FBI MEMPHIS

K&NFBI CHICAGO

847PM DEFERRED 4-4-68 RFJ

TO: MEMPHIS, CLEVELAND, CINCINNATI

FROM: CHICAGO (157-NEW)

POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, RM.

OO: MEMPHIS.

JOHN	KENNETH	MADDE	WHITE	MALE,	BORN		
			7				
	KNOY	UTIIF	TENIMECCI	TE CO	NTACTED	CHICAGO	OFFI

APRIL FOUR INSTANT. CLAIMED PREVIOUS FEDERAL SENTENCE FOR CHECKS AND THAT HE ASSISTED FBI AND SECRET SERVICE, CLEVELAND AND COLUMBUS, OHIO, IN FEBRUARY SIXTY-SIX RE SUPPOSED PLOT TO ASSASSINATE VICE-PRESIDENT HUMPHREY. CLAIMS TO BE PARTTIME WRITER, WHO TRAVELS A LOT AND DESIRIOUS OF HELPING HIS COUNTRY. CHICAGO HAS HAD NO PREVIOUS CONTACT, RELIABILITY UNKNOWN.

CLAIMS HE ARRIVED MEMPHIS MARCH TWENTY-SIX LAST, PENDING MARCH BY MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE TALKED FREELY TO NEGROES REPRESENTING HIMSELF AS CBS REPORTER, AND WITNESSED MARCH FROM SECOND FLOOR WINDOW ON BEALE STREET. MADDEN ATTENDED FUNERAL OF NEGRO YOUTH SHOT DURING RIOTING. THEREAFTER, HEARD CHARLES STEPHENS NEGRO MALE, SIXTEEN YEARS AND PAUL JOE ADKINS, ALSO KNOWN AS LITTLE JOE, NEGRO MALE, SEVENTEEN YEARS.

END PAGE ONE

ADDRESSES UNKNOWN, ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS, SAY THAT YOUTHS DID NOT INTEND TO FOLLOW KING AGAIN, BUT INTENDED TO BECOME MORE MILITANT. THEY WERE RESENTFUL OF WHITE POWER STRUCTURE, LACK OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND POLICE BRUTALITY. MADDEN COULD FURNISH NO SPECIFIC PLANS OR IDENTIFY FURTHER INDIVIDUALS, HOWEVER, IS OF OPINION THAT IF GOVERNMENT STOPS KING FROM MARCHING YOUTHS WILL BECOME VIOLENT EVEN THOUGH THEY WILL PROBABLY NOT FOLLOW HIM.

MADDEN ADVISED THAT HE INTENDS TO RETURN TO MEMPHIS TO BE THERE FOR SECOND REPORTED MARCH BY KING. NO REQUESTS WERE MADE OF HIM, BUT HE ADVISED HE WOULD CONTACT MEMPHIS OFFICE RE ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY HIM.

MADDEN FURNISHED UNDEVELOPED FILM AND TAPE RECORDING REFLECTING OBSERVATIONS OF CONDITIONS IN MEMPHIS. CHICAGO WILL FORWARD TO MEMPHIS BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION.

MADDEN IS FIVE FOOT SIX INCHES, ONE FIFTY POUNDS, LIGHT BROWN THINNING HAIR, DRIVING NINETEEN SIXTY WHITE RAMBLER WITH CALIFORNIA LICENSE. DURING PREVIOUS VISIT TO MEMPHIS HE ASSOCIATED GOOD DEAL WITH RAY KEISLING, KEISCO PHOTOGRAPH, THREE NINE NINE ZERO PARK AVENUE, MEMPHIS, AND AGAIN END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE CG 157- NEW

REPRESENTED SELF AS CBS REPORTER.

CLEVELAND AND CINCINNATI REVIEW FILES AND ADVISE MEMPHIS

OF ANYTHING TO EVALUATE MADDENS CREDITABILITY.

END

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI CINCINTI

401AM DEFERRED 4-5-68 MEO

/TO MEMPHIS

FROM CINCINNATI

POSSIBLE RACIAL VIOLENCE, MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. RM. 00: ME.

RECGTEL TO MEMPHIS, CLEVELAND AND CINCINNATI APRIL FOUR,
LAST(EIGHT FIVE SEVEN PM)

JOHN KENNETH MADDEN, REFERRED TO IN REFERENCED TELETYPE,
APPEARS IDENTICAL TO JOHN KENNETH MADDEN, FBI NUMBER

WHO WAS LAST IN CONTACT WITH CINCINNAT OFFICE IN FEBRUARY, SIXTYSEVEN, WHEN PURPORTED VICTIM IN CI CASE CAPTIONED UNSUB; JOHN KENNETH MADDEN - VICTIM; EXTORTION, CIFILE NINE DASH TWO ONE TWO ZERO.

MADDEN CONTACTED CI OFFICE AND ADVISED HAD PREVIOUSLY OPERATED SMALL ANTI-COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER IN COLUMBUS, OHIO, WHICH HE HAD CLOSED DUE TO FAMILY PRESSURE AS A RESULT OF THREATS FROM UNSUBS CLAIMING MEMBERSHIP IN COMMUNIST PARTY.

MADDEN STATED HE HAD TRAVELLED TO CLEVELAND IN FALL OF SIXTYSIX WHERE HE HAD DEVELOPED INFORMATION REGARDING ASSASSINATION THREAT TO VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY. CLAIMED TO HAVE PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION TO USSS. CLEVELAND.

END PAGE ONE

PAGE THO

MADDEN STATED AFTER LEAVING CLEVELAND, WENT TO CALIFORNIA

TO ESCAPE PRESSURE FROM COMMUNIST AGENTS, AND SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED

TO CINCINNATI TO LIVE WITH MOTHER.

MADDEN, AT TIME OF EXTORTION COMPLAINT, STATED EMPLOYED AS ATTENDANT, LONGVIEW STATE MENTAL HOSPITAL, CINCINNATI. CLAIMED SUPERINTENDENT, LONGVIEW HOSPITAL HAD RECEIVED LETTER FROM UNSUB USING NAME ANDREW O. BERNHARDI, SECURITY AGENT FOR SPARTICUS PARTY. LETTER TOLD LONGVIEW OFFICIALS TO FIRE MADDEN AS MADDEN WAS A "CAPITALIST DOG WHO DEGRADED HEROIC PEOPLE OF NORTH VIET NAM AND CHINA."

ORIGINAL OF THIS LETTER OBTAINED FROM LONGVIEW HOSPITAL
AND SUBMITTED TO FBI LABORATORY, WHO HAD ADVISED LATENT FINGERPRINTS OO MADDEN FOUND ON ORIGINAL LETTER. OFFICIALS AT LONGVIEW
HOSPITAL STATED MADDEN NEVER HAD ACCESS TO ORIGINAL LETTER.

ATTEMPTS THEN MADE BY CI TO REINTERVIEW AND OBTAIN HANDWRITING SAMPLES FROM MADDEN. HE REFUSED AND LEFT CINCINNATI FOR UNKNOWN DESTINATION IN CALIFORNIA.

MADDEN'S MOTHER INTERVIEWED, ADVISED HER SON "HAS NERVOUS PROBLEM AND IS SICK". MADDEN PREVIOUSLY CONVICTED OF ITSPP IN KNOXVILLE AND CONFINED IN FEDERAL REFORMATORIES AT CHILLICOTHE, OHIO AND TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA. MOTHER CLAIMS MADDEN FALSELY CONVICTED OF ITSP CHARGE AND BASES THIS STATEMENT ON HIS WORD TO HER.

AUSA, CI DECLINED ACTION ON EXTORTION COMPLAINT.

CI FORWARDING PERTINENT SERIALS AND PHOTOGRAPH AMSD MEMPHIS.
AM COPIES TO CG AND CV.

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FBI MEMPHIS

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FBI MEMPHIS

FBI JKSN MISS

443 AM DEFERRED 4-5-68 KCH

TO DIRECTOR / ATLANTA AND MEMPHIS

FROM JACKSON (157-NEW)

NEGRO DISTURBANCES IN MISSISSIPPI APRIL FOUR, SIXTY-EIGHT AS

EXPRESSION OF SYMPATHY TO ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING,

JR. RM.

