

MARZELL RANDOLPH, SCLC board chairman in Philadelphia, is shown talking with the FBI, asking for a thorough investigation of the abandoned Mustang and its owner, whose whereabouts are unknown.



ABANDONED FIVE MONTHS AFTE R DR. KING'S assassination, this 1965 Georgia-licensed Mustang has been sitt ing in a center-city Philadelphia garage ever since. The FBI denies it is in any way connected with the murder. That's Marzell Randolph, board chairman of the ence (Philadelphia branch) examining the car. (Tribune Photos by Laurence H. Geller)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Mustang a Link-to King Murder?

A Philadelphia civil rights leader said Friday he believes a 1965 white Mustang abandoned for two years in a downtown parking garage here was "somehow involved" in the assassing tion of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Mercel Randolph, board chairman of the Philadelphia chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said he believes the car either was driven by the man who killed Dr. King or was used as a decoy to lead police away from the

murderer.

Speaking at a press conference at the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, 42d and Wallace sts., Randolph said a white, 1985 Mustang with Georgia tags has been parked at a garage at 12th and Chestnut sts. since September 1963, almost four months after Dr. King's death.

newspaper, city and state.) P. 19-"The Phila delphia Inquirer" Philadelphia, Pa Date: 7/25/70 Edition: Final Author: EditoJohn Mc Mullen Title: Character: Classification: Submitting Office:PH Being Investigated

(Indicate page, name of

Domestic Intelligence Division

INFORMATIVE NOTE:

Date 7/26/70

J. B. Stoner, long associated with the National States Rights Party (NSRP), a vicious white extremists organization, is seeking the governorship of Georgia.

Attached relates on 7/25/70, Jerry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, convicted murderer of Martin Luther King shot a white youth who removed records from NSRP Head-quarters, Savannah, Georgia. Jerry Ray, allegedly campaign manager for Stoner, in custody of local police and injured youth in serious condition in hospital.

Copy of attached sent Inter-Division Information Unit of Department. Pertinent parts of same being included in teletype summary to Vice President, Attorney General, Secret Service, military and other interested levels of government, including Civil Rights Division of Department. Savannah following closely.

JFM:jcm

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

NR 902 SV CODE

1159 PM URGENT 7-1 SPI

TO DIRECTOR (105-66233)

FROM SAVANNAH (157-871)

COMMUNICATIONS (SOUND M. PLOTON

JUL 26 1275)

TELEXYPIE

LONG

NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY; RM - NSRP.

DETECTIVE SUPV. AL ST. LAWRENCE, CHATHAM COUNTY POLICE DEPT.

ADVISED EVENING OF JULY TWENTYFIFTH THAT STEPHEN BLACK, ATHENS, ALABAMA,

A CAMPAIGN WORKER FOR J. B. STONER FOR GOVERNOR OF GA. HAD BEMOVED

RECORDS THROUGH A WINDOW OF NSRP NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, EIGHT-TEN

MONTGOMERY CROSS BOADS, SAVANNAH. WHILE ATTEMPTING TO RETRIEVE RECORDS

ON OUTSIDE OF BUILDING, BLACK WAS SHOT FROM INSIDE OF BUILDING

BY JERRY RAY, BROTHER OF JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED MURDERER OF MARTIN

LUTHER KING, JR. BAY TOLD DETECTIVES HE WAS CAMPAIGN MANAGER FOR J. B.

STONER.

STEPHEN BLACK IS IN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL, SAVANNAH, GA. IN SERIOUS CONDITION, AND ST. LAWRENCE IS ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN PERMISSION FROM BLACK'S FATHER FOR AN EMERGENCY OPERATION. RAY HAS BEEN CHARGED BY THE CHATHAM COUNTY PD WITH AGGRIVATED ASSAULT AND IS IN CUSTODY OF THAT DEPARTMENT AT THIS TIME.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

MATTER BEING FOLLOWED AND THE BUREAU WILL BE PROMPTLY ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS. LHM FOLLOWS.

END

END Xerok- Rosen END Xerok- Rosen RM FBI WASH DC I- 17111 RGRGR CLR

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION 7/24/70

Attached relates Lawrence Geller, City Editor, "Philadelphia Tribune" and Mercell Randolph, Chairman, Philadelphia Chapter, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, revealed to our Philadelphia Office location of an abandoned white 1965 Mustang automobile and requested investigation be conducted to determine if car connected with murder of Dr. Martin Luther King. Our Atlanta Office previously recovered a 1966 white Mustang purchased by James Earl Ray, convicted slayer of King, and Geller and Randolph so advised. The car purchased by Ray and recovered by our Atlanta Office, contained items of an evidentiary nature pertinent to the case.

A Philadelphia SAC contact has advised Geller and Randolph intend to hold press conference tod ay and may create issue regarding this vehicle. Instant vehicle registered to one Lois J. Floyd, a missing Georgia probation violator. No record in National Crime Information Center on vehicle identification number or 1968 Georgia license plate of car located at Philadelphia and vehicle identification number not identical to that of Mustang owned by Ray. Philadelphia will keep Bureau advised of any pertinent developments.

RFB:mpd

Cruph Art &

HOLMAL EIGHAU OF INVESTIGATION COMMUNICATIONS SECTIONS

JUL 24 1970

TELETYPE

NROOI PH PLAIN

10:15 AM URGENT 7-24-70 KLY

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (26-48376)

FROM PHILADELPHIA (26-40535) (P)

MURKIN; UNSUB; SIXTYFIVE WHITE MUSTANG, NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT

GEORGIA LICENSE ONE D SIX THREE SIX FOUR SIX; POSSIBLE ITSMV.

OFFICE OF ORIGIN

ON PHILA.

STOLEN MOTOR VI

INTER STATE TRANSPORTATION STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE

Tele, know

ON JUNE TWENTYFOUR LAST, LAWRENCE GELLER, CITY EDITOR,
PHILADELPHIA TRIBUNE (PHILA NEGRO NEWSPAPER), ADVISED CAPTIONED
VEHICLE APPARENTLY IN ABANDONED STATE IN PHILA AREA FOR
PAST SEVERAL MONTHS AND REQUESTED FBI ASSISTANCE TO DETERMINE IF
VEHICLE WAS STOLEN. GELLER REFUSED TO GIVE LOCATION OF VEHICLE AT
THAT POINT STATING HE DID NOT WISH TO DIVULGE SOURCE UNTIL IT
WAS DETERMINED THAT A CRIME HAD BEEN COMMITTED. NCIC AND PHILA
INDICES WERE NEGATIVE RE CAPTIONED VEHICLE.

