

UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE TWO

CONSCIOUS OF EACH OTHER'S ACTIVITIES. HE IS POSITIVE HIS FATHER OBTAINED THE JAPANESE RIFLE FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE AFTER HE WAS IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN AFTER 1970. RECALLED HIS DAD SHOWING IT TO HIM WHEN HE CAME HOME ON MILITARY LEAVE. STEVEN NEVER FIRED THE WEAPON BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID THAT IT WOULD NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY, AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE THEY NEVER HAD ANY AMMUNITION FOR THE RIFLE. HE PERSONALLY NEVER KNEW OF HIS DAD USING THE WEAPON. HIS DAD HAD THE STOCK OF THE WEAPON WORKED ON BY A FRIEND WHO WAS A FURNITURE REFINISHER IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY WORK EVER DONE ON THE RIFLE. THE GUN WAS OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURER, AS IT HAD JAPANESE PRINTING ON ITS VARIOUS PARTS.

WILSON'S DAD GAVE THE GUN TO HIM WHILE HE WAS IN THE SERVICE, AND HE HOOKED THE RIFLE AT A PAWN SHOP IN SAN ANTONIO SOMETIME IN THE EARLY 1970'S, DATE UNRECALLED. HE HAS NO RECEIPT OR BILL OF LADING FOR THE RIFLE.

MARK WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, BURLESON, TEXAS, CONTACTED AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THE FOLLOWING:

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HE PERSONALLY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS FATHER'S WEAPONS, AS HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THEM. HIS DAD WAS DEFINITELY AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, TEXAS, TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS. HIS DAD FLEW HIS PLANE, A BONANZA BEECH-CRAFT, USUALLY ON WEEKENDS, FROM A SMALL AIRFIELD NEAR TOWN. HE BELIEVED HIS DAD OWNED THE PLANE, HOWEVER, HE IS NOT POSITIVE. WILSON STATED HIS DAD WAS NOT AWAY FROM THE HOUSE ON THE DAY DR. KING WAS KILLED, AS HE WAS TAKING CARE OF HIS BROTHER AND HIMSELF AT THE TIME, WHILE HIS MOTHER AND SISTER FLEW TO MEMPHIS TO SEE THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

MRS. BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMITH ROAD, BURLESON, TEXAS, RECONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THAT SHE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF HER FORMER HUSBAND HAVING A JAPANESE RIFLE. SHE STATED SHE SEPARATED FROM BURGESS WILSON IN 1974, WHICH WOULD MEAN HE MOST PROBABLY OBTAINED THE RIFLE AFTER THAT PERIOD. SHE IS SURE SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE GUN, IF HE HAD BOUGHT IT

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WHILE THEY WERE LIVING TOGETHER.

ADMINISTRATIVE

DALLAS IS NOT COVERING LEAD AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS,
REGARDING NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT FOR WILSON, AS IT
HAS NO BEARING ON PERTINENT FACTS OF CASE, UACB.

BT

VZCZCH0083

PP BH OG DL HO JN KC ME OC SL SA

DE HQ #0083 2340043

ZNR UUUUU

P 222206Z AUG 78

FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY BEEN CONDUCTED TO
RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON THAT HE
ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND TO DETERMINE

44-2649-718

RECORDED	INDEXED
<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
<i>Cole</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>

PAGE TWO DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WILSON'S WHEREABOUTS ON APRIL 4, 1968, THE DAY KING WAS ASSASSINATED. IN ADDITION, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THE FOLLOWING OFFICES SHOULD CONDUCT THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION:

SAN ANTONIO:

WILSON ALLEGED ON AN UNSPECIFIED DATE MITCH (LNU) FURNISHED HIM A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE WHICH HE ALLEGEDLY USED TO SHOOT KING. DEBRA JONES, DAUGHTER, ADVISED HE WAS ARRESTED ABOUT FOUR AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO AT BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS, WHILE INTOXICATED AFTER HAVING MADE THREATS TO KILL HIS WIFE, AND THE POLICE FOUND A RIFLE IN HIS CAR.

SAN ANTONIO AT BROWNSVILLE, OBTAIN DETAILS OF THIS ARREST, AND OBTAIN ANY DESCRIPTION OF RIFLE REPORTEDLY LOCATED BY POLICE.