JACKSON STATE COLLEGE. JACKSON. MISSISSIPPI.

FOUR SOURCES, WHO HAVE PROVIDED RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST, ADVISED EARLY P.M., APRIL FOUR, LAST, ABOUT SEVEN FORTY-FIVE P.M. SAME DATE ONE HUNDRED JACKSON STATE COLLEGE STUDENTS AND NEGRO YOUTHS RESIDING VICINITY COLLEGE BEGAN THROWING ROCKS AT CARS OCCUPIED BY WHITES WHO PASSED ON MAIN STREET WHICH INTERSECTS CAMPUS LOCATED ABOUT ONE MILE FROM DOWNTOWN JACKSON. IN GROUP WAS MARVIN LOUIS WILSON, N/M, AGE EIGHTEEN FROM JACKSON WHO HAS RECENTLY BEEN A STUDENT NON-VIOLENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE, SNCC, PROJECT DIRECTOR IN DAYTON, OHIO AND GEORGE WASHINGTON WARE, JR., N/M, AGE TWENTY-SEVEN FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA, MEMBER OF SNCC CENTRAL COMMITTEE. AT LEAST TWO PASSING AUTOS RECEIVED DAMAGE FROM MISSILES HOWEVER NO INJURIES.

THIS MOB SPILLED OFF CAMPUS ABOUT NINE P.M. AND PROCEEDED WEST

END PAGE ONE

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FBI — MEMPHIS HELLEN OF PAGE TWO

FROM CAMPUS HURLING ROCKS AT BUILDINGS ALONG THE WAY. THREE WHITE OWNED ESTABLISHMENTS NEAR CAMPUS SUFFERED EXTENSIVE DAMAGE ALONG THE WAY, A GROCERY, A CLEANERS AND A DONUT SHOP HOWEVER LOOTING MINIMAL.

CAMPUS WHERE CHARLES EVERS, N/M, MISSISSIPPI NAACP FIELD SECRETARY AND RECENTLY DEFEATED MISSISSIPPI CANDIDATE FOR U.S. CONGRESS, WAS HOLDING LARGE NEGRO MEETING WHICH COMMENCED AT NINE P.M. TO DISCUSS KING SYMPATHY PLANS. MOB THEN TURNED OVER AND BURNED UNOCCUPIED AUTO OF WHITE NEWSREPORTER OUTSIDE TEMPLE; THIS PROMPTED EVERS TO LEAVE MEETING, PROCEED OUTSIDE AND ATTEMPT TO QUIET MOB WITH SUCCESS.

UNITS OF JACKSON POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED MEN THEN MOVED TO DISPERSE CROWD USING TEAR GAS; CHIEF OF DETECTIVES M.B. PIERCE, JACKSON P.D. ADVISED STREET CLEARED BY ELEVEN FORTY P.M. AND NO ARRESTS MADE OR INJURIES REPORTED; ENTIRE CAMPUS AREA QUIET AT ELEVEN P.M.

ABOVE SOURCES REPORT EVERS CONSIDERING SYMPATHY MARCH TO
STATE CAPITAL IN A.M. TODAY AND CONSIDERING LEADING MARCH TO WASHINGTON
D.C. IN LATE APRIL NEXT.

JACKSON STATE COLLEGE IS STATE SUPPORTED CO-ED NEGRO COLLEGE WITH ABOUT TWO THOUSAND STUDENTS WHICH WAS SCENE OF RIOT IN MAY NINETEEN, END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

SIXTY-SEVEN. DURING WHICH ONE NEGRO MALE KILLED.

CHIEF PIERCE ADVISED THAT IN ISOLATED INCIDENT IN NEGRO AREA OF NORTHWEST JACKSON P.M. APRIL FOUR, LAST, WHITE-OWNED FOOD STORE SET AFIRE APPARENTLY BY MOLOTOV COCKTAIL THROWN BY PASSERBY; FIRE QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED; NO INJURIES SUFFERED.

RUST COLLEGE. HOLLY SPTINGS. MISSISSIPPI.

CHARLES SNODGRASS, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, MISSISSIPPI
HIGHWAY SAFETY PATROL (MHSP) ADVISED THAT AT TEN P.M. APRIL FOUR
LAST, ABOUT THIRTY NEGRO STUDENTS AT RUST COLLEGE, THREW ROCKS AND
BRICKS AT VARIOUS CAMPUS BUILDINGS. GROUP DISPERSED BY COLLEGE
OFFICIALS WITH ONLY MINOR DAMAGE TO BUILDINGS. SNODGRASS ADVISED
NO ARRESTS MADE, NO INJURIES REPORTED AND CAMPUS QUIET BY ELEVEN
THIRTY P.M.

RUST COLLEGE IS PRIVATE NEGRO CO-ED COLLEGE OF ABOUT FIVE HUNDRED STUDENTS LOCATED IN NORTH MISS.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE COLLEGE, ITTA BENA, MISSISSIPPI.

CHARLES SNODGRASS, MHSP ADVISED THAT ABOUT NINE P.M., APRIL

FOUR, LAST, APPROXIMATELY THREE HUNDRED NEGRO STUDENTS FROM MISS.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

VALLEY STATE COLLEGE LEFT DORMITORIES AND MARCHED AROUND CAMPUS SINGING AND CHANTING; A FEW STUDENTS LEFT MARCH AND BROKE WINDOWS IN GROCERY NEAR CAMPUS, DAMAGE MINOR. SNODGRASS ADVISED CAMPUS QUIET AT ELEVEN P.M. AND NO ARRESTED MADE OR INJURIES REPORTED.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY STATE COLLEGE IS NEGRO CO-ED COLLEGE OF ABOUT SIX HUNDRED STUDENTS LOCATED IN NORTHWEST MISS.

APPROPRIATE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL AUTHORITIES HAVE BEEN ADVISED OF ABOVE INFORMATION. THE MHSP HAS SIZABLE DETACHMENTS STANDING BY IN VICINITY OF ABOVE THREE AREAS; THE MISS. NATIONAL GUARD HAS BEEN ALERTED AND GUARD ARE IN ASSEMBLY AREAS IN GREENWOOD AND JACKSON READY FOR DEPLOYMENT IF NECESSARY.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

REFERENCE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ALL SAC'S APRIL FOUR, LAST,

CAPTIONED "ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM"; JACKSON

PHONECALL TO BUREAU APRIL FOUR, LAST.

ALL RACIAL SECURITY AND CRIMINAL INFORMANTS ALERTED;
PRELIMINARY CHECKS OF POSSIBLE SUSPECTS FOR ASSASSINATION NEGATIVE
HOWEVER EXTENSIVE INQUIRY CONTINUING.
END PAGE FOUR

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PAGE FIVE

INFORMANTS UTILIZED IN FIRST PARAGRAPH ABOVE ARE

ACTIVITIES OF SNCC LEADERS WILSON AND WARE ARE BEING CLOSELY FOLLOWED WITH SOURCES. WILSON IS ON JACKSON AGITATOR INDEX.

JACKSON FOLLOWING ALL DEVELOPMENTS CLOSELY TO INCLUDE ANY SYMPATHY DEMONSTRATION TODAY.

ATLANTA ADVISED AS REGIONAL RACIAL COORDINATOR AND DUE TO WARE'S PRESENCE IN MISS.

END

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FBI MEMPHIS

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TO DIRECTOR

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1897)

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CIVIL RIGHTS.

RE MEMPHIS TELEPHONE CALLS, APRIL FOUR LAST.

FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS SURROUNDING ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.:

AT APPROXIMATELY SIX ZERO THREE PM, KING WAS ON SECOND FLOOR BALCONY OF LORRAINE HOTEL AND MOTEL, FOUR ZERO SIX MULBERRY, MEMPHIS, PREPARING TO GO TO DINNER. A SHOT WAS HEARD BY KING'S ASSOCIATES, WHO WERE AT STREET LEVEL. KING WAS OBSERVED TO FALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER SHOT. KING WAS TAKEN TO ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL IMMEDIATELY. DRS. J. N. BARRASSO AND FREDERICK GIOIA, ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL, INFORMED THAT KING WAS PRONOUNCED OFFICIALLY DEAD AT SEVEN ZERO FIVE PM, APRIL FOUR LAST. THEY STATE DEATH CAUSED BY BULLET TEARING MAJOR NECK VESSELS AND SEVERING SPINAL CORD AT THE ROOT OF THE NECK.

