OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: March 11, 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King.

Assistant Attorney General Jerris Leonard, Civil Rights Division, met with Messrs. Rosen and Martindale in his office, together with his Deputy Robert Owen and Attorney David Norman. He was interested in two matters:

Item 1 re James Earl Ray (Murder of Martin Luther King)

The first matter concerned the disposition of the Federal conspiracy warrant presently outstanding concerning James Earl Ray, who was sentenced to 99 years in Tennessee.

Leonard stated the President would be going to take the position in a future press conference that the Federal Government was continuing to give intensive interest to the possibility of the existence of a conspiracy. Because of this, Leonard felt the Department ought to decide on the action which should be taken at this time and possible future procedure.

After discussing such possibilities as the dismissal of the warrant, filing the Federal warrant as a detainer against the state process, interviewing Ray immediately or postponing such an interview, and the possibility of calling him before a Federal grand jury, the following decision was reached by Leonard.

He felt that, insofar as the timing was concerned, the most desirable procedure at this time without making any commitments by the Federal Government beyond what the President would say was to try to interview Ray at the earliest possible time. In this connection, he asked that we contact the SAC at Memphis (Jensen) and have him get in touch with Canale, the District Attorney, to determine whether the circumstances are such as to allow an interview with Ray at this time to determine whether he will give any information concerning possible conspirators.

tel to SAC Memphis 3/12/69 - CLM

44-38761-5612

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REC-110 MAR 14 1969

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

If approved, we will instruct the Memphis Office to immediately take the necessary steps to determine whether Ray can be interviewed. This will involve the possibility of clearance from Attorney Percy Foreman.

V OK - H

Item 2 re [redacted]

[redacted]

CONTINUED - OVER

- 2 - No "over" either

PLAINTEXT 3/12/69

TELETYPE URGENT

1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long

TO SAC MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861) - 5612

REC 110

MURKIN

FOR YOUR INFORMATION THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION DESIRES IMMEDIATE ATTENTION BE GIVEN TO ANY INFORMATION BEARING ON POSSIBILITY OF THE EXISTENCE OF A CONSPIRACY IN THIS MATTER. DEPARTMENT DESIRES THAT INTERVIEW BE CONDUCTED WITH JAMES EARL RAY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME IN AN EFFORT TO ELICIT ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING SUCH CONSPIRACY.

YOU SHOULD CONTACT DISTRICT ATTORNEY PHIL CANALE TO DETERMINE WHETHER CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD PERMIT INTERVIEW WITH JAMES EARL RAY AT THIS TIME. ALSO CONTACT SHOULD BE MADE WITH PERCY FOREMAN, THE ATTORNEY WHO REPRESENTED RAY, TO INSURE THAT THERE IS NO OBJECTION TO RAY'S BEING CONTACTED BY FBI TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT RAY WILL FURNISH ANY POSSIBLE INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY.

Tolson
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TELETYPE UNIT

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
MAR 12 1969
TELETYPE

TELETYPE SAC MEMPHIS
RE: MURKIN

HANDLE AND SUTEL BUT DO NOT MAKE ACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS TO CONDUCT INTERVIEW WITHOUT SPECIFIC BUREAU AUTHORITY.

THIS WILL CONFIRM BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL ON MARCH ELEVEN.