

MO 157-2627

9

<u>Date</u>	<u>Room Number</u>	<u>Name and Address</u>	<u>Period of Occupancy</u>	<u>Vehicle Description</u>
March 25, 1968	17	J. B. WILLIAMS 11 South Central Avenue Lindale, Georgia	1 night	$\frac{1}{2}$ ton Chevrolet Georgia license, number not listed
"	9	Mrs. LUCILLE CONWAY 450 Earl Place Montgomery, Alabama	1 night	Vehicle not listed, license number 29-11164
"	5	ALEX M. FARKAS 304 South Eighth Street West Helena, Arkansas	1 night	Not listed
"	25	W. M. GRIFFIN Georgiana, Alabama	1 night	Truck, make and model not listed or license not listed
"	22	F. J. WAHRENBERGER 6345 Fourth Avenue Saint Petersburg, Florida	1 night	Dodge, 1968 Florida License 4-64288
"	20	R. C. FISHER 1915 Glenwood Circle Vicksburgh, Mississippi	1 night	Not listed
"	4	Mrs. AMANDA SCHMIDT Freemont, Wisconsin	1 night	Not listed
"	8	RICHARD BITTON Route 1 Pulaski, Tennessee	1 night	Chevrolet, Tennessee License EJ9499
"	23	J. GREENHILL 2716 Lionheart Drive Winter Park, Florida	1 night	Mustang, no number listed.

ME 44-1987

**REVOLVER FOUND IN POSSESSION OF
JAMES EARL RAY WHEN ARRESTED
JUNE 8, 1968, IN LONDON, ENGLAND**

When JAMES EARL RAY was apprehended by members of New Scotland Yard on June 8, 1968, in London, England, he had in his possession a .38 caliber "Liberty Chief" revolver manufactured by Hirata Firearms Manufacturing Company, a Japanese concern. This revolver has serial number 715.

The National Police Agency of Japan was requested to determine to whom this revolver was shipped by the manufacturer, and the following letter was forthcoming from that agency:

ME 44-1987

On June 10, 1968, Mr. MILA SVOBODA, owner, Liberty Arms Company and Solingen Cutlery Company, Post Office Box 306, Montrose, California, advised that Liberty revolver #715 had been sold to R. TATUM, New and Used Guns, 118 Edwards Drive, Mableton, Georgia, on October 3, 1966, under Invoice No. 13909.

On June 11, 1968, Mr. ROBERT TATUM, 118 Edwards Street, Mableton, Georgia, advised SA JAMES RICHARD FLICK that the Liberty Chief revolver having serial number 715 had been sold by him on December 3, 1966, for \$50.00 to WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904-42nd Avenue, Birmingham, Alabama.

CONFIDENTIAL

NATIONAL POLICE AGENCY

2-1, 2-Chome, Kasumigaseki
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Japan

"J-NCB/ 278/68"

Mr. Roderick V. Precht, Jr.
Legal Attache
American Embassy
Tokyo

INTERPOL
NATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU

Telegraphic Address:
"INTERPOLJAPAN TOKYO"

TOKYO, June 10, 1968.

Re: Information about a pistol
"Liberty-Chief" No. 715

Dear Sir;

In reply to your telephone request made this morning concerning the captioned matter, we wish to inform you as follows:

1. Destination of this weapon's shipment:
This pistol in question was shipped from the manufacturing company given below on August 3, 1966, and was cleared by our Customs' inspection on August 19, 1966 and was loaded on the "HAVANA-MARU" at "SUMA-PORT" in Hyogo Prefecture for shipment to:
Name of a company : LIBERTY ARMS CORPORATION.
Address: P.O. BOX. 306, MONTROSE, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.
2. Items for your reference:
The name of this weapon's manufacturing company is "KABUSHIKI KAISHA, MIROKU SEISAKUSHO" (translated in English : MIROKU MANUFACTURING COMPANY LTD.).
Address: 180, INARI-CHO, KOCHI-CITY, KOCHI PREFECTURE, JAPAN.
Name of the President: IDO Chiyoki.

Trusting the above information is of some assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

for HEAD, NCB, JAPAN:

51

Y. Sode

(YOSHITO SODE)
Chief

Criminal Research & Statistics Section
Criminal Investigation Bureau
National Police Agency

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 20, 1968

WALTER E. SPAIN, 2904 - 42nd Avenue North,
Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following:

Sometime in December, 1966, SPAIN went to Atlanta, Georgia, with his father, WALTER LEON SPAIN, so his father could attempt to obtain employment. While in Atlanta, WALTER E. SPAIN saw an advertisement in a newspaper for a .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver, which was being sold by a gun dealer in a small town outside Atlanta, believed to be Mapleton, Georgia. SPAIN, accompanied by his father, went to this gun dealer and bought the gun and SPAIN returned it to his residence in Birmingham, Alabama.

In the Spring of 1967, SPAIN gave the gun to his father in partial payment of a debt he owed to his father. SPAIN was later told by his father that he had sold the gun after placing a want ad for it in a Birmingham newspaper. SPAIN was not present when his father sold the gun and therefore did not see the purchaser.

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987
by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss 52 Date dictated 6/14/68

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date June 20, 1968

WALTER LEON SPAIN, #3 Glen Iris Parkway, Birmingham, Alabama, furnished the following:

In the Spring of 1967, SPAIN's son, WALTER E. SPAIN, gave Mr. SPAIN a .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver, which his son had purchased in late 1966 or early 1967 from a gun dealer near Atlanta, Georgia. His son owed Mr. SPAIN some money and the gun was a partial payment of this debt.

In the Fall of 1967, after having been hospitalized in August, 1967, at Huntsville, Alabama, for an illness and being in need of money to pay bills, Mr. SPAIN sold many personal items by means of placing want ads for these items in the "Birmingham News." Among the items sold was the .38 caliber Liberty snub-nose revolver. Mr. SPAIN recalled he placed an ad for this gun in a Sunday paper, and that same Sunday he received a call from a man who asked about the gun, the price, and the directions to get to SPAIN's residence. The caller said he was in the western section of Birmingham. About an hour after this call, and while SPAIN's wife and daughter were at church, a man came to the front door and said he had called about the gun. He looked at the gun, stated he had been looking for a gun of the same type, and when told again that the price was \$65.00, he gave SPAIN two twenty dollar bills, two ten dollar bills, and a five dollar bill, after saying he would take it. SPAIN did not give the man a receipt for the money, nor did he record his name or see any identification of the man, and he did not obtain any information as to his name. The man left carrying the gun in his hand. SPAIN furnished neither ammunition nor any papers for the gun.

When the man first arrived, SPAIN observed he had parked his car, described by SPAIN only as a late model, white or light-colored, on the street in front of SPAIN's house, a distance of about 150 feet. SPAIN did not pay any further attention to the car. SPAIN did recall the buyer saying he lived in the western section of Birmingham, but he did not mention any specific address or employment.

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama

BH 44-1740

File # ME 44-1987by SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss

53

Date dictated 6/14/68

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

BH 44-1740

The buyer said he wanted the gun to keep around his house. Mr. SPAIN described the buyer as a white male, about forty to forty-five years of age, 5'8" or 5'9" tall, 170 to 175 pounds, dark hair slightly graying at the temples, with a local (Alabama) accent. The man was wearing a sport shirt and slacks, colors unrecalled, and he did not have glasses.

Mr. SPAIN was shown five different photographs of JAMES EARL RAY, and he chose one which had been taken in California during January or February, 1968, as "resembling the man" who bought the revolver; however, Mr. SPAIN would not make a definite identification of the photograph of RAY as the buyer.

