

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

FROM : *SJP* Stephen J. Pollak
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray, Subject;
Martin Luther King, Jr., Victim
Conspiracy
CIVIL RIGHTS

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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: June 10, 1968

SJP:ash

Handwritten signatures and initials

In order to secure extradition of James Earl Ray from Great Britain, affidavits must be presented to the British Court which establish probable cause that Ray committed the crime for which extradition is sought (the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King).

I attach, herewith, draft affidavits prepared for execution by the following seven individuals:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Ralph Meredith Carpenter | Guy Warren Canipe |
| Charles Quitman Stephens | John Webster deShazo |
| George J. Bonebrake | Robert A. Frazier |
| Donald F. Wood | |

The affidavits were prepared from the reports in this case submitted by your Bureau.

We intend to have these affidavits executed for submission as part of the case for extradition.

Before execution, each of the affidavits will be reviewed and approved by the Attorney General of Shelby County, Tennessee, Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., who is responsible for prosecution of the State's case.

REC 83

44-37761-4505

25 JUN 18 1968

ENCLOSURE

COPIES DATE 5-18-78 BY MURKIN
FOR DELIVERY TO HSCA... DATED 5-16-78
(SEE BUFILE 62-117250)

70 JUN 25 1968

I would appreciate receiving any comments or suggestions you may have with respect to the attached affidavits.

John Rosenberg of this Division is in Memphis, Tennessee, and will be responsible there for securing execution of the affidavits of persons present in that City. Frank Allen of this Division, is in Birmingham, Alabama, and will be responsible there for securing execution of the affidavits of persons present in that City. Mr. Rosenberg and Mr. Allen will be in touch with your field offices in connection with this matter.

Attachments

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF MEMPHIS) ss:

I, Charles Outman Stephens, being duly sworn,
depose and say:

1. I am 46 years of age and reside with my wife at 422 1/2 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee. We occupy two rooms, a living-bedroom and a kitchen, in the north wing of the second floor of a rooming house at that address and were living there on April 4, 1968. Our apartment is number 6-B. The floor plan attached hereto and marked Exhibit I shows the relationship of the various rooms on my floor.

2. Mrs. Bessie Erator is the resident manager of the rooming house. Around mid-afternoon on April 4, 1968, I saw her and a man standing in the hallway at the entrance to room 5-B, which is located immediately west of my living-bedroom. The man was a stranger to me and I assumed he was a new guest looking at a room. I got a good look at the man from his left side.

3. Attached and identified as Exhibit II is FBI Wanted Flyer 442-A. The photograph on the left, which is a profile view, is one which I identified on April 24, 1968 as looking very much like the man I saw looking at room 5-B on the afternoon of April 4, 1968. I have re-examined the photograph today and reaffirm that identification.

4. My wife and I spent the rest of the afternoon in our apartment. I am a disabled war veteran who has been treated for tuberculosis and spend most of my time in my bedroom. My wife is also ill and was at that time a bed patient.

5. After seeing the strange man with Mrs. Brewer, I heard someone in room 5-B and assumed the man I had seen had rented the room next door. On several occasions on that afternoon I heard footsteps in room 5-B and also heard footsteps leaving room 5-B and going past my room and into the common bathroom at the east end of the hall. I was very much aware that when the person went from room 5-B to the bathroom, he remained in the bathroom for a considerable period of time. This was particularly noticeable because this is a common bathroom which must be used by a number of different tenants. I also recall specifically that on only one occasion did I hear the commode being flushed and I was therefore curious as to why this person was spending so much time in the bathroom.

6. During this period, Mr. Willis Anschutz, who occupies room 4-B, immediately west of room 5-B where the new tenant apparently was located, knocked on my door and inquired angrily as to who was staying in the bathroom so long.

7. At the end of the afternoon, sometime between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. I was in the kitchen of our apartment, which is immediately adjacent to the common bathroom. At that time I heard a sound which I am certain was a shot. I am certain it came from the bathroom, from a point within just a few feet of where I was sitting.

8. Immediately after hearing the shot, I heard some people looted across the street, east of my building in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel, screaming. After a few moments, I walked out of my kitchen, through the living-bedroom, and opened the door leading to the hallway. I saw a man running west down the hallway, away from me. This man was carrying a large bundle of some kind. I estimate that this bundle or package was at least 3 or 4 feet long and 6 to 8 inches thick. Although I saw the man and the bundle only momentarily, I had the impression that the bundle was wrapped in something, possibly a newspaper. The man continued running to the end of the hallway, then turned left (south) and apparently thereafter ran down the stairway and on to the street, although I did not actually see him going down the stairway.

