A. S. Benartment af Justice

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VESTIGATION

ATTENTION

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SECTION 7

SERIALS 5625-5689

WORK SHEET - KIROX REQUEST

160 PAGES 63 DOCUMENTS

SUBJECT - MARTIN, LUTHER KING JR MURKIN

ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # -

PAGE 1

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	5628	LETTER FIT CITIZEN 3-12-69		5	5			,								RELCARE
	5629	AIRTEL FIN ME 3-6-69		3	3											
	5630	TELETYPE FM INE 3-12-69		1	1											
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	5632	NEWS CLIPPING											_			
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WORK SHEET - KI:ROX REQUEST

SUBJECT - MARTIN LUTHER KING JR FILE V - MURKIN

ANALYST -EXT -TEAM # - PAGE 2

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WORK SHEET - KEROX REQUEST

SUBJECT - MARTIN LUTHER KING IR FILE # - MURKIN

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PAGE 3

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SUBJECT - MARTIN, LUTHER KING JR FILE # - MURKIN

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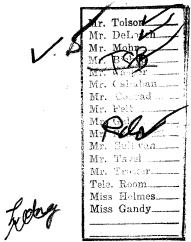
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FBI NEW YORK

9:35 PM URGENT 3-13-69 AWS TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS (PLAIN) FROM NEW YORK 44-1609



(ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING)

ATTORNEY JACK GREENBERG. DIRECTOR. LEGAL DEFENSE FUND, NAACP, TEN COLUMBUS CIRCLE, NYC CONTACTED USA ROBERT M. MORGENTHAU, SDNY, THREE FOURTEEN, AND ADVISED HE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM RUSSELL THOMPSON. A MEMPHIS. TENN. ATTORNEY WHO CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN RETAINED BY JAMES EARL RAY AT AN EARLY STAGE OF THE PROCEED-INGS AGAINST RAY, PRIOR TO REPRESENTATION BY ATTORNEY HANES OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

END PAGE ONE

REC-33: 44-38861-5626

13 MAR **19** 1969

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/ ENCLOSURE

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE TWO

ACCORDING TO GREENBERG, THOMPSON ASKED TO SEE HIM
IN ORDER TO TELL HIM THE NAMES OF OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED
WITH RAY IN THE MARTIN LUTHER KING KILLING, AND TO FURNISH
SUPPORTING DETAILS. GREENBERG ARRANGED AN APPOINTMENT TO
MEET WITH THOMPSON AT GREENBERG'S OFFICE AT NINE THIRTY
AM, MONDAY, THREE SEVENTEEN, SIXTYNINE. GREENBERG
TOLD MORGENTHAU THAT THOMPSON IS KNOWN TO NAACP AS A
REPUTABLE INDIVIDUAL WHO PREVIOUSLY HAS DONE RELIABLE
WORK FOR THE NAACP IN THE MEMPHIS AREA. GREENBERG INFORMED
MORGENTHAU, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ELSE
ABOUT THOMPSON'S INFORMATION, AND DID NOT KNOW IF IT WERE
A PUBLICITY STUNT. GREENBERG SAID THE NY DAILY NEWS
CALLED HIM TODAY AND KNOWS THOMPSON IS DUE IN NYC NEXT
MONDAY. HOWEVER, THE DAILY NEWS DID NOT KNOW THE PURPOSE
OF THE TRIP. AND GREENBERG DID NOT TELL THEM.

ANYTHING WITH THOMPSON'S INFORMATION, AND HAS NO WAY

TO EVALUATE IT, AND TUS SUGGESTED AN FBI AGENT BE

PRESENT AT THE MEETING. MORGENTHAU TOLD GREENBERG THE

FBI WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION. GREENBERG THEN

CONTACTED THE NYO AND FURNISHED THE SAME INFORMATION SET OUT

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

ABOVE.

IT IS NOED THAT RUSSELL THOMPSON HAS BEEN REPORTED ON NY RADIO NEWSBROADCASTS, THREE FOURTEEN, SIXTYNINE, AS GOING TO NY FROM MEMPHIS ON SUNDAY THREE SIXTEEN, SIXTYNINE TO TALK TO THE NAACP.

THE NYO HAS HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH NAACP

OFFICIALS OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND RELATIONS HAVE ALWAYS

BEEN CORDIAL, BUT NO SPECIFIC CONTACTS WITH GREENBERG.

THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE NYO WHETHER \mathcal{AT} NY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERVIEW OF THOMPSON AND GREENBERG'S OFFICE ON THREE SEVENTEEN, SIXTYNINE.

