

FBI

Date: 4/25/69

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

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) (RUC)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Los Angeles telto Bureau, 2/5/69; Los Angeles airtel and LHM, 3/4/69; New Orleans airtel to Bureau, 2/7/69, and 2/10/69; and New Orleans airtel and LHM to Bureau, 2/8/69.

Enclosed herewith for the Bureau are five copies of a self-explanatory LHM together with two copies for Memphis and an information copy for Los Angeles.

Trooper Raul Victor Esquivel, Sr., was cooperative with Bureau Agents when interviewed, 4/24/69.

New Orleans is closing its case in this matter.

- 2-Bureau (Encl. 5) (RM)
- 2-Memphis (Encl. 2) (44-1987) (RM)
- 1-Los Angeles (Encl. 1) (44-1574) (RM)
- 1-New Orleans

EJC:mhl
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SAC

Form 8-64 Civil Rights Division

APR 28 1969

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

53 MAY 2 1969



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

New Orleans, Louisiana
April 25, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY

Raul Victor Esquivel Sr. was interviewed at his residence, [REDACTED] Metairie, Louisiana. Esquivel identified himself as a Trooper with the Louisiana State Police, and stated he had been so employed for the past ten and one-half years. He further advised that he had been assigned to Troop B of the State Police in Metairie, Louisiana, for the past several years.

Esquivel stated that he has resided at his present residence for the past several years, that he built the residence himself, that he has raised his family in that residence, and that at the present time, only he and his wife are residents of the home. He stated that his son, Raul Esquivel, Jr., is married, resides in New Orleans and that he is a grandparent as a result of his son's marriage, his grandson having been named Raul Esquivel, III. Esquivel furnished the following information:

Upon observation of a photograph of Charles J. Stein, Esquivel did not recognize Stein as a person he has ever seen, nor did he recall of having ever heard of the name Charles Stein. Upon observation of three photographs of James Earl Ray, including two front and one right profile, Esquivel recognized Ray for the reason that Ray's photographs were widely publicized following his identification as the individual who assassinated Martin Luther King. Esquivel has never been personally acquainted with Ray and to the best of his knowledge has never personally observed Ray, except by photographs through news media. Esquivel has never visited Canada, Mexico, Birmingham, Alabama, or Memphis, Tennessee. Esquivel has no personal knowledge of James Earl Ray.

According to "Look" magazine articles concerning activities of James Earl Ray, the following dates are noted wherein Ray and his friend "Raoul" are alleged to have been together.

4/2/69
ENCLOSURE

July 18 - August 24, 1967	According to "Look" magazine articles, subject met "Raoul" in Canada on about eight occasions during this period.
August 21, 1967	Subject Ray and "Raoul" were in Windsor, Canada.
August 28 - 30, 1967	Ray met "Raoul" during this period in Birmingham, Alabama.
October 7 - 10, 1967	Ray arrived San Francisco Hotel, Acapulco, Mexico, on October 10, 1967. One or two days prior to that time, he met "Raoul" in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.
December 17 - 19, 1969	Ray met "Raoul" at New Orleans, Louisiana, and received \$2500 from him.
April 4, 1968	"Raoul" allegedly was in Memphis, Tennessee, and fired the shot at 6:00 PM that killed Martin Luther King.

Prior investigation has disclosed that Trooper Esquivel had worked as follows during the month of August, 1967:.

August 1, 2, and 3:	On Duty; 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
August 4:	Day Off
August 5:	On Duty; 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
August 6 and 7:	Off duty due to a death in his family.
August 8 and 9:	On duty; 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
August 10:	Off Duty.
August 11 through 23:	On duty; 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

August 24: Off Duty.
August 25 and 26: On duty; 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM
August 27: Off Duty
August 28, 29, and 30: On duty; 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM.
August 31: Off Duty.

Further investigation has disclosed that during August, 1967, Esquivel was assigned to duties in different areas of the Troop B responsibility since he was filling in for other troopers on their day's off. During August, 1967, Esquivel worked in the New Orleans area.

Esquivel stated that he has not engaged in any lengthy travel of recent years and noted that for the past three years, a great majority of his off-duty time has been devoted to the building in his garage at home of a small airplane. Esquivel advised that he is a licensed pilot.

Esquivel recalled that during the summer months of 1967, he was performing duties out of Troop B, but that he does not recall any specific activities on any specific dates. He stated that he would also be unable to recall any specific dates of his activities during the months of October and December, 1967, and April, 1968.

Esquivel pointed out that he regards himself as a professional law enforcement officer, that he takes pride in his occupation and that he has nothing whatsoever to hide. He stated that if he did possess any information concerning Ray or the assassination of King, he would not hesitate to furnish same to the FBI.

The following background and descriptive data was obtained by interview and observation:

Name	Raul Victor Esquivel, Sr.
Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	11/17/26
Place of birth	Deliz, British Honduras

Nationality

Naturalized as U. S. Citizen during early 1940's (World War II) at Alexandria, Virginia, while a member of the U. S. Army.

Military service

U. S. Army and U. S. Navy during World War II,

Height

NSN [REDACTED]

Weight

ASN [REDACTED]

Hair

5'9"

Eyes

175 pounds

Build

Brown

Blue

Stocky.

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