

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

HAROLD WEISBERG

Plaintiff

v.

CIVIL ACTION NUMBER
75-1996

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Defendant.

AFFIDAVIT

I, Horace P. Beckwith, being duly sworn, depose and say as follows:

(1) I am a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), assigned in a supervisory capacity to the Freedom of Information - Privacy Acts (FOIPA) Branch, Records Management Division, FBI, Washington, D. C. Due to my official responsibilities, I am familiar with the procedures utilized by the FBI in processing FOIPA requests and am personally familiar with the requests of plaintiff for information pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

(2) Pursuant to FBI regulations, all records created at or received by FBIHQ pertaining to the investigation of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. are contained in that FBIHQ file numbered 44-38861 which is referred to as the "MURKIN" file. Among other things, the "MURKIN" investigation file contains records created by the Civil Rights Unit of the FBI and synopsis reports of the

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, plaintiff has received all non-exempt FBIHQ records concerning the "MURKIN" investigation. This release of "MURKIN" records to plaintiff has included those non-exempt records generated by the Civil Rights Unit of the FBI and certain records utilized to inform FBI officials of the status of the investigation. Examples of these records are attached hereto as Exhibits A through I.

(3) During the processing of the "MURKIN" investigation records certain documents were located which either originated in their entirety with another Government agency or which contained information provided by another Government agency. The policy of the FBI is to refer records of this nature to the originating agency for processing. Of the approximately 137 documents referred to other agencies, approximately 62 of them have already been provided directly to the plaintiff by the originating agency or the FBI. Certain other of these referred records still remain to be processed by the originating agency. A review of FBI records indicates that there are currently fewer than 80 documents still under review by the originating agencies which have not been provided to plaintiff.

(4) A review of records at FBIHQ indicates that, by letter dated September 29, 1977 (a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit J), from James M. Powers, Chief, FOIPA Branch, Records Management Division, to plaintiff, non-exempt "MURKIN" investigation records retrieved from the Memphis Field Office of the FBI, including a file designated Sub G, were provided

plaintiff. Pursuant to information received from plaintiff that he had not received certain portions of the Sub G file of the Memphis Field Office "MURKIN" files, these portions were again provided plaintiff's attorney by a member of the FOIPA Branch staff during November, 1977.

Horace P. Beckwith
HORACE P. BECKWITH
Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 8th day
of May, 1978.

Margaret F. Dier
Notary Public

My commission expires 12/31/78.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tolson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. DeLoach
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Mohr
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Casper
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Callahan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Conrad
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Felt
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Gale
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Rosen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Sullivan
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Tavel
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mr. Trotter
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tele. Room
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Miss Holmes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Miss Gandy

McGowan

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 10, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1-Mr. DeLoach
- 1-Mr. Mohr
- 1-Mr. Rosen
- 1-Mr. Casper
- 1-Mr. Malley
- 1-Mr. Gale
- 1-Mr. McGowan
- 1-Mr. Sullivan
- 1-Mr. Martindale

SUBJECT: MURKIN

I spoke with Fred Vinson, Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal Division, today concerning items which have not been resolved in connection with the transportation of subject Ray to the United States upon completion of the order of extradition.

1. Vinson advised me he had been in touch with the Secretary of the Air Force and preliminary discussions indicated the Air Force would handle transportation. No decision has yet been made as to whether the plane will be assigned to this mission from European bases or whether the plane will depart from the United States on this mission. This is important to the Bureau inasmuch as our escort Agents will be able to fly to Europe on the Air Force plane if it departs from the United States.

44-38861-4932

2. Vinson indicated the Air Force Secretary suggested they might have a 707 available in Germany, in which event it would be designated in time to allow the transporting Agents to arrange for appropriate liaison with the crew in London. In any event, Vinson understood we will need at least two days if the plane is to depart from the United States in order to give the crew a chance to rest up and, of course, our Agents in any event would allow themselves two days in order to be physically fit to handle the transportation. It is observed one night's sleep is lost going east from the United States to London in view of the difference of five hours in time.

