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RE BUREAU PRIORITY FACSIMILE APRIL 25, 1978, AND BUREAU TEL CALLS TO ST. LOUIS APRIL 26, 1978.

ST. LOUIS REVIEW OF CAPTIONED FILE, ELSUR INDICES AND ELSUR FILES ALL NEGATIVE FOR ANY RECORD OR INFORMATION INDICATING THAT FBI ENTERED OR INSTALLED SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT ON THE RESIDENCE PAST OR PRESENT OR THE BUSINESS (GRAPEVINE TAVERN) OF CAROL AND ALBERT PEPPER. ELSUR INDICES AND ELSUR FILES REVIEWED BY NAME, RESIDENCE, (PAST AND PRESENT), BUSINESS ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS, INCLUDING THE PEPPERS' NON-PUBLISHED NUMBER 645-9152

BT

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VITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

DATEAPR 14 1978

REPLY TO ATTN OF: (

NOF: OPR

SUBJECT: Letter from Mr. Albert Pepper

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

ro: Thomas J. Biamonte, Inspector-Deputy
Assistant Director

Office of Professional Responsibility

Federal Bureau of Investigation

phil

This is in reference to the attached letter of Albert Pepper dated March 12, 1978. As you can see from his letter, Mr. Pepper requests whether the FBI ever illegally entered his home or other properties and installed a microphone surveillance.

We are referring this matter to your Office for appropriate inquiry. Please advise us of your findings so that we can respond to Mr. Pepper.

Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel
Office of Professional Responsibility

(PC)

3 - ENCLOSURE

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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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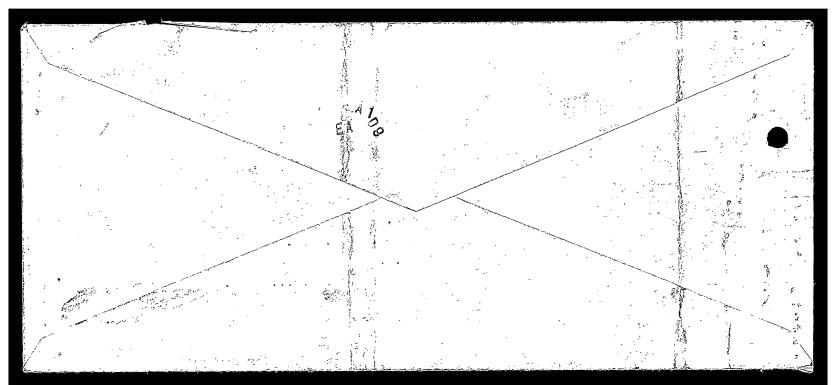
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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI. Zach fora?

Mr. Banjamin Civiletti Asst.Atty.Gen. U.S. Dept of Justice Washington, D.C. 20530.

12 March 1978

RECEIVED .

MAR 201978

Dear Sir:

CRIMINAL DIVISION

I understand your office is investigating break-ins by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

There has been a published report, and other information, that the F.B.I. committed some type offense as described in the enclosure, a column by columnist, Jack Anderson.

I would appreciate it very mush if you could tell me whether there is any substance to Mr. Anderson's aklegation about the F.B.I.

I live in the St. Louis, Missouri, area so the records, if any, may be located in the St., Louis F.B.I. field office.

RECEIVED

MAR 2 8 1978

Sincerely: Albert Repper

albert Pepper 523 Francu Lane Lemay, Mo. 631125.

PUBLIC INTEGRITY SECTION

Note, if in fact the F.B.I. or other government agencies did not illegally entered or installed some type surveillance equipment threrein (my home), could I receive from the government some type sworn affidavit to that effect so the matter can be disposed of ?

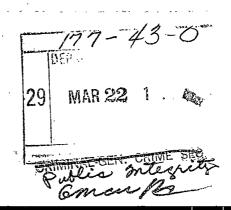
cc: U.S. Senate Judicary committee.

P.S. I understand in sworn testimony in U.S. Dis. ct. Chattanooga, Tenn., in 1964, in the Hoffa jury tampering trial, F.B.I. special agent, Charles Bolz, testified the F.B.I. files "recorded transcripts or both of all conversations which the federal agency bugs illegally".

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Office of Professional Responsibility MAR BAINED
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44-38861-6259

ENCLOSURE

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Long-buried FBI documents reveal that then-director I. Edgar Hoover berson, ally approved a break in and illegal disctronic bugging aimed at innocent relatives of James Earl Ray, who was later convicted for killing King.

For years, Hoover had conducted a victious smear campaign, against King. The FBI peddled millicious anti-King stories to the breas and had sent doctored tapes concerning King's personal life to his wife When King was slain in 1968, whispers about possible FBI involvement put Hoover made and the great pressure to find the assassing.

