File #:

62-117290

SECTION-1

Serial Scope:

X, 1, 3X, 10, 17, 30, 38

FROM	DATE OF DOCUMENT	SUSPENSE DATE
SPRAGUE, Richard Counsel & Director Select Com on Assassi[redacted]	12/30/76	[redacted]

TO	DATE RECEIVED	CONTROL NO.
Edward H. Levi Attorney General	1/4/77	C#2036

DESCRIPTION	REFERRED TO	DATE
Access to FBI info on Dr. King re Revolutionary Action Movement, Freedom Democratic Party and Invaders	FBI	1/6
	cc: AG	
	Shaheen	

REMARKS	
Prepare response for Attorney General's signature and return to OLA, Room 1603 for cover ltr.	

PREPARE REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF

Edward H. Levi

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 1

MAIL CONTROL

REPLACES AD-820 WHICH MAY BE USED

DJ-295 7-5-73

C2036

THOMAS N. DOWNING, VA., CHA[redacted]
HENRY B. GONZALEZ, TEX.
RICHARDSON PREYER, N.C.
LOUIS STOKES, OHIO
WALTER E. FAUNTROY, D.C.
YVONNE BRATHWAITE BURKE, CALIF.
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.
HAROLD E. FORD, TENN.

SAMUEL L. DEVINE, OHIO
BURT L. TALCOTT, CALIF.
STEWART B. MCKINNEY, CONN.
CHARLES THONE, NEBR.

(202) 225-4624

Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
3341 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEX 2
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

5

December 30, 1976

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O.L.A.

DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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JAN 4 10 37 AM '77
RECEIVED 2

The Honorable Edward H. Levi
Department of Justice
10th & Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Levi:

Pursuant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations' investigation into the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., we hereby request access to all information in the possession of the Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation which pertain to the following: 146-1-72-662

1) The Revolutionary Action Movement (RAM), for the period of January 1, 1967, to present; 146-1-62-2977

2) The Freedom Democratic Party, reportedly based in Mississippi, for the period of January 1, 1967, to present; REC-7 62-117290-38

3) The Invaders, reportedly a black power group based in 1968 in Memphis, Tennessee, for the period of January 1, 1967, to present. 146-1-72-101

We understand that the FBI has, in its possession, nine files relating to these three organizations, as well as a large number of other files in which there is some reference to them. We request access to the nine subject files, and to each document within the additional files where such reference is made.

I will appreciate your prompt assistance in providing the Select Committee with access to this material, and I shall look forward to hearing from you in regard to this matter.

FED. BU. OF INV.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
JAN 4 1977
O.R.O.M.
RECORD
OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS
FOIA + Privacy Act Unit

6 Law
cb 1/13/77

84 JAN 17 1977

D. A. K.

FED. BU. OF INV.

Select Committee on Assassinations
U.S. House of Representatives
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

WASH DC PM JAN 3 1977 200

USE ZIP CODE

Thomas N. Downing
M.C.

The Honorable Edward H. Levi
Department of Justice
10th & Constitution, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

With best wishes and kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Richard A. Sprague

Richard A. Sprague
Chief Counsel and Director

CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON UNIT.
LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION ADVISED
5/5/77 THAT NO RESPONSE TO
THIS REQUEST IS NECESSARY.
REQUEST IS NOT CONSIDERED OFFICIAL
SINCE IT WAS SUBMITTED UNDER SIGNATURE
OF COUNSEL SPRAGUE AND NOT COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.
COMPLETED PORTIONS OF REQUEST - INVADERS AND MFDP -
WILL BE RETAINED IN CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT.
RAM WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT FURTHER
HSCA ACTION.
JTR 5/5/77

1 - Mr. Adams - Enc.
1 - Mr. Gallagher - Enc.
1 - Mr. Leavitt - Enc.
1 - Mr. Mintz - Enc.
2 - Mr. Daly - Enc.

Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs

November 18, 1976

Director, FBI

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Reference is made to Chairman Thomas N. Downing's request contained in his letter of November 2, 1976, addressed to the Attorney General, requesting certain information concerning the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

You referred the aforementioned request to the FBI for comments concerning access to FBI files. In this regard, I believe that this Committee should be granted the same degree of access for appropriately cleared personnel as was granted to the House Select Committee on Intelligence Activities (HSC) and the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities (SSC). I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of the agreement between the Attorney General and Chairman Frank Church of the SSC concerning access to FBI files.

I wish to advise you in connection with the FBI's investigation into the assassination of Dr. King that the news media has reported James Earl Ray who was convicted in that matter has petitioned the Supreme Court to review his case.