JUL 16 1968

3. No decision has been reached by Vinson as to who is to stand the cost of the flight. As a matter of fact, Vinson indicated the Secretary mentioned the cost of the flight would run around \$20,000 although he had no fixed figure. I advised Vinson, of course, the Bureau had no funds to take care of this. He said he thought it would be proper if the Air Force did not handle the matter to make some preliminary inquiries with the State of Tennessee concerning the transportation costs

AR:ige
(10)

Exhibit A

CONTINUED - OVER

53 OCT 1 1968

3/15/68
6-98

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

inasmuch as we would be handling the matter which ordinarily would have to be provided for by the State of Tennessee. As it now stands, Vinson understands the Bureau has no intention of paying for the costs of transportation. Vinson also mentioned the Secretary of the Air Force indicated they might have a constellation (this is a propeller-type plane) which might run less in cost. Vinson said this would be unsatisfactory because of the slowness of the plane and, of course, the most modern equipment should be used. There was no problem insofar as this was concerned, according to Vinson.

4. Vinson had previously advised me he was going to determine whether arrangements could be made so that all persons on the flight upon arrival at touch down in the United States would immediately be cleared so there would be no delays by Customs, Immigration, and Public Health. Vinson stated he had checked into this and Farrell, Immigration and Naturalization Service Commissioner, had indicated he would have arrangements made so that all will be immediately cleared without any difficulty upon touch down in the United States.

5. We had previously discussed the question of medical assistance upon departure from London, en route and at touch down in the United States. It had previously been mentioned it would be preferable to have a military doctor rather than Public Health Service doctor. Vinson again mentioned he preferred Public Health, someone who was familiar with prison procedures. I mentioned a decision should be reached on this but it would appear the Air Force could supply plenty of doctors and insofar as a physical examination is concerned an Air Force doctor would be much more familiar with Air Force procedures in the event some emergency arose en route. The doctor, of course, will be needed to examine the prisoner upon departure and also to examine the prisoner at arrival in the United States so that no question can be raised concerning his physical condition upon delivery to the authorities in the United States. Arrangements, of course, will also be made for proper photographing of the prisoner at departure and arrival in order to support the transporting officers' proper handling of the prisoner.

6. We discussed arrangements for the handling of Ray's personal effects and I advised Vinson appropriate receipts would be

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

obtained at both points and these would be prepared in advance so there would be no delay at either point in handling any personal effects which might be sent. It was also pointed out that appropriate papers would be prepared to be handed to the local authorities upon arrival so that all they need do would be to affix their signatures to such papers and this in turn would also prevent any delays.

7. We had previously discussed the necessity for Vinson to arrange with the Home Secretary in London the departure procedures with specific reference to whether some indication can be received from the British as to when the prisoner may be obtained once the final order is signed by the Home Secretary. Vinson stated he had had discussions with the State Department and had informally prepared certain papers which will be required for the delivery of the prisoner to the transporting Agents. He said the identities of the Agents will be inserted in the order and the State Department procedure will probably be delivery of the request of the State Department to the Home Secretary by the Ambassador in London, for the delivery of the subject to the transporting Agents who have been designated by the United States Government to handle the transportation. Vinson stated he will assume the responsibility for working this out and will advise us in ample time. He said he hoped to be able to get some informal reaction from the Home Secretary concerning the possibility of keeping the extradition order bottled up until the Agents depart. He felt this was highly unlikely but he was going to try but said the British were rather stuffy about this. He said we need not be concerned with the preparation of these papers as he will advise us of their preparation in final form.

8. In connection with the aforementioned, it will be necessary for Minnich to obtain completed exit control papers and Vinson stated he had talked to Minnich about this and Minnich has excellent liaison with the British authorities and will go forward with the preparation of the necessary papers so the prison officials will deliver the prisoner to the transporting Agents once the Home Secretary hands the order to the prison officials. In this connection, instructions will be issued today to Minnich to advise the Bureau the exact nature of such papers so there will be no delay in the preparation of same and in order that the Bureau will be fully advised of the details concerning the handling of this phase of the matter.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

