

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 ✓

Abner I. Weisman, M. D.  
 11 East 74th Street  
 New York 21, N. Y.  
 3-11-69

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

Re: James Earl Ray

Dear Mr. Hoover --

I am one of the millions of Americans who is  
 not satisfied by the method of trial in the James Earl  
 Ray case. I feel that important facts in this man's  
 motivations must be made public or the roots of  
 democracy will erode.

We want more information on this matter and  
 we are not satisfied with the white-wash in Tennessee.  
 This is a federal matter!

I await your action.

Sincerely

Abe I. Weisman, M. D.

COPY:nm

*AKB*

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 14 11 43 AM '69

REC'D - DELOACH  
FBI

MAR 13 1 22 PM '69

MAR 13 1 22 PM '69  
FBI  
REC'D - DELOACH

MAR 13 1 22 PM '69  
REC'D - DELOACH  
FBI

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
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Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Callahan

DATE: 3/11/69

FROM : J. P. Dunphy

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the case involving the killing of Martin Luther King.

On 3/10/69 subject Ray was sentenced to 99 years in prison. John Carlisle, Chief Investigator, District Attorney General's Office, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, called on 3/10/69 advising that the two models prepared by the Bureau were used extensively during subject's trial yesterday and that many favorable comments were received concerning them.

Now that the trial has been concluded, Carlisle wishes to know what disposition the Bureau desires to be made of the two trial models. It was pointed out to Carlisle that since they had been introduced in evidence they were the property of the court and the presiding Judge would be the one to indicate what should be done with them. Carlisle advised they nevertheless wanted to make whatever disposition the Bureau desired. According to Carlisle the Memphis Police Department has expressed an interest in obtaining these models for use in their police training academy.

SAC Jensen advises the models were of great assistance during the trial and that while there would be no objections to furnishing the models to the Memphis Police Department, he felt they might be put to better use at the Bureau.

In view of the tremendous amount of public interest in the killing of King and the trial of Ray, either or both of these models might very well lend themselves to effective display on the tour route. They would also lend themselves very well to be utilized as training aids in our Training Division. It is therefore felt that Carlisle should be advised that if the Judge so desires, these models should be returned to the Bureau.

## RECOMMENDATION:

That Carlisle be advised to inform the Judge that the Bureau can make use of these models here in Washington if he has no objection to returning them to us.

JPD:ko  
(5)

1 - Mr. Bishop  
1 - Mr. Casper  
1 - Mr. Long, Rm. 2260

REC'D-CALLAHAN  
F B I  
MAR 12 10 49 AM '69

REC'D-DELOACH  
F B I  
MAR 11 5 46 PM '69

REC'D-MORRIS  
F B I  
MAR 11 3 22 PM '69

REC'D-ROSEN  
F B I  
MAR 11 3 02 PM '69

REC'D-REID  
F B I  
MAR 11 1 07 PM '69

REC'D-TOLESON  
F B I  
MAR 12 9 30 AM '69

REC'D-EXHIBITS SECTION  
F B I  
MAR 12 1 12 PM '69

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
F B I  
MAR 12 9 10 AM '69

March 18, 1969

1 - Mr. Long  
1 - Mr. Swanson

Dr. Abner I. Weisman  
11 East 74th Street  
New York, New York 10021

Dear Dr. Weisman:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated March 11, 1969, and your comments have been noted.

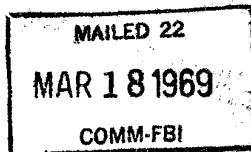
For your information, the Federal Bureau of Investigation is an investigative arm of the United States Department of Justice, and the results of investigation conducted by this Bureau are furnished to the Department of Justice. If you have any questions concerning investigation, it is suggested that you may desire to communicate directly with Mr. Jerris Leonard, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. 20530.

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



REL:jms  
(4) jms

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

56 MAR 26 1969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

MAR 19 9 19 AM '69  
MAR 20 11 27 AM 1969

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

RECEIVED

MAR 19 3 08 PM '69

MAR 17

REC'D DELOACH  
FBI

MAR 18 10 09 AM '69  
MAR 18 11 33 AM '69  
FBI

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
FBI

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 19 9 10 AM 1969  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION  
MAR 19 6 05 PM '69

MAR 18 2 27 PM '69  
REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

MR. JONES

MAR 19 11 03 AM '69

RECEIVED  
FBI

NOTE:

Dr. Abner I. Weisman, New York, directed a letter to the Bureau stating he is not satisfied by the method of trial in the James Earl Ray case and states, "We want more information on this matter and we are not satisfied with the white-wash in Tennessee. This is a federal matter." Dr. Weisman is being advised in our Bureau letter to him that the results of investigation conducted by the Bureau are furnished to the Department and if he has any questions concerning investigation, it is suggested to him that he may desire to communicate directly with Mr. Jerris Leonard, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

Bufiles indicate that in 1942, Dr. Weisman was a security informant of the New York Division on a very limited basis. Bufiles also indicate that in connection with an investigation involving loyalty of Government employees, Dr. Weisman was a friend of the person being investigated; however, no disloyalty information was developed regarding the person under investigation. Bufiles also indicate that in connection with an espionage investigation in New York in 1960, a telephone number was disclosed; however, it was not the exact number of Dr. Weisman, as it was one digit removed. The significance of the telephone number of Dr. Weisman is not known. According to Bureau records, the Medical Directory of New York State for 1955 reflected that Dr. Weisman was a member of the American Medical Association, he is certified as a diplomat for American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and is a fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

No information is recorded in Bufiles which would preclude acknowledging Weisman's letter.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach *PR*  
FROM : A. Rosen *R*  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: March 14, 1969  
1-Mr. DeLoach  
1-Mr. Rosen  
1-Mr. Malley  
1-Mr. McGowan  
1-Mr. Long

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
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Rosen *✓* \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

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

In accordance with approval, I called Jerris Leonard, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, and gave him a brief run down of the interview which SAC Jensen had with subject James Earl Ray at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee, yesterday (3/13/69). *Rel*

After giving him a run down, he said he was most appreciative and wanted to know if we were going to talk with Ray again. I told him we had planned to do that perhaps sometime today. He asked to be advised along the same lines as above.

