

MARLER I've called you. I've called Mobile. I've called Atlanta. I've called Memphis. I've called and talked to this judge, uh....I've talked to, uh, Warden DAVIS at the penitentiary in Tennessee. I've done already talked to him.

UF Well okay. Well I....

MARLER Lady, I'm blind and I don't know how long I'm gon live. But I'm gon tell you...that man did not kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. They've got the wrong man. Well okay. I got the situation and I'll, (unintelligible). I'll pass it on.

MARLER I appreciate it.

UF Okay.

MARLER Wait...are you in Bessemer?

UF Yes sir.

MARLER Well that's where it came from. Now let me tell you something else.

UF Where what came from?

MARLER Where information came from.

UF Are you in Bessemer?

MARLER That's where it all came from in Bessemer, Homewood right? Now and do you know the man...are you still on?

UF Yes I'm (unintelligible)

MARLER Okay you know they said the man, the gun that killed KING came from Homewood whatever right. That Woods boy. I hope you're getting all this down. There was WOODS boy that sold him my gun. You see lady....

UF Uh huh.

MARLER I'm the man that brought the gun.

UF                    You bought the gun?

MARLER              Now then...

UF                    What kind of gun was it?

MARLER              That wasn't the only...now wait a minute. That's,  
that's where everybody got screwed up. How many guns  
were there was bought? You don't know that do you?

UF                    No sir, (unintelligible)

MARLER              The law don't even know it.

UF                    I'm not up on, on, uh, the killing.

MARLER              Okay, yeah...well but it was, uh, it was, uh, it was  
a tragic thing right. But you got the wrong man.  
There was more guns bought that day than what the law  
knows about. Okay.... Will you have him to  
call me if you don't mind.

UF                    Who do you want to call you?

MARLER              The police.

UF                    You want a sergeant to talk to you?

MARLER              Yeah.

UF                    Okay. Hold on just a second.

MARLER              Now wait....

?                    Hello.

UF                    Sir....

?                    Hello.

UF                    Sir didn't you want to talk to a sergeant?

                      Sir...Mr. MARLER....Hello....I guess he's hung up.

Birmingham, Alabama  
December 5, 1979

Re: RICK TOWNSLEY;  
TERRY WALTERS;  
RALPH TURNER;  
JERRY CARROLL  
OFFICERS, ANNISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT;  
CECIL BLOSTER, FIREMAN,  
ANNISTON FIRE DEPARTMENT,  
ANNISTON, ALABAMA;  
PAUL BERNARD MARLER - VICTIM  
"DUKE" MARLER - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

---

On November 19, 1979, Paul Bernard Marler, 716 East 10th Street, Anniston, Alabama, telephonically contacted the Washington, D.C. office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at which time he related the following:

In September or October 1970, he and his brother were arrested at the VFW Hall in Anniston, Alabama, following a fight resulting from drinks. His brother, when put in jail, was beaten by the officers. This is not a racial matter as the police officers and his brother were white.

On June 15, 1979, Paul Bernard Marler appeared at the Anniston, Alabama, Resident Agency, obviously under the influence of either alcohol or narcotics. Throughout the interview, Marler would doze off or begin crying unexplainably. Marler complained that in 1970 he and his brother, "Duke", had gone to the VFW Club in Anniston to pay their dues. While there, they began to drink and trouble broke out between them and some of the patrons or bartenders at the club. Marler stated that seeing his brother in a fight with several other individuals, he then broke a bottle and came to his brother's assistance. Marler stated

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.

RICK TOWNSLEY;  
ET AL

that unquestionably, he had "assaulted them", but stated that he felt this was the only reasonable action to protect his brother. Following the fight, Marler and his brother went to the parking lot of the VFW where they encountered Anniston Police Officers Rick Townsley, Terry Walters, Ralph Turner and Jerry Carroll. Marler stated that he was then handcuffed without cause and taken to the Anniston Police Department. During the drive to the Police Department, Marler stated that he had addressed Officer Carroll as "son" and Carroll had advised him that he was not his son and did not appreciate being called son by Marler. Marler further advised he then told Carroll that his family would not forget Carroll's family and that also, he, Marler, would not forget Carroll's family. Throughout the interview, Marler rambled incoherently, stating that he had spent \$37,000 to find out what he is now telling the FBI and that he wanted a warrant sworn out for the officers immediately and that he was also suing the Police Department for one million dollars. It was pointed out to Marler that this would be impossible, but if he had a complaint, it could be brought to the attention of the FBI.

After a great deal of difficulty keeping Marler on matters relevant to his complaint, Marler continued that he was then put in a cell and after being locked up in a "drunk tank" he was then visited by unknown officers who kicked him, splitting his forehead open and then "hammered" his teeth out.

