

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Will Be Transferred Into a Federal Prison

WASHINGTON (UPI)—James Earl Ray, confessed assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, will be transferred from the Tennessee State Penitentiary into the federal prison system, the Federal Bureau of Prisons confirmed Friday.

A bureau spokesman said Director Norman A. Carlson had agreed to a request by Tennessee Corrections Commissioner Mark Luttrell that Ray be moved into a federal prison.

Luttrell made the request last week and the spokesman said federal officials were "in the process of drawing up formal paperwork" on the transfer.

Ray filed suit in federal court in Nashville Thursday opposing the transfer.

Initial plans call for Ray to be sent to the medical center for federal prisoners in Springfield, Mo., for observation for any health problems for a 60-day period.

Under the terms of the transfer, the state would enter into a contract with the Bureau of Prisons and agree to pay all costs to support Ray during his incarceration.

Government sources said Ray was being moved for "security reasons" but would not elaborate why Ray's safety in the Tennessee maximum security prison at Nashville was in jeopardy.

Ray is serving a 99-year term imposed after he pleaded guilty in 1969 to the killing of the civil rights leader.

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

I-5 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Ca.

Date: 12/29/73
Edition: Saturday Final
Author:
Editor: William F. Thomas
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JAN 2 1974	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

H. Deun

~~Ray also filed a \$500,000~~
dam age suit Thursday
charging he was being
held in "oppressive" con-
finement for a crime he
did not commit. He asked
to be removed from solita-
ry confinement and to
have his case reopened on
the grounds that his for-
mer attorney mishandled
~~some evidence.~~

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge Denies Ray's Petition

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —James Earl Ray, convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, Wednesday was denied his petition to prevent his transfer from state to federal prison.

U.S. Dist. Judge L. Clure Morton rejected Ray's plea to block the proposed transfer from Tennessee State Prison to a federal facility.

State officials said Ray had been in solitary confinement most of the time since he began serving his 99-year sentence. They said they could not let him mingle with other inmates because of the danger to his life.

Ray protested against the move, saying it was an attempt to hold him incommunicado.

"The United States District Court is without authority to interfere with the administration of the state penal system in the absence of factual allegations of federal constitutional violations," Morton said.

Ray pleaded guilty in 1969 to the April 4, 1968, rifle slaying of King in Memphis. Since then he has filed several appeals and ther motions in an attempt to rescind his guilty plea and get a new trial.

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

II-6 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Ca.

Date: 1/3/74
Edition: Thursday Final
Author:
Editor: William F. Thomas
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

44-1574-112

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 6 1974	
FBI-LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Loses Bid to Halt Transfer

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray, convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was denied on Wednesday his petition to prevent his transfer from state to federal prison.

U.S. District Court Judge L. Clure Morton rejected Ray's move to block the proposed transfer from the Tennessee State Prison to a federal facility.

State officials said Ray has been kept in solitary confinement most of the time since he began serving his 99-year sentence. They said they could not let Ray mingle with other inmates because of the danger to his life.

Ray protested the move, saying it was just an attempt to hold him incommunicado.

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

A-5 Herald Examiner
Los Angeles, Ca.

Date: 1/3/74
Edition: Thursday Latest
Author:
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 6 1974	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Seeks Damages, End to Imprisonment

NASHVILLE (UPI) — James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Thursday filed a \$500,000 damage suit against Tennessee officials, claiming he was being confined in "oppressive" conditions for a crime he did not commit.

The suit, one of many legal actions taken by Ray since his guilty plea in the 1968 assassination, drew special attention when a local television station quoted sources Wednesday night as saying it would contend others were involved in the Memphis slaying of the civil rights leader.

But the only hint of conspiracy mentioned in the suit concerned two Louisiana telephone numbers. Ray claimed his former attorney, Percy Foreman of Houston, had mishandled information about the phone numbers.

Ray, who drafted the suit in his solitary confinement cell in state prison here, said he gave the two phone numbers to Foreman, who in turn gave them to a Z. T. Osborn, whom Ray described

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

I-5 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/28/73
Edition: Friday final
Author:
Editor: William F. Thomas
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

44-1576-10
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

DEC 28 1973

FBI - LOS ANGELES

as another former attorney, now dead.

The suit said one of the numbers belonged to a Baton Rouge, La. (county) official "under the influence" of a Teamsters Union official.

It said the other number was traced to a New Orleans area resident who "among other things was an agent of a Midwest-oriented organization distressed because Dr. Martin Luther King's reported forthcoming public support of the Palestine Arab cause."

Ray cited several possibilities of misbanding of the phone numbers by Foreman, including a charge that the attorney could have turned over the information to the prosecution.

Contacted by The Times in Houston, Foreman said: "James Earl Ray never mentioned any man or men to me. He never mentioned any phone numbers to me or any circumstance that involved the city of Baton Rouge or New Orleans."

Numbers were traced in New Orleans were entered in the investigation through a writer on the West Coast who interviewed an individual there who made a trip with Ray . . . preceding the assassination . . . from Los Angeles to New Orleans.

