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Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the H_2O_2 solution on the amount of the released H_2O from the H_2O_2 -loaded hydrogel. The amount of the released H_2O was measured by the weight difference of the hydrogel before and after the release. The concentration of the H_2O_2 solution was 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, and 1.0 wt. %.

1. *Phragmites* (common reed) is a tall, grass-like plant that grows in wetlands and along waterways. It is a native species and is often found in large, dense stands.

— *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997

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1/11/77

AIRTEL

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
OO: ME

Enclosed for the Bureau are 6 copies of an LHM captioned WILLIAM BRADLEY, 7075 Havens Road, Black Lick, Ohio.

Enclosed for Memphis is one copy of LHM for information.

Additional copies of the LHM have been furnished the Bureau should the Bureau desire to forward copies to Legat, Ottawa.

Cincinnati indices regarding WILLIAM BRADLEY negative.

No further investigation is being contemplated by Cincinnati UACB. Cincinnati is placing this case in RUC status.

3-Bureau (Enc. 6)
②-44-38861
(1-100-106670)
1-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)
2-Cincinnati
(1-157-1893)
(1-100-14700)

HMW:naa
(6)

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3.2.81 BY SP4JRM/K

6076



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

January 11, 1977

RE: WILLIAM BRADLEY
7075 Havens Road
Black Lick, Ohio

On January 6, 1977, William Bradley was interviewed by Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation after Bradley had previously telephonically contacted the Columbus Resident Agency stating he had information concerning the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The results of the interview with William Bradley are set forth as follows:

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DATE 3-2-81 BY SP4 JRM/ld
6070

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



44-38861-6175
ENCLOSURE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 1/11/77

WILLIAM BRADLEY, 7075 Havens Road, Black Lick, Ohio, telephone number 614-855-7070, is currently employed as a millwright by Western Electric, Columbus, Ohio. BRADLEY stated he was formerly a school teacher and had attended law school at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, but withdrew due to ill health. BRADLEY was interviewed at his place of residence and after being apprised as to the official identities of the interviewing Agents furnished the following information:

When questioned as to why information concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING had not been brought to the attention of the proper authorities, BRADLEY advised that he did not call the FBI in view of the fact he assumed that the information he had received was already known by the Bureau. BRADLEY further stated that he had contacted several news agencies during the time immediately following his receipt of this information, none of which were interested in any information concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING. BRADLEY stated that he is bringing the information he learned to the attention of the FBI at this time in view of the fact that Congress has expressed an interest in the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING and was currently conducting investigations regarding KING's death.

BRADLEY stated that he and his wife (HALEY), also present during the interview, own approximately 240 acres of land near Iron Bridge, Ontario, Canada, which he had purchased from CLARE LE PAGE, telephone number 705-843-5534, Iron Bridge, Ontario, Canada, where he and his wife spend several weeks each year hunting and fishing. BRADLEY related that in October 1967, while visiting the cabin of CLARE LE PAGE, (LE PAGE currently owns approximately five acres of land adjacent to BRADLEY's property), he and his wife observed three men leaving the hunting cabin. BRADLEY stated that these individuals had just completed a hunting trip utilizing as their guide, SIMON EDWARD FRAZIER. BRADLEY stated that he later learned that one of these individuals was reportedly a Federal Judge from Louisiana named BRIGHAM YOUNG and the other two lawyers, names not known.

Interviewed on 1/6/77 at Black Lick, Ohio File # 157-1893
by SAs MICHAEL T. GEARY
H. MICHAEL WARREN HMW:naa Date dictated 1/7/77

BRADLEY stated that he particularly remembers the name BRIGHAM YOUNG since he is familiar with the Mormon Church and its founder BRIGHAM YOUNG and said that his wife also recalled the name BRIGHAM YOUNG. BRADLEY stated that he thought nothing of seeing these individuals at the cabin in view of the fact that he and his wife frequently see hunters at the LE PAGE cabin in that LE PAGE is a well-known hunting guide in the Iron Bridge area. BRADLEY stated that both LE PAGE and FRAZIER utilize old logging cabins on his property and property owned by the Canadian Government in a 50 mile radius of his property for hunting expeditions.

BRADLEY advised that in October 1968 he and his wife were hunting with CLARE LE PAGE when they were reminded of the three individuals they had seen the previous year by LE PAGE. BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE asked "do you remember when you were coming to my place in '67 and those three SOB's were leaving, did you notice they were acting funny?" BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE went on to say that FRAZIER had said that these men had offered him (FRAZIER) money to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. while they were sitting in ROBERT DUNN's cabin (the ROBERT DUNN cabin is located on property in the vicinity of the property owned by LE PAGE) and Ole FRAZIER had kicked them out. BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE then related the following which LE PAGE stated FRAZIER had told him:

"FRAZIER stated that BRIGHAM YOUNG had contracted him to guide a party of three men on a hunting trip in the bush around Iron Bridge, Ontario. FRAZIER stated that YOUNG wanted to hunt but the two other men seemed to have no interest in hunting and that they wanted to stay in the cabin. The two men had been in the cabin approximately three days and had 'not picked up a gun.' On the third day they were sitting in the cabin when YOUNG made the comment to FRAZIER 'would you like to be a millionaire?' FRAZIER stated he wouldn't mind being a millionaire at which time YOUNG again stated 'I can make you a millionaire ED but you've got to do a job for me.' FRAZIER stated that at this point he became suspicious and somewhat angry but began to ask questions and play along. FRAZIER stated

that YOUNG said 'we want MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. killed and we could pay you a million dollars for killing KING.' YOUNG went on to state 'we don't have the money with us but we could get the money for you if you agree to do it.' YOUNG continued 'we would give you 1/3 now, 1/3 when you kill KING, and after safe passage to another country of your choice where you will receive the remaining 1/3 at which time you will be on your own.' FRAZIER stated that at this point he became extremely angry and threw the men out of the cabin telling them never to return."

BRADLEY related that FRAZIER is approximately 80 years old, is in excellent physical condition, and is in his opinion a well-educated individual "who reads the Wall Street Journal daily." BRADLEY further advised that FRAZIER is employed as a guide in the Iron Bridge area and also is a guard for a gold mine approximately 25 miles from Iron Bridge near the Little White River. BRADLEY further advised that FRAZIER is "a very private individual who wouldn't talk to you unless he knows you very well" and in fact, FRAZIER has never related the aforementioned incident to him (BRADLEY) or anyone except LE PAGE due to the best of his knowledge.

BRADLEY further advised that he does not think that LE PAGE has related this story to anyone else although he is not sure.

BRADLEY described YOUNG and the two other men as white males, all in middle age, all huskily built, 180 to 200 pounds.



