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.

CORRESPONDENCE

airtel to JN 3-24-69 REL:

If you think this mean any thing the doctors name was Bush! It sounded like he was in on the

know any about it to is 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.

Your Friend,
Harry Pope

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

3/11/69

MR. TOLSON:

RE: JAMES EARL RAY
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

Now that Ray has been convicted and is serving a 99-year sentence, I would like to suggest that the Director allow us to choose a friendly, capable author, or the Reader's Digest, and proceed with a book based on this case.

A carefully written, factual book would do much to preserve the true history of this case. While it will not dispel or put down future rumors, it would certainly help to have a book of this nature on college and high school library shelves so that the future would be protected.

Whom do you suggest?

I would also like to suggest that consideration be given to advising a friendly newspaper contact, on a strictly confidential basis, that Coretta King and Reverend Abernathy are deliberately plotting to keep King's assassination in the news by pulling the ruse of maintaining that King's murder was definitely a conspiracy and not committed by one man. This, of course, is obviously a rank trick in order to keep the money coming in to Mrs. King, Abernathy, and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. We can do this without any attribution to the FBI and without anyone knowing that the information came from a wire tap.

Respectfully,

C. D. DeLoach

CDD:CSH (3)

cc Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Bishop

See ADDENDUM... page 2

Send to George C. McMillan

REC-33

See informal memo Jones to Bishop 3/20/69

59

ch
47-6
McConnell

1 COPIES MADE DATE 5/4/78 BY
RcB/SS RE M. L. King, Jr.
FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ AND/OR DELIVERY
TO HSCA RE REQUEST DATED 5/3/78
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

If the Director approves, we have in mind considering cooperating in the preparation of a book with either the Reader's Digest or author Gerold Frank. The Reader's Digest would assign one of their staff writers or contract the preparation of a book out to an established author. Gerold Frank is a well-known author whose most recent book is "The Boston Strangler." Frank is already working on a book on the Ray case and has asked the Bureau's cooperation in the preparation of the book on a number of occasions. We have nothing derogatory on him in our files, and our relationship with him has been excellent. His publisher is Doubleday.

0-10 (Rev. 7-17-68)

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

Several Books Planned on Ray Case; First to Be Out Next Week

By MARTIN WALDRON
Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, March 12—"Next to cotton, James Earl Ray is Memphis's biggest industry," Percy Foreman said last fall after he succeeded Arthur J. Hanes as Ray's lawyer.

Mr. Foreman, who said he was promised no fee for defending Ray on a murder charge in the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., at the time also scorned what he referred to as the "pandering press" and its curiosity about Ray.

Books in Preparation

The chief target of the Houston lawyer's scorn seemed to be William Bradford Huie, the Alabama author who had bought the rights to Ray's life story and was getting handwritten memorandums from Ray in the Shelby County jail. Mr. Huie had written two articles about Ray for Look magazine.

This week, at least five books on James Earl Ray and the assassination of Dr. King were in preparation.

And Mr. Foreman had succeeded Mr. Hanes, of Birmingham, Ala., not only as Ray's attorney but also as a business associate of Mr. Huie.

One of the books on Ray and the assassination is ready for printing and distribution. It was written by Clay Blair, a former editor of the Saturday Evening Post.

Other Authors

Bantam Books said that Mr. Blair's book, "The Strange Case of James Earl Ray," would be published next Monday or Tuesday. It will be a history of Ray and of the murder, with a chapter on the courtroom proceeding of last Monday when Ray pleaded guilty to murdering Dr. King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

Other authors preparing books include Gerold Frank, who has written six best-sellers, among them "The Boston Strangler"; George E. McMillan of Atlanta; James D. Squires, a Nashville newspaperman; and Mr. Huie.

Mr. Frank's book may be the most comprehensive. With a reported advance of $100,000, the New York writer plans to spend two years researching and writing his book for Doubleday & Co., Inc.

Where other authors have expressed opinions as to wheth Dr. King's murder was the result of a conspiracy, Mr. Frank said that he was trying to get more evidence before making a decision.

