

Your reference:

Our reference: GN95/99/1

Date: 28 July, 1999

Mr Lyndon Paul Barsten
2301 Harriet Ave. South
Minneapolis
MN 55405
USA



METROPOLITAN POLICE SERVICE
Records Management Branch

Wellington House
67-73 Buckingham Gate
London SW1E 6BE
Telephone 0171-230 1212

Direct line 0171-230

7187

Dear Mr Barsten

RECORDS RELATING TO THE MURDER OF THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

I refer to your original letter of 16 January and subsequent telephone conversations with this office.

Firstly, may I offer my apologies for the delay in being able to provide you with a full reply to your enquiry. This has been due to the fact that, despite extensive enquiries, we have been unable, so far, to trace our original records relating to the arrest and extradition of James Earl Ray. We have, however, been successful in locating copies of some of the papers from the original file and copies of these, together with copies of some later reports, are now enclosed. I must also apologise for the poor quality of some of these copies due to the fading on the original copies from which they were taken.

I appreciate that these papers do not constitute a full set of the original records but it is all we have been able to trace at the present time and I trust that they will be of assistance. Should the original records come to light I will, of course, contact you again.

I would be very grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of these papers.

Finally, may I again apologise for the delay in replying.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Brown
Assistant Departmental Record Officer

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HOME OFFICE
Queen Anne's Gate London SW1H 9AT

Direct line 01-213 5144
Switchboard 01-213 3000

2 OK FE

D/C R Wall
CO C2
Metropolitan Police
New Scotland Yard
Broadway
SW1

Your reference

Our reference **XTN/78 10/64/1**

Date 6 October 1978

Dear Mr Wall,

JAMES EARL RAY

I refer to the telephone conversation which my colleague Tom Wilkie had with you about the enclosed letter from the above: you kindly agreed to assist us.

Ray has asked a number of questions about his arrest and detention for extradition purposes in June 1968 and, since the information about matters of specific police concern is not available from our papers, I should be grateful if you could supply us with information to enable us to prepare a reply.

Ray alleges that a former Metropolitan Police officer (Mr Anthony Alexander Eist) made a statement to the Select Committee of the United States House of Representatives investigating the murder of Martin Luther King and, if this statement is available, it would be helpful if we could have a copy.

Yours sincerely

M J HILL

(1) CR 201-77-252
CR 201-68-24
270-68-289 + 1/2 kg

(2) 123266 ---
081-73-2709 100% 100% 25 rounds | IP

ack'd.
02/13/08



HOME OFFICE
Queen Anne's Gate London SW1H 9AT

Direct line 01-213
Switchboard 01-213 3000

Commander A W Lampard
C5 Branch
New Scotland Yard
Broadway SW1

Your reference
CR 201/77/288 C5(3)
Our reference
QPE/75 1/39/40
Date

6 December 1978

Dear Commander Lampard,

US HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

I attach a copy of a further letter we have received from James Earl Ray. It does not seem to us to raise any new points on which we need seek your advice. It would however be helpful in dealing with any further correspondence if you could let us know when Mr Eist was tried and details of the charges of which he was acquitted.

There remains the queries in Ray's earlier letters to the Home Secretary and the Commissioner and, (unless you have already dealt with this), the Select Committee's request for the dates and times during the extradition proceedings that Ray was removed and returned to custody at Wandsworth Prison. The information we can ourselves provide is limited, since a search of the prison records at Wandsworth has failed, to trace Ray's file. (I do not think there is anything sinister in this!). All we could say is that in 1968 the prison regulations stipulated that a prisoner could be interrogated by the police only if he consented. As regards Ray's court appearances, our files indicate that he appeared at Bow Street on 10th, 18th and 27th June and 2nd, 9th and 16th July 1968 but we cannot give details of times.

I think it would be our intention to reply to Ray by saying that much of the information he requests is no longer available but that such information as exists has been supplied to the Select Committee at their request. I imagine ten years after the event your own researches will not have thrown up much relevant information either. We should however be grateful for confirmation of this and also if you could let us know how the most recent visit of the Select Committee staff went.

Yours sincerely
Eddie Guy.
G E GUY

Herbert Secretary
Home of Commons
London, England.

16 November 1978

James E. Ray #65477
B.M.P.
Petro, TEL. 67345

Dear Sir:

This correspondence concerns a letter I posted to your office on 5th September 1978 requesting information about prisons/fails records in your office's possession regarding the British security forces who guarded me in London, England. This was during the period in 1968 when I was in British custody awaiting extradition to the United States in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. homicide.

As your office well knows, a Select Committee of the United States House of Representatives is investigating said homicide and, the aforementioned requested information is vital in establishing whether an ex-British policeman, Alexander A. Eist, committed perjury when he recently testified before said Select Committee that I in effect over an extended period gave him a confession in the murder of Martin Luther King Jr; however, your office, and Scotland Yard through a similar letter of enquiry I posted to the Yard, has evidently decided not to answer my enquiries.