ON JULY SIX LAST GELLER AGAIN CONTACTED BY PHILA AGENT
IN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE VEHICLE AND EXAMINE IT FOR VIN TO ASSIST
IN DETERMINING IF VEHICLE STOLEN AND ITSMV VIOLATION EXISTED.
GELLER ADVISED VEHICLE WAS STORED IN A GARAGE IN PHILA WHERE IT
HAD BEEN ABANDONED SINCE NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT. GELLER AGAIN REFUSED
END PAGE ONE

The Court of the C

PH (26-40535)

PAGE TWO

THERE MIGHT BE SOME CONNECTION OF THIS VEHICLE AND THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. GELLER REFUSED TO GIVE ANY DETAILS IN THIS REGARD OR TO STATE WHY HE THOUGHT THIS VEHICLE MIGHT BE INVOLVED IN THE KING MURDER.

BY AIRTEL JULY TEN LAST ATLANTA ADVISED CAPTIONED VEHICLE REGISTERED TO LOIS J. FLOYD, FIVE SEVEN TWO - C CASANOVA ST., SOUTHEAST ATLANTA, GA., ON SIXTYFIVE FORD MUSTANG, VIN FIVE F ZERO SEVEN F ONE ZERO EIGHT FOUR SIX FIVE. ATLANTA ALSO DETERMINED OWNER TO BE LOIS JANE FLOYD, AKA LOIS J. KING, WHITE FEMALE, DOB

PROBATION VIOLATOR, GEORGIA

PROBATION SYSTEM, WHOSE WHEREABOUTS WERE UNKNOWN SINCE DECEMBER SIXTYNINE. HOWEVER, NO FUGITIVE WARRANT OUTSTANDING.

ON JULY TWENTY THREE LAST, A WHITE NINETEEN SIXTYFIVE FORD MUSTANG, TWO-DOOR HARDTOP, BEARING NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT GEORGIA LICENSE ONE DASH D DASH SIX THREE SIX FOUR SIX AND VIN FIVE F ZERO SEVEN F ONE ZERO EIGHT FOUR SIX FIVE, WAS EXAMINED BY BUAGENT. VEHICLE LOCATED IN FOURTH FLOOR, SLAY SYSTEM GARAGE, PHILA., PA. VEHICLE EXAMINED FOR PURPOSES OF DETERMINING IF IN VIOLATION OF END PAGE TWO

PH (26-40535)
PAGE THREE

ITSMV AS ABANDONED ABOVE GARAGE SINCE SEPTEMBER THIRTEEN,
NINETEEN SIXTYEIGHT BY UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL.

AT REQUEST OF MERCELL RANDOLPH, CHAIRMAN, PHILA CHAPTER SCLE, CONFERENCE
BUAGENT MET WITH HIM AND GELLER WHO SHOWED BUAGENT WHERE VEHICLE
LOCATED. RANDOLPH STATED BELIEVED VEHICLE POSSIBLY CONNECTED

(KING)
WITH MURKIN CASE AND DESIRED FBI CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO DETERMINE

IF VEHICLE CONNECTED. RANDOLPH WAS ADVISED FBI ATLANTA HAD RECOVERED

MUSTANG VEHICLE IN

MURKIN CASE AND INSTANT VEHICLE BEING EXAMINED FOR SOLE PURPOSE OF RESOLVING WHETHER VEHICLE STOLEN AND TRANSPORTED INTERSTATE, UNLESS HE HAD INFO CONNECTING VEHICLE TO MURKIN MATTER. NOTHING DETERMINED TO BE ALTERED ON VEHICLE AND NO RECORD NCIC RE VEHICLE OR FLOYD.

RANDOLPH SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED PHILADELPHIA FBI OFFICE AND ASKED IF FBI PLANS TO CONDUCT INQUIRY RE POSSIBLE CONNECTION WITH MURKIN CASE, HOWEVER, HE FURNISHED NO CONCRETE REASON WHY FBI SHOULD DO SO, OTHER THAN FACT ABOVE VEHICLE MEETS DESCRIPTION OF ONE USED IN SLAYING, IS FROM ATLANTA, GA., AND ABANDONED FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS. RANDOLPH WAS ADVISED KING SLAYING OCCURRED APRIL SIXTY-EIGHT AND INSTANT VEHICLE ABANDONED PHILA SEPTEMBER SIXTYEIGHT, END PAGE THREE

PÅ (26-40535) PAGE FOUR

AND NO CONNECTION BELIEVED TO EXIST.

EARLY MORNING HOURS JULY TWENTYFOUR INSTANT, SAC NEWSPAPER
CONTACT ADVISED RANDOLPH AND GELLER INTEND TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE,
ELEVEN O'CLOCK AM THIS DATE AND BELIEVES INTENDS TO CREATE ISSURE
RE ABOVE VEHICLE.

IT APPEARS LIKELY THAT LOCAL SCLC INTENDS TO USE VEHICLE AS MEANS FOR OBTAINING LOCAL PUBLICITY ALTHOUGH IT HAS NO FACTUAL INFO TO OFFER RE MURKIN MATTER.

PHILA WILL FURNISH BY SEPARATE CORRESPONDENCE TO ATLANTA RESULTS OF VEHICLE EXAMINATION SO THAT APPROPRIATE GEORGIA AUTHORITIES MAY BE ADVISED IN VIEW OF POSSIBLE WANTED STATUS OF VEHICLE OWNER.

PHILA POLICE DEPARTMENT NOTIFIED OF ABANDONED STATE OF VEHICLE SO THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION MIGHT BE TAKEN RE ITS RECOVERY.

PHILA WILL KEEP BUREAU ADVISED OF ANY PERTINENT DEVELOP-

MAIL COPY MEMPHIS.

END

RSP FBI WASH DC

CC-MP RACIN

Mit Used D. Assassmatin Bry In, Ot is noted that a longer the US Commissioner at Turningham Olabama on 4/17/66 charging the subject James Earl Ray, under The name Sie Starro Balt, with aviolation of Telle 18 Section 241 United States Cools James Earl Ray is presently Derring a 99 year soulence in a Tennessee Stale Prisin on his guilty plea to the murder of Warten futter Kong for.

Can has effected numerous avenues of appeal in that Term state Courts and notified wal prosecution action hasbeen taken since he quelty plea on nearly 15, 1969 Apprehensen In Sugland n 6/8/68. - -In Just of this · t

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arement appeal in the Term State Courts and presently has jeending as petitition under the John " Post Convertion Holley appeal in state year state points and plas pending a petitetest jungle the lefur Stale Work Conviction Relief significant / Etteringh Pay has exhauted all other arennes of appeal in Jems State Courts I has pending a getition sender the Jenn stall Post Convection Peleg and on which ihr stale procenter has admit how Ray has reducted by the

He han previously gorales but that well-known witus and publication Continue & contacthe MI u connection with on mustigation which led to the Mulfrealer & apprehenn Jones Earl Ray, I vor have Entements decline then requests for assistant in publishing a factural account of this westigation of the parties from now accorded to the demands of Harold Meistery an anthon who hasbeen critical of the FFF ranon got Carsidual's pertury information Leveloped on the workington, you an sigueted to give consideration to drown Of the tedust process your Pay.

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William D. Ruckelshaus Assistant Attorney General Civil Division

May 7, 1970

EAD

Jerris Leonard Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

Harold Weisberg v. United States Department of Justice and United States Department of State Civil Action No. 718-70, U.S.D.C. D. D.C.

Reference is made to your letter of April 27, 1960, and a subsequent memorandum from the Director to you of April 30, 1970.

I concur in the Director's memorandum indicating that the federal process charging violation of a federal civil rights statute is still outstanding against James Earl Ray. The matter continues to be under investigation. In any release of any information the files pertaining to such investigation would, I believe, at this time be inimical to such investigation.

cc: Director

Federal Bureau of Investigation

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

But in MURKIN To

Assistant Attorney General Civil Division April 30, 1970

1 - Mr. McDonough

Director, FBI

HAROLD WEISBERG V. UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE, CIVIL ACTION NO. 718-70, U.S.D.C. D. D.C.

Reference is made to your letter dated April 27, 1970.

The determination as to the release of the pertinent documents is within the province of the Department of Justice, and this Bureau interposes no objection. For your information, the Federal process charging violation of a Federal Civil Rights statute is still outstanding against James Earl Ray, and you may desire to communicate with the Civil Rights Division on this matter.

1 - Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division

EJM: js (5)

NOTE: Harold Weisberg, an author who has been critical of the FBI and other Federal and state authorities, has filed suit demanding copies of certain documents utilized in the extradition of James Earl Ray, the murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. These documents include affidavits from FBI personnel relating to fingerprints, ballistics and document examinations, and other aspects of investigation. It is not felt that we have any basis to object; however, the determination as to release of this information is withwithe Department's province and, since the civil rights process is still outstanding, it is being brought to the Civil Division's attention for consideration.

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION 4/28/70



Harold Weisberg is an author who has been critical of the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies, and other branches of government. He was one of 10 employees fired by State Department during 1947 because loyalty suspected. He was later allowed to resign. Department is aware of his background.

Attached letter from Civil Division advises that Weisberg has filed action demanding copies of papers employed in extradition of James Earl Ray, murderer of Martin Luther King, Jr. Papers include affidavits from FBI personnel relating to fingerprints, ballistic and document examinations, endesther aspects of investigation. If approved, Civil Division will be advised that we interpose no objection, but suggest matter be referred to Civil Rights Division since Federal process is still outstanding on Ray on the Federal Civil Rights charge.

RJM:js

APR 27 1970

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

William D. Ruckelshaus
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division

WDR:DJAnderson:paf 145-12-1403

Harold Weisberg v. United States Department of Justice and United States Department of State, Civil Action No. 718-70, U.S.D.C. D. D.C.

Mr. Weisberg, author of Whitewash I and II, has filed the above action demanding copies of all the papers which were employed in the extradition of James Farl Ray. These papers were furnished the State Department, flown to England, presumably used in the extradition proceedings, returned to the State Department, and then transferred to the Department of Justice. Included in the papers are a considerable number of affidavits of F.B.I. agents covering fingerprints, ballistics, etc. A memorandum describing the materials being requested is attached.

Would you kindly advise whether the release of these documents would in any way prejudice the work of the F.B.I. and whether in your judgment their production should be resisted.

Your prompt attention to this matter will be appreciated.

Attachment

UNITED STATES VERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Carl Eardley

Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Civil D. vision

DATE: April 24, 1970

DJAnderson:sf 145-12-1403

FROM : David J. Anderson

Attorney, General Litigation Section

Civil Division

SUBJECT: Harold Weisberg v. United States Department of Justice and United States Department of State,

Civil Action No. 718-70 (U.S.D.C. D. D.C.)

Pursuant to your request, there follows a brief description of each of the documents which is reasonably comprehended by the complaint in the above suit. I have tried to break them down into categories with respect to: I. Material Submitted by the States of Tennessee and Missouri; II. Material From Private Persons Accumulated by the Department of Justice; and III. Material Prepared by the Department of Justice for the Signature of FBI Personnel.

- I. Material Submitted by the States of Tennessee and Missouri
- A. Application for Requisition for International Extradition for James Earl Ray executed by the Governor of the State of Tennessee and directed to the Secretary of State of the United States.
 - B. Petition for Application for Requisition in International Extradition of James Earl Ray addressed to the Governor of the State of Tennessee by Phil M. Canale, Jr., District Attorney General, 15th Judicial District, State of Tennessee (attaching various other documents described below).
 - \ C. Affidavit of Dr. J. T. Francisco, pathologist, attesting to the cause of death of Martin Luther King and attaching autopsy report.
 - D. Affidavit of Robert V. Wenzler, with exhibits, stating results of survey of area where Martin Luther King was killed.

