

PAGE TWO ME 44-1987 SUB M

EVER BEING INSTITUTIONALIZED FOR MENTAL PROBLEMS, ALTHOUGH HE WAS SUPPOSEDLY JAILED AT NEW BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS IN 1975 AFTER THEIR DIVORCE.

SINCE DIVORCE, WILSON CALLS HER FREQUENTLY AND ON THIS PAST THURSDAY, 8-17-78, HE PHONED AT ABOUT 10 TO 10:30 P.M. CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME. HER SON, [REDACTED] AGE 14, ANSWERED THE PHONE BUT SHE LISTENED ON THE EXTENSION. WILSON WAS VERY DRUNK AND TOLD [REDACTED] HE WOULD BE ON TV SOON AS HE HAD KILLED MARTIN LUTHER KING. WILSON SAID THE FBI WOULD ARREST HIM SOON THEN HUNG UP.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME WILSON EVER MENTIONED KING AS THE TOPIC OF KING'S ASSASSINATION NEVER CAME UP DURING THEIR MARRIAGE. WILSON HAS NEVER MENTIONED JAMES EARL RAY TO HER. SHE KNOWS NONE OF WILSON'S ASSOCIATES AND DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HE WAS IN APRIL, 1968. MRS. HUNTER ADVISED WILSON'S STORY ABOUT KILLING KING WAS ATTEMPT ON HIS PART TO GAIN ATTENTION.
BT.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

TO : Mr. Bassett *HNB/R*

FROM : D. Ryan *DR*

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.
APRIL 4, 1968
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
MURKIN

1 - Mr. J. B. Adams
1 - Mr. J. J. McDermott

DATE: 8/18/78

1 - Mr. H. A. Boynton, Jr.
1 - Mr. J. A. Mintz
(Attn: R. Heller)
1 - Mr. D. W. Moore, Jr.
(Attn: H. Helterhoff)
1 - Mr. H. N. Bassett
1 - Mr. W. L. Bailey
1 - Mr. D. Ryan
1 - Mr. G. J. Foster

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Reference Jackson teletype to the Bureau this date, captioned "Select Committee on Assassinations, U. S. House of Representatives," Bureau file 62-117290, concerning information received regarding Wilson.

PURPOSE: To set forth information received and subsequent action taken concerning a Burgess Audie Wilson. *(9D3)*

SYNOPSIS: Information has been received from our Jackson and Memphis Offices which indicates that a Burgess Audie Wilson claims to have assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Discussions have been had with Deputy Assistant Attorney General (DAAG) Robert L. Keuch, Criminal Division, U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ), who has advised that efforts should be undertaken by the FBI, with or without the cooperation of the Sheriff of Shelby County, Tennessee, in order to locate and interview Wilson to obtain whatever information he has to offer on the assassination of Dr. King. The House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) has been advised of information received to date. Results of Bureau file searches are set forth.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

REC-79

44-38861-6306X
23 SEP 25 1978

EX-124

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ENCLOSURE

Enclosure

44-38861

DJC:lfj 18
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66 OCT 24 1978

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

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SEE DETAILS PAGE 2

FBI/DOJ

REC'D - 10/10/78

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS

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CLERK

10/10/78

Memorandum to Mr. Bassett
Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
April 4, 1968
Memphis, Tennessee
MURKIN
44-38861

DETAILS: At approximately 9:45 a.m. this date, ASAC Murray, Jackson Division, telephonically advised that at approximately 1:15 a.m. this date a William Gladden had telephonically contacted the Jackson Office and advised that an acquaintance, Bill Wilson, claimed to have killed Dr. King and was now willing to surrender to the Sheriff of Shelby County, Tennessee, at the Holiday Inn in Biloxi, Mississippi, on this date. Jackson was requested to sutel information received, followed by an LHM.

At approximately 10 a.m., SAC, Memphis Division, telephonically advised that he had received a telephone call from Sheriff Barksdale, Shelby County, Tennessee, who advised that a Burgess Audie Wilson had telephoned him twice and advised that he (Wilson) had been the "trigger man" in the assassination of Dr. King, that his daughter had driven the white Mustang, and that he would surrender only to Sheriff Barksdale at the Holiday Inn, Biloxi, Mississippi, at 9:30 a.m. on 8/20/78.

Subsequent to the receipt of this information, DAAG Robert L. Keuch, DOJ, was informed of the above, at which time he requested that immediate oral dissemination of the information be made to the HSCA. Accordingly, the information was transmitted to Committee representative Gerald Hamilton. Mr. Keuch also instructed that any media inquiries received by the FBI were to be referred to the DOJ. This information was transmitted to Memphis, Jackson, and Public Affairs Office, FBI Headquarters.

Since it was anticipated that Sheriff Barksdale would inquire as to the desires of the FBI and DOJ in this matter, Mr. Keuch advised that he would confer with the Civil Rights Division of the Department.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Bassett
Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
April 4, 1968
Memphis, Tennessee
MURKIN
44-38861

Subsequently, at 11:35 a.m., Memphis Division advised that the meeting between Barksdale and Wilson had changed to the Holiday Inn at Gulfport, Mississippi, on 8/18/78.

At approximately noon this date, contact was had with Mr. Keuch to inform him of the change in the meeting time and place, at which time Mr. Keuch advised that his office had received a call for him from Sheriff Barksdale. Mr. Keuch further advised that as a result of discussions with Deputy Attorney General Turner, Civil Rights Division, DOJ, it had been agreed that Sheriff Barksdale would be requested to meet with Wilson in order to ask Wilson to provide a statement to the FBI or, in the event that Wilson refused this request, that Sheriff Barksdale himself obtain the statement from Wilson. In addition, Mr. Keuch advised that since Sheriff Barksdale had attempted to contact him personally, he would prefer to pass these requests to SAC Trimbach in Memphis himself and also to ask the Memphis Office to attempt to identify the daughter of Wilson and Wilson's father-in-law who was reportedly residing in Memphis, Tennessee.

At approximately 12:20 p.m., SAC Trimbach called to confirm the requests received from Mr. Keuch and advised that his office would contact Sheriff Barksdale accordingly. Also at this time, SAC, Memphis, advised that information received from Sheriff Barksdale indicated that Wilson is known by FBI number 879 421 E, having last been arrested 3/1/76 on a theft charge. SAC Trimbach was advised that FBI Headquarters was in continual contact with DAAG Keuch and that Memphis Division should comply with the requests of DOJ.