While FBI agents were hot on Ray's

By JACK ANDERSON and LES WHITTEN

WASHINGTON — The FBI, which called the Peppers and the bugged converged used electronic skulduggery in an sations were used to arrest him, the memo effort to discredit Martin Luther King, Jr., said, Ray "then could claim that the survived to employ similar illegal tactics to visilance violated his right of privacy" catch his killer. This could prejudice the court case against Long-buried FBI documents reveal him.

But if certain precautions were taken, the memo continued the worst that could happen! is that the arrest would be declared illegal. Using fortured logic, the document insisted that Ray could still be convicted despite the FBI lawbreaking.

cours smear campaign, against King The FBI peddled malicious anti-King stories to the press and had sent doctored tapes concerning. King's personal life to his wife whole scheme was ancionstitutional cerning. King's personal life to his wife whole scheme was ancionstitutional and a "technical violation" of the law. "Be aware," the memowarned, "that since this search and seizure is unconstitutional as to the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against the Peppers, they have at teast a theoretical cause of action for damages against

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NOV. 1477

FBI AIMED AT RAY'S KIN

BY JACK ANDERSON AND LES WHITTEN

WASHINGTON - The FBI, which used electronic skulduggery in an effort to discredit Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to employ similar illegal tactics to catch his killer.

Long-buried FBI documents reveal that then Director J. Edgar Hoover personally approved a break-in and illegal electronic bugging aimed at innocent relatives of James Earl Ray; who was later convicted of killing King.

For years, Hoover had conducted a vicious smear campaign against King. The FBI peddled malicious anti-King stories to the press and had sent doctored tapes concerning King's personal life to his wife. When King was slain in 1968, whispers about possible FBI involvement put Hoover under great pressure to find the assassin.

While the FBI agents were not on Ray's trail, a May 10, 1968, memo, prepared for top Hoover aide J. P. Mohr, outlined elaborate illegal plans to catch the murderer.

AS PART OF the overall investigation, code-named MURKIN - an acronym for murder and King - a memo was written which declared: "Consideration is given to microphone installations on certain properties of Albert and Carol Pepper," the brother-in-law and sister of James Earl Ray.

"The proposal," cautioned the memo, "raises a question concerning the legality of any action taken against the subject of this case on the basis of information obtained from the microphones." If Ray called the Peppers and the bugged conversations were used to arrest him, the memo said, Ray "then could claim that the surveillance violated his right of privacy." This could prejudice the court case against him.

TRUECOPY

44-38861-6259

ENCLOSURE

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But if certain precautions were taken, the memo continued, "the worst that could happen" is that the arrest could be declared illegal. Using tortured logic, the document insisted that Ray could still be convicted despite the FBI lawbreaking.

The FBI plotters bluntly admitted that the whole scheme was unconstitutional and a "technical violation" of the law. "Be aware," the memo warned, "that since the search and seizure is unconstitutional as to the Peppers, they have at least a theoretical cause of action for damages against those who installed the (bugging) devices by trespass." "Trespass" is FBI lingo for a break-in.

We have been unable to determine whether the FBI actually bugged or burglarized the Peppers' home. Indeed, assassinations expert Harold Weisberg has developed evidence indicating the Justice Department vetoed the plan. But inside sources insist the FBI did use dubious and possible illegal means to capture Ray, who later pleaded guilty to murdering King and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

The FBI has acknowledged that abuses occurred in the past. Since 1973, however, the present director, Clarence Kelley, has halted most of these practices. We were unable to reach the Peppers.

TRUECOPY

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr. Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility Director, FBI

LETTER FROM MR. ALBERT PEPPER

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Ingram
1 - Mr. Peelman

April 28, 1

1 - Mr. Helterhoff

l - Mr. Bassett

1 - Mr. Mintz

1 - Mr. Coulson

l - Mr. Colwell (Attn:

Biámonte)

Reference is made to your memorandum dated April 14, 1978, wherein you requested to be advised of our findings concerning a letter you received from Albert Pepper, who requested information as to whether the FBI ever illegally entered his home or other properties and installed a microphone surveillance.