JACKSON:

APPARENTLY REFERRING TO A SKETCH OF KING'S KILLER, WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS (WORKING ASSOCIATES IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI) THAT IT WAS ALMOST AN EXACT LIKENESS OF HIM AND BECAUSE IT WAS RECENTLY SHOWN ON TV, HE DECIDED TO TURN HIMSELF IN. WILSON SAID HE HAS A SISTER IN FULTON, MISSISSIPPI,

PAGE THREE DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

WHO TELEPHONED HIM IN OCEAN SPRINGS TO SAY THAT THE SKETCH LOOKED JUST LIKE HIM.

JACKSON, IN YOUR ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CHRISTINE WILSON, SISTER, AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ALSO INTERVIEW HER RE ALLEGED CALL RE SKETCH DESCRIBED ABOVE.

MEMPHIS:

WILSON ADVISED THE TWO WHITE MALES IN MEMPHIS TOOK HIM TO A HOTEL ON SOUTH MAIN STREET NEAR BEALE STREET AND TOOK HIM TO A ROOM ON THE THIRD FLOOR. MEMPHIS ADVISE PROXIMITY OF THIS ADDRESS TO ACTUAL KING ASSASSINATION LOCATION.

OPAL HOOTEN, MOTHER OF BETTY LOU WADE, WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH SPECIFIC DATES OF VISITS OF BETTY AND DEBRA, HOWEVER, WOULD CHECK FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS. DEBRA ALSO STATED WHILE HER MOTHER BETTY AND HER WERE IN MEMPHIS VISITING HOOTENS AT TIME KING WAS ASSASSINATED, BETTY CALLED WILSON IN KANSAS CITY AT LEAST TWO TIMES.

MEMPHIS FOLLOW STATUS OF HOOTEN LOCATING FAMILY MEDICAL RECORDS, AND DETERMINE WHETHER SHE HAS ANY TELEPHONE RECORDS, OR IF SAME ARE AVAILABLE AT TELEPHONE COMPANY, SHOWING ANY CALLS TO KANSAS CITY, OR GRANDVIEW AREA, DURING PERIOD OF

PAGE FOUR DE HQ 0003 UNCLAS

APRIL, 1968.

ALL RECIPIENT OFFICES:

now
SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS OF ANY INVESTIGATION STILL
OUTSTANDING, AND PROMPTLY SUBMIT REPORTS REPORTING ALL
INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED RE WILSON'S ALLEGATION, DESIGNATING
4 COPIES TO BUREAU, AND 3 TO MEMPHIS, WITH COPY DESIGNATED
FOR USA MEMPHIS.

BT

#0083

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VZCZCH00083

PP BH CG DL HQ JN KC ME OC SL SA

DE HQ #0083 0340043

ZNR UUUUU

P 222206Z AUG 73

FM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

TO FBI BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

FBI CHICAGO PRIORITY

FBI DALLAS PRIORITY

FBI HOUSTON PRIORITY

FBI JACKSON PRIORITY

FBI KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

FBI MEMPHIS PRIORITY

FBI OKLAHOMA CITY PRIORITY

FBI SAN ANTONIO PRIORITY

FBI ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

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44-2649-718

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SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 22 1976	
FBI - DALLAS	

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PAGE TWO DE HQ 0083 UNCLAS

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DE HQ 103 UNCLAS
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BT

40083

NNNN

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☒ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☒ CLEAR

Date 8/23/78

923

FM DALLAS (44-2649) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY 6032

JACKSON (62-544) PRIORITY 02³⁴/₂OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) PRIORITY 0610²MEMPHIS (44-1987) PRIORITY 02²⁰/₂

BT

UNCLAS

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

RE OKLAHOMA CITY TELETYPE TO DALLAS, AUGUST 23, 1978.

FOR INFORMATION OF RECEIVING OFFICES, REFERENCED TELETYPE REQUESTED DALLAS TO CONDUCT TITLE SEARCH RE BONANZA AIRCRAFT, REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L, REPORTEDLY OWNED BY BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

A REVIEW OF RECORDS AT THE FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER (FRC) REFLECTS REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L WAS ASSIGNED TO A TWIN ENGINE BEACH CRAFT IN CONTRAST TO A SINGLE ENGINE BEACH BONANZA.