I know for a fact that if your office responded in detail to said enquiries it would establish not only that Mr. Eist has deliberately lied under oath to the House Select Committee but that the Select Committee is very likely guilty of subornation to perjury by having direct knowledge from both your office's records, and similar records in the United States Department of Justice files—the latter of which I have also requested under an F.O.I. suit.

Furthermore, the official English court Reporters, Messrs Barry Reinos & Co., of the Crown Court, has refused my request for a copy of Mr. Alexander A. Eist's trial for "CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT CORRUPTION & CONSPIRACY TO PERVERT THE COURSE OF JUSTICE".

In respect to the aforementioned trial of Mr. Eist, the Dominant press (self characterized Free press), in the United States with few exceptions has covered up Mr. Eist's criminal trials, while printing the lie that Mr. Eist married me "continuously" while I was in British custody. The English government is well aware that the only time I came in contact with Scotland Yard officers was when they transported me weekly to the Bow Street Court for hearings. At all other times I was guarded by prison guards. From viewing Mr. Eist's picture in the newspapers & seeing his TV performance for the Select Committee, I vaguely recall him as being one of 7 or 8 British Police officers who rode in the back of a van with me weekly to the Bow Street court, and that he was refused to by his fellow officers as "top-dress", the name being an apparent sobriquet.

Finally, it has been suggested that the D.P.P.'s office did not prosecute Mr. Eist in his aforementioned criminal trial very vigorously in exchange for his perjurious statements against me before the Select Committee.

In summary, if England wishes to pay off it's foreign handouts received from United States politicians, e.g., Select Committee members, I would prefer it find other methods rather than exporting false letters (like), to the United States for false testimony against it.

I would also by this letter call upon the United States Department of Justice to release all information the Department has in respect to their recommendations to the British government on my security while I was in British custody and, the British government reply.

I would also request by this letter that the Select Committee subpoena Mr. Evan Williams, a British investigator, with address listed below, for testimony about the Dist testimony.

Sincerely:

James C. Ray

cc: Hon. Margaret Thatcher, Minority Leader,
House of Commons.
cc: Select Committee.
cc: Justice Department, United States.
cc: Mark Lane, Sec.
cc: London Telegraph.
cc: New York "Times".
cc: Chicago Tribune.
cc: Los Angeles "Times".
cc: Knoxville Sentinel.
cc: Memphis Commercial Appeal.
cc: Evan Williams
International Civil & Criminal Enquires
"Teulu-Ammod" PENRYN, Clwyd,
North Wales, G.B.

Home Secretary
London, England.

B.H.P.
Petros, TN, 37845

Dear Sir:

This letter is a letter of enquiry concerning my incarceration in two British prisons, and an overnight stay in the Cannon Street detaining station in June/July, 1968. I was detained in the aforementioned as a suspect in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King jr.

As your office may know, a select committee of the United States House of Representatives is investigating the aforementioned murder and in the course of said investigation has recently obtained a statement, implicating me in said murder, from a former member of Scotland Yard a, Mr. Anthony Alexander Eist ("Mr. Eist"). Perhaps your office is conversant with Mr. Eist's statement; if not I would respectfully suggest one of your aid's read it in order that your office might reply to the enquires listed as follows:

1. Was Mr. Eist locked in the detaining cell with me over-night in the Cannon Street Station ?
2. What are the names of the two British police officers who were locked over-night with me in the Cannon Street station ?
3. Did either of the officers quote me, to British authorities, as making an oral statement pertaining to the King murder shortly after my detainment in Cannon Street ?
4. Was Mr. Eist present, and if so the number of times, when ever I was transfered from prison to a court proceeding in ole Bailey
5. Approximately how many officers were present when I when I was periodically transported to ole Bailey for a court hearing ?
6. Under said transfer guidelines, would it have been possible for me to make an extended oral statement to Mr. Eist without other officers hearing it ?
7. What were the guidelines concerning the number of offic required to be in my immediate presents during the aforementioned transfers
8. During the period I was incarcerated in said British prisons, was there a prison policy that stipulated that no-prisoner could be interrogated by Scotland Yard officers, policemen, ect., without the consent of the prisoner ?
9. Dose said prison records reflect that only one British police officer, Supt. Thomas Butler, requested permission to see me and, that I refused ?

10. Does said prison records reflect that I was ever interrogated or interviewed by any British policeman, government official, ect., while I was incarcerated in said prisons ?

11. Does your office possess any "oral statement" reduce to writing in the aforementioned murder by me ?

I would not impose on your office in this matter except that it is a serious matter, not only to me & the select committee but a matter of public interest, not to mention the integrity of the British police system.