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio

January 11, 1977

RE: WILLIAM BRADLEY
7075 Havens Road
Black Lick, Ohio

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The results of the interview with William Bradley are set forth as follows:

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the FBI. It is the property of
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it and its contents are not to be
distributed outside your agency



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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Date of transcription 1/11/77

WILLIAM BRADLEY, 7075 Havens Road, Black Lick, Ohio, telephone number 614-855-7070, is currently employed as a millwright by Western Electric, Columbus, Ohio. BRADLEY stated he was formerly a school teacher and had attended law school at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio, but withdrew due to ill health. BRADLEY was interviewed at his place of residence and after being apprised as to the official identities of the interviewing Agents furnished the following information:

When questioned as to why information concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING had not been brought to the attention of the proper authorities, BRADLEY advised that he did not call the FBI in view of the fact he assumed that the information he had received was already known by the Bureau. BRADLEY further stated that he had contacted several news agencies during the time immediately following his receipt of this information, none of which were interested in any information concerning the death of MARTIN LUTHER KING. BRADLEY stated that he is bringing the information he learned to the attention of the FBI at this time in view of the fact that Congress has expressed an interest in the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING and was currently conducting investigations regarding KING's death.

BRADLEY stated that he and his wife (HALEY), also present during the interview, own approximately 240 acres of land near Iron Bridge, Ontario, Canada, which he had purchased from CLARE LE PAGE, telephone number 705-843-5534, Iron Bridge, Ontario, Canada, where he and his wife spend several weeks each year hunting and fishing. BRADLEY related that in October 1967, while visiting the cabin of CLARE LE PAGE, (LE PAGE currently owns approximately five acres of land adjacent to BRADLEY's property), he and his wife observed three men leaving the hunting cabin. BRADLEY stated that these individuals had just completed a hunting trip utilizing as their guide, SIMON EDWARD FRAZIER. BRADLEY stated that he later learned that one of these individuals was reportedly a Federal Judge from Louisiana named BRIGHAM YOUNG and the other two lawyers, names not known.

Interviewed on 1/6/77 at Black Lick, Ohio File # 157-1893

SAs MICHAEL T. GEARY
by H. MICHAEL WARREN HMW:naa Date dictated 1/7/77

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BRADLEY stated that he particularly remembers the name BRIGHAM YOUNG since he is familiar with the Mormon Church and its founder BRIGHAM YOUNG and said that his wife also recalled the name BRIGHAM YOUNG. BRADLEY stated that he thought nothing of seeing these individuals at the cabin in view of the fact that he and his wife frequently see hunters at the LE PAGE cabin in that LE PAGE is a well-known hunting guide in the Iron Bridge area. BRADLEY stated that both LE PAGE and FRAZIER utilize old logging cabins on his property and property owned by the Canadian Government in a 50 mile radius of his property for hunting expeditions.

BRADLEY advised that in October 1968 he and his wife were hunting with CLARE LE PAGE when they were reminded of the three individuals they had seen the previous year by LE PAGE. BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE asked "do you remember when you were coming to my place in '67 and those three SOBs were leaving, did you notice they were acting funny?" BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE went on to say that FRAZIER had said that these men had offered him (FRAZIER) money to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. while they were sitting in ROBERT DUNN's cabin (the ROBERT DUNN cabin is located on property in the vicinity of the property owned by LE PAGE) and Ole FRAZIER had kicked them out. BRADLEY stated that LE PAGE then related the following which LE PAGE stated FRAZIER had told him:

"FRAZIER stated that BRIGHAM YOUNG had contracted him to guide a party of three men on a hunting trip in the bush around Iron Bridge, Ontario. FRAZIER stated that YOUNG wanted to hunt but the two other men seemed to have no interest in hunting and that they wanted to stay in the cabin. The two men had been in the cabin approximately three days and had 'not picked up a gun.' On the third day they were sitting in the cabin when YOUNG made the comment to FRAZIER 'would you like to be a millionaire?' FRAZIER stated he wouldn't mind being a millionaire at which time YOUNG again stated 'I can make you a millionaire ED but you've got to do a job for me.' FRAZIER stated that at this point he became suspicious and somewhat angry but began to ask questions and play along. FRAZIER stated

that YOUNG said 'we want MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. killed and we could pay you a million dollars for killing KING.' YOUNG went on to state 'we don't have the money with us but we could get the money for you if you agree to do it.' YOUNG continued 'we would give you 1/3 now, 1/3 when you kill KING, and after safe passage to another country of your choice where you will receive the remaining 1/3 at which time you will be on your own.' FRAZIER stated that at this point he became extremely angry and threw the men out of the cabin telling them never to return."

BRADLEY related that FRAZIER is approximately 80 years old, is in excellent physical condition, and is in his opinion a well-educated individual "who reads the Wall Street Journal daily." BRADLEY further advised that FRAZIER is employed as a guide in the Iron Bridge area and also is a guard for a gold mine approximately 25 miles from Iron Bridge near the Little White River. BRADLEY further advised that FRAZIER is "a very private individual who wouldn't talk to you unless he knows you very well" and in fact, FRAZIER has never related the aforementioned incident to him (BRADLEY) or anyone except LE PAGE due to the best of his knowledge.

BRADLEY further advised that he does not think that LE PAGE has related this story to anyone else although he is not sure.

BRADLEY described YOUNG and the two other men as white males, all in middle age, all huskily built, 180 to 200 pounds.



In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio
January 11, 1977

RE: WILLIAM BRADLEY
7075 Havens Road
Black Lick, Ohio

On January 6, 1977, William Bradley was interviewed by Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation after Bradley had previously telephonically contacted the Columbus Resident Agency stating he had information concerning the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The results of the interview with William Bradley are set forth as follows:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-2-81 BY SP4 JAM/LL
6078

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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



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 1/11/77

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Interviewed on 1/6/77 at Black Lick, Ohio File # 157-1893

SAs MICHAEL T. GEARY
H. MICHAEL WARREN HMW:naa Date dictated 1/7/77

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1/18/77

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
OO: MEMPHIS

Re Birmingham airtel with enclosed LHM, 12/15/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies and for Birmingham one copy of an LHM dated 1/18/77 captioned "JAMES EARL RAY; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CR."

The source referred to in the enclosed LHM is FRANK WINSETT (protect) who furnished this information to the Birmingham Office.

A review of indices of the Memphis Office reveals that FREDERICK LEE SHUTTLEWORTH was formerly affiliated with the Southern Conference Educational Fund. It is not known by the Memphis Division whether FREDERICK LEE SHUTTLEWORTH is the individual referred to in the Birmingham LHM.

For the information of the Bureau, in 1971 the Birmingham Office requested the Memphis Office to determine the subscriber to a telephone number relating to an investigation being conducted by Birmingham regarding Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR. Memphis determined that this telephone

2-Bureau (Enc. 4)
1-Birmingham (Enc. 1) (44-1740)
2-Memphis
BFJ:rsb
(5)

FBI

Date: 1/18/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **AIRTEL** _____
(Precedence)

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 FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) (P)
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2-Bureau (Enc. 4) **ENCLOSURE** ST-105
 1-Birmingham (Enc. 1) **REC-2** 44-38861-6176

2-Memphis The ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ source Morris Davis who 5 JAN 27 1977
 BFJ:rsb advised on 5/31/77 that he can be identified
 (5) To the HSCA as the source of the information he furnished
 see BH Teletype 5/31/77 and BH Airtel 6/1/77

Attached made available to OPR Task Force Attorneys
 Joseph Ors, Wm. White, and James Kieckhefer for review on 1/24/77.
 Ors returned attached, requested no copy and made no further request.

