

August 31, 1972

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
ACTING

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

8/28/72

----- a memorandum
Miami

xx(G)EJM/mhp

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : ACTING DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: 8/28/72

FROM : SAC, MIAMI (44-1854) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau and Memphis, the Office of Origin in this matter, is one copy each of two FD-302s reflecting investigation conducted by the Miami Division on 8/21/72 and 8/22/72, which relate to this matter.

On 8/7/72, the City of Coral Gables, Florida, made available to the Miami Office of the FBI a complaint report in which on 8/3/72, an officer from that Police Department had taken a complaint from a resident of Coral Gables, Florida, in which the resident stated that on or around 7/28/72, she had picked up an unknown Negro female near a bus stop and had driven her to the downtown Miami, Florida, area. En route, the Negro female advised that the wife of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, CORETTA KING, had paid an unknown Negro male \$5,000 to have her husband killed. According to this unknown Negro female, all Negroes knew this fact, but were afraid to tell the police.

A review of the Miami indices fails to reflect any identifiable information with the complainant in this matter, a resident of Coral Gables, Florida, Mrs. EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
1 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (Info)
1 - Miami
LEF:nlm

(4)



5010-108-02

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

1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/22/72

Officer MICHAEL GLASHEEN was interviewed at the Coral Gables Pistol Range Clubhouse located at Coral Way and S.W. 73rd Avenue and at the outset of the interview, Officer GLASHEEN was advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent. He was advised that he was being interviewed in connection with a complaint he had taken on August 3, 1972 from a Mrs. EMILIA D. ABBONDANDOLO of 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, regarding the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING. Officer GLASHEEN declined to furnish a signed statement but indicated he would willingly discuss the matter with the interviewing Agent.

GLASHEEN stated that Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO is an elderly woman estimated to be in her 70s. He described her as rather feeble minded and "hungry for attention". He stated that to the best of his knowledge she has called the FBI and the Secret Service on matters before.

GLASHEEN stated that on August 3, 1972, at approximately 2:37 p.m. he answered a call over his car radio to respond to 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, to interview a woman regarding information she had concerning the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. Upon arriving at Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO's residence, he was told by her that approximately July 28, 1972, a Friday, she was in the downtown Miami, Florida, area, possibly near S.W. 8th Street or Flagler Street and she offered a Negro female who was standing at a bus stop a ride to the downtown Miami, Florida area. While riding together the two of them talked about matters such as crime in the streets and the Negro woman allegedly then told Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO that she knew something that all colored people knew but were afraid to tell the police. According to the Negro female, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's wife, CORETTA KING, had a boyfriend and she gave this boyfriend \$5,000 to see that her husband was killed. According to the Negro female, as related by Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO, the boyfriend contacted someone in a bar and a "hit" was set up on Dr. KING. According to the story, Mrs. CORETTA KING was in love with her boyfriend and wanted her husband out of the way.

On 8/21/72 at Coral Gables, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SA LEON E. FISH:bja Date dictated 8/22/72

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ENCLOSURE

MM 44-1854

2

Officer GLASHEEN stated that from the information he received, this boyfriend of CORETTA KING's was allegedly somewhere in jail in the State of Florida at the present time.

GLASHEEN stated that to the best of his knowledge and in his opinion, even though Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO might be feeble she did not make the story up, but actually received said information from the person she picked up.

GLASHEEN stated that ABBONDANDOLO had described this Negro female as approximately 45 years of age, 5'2" in height, weighing 145 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes. He stated that he could furnish no further information than this.

The following descriptive data regarding Officer GLASHEEN was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	MICHAEL (No Middle Name) GLASHEEN
Sex	Male
Race	Caucasian
Date of birth	November 11, 1938
Place of birth	White Plains, New York
Height	6'
Weight	165 pounds
Marital status	Divorced
Years with Coral Gables Police Department	Six
Scars	Gun shot wound on right knee

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/23/72

1.

Date of transcription

Mrs. EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO, 5210 Maggiore Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida, telephone 667-4793, was interviewed at her residence by SA LEON E. FISH of the Miami Office of the FBI, and at the outset of the interview Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO was advised of the identity of the interviewing agent. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO was advised that she was being interviewed in connection with a complaint regarding the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, which complaint she had furnished to the City of Coral Gables Police Department on August 3, 1972. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO declined to furnish a signed statement but stated she would willingly discuss the matter with the interviewing agent.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO advised that sometime between July 28 and August 1, 1972, at approximately 4:15 p.m., she left her residence and headed north on Lejeune Road to do some shopping. As she approached the corner of University Drive at a stoplight, she observed a Negro female standing near a bus stop heavily laden with packages and perspiring heavily. She stated that she could tell that the Negro female was exhausted. At that moment, the Negro female walked over to her car to an open window and asked Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO for a ride and where she was going. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO told her that she was going to 27th Avenue and Flagler Street and allowed the Negro female to get in.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO described this Negro female as being approximately 45-50 years of age, approximately 5'5" tall, weighing 170 pounds, medium black complexion, large lips, and possibly a maid by profession.

Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO stated that as the two of them began to talk, the Negro female stated that white people were not always good to black people. However, the Negro female stated that in her opinion there were many good white people. Her conversation led to the accused killer of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JAMES EARL RAY. She described RAY as being not guilty. She stated that everyong in the Negro neighborhood knew that RAY did not kill Dr. KING. She advised that she knew a boy who was in jail who had been given \$5,000 by CLORETTA KING, the wife of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, and instructed him to arrange for the assassination of her husband.

