UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO: Mr. DeLoach

DATE: May 1, 1968

FROM: A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan 1 - Mr. Martindale
1 - Mr. Long 1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. McDonough 1 - Mr. Gale

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

[redacted] requested his identity be concealed and advised as follows. In [redacted] was [redacted] at Missouri State Penitentiary. Ray had aspirations of making a big haul and retiring to Mexico where he intended to live frugally on beans and beer.

Ray told [redacted] he wanted to stay off the beaten path in Mexico and avoid American Colonies. He implied he had gone to Mexico twice to cool off after robberies and had once lived with peasants on the outskirts of Campeche, near the Yucatan Peninsula, where he rented a three-room shack. Ray continually emphasized his desire to make one big score and then live frugally in Mexico. He said Mexico City and Acapulco were too expensive; however, he made reference to Torreon in North Central Mexico where he said there were low priced prostitutes in the red-light district.

Ray also told [redacted] he had earned money smuggling appliances such as television sets and washing machines which he sold to peasants in Mexico. The smuggling was done from Brownsville, Texas, by a fishing boat owned by [redacted] or [redacted] who formerly lived in the United States and spoke English. Ray could speak very little Spanish.

[redacted] believes Ray went to Mexico in the late nineteen fifties by car and on another occasion went by boat from Brownsville. The Legat, Mexico City, and the San Antonio Office are conducting appropriate investigation concerning the information provided by [redacted]

REC-9 44-38861-3195

WLM:vea
(10)

2 MAY 14 1968

CONTINUED - OVER

79 MAY 15 1968

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

[redacted] states he knew Ray in Missouri State Penitentiary from 1962 until August, 1966, but only saw him about once a week. He described Ray as a loner with no close friends, having a bad nervous condition and definitely having a mental problem.

[redacted] suspected Ray of using large quantities of amphetamine when it was available and bases this opinion on the rapidity with which Ray's weight would fluctuate with losses or gains of ten to fifteen pounds in very short periods of time. [redacted] says such a weight loss is characteristic of the use of a large amount of amphetamine and the subsequent rapid gain would occur when amphetamine was not available.

It is noted Ray gave a Montreal, Canada, address when he enrolled in a correspondence locksmithing course, 7/31/67. The address is in an apartment project which does not maintain accurate records and no record of Ray's tenancy can be found. Employees of the apartment project recall Ray resided there about six weeks paying $150 when he arrived. He left about Labor Day and a week or two before he left he had been gone for two or three days, supposedly on a trip to the United States.

[redacted]
Investigation is being conducted to determine if Ray was more closely associated with Stein than Stein has admitted.

Louis Lomax was at the penitentiary at Joliet, Illinois, on larceny charges from 2/19/50 until 5/9/56. Ray was at Joliet from 6/13/52 until 7/19/52. It is not known whether they were acquainted.

Louis Lomax has released another story for publication in which he claims he and Charles Stein found the telephone booth in Texas from which Ray made a call to the "cashman" in New Orleans at 8 p. m., 12/16/67. Lomax states that with this clue Ray's New Orleans contact will be identified as soon as telephone company officials can locate the record of the call. We have previously determined that no call to New Orleans was made from this telephone during the entire month of December.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

[redacted] knew Ray at Missouri State Penitentiary from 1963 to 1966. [redacted] says there were two gangs in the prison and Ray associated with the leaders of the St. Louis gang. He also says Ray was close to an inmate who was the main supplier of drugs within the prison. He does not remember this prisoner's name but believes he was serving a long sentence for killing a St. Louis policeman. [redacted] alleges this prisoner had six or eight other prisoners selling drugs for him. [redacted] believes the drugs were obtained from a guard and says on one occasion one-half pound of amphetamine was found in this prisoner's cell.

In December, 1966, Ray was examined by a psychiatric consultant for the Missouri Board of Probation and Parole. The examiner described Ray as an interesting and rather complicated individual who stated that within the past year he had various physical complaints including "pain in the 'solar plexes,' tachycardia and 'intracranial tension'." The examiner commented to Ray that he was using rather large words and Ray replied that he had been reading medical literature.

The psychiatrist found that Ray's basic problem appeared to be an increasingly severe obsessive compulsive trend. Ray had stated that at the age of ten he awoke one night believing he had lost his eyesight and became quite fearful. It was stated that various fears confront Ray from time to time "in a typical obsessive compulsive way" and he feels he must do certain things to avoid what he feels will occur and harm him. For instance, Ray described a feeling of fear which could be alleviated if he took a glass of water from which he was drinking, placed it on the table and moved it back and forth several times.

The psychiatrist found evidence of a rather deep underlying obsessive compulsive personality trend. The psychiatrist stated that Ray's problem was not psychotic but was severely neurotic and Ray was fearful that his anxiety and tension might lead him into more serious difficulties. The psychiatric report expressed the opinion that Ray was in need of psychiatric help.

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

All aspects of this investigation are being vigorously pursued on a top priority basis.

Let me have memo on Sunday.