

FBI

Date: 5/16/77

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Precedence)

TO: Director, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, Atlanta (44-2386)

MURKIN

Regent

Enclosed is a copy of a self-explanatory memorandum submitted to SAC, Atlanta by SC KELLEY, who was handling complaints in the Atlanta Division on 5/12/77. Also enclosed is a copy of a newspaper article regarding MARK LANE and his current book. Extensive background data regarding LANE is available to the Bureau.

LANE was in Atlanta in connection with a publicity campaign surrounding his new book, and was interviewed on the afternoon of 5/12/77, on a local radio station. Interview of LANE by local television newsman as mentioned in paragraph 1, page 1, of the enclosed memo, took place in public space outside the reception room of the Atlanta Office.

Based on LANE's background and his obvious desire to obtain publicity for his latest book, UACB, no reply to questions raised by him, as set forth on page 2 of attached memo, is being sent by SAC to LANE.

For the additional information of the Bureau, I received a telephone call on 5/13/77, from a member of the news media in Memphis, Tennessee, who advised he had interviewed LANE on that date in Memphis. LANE mentioned to this individual a "complaint" he had filed with the Atlanta Office of the FBI and also made a statement to this individual that the FBI was involved in the death of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. I acknowledged that LANE had visited the Atlanta Office seeking certain information and I described his charge against the Bureau's involvement in KING's death as ridiculous.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
1 - Atlanta

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(3)

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14-38861-621

17 MAY 18 1977

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

56 JUN 3 1977

SAC, ATLANTA

5-12-77

SC THOMAS E. KELLEY

MARK LANE

On 5-12-77, LANE, 105 2nd Street, NE, Washington, D.C., telephone 202-546-7500, after concluding an interview with PAUL SHIELDS, TV 5, outside the main entrance to the Atlanta Office, approached the counter and stated he had a complaint to file and wanted to talk to the Special Agent in Charge.

LANE presented his complaint to the writer while PAUL SHIELDS was present. At the outset LANE played a tape which was approximately 1½ - 2 minutes in length stating it was a recorded interview of ARTHUR MURTAUGH, former SA of Atlanta Div., presently practicing law and teaching in Constable, N.Y.

MURTAUGH was describing events at the time it was announced that KING had been shot and killed. There were no other voices on the tape and the voice attributed to MURTAUGH sounded identical to the writer's recollection of MURTAUGH.

MURTAUGH stated he and the relief supervisor of the squad were walking down the hall to place their salmon cards in the slot which told they were going home and it was either five till six or five till seven when the announcement was made over the radio in the office that KING had been shot. The relief supervisor was described as jumping for joy and exclaiming how they got the commie son of a bitch. MURTAUGH states how the discussion with this unnamed relief supervisor continued while they walked to the parking area about three blocks from the office. MURTAUGH used a great number of flashy adjectives in his description but always ended in stating "or something to that effect".

At the conclusion of the tape LANE remarked that the writer was not taking notes and inquired as to if the room was bugged. LANE was advised that the room was not bugged and that it was more important that I listen to the tape in order to determine what is said and that if he would furnish the question he would like answered and a location

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44-2261-617
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where he could be contacted that the questions would be made available to the SAC.

1) Who the relief supervisor referred to by MURTAUGH is and is he still employed by the FBI

2) Was any punitive action taken against the individual and did the FBI condone its employees acting in such a manner over the death of an ~~individual~~ individual.

LANE stated he could be reached at WRNG Radio station from 3-6PM, 6-7PM at the home of CHUCK McGIVEIN, telephone 934-8262. He stated his residence address as listed above and it was determined that this address is for Citizens Committee of Inquiry, WDC, when furnished by LANE on WRNG Radio.

When the writer asked PAUL SHIELDS for his name SHIELDS replied that he was just a reporter. It appeared as if SHIELDS did not in fact want to participate in the matter but was duped into it by LANE.

For information.

Author Mark Lane Claims FBI Plotted Against King

By CAROLE ASHKINAZE

Why was Martin Luther King Jr.'s police protection removed on the day of his assassination, and by whom?

