

Complaint Form  
FD-71 (Rev. 10-26-65)

NOTE: Hand print names legibly; handwriting satisfactory for remainder.

Indices: ☐ Negative ☐ See below

Subject's name and aliases <b>JAMES EARL RAY</b>				Address of subject		Character of case	
Complainant <b>John C Gunn</b>				Complainant's address and telephone number <b>Rte 1, Box 17 Adamsville, Ala. 674-7346</b>		Complaint received  <input type="checkbox"/> Personal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Telephonic Date <b>7/23/68</b> Time <b>10:30 am</b>	
Subject's Description	Race	Sex <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	Height	Hair	Build	Birth date and Birthplace	
	Age		Weight	Eyes	Complexion		
	Scars, marks or other data						
	Facts of complaint <p>Gunn identified himself as a Clerk, Main Office, US Post Office, Birmingham, working in the Incoming Division, 4:30 pm to 1:00 am.</p> <p>Gunn said that during this shift, on 7/22/68, there was considerable interest among his coworkers regarding a letter.</p> <p>The letter was addressed to the Toronto Police Department, Toronto, Canada. It came through the APO in New York. It had a return address, on it of "James Earl Ray, a street address not exactly recall, Birmingham, Alabama." This letter, when held up to a light apparently enclosed some British pounds and a note.</p> <p>Gunn also said his coworkers advised that the street address, while non-existent in Birmingham, Alabama, would be good for Birmingham, Michigan.</p>						
<div style="text-align: right;"> <p><b>44-1740-2022</b></p> <p>SEARCHED <b>7</b> INDEXED <b>7N</b></p> <p>SERIALIZED <b>7</b> FILED <b>7N</b></p> <p><b>JUL 24 1968</b></p> <p><b>FBI - BIRMINGHAM</b></p> <p><i>Snow</i> <i>Ran</i></p> </div>							
<p>Action Recommended <b>Check on above through Mr Egerton, Asst PM, Bham.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RS Mugavin</b> (Agent)</p>							

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1740)

DATE: 7/29/68.

FROM : SA SNOW

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY;  
REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING -  
VICTIM  
CR

Re FD 71 by SS Mugavin, 7/23/68.

John C. Gunn, Adamsville, was recontacted on 7/23/68 in an effort to obtain more information which he was unable to supply. He stated in fact that some of his information may not be entirely accurate as a portion thereof was secured from conversation with other P.O. Clerks. He could not advise whether the instant letter had been forwarded from the Toronto PD to the sender or whether it had been received at BH first. He advised that during the normal course of handling the letter would have been routed to a P.O. desk for routing.

On 7/23/68 Asst. P.M. Hugh Egerton, who is very cooperative and former B. O. Inspector was confidentially contacted without revealing our source. He caused a search to be made of all available locations in the BH P.O. without locating the letter in question. He could only surmise that it may have been forwarded on to Toronto.

It does not appear that further inquiry is warranted concerning the letter.

HAS:  
(1)

44-1740-2023

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 29 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	



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

7/29/68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)(P)

MURKIN

OO: MEMPHIS

On 7/28/68, at 7:15 p.m., WILLIE JAMES McGUIRE, who gave his residence as 2747 Central Parkway, Los Angeles, California, telephonically contacted Birmingham Office and claimed he had been standing on balcony of Lorraine Motel close of victim MARTIN LUTHER KING at time "shots" fired, and claimed the "shots" were not fired from rooming house on Main Street, as claimed, but from another building located "behind Goldstein Clothing Store." McGUIRE said he was calling the FBI after being convinced by some friends that he should make his information known to the FBI. These friends had directed him to Mr. ERNEST POOLE, operator of a Negro funeral home in Birmingham who, on behalf of McGUIRE, put McGUIRE in telephonic contact with Birmingham Office. McGUIRE said he was a lease truck driver for Transcon Co., Los Angeles, and was leaving Birmingham at 9:00 p.m.

McGUIRE was contacted at Poole Funeral Home, 7/28/68, by Buagent, and furnished the following:

McGUIRE said he lived at 627 Alameda St., Los Angeles, telephone 827-3581, with his wife and children. He is employed as lease truck driver by Transcon Co., and presently en route to Los Angeles. On "the day KING got shot in Memphis" (exact date unrecalled by McGUIRE), McGUIRE arrived in Memphis with a load about 2:30 p.m. in his

- 3 - Bureau (AM-RM)
- 1 - Los Angeles (44-1574)(Info)(AM-RM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM-RM)
- 2 - Birmingham

RMB:mfl

(8)

*mfl*

*Snow* *WAK*  
44-1740-*1000*  
SEARCHED ☒ INDEXED ☒  
SERIALIZED ☒ FILED ☒ N

BH 44-1740

tractor-trailer, en route to Los Angeles. He was accompanied by a helper, JAMES THOMPSON, 1237 Abilene St., Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He parked the tractor-trailer near "3rd and Vance," near the Goodyear Tire Company and also near the "Queen Anne" Motel. He had to wait in Memphis to pick up some freight bills. Between 2:30 p.m. and about 5:45 p.m. he and THOMPSON, in the trailer, drank at least a pint of Seagram V.O. Whiskey, with at least three or four beers. (McGUIRE also advised that prior to contacting the FBI on 7/28/68, he had drunk a "couple of pints of whiskey. I drink a couple of pints every day.") At 5:45 p.m., McGUIRE checked into Room 337 or 347, "on the second floor" of the Lorraine Motel, where he was supposed to meet his "ex-wife," EVELYN JOHNSON, who lives in the 400 block of South Arlene St., Memphis. JOHNSON never kept the date.

About 6:00 p.m., McGUIRE observed MARTIN LUTHER KING arrive at the motel in a black Cadillac driven by a chauffeur and accompanied by a couple of other associates. KING walked up the stairs from the parking lot to the second floor balcony, where McGUIRE said "Hello." At the time McGUIRE was standing on the balcony looking out towards the parking lot, "just standing, looking, like Negroes do." KING said "Hello" to McGUIRE, as he recognized McGUIRE. McGUIRE said, "I seen him all over the world - he knew me." KING entered the room next door to the room occupied by McGUIRE and stayed in there for at least an hour, perhaps 90 minutes. At that time, KING came out of this room and McGUIRE was just leaving his room to go eat dinner. The chauffeur called up to KING to get a topcoat, as it was getting cool. KING walked back into his room and came out carrying a "brown beige topcoat over his left arm. I'll never forget that topcoat." McGUIRE was looking towards KING when he heard "two shots" come from his left. McGUIRE immediately looked to his left and saw the "flash" come from the second floor of a building located next to the Goodyear store building, a distance of not more than 75 feet. McGUIRE did not see who fired the shots. He then looked back and saw KING lying on the floor. About then, a white man came up and put a sheet over KING.

McGUIRE then immediately left the motel and walked over to Main Street, near the "Goldstein store," where he

BH 44-1740

observed a pistol on the street. About then, a white policeman picked up the pistol and put it in his squad car.

