

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JAMES EARL RAY
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

On January 22, 1969, Special Agent Edward M. Cole telephonically attempted to contact Reverend Bevel at approximately 2:30 p.m. The person answering stated Reverend Bevel would not return until 5:00 or 6:00 p.m.

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*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

Title JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Character

Reference Memorandum dated and captioned as
above at Philadelphia, Pa.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities
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information in the past.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

Reverend James Bevel was interviewed at his residence, 919 North 18th Street, Philadelphia, Pa., on January 21, 1969. The following are the results of this interview:

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/22
ON 10-16-01

Classified By X 880
Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/EGM 6/9/77

~~ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE~~

[REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 1/23/69

Reverend JAMES BEVEL was interviewed for ten minutes at his residence. He stated he was extremely busy as he had appointments through 11:00 p.m. that day. While the interview was in progress, a woman asked BEVEL if he could speak to a member of the press. BEVEL told her to tell the person on the telephone he was tied up until 11:00 p.m.

BEVEL stated he had proof of the innocence of JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of his good friend Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. BEVEL referred to KING as one of his closest and dearest friends. BEVEL stated that since the FBI was connected with the prosecution and he was involved with the defense, he felt he should not furnish this information.

It was pointed out to BEVEL that the FBI is an investigative agency and does not prosecute anyone. It was also pointed out to BEVEL that the FBI is as interested in proving a person's innocence as proving a person's guilt. BEVEL was advised the FBI was interested in obtaining and proving all facts possible during any investigation.

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BEVEL stated that at the time MARTIN LUTHER KING

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

On 1/21/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. 2 File # Philadelphia 44-1368

SA RALPH C. HAMNER and
by SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PH 44-1368

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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1*



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

Title JAMES EARL RAY;
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

January 23, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM

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DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/22
ON 10-16-81

Classified By 6080
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/EGM 6/9/77

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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OTHERWISE

[REDACTED]

CONFIDENTIAL

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-5526

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Date 1/23/69

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On 1/21/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 44-1368

by SA RALPH C. HAMNER and
SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

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PH 44-1368

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SA RALPH C. HAMNER and
by SA EDWARD M. COLE EMC:kpb Date dictated 1/22/69

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PH 44-1368

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FBI WASH DC

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 30 1969

TELETYPE

FBI ATLANTA

3:48 PM URGENT 1/30/69 SAT

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 AND MEMPHIS

FROM ATLANTA 44-2386

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TEL TO ATLANTA JAN. TWENTYNINE, SIXTYNINE.

APPOINTMENT WAS MADE THIS DATE FOR INTERVIEW WITH REV. RALPH ABERNATHY. WHEN SA'S O. RICHARD HAMILTON AND ARTHUR L. MURTAGH ARRIVED AT SCLC HEADQUARTERS, ABERNATHY'S SECRETARY ADVISED HE WAS NOT IN BUT SHE WOULD CONTACT HIM ON THE TELEPHONE. SA HAMILTON TELEPHONICALLY TALKED WITH ABERNATHY WHO APOLOGIZED FOR BEING UNABLE TO KEEP THE APPOINTMENT AND SAID HE WAS "VISITING THE SICK".

ABERNATHY ADVISED CONCERNING HIS STATEMENT TO THE PRESS THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THAT WHAT HE ACTUALLY STATED WAS IN VIEW OF THE ASSASSINATIONS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, ROBERT F. KENNEDY, MEDGAR EVERS, AND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THERE WOULD BE AN INDICATION TO HIM

5527

END PAGE ONE

REC 82

JAN 30 4 30 PM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JAN 30 5 26 PM '69

1. IN ORDER TO BE A ...
 2. ...
 3. ...
 4. ...
 5. ...
 6. ...
 7. ...
 8. ...
 9. ...
 10. ...

[illegible]

1. *Chlorophyll *a** and *Chlorophyll *b** were determined by the method of Arar and Collins (1971) using a Shimadzu 1010 spectrophotometer.

2. $\alpha = 0.05$ (one-tailed test)

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.

