



STATE OF MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
Jefferson City

GEORGE M. CAMP  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 27, 1976

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: JAMES EARL RAY FILE

FROM: *George M. Camp*  
George M. Camp

RE: Investigation of the James Earl Ray escape  
and financing of his activities

As well as reviewing James Earl Ray's file and the files of several other inmates and employees, which are listed below, I talked with former Warden Harold R. Swenson and former Senior Correctional Officer Bernard Poiry regarding any knowledge they might have of the activities of James Earl Ray.

On February 26, Mr. Swenson informed me that to his knowledge Ray was not a "merchant" and that he was not involved in any extensive illegal activities within the prison and in fact was a loner. He noted that the only significant point to James Earl Ray's record was his several attempts to escape from the institution.

On that same day, February 26, I had an extensive discussion with the former Chief Yard Officer, Major Bernard Poiry. In essence, he substantiated the conclusions made to me by Warden Swenson and in his opinion, James Earl Ray could not have earned monies while in the prison to support himself after his escape. He was a loner who attempted to escape on several occasions and apparently had little rapport with other inmates. Major Poiry felt that James Earl Ray was able to escape due to the laxity of employees and not due to any dealings between Ray and employees of the institution. The report written at the time of Ray's escape substantiates this conclusion. Major Poiry stated

that there were a great many employees in the institution who frequently were lax in their duties and that a handful of employees had to pick up the slack for the majority of the employees who did not pay enough attention to custodial security.

In my own mind, having reviewed all of the files listed and to the discussions of Warden Swenson and Major Poiry, it seems quite clear to me that we have no information that one could base the conclusion that James Earl Ray planned and executed his escape with the direct assistance of staff nor that he secreted through illegal means money to support himself after his escape while he was still an inmate at the Penitentiary.

Inmate files reviewed:

James Earl Ray 00416	Joseph Siebert 09111
Ronnie Westborg 71859	Robert Lynn Powell 16960
James Esson 73789	Carl Drake 00189
Gary Wayne Harkins 21231	Billy Mac Miles 07206
George Harold Jones 05516	Donald Ray Johnson 10987
Raymond Curtis 04849	

Personnel files reviewed:

Alfred Burkhardt	James F. Stone
Harold John Schaffer	Lafe O. Gove
Ezra Leroy Shelden	Johnnie Francis Petree
Raymond Harold Morgan	Bernard C. Peschang

GMC:mac

In ordering on April 26 the complete review by Mr. Shaheen, I directed that the investigation be completed forthwith and that answers to four specific questions be furnished to me and FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley on the basis of the review of all documents:

-- Whether the FBI investigation of Dr. King's assassination was thorough and honest;

-- Whether there is any evidence that the FBI was involved in the assassination of Dr. King;

-- 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;

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

Mr. Pottinger pointed out that the Civil Rights Division has been continuously investigating allegations concerning the assassination of Dr. King as these allegations come to the attention of the Department.

*put with To*

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams  
1 - Mr. R. J. Gallagher  
(Attn: J. S. Seelman)  
5/11/76

Mr. T. W. Leavitt

J. G. Deegan

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

1 - Mr. T. W. Leavitt  
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan  
1 - Mr. S. F. Phillips  
1 - Mr. J. O. Ingram  
1 - Mr. J. T. Aldhizer

PURPOSE:

To provide information concerning a meeting held 5/6/76 to introduce FBI officials to Department Task Force charged with responsibility to review our past investigations relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.

SYNOPSIS:

The Task Force designated by the Office of Professional Responsibility of the Department to review our investigation of King was introduced to FBI officials during a meeting at FBIHQ on 5/6/76. At this meeting, Task Force personnel were briefed on the scope of a previous inquiry of our King investigation by the Civil Rights Division of the Department and on our files and communications system relative to their review. The Department Task Force review will encompass the security investigation of King and our investigation into his assassination. Space for Task Force personnel is being provided in Room 4171 of the JEH Building and their review commenced on the afternoon of 5/10/76.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

100-106670

JTA:seb  
(8)

CONTINUED - OVER

SEE DETAILS PAGE 2

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

DETAILS:

Under the direction of the Office of Professional Responsibility, Department of Justice, a Task Force has been assigned to review our previous investigation relating to Martin Luther King, Jr.

On 5/6/76, a meeting was held to introduce the Department Task Force to FBI officials. Meeting was held between 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. in the Intelligence Division Conference Room. Those attending from the Department were \*Fred G. Folsom, Jr., Ms. Hope Byrne, William White, Joseph Gross, James Walker, James Kieckhefer and Ray Hornblower. FBI representatives were J. S. Peelman and Hal Helterhoff of the General Investigative Division and T. W. Leavitt, J. O. Ingram, J. G. Deegan, S. F. Phillips, P. E. Nugent and J. T. Aldhizer of the Intelligence Division.

After introductions, Mr. Leavitt pledged total FBI cooperation with the Task Force and its review. There followed a briefing by Mr. Phillips on a previous review of the King matter by the Civil Rights Division of the Department. Mr. Phillips then outlined the scope of the files to be reviewed and the filing and serialization system at FBIHQ. Mr. Deegan discussed FBI communications and field office files, emphasizing that the field has some material which is not furnished FBIHQ and is, therefore, not contained in our files at HQ.

Mr. Folsom stated that the Task Force review would begin with FBIHQ files. The review would use as a departure point the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and work in two directions, forward through the investigation

\*Task Force leader

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Leavitt  
Re: Martin Luther King, Jr.  
100-1006670

of the assassination, and backward through our security investigation of King, Folsom requested office space for his Task Force personnel.

The Task Force has been provided Intelligence Division space in Room 4171 of the JEH Building. Their review commenced on the afternoon of 5/10/76.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

5/11/76  
ATTENTION: MR. STEPHEN A. HORN

ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

4/26/76

5/7/76

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX an LHM  
Kansas City

x F.

HNH/jet

1  
NOTE: The items referred to on page 4 of enclosed LHM will  
be furnished by separate communication.  
No further investigation being conducted unless after  
review you specifically request additional investigation.

5/7/76

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

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

Re Bureau airtel to Kansas City, 4/26/76.

Enclosed are six copies of a self-explanatory LHM.  
One copy of the LHM is enclosed for Memphis.

Mr. CAMP was advised on contact that all of the information he furnished would be furnished to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice (USDJ), for its consideration as to whether or not any additional Federal action is warranted. He was told that if he had any further questions, he might consider communicating directly with the CRD, USDJ, Washington, D. C.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)  
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1) (Info)  
1 - Kansas City  
THW/jb  
(4)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Kansas City, Missouri

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

May 7, 1976

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
CIVIL RIGHTS

On April 29, 1976, Mr. George M. Camp, Deputy Director, Missouri Department of Social Services, Jefferson City, Missouri, was contacted and receipt of his letter of April 13, 1976 to FBI Director Clarence M. Kelley was acknowledged. This letter reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Kelley:

"It is our understanding that the Attorney General has under consideration a review of the events that led up to the death of the late Dr. Martin Luther King. Either as part of that review, or as an independent review, we request that you initiate an investigation into the activities of James Earl Ray while he was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early and mid-1960's, including his escape from that institution in 1976.

"Recently we reviewed the facts available to us and concluded that James Earl Ray's escape did not involve the complicity of Missouri prison officials and that he was not a "merchant" within the Penitentiary. However, the State of Missouri has neither the resources nor the legal authority to conduct an investigation that could lead to a review of facts and interviews outside the State of Missouri. As part of your investigation, we ask that you review the material in our possession. We, of course, do not have access to the material and information that your agency and the U. S. Attorney's Office developed in the course of the investigation and the prosecution of James Earl Ray, and therefore think that your office is in the best position to be absolutely sure that no stone has been left unturned.

