UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Bishop
Mr. McGowan
Mr. Long

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

There is attached a letterhead memorandum dated June 17, 1968, for the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General Pollak of the Civil Rights Division and Assistant Attorney General Vinson of the Criminal Division, setting forth results of the investigation conducted in Portugal concerning James Earl Ray.

The investigation was conducted by the Portuguese International and State Security Police and was made available to our Legal Attache, Paris. The memorandum shows that Ray arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, on May 8, 1968, and departed Lisbon en route to London on May 17, 1968; that he was issued a new passport by the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon since the original passport allegedly misspelled the last name he was using as Sneya rather than Sneyd; that he displayed a Canadian birth certificate in the name of Ramon George Sneyd; that he frequented bars or night clubs where he could pick up girls and was in the habit of staying out late at night and sleeping late during the day; and that inquiry had been made at the Rhodesian Mission in Lisbon but that employees there failed to recognize the subject's photograph, and there was no record of any inquiry having been made by him. Investigation previously revealed that Ray had exhibited interest in going to Rhodesia. During the inquiries in Portugal, particular attention was given to attempting to determine if subject was alone or was accompanied by other individuals. It was ascertained he was alone in all instances except those described above.

ACTION:

15 JUN 21 1968

The attached letterhead memorandum should be forwarded to the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General Pollak and Assistant Attorney General Vinson.

Enclosure

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

June 21, 1968

JAMES EARL RAY

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~~Herrk, Assistant~~
General Vinson.

The following investigation was conducted at Lisbon, [redacted] on June 8-12, 1968:

[redacted] la Internacional e de Defesa do Estado (PIDE - Portuguese National and State Security Police), Lisbon, on June 8, furnished the following documents:

1. Entry card executed by RAMON GEORGE SNEYA when he arrived at Lisbon Airport at 1:15 AM, May 8, 1968, via British European Airways Flight 074. The entry card showed that he was born on October 8, 1932, in Toronto, Canada; employed by an "auto agency"; a resident of 962 Dundas Street, Toronto; carrying Canadian Passport #DJ-909324, issued in Ottawa, Canada, on April 24, 1968.

2. Exit card executed by RAMON GEORGE SNEYD when he departed from Lisbon en route to London, England, on May 17, 1968, at 11:00 AM, on Portuguese Airlines Flight 450. This exit card indicated he was in possession of Canadian Passport #YT-602294, issued by the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon on May 16, 1968.

The exit card indicated that SNEYD had been questioned by the passport inspector as to the fact that his Canadian passport issued in Lisbon on May 16, 1968, did not reflect his entry into Portugal. He then produced his original Canadian passport issued April 24, 1968, in Ottawa, which reflected his entry into Portugal on May 8, 1968. This was noted by the passport inspector on the exit card.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency. It and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

ENCLOSURE

[redacted] Registration card for RAMON GEORGE SNEYA at the Hotel Portugal, Lisbon, dated May [redacted], 1968.

[redacted] advised that a careful check of entry and exit records between May 8 and 17, 1968, failed to disclose that the subject, under the name of SNEYD, had departed or re-entered Portugal between those dates. Likewise, a careful check of records since May 17, 1968, failed to reflect that he returned to Portugal at any time following his departure.

[redacted] Inspector at Lisbon Airport, Lisbon, was interviewed on June 8, 1968, at the Lisbon Airport and advised that he recalled the incident when the subject departed Lisbon on May 17, 1968, since it was necessary for him to question the subject regarding his new passport and the fact that it did not reflect his entry into Portugal. He recalls that SNEYD then produced his original passport issued April 24, 1968, at Ottawa and explained that a new passport had been issued by the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon on May 16, 1968, since the original passport contained a misspelling of his name as SNEYA rather than SNEYD.

[redacted] stated that he was satisfied with the subject's explanation and noted that his original passport had been properly cancelled by the Canadian Embassy, but he had been advised to retain it since it reflected his entry into Portugal. [redacted] recognized a photograph of the subject from his original passport application at Ottawa.

[redacted] of the Canadian Embassy, Lisbon, was contacted and interviewed. He furnished the application executed by SNEYD on May 16, 1968, for a replacement passport. He stated that SNEYD had come to the Embassy explaining that his original passport issued April 24, 1968, at Ottawa, Canada, had a misspelling of his name as SNEYA rather than SNEYD and that this had caused confusion. He requested advice as to how this could be rectified. Mr. MORANTZ decided to issue a replacement passport gratis in the name of SNEYD.