'History of Ineptitude'

"I hope my book will be a full history of the assassination of Martin Luther King and what happened on all levels. And if there was a conspiracy, I hope to know that. I will try to tell the entire unfolding story," Mr. Frank said.

"From Ray's history of ineptitude," he said, "I would assume that he was helped in the assassination or preceding it, but that it was not necessarily a conspiracy."

"If we knew the true motivation, it might well explode any idea of conspiracy," he continued. "On the other hand, you cannot apply the normal measures of logic to a man who has spent most of his life behind bars. If he did this alone, he may have been turned on for reasons lost in the depth of his own personality."

Doubts a Conspiracy

Mr. Frank, who began his research last July, said that he had not paid any money to any of the principals or to anyone else for information.

Mr. McMillan said that his book, "Portrait of an Assassin," would be a psychological study of Ray. It will be published by Little Brown & Co. Mr. McMillan said that he had a "very happy contract" and that foreign reprint contracts had already been signed by publishers in eight countries.

"I have always believed that James Earl Ray did it alone," he said. "This guy is a loner. And I have never investigated any aspect of a conspiracy, which has left me free to work on this biography."

Mr. McMillan said that he had hired a psychiatrist to help him interpret the psychological effect on Ray of his many years in prison, his background of poverty and his family life.

GA
TENN

"Things like, what does it do to a guy to sleep in the same bed with his parents when he is growing up," he said.

Mr. McMillan said his book was to have been published four months after the end of Ray's trial. The date may be pushed forward, he said.

Mr. Squires's book, to be published by New American Library, may be the second book out on Ray. Mr. Squires, who has covered the case for his newspaper, The Nashville Tennessean, said the writing should be completed in the next two weeks.

He said he hoped the book would be a "complete account of the murder of Dr. King, the arrest of Ray, the hiring and firing of Hanes and what went on in Memphis."

The book has not yet been titled.

Mr. Huie, who bought the publication rights to Ray's life story last July, originally had signed a contract calling for proceeds from a book to be split between himself, Mr. Hanes and Ray.

Disbelieves Theory

He paid an advance of $25,000 to Ray, who signed the money over to Mr. Hanes as part of his legal fee.

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 22
The Sun (Baltimore)
The Daily World
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World
Examiner (Washington)

Date MAR 13 1969

44-35561

ENCLOSURE

Mr. Huie, a resident of Hartselle, Ala., who is the author of a half-dozen best-sellers, wrote in the two articles for Look magazine last fall that Ray said there had been a conspiracy to murder Dr. King.

However, Mr. Huie said in Memphis this week that he no longer believed in the conspiracy theory.

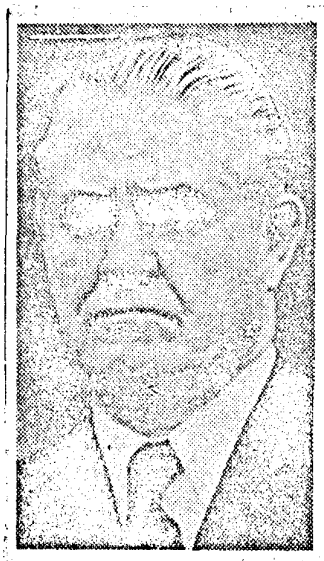
Mr. Huie said that Ray had told him that the assassin went into a rooming house and shot at Dr. King across the street while Ray was seated in front of the rooming house in the driver's seat of a white Mustang car.

The author quoted Ray as saying that the assassin rushed down the stairs of the rooming house and hid on the floor of the back seat of the car, covering himself with a sheet while Ray drove him out of town.

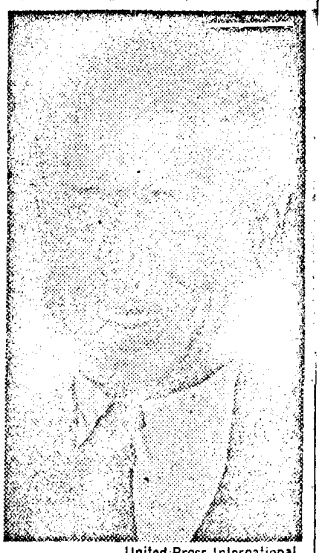
"When I could not find the man, I concluded that Ray himself made the decision to kill Dr. King," Mr. Huie said.