9. Vinson indicated in previous discussions that he viewed favorably the FBI taking the prisoner from touch down, which would be the Naval Air Station at Memphis, to the Sheriff's Office. He had not reached any definite decision as to this inasmuch as he felt the local authorities might desire to pick up the prisoner as soon as our plane touched down at the Naval Air Station. He said this matter had not been resolved yet and he asked whether the Bureau had any views concerning this insofar as the Memphis authorities were concerned. He also wanted to know whether the Memphis authorities were equipped to handle the transportation from the Naval Air Station to the jail. I advised him our SAC at Memphis had been in touch with the Memphis Sheriff who will handle the prisoner on behalf of state authorities. I advised Vinson the Sheriff had designated a special crew to handle the prisoner while he is being detained at the jail and they will have no other function. I also advised Vinson that if the Sheriff was to transport the prisoner from the Naval Air Station to the jail he would obtain a closed van and would have the necessary escort party. Vinson indicated it would be desirable to ascertain the attitude of the local authorities before a definite decision was reached as to who was to handle the prisoner from the point of touch down (Naval Air Station) to the County Jail which would be under the jurisdiction of the Sheriff. We will ascertain this in contact with our SAC today. In this connection, it would seem preferable to have the Sheriff assume the responsibility for transporting the prisoner from the Naval Air Station.

10. In connection with the handling of our function in the United States, it is suggested that Special Agent Kenneth Bounds, who accompanied George Zeiss to London and who is being relieved of this assignment in view of personal reasons, be sent to Memphis two days before the plane will arrive in Memphis in order to insure that arrangements which have been initiated are adequate. Bounds has attended conferences at the Seat of Government concerning the detailed plans which have been made concerning the handling of the prisoner both in England and in the United States and is fully conversant with all discussions, as well as having had the experience of being in London. It also may be well for ASAC Harold Light, who will be in charge of the transporting party, to make a quick trip to Memphis in order to be familiar with any arrangements there in the event the Agents have to transport the prisoner from the Naval Air Station to the jail. Otherwise, such a trip would not be necessary on the part of Light.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

1. Minnich will immediately be alerted to the above discussion and instructed to go forward with the necessary arrangements and advise the Bureau concerning the exit control papers and procedures. This is on the assumption we will go by military aircraft.

2. The SAC at Memphis will be immediately alerted to the above developments in order that he may be completely familiar with the procedures and he will ascertain if Memphis authorities will assume responsibility for transporting the prisoner from the Naval Air Station to the jail. In this connection, if approved, we will suggest to Jensen that such arrangements be effected if possible. Vinson will be appropriately advised of the decision of Memphis authorities.

3. A final determination will need to be made by Vinson as to the point from which the plane will depart on this mission, whether it be from a European point or the United States, in order that appropriate arrangements can be made for (1) the transportation of the Agents from the United States to London and (2) the establishment of appropriate liaison with the Commanding General who will have the overall responsibility of the Air Force crew. This was discussed with Vinson and he agrees that the Commanding General should have control of the plane. This will eliminate going through a lot of red tape with intermediate officers of the Air Force. Vinson stated he will obtain the identity of the Commanding General so appropriate liaison can be maintained.

4. The escort party previously approved by the Director will be Legat John Minnich, London; ASAC Harold Light, Quantico, Virginia; and George Zeiss, Quantico Firearms Instructor. It is suggested that Supervisor W. L. Martindale, who previously went to London, also be a member of the transporting party in the event

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

Ray is at all talkative. Martindale, of course, is familiar with the details of this case. In this connection, it is noted that Vinson today indicated he had a note from the subject stating he had no intention of talking, that he would discuss all matters with his attorney Arthur Hays, and that when he was transported back to the United States by U. S. Government officers he hoped they would send someone with less imagination than Vinson. Vinson does not know what the subject is referring to but he suspects he has in mind the comment made by the British press that Vinson spoke with Ray when as a matter of fact he did not. Vinson stated he would send us the original of this note.

*I see no need of
Martindale being
in the group. Gary
should be sufficient.*

12/13

B

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Bishop	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: July 11, 1968

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Casper

In connection with transportation of subject Ray from London to the United States, the question of when the local authorities, namely the Tennessee State authorities, will take custody of subject Ray has been decided today.

SAC Jensen, Memphis, has been in touch with the Sheriff and the Sheriff has indicated that he plans to take subject Ray into custody upon arrival of the plane in the United States at the Memphis Naval Air Station.

