINED BY MILITARY FLIGHT TO CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA. MOORE IS A RETIRED MILITARY VETERAN AND THEREBY ELIGIBLE FOR STANDBY STATUS ON MILITARY FLIGHTS. MOORE HAS VOWED THEREAFTER TO MAKE HIS WAY TO WASHINGTON, D.C., BY WHATEVER MEANS AVAILABLE AND TO THEREAFTER SIT IN THE OFFICE OF SENATOR KENNEDY AND PESTER THE OFFICE PERSONNEL UNTIL ABLE TO SEE SENATOR KENNEDY PERSONALLY. IN ADDITION TO SENATOR KENNEDY, MOORE HAS STATED THAT HE WOULD ALSO ATTEMPT TO SEE OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, MENTIONING BY NAME SENATOR WILBUR MILLS OF HIS HOME STATE OF ARKANSAS. NO OTHER NAMES OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WERE MENTIONED.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

THE ABOVE INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED THE SAN JUAN OFFICE

SJ 89-0

PAGE THREE

ON MAY 14, 1976, BY SPECIAL AGENT ROBERT OBERHOLTZ OF THE SECRET SERVICE, WHO ADVISED THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED THIS INFORMATION TO HIS HEADQUARTERS IN WASHINGTON, D.C., AND HAD BEEN ADVISED BY SECRET SERVICE HEADQUARTERS TO FURNISH THIS INFORMATION TO THE SAN JUAN OFFICE OF THE FBI. SECRET SERVICE SPECIAL AGENT OBERHOLTZ NOTED THAT MOORE APPEARED TO BE MENTALLY UNSTABLE DURING THE INTERVIEW BY OBERHOLTZ.

OBERHOLTZ PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPH OF MOORE WHICH IS BEING FORWARDED TO BUREAU AND BOSTON BY SEPARATE AIRTEL.

UACB, NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN AT SAN JUAN IN THIS MATTER.

~~ADDENDUM~~ ADDENDUM BY FBIHQ:

WFO ADVISE SENATOR KENNEDY'S OFFICE, CONGRESSMAN MILLS' OFFICE AND CAPITOL POLICE RE MOORE.

COLUMBIA OFFICE BEING FURNISHED INFORMATION COPY FOR ANY POSSIBLE LEADS TO COLUMBIA INASMUCH AS MOORE IS TO ARRIVE IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, MAY 15, 1976. HOWEVER, FBIHQ HAS INSTRUCTED SAN JUAN TO INTERVIEW MOORE PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM PUERTO RICO.

LITTLE ROCK ADVISE CONGRESSMAN MILLS' OFFICE IN ARKANSAS.
BOSTON OFFICE HAS BEEN ADVISED.

END

SJ 767

NR003 SJ PLAIN

5:15 PM URGENT MAY 14, 1976 SAA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAY 14 1976

TELETYPE

*Feelman
for Donah
on Nettles*

TO: DIRECTOR

BOSTON-----VIA HEADQUARTERS-----

FROM: SAN JUAN (89-0)

OTIS HUMPHREY MOORE; SENATOR EDWARD M. KENNEDY - VICTIM.

POTENTIAL CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE MATTER.

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TELETYPED TO:

BS CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

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OBERHOLTZ PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPH OF MOORE WHICH IS BEING FORWARDED TO BUREAU AND BOSTON BY SEPARATE AIRTEL.

UACB, NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN AT SAN JUAN IN THIS MATTER.

END.

Mr. T. W. Leavitt

J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

- 1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
 - 1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: J.S. Peelman)
 - 1 - Records Management
Division 6/3/76
 - 1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
 - 1 - Mr. J. O. Ingram
 - 1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
 - 1 - Mr. J. T. Aldhizer
- 24 O'mough*
14/11/76

PURPOSE: To advise of arrangements for review of WFO King assassination files by the Department Task Force of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), which is completing its review of King's assassination files at FBIHQ.

SYNOPSIS: The Department Task Force of the OPR is conducting a review of our investigation of King, starting with a review of FBIHQ files pertaining to the assassination. The Task Force is completing its review of these files and desires to review WFO files concerning the assassination, beginning 6/7/76. Through contact between Deputy Assistant Director J. O. Ingram, Intelligence Division, and SAC Nick F. Stames of WFO arrangements have been made to transport WFO files under guard from WFO to room 4171 of the J. E. H. Building where the Task Force has been working since 5/10/76. This is desirable for the Task Force and SAC Stames who indicated WFO lacks monitoring personnel and space for the review at WFO. The WFO assassination files consist of nine main volumes, 799 serials and five volumes of the sub C file (51 items).

RECOMMENDATION: None. For information.