- E. Affidavit of Guy Warren Canipe, Sr., Memphis storekeeper, with exhibits, concerning his finding of a package with the murder weapon in it.
- F. Affidavit of Inspector N. E. Zachary, Memphis Police Officer, with exhibits, regarding his on-the-scene investigation immediately following the murder and his discovery of various physical evidence.
- G. Affidavit of Captain R. L. Williams, Memphis Police Officer, regarding inspection of Ray's room in boarding house and discovery of physical evidence there.
- H. Affidavit of Cordra York, Sr., Memphis sporting goods dealer, regarding identity of binoculars.
- I. Affidavit of James D. Hamby, Memphis Police Officer, regarding recovery of bullet from Martin Luther King's body during autopsy.
- J. Copy of Tennessee indictment of James Earl Ray for merder of Martin Luther King.
- K. Certified copy of death certificate of Martin Luther King.
- L. Certified copy of autopsy report on Martin Luther King.
 - M. Certified copy of sections of Tennessee laws.
- N. Certificate of Fred T. Wilkinson, Director of the Missouri Department of Corrections, of Missouri criminal record of Ray.
- O. Certificate of James H. McAteer, Missouri Clerk of Court, describing record of conviction and sentence of Ray.
- P. Certificate of James C. Kirkpatrick, Missouri Secretary of State, setting forth Missouri statutes.
- Q. Affidavit of Fred T. Wilkinson, Director of Missouri Department of Corrections, regarding criminal record of Ray and certifying that fingerprints and photographs attached to his prior certification were those of Ray.

- II. Material From Private Persons
 Accumulated by the Department
 of Justice
- A. Affidavit of Donald F. Wood, gun salesman, Birmingham, Alabama, stating he sold weapon to man in attached photograph (Ray).
- B. Affidavit of Charles Quitman Stephens, resident of boarding house from which shot was fired, describing Ray's activities in boarding house.
- C. Affidavit of James H. Laue, friend of King, who was also an employee of the Community Relations Service of the Justice Department, who was in the next room from King, describing shot and discovery of King's body.
- D. Affidavit of Henrietta Hagemaster, hotel clerk, regarding hotel registration of Ray in Memphis.
- E. Affidavit of John Webster DeShazo, customer in Birmingham gun store, identifying attached photograph of Ray as man he saw purchase gun.
- F. Affidavit of Tomas Reyes Lau, bartending school operator, identifying attached photograph of Ray as pupil he had under alias of Eric Stavro Galt.
- G. Affidavit of Anna Christine Kelly, Memphis hotel clerk, regarding Ray's registration at hotel.
 - III. Material Prepared by the Department of Justice for the Signature of FBI Personnel
- A. Affidavit of Lyndal L. Shaneyfelt, FBI Agent and Photographic Expert, comparing photographs of James Earl Ray under various aliases and identifying him as the same person.
- B. Affidavit of George J. Bonebrake, FBI Agent and Fingerprint Expert, comparing fingerprints on murder weapon and binoculars with Ray's fingerprints and identifying them as the same (attaching fingerprint cards as exhibits).
- C. Affidavit of Robert A. Frazier, FBI Agent and Ballistics Expert, comparing murder bullet with weapon and establishing that bullet came from that or a similar weapon.

- D. Affidavit of Robert G. Jensen, FBC Agent in Memphis, describing weapons and physical evidence turned over to him by Memphis Police.
- E. Affidavit of Robert G. Jensen, FBI Agent in Memphis, with exhibits, describing registration card of Eric S. Galt (Ray) at hotel.
 - F. Affidavit of James H! Mortimer, FBI Agent and Handwriting Specialist, with handwriting exhibits, identifying signature on hotel registration card as same as documents at bartending school.
 - G. Affidavit of Theodore J. A'Hearn, FBI Agent in Ios Angeles, regarding Lau's identification of photographs of Galt (Ray).

OPTIONAL FORM NO, 30 MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO, 27

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 6-25-70

FROM

T. E. Bishop

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

In memorandum from Bishop to DeLoach of 6-24-70, it was stated that Bill King in the Information Office of the Department of Justice advised Bishop on 6-24-70 that the Department had decided it would not be possible for the Government to successfully defend the civil action by Harold Weisberg against the Department for the release of the documents which Weisberg is seeking to secure from the Department, and copies of these documents were, accordingly, furnished to Weisberg by the Department. King also advised that the Department was going to release these documents to the press at 3:00 p.m. on 6-24-70. The Director has inquired "Did you get a written instruction from Dept confirming conversation King had with you? H".

For the information of the Director, no written notice has been received from the Department to the effect that it had decided that it would not be possible for the Government to successfully defend the civil action by Weisberg against the Department for the release of the documents in question, or that these documents were, therefore, furnished to Weisberg. The first notice that the Bureau had of this action was when King telephoned Bishop at approximately 11:50 a.m. on 6-24-70, at which time King also stated that the Department was releasing copies of these documents to the press at 3:00 p.m. on 6-24-70. King, subsequently, on 6-24-70 furnished Bishop copies of the documents being released.

RECOMMENDATION:

None. For information.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Sullivan 1 - Mr. M. A. Jones

TEB:hak (6)

We most entainly should insist information written confirmation

Memorandum

TO

: Mr. De Loach

DATE: 6/24/70

FROM

T. E. Bishop

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

By way of background, on 4/27/70 Assistant Attorney General William Ruckelshaus, Civil Division, Department of Justice, advised the Director that Harold Weisberg, the author of the books "Whitewash I!" and "Whitewash I!" has filed a civil action against the Department of Justice and Department of State demanding copies of all the papers which were employed in the extradition in the James Earl Ray matter. These documents were used in the extradition proceedings against James Earl Ray in England and were thereafter returned to the State Department and were transferred to the Department of Justice. Included in the documents were a considerable number of affidavits of FBI Agents, affidavits covering fingerprints, ballistics' examinations, etc. Ruckelshaus asked if the release of these documents to Weisberg would in any way prejudice the work of the FBI. It is noted that Weisberg is an author who has been extremely critical of the FBI, the Secret Service and other police agencies in books which he has written about the assassination of President Kennedy.

By memorandum of April 30th the Director advised Ruckelshaus that the determination as to the release of the pertinent documents is within the province of the Department of Justice and the FBI interposes no objection. It was suggested, however, that the Civil Division communicate with the Civil Rights Division of the Department on this matter since Federal process was still outstanding against Ray charging a violation of a Federal Civil Rights Statute.

