

Mr. DeLoach

May 13, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach	1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen	1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Malley	1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. McGowan	1 - Mr. Gale
1 - Mr. Long	1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. McDonough	1 - Mr. Trotter
1 - Mr. Martindale	

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On 5/10/68 Mexican authorities discovered a body buried on the beach at Acapulco. Police described it as that of a white male, about thirty years old and believed to be an American. Police also said the body was decomposing and had apparently been both beaten and shot with death occurring about three days before the body was found.

Mexican police fingerprinted the body and buried it. The local press speculated that the body is that of James Earl Ray. The fingerprints taken by the police have been compared with Ray's fingerprints by the Identification Division but they are so lacking in detail that it is not possible to determine whether or not they are identical. An FBI fingerprint expert is en route to Acapulco to attempt to reach a positive finding as to whether this body is identical with Ray.

Circuit Judge John C. Casey, St. Louis, has advised the St. Louis Office he sentenced Ray to twenty years for armed robbery in 1959. This is the sentence Ray was serving when he escaped from Missouri State Penitentiary in April, 1967.

A motion was filed to vacate the above judgment because of alleged improper introduction of a signed statement, failure to afford a sanity hearing, perjured testimony on behalf of the State, faulty instructions to the jury, and failure to furnish the advice and assistance of an attorney at all stages of the proceedings. The motion was overruled but on 4/12/67 the Missouri Supreme Court reversed the order overruling the motion and the case was restored to the docket, 6/15/67.

**WLM:ven
(14)**

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Judge Casey further advised that John D. Schneider, a court appointed attorney, filed a document with the court, 5/1/68, stating that no court action is possible at this time in view of Ray's escape. This was published in the daily record of court activity, 5/8/68, but has not been picked up by the press.

Judge Casey believes that under recent Supreme Court decisions Ray would have an excellent chance of reversing his conviction and vacating his sentence for armed robbery. Judge Casey also believes he can dismiss Ray's action quietly and without attracting publicity but he is considering the advisability of entering and publicizing an order that unless Ray comes forward by 6/3/68 his action will be dismissed. If this were publicized the judge feels Ray might recognize the possibility of reversing the armed robbery conviction and give himself up in the belief he could beat the King murder charge before a Southern jury.

Judge Casey prefers publicizing that Ray's action will be dismissed if he does not appear by 6/3/68 but he is willing to go either way. He stated that he did not want to take any action that could prejudice the Bureau's investigation and asked for the Bureau's advice as to how the matter should be handled.

The United States is not a party to the case pending before Judge Casey. It is a matter filed by or on behalf of Ray to overturn what is strictly a State conviction. The Bureau should not be put in a position where it could be criticized for attempting to interfere with the due process of justice before a State court. Judge Casey is being advised that the action he takes in this matter is entirely within his own discretion and that the FBI is not in a position to advise him or to make any recommendation.

The original motion and supporting argument filed before Judge Casey were purportedly prepared by Ray. They have been described as being done in a very able manner and on a par with the work of practicing attorneys.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

Every possible effort is being made to locate and apprehend Ray as quickly as possible.

5-12

Mr. Rosen

May 12, 1968

C. L. McGowan

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Adams 1 - Mr. Trotter
1 - Mr. Conrad 1 - Mr. Bishop

With regard to the body of the unidentified man discovered by Mexican Police, Mr. Ferris, Legat, Mexico, telephonically advised at 2:40 p.m., 5-11-68, he is unable to make comparison of fingerprints taken by local police with prints of Ray on wanted flyer due to very poor impressions obtained by local police and deteriorated condition of body when prints taken. The body has been reburied and another set of prints cannot be secured; therefore, the fingerprints will be sent to Washington, D.C., in order that an effort can be made by the Identification Division to identify or eliminate the prints with those in the fingerprint jacket of Ray.

Mr. Ferris telephonically advised at 6:50 p.m., 5-11-68, the fingerprints noted above were being sent on Eastern Airlines Flight #910, scheduled to arrive at Dulles Airport at 10:04 p.m., and would be in possession of the pilot, Captain George Cleveland. Also enclosed with these prints will be an envelope containing a blood specimen imbedded in sand which was furnished by Mexican Police.

Mr. Ferris informed the local newspapers on 5-11-68, contained an article about the possibility the unknown body may be Ray and stated Mexican Police authorities had furnished fingerprints of the body to the United States Embassy for forwarding to the FBI. Mr. Adcock was furnished this information.

Special Agent William Haynes, Washington Field Office, was instructed to have a Bureau Agent meet the mentioned flight at Dulles Airport and deliver the prints to Room 6136, Identification Division Building. Mr. Latona of Identification Division was requested to arrange to have the fingerprints received from Legat, Mexico compared with prints of Ray and advise of the results.

JRA:erg
(9)

CONTINUED - OVER

**Memorandum to Mr. Rosen
RE: MURKIN**

Mr. Bonebrake of Identification Division advised at 11:55 p.m., 5-11-68, it was not possible to make a determination whether the prints were or were not identical with those of Ray.

Mr. Ferris telephonically advised at 12:10 a.m., 5-12-68, the only other data available as to identification of the body in Mexico are photographs taken by local police and these photographs are not considered very good, especially in view of deteriorated condition of the body. Mr. Ferris suggested the possibility be explored to have one of our experts come down to Mexico to act as a "consultant" in connection with obtaining a better set of prints, provided arrangements might be made to have the body exhumed again.

On 5-12-68, efforts are being initiated by Serology in the Laboratory to examine the blood samples to determine the possibility of any identifiable feature for use in future identification of the body.



5-11

Mr. DeLoach

May 11, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. McDonough

1 - Mr. Martindale

1 - Mr. Mohr

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Trotter

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

John Larry Ray, brother of the subject, advised that when he visited Ray in prison, Ray spoke highly of the Rhodesian Government.

John Eugene Gawron, an old man on the verge of senility, lived with Ray's mother from 1954 until her death in 1961 and previously advised he taught Ray to be a burglar. He is rambling in his conversation and in interviewing him it is difficult to separate facts from his personal conjectures.

Gawron now states that on about 6/23-24/67 he read in the Chicago "Tribune" of a \$50,000 bank robbery in a Southern state and recalled that he and Ray cased the same bank in 1958 or 1959 but did not rob the bank at that time because Gawron injured his leg.

A few days after reading the above article, Gawron claims he was visited by a man he refuses to name but whom he believes he introduced to Ray in 1959. This man told Gawron he and others had robbed the bank, displayed a valise full of money and gave Gawron \$250. About six weeks ago this man again visited Gawron and allegedly indicated to him that Ray and one or more other persons had been involved with him in the bank robbery.

Gawron refuses at this time to identify the bank or the man who visited him. He does say the bank is in the deep South, in a state like Mississippi, but not in Mississippi, in a city that is not small and is near a river. The robbers were out of the state in five minutes and the loot amounted to \$50,000 plus or minus \$2,000. A sizeable amount in the vault was overlooked.

WLM:mr (14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

The Chicago "Tribune" and bank robbery cases are being reviewed to determine if such a robbery actually occurred.

A few days after Gawron received the above \$250, he claims that Ray's sister, Carol, and Ray's brother, John, told him Ray was not in Missouri. A week or so later they said Ray was in Omaha doing well, Gawron believes, as a salesman. After another week or so Carol and John allegedly told Gawron Ray was in Los Angeles. They did not tell him how they knew of Ray's movements or whether they had been in direct contact with him. Carol and John continue to deny to us that they have any knowledge of the subject since his escape from prison.

ACTION:

All aspects of this investigation are being vigorously pursued and we are continuing intensive efforts to develop the full cooperation of Gawron and Ray's relatives.



5-10

Mr. DeLoach

May 10, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

① - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. McDonough

1 - Mr. Martindale

1 - Mr. Mohr

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Trotter

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

We have obtained from Modern Photo Bookstore, New York City, an undated order coupon signed Eric S. Galt. This apparently was mailed by Ray in September, 1967, when he was living in Birmingham. A latent fingerprint developed on this coupon is identical with the left thumb print of James Earl Ray. This is the first instance in which an Eric Galt signature has been directly connected to Ray by fingerprint identification, although Ray's fingerprints have been previously identified with latent fingerprints on various items of evidence recovered in this case.

The above order was for "Focal Encyclopedia of Photography" containing 3,000 entries by 197 experts covering every aspect of photography. By letter dated 9/26/67, Ray, as Galt, wrote that he was moving and the book should not be shipped until he furnished his new address. The company believes the book was never shipped although payment of \$8.95 was received with the order coupon.

Thomas Britton, Haleyville, Alabama, who knew Ray at Missouri State Penitentiary, has been reinterviewed and furnished the following information.

As "walk boy", Ray had free access to Britton's cell block. Ray was a representative for one of the daily cigarette lotteries in the prison, collecting bets and paying off winners. Britton never saw Ray handle narcotics or other contraband.

On the one occasion that Ray mentioned a "Business Mans Organization" that had allegedly offered \$100,000 to kill people like King, Britton asked Ray just what this organization was and Ray replied, "I don't know but I will find out." Ray told Britton he always worked alone to minimize the possibility of being caught and said he had a place picked out where he could hide.

WLB:rmr (14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

When Britton was in jail en route to Missouri State Penitentiary he met a four time loser named Craig who advised him to join Cooley's organization to obtain the protection they offered in prison.

Britton later saw Craig in the penitentiary and gave him \$10 for membership in Cooley's organization. That night Ray delivered a membership card and explained to Britton that it could also be used as a credit card for candy and similar items but not for betting.

On two or three occasions Britton had disputes with other prisoners over cigarette wagers. He appealed to Craig as a representative of Cooley's organization and Craig agreed to handle his complaints but told him there was a fee of 50% of the amount collected. Britton agreed and each time he filed a complaint with Craig, Ray later brought Britton his share of the cigarettes that had been collected.

Britton denies any knowledge of Ray subsequent to his escape but states that in any event he would have no interest in the posted rewards due to his fear of Cooley's organization.

On 5/9/68 John Acord, Chairman, American-Southern Africa Council, Washington, D. C., made available the following letter he received from the subject.

"12/28/67

"DEAR SIR,

"I RECENTLY READ AN ARTICLE IN THE L. A. TIMES ON YOUR CONCIL, THE LOCAL JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY PROVIDED ME WITH YOUR ADDRESS. MY REASON FOR WRITING IS THAT I AM CONSIDERING IMMIGRATING TO RHODESIA, HOWEVER THEIR ARE A COUPLE LEGAL QUESTIONS INVOLVED.

"ONE: THE U. S. GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ISSUE A PASSPORT FOR TRAVEL TO RHODESIA.

"TWO: WOULD THEIR BE ANY WAY TO ENTER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

**"RHODESIA LEGALLY (FROM THE RHODESIAN
GOVERNMENT POINT OF VIEW).
"I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU
COULD GIVE ME ON THE ABOVE SUBJECT OR ANY
OTHER INFORMATION ON RHODESIA.**

"SINCERELY

**ERIC S. GALT
1535-N. SERRANO
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
90027"**

**It is noted the letter is in error in stating the U. S.
Government will not issue a passport for travel to Rhodesia. The
United States has never limited travel to this country.**

**Acord advised he was in Rhodesia when the above letter
was received and his secretary replied with a form letter enclosing
Rhodesian literature.**

**Acord recalled that when he was in Los Angeles in
November, 1967, a man asked him about emigrating to Rhodesia
but after viewing Ray's photographs Acord said this man is not
identical with the subject.**

**Acord advised in March, 1967, that the purpose of the
American-Southern Africa Council is to convince the U. S. Government
its African policy is incorrect and that more friendly relations should
exist between the United States and Rhodesia, South Africa, Angola
and possibly Gambia.**

**Ken H. Towsey, Rhodesian Information Officer,
Washington, D. C., requested his identity be protected and advised
he has a copy of the letter furnished by Acord. Towsey is reviewing
his files for any further reference to the subject and will provide us
with any additional information he may find.**

**Towsey offered all possible cooperation on behalf of his
Government but asked that a formal request be made for any
cooperation desired and requested that no publicity be given to either**

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

the request or any information provided by the Rhodesian Government. Towsey suggested the United States might wish to present its request through the American Consulate at Salisbury, Rhodesia, and requested he be advised as to the manner in which any request is made.

ACTION:

Liaison Section will arrange with the State Department for a supply of Wanted Flyers and Identification Orders to be forwarded the American Consulate in Salisbury, Rhodesia, with a request that it be determined from the Rhodesian Government whether the subject has been in that country, whether the Rhodesians have any further information concerning him and that appropriate stops be placed so that we will be immediately advised of any future information concerning the subject. The State Department will be specifically advised of Towsey's request that no publicity be given to our request for the cooperation of the Rhodesian Government or any information they may provide.

All other phases of this investigation continue to receive vigorous attention.

Extra

Mr. DeLoach

May 10, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach	1 - Mr. Mohr
① - Mr. Rosen	1 - Mr. Bishop
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RE: MURKIN

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5-9

James J. [unclear]
1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - A. Rosen
1 - Mr. McGowan
① - Mr. McDonough

The Attorney General

May 9, 1968

Director, FBI

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to your call to Mr. DeLoach on May 4, 1968, wherein you indicated that a representative of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference from Atlanta, Georgia, had reported that one "Butch" Miller of Jackson, Georgia, might be involved in captioned case.

Pursuant to your request, Clim Davenport, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed on May 4, 1968, and advised that on April 29, 1968, an individual from Jackson, Georgia, who refused to identify himself to Mr. Davenport, contacted Mr. Davenport in Atlanta and confidentially advised he had gone to the Frank Miller grocery store in Jackson, Georgia, after Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed and Mr. Miller was very upset. Mr. Davenport's source stated that "Butch" Miller, Frank Miller's son, had in the past shot into the home of a civil rights worker. The source stated that Frank Miller reportedly sent "Butch" Miller to California after Martin Luther King, Jr., was killed.

Mr. Davenport stated that his source told him he had no information that "Butch" Miller had a white Mustang or had abandoned a white Mustang in Atlanta, but it was his personal belief, not based on any fact, that "Butch" Miller might have had something to do with leaving the white Mustang in Atlanta as "Butch" Miller lived in Georgia. Mr. Davenport advised that he would make every effort to learn the identity of his source from Jackson, Georgia, and if successful, he would furnish this individual's identity to the FBI. If this individual is identified by Mr. Davenport, he will be interviewed.

Max Polk, Jackson Police Department, Jackson, Georgia, advised that Frank Miller operates Frank's Self-Service Grocery and Mr. Miller's son, "Butch" Miller, entered the United States Air Force on March 5, 1963, and has been stationed at Amarillo, Texas, since that time. Mr. Polk advised that "Butch" Miller has had no leave since being in the Air Force and his parents visited him in Amarillo, Texas, a couple of weeks ago.

EJM:hw

(7) NOTE: Above information per teletype from Atlanta dated 5-4-68.

The Attorney General

Mr. Polk stated that "Butch" Miller owns a GTX Plymouth automobile, and he has never heard of "Butch" Miller's name being connected in any way with a shooting into anyone's home.

The files of our Atlanta Office contain no pertinent information identifiable with "Butch" Miller.

This is for your information.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General

memo folder

Mr. DeLoach

May 9, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
① - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Trotter

MURKIN

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

In order to cover the possibility that subject may have died since the commission of the crime, the U. S. Census Bureau and Department of Health, Education and Welfare were contacted and they advised that no central records of unidentified deceased are maintained by those agencies. It was suggested that each state may maintain such a record in their Bureau of Vital Statistics or similar agency.