From there, McGUIRE went to the Queen Anne and drank until 3:00 a.m., when he went to his tractor-trailer parked nearby and went to sleep. At 8:00 a.m. the next day, he and THOMPSON left and drove back to Los Angeles. He stated he never returned to the Lorraine Motel, and had not taken any personal effects with him when he went there originally to meet his "ex-wife." McGUIRE said he was told several times after this by friends (whom he would not identify) that he would be in danger if he told what he knew, and that he had not told anyone what he knew and what he saw until his interview 7/28/68 by the FBI. After telling some Birmingham friends, they told him to contact Mr. ERNEST POOLE, who could give him the proper advice and put him in contact with the proper authorities.

FD-302 follows.

Any leads based on the information furnished by McGUIRE being left to discretion of origin in view of the many and obvious discrepancies.

Information copy being furnished Los Angeles in view of McGUIRE's residence and employment there.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM

DATE: 7-26-68

FROM : HOMER E. PARKER  
SPC

SUBJECT: MURKIN

BILL TAYLOR, Hartselle, Alabama, telephone 773-5882, telephoned office 7-26-68 and said he is Manager of Hartselle, Alabama radio station and looks like RAY. He said he also drives a white Mustang and is from Wisconsin. He said he is getting tired of people accusing him of being RAY and wanted FBI to take some action to stop people from harassing him. He used curse words in describing his feelings concerning this matter.

Mr. TAYLOR was advised that FBI could not help him in this regard.

HEP  
(2)



5010-108

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

44-1740-2025  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED  
JUL 26 1968  
FBI - BIRMINGHAM  
Snow  
(Info)

8-1-68

AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN - COST DATA

Re ME airtel 4-19-68.

Following is the cumulative cost data for the Birmingham Division through the month of July, 1968:

1.	MAN HOURS SPENT ON CASE:	<u>REGULAR</u>	<u>OVERTIME</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
	A. SPECIAL AGENTS	5016:15	2402:15	7418:30
	B. CLERICAL	1755:55	340:00	2095:55
	TOTALS	<u>6772:10</u>	<u>2742:15</u>	<u>9514:25</u>
2.	TOTAL MILEAGE BUCARS:			27,583
3.	OTHER COSTS: Transportation (Common Carrier)			\$416.00
	Per Diem			494.00
	Total			\$910.00
4.	PEAK NUMBER SPECIAL AGENTS WORKING ON CASE:			2

2-Memphis  
1-Birmingham  
BWS:8  
(3)

44-1740-111  
ARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

7/31/68

**AIRTEL**

**AIRMAIL**

**TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)**  
**FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)**  
**MURKIN**

Re Buairtel 7/25/68, and Buairtel to Director, 7/25/68, in captioned matter; and Buairtel to Director, 8/22/68, captioned "NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY, RM (ORGANIZATION)".

On 7/29/68, BY 521-R (PROM), (PROTECT IDENTITY), advised that with regard to the previously reported statements made by Dr. EDWARD R. FINLEY, NRP, that he was a personal friend of JIM HINES, Attorney for JAMES EARL RAY, alleged murderer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., JAMES B. STONE recently mentioned that HINES had called them, apparently at the NRP Office, acted mad, and pointed out to them that he did not even recall ever meeting them and that he was not "their friend". According to this source, FINLEY and STONE were ruffed that HINES was so unfriendly, but acknowledged at the time that they had met HINES on only one occasion for a brief moment. This informant said he has heard nothing further about any correspondence from JAMES EARL RAY or of any efforts by FINLEY or STONE to intervene for him. This source stated that the financial status of the NRP is such that they could not afford to contribute any money to RAY's defense, although they had made the offer in the name of the Patriotic Legal Aid Fund of Savannah.

- 2 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (RM)
- 1 - Birmingham (RM)
- 2 - Savannah

END/ld  
(8)

44-1740-2027

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 2 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*[Signature]*



SV 44-1768

This informant was of the opinion that STOKER and FIELDS had made the initial offer to aid JAMES EARL RAY for the publicity and for the purpose of attempting to increase their own prestige.

The Savannah Office has instructed this informant to be alert for any future contacts between the NRP officials and JAMES EARL RAY or his attorney or representatives.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 8/2/68

On July 28, 1968, at 7:15 p.m., WILLIE JAMES McGUIRE, who gave his residence as 2747 Central Parkway, Los Angeles, California, telephonically contacted the Birmingham Office and claimed that he had been standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, close to victim, MARTIN LUTHER KING, at the time "shots" were fired, and claimed the "shots" were not fired from the rooming house on Main Street as claimed but from another building located "behind Goldstein Clothing Store". McGUIRE said he was calling the FBI after being convinced by some friends that he should make his information known to the FBI. These friends had directed him to Mr. ERNEST POOLE, operator of a Negro funeral home in Birmingham, who on behalf of McGUIRE, put McGUIRE in telephonic contact with the Birmingham Office. McGUIRE said he was a lease truck driver for Transcon Company, Los Angeles, and was leaving Birmingham at 9:00 p.m.

McGUIRE was contacted at the Poole Funeral Home, 1507 7th Avenue, North, and furnished the following information:

McGUIRE said he lived at 627 Alameda Street, Los Angeles, telephone 827-3581, with his wife and children. He is employed as a lease truck driver by Transcon Company and was presently enroute to Los Angeles. On "the day KING got shot in Memphis" (exact date unrecalled by McGUIRE), McGUIRE arrived in Memphis with a load, about 2:30 p.m., in his tractor-trailer, enroute to Los Angeles. He was accompanied by a helper, JAMES THOMPSON, 1237 Abilene Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

McGUIRE parked the tractor-trailer near "3rd and Vance", near the Goodyear Tire Company and also near the "Queen Anne" Motel. He had to wait in Memphis to pick up some freight bills. Between 2:30 p.m. and about 5:45 p.m., he and THOMPSON, in the trailer, drank at least a pint of Seagram V.O. whiskey with at least three or four beers. (McGUIRE also advised that prior to contacting the

On 7/28/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740 - 2028

by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT:epg Date dictated 7/30/68

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.

BH 44-1740

FBI on July 28, 1968, he had drunk "a couple of pints of whiskey." "I drink a couple of pints every day.") At 5:45 p.m., McGUIRE checked into Room 337 or 347, "on the second floor" of the Lorraine Motel, where he was supposed to meet his "ex-wife", EVELYN JOHNSON, who lives in the 400 block of South Arlene Street, Memphis. JOHNSON never kept the date. About 6:00 p.m., McGUIRE observed MARTIN LUTHER KING arrive at the motel in a black Cadillac, driven by a chauffeur and accompanied by a couple of other associates. KING walked up the stairs from the parking lot to the second floor balcony, where McGUIRE said hello. At the time McGUIRE was standing on the balcony looking out towards the parking lot, "just standing, looking, like Negroes do". KING said hello to McGUIRE, as he recognized McGUIRE. McGUIRE said, "I seen him all over the world - he knew me." KING entered the room next door to the room occupied by McGUIRE and stayed in there for at least an hour, perhaps 90 minutes. At that time KING came out of this room, and McGUIRE was just leaving his room to go eat dinner. The chauffeur called up to KING to get a topcoat, as it was getting cool. KING walked back to his room and came out carrying a "brown beige topcoat over his left arm." "I'll never forget that topcoat." McGUIRE was looking toward KING, when he heard "two shots" come from his left. McGUIRE immediately looked to his left and saw the "flash" come from the second floor of a building located next to the Goodyear store, a distance of not more than 75 feet. McGUIRE did not see who fired the shots. He then looked back and saw KING lying on the floor. About then a white man came up and put a sheet over KING.

