

U. S. Department of Justice

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

FEDERAL BUREAU
of
INVESTIGATION

ATLANTA

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

Bureau File Number

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/19/12 BY SP100/SIM

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY
PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

44-2386
CLASSIFICATION NO.
"MURKIN"

Volume Number
Serials
Press Release File

"E"

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :

DATE:

FROM :

SUBJECT:

Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 4-28-67)

To:

Date 4-18-68

☐ Director

FILE 44-2386

Att.:

Title MURKIN

☐ SAC

☐ ASAC

☒ Supv. 7/3

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ IC

☐ CC

RE:

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

☐ Rotor #:

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign Reassign

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline

☐ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☒ Expedite

☐ File

☒ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken.

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Serial #

☐ Post ☐ Recharge ☐ Return

☐ Send to

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by

☐ Type

44-2386-927

APR 24 1968
FBI-ATLANTA

PRESS RELEASE - WGKA, 230 P.M. -
JONATHAN PHELPS, PROGRAM DIRECTOR,
RELEASED 6PM 4-17.

SA Robinson

See reverse side

Office MARIETTA



5010-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC(44-2386)

DATE: 2 /17/68

FROM : SA ROBERT R. PERRY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The Press Release was handed to the following individuals
at the time noted, on 4/17/68:

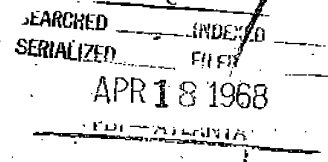
BEN PERRY, WAOK 5:56PM

JOE ZELLNER, AP 6:07PM



5010-108

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



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-2386)

FROM : SA Edward U. Crim

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/17/68

Press release dated 4/17/68 in captioned case delivered to:

WERD, Radio Station, 330 Auburn Ave., N. E.
Mr. Jerome Johnson, Program Director - 6 PM
4/17/68.

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
1211 Williams St., N.W., Mr. LOUIS ATKINS,
news reporter, photo section. Two photos
of GALT left with Mr. ATKINS. 6:24 PM, 4/17/68.

44-2386-
SEARCHED _____ INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____ FILED _____
APR 18 1968
FBI-ATLANTA



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



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia
April 17, 1968

NEWS RELEASE

Attorney General Ramsey Clark, announced today that Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the FBI as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the FBI in Birmingham, Alabama, today charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241 of the United States Code.

The FBI complaint charges that "On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to

44-2386-590

APR 18 1968

him by the Constitution or laws of the United States, namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle in Birmingham, Alabama."

According to Mr. Hoover, a 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooked the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that FBI Agents determined that the 30.06 rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight was also purchased from this dealer.

The FBI Director stated that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmeyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates, which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham, on August 30, 1967. The Mustang's odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August, 1967 and early April, 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travels in the Mustang include trips to Los Angeles, California, New Orleans, Louisiana, Birmingham, Alabama, and Mexico, as well as Memphis, Tennessee and Atlanta, Georgia. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

Intensive investigation by the FBI has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi river vessels and as a merchant seaman. He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 or 1965, in Birmingham during September and October, 1967, and in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967 to February, 1968.

Galt left Los Angeles on December 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He left New Orleans on December 19, and arrived back in Los Angeles on December 21, 1967.

While in Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The fugitive is described as a white male. He is approximately 5' 8" to 5' 11" tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes, his nose is straight and narrow. His teeth are straight and clean and he has given his date of birth as July 20, 1931.

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an earlobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes farther from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt describe him as a "loner" and state his language and diction have a "rural" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of western and country music.

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 6-14-66) Date 4-19-68

FROM : To: ☐ Director FILE _____

SUBJECT: Att.: _____ Title _____

☐ SAC _____

☐ ASAC _____

☐ Supv. Harting

☐ Agent _____

☐ SE _____

☐ IC Murkin

☐ CC RE: to Murkin

☐ Steno _____

☐ Clerk _____ ☐ Rotor #: _____

ACTION DESIRED

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledge | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Case |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Assign _____ Reassign _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare lead cards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bring file | <input type="checkbox"/> Prepare tickler |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Call me | <input type="checkbox"/> Recharge serials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Correct | <input type="checkbox"/> Return assignment card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Return file |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Deadline passed | <input type="checkbox"/> Return serials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delinquent | <input type="checkbox"/> Search and return |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue | <input type="checkbox"/> See me |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expedite | <input type="checkbox"/> Send Serials _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> File | to _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> For information | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit new charge out |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handle | <input type="checkbox"/> Submit report by _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Initial & return | <input type="checkbox"/> Type |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Leads need attention | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Return with explanation or notation as to action taken. | |

Press releases dated 4-19-68 re Murkin case were delivered to the following on 4-19-68

Radio Station WTSJH, 2146 Dodson Dr, E. Point,

Anne Adams, Receptionist, at 3:10 pm

Radio Station WBAO, 1119 Main St, Forest Park,

Ref DANTZLER, SAE, Announcer, at 3:56 pm.