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FBI WASH DC

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REC'T-TELETYPE UNIT

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

March 15, 1969

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Jack Greenberg, Director, Legal Defense Fund, National Association For The Advancement of Colored People, contacted our New York Office on 3-14-69, and advised that Attorney Russell Thompson, Memphis, Tennessee, who professed to have once represented James Earl Ray, was to meet Greenberg on 3-17-69, to furnish him names of other people involved with Ray in the Martin Luther King killing. Greenberg requested an Agent be present at the meeting. The "New York Daily News" contacted Greenberg regarding Thompson's visit but Greenberg did not advise them of purpose of trip. Nothing derogatory in Bureau files concerning Greenberg.

About one week after the King murder and before Ray was identified as the assassin, Thompson contacted our Memphis Office and related that he had been visited by a man whom he would not identify because of possible client-attorney relationship. This man indicated he might need legal help in the future and advised Thompson that authorities were wrong about murder weapon and killer had fled on a motorcycle and not in a white Mustang. It is significant to note that after Ray was identified as the subject, Thompson contacted Memphis Office and indicated that the unknown man was probably a mental case but Thompson still refused to identify him.

To prevent charges being made that FBI would not accept information concerning a possible conspiracy, it is recommended that New York be instructed to have an Agent present to accept any information Thompson has to offer.

CLM:erg

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44-31161-5624

ENCLOSURE



File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Atlanta, Georgia

March 11, 1969

ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

On March 7, 1969, Mr. Jim Rankin, City Desk, "The Atlanta Constitution" newspaper, Atlanta, Georgia, furnished a letter, contained in an envelope, postmarked Amarillo. Texas. March 2, 1969. The letter, which was typewritten and unsigned, states as follows:

"March 1, 1969

"The Constitution Atlanta Newspapers, Inc. 10 Forsythe St.. N.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30030

"To Whom it may concern:

"I am sure this is some information that you would appreciate. I have been keeping up with what you publish about the Martin Luther King Jr. case. That whole thing was plotted in Atlanta, Ga. One of the key pay-off men is a Cuban. 27 years of age. his name is Raymond Polacco and uses telephones. concerning his pay-off at 4550 Ridgecrest and 834 C Confederate Courts S. E. He is also shacking with a little red headed girl at the Confederate Courts address. This little red-headed girl is Debbie Blackman. They make a lot of trips together to New Orleans, La.

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.

ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION

"I live in New Orleans and know this girl real well. She does not know that this Cuban is the pay-off man. She is a teen-ager and should not be involved in this crime."

The current Atlanta City Directory reflects there is no address such as 4550 Ridgecrest Drive in Atlanta. The current suburban directory for the Atlanta, Georgia, area reflects 4550 Ridgecrest Drive, Forest Park, is occupied by Mr. Alf Calalay.

AKH LEWBIE On March 10, 1969, Miss Deborah Diane Blackman, Delicard 834 Confederate Court, Apartment C, age 19, advised she met B. ARPROX Raymond or Raymon Polacco about four months ago at The Scene, a nightclub in Atlanta, Georgia. She advised she dated Polacco several times after that and he came to her apartment on numerous occasions where she lives with her sister, Judy Griffin. advised she has not seen Polacco for about one month, although she dated him quite steadily during the period that she knew him. Miss Blackman advised that according to Polacco he was married and separated from his wife and he worked at the First National Bank in Atlanta, Georgia, and attends Georgia State College in She said that according to Polacco he is half Italian and half Spanish. Miss Blackman advised that Polacco is from California. She believes he is from the Los Angeles area but is not sure. She advised he called his home in California on two or three occasions during the period of time she knew him from her and her sister's apartment. She advised she heard that Polacco has been reconciled with his wife and is living with her again.

Miss Blackman advised that she and a girl friend have made two trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, the first one being made in December, 1968, and the second in February, 1969. The girl who accompanied her was Charlotte Majure. She stated these

ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION

were short weekend trips, the latter being to attend the Mardi Gras. She denied that Polacco ever went with her to New Orleans or to any place outside of Atlanta. Miss Blackman advised during the time she knew Polacco, he never mentioned James Earl Ray nor does she recall that he ver mentioned the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Miss Blackman advised that Polacco is a white male, about 25 years old, about 5' 9" tall, medium build, black hair, black eyes, olive complexion, and wears expensive clothing.

Miss Blackman advised that her sister. Judy. is married to, separated from, and in the process of getting a divorce from Joe Griffin, who resides at 1918 North Manhattan Street, Amarillo, Texas. She advised he is a house painter by trade and is about 50 years old. Miss Blackman stated that Judy and Joe Griffin have three children, who are living with Judy, and that Joe Griffin is attempting to obtain custody of the children. During his attempts to obtain custody of the children, he has attempted to prove that Judy is an unfit mother. In making these allegations, he has accused Judy of having illicit affairs with Raymond Polacco. She advised that on at least one occasion. Joe Griffin called a neighbor of Polacco's and told the neighbor that Polacco was running around with Judy and told Judy that from that conversation with the neighbor, he determined that Polacco is actually a Cuban. She advised that Joe Griffin and Raymond Polacco have never actually met to her knowledge but that Griffin seems intent upon proving an illicit relationship between Polacco and Judy Griffin.

