FBI WASH. DC.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
COMMUNICATION SECTION
MAR 13 1969

TELETYPE

FBI MEMPHIS

705 PM. URGENT 3-13-69 DND

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ATTN: MR. AL ROSEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR GENERAL INVESTICATIVE DIVISION

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN — ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

AT APPROXIMATELY TWO FORTYFIVE PM, INTERVIEW WAS BEGUN WITH JAMES EARL RAY BY SAC, MEMPHIS AT TENNESSEE STATE PRISON. INTERVIEW CONCLUDED AT APPROXIMATELY THREE THIRTYFIVE PM. RAY ON ENTERING ROOM SAID, "YOU'RE THE GUY WHO TESTIFIED. I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU OR ANYBODY FROM THE FBI." RAY WAS ASKED TO SIT DOWN AND WAS TOLD IT WAS POSSIBLE WE HAD THINGS WE COULD TALK ABOUT. RAY SAID, "I'M NOT GOING TO TALK ABOUT CASE AS I'VE BEEN MISQUOTED ENOUGH." HE WAS UNABLE TO POINT OUT ANY SPECIFICS WHERE FBI HAD EVER MISQUOTED HIM. HE WAS ALSO TOLD FBI HAD NOT INTERVIEWED HIM SO IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO MISQUOTE HIM. RAY INDICATED HE BETTER GO BACK TO CELL AS SAC WAS ONLY TRYING TO TRICK HIM INTO TALKING ABOUT CASE. HE WAS THEN REMINDED OF HIS GUILTY PLEA IN OPEN COURT AND WAS ASKED IF HE INTENDED TO CHANGE THIS. HE SAID NO.

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RAY THEN CRITICIZED HIS ATTORNEY ART HANES, ~~SR.~~ HE SAID HANES WAS NOT GOOD ATTORNEY AS HE REFUSED TO INVESTIGATE CASE. SAC INTERJECTED THAT HIS ATTORNEY HAD HIRED INVESTIGATOR TO

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MR. DELOACH FOR THE DIRECTOR

WHICH RAY REPLIED, "HE'S NO GOOD EITHER; AND HE ONLY BEGAN TO INVESTIGATE A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE TRIAL." RAY STATED HANES REALLY WASN'T HIS ATTORNEY AS WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE HAD HIRED HANES TO GO TO LONDON TO ACT AS ATTORNEY FOR RAY, IN RETURN FOR STORY CONTRACTS. RAY WOULD NOT AMPLIFY ON CONTRACTS BUT DID STATE HE HAD TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS IN CONTRACTS OUT. RAY SAID HE HADN'T RECEIVED ANY MONEY ON ANY OF THESE CONTRACTS YET. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD CONTRACTED WITH PERCY FOREMAN REGARDING POSSIBLE STORY. ALSO SAID PART OF HIS CONTRACT WITH FOREMAN WAS THAT RAY WOULD NOT EMBARRASS FOREMAN IN COURT. WHEN ASKED IF THAT IS WHY HE SAID NO MORE IN COURT WHEN HE ROSE TO MAKE COMMENT, RAY SAID HE WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT ANY MORE.

HE THEN BECAME CRITICAL OF FOREMAN, SAYING HE WOULDN'T INVESTIGATE HIS CASE EITHER. SAID THAT FOREMAN CAME TO HIM WITH A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, SAYING "YOUR BEST DEFENSE IS TO PLEAD GUILTY OR YOU'LL GET THE DEATH SENTENCE." RAY INDICATED DISSATISFACTION WITH HIS PAST ATTORNEYS. HE SAID HE WAS TRYING TO GET AN ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA NOW. HE REFUSED TO INDENTIFY THIS ATTORNEY. (SAC HAD PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH WARDEN LAKE RUSSELL AT PRISON AND WARDEN HAD ADVISED RAY HAD TOLD HIM HE

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WAS MAKING EFFORTS TO GET J. B. STONER, AN ATTORNEY IN GEORGIA, TO REPRESENT HIM. (J. B. STONER WELL KNOWN FIGURE IN VARIOUS WHITE HATE GROUPS IN GEORGIA.)

RAY ALSO SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ANY MORE ABOUT ANYTHING, AS HE FELT HIS ATTORNEY WOULD BE ABLE TO REOPEN HIS CASE. HE ALSO SAID HE HAD LETTER PREPARED TO SEND TO SENATOR EASTLAND AND THEN IN ABOUT TWO OR THREE MONTHS HIS CASE WOULD BE CLEARED UP. HE INDICATED HE MIGHT THEN BE WILLING TO SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS THE CASE FULLY.