A review of our MURKIN file 44-38861 (the civil rights assassination investigative file), shows that by a letter dated May 13, 1968, to the Attorney General captioned "Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.," the Director of the FBI advised that extensive investigation had been conducted concerning James Earl Ray and no information had been developed indicating his present whereabouts. This letter pointed out that in order to possibly assist in locating and apprehending Ray, that it would be of Extreme value to know if Ray had made any contact, either Expersonally or by telephone, with his sister, Carol Pepper, as well as his brother, John Larry Ray. The Director Therefore requested in this letter that the Attorney General authorize the installation of an electronic surveillance on the residence of Carol Pepper (married to Albert Pepper and residing at 2025 Belleview, St. Louis, Missouri, telephone number 645-2948), on the residence of John Larry Ray and at the Grapevine Tavern (1982 Arsenal, St. Louis, Missouri, relephone PR6-9417), owned by Carol Pepper and operated by John Larry Ray. The Director advised that these installations could assist in the early apprehension of Ray, which could possibly be instrumental in requiring the

stresses and tensions placed on our national security Assoc. Dir. subsequent to the death of Martin Luther King za Tr. Dep. AD Adm. Dep. AD Inv. Asst. Dir.: TT MAY 16 1978 Adm. Servs. Crim: Inv. <u>H</u>NH:bam (13-) SEE NOIE PAGE 4 Ident. MAILED 7 Laboratory _ Legal Coun. Plan. & Insp. Rec. Mant.

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TO THE CONTROL MA Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.

There is no indication in our files that the Attorney General responded to this May 13, 1968, request of the FBI and by letter dated June 11, 1968, captioned, "Electronic Surveillances," the Director of the FBI advised the Attorney General, in part, that inasmuch as Ray had been apprehended, the request for electronic surveillance mentioned in the FBI letter dated May 13, 1968, was hereby withdrawn.

An internal FBI memorandum dated May 10, 1968, in the MURKIN file discusses certain legal ramifications regarding this May 13, 1968, electronic surveillance request and portions of this memorandum are quoted in the newspaper article by Jack Anderson and Les Whitten, enclosed by Mr. Pepper. For your information, the material in these MURKIN communications was made available to Harold Weisberg (mentioned in the Anderson/Whitten article), under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

As you may recall, the Task Force from your office, which reviewed the FBI's investigation of Martin Luther King, Jr., had access to these above described MURKIN communications.

A review has been made of the indices and files, including our electronic surveillance indices at FBI Headquarters regarding this request of Mr. Pepper.

(During this review, the MURKIN file showed that in May of 1968, Albert and Carol Pepper had their home telephone number changed to an unpublished number of 645-9152, at the same address of 2025 Belleview). In addition, since Mr. Pepper states "... so the records, if any, may be located in the St. Louis F.B.I. field office," this same type of review was made at our St. Louis FBI Field Office.

Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.

Based upon this review both at FBI Headquarters and our St. Louis Field Office, no record could be located showing that any electronic surveillance was conducted by the FBI on the persons of Albert or Carol Pepper or that any entry or electronic surveillance was conducted by the FBI on any properties or telephone numbers listed under their names, or on the specific addresses and telephone numbers previously set forth: the home of Albert and Carol Pepper (2025 Delleview), telephone numbers 645-2948 and 645-9152; the Grapevine Tavern (1982 Arsenal), telephone number PR6-9417; or at the present address of Albert Pepper (523 Franru Lane).

- 1 ~ Mr. Robert L. Keuch (Enclosures 3)
 Special Counsel to the Attorney General
- 1 Assistant Attorney General (Enclosures 3) Civil Rights Division

Mr. Michael E. Shaheen, Jr.

NOTE: This responds to a request from the Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, as to whether the FBI ever illegally entered the home or other properties of Albert Pepper and installed a microphone surveillance. Albert Pepper was the husband of Carol Pepper, a sister of James Earl Ray. (Ray was subsequently convicted in local court for the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.).

This advises the Department that no record could be located of any electronic surveillance based upon a review at FBIHQ and at our St. Louis Field Office. (Based upon a request by FBIHQ, our St. Louis Field Office advised by teletype dated 4/26/78, that no record of any electronic surveillance regarding this matter could be located).

APPROVED:

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APR 1 4 1978 OPR

Letter from Mr. Albert Pepper

Thomas J. Biamonte, Inspector-Deputy
Assistant Director
Office of Professional Responsibility
Federal Bureau of Investigation

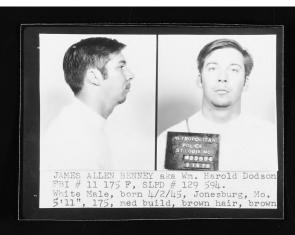
This is in reference to the attached letter of Albert Pepper dated March 12, 1978. As you can see from his letter, Mr. Pepper requests whether the FBI ever illegally entered his home or other properties and installed a microphone surveillance.

We are referring this matter to your Office for appropriate inquiry. Please advise us of your findings so that we can respond to Mr. Pepper.

