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5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

DATE: April 15, 1968

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Long
1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. Mohr
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. Conrad
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This case concerns the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Personnel of the Exhibits Section were dispatched to the Memphis and Birmingham Divisions in order to produce an artist's sketch of the unknown subject based upon witnesses' observations and descriptions. Witnesses in Birmingham furnished oral descriptions which are at variance with the descriptions of Memphis witnesses. Consequently the artists' conceptions show differences which cannot be reconciled.

It was not felt that we should provide the press an artist's conception which was not a good likeness and which would possibly further confuse witnesses and other citizens who may have been the unknown subject. To have done so would have not been in the best interest of the Bureau and could lead to further unwarranted criticism.

ACTION:

The Exhibits Section personnel now in Memphis are being dispatched to Atlanta in order to prepare sketches from descriptions obtained from witnesses at the rooming house where Galt was last seen.

3 Enclosures

EJM:wjc
(12)

REC-69 44-38861-1697
EX 109

12 APR 23 1968

CONTINUED - OVER

DELETED - 79 APR 30 1968

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

Attached are photographs of the two artists' conceptions mentioned above showing dissimilarities in these sketches based on the descriptions furnished by the witnesses in Memphis and Birmingham respectively.

FBI SECRETIVE ABOUT SKETCH

A1

Police Say Drawing Of King Slayer Is Withheld

Memphis, April 14 (AP)—The FBI is withholding nation-wide distribution of a composite drawing of the assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., police sources said today.

"They haven't given us anything but a physical description," said one police official. "They aren't handing out pictures of the man. They either don't have a good one, or they're going it alone."

The official asked that his name not be used, citing the FBI's ban on comment about the investigation.

Resemblance Noted

When Jacksonville (Fla.) police questioned a Louisville man last night about Dr. King's slaying—the man since has been cleared of any connection — police Lt. M. P. Richardson said, "It's a long shot, but he looks too much like the sketch of the man who is wanted in the King slaying."

Jacksonville police said today that the man was arrested after a resident noted a likeness to a composite picture which appeared in Florida newspapers. This sketch was prepared by a newspaper artist from the description given of the slayer. It was not released—nor indorsed—by the FBI.

Residents of the Memphis rooming house from which Dr. King was shot April 4 reported last week that investigators had shown them composite drawings. But they said the sketches were the same—or at least very similar—as those prepared by newspaper artists.

Requests Denied

FBI officials have rejected reporters' requests for a composite drawing of the man they are seeking in what is perhaps the most massive manhunt of modern times. They refuse to say whether they have prepared such a sketch.

Agents have a good physical description of Dr. King's assassin: 30 to 32 years old, 5 feet, 10 inches tall, weighing 165 pounds, with a receding hairline and a long, thin nose.

They also have a good description of the white 1966 Mustang which witnesses say sped away from the Memphis rooming house. King was shot as he stood on a motel balcony 205 feet from the rear of the rooming house.

Car Impounded

A white Mustang was impounded Thursday night from an Atlanta parking lot where it had been parked since the morning after Dr. King's slaying.

The impounded car bore license tags issued in Birmingham, Ala., to Eric Starvo Galt, 37, who identified himself as an unemployed merchant seaman when he applied for an Alabama driving license last year.

At almost the same moment last week that they were impounding the car in Atlanta, the FBI sent over the Florida Teletypewriter circuit a request to locate Galt. The message was withdrawn four hours later with the explanation that it was erroneous. The FBI refuses to say why it was seeking Galt.

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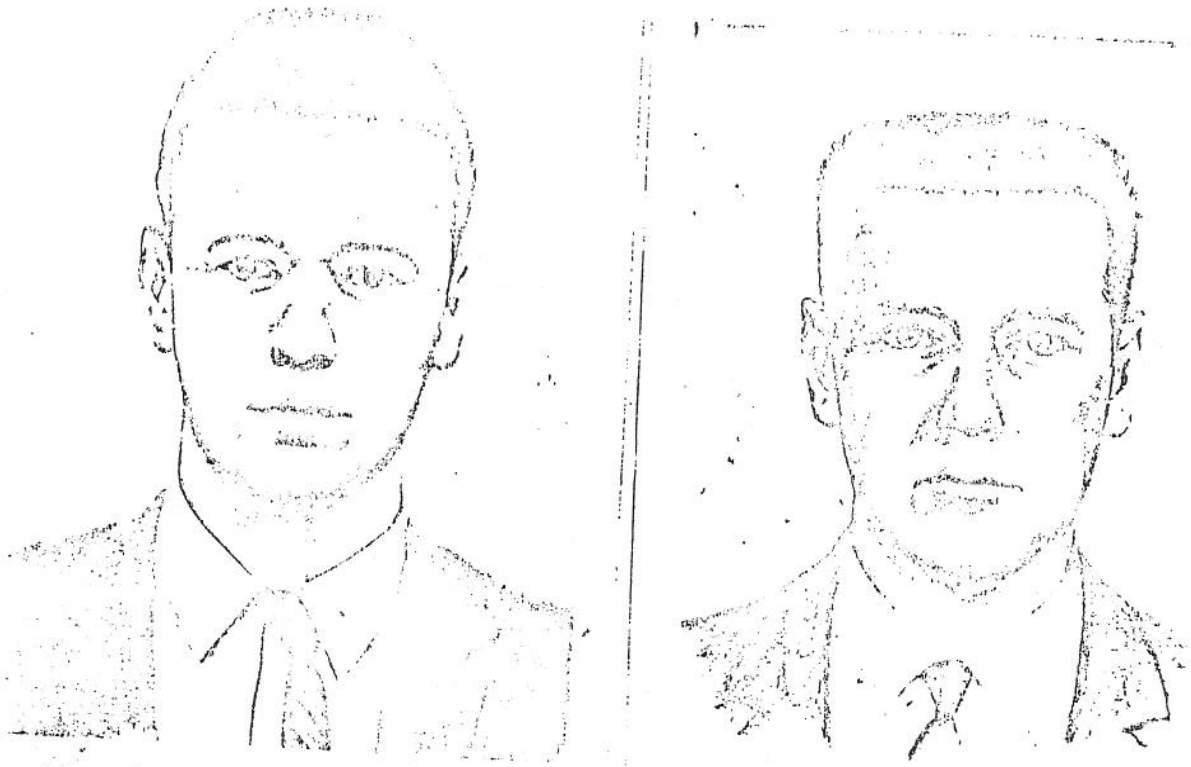
The Washington Post
Times Herald
The Washington Daily News
The Evening Star (Washington)
The Sunday Star (Washington)
Daily News (New York)
Sunday News (New York)
New York Post
The New York Times
The Sun (Baltimore) A1
The Worker
The New Leader
The Wall Street Journal
The National Observer
People's World

Date APR 15

44-38861-1699

ENCLOSURE



Description of subject
from Memphis

White
Male
5'11"
160 - 170 lbs.
Medium Build
Dark brown or black hair;
combed straight back, no part.

Description of subject
from Birmingham:

White
Male
Age 36
5'8" - 5'10"
150 - 160 lbs.
Medium complexion
Dark hair (probably brown)