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.**

**"We stand ready to assist and cooperate with you and look forward to hearing from you as soon as you have made a decision on the course of action you wish to take.**

**Very truly yours,**

**GEORGE M. CAMP  
Deputy Director"**

**Mr. Camp stated that he is in charge of the Division of Corrections of the Missouri Department of Social Services, and handling of the captioned matter insofar as his agency is concerned has been delegated to him by Mr. Lawrence L. Graham, Director of the Department of Social Services.**

**Mr. Camp advised that he and his staff reviewed files and conducted interviews of available appropriate personnel, and former personnel of the Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP), and some inmates of the MSP regarding James Earl Ray and his escape from the MSP, and regarding the murder of Dr. King.**

**Mr. Camp stated that after these inquiries and file reviews, it was the conclusion of Missouri officials that Ray's escape from the MSP was due to the laxity of some employees, and Ray took advantage of the laxity. He said he found no evidence of a conspiracy to aid Ray's escape involving MSP personnel.**

**Mr. Camp said that in regard to allegations that Ray was running rackets in the MSP, financing himself through illegal acts within the MSP, supposedly aided by unidentified guard personnel, it was the conclusion after the study that such activity was not indicated by facts available, and no evidence was found to support such allegations. He noted that Ray had only one misconduct report, other than write-ups regarding his escape attempts, and that was an incident involving Ray's apparent attempt to take contraband into the hospital at the MSP on a food cart. He further noted that a review of Ray's ledger account, which shows the activity of the money coming into and disbursed from his account at the MSP treasurer's office, revealed the total**

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

amount of money that came into his account during the time he was at the MSP, 1960-67, was about \$900. He noted that some of Ray's earnings from working in prison jobs and money sent by family went back out to family, and the rest was spent in the MSP commissary and for reading material.

Mr. Camp noted that the MSP official who was deemed most knowledgeable regarding the inmate population at the MSP during the period of time of 1960-67, and who was in a position to know, and did know which inmates were involved in rackets as a merchant or dealer in contraband, and possessed of influence over inmate population in the MSP, was Major B. J. Poiry. He said information from Major Poiry was to the effect that Ray was a "nobody" and was distinguished by nothing except that "he wanted to escape from the MSP."

Mr. Camp advised that nothing was seen in all his investigation to relate Ray's escape to the murder of Martin L. King. He noted no information indicating that Ray was a racist.

Mr. Camp stated that the MSP staff should have been watching Ray more closely in view of his previous escape attempts at the MSP. He believes that the prison officials' decision to cancel a suggestion that the employees identified as lax in their duties, which probably led to Ray being able to escape, in addition to the letters of reprimand they did receive, was an insufficiency of management in not taking more severe administrative action against those employees. He noted, however, that at the time of the escape, it could not have been known that Ray later would kill King.

Mr. Camp said that the "Western Union Mailgram" received by Missouri Governor Christopher S. Bond at Jefferson City on February 6, 1976 from Reverend Emanuel Cleaver, Executive Director, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), referred to the January 26, 1976 issue of Time magazine and requested investigation regarding Ray's escape and activities in the MSP. He believes the SCLC hypothesized that the MSP staff helped Ray run rackets in the MSP to finance himself on his escape in a plot to kill King.

He noted that the Time magazine article was arranged by the publicity agent for George McMillan, 12 Hilliard Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, to help promote his book on Ray,

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

and King's assassination. He said that it was his understanding that McMillian had stated that he had refused to give any assistance to the FBI when contacted for information he might have regarding the allegations mentioned above.

McMillian used as a source a former MSP inmate named Raymond Curtis according to Mr. Camp, who noted that Curtis had been gone from the MSP about one year before Ray escaped.

Mr. Camp further advised that he had received a letter dated January 28, 1976 from Lou Miller, former MSP inmate, who told Camp that he had been editor of the inmate newspaper at the MSP, the Jefftown Journal, when Ray was in the MSP. Miller stated that he knew Ray and "ran a card game with him" for a period of time not specified in the MSP. Miller is now residing at the Kirby Hotel, 233 North Main, Springfield, Missouri, according to Mr. Camp.

Mr. Camp pointed out that his investigation in this matter did not include interviews with Miller or Curtis, nor did he interview Fred Wilkinson, Director of the Department of Corrections in 1967, who now lives in North Carolina. He said that he believes that any further investigation in this matter should include interviews with the above-named persons, as well as the MSP personnel reprimanded in this matter at the time, Major Poiry, former MSP Warden H. R. Swenson and with James Earl Ray.

Mr. Camp furnished copies of the following items from his file on this matter, which are attached to this memorandum:

"Mailgram" to Governor Bond from Reverend Emanuel Cleaver, supra, February 5, 1976;

Letter dated January 28, 1976 to Ms. Heather Kilpatrick, Time-Life Building, New York City, New York, from Mr. Camp;

Letter dated February 26, 1976 to Reverend Cleaver, supra, from Mr. Camp;

Memorandum dated February 27, 1976 to James Earl Ray file from Mr. Camp.

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

The material utilized by Mr. Camp in his investigation, as outlined in his memorandum dated February 27, 1976, was reviewed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Mr. Camp's Office on April 29 and April 30, 1976 and May 3 and May 4, 1976. This review revealed no information pertinent to this investigation which has not already been available, or in variance with the conclusions reached by Mr. Camp, as outlined above.

Airtel

4/26/76

To: SAC, Kansas City (Encs. 2)

① - Mr. Helterhoff

From: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Enclosed are two copies of a letter dated 4/13/76, from the State of Missouri, Department of Social Services, Jefferson City, Missouri.

Kansas City, promptly contact George M. Camp, Deputy Director, and/or Lawrence L. Graham, Director, State of Missouri, Department of Social Services, acknowledge receipt of this letter, and interview them for full details regarding any information they may desire to furnish re captioned matter. Review the material referred to in this letter to determine if it is pertinent to captioned matter. Advise them all of the information they furnish will be furnished to the CRD, USDJ, for its consideration as to whether any additional Federal action is warranted. If they have any further questions, they may consider communicating directly with the CRD, USDJ, Washington, D. C. 20530.

Promptly submit results. Conduct no additional investigation at this time.

1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)

HNH:mlr (5)

NOTE: This pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and is presently in state confinement in Tennessee.

The attached letter requests the FBI to initiate an investigation into the activities of Ray while an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary. The attached letter also states the Department of Social Services has material in its possession for review.

We previously conducted certain investigation at the Missouri Penitentiary re Ray's confinement during the Murkin case and while he was in an UFAC-robbery status.

This requests KC to conduct interviews for full details, and the results will be furnished to the CRD. No pertinent information in Bufiles on Camp or Graham.

Civil Rights Division

April 26, 1976  
ATTN: ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

F. x HNH:mlr

1

NOTE: Attached is a copy of a letter from the State of Missouri, Department of Social Services, Jefferson City, Missouri, dated 4/13/76. Our Kansas City Office is interviewing Camp and/or Graham for full details and will review the material referred to in this letter to determine if it is pertinent with the King case. You will be advised of the results.