There is no known Federal law requiring the maintenance of such information; and the Identification Division advises that it believes that if any record of unidentified dead is maintained, it would only be at local police departments, morgues, or medical facilities.

Attached for approval is an airtel to all offices and Legats, Mexico City and Ottawa instructing them to ascertain whether such records are maintained by the individual states or nation wide in the case of Mexico and Canada. If so, appropriate checks should be made for the period from 4-5-68 to date, and if feasible, stops should be placed on unidentified dead with appropriate agencies.

If there is no central record repository maintained in the various states or nationally in the case of Mexico and Canada, the field is being instructed that in connection with its contacts with various law enforcement agencies on this case or other Bureau matters, to make appropriate inquiries relative to unidentified dead for the period

Enclosure

RJM:jlh
(8)

CONTINUED-OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

beginning 4-5-68; and if fingerprints on such dead are maintained, that they be compared with those on the identification order on Ray in order to effect identification or nonidentification. The field is being instructed that this should be handled in connection with the normal course of business and only reasonable investigation should be pursued along these lines.

Identification Division has already placed appropriate stop on any unidentified deceased inquiries they may receive.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is an airtel in line with the above.

May 9, 1968

Airtel

① - Mr. McDonough

To: All SACS
LEGATS, Mexico City
Ottawa

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

In order to cover the possibility that subject may have died since commission of the crime, the U. S. Census Bureau and Department of Health, Education and Welfare were contacted and they advised that no central records of unidentified deceased are maintained by those agencies. It was suggested that each state may maintain such a record in their Bureau of Vital Statistics or similar agency.

There is no known Federal law requiring the maintenance of such information; and it is possible that if any record of unidentified dead is maintained, it would only be maintained at local police departments, morgues, medical facilities, or the like.

Each office covering state capitals should check to ascertain if such records are maintained, and if so, should check records for the period from 4-5-68, to date, for any information which might possibly identify subject Ray with unidentified deceased persons over that period.

If there is no central record repository maintained in the various states or nationally in the case of Mexico and Canada, you should, in connection with your contacts with law enforcement agencies on this case or other Bureau matters, make appropriate inquiries relative to

EJM:jlh
(3)

NOTE: See Memo Rosen to DeLoach, dated 5-9-68, same caption.
EJM:jlh.

Airtel to All SACS and LEGATS, Mexico City and Ottawa
RE: MURKIN

unidentified dead for the period beginning 4-5-68; and if fingerprints on such dead are maintained, they should be compared with those on the identification order on Ray in order to effect identification or nonidentification. This should be handled in the normal course of business and only reasonable investigation should be pursued along these lines.

The Identification Division has placed an appropriate stop on unidentified deceased inquiries that may receive. If feasible, appropriate offices and Legats, Mexico City and Ottawa should place similar stops with appropriate state, local or national agencies in your territories.

Armed and Dangerous.

MEMO

Mr. DeLoach

May 9, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach	1 - Mr. Mohr
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1 - Mr. Martindale	

An Agent on the scene in Guatemala has obtained extensive coverage through the Guatemalan Immigration and Judicial Departments. These agencies have been instrumental in widely publicizing Ray's photograph and description throughout Guatemala and border stations have been alerted. Guatemalan officials have stated that if Ray is found within that country he will be deported to the United States as an undesirable alien on the first available airplane.

State police agencies have completed a search throughout the City of Campeche and all outlying areas of the State with negative results. Extensive distribution has been made of identification orders and wanted flyers and every police unit in the State has been alerted through personal contact. An investigative informant is continuing to check small communities on the Yucatan Peninsula beyond the State of Campeche.

It was previously reported that a man resembling Ray and using the name A. D. Stange, Jr., was in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, from 4/19/68 to 4/30/68. It has been determined Stange is identical with A. H. Stange, Jr., a prominent businessman in Redding, California.

Thomas Britton, Haleyville, Alabama, knew Ray in Missouri State Penitentiary. Britton related that Ray was the "walk boy" who brought hot water for shaving, candy and other items to Britton's cell block. Ray noticed Britton was receiving a Birmingham newspaper. Ray mentioned he had lived in Birmingham and asked Britton to save the newspapers for him. Britton did so and they became friends.

VLM:rmr (14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Britton stated Ray was money crazy and once told Britton, "One of these days, if I ever get out of here, I'm going to make myself a bunch of money." When asked how he intended to do this, Ray replied, "There are more ways of making money than robbing banks."

Ray once told Britton about an organization outside the prison called the "Business Mens Association" which offered \$100,000 "for people like King to be killed" and added that King was five years past due.

It was previously reported Ray had alleged in 1963 that Cooley (phonetic) or Cooley's organization would pay \$10,000 to have King killed. Britton stated Cooley's organization operated within the prison. Membership was gained by paying \$10 and members received help against other prisoners when needed. For additional fees members could obtain special services such as straightening out difficulties with prison authorities, obtaining items of contraband, or even having a prisoner murdered.

Britton said he did not know who headed this organization or if there was anyone actually named Cooley. He believed the organization might have been operated by a group of five to seven prisoners. Britton stated he had never heard of Cooley's organization offering a reward for King's assassination.