Respectfully:

cc: Select Committee on assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C...20515.

Mr. Mark Lane, ESQ.
715 Ocean Front Walk, #4
Venice, California...90291.

9 me E. TR

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

(C.J. Act, 1967, ss. 2, 9; M.C. Rules, 1968, r. 58)

Statement of..... Christopher BAXTER
 Age of Witness (Date of Birth) Over 21
 Occupation of Witness..... Detective Constable
 Address and Telephone Number..... Sidcup Police Station,
 'R' Division.

This statement,* consisting of 3 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 13th day of December, 1978 *Baxter DC.*
 Signed Christopher Baxter D.C.
 Signature witnessed by.....

In June and July 1968 I was a Detective Constable attached to C.O.C.8 Branch, New Scotland Yard. I remember on ^a Sunday in June of that year which I believe might have been the 9th June I was deputed to accompany then Detective Sergeant EIST in keeping observation upon a prisoner who was detained in a cell at Cannon Row Police Station. We sat together with that prisoner in the cell throughout the morning. I think between the hours of 7 a.m. and 3 p.m. We were, I believe relieved by now Detective Superintendent SMITH.

This was the only occasion that I remember that I had any dealings with the prisoner detained, who I knew to be James Earl RAY. Whilst we sat in the cell with the prisoner that morning, there were of course conversations between the prisoner and ourselves. I think for example that part of the time was spent in
Baxter DC.
 Signed Christopher Baxter D.C. Signature witnessed by.....

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

(C.J. Act, 1967, ss. 2, 9; M.C. Rules, 1968, r. 58)

Continuation of statement of..... Christopher BAXTER.....

playing cards with him.

If I remember correctly on occasions either myself or Detective Sergeant EIST left the cell briefly to attend to personal needs but for the greater part of the day we were together with the prisoner.

Because it was so long ago I am unable now to remember specific details of any conversations which took place in the cell that morning but I have a distinct recollection that when I completed that tour of duty there was no doubt in my mind that the man RAY had indeed committed the offence for which the extradition was sought, i.e. the shooting of Martin Luther KING.

I cannot tell you how this was so because as I have explained I have no clear recollections of the conversations which took place in the cell that day, most of which might I add was between Sergeant EIST and RAY.

I have been asked whether anything was said by RAY in my presence which could have amounted to a verbal admission by him that he had in fact murdered Martin Luther KING. My recollection is that RAY made no such direct admissions in my presence..

I have a recollection that he referred to the allegations levelled against him in America and for which his extradition was sought but I am afraid I simply cannot now remember what it was he said about those matters.

I made no report myself to senior officers about those

Signed..... Christopher Baxter D.C. Signature witnessed by..... 8

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

(C.J. Act, 1967, ss. 2, 9; M.C. Rules, 1968, r. 58)

Continuation of statement of..... Christopher BAXTER

conversations at the time, this would be the responsibility of Mr. EIST who was of course my senior officer present. Whether he did so or not I am unable to say.

Detective Chief Superintendent CATER has put certain matters to me which apparently have been suggested as comments made by RAY to Sergeant EIST at some stage whilst EIST was keeping surveillance upon RAY whilst RAY was in custody in London. Having heard details of these alleged comments by RAY to EIST I have no recollection whatsoever to any of these matters being mentioned by RAY to EIST in my presence at any time.

Signed.....  Christopher Baxter D.C. Signature witnessed by..... 9

(C.J. Act, 1967, ss. 2, 9; M.C. Rules, 1968, r. 58)

This statement,* consisting of _____ pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 13th day of December, 1978.

Signed .. B. Hodgetts D.C.I.

Signature witnessed by.....

During June and July 1968 I was a Detective Sergeant, working in C.O.C.8 Department, New Scotland Yard and was the working partner of the then Detective Sergeant Alexander EIST. I recall that at least on one occasion I escorted from prison James Earl RAY to Bow Street Magistrates' Court. I was one of a number of officers engaged on this duty and I cannot specifically recall D/S-Eist being present on that occasion but I would assume he was as he was my working partner. I did not speak to Ray at any time and he did not ever in my presence admit to any offence. However, I can recall through having general conversation with the then Detective Sergeant Eist that he was of the opinion James Earl RAY was responsible for the murder of Martin Luther KING. These conversations would have been at the time RAY was in custody in this country.

Signed B. Hodgetts D.C.I. Signature witnessed by _____

10th June, 1968.
New Scotland Yard.

10th June, 1968.

STATEMENT OF Phillip BIRCH,
Detective Sergeant, Special Branch.

On Saturday, 8th June, 1968, at 11.30 a.m., whilst engaged on passport control duties at Heathrow Airport, London, a man presented two passports to the immigration officer. I noticed that one was a cancelled Canadian passport, No. DJ.909324, in the name of Ramon George SNEYA, and the other a current Canadian passport, No. YT.602294, in the name of Ramon George SNEYD.