As to the other information requested in Chairman Downing's letter, the FBI does not have summaries of its investigations into these two matters nor does it have an itemization of material contained in FBI files pertaining to these investigations which might not have been disseminated to "any other individual or agency." 62-116290-30

EX 104 REC-39 4 JAN 4 1977

It would appear advantageous to meet with representatives of the Committee so that they might generally be informed as to the FBI's filing system and in a general fashion, concerning the FBI's investigations into the two assassinations identified in their letter so that the Committee might better understand what information is in the possession of the FBI.

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
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

7 ENCLOSURE

TO BE HAND DELIVERED BY
OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS
(LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION)

Enclosure
PVD:lad
(9)

SEE NOTE PAGE 2

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/8/84 BY SP8B1 DCB

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

56 JAN 12 1977

FBI/DOJ

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

FROM : J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

DATE: 11/8/76

1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. Ingram
1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. Helterhoff
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - Mr. Burton
1 - Mr. Deegan

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
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Director Sec'y

PURPOSE: To furnish comments by the Civil Rights Section, General Investigative Division (GID), as to Committee access to the Civil Rights investigation into the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Bufile 44-38861).

SYNOPSIS: House Select Committee on Assassinations has requested access to FBI files and Department of Justice files concerning the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (copy of Committee letter attached). Legal Counsel Division has requested comments from GID re Committee access. (Copy of Legal Counsel memorandum attached.) Dr. King was assassinated on 4/4/68 and the FBI conducted an immediate Civil Rights investigation per the request of the Department. Our investigative results were furnished to the Department and based upon the authority from the Department, certain pertinent investigative results were furnished to the State of Tennessee authorities. James Earl Ray pled guilty on 3/10/69 to the murder of Dr. King before a state court in Tennessee and presently is in local confinement. In November, 1975, the Attorney General directed Assistant Attorneys General Pottinger and Thornburgh to review the files relating to Martin Luther King and make a recommendation as to whether the assassination case should be reopened. In April, 1976, the Attorney General requested the Department's Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) to complete the review of all records re Dr. King. The Department's OPR still has this King matter under review. Any decision relative to Committee access to the Civil Rights assassination investigation of Dr. King rests within the province of the Department. The Department should also be advised that in making its decision it should also consider:

Enclosures (3)

HNH:bam (8)
44-38861

REC-2 62-117290-17
ST-113

ENCLOSURE

CONTINUED - OVER

DEC 6 1976

LEGAL COUNSEL ADDENDUM PAGE SEVEN

DEC 9 1976

84 DEC 14 1976

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

FBI/DOJ

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/8/84 BY SP8 370/ae

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

(1) What authority the Committee has to request access; (2) What effect access would have on the local prosecution and the rights of Ray who has his case under appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court. ("Washington Post" article re his appeal attached); (3) What effect Committee access would have on privacy of those individuals who furnished information in a criminal case; (4) If Department grants access, it should oppose disclosing identity of informants or persons who furnished information on a confidential basis and (5) What action it intends to take to obtain third-agency clearance including foreign Governments; (6) The decision to furnish an itemization of material turned over to another agency remains within the province of the Department; (7) The FBI has not prepared any summary of the King assassination investigative results other than that contained on the summary (synopsis) pages of each report and a reports containing a prosecutive summary; (8) The Civil Rights Section recommends no meeting with staff members until Department makes its decision.

RECOMMENDATION: That these comments of the Civil Rights Section be furnished to the Criminal Section of the GID (attention Mr. Len S. Burton), which section is coordinating the overall GID response to this matter.

APPROVED:	Adm. Serv.	Legal Coun.
	Ext. Affairs	Plan. & Insp.
Director	Fin. & Pers.	Rec. Mgt.
Assoc. Dir.	Gen. Inv.	S. & T. Serv.
Dep. AD Adm.	Ident.	Spec. Inv.
Dep. AD Inv.	Intell.	Training

DETAILS: The House Select Committee on Assassinations has requested access to FBI files and Department of Justice files concerning the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Committee letter attached). The Legal Counsel Division has requested comments of the GID as to the Committee's access to these files. (copy of Legal Counsel memorandum attached). The Civil Rights assassination investigation of Dr. King is located in Bufile 44-38861.

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 8

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

Dr. King was shot to death by an assassin's bullet while standing on a balcony of a motel in Memphis, Tennessee, on 4/4/68. The U. S. Department of Justice requested the FBI to conduct an immediate Civil Rights investigation into this assassination which was confirmed in writing by a letter from Stephen J. Pollak, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, to the Director of the FBI, which requested a full investigation into a possible violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241, (possible conspiracy to violate the Civil Rights of Dr. King, namely, the right to travel interstate.)

The FBI conducted an extensive, exhaustive investigation into this assassination and James Earl Ray was identified as the assassin. Our investigative results were furnished to the Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice, and based upon the authority of the Department, certain pertinent investigative results were furnished to the appropriate local authorities in the State of Tennessee. On 3/10/69, in state court, Memphis, Tennessee, Ray entered a plea of guilty to charges of the murder of King and received a 99-year sentence. Ray is presently in local confinement.

