

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
PHILADELPHIA
TITLE OF CASE

OFFICE OF ORIGIN
PHILADELPHIA

DATE
1/31/69

INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
1/23/69 - 1/29/69

REPORT MADE BY
EDWARD M. COLE

TYPED BY
BSM

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
REVEREND JAMES BEVEL - VICTIM

CHARACTER OF CASE

POSSIBLE EXTORTION

0 (MURKIN)

R

REFERENCES

Bureau teletype to Philadelphia, dated 1/23/69.
Philadelphia teletypes to Bureau, dated 1/23/69, 1/24/69, 1/27/69, 1/28/69, and 1/29/69.
Memphis teletype to Bureau, dated 1/24/69.

- C -

8
01064-1
ORIGINAL FILED

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED						ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVIC.	AUTO.	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		PENDING OVER ONE YEAR	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>

APPROVED _____ SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPY INFORMATION ON PAGE AA

44-37-11

NOT RECORDED
118 FEB 6 1969

(H) Bureau

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	Request Recd.	Date Fwd.	How Fwd.	By

Notations

39 MAY 15 1969

PH 9-3113

COPIES MADE:

- 4 - Bureau
 - 1 - 44-38861
 - 1 - 100-448006
- 1 - USA, EDPA (JRS)
- 1 - Atlanta (Info)
- 1 - Memphis (9-1501) (Info)
- 4 - Philadelphia
 - 1 - 9-3113
 - 1 - 157-2845 (SCLC)
 - 1 - 157-2979 (J. BEVEL)
 - 1 - 100-Dead (C. MOORE)

- AA -
COVER PAGE

PH 9-3113

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

Four copies of this report are being submitted to the Bureau since the Bureau may desire to forward one copy to the Department.

[REDACTED] Intelligence Squad,
Philadelphia Police Department, advised on 1/30/69 his squad is investigating this matter.

- B* -
COVER PAGE

Copy to: 1 - USA, EDPA (JRS)

Report of: SA EDWARD M. COLE
Date: 1/31/69

Field Office File #: 9-3113

Title: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;
REVEREND JAMES BEVEL - VICTIM

Office: Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania

Bureau File #:

Character: POSSIBLE EXTORTION

Synopsis: Telegram sent by CEDRIC MOORE to Director, FBI, President RICHARD M. NIXON, Philadelphia Police Department Commissioner FRANK RIZZO, and Philadelphia Mayor JAMES H. J. TATE stating that someone was going to kill the Reverend JAMES E. BEVEL, Southern Christian Leadership Conference official in Philadelphia, because of BEVEL's statements that JAMES EARL RAY was innocent in the murder of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., Southern Christian Leadership Conference President. MOORE and BEVEL interviewed regarding threat and telegrams, and both stated [REDACTED] not further identified, told them at Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters on January 20 or 21, 1969, about the people he had heard stating they would burn down the building in which BEVEL resides, and also that a "contract was out" on BEVEL. No letter through mail, interstate telephone calls, or telegrams involved in threat. United States Attorney declined.

- C -

DETAILS: This case is predicated on a telegram received by the FBI on January 23, 1969, from CEDRIC MOORE, Assistant Non-Violent Education, Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Philadelphia, Pa. The telegram states, "I am informing you that a serious threat is being made on Rev. JAMES BEVEL life concerning his defense of JAMES EARL RAY."

Date January 31, 1969

CEDRIC MOORE, currently residing at [REDACTED] Southern Christian Leadership Conference Headquarters of Philadelphia, was interviewed regarding a telegram he sent to J. EDGAR HOOVER, President NIXON, Philadelphia Police Commissioner RIZZO, and Philadelphia Mayor JAMES H. J. TATE, stating a serious threat was being made on the life of Reverend JAMES BEVEL concerning his defense of JAMES EARL RAY.

MOORE stated he is not familiar with many Philadelphia people as he just came to Philadelphia from Memphis. He has been in Philadelphia for a little over one week.

MOORE stated that on either January 20 or 21, 1969, an individual named [REDACTED] who occasionally visits Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, stated that a group of "cats" were incensed at BEVEL's statements that JAMES EARL RAY, alleged killer of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was innocent. [REDACTED] stated these "cats" made the statement they would burn the building down in which BEVEL resides.

MOORE could not identify [REDACTED] further, nor could he furnish [REDACTED] residence address or telephone number.

MOORE also advised that on either January 20 or 21, 1969, while walking past a room at [REDACTED] he heard someone say, "BEVEL should be careful." He could not identify the person who spoke nor could he identify anyone else in the room.

On 1/28/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File# Philadelphia 9-3113
by SA'S EDWARD M. COLE
and [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/30/69

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.

On January 29, 1969, the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, Philadelphia Branch, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), was interviewed regarding the threats made to his life by an unknown group of individuals after BEVEL sent a telegram to JAMES EARL RAY proclaiming RAY innocent of the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

BEVEL said that on either Monday or Tuesday, January 20 or 21, 1969, an individual known to him only as [REDACTED] of Philadelphia, Pa., who has drifted in and out of the Philadelphia SCLC Office, was in the building, and told BEVEL that since BEVEL had sent the telegram to RAY, that some "cats" in Philadelphia were mad at BEVEL's telegram. [REDACTED] did not describe where he heard these people talking, who they were, or when it was said, but the "cats" were talking about blowing up the SCLC building in which BEVEL lived and that a "contract" (to kill) was out for BEVEL. BEVEL said there was no mention made of a telegram, interstate telephone call, or a communication through the mail. It was all oral.

BEVEL again said that he had information and evidence that would prove RAY had not killed KING, but he said he would not divulge this information unless he was allowed to defend RAY in court. He did say that RAY had a psychomotor defect that would preclude RAY shooting a rifle accurately.

He also said that he was not concerned about the threats made against him by disgruntled "brothers" because he had lived with threats since 1961, when he had joined KING and the SCLC.

On 1/29/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File# Philadelphia 9-3113
 by SAS [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/29/69

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. 3

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date January 31, 1969

CEDRIC MOORE, [REDACTED] Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Aide to the Reverend JAMES BEVEL, was interviewed, and he advised that he had no information that the threats to the life and safety of BEVEL had been made by interstate telephone, telegraph, or through the United States Mail.

On 1/29/69 at Philadelphia, Pa. File # Philadelphia 9-3113
by SAS [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] Date dictated 1/29/69

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.

Assistant United States Attorney JOHN R. SUTTON,
Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa., was
advised by SA [REDACTED] of the above information on
January 29, 1969, and stated that Federal prosecution was
being declined because the facts did not constitute a violation
of Federal law.