

TELETYPE

URGENT

CLEAR

12/10/76

1 - Mr. Helterhoff

FM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

TO MEMPHIS (44-1987) URGENT

BT

C L E A R

MURKIN

REKTEL DECEMBER 3, 1976, AND MEMPHIS TELETYPE
DECEMBER 10, 1976.

IN ORDER TO FURTHER RESOLVE ALLEGATION OF ALFRED WILLIAM
MARTINEZ, PROMPTLY INSTITUTE INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE AND
INTERVIEW JIMMIE W. RAY, WHOSE NAME APPEARED ON THE CORRESPON-
DENCE LIST OF WILLIAM B. SIMPONIS AS SET FORTH IN REFERENCED
KANSAS CITY TELETYPE TO DETERMINE IF HE IS ACTUALLY THE "RAY"
REFERRED TO BY MARTINEZ. IF JIMMIE W. RAY IS LOCATED, INTER-
VIEW HIM TO DETERMINE IF SIMPONIS CORRESPONDED WITH HIM WHILE
IN JAIL IN SALT LAKE CITY, NATURE OF ANY SUCH CORRESPONDENCE,
AND WHETHER HE HAS ANY ASSOCIATION WITH JAMES EARL RAY OR
CAPTIONED MATTER. SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS.

Assoc. Dir. _____ BT
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: HNH: gjw (3)
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 _____

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

84 DEC 21 1976

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
SEE NOTE PAGE TWO.

REC- 87.44-38861-6153

DEC 10 1976

TELETYPE

17 DEC 13 1976

8 * DEC 10 1976

RECEIVED

Dec 10 5 30 PM '76

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

URGENT (C)

TO DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)
SUBJECT: [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows]

RE: [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows]

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS RECEIVED FROM [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows]

1 - MR. ROYALPOEL

ALBANY

PAGE TWO MEMPHIS CLEAR

NOTE: This is the Civil Rights assassination investigation of Martin Luther King, who was killed on 4/4/68 in Memphis, Tennessee. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement.

Alfred William Martinez has made allegations that while incarcerated with Simponis in 1966-1967, he wrote letters to James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee, for Simponis and Simponis told Martinez to go to Memphis when he got out and contact Ray to pull off a big job. Martinez states he never went. From investigation conducted to date, it appears the only time Simponis and Martinez were incarcerated together at Salt Lake County Jail was from either 1/29/68 to 3/2/68 or from 2/13/68 to 3/2/68. Prison records reflect one Jimmie W. Ray of Memphis, Tennessee, was on correspondence list of Simponis in 1968. This instructs Memphis to interview Jimmie W. Ray to determine if he is actually the "Ray" referred to by Martinez.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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 _____

TO : Mr. Long
Finance and Personnel Division
Attention: Mr. Groover
FROM : A. J. Decker

DATE: 11-26-76

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF MURKIN DOCUMENTS

PURPOSE:

To advise the Finance and Personnel Division of receipt of the attached check.

DETAILS:

On November 17, 1976, Mr. George McMillan telephonically contacted SA Tom Bresson and requested copies of the 443 pages of Murkin material which had reportedly been made available to the public. SA Bresson informed Mr. McMillan that he could obtain the Murkin documents at FBI Headquarters. Mr. McMillan made an appointment to have these documents released to his associate, Mr. Stuart Johnson, at 2 o'clock on November 19, 1976. Mr. Johnson appeared at FBI Headquarters on the afternoon of November 19, 1976. The 443 pages of Murkin material were released to Mr. Johnson for which he presented Mr. McMillan's check in the amount of \$44.30 in payment of these documents.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Finance and Personnel Division process receipt of the attached check.

rph:ip (4)

Check for \$ 44.30 detached and sent to the Federal Reserve Bank, Richmond, VA. See Certificate of Deposit and Schedule of Collection # 77, dated 12/2/76.

V-14

ST-108

REC-37

44-38861

21 DEC 9 1976



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

FBI/DOJ

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

DEC 9 4 40 PM '76

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
DIVISION

DEC 1 3 59 PM '76

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECEIVED
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
FINANCE AND PERSONNEL
DIVISION

DEC 10 4 19 PM '76

DEC 10 1976

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 18 1976

TELETYPE

NR005 ME CODE

4:25 PM NITEL JUNE 18 1976 KJW

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: MEMPHIS (66-2189) (P)

ATTENTION: INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

REVIEW OF FBI INVESTIGATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TASK FORCE HAS REQUESTED TO INTERVIEW SA JOE C. HESTER OF THE MEMPHIS OFFICE REGARDING THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION. SA HESTER WAS THE CASE AGENT DURING THIS INVESTIGATION AND THIS INTERVIEW TO BE CONDUCTED AS PART OF THE TASK FORCE INQUIRY INTO MURKIN.

SA HESTER IS AGREEABLE TO SUBMITTING TO SUCH AN INTERVIEW AND SUCH INTERVIEW WILL BE HAD ON JUNE 23, 1976, UACB.
END.

SLR FIXX FBIHQ

TU AND CLR

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.	_____
Dep.-A.D.	_____
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	_____

REC-59 H4-B8861-615

EX-109

5 DEC 20 1976

REC-59 H4-B8861-615

DEC 20 1976

RECEIVED

84 DEC 28 1976

RECEIVED
JUN 23 4 09 PM '76

RECEIVED
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
INTELLIGENCE DIV.

JUN 21 4 09 PM 1976

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

RECEIVED DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

JUN 22 10 22 AM '76

RECEIVED

JUN 21 4 14 PM '76

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
FBI

TO VMD CFB

FROM LIXX EBING

E.B.

VMD SUCH INTERVIEW WILL BE HAD ON JUNE 23 1976 HAVE

SV HESTER IS VOLUNTARY TO SUBMITTING TO SUCH AN INTERVIEW
BUT OF THE LACK FORCE IMPOSED INTO WORKING.

THIS INVESTIGATION AND THIS INTERVIEW TO BE CONDUCTED AS
WITHIN INVESTIGATION. SV HESTER HAS THE CASE AGENT DURING
AFTER SV JOE C. HESTER OF THE MEMPHIS OFFICE REGARDING THE

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE LACK FORCE HAS REQUESTED TO INTER-

VIEW OF FBI INVESTIGATION OF DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING.

ATTENTION: INTELLIGENCE DIVISION

FROM: MEMPHIS (44-3182) (P)

TO: DIRECTOR

4:32 PM WITEL JUNE 18 1976 KRM

ABOVE ME CODE

RECEIVED
JUN 19 6 29 PM '76
INTELLIGENCE DIV.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: December 21, 1976

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☒ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☐ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

9- **OSUR**

Enc.

NOTE: See attached.

SEE *Serials*
44-38861-5587

157-19978-12 he furnished.
157-19978-6 5/31/77 and see BH Telt

FIVE COPY BH AT 6/1/77

ON 12/24/76, Fred G. Folsom, JR., OPR, U.S.A.S., 2673
was contacted re attached & said Joseph Cross 6012
OPR should review to determine if OPR desired 4697
copies. On 12/27/76, Cross of OPR reviewed 2634 page 85
& took cognizance of attached & requested 2322
no copies. **84 JAN 4 1977**

FBI/DOJ

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

NOTE: Enclosed are copies of memoranda from our Sacramento Office dated 12/15/76, from our Salt Lake City Office dated 12/6/76, and from our Kansas City Office dated 12/3/76, pertaining to an allegation made by Alfred William Martinez. Also enclosed are FBI Identification Records re Alfred William Martinez, William Simponis, and Jimmie Wayne Ray. We are presently in the process of attempting to locate and interview Jimmie W. Ray re this Martinez allegation. Mr. Fred G. Folsom, Jr., Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), U. S. Department of Justice, has been advised.

Also enclosed is a copy of a teletype from Birmingham dated 12/3/76. Mr. Folsom was advised of this teletype. In addition, a memorandum dated 12/15/76 from our Birmingham Office is enclosed with copies of its enclosure, 3 photographs of Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr., and an artist's conception reportedly of John Willard. The enclosed photographs of Dr. Gus Prosch were obtained by the source from U. S. Secret Service at Birmingham and he identified the enclosed artist's conception as a newspaper or magazine representation of an individual who registered at the hotel in which Dr. King was killed, as John Willard, on 4/4/68. It is source's understanding that John Willard was never identified and he believes Willard could be identical with Dr. Gus Prosch who used the name John Willard in Birmingham, Alabama, in the early part of 1968.