"One of these numbers or both of them were to be used as meeting points between Ray and his companion. This man was an unscrupulous character, just a hanger-on," (Ray) said that this man had nothing to do with the assassination."

Asked his opinion of the suit brought by Ray, Foreman said, "I think he's stir crazy. He has a disorganized mind."

"For instance, Foreman said, 'There is no such person as Osborn. There never was such a person. I have never talked with such a lawyer, never known of one, or known anyone who does know such a man.'"

The bulk of the suit concerned the conditions of Ray's confinement, in a cell which he described as a vault.

Ray, serving a 99-year term, also filed a petition seeking a temporary restraining order to bar state officials from transferring him from the state prison and from his cell.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray has written a document in which he names several persons he claims were involved in a conspiracy to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, a Nashville television station quoted a "highly placed source" as saying. Ray's statement was reportedly attached to a writ mailed to the U.S. District Court in Nashville as part of an effort by Ray, convicted of slaying Dr. King, to prevent his being moved to a federal maximum security penitentiary. Court officials denied receiving such a document from Ray.

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

I-1 Los Angeles Times
Los Angeles, Ca.

Date: 12/27/73
Edition: Thursday Final
Author:
Editor: William F. Thomas
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

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DEC 28 1973
FBI - LOS ANGELES

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cc Bu 12/27/73

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Files for New Trial

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (UPI) — Attorneys for James Earl Ray filed a petition in federal court Monday seeking to gain Ray a new trial in the murder of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The petition was technically a writ of habeas corpus, but Ray's attorneys said its intent was to gain Ray a new trial. Ray is presently serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty to King's assassination.

Bernard Fensterwald of Washington, D.C., one of three attorneys representing Ray, said that the petition asks a new trial on the merits of the case in federal court at Memphis.

A habeas corpus petition technically seeks to free someone who is incarcerated. If Ray's petition is granted the state would have 60 days to decide whether it wanted to try Ray again for the King assassination.

"If we can get him a trial there is a very good chance of getting him acquitted," Fensterwald said.

The attorney said Ray is presently being kept in solitary confinement at the state prison here.

"He doesn't look anywhere near as well as he did the last time I saw him," Fensterwald said.

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

A-9 Herald Examiner
Los Angeles, Calif.

Date: 12/5/72
Edition: Wednesday final
Author:
Editor: William F. Thomas
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: Los Angeles

☐ Being Investigated

44-1574-142

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC 6 1972	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

R. H. H.

NR003 KC CODE

6:10 PM NITEL 7-8-76 PPV

TO: DIRECTOR (100-106670)

LOS ANGELES

MEMPHIS

SAN FRANCISCO

FROM: KANSAS CITY (100-12138) RUC

ATTN: INTD

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REBUTEL TO KANSAS CITY, ET AL, 6/30/76.

THREE MEMBERS OF DOJ TASK FORCE (OPR) REVIEWED KANSAS CITY FILES ON 7/7-8/76 CONCERNING INVESTIGATIONS OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THEY TOOK XEROX COPIES OF NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS FROM MURKIN FILE AND INFORMATION RE INTERVIEW DR. MARK D. FREEMAN, LOS ANGELES PSYCHOLOGIST, AS SET FORTH IN LOS ANGELES TELETYPE TO BUREAU, ET AL 4/20/68, BUFILE 44-38861.

MEMBERS DEPARTING KANSAS CITY TODAY BY AIR 4 P.M. FOR SAN FRANCISCO, WHERE THEY HAVE RESERVATIONS AT HOLIDAY INN CONVENTION CENTER. NO OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS CAME TO ATTENTION KANSAS CITY OFFICE.

END.

G

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44-1574-1946

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JUL 8 1976	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

NR 001 SF PLAIN

2:17 PM NITEL JULY 10, 1976 KEK

TO: DIRECTOR (100-106670)

LOS ANGELES

FROM: SAN FRANCISCO (100-52821)

ATTN: INTD

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

RE SAN FRANCISCO TEL DATED JULY 9, 1976

DOJ TASK FORCE COMPLETED REVIEW THIS DATE WITH NO
ADDITIONAL REQUESTS. WILL ARRIVE LOS ANGELES OFFICE MONDAY MORNING.
END

JEM FBI LOS ANGELES CLR TU

*Supr. Bloeser
advised 7/11/76 Df.*

44-1574-1947

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 10 1976	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

WA322

NR0077 WA CODE

9:55PM URGENT 6/30/76 SLR

TO KANSAS CITY

LOS ANGELES

MEMPHIS

SAN FRANCISCO

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

FOR INFORMATION OF KANSAS CITY, LOS ANGELES AND
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF
THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. ASSIGNED TO
CONDUCT THIS REVIEW IS A TASK FORCE WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF
THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INDICATED THE
REVIEW IS TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS.

(1.) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION
THOROUGH AND HONEST?

(2.) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE
ASSASSINATION?

(3.) IS THERE ANY NEW EVIDENCE WHICH HAS COME TO THE
ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION?

