

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Fehlf *FF*
FROM : J. S. Peelman *JP*

DATE: 6/2/77

SUBJECT: MURKIN

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Fehl
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Lawn
- 1 - Mr. Boynton
- 1 - Mr. Mintz

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Adm. Serv. _____
- Crim. Inv. _____
- Fin. & Pers. _____
- Ident. _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Legal Coun. _____
- Plan. & Insp. _____
- Rec. Mgnt. _____
- Spec. Inv.
- Tech. Serv. _____
- Training _____
- Public Affs. Off. _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

PURPOSE: To advise of receipt of information from a [redacted] in the effect that a Raoul Santiago Estejo Martinez is the unidentified "Raoul" referred to by James Earl Ray. Ray has claimed that "Raoul" was an international gun-runner and he drove "Raoul" away from the crime scene wholly unaware of the killing of King.

SYNOPSIS: This case pertains to the assassination of Martin Luther King on 4/4/68 in Memphis, Tennessee. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. On 6/1/77, [redacted] advised SAC, Seattle, that he now has developed information indicating that "Raoul" is actually Raoul Santiago Estejo Martinez and that with the cooperation of Ray's attorney, [redacted] is to meet with Martinez through an intermediary, Cliff Andrews. [redacted] indicated when this information breaks, it will cause considerable publicity; he has already been contacted by 3 major networks and leaves Thursday morning to be interviewed by the "National Enquirer" in Florida. He has been interviewed by the House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA); however, he did not have the aforementioned information on "Raoul" during this interview by the HSCA. Martinez reportedly indicated he will testify if granted immunity. [redacted] purpose in contacting FBI was to express concern for the safety of his two daughters inasmuch as he heard indirectly that a New Orleans "hit man" would cause him or his family alot of trouble if the story breaks. SAC advised [redacted] of the witness protection program and that he should probably notify HSCA of his fears.

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97 JUN 15 1977 Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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Our prior investigation never identified the existence of a "Raoul." A Task Force of the Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, recently reviewed our investigation of King and in examining the allegations re "Raoul," it concluded that "the task force views the exculpatory content of these varying and patently self-serving tales to be unbelievable," and "we concluded Ray was lying about the existence of a 'Raoul'."

[redacted] refers to intermediary, Cliff Andrews, and although insufficient identifying data exists, there was one C. H. Andrews who in 1974, indicated to Ray's attorney that he had information concerning a conspiracy; however, a District Attorney General in Memphis and another attorney felt this was a hoax and upon interview, Andrews denied any knowledge concerning the King slaying.

RECOMMENDATION: By memorandum dated 4/28/77, we advised the Department that in order to avoid duplication of investigative effort and the attendant problems between the FBI and the HSCA that could arise in the future, and until the jurisdiction of this Bureau in these investigations (both the King and Kennedy cases) is delineated by the Department, the FBI will refer all allegations relating to these investigations to the Department for its consideration as to whether any investigation is required of the FBI, or whether the Department desires to furnish these allegations directly to the HSCA. Accordingly, the Department will be advised of the information furnished by [redacted] and no investigation will be instituted unless specifically requested by the Department.

gaf
JK

APPROVED:

Director _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Asoc. Dir. _____	Fin. & Pers. _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____	Ident. _____	Rec. Mgnt. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____	Intell. _____	Spec. Inv. _____
	Laboratory _____	Tech. Servs. _____
		Training _____
		Public Affs. Off. _____

DETAILS:

SEATTLE TELETYPE: By teletype dated 6/2/77, the Seattle Division advised as follows: "At approximately

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6:45 P.M., PDST, June 1, 1977, SAC Seattle received call from individual identifying himself as [REDACTED] advised he is [REDACTED] Seattle, Washington, Tel. [REDACTED] identical with Bufile [REDACTED] captioned [REDACTED] FAG, OO: Seattle. [REDACTED] described previous association with Bureau personnel while [REDACTED] and also while working [REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee. [REDACTED] in [REDACTED] presently resides [REDACTED] Washington.

[REDACTED] indicated he has been working on captioned case and although he did not previously believe of the existence of "Raoul" theory as posed by James Earl Ray, he now has developed information indicating that "Raoul" is actually Raoul Santiago Estejo Martinez and that with the cooperation of Ray's Attorney, Jack Kershaw, he, [REDACTED] is to meet with Martinez through an intermediary, Cliff Andrews, who supposedly served prison time with Ray.