Approved: *[Signature]* Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

84 FEB 8 1977

7-25-77
 HNH/dhp
 See file copy

ME 44-1987 SUB M

number was listed to J. E. BUNT, 2597 Tutwiler, Memphis, Tennessee.

On 3/4/71 Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Division, Memphis PD, advised that BUNT was arrested for violation of the Memphis City Curfew Law during the riots which ensued after the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. The Memphis Office has no information indicating the relationship between Dr. PROSCH and BUNT.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
January 18, 1977

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

On December 14, 1976, a source who has furnished insufficient information to establish his reliability, advised that Dr. Gus Prosch, who often introduced himself as John Willard, Frank Liberto, who source learned owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, Louisiana, and whom Prosch described as the head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans, Reverend (first name unknown) Shuttleworth, personally known to the source in 1968 as very active in civil rights matters, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, and a Mr. (first name unknown) Gault met a number of times in the Birmingham, Alabama, area in 1968. Following one of the meetings, Dr. Prosch informed the source that Dr. Abernathy and Reverend Shuttleworth had bought a contract for \$265,000 to have Martin Luther King, Jr. killed.

On November 29, 1970, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, received a report that a trailer loaded with guns was bogged down at Parkwood Trailer Park, Parkwood Community, in Jefferson County near Bessemer, Alabama. This trailer, whose ownership was subsequently traced to Prosch, was found to contain a huge quantity of shoulder and hand firearms, ammunition of various caliber, hand grenades, dynamite, sawed off shotguns, a 60 mm mortar, black powder, capped bottles containing gas, bayonets, food stuff, camping equipment, medical supplies, and other unnamed materials. Some of the weapons in this cache were traced to Dr. Prosch, a Birmingham physician whose practice was limited to treating overweight persons. Dr. Prosch, a white male,

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44-38861-6176

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

born [redacted] at Birmingham, Alabama, then resided at 2640 Paden Place, Jefferson County, Alabama, and maintained an office at 2154 Highland Avenue South, Birmingham.

On April 6, 1968, John McFerren, Somerville, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, McFerren traveled from Somerville, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee, to pick up supplies for his grocery store. While in Memphis he went to the place where he normally bought his produce which he said was possibly the L L & L Produce Market, 814 Scott Street. According to McFerren, this business was operated by a heavy set white man, who weighed approximately 300 pounds, who appeared to be possibly of Puerto Rican extraction. After McFerren arrived at this company he walked up to the door of the office and noticed that the heavy set man was sitting at his desk with his back to the door and talking on the telephone. McFerren stated he heard this heavy set man say "kill the S.O.B. on the balcony and get the job done. You will get your \$5,000."

McFerren reported that he went back to the rear portion of this office and shortly thereafter heard the telephone ring. The phone was answered by a white man, thin in build, who had a scar on his right cheek. McFerren could not hear what this man said when he answered the phone, but after answering the phone, he handed it to the heavy set man. McFerren heard the heavy set man say "Don't come out here. Go to New Orleans and get your money. You know my brother."

McFerren reported that approximately a week prior to April 4, 1968, he was at the L L & L Produce Market, at which time the heavy set man, the man with the scar, and approximately three other white males were

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

in a group talking. He heard the heavy set man say at this time, "they ought to shoot the S.O.B." Immediately after making this statement, the heavy set man walked over to McFerren and said "what do you think about King and his mess?" McFerren reported that he told the heavy set man that he tended to his own business.

On April 19, 1968, Frank Camilla Liberto, who resided at 3271 Powers Street, Memphis, Tennessee, and was employed as President of L L & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis, furnished the following information:

To the best of his knowledge, he was at his place of business on April 4, 1968. Liberto emphatically denied having any knowledge of the identity of the person responsible for the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968. He emphatically denied ever discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting King, although he admitted he had made the usual derogatory remarks about King's actions in Memphis, Tennessee, and also made remarks about the fact King was partly responsible for the curfew imposed on the city of Memphis resulting in loss of revenue by his business establishment in the Memphis area. He acknowledged he may have made statements to the effect that King should be killed, although he does not recall any specific statements made by him to this effect. He stated that due to the curfew, he suffered approximately \$40,000 in loss sales at the produce company.

Liberto stated he frequently made trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, to purchase produce, and also because members of his family resided in the New Orleans area. Most of his co-workers, employees, and customers at the produce company, knew of his travels to New Orleans.

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

Liberto specifically denied making or receiving any telephone calls on April 4, 1968, wherein there was conversation regarding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He pointed out that most of his business transactions are made through use of the telephone and that these conversations frequently result in talking about large sums of money. He stated that he would have no reason for becoming involved in any action directed at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He stated he frequently taunted various individuals regarding racial matters and may have made disparaging remarks to some of his customers involving King, but did not consider this uncommon among various co-workers at his place of business.

Liberto advised that the following members of his family reside in New Orleans, Louisiana:

- 1 - Emily Liberto, mother, 2219 Altomaster Street;
- 2 - Tony Liberto, brother, residing two houses down from his mother, specific address not known;
- 3 - Vincent Liberto, brother, who worked for the Viking Truck Company, New Orleans;
- 4 - Salvadore Liberto, brother, who worked as a truck driver for West Brothers in New Orleans.

The following description of Liberto was obtained through observation and interview:

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

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Memphis, Tennessee
Height	5'10-11"
Weight	285 pounds
Eyes	Grayish blue
Hair	Brown

P11

On April 4, 1968, Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, 690 LaVerne Drive, Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, and furnished the following information:

Reverend Abernathy described himself as Vice President at large and Treasurer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He stated he was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s closest associate and that he and Dr. King always shared a room whenever they traveled together.

At about 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968, Reverend Abernathy and Dr. King registered at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee. On April 4, 1968, he and Dr. King did not leave the motel and spent most of the day at their room, number 306, which was located on the second floor of the motel. Reverend Abernathy and Dr. King had been away from their room for approximately one hour or less when they returned to the room at 5:30 p.m. They dressed because they were going to dinner at the home of Reverend Billy Kyle and at almost exactly 6:00 p.m., started to leave the room. Reverend Abernathy stopped for a moment and Dr. King walked out onto the balcony just outside the door to their room. Reverend Abernathy stated he heard what sounded like a firecracker and heard the screams of persons to whom Dr. King had been talking. Reverend Abernathy went to the balcony and observed Dr. King lying there wounded in the right side of the face and neck. He instructed someone to call an ambulance and accompanied Dr. King in the ambulance to the hospital where Dr. King died.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
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Reverend Abernathy reported that while he and Dr. King were in the motel room, Dr. King did not, to his knowledge, receive any telephone calls of a threatening nature or calls from persons who would not identify themselves. He said Dr. King had not feared that any particular persons might harm him and Reverend Abernathy was unable to suggest any suspects or to provide any other information which might assist in identifying Dr. King's killer.

On April 11, 1968, Miss Anna Christine Kelly, Manager, Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information from records maintained by the Rebel Motor Hotel:

On April 3, 1968, Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, registered in room 34 and departed on April 4, 1968. He stated on his registration card that he was driving a Mustang bearing Alabama license plate 1-38993. Miss Kelly stated that she could not remember Eric S. Galt.

On April 5, 1968, Mrs. Bessie Brewer, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Apartment 2, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

She was the manager of the boarding house at 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis. On Thursday, April 4, 1968, between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m., a white male individual knocked on the door of her apartment which also served as the office, and he inquired about renting a room. She subsequently rented him Apartment 5-B, which rented for \$8.50 per week, paid in advance. The individual identified himself as John Willard and paid her with a \$20 bill he took from his right front pants pocket and also gave her fifty cents in coin. She described John Willard as a white male, 30 to 35 years of age, six feet, weighing approximately 190 pounds.

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On April 5, 1968, Charlie Quitman Stephens, Room 6-B, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

In the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, he and his wife were in their room at 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis. He heard what he is certain was a shot, and was certain that the shot he heard came from the bathroom located a few feet from where he was sitting. He had no way of knowing, but estimated it was some time between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Upon hearing this shot, he walked out of the bathroom, through his living-bedroom, and opened the door leading to the hallway and observed a man running west down this hallway, and this man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. The man continued to run to the end of the hallway, turned left and apparently thereafter ran down the stairway onto the street, although he could not actually see the man going down the stairway. It immediately occurred to Mr. Stephens that this was the same man he had observed earlier in the afternoon, possibly around mid afternoon, standing at the door to Room 5-B, which was located immediately west of Mr. Stephens' living-bedroom. He stated that around mid afternoon he had seen the man with Mrs. Brewer standing in the hallway at the entrance to Room 5-B looking into the room. He assumed that this was some new guest looking for a room. He later heard someone in Room 5-B and assumed that the man he observed with Mrs. Brewer had rented the room next door. He recalled that on several different occasions he heard footsteps in this room and also heard a person leaving the room and walking past his, Mr. Stephens' room, and entering

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
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a common bathroom at the end of the hall. He was aware that the person who went from room 5-B to the bathroom remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time.

On April 24, 1968, photographs of James Earl Ray taken in 1955, 1960 and 1966 and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Charlie Quitman Stephens. Stephens said the 1955 and 1960 photographs of Ray were not familiar to him, but that the 1966 profile photograph of Ray appearing in wanted flier 442-1, dated April 19, 1968, and identification order 4182, dated April 20, 1968, looked like the man he saw in Apartment 5-B on April 4, 1968, talking to Mrs. Bessie Brewer. He said he had never seen the bedspread or any similar bedspread at the boarding house or anywhere else.

Mr. Bernell Finley, 1468 Kyle, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information on April 5, 1968:

At approximately 5:20 p.m. on April 4, 1968, he and an acquaintance of his drove to the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis. Around 6:00 p.m. Mr. Finley heard a noise that sounded like a shot. Shortly thereafter and certainly within a matter of just a minute or so, he heard a second noise near the front door of the Canipe Store. He and others immediately looked to the front door where they saw a box, package or bundle lying immediately in front of the store. He also observed a man walking rapidly south on the sidewalk on the east side of Main Street, and it was obvious that this was the person who had dropped or thrown the package in front of the store. Minutes later, Mr. Finley heard the "screech" of tires and looked up and saw a white Mustang speeding north on Main Street past Canipe Store. He explained that there was a car parked in front of the store and he did not get a full view of the car which had sped away, but he did see the rear portion of the roof line, as well as the trunk, and there is no question in his mind that this was a white car and there was no question in his mind that the car was a white Mustang.

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

At the time Mr. Finley did not associate the speeding white Mustang with the man who had dropped the box or package in front of the Canipe Store, but after he had learned what had occurred and reflecting on the matter, he is of the opinion that the man who dropped the package and walked south on the sidewalk past the store was possibly the man who got into the white Mustang and sped away from the area.

On April 5, 1968, Mr. Julius L. Graham, Apartment 5, 805 North Fifth Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he accompanied Mr. Bernell Finley to the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, arriving there about 5:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He recalled that as they were looking for a parking space he observed two white cars parked in the vicinity of the Canipe Store, one of which was definitely a white Mustang. He later heard tires screech in the vicinity of the store and observed a white Mustang speed north on Main Street. He is positive that the car he observed speeding away from the area was a white Mustang and there was no question in his mind that it was the same white Mustang he had observed earlier when he and Mr. Finley arrived in the vicinity of the store.

In April, 1968, records of Jefferson County Department of Revenue, Birmingham, Alabama revealed 1968 Alabama license plate 1-38993 was issued to Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, for a 1966 Ford Mustang.

On April 11, 1968, a white Ford Mustang, subsequently determined to be a 1966 model, was observed in parking area nine of Capitol Homes, Atlanta, Georgia. This automobile bore 1968 Alabama license plate 1-38993.

ME 44-1987 SUB M

number was listed to J. E. BUNT, 2597 Tutwiler, Memphis, Tennessee.

On 3/4/71 Lt. E. H. ARKIN, Intelligence Division, Memphis PD, advised that BUNT was arrested for violation of the Memphis City Curfew Law during the riots which ensued after the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. The Memphis Office has no information indicating the relationship between Dr. PROSCH and BUNT.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee
January 18, 1977

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

On December 14, 1976, a source who has furnished insufficient information to establish his reliability, advised that Dr. Gus Prosch, who often introduced himself as John Willard, Frank Liberto, who source learned owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans, Louisiana, and whom Prosch described as the head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans, Reverend (first name unknown) Shuttleworth, personally known to the source in 1968 as very active in civil rights matters, Dr. Ralph Abernathy, and a Mr. (first name unknown) Gault met a number of times in the Birmingham, Alabama, area in 1968. Following one of the meetings, Dr. Prosch informed the source that Dr. Abernathy and Reverend Shuttleworth had bought a contract for \$265,000 to have Martin Luther King, Jr. killed.

On November 29, 1970, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, received a report that a trailer loaded with guns was bogged down at Parkwood Trailer Park, Parkwood Community, in Jefferson County near Bessemer, Alabama. This trailer, whose ownership was subsequently traced to Prosch, was found to contain a huge quantity of shoulder and hand firearms, ammunition of various caliber, hand grenades, dynamite, sawed off shotguns, a 60 mm mortar, black powder, capped bottles containing gas, bayonets, food stuff, camping equipment, medical supplies, and other unnamed materials. Some of the weapons in this cache were traced to Dr. Prosch, a Birmingham physician whose practice was limited to treating overweight persons. Dr. Prosch, a white male,

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

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

born [redacted] at Birmingham, Alabama, then
resided at 2640 Paden Place, Jefferson County,
Alabama, and maintained an office at 2154 Highland
Avenue South, Birmingham.

On April 6, 1968, John McFerren, Somerville,
Tennessee, furnished the following information:

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, McFerren
traveled from Somerville, Tennessee, to Memphis, Tennessee,
to pick up supplies for his grocery store. While in
Memphis he went to the place where he normally bought his
produce which he said was possibly the L L & L Produce
Market, 814 Scott Street. According to McFerren, this
business was operated by a heavy set white man, who
weighed approximately 300 pounds, who appeared to be
possibly of Puerto Rican extraction. After McFerren
arrived at this company he walked up to the door of the
office and noticed that the heavy set man was sitting
at his desk with his back to the door and talking on the
telephone. McFerren stated he heard this heavy set man
say "kill the S.O.B. on the balcony and get the job done.
You will get your \$5,000."