As a result of what I had previously learned, I asked SNEYD to accompany me to the Special Branch office at the airport in order that he might later be questioned by a senior police officer. After arriving at the office, I made certain enquiries by telephone, and as a result of what I learned I decided to search the man. Amongst other property, in his right hand back trouser pocket I found a .38 Liberty Chief Special revolver loaded with five rounds of ammunition. I said to SNEYD, "Why are you carrying this gun?" He said, "Well, I'm going to Africa and I felt that I might need it. You know how things are out there". SNEYD was detained in the office until the arrival of Detective Chief Superintendent Butler and other officers.

P. Birch
Detective Sergeant

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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of ARTHUR BRINE

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21

Occupation of Witness Detective Chief Inspector

Address Finger Print Branch,

New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

On the 8th June, 1968, at 1.10 p.m. at London Airport,
I took the finger prints of Ramon George SNEYD, which I
compared with a set of finger prints which I had extracted
from the records at New Scotland Yard in the name of James
Earl RAY, C.R.O. No: 44372/68, which were received at the
Finger Print Office, New Scotland Yard, on the 11th May,
1968 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington.
These two sets of finger prints I found were identical.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that,
if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything
which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 12th day of June 1968

(Signed) Arthur Brine

Signature witnessed by

being unable to read the above statement I,

of

read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the day of , 19

(Signed)

10th June, 1968.

S T A T E M E N T O F Thomas BUTLER,
Detective Chief Superintendent, Flying Squad, New
Scotland Yard.

On Saturday, 8th June, 1968, at about 1.5 p.m.,
with Detective Chief Inspector THOMPSON, I saw the
accused in an office at London Airport. I said to
him, "We are Police officers. I understand you have
in your possession two Passports in the names SNEYA
and SNEYD. What is your name?" He replied, "I can't
understand why I am here. My name is SNEYD". I said
to him, "Both Passports show that you are a Canadian
citizen, born in Toronto on the 8th October, 1932.
Are these details correct?" He replied, "Yes, of
course they are". I said to him, "This .38 revolver
with five rounds of ammunition in the chambers was
found in your hip pocket when you were first seen. Is
it your gun?" He replied, "Yes, it is mine". I said,
"Would you like to tell us why you are carrying a gun
at all?" He replied, "I am going to Brussels". I
said, "Why should you want to take a gun to Brussels?"
He replied, "Well, really I am thinking of going on
to Rhodesia, and things are not too good there just
now". I said to him, "You have to have a Firearms
Certificate to possess a gun and even ammunition in
this Country. Have you a Firearms Certificate issued
by the competent Authority?" He replied, "No, I
haven't any Certificate for it".

He was cautioned and told he would be taken to
Cannon Row Police Station and detained.

/At

At 4.45 p.m., with Detective Chief Inspector THOMPSON, I saw the accused in a cell. I said to him, "As a result of enquiries made since you were detained, we have very good reason to believe that you are not a Canadian citizen, but an American". He replied, "Oh, well, yes I am", and nodded agreement. I said, "I now believe your name is not SNEYD, but James Earl RAY, also known as Eric Starvo GALT and other names, and that you are wanted at present in the United States for serious criminal offences, including murder in which a firearm was used". The accused had been standing up, but at this he suddenly slumped down onto the seat, put his head in his hands, and said, "Oh, God". After a moment or so he added, "I feel so trapped".

I cautioned him again, and he replied, "Well, yes, I shouldn't say anything more now. I can't think right".

He was charged at 5.20 p.m. The two charges were read over and he was cautioned formally, but made no reply.



Detective Chief Superintendent.
T. BUTLER.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of Kenneth THOMPSON
Age of Witness (if over 21 enter " over 21 ") Over 21
Occupation of Witness Detective Chief Inspector
Address C.1. Department, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

On Saturday, 8th June, 1968, at 1.05 p.m., in company with Detective Chief Superintendent BUTLER and other police officers, I saw a man I now know to be James Earl RAY, in an office at London Airport. Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "We are police officers. I understand you have in your possession two passports in the names Sneya and Sneyd. What is your name?" He replied, "I can't understand why I am here. My name is Sneyd". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Both passports show that you are a Canadian citizen born in Toronto on the 8th October, 1932. Are those details correct?" He replied, "Yes, of course they are".

Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "This .38 revolver with five rounds of .38 ammunition was found in your hip pocket when you were first seen. Is it your gun?" He replied, "Yes, it is mine". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Would you like to tell us why you are carrying a gun at all?" He replied, "I am going to Brussels". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Why should you want to take a gun to Brussels?" He replied, "Well, really, I am thinking of going on to Rhodesia and things are not too good there just now". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "You have to

Signed

Signature witnessed by.....