At 2:40 p.m., ASAC Richard Blay, Memphis Division, advised that contact with Sheriff Barksdale disclosed that Sheriff Barksdale was unable to travel to Gulfport, Mississippi,

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Bassett
Re: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
April 4, 1968
Memphis, Tennessee
MURKIN
44-38861

and meet with Wilson at this time since the potential for civil disorder and resultant demands on law enforcement in Memphis, Tennessee, were enormous. Sheriff Barksdale further advised that he has received numerous threats against his life in the recent past and he could not be certain that this was not an effort to place his life in jeopardy. ASAC Blay further advised that Sheriff Barksdale was amenable to any cooperative effort that might facilitate the FBI's location and interview of Wilson.

At 2:45 p.m., contact was had with Mr. Keuch and he concurred in an FBI effort to locate and interview Burgess A. Wilson in order to ascertain the facts of this matter.

At 2:50 p.m., ASAC Blay was advised to proceed with a course of action that would result in the location and interview of Burgess Wilson and further to coordinate all efforts with the Jackson Division.

INFORMATION IN BUREAU FILES

Based on information initially furnished, Burgess A. Wilson was not immediately identifiable in Bureau files. However, upon receipt of FBI Identification report, FBI number 879 421 E (copy attached), which showed that Burgess Audie Wilson had been arrested in San Antonio, Texas, and New Braunfels, Texas, it was then determined that he appears identical to Bureau document 89-2207-1 wherein, on 7/12/72, Burgess A. Wilson, New Braunfels, Texas, furnished information concerning an alleged threat made against Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez. Bureau document 65-65718-4 sets forth information received from the San Francisco Office in 1959 relating to a Staff Sergeant Burgess A. Wilson, Jr., who had furnished information concerning a possible espionage case. This information may or may not be identical to Burgess Audie Wilson.

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20537**

8-18-76 gh 808

879 421 E

Use of the following FBI record, NUMBER _____, is REGULATED BY LAW. It is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY and should ONLY BE USED FOR PURPOSE REQUESTED. When further explanation of arrest charge or disposition is needed, communicate directly with the agency that contributed the fingerprints.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Sheriff's Office Los Angeles California	Burgess Audie Wilson C-097479	May, 14 1964	suspicious of fugitive from Tennessee	
Police Department Memphis Tennessee	Burgess Audie Wilson Junior 89999	May, 26 1964	Investigation (Violation Bad Check Law)	Refer to Sheriff's Office Nolle Prosequi on payment of cost
Sheriff's Office Memphis Tennessee	Burgess Audie Wilson Junior 28462	May, 27 1964	Capias (passing bad checks)	
Sheriff's Office Memphis Tennessee	Burgess Audie Wilson Junior 28462	March 24 1965	forgery of checks-state of Mississippi Warrant	
Civil Service Commission	Burgess Audie Wilson Junior CH 67 031794	September 21 1966		
Bexar County Jail San Antonio Texas	Burgess Audie Wilson	June 19 1972	Contempt of Court #F248-084	
Sheriff's Office New Braunfels Texas	Burgess A Wilson Junior A-8491	March 1 1976	Theft over \$200	
				This record is furnished for your official use and should not be further reproduced or disseminated.

44-38861-6306X
ENCLOSURE

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987-SUB M) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH
BUILDING.

MURKIN.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO FBIHQ AND JACKSON, AUGUST 18,
1978, AND MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS TO FBIHQ AND JACKSON,
AUGUST 18, 1978.

AT 3:15 P.M., ON AUGUST 18, 1978, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON
TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED SHERIFF GENE BARKSDALE, SHELBY
COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. WILSON STATED
HE WILL APPEAR AT THE HOLIDAY INN DINING ROOM, GULFPORT
MISSISSIPPI, WITH REVEREND ROEL FANNON, PASTOR, ST. ELIZABETH
SETON CATHOLIC CHURCH, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, AT

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PAGE TWO ME 44-1987-SUB M UNCLAS E F T O

6:30 P.M., ON AUGUST 18, 1978. SHERIFF BARKSDALE DOES NOT PLAN TO LEAVE MEMPHIS AND MEET WITH WILSON. SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE JACKSON DIVISION WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT WILSON AND INTERVIEW HIM REGARDING INFORMATION HE PREVIOUSLY FURNISHED TO SHERIFF BARKSDALE INDICATING HE KILLED DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN 1968.

JACKSON WILL PROMPTLY FURNISH FBIHQ AND MEMPHIS RESULTS OF CONTACT WITH WILSON. IF DEEMED APPROPRIATE AFTER INTERVIEW, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF WILSON RE VERACITY OF ALLEGATION AND PRESENCE IN MEMPHIS DURING CRITICAL PERIOD AND IF WILSON HAS HISTORY OF PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT.

THE MEMPHIS OFFICE WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW WILSON'S FATHER-IN-LAW, VERNON HOOTEN, WHO REPORTEDLY RESIDES IN THE MEMPHIS AREA, RE ANY INFORMATION OF WILSON'S ALLEGATION.

BT

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FM DALLAS (44-2649) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) IMMEDIATE

✓ MEMPHIS (44-1987) (SUB M) IMMEDIATE

✓ JACKSON (62-544) IMMEDIATE

BT

UNCLAS

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH.

MURKIN: OO: MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS TELCALL TO DALLAS, AUGUST 21, 1978.

BY REFERENCE, MEMPHIS REQUESTED STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON
BE RECONTACTED RE HIS KNOWLEDGE OF JAPANESE SNIPER
RIFLE WHICH HIS FATHER, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, ALLEGED TO
HAVE OBTAINED FROM A MITCH, NO DATE INDICATED.

STEPHEN WAYNE WILSON, 3117 LIVINGSTON, FORT WORTH,
TEXAS, CONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED AS
FOLLOWS:

THE WILSONS WERE CLOSELY-KNIT FAMILY, AND WERE

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UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE TWO

CONSCIOUS OF EACH OTHER'S ACTIVITIES. HE IS POSITIVE HIS FATHER OBTAINED THE JAPANESE RIFLE FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE AFTER HE WAS IN THE MILITARY SERVICE, WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN AFTER 1970. RECALLED HIS DAD SHOWING IT TO HIM WHEN HE CAME HOME ON MILITARY LEAVE. STEVEN NEVER FIRED THE WEAPON BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID THAT IT WOULD NOT FUNCTION PROPERLY, AND SECONDLY, BECAUSE THEY NEVER HAD ANY AMMUNITION FOR THE RIFLE. HE PERSONALLY NEVER KNEW OF HIS DAD USING THE WEAPON. HIS DAD HAD THE STOCK OF THE WEAPON WORKED ON BY A FRIEND WHO WAS A FURNITURE REFINISHER IN CANYON LAKE, TEXAS, BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY WORK EVER DONE ON THE RIFLE. THE GUN WAS OF JAPANESE MANUFACTURER, AS IT HAD JAPANESE PRINTING ON ITS VARIOUS PARTS.

