

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

ATLANTA

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

Bureau File Number

44-38861

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY

PRESERVE FOR SELECT

COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/19/03 BY SP1048155

CLASSIFICATION

MARKIN

44-38861

FOIPA REQUEST. DO NOT DESTROY PURSUANT  
5 YEAR RULE. SERIAL SEE 190-40

Serials

Volume Number

1 thru 100

1

~~Classified 8-5-92~~  
~~UNCLASSIFIED 9-17-93~~

~~Leitch 4/8/68~~



Stripped  
4/8/75  
rose



FBI ATLANTA

FBI MEMPHIS

353PM URGENT 4-5-68 MCP

TO BUREAU AND ATLANTA

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 2 P

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM,  
CR. OO MEMPHIS.

INSPECTOR N. E. ZACHARY, HOMICIDE DIVISION, MEMPHIS PD,  
ADVISED THIS DATE THAT CHARLES WADELL WILSON, ROUTE THREE, CASON  
ROAD, CEDARTOWN, GA., HAD TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HIM TO ADVISE  
HE BELIEVED VICTIM WAS SHOT BY SHERMAN SANDERS, MW, THIRTY TWO  
YEARS OF AGE, WHO ALSO RESIDES ON CASON ROAD, CEDARTOWN, GA., AND  
WHO WORKS AT ROCKMART, GA. WILSON STATED SANDERS ACCOMPANIED BY  
BUD DAWSON, WM, THIRTY, ADDRESS CANAL ST., CEDARTOWN, GA., AND  
CHARLES HUSER (PHONITIC), MW, THIRTY TWO, UNKNOWN ADDRESS, HAD  
COME TO MEMPHIS IN A WHITE SIXTY EIGHT CADILLAC, GA. LIC. TWENTY  
NINE DASH (LAST DIGITS NOT KNOWN), AND STAYED FOR UNKNOWN PERIOD  
OF TIME IN A "FLOP HOUSE" ON SOUTH MAIN ST., MEMPHIS. WILSON STATED

HE DIDN'T KNOW SANDERS WAS GOING TO SHOOT KING AND WHEN HE HEARD  
KING HAD BEEN SHOT, HE BECAME FRIGHTENED. ACCORDING TO WILSON,  
SANDERS USED A THIRTY OUGHT SIX RIFLE WITH A SCOPE SIGHT THAT HAD  
BEEN PURCHASED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO IN CHICAGO.

FOR INFO ATLANTA, MOST RECENT DESCRIPTION INDICATES UNSUB

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 5 1968	
FBI ATLANTA	

Webreck & Patton handling  
advised 4-5-68

Seatrulla

PAGE TWO

TO BE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY SIX YEARS, FIVE FT. EIGHT INCHES,  
ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TO ONE HUNDRED SIXTY LBS., DARK HAIR, MEDIUM  
COMPLEXION, AND WHEN LAST SEEN WAS WEARING DARK SUIT AND TIE.

INVESTIGATION HAS DETERMINED WEAPON USED IN THIS CASE PUR-  
CHASED MARCH THIRTY, SIXTY EIGHT, IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA. THIS INFO  
IS NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE BUREAU.

ATLANTA, AT DEDARTOWN, GA., WILL CONDUCT APPROPRIATE  
INVESTIGATION RE SANDERS, DAWSON AND HUSER (PHONETIC). UNSUB  
ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P. END.

VSC

FBI ATLANTA

TU2



ATLANTA

12:47AM URGENT 4/6/68 LBN

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS  
FROM ATLANTA (157-3094)

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -  
VICTIM, CR. OO:MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELC APRIL FIVE LAST.

CEDERTOWN, GA. TEL. NO. SEVEN FOUR EIGHT DASH NINE  
ZERO NINE SIX LISTED TO CITY PACKAGE SHOP, MAIN STREET,  
CEDARTOWN, GA. WILLIAM GOLDEN, PROPRIETOR ADVISED SHERMAN  
SANDERS IN SHOP AFTERNOON APRIL FIVE, USED TELEPHONE. AFTER  
HANGING UP, OPERATOR CALLED BACK AND GOLDEN BROUGHT SANDERS BACK  
TO PHONE. STATED SANDERS WAS DRUNK.

AGENTS WENT TO HOME OF SANDERS. HIS WIFE WAS OUT SIDE  
OF HOME. SHE SAID SANDERS WAS VERY DRUNK, HAD LOCKED HER  
OUT OF HOUSE, AND HAD GUN. AGENTS WERE ABLE TO GET INTO HOUSE  
AND GET GUN AWAY FROM SANDERS. HE ADMITTED HE WAS IN CITY  
PACKAGE SHOP IN AFTERNOON BUT DENIED MAKING TELEPHONE CALL.  
DOES NOT KNOW CHARLES WADELL WILSON BUT KNOWS CHARLES WENDELL  
WILSON AND RUD DAWSON. DENIES ANY KNOWLEDGE INSTANT MATTER.

SANDER'S WIFE STATED WHEN HE IS DRUNK, HE DOES CRAZY  
THING AND DOES NOT REMEMBER THEM. SHE STATED HE WAS IN  
END PAGE ONE.

44-2386-2  
157-3094-28



PAGE TWO..

CEDARTOWN ALL DAY APRIL FOUR. OTHER INVESTIGATION REFLECTS SANDERS DID NOT REPORT TO WORK EVENING APRIL FOUR BUT CALLED SUPERVISOR AND STATED WAS HAVING CAR TROUBLE. NEIGHBOR STATES WAS IN CEDARTOWN ELEVEN PM APRIL FOUR.

CHARLES WENDELL WILSON ARRESTED ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO AS UFAP SUBJECT AND BELIEVED STILL IN CUSTODY. THIS BEING CHECK OUT.

CHARLES HAYNES, CALLOWAY GARDEN APARTMENTS, ATHENS IS TWENTY ONE YEAR OLD GRADUATE STUDENT AT UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA. HAS NO KNOWLEDGE INSTANT MATTER AND DOES NOT KNOW SANDERS OR OTHER INDIVIDUALS.

BUD DAWSON NOT AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW. HOWEVER, SEVERAL NEIGHBORS SAW HIM IN CEDARTOWN DURING AFTERNOON AND EVENING APRIL FOUR.

IN VIEW OF FOREGOING, NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED THIS FACET.

END...

FLR

FBI WASH DC

TSJ

FBI A MEMPHIS

3



FBI MEMPHIS

504PM URGENT 4-5-68 ELH

TO DIRECTOR AND ATLANTA

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 2P

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM; CR.

RE MEMPHIS TEL THIS DATE.

INSPECTOR N. E. ZACHARY, HOMICIDE DIVISION, MEMPHIS PD, ADVISED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A SECOND CALL FROM CHARLES WADELL WILSON, RT. THREE, CASON RD., CEDARTOWN, GA. ON THIS OCCASION WILSON ADVISED THAT HE, CHARLES HAINES OF ATHENS, GA., AND SHERMAN SANDERS, WHO ALSO RESIDES ON CASON RD., IN CEDARTOWN, HAD PLANNED THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HE CONTINUED THAT THEY WERE PAID FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE ASSASSINATION. OF THIS AMOUNT, HE RECEIVED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

INSPECTOR ZACHARY STATED THAT THEY WERE HAVING CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE WITH THE TELEPHONE DURING THE CONVERSATION AND HE HAD OCCASION TO TALK TO LONG DISTANCE OPERATOR HANDLING THE CALL. SHE INDICATED THIS CONVERSATION WAS COMING FROM PAY TELEPHONE IN CEDARTOWN, GA., TEL. SEVEN FOUR EIGHT DASH NINE ZERO NINE SIX, AND THAT SHE HAD, BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS CALLS, REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE CALLER WAS IN REALITY SHERMAN SANDERS. AGENTS IN THEIR  
END PAGE ONE

*cc -  
100-5586*

*Handled*

44-2386-3  
~~157-5054-20~~

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 5 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

*[Signature]*



ME 44-1987

PAGE TWO

INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER SHOULD BE MADE AWARE OF THIS  
POSSIBILITY AND THAT THE CALLER MAY BE MENTALLY UNBALANCED.

UNSUB ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P

WA ADVISED

END

LBN

FBI ATLANTA

②



FBI ATLANTA

812 PM URGENT 4-6-68 ARK

TO MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM ATLANTA (44-NEW)

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TEL FOUR SIX LAST.