15/

Michael E. Shaheen, Jr., Counsel Office of Professional Responsibility

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2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



JERRY LEE MILLER FBI No. 79,774 E

1969-19886-17

JERRY LEE MILLER

FBI No. 79,774 E

BANK ROBBERY; PAROLE VIOLATOR

F.P.C.: 4 S 1 U 3 S 1 Ut

Photographs on left taken 1970, other taken 1969

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REPRODUCTION OF MATERIAL FORM CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT

DATE 6.22.77 thru 6.1378

The following material has been reproduced for excising and review at FBIHQ and/or delivery to the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

(See Bufile 62-117290; re HSCA request dated Remains)

FILE NO. 44-3866/
SECTION 92

SERIALS 6218 through 6260

(except following serials not in file on this date:)
6256

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Advised 6/22/78

Telephone Rm. Director's Sec'y

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OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

P 211246Z JUN 78

FM LØNDON (88-228)

TO DIRECTOR FBI (62 11/200) PRIORITY 228-21

ΒT

UNCLAS E F T O

MURKIN.

ALEX EIST, FORMERLY NEW SCOTLAND YARD - COMPLAINANT.

REFERENCE IS MADE TO COMMUNICATIONS IN BUFILE, HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS. (BUFILE 62-1 7290) (HSCA).

ON 6/20/78, ALEC EIST, OWNER GREEN MAN PUBLIC HOUSE, SIX MILE
BOTTOM, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ENGLAND, TELEPHONE 247, TELEPHONED AMERICAN
EMBASSY, LONDON, ASKING FOR FBI. CLAIMED WORKED WITH LEGAT OFFICE
WHEN WAS WITH FLYING SQUAD OF NEW SCOTLAND YARD (NSY). AS SUCH
WAS IN ON APPREHENSION OF JAMES EARL RAY IN LONDON AND WAS WITH HIM
THEREAFTER CONTINUALLY. KNOWS THERE IS CERTAIN CONTROVERSY IN
THE CASE AND LOTS OF NEWSPAPER REPORTING CONCERNING RAY. HE IS
ABOUT TO MAKE A MOVE IN THIS MATTER, "A FINANCIAL" MOVE BUT WANTS
TO TALK TO SOMEONE FROM LEGAT OFFICE FIRST OUT OF LOYALIY.

REFUSES TO COME TO LONDON.

REC.79

EIST WELL KNOWN TO NSY, FORMERLY WITH FLYING SQUAD AND
BELIEVED PARTICIPATED IN RAY ESCORT. SUSPENDED FROM NSY AND RECENTLY ACQUITTED OF CORRUPTION CHARGES. CONSIDERED CONTROVERSIAL AND

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U.S. DEPT OF JUSTICE 9 43 AM 178

PAGE TWO

DISAFFECTED. NSY DOES NOT CONSIDER HE COULD HAVE INFO OF VALUE

AS NOT PART OF INTERROGATIONS, NEVER ALONE WITH RAY AND ANYTHING

OF INTEREST WOULD HAVE BEEN FORWARDED IN REPORTS FURNISHED AT THE

TIME.

CONSIDERED HE HAS SOME SORT OF INFORMATION DEROGATORY TO MSY WHICH WILL TRY TO PEDDLE TO LEGAT OR PRESS.

NEVERTHELESS UACB WILL BE CONTACTED AND ADVISED TWO LEGAT PERSONNEL WILL MEET WITH HIM IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

NO INDICATION THIS RELATED TO PROPOSED HSCA VISIT TO LONDON.

MATTER WILL BE COORDINATED WITH NSY.

CIRRECTION - FIRST LINE OF MESSAGE - NAME IS ALEC NOT "ALEX"
BT

R 231625Z JUN 78

FM LONDON (88-228)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE 640-23

23 Jun 78 21 / 19 z

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Assoc. Dir. Dep. AD Adm. Dep. AD Inv. Asst. Dir.: Adm. Serv. 4 Crim. Inv Ident. intell. Laboratory Legal Coun. Plan, & Insp Rec. Mgnt. Tech. Sarva Training Public Affs. Off. Telephone Rm. Director's Sec'y

UNCLAS E F T O

RELONTEL JUNE 21, 1978.

ON JUNE 22, 1978, ALEXANDED EIST, WILLOW COTTAGE, NINE HIGH STREET, WEST WRATTING, CAMBRIDGESHIRE, ENGLAND, WHO IS A FORMER METROPOLITAN POLICE, LONDON, OFFICER, WAS CONTACTED AT HIS REQUEST.

EIST ADVISED THAT WHILE A DETECTIVE SERGEANT WITH THE METROPOLITAN POLICE, LONDON, HE WAS ASSIGNED FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR MONTHS
TO GUARD JAMES EARL RAY WHILE HE WAS INCAR CERATED IN ENGLAND, AND
DURING HIS APPEARANCES IN COURT, ETC., IN CONNECTION WITH HIS ARREST
IN ENGLAND AS A RESULT OF THE MURDER OF REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING.
EIST RECENTLY READ IN THE NEW SPAPERS THAT THE U.S. CONGRESS WAS REVIEWING THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF THE KING CASE, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE
CONSPIRACY THEORY. DEC. 54.