Interviewed on 8/22/72 at Coral Gables, Florida File # Miami 44-1854

by SA LEON E. FISH :apj Date dictated 8/23/72

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ENCLOSURE

According to the Negro female, the boy was known both by Dr. KING and his wife. The boy allegedly killed KING and then gave the gun to RAY and asked him to say that he had killed Dr. KING. According to the Negro female, CORETTA KING had a "lover", named DEE or LEE, a married man who could not or would not divorce his wife to marry CORETTA KING.

ABBONDANDOLO stated that she asked this Negro female why she did not go to the police or the FBI and give them this information and the Negro female stated that she was afraid to talk about it and if she did she would be killed. Mrs. ABBONDANDOLO stated that soon they reached 27th Avenue and Flagler Street and she dropped the Negro female off at that point and went on her way. ABBONDANDOLO stated that she has no way of determining the woman's name, nor has she seen her again since that date, nor does she know where the woman might reside.

ABBONDANDOLO is described as follows:

Name:	EMILIA DE NICOLAS ABBONDANDOLO
Sex:	Female
Race:	White
Date of Birth:	April 18, 1899.
Place of Birth:	Paolisi, Italy
Height:	5'4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Weight:	138 pounds
Hair:	Reddish
Eyes:	Blue
Marital Status:	Widow
Husband:	RENDO ABBONDANDOLO, deceased doctor of law, real estate broker

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

4-23-71
ATTENTION: MISS MONICA GALLAGHER
ROOM 1054
TODD BUILDING

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

your
JL:MG:pg, DJ 144-72-662)
ARE TWO COPIES
XXX XXXXXXXX
XXXXX LETTER HEAD MEMORANDUM
ATLANTA

3-25-71

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
4-7-71

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C REL 1m

NOTE: NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED REGARDING
THIS SPECIFIC MATTER.

(2)

4/7/71

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Atlanta, 3/29/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM; two copies of said LHM are being submitted to Memphis, which is office of origin.

In view of the information furnished by [REDACTED] indicating that the information previously furnished by him was not true, UACB no further investigation is being conducted by Atlanta.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Atlanta
CSH:pab
(6)



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

April 7, 1971

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to Atlanta memorandum dated
March 16, 1971.

On April 7, 1971, [REDACTED] was inter-
viewed at his residence, 764 Wildwood Road, Atlanta. [REDACTED]
was referred to the information he had previously furnished
concerning his overhearing several individuals discussing
the assassination of King and the assassination of Kennedy.
[REDACTED] stated that the information was untrue. He stated
that William S. Arnett, who worked at the Magellan Art
Gallery in Atlanta, had defrauded his mother out of \$50,000.
He stated she has not gotten any of her money back from
Arnett and he has not furnished her art objects which she paid
him for. [REDACTED] stated he believed that Gene Purcell, Larry
Mier and Bane Culley, whom he identified as persons present
when the remarks about the assassination were made, had
conspired with Arnett in defrauding his mother. He stated
he felt that by telling this story he would receive a reward
and his mother would thus be partially reimbursed.

[REDACTED] further noted that on December 22, 1970,
[REDACTED] in Columbus, Georgia
[REDACTED]. He is presently [REDACTED]. He stated
that he went to Columbus in order to obtain some art objects
in the possession of William S. Arnett which rightfully
belonged to his mother. He entered a shop owned by Arnett

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outside your agency.

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

and [REDACTED].
He stated that after [REDACTED] he told his mother that the story about the alleged assassination plot was untrue and the reason that he had made it up.

On April 7, 1971, Mrs. Lillian [REDACTED] mother of [REDACTED], advised that [REDACTED] told her after [REDACTED] that the story concerning the alleged assassination plot was untrue and that he told the story in order to get a reward and reimburse her for losses she incurred in connection with business dealings with William Arnett. She stated that she has retained attorney Frank Blankenship, who is Legal Aide to Lieutenant Governor Lester Maddox, to assist her in her suit against Arnett. He stated that after [REDACTED] told her the information he furnished was untrue she has not contacted any individual or organization she formerly furnished information to advise them that the information was not correct.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

3-18-71
ATTENTION: MISS MONICA GALLAGHER
ROOM 1054
TODD BUILDING

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

JL:KWO'C MG: pg - DJ 144-72-662)
OUR
ARE TWO COPIES

2-17-71

XXX
XXXXXX LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM
ATLANTA

XXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
3-16-71

XXX

XXX

C&E REL 1m

(2)

3/16/71

AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Atlanta and Memphis,
2/5/71.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM, captioned "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.", dated as above. Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

The source referred to in enclosed LHM is U. S. Secret Service, Atlanta. The information contained in the Secret Service reports pertaining to [REDACTED] and LILLIAN [REDACTED] was furnished by SA JOHN T. COOK.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 6) (RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2) (RM)
2 - Atlanta
ORH:pab
(6)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Atlanta, Georgia

March 16, 1971

ASSASSINATION OF
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On December 3, 1968, Mrs. Jacquelyn Sasnin Parrish, 3449 Peachtree Road, N. E., Apartment Number 2, Atlanta, Georgia, advised she is a professional interior decorator and arrived in Atlanta, Georgia, from Louisville, Kentucky, on October 2, 1968, following marital difficulties with her husband in Louisville. She obtained employment at the Tudor House, 3340 Peachtree Road, Atlanta. When obtaining employment there as an interior decorator, she believed the business was owned by Jean and John Sayre, but ultimately learned it was owned by Harry Wingate. Mrs. Parrish was to act as an interior decorator consultant, but as of the date of the interview she had performed little or no work on a professional basis. She said the place is operated in a very slipshod manner and it is her opinion the business is a front for stolen goods and other illegal enterprises by Wingate and others.