ASSOCIATES OF DR. KING STATE BEFORE SHOOTING, POLICE OFFICERS WERE IN AREA PATROLING AND THAT SHORTLY AFTER ONE CAR OF OFFICERS HAD PASSED, DR. KING WAS SHOT. MOMENTARILY AFTER

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44-1987-32

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PAGE TWO

SHOOTING. NUMEROUS OFFICERS ARRIVED AT THE SCENE.

GUY WARREN CANIPE, SR., AGE FIFTY EIGHT, OPERATOR OF CANIPE AMUSEMENT MACHINE CO., FOUR TWO FOUR S. MAIN ST., LOCATED APPROXI-MATELY THREE HUNDRED FT. WEST OF LORRAINE MOTEL ON MAIN ST., STATES THAT IN VICINITY SIX O'CLOCK, HE WAS IN HIS PLACE OF BUSINESS, PLAYING RECORDS NEAR THE FRONT DOOR, WHEN HE HEARD PACKAGE DROPPED JUST OUTSIDE HIS FRONT DOOR. HE LOOKED UP AND SAW A MAN WALKING AWAY. HE DESCRIBED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS A WM, BETWEEN TWENTY FIVE AND THIRTY YRS., APPROXIMATELY SIX FT., ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TO TWO HUNDRED LBS.. NEATLY DRESSED, WEARING A DARK SUIT, DARK HEADED.

CAN IPE IMMEDIATELY INSPECTED THE PACKAGE. HE FOUND A BROWNING GUN CARTON OPEN AND SAW THE BARREL OF A GUN. HE STATED A GREEN CLOTH WAS WRAPPED AROUND THE GUN CARTON. A PIECE OF LUGGAGE SIMILAR TO AN OVERNIGHT BAG WAS NEAR THE GUN CARTON.

ON REACHING FRONT DOOR OF HIS BUSINESS, CANIPE OBSERVED

A WHITE MUSTANG BEING DRIVEN FROM THE CURB AT AN ABOVE NORMAL RATE

OF SPEED.

THE GUN, GUN BOX, AND LUGGAGE WERE RECOVERED BY INSPECTOR N. E. ZACHARY, MEMPHIS PD.

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PAGE THREE

IN CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION ON MAIN ST. IN AREA FROM WHICH BULLET APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN FIRED, INFORMATION DEVELOPED THAT OCCUPANTS OF ROOMING HOUSE AT FOUR TWO TWO AND ONE HALF S. MAIN ST. HEARD SHOT FIRED FROM SECOND FLOOR OF ROOMING HOUSE APPROXIMATELY AFTER SHOT WAS FIRED, A WHITE MALE LEFT THE BATHROOM AND RAN OUT THE FRONT DOOR ON MAIN ST. AS UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL PASSED OCCUPANTS, ONE OF OCCUPANTS COMMENTED, "SOUNDED LIKE A SHOT." THE UNKNOWN INDIVIDUAL COMMENTED, "IT WAS A SHOT."

OCCUPANTS OBSERVED UNKNOWN WHITE MAN CARRYING PACKAGE

APPROXIMATELY THREE FT. IN LENGTH AND POSSIBLY WRAPPED IN OLD

PIECE OF BLANKET. WITNESSES KNOW THIS UNKNOWN PERSON STAYED IN

ROOM FIVE B ON APRIL FOUR.

MRS. BESSIE RUTH BREWER, RESIDENT MGR., THIS ROOMING HOUSE, ADVISED WHITE MALE IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS JOHN WILLARD, NO ADDRESS, REGISTERED AT ROOMING HOUSE BETWEEN THREE PM AND THREE THIRTY PM, APRIL FOUR LAST. THIS INDIVIDUAL REFUSED ROOM EIGHT AS HE CLAIMED HE DID NOT NEED A STOVE AND REFRIGERATOR, AND ACCEPTED ROOM FIVE B, AS HE ONLY NEEDED A SLEEPING ROOM. THIS

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PAGE FOUR

INDIVIDUAL PAID ONE WEEK'S RENT WITH A TWENTY DOLLAR BILL AND TWO QUARTERS AND RECEIVED TWELVE DOLLARS IN CHANGE.

ONE RESIDENT OF ROOMING HOUSE OBSERVED UNKNOWN WHITE MALE
GOING IN AND OUT OF BATHROOM FREQUENTLY AND ON ONE OCCASION REMAINED
IN BATHROOM TWENTY TO THIRTY MINUTES.

REAR OF THIS ROOMING HOUSE FACES LORRAINE MOTEL AND BATHROOM WINDOW FURNISHES UNOBSTRUCTED VIEW OF LORRAINE MOTEL AND PLACE AT WHICH DR. KING WAS SHOT. ESTIMATED DISTANCE FROM BATHROOM WINDOW TO POINT WHERE DR. KING WAS SHOT IS TWO HUNDRED FIVE FT.

ON ARRIVAL INVESTIGATING OFFICERS, BATHROOM WINDOW OBSERVED TO BE OPEN APPROXIMATELY THREE INCHES. WINDOW IN ROOM FIVE B WIDE OPEN. WINDOW OF ROOM FIVE B ALSO AFFORDS VIEW OF LORRAINE MOTEL, HOWEVER, IT WOULD REQUIRE INDIVIDUAL TO LEAN OUT OF WINDOW TO FIRE SHOT.

MANUEL MARCUS LEVIN, WHITE MALE, BORN
, STUDENT, UNIVERSITY OF MISS., OXFORD, MISS., AND ALEX
J. HURDER, BORN , STUDENT, DUKE
UNIVERSITY, DETAINED BY MEMPHIS PD AT APPROXIMATELY SIX FIFTY PM,
APRIL FOUR LAST. MEMPHIS PD HAD RECEIVED REPORT THAT TWO WHITE

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PAGE FIVE

MALES HAD CHANGED CLOTHES IN A GARAGE NEAR SECOND AND PONTOTOC.

POLICE THEREAFTER OBSERVED LEVIN AND HURDER IN VICINITY LORRAINE

MOTEL. INVESTIGATION DISCLOSED LEVIN AND HURDER ARE CIVIL RIGHTS

WORKERS. SCLC PERSONNEL IDENTIFIED LEVIN AND HURDER AS BEING IN

MEMPHIS TO INVESTIGATE POLICE BRUTALITY AND HAVE VOUCHED FOR THESE

MEN.

GUN BOX PICKED UP BY INSPECTOR ZACHARY CONTAINED REMINGTON GAMEMASTER RIFLE, MODEL SEVEN SIX ZERO, SERIAL NO. FOUR SIX ONE FOUR SEVEN SIX, EQUIPPED WITH REDFIELD TWO X DASH SEVEN X VARIABLE POWER RIFLE SCOPE, MOUNTED ON A WEAVER MOUNT. THIS RIFLE MANUFACTURED AT ILION, N.Y.

ZIPPER BAG OBTAINED BY INSPECTOR ZACHARY CONTAINED, AMONG OTHER ITEMS, GILLETTE SHAVING KIT, GRAY PAPER SACK BEARING "YORK ARMS COMPANY", WHITE AND YELLOW CHECKERED TOWEL, SIX-TRANSISTOR CHANNELMASTER RADIO, GEORGIA-ALABAMA STANDARD OIL MAP, SMALL MAGNETIC TACK HAMMER, SMALL NEEDLE NOSED PLIERS, MEMPHIS "COMMERCIAL APPEAL" DATED APRIL FOUR, NINETEEN SIXTY EIGHT, NUMEROUS TOILET SET OF BING COLARS ARTICLES, AND TWO CANS SCHLITZ BEER AS WELL AS OTHER ITEMS.

ZIPPER BAG AND CONTENTS, AS WELL AS REMINGTON RIFLE TAKEN
FBI LABORATORY EARLY APRIL FIVE BY BUREAU AGENT. BULLET TAKEN

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FROM DR. KING ALSO TA	KEN TO FBI LABORATORY. P.	
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IMMEDIATE

(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR AND SAC'S HOUSTON, KANSAS CITY AND SAN FRANCISCO FROM MEMPHIS (44-1897) 3P

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CR. OO MEMPHIS.

