

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 9/21/76

FROM : J. S. Peelman

- 1 - Mr. Held
- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Helterhoff
- 1 - Mr. Ingram
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Aldhizer

SUBJECT: MURKIN

#245852

12/4/76

spmac/mxl

House Select Committee on ASSASSINATIONS

Assoc. Dir. _____
 Dep. Asst. Dir. _____
 Dep. AD Adm. _____
 Asst. Dir. _____
 Adm. Serv. _____
 Ext. Affairs _____
 Fin. & Pers. _____
 Gen. Inv. _____
 Ident. _____
 Inspection _____
 Intell. _____
 Laboratory _____
 Legal Coun. _____
 Plan. & Eval. _____
 Rec. Mgnt. _____
 Spec. Inv. _____
 Training _____
 Telephone Rm. _____
 Director Sec'y _____

PURPOSE: To advise that the U.S. House of Representatives has created a select committee to investigate the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The reported basis for the House investigation re Dr. King was previously investigated by the FBI in 1968 and 1969 and the results were furnished to the U. S. Department of Justice.

SYNOPSIS: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement. As set forth in a J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum dated 2/18/76, in February, 1976, "Newsday," a Long Island, New York, newspaper reported that Ed Redditt, the Memphis, Tennessee, City Detective guarding King was pulled from his post hours before King was assassinated and told the U. S. Secret Service had learned of a "contract" on his life. Redditt who protested his removal, reportedly had a "contingency plan" to apprehend any King assassin. On 2/17/76, this article furnished to the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice (USDJ), which, at that time, had the FBI investigation of Dr. King under review, stating FBI was conducting no investigation re this article unless specifically requested by the CRD. Article in "Washington Post," 9/18/76 (copy attached) reported U. S. House of Representatives created a select committee to investigate assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King. Reported basis for House investigation re Dr. King deals with ordered removal of Redditt from King security on day of his death due to reported attempt on life of Redditt's family. Order for his removal attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman (retired)

Enclosure

HNH:bam (10)

44-38861

CONTINUED - OVER

ST.106

62-117290-X
23 SEP 29 1976

84 JUN 4 1976
JUN 15 1978

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

"In this regard, Inspector G. P. Tines, Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised on 11/18/68, that on 4/3/68 he assigned Detective E. E. Redditt and Patrolman W. B. Richmond, Negro officers, both of whom are assigned to the Inspection Division of the Memphis Police Department, to a security detail at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House #2, located at Butler and Main Streets. This location is approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders," local Black Power group at Memphis. A number of the "Invaders" were rooming at the Lorraine Motel at this time. These two officers were equipped with binoculars and were stationed in a room at the rear of the fire station with a view that included the room later occupied by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In connection with this assignment, and prior to the time Officers Redditt and Richmond physically proceeded to this assigned location, it was determined by the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department that a Negro fireman stationed at the Fire Station and named Floyd E. Newsum had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitation workers in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. In order to insure security for Officers Redditt and Richmond, and to insure that no information regarding the Memphis Police Department Intelligence Unit's efforts to keep abreast of the activities of the "Invaders" was leaked to the black militants in Memphis, the Chief of the Memphis Fire Department was requested to temporarily transfer Fireman Newsum to another fire station. This was done on 4/3/68.

In addition, on 4/4/68, Negro Fireman Norvell E. Wallace was routinely assigned from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #31, due to a manpower shortage at Fire station #31.



b7C
b7D

62-117290-x ~~62-117290-x~~

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on 4/4/68, Lt. E. H. Arkin of the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department, on instructions from Inspector Tines, proceeded to Fire Engine House #2 and removed Detective Redditt from this station, leaving Officer Richmond at this post. The reason for the removal of Officer Redditt was due to the receipt of a telephone call on the morning of 4/4/68 by Philip Manuel, Chief Investigator for Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee, Washington, D. C., to the effect that information had been received by the Committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis Police Department was to be killed.

Due to Detective E. E. Redditt's activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in February and March, 1968, Redditt had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector Tines therefore believed the telephone call received by the McClellan Committee was another threat directed against Redditt. He therefore ordered Redditt removed from his lookout post at Engine House #2 for Redditt's own protection. A police guard of two officers was assigned to Redditt and his family as a result of this threat.

A review of the tapes of the Memphis Police Department radio transmissions for April 4, 1968, failed to reflect any transmissions from Police Dispatcher ordering Redditt to move from his observation post and, in fact, it has been ascertained that no radio equipment was maintained by the police officers at this observation post with which to receive radio transmissions."

This Memphis LHM also disseminated to the CRD on 11/27/68 and by request was also furnished to the Office of Professional Responsibility Task Force, USDJ, on 6/4/76, which office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King.

An LHM from the Atlanta Office of the FBI dated 1/31/69 (serial 5531) reflected that Rev. Ralph Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, was interviewed by the FBI on 1/30/69 and he advised that several months previously, Rev. James Lawson told him the day before the assassination of Dr. King that two Negro firemen, who had been assigned to the fire station across the street from the motel where Dr. King was killed, were moved to another fire station.