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Mark Lane Is Ray's New Lawyer

WARTBURG, Tenn. — Mark Lane, whose inquiries into the assassinations of Martin Luther King Jr. and John F. Kennedy have aroused controversy, has become the attorney for James Earl Ray, the confessed killer of King.

Ray is scheduled to go on trial tomorrow for escaping from a Tennessee prison. Lane said he would maintain Ray is innocent because he didn't belong in that prison in the first place.

And, he said, "the thrust of everything we're doing" would be "to win a jury trial on the charge that Ray murdered King. I am convinced that if Ray is tried for the murder of Dr. King, he will be acquitted."

The Washington Post _____
 Washington Star-News A-6
 Daily News (New York) _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 10/26/77

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P-081

(JERRY RAY)

BOSTON (UPI) - THERE WAS A "VERY GOOD CHANCE" JAMES EARL RAY WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED HAD HE BEEN FOUND BY FBI AGENTS RATHER THAN PRISON GUARDS, THE BROTHER OF THE CONVICTED SLAYER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING SAID TODAY.

"I'M JUST GLAD THE GUARDS GOT TO WIN AND NOT THE FBI," SAID JERRY RAY SAID IN A NEWS CONFERENCE. WHEN ASKED IF RAY WOULD HAVE BEEN KILLED BY FBI AGENTS, HIS BROTHER REPLIED, "THERE'S A VERY GOOD CHANCE."

JAMES EARL RAY WAS CONCERNED ABOUT ATTEMPTS BY SOME OF MEDIA TO SCUTTLE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE ASSASSINATIONS OF KING AND PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY, HIS BROTHER SAID. RAY HAS TESTIFIED EXTENSIVELY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE, MAINTAINING HE IS INNOCENT OF KING'S MURDER.

"HE WAS KIND OF DEPRESSED," SAID JERRY RAY, OF LAKE ZURICH, ILL. "IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HIM LIKE THAT." RAY HAS BEEN DEPRESSED ABOUT THE FAILURE OF EFFORTS FOR A NEW TRIAL AND BY THE 99-YEAR SENTENCE HE FACED, HIS BROTHER SAID.

UPI 06-13.01:39 PED

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FBI/DOJ

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WP-035

(RAY)

NASHVILLE (UPI) - ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL IS EXPECTED TO ANNOUNCE BY TUESDAY WHETHER JAMES EARL RAY WILL BE ACCEPTED AS AN INMATE AT A FEDERAL PRISON.

GOV. RAY BLANTON HAS ASKED THAT RAY BE PLACED IN FEDERAL CUSTODY SINCE RAY AND FIVE OTHER INMATES ESCAPED FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON IN EAST TENNESSEE 10 DAYS AGO.

A SPOKESMAN FOR BELL SAID THE ATTORNEY GENERAL WAS EXPECTED TO MAKE A DECISION ON FEDERAL CUSTODY TODAY OR TUESDAY. PUBLISHED REPORTS SAID THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS "LEANING HEAVILY" TOWARD TAKING CUSTODY OF RAY.

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NEW YORK (UPI) - GUARDS AT TENNESSEE'S BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON BELIEVE THE FBI HINDERED RATHER THAN HELPED THE MANHUNT - ULTIMATELY SUCCESSFUL - FOR JAMES EARL RAY AND FIVE OTHER ESCAPEES, TIME MAGAZINE SAID SUNDAY.

"WE WOULD HAVE HAD THEM ALL BACK IN 12, 15 HOURS IF EVERYONE WOULD HAVE LEFT US ALONE," TIME QUOTED GUARD BILL GARRISON AS SAYING.

GUARD DON DAUGHERTY CRITICIZED THE FBI FOR AGGRESSIVELY SWEEPING THROUGH THE WOODS WHEN A BETTER STRATEGY WOULD HAVE BEEN TO STAKE OUT A SPOT THROUGH WHICH THE FUGITIVES WERE LIKELY TO PASS.

"YOU DON'T GO FLASHING YOUR LIGHTS AROUND AND TELLING HIM WHERE YOU'RE AT," DAUGHERTY WAS QUOTED AS SAYING.

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43 AUG 8 1977

57 AUG 5 1977

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

FBI/DOJ

James Earl Ray Pleads Innocent

WARBURG, Tenn.—Handcuffed and chained, James Earl Ray was brought into a makeshift courtroom yesterday and pleaded innocent to escaping from the mountain prison where he is serving a 99-year sentence for the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Criminal Court Judge Lee Asbury set Oct. 27 for Ray's trial on state charges of fleeing from Brushy Mountain State Prison June 10.

Ray and the six prisoners who escaped with him were all arraigned before Asbury at an area vocational school and all pleaded innocent to escape charges. The school is being used for court proceedings while the county courthouse is undergoing renovation.

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The Washington Post A-4
 Washington Star-News _____
 Daily News (New York) _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 7-28-77

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Ray, Six Others Indicted in Escape

WARTBURG, Tenn. — James Earl Ray and six other inmates who broke out of Brushy Mountain Penitentiary last month were indicted yesterday on state escape charges.

The convicted assassin of Martin Luther King Jr. and the other six scaled the 10-foot high wall at prison's northeast corner June 10. All were recaptured within four days.

The indictments were returned by the Morgan County Grand Jury. Ray and the six other men pleaded innocent to the escape charges at preliminary hearings earlier this month.

The Washington Post _____
 Washington Star-News A-5
 Daily News (New York) _____
 The New York Times _____
 The Wall Street Journal _____
 The National Observer _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 7-26-77

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Ray To Get Hearing On Alleged Threats

By KIRK LOGGINS

James Earl Ray will be allowed to testify in a special hearing at Brushy Mountain State Prison on alleged threats by the FBI and federal prison officials, Chancellor Robert Brandt ruled yesterday.

But Brandt also ruled that Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, cannot compel Gov. Ray Blanton and State Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson to testify in Ray's suit seeking to block state efforts to transfer him to a federal prison.

BRANDT LEFT the date of the hearing for Ray up to Kershaw and the state attorney general's office.

Kershaw said he would prefer to have "at least a month" to prepare for that hearing and a separate hearing on the matter at the Metro Courthouse. The first open date on Brandt's calendar is in late October.

KERSHAW SAID he plans to call "several out-of-state witnesses" to testify on "conditions in the FBI and practices and procedures in federal prisons generally."

Kershaw said he hopes New York attorney a conspiracy theory

Mark Lane will be allowed to testify on "the consideration of FBI involvement in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King" to warrant a conclusion that the FBI might be suspected of wishing to discipline or control Ray in some manner.

He termed Brandt's decision to grant Ray a hearing, without removing him from the maximum-security mountain prison, "a most reasonable solution to a difficult and exceptional situation."

BUT KERSHAW said he was "disappointed" the chancellor had not required Blanton and Henderson to testify.

"I feel that the governor should now be given every opportunity to voluntarily appear in this matter since he has spoken on it widely, even on national television," Kershaw said. "I can't believe the governor would want to dodge the issue."

Brandt said, in a memorandum opinion yesterday on Ray's request for a temporary injunction against transfer to a federal prison.

"THE UNUSUAL circumstances in this case dictate that Ray's testimony be heard by this court in person, not by deposition or audio-visual transcription."

"The serious charges he has made dictate that Ray be subjected to rigorous and thorough examination and cross-examination by counsel and by this court to determine all facts within his knowledge which will substantiate his charges."

But, because of "substantial logistical problems" in bringing Ray to Nashville for a hearing, "the court will convene at the Brushy Mountain Prison in Morgan County," Brandt ruled.

The chancellor noted in the opinion that his court has the authority to order the testimony of Blanton and Henderson, but added that "Ray has presented nothing" to convince him to break long-standing judicial precedent against "probing the mind" of officials on policy questions.

Brandt did, however, order that Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney Lane answer a subpoena to testify in Ray's suit against the state.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 25

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: JULY 22, 1977

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

ME88-10052

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

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Ray Wins Court Hearing on Transfer

NASHVILLE — Confessed assassin James Earl Ray, fighting efforts by state officials to transfer him to a federal prison, yesterday won a court hearing to testify in person that his life had been threatened by the FBI and other federal agents.

Court Chancellor Robert S. Brandt said he would go to Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros, Tenn., where Ray is serving a 99-year sentence for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to hold a hearing on Ray's suit fighting the proposed transfer. No date was set for the hearing.

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The Washington Post _____
 Washington Star-News A-8
 Daily News (New York) _____
 The New York Times _____
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 The National Observer _____
 The Los Angeles Times _____
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Ray Denies Escape Charge

NASHVILLE—James Earl Ray will plead innocent today to an escape charge stemming from his highly publicized prison break June 10, his lawyer says.

Meanwhile, Chancery Court Judge Robert S. Brandt says he is concerned that Ray's possible transfer to a federal prison might prevent his confer-

ring with the lawyer, Jack Kershaw, on the charge.

Following the escape, Gov. Ray Blanton asked the Justice Department to take charge of Ray.

Ray is serving 99 years after pleading guilty to the 1968 murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis. Conviction on the escape charge could add five years to Ray's sentence.

Ray, who now says he is innocent of the murder charge, has been writing legal briefs and writes in an effort to gain a new trial.

Brandt questioned Kershaw during a hearing on the state's motion to dismiss efforts to block Ray's transfer from Tennessee.

The hearing Wednesday dealt heavily with Kershaw's contention that Ray fears FBI retaliation in a federal prison.

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The Washington Post A-4
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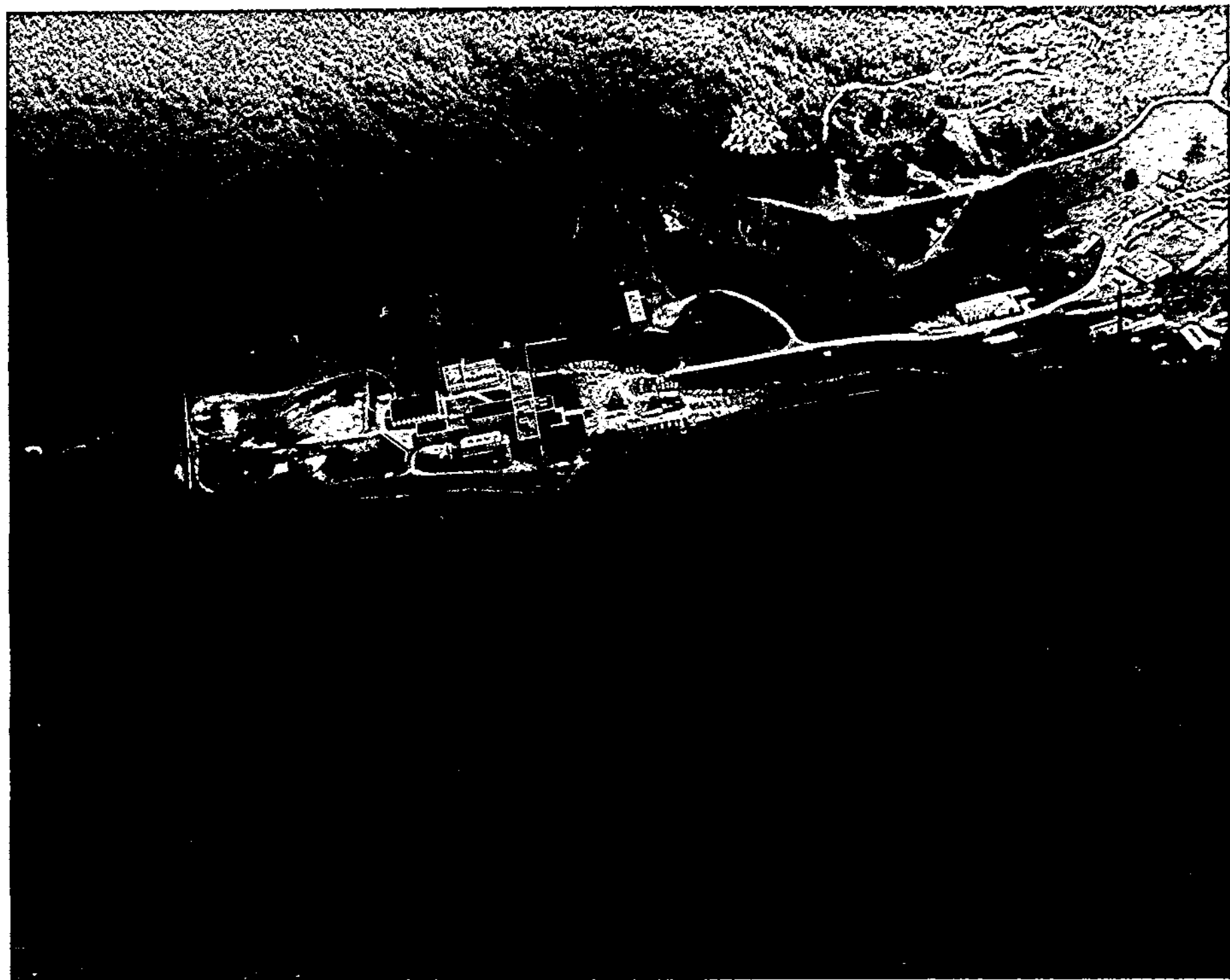
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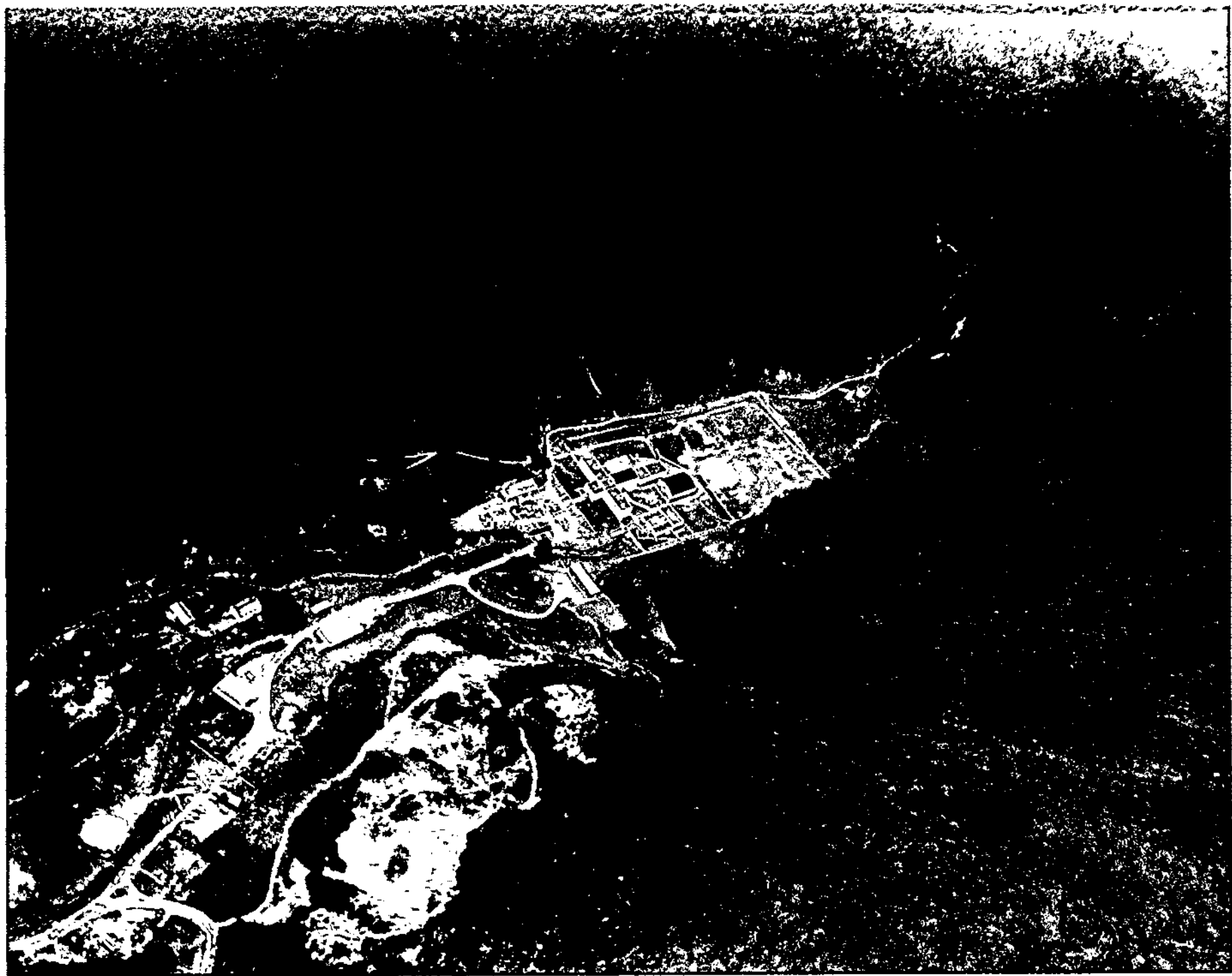
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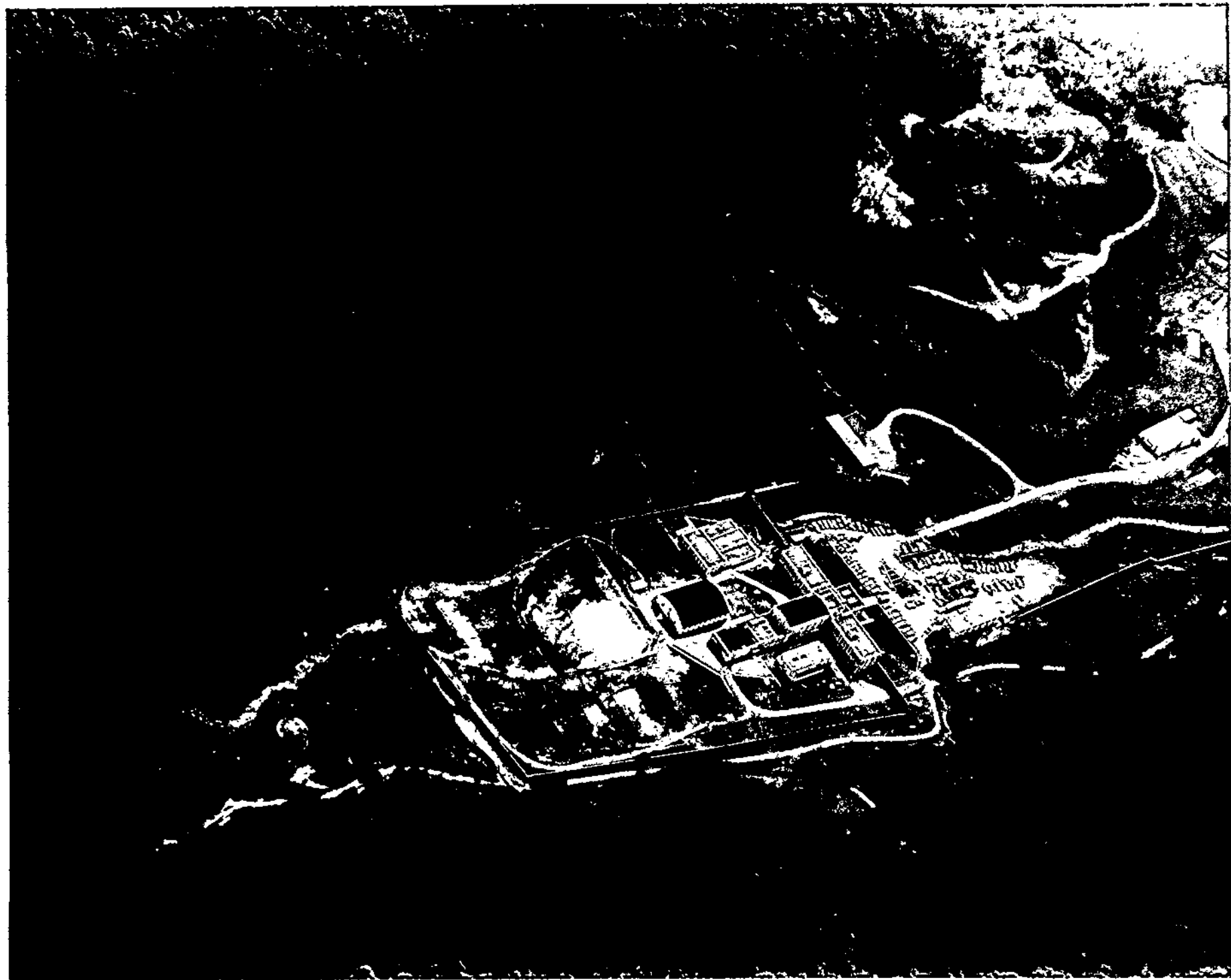
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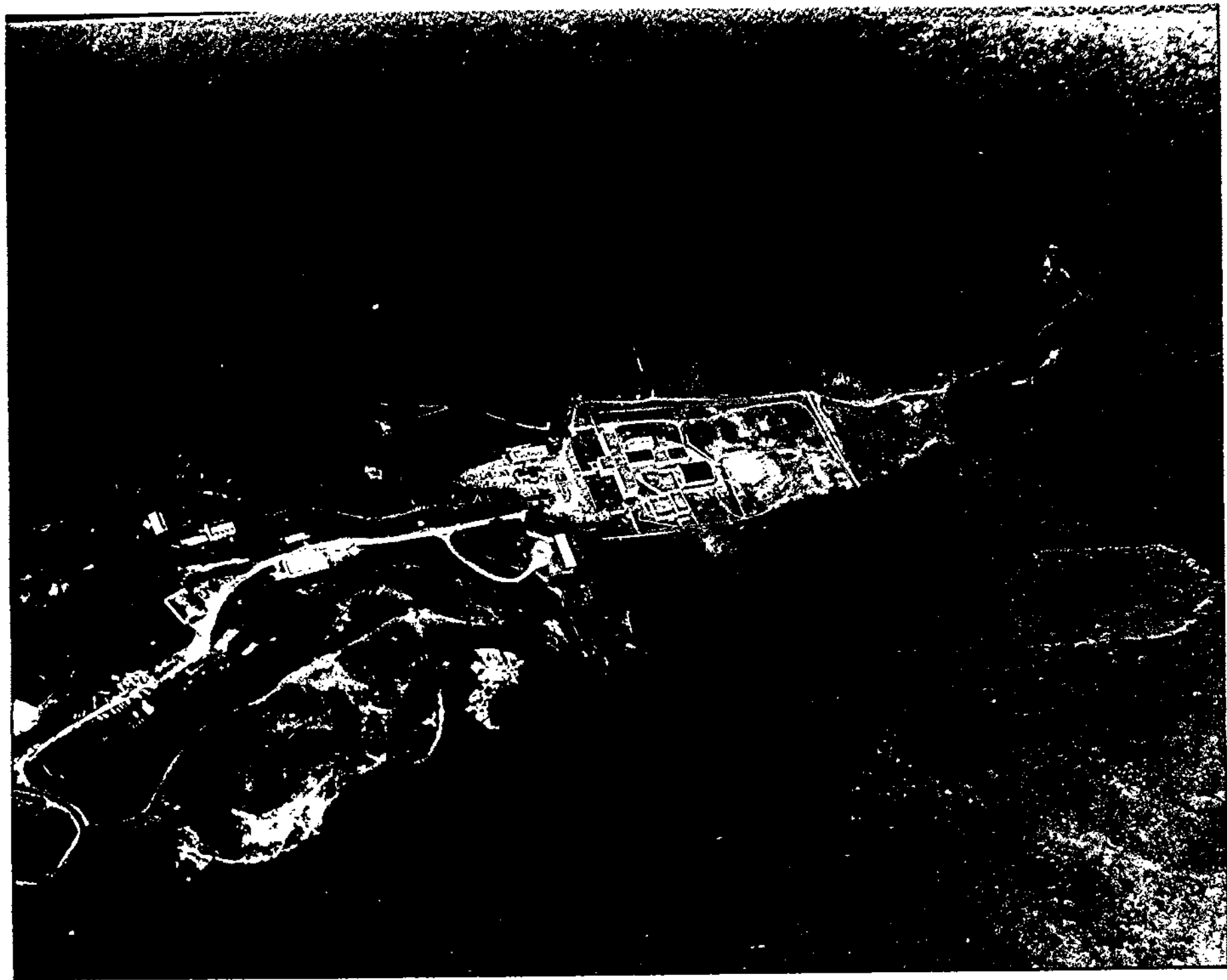
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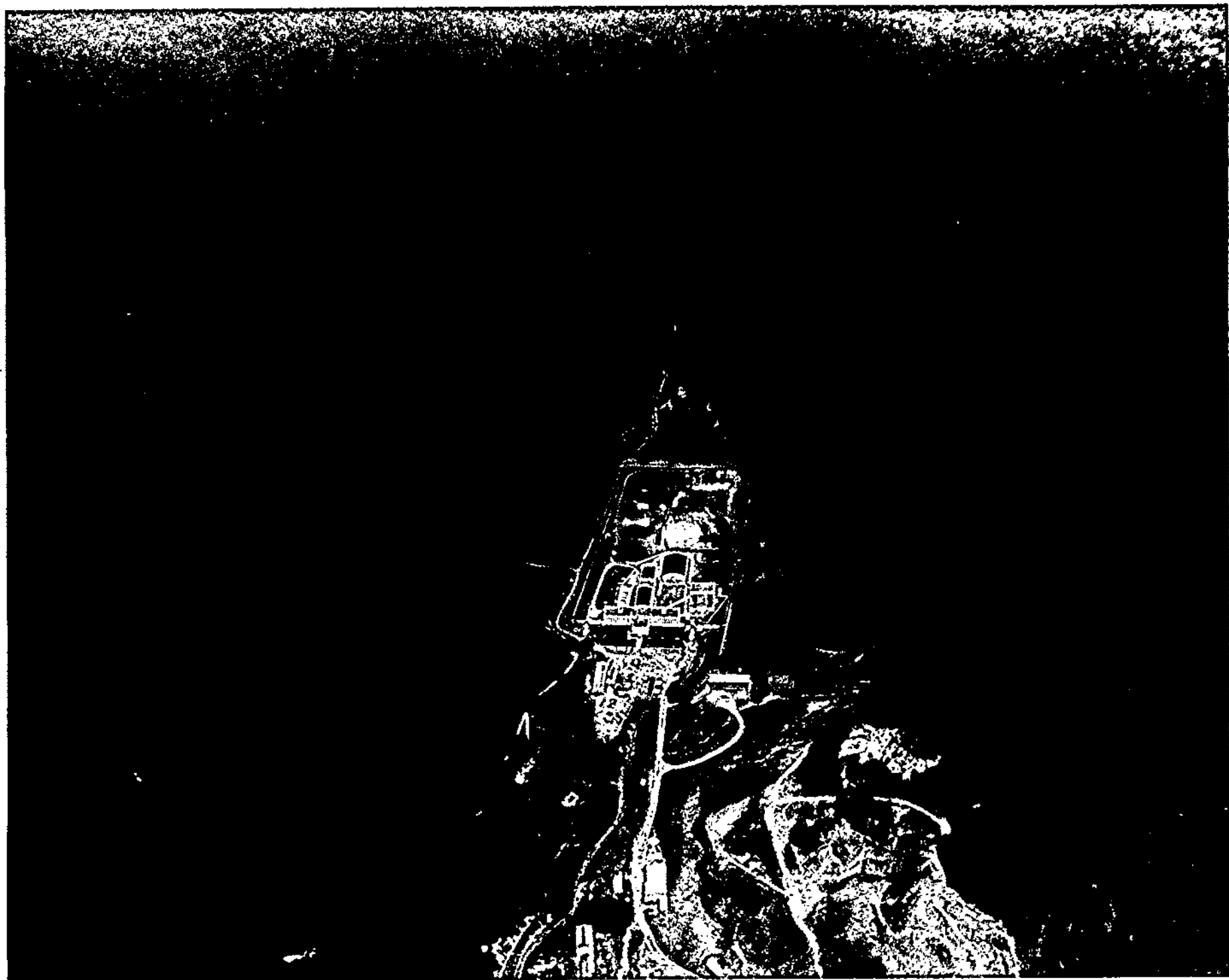