Marler continued to cry and doze off as he related the above facts and when asked why he had not come to the FBI earlier, he explained that he did not wish to make a complaint at that time because it would disgrace his family.

Marler, in conversation, admitted being an alcoholic and under the influence of drugs for which he has a doctor's prescription. In addition, he currently is an outpatient in the Veteran's Administration Hospital for mental incompetency.



RICK TOWNSLEY;  
ET AL

It was pointed out to Marler that because of his condition, at this time, it would be impossible for any statement to be taken by the FBI, but if he desired, he could return when he was obviously not under the influence of alcohol and narcotics and a statement would be taken. Marler gave no indication as to whether he planned to return.

No investigative action is being taken by the FBI.

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

- ☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

- ☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

- ☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 10/7/83

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: LEGAT, OTTAWA (44A-4) (P)

MURKIN

ReBuairtel to Ottawa, 2/4/81, enclosing Memphis LHM dated 12/11/80.

Enclosed for FBIHQ and Memphis is one copy each of Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) letter dated 10/4/81.

Information furnished by RCMP may not be reclassified or further disseminated without prior RCMP authority.

RCMP requests if exhibits presently held by the RCMP in captioned matter may be disposed of even though referenced Memphis LHM quotes JOE HAYNES, Trial Attorney, State Attorney's Office, Nashville, Tennessee, that all evidence should be retained for an indefinite period of time.

LEAD: MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Will determine if evidence held by RCMP may be disposed of.

5-Bureau (Enc. 2)  
 (1-Liaison Unit, ITND)  
 (2-Memphis) (44-1987)  
 1-Ottawa  
 WOT:dlb  
 (6)

AIRTEL

16 OCT 17 1983

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Number) (Time)

61 NOV 7 '83

out of class) SF <sup>PM</sup>  
10-19-83 *[initials]* OCT 18 1983



Your file      Votre référence

Our file      Notre référence

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176



Airtel

11/14/83

Director, FBI (44-38861)

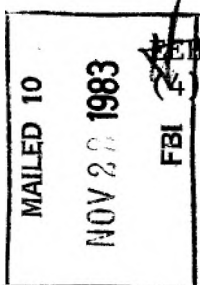
1 -

Legat, Ottawa (44-4)

MURKIN

Re Legat Ottawa airtel to FBIHQ dated 10/7/83.

Enclosed for Legat Ottawa are two copies of an LHM dated 11/7/83 suitable for dissemination to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.



RE: cb

RETURN TO ROOM 5131

(Signature)

Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
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Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☒

55 DEC 12 1983

44-38861-6378

10 DEC 5 1983

FBI/DOJ

92 DEC 13 1983

TO SFR Home Army MF

12-6-83

REC'D - H. VON  
FSI

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STATION 10 500. 1781

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ Airtel

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 11/7/83

6378

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
 (1-LEGAT, OTTAWA (44-4))

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (NVRA) (44A-1987 Sub M) (C)

MURKIN

Re Legat Ottawa airtel to Bureau dated 10/7/83.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and four copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM; CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY".

2-Bureau (Enc. 5)  
 1-Memphis  
 VDG/ald  
 (3)

*SC*  
*4-CCRD*  
*1-REDA*  
*2-aitel dated 11/4/83*  
*EEH/CD*

*SC*

6379

44-38861-  
 17 NOV 10 1983  
 12/20/

Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per *[Signature]*

55 DEC 29 1983

98-1134-1287

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11/16/83 15 1983

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CRIMINAL  
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SECTION

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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11/16/83 11:57 AM

11/16/83  
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE  
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE SECTION  
11/16/83 11:57 AM



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
November 7, 1983

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

On November 3, 1983, Assistant Attorney General Joe Haynes, Tennessee Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee, advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that James Earl Ray is still incarcerated in the Tennessee Prison System and continues to periodically renew his efforts to gain a new trial. In view of these continued efforts, Mr. Haynes requested that all physical evidence and exhibits relating to subject Ray and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. be retained indefinitely.

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

44-38861-6379

ENCLOSURE





U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Memphis, Tennessee  
November 7, 1983

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

On November 3, 1983, Assistant Attorney General Joe Haynes, Tennessee Attorney General's Office, Nashville, Tennessee, advised a representative of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that James Earl Ray is still incarcerated in the Tennessee Prison System and continues to periodically renew his efforts to gain a new trial. In view of these continued efforts, Mr. Haynes requested that all physical evidence and exhibits relating to subject Ray and the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. be retained indefinitely.

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.