EIST NOTED THAT DURING HIS STAY WITH RAY, HE DEVELOPED A CLOSE RAPPORT, AND AT NO TIME DID RAY EVER GIVE ANY INDICATION OF ANY ONE OTHER THAN RAY HIMSELF AS BEING INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF KING; RATHER, RAY INDICATED THE EXACT OPPOSITE AND BRAGGED THAT HE

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PAGE TWO LON 88-228 UNCLASE F T O
WAS PROUD OF THE FACT HE ALONE WAS ABLE TO KILL KING. EIST
ADVISED HE WAS VERY IMPRESSED WITH THE FBI HANDLING OF THE RAY CASE
DURING EIST'S ASSOCIATION WITH IT, AND WOULD BE AMENABLE TO INTERVIEW BY ANYONE REGARDING HIS ASSOCIATION WITH RAY.

NO PERTINENT INFORMATION DEVELOPED DURING INTERVIEW, AND COMPLETE RESULTS OF INTERVIEW WILL BE FORWARDED AT LATER DATE. BT

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FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-4).						
	FBI Date: 6/28/78					
Transmit the following in						
Transmit the following in	(Type in plaintext or code)					
ViaAIRTEL	(Precedence)					
TO	DIRECTOR, FBI					
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Enclosed herewith are five copies of an LHM dated 6/28/78, setting forth results of interview with ALEXANDER EIST, Cambridgeshire, England.						
EIST advised he had recently read in the newspapers and heard on the radio that the U. S. Congress was reviewing the FBI investigation of the KING case to include the possible conspiracy theory and for this reason EIST contacted Legat, London, advising that at no time during his association with RAY was there ever any indication of an accomplice with RAY and that he was willing to be interviewed by any authority regarding his knowledge of RAY. He advised he was very impressed with the FBI's handling of the RAY case in England including the thorough interviews and tight security that was afforded RAY. He noted that any pertinent comments by RAY to him during his incarceration in England was reported to his seniors.						
ENCLOSURE EX-125						
REC-79						
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EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Grosvenor Square
London, England

88-228

June 28, 1978

Re: Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING

On June 22, 1978, Assistant Legal Attaches
DENNIS R. DICKSON and ROBERT A. KEANE, traveled to Cambridgeshire,
England, to contact Mr. ALEXANDER EIST, Willow Cottage, 9 High
Street, West Wratting, Cambridgeshire, England, at his request.
EIST is the publican at the "Green Man" pub, Six Mile Bottom,
Cambridgeshire, England. EIST advised that he was formerly
employed by the Metropolitan Police, London, and has recently
retired.

During his employment with the Metropolitan Police, one of his assignments was to guard and escort JAMES EARL RAY who was arrested in London, England, in connection with the assassination of Reverend MARTIN LUTHER KING. EIST stated that during the approximately four months when RAY was incarcerated in England awaiting extradition to the United States it was EIST's assignment to be present in the cell with RAY and to escort him weekly to the court for remand hearings.

EIST advised that as a result of having spent so much time with RAY he developed a very close rapport and RAY became very talkative with him. RAY admitted that he had escaped from a Missouri prison by hanging on to the undercarriage of a prison laundry vehicle or garbage truck.

With regard to the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, RAY on many occasions admitted that he killed KING and on no occasion did RAY ever indicate that there was an accomplice with him, but rather he expressed and even bragged that he was proud of the fact that he alone was able to kill KING. RAY stated that the only mistake he made was that upon leaving the boarding house he was carrying the rifle he used to kill KING and spotted a police officer in the area. He subsequently dropped the rifle in the doorway to a shop and continued on his way, knowing full-well that his prints were on the weapon and that the investigation would subsequently lead to him.

44-3886/-6264 ENCLOSURE LON 88-228

RAY indicated that he was a loner and did not associate with anyone else and that the only person he received assistance from was his brother, believed by EIST to be his elder brother, and according to RAY his brother accompanied him on several robberies subsequent to his escape from the Missouri prison.

EIST stated that he had recently been in conversation with a U. S. Air Force major who is stationed in England and upon hearing that EIST was involved in the RAY case suggested that EIST should sell his story to a newsman. EIST advised that during his assignment with RAY he reported to his superiors any comments made by RAY and thus the appropriate authorities were in possession of all pertinent information. He did not desire to contact any newsmen regarding his story, however, was willing to be interviewed by any official authority regarding his association with RAY in England.

The above interview was conducted by Assistant Legal Attache DENNIS R. DICKSON, in the presence of Assistant Legal Attache ROBERT A. KEANE, on June 22, 1978.