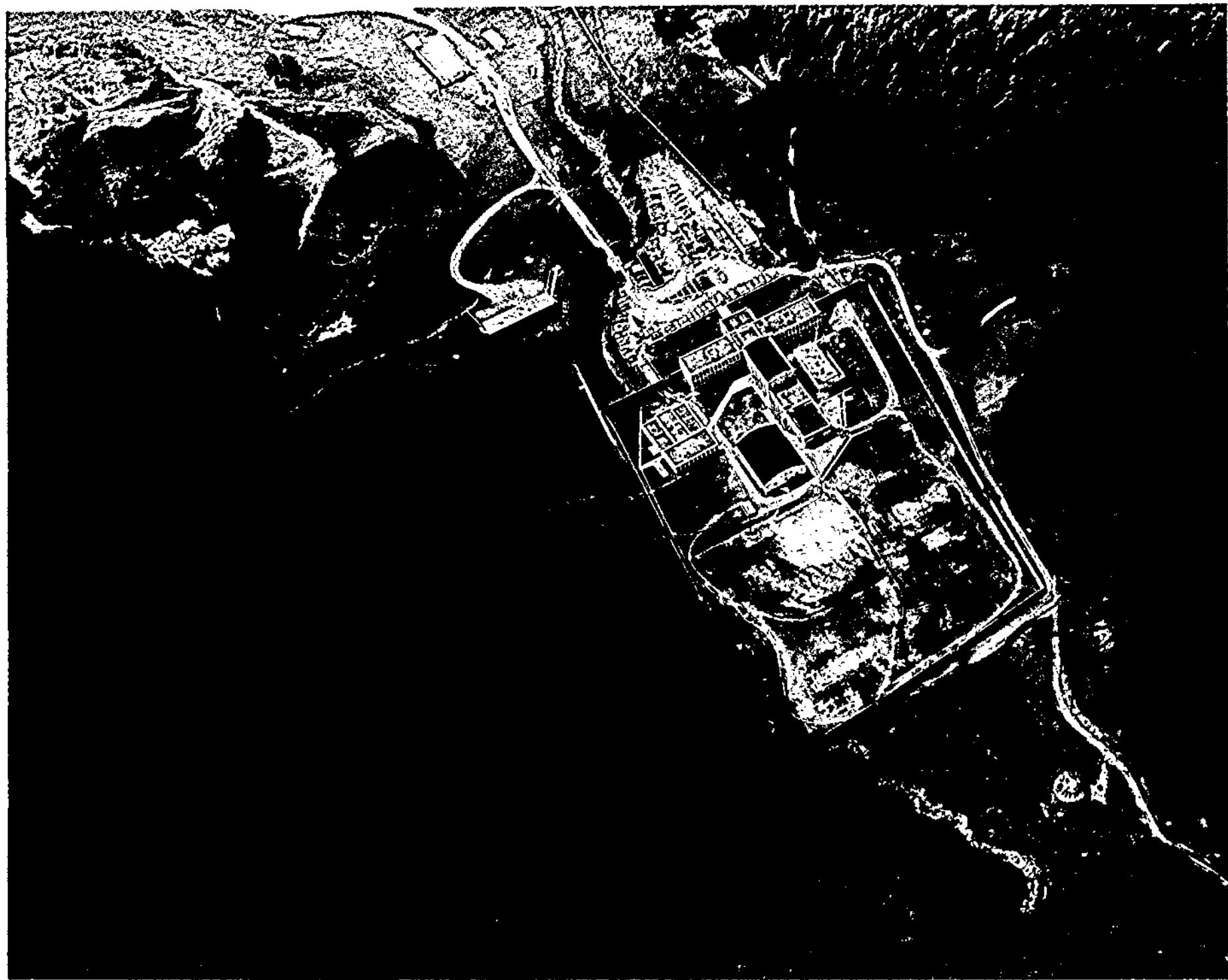


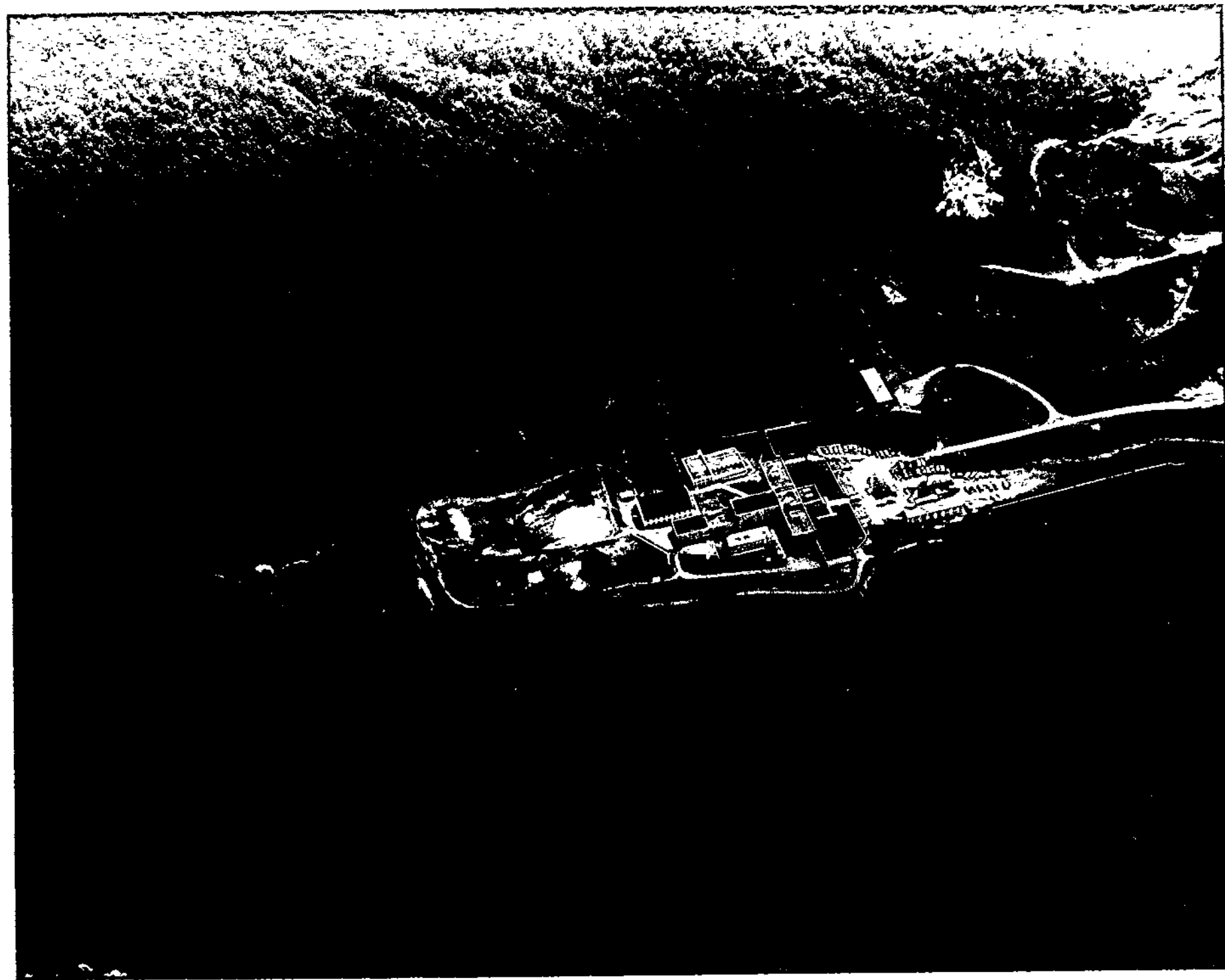


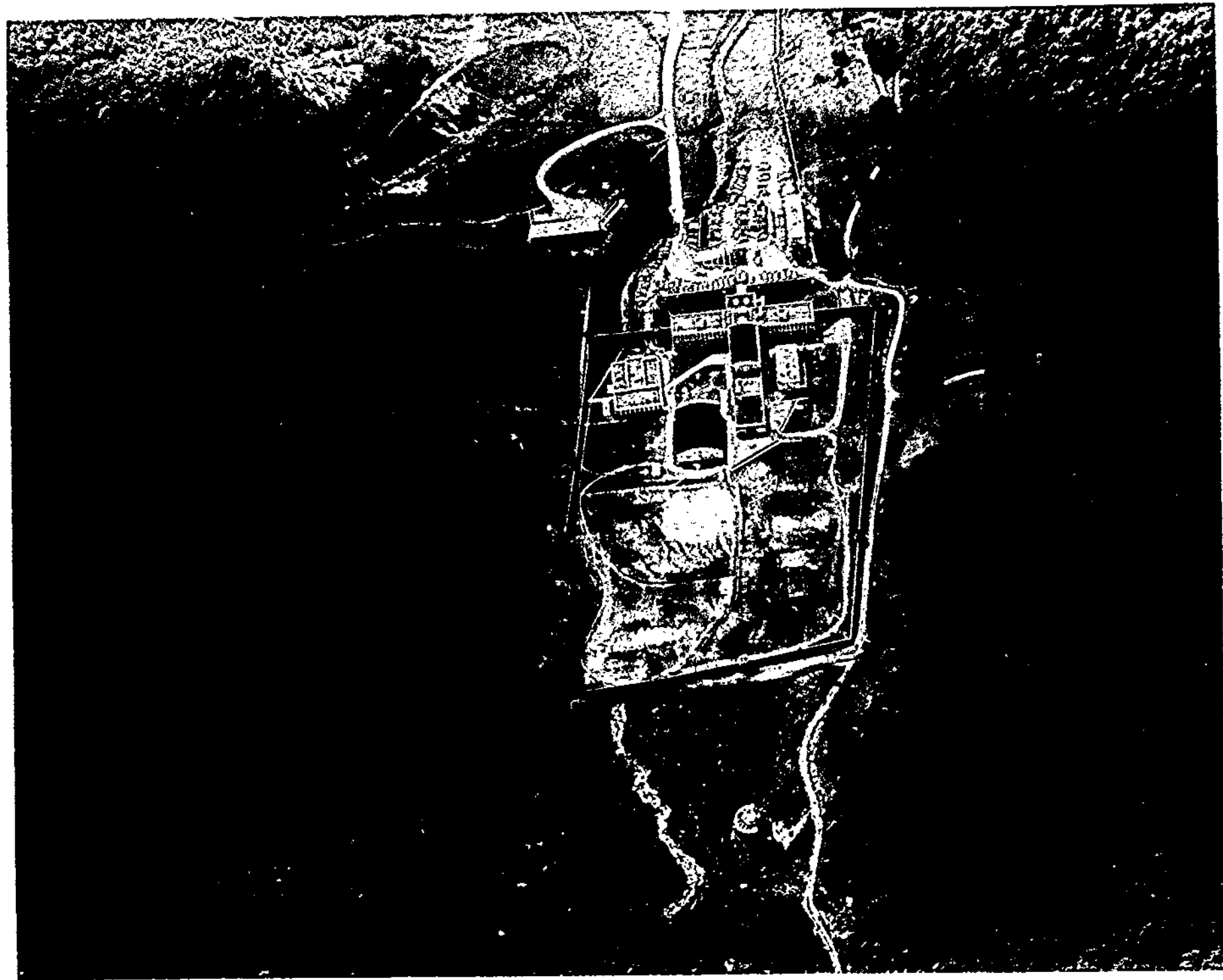






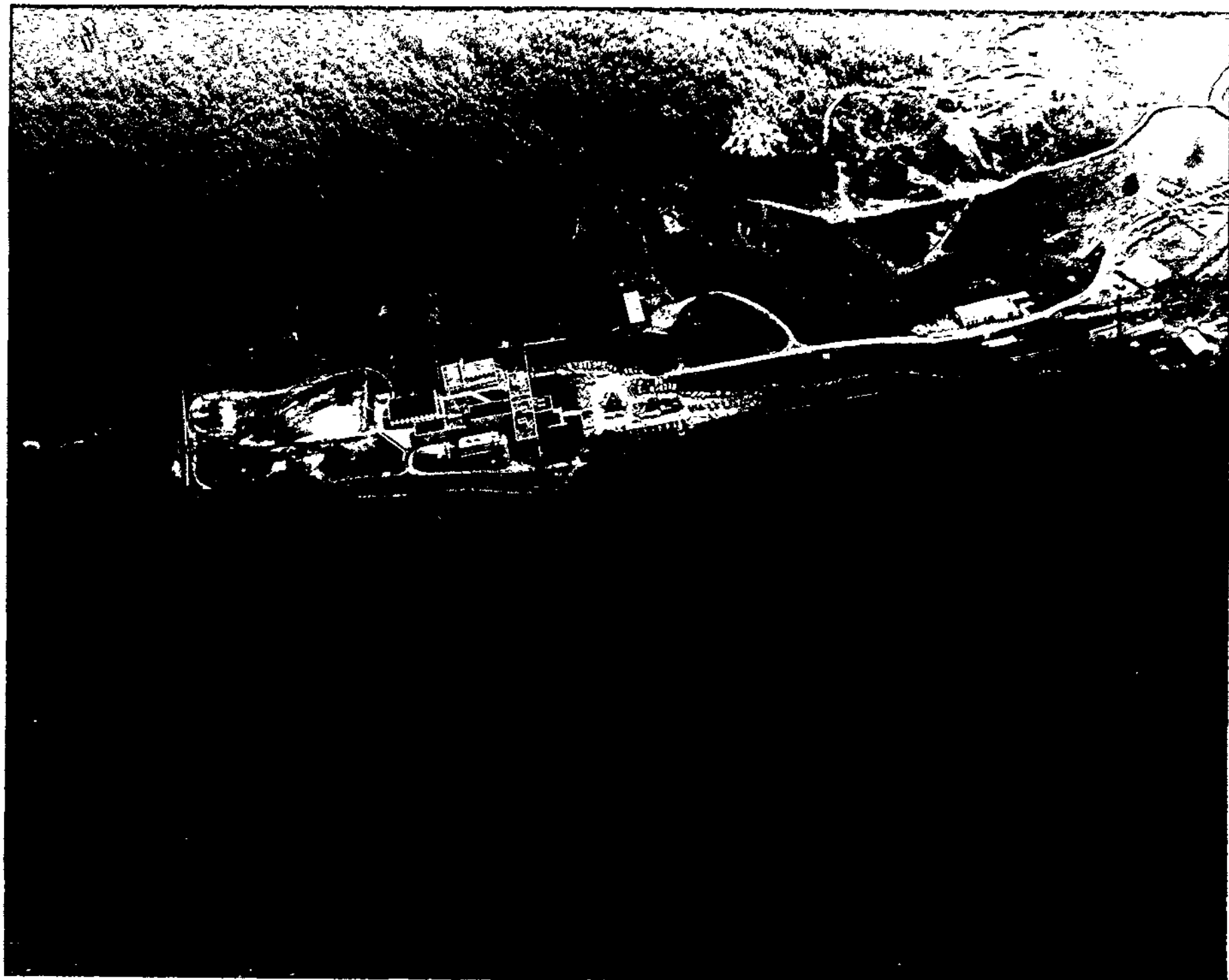


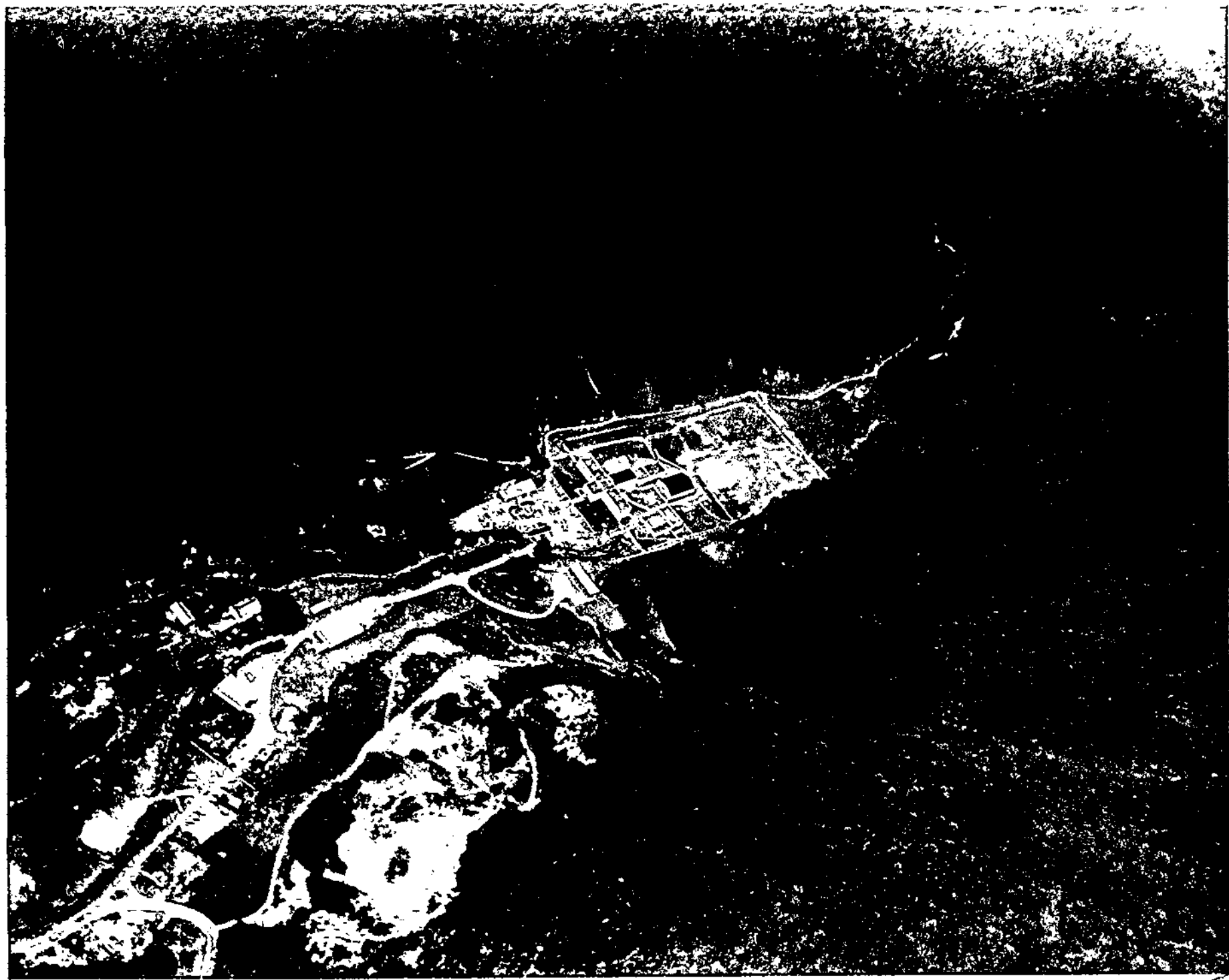


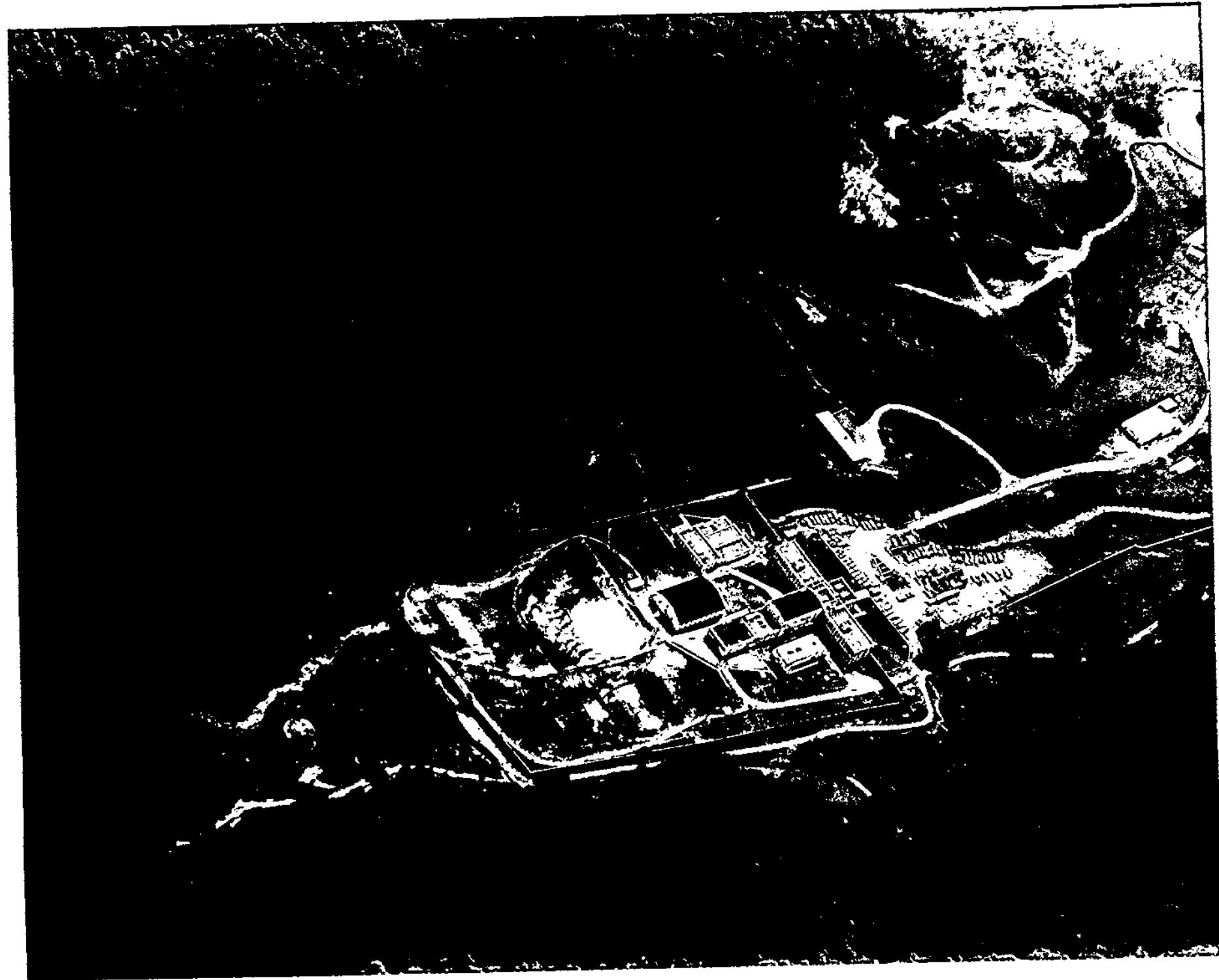


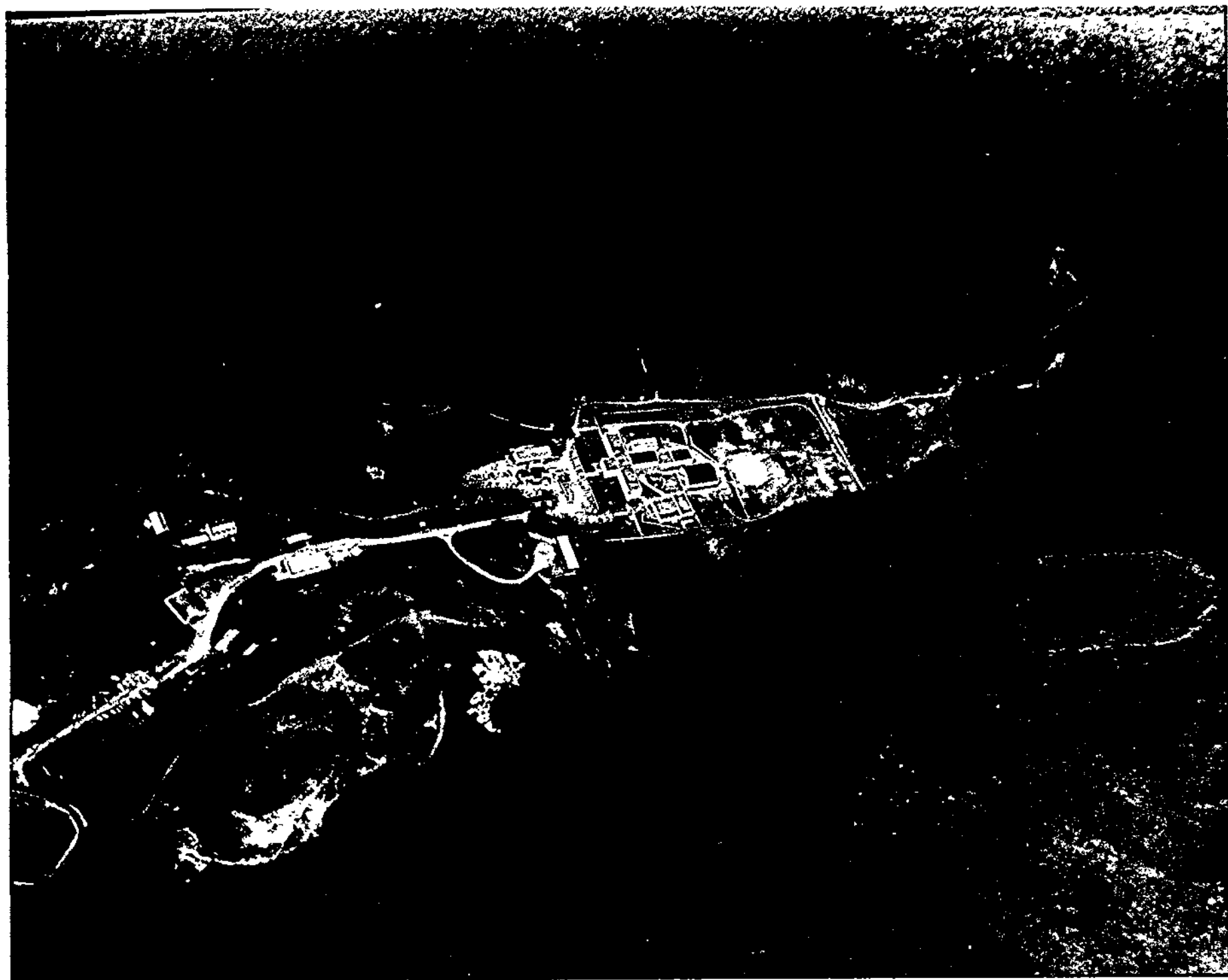
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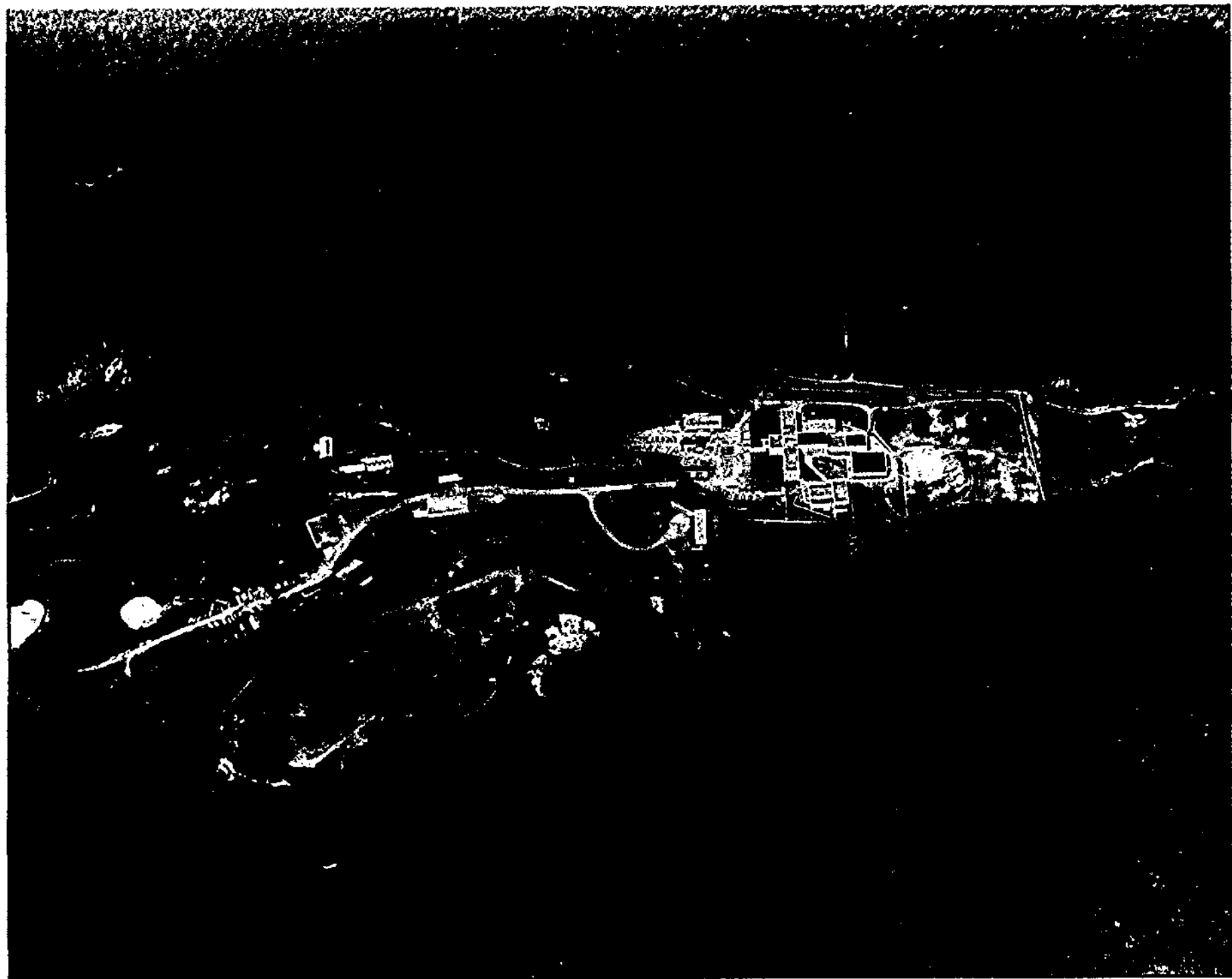


