

Date 4/15/68

Title and Character of Case

MURKIN

Date Property Acquired

4/15/68

Source From Which Property Acquired

JIMMY D. GARNER

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit

BULKY ROOM

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

INVESTIGATIVE AID.

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

XEROX COPY OF LOOSE LEAF LEDGER BOOK OF JIMMY D. GARNER,
107- 14th st., N.E.; Atlanta, Ga.

Ogden, Kaas

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 17 1973	
FBI-ATLANTA	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

<u>8/3/68</u>	<u>10-4-7098</u>	<u>2/18/72</u>	<u>OG</u>
<u>10/10/68</u>	<u>3-15-7102</u>		
<u>7-10-7098</u>	<u>10-11-7102</u>		

Field File # 44-2386-13

Date

4/18/68

Title and Character of Case

MURKIN

Date Property Acquired

4-18-68

Source From Which Property Acquired

F.B.I. ST. LOUIS

Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit

BULKY ROOM

Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same

EVIDENCE

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

L. XEROX COPY OF COMPLETE SERVICE RECORD OF
AARON ISAAC LOFTON

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 12 1973	
FBI-ATLANTA	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

8/13/68 *W* 10-4-70 *W* 2/18/72 *W*

12/10/68 *W* 3-15-71 *W*

7-10-70 *W* 12-17-70 *W*

Field File # 44-2386-1B 3

SEARCHED..... INDEXED.....

SERIALIZED..... FILED.....

APR 1 1968

FBI-ATLANTA

Date 4-17-68

Title and Character of Case

MURKIN

Date Property Acquired 4-17-68	Source From Which Property Acquired BUREAU
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit BULKY ROOM	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE
Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same	

1. TWO COPIES OF ATLANTA AREA MAP (ENLARGED)
2. ONE COPY OF LOS ANGELES AREA MAP (enlarged).

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 12 1968 FBI-ATLANTA	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

8/3/68 10-4-70 CAF 2/18/72 CAF

10-10-69 3-15-71 CAF

7-10-70 10-18-71 CAF

Field File # 44-2386-15 4

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 17 1968 FBI-ATLANTA	

Date 4/22/68

Title and Character of Case

MURKIN

Date Property Acquired 4/22/68	Source From Which Property Acquired FBI NEWARK
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit BULKY ROOM	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same INVESTIGATIVE ASSISTANCE

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. TWO BROCHURES PUBLISHED FOR THE LOCKSMITHING INSTITUTE.
2. ONE PROFESSIONAL LOCKSMITHING AND KEYSMAKING KIT.

SA Sentinella

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 18 1978 FBI-ATLANTA	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and Date)

<u>2/2/68</u>	<u>10-4-70CIV</u>	<u>2/18/72</u>
<u>10-15-69CIV</u>	<u>3-15-71</u>	
<u>7-10-70</u>	<u>10-15-71</u>	

Field File # 44-2386-1B 5

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Allowed To Contest Guilty Plea

CINCINNATI, Ohio (AP) — James Earl Ray was given a chance Tuesday to contest his guilty plea in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. because of allegations his attorneys compromised his interests to fatten their pocketbooks.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Ray, 41, who received a 99-year sentence for the 1968 murder of the civil rights leader, is entitled to a hearing to contest his 1969 guilty plea.

Ray argued that he was not given proper legal advice. He said his lawyers failed to properly investigate his case and that their only interest was to collect royalties on materials written about him.

In a 2-1 decision, the circuit court sent Ray's petition back to the U.S. District Court in Nashville for review.

Ray alleged he was poorly advised by attorney Arthur Hanes, and by Percy Foreman after he fired Hanes. He alleged both were more interested in funds that would accrue from articles and books planned by Alabama author William Bradford Huie than in his defense.

Ray said the lawyers considered his guilty plea paramount to the financial success of the articles and a possible movie on the case.

The court cited two letters written to Ray by Foreman. The first letter said Ray had signed all royalties to Foreman and that

Foreman would keep all monies up to \$165,700. It also said Ray would get all royalties above that figure if he pleaded guilty and caused no embarrassing circumstances in the courtroom.

The second said Foreman would give \$500 to Ray's brother Jerry, "contingent upon the plea of guilty and sentence going through on March 10, 1969 without any unseemly conduct on your part in court."

The court said only by giving Ray a hearing on his contentions "may it be determined whether the plea was intelligent or voluntary or entered as the result of coercion, threats and promises.

The allegations ... if true, would support a finding that Ray's attorneys deliberately compromised their client's interests in order to further the financial success of Huie's works in which they themselves had a substantial interest.

"Such conduct would constitute an outrageous abrogation of the standards which the

legal profession for itself and upon which its clients have a right to rely ..."