ADDITIONAL SMALL TALK OCCURRED AND RAY BROUGHT UP FBI TV SERIES. HE WONDERED WHY FBI ALWAYS HAD TO LET THE CRIMINALS DRAW FIRST BEFORE THEY WERE SHOT. HE WAS TOLD THIS IS ONLY CONSISTENT WITH THE FACTS, AS OUR WEAPONS ARE USED ONLY IN SELF DEFENSE. HE EXPRESSED SOME SKEPTICISM. HE THEN ASKED IF FBI THOUGHT HE WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO LEAVE HIS FINGERPRINTS IN THE AREA WHERE A PUBLIC FIGURE WAS KILLED. HE WAS ASKED IF HE WAS TRYING TO TELL SAC THAT SOMEONE PLANTED HIS PRINTS, AND IF SO HIS STORY WAS GETTING THIN AND SAC WOULD LEAVE. HE THEN RAISED SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT NOT EVER HAVING BEEN IDENTIFIED IN A

LINEUP AND WAS NOT SURE THAT ANYONE COULD IDENTIFY HIM. HE THEN INDICATED HE HAD READ IN A CANADIAN PAPER THAT ONE CHARLIE STEPHENS COULD PROBABLY ~~COULD~~ IDENTIFY HIM AS HE THOUGHT CHARLIE STEPHENS HAD A GOOD LOOK AT HIM IN ROOMING HOUSE. HE DID NOT WANT TO DISCUSS THIS FURTHER.

HE THEN FURTHER CLAIMED THAT NO ONE HAD IDENTIFIED HIM WITH A PHOTOGRAPH UNTIL HE MADE SOME PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE ON THE WEST COAST. THE ABSURDITY OF THIS STATEMENT WAS POINTED OUT TO HIM AS HE KNEW THE STATE HAD SEVERAL WITNESSES WHO COULD IDENTIFY HIM.

HE WAS ASKED IF HE DIDN'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE, SUCH AS HIS TRIP FROM LOS ANGELES TO NEW ORLEANS. HE SAID NO, THAT HE HAD MADE A MISTAKE GETTING MIXED UP WITH STEIN. HE SAID STEIN WAS ONLY A "HIPPIE." HE WOULD NOT TALK FURTHER ABOUT STEIN.

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COVERED WITH RAY INDICATED HE SAID HE NEVER RECEIVED A PROPERTY RECEIPT FROM BUTLER OF SCOTLAND YARD, WHEN ARRESTED THERE. HE SAID THIS RECEIPT MIGHT BE OF VALUE AT SOME FUTURE DATE. HE REFUSED TO CLARIFY THIS.

RAY WOULD NOT AT ANY TIME DISCUSS CONSPIRACY OR ANY ASPECTS OF IT. HE CONTINUOUSLY CLAIMED THIS WOULD BE MATTER FOR HIS

ATTORNEY TO HANDLE AND POSSIBLY SENATOR EASTLAND'S COMMITTEE. HE ALSO EXPRESSED DISLIKE FOR FORMER ~~AG~~ ATTORNEY GENERAL CLARK BECAUSE OF HIS STATEMENTS BUT WOULD NOT CLARIFY WHAT STATEMENTS. HE DID, HOWEVER, SAY ABOUT CLARK THAT IF HE WAS SOFT ON CRIME AS THE NEWSPAPERS SOMETIME REPORTED THIS WAS OKAY.

AT THIS TIME SAC ASKED RAY IF HE WOULD NOT LIKE TO MEET A PAIR OF ASSOCIATES OF SAC, AGENTS JOE C. HESTER AND ROBERT F. BOYLE. RAY SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO FBI BECAUSE ALL THEY WANTED TO DO WAS TRICK HIM. RAY AT CONCLUSION OF INTERVIEW SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO TALK TO ANY OTHER AGENTS AT THIS TIME. HE WAS TOLD THERE WERE TWO OTHER AGENTS WITH SAC. HE DID MEET THESE TWO AGENTS JUST PRIOR TO BEING RETURNED TO HIS CELL. HIS PARTING COMMENT WHEN GOING THROUGH CELL DOOR WAS, "TAKE A GOOD LOOK AS YOU MAY BE LOOKING FOR ME AGAIN."

SAC TOLD RAY THAT HE WOULD RECONTACT HIM AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING AND PERHAPS WE COULD AGAIN ENGAGE IN SMALL TALK. RAY SAIE "MAYDE I WILL NOT TALK WITH YOU AGAIN."

ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE MADE TO SEEK SECOND INTERVIEW IN — A. M. WITH RAY.

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RAY'S COMMENT ABOUT TAKING A GOOD LOOK WAS SPECIFICALLY POINTED OUT TO THE OFFICERS ON DUTY IN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY SECTION AND IT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY POINTED OUT TO WARDEN RUSSELL. IN ADDITION, IN DISCUSSIONS WITH WARDEN RUSSELL, SAC REQUESTED THAT VISIT OF FBI TO TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY SHOULD BE HELD CONFIDENTIAL. WARDEN INDICATED HE WOULD DO SO BUT, OF COURSE, STORY WOULD STILL GET AROUND IN THE PRISON YARD. P.

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CC-MR. ROSEN