STATE OF MISSOURI  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
JEFFERSON CITY

GEORGE M. CAMP  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 13, 1976

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

Dear Mr. Kelley:

It is our understanding that the Attorney General has under consideration a review of the events that led up to the death of the late Dr. Martin Luther King. Either as part of that review, or as an independent review, we request that you initiate an investigation into the activities of James Earl Ray while he was an inmate at the Missouri State Penitentiary in the early and mid-1960's, including his escape from that institution in 1967.

Recently we reviewed the facts available to us and concluded that James Earl Ray's escape did not involve the complicity of Missouri prison officials and that he was not a "merchant" within the Penitentiary. However, the State of Missouri has neither the resources nor the legal authority to conduct an investigation that could lead to a review of facts and interviews outside the State of Missouri. As part of your investigation, we ask that you review the material in our possession. We, of course, do not have access to the material and information that your agency and the U. S. Attorney's Office developed in the course of the investigation and the prosecution of James Earl Ray, and therefore think that your office is in the best position to be absolutely sure that no stone has been left unturned.

We stand ready to assist and cooperate with you and look forward to hearing from you as soon as you have made a decision on the course of action you wish to take.

GMC:mac

cc: Governor Christopher S. Bond  
Attorney General Edward H. Levi  
Bill D. Williams, Regional  
Director, FBI, Kansas City, Mo.  
Reverend Emanuel Cleaver  
Attorney General John Danforth

GEORGE M. CAMP  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

Very truly yours,

*George M. Camp*  
GEORGE M. CAMP  
Deputy Director

*Lawrence L. Graham*  
LAWRENCE L. GRAHAM  
Director



April 20, 1976

① - Mr. Helterhoff

Mr. Robert B. Donfeld  
Attorney at Law  
4545 East 5th Street  
Tucson, Arizona 85711

Dear Mr. Donfeld:

Reference is made to your letter to the FBI, Tucson, Arizona, dated April 5, 1976, pertaining to Mrs. Gladys Minnitt, a copy of which has been forwarded to FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

For your information, the FBI has no "reward money" to pay Mrs. Minnitt for information she furnished allegedly concerning James Earl Ray.

I have taken the liberty of forwarding a copy of your letter to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, and if you have any further questions about the information Mrs. Minnitt furnished, it is suggested that you communicate directly with the CRD, Washington, D. C. 20530.

You may also desire to communicate directly with the State of Tennessee authorities where James Earl Ray was ultimately prosecuted in connection with the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sincerely yours,

Clarence M. Kelley  
Director

- 1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of Civil Rights Division incoming.)
- 1 - SAC, Phoenix (44-371) (Info) (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)
- 1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (Info) (Enclosure) (Enclosed is a copy of incoming.)

HNH:mlr (6)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

Mr. Robert B. Donfeld

NOTE: This case pertains to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder in the state of Tennessee and is presently in local confinement.

PHOENIX  
COVER LETTER  
SENT TO FILE

Our Phoenix Office forwarded a copy of a letter from Attorney Robert B. Donfeld wherein he makes inquiry as to whether any "reward money" available for Mrs. Minnitt. Phoenix requested FBIHQ acknowledge Donfeld's letter. Bufile 44-38861-3703 reflects Mrs. Minnitt was interviewed in May of 1968 in connection with the civil rights investigation relating to the assassination of King. Mrs. Minnitt at that time stated a photograph of James Earl Ray looked similar to a man she saw in revival meetings at the Church of God in Christ, Tucson, Arizona. This information furnished by Mrs. Minnitt was not substantiated. No other references contained in Bufiles re Mrs. Minnitt. Phoenix advised Mrs. Minnitt, a former ghetto informant and potential criminal informant of Phoenix Division.

This appropriately responds to Mr. Donfeld with copy to the AAG, CRD, and to our Phoenix and Memphis (the office of origin) Field Offices for information.

RUSSELL, COX, DICKERSON & CARTIN, P.C.

RUSSELL RUSSO  
THOMAS G. COX  
VERNON F. DICKERSON  
JEROLD A. CARTIN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
4545 EAST 5TH STREET  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85711

TELEPHONE 795-8200  
AREA CODE 602

J. JAMES MURPHY  
WILLIAM F. McDONALD  
ROBERT G. CLARK  
THOMAS P. SYLVESTER

April 5, 1976

Duncan M. Dew, Special Agent  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
P. O. Box 2910  
Tucson, Arizona 85702

Re: Gladys Minnitt

Dear Agent Dew:

Pursuant to our recent telephone conversation the following is a synopsis of Mrs. Minnitt's claim to a reward offered for information in James Earl Ray and the assassination of Martin Luther King. I would appreciate it if you would make a determination as to whether or not there is any reward money and, if so, what amount Mrs. Minnitt is entitled to receive. Please make any further communications with Mrs. Minnitt through my office regarding this matter.

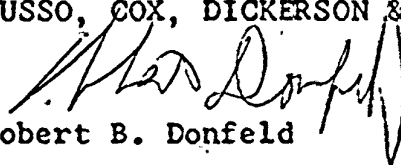
Mrs. Minnitt contacted the F.B.I. in Washington, D.C. approximately 2 weeks after the death of Martin Luther King. Mrs. Minnitt first noticed Mr. Ray in Tucson a few weeks prior to the assassination of Dr. King. Apparently, Mr. Ray attended various church services and posed as a missionary. As you know, Mrs. Minnitt is an ordained Minister in the Pentecostal Church. Mrs. Minnitt had a newspaper clipping of James Earl Ray after the assassination. Mrs. Minnitt compared the newspaper clipping with the individual who reappeared at Church after the assassination and concluded that James Earl Ray was the individual attending the church services. Apparently, in the newspaper clipping Mr. Ray's hair was long and dark but was sandy and crewcut while in Tucson. As you know, the F.B.I. contacted Mrs. Minnitt approximately 24 hours after her telephone conversation with Washington. Mrs. Minnitt mentioned to F.B.I. agents that she was not sure whether she was interested in any reward for her services. I might add that Mrs. Minnitt mentioned that the first time, prior to the assassination, Mr. Ray looked in poor condition but after the assassination when he reappeared in Tucson he was dressed very nice and looked in good condition.

-2-

I believe that the above is an accurate summation of my conversation with Mrs. Minnitt regarding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. If there are any questions which you have regarding this matter or if you wish to discuss the assassination with Mrs. Minnitt I will be most happy to convene an interview at your convenience. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,

RUSSO, COX, DICKERSON & CARTIN, P.C.

  
Robert B. Donfeld

RBD/dp

Civil Rights Division

March 9, 1976  
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

March 5, 1976

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CI

LHM

F. x HNH:mlr

3/5/76

AIRTEL

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

Re CI airtel and LHM to Bureau, 2/24/76.

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.

Cincinnati will maintain close contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

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

LFF/csf  
(6)



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

March 5, 1976

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

---

On March 4, 1976, Betty Tibbles, Deputy Clerk,  
U. S. 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 #75-1795:

March 3, 1976

Order denying the Community  
Government Association leave  
to intervene.

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.

Civil Rights Division

March 2, 1976

ATTN: ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

February 17, 1976

B. x HNH:mlr

*Robert Murphy - CRD, advised copy clear enough*

1  
NOTE: Referenced memorandum had attached a copy of an UPI article at Garden City, New York, relating to Memphis city detective, Ed Redditt.

