

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-)

FROM : Supv. ANDREW M. SMITH

SUBJECT: UNSUB.;
MARTIN LUTHER KING,
Deceased - VICTIM
CR

DATE: 4/5/68

At 9:05 a.m., 4/5/68, SA HOWARD TETEN, Memphis Office, called with regard to Birmingham investigation to trace the Remington rifle at Wimberly & Thomas Hardware Company (W & T), Birmingham. SA TETEN advised Mr. DeLOACH at the Bureau had instructed that it is imperative that Mr. JOE BIDDLE at W & T not furnish information concerning this rifle to anyone except the FBI. He further stated that the Memphis Office needs the information on the rifle as soon as it can be obtained.

This information was immediately furnished to SAC GAMBLE and thereafter at 9:15 a.m., SA NEIL P. SHANAHAN, who is conducting investigation on the rifle, was contacted by telephone. He advised that he had already left W & T and had informed Mr. BIDDLE that he should maintain inquiries and information concerning the rifle in confidence. I instructed SA SHANAHAN that he should immediately call Mr. BIDDLE and instruct him not to disclose either FBI inquiries or information concerning the rifle to anyone other than the FBI. I informed SA SHANAHAN that Mr. DeLOACH had instructed that this is imperative. SA SHANAHAN stated he would immediately call Mr. BIDDLE and advise him to this effect.

SA SHANAHAN was also instructed not to disclose to any persons contacted concerning the rifle the reason for our inquiry on the rifle.

SA SHANAHAN stated he had learned at W & T that the rifle had been sold to AEROMARINE in Birmingham and he was then en route there to obtain further information.

AMS:rvm
(3)



44-1740-1
157-3310-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 7 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

This form will be on all orders to interview people at home to determine what each knew. Control by filling in what was wanted

FBI
Date:

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

(Priority)

ME: 44-1987
PAGE TWO

FOR INFO. OF RICHMOND, DR. KING WAS SHOT WHILE STANDING WITH HIS BACK TO HIS ROOM ON THE BALCONY ON THE SECOND FLOOR LEVEL AT APPROXIMATELY SIX O'CLOCK P.M. THE SHOT CAME FROM A DIRECTION IN FRONT OF HIM. INTERVIEWING AGENTS SHOULD ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN ONLY FACTS FROM INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED, KEEPING IN MIND HIGH DEGREE OF EMOTION GENERATED AS A RESULT OF THE ASSASSINATION, WHICH MAY AFFECT THE INDIVIDUAL'S ABILITY TO FACTUALLY RELATE WHAT HE OBSERVED AT TIME OF ASSASSINATION.
END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date: 4/13/68

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

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Priority)

TO: RICHMOND
FROM: MEMPHIS (44-1987)

MURKIN, CIVIL RIGHTS, OO: ME.

INVESTIGATION MEMPHIS REVEALS THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUAL WAS REGISTERED INTO THE LORRAINE HOTEL DASH MOTEL, FOUR ZERO SIX MULBERRY AVE., MEMPHIS, ON EITHER APRIL THREE OR FOUR, LAST, OR BOTH DATES. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE LORRAINE HOTEL IS WHERE DR. KING WAS ASSASSINATED:

JAMES LOVE, ROOM THREE ZERO EIGHT, APRIL THREE AND FOUR, LAST, EIGHT TWO THREE ONE CHAUNCEY COURT, ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA.

INTERVIEW LOVE RE ANY INFO. HE MIGHT HAVE CONCERNING ASSASSINATION.

~~TELETYPE~~
 SMD:jms
 (1) *[Signature]*

Airtel	_____
Teletype	_____
A.M.	_____
A.M.S.P.	_____
Spec. Del.	_____
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Registered	_____

44-1987-534

Darlington SMD

Approved: *[Signature]*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent 7 11 P M Per MLM

[Handwritten mark]