

44-38861-4161

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REL:erg 6/3/68

Memo Rosen to DeLoach

MURKIN

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[redacted] suspect look-alike, obtained 1967 Plymouth at Chula Vista, Calif., on 5/14/67 under fraudulent pretenses. Vehicle located abandoned at Covina, Calif., on 5/28/68. [redacted] possibly using name of [redacted] Investigation at St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles indicates subj may possibly associated with James C. Hardin. RCMP Canada, advised Canadian passport issued to Ramon George Sneyd on 4/24/68. Sneyd possibly identical to subject Ray. Investigation receiving top priority attention.

44-38861-4161

OPR notes reads: "Summary Report at HQ regarding report by RCMP in Canada that passport issued in name of Ramon George Sneyd may be photograph of Ray; also, Allen, Thompson, James Hardin and Fitz persons discussed."



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: June 3, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Martindale
- 1 - Mr. Mohr
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Conrad
- 1 - Mr. Gale
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. Trotter

SUBJECT: MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

[redacted] who is a James Earl Ray look-a-like suspect, signed an escrow contract to purchase a home at Bonita, California, on 5-14-68, for \$51,000. He gave a promisory-type check for \$5,000 and indicated he had a \$65,000 certified check in his hotel room. [redacted] claimed to be employed by International Harvester Company, Bloomington, Illinois, and recently transferred to the San Diego area. On 5-14-68, he attempted to purchase a 1967 Plymouth at Chula Vista, California, displaying the escrow contract. An automobile salesman gave the keys of the vehicle to [redacted] who then drove off in the car. [redacted] did not return the vehicle and as a result thereof, a description of the vehicle and of [redacted] was placed in an all-points bulletin by California authorities. Investigation indicated that the financial claims and maneuvers were fictitious and fraudulent.

On 5-28-68, the Covina, California, Police Department advised our Los Angeles Office that the Plymouth stolen in Chula Vista, California, had been recovered abandoned in Covina on 5-28-68, and had apparently been abandoned for several days. The Covina Police Department reported that the 1967 Plymouth had been involved in an accident with a car driven by one Allen Krause, Azusa, California, who stated the driver of the Plymouth identified himself as [redacted] and had given a check to reimburse him for damages. This check was found to have been stolen at Huntington Beach, California. Krause was shown a photograph of subject Ray and he stated that the driver of the Plymouth was not identical with Ray.

The Covina, California, Police Department suspects the [redacted] is responsible for five armed robberies of real-estate agents in the Chula Vista area. Person of [redacted] description had contacted real-estate agents about home purchase as pretext before robbing them.

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Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

[redacted] Huntington Beach, California, advised that on 5-15-68, a man (generally fitting previous description of [redacted] driving a gold and black (same color as stolen 1967 Plymouth) came to her home in response to a sign in front indicating it was for sale by owner. This man indicated he was interested in buying the home and [redacted] left him in her living room to arrange for a later appointment. She was gone for approximately ten minutes and when she returned, the man indicated he would obtain \$500 in cash and return the following day to handle details. After this man left, [redacted] discovered her checkbook and numerous credit and identification cards as well as her driver's license had been taken from her purse which had been in the living room. Several of the items stolen from [redacted] have been recovered.

We are continuing investigation to determine if subject Ray is involved in this matter in view of the fact that [redacted] examined photograph of James Earl Ray and indicated photograph somewhat resembled man who stole her identification but could not make any positive identification, and also that other individuals stated that James Earl Ray resembled person known as [redacted]

Allen Thompson, manager of the St. Francis Hotel, Los Angeles, California, which is a former residence of subject Ray, advised an individual who he knows as [redacted] recently inquired about the relationship between Ray and one [redacted]. Thompson recalls during period of March 1 through March 17, 1968, while he was operating the switchboard at the hotel, an individual called for Ray and left a message for him to call [redacted] collect. According to Thompson, calls were subsequently received from this individual from Atlanta and New Orleans. Thompson advised that later a person identifying himself as [redacted] came to the hotel during the period March 1 through March 17, 1968.

Thompson reported that [redacted] may be the subject of an outstanding warrant, and that he has seen [redacted] on an infrequent basis in the vicinity of Hollywood and Western area, Los Angeles, during the past six months. Thompson advised he has no knowledge of associates of [redacted] his residence past or present, his automobile, or his employment, if any. Thompson said sometime after the first of the year he believes he expelled [redacted] and another Caucasian male from the parking lot of the St. Francis Hotel where they were sleeping in an automobile. Thompson said that whenever and wherever he observes [redacted] he will immediately notify the FBI. We are thoroughly checking this matter out.



Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have been conducting an examination of Canadian passports issued to individuals since April 23, 1967 (date of subject's escape from Missouri State Penitentiary) in an attempt to locate our subject James Earl Ray. The RCMP advised our Legal Attache in Ottawa, Canada, that Canadian passport number BJ909324 was issued to an individual by the name of Ramon George Sneyd on April 24, 1968, at Ottawa and the photograph in the file is very definitely similar to Ray, and there is a good probability it is a photograph of Ray.

Sneyd's application for passport was filed on his behalf by the Kennedy Travel Bureau, Toronto, Canada, and the purpose for the passport was for Sneyd to fly to London, England, on May 6, 1968, by way of British Overseas Airline Company and return to Canada on May 21, 1968. Sneyd filed an affidavit in lieu of listing a guarantor as he had been in Toronto three weeks and did not know a guarantor. He also listed as a friend Paul Bridgman, Toronto, Canada. (The RCMP has not been able to locate Bridgman to date.)

The address of 968 Dundas Street, Toronto, Canada, as listed by Sneyd is a Chinese rooming house and investigation there by the RCMP has established that Sneyd arrived there on April 19, 1968, and roomed there for three weeks.

Our records indicate that one Paul Osborn Bridgeman was fingerprinted by the Department of Correction, Jefferson City, Missouri, on April 23, 1965. Bridgeman received a five-year sentence which was commuted on January 16, 1968.\* It is to be noted that subject James Earl Ray was confined to the Missouri State Penitentiary from 1959 to April 23, 1967.

The RCMP are conducting extensive investigation and are going all out in this matter to determine if subject James Earl Ray and Ramon George Sneyd are identical. Our Legal Attache in London has been instructed to check records of British Overseas Airline Company in a most discreet manner.

\*Investigation being conducted to determine if Bridgeman was confined to Missouri State Penitentiary.

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

This investigation is being handled on a top priority basis.

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