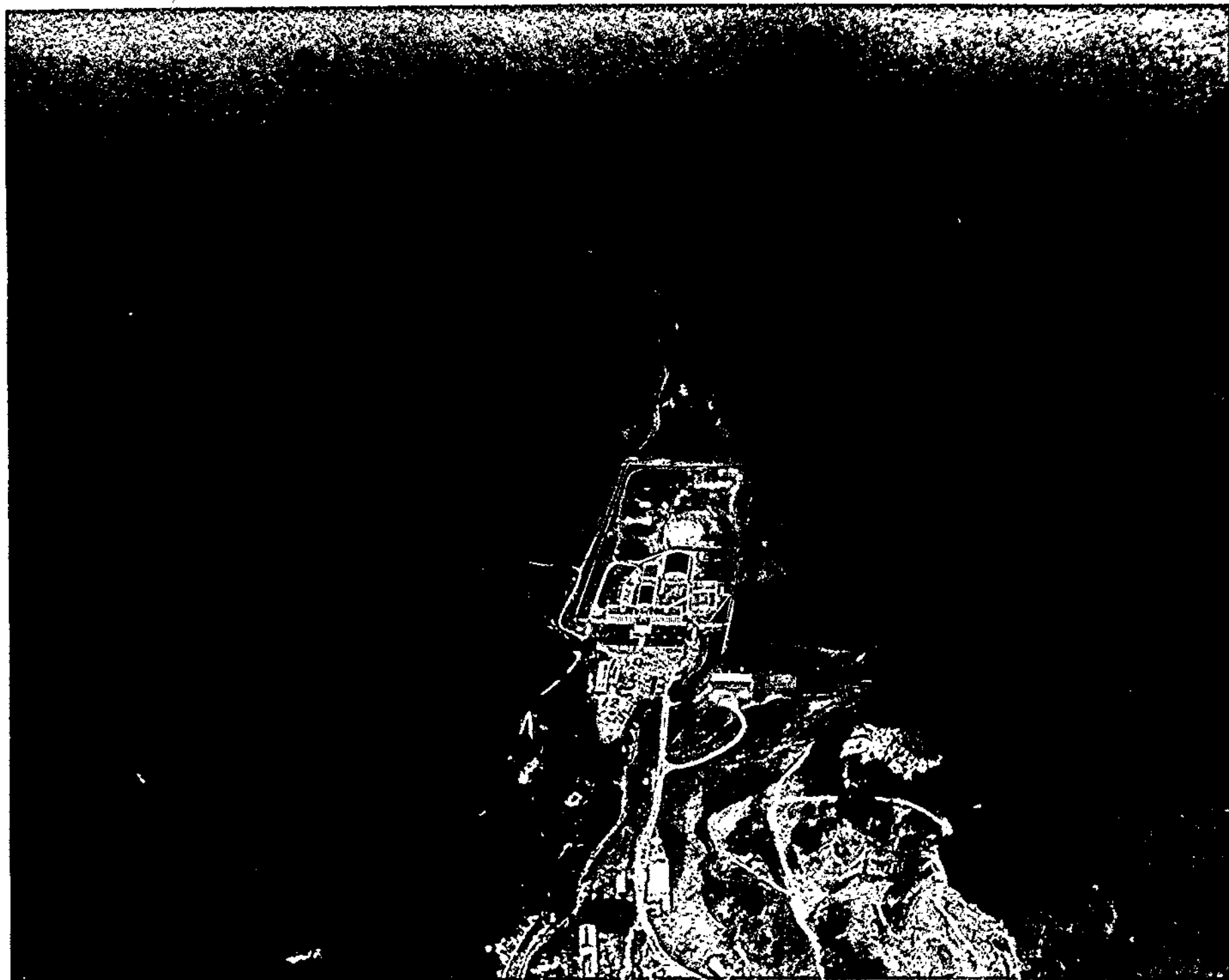


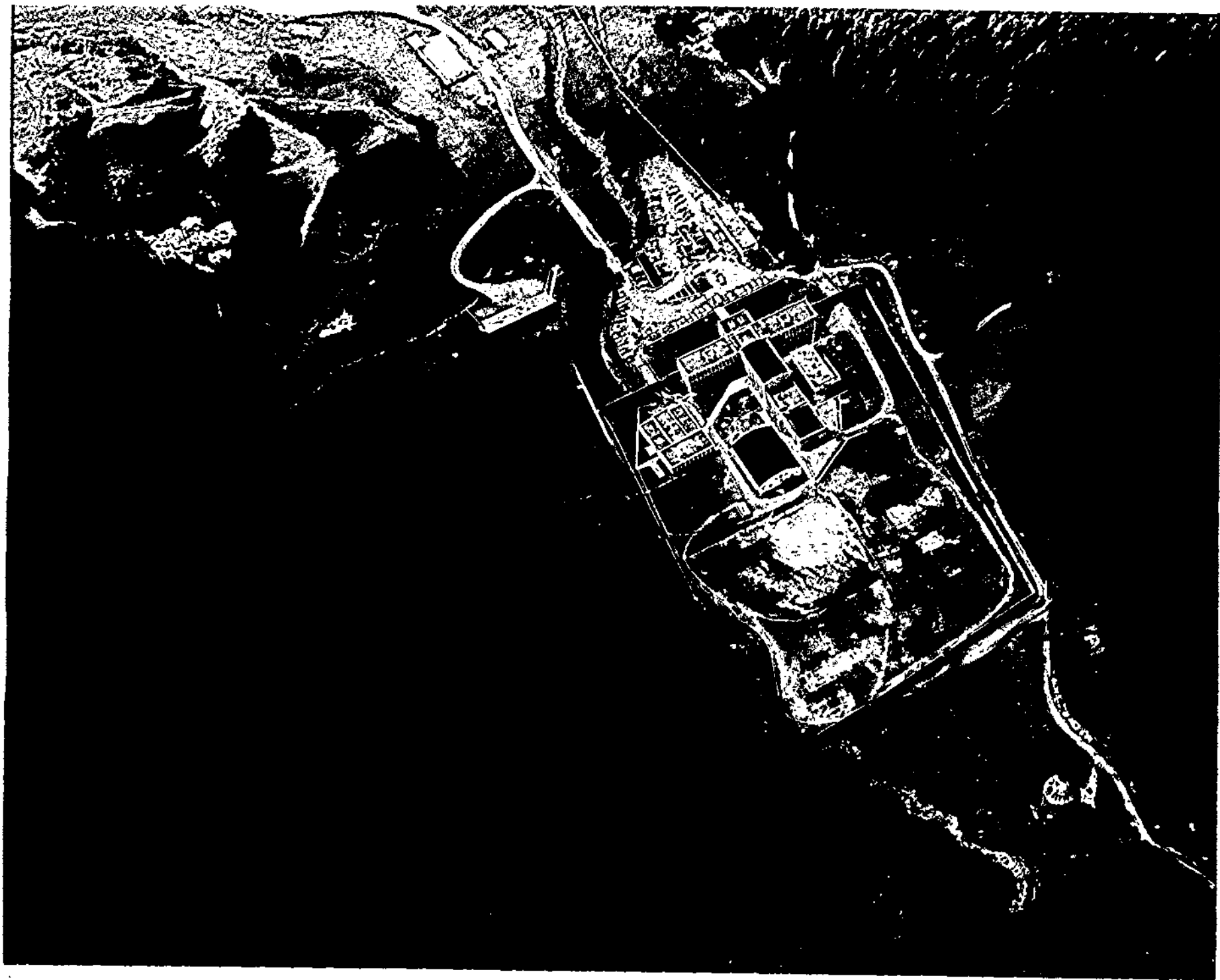


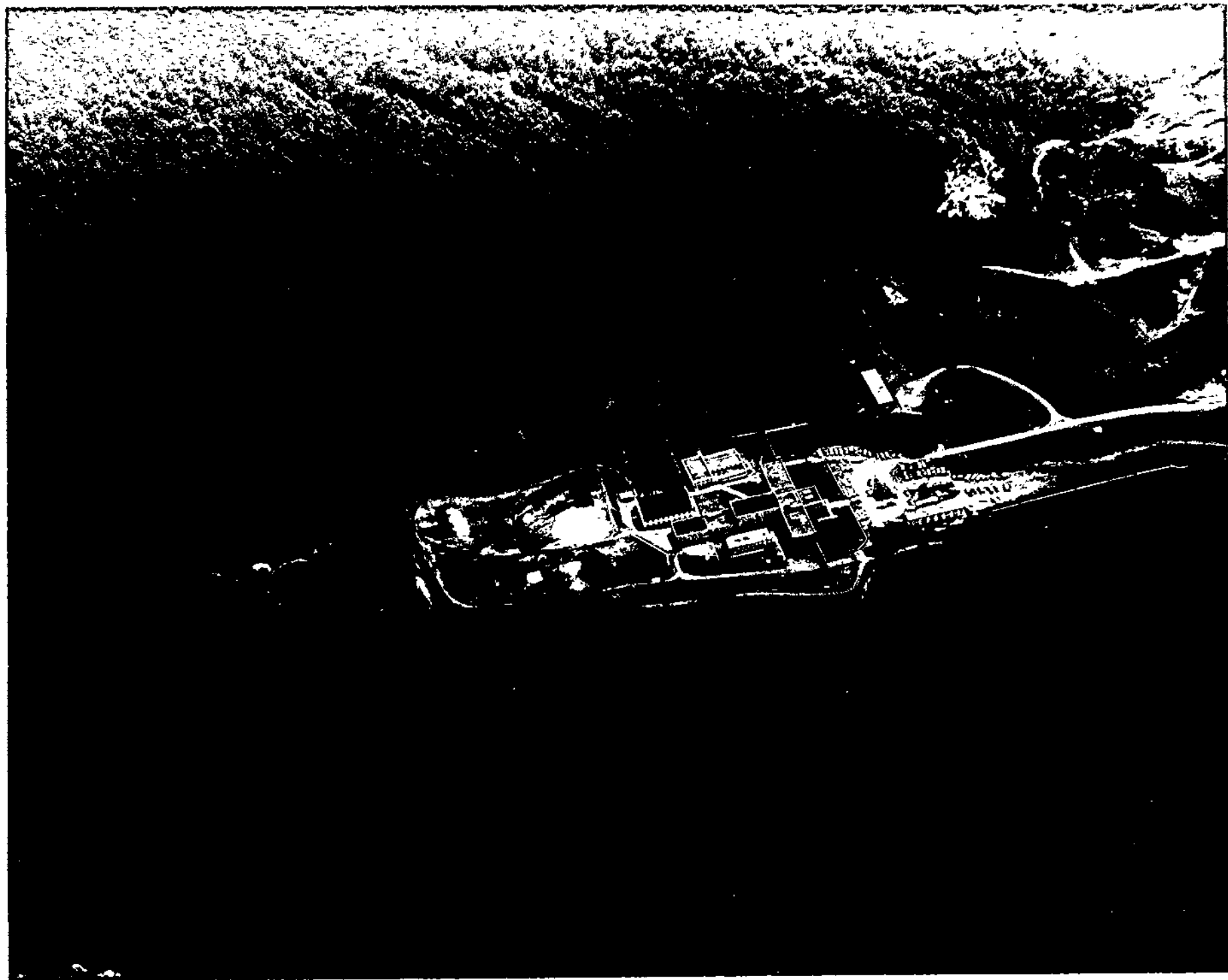


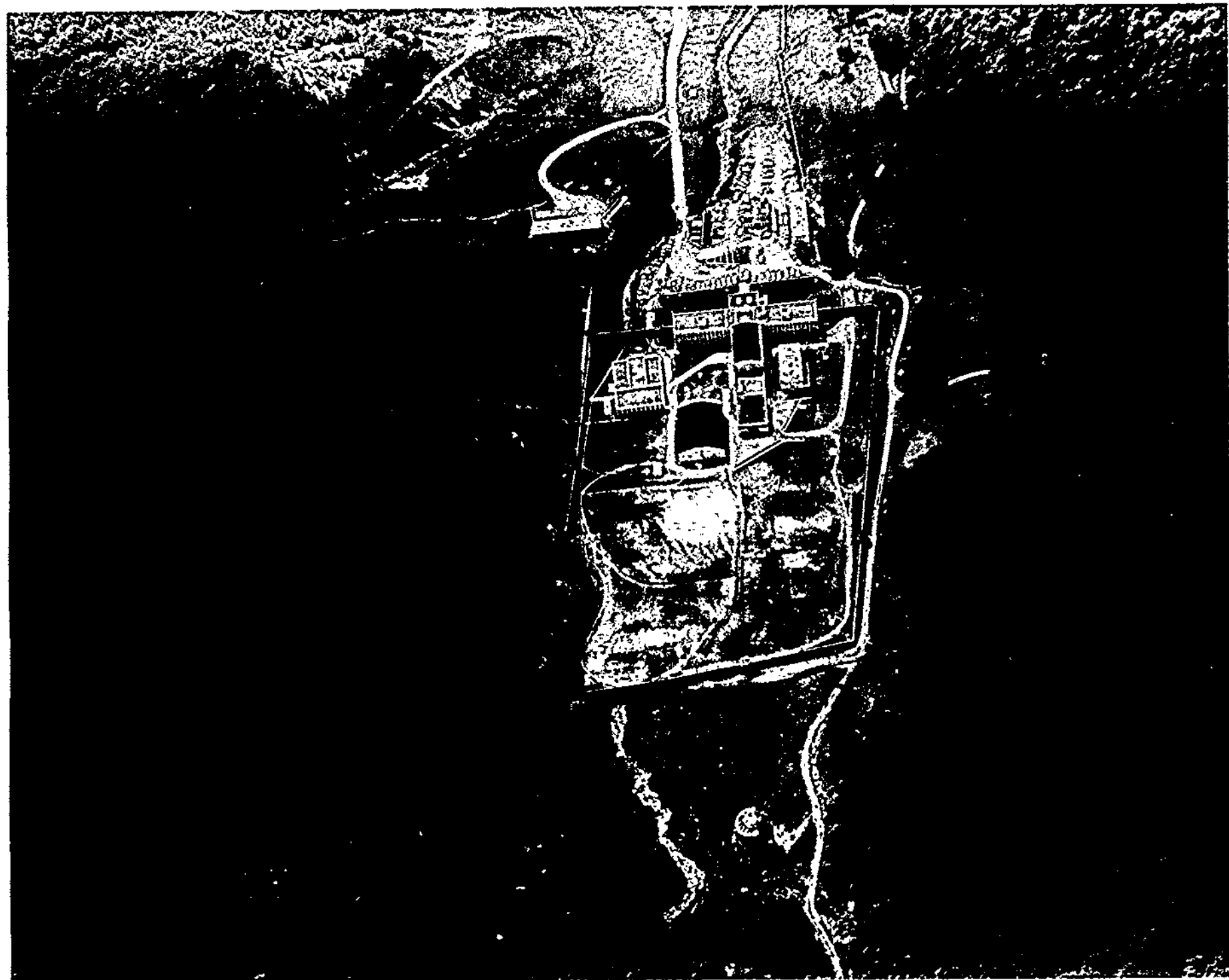














ENCLOSURE TO DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT)

FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (88-10663)

RE: JAMES EARL RAY
UFAC - ESCAPE

ENCS: (1) Cassette tape recording



AMERICAN

88-76-221-95
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7/13/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION-PRIVACY ACTS BRANCH

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (62-1881) (RUC)

SUBJECT: v.
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
OF JUSTICE (U.S.D.C., D.C.),
CIVIL ACTION NO. 75-1996;
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) MATTER

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(X)

Re Bureau teletype to Memphis, 7/8/77.

Enclosed for the Bureau are 13 boxes containing all volumes, sub sections, 1-A exhibits and bulky enclosures of Memphis files 44-1987, 88-10052, 157-1067 and 157-1092 currently available to the Memphis Office.

15-Bureau (1-Box #1)
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3-Memphis

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88-10052-Sub-1

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ME 62-1881

Memphis file 44-1987 has a total of 131 volumes, categorized as follows:

44-1987	7 volumes
44-1987-1A	11 volumes
44-1987 Sub	2 volumes
44-1987 Sub A	7 volumes
44-1987 Sub B	8 volumes
44-1987 Sub C	5 volumes
44-1987 Sub D	3 volumes
44-1987 Sub E	20 volumes
44-1987 Sub F	1 volume
44-1987 Sub G	40 volumes
44-1987 Sub H	3 volumes
44-1987 Sub I	1 volume
44-1987 Sub J	2 volumes
44-1987 Sub K	2 volumes
44-1987 Sub L	2 volumes
44-1987 Sub M	11 volumes
44-1987 Sub N	1 volume
44-1987 Sub O	3 volumes
44-1987 Sub P	1 volume
44-1987 Sub Q	1 volume.

Memphis file 88-10052 has 1 volume.

Memphis file 157-1067 has a total of 29 volumes; 4 volumes of 1-A exhibits and 25 volumes of serials.

Memphis file 157-1092 has a total of 6 volumes: 5 volumes of serials and 1 volume designated as 157-1092 Sub.

The distribution of the files in the 13 boxes are as follows:

BOX #1:

44-1987-1A (exhibits)	volumes 1-8
44-1987 Sub M	volume 11

BOX #2:

44-1987	volumes 1-6
44-1987-1A (exhibits)	volumes 9-11
88-10052	volume 1.

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44-1987
44-1987 Sub
44-1987 Sub A
44-1987 Sub B

volume 7
volumes 1-2
volumes 1-7
volume 1.

BOX #4:

44-1987 Sub B
44-1987 Sub C

volumes 2-8
volumes 1-4

BOX #5:

44-1987 Sub C
44-1987 Sub D
44-1987 Sub E

volume 5
volumes 1-3
volumes 1-8.

BOX #6:

44-1987 Sub E
44-1987 Sub F

volumes 9-20
volume 1.

BOX #7:

44-1987 Sub G

volumes 1-11.

BOX #8:

44-1987 Sub G

volumes 12-24.

BOX #9:

44-1987 Sub G
44-1987 Sub H
44-1987 Sub I
44-1987 Sub J
44-1987-1B9

volumes 25-40
volumes 1-3
volume 1
volumes 1-2

BOX #10:

44-1987 Sub K
44-1987 Sub L
44-1987 Sub M
44-1987 Sub N

volumes 1-2
volumes 1-2
volumes 1-10
volume 1.

BOX #11:

44-1987-1B5
44-1987-1B7
44-1987-1B10
44-1987-1B12
44-1987-1B13
44-1987-1B14.

BOX #12:

157-1067	1	volumes 1-22
157-1067-1A		volumes 1-4.

BOX #13:

157-1067	volumes 23-25
157-1092	volumes 1-5
157-1092 Sub	volume 1
44-1987 Sub O	volumes 1-3
44-1987 Sub P	volume 1
44-1987 Sub Q	volume 1.

For the information of the Bureau, 44-1987 Sub M is a pending file. The Memphis Office currently has pending investigation being conducted and handled out of this sub file. Serials 1124-1139 of Sub M have been Xeroxed and will be retained by the Memphis Office for reference purposes in connection with the pending investigation.

These files are to be transported to the Bureau via American Airlines flight 506, departing Memphis International Airport, 7/14/77 at 9:40 a.m., arriving Washington National Airport, 7/14/77, 12:28 p.m.

State Contests Cost Of Ray Trip

By ED NEWLAND
Banner Staff Writer

Is \$535 too much for the state to pay to bring James Earl Ray to Nashville to fight the possibility of being sent to a federal prison?

The state attorney general's office is contesting lawyer Jack Kershaw's request that Ray be brought to testify in Kershaw's suit seeking to block the proposed transfer, calling the cost and problems of security a major reason Ray should be left at Brushy Mountain Prison in Petros.

But in a supplemental affidavit to its court motion to prevent Ray's trip to Nashville, the state said the trip would only require four highway patrolmen and two Correction Department employees.

And, Asst. Correction Commissioner Charles Bass said in the affidavit, bringing Ray down would necessitate an overnight stay with lodging being a major part of the cost.

Bass did say his costs were figured for "minimum security" precautions.

In addition to the "overnight" costs, pegged at \$150 for the patrolmen, Bass figured in the salaries of the six persons, transportation and fuel costs.

No mention was made of "overnight" costs for Ray, who is already eating and sleeping at state expense.

Chancellor Robert S. Brandt has set a hearing for 2 p.m. Friday to determine whether Ray should be brought to testify in the suit.

Brandt will also consider the state's request that Gov. Ray Blanton, Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson, and Brushy Mountain warden Stoney Lane be allowed to give testimony by deposition rather than having to appear at a subsequent hearing.

Brandt set a hearing on whether to block the proposed federal transfer last week after Kershaw filed the suit, but postponed it when the state objected to the attorney's subpoenas of state officials and the request to have Ray brought here.

Blanton proposed Ray's transfer to a federal penitentiary after Ray's Brushy Mountain escape attempt last month, but some members of Congress have objected.

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

7/7/77

Character or Classification: *SS-1005*

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

Date: *7/7/77*

Editor:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

NASHVILLE, TENN.

NASHVILLE BANNER

PAGE 20

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

SS-1005. Sub A

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Details for Ray Hearing Argued

By ALAN CARMICHAEL

While one attorney argued yesterday that James Earl Ray and the governor should appear in court personally, other novel means of obtaining testimony on Ray's bid to halt transfer to federal prison were suggested.

State attorneys told Chancellor Robert Brandt that the escape-prone convict's views could be taken by audio-visual means and then transported to Nashville for showing to the court.

BRANDT himself proposed moving the court to Brushy Mountain State Prison to hear testimony by the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King on his move to prevent Gov. Ray Blanton from transferring him to a federal facility.

Ray escaped Brushy Mountain State Prison last month with six other inmates, but all were recaptured within a few days after their flight.

Ray's Nashville attorney, Jack Kershaw, said he would not object to the court hearing Ray's testimony in Petros, Tenn., where the prison is located.

"THE PERSONAL confrontation of the witnesses is the important matter," Kershaw said. He opposed suggestions by state attorneys, Joe Haynes and C. Hayes Cooney, that testimony would best be taken by deposition.

Brandt heard arguments yesterday on motions by both sides in the suit filed by Ray. Kershaw wanted Brandt to compel Blanton, Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson and Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney Lane to appear in person. He wants Ray to be able to testify in person here as well.

The state, on the other hand, asked Brandt to quash the subpoenas for the three officials. The documents have been filed, but not served, pending Brandt's decision.

THE chancellor said he will decide the question of whether Ray should appear in person after receiving an affidavit from the prisoner that he does oppose transfer and that he wants to testify in Nashville; and after he provides the court with a

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 21

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: 7/9/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

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88-10052-Sub 3
Special Office: MEMPHIS

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JUL 10 1977

FBI - MEMPHIS

88-Ray-

summary of his proposed testimony.

Brandt said the affidavit must be filed on or before July 18.

The chancellor also took under advisement the question of whether to compel Blanton and the other two public officials to appear in court.

A HEARING ON the state's motion to dismiss Ray's original suit was scheduled for 9 a.m. July 13 by Brandt. Kershaw said he had to be in Morgan County July 15 for Ray's trial on escape charges.

Ray filed suit to prevent his proposed transfer to a federal prison, contending his constitutional rights would be violated by such a move.

Kershaw also contended yesterday that Ray fears for his safety in federal prisons. The attorney claimed that an FBI agent named Robert Jensen threatened Ray's family shortly after his incarceration in Tennessee State Penitentiary here unless the convict cooperated with authorities.

"The governor has made bitter remarks regarding this particular prisoner," Kershaw said. "He has singled him out as the one to punish by sending him to federal prison where agents of the FBI have ready access."

"This will be a real source of danger to the prisoner."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Inmate Beating**Guard Hearing
Date Pending**

By FRANK SUTHERLAND

A review board hearing will be scheduled later this month for a prison guard accused of beating an inmate after a rock-throwing fracas at the penitentiary June 30.

"It was all a misunderstanding," said the inmate, Jesse James McMahon, serving three to five years for burglary and larceny.

WARDEN Vincent Thompson said the guard, Ronnie Carroll, has been on vacation since the incident, and "I have not had a chance to hear his side of the story yet."

Thompson said Carroll was monitoring a gate leading toward the cafeteria when a group of prisoners began throwing rocks at the guard and spitting on him.

Carroll saw McMahon "grinning" after the incident and mistakenly thought he had thrown the rocks.

MCMAHON SAID Carroll and another guard whose name he does not know took him into the prison chapel and beat him.

"They busted my teeth and hit me on the chest," McMahon said.

Thompson said there was some question whether McMahon's teeth were already damaged prior to that time.

"WE WILL have to see what the guard says to be fair with him. We shouldn't try him before the review board meets," the warden said.

"The board will meet the first Wednesday after he returns from vacation—in about two weeks."

McMahon said in an interview after the beating, he was placed in "the hole" for seven days.

Later, he said, it was discovered McMahon was not among those throwing rocks.

"He said he tore the writeups up and that it was all over with," McMahon said.

Asked if he was satisfied with any marks on his record being erased, McMahon replied, "I don't know."