Mr. SPAIN recalled he was contacted by FBI Agents on April 7, 1968, and shown an artist's conception of an individual the FBI was attempting to locate. At that time, he advised Agents the drawing reminded him of someone he may have seen previously, but was unable to furnish any other identifying information. After viewing the photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and being questioned about the sale of the revolver, SPAIN said he was now able to connect the sale of the revolver with the drawing in that the person depicted in the drawing reminded SPAIN of the person to whom he had sold the revolver.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date June 20, 1968

All Sunday issues of "The Birmingham News" for the months of September and October, 1967, were reviewed at "The Birmingham News." From this review, it was determined that only one want ad for a .38 caliber revolver was placed by WALTER LEON SPAIN, that being in the October 1, 1968, issue.

On 6/11/68 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1740
SA ROBERT M. BARRETT and
by SA WILLIAM A. SAUCIER / RMB:hss ⁵⁵ Date dictated 6/14/68
ME 44-1987

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

ME 44-1987

**CANADIAN PASSPORT OBTAINED
BY JAMES EARL RAY**

ME 44-1987

JCH/acp

1

On April 8, 1968, JAMES EARL RAY, using the name PAUL BRIDGEMAN, obtained a room in a rooming house located at 102 Ossington Avenue, Toronto, Canada, operated by FELIKSA SZPAKOWSKA. He paid one week's rent in advance. It is noted that there is a "Room For Rent" sign in the window at the front of this house. Concerning possible reasons for his using the name PAUL BRIDGEMAN, it is noted that one PAUL BRIDGMAN is a former inmate of his in a prison in Kansas City, Missouri, who was paroled on January 16, 1968, and whose identity may or may not be known to RAY. While at this rooming house at 102 Ossington Avenue, RAY had no visitors, did not become friendly with any other tenants, was not known to be employed, but, according to the landlady, usually left the house early in the morning and returned late at night.

On April 10, 1968, RAY, using the name BRIDGEMAN, wrote a letter to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Toronto, Canada, requesting a copy of the birth certificate of PAUL EDWARD BRIDGMAN, indicating that it should be sent to him at 102 Ossington Avenue. This letter reflected BRIDGMAN's date of birth as [redacted] gave his father's name as EDWARD G. B. BRIDGMAN and his mother's maiden name as EVELYN GODDEN. It should be noted that this biographical information relative to BRIDGMAN is accurate insofar as it relates to an existent PAUL EDWARD BRIDGMAN, who resides at 80 Cassandra Street, Toronto, and who is employed as a consultant for the Board of Education.

In interviews with the real BRIDGMAN and his wife by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), both recalled having received several telephone calls in early April 1968 wherein they believed the caller claimed to be a representative of the Canadian Immigration Department and inquired as to whether or not BRIDGMAN had applied for a passport. Both Mr. and Mrs. BRIDGMAN deny having furnished to the unknown caller any information concerning BRIDGMAN's background.

On April 11, 1968, RAY, using the name BRIDGMAN, visited the Arcade Photo Studio, Toronto, and obtained passport-size photographs.

ME 44-1987

2

On April 16, 1968, RAY, using the name RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, obtained a room at 962 Dundas Street West, Toronto, in a rooming house operated by Mrs. SUN FUNG LOO. He paid one week's rent in advance in the amount of \$9.00 with the understanding he would take occupancy on April 19, 1968. It is noted that a "Room For Rent" sign appears in a front window of this house.

On April 16, 1968, RAY, as SNEYD, visited the Kennedy Travel Bureau, 424 Bloor Street West, Toronto, where he arranged with Miss LILLIAN SPENCER, Manager, for a round-trip ticket via British Overseas Airlines Company (BOAC) from Toronto to London, England. In connection with arranging for this reservation, it was necessary for RAY to furnish an affidavit for a Canadian passport. He furnished this affidavit in the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, listing his date of birth as [REDACTED], and giving his address as 962 Dundas Street, Toronto. RAY indicated on a passport application executed in the name of SNEYD that he had been in Toronto for only three weeks and had no local sponsor. He also indicated on this application that in the event of an emergency they should notify PAUL BRIDGMAN at 102 Ossington, Toronto. RAY furnished to Miss SPENCER three copies of the photograph which he had previously obtained from Arcade Photo Studio on April 11, 1968, at which place he used the name of PAUL BRIDGMAN. It is noted, however, that nowhere on the photograph does any name appear.

Miss SPENCER obtained through BOAC a reservation for RAY to travel from Toronto to London, departing Toronto May 6, 1968, via BOAC Flight 600, and a return flight reservation leaving London May 21, 1968, via BOAC flight 601. Anticipating that it would take approximately ten days to receive the passport, Miss SPENCER suggested that RAY return to pick up his ticket and passport in about ten days.

On April 16, 1968, using the name RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, RAY wrote a letter to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, Toronto, requesting a birth certificate for SNEYD. He listed SNEYD's date of birth as [REDACTED] at Toronto, Canada, and gave his parents' names as GEORGE SNEYD and GLADYS MAE KILNER. He requested that the birth certificate be sent to him at 962 Dundas Street West, Toronto.

ME 44-1987

3

According to Mrs. FELIKSA SZPAKOWSKA, landlady at 102 Ossington, Toronto, a letter arrived there addressed to PAUL E. BRIDGMAN, bearing the return address of the Toronto Bureau of Vital Statistics. This letter arrived several days before RAY left that address, and although she pointed out to him on at least two occasions that the letter was for him, RAY never took possession of it, and after he departed from that address she returned it to the Bureau of Vital Statistics.

On April 17, 1968, Miss LILLIAN SPENCER of the Kennedy Travel Bureau addressed a letter to the Canadian Passport Department, Ottawa, forwarding the passport application in the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD and enclosing standard fee in the form of a \$5.00 money order.

On April 19, 1968, RAY, using the name RAMON GEORGE SNEYD, moved into the rooming house at 962 Dundas Street West. According to the landlady, Mrs. LOO, he had no baggage and she did not see him again until April 26, 1968. She said he did not appear to make friends with anyone in the rooming house and she has no information regarding any employment or other activities on his part.

On April 20, 1968, RAY, as SNEYD, wrote to the Kennedy Travel Bureau, advising them that he had to go to Capreol for several weeks on business, and that he would pick up his passport upon his return.

Investigation by the RCMP at Capreol, a small town in northern Ontario, failed to indicate that RAY was known in this small town, nor was there any evidence to indicate that he had actually gone there.

With regard to the RAMON GEORGE SNEYD identity used by RAY beginning approximately April 16, 1968, it is noted that there is an existent RAMON GEORGE SNEYD who is a police officer in the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department and who has been so employed for over 12 years. He resides at 1731 Victoria Park Avenue, Toronto, and his biographical background is identical with that furnished by RAY to the Bureau of Vital Statistics at Toronto on

April 16, 1968, when RAY requested SNEYD's birth certificate. Interviews with the real RAMON GEORGE SNEYD by representatives of both the RCMP and the Metropolitan Toronto Police Department have failed to establish any information as to how RAY might have obtained background information on SNEYD. The real SNEYD has advised that he does not know RAY and as far as he could recall had never seen him.

Mrs. LOO, the landlady at 962 Dundas Street, West, advised that on April 26, 1968, RAY paid her another week's rent in advance and told her that since he had last seen her on April 19, 1968, he had gone back to Montreal. According to Mrs. LOO, she did not again have any contact with RAY until May 2, 1968, when he again paid her one week's rent in advance.

