

Abstract

King assassination records appeals

Harold Weisberg 5/26/80

Abstracts

(7)(D) claims

Withholding reasonably segregable information and public domain

The entire abstract for Serial # 5819 is withheld under 7D claim. The record is a 9/8/69 Director to Memphis airtel of 3pp, of which 2 only were released, with no claim to exemption made for the withheld page.

Normally the abstract paraphrases the beginning of the record. In this case the first two pages were disclosed, and for there to be any basis for the claim to withhold the entire abstract it would have to be to withhold the content of the third page, which is quite unlikely. (The third page is an enclosure in any event.)

The subject matter was delicate for the FBI, contemporaneously and in this case. RCMP consulted the FBI about a coming magazine article crediting two men of the RCMP for the work they did on the Ray case, giving them credit where the FBI had already hogged credit, a matter on which I was confirmed by former Assistant Director Sullivan's book, of which I sent you a copy of that portion. The FBI displays the RCMP here, "Since the RCMP was involved in the fugitive aspects" only, for all the world as though the FBI had anything other than a fugitive case in which the most important work was done by the RCMP.

In addition, the RCMP's disclosure of the names of its men undermines the FBI's claimed need to withhold such names in this case.

The entire abstract for 5457 is withheld. The record is a 3-page Director airtel of 12/17/68 to Memphis, second page withheld, 7D claim. The second page contains RCMP information that is within the public domain, what was first reported in Look magazine. (Most of the FBI's information about what Ray did before and after the crime came from this writing, and this got it from Ray.)

All of the abstract for Serial 6010 is withheld, and as with all total withholdings of abstracts, there is reasonably segregable information, at the least the identification of the record. There is a clear pattern of withholding abstracts to shelter improper withholdings in the underlying records.

Another example is the withholding of the abstracts for Serials 5951, 5962, 5963, 5964 and 5965. All these relate to information obtained by Shirley Gaines and provided to the FBI by David Gaines, her husband, information they also gave to me, as I informed the FBI, you and the Court, without any dispute. The FBI did not like the information because it suggested an entirely different solution to the crime. The FBI did not conduct any investigation of the information, from the MURKIN file as provided. Instead it tried to undermine the Gaines' story and failing that, appears just to have dropped the entire matter. (You have not acted on my appeal.) The information leads to a notorious man who served the Department in a notorious case. It also happens to coincide with what was obtained from Ray separately and is disclosed.

Similarly, # 7C and D are claimed to withhold a disclosed name in the abstract for Serial 6009. It is Wolant, as I recall, another ~~appeal~~ appeal on which you have not acted. Still another on which you have not acted is the withholding of the public domain are ~~in~~ ^{and 6054,} the abstracts for 6034, which pertains to the brothers Claude and Leon Powell. The withholdings in the underlying records are ridiculous. Other pertinent numbers are 6006 and 6006-9. Even Chevrolet Lapala is withheld in 6006, although disclosed elsewhere.

Serials 5429 and 5437K pertain to Mrs. Claire Hastings and other public domain information relating to Ray in Canada, again an ignored appeal. As I informed you, the Hastings name was disclosed, as in 5423 and its abstract. Two RCMP names are withheld despite the fact that the RCMP disclosed them. (See also 5019, above.) and although the entire abstract for Serial 5437K is withheld (7D), the underlying report that is disclosed is a Canadian newspaper story reporting the non-secret information and disclosing that parts of the RCMP investigation were provided to the Canadian press, which printed some in facsimile.

Rather than withholding the entire abstract for 5510 the FBI withheld the content only under claim to (c)(1). In the underlying record additional claims are to (b)(2) and (7)(C) and (D). This is still another appeal on which you have not acted, pertaining to a Britisher whose name the FBI disclosed and false information. The CIA disclosed that

"Bar obtained info on King assassination file thru electronic surveillance." Despite disclosure of both the name and the surveillance, in 1977 and 1978, in 1980 this was stamped as "Class. & Ext. by 8475 on 3/21/80; the initials appearing to be those of SA Martin Wood. If Wood cared for anything other than stonewalling he'd know that his own file includes by 1977/reporting to the FBI of what it had disclosed yet withheld.