J. W. FARRIS, DRIVER, YELLOW CAB CO., MEMPHIS, TENN., ADVISED AT WILLIAM LEN HOTEL

HE MADE A PICKUP OF A WHITE MALE/AROUND TWELVE ZERO FIVE AM,

APRIL FIVE, WHO FIRST REQUESTED TO GO TO WEST MEMPHIS, ARKANSAS.

IMMEDIATELY AFTER STARTING TO THIS DESTINATION, SUSPECT INSTRUCTED

FARRIS TO TAKE HIM TO MEMPHIS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

UPON ARRIVAL AT AIRPORT, SUSPECT TOLD FARRIS TO WAIT FOR HIM WHILE HE CHECKED FLIGHT DEPARTURE SCHEDULE. ACCORDING TO FARRIS, SUSPECT ALSO MADE INSPECTION OF THE INSIDE AND IMMEDIATE AREA OUTSIDE OF THE AIRPORT TERMINAL. HE THEN REQUESTED FARRIS TO RETURN TO THE WILLIAM LEN HOTEL AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO WAIT.

FARRIS STATED SUSPECT RETURNED WITH ANOTHER MALE WHITE AND REQUESTED THAT THEY BE TAKEN BACK TO THE MEMPHIS MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

RECORDS, WILLIAM LEN HOTEL REVEAL VINCENT WALKER, FOUR FOUR

Alriel. NINE STEINER, SAN FRANCISCO, AND LAWRENCE RAND, OR REND, TWO FIVE

THREE TWO POLK, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS, CHECKED INTO HOTEL, TWO

A. W. STHIRTY EIGHT PM, APRIL FOUR LAST, AND CHECKED OUT APPROXIMATELY

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Special Agent in Charge

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TWELVE TEN AM, INSTANT DATE.

INVESTIGATION REVEALED WALKER AND RAND IDENTICAL TO INDI-VIDUALS FARRIS TRANSPORTED TO MUNICIPAL AIRPORT.

DELTA AIRLINES, MEMPHIS, ADVISE TWO INDIVIDUALS GOING BY NAMES OF W. DAVIS AND B. CHIDLOW DEPARTED MEMPHIS AT ONE FIFTY SEVEN AM THIS DATE, VIA DELTA AIRLINES, ENROUTE HOUSTON, TEXAS. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAD NO RESERVATIONS FOR THAT FLIGHT.

SUSPECT NO. ONE DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, TWENTY FIVE TWENTY EIGHT YEARS, FIVE FT. TEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY LBS.,
BROWN HAIR, PARTED ON SIDE, WEARING GRAY SUIT.

SUSPECT NO. TWO DESCRIBED AS TWENTY FIVE TO THIRTY YRS., SIX FT. TWO INCHES, TWO HUNDRED LBS., BLOND HAIR, RUDDY FACE, DRESSED IN WHITE SHIRT AND DARK TROUSERS, CARRYING DARK BLUE COAT IN HAND.

FROM INFO RECEIVED, SUSPECT NO. ONE BELIEVED TO BE RAND. SUSPECT NO. TWO POSSIBLY VINCENT WALKER.

HOUSTON IMMEDIATELY CONTACT DELTA AIRLINES FOR ANY INFO TO IDENTIFY SUSPECTS AND FOR ANY INFO RE THEIR ACTIVITIES.

KANSAS CITY, ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND FURNISH BACKGROUND
AS WELL AS PHOTO, IF AVAILABLE, RE LAWRENCE RAND, TWO FIVE THREE

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TWO POLK, KANSAS CI	ITY, KANSAS.
SAN FRANCISCO,	, FURNISH SAME INFO FOR VINCENT WALKER, FO
FOUR NINE STEINER,	SAN FRANCISCO.
EXPEDITE AND S	SUTEL.
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Special Agent in Charge

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TO DIRECTOR AND BIRMINGHAM FROM MEMPHIS (44-1896)

UNSUB. AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -VICTIM; CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE TELEPHONE CALLS TODAY IN WHICH IT WAS INDICATED UNSUB PURCHASED BROWNING CALIBER TWO FOUR THREE RIFLE ON MARCH TWENTY NINE, SIXTY EIGHT FROM THE WIMBERLY THOMAS HARDWARE, ONE EIGHT ZERO NINE FIRST AVENUE SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM, AND THEN RETURNED THIS WEAPON ON MARCH THIRTY, SIXTY EIGHT, TO EXCHANGE IT FOR A REMINGTON GAMEMASTER, MODEL SEVEN SIX ZERO, THIRTY DASH ZERO SIX RIFLE WITH A REDFIELD SCOPE AND WEAVER MOUNT.

BIRMINGHAM, ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN BROWNING RIFLE AND FORWARD TO FBI IDENTIFICATION/ FOR LATENT FINGERPRINT EXAMINATION.

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TO LOS ANGELES

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1897)

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CR. OO MEMPHIS.

LOS ANGELES REQUESTED CONTACT BUSHNELL & COMPANY, TWO ONE TWO EIGHT EAST FOOTHILL BLVD. / PASADENA, CALIF., AND DETERMINE IF BUSHNELL SEVEN X THIRTY FIVE BANNER BINOCULARS, SN DQ FOUR ZERO EIGHT SIX SIX FOUR / WAS PART OF A PURCHASE OF SIX PAIRS OF BINOCULARS MADE TO YORK ARMS CO., ONE SIX TWO S. MAIN ST., MEMPHIS, TENN., INVOICE NO. D THREE THREE ZERO SIX FIVE, ORDERED OCT. TWENTY, SIXTY SEVEN, INVOICE DATED OCT. THIRTY ONE, SIXTY SEVEN, INVOICE PAID FEB. EIGHT, SIXTY EIGHT, INVOICE CODE NO. ONE TWO SEVEN THREE FIVE ZERO.

ABOVE BINOCULARS FOUND AMONG PROPERTY LEFT AT SCENE BY UNSUB.

SUTEL.

END	Alrtsl			
HDT: ME	Telecypa	A Company		
(1)	A. M	les des	44-1987	-23
ME	Specifical Community of the Registered Community of the Re	le le	- 1 1107-	

Sent 10/32 AM Per ______

Date:	4/5/68
Date:	4/3/00

Trans	mit the following in		
		(Type in plaintext or code)	
Via	TELETYPE	URGENT	
		(Priority)	

TO SALT LAKE CITY
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1892)

UNSUB, JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CR. OO MEMPHIS.

FOR INFO SALT LAKE CITY, BAR OF SOAP OF TYPE COMMONLY
FOUND IN MOTELS WAS LOCATED IN LUGGAGE LEFT BY UNSUB WHEN HE
DEPARTED SCENE OF SHOOTING. COVER ON THE BAR OF SOAP BORE
NAME "FRIENDSHIP INNS.";

INVESTIGATION, MEMPHIS, INDICATES FRIENDSHIP INNS IS A REFERRAL ORGANIZATION AND IS AN INDEPENDENT BUSINESS APART FROM OWNERSHIP OF ANY MOTELS. INQUIRY INDICATES THAT FRIENDSHIP INNS HAS APPROXIMATELY SEVENTY FIVE MEMBER MOTELS IN ITS ORGANIZATION, HOWEVER, ONLY KNOWN MEMBER IS THE TOWNHOUSE MOTEL, TWO FOUR FIVE WEST, ŞALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, TELEPHONE EIGHT ZERO ONE DASH THREE TWO EIGHT DASH NINE SEVEN ONE SEVEN.

SALT LAKE CITY CONTACT TOWNHOUSE MOTEL AND OBTAIN LIST OF MEMBER MOTELS. WHICH MAY UTILIZE SOAP BARS BEARING NAME "FRIENDSHIP INNS." P.

Airtel	
TeletypeEND	· ·
A. MHDT:ME	44-1987-24
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RegisterApproved:	Sent 1/5 P M Per Ma
Special Agent in Charge	

	Date: 4/5/68	
Transmit the following in	PLAIN TEXT	
	(Type in plaintext or code)	
ViaTELETYPE	URGENT	
	(Priority)	

TO DIRECTOR (ATTN. FBI LABORATORY), AND SAC, INDIANAPOLIS FROM MEMPHIS (44-1882) -1P

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CR. OO MEMPHIS.

