FD-36 (Rev. 12-13-58)

FBI

Transmit the following in . . .

Via AIRTEL

(Type in Plaintext or Code) (Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Evans
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (C)

SUBJECT: BURKIN

By airtel dated 4/7/69, the Bureau advised that in a third "Look" magazine article, WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE stated that JAMES EARL RAY had spent the night of 4/2/68 in a motel near Corinth, Miss. The Bureau instructed Jackson to review motel records in and around Corinth to determine the identities of individuals registered there during the period 3/29/68 to 4/3/68. By airtel dated 4/18/69, the Jackson Office advised the Bureau that motel records at Corinth, Miss., had been reviewed under the subject's true name and aliases and had been reviewed for subject's Alabama license number. Nothing identifiable with the subject was located.

2 - Bureau
2 - Albany
2 - Albuquerque
2 - Atlanta
2 - Birmingham
2 - Buffalo
2 - Charlotte
2 - Chicago
2 - Cincinnati
2 - Cleveland
2 - Columbia
2 - Dallas
2 - Denver
2 - Detroit
2 - Houston
2 - Indianapolis
2 - Jackson
2 - Jacksonville
2 - Kansas City
2 - Knoxville
2 - Little Rock
2 - Los Angeles
2 - Louisville

REC-32 44-38861-5748

3 MAY 20 1969

Approved: R C Jensen Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

56 MAY 26 1969

By airtel dated 5/7 69, copies of which were not furnished the Bureau, the Jackson Office set out leads for those offices to whom copies of this communication are designated. These offices have been requested to interview several hundred persons who spent the night in motels at Corinth, Miss., on or about 4/2/68.

In view of the fact that more than a year has passed since these persons stayed over night at Corinth, and since similar investigation of this type in this case has previously been unproductive, and since BUREAU has admitted that RAY frequently is untruthful in statements to him, and further since it is not believed that it is of any particular importance to establish whether or not JAMES EARL RAY stayed over night at Corinth on 4/2/68, all offices will disregard the leads set out in Jackson airtel dated 5/7 69 unless specifically advised by the Bureau to cover same.

MURKIN

RE: ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECT SINCE ESCAPE FROM MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP), 4-23-67

The following represents a chronological order of events in the recent history of JAMES EARL RAY including his escape from the MSP and known activities since that time.

Investigation at the MSP reflects JAMES EARL RAY officially escaped from that institution on 4-23-67, ostensibly by hiding in a bread box which was delivered by truck to an auxiliary farm. RAY was serving out a sentence of 23 years on an Armed Robbery Charge - First Degree, and Operating A Motor Vehicle Without Owner's Consent. RAY was received at the MSP on 3-17-60.

Subsequent to his escape an FBI complaint was filed on 7-20-67, charging JAMES EARL RAY with UFAC.

The date of RAY's escape appears to be significant for two reasons, the first that his brother, JOHN RAY, while having visited subject in prison on several occasions also visited him on 4-22-67, one day before RAY's alleged escape. JOHN claims, however, that he knew nothing of his brother's escape until much later and that he knew nothing at all of his brother's escape plans. He stated that he did not make all of the visits to the prison claimed by officials of that institution and that he has no specific recollection of having visited on 4-22-67.

Officials of the prison further advised that signatures on the visitors' register are compared at the time of visit with signatures of authorized visitors in the prison files and that it, therefore, is not likely that a visitor's card would be used by someone else as JOHN RAY has claimed. JOHN has claimed that JERRY RAY possibly made some of the visits attributed to him. It was pointed out by these officials that if a discrepancy in signatures were discovered trouble could result for both the inmate and the visitor and it is, therefore, considered by them to be very unlikely that a visitor would use someone else's identity.

SEARCHED..... INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED..... FILED.....
MAY 7 1968
FBI — SAINT LOUIS

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SL 44-775

The date of escape is significant from a second point of view, that of [redacted] statement on 4-24-67, that RAY went out of the prison 30 days before reported and that he actually walked out the front door. [redacted] did not elaborate further as to what was meant by this.

There is little indication of where RAY went after his escape or how he spent this time until 8-67, with three possible exceptions. The first is a statement by [redacted] who advised the KC Division on 4-26-68, that he had been told by an unrecalled inmate at the SL Jail that subject RAY had been living and cooking in a garage somewhere in SL until as late as 9-67. RAY was reported to have had a car during this period of time, was pushing narcotics, and pulling stickups. It was not known to this source whether RAY had made any contacts with SL relatives.

The second indication of RAY's whereabouts is a statement by [redacted] of the [redacted] reporting information from a confidential source that [redacted] of [redacted] had "holed up" RAY first at the Half-Way House, [redacted], in 9-67, which tavern was owned by [redacted] before going to [redacted] where he also is supposed to have "harbored" RAY. Sometime during this period RAY was supposed to have offered an attorney $1500 to "square" his escape from prison.