By letter dated 12/4/75, the Attorney General of the United States advised that on 11/24/75, he directed Assistant Attorneys General J. Stanley Pottinger and Richard L. Thornburgh to review the files relating to Martin Luther King at once in the light of recent testimony, and make a recommendation as to whether the assassination case should be reopened. The Department had complete access to the Civil Rights assassination investigative file during its review.

On 4/29/76, the Attorney General of the United States issued the following news release:

"I have directed the Office of Professional Responsibility, headed by Michael Shaheen, to complete a review of all records in the Department of Justice concerning the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Civil Rights Division, under the personal direction of Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger, completed on April 9 a five-month preliminary review

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 9

of files at FBI headquarters. As a result of this preliminary review, the Civil Rights Division has recommended that the review be carried forward to completion with an additional examination of records at FBI headquarters and field offices. It is believed that more than 200,000 documents may be involved.

On the basis of this preliminary review, Assistant Attorney General Pottinger stated that his tentative conclusions were (1) there was no basis to believe that the FBI in any way caused the death of Dr. King, (2) no evidence was discovered that the FBI investigation of the assassination of Dr. King was not thorough and honest, and (3) instances were found indicating that the FBI undertook a systematic program of harassment of Dr. King in order to discredit him and harm both him and the movement he led.

In ordering on April 26 the complete review by Mr. Shaheen, I directed that the investigation be completed forthwith and that answers to four specific questions be furnished to me and FBI Director Clarance M. Kelley on the basis of the review of all documents:

-- Whether the FBI investigation of Dr. King's assassination was thorough and honest;

-- Whether there is any evidence that the FBI was involved in the assassination of Dr. King;

-- Whether, in light of the first two matters, there is any new evidence which has come to the attention of the Department concerning the assassination of Dr. King;

-- Whether the nature of the relationship between the Bureau and Dr. King calls for criminal prosecutions, disciplinary proceedings, or other appropriate action.

Mr. Pottinger pointed out that the Civil Rights Division has been continuously investigating allegations concerning the assassination of Dr. King as these allegations come to the attention of the Department."

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 10

The Department's OPR still has this matter under review and has had complete access to the Civil Rights assassination investigative files both at FBIHQ and in all of our field offices.

The decision as to what access, if any, the Committee has to the FBI file on the Civil Rights assassination of Dr. King, therefore, rests entirely within the province of the Department of Justice. The Department should also be advised that in making its decision relative to Committee access, it should also consider the following:

(1) The Department should determine what authority the Committee has to request access to the Civil Rights assassination investigation of Dr. King. For example, is it requesting such access for a specific legislative interest? If not, such access by the Committee could be construed by some as an effort by a legislative body to act as a "grand jury" even though James Earl Ray has already been processed through the court system;

(2) The Department should determine what effect any such Committee access to our investigative results in the Civil Rights assassination investigation of Dr. King (including the physical evidence, FBI Laboratory and Identification reports, etc.) would have on the local prosecution of James Earl Ray and upon the rights of Mr. Ray, who has recently appealed his conviction to the U. S. Supreme Court. ("Washington Post" article re appeal attached). If necessary, the Department should resolve this with the State of Tennessee authorities and with Mr. Ray's counsel;

(3) The Department should determine what effect any such access would have on the privacy of those individuals who furnished information to the FBI in a criminal case the FBI was investigating (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241);

(4) If the Department grants access to the Committee, it should oppose disclosing the identity of any informants or persons who furnished information on an expressed confidential basis;

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 11

(5) If the Department grants Committee access, the Department should advise what action it intends to take to obtain third-agency clearance including obtaining authority from those foreign Governments which furnished investigative results, such as Canada (where Mr. Ray stayed and obtained a passport) and London (where Mr. Ray was captured);

(6) The decision to furnish an itemization of any material which has been turned over to any other individual or agency remains within the province of the Department. For instance, certain material was turned over to the State of Tennessee authorities based upon the authority of the Department and the Department would have to make a decision as to whether this itemization could be made available to the Committee. Other material from our files has also been made available pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act;

(7) The FBI has not prepared any summary of the Civil Rights investigation of the assassination of Dr. King. Neither the Civil Rights Division nor the OPR requested such a summary during its review. Each investigative report contains a summary (synopsis) page and a prosecutive summary report and a non-prosecutive summary report were also previously prepared. There is, of course, extensive public source information available concerning this matter;

(8) Inasmuch as any Committee access to the Civil Rights investigation of the assassination of Dr. King remains within the province of the Department, the Civil Rights Section of the GID recommends that no meeting be held re the Civil Rights investigation with staff members of the Committee until the Department makes its decision in this matter.