It is recalled he had called the first thing this morning asking that he be advised of the results of the interview because he was to meet the Attorney General with Will Wilson of the Criminal Division concerning the possibility of any future action against Ray. In this connection, it was mentioned by Leonard they might consider calling him before a grand jury in order to question him under oath.

## ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

As previously indicated, Jensen plans to try to talk with Ray today. He was instructed to advise me definitely concerning this and also to advise the Bureau of the results of such an interview.

In talking with Leonard, I again stressed the Director's views that it is most important that our visits with Ray not be publicized as the press and TV would descend upon the penitentiary and cut off any possibility of getting Ray to cooperate to any degree. *44-38861-5603*

You will be advised of further developments. *2-105*

AR:ige  
(6) ADDENDUM: Subsequent to the above, I was advised by the Nashville Resident Agency that Jensen is meeting with Ray at the state penitentiary. We will get the results of such interview later today and you will be advised. Shortly after this call, *512*

55 MAR 26 1969

CONTINUED - OVER



MAR 20 12 00 PM '69

REC'D - DELOACH  
FBI

REC'D DELOACH  
FBI

MAR 14 4 33 PM '69

MAR 14 1 16 PM '69

REC'D DELOACH  
FBI

MAR 14 12 10 PM '69

COPIED NAME DATE 5/4/78 BY  
RCB/JSK  
FOR REVIEW AT 10101A HAN/CH DELIVERY  
TO HOLD RE REQUEST DATED 5/3/78  
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

FBI  
RECEIVED TOLSON

MAR 14 12 10 PM '69

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
Re: MURKIN

I received a personal call from Jensen, who said he had been in to see Ray and that Ray said he was not talking, he had thought the matter over during the night and he was not going to talk. He indicated on the way up from Memphis, Tennessee, to Nashville when he was transported by state officials he had said about three words and the newspapers had made a story out of that. He said he was not going to talk any more. Jensen indicated he then left and before doing so said if Ray changed his mind he could write him a letter.

If approved by the Director, Leonard will be advised that Ray refused to do any talking today.

Handled  
8-14-69-R

BK.  
A

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
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Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. DeLoach *DO*

DATE: March 12, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen *R*

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malley

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

SUBJECT: MURKIN

*114* This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King.

SAC Jensen called to advise he had talked to District Attorney Phil Canale concerning the possibility of interviewing James Earl Ray. Canale indicated he had no objection to such an interview and saw no reasons why there would be any objections raised. *Loach*

The Houston Office advised SAC Jensen at Memphis that Attorney Percy Foreman had no objection to our interviewing Ray. He said he talked to him for about 50 hours but did not go into the facts of the case. Foreman was of the opinion that Ray was a racist and he did not think that he would be very cooperative.

The Commissioner of Corrections for the State of Tennessee who has charge of the prison at Nashville in which Ray is confined has consented to an interview.

SAC Jensen plans to be in Nashville tomorrow and be able to make contact with the prison official sometime in the early afternoon in order to make the first contact with Ray. He will then be able to size up Ray's attitude and follow up with an interview the following day and until such time as all possibility of getting information from Ray is exhausted. *Call*

It is recalled Deputy Assistant Attorney General Owen of the Civil Rights Division asked to be advised when we plan to interview Ray. He indicated he had no objection to such an interview but wanted to be advised. If approved, we will let him know at such time as the interview is under way. *11*

AR:ige  
(6) *JR*

REC-111

117-38861-1524

10 MAR 21 1969

56 MAR 26 1969

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM: SAC, NEW YORK  
 SUBJECT: [Illegible]

[Several paragraphs of illegible teletype text follow]

MAR 12 5 03 PM '69

RECEIVED  
 MAR 12 1969

RECEIVED  
 MAR 12 1969  
 FBI

REC'D  
 MAR 12 4 06 PM '69  
 FBI

RECEIVED  
 MAR 12 1969

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
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Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. DeLoach *JD*

DATE: 3/13/69

1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Long  
1 - Mr. Bishop

FROM : A. Rosen *R*

SUBJECT: MURKIN

With reference to the above matter SAC Jensen, Memphis, *JD* has made arrangements to get into the prison at Nashville, Tennessee, at 1:30 p.m., Nashville time today, which is 2:30 p.m., Washington, D.C. time. He is to call the Bureau and advise us at such time as the interview is underway. It is not known whether Ray will be communicative. Jensen states he plans to approach Ray alone rather than take another Agent with him inasmuch as Ray may feel he is being outnumbered. He feels this is desirable on the first approach in order to determine Ray's attitude. Jensen is fully familiar with the facts of this case.

Jensen was advised it was hoped that arrangements were made so no press or TV would descend on the penitentiary en masse. Jensen stated insofar as he knew there was no indication of this. Jensen states he is taking the position that he was on a routine visit to Nashville at which time he is making the usual checks of the Resident Agency, etc. I advised him that Deputy Assistant Attorney General Owen of the Civil Rights Division asked to be advised when we plan to interview Ray. It was indicated that Owen had no objection to such an interview but wanted to be advised.