This will facilitate the handling of subject Ray insofar as the Bureau is concerned inasmuch as it had been indicated it would be preferable to have the Tennessee authorities assume the responsibility of taking Ray into custody as soon as the plane touches down.

The Sheriff has selected a special group to handle the subject and has made preparations for transportation from the airport to the jail in anticipation of assuming this responsibility.

ACTION:

Assistant Attorney General Vinson will be advised of the decision of the Sheriff to handle subject Ray upon touch down at the Memphis Naval Air Station.

the attached file

REC 174 - 38861-4840

We should stick to this plan.

AR:hw
(10)

Exhibit

D.

10 JUL 16 1968

EXHIBIT B

01 JUL 19 1968

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 19, 1968

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Cooper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

FROM : A. Rosen *for*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Conrad

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

You will recall that New Scotland Yard had been unable to determine Ray's whereabouts from 5/17/68, when he arrived back in England from Lisbon, Portugal, and 5/28/68, when he checked into the New Earls Court Hotel in London.

As a result of a request made by our Legal Attache in London, the Yard rechecked all hotels in the Kensington area near the West London Air Terminal and they determined that Ray checked into the Heathfield House Hotel in London on 5/17/68 and checked out on 5/28/68, which is the date he checked into the New Earls Court Hotel. The guest book of the Heathfield House Hotel contains the signature of Ramon George Sneyd, 962 Dindas - W - Toronto, Canada. This, of course, is the name Ray used to obtain his Canadian passport and one of his addresses in Canada was 962 Dundas, West Toronto.

The proprietress of the hotel identified a photograph of the subject as the individual known to her as Ramon George Sneyd who stayed at her hotel. The Laboratory has determined that the signature Ramon George Sneyd on the copy of the guest book page is somewhat indistinct but is similar to known signatures of the subject.

The proprietress of the hotel advised that Ray kept to himself, did not receive any mail, phone calls or visitors and left the hotel between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. every morning after breakfast and returned at about 1 a.m. She stated she did not think that Ray stayed out all night on any occasion but she could not be sure.

25 JUL 31 1968

Legal Attache in London has advised that New Scotland Yard orally informed him in strictest confidence that on 5/27/68, at 5:20 p.m., a lone man with a small gun walked

Enclosure sent 7-22-68

EJM:ves
(8) *for 2500*

EX-105
REG-30
44-38861-4965
EXHIBIT
SENT DIRECTOR
7-22-68

CONTINUED - OVER

57 AUG 7 - 1968

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

into a jeweler's shop in the Paddington area of London, pointed the gun at the jeweler and stated, "This is a stick-up, give me the money in the till." The jeweler hesitated and the man panicked and ran out of the shop without obtaining any loot. When shown ten photographs of different men, the jeweler without hesitation picked out Ray as the attempted holdup man. The jeweler claimed the man wore a hat and as far as can be determined Ray was hatless during his period in England and did not have a hat in his possession. However, if he is the man involved he could have disposed of the hat.

On the morning of 6/4/68 Ray had asked the clerk at the New Earls Court Hotel how much his bill would be and when informed, he reportedly said, "I'll have to go to my bank and make a withdrawal." It is noted the Fulham Bank in London was robbed on the afternoon of 6/4/68. Ray has been identified as the perpetrator of that bank robbery based on his fingerprint appearing on the note used by the robber to demand money from the bank employees. The clerk at the Heathfield House Hotel advised that when Ray was told how much his bill would be on 5/27/68, he reportedly made a similar statement about making a withdrawal from his bank. The attempted jewelry shop holdup occurred at 5:20 p.m., 5/27/68.

The Yard has the theory that if Ray is the man involved in the jewelry shop robbery attempt since he did not get any money he may have committed a successful job between 5:20 p.m. on 5/27/68 and the morning of 5/28/68 in order to pay his bill at the hotel. Representatives of the Yard advised that pending Ray's actual removal to the United States that they did not intend to conduct further investigation to substantiate this theory since they were extremely fearful if information regarding Ray's participation in the attempted robbery of the jewelry store and other possible scores became known to the press, Ray's solicitor may insist that Ray be charged in order to clear him of any such charges.