*Blower assigned as
coordinator - are
film room for
dept. people*

1948
44-1574

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 30 1976	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

Blower

PAGE TWO

(4.) DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND KING CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION?

THIS REVIEW IS A CONTINUATION OF A "PARTIAL REVIEW" RECENTLY CONDUCTED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL J. STANLEY POTTINGER. AFTER THE TASK FORCE COMPLETES STUDY OF ASSASSINATION FILES IN SELECTED FIELD OFFICES, IT WILL CONDUCT EXAMINATION OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ANY SECURITY FILES RELATING TO BASIS FOR THE INVESTIGATION. ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO PERTINENT FILES AT FBIHQ AND IN THE FIELD. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES, INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY. INFORMANT FILES ARE NOT TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE TASK FORCE WITHOUT PRIOR FBIHQ AUTHORITY.

THE OPR REVIEW BEGAN AT FBIHQ ON MAY 10, 1976, WITH REVIEW OF ASSASSINATION FILES OF FBIHQ AND WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE.

DURING THE PERIOD JUNE 14-24, 1976, THE TASK FORCE REVIEWED KING ASSASSINATION AND SECURITY FILES IN THE MILWAUKEE AND MEMPHIS OFFICES.

PAGE THREE

TO CONTINUE ITS REVIEW MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE IDENTIFIED AS JAMES KIECKHEFER, WILLIAM WHITE AND JOSEPH GROSS TENTATIVELY PLAN THE FOLLOWING TRAVEL: DEPART WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 6, 1976, FOR KANSAS CITY, REMAINING THERE JULY 7-8, 1976; DEPART KANSAS CITY JULY 8, 1976, TO ARRIVE AT SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 9, 1976; PROBABLY DEPART SAN FRANCISCO JULY 11, 1976, TO ARRIVE AT LOS ANGELES OFFICE ON THE MORNING OF JULY 12, 1976, FOR AN APPROXIMATE FIVE DAY PERIOD BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON, D. C.

TASK FORCE HAS INDICATED THAT TRAVEL TO KANSAS CITY IS BASED ON LOCATION OF PRISON FROM WHICH JAMES EARL RAY ESCAPED. IN ADDITION TO KING RELATED FILES TASK FORCE DESIRES TO REVIEW KANSAS CITY 157-472, WHICH INVOLVES AN ALLEGATION THAT A KLAN ORGANIZATION OFFERED TO KILL KING.

TRAVEL TO SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES IS BASED ON AMOUNT OF TIME KING IS KNOWN TO HAVE SPENT ON THE WEST COAST, ACCORDING TO TASK FORCE PERSONNEL. IN ADDITION TO KING RELATED FILES, TASK FORCE DESIRES TO REVIEW LOS ANGELES 157-869, REGARDING A PLOT TO ASSASSINATE KING AND LOS ANGELES 157-651, WHICH CONCERNS A KLAN THREAT ON THE LIFE OF KING. ALSO OF INTEREST IS LOS ANGELES FILE 100-24345, SECTION C, CAPTIONED "COMMUNIST PARTY, USA - NEGRO QUESTION," CONCERNING ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE

PAGE FOUR

OF KING. IN SAN FRANCISCO, OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IS 100-51914, CAPTIONED "COMMUNIST PARTY, USA - NEGRO QUESTION," WHICH PERTAINS TO THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF KING IN HAWAII AND SACRAMENTO.

SACS, KANSAS CITY, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES ASSIGN
COORDINATOR TO HANDLE LIAISON WITH TASK FORCE PERSONNEL AND
PROVIDE OFFICE SPACE IN WHICH TO CONDUCT REVIEW. CONFIRM
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TASK FORCE PERSONNEL AND KEEP FBIHQ
ADVISED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

FOR INFORMATION OF MEMPHIS, TASK FORCE LEADER FRED G.
FOLSOM AND JAMES WALKER PLAN TO RETURN TO MEMPHIS ON JULY 6, 1976.
THEIR PLANS ARE TO REVIEW EVIDENCE IN THE ASSASSINATION CASE AND
POSSIBLY CONDUCT INTERVIEWS WHICH MAY INCLUDE BOB JENSEN, FORMER
SAC OF THE MEMPHIS OFFICE, TWO FORMER ASSISTANT UNITED STATES
ATTORNEYS AND JAMES EARL RAY. THERE IS NO INDICATION AT THIS
TIME FBI EMPLOYEES ARE TO BE INTERVIEWED. MEMPHIS CONFIRM
ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF TASK FORCE PERSONNEL AND KEEP FBIHQ
ADVISED OF ALL SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS.

END

NR 008 SF. CODE

8:50PM NITEL JULY 9, 1976, MJE

TO: DIRECTOR (100-106670)

LOS ANGELES

FROM: SAN FRANCISCO (100-52821)

ATTN: INTD

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

THREE MEMBERS DOJ TASK FORCE ARRIVED 9:15 A.M. THIS DATE
AND REVIEWED FILES CONCERNING INVESTIGATIONS OF KING. IN
ADDITION THEY REVIEWED THE FILE OF PAUL COBB, BUFILE 157-9834.
REVIEW TO CONTINUE SATURDAY, JULY 10TH.