Mrs. Parrish advised that when she arrived in Atlanta, she had, besides her personal car, a Pontiac Firebird and a Chevrolet Van truck. She was financing those cars in Louisville but after leaving Louisville was unable to keep up payments. She allowed Wingate to take over payments on the Pontiac and arranged to sell it to him. A Mrs. Mary Hall Singleton was going to buy the Chevrolet Van truck but withdrew her offer and Mrs. Parrish turned the Chevrolet also over to Wingate. She said Wingate had not transferred the cars in his name and she was not certain whether he was then making payments.

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ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mrs. Parrish stated she was confidentially advised by other employees of the company that the antiques and other goods stored at the Tudor House are stolen goods.

Mrs. Parrish stated Wingate has attempted to start an affair with her and has admitted he was involved in anything in which he can make a dollar. He also told her on one occasion that he had killed two men in the past but did not furnish any details.

Mrs. Parrish also advised Wingate was associated with an individual known to her as Harold Bloom. He arrives at the Tudor House periodically and is from the Tampa, Florida area. Mrs. Parrish advised the person she knew as Bloom was making "juice joints" in the basement of the Tudor House, which are described as electrical devices hidden under gaming tables to control the roll of dice.

Mrs. Parrish identified a photograph of Howard Carl Thurber as identical with the individual known to her as Harold Bloom. At that time Thurber was a fugitive on a Federal warrant charging unlawful flight to avoid prosecution-larceny of an automobile, which was outstanding in the Northern District of Florida. Thurber was arrested by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on December 10, 1968, in Atlanta, Georgia on the above Federal process.

As of December, 1968, Mrs. Parrish had moved back to Louisville, Kentucky, and advised the Louisville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that she was then residing at 3900 Spring Hill Road, Louisville, Kentucky.

A report of investigation by the United States Air Force, Office of Special Investigations, dated May 6, 1964, entitled, "William Sidney Arnovich, aka, William Sidney Arenowitch, AB, AF 14834667, Air Force Reserve, Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia", reflects Arnovich was born May 10, 1939, at Columbus, Georgia. His home address was listed as 2104 Cherokee, Columbus, Georgia. He was described as a white male, five feet eight and one half inches tall, 165 pounds, brown eyes, and brown hair. His date of current enlistment was reflected as January 21, 1964, and he had been in the Air Force one month as of the time of investigation.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Arnowich was then a member of the 918th Combat Support Squadron, Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia, which was called to active duty March 12, 1964, and directed to report to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, for a course in basic training for a duration of eight weeks.

The request for investigation was based on information contained in a Statement of Personal History by Arnowich dated March 20, 1964, to the effect that in July, 1963, he visited East Germany, the Soviet controlled sector of Berlin, on pleasure trips and in September, 1963, he drove through Yugoslavia to look at historical and cultural points of interest.

On May 1, 1964, the aforementioned military form was reviewed and reflected that Arnowich has visited Mexico, Canada, England, Belgium, France, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Morocco, The Netherlands, Spain, Greece, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, East and West Germany and Yugoslavia. Arnowich furnished a statement in which he stated he passed through East Germany twice by train but never left the train and stated that in September, 1963, he drove by car through Yugoslavia. He spent five days in that country and stayed with a Yugoslav family overnight. He stated most of his time in Yugoslavia was spent at historical and cultural points of interest, and he made no close friends while in Yugoslavia.

A source, another Government agency which conducts security and personnel investigations, advised on March 12, 1971, that on June 11, 1970, [REDACTED], also known as [REDACTED], and his mother, Mrs. Lillian M. [REDACTED], 764 Wildwood Road, Atlanta, Georgia, appeared at the Northwest Gate of the White House in Washington, D. C. and requested to see the President. They told guards and security personnel they had secret information to pass along concerning the assassinations of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. They refused to divulge the names of alleged conspirators who they claimed they knew by name. They stated they would reveal that information only to the President in person. At that time they exhibited no hostilities and were released.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

[REDACTED] was described as born [REDACTED] at Atlanta, Georgia, and claimed to be a student at North Fulton High School in Atlanta. He was described as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] He claimed to be [REDACTED] He stated he has a .38 caliber pistol in his home but claims he does not know how to use it and is not familiar with the use of explosives. He stated his deceased father, Robert W. [REDACTED], was a deputy sheriff in Atlanta, Georgia, and was killed while transporting a prisoner on [REDACTED].

At the time they appeared at the White House gate, they advised they felt the information they had to relate was so important they purchased \$150 round-trip tickets from Atlanta to relate the information to the President.

[REDACTED] stated that one week before the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., he overheard plans being made for it in Atlanta by three men. He stated the discussion took place in a closed meeting at a place where he was then working. He stated he overheard one man say, "I am going to shoot that damn nigger bastard King in the head just like I did Kennedy." Another man in the meeting said, according to young [REDACTED], "We will frame some jailbird like we did Oswald." He stated he and his mother discussed the meeting with attorney, Lynwood Maddox, Atlanta, Georgia. They later talked with Governor Lester Maddox and he told them the Federal Government would not be interested. The [REDACTED] stated they would make the names of the participants in the meeting available only to the President and then would go to Salisbury, South Africa and stay with friends until the conspirators were apprehended. They stated the trip would cost approximately \$5,000 and indicated the mother has that amount of money. Mrs. [REDACTED] indicated they would reveal the names of the participants of the meeting if the Government would sign an agreement to reimburse them for leaving the country.