McFerren reported that he went back to the
rear portion of this office and shortly thereafter heard
the telephone ring. The phone was answered by a white
man, thin in build, who had a scar on his right cheek.
McFerren could not hear what this man said when he
answered the phone, but after answering the phone, he
handed it to the heavy set man. McFerren heard the heavy
set man say "Don't come out here. Go to New Orleans and
get your money. You know my brother."

McFerren reported that approximately a week
prior to April 4, 1968, he was at the L L & L Produce
Market, at which time the heavy set man, the man with
the scar, and approximately three other white males were

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

in a group talking. He heard the heavy set man say at this time, "they ought to shoot the S.O.B." Immediately after making this statement, the heavy set man walked over to McFerren and said "what do you think about King and his mess?" McFerren reported that he told the heavy set man that he tended to his own business.

On April 19, 1968, Frank Camilla Liberto, who resided at 3271 Powers Street, Memphis, Tennessee, and was employed as President of L L & L Produce Company, 814 Scott Street, Memphis, furnished the following information:

To the best of his knowledge, he was at his place of business on April 4, 1968. Liberto emphatically denied having any knowledge of the identity of the person responsible for the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 4, 1968. He emphatically denied ever discussing with anyone the possibility of shooting King, although he admitted he had made the usual derogatory remarks about King's actions in Memphis, Tennessee, and also made remarks about the fact King was partly responsible for the curfew imposed on the city of Memphis resulting in loss of revenue by his business establishment in the Memphis area. He acknowledged he may have made statements to the effect that King should be killed, although he does not recall any specific statements made by him to this effect. He stated that due to the curfew, he suffered approximately \$40,000 in loss sales at the produce company.

Liberto stated he frequently made trips to New Orleans, Louisiana, to purchase produce, and also because members of his family resided in the New Orleans area. Most of his co-workers, employees, and customers at the produce company, knew of his travels to New Orleans.

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

Liberto specifically denied making or receiving any telephone calls on April 4, 1968, wherein there was conversation regarding Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or the shooting of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He pointed out that most of his business transactions are made through use of the telephone and that these conversations frequently result in talking about large sums of money. He stated that he would have no reason for becoming involved in any action directed at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He stated he frequently taunted various individuals regarding racial matters and may have made disparaging remarks to some of his customers involving King, but did not consider this uncommon among various co-workers at his place of business.

Liberto advised that the following members of his family reside in New Orleans, Louisiana:

- 1 - Emily Liberto, mother, 2219 Altomaster Street;
- 2 - Tony Liberto, brother, residing two houses down from his mother, specific address not known;
- 3 - Vincent Liberto, brother, who worked for the Viking Truck Company, New Orleans;
- 4 - Salvadore Liberto, brother, who worked as a truck driver for West Brothers in New Orleans.

The following description of Liberto was obtained through observation and interview:

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

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Memphis, Tennessee
Height	5'10-11"
Weight	285 pounds
Eyes	Grayish blue
Hair	Brown

P11

On April 4, 1968, Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, 690 LaVerne Drive, Northwest, Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at the Memphis Police Department, Memphis, Tennessee, and furnished the following information:

Reverend Abernathy described himself as Vice President at large and Treasurer of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He stated he was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s closest associate and that he and Dr. King always shared a room whenever they traveled together.

At about 10:30 a.m. on April 3, 1968, Reverend Abernathy and Dr. King registered at the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, Tennessee. On April 4, 1968, he and Dr. King did not leave the motel and spent most of the day at their room, number 306, which was located on the second floor of the motel. Reverend Abernathy and Dr. King had been away from their room for approximately one hour or less when they returned to the room at 5:30 p.m. They dressed because they were going to dinner at the home of Reverend Billy Kyle and at almost exactly 6:00 p.m., started to leave the room. Reverend Abernathy stopped for a moment and Dr. King walked out onto the balcony just outside the door to their room. Reverend Abernathy stated he heard what sounded like a firecracker and heard the screams of persons to whom Dr. King had been talking. Reverend Abernathy went to the balcony and observed Dr. King lying there wounded in the right side of the face and neck. He instructed someone to call an ambulance and accompanied Dr. King in the ambulance to the hospital where Dr. King died.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY;
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Reverend Abernathy reported that while he and Dr. King were in the motel room, Dr. King did not, to his knowledge, receive any telephone calls of a threatening nature or calls from persons who would not identify themselves. He said Dr. King had not feared that any particular persons might harm him and Reverend Abernathy was unable to suggest any suspects or to provide any other information which might assist in identifying Dr. King's killer.

On April 11, 1968, Miss Anna Christine Kelly, Manager, Rebel Motor Hotel, 3466 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information from records maintained by the Rebel Motor Hotel:

On April 3, 1968, Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama, registered in room 34 and departed on April 4, 1968. He stated on his registration card that he was driving a Mustang bearing Alabama license plate 1-38993. Miss Kelly stated that she could not remember Eric S. Galt.

On April 5, 1968, Mrs. Bessie Brewer, 422½ South Main Street, Apartment 2, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

She was the manager of the boarding house at 422½ South Main Street, Memphis. On Thursday, April 4, 1968, between 3:00 and 3:30 p.m., a white male individual knocked on the door of her apartment which also served as the office, and he inquired about renting a room. She subsequently rented him Apartment 5-B, which rented for \$8.50 per week, paid in advance. The individual identified himself as John Willard and paid her with a \$20 bill he took from his right front pants pocket and also gave her fifty cents in coin. She described John Willard as a white male, 30 to 35 years of age, six feet, weighing approximately 190 pounds.

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

On April 5, 1968, Charlie Quitman Stephens, Room 6-B, 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information:

In the late afternoon of April 4, 1968, he and his wife were in their room at 422 $\frac{1}{2}$ South Main Street, Memphis. He heard what he is certain was a shot, and was certain that the shot he heard came from the bathroom located a few feet from where he was sitting. He had no way of knowing, but estimated it was some time between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. Upon hearing this shot, he walked out of the bathroom, through his living-bedroom, and opened the door leading to the hallway and observed a man running west down this hallway, and this man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. The man continued to run to the end of the hallway, turned left and apparently thereafter ran down the stairway onto the street, although he could not actually see the man going down the stairway. It immediately occurred to Mr. Stephens that this was the same man he had observed earlier in the afternoon, possibly around mid afternoon, standing at the door to Room 5-B, which was located immediately west of Mr. Stephens' living-bedroom. He stated that around mid afternoon he had seen the man with Mrs. Brewer standing in the hallway at the entrance to Room 5-B looking into the room. He assumed that this was some new guest looking for a room. He later heard someone in Room 5-B and assumed that the man he observed with Mrs. Brewer had rented the room next door. He recalled that on several different occasions he heard footsteps in this room and also heard a person leaving the room and walking past his, Mr. Stephens' room, and entering

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

a common bathroom at the end of the hall. He was aware that the person who went from room 5-B to the bathroom remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time.

On April 24, 1968, photographs of James Earl Ray taken in 1955, 1960 and 1966 and of the bedspread recovered at Memphis on April 4, 1968, were shown to Charlie Quitman Stephens. Stephens said the 1955 and 1960 photographs of Ray were not familiar to him, but that the 1966 profile photograph of Ray appearing in wanted flier 442-1, dated April 19, 1968, and identification order 4182, dated April 20, 1968, looked like the man he saw in Apartment 5-B on April 4, 1968, talking to Mrs. Bessie Brewer. He said he had never seen the bedspread or any similar bedspread at the boarding house or anywhere else.

Mr. Bernell Finley, 1468 Kyle, Memphis, Tennessee, furnished the following information on April 5, 1968:

At approximately 5:20 p.m. on April 4, 1968, he and an acquaintance of his drove to the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis. Around 6:00 p.m. Mr. Finley heard a noise that sounded like a shot. Shortly thereafter and certainly within a matter of just a minute or so, he heard a second noise near the front door of the Canipe Store. He and others immediately looked to the front door where they saw a box, package or bundle lying immediately in front of the store. He also observed a man walking rapidly south on the sidewalk on the east side of Main Street, and it was obvious that this was the person who had dropped or thrown the package in front of the store. Minutes later, Mr. Finley heard the "screech" of tires and looked up and saw a white Mustang speeding north on Main Street past Canipe Store. He explained that there was a car parked in front of the store and he did not get a full view of the car which had sped away, but he did see the rear portion of the roof line, as well as the trunk, and there is no question in his mind that this was a white car and there was no question in his mind that the car was a white Mustang.

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

At the time Mr. Finley did not associate the speeding white Mustang with the man who had dropped the box or package in front of the Canipe Store, but after he had learned what had occurred and reflecting on the matter, he is of the opinion that the man who dropped the package and walked south on the sidewalk past the store was possibly the man who got into the white Mustang and sped away from the area.

On April 5, 1968, Mr. Julius L. Graham, Apartment 5, 805 North Fifth Street, Memphis, Tennessee, advised that he accompanied Mr. Bernell Finley to the Canipe Amusement Company, 424 South Main Street, Memphis, arriving there about 5:30 p.m. on April 4, 1968. He recalled that as they were looking for a parking space he observed two white cars parked in the vicinity of the Canipe Store, one of which was definitely a white Mustang. He later heard tires screech in the vicinity of the store and observed a white Mustang speed north on Main Street. He is positive that the car he observed speeding away from the area was a white Mustang and there was no question in his mind that it was the same white Mustang he had observed earlier when he and Mr. Finley arrived in the vicinity of the store.

In April, 1968, records of Jefferson County Department of Revenue, Birmingham, Alabama revealed 1968 Alabama license plate 1-38993 was issued to Eric S. Galt, 2608 Highland Avenue, Birmingham, for a 1966 Ford Mustang.

On April 11, 1968, a white Ford Mustang, subsequently determined to be a 1966 model, was observed in parking area nine of Capitol Homes, Atlanta, Georgia. This automobile bore 1968 Alabama license plate 1-38993.

Mr. Gallagher

1/31/77

J. S. Freeman

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
THE FBI - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY AND ASSASSINATION
INVESTIGATIONS

1 - Mr. Gold
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. Ingram
1 - Mr. Freeman
1 - Mr. Deagan
1 - Mr. Law
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Leavitt
1 - Mr. Becker
1 - Mr. Wicks
1 - Mr. Ryan

PURPOSE: To advise of further documentation received from our Birmingham Office advising that in 1968 the Attorney General (AG) authorized the prosecution of Eric Starvo Galt (an alias for James Earl Ray). The recent report by the Task Force, Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, reported that the Bureau prepared and filed this complaint without first clearing with the Department.

SUMMARY: By letter dated 1/31/77, we furnished our observations to the AG concerning captioned report. One of the issues raised by the Task Force was that the FBI prepared and filed a complaint without first clearing with the Department. We pointed out in this letter to AG that FBI file on civil rights assassination investigation contains a FBI memorandum (44-38861-1553) which reports the AG authorized the filing of a complaint, and a FBI report from Birmingham which reports an Assistant United States Attorney authorized the filing of a complaint. On 1/25/77, Task Force requested a conference with representatives of General Investigative Division (GID) and asked if any further documentation could be obtained showing AG authorization. GID representatives again pointed out that FBI memorandum (44-38861-1553) reports the AG authorized the filing of the complaint. Task Force stated it desired to contact retired FBI Special Agent Wilbur L. Martinale, the author of this FBI memorandum, relative to information in this memorandum regarding authorization from AG. Task Force advised we would attempt to locate Mr. Martinale's address per its request.

Enclosure

Enclosure

① - 44-38861
① - 100-106670

SMK:gfw (13)

NOT RECORDED

167 FEB 8 1977

CONTINUED - OVER

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-2-81 BY SP4 JPM/ln
6076

84 FEB 10 1977

Forwarded to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Task Force was also advised we could further check with our Birmingham Office to determine if there was anything in Birmingham files not furnished to FBIHQ which would show any information regarding AG authorization. Task Force agreed. Based on FBIHQ inquiry, Birmingham Office furnished by facsimile on 1/25/77 a copy of a memorandum dated 4/14/68 from the SAC, Birmingham, to the Birmingham civil rights file reporting that U. S. Attorney Weaver said, 'he spoke to the Attorney General, and the Attorney General indicated that he did authorize prosecution of Galt; however, he was not aware where the process was to be filed since that was the decision for FBI officials. He further advised Weaver that he assumed that Birmingham was chosen because it was a place where the first overt act of conspiracy occurred.' Copy of this Birmingham memorandum furnished to Task Force, and it has this matter under review. On 1/26/77 Task Force advised it does not desire to interview Mr. Martindale.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

DETAILS: As you are aware, the Task Force, Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, furnished a copy of its report of the review of the FBI's investigation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. By letter dated 1/11/77, we furnished our observations regarding this report to the AG, and the following was our response in this letter to one of the issues raised by the Task Force regarding the filing of a complaint by the FBI: (It is noted that Mr. Tolson set forth in this quotation is Task Force Leader Fred C. Tolson, Jr.).

"On page 118, the Task Force states, 'The Bureau's preparation and filing of the criminal complaint against 'Galt' on April 17, 1968, before a U. S. Commissioner at Birmingham without first clearing with the Department, and the after-the-fact submission to the Attorney General of a draft press release about the complaint are illustrative of the Bureau's disdain for Department supervision (HQ 44-38861-1535, 1543).'"

Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Also in its "recommendations," the Task Force states on page 144:

(3) "The Task Force recommends that no criminal action in sensitive cases should be instituted by the FBI without Departmental approval which would include, in appropriate cases, the approval of the United States Attorney's Offices."