The appeals court noted the original trial judge had thoroughly questioned Ray about his plea, and whether it was voluntary.

But it said "it is clear, that the allegations which are the subject of Ray's petition have never been tried upon their merits or resolved by any court — allegations which, if true, plainly negate any notion or idea that his guilty plea and answers ... were made voluntarily and intentionally.

"... No inquiry was made into the specific contentions that are now before this court."

The majority opinion was written by Judge William E. Miller and concurred in by Judge Harry Phillips. Judge Anthony J. Celebreeze wrote a dissenting opinion, saying Ray had every chance to tell the trial judge that his plea was not voluntary if that was the case.

King was shot April 4, 1968, on a motel balcony in Memphis, Tenn., where he had gone to support a strike by garbage collectors. Ray was later arrested in London, and extradited to this country.

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

THE ATLANTA
CONSTITUTION

Pg. 1-A

Date: 1/30/74
Edition: Morning
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office

Being Investigated

44-2386-217

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King's Killer to Be Moved to Federal Prison

From Press Dispatches
NASHVILLE — James Earl Ray, convicted of assassinating the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is being transferred from a state to a federal prison for "security reasons," the Justice department said Thursday in Washington.

Ray, convicted of shooting the civil rights leader with a rifle from ambush in Memphis April 4, 1968, will be moved to one of the six federal maximum-security prisons under an agreement with the state

Neither state nor federal officials would explain why he of Tennessee, the Justice department said.

was not considered safe in the Tennessee maximum security prison at Nashville, where he has been serving a 99-year term since pleading guilty in 1969 to the killing.

The Justice department would not say to which federal prison it will transfer Ray. The federal government has maximum-security prisons at Atlanta, Leavenworth, Kan., Lewisburg, Pa., Marion, Ill., McNeil Island, Wash., and Terre Haute, Ind.

The Justice department said Ray would be taken from Nashville to the Federal Medical Center at Springfield, Mo.,

for physical and psychological testing before being sent to one of the prisons. The state of Tennessee will pay the cost of keeping him in the federal prison, the Justice department said.

Ray filed a petition Thursday seeking a temporary restraining order to bar state officials from transferring him from the state prison to a federal institution. He claimed the officials planned to send him to a federal mental institution in Springfield, Mo.

A spokesman said that there are now about 75 state prisoners placed, for one rea-

son or another, in federal penitentiaries. The spokesman said Ray would continue to be under the supervision of the Tennessee parole board while in the federal prison.

Ray filed a writ for a new trial this week. Federal District Judge L. Clure Morton has not yet considered the writ, and its contents have not been released.

There were unofficial reports that Ray asserted in the application that he had been hired by a group of white Southerners to kill King, a Nobel Prize laureate who was the nation's most prestigious

civil rights leader.

In Birmingham, Ala., Thursday, Ray's first lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes, said in a telephone interview that if Ray was asserting that he had been hired by "Southern whites" to kill King, "he's talking malarkey."

Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham who once worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, said that in the many conversations he had with Ray in the summer and fall of 1968, Ray never mentioned any such plot.

Hanes quoted him as saying that while he was fleeing the authorities in 1968 after the

assassination, he toyed with the idea of trying to get the imperial wizard of the United Klans of America, Robert M. Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Ala., to shelter him but had not followed through.

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

Page 3-P

Atlanta Constitution
Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 12/28/73

Edition: Morning

Author:

Editor: Reg Murphy

Title:

Character:

or

Classification: 44-2386

Submitting Office:

 Being Investigated

44-2386-200

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1974	
FBI-ATLANTA	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

EXPECTS MORE SUITS
**Author Labels Ray
 'Jailhouse Lawyer'**

BIRMINGHAM (UPI) — Author William Bradford Huie, who knows James Earl Ray as well as anyone does, says the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King "has never trusted another human being" and probably will file more lawsuits of the kind he brought Thursday.

Ray, serving a 99-year prison term in Tennessee for the 1968 slaying of King, filed a \$500,000 suit against the State of Tennessee, contending that crucial evidence in his case was mishandled.

Ray gave his version of the slaying to Huie for a book in return for Huie's payments to attorneys Arthur B. Hanes Sr., the first to represent Ray, and Percy Foreman, who entered Ray's guilty plea.

Huie, contacted at his home in Hartselle Thursday, said he expected Ray to continue filing suits "every six months because that's the kind of man he is — a true jailhouse

lawyer who has never trusted another human being.

"That's why he has continually changed lawyers. He wants to be his own lawyer."

Ray charged in his suit that Foreman had mishandled information about two telephone numbers, one of which Ray said would have led to a man connected with a Middle East-oriented agency.

