

PAGE TWO

SL 44-775

TRAVELING BY BUS. HE WAS WEARING BLUE SLACKS AND SHIRT. HE DID NOT OBTAIN [REDACTED]'S NAME AND ADDRESS AND THEREFORE WOULD NOT BE IN CONTACT WITH HER AGAIN. [REDACTED] INDICATED THE INDIVIDUAL APPEARED FLIGHTY AND IGNORANT OF AMERICAN CUSTOMS, BUT OTHERWISE SEEMED STABLE.

ABOVE FURNISHED FOR MEMPHIS TO DISSIMINATE TO APPROPRIATE STATE PRISON OFFICIALS.

END

RMS FBI WA DC CLR

7/17/74

AIRTEL

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

(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Tampa airtel to Bureau, 7/2/74, concerning ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR.

Inasmuch as WEHUNT has not furnished any information of any value or of any significance, the Memphis Office does not feel that any further investigation is warranted regarding the information contained in referenced airtel.

2 - Bureau
2 - Tampa
1 - Memphis
JCH:jap
(5)

AIRTEL

8/18
7/18/74

To: SACs, Memphis (44-1987)
Detroit

1 - Mr. McDonough

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN
OO: ME

Reurtels 7/17/74.

No further investigation need be conducted to
identify Cliff at this time UACB.

EJM:bap (6)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 17 1974
[Signature]
TELETYPE

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| Assoc. Dir. | _____ |
| Dep. A.D.-Adm. | _____ |
| Dep. A.D.-Inv. | _____ |
| Asst. Dir.: | |
| Admin. | _____ |
| Comp. Syst. | _____ |
| Ext. Affairs | _____ |
| Files & Com. | _____ |
| Gen. Inv. | _____ |
| Ident. | _____ |
| Inspection | _____ |
| Intell. | _____ |
| Laboratory | _____ |
| Plan. & Eval. | _____ |
| Spec. Inv. | _____ |
| Training | _____ |
| Legal Coun. | _____ |
| Telephone Rm. | _____ |
| Director's Sec'y | _____ |

NR 02 ME PLAIN

3:12 P.M. URGENT JULY 17, 1974 JLC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
SAC, DETROIT

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

MURKIN. OO MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE JULY 16, 1974.

DETROIT SHOULD NOTE THAT THE TELEPHONE WHERE CLIFF ANDREWS HAS BEEN REACHED BY MEMPHIS ATTORNEY RUSSELL X. THOMPSON IS 519-832-2021. THE TELEPHONE NUMBER SET OUT IN REFERENCED TELETYPE WAS INCORRECTLY FURNISHED TO THIS OFFICE BY MR. THOMPSON.

THOMPSON CONTACTED CLIFF ANDREWS AT THIS NUMBER AT ABOUT FIVE PM, JULY 16, 1974. THE PERSON ANSWERING THE TELEPHONE IDENTIFIED THIS NUMBER AS BEING AT THE COLONIAL MOTEL, CITY UNKNOWN. CLIFF ASKED THOMPSON TO SEND HIM \$700 BY NOON, JULY 17, 1974. HE REQUESTED THE MONEY BE SENT TO CLIFF ANDREWS, CANADIAN NATIONAL TELEGRAPH OFFICE, OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO. CLIFF STATED HE WOULD GO TO OWEN SOUND AND WOULD ARRIVE THERE BY NOON, JULY 17, 1974. CLIFF STATED IT WOULD EVENTUALLY TAKE \$2,500 TO \$3,000 TO ENABLE HIM TO ROUND UP ALL THE PEOPLE INVOLVED AND TO GET THEM TO MEMPHIS.

END PAGE ONE

ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

CLIFF TOLD THOMPSON THAT HE WAS "BURIED IN A VERY BACKWOODSIE PART OF THE COUNTRY" AND THAT DETROIT WAS ABOUT HALF THE DISTANCE FROM HIS HOME TO MEMPHIS.

THOMPSON CALLED CLIFF AGAIN ON THE MORNING OF JULY 17, 1974, AND ADVISED HIM HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ADVANCE HIM THE \$700. CLIFF REQUESTED THAT THOMPSON CONTACT BOB LIVINGSTON, THE ATTORNEY AT MEMPHIS WHO IS REPRESENTING JAMES EARL RAY.

THOMPSON HAS ADVISED HE ANTICIPATES NO FURTHER CONTACT WITH CLIFF UNLESS CLIFF DESIRES TO COME TO MEMPHIS AT HIS OWN EXPENSE.

DETROIT SHOULD NOTE THAT CLIFF IS KNOWN BY HIS FIRST NAME BY THE SWITCHBOARD OPERATOR AT THE COLONIAL MOTEL. CLIFF HAS OBVIOUSLY BEEN AT THIS MOTEL SEVERAL DAYS AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THIS MAY BE HIS PERMANENT RESIDENCE.

SA JOE C. HESTER HEARD A PART OF THE TAPE RECORDING MADE BY THOMPSON OF HIS TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH CLIFF. CLIFF SOUNDS LIKE A REASONABLY INTELLIGENT, MATURE WHITE MALE. HE SPEAKS WITH AN ACCENT WHICH SA HESTER ASSOCIATES WITH THE

END PAGE TWO

ME 44-1987

PAGE THREE

ACCENT USED BY PERSONS IN MAINE AND NEW HAMPSHIRE.

THOMPSON ADVISED JULY 17, 1974, THAT HE IS MORE THAN EVER
CONVINCED THAT THIS IS A HOAX AND THAT CLIFF HOPES TO SWINDLE
LIVINGSTON OUT OF AS MUCH MONEY AS POSSIBLE.

END.