The source explained his reluctance to talk to the FBI since he was convicted in an Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property case at Birmingham, Ala., in 1969 or 1970, which conviction was subsequently reversed in the 5th Circuit Court and cost the source a large amount of money to defend himself. He claims he was afraid to furnish the detailed information of the enclosed memorandum shortly after the assassination of Dr. King because he was afraid and at that time, or shortly after, he became involved in a variety of personal problems including his FBI case. Later, when he talked about this matter, people always "turned me off".

Source has not talked to any group from the U. S. Senate or House of Representatives, contrary to information furnished in enclosed Birmingham teletype of 12/3/76, but he has discussed this matter with U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, Drug Enforcement Administration, Birmingham, and with an Assistant U. S. Attorney at Birmingham, Alabama.

THE CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE IS
MORRIS DAVIS WHO ADVISED
ON 5/31/77 THAT HE CAN BE
IDENTIFIED TO THE HSCA AS
THE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION
HE FURNISHED.

SEE BH TELETYPE 5/21/77
AND BH AIRTEL 6/1/77.

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

Reference is made to my memorandum dated 12/17/75 enclosing a memorandum dated 12/12/75, which previously set forth information from this Birmingham source.

In both the 12/12/75 memorandum and the 12/15/76 memorandum, source infers the implication of Reverend Abernathy. As reported in a Memphis report dated 4/17/68 furnished by my memorandum 5/6/68 Reverend Ralph David Abernathy was interviewed on 4/4/68. Abernathy was with King in the motel at the time of his death and Abernathy stated he was unable to suggest any suspects or to provide any other information which might assist in identifying King's killer.

In this 12/12/75 source refers to a Frank LaBerto (phonetic), an underworld figure in New Orleans, La., who runs a truck stop in New Orleans named the Lake Pontchartrain Restaurant. In this 12/15/76 memorandum, source refers to a Frank Liberto who owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain, and was described as head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans.

You are referred to my memorandum 11/27/68, wherein Frank Camilla Liberto employed as president of the LL&L Produce Company, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed concerning an allegation made by John McFerren who had overheard a threatening remark at the LL&L Produce Company. Liberto was interviewed on 4/19/68 as set forth in my memorandum dated 11/27/68 and he emphatically denied having any knowledge of the identity of the person responsible for the death of King on 4/4/68. New Orleans members of the family of Frank Liberto, Memphis, Tennessee, previously stated they had no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by Liberto in regards to King as set forth in a New Orleans report dated 4/29/68, furnished by my memorandum 5/20/68. New Orleans Office advised in December, 1975, that there is no Pontchartrain Restaurant in New Orleans.

In the enclosed memorandum dated 12/15/76, the source advised he recently read for the first time the alleged fact that a person using the name John Willard registered at 3:30 p.m. on 4/4/68 at the hotel in Memphis where King was staying and it was his understanding that the landlady or hotel clerk could not identify James Earl Ray as identical with John Willard. As previously reported in a Memphis report dated 6/10/68, an individual using the

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

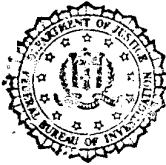
name John Willard rented Room 5-B at 422 1/2 South Main Street, Memphis, between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., on 4/4/68, which was not the motel where King was staying.

The source also advised in this Birmingham memorandum dated 12/15/76, that he believes that the bullet taken from King was not identified as having come from the rifle picked up at or near the scene of the assassination. As previously reported in this Memphis report dated 6/10/68, the bullet removed from the body of Dr. Martin Luther King was examined by the FBI Laboratory. It was determined that the bullet is a .30 caliber metal jacketed "soft point" sporting type bullet of Remington-Peters manufacture which could have been fired from the recovered Remington 30-06 rifle. The bullet was distorted due to mutilation and insufficient marks of value for identification remain on this bullet. Therefore, it was not possible to determine whether or not the bullet removed from the body of King had been fired from the recovered Remington rifle bearing the fingerprint of James Earl Ray, FBI Number 405 942 G.

The source advised in this Birmingham memorandum 12/15/76, that the rifle purchased by Prosch was a bolt-action type rifle and an artist's drawing, that the source saw in a newspaper somewhere, depicting the rifle found at the scene of the assassination as a bolt-action weapon. This is incorrect in that the recovered Remington rifle model 760, was a slide action rifle as set forth in Memphis report dated 4/30/68, as furnished by my memorandum dated 5/20/68.

Also enclosed for your information are copies of a Birmingham memorandum dated 3/18/71 (furnished to the Civil Rights Division 3/24/71) and a Birmingham memorandum dated 11/22/71, both concerning an investigation of Prosch re possible association with the Minutemen.

Our Memphis Office is also analyzing the information furnished in this Birmingham memorandum dated 12/15/76, and you will be advised. The Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, is also being advised.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Sacramento, California

December 15, 1976

MURKIN

On December 2, 1976, Alfred William Martinez, 807 Green Wood Street, West Sacramento, California, telephone 372-0780, telephonically contacted the Sacramento FBI office and furnished information which he considered might be pertinent to the investigation of the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

On December 7, 1976, Martinez was interviewed at 1401 11th Avenue, Sacramento, California, where he was employed on that date. Results of that interview are set forth:

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 12/9/76

ALFRED WILLIAM MARTINEZ, 807 Green Wood Street, West Sacramento, California, telephone 372-0780, was interviewed at 1401 11th Avenue, Sacramento, California. MARTINEZ was working at this location for the Delk-Terminex Company, an insect extermination business.

MARTINEZ advised he was in the Salt Lake County Jail, Salt Lake City, Utah, for two and a half to three months. He advised that he was in this jail sometime during the latter part of 1966 or early 1967.

MARTINEZ advised that during this incarceration he became friendly with an individual named WILLIAM SIMPONIS. He advised that SIMPONIS would be about 60 years old. He believes that SIMPONIS was in jail on a robbery charge. SIMPONIS was ill with emphysema; and had been sent to Salt Lake County Jail to be tried on a charge. SIMPONIS came to Salt Lake County Jail from the Federal Prison Facility at Springfield, Missouri.

At SIMPONIS' request, MARTINEZ wrote several letters for him. MARTINEZ advised that he wrote approximately three letters a week during the period he was incarcerated to an individual identified both as JAMES RAY and EARL RAY by SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ advised he mailed these letters to Memphis, Tennessee, but that he could not remember the address. MARTINEZ advised that he bought the stamps and envelopes for these letters and also such things as candy bars for SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ estimates that he spent approximately \$30.00 on these items for SIMPONIS.

MARTINEZ advised that he had kept a shoe box full of letters that he had received from RAY and some personal items which belonged to SIMPONIS. MARTINEZ advised two of these letters were addressed to him and the rest to SIMPONIS. He advised he lost these items four or five years ago and has not been able to locate them.

Interviewed on 12/7/76 at Sacramento, California File # SC 100-427

by SA BOYD R. L. KEENAN/cw Date dictated 12/10/76
2

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MARTINEZ advised that the contents of the letters he wrote usually consisted of information about when SIMPONIS was going to get out of jail, and how the two of them would get together. MARTINEZ cannot think of any other topics about which he wrote.

MARTINEZ was told by SIMPONIS that he should contact RAY when he got out of jail and that, "They had a job going on; they would need some help on it; that I could make quite a bit of money on it and I wouldn't have to worry about work anymore." SIMPONIS never identified any other individuals involved in these plans, either perpetrators or victims. He advised SIMPONIS hated black people very much, but he never specifically mentioned MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. or any other blacks that he could remember.

MARTINEZ advised that when he got out of jail, SIMPONIS gave him three letters written by SIMPONIS to be mailed to RAY. MARTINEZ advised that these were sealed, and that he did not read the contents, but that he did send them. MARTINEZ advised he was to maintain contact with SIMPONIS, who would advise him to go to Memphis at a specific time, and that SIMPONIS would have mailed a picture of MARTINEZ to RAY for purposes of identification. When this occurred, RAY was to meet MARTINEZ at the Memphis Airport on a designated date. MARTINEZ advised he never contacted SIMPONIS after he got out of jail in Salt Lake City. MARTINEZ advised that a short time after his release from Salt Lake County Jail, he was arrested for burglary in Canyon City, Colorado, and sent to the Colorado State Prison from May 28, 1967, until the latter part of 1967.