THIS AIRCRAFT WAS ORIGINALLY IMPORTED INTO SWITZERLAND

1 - Dallas
 GKJ/pms

Serial 11111
 Index 11111
 File 11111
 Search 11111

44-2649-719

Approved: AgTransmitted _____
(Number) (Time)Per W

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO DL 44-2649 UNCLAS

SOME TIME AROUND 1950. THE AIRCRAFT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BROUGHT BACK INTO THE UNITED STATES IN 1956, AT WHICH TIME IT RECEIVED THE REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L. IN 1959 THE OWNER, MR. LEAR, SR., OF LEAR, INC. SUBSEQUENTLY TOOK THE AIRCRAFT BACK TO SWITZERLAND AND SOLD IT TO AN ITALIAN CORPORATION IN 1962. APPARENTLY, FOR INSURANCE PURPOSES, THE AMERICAN REGISTRATION NUMBER, N34L, WAS REQUESTED TO BE DEREGISTERED IN THE UNITED STATES, WHICH IT WAS ON JULY 27, 1962.

THERE IS NO INFORMATION IN THE FILES REGARDING A SINGLE ENGINE BONANZA, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, OR ANY PREVIOUS OWNER WITH LAST NAME FISHER.

JERRY PACE, SECURITY, SOUTHWESTERN REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS, FAA, FORT WORTH, TEXAS, ADVISED HE TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED FAA, OKLAHOMA CITY, AND DETERMINED REGISTRATION NUMBER N34L HAS BEEN UNASSIGNED SINCE 1962. PACE ALSO STATED A REVIEW OF THE 1963, 1968 AND 1969 UNITED STATES CIVIL AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION BOOKS FAILED TO REFLECT THIS REGISTRATION NUMBER.

JACKSON WILL RE-INTERVIEW BURGESS AUDIE WILSON RE CORRECT REGISTRATION NUMBER OF BONANZA AIRCRAFT HE CLAIMED HE OWNED AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH.

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE THREE DL 44-2649 UNCLAS

FOR INFORMATION OF RECEIVING OFFICES, IT IS NOTED WILSON
GAVE THE REGISTRATION NUMBER OF HIS AIRCRAFT AS 34L. ALL UNITED
STATES AIRCRAFT BEAR THE PREFIX "N" BEFORE THE REGISTRATION NUMBER.
DALLAS WILL SUBMIT RUC REPORT.

BT

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Approved: _____

Transmitted _____
(Number) (Time)

Per _____

GPO : 1977 O - 225-339

PAGE TWO DL 44-2649 UNCLAS

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PAGE THREE DL 44-2649 UNCLAS

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DALLAS WILL SUBMIT RUC REPORT.

BT

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FM OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) (RUC)
TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS EFTO

BT

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BLDG.

MURKIN

RE KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO BUREAU, ETAL, AUGUST 21, 1978.

FOR INFORMATION DALLAS, REFERENCED TELETYPE ADVISED AS
FOLLOWS:

ON AUG. 19, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, DPOB AUG. 28,
1930'S (YEAR UNKNOWN), MISSISSIPPI; 5'11"; BROWN EYES; BROWN
HAIR; FBI NO. 879 421 E, WAS INTERVIEWED BY AGENTS OF THE
JACKSON OFFICE AT GULFPORT, MISSISSIPPI. WILSON TOLD INTERVIEWING
AGENTS HE HAD SHOT AND KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING IN MEMPHIS,
TENNESSEE. AMONG OTHER INFORMATION FURNISHED, WILSON ADVISED
DURING THE PERIOD IN WHICH HE SHOT AND KILLED KING, HE RESIDED
AT 13125 HERRICK AVE., GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI, AND HE WAS AT THAT

A/ [unclear] lead

44-2649-720

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FBI - DALLAS	

[Signature]

PAGE TWO. OC 44-686 UNCLAS EFTO

TIME IN THE AIR FORCE RESERVES, RICHARDS GEISUR, EMPLOYED AS A CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEE.

WILSON ALSO STATED THAT AT THE TIME OF KING'S DEATH HE HAD OWNED A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REG. NO. 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN ENGINE BLUE AND WHITE AIRCRAFT. WILSON PROVIDED THE IDENTITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL FROM WHOM HE HAD PURCHASED ONE OF THESE PLANES, THE BONANZA, AS BEING (FNU) FISHER.