DBS FBIHQ CLR

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 17 1974

TELETYPE

| | |
|----------------|-------|
| Dep.-A.D.-Adm. | _____ |
| Dep.-A.D.-Inv. | _____ |
| Asst. Dir.: | _____ |
| Admin. | _____ |
| Comp. Syst. | _____ |
| Ext. Affairs | _____ |
| Files & Com. | _____ |
| Gen. Inv. | _____ |
| Ident. | _____ |
| Inspection | _____ |
| Intell. | _____ |
| Laboratory | _____ |
| Plan. & Eval. | _____ |
| Spec. Inv. | _____ |
| Training | _____ |
| Legal Coun. | _____ |
| Telephone Rm. | _____ |
| Director Sec'y | _____ |

NR003 DE PLAIN

4:45 PM URGENT JULY 17, 1974 WGM.

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DETROIT (44-989) (RUC)

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE, JULY 16, 1974, AND TELEPHONE CALL FROM MEMPHIS SUPERVISOR JOE HESTER, JULY 17, 1974, ADVISING THAT CORRECT TELEPHONE NUMBER IN ONTARIO, CANADA, IN THIS MATTER IS 519-832-2021.

ON JULY 17, 1974, CORPORAL J.C. CLARKSON, RCMP, WINDSOR DETACHMENT, ADVISED THAT THIS TELEPHONE NUMBER IS LISTED TO THE COLONIAL MOTEL, 235 GODERICH, PORT ELGIN, ONTARIO, CANADA. THIS IS A SMALL TOWN AND CLARKSON ASCERTAINED FROM AN RCMP OFFICIAL AT OWEN SOUND, ONTARIO, CANADA, WHICH COVERS PORT ELGIN, THAT THE RCMP HAD SOME PROBLEMS WITH THE OPERATORS OF THE COLONIAL MOTEL A YEAR AGO AND IT WAS THE ASSESSMENT OF THE RCMP OFFICIAL AT OWEN SOUND THAT THE CURRENT OPERATORS OF THAT MOTEL ARE NOT PARTICULARLY SYMPATHETIC TO LAW ENFORCEMENT. IN THE ABSENCE OF FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS, DETROIT IS MAKING NO ADDITIONAL REQUEST OF RCMP IN THIS MATTER.

END

AMW FBI HQ

C L R

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

[Signature]
TELETYPE

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

NR 01 ME PLAIN

2:25 P.M. IMMEDIATE JULY 16, 1974 JLC

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, DETROIT

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

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS AIRTELS TO BUREAU, JUNE 5, 1974, AND JUNE 4, 1974.

SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY REPRESENTED BY MEMPHIS ATTORNEY ROBERT LIVINGSTON AND WDC ATTORNEY BERNARD FENSTERWALD. LIVINGSTON HAS RECENTLY MADE STATEMENTS TO THE PRESS THAT HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY AN INDIVIDUAL CLAIMING THAT HE AND TWO OTHERS ARE THE ACTUAL MURDERERS OF KING. LIVINGSTON CLAIMS TO HAVE MET WITH THIS INDIVIDUAL ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION. LIVINGSTON HAS IDENTIFIED HIM AS CLIFF ANDREWS BUT IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS TRUE NAME.

MEMPHIS ATTORNEY, RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, CONTACTED MEMPHIS OFFICE THIS DATE AND STATED THAT DURING THE PAST WEEK LIVINGSTON HAS ASKED HIM TO REPRESENT CLIFF IN CLIFF'S ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN IMMUNITY FROM THE SHELBY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY. CLIFF'S LAST NAME NOT FURNISHED TO THOMPSON. THOMPSON RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL AT ABOUT TEN PM, JULY 15, 1974, FROM CLIFF WHO REQUESTED THAT THOMPSON COME TO DETROIT TO MEET HIM. THOMPSON IS SUPPOSED TO CALL CLIFF THIS DATE, JULY 16, 1974, AT FIVE PM, AT 519-852-2021.

END PAGE ONE

7/16/74 Bill Sanders, CRD, requested no investigation be conducted to identify Cliff.

ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

THOMPSON HAS STATED HE DOES NOT INTEND TO GO ANYWHERE TO MEET CLIFF AND WILL ADVISE HIM TONIGHT THAT CLIFF MUST COME TO MEMPHIS IF HE DESIRES TO HAVE THOMPSON REPRESENT HIM. THOMPSON BELIEVES CLIFF IS PERPETRATING SOME TYPE HOAX BUT HAS NOT YET BEEN REQUESTED TO FURNISH CLIFF ANYTHING OF VALUE. THOMPSON HAS SUGGESTED THE FBI MIGHT WANT TO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY CLIFF. THE ABOVE TELEPHONE NUMBER IS A MOTEL, CITY UNKNOWN, AND CLIFF IS ALLEGEDLY RESIDING IN ROOM ELEVEN. THOMPSON STATES CLIFF SOUNDS LIKE A MATURE, INTELLIGENT, WHITE MALE WITH WHAT THOMPSON DESCRIBES AS A CANADIAN ACCENT BUT NOT A FRENCH ACCENT.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY HUGH STANTON, MEMPHIS, HAS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED THAT THE FBI NOT TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH WOULD FRIGHTEN CLIFF AWAY AND END HIS CONTACT WITH LIVINGSTON. STANTON HOPES TO INTERVIEW CLIFF FOR WHATEVER VALUE IT MIGHT HAVE. FOR THIS REASON, MEMPHIS DOES NOT RECOMMEND THAT DETROIT OFFICE CONDUCT ANY OVERT INVESTIGATION LOOKING TOWARD AN INTERVIEW OF CLIFF; HOWEVER, IF IT COULD BE DONE THROUGH AN ESTABLISHED SOURCE IT MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE TO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY CLIFF. AREA CODE 519 IS IN ONTARIO, CANADA, IN THE DETROIT VICINITY.

END PAGE TWO

ME 44-1987

PAGE THREE

IN THE EVENT THE BUREAU DESIRES MORE AGGRESSIVE INVESTIGATION
TO IDENTIFY CLIFF, DETROIT OFFICE SHOULD BE SO ADVISED. MEMPHIS
WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH ATTORNEY THOMPSON.

END.