A third article for Look was prepared this week by Mr. Huie and Mr. Foreman. In addition, Mr. Huie is completing a book on Dr. King's assassination for the Dell Publishing Company. The book, which will concentrate on activities of Ray before and after the murder, has been tentatively titled, "He Slew the Dreamer."

Although Mr. Hanes still has a claim against a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Mr. Huie's book, the Alabama author told reporters in Memphis this week that he had a contract with Mr. Foreman.



Percy Foreman



United Press International

William Bradford Huie

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

V.

March 20, 1969

Mr. Bishop:

RE: JAMES EARL RAY
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING;
BUREAU COOPERATION IN A BOOK

By informal memorandum dated March 11, 1969, Mr. DeLoach suggested that consideration be given to our cooperating with a friendly author, or with "The Reader's Digest," in the preparation of a book regarding the Martin Luther King murder case. With regard to this suggestion, the Director noted, "O.K."

With regard to this matter, "The Reader's Digest" has advised that it would greatly appreciate the opportunity to do a book on the Ray-King case with Bureau cooperation. If we approve, "The Reader's Digest" plans to contact Jim Bishop in an effort to place him under contract to write the book for them.

Jim Bishop is, of course, a very thorough and capable writer with whom we have had many contacts over the years. With the Director's approval, we worked with Bishop in connection with his latest published book, "The Day Kennedy Was Shot," which contains a number of favorable references to the FBI. The Director has written Bishop on several occasions concerning commendatory columns--including one in 1967 highly praising the Director as "the greatest law enforcement officer in all history."

Even though Bishop has been described in Bufiles as "somewhat pompous and a little overbearing at times," he nonetheless has both the name and ability to produce a book on the King case which would give proper credit to the outstanding work done by the FBI. Accordingly, it is recommended that approval be given to our cooperating with "The Reader's Digest" and Jim Bishop on this book.

2 copies made of Serial 5655
1/26/78 JTA

Sincerely,

SEE NOTE ON REVERSE SIDE

M. A. Jones

for review of FBIHQ by HSCA on 1/20/78 (See Bufile 62-117290) request.

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - C. L. McGowan
GWG:pls (7)

I think we should wait & see what move Ray makes to re-open his case. H.

I am not keen about Bishop 3/21

John Barron
Nov. office
3/21/69

62-38561

MAR 26 1969

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29 PM 1969

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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MAR 21 2 03 PM '69
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COPIES MADE DATE 5-18-78 BY
RE MURKIN
FOR REVIEW AT FBHQ AND/OR DELIVERY
TO HSCA RE REQUEST DATED 5-16-78
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
FBI
MAR 25 4 53 PM '69

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 3-20-69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AM
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN.

Re New York teletype March 18, 1969.

As of close of business, March 20, 1969, RUSSELL X. THOMPSON has not made any effort to contact the Memphis Office. UACB, Memphis will make no efforts to set up appointment with RUSSELL X. THOMPSON, but will await his call

3 BUREAU
1 MEMPHIS
RGJ:BN
(4)

REC-21

44-[illegible]-5656

4 MAR 22 1969

Approved: R Jensen Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

66 APR - 1 1969

MAR 25 1969

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 24 6 46 AM '69

MAR 22 11 59 AM '69

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

(F)
MCR:BM
1 - MEMPHIS
3 - BOSTON

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1604) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On this date photo March 21, 1969.

As of close of business, March 20, 1969, MOSSERT X. THOMPSON has not made any effort to contact the Memphis Office. ROAD, Memphis will make no effort to get up appointment with MOSSERT X. THOMPSON, and will take and file all leads.

DETROIT

DE

DE-CS-C

3-20-69

March 26, 1969

Airtel

1 - Mr. Long

TO: SAC, Philadelphia (44-1368)

FROM: Director, FBI

MURKIN

ReBuairtel dated 3/20/69 and Memphis airtel to Bureau dated 3/21/69.