RETEL REQUESTED OKLA. CITY AT THE FEDERAL AVIATION AERONAUTICAL (FAA) CENTER PERFORM A COMPLETE TITLE SEARCH FOR REG. NO. 34L. ADDITIONALLY, DETERMINE CURRENT OWNER AND SET OUT LEADS TO APPROPRIATE FIELD OFFICES TO CONTACT OWNER FOR REVIEW OF PLANE LOG BOOK WHICH SHOULD REVEAL DISPOSITION OF PLANE DURING PERIOD IN QUESTION.

INVESTIGATION AUGUST 22, 1978, BY OKLAHOMA CITY DIVISION AT THE FAA AERONAUTICAL CENTER IDENTIFIES FAA REG. NO. 34L AS A DEREGISTERED NO. AS OF 1962. NUMBER PREVIOUSLY ASSIGNED TO A BEECH E-18-5 (TWIN ENGINE), SERIAL NO. BA-73. ALC RECORDS IN STORAGE AT THE FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER (FCR), FORT WORTH,

PAGE THREE, OC 44-686, UNCLAS EFTO

TEXAS UNDER ACCESSION NUMBER 63-H-496, LOC. 200 340, BOX 1.

DALLAS AT FORT WORTH, TEXAS. WILL CONTACT FRC AND
REVIEW RECORD.

BT

DL 1

000412 035150Z

OO HQ DL

DE OC

O 031528Z AUG 78

FM OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) (RUC)
TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS EFTO

BT

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44-2649-720

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FBI - DALLAS	

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PAGE TWO. OC 44-656 UNCLAS EFTO

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PAGE THREE, OC 44-526, UNCLAS EFTO

TEXAS UNDER ACCESSION NUMBER 63-N-496, LOC. 200 340, BOX 1.

DALLAS AT FORT WORTH, TEXAS. WILL CONTACT FRC AND
REVIEW RECORD.

BT

CL 1

8/31/78

Date of transcription

MARK WILSON, 514 Southeast Gardens, Burleson, Texas, was telephonically contacted and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. He was advised he was being recontacted regarding the statement of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, his father, that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to MARK WILSON that his father claimed that he had shot Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle. In addition, his father indicated during interview that he flew a Bonanza Beechcraft from Grandview, Texas to Memphis and then returned to Grandview by plane after shooting Doctor KING. MARK WILSON advised the following information:

He personally had no knowledge of any of his father's firearms as he had no interest in guns. He, therefore, could not verify whether his father ever owned a Japanese sniper rifle.

His dad, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, was definitely at home in Grandview, Texas taking care of himself and his brother, STEPHEN, at the time Doctor KING was killed in Memphis, Tennessee. He recalled his father flew a plane, Bonanza Beechcraft, usually on weekends from a small air field near town. He believed his dad owned the plane; however, he is not positive. He recalled that his mother and sister had flown to Memphis by commercial airliner to see their grandparents and were in Memphis at the time Doctor KING was killed.

Interviewed on 8/21/78 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649-721
by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs Date dictated 8/25/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date dictated

Dallas 44-2649-721

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
8/25/78	
SEP 12 1978	
FBI - DALLAS	

Cole *AKC*

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 8/31/78

Mrs. BETTY LOU WADE, 233 Smith Road, Burleson, Texas, was contacted telephonically and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. She was advised that she was being recontacted regarding the statements of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, her former husband, that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to Mrs. WADE that BURGESS WILSON had claimed that he had killed Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle. Mrs. WADE advised that she had no recollection of her husband having a Japanese rifle. She stated she separated from BURGESS WILSON in 1974 which would mean if he actually had owned such a weapon, he most probably obtained it after that time period. She stated she is certain that she would have been aware if he had purchased or obtained the weapon while they were living together.

