

Doc. #29

U. S. NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE OFFICE  
CHARLESTON  
U. S. NAVAL BASE  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29408

NISRA-MEMP/EJF/db  
8 April 1968

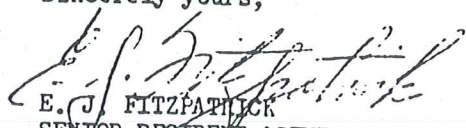
Mr. Robert G. JENSEN  
Special Agent-in-Charge  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Federal Office Building, Room 841  
Memphis, Tennessee

Re: Unknown Subject; Civil  
Disturbance-Murder

Dear Mr. Jensen:

For your information I am enclosing a communication to our  
Headquarters in Charleston, the substance of which was referred  
to your office on 6 April 1968.

Sincerely yours,



E. J. FITZPATRICK  
SENIOR RESIDENT AGENT  
NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE  
RESIDENT AGENCY  
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE

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COMMANDING OFFICER  
U. S. NAVAL INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE OFFICE  
CHARLESTON  
U. S. NAVAL BASE  
CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA 29408

NISRA-MEM/EJF/db  
8 April 1968

INVESTIGATIVE MEMORANDUM

From: Senior Resident Agent, Naval Investigative Service Resident  
-- Agency, Memphis, Tennessee  
To: Commanding Officer, Naval Investigative Service Office,  
Charleston, S. C.  
Subj: Civil Disturbance, Memphis, Tenn., Racial Matters - Naval  
Interest

1. On Friday, 5 April 1968 at 2030 hours, the undersigned was contacted at his residence by [REDACTED] Naval Air Technical Training Center, Memphis, Tennessee, who advised that one [REDACTED] had related to his Command, information possibly of interest in the pursuit of leads relative to the identity of the assassin of Reverend Martin Luther KING.
2. [REDACTED] stated that [REDACTED] had related a conversation with one [REDACTED] in which [REDACTED] mentioned previous contact with an un-identified cousin who is an ex-Marine and who had discussed the possibilities of [REDACTED] helping in a "job" involving a shooting locally.
3. [REDACTED] requested assistance in evaluation of the credibility of the information relative to its possible lead value and referral to appropriate investigative agencies.
4. On 5 April 1968, [REDACTED] advised in substance that [REDACTED] approached him at approximately 1830-1900 hours on 5 April and related the following information.
5. [REDACTED] stated to [REDACTED] that approximately one and one half weeks ago, shortly prior to the first civil disturbance curfew established in Memphis, he had carried on a conversation with one [REDACTED] reportedly stated that he has a cousin who is an ex-Marine who had offered him a "job" involving what appeared to be a "shooting". [REDACTED] reportedly stated to [REDACTED] that his [REDACTED] cousin was not specific about the nature of the job, but that it was worth some \$20,000 and involved shooting.

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The cousin was also reportedly obsessed with the subject of "professional assassination". [redacted] conversation with his cousin allegedly took place prior to the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther KING. On [redacted] reminding [redacted] of his previous comments, he [redacted] registered concern and stated that his cousin owned a rifle, and a white Ford Mustang fitting the description of the vehicle pursued following Reverend KING's murder.

6. Service Record Books of [redacted] and [redacted] made available by [redacted] reflect the following:

(A) NAME: [redacted]  
DATE: [redacted]  
SERVICE #: [redacted]  
DPOB: [redacted]  
SEX: [redacted]  
RACE: [redacted]  
HEIGHT: [redacted]  
WEIGHT: [redacted]  
HAIR: [redacted]  
COMPLEXION: [redacted]  
HOME OF RECORD: [redacted]  
FATHER: [redacted]  
MOTHER: [redacted]  
WIFE: [redacted]

(B) NAME: [redacted]  
DATE: [redacted]  
SERVICE #: [redacted]  
DPOB: [redacted]  
SEX: [redacted]  
RACE: [redacted]  
SOCIAL SECURITY #: [redacted]  
RESIDENCE: [redacted]  
MOTHER: [redacted]  
FATHER: [redacted]  
STEP-MOTHER: [redacted]  
STEP-FATHER: [redacted]

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WIFE: [REDACTED]

No additional information directly pertinent to this inquiry was noted in the records.

