

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS

DATE: 4/8/68

FROM : SA VERNE D. GAUBY

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

Pursuant to a telephone call to the Memphis Office from [redacted] Tenn., on the afternoon of 4/6/68, he was contacted by the writer and SA ROBERT F. BRUNNER at Smyrna on 4/6/68. It is noted that he appeared slightly intoxicated at the time.

He advised that he had information as to the possible ~~name~~ identity of the UNSUB in this case and that, if the FBI would pay him \$100,000, he would make the information available. He further advised that he would have to have protection for himself and his family as he would be jeopardizing himself with the Ku Klux Klan by furnishing the information. He was informed that the FBI did not make a practice of offering rewards but that he could possibly be compensated, depending upon the value of the information which he furnished. He requested that he be given a written guarantee for a certain amount of money before furnishing any information. He was informed that this would not be done. After further discussion he agreed to furnish information without any promises or guarantees of reward but stated, "You know my reputation", and that if he didn't receive some money should his information prove of value, he would "get even". He declined to elaborate on what he meant by this remark.

After requesting that, under no circumstances, should his identity be disclosed, [redacted] furnished the following information:

Approximately 4½ years ago, while a member of the Ku Klux Klan, he became associated with WILLIAM ROSE, a Klansman from Greenville, Miss. ROSE, white, male, age 27 - 30, 5'11" - 6'0", 165-170 lbs., with "strawberry" blond hair, worked as a machinist in Greenville. On several occasions ROSE mentioned that he would like to kill Dr. KING and on one occasion during 1964 mentioned going to Jacksonville, Fla., where KING was at the time, to shoot him. However, ROSE didn't have the appropriate weapon at the time and couldn't do it.

He advised that, on 4/5/68, he had seen a drawing of the UNSUB in a newspaper, and, when he saw the drawing, he recognized it as strongly resembling ROSE. During his acquaintance with ROSE, ROSE had also been associated with a Klansman from Greenville named [redacted]

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TR

vdg (2) I have sent this
to Jackson

Kearney [Signature]

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WILLAND. He could not recall WILLAND's first name and could not recall whether he had ever actually seen WILLAND but he did recall the name.

He advised that he had no information that ROSE had actually done the shooting other than that ROSE resembles the drawing he saw and that he believed ROSE capable of committing the shooting.

It is noted that [REDACTED] is a former member of the Ku Klux Klan and was a subject of ME File [REDACTED] which involved a bombing in Jacksonville, Fla. [REDACTED], along with several other subjects, [REDACTED] was tried in USDC, Jacksonville, in 1964 and acquitted. Since that time he has appeared before the U.S. Senate Committee investigating Klan activity. In addition, he has been considered a local suspect in connection with several shootings and bombings in the Smyrna, Tenn. area which occurred during labor disputes involving Teamsters Union Local 327, Nashville, Tenn. [REDACTED] During about 1965 or 66 he was in contact with the Indianapolis Division [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In contacts with [REDACTED] in the past by the Memphis Division he has proved uncooperative and indicated that he felt the FBI was harrassing him.

At the conclusion of the interview [REDACTED] reiterated that he would not testify regarding ROSE and that he did not wish his identity to be revealed.

The above information was furnished telephonically to SA JOSEPH C. HESTER on 4/8/68.