On March 10, 1969, Mrs. Judy Griffin, 834 Confederate Court, Apartment C, S. E., Atlanta, Georgia, confirmed the above information furnished by Deborah Blackman, her sister, and stated that Joe Griffin, her husband, appears to be attempting through

ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION

telephone calls, to prove that she and Raymond Polacco have been too intimate. She advised that Polacco has been to her and her sister's apartment on numerous occasions but that actually her sister, Deborah Blackman, has been dating Polacco.

Judy Griffin advised that the telephone call allegedly made by Griffin to a neighbor of Polacco's was made to a family by the name of Calalay. She does not know where the Calalay family lives and neither Judy Griffin nor Deborah Blackman admitted knowing the residence of Raymond Polacco.

Deborah Blackman advised that during the time Polacco was allegedly separated from his wife he claimed to have an apartment in Atlanta, but she does not know where it was located.

AIRTEL

1 - Mr Long

To:

SAC, Dallas (44-2649) REC-105

From: Dis

Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

ReATairtel to the Bureau dated 3-11-69.

Dellas should immediately locate and interview Joe Griffin, 1918 N. Manhattan St., Amarillo, Texas, concerning any information he may have in his possession regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. You should also determine location of Raymond Polacco through interview of Griffin and set forth leads to have him interviewed.

Atlanta should continue efforts to locate Raymond Polacco in an effort to interview him and completely resolve this allegation. It is noted that Polacco was allegedly employed at the First National Bank in Atlanta, Georgia, and allegedly attends Georgia State College in Atlanta. Your efforts to locate Polacco should not be limited to his alleged place of employment and school as all avenues must be exhausted to locate and interview him.

Based upon available information, Bureau indices contain no information identifiable with Raymond Polacco or Joe Griffin.

Keep the Bureau advised of pertinent developments.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (for info) 1 - Atlanta (44-2386) (for info)

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

| Gale _____ | Rosen ____ | Sullivan ____ | Tavel ____ |

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LBI SEC.D - CIA SICHLE

BALEVELL CONTROLLER

NOTE:

Atlanta Office advised that "The Atlanta Constitution" newspaper furnished our office a letter postmarked Amarillo, Texas, which was typewritten and unsigned. The letter in essence states that the person has been keeping up with what the paper has been publishing about King and the letter further states that the whole thing was plotted in Atlanta, Georgia, and names Raymond Polacco as one of the pay-off men, and is consorting with Debbie Blackman.

Investigation in Atlanta has determined that the person who wrote this letter is possibly one Joe Griffin of Amarillo, Texas. Individuals interviewed by Atlanta Office including Debbie Blackman. No information developed from these interviews pertinent to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Dallas being instructed to interview Griffin for all information and to determine location of Raymond Polacco and set forth leads to interview him.

Atlanta being instructed to attempt to locate and interview Polacco at Atlanta, Georgia.

FΒΙ

		Date: 3/11/69
'ransm:	it the following	in(Type in plaintext or code)
.,	AIRTEL	AIRMAIL
ia		(Priority)
	TO:	DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
	FROM:	SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)
1	NURKIN	B. APPROX 1943 04 1944
% B #	of LMM, co	Englosed herewith for the Bureau are five (5) copies aptiened "ANOHYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING PARTICIPATION DEPOLACED IN ASSASSIMATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."
	and one co	Two copies of the LEN are being enclosed for Memphis opy for Dallas.
	and Debbie	Atlanta indices negative concerning RAYMOND POLACCO e or Deborah Blackman.
	record of	Records of the Atlanta Police Department contain no RAYMOND POLACCO.
	A Part	The enclosed LEM is self-explanatory.
nêd	,X	The anonymous letter, which was apparently written by
PAPER	JOE GRIFF	IN, 1918 N. Manhattan St., Amarillo, Tex., would appear to the investigative control of blackmail statutes within the investigative
Jan January	jurisdict:	ion of the Post Office Department. In view of the sub-
		er, however, the letter is not being furnished to the tal Inspector without specific instruction to do so by
	the Bureat	
	3 - Bureau	u (Enc. 5) ENCLOSURE 18 (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
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AIRTEL

AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

MURKIN

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five (5) copies of LMM, captioned "ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR."

ATT WE 18

Two copies of the LHM are being enclosed for Memphis and one copy for Dallas.

Atlanta indices negative concerning RAYMOND POLACCO and Debbie or Deborah Blackman.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department contain no record of RAYMOND POLACCO.

The enclosed LHM is self-explanatory.