DETERMINED THAT THERE ARE FOUR FRIENDSHIP INN AFFILIATED HOTELS IN GEORGIA. ONE IS SAVANNAH MOTOR LODGE, SAVANNAH, GA. SAVANNAH TELEPHONICALLY INSTRUCTED TO COVER. OTHER THREE HOTELS IN GEORGIA ARE COLONIAL MANOR, PERRY, GA.; TRAVELER'S HAVEN, MARIETTA, GA., AND TOWN AND COUNTRY, LA GRANGE, GA.

HERBERT MOORE, OWNER AND OPERATOR COLONIAL MANOR MOTEL, U. S. HIGHWAY FOUR ONE, SOUTH PERRY, GA. ADVISED COLONIAL MANOR IS RECENT AFFILIATE OF FRIENDSHIP INN CHAIN. HAS NOT YET PURCHASED OR UTILIZED CASHMERE BOUQUET BAR SOAP OF FRIENDSHIP INN IN MOTEL OPERATION. PERTINENT NAMES, BELIEVED OF SIGNIFICANCE, NOT REGISTERED FROM THREE TWENTY TO FOUR THREE SIXTYEIGHT. NAMES, WHITE MUSTANG AND ARTISTS CONCEPTION FROM NEWS SOURCES ALL ARE UNFAMILIAR TO MOTEL OWNER MOORE AND HAVE NO SIGNIFICANCE  
END PAGE ONE

44-2386-4



PAGE TWO

AT 44-NEW

TO HIM.

FRANK MILLER, OWNER AND OPERATOR TOWN AND COUNTRY MOTEL  
LA GRANGE, GA., A FRIENDSHIP INN AFFILIATE USES ONLY  
PALMOLIVE SOAP WITH WRAPPER ADVERTISING TOWN AND COUNTRY MOTEL,  
U. S. # TWENTYSEVEN NORTH, LA GRANGE, GA. NAMES OF GUESTS  
REGISTERED FROM THREE SEVENTEEN TO FOUR FOUR SIXTYEIGHT CHECKED  
AND NONE FOUND SIMILIAR TO THOSE BELIEVED PERTINENT THIS MATTER.  
NO WHITE MUSTANGS UTILIZED BY ANY GUESTS THIS MOTEL DURING  
PERIOD CHECKED.

DEWIGHT STEWART, OWNER AND OPERATOR TRAVELERS HAVEN MOTEL,  
MARIETTA, GA., ADVISED MOTEL USES SMALL BARS OF SOAP WITH  
FRIENDSHIP INNS WRAPPER, BUT SOAP IS "SWEETHEART" MANUFACTURED BY  
PUREX. PERTINENT NAMES CHECKED IN REGISTRATION FROM MARCH ONE  
TO DATE NEGATIVE. NO RECORD OF WHITE MUSTANG AND NONE RECALLED  
BY OWNER. RECORDS OF CAR RENTAL AGENCIES NOT CHECKED AS NONE  
OF MOTELS ATLANTA TERRITORY LOCATED IN MAJOR CITIES OR NEAR  
AIRPORTS.

END.

OF CAP

FBI MEMPHIS



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (~~157-3094~~)

DATE: 4/6/68

FROM : JERRY W. EVANS

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
RM - Information Concerning.

HAROLD GODFREY, 70 Cain St. N.E., Apt. 5, Telephone No. 523-9085, telephonically advised writer this a.m. and advised that on 4/5/68, he observed a 1963 or 64 Light green chev. bearing Tenn. License A C 21-58 proceeding northward on Peachtree St. GODFREY said that his attention focused on this car because the driver appeared to be very nervous, as he was continually looking around and switching lanes.

GODFREY described the occupant of this vehicle as W/M, 26-30 years of age, dark headed, medium build, well dressed.

GODFREY is employed with Southern Detectives, 1070 Spring St., Telephone No. 873-3322.

2 - (~~157-3094~~)  
- 1 - (100-5586)  
/jwe  
(3)



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



FBI MEMPHIS

424PM URGENT 4-6-68 LLH

TO ATLANTA

FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 2P

MURKIN

REMYTEL CALL TO ATLANTA THIS DATE.

IN CONNECTION WITH INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED IN ASSASSINATION MARTIN LUTHER KING, CERTAIN ITEMS OF INTEREST RECOVERED IN MATERIAL DROPPED BY PERSON BELIEVED TO BE SUBJECT. ONE ITEM OF POSSIBLE INTEREST WAS CASHMERE BOUQUET BAR OF SOAP FROM A FRIENDSHIP INN. POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH INNS EXIST IN ATLANTA AREA. IT IS KNOWN THIS FRANCHISE HAS OVER THREE HUNDRED FRIENDSHIP INNS.

AT PRESENT KNOWN SUSPECT DID USE NAME JOHN WILLARD WHILE IN RESIDENCE AT ROOMING HOUSE, MEMPHIS. OTHER NAMES OF SIGNIFICANCE INCLUDE NAME MARVEY LOWMEYER, NAME USED WHEN SUBJECT PURCHASED WEAPON BELIEVED USED IN INSTANT MURDER. SERIES OF CIRCUMSTANCES RELATIVE TO AIRPLNE FLIGHTS OUT OF BIRMINGHAM, MARCH TWENTYSEVEN AND TWENTYEIGHT, FEW DAYS BEFORE PURCHASE OF WEAPON, SUGGEST NAME OF WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER MAY BE NAME OF INTEREST.

END PAGE ONE

Town & Country - LA Grange - Haynes  
Colonial - Perry - Hughes -  
Travelers Haven - Marietta - Shea, Robinson

ONE IN SAV. furnish SAV Teleph.

STAN TOWNSEND - SAV. adv. of 2:25 PM  
Details Re CAR RENTALS AGENCIES - 4/6/68  
am

Teletype answered  
Sent. 4/6/68 8:15 PM

44-2386-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Am  
JH



PAGE TWO

ME 44-1087

SAV ATLANTA REQUESTED CHECK FRIENDSHIP INNS IN ITS  
TERRITORY, SPECIFICALLY POSSIBILITY OF ANY IN AND AROUND MAJOR  
CITIES CAR RENTALS IN AND AROUND AIRPORTS FOR POSSIBLE USE ANY  
ABOVE THREE NAMES. P

A & D.

END YIEE CORR PG 2 LINE 3 "CITIES AND MAJOR AIRPORTS IN DIVISION.

ALSO ATLANTA REQUESTED"

LINE 4 "CHECK CAR RENTALS IN AND AROUND AIRPORTS FOR POSSIBLE USE  
ANY"

END ARK

FBI ATLANTA

3

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (~~157-3094~~) (P)

DATE: 4/6/68

FROM : SA JAMES J. ROSE

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF DR.  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
RACIAL MATTERS

At approximately 1:30 p.m. on 4/6/68 an unidentified male, in an apparent drunken condition, telephonically contacted the Atlanta Office and advised Clerk JERRY EVANS that he had the name of an individual who murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Call was transferred to SA JAMES J. ROSE due to the caller's apparent drunken condition and when questioned by reporting agent advised, "I'm not kidding. I'm not going to talk to you. I'm only going to give you a name." Caller then stated "LOUIS J. BROWN."

Indices check, Atlanta, on LOUIS J. BROWN and LEWIS J. BROWN negative.

Agent HESTER, Memphis Office, was telephonically advised at 1:45 p.m. this date as to the above information.

14  
② - Atlanta  
JJR:cjm  
(2) *Cjm*

44-2386-7

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*Leitch*



5010-108

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



FBI BIRMGHAM

714 PM URGENT 4-6-68 SSP

TO DIRECTOR AND SACS MEMPHIS ATLANTA

FROM SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

MURKIN.

RE BH TELCALL TO ATLANTA THIS DATE.