In this connection in accordance with the Director's approval we will let Owen know at such time as the interview is underway. Owen will be advised that no public statement should be made as the press and TV would descend on the penitentiary en masse. *JD*

AR:WW  
(7)

6-105

44-38861-56

10 MAR 21 1969

56 MAR 26 1969

58

[Faint, mostly illegible text covering the upper and middle portions of the page, possibly representing a letter or report.]

1 COPIES MADE. DATE 5/4/78 BY R. G. B. J. C.  
 FOR REVIEW AT FIELD OFFICE ON DELIVERY  
 TO HQS. RE REQUEST DATED 5/3/78  
 (SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

REC'D DETROIT  
 FBI

REC'D [illegible]

REC'D [illegible]

Mar 13 4 32 PM '69  
 RECEIVED [illegible]

Mar 13 12 27 PM '69

Mar 13 1 14 PM '69

RECEIVED

108

MR. MOSS LEE INNES,  
c/o UNITED STATES EMBASSY,  
100 WELLINGTON STREET,  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

FL-3G  
REV. 1-5-68

FOR TRANSMITTAL TO: DIRECTOR, F.B.I.

YOUR FILE

RCMP FILE

BUFILE

STATUS

MURKIN - 44.4

68HQ-791-Q-60.

44-38861

O.O.-ME

P

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH  
R.C.M. POLICE HEADQUARTERS

# ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

RCMP  
RC 6880

C 237  
REV. 1-4-66

OTHER FILE REFERENCES: REF. AUTRES DOSSIERS:	DIVISION	DATE	RCMP FILE REFERENCES: REF. DOSSIERS GRC:
	"C"	5 MAR 69	
	SUB-DIVISION - SOUS-DIVISION		
	DETACHMENT - DETACHEMENT		
	Montreal G.I.S.		68GIS 790-107 68C 790-19

RE:  
OBJET:

**Martin Luther KING -  
Murder of:  
- Assistance to F.B.I. -**

1. Further to memorandum of the A/Officer i/c C.I.B. dated in Montreal on the 19 FEB 69 and appended FBI correspondence, enquiries conducted with the MCP revealed that only two (2) unsolved armed robberies occurred during the periods running from July 17, 1967 to August 17, 1967, and from April 8, 1968 to the 6 May 1968. The establishments robbed are as indicated hereunder:

(a) Date: 21 JUL 67

Tupper Grocery  
Louis WEINER (prop.)  
2067 Tupper Street,  
Montreal, Quebec.

Amount: \$1,280.00

MCP file P-7-10-6284 -

This robbery was committed by two armed individuals who spoke English with a French accent and the perpetrators were identifiable by Louis WEINER. WEINER was interviewed by Cst. GUAY of this office on the 3 MAR 69, at which time he was exhibited photographs of James Earl RAY. At the time of exhibition to WEINER, photographs of RAY had been mixed together with photographs of other individuals. No identification made and WEINER was positive that the photographs of the men who had robbed the store were not among the ones he viewed.

(b) Date: 4 MAY 68

Laiterie Perrette,  
6355 Sherbrooke East,  
Montreal, Quebec.

Amount: \$1,098.91

MCP file P-8-7-2261

Witnesses: Lucien BLOUIN, Manager,  
7122 Gaudin,  
St-Léonard, Quebec.

Robert POUPART, employee,  
8135 Fabre,  
Apt. 2,  
Montreal, Quebec.

This robbery was committed by one individual who spoke French and is identifiable by the two witnesses. Enquiries conducted at Laiterie Perrette revealed that BLOUIN was no longer employed there and his present whereabouts were unknown. Enquiries conducted at BLOUIN's known home

54 APR 2 - 1969

... 2





RE:  
OBJET.

PAGE 2

Mart. Luther KING -  
Murder of:  
- Assistance to F.B.I. -

address also met with negative results as BLOUIN has moved out approximately four (4) months ago leaving no forwarding address. At the present time, attempts are being made to locate BLOUIN. POUPART is no longer employed at the Laiterie Perrette and was contacted at his residence by telephone. When he was advised of the purpose of our wishing to meet him to identify photographs of the possible robber, he stated that he did not wish to get involved in any police investigation which might lead him to become a witness in any type of prosecution. Attempts will be made to interview POUPART personally, at his home, and the outcome will be reported on. It is however, to be noted, that the perpetrator of this theft in this case, spoke French and it is not believed at this point that James Earl RAY speaks French.

D.D. 14-3-69

*Exp. for AOL*  
(JIB PROULX) S/SGT.  
NCO I/C G.I.S.

*E.C. Mager* Sgt.  
( E.C. Mager ) #17440  
Montreal C.I.S.

MR. MOSS LEE INNES,  
c/o UNITED STATES EMBASSY,  
100 WELLINGTON STREET,  
OTTAWA, ONTARIO.

FL-3G  
REV. 1-5-68

FOR TRANSMITTAL TO: DIRECTOR, F.B.I.

YOUR FILE

MURKIN 44.4

RCMP FILE

68HQ-791-P-60.