But Huie said, "In all the information he gave us, there was never any name or telephone number that we could identify.

"In the days before I was able to see Ray personally, I went along with the conspiracy theory mainly because nobody in the country believed that the killing could have been done by one man alone.

"But the more I got into the case, the more I talked with Ray and checked the information he gave me, the more clear it became that he had acted alone and that he was lying to us."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
 Page 6-A
 Atlanta Journal
 Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 12/28/73
 Edition: evening
 Author: UPI
 Editor: Jack Spalding
 Title:

Character:
 or
 Classification: 44-2386
 Submitting Office:

44-2386-220

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 19 1974	
FBI-ATLANTA	

F B I

Date: 6/12/74

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL _____
(Priority)

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

Re ME airtel to Bureau 6/4/74.

Enclosed for Atlanta is one copy of reairtel.

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

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

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

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

LEAD:

ATLANTA

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

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

CRC/hja
(4)

1 copy made for 88-13285

Reed

44-2386-2282

Hamilton

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

6/4/74

AIRTEL

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

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

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

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

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

Haile

44-2386-2283

44-1768-313

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED <i>Dga</i>	FILED <i>Dga</i>
JUN 7 1974	
FBI - SAV	

F B I

Date: 6/27/74

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

Enclosed herewith for Memphis are the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ORH:lru
(8)

lru

RUC *Hamilton* *lru*
44-2386-2284

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

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

AT 44-2386

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

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

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

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

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

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

AT 44-2386

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

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

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

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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Tampa, Florida
July 2, 1974

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

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

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

44-7356-2258

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 5 1974	
FBI - TAMPA	

am

1
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 2, 1974

Date of transcription

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

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

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

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

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

2

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

TP 157-3231

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

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

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

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

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

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

TP 157-3231

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

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

The following descriptive data was obtained through observation and interview:

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

4

TP 157-3231

Sister:

JANET UPSHAW,
maiden name WEHUNT
25

Age:

Residence:

Stone Mountain, Georgia

Telephone No.:

404-294-7071.

5*

F B I

Date: **7/2/74**

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Precedence)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861) ATTENTION:
From: SAC, TAMPA (157-3231) CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION
(RUC) GENERAL INVEST. DIV.
Subject: MURKIN INTELLIGENCE DIVISION
OO: ME

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

Summary of Complaint:

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

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

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

ACTION: UACB:

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

SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____

JUL 5 1974
FBI - ATLANTA
Hamilton
(Info.)

Approved: _____ Sent _____
Special Agent in Charge

TP 157-3231

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-2386)

DATE: 7/9/74

FROM : SA O. RICHARD HAMILTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Tampa airtel to Bureau, enclosing LHM, 7/2/74.
Atlanta indices were negative 7/9/74 regarding the
following names mentioned in referenced LHM:

ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR.

ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, SR.

ALMA LOUISE WEHUNT

ALMA LOUISE RALSTON

JANET UPSHAW

JANET WEHUNT

ANNETTE JEAN WEHUNT

ANNETTE JEAN BALSINGER

1 - 44-2386

ORH/



5010-108

44-2386-228

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
JUL 9 1974	
FBI-ATLANTA	
230	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Gets Okay to Seek Retrial

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

WASHINGTON (UPI) — James Earl Ray won Supreme Court clearance Monday to seek withdrawal of his guilty plea and a new trial in the 1968 slaying of Martin Luther King Jr. The court held his lawyers may have unduly influenced him because of a book in which they had an interest.

Without comment, the court rejected an appeal by the state of Tennessee of an order from the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that a hearing be held to determine whether Ray had been de-

prived of his constitutional rights to due process and assistance of counsel.

That hearing now can be held, and if the change of plea is accepted Ray would be entitled to a new trial. He pleaded guilty in 1969 to the slaying of the civil rights leader in a Memphis, Tenn., motel, and was sentenced to 99 years in state prison.

The assassination on April 4, 1968, touched off rioting in the nation's capital and other cities.

Shortly after he was sentenced, Ray claimed that his

counsel, well-known criminal attorney Percy Foreman of Houston, had coerced him into pleading guilty in order to keep facts in the case from coming out in open court.

Ray turned his case over to Foreman after dismissing attorney Arthur Hanes, who had signed a contract with writer William Bradford Huie for a book on the King slaying, with Hanes to get 30 per cent of the royalties. Foreman kept the agreement in effect but increased his share to 60 per cent.

Ray contended that Fore-

man advised him to plead guilty so that information on the case could be preserved exclusively for the book.

Judge William E. Miller, writing the appeals court decision that a change-of-plea hearing should be held in U.S. district court, said:

"The allegations...if true, would support a finding that Ray's attorneys deliberately compromised their client's interests in order to further the financial success of Huie's works in which they themselves had a substantial interest.

