

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1740) (P)

DATE: 12/20/76

FROM : SA PATRICK J. MOYNIHAN

SUBJECT: MURKIN
CR
(OO: ME)

Re Birmingham airtel to Bureau, 12/15/76, in which information is furnished from former [REDACTED]

The following is set forth for information purposes since it does not appear in referenced airtel and LHM.

The last paragraph of Page 2 of LHM refers to the source's introduction to a Mr. GAULT and a private conversation between PROSCH, LIBERTO and GAULT. The source advised that the waitresses and bartender at Gulas should have seen these people together and possibly they were also seen by BILL BARNES, a Birmingham PD Detective, who was a drinking partner of the source in early 1968 and frequently in Gulas at the time.

The source was operating [REDACTED], on [REDACTED] Birmingham, in March and April, 1968, and knew many of the black people involved in the civil rights movement because he had [REDACTED] for them and for some of the organizations. The source's activity on April 4, 1968, leading up to his learning that Dr. KING had been killed are synopsized on Page 4, Paragraph 4, of the LHM. Details of his activities that date, 4/4/68, are set out hereafter, since they were obtained at the time of interview but were not germane to the LHM or to the cover airtel.

On 4/4/68, the source had a business appointment at his [REDACTED] Office with people from the [REDACTED] Company. He was to do [REDACTED] work for them in connection with this new company. [REDACTED] There was a tentative arrangement in which the source would be paid [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], and people unrecalled from [REDACTED] were together throughout the day at his company and he was occupied in this manner. FRANKLYN ROOSEVELT, Jr. was to be present later in the day as he was to

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become a Director or the President of this company. The source, [REDACTED], and others involved met with FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, JR. at about 5:00 PM on 4/4/68 at a big suite in the Parliament House where they had some drinks and were again involved in discussions regarding the Trans World Insurance Company and the stock issue. It was at this location that they heard black people crying and screaming in the corridor and determined that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been killed. This information shocked those present and FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT, JR. departed immediately for the airport to return to Miami. The source went home at this time.

The source believes he spent the day following the assassination, 4/5/68, at his place of business where [REDACTED], a black male, and later possibly a member of or involved in the Black Liberation Front in Birmingham, came to him requesting [REDACTED] of MARTIN LUTHER KING for the purpose of selling such. Right after the assassination, the source did in fact [REDACTED], approximately \$10,000 in the first week and these were sold in Alabama for a dollar a piece. Source received \$10 a photo for his work. Salesmen, used by [REDACTED] in this enterprise, rented cars to travel in the State and the source furnished [REDACTED] with his own American Express card for the purpose of renting these cars. Shortly after this time the source became involved in the 87 case, referred to in the referenced airtel.

Source advised that after having had a good bit to drink, he returned to his home on the evening of 4/3/68, following the incident wherein Dr. PROSCH had showed him the rifle and told him of the forthcoming killing of Dr. KING. The source said he did not believe that he had told this story to his wife when he arrived home that night, 4/3/68, but, in conversation with his wife at a later time, she told him that he had mentioned some of these facts to her at that time.

The source advised that the only person that he has discussed this matter with in detail shortly after it happened, was [REDACTED] who was his secretary [REDACTED] in 1968 and a close confidant. She is deceased, having passed in approximately 1973. The source has a son, [REDACTED], who is and has been working for some time at Aeromarine in Birmingham and [REDACTED] is familiar with the people employed there. He has heard and discussed with them various aspects of the purchase of guns by JAMES EARL

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RAY back in 1968 and in turn has discussed this and these matters with his father, the source.

As a result, the source advised that Dr. GUS PROSCH purchased the rifle at Aeromarine on 4/3/68 and it is his understanding that there is no record of the sale of the rifle from Aeromarine on 4/1, 2, or 3/68. [REDACTED] did not review those records, but received this information from the wife of [REDACTED], who handles records at Aeromarine. He identified [REDACTED] as a white male, possibly 35, a big fat guy, who has worked at Aeromarine since before 1968 and is the individual who affixed the scope on the second gun purchased by JAMES EARL RAY. Source has heard that there is a slip of paper in the records dated 4-68 with the notation "invoice missing". The source understands that when RAY, using his alias, returned the first rifle he purchased at Aeromarine, he commented that it was not big enough to do the job. All of his information from Aeromarine has been obtained through his son and is hearsay. The source says there is a record at Aeromarine on 4/5/68 reflecting that PROSCH bought a Colt AR 15 and later PROSCH bought many guns [REDACTED]

Page 5 in the last paragraph of the LHM contains information that a friend of the source told him that the gun that killed Mr. KING was shipped out of the country to Costa Rica. This source identified this individual who furnished this information to him in December, 1976, as [REDACTED] is a well known hoodlum in Birmingham, presently on \$75,000 bond for a murder. [REDACTED] told the source that, following 1968, he became a good friend of Dr. GUS PROSCH, and [REDACTED] claimed the gun used to kill KING was shipped out of this country to Costa Rica.

The source resides at [REDACTED] Birmingham, [REDACTED] and his home phone is [REDACTED]