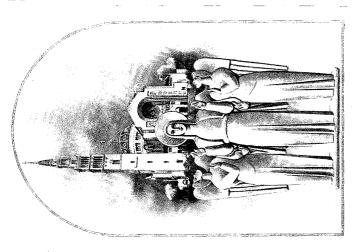
The anonymous letter, which was apparently written by JOE GRIFFIN, 1918 N. Manhattan St., Amarillo, Tex., would appear to be a violation of blackmail statutes within the investigative jurisdiction of the Post Office Department. In view of the subject matter, however, the letter is not being furnished to the local Postal Inspector without specific instruction to do so by the Bureau.

AT 44-2386

Dallas Office is being furnished one copy since the writer of the letter apparently lives within that division.



Now Is The Time To Pray



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Fourth and Michigan Ave., N.E.
Washington 17, D.C.

44-38861-5628

FRANCISCAN FATHERS
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH
48 HUNTER STREET, S.W.

ATLANTA, GA.

521-1866



Franciscan Magazine Butler, N. J. 07405

O MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP Hear My Prayer For

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44-32861-5628 THE POPE'S PLEA 28

"Let us pray to Our Lady to help us; to be a Mother to us; to be a Mother to the Christian people, to our families, to this parish, to our children and young people, to those who weep and who suffer. Let everyone try to bring to her his own life, which may often be humble and poor, perhaps tormented, difficult, at times going astray. From Our Most Blessed Lady he will obtain joy, light, and trust, because through her he will find Christ once again."

--- Pope Paul VI

Have you a tough situation to cope with or to solve, either at home, at school, or at work,—or with yourself personally? Why not have Mary present it to her Divine Son, Jesus, during this Solemn Miraculous Medal Novena, which opens January 6, and closes January 14, 1969.

ST. CECILIA'S CHURCH
30 St. Cecilia's Street, Boston, Mass. 02115
Rt. Rev. Msgr. Vincent J. Mackay, Pastor
Weekly Novena every Tuesday at
12:15, 5:15 and 8:00 p.m.

© Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena Band, Vincentian Fathers, 16E.52nd St., New York 22, N. Y.

44-38-861-5628

OUR BLESSED MOTHER

MOST HOLY TRINITY: Our Father in Heaven, who chose Mary as the fairest of your daughters; Holy Spirit, who chose Mary as your spouse; God the Son, who chose Mary as your Mother; in union with Mary, we adore your majesty and acknowledge your supreme, eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom which has been its heritage. Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our President and on all the officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity. Have mercy on capital and industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the innocence of our children. Grant the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners—on all who are in need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, Our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise you and honor you and give ourselves to you. Protect us from every harm. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the Will of your Divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God.

Nihil Obstat: Harry A. Echle, Censor May 8, 1959 Imprimatur:
Patrick A. O'Boyle
† Archbishop of Washington

imprimatur.

Saint Francis of Assisi, 1182-1226

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are and it is in dying that we are

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is darkness, light; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, light;

