

FBI  
Date: 8/4/76

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(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-106670)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-4685) (AUC)

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.  
CR

Re Atlanta nitel to FBIHQ and Birmingham, 8/3/76.

Enclosed for FBIHQ are five copies of an LHM plus one Xerox copy of 29 pages of material furnished by the Atlanta Police Department to the Atlanta FBI in April, 1968.

As pointed out in referenced Atlanta nitel, on the morning of 8/2/76, five members of the Task Force of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), Department of Justice, arrived in the Atlanta FBI Office to review Atlanta's file on the MURKIN investigation. All the volumes of this file, namely Atlanta 44-2386, were made available to the Task Force members for their review. During this review, Task Force member JAMES WALKER, on 8/3/76, requested a Xerox copy of two serials in this file, namely 44-2386-1214 and 1215, which consisted of 29 pages of material furnished to the Atlanta FBI Office in April, 1968, relative to people who in the past had threatened the life of MARTIN LUTHER KING. A Xerox copy of this material was furnished to Mr. WALKER. Atlanta is enclosing one copy of this material for FBIHQ with this airtel.

In addition, as shown in referenced Atlanta airtel 8/16/76 the Task Force members also interviewed SA O. RICHARD HAMILTON on 8/3/76, as he was the case agent in the MURKIN

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Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

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AT 44-4685.

case back in 1968. The results of this interview are set forth in the enclosed LHM.

The Task Force made no other requests and they departed the Atlanta FBI Office for Birmingham on the early afternoon of 8/3/76.



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Atlanta, Georgia  
August 3, 1976

ASSASSINATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.

On August 3, 1976, Special Agent O. Richard Hamilton was interviewed in the Atlanta, Georgia, Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) by four attorneys from the U.S. Department of Justice. SA Hamilton was interviewed regarding the above-captioned matter inasmuch as the case had been assigned to him at one time.

The attorneys asked Hamilton at what point in the investigation the case was assigned to him. Hamilton advised he did not recall the date the case was assigned to him; however, it was after James Earl Ray had been identified and apprehended. They inquired of Hamilton as to how he could insure that all appropriate leads were covered and investigated regarding the assassination of King. Hamilton explained to the attorneys that this investigation was handled as a "Special" in Atlanta, that separate indices were maintained containing the names of all pertinent individuals and organizations which came to the attention of the Atlanta Office in connection with that investigation. He explained the use of lead cards which were maintained in duplicate, that a master lead card was retained with a copy attached to a particular serial containing a specific lead and this was assigned to a Special Agent to cover the lead set out in the serial. He advised the coverage of that lead by the agent to whom it was assigned was reflected through a written memorandum or other appropriate communication with reference made therein to the serial containing the lead. Hamilton advised the agent covering the lead then indicated the

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

lead had been covered on his copy of the lead card. Hamilton explained that various agents were responsible for conducting neighborhood investigations, contacting or maintaining liaison with local police, and to conducting other pertinent phases of the investigation. He explained the captioned case was the priority investigation in the Atlanta Office at that time and that almost every agent was assigned to working on some phase of the investigation.

The attorneys inquired as to how the FBI developed information that Ray, then known as Eric Starvo Galt, was residing in a rooming house on 14th Street. Hamilton noted that this investigation occurred more than eight years ago, that he has not since reviewed the file and although he was not exactly sure, according to his best recollection the investigation reflected an individual in the apartment area where Ray parked a Mustang automobile saw Ray park it and get in a taxicab. According to Hamilton's best recollection, the ensuing investigation by the FBI through taxicab companies reflected Ray was taken to the 14th Street address. Hamilton assured them this may not be the way it occurred but these were the facts as he recalled them. One of the attorneys indicated that information is not reflected in the file.

The attorneys asked Hamilton what the FBI did with the Mustang which was used by Ray. Hamilton advised them the FBI in Atlanta turned the Mustang over to Memphis, Tennessee, Police officers, who returned it to Memphis. The attorneys asked whether the Memphis Police drove it back or took it in a van, to which Hamilton replied they drove it to Memphis. The attorneys raised a question that since it was not used in the trial of Ray, why the car was turned over to the Memphis Police. Hamilton replied that Ray was tried by the State of Tennessee, and that they requested the Mustang be released to them in the event it should be used as evidence, and this was done.

The attorneys asked Hamilton if it ever became a problem in his mind or a question to the FBI as to how Ray lived from day to day since he was an escaped prisoner.

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Hamilton advised he did not know how Ray lived or his source of income; however, pointed out that Ray has an extensive arrest and conviction record for robbery, burglary, and other crimes and that many fugitives finance their living through armed robberies and burglaries. One of the attorneys asked if Ray committed numerous robberies, would he not get caught, and then the attorney asked what the solution rate usually is regarding the offense of robbery. Hamilton advised him he understands the Atlanta Police Department has about a 50 percent solution rate on robberies and a lesser percent on burglaries and that this was probably about in line with the solution rate for these crimes in most cities. Hamilton also pointed out that Ray had resided in various other areas of the country while in his escaped status and that he was not personally aware of investigation conducted by other field offices regarding Ray's source of income.

In response to Hamilton's inquiry of them as to what they felt would be Ray's source of income, they replied that it was possible that Ray had been paid by someone to kill King in which case there would be a conspiracy, which would present a problem for the FBI. Hamilton advised them that investigation by the FBI in Atlanta was always alert for evidence of a conspiracy, that no such evidence was developed during the investigation in Atlanta, and that if such evidence had been developed, it would have been thoroughly investigated.

The interview was concluded at that point. The interview lasted from approximately 12:00 noon to approximately 12:20 PM on August 3, 1976.