RE MEMPHIS PHONE CALLS TO INDIANAPOLIS TODAY.

MR. WILLIAM MESHAW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RETAIL HARDWARD ASSOCIATION (NRHA), INDIANAPOLIS, ADVISED NO RECORD FOR COMPAGE OR ROMPAGE HARDWARE CO. HE STATED THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THE MANUFACTURER OF THE PRICE LABEL STICKER ON THE PLIERS.

FBI LABORATORY IS REQUESTED TO FURNISH INDIANAPOLIS WITH A COMPLETE DESCRIPTION OF THE PAPER PRICE LABEL ON THE PLIERS WHICH WERE PREVIOUSLY SENT TO THE LABORATORY IN ORDER THAT INDIANAPOLIS MAY REQUEST THE NRHA TO IDENTIFY THE LABEL MANUFACTURER. P.

Approved: Special Agent in Charge Sent 3E/8 PM Per Nep

44-1987-

FBI-

Date:

4/5/68

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Transmit the following in	PLAIN TEXT
•	(Type in plaintext or code)
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	(Priority)

TO BUREAU AND ATLANTA

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) 2P

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CR. OO MEMPHIS.

INSPECTOR N. E. ZACHARY, HOMICIDE DIVISION MEMPHIS PD,
ADVISED THIS DATE THAT CHARLES WADELL WILSON ROUTE THREE, CASON
ROAD, CEDARTOWN, GA., HAD TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED HIM TO ADVISE
HE BELIEVED VICTIM WAS SHOT BY SHERMAN SANDERS, MW, THIRTY TWO
YEARS OF AGE, WHO ALSO RESIDES ON CASON ROAD, CEDARTOWN, GA., AND
WHO WORKS AT BOCKMART, GA. WILSON STATED SANDERS ACCOMPANIED BY
BUD DAWSON, WM, THIRTY, ADDRESS CANAL ST., CEDARTOWN, GA., AND
CHARLES HUSER (PHONETIC), MW, THIRTY TWO, UNKNOWN ADDRESS, HAD
COME TO MEMPHIS IN A WHITE SIXTY EIGHT CADILLAC, GA. LIC. TWENTY
NINE DASH (LAST DIGITS NOT KNOWN), AND STAYED FOR UNKNOWN PERIOD
OF TIME IN A "FLOP HOUSE" ON SOUTH MAIN ST., MEMPHIS. WILSON STATED
HE DIDN'T KNOW SANDERS WAS GOING TO SHOOT KING AND WHEN HE HEARD
KING HAD BEEN SHOT, HE BECAME FRIGHTENED. ACCORDING TO WILSON,
SANDERS USED A THIRTY OUGHT SIX RIFLE WITH A SCOPE SIGHT THAT HAD

SANDERS USE	D A THIRTY OUGHT S	IX RIFLE WITH A	SCOPE SIGHT	THAT HAD
Airted BEEN PURCHA	SED SEVERAL MONTHS	AGO IN CHICAGO	•	
	IFO ATLANTA, MOST R	ECENT DESCRIPTION	ON INDICATES	UNSUB
A. M. S. HDT: ME		مشدن ۱۵۰	44	1-1917-36
Spec. Del.			222	
Reg. MaiApproved:S	pecial Agent in Charge	Sent	M Per 2	ep

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D-36	(Rev. 5-22-64)
	F-BI.
	Date:
ans	mit the following in(Type in plaintext or code)
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	(Priority)
	PAGE TWO
	TO BE APPROXIMATELY THIRTY SIX YRS., FIVE FT. EIGHT INCHES,
	ONE HUNDRED FIFTY TO ONE HUNDRED SIXTY LBS., DARK HAIR, MEDIUM
	COMPLEXION, AND WHEN LAST SEEN WAS WEARING DARK SUIT AND TIE.
	INVESTIGATION HAS DETERMINED WEAPON USED IN THIS CASE PUR-
	CHASED MARCH THIRTY, SIXTY EIGHT, IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA. THIS INF
	IS NOT TO BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE BUREAU.
	ATLANTA, AT CEDARTOWN, GA., WILL CONDUCT APPROPRIATE
	INVESTIGATION RE SANDERS, DAWSON AND HUSER (PHONETIC). UNSUB
	ARMED AND DANGEROUS. P.
	END
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Sent _

Approved: ___

Special Agent in Charge

Date:

4/5/68

Transmit the following in	PLAIN TEXT
·	(Type in plaintext or code)
ViaTELETYPE	URGENT
	(Priority)

TO DIRECTOR AND ATLANTA
FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

UNSUB, AKA JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM; CR. RE MEMPHIS TEL THIS DATE.

INSPECTOR N. E. ZACHARY, HOMICIDE DIVISION, MEMPHIS PD,

ADVISED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED A SECOND CALL FROM CHARLES

WADELL WILSON, RT. THREE, CASON RD., CEDARTOWN, GA. ON THIS

OCCASION WILSON ADVISED THAT HE, CHARLES HAINES OF ATHENS, GA.,

AND SHERMAN SANDERS, WHO ALSO RESIDES ON CASON RD., IN CEDARTOWN,

HAD PLANNED THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HE CONTINUED

THAT THEY WERE PAID FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE ASSASSINATION.

OF THIS AMOUNT, HE RECEIVED ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS.

INSPECTOR ZACHARY STATED THAT THEY WERE HAVING CONSIDERABLE TROUBLE WITH THE TELEPHONE DURING THE CONVERSATION AND HE HAD OCCASION TO TALK TO LONG DISTANCE OPERATOR HANDLING THE CALL. SHE INDICATED THIS CONVERSATION WAS COMING FROM PAY TELEPHONE IN CEDARTOWN, GA., TEL. SEVEN FOUR EIGHT DASH NINE ZERO NINE SIX. AND THAT SHE HAD, BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS CALLS, REASON TO BELIEVE THE CALLER WAS IN REALITY SHERMAN SANDERS. AGENTS IN THEIR

JIHE C	HLLEK WA	5 IN K	CALLI	DUEUMAN	SANDERS.	AGENIS	114	Incin	
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mit the following in	(Type in p	laintext or code)		
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PAGE TWO				
INVESTIGATION OF T	HIS MATTER SHOU	ULD BE MADE AW.	ARE OF THIS	
POSSIBILITY AND TH	AT THE CALLER M	AY BE MENTALL	Y UNBALANCED.	
UNSUB ARMED AND DAI				
END				
	-			

MBI MEMPHIS
FBI NEW YORK
454 PM RGENT 4/5/68 WPK
TO DIRECTOR AND CHARLOTTE AND MEMPHIS
FROM NEW YORK 157-2269 2P

44-1987

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RACIAL MATTERS.

RENY TEL CALL TO MEMPHIS FOUR FIVE SIXTY EIGHT.

ON APRIL FIVE INSTANT, INSPECTOR AL OWENS NASSAU COUNTY
POLICE DEPARTMENT (NCPD), ADVISED INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED FROM
A HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL RELIABLE SOURCE, DURING ONE NINE SIXTY SIX
WHOSE IDENTITY IS KNOWN ONLY TO THE NCPD INDICATING THAT A

LETTER, SIGNED ROBERT E. BAGWELL, REFLECTED IN PART: "I

DO BELIEVE THAT DOING AWAY WITH KING WOULD BE A NICE JOB
TO START WITH". BAGWELL WAS ARRESTED OCTOBER THRITY SIXTY

SIX. WITH OTHER MINUTEMEN BY NYCPD. CHARGES SUBSEQUENTLY

BAGWELL, SUBJECT OF CHARLOTTE FILE ONE HUNDRED DASH ONE
ZERO FOUR THREE SIX, IS DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, FIVE SEVEN,
HUNDRED FIFTY POUNDS, BORN ______, ASHVILLE, NORTH
CAROLINA, HAIR BRROWN, EYES HAZEL, DEEP SET, NOSE SMALL, MOUTH
SMALL NARROW, CHIN SQUARE, EARS SMALL, COMPLEXION DARK, SWARTHY.
TATTOOS - CROSS, "BORN TO RAISE HELL", SKULL AND CROSS BONES,
WITH SNAKE RUNNING THROUGHN WITH INITIALS NSRP. LOCATION OF
TATTOOS NOT KNOWN.