Observations were made to the Task Force on January 17, 1977, that the FBI file on the civil rights assassination investigation (serial 44-38861-1555) reflects the Attorney General authorized the filing of the complaint, and serial 44-38861-2323 reflects the United States Attorney's Office, Birmingham, authorized the filing of the complaint. Mr. Folsom stated the Task Force would take this under review. It is further noted that although the name of the Special Agent(s) of the FBI who contacted the Department is not set forth, serial 44-38861-1555 (a FBI memorandum) reports that on April 16, 1968, the Attorney General authorized the filing of a complaint charging Eric Starvo Galt (an alias for Ray) with violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241 (Civil Rights Conspiracy Statute). Serial 44-38861-2323, (a Birmingham FBI report) reports that on April 17, 1968, the facts of this matter were discussed by the FBI with Assistant United States Attorney R. Macey Taylor, Birmingham, Alabama, who authorized the filing of a complaint charging Eric Starvo Galt for violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241. Serial 44-38861-2323 further reports that a complaint was thereafter filed before United States Commissioner Mildred F. Sprague, Birmingham, on April 17, 1968. It is further noted that in 1968 and up to and including the present time, it was Departmental policy in civil rights matters to obtain authorization from the Department prior to instituting "criminal action" (instituting Federal process such as filing a complaint or seeking an indictment, etc.). Also it was the policy of the FBI in 1968 and up to and including the present time to obtain the authorization of the Department and/or the appropriate U. S. Attorney's Office prior to the institution of any Federal process."

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum

Re: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE

On 1/25/77, Task Force Leader Fred G. Folsom, Jr., and Task Force Attorneys William White, Joseph Gross, James Walker, and James Kischkefer, requested a conference with SAs Hal E. Halterhoff and John T. Aldhiser III, of the Civil Rights Section, General Investigative Division. These attorneys asked whether any further documentation could be obtained showing that the FBI did have authorization from the AG prior to filing this complaint. The above named Agents again pointed out that the 1968 FBI memorandum (44-38861-1555) reports that the AG authorized the filing of this complaint. The Attorneys then stated they desired to contact the author of this 1968 memorandum. (Special Agent Wilbur L. Martindale, now retired), to interview him relative to the information in this 1968 FBI memorandum regarding authorization from the AG. The Attorneys requested the current address and telephone number for Mr. Martindale, and were advised we would attempt to obtain this information. Mr. Folsom stated that no information could be located in the Department of Justice files showing that the AG or anyone in the Department authorized the filing of this complaint.

These Attorneys were also advised that we could further check with our Birmingham Office to determine if there was anything in the Birmingham files, not furnished to FBIHQ, that would show any information regarding the authorization by the AG. Mr. Folsom agreed that contact should be made with our Birmingham Office. It is noted that the Task Force Attorneys previously reviewed the Birmingham files relating to King during its review of our investigation.

After we telephonically contacted the Birmingham office, Birmingham furnished by facsimile on 1/25/77 a copy of a memorandum dated 6/18/68 from the Birmingham, SAC to the Birmingham civil rights file (copy attached). In this memorandum, the SAC (retired SAC Joseph H. Gamble) advised that U. S. Attorney Weaver (Birmingham) said, "he spoke to the Attorney General, and the Attorney General indicated that he did authorize prosecution of Galt; however, he was not aware where the process was to be filed since that was the decision for FBI officials. He further advised Weaver that he assumed that Birmingham was chosen because it was a place where the first overt act of conspiracy occurred."

On 1/26/77, Task Force Attorney William White was furnished a copy of this Birmingham memorandum. He stated the Task Force would take this matter under review and would thereafter advise whether or not it was still necessary for the Task Force to interview Mr. Martindale.

Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE

On 1/28/77 Mr. White advised the Task Force does not desire to interview Mr. Martindale.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

File (44-1740)

DATE: 4-18-68

SAC, Birmingham

RE: MURKIN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3-28-81 BY SP4 JAM/ML
6074

U. S. Attorney MACON WEAVER telephonically contacted SAC this date and indicated that he had received a telephone call from EARL MORGAN, District Attorney, who had been in conference with Commissioner COOPER GREEN. MORGAN stated that he wished to know why Birmingham was chosen as the place in which the complaint was filed charging GALT with violation of the Civil Rights Statute.

WEAVER advised him that he did not know the answer to the question, but he would call Attorney General RAMSAY CLARK in Washington and attempt to get an answer for him. WEAVER said he spoke to the Attorney General, and the Attorney General indicated that he did authorize prosecution of GALT; however, he was not aware where the process was to be filed since that was the decision for FBI officials. He further advised WEAVER that he assumed that Birmingham was chosen because it was a place where the first overt act of conspiracy occurred.

WEAVER conveyed this information to Mr. MORGAN, and WEAVER stated that MORGAN appeared to be satisfied. Mr. WEAVER indicated that MORGAN's prime concern was that the filing of the process in Birmingham would result in Birmingham obtaining a bad reputation.

This information telephonically given to Supervisor McGOWAN at the Bureau.

JHG:nlg
(2) *alg*

44-38861-
Murkin
Enclosure

44-1740-1005

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 18 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

JHG

Mr. Gallagher

1/31/77

J. S. Feelman

1 - Mr. Wald
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. Ingram
1 - Mr. Feelman
1 - Mr. Deegan
1 - Mr. Lawn
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Leavitt
1 - Mr. Becker
1 - Mr. Hints
1 - Mr. Ryan

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
THE FBI - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY AND ASSASSINATION
INVESTIGATIONS

PURPOSE: To advise of further documentation received from our Birmingham Office advising that in 1968 the Attorney General (AG) authorized the prosecution of Eric Starvo Galt (an alias for James Earl Ray). The recent report by the Task Force, Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, reported that the Bureau prepared and filed this complaint without first clearing with the Department.

SYNOPSIS: By letter dated 1/31/77, we furnished our observations to the AG concerning captioned report. One of the issues raised by the Task Force was that the FBI prepared and filed a complaint without first clearing with the Department. We pointed out in this letter to AG that FBI file on civil rights assassination investigation contains a FBI memorandum (44-38861-1933) which reports the AG authorized the filing of a complaint, and a FBI report from Birmingham which reports an Assistant United States Attorney authorized the filing of a complaint. On 1/25/77, Task Force requested a conference with representatives of General Investigative Division (GID) and asked if any further documentation could be obtained showing AG authorization. GID representatives again pointed out that FBI memorandum (44-38861-1933) reports the AG authorized the filing of the complaint. Task Force stated it desired to contact retired FBI Special Agent Wilber L. Martindale, the author of this FBI memorandum, relative to information in this memorandum regarding authorization from AG. Task Force advised we would attempt to locate Mr. Martindale's address per its request.

