

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>ATLANTA</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MEMPHIS</b>	DATE <b>7/30/68</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>5/10/68 - 7/15/68</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>JAMES EARL RAY, aka; cus at ME; DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM</b>		REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b>	TYPED BY <b>mlw</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE <b>CGR - CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ROBBERY</b> <b>8-7-68</b>	

REFERENCE: Report of [REDACTED] 5/17/68.

LEADS:

ATLANTA

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

Will continue reporting results of investigation requested of the Atlanta Division.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

On 5/14/68, wanted flyers were mailed to all laundries and dry cleaning establishments in the Metropolitan Atlanta area

- A -  
( COVER PAGE )

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED **NONE**

CONVIC	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES	ACQUIT-TALS

CASE HAS BEEN:

PENDING OVER ONE YEAR  YES  NO  
 PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS  YES  NO

APPROVED

*FA*

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

- 5 - Bureau (44-38861)
- 4 - Birmingham (44-1740)
- 4 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - Atlanta (44-2386)

**44-38861-498**  
**12 AUG 5 1968**  
**REC-63**  
**EX-110**

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	<i>100m</i>		
Request Recd.	<i>10/11/68</i>		
Date Fwd.	<i>8-28-68</i>		
How	<i>57</i>		
By	<i>8/1/68</i>		

Notations

FUG SUP.

*SK*

STAT SECT.

**EXHIBIT BB-1**

*copy of report furnished ORR last free copy 1/16 5/11/68*

*pa*

*ED [Signature] 806 9/14/68*

*1cc for CR Unit 2260 8-8-68*



AT-44-2386

RRP:mlw

as well as the headquarter cities of all Resident Agencies in the Atlanta Division.

On May 20, 1968, Postal Inspector [REDACTED] Atlanta, advised that on that date mail held for JAMES EARL RAY at General Delivery, Atlanta Post Office, was due to be returned to the sender of the mail. [REDACTED] advised there has been no additional delivery of mail since last contacted and the Bureau would be immediately notified if any additional mail for RAY should be sent to the Atlanta Post Office, General Delivery. He stated clerks at the General Delivery window have been alerted concerning this mail.

On June 3, 1968, Postal Inspector [REDACTED] advised that money order number 5615057923, dated March 28, 1968, purchased in Atlanta in the amount of \$7.50, payable to the Locksmithing Institute, Little Falls, New Jersey, was purchased at Postal Station C, which is located on Fourteenth Street, N.E., Atlanta. It is noted this address is almost directly across from the rooming house which was occupied by the subject in March, 1968.

Results of negative investigation conducted by Atlanta Agents in this matter are not being set forth in this report as they contain no information of value and were primarily elimination-type leads.

All safety deposit boxes in the Atlanta Metropolitan area have been checked for a box rented in the name of the subject or his known aliases with negative results.

Reference to the interviews of RAYMOND CURTIS at Dalton, Georgia is noted that while CURTIS indicates that he would not testify to any information he furnished, he had already in fact written two letters to Ebony Magazine concerning the information contained in these interviews.

All persons departing Atlanta by airline for points in Canada from April 5 - 12, 1968, were eliminated as identical with subject RAY. No reservations could be located in the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD or PAUL BRIDGEMAN.

- B\* -  
( COVER PAGE )



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**Copy to:****Report of:**

[REDACTED]

**Office:** Atlanta, Georgia**Date:**

July 30, 1968

**Field Office File #:**

44-2386

**Bureau File #:** 44-38861**Title:**

**JAMES EARL RAY;  
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM**

**Character:**

**CRIME ON GOVERNMENT RESERVATION - CONSPIRACY;  
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY**

**Synopsis:**

[REDACTED] inmate, U.S. Penitentiary, Atlanta, says he saw person who resembled subject, December, 1967, or January, 1968, at which time a white male he knew as [REDACTED] attempted to sell this individual a rifle with telescopic sight. Two individuals who were guests at the Provincial Motel, New Orleans, December, 1967, at the same time of the subject had no information. Itinerary for Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. from April, 1967 to time of his death obtained from SCLC Headquarters. ROBERT TATUM, Mableton, Georgia, who purchased .38 caliber revolver found on RAY at time of his arrest in London states sold revolver to a RAY SPAIN of Birmingham, Alabama. RAYMOND CURTIS interviewed at Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia, advised he was trying to sell a story to Ebony Magazine for approximately \$5,000 to help pay off the mortgage on his mother's home. At first interview he denied statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine concerning he and subject, JAMES EARL RAY. Second interview, same date, he allowed Agent to read his twenty page handwritten story concerning activities of himself and JAMES EARL RAY.