Interviewed on 8/21/78 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649-72
by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs Date dictated 8/25/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/31/78

Mrs. BETTY LOU WADE, 233 Smith Road, Burleson, Texas, was contacted telephonically and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. She was advised that she was being recontacted regarding the statements of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, her former husband, that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to Mrs. WADE that BURGESS WILSON had claimed that he had killed Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle. Mrs. WADE advised that she had no recollection of her husband having a Japanese rifle. She stated she separated from BURGESS WILSON in 1974 which would mean if he actually had owned such a weapon, he most probably obtained it after that time period. She stated she is certain that she would have been aware if he had purchased or obtained the weapon while they were living together.

Interviewed on 8/21/78 at Dallas, TexasFile # Dallas 44-2649-782by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs

Date dictated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
8/25/78	
SEP 12 1978	
FBI - DALLAS	
<i>Cole</i>	<i>PFC</i>

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

8/31/78

Date of transcription

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 Livingston, Fort Worth, Texas, was contacted telephonically and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. He was advised that he was being recontacted regarding his father's statement (BURGESS AUDIE WILSON) that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to WILSON that his father claimed that he had shot Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle which he had later given to STEPHEN. STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON advised the following information:

The WILSONs were a closely-knit family, and were very conscious of each other's activities. He is positive his father obtained the Japanese rifle from an unknown source after he was in the military service, which would have been after 1970. He recalled his dad showing it to him when he came home on military leave. STEPHEN never fired the weapon because he was afraid that it would not function properly, and secondly, because they never had any ammunition for the rifle. He personally never knew of his dad using the weapon. His dad had the stock of the weapon worked on by a friend who was a furniture refinisher in Canyon Lake, Texas, but that was the only work ever done on the rifle. The gun was of Japanese manufacturer, as it had Japanese printing on its various parts.

WILSON's dad gave the gun to him while he was in the service, and he hocked the rifle at a pawn shop in San Antonio sometime in the early 1970's, date unrecalled. He has no receipt or bill of lading for the rifle.

Interviewed on 8/21/88 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649-723
by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs Date dictated 8/25/78

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 8/31/78

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 Livingston, Fort Worth, Texas, was contacted telephonically and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. He was advised that he was being recontacted regarding his father's statement (BURGESS AUDIE WILSON) that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to WILSON that his father claimed that he had shot Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle which he had later given to STEPHEN. STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON advised the following information:

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Interviewed on 8/21/78 at Dallas, Texas
by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs

Date dictated

Dallas 44-2649-723	
SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8/25/78	
SEP 12 1978	
FBI - DALLAS	
Case	PRC

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/8/78

BETTY LOU WADE, 233 Smith Street, Burleson, Texas, telephone number 817/295-2200, furnished the following information:

She is the ex-wife of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. She has been divorced from WILSON for approximately five years. She was married to WILSON on April 4, 1968. At that time, they were residing at an unrecalled address on Herrick Street in Grandview, Missouri, and WILSON had a jewelry business at the Katz Drugstore in Grandview, Missouri. She said the business, known as Wilbur's Jewelers, was subsequently moved to Belton, Missouri, where it was located in a small shopping center.

WADE said she could positively state that WILSON was in Grandview, Missouri at the time Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was shot.

WADE advised that WILSON has had serious mental problems for years, but he declines to seek treatment. She said WILSON has made threatening and harassing telephone calls to her on numerous occasions over the past five years, and her son, MARK WILSON, had his father arrested at Cleburne, Texas, two years ago as a result of one of these calls and due to non-child support. WADE described her ex-husband as a liar and con-artist with serious mental problems. She said he cannot differentiate between the truth and fantasy, and that he lives in a dream world most of the time. She felt he needs medical attention.

WADE said the following relatives of WILSON could substantiate her evaluation:

Sister

LINDA MC GAHEY,
2002 East Eighth Avenue North,
Columbus, Mississippi
telephone number 327-1141;

Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649-291
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

DL 44-2649

Sister	CHRISTINE GUNTHERP, Route 1, Box 36, Fulton, Mississippi;
Brother	ALLISON WILSON, Reform, Alabama;
Son	STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 Livingston, Fort Worth, Texas; telephone number 817/923-9414;
Son	MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 Southeast Gardens, Apartment 132, Burleson, Texas, telephone number 817/295-2854;
Daughter	DEBORAH ANN JONES, 2628 Newburg Road, Trailer space 106, Belvedere, Illinois, telephone number 543-9734.