• **Prevalence:** 10% of the population

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older is projected to increase from 20 million to 30 million, and the number of people 75 years of age or older is projected to increase from 10 million to 15 million (U.S. Census Bureau, 1996).

Journal of Management Education 30(6)

PAGE TWO

AT 44-2386

THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY AMONG THE "FORCES OF EVIL" TO DO AWAY WITH ANY YOUNG "MILITANT" WHO STANDS FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ABERNATHY STATED HE HAS NO EVIDENCE NOR HAS HE HEARD FROM ANY SOURCE ANY SPECIFIC INFORMATION THAT A CONSPIRACY EXISTS IN THIS MATTER. HE ADVISED THAT THE STATEMENT MADE TO THE PRESS CONCERNING A CONSPIRACY CONCERNED THE ASSASSINATIONS OF ALL THE ABOVE MEN.

ABERNATHY ADVISED THAT SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, REV. JAMES LAWSON, MINISTER OF CENTENARY METHODIST CHURCH, MEMPHIS, TOLD HIM IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DAY PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION OF KING, TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WHO WORKED IN THE FIRE STATION ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WERE MOVED, LEAVING SOME UNMANNED FIRE EQUIPMENT. ACCORDING TO LAWSON, THE TWO NEGRO FIREMEN WERE MOVED TO FIRE STATIONS WHICH WERE ALREADY FULLY MANNED AND EQUIPPED. ALSO ACCORDING TO LAWSON, A NEGRO POLICEMAN WHO WORKED THE BEAT WHICH INCLUDED THE MOTEL WHERE KING WAS KILLED WAS MOVED OFF OF THAT BEAT THE DAY KING WAS KILLED.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE 4 FEB 85

THAT INFORMATION ALONG WITH WHAT HE HAS HEARD AND READ CONCERNING UNIDENTIFIED RADIO CALLS WHICH DIVERTED A SEARCH FOR A WHITE MUSTANG LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER.

MEMPHIS CONTACT REV. JAMES LAWSON CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER IF NOT ALREADY DONE AND CONDUCT ALL NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THE MATTER.

END

P

ERT

FBI WASH DC

TU@

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT
JAN 30 3 53 PM '69

100

FBI WASH DC

FBI

B

FBI

RECEIVE THE MATTER.

IS NOT AHEAD OF TIME AND CONDUCT THE NECESSARY INVESTIGATION TO
REVEAL CONTACT WITH JAMES GANSON CONCERNING THE ABOVE MATTER
A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER.

FOR A WHILE LONGER LEADS HIM TO BELIEVE THAT THERE MAY BE
CERTAIN UNIDENTIFIED RADIO STATIONS WHICH DISSEMINATE A MESSAGE

THAT INFORMATION WORKS WITH WHAT HE HAS HEARD AND HEAR CON-

BTCHFFBEE

F B I

Date: 1/21/69

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

To: Director, FBI

ATTENTION:

From: SAC, PHILADELPHIA

☒ CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION

(44-1368)

☒ GENERAL INVEST. DIV.☐ DOMESTIC INTELLIGENCE DIV.Subject: MURKIN

☒ CR ☐ EL ☐ VRA-65 ☐ CRA-64
☐ PA ☐ PE ☐ PF
☐ BM ☐ BM-Threats ☐ Racial Matters
☐ Klan ☐ Organization

Summary of Complaint:

Remytels 1/19/69.

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of a self-explanatory LHM. Info copies furnished Memphis and Atlanta.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 3) (RM)
 2 - Memphis (Enc. 2) (RM)
 1 - Atlanta (Enc. 1) (RM)
 2 - Philadelphia
 1 - 44-1368
 1 - 100-47194 (SCLC)

JRW/JBK
(8)

REC-91

11 JAN 23 1969

ACTION: UACB:

☒ No further action being taken and
☒ LHM enclosed ☒ Copy furnished to USA, EDPa.
☐ LHM being submitted
☐ Report being submitted
☐ Preliminary investigation instituted
☐ Limited investigation instituted

