

FBI

Date: 11/22/68

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Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)
MURKIN

ReBuairtel, 11/14/68, and Birmingham teletype 11/20/68.

Attached for information of the Bureau are four copies of FD-302 reflecting location of guest registration card for JOHN L. RAYNS at Granada Hotel, Birmingham, on date 8/26/67. Five copies of this FD-302 are forwarded to Memphis, and one each to interested offices.

Two copies of an insert are attached for the Bureau and five copies for Memphis regarding a previous search of the records at the Granada Hotel for the period 10/23-31/67, inclusive, which resulted negatively and was based upon Bureau telephone call, 11/9/68.

Two copies of legible handwritten list of registration cards at the Granada Hotel are being furnished Memphis in response to reBuairtel, 11/14/68, in order that the names thereon may be compared with lists submitted by the Mobile, New Orleans and, possibly, San Antonio Divisions.

ENCLOSURE

- 3 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
 - 2 - Memphis (Enc. 12) (44-1987-103)
 - 1 - Mobile (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - New Orleans (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - San Antonio (Enc. 1)
 - 1 - St. Louis (Enc. 1)
 - 2 - Birmingham
- HAS:mfl
(11)

C. C. Bishop

REC-9 44-38861-5499
NOV 22 11 25 AM '68
Gruel Det
REC-11 11/26/68

54 DEC 4 - 1968

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

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date November 22, 1968

Mr. CHARLIE TRONCALE, owner-manager, Granada Hotel, 2230 Fourth Avenue, North, made available the guest registration cards for his hotel during the period August 22 - 28, 1967, inclusive. A review of these cards resulted in the location of guest registration No. 9022 for one JOHN L. RAYNS, residence 1825 Lafayette St., St. Louis, Mo., who checked in at 9:05 a.m. on Saturday, August 26, 1967, and was assigned to Room 210 by Desk Clerk ADRIAN N. KOONCE at a rate of \$4.50. No record was maintained as to the time of checkout or method of travel. The card reflected the guest had luggage. The original of this card has been forwarded to the FBI Laboratory at Washington, D. C., for appropriate handwriting comparison.

A record was obtained of the names and addresses (where recorded) of the approximately 150 guests, other than permanent residents, during the period for which the cards were reviewed and two copies of the list are being transmitted to the Memphis FBI Office. No guest card was observed for any "RAOUL" or similar name during the period involved.

Upon observing the guest registration card of RAYNS, Mr. ADRIAN N. KOONCE identified his initials as having roomed RAYNS, but stated that due to the elapsed time he had no independent recollection of him. He stated he had previously been exhibited a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY and was unable to identify that individual.

No further information was obtainable from Mr. KOONCE or other personnel of the Granada Hotel.

On 11/20-21/68 at Birmingham, Alabama

File # BH 44-1740
ME 44-1987

by SA HENRY A. SNOW:mfl

Date dictated 11/22/68

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BH 44-1740
NE 44-1987
HAS:mfl

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] on November 9, 1968:

At the request of the Bureau, a personal examination was conducted of the guest registration entry book of the Granada Hotel, 2230 Fourth Avenue, North, Birmingham, Alabama, from October 23 - October 31, 1967, for the name JOHN L. RAYNES, JAMES EARL RAY, and all other known aliases of subject RAY, with negative results.

The following employecs were displayed photographs of subject and were interviewed regarding his possible visit on October 25, 1967, with negative results:

FRANK L. PHILLIP
Night Desk Clerk
[REDACTED]

A. M. KOONCE
Relief Day Desk Clerk, resides at hotel

On November 12, 1968, the following individuals were likewise interviewed:

Mr. CHARLIE TRONCALE
Manager and owner
[REDACTED]

O. C. SMITH
Regular Day Desk Clerk
[REDACTED]

Mrs. CATHERINE MONTGOMERY
Hotel Maid
[REDACTED]

ELMORE STUDAMIRE
Hotel Bellhop
[REDACTED]

It is noted, per Mr. TRONCALE, that these are the only employecs of the hotel who were employed there during the pertinent period.