On May 2, 1968, RAY visited the Kennedy Travel Bureau in Toronto and picked up his new Canadian passport and his round-trip ticket via BOAC to London. RAY paid \$345 in Canadian money for the round-trip ticket. When interviewed, Miss SPENCER was very emphatic that RAY paid for the ticket with Canadian money rather than with U. S. currency.

On May 6, 1968, RAY, using the name SNEYD, departed Toronto International Airport at 7:00 p.m. via BOAC Flight 600 for London, England. Mrs. LOO, the landlady at 962 Dundas Street West, has advised that it was not until May 10, 1968, that she realized that RAY had abandoned his room in her house. She claims not to have seen him subsequent to May 2, 1968, when he paid a week's rent in advance.

It is noted that while Mrs. LOO and Mrs. SZPAKOWSKA and Miss SPENCER, as well as the employees of the Arcade Photo Studio, all recognized the passport photograph, none could make a positive or even strong identification of any other available photographs of RAY. It is also pointed out that according to RCMP investigation in Toronto, persons who had contact with RAY during his stay in Toronto from

ME 44-1987

5

from April 8, 1968, to May 6, 1968, have advised that he wore glasses at all times and none recall having seen him without them.

Concerning possible means by which RAY could have obtained background information concerning both BRIDGMAN and SNEYD, it is noted that announcements of birth appear in Toronto newspapers listing, in addition to the date of birth, the names of both parents. Old issues of these newspapers are available through the public library. It is further noted that both SNEYD and BRIDGMAN were born within approximately one month of each other.

It is also noted that RAY applied to the Toronto Bureau of Vital Statistics for the SNEYD birth certificate on exactly the same date on which he arranged through the Kennedy Travel Bureau for his Canadian passport, even though it was not necessary for him to have a birth certificate in connection with his obtaining a passport.

ME 44-1987

ACTIVITIES OF JAMES EARL RAY IN PORTUGAL

ME 44-1987

1

The following investigation was conducted at Lisbon, Portugal, on June 8-12, 1968:

Sr. JOSE MANUEL DA CUNHA PASSO, Inspector of the Policia Internacional e de Defesa do Estado (PIDE - Portuguese International and State Security Police), Lisbon, on June 8, 1968, furnished the following documents:

1. Entry card executed by RAMON GEORGE SNEYA when he arrived at Lisbon Airport at 1:15 AM, May 8, 1968, via British European Airways Flight 074. The entry card showed that he was born on [REDACTED] in Toronto, Canada; employed by an "auto agency"; a resident of 962 Dundas Street, Toronto; carrying Canadian Passport [REDACTED] issued in Ottawa, Canada, on April 24, 1968.
2. Exit card executed by RAMON GEORGE SNEYD when he departed from Lisbon en route to London, England, on May 17, 1968, at 11:00 AM, on Portuguese Airlines Flight 450. This exit card indicated he was in possession of Canadian Passport # [REDACTED], issued by the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon on May 16, 1968.

The exit card indicated that SNEYD had been questioned by the passport inspector as to the fact that his Canadian passport issued in Lisbon on May 16, 1968, did not reflect his entry into Portugal. He then produced his original Canadian passport issued April 24, 1968, in Ottawa, which reflected his entry into Portugal on May 8, 1968. This was noted by the passport inspector on the exit card.

3. Registration card for RAMON GEORGE SNEYA at the Hotel Portugal, Lisbon, dated May 8, 1968.

Sr. PASSO advised that a careful check of entry and exit records between May 8 and 17, 1968, failed to disclose that the subject, under the name of SNEYD, had

departed or re-entered Portugal between those dates. Likewise, a careful check of records since May 17, 1968, failed to reflect that he returned to Portugal at any time following his departure.

ANTONIO ROCHA FAMA, Passport Inspector at Lisbon Airport, Lisbon, was interviewed on June 8, 1968, at the Lisbon Airport and advised that he recalled the incident when the subject departed Lisbon on May 17, 1968, since it was necessary for him to question the subject regarding his new passport and the fact that it did not reflect his entry into Portugal. He recalls that SNEYD then produced his original passport issued April 24, 1968, at Ottawa and explained that a new passport had been issued by the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon on May 16, 1968, since the original passport contained a misspelling of his name as SNEYA rather than SNEYD.

Mr. ROCHA FAMA stated that he was satisfied with the subject's explanation and noted that his original passport had been properly cancelled by the Canadian Embassy, but he had been advised to retain it since it reflected his entry into Portugal. Mr. ROCHA FAMA recognized a photograph of the subject from his original passport application at Ottawa.

Mr. AUBREY L. MORANTZ, Second Secretary and Consul of the Canadian Embassy, Lisbon, was contacted and interviewed. He furnished the application executed by SNEYD on May 16, 1968, for a replacement passport. He stated that SNEYD had come to the Embassy explaining that his original passport issued April 24, 1968, at Ottawa, Canada, had a misspelling in his name as SNEYA rather than SNEYD and that this had caused confusion. He requested advice as to how this could be rectified. Mr. MORANTZ decided to issue a replacement passport gratis in the name of SNEYD.

Mr. MORANTZ stated that the subject produced a copy of an original birth certificate showing his birth as [redacted] at Toronto, Canada. The original passport application executed by SNEYD reflected his date and place of birth as [redacted] at Toronto, Canada, and gave his residence as 962 Dundas Street, Toronto, Canada. It indicated that a replacement passport, [redacted], was being issued in Lisbon to replace the original passport, [redacted] issued in Ottawa on April 24, 1968, since the original passport contained a typographical error which had caused some confusion in the past. There was attached to the passport application an affidavit executed by SNEYD to the effect that there was no guarantor in Lisbon who could vouch for his identity since he was here alone on vacation

ME 44-1987

3

as a tourist. He did not give any local residence.

Mr. MORANTZ advised that he did not engage in a lengthy conversation with the subject but interviewed him briefly and authorized the issuance of a new passport since he was convinced by the presentation of the birth certificate as to the subject's identity as a Canadian citizen. He stated that the passport application had been handled by Mrs. MANUELA TEIXEIRA LOPES, a Consular Assistant in his office.

Mrs. MANUELA TEIXEIRA LOPES, who was vacationing at a distant location in Portugal, was interviewed by telephone from Lisbon on June 8, 1968. She stated that when she assisted SNEYD in executing his passport application, he said he was staying in Lisbon only one or two days and debated whether to bother to change his passport because he "did not want to spend all of his time waiting around the Embassy." A new passport was issued the day after he first came in. It is noted that the passport photograph does not identify the photographer. Mrs. LOPES stated she may have referred RAY to Foto Lusitania to have the photographs taken, but she could not definitely recall whether or not she had done so.

Mrs. LOPES advised that subject displayed a Canadian birth certificate in the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD. He needed a great deal of help in filling out the application, leading Mrs. LOPES to believe he did not have a good education. She also advised that he had a rather unusual accent for a Canadian. She cancelled the passport issued at Ottawa by stamping it cancelled on each page and clipping one inch from each of the inside pages.

Sr. PASSO advised that Foto Lusitania, Parc Mayer, Lisbon, had been contacted on June 11, 1968. They recognized the photograph of subject and recalled that he had been referred there by the Canadian Embassy on May 16, 1968, for passport photographs. They took his photograph and he purchased several copies (six is the usual number). They considered this a normal routine transaction and nothing out of the ordinary was noted.