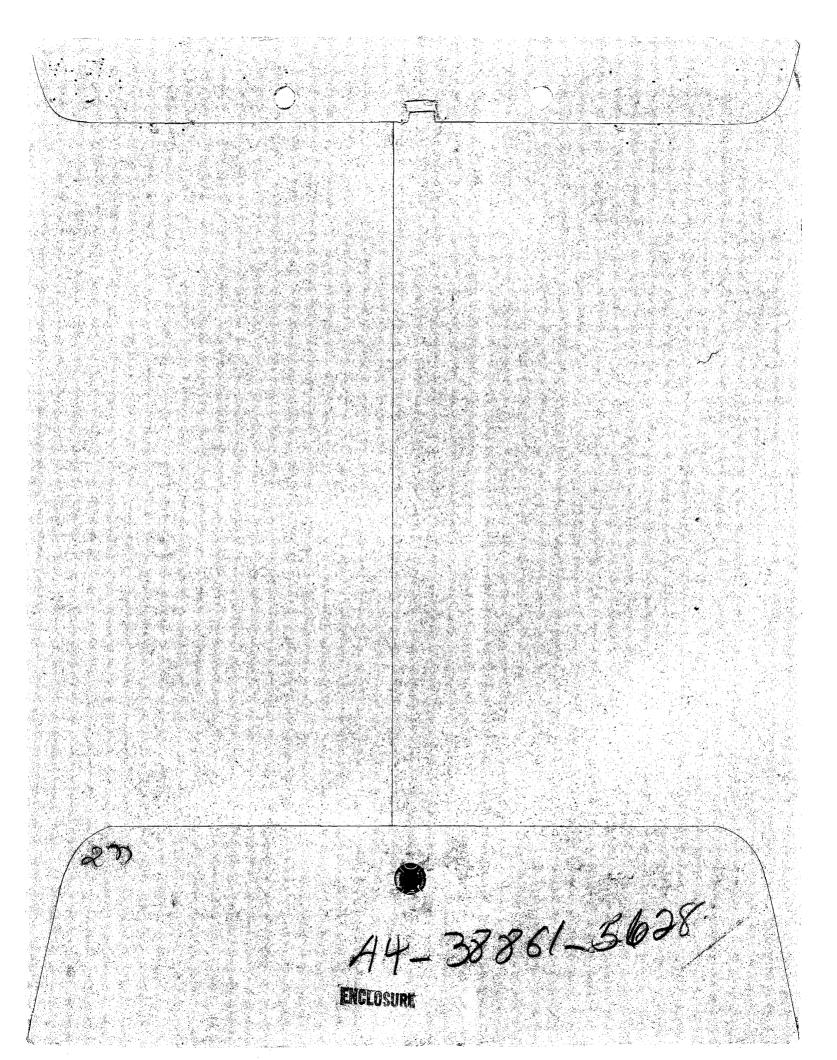
Prayer of Assisi 5t. Francis of Assisi



PERPETUAL HELP
Morning: At the 9 a.m. Mass.
Afternoon: At 2, 4, 5:30.
Evening: At 7, 8.
Radio Novena: Wed. at 7 p.m.
on WHDH ... 850 on the dial.

Novena Masses each Wednesday: At 6, 7, 8, and 12:10 MISSION CHURCH

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



P. O. Box 94 Boston, Massachusetts 02123 March 12, 1969

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director Federal Bureau of Investigation Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Hoover:

On behalf of the family, friends, and followers, On behalf of the States of Massachusetts, Georgia, and Alabama

I ask that the investigation of the murder of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. be continued.

I would like a personal interview with James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. King.

At present I am writing a book entitled: "The Moral Leader of our Time."

Thanking you for your cooperation, I am

Sincerely yours,

REC 82

Louise Gordon

John Mitchell

Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr.

(Mrs.) Gilmore May

Powel

Mrs. Gilmore Mays Powell 山山 Marlboro Street Boston, Massachusetts 02115

1 MAR 19 1969

CORRESPONDENCE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

ENCLOSURE

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H S HERT OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS FBI

MAR 14 3 59 PH '69

M

March 18, 1969

894_37861-600/1- Mr. Long

Mrs. Gilmore Mays Powell 441 Marlboro Street Boston, Massachusetts 02115

Dear Mrs. Powell:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 12, 1969, and your comments have been noted.

For your information, James Earl Ray was sentenced on a Tennessee State charge of murder in State court, Memphis, Tennessee, on March 10, 1969, and is presently incarcerated at the Tennessee State Prison, Nashville, Tennessee. You may desire to contact the appropriate authorities concerning your request for a personal interview with James Earl Ray.

You may be assured that this Bureau will continue to fully discharge its investigative responsibilities in all matters coming within our jurisdiction.

Sincerely yours.

J. Edgar Hoover

John Edgar Hoover Director

Tolson

DeLoach Mohr

Bishop ... Casper ... Callahan

Conrad _ Felt ____ Gale ___

Rosen .

Trotter ____ Tele. Room Holmes ____ REL:jms
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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. .

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NOTE:

Bufiles indicate that Mrs. Powell corresponded with the Bureau in 1963 outlining at length her personal family problems, most of them resulting from her inability to pay her bills. No other pertinent information in Bufiles.



		Mr. Tolson
FD-05 (R	ev. 5-22-64)	Mr. D Toach
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met	5 D I	Mr. Carad
1014	FBI	1 Mars of All
	Date: 3/6/69	Mr. Rused P
Transmit	the following in	Mr. Protter
Via	AIRTEL	Tela Room
v 1d	(Priority)	Miss Gandy
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	TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)	follow !
	FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)	Kg /
	V	
111	SUBJECT: MURKIN	l
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	Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of a letterhead memorandum with photographs attached. This	V
	memorandum is self explanatory and in the opinion of the Memphis Office the subject matter does not warrant fur	he
	investigation.	ther 0
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TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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3) - Bureau (Bacs. 3) 1 - Memphis

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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OF MAR 19 1969

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Memphis, Tennessee March 6, 1969

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Attached to this memorandum is one copy each of two photographs given to District Attorney General Phil M. Canale, Memphis, Tennessee, by William Bradford Huie, a nationally known author who has signed an exclusive contract with James Earl Ray and who has written articles for "Look" magazine concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Huie has stated that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has shown these photographs throughout the country, and according to Mr. Huie, the Federal Bureau of Investigation believes one of the individuals in these photographs to be identical with the person named "Raoul" whom Mr. Huie has described in his "Look" magazine articles as being an associate of James Earl Ray just prior to the murder of Dr. King. Mr. Huie has stated that these photographs were made by a news photographer at Dallas, Texas, on the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Huie has told Mr. Canale that he is convinced the Federal Bureau of Investigation knows the identity of the man in the photograph.

