

ZODIAC

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(ZNS) THE VILLAGE VOICE REPORTS THAT A FORMER ANTI-CASTRO GUNRUNNER

FOR ITEMS USED

WITH APPARENT TIES TO THE C.I.A. MAY BE A CENTRAL FIGURE IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JUNIOR.

VOICE REPORTER DICK RUSSELL, IN A COPYRIGHTED ARTICLE, IDENTIFIES THE MYSTERIOUS GUNRUNNER AS WALTER A. "JACK" YOUNGBLOOD, A SELF-DESCRIBED "SOLDIER OF FORTUNE" FROM ALLEENE, ARKANSAS.

YOUNGBLOOD'S NAME FIRST SURFACED PUBLICLY LAST MONTH WHEN ONE OF JAMES EARL RAY'S ATTORNEYS, ROBERT LIVINGSTON OF MEMPHIS, STATED THAT YOUNGBLOOD (QUOTE) "MIGHT HAVE PULLED THE TRIGGER" IN KING'S MURDER.

THE VOICE QUOTES SEVERAL WITNESSES WHO CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN YOUNGBLOOD AT THE MURDER SCENE; OTHERS SAY HE BOASTED ABOUT HAVING INSIDE KNOWLEDGE OF THE ASSASSINATION.

ACCORDING TO SEVERAL WITNESSES TRACKED DOWN BY THE VOICE, YOUNGBLOOD WAS EVEN ARRESTED WITHIN A BLOCK OF KING'S MURDER THE DAY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, WHEN HE WAS POINTED OUT TO POLICE. HE WAS LATER RELEASED, BUT ALL POLICE RECORDS PERTAINING TO THAT REPORTED ARREST HAVE MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED FROM POLICE FILES, ACCORDING TO A MEMPHIS NEWSPAPER REPORTER FAMILIAR WITH THE KING CASE.

CONVICTED ASSASSIN JAMES EARL RAY HAS REPORTEDLY IDENTIFIED YOUNGBLOOD FROM PHOTOGRAPHS AS A MAN WHO WAS FOLLOWING HIM AROUND MEMPHIS SHORTLY BEFORE KING WAS MURDERED.

YOUNGBLOOD'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS ARE UNKNOWN. ROBIN MOORE, THE AUTHOR OF THE FRENCH CONNECTION -- AND A FRIEND OF YOUNGBLOOD'S -- SAYS THAT YOUNGBLOOD TELEPHONED HIM FOUR MONTHS AGO AND SAID HE WAS "GOING TO GET INVOLVED IN SOME HUSTLE ON THE PIPELINE IN ALASKA" -- ZODIAC

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