Mr. GENTIL LUIS SOARES, Hotel Portugal, 4 Rua Joao das Regras, Lisbon, advised on June 9, 1968, that the subject registered under the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYA on May 8, 1968, and departed on May 17, 1968. This is a small, inexpensive hotel. The registration book maintained by the hotel reflects the dates of his arrival and departure and indicates his occupancy of the room during the entire period. The registration book reflects (probably taken from his passport) that his nationality is Canadian and he is 36 years of age.

Mr. SOARES advised that it was his impression that the subject resided there as a tourist. He was not particularly friendly with any other clients of the hotel. He slept late during the day and stayed out late at night. Mr. SOARES advised that it was his impression that the subject was spending his time in bars or nightclubs where he could pick up girls, since on at least two occasions he attempted to bring girls into his room and the hotel refused to permit him to do so, he departed with the girls and stayed out for the entire night. Mr. SOARES stated that he did not know the identity of the girls whom SNEYD brought to the hotel.

Mr. SOARES advised that at the time of his departure on May 17, 1968, he paid cash for the last three days, having previously been billed for his first week of occupancy. He recognized the subject's passport photograph taken at the time of the issuance of his original passport in Canada and stated that subject did not wear the glasses constantly during his stay at the hotel.

Sr. PASSO advised that on the night of June 9, 1968, Inspector ANTONIO TEIXEIRA DA SILVA of the PIDE visited numerous nightclubs and bars of the type which the subject may have frequented, in an effort to obtain further specific information as to his contacts, associates, and activities. Inspector SILVA visited the following bars and nightclubs;

Texas Bar
Arizona Bar
Niagara Bar
California Bar
Europa Bar
Atlantioo Bar
Bolero Bar
Maxime's Nightclub
Gale Bar and Nightclub
Fontoria Nightclub
Tagida Nightclub
Nine Nightclub

Inspector SILVA interviewed approximately 50 individuals, including doormen, managers, bartenders, bar girls and prostitutes. He displayed the subject's photograph in all instances to determine if the subject was known and, if so, the extent of the contacts. Inspector SILVA advised that subject had visited the Texas Bar on two occasions alone and had purchased beer on each occasion. He had not remained for more than an hour. The same was true at the Niagara Bar. There were various individuals in the other bars contacted who vaguely thought they recognized his photograph but could furnish no specific information.

At the Bolero Bar, the proprietor indicated that the subject had come there on two occasions at approximately midnight and had remained there until 2:00 or 3:00 a.m. drinking beer. He was alone and quiet and attracted no special attention.

At Maxime's Nightclub, GLORIA SAUSA RIBEIRO, a prostitute, advised that she had met the subject when he had visited there one night. She spent several hours with him in the nightclub and then went out and spent the night with him. She advised that she does not speak English and he did not speak Portuguese and, therefore, they spoke "only the international language of love." She declined to say where she had spent the night with him, but did advise that he insisted on presenting her with gifts rather than paying her in cash since this made the transaction less commercial. He, therefore, presented her with a dress and stockings in payment for her services. She has not seen nor heard from the subject again. She could not recall specifically the date when she met him and could furnish no further pertinent information. She reiterated that the conversation was very limited.

At the Galo Bar, MARIA JOSE GUTERRES recognized the subject's photograph and stated that he had visited this bar on two occasions and had bought her drinks on each occasion. She likewise speaks practically no English and, therefore, the conversation was very limited. On each occasion, he spent one or two hours drinking beer and departed alone. No further pertinent information was available from this source.

ME 44-1987

6

At the Fontoria Nightclub, the subject was vaguely known by various employees. One Spanish girl, not further identified, stated that the subject had purchased her beer during a visit when he stayed there for one or two hours. No further specific information was available from this source.

It was noted that at the time of the subject's arrest in London, England, he had in his possession a timetable of South African Airways on which Salisbury, Rhodesia, was checked.

Sr. PASSO advised on June 11, 1968, that the South African Airways office in Lisbon had been contacted. One employee, not further identified, vaguely recognized the photograph of the subject as a person who may have made inquiry, but he was not certain as to this. He stated that numerous persons enter the South African Airways office and that no particular note is made of the transaction unless something unusual occurs. He may have inquired for a timetable, but the employee does not specifically recall this. There is no record of any travel having been purchased by SNEYD at this office.

Sr. PASSO also advised that inquiry had been conducted at the Rhodesian Mission in Lisbon. Employees there failed to recognize the subject's photograph and there was no record of any inquiry having been made by him.

Since the British press indicated that an inquiry had been received at the Biafra office in Lisbon from an individual who requested information as to going to Biafra as a white mercenary, Sr. PASSO was requested to make inquiry at the Biafra office.

Sr. PASSO advised that the Biafra office, which is located at 16 Avenida Torre da Belem, Lisbon, does not ordinarily receive inquiries from prospective white mercenaries. He stated that the purpose of this establishment is probably to purchase arms throughout Europe and to handle their transit through Lisbon en route to Biafra. He stated that inquiry there had failed to reflect that the subject had made any inquiries there.

ME 44-1987

7

It was also noted that the British press had indicated that the subject had made some inquiries in London of a British reporter regarding the possibility of going to Angola, a Portuguese possession in Africa, as a white mercenary.

Inquiry was made of Sr. PASSO regarding this possibility. He advised that there are no white mercenaries fighting in Angola. He also advised that no foreigner is allowed to enter Angola without the specific permission of the Portuguese authorities.

Since information was received indicating that the subject had converted South African money into British money in London, inquiry was conducted in Lisbon to determine if he had purchased South African currency at the Lisbon Airport.

Mr. CARLOS GAMEIRO, Manager, Banco Lisbos Acores, Lisbon Airport, failed to recognize a photograph of the subject. He also displayed the photograph to several employees of the bank, who likewise failed to recognize the photograph. They explained that they handle numerous exchange transactions and they do not necessarily note an individual's appearance.

In all of the above inquiries particular attention was given to attempting to determine if the subject was alone or was accompanied by other individuals. It was ascertained that he was alone in all instances, except those described above.

ME 44-1987

1

At the time of subject's arrest in London, England, on June 8, 1968, he was found to be in possession of a South African Airways flight schedule showing flights from Lisbon, Portugal, to Luanda, Angola, Salisbury, Rhodesia, and Johannesburg, South Africa. A notation, which appeared to be Lisbon telephone number 535041, was found on the cover.

Sr. JOSE MANUEL DA CUNHA PASSO, Inspector of the Policia Internacional e de Defesa do Estado (PIDE - Portuguese International and State Security Police), Lisbon, was requested to conduct inquiry to identify the subscriber to that telephone number and conduct interview to determine connection with RAY.

Sr. PASSO advised on June 17, 1968, that the above telephone number is assigned to the South African Embassy, Lisbon. Inquiry there revealed that subject is unknown to personnel in that Embassy, his photograph was not recognized, and there was no record of any inquiry by him.

Sr. PASSO advised that all banks in Lisbon area have been circularized with the true name and aliases of the subject to determine if he had opened an account, rented a safe-deposit box, or handled any transfer of funds or other transaction there. No positive information has been received by PIDE as yet. Sr. PASSO advised that no response from the banks will indicate that no record was found.

ME 44-1987

1

At the time of subject's arrest in London, England, on June 8, 1968, he was found to be in possession of a South African Airways flight schedule showing flights from Lisbon, Portugal, to Luanda, Angola, Salisbury, Rhodesia, and Johannesburg, South Africa. A notation, which appeared to be Lisbon telephone number 535041, was found on the cover.