These comments of the Civil Rights Section of the GID are in no way intended to be obstructive but it is felt the Department must resolve these issues before it can make a determination as to whether or not it will grant Committee access to the Civil Rights investigative file on the assassination of Dr. King.

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 12

J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memo
Re: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS

ADDENDUM: LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION PVD:mcz 11/12/76

As to the questions raised by the General Investigative Division in this memorandum, Legal Counsel Division makes the following observations:

The authority of a committee of Congress to make a request for information is derived from the authority to seek information to fulfill a legislative function, and in this instance this particular committee is acting pursuant to a resolution of the House of Representatives. The more critical question rather than the authority for the request is the kind of information the committee will receive, and it is for this reason that the standards set forth in the agreement between the Attorney General and the Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Frank Church, are being used to govern this question.

The possibility, of course, could be raised that the Select Committee on Assassinations is not a properly constituted Committee in that it has not been created to serve a legislative function, but it is not believed advisable nor desirable to raise this particular issue since there would appear to be little hope of obtaining support in the Department or elsewhere in such a challenge.

Concerning the invasion of privacy "of those individuals who furnished information in a criminal case." It should be noted the Privacy Act does not preclude or prohibit responding to a legitimate request of a committee of Congress. The question of protecting identity of informants, persons who furnished information on a confidential basis, raised in this memorandum is addressed in the aforementioned agreement between Senator Church and the Attorney General which is governing the furnishing of information to this committee and provides for the protection of the identities of such people. The third agency rule providing for clearance prior to the furnishing of information to the Committee will also be followed.

CONTINUED - OVER

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 13

J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher Memo
Re: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE
ON ASSASSINATIONS

The problem presented by the fact James Earl Ray was convicted of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., may be currently appealing his conviction is known to the Department, and Larry Callaghan, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, has indicated this factor will not preclude committee access to the information involved.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the captioned Committee be granted access to the information they seek, governed by the agreement with the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Activities.

APPROVED:	Adm. Serv.	Legal Coun.
	Ext. Affairs	Plan. & Insp.
Director	Fin. & Pers.	Rec. Mgt.
Assoc. Dir.	Gen. Inv.	S. & T. Serv.
Dep. AD Adm.	Ident.	Spec. Inv.
Dep. AD Inv.	Intell.	Training

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 14

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NOV - 7 1976

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RR HQ

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FM MEMPHIS (66-2197)

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

BT

EFTO

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

RE BUTEL SEPTEMBER 28, 1976.

RECENT ARTICLES APPEARING IN LOCAL PRESS INDICATE THAT THIS COMMITTEE WILL SOON BE PREPARING TO HOLD MEETINGS AND THEREAFTER WILL CONDUCT PUBLIC SESSIONS.

AN ARTICLE APPEARING IN THE NOVEMBER 17, 1 , ISSUE OF THE "COMMERCIAL APPEAL," A DAILY NEWSPAPER AT MEMPHIS, STATES THAT LAWYERS FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE MURDER OF DR. KING CHARGED THAT DOCUMENTS IN THE CASE HAD BEEN DESTROYED SINCE THE COMMITTEE WAS FORMED.

EX-109

REC-33 62-117290-10

MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES IN MEMPHIS CONTACTED THE STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL, THE MAYOR'S OFFICE, THE CITY POLICE CHIEF,

#245852 SPmac/mre 12/5/75

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 2/8/84 BY SP8BTG/CR

Butel to SAC, Memphis HNH:gjw 11/29/76

55 DEC 6 1976

OTHER POLICE OFFICIALS, AS WELL AS THIS OFFICE. DENIALS WERE RECEIVED FROM ALL INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED THAT ANY DOCUMENTS INVOLVING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE MURDER OF DR. KING HAD BEEN DESTROYED.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE KING ASSASSINATION OCCURRED IN MEMPHIS, IT CAN REASONABLY BE ANTICIPATED THAT THE BULK OF THE WORK BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBERS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THIS LOCALE. FBIHQ IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE MEMPHIS WHETHER THERE HAS BEEN ANY INDICATION THUS F R AS TO THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COMMITTEE WILL BE SEEKING TO QUESTION FBI PERSONNEL WHO WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INVESTIGATION. SINCE THE BULK OF THE INVESTIGATIVE WORK ON THIS CASE WAS DONE BY THE MEMPHIS FBI OFFICE, IT IS APPARENT THAT WE WILL BE ASKED BY THE COMMITTEE TO ADVISE THEM OF THE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED AND POSSIBLY TO TURN OVER PERTINENT FILES.

AS THE BUREAU IS AWARE, THE KING ASSASSINATION AND RELATED FILES IN MEMPHIS TOTAL APPROXIMATELY 140 VOLUMES AND OVER 10,000 SERIAL. ALL OF THE INDIVIDUALS WHO PLAYED A SIGNIFICANT ROLEBIN THE FBI INVESTIGATION AT MEMPHIS HAVE SINCE RETIRED

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SA JOE C. HESTER WHO IS CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO MEMPHIS AS A FIELD SUPERVISOR AND WHO WAS THE CASE AGENT ON THE ASSASSINATION INVESTIGATION.