WADE said her ex-husband has never owned or had access to a white Mustang vehicle and her daughter, DEBORAH ANN, never drove such a vehicle from Kansas City, Missouri, to Memphis, Tennessee.

WADE advised that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON has been known to carry a .38 pistol in the past, and she does consider him dangerous.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 9/8/78

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WADE said she could positively state that WILSON was in Grandview, Missouri at the time Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was shot.

WADE advised that WILSON has had serious mental problems for years, but he declines to seek treatment. She said WILSON has made threatening and harassing telephone calls to her on numerous occasions over the past five years, and her son, MARK WILSON, had his father arrested at Cleburne, Texas, two years ago as a result of one of these calls and due to non-child support. WADE described her ex-husband as a liar and con-artist with serious mental problems. She said he cannot differentiate between the truth and fantasy, and that he lives in a dream world most of the time. She felt he needs medical attention.

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Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

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DL 44-2649

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Sister

CHRISTINE GUNTHORP,
Route 1, Box 36,
Fulton, Mississippi;

Brother

ALLISON WILSON,
Reform, Alabama;

Son

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON,
3117 Livingston,
Fort Worth, Texas;
telephone number 817/923-9414;

Son

MARK ANTHONY WILSON,
514 Southeast Gardens,
Apartment 132,
Burleson, Texas,

Daughter

telephone number 817/295-2854;
DEBORAH ANN JONES,
2628 Newburg Road,
Trailer space 106,
Belvedere, Illinois,
telephone number 543-9734.

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WADE advised that BURGESS AUDIE WILSON has been known to carry a .38 pistol in the past, and she does consider him dangerous.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

9/8/78

MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 Southeast Gardens, Apartment Number 132, Burleson, Texas, furnished the following information:

He is the son of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He said his father is a very sick man and may even be insane. He was advised of his father's allegation that he killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, and WILSON said his father could not have done it, because to the best of his recollection, BURGESS WILSON was at home in Grandview, Missouri, at the time of the KING killing. WILSON said his father was babysitting with him and his brother, STEPHEN WILSON, at the time and he thinks his mother and sister were in Memphis, Tennessee, visiting his grandmother.

WILSON confirmed that his sister had a white 1965 Mustang vehicle at that time. He said BURGESS WILSON would drive the vehicle on occasion primarily to instruct DEBORAH ANN to drive. He did not recall the father ever making any trip to Memphis, Tennessee, in the Mustang.

WILSON described his father as a habitual liar who always wanted to be someone important. He said his father is an alcoholic who thinks the whole world is crazy and he is the only sane person.

WILSON confirmed his father was a private pilot and said he used to own a Bonanza aircraft when they lived at Grandview, Missouri.

He said he has never heard his father make any allegation that he killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649-725
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/8/78

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He said he has never heard his father make any allegation that he killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

44-2649-725

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 18 1978	
FBI-DALLAS	
Cole	HPC

Interviewed on 8/26/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/8/78

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 Livingston,
Fort Worth, Texas, telephone number 817/923-9414,
furnished the following:

He is the son of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He said he would have been fifteen years of age at the time of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's murder, and does recall hearing about his death and watching newscasts concerning it. He said he remembers the entire family was at home in Grandview, Missouri, at that time. He further advised that his father, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, was definitely home at that time. WILSON said there was no way his father could have killed KING, because he was in Missouri at that time.

WILSON confirmed that his sister, DEBORAH ANN, was given a Mustang by their father, but stated the vehicle remained at Grandview and was never driven to Memphis, Tennessee. WILSON confirmed that his father did drive the vehicle on occasion, but it was primarily driven by DEBORAH ANN. WILSON said he recalled the vehicle to be light blue in color and a 1965 model.

WILSON said when he got out of the military service in January, 1976, he went to San Antonio, Texas. He said his father was living at New Braunfels, Texas, at that time and was placed on probation there for some kind of criminal offense. WILSON said that after his father was placed on probation, and because of his known alcohol addiction, he went to New Braunfels and picked up his father and took him back to San Antonio, Texas, where he was placed in the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Clinic for three or four days to try to get him "dried out". At this time his father's mental state was not rational. He said after his father was released from the clinic, he took him home. WILSON said his father stayed with him for several weeks but was asked to leave after it was discovered he was drinking alcohol during the day and had made numerous long distance telephone calls to his ex-wives and girl friends.