Attached is the complete newspaper article relating to this matter dated 2/15/76 from "Newsday". Please review this entire article and advise if you desire any further investigation relating to this article. No investigation is being instituted relating to this article unless specifically requested by the CRD. (a clearer copy of this article will be furnished upon receipt)



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

# Memorandum

MAR 02 1976

to

TELETYPE

DATE: 3/2/76

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
(ATT: GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION)  
FROM : SUPV. HELTERHOFF (ROOM 5131)  
ADIC, NEW YORK  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Attached facsimile copy of 2/15/76, "Newsday"  
article by LES PAYNE.



## CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

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

# Cop Was Removed Before King Slaying

By Les Payne

Copyright 1978, Newday Inc.

Hours before the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed in Memphis in 1968, the city's top law-enforcement official, in the presence of men he identified as federal agents, removed one of two detectives assigned to watch the civil rights leader from his post. Authorities said the removal was part of an emergency plan to protect the detective's life.

Ed Redditt, the detective who was removed from his post, had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life while he was at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis. The plan, which was never implemented, involved the sealing off of a four-block area around the motel.

Police did not assign a replacement for Redditt. But they did leave the detective's partner on duty.

From interviews and published stories, Newsday has learned that Redditt and his partner, both members of the Memphis police intelligence unit, watched King and his staffers at the Lorraine through binoculars from the fire station across the street. The two-man unit earlier had provided security for King and his party, and they continued to keep the police department informed of their movements and their visitors. Redditt and his partner, W. B. Richmond, who are both black, had withdrawn from what would have been their normal position with the King party because their presence, following recent riots in Memphis, had angered young local blacks.

The police were particularly concerned about a violence-prone black group called the Invaders, who, though they were friendly with the nonviolent King and his associates, had led an outbreak of violence and looting a week earlier. Newsday recently disclosed that some of the leaders of the Invaders were FBI informants and had touched off the violence that was directly responsible for King's return to Memphis the day before his assassination.

On April 4, the day King was shot, four armed members of the Invaders, who had been providing se-

curity for King and his staff in the Lorraine Motel, were seen leaving the motel—for unexplained reasons—just before 6 PM, minutes before King was shot. Although King himself never agreed to have the Invaders stand guard, some of his aides had agreed to their presence. One of the Invaders standing guard was an undercover Memphis police detective who provided information for the police and the FBI.

After Redditt was removed from duty, he was told at a meeting in police headquarters that the U.S. Secret Service had learned of a "contract" on his life. Redditt protested, saying that he wanted to return to his post, but the city's then-public safety director, Frank Holloman, insisted on the officer's removal. En route home with a police guard, Redditt heard on the car radio that King had been shot by an assassin.

Three days later, the round-the-clock guard watching Redditt was removed and he was allowed to return to work. The police department never offered any further explanation of the "contract" on his life. About a week before King was killed, sources said, FBI informers had told the Memphis Police Department that Redditt had shown some sympathy for King's cause by encouraging striking garbage workers—who were being supported by King's nonviolent marches—to stay away from work. Redditt's partner on the King surveillance team was considered more loyal to the department, sources said. The partner remained at his post and reportedly was looking at King through binoculars when the civil rights leader was shot.

The entire Redditt affair is another in a chain of curious circumstances surrounding King in the days and hours prior to his assassination.

Recent disclosures that the FBI conducted extensive surveillance of King have prompted several governmental inquiries. The Senate Intelligence Committee said its investigation uncovered no evidence that implicated the FBI in King's murder or a cover-up. However, the committee chairman, Frank Church (D-Idaho), has called for a federal special prosecutor to

—Continued on Page 15

An aerial view of the assassination scene

# Cop Was Removed Before King Death

—Continued from Page 7

investigate the assassination to resolve "many unanswered questions," including whether a bureau "vendetta" against King was related to his murder. The Department of Justice is reviewing the FBI's file on King and will soon make recommendations to Attorney General Edward Levi.

Redditt and the official identified by Newsday's sources as having been present at the April 4 meeting at which Redditt was told of the "contract" on his life, have refused to discuss the matter.

Holloman acknowledged the report of a threat. "I did receive a report that there was a threat on Officer Redditt's life. Where it came from, I can't say."

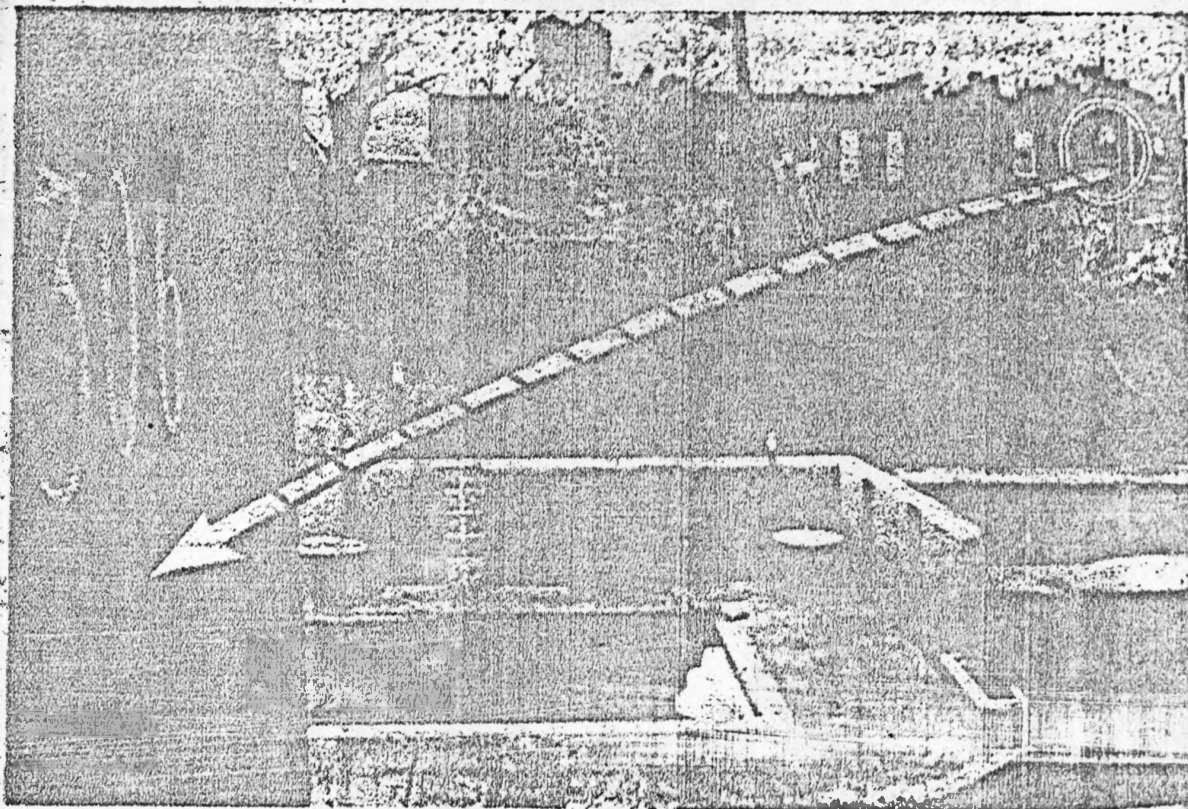
About the April 4 meeting with Redditt in the presence of a man identified by Holloman as a U.S. Secret Service agent and other federal authorities, Holloman said haltingly, "... I don't recall. Even if I did I don't think I would say."

An official of the U.S. Secret Service said he checked the agency's records and found no indication that an agent had been sent to Memphis at that time.

