

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

Mr. DeLoach

DATE: June 4, 1968

FROM: A. Rosen

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

- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Trotter

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Div 2

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4-4-68.

The total facilities of the FBI have been fully committed to this case since the outset and all phases of the investigation continue to receive top priority attention. The following are selected highlights to illustrate the intensive nature and extensive scope of investigative activity in this regard.

A peak of 3,075 field Agents have been assigned to this case and the estimated cost of the investigation at the end of April was \$781,407. During the month of April, Agents assigned to this case performed 5,380 hours of unpaid overtime, while Bureau automobiles were driven an estimated 332,849 miles in connection with this case. It is estimated that more than 30,000 interviews have been conducted.

More than 70 latent fingerprints and palm prints were developed on various items of evidence. These have been compared with the prints of approximately 500 individuals and the identification of James Earl Ray as Eric Galt resulted from a project of checking selected latent fingerprints against the fingerprints of approximately 53,000 fugitives.

The FBI Laboratory has also conducted extensive examinations covering more than 360 questioned specimens of evidence and more than 625 known specimens. Laboratory identifications of material typed and written by Ray have been of substantial assistance in the investigation.

Canadian and Mexican authorities have conducted extensive investigation on a national basis at our request. Among other projects undertaken by them was an examination of Canadian passports issued since 4-23-67. The initial examination is being limited to 177,000

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passports issued since 4-1-68, and has resulted in the location of a passport issued 4-24-68, in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, whom the Canadians believe to be probably identical with Ray. This is being vigorously pursued.

A special squad of Agents in Washington Field Office is examining the records of over 2,000,000 passports issued by the State Department since 3-1-67. This is not being restricted to a name check but is being conducted on the basis of photographs and handwriting.

Ray is not known to have ever had a bank account but is known to have maintained a safe deposit box. All safe deposit boxes are being checked in selected cities where he might logically maintain such a box. In a similar project to identify any possible payoff to Ray, various selected field divisions are checking all withdrawals from banks in the amount of \$10,000 or more during April, 1968.

When Ray purchased his Mustang in Birmingham in August, 1967, he made a point of not driving it until he had obtained a driver's license in the name of Eric S. Galt. Driver's license records in all states and the District of Columbia are being checked for all new driver's licenses issued since 4-1-68. To illustrate the scope of this project, over 675,000 licenses have been issued since 4-1-68, in California, over 600,000 have been issued in Texas, and in Virginia those issued since 4-1-68, are not segregated from those issued for the entire year, making it necessary to examine 2,000,000 licenses.

In connection with other projects, approximately 2,000 long-distance telephone calls have been checked, unsolved bank robberies have been reviewed, and Salvation Army Missions and other similar organizations, as well as more than 14,000 laundries and dry cleaning establishments have been circularized. Extensive reviews have also been made of airline travel records, all travel facilities have been circularized, and extensive investigation has been conducted regarding automobiles sold and stolen at selected places and times related to Ray's movements.

As a result of the unprecedented publicity that has been given to Ray's fugitive status, suspects are being continuously reported

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throughout the field. All suspects are immediately processed and up to the present time more than 800 suspects have been under investigation.

In addition to widespread investigation throughout the United States, Canada, and Mexico, specific inquiries have been made in various other foreign countries, including England, Germany, Rhodesia, the Netherlands Antilles, Guatemala, Venezuela, New Zealand, Australia, Japan, Jamaica, Honduras, Italy and Bermuda.

As a result of the massive investigation conducted in this case, James Earl Ray has been identified as the subject and substantial evidence has been developed for prosecutive use as soon as he is apprehended.

ACTION:

This investigation is continuing to receive top priority attention.

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D. J.

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