

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

# FEDERAL BUREAU

**of**

# INVESTIGATION

**Bureau File Number** 44-38861

Sep. 1A Volume

**See also Nos.**

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED  
FOR HISTORICAL  
DECLASSIFICATION

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-16-03 BY SP-6/

See next Vol.

~~Wakoh 4-9-68~~

# ROTOR No. 4

**CLASSIFICATION NO.**

廿九

769

## Serials

1

**Volume Number**

1

67

VOLUME

COMPLETE

6-499

FBI JACKSVLE

434

FBI JKSN MISS

434PM URGENT 4-5-68 VCG

TO DIRECTOR, JACKSONVILLE, NEW ORLEANS AND MEMPHIS

FROM JACKSON (157-9586)3P

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE JACKSONVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON, NEW ORLEANS,  
AND MEMPHIS, APRIL FIVE, INSTANT; JACKSON REPORT OF SA R.  
STEPHEN CARR, MARCH TWENTY TWO, LAST, ENTITLED "FRANKLIN  
WAYNE BUFORD; SHOOTING INTO HOME OF JAMES CHARLES EVERS,  
TWO FIVE FIVE FOUR QUEENSWOOD AVENUE, JACKSON, MISS., MARCH  
THREE, LAST; JAMES CHARLES EVERS - VICTIM; CR - EL; VRA  
NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE," AND JACKSON LHM MARCH SIX, LAST  
ENTITLED "MEETING SPONSORED BY NAACP SCHEDULED TO BE HELD  
JANUARY SEVENTEEN, LAST, JACKSON, MISS., TO SELECT NEGRO  
CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS, RM."

ON MARCH TWO, LAST, FATHER WILLIAM MORRISSEY (PI),  
WHITE MALE, CATHOLIC PRIEST IN NATCHEZ, MISS., CONFIDENTIALLY  
ADVISED BUAGENT HE HAD TALKED TO ONE "MOON"HAZEL. FATHER  
MORRISSEY REPORTED THAT HAZEL HAD BEEN HANGING AROUND WHERE  
END PAGEONE

*See Serial 3*

*157-1554*

SEARCHED <i>h</i>	INDEXED <i>h</i>
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FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

*44-769-1*

PAGE TWO

EVERS HAD BEEN SPEAKING AND ON ONE OCCASION GOT INTO AN AUTOMOBILE WITH FATHER MORRISSEY AND HAZEL CONFIDENTIALLY ADVISED HIM THAT HE HAD BEEN OFFERED FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS BY AN UNSPECIFIED PERSON TO KILL EVERS.

BUAGENTS PROVIDED THIS INFO TO NATCHEZ, MISS., PD, WHO ARRESTED HAZEL ON MARCH TWO, LAST, ON A CHARGE OF DRUNKENESS. DURING INTERVIEW BY BUAGENTS, HAZEL APPEARED PARTIALLY INCOHERENT AND ADVISED HE HAD BEEN OFFERED FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS TO KILL EVERS BY AN INDIVIDUAL HE COULD ONLY DESCRIBE AS "AVERAGE AMERICAN NAMED JOE." HAZEL STATED HE TOLD THIS INDIVIDUAL HE WOULD DO THE JOB FOR FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND A TRIP OUT OF THE U.S. HE STATES HE SUBSEQUENTLY RECEIVED FOUR OR FIVE ANONYMOUS CALLS AT BARS AND PAY PHONES REGARDING THE "HIT," BUT HAZEL STATED HE HAD DECIDED NOT TO DO THE "JOB" FOR ANY PRICE.

HAZEL HAS BEEN ARRESTED APPROXIMATELY FORTY TIMES IN PAST ON CHARGES FROM DRUNKENESS TO GRAND LARCENY.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

NATCHEZ PD RELEASED HAZEL MARCH SIX, LAST, AFTER INVESTIGATION OF THIS MATTER, AND J. T. ROBINSON, COP, NATCHEZ, STATED HE BELIEVED WHOLE MATTER TO BE A HOAX AND A RESULT OF TOO MUCH DRINKING BY HAZEL IN LOCAL BARS.

ARREST RECORD REVEALS FULL NAME OF FORNEY MARION HAZEL, WHITE MALE, DOB [REDACTED], POB DUNN, LA., HEIGHT FIVE FEET, ELEVEN INCHES, WEIGHT TWO HUNDRED POUNDS, FBI NUMBER FOUR ONE THREE NINE NINE EIGHT TWO. TATTOO OF STAR ON LEFT HAND AND "F M HAZEL" ON LEFT FOREARM. ADDRESS GIVEN AS ONE SEVEN ONE NINE COLEMAN AVENUE, WEST MONROE, LA., AND EMPLOYMENT WITH LOUISIANA DELTA PLANTATION, JONESVILLE, LA.

NEW ORLEANS AT WEST MONROE, LA., DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF HAZEL DURING EVENING APRIL FOUR, LAST. AT NEW ORLEANS CONTACT FATHER LOUIS TOONEY TO DETERMINE IF ABOVE INFO IDENTICAL WITH INFO FURNISHED BY EMMETT PETER IN FIRST REFERENCE.

END

CJA

FBI JACKSVLE

X

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI TAMPA

853 PM URGENT 4/5/68 ALS

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSONVILLE  
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM.

RALPH WRIGHT, U. S. POST OFFICE EMPLOYEE, ORLANDO, FLA., ADVISED TODAY, HE ATTENDED A COURSE AT JACKSONVILLE, FLA., UNIVERSITY IN EARLY SIXTY FIVE AND ALSO A STUDENT WAS A RAY COCHRANE (PH), WHOSE FATHER RAN GATORLAND, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., NORTH OF THE CITY, ON U. S. HIGHWAY ONE. ALTHOUGH COCHRANE WAS INCLINED TO BRAG, HE MADE STATEMENT THAT DURING THE RACIAL DISORDER IN ST. AUGUSTINE IN ABOUT SIXTY TO SIXTY ONE, HE "DREW A BEAD ON KING AND COULD HAVE KILLED HIM BUT DID NOT WISH TO MAKE A MARTYR OUT OF HIM". COCHRANE ALSO BRAGGED HE HAD LOTS OF AMMUNITION AND AN ARSENAL OF WEAPONS. WRIGHT BELIEVED COCHRANE TO BE AN HONORARY DEPUTY SHERIFF IN ST. JOHN'S COUNTY, FLA., AT THE TIME.

WRIGHT CONSIDERS COCHRANE A POSSIBLE SUSPECT DUT

DUE TO HIS  
ANTI-NEGRO ATTITUDES AS WELL. STATED MR. BASIL WOODS, FORTY ONE TO FORTY TWO YEARS OF AGE, CLERK IN U. S. POST OFFICE, ST. AUGUSTINE,  
END PAGE ONE

*Chas. ...*  
*44-269-2*

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*Reason Advised*  
*hand 4/6/68*

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

KNOWS COCHRANE AND MAY KNOW HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS. WRIGHT STATES  
LAST KNOWN WHEREABOUTS OF COCHRANE WAS THAT HE HAD TRAVELLING JOB  
WHICH TOOK HIM TO COLORADO. COCHRANE WHITE MALE, ABOUT THIRTY,  
FIVE T. TEN IN., ONE HUNDRED EIGHT LBS., ORIGINALLY FROM ST.  
AUGUSTINE.

JACKSONVILLE AT ST. AUGUSTINE, INTERVIEW BASIL WOODS, ESTABLISH  
TRUE NAME OF SUSPECT COCHRANE AND HIS WHEREABOUTS APRIL FOUR LAST.

