OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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TO: Mr. Rosen

FROM: C. D. McGowan

DATE: June 13, 1968

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. Long

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

Special Agent [redacted] telephonically contacted the Bureau from London, England, on June 12, 1968, and furnished the following information.

Ray was in Lisbon, Portugal, May 8 - 17, 1968, where he stayed at the Hotel Portugal. He retired late and slept late. He tried to bring girls back to the hotel and when he was not permitted to take girls to his room, he left with them and did not return until the next day.

Employees and customers of various Lisbon bars identified Ray as a casual customer who had occasionally been in alone for one or two drinks and perhaps tried to talk to the girls. One prostitute was located who spent one night with Ray, but she speaks no English and he speaks no Portuguese; consequently, she had no pertinent information.

An extensive canvass of bars, tourist centers and prostitutes in Lisbon failed to develop any other pertinent information.

Ray is unknown at the Rhodesian Embassy and Biafra Information Office in Lisbon. Ray is presently being held in Wandsworth Prison under unprecendented security provisions. Two officers are with him at all times, and he has a private exercise yard. Each time he goes to the exercise yard, his cell is searched and all bedding is removed and replaced. Upon returning to his cell, Ray is stripped, searched and all of his clothing is changed. Prior to his hearing on June 10, 1968, Ray had been held in Brixton Prison which handles prisoners awaiting trial and is not as secure as Wandsworth. Ray was removed from Brixton to Wandsworth by heavily guarded convoy, June 11, 1968.

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Memo McGowan to Rosen
RE: MURKIN

Ray returned to London on May 17, 1968, as established by airline records and official records of the Portuguese and British governments. Scotland Yard is continuing extensive investigation to develop his activities in London but has not yet been able to determine his whereabouts prior to May 28, 1968, when he took a room at the New Earls Court Hotel. On June 5, 1968, he moved to the Pax Hotel where he stayed until the date of his arrest. The receptionist at the New Earls Court Hotel stated Ray was very shy and she tried to help him by explaining British currency and engaging him in general conversation. She was willing to establish a close relationship with him but he did not seem receptive. While at the hotel, Ray made two telephone calls to the London "Daily Telegraph". Ray mentioned to her that he had read in the "Telegraph" about a Captain or Major who was deported from Togoland and he seemed extremely anxious to learn this man's address but was so incoherent no one was able to help him.

[redacted] Pax Hotel, advised the subject never signed the register but this is not unusual with her hotel. He received two telephone messages from British European Airlines. He also had two telephone calls which he did not receive, one from an American woman who left no name or message and one from a man who left no name or message. He also received a white postcard, which [redacted] cannot describe.

Among Ray's effects at the time of his arrest was a four-page memorandum or article setting out a detailed description of the theory and specifications of silencers for firearms.

Shortly after his arrest, Ray was asked why he was carrying a gun. He replied that he was going to Brussels and then when asked why he would need a gun in Brussels, he replied he was really trying to get to Rhodesia and that things are pretty bad down there.