[REDACTED] further indicated that when this information breaks, it will cause considerable publicity and he has already been contacted by three major networks and leaves Thursday morning to be interviewed by the "National Enquirer" at Lantana, Florida, from where he will return to Seattle possibly on Friday. He said approximately two weekends ago he was interviewed by two investigators named Moriarty (PH), and Gilbert from the House Select Committee on Assassinations who indicated they would be subpoenaing [REDACTED] in the near future. At the time of this interview [REDACTED] did not have the aforementioned information on Raoul Martinez. Martinez reportedly indicated he will testify about captioned case if he can be granted immunity from prosecution.

[REDACTED] purpose in contacting Seattle FBI was to express concern for the safety of his two daughters, [REDACTED] age 7, and [REDACTED] age 6, who reside with his parents at [REDACTED] Washington, tel. [REDACTED]. Reason for his concern is that he had heard indirectly that a

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New Orleans "hit man," Rafael Martinez (no relation to Raoul Martinez) would cause him or his family alot of trouble if the story breaks. He said his new source told him of a confidential memo believed from Dallas, Texas, Police Department or Sheriff's Office to New Orleans in which Martinez was described as a very experienced hit man.

[redacted] advised by SAC of the witness protection program and that he should probably notify investigators for Select Committee of his fears but to check with this office upon his return this coming Friday.

Above furnished for information of Bureau for referral to Department. All offices hold specific leads in abeyance pending instructions from Bureau."

BACKGROUND ON [redacted] Bufile [redacted] reflects that [redacted] was the subject of a Fraud Against the Government case in 1966. [redacted] allegedly was in the possession of a first-class radio telephone operator's license registered to another individual as reported by the Federal Communications Commission. Federal prosecution was declined.

BACKGROUND ON "RAOUL": Ray previously related to Author William Bradford Huie that "Raoul" was an international gun-runner and he drove "Raoul" away from the crime scene after the murder wholly unaware of the killing of King. The "Pacific News Service" also previously reported that Ray received instructions from "Raoul" in Memphis. Our prior investigation never identified the existence of a "Raoul." A Task Force of the Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, recently reviewed our investigation of King and in examining the "Raoul" allegations, concluded that "the task force views the exculpatory content of these varying and patently self-serving tales to be unbelievable," and "we concluded Ray was lying about the existence of a 'Raoul'."

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON CLIFF ANDREWS:

[redacted] claims he is to meet with Martinez through an intermediary, Cliff Andrews. Although insufficient identifying data exists for the purposes of identification, in 1974, one Clifford Holms Andrews had been in contact with Ray's attorney, Robert Livingston, and indicated his knowledge of and involvement in, a conspiracy re this matter. A District Attorney General in Memphis and a Memphis attorney, who had been in contact with Andrews, believed the revelations by Andrews were a hoax perpetrated to swindle Livingston of funds. Andrews was subsequently interviewed and denied any knowledge of the King slaying.

RESULTS OF FBIHQ INDICES CHECK ON RAOUL SANTIAGO ESTEJO MARTINEZ AND RAFAEL MARTINEZ - THE ALLEGED "HITMAN."

Based on available identifying data, no pertinent information was located in Bufiles concerning the above two individuals.

POLICY RE INVESTIGATING ADDITIONAL ALLEGATIONS:

By memorandum dated 4/28/77, captioned "House Select Committee on Assassinations," we advised the Department that in order to avoid duplication of investigative effort and the attendant problems between the FBI and the HSCA that could arise in the future, and until the jurisdiction of this Bureau in these investigations (both the King and Kennedy cases) is delineated by the Department, the FBI will refer all allegations relating to these investigations to the Department for its consideration as to whether any investigation is required of the FBI, or whether the Department desires to furnish these allegations directly to the HSCA. Accordingly, the information furnished by [redacted] will be furnished to the Department and no investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department. Our appropriate field offices will be so advised. Also, our Seattle Office is being advised to insure that [redacted] is cognizant of the specific provisions of the witness protection program, and to advise him to notify the appropriate local authorities of the fears he has for his personal safety and that of his family.