

7-10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memoandum

*Memo*  
*Folio*

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Bishop	✓
Mr. Casper	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. Felt	✓
Mr. Gale	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Sullivan	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Miss Holmes	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

TO : Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: July 10, 1968

FROM *xy* : Fred M. Vinson, Jr.  
Assistant Attorney General  
Criminal Division

FMV:mfc  
95-100-473

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray

680712042

Attached you will find an original letter and envelope received by the Attorney General yesterday, purporting to be from R. G. Sneyd. I also attach a copy of my acknowledgement to Ray's attorney.

It occurred to me that you might wish this for your file in the event handwriting exemplars are needed.

Attachments

*2* ENCLOSURE

EXP. PROC.  
34 JUL 11 1968

14 JUL 11 1968

SIX

7/10/68  
FMV:mfc  
95-100-473

July 10, 1968

Arthur J. Hanes, Esquire  
Hanes and Hanes  
617 Frank Nelson Building  
Birmingham, Alabama 35203

Dear Mr. Hanes:

Enclosed is a Xerox of a letter received  
by the Attorney General yesterday, which purports  
to be from your client, James Earl Ray, also known  
as R. G. Sneyd.

Sincerely,

Fred M. Vinson, Jr.  
Assistant Attorney General

Records  
Vinson

PAR AVION



Mr. Ramsey Clark  
attorney general, United States  
Washington, D. C.

U. S. A

4/17  
In replying to this letter, please write on the envelope:—

Number 059184 Name SNEYD.

H. M. PRISON,  
HEATHFIELD ROAD,  
WANDSWORTH,  
LONDON, S.W.18.

Dear Sir,

I am at present in detention at  
the above listed address in London, England.  
In the near future I will most  
probably be deported to the United States.  
The reason I am writing you  
is that you will probably dispatch  
agents to London to return me  
to the U.S. and I would like  
to have it on record now  
that I have no intention of  
making any oral statements  
that I have anything to hide,  
but I would prefer to tell  
my story to a judge & jury.  
Therefore I would respectfully  
suggest you send someone  
with less imagination than  
Mr. Benson. I have also written  
my attorney Mr. Arthur Horns a  
similar letter. Sincerely  
R. G. Sneyd.

No. 253 (20150-3-10-62)

MEMO

Mr. DeLoach

July 10, 1968

A. Rosen

1-Mr. DeLoach    1-Mr. Mohr  
1-Mr. Rosen      1-Mr. Casper  
1-Mr. Malley     1-Mr. Gale  
1-Mr. McGowan   1-Mr. Sullivan  
①-Mr. Martindale

MURKIN

I spoke with Fred Vinson, Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division, today concerning items which have not been resolved in connection with the transportation of subject Ray to the United States upon completion of the order of extradition.

1. Vinson advised me he had been in touch with the Secretary of the Air Force and preliminary discussions indicated the Air Force would handle transportation. No decision has yet been made as to whether the plane will be assigned to this mission from European bases or whether the plane will depart from the United States on this mission. This is important to the Bureau inasmuch as our escort Agents will be able to fly to Europe on the Air Force plane if it departs from the United States.

2. Vinson indicated the Air Force Secretary suggested they might have a 707 available in Germany, in which event it would be designated in time to allow the transporting Agents to arrange for appropriate liaison with the crew in London. In any event, Vinson understood we will need at least two days if the plane is to depart from the United States in order to give the crew a chance to rest up and, of course, our Agents in any event would allow themselves two days in order to be physically fit to handle the transportation. It is observed one night's sleep is lost going east from the United States to London in view of the difference of five hours in time.

3. No decision has been reached by Vinson as to who is to stand the cost of the flight. As a matter of fact, Vinson indicated the Secretary mentioned the cost of the flight would run around \$20,000 although he had no fixed figure. I advised Vinson, of course, the Bureau had no funds to take care of this. He said he thought it would be proper if the Air Force did not handle the matter to make some preliminary inquiries with the State of Tennessee concerning the transportation costs

AR:js  
(10)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum • Mr. DeLoach  
Re: MURKIN

inasmuch as we would be handling the matter which ordinarily would have to be provided for by the State of Tennessee. As it now stands, Vinson understands the Bureau has no intention of paying for the costs of transportation. Vinson also mentioned the Secretary of the Air Force indicated they might have a constellation (this is a propeller-type plane) which might run less in cost. Vinson said this would be unsatisfactory because of the slowness of the plane and, of course, the most modern equipment should be used. There was no problem insofar as this was concerned, according to Vinson.

4. Vinson had previously advised me he was going to determine whether arrangements could be made so that all persons on the flight upon arrival at touch down in the United States would immediately be cleared so there would be no delays by Customs, Immigration, and Public Health. Vinson stated he had checked into this and Farrell, Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner, had indicated he would have arrangements made so that all will be immediately cleared without any difficulty upon touch down in the United States.

5. We had previously discussed the question of medical assistance upon departure from London, en route and at touch down in the United States. It had previously been mentioned it would be preferable to have a military doctor rather than Public Health Service doctor. Vinson again mentioned he preferred Public Health, someone who was familiar with prison procedures. I mentioned a decision should be reached on this but it would appear the Air Force could supply plenty of doctors and insofar as a physical examination is concerned an Air Force doctor would be much more familiar with Air Force procedures in the event some emergency arose en route. The doctor, of course, will be needed to examine the prisoner upon departure and also to examine the prisoner at arrival in the United States so that no question can be raised concerning his physical condition upon delivery to the authorities in the United States. Arrangements, of course, will also be made for proper photographing of the prisoner at departure and arrival in order to support the transporting officers' proper handling of the prisoner.

6. We discussed arrangements for the handling of Ray's personal effects and I advised Vinson appropriate receipts would be



Memorandum • Mr. DeLoach  
Re: MURKIN

obtained at both points and these would be prepared in advance so there would be no delay at either point in handling any personal effects which might be sent. It was also pointed out that appropriate papers would be prepared to be handed to the local authorities upon arrival so that all they need do would be to affix their signatures to such papers and this in turn would also prevent any delays.

7. We had previously discussed the necessity for Vinson to arrange with the Home Secretary in London the departure procedures with specific reference to whether some indication can be received from the British as to when the prisoner may be obtained once the final order is signed by the Home Secretary. Vinson stated he had had discussions with the State Department and had informally prepared certain papers which will be required for the delivery of the prisoner to the transporting Agents. He said the identities of the Agents will be inserted in the order and the State Department procedure will probably be delivery of the request of the State Department to the Home Secretary by the Ambassador in London, for the delivery of the subject to the transporting Agents who have been designated by the United States Government to handle the transportation. Vinson stated he will assume the responsibility for working this out and will advise us in ample time. He said he hoped to be able to get some informal reaction from the Home Secretary concerning the possibility of keeping the extradition order bottled up until the Agents depart. He felt this was highly unlikely but he was going to try but said the British were rather stuffy about this. He said we need not be concerned with the preparation of these papers as he will advise us of their preparation in final form.

8. In connection with the aforementioned, it will be necessary for Minnich to obtain completed exit control papers and Vinson stated he had talked to Minnich about this and Minnich has excellent liaison with the British authorities and will go forward with the preparation of the necessary papers so the prison officials will deliver the prisoner to the transporting Agents once the Home Secretary hands the order to the prison officials. In this connection, instructions will be issued today to Minnich to advise the Bureau the exact nature of such papers so there will be no delay in the preparation of same and in order that the Bureau will be fully advised of the details concerning the handling of this phase of the matter.



Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
Re: MURKIN

9. Vinson indicated in previous discussions that he viewed favorably the FBI taking the prisoner from touch down, which would be the Naval Air Station at Memphis, to the Sheriff's Office. He had not reached any definite decision as to this inasmuch as he felt the local authorities might desire to pick up the prisoner as soon as our plane touched down at the Naval Air Station. He said this matter had not been resolved yet and he asked whether the Bureau had any views concerning this insofar as the Memphis authorities were concerned. He also wanted to know whether the Memphis authorities were equipped to handle the transportation from the Naval Air Station to the jail. I advised him our SAC at Memphis had been in touch with the Memphis Sheriff who will handle the prisoner on behalf of state authorities. I advised Vinson the Sheriff had designated a special crew to handle the prisoner while he is being detained at the jail and they will have no other function. I also advised Vinson that if the Sheriff was to transport the prisoner from the Naval Air Station to the jail he would obtain a closed van and would have the necessary escort party. Vinson indicated it would be desirable to ascertain the attitude of the local authorities before a definite decision was reached as to who was to handle the prisoner from the point of touch down (Naval Air Station) to the County Jail which would be under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff. We will ascertain this in contact with our SAC today. In this connection, it would seem preferable to have the Sheriff assume the responsibility for transporting the prisoner from the Naval Air Station.

