OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27
5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 19, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Conrad

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

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

You will recall that New Scotland Yard had been unable to determine Ray's whereabouts from 5/17/68, when he arrived back in England from Lisbon, Portugal, and 5/28/68, when he checked into the New Earls Court Hotel in London.

As a result of a request made by our Legal Attache in London, the Yard rechecked all hotels in the Kensington area near the West London Air Terminal and they determined that Ray checked into the Heathfield House Hotel in London on 5/17/68 and checked out on 5/28/68, which is the date he checked into the New Earls Court Hotel. The guest book of the Heathfield House Hotel contains the signature of Ramon George Sneyd, 962 Dindas - W - Toronto, Canada. This, of course, is the name Ray used to obtain his Canadian passport and one of his addresses in Canada was 962 Dundas, West Toronto.

The proprietress of the hotel identified a photograph of the subject as the individual known to her as Ramon George Sneyd who stayed at her hotel. The Laboratory has determined that the signature Ramon George Sneyd on the copy of the guest book page is somewhat indistinct but is similar to known signatures of the subject.

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The proprietress of the hotel advised that Ray kept to himself, did not receive any mail, phone calls or visitors and left the hotel between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. every morning after breakfast and returned at about 1 a.m. She stated she did not think that Ray stayed out all night on any occasion but she could not be sure.

25 JUL 31 1968

Legal Attache in London has advised that New Scotland Yard orally informed him in strictest confidence that on 5/27/68, at 5:20 p.m., a lone man with a small gun walked

Enclosure sent 7-22-68

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SENT DIRECTOR
7-22-68

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into a jeweler's shop in the Paddington area of London, pointed the gun at the jeweler and stated, "This is a stick-up, give me the money in the till." The jeweler hesitated and the man panicked and ran out of the shop without obtaining any loot. When shown ten photographs of different men, the jeweler without hesitation picked out Ray as the attempted holdup man. The jeweler claimed the man wore a hat and as far as can be determined Ray was hatless during his period in England and did not have a hat in his possession. However, if he is the man involved he could have disposed of the hat.

On the morning of 6/4/68 Ray had asked the clerk at the New Earls Court Hotel how much his bill would be and when informed, he reportedly said, "I'll have to go to my bank and make a withdrawal." It is noted the Fulham Bank in London was robbed on the afternoon of 6/4/68. Ray has been identified as the perpetrator of that bank robbery based on his fingerprint appearing on the note used by the robber to demand money from the bank employees. The clerk at the Heathfield House Hotel advised that when Ray was told how much his bill would be on 5/27/68, he reportedly made a similar statement about making a withdrawal from his bank. The attempted jewelry shop holdup occurred at 5:20 p.m., 5/27/68.

The Yard has the theory that if Ray is the man involved in the jewelry shop robbery attempt since he did not get any money he may have committed a successful job between 5:20 p.m. on 5/27/68 and the morning of 5/28/68 in order to pay his bill at the hotel. Representatives of the Yard advised that pending Ray's actual removal to the United States that they did not intend to conduct further investigation to substantiate this theory since they were extremely fearful if information regarding Ray's participation in the attempted robbery of the jewelry store and other possible scores became known to the press, Ray's solicitor may insist that Ray be charged in order to clear him of any such charges.

Legal Attache, London advises that the above information may be furnished to the Department of Justice with the understanding that the information regarding the attempted jewelry store holdup should not be revealed to the press or public sources at this time.

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Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

For your information. Attached for approval is a letter to the Attorney General with copies to the Deputy Attorney General and Assistant Attorneys General Pollak and Vinson setting forth pertinent information indicated above. Department being cautioned against disclosure of information on the attempted jewelry store holdup at this time.

In view of the importance of determining Ray's sources of funds and since he has now been returned to the United States, Legal Attache, London is being instructed to request New Scotland Yard to conduct further investigation to determine if Ray may have been involved in other robberies in London.

5