# Memorandum



Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.:  
Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ident. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Off. Cong. &  
Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

To

From

Date April 12, 1984

Subject

**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA)  
REQUEST OF HAROLD WEISBERG FOR RECORDS CONCERNING THE  
ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., (MURKIN)**

**PURPOSE:** To place on record ticklers of the Laboratory Division pertaining to the Murkin investigation and have them made a permanent part of Bufile 44-38861.

**RECOMMENDATION:** That the Laboratory Division Murkin ticklers be made an enclosure to this memorandum and maintained as a bulky exhibit to Bufile 44-38861, inasmuch as they have been reviewed under the FOIA and portions made public through litigation with captioned requester.

**DETAILS:** Ticklers maintained by the Laboratory Division pertaining to the Murkin investigation were reviewed pursuant to the provisions of the FOIA, and portions were released to requester, Harold Weisberg, by letter dated February 21, 1980. The review was made at the behest of Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., former Director of the Office of Privacy and Information Appeals, Department of Justice, who was at that time conducting a Second Administrative Appeal Review of the FBI's FOIA processing of Murkin and related documents. This second review was ordered by District Judge June L. Green in Harold Weisberg v. U. S. Department of Justice U.S.D.C., D.C; C.A. No. 75-1996. Three of the denied documents became the subjects of further litigation when Judge Green ordered them

dh (3)

APR 11 1984

4 C MAY 10 1984

CIVIL RIGHTS &  
SPECIAL INQUIRY  
SECTION

APR 12 10 02 AM '84

RECEIVED-FBI

From [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]  
Re: Freedom of Information (FOIA)  
Request of Harold Weisberg for Records Concerning The  
Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., (Murkin)

submitted in camera by order dated December 1, 1981. These  
were subsequently presented to the Court with the Third  
Affidavit of SA [REDACTED] executed December 9, 1981.

Because the above litigation appears to be drawing  
to a close, the Laboratory Division was requested to advise  
the FOIA Section whether or not it desired to maintain these  
ticklers. On March 27, 1984, [REDACTED] of the Document  
Section, Laboratory Division, replied that they had no further  
need for the ticklers and that they should be disposed of in  
an appropriate manner. Inasmuch as these ticklers have been  
the subject of litigation, it is fitting that they be made  
part of the permanent record.

Enclosure

**Memorandum**

To : Director, FBI ( 44-38861 )

Date 11/30/83

From : Legal Attache, OTTAWA ( 44-4 ) (RUC )

Subject : MURKIN

Reference: Buairtel, 11/14/83, with ME LHM, 11/7/83.

Dissemination, as outlined below, was made on dates indicated.

☒ One copies of re LHM☐ Pertinent information fromName and Location of AgencyDate FurnishedFEDERAL POLICING BRANCH,  
RCMP, OTTAWA, ONTARIO

11/30/83

44-38861-  
NOT RECORDED  
7 DEC 29 19832 - Bureau  
2 - Ottawa  
(1- 66-135)  
RJT:d1b  
(4)

FBI/DOJ



TO SFR from dsc/mx

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CRIMINAL  
INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

DEC 20 3 33 PM '83

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

JAN 5 1984



# Memorandum



Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

To : [Redacted]

Date DEC 28 1984

From : [Redacted]

Subject : MURKIN

PURPOSE: To facilitate the placement on record of miscellaneous materials pertinent to the FBI's investigation of the Assassination of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. (MURKIN).

RECOMMENDATION: That the above-referenced materials be made an enclosure to this memorandum and maintained as a bulky exhibit to Bufile 44-38861.

DETAILS: In compliance with numerous requests from the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA), the former Congressional Inquiry Unit (organized to respond to requests from the HSCA for FBI records concerning PRESIDENT KENNEDY and DR. KING) obtained from the former Civil Rights Section, GID, ticklers and miscellaneous materials pertaining to DR. KING that had been accumulated but not sent to file. These materials consist of original photographs and negatives, as well as extra copies of pertinent FBI documents.

Upon completion of its assigned task, the Congressional Inquiry Unit disbanded and made its compilation of records available to the Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts Section, due to extensive FOIA litigation in both the KENNEDY and KING assassination matters. Because the litigation concerning DR. KING is drawing to a close, and the FOIA Section no longer requires the use of the materials, Civil Rights Program, CID, was requested to advise the FOIA Section whether or not it desired to have these materials returned to that unit for maintenance.

1 - SA, [Redacted]  
Attention: [Redacted], Room 5131

[Signature] (4)

15 JAN 3 1985

BULKY  
ENCLOSURE  
JAN 16 1985 ACU

44-38861

FOIPA

FBI/DOJ

Memorandum from [REDACTED] to [REDACTED]  
Re: MURKIN

Civil Rights Program Analyst [REDACTED] has reviewed these materials, determined that his unit had no immediate need for them, and recommended that they be sent to file. It is, therefore, deemed appropriate that these materials be made a part of the permanent record.

FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 5/15/92

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
ATTN: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS  
SECTION, ROOM 6296

FROM : <sup>JEKT</sup> LEGAT, OTTAWA (190-0) **MURKIN**

SUBJECT : JAMES EARL RAY;  
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.;  
FOIA/PA MATTER

Enclosed for the FOIA/PA Section, FBI Headquarters is the original of J. Michael Shoemaker, Deputy Commissioner, Corporate Management, ~~Royal Canadian Mounted Police~~ letter to Legat, Ottawa, dated 5/13/92, with enclosures.

The enclosures pertain to the RCMP release of information to a member of the media concerning the Royal Canadian Mounted Police investigation in Canada to locate and arrest James Earl Ray in 1968. (X)

Because of the large volume, copies of the enclosures have not been retained by Legat, Ottawa.

44-38861-6382

③-Bureau (Enc. 9) **ENCLOS**  
1-FLU, OLIA  
1-Ottawa (190-0)  
JEKT: kt  
(4)

6296

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIVED  
FOIPA-TIG

MAY 28 8 24 AM '92

EX-100-27,000



[illegible]

**Background**

FBI/DOJ

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

46

TRANSMIT VIA: AIRTEL

CLASSIFICATION: UNCLAS

DATE: 12/13/93

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
OO: MEMPHIS

Reference Newark Airtel and FD-302, dated 10/14/93,  
entitled "Unsolved Mysteries, NBC Television; OO: HQ."

Enclosed for the information of Memphis is one copy of  
an FD-302 interview of James J. Fallon, of Mendham, New Jersey,  
regarding the death of Martin Luther King, Jr., and a one A  
envelope containing the original notes regarding the interview of  
James J. Fallon.

Based on the information contained in the enclosed  
FD-302, Memphis is requested to conduct any and all logical  
investigation and report any results to FBIHQ, attention: Civil  
Rights Unit.

1 - Bufile # (44-38861)  
1 - Newark (94-HQ-70698) info. only  
Enc (2)  
hzu

44-38861-6380



- Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- ADD. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_
- ADD. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
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- Cong. Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. of EEO \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. Liaison & \_\_\_\_\_
- Int. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. of Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL ROOM ☒

RAP/KDO

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-11-01 BY 60322  
EX-100

CIVIL RIGHTS  
UNIT

DEC 14 11 49 AM '93

DEC 16 11 13 AM '93

RECEIVED-FBI

REC'D MAIL ROOM  
FBI

*[Handwritten signature]*

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-11-01 BY 60322  
EX-100

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
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DATE 11-11-01 BY 60322  
EX-100



**INFORMATION COMMUNICATION**

Date: 03/18/94

**FROM:** SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (C)  
SQUAD 8

**CONTACT:** SA [REDACTED]

**TO:** DIRECTOR, FBI

ATTN: SSA [REDACTED] CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

**TITLE:** RAY, JAMES, EARL;  
KING, MARTIN, LUTHER, JR.-VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS-CONSPIRACY;  
OO: MEMPHIS

**RE:** Memphis Information Communication dated 1/13/94.

**PURPOSE(S):** To update status of the investigative efforts of the Attorney General's Office.

**DETAILS:** On March 17, 1994, contact with MARK K. GLANKLER, Criminal Investigative Division, Shelby County Attorney General's Office, revealed that his investigation has not yet located FRANK HOLT, the alleged "shooter" of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., for interview. Additionally, GLANKLER advised that social security information concerning FRANK HOLT has not, to this point, proved beneficial in determining his whereabouts.

GLANKLER also advised that the more than 20 witnesses present at Jim's Bar and Grill on the date of the shooting had been accounted for, either by way of interview or by virtue of the fact that they are deceased; of those interviewed, none have identified FRANK HOLT as the shooter.

GLANKLER explained that the Shelby County Attorney General's Office is attempting to wind down their investigation by doing a background investigation on LLOYD JOWERS, to determine his bonafides. GLANKLER closed by stating that the date for the

1 - File # 44-1987  
1 - Working Copy  
WCR:adc (4)

*Russell*  
*10948*  
*U. Felman*  
*3-28-94*

CIVIL RIGHTS  
UNIT

MAR 24 12 51 PM '94

RECEIVED-FBI

*[Handwritten signature]*



03/18/94, Re: 44-1987

hearing to determine whether JAMES EARL RAY should be granted a new trial is scheduled for April 6, 1994.

Close liaison will be maintained with Attorney General PIEROTTI's office to ensure Memphis is aware of any pertinent developments, and Memphis will continue to assist by providing copies of pertinent FD-302s concerning interviews of individuals who may have some information concerning Dr. KING's assassination. FBIHQ will continue to be advised every 60 days on the status of the investigative efforts of the Attorney General's Office.

■

Exec AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exec AD LES \_\_\_\_\_  
 Asst. Dir.:  
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 Public Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

12/30

MURKIN

UP-022

R A

(JAMES EARL RAY)

PETROS, TENN. (UPI) - JAMES EARL RAY IS "POLITE, REAL NICE, A MODEL CONVICT" AT BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, BUT OFFICIALS ARE AT A LOSS TO STOP HIS REPEATED ESCAPE ATTEMPTS.

THE ASSASSIN OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. MADE HIS FOURTH BREAKOUT ATTEMPT YESTERDAY. HE WAS CRAWLING ON ALL FOURS - UNDER A GREEN BLANKET - TOWARD HIS LAST BARRIER, A 12-FOOT-HIGH CHAIN-LINK FENCE, WHEN A TOWER GUARD SPOTTED HIM.

"HE'S COOL, POLITE, A MODEL CONVICT. I GUESS WHILE THE OTHER GUYS ARE FIGHTING AND EVERYTHING, HE'S PLANNING ON HOW TO GET OUT," PRISON INFORMATION OFFICER RAY TUCKER SAID.

"WE SORT OF LET DOWN OUR GUARD AFTER EACH ONE, AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, HE'S TRYING IT AGAIN.

"I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE WE CAN DO," SAID TUCKER. "WE CAN'T JUST SIT AND WATCH HIM ALL DAY.

"MAYBE SOMEBODY ELSE WILL COME UP WITH SOMETHING, BUT BLAMED IF I KNOW ANYTHING ELSE TO DO."

RAY, SERVING A 99-YEAR TERM, AND HIS CELLMATE SAM EUGENE WOLVERTON LEFT PAPER-FILLED, PLASTIC BAG DUMMIES IN THEIR BUNKS - TOPPED BY SOME OF THEIR OWN HAIR - AND SAWED THEIR WAY OUT OF THEIR CELL IN THE PRE-DAWN DARKNESS YESTERDAY.

UPI 11-06 09:53 AES

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 OCT 7, 1986

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

SIX FBI/DOJ

RIGHTS &  
SPECIAL INQUIRY  
SECTION

Nov 6 4 55 PM '79

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#### RAY-ATTEMPT LEAD

PETROS, TENN. (AP) -- JAMES EARL RAY, IMPRISONED FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., TRIED TO ESCAPE FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PENITENTIARY TODAY BUT WAS SPOTTED CRAWLING OUTSIDE THE WALLS AND CAPTURED, OFFICIALS SAID.

RAY, SERVING 99 YEARS FOR KING'S MURDER PLUS TWO YEARS FOR AN ESCAPE IN 1977, CLIMBED THREE FLOORS TO THE PRISON'S ROOF AND THEN BACK DOWN TO THE GROUND OUTSIDE THE FORTRESS BEFORE OFFICIALS WERE AWARE OF THE BREAK.

PRISON SGT. RAY TUCKER SAID A GUARD IN A TOWER AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER SPOTTED RAY CRAWLING ALONG THE BASE OF THE WALL ON HIS STOMACH UNDER A GREEN CAMOUFLAGE BLANKET AT 2:05 A.M. RAY WAS ABOUT 60 FEET INSIDE A CHAIN-LINK FENCE SURROUNDING THE BUILDING, TUCKER SAID.

THE GUARD FIRED ONE SHOT AS A WARNING AND RAY STOOD UP, OFFERING NO RESISTENCE AS OTHER GUARDS DARTED OUT OF THE PRISON TO TAKE HIM BACK INSIDE, TUCKER SAID.

ACTING WARDEN HERMAN DAVIS SAID RAY'S CELLMATE, DONALD EUGENE WOLVERTON, WAS FOUND HIDING BEHIND AN AIR CONDITIONING UNIT ON THE PRISON'S GROUNDS.

THE ATTEMPT WAS THE 51-YEAR-OLD RAY'S FOURTH EFFORT AT ESCAPING FROM THE 85-YEAR-OLD STONE FORTRESS.

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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(RAY)

PETROS, TENN. (UPD) - JAMES EARL RAY, CONVICTED ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, MADE AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TODAY TO ESCAPE FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON IN EAST TENNESSEE - THE SAME FACILITY HE ESCAPED FROM IN JUNE 1977.