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Fort Worth, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649-726
AC
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78
Memphis 44-1987

DL 44-2649

WILSON said his father has been known to make threats and has physically and verbally abused his wife and children for many years; however, he has never known him to be violent with anyone else. WILSON said he has never heard his father make any statement that he killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, and was of the opinion that he would not be capable of such an act.

WILSON said he last saw his father at San Marcos, Texas, in January, 1978, when he and MARK had dinner with their father. WILSON said his father seemed to be doing alright at this time, he seemed happy and there was no indication of any problems.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 9/8/78

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Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Fort Worth, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

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DL 44-2649

2

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/8/78

BETTY LOU WADE, 233 Smith Street, Burleson, Texas, was telephonically recontacted and furnished the following:

She advised that her visit to Memphis to see VERNON HOOTEN at the Baptist Hospital was several weeks after the MARTIN LUTHER KING murder. She felt that her daughter was possibly confused about the time, because there was still a lot of publicity on the television and in the newspapers concerning the investigation.

WADE confirmed that she was in contact with WILSON by telephone while she was visiting her father at Memphis, Tennessee. She said she does not recall whether she called him or he called her; however, she said WILSON would usually call her on such occasions.

WADE confirmed that WILSON did buy their daughter a cream colored Mustang in February, 1968, but says he never drive the vehicle on any trips to her knowledge or recollection. WADE said her husband had a new red Thunderbird at that time and always drove that vehicle.

WADE reconfirmed that her ex-husband, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, was at their home in Grandview, Missouri, at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was murdered. She further advised that she has never heard WILSON make any statement that he killed KING. WADE said she has heard WILSON make allegations concerning other news stories written up in the news media, but she cannot recall him ever alleging that he was responsible for the murder of Dr. KING.

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649-727
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78
Memphis 44-1987

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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44-2649-727

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 18 1978	
FBI - DALLAS	

Cole PFC

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE DALLAS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/8/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/19 - 21/78
TITLE OF CASE MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA PERRY F. COLE	TYPED BY jeh
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS (A)	

REFERENCES: Memphis teletype to Bureau dated 8/19/78.
 Memphis teletype to Bureau dated 8/20/78.
 Jackson teletype to Bureau dated 8/19/78.
 Dallas teletype to Bureau dated 8/19/78.
 Dallas teletype to Bureau dated 8/20/78.
 Dallas teletype to Bureau dated 8/21/78.
 Bureau teletype to Dallas dated 8/22/78.

- RUC -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	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

COPIES MADE:

4-Bureau (44-38861)
 3-Memphis (2-44-1987) (SubM)
 (1-USA, Memphis)
 (1-Dallas (44-2649))

SPECIAL AGENT
IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

44-2649-728

Cole PFC

Dissemination Record of Attached Report			
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How Fwd.	File		
By	Search		

Notations

A*

COVER PAGE

c43-15-33490-1 GPO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1-USA, Memphis, Tennessee

Report of: PERRY F. COLE
Date: 9/8/78

Office: Dallas, Texas

Field Office File #: 44-2649

Bureau File #: 44-38861

Title: MURKIN

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS

Synopsis: BETTY LOU WADE, ex-wife of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, states WILSON positively at Grandview, Missouri, at time of KING's murder. WILSON's two sons, STEPHEN and MARK WILSON, confirm WILSON with them at Grandview, Missouri, at time of KING's death. All describe BURGESS AUDIE WILSON as a liar and conman who has serious mental problems. None have ever heard him make allegation that he killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. STEPHEN WILSON confirms his father gave him a Japanese rifle which he pawned in San Antonio.

- RUC -

DETAILS:

This investigation was predicated upon a teletype from Memphis requesting interview of BETTY LOU WADE, ex-wife of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 9/8/78

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Interviewed on 8/19/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

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DL 44-2649

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Son

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 9/8/78

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 Livingston,
Fort Worth, Texas, telephone number 817/923-9414,
furnished the following:

He is the son of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He said he would have been fifteen years of age at the time of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's murder, and does recall hearing about his death and watching newscasts concerning it. He said he remembers the entire family was at home in Grandview, Missouri, at that time. He further advised that his father, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, was definitely home at that time. WILSON said there was no way his father could have killed KING, because he was in Missouri at that time.