100-106670

1 - 44-38861

JTA:adn

(9)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.
100-106670

DETAILS: You have been previously advised that since 5/10/76 the Department Task Force of the OPR is reviewing our investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr. The group has been working in room 4171 of J. E. H. Building and this week will complete review of all FBIHQ files pertaining to the assassination (44-38861). It is noted that the Task Force has been authorized access to all raw files in our investigation of King.

Mr. Fred G. Folsom, Jr., Task Force leader advised the group will be ready to review the WFO files on 6/7/76. He stated it would be convenient for his group if the files could be delivered from WFO to the Task Force's room in the J. E. H. Building.

Deputy Assistant Director J. O. Ingram of the Intelligence Division recently met with SAC Nick F. Stames of WFO. Stames advised WFO at the present time lacks monitoring personnel and space for the OPR review to take place at WFO. It was agreed WFO files would be transported under guard from WFO to room 4171 of the J. E. H. Building for review by the Task Force beginning 6/7/76. Mr. Ingram will continue to coordinate this matter with SAC Stames.

According to a previous file inventory concerning the King case the assassination files at WFO consist of nine volumes of the main file (799 serials) and five volumes of the sub C file (51 items) including photographs of subject, fingerprints and palmprints of subjects wanted, flyers, interview logs and other material relating to the investigation.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

5/27/76

**ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

5/24/76

**XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Kansas City**

an LHM

xx G. EJM/jet

2
**NOTE: Also enclosed is one copy of an LHM dated 5/14/76 at
Kansas City.**

5/24/76

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) RUC

MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Kansas City, 5/14/76.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are four copies of an LHM. Also, enclosed for Memphis are two copies of an LHM.

2 - Bureau (Encs. 4)
2 - Memphis (Encs. 2)
1 - Kansas City
THW:cd
(5)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

May 24, 1976

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Leslie Allen Achter, Missouri Division of Corrections #24045, was interviewed at the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), Jefferson City, Missouri, on May 20, 1976, in response to a letter he directed to FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley at Washington, D.C., on May 11, 1976. Achter's letter reads as follows:

"Dear Director Kelley:

"Sir What I am Writing You about I Want You to Send A F.B.I. Agent To ***** Interview Me in Person About James Earl Ray and I do Not Want to see a Agent From this State I am Very Sure You Know What I am Talking about_

"Thank You

"I am Sincerely
"/s/ Leslie Allen Achter-W-24045
Inmate Attorney-At-Law."

Achter had previously volunteered information about James Earl Ray in an interview with the FBI in the matter captioned "WARDEN DONALD W. WYRICK, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, Missouri; LESLIE ALLEN ACHTER - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS", as reported in memorandum dated May 14, 1976. In that interview, Achter advised that he was basing the information he offered on reading of reports in the news media on Ray's case, and he had no specific information to offer.

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

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A review of Achter's file at the MSP on May 20, 1976 revealed the following information:

He has FBI #216 783 C and is a white male, born January 3, 1937, and he is currently serving a 29-year sentence from Mississippi County, Missouri. He previously had commitments to the MSP as follows:

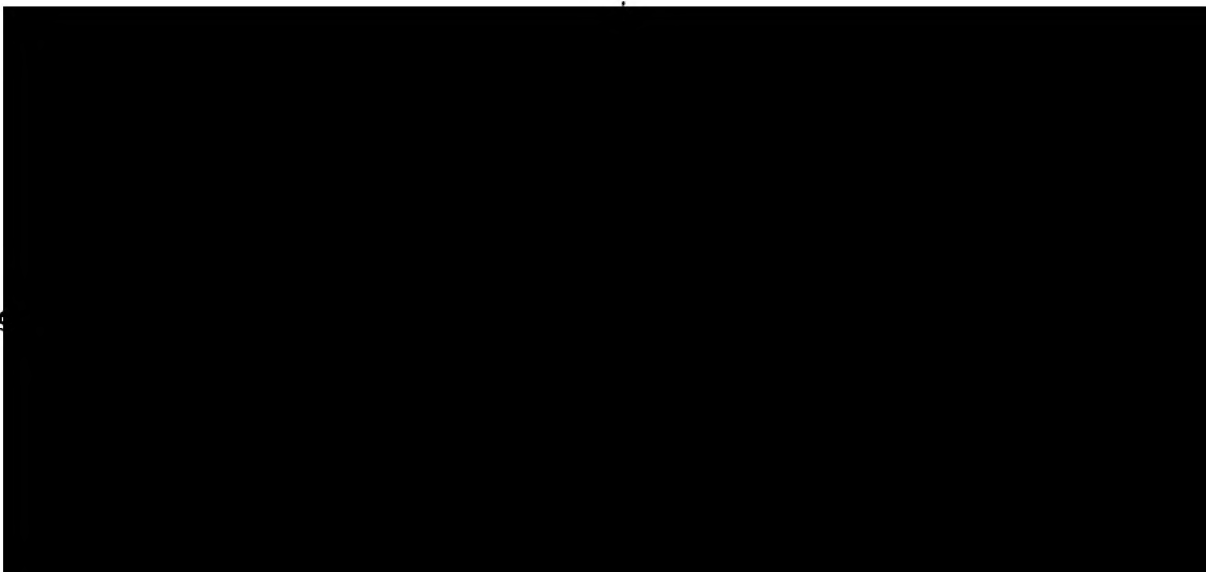
| <u>Date Received</u> | <u>Charge</u> | <u>Release</u> |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| March 30, 1956 | Burglary & Larceny | June 21, 1957, paroled |
| October 2, 1957 | Parole Violation | May 22, 1958, discharged |
| June 10, 1959 | Assault With Intent to Kill | May 14, 1962, escaped |
| May 28, 1962 | Returned from Escape | January 10, 1966, discharged |
| January 11, 1966 | Began sentence for escape charge | June 28, 1966, paroled |
| January 13, 1967 | Parole Violation | June 1, 1967, discharged |
| December 13, 1968 | Manslaughter | September 10, 1971, discharged |