END

PLS HOLD FOR 4

AV FBI LOS ANGELES

ACK FOR FOUR TELS AND HOLD PLS

1949
44-1574

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
JUL 9 1976	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	
	13

F B I

Date: 7/16/76

021

Transmit the following in CODE
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (100-106670) **RSP**
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574)
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REBUTEL DATED JUNE 30, 1976.

DEPARTMENT TASK FORCE ATTORNEYS DEPARTED LOS ANGELES
JULY 16, 1976. WHILE IN LOS ANGELES THEY REVIEWED LOS ANGELES
FILE 44-1574 (MURKIN), LOS ANGELES FILE 100-57229 (MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.), LOS ANGELES FILES 157-869 AND 157-651
CONCERNING THREATS AGAINST KING, AND LOS ANGELES FILE
100-24345C (COMMUNIST PARTY USA - NEGRO QUESTION) WHICH
CONCERNED THE INSTALLATION OF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF KING.

WHILE IN LOS ANGELES THE TASK FORCE ATTORNEYS INTERVIEWED
DR. MARK O. FREEMAN WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED DURING THE
INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION. THE DEPARTMENT ATTORNEYS
ALSO REQUESTED THE LOS ANGELES OFFICE TO ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN
THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE FOLLOWING LOS ANGELES POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICERS: LT. MARION PHILLIPS AND SGT. GEORGE BELL, AND THE
STATUS OF LT. HAROLD H. FAIR, ANAHEIM POLICE DEPARTMENT. IT WAS
DETERMINED ALL HAVE RETIRED FROM ACTIVE DUTY.

RHB/jer /
(1)

Approved: RSB
Special Agent in Charge

Sent WA 7:20p M Per [Signature]

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-080 (11)

PAGE TWO (LA 44-1574)

THE TASK FORCE ATTORNEYS WERE VERY INTERESTED IN THE VARIOUS PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCES OF KING BY BOTH THE FBI AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT.

AFTER REVIEWING LOS ANGELES FILE 100-24345C, THE DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEYS INQUIRED AS TO THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE FOLLOWING FBI PERSONNEL WHO WERE INVOLVED WITH THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE OF KING: FORMER SAC WILLIAM G. SIMON, FORMER ASAC HENRY A. ONSGARD, JR., SA FREDERICK L. BIGGERS, SA LLOYD O. BOGSTAD, FORMER INSPECTOR JOSEPHY SIZOO, FORMER SA ROY A. PETERS, FORMER SA HARVEY G. BERKEY, FORMER SA G. CLIFTON SMITH.

XEROXED COPIES OF ALL NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS IN THE MURKIN FILE WERE FURNISHED TO THE DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEYS AT THEIR REQUEST AS WERE XEROXED COPIES OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS: FD-302 DATED APRIL 26, 1968 CONCERNING INTERVIEW OF RITA STEIN BY SAS GILBERT G. BENJAMIN AND THEODORE M. GARDNER; FD-302 DATED MAY 2, 1968 CONCERNING INTERVIEW OF CHARLES J. STEIN BY SAS WILLIAM JOHN SLICKS AND RICHARD H. ROSS; AND FD-302 DATED APRIL 19, 1968 CONCERNING INTERVIEW OF DR. MARK O. FREEMAN BY SA GILBERT G. BENJAMIN.

SUPERVISOR RICHARD H. BLOESER WHO ACTED AS LIAISON WITH THE TASK FORCE ATTORNEYS WAS QUESTIONED BY THEM AS TO THE NORMAL PROCEDURE IN OBTAINING APPROVAL TO INSTALL ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE. THE ATTORNEYS WERE ADVISED THAT ALL SUCH REQUESTS WERE APPROVED AT FBI HQ. THEIR QUESTIONS SEEMED AIMED AT DETERMINING WHO INITIATED THE REQUESTS FOR THE ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE AND WHO

PAGE THREE (LA 44-1574)

APPROVED THEM. THEY ALSO APPEARED TO BE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE COINTELPRO AGAINST KING THAN WITH THE INVESTIGATION OF HIS ASSASSINATION. THEY APPEARED CONCERNED OVER THE PROPRIETY OF ACCUMULATING INFORMATION CONCERNING KING'S PERSONAL LIFE AS OPPOSED TO INFORMATION RELATING TO HIS COMMUNIST PARTY CONNECTIONS. THEY WERE ADVISED THAT THE PURPOSE OF AN INTELLIGENCE OPERATION ON EITHER AN INDIVIDUAL OR AN ORGANIZATION IS TO OBTAIN ENOUGH INFORMATION TO EVALUATE THE POTENTIAL THREAT POSED BY THE INDIVIDUAL OR ORGANIZATION TO THE INTERNAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT ALL INFORMATION RECEIVED IS OF BENEFIT IN EVALUATING THE OVERALL THREAT.