Original inquiry conducted by the Policia Internacional e de Defesa do Estado (Portuguese International and State Security Police - PIDE), Lisbon, determined that the telephone number is assigned to the South African Embassy, Lisbon. Original inquiry there revealed that the subject was unknown to personnel in that Embassy, his photograph was not recognized, and there was no record of any inquiry by him.

On June 22, 1968, Sr. JOSE MANUEL DA CUNHA PASSO of PIDE advised that additional inquiry at the South African Embassy in Lisbon succeeded in locating an employee who had received a telephone call from the subject using the name RAMON GEORGE SNEYD on an undetermined date during his visit in Lisbon. He advised that he had a brother in Africa, whose whereabouts he did not know, and that he desired to go to South Africa and commence attempting to locate his brother. He inquired as to what steps were necessary for him to enter South Africa. The Embassy clerk advised him that if he is an American it would be necessary for him to obtain a visa. The subject advised that he was not an American but a Canadian. The clerk advised him that, in that case, a visa would not be necessary but it would be necessary for him to show proof of financial responsibility and advise as to the reason for his trip to South Africa and his exact destination there.

No further inquiry was received from the subject by the South African Embassy.

ME 44-1987

1

On June 27, 1968, Mr. AUBREY L. MORANTZ, Second Secretary and Consul, Canadian Embassy, Lisbon, Portugal, advised that an examination of the visitors book there disclosed that the subject had signed the visitors book on May 13, 1968, as RAMON SNEYD. In addition to his signature, he listed the Hotel Portugal as his local address, Ottawa as his home address, and stated that he planned to stay in Lisbon seven days. The receptionist at the Canadian Embassy and other Embassy employees were unable to furnish any details regarding subject's visit to the Embassy on May 13, 1968.

It is noted that Sr. JOSE MANUEL DA CUNHA PASSO of the Policia Internacional e de Defesa do Estado (Portuguese International and State Security Police - PIDE), Lisbon, had previously advised on June 22, 1968, that inquiry at the South African Embassy in Lisbon had succeeded in locating an employee who had received a telephone call from the subject using the name RAMON GEORGE SNEYD on an undetermined date during his visit in Lisbon.

However, a report received from Sr. PASSO on June 28, 1968, stated that the subject visited the South African Embassy and that an employee of the Embassy recognized his photograph. The report states that RAY did not furnish any name and spoke English with an American accent. He asked what the entrance requirements were if he wished to go to South Africa. He was informed that if he was an American citizen he would be required to obtain a visa and he answered that he was not American but was a Canadian national. He was advised of the requirements needed and stated that he wanted to go to South Africa to make inquiries and to endeavor to trace his brother who had left home a few years ago and had not been heard of again. He said that he did not know where in Africa his brother was but had last heard that he was in the Congo. The subject also asked whether there was any organization in South Africa which had connections with mercenaries in Africa and which might be able to assist him in tracing his brother. He was informed that the recruiting office for mercenaries which at one time existed in Johannesburg, South Africa, had been closed and the Embassy had no knowledge of any organization in South Africa that might be able to help him. The subject left the Embassy without further questions and gave no indication as to his future plans.

It is also noted that Sr. PASSO had previously advised that inquiry at the Rhodesian Diplomatic Mission in Lisbon for information regarding any contact by RAY there had resulted negatively. However, he advised in his report received on June 28, 1968, that further inquiry at the Rhodesian Diplomatic Mission revealed that RAY visited there between May 8 and 11, 1968, the exact date not determined. He produced a valid Canadian passport in the name of SNEYD and inquired if he could be assisted in contacting his brother who he claimed was serving as a mercenary in Angola, a Portuguese possession in Southern Africa. He specifically requested an address in Salisbury, Rhodesia, to which he could forward correspondence to his brother. He was obviously seeking the address of an organization in Salisbury which may recruit mercenaries. The answer to his inquiry was negative and he posed a number of questions regarding immigration to Rhodesia.

Sr. PASSO advised in his report that all banks in Lisbon have been canvassed for any information regarding an account, safe-deposit box or any banking transaction of JAMES EARL RAY under this name and his aliases with negative results.

The PIDE conducted inquiry at the Banco Totta Alianca of Lisbon regarding an inquiry received by a Chicago bank regarding one ARTHUR T. GALT. An official of the Banco Totta Alianca informed PIDE that the request made to the La Salle National Bank of Chicago, Illinois, was based upon a request received by the Banco Totta Alianca from a Portuguese firm known as "ALAR - Empresa Iberica de Material Aeronautico." This firm informed the bank that ARTHUR T. GALT is a man about 50 years of age and a partner in two companies known as the "Executive Airlines" and "Rapid Airlines" and reportedly has a large deposit at the "Illinois National Bank" in Chicago.

On June 25, 1968, ANTHONY G. BARBIERI, Regional Security Officer, American Embassy, Madrid, Spain, advised that during the morning of June 19, 1968, an unknown individual had called the Embassy, speaking Spanish, and desired to talk to someone in the Embassy regarding the JAMES RAY case. Since no one was immediately available to talk to him, he requested that he be called at 6:30 PM at telephone number 222-1604, a bar in downtown Madrid. He identified himself only as RAMON.

ME 44-1987

3

One RAMON was subsequently telephonically contacted at 6:30 PM by the Security Office. At first he declined to come to the Embassy, indicating he desired a meeting in some public gathering place. He subsequently agreed to come to the Embassy at 11:00 AM on June 20, 1968. RAMON, however, failed to keep the appointment.

The above-mentioned telephone number was identified by the Direccion General de Seguridad (Directorate General of Security - DGS), Spanish National Police, Madrid, on June 25, 1968, as being listed to MANUEL GARCIA FERNANDEZ under the name A. Aguar-Dientes (Liquor outlet), Calle Minas 15, Madrid.

On June 26, 1968, Inspector RAFAEL TRIGUEROS of the DGS interviewed MANUEL GARCIA FERNANDEZ, proprietor of the Casa Garcia Bar at Calle Minas 15, Madrid. GARCIA FERNANDEZ was unable to identify anyone by the name of RAMON as a client of the bar. MIGUEL SANCHEZ GALAN, bartender, was interviewed and he advised that the only RAMON using the bar was an individual who had been coming to this bar approximately two to three months ago. He was unable to further identify this individual, indicating, however, that he had been coming to the bar recently at approximately 8:00 PM. SANCHEZ GALAN stated he had no recollection of this individual having used the telephone in the bar.

At approximately 8:30 PM on June 28, 1968, the individual described by the bartender as RAMON was interviewed. He identified himself as RAMON MARTINEZ ALONZO, Spanish Identity Card [REDACTED]. This individual denied ever calling the American Embassy or any other embassy in his life.

Subsequent inquiries in the vicinity of the Casa Garcia Bar to identify the individual who had called the American Embassy proved negative.

Sr. PASSO advised that inquiry at the Portuguese Airlines (TAP), Lisbon, revealed that the subject had purchased an Airline ticket on May 16, 1968, for which he paid cash. He traveled under the name of Mr. SNEYD from

ME 44-1987

4

Lisbon to London on May 17, 1968, on TAP Flight 450, leaving Lisbon at 11:00 A.M. Inquiry by PIDE of various TAP employees revealed that subject was alone at the time he purchased the ticket. There was no recollection by any employee of TAP who was present on the flight on May 17, 1968, from Lisbon to London of any unusual incident and none was able to recognize the subject's photograph.

