

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Tolson     | ✓ |
| DeLoach    | ✓ |
| Mohr       | ✓ |
| Walters    | ✓ |
| Casper     | ✓ |
| Callahan   | ✓ |
| Conrad     | ✓ |
| Felt       | ✓ |
| Gale       | ✓ |
| Rosen      | ✓ |
| Sullivan   | ✓ |
| Tavel      | ✓ |
| Trotter    | ✓ |
| Tele. Room | ✓ |
| Holmes     | ✓ |
| Gandy      | ✓ |

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4/17/68

FROM : P. L. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN  
PROPOSED PRESS RELEASE

*Handwritten notes:*  
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 58 and 4-1  
 11-2  
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 J...

There is attached a proposed fugitive press release prepared by the Crime Records Division which announces that a complaint has been filed against Eric Starvo Galt in instant case. This release will not be given out until word has been received from the Birmingham Office that the complaint has been filed and the warrant issued. This release has been prepared subject to minor appropriate changes which may be necessary depending on the actual wording of the complaint as it is filed in Birmingham. *The action already taken.*

When this press release has been approved by the Director, Mr. DeLoach will contact the Attorney General and advise him of the filing of the complaint in Birmingham, that this is now a matter of public record, and it is deemed essential to the early location of the subject that this press release be issued. At this time Mr. DeLoach will secure the Attorney General's approval of the press release.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. That the attached proposed press release be approved by the Director.

REC-75 EX-115 44-38861-1705  
 OK  
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2. After approval by the Director, that this proposed press release be discussed by Mr. DeLoach with the Attorney General, as indicated above, and his approval secured.

APR 23 1968

3. After recommendations 1 and 2 have been handled, that the release be returned to my (Bishop's) office for further processing.

Enclosure ENCLOSURE

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Jones

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TEB:mjs  
(6)

*Handwritten notes:*  
 Approved by the A.G. (Miss Wanda Feyer)  
 4/17/68 - Director was advised  
 TEB  
 H  
 V  
 4/17

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 17, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark announced today that Eric Starvo Galt is being sought by the FBI as a fugitive on a Federal charge arising from the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968.

Director J. Edgar Hoover stated that a Federal complaint was filed by the FBI in Birmingham, Alabama, today charging Galt with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

The FBI complaint charges that "On or about March 29, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, ...Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., ...in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or laws of the United States; namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Alabama...."

According to Mr. Hoover, a 30.06 rifle equipped with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis immediately after the fatal shooting of Dr. King occurred. The rooming house overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying.

Mr. Hoover said that FBI Agents determined that the 30.06 rifle had been purchased from a gun dealer in Birmingham, Alabama, on March 30, 1968. The telescopic sight also was purchased from this dealer.

The FBI Director said that Galt, who has used the names of John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer in the past, is the owner of a 1966 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was located abandoned in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. Investigation disclosed that Galt purchased this car from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. The Mustang's odometer showed that it had been driven more than 19,000 miles between late August, 1967, and early April, 1968.

According to Mr. Hoover, Galt's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, California; New Orleans, Louisiana; Birmingham, Alabama; and Mexico, as well as to Memphis, Tennessee, and Atlanta, Georgia. Galt was reported to have been in Memphis on April 3 and 4, 1968, and to have departed from there for Atlanta.

Intensive investigation by the FBI has disclosed that Galt has claimed to have been employed as a cook on Mississippi River vessels and as a merchant seaman. He is said to be an avid dancer and took dancing lessons in New Orleans in 1964 and 1965; in Birmingham during September and October, 1967; and in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Galt left Los Angeles on December 15, 1967, and drove his white Mustang to New Orleans, where he claimed he contacted either an engineering or a contracting firm. He left New Orleans on December 19th and arrived back in Los Angeles on December 21, 1967.

While in the Los Angeles area early this year, Galt took a course at a school of bartending and was graduated on March 2, 1968.

The fugitive is described as a white male. He is approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 11 inches tall and weighs between 160 and 175 pounds. He is said to be a neat dresser and has a medium build.

Galt has brown hair, which he wears in a "brush" cut. He reportedly has blue eyes; his nose is straight and narrow; his teeth are straight and clean; and he has given his date of birth as July 20, 1931.

The fugitive is said to have a nervous habit of occasionally pulling at an ear lobe with his hand. His left ear protrudes further from his head than his right ear.

According to Mr. Hoover, persons who have met Galt describe him as a "loner" and state his language and diction have a "crude" quality and suggest that he probably does not have a high degree of education. He is said to drink alcoholic beverages and has a preference for vodka and beer. He is a fan of western and country music.

Galt should be considered armed and dangerous. Any information concerning him should be furnished immediately to the nearest FBI office.