IT IS SUGGESTED THAT CONSIDERATION BE GIVEN AT THIS TIME TO THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ITSELF OR ITS STAFF MEMBERS WILL WANT TO BE GIVEN A THOROUGH BRIEFING OF THE SCOPE OF THE FBI INVESTIGATION. IN VIEW OF THE MASSIVE NUMBER OF SERIALS INVOLVED AND THE LENGTH OF TIME (EIGHT AND ONE-HALF YEARS) SINCE THE INVESTIGATION WAS INITIATED, SA HESTER ADVISED THAT HE WILL NEED APPROXIMATELY 30 DAYS FULL TIME TO REVIEW THIS MATTER IN ORDER TO HAVE A CURRENT OVERALL KNOWLEDGE OF THE FBI INVESTIGATION. IF FBIHQ AGREES THAT WE SHOULD BEGIN PREPARING FOR THIS EVENTUALITY, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SA HESTER BE RELIEVED OF HIS SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DEVOTE FULL TIME TO INITIATING A THOROUGH REVIEW OF THIS INVESTIGATION SO THAT HE CAN INTELLIGENTLY RESPOND TO QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE.

BT

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ___
Dep. AD Adm. ___
Dep. AD Inv. ___
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ___
Ext. Affairs ___
Fin. & Pers. ___
Gen. Inv. ___
Ident. ___
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Rec. Mgnt. ___
Spec. Inv. ___
Training ___
Telephone Rm. ___
Director Sec'y ___

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 9/22/76

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

House Select Committee on Assassinations

PURPOSE: To advise that the Task Force Leader of the Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice (USDJ), which office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was advised on 9/22/76, of the location of information in Bufile 44-38861, relative to the reported basis for a new House investigation of the assassination of Dr. King. The Civil Rights Division (CRD), USDJ, was also advised on 9/22/76 of our previous investigative results.

62-117290-3X

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 9/21/76, 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. Reported basis for House investigation of Dr. King deals with the ordered removal of Edward Redditt, Memphis Police Officer, from King security on day of his death due to the reported attempt on life of Redditt's family. Order for his removal attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman (retired Special Agent of FBI). Reported basis also deals with "sudden transfer" of two black firemen, including Floyd Newsum, from fire house across the street from motel where King was shot. These allegations re removal of Redditt and the firemen previously investigated by FBI in 1968 and 1969 and the pertinent results were furnished to the USDJ. On 9/22/76, Mr. Fred G. Folsom, Jr., Task Force Leader of the

HNH:bam (10)

44-38861

REC 12

~~44-38861-6134~~

ST 106

CONTINUED - OVER

23 SEP 29 1976

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12/4/78

84 OCT 4 1976

OCT 25 1978

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FBI/DOJ

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

Office of Professional Responsibility, USDJ, which office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King, was advised of the location of this information in Bufile 44-38861. Mr. Folsom advised the Task Force was already aware of these allegations and had already looked into this matter. The CRD, USDJ, was also advised on 9/22/76 of our previous investigative results.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

APPROVED:	Ext. Affairs	Laboratory
Assoc. Dir.	Fin. & Pers.	Legal Coun.
Dep. AD Adm.	Gen. Inv.	Plan. & Eval.
Dep. AD Inv.	Ident.	Rec. Mgmt.
Asst. Dir.:	Inspection	Spec. Inv.
Adm. Serv.	Intell.	Training

DETAILS: 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 9/21/76, an article in the "Washington Post," 9/18/76, reported that the U. S. House of Representatives has created a select committee to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The reported basis for the House investigation of Dr. King deals with the ordered removal of Edward Redditt, a Memphis Police Officer, from the King security on the day of his death due to a reported attempt on the life of the Redditt family. The order for his removal was attributed to the Memphis Fire and Police Director, Frank Holloman (retired Special Agent of the FBI). The reported basis also deals with the "sudden transfer" of two black firemen, including Floyd Newsum, from a fire house across the street from the motel where King was shot.

The allegations re the removal of Redditt and the firemen were previously investigated by the FBI in 1968 and 1969 and the pertinent results were furnished to the Department.

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 19

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

You were advised in the J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum dated 9/21/76, that the CRD would be advised of our previous investigative results and that the Task Force Leader of the Office of Professional Responsibility, USDJ, which is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King, would be advised of the location of this information in Bufile 44-38861, the FBI civil rights assassination file. The Task Force has complete access to 44-38861 in connection with its review.

On 9/22/76, Mr. Fred G. Folsom, Jr., Task Force Leader, was referred to serials 5197, 5387, 5531, 5533, and 5557, of 44-38861, which reflect the information and our investigative results re the Redditt - firemen allegations.