The Dallas Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation has advised that the person appearing in these photographs has been identified as one of many persons rounded up by the Dallas Police Department and the Dallas County Sheriff's Office immediately following the assassination of President Kennedy. It has been determined that this person was not booked and that no record of his identity was maintained by either the police or by the Sheriff's Office. The officers who picked up this man recalled that he had been found with two other men in a boxcar about a mile from the assassination scene, but there was no reason to place him under arrest or detain him for any length of time. Also, photographs of this man have not been displayed by FBI Agents during the investigation of the murder of Dr. King.

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

44-35561-5629



In Reply, Please Refer to

File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee March 6, 1969

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

CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Attached to this memorandum is one copy each of two photographs given to District Attorney General Phil M. Canale, Memphis. Tennessee, by William Bradford Huie, a nationally known author who has signed an exclusive contract with James Earl Ray and who has written articles for "Look" magazine concerning the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. Jr. Mr. Huie has stated that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has shown these photographs throughout the country, and according to Mr. Huie, the Federal Bureau of Investigation believes one of the individuals in these photographs to be identical with the person named "Racul" whom Mr. Huie has described in his "Look" magazine articles as being an associate of James Earl Ray just prior to the murder of Dr. King. Mr. Huie has stated that these photographs were made by a news photographer at Dallas, Texas, on the day that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Huie has told Mr. Canale that he is convinced the Federal Bureau of Investigation knows the identity of the man in the photograph.

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

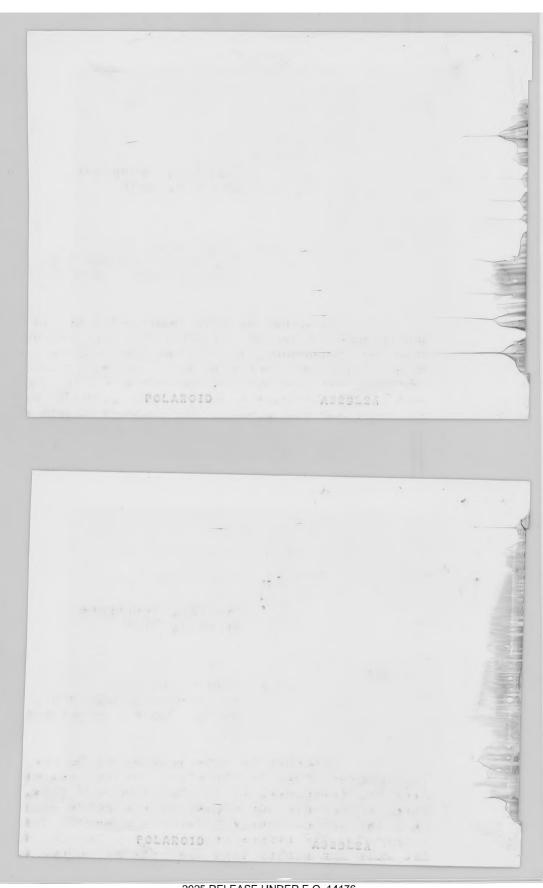


2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI WASH DC

FBI MEMPHIS

559RGENT 3-12-69 MCP

TO DIRECTOR 44-38861
FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987

MURKIN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 12 1969

TELETYPE

FOR HEVILW AT PBING AND STATED STATED

Mr. Tolson Mr. DeLoach Mr. Mohr. Mr. Bishop. Mr. Casper. Mr. Callahan Mr. Conrad Mr. Felt. Mr. Gale_ Mr. Rosen Mr. Sullivar Mr. Tavel. Mr. Trotter. Tele. Room Miss Holmes Miss Gandy

REBUTEL THIS DATE.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GENERAL PHIL CANALE ADVISED HE KNEW OF NO REASON THAT INTERVIEW OF RAY COULD NOT BE CONDUCTED BY FBI. HE ALSO STATED HE WOULD INTERPOSE NO OBJECTIONS SHOULD FBI DESIRE TO INTERVIEW RAY AT THIS TIME.

HOUSTON OFFICE ADVISED THAT PERCY FOREMAN, ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTED RAY, ADVISED HE HAD NO OBJECTIONS TO FBI INTERVIEWING RAY. FOREMAN DID INFORM HOUSTON OFFICE THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH RAY MORE THAN FIFTY HOURS AND DID NOT DISCUSS FACTS OF CASE WITH RAY. FOREMAN SAID PURPOSE OF HIS INTERVIEWS PRIMARILY TO GET TO KNOW RAY. FOREMAN VOLUNTEERED THAT HE CONSIDERED RAY A RACIST AND HE DID NOT BELIEVE RAY WOULD COOPERATE WITH FBI.