Legal Attache, London advises that the above information may be furnished to the Department of Justice with the understanding that the information regarding the attempted jewelry store holdup should not be revealed to the press or public sources at this time.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

For your information. Attached for approval is a letter to the Attorney General with copies to the Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Attorneys General Pollak and Vinson setting forth pertinent information indicated above. Department being cautioned against disclosure of information on the attempted jewelry store holdup at this time.

In view of the importance of determining Ray's sources of funds and since he has now been returned to the United States, Legal Attache, London is being instructed to request New Scotland Yard to conduct further investigation to determine if Ray may have been involved in other robberies in London.

Egan *R. J. [unclear]* *D. C. [unclear]* *[unclear]* *[unclear]*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Bishop	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. DeLoach *D*

DATE: July 22, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen *Rosen*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Handwritten initials/signature

SAC Jensen of the Memphis Office has telephonically furnished the following information.

James Earl Ray was arraigned before Judge W. Preston Battle in Shelby County criminal court this morning at 10 a. m. and by mutual agreement of the Judge, the prosecutor and defense counsel, trial has been set for 11/12/68.

The entire proceedings took only approximately ten minutes.

Ray was brought from his cell on the third floor of the Shelby County Jail into the courtroom by Shelby County Sheriff William N. Morris and his two chief deputies.

The indictment was read to Ray who was represented by Attorney Arthur Hanes and his son and Hanes inquired of Judge Battle as to whether Ray was required to enter a plea.

Judge Battle advised Hanes that he could enter a plea at the arraignment if he desired or could do so at a later date whereupon Hanes entered a plea of not guilty. Immediately after the trial was set Ray was returned to his cell in the Shelby County Jail.

There were only approximately thirty spectators in the courtroom including representatives of the press. All persons entering the courtroom were searched and they were photographed and their voices recorded on video tape.

ACTION:

For information.

EX-105 REC-30 44-38861-4266

JUL 31 1968

Handwritten signatures and initials
EXHIBIT D

SENT DIRECTOR
7-22-68

54 JGK:vea
AUG 12 1968

REC. UNIT

Memorandum

Tolson	✓
DeLoach	✓
Mohr	✓
Bishop	✓
Casper	✓
Callahan	✓
Conrad	✓
Felt	✓
Gale	✓
Rosen	✓
Sullivan	✓
Tavel	✓
Trotter	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Holmes	✓
Gandy	✓

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: April 5, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
CIVIL RIGHTS

We have been successful in tracing the Remington rifle which was found near the scene of the shooting and the box which was with the rifle to a supply company in Birmingham, Alabama. The rifle in question was sold on Saturday, 3/30/68, to an individual giving the name of Harvey Lowmeyer, 1907 South 11th Street, Birmingham, Alabama. This appears to be a fictitious name but the Birmingham Office is continuing thorough investigation to identify the purchaser.

2 APPROX

The Birmingham Office determined that the Aero Marine Supply Company, 5701 Airport Highway, Birmingham, Alabama, had on Friday, 3/29/68, sold to Harvey Lowmeyer a .243 caliber Model 700 Remington rifle. He indicated he wanted to go hunting in Wisconsin and had the dealer mount a Redfield scope on the rifle.

The following day, Saturday, 3/30/68, the individual returned the gun stating that it was not the type rifle he wanted and he obtained a Model 760, .30-06 caliber Remington rifle, serial number 461476. At that time he did obtain a box of shells and had the Redfield scope removed from the first rifle and mounted on the .30-06 caliber rifle.

Birmingham Office has advised that it appears that the name Lowmeyer is a fictitious name and efforts are being made to identify the purchaser of the gun. Lowmeyer is described as white male, 35 years of age, 5 feet 8 inches tall, weighing between 150 and 160 pounds.

REC-59 44-38861-177

The rifle which was obtained on 3/29/68 and returned on 3/30/68 together with the box in which it was returned are being obtained by the Birmingham Office and will be flown into the Bureau to be examined for latent fingerprints.

APR 9 1968

ACTION:

You will be advised of pertinent developments in this matter.

Exhibit E
RM R

CLM:vea (9)

Memorandum

Tolson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DeLoach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mohr	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Bishop	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Casper	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Callahan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Conrad	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Felt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gale	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rosen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sullivan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tavel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trotter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Tele. Room	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Holmes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gandy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: April 5, 1968

FROM: A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Callahan

SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;
 REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM
 CIVIL RIGHTS

ASAC Clifton Halter of the Memphis Office telephonically advised that a check with the York Arms Company, 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee, developed that a salesman sold a set of binoculars similar to those recovered after the shooting to an unidentified white man at approximately 4:00 p. m. yesterday afternoon, 4/4/68.

The salesman recalled that the individual in question inquired about a set of binoculars and when he was referred to sets costing \$200 and \$90, he said that the price was too high. At that point the clerk recalled that he had an inexpensive set of binoculars in the window, which he took out of the window in order to make the sale. According to the salesman, the price of the binoculars sold to this individual was \$39.95 plus \$1.60 tax, which is identical with the amount shown on the sales receipt recovered with the binoculars.

The purchaser of the binoculars paid for them with two \$20 bills, one \$1 bill and some change. (It is noted that the rifle which was found with binoculars was paid for in \$20 bills and that the rent for room 5B in the rooming house from which the shot was fired was also paid for with a \$20 bill.)

EX-116 REC 18 44-38861-71

The salesman described the purchaser of the binoculars as being a white man, approximately 26 - 32 years of age, 5 feet eleven inches, 160 - 175 pounds, medium build, black or dark brown hair, combed straight back. He stated this individual had no regional accent and was neatly dressed in a white shirt with tie, dark suit coat with matching trousers.

4 APR 9 1968

JGK:rmr
(7)

CONTINUED - OVER

54 APR 11 1968

Exhibit F

SIX

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: UNSUB; REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

ASAC Halter advised that the York Arms Company is approximately three blocks from the rooming house from which the fatal shot was fired.

ASAC Halter was specifically asked whether he felt that the salesman at the York Arms Company is knowledgeable enough to be of assistance in the preparation of an artist's conception, and he stated that he felt he was.

ACTION:

It is recommended that a qualified representative from the Exhibits Section be sent to Memphis in order to prepare an artist's conception of the suspect who purchased the binoculars at the York Arms Company. It is recommended that while there this representative also prepare a detailed diagram of the crime scene.

Chm

Rm

R

*OK
H*

Doh

d

m

*I have OK
discussed
H
and sent
OK*

Memorandum

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. DeLoach	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

DATE April 11, 1968

Mr. Rosen *W*
C. L. McGowan *W*

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long

ECT: MURKIN

W - Lopez

SAC Gamble of the Birmingham Office telephonically advised that he had received a call from General Doster of the Alabama National Guard on the evening of 4/9/68. Gamble was unable to contact the General and on 4/10/68 the Adjutant of the Alabama National Guard appeared at the Birmingham Office and desired to know whether the rifle used in the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr., had been purchased in Alabama. He pointed out that the National Guard had the responsibility for the over-all security in the State and a tense racial situation might develop if it is true that the rifle used in the killing had been purchased in Birmingham, Alabama.

ACTION:

After talking with Mr. DeLoach, SAC Gamble was instructed that he could advise the General of the Alabama National Guard for his confidential information that it appeared that a rifle found near the scene of the shooting was in fact purchased in Birmingham, Alabama; that the FBI if asked about this will neither confirm or deny it; that we are pursuing a strict no comment position.

L

W

REC-69

44-38861-408

6 APR 12 1968

CLM:rmr
(5)

Exhibit G

APR 10 1968

Memorandum

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 8, 1968

A. Rosen

MURKIN

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mechanical Section

Tolson _____
 DeLoach _____
 Mohr _____
 Bishop _____
 Casper _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 Felt _____
 Gale _____
 Rosen _____
 Sullivan _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holmes _____
 Gandy _____

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Attached is a proposed circular letter to be distributed to all laundry and dry cleaning establishments throughout the United States. Investigation has established that since subject's escape from Missouri State Penitentiary on April 23, 1967, he has utilized the laundry and dry cleaning businesses in the cities of Los Angeles, Birmingham and Atlanta. It is felt a circular letter should be prepared in this regard.