7. On 5 April 1968 at 2150 hours, [REDACTED] was interviewed jointly by E. J. FITZPATRICK and G. R. HOPKINS, Special Agents, Office of Naval Intelligence and related the following information.

8. On 18 March 1968, while talking with a fellow Marine student [REDACTED] mentioned that he had received a long distance telephone call from an unidentified distant cousin in Florida, saying that he had a "job" worth \$20,000 and the person for the job had to be a "good shot" with a gun. [REDACTED] stated he received the impression that "the job" would take just a few hours; that the "job" was to shoot someone; that [REDACTED] was asked if he was interested in involving himself in "the job". [REDACTED] reportedly withheld involving himself until discussing "the job" with his wife. The unidentified cousin was to pick up [REDACTED] in Memphis, Tenn., however, at 2200 hours on 18 March 1968, the cousin telephoned [REDACTED] long distance from Mississippi, because of needed aircraft repairs and the cousin told [REDACTED] that he could not pick up [REDACTED] until 0600 hours on Tuesday, 19 March 1968. [REDACTED] allegedly told his unidentified cousin that he could not make it as he had to be in school at the [REDACTED] Memphis, Tenn., the following day and forgot about it. [REDACTED] received the impression that [REDACTED] unidentified cousin was flying a rented aircraft and had a companion with him.

9. According to [REDACTED] said that his cousin is highly interested in "professional assassinations" and has mentioned how easy it is to journey to another country, assassinate a political leader and escape prosecution by returning to the United States. [REDACTED] has told [REDACTED] that he has been receiving \$100.00 checks from the unidentified cousin and on Tuesday, 2 April 1968, [REDACTED] showed [REDACTED] a green, hand written personal check allegedly from his unidentified cousin. [REDACTED] however, saw none of the entries to the check. According to [REDACTED] said he was told by his cousin, "If he ever saw KING he was going to shoot the bastard".

10. On Friday, 5 April 1968, subsequent to Martin Luther KING being assassinated in Memphis, Tenn., [REDACTED] said to [REDACTED], "Looks like

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your cousin got to him" or "got to KING", at which time [redacted] laughed, hesitated, thought, and said, "wait a minute, my cousin has a 30-06 rifle and a white Ford Mustang like that", after pointing out a white Ford Mustang aboard the Naval Air Station, Memphis, Tenn. [redacted] according to [redacted] stated his cousin has a Mustang just like the one he pointed out.

11. [redacted] cousin is allegedly an ex-Marine and according to [redacted] doesn't like the cousin, stating "he is rotten". [redacted] apparently felt relieved after the cousin couldn't make it to Memphis, Tenn., on 18 March 1968, even though, according to [redacted] is in financial distress. According to [redacted] cousin is "well off financially", he seldom sees his cousin, and the unidentified distant cousin reportedly travels extensively.

12. On completion of interview, [redacted] was administered an oath in accordance with SECNAV INST. 55201 of 4 June 1959 and verbally attested to the truthfulness of his comments. He declared that he would be willing to appear for testimony at any subsequent legal proceedings.

13. At 0015 hours, 6 April 1968, Special Agent Ralph J. LIENER, FBI, Memphis, Tenn., was apprised of the information and advised that the information would be evaluated relative to further pursuit by the FBI.

14. On Saturday, 6 April 1968, Special Agent "Cy" BUSH, FBI, advised the undersigned that the FBI would undertake further interview of [redacted] relative to the above matter. In view of the foregoing no additional action or referral is anticipated by this office.

15. The FBI Memphis is being provided a copy of this memorandum at a local level.

  
E. J. FITZPATRICK