He is the person who [illegible]

FD-36 (Rev. 12-64)

FBI

Date: 4/23/68

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, CLEVELAND (44-565) (P)

RE: MURKIN
(OO: MEMPHIS)

Re Cleveland teletype to Bureau, ET AL, 4/20/68.

Original and one copy of article appearing on page 1, Cleveland Press, 4/23/68, entitled "JAILMATE OF KING SUSPECT GIVES CLUES TO PHONY NAMES".

On 4/20/68, the Cleveland Office was telephonically contacted by [redacted] wished to speak with an FBI Agent in connection with JAMES EARL RAY.

On Saturday, 4/20/68, [redacted] was interviewed [redacted] by SA [redacted], at which time he advised as follows:

[redacted] advised that he is presently incarcerated [redacted] having been arrested [redacted] on a carrying concealed weapon charge. [redacted] stated he is presently on parole out of Missouri State Penitentiary until 1969. He stated that he had been serving a 10 year sentence [redacted] and had served in Missouri State Penitentiary from [redacted]62 through [redacted]65, at which time he was placed on parole.

3 - Bureau (Enc. 2)
2 - Kansas City (88-9449)
2 - Memphis (44-1987)
2 - Cleveland

MPM/jky
(9)

44-38861-1968

REC 107

16 APR 25 1968

C. C. Bishop
CC Rosen

57 APR 3

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

[redacted] advised that during this time of incarceration at Missouri State Penitentiary he was in [redacted] Hall, cell [redacted]. He stated that the Missouri State Penitentiary has one-man cells and that JAMES EARL RAY, during this period of time, was incarcerated in cell 191.

[redacted] stated that RAY was a bread man and that he worked in the bakery. He stated that RAY's duties consisted of slicing the bread for the meals and that because of these duties RAY would be up earlier than the other inmates and would usually be back in his cell at 7:00 AM and would be free to come and go as he pleased during meal hours.

[redacted] advised that RAY was a racist and many times he heard him discussing his dislike for Negroes.

[redacted] advised that he would be considered a friend of RAY's but this was due mainly to the fact that they both had free time and that [redacted] others and that during break periods they would discuss various matters.

[redacted] stated that RAY had no close friends inside the prison and would be considered strictly a loner. [redacted] stated that RAY was hooked on amphetamine powders. [redacted] stated that RAY always had an "outfit" in his cell, stating that an "outfit" was a nose dropped with a needle with which he would shoot a solution made up from the amphetamine powder into his veins. [redacted] stated that he considered RAY a "fiend" on amphetamine powders. He stated that he was constantly shooting the amphetamines into his veins. [redacted] stated that he was not sure exactly what type of amphetamines RAY used but that he knows that RAY secured the amphetamines through a source in the prison at a price that ranged anywhere from $50 - $100 per spoonful. [redacted] stated that on occasion RAY would break down the amount of powder he received and in turn would sell it in smaller packages.

[redacted] stated that RAY was a very nervous individual and that he attributed this nervousness to his using amphetamines. He stated that because of the use of this drug RAY was a very poor eater and slept very little. [redacted] stated that he did not recall RAY smoking hardly at all and that he drank very little. [redacted] stated that RAY would have access to "hooch" made from potato or rice that was made in the prison bakery but that to the best of his knowledge RAY drank very little. [redacted] stated that if amphetamine powder was not available RAY would break up "bennies" and use it.

[redacted] advised that RAY was strictly a lone wolf and never discussed his own personal background. [redacted] stated that RAY was an avid reader of sex books and girlie magazines [redacted]

[redacted] stated that he did not recall RAY getting many visitors and very few letters. He stated, however, that on occasion when RAY did not have sufficient money to buy the amphetamine RAY would get a letter smuggled out of the prison to some unknown individual who in turn would send a check directly to the inmate RAY was purchasing the drug from and as soon as the check cleared [redacted] would get the amphetamine.

[redacted] advised that while incarcerated in the Missouri State Penitentiary [redacted] going which was [redacted] He stated it was because of his [redacted] to RAY he was familiar with the type of books RAY read. He stated that he did not recall specifically but believed that RAY had read practically all of the James Bond series with the exception of "Man With a Golden Gun".

[redacted] stated that RAY was a constant reader and that he used to write considerably. He stated that he did not know if RAY was writing letters or what, but that he had observed him on many occasions writing page after page.

[redacted] stated that RAY's personal habits, as far as cleanliness of his person, were excellent but he did not keep his cell clean and things would be thrown all over the cell at various times.

[redacted] stated that RAY seldom went to the movies but he did not think this too strange inasmuch as the movies were a source of trouble in the prison where numerous prisoners were knifed by fellow-prisoners on various occasions.

