

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

File
AS INFORMATIVE

TO : Mr. W. C. Sullivan

DATE: 8/8/68

FROM : W. A. Branigan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

- Tolson _____
- DeLoach _____
- Mohr _____
- Bishop _____
- Casper _____
- Callahan _____
- Conrad _____
- Felt _____
- Gale _____
- Rosen _____
- Sullivan _____
- Tavel _____
- Trotter _____
- Tele. Room _____
- Holmes _____
- Gandy _____

S. J. [Signature]

This case involves the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

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Attached is Xerox copy of Memphis airtel dated 7/31/68 relating to investigation to identify two individuals, [redacted] and [redacted] or [redacted] who checked into William Len Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee, at 2:38 p.m. on 4/4/68 and checked out at approximately 12:10 a.m. on 4/5/68. The circumstances surrounding their departure in Memphis shortly after the murder of King has warranted our investigation to identify these individuals since there is always the possibility that they may have been involved in the murder of King. Our investigation to date has been negative and the conclusion of Memphis is that both of these individuals were "running from something." There is also attached a memorandum from Mr. Rosen to Mr. DeLoach indicating that in view of the possibility that [redacted] and [redacted] may have been implicated as co-conspirators in the King slaying, that the fingerprints developed on hotel registration cards relating to them be compared with fingerprints of white Bureau fugitives between the ages of 20 and 35.

EX-103 REC-39 44-38861-5048

In order to assist in the identification of [redacted] and [redacted] or [redacted] it is suggested that consideration be given to contacting informants in the Klan and white hate groups since there is a possibility that these informants may be able to identify known militant members of the Klan or white hate groups who were not in their normal location on the day of and the day after King's murder. There is a very meager physical description for both individuals and if consideration is given to requesting a check of logical racial informants it is suggested that a review be made of the Memphis report relating to our investigation of these individuals.

Enclosures - 2 ENCLOSURE

- 1 - Mr. G. D. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. A. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
- 1 - Mr. G. J. Moore
- 1 - Mr. W. A. Branigan
- 1 - Mr. R. E. Long
- 1 - Mr. G. M. Quinn

Supr. [redacted] AUG 14 1968
 No C 15 to [redacted] was made. It is not feasible - no individual of [redacted] and associated with [redacted] holo groups & description very meager.

GMQ:bab (8)
79 AUG 20 1968

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SLIX

MEMO

Mr. DeLoach

August 5, 1968

A. Rosen

1 - Mr. DeLoach

1 - Mr. Rosen

1 - Mr. Malloy

1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Long

1 - Mr. Daunt

1 - Mr. Gale

1 - Mr. Trotter

MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. This memorandum is in specific reference to the investigation conducted at William Lea Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee, regarding suspects [redacted] and [redacted].

As a result of checking various hotels and motels in Memphis, Tennessee, regarding suspects in this matter, it was determined that an individual by the name of [redacted] and another by the name of [redacted] registered at the William Lea Hotel in Memphis on April 4, 1968. On April 5, 1968, they made a hasty departure from the hotel taking a taxicab to the Memphis Airport. Investigation strongly indicates that these two individuals departed Memphis by Delta Airlines Flight No. 157, nonstop to Houston, Texas, on April 5, 1968, using the names of [redacted] and [redacted].

This matter has been thoroughly checked with negative results in order to determine the true identity of these individuals. It appears that those two individuals may have been in Memphis for the possibility of committing some illegal activity or there as possible fugitives "cooling off" and departed immediately because of the pressure of law enforcement on the King assassination.

Memphis Division submitted the hotel registration cards concerning [redacted] and [redacted] and six unidentified latent fingerprints were developed from the card of [redacted] and five unidentified latent fingerprints were developed from the card of [redacted].

44-38861-5048

REL:cs
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ENCLOSURE

CONTINUED - OVER

Memo Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

RECOMMENDATION:

Since all other logical investigation has been conducted in an effort to identify these individuals without success, and in view of the possibility they may have been implicated as co-conspirators in the King slaying, it is recommended, if feasible, that the latent fingerprints developed on the hotel registration cards be compared with those of white Bureau fugitives between the ages of 20 and 35. It is noted that the best available information indicates that [redacted] and [redacted] are described as white males between the ages of 20 and 35.

7/31/68

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN
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Re William Len Hotel, Memphis, Tenn., phase of investigation.