Britton described Ray as a loner, a daydreamer and a heavy drinker, who was definitely shoe-footed with his toes noticeably pointed out when walking causing his heels to wear down on the outside edges.

The body found at the Atlanta airport on 5/7/68 has been identified with Robert Joseph Dunaway, a Michigan hoodlum, and has no apparent connection with this case. Dunaway was shot in the back of the head.

Dunaway was a muscleman for Bernard Marchesani, a Detroit shylocker. One Sam Di Maggio, Albion, Michigan, was taken from his home by several hoodlums on 3/28/68 and fatally beaten. In a dying declaration he named "Bob Dunaway" when asked who had beaten him. A reliable informant has advised Di Maggio was "hooked" on a large shylock loan by Marchesani and Dunaway was the juice collector. Police believe Dunaway was murdered because he had been

Long

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

ordered to only beat Di Maggio, not to kill him.

ACTION:

attention. This investigation is continuing to receive top priority

5-8

Mr. DeLoach

May 8, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

MURKIN

1 - Mr. McDonough

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

In connection with the captioned case there has been speculation that James Earl Ray concocted the alias of Eric Starvo Galt by combining the names of characters from books by Ian Fleming and from a book "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand. This speculation is based on the fact that in the James Bond books by Ian Fleming there is a character named Ernst Stavro Blofield and in "Atlas Shrugged" there is a character named John Galt, as well as one named Eric Starvo. Ernst Stavro Blofield is a formidable person, John Galt is a "social drop out" and Eric Starvo is described in the book as a "whiner" from a low-class family.

In view of the above and in order that Agents handling this investigation can be alert to the possibility of Ray's utilizing an alias based on characters in Fleming's books, there is attached an airtel with enclosure to All SACS and LEGATS setting forth a list of the various characters in Fleming's books for their assistance.

ACTION:

Upon approval the attached airtel with enclosure will be sent to All SACS and LEGATS.

Enclosure

EJH:cs
(6)

May 8, 1968

Airtel

1 - Mr. McDonough

To: All SACS and LEGATS

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

In connection with the captioned case there has been speculation that James Earl Ray concocted the alias of Eric Starvo Galt by combining the names of characters from books by Ian Fleming and from a book "Atlas Shrugged" by Ayn Rand. This speculation is based on the fact that in the James Bond books by Ian Fleming there is a character named Ernst Stavro Blofield and in "Atlas Shrugged" there is a character named John Galt, as well as one named Eric Starnes. Ernst Stavro Blofield is a formidable person, John Galt is a "social drop out" and Eric Starnes is described in the book as a "whiner" from a low-class family.

In view of the above and in order that Agents handling this investigation can be alert to the possibility of Ray's utilizing an alias based on characters in Fleming's books, there is set out as an attachment to this airtel a list of various characters in those books for your assistance.

Enclosure

EJM:cs
(3)

Memo

Mr. DeLoach

May 8, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

① - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. McDonough

1 - Mr. Martindale

1 - Mr. Mohr

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Trotter

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

It has been alleged that on two prior occasions Ray went to Mexico to cool off after robberies and that on one occasion he lived with peasants at Campeche and smuggled appliances from Brownsville, Texas, by a fishing boat owned by Mateo Lopez Garcia or Mateo Garcia Lopez.

Intensive investigation at Brownsville as well as Campeche has failed to develop any information concerning Lopez or Garcia. Approximately 500 shrimp boats operate out of the Brownsville area and their normal fishing grounds include the Campeche Flats.

American seamen are not allowed to land at Campeche but can arrange to be taken ashore by Mexican "bum boats" which bring women, liquor and marijuana out to the shrimp fleet from Campeche. There is a smuggling trade in small appliances but this reportedly does not extend to television sets and washing machines which Ray allegedly smuggled.

Police at Campeche have files dating back to 1955 on all foreigners who were in trouble with the police or who were fingerprinted because they lacked proper identification. Ray's fingerprints have been checked through these files with negative results.

At Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, a local Immigration Agent has advised of a recent visitor whom he said resembles Ray. Investigation has identified this man as registering at Las Glorias Motel, Puerto Vallarta, 4/19/68 and checking out 4/30/68. He gave his name as A. D. Stange, Jr., Post Office Box 1660, Redding, California, and was accompanied by a woman alleged to be his wife who appeared to be of Mexican extraction.

WLM:rmr (14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Stange spent four days hunting in the mountains and inquired of the guide as to the possibility of buying a pistol and morphine. He also inquired about going into business at Puerto Vallarta. Some motel employees also state Stange resembles Ray. Sacramento is conducting investigation at Redding, California.

Margarita Montes Meza, Casa Susana, Puerto Vallarta, has advised that she was the first prostitute visited by Ray when he was in Puerto Vallarta in October and November, 1967. She states Ray told her when they first met that he was in Puerto Vallarta on a 40-day vacation.

Three officers of the Memphis Police Department have received similar anonymous calls from a man identifying himself only as "Charlie." Charlie alleged that Ray was paid \$50,000 to kill King with the money passing through twelve people before it reached Ray. Charlie claimed Ray was able to spend only about \$10,000 and the arrangements to kill King were made at least three years ago.