END PAGE ONE

DISMISSED.

44-1987-28 the election of the party of the

FBI N	MEMP	HIS									
'MEMPH	lS	THIS	IS	NY	PS	ACK	FOR	MSG	AND	HOLD	
ME	D ND)									
FBI N	VEM P	HIS									

P

AGE TWO

CHARLOTTE

AT CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, THROUGH INTERVIEW DETERMINE AND ADVISE OF BAGWELL'S WHEREABOUTS AT TIME OF ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

END

ACK AND HOLD

ME...DWB@@OX

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI KAN CITY

251 PM IMMEDIATE 4/5/68 PHM

TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS 44-1897, HOUSTON 44-1509

FROM KANSAS CITY 44-760 1P

UNSUB, AKA, JOHN WILLARD; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,-VICTIM.
CR. 00: MEMPHIS

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO BUREAU TODAY.

PD RECORDS IN KANSAS CITY, KS., KANSAS CITY, MO., NORTH KANSAS CITY, MO. NEGATIVE RE LAWRENCE RAND OR REND. DECORDS, CREDIT BUREAU, NEGATIVE. CITY, COUNTY AND TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES AND MAPS OF GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA FAIL TO REVEAL ANY SUCH ADDRESS AS TWO FIVE THREE TWO POLK OR A LAWRENCE RAND OR REND IN KANSAS CITY, KS. AREA.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

P

END

MCP

FBI MEMPHIS

44-1987-29 @ @ FD-280 (Rev. 8-28-58)

DECODED COPY

Radio 🗀

□xx**Teletype**

FBI BIRMINGHAM .

437 PM IMMEDIATE 4-5-68 JGA

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM BIRMINGHAM 052147 GR 350

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

RE ALBANY TEL TO BIRMINGHAM AND BIRMINGHAM TELEPHONE CALLS TO THE BUREAU AND MEMPHIS THIS DATE.

RECORDS OF WIMBERLY THOMAS HARDWARE COMPANY INDICATE

RIFLE IN QUESTION SOLD TO AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY,

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA. SALESMAN AT AEROMARINE SUPPLY COMPANY

FURNISHED INVOICE THIS DATE INDICATING RIFLE, TOGETHERALZED FILED.

WITH A REDFIELD SCOPE WITH A WEAVER-TYPE MOUNT,

SOLD TO ONE HARVEY LOWMEYER, NINETEEN NAUGHT SEVEN SOUTH

ELEVENTH STREET, BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA, ON MARCH THIRTY, SIXTYEIGHT.

SALESMAN INDICATED THAT LOWMEYER ORIGINALLY PURCHASED A REMINGTON

SEVEN ZERO ZERO MODEL RIFLE ON MARCH TWENTYNINE, SIXTYEIGHT,

AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS THE FOLLOWING MORNING TO EXCHANGE IT FOR

A REMINGTON SEVEN SIXTY MODEL BEARING SERIAL NUMBER FOUR

SIX ONE FOUR SEVEN SIX, TOGETHER WITH ONE BOX OF THREE ZERO

DECIMAL ZERO SIX AMMUNITION. PURCHASE PRICE WAS TWO FOUR EIGHT

DOLLARS AND FIVE NINE CENTS, WHICH WAS PAID IN BILLS OF TWENTY

DOLLAR DENOMINATIONS. TELEPHONE DIRECTORY AND CROSS INDEX INDICATE

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

DECODED COPY

□ Radio	☐ Teletype
PAGE TWO	

FICTITIOUS NAME AND ADDRESS USED. NO CRIMINAL OR CREDIT RECORD FOR LOWMEYER LOCATED BIRMINGHAM. DISCREET INQUIRY AT ADDRESS GIVEN INDICATES LOWMEYER UNKNOWN.

ORIGINAL INVOICE BEING HAND CARRIED TO BUREAU THIS

DATE, TOGETHER WITH THE RIFLE WHICH WAS RETURNED BY THE UNKNOWN

SUBJECT, AS WELL AS THE CARTON IN WHICH IT WAS CONTAINED, FOR EXAMI_

NATION PURPOSES.

ALL HOTELS, MOTELS, AIRLINES, AND RENTAL CAR AGENCIES
IN THE AREA ARE BEING CHECKED FOR PERTINENT PERIOD. ALL LEADS
RECEIVING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. BUREAU WILL BE KEPT ADVISED.
END

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI JKSN MISS

710 PM URGENT 4-5-68 REM

TO DIRECTOR, KANSAS CITY, AND MEMPHIS

FROM JACKSON (157-9586)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE JACKSON AND MEMPHIS PHONE CALLS THIS DATE.

JOHN HUBERT WILLARD

MEMPHIS ADVISED THIS AM ONE JOHN WILLARD POSSIBLE SUSPECT AS KNOWN TO OBTAINED ROOM ACROSS STREET FROM ASSASSINATION SITE. MEMPHIS PD RECORDS DISCLOSED WILLARD ARRESTED BY PD IN MEMPHIS, FIFTY-EIGHT, ON CHARGE OF ARSON AND RELEASED TO PONTOTOC COUNTY SO.

M. C. HEMBREE, FORMER SHERIFF, PONTOTOC COUNTY, ADVISED SUBJECT ARRESTED IN FIFTY EIGHT IN MEMPHIS AS FUGITIVE FOR ARSON. WARRANT ISSUED BY PONTOTOC COUNTY SO. RETURNED TO PONTOTOC COUNTY, PLEAD GUILTY, RECEIVED THREE YEARS PROBATION. WILLARD RESIDES IN PONTOTOC AND HAS NEW HOME ON HIGHWAY SIX, PONTOTOC COUNTY.

MHSP RECORDS REFLECT WILLARD BORN
END PAGE ONE

44-1987-31 @ 6

dy



PAGE TWO

ROUTE ONE, ECRU, PONTOTOC COUNTY, MISS.,

ARRESTED MARCH FOUR, SIXTY SEVEN, PONTOTOC COUNTY, RECKLESS

DRIVING, FINED FIFTEEN DOLLARS, ARRESTED DECEMBER TWENTY SIX,

SIXTY SIX, SPEEDING FINED FIFTEEN DOLLARS, OCTOBER THIRTEEN,

SIXTY FIVE SPEEDING, TEN DOLLAR FINE, SIXTY FOUR IN ACCIDENT

LICENSE SUSPENDED, SIXTY THREE INVOLVED IN TWO ACCIDENTS.

NOT WANTED BY MHSP.

ON OCTOBER THIRTEEN, SIXTYFIVE, OWNED CHEVROLET TRUCK.

STATE PROBATION AND PAROLE BOARD RECORDS REVEAL WILLARD

ARRESTED FOR ARSON, BURNING OF AN AUTOMOBILE, PONTOTOC COUNTY,

MISS. ARRESTED MEMPHIS, RETURNED TO PONTOTOC COUNTY, SENTENCED

JUNE TWENTY FIVE, FIFTY EIGHT TO THREE YEARS PROBATION. DESCRIBED

IN JUNE, FIFTY EIGHT AS WHITE MALE, BORN

RESIDENCE ONE EIGHT FIVE ZERO JEFFERSON

STREET, MEMPHIS, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY

STREET, MEMPHIS, FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE POUNDS, COMPLEXION RUDDY, BROWN HAIR, GRAY EYES, BUILD MEDIUM. WILLARD HAD SEVERAL RELATIVES LIVING MEMPHIS, FIFTY END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

EIGHT. HE WAS EMPLOYED BY GAINES MANUFACTURING COMPANY, MEMPHIS.

WHILE ON PROBATION WAS UNDER SUPERVISION OF MEMPHIS PAROLE

OFFICER JOSEPH C. MITCHELL FROM JULY TWENTY EIGHT, FIFTY

EIGHT, TO DECEMBER TWENTY TWO, FIFTY EIGHT. PROBATION ENDED

MAY ONE, SIXTY ONE. SUBJECT WAS ARRESTED UNDER ARSON CHARGE

WITH ONE HERMAN DANIEL, W/M, BORN

LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISS.