Approved

57 FEB 7 1969

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

25 FEB 1 1969

JAN 31 1969

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
JAN 23 4 55 PM 1969
REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JAN 23 4 51 PM '69
F. B. I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

EDB

JAN 23 1969

REC'D
JAN 30 1 25 AM 1969
INTELL

TO: SAC, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
FROM: SAC, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION
JAN 23 1969

- (8)
- 1 - T-100-10101 (SCPC)
- 1 - T-100-1388
- 1 - BUREAU
- 1 - MEMPHIS (ENC. 1) (RM)
- 1 - MEMPHIS (ENC. 2) (RM)
- 1 - BUREAU (ENC. 3) (RM)

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of a
self-explanatory letter. Info copies furnished Memphis and

Memphis 1/23/69.

WAKKIE

(#1-1388)

BUREAU

(6)

REGISTERED MAIL

1/23/69

PH 44-1368

WF 1928-PRI advised 1/14/68 that Reverend JAMES BEVEL at an SCLC meeting recently held at Frogmore, S. C., wanted the Reverend RALPH ABERNATHY of SCLC to step down in favor of the Reverend JESSE JACKSON. WF 1928-PRI also said BEVEL was returning to Philadelphia to create a furor in the next four to six months.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
January 21, 1969

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

Philadelphia news media on January 19, 1969, carried information that the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, Southern Christian Leadership Council of Philadelphia, Pa., sent a telegram to JAMES EARL RAY stating RAY did not kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING and BEVEL, who was present at KING's death, offered to testify in RAY's behalf.

On January 19, 1969, BEVEL appeared on WCAU-TV, Philadelphia, special news program during the half-time of the National Football League All-Star Game, stating that he had evidence that JAMES EARL RAY did not kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BEVEL refused to divulge his evidentiary information but offered to defend RAY in court though he (BEVEL) was not a licensed attorney, but was learned in the law and had had much experience in defending cases in the courts. BEVEL said he analyzed all the facts and concluded RAY was not guilty.

BEVEL said he was speaking for his friends in SCLC including the Reverend RALPH ABERNATHY.

The television interview said that an unnamed official of the SCLC in Atlanta, Ga., had told WCAU-TV that BEVEL has been under pressure and was speaking for himself, not SCLC.

The following is a verbatim tape transcription of the KYW Television news, 11 p.m., January 19, 1969:

Eleven o'clock report in color with BERT ROSELL and the eyewitness news team.

ROSELL: Good evening. There is a bizarre twist of events today in the case of JAMES EARL RAY. RAY is accused of killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and goes on trial in Memphis, Tenn., March 3. The Reverend JAMES BEVEL is Director of Non-violent

ENCLOSURE

44-3886 / 5528

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

Education and Direction Action for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He was with KING when the civil rights leader was gunned down. BEVEL says that RAY is innocent and has offered to serve as RAY's attorney, free of charge. I talked to BEVEL this afternoon at his Philadelphia headquarters.

ROSELL: Reverend, how do you know that he is not guilty?

BEVEL: Well, in terms of gathering evidence, being present, studying the whole problem of men being murdered, how it is done, from all the logical conclusion and evidence that I have gathered my conclusion, based on the knowledge, in terms we built it to experience, knowledge to the sense that the five senses and even the sixth sense, my conclusion is that JAMES EARL RAY did not kill Dr. KING.

ROSELL: What evidence do you have to support your conclusions that JAMES EARL RAY is innocent?

BEVEL: Well, I would not like to get into my evidence and my information in terms of that because if he asks me to take the case, and I don't know whether he will or not, for me to give that information now would not be to his advantage.

ROSELL: Why have you held back this long in offering your services and proclaiming the innocence of JAMES EARL RAY?

BEVEL: Well, I don't know, probably because I have never (pause) I was involved in developing as I am now, because I was in a movement here in Philadelphia and I just haven't thought in terms of offering this free kind of service to him. When I started thinking about this particular predicament, then I thought about.....

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

The following is an interview of Reverend JAMES BEVEL by JAY SILVA, over television station WCAU, Philadelphia. This is the local CBS affiliate. The announcer was RON MILLER. The person interviewing BEVEL was JAY SILVA.