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Continuation of statement of..... Kenneth THOMPSON

have a firearms certificate to possess a gun, and even ammunition, in this country. Have you a firearms certificate issued by the competent authority?" He replied, "No, I havn't any certificate for it".

He was then cautioned and told he would be taken to Cannon Row Police Station.

At 4.45 p.m. the same day, together with Detective Chief Superintendent Butler, I saw the accused in a cell. Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "As a result of enquiries made since you were detained we have very good reason to believe that you are not a Canadian citizen but an American". He replied, "Oh, well, yes, I am" and nodded his agreement.

Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to the prisoner, "I now believe that your name is not Snayd but James Earl Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt and other names, and that you are wanted at present in the United States for serious criminal offences, including murder in which a firearm was used". The prisoner had been standing up at this stage but suddenly he slumped down on a seat and said, "Oh, God". After a few minutes he added, "I feel so trapped". He was again cautioned and said, "Well, yes, I shouldn't say anything more now. I can't think right".

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STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Continuation of statement of.....Kenneth THOMPSON.....

At 5.20 p.m. he was formally charged and cautioned but made no reply.

This statement, consisting of 3 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of June, 1968

(Signed).....

Signature witnessed by.....

*(

being unable to read the above statement I,
of

read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the day of , 19

(Signed).....

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of John McCafferty,
Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21,
Occupation of Witness Senior Experimental Officer,
Address The Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory,
2, Richbell Place, Holborn, W.C.1.

I have examined this weapon. It was a JAPANESE made .38 (special) Revolver. It was in good condition and good working order. The barrel was fouled from firing, but not necessarily from recent origin.

It was a firearm subject to the provisions of the Firearms Act, 1937 Part I.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 12th day of

June, 1968.

(Signed) John McCafferty

Signature witnessed by H. J. [unclear]

being unable to read the above statement I,

of

read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the _____ day of _____, 19 _____

(Signed) _____

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of Peter ELLIOTT
Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21
Occupation of Witness Detective Sergeant
Address Central Office, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.
.....

On Saturday, 8th June 1968, with Detective Constable Whitham, I was at London Airport when an aircraft arrived from Brussels carrying a suitcase and contents belonging to Ramon George SNEYD. I took possession of the suitcase and contents and conveyed it to Cannon Row Police Station where, in the presence of Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, I showed it to Sneyd. I said to him, "Is this your suitcase and contents?" and he said, "Yes, Sir it is". I told him I had recovered it from a plane that had arrived from Brussels that day.

I later, with Detective Constable Whitham, examined and listed the contents of the suitcase which included a brown cloth jacket, on the inside pocket was a label bearing the name 'Mr. Eric GALT', the date July 21st 1967 and order No. 11526. I also found a pair of trousers which is an identical cloth to that of the jacket.

Later the same day I went to the cell in which Sneyd was detained and said to him, "I have been directed to take possession of the clothes you are wearing". At the same time I handed him another suit. Sneyd said, "I don't know what you're doing this for but it's no good for the Lab. boys if that's what you

Signed Peter Elliott . Signature witnessed by

Continuation of statement of..... Peter ELLIOTT, Det. Sgt.....

think". I said to him, "I do not know the reason.
I have been directed to do this by Detective Chief
Inspector Thompson, who is in charge of the enquiry".

I took possession of the clothing he was
wearing which I put into a cellophane bag.

This statement, consisting of 2 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge
and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution
if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of July, 1968.

(Signed) Peter Elliott Det Sgt.

Signature witnessed by.....

being unable to read the above statement I,

of

read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the day of , 19

(Signed).....

* Delete if inapplicable.

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of John WHITHAM
Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21
Occupation of Witness Detective Constable
Address Central Office, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1

On Saturday, 8th June 1968, with Detective Sergeant Elliott, I was at London Airport when an aircraft arrived from Brussels carrying a suitcase and contents belonging to Ramon George SNEYD. Sergeant Elliott took possession of the suitcase and contents and conveyed it to Cannon Row Police Station where, in the presence of Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, he showed it to Sneyd. Sergeant Elliott said to him, "Is this your suitcase and contents?" and Sneyd said, "Yes, Sir, it is". Sergeant Elliott told him he had recovered it from a plane that had arrived from Brussels that day.

I later, with Detective Sergeant Elliott, examined and listed the contents of the suitcase which included a brown cloth jacket, on the inside pocket was a label bearing the name 'Mr. Eric GALT', the date July 21st, 1967 and order No. 11526. Also, a pair of trousers which is an identical cloth to that of the jacket.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of June 1968.

Signed John Whitham Signature witnessed by 21

Central Officer's }
Special Report }

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT,
New Scotland Yard.