According to Charlie, Ray left Memphis immediately after the killing, was out of town in twelve minutes, went to Atlanta, Birmingham, Las Vegas, Phoenix, and then into Mexico.

Charlie stated the man who planned King's death and paid Ray has arranged for Ray's body to be found between 5/15/68 and 5/18/68 in an area 50 miles south of the place where a man from Baltimore was arrested by Mexican police two weeks ago.

It is noted that on 4/24/68 it was widely publicized that Mexican police at Caborca had arrested a hitch hiker who resembled Ray. This man was identified as Daniel David Kennedy, Baltimore, who was eliminated as a suspect. Legat, Mexico, is conducting appropriate investigation.

Russell Lee Martin, Little Rock, who requested his identity be protected, has advised he was in St. Louis 5/4-5/68 and contacted Carl Drake, narcotic addict and pusher who was in Missouri State Penitentiary with Ray. Drake allegedly told Martin

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

Ray has called him twice since King was killed, once from New Orleans and again from North Carolina. Drake reportedly told Martin Ray is driving a white Camaro and has a submachine gun as well as plenty of money. It is noted that the alleged calls from Ray would be inconsistent with his universal reputation for being a tight-lipped loner.

Drake has been interviewed and acknowledged he knew Ray in prison. He described Ray as close mouthed and a loner. When Drake was released in 1965, he visited Ray's brother, John, as requested by Ray, and told John how the subject was getting along in prison. Drake said he was unaware of Ray's escape from prison until the recent publicity after Ray was identified as King's murderer. He denied any contact with Ray or any knowledge of Ray's whereabouts since Ray's escape. Telephone company records are being checked for calls made by Drake and he is being vigorously reinterviewed.

On the night of 5/7/68 the decomposed body of a white male was found in the trunk of a car at the Atlanta airport. There has been public speculation this might be Ray. The Atlanta Police Department has advised that based on a fingerprint comparison, this body is not identical with Ray. Fingerprints of the deceased have been forwarded to the Bureau for comparison by the Identification Division. The car in which the body was found is a 1964 Chevrolet bearing 1968 Michigan license DC 6114, and is registered to Mary Jane Salvadori and Joan Masters, 9341 Nichols, Detroit. The Detroit Office is attempting to contact the owners.

On 5/7/68 the Shelby County Grand Jury, Memphis, returned an indictment charging Ray with first degree murder. It was not necessary for Bureau personnel to testify.

ACTION:

All phases of this investigation are being expedited.

Mr. DeLoach

May 3, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Trotter

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

In order to cover the possibility that subject may have died since the commission of the crime, the U. S. Census Bureau and Department of Health, Education and Welfare were contacted and they advised that no central records of unidentified deceased are maintained by those agencies. It was suggested that each state may maintain such a record in their Bureau of Vital Statistics or similar agency.

Attached for approval is an airtel to all offices and Legats, Mexico City and Ottawa instructing them to ascertain whether such records are maintained by the individual states or nation wide in the case of Mexico and Canada. If so, appropriate checks should be made for the period from 4/5/68 to date, and if feasible, stops should be placed on unidentified dead with appropriate agencies.

Identification Division has already placed appropriate stop on any unidentified deceased inquiries they may receive.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is an airtel in line with the above.

Enclosure

EJN:cs
(8)

May 8, 1968

1 - Mr. McDonough

Airtel

To: All SACS
LEGATS, Mexico City
Ottawa

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

In order to cover the possibility that subject may have died since commission of the crime, the U. S. Census Bureau and Department of Health, Education and Welfare were contacted and they advised that no central records of unidentified deceased are maintained by those agencies. It was suggested that each state may maintain such a record in their Bureau of Vital Statistics or similar agency.

Each office covering state capitals should check to ascertain if such records are maintained, and if so, should check records for the period from 4/5/68, to date for any information which might possibly identify subject Ray with unidentified deceased persons over that period. Only reasonable investigation should be conducted in this regard.

Legats, Mexico City and Ottawa should check to see if central nation wide records are maintained in Mexico and Canada respectively, and if so, should have appropriate record checks made if possible and feasible.

EJM:cs
(3)

NOTE: See Memo Rosen to DeLoach, dated 5/8/68, same caption
EJM:cs.

Airtel To All SACS and LEGATS, Mexico City and Ottawa
RE: MURKIN

The Identification Division has placed an appropriate stop on unidentified deceased inquiries they may receive. If feasible, appropriate offices and Legats, Mexico City and Ottawa should place similar stops with appropriate state or national agencies in your territories.

Armed and Dangerous.

- 2 -

5-7

Mr. DeLoach

A. Rosen

MURKIN

May 7, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. McDonough

1 - Mr. Martindale

1 - Mr. Mohr

1 - Mr. Bishop

1 - Mr. Conrad

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Sullivan

1 - Mr. Trotter

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

Louis E. Lomax has now released his final news article. It is a vicious and unwarranted attack against the Bureau and is replete with misstatements of fact and ridiculous conclusions.

1. LOMAX STATES: The Director deeply disliked King and once referred to him as a notorious liar; therefore, few black people will believe the Bureau will work overtime to find King's slayer.

FACTS: The total facilities of the FBI have been fully committed to this case from the outset. Investigation has proceeded around-the-clock on a top priority basis throughout the United States and in various foreign countries. Thousands of interviews have been conducted and hundreds of suspects have been processed. A tremendous number of examinations have been conducted by the Laboratory and Identification Division. Every logical investigative approach is being vigorously pursued and there will be no let up until Ray is apprehended.

2. LOMAX STATES: The FBI is inept or its bungling is intentional.

FACTS: The Bureau's record in this case is one of substantial achievement. Starting with an unknown subject, the man known as Eric Galt was identified as a prime suspect within five days. Within another week we had obtained a photograph of the subject and the Attorney General considered sufficient evidence had been developed to

WLM:fmf (14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

warrant Federal process. Three days later, as a result of a project to check latent fingerprints against the fingerprints of more than 53,000 fugitives, Ray was determined to be identical with Galt.

3. LOMAX STATES: Somebody managed to circulate wrong fingerprints for Ray and if he had been arrested when he abandoned his car in Atlanta (4/5/68) he would not have been identified as Ray.

FACTS: The FBI has issued only one set of fingerprints and these are the actual fingerprints of Ray. When Ray escaped from prison in April, 1967, Missouri authorities issued a wanted notice that bore the wrong fingerprints; however, the warden immediately issued a corrected wanted notice bearing the correct fingerprints. We had nothing to do with these wanted notices issued by Missouri almost a year before King was killed.

4. LOMAX STATES: The FBI has pre-empted local police from the case by declaring the King murder a conspiracy.

FACTS: We have closely cooperated with the Memphis Police who obtained a murder warrant immediately after Federal process was obtained. All evidence has been turned over to the police together with the results of Laboratory and fingerprint examinations and we have offered local authorities whatever assistance may be needed in presenting the case to a local grand jury.

5. LOMAX STATES: The FBI has yet to ask the cooperation of the Los Angeles Police.

FACTS: Our relations with the Los Angeles Police in this case have been excellent. We have checked their records on the subject and various other individuals and on 5/2/68 when the police received a letter to the "Los Angeles Times" purportedly written by the subject, it was immediately made available to the Los Angeles Office.

6. LOMAX STATES: Ray made at least three trips from Los Angeles to New Orleans.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

FACTS: Ray is only known to have made two trips from Los Angeles to New Orleans, in December, 1967, and in March, 1968.

7. LOMAX STATES: The FBI confiscated telephone company records listing calls made from Los Angeles telephone booths used by Ray and only the FBI knows what these records show.

FACTS: We have not confiscated any records. We have obtained information from the telephone company regarding calls made from all pay telephones in the St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles. It would appear that Lomax has been unsuccessful in his efforts to obtain similar information from the telephone company.

8. LOMAX STATES: America's blacks never have trusted either the Director or the FBI.

FACTS: We have long enjoyed the confidence of responsible Negro leaders and the responsible Negro press. This confidence has been gained by the Bureau's continuing success in handling Civil Rights cases such as the murder of three civil rights workers in Mississippi, the murder of Lt. Colonel Lemuel Penn in Georgia, the murder of Viola Liuzzo in Alabama, investigations concerning discrimination in voting, education, and many similar investigative accomplishments.

9. LOMAX STATES: The FBI leaked a story to the press suggesting a Negro was behind King's murder.

FACTS: This is absolutely false.

10. LOMAX STATES: The Director should publicly admit his dislike for King and then "share the hunt" with a less prejudiced agency; the cause of justice would be better served if the investigation were under a Warren-type, biracial commission.

FACTS: This is unworthy of comment.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

11. LOMAX STATES: It is certain powerful men in American society were part of the deed.

FACTS: We have developed no evidence to indicate this is true nor does Lomax document this statement in any way.

In his prior articles Louis Lomax made reference to a "mysterious blond" named Jerri who he alleged had been involved with Ray at Los Angeles and later went to Milwaukee where Lomax said she had disappeared. Jerri has been identified as Dyrell Dennis, a prostitute and narcotics addict whose relationship with Ray appears to have been limited to a single meeting in a bar followed by a brief visit to his room.

Edgar John Pendleton, Los Angeles, with whom Lomax has also been in contact, has made available a letter he received from Dyrell Dennis, postmarked 4/19/68 at Milwaukee. This letter states in part, "Have you seen Ray? I hope he is OK." Pendleton denies any knowledge of the subject and states the Ray mentioned by Dennis is Ray Selma, a Mexican-American who formerly resided at the St. Francis Hotel. It is noted Dennis has stated she knew the subject only as Eric.

Local authorities are scheduled to present this matter to a grand jury at Memphis, 5/7/68, to seek a murder indictment against Ray. At the present time it does not appear that Bureau personnel will be required to testify, but the Special Agent in Charge will be available if he is needed.

ACTION:

Vigorous investigation is continuing on a top priority basis.

Mr. DeLoach

May 7, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

MURKIN

1 - Mr. McGowan

① - Mr. McDonough

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

The Bureau has previously designated the Memphis Office as office of origin in this case. Attached for approval are instructions concerning the handling of reports based upon current developments and the need to further streamline our procedures.

Certain offices, which have conducted the bulk of investigation to date, are to submit results of their investigation in individual reports. Other divisions are to submit positive and pertinent information developed in form suitable for insertion in the over-all reports prepared by the Memphis Office.