MILLER: Reverend JAMES BEVEL of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) says he will keep the evidence he has which he says would prove that JAMES EARL RAY did not assassinate Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, if RAY does not accept BEVEL's offer of legal representation. Reverend BEVEL sent a telegram to RAY yesterday offering to represent him in court without a fee. The telegram added, "I was present on April 4th at the Lorraine Motel when Dr. KING died. You have been accused of murdering him; of course, I know you aren't guilty." Today, newsmen JAY SILVA asked Reverend BEVEL about the proof he says he has concerning RAY's innocence.

BEVEL: Number one, based on the evidence that I have in terms of the incident that took place and based on the opinion of all of my friends, I don't have a friend that I know that thinks that he did it. I thought (inaudible) that the man is not guilty and have come to my conclusions, and based on my evidence.

SILVA: What specifically is the evidence that leads you to this conclusion?

BEVEL: At this time, I don't want to tell about that because if I was going to defend him, you see, then I would have to present that information to the jury. So, I would not go into the details of my evidence at this time because I would have to deal with that with the jury.

SILVA: You say that you have specific evidence that shows JAMES EARL RAY was not the man who murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BEVEL: Mhm.

SILVA: Then, do you have any idea who did, that shows JAMES EARL RAY was not the man who murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING?

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

BEVEL: Mhm.

SILVA: Well then, do you have any idea who did?

BEVEL: Now, I am not a district attorney. It is the responsibility of the district attorney to find out who killed people. And it is the responsibility of the defense attorney to prove that a particular person is not guilty. So that, in the way the courts work, it is never the responsibility of the defense attorney to prove who did kill someone. It is his job to defend the person who has been accused, that they are not guilty.

SILVA: You said you would defend JAMES EARL RAY without any fee. Are you a lawyer?

BEVEL: No, I am not a licensed lawyer. I have handled cases in court for the last few years. I have been in court quite a bit and I have handled most of my cases. The other thing is that I do know the law.

SILVA: The one thing that intrigues is, why have you held back this information for so long?

BEVEL: Well, number one, I hadn't thought about offering him my services. Now, the reason I, like I said, when you bind information together then you can come to conclusions. The first I said, he is not guilty. The next thing I said, he needs a good lawyer. He needs the best lawyer that the country can afford. And, of course, that means a lawyer who has knowledge enough in that situation and who knows the law. He needs a lawyer that can convince the jury that he is not guilty. And that's why I offered him my services, because I was interested in his having the best possible lawyer with the maximum amount of knowledge in law to defend him before the jury, because the jury and the country pretty much has resigned the motion that the man is guilty and they are just waiting to have a lynching party with him, you know. It is very difficult at this point considering the emotional attachment to Dr. KING that most people had, to have a fair trial.

SILVA: Do you speak for yourself on this issue?

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

BEVEL: For my friends? Ah, yes, my friends, RUTH BASCOMBE, BEVERLY ERIC, REVEREND SHEPPARD, DU BRADY, REVEREND ABERNATHY, MRS. ABERNATHY, MRS. KING, ANDY YOUNG.

SILVA: Do you say Reverend ABERNATHY agrees with you? You said your friends come to the same conclusion as you have.

BEVEL: I don't have any friends who ever told me that EARL RAY was guilty.

SILVA: So, inasfar as you know, Reverend ABERNATHY agrees with you.

BEVEL: Certainly, in terms of his ^{LAFAYETTE} position on him and I just talked to BERNARD LOVIER who is our Program Director and I pointed out that if RAY would give me the case, he would help me to do a lot of the research and defend him.