Mrs. Lillian [REDACTED] is described as a white female, born July 24, 1921, at Atlanta, Georgia. She is five feet four inches tall, 130 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The [REDACTED] were subsequently interviewed in June, 1970, in Atlanta, Georgia, and at that time named Gene Purcelle, Lawrence Meier and Bayne Culley as being involved in the conspiracy. During that interview, Mrs. [REDACTED] asked for the Government to reward her or agree to her protection. [REDACTED] stated he heard the plot at the Magellan Art Gallery, 3100 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia, one week prior to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. He was then fourteen years old. There were about nine men in the room where the meeting occurred.

Investigation in June, 1970, reflected that contact was made with [REDACTED]'s school counselor who stated that [REDACTED] has a very vivid imagination and frequently gets many things out of proportion. Following the investigation, an evaluation was made that [REDACTED] and Lillian [REDACTED] are "crackpots" and the relationship between them appeared to be a typical situation of a mother's dominance over a son.

On June 24, 1970, Mrs. Lillian [REDACTED] wrote a letter to the President of the United States complaining of the treatment received by her and her son when they appeared at the White House as mentioned above. The letter consisted primarily of hinting for a reward to her and her son for their information.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Lawrence Walter Meier, Federal Bureau of Investigation Number 823 121 B, was arrested in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17, 1965, on a warrant and was turned over to the Fulton County Probation Office. He was also arrested January 20, 1955, on a charge of forgery and was released to Federal authorities on February 8, 1955. He was incarcerated in the Federal Correctional Institute at Ashland, Kentucky, February 9, 1955, on a charge of forgery of a United States Treasury check.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Bayne S. Culley, Jr. is a white male, 248 Springdale Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, born April 2, 1930, in Fulton County, Georgia. He was arrested April 9, 1946, for carrying a pistol without a license and received twelve months probation.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

He was also arrested December 18, 1950, for violation of the State Motor Vehicle law and the case was placed on the dead docket (not prosecuted).

A review of Atlanta files contained no identifiable reference to:

Fruitjar
Ralph George Dickerson
George Ralph Dickerson
Raoul
Doc' Place
Becky Hart
Becky Jones
Martha Fulmer
Gene Purcell
Harold Eugene Purcell
Larry Meier
Lawrence Meier
Bayne Culley
Jean Sayre
John Sayre
William Moog
William Thibodeaux
Blockade Runners
Southeast Restoration Laboratories
Par-Take-Of-Atlanta
Tudor Fair
John Seymour
Jerry Adams
Buzz McQueen
Ben Sutherland
Adams Associates
Atlantic Clearing Exchange
E.E., Inc.
Answering Northside
Clay Shaw
Thad Barnes
Doug Hale
Judy Arnett
Paul Killpatrick



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

March 16, 1971

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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[REDACTED]. He stated he has a .38 caliber pistol in his home but claims he does not know how to use it and is not familiar with the use of explosives. He stated his deceased father, Robert W. [REDACTED], was a deputy sheriff in Atlanta, Georgia, and was killed while transporting a prisoner on [REDACTED].

At the time they appeared at the White House gate, they advised they felt the information they had to relate was so important they purchased \$150 round-trip tickets from Atlanta to relate the information to the President.

[REDACTED] stated that one week before the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., he overheard plans being made for it in Atlanta by three men. He stated the discussion took place in a closed meeting at a place where he was then working. He stated he overheard one man say, "I am going to shoot that damn nigger bastard King in the head just like I did Kennedy." Another man in the meeting said, according to young [REDACTED], "We will frame some jailbird like we did Oswald." He stated he and his mother discussed the meeting with attorney, Lynwood Maddox, Atlanta, Georgia. They later talked with Governor Lester Maddox and he told them the Federal Government would not be interested. The [REDACTED] stated they would make the names of the participants in the meeting available only to the President and then would go to Salisbury, South Africa and stay with friends until the conspirators were apprehended. They stated the trip would cost approximately \$5,000 and indicated the mother has that amount of money. Mrs. [REDACTED] indicated they would reveal the names of the participants of the meeting if the Government would sign an agreement to reimburse them for leaving the country.

Mrs. Lillian [REDACTED] is described as a white female, born July 24, 1921, at Atlanta, Georgia. She is five feet four inches tall, 130 pounds, with black hair and brown eyes.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The [REDACTED] were subsequently interviewed in June, 1970, in Atlanta, Georgia, and at that time named Gene Purcelle, Lawrence Meier and Bayne Culley as being involved in the conspiracy. During that interview, Mrs. [REDACTED] asked for the Government to reward her or agree to her protection. [REDACTED] stated he heard the plot at the Magellan Art Gallery, 3100 Peachtree Road, Atlanta, Georgia, one week prior to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. He was then fourteen years old. There were about nine men in the room where the meeting occurred.

Investigation in June, 1970, reflected that contact was made with [REDACTED]'s school counselor who stated that [REDACTED] has a very vivid imagination and frequently gets many things out of proportion. Following the investigation, an evaluation was made that [REDACTED] and Lillian [REDACTED] are "crackpots" and the relationship between them appeared to be a typical situation of a mother's dominance over a son.