WILSON confirmed that his sister, DEBORAH ANN, was given a Mustang by their father, but stated the vehicle remained at Grandview and was never driven to Memphis, Tennessee. WILSON confirmed that his father did drive the vehicle on occasion, but it was primarily driven by DEBORAH ANN. WILSON said he recalled the vehicle to be light blue in color and a 1965 model.

WILSON said when he got out of the military service in January, 1976, he went to San Antonio, Texas. He said his father was living at New Braunfels, Texas, at that time and was placed on probation there for some kind of criminal offense. WILSON said that after his father was placed on probation, and because of his known alcohol addiction, he went to New Braunfels and picked up his father and took him back to San Antonio, Texas, where he was placed in the Alcoholic Rehabilitation Clinic for three or four days to try to get him "dried out". At this time his father's mental state was not rational. He said after his father was released from the clinic, he took him home. WILSON said his father stayed with him for several weeks but was asked to leave after it was discovered he was drinking alcohol during the day and had made numerous long distance telephone calls to his ex-wives and girl friends.

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Fort Worth, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

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DL 44-2649

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WILSON said his father has been known to make threats and has physically and verbally abused his wife and children for many years; however, he has never known him to be violent with anyone else. WILSON said he has never heard his father make any statement that he killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, and was of the opinion that he would not be capable of such an act.

WILSON said he last saw his father at San Marcos, Texas, in January, 1978, when he and MARK had dinner with their father. WILSON said his father seemed to be doing alright at this time, he seemed happy and there was no indication of any problems.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 9/8/78

MARK ANTHONY WILSON, 514 Southeast Gardens, Apartment Number 132, Burleson, Texas, furnished the following information:

He is the son of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON. He said his father is a very sick man and may even be insane. He was advised of his father's allegation that he killed MARTIN LUTHER KING, and WILSON said his father could not have done it, because to the best of his recollection, BURGESS WILSON was at home in Grandview, Missouri, at the time of the KING killing. WILSON said his father was babysitting with him and his brother, STEPHEN WILSON, at the time and he thinks his mother and sister were in Memphis, Tennessee, visiting his grandmother.

WILSON confirmed that his sister had a white 1965 Mustang vehicle at that time. He said BURGESS WILSON would drive the vehicle on occasion primarily to instruct DEBORAH ANN to drive. He did not recall the father ever making any trip to Memphis, Tennessee, in the Mustang.

WILSON described his father as a habitual liar who always wanted to be someone important. He said his father is an alcoholic who thinks the whole world is crazy and he is the only sane person.

WILSON confirmed his father was a private pilot and said he used to own a Bonanza aircraft when they lived at Grandview, Missouri.

He said he has never heard his father make any allegation that he killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Interviewed on 8/20/78 at Burleson, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
Memphis 44-1987
by SA PERRY F. COLE/jeh Date dictated 8/24/78

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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8/31/78

Date of transcription

MARK WILSON, 514 Southeast Gardens, Burleson, Texas, was telephonically contacted and advised of the identity of SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY as a Special Agent of the FBI. He was advised he was being recontacted regarding the statement of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, his father, that he had killed Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. It was explained to MARK WILSON that his father claimed that he had shot Reverend KING with a Japanese sniper rifle. In addition, his father indicated during interview that he flew a Bonanza Beechcraft from Grandview, Texas to Memphis and then returned to Grandview by plane after shooting Doctor KING. MARK WILSON advised the following information:

He personally had no knowledge of any of his father's firearms as he had no interest in guns. He, therefore, could not verify whether his father ever owned a Japanese sniper rifle.

His dad, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, was definitely at home in Grandview, Texas taking care of himself and his brother, STEPHEN, at the time Doctor KING was killed in Memphis, Tennessee. He recalled his father flew a plane, Bonanza Beechcraft, usually on weekends from a small air field near town. He believed his dad owned the plane; however, he is not positive. He recalled that his mother and sister had flown to Memphis by commercial airliner to see their grandparents and were in Memphis at the time Doctor KING was killed.

Interviewed on 8/21/78 at Dallas, Texas File # Dallas 44-2649
by SUPERVISORY SA GERALD LEWIS GEARY/gcs Date dictated 8/25/78

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