Philadelphia should immediately interview Reverend James Bevel, an official of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, for all information in his possession regarding his statement in the "New York Times" on 3/18/69 that a letter was turned over to the Memphis Police on approximately April 3, 1968, which contained information that Martin Luther King was to be assassinated while in Memphis.

This matter must be thoroughly resolved and Philadelphia should set forth appropriate leads based upon interview with Bevel.

Keep the Bureau fully advised of all developments.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (info)

REL:ms
(5)

MAILED 3
MAR 26 1969
COMM-FBI

see note page two . . . .

Tolson
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70 APR 8 1969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

REC 54 44-38861-5637

19 MAR 27 1969

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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

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 was instructed to determine if such information exists to support the statements of Bevel. Memphis now advises that no information in their files or in the files of the police department to support the statements of Bevel.

In view of this, Philadelphia is being instructed to interview Bevel for all information concerning statements made by him and Philadelphia will set forth leads to thoroughly resolve this matter.

Mr. Jerris Leonard
Assistant Attorney General

March 24, 1969

Director, FBI

1 - Mr. Long

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

In accordance with your request, James Earl Ray was interviewed at the Tennessee State Prison, Nashville, Tennessee, on March 13, 1969, by the Special Agent in Charge of our Memphis Office and during the interview he would not at any time discuss a conspiracy or any aspects of it. The entire interview, which lasted approximately fifty minutes, was cordial; however, Ray did not commit himself on any specific points pertinent to issues of interest to the Government.

Ray was again interviewed on March 14, 1969, and he stated that he had nothing to say. He stated if he changed his mind he knew how he could get in touch with our Special Agent in Charge in Memphis, Tennessee.

Information has come to our attention that Judge W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, has received a letter from James Earl Ray requesting a hearing; however, no writ or motion has been filed with Clerk of the Court. In view of this recent development, no further attempt will be made to interview Ray at this time.

REL:sds
(4)

NOTE: See memo A. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach dated 3-21-69 captioned "MURKIN," JGK:eam.

Tolson
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MAILED 10
MAR 24 1969
COMM-FBI

REC-10 44-31861-5658

19 MAR 26 1969

53 APR 8 1969

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REC-D BISHOP

MAR 24 4 05 PM '69

MAR 25

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REC'D DeLOACH
F B I

COPIES MADE, DATE 5/4/78 BY
RCB/SS RE M.L.King, Jr.
FOR REVIEW AT FBHQ AND/OR DELIVERY
TO NSCA RE REQUEST DATED 5/3/78
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 25 2 00 PM '69

MAR 25 3 40 PM '69

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: March 24, 1969

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

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

Articles appearing in the news media state that James Earl Ray has written a letter to Judge W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, requesting a post-hearing concerning his recent conviction and sentence to the Tennessee State Prison for a term of 99 years. The newspaper media states that no petition or writ has been filed with the Clerk of the Court demanding any type of a hearing.

SAC Jensen of our Memphis Office has advised that Judge Battle received a letter from Ray requesting a post-hearing; however, no writ or motion has been filed with the Clerk of the Court. According to Jensen, the Judge stated that he fully expected some type of action such as this; however, no action has been taken by him at this time.

You will recall that SAC Jensen contacted Ray on 3/13 and 3/14/69, in an effort to interview Ray in connection with Ray's public statement in court that he did not agree that a conspiracy did not exist in connection with the assassination of King.

On those occasions Ray engaged in "small talk" but refused to discuss any aspects of an alleged conspiracy.

On 3/20/69, Jensen was contacted as to his views concerning the desirability of initiating further contacts with Ray. Jensen stated in view of Ray's current maneuverings to obtain a post-hearing, he felt no useful purpose would be served by attempting further contacts with Ray at this time. He will continue to follow the matter closely and at such time as it appears a further contact with Ray is feasible, he will so advise the Bureau. He will make no further contact with Ray without first clearing it with us.