RECORDS DELTA AIRLINES, BIRMINGHAM, SHOW THAT ON MARCH  
<sup>27</sup> TWENTYSEVENTH, LAST, ONE W.J. LEHMYER PURCHASED TICKET ON DELTA  
<sup>5 9 5</sup> AIRLINE FLIGHT FIVE NINE FIVE, DEPARTING BIRMINGHAM SIX TWO THREE  
<sup>6:23 PM</sup> P.M. EN ROUTE MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ARRIVING AT SEVEN ZERO SEVEN P.M.  
<sup>7:07</sup> HE HAD SPACE ON DELTA FLIGHT NINE THREE TWO LEAVING MEMPHIS AT EIGHT  
<sup>8:45 PM</sup> FOUR FIVE P.M. EN ROUTE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, AND THEREAFTER SPACE ON  
<sup>2 3 9</sup> NORTHWEST AIRLINE FLIGHT TWO THREE NINE FROM CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, TO  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA. AIRLINE PERSONNEL, BIRMINGHAM, UNABLE TO  
STATE IF LEHMEYER TRAVELED TO MINNEAPOLIS, HOWEVER DID VERIFY  
LEHMEYER DEPARTED BIRMINGHAM TO MEMPHIS INASMUCH AS TICKET WAS  
COLLECTED AT GATE.

ATLANTA IMMEDIATELY CHECK RECORDS DELTA AIRLINE TO DETERMINE  
WHETHER LEHMEYER LEFT MEMPHIS MARCH TWENTYSEVENTH LAST EN ROUTE TO  
MINNEAPOLIS. CHECK DELTA AIRLING RECORDS TO DETERMINE ANY PRIOR OR  
SUBSEQUENT TRAVEL OF LEHMEYER TO DATE. DETERMINE METHOD OF PAYMENT,  
SELLER OF TICKET, AND OBTAIN ORIGINAL TICKET.

Superv. chg. 521-3000

END

ARK

FBI ATLANTA

44-2386-8

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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Feb 4/7  
off

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ATLANTA

105AM URGENT 4/7/68 LMG

TO MEMPHIS

FROM ATLANTA

MURKIN.

DAVID SLOAN, MINISTER AND BALTIMORE AFRO-AMERICAN NEWS PAPER REPORTER, TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THAT HE HAD CONVERSATION WITH ONE MAURISE SHAW, FEMALE, THREE EIGHT SIX BUTLER STREET, APT. C, MEMPHIS, THIS DATE REGARDING A NOTE SHE FURNISHED HIM. SHAW IDENTIFIED HERSELF AS WAITRESS, WORKING CONCESSION STAND IN CENTRAL RR STATION, MEMPHIS. ADVISED IN NOTE THAT THURSDAY NOON, (FNU) WIGGINS WHO IS YOUNGER OF THE TWO PASSENGER AGENTS WORKING AT STATION, ASKED HER MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED. HE INQUIRED ABOUT "WHERE DIRECTLY WAS THE LUNCH ROOM" IN MOTEL AND WHETHER FOOD WAS GOOD. SHAW ADVISED SHE DIDN'T KNOW, BUT HE COULD SEE FRONT OF MOTEL FROM SIDE STREET THAT TURNS OFF MAIN STREET. WIGGINS LATER DURING NOON HOUR QUESTIONED SHAW FURTHER ABOUT LAYOUT OF MOTEL AND GAVE NO FURTHER CONSIDERATION AS UNAWARE KING WAS REGISTERED AT MOTEL. SHAW DESCRIBED WIGGINS AS WORKING IN OFFICE ON TOP

END PAGE ONE

X

44-2386-9-



PAGE TWO

FLOOR OF RAILROAD STATION AND AS PERSON TO SEE TO MAKE RESERVATIONS TO CHICAGO. SHE DESCRIBED WIGGINS AS WHITE MALE, SIX FEET, TALL, SLENDER, WEIGHING ONE SIXTYFIVE TO ONE SEVENTY POUNDS, DARK BROWN HAIR AND LOOKING SIMILAR TO ARTISTS CONCEPTION APPEARING MEMPHIS PAPER. SLOAN ADVISED SHAW AFRAID TO REPORT DETAILS OF ABOVE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES MEMPHIS. SLOAN ADVISES HE HAS NO WAY TO EVALUATE SOURCE AND ADVISED SHAW HE WOULD REPORT TO FBI IN ATLANTA. SLOAN ADVISED BOTH HE AND SHAW WANT ANONYMITY THIS MATTER. SLOAN ALSO ADVISED CORNELIUS JONES, TWO SIX SEVEN GASTON STREET, MEMPHIS, AN EMPLOYEE OF CRUZER EQUIPMENT CO., ONE SIX ZERO WILLOBY ST., ADVISED HE OBSERVED MEETING OF APPROXIMATELY TWENTYFIVE PERSONS, DAY FOLLOWING FIRST MARCH OF KING IN MEMPHIS AT LAYCOCK CO., TWO FIVE NINE E. BUTLER STREET. JONES STATED ONE OF MEN IN GROUP WAS OVERHEARD TO SAY "IF I CAN JUST GET A SIGHT ON HIM", AT WHICH TIME CONVERSATION TERMINATED BECAUSE OF JONES PRESENCE. SLOAN COULD NOT FURTHER DESCRIBE RELIABILITY OF EITHER SHAW OR JONES.

ABOVE FOR MEMPHIS ACTION.

END

DEB

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI ATLANTA

147AM EST URGENT 4/7/68 LWG  
TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM  
FROM ATLANTA

MURKIN.

REBHTEL FOUR SIX LAST.

MISS JANE MAYO, DELTA AIRLINES RESERVATION SUPERVISOR,  
ATLANTA, GA., ADVISED RECORDS REFLECT ONE LEHMYER WAS  
PASSENGER DELTA FLIGHT FIVE NINE FIVE THREE TWENTYSEVEN  
SIXTYEIGHT, BIRMINGHAM TO MEMPHIS. PASSENGER LISTED AS L.  
LEHMYER BOARDED FLIGHT DELTA NINE THREE TWO, FIRST CLASS,  
ENROUTE O'HARE AIRPORT CHICAGO, HAVING CONNECTIONS WITH NORTH  
WEST FLIGHT TWO THREE NINE. MANIFEST OF DELTA FLIGHT NINE  
THREE TWO FAILED TO SHOW PASSENGERS, FLIGHT NO. OR METHOD  
OF TRAVEL TO MEMPHIS. RECHECK OF DELTA MANIFEST TELEPHONICALLY  
AT BIRMINGHAM FOR FLIGHT TO MEMPHIS REFLECTS LEHMYER WAS  
STANDBY PASSENGER FOR FLIGHT AND THAT TICKET WAS PURCHASED  
AT BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT AT ONE PM. FOR THIS REASON MODE OF  
ARRIVAL NOT REFLECTED ON MANIFEST OF NINE THREE TWO.

ATLANTA CONTINUING EFFORTS TO LOCATE ORIGINAL TICKET FOR  
SUBMISSION TO LAB AND RECORD OF OTHER TRAVEL. THIS TICKET WILL  
END PAGE ONE

44-2386-10



PAGE TWO

ALSO REFLECT METHOD OF PAYMENT.

MEMPHIS IF NOT ALREADY REQUESTED, CHECK FOR PASSENGER  
LEHMYER OR LEMEYER ON NORTHWEST FLIGHT TWO THREE NINE, THREE  
TWENTYSEVEN TO MINNEAPOLIS FOR IDENTIFYING DATA.

END

DGB

FBI MEMPHIS

GR

FBI BIRMOHAM SENT 1:40AM /

FBI ATLANTA

FBI CHICAGO

444 AM URGENT 4/7/68 ERH

TO ATLANTA

FROM CHICAGO (44-NEW) (P)

MURKIN, OO: MEMPHIS

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MINNEAPOLIS, APRIL SIX LAST.

ROBERT MINK, DELTA AIRLINES, CHICAGO, O'HARE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ADVISED APRIL SIX LAST ALL INFO RELATING TO PRIOR RESERVATIONS CONTAINED DELTA AIRLINES, DATA PROCESSING CENTER, MEMORY BANK, ATLANTA, IN CARE OF E. R. BENNETT. RANCE POWERS, UNITED AIRLINES, UNABLE TO LOCATE ANY INFO RE WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER. EASTERN AIRLINES HAS NO FLIGHT DEPARTING CHICAGO TO MINNEAPOLIS AFTER DELTA NINE THREE TWO ARRIVES CHICAGO UNTIL FOLLOWING DAY.

MILO MATHEWS, NORTHWEST AIRLINES, ADVISED RES. INFO SHOWS LEHMEYER, CHICAGO - MINNEAPOLIS, PASSENGER MARCH TWO SEVEN LAST FROM DELTA NINE THREE TWO; ALL RES. AND HISTORY INFO ON DELTA MEMORY BANK TAPE SEVEN ZERO FIVE FIVE SEVEN THREE ONE ZERO FIVE.

