

FBI

Date: 5/13/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority)

TO: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)  
FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (44-1574)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Reyourairtel 5/3/68.

On 5/8/68, JAMES H. TOWNSEND, 808 North Pine Street, Anaheim, California, and his brother, RUSSELL (NMN) TOWNSEND, 535 South West Street, Anaheim, California, were contacted at their place of employment, 1110 South Pomona Avenue, Fullerton, California. On that date, both TOWNSENDS admitted receiving phone calls from HAROLD EDWARD NICHOLS on 3/29/68.

JAMES TOWNSEND advised that he recalls receiving his phone call from NICHOLS some time during the afternoon on 3/29/68. TOWNSEND stated that NICHOLS was calling in connection with a trip TOWNSEND was making to the California Republican Assembly Convention, which was being held in Berkeley, California on 3/29/68. TOWNSEND stated that he departed Orange County Airport on 3/29/68 and was picked up at the Oakland Airport by NICHOLS and taken to the hotel in Berkeley, California.

JAMES TOWNSEND advised that he himself made three calls to NICHOLS on 3/29/68 in connection with his arrival time in Oakland. He stated he recalls leaving the Disneyland Hotel at 7:05 p.m. on 3/29/68 and arriving in Oakland later that same night.

RUSSELL TOWNSEND advised that he has known NICHOLS for better than six years and has worked with him on numerous

- 2 - San Francisco
- 2 - Los Angeles

CC/gja  
(4)

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

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

173-65-806

occasions. He stated he cannot conceive of anyone even thinking that NICHOLS would have anything to do with the murder of Dr. KING. TOWNSEND stated that he has discussed the FBI interview of NICHOLS with NICHOLS in connection with the murder of KING; and both he and his brother JAMES TOWNSEND could not understand how anyone would think of connecting NICHOLS with Dr. KING. RUSSELL TOWNSEND stated he recalls getting a phone call from NICHOLS on the morning of 3/29/68 but could not recall the exact content of this call except to state that NICHOLS was trying to reach his brother JAMES TOWNSEND.

No further investigation being conducted Los Angeles in connection with NICHOLS or TOWNSEND at this time.

AGENTS IN INTERVIEWS SHOULD EXERCISE DISCRESSION AND CAUTION TO PREVENT ANY FALSE ALLEGATIONS THAT THE FBI IS CONDUCTING INVESTIGATION CONCERNING ACTIVITIES OF THE AIP.