Enclosed herewith is one Xerox copy each of an investigative insert reflecting investigation conducted by SA [REDACTED] at Memphis, Tenn., and an FD-302 dated 4/7/68 reflecting interview of Miss EDITH BRUNER, Clerk, William Len Hotel.

[REDACTED] San Francisco, California, and [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] Kansas City, checked into the William Len Hotel, Memphis, Tenn., at 2:38 p.m. on 4/4/68 and checked out at approximately 12:10 a.m. on 4/5/68. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were immediately transported to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport via Yellow Cab.

Two individuals believed to be identical with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] based on the Memphis PD investigation and time element concerning flights leaving Metropolitan Airport, furnished Delta Airlines personnel at Metropolitan Airport names of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] no addresses, departed Memphis via Delta Airlines flight # 157 nonstop to Houston, Texas, at 1:57 a.m., 4/5/68 with a scheduled arrival time, Houston, at 2:50 a.m. same date. Tickets for the flight were purchased just prior to departure time and since no reservations

③ - Bureau (Encs. 2)
2 - Memphis
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ENCLOSURE

ME 44-1987

were made, these names were merely added to the passenger manifest and no addresses were obtained. Efforts to locate this manifest to date have been negative.

Investigation conducted by Kansas City and San Francisco Divisions determined that the addresses furnished by [redacted] and [redacted] at the William Len Hotel were nonexistent. These Divisions as well as Houston and Memphis have been unable to identify [redacted], or [redacted] through contact with airline personnel, transportation drivers, motel and hotel clerks, credit and criminal checks, and through a review of street and telephone directories in the pertinent cities involved.

The FBI Laboratory developed six latent fingerprints of value on Q349 which was the William Len Hotel registration card of [redacted] and five latent fingerprints of value were developed on Q350 which was the registration card for [redacted].

The FBI Identification Division developed [redacted] FBI # [redacted] as a suspect possibly identical with [redacted] who registered at the William Len Hotel. The Latent Fingerprint Section of the FBI, Identification Division, has advised that the latent prints developed on Q349 and Q350 are not identical with the fingerprints of [redacted] FBI # [redacted]. The FBI Laboratory has also advised that the handwriting appearing on Q349 and Q350 is not identical with the handwriting of [redacted] FBI # [redacted].

The William Len Hotel personnel advised that this [redacted] is not identical with [redacted] or [redacted] who registered at the hotel on 4/4/68. [redacted] FBI # [redacted], was interviewed by a BuAgent on 6/12/68 at St. Louis, Mo., and denied being in Memphis or ever flying via commercial airlines. Driver for the Yellow Cab Company transporting [redacted] and [redacted] to Metropolitan Airport, Memphis, advised that a photograph of [redacted] FBI # [redacted] is definitely not identical with either of the two individuals that he transported to the Metropolitan Airport, Memphis, in the early a.m. of 4/5/68.

The Yellow Cab Company driver, William Len Hotel employees, and Delta Airlines employees advise that JAMES EARL RAY is definitely not identical with the two individuals that they had dealings with in Memphis on 4/4-5/68.

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Although it is agreed that [redacted] and [redacted] departed the Memphis area in a somewhat suspicious manner on 4/5/68, many visitors and residents, immediately after KING was killed, departed the Memphis area by any means of transportation available due to the real existence of fear of the riot as a result of KING's killing. The Memphis Division conducted investigation regarding numerous persons who left the area after KING's killing and [redacted] and [redacted] were merely two individuals of the large number of individuals who were under investigation as suspects prior to the identification of ERIC STARVO GALT at the Rebel Motel, Memphis, and subsequent identification of JAMES EARL RAY as being identical with ERIC STARVO GALT.

Due to the manner in which [redacted] and [redacted] departed the Memphis area and the lack of luggage at the time of their arrival and departure, it is believed that [redacted] and [redacted] were "running from something," possibly law enforcement and/or were in the city of Memphis for some type of illegal activity.

Since [redacted] and [redacted] furnished nonexistent addresses in San Francisco and Kansas City, Kansas, and it is believed that they actually changed names while in Memphis, it is not believed that any of the names used in Memphis by these individuals would be their true identities.

In view of the above, no further investigation is being conducted or directed by the Memphis Division concerning the William Len Hotel phase in this matter.