10. In connection with the handling of our function in the United States, it is suggested that Special Agent Kenneth Bounds, who accompanied George Zezas to London and who is being relieved of this assignment in view of personal reasons, be sent to Memphis two days before the plane will arrive in Memphis in order to insure that arrangements which have been initiated are adequate. Bounds has attended conferences at the Seat of Government concerning the detailed plans which have been made concerning the handling of the prisoner both in England and in the United States and is fully conversant with all discussions, as well as having had the experience of being in London. It also may be well for ASAC Harold Light, who will be in charge of the transporting party, to make a quick trip to Memphis in order to be familiar with any arrangements there in the event the Agents have to transport the prisoner from the Naval Air Station to the jail. Otherwise, such a trip would not be necessary on the part of Light.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
Re: MURKIN

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

1. Minnich will immediately be alerted to the above discussion and instructed to go forward with the necessary arrangements and advise the Bureau concerning the exit control papers and procedures. This is on the assumption we will go by military aircraft.

2. The SAC at Memphis will be immediately alerted to the above developments in order that he may be completely familiar with the procedures and he will ascertain if Memphis authorities will assume responsibility for transporting the prisoner from the Naval Air Station to the jail. In this connection, if approved, we will suggest to Jensen that such arrangements be effected if possible. Vinson will be appropriately advised of the decision of Memphis authorities.

3. A final determination will need to be made by Vinson as to the point from which the plane will depart on this mission, whether it be from a European point or the United States, in order that appropriate arrangements can be made for (1) the transportation of the Agents from the United States to London and (2) the establishment of appropriate liaison with the Commanding General who will have the overall responsibility of the Air Force crew. This was discussed with Vinson and he agrees that the Commanding General should have control of the plane. This will eliminate going through a lot of red tape with intermediate officers of the Air Force. Vinson stated he will obtain the identity of the Commanding General so appropriate liaison can be maintained.

4. The escort party previously approved by the Director will be Legat John Minnich, London; ASAC Harold Light, Quantico, Virginia; and George Zeiss, Quantico Firearms Instructor. It is suggested that Supervisor W. L. Martindale, who previously went to London, also be a member of the transporting party in the event

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
Re: MURKIN

Ray is at all talkative. Martindale, of course, is familiar with the details of this case. In this connection, it is noted that Vinson today indicated he had a note from the subject stating he had no intention of talking, that he would discuss all matters with his attorney Arthur Hane, and that when he was transported back to the United States by U. S. Government officers he hoped they would send someone with less imagination than Vinson. Vinson does not know what the subject is referring to but he suspects he has in mind the comment made by the British press that Vinson spoke with Ray when as a matter of fact he did not. Vinson stated he would send us the original of this note.

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7-8

Mr. Rosen

July 8, 1968

C. L. McGowan

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Rosen	1 - Mr. Light
1 - Mr. Malley	1 - Mr. Zeiss
1 - Mr. McGowan	1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. McDonough	
1 - Mr. Bounds	

We have been advised that the final order for Ray's removal may be issued by the British Home Secretary on or about 7/23/68. This date is only tentative and could be delayed three to five days by an appeal to the House of Lords. It could also be delayed if the Home Secretary takes four or five days to issue the order as has been previously indicated. On the other hand the removal date could be accelerated if an appeal is filed earlier than the 14th day, which is the day anticipated by British Counsel for Tennessee and Missouri when he discussed the time involved.

In view of the possibility that actual removal could conceivably occur as early as 7/15/68, there is set out a detailed check list of things to be done.

The escort party for removing Ray to the United States will consist of ASAC Harold K. Light and SA George A. Zeiss, III, both at Quantico; SA Wilbur L. Martindale of the Civil Rights Section; and SA John Minnich, Legal Attache at London. In addition, SA Kenneth L. Bounds, General Investigative Division, who has participated in all planning for the removal of the prisoner, will proceed to Memphis two days prior to actual removal to review arrangements made by the Memphis Office and also to be available to assist in transporting the prisoner from the plane to jail if it is necessary for this to be done by the FBI.