END

TN

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI NEW ORLS

914PM URGENT 4-5-68 CDC

TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON, JACKSONVILLE, AND MEMPHIS  
FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-10673

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE JACKSONVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, JACKSON AND  
NEW OREANS FOUR FIVE SIXTYEIGHT AT TEN FORTYONE AM, AND  
JACKSON TEL TO DIRECTOR, JACKSONVILLE AND MEMPHIS FOUR FIVE  
SIXTYEIGHT AT FOUR FORTYSIX PM.

INQUIRY AT MONROE, LA. PD, APRIL FIVE INSTANT DETERMINED

THAT FORNEY; MARION HAZEL IS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED IN JAIL AT  
MONROE, LA. AND HAS BEEN CONFINED CONTINUOUSLY SINCE MARCH EIGHT  
SIXTYEIGHT

FATHER LOUIS TOOMEY, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS ADVISED  
APRIL FIVE INSTANT THAT AT NO TIME HAS ANY INFORMATION EVER COME  
TO HIS ATTENTION FROM ANY SOURCE OF AN ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO ASSASS-  
INATE CHARLES EVERS.

END

TN

FBI JACKSVLE

*Best  
Advised*

*This  
Covers  
since I had  
purport*

44-769-3  
~~157-1534~~

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*20*

F B I

Date: 4/6/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: BUREAU  
FROM: JACKSONVILLE (157-1534)

*This covers serial 2*

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM

RE TAMPA TEL TO BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND JACKSONVILLE  
APRIL FIVE LAST.

INVESTIGATION ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., DETERMINED RAY  
COCHRANE (PHONETIC) DESCRIBED IN REFERENCED TELETYPE,  
IDENTICAL TO RAY D. ETTTEL, MANAGER, GATORLAND, ST. AUGUSTINE,  
FLORIDA, WHICH IS OWNED BY ETTTEL'S FATHER.

ETTTEL INTERVIEWED AND DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF CAPTIONED  
MATTER AND OF EVER HAVING DRAWN BEAD ON MARTIN LUTHER KING.  
ETTTEL STATED ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT BELIEVE IN KING'S  
ACTIVITIES HE FEELS ASSASSINATION UNWARRANTED.

ETTTEL STATED HE OWNS SEVERAL RIFLES AND IS AVID HUNTER.  
HE ALSO ADVISED HE WAS EMPLOYED BY PACIFIC GUN SIGHT CO.,  
OMAHA, NEBRASKA, FROM OCTOBER NINETEEN SIXTY FIVE TO  
APRIL NINETEEN SIXTY SIX.

1 - Memphis (AM)  
1 - Tampa (AM) (157-3231)  
① - Jacksonville

CEB:mhw  
Approved (3) *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

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Per *[Signature]*

Sent 1242

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

JK 157-1534

PAGE TWO

ETTEL STATED ON APRIL FOUR LAST HE WORKED AT GATORLAND, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA, FROM EIGHT A.M. TO SIX P.M. AND THIS WAS VERIFIED BY WIFE. ST. JOHNS COUNTY DEPUTY BOB BISSELL, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLA., NEIGHBOR TO ETTEL STATED HE SAW ETTEL LATE WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT RESIDENCE. DEPUTY SHERIFF VAN LINDSEY, ST. JOHNS COUNTY SO, NEXT DOOR NEIGHBOR TO ETTEL ADVISED HE SAW ETTEL AT RESIDENCE THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL FOUR LAST.

ETTEL DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, DOB [REDACTED], [REDACTED], AT SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, TWO HUNDRED TEN LBS., MEDIUM TO HEAVY BUILD, BROWN HAIR AND EYES, MEDIUM COMPLEXION, MARRIED WITH TWO CHILDREN, RESIDENCE FIVE ONE ONE A STREET, ST. AUGUSTINE BEACH, FLA.

MEMPHIS AND TAMPA ADVISED AIRMAIL.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-1535)

DATE: 4/6/68

FROM : SA EDWARD H. BAHLOW, JR.

SUBJECT: ~~OLAF WEBB (PH)~~  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
SHOOTING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

*webb*

On above date, ~~MRS. EGLE ROACH~~, 2567 Riverside Ave., telephone number 388-0957, telephonically advised that the above individual, whom she knew about 10 years ago, closely resembles the artist conception of the individual believed to be responsible for the shooting of Dr. KING. She advised as follows:

During 1957-58, she was employed as a student nurse at the FOREE HOSPITAL, in Athens, Tennessee. WEBB was employed at the same hospital as a male nurse. She went with WEBB during this time until he left Athens for Chicago, Illinois. According to ROACH, WEBB joined the Chicago Police Department. He corresponded with her on two occasions after leaving Athens, Tenn. She has not seen him since this time. She stated the picture in the April 6 issue of the Fla. Times Union reminded her of WEBB to such an extent that she decided to call the FBI.

ROACH discribed WEBB as follows:

Name: OLAF (PH) WEBB

Race: White

Hgt : 5'8"

Wgt : 170

Hair: Brown

Eyes: Blue (Large, bushy eyebrows)

Characteristics: Long pointed nose, wore hair slicked straight back-had "funny" walk, kept right arm straight when walking.

Jacksonville indicies negative on subject and ROACH.

2-157-1535

EHB

157-767-5

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*Nalah* *888*  
*no more*



5010-108-01

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

F B I

Date: 4/6/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: BUREAU  
MEMPHIS  
KNOXVILLE

FROM: JACKSONVILLE (157-1535)

*Supers  
Olaf Webb*

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM

MRS. EGLE ROACH, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA, ADVISED THAT ARTIST CONCEPTION PHOTO OF INDIVIDUAL BELIEVED TO HAVE ASSASSINATED MARTIN LUTHER KING THAT APPEARED IN TODAY'S ISSUE OF "FLORIDA TIMES UNION," A JACKSONVILLE NEWSPAPER, CLOSELY RESEMBLES ~~IS IDENTICAL~~ WITH ONE OLAF (PHONETIC) WEBB. ROACH SAID SHE KNEW WEBB TEN YEARS AGO WHEN BOTH EMPLOYED FOREE HOSPITAL IN ATHENS, TENNESSEE. ROACH STATED WEBB LEFT ATHENS, TENNESSEE, NINETEEN FIFTY SEVEN OR FIFTY EIGHT AND TRAVELED TO CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, WHERE HE REPORTEDLY WAS EMPLOYED BY THE CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, POLICE DEPARTMENT. SHE DESCRIBED WEBB AS WHITE MALE AMERICAN, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY LBS., BROWN HAIR, BLUE EYES, LARGE BUSHY EYEBROWS, LONG POINTED NOSE, WORE HAIR

① - Jacksonville

LHB:mhw

(1)

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge

*Walah* *SPB*  
Bu  
ME 3:41 MCP  
KX 3:45 JLK  
Sent

3:36GTH SEARCHED

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Per

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)

JK 157-1535

PAGE TWO

SLICK STRAIGHT BACK AND HAD "FUNNY WALK" IN THAT HE  
KEPT HIS <sup>RIGHT</sup> ~~LEFT~~ ARM STIFF AND STRAIGHT WHEN WALKING.

ROACH HAS HAD NO ASSOCIATION WITH WEBB FOR PAST  
SEVERAL YEARS, HOWEVER, BELIEVES ARTIST CONCEPTION VERY  
CLOSELY RESEMBLES WEBB.

KNOXVILLE AT ATHENS, TENNESSEE, DETERMINE BACKGROUND  
OF WEBB THROUGH RECORDS OF FOREE HOSPITAL AND FURNISH  
RESULTS TO CHICAGO.