MARTINEZ further advised he wrote letters for SIMPONIS to other individuals. He identified these individuals as follows:

JEANETTE SCOTT, Girlfriend of SIMPONIS
Pioneer Hotel
342 5th Street
Elko, Nevada

(MARTINEZ seemed to recollect SCOTT was part owner of this hotel and was supposed to have a large collection of guns);

SC 100-427

LILLIAN SCHURTER
1274 West Street
Possibly Elko, Nevada
Telephone: TE3-7226;

KALIOPE SOLIATES
1026 West 20th
Possibly Elko, Nevada
Telephone: TE3-3617;

NICK SIMPONIS
Gardena, California
Telephone: 434-8747

(Brother of WILLIAM SIMPONIS, street address
unknown).

MARTINEZ advised that he does not know if the
individual referred to as JAMES RAY or EARL RAY is identical
to JAMES EARL RAY convicted in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.

The following is a description of ALFRED WILLIAM
MARTINEZ as obtained through observation and interview:

Race	Mexican	
Sex	Male	
Height	5'9"	
Weight	150	
Hair	Black	
Eyes	Brown	
Date of birth		PII
Place of birth	Canyon City, Colorado	
FBI.	83901G	
SSAN		PII
Address	807 Green Wood Street West Sacramento, California	
Previous address	3427 40th Street Sacramento, California 1651 Illinois Avenue Canyon City, Colorado	

SC 100-427

Mother

ROSE MARTINEZ

1651 Illinois Avenue
Canyon City, Colorado

Employment

Delk-Terminex Company
Arden and Fulton Avenue
Sacramento, California

MARTINEZ is currently on probation for drunk
driving.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 44-253

Salt Lake City, Utah

December 6, 1976

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

By communication dated November 24, 1976, the Sacramento Office of the FBI advised that Alfred William Martinez had telephonically advised that Office that in 1966, and 1967, he was in the Salt Lake County Jail with one Bill Simponis, and that Martinez wrote letters to James Earl Ray in Memphis, Tennessee, for Simponis because Simponis was ill with Emphysema.

Records of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office furnished November 29, 1976, by Deputy Burke Wells show that William Simponis was fingerprinted by the Sheriff's Office under their number 41233 on July 26, 1966, for violation of the Dyer Act. He was released to the United States Marshal on August 19, 1966. Simponis was then returned to the jail by the Marshal on January 29, 1968, from the U. S. Medical Center and released to the Marshal on March 2, 1968. The Sheriff's Office records contain an extensive arrest record for Simponis beginning in 1933, for auto theft. Simponis was assigned the FBI number 698404, was born [redacted] height six feet, weight 160 pounds, brown hair and brown eyes. His residence in 1966, was 1919 Carbarillo, San Pedro, California.

On December 1, 1976, additional records of the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office under number 43061 were examined. These records show Alfred William Martinez was arrested June 4, 1967, for reckless driving. He was sentenced to 27 days in jail or \$135 fine, and was released June 5, 1967. He was again arrested June 29, 1967, for second degree burglary. He was also arrested August 4, 1967, for public intoxication, no disposition listed. Martinez was again arrested November 6, 1967, on a bench warrant

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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

issued as a result of the charge on June 29, 1967. He was sentenced on February 13, 1968, to serve 60 days in jail and was then placed on probation. He was released April 3, 1968, to a probation officer.

Martinez, FBI number 83901G, was born [redacted],
[redacted] at Canon City, Colorado, height five feet nine inches,
135 pounds, black hair and brown eyes, occupation laborer
and Social Security Account Number [redacted].

P11

On December 1, 1976, Lieutenant Gary Deland, Jail
Commander, Salt Lake County Sheriff's Office, advised no
record is maintained of correspondence sent by prisoners
during the pertinent period.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Kansas City, Missouri

December 3, 1976

WILLIAM B. SIMPONIS

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

On December 3, 1976, Bill Walinow, Federal Records Center, Kansas City, Missouri, made available for review file pertaining to William B. Simponis, Medical Center for Federal Prisoners (MCFP), Springfield, Missouri #P-827-H.

Simponis was sentenced August 12, 1966, in District of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, for violation of the National Motor Vehicle Transportation Act. He was convicted under Section 4246, Title 18, U.S. Code, having been found incompetent to stand trial. He was committed to the MCFP August 21, 1966, and released January 27, 1968, to return to court and again committed to MCFP March 2, 1968. Simponis died at 12:10 a.m., July 14, 1968, cause of death acute respiratory illness.

File disclosed Simponis was incarcerated at Salt Lake County Jail, Salt Lake City, Utah, July 26, 1966-August 19, 1966, and again on January 29, 1968.

The file further disclosed on March 2, 1968, Simponis requested to correspond with one Freddie Martinez, Route 1, Box 403, Orchard Park, Canon City, Colorado, and also on March 25, 1968, requested to correspond with one Jimmie W. Ray, 492 Clarice Drive, Memphis, Tennessee. Both were approved, however, the file contained no correspondence.

On April 1, 1969, one Jimmie W. Ray, P.O. Box 6, Olive Branch, Mississippi, made inquiry through MCFP re William B. Simponis. Ray was advised on April 3, 1969, of Simponis' death.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Teletype from Birmingham dated 12/3/76.

MURKIN

ccv

Confidential Source, WHITE MALE, AGE 26, WHOSE RELIABILITY IS UNKNOWN, VISITED BIRMINGHAM OFFICE DECEMBER 3, 1976, AND EXPRESSED DESIRE TO FURNISH INFORMATION HELPFUL TO A RECENT BIRMINGHAM DIVISION BANK ROBBERY. HIS INFORMATION WAS NON-SPECIFIC AND THE BANK ROBBERY HAD BEEN SOLVED. HE ADVISED HE WAS A ONE-TIME UNSUCCESSFUL BUREAU APPLICANT-CLERK, AND DISCUSSED SOME LOCAL CRIMINAL CHARACTERS AND GAMBLERS GENERALLY, CLAIMING TO BE KNOWLEDGEABLE REGARDING SOME CRIMINAL PERSONALITIES.

HE THEN ADVISED HIS REAL REASON FOR COMING TO THE OFFICE WAS TO FURNISH THE FOLLOWING REGARDING THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., ASSASSINATION.

A FRIEND, A WHITE MALE, WHOM HE WOULD NOT IDENTIFY, HAS

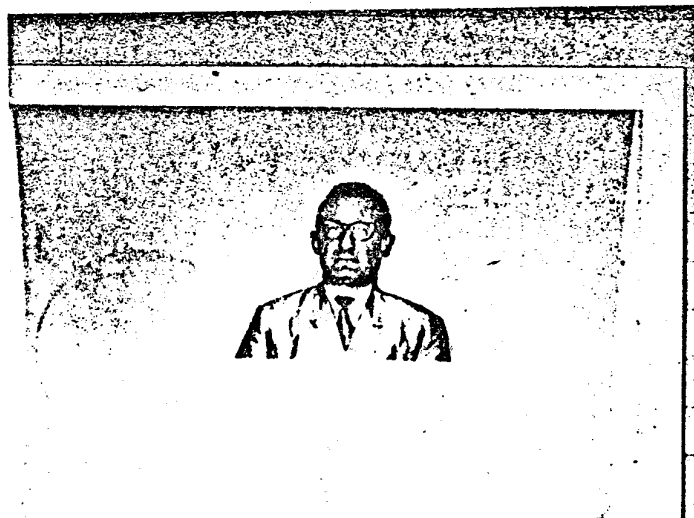
PAGE TWO PH 44-1740 E F T O

INFORMATION THAT WILL OPEN WIDE THE MURKIN INVESTIGATION, AND THIS FRIEND IS IN CONTACT WITH A COMMITTEE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE, FURNISHING INFORMATION REGARDING INDIVIDUALS KNOWN TO HIM WHO WERE INVOLVED. THIS INFORMATION SHOULD COME OUT (BE MADE PUBLIC) TO THE FBI AND TO THE PUBLIC IN THE NEXT WEEK. WINSETT CONVINCED HIS FRIEND, AFTER A LENGTHY DISCUSSION, THAT HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT REVEAL HIS KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THIS MATTER. THE FRIEND DID NOT AND WOULD NOT BRING THIS INFORMATION TO THE FBI BECAUSE OF A PAST CONVICTION IN AN FBI CASE (NATURE OF CRIME NOT SPECIFIED) IN WHICH THE FRIEND TOOK HIS CASE TO THE APPEALS COURT IN NEW ORLEANS AND HAD HIS CONVICTION OVERTURNED. THE COST TO HIS FRIEND WAS SUCH THAT HE WOULD NOT COME TO THE FBI WITH HIS INFORMATION.