- P -

**DETAILS:**

AT 44-2388

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
[REDACTED]

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On May 11, 1968, JIMMY GARNER, 107 14th Street, NE; advised he had no additional information concerning the whereabouts of subject. He stated inasmuch as he and the subject had done some drinking together, and there has been no publicity concerning the subject residing at the rooming house on 14th Street, it is possible the subject might recontact him. He stated if he should hear any thing from the subject, he would immediately contact the Atlanta FBI Office.

On May 13, 1968, [REDACTED] contacted by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, where he is currently in custody. He was interviewed at the AWB Building where he is being held in administrative segregation for refusing to work where assigned at the penitentiary.

He stated he has no knowledge of the whereabouts of subject, RAY, and no knowledge of any plot to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. He stated that in November, 1967, he saw a person in the 14th Street area of Atlanta, who closely resembled the subject.

[REDACTED] stated he has never resided in the 14th Street area himself. He stated this individual who he had seen believed to have a 1956 or 1957 Oldsmobile automobile.

[REDACTED] further stated that he would not furnish any information concerning subject, RAY, if he had such information.



AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

1

The following investigation was conducted by [REDACTED]

On May 29, 1968, [REDACTED] was interviewed at the United States Penitentiary, Atlanta, where he is an inmate.

He stated since last interviewed he had recalled some additional information and wished to furnish all information he had concerning the person he believed identical with JAMES EARL RAY.

He stated that a white male, who he knew as [REDACTED] blond, and probably in his early twenties, and who drove a red and white 1966 Mustang convertible with an unknown license, tried to sell a rifle to this individual who he believed identical with RAY either in December, 1967, or January, 1968. He said he recalled it was right after he was released from the Fulton County Jail following his arrest and in December, 1967.

He stated this attempted sale took place on the corner of Barnett and St. Charles Streets in Northeast Atlanta where several hippie-types were residing in an apartment house which faced St. Charles Street on the corner of Barnett, and would be located on the southwest corner of the intersection. He stated [REDACTED] a singer at the Catacombs, also might know the person he believed identical with RAY.

He stated [REDACTED] was visiting the girl who resided in this apartment, which he described as the first apartment on the right, and two hippies who he knew only as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] also living there. Both were bike-riders who wore leather jackets and hung out around the Catacombs. He stated he believed [REDACTED] resided in the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Street area near Peachtree Street and stated he was not the hippie type but a veteran, 21 or 20 years old, 140 pounds, 5 feet 8 inches, blond hair, and not employed.

[REDACTED] stated he first saw this person he believed identical with RAY in September or October, 1967, at the Regency Hyatt House in downtown Atlanta when he was with a [REDACTED] of Decatur, who is believed to operate a nightclub in Daytona Beach, Florida. He said he saw this person other



AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

2

times at the Catacombs, a hippie coffee house on Fourteenth Street in Atlanta. He stated he talked with [REDACTED] at that time.

He stated the last time he saw this individual was at the intersection of St. Charles and Barnett Streets; however, he could not be certain as to whether it was before or after he was in the Fulton County Jail. He stated [REDACTED] had tried to sell this rifle for \$150.00 because the rifle was in a case and had a telescope. He stated after thinking about the matter further he recalled he was in jail at Christmas-time, 1967, and this attempted sale probably took place before he was placed in Fulton County Jail about December 8, 1967.

He stated [REDACTED] was in town in early January, 1968, and believes he may be from Tennessee. He stated [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] had lived on Vedado Way.

On May 29, 1968, [REDACTED] who reside at [REDACTED] and on the apartment listed at [REDACTED] which is the southwest corner of the intersection bordered by St. Charles and Barnett, stated at one time there had been a [REDACTED] residing in the right-hand apartment at [REDACTED]. They were described as hippie-types, and asked to leave because of the many hippies who were apparently spending the night there. [REDACTED] stated there was always a crowd, and there would be as many as ten motorbikes parked in front of the house at one time. She described [REDACTED] as young white male and young white female, who did not dress like hippies; however, had hippie-type friends. She stated [REDACTED] name was [REDACTED] and a [REDACTED] at [REDACTED] telephone [REDACTED] was apparently the mother of [REDACTED].

She stated [REDACTED] indicated she would pay the rent if [REDACTED] was unable to do so.