At the police headquarters meeting, Holloman, according to sources, introduced Redditt to a "Secret Service agent" who came down from Washington, D.C., a man 6 feet tall and weighing about 220 pounds. A Mississippi highway patrolman, Holloman said, had heard someone threatening to go to Memphis to Redditt. The threat allegedly had been relayed to the U.S. Secret Service and the agent had flown down to deliver the message to the Memphis police and Redditt.

The man identified as the Secret Service agent verified Holloman's account, sources said. Also present, according to sources, were the Memphis police chief, an FBI liaison agent, two military intelligence officers, an official from the sheriff's office, a National Guard official and a representative of the Tennessee state highway patrol.

The Memphis police chief at the time, James C. MacDonald, now the chief administrator of the city's Juvenile Court, could not be reached by telephone despite numerous attempts. In reply to a letter requesting information about the Redditt affair, MacDonald wrote: "I have been out of law enforcement for seven years. I have no comment to make about your letter..."



A view from the hotel balcony on which King was standing when he was struck by a shot, apparently fired from circled window.

Redditt protested that he wanted to return to his post, the sources said, but he was ordered not to do so. Holloman told him he would be provided with 24-hour protection at a local hotel under an assumed name. Redditt refused the hotel offer because his mother-in-law, who was living in his home, was ill and could not be moved. Holloman insisted that a 24-hour police guard be posted at Redditt's home.

For the two days following the assassination, Redditt asked to return to work. Such request was denied.

On the third day, a Sunday, he returned to work without further explanation.

Redditt's assassination contingency plan, according to sources, called for the entire four-block area around King's motel to be sealed off by patrol cars if someone tried to kill King. All streets were to be closely watched in case of an assassination attempt. Redditt is known to believe that if his plan had been in effect it would have been impossible for a lone assassin, suspected of shooting from the flophouse across the street, to have escaped.

Civil Rights Division

March 1, 1976

ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

February 24, 1976

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

CI

LHM

B. x HNH:mlr

2/24/76

AIRTEL

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

Re CI airtel and LHM to Bureau, 2/10/76.

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.

Cincinnati will maintain close contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

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

LFF:bf  
(6)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
February 24, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On February 23, 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:

February 20, 1976

Appellee filed in this court on January 19, 1976, "Motion to strike exhibits from Appellant's Appendix." (Granted) Appellant filed in this court on January 30, 1976, "Motion to correct errors and omissions in transcript."

February 20, 1976

February 20, 1976

It is ordered and adjudged that Appellant's motion of January 30, 1976, for correction of errors be and the same is hereby sustained with respect to those errors to which the appellee has indicated his agreement. Except to the extent herein indicated, the appellant's motion of January 30, 1976, is hereby denied.

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.



Civil Rights Division

3/1/76

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

2/11/76

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx an LHM  
Memphis

xx (B) 11/16/76

1 NOTE: No further action is being taken concerning  
the enclosed LHM captioned: "Mrs. J. N. Grace,  
Information Concerning."

DIRECTOR, FBI

2/11/76

SAC, MEMPHIS (62-0)

MRS. J. N. GRACE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Enclosed are two copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above.

Information contained in this LHM is being forwarded to FBIHQ in view of statement by Mrs. J. N. GRACE that she plans to correspond with U. S. Attorney General and the President of the U.S.

Memphis indices are negative re Mrs. J. N. GRACE.

Current Memphis telephone directory and city directories failed to reflect a listing for J. N. GRACE and the telephone number 683-8324 is not listed in the Memphis Criss Cross Directory.

Memphis file 44-1987 Sub M-595 dealing with the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. reflects that on 4/13/68, by confidential voucher item number 4, payments were made in the amount of \$60 to Mrs. BESSIE BREWER and that the three \$20 bills which were taken from her had been retained as evidence.

This file later reflects that a decision had been made that these original three \$20 bills were no longer needed as evidence and this \$60 was deposited in the Memphis confidential fund.

No further action is being conducted in this matter by the Memphis Office.

2-Bureau (Encls. 2)  
1-Memphis  
HSL/mah  
(3)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
February 11, 1976

MRS. J. N. GRACE  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On January 22, 1976, Mrs. J. N. Grace telephonically contacted the Memphis Office of the FBI, stating that her address was 4890 Willow Road, Memphis, Tennessee, and her telephone number was 683-8324.

Mrs. Grace stated that in 1968 she was the owner of a rooming house located at 418½ and 422 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, at which rooming house James Earl Ray stayed at the time of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

According to Mrs. Grace, Mrs. Bessie Brewer was employed by Mrs. Grace as the manager of this rooming house in 1968. Mrs. Grace stated that shortly after the assassination of Dr. King Agents of the FBI took three \$20 bills from Mrs. Bessie Brewer. These bills were taken because one of the \$20 bills was given to Mrs. Grace by James Earl Ray in payment for his rent.

Mrs. Grace stated that she had never received the \$60 which was taken from Mrs. Bessie Brewer by FBI Agents and she feels that the FBI owes her \$60.

It was explained to Mrs. Grace that the three \$20 bills, totaling \$60, were obtained from Mrs. Bessie Brewer shortly after the assassination of Dr. King, but that \$60 was returned to Mrs. BREWER by Agents of the FBI on April 13, 1968.

Mrs. Grace then demanded that the FBI institute an investigation directed towards locating Mrs. Bessie Brewer and obtaining from Mrs. Brewer the \$60. Mrs. Grace stated that inasmuch as Bessie Brewer did not turn in the \$60 to Mrs. Grace, it was the responsibility of the FBI to get her \$60.

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.

MRS. J. N. GRACE

It was pointed out to Mrs. Grace that this was not a matter in which the FBI had investigative jurisdiction and that if she believed Mrs. Brewer had taken the \$60 which rightfully belonged to Mrs. Grace, she should then contact local authorities and charge Mrs. Brewer with theft or misappropriation of funds.

At this point Mrs. Grace became incensed and accused the FBI of completely disrupting her business and the business of her husband during the period 1968 at the time of the killing of Martin Luther King. She stated in her opinion the FBI had botched the investigation, that the FBI conducted a kindergarten-type investigation, that the person who killed Dr. King was not James Earl Ray and that in her opinion, the FBI owes her \$60.

In addition, she threatened to write the U. S. Attorney General and the President of the United States concerning this matter.

At this point Mrs. Grace discontinued the conversation.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. W. R. Wannall

FROM : J. G. Deegan *JGD*

SUBJECT: "NEWSDAY" ARTICLE ABOUT INVADERS  
AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1976

1 - Mr. N. P. Callahan  
1 - Mr. J. B. Adams  
1 - Mr. D. W. Moore, Jr.

DATE: 2/24/76

1 - Mr. W. R. Wannall  
1 - Mr. J. G. Deegan  
1 - Mr. J. D. Powell

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. Serv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

This is in response to a notation by the Director on a 2/1/76 "Newsday" article which alleges that the FBI and the Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department had active informants in a violence-prone Memphis black youth group, the Invaders, and thereby were instrumental in instigating a riot in Memphis 3/28/68. Allegedly this riot in turn led Dr. Martin Luther King to return to Memphis in April, 1968, where he was assassinated. The Director noted "What about this group and the reported action?"

In 1967 an umbrella black power group was formed in Memphis principally known as the Black Organizing Project (BOP). One of its cells was the Invaders, composed of young blacks. This group was particularly militant. Its leaders made statements to the effect that it would be desirable to burn the city and loot. On 2/12/68 the Memphis sanitation workers began a strike. A series of demonstrations and rallies were held in support thereof and this became a black cause.