WILSON'S DAD GAVE THE GUN TO HIM WHILE HE WAS IN THE SERVICE, AND HE HOOKED THE RIFLE AT A PAWN SHOP IN SAN ANTONIO SOMETIME IN THE EARLY 1970'S, DATE UNRECALLED. HE HAS NO RECEIPT OR BILL OF LADING FOR THE RIFLE.

MARK WILSON, 514 SOUTHEAST GARDENS, BURLESON, TEXAS, CONTACTED AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THE FOLLOWING:

UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE THREE

HE PERSONALLY HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS FATHER'S WEAPONS, AS HE HAS NO INTEREST IN THEM. HIS DAD WAS DEFINITELY AT HOME IN GRANDVIEW, TEXAS, TAKING CARE OF HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER AT THE TIME DR. KING WAS KILLED IN MEMPHIS. HIS DAD FLEW HIS PLANE, A BONANZA BEECH-CRAFT, USUALLY ON WEEKENDS, FROM A SMALL AIRFIELD NEAR TOWN. HE BELIEVED HIS DAD OWNED THE PLANE, HOWEVER, HE IS NOT POSITIVE. WILSON STATED HIS DAD WAS NOT AWAY FROM THE HOUSE ON THE DAY DR. KING WAS KILLED, AS HE WAS TAKING CARE OF HIS BROTHER AND HIMSELF AT THE TIME, WHILE HIS MOTHER AND SISTER FLEW TO MEMPHIS TO SEE THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

MRS. BETTY LOU WADE, 233 SMITH ROAD, BURLESON, TEXAS, RECONTACTED ON AUGUST 21, 1978, AND ADVISED THAT SHE HAD NO RECOLLECTION OF HER FORMER HUSBAND HAVING A JAPANESE RIFLE. SHE STATED SHE SEPARATED FROM BURGESS WILSON IN 1974, WHICH WOULD MEAN HE MOST PROBABLY OBTAINED THE RIFLE AFTER THAT PERIOD. SHE IS SURE SHE WOULD HAVE BEEN AWARE OF THE GUN, IF HE HAD BOUGHT IT

UNCLAS DL 44-2649 PAGE FOUR

WHILE THEY WERE LIVING TOGETHER.

ADMINISTRATIVE

DALLAS IS NOT COVERING LEAD AT CLEBURNE, TEXAS,
REGARDING NON-CHILD SUPPORT WARRANT FOR WILSON, AS IT
HAS NO BEARING ON PERTINENT FACTS OF CASE, UACB.

BT

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-33861) PRIORITY

KANSAS CITY IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT

MURKIN; OO: MEMPHIS.

CARL D. FORTNA, ROUTE 6, BOX 387, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, STATED THAT HE MET BILL WILSON IN BELTON, MISSOURI, IN 1966 OR 1967. FORTNA WAS IN THE AIR FORCE AT THIS TIME STATIONED AT RICHARDS-GEBAUER AIR FORCE BASE IN BELTON, MISSOURI. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON AND WILSON'S WIFE OWNED A JEWELRY STORE IN BELTON, MISSOURI, AND THAT WILSON WAS A MEMBER OF THE 442ND AIR FORCE RESERVE UNIT STATIONED AT RICHARDS-GEBAUER AIR FORCE BASE. FORTNA STATED HE KNEW WILSON THROUGH THEIR ASSOCIATION IN THE VFW IN BELTON, MISSOURI. FORTNA STATED THAT HE, FORTNA, RETIRED FROM THE AIR FORCE IN 1969.

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EX-120 REC-2 44-38861-6308

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PAGE 2 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

AND DID NOT SEE WILSON AGAIN EXCEPT FOR ONE BRIEF MOMENT IN 1972 UNTIL APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS AGO. WILSON CAME TO OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI, FROM LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA, ABOUT TWO MONTHS AGO AND LIVED IN THE TWIN PINES MOTEL ON HIGHWAY 90, OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI. ON JULY 23, 1978, WILSON MOVED INTO A HOUSE OWNED BY FORTNA LOCATED NEXT DOOR TO FORTNA'S PRESENT RESIDENCE.

AT APPROXIMATELY 4:15 PM ON AUGUST 18, 1978, WILSON ASKED FORTNA TO COME INTO WILSON'S HOUSE, THAT HE HAD SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO TELL HIM. WILSON TOLD FORTNA, "I KILLED THAT BLACK SON-OF-A-BITCH." FORTNA ASKED WILSON WHO HE WAS TALKING ABOUT, AND WILSON REPLIED MARTIN LUTHER KING. FORTNA STATED THAT HE TOLD WILSON HE DID NOT BELIEVE HIM, AND WILSON SAID, "I AM TELLING YOU THE TRUTH. I ACTUALLY KILLED HIM. I'VE BEEN LIVING WITH IT FOR TEN YEARS, AND I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE." WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR WILSON'S FATHER'S DEATH. WILSON DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON THIS. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT THIS KILLING WAS "ENGINEERED" BY LOU CRUZ (PHONETIC). FORTNA STATED THAT HE KNOWS LOU CRUZ AND THAT LOU CRUZ OWNED OR STILL OWNS LOU CRUZ JEWELRY, 1505 MAIN STREET, GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE DROVE TO THE STATE LINE AIRPORT IN KANSAS CITY,

PAGE 3 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

MISSOURI, DRIVING A NEW FORD THUNDERBIRD. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT CRUZ ALSO OWNED AN IDENTICAL FORD THUNDERBIRD. WILSON LEFT HIS THUNDERBIRD AT THE AIRPORT AND FLEW TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. CRUZ CAME TO THE AIRPORT AND PICKED UP WILSON'S THUNDERBIRD AND TOOK IT FROM THE AIRPORT SO IT WOULD NOT BE NOTICED. WHEN WILSON ARRIVED IN MEMPHIS, HE BORROWED A WHITE FORD MUSTANG THAT HE HAD PURCHASED FOR HIS DAUGHTER, DEBORAH. DEBORAH HAD DRIVEN FROM KANSAS CITY TO MEMPHIS IN THE MUSTANG. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE WENT TO THE MOTEL WHERE MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS STAYING AND THAT HE USED A JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE AND SHOT KING HOLDING THE RIFLE ON HIS HIP. HE STATED THAT THIS RIFLE IS NOW IN THE POSSESSION OF WILSON'S SON, STEVE. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE WAS DRIVING AWAY FROM THE SCENE IN THE MUSTANG, AND HE WAS STOPPED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE, BUT HE TALKED HIMSELF OUT OF A TICKET, AND THE CAR WAS NOT SEARCHED. HE STATED THAT THE RIFLE WAS IN THE TRUNK OF THE CAR AT THIS TIME. WILSON TOLD FORTNA THAT HE THEN FLEW HIS AIRPLANE BACK TO KANSAS CITY, AND CRUZ PICKED HIM UP AT THE AIRPORT AND TOOK HIM HOME.