On May 29, 1968, records of the Atlanta Police Department reflected [REDACTED] was arrested on [REDACTED] released on [REDACTED], on bond, and sentenced in United States District Court, Atlanta, on [REDACTED].



AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

3

On May 31, 1968, [REDACTED] advised she has two sons, [REDACTED] who is in school, and [REDACTED]. She stated [REDACTED] full name is [REDACTED] and he is presently on probation for theft of motor vehicles, and his probation officer is [REDACTED] United States Probation Officer. She stated she had no idea of his whereabouts and knows that he moved recently from North Highland Avenue. She stated her parents are presently financing her rent, and she is unable to work at this time. She stated she has met [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who she described as a tall person, and also noted that her daughter-in-law [REDACTED] is pregnant. She stated [REDACTED] parents, who reside somewhere in Alabama, are presently paying the rent for her son and his wife. She stated if she obtains any information concerning his whereabouts, she will advise the FBI.

Records of the Atlanta Police Department reviewed on May 31, 1968, reflected [REDACTED] Atlanta Police Department number [REDACTED] FBI number [REDACTED] white male born [REDACTED] was indicted by Fulton County Grand Jury on [REDACTED] charged with robbery and rape. He is described as white male, 5 feet 11 inches, 177 pounds, black hair, hazel eyes, tattoo upper right arm of "LONIE", numerous cut scars.

On May 31, 1968, Lieutenant [REDACTED] Atlanta Police Department, Homicide Squad, advised [REDACTED] is presently on Federal probation, and his probation officer is [REDACTED]. Lieutenant [REDACTED] stated he was one of the detectives assigned to the robbery-rape case and to contact [REDACTED] for any additional information.

On June 4, 1968, United States Probation Officer [REDACTED] advised [REDACTED] is under supervision until July, 1971, and is on parole, not probation. He stated he is not in possession of a present address for [REDACTED] however, [REDACTED] is due to report that week and noted that he has always done so promptly. [REDACTED] stated he considers [REDACTED] mother a "nut" and stated that his grandmother, [REDACTED], telephone [REDACTED].



AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

4

apparently has some money and is financing [redacted] mother. He also stated a [redacted] telephone [redacted] resides at [redacted] [redacted] may have some information concerning [redacted] [redacted] reportedly stole her car and used it in some armed robberies in Dekalb County.

Inquiries in the area of the Catacombs May 29, 31, June 4, 5, and 6, 1968, have failed to find anyone who knew the whereabouts of [redacted] or [redacted]. Several persons recalled knowing [redacted] and [redacted] but were unable or declined to furnish any information as to their present whereabouts.



AT 44-2386

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] on May 10, 1968; and May 13, 1968:

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

LOUIS KLAUBER, 1145 Peachtree, NE, Georgia Laundrys and Cleaners Association, advised he has a list of approximately 700 cleaning establishments located throughout the state of Georgia, which contains the listing of all except plants that are not covered by employment compensation. He stated this list is very complete and he would be happy to make a copy of it available.

On May 13, 1968, LOUIS KLAUBER, Room 438, 1145 Peachtree Street, NE, made available listing at no cost.



AT 44-2388

RRP:mcc

1

The following investigation was conducted by  
[REDACTED]

AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA

On May 15, 1968, R. C. MATTHEWS, JR., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] advised he had been in New Orleans at the Provincial Motel, in December, for about 3 days, however, did not recall the exact dates. He stated he and his wife were there on a short vacation, and proceeded from New Orleans to Birmingham, for Christmas. He stated they talked to no one while at the motel, and he stated the photograph of the subject is not familiar. Mr. MATTHEWS stated he recalled work being done on the swimming pool at that time, and that he and his wife had stopped to watch this construction.



AT 44-2386

RRP:ces

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On May 29, 1968, N. R. HINES, [REDACTED] advised that he had been at the Provincial Motel at 1024 Chartres Street in New Orleans, December, 1967, for one night on business. He stated he was at the motel very little, arrived late after dinner, and just spent one night there. He recalled that the room he had faced the street, and he was unable to recall seeing anyone who resembled the subject. He stated he was not at the motel during the day.



AT-44-2386  
RRP:tlw

On May 20, 1968, DORA MC DONALD, Secretary to the late Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, made available to Mrs. WILLINGHAM of the Accounting Division of SCLC, two copies of a memorandum directed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflecting the itinerary of Doctor KING for April 15, 1967, to the time of his death. This information was obtained from airline billings and reservation records and may not indicate all of the late Doctor KING'S travels.