THE TASK FORCE ATTORNEYS INDICATED THAT THEY INTENDED TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON, D.C. WHERE THEY DESIRE TO REVIEW ALL OF THE SECURITY FILES ON KING.

- 3* -

F B I

Date: 7/12/76

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL
(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR (100-106670)
FROM LOS ANGELES (44-1574) (P)
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

REBUTEL DATED JUNE 30, 1976.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEYS JAMES KIECKHEFER, WILLIAM WHITE,
AND JOSEPH GROSS ARRIVED LOS ANGELES DIVISION MORNING JULY 12,
1976 TO REVIEW FILES SET FORTH IN REBUTEL.

XEROX COPIES OF ALL NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS CONCERNING
ASSASSINATION HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY AND WILL BE FURNISHED TO
THE TASK FORCE TEAM.

TASK FORCE HAS ALSO REQUESTED LOS ANGELES ATTEMPT TO
LOCATE THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE INTERVIEWED DURING
COURSE OF INVESTIGATION OF ASSASSINATION: CHARLES AND RITA
STEIN, MARIE MARTIN, ALLEN THOMPSON, DR. MARK FREEMAN, XAVIER
VON KOSS. INITIAL INQUIRY BY LOS ANGELES DIVISION SUCCESSFUL
IN LOCATING ONLY DR. MARK FREEMAN. OTHER WITNESSES HAVE MOVED
AND LEFT NO FORWARDING ADDRESS. FURTHER INQUIRY TO LOCATE
WITNESSES BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE PENDING FURTHER REQUEST BY
TASK FORCE.

BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED OF RESULTS OF FILE REVIEW BY
TASK FORCE.

RHB/jer
(1) *[Signature]*
Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent *325* *[Signature]* M Per *[Signature]*

★ U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-090 (11)

WABSI

NR075 WA CODE

11:39PM NITEL 87/29/76 NDP

TO ALL SACS

FROM DIRECTOR (100-106670)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BUDED AUGUST 9, 1976

FOR INFORMATION OF RECIPIENTS THE ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) HAS ORDERED A REVIEW OF THE FBI'S INVESTIGATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. ASSIGNED TO CONDUCT THIS REVIEW IS A TASK FORCE WORKING UNDER DIRECTION OF THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY (OPR) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS INDICATED THE REVIEW IS TO RESOLVE THE FOLLOWING FOUR QUESTIONS: (1) WAS THE FBI INVESTIGATION OF KING'S ASSASSINATION THOROUGH AND HONEST? (2) IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE THE FBI WAS INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION? (3) IS THERE ANY NEW EVIDENCE WHICH HAS COME TO THE ATTENTION OF THE DEPARTMENT CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION? (4) DOES THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BUREAU AND KING CALL FOR CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS OR OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION?

THIS REVIEW IS A CONTINUATION OF A "PARTIAL REVIEW" RECENTLY

44-1524-1952

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 29 1976	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

[Signature]

PAGE TWO

CONDUCTED BY THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT UNDER DIRECTION OF ASSISTANTHP/4. STANLEY POTTINGER. ALL PERSONNEL ON THE TASK FORCE ARE AUTHORIZED TOTAL ACCESS TO OUR FILES PERTAINING TO KING'S ASSASSINATION, OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND ANY FILES RELATING TO BASIS FOR THESE INVESTIGATIONS. THIS WILL INCLUDE COVER PAGES OF COMMUNICATIONS CONTAINING IDENTITIES OF SOME FBI SOURCES AND INFORMANTS WHO WERE NOT AFFORDED SYMBOL NUMBERS AT THAT TIME AND INDIVIDUALS WHO EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED CONFIDENTIALITY.

TO DATE THE TASK FORCE HAS REVIEWED FBIHQ AND WFO FILES CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION OF KING CAPTIONED "MURKIN, BUREAU FILE 44-33861. TASK FORCE MEMBERS HAVE TRAVELED TO MEMPHIS, MILWAUKEE, KANSAS CITY, OMAHA, SAN FRANCISCO AND LOS ANGELES AND REVIEWED MURKIN AND INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION FILES OF THOSE OFFICES. FUTURE TRAVEL BY THE TASK FORCE IS PLANNED FOR ATLANTA, BIRMINGHAM, CHARLOTTE, CHICAGO, NEW ORLEANS, NEW YORK, SPRINGFIELD AND ST. LOUIS.

AFTER ABOVE TRAVEL IS COMPLETED AND KING RELATED SECURITY FILES AT FBIHQ ARE REVIEWED, THE TASK FORCE WILL HAVE SEEN THE MAJORITY OF SERIALS IN OUR FILES RELATING TO THE KING INVESTIGATIONS. HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS THE GOAL OF THE TASK FORCE TO REVIEW KING RELATED FILES IN EVERY FIELD OFFICE, IT WILL BE

PAGE THREE

NECESSARY TO FORWARD XEROX COPIES OF FILES FROM THE REMAINING OFFICES TO FBIHQ FOR REVIEW.

THEREFORE, ALL RECIPIENTS WITH EXCEPTION OF THOSE OFFICES NAMED ABOVE, FURNISH FBIHQ ONE XEROX COPY OF EACH SERIAL CONTAINED IN YOUR KING ASSASSINATION FILE CAPTIONED "MURKIN." IT IS REQUESTED THIS MATERIAL BE PROCESSED AND MAILED TO REACH FBIHQ PRIOR TO AUGUST 9, 1976. THIS MATERIAL SHOULD BE SENT BY REGISTERED MAIL, ATTENTION DEPUTY ASSISTANT DIRECTOR INGRAM, INTELLIGENCE DIVISION.

IF MURKIN FILES CONTAIN ANY PHOTOGRAPHS, EXHIBITS OR OTHER ITEMS WHICH CANNOT BE XEROXED A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EACH ITEM AND ITS LOCATION SHOULD BE SET FORTH IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTING THE DOCUMENTS TO FBIHQ.

SUBSEQUENT INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE ISSUED CONCERNING SUBMISSION OF COPIES OF OUR INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATION OF KING AND RELATED SECURITY FILES. OFFICES TO BE VISITED IN THE FUTURE BY TASK FORCE PERSONNEL WILL ALSO BE FURNISHED APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

END

AA

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

King Slay Documents Destroyed

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Assassination Committee is investigating an unconfirmed report that documents relating to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King have been destroyed. Chief Counsel Richard Sprague said Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the 12-member panel investigating the deaths of King and President John F. Kennedy authorized issuance of what Sprague called

Sprague said the information about the missing documents was uncovered by staff investigators in Memphis, where King was killed in 1968.

Sprague cautioned that the information was "completely unverified." He said he had not yet determined that

After a morning session, Sprague told reporters that the documents were "relevant to our investigation" and that "I have been advised that the destruction has been since it was announced (in September) that this committee would be investigating" the King assassination slayings.

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

A-1 HERALD EXAMINER
LOS ANGELES, CA

Date: 11/17/76
Edition: Wednesday Latest
Author:
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title: MURKIN

Character:
or ELECTION LAWS

Classification:
Submitting Office: 44-1574*
Los Angeles
☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 17 1976	
FBI - LOS ANGELES	

44-1574-1953

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : FILE (44-1574) (9)

FROM : SAC ELMER F. LINBERG

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 11/19/76

In response to telephone call of JAY T. ALDHIZER, III, Domestic Security Section, Division 6, to Supervisor RICHARD H. BLOESER, SAC LINBERG telephonically advised ALDHIZER at 2:45 pm, 11/18/76, that ADIC GEBHARDT had instructed that the Department be advised that the Departmental Attorneys should proceed to Los Angeles to review the files concerning the investigation of the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. This decision was based on the fact that there are in excess of 5600 serials to be reviewed and the manpower and equipment utilized would be unreasonable considering the fact that the Departmental Attorneys had been here previously to review the files and had not completed the review.

EFL:sas
(1) *pas*

44-1574-1954
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Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

FBI King Files Show Suspects

(WASHINGTON AP) — The FBI investigated members of the Ku Klux Klan and the Minutemen in the early days of the search for Martin Luther King's assassin, newly disclosed FBI documents reveal.

Four days after King was slain in Memphis on April 4, 1968, FBI headquarters ordered an investigation of all known members of the Klan, the rightwing Minutemen, "other hate group members, rabble rousers and any other individuals known to have violent proclivities located within your territories."

The order was sent to FBI field offices and all FBI offices. The order was complied by the FBI during its investigation of the civil rights leader's death.

The FBI is releasing 442 pages to comply with requests under the Freedom of Information Act. Officials are screening the rest of the files to determine what else will be released.

The documents provide the first public details of the FBI probe. James Earl Ray, who was subsequently arrested, pleaded guilty to shooting King. As a result, the government never was required to present its evidence at a trial or any other public forum.

Ray has since attempted to change his plea and obtain a trial.

The first batch of papers dealt with the early days of the investigation and included no mention of Ray.

But three memos identified Eric Starvo Galt as a suspect. That was an alias Ray used.

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

A-6 HERALD EXAMINER
LOS ANGELES, CA

Date: 11/18/76
Edition: Thursday Latest
Author:
Editor: Donald Goodenow
Title: MURKIN

Character:
or ELECTION LAW

Classification: LA-44-1574*
Submitting Office: Los Angeles
☐ Being Investigated

44-1574-1955

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FBI - LOS ANGELES	

The April 8 memo from
headquarters told the seven
field offices to investigate
members of the Klan,
Minutemen and other groups
"to ascertain their where-
abouts" at the time King was
shot.

Those without an alibi
would be regarded as poten-
tial suspects and their finger-
prints, obtained from military
records or already on file
with the bureau, would be
checked against prints found
in the rooming house where
the shot was fired, the memo
indicated.

TELETYPE ROOM

DEC 9 3 02 PM '76

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FM SACRAMENTO (100-427)(P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

DENVER PRIORITY

KANSAS CITY ROUTINE

LAS VEGAS PRIORITY

LOS ANGELES PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

SALT LAKE CITY (44-253) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

MURKIN

RE BUTEL, DEC. 2, 1976.

ON DEC. 7, 1976, ^QALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, 807 GREENWOOD ST., WEST SACRAMENTO, CALIF., PHONE 372-0780, WAS INTERVIEWED IN DEPTH AT 1401 11TH AVE., SACRAMENTO, CALIF., WHERE HE WAS WORKING THAT DATE.

MARTINEZ ADVISED HE WAS IN SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL FOR TWO AND

12/10/76 - Hal Hetterhoff, X 4578, Bureau advised he'd in custody until 12/14/76 pending investigation in Memphis. YMM

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J. H. Marshall

PAGE TWO SC 100-427 CLEAR

ONE-HALF TO THREE MONTHS IN WHAT HE BELIEVES WAS LAST PART OF 1966 OR EARLY 1967.

MARTINEZ ADVISED DURING THIS INCARCERATION HE BECAME FRIENDLY WITH WILLIAM SIMPONIS. HE ADVISED SIMPONIS WAS ILL WITH EMPHYSEMA, AND AT SIMPONIS' REQUEST MARTINEZ WROTE SEVERAL LETTERS FOR HIM. HE ADVISED HE WROTE APPROXIMATELY THREE LETTERS A WEEK DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD HE WAS INCARCERATED, TO AN INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFIED AS JAMES RAY AND EARL RAY BY SIMPONIS. HE ADVISED HE MAILED THESE LETTERS TO MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, BUT HE COULD NOT REMEMBER THE ADDRESS. MARTINEZ ADVISED HE HAD KEPT A SHOE BOX FULL OF LETTERS HE RECEIVED FROM RAY AND SOME ITEMS WHICH BELONGED TO SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ ADVISED TWO OF THESE LETTERS WERE ADDRESSED TO HIM AND THE REST TO SIMPONIS. HE ADVISED HE LOST THESE ITEMS FOUR OR FIVE YEARS AGO AND HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE THEM.

MARTINEZ ADVISED THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTERS USUALLY CONSISTED OF INFO ABOUT WHEN SIMPONIS WAS GOING TO GET OUT OF JAIL AND HOW THEY WOULD GET TOGETHER. MARTINEZ CANNOT THINK OF ANY OTHER TOPICS ABOUT WHICH HE WROTE.

MARTINEZ WAS TOLD BY SIMPONIS THAT HE SHOULD CONTACT RAY

PAGE THREE SC 100-427 CLEAR

WHEN HE GOT OUT OF JAIL AND "THAT THEY HAD A JOB GOING ON; THEY WOULD NEED SOME HELP ON IT; THAT I COULD MAKE QUITE A BIT OF MONEY ON IT AND I WOULDN'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WORK ANY MORE." SIMPONIS NEVER IDENTIFIED ANY VICTIMS OF SUCH A PLAN. HE ADVISED SIMPONIS HATED BLACK PEOPLE VERY MUCH BUT HE NEVER MENTIONED MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., OR ANY OTHER BLACKS SPECIFICALLY THAT HE COULD REMEMBER.

MARTINEZ ADVISED WHEN HE GOT OUT OF JAIL SIMPONIS GAVE HIM THREE LETTERS WRITTEN BY SIMPONIS TO BE MAILED TO RAY. MARTINEZ ADVISED HE DID NOT READ CONTENTS OF THESE LETTERS BUT HE DID SEND THEM. MARTINEZ ADVISED HE WAS TO MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH SIMPONIS, WHO WOULD ADVISE HIM TO GO TO MEMPHIS AT A SPECIFIED TIME, AND THAT SIMPONIS WOULD HAVE MAILED A PICTURE OF MARTINEZ TO RAY FOR PURPOSE OF IDENTIFICATION. WHEN THIS OCCURRED, RAY WAS TO MEET MARTINEZ AT MEMPHIS AIRPORT ON A DESIGNATED DATE. MARTINEZ ADVISED HE NEVER CONTACTED SIMPONIS AFTER HE GOT OUT OF JAIL IN SALT LAKE CITY AND WAS ARRESTED FOR BURGLARY IN CANYON CITY, COLORADO, AND SENT TO COLORADO STATE PRISON FROM MAY 28, 1967, UNTIL THE LAST OF 1967.

MARTINEZ FURTHER ADVISED HE WROTE LETTERS FOR SIMPONIS TO

PAGE FOUR SC 100-427 CLEAR

OTHER INDIVIDUALS. HE IDENTIFIED THESE INDIVIDUALS AS JEANNETTE SCOTT, GIRL FRIEND OF SIMPONIS, PIONEER HOTEL, 342 FIFTH STREET, ELKO, NEVADA (MARTINEZ SEEMED TO RECOLLECT SCOTT WAS PART OWNER OF THIS HOTEL AND WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE LARGE COLLECTION OF GUNS); LILLIAN SCHURTER, 1274 WEST STREET, POSSIBLY ELKO, NEVADA, PHONE TE3-7226; KALIOPE SOLIATES, 1026 WEST 20TH, POSSIBLY ELKO, NEVADA, PHONE TE3-3617; AND NICK ^{POSS. 92-404} SIMPONIS, GARDENA, CALIF., PHONE 434-8747 (BROTHER OF WILLIAM SIMPONIS, STREET ADDRESS NOT KNOWN).

MARTINEZ IS MEXICAN MALE, 5'9", 150 LBS., BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, BORN [REDACTED], CANYON CITY, COLORADO, FBI NO. 8390LG, SSAN [REDACTED] ADDRESS 807 GREENWOOD STREET, WEST SACRAMENTO, PREVIOUS ADDRESSES 3427 40TH STREET, SACRAMENTO; 1651 ILLINOIS AVENUE, CANYON CITY, COLORADO; CURRENTLY ON PROBATION FOR DRUNK DRIVING CHARGES.

MARTINEZ ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW IF INDIVIDUAL REFERRED TO AS JAMES OR EARL RAY IS IDENTICAL TO JAMES EARL RAY CONVICTED IN MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DENVER AT CANYON CITY REVIEW COLORADO STATE PRISON RECORDS FOR MARTINEZ FOR POSSIBLE LEAD PURPOSES RELATING TO SIMPONIS OR RAY.

LAS VEGAS AT ELKO ATTEMPT TO LOCATE SCOTT, SCHURTER AND

PAGE FIVE SC 100-427 CLEAR

SOLICITS TO INTERVIEW FOR ANY INFO PERTINENT TO THEIR CONNECTION,
OR CONNECTION OF WILLIAM SIMPONIS, WITH JAMES EARL RAY OR
CAPTIONED MATTER.

LOS ANGELES AT GARDENA ATTEMPT TO CONTACT AND INTERVIEW NICK
SIMPONIS RE THE ABOVE CONNECTIONS AND CAPTIONED MATTER.

LHM FOLLOWS.

BT

TELETYPE ROOM

DEC 10 10 25 AM '76

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FM MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) PRIORITY

DENVER PRIORITY

KANSAS CITY PRIORITY

LAS VEGAS PRIORITY

LOS ANGELES PRIORITY

SACRAMENTO (100-427) PRIORITY

SALT LAKE CITY (100-11666) PRIORITY

BT

~~CLEAR~~

MURKIN.

RE SACRAMENTO TELETYPE, DECEMBER 9, 1976.

ALL OFFICES DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION REQUESTED IN
REFERENCED TELETYPE.

BUREAU SHOULD NOTE THAT ALFRED WILLIAM MARTIN EZ INDICATED
HE WAS IN SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL FOR 60 TO 90 DAYS DURING LATE

[Handwritten signature]
12/23/76

44-1514-1957
SEARCHED
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9
J. H. Marshall
1976

PAGE TWO (ME 44-1987)

1966 OR EARLY 1967. SALT LAKE JAIL RECORDS DO NOT CORROBORATE THIS; HOWEVER, IT SHOULD BE NOTED JAMES EARL RAY WAS IN THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON FROM MARCH 17, 1960, UNTIL HIS ESCAPE APRIL 23, 1967. ANY MAIL ADDRESSED TO JAMES EARL RAY DURING THIS PERIOD WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE MISSOURI STATE PRISON.

SALT LAKE COUNTY JAIL RECORDS INDICATE THAT MARTINEZ AND WILLIAM SIMPONIS WERE INCARCERATED TOGETHER AT THE MOST FROM JANUARY 29, 1968, TO MARCH 2, 1968. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION HAS ALREADY DISCLOSED THAT JAMES EARL RAY ON JANUARY 29, 1968, WAS RESIDING IN LOS ANGELES AND APPEARS TO HAVE REMAINED THERE UNTIL AT LEAST MARCH 17, 1968, SO IT IS OBVIOUS ANY MAIL ADDRESSED TO JAMES EARL RAY DURING THIS PERIOD WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN SENT TO MEMPHIS, TENN.

MEMPHIS CONCLUDES THAT JAMES EARL RAY AND JIMMIE W. RAY, AN ACQUAINTANCE OF WILLIAM SIMPONIS, HAVE NO CONNECTION AND THAT FURTHER INQUIRY BASED ON INFO FURNISHED BY MARTINEZ WOULD BE OF NO VALUE.

BT

3451825Z LA 1

F B I

Date: 12/16/76

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, SACRAMENTO (100-427) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Sacramento teletype dated 12/9/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are four copies of
an LHM regarding contacts of the Sacramento FBI office
with one ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, DOB

Enclosed for other offices is one copy of this
LHM.

This matter is being considered RUC as no further
leads exist in Sacramento Division.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 4)
2 - Denver (Enc. 1)
2 - Kansas City (Enc. 1)
2 - Las Vegas (Enc. 1)
2 - Los Angeles (Enc. 1) ✓
2 - Memphis (Enc. 1)
2 - Salt Lake City (Enc. 1)
1 - Sacramento
BRLK/cw
(15)

44-1574-1938

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FBI-LOS ANGELES	

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge