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See p 27 3 + last  
At last page

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Date: 5/2/68

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL - REGISTERED  
(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: *CMB* SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (173-65)  
SUBJECT: MURKIN

RE: PAUL COBB

Information was received that PAUL COBB taught a course in Negro history at St. John's Episcopal Church, Berkeley, California. It was reported that at one of these sessions, he stated that he knew MARTIN LUTHER KING was going to be killed and that he would probably be killed near Memphis, Tennessee.

Efforts were made to contact Dr. ROBERT MC KINZIE at St. John's Episcopal Church and it was determined that he was associated with St. John's Presbyterian Church. However, inquiry at St. John's Presbyterian Church revealed that he would not be available until April 29, 1968. On April 29, 1968, it was determined that he would not be available until April 30, 1968.

On April 30, 1968, Dr. ROBERT MC KINZIE, St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2640 College Avenue, Berkeley, California, advised PAUL COBB gave a series of lectures on Negro history at St. John's Presbyterian Church ending on March 31, 1968. He stated COBB could be located at 2717 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, California.

EX-116 REC-69 44 38861-3207

On April 30, 1968, inquiry was made at 2717 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland, California, the headquarters of the Oakland Economic Opportunity Center. Upon entering the large room at 2717 San Pablo Avenue, it was observed there were ten female Negroes and seven male Negroes in the room and one female advised PAUL COBB was "right there" and pointed to a young man about five

- 3 - Bureau (RM)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)(AM)(RM)
- 2 - San Francisco
  - (1 - 173-65)
  - (1 - 157-New)(PAUL COBB)

MAY 4 1968

MTG/sms #11  
(7)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

SLA  
PMA

SF 173-65  
MTG/sms

feet from her desk. COBB overheard the conversation but he continued a conversation with five females in a circle around the desk and completely ignored SA [REDACTED]

After more than five minutes COBB asked who the Agent wanted to see. It is noted there were numerous large posters, 12 x 18, pasted on the walls and desks in the office of BOBBY HUTTON and notices or lettering on the posters "Killed by racist Oakland pigs." A number of the persons in the room were attired in the customary dress of the Black Panthers and numerous material for the Black Panthers was observed. The Agent identified himself to COBB and stated he wanted to talk to COBB briefly. He offered a chair in the room with all the others and when SA [REDACTED] suggested some privacy he said, "Let's go on the street." In front of 2717 San Pablo Avenue, COBB again demanded the Agent's identification and he studiously observed the credentials, obviously aware of his audience within the building. SA [REDACTED] told COBB of his purpose in talking to COBB regarding the MARTIN LUTHER KING assassination in which he may be able to be of some help. COBB immediately said, "Let's go your car and sit down." At this point an individual stopped COBB and SA [REDACTED] on the street. This individual was dressed in a black leather jacket, a green beret, with Black Panther buttons on both beret and jacket. He stated to COBB, "Let me talk to you a minute brother." COBB told him he would be back in about five minutes.

In the Bureau automobile COBB stated he did not want to talk to the FBI and felt harassed by the FBI, stating he believed the FBI had been "following him for several weeks." SA [REDACTED] related to COBB that the FBI had received a complaint that he, COBB, had made a statement during a series of lectures at St. John's Presbyterian Church that MARTIN LUTHER KING would be killed soon and would be killed in Memphis, Tennessee. COBB replied, "I made that statement on Sunday night before KING was killed on Thursday. I did say KING would be killed in Memphis and I have good evidence to support my prediction." At this point COBB stated, "I want to take the Fifth Amendment and I won't give any further information to the FBI." When asked for the reason for this COBB stated, "The FBI already knows the white killer of KING and has him in custody." SA [REDACTED] then displayed a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, aka ERIC STARVO GALT, to COBB and he viewed the photograph without comment.

At this point COBB stated, "The FBI knows my record and I am certain you are not here about KING but here to harass me." It was again explained to COBB that the FBI was pursuing every possible lead to locate the assassin of MARTIN LUTHER KING and had an interest in his statement that KING would be killed in Memphis, which according to COBB was made before the fact. COBB then stated the FBI knew he was a roommate of STOKELY CARMICHAEL at Howard University and he

SF 173-65  
MTG/sms

stated, "I have been in Memphis and I have been in jail with MARTIN LUTHER KING." COBB would not say when he had been in Memphis or when or where he had been in jail with Dr. KING. COBB then stated, "You cats have my phone bugged so you know what I'm doing." He then made a comment that "since you know what I'm doing, I'm sure you'll see me on Thursday." When asked what this statement meant, he said, "Wait and see. I'm sure you'll be back to see me on Thursday."

COBB made other comments during the conversation which are worthy of note. COBB stated all whites should go to Alaska and turn the other 49 states over to the Negroes who have "sweat and died" for the United States. He stated he is not a citizen of the United States and when asked where he was born said in the United States but that "I am not a citizen of the United States." He said he planned to go home to Africa and should have gone long ago. He stated he "should have known better than to enroll in a PhD. program at the University of California, Berkeley."

Upon leaving the area, COBB was observed entering the door to an apartment area immediately next door to the Economic Opportunity Center and since he was using a key to admit himself, it is presumed this is his residence.



UACB, San Francisco will not reinterview PAUL COBB regarding the remarks he was alleged to have made in view of the fact that he stated, "I want to take the Fifth Amendment and I won't give any further information to the FBI." In view of the present situation involving Black Panther members who are presently awaiting criminal trials in Oakland, California, it is believed that COBB could and might use the Bureau's effort to recontact him as a source of embarrassment to the Bureau and unfair publicity.