See reverse side

Office

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) DATE: 4/19/68

FROM : SA DONALD F. TACKITT


SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following radio stations were furnished
the News Release dated 4/19/68, concerning JAMES
EARL RAY:

WERD
JEROME JOHNSON, Program Director

WDGL
BOLLING BRANHAM, Owner

DFT:lcc
(2)





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Atlanta, Georgia
April 17, 1968

NEWS RELEASE

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Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) DATE: 4/20/68
(P)

FROM : SA JOSEPH PATRICK AYERS

SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: PRESS RELEASE

Copies of press release concerning identity
of subject as JAMES EARL RAY furnished to the following:

Mrs. MARY ANN ROBERTS, Manager, Station WYZE,
1111 Boulevard, S.E., at 3:04 p.m., on
4/19/68.

Mr. LARRY POLK, Owner of Station WYNX,
507 N. Atlanta Road, Marietta, at 4:15 p.m.,
4/19/68.

2 - Atlanta

JPA:ovr
(2)

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SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 20 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : EACH RESIDENT AGENT

FROM : SAC, FRANK V. HITT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 4/19/68

RE: CONTACT WITH NEWS MEDIA

Each Resident Agent has been furnished the full physical description of subject ERIC STARVO GALT, photographs depicting GALT with eyes opened and closed and also copies of press releases received from the Bureau concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and the events following that incident.

Each Resident Agent is requested to contact all news media within your respective territory, supply them with copies of the press releases; however, no other information other than is contained in the press releases is to be furnished, and you should continue to maintain a "no comment" attitude toward the news media.

LEADS

Each Resident Agent immediately furnish above information to all news media, including television, radio and local newspapers.

① - 44-2386
1 - SAC
1 - ASAC
1 - #3 Supv.
1 - #4 Supv.
1 - #5 Supv.
1 - EACH RESIDENT AGENT (Copy of News Release attached)
JJR:lcc
(45)



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia
April 19, 1968

NEWS RELEASE

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that the FBI has identified James Earl Ray, an escapee from the Missouri State Penitentiary, as Eric Starvo Galt against whom a Federal complaint was filed last Wednesday in connection with the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said that a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against the fingerprints of the over fiftythree thousand persons for whom "Wanted Notices" have been posted in the files of the FBI's Identification Division led to the determination that Galt and Ray are identical.

Mr. Hoover said that Ray, who is forty years of age, was reported missing from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, since April 23, 1967. He had been received at that institution on March 17, in St. Louis for Armed Robbery and for Operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner.

In September, 1966, while serving this sentence, he was confined for a time in the maximum security ward at the State Hospital at Fulton, Missouri.

According to Mr. Hoover, Ray has a known arrest record dating back to 1949. Prior to the 1960 conviction for which he received the twenty-year term, Ray had been convicted of burglary in Los Angeles, California in 1949; armed robbery in Chicago, Illinois in 1952; and forging United States Postal Money Orders in Missouri in 1955.

He has served terms in the Los Angeles County Jail in 1949; in State prisons at Joliet and Pontiac, Illinois in 1952-54; and in the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1955-58.

Ray was an enlisted man in the United States Army from February, 1946, to December, 1948, at which time he was given a General Discharge due to ineptness and lack of adaptability for military service. While in the Army, he received a three-month sentence at hard labor for being drunk and breaking arrest.

Mr. Hoover said that during his criminal career, Ray has also used the names of James Mc Bride, James Walton, W. C. Herron and James O'Conner. He is a white male; claims to have been born March 10, 1928, in Illinois; is approximately five feet ten inches tall and weighs about

163 to 174 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair. There is a small scar on the center of his forehead and a scar on the palm of his right hand.

Ray has claimed that he attended school through the tenth grade in Alton, Illinois. He has had the reputation of being a "drifter" since leaving school. His vocational experience includes working as a baker, laborer and color matcher.

In connection with his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary, an FBI complaint was filed in Jefferson City, Missouri on July 20, 1967, charging Ray with unlawfully fleeing from the State of Missouri to avoid confinement. He has been a Federal fugitive since then.

Ray should be considered armed and extremely dangerous. Anyone having information concerning him should immediately contact FBI Headquarters in Washington, D. C., or the nearest FBI Office.

SAC (44-2386)

4/22/68

SUPV. CHARLES S. HARDING

MURKIN

CR

(OO: MEMPHIS)

On 4/21/68, HUGH PARK, columnist, "Atlanta Constitution", telephonically inquired if he could be furnished the number of complaints this office had received concerning people who look like Subject RAY. He was advised that this information was not available, but that the number was considerable. Mr. PARK then asked if this office had any comment to make concerning the rumor that RAY may be dead now as the result of either assassination or suicide. He was advised that this office had no comment to make other than the information furnished in the two press releases made.