RAY, 51, IS SERVING A 99-YEAR TERM AT THE MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON NEAR KNOXVILLE FOR THE KING SLAYING ON APRIL 4, 1968 IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

UPI 11-05 10:02 AES

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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CIVIL RIGHTS &  
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NASHVILLE, TENN. (AP) -- CONVICTED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY SAYS HE HAS "SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE" OF HIS INNOCENCE AND CAN TELL THE STATE PAROLE BOARD WHO FINANCED THE SLAYING OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

RAY TOLD THE NASHVILLE BANNER IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED MONDAY THAT HE MAY ASK THE BOARD FOR A CLEMENCY HEARING WITHIN A FEW MONTHS, DEPENDING ON HOW THE STATE SUPREME COURT RULES ON A PENDING APPEAL FROM HIS 99-YEAR SENTENCE.

"THE MAIN THING I WOULD TELL THE BOARD IS I'M ALMOST CERTAIN WHO FINANCED THE KING HOMICIDE," RAY SAID. "I CAN'T TELL THEM WHO DID THE SHOOTING, BUT ONCE THEY GET THAT INFORMATION THEY COULD INVESTIGATE IT AND IN TURN HAVE SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE TO CLEAR ME."

ARRESTED IN LONDON AFTER A WORLDWIDE MANHUNT, RAY WAS RETURNED TO MEMPHIS WHERE KING WAS ASSASSINATED APRIL 4, 1968. RAY PLEADED GUILTY TO THE SLAYING THE FOLLOWING MARCH BUT HAS BEEN TRYING THROUGH VARIOUS APPEALS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURTS TO RECALL HIS GUILTY PLEA.

NEVIN TRAMMELL, PAROLE BOARD CHAIRMAN, SAID RAY QUALIFIES FOR A CLEMENCY HEARING BASED ON GUIDELINES ANNOUNCED A YEAR AGO BY GOV. LAMAR ALEXANDER. UNDER THE CRITERIA, AN INMATE MUST SERVE HALF OF THE MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR A CRIME.

THE MINIMUM SENTENCE FOR RAY, WHO PLEADED GUILTY TO FIRST-DEGREE MURDER, IS 20 YEARS AND RAY HAS SERVED 12 YEARS, INCLUDING TIME IN A SPECIAL CELL AT THE SHELBY COUNTY JAIL FOLLOWING HIS ARREST.

"I AM GOING TO SHOW SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE OF INNOCENCE AND THEY CAN MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THE GOVERNOR," RAY SAID, TALKING ABOUT THE PAROLE BOARD. "I THINK I WILL HAVE THAT IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS AND I WILL HAVE A LAWYER PRESENT THE EVIDENCE OF MY INNOCENCE."

RAY SAID HIS FIRST STEP WAS TO FILE A LIBEL SUIT IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN ST. LOUIS AGAINST THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT IN WASHINGTON. THE SUIT SAYS THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAS LIBELED RAY DURING THE PAST 10 YEARS BY REPORTING HE SUPPORTED HIMSELF PRIOR TO HIS LONDON ARREST BY DEALING IN DRUGS AND ROBBING BANKS.

NONE OF THE ALLEGATIONS WAS PROVEN, RAY SAID, AND "I CAN'T GO TO THE PAROLE BOARD WITH THESE CONSTANT CHARGES."

RAY WAS A FUGITIVE FROM THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON AT THE TIME KING WAS SLAIN.

RAY SPOKE WITH THE BANNER ON FRIDAY IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW FROM THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PENITENTIARY.

AP-WX-0728 1553EDT

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FBI/DOJ

OCT 1986



COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
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JUL 28 4 46 PM 1980



**INFORMATION COMMUNICATION**

Date: 01/13/94

**FROM:** SAC, MEMPHIS (C)  
SQUAD 8

**CONTACT:** SA [REDACTED]

**TO:** ✓ DIRECTOR, FBI

ATTN: SSA [REDACTED] CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT

44A-ME-38861

**TITLE:** RAY, JAMES, EARL;  
KING, MARTIN, LUTHER, JR. - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
OO: ME

**RE:** Bureau airtel dated 12/13/93.

**PURPOSE(S):** To outline investigative efforts by Memphis Division.

**DETAILS:** On 12/16/93, indices checks were conducted on JAMES J. FALLON, FALLON RESEARCH ASSOCIATES, ENGELHARD CORPORATION, MINERALS AND CHEMICALS PHILIPP, BRUNNING COMPANY, TERRILL JOHNSON, RICHARD RADFORD, and LEE HANSEN/HANSON with negative results.