9/8/69

Airtel

1 - Mr. McDonough

104

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

REC 82 From: Director, FBI (44-38861) 5819

MURKIN

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to Legat, Ottawa dated 8/28/69, received 9/5/69, at the Bureau.

It is noted that the RCMP was only instrumental in the identification and location of the fugitive subject in this matter and was not concerned with the evidentiary or prosecutive aspects.

You should contact appropriate Tennessee State authorities and advise them of the contents of this letter and suggest that they may desire to communicate directly with the RCMP concerning the inquiries set forth in the letter as they may pertain to Tennessee State interests. The Tennessee State authorities should be requested to furnish you a copy of any reply they may make to the RCMP.

MAILED 7
SEP - 8 1969
COMM-FBI

If Tennessee State authorities request that their reply be forwarded to the RCMP by the Bureau in light of the fact that the RCMP had made its inquiries through the Bureau, there is no objection to doing so but the Tennessee State authorities should furnish the reply in writing for forwarding to the RCMP.

The Bureau is contacting the Civil Rights Division relative to this matter and you will be advised of results.

- Tolson
- DeLoach
- Mohr
- Bishop
- Casper
- Callahan
- Conrad
- Felt
- Gale
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Rm.
- Holmes
- Gandy

Enclosure
EJM:cs
(4)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

SEP 26 1969

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

NOTE:

RCMP by letter to Legat, Ottawa advises that a national magazine will be publishing articles on the RCMP's work and one of the subjects to be covered is the commendations given to two members of the RCMP who participated in the James Earl Ray investigation. RCMP requests to be advised of the status of the Ray case prosecution including any appeal action as they would not want to release information which would affect the case.

Since RCMP was only involved in the fugitive aspects it is not felt that release of information by them of their role and commendation given their men would affect prosecution or evidentiary aspects; however, this matter is being referred to appropriate Tennessee State authorities and the Civil Rights Division for their consideration. RCMP requests prompt reply.

As a matter of cooperation, if the Tennessee State authorities request that we forward their reply to the RCMP, it is not felt that we should object since the RCMP was of invaluable assistance in locating the subject and their inquiry was addressed to our Legal Attache in Ottawa. Tennessee State authorities will be requested to furnish their reply in writing for forwarding to RCMP.

Since Department has not yet dismissed Federal process and has requested that we still continue to run out any subsequent information reported, views of the Civil Rights Division will be obtained on Federal interests and results will be confirmed in writing and furnished to RCMP.

XXXXXX
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

Deleted under exemption(s) b7D with no segregable material available for release to you.

Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to you or the subject of your request.

Information pertained only to a third party. Your name is listed in the title only.

Document(s) originating with the following government agency(ies) _____, was/were forwarded to them for direct response to you.

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INFORMATION FURNISHED BY A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
ABSTRACT-44-38861-5819

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SAC, Memphis

12-17-68

Director, FBI

44-38861-54571 - Mr. Long

MURKIN

Enclosed is a copy of the results of investigation conducted by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police regarding Ray's activity while in Canada.

This is for your information only and should not be disseminated at this time.

mjz

Enclosure

REL:jms
(4)

NOTE:

We have been conducting investigation concerning the activities of James Earl Ray based upon articles written by William Bradford Huie for "Look" magazine. As part of our investigation, we have requested the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to investigate several matters in Canada. The attached is results of the RCMP's continuing efforts, and we are transmitting this to Memphis and the Department, requesting Department's permission to disseminate the results to Mr. Canale, who is prosecuting the case in state court on March 3, 1969.

DEC 15 3 13 PM '68

MAILED 24
DEC 17 1968
COMM-FBI

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Rm. _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

clayton

54 DEC 31 1968

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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INFORMATION FURNISHED BY A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

For your information: _____

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ABSTRACT FOR 44-38841-5457

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INFORMATION OF A PERSONAL NATURE REGARDING A THIRD PARTY; INFORMATION FURNISHED BY A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

For your information: _____

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ABSTRACT FOR 44-38861-6010

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X NO DUPLICATION FEE X
X FOR THIS PAGE X
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44-38861-6009

43

JCL:bap 12/15/75

SAC, TP MURKIN

RETPTEL 12/12/75. A COPY OF TP LHM 7/2/74
FORWARD TO CRD, USDJ, WHEN RECD. NO ADDIT
DISSEM MADE BY FBIHQ. UNLESS TP FILES INDICATE
FURTHER DISSEM MADE BY YOUR DIV, ADVISE
ALONG THESE LINES, & HANDLE ANY FUR INQS ON THIS
MATTER IN LIKE MANNER. SULHM SET OUT INFO
CONTD IN REF COMMUN.

b7c

W. H. HUNT

Smith

512

44-38861-6024

100

EDH:hap 1/6/76

Peelman to Gallagher

MURKIN

To advise of instit of invest to resolve alleg
by [redacted] that he & his brother offer
payment in 1967 to murder Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. ACTN: Info. You will be advd of
pert developments.

1-50-76

Small

44-38861-6054

98

HNH: BAP 2/3/76

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

SACs, AT, [REDACTED] MURKIN

AT & EP REVW INTERVWS OF [REDACTED] NOTG DIFPS IN
EACH OF THEIR VERSIONS & REINTERV [REDACTED] TO
RESOLVE ALL DETLS OF THIS ALLEGED MEET IN BAR.
DETERM WHEN & HOW MANY TIMES THEY TALK WITH EACH
OTHER ABOUT THIS ALLEGED MEET SINCE ITS OCCUR.
CRD IS ADVG USAS AT AT & ME OF INSTIT OF THE
INVEST RE [REDACTED] ALLEGATION. CRD STATED FBI
SHLD NOT COMMENT TO ANY INQS FROM NEWS MEDIA RE
INVEST.

b7

44-38861-6086

3

2/25/76

SAC, AT

MURKIN

RE AT TEL., FEB. 24, 1976.

Also 6087
6088
6089
Powell

OPR note re
6086 includes
1960 Chevy Impala
which is withheld in
Serial, Az, line 4

(P)

7D claimed for
Powell name
in 6086

44-38861-6087

2 encl.
3

2/25/76

SAC, AT

MURKIN

Enclosed are sketches.

44-38861-6087

OPR note reads:

"Facsimile tele with sketches of ^{b7d} bar ^{b7d} later ^{b7d}
b7d lounge."

44-38861-6088

3

2/26/76

SAC, EP

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO EL PASO, FEBRUARY 17, 1976.

44-38861-6089

3

EX 2/26/76

SAC, AT

MURKIN

RE AT X NITEL, FEB. 25, 1976.

(P)

44-38861-5390
44-38861-5390

48

11-14-68

LEGAT, OTT

MURKIN

RE OTT AIRTEL 10-25-68 AND LETTER 11-8-68,
FORWARDING RESULTS RCMP INTERVIEW OF CLAIRE KEA
KEATING, ON 9-12-68 MATTER OF DISSEMINATION
WAS DISCUSSED WITH RCMP HEADQUARTERS, WHO SAID
IN VIEW PUBLICITY IN CANADA IDENTIFYING
KEATING AS WOMAN CONTACTED BY RAY, INFO IN
THEIR LETTER 10-25-68* MAY BE GIVEN TO TENN.
AUTHORITIES AS MAY THAT IN "A" DIV. REPORT
11-1-68 PROVIDED PARAPHRASED TO PROTECT

P

FBI

Date: 11-14-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel REGISTERED
(Priority)

To: Director, FBI (44-38861)
From: Legat, Ottawa (44-4)(P)
Subject: (MURKIN)
(OO: ME)

Re Ottawa airtel 10-25-68, and Ottawa routing slip 11-8-68, forwarding results RCMP interview of Claire Keating.

On 11-12-68, Legat, discussed question of dissemination with Sergeant [redacted] Criminal Investigation Branch, RCMP Headquarters, who said that in view of recent publicity in Canada identifying Keating as the woman Ray contacted in Grey Rocks, Montreal and Ottawa, there would be no objection to disseminating information in RCMP letter dated 10-25-68, to Tennessee authorities.