McGUIRE then immediately left the motel and walked over to Main Street, near the "Goldstein store", where he observed a pistol on the street. About then a white policeman picked up the pistol and put it in his squad car.

From there McGUIRE went to the Queen Anne and drank until 3:00 a.m., when he went to his tractor-trailer parked nearby and went to sleep. At 8:00 a.m. the next day, he and THOMPSON left and drove back to Los Angeles. He stated he never returned to the Lorraine Motel and had not taken any personal effects with him when he went there originally to meet his "ex-wife".

BH 44-1740

McGUIRE said he was told several times after this by friends, whom he would not identify, that he would be in danger if he told what he knew, and that he had not told anyone what he knew and what he saw until his interview on July 28, 1968, by the FBI. After telling some Birmingham friends, they told him to contact Mr. ERNEST POOLE, who could give him the proper advice and put him in contact with the proper authorities.

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

8/3/68

SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN

Re Birmingham airtel, 7/29/68, recording what appeared to be false information furnished by one WILLIE JAMES MC GUIRE, Negro, of Los Angeles.

For whatever value it may serve, there are attached 9 copies of FD-302 setting forth MC GUIRE's statements.

2 - Memphis (Enc. 9)  
2 - Birmingham

HAS:gas  
(4)

44-1740-2027

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

8/3/68

SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

MURKIN

Re Birmingham airtel, 7/29/68, recording what appeared to be false information furnished by one WILLIE JAMES MC QUIRE, Negro, of Los Angeles.

For whatever value it may serve, there are attached 3 copies of FD-302 setting forth MC QUIRE's statements.

*Snow Has*

*RDY*

2 - Memphis (Enc. 9)  
2 - Birmingham

HAS:gas

(4) *gas*

44-1740-2029  
SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

DATE: 8/3/68

FROM : SA ROBERT J. YARNALL

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 8/3/68 JOHN DeSHAZO telephonically advised that he will probably be a witness in captioned case. He advised that on 8/4/68 he will be going into the Air Force and can be reached at Sheppard Air Force Base, Medical Service School until 8/27/68 at which time he will be leaving for Japan.

He advised that after 8/27/68 his address will be as follows:

Captain JOHN DeSHAZO  
SN: [REDACTED]  
USAF Hospital  
PAZAF  
APO, San Francisco, Calif. 96323

2 - 44-1740  
RJY:rjy

44-1740-2030

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 3 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*[Handwritten signature]*



5010-108

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

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>ATLANTA</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>7/30/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>5/10/68 - 7/15/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>SA ROBERT R. PERRY</b>	TYPED BY <b>: mlw</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CGR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY</b>	

REFERENCE: Report of SA ALLEN G. SENTINELLA, 5/17/68.

- P -

LEADS:

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Will continue reporting results of investigation requested of the Atlanta Division.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On 5/14/68, wanted flyers were mailed to all laundries and dry cleaning establishments in the Metropolitan Atlanta area

- A -

( COVER PAGE )

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED <b>NONE</b>						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
5 - Bureau (44-38861) 4 - Birmingham (44-1740) 4 - Memphis (44-1987) 2 - Atlanta (44-2386)						44-1740-2031 SEARCHED <b>B</b> INDEXED <b>B</b> SERIALIZED <b>B</b> FILED <b>B</b> <b>AUG 3 1968</b> <b>FBI - BIRMINGHAM</b>		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								



AT-44-2386

RRP:mlw

as well as the headquarter cities of all Resident Agencies in the Atlanta Division.

On May 20, 1968, Postal Inspector RAGSDALE, Atlanta, advised that on that date mail held for JAMES EARL RAY at General Delivery, Atlanta Post Office, was due to be returned to the sender of the mail. Mr. RAGSDALE advised there has been no additional delivery of mail since last contacted and the Bureau would be immediately notified if any additional mail for RAY should be sent to the Atlanta Post Office, General Delivery. He stated clerks at the General Delivery window have been alerted concerning this mail.

On June 3, 1968, Postal Inspector BRADY advised that money order number 5615057923, dated March 28, 1968, purchased in Atlanta in the amount of \$7.50, payable to the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, was purchased at Postal Station C, which is located on Fourteenth Street, N.E., Atlanta. It is noted this address is almost directly across from the rooming house which was occupied by the subject in March, 1968.

Results of negative investigation conducted by Atlanta Agents in this matter are not being set forth in this report as they contain no information of value and were primarily elimination-type leads.

All safety deposit boxes in the Atlanta Metropolitan area have been checked for a box rented in the name of the subject or his known aliases with negative results.

Reference to the interviews of RAYMOND CURTIS at Dalton, Georgia is noted that while CURTIS indicates that he would not testify to any information he furnished, he had already in fact written two letters to Ebony Magazine concerning the information contained in these interviews.

All persons departing Atlanta by airline for points in Canada from April 5 - 12, 1968, were eliminated as identical with subject RAY. No reservations could be located in the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD or PAUL BRIDGEMAN.

- B\* -  
( COVER PAGE )

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

## Copy to:

Report of: SA ROBERT R. PERRY  
Date: July 30, 1968

Office: Atlanta, Georgia

Field Office File #: 44-2386

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIMCharacter: CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION - CONSPIRACY;  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: BILLY MAC WISDOM, inmate, U.S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, says he saw person who resembled subject, December, 1967, or January, 1968, at which time a white male he knew as "CHUCK" attempted to sell this individual a rifle with telescopic sight. Two individuals who were guests at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, December, 1967, at the same time of the subject had no information. Itinerary for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. from April, 1967 to time of his death obtained from SCLC Headquarters. ROBERT TATUM, Mableton, Georgia, who purchased .38 caliber revolver found on RAY at time of his arrest in London states sold revolver to a RAY SPAIN of Birmingham, Alabama. RAYMOND CURTIS interviewed at Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised he was trying to sell a story to Ebony Magazine for approximately \$5,000 to help pay off the mortgage on his mother's home. At first interview he denied statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine concerning he and subject, JAMES EARL RAY. Second interview, same date, he allowed Agent to read his twenty page handwritten story concerning activities of himself and JAMES EARL RAY.

- P -

DETAILS:

AT 44-2386

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT R. PERRY:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On May 11, 1968, JIMMY GARNER, 107 14th Street, NE, advised he had no additional information concerning the whereabouts of subject. He stated inasmuch as he and the subject had done some drinking together, and there has been no publicity concerning the subject residing at the rooming house on 14th Street, it is possible the subject might recontact him. He stated if he should hear any thing from the subject, he would immediately contact the Atlanta FBI Office.