44-31861-6315

On 12/17/93, liaison was established with District Attorney General JOHN PIEROTTI, Shelby County Attorney General's Office, Memphis, Tennessee, and the information contained in an FD-302, dated 10/4/93, concerning JAMES J. FALLON was disseminated to him. PIEROTTI advised MARK K. GLANKLER, Criminal Investigative Division, Shelby County Attorney General's Office, and JOHN SIMMONS, Special Agent, TENNESSEE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, would be handling an investigation that would be specifically looking into allegations expressed by LLOYD JOWERS on a recent episode of the television program "Primetime Live," during which JOWERS indicated JAMES EARL RAY was not the person who killed Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

To date, PIEROTTI's investigative team has been unable to locate FRANK HOLT, JOWERS' alleged "shooter" of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., for interview; the Memphis Division is presently assisting in locating HOLT through HOLT's social

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01/13/94, Re: 44-1987

security number. The Orlando, Florida Resident Agency has been apprised of JOWERS' allegations since FRANK HOLT most recently resided at a Rescue Mission in Orlando, Florida. In addition, the Memphis Division is also assisting in providing copies of specific FD-302's concerning interviews of specific individuals who were in the vicinity of the shooting of Dr. KING on the date of the incident.

PIEROTTI's investigative team is also currently attempting to locate and interview some 11 or 12 people who had been frequenting a restaurant situated near the scene of Dr. KING's assassination on that same date.

Memphis is not re-opening this investigation at this time since there has been no evidence uncovered to indicate anyone other than JAMES EARL RAY was responsible for Dr. KING's death. Close liaison will be maintained with Attorney General PIEROTTI's office to ensure Memphis is aware of any pertinent developments. FBIHQ will be advised every sixty days on status of the investigative efforts of the Attorney General's Office.

■



**INFORMATION COMMUNICATION**

Date: 03/16/95

**FROM:** SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (C)

**CONTACT:** SA [REDACTED]

**TO:** ✓ DIRECTOR, FBI (Encl. 1)  
CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT  
ATTN: SSA [REDACTED]

**TITLE:** RAY, JAMES EARL;  
KING, MARTIN LUTHER, JR. - VICTIM;  
CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
OO: MEMPHIS

**RE:** Memphis Information Communication, dated 1/19/95.

**ENCL:** Enclosed is a xerox copy of newspaper clipping.

**PURPOSE(S):** To update the status of the investigative efforts of the Shelby County Attorney General's (SCAG) Office.

**DETAILS:** On 1/19/95, MARK K. GLANKLER, CID, SCAG Office, provided the enclosed facsimile of an article in The Commercial Appeal, which provides a fair summary of their investigation to date.

Continued close liaison will be maintained with the SCAG Office to ensure Memphis is aware of any pertinent developments, and FBIHQ will continue to be advised every 60 days on the status of the investigative efforts.

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ON THE BASIS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS  
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS  
AND THE FACTS OF THE CASE, THE FOLLOWING IS  
A SUMMARY OF THE INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM THE  
MEMBERS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS:

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RECEIVED FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE INVESTIGATIVE  
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MEMBER: [REDACTED]  
STATE: [REDACTED]  
CITY: [REDACTED]  
COUNTY: [REDACTED]  
ZIP: [REDACTED]

MEMBER: [REDACTED]  
STATE: [REDACTED]  
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MEMBER: [REDACTED]  
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COUNTY: [REDACTED]  
ZIP: [REDACTED]

MEMBER: [REDACTED]

DATE: [REDACTED]



363  
Date: 05/22/95

**INFORMATION COMMUNICATION**

**FROM:** SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (C)

*just stop*  
**CONTACT:** SA [REDACTED]

**TO:** ✓ DIRECTOR, FBI  
CIVIL RIGHTS UNIT  
ATTN: SSA [REDACTED]

**TITLE:** ① RAY, JAMES EARL;  
✓ KING, MARTIN LUTHER, JR - VICTIM;  
✓ CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;  
OO: MEMPHIS

**RE:** Reference Memphis information communication, dated 3/16/95.

**PURPOSE(S):** To update the status of the investigative efforts of the Shelby County Attorney General's Office.

**DETAILS:** On 5/16/95, MARK K. GLANKLER, CID, Shelby County Attorney General's Office, advised that WILLIAM PEPPER, JAMES EARL RAY's London based attorney, has not yet come forth with the revelation concerning "RAOUL", the nebulous figure named by convicted assassin JAMES EARL RAY, who claims he was set up. GLANKLER advised that when the revelation is made public, the Shelby County Attorney General's Office is prepared to fully discredit it.

Henceforth, 60-day updates will be discontinued in the matter, and no further investigation/reporting will be conducted. In the event pertinent information is developed, the Bureau will be advised.

44-38861-6394

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1 - Working Copy  
WCR:paw (4)

1 [Signature]  
Info 694 to DOJ  
6/5/95

CIVIL RIGHTS  
UNIT

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July 22, 1997

Mr. Lee Coffee  
Assistant District Attorney General  
Shelby County District Attorney's Office  
Suite 301  
201 Poplar Avenue  
Memphis, Tennessee 38103

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in sect 95  
which is missing*

Dear Mr. Coffee:

I am writing you concerning the matter of James Earl Ray v. State of Tennessee. As I understand events that have received media coverage, the firearms evidence in the shooting death of Dr. Martin Luther King has been recently reexamined by a team of experts. The results of this reevaluation of the evidence has raised a number of issues concerning the fatal bullet taken from Dr. King and the suspected murder weapon.

In 1968, the FBI Laboratory examined the weapon and compared it to the fatal bullet removed from Dr. King. Because the fatal bullet lacked sufficient microscopic marks of value for identification purposes, it could not be determined whether or not this bullet was fired from the submitted rifle. Also examined in 1968 were five unfired cartridges found with the rifle. It was concluded that the lead component of the bullet from one of the cartridges found with the rifle was similar in composition with the lead component of the fatal bullet.

Should your office deem it desirable in the interest of the case, the FBI Laboratory could re-examine the firearms evidence in this matter. A compositional examination could be conducted utilizing ICP-AES (Inductively Coupled Plasma-Atomic Emission Spectroscopy) that would be state-of-the-art and provide qualitative and quantitative analyses of the bullet lead. Such examinations are necessarily destructive in nature, requiring that non-contaminated lead be obtained by cutting into the lead core of each bullet from the nose or base areas. By looking at more elements in the lead, the ICP-AES examinations would provide more information than the single-element approach available in the 1968 analysis. The destructive nature of the examination must be weighed against the value of the examination and preserving the evidence in its present condition.

The fatal bullet from Dr. King has been microscopically compared to test bullets fired from the recovered rifle during the original 1968 FBI Laboratory examinations, again by a five-member panel for the House of Representatives Select Committee on

Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Staff **44-HQ-38861**  
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Asst. Dir.: **1**  
Crim. Inv. **1**  
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Lab. **1**  
National Sec. **1**  
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Off. of Public & Cong. Affs. **PFS:pfs/lavl (9)**  
Director's Office **MAIL ROOM** ☐

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**44-HQ-38861-6395**

Assassination, and most recently by a three-panel of firearms examiners. All three examinations have resulted in the same conclusion and there is no validated, alternative technique available that would better serve to compare a fired bullet to a weapon.

If requested, the FBI Laboratory is prepared to be of assistance concerning the evidence in this case. You may contact Mr. [REDACTED] Unit Chief, Firearm-Toolmarks Unit of the FBI Laboratory, at 202-324-4378, should you desire any assistance or have any questions.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D. W. Thompson, Jr.', written over the typed name.

Donald W. Thompson, Jr.  
Acting Assistant Director

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

WASHINGTON POST

Date: 8/19/97

Edition:

Title: RAY, JAMES EARL  
 KING, MARTIN LUTHER JR.-victim  
 CIVIL RIGHTS -CONSPIRACY

Character: 44-ME-1987

or 44-HQ-38861

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Indexing:

## Court Filing Blocks Renewed King Probe

Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Aug. 18—A special prosecutor appointed today to look into the 1968 murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. will hold off starting work until an appeals court rules on an objection raised by state prosecutors.

They filed an emergency appeal of Judge John Colton's action, claiming he had no authority to name University of Memphis law professor Mike Roberts as a special prosecutor. The Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals ordered the investigation halted until a hearing Aug. 29.

"He's basically going to convene his own little grand jury, I guess," prosecutor John Campbell said of Roberts. "He's going to take evidence and then seal it. . . . I don't really know where he's going on it."

Some investigation has been done in another courtroom regarding claims by confessed killer James Earl Ray that he did not kill King.

Prosecutors have been fighting that probe, claiming any actions in the case must be brought before the division of the state criminal court that is presided over by Colton because Ray made his guilty plea there in 1969.

Colton has demanded the documents from the other investigation, in Judge Joe Brown's court.

Roberts, meanwhile, would have the authority to subpoena witnesses and take sworn statements but must await the appeals court decision.

Although Ray pleaded guilty to the murder, he has claimed almost since his plea that he did not kill King.

Washington Post  
8/19/97

44-38861 SECTION 95  
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR

TRANSFERRED 11/27/2001  
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Returned to NARA  
Aug 2005  
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