Mr. Folsom advised the Task Force was already aware of these allegations and had already looked into this matter.

The CRD, USDJ, was also advised on 9/22/76, of our previous investigative results.

NW 55155 DocId:32989764 Page 20

1 - Mr. [illegible] G. Deegan
1 - Mr. J. S. Peelman

CLEAR TELETYPE ROUTINE

1 - Mr. P. V. Daly

FM DIRECTOR 9/27/76

TO MEMPHIS ST 106

1 - Mr. J. D. Maurice

BT

C L E A R REC-21 62-117290

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

REURTEL 9/22/76, ABOVE CAPTION.

NO CONTACT HAS AS YET BEEN MADE WITH FBIHQ BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE LOOKING INTO THE KING ASSASSINATION. ANY REQUESTS OR PERTINENT INFORMATION RECEIVED BY FBIHQ INVOLVING THE MEMPHIS OFFICE, WILL BE PROMPTLY FURNISHED TO YOU.

SHOULD ANY REQUESTS BE RECEIVED BY MEMPHIS FROM CAPTIONED COMMITTEE, SUCH REQUESTS SHOULD BE RESPONDED TO BY INFORMING THE COMMITTEE TO CONTACT THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL AFFAIRS, LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION, FBIHQ. YOU SHOULD ALSO PROMPTLY NOTIFY FBIHQ OF ANY SUCH REQUESTS.

BT

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(6)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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Springmeier 12/14/85
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 2/8/84 BY SP8BTD/cw 211326

OCT 26 1976

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

SEP 27 1976
TELETYPE

FBI/DOJ

NOTE:

Memphis teletype 9/22/76 advised of news media stories indicating the recently created House Select Committee to investigate the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. intends to hold hearings immediately after the forthcoming presidential election. Memphis anticipates hearings will be held by the committee in Memphis and committee staff members will contact the Memphis office. Memphis requested to be furnished specific instructions as to what action should be taken in the event FBI personnel are subpoenaed, attempts are made to review FBI files or efforts are made to interview FBI personnel. Above response coordinated with Unit Chief Paul V. Daly, Office of Congressional Affairs.

APPROVED:	Ext. Affairs	Laboratory
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Dep. AD Inv.	Inspect.	Rec. Mgmt.
Asst. Dir.:	Inspection	Spec. Inv.
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

SEP 22 1976

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RR HQ

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FM MEMPHIS (66-2197)(P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

ATTN: CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.)

THE BUREAU WILL NOTE THAT MEMPHIS HAS OPENED A NEW CASE, CAPTIONED AS ABOVE, IN WHICH TO HANDLE ALL CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS.

STORIES APPEARING IN THE NEWS MEDIA INDICATE THIS COMMITTEE INTENDS TO HOLD HEARINGS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN NOVEMBER, 1976. IT IS ANTICIPATED HEARINGS WILL BE HELD BY THE COMMITTEE AT MEMPHIS. SINCE IT WILL BE EXPECTED THAT STAFF MEMBERS FROM THE COMMITTEE WILL CONTACT THE MEMPHIS OFFICE FOR INFO RE OUR INVESTIGATION OF THE KING MURDER, IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE BUREAU FURNISH

DE-22
ST 106 REC-21 N62-117290
SEP 29 1976

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TEL TO MS. TOMILCK 9/27/76

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DATE 2/8/84 BY SP8 BTO/CW
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MEMPHIS OFFICE WITH SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AS TO WHAT ACTION TO BE TAKEN IN THE EVENT FBI PERSONNEL ARE SUBPOENAED, IN THE EVENT ATTEMPTS ARE MADE TO REVIEW FBI FILES, IN THE EVENT EFFORTS ARE MADE TO INTERVIEW FBI PERSONNEL, OR OTHERWISE ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INFO AVAILABLE TO THE MEMPHIS OFFICE,

THIS CASE WAS DIRECTED DURING THE FIRST FEW DAYS BY NOW RETIRED INSPECTOR JOE SULLIVAN. ON THE DAY RAY'S CAR WAS LOCATED AT ATLANTA, INSPECTOR SULLIVAN LEFT MEMPHIS AND WENT TO THE ATLANTA OFFICE WHERE HE REMAINED UNTIL HE WAS GIVEN A NEW ASSIGNMENT. THE SAC AT MEMPHIS, ROBERT JENSEN, NOW RETIRED BUT STILL RESIDING IN MEMPHIS, TOOK CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION AT MEMPHIS. THE CASE AGENT, SA JOE C. HESTER, IS STILL IN THE MEMPHIS OFFICE, AND MAY WELL BE CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE FOR A SUPBOENA.

DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF EIGHT YEARS SINCE THE KING MURDER AND DUE TO THE MANY DIFFERENT PHASES OF THE INVESTIGATION IT WOULD BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANY ONE INDIVIDUAL TO TESTIFY KNOWLEDGEABLY RE THIS INVESTIGATION. IN THE EVENT THE DEPARTMENT INSTRUCTS THAT FBI PERSONNEL ARE TO SUBMIT

TO INTERVIEWS BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE STAFF, IT IS SUGGESTED THAT THE ATTORNEY GENERAL SHOULD REQUIRE THE SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN QUESTIONS WELL ENOUGH IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW TIME FOR RESEARCH BEFORE ANY ATTEMPT IS MADE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

IN THE EVENT THE MEMPHIS OFFICE IS CONTACTED BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OR BY STAFF MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE, NO INFO WILL BE FURNISHED TO THEM WITHOUT THE SPECIFIC PERMISSION OF THE BUREAU AND THE CONTACTING INDIVIDUAL WILL BE SO ADVISED.

BT

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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Telephone Rm.
Director Sec'y

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 9/21/76

FROM : J. S. Peelman #248852

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

House Select Committee on Assassinations

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

ENCLOSURE

ST 106 62-117290-X

23 SEP 29 1976

HNH:bam (10)

CONTINUED - OVER

44-38861

JUL 13 1978

84 JUL 4 1976

JUL 25 1978

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

FBI/DOJ

Special Agent of FBI). Reported basis also deals with "sudden transfer" of two black fireman, including Floyd Newsum, from firehouse across the street from motel where King was shot. The FBI civil rights assassination investigative file (Bufile 44-38861) reflects the CRD furnished a memorandum dated 9/23/68 containing results of interviews which J. Harold Flannery, Deputy Section Chief, Central Section, CRD, had with William Sartor, a contract writer for Time, Inc., who as a reporter had been inquiring into possible conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. Sartor furnished various information, including the "Cosa Nostra" or "Mafia" could be involved, Redditt was moved from assignment at fire station, and two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. CRD requested FBI to "follow out" all of Sartor's indicated leads. FBI investigation in 1968 reflects that upon instructions from an Inspector of the Memphis Police Department (PD), Detective Redditt removed from guard duty due to information received from Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee that a Negro detective was to be killed. Inspector believed this another threat against Redditt, who had been previously threatened, and removed Redditt for own protection. Memphis PD determined Negro fireman Floyd E. Newsum active in demonstrations by striking sanitation workers and closely associated with black militants. Newsum transferred to insure safety for Officers Redditt and another officer and to insure no information leaked to black militants. Another Negro fireman routinely reassigned due to manpower shortage. This investigation by FBI reported in Memphis letterhead memorandum (LHM) dated 11/21/68, disseminated to CRD 11/27/68, and by request also furnished to Office of Professional Reponsibility Task Force, U. S. Department of Justice, on 6/4/76, which Office is presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King.

Bufile 44-38861 also reflects on 1/30/69 Rev. Ralph Abernathy, President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, advised that Rev. James Lawson told him two Negro firemen, assigned to fire station across from King motel, were moved leaving fire station unmanned, and a Negro policeman was moved from beat of King's motel. (LHM reporting this furnished CRD 2/3/69). FBI investigation at Memphis PD reflected it had no officers assigned to "walking beat" on day King killed. Rev. Lawson interviewed by FBI on 2/11/69 and stated Floyd E. Newsum and another Negro

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Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

fireman were transferred, and Detective Redditt was removed from fire station, and these occurrences may have some significance. This new select House Committee, to date, has made no requests of the FBI.

RECOMMENDATION: For information. The CRD is being advised, and the Task Force Leader of the Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, presently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. King will be advised of the location of this information in Bufile 44-38861.

APPROVED:
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DETAILS: 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 in Tennessee.

As set forth in a J. S. Peelman to Mr. Gallagher memorandum dated 2/18/76, a United Press International Wire Service article dated 2/14/76, stated the following:

> "Garden City, N.Y. (UPI) -- The top law enforcement official in Memphis, Tennessee, removed a detective assigned to protect Martin Luther King hours before the Civil Rights leader was assassinated in 1968, Newsday reported Saturday.
>
> In a copyrighted story in its Sunday edition, the Long Island newspaper said Ed Redditt, the city detective guarding King, was pulled from his post and told there was a plot to kill him.
>
> The Memphis Public Safety Director did not replace Redditt after taking him off the assignment and allowed the detective to return to work three days after King was shot to death at the Lorraine Motel Newsday said.
>
> It also said Redditt 'had prepared a contingency plan to enable the police department to apprehend an assassin should an attempt be made on King's life.'
>
> 'After Redditt was removed from duty, he was told at a meeting in police headquarters that the U. S.

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Secret Service had learned of a 'contract' on his life,' Newsday said.