The inmate said he didn't have an attorney in the case.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 23

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

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Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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88-Ray

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Ray Fears FBI Death Conspiracy—Attorney

By DOUG HALL

James Earl Ray believes FBI agents may conspire to kill him if he is transferred from Brushy Mountain Prison to a federal institution, his lawyer said yesterday.

"We now know that the FBI and the CIA are not necessarily a band of angels, and certain events tend to make it appear Mr. Ray could be in danger," said the attorney, Jack Kershaw.

KERSHAW said Ray has told him an FBI agent from Memphis, Robert

Jensen, approached him two days after he pleaded guilty to killing civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King and threatened to have Ray's brothers imprisoned if he didn't tell who else was involved in the 1968 assassination.

"This threat is substantiated by the fact that his brother is in a federal prison in Marion, Ill., serving 18 years for aiding and abetting bank robbery, while the actual bank robber got only 18 months," Kershaw said. "This shows something is very odd."

Kershaw made his comments following a court hearing in which Chancellor Robert Brandt took under advisement a motion by state officials to dismiss Kershaw's lawsuit seeking to block the transfer of Ray.

GOV. RAY Blanton requested that Ray be transferred to a federal prison following Ray's escape June 10 from Brushy Mountain Prison near Petros, Tenn. Ray was recaptured 54½ hours later in the rugged mountain country which surrounds the prison.

In another development yesterday, Kershaw disclosed that Ray will plead not guilty to a charge of escaping prison when he faces a preliminary hearing tomorrow morning before General Sessions Court Judge John Davis. The hearing will be held in a prison conference room.

Kershaw said one theory he will use is that Ray "never made it over the second wall; maybe he didn't get off campus."

ANOTHER theory to be used in connection with the

escape charges is that Ray "was not legally confined because the guilty plea hearing was so faulty."

During yesterday's hearing before Brandt, Kershaw argued that Ray is safer at Brushy Mountain than he would be in a federal prison.

"Why will it be easier to cut his throat or poison him or whatever they plan to do to him?" Brandt asked.

KERSHAW replied, "The warden at the state prison has absolute authority over that prison."

"Are you saying that the federal warden will let the FBI in a federal prison to kill him?" the judge said.

"Yes," Kershaw said. BRANDT NOTE that federal prisons are operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, a separate agency from the FBI.

The chancellor said he would not make a ruling in the case before next Monday, when an affidavit from Ray is due outlining the reasons he feels his life would be endangered by the transfer.

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Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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Date: 7/14/77
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Editor:
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NASHVILLE, TENN.

THE TENNESSEAN

PAGE 28

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Reportedly Prepared To Detail FBI 'Badgering'

By KIRK LOGGINS

James Earl Ray "is prepared to allege specific instances" of harassment by the FBI if he is granted a hearing in his suit opposing transfer to a federal prison, his attorney said yesterday.

Ray repeated — in an affidavit filed yesterday by his attorney, Jack Kershaw — the complaints Kershaw had made on his behalf in the suit filed shortly after his escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison last month.

"I VERILY believe my life would be in danger if I were transferred to a federal prison because FBI agents have ready access to federal prisons. They do

not have such access to Tennessee prisons," Ray said in the affidavit.

Chancellor Robert Brandt required the filing of such an affidavit by Ray after Kershaw had filed the lawsuit, and a supporting affidavit, without Ray's signature.

Brandt also required Ray, the confessed slayer of Martin Luther King Jr., to give "a summary of the testimony he proposes to give at the temporary injunction hearing should this court order his presence."

RAY SAID in that portion of the affidavit that he has been "coerced and threatened by federal agents, including agents of the FBI and the Federal Bureau of Prisons."

Brandt is expected to rule within a week on motions by Kershaw asking that Ray and state officials named in his suit, including Gov. Ray Blanton, testify in person before the chancellor.

Brandt also has taken under advisement a motion by state attorneys to dismiss the suit seeking to block any transfer of the escape-prone Ray to a federal facility.

Kershaw said yesterday he is seeking a court appearance by Blanton because, the attorney said, "he [Blanton] told me he doesn't trust the FBI, and yet he now says he wants to turn this prisoner over to their tender clutches."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 8

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: JULY 19, 1977

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY

88-10052-Sub 6

Character:

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Classification: ME:88-10052

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

Orig. fwd to
Bureau 7/21/77

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Ray To Get Hearing On Alleged Threats

By KIRK LOGGINS

James Earl Ray will be allowed to testify in a special hearing at Brushy Mountain State Prison on alleged threats by the FBI and federal prison officials, Chancellor Robert Brandt ruled yesterday.

But Brandt also ruled that Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, cannot compel Gov. Ray Blanton and State Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson to testify in Ray's suit seeking to block state efforts to transfer him to a federal prison.

BRANDT LEFT the date of the hearing for Ray up to Kershaw and the state attorney general's office.

Kershaw said he would prefer to have "at least a month" to prepare for that hearing and a separate hearing on the matter at the Metro Courthouse. The first open date on Brandt's calendar is in late October.

KERSHAW SAID he plans to call "several out-of-state witnesses" to testify on "conditions in the FBI and practices and procedures in federal prisons generally."

Kershaw said he hopes New York attorney and conspiracy theory buff

Mark Lane will be allowed to testify on "the consideration of FBI involvement [in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King] to warrant a conclusion that the FBI might be suspected of wishing to discipline or control Ray in some manner."

He termed Brandt's decision to grant Ray a hearing, without removing him from the maximum-security mountain prison, "a most reasonable solution to a difficult and exceptional situation."

BUT KERSHAW said he was "disappointed" the chancellor had not required Blanton and Henderson to testify.

"I feel that the governor should now be given every opportunity to voluntarily appear in this matter, since he has spoken on it widely, even on national television," Kershaw said. "I can't believe the governor would want to dodge the issue."

Brandt said, in a memorandum opinion yesterday on Ray's request for a temporary injunction against transfer to a federal prison:

"THE UNUSUAL circumstances in this case dictate that Ray's testimony be heard by this court in person, not by deposition or audio-visual transcription.

"The serious charges he has made dictate that Ray be subjected to rigorous and thorough examination and cross-examination by counsel and by this court to determine all facts within his knowledge which will substantiate his charges."

But, because of "substantial logistical problems" in bringing Ray to Nashville for a hearing, "the court will convene at the Brushy Mountain Prison in Morgan County," Brandt ruled.

The chancellor noted in the opinion that his court has the authority to order the testimony of Blanton and Henderson, but added that "Ray has presented nothing" to convince him to break long-standing judicial precedent against "probing the mind" of officials on policy questions.

Brandt did, however, order that Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney Lane answer a subpoena to testify in Ray's suit against the state.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: JULY 22, 1977

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

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JAMES EARL RAY

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Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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Bureau 8/2/77

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Pleads Innocent Before Wartburg Judge

By WALTER CAMPBELL

Banner Staff Writer

Wartburg — An unshaven James Earl Ray, appearing in public officially for the first time since his conviction, pleaded not guilty today to a charge of escaping from Brushy Mountain State Prison June 10.

Escorted before Circuit Court Judge Lee Asbury at 9 a.m. (CDT), Ray had his handcuffs removed by

Warden Stonney Lane and the charge was read to him.

Ray, serving 99 years for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was indicted Monday by the Morgan County Grand Jury on the escape charge. He is to be tried on that count Oct. 27.

Also pleading innocent to escape charges were six other inmates indicted along with Ray and charged with scaling the prison

wall with the aid of a makeshift ladder.

All of the escapees were returned to the prison within four days after the break.

Ray's trial has been scheduled to begin Oct. 27, at 9 a.m. in Wartburg's Morgan County Court house.

The courthouse is being renovated, so today's arraignment was held in a nearby vocational school.

Ray and the six other inmates arrived in a white van accompanied by a five-car escort. About 20 armed guards patrolled the outside of the school.

Ray, before the judge less than five minutes, wore sunglasses, a blue shirt, a green Army jacket and jeans. As he entered the school, he shook hands with his attorney, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, but had no comment for reporters.

The prisoners were returned to the prison in Petros immediately after they answered to charges.

The June 10 escape touched off one of Tennessee's most massive manhunts, with baying bloodhounds leading state and federal lawmen through the rugged terrain surrounding the prison.

All were recaptured, one by one and Ray's escape netted him only 54½ hours of freedom. The other six arraigned today and scheduled

for trial included Earl Hill Jr., Ray's cellmate at Brushy Mountain who is believed to have helped Ray plan his escape. His trial will be Oct. 21.

Douglas Shelton, believed to have provided the pipe from which the escape ladder was built, faces trial Oct. 25.

The others include David Lee Powell, David Ray Caylor and

PAGE

NASHVILLE BANNER

NASHVILLE, TENN.

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Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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Larry Hacker. Their trial dates were not immediately available. The remaining inmate, Jerry Ray Ward, the first to be arraigned today, is set for trial Sept. 29. Ray's attorneys, seeking to win a new trial on the murder conviction, contend the escape was not illegal because Ray was forced into confessing to King's death and was not tried. During grand jury proceedings last week before his indictment, Ray described unconstitutional treatment received in the Memphis jail where he was held and said his cell was bugged with microphones and lights were kept on 24 hours a day.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Pleads Not Guilty At Hearing

WARTBURG, Tenn. (AP) — A nervous James Earl Ray was arraigned Wednesday in a five-minute hearing on a charge stemming from his daring Brushy Mountain Penitentiary escape.

Ray, through his attorney, pleaded innocent to an indictment returned Monday. Criminal Court Judge Lee Asbury set his trial for Oct. 27.

The arraignment was in a Morgan County Vocational School classroom at Wartburg, about 10 miles from the prison. The county courthouse is being renovated. It was the first time Ray had been outside the prison since his recapture June 13, about 54 hours after his escape.

Ray and six other inmates who scaled a 10-foot wall at the northeast corner of the prison arrived in a van at 8 a.m. under heavy guard. All pleaded innocent to escape charges. If convicted, each could be sentenced to another 1 to 5 years. The trials of the other prisoners are set for late October and November.

Ray, wearing a green Army-style fatigue jacket, jeans and a blue shirt, appeared last. His only comment during the five minutes he stood in the makeshift courtroom was "Yes, sir," when Asbury asked, "Are you James Earl Ray?"

Putting his thumbs in his pockets, Ray shifted his weight uneasily to the side of his right foot as his lawyer, Jack Kershaw, entered the formal "not guilty" plea.

Kershaw said his defense is that the escape was not illegal because Ray did not have a jury trial and was confined illegally.

Ray, 49, pleaded guilty in March, 1969, to murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in April, 1968, in Memphis and was sentenced to a 99-year prison term. Days later he tried unsuccessfully to withdraw the plea and has been trying to win a new trial ever since.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 3

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: JULY 28, 1977

Edition:

Author:

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Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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Warden Stonney Lane, James Earl Ray

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

State Asks Ray's Suit Dismissed

The state asked Chancellor Robert Brandt yesterday to dismiss James Earl Ray's suit opposing his transfer to a federal prison, since the federal government has refused to take custody of him.

But Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, asked in a separate motion that Brandt place the case "on the retired docket, where it will be immediately available should the pending constitutional and other questions... again require attention."

THE MOTIONS are set to be heard by Brandt Aug. 12.

The chancellor had agreed July 21 to grant Ray a special hearing at Brushy Mountain State Prison on his claims of threats against him and his family by the FBI and federal prison officials.

Ray, who is serving a 99-year prison term for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had filed

suit in an effort to block his transfer to a federal prison, as requested by Gov. Ray Blanton.

BUT U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell announced last week the federal government will not accept custody of Ray "at the present time."

Ray, who is at the center of continuing controversy over the facts of King's death, escaped from the Brushy Mountain State Prison June 10 and was recaptured a short distance from the prison two days later.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 25

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: 8/2/77

Editions:

Authors:

Editors:

Title:

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Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

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Ray Lone Planner Disputed

PETROS, Tenn. (AP)—James Earl Ray's claim that he planned his daring breakout from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary by himself was disputed yesterday by Warden Stonney Lane.

In a copyrighted interview in September's *Playboy* magazine, the convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said he designed the pipe ladder used to scale the prison's wall and worked with no one else on the escape.

"NO, I DON'T believe that's the way it went down," Lane said. "I don't think one man engineered it

completely. We've pretty well theorized how the ladder was made but, of course, we can't comment on it until the trial.

Ray is scheduled to go on trial Oct. 27 on a state charge of escape in the June 10 breakout. Trials for six other inmates who climbed the wall with him will begin in September.

Lane at first expressed surprise that Ray would say he planned the escape alone. But, later he said, "Of course, I'm sure he'd like to take credit for all of it, to get the heat off the rest of them if nothing else."

THE WARDEN also charged that

Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, and interviewers for *Playboy* magazine deceived him in getting an interview and lie detector test from Ray after the escape and recapture.

Playboy said the polygraph examination showed Ray lied when he asked if he killed the civil rights leader in Memphis in 1968. But, the magazine said the test showed that Ray told the truth when he said he knew of no others involved in the slaying.

Kershaw, who sat in on the examination, said the test was faulty.

(Continued Page 17, Col. 1)

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PAGE 13	THE TENNESSEAN
NASHVILLE, TENN.	
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Warden: Ray Didn't Plan Alone

(From Page 13)

because of the conditions under which it was administered.

"ANYONE WHO can read one of these charts can tell. I am amazed that a responsible firm would put out such a chart," he said.

Lane said he took Kershaw at his word when the attorney told him the interviewers were investigators involved in Ray's case.

"We got Houdinied is what we got," he said. "We didn't know until

this afternoon that Playboy had been in here after the escape. They took us to the cleaners on that deal."

MEANWHILE, THE FBI denied yesterday that its agents had struck Larry Hacker, another of the escapees, in an effort to find Ray's location in the woods surrounding the prison.

In the Playboy interview, Ray said Hacker told him FBI agents knocked him in the head with a pistol when they arrested him in a

church about 30 hours after the break.

Harold C. Swanson, special agent in charge of the FBI's East Tennessee Division, called the charge a complete fabrication.

Hacker refused to comply with officers' orders to lie on the floor and was forced to the floor of the church where he was handcuffed, said FBI spokesman Gordon Curley. "In the brief scuffle, he received a slight scalp laceration, possibly from striking his head on a bench or the floor."

DIRECTOR, FBI

10/3/77

Jim
(88-10052)
SAC, MEMPHIS (88-152)

JAMES EARL RAY
ET AL

Enclosed is Southern Airways Statement No.
508969 dated 6/12/77.

On 6/12/77, photographs of JAMES EARL RAY and other escapees from Brushy Mountain State Prison were obtained from The Tennessean newspaper, Nashville, Tennessee, and forwarded to Knoxville via Southern Airways at the request of the SAC, Knoxville Division. Southern Airways was advised to forward the bill to FBI, Memphis, Tennessee.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)

① - Memphis

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[Redacted]

(3) [Redacted]

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5/4/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
(Attn: LEGAL COUNSEL DIVISION)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (~~88-10052~~) (C)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
POSSIBLE UFAC

(OO: KNOXVILLE)

Re Bureau telephone call to the Nashville RA on 5/2/78, and Nashville RA telephone call to the Bureau on 5/3/78, concerning captioned matter.

On 5/2/78, [] Legal Counsel Division, FBI Headquarters, telephonically contacted the Nashville RA and advised as follows:

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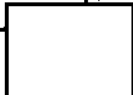
MICHAEL EVERHART, Select Committee on Assassinations, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., had information concerning a planned and/or possible attempted escape of JAMES EARL RAY from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tennessee. The aforementioned committee was desirous of the FBI to investigate this possible escape. However, the Bureau had advised this committee that the attempted escape was not a violation falling within the investigative purview of the FBI. Therefore, the Bureau was desirous for an Agent of the Nashville RA to put a representative from the Select Committee on Assassinations in touch with the appropriate State authority who could investigate this escape, or attempted escape.

On the instructions of the Bureau, the SSRA in Nashville contacted MICHAEL EVERHART of the Select Committee on Assassinations in Washington, D.C., and suggested that the

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- 2 - Bureau
- 1 - Knoxville (Info)
- 1 - Memphis

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attempted escape by RAY would fall within the investigative purview of the Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification (TBI). JOEL PLUMMER, Commissioner of Safety for the State of Tennessee, would be the appropriate State official to contact along with ROBERT G. GOODWIN, Director of the FBI. Mr. EVERHART stated that he would direct his chief investigator, [REDACTED], to come to Nashville the following day to meet with the Tennessee State authorities.

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On 5/3/78, as requested by the Bureau, [REDACTED] was introduced to Commissioner PLUMMER and Mr. GOODWIN. Both [REDACTED] and Commissioner PLUMMER requested that a representative of the FBI sit in on their conference inasmuch as the Select Committee or the State authorities might have a request for the FBI in this investigation.

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For the information of Knoxville, [REDACTED] advised as follows:

The Committee has a highly placed informant familiar with JAMES EARL RAY and his brother JERRY. On that date, JERRY RAY was in Marietta, Georgia, where he would be until around 5/12/78. JERRY RAY is working for and with [REDACTED] who is the [REDACTED] in Marietta, Georgia.

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JERRY RAY is scheduled to visit his brother JAMES EARL at Brushy Mountain State Prison on 5/15/78. In the past, JERRY RAY has always stayed, while visiting his brother, at the Scottish Inn in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

[REDACTED] stated that his source has advised that prior to the visit to the prison, JERRY RAY or some unknown other individual will [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] a specific designated area mentioned, during the evening hours. Furthermore, the subject's [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

88-10052
ME 88-10032

[] pointed out that each time RAY has escaped from prison or attempted an escape, he has been visited just prior to this escape by either his brother JERRY or his brother JOHN, who is in Missouri. Furthermore, the source does not know who is involved in this planned escape or the exact time. The source has advised []

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It is noted that [] and Commissioner PLUMMER requested the assistance of the FBI in the surveillance of JERRY RAY of Marietta, Georgia, and placing him in Tennessee where the TBI could take over. It was suggested that the FBI work with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI) in carrying out this surveillance to bring JERRY RAY in Petros, Tennessee. However, their request would be made known to the Bureau.

Again, the Bureau has advised that the FBI has no violation in the instant matter and ROBERT G. GOODWIN, Director of TBI, was so advised on 5/4/78. Mr. GOODWIN stated that he would contact [] of the Select Committee on Assassinations and ask him to contact the GBI to assist the TBI in the investigation of this instant matter.

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A copy of this communication is being designated for the Knoxville Division inasmuch as the Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tennessee, is located in the Knoxville territory.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 19

Page 6 ~ Duplicate;
Page 7 ~ Duplicate;
Page 8 ~ Duplicate;
Page 9 ~ Duplicate;
Page 10 ~ Duplicate;
Page 11 ~ Duplicate;
Page 12 ~ Duplicate;
Page 13 ~ Duplicate;
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FILES AND RECORDS DESTRUCTION ORDER

Date 6-13-77

TO: SAC _____

FROM: SA RE: File No. 88-14761b6
b7C

I have reviewed this file, and under the criteria set forth in Part II, Section 3, of Manual of Rules and Regulations, this file should be:

☒ Destroyedunder the ☒ 6-month ☐ 10-year Rule

☐ Auxiliary Office original FD-302s, Laboratory or Latent FP reports and/or 1-A Exhibit or Bulky Exhibit FD-192 green sheets have been forwarded to OO as applicable.

☐ Retained

Justification for Retention is as Follows:

**X DO NOT DESTROY
HISTORICAL VALUE
NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

DO NOT DESTROY

COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

**DO NOT DESTROY
PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATION**

Case Agent's Supervisor's b6
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**DO NOT DESTROY
PENDING LITIGATION**

**DO NOT DESTROY
PENDING LITIGATION**

(Title)

(File No.) 88-14761

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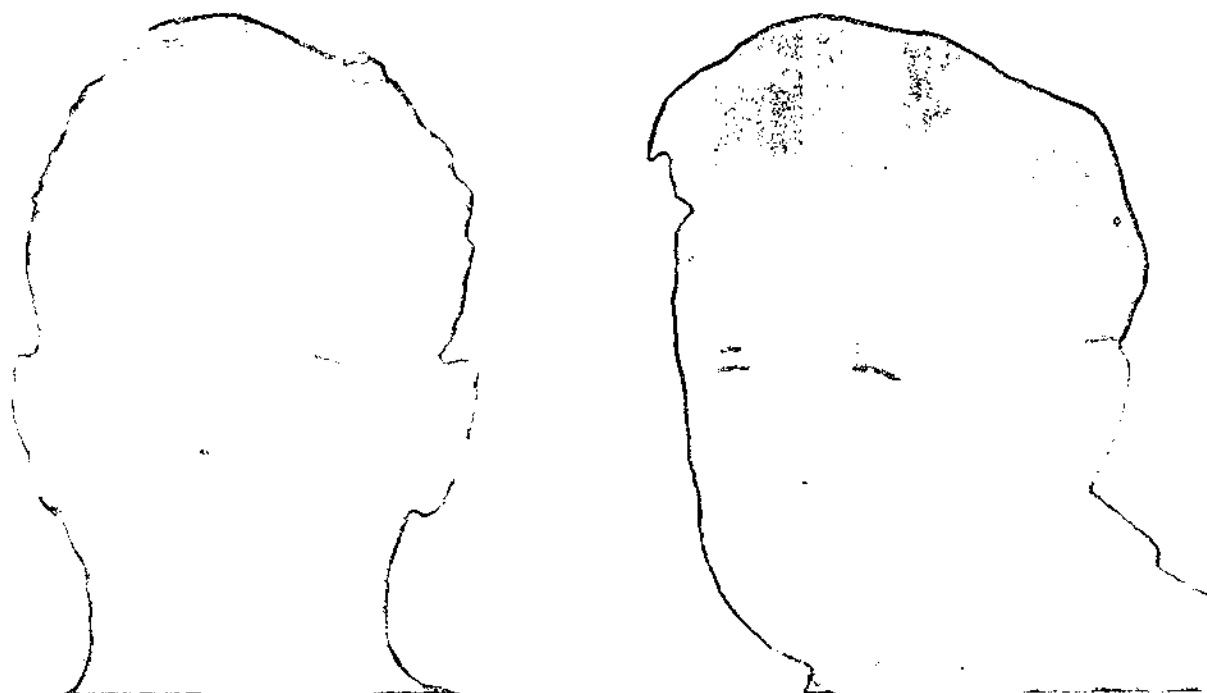
WANTED BY THE FBI

CONSPIRACY; INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ESCAPE

JAMES EARL RAY

Photographs taken 1975

FBI No. 405,942 G



Aliases: Paul Bridgeman, Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Conner, Raymond George Sneyd, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, "Jim," and others.

DESCRIPTION

Age: 49, born March 10, 1928, Quincy or Alton, Illinois (not supported by birth records)

Height: 5'10"

Eyes: Blue

Weight: 170 pounds

Complexion: Medium

Build: Medium

Race: White

Hair: Black, graying

Nationality: American

Occupations: Baker, color matcher, laborer

Scars and Marks: Small scar on center of forehead and small scar on palm of right hand.

Remarks: Noticeably protruding left ear; reportedly a lone wolf; allegedly attended dance instruction school; reportedly completed course in bartending.

Social Security Number Used: 334-22-6876

Fingerprint Classification: 16 M 9 U 000 12 Ref: 9

M 4 W I O I 12

NCIC: 16 13 11 PO 12 12 DI 13 PI 17

CRIMINAL RECORD

Ray has been convicted of murder, burglary, robbery, forging U. S. Postal money orders, armed robbery, operating motor vehicle without owner's consent.

CAUTION

RAY, AT TIME OF ESCAPE, WAS SERVING A NINETY-NINE-YEAR SENTENCE FOLLOWING HIS CONVICTION FOR 1ST DEGREE MURDER WHEREIN A FIREARM WAS USED. CONSIDER ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

A Federal warrant was issued on June 11, 1977, at Knoxville, Tennessee, charging Ray with conspiracy to violate the Unlawful Flight Statute (Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 371, and Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 1073.)

IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS PERSON, PLEASE NOTIFY ME OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FBI OFFICE. TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND ADDRESSES OF ALL FBI OFFICES LISTED ON BACK.

C. M. Kelley
DIRECTOR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
TELEPHONE: 202 324-3000

Entered NCIC
Wanted Flyer 500
June 11, 1977

KCI431 1631734

KCI429 1631637 KX0546 1631616

PP AFD

DF KX

P 121615Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE, (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL CONTINENTAL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE

[REDACTED] SECRET SERVICE, KNOXVILLE, ADVISED
TODAY [REDACTED] DUTY PRESS AIDE, WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON, D. C., ADVISED HE RECEIVED ANONYMOUS CALL
WHICH STATED "JAMES EARL RAY CAN BE REACHED AT 574-7327
RPT 574-7327".

b6
b7C

ALL OFFICES, DETERMINE IF EXCHANGE 574 IS WITHIN
YOUR DIVISION. IDENTIFY SUBSCRIBER AND IF RAY IS AT
THAT LOCATION.

KNOXVILLE HAS DETERMINED THAT EXCHANGE 574 IS NOT
A TENNESSEE EXCHANGE.

BT

88-14761-4

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

contacted 12:45 P
advised 574 exchange in Jenkins no.
advised

KCI453 1640528 KX0562 1640507

PP AFD

DE KX

P 130505Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7227) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE. "TEN MOST WANTED
FUGITIVE". EARL HILL, JR., AKA - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY
TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

REMYTEL JUNE 11, 1977.

SUBJECT HILL APPREHENDED BY PRISON GUARDS APPROXIMATELY
FOUR MILES FROM PRISON.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BR

88-14761-5
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED

b6
b7C

KCI459 1640847 KX0568 1640826

PP AFD

DE KX

P 130825Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS . PRIORITY

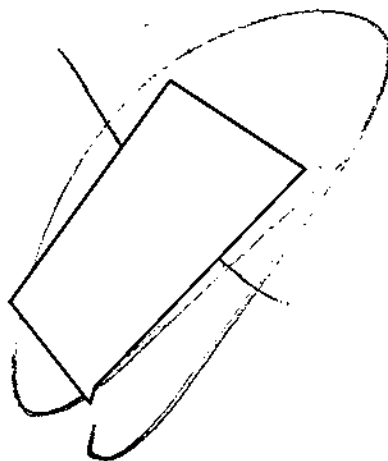
BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; ET AL. CONSPIRACY
TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. (OO: KNOXVILLE).

JAMES EARL RAY APPREHENDED ABOUT 2:15 AM, JUNE 13,
1977, APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN MILES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN
STATE PRISON BY CORRECTION AUTHORITIES. ALL OFFICES
DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE RAY.

BT



88-14761-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILE

[Redacted box]

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KCI481 1642305 KX0597 1642244

PP AFD

DE KX

P 132240Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[REDACTED] EARL HILL, JR.;

[REDACTED]; JAMES EARL RAY; [REDACTED]

FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. OO:
KNOXVILLE.

TITLE CHANGED TO DELETE FUGITIVE FROM SUBJECTS

[REDACTED], HILL AND RAY.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE JUNE 12, 1977.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED
JUNE 19 JAMES EARL RAY WAS APPREHENDED BY CORRECTION
AUTHORITIES AT APPROXIMATELY 2:15 AM, JUNE 13, 1977, IN
A MOUNTAINOUS AREA APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN MILES FROM BRUSHY

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

88-14261-7

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
JUN 14 1977
FBI-KA

INDEXED
FILED

PAGE TWO KX 88-7223 CLEAR
MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON (BMSP).