CHICAGO THROUGH CHICAGO PD RECORDS OR OTHER SOURCES  
ATTEMPT TO LOCATE WEBB AND ESTABLISH HIS WHEREABOUTS ON  
APRIL FOUR LAST.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI KNOXVLE

643PM DEFERRED 4/6/68 DCK

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, CHICAGO, AND JACKSONVILLE  
FROM KNOXVILLE (157-1298) RUC

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE JACKSONVILLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU APRIL SIX, INSTANT.  
KATHLEEN BAKER, FOREE HOSPITAL, ATHENS, TENN., RECALLS  
INDIVIDUAL ANSWERING DESCRIPTION AS OLAF (PH) WEBB IDENTICAL  
TO WEBB COOK. COOK EMPLOYED FOREE HOSPITAL FOR APPROXIMATELY  
FIFTEEN YEARS. COOK DIED TWO YEARS AGO AFTER HAVING BOTH  
LEGS AMPUTATED DUE TO A DIABETIC CONDITION. ESTIMATED IF  
COOK WERE ALIVE TODAY, HE WOULD BE ABOUT FIFTYFIVE YEARS  
OF AGE. BAKER HAD NO INFORMATION CONCERNING COOK SEEKING  
EMPLOYMENT WITH CHICAGO PD OR GOING TO CHICAGO TO WORK FOR  
PD.

END

TN

FBI JACKSVLE

*Webb*

*Not  
advised @*

44-769-7

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FBI JACKSVLE

FBI CHICAGO

748PM URGENT 4-6-68 TAB

TO: DIRECTOR MEMPHIS KNOXVILLE JACKSONVILLE  
FROM: CHICAGO (P)

*Webb*

MURKIN

RE JACKSONVILLE AND KNOXVILLE TELS THIS DATE CAPTIONED  
ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SEARCH OF RECORDS OF PERSONNEL DIVISION AND BUREAU  
OF RECORDS AND COMMUNICATIONS, CHICAGO PD THIS DATE  
FAILED TO DISCLOSE ANY EMPLOYMENT OR ARREST RECORD  
IDENTIFIABLE WITH OLAF WEBB OR WEBB COOK.  
UNLESS ADDITIONAL IDENTIFYING DATA OR MORE DEFINITE  
INFORMATION AS TO WHEREABOUTS OF WEBB CAN BE FURNISHED  
CHICAGO, NO FURTHER ACTION BEING TAKEN.

END

IN  
FBI JACKSVLE

*Mr. Buel advised 11:18 PM 2 PM*

*Route to Johnson (at request of Mr. Buel)*

*no need*

*44-769-8*  
*157-134*

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FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

*Walt*

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI BIRMGHAM

144 PM URGENT 4-7-68 GDM

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS AND JACKSONVILLE  
FROM BIRMINGHAM (44-1740)

*Natl Cash Register*

*0*  
MURKIN. OO: MEMPHIS.

INVESTIGATION IN BIRMINGHAM AREA WITH LIGGETT-REXALL CHAIN  
TO IDENTIFY CASH REGISTER RECEIPTS IN POSSESSION OF UNSUB DETERMINED  
THAT LIGGETT-REXALL CHAIN UTILIZES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY THE SERVICES  
OF NATIONAL CASH REGISTER COMPANY. EACH INDIVIDUAL STORE HAS  
ELECTROPLATE MADE FOR INDIVIDUAL CASH REGISTER. NATIONAL CASH  
REGISTER AT JACKSONVILLE FLORIDA HANDLES THE ENTIRE SOUTHEAST AREA.

SUGGEST MEMPHIS IMMEDIATELY FORWARD COPY OF CASH REGISTER  
RECEIPTS INSTANT CASE TO JACKSONVILLE DIVISION FOR CONTACT WITH NATIONAL  
CASH REGISTER COMPANY TO IDENTIFY RETAIL OUTLET UTILIZING THESE  
RECEIPTS.

END

JLC

FBI JACKSVLE

X

*SA Johnson  
advised for  
Super-Bush  
advised for*

*44-769-9*  
*157-1534*

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FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

*Malah*

FBI WASH DC

319PM URGENT 4-7-68 SAA

TO ALL CONTINENTAL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR 1P

*0*  
MURKIN —

THIS IS THE CAPTION FOR THE CIVIL RIGHTS INVESTIGATION TO IDENTIFY PERSON OR PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON APRIL FOUR LAST.

ALL INVESTIGATION MUST BE HANDLE UNDER THE PERSONAL DIRECTION OF THE SAC. LEADS ARE TO BE AFFORDED IMMEDIATE, THOROUGH IMAGINATIVE ATTENTION. YOU MUST EXHAUST ALL POSSIBILITIES FROM SUCH LEADS AS ANY ONE LEAD COULD RESULT IN THE SOLUTION OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT INVESTIGATION. SAC WILL BE HELD PERSONALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FAILURE TO PROMPTLY AND THOROUGHLY HANDLE INVESTIGATIONS IN THIS MATTER.

END

MM..RGT

FBI MIAMI

TP..DGP

FBI TAMPA

JK..JLC

FBI JACKSVLE

CO..JJJ

FBI-COLUMBIA

SV..PNR

FBI SAVANNAH

AT..JWE

*SAC advised for*  
*Supv. Buro advised for*

*44-769-10*  
*157-1524*

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FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

*Wich*

FBI MEMPHIS

922PM URGENT 4/7/68 CAF

TO ALL SACS

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 2P

MURKIN; CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE BUTEL TO ALL SAC'S APRIL SEVEN, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT.

FOR INFO ALL OFFICES, PERTINENT PERIODS IN INVESTIGATION ARE MARCH TWENTY NINE AND THIRTY IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA., AND APRIL FOUR, SIXTY EIGHT, IN MEMPHIS, TENN.

IN EVENT ANY DATA DEVELOPED RE SUSPECTS, IF INTERESTED OFFICES CAN ESTABLISH WHEREABOUTS OF SUSPECTS ON DATES ABOVE, THIS MAY ELIMINATE SUSPECT. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE, EFFORTS SHOULD BE MADE TO SECURE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SUSPECTS IN QUESTION AND FORWARD PHOTOS TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM FOR POSSIBLE ELIMINATION. PERTINENT DESCRIPTIVE DATA SHOULD BE INCLUDED WITH PHOTOS.

IF UNABLE TO ELIMINATE ON BASIS OF ESTABLISHED WHEREABOUTS IN PERTINENT PERIODS, INTERESTED OFFICES SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO SECURE FINGERPRINTS OF SUSPECT IN QUESTION AND SUBMIT SAME TO BUREAU FOR ELIMINATION.

COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION, BASED ON DATA DEVELOPED IN BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS, IS AS FOLLOWS:

END PAGE ONE

*Get out  
enough  
Johnson  
advised*

*Done by  
all RAs by  
teletype  
Adgts  
Conf. & lead  
TD*

44-769-11

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JACKSONVILLE	

PAGE TWO

SUSPECT MALE WHITE, AGE TWENTY SIX TO FORTY YEARS, HEIGHT FIVE FT. EIGHT TO FIVE FT. ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TO ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY LBS.; DARK BROWN OR SANDY HAIR, COMBED STRAIGHT BACK. EYES BLUE OR GREEN; MEDIUM BUILD; COMPLEXION AVERAGE, SMOOTH. GENERAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE; NEAT.

POSSIBILITY EXISTS SUSPECT IS NON-SMOKER. INDICATIONS WERE THAT SUSPECT RENTED ROOM BETWEEN THREE AND THREE THIRTY PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND DEPARTED ROOM SHORTLY AFTER SIX PM. NO MATCHES OR CIGARETTES FOUND DURING THAT PERIOD, WHICH SUGGESTS SUSPECT MAY BE NON-SMOKER.

RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION MUST BE PROMPTLY FURNISHED BUREAU, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM. P.

END

ONK

BOI JACKSVLE

JK...TN

FBI JACKSVLE

ALS

FBI TAMPA

VMF VFP

FBI MOBILE

RML

FBI MIAMI

JK AGAIN THREE INITIALS

TXN

FBI JACKSVLE

TU CLRX

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI JKSN MISS

12-17PM URGENT 4-8-68 BJM

TO DIRECTOR (MAIL) AND JACKSONVILLE

FROM JACKSON (157-9586) 2P

MURKIN - CR

FOR INFO JACKSONVILLE DIVISION, ~~BYRON DE LA BECKWITH~~, AKA,  
WHITE MALE, DOB [REDACTED], SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA,  
FIVE FEET TEN INCHES, ONE SEVENTY POUNDS, DARK BROWN HAIR,  
OLIVE COMPLEXION, MEDIUM BUILD, RESIDENCE ONE ZERO ZERO ONE  
DEWEY STREET, GREENWOOD, MISS., PREVIOUSLY ARRESTED JUNE,  
SIXTY THREE, BY BUREAU AGENTS, JACKSON DIVISION, FOR MURDER OF  
MEDGAR EVERS, NAACP FIELD SECRETARY, STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, WHO  
WAS SLAIN IN JACKSON, MISS., IN JUNE, SIXTYTHREE.

BECKWITH TRIED ON TWO OCCASIONS AND JURY UNABLE TO REACH  
A VERDICT BOTH INCIDENTS. BECKWITH HAS PROPENSITY FOR VIOLENCE  
AND ASSOCIATED WITH KKK IN MISSISSIPPI.

ON INSTANT DATE, CHARLES D. BARRENTINE OF BARRENTINE  
MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INC., GREENWOOD, MISSISSIPPI, BECKWITH'S  
END PAGE ONE

*Coordinate*

*Covered by serial 25  
Captain: Maxine -  
E.R.*

*JB  
T.4/15*

*Open as  
new  
Wahok  
no  
new*

*44-769-12*

*157-1534*

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*[Signature]*

PAGE TWO JN 157-9586

EMPLOYER, ADVISED THAT A DAILY REPORT WORKSHEET RECEIVED INSTANT AM INDICATES BECKWITH, A FARM AND MARINE EQUIPMENT SALESMAN, WAS IN CONTACT WITH AND RECEIVED AN ORDER FROM J. P. BROWN MOTOR SALES, HIGHWAY NINETY, GREENVILLE, FLORIDA, LEAVING TWO FIFTEEN PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND WAS IN CONTACT WITH PERRY TRUCK AND TRACTOR COMPANY, PERRY FLORIDA, LEAVING FIVE FORTY FIVE PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST. BARRENTINE STATED THAT BECKWITH'S DAILY REPORT INDICATED HE WAS SPENDING THE EVENING OF APRIL FOUR, LAST, IN THE PERRY, FLORIDA AREA, SPECIFIC LOCATION NOT INDICATED.

JACKSONVILLE; WILL IMMEDIATELY VERIFY BECKWITH'S PRESENCE IN THE ABOVE AREA AS OF THE TIME AND DATE INDICATED. VERIFY THROUGH INVESTIGATION WHERE SPENT EVENING. KING WAS SHOT AROUND SIX ZERO ONE PM APRIL FOUR LAST. PHOTOS OF BECKWITH WITH BACKGROUND ARE IN POSSESSION OF MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM. AM COPY TO BUREAU, BIRMINGHAM, AND MEMPHIS. END.

MM

FBI JACKSVLE

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

PAGE TWO.

HE BRAGGED ABOUT WHAT "WE" WERE GOING TO DO TO NEGROES AND WHEN SOURCE QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT IDENTITY OF "WE", HE SAID "ORGANIZATION" TO WHICH HE BELONGED. SOURCE FOUND VOLUMINOUS KKK LITERATURE IN HUNT'S TRUNK AND WHEN SHE QUESTIONED HIM ABOUT IT, HE BECAME EXTREMELY ANGRY. HUNT PHYSICALLY BEAT SOURCE BECAUSE SHE WALKED HOME WITH NEGRO GIRL WHO WAS FELLOW EMPLOYEE AT MORRISON'S CAFETERIA. AFTER SOURCE LEFT HUNT, HE SENT HER SEVERAL TELEGRAMS SIGNING NAME OF MALE NEGRO FELLOW EMPLOYEE AT MORRISON'S. SOURCE LAST SAW HUNT WHEN HE WORKED AT ROBERTS MOTOR COMPANY, AUGUSTA, GA., FOR ONE WEEK DURING SUMMER OF SIXTYSEVEN AND LIVED AT BAYNHAM'S MOTEL, N. AUGUSTA, S. C., AT THAT TIME HUNT SHOWED SOURCE LARGE CALIBER REVOLVER WRAPPED IN NEWSPAPER.

SOURCE DESCRIBED HUNT AS WMA, FORTY-FORTYTWO YEARS, SANDY HAIR, RECEDING HAIRLINE, FIVE FT. NINE INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY LBS., SLIGHT BUILD, SLENDER FACE, PROMINENT POINTED NOSE.

HE TOLD SOURCE HE SERVED IN USN AND USAF AND WAS INCARCERATED AT FEDERAL PENITENTIARY IN FLORIDA, CHARGE ILLEGAL WHISKEY.

PAGE THREE

RELATIVES ARE BROTHER CECIL HUNT, KUNKA DRIVE, JACKSONVILLE;  
SISTER BIRDIE HUHN, WHOSE HUSBAND PAUL HUHN IS CAPTAIN OF  
FISHING BOAT, JACKSONVILLE BEACH, FLA., AND SISTER, NAME UNKNOWN  
CALLAHAN, FLA.

SOURCE SAID THAT SHE HEARD DESCRIPTION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.'S ASSASSIN ON TV AND THIS DESCRIPTION FITS HUNT.  
BECAUSE OF HIS BACKGROUNG, SHE BELIEVES, HUNT MIGHT BE ASSASSIN

VIVIAN SULLIVAN, OFFICE MANAGER, ROBERTS MOTOR CO., TWO  
ONE ONE FIFTEENTH ST., AUGUSTA, PRODUCED RECORDS SHOWING HAYES H.  
HUNT, SOCIAL SECURITY NO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], BORN [REDACTED], FIVE FT. ELEVEN INCHES,  
ONE HUNDRED FORTY LBS., BLOND HAIR, BROWN EYES, WAS EMPLOYED AS  
MECHANIC FOR ONE WEEK BEGINNING AUGUST TWENTYONE LAST. PERMANENT  
HOME ADDRESS LISTED AS ONE ZERO FOUR SEVEN TWO KENKA DRIVE,  
JACKSONVILLE, FLA., AND PERSON TO BE NOTIFIED IN CASE OF  
EMERGENCY CECIL HUNT, SAME ADDRESS.

JACKSONVILLE LOCATE HUNT, DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS AND  
ACTIVITIES DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

END PAGE THREE

*Cecil V. Hunt*  
*10472 Kunka Dr*  
*768-7223*  
*Hunt & Co. Oil Station*  
*5211 Laurel Dr.*  
*765-4118*

PAGE FOUR.

HUNT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED A AND D SINCE HE REPORTEDLY HAS  
REVOLVER WRAPPED IN NEWSPAPER WITH HIM AT ALL TIMES.

END.

MMH

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI MEMPHIS

118PM 4-8-68 URGENT MEN  
TO JACKSONVILLE  
FROM MEMPHIS 44-1987 1P

MURKIN; CR.

CHARLES CLARK, PRIVATE PILOT AND PLANE OWNER, MEMPHIS,  
TODAY ADVISED THAT ON APRIL SEVEN LAST, FNU BRAND, AIRPORT  
MANAGER, DESTIN-FT. WALTON, FLA., TOLD HIM GROUP OF WHITE MEN,  
WHO DEPARTED AIRPORT IN AZTEC -- PIPER TWIN ENGINE, SIX PLACE  
PLANE NIGHT APRIL THREE LAST, MADE REMARK TO EFFECT THEY WERE  
GOING TO MEMPHIS TO SHOOT KING.