On May 13, 1968, BILLY MAC WISDOM, contacted by SAs ROBERT R. PERRY and JAMES O. PONDER at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, where he is currently in custody. He was interviewed at the AWB Building where he is being held in administrative segregation for refusing to work where assigned at the penitentiary.

He stated he has no knowledge of the whereabouts of subject, RAY, and no knowledge of any plot to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He stated that in November, 1967, he saw a person in the 14th Street area of Atlanta, who closely resembled the subject.

WISDOM stated he has never resided in the 14th Street area himself. He stated this individual who he had seen believed to have a 1956 or 1957 Oldsmobile automobile.

WISDOM further stated that he would not furnish any information concerning subject, RAY, if he had such information.

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA  
ROBERT R. FERRY:

On May 29, 1968, BILLY MACK WISDOM was interviewed at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, where he is an inmate.

He stated since last interviewed he had recalled some additional information and wished to furnish all information he had concerning the person he believed identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

He stated that a white male, who he knew as "Chuck", blond, and probably in his early twenties, and who drove a red and white 1966 Mustang convertible with an unknown license, tried to sell a rifle to this individual who he believed identical with RAY either in December, 1967, or January, 1968. He said he recalled it was right after he was released from the Fulton County Jail following his arrest and in December, 1967.

He stated this attempted sale took place on the corner of Barnett and St. Charles Streets in Northeast Atlanta where several hippie-types were residing in an apartment house which faced St. Charles Street on the corner of Barnett, and would be located on the southwest corner of the intersection. He stated JIM NEIMAN, a singer at the Catacombs, also might know the person he believed identical with RAY.

He stated CHUCK was visiting the girl who resided in this apartment, which he described as the first apartment on the right, and two hippies who he knew only as "WEASEL" and "JOHN", also living there. Both were bike-riders who wore leather jackets and hung out around the Catacombs. He stated he believed CHUCK resided in the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Street area near Peachtree Street and stated he was not the hippie type but a veteran, 21 or 20 years old, 140 pounds, 5 feet 8 inches, blond hair, and not employed.

WISDOM stated he first saw this person he believed identical with RAY in September or October, 1967, at the Regency Hyatt House in downtown Atlanta when he was with a BOB JONES of Decatur, who is believed to operate a nightclub in Daytona Beach, Florida. He said he saw this person other

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

2

times at the Catacombs, a hippie coffee house on Fourteenth Street in Atlanta. He stated he talked with NEIMAN at that time.

He stated the last time he saw this individual was at the intersection of St. Charles and Barnett Streets; however, he could not be certain as to whether it was before or after he was in the Fulton County Jail. He stated CHUCK had tried to sell this rifle for \$150.00 because the rifle was in a case and had a telescope. He stated after thinking about the matter further he recalled he was in jail at Christmas-time, 1967, and this attempted sale probably took place before he was placed in Fulton County Jail about December 8, 1967.

He stated CHUCK was in town in early January, 1968, and believes he may be from Tennessee. He stated WEASEL and JOHN had lived on Vedado Way.

On May 29, 1968, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. BARBOUR, who reside at 865 St. Charles Street and on the apartment listed at 869 St. Charles, which is the southwest corner of the intersection bordered by St. Charles and Barnett, stated at one time there had been a Mr. and Mrs. W. T. JONES residing in the right-hand apartment at 869 St. Charles. They were described as hippie-types, and asked to leave because of the many hippies who were apparently spending the night there. Mrs. BARBOUR stated there was always a crowd, and there would be as many as ten motorbikes parked in front of the house at one time. She described Mr. and Mrs. JONES as young white male and young white female, who did not dress like hippies, however, had hippie-type friends. She stated Mrs. JONES' name was RHONDA and a Mrs. LILLIAN JONES at 15 Habersham, telephone 261-7818, was apparently the mother of W. T. JONES.

She stated Mrs. LILLIAN JONES indicated she would pay the rent if W. T. JONES was unable to do so.

On May 29, 1968, records of the Atlanta Police Department reflected EILLY MACK WISDOM was arrested on December 11, 1967, released on December 30, 1967, on bond, and sentenced in United States District Court, Atlanta, on January 29, 1968.

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

3

On May 31, 1968, Mrs. LILLIAN JONES, Apartment B-9, 15 Habersham, N.E., advised she has two sons, KELLY JONES, who is in school, and W. T. JONES. She stated W.T.'s full name is WILLIAM THOMAS JONES and he is presently on probation for theft of motor vehicles, and his probation officer is JAMES HUDSON, United States Probation Officer. She stated she had no idea of his whereabouts and knows that he moved recently from North Highland Avenue. She stated her parents are presently financing her rent, and she is unable to work at this time. She stated she has met "WEASEL" and "JOHNNIE", who she described as a tall person, and also noted that her daughter-in-law RHONDA is pregnant. She stated RHONDA's parents, who reside somewhere in Alabama, are presently paying the rent for her son and his wife. She stated if she obtains any information concerning his whereabouts, she will advise the FBI.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reviewed on May 31, 1968, reflected WILLIAM THOMAS JONES, Atlanta Police Department number 189931, FBI number 179 306 D, white male born [redacted] was indicted by Fulton County Grand Jury on May 3, 1968, charged with robbery and rape. He is described as white male, 5 feet 11 inches, 177 pounds, black hair, hazel eyes, tattoo upper right arm of "LONIE", numerous cut scars.

On May 31, 1968, Lieutenant C. J. STRICKLAND, Atlanta Police Department, Homicide Squad, advised WILLIAM T. JONES is presently on Federal probation, and his probation officer is JAMES HUDSON. Lieutenant STRICKLAND stated he was one of the detectives assigned to the robbery-rape case and to contact Mr. HUDSON for any additional information.

On June 4, 1968, United States Probation Officer JAMES HUDSON advised WILLIAM T. JONES is under supervision until July, 1971, and is on parole, not probation. He stated he is not in possession of a present address for JONES; however, JONES is due to report that week and noted that he has always done so promptly. Mr. HUDSON stated he considers JONES' mother a "nut" and stated that his grandmother, Mrs. G. A. CHRISTIAN, 3729 Dunbarton Road, N.W., telephone 233-5223,

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

4

apparently has some money and is financing JONES' mother. He also stated a Mrs. HARRINGTON, telephone 688-7279, resides at 1083 Culpwood Avenue, may have some information concerning JONES. JONES reportedly stole her car and used it in some armed robberies in Dekalb County.

Inquiries in the area of the Catacombs May 29, 31, June 4, 5, and 6, 1968, have failed to find anyone who knew the whereabouts of WEASEL, JOHN, or CHUCK. Several persons recalled knowing WEASEL and CHUCK, but were unable or declined to furnish any information as to their present whereabouts.