BUFILE

44-38861 O.O. - ME

STATUS

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH  
R.C.M. POLICE HEADQUARTERS

# ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

RCMP  
GRC 6880

C 237  
REV. 1-4-66

OTHER FILE REFERENCES: REF. AUTRES DOSSIERS:	DIVISION "O"	DATE 26 FEB	RCMP FILE REFERENCES: REF. DOSSIERS GRC: 68HQ-791-4-60(VOL.2) 68-0-790-205 68-790-74
	SUB-DIVISION - SOUS-DIVISION		
	DETACHMENT - DÉTACHEMENT Toronto C.I.B. General		

RE:  
OBJET:

Martin Luther KING -  
Murder of.  
(ASSISTANCE TO F.B.I.)

17 FEB 69

1. On this date, Mrs. Mabel AGNEW, ARCADE PHOTO STUDIO, advised that her doctor informed her that she has a heart condition. Considering this problem and her fear of air travel, she did not think that she would be able to testify at the trial of James Earl RAY. She was interviewed this same date and the importance of her evidence was discussed. As a result of this interview, she agreed to go to Memphis with a friend, Mrs. RICHARDSON.

26 FEB 69

R. G. SNEYD

1731 VICTORIA PARK AVE, SCARBOROUGH, N.Y.

2. Raymond SNEYD contacted me on this date and disclosed that on 10 JAN 69 he received notification that a year's free subscription to the Magazine "Play Boy" had been given to him by a person by the name of Ahmed HANER. He did not consider this as being anything but a prank until he received two copies of this publication. The original notification is being retained here as an exhibit and photostat copies are attached. SNEYD advised that he has never applied or had previously received a copy of this Magazine and further the person by the name of Ahmed HANER is completely unknown to him. The cost of a year's subscription to this publication is \$13.00 and in view of this and the fact that he will be giving testimony in this case might be of some significance. The possibility exists that this is a movement to discredit the witness or reflect on his morale. Possibly the U.S. authorities might be able to obtain some further information in this regard.

REC-31

CANADA

44-38861-5647

3. On this date, Henry MOOS was acquitted of the charges emanating from the signing of the Passport Application for James Earl RAY. Mrs. Lillian SPENCER gave evidence at this trial indicating that she assisted RAY in completing the Application for Passport Forms and also identified a photograph of him. Mr. D. CARTWRIGHT, Crown Prosecutor in this case suggested that being that SPENCER was a very poor witness, and that she had admitted to helping RAY, and further identified him by photo, the prosecuting authorities in Memphis would no doubt be interested in receiving a copy of the transcript of this trial.

4. Mr. T. MORAN, Court Reporter, Old City Hall, Toronto, advised that the cost of this service was approximately \$25.00 for SPENCER's testimony and \$100.00 for the complete trial.

5. In considering the time element involved in preparing this transcript and also the problems concerning Mrs. AGNEW, Mr. Robert K. DWYER was contacted in Memphis and advised.

APR 02 1969

100-100000

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
MAR 17 4 33 PM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
MAR 17 4 33 PM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
MAR 17 4 33 PM '69

RE.  
OBJET.

Martin LUTHER KING

PAGE

2.

b. Attached are copies of Forms C.246.

C.I.B.

D.D.: 30-4-69

.....  
(.....) S/Sgt.  
i/c Tor. C.I.B. Gen.

Cpl.  
(J.L. Dunlop) # 17852.  
Toronto C.I.B. General.

THE COMMISSIONER, OTTAWA

FORWARDED for your information, together with the mentioned enclosures.

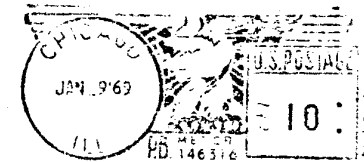
2. While no confirmation has been received, the investigator has advised that the trial is now scheduled for 7-4-69. However, U.S. authorities do not expect they will be in a position to call any witnesses until after 12-5-69.

3. Your further instructions as indicated in memorandum from the Assistant Officer i/c Headquarters C.I.B. dated 13-12-68 will be awaited.

TORONTO  
7-3-69

(C.R. Doey), Supt.  
Officer i/c C.I.B.

VIA AIR MAIL



A. J. Sneyd  
1731 Victoria Pl. W.  
Starbrough, Ont.



GIFT ANNOUNCEMENT

5647

1:55 P.M. 20 Feb 1969  
FSD RCMP  
Rec on 10 Jan 69

WITH BEST WISHES FOR  
THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS  
A FULL YEAR  
GIFT SUBSCRIPTION TO PLAYBOY,  
THE SOPHISTICATED ENTERTAINMENT  
MAGAZINE FOR MEN,  
HAS BEEN GIVEN TO YOU BY

*Alfred J. James*

44-5647



PRINTED IN U.S.A.

1:55 PM 20 Feb 1969

J.S. RGMF

Rec on 10 Jan 69

PLAYBOY®  
Playboy Building  
919 N. Michigan Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

ENCLOSURE

44-37575-5647

March 21, 1969

GENERAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

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

The attached sets forth statements made by one of the local officers regarding the conversation that took place between James Earl Ray and the officer who accompanied Ray during transfer from Memphis to Tennessee State Prison, Nashville. Ray stated that about 90% of the information appearing in "Look" magazine (written by William Bradford Huie) were lies. Ray compared the British jails with the Shelby County jails and stated a "Federal man" had the Shelby County jail windows boarded.

The reference to the "Federal man" apparently pertains to U. S. Bureau of Prison personnel who consulted with local authorities relative to Ray's incarceration at Memphis.

Attached statement being furnished to the Department.

REL:jms

*Cambr* *Ryan* *Spur* *MA 2* *rel*

F B I

Date: 3-18-69

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via AIRTEL AM  
(Priority)

*Wright*

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	_____

*Wright*

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

*juv*

There are enclosed two copies of report of Captain RICHARD M. DAWSON, one of the officers who accompanied RAY during his transfer from custody of the Sheriff's Department, Memphis, to the Tennessee State Prison, Nashville.