TO: FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FROM: SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

RE: TRAVEL ITINERARY FOR DR. KING

DATE: MAY 20, 1968

DATE

PLACE

April 15, 1967  
April 22-24

Hilton Inn - San Francisco, California  
New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center

May 6, 1967

Louisville, Kentucky

May 12  
May 14

Terrace Motor Inn - Appleton, Wisconsin  
New York

May 19

From Chicago to Detroit

May 20  
May 27

Summit - New York City  
New York City

May 29 thru June 3

Frogmore, South Carolina

June 5 and '6

New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center

June 12  
June 15

Seagill Restaurant -- Chicago  
Sheraton Cleveland Hotel

June 22  
June 24

New York City and Sheraton Cleveland, Cleveland  
Ted's Rhlvcho Restaurant -- Malibu, Calif.

June 25

Hyatt House Hotel -- Los Angeles, California

July 9, 1967

Cleveland and Chicago

July 13

Chicago and Cleveland

July 18--23

Chicago and Cleveland

July 23

New York Hilton

July 26

Sheraton Chicago - Chicago

July 29

Cleveland to Pittsburgh

July 28



July 28

Marrlott Twin Bridges - Washington, D.C.

August 4  
August 3

Boston, New York City and Louisville, Kentucky  
Laramie, Wyoming and New York

August 10  
August 13

Los Angeles  
Washington, D.C.

August 22 and 23  
August 28

Howard Johnson's -- Cleveland  
Chicago

August 11  
August 9

International Hotel - Los Angeles, California  
Los Angeles  
Sheraton Palace - San Francisco, California

Sept. 7 and 8

Howard Johnson - Cleveland  
Netherland Hilton, Cincinnati, Ohio

Sept. 8 and 9

Falmont Hotel and Tower - San Francisco, California  
Independence, Ohio

Sept. 22  
Sept. 24

October 2 --7  
October 20

Howard Johnson - Cleveland  
Washington Hilton, Washington, D.C.

Nov. 9

Cleveland

Nov. 12-14

London Hilton Park Lane, W1.  
Birmingham, Alabama - A.G. Gaston Motel

Nov. 3  
Nov. 26

Americana of New York

Dec.

Dec. 14 and 15

Savannah, Georgia to Atlanta  
New York Hilton, New York  
Miami, New York, and Chicago

Dec. 28--Jan 1, 1968

Jan 1, 1968

Chicago to Atlanta  
Atlanta, Chicago, Fort Wayne, Cleveland, New York and Atlanta

January 31 to Feb. 3

Feb. 2 and 3

New York Hilton, Rockefeller Center  
New York Hilton  
International Hotel, Jamaica, New York

Feb. 5

Feb. 10

Feb. 12

Feb. 14 and 16

Holiday Inn of Washington, D.C.  
Mississippi and Alabama Tour

Feb. 5,

Feb. 10 and 11

Dallas, Texas

March 10 and 11  
March 15  
March 17  
March 18  
March 19  
March 22

July 3

April

New York Hilton - Rockefeller Center  
Detroit  
Los Angeles  
Hotel Acapulco  
Alamo Plaza Hotel Courts -- Mississippi  
Washington, New York, Virginia and Georgia  
N. Randa, Ohio

Memphis



AT-44-2386  
RRP:ELW

By communication dated June 10, 1968, the Los Angeles Division advised that JAMES EARL RAY was apprehended in London, England and he had in his possession a .38 caliber Liberty Chief revolver, serial number 715, manufactured by Miroku Firearms Manufacturing Company in Japan. MILA SVOBCDA, owner, Liberty Arms Company and the Solinger Cutlery Company, Montrose, California advised that the above described revolver had been sent to R. TATUM, [REDACTED], Mableton, Georgia, on October 3, 1966, under invoice from Solinger Cutlery in Montrose, California. The revolver was the only item in the shipment.

AT MABLETON, GEORGIA.

On June 11, 1968, ROBERT TATUM, [REDACTED] Mableton, Georgia, advised Special Agent [REDACTED] he had purchased a .38 caliber revolver, serial number 715, a Japanese make from the Solinger Cutlery Company, Montrose, California for \$40, on October 11, 1966. On December 3, 1966, he sold the gun for \$50 to WALTER E. SPAIN, [REDACTED] Birmingham, Alabama. He obtained SPAIN'S name and address from a driver's license and described SPAIN as a white male, thirty to thirty-five years of age with brown hair. He stated SPAIN is not identical to subject RAY.