AT 44-2386

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA ROBERT R. PERRY on May 10, 1968; and May 13, 1968:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

LOUIS KLAUBER, 1145 Peachtree, NE, Georgia Laundrys and Cleaners Association, advised he has a list of approximately 700 cleaning establishments located throughout the state of Georgia, which contains the listing of all except plants that are not covered by employment compensation. He stated this list is very complete and he would be happy to make a copy of it available,

On May 13, 1968, LOUIS KLAUBER, Room 438, 1145 Peachtree Street, NE, made available listing at no cost.



AT 44-2386

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
SA ROBERT R. PERRY:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On May 15, 1968, R. C. MATTHEWS, JR., Group Vice President, Trust Company of Georgia, 2126 Mabry Road, NE, advised he had been in New Orleans at the Provincial Motel, in December, for about 3 days, however, did not recall the exact dates. He stated he and his wife were there on a short vacation, and proceeded from New Orleans to Birmingham, for Christmas. He stated they talked to no one while at the motel, and he stated the photograph of the subject is not familiar. Mr. MATTHEWS stated he recalled work being done on the swimming pool at that time, and that he and his wife had stopped to watch this construction.

AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

1

On May 29, 1968, N. R. HINES, Westinghouse Electric Corporation, 1610 Southland Avenue, advised that he had been at the Provincial Motel at 1024 Chartres Street in New Orleans, December, 1967, for one night on business. He stated he was at the motel very little, arrived late after dinner, and just spent one night there. He recalled that the room he had faced the street, and he was unable to recall seeing anyone who resembled the subject. He stated he was not at the motel during the day.

AT-44-2386  
RRP:mlw

On May 20, 1968, DORA MC DONALD, Secretary to the late Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, made available to Mrs. WILLINGHAM of the Accounting Division of SCLC, two copies of a memorandum directed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflecting the itinerary of Doctor KING for April 15, 1967, to the time of his death. This information was obtained from airline billings and reservation records and may not indicate all of the late Doctor KING'S travels.

MEMORANDUM

TO: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FROM: SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

RE: TRAVEL ITINERARY FOR DR. KING

DATE: MAY 20, 1968

DATE	PLACE
April 15, 1967	Hilton Inn - San Francisco, California
April 22-24	New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center
May 6, 1967	Louisville, Kentucky
May 12	Terrace Motor Inn - Appleton, Wisconsin
May 14	New York
May 19	From Chicago to Detroit
May 20	Summit - New York City
May 27	New York City
May 29 thru June 3	Frogmore, South Caroline
June 5 and '6	New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center
June 12	Seagill Restaurant -- Chicago
June 15	Sheraton Cleveland Hotel
June 22	New York City and Sheraton Cleveland, Cleveland
June 24	Ted's Rhivcho Restaurant -- Malibu, Calif.
June 25	Hyatt House Hotel -- Los Angeles, California
July 9, 1967	Cleveland and Chicago
July 13	Chicago and Cleveland
July 18--23	Chicago and Cleveland
July 23	New York Hilton
July 26	Sheraton Chicago - Chicago
July 29	Cleveland to Pittsburgh
July 28	

July 28	Marriott Twin Brdgs - Washington, D.C.
August 4	Boston, New York City and Louisville, Kentucky
August 3	Laramie, Wyoming and New York
August 10	Los Angeles
August 13	Washington, D.C.
August 22 and 23	Howard Johnson's -- Cleveland
August 28	Chicago
August 11	International Hotel - Los Angeles, California
August 9	Los Angeles
August	Sheraton Palace - San Francisco, California
Sept. 7 and 8	Howard Johnson - Cleveland
Sept. 8 and 9	Netherland Hilton, Cincinnati, Ohio
Sept. 22	Fairmont Hotel and Tower - San Francisco, California
Sept. 24	Independence, Ohio
October 2 --7	Howard Johnson - Cleveland
October 20	Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.
Nov. 9	Cleveland
Nov. 12-14	London Hilton Park Lane, W1.
Nov. 3	Birmingham, Alabama - A.G. Gaston Motel
Nov. 26	Americana of New York
Dec. 2	Savannah, Georgia to Atlanta
Dec. 14 and 15	New York Hilton, New York
Dec. 28--Jan 1, 1968	Miami, New York, and Chicago
Jan 1, 1968	Chicago to Atlanta
January 31 to Feb. 3	Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Wayne, Cleveland, New York and Atlanta
Feb. 2 and 3	New York Hilton, Rockefeller Center
Feb. 5	New York Hilton
Feb. 10	International Hotel, Jamaica, New York
Feb. 12	Holiday Inn of Washington, D.C.
Feb. 14 and 16	Mississippi and Alabama Tour
March 5,	Dallas Texas
March 10 and 11	

- 12 -

March 10 and 11

March 15

March 17

March 18

March 19

March 22

New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center

Detroit

Los Angeles

Hotel Acapulco

Alamo Plaza Hotel Courts -- Mississippi

Washington, New York, Virginia and Georgia

July 3

N. Randa, Ohio

April 11

Memphis

AT-44-2386

RRP:mlw

By communication dated June 10, 1968, the Los Angeles Division advised that JAMES EARL RAY was apprehended in London, England and he had in his possession a .38 caliber Liberty Chief revolver, serial number 715, manufactured by Mirolcu Firearms Manufacturing Company in Japan. MILA SVOBODA, owner, Liberty Arms Company and the Solinger Cutlery Company, Montrose, California advised that the above described revolver had been sent to R. TATUM, New and Used Guns, 118 Edwards Drive, Mableton, Georgia, on October 3, 1966, under invoice from Solinger Cutlery in Montrose, California. The revolver was the only item in the shipment.

AT MABLETON, GEORGIA.

On June 11, 1968, ROBERT TATUM, 118 Edwards Street, Mableton, Georgia, advised Special Agent JAMES RICHARD FLICK he had purchased a .38 caliber revolver, serial number 715, a Japanese make from the Solinger Cutlery Company, Montrose, California for \$40, on October 11, 1966. On December 3, 1966, he sold the gun for \$50 to WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904 42nd Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama. He obtained SPAIN'S name and address from a driver's license and described SPAIN as a white male, thirty to thirty-five years of age with brown hair. He stated SPAIN is not identical to subject RAY.

By communication dated July 2, 1968, the Bureau advised that RAYMOND CURTIS, Whitfield County Jail, had written two letters to Ebony Magazine who had referred these letters to the Bureau. These letters are as follows:

"Box 21, Tunnel Hill

"Georgia

"June 22, 1968

"Mr. Charles L. Sanders

"Dear Mr. Sanders:

"I thank you for your answer to my letter. I think that details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

"Well, Sir, I have written a story. No one but myself has read it but me. At this time I know that it will have to be re-written for I am not a writing it as bad as it is.

AT-44-2386

RRP:mlw

"It all about the crime I did and about a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther King, Jr. We talk of killing King for three years. And we talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK businessman association that was to put up the money to kill King. I also know the men from Mississippi.

"In that three years we made maps just had to find the right place to kill King. Well I have made the maps over myself. They are with the story also.