THE FRIEND DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH AN UNNAMED FRIEND EMPLOYED BY THE U. S. SECRET SERVICE AND THEN DECIDED TO TAKE HIS INFORMATION TO THE U. S. SENATE.



Artist sketch of suspect.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Birmingham, Alabama

December 15, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

On December 14, 1976, BH T-1, who has furnished insufficient information to establish his reliability, furnished the following information:

Source met Dr. Gus Prosch, M.D., for the first time in late 1967 or possibly January, 1968, at Gulas' Restaurant and Lounge on Highway 78 East, Birmingham, Alabama. Prosch had just moved to Birmingham from northern Alabama, possibly Albertville, and was "down and out and bitter" since his wife had run off with another man and he had suffered financial reverses. Prosch and the source became regular drinking partners at Gulas' and on occasions the source loaned Prosch money, perhaps \$20 at a time. At this time, Prosch did not want people to know his identity, probably since he was a doctor, and he used the name John Willard and often introduced himself to people at Gulas' as John Willard. In early 1968 Prosch was setting up a medical practice in Birmingham.

In approximately February, 1968, at Gulas', Prosch introduced a friend of his to the source and this man's name was Frank Liberto (Phonetic). The source saw Frank Liberto at Gulas' with Prosch in February or March, 1968, usually on a weekend, as many as six or seven times. He described Frank Liberto (Phonetic) as a white male, in his late thirties, or early forties at the time, six feet tall, 190 pounds, dark complexioned, with a full head of black hair and dark eyes. Liberto was well built, well dressed, and a nice looking man. The source learned that Liberto owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain in New Orleans and Prosch described him to the source as the head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans.

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ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.,
CIVIL RIGHTS

Source never saw Liberto drive an automobile and did not know if he came to Birmingham in a car or by plane. On most occasions, when he saw Liberto with Prosch at Gulas', Liberto had one or two male companions in his company. His impression was that Liberto's companions were body guards and/or underlings.

At sometime in February, 1968, Prosch started showing affluence and definitely had money. Prosch was intensely interested in guns of all kinds and always had pistols on his person. The source believed that Prosch and Liberto had some kind of a gun deal in operation.

On or about March 15, 1968, the source was at Gulas' Restaurant with Prosch and Liberto. Looking out the window to the parking lot he observed a grey colored car park and a black man came from the car to the restaurant. He recognized this individual as the Rev. (First Name Unknown) Shuttleworth, a black male, personally known to the source at the time, as very active in civil rights matters at the time. Rev. Shuttleworth sent a message into the restaurant and Dr. Prosch and Frank Liberto left the restaurant and went out to the car that Rev. Shuttleworth had returned to. Prosch and Liberto got into the back of this car and Shuttleworth was in the front along with another black male whom the source recognized as Dr. Ralph Abernathy, who was also well known to the source. These four men sat in the car for a period of approximately one hour and during this time the source, at a corner booth in Gulas', observed them through the window. Prosch and Liberto returned to the restaurant and the car with Shuttleworth and Abernathy drove off. Prosch and Liberto said nothing regarding this meeting and the source wondered but did not ask any questions.

Shortly after this meeting, possibly a week later, Dr. Prosch came to Gulas' with another white male and introduced this individual to the source as Mr. Gault. The source could not remember the first name used. He described Gault as a white male, in his 30's, approximately 5'10", 160 pounds, neat in appearance (work clothes) and respectable. On this occasion Prosch, Liberto and Gault had a private conversation.

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When the conversation broke up, Gault left Gulas' Restaurant and Prosch and Liberto stayed on and continued drinking. They made no comment whatever regarding their conversation with Gault. The source later came to know, from the newspapers and publicity, that the man introduced to him as Gault was James Earl Ray, and the source saw Gault on two occasions only in Birmingham.

Approximately one week later the source again observed a meeting between Dr. Prosch and Frank Liberto on the one hand and Dr. Abernathy and Rev. Shuttleworth on the other. The meeting took place at the same location, the parking lot of Gulas' Restaurant, and these four men sat in the same car for a period probably in excess of one hour. The black men left in their car and Prosch and Liberto returned to the restaurant but said nothing regarding the meeting.

A few nights later, again at Gulas' Restaurant, probably very late in March, 1968, Liberto was at Gulas' Restaurant when Dr. Prosch brought Gault to the restaurant for the second time. These three had a private conversation and Gault left the restaurant by himself. Nothing was said by Prosch or Liberto regarding this conversation. Source believes this was the last occasion that he saw Frank Liberto in Birmingham, Alabama.

On April 3, 1968, the source met Dr. Prosch at the bar in Gulas' at about 4:15 P.M. Prosch had been drinking quite a bit and the source had a drink. Prosch then took the source for a ride in his new car, a red Cadillac convertible with a white top. Prosch drove him around some and they went to the Aeromarine Company at the Birmingham Airport. Prosch went into Aeromarine leaving the source in the car. After ten minutes, he came out with a wooden crate approximately four feet by ten inches by eight inches, and put it in the trunk of the Cadillac. They drove back to Gulas' Restaurant and parked the car on the lot.

When they got out of the car, Prosch took the source to the rear of his car and told him he wanted to show him something. He opened the trunk and pried the top off the wooden box which contained a rifle. He talked about the rifle

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and then told the source that this was the rifle that was going "to kill Martin Luther King". This was a bolt-action rifle, with a short clip and no scope.

Still standing behind the car on the parking lot, Prosch told the source that Dr. Abernathy and Rev. Shuttleworth had bought a contract for \$265,000 to have Martin Luther King killed. They felt that King had gone soft with his non-violence and the money coming into the SCLC and civil rights movement had fallen off considerably. The civil rights movement was coming to a halt and King was no longer effective but was very popular. They believed that if he were killed, he would become a martyr and the money would come flowing in to advance the civil rights movement and to influence Congressional sentiment to enact into law civil rights bills that were being held up.

Prosch said that Frank Liberto had gone on to Detroit and Gault had purchased another gun. Gault was to be the "decoy" to take the heat off the man who would do the killing. Prosch said Gault was to lay his gun down after he saw the killer leave the building. Then Gault was to meet Frank Liberto in Detroit and get the rest of his money and the necessary papers to get out of the country. This whole conversation took place on the parking lot near Dr. Prosch's car. Prosch and the source went into Gulas' and drank until 9:00 or 10:00 PM, at which time each went home for the night. This source has not seen Prosch since that night.

On April 4, 1968, the source was present at his place of business in Birmingham the whole day and had a business meeting at the Parliament House Hotel in Birmingham in the early evening with business associates. It was at this location that the source learned that Martin Luther King, Jr., had been killed on that day in Memphis, Tennessee. He tried to put what he knew out of his mind and was afraid to talk to anyone at the time regarding this matter.

Source followed the newspaper publicity and accounts regarding the killing at the time it occurred and has been interested in them ever since. Over the years he has commented to many people that he did not believe that James Earl Ray killed Dr. King. Recently, he became even more interested when he learned of the renewed interest on the part of the Congress and their intent to conduct investigations regarding assassinations. He also recently read

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for the first time the alleged fact that a person using the name John Willard registered at 3:30 PM on April 4, 1968 at the hotel in Memphis where Dr. King was staying and it was his understanding that the landlady or hotel clerk could not identify James Earl Ray as identical with John Willard. Source believes that John Willard could be identical with Dr. Gus Prosch who used that name in early 1968 in Birmingham, Alabama. The source also believes that the bullet taken from Dr. King was not identified as having come from the rifle picked up at or near the scene of the assassination.

The source knows that Dr. Prosch picked up a rifle at Aeromarine on April 3, 1968 and he does not believe there is any record at Aeromarine of the sale of this rifle. This rifle, purchased by Prosch, was a bolt-action type rifle and an artist's drawing, that the source saw in a newspaper somewhere, depicting the rifle found at the scene of the assassination as a bolt-action weapon. The source's understanding is that the second rifle purchased by James Earl Ray using the name Harvey (Last Name Unknown) at Aeromarine in Birmingham, Alabama, was a Remington, Model 760, 30.06 caliber pump action rifle and the source believes that the previously described Remington rifle was probably used for the actual killing. In the second week of December, 1976, the source was told when he discussed Gus Prosch with an individual in Birmingham, that Prosch and his associates were storing guns in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1968 in connection with a gun running operation and that the gun that killed Dr. King was shipped out of the country to Costa Rica.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Birmingham, Alabama
November 22, 1971

DR. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR.