ME 44-1987

**EXAMINATIONS CONDUCTED BY THE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
LABORATORY, WASHINGTON, D. C.**

The FBI Laboratory, Washington, D. C., has been requested to compare JAMES EARL RAY's handwriting with the handwriting on other documents obtained during this investigation. The results of these examinations are set forth below. It should be noted that the rooming house ledger described in these laboratory reports was obtained from a rooming house at 2731 Sheffield, Chicago, Illinois, and that the hotel registration card number 8075 was obtained from the Lincoln Apartment Hotel, 1648 West Lunt, Chicago, Illinois.

REPORT
of the



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: September 4, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-680826086 JK

D-680826101 JK

Specimens received 8/26/68, from FBI, Chicago

Eight payroll checks of Indian Trail Restaurant, Inc., payable to JOHN RAYNS or JOHN L. RAYNS, further described as follows:

<u>SPECIMEN</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Q398	4838	5/7/67	\$84.89
Q399	4913	5/14/67	84.89
Q400	4987	5/21/67	84.89
Q401	5058	5/28/67	84.89
Q402	5130	6/4/67	89.63
Q403	5209	6/11/67	89.63
Q404	5283	6/18/67	95.19
Q405	5357	6/25/67	77.53

Q406 Employee's Withholding Exemption Certificate dated May 10, 1967, bearing Social Security Number and signed "John L. Rayns"

Specimens received 8/26/68, from FBI, Chicago

Q407 Sheet from rooming house ledger, page 13, bearing on line 24 the signature "John Larry Rayms"

Q408 Registration card, No. 8075, dated 6/18/67, bearing the signature "John L. Rayns"

Result of examination:

It was concluded that JAMES EARL RAY, K171, K211 and K257 prepared the questioned Rayms signature on Q407; the questioned handwriting on Q408 and the questioned handwriting and hand printing on Q406. Although significant similarities were noted in the endorsements on Q398 through Q405, except the

Page 1 (continued on next page)

endorsement on Q403, when compared with the known writings of RAY, the presence of unexplained variations, insufficient comparable material and distortion in some of the questioned endorsements precluded a definite determination as to whether RAY prepared the endorsements on Q398 through Q405.

The endorsement on Q403 is too distorted for comparison purposes. Although some similarities were noted in the date on line 24 on Q407 beside the Rayms signature when compared with the comparable writing of RAY, the limited and over-written nature of this date precluded a definite determination as to whether RAY prepared this date.

Q398 through Q408 have been photographed and will be returned to Chicago separately.

Page 2

D-680826101 JK

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: November 20, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-681115108 JK

Specimens received 11-15-68

Qc409 Photocopy of registration card of Town'n Country Ltd.
Motel & Restaurant bearing the name and address
"Eric Galt, 507 Chestnut St., Chicago, Ill."

Result of examination:

It was concluded that the questioned writings
appearing on Qc409 were prepared by JAMES EARL RAY,
FBI #405942G.

Specimen Qc409 has been retained in the files
of the Bureau.

REPORT
of theFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

To: FBI, Memphis (44-1987)

Date: November 29, 1968

Re: MURKIN
CR

FBI File No. 44-38861

Lab. No. D-681126110 JK

Specimens received 11/26/68

Q411 Registration card bearing the name and address "John L.
Rayms 1825 Lafayette St. St. Louis Mo."

Result of examination:

Employing K171, K211, and K257 as known standards,
it was concluded that the questioned writings on the Q411
registration card were prepared by JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405942G.

Q411 will be returned separately. Photographs were
made.

ME 44-1987

MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATION

1

Date 8/27/68

PERNELL EZZELL was interviewed at the Shreveport, Louisiana, Resident Agency. At the outset of the interview EZZELL was advised of his rights but declined to sign a waiver of same. EZZELL declined to furnish a signed statement but voluntarily furnished the following information:

EZZELL denied that he had received or was ever in possession of a great amount of money as a result of his participation in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING and the assassination of Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY. He further denied stating to anyone he was on the payroll of the OSI and CIA.

EZZELL said he definately did not participate in any manner, nor did he have any knowledge of or information concerning the murders of MARTIN LUTHER KING and Senator ROBERT F. KENNEDY.

EZZELL admitted that he was glad KING was dead as he felt KING was a troublemaker, but emphasized that he did not have anything to do with killing him.

EZZELL said he could not remember making any statements to anyone regarding any of the above. He admitted that he may have made them when he was in a drunken condition, but could not recall making any such statements. He said he often has black-out periods which occur when he is drinking and he has been known to appear sober even when he is in a drunken state.

EZZELL said FRANK WETZEL is the Shop Foreman for his former employer at Perdue Radio and Television Company, Orlando, Florida. He and Wetzel have been out drinking together on a few occasions, usually after closing shop or on a payday night. WETZEL has been trying to get him into trouble with his wife. EZZELL said WETZEL thinks he is a ladies man and has in the past tried to take his wife out. His wife has told him that WETZEL has called her several times and in addition to trying to make a date would tell her of his adventures around with other women. EZZELL believed WETZEL tells his (EZZELL's) wife what he tells WETZEL in confidence. He was sure WETZEL told her about

On 8/24/68 at Shreveport, Louisiana File # NO 173-994

by SA RONALD W. BEINNER /bab 82 Date dictated 8/24/68

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

NO 173-994

2

his being responsible for another girl's pregnancy at the time he married his wife.

EZZELL stated he has never confronted WETZEL with any of the above, but WETZEL has told him that he called him one night when he was drunk and cursed him out. EZZELL said he could not remember this call.

EZZELL advised that he has a serious drinking problem, but he did not consider himself an alcoholic. He said he was treated in the Veterans Administration Hospital, Fayetteville, North Carolina, for drunkenness shortly after his release from the Air Force in 1953. He further advised he had been a patient at Cherry Hospital, Goldsboro, North Carolina, for about 2 months during the past year. While at this hospital he underwent a number of psychiatric tests. He did not know the results of the tests.

EZZELL stated that he has had this serious drinking problem since his marriage in November 1967. He indicated he was forced to marry his wife as a result of her pregnancy prior to their wedding. He said, since his marriage he has been under constant pressure from his wife and in addition has serious financial problems.

EZZELL advised that because of his heavy drinking and the resulting "black-outs" he is not able to fix exactly his whereabouts on specific dates during the past year. However, he remembered the night of MARTIN LUTHER KING's death and said he was drunk at the time. He was registered at the Motel South, Orlando, Florida. With him at the time was a girl friend, whom he identified as VIOLET ALLRED, a nurse, who operates the Clear Lake Manor Nursing Home, Orlando, Florida. He said she is about 38 years of age. He recalled hearing of KING's death on the T.V. on the night it happened.

EZZELL said he did not remember where he was the night Senator KENNEDY was shot.

EZZELL could not account for his whereabouts on the night of June 5, 1968 and said he could not recall where he was at all during the month of June as he again was on a drunk.

EZZELL remembers flying from Orlando, Florida,

NO 173-994

3

to Los Angeles twice in recent months. The last was about August 4, 1968 when he flew via Delta Airlines. He stayed in Los Angeles four days and left driving a rented car after an unsuccessful effort in finding a job. On his way to Shreveport he stopped briefly at Phoenix, Albuquerque, and Hope, Arkansas. He claimed he pawned his 357 magnum revolver with a police officer in Hope, Arkansas, for \$45 on August 23, 1968. The gun was purchased for his second job as a security guard with Associated Security Company, Orlando, Florida. He claims he has never used the gun in commission of a crime.