By communication dated July 2, 1968, the Bureau advised that RAYMOND CURTIS, Whitfield County Jail, had written two letters to Ebony Magazine who had referred these letters to the Bureau. These letters are as follows:

[REDACTED]  
"Georgia  
"June 22, 1968

"Mr. Charles L. Sanders

"Dear Mr. Sanders:

"I thank you for your answer to my letter. I think that details I give you in this letter will be of help to you.

"Well, Sir, I have written a story. No one but myself has read it but me. At this time I know that it will have to be re-written for I am not writing it as bad as it is.



AT-44-2386

RRP:mlw

"It all about the crime I did and about a crime I did in 1954 with James Earl Ray and about the 13 years of prison pal and everything we talk about. About thing and about James Earl Ray wanted the job of killing Martin Luther King, Jr. We talk of killing King for three years. And we talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK businessman association that was to put up the money to kill King. I also know the men from Mississippi.

"In that three years we made maps just had to find the right place to kill King. Well I have made the maps over myself. They are with the story also.

"And just where we would go after we killed King so yes when we talk about it I was to be in on it. But I was not. The story has it all in it. All the big thing and the little one also. And what Ray like and what he did not like. This story could get me killed. I know that. That is why. I won't send the story by mail. I know that this is getting to be a long letter. But when you read this if you want the story O.K. If not just let me know, O.K. That way I won't talk to men about it.

"Mr. Sanders there are men in five states that is behind the King killing and they don't know what I know. But James Earl Ray did not. Now that they have Ray Tenn. will trial him if they get him back.

"Well, they want me to testify. Well, I just don't know yet what I will do.

"You see, me and Ray were pal. I could tell what I have to the news. That not much. Or I could not say everything. And I did not tell the FBI. Well, this is not a book. I am just trying to tell you what you ask of me in your letter.

"If you have a man or have someone down this way, if you will have them stop by the jail I will let them read the story and you can go from there. O.K.



AT-44-2386  
RRP:mlw

"I thank you again.

"I will be looking to hear from you soon.

"Raymond Curtis

"I am still in the Dalton County, Jail."

[REDACTED]  
"Georgia  
"May 30, 1968

"Mr. John H. Johnson  
(evidentially connected with Ebony Magazine)

"Sir:

"I am Raymond Curtis, a man that said we talk about killing King. Will, Sir, there is things that have never been told. Thing he did and better. Things that would make a story so if you are interested and want the story then I will look to hear from you or someone you send if you are not interested and you know someone that is I would appreciate it if you would tell them about me and give my address. O.K. I am still at the Whitfield County Jail, Dalton, Georgia. My home address is at the top. Sir, I would appreciate if if you would let me hear from you.

"Thank you for your time.

"Raymond Curtis"



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date July 5, 1968

1

RAYMOND CURTIS was contacted at the Whitfield County Jail and advised of the identities of Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. He was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he read, indicated he understood, but refused to sign. He was advised that he was being interviewed concerning statements he made in a letter he had mailed to Mr. SANDERS of Ebony Magazine.

CURTIS stated he was merely trying to sell a story to Ebony for approximately \$5,000 to help his mother pay off a mortgage on her home. She had obtained this mortgage as a result of paying attorney's fees for the defense of CURTIS at a previous trial.

CURTIS stated that he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a burglary in Joliet, Illinois, in October or November, 1954. It was pointed out to CURTIS that certain statements made by him in his letter to Ebony Magazine could possibly involve him in a conspiracy with JAMES EARL RAY in connection with the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CURTIS then stated he wished to go on record as to the statements made in his letter to Mr. SANDERS. He categorically denied the following statements which were in his letter to Ebony Magazine:

- 1) That he and JAMES EARL RAY participated in a crime in 1954;
- 2) That RAY wanted the job of killing KING;
- 3) That he and RAY talked about killing KING for three years;
- 4) That he and RAY talked to the man from Mississippi that knew all about the KK Businessmen's Association which Association was to put up the money to kill KING;
- 5) That he knew the men from Mississippi;
- 6) That for three years he and RAY made maps just to find the right place to kill KING and that he made the maps over himself;
- 7) That he and RAY knew just where they would go after the killing of KING;
- 8) That he was to be in on the killing of KING;
- 9) That there are men in five states who are behind the killing of KING and these men do not know what he (CURTIS) knows.