"Such conduct would constitute an outrageous abrogation of the standards which the legal profession sets for itself and upon which its clients have a right to rely."

"If the allegations are correct," Miller said, Ray's lawyers "not only did not properly advise him but deliberately misled and coerced him. It is inconceivable to us how a plea entered under these circumstances could be either intelligent or voluntary."

Date: 6/4/74
Edition: Morning
Author: UPI
Editor: REG MURPHY
Title: MURKIN

Character: CR
or
Classification: 44-2386
Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

44-2386-2288

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 11 1974	
FBI-ATLANTA	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA

DATE: 8/8/74

FROM : SUPV. LESTER G. DAVIS

SUBJECT: BULKY EXHIBITS

Review of case file reflects that evidence currently being maintained in the Atlanta Office of bulky room falls into one of the following two general categories:

- (1) Case closed and evidence still being maintained
- (2) Case RUC'd and evidence not sent to office of origin

Disposal of all evidence should be discussed with appropriate U. S. Attorney and U. S. Attorney's opinion confirmed by letter. Where evidence is returned, receipt should be obtained and submitted to file via 1-A and notation of same to be made on file bulky green sheet. Where evidence is destroyed Case Agent should make appropriate notation on file bulky green sheet.

Disposal of all evidence to be accomplished expeditiously.

JJH:jh
(2)



5010-110

Rec'd *44-2386-2289*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 8 1974	
FBI - ATLANTA	

Hamilton

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-2386) (C) *[Handwritten initials]*

FROM : SA O. RICHARD HAMILTON

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 9/24/74

Re memo of Supv. LESTER G. DAVIS, 8/8/74, captioned "Bulky Exhibits".

A review of this file reflects JAMES EARL RAY has won Supreme Court approval to seek withdrawal of his guilty plea and attempt to gain a new trial in this matter.

Inasmuch as ~~the~~ litigation could be re-instituted and evidence being retained might be needed in such litigation, it is suggested that such evidence be retained until a final determination is made in this regard.

(1)
ORH/

44-2386-2290

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
SEP 24 1974	
FBI-ATLANTA	
<i>Hayman</i>	

Makes Bulky sheet



5010-110

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Ray Was Framed, Lawyers Contend

MEMPHIS (AP) — Attorneys for James Earl Ray said Tuesday there was a conspiracy to kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. but that evidence "eliminates any reasonable belief" that Ray was part of it.

In a brief filed in U.S. District Court, the attorneys said "evidence now points to the fact that James Earl Ray was framed for a crime he didn't commit."

"The evidence increasingly indicates that law enforcement officials, both state and federal, have covered up the evidence of this frameup," Ray's attorneys said.

"...There was a conspiracy to kill Dr. King...but evidence eliminates any reasonable belief that James Earl Ray was part of the conspiracy."

Ray's attorneys, James Lesar and Bernard Fensterwald, Washington, D.C., based

their allegation of a frameup on their claim that the bullet taken from King's body could be traced to a rifle other than one found on the street near a downtown rooming house from which authorities say the fatal shot was fired April 4, 1968. Police have said the rifle discovered near the slaying scene bore Ray's fingerprints and was the murder weapon.

An FBI firearms expert has said the fatal bullet fragment was so mutilated that he could not say to the exclusion of all other similar weapons that it came from the gun found on the street.

Ray has claimed he was lured to the rooming house by a person named "Raoul" and that he did not kill the civil rights leader.

His attorneys made their arguments in response to a brief filed by the state contending that Ray made a "reasoned and reasonable" decision to plead guilty to killing King in order to avoid the death penalty.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert M. McRae Jr. held an eight-day hearing two months ago on whether Ray is entitled to withdraw his guilty plea and stand trial for murder. Ray, now serving a 99-year prison sentence, says he was pressured into the guilty plea on March 10, 1969.

McRae is expected to rule within a month.

In their brief, Lesar and Fensterwald said: "A Water-gatetype cover-up of the assassination of Dr. King continues until this day. That and that alone explains the frenzied efforts of the state to obstruct an examination of the physical evidence by petitioner's investigator and counsel."

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

Page 8-C
THE ATLANTA JOURNAL

Date: 12-18-74
Edition: Evening
Author: AP
Editor: Jack Spalding
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44-2386-2291

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DEC 19 1974

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 Volume(s): _____
 Sub File(s): _____
 Title: _____
 Date Charged Out: 4/29/92

II. IDENTITY OF FILE FOR LITIGATION/REQUEST

Title: Assassination of John F. Kennedy
 File #: 62 HQ 109060

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- Legal Counsel
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 signature of employee
 making charge out

See Instructions On Reverse Side