SELECTIVE SERVICE RECORDS, JACKSON, SHOW WILLARD CURRENTLY REGISTERED AND NOT DELINQUENT. NO RECORE LOCATED MISSISSIPPI STATE PENITENTIARY, PARCHMAN, MISS. JACKSON INDICES NEGATIVE.

MRS. BARBARA WILLARD, WIFE OF WILLARD, INTERVIEWED AT OXFORD, BY BUAGENTS, WHERE EMPLOYED BY OXFORD, MISS., CREDIT BUREAU

THIS DATE. RELATED SHE ARRIVED AT HER RESIDENCE, PONTOTOC

COUNTY, FIVE THIRTY PM, APRIL FOUR, LAST, AND HUSBAND WAS

HOME WITH HER SMALL SON MOWING LAWN. HE DID NOT LEAVE RESIDENCE

ENTIRE EVENING. EMPLOYED BY DAY BRITE LIGHTING COMPANY, TUPELO,

AND WORKED DAY SHIFT. COULD OFFER NO SUSPECTS WHO COULD HAVE

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR

USED NAME JOHN WILLARD.

WILLARD INTERVIEWED THIS DATE BY BUREAU AGENTS DAY BRITE
LIGHTING COMPANY, TUPELO AND ADVISED WORKED SEVEN AM TO THREE
THIRTY PM SHIFT, APRIL FOUR, LAST. LEFT WORK AND WENT TO UNION
MEETING WITH BILLY GLEN DOWDY AT UNION HALL. LEFT UNION HALL
FIVE TEN PM, WENT TO RESIDENCE AND AWAITED ARRIVAL OF WIFE.
DID NOT LEAVE RESIDENCE DURING EVENING. PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN
WILLARD AND FD THREE ZERO TWOS AND PHOTOGRAPHS HAVE BEEN
DISPATCHED BY AGENT IN BUCAR TO MEMPHIS. STATED JOHN WILLARD
COMMON NAME BUT DOES NOT KNOW WHO COULD HAVE USED NAME IN MEMPHIS.

BILLY GLEN DOWDY INTERVIEWED AND VERIFIED WILLARD'S STORY, J. L. COLLUMS' NEIGHBOR SAW WILLARD MOWING LAWN DURING PERTINENT PERIOD.

PERSONNEL RECORD SHOWS WILLARD PUNCHED IN ON TIME CLOCK SIX FORTY SIX AM AND PUNCHED OUT THREE THIRTY TWO PM, APRIL FOUR. LAST.

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE

MRS. WILLARD LATER CONTACTED SA AT OXFORD, AND RELATED AT ONE TIME THERE WERE TWO JOHN WILLARDS LIVING VICINITY TUPELO, MISS. BELIEVES OTHER JOHN WILLARD KNOWN TO FILE OF CREDIT BUREAU. RECORDS, TUPELO CREDIT BUREAU, REVEAL IN JANUARY, SIXTY FOUR, INQUIRY MADE RE JOHN M. WILLARD, TWO NINE TWO NINE BOGAN DRIVE, TUPELO, FOR UNIVERSAL CIT, EMPLOYED FRED STRANGE MOTOR COMPANY.

FRED STRANGE, OWNER STRANGE MOTOR COMPANY, TUPELO,

ADVISED JOHN MILBURN WILLARD, WHITE MALE, BORN

, FIVE FEET FOUR INCHES, ONE HUNDRED TEN POUNDS,

BLACK HAIR, BROWN EYES, EMPLOYED MECHANIC SIXTY THREE AND

LEFT MARCH FIVE, SIXTY FOUR. HE WORKED PRIOR AT SOWERS MOTORS,

INC., ROLLA, MISSOURI, DRUITT MOTORS, SEDALIA, MISSOURI, AND

KINDEN MOTOR, POPLAR BLUFF, MISSOURI. WILLARD STATED IN

SIXTY FOUR RETURNING TO SEDALIA, MISSOURI. BELIEVES WORKING FOR J.

W. SHEPHERD AT VOLKSWAGEN DEALERSHIP, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI.

ABOVE HAS BEEN FURNISHED BY PHONE TO KANSAS CITY AND MEMPHIS. END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX

KANSAS CITY. IMMEDIATELY ADVISE MEMPHIS IF ONE JOHN MILBURN WILLARD EMPLOYED APRIL FOUR, LAST IN KANSAS CITY.

END

DND

FBI MEMPHIS

FB-280 (Bev. 8-28-58)

DECODED COPY

Radio Radio

Teletype

7:29 PM IMMEDIATE 4/5/68 LBN
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS
FROM ATLANTA

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RACIAL MATTERS. AT ONE FIVE SEVEN DASH THREE ZERO NINE FOUR.

EASTERN AIRLINES (EAL) ATLANTA, CALLED THIS DATE AND ADVISED NOTE FOUND ON FLIGHT THREE NINE EIGHT, WHICH DEPARTED MEMPHIS APRIL FOUR LAST, AT TEN MINETEEN PM, CST, AND ARRIVED ATLANTA TWELVE TWENTYEIGHT AM, APRIL FIVE, INSTANT, ## EST. NOTE READS AS FOLLOWS!

"ME AND MY PAL, J. EDGAR, ARE JUST TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD IN ANY SMALL WAY WE CAN."

STEWARDESSES WORKING FLIGHT THREE NINE EIGHT ADVISED EIGHT WHITE MALES, NINETEEN TO TWO TWO YEARS OF AGE, SIX DRESSED IN MAKE IDENTICAL BLUE BLAZERS AND REMAINING TWO DESCRIBED AS DRESSED AS "HIPPIES" IN LEVIS, SANDALS AND WINDEREAKERS, OCCUPTED GENERAL AREA WHERE NOTE FOUND.

STEWARDESSES ALSO INDICATED A MR. TITTERS, MESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, BLACK HAIR, DRESSED IN BLUE BLAZER, BLUE SHIRT, STRIPED TIE, DARK SLACKS, FIVE FEET TEN INCHES,

END PAGE ONE

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If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Burea paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

ED (10 (Rev. 8-28-58)

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□ Teletype

PACE TWO

APPROXIMATELY TWENTY YEARS OF AGE, AVERAGE BUILD, RECEIVED
REQUEST WHILE IN ELIGHT TO ATLANTA TO CONTACT EAL INFORMATION
DESK UPON ARRIVING. STEWARDESSEE ADVISED WHEN SHE TOLD
TITTERS OF THE MESSAGE, ONE OF MEN ACCOMPANYING HIM STATED
"THEY KNOW YOU'RE THE CLEAN - CUT WHITE MALE THAT DID IT."

PASSENGER MANIFESTS OF EAL FLIGHTS TO MEMPHIS APRIL

THREE AND FOUR LAST, BEING DUPLICATED FOR COMPARISON WITH

PASSENGER LIST FROM FLIGHT THREE NINE EIGHT SO THAT APPROPRIATE

LEADS CAN BE SET FORTH. NO DISSEMINATION MADE.

MEMPHIS, CONTACT EAL RESERVATIONS DESK, AND ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP FURTHER INFO RE TITTERS, RELATIVE TO CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER TAKEN BY EAL AT TIME RESERVATION MADE.

ATLANTA COMDUCTING FURTHER INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER.

END

If the intelligence contained in the above message is to be disseminated outside the Bureau, it is suggested that it be suitably paraphrased in order to protect the Bureau's cryptographic systems.

NNFBI MEMPHIS

FBI PORTLAND

808PM URGENT 4/5/68 JDL

TO MEMPHIS

FROM PORTLAND (157-380) 18

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RACIAL MATTER.

MRS. GEORGIA AARDY, PORTLAND, FURNISHED FOLLOWING STATING
UTMOST IMPORTANCE SHE REMAIN ANONYMOUS. SHE HAS BROTHER EDWARD
E. O'FALLIN, ADDRESS UNKNOWN IN MEMPHIS, TELEPHONE NUMBER THREE
SIX TWO - ONE ZERO ONE FIVE, EMPLOYED CVY OF MEMPHIS WATER DEPT.
O'FALLIN'S WIFE'S BROTHER JOHN KELLY AKA JIMMY IS SUSPECTED BY
MRS. HARDY OF POSSIBLY BEING ASSASSIN BECAUSE OF NEWS REPORTS
LATTER WORE A GRIN.