On March 8, 1971, Former Sheriff of Dallas County, Alabama, James G. Clarke, Jr., (who is presently under Federal indictment in Birmingham) telephonically contacted the Montgomery FBI Office to advise that he had an "Informant" who desired to furnish information relative to "stolen Government Property". Former Sheriff Clarke stated that for reasons known only to the "Informant" he desired to furnish information to the FBI in Montgomery, Alabama. Clarke was advised that any information volunteered would be accepted if the "Informant" desired to contact the FBI of his own volition at Montgomery, Alabama. Clarke requested that a meeting be arranged for 8:00 PM on the evening of March 10, 1971 at the Plaza Restaurant, Highway 31 North, Montgomery, Alabama.

On the night of March 10, 1971, former Sheriff Clarke did not appear, however, an individual appeared who identified himself as Gus J. Prosch, a doctor from Birmingham, Alabama. He stated he was the individual sent by Clarke and furnished the following information concerning himself:

He is the Gus J. Prosch who was arrested by the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms Investigators (ATF) in cooperation with the Sheriff's Office of Jefferson County Alabama in about December, 1970 after a truck load of guns and other articles was found and traced to him. He explained that he

DR. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH

had gone to Kentucky in 1968 to assist in Governor George C. Wallace's campaign for President. While in Kentucky he met a "retired priest" from the Catholic Church who told him some very "enlightening" things about World Wide Politics, how the country was being "sold out", and how the late President John F. Kennedy and Bishop Fulton Sheen had "conspired" to start the War in Vietnam. When he returned to Birmingham, Alabama, he realized that he should do something to attempt to save the country from the inevitable fate so he began to purchase weapons.

Many of these weapons were purchased from advertisements in the newspaper and a long-time friend of his, Bob C. Long, who sells insurance in Birmingham, would advise him of weapons and ammunition for sale. He said also that Bob Long had brought him at one time some material he identified as "plastic explosives" which was a greenish-yellow in color. He stated he thought the material looked to him more like "play dough" so he did not buy any of this. He accumulated some \$10,000 to \$20,000 worth of weapons which he stored in a semi-trailer van. He moved this trailer himself with a Mack Tractor he rented some time in November or the first of December, 1970. While moving it he got it stuck near a small motel "out in the country" in the Birmingham area and subsequently all his guns were found by the Sheriff and ATF Agents who subsequently traced a trailer containing the guns to him.

He further advised that he feels that Bob C. Long is the individual who "set him up" for this arrest and that Long actually is the individual who deals in guns and ammunition in the Birmingham area.

He stated that recently a gun dealer at Birmingham named Thompson advised him that Bob Long had 100,000 rounds

DR. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH

of M-1 carbine ammunition available for purchase at the price of 5 cents a round. PROSCH pointed out that this is a good buy and he had an individual that was willing to "make a buy" to determine if Long, in fact, had this ammunition and if the ammunition was possibly Government ammunition that could be traced. PROSCH pointed out that he does not know of any M-1 carbine ammunition which is available on the market that is not military ammunition and he feels that Long obtained this ammunition through a close friend of his who is on the Police Department, in Anniston, Alabama. He stated that he feels this policeman possibly obtained it from Ft. McClellan if Long does, in fact, have 100,000 rounds of ammunition.

Prosch stated that he was interested "in discrediting Bob C. Long" as Long is the "chief witness" against him in the ATF case and he would "set him up" for the buy.

It was pointed out to Prosch that possibly Long might be "setting him up" instead of having any ammunition available for sale. It was further pointed out to Prosch that any violation of a Federal statute wherein the FBI would have jurisdiction such as Theft of Government Property would have occurred in the Northern District of Alabama and the Middle District of Alabama, Montgomery, was not the proper place to report this.

It was suggested that Prosch report this information to the FBI Office in Birmingham, Alabama, as venue in this matter would lie in that District if a theft of Government property had occurred.

Prosch terminated the meeting after stating that Sheriff Clarke could not be present because he had taken a position with the Aristocrat Motel in Hot Springs, Arkansas and was traveling to that area to take over this motel as manager.

DR. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH

Inasmuch as all investigation to date has failed to reflect that Dr. Prosch is a member of the Minutemen or has any connection with this organization, this matter is being placed in a closed status.

The Minutemen is a paramilitant group organized in June, 1960, by Robert B. DePugh in Norborne, Missouri, as a resistance to the spread of communism in the United States by use of guerrilla tactics. DePugh is currently incarcerated in a Federal penitentiary for violation of the Federal Firearms Act.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 157-4481

Birmingham, Alabama
March 18, 1971

Re: Dr. GUS JOSEPH PROSCH, JR.

On November 29, 1970, the Jefferson County, Alabama Sheriff's Office, at Birmingham, Alabama, located a trailer, (ownership subsequently traced to Dr. Prosch), which was found to contain a large quantity of firearms, hand grenades, dynamite, sawed off shotguns, so forth. On December 1, 1970, the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms Division obtained search warrants for Prosch's residence at 1434 28th Street South. The search produced weapons similar to those found on November 29, 1970, and including illegal weapons. Prosch was arrested by the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms Division on December 1, 1970, and charged with Federal Gun Violation. He was released on \$10,000 bond on December 2, 1970. Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Service, advised that Federal Income Tax returns for Prosch for 1967 showed no taxable income. For 1968 it showed approximately \$6,000 taxable income and for 1969 it showed \$18,000 taxable income. From information in Internal Revenue Service file it appears that Prosch has a lucrative income and is thought to be "skimming" off for investment in weapons and business ventures. Internal Revenue Service obtained search warrants for his office and residence. A search on December 4, 1970, produced volumes of records.

There is no information in the Birmingham files to connect Dr. Prosch with the Minutemen or any other organization. On August 4, 1970, Prosch contacted the Birmingham Office and in a vague and rambling way claimed that he and some of his associates were trying to stamp out illegal drugs in the Birmingham area and that there were narcotics pay offs in the Birmingham Police Department.

Dr. Prosch is a white male, age 40, date of birth Birmingham, Alabama, to a

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Re: Dr. Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr.

respected attorney, (now deceased). He attended Howard College, (now Samford University), and University of Alabama Medical School in Birmingham. Reportedly he began practicing medicine in the late 1950's at 408 Alabama Avenue, Bridgeport, Alabama. He then practiced at Rainsville, Alabama. He tried his hand as a field representative for a Waco, Texas, based outfit called "Success Motivation Institute", at Chattanooga, Tennessee. He is reported to be an avid Governor George Wallace supporter.

He is divorced from his first wife, Phelia Sue Jones Prosch, 3226 Cliff Road, by whom he has four children. His second wife, Elizabeth Holder Prosch, of Scottsboro, Alabama, is reportedly attempting to secure a divorce. He allegedly was turned in to the Federal Narcotics Hospital at Lexington, Kentucky, for drug addiction, but promptly signed himself out. His medical license to dispense narcotics has been lifted.

In the first several days after the arrest of Dr. Prosch, Birmingham newspapers carried stories concerning the matter. One such story in the "Birmingham News", December 6, 1970, was entitled "As Businessman Prosch Lost Consistently". This story told about several unsuccessful business ventures. It also quoted people who lived in and around Bridgeport, Alabama, that Prosch was a good medical doctor. On December 8, 1970, according to the "Birmingham News", Dr. Prosch filed a motion in Federal Court asking for a restraining order to prevent law officials from making public statements about the case.

On December 17, 1970, the "Birmingham Post Herald" reported that Dr. Prosch was ordered held for the Grand Jury by Deputy U. S. Commissioner Lister Hill Jones, after hearing on charges of violating the Gun Control Act of 1968.

Re: Dr. Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr.

On December 9, 1970, acting Birmingham Chief of Police Jack Warren said he had no information on Prosch except what he read in the newspapers.

On December 9, 1970, Mr. J. K. Davis, Intelligence Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Birmingham, said his agents, in making a search of the Prosch house, did not find any literature which could be called subversive or any Minutemen literature.

On December 10, 1970, Mr. Robert C. Long, Piedmont Life Insurance Company, 701 1/2 37th Street, South, Birmingham, Alabama, advised he has known Dr. Prosch approximately 20 years, when both attended Howard College in Birmingham. He said Prosch belonged to a college fraternity and was well liked. Long said he lost contact with Prosch after school days, until approximately two years ago, when he ran into him at the Peoples Loan Company in Birmingham, Alabama. He (Prosch) was buying some reloading equipment. Long said Prosch has no criminal tendencies and certainly has no intent to oppose the U. S. Government. He said Prosch does expect a revolution in the United States if things keep going as they are now. This would be caused by the Black Panthers or the Communists. Long considers Prosch a loyal citizen who would like to see this country run as it was in the 1930's. Long said he does not have any information that Prosch belongs to any subversive organization.

On December 10, 1970, Saul Cooley, owner of Peoples Loan Company, Birmingham, advised that Dr. Prosch had bought numerous guns and related equipment from him, all of legal nature. He said he considers Prosch a loyal citizen.

Mrs. Patti Mize, 2140 16th Avenue, South, Apartment 8, advised on December 10, 1970, that she met Prosch approximately sixteen months ago. At that time she said she was a little overweight so she went

Re: Dr. Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr.

to see Dr. Prosch to see if she could reduce. Mrs. Mize, who is divorced, said that she dated Dr. Prosch for several months after she got acquainted with him. She said she recalls that the Ku Klux Klan was mentioned one night and Dr. Prosch said he would not join the Klan.

Lt. Harry Hayes, Birmingham Police Department, Narcotics Squad, advised on December 9, 1970, that he was acquainted with Prosch because of Prosch's alleged opposition to the sale and use of drugs. Lt. Hayes did not have any information indicating that Prosch is a member of the Minutemen.

Wallace Martin, employee Harry O'Neal Marble Company, 921 21st Avenue, North, advised on December 10, 1970, that Dr. Prosch tried to sell him a .38 caliber revolver on November 27, 1970. Prosch talked about the possibility of a future war between the white and blacks in this country.

On December 9, 1970, John D. Williams, agent of the Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms Division in Birmingham, advised that in a raid on Dr. Prosch's house, books and pamphlets such as the following were found, but none denoting membership or connection with the Minutemen:

"The End of Counter-Revolutionary War"

"Riot Control, Material and Techinques"

"Guerrilla Warfare"

"Explosives and Demolitions"

"Sub-machine Guns, .45 - M3 - M3A - 1"

During the investigation it was discovered that Dr. Prosch owned an airplane, in which he might have been bringing in guns and supplies.

Re: Dr. Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr.

On December 10, 1970, Mrs. Ruth Laney, Comptroller at Birmingham Aviation Corporation, advised that Dr. Prosch pays \$25 a month storage for a small Cessna model 140 airplane. She said fuel was last placed in this plane in September 1970, and it has been tied down since then. She said that it is worth approximately \$2,000 and is approximately a 1947 to 1950 model. This plane was observed by the writer and it was very small. Two average men could ride in the adjoining seats in the plane, but there would be room for only three or four rifles between them, if that many. The motor is 110 horsepower and it has one wooden propeller.

Mrs. Sue Prosch, 3226 Cliff Road, Birmingham, advised she has been divorced from Dr. Gus Prosch since 1963 and has four children by him. She said her loyalty in this matter is strictly to Dr. Prosch and his mother. She said she is afraid more publicity will only hurt the children. She said she knows Gus Prosch to be an extremely loyal American citizen. She has no information that he belongs or ever belonged to any group similar to the Minutemen. She feels that if the guns mentioned above were his, he collected them for the use of his friends in case of a Communist revolution in this country. She said some of the articles appearing in the press carried false statements. She did not elaborate.

On December 16, 1970, John A. Cook, Jr., advised that he knows Dr. Gus Prosch. Cook is a totally disabled serviceman, but is interested in guns. He said Prosch was introduced to him by Prosch's friend, Bob Long, above mentioned. Mr. Cook said that his first visit to Dr. Prosch's Office was for reducing treatments and Prosch would not take any money from Cook, because the latter was disabled. Cook said that he had been in Prosch's home and there was no radical talk and he did not see any illegal weapons. Cook said he remembers Prosch saying "We are going through a revolution in this country now. Booklets are out which tell about how to kill police officers."

Re: Dr. Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr.

Cook said he has no information that Prosch belongs to any such group as the Minutemen.

On December 17, 1970, Dalton Jones, Chief Building Inspector, City of Birmingham, said only one complaint was received concerning Prosch's residence at 1434 28th Street, South. He said one of the neighbors called the city and complained about the condition of the backyard and said that it was untidy.

Dan Moore, a former U. S. Deputy Marshal in Birmingham, advised on December 18, 1970, that he worked in Dr. Prosch's office helping him with his filing and papers, for approximately two weeks before Prosch was arrested. He said he has no information that Prosch is a member of any subversive organization.

Jack Thompson, a gun dealer in the East Lake section of Birmingham, advised on December 21, 1970, that within the past year Dr. Prosch, whom he has known for some time, stated that he was concerned about the militant groups in the United States. He said he did not like their methods of operating or anything about them. He mentioned the Black Panthers especially. He mentioned his concern about any militant group who would try to cause havoc in the United States. He said somewhere in Asia in approximately 1964, the blacks killed 2,050 white people. He said he was going to obtain arms that he would have in the event any of these militant groups rose up. He said he hoped to God he would never have to use them and in the event he never did he was going to stack them up and burn them. Prosch felt the Communists were back of many militant groups. He said if militant groups took over a section of Birmingham, he would have K-rations and food to supply 100 people, to help him fight. He never mentioned illegal arms. He said he would like to have a house in the country where he could store these guns, food, water and medical supplies. He mentioned some city which Thompson could not recall, where this happened. He said that Prosch is interested in stopping the drug racket. Prosch said if he caught anyone giving his children drugs, he would kill them. Thompson said, in his

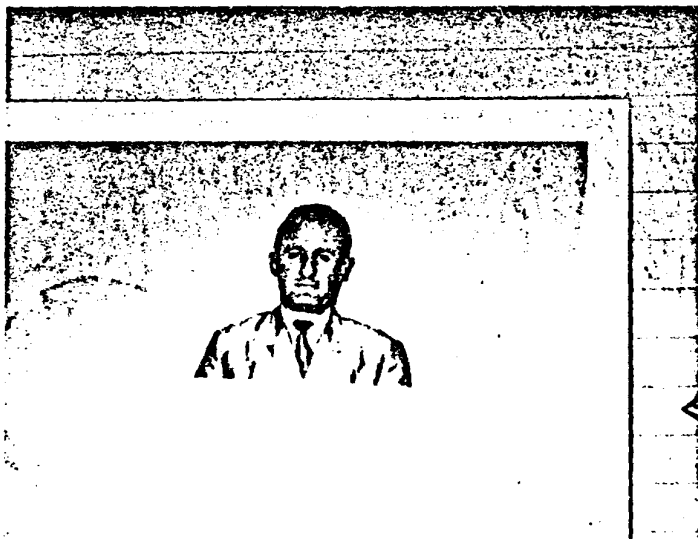
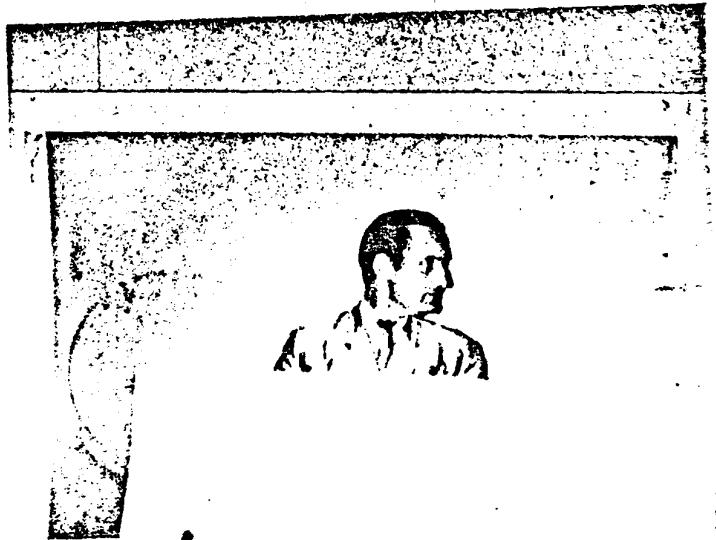
Re: Dr. Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr.

opinion, Prosch was a "pack-rat". He said that he has all kinds of literature in his home. Thompson said he does not have any information that Prosch is a member of any subversive or dangerous organization.

Charles L. Nash, 2500 Aberdeen Road, Birmingham, advised on January 13, 1971, that he has known Dr. Prosch approximately two years. He said that he and Dr. Prosch bought some lots on the southside, upon which they intended someday to erect a new building. He said Prosch is a patriot concerned about everything in this country and he does not stand back and let things go on. Prosch said that he thought he should buy some guns and ammunition to protect himself and his friends and give some of these guns and ammunition to some of his friends in times of riots. Nash feels as if there has been a lot of unnecessary publicity against Dr. Prosch and it appears to him the "Birmingham News", Sheriff Mel Bailey and the Birmingham Police Department are trying to get all the publicity that they can out of this story.

Kyle, Harding, 3302 15th Court, North, Birmingham, was said to have known Dr. Prosch. On January 28, 1971, he was interviewed and denied that he ever knew Dr. Prosch.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

12-2-76 11:21 AM

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER CS 901 G, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
SO Salt Lake City Utah	Alfred William Martinez #43061	6-4-67	Reckless Driving, Cont To The Del Of A Minor, Pub Intox	
SO Salt Lake City Utah	Alfred William Martinez #43061-A	6-29-67	Burg 2nd	2-18-68 then parol Burg 1st
SO Salt Lake City Utah	Alfred William Martinez #SO 43061-B	8-4-67	Public Intox	
SO Canon City Colo	William Alfred Martinez	8-10-67	Disturbance	Guilty F \$10 & \$5
SPen Canon City Colo	Alfred William Martinez #39096	3-6-63	burg second deg	1 to 5 years 3/28/69 12/4/73 Dis.
SO Sacramento CA	Alfred William Martinez 171054	11-25-73	DWI	F; \$345. prob 36 on chg of 23102 VC
SO Sacramento CA	Alfred William Martinez 171054	3-13-76	Misd drk driving on hwy	

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as information.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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The following FBI record, NUMBER

608 404

is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

PLACE WHERE ARRESTED	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Long Beach Calif	William Brotsis #123331	6-3-33	inv GT (auto)	6-5-33 commuted to July 1935
Los Angeles Calif	Bill Brotsis #20762-11-9	8-12-33	GT (auto)	8-12-33 rel to State Pr
Los Angeles Calif	William Nicholas #129245	8-23-33	GT (auto)	8-23-33 rel to State Pr
Glendale Calif	Wm Nicholas #4545	1-28-36	susp of GT (auto)	held for Los Angeles Calif
Long Beach Calif	William Nicholas #3589	9-9-36	susp GT (auto)	rel to Los Angeles Calif
San Quentin	Bill Brotsis #12333	11-7-36	vio Sec 503 Vio Code	See Supplement
Los Angeles Calif	Bill Brotsis #299869	7-19-39	vio parole	7-28-39 rel to State Pr
San Diego Calif	Bill Brotsis #12333	8-15-39	burg GT auto	8-1-39 to San Quentin
San Diego Calif	William Brotsis #36933	8-16-39	DAWOC and burg	10-6-39 release
State Prison Imperial Calif	Bill Brotsis #22628	10-7-39	San Quentin Parole Vio (Vio Sec 503 CVC)	5 yrs (DA 11-3-37)
State Pr Imperial Calif	William Nicholas #23387	11-16-40	burg and and PR	1-15 yrs 12-3-41 to Hwy 100 1-13-43 see report
Los Angeles Calif	Nick Bill Nicholas #24-X	student welder 12-28-43		
San Francisco Calif	William Simpson #111012	12-28-43		

Notations indicated by * ARE BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI files. The notations are based on data
and are not an indication of the fact or similar names or aliases and ARE LISTED ONLY AS
INFORMATIVE LEADS.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

1-4

The following FBI record, NUMBER

698 404

is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTINUATOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	DATE OF RECORD	CHARACTER	DISPOSITION
1. Troopers Hawthorne,	William Simpson #257213	5-7-46	unauth use of MV	lined 825 & 60
2. So: Angeles, Calif	William H. Brotsis #2-1937	10-23-46	Vio state parole	8-23-47 cust 510.
3. San Quentin, Calif	William Simpson #2567-A	returned 3-1-47	P.V. and M.A. comm	1-11-48
4. Alturas, Calif.	William Brotsis Simpson #1520	11-28-48	escape camp #39	pending
5. of Crim. Ident.	William Simpson #2567-B	4-12-49	escape (1931-40)	1-11-48
6. Fgh Pa	William Simpson #4-981	6-4-54	transport auto interstate	See Supplement
7. Division 11	William Simpson #70952	7-6-54	trans auto interstate	
8. Lewisburg, Pa	William A. Simpson #21622-1E	8-16-54	MVTA	2 yrs on 1-19- trans to National Center for Fed Prisoners Springfield Mo
9. Medical Center for Prisoners Springfield Mo	William A. Simpson #10116-H	1-28-55 MCPP	MVTA	TFR to MAP Leavenworth, Kan 9-26-55
10. Leavenworth Kans	William A. Simpson #72719-L	9-26-55	MVTA	retd as 1-19- for Arch 1-19- Springfield Mo
11. El Paso Texas	William Simpson #70933	4-9-56	inv EC var	4-6-56 chg to TFR for US Army 1954

Notations indicated by * and # are based on fingerprints in FBI files. The notation and date are as follows:

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 663-804, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH	NAME AND NUMBER	DATE OF ARREST	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM El Paso Texas	William Simpson	4-6-55	Sec #2112 Tyer Act	10-12-55 - PS to 2-1-56 of 1-1-56
			on chg of 1-1-56 Table 13 to 1-1-56	
USM New York	William Simpson #73903-2	10-29-55	NVIA	2 yrs - 1-1-56
USM New York	William Simpson #7295	6-12-58	1st auto theft	
	William Simpson	alien		
		1-12-60		
	William Simpson #83013-8517			
USM Sanford Fla	William Simpson	11-25-58	Cons 2 L of an auto	2 yrs - 1-1-59
Tampa Fla	William Simpson #82396	7-8-60	Fed Warr	rel to USM 7-11-60
USM Tampa Fla	William Simpson #8188-T	7-11-60	ITSMV	sentenced 2 yrs in custody of USM concurrently with St sentence 12-1-60
Tampa Fla	William Simpson #44720	7-11-60	ITSMV	Fed Prisoner
Clearwater Fla	William Simpson #82354	7-12-60	ITSMV (Fed)	TOT USM Tampa Fla

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED * AND NOT BASED ON FINGERPRINTS IN FBI FILE. The notation is to be used only
when the Bureau has received information of the name or number of a person whose name has been used in the
INVESTIGATIVE FILE.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

The following FBI record, NUMBER 698 404

is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RELEASED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Wichita Kans	William Simpson #23333	9-22-60	viol Check Law	IS 12-15-60 sent to 1-5 yrs at 1-5
San Leandro Kans	William Simpson #13154	4-4-61	viol of C.R. Law	1-1 yr CR 1-15-61
Tampa Fla	William Simpson #23770	11-30-61	W.C.R. (Fed)	rel prisoner
Springfield Ala	William Bill Simpson #101747	12-8-61	Fed transit	rel USM
Tampa Fla	William Bill Simpson #32336	12-1-61	Safeskeeping Federal Prisoner	Rel to USM 12-1-61
Springfield Mo	William Bill Simpson #C-26317	12-8-61	U.F. Fed- employment (in transition)	
Amesbury Texas	William Brotsig Simpson #42864	1-19-64	vag-inv of mental & escapee	rel to Co
Amesbury Texas	William P. Simpson #43676	1-23-64	prot cus	rel to Wichita Falls Hosp
USCG	William Simpson #APP Z-122 521	FP 11-13-64		
San Antonio Calif	William Bill Simpson #1-4924	12-8-60	part Calver City C.R.	rel to USM 12-8-60

Information furnished by FBI, OF BUREAU OF FINGERPRINTS IN CHARGE. The information is furnished for the purpose of identifying individuals of the name or similar names or aliases and is not to be used for any other purpose.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

