UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach

FROM: A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: May 1, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Gale

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

[redacted] requested his identity be concealed and advised as follows. In [redacted] was [redacted] at Missouri State Penitentiary. Ray had aspirations of making a big haul and retiring to Mexico where he intended to live frugally on beans and beer.

Ray told [redacted] he wanted to stay off the beaten path in Mexico and avoid American Colonies. He implied he had gone to Mexico twice to cool off after robberies and had once lived with peasants on the outskirts of Campeche, near the Yucatan Peninsula, where he rented a three-room shack. Ray continually emphasized his desire to make one big score and then live frugally in Mexico. He said Mexico City and Acapulco were too expensive; however, he made reference to Torreon in North Central Mexico where he said there were low priced prostitutes in the red-light district.

Ray also told [redacted] he had earned money smuggling appliances such as television sets and washing machines which he sold to peasants in Mexico. The smuggling was done from Brownsville, Texas, by a fishing boat owned by [redacted] or [redacted] who formerly lived in the United States and spoke English. Ray could speak very little Spanish.

[redacted] believes Ray went to Mexico in the late nineteen fifties by car and on another occasion went by boat from Brownsville. The Legat, Mexico City, and the San Antonio Office are conducting appropriate investigation concerning the information provided by [redacted]

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RE: MURKIN

[redacted] knew Ray at Missouri State Penitentiary from 1963 to 1966. [redacted] says there were two gangs in the prison and Ray associated with the leaders of the St. Louis gang. He also says Ray was close to an inmate who was the main supplier of drugs within the prison. He does not remember this prisoner's name but believes he was serving a long sentence for killing a St. Louis policeman. [redacted] alleges this prisoner had six or eight other prisoners selling drugs for him. [redacted] believes the drugs were obtained from a guard and says on one occasion one-half pound of amphetamine was found in this prisoner's cell.

In December, 1966, Ray was examined by a psychiatric consultant for the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole. The examiner described Ray as an interesting and rather complicated individual who stated that within the past year he had various physical complaints including "pain in the 'solar plexes,' tachycardia and 'intracranial tension'." The examiner commented to Ray that he was using rather large words and Ray replied that he had been reading medical literature.

The psychiatrist found that Ray's basic problem appeared to be an increasingly severe obsessive compulsive trend. Ray had stated that at the age of ten he awoke one night believing he had lost his eyesight and became quite fearful. It was stated that various fears confront Ray from time to time "in a typical obsessive compulsive way" and he feels he must do certain things to avoid what he feels will occur and harm him. For instance, Ray described a feeling of fear which could be alleviated if he took a glass of water from which he was drinking, placed it on the table and moved it back and forth several times.

The psychiatrist found evidence of a rather deep underlying obsessive compulsive personality trend. The psychiatrist stated that Ray's problem was not psychotic but was severely neurotic and Ray was fearful that his anxiety and tension might lead him into more serious difficulties. The psychiatric report expressed the opinion that Ray was in need of psychiatric help.

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ACTION:

All aspects of this investigation are being vigorously pursued on a top priority basis.

Let me have memo on Sonrap.