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FM TAMPA (157-3231) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ROUTINE

ATLANTA (44-2386) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (44-1987) ROUTINE

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OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

DRS SECTION

Assoc. Dir. Dep. AD Adm. Dep. AD Inv. Asst. Dir.: Adm. Serv Crim. Inv. Ident. Intell. Laboratory Legal Coun. Plan, & Insp. Rec. Mgnt. Tech. Servs Training Public Affs, Off. Telephone Rm. Directoris Sec'y

RE TAMPA AIRTELS JULY 2, 1974 AND DECEMBER 19, 1975, 6
WITH ENCLOSED LHMS CAPTIONED, "JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM."

ON JULY 26, 1978, SGT. ROBERT THOMA'S WEHUNT, JR.,

HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON, MAC DILL AFB (MAFB), TAMPA, FLA.,

HOME ADDRESS, 3109 HARTNETT AVE., TAMPA, FLA., CAME TO THE

TAMPA OFFICE (TPO) OF THE FBI AND ADVISED THAT HE HAD READ AN

ARTICLE IN "THE TAMPA TRIBUNE" OF JULY376, 1978, TO THE EFFECT OF REC. 50

THAT A RUSSELL G. BYERS HAD TOLD THE HOUSE ASSASSINATION

COMMITTEE THAT HE HAD BEEN OFFERED MONEY ON BEHALF OF A GROUP OF 1978

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SEE FILE COPY

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PAGE TWO TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

BUSINESSMEN TO KILL DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. JR. IN 1966 OR EARLY 1967. SGT. WEHUNT ADVISED THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED INFORMATION TO THE TPO OF THE FBI IN 1974. TO THE EFFECT THAT HIS FATHER, WHO WAS FORMERLY A GUARD AT THE FULTON COUNTY JAIL. ATLANTA. GEORGIA. HAD STATEMENTS FROM CONVICTS IN THE FULTON COUNTY JAIL THAT THESE CONVICTS HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY VERY INFLUENTIAL BUSINESSMEN TO KILL DR. KING FOR ONE-HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. SGT. WEHUNT ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT FEEL THAT APPROPRIATE ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN CONCERNING THE INFORMATION THAT HE HAD FURNISHED AS HIS MOTHER AND SISTER HAD NEVER BEEN INTERVIEWED. SGT. WEHUNT STATED THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH THE LEGAL ADVISOR AT MAFB CONCERNING THIS MATTER AND WAS ADVISED TO RECONTACT THE TPO OF THE FBI. SGT. WEHUNT MADE AVAILABLE A THREE PAGE STATEMENT THAT HE HAD WRITTEN OUT AND WHICH HE HAD SIGNED. THIS STATEMENT IS AS FOLLOWS:

"IN 1966-67 MY FATHER HAD STATEMENTS THAT I SAW THAT WAS MADE BY APP-3 PRISONERS AT THE FULTON COUNTY JAIL THAT STATED THEY WERE OFFERED LARGE SUMS OF MONEY TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER

PAGE THREE TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

KING. JR. MY FATHER WAS A DEPUTY SHERIFF OF FULTON COUNTY AND WAS WORKING AT THE FULTON COUNTY JAIL AT THE TIME. (OVER 9 YEARS). I SAW THE STATEMENTS. I DO NOT REMEMBER THE NAMES. HOWEVER. I DO REMEMBER THAT THERE WERE THREE PEOPLE MY FATHER DESCRIBED AS INFLUENTIAL BUSINESS MEN WHO OFFERED THE MONEY. LATER MY FATHER TOLD ME HE HAD TRIED TO TURN THE STATEMENTS OVER TO THE GBI AND WAS TOLD HE HAD BETTER NOT IF HE WANTED TO LIVE. LATER HE TOLD ME THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD IF HE TOLD ANY ONE THEY WOULD KILL MY FATHER AND HIS ENTIRE FAMILY. MY FATHER ALSO TOLD ME THAT HE KEPT THE STATEMENTS AND A LARGE SUM OF MONEY THAT HE HINTED TO BEING AROUND \$3 MILLION TO 3! MILLION DOLLARS. LATER MY MOTHER TOLD ME SHE THOUGH MY FATHER TOLD HER HE TURNED THE STATEMENTS OVER TO A MAN WHO WAS GOING TO WRITE A BOOK. THE MAN'S NAME IS BOB SOMETHING - MY MOTHER KNOWS HIS NAME. MY FATHER DIED IN 1973 AND I TOLD ALL THIS TO THE FBI IN 1974.

I DO NOT KNOW THE NAME OF THE BANK WHERE MY FATHER

PAGE FOUR TP 157-3231 UNCLAS

KEPT THE STATEMENTS BUT IT WAS LOCATED IN LITTLE FIVE POINTS IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. MY SISTER, NOW MRS. WAYNE UPSHAW OF STONE MT. GEORGIA, SAID SHE TYPED THE STATEMENTS FOR MY FATHER. MY MOTHER, ALMA L. WEHUNT OF 3015 ALBATROSS LANE, DECATUR, GEORGIA, KNOWS, PROBALLY, MORE THAN I, HOWEVER, I KNOW SHE IS SCARED ABOUT TALKING ABOUT IT.