A mass parade and rally was scheduled for 3/28/68 with King as the main attraction. The BOP actively urged all black students to skip school and participate in the march. BOP leaders urged the youngsters to use sticks from placards and not to be afraid of the police. The march developed into a looting rampage with hundreds of arrests, three youths shot, one fatally and dozens of injuries. King fled the scene when he became aware of the looting that was occurring at the rear of the march. The presence of a large number of uncontrolled school age youngsters was the primary cause of the rioting.

157-8460

JDP:lek<sup>le</sup>K  
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. W. R. Wannall  
Re: "Newsday" Article About Invaders  
and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Dated February 1, 1976  
157-8460

Memphis had five racial or extremist informants active in March, 1968. One became a member of the Invaders shortly after the above violence and he was an associate of the leaders prior thereto. He was present during the march and he reported thereon. He did not lead the violence or participate therein. Another source was well acquainted with the Invaders. He was also present during the riot, but did not participate in the violence although he did report on it. Our informants in no way instigated the violence associated with the Invaders.

The Memphis Police Department did have an undercover officer in the Invaders. He, through the Memphis Police Department, furnished information to the FBI. He has been publicly disclosed and he is no longer with the Memphis Police Department. There is no indication in our files that he instigated the violence.

ACTION:

*give*  
For information. This information is being furnished to the Department.

*for Jan*

*Curry  
He  
Jan  
K*

Sunday, February 1, 1976

# FBI Tied To King's Return To Memphis

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. A.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. A.D. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
Intelligence \_\_\_\_\_  
Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

By Les Payne

© 1976 Newsday, Inc.

The FBI continues to turn up in unexplained circumstances surrounding the assassination of Martin Luther King.

Newsday has learned that FBI informants actively participated in the rioting in Memphis in 1968 which drew the Rev. Dr. King back to the city where he was killed.

Several FBI informants and at least one undercover agent for the Memphis police department were among the most active members of a young, violence-prone black group which openly opposed King's peaceful march supporting the city's sanitation workers.

According to some witnesses, the 100-member group called the Invaders led the March 28 riots which attempted to discredit King's efforts. Following the riot, in which one youth was killed, scores injured and 238 arrested, King vowed that he would return to prove that he still could lead a nonviolent demonstration.

"Dr. King would never have returned to Memphis if the violence had not happened," said the Rev. Jesse Jackson, who was one of King's aides in the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. "We never intended to get bogged down in Memphis."

The Invaders created major disruptions among local blacks supporting King, according to his aides. They criticized King for his nonviolent approach and urged local blacks to "burn, baby, burn." On April 4, the day King was killed, the groups met with him and his staff and threatened renewed violence unless they were given \$750,000 to redevelop their community. "They just got louder and louder," one aide who was at the meeting recalled. "We told them we didn't have access to that kind of money. We had to put them out."

Two sources said FBI agents and Memphis policemen admitted that they had "penetrated" the Invaders with several informers. One of the informants reportedly planned a large portion of Police and FBI officials were regularly provided with detailed information about the group's plans, activities and of the group's violent confrontations, meetings. "They knew everything that went on at Invaders' meetings," one source said. "It was as if they had a tape recorder there." The undercover Memphis policeman who joined the Invaders was at the scene of the violence on the day of the riot, several sources said. He is reportedly still a member of the Memphis force.

"Weston [not the real name of the undercover police agent] was very focal, very active," said a former leader of the Invaders who has talked to the policeman since he was discovered to be a member of the force. "He had a 7.62 Russian automatic rifle and he was armed every time we were armed. He was always suggesting actions that we should take; I never saw him physically attack anyone. But he was one of the most provocative members of the Invaders."

The Invaders, who wore jackets with

*Which about this group + their reptd. actions.*

*K/*

*18*

*2/1/76*

*Newsday/Special Report*

their names printed on the backs, were organized in late 1967. The youths were led mainly by college students at nearby Memphis State and LeMoyné Colleges. The Invaders denounced the nonviolent strategy, but offered protection for King and his staff members. "They, like other blacks in the country, were naturally frustrated by the slow pace of change," said the Rev. Hoseah Williams, Atlanta SCLC director. "We usually put them to work as parade marshals or security guards. They would never have hurt Dr. King. But those who infiltrated our groups, and we could never identify them, tried to exploit the youngsters' frustrations and neglect and turn them against us."

The FBI and Memphis police verified recently that they had informants among the Invaders in 1968. However, Henry Lux, who was the assistant police chief in Memphis, downplayed the group's role in the March 28 violence. Robert G. Jensen, who was the FBI agent in charge at the time, said, "I wouldn't be surprised if we had informers in the group. I'm sure there was adequate coverage of the Invaders."

It is reliably reported that the bureau and Memphis police shared intelligence about the Invaders.

In addition to being involved with the March 28 violence, the Memphis police undercover agent was providing security for King at the Lorraine Motel on the day he was assassinated, according to knowledgeable sources. The officer was a member of the Invaders' four-man security force that had agreed to provide protection for King while he was in Memphis.

There have been a series of disclosures recently concerning covert FBI activities against King. This has led to a Department of Justice investigation. The inquiry started after the Senate Intelligence Committee discovered an FBI memorandum, dated March 28, 1969, which detailed a plan to portray King as a hypocrite for staying at a white-owned motel—the Rivermont Holiday Inn—where he fled after the violence erupted. The Justice Department investigated to see if the memo had anything to do with King's return to the black-owned Lorraine Motel, where he was killed. They found no evidence linking the FBI to a plot to have King return to the Lorraine motel. However, Newsday has learned that the Invaders heatedly discussed King's stay at the white motel among themselves—some threatening violence over the issue.

A source at the Justice Department told Newsday that the FBI memo was part of then FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover's Counter-Intelligence Program (Cointelpro) against "Black Nationalist-Hate Groups." The plan, outlined in an FBI Domestic Intelligence Division memo, was put into effect March 4, one month before King was killed. It was designed to "prevent the rise of a 'messiah' who could unify . . . the militant black nationalist movement." An overall goal of Hoover's plan was to "discredit" black leaders and their movement among both blacks and whites.

The violence at Memphis, perhaps more than anything else, began to erode King's credibility among moderate

blacks. King and his group were preparing to lead a nonviolent "Poor Peoples March" on Washington later that month. After the Memphis riots some national black leaders attacked King for the violence. On the day before he was killed, NAACP leader Roy Wilkins attacked King in a story printed in the Memphis Press-Scimitar. Wilkins said he doubted that King could keep the Washington march nonviolent: "If a maverick of the rear ranks of the march decides to throw a brick through a window, there's nothing Dr. King up front can do to stop it."

Jensen, who was in charge of the FBI in Memphis, said that the "ultimate decisions [for Cointelpro] were made in Washington D.C. and then they came to the field office." He denied that his office ever received the hotel memo. "I have no recollection of a memorandum dated March 28," he said. "If it was an intra-office memo I wouldn't have seen it anyway. It would have come to us as general instructions."

The Senate Intelligence Committee said that it uncovered no evidence that the FBI was implicated in King's murder or any cover-up. The committee chairman, Frank Church (D-Idaho), has reportedly called for a federal special prosecutor to investigate the assassination to resolve "many unanswered questions," including whether the bureau "vendetta" against King was related to his murder in Memphis.

Some of King's staff members over the years have charged that the Invad-

ers were responsible for the riots which indirectly led, they say, to King's death in Memphis.

"The violence was definitely responsible for Martin's being in Memphis on April 4th," said Cong. Andrew Young (D-Ga.). "The Invaders themselves have taken responsibility for the violence. Now if the FBI was involved with the Invader, then it would bear looking into."

FBI officials deny any involvement in King's death. "The FBI did an excellent job in the investigation," Jensen said. "There are still a lot of theories, but no new evidence..."

However, former FBI agent Arthur Murtagh said that Hoover's relentless surveillance of King influenced the way individual agents approached the murder. For a time Murtagh directed the bureau's intelligence unit in Atlanta which tapped the civil rights leader's telephones and bugged his rooms. "The bureau under Hoover believed that King was a foreign Communist agent," he said. "He was the enemy. In this sort of atmosphere, the bureau's investigating King's murder was like the CIA investigating the assassination of a Russian premier."

Murtagh said that some agents were "ecstatic" after King was shot. "When King was shot, an agent I knew in Atlanta went on a 30-minute high. We were in the bureau's parking lot when the news came and this fellow kept saying, 'They got Zorro' [King's code name] they got Zorro. They finally got that son of a bitch."

Mr. Gallagher

2/18/76

J. S. Peelman

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Callahan  
1 - Mr. Adams  
1 - Mr. Gallagher  
1 - Mr. O'Connell  
1 - Mr. Peelman  
1 - Mr. Helterhoff  
1 - Mr. Moore  
1 - Mr. Wannall

This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement.

Attached is a copy of a UPI Wire Service article dated 2/14/76, which states as follows:

"Garden City, N.Y. (UPI) -- The top law enforcement official in Memphis, Tennessee, removed a detective assigned to protect Martin Luther King hours before the Civil Rights leader was assassinated in 1968, Newsday reported Saturday.

In a copyrighted story in its Sunday edition, the Long Island newspaper said Ed Redditt, the city detective guarding King, was pulled from his post and told there was a plot to kill him.

The Memphis Public Safety Director did not replace Redditt after taking him off the assignment, and allowed the detective to return to work three days after King was shot to death at the Lorraine Motel, Newsday said.

It also said Redditt had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life.

'After Redditt was removed from duty, he was told at a meeting in police headquarters that the U. S. Secret Service had learned of a 'contract' on his life,' Newsday said.

'Redditt protested, saying he wanted to return to his post, but the city's then Public Safety Director, Frank Holloman, insisted on the officer's removal,' the newspaper said.

'Enroute home with his police guard, Redditt heard over the radio that King had been shot by an assassin,' the story said.

44-33861

RNH:bap (9)

CONTINUED - OVER



Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

'Three days later, the round-the-clock guard watching Redditt was removed and he was allowed to return to work. The police department never offered any further explanation of the 'contract' on his life,' Newsday said.

The story also said Holloman acknowledged the report of a threat on Redditt's life, but refused to say who had made the threat.

'Redditt's assassination contingency plan, according to sources, called for the entire four-block area around King's Hotel to be sealed off by patrol cars,' the article said."

Our files at FBIHQ and at our Memphis Office contain no information relative to the information contained in this UPI article. On 2/17/76, a copy of this article was hand-carried to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, pointing out we had no prior information relative to this UPI article, and that we were conducting no investigation re the information in this UPI article unless specifically requested by the Department. To date, no request has been received from the CRD for any investigation re this article. As you are aware, the Department presently has our investigation of Dr. King under review. Frank Holloman is a retired Special Agent of the FBI.

ACTION: For information.

1299

D A

KING 2-14  
NIGHT LD

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (UPI) -- THE TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL IN MEMPHIS, TENN., REMOVED A DETECTIVE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT MARTIN LUTHER KING HOURS BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WAS ASSASSINATED IN 1968, NEWSDAY REPORTED SATURDAY.

IN A COPYRIGHTED STORY IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION, THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER SAID ED REDDITT, THE CITY DETECTIVE GUARDING KING, WAS PULLED FROM HIS POST AND TOLD THERE WAS A PLOT TO KILL HIM.

THE MEMPHIS PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR DID NOT REPLACE REDDITT AFTER TAKING HIM OFF THE ASSIGNMENT, AND ALLOWED THE DETECTIVE TO RETURN TO WORK THREE DAYS AFTER KING WAS SHOT TO DEATH AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL, NEWSDAY SAID.

IT ALSO SAID REDDITT "HAD PREPARED A CONTINGENCY PLAN TO ENABLE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO APPREHEND AN ASSASSIN SHOULD AN ATTEMPT BE MADE ON KING'S LIFE."

"AFTER REDDITT WAS REMOVED FROM DUTY, HE WAS TOLD AT A MEETING IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS THAT THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE HAD LEARNED OF A 'CONTRACT' ON HIS LIFE," NEWSDAY SAID.

"REDDITT PROTESTED, SAYING HE WANTED TO RETURN TO HIS POST, BUT THE CITY'S THEN PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, FRANK HOLLOMAN, INSISTED ON THE OFFICER'S REMOVAL," THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

"EN ROUTE HOME WITH HIS POLICE GUARD, REDDITT HEARD OVER THE RADIO THAT KING HAD BEEN SHOT BY AN ASSASSIN," THE STORY SAID.

"THREE DAYS LATER, THE ROUND THE CLOCK GUARD WATCHING REDDITT WAS REMOVED AND HE WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEVER OFFERED ANY FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE 'CONTRACT' ON HIS LIFE," NEWSDAY SAID.

THE STORY ALSO SAID HOLLOMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THE REPORT OF A THREAT ON REDDITT'S LIFE, BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHO HAD MADE THE THREAT.

"REDDITT'S ASSASSINATION CONTINGENCY PLAN, ACCORDING TO SOURCES, CALLED FOR THE ENTIRE FOUR BLOCK AREA AROUND KING'S HOTEL TO BE SEALED OFF BY PATROL CARS," THE ARTICLE SAID.

UPI 02-14 09:50 PES

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

KING 2-14  
 NIGHT 10

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (UPI) -- THE TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL IN MEMPHIS, TENN., REMOVED A DETECTIVE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WAS ASSASSINATED IN APRIL, WEDNESDAY REPORTED SATURDAY.

IN A COPYRIGHTED STORY IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION, THE LONG ISLAND NEWS-PAPER SAID ED REDDITT, THE CITY DETECTIVE GUARDING KING, WAS PULLED FROM HIS POST AND TOLD THERE WAS A PLOT TO KILL HIM. THE MEMPHIS PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR DID NOT REPLACE REDDITT AND REMOVED HIM OFF THE ASSIGNMENT, AND ALLOWED THE DETECTIVE TO RETURN TO WORK THREE DAYS AFTER KING WAS SHOT TO DEATH AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL, WEDNESDAY SAID.

IT ALSO SAID REDDITT HAD PREPARED A CONTINGENCY PLAN TO HANDLE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO APPREHEND AN ASSASSIN SHOULD AN ATTEMPT BE MADE ON KING'S LIFE.

AFTER REDDITT WAS REMOVED FROM DUTY, HE WAS TOLD BY A SENIOR POLICE HEADQUARTERS THAT THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE HAD LEANED TO A "CONTRACT" ON HIS LIFE, WEDNESDAY SAID.

REDDITT PROTESTED, SAYING HE WANTED TO RETURN TO HIS POST, BUT THE CITY'S THEN PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, FRANK HOLLOWAY, INSISTED ON THE OFFICER'S REMOVAL. THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

ON ROUTE HOME WITH HIS POLICE GUARD, REDDITT HEARD OVER THE RADIO THAT KING HAD BEEN SHOT BY AN ASSASSIN, THE STORY SAID.