Enclosure 3-28-69

REC-15

17 MAR 26 1969

JGK:eam

ACTION - PAGE TWO

30 APR 1 1969

Memorandum Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to the Department advising them of the results of interviews with Ray and also advising them that in view of recent developments no further attempts will be made to interview Ray at this time.

We will continue to follow the matter closely and you will be advised of pertinent developments.

FD-56 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 3/21/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are 4 copies and for Philadelphia 2 copies of an LHM pertaining to statements made by Rev. JAMES BEVEL, as reported in the March 18, 1969, edition of the "New York Times."

No further investigation is being conducted in this regard.

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division
Form 6-94 B. Engelhardt

MAR 26 1969 1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

(3) - Bureau (Encs. 4)
2 - Philadelphia (Encs. 2)
1 - Memphis

JCH:jap
(6)

Airtel _____
Teletype _____
A.M. _____
A.M.S.D. _____
Spec. Del. _____
Reg. Mail _____
Registered _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

REC-15 44-38861-5660

MAR 24 1969

Approved: R. Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

60 APR 1 1969

3/23/68

[illegible]

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: [illegible]

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No further investigation is being conducted in this regard.

JCR:jap
(8)

RECEIVED
MAR 26 1968
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FBI
MAR 24 10 35 AM '68

MAR 24 10 32 AM '68

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F. B. I.
3 - Bureau (Incl. 4)
2 - Philadelphia (Incl. 2)
1 - Memphis

MAR 26 1968

Jpt: A/C Civ Rights Division
Dept. of Justice
Rm 2706

MAR 26 1968
FBI - CIVIL RIGHTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
March 21, 1969

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CR - CONSPIRACY

An article appearing in the March 18, 1969, edition of the "New York Times," a daily newspaper published at New York, New York, contained an article datelined March 17, 1969, at Philadelphia, which states that Reverend James Bevel, identified in the article as Director of Non-Violent Education and Direct Action for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, has indicated that "there definitely was a conspiracy" to kill Dr. King. This article quotes Rev. Bevel as saying that as a 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 part of Memphis. This letter, he stated, contained the "relevant and pertinent information that Dr. King was to be assassinated while in Memphis." Rev. Bevel further states that this letter was immediately turned over to the Memphis Police but that no special security measures were placed around the Lorraine Motel, at which place Dr. King was killed.

On March 21, 1969, Inspector N. E. Zachary, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, who was in charge of the Homicide Bureau at the time Dr. King was killed, advised that he has never heard of such a letter and that at no time during his investigation of the King murder was it ever called to his attention that such a letter had ever existed.

On March 21, 1969, Inspector Don Smith, Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, who was in charge of security arrangements for Dr. King's visit to Memphis on April 3, 1968, advised that when he met Dr. King and

44-38861-5

his associates at the Memphis Airport on April 3, 1968, he inquired of Dr. King as to his plans for his stay in Memphis in order that necessary security measures might be put into effect. Inspector Smith said he was told by Rev. James Lawson, Pastor of the Centenary Methodist Church, Memphis, and who was one of Dr. King's associates, that Dr. King's plans had not been fully made and that he was unable to furnish Inspector Smith any information. Inspector Smith said that when Dr. King left the Memphis Airport, he (Inspector Smith) had no idea of the destination and that he "tagged along" to find out where they were going. He said that as soon as Dr. King arrived at the Lorraine Motel, he called for additional officers and had them posted in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel.

Inspector Smith stated that he has never heard of a letter such as the one described by Rev. Bevel, and he doubts that such a letter ever existed.

On March 21, 1969, Mr. Louis Peele, Postal Inspector's Office, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he has no information in his possession to indicate that such a letter as the one described by Rev. Bevel ever existed.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
March 21, 1969

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CR - CONSPIRACY

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On March 21, 1969, Mr. Louis Peele, Postal Inspector's Office, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he has no information in his possession to indicate that such a letter as the one described by Rev. Bevel ever existed.