The information in Ottawa "A" Division report dated 11-1-68, may be disseminated if the information is paraphrased to protect the identities of [redacted] and [redacted]

- 5 - Bureau
- 1 cc - Liaison Direct
- 1 cc - Memphis (44-1987)
- 1 - OTT
- MLI:jhc
- (6)

44-38861-5423

REC-48 44-38861-5390

12 NOV 19 1968

1-87

1d

Approved: [Signature] Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

61 NOV 26 1968

433 Valley

Alleged assassin used double a

By JOSEPH HANAFIN and ROBERT TAYLOR

James Earl Ray, accused of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., practised double deception during his month long hide-out in the Montreal area last year.

He registered in a Dorion motel as John L. Rayns on the night of July 17, 1967, but used the alias Eric S. Galt for the remainder of his local sojourn which ended on Aug. 18, 1967.

Ray claimed in a recently published story in Look magazine about his activities here that he used only the Galt name while in Canada.

He said he chose the name while passing the city of Galt, Ont., on his way to Montreal and used it during visits to St. Jovite and Ottawa.

The 40-year-old alleged killer, whose trial is scheduled in Memphis, Tenn., for the middle of November, arrived in Dorion just one day after he fled the United States where he was sought for escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

The records of the Bourgarde Motel show that he

NOM NAME John L. Rayns
 RUE STREET 507 Chestnut
 VILLE CITY Winnethka
 REPRÉSENTANT REPRESENTING _____
 LICENSE _____ PRO: STATE Illinois
 GENRE D'AUTO MAKE OF CAR Plymouth ANNÉE YEAR 62

AVIS: Cette propriété est privée, et l'organisation se réserve le droit de refuser les services si nécessaire, et ne sera pas responsable d'accident à ses invités, pertes d'argent ou autre valeur de tout genre.

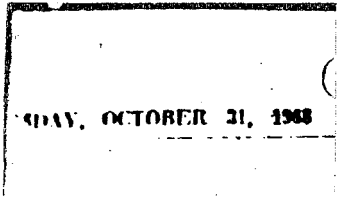
NOTICE TO GUESTS: This property is privately owned and management reserves right to refuse service to anyone, and will not be responsible for accidents or injury to guests or for loss of money, jewelry or valuables of any kind.

DATE 17.7.67 RATE 16.00 TAX TAXE 8.125 TOTAL 17.28

(UNIC) NOMBRE DE PERSONNES /
 NUMBER OF PERSONS

CHAMBRE ROOM 17
 NOM NAME Rayns
 Unit d'occupation - Unit Occupied

REGISTERED HERE: On the night of July 17, 1967, James Earl Ray registered at Bourgarde Motel on Harwood boulevard in Dorion as John L. Rayns, of 507 Chestnut street, Winnethka, Illinois. The address was that of a restaurant where he worked.



alias

that of a restaurant where Ray was employed for several weeks prior to his flight to Canada.

He was known to his employers as John L. Rayns, a name he often used after his jail break.

Although motel officials did not take his licence number, the desk clerk at the time noted he was driving a 1962 Plymouth.

The description of that car matches that of a vehicle purchased by Ray for \$200 in East St. Louis, Mo., just before he crossed into Canada at Windsor, Ont.

The man who owned the Bourgarde Hotel last year, Guy Richer, says he remembers nothing about his infamous client.

"We were just too busy last year with Expo to take spe-

cial notice of anybody. We were packed every night with all sorts of people," said Mr. Richer who has since sold the motel.

After his one night stay in Dorion, Ray reverted to the alias of Eric Stavo Galt.

At the Har-K Apartments, 2859 Notre Dame street east, where Ray signed a six month lease but stayed only until mid-August; and at the Gray Rocks Inn, a resort hotel in St. Jovite, 78 miles north of Montreal, he used the Galt name.

He also gave that name and his Notre Dame street address to a travel agency, located on Peel street, which arranged his reservation at Gray Rocks. The manager of the travel agency requested that their name not be published.