The Bureau is in possession of a copy of a letter dated May, 1970, from Jerris Leonard, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, to Ruckelshaus stating that any release of any information in the files pertaining to the investigation regarding James Earl Ray would be inimicable to the investigation.

Enc.

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Jones

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TEB:asg (6)

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach Re: Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Current Developments

On 6/24/70 Bill King in the Information Office, Department of Justice, advised that the Department subsequently decided that it would not be possible for the Government to successfully defend the civil action by Weisberg against the Department for the release of the documents in question. Accordingly, copies of these documents were furnished to Weisberg. King advised that in view of the fact that the Department had released the documents to Weisberg the Department did not wish Weisberg to make a profit from his possession of the documents and, accordingly, has decided to make similar copies available to the press and others who might desire them. King stated that the documents to be released consist of approximately 200 pages of copies of affidavits, autopsy reports, affidavits with regard to fingerprint examinations and ballistics tests, and copies of other documents which serve to link Ray with the assassination of Martin Luther King. At Bishop's request King furnished the attached set of the documents being released. King stated that these documents will be released to the press at 3 p.m. on 6/24/70.

The General Investigative Division has been orally advised of the above information.

RECOMMENDATION

None. For information.

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

Pret in merrio 75 MURKIN

Mr. DeLoach

A. Rosen

8/15/70

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 .- Mr. Malley

V - Mr. Scatterday

BERNARD FENSTERVALD, JR. NAME CHICK REQUEST

1 - Mr. Bishop

Special Agent in Charge of the Memphis Office, in connection with the James Earl Ray case, has requested a name check on Fensterwald, who is the head of a private group called "The Committee to Investigate Assassinations." This request is on behalf of Assistant Attorney General Clyde Mason, the state prosecutor assigned to the Ray case, who had asked for information concerning Fenstervald.

Fensterwald, former chief counsel to Senator Long's committee on wiretapping, was the subject of applicant-type investigations by the Bureau in 1949 and 1959, which developed that the names of his mother and sister appeared on a list of delegates and members in 1942 of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, and in 1956, while employed by the State Department, Fensterwald and his mother traveled to the Soviet Union for a vacation. No other derogatory data was developed. Fensterwald, in addition to his former State Department employment, was chief counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure (Long Committee), and our contacts with him clearly showed he was ungerupulous, untrustworthy and anti-FBI and sought to involve the Bureau in wiretapping probes by Long's Committee. He allegedly leaked information to Fred Cook, long-time FBI critic, for an article by Cook which appeared in "The Nation," dealing with wiretapping by Government agencies.

A United Press International release in January, 1969, reported on the founding of the new committee to investigate assassinations, stating that Fensterwald was one of the members thereof together with District Attorney James Garrison of New Orleans, and William Turner (ex-Agent and extremely anti-FBI). Penstervald was quoted as stating the purpose of the committee is "to embarrass or force the Government to make investigations they have been putting off since November 22, 1963," and indicated the committee's position was that there was a conspiracy in Dallas in connection with the assassination of President Kennedy and that there were "strong footprints" of a conspiracy in connection with the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King.

GES:cs (7) Bnc.

CONTINUED - OVER

Nemo to Mr. DeLoach Re: Bernard Fensterwald. Jr.

The attached letter to Memphis sets forth brief biographical data concerning Tenstervald and his employments, together with the data developed during the investigations concerning his mother and sister as well as his trip to the Seviet Union in 1956, which it is believed the Special Agent in Charge, Memphis, should orally furnish to Assistant Attorney General Mason.

For his own information and guidance, the letter furnishes Memphis information concerning Fenstervald's anti-FBI attitude and his association with Turner.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter, if approved, be forwarded to Special Agent in Charge, Memphis.

SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

6/16/70

Director, FBI (44-38261)

BURKIN

de your airtel 6/5/70 captioned as above.

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., was the subject of applicant-type investigations in 1949 and 1959, which developed the following information which you may orally furnish to Assistant Attorney General Clyde Mason. in Nashville, Tennessee, Fenstervald was born graduating from Harvard University in 1942 with a Bachelor of Science degree and thereafter attending Harvard Law School, Harvard University, where he was awarded a Bachelor of Law degree in 1949. The names of his mother and mister appeared on a list of delegates and members in 1942 of the Southern Conference for Buman belfare, which has been cited by the House Committee on Un-American Activities. In 1956, while employed by the State Repartment, Fensterwald and him mother traveled to the Soviet Union. In addition to his employment by the State Department, Fensterwald was also employed as wh/4 counsel of the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary; Subcommittee on Administrative Practice and Procedure (the Long Committee). He has also been employed on the staffs of a number of Senate committees.

For your own information and guidance, our contacts with Fenstervald have made it clearly evident that he was unscrupations, untrustworthy and anti-FSI and frequently endeavored to draw the FBI into conflicts around the country by his requests of various telephone companies and other sources who might have information of wiretaps and other technical surveillances by the FBI. In January, 1968, in connection with hearings scheduled to be held in San Francisco, Fenstervald indicated that ex-Agent William Turner would be one of the witnesses he intended to call is connection with the extent of FBI wiretapping. As you are aware, Turner is extremely anti-FBI

GHS:cs (9) NOTE: See memo Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach, 6/15/70, captioned "Bernard Fensterwald, Jr., Name Check Request," GRS:cs.

Letter to SAC, Memphis
Re: Murkin

and has an unsavory background. Fred J. Cook, in an article in the Eccember, 1965, issue of "The Nation," dealing with wiretapping by Government agencies, allegedly obtained information for his article from Fensterwald, whom he quoted several times.

Insure that you are alert to furnish the Burcau under the above caption any information coming to your attention concerning the activities of the "Committee to Investigate Assassinations" or activities of any of the members thereof.

(77-44206)

put weth To

6/5/70

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

70 manus clush 6/10/20

Re Memphis airtel to Bureau, 5/8/70.

For the information of WFO, subject JAMES EARL RAY is now being represented by J. B. STONER of the National States Rights Party; RICHARD J. RYAN, a Memphis, Tennessee, attorney; and BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR. An article appearing in a Memphis newspaper indicated that FENSTERWALD is from Washington, D.C. and heads a private group called "The Committee to Investigate Assassinations." According to the article, FENSTERWALD worked for the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1957 until 1968.

