7-1a (Rev. 8-7-50)

REPORT
of the
FBI
LABORATORY

1-Mr. Rosen
1-Mr. Conrad
1-Mr. Griffith
1-Mr. Mortimer
1- Lab File

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr.
Attorney General
County Office Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38101

October 8, 1968

Attention: Mr. Robert Dwyer

This examination has been made with the understanding that the evidence is connected with an official investigation of a criminal matter and that the Laboratory report will be used for official purposes only, related to the investigation or a subsequent criminal prosecution. Authorization cannot be granted for the use of the Laboratory report in connection with a civil proceeding.

John Edgar Hoover, Director

Re: Assassination of
Martin Luther King, Jr.

REC 52

YOUR NO. 44-38861 -5202
FBI FILE NO. D-680928019 JK
LAB. NO.

Examination requested by: FBI, Memphis

Reference: Letter 9/26/68

Examination requested: Document

Exhibits: Three sheets of yellow ruled paper and one sheet of white ruled paper to "Sheriff Morris" and one sheet of white ruled paper to "Lt. Smith" bearing purported handwriting and hand printing standards of JAMES EARL RAY

MAILED 4
OCT 8 - 1968
COMM-FBI

Result of examination:

The examinations reported in this communication are those requested during a conference with Mr. Robert Dwyer, Mr. James Beasley and Mr. John Carlyle of your office on September 26, 1968.

2 - FBI, Memphis (44-1987) - Enclosure
1 - FBI, Los Angeles (44-1574)

Page 1 (continued on next page)

JHM:AW (11)

59 OCT 16 1968

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Specimen Qc288, a Canadian Money Order, is too indistinct for a satisfactory examination; however, differences were noted between the writings on this item and K211, K488, Q261 and Q262.

The "Galt" signatures alone appearing on Q86, Q131, Q132, Q141, Q173, Q216, Q219, Q221, Q223, Q226, Q258, Q260, Q327, Q337, Kc4 and K5 were determined to have been prepared by the writer of Q261 and Q262 (records of the bartender school in Los Angeles, California).

The conclusions reported in the following paragraph are the result of comparing pertinent questioned items with K211 (records of the Missouri State Prison), Q261 and Q262.

The questioned hand printing or handwriting and the signatures, where they appear, on Q133, Q134, Q215, Q216, Q219, Q221, Q223, Q260, Q326, Q327 and K5 were determined to have been prepared by the writer of K211, Q261 and Q262.

The items in question were compared with specimens K488, Q261 and Q262, previously described. As a result of these comparisons it was concluded that the questioned hand printing or handwriting and signatures, where they appear, on Q133, Q134, Q215, Q260, Q326, Q327 and K5 were prepared by the writer of K488, Q261 and Q262.

Specimen Q337, the location of which was requested by Mr. Beasley, was returned to the Los Angeles Division of this Bureau on May 17, 1968, with the results of a latent fingerprint examination.

K488 is returned to FBI, Memphis. Photographs were made.

FBI

Date: 9-26-68

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AM
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
ATTN: DOCUMENT SECTION
FBI LABORATORY

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

660928019

Submitted herewith are five separate communications which Sheriff WILLIAM N. MORRIS, JR., Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, made available to SAC this date. These are letters prepared by subject JAMES EARL RAY. These are all samples of known handwriting and hand printing of subject RAY. They should be utilized for any additional handwriting comparison needed in captioned case.

In addition, there are furnished herewith the originals of two letters which were forwarded by RAY to the Honorable W. PRESTON BATTLE, Judge of the Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee. Judge BATTLE will be the presiding Judge in the JAMES EARL RAY trial. These letters were furnished by Judge BATTLE to SAC. In connection with these letters, District Attorney General PHIL M. CANALE, Memphis, raised point that possibility exists that utilization of material furnished the Judge might be prejudicial at some future date. CANALE pointed out that since Judge BATTLE would hear case he was of opinion that it would probably not be feasible to utilize handwriting in letters sent Judge BATTLE. Therefore, it is requested that handwriting examination prepared by Document Section utilize letters received from Sheriff MORRIS as primary sources for examination purposes.

Results of examination regarding letters received by Sheriff MORRIS should be handled in separate communication. Handwriting examination relative to letters received by Judge BATTLE should not be incorporated in the examination of handwriting contained in letters received by Sheriff MORRIS. The letters received by Judge BATTLE should be made a matter of a

3 BUREAU (Enc. 7)(AMSD - REGISTERED) REC 6 44-38861-5202
1 MEMPHIS
RGJ:BN (4)

Approved: _____ Special Agent in Charge

Sent EX-101 M 6 SEP 28 1968 Per _____

INDEX AND FILES

Bishop

Spec. rated in Zack

[redacted] 44-1987

a separate examination and a separate Laboratory report. District Attorney General CANALE's views should be incorporated in any results pertaining to examination of the letters received by Judge BATTLE.

The originals should be returned to the Memphis Office so that they can be delivered to Sheriff MORRIS and Judge BATTLE.

[redacted]

[redacted]