END PAGE ONE

44-2386-11

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FBI-ATLANTA	



PAGE TWO

NO FURTHER INFO AVAILABLE CHICAGO.

RE MEMPHIS TEL BEING QUOTED AND COPIED TO ATLANTA ONLY FOR  
INFO.

ATLANTA, AT DELTA AIRLINES. IMMEDIATELY CONTACT DATA  
PROCESSING, TELEPHONE SEVEN SIX TWO - TWO THREE FOUR SIX AND  
OBTAIN PRINT OUT OF TAPE SEVEN <sup>7 6 2 2 3 4 6</sup> ZERO FIVE FIVE SEVEN THREE ONE  
<sup>0 5</sup> ZERO FIVE, FURNISHING PASSENGER HISTORY AND CONTACT POINTS  
RE PASSENGER WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER AND FURNISH INFO TO BUREAU,  
MEMPHIS, MINNEAPOLIS AND OTHER INTERESTED OFFICES.

EXPEDITE.

FOR INFO ATLANTA, FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF RETEL.

FOR INFO OF CHICAGO AND MINNEAPOLIS INVESTIGATION  
CONDUCTED BIRMINGHAM DIVISION SUGGESTS INDIVIDUAL  
BY NAME OF WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER MAY BE OF INTEREST THIS  
CASE.

BIRMINGHAM HAS ADVISED THAT INQUIRIES IN CONNECTION  
WITH MARCH TWENTY-SEVEN RESERVATION, SOUTHERN AIRLINES,  
APPARENTLY WERE NOT FILLED. BIRMINGHAM INVESTIGATION  
DISCLOSED THAT CONTACT POINTS OF PARLIMENT HOUSE AND  
AIRPORT MOTEL HAD NO RECORD FOR WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER.  
END PAGE TWO

END PAGE THREE

USE.

IF SUBJECT OF INTEREST, COULD HAVE CANVASSED AREA FOR FUTURE  
THIS ALLOWS APPROXIMATELY FIFTY MINUTES IN WHICH THIS PERSON,  
DRIVE EACH WAY FROM AREA IN WHICH MURDER TOOK PLACE.

AIRPORT IN MEMPHIS IS APPROXIMATELY TWENTY FIVE MINUTE  
AT SEVEN O SEVEN PM AND DEPARTED EIGHT FORTY FIVE P.M.  
PLANE ON WHICH LEWISER ARRIVED IN MEMPHIS LANDED  
MINNEAPOLIS.

THROUGH MEMPHIS TO CHICAGO WITH SUBSEQUENT STOP IN  
REPORTEDLY HAD TICKETS ROUTING HIM FROM BIRMINGHAM  
BIRMINGHAM INVESTIGATION SHOWED THAT LEWISER

INVESTIGATION.

THIS CONFIRMS SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FURNISHED BY BIRMINGHAM  
DEPARTING MEMPHIS EIGHT FORTY FIVE PM MARCH TWENTY SEVEN.

EN ROUTE TO CHICAGO, FLIGHT NINE THREE TWO, DELTA AIRLINES,  
LEWISER DID PASS THROUGH GATE DELTA AIRLINES MEMPHIS.

MEMPHIS INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED THAT WILLIAM J.

OF NAMES WARRANTS ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES.

CASE DID USE NAME OF LEWISER IN BIRMINGHAM. SIMILARLY

INDIVIDUAL WHO PURCHASED GUN OF INTEREST IN INSTANT

PAGE THREE



PAGE FOUR

REQUEST THAT MINNEAPOLIS MAKE APPROPRIATE INQUIRIES WITH CONNECTING AIRLINES FROM CHICAGO ON MARCH TWENTY SEVEN ON WHICH WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER MIGHT ARRIVED IN MINNEAPOLIS. THEREAFTER CONDUCT SUFFICIENT DISCREET INQUIRIES TO ESTABLISH BACKGROUND OF WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER AND ASCERTAIN HIS WHEREABOUTS AS OF APPROXIMATELY SIX PM ON EVENING OF APRIL FOUR. CONDUCT SUFFICIENT INVESTIGATION TO ELIMINATE IF THIS CAN BE DONE.

INQUIRY AT MEMPHIS DISCLOSED THAT WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER REPORTEDLY HAD FLIGHT FROM CHICAGO VIA NORTHWEST AIRLINES, FLIGHT TWO THREE NINE.

CHICAGO OFFICE REQUESTED TO MAKE APPROPRIATE INQUIRY TO DETERMINE WHETHER WILLIAM J. LEHMEYER DID TAKE FLIGHT TO MINNEAPOLIS.

END

LWG

FBI ATLANTA

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-~~3094~~)

DATE: 4/7/68

FROM : SA JOHN B. REYNOLDS

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
RM\*- Information concerning.

A.J. HUCK JR. 2523 Stonington Rd. Chamblee, Ga phone # 451 2428 telephonically advised he was on FL 611 EAL from Greensboro, NC to Atlanta 4/6/68 and saw a man carrying a small type womens vanity case boarded plane for Atlanta. He did not see man at luggage counter in Atlanta and flight terminated in Atlanta. He said that this man very closely resembled the artist conception that he later saw in the Atlanta newspaper Saturday night, however this person had blonde hair that could have been bleached, and that he did not have quite the receding hairline as the paper artist conception.

Above for information purposes.

jbr/JBR



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

44-2386-12  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

APR 8 1968



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-~~3094~~)

DATE: 4/7/68

FROM : JERRY W. EVANS

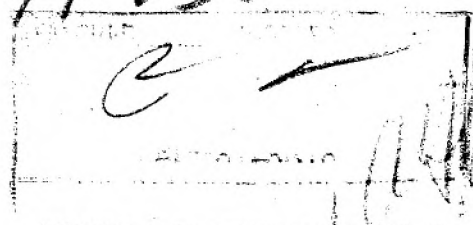
SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
RM - INFORMATION CONCERNING.

Mr. R. M. GANDY, 40 Angus Trail, Atlanta, Ga., Telephone No. 255-7397, contacted writer this date and advised that on April six last he spotted a late model white mustang bearing 68 Ga. License 1 D 4430 in which the occupant looked very much like the artist's conception of UNSUB in the paper. Mr. GANDY said that the driver of the vehicle had the long pointed nose, relatively close cropped dark hair, and dark growth beard.

2 - 157-~~3094~~  
1 - 100-5586

/gwe  
(3)

44-2386-13



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



4/7/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS  
FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-188) (P)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN  
(OO: Memphis)

Re Atlanta tel to Director, Birmingham, Memphis,  
and Minneapolis, 4/7/68.

Enclosed for Memphis are two copies, and for  
Birmingham one copy, of Delta Airlines "print out of  
past date passenger name records" from memory bank of  
Delta Airlines Data Processing Center, Atlanta, Ga.,  
regarding DAL Flights 595 from Birmingham to Memphis on  
3/27/68, and Flight 932 from Memphis to Chicago on 3/27/68.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 2)  
2 - Birmingham (Enc. 1)  
2 - Atlanta  
CTH: lcs  
(6)

*All copy of above  
placed in 1B exhibit*

44-2386-14



FBI WASH DC

310PM URGENT 4-7-68 SAA

TO ALL CONTINENTAL SACS  
FROM DIRECTOR 1P

~~MURKIN~~

THIS IS THE CAPTION FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATION  
TO IDENTIFY PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINA-  
TION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON  
APRIL FOUR LAST.

ALL INVESTIGATION MUST BE HANDLE ~~UNDER THE PER-  
SONAL DIRECTION OF THE SAC.~~ LEADS ARE TO BE AFFORDED  
IMMEDIATE, THOROUGH IMAGINATIVE ATTENTION. YOU MUST  
EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES FROM SUCH LEADS AS ANY ONE LEAD  
COULD RESULT IN THE SOLUTION OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT INVES-  
TIGATION. SAC WILL BE HELD PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY  
FAILURE TO PROMPTLY AND THOROUGHLY HANDLE INVESTIGATIONS  
IN THIS MATTER.

