

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : SAC (44-1987)

DATE: 4/13/68

FROM : SA GERARD J. WOLTEMATE

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
CR

*Get photo  
of the guy  
for elimination*  
RV

On 4/10/68 SA GERARD J. WOLTEMATE, Nashville RA, received a telephone call at the RA at approximately 8:15 a.m. from an individual who identified himself as BILL WHITLEN, 4816 Murrell Lane, Nashville. Mr. WHITLEN stated that he wanted to furnish information concerning a murder that occurred this past week at Memphis, Tenn., and requested than an Agent meet him to talk this matter over at the Farmers Market off James Robertson Parkway in Nashville.

On the same date SA WOLTEMATE and SA STANLEY G. WOZNAK met Mr. WHITLEN at the Farmers Market, Nashville, at which time Mr. WHITLEN furnished the following information concerning captioned matter.

Mr. WHITLEN stated that he is in the soap manufacturing business and as such makes frequent trips to various veterinarian clinics throughout the Nashville - Davidson County Metropolitan vicinity. He stated that he frequently delivers soap to the Franklin Road Veterinarian Clinic, and as a result of the frequent deliveries made to this clinic has become quite friendly with the secretary, Mrs. SYLVIA LONG, who is the secretary and receptionist at the Franklin Road Veterinarian clinic. He stated that on Sunday night, 4/7/68, he received a phone call from Mrs. LONG at his residence requesting that he stop by her house inasmuch as she had an urgent matter which she wanted to discuss with him. Mr. WHITLEN stated that Mrs. LONG sounded quite upset on the phone, and that same evening he went to her residence which is located at 328 Delvin Drive, Nashville.

Mr. WHITLEN stated that after arriving at Mrs LONG's residence on Sunday evening Mrs. LONG furnished the following information to him:

GJW/acp  
(2) *[Signature]*

*[Handwritten initials]*

*[Handwritten circled '2']*

44-1987-Sub E-30

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
APR 13 1968	
FBI - MEMPHIS	
<i>[Handwritten signature]</i>	



Mrs. LONG stated that on Thursday night, April 4, 1968, her husband, JERRY LONG, paid her a visit at about 10:30 p.m. She stated that her husband informed her that he was the one responsible for shooting and killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING earlier that same evening in Memphis, Tennessee. Mr. WHITLEN stated that when Mrs. LONG furnished him this information he at first thought Mr. LONG probably was just bragging, but when advised by Mrs. LONG that she thought her husband capable of such an act, he became quite concerned over this matter. He stated that he thought this matter should be brought to the attention of the FBI in the event there is any validity to the statement made by Mrs. LONG's husband. He further stated that although he furnished this information voluntarily, he would prefer this information be kept in strict confidence.

On 4/10/68 Mrs. SYLVIA LONG was interviewed by the above Agents at her place of employment, the Franklin Road Veterinarian Clinic, and she furnished the following information:

Mrs. LONG stated that on Thursday evening, 4/4/68, she received a telephone call from her husband at about 9:00 or 9:30 pm, at which time he advised her that as a result of the shooting and killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING earlier that same evening, the school that he normally attends on Tuesday and Thursday nights was dismissed early and he stated that he was going to stop by to see her. Mrs. LONG advised that actually she had just received a divorce from her husband about six days ago although she continued to date her husband during the divorce proceedings. She stated that when her husband arrived at her residence approximately 10:30 or 11:00 p.m. that same evening, she asked him to give her the key to the house inasmuch as she did not feel they should continue seeing each other. She stated that they discussed some personal matters and then her husband told her that he needed her help. She stated that her husband then informed her that he was the individual responsible for shooting and killing Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING earlier in Memphis this same evening. She stated that she asked her husband who hired him to do this and he answered her that some high ranking police officers were also involved in the shooting.

Mrs. LONG stated that she was not sure whether or not her husband made this statement in order to get her to pay more attention to him and act on her emotional feelings or if he actually was responsible for this shooting. Mrs. LONG advised that her husband, in her opinion, is in need of psychiatric treatment and further stated that her husband when he was about 17 years of age was involved in an automobile accident in which he received some brain damage. She stated that her husband has strong anti-Negro feelings, is proficient in the use of firearms, and is the type of individual who could do something like this and return to work the following day without ever giving this matter a second thought. She stated that her husband has been married on two prior occasions and has an arrest record with the Nashville Police Department, having been charged with rape about 7 or 8 years ago. Mrs. LONG furnished the following physical description of her husband:

Name:	JERRY BATES LONG
Age:	25
Height:	6 feet
Build:	Slender
Weight:	165 - 175 pounds
Face:	Thin with long nose
Eyes:	Blue - gray
Hair:	Sandy, thin on top, crewcut but combed straight back on sides.

Mrs. LONG advised that her husband is employed with the AAA Electric Company in Nashville, Tennessee, and further stated that on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the evening he attends an electrical school in Nashville, but advised she did not know the name of this school. She stated that normally her husband calls her at about 10:00 or 10:30 at night after this school is completed, but stated that on Thursday night, 4/4/68, he called her between 9:00 and 9:30 p.m. and she thought this was a little unusual. She further stated that when her husband came over to her residence as mentioned above on Thursday evening he requested a cup of coffee which she stated is quite unusual for her husband inasmuch as he never drinks coffee. She stated that her husband told her that he had just taken a sleeping pill and wanted a cup of coffee because he did not want to go to sleep.

On the same date, Mr. P. SIMS, President, AAA Electric Company, Nashville, Tenn., made available the employment records of one JERRY BATES LONG, and a review of these records reflects that LONG worked until 4:00 p.m. on Thursday afternoon, 4/4/68. Mr. SIMS further stated that he recalls from personal knowledge that SIMS did work until 4:00 p.m. on this particular date inasmuch as SIMS normally is finished work at about 1:00 p.m., but stated that he worked two or three hours overtime on Thursday, 4/4/68. Mr. SIMS further stated that on Tuesday and Thursday evenings LONG attends an electrical course at the Hume-Fogg High School night school. He stated that he knows for a fact that LONG attended class on this particular Thursday evening inasmuch as he was mainly responsible for getting LONG admitted to this school and further stated that if LONG had missed a class he would have automatically been dismissed from the school. Mr. SIMS further stated that he considered LONG to be an excellent employee, one who is trustworthy, and very competent. He stated that he knows LONG has some personal problems concerning his wife, but advised that he has never talked to LONG about this matter inasmuch as he has felt this is a matter which is none of his business unless this personal problem were to effect LONG's employment.

On the same date a review of attendance records at the Hume-Fogg High School, evening classes, reflects that JERRY BATES LONG was present at classes on Thursday evening, 4/4/68, from 6:00 p.m. to approximately 9:00 p.m. at which time class was dismissed about a half hour ahead of schedule due to the shooting and killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING earlier that same evening.

In view of the above information which verifies JERRY BATES LONG's presence in Nashville, Tenn. at the approximate time KING was shot and killed in Memphis, it is not felt that any further investigation in this matter should be conducted.