FORTNA STATED THAT WHEN WILSON TOLD HIM THE ABOVE INFORMATION, HE, FORTNA, BELIEVED THAT WILSON THOUGHT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AND THAT HE SWORE ON HIS MOTHER'S GRAVE IN FRONT OF A PRIEST THAT IT

PAGE 4 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

WAS THE TRUTH. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON HAD NEVER MENTIONED THIS SUBJECT PRIOR TO THIS INSTANCE. FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON HAS BEEN DRINKING HEAVILY FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS AND HAS LIED TO HIM SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS. WILSON, ON OCCASION, WOULD TELL FORTNA THAT HE HAD BEEN MARRIED THREE OR FOUR TIMES SINCE DIVORCING HIS FIRST WIFE AND THEN COME BACK AT A LATER DATE AND SAY THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN MARRIED AFTER DIVORCING HIS FIRST WIFE.

FORTNA STATED THAT WILSON IS AN EXCELLENT PILOT, THAT HE, FORTNA, HAS FLOWN WITH WILSON THROUGH BAD WEATHER, AND WILSON HAD NO PROBLEMS FLYING THE AIRCRAFT.

BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., AKA BILL, WAS BORN [REDACTED] AT FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, 5 FEET 11 INCHES, 170 POUNDS, BROWN EYES, GRAY HAIR, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER [REDACTED] MILITARY SERVICE U. S. AIR FORCE 1947-1960.

KANSAS CITY AT GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI. WILL LOCATE LOU CRUZ (PHONETIC), 1505 MAIN STREET, RE KNOWLEDGE OF WILSON AND FACT HE "ENGINEERED" ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING.

AT KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI. WILL CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AND CHECK FLIGHT PLANS IF POSSIBLE AT STATE LINE AIRPORT IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE IF WILSON FLEW FROM THIS AIRPORT TO MEMPHIS,

PAGE 5 JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

TENNESSEE, ON OR ABOUT APRIL 4, 1968.

FOR INFORMATION OF KANSAS CITY, IN A PRIOR INTERVIEW OF WILSON, HE STATED HE HAD A RED AND WHITE BONANZA AIRPLANE, REGISTER NUMBER 34L, AND A CESSNA 310 TWIN-ENGINE BLUE AND WHITE AIRCRAFT.

BT

CC CIP

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTENTION: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH. *6- Reiman*

MURKIN: OO: MEMPHIS.

RE BUTEL, AUGUST 22, 1978.

ON AUGUST 19, 1978, MRS. LEON (CHRISTINE) GUNTARP, FULTON, MISSISSIPPI, WAS TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED AT HER RESIDENCE AT WHICH TIME SHE ADVISED THAT SHE IS THE SISTER OF BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., WHOM SHE HAS HAD LIMITED CONTACT WITH DURING THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS SINCE THE DEATH OF THEIR NATURAL FATHER AT GRENADA, MISS. MRS. GUNTARP ADVISED THAT HER PAST EXPERIENCE WITH HER BROTHER HAS PROVEN HIM TO BE AN INDIVIDUAL WITH ALCOHOL AND APPARENT MENTAL PROBLEMS IN VIEW OF HIS ERRATIC BEHAVIOR AND TENDENCY TO FABRICATE. SHE ADVISED THAT UNTIL THIS CONTACT SHE

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PAGE TWO JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

HAS HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HER BROTHER'S WHEREABOUTS AND HAS HAD ONLY ONE TELEPHONE CALL FROM HIM IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, FROM AN UNKNOWN LOCATION. SHE ADVISED THAT ALTHOUGH SHE CONSIDERS HER BROTHER TO BE AN INTELLIGENT INDIVIDUAL, SHE RARELY BELIEVES ANYTHING HE SAYS, ESPECIALLY WHEN HE HAS BEEN DRINKING. SHE STATED THAT HE AT ONE TIME FLEW FOR AN AIR FREIGHT SERVICE OUT OF KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI, AND ALSO HAS THE CAPABILITY OF JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR.

MRS. GUNTARP EMPHATICALLY STATED ON AUGUST 23, 1978, THAT SHE DID NOT CONTACT HER BROTHER "BILL" WILSON IN OCEAN SPRINGS, MISS., IN THE RECENT PAST CONCERNING HER RECOGNITION OF A LIKENESS TO HIM WITH REGARD TO A SKETCH OF THE KILLER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING SEEN IN A NEWSPAPER.

INVESTIGATION, COLUMBUS, MISS., DETERMINED THE GUN REPAIR SHOP LOCATED BEHIND BANK IDENTIFIED AS BOX 4N GUN SHOP. THIS SHOP WAS RUN BY A GUNSMITH NAMED PARKER NEELY WHO HAS SINCE MOVED TO TENNESSEE, AND WHOSE CURRENT WHEREABOUTS ARE CURRENTLY UNKNOWN TO HIS PAST ASSOCIATES IN COLUMBUS, MISS.

INVESTIGATION AT STARKVILLE, MISS., DETERMINED WILSON WAS MARRIED TO PATRICIA SHINDALA. SHINDALA WAS A DIVORCEE AND WILSON

PAGE THREE JN 62-544 UNCLAS E F T O

USED HER ALIMONY MONEY ALONG WITH HER SETTLEMENT MONEY TO OBTAIN A LOAN AND START A JEWELRY STORE AT A MALL IN STARKVILLE, MISS. THIS OCCURRED IN THE SPRING OF 1975 AND THE BUSINESS LASTED APPROXIMATELY SIX MONTHS BEFORE WILSON "FLED IN THE NIGHT," DESERTING HIS WIFE AND OWING SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS. SHINDALA IS CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN THE NURSING PROGRAM AT WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY, SILVA, NORTH CAROLINA. WILSON IS WELL KNOWN IN THE STARKVILLE AREA AS A "CON-ARTIST".

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING TO LOCATE PARKER NEELY AND HAVE HIM INTERVIEWED RE WILSON'S STATEMENT THAT HE HAD THE JAPANESE SNIPER RIFLE REWORKED AT A GUN SHOP IN COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI.

BT

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FM SAN ANTONIO (44-1242)P

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)PRIORITY

JACKSON (62-544)PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (44-1987)(SUB M) PRIORITY

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

MURKIN.

RE BUTEL AUGUST 22, 1978.