ASAC Light will be in charge of the escort party and will have the primary responsibility for the development and execution of all plans relating to the removal from the time Ray is delivered to the airplane by the British until his custody is transferred to local authorities in the United States. He will establish direct liaison with Air Force headquarters in the United States to work out necessary transportation details.

SA Minnich is responsible for maintaining the necessary liaison with the British to obtain advance notice as to when Ray can

WLM:bjf  
(9)

CONTINUED - OVER



McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

be removed and to have the prisoner delivered to the airplane by the British at the proper time. After initial arrangements for transportation have been made at Air Force headquarters in Washington by ASAC Light, SA Minnich will establish liaison with the appropriate high level Air Force officer in England to insure that arrangements made in Washington are properly understood by the Air Force in England.

TO BE DONE NOW

1. Definitely determine whether State authorities will assume custody at the airfield in Tennessee or whether Ray will be delivered to the place of incarceration by Bureau personnel and if so determine where he will be incarcerated.

2. Determine the Bureau's position regarding payment to the Air Force for use of a military plane.

3. The Agent in Charge of the escort party should immediately establish high level and confidential liaison with the Air Force to arrange for a suitable aircraft and crew to be available in England two days prior to actual removal. Departure from England should be at midnight with arrival at Memphis at 4:00 a. m.

McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

4. The air crew should include an Air Force physician. The identity of the crew, including the physician, will be checked through Bureau indices. The crew should not be informed of the nature of the assignment until the last possible moment.

5. Once designated, the plane should be placed under guard until the mission has been accomplished.

6. The Air Force should arrange necessary food and drink for the escort party and the prisoner. This will be served with paper or similar utensils as a security measure.

7. It should be determined what alternate landing place will be used if weather prevents a landing in Memphis.

8. It should be determined whether the plane can maintain radio contact with the airfield at Memphis or with some other point in the United States. Arrangements should be made for an Agent to be present at this point during the flight.

McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

9. It should be determined how much final notice will be required for the plane and crew to be available in England.

10. If the plane will be sent from the United States, it should be arranged for the escort party to travel to England in the plane.

11. As a security measure, arrangements should be made for the escort party to be quartered at the air base while in England.

12. The Air Force will be told of the need for security.

13. The Air Force should arrange for Immigration, Customs and Public Health clearance for the prisoner and the escort party upon arrival in the United States. If arrangements cannot be made for the Air Force to do this, the Department should be requested to handle any necessary arrangements in this regard.

McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

14. Legat, London should advise whether the Home Secretary has been approached by Vinson concerning the manner in which the final removal order will be issued and whether the Home Secretary plans to issue the final order after the close of business, with no public announcement being made until the following day after Ray has been removed, since this procedure would minimize our security problems. The Legat should attempt to arrange for as much advance notice as possible as to the exact time the final order will be entered and should determine just how much advance notice can be anticipated. It should also be determined whether there is any British requirement that Ray be removed within a given period of time after the final order is issued. The Legat should closely follow developments to insure adequate notice is obtained as to the manner in which actual removal can be handled so that the aircraft and escort party can proceed to England in a timely manner.

15. Arrangements should be made with the Department to formally advise the British Government of the identity of the escorting officers.

16. A basic security precept of handling prisoners in custody is that all personal belongings including clothing should be removed and the prisoner should be provided with custodial clothing. The Legat, London, will determine Ray's clothing sizes and we will purchase in Washington a cheap set of clothing consisting of one suit of underwear, one pair of socks, one set of zippered coveralls and a pair of cheap shoes that do not require laces. Unless the plane is to be well heated, he will also be provided with a cheap jacket. Total estimated cost of clothing is \$30.00.

McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

TO BE DONE AS  
SOON AS IT IS KNOWN WHO  
WILL TRANSPORT RAY TO JAIL

1. If State authorities are to remove Ray from the plane, SAC Memphis, should initiate top level discussions on a confidential basis to work out details. Close attention should be given to arrangements for transporting the local escort party to the airfield in a manner that will avoid press surveillance and will maintain necessary security.

2. It will be suggested to local authorities the prisoner be transported in a closed van with armed guards in other cars, both front and rear.

3. The SAC should arrange to photograph the prisoner before he is released to local authorities.

4. The SAC should work out a method of keeping the Bureau currently advised of all developments during the transportation of the prisoner.

McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

5. If Ray is to be transported to jail by Bureau Agents, SAC, Memphis will make detailed plans for transportation by armed convoy consisting of three vehicles, one of which will be a closed van. The van should be obtained in sufficient time to permit the Agent who will drive it to become thoroughly familiar with its operation.

6. Detailed plans should be made for getting the escort party to the airfield without attracting attention.

TO BE DONE WHEN  
FOUL WEATHER LANDING  
PLACE IS IDENTIFIED

1. The appropriate Special Agent in Charge will coordinate with SAC, Memphis, and the Bureau to evolve stand-by plans for handling the prisoner in the event bad weather forces the plane to land someplace other than Memphis. In this event it is contemplated the prisoner will remain aboard the aircraft until the weather clears and the plane can proceed to Memphis. It would be necessary for the plane to be guarded by the Air Force while on the ground and the appropriate FBI Office should provide relief guards for the prisoner if there is any appreciable delay on the ground while waiting for the weather to clear.



McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

TO BE DONE  
TWO DAYS BEFORE REMOVAL

1. Escort party will proceed to England and will go over the plane both as a security check and to work out detailed plans for handling the prisoner in accordance with the physical layout of the plane.

2. SA Kenneth L. Bounds will proceed to Memphis to review arrangements made by the Memphis Office and also to be available to assist in transporting the prisoner from the plane to jail if it is necessary for this to be done by the FBI.

3. Legat, London will review arrangements with American and British authorities to insure that appropriate arrangements are made for the removal, including:

a. Issuance of a certificate of identity for Ray by the American Embassy.

b. Stamping of the certificate of identity by British Immigration prior to Ray's removal from England and that Ray's vaccination certificate accompanies him together with the certificate of identity.

c. Preparation in several copies of a detailed inventory of Ray's property to be used as a receipt for the British when Ray's property is received from them and as a receipt for the Bureau when the property is turned over with the prisoner to local authorities in Memphis. If possible the property should be obtained from the British and receipted for sometime prior to actual removal to avoid delay when we assume custody of the prisoner aboard the airplane.

McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

4. A press release will be prepared at the Bureau to be released when Ray arrives in the United States.

TO BE DONE AT TIME  
OF REMOVAL

1. The Agent in Charge of the escort party will designate one of the Agents to maintain a running log during the entire time Ray is in Bureau custody.

2. The escort party will have sidearms aboard the aircraft but will not be armed during flight.

3. British officers will place Ray aboard the aircraft. He will be stripped, searched, photographed, given new clothing, and placed under restraint by Bureau personnel. While stripped he will be examined by the Air Force physician.

4. The Bureau will be advised when the plane takes off and if possible any pertinent development during flight will be relayed to the Bureau via Air Force communications.

McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

5. During the flight and at all times that Ray is in FBI custody he will be under the direct control of at least two Special Agents and the other two Agents of the escort party will be close at hand at all times.

6. Upon landing in the United States, if local officials are to transport Ray to jail, Ray will be stripped and photographed by Bureau personnel, examined by the Air Force physician, and then turned over to local authorities aboard the aircraft. A statement will be taken from the physician as to Ray's condition when boarding and leaving the plane (such a statement will also be obtained from the Air Force physician if Ray is delivered to jail by Bureau personnel). A receipt will be obtained from local authorities for Ray and his property. The escort party will then return to Washington.

7. If Bureau personnel are to transport Ray to jail, the escort party will retain custody while being convoyed to jail by the Memphis Office. At the jail Ray will be stripped and photographed before release to local authorities after which the escort party will return to Washington. A receipt will be obtained from local authorities for Ray and his property.

8. The clothing purchased for Ray by the Bureau will be retained by the Memphis Office when Ray is released to local authorities.

McGowan to Rosen memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

9. The Special Agents in Charge at Memphis and at any designated alternate landing place will be kept advised by the Bureau of the departure of the plane from London and the estimated time and place of arrival in order that necessary arrangements may be made there on a timely basis.