JACKSONVILLE INTERVIEW FNU BRAND AND, IF APPROPRIATE,  
SET OUT LEADS TO INTERVIEW OCCUPANTS OF PLANE. P.

END  
MMH

FBI JACKSVLE

*H. Walter  
Destin*

44-769-14

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 8 1968	
FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

*Hargrave*

*Case  
Change  
over*

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI-BUFFALO

2:22PM URGENT 4/8/68 AMM 4P

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHUS (44-1987), BIRMINGHAM, ATLANTA & JACKSONVILLE  
FROM BUFFALO (44-374)

MURKIN; CR, OO; MEMPHIS

ON APRIL EIGHT, INSTANT, FORMER SA BIRL WILSON,  
NOW AN OFFICER, LIBERTY BANK, BUFFALO, N.Y., ADVISED DR.  
ALVIN EUGENE FRENCH, BORN [REDACTED], IN  
INDIANA, AND WHO HAS PAST HISTORY OF MENTAL DISTURBANCE,  
IS UNDER INVESTIGATION BY HIS BANK FOR ISSUANCE OF NUMBER  
OF BAD CHECKS AND USE OF CREDIT CARDS, USING HIS TRUE NAME,  
SINCE SEPTEMBER, SIXTYSEVEN, WHEN HE LEFT ROCHESTER STATE  
HOSPITAL, ROCHESTER, N.Y. FRENCH CALLED GIRL FRIEND AT  
LINCOLN ROCHESTER BANK, ROCHESTER, N.Y., AT FOUR P.M. ON  
APRIL FIVE LAST FROM MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. CALL INTERCEPTED  
BY OFFICER OF BANK. FRENCH SAID HE WAS EN ROUTE TO AIRPORT  
HOLIDAY INN, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WHERE HE PLANNED TO STAY  
APRIL SIX THROUGH TODAY. WILSON CONTACTED AUTOMOBILE  
RECOVERY BUREAU, TWO SIX EIGHT ZERO GARDEN ROAD, SOUTHWEST,  
ATLANTA, TODAY AND THROUGH PRIVATE DETECTIVE BOB DEMPSEY,  
VERIFIED THAT FRENCH IS NOW LOCATED AT AIRPORT HOLIDAY INN,  
END PAGE ONE

*case  
amigo  
wash -*

*Williston  
lead*

*lead cov. +  
reported*

44-769-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
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FBI - JACKSONVILLE	

*[Signatures]*

PAGE TWO

ATLANTA, ROOM FOUR SIX SIX AND PLANS TO REMAIN THERE THROUGH APRIL TEN NEXT. FRENCH TOLD DEMPSEY HE PLANNED TO MEET WITH SOME COLORED PEOPLE WHO WILL BE SUCCESSORS TO DR. KING.

FRENCH DESCRIBED AS BORN

IN INDIANA, MALE, WHITE, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES AND ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TO ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY POUNDS. FRENCH ONCE SERVED AS MISSIONARY IN AFRICA FOR THREE YEARS AND EIGHT OR NINE YEARS AGO CONTRACTED BRAIN FEVER. ONCE SERVED AS PART-TIME PSYCHIATRIC CONSULTANT AT GOWANDA STATE HOSPITAL, LEAVING THERE FEBRUARY TWELVE, SIXTYSEVEN. APPARENTLY, WAS ALSO A PATIENT THIS INSTITUTION. FRENCH HAS TRAVELED EXTENSIVELY THROUGHOUT FLORIDA IN MARCH, SIXTYEIGHT, USING RENTAL CARS AND ON APRIL THREE, LAST WAS AT HOLIDAY INN, WILLISTON, FLORIDA. FRENCH INDICATED HE HAD BREAKFAST AT THIS INN AND HE IS FRIENDLY WITH A GIRL WHO WORKS AT HOLIDAY INN.

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

FORMER SA WILSON ADVISED INTERVIEW OF MANAGER ROSALIE STELL, HOLIDAY INN, WILLISTON, FLORDIA REVEALED SHE KNOWS IDENTITY OF GIRL FRIEND AND AVISED FRENCH WAS A GUEST AT THE INN ON MARCH THIRTY, LAST, VISITING THIS GIRL.

HANDWRITING SPECIMEN FROM LIBERTY NATIONAL BANK OBTAINED AND BEING FORWARDED TO LAB, MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM, AMSD TODAY.

ATLANTA LOCATE AND INTERVIEW FRENCH, OBTAIN FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPH AND ASCERTAIN HIS WHEREABOUTS ON PERTINENT DATES.

ATLANTA SHOULD DISSMINATE ABOVE INFORMATION ON FRENCH TO SECRET SERVICE IN VIEW OF ANNOUNCED ATTENDANCE OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON AT FUNERAL SERVICES FOR DR. KING ON APRIL NINE, NEXT, IN VIEW OF THE IRRATIONAL BEHAVIOR.

JACKSONVILLE AT WILLISTON, FLORDIA. IDENTIFY GIRL FRIEND AND DETERMINE FRENCH'S WHEREABOUTS AND ACTIVITIES ON PERTINENT DATES, OBTAIN MOTEL REGISTRATION CARDS FRO HANDWRITING AND LATENT PRINTS.  
END PAGE THREE

*King shot  
April 4, 1968  
601 PM  
at Memphis*

PAGE FOUR

ATLANTA AND JACKSONVILLE FORWARD RESULTS INQUIRY

CONCERNING FRENCH TO MEMPHIS AND BIRMINGHAM FOR IDENTIFICATION  
OR ELIMINATION AS POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN ASSASSINATION OF DR.

KING. APPROACH SUSPECT FRENCH WITH CAUTION IN VIEW OF HIS  
MENTAL HISTORY.

UNSUB ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

END

MMH

FBI JACKSVLE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC

FROM : SUPERVISOR FREDERICK W. BUOL

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR  
(ME 00)

DATE: 4/8/68

SA JIM O'NEAL, New York Office, contacted me by telephone at 8:40 am, this date. He advised the original purpose of contact with RICHARD BRISTO, who is to come into the Jacksonville Office this morning was to:

1. Determine how wide his territory is in the Southeast.
2. Whether or not he has machines put out by the Textile Marking Machine Company which would produce a tape such as recovered in the flophouse on laundry of unsub.

SA O'NEAL stated that the red tape they have recovered as evidence bears letter O or D 2B-6; black printing on red tape. One of these was found on a jockey "T" shirt and shorts in the room of the flop house where unsub was staying in Memphis.

SA O'NEAL stated that Albany determined last night that there only 10 machines in the country, he believes, that print tape such as this; and that they are very unusual. The company is determining at this time the location of those ten.

New York had originally thought that somewhere in BRISTO's territory they may be using this tape.

We will interview BRISTO when he comes into the Office and determine:

1. How wide his territory is.
2. If he recalls any machines in his territory using this.
3. Determine generally his whereabouts the next 3 or 4 days in the event we get a followup lead from New York on this.

FWB:bet  
(2)



5010-108-01

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

44-167-16

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_  
APR 8 1968  
FBI - JACKSONVILLE

*Called by STJ  
1 mfw  
4/10*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (~~155-1524~~)

FROM : R. CRAIG MARSHALL

SUBJECT: MURKIN. CR. OO:ME

DATE: 4-8-68

*Tape*

At 11:45 pm, 4-7-68, SA Charles M. Curry, New York office, gave the writer the following information:

RICHARD BRISTO  
3462 N.W. 13th Ave.  
Gainesville, Fla.  
904-372-1290  
Sales representative for Textile Marking Machine Company,  
Syracuse, New York

SA Curry requested that the above person be contacted at once, and it be determined when and where he can be interviewed, re instant case, during day of April 8.

SA Curry advised that SA Jim O'Neal, NY, would contact Jacksonville agent handling this, morning of April 8

On instructions of ASAC O'Connor, the writer contacted Mr. Bristo, and it was determined he will be in Jacksonville on this date, and will appear in this office at 11:00 am to be interviewed.

At 12:15 am, the night supervisor, New York office, was advised of above, and stated he would pass info on to SA O'Neal.

It is suggested notice be placed with the reception room and the agent handling this, of the anticipated arrival of Mr. Bristo in this office at 11:00 am.

RCM-rcm  
(1)



5010-108-01

44-769-17

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 9 1968	
FBI-JACKSONVILLE	

*Wick*

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

F B I

Date: 4/8/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS  
 FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN; CR.

RE MEMPHIS TEL THIS DATE.

GLOIS A. BRAND, OWNER, DESTIN, FLA. AIRPORT, ADVISED THIS DATE THAT ON MARCH TWENTYTHREE LAST A PARTY OF SIX MEN ARRIVED IN AN AZTEC PLANE, NO. FIVEMINE FOUR ZERO Y. THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE FROM MEMPHIS. LATER SAME EVENING THEY RETURNED AND TOLD BRAND THAT THEY HAD TO LEAVE THAT EVENING. THEY STATED THEY HAD PLANNED TO DO SOME FISHING THE NEXT DAY, HOWEVER, THEY HAD CALLED THEIR WIVES WHO HAD REQUESTED THAT THEY RETURN SINCE MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS ARRIVING IN MEMPHIS AND TROUBLE WAS EXPECTED. DURING THE CONVERSATION, ONE OF THESE INDIVIDUALS MADE WHAT BRAND CONSIDERED A CASUAL AND JEST LIKE COMMENT THAT SOMEONE OUGHT TO KILL KING BECAUSE OF ALL THE TROUBLE HE CAUSES INCLUDING THE INTERRUPTION OF THEIR PLANNED FISHING WEEKEND. NO FURTHER COMMENTS WERE MADE CONCERNING THE SUBJECTS. MR. BRAND STATED THAT HE HAS NEVER FELT THAT THERE WAS ANY SERIOUS INTENT ON THE PART OF THE

WHH/jlc

Approved: *REY/AB*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

44-769-18  
 Searched *mech*  
 Serialized *mech*  
 Indexed *mech*  
 Filed *mech*  
 WA(10<sup>13</sup>)  
 ME(10<sup>21</sup>)

PAGE TWO  
JK 44-769

INDIVIDUAL MAKING THE AFOREMENTIONED COMMENT. MR. BRAND RELATED  
THIS STORY TO THE WIFE OF CHARLES CLARK MERELY AS A POINT OF  
CONVERSATION SINCE THE CLARKS WERE ALSO FROM MEMPHIS. THE  
AFOREMENTIONED PLANE WAS LAST REGISTERED TO THE MEMPHIS MACHINERY  
AND SUPPLY COMPANY, INC., THREE ZERO ONE SOUTH FRONT ST., MEMPHIS,  
ACCORDING TO LATEST AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION BOOK.

MEMPHIS CONDUCT WHATEVER INVESTIGATION DEEMED APPROPRIATE  
CONCERNING THIS AIRCRAFT.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

PAGE TWO  
JK 44-769Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
INDIVIDUAL MAKING THE ABOVE MENTIONED COMMENT. MR. BRAND RELATED

THIS STORY TO THE WIFE OF CHARLES CLARK MERRELL AS A POINT OF  
CONVERSATION SINCE THE CLARKS WERE ALSO FROM MEMPHIS. THE  
AFOREMENTIONED PLANE WAS LAST REGISTERED TO THE MEMPHIS MACHINERY  
AND SUPPLY COMPANY, INC., THREE ZERO ONE SOUTH FRONT ST., MEMPHIS,  
ACCORDING TO LATEST AIRCRAFT REGISTRATION BOOK.  
MEMPHIS CONDUCT WHATEVER INVESTIGATION DEEMED APPROPRIATE  
CONCERNING THIS AIRCRAFT.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 4/8/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM AND MEMPHIS  
 FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN; CR.

RE BUFFALO TEL THIS DATE RE SUSPECT DR. ALVIN EUGENE FRENCH.  
 ROSALIE STELL, INNKEEPER, HOLIDAY INN, WILLISTON, FLA., ADVISED  
 THIS DATE ALVIN FRENCH DEPARTED THAT MOTEL MARCH FIVE SIXTYEIGHT.  
 STATES SHE HAS "HOLIDEX" INQUIRY FROM HOLIDAY INN, SOUTHEAST, U.S.  
 HIGHWAY SEVEN EIGHT, MEMPHIS, TENN., ADVISING A DICK P. FRENCH HAD  
 REGISTERED THERE ON MARCH THIRTY SIXTYEIGHT. STELL ALSO FURNISHED  
 A POSTCARD FROM THAT MOTEL WHICH ARRIVED THIS DATE SIGNED A. E.  
 FRENCH AND DATED BY WRITER FOUR FOUR SIXTYEIGHT, POSTMARK ILLEGIBLE  
 BUT ALSO APPEARS TO BE FOUR FOUR SIXTYEIGHT. STELL ALSO STATES  
 FRENCH WAS ATTRACTED TO HER DESK CLERK THAT MOTEL, GLOREA GEIGER,  
 BUT THAT GEIGER WAS DEFINITELY NOT ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH HIM.  
 ALSO STATES FRENCH APPEARED AT THAT MOTEL ON MARCH THIRTY SIXTYEIGHT  
 TO VISIT GEIGER BUT LEFT AS GEIGER WAS NOT ON DUTY.

GEIGER INTERVIEWED AND STATES SHE HAD MET FRENCH ONLY AS RESULT  
 OF HER DUTIES AS DESK CLERK AND COULD FURNISH NO ADDITIONAL  
 INFORMATION.

JJS/jlc

Approved: *RE 4/9B/jlc*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

*WA(10P)<sup>05</sup>  
 BH(10P)<sup>29</sup>(SSP)<sup>M</sup>  
 ME(10P)(TST)*

Searched

Serialized

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Filed

44-769-19

PAGE TWO  
JK 44-769

BOTH STELL AND GEIGER STATE FRENCH NEVER DISCUSSED ANYTHING  
PERTAINING TO RACIAL MATTERS. STELL MADE AVAILABLE INSTANT  
POSTCARD AND REGISTRATION CARD AT THAT MOTEL, TO BE FORWARDED  
TO FBI LAB.

MEMPHIS CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AT ABOVE MOTEL.

JACKSONVILLE WILL FORWARD INSTANT DOCUMENTS TO FBI LAB  
IMMEDIATELY.

APPROACH SUSPECT FRENCH WITH CAUTION IN VIEW OF HIS  
MENTAL HISTORY.

F B I

Date:

OWT EDAM  
60V-44 26Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via ~~THIRTY-SEVEN HOURS AFTER RECEIVING THE MESSAGE~~  
(Priority)

~~RELATING TO RACIAL MATTERS. STILL MADE AVAILABLE INSTANT~~  
~~POSTCARD AND REGISTRATION CARD AT THAT MOTEL, TO BE FORWARDED~~  
~~TO FBI LAB.~~  
~~MEMPHIS CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AT ABOVE MOTEL.~~  
~~JACKSONVILLE WILL FORWARD INSTANT DOCUMENTS TO FBI LAB~~  
~~IMMEDIATELY.~~  
~~APPROACH SUSPECT FRENCH WITH CAUTION IN VIEW OF HIS~~  
~~MENTAL HISTORY.~~

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 4/8/68

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS  
FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

MURKIN; CR.

LT. DICK ROBERTS, FHP, GAINESVILLE, FLA. LEARNED FROM CORPORAL ROSS, FHP, CROSS CITY, FLA. INSTANT DATE THAT AN UNKNOWN MALE EMPLOYED WITH TELEPHONE COMPANY, CROSS CITY, LEARNED FROM A FEMALE FRIEND OF HIS GIRL FRIEND THAT DON ROOKS, ORIGINALLY FROM HIGH SPRINGS, FLA., WAS IN HIGH SPRINGS ON APRIL FIVE SIXTYEIGHT DRIVING WHITE NINETEEN SIXTYSEVEN FORD MUSTANG WITH TENN. LICENSE. ROOKS ALLEGEDLY HAD SEVEN ONE THOUSAND DOLLAR BILLS IN HIS POSSESSION. ON SAME DATE ROOKS ALLEGEDLY HAD MUSTANG PAINTED DARK GREEN OR DARK BLUE AT GAINESVILLE, FLA. ROOKS HAS NOT LIVED IN HIGH SPRINGS FOR PAST FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AND WAS EMPLOYED FIRE DEPARTMENT, MEMPHIS, TENN. ROOKS HAS BROTHER AND FATHER RESIDING HIGH SPRINGS. CURRENT WHEREABOUTS OF ROOKS UNKNOWN BUT HE IS NOT BELIEVED TO BE IN HIGH SPRINGS AT PRESENT ACCORDING TO CORPORAL ROSS. ROOKS ALSO ALLEGEDLY POSSESSES HIGH CALIBER PISTOL.

ROOKS DESCRIBED AS WM, TWENTYTHREE TO TWENTYFIVE YEARS OF AGE, HIGH FOREHEAD, WAS IN MILITARY SERVICE FOUR OR FIVE YEARS.

CHM/jlc  
Approved: REY AB/jlc  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

WA (10<sup>05</sup>)ME (10<sup>24</sup>) (TST)

Serialized

M Per

Indexed

Filed

PAGE TWO  
JK 44-769

BRANCH UNKNOWN.

NO RECORD FOR ROOKS ALACHUA COUNTY SO OR GAINESVILLE PD.  
JACKSONVILLE INDICES NEGATIVE.

ED COLE, COP, HIGH SPRINGS, FLA., HAS NOT SEEN ROOKS FOR  
NUMBER OF YEARS AND HAS NO INFORMATION ROOKS RECENTLY IN HIGH  
SPRINGS AREA. NO RECORD FOR ROOKS HIGH SPRINGS PD AND COLE  
ADVISED ROOKS AND FAMILY ENJOY GOOD REPUTATION.

MEMPHIS CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION AT FIRE DEPARTMENT  
*CONCERNING WHEREABOUTS ROOKS PERTINENT PERIOD AND*  
TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING ROOKS TO DETERMINE IF  
LOGICAL SUSPECT.

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority)OWT 2045  
007-44 5L

URGENT 10/10/64

TO DIRECTOR, FBI, WASHINGTON, D.C. FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)  
 RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, OCTOBER NINE LAST.  
 ADVISE BUREAU THAT NEW YORK OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION  
 INTO THE ACTIVITY OF A GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS WHOSE NAMES ARE BEING  
 SUBMITTED TO THE NEW YORK OFFICE FOR REVIEW. THE INDIVIDUALS  
 NAMED ARE BEING SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW IN ORDER TO DETERMINE  
 WHETHER THEY ARE SUBJECTS OF THE NEW YORK OFFICE'S INVESTIGATION.  
 THE NEW YORK OFFICE IS REQUESTING THAT THE BUREAU BE KEPT ADVISED  
 OF ANY DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS MATTER.

WILLIAM J. RAY  
 SAC, NEW YORK

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
 Special Agent in Charge

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI TAMPA

11000// 1100 PM URGENT 4/8/68 ALS

TO DIRECTOR, CLEVELAND, JACKSONVILLE AND BIRMINGHAM  
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

MURKIN, CR. OO: ATLANTA.

*Suspect  
Thoroman*

EDGAR HENRY HUBER, PROTECT, AGE FORTY-NINE, FOUR NINE  
EIGHT NORTH ORANGE BLOSSOM TRAIL, LOT SIXTY-THREE, ORLANDO, FLA.,  
STATED NIGHT APRIL FIVE LAST ON NATIONAL TV NEWSCAST HE SAY  
ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF KING'S SLAYER. HUBER FEELS LEFT PROFILE OF  
ARTIST'S CONCEPTION SHOWS RESEMBLANCE TO ONE THOMAS THOROMAN. HUBER  
DESRIBED THOROMAN AS WMA, LATE FORTIES (LOOKS YOUNGER), SIX FEET  
ONE, ONE EIGHTY-FIVE TO ONE NINETY LBS., LIGHT BROWN HAIR. DRIVES  
FIFTY-EIGHT OR FIFTY-NINE RAMBLER STATION WAGON, LIGHT IN COLOR.  
HUBER LATER SAW ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RIGHT PROFILE OF SLAYER  
WHICH HE STATES BEARS NO RESEMBLANCE TO THOROMAN. THOROMAN, A  
PAINTER BY OCCUPATION, HAS FOR SEVERAL YEARS RENTED HOME AT EUSTIS,  
FLA. THOROMAN MAY BE IN TAVARES, FLA., THIS YEAR. THOROMAN,  
DURING SUMMER, RESIDES RT. TWO, SPENCERVILLE, OHIO FOUR FIVE EIGHT  
EIGHT SEVEN. THOROMAN IS A SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST AND IS CONSIDERED  
END PAGE ONE

*Supv. Buel  
advised  
for*

*Thoroman  
for  
advised  
for  
4/10/68  
11*

44-769-21 *Case  
Walt*  
SEARCHED *MA* INDEXED *MA*  
SERIALIZED *MA* FILED *MA*  
APR 8 1968  
FBI - JACKSONVILLE  
*Tucker*

PAGE TWO

TP 157-3231

AS "RELIGIOUS FANATIC". THOROMAN IS NOT BELIEVED TO BE A RACIST AND IS NOT KNOWN TO HAVE EXPRESSED DISLIKE FOR KING.

CLEVELAND AT SPENCERVILLE CONDUCT IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE THOROMAN AND SET OUT LEADS TO CHECK ON HIS WHEREABOUTS AND ACTIVITIES.

JACKSONVILLE AT EUSTIS AND TAVARES, CONDUCT APPROPRIATE INVESTIGATION TO CHECK OUT THOROMAN AS POSSIBLE SUSPECT.

END

CJA

FBI JACKSVLE

X

FBI WASH DC

HOLD FOR 3 MESSAGES

810PM LCC URGENT 4/8/68 GJM

TO ALL CONTINENTAL OFFICES

FROM DIRECTOR 44-38861 2P

MURKIN.

THIS IS THE CASE INVOLVING THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ON APRIL FOUR, LAST, IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD ANYONE BE TOLD THIS INVESTIGATION IS IN CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED MATTER.

IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT A RIFLE ABANDONED NEAR SCENE OF CRIME WAS PURCHASED BY INDIVIDUAL USING THE NAME HARVEY LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER.

LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER IS GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, THIRTYSIX YEARS OLD, FIVE FEET EIGHT INCHES TALL, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY - ONE HUNDRED SIXTY POUNDS, BLACK OR DARK BROWN HAIR.

IN VIEW OF THE UNUSUAL NATURE OF THE NAMES LOWMEYER AND LOWMYER, ALL OFFICES SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CHECK YOUR INDICES, ALL CITY DIRECTORIES, ALL TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES COVERING YOUR TERRITORIES, ALL DRIVERS LICENSE RECORDS, ALL AUTOMOBILE

END PAGE ONE

*Supv. ~~Smith~~ advised for*

*Thibault*

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*by County*

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*Credit & Criminal by County*

REGISTRATION RECORDS, VOTER REGISTRATION RECORDS, AND CREDIT AND CRIMINAL RECORDS ON THE SURNAMES LOWMEYER AND LOWMYER, IN VIEW OF THE UNUSUAL NATURE OF THE NAMES, DO NOT CONFINE YOUR CHECK TO HARVEY LOWMEYER AND LOWMYER ONLY. ANY INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED AS BEARING THESE SURNAMES SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY CHECKED OUT COVERING THE PERTINENT PERIOD. YOU SHOULD ALSO APPROPRIATELY CHECKOUT ALL BOMBING SUSPECTS IN YOUR TERRITORIES.

HANDLE IMMEDIATELY AND GIVE TOP PRIORITY ATTENTION.

BUFILES CONTAIN NO INFORMATION IDENTIFIABLE ON HARVEY LOWMEYER OR LOWMYER.  
END

PLSE HOLD ALS

FBI TAMPA

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC, JACKSONVILLE (44-769)

DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SPC JASPER L. CARTER, JR.

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

FATHER VINCENT CRAWFORD, Assistant Pastor, St. Michael's Catholic Church, Fernandina Beach, Fla., telephone 261-3472, residence 411 Broome St., Fernandina Beach, telephonically contacted the office this date and related the following story:

Father Crawford stated that he had just returned from visiting MRS. VIRGINIA FORBES in Humphreys Memorial Hospital, Fernandina Beach, and that she advised him that a while back she had employed a man by the name of (FNU) BOATRIGHT to do some carpenter work for her. She advised him that BOATRIGHT worked for her for some time and during that time he stated several times that he disliked MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and on a few of these occasions he stated that he was going to kill KING. Mrs. FORBES advised Father Crawford that she did not know BOATRIGHT'S first name or his address only that he lived in Waycross, Ga. She stated BOATRIGHT is a carpenter by trade and also preaches some of the time. ~~HE~~ She described him as a religious ~~1~~ "fanatic."

Supervisor Buol advised of above.

Jacksonville at Fernandina Beach:

Interview Mrs. FORBES for more detailed information and description of (FNU) BOATRIGHT.

*Case assigned Walsh*

44-769-23

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*Ven. Balen*

*Today*

JLC/jlc



5010-108-01

*SA Ven. Balen advised jlc*

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

FBI JACKSVLE

FBI ATLANTA

3:22 AM URGENT 4-9-68 JWE

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS (44-1987), BIRMINGHAM, BUFFALO (44-374)  
AND JACKSONVILLE  
FROM ATLANTA

MURKIN; CIVIL RIGHTS. 00: MEMPHIS.

RE BUFFALO TELETYPE TO BUREAU APRIL EIGHT SIXTYEIGHT.

ALVIN EUGENE FRENCH INTERVIEWED ROOM ONE FIVE NINE, HOLIDAY  
INN, ATLANTA AIRPORT, WHERE REGISTERED APRIL SEVEN SIXTYEIGHT,  
ELEVEN FORTY TWO P.M. ALSO RESERVED ROOMS ONE SIX ONE AND ONE  
SIX THREE FOR USE REVEREND BREWSTER AND SON, TWO NEGRO MINSTERS  
TRAVELING TO ATLANTA, GA. FOLLOWING MARCH MEMPHIS, TENN.  
APRIL EIGHT SIXTYEIGHT. FRENCH CLAIMED TO BE ADMIRER OF DR.  
KING AND STATED HE WAS IN SYMPATHY WITH KING'S MOVEMENT.  
FRENCH ADVISED HE PROVIDED ROOMS FOR REV. BREWSTER IN EFFORT TO  
SHOW GOOD FAITH IN TIME OF INSTANT CRISIS.

DR. FRENCH ALLEGEDLY TRAVELED ON OUTER PERIMETER ROAD AND  
AFTER ARRIVING AT MEMPHIS ON APRIL FOUR LAST, REGISTERED AT  
POPLAR EAST HOLIDAY INN UNDER TRUE NAME, ROOM TWO ZERO TWO, AT  
END PAGE ONE

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*not needed*

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APPROXIMATELY SEVEN P.M. REMAINED IN ROOM WITH NO OUTSIDE CONTACT OF ANY KIND UNTIL ELEVEN P.M. WHEN HE ATTEMPTED TO HAVE "NIGHTCAP" BROUGHT TO HIS ROOM. HE USED TELEPHONE IN ROOM FOR THIS PURPOSE AND WAS ADVISED BY FEMALE OPERATOR THAT NO DRINKS AVAILABLE. WHEN FRENCH INQUIRED AS TO REASON, SHE SUGGESTED HE TURN ON TV, AND HE SURMISED SHE WAS TOO EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED TO DISCUSS THE DEMISE OF DR. KING. HE ALLEGES HE THEN TURNED ON TV AND FOR THE FIRST TIME BECAME AWARE OF THE DEATH OF KING.

ALLEGES HE HAS NO SUSPECTS BUT KNOWS MANY PEOPLE WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SUCH AN ACT.

MAJOR CASE PRINTS AND PHOTOS OBTAINED. ARRANGEMENTS TO OBTAIN REGISTRATION CARD FROM HOLIDAY INN NOT INSTANTLY AVAILABLE.

FRENCH IS W/M, AMERICAN, BORN [REDACTED], MARION, INDIANA; FIVE ELEVEN, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE LBS., HAIR AND EYES BROWN, WEARS DARK RIMMED GLASSES, COMPLEXION NOTICEABLY POCK-MARKED; NOTICEABLY BALD. OCCUPATION, PHYSICIAN, HOME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS TWO THREE TWO THREE COLLINS ROAD, COLLINS, NEW YORK, SOCIAL SECURITY NO. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED].  
END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

MEMPHIS AT MEMPHIS: AT POPLAR EAST HOLIDAY INN MOTEL, VERIFY  
REGISTRATION DATA AS PROVIDED BY FRENCH.

MAJOR CASE PRINTS WILL BE SUBMITTED FBI LABORATORY.

OBTAINED PHOTOS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO MEMPHIS.

END.

RCM

FBI JACKSVLE

TU

F B I

Date: **4/9/68**Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via **TELETYPE** **URGENT**  
(Priority)**TO: BUREAU (AIR MAIL)**  
**MEMPHIS****FROM: JACKSONVILLE (44-769) (P)****MURKIN. CR. (OO:ME)****RE JACKSON TEL TO JACKSONVILLE, APRIL EIGHT, LAST;**  
**SAVANNAH TEL TO JACKSONVILLE, APRIL EIGHT, LAST.****RE: BYRON DE LA BECKWITH, AKA****AARON C. ANDREWS AND ROBERT GRUBBS, PERRY TRUCK**  
**AND TRACTOR COMPANY, PERRY, FLORIDA, ADVISED INDIVIDUAL,**  
**NAME UNKNOWN, BUT ANSWERING DESCRIPTION OF BECKWITH,**  
**REPRESENTING BARRENTINE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, INCORPORATED,**  
**CONTACTED THEM FOUR TO SIX P.M., APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND**  
**LEFT LITERATURE. ANDREWS ALSO SAW BECKWITH FOLLOWING**  
**MORNING.****MRS. JAMES SUTHERLAND, PINE MOTEL, PERRY, FLORIDA,**  
**VERIFIED BECKWITH REGISTERED FIVE THIRTY P.M., APRIL**  
**FOUR, LAST, AND LEFT SEVEN THIRTY A.M., APRIL FIVE, LAST.****1 - Jackson (AM)**  
**1 - Savannah (AM)****CJH:cag**  
**(4)**Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in ChargeSent **146** M Per **un****44-769-25**