Achter was taken out of the MSP on a court order to testify in U.S. District Court, Central Division, Western District of Missouri, on April 29, 1976, in civil actions #75CV2-C and 76CV36-C, captioned, "LESLIE ALLEN ACHTER, Plaintiff, vs. BILL ARMONTROUT, Associate Warden, MSP, et al, Defendants".

Lt. Golden of the MSP, reported on October 23, 1974 that Achter "is never satisfied unless he has something going on all the time...always agitating other inmates, and generally trying to cause havoc."

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

There is also correspondence in his file involving answers by the Division of Corrections of Missouri to Senator Thomas Eagleton of Missouri in response to inquiries prompted by letters Senator Eagleton received from Achter.



On interview on May 20, 1976, Achter stated that he remains interested in the James Earl Ray case, and his interest has been stirred by recent news articles about Ray. He noted that Newsweek magazine had an article recently indicating that Ray was a "dope pusher" in the MSP while an inmate, and he asserted that he knew Ray and knew that he was not a "dope pusher" and never had any money as indicated by the article. He said he recalls Ray ran a few "parlay tickets" on a "penny-ante" scale. He asserted that one Joe Maloney, a newspaper reporter for a newspaper in Kansas City, Missouri, formerly an inmate in the MSP and editor of the inmate newspaper, was never associated with Ray and had no basis for any information he wrote in a recent article he had published in the newspaper on Ray. Achter volunteered that it is his theory that Ray, as a con, would never have pulled the trigger on Martin Luther King and then left the rifle where it would be found and his radio, bearing his inmate register number at the MSP, where it could be found, at the scene. He stated that he has no information as to what actually happened and no information that anyone employed at the MSP was involved in assisting Ray's escape at the MSP. He offered that a former inmate at the MSP named Joe Hedgewood,

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

who was an inmate in 1967, later was hired by the MSP as a guard, but is now back inside the MSP as a convict after another conviction, and he thought it strange that he would be hired as a guard. He theorized that maybe Hedgewood "had something on" the staff at the MSP, which led them to hire him, but he had no information that Hedgewood was connected with James Earl Ray or that Hedgewood had any information about Ray's escape.

May 25, 1976

Civil Rights Division

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

May 21, 1976

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Cincinnati

LHM

6. x HNH:mlr

1

5/21/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re CI airtel and LHM to Bureau, 3/5/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY". Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

Information furnished in the enclosed LHM was obtained from records at the U. S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, by SC LINDA F. FERGUSON.

In view of information obtained, Cincinnati is placing this matter in RUC status.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
1 - Cincinnati

LFF/lff
(5)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Cincinnati, Ohio
May 21, 1976

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On May 11, 1976, Betty Tibbles, Deputy Clerk,
United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati,
Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation (FBI) that the following additional entries
were recorded on docket number 75-1795:

| | |
|--------------|--|
| May 10, 1976 | Judgment of the District Court affirmed |
| May 10, 1976 | Opinion Per Curiam |

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.

- 1* -

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
① - Mr. R. J. Callagher
(Attn: J. S. Peelman)

5/21/76

Mr. T. W. Leavitt

J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1 - Records Management
Division
1 - Legal Counsel Division
1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
1 - Mr. J. O. Ingram
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. J. T. Aldhizer

PURPOSE: To advise the degree of access to our files given the Department Task Force of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) which is assigned to review our past investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.