Why was the same FBI squad which had originally been assigned to discredit King (whom they code-named 'Zorro') later directed to investigate his murder?

In what way has the most reliable witness been prevented, perhaps forever, from testifying in court?

These are some of the questions raised in "Code Name 'Zorro': The Murder of Martin Luther King Jr.," a chilling new book by the author of "Rush to Judgment," which 10 years ago poked holes in the Warren Commission's findings concerning the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

And Mark Lane, who collaborated with black comedian and civil rights worker Dick Gregory in the research and writing of "Code Name 'Zorro,'" said Thursday that their findings have led them to the grim conclusion that the FBI, under J. Edgar Hoover's direction, was deeply involved in a covert campaign to "destroy" King.

For example, Lane said in an interview in Atlanta, "Dr. King was subjected to electronic surveillance every minute of his life, starting in the early 1960s." Basing his allegations on information supplied by former FBI Special Agent Arthur Murtagh, who is widely quoted in the book, and others, Lane gave this account of one such episode:

"A microphone concealed in a hotel where King stayed picked up sounds of a party at which he was present," indicating "sexual activity." The trouble, Lane wrote in a segment dealing with the activities of an alleged "Destroy King" FBI squad, was that "it did not really relate King to the sexual activity and one could barely hear King's voice."



Staff Photo—George A. Clark

Lane: Still Probing

So Hoover ordered the FBI laboratory to "improve" or doctor the tapes so that King's voice could be clearly heard in a context that would prove embarrassing. He then ordered the tape "sanitized" to remove all fingerprints, had it placed in a package which was also sanitized, together with a threatening, typewritten letter, and directed that it be mailed to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference "from a Southern state," which entailed dispatching an FBI agent to Florida who mailed it, and then flew home.

Hoover's intention, Lane writes, was "to precipitate a separation between Dr. King and his wife in the belief that the separation would reduce

his stature."

Hoover also ordered agents, assigned to investigate King and other civil rights activists, to say that the investigations had been ordered by an assistant attorney general "because Hoover didn't want to be connected with any civil rights investigations," Lane quoted Murtagh. "This was the only time when we told anyone that the Justice Department was ordering us to conduct an investigation," Murtagh said. "In any other kind of case, the Bureau would be glad to take credit."

"It was an organized vendetta," in which the Atlanta, New York and Washington FBI field offices took part. Murtagh told Lane at another

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 11-B
THE
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 5-13-77
Edition: Morning
Author: Ashkinaze
Editor: Hal Gulliver
Title: MARK LANE

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: ATLANTA

Being Investigated

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ENCLOSURE

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point. "The concentration of effort against King was greater than any other single investigation that I saw take place at the Bureau and I saw a lot of them in 20 years. There was a crew of people who did almost nothing for... seven or eight years, except investigate King and try to destroy him... They were going to get King in one way or another.

Lane charges that the removal of Detective Ed Redditt, who had been assigned to provide security for the civil rights leader during his fatal trip to Memphis on orders from "Washington," the commitment of an important witness to a Tennessee mental institution, and the deployment of "Destroy King" squad members in the ensuing murder investigation, were other elements of that vendetta.

Lane, who now directs the Washington-based Citizens Committee of Inquiry, an organization committed to urging Congress to investigate the murders of both King and Kennedy, does not know if the full extent of the FBI involvement in those events will ever be known. But Lane, who said he has personally received 254 threats against his own life since he began his independent investigation into Kennedy's assassination 14 years ago, says that he does have faith in the Senate Select Committee, which is now conducting its own investigation.

"There will be a moment of truth," he declares, "when they ask the FBI and the CIA to make certain documents available to them, and are refused."

Lane, a former New York State legislator who also founded the Wounded Knee Legal Defense Committee, says however that he has already embarked on his next project. It will be an investigation of "monumental importance," he says, delving into the backgrounds of Americans who provided Fidel Castro with the weapons used in the Cuban revolution.