EZZELL believed the previous trip to Los Angeles was made in June 1968 when he flew via Delta Airlines from Orlando, Florida. He was looking for a job on the occasion also. He stayed only two days and remembers returning from California via an unrecalled airline and that he stopped at Las Vegas, Denver, New Orleans and Miami. He does not remember if he stayed in any of these cities for any length of time. After reaching Miami he rented a car and drove to Orlando.

EZZELL claims he had no employment other than his jobs in Orlando and that he financed his trips with the money earned from working these two jobs, along with using his credit cards.

EZZELL recalled after driving from Miami he did not go home, but to a motel with Miss ALLRED. The following day he drove back to Miami and then returned to Orlando by bus. He thinks he rented the car at Miami from either Hertz or Avis-Rent-A-Car.

EZZELL stated he has not worked any where since August 4, 1968, and that he presently had in his possession \$36.00 which was left over from the sale of his gun.

EZZELL claimed he pawned a .38 Colt "Cobra" in Los Angeles on the last trip at an unrecalled pawn shop and that he presently has no weapon.

EZZELL could not recall any other details concerning his first trip to Los Angeles, he said he was drinking heavy on these trips and could not remember anything much about them. He could not remember the names of motels where he stayed. He claimed he has no friends in Los Angeles and

NO 173-994

4

that he made none while there on these trips.

EZZELL stated he is not now and never has been a member of any "hate" type organization such as the Ku Klux Klan.

EZZELL stated he would be leaving Shreveport, Louisiana, this evening by bus and could be reached through his mother Mrs. ACRIE EZZELL, Route 4, Clinton, North Carolina.

The following description was obtained from interview and observation:

Name	PERNELL EZZELL alias "Easy"
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Fayetteville, North Carolina
Height	6'1"
Weight	175
Hair	Brown
Eyes	Blue
Scars and Marks	None
Marital Status	Married to FAYE MARIE EZZELL 636 22nd Street, Orlando, Florida
Children	CLINTON EARL - 11 months
Parents	Father - deceased Mother - ACRIE EZZELL Route 4, Clinton, North Carolina
Brothers	THOMAS OZELLE EZZELLE, age 33, Simco, Ontario, Canada WENDELL EZZELLE, age 25, High Point, North Carolina
Sister	DIANE McMILLIAN, age 19, Fayetteville, North Carolina employed Ft. Bragg, North Carolina
Residence	636 22nd Street, Orlando, Florida
Military Service	US Air Force 1951-1953, Honorable discharge Serial # AF14408130

NO 173-994

Arrest Record

Numerous drunk arrests -
no felony arrests

Phone #
Company

244-38-4049

T.V. repairman and security
guard

Previous employment: Perdue Radio and T.V. - Orlando,
Florida;

Associates Security, Orlando,
Florida;

Electronic Service, Inc., Patco
Division, Newport News, Virginia;

American District Telegraph -
Winston Salem, North Carolina

American District Telegraph -
Indianapolis, Indiana

Previous Residences: Raleigh, North Carolina,
Fayetteville, North Carolina,
Ashville, North Carolina,
Newport News, Virginia,
Indianapolis, Indiana,
Orlando, Florida

Friends

CHRISTINE TENDELL,
Clinton, North Carolina
VIOLET ALLRED,
Orlando, Florida

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 11/15/68

ROBERT LEE SAUNDERS, Private, United States Army, Serial No. US 67 164 827, advised he was in military custody while being transported to Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, following his apprehension at Cleveland, Mississippi, for being absent without leave. SAUNDERS provided the following information to Special Agent LARRY K. SYLVESTER, who identified himself as a Special Agent with the FBI. Also present during this interview of SAUNDERS was Lt. Col. DALE HAMILTON, Provost Marshal, Ft. McClellan, Alabama.

SAUNDERS advised that he went AWOL from Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, around March 29, 1968. He then traveled to Cleveland, Ohio, where he stayed for a period of approximately two days and then obtained a ride from Cleveland, Ohio, to Memphis, Tennessee, with an individual SAUNDERS knew only as "Shoop" who drove a pink Cadillac and was from Memphis, Tennessee. SAUNDERS stated that he was broke when he arrived in Memphis, Tennessee, and located a place to sleep in a condemned building at 1408 Beal Street in Memphis. SAUNDERS slept there one night and was walking down an alley to return to this building at approximately 3:30 A.M., the second night when he observed four Negro males standing near the alley just ahead of him. SAUNDERS stated that he stopped and stood in the shadows as he was afraid these individuals would try to harm him. As SAUNDERS stood there he overheard these individuals arguing. One individual said "Let me get him." The other individuals were arguing they should be the one to "get him." One of the individuals who SAUNDERS described as a large Negro male, approximately 6'6" to 6'7" tall; approximately 30 years of age, and wearing a thin beard which encompassed his entire face, stated something to the effect that he should be the one to "get KING." Also, this individual stated that he would get the gun.

SAUNDERS described the others with the big man as follows:

On 11/13/68 at Anniston, Alabama File # ME 44-1987
BH 44-1740

87

by SA LARRY K. SYLVESTER:gas Date dictated 11/13/68

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

2
BH 44-1740

No. Two Man was described as a Negro male, young, approximately 20 years old, 5'4", wearing khaki pants.

No. Three Man was described as a Negro male, 5'11", medium-heavy build, balding hair and worn natural with two parts. This individual also wore metal rim glasses with very small lens.

No. Four Man was described as a Negro male, approximately 5'10", approximately 25 years of age, and wore a black tam with blue decorations.

SAUNDERS stated that upon hearing these individuals talk, he became afraid and ran in the opposite direction so that he would not have to pass in front of them. SAUNDERS stated that he then went to the Greyhound Bus Station where he sat the rest of the night.

At approximately 10:30 A.M., the following day, SAUNDERS stated he returned to Beal Street where he went to a bar called the Bucket of Blood and purchased approximately two beers. SAUNDERS stated that he observed these four individuals in the tavern at that time. He then got up and left this tavern after having been inside approximately 15 minutes and upon coming out observed two of the four individuals he had seen the previous night standing on the curb on Beal Street near the tavern. SAUNDERS stated as he began to walk down Beal Street, he observed a 1954 blue Ford convertible with white top drive up and the individuals who were standing on the curb then got inside. SAUNDERS stated that he observed this vehicle was driven by the large Negro male with the beard who he had seen the previous night. SAUNDERS stated that he also observed that a rifle sight approximately 8" in length was laying in the rear deck of the automobile. SAUNDERS stated that he did not see any gun and that it was obvious the sight was not attached to a gun.

SAUNDERS stated that he returned to the bus station where he later learned of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated that up until this time he was unaware that KING was in Memphis and had not

3
BH 44-1740

associated any of the statements he had overheard with
MARTIN LUTHER KING.

SAUNDERS advised he felt he could identify
the large Negro male who wore the beard but would be
unable to identify any of the other individuals. He
reiterated that his entire basis for believing that
these individuals may have been responsible for the
murder of KING was the single mention of the word "KING"
by one of the individuals in the alley the previous
night.

The following descriptive data was obtained
through observation and interview:

Name	ROBERT LEE SAUNDERS
Alias	Robert Lee Richardson (SAUNDERS stated that this is the name that appears on his birth certificate; however, he has never used this name)
Sex	Male
Race	Negro
DOB	
POB	Cleveland, Mississippi
Height	5'11"
Weight	162 lbs.
Hair	Black
Eyes	Brown
Wife	ANNIE BELLE SAUNDERS % VEESSIE NELSON Cleveland, Mississippi
Mother	SALLIE MAE SAUNDERS Route 1, Box 54 Cleveland, Mississippi
Occupation	Private, United States Army currently stationed at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky
Arrest record	Claims once for auto theft in Chicago, Illinois, approximatel 1963, and was released after being held 8 or 9 hours. SAUNDERS also claims to have been arrested twice for being AWOL.

ME 44-1987

INDEX

	<u>PAGE NUMBER</u>
AIRLINES, BRITISH OVERSEAS	58
AIRLINES, PORTUGUESE	74, 75
AIRLINES, SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS	68, 70
ARCADE PHOTO STUDIO	57
AUTO REGISTRATION, ILLINOIS	5
BARRETT, BESSIE	37, 40
BIGGS, GOBEL	4
BIRMINGHAM NEWS	53, 55
BRIDGEMAN, PAUL	57, 58
BRIDGEMAN, PAUL EDWARD	57, 59
CAPROL	59
CHRYSLER, 1959	7
CLUB, ACAPULCO	11, 15
CABLEY, EDYTHE	16
DRIVERS LICENSE, ILLINOIS	5
EMBASSY, CANADIAN	64, 72
EMBASSY, SOUTH AFRICAN	71
EZZELL, PERNELL	82
GALT, ERIC	10, 12, 15, 16, 39

ME 44-1987

GALT, ERIC S.	37
GARDNER, THELMA	37
GARDNER, U. K.	39
GOLDEN, EVELYN	57
GUTERRES, MARIA JOSE	67
HALE, SARAH	36
HELLER, GEORGE SEYMOUR	5, 7, 8
HOTEL, GRANADA	20, 22
HOTEL, HAR - K	14
HOTEL, PORTUGAL	66
HOTEL REGISTRATIONS - GRANADA	22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33
HUIE, WILLIAM BRADFORD	10, 12, 14, 17, 20
INN, PETIT MANIOR	10, 11
KENNEDY TRAVEL AGENCY	58
KILNER, GLADYS MAE	58
KOONCE, ADRIAN M.	35
LIBERTY ARMS COMPANY	50, 51
LICENSE NO. LM5942	15
LOO, SUN PUNG	58
MEXICO, NUEVO LAREDO	20

ME 44-1987

SAUNDERS, ROBERT LEE	87
SERVICES UNLIMITED	37, 39
SNEYA, RAMON GEORGE	63, 64
SNEYD, RAMON GEORGE	58, 59, 60, 63, 65
SPAIN, WALTER E.	50, 52, 53
SPAIN, WALTER LEON	52, 53, 55
SPENCER, LILLIAN	58, 59
STATE BOARD OF PROBATION & PAROLE	6
SZPAKOWSKA, FELIKSA	57, 59
TATUM, ROBERT	50
TRONCALE, CHARLIE	34
WEST, JOHN L.	3, 4

ME 44-1987

MOTEL, FLAMINGO	20, 37, 39, 40
MOTEL, FLAMINGO - REGISTRATIONS	40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48
MOTELS - STATE OF INDIANA	21
MOTEL, TOWN & COUNTRY	11, 15
OLDSMOBILE, BUNNY, INC.	3, 4, 5
PLYMOUTH, 1962 - VIN 2921165934	3, 4, 5
P. O. Box 293, WINNETKA, ILL.	4
PORTUGAL - ACTIVITIES	62
RAOUL	17, 40
RAY, GJERDIS DOROTHEA	5, 6
RAY, JERRY WILLIAM	6
RAYNS, JOHN L.	3, 4, 5, 20, 22, 34, 35, 40
RAYNS, JOHN LARRY	5
REPORTS, LABORATORY	76, 77, 78, 79, 80
RESORT, GREY ROCK	10
REVOLVER, .38 CAL. "LIBERTY CHIEF" SERIAL NO. 715	49, 50, 51, 53
RIBERIO, GLORIA BOUSA	67
RYAN, JERRY W.	5, 6

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 4/11/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/10/69 - 4/7/69
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOE C. HESTER	TYPED BY JAP
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY	

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JOE C. HESTER dated 12/18/68, at Memphis.

- P - ✓ *llh*LEADS:MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE Will maintain contact with the District Attorney General's Office, and will report further developments regarding subject's motion for a new trial.

COVER PAGE A*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO		
APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
3 - Bureau (44-38861) 3 - Memphis (44-1987) <i>jap</i>						44-1987-Sub-A-7 SEARCHED <i>llh</i> SERIALIZED <i>llh</i> INDEXED <i>llh</i> FILED <i>[Signature]</i> <i>[Signature]</i>		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations		
Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

COVER PAGE

GPO : 1968 O - 299-885

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOE C. HESTER
Date: April 11, 1969

Office: MEMPHIS

Field Office File #: Memphis 44-1987

Bureau File #: 44-38861

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

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY

Synopsis: On 3/10/69, subject appeared before Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Division III, Criminal Court, Shelby County, Memphis, Tenn., and entered plea of guilty to murder in the first degree for which he was sentenced to 99 years imprisonment. On 3/13 and 3/14/69, efforts made by FBI Agents to interview RAY at Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tenn., were unsuccessful. On 4/7/69, subject filed in Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tenn., a motion for a new trial.

- P -

DETAILS:

On March 10, 1969, the subject and his attorney, PERCY FOREMAN, appeared before Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE, Division III, Criminal Court of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, and entered a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree for having murdered Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. RAY was sentenced to ninety nine years imprisonment, this having previously been agreed to by RAY, by the District Attorney General, and by Judge BATTLE.

On March 13, 1969, and again on March 14, 1969, the subject RAY, then incarcerated at the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee, declined to be interviewed by Special Agents of the FBI.

ME 44-1987

On April 7, 1969, the subject through his attorneys, RICHARD J. RYAN, J. B. STONER, and ROBERT W. HILL, JR., filed in the Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, a motion for a new trial. The subject asks that the Court set aside his waiver, his plea of guilty, and his conviction and that he be granted a new trial. Subject states that his waiver, plea, and conviction were the results of his being deprived of legal counsel, in violation of the 14th and 6th Amendments to the U. S. Constitution. The subject states he will show that he and his two prior attorneys, ARTHUR HANES and PERCY FOREMAN, entered into contracts with the author WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE while the subject was awaiting trial, and that these contracts established a conflict of interest between the subject and his two prior attorneys. The subject therefore asks that the judgment heretofore entered be set aside and that his case be restored to the trial calendar.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE MEMPHIS	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 4/11/69	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 3/10/69 - 4/7/69
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka; Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM		REPORT MADE BY SA JOE C. HESTER	TYPED BY JAP
		CHARACTER OF CASE CR - CONSPIRACY	

REFERENCE:

Report of SA JOE C. HESTER dated 12/18/68, at Memphis.

- P - ✓ *llb*LEADS:MEMPHIS DIVISION

AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE Will maintain contact with the District Attorney General's Office, and will report further developments regarding subject's motion for a new trial.

COVER PAGE A*

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES			
								PENDING OVER ONE YEAR <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
APPROVED						SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES MADE:						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
3 - Bureau (44-38861) ③ - Memphis (44-1987) <i>jap</i>						44-1987-Sub-A-7 SEARCHED SERIALIZED <i>llb</i> INDEXED Notations FILED <i>llb</i>		
Dissemination Record of Attached Report								
Agency								
Request Recd.								
Date Fwd.								
How Fwd.								
By								

COVER PAGE

GPO : 1968 O - 298-885