On June 24, 1970, Mrs. Lillian [REDACTED] wrote a letter to the President of the United States complaining of the treatment received by her and her son when they appeared at the White House as mentioned above. The letter consisted primarily of hinting for a reward to her and her son for their information.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Lawrence Walter Meier, Federal Bureau of Investigation Number 823 121 B, was arrested in Atlanta, Georgia, August 17, 1965, on a warrant and was turned over to the Fulton County Probation Office. He was also arrested January 20, 1955, on a charge of forgery and was released to Federal authorities on February 8, 1955. He was incarcerated in the Federal Correctional Institute at Ashland, Kentucky, February 9, 1955, on a charge of forgery of a United States Treasury check.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reflect Bayne S. Culley, Jr. is a white male, 248 Springdale Drive, N. E., Atlanta, Georgia, born April 2, 1930, in Fulton County, Georgia. He was arrested April 9, 1946, for carrying a pistol without a license and received twelve months probation.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

He was also arrested December 18, 1950, for violation of the State Motor Vehicle law and the case was placed on the dead docket (not prosecuted).

A review of Atlanta files contained no identifiable reference to:

Fruitjar
Ralph George Dickerson
George Ralph Dickerson
Raoul
Doc' Place
Becky Hart
Becky Jones
Martha Fulmer
Gene Purcell
Harold Eugene Purcell
Larry Meier
Lawrence Meier
Bayne Culley
Jean Sayre
John Sayre
William Moog
William Thibodeaux
Blockade Runners
Southeast Restoration Laboratories
Par-Take-Of-Atlanta
Tudor Fair
John Seymour
Jerry Adams
Buzz McQueen
Ben Sutherland
Adams Associates
Atlantic Clearing Exchange
E.E., Inc.
Answering Northside
Clay Shaw
Thad Barnes
Doug Hale
Judy Arnett
Paul Killpatrick

Dis

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

February 17, 1971

ATTENTION: MR. JAMES TURNER

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.
CIVIL RIGHTS

JL:KWO'C MG: ^{your} pg - DJ 144-72-662

2/1/71

----- a memorandum
Memphis

2/10/71

XXB()REL/rif

See note attached.

NOTE: Mr. James Turner on 2/5/71 advised SA Richard E. Long that the requested investigation in Referenced Departmental Memorandum should be limited to:

- 1. Check the names appearing in the memorandum of Miss Gallagher through Field Office indices and records of Atlanta Police Department.**
- 2. Check the records of public sources concerning the existence of Business establishments mentioned in memorandum of Miss Gallagher.**
- 3. Ascertain if Secret Service Report (Atlanta) is available concerning [REDACTED] and Lillian [REDACTED].**

2/10/71

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

**SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM;
CR - CONSPIRACY**

(OO: MEMPHIS)

**Enclosed for the Bureau are 4 copies of an LHM
reflecting a search of indices of the Memphis Office.**

**② - Bureau (Encs. 4)
1 - Memphis**

**JCH:jap
(3)**



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**Memphis, Tennessee
February 10, 1971**

**RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. --
VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY**

**The Memphis Office of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation is not in possession of any information
identifiable with those persons listed below:**

**Ralph George Dickerson, also known as
George Ralph Dickerson, "Raoul," "Rocky";**

Becky Hart, also known as Becky Jones;

Martha Fulmer;

[REDACTED]

**Gene Purcell, also known as
Harold Eugene Purcell;**

Larry Meier;

Bayne Cully, also known as Bayne Culley;

Lillian [REDACTED]

**William S. Arnett, also known as
William S. Arnowich;**

Jean Sayre, also known as Mrs. John Sayre;

William Moog;

William Thibodeaux;

John Seymour;

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM;
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Jerry Adams;

Ben Sutherland.

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.

Dis

Place with Teller

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

January 6, 1970

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

--- a memorandum
Knoxville

12/31/70

XX(G)REL/rif

NOTE: No further action being taken on this matter.

F B I

Date: 12/31/70

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

To: Director, FBI (44-38861) ATTENTION:

From: SAC, KNOXVILLE (44-696) ☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
GENERAL INVEST. DIV.Subject: JAMES EARL RAY, aka, ☐ DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -

VICTIM

CR - CONSPIRACY;

DEAC - ROBBERY (OO: MEMPHIS) ☐ CRA-64☐ CR ☐ EE ☐ DM☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF ☐ E☐ BM☐ BM-Threats☐ Racial Matters☐ Klan ☐ Organization

Summary of Complaint:

On 12/31/70 Warden LEWIS S. TOLLETT, Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, advised he had received a Christmas card mailed from Walton-on-Thames, GB. This card was addressed to Mr. JAMES EARL RAY, Federal Prison System, Memphis, Tennessee, and contained a greeting and note from WILLIAM PATON CAAN. The card indicated CAAN was "1/2 of the original Eric Starvo Galt." CAAN noted neither he nor his brother shot the Reverend KING and advised his brother was MICHAEL NOWLIN CAAN.

Warden TOLLETT stated the envelope contained a message that a Colonel GLEN HEMPLEMAN would vouch for his, CAAN's innocence, and HEMPLEMAN's apparent address is 437 M.A.W. Charleston, South Carolina. CAAN further indicated he had a former service number of AF 19873139.