16th day of August 1978

SUBJECT
United States
Committee House
of Representatives
request.....

Reference to Papers

Commander

CR201/77/288.....

Further to my report dated 7th August 1978.

On Friday, 11th August 1978 two further interviews of serving Metropolitan Police Officers were conducted at New Scotland Yard by the United States Committee Representatives in the presence of Mr. R.W. Davies of Metropolitan Police Solicitors Department and myself. Those further interviews were carried out following upon a late request made by Professor Rogovin on 10th August 1978 who explained that as a result of his previously interviewing ex-Detective Chief Inspector Alexander EIST he would like to interview two other police officers who had been concerned in safeguarding James Earl RAY whilst he was in Metropolitan Police custody in June of 1968.

The interviews on 11th August 1978 were conducted at C.O. and a contemporaneous record of those interviews was made by Mr. Richard BALMENT, the Court shorthand writer who had been similarly employed in respect of earlier such interviews carried out.

Later the same day I received from Mr. Balment transcribed records of the two interviews, typed into statement form, and these were examined by the two police officers concerned, namely Detective Superintendent Thomas SMITH, CO C1 Branch and Detective Sergeant Alan JONES also of CO C1. Both officers then signed the record of the interview as being correct. Copies are attached to this report.

On the same date (11.8.1978) I handed to Professor Rogovin the original, signed, transcripts or statements of evidence of -

- 2 -

Kenneth THOMPSON
John Harland WHITHAM
Philip BIRCH
Peter Arthur ELLIOTT
Colin Edward John PURDUE
John George BATCHELOR
Arthur William Thomas BRINE
John Alan JONES and
Thomas SMITH

Professor Rogovin's receipt is attached.

It is understood during the course of their stay in this country the United States Committee representatives also interviewed the following persons :-

Penelope Mary CLARK, nee LORD
65 Shernhall Street,
London, E.17

Maurice ISAACS
131 Praed Street, London, W.2
Billie ISAACS (wife of above)

Stewart CLARK,
The Rectory, High Street,
Limpsfield, Surrey.

Ex-Detective Chief Inspector
Alexander EIST

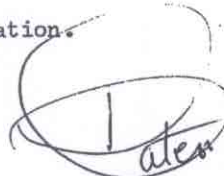
Michael EUGENE, Solicitor, of
Dresden and Co., Aldwych, WC2

Malcolm THOMSON
21 Heriot Row
Edinburgh.

Police took no part in these interviews.

The United States Committee representatives left this country for America on Saturday, 12th August 1978.

Submitted for information.



F. Cater
Detective Chief Superintendent

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UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Interview with

Mr THOMAS SMITH

on

Friday, August 11, 1978

at

New Scotland Yard, London, England

On behalf of Select Committee:

Mr ROBIN D. LINDLEY - Staff Attorney

Mr CHARLES H. ROGOVIN - Special Counsel

Present:

Detective Chief Superintendent Frank Cater

Mr Richard W. Davies - Commissioner's
Solicitors Department

Mr Richard H. Balment - Court reporter.

MR ROGOVIN: Mr Smith, would you state your name and official address?

A Yes. My full name is Thomas Smith. I am a Detective Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, attached to Central Office, New Scotland Yard. I have been in the service for 27 years.

(Mr Cater left at this point)

Q Mr Smith, I would like to take you back to approximately June 8th, 1968. At that time were you a serving officer in the Metropolitan Police Department?

A I was, yes.

Q Could you tell me, sir, your rank and assignment at that time?

A Yes. I was a First Class Detective Sergeant, serving with the Flying Squad, attached to New Scotland Yard.

Q On the 8th June, 1968, did you have occasion to receive an assignment from a superior officer with regard to a person known or described to you then or thereafter as one James Earl Ray?

A I did, sir, yes. I had been assigned by my chief (who was then Detective Chief Superintendent Butler) to take up duty at Cannon Row Police Station, which is in Central London, and ordered to sit in the cell with Ray. It was on a Sunday. My period of detention with him was from 2 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Q What instructions or advice did you receive from your superior with regard to the nature of your assignment at that time?

A My instructions were quite clear, that I was there solely to see that he remained in safe custody. I was also instructed that I was not to discuss the case with him. That would be pretty obvious at the time, because I knew none of the details, anyway, other than the fact that this man was alleged to have shot Martin Luther King in the United States. It was also brought home to me the fact that if any evidence that I considered was material and should be brought to the notice of the American authorities, I would, of course, note it in the usual way and report it in the usual way.

Q When you arrived at Cannon Row Police Station, did you relieve another officer who was carrying out, as far as you knew, the same duty to which you were assigned?

A I did, yes. That officer was then a serving officer, Sergeant East.

Q By the way, Mr Smith, at this time in 1968 your rank was what?

A Detective Sergeant First Class.

Q And you relieved another Sergeant upon your arrival?

A First Class, yes.

Q I assume you went into a cell with the prisoner at that point

A I did, yes. I had another junior officer with me. He has since left the Force. For about the first hour Ray was very quiet. I think I had said "Good afternoon" to him. I don't think he replied. I understood his demeanor, bearing in mind that he had only just previously been

arrested, and I considered then that he was in a rather vulnerable position. There was a newspaper in the cell. It was a Sunday newspaper, the News of the World. I knew that Ray was trying to hide his true identity. I picked up the newspaper and on the front page was a rather large photograph of James Earl Ray. The photograph clearly showed that the man I was sitting with and the man in that photograph was one and the same person. In the photograph he was wearing what appeared to be a multi-colored (although the photograph was in black and white) shirt. I clearly remember saying to Ray "This photograph is of you", and he then agreed that it was. Therefore, I had then established in my own mind that he was Ray. I asked him where the photograph had been taken and he said it was some years previous when, I think he said, he had been doing some lumberjacking in Canada. He also said - I cannot remember whether it was to a question from me or what I had read in the newspaper or whether he had volunteered the information - that he was a prisoner unlawfully at large from a penitentiary in the States, having been sentenced to 8 to 20 years imprisonment for an offence of robbery. I asked him how he escaped from prison. He just replied that that was another story. This angle was not pursued. He denied that he had shot Martin Luther King. He also mentioned a white Mustang car. It may well have been that these details were already in this newspaper. My recollection with regard to the vehicle was a suggestion on his part that fingerprints could easily be planted anywhere.

- Q I assume, Mr Smith, that there was some conversation about fingerprints on portions of that white Mustang car?
- A My recollection leads me to believe that there was some possible conversation regarding fingerprints on that car. I would emphasise the point: I am sure that came from him and was not as a result of a question regarding fingerprints.
- Q Precisely. Did the conversation at any time turn to the matter of extradition which had been requested by the United States authorities of the British authorities?
- A Yes, it did indeed. The main theme of his thinking by this time was that he wanted to beat extradition; in other words, he wanted to stay in this country as long as possible. He mentioned to me that it was within his knowledge that there were two warrants out for his arrest in the United States. One was held by the FBI and the other by a County Marshall or Sheriff. He clearly indicated that if he was extradited, his wish would be that it would be on the County warrant and not the Federal warrant, as one was clearly for conspiracy to murder and the other one was for the substantive offence of murder.
- Q Did you derive an understanding, Mr Smith, of what Mr Ray's reasoning was with regard to his expressed desire to be returned on the County warrant; in other words, why he felt it was in his interest to be returned on the County warrant?
- A Yes. He expressed this in terms of the question of a jury. He felt that if he was arrested on the County warrant, then the jury could not possibly be impartial - there would be

the question of color - and that there is no way in which the authorities could give him a fair and unbiased trial. This seemed to be the tack that he was going on with regard to these warrants. I recall now that the question of the conspiracy, as opposed to the substantive offence of murder, was one that he had obviously considered in the light of legal procedures; but I had no wish to get into any legal discussions with him, not being familiar with the laws of the United States.

Q Were you, as a consequence of these conversations with Ray, able to form any opinion or do you have any present recollection of your impression of the level of his intelligence?

A I did not regard him as an intelligent person. I certainly did not regard him as highly intelligent, because, to my way of thinking, the consequences that were likely to ensue now, or then, were that he knew he was going to be taken back to the United States. Although on occasions he did say that he did not shoot Martin Luther King, he did not appear to say it with a lot of conviction.

Q Did anything occur at any time in the course of this assignment for you, this eight hour tour of duty, which led you to believe that he had been in England before the day he was apprehended at London Airport, which would have been, we believe, June 8th, the day before your assignment began?

A Yes. There was one incident during that tour of duty where for some reason - and I cannot remember the reason - I took

out of my pocket some British currency coins. We had not long gone over to decimalisation - I cannot remember the year we had gone over, but it had not been long - and I produced a 10 pence piece, and he happened to say that that was the new 10 pence piece. I said to him, "How do you know that? As far as I understand, you have never been in this country before", and he said, "Mr Smith, I should be more careful before I make such observations in the future". I thought it was a little unfair of me to make the point, so I dropped it, and, there again, this matter was not pursued. But he did say in fact that he had been in the country before. To my recollection, he mentioned Earls Court.

Q Earls Court being an area of London?

A Yes.

Q Throughout the balance of the time you spent with him, were there any other comments or observations that might be interesting that Mr Ray may have made?

A I cannot recall now any other observations he may have made.

Q Did at any time the conversation turn to what the criminal community in the States would refer to as "the Chair", meaning the electric chair?

A Yes. At some stage he did mention - again, this was in relation to the possibility of conviction with juries and what-have-you - that, of course, he could finish up in the electric chair.