THREE DAYS LATER, THE ROUND THE CLOCK GUARD WATCHING REDDITT WAS REMOVED AND HE WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEVER OFFERED ANY FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE "CONTRACT" ON HIS LIFE, WEDNESDAY SAID.

THE STORY ALSO SAID HOLLOWAY ACKNOWLEDGED THE REPORT OF A THREAT ON REDDITT'S LIFE, BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHO HAD MADE THE THREAT. MEMPHIS POLICE HAD A PLAN, ACCORDING TO THE STORY.

CALLS FOR THE THREE FOUR FIVE AND AROUND KING'S HOTEL TO BE CALLED OFF BY PATROL CARS, THE DETAIL SAID.

UPI 02-14 09:00 PM

FEB 15 5 10 PM '68

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
 Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gen. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
 Intell. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Plan. & Eval. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Training \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

KING 2-14  
 NIGHT 10

GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (UPI) -- THE TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL IN MEMPHIS, TENN., REMOVED A DETECTIVE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT MARTIN LUTHER KING HOURS BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WAS ASSASSINATED IN 1968. NEWSDAY REPORTED SATURDAY.

IN A COPYRIGHTED STORY IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION, THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER SAID ED REDDITT, THE CITY DETECTIVE GUARDING KING, WAS PULLED FROM HIS POST AND TOLD THERE WAS A PLOT TO KILL HIM. THE MEMPHIS PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR DID NOT REPLACE REDDITT AFTER REMOVING HIM OFF THE ASSIGNMENT, AND ALLOWED THE DETECTIVE TO RETURN TO WORK THREE DAYS AFTER KING WAS SHOT TO DEATH AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL, NEWSDAY SAID.

IT ALSO SAID REDDITT HAD PREPARED A CONTINGENCY PLAN TO ENABLE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO APPREHEND AN ASSASSIN SHOULD AN ATTEMPT BE MADE ON KING'S LIFE.

AFTER REDDITT WAS REMOVED FROM DUTY, HE WAS TOLD AT A MEETING OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS THAT THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE HAD LEARNED OF A "CONTRACT" ON HIS LIFE, NEWSDAY SAID.

REDDITT PROTESTED, SAYING HE WANTED TO RETURN TO HIS POST, BUT THE CITY'S THEN PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, FRANK HOLLAMAN, INSISTED ON THE OFFICER'S REMOVAL. THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

TEN ROUTE HOME WITH HIS POLICE GUARD, REDDITT HEARD OVER THE RADIO THAT KING HAD BEEN SHOT BY AN ASSASSIN, THE STORY SAID.

THREE DAYS LATER, THE ROUND THE CLOCK GUARD WATCHING REDDITT WAS REMOVED AND HE WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEVER OFFERED ANY FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE "CONTRACT" ON HIS LIFE, NEWSDAY SAID.

THE STORY ALSO SAID HOLLAMAN ACKNOWLEDGED THE REPORT OF A THREAT ON REDDITT'S LIFE, BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHO HAD MADE THE THREAT.

REDDITT'S ASSASSINATION CONTINGENCY PLAN, ACCORDING TO SOURCES, CALLED FOR THE ENTIRE FOUR BLOCK AREA AROUND KING'S HOTEL TO BE SEALED OFF BY PATROL CARS, THE ARTICLE SAID.

UPI 02-14 0919G PES

FEB 14 9 10 AM '68

LPT  
 REC'D - CIVIL RIGHTS  
 WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Civil Rights Division

2/17/76

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

xx (F) AWH/egg

1

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

NOTE: Attached is a copy of a UPI Wire Service article dated 2/14/76. Our files at FBI Headquarters, Washington, D. C., and at our Memphis Office contain no information relative to this reported threat against Ed Redditt. No further investigation is being conducted concerning this UPI article unless specifically requested by the Department.

*On 2/17/76 Sup. Joe Hester,  
Memphis, advised does  
not recall this incident,  
nor is there any info  
in indices re threat.*

*HJ*

199

KING 2-14

NIGHT LD  
GARDEN CITY, N.Y. (UPI) -- THE TOP LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL IN MEMPHIS, TENN., REMOVED A DETECTIVE ASSIGNED TO PROTECT MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BEFORE THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WAS ASSASSINATED IN 1968, WEDNESDAY REPORTED SATURDAY.

IN A COPYRIGHTED STORY IN ITS SUNDAY EDITION, THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER SAID ED REDDITT, THE CITY DETECTIVE GUARDING KING, WAS PULLED FROM HIS POST AND TOLD THERE WAS A PLOT TO KILL HIM. THE MEMPHIS PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR DID NOT REPLACE REDDITT AFTER TAKING HIM OFF THE ASSIGNMENT, AND ALLOWED THE DETECTIVE TO RETURN TO WORK THREE DAYS AFTER KING WAS SHOT TO DEATH AT THE LORRAINE MOTEL, WEDNESDAY SAID.

IT ALSO SAID REDDITT "HAD PREPARED A CONTINGENCY PLAN TO ENABLE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO APPREHEND AN ASSASSIN SHOULD AN ATTEMPT BE MADE ON KING'S LIFE."

AFTER REDDITT WAS REMOVED FROM DUTY, HE WAS TOLD AT A MEETING IN POLICE HEADQUARTERS THAT THE U.S. SECRET SERVICE HAD LEARNED OF A "CONTRACT" ON HIS LIFE, WEDNESDAY SAID.

REDDITT PROTESTED, SAYING HE WANTED TO RETURN TO HIS POST, BUT THE CITY'S THEN PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR, FRANK HOLLOWAY, INSISTED ON THE OFFICER'S REMOVAL, THE NEWSPAPER SAID.

HE WENT HOME WITH HIS POLICE GUARD, REDDITT HEARD OVER THE RADIO THAT KING HAD BEEN SHOT BY AN ASSASSIN, THE STORY SAID.

THREE DAYS LATER, THE ROUND THE CLOCK GUARD WATCHING REDDITT WAS REMOVED AND HE WAS ALLOWED TO RETURN TO WORK. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEVER OFFERED ANY FURTHER EXPLANATION OF THE "CONTRACT" ON HIS LIFE, WEDNESDAY SAID.

THE STORY ALSO SAID HOLLOWAY ACKNOWLEDGED THE REPORT OF A THREAT ON REDDITT'S LIFE, BUT REFUSED TO SAY WHO HAD MADE THE THREAT.

REDDITT'S ASSASSINATION CONTINGENCY PLAN, ACCORDING TO SOURCES, CALLED FOR THE ENTIRE FOUR BLOCK AREA AROUND KING'S HOTEL TO BE CROSSED OFF BY PATROL CARS, THE ARTICLE SAID.

UPI 02-14 09:30 PES

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

2/13/76

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

2/10/76

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
Cincinnati

an LHM

xx F.

HNH/jet

<sup>2</sup>  
NOTE: Also enclosed is one copy of an LHM dated 2/4/76  
from Cincinnati.



2/10/76

AIRTEL

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

Re Cincinnati airtel and LHM to Bureau, 2/4/76.

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 DWIGHT H. VOGEL.

Cincinnati will maintain close contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

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

DHV:gmb  
(5)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Cincinnati, Ohio  
February 10, 1976

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On February 9, 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 entry was recorded on Docket Number 75-1795:

1976

February 3, 1976

Cause argued by James Hiram Lesar for Appellant, by William J. Haynes, Jr., for Appellee and case submitted to the court.

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\* -