4

3 BUREAU (Enc. 2) (AM)  
1 MEMPHIS 2 ENCLOSURE

RGJ:BN  
(4)

EX-104

REC-3

4 MAR 20 1969

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

66 MAR 28 1969 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 24 1969

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATION  
DIVISION

MAR 21 10 27 AM '69  
MAR 20 10 56 AM '69

MAR 20 10 51 AM 1969 REC'D DELOACH  
FBI

F.B.I.  
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MAR 21 8 23 AM '69

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FBI

MAR 21 11 51 AM '69

MAR 21 10 27 AM '69

MAR 21 8 44 AM '69

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MAR 21 10 25 AM '69  
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FBI

Statement of RICHARD M. DAWSON, Captain of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, station at Jackson, Tennessee. Made in the Attorney General's Office at 11:40 A.M. on Tuesday, March 18, 1969. Questioned by John L. Carlisle. Typed by Mrs. Loretta Bondora.

\* \* \* \* \*

Relative to the JAMES EARL RAY case.

\* \* \* \* \*

Q. Captain Dawson, on the morning of March 11, 1969, did you, with other officers of the Tennessee Highway Patrol, accompany James Earl Ray to the State Penitentiary at Nashville?

A. Yes sir, I did.

Q. Would you name the officers that accompanied you and relate any discussion as you can recall between Ray and any of the officers.

A. Yes sir. We assumed custody of Ray at approximately 5:20 A.M. in the Highway Patrol Station on Summer Avenue, Memphis. He was placed in the rear seat of the automobile. I sat on his left. Commissioner O'Rear was on his right. Inspector Mickey McGuire drove. Deputy Commissioner Bud Hopton sat in the front on the right. I recall some...for the first 15-20 minutes, there was very little conversation. As we continued on, Ray made some remarks concerning the landscape and scenery. I remember asking Ray that yesterday was his birthday and he looked like he had celebrated it with a bang. He said, hell, yesterday wasn't my birthday. I've lied to them so much they don't know when I was born...or words to that effect. I remember Inspector McGuire asking Ray then if the articles in Look Magazine pertaining to his case were in fact truth. Ray responded...hell no, about 90% of it is lies and Huie now knows about the time that I was in a mental institution and I understand that his next article is going to say that I'm crazy. I also remember McGuire asking Ray if he had been in Nashville before. Ray said that is where the Grand Ole Opry is, isn't it? I don't remember if he said he had or had not been in Nashville but he said he had not been to the Grand Ole Opry. I remember Ray asking me if I was with the prison. I told him no and asked why. He said I was wondering if legal services are available in the State Pen. Commissioner O'Rear told him he would have to take that up with the warden of the institution. I remember Ray saying they had not treated him badly in the Shelby County Jail other than the damn Federal man had had the windows boarded up and he could not see out or get any fresh air with the exception of what was blown in and it made him feel like he had a cold all the time. I remember asking Ray how the jail here compared to the confinement facilities in England. He said in England they had two types of jails, one before trial and one after trial and that the one before trial was not bad, but he understood the other one was rough as hell. I remember him saying that he was trying to get to Africa, but the riots were going on in France and he had gone to Portugal, but was unable to get a boat to Africa; but heard he could get one in Brussels so he returned to England intending to get to Brussels. He said he had run out of money, and that he had intended to go to Brussels and get a boat to Africa. I recall some conversation and I don't know who asked the question, concerning getting the passports in Canada and also the mention was

8195-1488 E -11/17

**ENCLOSURE**

made that one of them, we understood, was in the name of a police officer and he laughed heartily, but he didn't elaborate. He made no reference to the crime itself. He did ask one time if he would be placed in a cell or be allowed to be outside some and he was told that he should take this up with the warden of the institution. He indicated that he sure hoped they would not lock him in a cell. I recall that he said he had sure messed up and if it was to do over, he would not have pleaded guilty to the offense. We arrived at the Penitentiary at 8:06 and Ray was released to the prison authorities.

Q. That's all, thank you.

---

RICHARD M. DAWSON

1b

F B I

Date: 3/19/69

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)  
 SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Dallas dated 3/14/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies of LHM captioned "ANONYMOUS ACCUSATION ALLEGING PARTICIPATION OF RAYMOND POLACCO IN ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.", dated 3/19/69, at Dallas, Texas.

Two copies each are also enclosed for the Atlanta and Memphis offices.

The interview of JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN also known as Joe Griffin, was conducted by SAs WILLIAM R. JENKINS and LARRY J. STEGING. The interview of Attorney DEE MILLER was by SA WILLIAM R. JENKINS.

LEADSATLANTA

AT FOREST PARK, GEORGIA. 1. Will interview Mrs. ALF CALALAY, 4550 Ridgecrest Street, since this is apparently the person that GRIFFIN talked with by phone and who said that she was a babysitter for RAYMOND POLACCO and kept his four year old daughter.

2. Will determine holder of Atlanta phone number 404-361-7297, and if not listed to ALF CALALAY will interview them for information concerning POLACCO.

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)  
 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
 2 - Atlanta (44-2396) (Enc. 2)  
 1 - Dallas  
 WRJ:mar

(8)

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: 59 APR 2 - 1969  
 Special Agent in Charge



3/19/69

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

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LEADS

ATLANTA

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3 - Bureau (Enc. 5)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
2 - Atlanta (44-2306) (Enc. 2)  
1 - Dallas  
WRJ:mar  
(8)

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 24 1969



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Dallas, Texas  
March 19, 1969

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

Reference is made to the memorandum, entitled as above, submitted by the Atlanta Office on March 11, 1969.