J. Edgar Hoover
Director

The following FBI record, NUMBER 692-104, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

REPORTING OFFICE	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	Charge	Description
Chicago Office	William B. Simpson #11207	3-27-66	OTA	OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000
Chicago Office	William B. Simpson #11231	3-27-66	OTA 100-100000 4478493-5 0339414M OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000	OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000
Chicago Office	William B. Simpson #11210	3-2-66	PC 499-b (taking over, bicycle)	OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000
Chicago Office	William B. Simpson #11233	3-2-66	OTA 100-100000	OTA 100-100000
Chicago Office	William B. Simpson #11237-H	3-21-66	MVTA MOTB from UTV Utah	OTA 100-100000 OTA 100-100000
Chicago Office	William B. Simpson #11237-H	3-2-68	MVTA	Title 18 Sec 2384

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by the reporting office. The FBI does not assume any liability for the accuracy or completeness of the information furnished. The FBI does not assume any liability for the accuracy or completeness of the information furnished.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

12-15-76 604 22

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 904 936 F , is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
USM Memphis Tenn	Jimmie Wayne Ray #2176	1-19-67	T 18 Sec 659 theft from interstate shipment	6-2-67 18 mos prob
FBI Memphis Tenn	Jimmie Wayne Ray	1-19-67	theft from interstate shipment	18 mos prob 6-1-67
Medical-Center for-Fed Prs Springfield Mo	Jimmie Wayne Ray #0-1163-H	2-9-67	transp stolen prop. I/S Title 18 Sec 4244	ret'd to com 5-6-67
USCG	Jimmie Wayne Ray 426 68 7757 (lic)	FP 1-10-74		

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1963 O-657-004

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: December 21, 1976

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
CIVIL RIGHTSReference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____).There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning
a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.B. ☐ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of
reports as they are received.C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless
advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will
be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.F. ☒ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further
developments.G. ☐ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will
be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be
taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.ENCLOSURE
Enc.**NOTE: See attached.**

On 12/22/76 Fred G. Folsom, JR., OPR, N.S.D.T.
was contacted re attached & said Joseph Gross of
OPR should review to determine if OPR desired
copies. On 12/22/76, Gross of OPR reviewed
copies of attached & requested
84 JAN 4 1977
no copies. RA

File Copy / 6
The CS is Maria Davis who advised
on 5/31/77 that he can be identified to the
HSCA as the source of the information he
furnished. See BH Teletype 5/31/77 and
BH AT 6/1/77

NOT RECORDED
14 JAN 3 1977

CONFIDENTIAL SOURCE

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

NOTE: Enclosed are copies of memoranda from our Sacramento Office dated 12/15/76, from our Salt Lake City Office dated 12/6/76, and from our Kansas City Office dated 12/3/76, pertaining to an allegation made by Alfred William Martinez. Also enclosed are FBI Identification Records re Alfred William Martinez, William Simponis, and Jimmie Wayne Ray. We are presently in the process of attempting to locate and interview Jimmie W. Ray re this Martinez allegation. Mr. Fred G. Folsom, Jr., Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR), U. S. Department of Justice, has been advised.

Also enclosed is a copy of a teletype from Birmingham dated 12/3/76. Mr. Folsom was advised of this teletype. In addition, a memorandum dated 12/15/76 from our Birmingham Office is enclosed with copies of its enclosure, 3 photographs of Gus Joseph Prosch, Jr., and an artist's conception reportedly of John Willard. The enclosed photographs of Dr. Gus Prosch were obtained by the source from U. S. Secret Service at Birmingham and he identified the enclosed artist's conception as a newspaper or magazine representation of an individual who registered at the hotel in which Dr. King was killed, as John Willard, on 4/4/68. It is source's understanding that John Willard was never identified and he believes Willard could be identical with Dr. Gus Prosch who used the name John Willard in Birmingham, Alabama, in the early part of 1968.

The source explained his reluctance to talk to the FBI since he was convicted in an Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property case at Birmingham, Ala., in 1969 or 1970, which conviction was subsequently reversed in the 5th Circuit Court and cost the source a large amount of money to defend himself. He claims he was afraid to furnish the detailed information of the enclosed memorandum shortly after the assassination of Dr. King because he was afraid and at that time, or shortly after, he became involved in a variety of personal problems including his FBI case. Later, when he talked about this matter, people always "turned me off".

Source has not talked to any group from the U. S. Senate or House of Representatives, contrary to information furnished in enclosed Birmingham teletype of 12/3/76, but he has discussed this matter with U. S. Secret Service, Birmingham, Drug Enforcement Administration, Birmingham, and with an Assistant U. S. Attorney at Birmingham, Alabama.

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ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

Reference is made to my memorandum dated 12/17/75 enclosing a memorandum dated 12/12/75, which previously set forth information from this Birmingham source.

In both the 12/12/75 memorandum and the 12/15/76 memorandum, source infers the implication of Reverend Abernathy. As reported in a Memphis report dated 4/17/68 furnished by my memorandum 5/6/68 Reverend Ralph David Abernathy was interviewed on 4/4/68. Abernathy was with King in the motel at the time of his death and Abernathy stated he was unable to suggest any suspects or to provide any other information which might assist in identifying King's killer.

In this 12/12/75 source refers to a Frank LaBerto (phonetic), an underworld figure in New Orleans, La., who runs a truck stop in New Orleans named the Lake Pontchartrain Restaurant. In this 12/15/76 memorandum, source refers to a Frank Liberto who owned an unnamed truck stop on Lake Pontchartrain, and was described as head of the Greek Mafia in New Orleans.

You are referred to my memorandum 11/27/68, wherein Frank Camilla Liberto employed as president of the LL&L Produce Company, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed concerning an allegation made by John McFerren who had overheard a threatening remark at the LL&L Produce Company. Liberto was interviewed on 4/19/68 as set forth in my memorandum dated 11/27/68 and he emphatically denied having any knowledge of the identity of the person responsible for the death of King on 4/4/68. New Orleans members of the family of Frank Liberto, Memphis, Tennessee, previously stated they had no knowledge of any disparaging remarks made by Liberto in regards to King as set forth in a New Orleans report dated 4/29/68, furnished by my memorandum 5/20/68. New Orleans Office advised in December, 1975, that there is no Pontchartrain Restaurant in New Orleans.

In the enclosed memorandum dated 12/15/76, the source advised he recently read for the first time the alleged fact that a person using the name John Willard registered at 3:30 p.m. on 4/4/68 at the hotel in Memphis where King was staying and it was his understanding that the landlady or hotel clerk could not identify James Earl Ray as identical with John Willard. As previously reported in a Memphis report dated 6/10/68, an individual using the

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING

name John Willard rented Room 5-B at 422 1/2 South Main Street, Memphis, between 3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m., on 4/4/68, which was not the motel where King was staying.

The source also advised in this Birmingham memorandum dated 12/15/76, that he believes that the bullet taken from King was not identified as having come from the rifle picked up at or near the scene of the assassination. As previously reported in this Memphis report dated 6/10/68, the bullet removed from the body of Dr. Martin Luther King was examined by the FBI Laboratory. It was determined that the bullet is a .30 caliber metal jacketed "soft point" sporting type bullet of Remington-Peters manufacture which could have been fired from the recovered Remington 30-06 rifle. The bullet was distorted due to mutilation and insufficient marks of value for identification remain on this bullet. Therefore, it was not possible to determine whether or not the bullet removed from the body of King had been fired from the recovered Remington rifle bearing the fingerprint of James Earl Ray, FBI Number 405 942 G.

The source advised in this Birmingham memorandum 12/15/76, that the rifle purchased by Prosch was a bolt-action type rifle and an artist's drawing, that the source saw in a newspaper somewhere, depicting the rifle found at the scene of the assassination as a bolt-action weapon. This is incorrect in that the recovered Remington rifle model 760, was a slide action rifle as set forth in Memphis report dated 4/30/68, as furnished by my memorandum dated 5/20/68.

Also enclosed for your information are copies of a Birmingham memorandum dated 3/18/71 (furnished to the Civil Rights Division 3/24/71) and a Birmingham memorandum dated 11/22/71, both concerning an investigation of Prosch re possible association with the Minutemen.

Our Memphis Office is also analyzing the information furnished in this Birmingham memorandum dated 12/15/76, and you will be advised. The Office of Professional Responsibility, U. S. Department of Justice, is also being advised.