HARRY AVERY, COMMISSIONER, TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF CORRESTIONS, ADVISED THIS DATE HE WOULD INTERPOSE NO OBJECTION TO PRISONER JAMES EARL RAY BEING INTERVIEWED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FBI. NO ARRANGEMENTS MADE TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW. MEMPHIS 4 3869 MAR 19 1969

AWAITING BUREAU AUTHORITY. P.

GORR: PARA THREE, LINE ONE, LAST WORD IS "CORRECTIONS"

CLR

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FBI WASH DC

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO

: Mr. DeLoach

FROM

A. Roser

SUBJECT MURKIN DATE: March 18, 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Bishop

Callahan Trotter Tele. Room

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

The Director inquired as to the facts regarding a statement made by Mr. Baxton Bryant as reported in the "New York Times" on 3-16-69. Bryant is quoted as stating that he reported to the FBI information on an alleged telephone conversation related to the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr., and the FBI later advised him the conversation had been found to be unrelated to the King murder. Bufiles indicate that Mr. Bryant is a member of the Tennessee Council on Human Relations who has been active in Civil Rights matters in Tennessee.

DETAILS: On April 8, 1968, Mr. Bryant accompanied John McFerren, who is a Negro Civil Rights activist from Somerville, Tennessee, to our Memphis Office and stated that McFerren had some information he wanted to provide us concerning a conversation he allegedly overheard while at a produce market in Memphis on April 4, 1968, (King was murdered on this date). McFerren was interviewed at length concerning this and he stated he heard a heavyset man talking on a telephone and heard him say, "Kill the SOB on the balcony and get the job done, you will get your \$5,000."

We completely investigated all facets of the information furnished us by McFerren and no substantiating information was developed indicating this alleged telephone conversation was pertinent to the King murder. We provided the results of our investigation to the Department in two separate memorandums (copies attached for ready reference 31

in the "New York Contrary to Mr. Bryant's statement Times", we never advised him of the results of our investigation.

ACTION:

For information.

18 MAR **20** 1969

Enclosures

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BY MASS CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF THE STATE

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. JR.

Reference is made to my memorandum dated April 20, 1963, setting forth pertinent details relative to information furnished by Mr. John McFerren regarding his suspicions that circumstances which occurred at the LL and L Produce Company in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1963, might be related to the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr.

As you were previously advised, the owners of the LL and L Produce Company denied having any connection with the killing and Mr. Frank Camillo Liberto, one of the owners, advised that he had relatives in New Orleans and discussed large sums of money when making produce purchases over the telephone.

Other members of the Liberto family in New Orleans have been interviewed and they have advised that they have no knowledge of the killing beyond accounts appearing in local news media.

On the basis of the information reported by Mr. McFerren and the information developed through our inquiries, it is not felt further inquiries along these lines are warranted.

Returned herewith is the copy of the "Time" report previously furnished.

Enclosure

- 1 The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 Mr. Stephen J. Pollak Assistant Attorney General

EJM:vea (3)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

38861 = 565

NOTE:

The Attorney General's office furnished a copy of a "Time" report of information from John McFerren, Negro from Somerville, Tennessee. The Attorney General was previously furnished substantial information developed indicating there is no basis for McFerren's information. The "Time" report is being returned to the Attorney General with additional information developed in connection with McFerren's story.

The Attorney General REC 27

April 20, 1968

EX-105

Director, FBI

MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Information was received that John McFerren, a Negro of Somerville, Tennessee, had reported to "Time" magazine information concerning an individual possibly involved in the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. McFerren allegedly overheard one end of a telephone conversation while at a produce market in Memphis on April 4, 1968. According to the report, Mr. McFerren overheard the individual state, "Shoot the S.O.B. on the balcony. Don't worry about the money. Your brother will get it in New Orleans." Mr. McFerren allegedly was contacted on April 18, 1968, by a white man formerly of Somerville who now resides in Louisiana. It was indicated that as a result of this visit Mr. McFerren feared for his own safety.

On April 8, 1968, Mr. McFerren advised Agents of this Bureau that he had picked up supplies for his grocery store at the LL and L Produce Company, Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968. At that time he overheard a heavyset white male talking on the telephone say, "Kill the S.O.B. on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000." Mr. McFerren stated another white male with a scar on his right cheek came by at this time and told him to go on to the back of the produce company and help himself.

After completing his business Mr. McFerren heard the telephone ring again as he was passing the office and the man with the scar answered the telephone. He then handed the telephone to the heavyset man. Mr. McFerren heard this man say, "Don't come out here. Go to New Orleans and get your money. You know my brother."

Mr. McFerren attached no significance to these remarks at the time. When he arrived home at Somerville, Tennessee, at approximately 6:15 p.m., April 4, 1968, he Note: See memo Rosen to DeLoach captioned MURKIN, 4/20/68, CLM:wjc EJM:vea.