ON AUGUST 23, 1978, A SEARCH OF BROWNSVILLE POLICE
DEPARTMENT RECORDS, CAMERON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECORDS,
AND CAMERON COUNTY JAIL RECORDS, FAILED TO REFLECT ANY RECORD
IDENTIFIABLE WITH BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR.

BT

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Dep. AD Inv.	
Asst. Dir.:	
Adm. Serv.	
Crim. Inv.	
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EX-124

REC-79

44-38861-6310

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 10/10/78

FROM: SAC, MOBILE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

The following information is set forth for the information of the Bureau as Mobile does not know to what extent it is pertinent to the assassination hearings presently taking place in Congress:

JAMES CUNNINGHAM, Executive Vice President, Alabama Hotel and Motel Association, 660 Adams Street, Montgomery, Alabama, telephone 263-3407, advised SSRA ROBERT L. FRYE of the Montgomery Resident Agency that he had received a letter from JAMES EARL RAY, the convicted assassin of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, requesting information relative to records maintained by hotels and motels in Alabama. RAY was specifically interested in the dates of March 30 and 31, but he did not specify what year he was concerned with or specifically what he desired from the records. RAY was interested in determining information from records of motels in the Decatur, Alabama, area.

CUNNINGHAM stated the nature of this inquiry concerned whether or not motels were required to maintain records of registrations by name for a certain number of years in order to substantiate tax status. He stated this inquiry also was made to the National Hotel and Motel Association.

CUNNINGHAM pointed out that this inquiry would have to be replied to in the negative as he knows of no records a motel has to maintain for tax purposes in respect to individual registrations.

No further action being taken on the above, and information furnished to the Bureau only to advise of inquiry by JAMES EARL RAY.

② - Bureau
1 - Mobile
RLF:sdh
(3)

23 OCT 12 1978

62 OCT 24 1978

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

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

File Copy

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

FROM : Director, FBI (44-38861)

DATE: October 20, 1978

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT L. KEUCH

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
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. (2)

1 - Civil Rights Division

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

0-70

To: Criminal Division
From: Director, FBI

NOTE: On 10/10/78 the Mobile Office of the FBI furnished the following information:

James Cunningham, Executive Vice President, Alabama Hotel and Motel Association, 660 Adams Street, Montgomery, Alabama, telephone 263-3407, advised SSRA Robert L. Frye of the Montgomery Resident Agency that he had received a letter from James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, requesting information relative to records maintained by hotels and motels in Alabama. Ray was specifically interested in the dates of March 30 and 31, but he did not specify what year he was concerned with or specifically what he desired from the records. Ray was interested in determining information from records of motels in the Decatur, Alabama, area.

Cunningham stated the nature of this inquiry concerned whether or not motels were required to maintain records of registrations by name for a certain number of years in order to substantiate tax status. He stated this inquiry also was made to the National Hotel and Motel Association.

Cunningham pointed out that this inquiry would have to be replied to in the negative as he knows of no records a motel has to maintain for tax purposes in respect to individual registrations.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE JACKSON	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 9/19/78	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 8/23/78
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.	TYPED BY bal
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY (B)	

REFERENCE:

Jackson report of SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR., dated 9/12/78.

-RUC-

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
APPROVED <i>K/7-98</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE: ② Bureau (44-38861) 3 - Memphis (44-1987 Sub M) (1 - USA, Memphis, Tenn.) 1 - Jackson (62-544)						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW 44-38861-6312 REC-10 1013 16 SEP 22 1978 SEP 22		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency	② - CRIMINAL DIV - HND					<i>WR</i> <i>SA</i> <i>JLB</i>		
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.	9/25/78							
How Fwd.	② - 10/1/78							
By	5/15/78/10m							

54 OCT 23 1978

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to: 1 - USA, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

Report of: SA WILLIAM E. BOOTH, JR.
Date: SEPTEMBER 19, 1978

Office: JACKSON

Field Office File #: 62-544

Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: Mrs. CHRISTINE GUNTARP, sister of BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., emphatically stated on 8/23/78, that she did not contact her brother, "BILL" WILSON, in Ocean Springs, Ms., in the recent past concerning her alleged recognition of a likeness to him with regard to a sketch of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, which supposedly was shown on television.

-RUC-

DETAILS:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 9/19/78

Mrs. CHRISTINE (LEON) GUNTARP, Route 1, Box 36, Fulton, Mississippi, was recontacted, at which time she was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent. She was advised specifically that the purpose of this interview was to resolve a statement attributed to her brother, BURGESS AUDIE WILSON, JR., to the effect that GUNTARP's brother indicated that a sketch of a suspect in the Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., murder case, which was allegedly shown on television recently, was almost an exact likeness of WILSON. GUNTARP was advised that WILSON said his sister (GUNTARP) telephoned WILSON in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, after the sketch was allegedly shown on television, saying that the sketch looked exactly like him.

Concerning the above matter, Mrs. GUNTARP stated emphatically that she did not contact her brother, "BILL" WILSON, in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, in the recent past concerning her alleged recognition of a likeness to him with regard to a sketch of the killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, which supposedly was shown on television.

Interviewed on 8/23/78 at Fulton, Mississippi File # Jackson 62-544

by SA DONALD H. GREENE: bal Date dictated 9/19/78
2*

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. FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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

TO : Mr. Moore *MA*

DATE: 8/22/78

FROM : J. S. Peelman *JSP*

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1 - Mr. Adams
 1 - Mr. McDermott
 1 - Mr. Moore
 1 - Mr. Ingram
 1 - Mr. Peelman
 1 - Mr. Helterhoff
 1 - Mr. Bassett
 1 - Mr. Boynton

PURPOSE: To advise of an allegation made by Burgess Audie Wilson, Jr., that he murdered Martin Luther King, Jr.

SYNOPSIS: This investigation concerning the Wilson allegation was conducted pursuant to the instructions of Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert Keuch, Criminal Division. Wilson, white male, age 46, has made allegation that a "Mitch" Last Name Unknown (LNU), brought up the idea of killing King for \$50,000 contract. "Mitch" instructed Wilson to meet two white males at a Memphis bar. Wilson advised he flew to Memphis and daughter Deborah (also Debra) picked him up in her Mustang. Wilson advised the two white males furnished him with FBI credentials, and showed him where King was to hold the rally. They told him to be in the crowd at the rally and a decoy shot was to be fired and he was then to shoot. They said King had a habit of raising his arms over his head when he was making a speech and the second time he did so, the shots were to be fired. Wilson advised on day of murder, he was in crowd standing near a wood fence approximately 60 feet from where King was standing and that when King raised his arms the second time, he shot him. (It is noted King was shot as he exited his motel room and stood on a balcony, not while he was attending a rally giving a speech). Wilson advised he had the rifle strapped to his belt under a suit coat and attached to belt on a swivel. The barrel protruded from below coat, but no one questioned him about it. He stated after the shooting, he was stopped by the police, but he showed them the credentials and they let him go. He then walked down the street to where he left the Mustang parked. Debra Ann Jones, daughter, stated she definitely did not travel to Memphis in Mustang, and Wilson remained in Kansas City at time of King murder. She advised Wilson is intoxicated most of time and feels he definitely has mental problems. Other relatives also described his drinking problem.

HNH:bam (9)

REC-70
CONTINUED - OVER

EX-124

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

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FBI

SEP 26 1978

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FBI

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Memorandum to Mr. Moore
RE: MURKIN

Department advised and per request of Mr. Keuch, House Select Committee on Assassinations also advised.

RECOMMENDATION: Will continue investigation to further resolve this allegation, and you will be kept apprised of any pertinent developments.

APPROVED: *[Signature]*
Director _____
Assoc. Dir. *[Signature]* _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Adm. Serv. _____
Crim. Inv. *[Signature]* _____
Ident. _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
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Tech. Servs. _____
Training _____
Public Affs. Off. _____

DETAILS: This investigation concerning the allegation of Burgess Audie Wilson, Jr., was conducted pursuant to the instructions of Deputy Assistant Attorney General Robert Keuch, Criminal Division, on 8/18/78, and the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) was also advised of the initial developments of this allegation on 8/18/78 per the request of Mr. Keuch. Mr. Keuch also conferred with the Civil Rights Division.

On 8/18/78, Mr. William Don Gladden, owner of a gift shop, Ocean Springs, Mississippi, advised that Bill Wilson (Burgess Audie Wilson, Jr., white male, age 46), has been operating a watch repair business out of a room in Gladden's gift shop since July, 1978. Wilson told Gladden he had a drinking problem and was trying to establish himself and work hard in the watch repair business in hopes of getting over this problem.

Gladden advised that at 11:45 p.m., 8/17/78, Wilson telephonically contacted him at his residence saying he had to talk to Gladden and his wife about something that could not wait until the morning. Gladden met with Wilson at Gladden's gift shop at 12:15 a.m., 8/18/78.

Memorandum to Mr. Moore
RE: MURKIN

Gladden advised Wilson apparently had been drinking inasmuch as his eyes were very red and he smelled of alcohol. Gladden advised he did not talk like an intoxicated person and in his opinion seemed to be very depressed. Wilson told Gladden that he was the man who murdered Martin Luther King. Wilson stated that he had once purchased a white Mustang for his daughter and his daughter had travelled in the white Mustang to Memphis at the time of the King killing. Wilson advised that he was in Memphis at that time but had documented himself to be in Kansas City as an alibi. Wilson stated he had talked with the sheriff at Memphis, Tennessee, and was to meet with this sheriff at the Gulfport, Mississippi, Holiday Inn during the morning of 8/18/78.

On 8/18/78, Wilson telephonically contacted the Memphis sheriff and stated he would appear at the Holiday Inn in Gulfport at about 6:30 p.m., on 8/18/78. The sheriff could not leave Memphis to meet with Wilson at the Holiday Inn.

Special Agents of the FBI contacted Wilson at the Holiday Inn on 8/18/78; however, he declined to discuss information regarding the assassination of Martin Luther King. The FBI subsequently received information from NCIC that Wilson was wanted by the New Braunfels, Texas, Police Department, for a probation violation on a warrant issued 4/18/78. This information was furnished to the Ocean Springs PD and Wilson was arrested by the Ocean Springs PD and incarcerated in the Ocean Springs Jail.

On 8/19/78, Wilson was interviewed by FBI Agents at the Ocean Springs Jail. He advised in the course of his jewelry business he met a white male Italian who introduced him to another white male Italian by the name of Mitch (LNU) and Mitch's brother. Mitch brought up the idea of killing King and said there was a \$50,000 contract on him. He never said who put out the contract but said he could get the money for Wilson if he killed King. Wilson advised that approximately 5 or 6 months before King's murder, he started gathering information on the movements and whereabouts of King and used to fly his own airplanes to different places where King was supposed to be. Mitch

Memorandum to Mr. Moore
RE: MURKIN

furnished him with a Japanese sniper rifle and he had the rifle until just before Christmas of 1975 when he had it re-worked at a gun shop. His son reportedly thereafter sold the rifle. Mitch called Wilson at his store in Grandview, Missouri, and told him King was going to Memphis. Wilson advised he flew to Memphis and was picked up at the airport by his daughter Deborah in her 1965 white Mustang. Deborah and her mother Betty Lou Wilson were staying at the residence of Wilson's father-in-law Vernon Hooton in Memphis. Mitch had instructed Wilson to meet two men at the Wonder Bar in Memphis and he met 2 males who furnished him with FBI credentials, which Wilson stated had a black and white photograph of Wilson on the credentials. These 2 men then took him and showed him where King was to hold the rally. They told him he was to be in the crowd at the rally and that a decoy shot was to be fired and that he was then to shoot King. They said King had a habit of raising his arms over his head when he was making a speech and the second time he did so the shots were to be fired. Wilson stated on the day of the murder he was in the crowd standing near a wood fence approximately 60 feet from where King was standing and when King raised his arms the second time, he shot him. (It is noted King was shot as he exited his motel room and stood on a balcony, not while he was attending a rally giving a speech.)

He advised he had the rifle which he used strapped to his belt under a suit coat and attached to his belt on a swivel. The barrel protruded from below his coat but no one questioned him concerning it. He said that he had practiced a great deal swivelling the rifle and firing it. He advised after the shooting, he was stopped by the Memphis Police but he showed them the credentials and they let him go. He walked on down the street to where he had left the Mustang parked. Wilson advised that approximately 1 week before the murder, Mitch gave him \$25,000 in \$20 bills and following the murder, Mitch gave him another \$25,000 at which time he gave the credentials back to Mitch.

Betty Lou Wade, ex-wife, stated she was married to Wilson on 4/4/68, and can positively state Wilson was at Grandview, Missouri, on 4/4/68, and could not have been in Memphis, Tennessee. She advised Wilson has experienced

Memorandum to Mr. Moore
RE: MURKIN

mental problems for years and described him as a "liar and con artist who can't differentiate between truth and fantasy" and she said he definitely needs medical help. During recontact on 8/20/78, Wade advised the visit to Memphis by herself and daughter was several weeks after the King murder. She also advised Wilson had bought his daughter a cream colored Mustang but said he never drove on any trips to her knowledge.