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On 7/3/68 at Dalton, Georgia File # AT 44-2336

by [REDACTED] :jlh Date dictated 7/5/68



During this interview CURTIS drew two maps setting out how he thought RAY would stalk KING. This map indicated the following towns where he said KING made most of his speeches: Atlanta, Georgia; Little Rock, Arkansas; Birmingham, Mobile, and Selma, Alabama; Jackson, Vicksburg, and Marks, Mississippi.

CURTIS further advised that there was a man living on a houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, on the Mississippi River whose name he would not divulge who was to take RAY down the River on his boat to New Orleans after the killing. CURTIS further advised that in the past he had pulled several burglaries and armed robberies in towns along the Mississippi River and while police were looking for him on the highway he would be on a boat down the Mississippi. He added that he had written a story concerning the KING killing which was currently being typed and this was the story he mentioned in the letter to Ebony Magazine and which he intended to sell to Ebony.



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

On July 3, 1968, Sheriff G. T. Mauldin, Whitfield County, Georgia, advised that Curtis sent no letters or communications from the Whitfield County Jail which passed over the jailer's desk. He stated Curtis probably sent his mail out with visitors and jail trustees which would probably not have been observed by men of his department. Sheriff Mauldin stated that Curtis' attorney, Erwin Mitchell, former U. S. Congressman from the Seventh District of Georgia, is of the opinion that most of Curtis' comments concerning his knowledge of Ray's alleged assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. are pure fabrications on the part of Curtis or the result of something Curtis has read in the newspapers.

Approximately one hour following the conclusion of the interview with Curtis, he sent a note to Sheriff Mauldin requesting to again see an FBI Agent and stating that he wanted to tell the entire truth. Curtis was re-interviewed at the Whitfield County Jail.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

July 5, 1968

Date

RAYMOND CURTIS was furnished a rights and waiver of rights form which he refused to sign. He then stated in connection with the previous interview that apparently in his letter to Ebony Magazine, he used the word "we" indicating that he and JAMES EARL RAY had planned the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and he realized now this would involve him in a conspiracy. For that reason in the previous interview he denied the statements he had made in his letter to Ebony Magazine. CURTIS then advised he had written a story which he intended to sell to some magazine for the purpose of obtaining money for his mother. He stated the story was still in his possession and had not yet been sent out to be typed. He permitted [redacted] to read this 20-page handwritten story one page at a time and he declared this story was true. The first five or six pages of the story merely set out his early life in crime and the prison sentences he had served as a result of the crimes, starting at the age of 15. The remainder of the story is the same as he originally furnished in an interview in April, 1968, concerning his knowledge and association with JAMES EARL RAY. The story reflects that he first became associated with RAY in 1954 when they pulled a payroll robbery together in Quincy, Illinois, with a third individual. Shortly thereafter CURTIS lost contact with RAY when RAY and this third individual were apprehended in connection with a bank robbery at Southwest City, Missouri. After that CURTIS again became acquainted with RAY in prison and while in prison they both learned of the death of President JOHN F. KENNEDY. At this time RAY stated the murder of KENNEDY sounded like a big job and he was always on the inside of a prison when big jobs and big money were to be had.

Shortly after the death of JOHN F. KENNEDY, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. became prominent, and RAY stated on several occasions that somebody was going to kill KING. During this period an individual came into the Missouri State Penitentiary from Vicksburg, Mississippi. This individual upon learning of JAMES EARL RAY's feelings toward killing KING advised RAY of the KK Businessmen's Association of the South

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On 7/3/68

at Dalton, Georgia

File # AT 44-2386

by [redacted]

:jlh

Date dictated 7/5/68

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and stated that people in five states were putting up money for KING's assassination. The story further reflected that RAY informed this individual that he intended to have everything set when he killed KING. RAY followed KING's movements through maps so that he could later stalk KING to the point of assassination. RAY indicated during the time that he would leave a false gun and false trail immediately following the murder. RAY was supposed to go to Vicksburg, Mississippi, following the murder, contact the man from Vicksburg who had the houseboat, and this man was to take him either to New Orleans or Canada via the Mississippi River.

At the conclusion of the interview CURTIS stated he would not testify to any of the above information. He did advise that the name of the individual on the houseboat in Vicksburg, Mississippi, was [REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED] who served time in the Missouri State Penitentiary.

CURTIS refused to allow his story to be copied and stated he would not write it over again nor would he allow the pages to be removed from his prison cell. CURTIS then presented crude sketches of the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kansas, and the Missouri State Penitentiary.