Ray, who is one of the Ten Most Wanted Fugitives having been added to the list on April 20, 1968, is being sought on the basis of a Federal warrant issued on April 17, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, charging him as Eric Starvo Galt with conspiring to interfere with a Constitutional Right of a citizen. A Federal warrant was also issued on July 20, 1967, at Jefferson City, Missouri, charging Ray with Interstate Flight to Avoid Confinement for the crime of Robbery. Ray, of course, is being sought for the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Philadelphia Office can arrange this circularization through the W. S. Ponton Company of Upper Darby, Pennsylvania, who maintains a list of laundry and dry cleaning establishments in the United States. There are 14,000 establishments; the W. S. Ponton Company would charge \$287, the cost of postage would be \$840, the cost of printing would be \$40, bringing the total cost to \$1,167. postage, printing costs obtained from Administrative Division.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

EX-115

REC-38 44-38861-3629

- (1) That the proposed circular letter be approved.
- (2) That the Mechanical Section prepare 15,000 copies of the attached circular letter which should be folded, franked and sealed. When completed, 14,000 copies should be forwarded directly to the Philadelphia Office, and 100 copies should be

Enclosures (2)

ENCLOSURE

EXHIBIT HV

mailed 5/16/68

CONTINUED - OVER

70 REF: jdb
MAY 13 1968

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

forwarded to Memphis, the office of origin. It is requested that the attached photograph be utilized on the circular letter.

(3) Attached for approval is appropriate airtel to Memphis and Philadelphia advising that a circular letter is being approved.

sent 5-9-68

Chm

P

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mk

R

JM

GM

✓

J

A



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

May 8, 1968

Photo
AS attached
Mechanical
Section
Will Reduce

Re: JAMES EARL RAY, also known as
Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron,
Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride,
James O'Conner, James Walton,
James Walyon, John Willard,
"Jim"

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is attempting to locate JAMES EARL RAY, who is being sought for violation of a Civil Rights Statute and Interstate Flight to Avoid Confinement for the crime of Robbery. He is described as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Birth	3/10/28 at Alton, Illinois
Height	5'10"
Weight	163 to 174 pounds
Hair	Brown, possibly cut short
Eyes	Blue

If you have any information which may relate to RAY, or if you observe him in the future, please contact the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the number of which may be found on the first page of your telephone directory.

Your attention is directed to the fact that RAY may be armed and should be considered dangerous. No action should be taken which will endanger anyone's safety.

Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECEIVED



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

May 20, 1968

Reply, Please Refer to
No.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, also known as:
Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron,
Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride,
James O'Conner, James Walton,
James Walyon, John Willard,
"Jim"



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

The Federal Bureau of Investigation is attempting to locate James Earl Ray, who is being sought for violation of a Civil Rights Statute and Interstate Flight to Avoid Confinement for the crime of Robbery. He is described as follows:

Race:	White
Sex:	Male
Birth Date:	3-10-28 at Alton, Illinois
Height:	5' 10"
Weight:	163 to 174 pounds
Hair:	Brown, possibly cut short
Eyes:	Blue

If you have any information which may relate to Ray, or if you observe him in the future, please contact the nearest office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the number of which may be found on the first page of your telephone directory.

Your attention is directed to the fact that Ray may be armed and should be considered dangerous. No action should be taken which will endanger anyone's safety.

Your cooperation in this matter will be appreciated.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover
J. Edgar Hoover
Director



Memorandum

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

TO : Mr. Rosen *R*

DATE: May 18, 1968

FROM : C. L. McGowan *CLM*

- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Special Agent Joe C. Hester, Memphis Extra-Duty Supervisor, telephonically advised, this date, that the Chief of Police (COP), Memphis, Tennessee, has received an anonymous letter dated 5-14-68, from Montreal, Canada. The letter is very poorly written and it is hard to make out the entire contents, but in essence mentions Doctor King. Further, that the anonymous writer has become acquainted with an individual of Irish decendant (no name given) and over a case of beer recently determined from this Irish individual (1) that he was once in jail in Missouri, (2) that he had been in the Merchant Marines, (3) that he was once a bartender, (4) that he was an alcoholic and supposedly being presently treated for alcoholism, (5) and that he has fallen in love with a girl in Montreal and spends money freely on her.