9. Although I did not see the face of the man running down the hall, since his back was toward me, from my observation of him I believe he was the same man I had earlier seen with Mrs. Brewer in front of room 5-B.

CHARLES QUITMAN STEPHENS

Subscribed and sworn to before
me this _____ day of June, 1968.

EXHIBIT

STATE OF TENNESSEE)
COUNTY OF SHELBY) ss:

I, RALPH WERTHLE CARPENTER, being duly sworn, depose and say:

1. On April 4, 1968, I was employed as a salesman at the York Arms Company, located at 162 South Main Street, Memphis, Tennessee.

2. At approximately 4:00p.m. on the afternoon of April 4, 1968, a man entered the store and stated that he wished to purchase some binoculars. I obtained for him a pair of 7 by 35 Bushnell binoculars from the display window in the front of the store. The total cost of the binoculars, together with a leather or similar type carrying case, was \$41.50.

3. The store does not record or maintain serial numbers for these binoculars, and I do not know what, if any, serial number was on these binoculars.

4. On April 16, 1968, I was visited by two agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who exhibited to me the photographs of five men. After studying the photographs carefully, I placed my name on the back of the photograph which I felt most resembled the man who bought the set of binoculars from me on April 4, 1968. I was not furnished any names or any descriptive data regarding the photographs shown. Attached as Exhibit I is a photograph which is identical to the one I identified on April 16, 1968.

5. I have re-examined this photograph and reaffirm
today my identification of it.

RALPH MEREDITH CARPENTER

Sworn to before me
this _____ day of
June, 1900.

NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission expires:

A F F I D A V I T

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA) ss:

GEORGE J. BOHBAKE, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am 46 years old and I live at 12114 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

2. I am a Fingerprint Examiner in the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. I have held this position since October 1941. I have attended schools and other training classes conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation to qualify me for my position. During the time I have been a Fingerprint Examiner, I have made millions of fingerprint comparisons for identification purposes. I have testified as a fingerprint expert witness in numerous cases in federal and state courts as well as in military courts-martial with regard to my findings based on comparisons of fingerprints.

3. On April 5, 1968, at approximately 5:15 a.m., at the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, I received certain objects of evidence from Special Agent Robert Fitzpatrick. These objects were identified to me as being part of the investigation into the shooting of Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tennessee, on the previous day. Among the items delivered to me were a Remington Model 760 rifle, serial number 401470, with Redfield telescopic sight number A 17350, and a pair of 7 by 35 Bushnell binoculars, serial number DQ 408664. I examined each of these objects for latent fingerprints, and subsequently on April 5, 1968,

I developed one latent fingerprint on the rifle, one latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight, and one latent fingerprint on the binoculars. These were the only latent prints on these objects which contained sufficient ridge characteristic detail to be of value for identification purposes.

4. On April 13, 1960, I identified each of the afore-mentioned three latent prints as being the fingerprints of James Earl Ray. I made this determination by comparing the latent prints with a fingerprint card containing the known fingerprints of James Earl Ray, which were obtained by officials of the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles, California, on October 11, 1959. The fingerprint card made by the Los Angeles Police Department is contained in the official fingerprint files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington, D.C. I determined that the latent fingerprint on the Remington rifle and the latent fingerprint on the binoculars were identical to the left thumbprint of James Earl Ray, and that the latent fingerprint on the telescopic sight was identical to the right ring-fingerprint of James Earl Ray.

5. The official fingerprint files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Washington also contain the fingerprint record of James Earl Ray, taken in connection with his incarceration in the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960, following a conviction of first degree robbery. I have compared the fingerprints of James Earl Ray taken in connection with his arrest on October 11, 1959, by the Los Angeles Police Department with the fingerprints taken in connection with the incarceration of James Earl Ray in the Missouri State Penitentiary on March 17, 1960, and I have determined that these prints are of the same person.

6. Attached as Exhibit I is a photographic copy of the known prints of James Earl Ray, taken in connection with his arrest on October 11, 1967, by the Los Angeles, California Police Department. Attached as Exhibits II, III and IV are three photographs, each depicting one of the afore-mentioned three latent fingerprints developed by me respectively on the rifle, the telescopic sight, and the binoculars.

ERNEST J. BOWEN

Sworn to before me
this _____ day of
JUNE, 1968.

ROYAL PERRY

My Commission expires: