

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: SA JOE C. HESTER
Date: JUNE 5, 1968

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Title: JAMES EARL RAY;
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. - VICTIM

*Lake
file*

Character: CIVIL RIGHTS - CONSPIRACY;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ROBBERY

Synopsis: JAMES EARL RAY, FBI #405 942 G, escaped Missouri State Penitentiary (MSP) 4/23/67, and on 7/20/67 a complaint was filed before USC W. C. SHELEY, Jefferson City, Mo., charging RAY with unlawful flight to avoid confinement in violation of Title 18, USC, Section 1073. On 4/17/68 an authorized complaint was filed against ERIC STARVO GALT for violation of Title 18, USC, Section 241, charging that he did conspire to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., in the free exercise and enjoyment of his rights secured by the Constitution of the United States. Complaint was filed before USC, Birmingham, Ala., by SAC JOSEPH H. GAMBLE, and a warrant was issued for the arrest of GALT. Recommended bond is \$50,000. On 5/7/68 Shelby County GJ, Memphis, returned a secret indictment charging JAMES EARL RAY with murder in the first degree. Chronological listing of subject's activities from 4/67 to 4/68 set forth and reflects he resided briefly at Montreal, Province of Quebec, Canada. He traveled to Birmingham, Ala., purchased a 1966 Ford Mustang, then traveled to Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco, Mexico, for a brief residence, and then to Los Angeles, Calif. Subject made 2 round trips by automobile from Los Angeles to New Orleans and in 3/68 established residence in Atlanta, Ga. Using the name HARVEY LOWMEYER, a Remington, Model 760, rifle was purchased 3/30/68 Birmingham, Ala. At 6:00 P.M., 4/4/68 Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was shot and killed by a single bullet fired from the bathroom of a nearby rooming house while he was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, Memphis. Same Remington rifle identified above recovered at scene along with other items and personal belongings of the subject. Results of Laboratory examinations of all evidence described herein. Interviews of relatives of JAMES EARL RAY, fellow prisoners, and associates set forth. Subject is described as a loner with no close associates, reportedly on amphetamine, and selling drugs at MSP while incarcerated there. Identification record and description also set forth. ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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