MY NAME IS ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR. OF 3109 HARTNETT AVE., TAMPA, FLA. 33611 - TEL. 839-7281. I WORK AT A 56 HEADQUARTERS SQ. MACDILL AFB. TEL# 830-3942-2724.

MY FATHER HAD A NICK NAME OF TWILIKER. (SPELLING UNKNOWN). I TALKED TO CPT. WHITE, LEGAL OFFICE AT MAC DILL WHO DIRECTED ME HERE AFTER TALKING TO HIS FRIEND, A FBI AGENT IN CALIFORNIA. SIGNED: ROBERT T. WEHUNT. JR."

SGT. WEHUNT WAS ADVISED THAT THE INFORMATION THAT HE HAD PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO THE TPO OF THE FBI HAD BEEN FURNISHED TO FBIHQ AND IN TURN WAS FORWARDED TO THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIV. OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

BT

0-70 (Rev. 3-28-72)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

то

: Assistant Attorney General

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

FROM : Director, FBI (44-38861)

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

APRIL 4, 1968 MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Reference is made to memorandum dated(your file).
There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent dated at
A. This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.
B The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.
C. The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.
D. Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.
E. Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.
F This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.
G. This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.
H. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.
Enc. (3) MOLOSURE

DATE:

July 28, 1978

AAG/Criminal Division

SEE ATTACHED NOTE.

Assistant Attorney General Civil Rights Division Page 2

MOTE: Attached is a teletype received July 27, 1978 from the Tampa Office of the FBI containing information received from Sgt. Robert Thomas Wehunt, Jr., Tampa, Florida. This information was previously furnished the FBI as reported in memorandum dated July 2, 1974 and December 19, 1975, copies of which are attached for information.

7 9 JAN



In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Tampa, Florida
December 19, 1975

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

Reference is made to Tampa memorandum dated July 2, 1974.

On December 12, 1975, Robert Thomas Wehunt, Jr., 3109 Hartnett Avenue, Tampa, Florida, telephonically contacted the Tampa Office of the FBI and advised that on December 12, 1975, Angel Castillo, a reporter for the "St. Petersburg Times," a daily newspaper published in St. Petersburg, Florida, had contacted Wehunt and had requested that Wehunt telephone collect to John Crewdson, a reporter for the "New York Times," a daily newspaper published in New York, New York. Mr. Wehunt advised that Castillo indicated that Crewdson should be contacted by telephone number 202-293-3100.

Wehunt advised that he subsequently contacted John Crewdson at the above-listed telephone number at which time Crewdson indicated that he desired to come to Tampa, Florida, to interview Wehunt concerning information that Wehunt had previously furnished to the FBI concerning three signed statements that Wehunt's father had obtained from convicts in the Fulton County Jail, Atlanta, Georgia, indicating that these convicts had been approached by very influential businessmen to kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for \$100,000. Wehunt stated that from his conversation with John Crewdson it was obvious to him that Crewdson had obtained the results of the interview of Wehunt by an FBI Agent of the Tampa Office which interview took place on July 1, 1974. Wehunt advised that he did not give a definite answer to Crewdson but indicated that he would recontact Crewdson at which time he would furnish a definite answer.

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.

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

Webunt advised that he desired to bring this to the attention of the FBI and he indicated that he planned to contact Angel Castillo and have Castillo contact Crewdson to notify Crewdson that Webunt did not desire to be interviewed inasmuch as Crewdson apparently had all of the information that Webunt had previously furnished to the FBI. In addition, Webunt advised that he was going to notify Castillo that he is fearful of his life if it becomes public knowledge that he furnished information to the FBI to the effect that very influential businessmen had plotted to kill Dr. King.

On December 17, 1975, Wehunt telephonically contacted the Tampa Office and advised that upon instructions from his attorney he had contacted John Crewdson telephonically and had advised Crewdson that he did not desire to be interviewed by Crewdson.

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TP 157-3231

Tampa indices do not contain any information identifiable with ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR. or SR.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Planes Refer to File No.

Tampa, Florida July 2, 1974

JAMES EARL RAY:

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. JR. -

VICTIM

On July 1, 1974, Robert Thomas Wehunt, Jr. personally appeared at the Tampa Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the company of his wife, Annette Jean Wehunt, maiden name Balsinger, and Wehunt furnished the following information:

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.