Inasmuch as Legats do not submit investigative reports, they are being instructed to submit results of investigation which can be disseminated in letterhead memorandum form suitable for dissemination. Any administrative data which cannot be disseminated will be set forth in the administrative section of the transmittal communication.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is an airtel to all SACs and Legats setting forth instructions in line with the above.

Enclosure

EJM:hw

(6)

1 - Mr. McDonough

May 7, 1968

AIRTEL

To: All SACs and LEGATs
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)
MURKIN
OO: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

The Bureau has designated Memphis as office of origin in this case.

You were previously advised that leads in this Top Ten Fugitive case must be handled within 24 hours. The Atlanta, Birmingham, Chicago, Houston, Jackson, Kansas City, Los Angeles, New Orleans, St. Louis, and Springfield Offices are to prepare the results of their investigation to date in report form, not as an insert. At such time as the amount of investigation in these field offices does not appear to warrant individual reports, advise the Bureau and office of origin that inserts being prepared in future in lieu of reports, UACB.

All other offices will record the results in appropriate form and transmit 15 copies of each to the office of origin for inclusion in reports submitted by the Memphis Office. Should investigation increase in any such area warranting submission of individual report, do so and advise the Bureau and Memphis.

LEGATs are to submit results of investigation which can be disseminated in letterhead memorandum form suitable for dissemination. Any administrative data which cannot be disseminated is to be set forth in the administrative section of your transmittal communication. Look-alikes and other leads resolved and reported by cablegram or other communication need not be rereported as copies of these communications are being forward^{ed} office of origin by the Bureau for administrative handling of the case.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

EJM:hw (3) NOTE: See Rosen to DeLoach memo dated 5-7-68, same caption, EJM:hw

5-6

MEMO

Mr. DeLoach

May 6, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach	1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Rosen	1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Malley	1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. McGowan	1 - Mr. Gale
① - Mr. Long	1 - Mr. Sullivan
1 - Mr. McDonough	1 - Mr. Trotter
1 - Mr. Martindale	

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

Extensive investigation and coverage is continuing in Mexico with particular emphasis in areas where Ray has been known or alleged to have been in the past.

The Agent on the scene at Campeche, near the Yucatan Peninsula, reports that maximum cooperation is being received from both the Campeche State Judicial Police and the State Highway Police.

The City of Campeche has a population of more than 55,000 and there are seven other municipal areas in the state that comprise major population centers. The State of Campeche is slightly larger than West Virginia and has a population of 170,000.

The State police agencies in Campeche have a radio communications system covering each community in the State. They have made appropriate broadcasts and publicity has been obtained in various publications with additional publicity arranged for major editions over the weekend. Reliable Americans residing in the area are being specifically contacted.

All hotels, motels, barber shops, liquor stores, grocery stores, and houses of prostitution in the city of Campeche have been checked without developing any information concerning Ray's present whereabouts or his alleged stay in Campeche sometime in the 1950's.

William Earless Miller, also known as "Punchy" Miller, formerly an inmate with Ray at Missouri State Penitentiary, advised that Ray took pep pills and disliked Western music. Miller stated Ray indicated a desire to go to New Orleans and spoke as if he had not been there before.

WLM:rmr
(14)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

A former potential criminal informant of the Kansas City Office who is now in Leavenworth also knew Ray at Missouri State Penitentiary. The informant said one Robert Powell wanted Ray to beat up his girlfriend, Frankie Barbara (phonetic), Doe Run, Missouri, when Ray got out of prison. This is being checked out.

It has previously been reported that the Postal Inspector at Los Angeles made available a letter and photograph Ray mailed through a correspondence club to Patricia K. Anderson in February, 1967.

Anderson has been located and advised she has no knowledge of the subject except for the letter and photograph she received and gave the Postal Inspector. She said she was not a member of the correspondence club and believes her name may have been obtained by the club from an old magazine subscription list. Efforts are continuing to identify and locate the other four girls Ray allegedly wrote through this club.

Local authorities now plan to seek a murder indictment against Ray by presenting the facts to a grand jury at Memphis on 5/7/68. The State Attorney General's Office has requested that a representative of the FBI testify before the grand jury and the Special Agent in Charge at Memphis will do so.

ACTION:

Extensive investigation is continuing throughout the field on a top priority basis to locate and apprehend Ray as quickly as possible.

The Attorney General

May 6, 1968

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. McDonough

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reports in the captioned matter submitted by our Atlanta, Birmingham, Los Angeles, and Memphis Offices are being forwarded to the Civil Rights Division as well as to the United States Attorney in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney, Birmingham, are being advised that the reports and/or the contents thereof should not be disseminated outside the Department or the office of the United States Attorney at Birmingham.

This is for your information.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General

EJM:vea
(9)

NOTE:

See memo Rosen to DeLoach dated 5/2/68, captioned "MURKIN,"

REL:cs.

The Attorney General

May 6, 1968

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. McDonough

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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The Civil Rights Division and the United States Attorney, Birmingham, are being advised that the reports and/or the contents thereof should not be disseminated outside the Department or the office of the United States Attorney at Birmingham.

This is for your information.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Mr. Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General

EJM:vea

(9)

NOTE:

See memo Rosen to DeLoach dated 5/2/68, captioned "MURKIN,"

REL:cs.

5-5