TO BE RESOLVED WITH VINSON

**TRANSPORTATION**

1. If removal is to be accomplished by the FBI, it must be done by a military plane.

2. Vinson has previously indicated that if a military plane is to be used, he will make the initial contact in this regard with J. William Doolittle, General Counsel of the Air Force. If Vinson is going to do this he should handle it at once and make arrangements with Doolittle for ASAC Light to establish working liaison with the appropriate officer in charge of Air Force operations in order that we may work out the necessary details for the transportation. It should also be determined whether the Air Force, the Department, or the FBI is expected to bear the cost of transportation which could be in the neighborhood of \$15,000.

3. It should also specifically and definitely be determined whether an Air Force physician will be made a member of the air crew and this point should be covered by Vinson in his initial contact with Doolittle.

4. Vinson should determine from Doolittle whether the Air Force can arrange for Immigration, Customs, and Public Health clearance for the prisoner and the escort party upon arrival in the United States. If the Air Force cannot to this, the Department should handle any necessary arrangements in this regard.

## **ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE BRITISH**

1. It should be determined whether Vinson has discussed with the Home Secretary or has considered discussing with the Home Secretary the possibility of having the final order issued after the close of business with no public announcement being made until the following day after Ray has been removed. If this procedure could be effected, it would minimize our security problems.

2. It should be determined whether Vinson has any knowledge as to how soon Ray can legally be released to us by the British after the final order is issued and also whether British laws require that Ray be removed within any given period of time after the final order is issued.

3. Vinson should arrange to formally advise the British Government of the identity of the escorting officers and if possible, this information should not be made public until after the removal in order to avoid any effort by the press to surveil the escort party.

## **TRANSPORTATION OF RAY WITHIN THE UNITED STATES**

1. It must be definitely determined whether Ray is to be transported from the airfield at Memphis to his place of incarceration by Bureau personnel or by local authorities. The identity and the location of the facility to which he is to be delivered should also be determined.



Mr. DeLoach

July 8, 1968

A. Rosen

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

MURKIN

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

At the time of his arrest in London, on June 8, 1968, subject Ray among other things, had in his possession a .38 caliber "Liberty Chief" revolver manufactured by the Hiroku Firearms Manufacturing Company, Japan. Upon request of our Legal Attache in Tokyo, the National Police Agency of Japan determined that records of the Hiroku Firearms Manufacturing Company, Shikoku, Japan, show that this weapon was shipped on August 3, 1966, destined for the Liberty Arms Corporation in Montrose, California. We traced this pistol from the Liberty Arms Corporation in Montrose, California, to the person who sold it to Ray on October, 1967 in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Legal Attache in Tokyo has advised that the National Police Agency of Japan is concerned that they would be embarrassed by Japanese reporters who might learn of the tracing of Ray's gun to Japan and ask questions which they may not feel free to answer. The National Police Agency of Japan requested to be advised whether or not there was any restriction regarding the release of data relating to the gun's origin. Japanese authorities also desire to know whether this information has been made public and whether such a release is contemplated.

Since the information developed by the National Police Agency of Japan only indicates where the pistol was manufactured and to whom it was first shipped, the release of this information should have no adverse effect on this case.

Enclosure

EJM:mt

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CONTINUED - OVER.....

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

*was*  
The inquiry of the National Police Agency of Japan has been referred to Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak of the Civil Rights Division, and he advised that this information on the weapon would not be relevant to the State or Federal charges against Ray, and the Japanese authorities may be informed that the information developed by them relative to this weapon has not been, and it is not contemplated that it will be, released in the near future by the U. S. Government.

Mr. Pollak stated the Japanese authorities can be advised that the Department of Justice would not interpose an objection to their disclosing results of their investigation relative to the manufacturer and the first receiver of the gun; however, the Japanese may wish to consider the desirability of not disclosing results of investigation in this matter before prosecutive action is completed, although this is a matter for their determination.

ACTION: *criminal*

Attached for approval is a cablegram to our Legal Attache in Tokyo, instructing him in line with the Department's observations. Discussion with Mr. Pollak is being confirmed in writing.

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7-5

*memo for file*

Mr. DeLoach

July 5, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

MURKIN

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Martindale

1 - Mr. Bishop

*McGowan*

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

At 2:30 p. m., 7/4/68, Legat John Minnick, London, advised that London press reports that Alabama attorney Arthur J. Hanes is due to arrive in London at 8:20 a. m., Friday, 7/5/68, for the purpose of seeing James Earl Ray.

Minnick advised that Hanes has been authorized by British authorities to see Ray as a private person, but not as an attorney with an attorney-client relationship. Minnick advised that this means Hanes and Ray will be separated by a glass partition and prison guards will be present.

ACTION:

This is for information.

EJM:pah  
(7)





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7-3

MEMO Folder

Retype page one of Memo Rosen to DeLoach, EJM:cs

Mr. DeLoach

July 3, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McDonough

MURKIN

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Bishop

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

"Ebony" magazine, with which we had cordial contacts, has forwarded letters from a long-time convict, Raymond Curtis in which Curtis makes reference to his prison association with James Earl Ray, their plans to kill King and regarding businessmen putting up money to have King killed. Curtis, who was described by his former defense attorney as a liar and cheat, previously furnished similar information on which logical investigation was conducted and nothing of substantive value was developed.

Atlanta has been instructed to reinterview Curtis to pin him down once and for all and anything of pertinence will be run out. "Ebony" magazine is being advised that results of Curtis' interview will be furnished Civil Rights Division.

BACKGROUND:

Bureau is in receipt of a letter from Charles Leonard Sanders, Managing Editor, "Ebony" magazine, enclosing two semi-literate letters from Raymond Curtis, an inmate of Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia. Curtis, in his letters, claims to have information on the King murder and Mr. Sanders suggests we may want to check into Curtis' story and Mr. Sanders requests to be furnished any information resulting from our inquiries which can be released.

Curtis alleges he was a former inmate with Ray, discussed killing King over the course of three years and a group of "KK" businessmen covering five states were put up the money for the King killing.

Enclosure

EJM:cs

(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

July 3, 1968

1 - Mr. McGowan  
① - Mr. McDonough

Mr. Charles Leonard Sanders  
Managing Editor  
Ebony  
1820 South Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60616

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Your letter dated July 1, 1968, and its  
enclosures have been received.

The interest which prompted you to write  
is appreciated.

The results of any interview will be furnished  
to the Civil Rights Division of the United States  
Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

EJM:cs  
(4)

NOTE: See memo Rosen to DeLoach, dated July 3, 1968,  
captioned Murkin, EJM:cs.

1820 South Michigan Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60616

July 1, 1968

Dear Mr. Hoover: I have enclosed xerox copies of correspondence that EBONY has had with Raymond Curtis, who describes himself as an inmate at Whitfield County Jail in Dalton, Georgia, and who claims to have information about James Earl Ray and plans to murder Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We thought that you might wish to have one of your agents check the authenticity of the allegations. We would be pleased, Mr. Hoover, to receive any report that can be released in connection with the agent's investigation of Mr. Curtis' charges.

Very respectfully yours,

Charles Leonard Sanders  
Managing Editor

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C. 20025

CLS/ba  
encls.

JUL 2 1968

1cc sent to Raymond W. Am. Nat. Union  
1cc sent to C.R. Lee. Att. Mr. Bellah  
6-94-(B). EGM/ndc 7-8-68

home address  
Raymond Curtis  
Box 21  
Tunnel Hill Ga 30720

Mr. John H. Johnson

May 30 (1968)

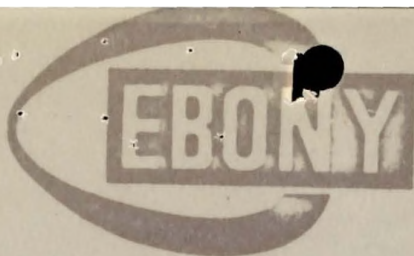
Sir I am Raymond Curtis the man that said we talk about  
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and better (?) thing things that would make a Story  
so if you or Enterrested and want the story then I will look  
to here form you or some one you send ok.  
if you or not enterrested and you no someone that is I  
would appriciate it if you woud till them about me and give  
my address ok. I am still at the whitfield County Jail  
Dalton Ga. 30720. My home address is at th top. sir I  
would appriciate it if you would let me here form you. thank  
you for your time.

Raymond Curtis

COPY:nm

(The following note from Mr. Sanders was noted on the envelope  
of the above letter --'1. Initial contact with Curtis."