The third indication of RAY's whereabouts is a statement by [redacted] acquaintance of RAY, on 4-22-68, that he did not see RAY after his escape from the MSP in 4-67, but that he did hear that RAY had come to SL in order to kill a man responsible for his arrest and imprisonment. [redacted] stated that [redacted] had said RAY contacted him after his escape but did not know if [redacted] had ever helped him.

Subject RAY's first verifiable residence since escape in March or April of 1967, is as ERIC STARVO GALT, 2608 Highland Ave., Birmingham, Ala., 8-30-67. It was on this date that a white 2-door Ford Mustang; VIN 6TO7C190647, was transferred to ERIC S. GALT. Ala. driver's license #2848947 was issued to ERIC STARVO GALT at 2608 Highland Ave., S. Birmingham, Ala., on 9-6-67. 1968 Ala. license 138-993 was

thereafter issued on 10-2-67, to GALT at the same Highland Ave. address. GALT's driver's license described him as a white male, born 7-20-31, 5'11", 175 lbs., occupation - merchant marine. No surrender of license for an out-of-state license has been recorded. It is noted that GALT took his driver's license test in a 1967 Mustang bearing Ala. license 1A88354.

A duplicate license was issued to GALT on 3-1-68, to the same address and which was not returned.

The next verified indication of RAY's whereabouts is reported by the legat, Mexico City, who advises that ERIC STARVO GALT resided in the Hotel Rio, Room 212, Morelos, 86 Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, 10-19-67 to 11-6-67. GALT thereafter checked into the Hotel Tropicana, Puerto Vallarta, Room 417, checking out on 11-13-67. There were no known toll charges at either of these hotels.

Subject JAMES EARL RAY next appeared under the name of ERIC STARVO GALT at LA, Calif., where he is known to have resided between 11-19-67 and approximately 3-17-68. RAY, aka GALT, resided at 1535 N. Serrano, Apt. 6, LA, from 11-19-67 to 1-18-68. The USPO, LA, Calif., furnished a change of address reflecting that on 1-22-68, ERIC STARVO GALT moved from 1535 N. Serrano Ave., LA, to the St. Francis Hotel at 5533 Hollywood Blvd., LA. GALT stayed at the St. Francis Hotel from 1-21-68 to 3-17-68. While in LA he serviced a 1968 white Mustang, Ala. license 138-993, at a Chevron Station, 1506 N. Normandy, LA, on 2-13-68, mileage reading 34,185, and again on 2-22-68, at Cort-Fox Ford, 4531 Hollywood Blvd., LA, mileage 34,289. GALT's address on the later service ticket was reflected as 1535 N. Serrano, LA. While in LA GALT took dancing lessons from the National Dance Studios from early 12-67 until 2-12-68. The lessons cost GALT between $400 and $500 and were paid for by him in cash.

During this approximate period of time ERIC STARVO GALT also attended the International School of Bartending in LA between the dates 1-19-68 and 3-2-68. In both pursuits GALT was described as an introvert, a loner, lacking in social graces, and as having an apparent low level of education.

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GALT left LA for a brief period of time beginning on 12-15-67, on which date he left for New Orleans, La., with an acquaintance identified as CHARLES STEIN. The purpose of this trip was to return two of STEIN's wife's children to LA who had been living in New Orleans with their grandparents. GALT met the STEINs in the bar of the St. Francis Hotel and voluntarily agreed to transport STEIN to New Orleans after learning from his wife of the plight of her children. GALT claimed that it was necessary for him to meet with some "contractors" in that city. He later stated to STEIN that he had met with two or more men whom he did not identify. GALT did impose a condition on his agreement to make this trip which was a requirement that STEIN, his wife, and a third acquaintance register for the Gov. GEORGE WALLACE political party at the WALLACE headquarters in LA. GALT took it upon himself to transport these individuals to WALLACE headquarters, oversaw their registration, and thereafter began the trip to New Orleans with Mr. STEIN.

STEIN has advised the LA Division that GALT paid all expenses of trip for both parties and that he, STEIN, only spent $35 during the entire trip. GALT apparently had some doubt about the trip, however as he advised a third female acquaintance that if the trip was a setup he would kill STEIN, as he had a gun.

After departure on 12-15-67, GALT and STEIN arrived in New Orleans on 12-17-67, departed that city on 12-19-67, and arrived in LA on 12-21-67. STEIN advised that he separated from GALT in New Orleans at GALT's request and that he, GALT, stayed at a motel in that city. STEIN claimed that throughout the entire trip GALT kept dropping his name in restaurants and service stations which made it appear to him as if GALT was desirous of these individuals becoming aware of his name.

It is also noted that during the time GALT spent in LA he was free with his money, giving away $20 on at least two occasions and that he traded a woman acquaintance a large console TV set for a small portable which he could carry with him.

