

FBI

Date: 4/17/74

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Bureau telephone call to Memphis, 4/16/74.

Enclosed for the Bureau are original and 4 copies of LHM dated and captioned as above.

No local dissemination is being made of this LHM.

As set forth in enclosed LHM, information contained in Memphis files reflect that for several days prior to 4/3/68, the date of KING's arrival in Memphis, members of his staff were registered at the Lorraine Motel, and KING himself upon his arrival at Memphis went directly to the Lorraine Motel and registered. There is no indication whatsoever that he was registered at the Holiday Inn Rivermont or that he had any intention of staying at the Holiday Inn Rivermont on his 4/3/68 trip to Memphis.

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J-76 F.
SCL.njg
3 - Bureau (Encs. 5)
2 - Memphis
HSL:mrp
(5)

ENCLOSURE

REC-115

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APR 19 1974

APR 24 1974

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Memphis, Tennessee
April 17, 1974

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: MURKIN

On March 28, 1968, [REDACTED] American Airlines, Memphis, Tennessee, advised Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., arrived Memphis Municipal Airport from Atlanta, Georgia, at 10:22 A.M. on March 28, 1968.

[REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee, Police Department, advised on March 28, 1968, that a motorcycle escort provided by the Memphis Police Department escorted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his party to the intersection of Hernando and Linden Avenue, Memphis, where King joined a massive march of approximately 7,000 persons. This march primarily sponsored by the Memphis sanitation workers had begun at 10:00 A.M. from Clayborn Temple and had proceeded to the intersection of Hernando Street and Linden Avenue when Dr. King joined the march on foot at 10:50 A.M.

[REDACTED] advised as this march continued at 11:10 A.M. on March 28, 1968, the marchers became completely unruly, store windows were broken, looting began, and at 11:15 A.M. Dr. King made the statement that he had to get out of there.

[REDACTED] of the Memphis Police Department advised that at approximately 11:15 A.M. Dr. King, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and three others of Dr. King's staff ran from the head of this march to Front Street between McCall and Gayoso where they attempted to commandeer a white panel truck in an effort to get away from the march. The driver of the white panel truck refused to help. One of Dr. King's associates then stopped a white Pontiac occupied by two Negro women and they were asked if they would assist in getting King out of danger. One of King's aides slid behind the steering wheel, King and three other members of his staff entered the rear seat of the Pontiac, and the car was driven

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to McCall and Front Street, and at this point the car was surrounded by approximately 50 individuals, all black.

██████████ cleared the crowd from around the Pontiac and asked the driver of the Pontiac where he wanted to go. The driver stated he had Rev. King in the back seat, that he had to get away, and asked the officer to escort them to the Hotel Sheraton-Peabody.

██████████ explained that due to the rioting they could not get to the Peabody Hotel and asked if they desired to go to another place. The Negro driver stated, "Just get us away from trouble."

██████████ then escorted the car containing Dr. King to the Rivermont Motel where ██████████ went to the desk clerk and asked if she had space for five Negroes, including Rev. King. The desk clerk told ██████████ the Negroes could remain in the lobby and an effort would be made to obtain a room for them.

██████████ stated that a room was found for Dr. King and his party of four and that this group checked into the Rivermont Motel at 11:24 A.M. on March 28, 1968.

On March 29, 1968, ██████████ advised that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spent the night of March 28, 1968, at the Rivermont Motel and at 2:30 P.M. on March 29, 1968, he and his staff were escorted by the Memphis Police Department to the Memphis Municipal Airport where Dr. King left Memphis via Eastern Airlines for Atlanta, Georgia, at 3:20 P.M. on March 29, 1968.

On April 1, 1968, ██████████ Inspectional Bureau, Memphis Police Department, advised that the following members of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) staff were in Memphis and currently registered at the Lorraine Motel: R. B. Cottonreader, James Orange, Rev. Jesse Jackson, and James L. Bevel.

Hosea L. Williams, Director of Voters Registration, SCLC, advised ██████████ on April 1, 1968, that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., would arrive in Memphis April 2, 1968, staying at the Lorraine Motel and that a mass march would be held April 5, 1968, led by Dr. King.

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On April 3, 1968, [REDACTED] advised that Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., and his aides Ralph D. Abernathy, Bernard Lee, and Andrew M. Young arrived at Memphis Municipal Airport at 10:15 A.M. from Atlanta, Georgia, via Eastern Airlines. According to [REDACTED] Dr. King was met by local SCLC leaders James Morris Lawson and Mrs. Thomas Matthews.

According to [REDACTED] a security detail of the Memphis Police Department was on hand to escort Dr. King; however, upon approaching Mrs. Thomas Matthews this security detail was informed that the SCLC had not requested police protection and that the security detail was not welcome. This security detail contacted Rev. Lawson and asked as to Dr. King's schedule so that security could be arranged, and Lawson stated that he did not know what Dr. King's schedule was.

Dr. King and his group were taken by private car to the Lorraine Motel where they were registered.

[REDACTED] advised Dr. King spent the night of April 3, 1968, at the Lorraine Motel and was at this motel at the time he was shot at approximately 6:00 P.M., April 4, 1968.

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