KELLY DESCRIBED AS WHITE, AGE ABOUT THIRTY SEVEN, HEIGHT ABOUT FIVE FEET EIGHT, HAIR LIGHT BROWN, COMPLEXION REDDISH. HE IS VETERAN OF KOREAN WAR, BATTLE HERO, FOND OF GUNS, A QUOTE LITTLE SIMPLE MINDED UNQUOTE AND ALWAYS WEARS A SILLY GRIN. KELLY RESIDES WITH PARENTS, NAMES AND ADDRESS UNKNOWN, IN FOREST CITY, TENN., AND VISITS O'FALLIN IN MEMPHIS.

THIS INFORMATION, RELIABILITY UNKNOWN, FURNISHED FOR YOUR EVALUATION.

ENDTSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

TUX

Level later

FBI MEMPHIS

F3I NEW ORLS

311PM URGENT 4-5-68 CDC

TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS

FROM NEW ORLEANS 157-10673

We mied

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RM.

RE NEW ORLEANS TEL TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS APRIL FIVE,
INSTANT, WHICH CONTAINED INFORMATION RE ANONYMOUS CALL BELIEVED
FROM ALEXANDRIA, LA. AND RECIEVED BY NEW ORLEANS OFFICE EVENING
OF APRIL FOUR, LAST.

ON APRIL, FIVE, INSTANT A CHECK OF MOTELS AND HOTELS ALEXANDRIA, LA., CONDUCTED AND OF HOTELS AND MOTELS HAVING SWITCHBOARDS NO INFORMATION DEVELOPED THERE WERE ANY TELEPHONE CALLS PLACED THROUGH SWITCHBOARDS TO F31 OFFICE NEW ORLEANS.

NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS REGISTERED AT VARIOUS HOTELS AND MOTELS, ALEXANDRIA WHO LISTED EITHER MEMPHIS OR OTHER AREAS IN TENNISSEE, OBTAINED.

ED TURNLEY, SECURITY SUPERVISOR, SBT&T COMPANY CONTACTED AND ADVISED ATTEMPTS WOULD BE MADE TO REVIEW PRINT-OUT OF DDD TAPES RECORDED AT LAFAYETTE, LA., TO LOCATED ANY CALL TO FBI NEW ORLEANS, AND RESULTS WOULD BE PROVIDED NEW ORLEANS OFFICE. THIS IS A COMPLICATED PROCESS AND AS YET NO IFORMATION RECEIVED FROM TURLEY.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

TUCLR

44-1987-33 Que Me FBI MEMPHIS

FBI WASH DC

820URGENT 4/5/63 LCC

TO MEMPHIS

FROM DIRECTOR 2P

UNKNOWN SUBJECT; MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM, CR

RECITEL TWELVE FORTY-FOUR P.M., APRIL FIVE INSTANT, CAPTIONED, "ASSASSINATIO N OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., RACIAL MATTER, CINCINNATI DIVISION."

IF NOT ALREADY DONE, THROUGH APPROPRIATED SOURCES
IT SHOULD BE ASCERTAINED WHETHER ANY INFORMATION HAS BEEN
REPORTED OF A RAPE DURING THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE IN
MEMPHIS ON MARCH TWENTY-EIGHT LAST. MEMPHIS SHOULD
REQUEST THE DETROIT OFFICE TO CHECK TRAVEL TO MEMPHIS ON
APRIL TWO LAST IN PURSUIT OF THE INFORMATION IN RETEL.

FOR INFO OF MEMPHYS, IDENT FILES INDICATE THAT ONE HERMAN HANEX DANIELS FBI NUMBER

S ACCOMPLICE OF WILLARD AT TIME OF ARSON ARREST IN NINETEEN FIFTYEIGHT. DANIELS IS DESCRIBED AS WHITE

MALE,	BORN		OR	
		·		

END PAGE ONE

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PAGE TWO

or , at either

OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI, OR LAFAYETTE COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.

HE IS FIVE FEET, NINE INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY POUNDS,

BROWN HAIR, HAZEL EYES, SCAR ON CHIN, TATTOO "PAIR OF DICE"

RIGHT UPPER ARM. ONLY SUBSEQUENT ARREST IS BY MEMPHIS POLICE

DEPARTMENT SEPTEMBER TWENTY-NINE, SIXTY-ONE. INVESTIGATION,

BAD CHECKS, RELEASED. DANIELS SHOULD ALSO BE APPROPRIATELY

CHECKED OUT IN THIS MATTER.

END

FBI MEMPHIS

F3I REMPHIS

F3I TAMPA

B38 PM URGENT 4/5/68 ALS
TO DIRECTOR, MEMPHIS, AND JACKSONVILLE
FROM TAMPA (157-3231)

INDEX

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 IF ST. JOHN'S COUNTY, FLA., AT

THE TIME.

WRIGHT CONSIDERS COCHRANE APOSSIBLE SUSPECT 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

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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

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

HOLLLLD

FBI NEW ORLS

918PM 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 OREEANS 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 VIS CURRENTLY INCARCERATED IN JAIL AT MONROE. LA. AND HAS BEEN CONFINED CONTINUIOUSLY SINCE MARCH EIGHT SIXTYEIGHT

FATHER LOUIS TOOMEY, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY, NEW ORLEANS ADVISED APRIL FIVE INSTANT THAT AT NO TIME HAS ANY INFORMATION EVER COME Climinated 8-6 TO HIS ATTENTION FROM ANY SOURCE OF AN ALLEGED ATTEMPT TO ASSASS-INATE CHARLES EVERS.

END

CAF

FBI MEMPHIS

TUCLRX

2025 RELEASE UNDER E.O. 14176

FBI MEMPHIS

FBI JKSN MISS

949 PM URGENT 4-5-68 REM

TO DIRECTOR, BIRMINGHAM, AND MEMPHIS

FROM JACKSON (157-9586)

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RM.

RE ME PHONE CALL THIS DATE.

MEMPHIS ADVISED BY PHONE THIS DATE THAT SUSPECT WHILE RUNNING FROM ROOMING HOUSE ACROSS FROM LORRAINE HOTEL MEMPHIS, AFTER KING WAS SHOT DROPPED BAG AND WEAPON. SOME ITEMS IN BAG WERE HEAD AND SHOULDERS SHAMPOO TICKET NUMBER ONE SIX SEVEN EIGHT WITH PRICE ONE DOLLAR TEN CENTS AND PALMOLIVE RAPID SHAVE TICKET NUMBER THREE FOUR FIVE EIGHT WITH PRICE SEVENTY NINE CENTS. NO DATES ON TICKETS OR CITY AND STATE LISTED. PURCHASED LIGGETT REXALL PHARMACY. MEMPHIS ADVISED THERE IS LIGGETT REXALL IN COLUMBUS, MISS.

TOMMY HARROLSON, OWNER G & H LIGGETT REXALL, COLUMBUS, MISS.,
ADVISED TODAY ALL CASH REGISTER RECEIPTS FROM HIS STORE BEAR TIPLE
"G & H REXALL DRUG, COLUMBUS, MISS"; FOLLOWING TITLE IS DATE OF
PURCHASE, AMOUNT OF PURCHASE; SACKS FOR PURCHASES DO NOT BEAR STORE'S
NAME.

HARROLSON ADVISED HIS STORE IS ONLY LIGGETT DRUGS IN MISSISSIPPI;
OTHER STORES LOCATED PREDOMINENTLY IN ALABAMA AND IN GEORGIA AND FLA.
END PAGE ONE

PAGE TWO

HARROLSON AND OTHER STORE EMPLOYEES CANNOT RECALL ANY ONE FITTING DESCRIPTION OF KING ASSASSIN HAVING MADE PURCHASES OF ITEMS RECOVERED BY MEMPHIS. NO MOTELS OR SERVICE STATIONS LOCATED NEAR VICINITY OF HARROLSON'S STORE.

LOCAL HARDWARE STORE OWNER, COLUMBUS ADVISED NO COMPAGE OR RAMPAGE HARDWARE LOCATED IN OR NEAR COLUMBUS, MISS., OR KNOWN TO HIM.

END

TSJ

FBI MEMPHIS

X