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 3/18/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673)(RUC)

SUBJECT: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

For the information of the Bureau and Memphis, on 3/17/69, Mr. KENT CORTNEY, publisher of the Conservative Journal, telephonically contacted the office and advised that he had just talked by telephone to JERRY RAY, brother of JAMES EARL RAY. He advised that RAY called from a pay phone in St. Louis, Mo., and advised CORTNEY that he was coming to New Orleans Thursday, 3/20/69, and would like to meet with CORTNEY and discuss his brother's situation. He advised that he is looking for a new attorney for his brother and that he knew CORTNEY by reputation to be a man interested in justice. He indicated to CORTNEY that a conspiracy did exist and that his brother did not act alone. Mr. CORTNEY wanted advice as to whether he should meet with RAY or not. Mr. CORTNEY was advised that any inquiries into this matter should be directed to Mr. PHIL M. CANALE, JR., State Attorney General, Shelby County Courthouse, Memphis, Tenn.

KENT COURTNEY

3 - Bureau (RM)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)(RM)
2 - New Orleans
JPB:jpb
(7)

REC-118 44-38861-5661

12 MAR 21 1969

Airtel MEX NO 3-26-69 REF: jms

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

3-26-69

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Bishop

To: SACs, New Orleans (157-10673)
Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861) — 5661

MURKIN

ReNOairtel to the Bureau dated 3-18-69.

Memphis should immediately contact Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, to determine if Mr. Kent Courtney, publisher of the Conservative Journal, contacted him concerning interview with Jerry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, and if so, action taken by Mr. Canale. Furnish results to Bureau and New Orleans.

According to recent news releases, Jerry Ray is presently in Memphis, Tennessee. Memphis should, therefore, locate and interview Jerry Ray for any information he may have relative to a conspiracy. It is noted that in referenced communication Mr. Kent Courtney stated that when Jerry Ray contacted him by telephone, Jerry Ray indicated that a conspiracy existed.

In view of the background data concerning Mr. Kent Courtney, publisher of the Conservative Journal, New Orleans should not have any contact with Courtney. If any further information received from Courtney, immediately advise the Bureau. New Orleans should refer to its files concerning this background data.

MAILED 10
MAR 26 1969
COMM-FBI

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

REL:jms
(7)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

53 APR 2 1969

ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MAR 26 11 09 AM '69
REC'D DELOACH
F B I

MAR 25 4 30 PM '69

MAR 26 11 02 AM '69

MAR 25 9 15 AM 1969

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

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 27 9 33 AM '69

RECEIVED
F B I

MAR 26 1 54 PM '69

1 COPIES MADE, DATE 5/4/78 BY
RCB/SS RE Mrs. King, Sr.
FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ AND/OR DELIVERY
TO NSCA RE REQUEST DATED 5/3/78
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

NOTE:

New Orleans advised that Kent Courtney, publisher of the Conservative Journal, contacted our New Orleans Office and advised that Jerry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, contacted him by telephone from St. Louis stating Jerry Ray desired to come to New Orleans on 3-20-69, for purposes of obtaining a new attorney for James Earl Ray and possibly furnish information regarding a possible conspiracy. Our New Orleans Office referred the publisher to Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, (handled the state's prosecution of Ray).

We are instructing our Memphis Office to determine what action ensued with Mr. Canale, and we are further instructing our Memphis Office to locate and interview Jerry Ray regarding his knowledge of any possible conspiracy. We are instructing our New Orleans Office to have no contact with Courtney in view of existing information.

Bufiles indicate that Courtney is the publisher of this newspaper and is the National Chairman of the Conservative Society of America. Our New Orleans Office advised on 7-24-68, that he was scheduled to testify against the confirmation of Abe Fortas as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

By memorandum from D. C. Morrell to Mr. DeLoach dated 7-25-61, it was indicated that Courtney is a rabble rouser and hate monger. It was strongly recommended that the Bureau should in no way, either by implication or direct action, be associated with this individual. This recommendation was approved. (105-36811-43)

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 3/24/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC OKLAHOMA CITY (44-686) (RUC)