ACTION: UACB:

- 2 - Bureau ☒ No further action being taken and
(Enc. 4) ☒ LHM enclosed ☐ Copy furnished to USA _____
2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) ☒ LHM being submitted
1 - Knoxville ☐ Report being submitted
TVR/kcm ☐ Preliminary investigation instituted
(5) ☐ Limited investigation instituted

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Knoxville, Tennessee
December 31, 1970

JAMES EARL RAY, also
known as;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

On December 31, 1970, Warden Lewis S. Tollett, Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, advised James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. is incarcerated at Brushy Mountain State Prison. Warden Tollett stated a Christmas greeting had been sent to Ray addressed to "Mr. James Earl Ray, in care of Federal Prison System, Memphis, Tennessee, United States of America."

Tollett advised this piece of mail had been forwarded to his prison and noted the envelope bore what is believed to be a registry number 4808 from Walton-on-Thames, in Great Britain and was sent by airmail.

Warden Tollett stated the back of the envelope contains a return address:

"Mr. William Paton Caan
ex AF 19873139
White Willows
Cricket Way
Weybridge,
Surrey, Great Britain

Tollett stated the bottom of the envelope on the reverse side contains a message:

"P.S. Colonel Glen Hempleman
has said he will vouch for
my innocence, 437 M.A.W.
Charleston, South Carolina"

JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

Warden Tollett advised the Christmas card contains a printed greeting under which was the following:

"Merry Christmas Mr. Ray
from William Paton Caan
1/2 of the original "Eric
Starvo Galt."

The back of the card contains this message:

"Dear Mr. Ray, I do not
approve of capital punishment.
I believe that I probably did
not shoot the Reverend Martin
Luther King. I would like to
see you recieve a fair, open,
honest, merciful trial. I
believe that my brother Michael
Nowlin Caan probably did not
shoot the Reverend King either.
Yours truly, William Paton Caan."

Warden Tollett stated inside the front cover of the greeting card is the following:

"p.s. I do not like the Klu Klux
Clan. Please to not publizise
this Christmas card. It could
start a race war, then a civil
war, and then World War three.
Cool it Man, I have a lot of
friends. Use your head, turn
around what's in it. Cool it.

-2*-

This document contains neither recommendation 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.

Files called
1/5/71
NCR

William Paton CAAN

62-5 Ser 35942

mental Case

Michael Nowlin CAAN

N/R

Colonel Glen Hempleman

437 M.A.W.

Charleston, South Carolina

98-24520

Ser #1

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

December 22, 1970
ATTENTION: MR. TURNER

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XXX(G)EJM/rif

See note attached.

**NOTE: Attached material was furnished by Mr. Donald Sanders, Chief
Counsel of the House Committee on Internal Security which had been
forwarded to the Committee by one Jim Brown
William Carey College
P.O. Box 405
Hattiesburg, Mississippi**

TO: HON. RICHARD ICHORD, M.C.
FROM: JIM BROWN (ADDRESS ON REVERSE)
RE: (1) FAILURE OF JUSTICE DEPT. TO
INVESTIGATE NEW EVIDENCE OF
CONSPIRACY LINK IN ASSASSINATIONS
OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY, DR. KING, AND
SENATOR KENNEDY BY EXTREMIST GROUP
(2) FAILURE OF JUSTICE DEPT, CIA, SECRET
SERVICE TO DISCLOSE PREVIOUS INVESTI-
GATION INFORMATION, THUS NEED FOR
A CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY.
(3) REQUEST INFORMATION RE PROCEURE
FOR REQUESTING INVESTIGATION BY YOUR
INTERNAL SECURITY COMMITTEE.

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ASSASSINATIONS

927 FIFTEENTH ST. N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

(202) 347-3837

JIM BROWN

BOOK REVIEWS - FREE LANCE REPORTING

TEMPORARY INTERIM ADDRESS
(UNTIL 1-31-70): WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE,
P.O. BOX 405, HATTIESBURG, MS 39401
410 BURKE AVENUE LONG BEACH, MISS. 39560

JIM BROWN

Current temporary interim address:

WILLIAM CAREY COLLEGE
P.O. BOX 405
HATTIESBURG, MISSISSIPPI
39401

Insider Exclusive!

"James Earl Ray didn't kill Dr. Martin Luther King. And I can prove it, but state officials won't let me," says Renfro Turner Hays, a Memphis private detective.

"I've got the goods to prove they've locked up the wrong man in the state penitentiary at Nashville," said Hays, who worked for Ray's first attorney, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala.

"Not only that—but they've got the only living witness who knows Ray isn't the killer hidden away in a nut house so she can't talk to the press," he added.

This is what Hays told a NATIONAL INSIDER reporter in an exclusive copyrighted interview.

"It seems everyone wants to cover up the real story behind King's death," he said. "But not me. I'm going to tell what I know."

Hays said the woman who can prove Ray didn't kill King is a former employee of the Lorraine Hotel.

That's where King spent his last living hours with his close friends, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, now head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a Chicago civil rights leader.

Hays identified the woman as Grace Stevens.

"She saw the man who really nailed King," said Hays.

**...I can prove
that Ray did not
kill Dr. King...**

Miss Stevens has been a patient at Western State Mental Hospital in Bolivar, Tenn., since King was gunned down on a hot April morning in 1968.

"I visited her two years ago right after King was killed," Hays said.

"She had a picture of the man who killed King. It wasn't a picture of Ray either."

"Not only that, but I've got her statement describing the gunman, and I've got a witness to what was said in her room."