THOMAS LAU, Director of the International School of Bartending, advised the LA Division on 4-15-68, that after

GALT had graduated from the bartending school he, LAU, telephoned GALT on 3-2-68, as he had in mind a possible job for him. GALT stated at this time that he did not want the job as he was leaving town within two weeks for an undisclosed destination for the purpose of visiting with his brother. As previously noted GALT checked out of the St. Francis Hotel on 3-17-68, leaving a forwarding address of General Delivery, Main Post Office, Atlanta, Ga., until 4-25-68. It is noted that Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. visited LA in 3-68, but there is no known significance in the simultaneous appearance of GALT and KING in LA at that time.

The next known appearance of GALT is in Atlanta, Ga., on 3-24-68, inasmuch as Atlanta has advised in an airtel dated 4-25-68, that GALT can be placed in that city on that date. Specific information is not furnished.

ERIC STARVO GALT's next appearance was at the New Rebel Motel in Memphis, Tenn., on 4-3-68, where he stayed overnight until 4-4-68, at which time he moved into the rooming house at 422½ Main St., Memphis, Tenn. GALT's registration at the New Rebel Motel reflects he was still operating a white Mustang bearing Ala. license 138-993 and that he gave an address of 2608 S. Highland Ave., Birmingham. It is noted that this is the same address given by GALT when he purchased the car on 8-30-67, and to which a duplicate driver's license was sent on 3-1-68.

The above-described Mustang was thereafter recovered in Atlanta, Ga., on 4-11-68, apparently having been abandoned there on 4-5-68, prior to 9:00 a.m.

Relatives claim no knowledge of RAY's whereabouts since his escape from the MSP, all of whom state that they either saw him last while in prison or it has been several years since having seen him. JERRY RAY, JOHN "JACK" RAY, and CAROL and ALBERT PEPPER apparently got together in SL in 2-68, at which time JERRY and JOHN were both registered at the MacArthur Hotel, SL. JERRY was registered on 2-2-68, JOHN on 2-6-68, and Mr. and Mrs. JOHN RAY on 2-17-68. There is no known Mrs. JOHN RAY and all claim that JAMES EARL RAY was not present when they had this gathering and that they had no knowledge of his whereabouts at that time.

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ALBERT PEPPER's fellow employees advised on 4-20-68, there was a possibility that ALBERT PEPPER had seen the subject since his escape but they could offer nothing which could prove or lend credence to this belief other than a statement by ALBERT that his "brother-in-law" had been arrested on the same date he had been arrested.

The following calendar of events is furnished for your assistance in covering leads in this case:

3-67	Possible time of escape MSP.
4-23-67	Official date of escape MSP.
4-67 to 8-67	Whereabouts unknown with exception of following information: [redacted], prisoner associate, claims subject resided in a SL garage. [redacted] claimed was "holed up" by [redacted] at [redacted] claimed had returned to SL to kill person responsible for his arrest. Said [redacted] had said subject had contacted him.
8-30-67	ERIC STARVO GALT purchased white Mustang at 2608 Highland Ave., Birmingham, Ala.
9-6-67	Ala. driver's license #2848947 issued to ERIC STARVO GALT at 2608 Highland Ave., S. Birmingham, Ala.
10-2-67	Ala. license 138-993 issued to E. S. GALT, 2608 Highland Ave.

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10-19-67	Checked in Hotel Rio, Room 212, Morelos, 86 Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.
11-6-67	Checked out of Hotel Rio.
11-6-67	Checked in Hotel Tropicana, Room 417, Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico.
11-13-67	Checked out Hotel Tropicana.
11-19-67	Began residence at 1535 N. Serrano, Apt. 6, LA, Calif.
12-67 (early)	Began dancing lessons, National Dance Studios, LA, Calif.
12-15-67	Traveled to New Orleans, La., with CHARLES STEIN.
12-21-67	Returned to LA, Calif., with STEIN and his children.
1-18-68	Terminated residence 1535 N. Serrano.
1-19-68	Began attendance International School of Bartending, LA, Calif.
1-22-68	Began residence St. Francis Hotel, 5533 Hollywood Blvd., LA, Calif.(Date PO advised)
2-2-68	JERRY RAY registers MacArthur Hotel.
2-6-68	JOHN RAY registers MacArthur Hotel.
2-12-68	Terminated dancing lessons.
2-17-68	Mr. and Mrs. JOHN RAY register MacArthur Hotel.

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3-1-68	Duplicate driver's license mailed to subject at the 2608 Highland Ave. address.
3-2-68 (approximate)	Terminated attendance International School of Bartending; director of that school telephonically advised RAY of job which RAY turned down stating he was to visit brother.
3-17-68	Terminated residence St. Francis Hotel.
4-3-68	Subject registered New Rebel Hotel, Memphis.
4-4-68	Subject moves into 422½ Main, Memphis.
4-4-68	Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING's assassination.
4-5-68	Subject abandons white Mustang, Atlanta, Ga.
4-11-68	Mustang recovered, Atlanta.
4-25-68	Date to which mail was to be forwarded to PO, Atlanta, from LA.

SAC Thomas J. Bate