

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/17/68

AL THATCHER, 39 Briarcliff Road, Mountain Lakes, New Jersey, furnished the following information:

At approximately 8 p.m. on Wednesday, April 3, 1968, THATCHER was at the Municipal Airport in Detroit, Michigan, awaiting his home bound flight when he chanced to meet FRANCIS ERDMAN, a college classmate. Since both had time to wait before their respective flights, THATCHER and ERDMAN went to the airport bar where they sat at a table near the entrance doorway to the bar. Immediately after entering the bar, THATCHER's attention was drawn to a young man in military uniform who was seated at the far end of the bar. Although THATCHER could not overhear any of the conversation between the young man and bartender, it was obvious that the young man was engaged in excited conversation with the bartender because of the manner in which he was gesticulating.

As the young man prepared to leave the bar, approximately 20 minutes after THATCHER and his friend had entered the bar, the young man stopped at the THATCHER table and spoke with THATCHER and his friend for approximately two minutes. The gist of the this conversation by the young man according to THATCHER's recollection, was that he was enroute to Memphis, Tennessee, and that he was going to "- - get even" with Reverend KING because three Negro men had raped his redheaded girl friend. Although the young man did not seem to have a southern accent, THATCHER was left with the impression that Memphis was the home of the young man and that he was just returning from Vietnam.

According to THATCHER's recollection, the young man was a white male, in his mid twenties, 5'10" to 6' tall, approximately 180 pounds with sandy hair cut short, possibly crew cut, wearing a khaki uniform, either U.S. Army or Marine with chevrons indicating his rate to be that of corporal or sergeant. THATCHER stated that he was not positive but believed that the young man may have had a scar under his right eye.

ME 44-1987 SUBM 1020

On 4/7/68 at Mountain Lakes, New Jersey File # Newark 44-854-259
by SA ANDREW R. BABYAK / rmc Date dictated 4/11/68

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.