On 8/18/78, Vernon and Opal Hooten, the former father-in-law and mother-in-law of Wilson, advised they are of the opinion the Mustang was never transported from Missouri to Memphis. On the night of 8/17/78, Wilson called Vernon Hooten and also his son James Hooten. While Wilson was talking with either James Hooten or his wife, he remarked he had killed King in 1968. James Hooten and his wife are of the opinion that Wilson was exaggerating and do not believe him regarding the King assassination. The Hootens described Wilson as a very heavy drinker; however, they pointed out that when drinking, he talked coherently and his movements do not give evidence he is intoxicated. Vernon Hooten believes Wilson would falsely confess to a crime in order to have a place to sleep and eat if he was in need of food and shelter. Opal Hooten was unable to provide specific dates when Betty Lou Wade and Debra Jones visited, but recalls they visited on occasions when both she and Mr. Wooten were ill.

On 8/18/78, James Hooten advised Wilson is an extremely heavy drinker and is of the opinion that Wilson had nothing to do with the assassination of King but due to the mental deterioration of his mind, may believe he did.

On 8/19/78, Allison T. Wilson, brother of Wilson, advised Wilson has been an alcoholic and is a confirmed liar. He stated his brother has often confessed to various crimes in order to be locked up so he will be able to get sober.

Memorandum to Mr. Moore
RE: MURKIN

On 8/19/78, Mrs. Avis Hunter, ex-wife, advised she married Wilson in December of 1974 after going with him for only 5 weeks. She divorced Wilson in June, 1975. During the marriage Wilson drank frequently and would become crazy, rambling and silly, although never violent. He would frequently tell her "wild" untrue stories including that he was in the mafia. On 8/17/78, Wilson telephoned her residence and told her 14-year-old son that he, Wilson, would be on TV soon as he had killed King. Wilson, who was very drunk, said the FBI would arrest him soon. This was the first time Wilson ever mentioned the King murder to her.

On 8/20/78, Jo Ann Childress, ex-wife, advised she met Wilson in September of 1977; they were married in November of 1977; they separated in February of 1978; and the divorce was finalized in April of 1978. She advised Wilson is a "very convincing liar and con man."

On 8/19/78, Deborah (also Debra) Ann Jones, daughter, advised her father bought her a 1965 Mustang in 1968. She was in Memphis, Tennessee, with her mother visiting a grandfather at the time of King's murder. She and her mother flew from Kansas City to Memphis. Her father Wilson remained in Kansas City with her 2 brothers, Stephen and Mark Wilson, ages 14 and 10. She definitely did not travel to Memphis in the Mustang and the car was in very poor condition and could not make it to Memphis. While in Memphis, her mother called Kansas City at least 2 times and talked to her father. Wilson calls her frequently and on the night of 8/17/78, Wilson called her, was obviously intoxicated and told her the FBI was going to put him in jail for the murder of King. She advised her father definitely has mental problems.

Memorandum to Mr. Moore
RE: MURKIN

On 8/20/78, Stephen Wayne Wilson advised he was 15 on 4/4/68, and recalled seeing King's death on TV at home in Grandview and his father Wilson was also with him at that time. He states there was no way his father could have killed King. He described his father as an alcoholic with serious mental problems and never heard his father make a statement he killed King.

Mark Anthony Wilson advised his father Wilson is a very sick man and possibly insane; feels his father could not have killed King since to the best of his recollection, Wilson was in Grandview on that date; describes father as habitual liar and alcoholic.

On 8/22/78, Mr. Keuch was advised of the information in this memorandum, and he requested that the HSCA also be advised, which was done on 8/22/78. Mr. Keuch was also advised that two copies of the reports from our field offices (one for his consideration for referral to the HSCA) would promptly be furnished to him which he stated was sufficient.

On 8/22/78, William L. Gardner, Chief, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, was also advised of the information in this memorandum and that copies of our field office reports would follow which he stated was sufficient.

Investigation is continuing to further resolve this allegation.

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FM JACKSON (62-544) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-3886L) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (44-1987 SUB M) IMMEDIATE

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (IMMEDIATE)

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

ATTN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES UNIT, ROOM 8988, JEH BUILDING.

MURKIN

ON AUGUST 18, 1978, AT 6 PM, MR. WILLIAM DON GLADDEN, AGE 46, W/M, RT. 3, BOX 205H-3 (MEADOW LARK DRIVE), GULF PARK ESTATES, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS., TELEPHONE 875-3518 ADVISED AS FOLLOWS:

HE IS EMPLOYED AS MGR. OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY OFFICE IN GULFPORT, MS. (TELEPHONE 896-3221). HE AND HIS WIFE, ALICE A. GLADDEN, OWN A GIFT SHOP, "SEASONS AND REASONS," 2446 HIGHWAY 90 EAST, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS. (TELEPHONE 875-2531).

ON OR ABOUT JULY 26, 1978, A W/M BY THE NAME OF "BILL"

REC-79

5 SEP 25 1978

EX-124

61 OCT 25 1978

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Dep. AD Adm.	
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U.S. DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-441100) FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)
SUBJECT: [Illegible] (NY 100-100000) (P)
[Illegible text follows]

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

PAGE TWO JN 62-544 U AS E F T O

WILSON CAME TO THEIR GIFT SHOP IN OCEAN SPRINGS SAYING THAT HE PLANNED TO OPEN A WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN THE EDGEWATER MALL SHOPPING CENTER, BILOXI, MS., AND WOULD LIKE TO USE THE GLADDENS' GIFT SHOP AS A PICKUP POINT FOR HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. GLADDEN ADVISED NEITHER HE NOR HIS WIFE HAD EVER MET WILSON PRIOR TO THIS TIME. FOUR OR FIVE DAYS LATER, GLADDEN AGREED TO LET WILSON RENT A ROOM TO THE REAR OF GLADDEN'S GIFT SHOP IN WHICH WILSON SET UP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. GLADDEN AGREED TO LET WILSON KEEP 20 PERCENT OF PROFITS COMING FROM THE WATCH REPAIR.

GLADDEN AGREED THAT HE AND HIS WIFE "GREW TO TRUST" WILSON FROM THE VERY BEGINNING AND CONSIDERED HIM TO BE A VERY HARD WORKER, WHO PUT A LOT OF HIS OWN MONEY INTO LOCAL RADIO ADVERTISING BUILDING UP HIS WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS. WILSON LATER TOLD GLADDEN HE HAD "POSTPONED" OPENING UP A BUSINESS IN THE EDGEWATER MALL. WILSON HAD HIS OWN JEWELRY AND WATCH REPAIR EQUIAD, ACCORDING TO GLADDEN, SPENT SEVERAL THOUSAND DOLLARS OF HIS OWN MONEY TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT AFTER RENTING THE SPACE IN GLADDEN'S BUSINESS. WILSON KEPT A KEY TO THE GIFT SHOP

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WHICH HE OPENED EVERY MORNING. HE WORKED HARD IN THE SHOP COMPLETING HIS WATCH REPAIRS AFTER WHICH HE WOULD LEAVE THE SHOP FOR PLACES UNKNOWN.