The anonymous writer wants this information to be kept in strict confidence and if the COP is interested and wants to get in touch with him, he should write to the Editor of the "Gazette - News in Brief," (presumably a Montreal newspaper) "attention G." Writer states he will watch the Gazette and if the mention "attention G" appears, he will send another letter to the COP with information and the COP can use his own follow-up.

The writer further states he is off work on Wednesday and Thursday each week and has a holiday from June 1-15, and states he might meet with the COP if he is interested.

This letter was signed "Code letter G."

The COP, Memphis, has misplaced the envelope which this letter came in. *REC-12 44-38861-3735*

ACTION: The Memphis Office was advised to send the letter to the Bureau by airtel this date. *MAY 21 1968*

KLB:ergo
 (5) *2*

*Legat
 Place ad in paper
 1 sheet*

Exhibit I

1 - Mr. Long
Attn: Mr. Groover

SEP 29 1977

1 - Mr. Grimsley
CIPU

REGISTERED
Subject of Request: Assassination of
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 12
Frederick, Maryland 21701

1 - Mr. Mintz
Attn: Mr. Matthews

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from our files. Excisions have been made from these documents and/or entire documents withheld in order to protect materials which are exempted from disclosure by the following subsections of Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 and Section 552a. The exemption number(s) indicated by a mark appearing in the block to the left of the subsection cited constitutes the authority for withholding the deleted material. (See below and reverse side of this sheet for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Section 552

Section 552a

- (b) (1)
- (b) (2)
- (b) (3)
- (b) (4)
- (b) (5)
- (b) (6)

- (b) (7) (A)
- (b) (7) (B)
- (b) (7) (C)
- (b) (7) (D)
- (b) (7) (E)
- (b) (7) (F)
- (b) (8)
- (b) (9)

- (d) (5)
- (j) (2)
- (k) (1)
- (k) (2)
- (k) (3)
- (k) (4)
- (k) (5)
- (k) (6)
- (k) (7)

The decision to withhold exempt portions of our records is the responsibility of Clarence M. Kelley, Director of the FBI.

If you believe your name may also have been recorded by the FBI incident to the investigation of other persons or some organization, please advise us of the details describing the specific incident or occurrence and time frame. Thereafter, further effort will be made to locate, retrieve and process any such records.

Your request for information concerning yourself has been considered in light of the provisions of both the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552) and the Privacy Act of 1974 (Title 5, United States Code, Section 552a). It has been determined by the Attorney General that requests by individuals seeking information about themselves are governed by the Privacy Act. In addition, as a matter of administrative discretion, any documents which were found to be exempt from disclosure under the Privacy Act were also processed under the provisions of the FOIA. Through these procedures, you have received the greatest degree of access authorized by both laws.

You have thirty days from receipt of this letter to appeal to the Deputy Attorney General from any denial contained herein. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Deputy Attorney General (Attention: Office of Privacy and Information Appeals), Washington, D. C. 20530. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal."

See additional information on continuation page.

Enclosures (21)
1 - James H. Lesar, Esq.
1231 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20004

1 - Mr. John Dugan
United States Attorney's Office

James M. Powers, Chief
Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts Branch
Records Management Division

1 - The Deputy Attorney General
Attn: Mr. Doug Mitchell

ppx
rdh:das (10)

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

715491
Return to Harp
RM 6982

Exhibit J
James M. Powers

70/and

MAILED 9
SEP 29 1977

Mr. Harold Weisberg

This release is comprised of documents from the Memphis Field Office Murkin file and completes the processing of all Memphis Field Office files pertinent to your request. Various other field office files pertaining to the subject of your request are currently being processed.

Documents currently being released consist of 6,293 pages. Pursuant to the \$.06 per page duplication fee as established by the Department of Justice the amount due for this material is \$377.58. Please remit a check in the amount of \$377.58 made payable to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in payment of these fees.

The documents included in this release have been reviewed on appeal by the Department of Justice Attorney Doug Mitchell.

Your patience and cooperation are appreciated.

NOTE: This concludes processing of the Memphis Field Office files.