A check of the City Directory of Amarillo, Texas, failed to reveal an address of 1918 North Manhattan Street or the name of JOE GRIFFIN. The City Directory did reveal a J. E. Griffin, Painter, residing at 1913 North Manhattan Street. *Amarillo, Texas*

Operator No. 20, Amarillo Credit Association, 912 Taylor Street, on March 17, 1969, advised that Johnnie E. Griffin, 1913 North Manhattan Street, had been known to their files since July of 1966, and was reportedly employed as a house painter. The name of his wife was shown as Judy but file also contained information that Griffin had filed for divorce from Judy on January 9, 1969.

On March 17, 1969, Mr. Johnnie Ernest Griffin, 1913 North Manhattan Street, Amarillo, Texas, was interviewed at his place of employment, the Astoria Park Apartments, Amarillo, Texas. Griffin advised that on

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.

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-5649

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

*TEXAS*  
*X Johnston*  
*MR+*  
January 6, 1968, his wife's sister, Mrs. Charlie (Wanda) Johnston, came to Amarillo, and lived with them until May of 1968. He advised that she has now returned to her husband and that they reside at 812 - Apartment B, Eloise Courts, Atlanta, Georgia, and that the husband, Charlie Johnston, is employed as a fireman for the City of Atlanta, Georgia.

He advised that the mother of Charlie Johnston is Mrs. R. H. Johnston, 594 Hill Street, Atlanta, Georgia. He stated that one time at Amarillo while Wanda Johnston was drunk, she stated that her husband, Charlie Johnston, had run over a Negro boy and killed him. She stated that her husband had killed a Negro for free but that her mother-in-law got \$10,000.00 for shooting Martin Luther King. He stated that he did not know whether this was true or not, but that Mrs. Johnston did about that time send Wanda Johnston about \$2,000.00 to pay for a car.

*834-C Confederate Courts*  
*MRS JOHNNIE ERNEST GRIFFIN*  
Griffin advised that all of his wife's family call him Joe Griffin. He stated that his wife, Judy Griffin, left him about October, 1968, and returned to Atlanta, Georgia, where she resides with a sister, Deborah Blackman, at 834-C Confederate Courts, Atlanta, Georgia. He advised that there is presently a court fight going on for the custody of their three children.

*TEXAS*  
Griffin advised that he was in Atlanta just before Christmas of 1968, and that Deborah Blackman told him that Mrs. Johnston had received another "big pay off" in the Martin Luther King case, and that this "pay off" had been made by Raymond Polacco. He advised that he had never met this Raymond Polacco but that he was going with Deborah Blackman at the time that he was in Atlanta.

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

Griffin advised that he returned to Amarillo, Texas, and that on January 28, 1969, he received a telegram which read as follows:

JS A "Dear Sir: I would like to get in touch with you concerning your family. It is important. I would like for you to reply back to the Atlanta Main Office, sending your telephone number. Please answer one way or the other. BRUCE MARKS."

Ridgecrest DR.  
B. Approx 1942  
Griffin advised that he sent a telegram back furnishing his phone number and the next day received a telephone call from Raymond Polacco from Atlanta, Georgia. Polacco advised that he understood that Griffin was looking for evidence to indicate that his wife was morally unfit to have the children and stated that he would secure pictures of his wife in the nude or in bed with some man if Griffin would pay him \$500.00. He indicated to Griffin that he was an investigator and told Griffin that he could be reached at Atlanta telephone number 404-361-7297.

Griffin advised that he called Polacco back at this number and talked with a woman whose name he understood to be "Calloway". She advised that Polacco did not live at that address but that she babysat for the four year old daughter of Polacco. She said that Polacco lived "down the street" and advised that she lived at 4550 Ridgecrest Drive. She stated that Polacco was a Cuban, 27 years of age, was not employed, but had a wife who worked in a drug store. She said that Polacco was attending school somewhere in Atlanta. CA

Griffin was then asked if he wrote a letter to the Atlanta Constitution, Atlanta, Georgia, about this matter and emphatically denied writing such a

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

letter. He stated that all that he knew about the Martin Luther King assassination had come from members of his wife's family and that he knew nothing of his own knowledge about the matter.

On March 17, 1969, Mr. Dee Miller, Attorney at Law, Fisk Building, Eighth and Polk Streets, Amarillo, Texas, advised that he represented Johnnie E. Griffin in a divorce and child custody suit against his former wife, Judy Griffin, of Atlanta, Georgia. He advised that he did receive a call from a man named Raymond, last name not given, from Atlanta, Georgia, advising that he would secure compromising photographs of Judy Griffin for use in the child custody matter for \$500.00. Miller advised that this caller claimed to be an investigator but stated that it was immediately apparent to him that the caller was not an investigator since ~~he~~ did not even have a camera and wanted an advance so that he could buy a camera. Miller told this caller that they were not interested in such a proposition.

Mr. Miller advised that there was a hearing at Amarillo, Texas, on January 24, 1969, in the child custody matter and that Griffin had furnished him some letters from an "Aunt Ella" from Decatur, Georgia, which letters described the immoral behaviour of Judy Griffin while in Atlanta. He advised that he subpoenaed this person to the hearing and attempted to introduce the letters but "Aunt Ella" denied writing such letters and stated she convinced him that she did not write the letters. He stated that he accused Griffin of preparing the letters from "Aunt Ella" but he denied it. Mr. Miller advised that in view of this, he was seriously considering asking permission of the court to withdraw from the case.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DATE: 3-19-69

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

FROM: M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
FORTHCOMING BOOK BY  
WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE

BACKGROUND:

William Bradford Huie is the author of articles regarding James Earl Ray and the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., which appeared in the November 12 and November 26, 1968, issues of "Look" magazine. He has also written a manuscript for a book--tentatively titled "They Slew the Dreamer"--dealing with the King murder.

Through Carroll B. Colby, a very reliable contact in the New York publishing industry, we determined last January that Huie's manuscript had been offered to several publishers and that one of these, the New American Library, Inc., was planning to publish it.

RECENT DEVELOPMENT:

The New York Office telephoned today to advise that one of its contacts ("Long John" Nebel, a television personality who continually receives advance copies of books from publishers who hope that he will plug their books on his TV show) has learned that Huie's manuscript is no longer in the hands of the New American Library. According to Nebel, an outfit named Bell has the manuscript and plans to put the book out in May. Nebel is attempting to obtain a copy of the manuscript or an advance copy of the book for us.

Source books in the Bureau Library do not list a Bell company as a publisher of books. However, the New York Telephone Directory lists a Bell Printing Company on West 25th Street.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information. We will continue to follow this matter.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. McGowan

GWG:gms

2 MAR 25 1969

NOT RECORDED  
102 MAR 27 1969

ORIGINAL FILED IN 94-4-6450-34

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

COPIES MADE, DATE 5/4/78 BY  
 RCB/SS. RE M.L. King, Jr.  
 FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ AND DELIVERY  
 TO DIRECTOR, FBIHQ, DATE 5/3/78  
 (SEE ATTORNEY 100-1100)

*me [signature]*

*[signature]*

UPI-93

(RAY)

SAVANNAH, GA.--JAMES EARL RAY HAS HIRED A NEW ATTORNEY, J.B. STONER OF SAVANNAH, AND WILL TRY TO CHANGE HIS PLEA MONDAY TO INNOCENT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., STONER'S ASSISTANT SAID TODAY.

STONER, AN ATTORNEY FOR THE NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY, GAINED A REPUTATION IN RECENT YEARS IN THE SOUTH BY DEFENDING SEGREGATIONISTS.

EDWARD FIELDS, STONER'S ASSISTANT, SAID STONER AND RAY HAD BEEN IN CONTACT "FOR SOME TIME" AFTER THE ASSASSINATION AND HAD VISITED HIM IN JAIL SEVERAL TIMES.

"YOU MIGHT SAY MR. STONER IS AN ADVISOR," FIELDS SAID.

FIELDS SAID UNDER TENNESSEE LAW, RAY HAS 30 DAYS FROM THE DAY HE IS CONVICTED TO ATTEMPT TO CHANGE HIS PLEA.

3/21--EG205PES

*This is why I suggested  
 waiting on Reader Digest  
 to do a book.*

79 APR 1-1969

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

MAR 21 6 56 PM '69

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

MAR 21 6 56 PM '69

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MAR 21 5 14 PM '69  
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FBI



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach *PA*

FROM : A. Rosen *R*

SUBJECT: MURKIN *R*

DATE: March 17, 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Long

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
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Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King. *rel*

Reference is made to the teletype from the New York Office concerning Attorney Jack Greenberg, Director of the Legal Defense Fund, NAACP, New York, who advised that Attorney Russell Thompson, Memphis, Tennessee, was to meet with Greenberg on 3/17/69 to furnish names of other people involved with Ray in the Martin Luther King killing. Thompson professed to have once represented James Earl Ray.

Greenberg suggested an FBI Agent be present at the meeting as he had no way to evaluate the information to be furnished by Thompson.

## ACTION TAKEN:

In accordance with the Director's instructions, we told the New York Office that Thompson has not been forthright and if Thompson ~~wants to~~ furnish any information he and Greenberg can come to our New York Office and give it.

The New York Office attempted to reach Greenberg in the morning but was advised he was at a meeting and would not be available until later. At 3:00 p.m. the afternoon of 3/17/69 Greenberg advised Agent Young of the New York Office that he had met with Thompson and he had reams of material the nature of which he could not understand. Greenberg was advised that if he or Thompson wanted to furnish any information we would be glad to receive it. So far, no information has been furnished as of this writing.

AR:ige  
(6)

*R*  
REC 11 *✓*

*44-38861-5611*  
MAR 18 1969

70 APR 2 1969 *SK*

MAR 19 11 03 AM '69

REC'D DELOACH  
FBI

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 19 9 05 AM '69

MAR 17 6 02 PM '69  
RECEIVED - JOHNSON  
FBI

MAR 18 3 10 PM '69

MAR 18 9 22 AM '69

MAR 19 10 00 AM '69  
RECEIVED - JOHNSON  
FBI

MAR 19 10 00 AM '69  
RECEIVED - JOHNSON  
FBI

3-20-69

1 - Mr. Long

AIRTEL

To: SACs, Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)  
Philadelphia (44-1368) (Enc. 2)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

**MURKIN**

Enclosed for Memphis and Philadelphia are two copies of an article which appeared in the "New York Times" on March 18, 1969, concerning statements made to the press by Reverend James Bevel, an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in Philadelphia.

Memphis should review this article and determine through review of office files or inquiry at the Memphis Police Department if information exists to support or refute the statements of Bevel.

Memphis **SULEN** to Bureau and Philadelphia concerning all information developed relative to the newspaper article.

Copies of this communication and article are being provided to Philadelphia in the event it becomes necessary to interview Bevel at a later date. Philadelphia should not interview Bevel until so instructed by Bureau.

ENCLOSURE  
REL:jms  
(6) jms

RECEIVED 104

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

44-27761-517  
18 MAR 25 1969

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED 23  
MAR 20 1969  
COMM-FBI

70 APR 1 1969  
MAIL ROOM ☒ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

RECEIVED  
INVESTIGATIVE  
MAR 21 9 49 AM '69  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
MAR 21 12 55 PM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI  
MAR 21 11 05 AM '69

MAR 21 9 55 AM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

REC'D DELOACH  
FBI

MAR 20 11 41 AM '69

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 20 10 10 AM '69  
MAR 20 11 30 AM '69  
MAR 20 5 13 PM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

**NOTE:**

An article appeared in the "New York Times" on March 18, 1969, quoting Rev. James Bevel of SCLC that there definitely was a conspiracy to murder Martin Luther King, Jr. as the SCLC learned about the alleged plot a couple days before King arrived in Memphis on April 3, 1968. According to the article, a letter which contained information that King was to be assassinated while in Memphis was turned over to the Memphis police but no special security measures were placed around the Lorraine Motel where King was murdered.

No information in Bureau files exists to support the allegation of Bevel, and Memphis being instructed to determine if such information exists to support the statements of Bevel. Copies being provided to Philadelphia in event it becomes necessary to interview Bevel at a later date.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen *Rosen* \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

# **Charges Lack of Guard**

Special to The New York Times

PHILADELPHIA, March 17—

The Rev. James Bevel charged here today that police officials of Memphis had known about a plot to assassinate Dr. King but took no special precautions to guard him.

Mr. Bevel, director of non-violent education and direct action for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, insisted that "there definitely was a conspiracy" to murder Dr. King.

He made the charges in an interview with Claude Lewis,

a reporter for The Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

Mr. Bevel said that the conference learned about the alleged plot a couple of days before Dr. King arrived in Memphis on April 3. He said the information came about as the result of a mistake made by Memphis postal authorities.

A letter addressed to a white woman was delivered to a Negro woman of the same name who lived in another section of Memphis, Mr. Bevel said. The letter, he added, contained "the relevant and pertinent information that Dr. King was to be assassinated while in Memphis."

Mr. Bevel said the letter was immediately turned over to the Memphis police, but no special security measures were placed around the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was slain.

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 *24* \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Sun (Baltimore) \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Daily World \_\_\_\_\_  
 The New Leader \_\_\_\_\_  
 The Wall Street Journal \_\_\_\_\_  
 The National Observer \_\_\_\_\_  
 People's World \_\_\_\_\_  
 Examiner (Washington) \_\_\_\_\_

Date MAR 18 1969

*anti ME + PH  
 3-20-69  
 RSC:WJW*

*44-37761-5452*  
**ENCLOSURE**

**DUPE**

3/24/69

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

REC 2744 - 38161 - 5653

TO: SAC, Jackson

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

Enclosed for Jackson are two true copies and for Memphis one true copy of a letter received at the Bureau from Harry Pope, Route 4, Box 762, Columbia, Mississippi.

Jackson immediately locate and interview Pope regarding his conversation with a dentist relative to the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Conduct appropriate investigation to thoroughly resolve this matter.

Jackson review its files for background data concerning Pope.

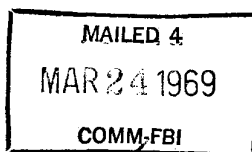
Enclosures (2)

1 - Memphis (Enclosure)

REL: pdh  
(5)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Bishop \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_



53 APR 2 1969

MAIL ROOM ☒

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

MAR 25 10 35 AM '69

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

F.B.I.

MAR 24 12 46 PM '69  
MAR 25 7 08 AM '69

REC'D - COMM & TOURS

RECEIVED  
DIVISION

MAR 25 9 46 AM '69

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS



NOTE:

Harry Pope directed a letter to the Bureau concerning information he has regarding the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. , which he heard two weeks before the actual assassination. Jackson being instructed to interview Pope and conduct necessary investigation.

Bureau files indicate that in September, 1968, Pope, in a letter to the Bureau, related how he has suffered mentally for approximately four years after meeting a girl 20 years younger than himself with whom he apparently fell in love. In this same letter, he states he has no confidence in the local law as they all think he is crazy.

TRUE COPY

3-19-69

Dear Director;

Last spring I was staying at a boarding house in Columbia.  
Mrs. Rawls on Church St.

one Sunday about one week before Dr. King was killed. I was  
sitting on the front porch talking to a retired Dentist. It was after dinner  
on a Sunday.

He told me that They are going to kill Dr. King this next week.  
A few days later he was killed!

If you think this meant any thing the doctors' name was Bush!  
It sounded like he was in on the knowing about it ot me. I thought I would  
pass this information on along to the Bureau. No one knows about this  
but me I hope. There were one or two others on the porch at the time  
we were but I don't know if they heard him tell me this or not. (Weather  
they were listening to our conversation or not.) I would like to remain  
unknown to them (The Dr. Bush) if you decide it is worth any thing. *P*

Your Friend,

/s/ Harry Pope

REC 27

44-38861-5653

MAR 25 1969

2 copies made of serial  
1/26/78 JTA:ma

for review at FBIHQ by  
HSCA re: 1/20/78 request.  
(See Bufile #62-117290)

*Sub*