WILSON INDICATED TO GLADDEN THAT HE HAD A DRINKING PROBLEM AND WAS TRYING TO ESTABLISH HIMSELF AND WORK HARD IN THE WATCH REPAIR BUSINESS IN HOPES OF GETTING OVER THIS PROBLEM.

AT THE BEGINNING, WILSON RESIDED AT APARTMENT NO. 9, TWIN PINES MOTEL, OCEAN SPRINGS, MS., BUT AT AN UNKNOWN LATER DATE MOVED TO ROUBE 6, BOX 387, ROUTE SPRINGS (TELEPHONE 875-9542).

NEITHER GLADDEN NOR HIS WIFE HAD EVER VISITED WILSON AT THE ABOVE TWO RESIDENCES AND ONLY TOOK WILSON'S WORD THAT HE LIVED THERE. ACCORDING TO GLADDEN, WILSON COMMENTED THAT HE IS STAYING IN A HOUSE OWNED BY AN UNIDENTIFIED FRIEND AND IS NOT PAYING ANY RENT AS LONG AS HE KEEPS THE HOUSE IN REPAIR.

WILSON RECENTLY TOOK GLADDEN AND GLADDEN'S SON FOR A RIDE IN AN AIRPLANE PILOTED BY WILSON. GLADDEN CONSIDERS

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KNOW EVERYTHING THERE WAS TO KNOW ABOUT FLYING AIRPLANES IN ROUGH WEATHER.

GLADDEN FURTHER ADVISED THAT IN HIS OPINION WILSON IS AN "EXTREMELY INTELLIGENT MAN"; HOWEVER, HE IS UNAWARE OF THE EXTENT OF WILSON'S EDUCATION.

GLADDEN ADVISED THAT AT 11:45 PM, ON 8/17/78, WILSON TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HIM AT HIS RESIDENCE SAYING HE HAD TO TALK TO GLADDEN AND HIS WIFE ABOUT SOMETHING THAT COULD NOT WAIT UNTIL THE MORNING. WILSON REFUSED TO STATE BY TELEPHONE WHY HE WANTED TO TALK TO GLADDEN AND HE REFUSED TO COME TO GLADDEN'S RESIDENCE. WILSON SAID HE NEEDED TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING OF "NATIONAL URGENCY." THEY AGREED TO MEET AT GLADDEN'S GIFT SHOP AT OCEAN SPRINGS AT 12:15 AM, 8/18/78. GLADDEN ADVISED HE TOOK HIS WIFE AND 18 YEAR OLD SON, JOHN W. GLADDEN, TO THE SHOP WHERE HE MET WILSON AT THE ABOVE TIME. WILSON ARRIVED ALONE, DRIVING AN OLD MODEL BLUE CHEVROLET SEDAN WITH WHITE TOP, BEARING UNKNOWN LOUISIANA TAG. WILSON APPARENTLY HAD BEEN DRINKING INASMUCH AS HIS EYES WERE VERY RED AND HE SMELLED OF ALCOHOL; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT TALK LIKE AN INTOXICATED PERSON IN

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GLADDEN'S OPINION AND SEEMED TO BE "VERY DEPRESSED."

WILSON SAID "I'M THE MYSTERY MAN. I'M THE MAN THAT MURDERED MARTIN LUTHER KING." THEY TALKED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AND 15 MINUTES. WILSON STATED THAT HE GREW UP IN GRENADA, MS., WHERE HIS FATHER WAS A BAPTIST MINISTER. THE BLACKS (REFERRED TO AS "NEGRES AND NIGGERS" BY WILSON), WHO LIVED IN THE AREA WERE WELCOMED TO WORSHIP AT THE CHURCH; HOWEVER, WHEN THE NORTHERN BLACKS BEGAN TO COME DOWN SOUTH, WILSON'S FATHER WELCOMED THEM INTO HIS CHURCH ONLY IF THEY CAME TO WORSHIP AND NOT TO CAUSE TROUBLE. ACCORDING TO WILSON, THE BLACKS HAD COME FOR TROUBLE AND IT WAS FOR THIS REASON THAT HIS ATTITUDE BEGAN TO CHANGE TOWARD BLACKS.

WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS, "I AM THE ONE THAT PULLED THE TRIGGER. THERE WAS A CONSPIRACY. I WAS THE LOGICAL ONE." WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS HE HAD "BEEN WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND GOT INVOLVED IN SOME UNDECLARED WARS." (HE DID NOT FURTHER ELABORATE; HOWEVER, GLADDEN RECALLED THAT WILSON ONCE MENTIONED HE HAD BEEN IN THE AIR FORCE.) WILSON CLAIMED TO KNOW MARTIN LUTHER KING'S FATHER AND BROTHER AND STATED HE GREW UP NEXT DOOR TO A COUSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING AND

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"KNEW HIS ENTIRE FAMILY."

GLADDEN RECALLED THAT HE (GLADDEN) HAD ONCE PURCHASED A USED MUSTANG FOR HIS DAUGHTER. ON SEEING THE VEHICLE WILSON REMARKED HE HAD ONCE PURCHASED A WHITE MUSTANG FOR HIS DAUGHTER.

DURING THE CONVERSATION ON THE EARLY MORNING OF 8/18/78, WILSON STATED THAT HIS DAUGHTER HAD DRIVEN THE WHITE MUSTANG TO MEMPHIS AT THE TIME OF THE KING KILLING. WILSON COMMENTED THAT HE WAS IN MEMPHIS AT THAT TIME, BUT HAD DOCUMENTED HIMSELF TO BE IN KANSAS CITY AS AN ALIBI. WILSON STATED THAT JAMES EARL RAY WAS THE "FALL GUY." "RAY ONLY SAW ME TWICE, BUT I KNEW HIM. RAY WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE GOTTEN AWAY CLEAN. I'M SURPRISED RAY HAS BROUGHT IT ALL BACK UP AGAIN BECAUSE HE WOULD HAVE HIS PAROLE IN TWO YEARS."

WILSON TOLD THE GLADDENS THAT HE WOULD NOT SEE THEM ANYMORE AFTER TONIGHT AND HE WANTED THEM TO HAVE ALL HIS EXPENSIVE WATCH REPAIR EQUIPMENT.

WILSON, AGAIN REFERRING TO THE KING ASSASSINATION, STATED, "IT WAS PART OF A GROUP CONSPIRACY." HE PROVIDED NO FURTHER DETAILS STATING HE WOULD ONLY DEAL WITH THE