"And just where we would go after we killed King so yes when we talk about it I was to be in on it. But I was not. The story has it all in it. All the big thing and the little one also. And what Ray like and what he did not like. This story could get me killed. I know that. That is why. I won't send the story by mail. I know that this is getting to be a long letter. But when you read this if you want the story O.K. If not just let me know, O.K. That way I won't talk to men about it.

"Mr. Sanders there are men in five states that is behind the King killing and they don't know what I know. But James Earl Ray did not. Now that they have Ray Tenn. will trial him if they get him back.

"Well, they want me to testify. Well, I just don't know yet what I will do.

"You see, me and Ray were pal. I could tell what I have to the news. That not much. Or I could not say everything. And I did not tell the FBI. Well, this is not a book. I am just trying to tell you what you ask of me in your letter.

"If you have a man or have someone down this way, if you will have them stop by the jail I will let them read the story and you can go from there. O.K.



AT-44-2386

RRP:mlw

"I thank you again.

"I will be looking to hear from you soon.

"Raymond Curtis

"I am still in the Dalton County, Jail."

"Box 21, Tunnel Hill

"Georgia

"May 30, 1968

"Mr. John H. Johnson  
(evidentially connected with Ebony Magazine)

"Sir:

"I am Raymond Curtis, a man that said we talk about killing King. Will, Sir, there is things that have never been told. Thing he did and better. Things that would make a story so if you are interested and want the story then I will look to hear from you or someone you send if you are not interested and you know someone that is I would appreciate it if you would tell them about me and give my address. O.K. I am still at the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia. My home address is at the top. Sir, I would appreciate if if you would let me hear from you.

"Thank you for your time.

"Raymond Curtis"

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 5, 1968

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was contacted at the Whitfield County Jail and advised of the identities of Special Agents THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. and ALBERT D. MILLARD. He was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he read, indicated he understood, but refused to sign. He was advised that he was being interviewed concerning statements he made in a letter he had mailed to Mr. SANDERS of Ebony Magazine.

CURTIS stated he was merely trying to sell a story to Ebony for approximately \$5,000 to help his mother pay off a mortgage on her home. She had obtained this mortgage as a result of paying attorney's fees for the defense of CURTIS at a previous trial.

CURTIS stated that he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a burglary in Joliet, Illinois, in October or November, 1954. It was pointed out to CURTIS that certain statements made by him in his letter to Ebony Magazine could possibly involve him in a conspiracy with JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS then stated he wished to go on record as to the statements made in his letter to Mr. SANDERS. He categorically denied the following statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine:

- 1) That he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a crime in 1954;
- 2) That RAY wanted the job of killing KING;
- 3) That he and RAY talked about killing KING for three years;
- 4) That he and RAY talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK Businessmen's Association which Association was to put up the money to kill KING;
- 5) That he knew the men from Mississippi;
- 6) That for three years he and RAY made maps just to find the right place to kill KING and that he made the maps over himself;
- 7) That he and RAY knew just where they would go after the killing of KING;
- 8) That he was to be in on the killing of KING;
- 9) That there are men in five states who are behind the killing of KING and these men do not know what he (CURTIS) knows.

- 17 -

On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2386  
by SA ALBERT D. MILLARD and  
SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68

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AT 44-2386

2

During this interview CURTIS drew two maps setting out how he thought RAY would stalk KING. This map indicated the following towns where he said KING made most of his speeches: Atlanta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Birmingham, Mobile, and Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Vicksburg, and Marks, Mississippi.

CURTIS further advised that there was a man living on a houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River whose name he would not divulge who was to take RAY down the River on his boat to New Orleans after the killing. CURTIS further advised that in the past he had pulled several burglaries and armed robberies in towns along the Mississippi River and while police were looking for him on the highway he would be on a boat down the Mississippi. He added that he had written a story concerning the KING killing which was currently being typed and this was the story he mentioned in the letter to Ebony Magazine and which he intended to sell to Ebony.

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

On July 3, 1968, Sheriff G. T. Mauldin, Whitfield County, Georgia, advised that Curtis sent no letters or communications from the Whitfield County Jail which passed over the jailer's desk. He stated Curtis probably sent his mail out with visitors and jail trustees which would probably not have been observed by men of his department. Sheriff Mauldin stated that Curtis' attorney, Erwin Mitchell, former U. S. Congressman from the Seventh District of Georgia, is of the opinion that most of Curtis' comments concerning his knowledge of Ray's alleged assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. are pure fabrications on the part of Curtis or the result of something Curtis has read in the newspapers.

Approximately one hour following the conclusion of the interview with Curtis, he sent a note to Sheriff Mauldin requesting to again see an FBI Agent and stating that he wanted to tell the entire truth. Curtis was re-interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 5, 1963

Date

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he refused to sign. He then stated in connection with the previous interview that apparently in his letter to Ebony Magazine, he used the word "we" indicating that he and JAMES EARL RAY had planned the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and he realized now this would involve him in a conspiracy. For that reason in the previous interview he denied the statements he had made in his letter to Ebony Magazine. CURTIS then advised he had written a story which he intended to sell to some magazine for the purpose of obtaining money for his mother. He stated the story was still in his possession and had not yet been sent out to be typed. He permitted SA HENRY to read this 20-page handwritten story one page at a time and he declared this story was true. The first five or six pages of the story merely set out his early life in crime and the prison sentences he had served as a result of the crimes, starting at the age of 15. The remainder of the story is the same as he originally furnished in an interview in April, 1963, concerning his knowledge and association with JAMES EARL RAY. The story reflects that he first became associated with RAY in 1954 when they pulled a payroll robbery together in Quincy, Illinois, with a third individual. Shortly thereafter CURTIS lost contact with RAY when RAY and this third individual were apprehended in connection with a bank robbery at Southwest City, Missouri. After that CURTIS again became acquainted with RAY in prison and while in prison they both learned of the death of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. At this time RAY stated the murder of KENNEDY sounded like a big job and he was always on the inside of a prison when big jobs and big money were to be had.

Shortly after the death of JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. became prominent, and RAY stated on several occasions that somebody was going to kill KING. During this period an individual came into the Missouri State Penitentiary from Vicksburg, Mississippi. This individual upon learning of JAMES EARL RAY's feelings toward killing KING advised RAY of the KK Businessmen's Association of the South

- 20 -

On 7/3/63 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2386

by SA THOMAS R. HENRY, JR. :jlh Date dictated 7/5/63

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and stated that people in five states were putting up money for KING's assassination. The story further reflected that RAY informed this individual that he intended to have everything set when he killed KING. RAY followed KING's movements through maps so that he could later stalk KING to the point of assassination. RAY indicated during the time that he would leave a false gun and false trail immediately following the murder. RAY was supposed to go to Vicksburg, Mississippi, following the murder, contact the man from Vicksburg who had the houseboat, and this man was to take him either to New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River.

At the conclusion of the interview CURTIS stated he would not testify to any of the above information. He did advise that the name of the individual on the houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was (first name unknown) WILLETT, also known as "Mississippi," who served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

CURTIS refused to allow his story to be copied and stated he would not write it over again nor would he allow the pages to be removed from his prison cell. CURTIS then presented crude sketches of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Missouri State Penitentiary.

8/2/68

**AIRTEL**

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

Rebulet to Bureau 7/19/68 and Airtel to Bureau 7/30/68 concerning court orders issued by Shelby County Criminal Court Judge W. FREDRICK BATTLE, and Airtel to Bureau 7/30/68 concerning the disposition of the 1966 Mustang abandoned by JAMES EARL RAY in Atlanta, Ga.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau for information is one more copy of an "Amendment to Order" dated 7/23/68 and an "Order" dated 7/30/68, both of which concern "Order on Courthouse and Courtroom Procedures and Publicity" issued by Shelby County Criminal Court Judge W. FREDRICK BATTLE.

On 8/2/68 the Honorable PHIL M. CANALE, District State Attorney General, Memphis, Tenn., advised SA ROBERT P. DOYLE that he does not see any need for the physical presence in Memphis of the 1966 Mustang abandoned by JAMES EARL RAY in Atlanta, Ga.; however, he desires that this automobile not be disposed of until completion of the murder trial of RAY scheduled to commence in Memphis on 11/12/68.

He stated that under state law the defense counsel is afforded an opportunity to examine any potential evidence and in this particular instance would be given an opportunity to examine this automobile if he so desires. Mr. CANALE stated, however, that since this automobile is the property of JAMES EARL RAY he would offer no objections if Mr. ARTHUR B. HANES, RAY's attorney, initiates any action to have this automobile turned over to HANES.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
1 - Atlanta (44-2388) (Info)  
① - Birmingham (44-1740)  
1 - Memphis  
RFB:LV  
(8)

44-1740-2032

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 5 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

**ME 44-1987**

**LEAD**

**BIRMINGHAM DIVISION**

**AT BIRMINGHAM, ALA.**

In view of the fact that there is still outstanding a federal complaint charging JAMES EARL RAY with conspiracy, it is suggested that the Birmingham Division, unless advised to the contrary by the Bureau, consult with the appropriate USA who authorized the federal conspiracy complaint against RAY to determine if he has any particular views on disposition of the 1966 Mustang.

Since the 1966 Mustang is in custody of the Atlanta Division, a copy of this airtel is being forwarded for their information.



8/2/68

PLAIN TEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) AND SACS, MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
SAC, JACKSON, SAC, MOBILE

FROM: SAC, MIAMI (44-1854)

MURKIN. CR.

RE MIAMI AIRTEL TO BUREAU, JULY FIFTEEN, LAST, AND MIAMI  
AIRTEL TO BUREAU, JULY TWENTYFOUR AND TWENTYFIVE, LAST,  
CAPTIONED KATHLEEN MADLYN AINSWORTH, AKA; ET AL, ATTEMPTED  
BOMBING RESIDENCE OF MEYER DAVIDSON, TWO NINE ZERO FOUR  
THIRTY SIX ST., MERIDIAN, MISS., JUNE THIRTY, SIXTYEIGHT,  
BOMBING MATTERS.

FORMER SYMBOL INFORMANT WHO IS  
WILLIAM SOMERSETT, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~,  
NO LONGER CONTACTED BY THE MIAMI OFFICE, AND CHARACTERIZED  
AS HAVING FURNISHED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST, AND  
IN ADDITION HAS FURNISHED INFORMATION WHICH COULD NOT BE  
VERIFIED OR CORROBORATED, ADVISED AS FOLLOWS TODAY:

ON JULY THIRTYONE, LAST, MARGARET CAPOMACCHIA, MOTHER  
OF DECEASED, KATHLEEN AINSWORTH, CONTACTED HIM AND RELATED  
THE FOLLOWING.

- 1 - Atlanta (Info) (AM) (RM)
- ① - Birmingham (Info) (AM) (RM)
- 3 - Miami
  - (1 - 44-1854) (1 - 174-363)
  - (1 - 170-1)

LCP:jth  
(5)

44-1740-2033

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 5 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*Now* *Kaa*

**MM 44-1854**

**PAGE TWO**

**SHE IS UPSET AND DISTURBED WITH SIDNEY C. BARNES OF MOBILE, ALA., WHOSE WIFE, PAULINE, IS PRESENTLY AT THE HOME OF HER DECEASED DAUGHTER IN JACKSON, MISS. STATED SHE TOLD BARNES THE GUNS, PREVIOUSLY GIVEN TO SOMERSETT, WERE THROWN IN THE OCEAN. STATED THERE IS A LOT OF DANGER IN THIS CASE, NOT FURTHER IDENTIFIED, AND SHE WANTS NOTHING TO DO WITH BARNES AND THE PEOPLE INVOLVED IN HER DAUGHTER'S DEATH. STATED TARRANTS (THOMAS A. TARRANTS, III), HER DAUGHTER AND FOUR OTHER MEN, IDENTIFIED AS HAWKINS, DUNN, HARPER AND WILSON, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATH OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. STATED AUTOMOBILE IN WHICH HER DAUGHTER WAS KILLED WAS USED WITH ONE OTHER CAR BY THOSE INVOLVED. STATED THEY USED RADIO EQUIPMENT AND KATHY HELPED IN JAMMING POLICE CALLS. STATED THEY HAD UNKNOWN COLORED MALE HELP TO "SET UP KING." SAID SHOOTING WAS FROM TREES AND BUSHES IN VICINITY OF HOTEL AND THAT JAMES EARL RAY MAY HAVE HELPED TO PURCHASE THE GUN, BUT RAY DID NOT DO THE SHOOTING. AFTER THE SHOOTING, THEY REMAINED IN MEMPHIS, TENN., UNTIL THE FOLLOWING DAY, WHEN THEY DEPARTED FOR ATLANTA, GA. KATHY AND TARRANTS THEN**

MM 44-1854

PAGE THREE

PROCEEDED TO SOUTH CAROLINA, WHERE THEY REMAINED ABOUT ONE WEEK PRIOR TO GOING TO MOBILE, ALA., AND THEN TO JACKSON, MISS.

IN FURTHER IDENTIFYING THE MEN INVOLVED, SHE SAID THEY ARE GOING TO TRIAL OR ARE CURRENTLY ON TRIAL THIS WEEK IN CONNECTION WITH THE BOMBING OF A REAL ESTATE OFFICE AND THAT THE POLICE INFORMANT IN THIS CASE REPORTEDLY RAN OFF WITH THE WIFE OF A KLANSMAN.

SOMERSETT ADVISED HE WAS UNABLE TO CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY CAPOMACCHIA, WHO HE FEELS IS MENTALLY DISTURBED, AND HE HAS NO WAY OF EVALUATING THE INFORMATION, BUT IN VIEW OF THE TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED, IT IS REMOTELY POSSIBLE TARRANTS AND HIS ASSOCIATES IN SOME WAY MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED WITH THE ASSASSINATION OF KING.

SOMERSETT ADVISED THAT HE WAS IN CONTACT WITH BARNES ON THE EVENING OF JULY THIRTYONE, LAST. BARNES ADVISED HE WAS LEAVING JACKSON, MISS., ON AUG. TWO, INST., AND REQUESTED SOMERSETT TO JOIN HIM. SOMERSETT DECLINED THE INVITATION AND RELATED THAT BARNES LIKES TO PUSH PEOPLE INTO THINGS WITHOUT BECOMING INVOLVED HIMSELF.

**MM 44-1854**

**PAGE FOUR**

**MIAMI IS NOT IN A POSITION TO EVALUATE THE ABOVE INFORMATION, HOWEVER, IT IS NOTED THAT ANTHONY CAPOMACCHIA AND HIS WIFE, NORMA, WHO HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED IN MIAMI, INDICATE THAT MARGARET CAPOMACCHIA HAS A MENTAL PROBLEM.**

**UACB, JACKSON, THROUGH EMPLOYMENT RECORDS AND INTERVIEW WITH RALPH AINSWORTH, HUSBAND OF KATHLEEN, ESTABLISH THE WHEREABOUTS OF KATHLEEN AINSWORTH DURING THE PERTINENT PERIOD DURING AND FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, IN AN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH ANY VALIDITY IN THE ABOVE INFORMATION.**

**JACKSON AND MOBILE SHOULD BE ALERT TO THE ACTIVITIES OF BARNES, WHO REPORTEDLY IS LEAVING FOR JACKSON TODAY.**

**AIRMAIL COPIES FURNISHED ATLANTA AND BIRMINGHAM.**

Director, FBI (44-38861)

3/3/68

SAC, Memphis (44-1987) 7

MURKIN

*ser. 2032*

Re Memphis Airtel to Bureau 3-2-68, and Bureau Airtel to Memphis 3-2-68.

In referenced Memphis Airtel, Memphis suggested that Birmingham contact the USA, Birmingham, for any opinion he might have regarding disposition of the subject's automobile which is now stored at Atlanta. Memphis has been advised by the Bureau that AAG STEPHEN POLLACK intends to further discuss this matter with State AG PHIL CANALE at Memphis, and that Mr. POLLACK will decide what disposition should be made of this car. Birmingham disregard Memphis request to discuss this with the USA, Birmingham.

In accordance with the Bureau's request in referenced Buairtel, Captain J. G. MAY has confidentially advised that GLENN W. FILLER mailed a \$20.00 money order to the subject. FILLER, who gave his address as 2421 Atlantic Avenue, Atlantic City, New Jersey, wished the subject "good luck" and requested that he "drop me a line" to let him know if subject received the money. This was a \$20.00 money order issued by the Boardwalk National Bank, Atlantic City.

2 BUREAU (44-38861)  
2 BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)  
1 ATLANTA (44-2386)(INFO)  
1 MEMPHIS  
JCH:BN  
(6)

44-1740-2034

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

*[Signatures]*

FBI WASH DC

FBI BIRMGHAM

752PM URGENT 8-9-68 HEP

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) 2P

MURKIN

RE BIRMINGHAM TELCALL TO BUREAU THIS DATE.

BOB WOOD, OWNER, AEROMARINE, ADVISED THIS DATE HE AND SON DON HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS IN THE PAST TO THE EFFECT THAT "YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO TESTIFY IN THIS TRAIL" AND "YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO GO TO COURT." NEWSPAPER ARTICLES RECENTLY PUBLISHED INDICATED THAT DON WOOD WAS TO BE PRINCIPAL WITNESS IN CAPTIONED CASE. TODAY TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED AT AEROMARINE FROM UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED TO BE NEGRO, WHO STATED HE WAS MEMBER OF THE BLACK PANTHERS AND DESIRED TO PURCHASE SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN. WHEN ADVISED THEY DID NOT STOCK THEM, HE TOLD THEM THEY SHOULD DO SO AS THEIR PLACE WAS GOING TO BE BURNED DOWN.

BUREAU TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED OF ABOVE, AND DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY STEPHEN J. POLLAK INSTRUCTED THAT DISTRICT ATTORNEY CANALE, MEMPHIS, SHOULD BE ADVISED OF THE ABOVE.

END PAGE ONE

44-1740 2035

PAGE TWO.

NO INVESTIGATION IS TO BE CONDUCTED BY MEMPHIS OR BIRMINGHAM  
PER BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS. BUREAU INSTRUCTS LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM  
TO BE SUBMITTED BY BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS RE ABOVE.

END

LCC

FBI WASH DC

ALSO SENT  
RST  
FBI-MEMPHIS

F B I

Date: 8-9-68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)TO: ~~BUREAU~~<sup>+</sup> SAC, MEMPHIS

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

MURKIN.

*Re BH telephone Call to Butcher Sale*  
BOB WOOD, OWNER, AEROMARINE, ADVISED THIS DATE HE AND SON  
DON HAVE RECEIVED NUMEROUS THREATENING TELEPHONE CALLS IN THE  
PAST TO THE EFFECT THAT "YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO TESTIFY IN THIS  
TRIAL" AND "YOU WILL NOT LIVE TO GO TO COURT." *NEWS PAPER* ARTICLES RECENTLY  
PUBLISHED INDICATED THAT DON WOOD WAS TO BE PRINCIPAL WITNESS IN  
CAPTIONED CASE. TODAY TELEPHONE CALL RECEIVED AT AEROMARINE FROM  
UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED TO BE NEGRO, WHO STATED HE WAS MEMBER  
OF THE BLACK PANTHERS AND DESIRED TO PURCHASE SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN.  
WHEN ADVISED THEY DID NOT STOCK THEM, HE TOLD THEM THEY SHOULD DO  
SO AS THEIR PLACE WAS GOING TO BE BURNED DOWN.

BUREAU TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED OF ABOVE, AND DEPARTMENTAL  
ATTORNEY STEPHEN J. POLLAK INSTRUCTED THAT DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
CANALE, MEMPHIS, SHOULD BE ADVISED OF THE ABOVE.

BIRMINGHAM AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED.

JHG:rlg  
(1) *reg*

44-1740 -2035

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SERIALIZED FILED

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_



F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

PAGE TWO  
BH 44-1740

NO INVESTIGATION IS TO BE CONDUCTED BY MEMPHIS OR BIRMINGHAM  
PER BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS. BUREAU INSTRUCTS LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM  
TO BE SUBMITTED BY BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS RE ABOVE.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

DATE: 8/9/68

FROM : SA ROBERT M. BARRETT

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 8/9/68, PETER CHIRPIS, telephonically requested to be recontacted concerning a matter that has come to his attention.

On 8/9/68, CHIRPIS was contacted at his residence by SAS ROBERT M. BARRETT and FRANCIS M. MULHOLLAND. He stated that for the last two weeks, about every other day, between 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. he has been receiving a telephone call in which the caller will not speak or identify himself or say anything. After about three minutes of silence, the caller hangs up.

In view of the vagueness of the above information no further action is recommended concerning this matter at this time.

(1)  
RMB/rmb

*Snow* *has*

44-1740-2036

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AUG 9 1968	
FBI—BIRMINGHAM	

*JMB*



5010-108

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