The man who made Ray's reservation and took a \$20 cash deposit from him was unable to recognize or recall anything about him. He added that Ray was probably in the office for about only 10 minutes.

Waterfront haunt

At several other places that Ray is known to have frequented, the story is much the same.

He seems to have gone out

of his way to behave unobtrusively and apparently always fit into whatever background necessary.

Along the city's tough waterfront between Place Royale and Place d'Youville where he spent much of his time in hopes of obtaining false identity papers, no one could



Martin Luther King

place the gaunt, stern-faced Ray.

The alleged killer claims that he spent several nights drinking in the Neptune Tavern, 121 Commissioners street



James Earl Ray

registered under the name of Rayns and listed his address as 507 Chestnut street, Winnethka, Ill. The address was

54377

west, and that he met a man named Raoul who offered him \$12,000 to complete a mysterious assignment in the United States.

J. M. Charron, owner of the Neptune for the past several years, said it would be almost impossible to disprove Ray's claim.

Peering at a recent photograph of Ray, Mr. Charron commented, "It could be that he was here. Who is going to say otherwise?"

"I might have seen him or maybe even talked to him but it has been a year and months since he was here. It is very, very difficult to identify people from pictures. They can be deceiving. And maybe he is wearing a disguise."

"Perhaps if I saw him in person I could say for sure."

As for Raoul, Mr. Charron said that the description of the man supplied by Ray "could be almost any man who comes in here every night of the year."

"We get all sorts in here. And especially last year at the Expo on... Oh Boy! We had Russians, Englishmen, Americans, Negroes, yellow whites... everybody."

"No, I cannot say that I recall anyone by the name of Raoul who hung out here. Employees at the Marier

54377

House, 165 Place d'Youville, echoed Mr. Charron's words, as did waiters and barmen at Joe Beef's tavern, some 50 yards down the street.

"Who can tell for sure," a waiter at Joe Beef's mentioned. "We had so many people in here during Expo. We have so many in normal years but last year makes it even more impossible to figure."

Ray's chameleon-like attributes served him well at the luxurious Gray Rock resort where he stayed for a full week between July 31 and Aug. 5. Not a single employee remembered his face.

He spent so little time at

PLEASE PRINT - S.V.P. ÉCRIRE EN LETTRES MOULÉES

NAME - NOM <i>Eric Galt</i>			
STREET - RUE <i>Quebec</i>		CITY - VILLE <i>Montreal</i>	
PROVINCE - STATE <i>Quebec</i>		LICENCE NO. DE LICENCE <i>LM-5947</i>	
WHEN WERE YOU A PREVIOUS GUEST QUAND AVEZ-VOUS SÉJOURNÉ ICI		GUEST'S SIGNATURE D'INVITE <i>Eric Galt</i>	
NAME <i>GALT</i>	ROOM NO. <i>376</i>	NUMBER IN PARTY <i>1</i>	CHECK IN <i>11 30 AM</i>
RATE <i>15W</i>	<i>15500</i>	ACCOUNT NO. <i>E06047</i>	DEPARTURE DATE <i>Aug 5 1967</i>
OFFICE NUMBER ONLY		CLERK <i>[Signature]</i>	CLERK

FRONT OFFICE COPY

SIGNED AS "ERIC GALT": Registration card filled out by Ray at Gray Rocks Inn at St. Jovite was signed "Eric Galt." He paid \$155 for a week's accommodation.

the bar during the week that his liquor bill amounted to a penny-pinching \$8. He paid that, and the \$155 it cost for his single room with a bath, in cash. It was near the end of that week that he encountered the now famous lady civil servant from Ottawa

Ray's romantic adventure with his civil servant girl friend who he had hoped would help get him a false Canadian passport, was probably the only close relationship he had in Montreal.

The connection between Ray and the lady whose identity still remains a secret was raised in the House of Commons this week but government officials pleaded ignorance to the existence of a romance and of the lady herself.

Local RCMP spokesmen also disclaimed any knowledge of her and refused comment as to whether they are investigating the matter.