MILLER: In Atlanta, Georgia, a spokesman for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference said he, Reverend BEVEL, has been under a lot of pressure recently. Since Dr. KING's death he has gone into a deep depression and if he sent the telegram, he is speaking for himself.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE PHILADELPHIA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN PHILADELPHIA	DATE 1/31/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/23/69 - 1/29/69
TITLE OF CASE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS; REVEREND JAMES BEVEL - VICTIM o MURKIN		REPORT MADE BY EDWARD M. COLE	TYPED BY BSM
		CHARACTER OF CASE POSSIBLE EXTORTION	

REFERENCES

Bureau teletype to Philadelphia, dated 1/23/69.
 Philadelphia teletypes to Bureau, dated 1/23/69, 1/24/69, 1/27/69, 1/28/69, and 1/29/69.
 Memphis teletype to Bureau, dated 1/24/69.

- C -

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
							PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED COPIES MADE:						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	
COPY INFORMATION ON PAGE AA						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
						44-38861-	
						NOT RECORDED 149 FEB 6 1969	
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
Agency							
Request Recd.							
Date Fwd.							
How Fwd.							
By							

9 MAR 13 1969

PH 9-3113

COPIES MADE:

4 - Bureau
1 - 44-38861
1 - 100-448006

1 - USA, EDPA (JRS)

1 - Atlanta (Info)

1 - Memphis (9-1501) (Info)

4 - Philadelphia
1 - 9-3113
1 - 157-2845 (SCLC)
1 - 157-2979 (J. BEVEL)
1 - 100-Dead (C. MOORE)

- AA -
COVER PAGE

PH 9-3113

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Four copies of this report are being submitted to the Bureau since the Bureau may desire to forward one copy to the Department.

Captain CHARLES CONROY, Intelligence Squad, Philadelphia Police Department, advised on 1/30/69 his squad is investigating this matter.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, EDPA (JRS)

Report of: SA EDWARD M. COLE
Date: 1/31/69

Office: Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

Field Office File #: 9-3113

Bureau File #:

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
REVEREND JAMES BEVEL - VICTIM

Character: POSSIBLE EXTORTION

Synopsis: Telegram sent by CEDRIC MOORE to Director, FBI, President RICHARD M. NIXON, Philadelphia Police Department Commissioner FRANK RIZZO, and Philadelphia Mayor JAMES H. J. TATE stating that someone was going to kill the Reverend JAMES E. BEVEL, Southern Christian Leadership Conference official in Philadelphia, because of BEVEL's statements that JAMES EARL RAY was innocent in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Southern Christian Leadership Conference President. MOORE and BEVEL interviewed regarding threat and telegrams, and both stated MICKEY MC MILLAN, not further identified, told them at Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters on January 20 or 21, 1969, about the people he had heard stating they would burn down the building in which BEVEL resides, and also that a "contract was out" on BEVEL. No letter through mail, interstate telephone calls, or telegrams involved in threat. United States Attorney declined.

- C -

DETAILS: This case is predicated on a telegram received by the FBI on January 23, 1969, from CEDRIC MOORE, Assistant Non-Violent Education, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Philadelphia, Pa. The telegram states, "I am informing you that a serious threat is being made on Rev. JAMES BEVEL life concerning his defense of JAMES EARL RAY."

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☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1967-O-278-878

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 31, 1969

1
CEDRIC MOORE, currently residing at 919 North 18th Street, Southern Christian Leadership Conference Headquarters of Philadelphia, was interviewed regarding a telegram he sent to J. EDGAR HOOVER, President NIXON, Philadelphia Police Commissioner RIZZO, and Philadelphia Mayor JAMES H. J. TATE, stating a serious threat was being made on the life of Reverend JAMES BEVEL concerning his defense of JAMES EARL RAY.

MOORE stated he is not familiar with many Philadelphia people as he just came to Philadelphia from Memphis. He has been in Philadelphia for a little over one week.

MOORE stated that on either January 20 or 21, 1969, an individual named MICKEY MC MILLAN, who occasionally visits Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, stated that a group of "cats" were incensed at BEVEL's statements that JAMES EARL RAY, alleged killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was innocent. MC MILLAN stated these "cats" made the statement they would burn the building down in which BEVEL resides.

MOORE could not identify MC MILLAN further, nor could he furnish MC MILLAN's residence address or telephone number.

MOORE also advised that on either January 20 or 21, 1969, while walking past a room at 919 North 18th Street, he heard someone say, "BEVEL should be careful." He could not identify the person who spoke nor could he identify anyone else in the room.

On 1/28/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 9-3113
by SA'S EDWARD M. COLE
and JOHN R. WINEBERG EMC:BSM Date dictated 1/30/69

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 29, 1969

On January 29, 1969, the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, Philadelphia Branch, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), was interviewed regarding the threats made to his life by an unknown group of individuals after BEVEL sent a telegram to JAMES EARL RAY proclaiming RAY innocent of the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BEVEL said that on either Monday or Tuesday, January 20 or 21, 1969, an individual known to him only as MICKEY MC MILLAN of Philadelphia, Pa., who has drifted in and out of the Philadelphia SCLC Office, was in the building, and told BEVEL that since BEVEL had sent the telegram to RAY, that some "cats" in Philadelphia were mad at BEVEL's telegram. MC MILLAN did not describe where he heard these people talking, who they were, or when it was said, but the "cats" were talking about blowing up the SCLC building in which BEVEL lived and that a "contract" (to kill) was out for BEVEL. BEVEL said there was no mention made of a telegram, interstate telephone call, or a communication through the mail. It was all oral.

BEVEL again said that he had information and evidence that would prove RAY had not killed KING, but he said he would not divulge this information unless he was allowed to defend RAY in court. He did say that RAY had a psychomotor defect that would preclude RAY shooting a rifle accurately.

He also said that he was not concerned about the threats made against him by disgruntled "brothers" because he had lived with threats since 1961, when he had joined KING and the SCLC.

On 1/29/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 9-3113

SAS JOHN R. WINEBERG
and DONALD G. COX JRW:BSM

by

Date dictated 1/29/69

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 31, 1969

CEDRIC MOORE, 919 North 18th Street, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Aide to the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, was interviewed, and he advised that he had no information that the threats to the life and safety of BEVEL had been made by interstate telephone, telegraph, or through the United States Mail.

On 1/29/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 9-3113
by SAS JOHN R. WINEBERG
AND DONALD G. COX JRW:BSM Date dictated 1/29/69

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. 4

PH 9-3113

Assistant United States Attorney JOHN R. SUTTON, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., was advised by SA JOHN R. WINEBERG of the above information on January 29, 1969, and stated that Federal prosecution was being declined because the facts did not constitute a violation of Federal law.

F B I

Date: 1/23/69

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Executive Assistant Attorney General ROBERT K. DWYER, Memphis, Tenn., has requested that Mr. IAN COLVIN, a reporter for the "Daily Telegraph," London, England, be re-interviewed in detail concerning attempts made by the subject to contact him for assistance in joining an army of white mercenaries. Mr. DWYER requests that COLVIN be sounded out as to his willingness to come to this country to testify in subject's trial, beginning about 3/3/69.

REC 11

44-38861-5529

C. U. Bishop

Airtel _____

Teletype _____

③ - Bureau
2 - Memphis

A.M. _____

JCH:jap
(5)

A.M.S.D. _____

Spec. Del. _____

airtel to Legat, London
1-31-69
REC. JMS
CC-MIE
JAN 23 1969
2-4
[initials]

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

RECEIVED - ROSEN
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5710
REC'D - ROSEN
FBI

JAN 25 3 54 PM '69
FEB 3 1 16 PM '69
F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JAN 25 1 21 PM '69
JAN 27 7 06 PM '69
DELOACH
FBI

DIRECTOR
JAN 25 '69

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]

January 31, 1969

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long

To: Legat, London

REC 11

From: Director, FBI (44-38861) - 5529

MURKIN

ReMKAirtel to the Bureau dated 1-23-69.

Mr. Robert E. Dwyer, Executive Assistant to the State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, who is handling the state prosecution of James Earl Ray, has requested that Mr. Ian Colvin, a reporter for the "Daily Telegraph," London, England, be re-interviewed to determine if he can recall any conversation with James Earl Ray beyond that information previously furnished to New Scotland Yard. It is noted that Ray contacted Mr. Colvin in June of 1968, and requested assistance in joining an army of white mercenaries.

Mr. Dwyer did not have the opportunity to interview Mr. Colvin during Dwyer's stay in London (October 20, 21, 1968) when he interviewed other witnesses in this matter.

Mr. Dwyer further requested that Mr. Colvin be interviewed regarding his willingness to come to Memphis, Tennessee, to testify in Ray's trial beginning on or about March 3, 1969.

You should make the appropriate arrangements to have Colvin interviewed in accordance with the above request. Expedite.

1 - Memphis

1 - Foreign Liaison (Cleared with SA Graham Day)

REL:sds/jms
(6)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

57 FEB 12 1969

MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Tolson _____
DeLoach _____
Mohr _____
Bishop _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

25 FEB 1969

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATION
DIVISION 5710

(9) JAN 31 10 57 AM '69
REC'D CIV. RIGHTS

FBI

F. B. I.

REC'D MAIL ROOM

JAN 31 12 04 PM '69
FBI

JAN 31 12 14 PM '69
REC'D DELOACH
FBI

FEB 3 2 04 PM '69

JAN 31 12 46 PM '69

MAILED 1
FEB 3 1969
COMM-FBI

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (100-157101)
SUBJECT: [Illegible]

RE: [Illegible]
[Illegible text]

ON 1/30/69, [Illegible] advised that [Illegible]
[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

[Illegible text]

J - AL' FOUR

[Illegible text]

NOTE:

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The office of the State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, is prosecuting the state's case against James Earl Ray. This case is scheduled for trial in Memphis, on March 3, 1969. In preparation of the state's trial Mr. Robert K. Dwyer, Executive Assistant to the State Attorney General, requests that Mr. Ian Colvin, a reporter for the "Daily Telegraph," London, England, be re-interviewed concerning the contact with him by Ray, and Colvin's willingness to come to Memphis to testify at the trial.

SAC, Memphis, has advised that Mr. Dwyer did not have the opportunity to interview Mr. Colvin and he would desire to determine if Mr. Colvin can recall any additional conversation he had with Ray beyond that previously furnished by Colvin to New Scotland Yard authorities.

Legat, London, is being instructed to make appropriate arrangements to have Colvin interviewed in accordance with request of Memphis authorities.

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

CONFIDENTIAL

WA3 FBI PHILA

926PM 1-21-69 URGENT JLK

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861 (CODE)

FROM PHILADELPHIA 44-1368 3P

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES
AND FIELD OFFICES
ADVISED BY SLIP(S)
DATE 1-21-69

MURKIN

REMYTELS DATED ONE NINETEEN SIXTYNINE AND ONE TWENTYONE SIXTYNINE.

REVEREND JAMES BEVEL INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AT HIS RESIDENCE,
NINE ONE NINE NORTH EIGHTEENTH ST., PHILA., PA. AGENTS WAITED THIRTY
MINUTES FOR BEVEL WHO WAS HOLDING A MEETING IN THE NEXT APARTMENT.

BEVEL STATED HE WAS EXTREMELY BUSY AS HE HAD APPOINTMENTS THROUGH
ELEVEN PM, ONE TWENTYONE SIXTYNINE. BEVEL STATED THAT HE HAD PROOF
OF THE INNOCENCE OF JAMES EARL RAY AND THAT SINCE THE FBI WAS THE
PROSECUTOR AND HE WAS INVOLVED WITH THE DEFENSE, HE FELT HE SHOULD
NOT FURNISH THE INFORMATION. IT WAS POINTED OUT TO BEVEL THAT THE FBI
DID NOT PROSECUTE ANYONE BUT ALWAYS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO OBTAIN ALL
FACTS AVAILABLE. FURTHER, BEVEL STATED HE SENT TELEGRAM TO RAY ON
SATURDAY, JANUARY EIGHTEEN SIXTYNINE, AND AS YET HAS RECEIVED
NO ANSWER. BEVEL STATED HE PLANS TO CALL PERCY FOREMAN, ATTORNEY FOR RAY