END

MM...RGT

FBI MIAMI

TP...DGP

FBI TAMPA

JK...JLC

FBI JACKSVLE

CC...JJR

FBI-COLUMBIA

SV...PNR

FBI SAVANNAH

AT...JWE

FBI ATLANTA

44-2386-15

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FBI-ATLANTA	



FBI BIRMINGHAM

324 PM URGENT 4-7-68 GDM

TO DIRECTOR, ATLANTA AND MEMPHIS  
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN

RETELS REQUESTING CHECK DELTA AIRLINES RECORDS CONCERNING  
W. J. LEHMEYER.

ATLANTA REQUESTED TO OBTAIN A LIST OF ALL PASSENGERS FROM  
BIRMINGHAM TO MEMPHIS AND/OR RETURN FOR MONTH OF MARCH AND THROUGH  
APRIL FIVE LAST FROM HEADQUARTERS OF DELTA AND SOUTHERN AIRLINES.  
THESE AIRLINES ARE ONLY COMMERCIAL AIRLINES PROVIDING PASSENGER  
SERVICE BETWEEN BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS. LIST SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY  
FURNISHED TO BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS FOR APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION.

END

APX

FBI ATLANTA

2

IX  
Miss Carolyn Wade  
Supr., Southern Airway

44-2386 16

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
FBI-ATLANTA	

4/7/68 URGENT VSC

TO DIRECTOR, FBI., ATTN. IDENTIFICATION DIVISION AND

SAC MEMPHIS

FROM ATLANTA 157-3094

MURKIN

THE FOLLOWING SUSPECT WAS RECOMMENDED TO SA JACK E. SIMPSON BY LT. J. D. NEWATT, DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA POLICE. SUSPECT FLOYD EUGENE AYERS, FBI NO. EIGHT ZERO THREE FIVE TWO TWO C, AND NO. ONE EIGHT TWO SEVEN SIX EIGHT, HAS BEEN CHARACTERIZED IN POLICE REPORTS AS DEMENTED AND ACCORDING TO NEWATT, HAS BEEN HEARD TO STATE THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING AND STICKELY CARMICHAEL SHOULD BE ASSASSINATED. SUSPECT'S WHEREABOUTS FOR PAST WEEK UNKNOWN, AS HE HAS BEEN REPORTED TO BE ABSENT FROM DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA. SUSPECT DESCRIBED AS W/M, BORN [REDACTED] MEDIUM BUILD, SIX FEET ONE INCH TALL, WEIGHING ONE HUNDRED EIGHTYSIX LBS., RUDDY COMPLEXION, BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES, CUT SCAR RIGHT EYE, CUT SCAR RIGHT THUMB, SCARS ON RIGHT KNEE AND BACK. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN LISTED AS A SALESMAN AND HAS MOTHER, MARY AYERS, ONE ZERO SIX BISHOP DR., MARIETTA, GA.

END PAGE ONE

Date: *Mr. Simpson*  
*su p. 2*

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *8<sup>07</sup>/p* *8<sup>10</sup>/p* M

For *[Signature]*  
*44-2386-17*

FBI BIRMGHAM

7:35PM EST URGENT 4-7-68 LCS

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, AND MEMPHIS  
FROM ATLANTA

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE BIRMINGHAM TEL TO DIRECTOR APR. SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT,  
REGARDING OBTAINING LIST OF PASSENGERS ON FLIGHTS FROM  
BIRMINGHAM TO MEMPHIS FOR MONTH OF MAR. AND THROUGH APR. FIVE  
SIXTYEIGHT FROM DELTA AND SOUTHERN AIRLINES, ATLANTA, AND  
TELEPHONE CALL TO SAC BIRMINGHAM APR. SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT.

DURING RE TELEPHONE CALL SAC JOSEPH GAMBLE, BIRMINGHAM,  
STATED THAT LEAD IN RETEL SHOULD BE HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL  
FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO THE INFORMATION DEVELOPED THROUGH AIRLINE  
SOURCES IN ATLANTA AS TO THE TREMENDOUS VOLUME OF PAPER WHICH  
WOULD RESULT FROM OBTAINING DESIRED INFORMATION FROM DATA  
PROCESSING, AS WELL AS THE TREMENDOUS TIME AND MANPOWER WHICH  
WOULD OF NECESSITY HAVE TO BE UTILIZED BY AIRLINE PERSONNEL  
AS WELL AS BUREAU PERSONNEL.

END

CEN

FBI BIRMGHAM

JMS

FBI WSD WASH.

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

44-2386-18



*sent to  
with 4/6/68  
OK*

ATLANTA NOTE: ROUTE COPY TO SA JACK E. SIMPSON FOR PHOTO  
TO BE SENT TO MEMPHIS.

135-VSC

END

IN EVENT ANY LATENT PRINTS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED IN INSTANT  
INVESTIGATION, IS RECOMMENDED THAT IDENTIFICATION DIVISION  
COMPARE SUCH LATENTS WITH THE FINGERPRINTS OF FLOYD EUGENE  
AVERS. PHOTO BEING OBTAINED AND WILL BE FORWARDED TO MEMPHIS.

AT 157-3004

PAGE TWO

FBI MEMPHIS

907PM URGENT 4/7/68 CAF

TO ALL SACS

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 2P

MURKIN; CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE BUTEL TO ALL SAC'S APRIL SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT.

FOR INFO ALL OFFICES, PERTINENT PERIODS IN INVESTIGATION  
ARE MARCH TWENTY NINE AND THIRTY IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA., AND  
APRIL FOUR, SIXTY EIGHT, IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

IN EVENT ANY DATA DEVELOPED RE SUSPECTS, IF INTERESTED  
OFFICES CAN ESTABLISH WHEREABOUTS OF SUSPECTS ON DATES ABOVE,  
THIS MAY ELIMINATE SUSPECT. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE, EFFORTS  
SHOULD BE MADE TO SECURE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUSPECTS IN QUESTION AND  
FORWARD PHOTOS TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM FOR POSSIBLE ELIMINATION.  
PERTINENT DESCRIPTIVE DATA SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH PHOTOS.

IF UNABLE TO ELIMINATE ON BASIS OF ESTABLISHED WHEREABOUTS  
IN PERTINENT PERIODS, INTERESTED OFFICES SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS  
TO SECURE FINGERPRINTS OF SUSPECT IN QUESTION AND SUBMIT SAME TO  
BUREAU FOR ELIMINATION.

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION, BASED ON DATA DEVELOPED IN BIRMINGHAM  
AND MEMPHIS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

END PAGE ONE

18

44-2386-19

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 8 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

PAGE TWO

SUSPECT MALE WHITE, AGE TWENTY SIX TO FORTY YEARS, HEIGHT FIVE FT. EIGHT TO FIVE FT. ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TO ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY LBS.; DARK BROWN OR SANDY HAIR, COMBED STRAIGHT BACK. EYES BLUE OR GREEN; MEDIUM BUILD; COMPLEXION AVERAGE, SMOOTH. GENERAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE; NEAT.

POSSIBILITY EXISTS SUSPECT IS NON-SMOKER. INDICATIONS WERE THAT SUSPECT RENTED ROOM BETWEEN THREE AND THREE THIRTY PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND DEPARTED ROOM SHORTLY AFTER SIX PM. NO MATCHES OR CIGARETTES FOUND DURING THAT PERIOD, WHICH SUGGESTS SUSPECT MAY BE NON-SMOKER.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION MUST BE PROMPTLY FURNISHED BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM. P.

END

CO....RCN

FBI-COLUMBIA

KY....DCK

FBI KNOXVLE

AT....JWE

FBI ATLANTA

SV....SPT

FBI SAVANNAH

TU CLR



FBI CHICAGO

FBI ATLANTA

800PM URGENT 4-7-68 LCS

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, MEMPHIS, MINNEAPOLIS, AND CHICAGO  
FROM ATLANTA

MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

RE CHICAGO TEL TO ATLANTA APR. SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT, WHICH  
REFERENCES MEMPHIS TEL TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, AND MINNEAPOLIS,  
APR. SIX SIXTYEIGHT.