'Redditt protested, saying he wanted to return to his post, but the city's then Public Safety Director, Frank Holloman, insisted on the officer's removal,' the newspaper said.

'Enroute home with his police guard, Redditt heard over the radio that King had been shot by an assassin,' the story said.

'Three days later, the round-the-clock guard watching Redditt was removed and he was allowed to return to work. The police department never offered any further explanation of the 'contract' on his life,' Newsday said.

The story also said Holloman acknowledged the report of a threat on Redditt's life, but refused to say who had made the threat.

'Redditt's assassination contingency plan, according to sources, called for the entire four-block area around King's Hotel to be sealed off by patrol cars,' the article said."

On 2/17/76, this article was furnished to the CRD USDJ, which at that time had the FBI investigation of Dr. King under review, stating the FBI was conducting no investigation re this article unless specifically requested by the CRD.

On 9/8/76, an article appeared in the "Washington Post," (copy attached), reporting that the U. S. House of Representatives created a select committee to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The reported basis for the House investigation re Dr. King deals with the ordered removal of Edward Redditt from King's security on the day of his death due to a reported attempt on the life of Redditt's family. The order for his removal was attributed to Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman (retired Special Agent of the FBI). The reported basis also deals with the "sudden transfer" of two black firemen, including Floyd Newsum, from the fire house across the street from the motel where King was shot.

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Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

The FBI civil rights assassination investigative file (Bufile 44-38861) reflects the CRD furnished a memorandum dated 9/23/68 (serial 5197) containing results of interviews which J. Harold Flannery, Deputy Section Chief, Central Section, CRD, had with William Sartor, a contract writer for Time, Inc., who as a reporter had been inquiring into a possible conspiracy to assassinate Dr. King. Sartor furnished various information, including that the "Cosa Nostra" or "Mafia" could be involved. Departmental Attorney Flannery also reported that Sartor furnished him with the following two allegations:

1. "An unidentified Negro policeman was moved from his assignment at the Fire Station (and Police Tactical Unit Station) at about 5:00 p.m. on the day of the assassination. According to Sartor, the Dispatcher told the policeman to move two or three times during the afternoon, but he did not do so until explicitly advised to that effect by a superior. In August, Sartor identified the policeman as E. E. Redditt and said that Redditt had broken off an interview with Sartor after starting to discuss his move from the station."

2. "Two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them has reportedly told friends that, two or three days before Dr. King was shot, a telescope or binoculars were set up on a tripod in the fire station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. In August, Sartor said that one firemen left the Department or was suspended shortly after the shooting, and that he has been unable to locate either of them. He did not have their names."

The CRD requested the FBI to "follow out" all of Sartor's indicated leads.

By LHM, the Memphis Office of the FBI reported the results of the investigation re the above two items as set forth below (serial 5387):

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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.

On 11/18/68, Fire Chief Hamilton advised that by letter dated 5/18/68, Fireman Newsum resigned from the Memphis Fire Department after thirteen years of service, giving as his reason for leaving "Personal Reasons." Chief Hamilton advised it is his understanding that Newsum has become an active worker with the NAACP at Memphis subsequent to his resignation from the Memphis Fire Department.

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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.

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According to Rev. Lawson that move left the fire station unmanned and they were moved to a station which was already fully manned and equipped. Also according to Rev. Lawson, a Negro policeman, who worked the beat which included the motel where Dr. King was killed, was moved off of that beat the day Dr. King was killed, April 4, 1968, but prior to the killing. This Atlanta LHM was furnished to the CRD on 2/3/69.

An airtel from the Memphis Office of the FBI, dated 1/31/69 (serial 5533) reflects information from the Memphis PD that it had no officers assigned to a "walking beat" in Memphis on the day Dr. King was killed.

An airtel from our Memphis Office dated 2/11/69 (serial 5557) reflects that Rev. Lawson was interviewed by the FBI on 2/11/69 and he advised he feels that certain occurrences may have some significance.

Rev. Lawson said that on about April 2 or April 3, 1968, a Negro fireman, Floyd E. Newsum, was transferred from the firestation near the Lorraine Motel to another station that was already fully manned. He also said that another Negro fireman, name unknown, was transferred from that same station to another station on either Tuesday or Wednesday night before King was murdered on Thursday afternoon. He said this second fireman was transferred in the middle of his shift and was transferred "out of rotation."

Rev. Lawson explained "out of rotation" as follows:

When a fireman is assigned to a piece of equipment he remains in that assignment until all the men already assigned to it have been transferred. In other words, the last man assigned is the last man transferred.

Rev. Lawson stated also that a Negro police officer, Detective E. E. Redditt, who had been assigned to the same fire station to provide protection for Dr. King, had been removed from the station sometime prior to the murder.

Rev. Lawson stated he has made no attempt to verify any of this information except for his interview with Floyd Newsum.

This new select House Committee, to date, has made no request of the FBI.

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