MURKIN
~~OO~~ Memphis

1 COPIES MADE, DATE 5/4/78 BY
REB/SS RE Martin Luther King, Jr.
FOR REVIEW AT FBIHQ AND/OR DELIVERY
TO NSCA BE REQUESTED DATED 5/3/78
(SEE BUFILE 62-117290)

The 3/24/69 issue of "The Daily Oklahoman," a newspaper published in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, contained an article reflecting that ROY W. CLARK, age 45, from Houston, Texas, was arrested by the Oklahoma City Police Department on 3/23/69, and jailed on a drunkenness complaint. According to the article the police are investigating a notebook found on CLARK that included dates and information concerning the slaying of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. The article indicated the notations appeared to be in diary form and included the following dates and quotes:

"4-4-68--Martin Luther King shot in the face and neck"
"4-5-68--A visit from Ray."

On 3/24/69, Lt. WILLIAM MEAD, Robbery and Homocide Division, Oklahoma City Police Department, advised SA J. A. GRIMES that ROY W. CLARK, Negro, male, born [redacted] was arrested in Oklahoma City on the afternoon of 3/23/69 and charged with being drunk. He is being held also as a suspect in an armed robbery which occurred in Oklahoma City shortly prior to his arrest. Lt. MEAD advised that arresting officers found a small loose-leaf notebook in CLARK's automobile which contained about three pages of handwritten dates and notations in the general form of a diary. He made available the notebook and it was noted the first two items listed were as follows:

3 - Bureau
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
1 - Houston (Info)
1 - Oklahoma City
JAG:ow
(7)

REC-110 44-38861-5662

3 MAR 26 1969

SIX

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

60 APR 1 1969

MAR 28 1969

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS
FBI

MAR 26 5 19 PM '69

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

MAR 26 5 10 PM 1969

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

"4-4-68 Martin L. King Shot face neck"
"4-5-68 3rd 5th quiet?? Visit by Van Raye"

Lt. MEAD advised that officers of the Oklahoma City PD interviewed CLARK regarding the notebook and he stated he kept this book to jot down items which he thought were of interest and which he wanted to remember at the time. He stated he wrote down the date of KING's murder since he wanted to remember the date of this event. When questioned about the entry on 4/5/68, he advised that this referred to a contact by FBI Agent VAN RAYE on 4/5/68, who at that time was contacting him periodically regarding racial and criminal matters in Houston. He stated he had originally been contacted by Agent VAN RAYE in regard to a relative who was a deserter from the Marine Corps and thereafter VAN RAYE contacted him periodically for a period of several months. He stated he has not been contacted by VAN RAYE for the last several months.

Lt. MEAD advised that the notebook maintained by CLARK contained no entries other than the above mentioned entries which would indicate CLARK had any interest or connection with the KING murder case.

On 3/24/69, SAC WESLEY T. WHALEY, Houston Division, telephonically advised that the files of that office reflect ROY W. CLARK, Negro male, born [redacted] was a PCI of the Houston Office during the period of KING's murder and was assigned to Special Agent OTTO VAN RY. He advised that a review of CLARK's file reflects CLARK was in fact contacted by SA VAN RY on 4/5/68, relative to racial matters.

In view of above circumstances, no further investigation being conducted.

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

RCMP FILE
68HQ-791-Q-60

BUFILE
44-38861 0.0.-ME

STATUS
P

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH
R.C.M. POLICE HEADQUARTERS

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE - GENDARMERIE ROYALE DU CANADA

RCMP-GRC 6882

C 237
REV. 1-4-66

OTHER FILE REFERENCES: REF. AUTRES DOSSIERS:	DIVISION "C"	DATE 10 MAR 69	RCMP FILE REFERENCES: REF. DOSSIERS GRC:
	SUB-DIVISION - SOUS-DIVISION		68GIS-790-107 68C-790-19
	DETACHMENT - DÉTACHEMENT Montreal G.I.S.		

RE:
OBJET:

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

1. Further to P.C.R. dated 5 MAR 69, POUPART was interviewed at which time he was exhibited photographs of RAY. The photographs of James Earl RAY had been mixed together with photographs of other individuals and POUPART was positive that none of the photos exhibited to him resembled the man who had committed the robbery at the Laiterie Perrette.

2. Investigations conducted locally, have to date failed to reveal the present whereabouts of Lucien BLOUIN, the former manager at Laiterie Perrette. At the present time, the only check remaining to be verified is that of local U.I.C. records. Should this verification prove to be of value, the outcome of the interview with BLOUIN will be reported on accordingly.

3. In view of the above and due to the fact that RAY has now pleaded guilty to the charges, this file will be held in abeyance pending receipt of other requests of investigation by the F.B.I., or instructions concerning the disposition of exhibits which are held at this point, or on loan to the F.B.I. and District Attorney's office Memphis, Tenn.

S.U.I.

(JIB P) S/Sgt.
i/c Mtl. GIS

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

The COMMISSIONER, Ottawa: Your: 68HQ-791-Q-60 Vol. 6

1. FORWARDED for your information. You may expect a further report if and when we are able to locate Lucien BLOUIN.

2. Your instructions as to the disposition of the exhibits in this case will be awaited in due course.

REC-21 44-38861-5663

S.U.I.

MONTREAL
18-3-69

MAR 28 1969

J.R. Duchesneau, Insp.
A/Officer i/c C.I.B.

APR 10 1969

FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

F B I

Date: 3/26/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, JACKSON (157-9586) (P)

MURKIN

Re Bureau airtel to Jackson, 3/24/69 and Bureau letter to HARRY POPE, Route 4, Box 762, Columbia, Miss., 9/9/68 with copy to Jackson.

Enclosed for the Bureau are eleven copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above. One copy of above LHM being designated for Memphis.

Referenced Bureau letter of 9/9/68 addressed to HARRY POPE, Route 4, Box 762, Columbia, Miss., forwarded to Jackson copy of a letter which Mr. POPE had written to the Director, wherein he alleged that certain people at Columbia, Miss., were conspiring with the Mafia in an effort to kill him.

On 9/12/68 the contents of Mr. POPE's letter were furnished to TOM RAINEY, Chief of Police, Columbia, Miss., who advised that POPE was well known to the Columbia, Miss., PD and the Marion County, Miss., SO. Chief RAINEY advised that POPE is mentally ill and makes complaints to both the SO and PD. POPE was interviewed on 3/26/69 concerning his letter to the Director on 3/19/69 wherein he alleged that one Dr. BUSH [illegible] have information concerning the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

ENCLOSURE

REC 43

44-38861-5264

3 - Bureau (Encs. 11) (RM)
1 - Memphis (Enc. 1) (RM) (Info.)
2 - Jackson
JLM/bkh
(6)

MAR 31 1969

1 cc CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT APR 1 1969

1cc: AAG Civil Rights Division
Form 6-94 B

56 APR 3 1969

Approved _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Jackson, Mississippi
March 26, 1969

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

The following letter was received at FBI Headquarters dated March 19, 1969:

"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 were going to kill Dr. King this next week. A few days later he was killed!

"If you think this meant any thing the doctor's 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.

Your Friend,

"/S/Harry Pope."

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

On March 26, 1969, a representative of the FBI contacted Harry Pope at Columbia, Mississippi, concerning the above letter. Mr. Pope advised that he did not recall having written the above letter and denied ever having had a conversation with Doctor Bush concerning the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On March 26, 1969, Tom Rainey, Chief of Police, Columbia, Mississippi, advised a representative of the FBI that Harry Pope suffers from a mental disorder and frequently makes unfounded allegations and complaints concerning various citizens and their activities in Columbia, Mississippi.

Chief Rainey advised that Doctor Bush referred to in Mr. Pope's letter would be Doctor Russell Bush, 911 Main Street, Columbia, Mississippi. Chief Rainey advised that Doctor Bush is a retired dentist and is currently a lay preacher who is extremely active in religious affairs and is one of the most respected citizens in Columbia, Mississippi. Chief Rainey advised that in his opinion, Doctor Bush would be the least likely person in Columbia, Mississippi, to have made any remarks concerning the possible assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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