Enclosure

① - 44-38861
1 - 100-134670

CONTINUED - OVER

MMH:gjm (18)

Folsom to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Task Force was also advised we could further check with our Birmingham Office to determine if there was anything in Birmingham files not furnished to FBIHQ which would show any information regarding AG authorization. Task Force agreed. Based on FBIHQ inquiry, Birmingham Office furnished by facsimile on 1/25/77 a copy of a memorandum dated 4/15/68 from the SAC, Birmingham, to the Birmingham civil rights file reporting that U. S. Attorney Weaver said, "he spoke to the Attorney General, and the Attorney General indicated that he did authorize prosecution of Galt; however, he was not aware where the process was to be filed since that was the decision for FBI officials. He further advised Weaver that he assumed that Birmingham was chosen because it was a place where the first overt act of conspiracy occurred." Copy of this Birmingham memorandum furnished to Task Force, and it has this matter under review. On 1/26/77 Task Force advised it does not desire to interview Mr. Martindale.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

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"On page 110, the Task Force states, 'The Bureau's preparation and filing of the criminal complaint against 'Galt' on April 17, 1968, before a U. S. Commissioner at Birmingham without first clearing with the Department, and the after-the-fact submission to the Attorney General of a draft press release about the complaint are illustrative of the Bureau's disdain for Department supervision (HQ 44-19861-1831, 1863).'"

Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum
Re: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Also in its "recommendations," the Task Force states on page 144:

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Memorandum to Mr. Callaghan Memorandum

Re: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE

On 1/25/77, Task Force Leader Fred G. Folsom, Jr., and Task Force Attorneys William White, Joseph Gross, James Walker, and James Kischhofer, requested a conference with SAs Hal E. Helterhoff and John T. Aldhizer III, of the Civil Rights Section, General Investigative Division. These attorneys asked whether any further documentation could be obtained showing that the FBI did have authorization from the AG prior to filing this complaint. The above named Agents again pointed out that the 1968 FBI memorandum (44-38861-1335) reports that the AG authorized the filing of this complaint. The Attorneys then stated they desired to contact the author of this 1968 memorandum, (Special Agent Wilbur L. Martindale, now retired), to interview him relative to the information in this 1968 FBI memorandum regarding authorization from the AG. The Attorneys requested the current address and telephone number for Mr. Martindale, and were advised we would attempt to obtain this information. Mr. Folsom stated that no information could be located in the Department of Justice files showing that the AG or anyone in the Department authorized the filing of this complaint.

These Attorneys were also advised that we could further check with our Birmingham Office to determine if there was anything in the Birmingham files, not furnished to FALM, that would show any information regarding the authorization by the AG. Mr. Folsom agreed that contact should be made with our Birmingham Office. It is noted that the Task Force Attorneys previously reviewed the Birmingham files relating to King during its review of our investigation.

After we telephonically contacted the Birmingham office, Birmingham furnished by facsimile on 1/25/77 a copy of a memorandum dated 6/18/68 from the Birmingham, SAC to the Birmingham civil rights file (copy attached). In this memorandum, the SAC (retired SAC Joseph E. Gamble) advised that U. S. Attorney Weaver (Birmingham) said, "he spoke to the Attorney General, and the Attorney General indicated that he did authorize prosecution of Galt; however, he was not aware where the process was to be filed since that was the decision for FBI officials. He further advised Weaver that he assumed that Birmingham was chosen because it was a place where the first overt act of conspiracy occurred."

On 1/26/77, Task Force Attorney William White was furnished a copy of this Birmingham memorandum. He stated the Task Force would take this matter under review and would thereafter advise whether or not it was still necessary for the Task Force to interview Mr. Martindale.

Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memorandum

Re: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE

On 1/28/77 Mr. White advised the Task Force does not desire to interview Mr. Martindale.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~SECRET~~

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Adm. Serv. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Fin. & Pers. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Rec. Mgnt. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 1/19/77

FROM : J. S. Peelman

1 - Mr. Held
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. Ingram
1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. Deegan
1 - Mr. Lawn
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Leavitt
1 - Mr. Decker
1 - Mr. Mintz
1 - Mr. Ryan

SUBJECT: REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
JUSTICE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW
THE FBI - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
SECURITY AND ASSASSINATION
INVESTIGATIONS

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

PURPOSE: To advise of contents and observations concerning
captioned report, and to furnish our observations to the
Attorney General (AG) in attached letter. *U*

SYNOPSIS: Department of Justice Task Force, Office of Professional
Responsibility (OPR) has furnished a copy of its report of review
of the FBI's investigation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Task
Force reported the following re "The Assassination
Investigation:" It is satisfied the FBI did a credible job
in attempting to identify any conspiracy; James Earl Ray
judicially confessed that he intended to and did kill Dr. King;
the investigation was thoroughly, honestly and successfully
conducted; the evidence pointing to guilt of Ray was conclusive;
found no evidence of any complicity on part of Memphis
Police Department or FBI; the sum of all evidence of Ray's guilt
points to him so exclusively that it makes the point no one
else involved; it unearthed some new data which answers some
persistent questions the FBI did not seek; but FBI concentrated on
principal in case and found no dishonesty in this; by "hindsight"
task force believes Ray's brothers could have been interrogated
further; discusses "Bureau disdain for Department supervision;"
and it found no new evidence which calls for action by state or
Federal authorities. Task Force makes "Recommendations - As to
the Murder Investigation," and our observations concerning
these recommendations and report set forth in attached letter to
AG.

Enclosure

HNH/JTA/sas (12)

NOT RECORDED

167 FEB 8 1977 CONTINUED - OVER

Classified by 4915
Exempt from GDS, Categories 2, 3 & 4
Date of Declassification Indefinite

~~SECRET~~

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ON 10/22/01



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FBI/DOJ

~~SECRET~~

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
Re: Report of the Department of Justice Task Force

With respect to "The Security Investigation" of King, the OPR Task Force was to determine if the relationship between the FBI and King called for criminal prosecution or disciplinary action against Bureau personnel and if the FBI was involved in King's assassination. Task Force reviewed security files of King, the SCLC and our files relating to communist influence in the Civil Rights movement. The Task Force concluded that opening of King investigation in 1962 was justified, but its continuance was unwarranted since there was no evidence that King was a communist or affiliated with the CPUSA. Report states that the dispute between King and Mr. Hoover was a major factor in the Bureau's determination to discredit King and documents "an extensive program within the FBI" to discredit him. Report discloses surreptitious entries against Levison, and that an FBI informant in the SCLC conceded to contacting Agent that he embezzled SCLC funds. In its critical evaluation the Task Force believed investigation of King should have terminated when Levison disassociated himself from the CPUSA in 1963 and our discrediting actions were unwarranted and very probably in violation of Civil Rights Statutes. Report states the AG and Department of Justice failed in supervision of FBI internal security activities. ~~SECRET~~ (u)

Briefly, Task Force recommendations as to the security investigation are as follows: (1) no criminal prosecution of Bureau personnel because five-year Statute of Limitations has expired; (2) no disciplinary action against personnel in active Bureau service; (3) tapes and transcripts of microphone surveillance in King case be sealed, sent to Archives and that Congress authorize and direct destruction of that material including reports derived thereof; (4) endorsed intradepartmental supervision of FBI by Department of Justice (OPR) and legislative oversight by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence; (5) That the unauthorized malicious dissemination of investigative data from FBI files be made a felony rather than the presently described misdemeanor; (6) that the FBI have no authority to engage in COINTELPRO-type activities. u

Our observations concerning the OPR report on the security investigation of King are set forth in attached letter to the AG.

~~SECRET~~

CONTINUED - OVER

- 2 -