[redacted] stated that the subject produced a copy of an original birth certificate showing his birth as October

[redacted] RAY

[redacted], 1931, at Toronto, Canada. The original passport application executed by SNEYD reflected his date and place of birth as October 8, 1931, at Toronto, Canada, and gave his residence as 987 Bundas Street, Toronto, Canada. It indicated that a replacement passport, FYY-602294, was being issued in Lisbon to replace the original passport, FDV-909324, issued in Ottawa on April 24, 1968, since the original passport contained a typographical error which had caused some confusion in the past. There was attached to the passport application an affidavit executed by SNEYD to the effect that there was no guarantor in Lisbon who could vouch for his identity, since he was there alone on vacation as a tourist. He did not give any local residence.

[redacted] advised that he did not engage in a lengthy conversation with the subject but interviewed him briefly and authorized the issuance of a new passport since he was convinced by the presentation of the birth certificate as to the subject's identity as a Canadian citizen. He stated that the passport application had been handled by [redacted] a Consular Assistant in his office.

[redacted], who was vacationing at a distant location in Portugal, was interviewed by telephone from Lisbon on June 8, 1968. She stated that when she assisted SNEYD in executing his passport application, he said he was staying in Lisbon only one or two days and debated whether to bother to change his passport because he "did not want to spend all of his time waiting around the Embassy." A new passport was issued the day after he first came in. It is noted that the passport photograph does not identify the photographer. Mrs. LOPES stated she may have referred RAY to Foto Lusitania to have the photographs taken, but she could not definitely recall whether or not she had done so.

[redacted] advised that subject displayed a Canadian birth certificate in the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD. He needed a great deal of help in filling out the application, leading [redacted] to believe he did not have a good education. She also advised that he had a rather unusual accent for a Canadian. She cancelled the passport issued at Ottawa by stamping it cancelled on each page and clipping one inch from each of the inside pages.

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[redacted] advised that Foto Lusitania, Rua Mayer, Lisbon, had been contacted on June 11, 1968. They recognized the photograph of the subject and recalled that he had been referred there by the Canadian Embassy on May 15, 1968, for passport photographs. They took his photograph and he purchased several copies (six is the usual number). They considered this a normal routine transaction and nothing out of the ordinary was noted.

Mr. GENTIL LUIS SOARES, Hotel Portugal, 4 Rua Joao das Regras, Lisbon, advised on June 9, 1968, that the subject registered under the name of RAMON GEORGE SNEYD on May 8, 1968, and departed on May 17, 1968. This is a small, inexpensive hotel. The registration book maintained by the hotel reflects the dates of his arrival and departure and indicates his occupancy of the room during that entire period. The registration book reflects (probably taken from his passport) that his nationality is Canadian and he is 38 years of age.

Mr. SOARES advised that it was his impression that the subject resided there as a tourist. He was not particularly friendly with any other clients of the hotel. He slept late during the day and stayed out late at night. Mr. SOARES advised that it was his impression that the subject was spending his time in bars or nightclubs where he could pick up girls, since on at least two occasions he attempted to bring girls into his room and when the hotel refused to permit him to do so, he departed with the girls and stayed out for the entire night. Mr. SOARES stated that he did not know the identity of the girls whom SNEYD brought to the hotel.

Mr. SOARES advised that at the time of his departure on May 17, 1968, he paid cash for the last three days, having previously been billed for his first week of occupancy. He recognized the subject's passport photograph taken at the time of the issuance of his original passport in Canada and stated that subject did not wear the glasses constantly during his stay at the hotel.