Hays identified the witness as a Dr. Scott. However, hospital authorities refuse to say if Scott still is on the staff, or whether Miss Stevens is, or was, a patient at the institution.

"When I got through questioning her, Scott turned to me and said: 'My God, that's why they sent her up here. I knew there was something in the world wrong with the woman,'" reported Hays.

Hays has raised some other rather curious questions regarding the investigation.

"There is a good deal of evidence to indicate that whoever killed King didn't do the job without help," Hays added.

"Let's go back and reconstruct the last hours of King's life," he said.

"First of all, you've got to go back and look at the scene. You know, make a diagram of it."

"The place where King was supposed to have been shot again was in two sections. Now this first room only have been fired from



Arthur Hanes, attorney for James Earl Ray, talks with newsmen in front of the Shelby County Jail in Memphis. That's where Ray was kept pending the trial.

one spot in the rooming house or the killer wouldn't have had a clear shot at King.

"The curious thing is there hadn't been a vacancy in that rooming house for almost four years before the assassination," he said.

"Then, on March 28, a man is found dead in bed in that rooming house. That's the day Ray goes into a store in Birmingham and buys a rifle," he said.

"And on that same particular day by sheer coincidence—if that's what you want to call it—some people come along and chop down some trees that open up the line of fire between the rooming house and the motel where King is going to stay," he said.

"Even when King decided to return to Memphis, he didn't think he was going to the Lorraine Hotel," Hays went on. "King thought he was going to stay at the River Motel Hotel—that's where he had his reservations."

"By the time King got back to Memphis his reservations had been changed to the Lorraine and that's when the real game of musical chairs began."

**...Key witness
is being hid in
a nut house...**

"King was to have stayed in the big suite downstairs. But this was changed. He was moved upstairs and after that his room was changed again."

"The room he finally received put him in direct line of fire with the room from which the sniper cut him down," Hays said.

"They made three separate moves to get him in the right room," the detective stated.

Hays said that there had been a good deal of pressure placed on King to get him to return to Memphis—and even more to get him into that room."

Hays also pointed out that the woman who ran the Hotel Lorraine Bailey, died of a cerebral hemorrhage within two hours of King's death.

Rev. King's Killer Still On The Loose!

"But I got a copy of a statement made by a guy who overheard the deal she made to shift King's room," he said. "They came to her and set up the deal before he ever got there."

Hays explained that the man—a former employe of the hotel—died the day after King was shot.

"He was up in one of the hotel rooms by himself, and his pistol accidentally fell out of his belt and hit the floor. The gun went off and he shot himself through the heart."

Kind of peculiar, wouldn't you think? asked Hays.

To add to the list of quirks in King's death, Hays said even the judge died shortly after Ray pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 99 years.

The jurist, Judge W. Preston Battle, accepted Ray's guilty plea on March 10. Fourteen days later, he died of a heart attack in his chambers.

*...The events
were just too much
of a coincidence...*

"Either all these people suddenly developed heart trouble or were accident prone or someone arranged to help them," said Hays.

Battle never had a "heart problem in his life," added Hays, although he was a diabetic.

While Ray has asked for a new trial, there is doubt if he ever will get it.

For while Ray has asked for a new trial, the law has been interpreted to bar him from it.

The Tennessee Supreme Court has ruled that a convicted criminal cannot invalidate his prison sentence on grounds that he pleaded guilty because of faulty advice by his attorney.

Ray has been seeking a new trial on grounds that his second attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, pressured him into pleading guilty.

A high legal source says that's why Ray's appeal for a new trial was turned down.

"There's still one more piece to the puzzle that needs an explanation," one source has said. "That's the strange death of King's brother."

The Rev. A. D. King was found drowned in a recently installed swimming pool at his Atlanta home on July 22, 1969.

"I can't say his death is linked to the others," said Hays, "but he is the one person who could have forced a full investigation."

"From several points of view there was a conspiracy. And Ray isn't the killer," Hays claims.

"I'm going to get my evidence aired by a court," vowed the investigator.

And perhaps Hays will. His suit in Memphis, seeking possession of Ray's white Mustang and the rifle used in the slaying in lieu of a \$50,000 fee he's owed for his

Says Ray Not Guilty



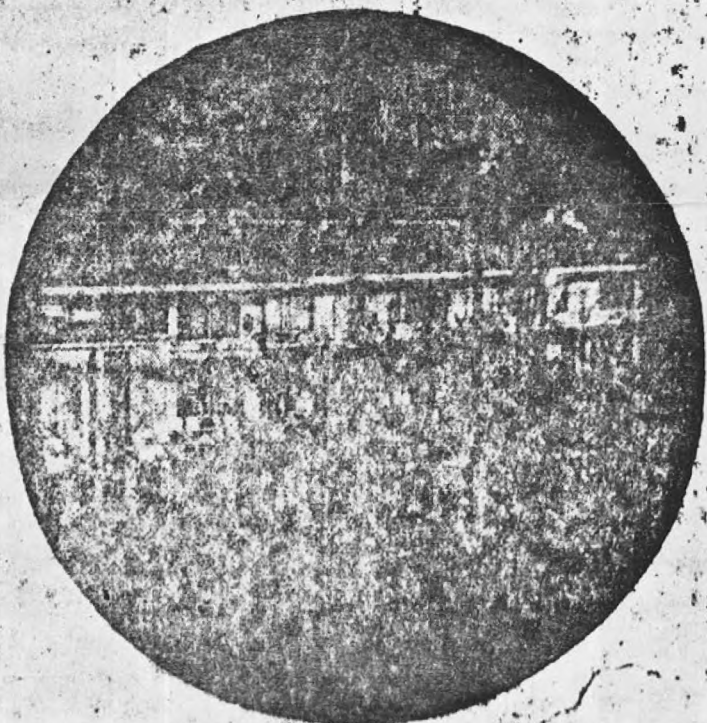
"Ray didn't kill Dr. King," says Rennie T. Hays, the Memphis detective who worked on the case for attorney Arthur Hanes.