44-3-1-54 Littlesing

Date of transcription July 2, 1974

ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR., 3109 Hartnett Avenue, Tampa, Florida, personally appeared at the Tampa, Florida, Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent, the nature of the inquiry and that any information he furnished could be used in a court of law. He did not desire to furnish a signed statement but orally furnished the following information:

WEHUNT has been in the U. S. Air Force for the past six years, and he is presently a Staff Sergeant in the First Munition Maintenance Squadron at MacDill Air Force Base (AFB), Tampa, Florida. He recently read in the newspaper that JAMES EARL RAY, who was convicted of killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in 1968, is attempting to get a new trial and is stating that he wants to tell who was involved with him in this killing. This article reminded WEHUNT of information that he had received from his father, ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, SR., in 1968. WEHUNT furnished this information to his Commanding Officer, Major OZOL. Major OZOL referred WEHUNT to Colonel HOLMES of the Legal Office of MacDill AFB, who in turn referred WEHUNT to the Federal Bureau of Investigation Office in Tampa.

WEHUNT's father was a criminal investigator in the U. S. Army for 20 years. After his father retired from the Army, he worked as an investigator for Fidelofax, later for a bonding company and then for eight years as a guard at the Fulton County Jail, Atlanta, Georgia, up until his death in August, 1973.

Approximately two months after KING's death in 1968, WEHUNT's father showed WEHUNT, WEHUNT's mother, ALMA LOUISE WEHUNT, maiden name RALSTON, and WEHUNT's sister, JANET UPSHAW, maiden name WEHUNT, at least three signed statements that WEHUNT's father stated he had obtained from "hard-core" convicts in the Fulton County Jail. Each statement stated that these convicts had been approached by "very influential businessmen" to kill Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. for \$100,000.

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interviewed on	7/1/74	a_ Tampa,	Florida	File & Tampa	157-323
		·-·-·-	•	File : Tampa Memphi	8 44-1987
by	SA JOHN A	LLEN HARTINGH:	sf	7/2/74	

This document contains neither recommandations not conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI end is looned to your agency;

TP 157-3231

At this time WEHUNT's father was a jailor and he told WEHUNT that these criminals furnished him this information and he took it from them in the form of signed statements. The father told WEHUNT that on one occasion he attempted to turn these statements over to proper authorities for investigation but that the father's life and that of his family were threatened, and the father told WEHUNT that he had decided to keep his mouth shut. The father did not tell WEHUNT to whom he had offered the statements or who had threatened the father.

The father formerly had these statements and other related papers at his house in Atlanta, Georgia, but after the father died in August, 1973, WEHUNT and his mother attempted to locate these papers but to date they have not located them. WEHUNT assumes that it is possible his father had a safe deposit box that no one has yet discovered and that possibly the statements and papers are contained in the safe deposit box.

WEHUNT cannot recall names of the individuals who furnished the statements or names of the "very influential businessmen", but these names were all contained in the statements.

WEHUNT doubts that his mother or sister would recall any additional information about the statements or that contained in the statements, and WEHUNT does not know of anyone else who has any information concerning these statements.

WEHUNT noted that shortly before the death of his father his father was an alcoholic and he had many girl friends and more money than he could have possibly been earning as a jail guard. WEHUNT, therefore, at that time surmised that it was possible that his father had been paid off by unknown individuals to remain quiet about the statements.

WEHUNT mentioned this story to his commanding officer about two months ago but the commanding officer did not give WEHUNT any response to it and WEHUNT dropped the matter at that time. WEHUNT brought this matter up at this time after reading the newspaper article about RAY and after thinking that if RAY talks possibly WEHUNT and his father's name might be brought up and there might be some danger to WEHUNT and

TP 157-3231

his family. WEHUNT noted that another reason that he never mentioned this story to anyone before is because he did not feel that anyone would believe him. WEHUNT advised that if he recalled any additional information or was able to develop any additional information he would immediately recontact the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The following descriptive data was obtained through observation and interview:

Name:
Race:
Sex:
Born:
Place of Birth:
Height:
Weight:
Education:

Disabilities: Social Security Account No.: Employment:

Base, Tampa, Florida
Business Telephone No.: 830-4311
Residence: 3109 Hartnett Avenue

Wife:

Race:
Sex:
Born:
Place of Birth:
Mother:

Residence:

Telephone No.: Employment:

ROBERT THOMAS WEHUNT, JR. White Male &

Ft. McPherson, Georgia 5'11" 175 lbs. Graduate of Walker High

School, Atlanta, Georgia None

Statt Sergeant, U. S. Air Force, First Mamition Maintenance Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida

3109 Hartnett Avenue Tampa, Florida ANNETTE JEAN WEHUNT, maiden name BALSINGER White Female

Commersville, Indiana ALMA LOUISE WEHUNT, maiden name RALSTON Albatross Lane Decatur, Georgia 404-241-5253 Sears and Roebuck Ponce De Leon Atlanta, Georgia