[redacted] stated that RAY had talked of escaping on numerous occasions and he believes that on one occasion he had been put into maximum security when he was caught with a rope and a hook. [redacted] stated that on another occasion RAY took part in a tunnel job that had been discovered by prison authorities who were unaware who had been involved in this attempt.

[redacted] stated that RAY never trusted anyone, that he was suspicious of everyone and had a feeling that everyone was out to get him.

[redacted] stated that on occasion he and RAY had talked about the philosophy of FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE, the philosopher, and he stated it was RAY's feeling that "man can do anything as long as it seems right for him".

[redacted] stated that RAY had a habit of pulling at his left ear constantly. He stated it was impossible to be with RAY for any period of time at all without being aware of this.

[redacted] after much reluctance, advised that the inmate RAY purchased the amphetamine from was JIM BRADLEY. [redacted] described BRADLEY as the "top con" and stated that everyone in the Missouri State Penitentiary would know BRADLEY. [redacted] stated that this information being furnished by him must be kept confidential since [redacted] he may be returned to the Missouri State Penitentiary and he fears retaliation should it be known information furnished by him.

[redacted] advised that his wife and child are presently residing with his mother, [redacted] Cleveland, Ohio, telephone [redacted] and the stated that his DOB was [redacted] only other name he has ever been known by was [redacted]

At approximately 6:00 PM on 4/22/68, [redacted] telephonically contacted S[redacted] at which time he advised him that the papers, namely the Cleveland Press, were attempting to contact him since his release [redacted] on 4/22/68. [redacted] stated that his lawyer evidently had contacted the papers in the belief it might help his case. [redacted] asked if it were possible for the FBI to prevent the newspapers from printing his name. [redacted] was advised that there was nothing that the FBI could do in the way of repressing the newspapers and that inasmuch as it was his own attorney who had made this information available to the newspapers there was nothing that the FBI could do in this matter.

[redacted] stated that he then would attempt to have the papers at least keep his name out of the papers when they printed this information.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jail Mate of King Suspect Gives Clue to Phony Names

By ALAN HORTON

I talked to a 31-year-old West Sider who, for four years, was in Missouri State Pen Cell 187.

James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was in Cell 191, some 10 feet from 187.

The West Sider is in trouble with the law again. That's how I found out about his connection with Missouri State Prison.

"I guess I knew Jimmy Ray as well as any man," the West Sider said between drags on a smoke. "I rented him books in prison. One of the books he got from me was Ian Fleming's 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service.'

"In that, Ernst Stavro Blofeld was the head of SPECTRE. I also rented him Agn Rand's 'Atlas Shrugged.' John Galt is in that."

IS IT COINCIDENCE that Ray used the alias Eric Starvo Galt to throw the FBI off his trail?

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

A1 THE CLEVELAND PRESS
(Cleveland, Ohio)

Date: 4-23-68
Edition: FINAL
Author:
Editor: THOS L. BOARDMAN
Title: MURKIN

Character: 44-565
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: CLEVELAND

☐ Being Investigated

44-1-1916

"We each worked in the food service in prison," the West Sider continued. "I was the second cook. He was responsible for slicing bread for each meal. He had a pass to the kitchen anytime. We were thrown together. I got to know him real well.

"I had 200 or 300 books in my cell. I sold and rented them. Mostly he read sex stories and I kept him supplied. And he read that Prussian philsopher, Friedrich Nietzsche. He believed in Nietzsche's superman. Might makes right, he said, and nothing is wrong as long as there's satisfaction for the inner man.

"THE WHOLE PRISON was segregated. He was one of those who thought Negroes should be kept separated.

"He was the original lone wolf. But no matter what you talked about or where you'd been, he knew it or he'd been there. He had a little funny smile always—like the Mona Lisa.

"He was very introverted and personally clean. He said he didn't have any people but he got mail once in a while. He worked three hours a day and the rest of the time he read or hung by himself in the prison yard.

"He was addicted mentally to stimulants, amphetamines — not the pills but the powder. He got it the way you get anything you're not supposed to get in prison and he injected it.

"BECAUSE OF THIS, he didn't eat — no appetite — and he was thin, about 150 pounds. I know he was a paranoid. Never mind what the prison psychiatrist said.

"His eyes were weaker than the ones in the FBI photo. Kind of foggy. He was always pulling on his big left ear with his left hand. Like he was nervous all the time. He had a high-pitched voice but he was very even-tempered. He was smart and cool and he didn't trust anybody."

RAY, THE ADMIRER OF SUPERMEN, may have been friendly to the West Sider because of his muscular appearance. He is nearly 6 feet tall and weighs 240 pounds.

One year ago today 40-year-old James Earl Ray escaped from the Missouri prison in a bread box. He had been serving a 20-year sentence on habitual criminal and armed robbery charges.

The West Sider is out on bond on a carrying concealed weapon charge. He told the FBI what he knows about Ray.