1820 South Michigan Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60616

June 18, 1968

(2)  
*Reply to  
first letter.*

Dear Mr. Curtis:

Thank you for your recent letter which we read with interest. Before we can determine its value as regards our magazine, we will need more specific information. We would appreciate hearing from you again, giving us more details.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Charles L. Sanders  
Managing Editor

Mr. Raymond Curtis  
Box 21  
Tunnel Hill, Georgia 30720

CLS:ch

C  
O  
P  
Y

Box 21  
Tunnel Hill Ga. 30755  
June 22 (1968)

Mr. Charles L. Sanders  
Managine Editor

Dear Mr Sanders.

I thank you for your answer to my letter.

I hope that what Details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

will sir. I have writing a story. no one but myself has Read it but me.  
at this time I no that it will have to be Re wrote for I am not a writing  
it not bad as if is.

it all about the crime I (illegible) did and about a crime I did in 1954 with  
James Earl Ray. and about the 13 years as Prison Pal. and every thing  
we talk about. every thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the Job of  
killing Martin Luther King Jr. we talk of killing King for 3 years. and  
we talk to this man. form mississippi that new all about th KK  
businessmen association that was to put up the money to kill king  
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story could get me kill I no that. that is why. I wont send the story by  
mail I no that this is geting to be a long letter. but when you Read this if  
you want the story ok. if not Just let me no you dont ok. that way I  
wont talk to (illegible) more about it ok.

Mr Sanders. there or men in 5 Stat that is behing the King killing. and  
they dont no what I no. but James Earl Ray done.

now that they have Ray. tenn will trial him if they get him back.



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if you have a man or have some one down this way if you will have them stop by the Jail I will let them Read the story and you can go form there ok.

I thank you again I will be looking to here foom you soon.

Raymond Curtis

I am still in the Dalton Co Jail.

COPY:nm

(The following note from Mr. Sanders appeared on the envelope of the above letter -- "3. Curtis' second letter."

☐ Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524  
☐ Forward to File Review  
☐ Attention \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Return to McDonough 2260  
Supervisor Room Ext..

☒ Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
☐ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
☐ Subversive References Only  
☐ Nonsubversive References Only  
☒ Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

☒ Restricted to Locality of self  
☐ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher  
Initials del

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

NR  
Charles L.  
did not call. 61-7341-9-433, pg 36;  
Charles  
NR - ell

*My Called for 8 AM*

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

7-2, 1968

<input type="checkbox"/>	Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
<input type="checkbox"/>	Service Unit - Room 6524
<input type="checkbox"/>	Forward to File Review
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attention _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Return to <u>Mr Donough 2260</u>
	Supervisor Room Ext.

## Type of References Requested:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Regular Request (Analytical Search)
<input type="checkbox"/>	All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Subversive References Only
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonsubversive References Only
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Main _____ References Only

## Type of Search Requested:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted to Locality of _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Buildup <input type="checkbox"/> Variations

Subject Ebony Magazine  
 Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

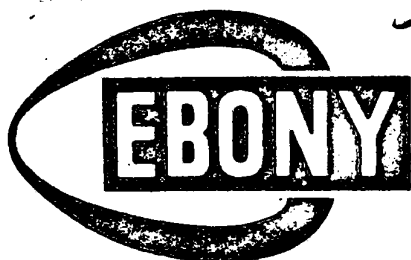
R# \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Searcher Initials Sub

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Called 94-36997



1820 South Michigan Ave. • Chicago, Illinois 60616

Mr. Tolson ☒  
Mr. DeLoach ☒  
Mr. Mohr ☒  
Mr. Bishop ☒  
Mr. Casper ☒  
Mr. Callahan ☒  
Mr. Conrad ☒  
Mr. Felt ☒  
Mr. Gale ☒  
Mr. Rosen ☒  
Mr. Sullivan ☒  
Mr. Tavel ☒  
Mr. Trotter ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Miss Holmes ☒  
Miss Gandy ☒

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Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
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Washington, D. C. 20025

CLS/ba  
encls.

EXOC.  
JUL 2 1968

home address  
Raymond Curtis  
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May 30 (1968)

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CLS:ch

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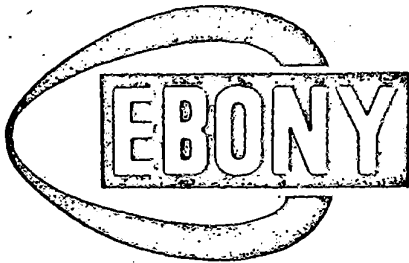
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. L. Sanders".

Charles Leonard Sanders  
Managing Editor

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C. 20025

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