END PAGE ONE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

REC-33

DECLASSIFIED BY SP1 CLK/00
ON 10-19-01

57 FEB 17 1969

Classified by 6080
Exempt from GDS, Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/EGM 6/9/77

5530
12 FEB 4 1968

CONFIDENTIAL

REC'D
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
DIVISION 5710

JAN 22 8 29 AM '69

REC'D
FBI

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

JAN 21 10 09 PM '69

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 22 11 10 AM '69

REC'D
FBI

JAN 22

1 45 PM '69

JAN 22 10 06 AM '69

REC'D
FBI

F B I
REC'D BISHOP

REC'D - BISHOP
JAN 22 12 00 PM '69

JAN 24 8 55 AM '69

RECEIVED
FBI

JAN 23 10 00 AM '69

PAGE TWO

PH 44-1368

TONIGHT, AND OFFER HIS SERVICES. BEVEL STATED HE WOULD TELEPHONE CONTACTING AGENTS ON ONE TWENTYTWO AND ADVISE IF FOREMAN ACCEPTS HIS OFFER. IF FOREMAN DOES NOT ACCEPT HIS OFFER HE PLANS TO DROP ENTIRE MATTER AS HE FEELS HE HAS NO MORAL OBLIGATION TOWARD RAY TO PRODUCE HIS EVIDENCE OF RAY'S INNOCENCE IF HIS OFFER OF HELP WAS REFUSED.

BEVEL STATED HE WAS AT LORRAINE MOTEL ON THE GROUND UNDERNEATH BALCONY AT THE TIME KING WAS SHOT.

PH EIGHT NINE SEVEN R ADVISED TODAY HE SPOKE TO BEVEL WITH OTHERS CONCERNING BEVEL'S STATEMENT ON RAY'S INNOCENCE. DURING DISCUSSION WITH BEVEL IT WAS THE GENERAL FEELING OF THE MILITANTS THAT RAY WAS GUILTY AND BEVEL SHOULD EITHER FURNISH WHAT EVIDENCE HE HAS OR KEEP QUIET. (C)

BEVEL TOLD THIS GROUP HE HAS NO EVIDENCE BUT THAT HE FEELS THE "SYSTEM" IS KILLING A MAN NOT WORTH ANYTHING WHILE THIS MAN KILLED A GREAT MAN. (C)

BEVEL STATED THAT IF HE IS ALLOWED TO DEFEND RAY HE WILL BRING OUT EVERYTHING THAT THE "SYSTEM" DID TO CAUSE THE DEATH OF KING. (C)

END PAGE TWO

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

PAGE THREE

PH 44-1368

BEVEL ALSO STATED HE FEELS THIS IS A METHOD TO REJUVENATE
SCLC IN PHILA. AS SCLC HAS FALLEN OFF TO ALMOST NOTHING IN PHILA.
IN CONNECTION WITH THIS BEVEL STATED HE IS TO RECEIVE A CHECK BY
WESTERN UNION FROM SCLC, ATLANTA, FOR FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS. (u)

END

WA...EFH

FBI WASH DC

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

JAN 21 8 27 AM 1969

JAN 21 9 37 PM '69
CODING UNIT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

January 22, 1969

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The attached is results of an interview with Reverend James Bevel, Southern Christian Leadership Conference in Philadelphia, Pa. regarding his statement on a television interview on 1/19/69 that he had evidence that James Earl Ray did not kill Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bevel stated he was at Lorraine Motel on the ground underneath balcony at the time King was shot (4/4/68). It is noted that Bevel was a registered guest at the Lorraine Motel during this period of time, however he refused to be interviewed in April '68.

You will be advised of additional pertinent developments.

clm/bw
clm
REL:rl

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE.

[illegible]

1940

1. NUMBER OF LOGS
 2. DIRECTION OF
 3. OF LOG, REMARKS
 4. DIRECTION OF LOG
 5. OF LOG (SUN)
 6. OF LOG (SUN)

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION
155 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

1. The first step is to identify the problem. This involves understanding the symptoms and the context in which they are occurring.

ST-36

ST-37

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE