

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

DATE: 10/30/68

FROM : ASAC C. O. HALTER

SUBJECT: MURKIN

U. S. Attorney GILBERT MERRITT, Nashville, Tenn., telephonically informed as follows at approximately 8:30 AM, 10/30/68:

A reporter named JIM SQUIRES connected with the morning newspaper in Nashville called USA MERRITT at approximately 10:30 PM, 10/29/68. MERRITT had been asleep and does not recall too clearly just what SQUIRES had to say; however, MERRITT understands that SQUIRES has written or will write articles on RAY's defense.

During the evening of October 29, 1968, SQUIRES received a long distance telephone call from some place in Canada, possibly Toronto. The person calling identified himself as "APPEL" (phonetic). APPEL indicated he was representing or calling for a man named GERSTAT (phonetic). GERSTAT is supposed to have testified before the Warren Commission regarding some person he had seen in Canada who allegedly had something to do with the assassination of the late President JOHN F. KENNEDY. APPEL has told SQUIRES that the description of the person described by GERSTAT is similar to the description of the individual in Canada who allegedly made an offer of money to JAMES EARL RAY to go to Memphis for some job.

GIL MERRITT suggested that an Agent from the Nashville RA contact SQUIRES today for further particulars.

MERRITT apologized for being so indefinite on the information furnished by SQUIRES but admitted that he was half asleep during the telephone call.

I thanked Mr. MERRITT for calling and told him that before an Agent would contact SQUIRES, this would be cleared with Departmental officials in Washington, D. C. 44-1987-Sub-M-11-100

COH:ME

2)

1-11

ll
ll
Halter