② - Atlanta

CSH:rjb

(2)

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958

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 22 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

W

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-2386)

FROM : SUPV. CHARLES S. HARDING

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: MEMPHIS)

DATE: 4/22/68

JACK NELSON, Southeastern Bureau, "Los Angeles Times", telephonically contacted the writer on 4/20 and 21/68, to inquire about any additional information we had on the location of RAY. In each instance, Mr. NELSON was advised Atlanta had no further comment to make other than was set forth in the two press releases.

Mr. NELSON stated that he thought the two press releases furnished by the Bureau were very informative, were excellent as a news source, and that by furnishing him copies of these releases expeditiously as we had done was of great assistance to him in carrying forth his responsibilities. He stated in each instance he was able to inform his parent newspaper in Los Angeles of the contents of the press releases which had not yet been received in Los Angeles. He expressed great appreciation for this office making the releases available in an expeditious manner.

② - Atlanta
CSH:rjb
(2) *yl*

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9-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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APR 22 1968	
FBI - ATLANTA	

500 *W*

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

4/22/68

SA PAUL LEE MILLER

MURKIN

On 4/17/68, at 6:15 p.m., SA PAUL LEE MILLER delivered an authorized press release to RODNEY FORD, Radio Engineer, for WLTA - FM, 944 Gordon Street, S. W., Atlanta, Georgia.

Also on 4/17/68, SA MILLER delivered the same authorized press release to DON JOHNSON, Announcer and Sales Manager, for WTJH, 4146 Dodson Drive, East Point, Ga. This was accepted by Mr. JOHNSON at 6:50 p.m. and immediately put contents of news release on the air.

2-Atlanta
PLM:bjc
(2)

"E"

SAC (44-2386)

4/23/68

SUPV. CHARLES S. HARDING

MURKIN

On the afternoon of 4/23/68, I received a call from BILL FREDERICI, reporter for the "New York Daily News", New York. He inquired about the status of our investigation. I advised him I could make no comment concerning the investigation other than was in the two press releases previously made.

Mr. FREDERICI then stated that he has never seen such inaccurate reporting as has been done by the United Press International (UPI). He stated that HANK LIEFERMAN, head of the Southeastern Bureau for UPI in Atlanta, has come out with some "fantastic" statements and that LIEFERMAN has been a problem to his newspaper.

2 - Atlanta
CSH:rjb
(2)

E file

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

4/24/68

SA BERNARD R. BERRY

MURKIN

Re SAC memo dated 4/19/68, contact with news media.

On 4/22/68, the following were contacted and furnished information contained in news releases:

MARK PACE, Editor, Dalton Daily Citizen;

GEORGE BUNCH, owner, Ellijay Times-Courier;

FRED HACKNEY, owner, Blue Ridge Centennial;

E.P. HALL, Editor, Walker Co. Messenger;

DIANNE BAGLEY, Circulation Manager, Dade Co. Centennial;

MIKE DODD, station manager, WRCD, Dalton;

MORT LLOYD, owner, WTTI, Dalton.

2-Atlanta
BRB/hjm
(2)
hjm

1E

44-2386-1126

SEARCHED <i>hjm</i>	INDEXED <i>hjm</i>
SERIALIZED <i>hjm</i>	FILED <i>hjm</i>
APR 24 1968	
FBI-ATLANTA	

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)

4/24/68

SA JACK B. SIMPSON

MURKIN

RE: PRESS RELEASE, 4/19/68

KEELER MC CARTNEY was given release at Constitution
2:35 P.M., 4/19/68.

HARRY MURPHY, Journal, was given release as GAINES
was out, 2:41 P.M., 4/19/68.

MC CARTNEY advised he would notify GAINES and see
that GAINES saw release this date.

At 2:53 P.M. release put in door mail slot of
Los Angeles Times as NELSON not in and office locked.

JBS:lcc
(2)

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SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

4/25/68

SA JAMES JOSEPH DOLAN

MURKIN

On April 19, 1968, SA JAMES JOSEPH DOLAN delivered press release dated April 19, 1968, to the following:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Station</u>	<u>Address</u>
WADE MEDLOCK	2:51 p.m.	WGST	165 8th Street, NW
JIM ROBINSON	3:00 p.m.	WKLS	1655 Peachtree St., NE
BOB NEAL	3:17 p.m.	WQXI	2970 Peachtree Rd., NE
BILL BUCKNER	3:44 p.m.	Channel 11	1113 W. Peachtree St.
JACKIE BERRY	4:10 p.m.	WGUN	217 W. Ponce de Leon, Decatur, Georgia

2 - Atlanta
JJD:els
(2)

Sub File
"F"