Both the RCMP and the American FBI, however, have been scouring Ray's local hangouts since long before his

arrest in England on June 8 of this year.

They asked for and received receipts, registration slips, and other material from Ray's lodgings and from the Tip Top Tailors shop, 488 St. Catherine street west, where he bought clothing and had a jacket altered.

Investigators also visited Ray's waterfront haunts but apparently had little success in discovering anyone who remembered him.

One thing which police overlooked was the night spent by Ray in the motel Bourgarde on Harwood boulevard in Dorion where he used the Rayns alias.

Mr. Richer told The Star that he was never contacted by anyone, police or journalists, about the subject until he received a visit from two Star reporters.

Operators of other Dorion motels, including Le Pavillon and the Miss Dorion said that they had been interrogated about the night of July 17, 1967.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

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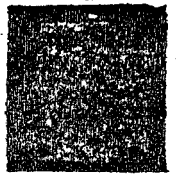
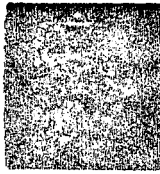
Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s):
INFORMATION FURNISHED BY A CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE.

For your information: _____

The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
abstract number: 44-38861-5437X

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FOR THIS PAGE
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44-38861-5510

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

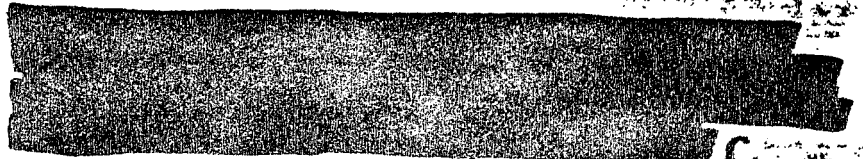
82

1-21-69

SAC, NY.

MURKIN

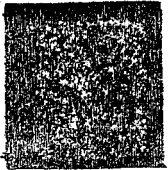
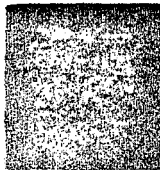
(b)(1)



CLASS. & EXT. BY 8075 3/27/90
REASON - FCIM 11, 1-2.4.2.2
DATE OF REVIEW 3/27/90

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

5500



c

[REDACTED]

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. U
The attached states that information has been received that one [REDACTED] who claims to be a correspondent of radio America and the British Broadcasting Company in New York City, allegedly has a tape of an interview between James Earl Ray and an unknown individual regarding the details of a pay-off of the assassination. The interview is alleged to have taken place three months before the assassination. (Assassination April 4, 1968) U

We do not have any information that such a tape exists. U

In view of the manner in which this information has been received, we are instructing our New York Office to determine if [REDACTED] does exist, his affiliations, and to closely follow this matter. U [CONFIDENTIAL]

Classified by 6080 [initials]

REL:rl

Exempt from GDS Category 2
Date of Declassification Indefinite
LED/66m [initials]

PAGE THREE

NY 44-493, 100-149194

[REDACTED]

A THIRD CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE, WHO HAS FURNISHED
RELIABLE INFORMATION IN THE PAST ON DECEMBER FORTY FOUR
FURNISHED INFORMATION WHICH REVEALED THAT THE NAME [REDACTED]
END PAGE THREE

5510

PAGE FOUR

NY 44-493, 100-149194

[REDACTED] WAS ON A LIST OF NAMES, SIGNIFICANCE UNKNOWN,
MAINTAINED AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE KINGS COUNTY
COMMUNIST PARTY, TWENTY SIX COURT STREET, BROOKLYN, NEW
YORK.

ADMINISTRATIVE.

THE FIRST SOURCE IS [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

THE SECOND SOURCE IS [REDACTED]

AND THE THIRD SOURCE IS FORMER [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

THIS INFORMATION IS TO BE CLASSIFIED "SECRET"
BECAUSE IT CONTAINS INFORMATION FROM [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AND BECAUSE OF THE INFORMATION
FROM [REDACTED] USED IN THE
CHARACTERIZATION OF [REDACTED]

FOR THE INFORMATION OF ATLANTA THE PERSON WHO
CONTACTED [REDACTED] WAS [REDACTED]

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