DBS FBIHQ CLR

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

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

McGowan

344A

RAY 7-13

MEMPHIS, TENN. (UPI) -- ATTORNEYS FOR JAMES EARL RAY, PREPARING FOR A HEARING WHICH COULD LEAD TO A NEW TRIAL FOR THE CONFESSED ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MONDAY ASKED TO INSPECT DOCUMENTS CONNECTED WITH THE CASE.

THE ATTORNEYS ASKED U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE ROBERT M. MCRAE JR., WHO HAS SCHEDULED THE SPECIAL EVIDENTIARY HEARING FOR SEPT. 30, TO ALLOW THEM TO INSPECT ALL PERTINENT DOCUMENTS BELONGING TO LAWYER PERCY FOREMAN OF TEXAS AND AUTHOR WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE OF ALABAMA.

THE ATTORNEYS CONTEND FOREMAN COERCED RAY INTO PLEADING GUILTY TO THE APRIL 4, 1968 ASSASSINATION BECAUSE THE ATTORNEY HAD A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN HUIE'S BOOK, "HE SLEW THE DREAMER."

LAWYERS JAMES LESAR AND BERNARD FENSTERVALD OF WASHINGTON AND ROBERT LIVINGSTON OF MEMPHIS ALSO ASKED TO INSPECT ALL RECORDS OF THE SHELBY COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT PERTAINING TO RAY'S CONFINEMENT AT THE COUNTY JAIL WHILE AWAITING TRIAL.

MCRAE WAS GIVEN ATTORNEYS FOR RAY AND FOR THE STATE UNTIL FRIDAY TO FILE ALL MOTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE HEARING.

RAY PLEADED GUILTY TO THE MURDER OF KING ON MARCH 10, 1969, AND WAS SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS IN PRISON. HE IS NOW SERVING THE TERM AT THE STATE PENITENTIARY IN NASHVILLE.

UPI 07-13 11:25 PED

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

7/5/74

MURKIN
CIVIL RIGHTS

~~7/24~~

my

6/7/74

7/2/74

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX an LHM
Tampa

XX

1

F B I

Date: 7/2/74

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

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

From: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) ☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
(RUC) GENERAL INVEST. DIV.Subject: MURKIN ☐ INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
OO: ME

☒ CR ☐ EL ☐ DIH ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF ☐ E
☐ EID ☐ Bomb Threats ☐ Extremist Matters
☐ White Hate ☐ Black

Summary of Complaint:

Re Tampa telephone call to Bureau, 7/1/74.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of (1) LHM;
 also, enclosed for Memphis are three copies, one for the USA,
 Western District of Tennessee; and two for the Atlanta Office.

In view of Tampa's limited knowledge of information
 contained in LHM and possible leads that have already been
 covered, any leads concerning information contained in LHM
 are being left to the discretion of the Office of Origin.

ACTION: UACB:

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 4) ☒ No further action being taken and
 2 - Atlanta (44-2386) ☒ LHM enclosed ☒ Copy to: ☒ USA, Memphis
 (Enc. 2) ☐ FD-376 (Enc. to LHM) ☐ Secret Service
 2 - Memphis (44-1987) ☐ LHM being submitted ☐ ATF
 (Enc. 3) ☐ Report being submitted
 1 - Tampa ☐ Preliminary investigation instituted
 JAH:sf ☐ Limited investigation instituted
 (7)

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

TP 157-3231

Tampa indices do not contain any information
identifiable with ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR. or SR.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

**Tampa, Florida
July 2, 1974**

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

On July 1, 1974, Robert Thomas Wehunt, Jr. personally appeared at the Tampa Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the company of his wife, Annette Jean Wehunt, maiden name Balsinger, and Wehunt furnished the following information:

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 2, 1974

Date of transcription

ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR., 3109 Hartnett Avenue, Tampa, Florida, personally appeared at the Tampa, Florida, Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent, the nature of the inquiry and that any information he furnished could be used in a court of law. He did not desire to furnish a signed statement but orally furnished the following information:

WEHUNT has been in the U. S. Air Force for the past six years, and he is presently a Staff Sergeant in the First Munition Maintenance Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base (AFB), Tampa, Florida. He recently read in the newspaper that JAMES EARL RAY, who was convicted of killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. in 1968, is attempting to get a new trial and is stating that he wants to tell who was involved with him in this killing. This article reminded WEHUNT of information that he had received from his father, ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, SR., in 1968. WEHUNT furnished this information to his Commanding Officer, Major OZOL. Major OZOL referred WEHUNT to Colonel HOLMES of the Legal Office of MacDill AFB, who in turn referred WEHUNT to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in Tampa.

WEHUNT's father was a criminal investigator in the U. S. Army for 20 years. After his father retired from the Army, he worked as an investigator for Fidelofax, later for a bonding company and then for eight years as a guard at the Fulton County Jail, Atlanta, Georgia, up until his death in August, 1973.

Approximately two months after KING's death in 1968, WEHUNT's father showed WEHUNT, WEHUNT's mother, ALMA LOUISE WEHUNT, maiden name RALSTON, and WEHUNT's sister, JANET UPSHAW, maiden name WEHUNT, at least three signed statements that WEHUNT's father stated he had obtained from "hard-core" convicts in the Fulton County Jail. Each statement stated that these convicts had been approached by "very influential businessmen" to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. for \$100,000.

Interviewed on 7/1/74 at Tampa, Florida File # Tampa 157-3231
Memphis 44-1987
by SA JOHN ALLEN HARTINGH: sf Date dictated 7/2/74

2

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

TP 157-3231

At this time WEHUNT's father was a jailor and he told WEHUNT that these criminals furnished him this information and he took it from them in the form of signed statements. The father told WEHUNT that on one occasion he attempted to turn these statements over to proper authorities for investigation but that the father's life and that of his family were threatened, and the father told WEHUNT that he had decided to keep his mouth shut. The father did not tell WEHUNT to whom he had offered the statements or who had threatened the father.

The father formerly had these statements and other related papers at his house in Atlanta, Georgia, but after the father died in August, 1973, WEHUNT and his mother attempted to locate these papers but to date they have not located them. WEHUNT assumes that it is possible his father had a safe deposit box that no one has yet discovered and that possibly the statements and papers are contained in the safe deposit box.

WEHUNT cannot recall names of the individuals who furnished the statements or names of the "very influential businessmen", but these names were all contained in the statements.

WEHUNT doubts that his mother or sister would recall any additional information about the statements or that contained in the statements, and WEHUNT does not know of anyone else who has any information concerning these statements.

WEHUNT noted that shortly before the death of his father his father was an alcoholic and he had many girl friends and more money than he could have possibly been earning as a jail guard. WEHUNT, therefore, at that time surmised that it was possible that his father had been paid off by unknown individuals to remain quiet about the statements.

WEHUNT mentioned this story to his commanding officer about two months ago but the commanding officer did not give WEHUNT any response to it and WEHUNT dropped the matter at that time. WEHUNT brought this matter up at this time after reading the newspaper article about RAY and after thinking that if RAY talks possibly WEHUNT and his father's name might be brought up and there might be some danger to WEHUNT and

TP 157-3231

his family. WEHUNT noted that another reason that he never mentioned this story to anyone before is because he did not feel that anyone would believe him.

WEHUNT advised that if he recalled any additional information or was able to develop any additional information he would immediately recontact the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The following descriptive data was obtained through observation and interview:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name: | ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR. |
| Race: | White |
| Sex: | Male |
| Born: | July 17, 1950 |
| Place of Birth: | Ft. McPherson, Georgia |
| Height: | 5'11" |
| Weight: | 175 lbs. |
| Education: | Graduate of Walker High School, Atlanta, Georgia |
| Disabilities: | None |
| Social Security Account No.: | [REDACTED] |
| Employment: | Staff Sergeant, U. S. Air Force, First Munition Maintenance Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida |
| Business Telephone No.: | 830-4311 |
| Residence: | 3109 Hartnett Avenue Tampa, Florida |
| Wife: | ANNETTE JEAN WEHUNT, maiden name BALSINGER |
| Race: | White |
| Sex: | Female |
| Born: | October 19, 1954 |
| Place of Birth: | Connersville, Indiana |
| Mother: | ALMA LOUISE WEHUNT, maiden name RALSTON |
| Residence: | Albatross Lane Decatur, Georgia |
| Telephone No.: | 404-241-5253 |
| Employment: | Sears and Roebuck Ponce De Leon Atlanta, Georgia |

4

TP 157-3231

Sister:

JANET UPSHAW,
maiden name WEHUNT

Age:

25

Residence:

Stone Mountain, Georgia

Telephone No.:

404-294-7071.

5*

F B I

Date: 6/27/74

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Savannah airtel to the Bureau, dated 6/12/74;
and Memphis airtel to the Bureau, dated 6/4/74.

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are the following:

(1) One copy of Atlanta teletype to the Bureau
and Memphis, ET AL, 4/22/68, captioned "MURKIN".

(2) One copy of a second Atlanta teletype to the
Bureau and Memphis, ET AL, 4/22/68, captioned "MURKIN".

(3) One copy of a third Atlanta teletype to the
Bureau and Memphis, ET AL, 4/22/68, captioned "MURKIN".

(4) One copy of autobiography of RAYMOND LEWIS
CURTIS.

(5) One copy of Identification Record of RAYMOND
LEWIS CURTIS, FBI # 3 016 268.

- ② - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(Enc. 5)
1 - Savannah (44-1768)(Info)
3 - Atlanta (2-44-2386)
(1- 88-13285)

ORH:lru
(8)

CARBON COPY

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

U.S. Government Printing Office: 1972 - 455-574

AT 44-2386

A review of Atlanta files concerning MURKIN and of case captioned "RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS, aka - FUGITIVE. UFAC - MURDER, ESCAPE", reflects that CURTIS was interviewed by Bureau Agents on 4/21/68, and 4/22/68, concerning his acquaintance with JAMES EARL RAY and alleged information he obtained from RAY concerning a plot to kill KING. This information is contained in the three enclosed Atlanta teletypes.

In connection with the pending fugitive investigation regarding CURTIS, Mr. FREEMAN C. HILL, Unit Coordinator, Community Base Services, Rome, Georgia, CURTIS' former parole officer made available on 11/28/72, a copy of an autobiography written by CURTIS at HILL's request in about 1970. This autobiography traces CURTIS' criminal life from early childhood to the time he wrote the autobiography.

Investigation conducted regarding CURTIS reflects that psychiatric tests conducted by the State Department of Corrections at the Jackson Diagnostic Center incidental to the murder sentence being served by CURTIS at the time of his escape reflects CURTIS has a mental age of 10 years and 6 months and has a psychopathic personality.

A review of CURTIS' criminal history reflects he is basically an armed robber, unintelligent, and there is no indication he has ever been involved in any confidence schemes.

CURTIS is currently a fugitive, having escaped a work detail of the Ware Correctional Institution on 7/18/72, while serving a life sentence for murder, imposed on 7/26/67, at Whitfield County, Georgia. On 7/20/72, a warrant was issued by the Georgia State Board of Offender Rehabilitation, Atlanta, Georgia, for escape. On 9/5/72, an authorized complaint was filed before the U.S. Magistrate, Savannah, Georgia, charging CURTIS with violation of Title 18, Section 1073, U.S. Code. A warrant was issued and \$100,000 bond recommended. CURTIS has not been apprehended to date and continues as a fugitive.

A review of the Atlanta 88 file reflects CURTIS is a former cellmate of JAMES EARL RAY at the Missouri State Penitentiary and received nationwide publicity on

AT 44-2386

television and in newspapers and magazines after making statements about RAY.

GEORGE McMILLAN was listed as a correspondent with CURTIS while CURTIS was at the Ware Correctional Institute (WCI). WCI files reflect McMILLAN made numerous requests to see and interview CURTIS while CURTIS was at WCI, but these requests were denied. Prison files reflect GEORGE McMILLAN, Coffin Point, Frogmore, South Carolina, as a correspondent with CURTIS.

In connection with the current fugitive investigation regarding CURTIS, Mr. GEORGE McMILLAN, 12 Hilliard Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, advised on 1/22/73, that he is an author working on a book about the life of JAMES EARL RAY. He learned that CURTIS had been a cellmate of RAY's and had also been jailed with him at the same institutions on two other occasions. McMILLAN said he interviewed CURTIS regarding RAY on several occasions and thereafter received leather goods from CURTIS, which CURTIS manufactured. McMILLAN furnished CURTIS cigarette money for these leather goods. McMILLAN stated he has not been contacted by CURTIS since CURTIS' escape.

It is noted in the referenced Memphis airtel to the Bureau that ROBERT LIVINGSTON, attorney, allegedly met with his source, identified as CLIFF ANDREWS, in Detroit, on 4/20/74. A review of CURTIS' fugitive file does not contain any information indicating CURTIS has been in the Detroit area.

6/27/74

airtel

7/16

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS

Re WFO airtel to the Bureau, 6/18/74.

LEAD:

BALTIMORE DIVISION

AT BRUNSWICK, MARYLAND. Will, through registration records of the Hawaiian Hotel, attempt to identify BILL HARRIS and have him interviewed regarding statements made by him concerning the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. In the event HARRIS is now an official of a labor union national headquarters or is a controversial figure in the labor movement, Bureau permission should be obtained before conducting this interview.

Memphis indices contain nothing identifiable with BILL HARRIS in connection with this case.

For the additional assistance of Agents conducting the interview with HARRIS, the following is set forth:

- 2 - Bureau
- 2 - Baltimore
- 1 - WFO (Info)
- 2 - Memphis

JCH:cmc
(7)

ME 44-1987

KING arrived in Memphis on the morning of 3/28/68, from Atlanta, Georgia. The sanitation workers at Memphis were then on strike in what had become a long, bitter dispute over wages, check-offs, etc. The sanitation workers were represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) of which one JERRY WORTH was President. WORTH had been in Memphis during part of this strike, but this office cannot say whether or not WORTH was here on any particular day. HENRY LOEB was then the Mayor of Memphis.

KING led a march through downtown Memphis shortly before noon on 3/28/68, but the march had barely gotten underway before the marchers began looting the stores along the route of the march. KING fled the scene, and the Memphis Police Department dispersed the mob and forced them out of the downtown area.

KING spent the night of 3/28/68, in Memphis, leaving the next day to return to Atlanta. KING's prestige had suffered a serious blow in that he had been unable to control his followers and the "peaceful" march had turned into a riot. It has been speculated that KING's return to Memphis on 4/3/68 was done at the urging of his advisors, and his leading another march on 4/5/68, was to be done to rebuild his public image. As you are aware, KING was shot and killed at about 6:00 pm on 4/4/68, while standing on the balcony of his motel.

All of the evidence in this case points to the fact that JAMES EARL RAY, acting alone, was KING's murderer. There has been nothing to indicate that RAY ever received any large sum of money from anyone, and what we know of his living habits, both before and after the murder, would indicate he lived on a very limited amount of money. We do not know the source of even the small amount of money possessed by RAY, but since we know him to have robbed a bank in

ME 44-1987

England after fleeing to that country, it is a reasonable presumption that RAY committed robberies in the United States during the time he was a fugitive.

RAY entered a plea of guilty to the charge that he murdered KING and is now serving 99 years in the Tennessee State Prison. At the time of his guilty plea RAY was represented by PERCY FOREMAN of Houston, Texas. RAY now claims he was not adequately represented by FOREMAN, and he is attempting to have his guilty plea set aside in order to be granted a trial in state court.

RAY's current attorneys have made public statements to the effect that RAY bought the murder weapon and brought it to Memphis thinking he was part of a gun smuggling operation. They claim he did not know the gun was to be used to murder KING, and they claim that RAY did not pull the trigger.

①
Markin

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

7/9

McGinnis
Larkin

6-22-74

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) -- AN EVIDENTIARY HEARING WHICH COULD LEAD TO A NEW TRIAL FOR JAMES EARL RAY IN CONNECTION WITH THE 1968 MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. PROBABLY WILL BE HELD SOMETIME IN OCTOBER. U.S. DISTRICT JUDGE ROBERT MCRAE JR. MET FRIDAY WITH ATTORNEYS FOR THE STATE TO DISCUSS THE UPCOMING HEARING AND PROMISED TO ANNOUNCE THE DATE NEXT WEEK, WHEN HE ISSUES AN OPINION ON WHAT WILL BE DECIDED AT THE SPECIAL HEARING ORDERED BY THE 5TH U.S. CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS.

6/18/74

6/28

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-703)

**MURKIN
(OO:ME)**

Enclosed for the Bureau and each office is a transcript of a conversation between SHIRLEY GAINES and BILL (DNU) HARRIS concerning captioned matter.

On 5/28/74, DAVID J. GAINES, 6171 Leesburg Pike, Apartment 532, Falls Church, Virginia, telephone 534-5372, contacted WFO and stated he would like to make available a tape recording for the FBI's consideration concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING.

GAINES stated that the tape contains a conversation between his wife, SHIRLEY GAINES, and an individual who identifies himself as BILL (DNU) HARRIS. According to GAINES, both participants on the tape were in a seminebriated condition when the recording was made. In the recording, HARRIS states that JAMES EARL RAY had nothing to do with the assassination of KING but that he and others connected with the United Auto Workers and the Teamsters Union planned and paid for the assassination.

The record reportedly was made while GAINES was on a job as a private court and conference reporter at a public hearing on Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Citizen Advisory Commission at Brunswick, Maryland, sometime in June of 1972. He stated that during this time he and his wife were staying at the Hawaiian Hotel in Brunswick, Maryland. HARRIS and several other men were staying in the room next to theirs.

GAINES stated that his wife, SHIRLEY, heard on the radio recently that several men were being investigated for their part in the assassination of KING. She then remembered the tape that she and HARRIS had made. GAINES stated that after listening to the tape he decided to bring it to the FBI.

2 - Bureau (Enc 1)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(Enc 1)
1 - Alexandria (Info)(Enc 1)
1 - Baltimore (Info)(Enc 1)
1 - WFO
ABK:ctw
(7)

WFO 44-703

He stated that the tape is a copy and that he retains the original at his home, which the FBI may have if they desire to.

In view of the fact that WFO does not have available all the facts concerning the assassination of KING and since Memphis was office of origin, the Memphis Office should review the transcript to determine if any investigation need be conducted as a result of information contained in the transcript.

Information copies are being sent to Alexandria and Baltimore in the event additional investigation is requested by Memphis.

Woman: Before you start talking, your first name?

Male: Bill Harris.

Woman: What?

Male: Bill Harris.

Woman: Bill Harris is taling.

Male: With the (inaudible)

Woman: All right. Hold on just a minute. Bill, Bill, would you shut up a minute.

Male: Right.

Woman: This is Bill Harris here at the Hawaiian Hotel. He's sitting here across from me and we're doing a bit of talking and he's chuckling in the process, but he has something to say. He's a very, very intelligent person. Would you shut up a minute. I've read you out already.

Male: I've read you out honey, and you're more better than I am.

Woman: Would you hush a minute.

Male: Yeah.

Woman: Now, here is an individual who's lived a great deal. I think (inaudible) would you shut up a minute. I've seen his hand, I've washed his body, I've listened to him, I've watched him. He's a fine person. I think in some ways, because of the extent of his intelligence

he's a bit frustrated because ah, I think he's deeply soggy, and I've washed him and listened to him. Many times people with the lower levels of psychic ability have this thing. I think Bill is one of them. (tape broke, approximately 30 seconds) I don't think to the extent you and I have, David. Ah, and I think maybe we can introduce him to some areas of study that will mean a great deal to him, and I will try to do so. But, I, I'm going to leave this tape on because he's had some very, very significant experiences in his life that are interesting to listen to and to assess. And so, Bill, come on, in an organized way say, how it is with you.

Bill: I've been tied up with organized labor for the last eleven years.

Woman: All right, organized labor in what form?

Bill: In form of organizing.

Woman: What level?

Bill: In the organizing labor form and the ah, ah, the form of deciding where we strike and when we strike in public employees. I was with Martin Luther King when he was struck in Memphis, Tennessee. I was with Jim Pierce when we decide whether we're going to strike in Memphis, and I was the predominant figure that strived that this was the place that we ought to decide the South.

The only ah, decedent that I had was in the black organization, was when we was going against Globe, a Jewish fellow who was elected by organized labor in Memphis. And, ah, then, the president of the Acme Corporation was Jerry Worth, the side we would win and they asked me, that we would win in Memphis because of whether we had to sacrifice who it was and what it was. Ah, I firmly believe that Martin Luther King was a sacrifice for labor movement and he was killed by the labor movement. They can accuse who they want to, but, I firmly believe that Mr. Ray, or whoever it was, was committed to kill Martin Luther King, was killed by assassines, unknown, was killed by the labor movement. And I'll tell you why. Jerry Worth, at that time, was committed when I was at the last meeting with Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee. Now, I was there when the President of the Union was there. I was their national organizer. I was the Regional Director of the American Federation of State State (inaudible) Employees. And when Martin Luther King was assassinated I was the Director of the Regional Director, Southern Director of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees. And, Mr. Worth walked in and took over the operation and he told me period I was no longer in charge of the operations, that he was in charge of the operations. From then on, and from

that day forward, until the 27th day of Martin Luther King's assassination, he was in charge period.

Woman: What was that man's name again?

Bill: Jerry Worth. He was the President of our International. Until that day, Martin Luther King went to Atlanta, two days prior to that he went to Atlanta to go to the Flowers Church. He asked that he not be brought back in a field of violence and subside. He did not want to participate in any organization with violence. My international president assured him that there would be no violence. I was the principle organizer of the drive.

Female: What drive?

Bill: In Memphis, Tennessee. You don't believe me do you? All right. I asked him. And Jim Pierce was my Regional Director. I asked Jerry Worth whether or not he could assure me that there would be no violence, no other thing, and we would ask Martin Luther King to return to Memphis. He told me in his own words, he guaranteed me there would be no violence on any part. The preachers in the church in Memphis and the Alabama Church in the Albania Church, the Lutheran Church, told me that there would be no violence and I told my president and Jerry Worth quoted me. We paid Martin Luther King to be flown to Memphis, Tennessee and there was a conspiracy to assassinate him among the unions before he

got there.

Woman: Which union?

Bill: Teamsters. And they paid for it.

Woman: Was there other unions involved in that?

Well, ask him.

Bill: All the workers, the teamsters, and AFLCIO conspired to pay the man to kill Martin Luther King.

Woman: How do you know this?

Bill: I know this because I was there. The money was paid to the man and he got him in a \$10,000, collect (inaudible)

Woman: Well, David, you've heard Bill, ah, what is your last name? Oh that's right.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Of course honey. Listen, I've had so many thing said to me where I could never say anything.

Male: (inaudible)

Woman: What are you laughing at? How do you spell your last name? How do you spell your last name?

Harris. Don't worry about it. Now, you tell me that you think you are an alcoholic. I don't think so, you've gone through an awful lot. Sure, you have memories. All right you say this on tape. In just a moment. Wait just a moment. Will you wait just a moment. Let me talk again. I would never ever presume to print anything that I have on this

tape. No. I would never do it. But, I tell you one thing right now, Bill, you're there. A lifetime in a short time. There are others you know, who live a lifetime in a short time. You've learned something.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Let me ask you a question? Would you let me ask you a question? Shhhhhhh. Let me ask you a question. Would you shut up a minute. Let . . . I want to ask you a question.

Bill: (inaudible) Go ahead.

Woman: Out of the all the life experience that you had, and some of it I know has been very very rough, I know it could have been more so in this life. Shhhhhh, just a moment. Gather your thoughts together, because I want a concrete answer.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I want you to say on this tape what it is in your inner most self you feel you've learned from all this turbulence and life experience you've passed through. I know it has changed your life in many ways. I'm hoping it has changed it in a positive way rather than a negative way and perhaps you can say what has all this meant to you, within the last five years, can you say? All right, take the mike, gather your thoughts together and see if you can say what all this has meant to you. From a perhaps detached and

philosophical point of view at this stage in your life.
It's been rough I know, but see if you can say, all right.

Bill: All right, before this all happened, I was a beautiful individual. There was a point where I was ah, we had to have Martin, we had to have somebody to win this thing. I was subjected first of all to killing Martin Luther King. I objected violently to it.

Woman: And when were you born?

Bill: October 27, 1927.

Woman: Where?

Bill: In a little southern town in North Carolina.

Woman: Where?

Bill: I was born in North Carolina in 1927 in a little town called, White Lake, North Carolina. I was violently opposed to the assassination when I started out with. I was told, now this is, in personal invitation, I've left the labor movement since then. I've not been associated with the labor movement since then. I was violently opposed to the assassination when I was told it had to be. And Ray has no connection with the assassination whatsoever. He was perpetrated by the labor movement, he was marked by the teamsters union. He was shot and killed by the teamsters union and the figure you have there today was only a figure. Ray is only a damn figure of the imagination.

A guy who was perpetrated, put there, gave him money to be there and perpetrated for it. The International Organization paid politically to assassinate Martin Luther King. They had to win in Memphis, they had to beat the governor there, the Mayor there, because he was Jewish. He was elected by the labor movement.

Woman: Who was it?

Bill: I don't know who the hell it was. The Jew there was a guy who owned all of his cars, a damn hamburger stand. He was Jewish to start out with. His name was Jewish. Now I was brought in there, not as a participant. I was brought in there as a damn organizer. I was told what to do. Martin Luther King was assassinated by the labor movement, by the teamsters union, and Ray had nothing to do with it. Not one thing. No part of it. No part of it. He couldn't have fired the first shot. Because nobody knew he was then at, but Jerry Worth, myself and Ray, let's see, knew where Martin Luther King was staying at.

Woman: My darling. If you've sort of bared your soul.

Bill: I haven't bared my soul.

Woman: Well, up to a point, yes. Ah, it's good for you. Would you hush a minute. The FBI, you know, has worked on this too. Well, would you hush a minute.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Don't forget (inaudible) Just one moment. There is much, you have lots to say and there is much that you have not said. But you've said as much as you really want to say and that's all right. Um, the inside, the change of you from what happened to you as a part of that particular thing, that terrible thing, an international thing what's happened. Ah, has made a terrible impact on you. Now you can over come this in many ways, and you will in time. Now, I'm telling you this because I know. And, don't ask me how I know, but I do know. Well, the memory of what happened and the knowledge that you have before that terrible thing . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Shhhhhh, won't you let me finish. Will, if you so choose and disappear and you will use the lesson that comes, will you hush a minute. The lesson that came from that knowledge at that time in your life, well, they will disappear. Now I can tell you a few things that would help you if you so choose to listen. There are some very special books for one thing that are somewhat difficult to come by but if you go to your bookstore, where ever you live, they will be able to find them. I can give you the author and the ah, the place to write to find these books. Now, David and I own the whole set of them and we read them where ever we

go, every night. David has studied these (inaudible) they are the best to be found in this whole field. They will help you, yes. And, I will show them to you. We brought one with us. Well, we brought more than one. But, I want you to become acquainted with them and do what you can. They're out in paper back now. We have all the hard cover ones. They're rather expensive in hard cover. But, they're now out in paper back and I want you to read them. Some people are (inaudible). They're written by a Tibetan Monk, they're baby books. Well, I'm going to introduce you, very cursory, to the baby books. You will overcome all that you've gotten through. Now I don't know if you believe in . . . do you believe in reincarnation.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, you have much more to do yet, you have too fine a mind to let . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, listen. Would you listen. No.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Listen.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Every man has, but every woman has too.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Now, just a moment.

Bill: I participated in it, yes, unwillingly.

Woman: And you feel guilty about it don't you.

Bill: You're god damn right I do.

Woman: All right. One, you still eat meat?

Bill: Yes.

Woman: Well.

Bill: Look, I can't (inaudible)

Woman: All right, this is what I'm saying. You start reading some of the books and you'll find. You'll read them over and over and you can, through meditation devote yourself to a certain type of reality, ah, but still remain very much in this level. A human being lives at many many levels and you know that and it's a frustration to you because you don't know the levels at which you're living.

Bill: That's beautiful. But, you talk about frustration. (inaudible)

Woman: All right, you did what you had to do. Sweetheart, would you just plain listen. You did what you were told and had to do.

Bill: In front of 20 million people.

Woman: All right.

Bill: I feel like (inaudible)

Woman: Don't feel, if you don't eliminate that guilt in some manner from your system . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No you have not.

Bill: I haven't said that I'm not going to do it.

Woman: But you did.

Bill: Yeah.

Woman: And that's why the lines in your face.

Bill: All right.

Woman: And you're still a young man.

Bill: (iaudible)

Woman: My darling you don't need to die from me.

Bill: Why not?

Woman: That's why I want you to do some reading.

All right, now we're going to shut this tape off and I want to show you some books.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, no, I'm not going to, oh hell. You can have your own guilt if you want to, good heavens. I have no guilt of, of anything.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, I could never kill anything. All right, so this is the difference of course. Just a moment. If you believe in reincarnation, I know that in a life

time, I was a man once, not a woman.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You've got to over come this, honey, and you can't do this.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Listen anything I give to you is given willingly.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh no. Well, . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, . . .

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: When you're deeply soggy then you know. That's right.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I know that. Oh I know that. Don't you think I knew that, without even listening to your conversation. I felt your vibrations.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: That's right, I don't have to assume anything to anyone.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No, not at all. Thank you.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Thank you.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, I'm going to cut the tape off right now.
I want to introduce you briefly to these books.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: And you know I'm very deeply in love with my
husband.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I want you to look at them, though. (inaudible)

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: And one day, that's nice.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh my goodness I wouldn't want any more.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: I want you to go home and, uh, make mad passionate
love to your wife, my god.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Oh, don't say that.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You don't know what my ideas are.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Most men, ah, do, find their achilles heel.

Bill: I respect you.

Woman: Do you know what my idea is?

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: It doesn't matter.

Bill: Because you've got proof, about 190 of them.

(inaudible)

Woman: I don't have to prove anything to anybody.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: You've got to use that wonderful mind of yours and stop living the past.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: Well, I am a woman too, but just in my husband's hurry.

Bill: (inaudible)

Woman: No. Well, I'm going to shut this off for now.

Bill: Now, let's talk.

Woman: David, we're home now.

6/12/74

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SAVANNAH (44-1768) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re ME airtel to Bureau 6/4/74.

Enclosed for Atlanta is one copy of reairtel.

Enclosed for Memphis is one photograph of RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS and a copy of an autobiography written by CURTIS for his parole officer in approximately 1970.

On 6/11/74, L. L. MC GREGOR, Records Custodian, Georgia State Prison, Reidsville, Ga., advised that RAYMOND LEWIS CURTIS was convicted of Murder and sentenced to life imprisonment in Whitfield Co., Ga., on 7/26/67. CURTIS was transferred to Ware County Correctional Institution, Waycross, Ga., on 4/1/71. MC GREGOR stated that he has no records of CURTIS other than the index card.

Review of Savannah file 88-6573, reveals that CURTIS escaped from Ware County Correctional Institution in 1972, and was the subject of a UFAC matter.

~~WFO~~, Atlanta designated Office of Origin in this case.

LEAD:

ATLANTA

Furnish Memphis all pertinent information with regard to CURTIS, AT 88-13285. Pay particular attention to information requested by Memphis in re airtel.

②-Bureau
2-Atlanta (Enc. 1)
2-Memphis (Encs. 2)
2-Savannah

CBC/hja
(9)

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

6/7/74

~~6/17~~

MURKIN

my

5/30/74

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¹
NOTE: Attached is a copy of a television transcript
of interview given by Ray's attorney Robert
Livingston.

6/5/74

AIRTEL

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

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of a transcript of a television interview given by RAY's attorney, ROBERT LIVINGSTON, at Nashville, Tenn., on 5/24/74. This transcript was furnished to SA JOE C. HESTER by Assistant District Attorney General HENRY HAILE of Nashville, Tenn.

(2) - Bureau (Encs. 2)
1 - Memphis
JCH:mrp
(3)

6/4/74

AIRTEL

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

For Savannah's information, JAMES EARL RAY is to be afforded an evidentiary hearing in the USDC, WDT, Memphis, to determine whether or not he was properly represented by Attorney PERCY FOREMAN at the time that RAY pleaded guilty in State Court to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING. RAY is being represented by Attorneys BERNARD FENSTERWALD, WDC, and ROBERT LIVINGSTON of Memphis. The State's case is being handled by HENRY HAILE of the Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tenn.

ROBERT LIVINGSTON has recently made statements to the news media that he has been in touch with a man who claims that he and two others are responsible for the murder of KING and that RAY was an innocent "fall guy" who was used by the real killers. According to LIVINGSTON, these three men will testify if granted immunity and will name the four men who hired them to kill KING. LIVINGSTON appears to believe this story and has confidentially advised the District Attorney General at Memphis of two meetings had by him with one of the three men. One such meeting was at Memphis during late March, 1974, and the other meeting was in Detroit on 4/20/74. At the Detroit meeting this individual, using the name CLIFF ANDREWS, was accompanied by his wife who used the name MARGARET.

On 6/3/74, Mr. HENRY HAILE advised SA JOE C. HESTER that GEORGE McMILLAN, an author writing a book about KING's murder, has told HAILE that he believes LIVINGSTON's contact is one RAYMOND CURTIS who escaped from the Georgia State Prison at Reidsville, Ga., about 6 months ago.

2 - Bureau
2 - Savannah
2 - Memphis
JCH:jap
(6)

ME 44-1987

LIVINGSTON has described CLIFF ANDREWS as a middle aged white male having a large frame, brown hair streaked with gray, and as being very distinguished looking. ANDREWS also spoke with a French accent and claimed to be a resident of Canada. McMILLAN has apparently been in contact with RAYMOND CURTIS and states he fits this general description. McMILLAN also told HAILL that CURTIS claimed to have information regarding the KING murder but, in fact, he did not.

LEADS:

SAVANNAH DIVISION

AT REIDSVILLE, GEORGIA Will promptly furnish Memphis copies of the best available photograph of CURTIS plus any psychiatric evaluation documents available from prison or parole files.

Will furnish all available information concerning his criminal background with particular emphasis on whether or not he has ever been involved in any confidence schemes.

Will furnish details regarding any State or Federal process outstanding against CURTIS.

PLEASE EXPEDITE.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

5/30/74

MURKIN

~~6/4~~
~~6/14~~

my

5/20/74

5/25/74

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx an LHM
Memphis

xx B *Baldern*

5/25/74

AIRTEL

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

OO: MEMPHIS

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of newspaper articles which appeared in the 5/24/74 edition of "The Memphis Press-Scimitar" and in the 5/25/74 edition of the "Commercial Appeal" both of which are daily newspapers published in Memphis, Tenn. Also enclosed for the Bureau are the original and four copies of LHM dated 5/25/74 concerning this matter.

② - Bureau (Enc. 9)
2 - Memphis
JCH:plc
(4)