James Earl Ray continues to fight for a new trial from his heavily guarded cell in the state penitentiary at Nashville.



This picture of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was taken while standing with his two closest advisors, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and Dr. Ralph Abernathy, as they stood on the porch of the Lorraine Hotel.



The killer with a rifle mounted by a telescopic sight had a clear view of his target, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. All the trees had

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

February 8, 1971

ATTENTION: MR. JAMES TURNER

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

----- a memorandum
Memphis

2/3/71

XX(G)REL/rif

2/3/71

Airtel

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Memphis letter to Bureau, 9/2/70.

Enclosed for the Bureau are five copies of a Letterhead Memorandum concerning a hearing to be held in this case on 2/26/71 at Memphis, Tennessee. Copies of legal documents pertaining to this matter were furnished to the Bureau as enclosures in referenced letter.

② - Bureau (Encls-5)
2 - Memphis

JCH:lfm

(4)



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

**Memphis, Tennessee
February 3, 1971**

**RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY**

On February 26, 1971, arguments will be heard by Judge William H. Williams of the Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, concerning the prosecution's motion to strike James Earl Ray's Petition For Post Conviction Relief.

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.

*Put in dissemination folder
on Martin*

6/23/70

Civil Rights Rbr

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER, KING, JR.

XXXXXX

a memorandum
Washington, D. C.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

6/23/70

XX (G) EJM:js

1 - Mr. McDonough

June 23, 1970

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

On June 18, 1970, Assistant District Attorney General Clyde Mason, Memphis, Tennessee, made available the following documents filed in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, by attorneys for the subject Ray. One copy of each of these documents is enclosed for the Department.

1. Motion to Produce, directing the Sheriff of Shelby County, Tennessee, to furnish the name of the person or persons who constructed and designed the quarters in the Shelby County Jail wherein the subject was incarcerated. This motion has been denied by Judge William H. Williams.
2. Motion to Produce, requesting that the Clerk of the Shelby County Criminal Court produce date books, log books, or notebooks, or other personal data belonging to the late Judge Preston Battle. This motion has been denied by Judge Williams.
3. A motion to declare the subject Ray indigent. Judge Williams has withheld decision on this pending receipt of an affidavit from Ray stating that he is indigent.
4. Motion for an order to require the Shelby County Sheriff to permit psychiatrists to visit the Shelby County Jail quarters where Ray was confined. This motion has been denied by Judge Williams.

EJM:js
(4)

Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

5. Motion to Produce, asking that the Shelby County Sheriff make available all records pertaining to the visits made to the subject by Percy Foreman and by Jerry Ray. Judge Williams has denied this motion.
6. Motion for production of books, papers, documents, and tangible objects. Judge Williams ruled that those items of evidence mentioned in the stipulation at the time of the subject's guilty plea may be reviewed by the subject's counsel. He directed subject's counsel to request the Clerk of the Criminal Court to make these items available for examination.
7. Brief and Argument furnished in support of Item 6, above.

Enclosures (7)

6/18/70

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 6/18/70, Assistant District Attorney General CLYDE MASON, Memphis, Tenn., made available the following documents filed in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tenn., by attorneys for the subject RAY. Two copies of each of these documents are enclosed for the Bureau:

1. Motion to Produce, directing the Sheriff of Shelby County, Tenn., to furnish the name of the person or persons who constructed and designed the quarters in the Shelby County Jail wherein the subject was incarcerated. This motion has been denied by Judge WILLIAM H. WILLIAMS.
2. Motion to Produce, requesting that the Clerk of the Shelby County Criminal Court produce date books, log books, or notebooks, or other personal data belonging to the late Judge PRESTON BATTLE. This motion has been denied by Judge WILLIAMS.
3. A motion to declare the subject RAY indigent. Judge WILLIAMS has withheld decision on this pending receipt of an affidavit from RAY stating that he is indigent.
4. Motion for an order to require the Shelby County Sheriff to permit psychiatrists to visit the Shelby County Jail quarters where RAY was confined. This motion has been denied by Judge WILLIAMS.

② - Bureau (Encs. 14)
2 - Memphis
JCH:jap
(4)

ME 44-1987

5. Motion to Produce, asking that the Shelby County Sheriff make available all records pertaining to the visits made to the subject by PERCY FOREMAN and by JERRY RAY. Judge WILLIAMS has denied this motion.
6. Motion for production of books, papers, documents, and tangible objects. Judge WILLIAMS ruled that those items of evidence mentioned in the stipulation at the time of the subject's guilty plea may be reviewed by the subject's counsel. He directed subject's counsel to request the Clerk of the Criminal Court to make these items available for examination.
7. Brief and Argument furnished in support of Item 6, above.

put with document T 2

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

June 22, 1970

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

XX(G)EJM/rif

See not attached.

NOTE: Enclosed are communications furnished by our Legal Attache in London, England. These were furnished by New Scotland Yard which advised that they were not replying to the law firm.