Assistant Attorney General CLYDE MASON, Memphis, Tennessee, the state prosecutor assigned to the JAMES EARL RAY case, has asked that we furnish him any information available concerning FENSTERWALD and his political linkings.

LEAD

WFO

AT WASHINGTON, D.C. Will prepare a brief outline of BERNARD FENSTERWALD's professional background including any information to indicate association with leftist and racist groups in order that this information may be made available to the District Attorney General at Memphis, Tennessee.

2 - Bureau 2 - WFO 2 - Memphis JUH: jlg (6)

put with To

Director, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, Birmingham (44-1740) (P*)

MURKIN OO: ME

Rerep SA HENRY A. SNOW dated 4/17/68 at Birmingham, wherein it is set forth that a complaint was filed against subject under the alias of ERIC STARVO GALT at Birmingham on 4/17/68 charging him with having conspired with an unnamed brother to violate Section 241, Title 18, U. S. Code.

U. S. Marshal, Birmingham, on 5/26/70 advises he still holds above-mentioned warrant.

The existence of this warrant was set forth in a letterhead memorandum from the Birmingham office under date of 6/13/69.

Since news releases available to the Birmingham office indicate that subject RAY has exhausted possibilities of appeal from the sentence he is now serving, the Bureau may desire to contact the Department with the idea of authorizing the dismissal of this warrant.

2 - Bureau 2 - Memphis (44-1987) 2 - Birmingham HAS:rte (6) purant thing.

Mr. DeLoach

June 9, 1970

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Mosen 1 - Mr. Malley

l - Mr. McGowan

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Price

1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

This is to recommend letter dated June 2, 1970, from Mr. Paul Danylyshyn of Ontario, Canada, not be acknowledged.

The Bureau received a letter dated 6/2/70, from an individual identifying himself as Paul Danylyshyn of Ontario, Canada. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of two long distance telephone bills and a copy of a letter dated June 17, 1969, from the District Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, to Mr. Wallace V. Dubinsky, Attorney at Law, Port Arthur, Chtario, who apparently in June of 1969, represented Danylyshyn.

Danylyshyn claims to have been helpful in the identification and apprehension of the "wanted killer(s)" of the late Martin Luther King, Jr., through the medium of "extra-sensory perception" (ESP). He voices his disapproval of our Memphis office and states he spoke with "Agent Sullivan" and SAC Robert Jensen regarding the killing of King and furnished the enclosed telephone bills as proof of his contact with our Memphis office. Danylyshyn generally complains he has received no monetary reward for the information furnished by him and that our Memphis office has taken all the credit for the solution of this case.

Records of the Memphis office disclose Danylyshyn made several calls to that office and offered various type suggestions based on his extra-sensory perception, none of which was considered worthy of any investigation. He was mainly concerned with the reward that had been offered and was told by SAC Jensen that the FBI had nothing to do with the reward offered. He appeared somewhat upset over the possibility that people might consider him a "kook" or a "nut" because of his stories of ESP powers and other psychic knowledge. In one of his telephone calls he said that perhaps he would get in touch with one of the national magazines or possibly the

CEP:js/jd (7)

CONTINUED - OVER

Rosen to DeLouch Hemorandum RE: MURKIN

Southern Christian Leadership Conference and furnish the information he has based on his ESP and psychic powers. He was, of course, told that the FBI was in no position to give any advice or to place any restriction on what he did, and he concluded this telephone call by stating he would not help the police in any way, shape, or fashion.

SAC, Remphis has advised that the District Attorney General's Office, County of Shelby, Memphis, Tennessee has received correspondence from Danylyshyn's lawyer relative to the reward money, and that his office has advised the attorney that there is no mention in his files of any information given by Mr. Danylyshyn to any law enforcement or investigative body that led to the arrest and conviction of the murderer of King.

The records of the Bureau contain no record identifiable with Paul Danylyshyn.

ACTION:

It is recommended that Danylyshyn's letter not be acknowledged as any acknowledgement could invite further irrelevant correspondence from Danylyshyn and would possibly be used by him in an effort to try and embarrass the Bureau.

Right. We don't use ESP anyway + never have - Apt. 44, 38 S. berland St. Thunder Bay, North, Chtario, Canada, June 2nd, 1970.

John Edgar Hoover, Esq. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9th Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D. C., 20535, U. S. A.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

It is with disappointment that I write you this letter:

My disappointment is against your great law enforcement agency, that you capably head, the "Federal Bureau of Investigation."

Rather, my disappointment is against one of your offices of the "Federal Bureau of Investigation," namely, of Manphis, Tennessee.

In my talented ways, I wanted to be helpful in apprehending the wanted killer(s) of the late Doctor Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Monetary gains were in mind as well.

Please note enclosures. Helpful I have been, in my ways, through the medium of "Extra-Sensory Perception."

Your office at Memphis has not given me any mention for my help:

Information spoken over the first two telephone calls; first conversation with agent Sullivan; second conversation with agent-in-charge Robert Jensen. Topic of conversations: Name of killer(s) -- Ray, also Leonard (accomplice equally responsible). This Leonard is a redhead (Do you want his description?).

"If looking for Ray, in Canada, try first to look for him in the city of Toronto, Canada."

Other information was spoken about, as well, such as the supposed name of a Russian or Chinese spy in your country -- Norman Green, or Greene.

The information in regard to the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was given to your office prior to the apprehension of James Earl Ray, in Great Britain (please note dates).

I DID receive a raw deal, I would say. I did ask them to pay for my telephone calls. I did not hear from them in any way. Why? I have also written a few times.

What is their purpose in ignoring ne; who is this Leonard; why was he not brought to trial? (he is an accessory to a murder); it's been over two years now that he is known to your Bureau. What's the delay? Who is he??

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

OF MA 22 II

They (your Memphis office) take the credit (all the credit). They made it so that I lost out on the reward money offered. Wasn't fair was it?

If this is their attitude, I am to assume that it is also the attitude of your "Federal Bureau of Investigation."

It is, with regret that I write you as I do.

I have great respect for your agency. I may have been helpful at some other time to your agency, through means of -- "Extra Sensory Perception," but I strongly believe the attitude of your Memphis, Tennessee, office also reflects your agency's attitude (hope I am wrong).