[redacted] advised that on the night of June 9, 1968, [redacted] of the PIDE visited numerous nightclubs and bars of the type which the subject may have frequented, in an effort to obtain further specific

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information as to his contacts, associates and activities, Inspector [redacted] visited the following bars and nightclubs:

Texas Bar
Arizona Bar
Niagara Bar
California Bar
Europa Bar
Atlantico Bar
Bolero Bar
Maxime's Nightclub
Gala Bar and Nightclub
Fontoria Nightclub
Tagide Nightclub
Nina Nightclub

Inspector [redacted] interviewed approximately 60 individuals, including doormen, managers, bartenders, bar girls and prostitutes. He displayed the subject's photograph in all instances to determine if the subject was known and, if so, the extent of the contacts. Inspector [redacted] advised that subject had visited the Texas Bar on two occasions alone and had purchased beer on each occasion. He had not remained for more than an hour. The same was true at the Niagara Bar. There were various individuals in the other bars contacted who vaguely thought they recognized his photograph but could furnish no specific information.

At the Bolero Bar, the proprietor indicated that the subject had come there on two occasions at approximately midnight and had remained there until 2:00 or 3:00 AM drinking beer. He was alone and quiet and attracted no special attention.

At Maxime's Nightclub, GLORIA SAUSA RIBEIRO, a prostitute, advised that she had met the subject when he had visited there one night. She spent several hours with him in the nightclub and then went out and spent the night with him. She advised that she does not speak English and he did not speak Portuguese and, therefore, they spoke "only the international language of love." She declined to say where she had spent the night with him, but did advise that he insisted on presenting her with gifts rather than paying her in cash since this made the transaction less commercial. He, therefore, presented her with a dress and stockings in payment for her services. She has not seen nor heard from the subject

[redacted] could not recall specifically the date when she met him, and could furnish no further pertinent information. She reiterated that the conversation was very limited.

At the Cais Bar, MARIA JOSE GUTERRES recognized the subject's photograph and stated that he had visited this bar on two occasions and had bought her drinks on each occasion. She likewise speaks practically no English and, therefore, the conversation was very limited. On each occasion, he spent one or two hours drinking beer and departed alone. No further pertinent information was available from this source.

At the Fontoria Nightclub, the subject was vaguely known by various employees. One Spanish girl, not further identified, stated that the subject had purchased her beer during a visit when he stayed there for one or two hours. No further specific information was available from this source.

It was noted that at the time of the subject's arrest in London, England, he had in his possession a timetable of South African Airways on which Salisbury, Rhodesia, was checked.

[redacted] advised on June 11, 1969, that the South African Airways office in Lisbon had been contacted. One employee, not further identified, vaguely recognized the photograph of the subject as a person who may have made inquiry, but he was not certain as to this. He stated that numerous persons enter the South African Airways office and that no particular note is made of the transaction unless something unusual occurs. He may have inquired for a timetable, but the employee does not specifically recall this. There is no record of any travel having been purchased by SNEYD at this office.

Sr. PASSO also advised that inquiry had been conducted at the Rhodesian Mission in Lisbon. Employees there failed to recognize the subject's photograph and there was no record of any inquiry having been made by him.

Since the British press indicated that an inquiry had been received at the Biafra office in Lisbon from an individual who requested information as to going to Biafra as a white mercenary, [redacted] was requested to make inquiry

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at the Biafra office.

[redacted] advised that the Biafra office, which is located at 16 Avenida Torre da Belem, Lisbon, does not ordinarily receive inquiries from prospective white mercenaries. He stated that the purpose of this establishment is probably to purchase arms throughout Europe and to handle their transit through Lisbon en route to Biafra. He stated that inquiry there had failed to reflect that the subject had made any inquiries there.

It was also noted that the British press had indicated that the subject had made some inquiries in London of a British reporter regarding the possibility of going to Angola, a Portuguese possession in Africa, as a white mercenary.

Inquiry was made of [redacted] regarding this possibility. He advised that there are no white mercenaries fighting in Angola. He also advised that no foreigner is allowed to enter Angola without the specific permission of the Portuguese authorities.

Since information was received indicating that the subject had converted South African money into British money in London, inquiry was conducted in Lisbon to determine if he had purchased South African currency at the Lisbon Airport.

Mr. CARLOS CAMIRO, Manager, Banco Lisboa Acores, Lisbon Airport, failed to recognize a photograph of the subject. He also displayed the photograph to several employees of the bank, who likewise failed to recognize the photograph. They explained that they handle numerous exchange transactions and they do not necessarily note an individual's appearance.

In all of the above inquiries particular attention was given to attempting to determine if the subject was alone or was accompanied by other individuals. It was ascertained that he was alone in all instances, except those described above.