Q Were you aware, Mr Smith, either from comments made to you

by police colleagues, police superiors, before you commenced the duty assignment or from the newspaper article or from anything in conversation with Ray, whether at the time he was apprehended at the London Airport he had been armed?

A He did mention to me about his arrest; he did say he had the opportunity at some stage to have shot the Special Branch officer - I remember he referred to him as "the Special Branch officer" - when he took him through a door at the airport into a room. I am sure he said that the officer walked in front of him and that he could have had ample opportunity to have shot him.

Q Did he indicate why he did not for any reason?

A No. He was just, I think, trying to impart to me the fact that he was not a cold-blooded killer. That is the impression I got.

Q Can you think, Mr Smith, of anything else that might be of interest to us with regard to this duty assignment?

A No, I can't recall any other observations that were made. As I say, as far as I am concerned, there was nothing in any of the conversations that I had with him that I felt I was duty-bound to report. I tried to stick as near as I possibly could to my terms.

Q I take it then, Mr Smith, that nothing prior to the assignment - when I say "nothing", I mean nothing of which you learned prior to the assignment - nothing which took place during the assignment and nothing you may have heard

or learned subsequent to the assignment impacted you in any way which would have, in the course of your police conduct, suggested to you the filing of any formal report of any kind?

A No, that is true. At no time did I feel that there was any material evidence that would have assisted anyone.

Q Because - I want to be certain I have covered this - you were not assigned to conduct an interrogation of Ray?

A Certainly not, no.

Q This was not what we would call in the States an investigation by you?

A Certainly not. We had very clear instructions that we were there as jailers and jailers only.

Q Effectively a special security detail pure and simple?

A Indeed.

Q Thank you.

Mr Davies, any other questions?

MR DAVIES: I have no questions.

MR ROGOVIN: Thank you very much, Mr Smith..

(Interview commenced at 10.10 a.m. and
concluded at 10.31 a.m.)



Thomas Smith

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Interview with

Detective Sergeant JOHN ALAN JONES

on

Friday, August 11, 1978

at

New Scotland Yard, London, England

On behalf of Select Committee:

Mr CHARLES H. ROGOVIN - Staff Attorney

Present:

Mr Richard W. Davies - Commissioner's
Solicitors Department

Mr Richard H. Balment - Court reporter.

MR ROGOVIN: Mr Jones, I would ask you to put your mind back to June 8th, 1968, in London. At that time were you a serving police officer in the Metropolitan Department?

A I was, yes.

Q Could you tell me, sir, what your rank and assignment were at that time?

A I was a Temporary Detective Constable attached to Golders Green Police Station.

Q On or about the 8th June, 1968, did you receive an assignment which put you into contact with a man you either knew as or came to learn was one James Earl Ray, an American male citizen?

A Yes. I was told to form part of a guard duty at Golders Green Police Station for a short period.

Q At approximately what time on that date, if it was the 8th June, was that detail formed?

A Sir, I cannot confirm the date; I have got no record myself. It would have been about, I believe, 10 o'clock in the evening for about four hours.

Q Would you describe the circumstances for us, please?

A The man I later knew to be Ray was in a cell, together with other officers. The cell door was open and I was in the passageway outside the cell.

Q Could you describe the physical features of this cell as you observed them?

A The cell is the normal police cell. It is a single-inhabitant cell, a heavy door with a sliding latch in it.

Q If I might use the term, is the face of the cell from the corridor closed, as if it were a wall with a door in it, or is it a barred cell into which you can look?

A It is a closed door, which, of course, was open.

Q Did you at any time personally have any conversation with the prisoner who you believed to be at that time one James Earl Ray?

A No, I did not.

Q Did you have an opportunity to observe - and by that I mean overhear - any conversation by Mr Ray with any other officers?

A No, I did not.

Q And you indicated that that tour of duty consumed approximately four hours?

A I could be slightly out. I believe it was four hours; roughly four hours.

Q At the conclusion of that tour of duty did you have any further contact, visual or otherwise, with the subject James Earl Ray?

A No, I did not.

Q Did you have occasion at any time thereafter to discuss Mr Ray in terms of anything Mr Ray may have said to any of the other officers on that detail?

A No, I did not.

Q And I take it, then, that you had no further involvement in what we might call "the Ray matter" thereafter?

A I did not, no.

Q For the record, do you recall who was the principal superior officer of the Metropolitan directing the activities regarding Ray, if you remember?

A I don't remember.

Q And you were not attached to the Flying Squad, as it is called?

A No, I was not.

Q Is there anything you would like to add?

A Nothing at all.

Q Thank you very much, Mr Jones.

(Interview commenced at 10.35 a.m. and
concluded at 10.40 a.m.)


John Alan Jones