Forgive me, Mr. Hoover, for my tone of letter here and there. If it takes a fool to criticise, then you have just met one (a big fool at that)!

As a Canadian citizen, tell me to mind my own business. I have it coming.

Thank you for your time and effort to this letter, Sir.

Yours truly,

Paul Danylyshyn

PD/L Encls. Mr. Paul Danylyshn,
Apt. 44, 38 S. Cumberland St.
Thunder Bay, North,
Cntario, CAMADA.





John Edgar Hoover, Esq. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 9th Pennsylvania Avenue, WASHINGTON, D. C., 20535, U. S. A.

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RODERY K, DWÝLK EXECUTIVE APPIETANT

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JOHN L. CARLIGLE
H. J. DEACH
L. HUTCHINGON, JR.
RIMINAL INVESTIGATORS

EARL E. FITZPATRICK NON-BUPPORT DIVISION PHIL M. CANALE, JR.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL

FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF SHELBY

BHELBY COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING 187 POPLAR AVENUE MEMPHIS, TENN. 38103

June 17, 1969

A55158A1485 พนะเค็น 6. กิลริกาย JAMES GLEEFASLEY EWELL C. RIGHARDSON JEWETT H. MILLER J. CLYDC MASON GAM J. CATANZARO LEONARD Y, LAFFERTY ARTHUR Y. DERNETT DON D. STROTHER DON A. DINO JOSEPH L. PATTERSON DILLY F. GRAY EUGENE C. GAERIG HARVEY HERRIN F. GLEN BIBSON JOHN W. PIEROTTI

Mr. Wallace V. Dubinsky Attorney at Law 131 Court Street Port Arthur, Ontario

Re: Paul Danylyshyn - Reward Money

Dear Mr. Dubinsky:

In reply to your letter of June 4 regarding the above matter, this is to advise that there are no standard application forms in this jurisdiction wherein you might apply for a reward on behalf of Mr. Danylyshyn. I would assume that the claim for any reward would be made to the persons who proposed such reward. To my knowledge a reward was offered by: City of Memphis, Honorable Henry Loeb, Mayor; State of Tennessee, Honorable Buford Ellington, Governor, Nashville, Tennessee; and Memphis Publishing Company, 495 Union Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee.

There may have been other offers of reward, but these are the only ones that come to my mind at this time. I might add that as far as I know there is no mention in our files of any information given by Mr. Danylyshyn to any law enforcement or investigative body that led to the arrest and conviction of the murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr.

Sincerely yours,

PHIL M. CANALE, JR. District Attorney General

PMCJr:MEF

Copy to Mr. Robert Jensen
Special Agent In Charge
Federal Bureau of Investigation
157 North Main Street
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

apt 44-38 South Curbulano Thunder Buy, how ortario, Car Edgar 9 Lover, Esquire, Tederal Bureau of Investigation 9 th. Pennsylvania ave.,.

Memorandum

TO : -File (44-1987)

DATE: 6/10/69

FROM :

SAC JENSEN

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

During the course of this investigation, several long distance telephone calls were received from an individual in Port Arthur, Ontario. In fact, Inspector JOE SULLIVAN during the short period he was here did receive telephone calls from PAUL DANYLYSHYN. This individual offered assistance in this case because of extrasensory perception which he claimed to have.

He has contacted me on at least four or five occasions by telephone. He has always been friendly, affable, and has offered various type suggestions based on his extrasensory perceptive powers. He has always been handled courteously and has been thanked for his observations. None of the observations which he has furnished were ever considered worthy of additional investigation and none were investigated.

In April of this year, he did contact the SAC again telephonically and requested information as to whom he could write regarding this case. It was suggested to him that if he wanted to have correspondence concerning this case, the appropriate person to write would be the Attorney General in Shelby County, Mr. PHIL CANALE.

By letter dated May 4, 1969, a copy of which is attached, he again requested this address since he was not certain that he had it written down correctly.

On 6/10/69, JOHN CARLISTE, Investigator in the Attorney General's Office, advised he had received a letter from attorneys in Canada who claimed to be representing P. DANYLYSHYN who made inquiry regarding the possibility of the reward in the JAMES EARL RAY matter. I told CARLISLE that DANYLYSHYN has been in

RGJ: ME.

(1)

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

ME# 44-1987

telephonic contact with this office in the past and had furnished information regarding his extrasensory perceptive powers but that at no time had any investigation been conducted on the basis of his observations whatsoever.

CARLISLE advised that they were unable to locate any information indicating that any pertinent information had been received from this person also.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-1987)

DATE: 6-26-69

FROM :

SAC ROBERT G. JENSEN

SUBJECT:

MURKIN

At about 10:20 a.m. this date, PAUL DANLYS YN Ealled from Port Arthur, Ontario. He advised he had received a letter from Attorney General CANALE indicating that CANALE's Office had no information reflecting that he had furnished information of pertinence in this case. DANLYSHYN was quite disturbed over this, since he advised that he felt he had furnished pertinent information which assisted in the solution of this matter. He advised that he had an attorney represent him in an effort to present a claim for the rewards.

DANLYSHYN has been in contact on various occasions with this office during the MURKIN case. He spoke in the past of having E.S.P. sessions and having psychic knowledge regarding various and sundry people who may or may not have been involved in this case. He wondered what he could do to further his claim for a possible reward. He was told that, of course, I was in no position to assist him in so far as a reward, and that this organization, the FBI, had nothing to do with the rewards offered. He said that he had, of course, furnished pertinent information to Inspector SULLIVAN in the early stages of this case. There is no record in our indices of any information of pertinence having been furnished to Inspector SULLIVAN or anyone else. DANLYSHYN appeared somewhat upset over the possibility that people might consider him a "kook" or a "nut" because of his stories of E.S.P. powers and other psychic knowledge. He also spoke of a "ROBERT CALHOUN who murdered the doctor here," which he said was a local case he felt he could solve with E.S.P. powers. He was again told that there was no way that I could be of any assistance in so far as any claim he might present. He then said that perhaps he would get in touch with one of the national magazines or possibly even write the Southern Cristian Leadership Conference and furnish the information he had based on his E.S.P. and psychic powers. He was, of course, told that we were in no position to furnish him . advice or to place any restrictions on what he did.

I then told him that there was nothing that I could do. He concluded the long distance telephone call by saying that based on this information he just wouldn't help the Police any more in any way, shape, or fashion.

RGJ:BN

Put m mulm menne folder Mollinger frie

Mr. DeLoach

T. E. Bishop

JIM BISHOP, AUTHOR; PROPOSED BOOK ON MARTIN LUTHER KING

You will recall that "Reader's Digest" has contracted with Jim Bishop, a well-known author, to do a book on the Martin Luther King assassination case. In contacts which Bishop has had with "Reader's Digest" concerning this matter, it was indicated that the book by Bishop would deal with the assassination of Martin Luther King and the hunt for, and apprehension of. the assassin by the FBI. Such a book, of course, would be most favorable to the FBI and our work in the case. We have not started working with Bishop in the preparation of the book because of the fact that James Earl Ray has filed a number of appeals in his case, comone value, still being pending, and the Department has not yet authorized us to begin working with an author in connection with this case.

On May 21, 1970, by referral from Mr. DeLoach's Office, I received a phone call from Jim Bishop from Florida. He stated that he had recently had a conversation with Robert Cousins, an editor with Funk and Wagnalls, which is the publishing house for "Reader's Digest," about his proposed book on Martin Luther King. Cousins indicated that he had been led to believe by Hobart Lewis, President of "Reader's Digest," that Bishop had indicated an unwillingness to have his manuscript reviewed for accuracy upon its completion. Bishop advised me that he has always submitted his manuscripts for review to persons or agencies which have cooperated with him in the preparation of books and he would welcome such review by the Bureau in connection with any book he may do on Martin Luther King.

At this point. Bishop indicated in his conversation with me that what he has been considering in connection with the book regarding Martin Luther King is a biographical book on King which would end with King's death and the declaration of national days of mourning for King by the President: He indicated that he was extremely interested in getting all possible information concerning King from the FBI that he could, particularly that type of information which

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1)- Mr. Rosen

l - Mr. Sulliyan

1 - Mr. Bishop 1 - Mr. M.A. Jones (CONTINUED - OVER)

TEB:jo (6)

Bishop to DeLoach memo (continued)
Re: JIM BISHOP, AUTHOR

would show King's immoral character, the influence over him by subversive elements, etc. He indicated that he was considering keeping his book strictly one of a biographical nature rather than one which would deal with the details of King's assassination and the Bureau's hunt for the killer and the apprehension of the latter.

On June 1, 1970, you (Mr. DeLoach) telephonically contacted Bishop and advised him in no uncertain terms that it would not be possible for the Bureau to furnish him any information whatsoever concerning King's immoral character or his communist or subversive connections. He was advised that this information was classified and had never been released by the FBI to any source outside of the Government. He was told that, if and when we get clearance from the Department to do so, we would be willing to cooperate with him in a book which would treat solely with the assassination and the events leading up to the identity and capture of James Earl Ray, the assassin.

Bishop advised you (Mr. DeLoach) that he had apparently been under a misapprehension as to the type of book which "Reader's Digest" expected him to write on Martin Luther King. He stated that he would be favorably disposed toward doing a book dealing with the assassination of King, but he wished to discuss the matter further with "Reader's Digest."

Inasmuch as we have not yet received clearance from the Department to cooperate in the preparation of a book on the assassination of King, no further action will be taken on this matter until such clearance is received and until we are assured by Bishop that his book will treat with the assassination of King rather than being a biography of him attempting to expose his immoral character and communist connections.

RECOMMENDATION:

No additional action is recommended until we have received clearance from the Department on this matter.

memo telden

May 26, 1970

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CIVIL RIGHTS

XX(G)EJM/rif

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of amended petition of James Earl Ray and a copy of an affidavit prepared by SAV Frank Hitt relative to obtaining evidence at rooming house in Atlanta. Copy of this affidavit is being filed in Criminal Court, Shelby County, Tennessee.

AIRTEL

TO:

DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM:

SAC, ATLANTA (14-3386)(P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel, 5/18/70.

Enclosed for Bureau are three (3) copies of affidavit prepared by SAC, Atlanta in response to instructions inreairtel. In addition, enclosure to Atlanta in reairtel is attached.

Original and two copies of above-described affidavit are enclosed for Memphis. Original should be furnished to Criminal Court, Shelby County, Tenn. by Memphis Office.

^{2 -} Bureau (Enc. 4) 2 - Memphis (44-387)(Enc. 3) 2 - Atlanta

FVH:mal/lcc (6)

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Mr. Deloach

May 15, 1970

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach 1 - Mr. Rosen

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MURXIN

O-Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Bishop

This is the case involving the murder of Wartin Luther King. Jr.

James Earl Ray, who is serving a 99-year sentence in a Tennessee State Prison on his guilty plea to the murder of King, on 4/13/70, filed a petition under the Tennessee "Post Conviction Relief Act" charging conflict of interest among his previous attorneys Arthur Hanes and Percy Forezan and writer William Bradford Huie; that he was deprived of full and free access to his attorney while in the Shelby County, Tennessee Jail and that the death of trial judge Proston Battle, deprived him of his right to a new trial.

On 5/7/70, an amended petition for Post Conviction Relief Act was filed in the Shelby County Criminal Court Clerk's office, Memphis, Tennessee, on behalf of Ray. Bernard Feneterwald, Jr., appears on this petition as one of Ray's attorneys. Fensterwald apparently replaced Attorney Robert W. Hill, Jr., of Chattanooga, Tennessee, and is reportedly the same Fensterwald who heads the private group called "Rational Committee to Investigate Assassmations" and who formerly worked for the Senate Judiciary Committee. He has clearly shown himself to be unscrupulous, untrustworthy and anti-FBI (77-44206-46).

In this amended petition it is alleged that the FBI conducted an illegal search and seizure of Rap's rental premises at 107 Fourteenth Street, Northeast, Atlanta, Georgia, and that the fruits of this search and seizure were introduced in evidence at Eny's trial. This undoubtedly refers to evidence voluntarily made available by Jismie Delton Garner, manager of a rooming house at 107 Fourteenth Street, Northeast, Atlanta, which had been loft there by a tenant known to him as Eric S. Galt who had vacated his room.

CIP:jd

ACTION - OVER