DERRELL PARHAM, SENIOR OPERATOR, DELTA AIRLINES DATA PROCESSING  
CENTER, ATLANTA, GA., ADVISED ON APR. SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT THAT  
MEMORY BANK "PRINT OUT OF PAST DATE PASSENGER NAME RECORDS" REVEALS  
FOLLOWING:

PASSENGER LEMEYER - L MADE RESERVATION AT BIRMINGHAM AIR  
FIELD TICKET OFFICE AT SIX FOURTEEN PM ON MAR. TWENTYSEVEN  
SIXTYEIGHT WITH DELTA TICKET AGENT C/C ONE, FOR RESERVATION ON  
DELTA FLIGHT NINE THREE TWO FROM MEMPHIS TO CHICAGO ON MAR.  
TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYEIGHT, GIVING NO CONTACT SUCH AS TELEPHONE  
NUMBER IN BIRMINGHAM.

AT SAME TIME OF ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS, LEMEYER MADE  
RESERVATION ON NORTHWESTERN AIRLINES FLIGHT TWO THREE NINE ON  
MAR. TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYEIGHT FROM CHICAGO TO MINNEAPOLIS - ST. PAUL  
AND HAD SAME CONFIRMED.

END PAGE ONE

44-2386-70

PAGE TWO

ABOVE DELTA RECORDS FURTHER REVEAL PASSENGER WAS LISTED AS  
LEHMEYER - L ON STANDBY FOR DELTA FLIGHT FIVE NINE FIVE ON MAR.  
TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYEIGHT FROM BIRMINGHAM TO MEMPHIS, WITH NO  
CONTACT IN BIRMINGHAM GIVEN. THIS STANDBY RESERVATION WAS  
MADE AT TWELVE FIFTYFOUR PM ON MAR. TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYEIGHT  
WITH DELTA BIRMINGHAM CLERK F W THREE; HOWEVER, NO INFORMATION  
AVAILABLE AT COMPUTER CENTER AS TO WHETHER PASSENGER ACTUALLY MADE  
THIS FLIGHT.

COPIES OF ABOVE MENTIONED PAST DATE PASSENGER NAME RECORDS  
FOR DELTA FLIGHTS FIVE NINE FIVE AND NINE THREE TWO ON MAR.  
TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYEIGHT BEING FURNISHED BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS  
AMSD APR. SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH TELEPHONE CONVER-  
SATIONS OF APR. SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT WITH SAC, BIRMINGHAM, AND  
ASAC, MEMPHIS.

END

TAB

FBI CHICAGO

9

JMS FBI WASH DC

CEN FBI BIRMGHAM

CAF FBI MEMPHIS

RLT MINNAPLS



FBI WASH DC

420 AM URGENT 4-8-68 JR

TO ATLANTA (157-3094) AND MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DIRECTOR

MURKIN

REATTTEL APRIL SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT.

REMAINING UNIDENTIFIED LATENT FINGERPRINTS THIS CASE NOT IDENTICAL  
FINGERPRINTS FLOYD EUGENE AYERS, FBI NUMBER EIGHT ZERO THREE FIVE  
TWO TWO C.

END

LWG

FBI ATLANTA

44-2386-21

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 8 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	



F B I

Date: 4/6/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL AM  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

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

MURKIN

Note CHANGED title. Previously carried under  
"Assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."

All offices receiving copies of this Airtel note that  
Bureau has designated above caption as approved code word for  
investigation dealing with murder of Dr. KING.

Information under above caption should pertain only to  
investigation that may have bearing on identifying subject instant  
case. All other information pertaining to racial incidents, and  
racial activity arising out of assassination Dr. KING should not  
be submitted under above caption, but should be submitted by  
interested offices under the appropriate caption pertaining to  
Racial Matters.

In addition, all offices in receipt of this information  
should re-canvass any Criminal Informants, Security Informants,  
and Racial Informants for possible knowledge concerning assassina-  
tion, with specific emphasis directed toward informants in known  
hate groups.

ARMED & DANGEROUS.

ALL COPIES AIR MAIL:

2 ALBANY	2 KANSAS CITY
2 ATLANTA	2 LOS ANGELES
2 BIRMINGHAM	2 MILWAUKEE
2 BOSTON	2 NEWARK
2 BUFFALO	2 NEW YORK
2 CHARLOTTE	2 PHILADELPHIA
2 CHICAGO	2 RICHMOND
2 CINCINNATI	2 SALT LAKE CITY
2 DALLAS	2 SAN FRANCISCO
2 DETROIT	2 SEATTLE
2 JACKSON	2 SPRINGFIELD

RGJ:BN

(44)

Approved: RC/ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

44-1987-22

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 8 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

# Rifle Found, Hunt Begun for Killer

By EARL CALDWELL

(Copyright 1968 by the New York Times Co.)

MEMPHIS—The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Nobel Peace Prize civil rights leader, was shot fatally here Thursday night while leaning over a second-floor railing outside his hotel room.

Four thousand national guard troops were ordered into Memphis by Gov. Buford Ellington after Dr. King's death. A curfew was imposed on the city of 550,000 inhabitants, about 40 per cent of them Negro.

The 39-year-old Negro leader's death was reported by Frank Holloman, director of Memphis police and fire depart-

ments, after Dr. King had been taken to St. Joseph's Hospital.

"I and all the citizens of Memphis," Holloman said, "regret the murder of Dr. King and all resources at our and the state's command will be used to apprehend the person or persons responsible."

## ALARM BROADCAST

Police broadcast an alarm for "a young white male, well dressed" who was reported to have been seen running after the shooting.

Later they reported two persons had been picked up several blocks from the scene of the shooting. They said a .30-06 rifle had been found on Main Street about a block from the motel.

Dr. King had been bleeding profusely from what appeared to be a huge wound in the right jaw or neck area as he lay face up on the concrete walkway before he was taken away in a fire department ambulance.

His eyes appeared first half-closed and then open but staring. One of his closest aides, James Bevel, grief-stricken, said after Dr. King was removed, "I think he's gone." \*

## BACK A DAY

Dr. King had come back to Memphis Wednesday morning to organize support once again for 1,300 sanitation workers who have been on strike since Lincoln's birthday. Just a week ago he led a march on behalf of the strikers that ended in violence with a 16-year-old Negro killed, 62 persons injured and 200 arrested.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 1  
The Atlanta  
Constitution  
Atlanta, Ga.

Date: 4-5-68

Edition:

Author: Earl Caldwell

Editor: Eugene Patterson

Title: ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
April 4-4-68

Character: RACIAL MATTERS

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: ATLANTA

☒ Being Investigated

44-2386-23

14

Police poured into the area around the Lorraine Motel where Dr. King was shot. They carried shotguns and rifles and sealed off the block, refusing to allow entry to newsmen and others.

Dr. King had been in his second-floor room — number 306 — throughout the day until just about 6 p.m.

Then he emerged, wearing a black suit and white shirt. He paused, leaned over the green iron railing and started chatting with an associate, Jesse Jackson, who was standing just below him.

#### MET MUSICIAN

Jackson introduced him to Ben Branch, a musician who was to play at a rally Dr. King was to address two hours later. As Jackson and Branch told of Dr. King's last moments later, the aide asked Dr. King:

"Do you know Ben?"

"Yes, that's my man!" Dr. King glowed.

They said Dr. King then asked if Branch would play a spiritual, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," at the night meeting.

"I really want you to play that tonight," King said.

Branch said the shot came from "the hill on the other side of the street." He added:

"When I looked up, the police and the sheriff's deputies were running all around. The bullet exploded in his face."

"We didn't need to call the police," Jackson declared. "They were here all over the place."

A member of the King group, the Rev. Samuel Kyles, of Memphis, said Dr. King "had stood there about three minutes."

The Rev. Ralph W. Abernathy of Atlanta, perhaps Dr. King's closest friend, was just about to come out of the room.

A sudden loud noise burst out.

Dr. King toppled to the concrete passageway floor and blood began gushing from a wound.

Someone rushed up with a towel to staunch the flow of blood. A blanket was placed over him.

Abernathy hurried up with a second larger towel. And then the aides waited, while police rushed up within minutes and in what seemed to be a long 10 or 15 minutes an ambulance arrived.

"He had just bent over," Jackson recalled later. "If he had been standing up, he wouldn't have been hit in the face."

"When I turned around," Jackson went on, bitterly, "I saw police coming from everywhere. They said, 'where did it come from,' and I said, 'behind you.' The police were coming from where the shot came."

The Rev. Andrew Young, executive vice president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, of which Dr. King has been president, said the shot might have been fired from a passing car.

"It sounded like a firecracker," Young said.

"He didn't say a word; he didn't move," Young mourned. He said the shot had hit Dr. King in the neck and lower right part of his face.