(10) (10)

44-28861-563

ENCLOSUM

The Attorney General

was advised by a neighbor that Martin Luther King, Jr., had been shot. Mr. McFerren advised that the following day he observed a sketch of the assassin in a newspaper. The artist's conception together with a description as read to him by his wife immediately made him think of an individual who had been employed at the LL and L Produce Company sometime in the late fall or early winter last year. He believed this man to be identical with the sketch of the unknown individual who shot Martin Luther King, Jr. He described this individual as five feet nine inches tall, weighing 140 pounds, white male, slender build and approximately twentyfive years of age.

Mr. McFerren was reinterviewed by Memphis Agents on April 13, 1963. Mr. McFerren stated he was suspicious because an individual he knows from Somerville, Tennessee, presently residing in Louisiana, visited his residence on the morning of April 13, 1963, and asked questions regarding his travel. Mr. McFerren identified this individual as Robert Powers who came to McFerren's residence with his wife driving a 1966-1967 late model beige Cadillac. Mr. McFerren advised he was not threatened by this individual and the only reason he suspects Powers of being strange is that McFerren states it is not common for a white man to shake a Negro's hand in that particular environment.

Mr. McFerren was shown six random photographs, one of which included the 1968 photograph of Eric Galt, and he definitely eliminated Galt as the individual he say at the LL and L Produce Company and who he felt was identical with the sketch he saw in the newspaper. Mr. McFerren picked three photographs of individuals who are all under twenty-five years of age and do not resemble Galt at all. One individual in the photograph is known to be in prison at this time and the other two are not known to have been in the Memphis area at any time.

Investigation disclosed that individuals referred to by Mr. McFerren were Frank Camilla Liberto and James William Latch, President and Vice-President respectively of LL and L Produce Company. These individuals have been interviewed and emphatically deny ever discussing with

Memphis Lean

The Attorney General

anyone the possibility of shooting Reverend Dr. King or having any knowledge of the subject responsible for his death. They stated that they may have made derogatory remarks about the actions of Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis and that the fact that he had been responsible for a loss of revenue by business establishments in the Memphis area. They advised that such disparaging statements had been part of general conversation among workers in and around the produce company and other individuals residing in the Memphis area.

Each of the individuals denied receiving any telephone call wherein mention was made of Martin Luther King or the shooting of Martin Luther King. They stated they did not have any knowledge concerning the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr., while at work at the produce company on April 4, 1968. Mr. Liberto advised he frequently makes trips to New Orleans. Louisiana, for produce. He stated it is common knowledge among employees and customers of his produce company that members of his family reside in New Orleans and he frequently mentions trips to New Orleans. He stated that most of the produce is purchased through telephone conversations and this involves talking about large sums of money over the telephone. Mr. Liberto stated he always employs Negro males as helpers in the produce department and had not had in his employment at the produce company any individual fitting the description of the unknown individual previously described by Mr. McFerren. In this connection, Mr. McFerren was not identified at any time to Mr. Liberto as being the source of the information.

Mr. Liberto's brother in New Orleans is being interviewed for any information he may have concerning this matter.

- 1 The Deputy Attorney General
- 1 Mr. Stephen J. Pollak Assistant Attorney General

Indicary Asked of Nixon
Special to The New York Times
NASH ILLE, March 15—The
Tennassie Council on Human
Relations today urged that

President Nixon appoint a
special commission to make a
"thorough investigation into
the question of a conspiracy
and make a full disclosure of
the facts" surrounding the killing of Dr. King.

A resolution by the council's

Bishop _____
Casper ____
Callahan __
Conrad ____
Felt ____

Gale ___ Rosen 上

Sullivan _

Tele. Room _

Holmes __

Gandy

Tavel ____ Trotter ___

vate organization devoted to improving race relations and combating discrimination.

The resolution was based on a report by Baxton Bryant, the council's executive director, on statements made to him shortly after the assassination by a witness who said he had overheard a telephone conversation related to the shooting of Dr. King an hour before it occurred.

board of directors expressed "deep concern with the lingering question of conspiracy" in the case. The council is a pri-

According to Mr. Bryant, the witness, identified as John Ms-Ferren, a Negro supermarket

operator heard a man on one end of the telephone line say, "You can shoot the s.o.b. on the balcony" and later, "You can pick up the \$5,000 from my brother in New Orleans."

Mr. Bryant said he had reported this information to the Federal Bureau of Investigation and introduced the witness to F.B.I. agents. About two weeks after the killing, he said, the F.B.I. told him the conversation had been found to be unrelated to the slaying of Dr. King

The Washington Post Times Herald The Washington Daily News _ The Evening Star (Washington) ____ The Sunday Star (Washington) _ Daily News (New York) ___ Sunday News (New York) ___ New York Post _ The New York Times ___ The Sun (Baltimore) ___ The Daily World_ The New Leader ___ The Wall Street Journal __ The National Observer ___ People's World ___ Examiner (Washington) ____

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18 MAR 20 1969

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