SYNOPSIS: Correspondence from the Department indicates that the current review of our King investigations by the OPR Task Force is a continuation of the "partial review" recently concluded by the Civil Rights Division of the Department under the direction of Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger. Therefore, in absence of any information to the contrary received from the Department to date, personnel conducting the OPR review will have the same access to our files that was afforded the Pottinger review group. Under instructions from the Attorney General the Pottinger group was allowed to review raw files pertaining to King, his family, relatives, friends, associates and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) as well as files relating to COINTELPRO actions, electronic surveillance, all intelligence files and our complete file on investigation of the assassination of King. Based on discussions with OPR Counsel Michael E. Shaheen, the Task Force will review the assassination file, King and related security files, the SCLC file and our file on Stanley David Levison, whose association with King served as the basis to investigate King. Informant files will not be made available for review. It should be noted that current review by the OPR Task Force will include cover pages of communications containing identities of some Bureau confidential sources and informants who were not afforded symbol numbers at that time and individuals who expressed or implied confidentiality. This review commenced 5/10/76 in Room 4171 of the JEH Building with review of our files pertaining to King's assassination.

100-106670

1 - 44-38861

CONTINUED - OVER

JTA:adn/seb (10)

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

DETAILS: The Attorney General has instructed the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) of the Department to conduct a review of our past investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. By letter dated 5/10/76, Michael E. Shaheen, Counsel of the OPR, defined the areas of concern in the review which will include perusal of all King related records in the Department, at FBIHQ and in Bureau field offices. The review must be completed "forthwith" and is to answer the following four questions: (1) Was the FBI's investigation of King's assassination thorough and honest? (2) Is there any evidence the FBI was involved in the assassination? (3) Is there any new evidence which has come to the attention of the Department concerning the assassination? (4) Does the relationship between the Bureau and King call for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings or other appropriate action?

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

DETAILS CONTINUED:

Attached to the above mentioned letter was a copy of a letter to Shaheen from the Attorney General dated 4/26/76, outlining the previous review of the King matter by the Civil Rights Division and the basis on which the Attorney General decided to order a more complete review. In this letter the Attorney General indicated that the OPR review is a continuation of the "partial review" completed by the Civil Rights Division under direction of Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger.

Since correspondence to date from the OPR has not dealt specifically with file access by the OPR Task Force, it is concluded that personnel conducting the OPR review will have the same access to our files that was authorized at the outset of the Pottinger review.

The material/files desired by the Civil Rights Division in its review were set forth in a letter from Pottinger to the Director dated 12/4/75. In this letter Pottinger indicated the Attorney General had instructed his Division to review all actions taken by the FBI against King. Requested were all materials concerning King that were provided to the Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence; all COINTELPRO proposals, actions and results of actions; all requests, approvals and results, including tape, transcripts and logs of electronic surveillances; all intelligence files; and our complete file on the investigation of the assassination of King. This letter further stated that the Civil Rights Division was interested "in reviewing every single item in your files which relates in any way to Dr. King, his family, friends, associates or SCLC." It is further noted that the Attorney General (letter dated 12/12/75) authorized Pottinger personal access to tapes, transcripts of tapes and other sensitive information concerning King and his case file.

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

DETAILS CONTINUED:

Based on discussions between Mr. Shaheen and Deputy Assistant Director James O. Ingram, it has been agreed the Task Force members will review the King assassination file, his security file and King related files on the SCLC, and influence of communists in racial matters. One King associate file the Task Force will want to see is the file on Stanley David Levison whose association with King served as the basis for instituting investigation of King. The Task Force will not have access to informant files including our sensitive informant operation which obtained information regarding King's communist connections.

It is noted that the above outlined access will allow the OPR to review all raw files in our investigation of King. Included will be cover pages of documents containing the identities of some confidential sources and potential informants who were not concealed by symbol numbers according to our policy at the time. Cover pages will also contain identities of individuals who have furnished information to us on an expressed or implied basis of confidentiality. This review commenced 5/10/76, in Room 4171 of the JEH Building under the direction of Task Force leader Fred G. Folsom. The Task Force began reviewing files relating to our investigation of King's assassination.

Airtel

5/28/76

5/14/76

To: SAC, Kansas City

1 - Mr. McDonough

From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Enclosed are two copies of a letter from inmate Leslie Allen Achter. Obtain background on Achter from prison records and unless information therein indicates to the contrary, interview him for appropriate details and advise the Bureau promptly of results. Sulhm within five days of receipt.

Enclosures - 2

EJM:mlr (4)

Missouri State Penitentiary

Box-900,

Jefferson City, Missouri 65101.

May-11, 1976.

Inmate Attorney-At-Law,
Leslie Allen Achter-W-24045.

Director Clance Kelley
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20510.

Dear Director Kelley:

Sir What I am Writing You about I Want You to Send A F.B.I. Agent To *****
Interview Me In Person About James Earl Ray and I do Not Want to see a Agent
From this State I am Very Sure You Know What I am Talking about

Thank You

I am Sincerely

X *Leslie Allen Achter*
Leslie Allen Achter-W-24045
Inmate Attorney-At-Law.

Leslie Allen Achter-W-24045 ...

BOX 900 Inmate Attorney-At-Law
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101

(Hospital 5th Floor Worker)



Director Clarence Kelley
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C. 20535.

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher
(Attn: J.S. Peelman)

Mr. T. W. Leavitt

5/12/76

J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1 - Records Management
Division
1 - Legal Counsel
Division
1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt
1 - Mr. J. O. Ingram
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan
1 - Mr. J. T. Aldhizer

PURPOSE: To advise the degree of access to our files given the Department Task Force of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) which is assigned to review our past investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.

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RECOMMENDATION: For information.

100-106670
1 - 44-38861

JTA:adn
(10)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

DETAILS: The Attorney General has instructed the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) of the Department to conduct a review of our past investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. By letter dated 5/10/76 Michael E. Shaheen, Counsel of the OPR, defined the areas of concern in the review which will include perusal of all King related records in the Department, at FBIHQ and in Bureau field offices. The review must be completed "forthwith" and is to answer the following four questions: (1) Was the FBI's investigation of King's assassination thorough and honest? (2) Is there any evidence the FBI was involved in the assassination? (3) Is there any new evidence which has come to the attention of the Department concerning the assassination? (4) Does the relationship between the Bureau and King call for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings or other appropriate action?

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Memorandum to Mr. T. W. Leavitt
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.

materials concerning King that were provided to the Senate and House Select Committees on Intelligence; all COINTELPRO proposals, actions and results of actions; all requests, approvals and results, including tapes, transcripts and logs of electronic surveillances; all intelligence files; and our complete file on the investigation of the assassination of King. This letter further stated that the Civil Rights Division was interested "in reviewing every single item in your files which relates in any way to Dr. King, his family, friends, associates or SCLC." It is further noted that the Attorney General (letter dated 12/12/75) authorized Pottinger personal access to tapes, transcripts of tapes and other sensitive information concerning King and his case file.

It is noted that the above outlined access will allow the OPR to review all raw files in our investigation of King. Included will be cover pages of documents containing the identities of some confidential sources and informants. This review commenced 5/10/76 in Room 4171 of the JEH Building under the direction of Task Force leader Fred G. Folsom. The Task Force began reviewing files relating to our investigation of King's assassination.

Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 5/11/76

As you are aware, the Attorney General (AG) has instructed the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) of the Department to conduct a review of our past investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr. A Task Force from this Office began its review on 5/10/76 under direction of Fred G. Folsom.

The attached letter from Michael E. Shaheen, Counsel of the OPR, defines the areas of concern in the review which will include perusal of all King-related records in the Department, at FBIHQ and in Bureau field offices. The review must be completed "forthwith" and is to answer the following four questions: (1) Was the FBI's investigation of King's assassination thorough and honest? (2) Is there any evidence the FBI was involved in the assassination? (3) Is there any new evidence which has come to the attention of the Department concerning the assassination? (4) Does the relationship between the Bureau and King call for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings or other appropriate action?

Attached to the Shaheen letter is a letter from the AG describing the previous review of the King matter by the Civil Rights Division and the basis

① General Investigative Division

JTA:lfj

DOJ/FBI

on which the AG decided to order a more complete review. Also attached is the Department's press release dated 4/29/76, announcing the OPR review.

You will be advised of all significant developments regarding the review.

JCP *JTA*

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| APPROVED: _____ | Comp. Syst. _____ | Laboratory _____ |
| Assoc. Dir. _____ | Ext. Affairs _____ | Legal Coun. _____ |
| Dep. AD Adm. _____ | Gen. Inv. _____ | Plan. & Eval. _____ |
| Dep. AD Inv. _____ | Ident. _____ | Rec. Mgmt. _____ |
| Asst. Dir.: _____ | Inspection _____ | Spec. Inv. _____ |
| Admin. _____ | Intell. _____ | Training _____ |

- 1 - Mr. J.B. Adams
- 1 - Mr. J.A. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. T.W. Leavitt
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
- 1 - Mr. Deegan
- ① - General Investigative Division
- 1 - Mr. Aldhizer



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20530

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. A.D. Adm. _____
Dep. A.D. Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Adm. Serv. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Fin. & Pers. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

MAY 10 1976

TO: James Ingram
Deputy Assistant Director
Intelligence Division
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM: Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel
Office of Professional Responsibility

SUBJECT: Martin Luther King Review

Michael E. Shaheen Jr.

Pursuant to our meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 1976, and your telephone call of today, May 10, 1976, I am forwarding this memorandum with attachments for your information and records.

As you know, the Attorney General has directed this Office to complete the review of all records in the Department, at Bureau headquarters, and in Bureau field offices in any way relating to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., his assassination, the Bureau's investigation of his death, in light of the Bureau's "systematic program of harrassment of Dr. King in order to discredit him and harm both him and the movement he led". (See Press Release Attached)

The Attorney General has directed that this review be completed "forthwith" and that my final report to him and Director Kelley provide answers to four specific questions:

- 1) "Whether the FBI investigation of Dr. King's assassination was thorough and honest;
- 2) Whether there is any evidence that the FBI was involved in the assassination of Dr. King;
- 3) Whether, in light of the first two matters, there is any new evidence which has come to the attention of the Department concerning the assassination of Dr. King;



4) Whether the nature of the relationship between the Bureau and Dr. King calls for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings, or other appropriate action".

I know you share with me the urgent need to guarantee that these four questions be addressed by a searching, systematic, full, complete, and determined review of all documents that bear directly or even remotely on the Bureau's intense interest in and investigation of Dr. King in life as well as at death.

You have met the present members of the Task Force assigned to complete this review, and I have advised you that Fred G. Folsom is the Task Force Leader. You should understand that Mr. Folsom's requests for personnel interviews, access, review, or delivery of documents will be made at all times in my behalf and for the Attorney General. Should you have any difficulties I am always available to assist in their resolution.

As I have orally advised you, the Attorney General, Director Kelley, and I attach the highest priority to the successful completion of this review.

If I can be of further assistance, please advise. I wish to thank you for your help.

cc: Edward H. Levi,
Harold R. Tyler, Jr.
Clarence M. Kelley
Fred G. Folsom

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Michael Shaheen

DATE: April 26, 1976

FROM : Attorney General *JS*

SUBJECT:

I am forwarding to you the memorandum prepared by Assistant Attorney General Pottinger and by Robert A. Murphy, Chief of the Criminal Section of the Civil Rights Division, on the partial review which has been made of the relationships to Martin Luther King, Jr. In addition, I include the commenting memoranda from the Deputy Attorney General, from Robert Bork, from Richard Thornburgh and the members of his staff, and from Antonin Scalia.

I note that Mr. Pottinger concludes that "we have not found a basis to believe that the FBI in any way caused the death of Martin Luther King" and that "we have also found no evidence that the FBI's investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King was not thorough and honest."

My request for the review involved four matters. First, whether the FBI investigation of the Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination was thorough and honest; second, whether there was any evidence that the FBI was involved in the assassination of Dr. King; third, in light of the first two questions, whether there is any new evidence which has come to the attention of the Department concerning the assassination of Dr. King which should be dealt with by the appropriate authorities; fourth, whether the nature of the relationship between the Bureau and Dr. King calls for criminal prosecution, disciplinary proceedings, or other appropriate action.

As to the fourth point, I again note that from the partial review which has been made, Mr. Pottinger concludes "we have found that the FBI undertook a systematic program of harassment of Martin Luther King, by means both legal and illegal, in order to discredit him and harm both him and the movement he led." Assuming that the major statutory violations relevant to this conduct would be 18 U.S.C. § 241 and § 242, Mr. Pottinger's memorandum concludes that any prosecution contemplated under those acts would now be barred by the five-year statute of limitations with the possible exception which would exist if there were proof of a continuing conspiracy.



5010-110

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As to the matter of new evidence with respect to the assassination, my understanding is that the Department has never closed the Martin Luther King file and that numerous allegations of the possible involvement of co-conspirators are promptly investigated. The thrust of the review which I requested, however, was to determine whether a new look at what was done by the Bureau in investigating the assassination or in the relationship between the Bureau and Dr. King might give a different emphasis or new clues in any way to the question of involvement in that crime. At this point in the review, as I read the memoranda, nothing has turned up relevant on this latter point.

The review is not complete. Mr. Pottinger and all those who have commented upon his memorandum recommend that the review be completed. Mr. Pottinger also has made other recommendations upon which there is some difference of opinion. In my view, it is essential that the review be completed as soon as possible and in as thorough a manner as is required to answer the basic questions. In view of what has already been done, and the tentative conclusions reached, special emphasis should be given to the fourth question. In conducting this review you should call upon the Department to furnish to you the staff you need.

My conclusion as to the review conducted by the Civil Rights Division is that it has now shown that this complete review is necessary, particularly in view of the conclusion as to the systematic program of harassment. If your review turns up matters for specific action, we should discuss the best way to proceed on each such case.



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 29, 1976

AG

In response to inquiries from the news media regarding the Civil Rights Division's review of the Martin Luther King files, Attorney General Edward H. Levi today issued the following statement:

I have directed the Office of Professional Responsibility, headed by Michael Shaheen, to complete a review of all records in the Department of Justice concerning the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Civil Rights Division, under the personal direction of Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger, completed on April 9 a five-month preliminary review of files at FBI headquarters. As a result of this preliminary review, the Civil Rights Division has recommended that the review be carried forward to completion with an additional examination of records at FBI headquarters and field offices. It is believed that more than 200,000 documents may be involved.

On the basis of this preliminary review, Assistant Attorney General Pottinger stated that his tentative conclusions were, (1) there was no basis to believe that the FBI in any way caused the death of Dr. King, (2) no evidence was discovered that the FBI investigation of the assassination of Dr. King was not thorough and honest, and (3) instances were found indicating that the FBI undertook a systematic program of harassment of Dr. King in order to discredit him and harm both him and the movement he led.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

5/12/76
ATTENTION: MR. STEPHEN HORN

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

5/11/76

5/10/76

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Kansas City

an LHM

x G. EJm/jet

¹
NOTE: Enclosed are enclosures mentioned in referenced memorandum.

5/10/76

AIRTEL AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, KANSAS CITY (44-760) RUC
RE: MURKIN

Re Kansas City airtel and LHM, 5/7/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies and Memphis one copy of LHM, containing enclosures described on page four of referenced LHM, dated 5/7/76.

② Bureau (Enc. 6)
1-Memphis (44-1987)(Enc. 1)(Info.)
1-Kansas City
JRG:aa
(4)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

May 10, 1976

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference memorandum dated May 7, 1976.

Attached are the enclosures described on
page four of referenced memorandum.

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

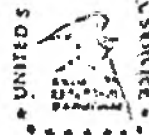
HCN5TLT HSR

2-000904E036 02/05/76

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western union Mailgram



RECEIVED

FEB 6 1976

GOVERNOR CHRISTOPHER S BOND
STATE CAPITOL
JEFFERSON CITY MO 65101

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

DEAR GOVERNOR BOND

IN ITS JANUARY 26 ADDITION, TIME MAGAZINE CARRIED SOME KEY EXCERPTS FROM GEORGE MCMILLIAN'S UPCOMING BOOK ON THE ASSASSINATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JUNIOR, THE FOUNDER OF THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IN HIS BOOK, MCMILLIAN CHARGES THAT JAMES EARL RAY, DOCTOR KING'S ALLEGED ASSASSIN, PLOTTED AND FINANCED THE MURDER OF THE FAMED CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER BEHIND THE WALLS OF THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON. MCMILLIAN, WHO SPENT 7 YEARS RESEARCHING FOR HIS BOOK, GOES EVEN FURTHER BY SUGGESTING THAT SEVERAL PRISON GUARDS PROVIDED RAY WITH WHATEVER ASSISTANCE WAS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN A LUCRATIVE PRISON DRUG BUSINESS. MCMILLIAN CLAIMS THAT RAY HAD EARNED OVER 7 THOUSAND DOLLARS BY THE TIME OF HIS ESCAPE AND THAT HE USED THIS MONEY FOR ASSASSINATION PLANS.

WHETHER OR NOT MCMILLIAN'S BOOK IS COMPLETELY RELIABLE IS SECONDARY. THE FACT THAT TIME MAGAZINE, ONE OF THE NATION'S MOST PRESTIGIOUS AND WIDELY CIRCULATED PUBLICATIONS HAD ENOUGH CONFIDENCE IN MCMILLIAN TO PRINT THE STORY, IS IN ITSELF WORTHY OF OUR ATTENTION, SINCE THE REVELATION THAT J EDGAR HOOVER USED THE FBI IN A VICIOUS ATTEMPT TO DISCREDIT DOCTOR KING, THE HARRIS POLL REPORTS THAT 60 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION BELIEVE THAT DOCTOR KING'S DEATH WAS THE RESULT OF A CONSPIRACY, THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AS YOU WELL KNOW, HAS, WITH MUCH JUSTIFICATION, BECOME CYNICAL AND SUSPICIOUS. THE STORY IN TIME HAS FURTHERED THIS CYNICISM AND SUSPICION.

IF, AS MANY HAVE COME TO BELIEVE, DOCTOR KING'S ASSASSINATION WAS CONCEIVED IN JEFFERSON CITY AND CONSUMMATED IN MEMPHIS, A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF RAY'S ILLEGAL DEALINGS AS A PRISON MERCHANT AND HIS SEEMINGLY SMOOTH ESCAPE MIGHT SHED SOME BADLY NEEDED LIGHT ON THIS VERY EMOTIONAL ISSUE.

THE SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS THEREFORE MAKING THE FOLLOWING REQUESTS:

1 THAT THE FINDINGS OF THE OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF JAMES EARL RAY'S ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY BE PRESENTED TO SCLC AND MADE PUBLIC.

2 THAT THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE EXAMINE THE CHARGES MADE BY MCMILLIAN IN REGARD TO DRUG SALES IN THE PRISON AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT PRISON GUARDS MAY HAVE AIDED RAY IN HIS ESCAPE.

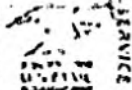
3 THAT THERE BE PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ANY ACTIONS TAKEN BY PRISON OFFICIALS OR GOVERNOR WARREN HEARNES AFTER THEY LEARNED THAT DOCTOR KING'S ASSASSIN WAS A MISSOURI STATE PRISON ESCAPEE.

SCLC, NEEDLESS TO SAY IS HOPING FOR A POSITIVE AND PROMPT RESPONSE.

western union

Telegram

UNITED STATES



▶ REVEREND EMANUEL CLEAVER
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

00146 EST

MGMSTLT HSB



STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Jefferson City

GEORGE M. CAMP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 28, 1976

Ms. Heather Kilpatrick
Time-Life Building
Rockerfeller Center
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick:

As head of Missouri's prison system, I was disturbed to read the article on the assassination of Martin Luther King in the Time edition of January 26, 1976.

In one section of this article, you used excerpts from George McMillan's unpublished book to make both inaccurate and misleading implications and statements concerning Missouri's corrections system. Concerning James Earl Ray's confinement in the Missouri State Penitentiary, you stated that prison authorities were not helpful in documenting Ray's illegal dealings as a "Merchant." You also stated, "Just the opposite. They can no more admit that they have lost control of the prison, that the prisoners are running it, than they can fly to the moon."

Nothing could be further from the truth than these statements. First of all, Missouri's correctional system has a complete open door press policy allowing complete access to the press at any time except in emergency situations. And I feel that if you were to visit any of our correctional facilities in Missouri, you would learn that we most certainly have not lost control of our institutions. Secondly, the staff here have cooperated completely with Mr. McMillan in obtaining information and most, if not all, information on Ray's confinement in Missouri came from our officials. In addition to this, I was never contacted by Mr. McMillan concerning this situation. Lastly and most importantly, your article referred to conditions of the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early 1960's, but as seen from the above quote from Time, the reader would be led

Ms. Heather Kilpatrick

-2-

January 28, 1976

to believe that these same conditions exist today and they, of course, do not.

I find this assessment most difficult to comprehend especially in view of the fact that to my knowledge neither Mr. McMillan nor the staff from Time Magazine ever came to Missouri since my arrival here in July of 1973 to personally review the situation.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE M. CAMP
Director of Correctional Services
State of Missouri

GMC:ljr

cc: George McMillan
Ned Bradford



STATE OF MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
JEFFERSON CITY

GEORGE M. CAMP
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 26, 1976

Reverend Emanuel Cleaver
Executive Director
Southern Christian Leadership Conference
St. James Gregory United Methodist Church
3000 East Gregory
Kansas City, Missouri 64132

Dear Reverend Cleaver:

Governor Bond has asked me to respond to your Mailgram dated February 5 concerning the James Earl Ray article which appeared in the January 26 issue of Time Magazine. First of all, I have attached a copy of my letter of January 28 to Time Magazine, the contents of which are self-explanatory. You will note that I take exception to the conclusions drawn by Time Magazine as well as some of those attributed to Mr. McMillan.

In response to your particular questions, I have thoroughly reviewed the file of James Earl Ray when he was an inmate in the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early 1960's. I have also reviewed and studied all reports available to the Division of Corrections that might in any way relate to Ray's activities while an inmate and to the escape itself.

My findings are that there is nothing whatsoever to substantiate any conclusion that James Earl Ray financed either his escape or his activities after his escape through any means while he was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary. During the six years that James Earl Ray was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary, he kept primarily to himself and, other than for the fact that he attempted to escape on more than one occasion, he had only one conduct violation during that entire time and that was for the possession of three packages of cigarettes, a ball point pen and one pound of coffee.

During the entire time that he was an inmate, the total amount of money received or earned was \$903.39. The majority of these funds were spent in the Inmate Canteen during his years in the Penitentiary.

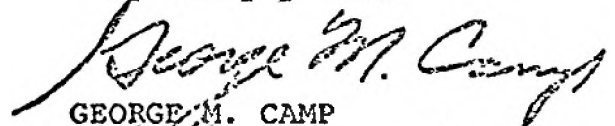
The inmate that Mr. McMillan quotes extensively - Mr. Curtis - was released from the Penitentiary approximately one year prior to James Earl Ray's escape and was later committed to the Georgia Department of Corrections in July of 1967 to serve 888 years for murder. He is still in their custody.

I have been informed that all of the material available to me at this time was made available to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and I am sure that this material, along with probably much more material, was thoroughly studied at the time of James Earl Ray's trial.

In addition, you might be interested to know that prior to the Governor's receiving your Mailgram, I personally discussed the allegations and conclusions in the Time Magazine article with the author himself, Mr. George McMillan. In the course of our conversation, I pressed him for details regarding drug sales or any other illegal activities in which staff and/or inmates might have been involved. He was unable to give me any specifics but just responded that "it was common knowledge."

In conclusion, I find nothing whatsoever to substantiate the hatching of any conspiracy to kill Martin Luther King on the part of James Earl Ray while he was an inmate in the custody of the Missouri Department of Corrections. If I can be of any further assistance to you, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Very truly yours,



GEORGE M. CAMP
Deputy Director

GMC:mac

attachment

cc: Governor Christopher S. Bond