In a nearby building, a newsman who had been watching a television program said "it was a tremendous blast that sounded like a bomb."

There were perhaps 15 persons in the motel courtyard area when Dr. King was shot, all believed to be Negroes and associates of Dr. King.

Past the courtyard is a small empty swimming pool. Then comes Mulberry Street, a short block only three blocks from Beale Street on the edge of downtown Memphis.

Across Mulberry Street is a six-foot high wall, topped by bushes and grasses, and then perhaps 20 yards behind are two-story brick and frame houses.

At Butler Street on the corner is a newish-looking white brick fire station.

One report said that the shot came from the area of one of the buildings across the street.

This report was that a man had run out of the building and leaped into a car, perhaps dropping a weapon on the street.

Later there was a report that police had chased a late-model blue car through Memphis and north to Millington, and that a civilian in a car with a citizens band radio had pursued the car and opened fire on it.

Mayor Henry Loeb immediately ordered a dusk to dawn curfew in Memphis in an effort to stem any possible violence on the streets.

#### TAKEN TO SURGERY

Dr. King had been taken to the hospital's operating theater for emergency surgery, apparently still living when he was brought in on a stretcher with a bloody towel over his head.

Paul Hess, assistant administrator of St. Joseph's hospital, said afterward:

"At 7 p.m. Dr. Martin Luther King expired in the emergency room as a result of a gunshot wound in the neck. Other details will have to come from the coroner's office."

The police cordon was widened to cover an area of about five blocks around the motel, sealing off the area. Firemen reported several fires broke out in the vicinity.

Dr. King's wife, Coretta, mother of his two children, had been in Atlanta. Mayor Ivan Allen Jr. of Atlanta rushed to the King home and drove Mrs. King to the airport.

#### AT AIRPORT

She was waiting for a flight to Memphis when she received the word that her husband had died.

Just last night Dr. King had told associates he was not concerned over reports of possible harm while he was in Memphis.

Young recalled:

"He said he had reached the pinnacle of fulfillment with his nonviolent movement, and these reports did not bother him."

At the FBI office here, Robert Jensen, special agent in charge, said:

"We have entered the investigation at the specific request of the attorney general. I am restricted to this statement at the moment."

Dr. King died in the same emergency room to which James H. Meredith, first Negro enrolled at the University of Mississippi, had been taken after he was shot in ambush in June 1965 at Hernando, Miss., a few miles south of Memphis. Meredith had not been seriously hurt.

#### NOT IN COURT

Earlier Thursday there had been a lengthy discussion in federal court before Judge Bailey Brown—with Dr. King absent—on whether Dr. King should be allowed to proceed with another massive civil rights march in Memphis Monday.

Dr. King's lawyers suggested that an injunction against the march be lifted, but that a compromise place court restrictions on participants in the march.

Judge Brown, who issued the injunction Wednesday at the urging of Memphis officials, was to render a decision on the proposal by Friday.

Dr. King had indicated he was considering disobeying the injunction against his leading any marches for at least 10 days. But his lawyers proposed the compromise that would have stipulated a parade route to police in advance, kept marshals on hand to supervise it, and limited marchers to four abreast, without signs or sticks.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : FILE

DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SAC FRANK V. HITT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 10:55 AM, SAC, ALBANY called in captioned case, pointing out that a t-shirt and a pair of shorts were recovered in this case and they provide one of the best leads in the case.

He said there is a laundry tape in the T-shirt and shorts and investigation is being conducted to identify unsubject through the T-shirt and shorts.

He said Albany has been working with the manufacturers of the machine which prints this type laundry tape and have come up with between 5 and 10 machines which are pertinent. He put SA BOB REA on the line.

REA furnished the following information:

11:20 - T. Lynch -  
teleph. advised - is coming  
if will call back

FVH/hs  
(2)

Teletype Sent  
Burt Murphy  
Tels adv. 4/8

44-2386-24

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 5 1968	
FBI - ATLANTA	



5010-108-02

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : FILE

DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SAC FRANK V. HITT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Blum's, Macon, Georgia (name of company, address not known). The machine is a Thermo Seal, which prints a code number on a small tape and sticks this tape onto the garment being laundered.

Machine, Model H5L1, Serial #31973. This piece of tape is 1/4" wide, 1 1/16" long, actual piece of tape stuck onto garment. ~~Laundry~~ Machine supposed to make tape 1 1/8" long - there is 1/16" cut off. Machine mal-functioning (first clue), may now be functioning properly - the code that is on the tape 02B-6, color red, printed in black ink - code stands for

0 (zero) stands for the code number  
2 stands for the day of the week  
B, first name of company, in this instance BLUM's  
6 stands for bundle number which is means of identification these particular clothes in the laundry.

Get copies of tape from laundry (Blum's), using this particular code 02B6 and send to Laboratory.

Ascertain whether or not this company uses above code, if not, determine code, get the tape marking with same number anyway.

SHOULD GET IT ON RED, if available.

REA pointed out that the model number on this particular machine indicates it is a machine which prints 5 characters, however, records at the company show it is a machine which prints six characters. We are to determine which type machine it is.

REA pointed out that the first two character which are printed are 15 point type and the last 3 are 18 point type. 18 point type is larger than 15 point type and it is immediately noticeable on the tape.

He also pointed out that the blank (-) in the number printed is considered a character.



5010-108-02

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

6

08PM IMMEDIATE 4-8-68 DER

TO DIRECTOR BIRMINGHAM MEMPHIS ATLANTA BALTIMORE BOSTON  
CINCINNATI LAS VEGAS LOS ANGELES NEWARK RICHMOND SAN DIEGO  
AND SAN FRANCISCO

FROM: ALBANY /157-273/ 11 pgs.

MURKIN; CR; OO MEMPHIS

RE ALBANY TEL TO BUREAU APRIL SEVEN LAST AND  
TELEPHONE CALLS TO BUREAU, ATLANTA, BOSTON, BALTIMORE,  
AND SANFRANCISCO, APRIL EIGHT INSTANT.

SEARCH OF PREMISES BELIEVED OCCUPIED BY UNSUB  
WHO ASSASSINATED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING ON FOUR FOUR  
SIXTYEIGHT DISCLOSED SUITCASE IN WHICH WAS LOCATED  
TEE SHIRT AND UNDERSHORTS BEARING LAUNDRY MARK ON  
RED TAPE WITH BLACK LETTERING BELIEVED TO BE THERMO-  
SEAL TYPE, MANUFACTURED BY TEXTILE MARKING MACHINE  
CO. INC., SYRACUSE, N.Y. THE TAPE IS ONE QUARTER  
INCH WIDE AND ONE AND ONE SIXTEENTH INCH LONG AND  
END PAGE ONE

18 already handled

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FBI-ATLANTA	

Mr



PAGE TWO

BEARS LETTERS AND NUMBERS ZERO TWO B DASH SIX.

EXPERTS AT TEXTILE MARKING MACHINE COMPANY ADVISE TYPE ON THIS MACHINE IS UNUSUAL IN THAT THE FIRST TWO CHARACTERS ARE FIFTEEN POINT TYPE AND THE LAST THREE CHARACTERS ARE EIGHTEEN POINT TYPE, WITH THE MIDDLE CHARACTER, THE LETTER B, PROBABLY BEING NARROW RATHER THAN REGULAR TYPE. THE USUAL MACHINE CARRIES FIFTEEN POINT TYPE FOR THE FIRST THREE CHARACTERS AND EIGHTEEN POINT TYPE FOR THE LAST TWO CHARACTERS.

TEXTILE MARKING MACHINE EXPERTS ALSO STATED THIS MACHINE IS DEFECTIVE IN THAT IT IS PRODUCING A TAPE ONE AND ONE SIXTEENTH INCH LONG INSTEAD OF ONE AND ONE EIGHTH INCH LONG AND IS NOT PROJECTING THE TAPE FAR ENOUGH RESULTING IN CUTTING OFF A PORTION

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

OF THE FIRST LETTER. THE CODE USED IN THE NORTH EASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES IS AS FOLLOWS:

THE FIRST LETTER O STANDS FOR LOT NUMBER; THE FIRST NUMBER TWO INDICATES THE DAY OF THE WEEK, TWO BEING TUESDAY; THE SECOND LETTER INDICATES THE FIRST LETTER OF THE STORE NAME, THIS IS THE LETTER B; THE LAST NUMBER IS THE BUNDLE NUMBER, THIS IS SIX. COLOR CODING OF THE TAG MAY DESIGNATE VARIOUS THINGS SUCH AS A DIFFERENT MONTH OR THE IDENTITY OF A STORE IN A CHAIN. EXPERTS ALSO STATE THE USE OF THIS SYSTEM ON LAUNDRY ITEMS IS UNUSUAL IN THAT THE SYSTEM IS NORMALLY USED ON GARMENTS BEING DRY CLEANED.

THE BUREAU HAS INSTRUCTED THAT ALL TEXTILE MACHINES USING THIS TYPE TAPE BE LOCATED AND MACHINES USING THIS CODE BE IDENTIFIED.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

THE CODE USED HAS BEEN TRACED TO THE NORTHEASTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES, HOWEVER A SIMILAR CODING IS USED IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE UNITED STATES ALSO AND A SIMILAR CODE IS ALSO USED BY COMPANIES WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMPANY'S REPRESENTATIVES, THEREFORE ALL THESE MACHINES MUST BE CHECKED.

FOLLOWING ARE MACHINES HAVING FIVE CHARACTERS OR SIX CHARACTERS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING THE INSTANT LAUNDRY TAPE:

ATLANTA:

BLUM'S, MACON, GEORGIA, MODEL NUMBER H FIVE L ONE, SERIAL NUMBER THREE ONE NINE SEVEN THREE.

BALTIMORE:

STAR LAUNDRY, NINE ZERO EIGHT NORTH SALISBURY BOULEVARD, SALISBURY, MARYLAND, MODEL NUMBER H FIVE L FOUR, SERIAL NUMBER THREE TWO FIVE ZERO ZERO.

END PAGE FOUR



PAGE FIVE

BOSTON:

LEWIS NATIONAL CORP., ONE MT. VERNON  
AVE, DORCHESTER, MASS., MODEL NUMBER H  
FIVE L FOUR, SERIAL NUMBER THREE TWO TWO NINE ZERO  
(A DISTRIBUTOR FOR TEXTILE MARKING MACHINE CO.,  
THIS MACHINE SHIPPED APRIL SIXTYTWO); SUPERIOR LAUNDRY  
SIX TWENTYFIVE CONCORD AVE, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.,  
MODEL NUMBER H FIVE K ONE, SERIAL NUMBER R THREE ONE  
SEVEN SIX TWO.

CINCINNATI:

SWAN CLEANERS, EIGHT ZERO FOUR MOUNT VERNON  
AVENUE, COLUMBUS, OHIO, MODEL NUMBER H FIVE K ONE  
SERIAL NUMBER R THREE ONE FIVE FOUR SEVEN.

FLAS VEGAS:

MONARCH CLEANERS, ONE FOUR THREE ZERO SOUTH MAIN  
LAS VEGA, NEVADA, MODEL NUMBER H FIVE L FOUR, SERIAL  
END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

NUMBER THREE TWO FOUR NINE EIGHT.

LOS ANGELES:

BEACH CITIES LAUNDRY, SIX TWO ZERO MAIN STREET,  
HUNTINGTON BEACH, CALIFORNIA, MODEL NUMBER R H FIVE  
K ONE, SERIAL NUMBER THREE ONE THREE NINE FOUR;  
CALIFORNIA OVERALL COMPANY, ONE SIX TWO ZERO COMPTON  
AVENUE, LOS ANGELES, CALIF.; MODEL NUMBER H FIVE  
K ONE, SERIAL NUMBER THREE ONE THREE FIVE TWO;  
DELITE LAUNDRY, ONE SIX ZERO SEVEN, BROOKLYN AVENUE,  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF., MODEL NUMBER R H FIVE K ONE,  
SERIAL NUMBERS THREE ONE FOUR FOUR NINE, THREE ONE  
FOUR FIVE FOUR, THREE ONE THREE NINE TWO, THREE ONE  
FOUR FOUR SEVEN; GOLD COAST LAUNDRY, ONE EIGHT THREE  
EIGHT EAST FORTY FIRST PLACE, LOS ANGELES; MODEL  
NUMBER H FIVE K FOUR, SERIAL NUMBER R THREE TWO THREE  
TWO ONE; NICOLAY KEITZBECK INC., GANNATU LAUNDRY,  
END PAGE SIX

PAGE SEVEN

EIGHT SIX ONE ONE WEST THIRD STREET, LOS ANGELES,  
MODEL NUMBER H FIVE K ONE, CONVERTED FROM H FIVE J  
ONE, SERIAL NUMBER THREE ZERO NINE ZERO TWO.

NEWARK:

CUSTOM SHIRT LAUNDRY, TWO ZERO SEVEN HADDON  
AVENUE, WESTMONT, N.J., MODEL NUMBER H FIVE  
M FOUR, SERIAL NUMBER THREE TWO SIX FOUR FOUR.

RICHMOND:

FARLINGTON OR FANLINGTON LAUNDRY, THREE EIGHT  
ZERO ZERO SOUTH FOUR MILE RUN DRIVE, ARLINGTON,  
VIRGINIA, MODEL NUMBER H FIVE L FOUR, SERIAL NUMBER  
THREE TWO FIVE ZERO FOUR.

SAN DIEGO

KELLY ORIGINAL FRENCH LAUNDRY, ONE ZERO FOUR  
TWO UNIVERSITY AVE., SAN DIEGO, CALIF., MODEL  
NUMBER R H FIVE K ONE, SERIAL NUMBERS, THREE ONE  
END PAGE SEVEN



PAGE EIGHT

THREE NINE ONE, THREE ONE THREE NINE FIVE, MODEL  
NUMBER H FIVE K ONE, SERIAL NUMBERS THREE ONE FOUR  
SIX ONE AND THREE ONE FOUR NINE ONE.

SAN FRANCISCO:

GOLDEN STATE DRIVE IN CLEANERS, TWO ONE SEVEN  
FIVE WINCHESTER BLVD., CAMPBELL, CALIF.,  
MODEL NUMBER H FIVE L FOUR, SERIAL NUMBER THREE TWO  
FIVE ZERO THREE; HIGHLAND DRIVE IN CLEANERS, ONE TWO ZERO  
ONE LA SALLE AVENUE, SEASIDE, CALIF., MODEL NUMBER  
H FIVE L ONE, SERIAL NUMBER THREE ONE SIX THREE TWO  
MARSHALL STEEL COMPANY, FIVE FOUR TWO SEVEN TELEGRAPH,  
OAKLAND, CALIF., MODEL NUMBER H FIVE K ONE, SERIAL  
NUMBER THREE ONE TWO TWO SIX; SANFORD CLEANERS, TWO  
EIGHT SEVEN FIVE EL CAMINO, PAO ALTO, CALIF.,  
MODEL NUMBER H FIVE L FOUR, SERIAL NUMBER THREE TWO  
FIVE ZERO SIX; STERLING CLEANERS AND LAUNDRY, ONE  
END PAGE EIGHT

PAGE NINE

ONE FOUR ZERO HOWARD AVE., BURLINGAME, CALIF.,  
MODEL NUMBER H FIVE L FOUR, SERIAL NUMBER THREE  
ONE SIX FOUR SEVEN; SUPERIOR FRENCH LAUNDRY, ONE TWO  
EIGHT FOUR WEST MAIN AVENUE, OAKLAND, CALIF.,  
WHICH HAS NUMEROUS MACHINES OF THIS TYPE SOME OF  
WHICH HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO REPRESENTATIVE. MACHINE  
H FIVE K ONE SERIAL NUMBER THREE ONE THREE FIVE EIGHT  
RETURNED TO TEXTILE MARKING MACHINE HAS BEEN  
CHECKED BY ALBANY.

REGARDING THE ABOVE MACHINES ALL OF THOSE  
HAVING FIVE CHARACTERS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AND  
THE NUMBERS FURNISHED BY TELEPHONE TO BALTIMORE,  
BOSTON AND SAN FRANCISCO. OTHER MACHINES SET FORTH  
ABOVE FOR THE DESIGNATION IN THE MODEL NUMBER  
INDICATING THAT THEY ARE FIVE CHARACTER MACHINES.  
HOWEVER THE RECORDS OF TEXTILE MARKING MACHINE  
END PAGE NINE