INVESTIGATION BY BUREAU AGENTS AND ANDERSON COUNTY,
TENNESSEE, DEPUTY SHERIFFS DETERMINED THAT INDIVIDUAL
FITTING [REDACTED] DESCRIPTION HAD POSSIBLY STOLEN A PICKUP
TRUCK FROM A VILLAGE NEAR THE PRISON. A BROADCAST WAS PUT
OUT ON THIS TRUCK AND IT WAS LATER WRECKED AT A ROADBLOCK
NEAR OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, WITH THE DRIVER ESCAPING.

b6
b7c

BUREAU AGENT TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED OAK RIDGE,
TENNESSEE, TO APPRISE THEM OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION, AND
[REDACTED] WAS APPREHENDED BY OAK RIDGE, TENN., P.D.
AS RESULT OF THIS INFORMATION.

b6
b7c

PRISON AUTHORITIES STATE SUBJECT [REDACTED] ONLY REMAINING
FUGITIVE IS IN A MOUNTAIN APPROXIMATELY TEN MILES FROM THE
PRISON, AND THAT THEY ARE RESTING THEIR DOGS AND HAVE THE
MOUNTAIN SURROUNDED. PRISON AUTHORITIES STATE THEIR FORCES
PLAN TO ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND [REDACTED] PM, JUNE 13, 1977.

b6
b7c

SAC RELEASED ALL SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED FROM OTHER
DIVISIONS.

KNOXVILLE SPECIAL AGENTS DEPARTED PRISON PREMISES.

PAGE THREE KX38-7223 CLEAR

DAILY TELETYPE SUMMARY BEING DISCONTINUED.

INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE CONTINUING.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

b6
b7c

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray to Remain In State Prison

WASHINGTON (AP)—The federal government will not take over custody of James Earl Ray, despite Tennessee's request that the convicted assassin of Martin Luther King, Jr., be removed from a state prison, Attorney General Griffin Bell announced Wednesday.

Ray escaped in June from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary in Tennessee. When he was recaptured 54½ hours later, Tennessee officials sought to turn him over to federal authorities.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Kansas City
Times
Page 26

Date: 7/29/77

Edition: Main

Author:

Editor: WM. BAKER

Title:

b6

b7C

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

DO NOT DESTROY
FBI/DOJ
COMMUNICATIONS

88-14761-8
JUL 29 1977
[] []
[]

SI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Pleads Not Guilty To Escape

WARTBURG, Tenn. (AP)—James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., pleaded not guilty yesterday to an escape charge in connection with a daring breakout at Brushy Mountain State Prison. Trial on the charge was set for Oct. 27.

Through his attorney, Jack Kershaw, Ray pleaded not guilty to an indictment returned Monday charging him and six other inmates with escape. The seven scaled a 10-foot wall at the prison last month. All were recaptured within four days.

Ray was arraigned before Criminal Court Judge Lee Asbury in a Morgan County Vocational School classroom in Wartburg, about 10 miles from the prison. The county courthouse is being renovated.

It was Ray's first time outside the prison since he was recaptured on June 13, 54½ hours after his escape. He wore a green fatigue jacket, jeans, a blue shirt and sunglasses during his appearance yesterday.

He spoke only once, responding, "Yes, sir," when Asbury asked him, "Are you James Earl Ray?"

Kershaw said his defense would be based on the argument that the escape was not illegal because Ray was never given a jury trial and was, therefore, confined illegally.

Ray, 49, pleaded guilty in March, 1969, to killing the Rev. Dr. King in April, 1968, and was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

The six other inmates also entered pleas of not guilty to the escape charges, and their trials were set for late October and November. If convicted, all seven face one to five years additional imprisonment.



JAMES EARL RAY
daring escape

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Kansas City
Times
Page 3B

Date: 7/28/77

Edition: Main

Author:

Editor: WM. BAKER

Title:

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Character:

or

Classification:

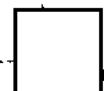
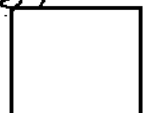
Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

DO NOT DESTROY
PRESERVE FOR SELECT

COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

88-14761-9



FBI/DOJ

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 13; KANSAS CITY STAR;
Kansas City, Mo.Date: July 30, 1981
Edition: Main

Title: JAMES EARL RAY

Character:

or

Classification: 88-14761

Submitting Office: KC

Indexing:

3 blacks accused in Ray attack

By the Associated Press

Wartburg, Tenn.—A grand jury has accused three members of a black inmate group of stabbing James Earl Ray last month while Ray was studying in a law library at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary in Petros, Tenn., officials report.

Ray, 53, convicted of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was taken from the Tennessee State Penitentiary in Nashville to appear before the Morgan County grand jury in Wartburg. Ray has been held at the Nashville prison since he suffered 22 stab wounds on June 4.

The three inmates, each indicted on one count of assault with intent to murder, have been isolated under administrative lock-up since they were seized by prison guards the day of the attack. They are to be arraigned Thursday.

Paul Phillips, the local district attorney general, identified the inmates indicted Monday as John W. Partee, of Nashville, Jerome N. Ransom, of Chattanooga, and Doc Walker, of Memphis.

88-14761-10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI-KANSAS	

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

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United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

JAMES EARL RAY

WARRANT OF ARREST

To U. S. Marshal or any other duly authorized officer

You are hereby commanded to arrest JAMES EARL RAY, and bring him
here insert name of defendant or description
forthwith before the nearest available United States Magistrate to answer to a complaint charging him
with conspiracy to violate the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement
here describe offense charged in complaint
Statute,

in violation of U.S.C. Title, 18, Section 371

Date June 11, 1977.

United States Magistrate.

* Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

RETURN

Received _____, 19 at _____, and executed by arrest of _____
at _____ on _____, 19

Date

, 19

By _____, Deputy

*Name.*_____
*Title.*_____
District of _____

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

WARRANT OF ARREST

b6
b7CTo U. S. Marshal or any other duly authorized officer

You are hereby commanded to arrest

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, and bring him

forthwith before the nearest available United States Magistrate to answer to a complaint charging him
with conspiracy to violate the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement
Statute,
here describe offense charged in complaint

in violation of U.S.C. Title, 18, Section 371

Date June 11, 19 77.

United States Magistrate.

* Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

RETURN

Received, 19 at, and executed by arrest of

at

on

, 19

Name.

Title.

Date

District of

, 19

By Deputy

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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at

on

, 19

Name._____
Title.

Date

District of

, 19

By

Deputy

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

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RETURN

Received

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at

on

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Name.

Title.

Date

District of

, 19

By _____, Deputy

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

WARRANT OF ARREST

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here describe offense charged in complaint

Statute,

in violation of U.S.C. Title, 18, Section 371

Date June 11, 1977.

United States Magistrate.

* Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

RETURN

Received

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, and executed by arrest of

at

on

, 19

Name._____
Title.

Date

District of

, 19

By

, Deputy

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

EARL HILL, JR.

WARRANT OF ARREST

To U. S. Marshal or any other duly authorized officer

You are hereby commanded to arrest

EARL HILL, Jr.

here insert name of defendant or description

, and bring him

forthwith before the nearest available United States Magistrate to answer to a complaint charging him

with conspiracy to violate the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement

here describe offense charged in complaint

Statute,

in violation of U.S.C. Title, 18, Section 371

Date June 11, 19 77.

United States Magistrate.

* Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

RETURN

Received

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, and executed by arrest of

at

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Name._____
Title.

Date

District of

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By _____, Deputy

(File No.)

88-2224-1A

[illegible]

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88-7224-1A

JUN 14 1977

b6
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File No. 88-7224-1A1

Date Received 6/10/77

From BRUSHY MT PRISON
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

Receipt Given

☐ Yes

☒ No

Description:

23 photos

[Redacted Box]

b6
b7C

88-7224-1A1

88-7224-1A1

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

INSTRUCTIONS - Reverse side

TO : Director, FBI
Att: Special Investigative Division

DATE: 6/11/77

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT:

- ☒ Initial Submission
☐ Supplements FD-65 dated _____
☐ Photograph not needed

b6
b7C

Indicate following:

- ☐ Extremist (Black)
☐ Extremist (White)
☐ Rev. Act.
☐ Other Security background
☒ None of these

Caution	☒	MKE	Name	[Redacted]		NAM	Sex	SEX	Race	RAC
Place of Birth	POB		Birth Date	DOB	Height	HGT	Weight	WGT		
Eye Color	EYE	Hair Color	HAI	FBI No.	FBI	Skin Tone	SKN			
Scars, Marks, Tattoos, etc.	[Redacted]							SMT		
NCIC Fingerprint Classification	FPC	Other Identifying Number	MNU	Social Security #	SOC					
Operator's License Number	OLN	Operator's License State	OLS	Year Expire	OLY					
Offense Charged	OFF	CONSPIRACY								
U. S. Code, Title and Section	U.S.C. Title 18, Sec. 371									
Warrant Issued By	U.S. DIST. JUDGE FRANK A. KAUFMAN					DOW	F. O. File #	OCA		
Date PBV or Bond Default Case Referred to Office	6/11/77					88-7224				
Miscellaneous Including Bond Recommended	MIS			Fingerprint Classification (Henry System)						
NONE										

b6
b7C

LICENSE PLATE AND VEHICLE INFORMATION

License Plate Number	LIC	State	LIS	Year Expires	LIY	License Plate Type	LIT				
Vehicle Identification #	VIN	Year	VYR	Make	VMA	Model	VMO	Style	VST	Color	VCO
Aliases					Additional Identifiers						
NCIC	[Redacted]				NIC						

b6
b7C

88-7224-6

W. T. H. 00000

23:51 06/10/77 00012

21:52 06/10/77 00100 TWF21KX00

TXT

4227 THTHP0100 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE JUNE 10, 1977

A P B NATIONWIDE -- ATTN STATES KENTUCKY-GEORGIA
SOUTHEAST NET

A P B TENNESSEE
ADMINISTRATIVE HQS

ESCAPEE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON PETROS, TENNESSEE PM 061077

1. JAMES EARL RAY--MM-031000-510-170 BLACK GREYING HAIR-LSW STREET CLOTHES
NOD- SERVING 99 YEARS FOR MURDER DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING.
2. [REDACTED] SCR LEFT FOREHEAD-NOD
SERVING 51 YEARS ATTEMPTED MURDER b6 b7c
3. [REDACTED] NUMEROUS TATTOOS BOTH ARMS-NOD
SERVING 60 YRS ATTEMPTED MURDER-FROM SULLIVAN CO TENNESSEE.
4. [REDACTED] -BLK-PRO-TAT UPPR R/ARM "WW/CM"
100 YRS MURDER-FROM SHELBY COUNTY TENNESSEE.
5. EARL HILL JR.-MM-101040-500-130-BLK-GRN-SCR FOREHEAD-NOD
100 YRS + LIFE FOR MURDER-FROM WASHINGTON AND UNICOI CO. TENNESSEE.
6. [REDACTED] BRO-GRY-SPIDER TATTOO ON ARM
FROM HARDIN CO TN-NOD

ATTN CHATTANOOGA TENN-DANVILLE KY.

UNCONFIRMED REPORT UNIDENTIFIED SUBJECTS SEEN ON FREIGHT
TRAIN EARLIER THIS PM. ONE TRAIN HEADED FOR DANVILLE KY
OTHER TO CHATTANOOGA TENN. NO OTHER INFORMATION

ANY CONTACT ADVISE AUTHORITY

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL KNOXVILLE OPR [REDACTED] 2253 EDT

b6
b7c

ZW.TNFBIX00.NIC/[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

TNFBIX00

EW-C TNFBIX00 NAM/[REDACTED] SEX/M RAC/W POB/[REDACTED] DOB/[REDACTED]

HGT/[REDACTED] WGT/[REDACTED] HAI/[REDACTED] SMT/[REDACTED] SOC/[REDACTED]

OFF/4902 DOW/061177 OCA/88-7224

MIS/UFAC-CONSPIRACY NO BOND

NIC/[REDACTED]

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ORI IS FBI KNOXVILLE TN

NIC/[REDACTED]

EW-C.TNFBIX00.

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[REDACTED]...SC FHD...[REDACTED]....

4902.061177.88-7224.UFAC-CONSPIRACY NO BOND

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P 123733Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (33-7223)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SAC'S PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[REDACTED] AKA - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ESCAPE.

OO KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SAC'S DATED
JUNE 11, 1977.

DISCONTINUE ON SUBJECT [REDACTED] APPREHENDED ABOUT
2 A.M., JUNE 12, 1977, BY BUREAU AGENTS AND ANDERSON COUNTY S O,
NEAR BEACH GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGHWAY 116, ANDERSON COUNTY
APPROXIMATELY 4 MILES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON.

BT

88-7224-46

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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[REDACTED]

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F B I

Date: 6/12/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

541

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (91-5689) (P)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

PHILADELPHIA PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES;
UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO KNOXVILLE.

SA [] ASSIGNED PHILADELPHIA DIVISION.

FOR INFO OF PHILADELPHIA, SA [] HAS
BFEN IN THE KNOXVILLE DIVISION ON SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY
IN BANK ROBBERY TRIAL CONCERNING [] AND

[] UPON COMPLETION OF HIS ASSIGNMENT
IN THE BR TRIAL HIS SERVICES HAVE BEEN UTILIZED ON THE
ESCAPE OF CAPTIONED SUBJECT RAY AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE
UTILIZED UACB.

UPON COMPLETION OF [] CURRENT ASSIGNMENT, HE WILL
IMMEDIATELY DEPART KNOXVILLE DIVISION FOR PHILADELPHIA
DIVISION.

BT

① - 88-7223
1 - 91-5689

(2)

Approved: *HCS/gm*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

11 15 A

M

Per []

88-7224-47

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

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F B I

Date: 6-12-77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

543

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

ATTENTION PERSONNEL AND FINANCE MOVEMENT UNIT

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE;

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO KNOXVILLE.

SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED FROM OTHER DIVISIONS.

FOR INFO OF BUREAU FOLLOWING AGENTS ARRIVED KNOXVILLE
DIVISION JUNE 11, 1977 ON SPECIAL ASSIGNMENT:

ATLANTA DIVISION: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

MEMPHIS DIVISION: [REDACTED]

TO BE REPLACED ON JUNE 12 BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TO BE REPLACED ON JUNE 12 BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

- 1 - Atlanta (Mail)
- 1 - Louisville (Mail)
- 1 - Memphis (Mail)

(4)

b6
b7Cb6
b7CApproved: HCS
Special Agent in ChargeSent 11⁴³ A M Per [REDACTED]

88-7224-48

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

KX 88-7223 PAGE TWO PRIORITY

LOUISVILLE DIVISION: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

IN ADDITION, SA [REDACTED] PHILADELPHIA
DIVISION, IN KNOXVILLE ON SUBPOENA, IS REMAINING UNTIL
COMPLETION OF SPECIAL AND BUREAU WILL BE ADVISED UPON HIS
DEPARTURE.

BUREAU AND INTERESTED DIVISIONS WILL BE ADVISED OF
DEPARTURE OF ABOVE MENTIONED SPECIAL AGENTS FROM THIS
DIVISION.

BT

#

b6
b7cApproved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

88-7224-51

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O '110409' Z JUN 77

FM ATLANTA (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

SAVANNAH IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC STAVRO GALT, JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY LOWMEYER, HARVEY LOWMYER - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO DIRECTOR ET AL DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

FOR INFO RECEIVING OFFICES, ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY USAG GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT

[REDACTED] AND PREPARED BY AUSA [REDACTED] AT KNOXVILLE, TENN. COMPLAINT FILED BY SA [REDACTED] BEFORE USDJ FRANK A. KAUFMAN AT KNOXVILLE CHARGING RAY AND OTHERS IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 371, IN UNLAWFULLY, ETC., CONSPIRING TO

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88-7224-55

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PAGE TWO ATLANTA CLEAR

VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073. RAY AND COMPANIONS SHOULD BE HELD WITHOUT BOND.

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 P.M., JUNE 10, 1977, RAY, IN THE COMPANY OF [REDACTED], EARL HILL, JR., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] ESCAPED BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON (BMSP), PETROS, TENN., USING A LADDER ON THE OUTSIDE WALL FOLLOWING A DISTRACTION OF THE GUARDS BY OTHER PRISONERS.

BMSP RECORDS REFLECT JAMES EARL RAY AS W/M, DOB MAR. 10, 1923, 5'10", 175 LBS., BLACK AND GRAY HAIR, BLUE EYES, FAIR COMPLEX.

RECEIVING OFFICES REVIEW RESPECTIVE MURKIN FILES AND SET FORTH ADDITIONAL LOGICAL LEADS.

REVIEW OF FILES OF SUBJECT RAY (YEAR 1968) AT MEMPHIS HAS CREATED THE FOLLOWING LEADS SET FORTH TO DETERMINE LATEST KNOWN CONTACTS WITH RAY AND MOST RECENT INFORMATION OF HIS ACTIVITIES:

ATLANTA AT DALTON, GA. [REDACTED] WHITFIELD COUNTY JAIL, ON APPEAL FOR MURDER AND FORMER MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP) ASSOCIATE.

INVESTIGATION DALTON, GA., REFLECTS [REDACTED]

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PA

G

E THREE ATLANTA CLEAR

PROBABLY INCARCERATED GEORGIA STATE PRISON. ON JUNE 11, 1977,

CAPT. (FNU) [REDACTED] GEORGIA STATE PRISON, REIDSVILLE, GA.,

ADVISED [REDACTED] FBI NUMBER [REDACTED], GEORGIA BOARD

OF CORRECTIONS NUMBER [REDACTED], GEORGIA STATE PRISON NUMBER

[REDACTED] IS PRESENTLY INCARCERATED AT GEORGIA STATE PRISON, REIDSVILLE, GA., IN DETAIL 15, G-2 DORMATORY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS, ESCAPE RISK.

BT

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R 110230Z JUNE 77

FM TAMPA (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC STARVE GALT, JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY
LOWMEYER, HARVEY LOWMYER; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC -
ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KX0457, DATED 061177, CONCERNING PRISON VISITOR [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ORLANDO, FLA.

[REDACTED] ORLANDO, FLA., CURRENTLY HELD BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] WHO HAS HAD BOX FOR PAST THREE YEARS. IN POST OFFICE FILES
HE LISTED ADDRESS AS [REDACTED], ORLANDO, FLA., WHICH IS FOR
A SMALL DUPLEX NOW VACANT. NEIGHBORS STATED LAST TENANTS AT THAT
ADDRESS WERE BLACK WHO MOVED OUT LATE SUMMER '76 AND DUPLEX VACANT
SINCE THAT TIME. NEIGHBORS DID NOT KNOW [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] SAYING NEIGHBORHOOD IS TRANSIENT-TYPE.

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PAGE TWO TP 88-NEW CLEAR

USPO SOURCE DESCRIBED [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] STYLED

MEDIUM LENGTH AND RECENTLY GREW BEARD. HE WAS SEEN IN COMPANY
OF OLDER W/F, NAME UNKNOWN, IN ABOUT [REDACTED] IN RECENT PAST. USPO
HAS NO CHANGE OF ADDRESS FOR [REDACTED] FROM ABOVE ADDRESS.

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INVESTIGATION AT ORLANDO, FLA. CONTINUING TO LOCATE [REDACTED]
FOR INFORMATION WITH WHICH TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

BT

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FM WASHINGTON FIELD (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA, ERIC STARVE GALT, JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY
LOWMEYER, HARVEY LOWMYER - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT
UFAC-ESCAPE; OO: KNOXVILLE

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JUNE 11, 1977.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, [REDACTED], ATTORNEY
AT LAW, [REDACTED] ASSOCIATES, [REDACTED] WASHINGTON,
D.C. (WDC), ADVISED THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS CURRENTLY
BEING RETAINED BY SUBJECT RAY. [REDACTED] CONTINUED
THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY SEEN RAY REGARDING HIS APPEALS IN
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, IN 1976, AND HAD NOT SEEN HIM SINCE
THAT TIME.

[REDACTED] RECALLED THAT ONE OF RAY'S REGULAR

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PAGE TWO WF 88-NEW CLEAR

VISITORS WAS [REDACTED], WHO APPARENTLY SERVED RAY AS BOTH A CONFIDANT AND AS ATTORNEY. [REDACTED] SUGGESTED THAT [REDACTED] BE CONTACTED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING RAY.

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 11 HE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL INQUIRIES FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTERS IN THE WDC AREA REQUESTING HIS COMMENTS REGARDING THE FUGITIVE'S STATUS OF RAY. [REDACTED] CONTINUED THAT DURING ONE OF THOSE CONTACTS BY THE PRESS HE WAS ADVISED THAT RAY'S BROTHER, JERRY, HAD VISITED AT THE BRUSHY MOUNT PRISON THE DAY BEFORE RAY ESCAPED. [REDACTED] CONTINUED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ON THE DAY PRIOR TO RAY'S ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI PRISON IN 1969, HE WAS ALSO VISITED BY HIS BROTHER, JERRY.

[REDACTED] CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY STATING THAT HE, PERSONALLY, HAD ONLY KNOWN RAY ONLY SLIGHTLY IN HIS ROLE AS DEFENSE ATTORNEY, BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS HIS CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT RAY WAS IN NO WAY MENTALLY DERANGED AND POSSESSED A HIGH DEGREE OF NATIVE INTELLIGENCE AND CUNNING.

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b7C

b6
b7C

PAGE THREE WF 88-NEW CLEAR

WITH REGARD TO OTHER WDC ATTORNEY [REDACTED] STATED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT [REDACTED] HAD NOT SEEN RAY PERSONALLY IN THE PAST YEAR.

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b7C

WITH REGARD TO ATTORNEY [REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] WAS ONE OF RAY'S DEFENSE ATTORNEYS IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND THAT THE FALLS BUILDING WAS IN FACT LOCATED IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, INSTEAD OF WDC.

EFFORTS TO CONTACT ATTORNEY [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BUT ARE CONTINUING.

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MEMPHIS, AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. WILL INTERVIEW ATTORNEY [REDACTED] FOR ANY INFORMATION REGARDING RAY'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

WASHINGTON FIELD, AT WDC. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW ATTORNEY [REDACTED] WDC, TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

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LEAD TO CONTACT [REDACTED] IS BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

KXI616 1630530 IP0744 1630530

OO HQ CI ME KX

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O 120530Z JUN 77

FM INDIANAPOLIS (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE (88-7223)

MEMPHIS PRIORITY (88-10057)

CINCINNATI IMMEDIATE

BT

E F T O

[REDACTED] AKA - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE
UFAC - ESCAPE. OO KX.

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RE MEMPHIS TEL JUNE 11, 1977 AND INDIANAPOLIS AIRTEL
TO MEMPHIS APRIL 12, 1977 CAPTIONED [REDACTED] ETAL -
FUGITIVE [REDACTED] OO KX.

FOR INFORMATION OF CINCINNATI BUAGENTS CONTACTED [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] INDIANA ON JUNE 10, 1977

REGARDING LOCATION OF [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE

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PAGE TWO IP 88-NEW E F T O

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT WITHIN THE LAST TWO WEEKS A TRAILER
HAS BEEN PARKED ON THE [REDACTED] WHICH IS LOCATED DIRECTLY
ACROSS FROM THEIR HOME, BUT THEY HAD NOT OBSERVED ANY INDIVIDUALS
NEAR THIS TRAILER. THEY BELIEVE [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ARE RESIDING IN THE HAMILTON, OHIO AREA,
OCCASIONALLY VISITING METAMORA, INDIANA.

CINCINNATI AT HAMILTON, OHIO WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND
INTERVIEW [REDACTED] THROUGH [REDACTED] OF A BAR AND
POOL HALL, FIVE POINTS, HAMILTON, OH. OR THROUGH [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] HAMILTON, OH.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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O 121056Z JUN 77

FM LOS ANGELES (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (88-10052) IMMEDIATE

BT

C L E A R

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC-ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE NEW ORLEANS TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE 11, 1977.

INVESTIGATION INSTANT DATE TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] NEGATIVE. INVESTIGATION AT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] TO LOCATE [REDACTED] NEGATIVE AS NO RESIDENCES AT EITHER
ADDRESS. INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE [REDACTED] THROUGH TELEPHONE NUMBER
[REDACTED] NEGATIVE AT THIS TIME.

LOS ANGELES AT LOS ANGELES CONTINUING INVESTIGATION TO
LOCATE [REDACTED] AND INTERVIEW RE POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE OF RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS; ESCAPE RISK.

BT

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[REDACTED]

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KX1630 1631343 CG0271 1631343

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O 121340Z JUN 77

FM CHICAGO (SS-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BOSTON IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA- FUGITIVE CONSPIRACY; UFAC-ESCAPE

OO: KNOXVILLE

RE CG TELCALLS TO BUREAU AND BOSTON INSTANT.

CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCE OF SUBJECT'S BROTHER, JERRY W. RAY, HAS BEEN MAINTAINED BY CHICAGO DIVISION. AT 5:50 AM CHICAGO TIME JERRY RAY LEFT HIS RESIDENCE, ENTERED HIS CAR AND DROVE IN DIRECTION OF CHICAGO O'HARE AIRPORT. EN ROUTE RAY'S CAR BROKE DOWN AND HE WAS THEN GIVEN A RIDE TO O'HARE AIRPORT BY BUCAR. RAY WAS PREVIOUSLY AWARE OF SURVEILLANCE. RAY ADVISED HE WAS TRAVELING TO BOSTON TO MEET [REDACTED] [REDACTED] FOR A BRIEF BUSINESS MEETING AT THE BOSTON AIRPORT. AFTER MEETING HE WOULD RETURN DIRECTLY TO CHICAGO.

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843 *am*

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PAGE TWO CG 88-NEW

AT 6:50 AM CHICAGO TIME RAY BOARDED UNITED AIR LINES FLIGHT 158 (NONSTOP) TO BOSTON, ARRIVING 9:55 AM BOSTON TIME. JERRY RAY IS USING NAME JERRY RYAN. RAY IS DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, 5'8", 170 LBS, WEARING BLUE CHECK SPORT COAT, DARK BLUE TROUSERS, POWDER BLUE FLOWERED SHIRT, NO NECKTIE, AND CARRING SMALL BLUE ATHLETIC BAG,

BOSTON WILL PROVIDE SURVEILLANCE OF JERRY RAY WHILE IN BOSTON DIVISION AND DETERMINE RETURN CONNECTIONS TO CHICAGO IN ORDER THAT HE MAY BE MET AT CHICAGO O'HARE AIRPORT.

FACSIMILE PHOTO OF JERRY RAY FORWARDED TO BOSTON.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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KXI635 1631706 AT 0455 1631706

RR HQ KX ME

DE AT

R 12 1616Z JUN 77

M ATLANTA (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

SAVANNAH ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA-FUGATIVE.

CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC- ESCAPE OO:KNOXVILLE

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO DIR 6/11/77

[REDACTED] ATLANTA, GA.

[REDACTED] FURNISHED FOLLOWING:

[REDACTED] IN ATLANTA. [REDACTED] WAS RECENTLY

[REDACTED] AND DECIDED

TO TAKE A VACATION. HE CLOSED RESTAURANT TWO WEEKS AGO AND
LEFT ATLANTA AREA. HE WAS SUPPOSED TO RETURN IN ONE WEEK
TO REOPEN RESTAURANT BUT HAS NOT RETURNED AND [REDACTED] SUSPECTS
HE IS ON ONE OF HIS EXTENDED DRUNKS.

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PAGE TWO

[REDACTED] STATES NEITHER [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] HAVE HAD ANY CONTACT WITH SUBJECT SINCE 1968 AND
SUBJECT WOULD NOT HAVE ANY REASON TO CONTACT THEM, SINCE
THE [REDACTED] OPERATED AT THE TIME HAS
BEEN TORN DOWN AND HE NO LONGER OWNS ANY [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] ADVISED SHE DID NOT HAVE ANY IDEA AS TO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WHEREABOUTS BUT SHE WOULD HAVE [REDACTED]
CONTACT ATLANTA FBI OFFICE IMMEDIATELY UPON HIS RETURN TO
ATLANTA AREA.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS, ESCAPE RISK.

BT

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RR HQ KX

DE BA

R 121700 JUN 77

FM BALTIMORE (88-NEW) -P-

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (ROUTINE)

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC -ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO:KNOXVILLE

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE 12, 1977.

AREA CODE 301, SERVING STATE OF MARYLAND, HAS EXCHANGE 574
IN ESSEX AREA OF BALTIMORE COUNTY; HOWEVER, CONTACT WITH C&P
TELEPHONE COMPANY, BALTIMORE, REVEALED NUMBER 574-7327 NOT IN SER-
VICE. STEWARTS BALTIMORE COUNTY CRISS-CROSS DIRECTORY REFLECTS NO
SUBSCRIBER FOR 574-7327. EXCHANGE 574 NOT USED IN DELAWARE.

BT

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PP KX

DE AQ

P 121647Z JUN 77

FM ALBUQUERQUE

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

BT

CLER

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA-FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED"; UFAC-ESCAPE;

CONSPIRACY; OO: KX

RE KX TELETYPE TO ALL FIELD DIVISIONS, 6-12-77.

AQ DIVISION HAS DETERMINED THERE IS NO 574 EXCHANGE IN THE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

BT

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PP HQ KX

DE LS

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P

P 121725Z JUN 77

FROM LOUISVILLE (88-10598)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY.

BT

CL. EAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND ALL FIELD DIVISIONS, DATED
JUNE 12, 1977.

CHECK OF PHONE EXCHANGES OF KENTUCKY REVEALS THAT THERE IS
NO 574 EXCHANGE IN THE 606 OR 502 AREA CODES OF THE STATE OF
KENTUCKY.

BT

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KXI643 1631809

KXI640 1631755 B50459 1631755

PP HQ KX

DE BS

P 121750Z JUN 77

FM BOSTON (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KX.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE JUNE 12, 1977.

RVIEW OF PERTINENT NEW ENGLAND TELEPHONE COMPANY DIRECTORIES
FOR MAINE, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MASSACHUSETTS, AND RHODE ISLAND,
THE FOUR STATES WITHIN TERRITORY OF THE BOSTON DIVISION, REFLECTS
NO TELEPHONE EXCHANGE 574.

BT

12:55 PM

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PP HQ KX ME

DE BH

P 121655Z JUN 77

FM BIRMINGHAM (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR (PRIORITY)

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

BT

EFT O

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ESCAPE.

OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE JUNE 11, 1977 AND BIRMINGHAM TEL CALL
JUNE 12, 1977, AND KNOXVILLE TELETYPE JUNE 12, 1977.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, SA [] CONTACTED THE REFORM, ALA.
PD AND PICKENS COUNTY, ALA. SO AND WAS ADVISED [] IS
UNKNOWN TO THOSE AGENCIES. REFORM, ALA. POST MASTER ADVISED []
[] FAMILY DID RECEIVE MAIL THROUGH GENERAL DELIVERY UNTIL
ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS AGO WHEN THE FAMILY MOVED. POST MASTER ADVISED

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b7c

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PAGE TWO BH 88-NEW

HE WOULD CHECK HIS RECORDS ON JUNE 13, 1977, TO DETERMINE IF
HE HWS A FORWARDING ADDRESS FOR [REDACTED]

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ON JUNE 11, 1977, [REDACTED] ALA. PD ADVISED
SA [REDACTED] IS BELIEVED TO BE IN
TENNESSEE. [REDACTED] DEPARTED HALEYVILLE, ALA. MORE THAN ONE
YEAR AGO. [REDACTED] STATED HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN AN ADDRESS
FOR [REDACTED]

ON JUNE 12, 1977, SOUTH CENTRAL BELL TELEPHONE CO. PUBLIC
SERVICE OPERATOR ADVISED THAT TELEPHONE EXCHANGE 574 IS LOCATED
AT SCOTTSBORO, ALA. TELEPHONE NUMBER 574-7327 WAS CALLED AND THE
TELEPHONE OPERATOR CAME ON THE LINE AND ADVISED THERE IS NO SUCH
NUMBER AS 574-7327.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS; ESCAPE RISK.

BT 0

Rec'd 2 29 PM

K

KX1644 1631829 AT0457 1631829

RR KX

DE AT

R 12 1745Z JUN 77

FM ATLANTA (88-NEW)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) ROUTINE

BT

LEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA-FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";
UFAC-ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO:KNOXVILLE

RE KX TEL TO DIRECTOR JUNE 11, 1977

ON JUNE 12, 1977 ATTEMPT MADE TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED]
HEAD OF NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY, [REDACTED]
MARIETTA, GA. A MALE INDIVIDUAL AT [REDACTED] RESIDENCE WHO
REFUSED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF BUT WHO WAS NOT IDENTICAL WITH
[REDACTED] STATED HE HAD BEEN EXPECTING THE FBI. CLAIMED [REDACTED]
WAS OUT OF TOWN BUT REFUSED TO FURNISH [REDACTED] LOCATION.
ADVISED [REDACTED] HAD CALLED ON NIGHT OF JUNE 11, 1977; AND
STATED IF FBI CAME TO SEE HIM "TELL THEM HE HAD NOTHING TO
SAY".

b6
b7C

FOR INFORMATION KX FOREGOING IS TYPICAL RESPONSE OF

[REDACTED] IN ATTEMPTS TO INTERVIEW HIM IN THE PAST.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 12 1977	
FBI-KNOXVIL	

88-7224-69

Rec'd 235
P

X

KX1645 1631835 CE0227 1631835

PP HQ KX

DE CE

P 121833Z JUN 77

FM CHARLOTTE (38-15431) (P)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE (38-7223) PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO ALL SACS 6/12/77.

CONTACT WITH OFFICIALS SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY,
CHARLOTTE, N.C., ON 6/12/77 REVEALED THAT 574 IS NOT A
TELEPHONE EXCHANGE CURRENTLY OPERATING IN N.C.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

BT

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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b6
b7c

88-7224-70

Rec'd 242
P

KX1646 1631842 SV0355 1631842.

RR KX

DE SV

R0121830Z JUN 76

FM SAVANNAH 88-7792

TO KNOXVILLE 88-7223

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, TEN MOST WANTED
FUGITIVE", UFAC-ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

A CHECK THIS DATE WITH TELEPHONE AUTHORITIES
DETERMINED NO 574, RPT NO 574, EXCHANGE WITHIN SAVANNAH
DIVISION.

AIRLINES, BUS TERMINALS, RENTAL CAR AGENCIES ALERTED
RE RAY AND OTHERS.

BT

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FBI-KNOXVILLE	

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88-7224-71

KXI649 1631915 CG027 1631915

Rec'd 315
P

PP KX ME SI

DE CG

P 121840Z JUN 77

FM CHICAGO (88-NEW)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (88-10052) PRIORITY

SPRINGFIELD PRIORITY

BT

C L E A R

JAMES EARL RAY, - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO DIRECTOR JUNE 11, 1977, CONTAINING
LEAD TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW AT ILLINOIS STATE PRISON (ISP),

JOLIET, IL., [REDACTED], FBI NO. [REDACTED] AND

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b7C

[REDACTED] NO FURTHER DESCRIPTION FURNISHED, FORMER
INMATES AND ASSOCIATES OF RAY AT MISSOURI STATE PRISON.

ON JUNE 12, 1977, [REDACTED] (PROTECT
BY REQUEST), [REDACTED] CONFIDENT-

b6
b7C
b7D

IALY FURNISHED FOLLOWING WHICH IS NOT TO BE USED IN
COURT OF LAW OR JUDICIAL PROCEEDING WITHOUT ISSUANCE OF
SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM DIRECTED TO WARDEN:

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b7C
b7D

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FILED

JUN 12 1977

FBI-KNOXVI

88-7224-72

PAGE TWO C L E A R

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7D

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

BT

K

X

O

Rec'd 11/3 23 P

KX1650 1631923 CG0282 1631923

RR HQ KX

DE CG

R 121855Z JUN 77

FM CHICAGO (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) ROUTINE

BT

C L E A R

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TEL TO DIRECTOR AND ALL FIELD DIVISIONS

JUNE 12, 1977.

TELEPHONE NUMBER 574-7327 NOT LOCATED IN 312 OR 815

AREA CODES.

BT

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b7D

88-7224-73

Rec'd 354
P

X

KXI653 1631954 C00545 16319545

PP KX

DE CO

P 121953Z JUN 77

FM COLUMBIA (88-NEW)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY.

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE

RE KX TEL NUMBER KX0546, 6/12/77.

[REDACTED], SOUTHERN BELL
TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH CO., COLUMBIA, S.C. ADVISED THAT THERE
IS A 574 EXCHANGE IN SPARTANBURG, S.C. HOWEVER, THE HIGHEST
SEQUENCE OF NUMBERS IN THIS EXCHANGE IS 3900.

BT

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b7C

88-7224-74

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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b6
b7C

Rec 11 355
P

KXI654 1631955 WF0312 1631955

PP HQ KX

DE WF

P 121953Z JUNE 77

FM WASHINGTON FIELD

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE,

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO: KNOXVILLE

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE JUNE 12 1977.

ON JUNE 12 1977, [REDACTED] AND POTOMAC
TELEPHONE COMPANY, WASHINGTON D.C., ADVISED THAT D.C. TELEPHONE
NUMBER 574-7327 IS A DIRECT-IN-DIALING NUMBER ON A TRUNK LINE
INTO ST. ELIZABETH MENTAL HOSPITAL, WDC. [REDACTED] ADVISED THAT
SPECIFIC SUBSCRIBER COULD BE OBTAINED DURING REGULAR WORK HOURS
ON MONDAY JUNE 13 1977.

BT

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88-7224-75

KX1659 1632059 AT 07 1632359

PP KX

DE AT

P 121955Z JUN 77

FM ATLANTA (88-NEW)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA-FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC-ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TEL TO DIRECTOR JUNE 12, 1977.

THIS DATE [REDACTED]

GA. WAS CONTACTED AT [REDACTED], RESIDENCE OF

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OF

RED BANK, TENN. MAY HAVE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION RE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] BY CHATTANOOGA POLICE DEPARTMENT.

REVIEW OF CALHOUN, GA. 1976 CITY DIRECTORY IN 1977 PHONE

BOOK NEGATIVE RE [REDACTED]

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b7C

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88-7224-77

PAGE TWO AT (88-NEW)

KNOXVILLE AT RED BANK, TENN. THRU CHATTANOOGA POLICE
DEPARTMENT LOCATE RESIDENCE OF [REDACTED] AND THERE
AT INTERVIEW [REDACTED] RE LOCATION OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] THEREAFTER SET LEAD TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] RE HIS LAST
CONTACT WITH SUBJECT RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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b7c

KX1662 1632104 DL0561 1632104

RR KX

DE DL

R 121730Z JUN 77

FM DALLAS (88-NEW) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO ALL SACS, DATED JUNE 12, 1977.

ON JUNE 12, 1977, [REDACTED], GENERAL

TELEPHONE COMPANY, DALLAS/FORT WORTH AIRPORT, TEXAS, ADVISED

TELEPHONE NUMBER 574-7327, IS AN NONASSIGNED NUMBER AND HAS NEVER
BEEN ASSIGNED TO A SUBSCRIBER.

BT

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b7c

88-7224-28

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b7c

KX1663 1632109 JK0515 1632109

PP HQ KX

DE JK

P 122106Z JUN 77

FM JACKSONVILLE (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA- FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC- ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO JACKSONVILLE 6/11/77 KNOXVILLE
TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS 6/12/77.

[REDACTED] INMATE MARION CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION,
LOWELL, FLORIDA INTERVIEWED THIS DATE DENIES ANY CONTACT WITH
SUBJECT RAY SINCE THEY BOTH WERE INCARCERATED MISSOURI STATE
PRISON, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI FROM 1963-1967 AT WHICH TIME
THEY WERE BOTH ASSIGNED AS COOKS TO THE PRISON MESS HALL. [REDACTED]
REMEMBERS RAY TO HAVE AN ASSOCIATE BY THE NAME OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WHO WAS ALSO INCARCERATED MISSOURI STATE PRISON AND WHO WAS
RELEASED SOMETIME DURING 1967. [REDACTED] SAID HE THOUGHT [REDACTED] TRAVELED

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88-7224-79

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PAGE TWO JK 38-NEW CLEAR

TO PALM BEACH GARDENS, FLORIDA WHERE HE HAD A RESIDENCE HOWEVER
[] COULD NOT BE SURE AS THIS WAS SOME TEN YEARS AGO.

[] FORMER ASSOCIATE OF RAY RELEASED FROM FLORIDA
STATE PRISON NOVEMBER 1969. FLORIDA PRISON OFFICIALS STATED
COMPLETE FILE FOR [] ON MICROFILM AND WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE
UNTIL AM OF 6/13/77.

TELEPHONE NUMBER 574-7327 MENTIONED IN REFERENCED KX TELETYPE
IS LISTED IN THE DEBARY, FLORIDA EXCHANGE GROUP HOWEVER IT IS
NOT A WORKING NUMBER AND NO SUBSCRIBER LISTED.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

BT

b6
b7c

KX1635 1632115 CV03 1632115

RR HQ KX ME

DE CV

R 122109Z JUN 77

FM CLEVELAND

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (88-10052) ROUTINE

BT

E F T O

CHANGED. JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC STAVRO GALT, JOHN WILLARD,
HARVEY LOWNEYEAR, HARVEY LOWMYER, JIM RAY, JAMES MC BRIDE,
JAMES WALTON, W. C. HERRON, JAMES O' CONNER, JAMES WALYOU
RAMON GEORGE, PAUL BRIDGMAN - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT
UFAC - ESCAPE. OO:KX.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] WEST SALEM, OHIO, TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

INTERVIEWED JUNE 12, 1977 AT RESIDENCE WHERE HE STATED HE IS
AQUAINTED WITH JAMES EARL RAY AS BOTH WERE CELLMATES BACK IN
MID 1960'S AT JEFFERSON CITY PENITENTIARY, JEFFERSON CITY,
MISSOURI.

88-7224-80

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b7C

PAGE TWO CV 88- E F T O

[] LAST SAW RAY IN DECEMBER 1965 WHEN HE [] WAS PAROLLED FROM JEFFERSON CITY. [] HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH RAY SINCE DECEMBER 1965. [] HAS NO IDEA WHERE RAY MIGHT GO OR WHO HE MIGHT CONTACT. [] STATES RAY KNOWS WHERE TO CONTACT [] IN CLEVELAND, OHIO TO ASCERTAIN HIS [] CURRENT ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER, ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT EXPECT RAY TO TRY TO CONTACT HIM.

[] STATED RAY WAS ALWAYS A "LONER" AND IF HE ESCAPED WITH OTHERS, HE WOULD QUICKLY SEPERATE FROM THEM AND GO HIS OWN WAY. [] FEELS RAY WOULD NOT TRAVEL WITH OTHER ESCAPEES AND WOULD NOT GO TO FAMILY AS HE WOULD PROBABLY THINK THEY WERE BEING WATCHED. [] STATES THAT RAY WHILE IN JEFFERSON CITY HE READ MANY "JAMES BOND NOVELS", AND HAS VIVID IMAGINATION AND PROBABLY ORGANIZED THE PLAN FOR THE ESCAPEE. [] STATES RAY IS TYPE TO WAIT TEN YEARS FOR CHANCE TO ESCAPEE AND WOULD ALSO "HOLD UP" FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS TO LET POLICE MOVE SEARCH TO OTHER AREAS AND THEN HE WOULD WALK OUT FOR HELP. ACCORDING TO [] RAY PREVIOUSLY CLAIMED TO HAVE RAISED MONEY BY ROBBING BOOKMAKERS, PIMPS, AND OTHER CRIMINALS AS THEY COULD NOT

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b7c

PAGE THREE CV 88- E F T O

READ IDLY REPORT ROBBERY TO AUTHORITIES. [] ALSO BELIEVES RAY WOULD HAVE TAKEN STAPLES WITH HIM DURING THE ESCAPEE SO HE COULD SURVIVE AND HOLD OUT FOR A FEW DAYS.

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[] STATES RAY ALWAYS CARRIED WEAPON, USUALLY KNIFE, WHILE IN JEFFERSON CITY AND IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. [] BELIEVES RAY WAS PROBABLY ARMED AT TIME OF INSTANT ESCAPE.

[] FEELS RAY PLANNED INSTANT ESCAPE AND USED OTHER INMATES TO HELP HIS CHANCES AT ESCAPING. HE BELIEVES RAY IS STILL HIDING AROUND BRUSH MOUNTAIN PRISON WAITING FOR AUTHORITIES TO MOVE THEIR SEARCH ELSEWHERE. RAY WOULD NOT STAY WITH OTHER ESCAPEES AND PROBABLY LEFT THEM AS SOON AS THEY WERE OVER THE WALL.

[] CLAIMS RAY ONCE ATTEMPTED ESCAPE FROM JEFFERSON CITY BY HIDING IN DUCTWORK FOR THREE DAYS HOPING AUTHORITIES WOULD BELIEVE HE WAS ALREADY OUTSIDE THE PRISON.

b6
b7c

RAY PREVIOUSLY TALKED ABOUT CANADA AND HAS TRAVELED THERE AND

[] FEELS HE COULD BE MAKING PLANS TO GO THERE AGAIN.

[] KNOWS OF NO OTHER CONTACT THAT RAY MIGHT HAVE OR PERSON THAT WOULD HELP HIM. [] PLEDGED HIS COOPERATION AND STATED HE WOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT THE FBI IF HE HEARD ANYTHING ABOUT RAY.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. BT

KX1667 1632136 LA0709 1632136

RR HQ KX ME

DE LA

R 122133Z JUN 77

FM LOS ANGELES (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) ROUTINE

MEMPHIS (88-10052) ROUTINE

BT

LEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA FUG. TEN MOST WANTED FUG.

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO: KNOXVILLE. ET AL.

RE BUTEL ALL CONTINENTAL SACS JUNE 12, 1977.

EXCHANGE 574 RE TELEPHONE NUMBER 574-7327 IS NOT LOCATED
IN AREA CODE AREAS OF 213 AND 714 HANDLED BY LOS ANGELES.

[REDACTED] WAS INTERVIEWED AT LOS ANGELES
TODAY. [REDACTED] WANTED TO RECORD INTERVIEW WHICH WAS DENIED.

[REDACTED] HAD ALLEGED SECRETARY TAKE NOTES. [REDACTED] STATED
HE HAD RECEIVED NO INFORMATION RE SUBJECTS FROM CONTACTS.

LOS ANGELES CONSIDERS [REDACTED] [REDACTED] WAS
INSTRUCTED NOT TO CALL ANYONE RE CASE UNLESS HE RECEIVES
TRUE AND ACTUAL INFORMATION FROM OR CONCERNING SUBJECTS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

5:36p

88-7224-81

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KXI668 1632140 CI0296 1632140

00 KX

DE CI

0122122Z JUN 77

FM CINCINNATI (88-11751) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223)

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE",

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE BUREAU TEL TO ALL SACS JUNE 11, 1977 AND KNOXVILLE
TEL JUNE 12, 1977.

CINCINNATI DIVISION JUNE 11, 1977, HAS PLACED APPROPRIATE
ALERTS AND STOPS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AIR AND
GROUND TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS, PRIVATE AIRPORTS, MAJOR HOTELS
AND MOTELS, CAR RENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AS WELL AS LOGICAL
INFORMANTS IN POSITION TO PROVIDE INFORMATION OF POTENTIAL
LEAD VALUE.

ON JUNE 12, 1977, INVESTIGATION AT CINCINNATI DETERMINED
TELEPHONE [REDACTED] TO BE SUBSCRIBED BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] CINCINNATI. PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH

[REDACTED] SAME DATE DETERMINED NO CONNECTION WITH SUBJECT IN THIS

88-7224-82

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PAGE TWO CI 88-11751 CLEAR

CASE.

ON SAME DATE, GENERAL TELEPHONE, PORTSMOUTH OHIO ADVISED
614-574-7327 IS A NON-WORKING NUMBER AND HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED
FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD OF TIME.

THE SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE ABOVE INVESTIGATION BEING
PROVIDED THE KNOXVILLE DIVISION BY SEPARATE COMMUNICATION IN
FORM OF INVESTIGATIVE INSERT.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AT CINCINNATI.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. ESCAPE RISKS.

BT

KX1670 1632348 AT 0461 1632348

PP KX

DE AT

P 122300Z JUNE 77

FM ATLANTA (88-NEW) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA- FUGITIVE, TOP TEN, UFAC-ESCAPE-CONSPIRACY. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU JUNE 12, 1977.

ON JUNE 12, 1977, PURSUANT TO INSTRUCTION FROM

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE AND
TELEGRAPH COMPANY, ROME, GEORGIA,

SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY, CARROLLTON, GEORGIA
ADVISED S.A. RECORD'S OF THAT OFFICE,
WHICH IS THE BILLING OFFICE FOR THE 574 EXCHANGE, TALLA-
POOSA, HARALSON COUNTY, GEORGIA, REVEALES THE PHONE NUMBER
OF WAS SUBSCRIBED TO BY , THEN AN
EMPLOYEE OF AMERICAN THREAD COMPANY, THE FINAL BILLING FOR
THE NUMBER BEING MAY, 1976 AND APPEARING ON THE FIRST MICRO-
FISH BILLING RENDERED FOR THAT OFFICE IN JUNE, 1976. 88-7224-83

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b7c

b6
b7c

PAGE TWO AT (88-NEW), CLEAR

THIS NUMBER HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED SINCE MAY OR PRIOR TO
MAY, 1976 WITH THE FINAL BILL BEING SENT TO [REDACTED]
AT [REDACTED] NORTH CAROLINA,
NORTH CAROLINA PHONE NUMBER THEN OF [REDACTED] THIS
BEING IN JUNE, 1976.

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED RE ABOVE
PHONE NUMBER IN THE (404) AREA CODE AREA.

[REDACTED] GEORGIA TELEPHONE CORPORATION,
OCHLOCHNEE, GEORGIA, WHICH HAS TELEPHONE EXCHANGE [REDACTED]
ADVISED S.A. [REDACTED] THERE ARE NO TELEPHONES IN HIS
EXCHANGE, AREA CODE 912, BEYOND THE 5000 SERIES.

////////////////// ARMED AND DANGEROUS //////////////////

BT

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b7C

b6
b7C

KXI671 1632350 DMO476 1632350

PP HQ KX

DE DN

P 122335Z JUN 77

FM DENVER (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

BT

QLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE, JUNE 12, 1977.

INVESTIGATION BY DENVER DIVISION REVEALS EXCHANGE
574 IS FOR COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO. INVESTIGATION AT

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO REVEALED TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SUBSCRIBED TO BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] COLORADO.

PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE OF [REDACTED] REVEALED
THE PRESENCE OF NO OUT OF STATE VEHICLES AND THE ONLY
VEHICLE NOTED ON SURVEILLANCE WAS A 1977 PLYMOUTH, BEARING
COLORADO LICENSE [REDACTED], WHICH REGISTERED TO [REDACTED]

CRIMINAL CHECKS COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO AND DENVER

7:50

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84

PAGE TWO DN 88-NEW CLEAR

INDICES NEGATIVE RE [REDACTED]

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b7c

[REDACTED] COLORADO,
IS IN UPPER MIDDLE CLASS NEIGHBORHOOD.

IN VIEW OF FACT THAT NO FURTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE
TO THE DENVER DIVISION CONCERNING POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN
SUBJECT AND [REDACTED], THE KNOXVILLE DIVISION IS REQUESTED
TO CHECK THEIR INDICES AND OTHER SOURCES TO DETERMINE
IF [REDACTED] IS POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH SUBJECT.

b6
b7c

DENVER WILL CONTINUE ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE WHETHER OR
NOT SUBJECT LOCATED IN COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, AND
TO FURTHER IDENTIFY [REDACTED]

ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

BT

Q
KX1674 1640115 AT0463 1640115

PP KX ME

DE AT

P 120114Z JUN 77

FM ATLANTA (88-NEW) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (88-10052) PRIORITY

BT

LEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";
UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO DIRECTOR, ET AL, DATED JUNE 11, 1977,
AND MIAMI TEL TO ATLANTA AND MEMPHIS, DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

[REDACTED] GA.,
ADVISED OF SERVING 3 YEAR CONSECUTIVE SENTENCES AT STATE
PRISON, JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, ON CHARGES OF FORGERY AND
ESCAPE FROM OCTOBER 12, 1963, UNTIL PAROLED MAY 31, 1966.
STATED HE WORKED IN SHOE SHOP, TAG PLANT AND TELEVISION REPAIR
VOCATIONAL TRAINING. STATED 3,000 PRISONERS AND SUBJECT NOT
RECALLED AS HAVING EVER BEEN OBSERVED OTHER THAN RECENTLY THRU
NEW MEDIA.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS, ESCAPE RISK.

BT

88-7724-85

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[REDACTED]

K

KXI675 1640127 BS0464 1640127

RR HQ CG KX

DE BS

R 120055Z JUN 77

FM BOSTON (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR (ROUTINE)

CHICAGO (ROUTINE)

KNOXVILLE (ROUTINE)

BT

C L E A R

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ESCAPE; OO: KXM.

R CHICAGO TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR JUNE 12, 1977 AND BS TELCAL
TO CHICAGO JUNE 12, 1977.

JERRY W. RAY ARRIVED BOSTON, VIA UNITED AIRLINES (UA), AT LOGAN
AIRPORT AT 9:55AM, FROM CHICAGO. RAY MET BY UA SUPERVISOR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (AUTHOR) AND AN INDIVIDUAL LATER IDENTIFIED AS

FNU [REDACTED] A WEST COAST RADIO PERSONALITY. FNU [REDACTED] HAD PRE-

VIOUSLY CONTACTED UA AND REQUESTED USE OF UA VIP LOUNGE, BOSTON

LOGAN AIRPORT, FOR INTERVIEW PURPOSES, OF RAY, BY [REDACTED]

RAY, [REDACTED] ESCORTED TO VIP LOUNGE BY [REDACTED] AT 10:15AM

AND REMAINED THERE, BEHIND CLOSED DOORS, UNTIL 12:10PM. WHEN RAY

DEPARTED VIP LOUNGE, HE WAS INTERVIEWED BY LOCAL TV STATION REGARDING
HIS BROTHERS ESCAPE FROM JAIL.

86
88-7224-86

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PAGE TWO BS (88-NEW) C L E A R

RAY POSSESSED A RETURN RESERVATION TO CHICAGO, ON TWA FLIGHT DEPARTING BOSTON 11:30AMN IN NAME OF R. R. RAY. HOWEVER, RAY FAILED TO MAKE FLIGHT,. RAY DEPARTED TERMINAL ACCOMPANIED BY [REDACTED] AND LOCAL NEWS MEDIA PERSONNEL. RAY INDICATED TO [REDACTED] THAT HE, RAY, PLANNED TO RETURN TO CHICAGO LATER IN THE DAY, JUNE 12, 1977, SUBSEQUENT TO DOING A LITTLE SIGHT SEEING FOR A FEW HOURS, IN BOSTON.

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IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT RAY ACCOMPANIED BY [REDACTED] AND NEWS MEDIA, IT WAS DEEMED ADVISABLE THAT [REDACTED] BE DISCND.
~~1874-8, 9, 33-5 1959, 33-5~~
ESUR. MAINTAIN LOGAN AIRPORT FOR REMAINING RETURN FLIGHTS TO CHICAGO. AL L BOSTON TO CHICAGO FLIGHTS FIAILED TO DISCLOSE PRESENCE OF [REDACTED] AS PASSENGER. BOSTON WILL MAINTAIN COVERAGE AT LOGAN AIRPORT, MORNING OF JUNE 13, 1977 AND IWILL ADVISE CHICAGO OF ANY PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

b6
b7C

BT

KX0559

PP CO

DE KX

P 12055Z JUNE 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO COLUMBIA PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE. "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE". UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELEPHONE CALL TO COLUMBIA THIS DATE AND KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

FOR INFORMATION OF COLUMBIA, BUREAU SUPERVISOR

TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED KNOXVILLE OFFICE THAT FBIHQ RECEIVED A TELEGRAM AT 5:29 P.M., THIS DATE, FROM UTICA TOOL COMPANY, ORANGEBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA, REQUESTING INFORMATION REGARDING JAMES EARL RAY. THE ALIAS OF JAMES MC BRIDE AND NCIC CLASSIFICATION WERE REFERRED TO IN TELEGRAM INDICATING THE SENDER WAS VERY FAMILIAR

b6
b7c

87
88-7224-~~86~~

KX 88-7223 PAGE TWO CLEAR

WITH DETAILS OF IDENTITY OF RAY.

COLUMBIA AT ORANGEBURG, S. C., CONTACT APPROPRIATE
OFFICIALS OF UTICA TOOL COMPANY, CAMERON ROAD, TELEPHONE
NUMBER 534-7010, CONFIRM RECEIPT OF TELEGRAM BY FBIHQ,
AND DETERMINE IF RAY IS KNOWN AND IF INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE AS TO HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

KX1677 1640220 C00551 1640220

RR HQ KX

DE CO

R 130219Z JUN 77

FM COLUMBIA (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE"; UFAC -
ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE

[REDACTED], UTICA TOOL COMPANY, ORANGE-
BURG, S.C. TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED AT 9:30 P.M., 6/12/77, AND COULD
FURNISH NO INFORMATION CONCERNING TELEGRAM SENT BY UTICA TOOL CO. TO
FBIHQ AT 5:29 P.M. ON THIS DATE REQUESTING INFORMATION REGARDING
SUBJECT RAY.

[REDACTED] ADVISED [REDACTED] WERE ONLY
EMPLOYEES ON DUTY AT PLANT AT 5:29 P.M., 6/12/77. NO OTHER EMPLOYEES
KNOWN TO HAVE VISITED PLANT 6/12/77.

[REDACTED] SPECULATED TELEGRAM COULD HAVE BEEN SENT BY ONE OF THE
OFFICIALS OF THE COMPANY FROM THEIR RESIDENCE. [REDACTED] ADVISED
PRESIDENT OF COMPANY IS [REDACTED].

COLUMBIA WILL CONTACT [REDACTED] ON 6-13-77 FOR ANY INFORMATION
HE MAY HAVE REGARDING AFOREMENTIONED TELEGRAM.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

RE KX TEL CALL TO CO, 6/12/77.

BT

10:20p

88-7224-88

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FBI

Date: 6/12/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE _____
(Precedence)

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7227) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE. "TEN MOST WANTED
FUGITIVE". EARL HILL, JR., AKA - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY
TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

REMYTEL JUNE 11, 1977.

SUBJECT HILL APPREHENDED BY PRISON GUARDS ~~A FEW~~ *APPROXIMATELY**four* MILES FROM PRISON.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BR

(1)Approved: *HCS D*
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

Per b6
b7C

4:25A

KX0568

PP AFD

DE KX

P 130825Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; ET AL. CONSPIRACY
TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. (OO: KNOXVILLE).

JAMES EARL RAY APPREHENDED ABOUT 2:15 AM, JUNE 13,
1977, APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN MILES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN
STATE PRISON BY CORRECTION AUTHORITIES. ALL OFFICES
DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE RAY.

BT

88-7224-91
91
88-7224-91

02//TNTB00000 0007 13 0121 13 0121
00:00 06/15/77 00000
00:10 06/13/77 00015 TUEBIX00
TNT

WAVE UNIT [] NOTIFY UNIT [] TO CONTACT [] AND []
TO MEET AND OFFICER ON HIGHWAY 20 JUST OUT SIDE OLIVER SPRINGS
WHO IS CHECKING AN ABANDON VEHICLE. OFFICER BELIEVES MAY BE RELATED
TO ESCAPEE. REQUEST THAT IT BE URGENT RESPONSE. VEHICLE WAS DARE
OLD FROM FRANKLY MOUNTAIN AND RACON NAME THORNER.

ANDERSON COUNTY SO []

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*Wavespack notified of above (at Command A
7:35 a.m., 6/13/77. []*

~~88-7223~~

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JUN 13 1977	
FBI-KNOXVIL	

88-7224-94

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FBI

Date: 6/13/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

581

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7224) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

[REDACTED] - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE
UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

SUBJECT [REDACTED] ARRESTED BY OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE,
POLICE DEPARTMENT, THAT CITY, JUNE 13, 1977.

ALL OFFICES DISCONTINUE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

11:13 AM

M

P

[REDACTED]

975 O - 590-992

88-7224-95

CW.TNFBIXOO.NAM [REDACTED] NIC [REDACTED]

TNFBIXOO

CLEAR NAM [REDACTED] NIC [REDACTED]

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88-7224-96

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[REDACTED]

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KXI722 1650048 HE0609 1650048

PP KX

DE HQ

P 140030Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR

TO KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

BT

C L E A R

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA; ET AL. CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE
UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KX.

REURTEL JUNE 13, 1977.

INFORMATION TELEPHONICALLY FURNISHED FBIHQ FOR USE
OF PRESIDENT DURING TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE FORWARDED.
INASMUCH AS TO DATE YOU HAVE NOT INTERVIEWED RAY CONCERNING
HIS ESCAPE, ATTEMPT INTERVIEW AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE
OPPORTUNITY.

SUTEL RESULTS.

BT

88-7224-98

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Post Office Box 10368
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
June 14, 1977

[redacted] Warden
Brushy Mountain Prison
Petros, Tennessee 37845

Dear [redacted]

Enclosed under separate cover are four plastic bags containing clothing of escapees [redacted] Earl Hill, James Earl Ray, and [redacted]

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



[redacted]
Assistant Special Agent
in Charge

- 2 - Addressee
(1 - Package)
④ - Knoxville
(1 - 88-7223)
(1 - 88-7224)
(1 - 88-7227)
(1 - 88-7225)

(6) [redacted]

Enclosures - 4

SEARCH [redacted]
SERIAL [redacted]
INDEXED [redacted]
FILED [redacted]

88-7224-99

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RE//TNTHP0000 0003 14 1031 14 1031

AM.TNTHP0100

10:01 06/14/77 00173

10:44 06/14/77 00024.TN

TXT AP.

4310 TNTHP0100 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 061477

REQUEST FOR NATIONWIDE BROADCAST

UPDATE 0' ESCAPEES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENNESSEE.

ALL ESCAPEES HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED. THE LAST TO BE APPREHENDED WAS

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL KNOXVILLE, OPERATOR 11:30 PM EDT

88-7224-100

SEAR	ND
SERIAL	FI
JUN 14 1977	
FBI-KNOXVILLE	

NEWS RELEASE

Inquiry Only

June 13, 1977
Knoxville, Tennessee

HAROLD C. SWANSON, Special Agent in Charge of East Tennessee Division of the FBI, has confirmed the capture of JAMES EARL RAY by Brushy Mountain Prison correction personnel in the Rosedale area near Petros, Tennessee, at approximately 2:18 a.m. It is reported that RAY is in good condition, although fatigued, and that he has been returned to the prison facility.

Further detail concerning the capture of RAY is currently being made available by state prison authorities at Brushy Mountain Prison, Petros, Tennessee.

- 1 - 88-7223
- ① - 88-7224
- 1 - 88-7225
- 1 - 88-7226
- 1 - 88-7227
- 1 - 88-7228
- 1 - 80-2
- 1 - SAC
- 1 - ASAC
- 1 - #3 SUPR.
- 1 - #4 SUPR.
- 1 - MEDIA COORD.
- 1 - WEEKEND AND NIGHT SUPR.
- 1 - COMPLAINT AGENT

88-7224-103

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NEWS RELEASE
(INQUIRY ONLY)

June 14, 1977
Knoxville

HAROLD C. SWANSON, Special Agent in Charge of the East Tennessee Division of the FBI, confirmed the arrest today of DOUGLAS SWANE SHELTON, the last of the 6 escapees, 6/10/77, from the Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee.

According to SWANSON, SHELTON was apprehended by State Correction Guards at a roadblock at approximately 9:20 AM, approximately 16 miles East the prison on Highway 116 near New River Community in a stolen blue 1965 Ford Van.

- 1 - 88-7223
- ① - 88-7224
- 1 - 88-7225
- 1 - 88-7226
- 1 - 88-7227
- 1 - 88-7228
- 1 - 80-2
- 1 - SAC
- 1 - ASAC
- 1 - #3 Supervisor
- 1 - #4 Supervisor
- 1 - News Media Coordinator
- 1 - Weekend and Night Supervisor
- 1 - Complaint Agent

(14)

*For Release
& Inquiries
See 80-2*

88-7224-104

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KNOXVILLE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN KNOXVILLE	DATE 6/23/77	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/10-16/77
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE," W.F. #500; [redacted] - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE; EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE		REPORT MADE BY SA [redacted]	TYPED BY [redacted] b6 b7C
		CHARACTER OF CASE UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY	

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					☐ NONE	ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
		6- KX					PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO

APPROVED

SP

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

7 - Bureau
1 - USA, Knoxville
(ATTN: USA [redacted])

⑥ - Knoxville (1 - 88-7223)
(1 - 88-7224)
(1 - 88-7225)
(1 - 88-7226)
(1 - 88-7227)
(1 - 88-7228)

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency				
Request Recd.				
Date Fwd.				
How Fwd.				
By				

Notations

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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File No. 88-7225-1A1

Date Received 6/10/77

From BRUSHY MT PRISON
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes
☒ No

Description:

2 photos

b6
b7C

88- 7225- 1A1

File No.

88-722-⁵~~3~~-1A2

Date Received

6/13/77

From

b6

b7C

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

V. J. P. D.D.

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

To Be Returned

☐

Yes

Receipt Given

☐

Yes

☒

No

☒

No

Description:

16 photos

also D. C. C. C.

b6

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7225
88-~~7223~~ 1A2

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

INSTRUCTIONS - Reverse side

Memorandum

TO : Director, FBI
Att: Special Investigative Division

DATE: 6-11-77

FROM : SAC, Knoxville

SUBJECT:

- ☒ Initial Submission
☐ Supplements FD-65 dated _____
☐ Photograph not needed

b6
b7C

Indicate following:

- ☐ Extremist (Black)
☐ Extremist (White)
☐ Rev. Act.
☐ Other Security background
☐ None of these

Caution ☒	MKE	Name	NAM	Sex	SEX	Race	RAC
				M		W	
Place of Birth	PUB	Birth Date	DOB	Height	HGT	Weight	WGT
				5'10"		157	
Eye Color	EYE	Hair Color	HAI	FBI No.	FBI	Skin Tone	SKN
BROWN		BROWN					
NCIC Fingerprint Classification	FPC	Other Identifying Number	MNU	Social Security #	SOC		
Operator's License Number	OLN	Operator's License State	OLS	Year Expire	OLY		
Offense Charged OFF UFAC - CONSPIRACY							
U. S. Code, Title and Section T18 SECT 371, U.S.C.							
Warrant Issued By U.S.D.J. FRANK A. KAUFMAN on 6-11-77							
Date PBV or Bond Default Case Referred to Office 88-7225							
Miscellaneous Including Bond Recommended				MIS Fingerprint Classification (Henry System)			
LICENSE PLATE AND VEHICLE INFORMATION							
License Plate Number	LIC	State	LIS	Year Expires	LIY	License Plate Type	LIT
Vehicle Identification #	VIN	Year	VYR	Make	VMA	Model	VMO
Aliases				Additional Identifiers			
NIC							

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88-7225-6

ZW.TNFBIX00.NAM/[REDACTED] DOB/[REDACTED]

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TNFBIX00

EW-C TNFBIX00 NAM [REDACTED] SEX/M RAC/W POB/TN

DOB/[REDACTED] HGT/510 WGT/157 EYE/BRO HAI/BRO FBI/[REDACTED]

SMT/TAT UR ARM SOC/[REDACTED]

OFF/4902 DOW/061177 OCA/88-7225

MIS/UFAC CONSPIRACY NO BOND REC

NIC/[REDACTED]

ORI IS FBI KNOXVILLE TN

NIC/[REDACTED]

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SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
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88-7225-58

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SERIALIZED	☐	FILED	☐
JUN 11 1977			
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1
KX 88-NEW
[redacted]

[redacted] The following information regarding [redacted]
[redacted] also known as [redacted] was obtained
through a file review conducted by SA [redacted]

b6
b7C

RACE: White
SEX: Male
DATE OF BIRTH: [redacted]
PLACE OF BIRTH: [redacted]
HEIGHT: 5'10"
WEIGHT: 157
EYES: Brown
HAIR: Brown
SSAN: [redacted]
FBI NUMBER: [redacted]
MARKS & SCARS: Mole on lower lip
TATTOOS: [redacted]

b6
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[redacted] (protect). [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] as
of February 8, 1975.

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted] employed State of In-
diana. [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] (cooperative with FBI), [redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted] (uncooperative), and [redacted] WILLIAM MCKINLEY SHEL-
TON (deceased).

2

KX 88-NEW

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

Other relatives of [REDACTED] are as follows:

BROTHER:

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

WIFE:

[REDACTED]

SISTERS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (moved several years ago);

[REDACTED]

AUNTS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] resided in Alabama (town unknown) with [REDACTED]

b6
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FRIEND:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also known as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (married to subject's [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] is well known to Sheriff [REDACTED], Madison County Sheriff's Office, Marshall, North Carolina, as a result of his escape in 1975.

b6
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[REDACTED] both residing at [REDACTED] as they have testified against him.

In 1975, [REDACTED] escaped with [REDACTED] Found on [REDACTED] when he was arrested in 1975 were the following:

3
KX 88-NEW

[redacted]

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1) Photos with names [redacted]
and [redacted]

2) Photo with name [redacted], address [redacted]
[redacted]

3) Paper in wallet with following names and numbers:
[redacted]
[redacted]

4.TNFBIKX00

3:51 06/12/77 00002

3:52 06/12/77 00018 TNFBIKX00

(T

O L O B O L O

075 GREEN CHEVROLET PICKUP TRUCK WITH CAMPER BEARING VIRGINIA

CENSE [REDACTED] OWNED BY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] OF [REDACTED]

ESCAPEE, BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON PETROS, TENN.

LOCATED CHECK VEHICLE FOR ESCAPEE AND ADVISE FBI OF LOCATION.

PHONE 615-588-8571.

AUTHORITY FBI KNOXVILLE

OPR/[REDACTED]

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88-7225-59

SEARCHED [REDACTED] INDEXED [REDACTED]
SERIALIZED [REDACTED] FILED [REDACTED]

JUN 12 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

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88-7225-78

SEARCH SERIAL		IN FI	
JUN 11 1977			
FBI — KNOXVILL			

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

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File No. 88-7226-1A1Date Received 6-10-77From BRUSHY MT. PRISON
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned	☐	Yes	Receipt Given	☐	Yes
	☒	No		☒	No

Description:

2 photosb6
b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

INSTRUCTIONS - Reverse side

TO : Director, FBI
Att: Special Investigative Division

DATE: 6-11-77

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

- ☒ Initial Submission
☐ Supplements FD-65 dated _____
☐ Photograph not needed

Indicate following:

- ☐ Extremist (Black)
☐ Extremist (White)
☐ Rev. Act.
☐ Other Security background
☐ None of these

b6
b7C

Caution	MKE	Name	NAM	Sex	SEX	Race	RAC
☒		[REDACTED]		M		N	
Place of Birth		[REDACTED]	DOB	Height	HGT	Weight	WGT
		[REDACTED]					
Eye Color	EYE	Hair Color	HAI	FBI No.	FBI	Skin Type	SKN
Scars, Marks, Tattoos, etc.							SMT
NCIC Fingerprint Classification	FPC	Other Identifying Number	MNU	Social Security #	SOC		
Operator's License Number	OLN	Operator's License State	OLS	Year Expire	OLY		
Offense Charged	OFF	TITLE 18 Use Sec 371 Conspiracy					
U. S. Code, Title and Section		U.S. DISTRICT Judge FRANK A KAUFMAN					
Warrant Issued By		on	6-11-77	DOW	F. O. File #	88-7226	UCA
Date PBV or Bond Default Case Referred to Office							
Miscellaneous Including Bond Recommended		MIS	Fingerprint Classification (Henry System)				
		NONE					
LICENSE PLATE AND VEHICLE INFORMATION							
License Plate Number	LIC	State	LIS	Year Expires	LIY	License Plate Type	LIT
Vehicle Identification #	VIN	Year	VYR	Make	VMA	Model	VMO
Style	VST	Color	VCO				
Aliases				Additional Identifiers			
NCIC #		NIC					

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88-7226-6

ZW.TNFBIX00.NAM/[] DOB/[]

TNFBIX00

EW-C TNFBIX00 NAM/[] SEX/M RAC/N DOB/[] HGT/[]

WGT/[] EYE/[] HAIR/[] SMT/[]

OFF/4902 DOW/061177 OCA/88-7226

MIS/UFAC CONSPIRACY NO BOND REC

NIC/[]

ORI IS FBI KNOXVILLE TN

NIC/[]

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88-7226-

\$.1.

NCIC OUT OF SERVICE UNTIL 2000 DUE TO EQUIPMENT FAILURE

\$.2.

NCIC PROPERTY, WANTED & MISSING PERSON FILES IN FULL SERVICE

2050 EDT 6/11/77.

CW.TNFBIX00.NAM [REDACTED] .OCA/88-7226.061177

TNFBIX00

CLEAR NAM/ [REDACTED] OCA/ 88-7226

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88-7226-33

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JUN 11 1977	
FBI - KNOXVI	

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OO HQ KX SV

DE SL

O 1630528Z JUN 77

FM ST. LOUIS (38-10663) P

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE (38-7223) IMMEDIATE

SAVANNAH IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES; ET AL;
UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO: KNOXVILLE.

SURVEILLANCES INSTITUTED RESIDENCE OF SUBJECT RAY'S SISTER
AND BROTHER-IN-LAW, [REDACTED]
LEMAY, MO., EVENING JUNE 10, 1977, AND ARE CONTINUING. ATTEMPTS
TO INTERVIEW [REDACTED] JUNE 10, 1977 NEGATIVE AS SHE REFUSED
INTERVIEW AND BECAME HOSTILE AND BELLIGERENT.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, BUAGENTS ATTEMPTED TO INTERVIEW RAY'S
FATHER, JERRY ELLIS RAY, WHO IS APPARENTLY LIVING WITH [REDACTED]
AT LEMAY, MO. ADDRESS. BUAGENTS MET AT DOOR BY [REDACTED] WHO
AGAIN BECAME HOSTILE AND BELLIGERENT AND WOULD NOT PERMIT AGENTS TO

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88-7226-34

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PAGE TWO SL 88-15563 CLEAR

INTERVIEW FATHER. 24-HOUR SURVEILLANCE CONTINUING REGARDING SISTER, BROTHER-IN-LAW AND FATHER.

ST. LOUIS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPT. (SLPD) AND MO. STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (MSHP) TROOP C, PROVIDED DESCRIPTIONS ALL ESCAPEES AND [REDACTED] TO [REDACTED] MSHP PUTTING OUT TELETYPE MESSAGE TO EACH STATE AND LOCAL POLICE TERMINAL IN STATE OF MO. ALL INFORMATION REGARDING [REDACTED] WILL NOT BE PUT OUT OVER POLICE RADIOS AT FBI INSTRUCTION, BUT WILL BE PUT FORTH AT ROLL CALLS AS [REDACTED] KNOWN TO MONITOR POLICE RADIOS.

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MAJOR AIRLINES, ST. LOUIS-LAMBERT AIRPORT AND ALL CAR RENTAL AGENCIES AT AIRPORT PROVIDED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, DESCRIPTIONS SUBJECTS. MAJOR BUS LINES, BUS TERMINALS, ST. LOUIS, PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPHS, DESCRIPTIONS SUBJECTS. ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE INDIVIDUALS SET FORTH BY MEMPHIS FROM MURKIN FILE NEGATIVE AS ADDRESSES EXTREMELY OLD AND MOST NEIGHBORHOODS HAVE UNDERGONE COMPLETE RACIAL CHANGE AND/OR ADDRESSES NON-EXISTENT, VACANT, OR NOT INHABITED. ST. LOUIS CONTINUING EFFORTS TO LOCATE THESE INDIVIDUALS.

ST. LOUIS CONTINUING REVIEW OF MURKIN FILE TO OBTAIN NAMES OF ALL RELATIVES AND ASSOCIATES THAT RAY MAY CONTACT.

PAGE THREE SL 88-10163 CLEAR

LEAD TO CONTACT [REDACTED]

ST. LOUIS

NEGATIVE, NO SUCH ADDRESS. ST. LOUIS FILES INDICATE [REDACTED]

FORMER ATTORNEY OF RAY LISTED ADDRESS AS [REDACTED]

AUGUSTA, GEORGIA.

SAVANNAH AT AUGUSTA, GEORGIA, LOCATE ATTORNEY [REDACTED]

CHEROKEE STREET.

ST. LOUIS, AT ST. LOUIS, MO., CONTINUING INVESTIGATION.

ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS. ESCAPE RISK.

BT

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KX1624 1630349 KC0313 1630349

PP HQ AT BH DN OM KX SL

DE KC

P 1630800Z JUNE 77

FM KANSAS CITY

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

ATLANTA PRIORITY

BIRMINGHAM PRIORITY

DENVER PRIORITY

OMAHA PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

SAINT LOUIS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] - FUGITIVE;

EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; JAMES

EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] - FUGITIVE, CONSPIRACY

TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE, OO:KNOXVILLE

RE KX TEL TO KC 6/11/77.

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88-7226-36

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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JUN 12 1977	
FBI-KNOXVILLE	

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KC 88-NEW PAGE TWO CLEAR

FOLLOWING NAMES SET FORTH BY KX TO CONTACT IN KC
DIVISION TO DETERMINE THEIR LAST CONTACTS WITH JAMES EARL
RAY AND MOST RECENT INFORMATION OF HIS ACTIVITIES:

[REDACTED] FORMER FOOD SERVICE SUPERVISOR IN
MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP), JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI.
PRESENTLY EMPLOYED AS SALESMAN CAPITOL CITY FORD CO.
JEFFERSON CITY RESIDING [REDACTED] MISSOURI
CONTACTED 6/11/77 ADVISED NO CONTACT WITH RAY SINCE 1967
AND NO INFORMATION RE WHEREABOUTS;

[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED] WM, DOB [REDACTED]
LEFT WARSAW MO. ABOUT 1974 AND BELIEVED CAN BE CONTACTED
THROUGH FATHER, CLARK P. LANPHERE, 626 AND ONE HALF SOUTH
GRANT ST., FT. COLLINS, COLO. [REDACTED] SERVED TIME
IN STATE PENITENTIARY CANON CITY, COLO. UNDER NUMBER [REDACTED]

RUSSELL LEE MARTIN, MSP NUMBER 08014, WM, DOB 3/15/24
WAS DISCHARGED FROM MSP 3/1/68 AND MSP WARDEN DONALD WYRICK
ADVISES MARTIN IS DECEASED;

[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED] FORMERLY NUMBER
[REDACTED] CONTACTED IN MSP 6/11/77 AND ADVISED HAS NEITHER SEEN
NOR HEARD FROM RAY SINCE 1967 AND HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF
POSSIBLE WHEREABOUTS OR CONTACTS;

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KC 88-NEW PAGE THREE CLEAR

[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED], WM, DOB [REDACTED]
WAS PAROLED FROM MSP 4/29/74 TO MC COY HOUSE 2602 CHARLOTTE
KCMO WITH TRAINING SCHEDULED AT KC DIESEL DRIVERS SCHOOL
461 DUCK ROAD, GRANDVIEW, MO., AND LISTED FATHER AS JAMES
L MILES ROUTE 29 KCMO AND FRIEND [REDACTED]
KCMO, [REDACTED] HAS FBI NUMBER [REDACTED];

HOWARD MUNN, MSP NUMBER 68889, WM, DOB 10/31/22, DISCHARGED
FROM MSP 6/6/69 HAVING ORIGINALLY FALLEN FROM JACKSON COUNTY
MISSOURI IN 1954, AND MSP SGT. M.L. HARRIS ADVISED 6/11/77
THAT HIS LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT MUNN IS DECEASED;

RAYMOND CARROL PRUETT MSP NUMBER 02195, WM, DOB 10/31/38
DIED AT ST. VINCENT HOSPITAL, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS, 11/30/72;

ORLAN EUGENE ROSE MSP NUMBER 73723, WM, DOB 10/5/21,
FBI NUMBER 2825215 WAS RELEASED FROM MSP BY COURT ORDER
8/2/68 AND LISTED FOLLOWING RELATIVES, MOTHER, ALICE ROSE,
5000 E. 27TH, KCMO, BROTHER, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] COUNCIL BLUFF IOWA AND
ASSOCIATE [REDACTED] KCMO;

[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED] FORMER NUMBER
[REDACTED] FBI NUMBER [REDACTED], WM, DOB [REDACTED] LAST RECEIVED

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KC 88-NEW PAGE FOUR CLEAR

MSP 6/13/74 FROM SAINT LOUIS CIRCUIT COURT AND DISCHARGED 6/17/76;

[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED] WM, DOB [REDACTED]
DISCHARGED FROM MSP 5/1/68 AND LISTED WIFE AS EMERGENCY ADDRESS,

[REDACTED] CARE OF MR AND MRS [REDACTED],
CALHOUN, GEORGIA;

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[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED] CONTACTED IN MSP
ON 6/11/77 AND ADVISED NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD FROM RAY SINCE
1967 AND HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF WHEREABOUTS OR POSSIBLE CONTACTS;

JIMMY OR JAMES HARVEY BRADLEY MSP NUMBER 71844 WAS KILLED
IN SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI ACCORDING TO MSP WARDEN DONALD WYRICK.

[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED] EX MSP NUMBER [REDACTED]
RECEIVED AT MSP ON LAST SENTENCE 1/27/72 FROM SAINT LOUIS CITY
FOR MURDER SECOND DEGREE, WAS DISCHARGED MSP 11/7/74, HE HAS
FBI NUMBER [REDACTED]

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ERNEST BAGBY MSP NUMBER 31013 IS DECEASED ACCORDING TO
WARDEN WYRICK;

THOMAS C. BRITTON MSP NUMBER 10980, FBI NUMBER 5008037,
WM, DOB 9/15/18 WAS RELEASED FROM MSP 4/3/67 AT WHICH TIME
LISTED WIFE BEATRICE BRITTON, 1710 ALABAMA AVE., JASPER,
ALABAMA;

KC 88-NEW PAGE FIVE CLEAR

[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED] CONTACTED IN MSP
6/11/77 ADVISED NEITHER SEEN NOR HEARD FROM RAY SINCE 1967
AND HAS NO INFORMATION RE HIS WHEREABOUTS OR POSSIBLE CONTACTS;

[REDACTED] MSP NUMBER [REDACTED], FBI NUMBER [REDACTED],
WM, DOB [REDACTED] WAS DISCHARGED UNDER PAROLE FROM MSP 6/1/72.

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[REDACTED] IS FORMER TOP TEN FUGITIVE AND WARDEN WYRICK ADVISED
HIS LATEST INFORMATION IS THAT [REDACTED] IS OFF PAROLE AND
LIVING IN HOLLAND;

MELVIN OLIVER GRIDLEY, FORMER MSP INMATE IS NOW DECEASED
ACCORDING TO WARDEN WYRICK;

CECIL CLAYTON LILLIBRIDGE, MSP NUMBER 16549 FORMER NUMBER
67755, WM, DOB 6/25/14, FBI NUMBER 1871941 WAS PAROLED FROM
MSP 1/7/74 TO DISTAS HOUSE, 5025 COTE BRILLANTE, SAINT LOUIS
MISSOURI WITH EMPLOYMENT OFFER THROUGH AL SIRONI METROPOLITAN
SERVICE ASSOCIATION, SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI AND LISTED FRIENDS
IN SAINT LOUIS AS [REDACTED] AND

[REDACTED] MOTHER OF LILLIBRIDGE LISTED AS
MILLCENT WILSON, 910E.5TH OR 604 LINCOLN AT COFFEYVILLE,
KANSAS;

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b7c

RECEIVING OFFICES SHOULD MAKE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND
INTERVIEW FORMER MSP ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECT RAY INDICATED
RESIDING IN RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES AS SET FORTH IN

KC 88-NEW PAGE SIX CLEAR

REFERENCED KX TEL TO KC.

SAINT LOUIS NOTE ON INMATES SENTENCED FROM SAINT
LOUIS MISSOURI FOR WHOM NO RELATIVES OR ADDRESSES ARE
LISTED, WILL HAVE BACKGROUND AVAILABLE THROUGH ARRESTING
AGENCY'S IN SAINT LOUIS.

BT

FBI

Date: 6/12/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE _____
(Precedence)

FM KNOXVILLE (77-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED]

EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] JAMES EARL

RAY - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY

TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

TITLE CHANGED TO DELETE FUGITIVE FROM SUBJECTS

[REDACTED]

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPES JUNE]] AND JUNE]2,]977..

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION
CONDUCTED JUNE]2,]977.[REDACTED] INTERVIEWED BY NEGRO SPECIAL AGENT
AND ADVISED THAT HE WAS RUNNING AROUND THE TRACK AT THE

[REDACTED]

(1)

Approved: _____

Special

[REDACTED] / [REDACTED] M Per [REDACTED]

Sent

Per

88-7226-37

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Date:

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(Precedence)

KX 88-7223 PAGE TWO CLEAR

TIME THE ESCAPE TOOK PLACE. [] STATED HE NOTICED A LADDER AGAINST THE WALL AND SAW INMATES GOING OVER THE WALL AND DECIDED TO JOIN THEM. [] STATED THAT HE HAD NO ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE ESCAPE PLANS, HOWEVER, HE DID KNOW THE INMATES WHO ESCAPED. [] STATED THAT AFTER HE GOT OVER THE WALL HE NEVER SAW THE OTHER SUBJECTS.

[] ARRESTED APPROXIMATELY 2:00 A.M., JUNE 12, 1977, BY BUREAU AGENTS AND LOCAL DEPUTY SHERIFF WHO WERE PATROLLING THE BACK ROADS AND HEARD WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS AN UNUSUAL NOISE IN THE WOODS. AGENTS AND DEPUTY CHECKED THE AREA AND CAME ACROSS A SMALL CHURCH, THE DOOR WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY FORCED OPEN THEY THEN ENTERED THE CHURCH AND DISCOVERED [] SLEEPING IN THE CHURCH. THEY WOKE [] UP, INFORMED HIM HE WAS UNDER ARREST. [] RESISTED SLIGHTLY AND HAD TO BE FORCIBLY SUBDUED. [] SUFFERED A SLIGHT WOUND TO THE HEAD WHICH WAS CAUSED BY HIS FALLING AGAINST A CHURCH PEW. THIS WOUND WAS TREATED BY AN INMATE ORDERLY AND NOTHING FURTHER HAS OCCURRED CONCERNING THIS.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Chargeb6
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Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

KX 88-7223 PAGE THREE CLEAR

SAC MADE A COMPLETE TERRAIN ANALYSIS OF AREA SURROUNDING BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON BY HELICOPTER. SAC DETERMINED TERRAIN VERY ROUGH AND MOUNTAINEOUS AND CONCLUDED THAT A TERRAIN SEARCH IMPOSSIBLE.

NUMEROUS SITINGS OCCURRED NECESSITATING THE EMPLOYMENT OF SWAT TEAMS AND REACTION FORCES, HOWEVER, NO SUBJECTS LOCATED. ROVING PATROLS, AIR PATROL, AND DOG TEAMS CONTINUE TO BE UTILIZED.

TENNESSEE GOVERNOR BLANTON VISITED BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PENITENTIARY AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 P.M., THIS DATE, AND HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE PRISON GROUNDS. BLANTON REPORTEDLY STATED TO THE PRESS THAT THIS WAS A STATE AFFAIR DESPITE ITS NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS. PRESS REPORTS FURTHER INDICATED BLANTON IS TO ACTIVATE 300 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN TO ASSIST IN THE SEARCH.

FOLLOWING GOVERNOR BLANTON'S DEPARTURE, IT APPEARED THAT MANY MORE PERSONNEL WERE ARRIVING AND PLANS WERE BEING MADE FOR STEPPED UP OPERATIONS. IN A CONFERENCE AT 9:45 P.M., SAFETY COMMISSIONER [REDACTED] ADVISED

b6
b7cApproved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

KX 88-7223 PAGE FOUR CLEAR

SAC [] THAT HE HAD ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE STATE OPERATION AND WAS IN CHARGE OF THE TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL AND THE PRISON PERSONNEL. IN ADDITION, ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 13, 1977, SEVENTEEN NATIONAL GUARD HELICOPTERS WERE GOING TO ARRIVE AND CONTINUALLY SEARCH THE AREA. A COMPANY OF NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY POLICEMEN, APPROXIMATELY 150 IN NUMBER, WAS TO ARRIVE IN THE AFTERNOON. THEY WERE NOT AT THIS TIME PLANNING A SWEEP AND SOUGHT SOME SUGGESTIONS ON HOW THESE MEN COULD BE DEPLOYED. THEY REQUESTED THAT THE FBI CONTINUE OPERATIONS AS BEFORE AND INDICATED THAT ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 13 THEY WERE GOING TO ESTABLISH AN INTELLIGENCE BANK (LIAISON) FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

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SUBJECT EARL HILL, JR. APPREHENDED BY CORRECTION AUTHORITIES SOUTH OF OLIVER SPRINGS, TENNESSEE, AT ABOUT 11:00 P.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

AS THE BUREAU IS AWARE, THE MEMPHIS DIVISION CURRENTLY HAS A RICO AND HOBBS ACT INVESTIGATION AGAINST

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

KX 88-7223 PAGE FIVE CLEAR

SOME MEMBERS OF GOVERNOR BLANTON'S STAFF. HE HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE FELT THESE INVESTIGATIONS WERE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND AT FIRST PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AT NASHVILLE AND THEN EXPANDED THIS TO PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE FBI. IN ADDITION, NEWSPAPERS, TELEVISION NEWSCASTS, AND RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS HAVE FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS INDICATED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND/OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ORDERED THE FBI TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THE SEARCH AND THE INVESTIGATION. SAC [] ~~AFTER HAVING BUREAU QUERIED BY ASAC~~ HAS ASSURED OFFICIALS ON THE SCENE THAT THE BUREAU HAS RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEMPT TO DO THIS, IN FACT, HE HAS FROM THE OUTSET ADVISED ALL WITH WHOM WE ARE IN CONTACT THAT OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES IN OBTAINING THE OBJECTIVE OF LOCATING THESE DANGEROUS FUGITIVES.

TELEPHONE SERVICE AT THE PRISON HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SPASMODIC THIS DATE DUE TO SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS IN AREA. ELECTRICITY INTERRUPTED, HOWEVER, PRISON OPERATED

b6
b7cApproved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

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Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

KX 88-7223 PAGE SIX CLEAR

EFFICIENTLY ON EMERGENCY GENERATORS.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

NEWS RELEASE

Knoxville, Tennessee
June 10, 1977

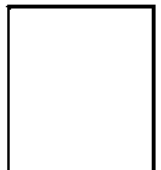
The Attorney General of the United States has ordered the FBI into the investigation to locate six inmates who escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, on June 10, 1977.

Harold C. Swanson, Special Agent in Charge of the East Tennessee Division of the FBI, announced the FBI is entering the case in connection with Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement charges and is working with state and local authorities in an effort to apprehend the following escapees:

1. James Earl Ray, white male, 5'10", 170 pounds, black greying hair, last seen wearing street clothes, age 49.
2. Donald Ray Caylor, white male, 5'6", 130 pounds, 2" scar left forehead, age 25.
3. Douglas Shelton, white male, 5'10", 157 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, numerous tattoos both arms, age 32.

1 - 88-7223
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1 - SAC
1 - ASAC
1 - #3 Supv.
1 - #4 Supv.
1 - News Media Coordinator
1 - Weekend and Night Supervisor
1 - Complaint Agent

88-7226-38



4. David Lee Powell, negro male, 6'1", 158 pounds, black hair, brown eyes, tattoo upper right arm "WW/CM", age 27.
5. Earl Hill, Jr., white male, 5'6", 134 pounds, black hair, green eyes, scar forehead, age 34.
6. Larry Edward Hacker, white male, 6', 170 pounds, brown hair, grey eyes, spider tattoo on arm.

NEWS RELEASE

Knoxville, Tennessee
June 12, 1977

Harold C. Swanson, Special Agent in Charge, East Tennessee Division of the FBI, announced today the capture by Anderson County Sheriff's Deputies and FBI Agents of Larry Edward Hacker, age 32, who escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, on June 10, 1977.

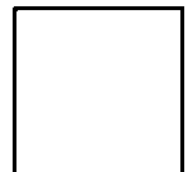
Hacker was captured approximately four miles from the prison near the Beach Grove Baptist Church in Anderson County.

Swanson stated that Hacker was serving time for robbery with a deadly weapon, burglary and safe cracking, and has been returned to the prison.

According to the FBI, four of the six individuals that escaped Brushy Mountain Prison, June 10, 1977, are still at large and intensive investigation is continuing.

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1 - News Media Coordinator
1 - Weekend and Night Supervisor
1 - Complaint Agent

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1. James Earl Ray, white male, 5'10", 170 pounds, black greying hair, last seen wearing street clothes, age 49.
2. Donald Ray Caylor, white male, 5'6", 130 pounds, 2" scar left forehead, age 25.
3. Douglas Shelton, white male, 5'10", 157 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, numerous tattoos both arms, age 32.
4. Earl Hill, Jr., white male, 5'6", 134 pounds, black hair, green eyes, scar forehead, age 34.

FBI

Date: 6/13/77

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)
TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY
BT
CLEAR

[REDACTED] EARL HILL, JR.;
[REDACTED] JAMES EARL RAY; [REDACTED] -
FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. OO:
KNOXVILLE.

TITLE CHANGED TO DELETE FUGITIVE FROM SUBJECTS
[REDACTED] HILL AND RAY.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE JUNE 12, 1977.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED
JUNE 13, 1977:

JAMES EARL RAY WAS APPREHENDED BY CORRECTION
AUTHORITIES AT APPROXIMATELY 2:15 AM, JUNE 13, 1977, IN
A MOUNTAINOUS AREA APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN MILES FROM BRUSHY

SEARCHED [REDACTED]

SERIALIZED [REDACTED]

INDEXED [REDACTED]

FILED [REDACTED]

(1) [REDACTED]

Approved: [REDACTED]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent HQ 7:10 PM

6:40 PM

Per [REDACTED]

88-7226-40

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Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
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PAGE TWO KX 88-7223 CLEAR
MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON (BMSP).

INVESTIGATION BY BUREAU AGENTS AND ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, DEPUTY SHERIFFS DETERMINED THAT INDIVIDUAL FITTING [] DESCRIPTION HAD POSSIBLY STOLEN A PICKUP TRUCK FROM A VILLAGE NEAR THE PRISON. A BROADCAST WAS PUT OUT ON THIS TRUCK AND IT WAS LATER WRECKED AT A ROADBLOCK NEAR OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, WITH THE DRIVER ESCAPING.

BUREAU AGENT TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPRISE THEM OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION, AND [] WAS APPREHENDED BY OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, P.D. AS RESULT OF THIS INFORMATION.

PRISON AUTHORITIES STATE SUBJECT [] ONLY REMAINING FUGITIVE IS IN A MOUNTAIN APPROXIMATELY TEN MILES FROM THE PRISON, AND THAT THEY ARE RESTING THEIR DOGS AND HAVE THE MOUNTAIN SURROUNDED. PRISON AUTHORITIES STATE THEIR FORCES PLAN TO ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND [] PM, JUNE 13, 1977.

SAC RELEASED ALL SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED FROM OTHER DIVISIONS.

KNOXVILLE SPECIAL AGENTS DEPARTED PRISON PREMISES.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
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(Precedence)

PAGE THREE KX88-7223 CLEAR

DAILY TELETYPE SUMMARY BEING DISCONTINUED.

INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE CONTINUING.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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Special Agent in Charge

Q
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DE HQ

P 140030Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR

TO KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

BT

C L E A R

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA; ET AL. CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE
UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KX.

REURTEL JUNE 13, 1977.

INFORMATION TELEPHONICALLY FURNISHED FBIHQ FOR USE
OF PRESIDENT DURING TODAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE FORWARDED.

INASMUCH AS TO DATE YOU HAVE NOT INTERVIEWED RAY CONCERNING
HIS ESCAPE, ATTEMPT INTERVIEW AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE
OPPORTUNITY.

SUTEL RESULTS.

BT

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88-7226-40

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TXT AP.

4310 TNTHP0100 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 061477

REQUEST FOR NATIONWIDE BROADCAST

UPDATE ON ESCAPEES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENNESSEE.

ALL ESCAPEES HAVE BEEN APPREHENDED. THE LAST TO BE APPREHENDED WAS

[REDACTED]

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL KNOXVILLE, OPERATOR [REDACTED] 11:30 AM EDT

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88-7226-42

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FBI - KNOXVILLE	

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NEWS RELEASE
(INQUIRY ONLY)

June 14, 1977
Knoxville

HAROLD C. SWANSON, Special Agent in Charge of the East Tennessee Division of the FBI, confirmed the arrest today of DOUGLAS SWANE SHELTON, the last of the 6 escapees, 6/10/77, from the Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee.

According to SWANSON, SHELTON was apprehended by State Correction Guards at a roadblock at approximately 9:20 AM, approximately 16 miles East the prison on Highway 116 near New River Community in a stolen blue 1965 Ford Van.

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- 1 - ASAC
- 1 - #3 Supervisor
- 1 - #4 Supervisor
- 1 - News Media Coordinator
- 1 - Weekend and Night Supervisor
- 1 - Complaint Agent

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*For Release
& Inquiry
See 80-2
15*

88-7226-43

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FBI - KNOXVILLE	

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NEWS RELEASE

Inquiry Only

June 13, 1977
Knoxville, Tennessee

HAROLD C. SWANSON, Special Agent in Charge of East Tennessee Division of the FBI, has confirmed the capture of JAMES EARL RAY by Brushy Mountain Prison correction personnel in the Rosedale area near Petros, Tennessee, at approximately 2:18 a.m. It is reported that RAY is in good condition, although fatigued, and that he has been returned to the prison facility.

Further detail concerning the capture of RAY is currently being made available by state prison authorities at Brushy Mountain Prison, Petros, Tennessee.

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- 1 - MEDIA COORD.
- 1 - WEEKEND AND NIGHT SUPR.
- 1 - COMPLAINT AGENT

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JUN 13 1977	
FBI - KNOX	

NEWS RELEASE (INQUIRY ONLY)

June 13, 1977

Knoxville, Tennessee

HAROLD C. SWANSON, Special Agent in Charge, East Tennessee Division of the FBI, confirmed the apprehension shortly before 9:00 a.m., today, of DONALD RAY CAYLOR, one of six men who escaped Friday from the Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee.

SWANSON stated that CAYLOR was taken into custody by Officers of the Oak Ridge Police Department and is reportedly to be returned to officials of the Brushy Mountain Prison. SWANSON pointed out that one remaining escapee is at large, DOUGLAS SHELTON.

Mr. SWANSON urged any person with information concerning SHELTON to take no action other than to notify their nearest FBI Office or local police authority.

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- 1 - News Media Coordinator
- 1 - Weekend and Night Supervisor
- 1 - Complaint Agent

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NEWS RELEASE

June 12, 1977
Knoxville, Tennessee

A massive manhunt is continuing today in the mountainous, heavily wooded Petros, Tennessee area, where four escapees, including JAMES EARL RAY, are believed hiding, subsequent to their escape from the Brushy Mountain State Prison between 7:30 and 8:00 p.m., Friday night.

HAROLD C. SWANSON, Special Agent in Charge of East Tennessee Division of the FBI, advised that, acting on instructions received from the Attorney General of the United States, the FBI immediately entered the search for the six men who originally escaped Friday. Numerous officers from state and local agencies, as well as FBI Swat Teams, bloodhounds, and air search aircraft are included in a team effort to locate and apprehend the fugitives.

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Two of the escapees, DAVID LEE POWELL, and LARRY EDWARD HACKER, have been apprehended, however, the other four remain at large.

The FBI identified those escapees still being sought as:

1. James Earl Ray, white male, 5'10", 170 pounds, black greying hair, last seen wearing street clothes, age 49.
2. Donald Ray Caylor, white male, 5'6", 130 pounds, 2" scar left forehead, age 25.
3. Douglas Shelton, white male, 5'10", 157 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, numerous tattoos both arms, age 32.
4. Earl Hill, Jr., white male, 5'6", 134 pounds, black hair, green eyes, scar forehead, age 34.

Mr. SWANSON advised that JAMES EARL RAY has been added to the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" Program.

SWANSON urged any person having information concerning any of the fugitives to take no action whatsoever, other than immediately notifying their nearest FBI or local law enforcement agency.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Post Office Box 10368
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
June 15, 1977

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Honorable John L. Bowers, Jr.
United States Attorney
Room 201 Federal Building
Knoxville, Tennessee 37901

RE:

EARL HILL, JR.;

JAMES EARL RAY;

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Dear Sir:

As you will recall, [redacted] and five other inmates escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, during the evening of June 10, 1977.

As a result of discussions with the Honorable Griffin A. Bell, Attorney General; John Harmon, Office of Legal Counsel; and Frederick Barron, Special Assistant to the Attorney General, all of the United States Department of Justice, and Assistant United States Attorney [redacted] of your office, it was decided to charge the six escapees with a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371 and 1073, Conspiracy to Violate the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement Statute. An authorized complaint was thereafter filed on June 11, 1977, before United States District Judge Frank A. Kaufman by SA [redacted] of the Knoxville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation at which time warrants were issued.

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7 - Knoxville (2 - 88-7223)
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88-7226-44

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On June 14, 1977, Assistant U. S. Attorney [redacted] advised Special Agent [redacted] that he had discussed the matter of Federal process against the subjects with Mr. John Harmon, Office of Legal Counsel, United States Department of Justice, and that Mr. Harmon had agreed to dismissing the complaints against the subjects since all of them were back in custody of the State of Tennessee.

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Sincerely,

Harold C. Swanson,
Special Agent in Charge

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE KNOXVILLE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN KNOXVILLE	DATE 6/23/77	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 6/10-16/77
TITLE OF CASE JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE," W.F. #500; [REDACTED] FUGITIVE; - FUGITIVE; EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] - FUGITIVE		REPORT MADE BY SA [REDACTED]	TYPED BY [REDACTED]
		CHARACTER OF CASE UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY	

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ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED ☐ NONE						ACQUIT- TALS	CASE HAS BEEN: ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING OVER ONE YEAR ☐ YES ☒ NO PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS ☐ YES ☒ NO
CONVIC.	PRETRIAL DIVERSION	FUG.	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES		
		6- KX					
APPROVED [REDACTED]						DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: 7 - Bureau 1 - USA, Knoxville (ATTN: USA JOHN L. BOWERS, JR.) ⑥ - Knoxville (1 - 88-7223) (1 - 88-7224) (1 - 88-7225) (1 - 88-7226) (1 - 88-7227) (1 - 88-7228)							
Dissemination Record of Attached Report						Notations	
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88-7226-45

A**

COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Federal Bureau of InvestigationCopy to: 1 - USA, Knoxville
(ATTN: USA JOHN L. BOWERS, JR.)Report of: SA [REDACTED] Office: KNOXVILLE
Date: June 23, 1977

Field Office File #: 88-7223 Bureau File #:

Title: JAMES EARL RAY,
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE,"
W.F. #500;b6
b7c[REDACTED]
EARL HILL, JR.;

Character: UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY

Synopsis:

Subjects escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, on 6/10/77, at approximately 7:20 PM in the evening. On 6/11/77 a complaint was authorized by Attorney General GRIFFIN BELL charging the subjects with a violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Sections 371 and 1073. Extensive manhunt by prison guards, local and state law enforcement officials, and FBI Agents resulted in the capture of all escapees. On 6/16/77 Federal process against the subjects was dismissed without prejudice.

- C -

DETAILS:

KX 88-7223

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III. DETAILS REGARDING PROCESS	10
IV. BACKGROUND OF SUBJECTS	12
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VI. DISMISSAL OF PROCESS	26

KX 88-7223

I. PREDICATION

KX 88-7223

This investigation was predicated on the receipt of information from [redacted], Assistant Warden, Brushy Mountain State Prison (BMSP), Petros, Tennessee, that captioned subjects, all inmates of BMSP, had escaped at approximately 7:20 PM on June 10, 1977. [redacted] was asked if he needed FBI assistance in this matter, and he said that he was requesting FBI assistance in apprehending the escapees.

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On June 10, 1977, Special Agent in Charge of the Knoxville Office of the FBI, HAROLD C. SWANSON, advised [redacted] [redacted] that the FBI was offering full assistance to him and that the FBI would seek Unlawful Flight process against the escapees should [redacted] request it. [redacted] said that he would appreciate all assistance that could be given by the FBI and that he would extradite the escapees from wherever they were located.

KX 88-7223

II. DETAILS REGARDING ESCAPE

KX 88-7223

The prisoners escaped from BMSP by using a ladder fabricated out of conduit pipe which was made in such a manner that it could be threaded together on the scene. The ladder was hooked over a portion of the prison wall that meets a rock cliff which forms a part of the prison perimeter. There is also an electrified wire which runs along the top of the wall, but at the particular portion used by the prisoners there was no wire. This is explained by the fact that erosion over a period of time had washed dirt away from the wall and had left an exposed portion of the prison wall which was not covered by the electrified wire.

The escapees were all inmates of the general prison population and as such were mingled with the other prisoners for supervised exercise at 6:00 PM on June 10, 1977. Two events occurred at the time which facilitated the escape. The first was a fight between two prisoners, and the second was a prisoner apparently faking an injury. The prisoners escaped while the attention of the guards and the general prison population was directed to these incidents.

Interview of [redacted] Inmate # [redacted] and [redacted] Inmate # [redacted] was conducted by FBI Agents. Both prisoners denied that the fight was pre-arranged and stated that their fight had nothing to do with the prison break. The other incident involved [redacted] Inmate # [redacted] who fell while running in front of guards and who appeared to fake an ankle injury according to the guards who were on the scene at the time. [redacted] refused interview and advised that any information FBI Agents wanted from him would have to be obtained either from prison records or his attorney.

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The prisoners escaped from a position near Guard Tower #4 which was manned by BMSP Guard [redacted] apparently did not observe the escape. BMSP Guard [redacted] manning Tower #3 which is located a slightly greater distance from the site of the escape, observed the action and fired on the escaping prisoners, wounding [redacted] Inmate # [redacted], who was also attempting to escape. [redacted] was taken to Oak Ridge, Tennessee Hospital by prison authorities where he was treated for gunshot wounds to his head and arm. He was

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KX 88-7223

returned to BMSP at 11:00 PM on June 10, 1977, and refused to be interviewed.

One other detail regarding the escape received considerable attention in press reports. This was the fact that telephone service from the prison was interrupted for approximately one hour after the escape. Interview of officials of the Southern Highland Telephone Exchange indicates that the interruption of services was caused by the unusually large volume of telephone calls which resulted in an overload of the system. Southern Highland officials surmise that the telephone calls were initiated by local residents of the Petros, Tennessee, area after they heard the prison siren which which activated upon the escape of the prisoners.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription 6/14/77

On June 11, 1977, [redacted] guard, Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, provided the following information:

[redacted] advised that he has been employed as a guard at Brushy Mountain State Prison since August 1976. He stated that he had also been employed as a guard at the prison from 1964-1965.

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[redacted] advised that he came on duty at 2:00 PM on June 10, 1977. He stated that he was to work until 10:00 PM on tower number 4. Approximately 15 minutes before the escape of the six prisoners, which occurred sometime between 7:45 PM and 7:50 PM on June 10, 1977, he observed a black prisoner near the West wall near tower number 3 running back and forth along the wall and jumping up and down. He stated that this was not the black prisoner who had escaped. At about the same time, a scuffle occurred on the baseball field among several of the prisoners. He stated that he also noticed approximately 25-30 prisoners congregated in an area near tower number 8. [redacted] advised that when the scuffle began, he caught two men in the corner of his eye going over the wall near tower number 8.

[redacted] grabbed his shotgun first and started to go out of the tower door when the weapon hit the door, shutting it closed and jamming the door. It took him several seconds to unjam the door. By the time he got the door open again, he saw four white shirts on the outside of the wall. [redacted] fired the shotgun first, then grabbed his .22 caliber rifle and fired 10 rounds. He stated that on the 10th round fired from his rifle, he saw one of the men go down. He was not sure, in fact, whether he had hit the individual. He then picked up his shotgun again and fired two more rounds. [redacted] stated that he heard a guard in tower number 3, fire his shotgun once about the same time he fired his first round. [redacted] was in tower number 3 which is about 250 to 275 yards away from where the prisoners went over the wall. [redacted] advised that when he stopped firing, the alarm was already sounding. He stated that the period of time that he fired might have been about 1 1/2 to 2 minutes.

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About 10-15 minutes later, Captain [redacted] and Captain [redacted] came around the back of the prison in a jeep to the area and found the one escapee who had been hit. [redacted] advised that

Interviewed on 6/11/77 at Petros, Tennessee File # KX 88-7223

by SA [redacted] / [redacted] Date dictated 6/14/77

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KX 88-7224

he stayed on the tower platform the entire time because he is not allowed to leave the tower for any reason. He stated that the men ran into the bushes and trees at the corner of the wall next to tower number 8.

[] advised that he was certain of the time of the escape inasmuch as the prisoners were due to go back in for the night at 8:00 PM. They had come out at 6:00 PM. [] was just about ready to call in at 7:50 PM when the break occurred and recalls looking at his watch just prior to the time of the escape.

[] stated that no one was in tower number 8 which is located closest to the point of the escape and is approximately 50-75 yards from the corner of the wall where the escape occurred.

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→ [] advised that he had two 12 gauge Remington Pump shotguns each with 5 rounds of number 4 buckshot and two .22 caliber Remington Pump rifles, each with 12 rounds of .22 caliber long rifle ammunition. He stated that he is certain that the scuffle which occurred on the baseball field was intentionally started to distract the guards from the area where the escape occurred.

KX 88-7223

III. DETAILS REGARDING PROCESS

KX 88-7223

On June 11, 1977, U. S. Attorney General GRIFFIN BELL, through Special Assistant FREDERICK BARRON, authorized a complaint against the subjects charging that they did, in violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 371, unlawfully conspire to violate Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 1073, by willfully and unlawfully and with felonious intent, move and travel in interstate commerce with intent to avoid confinement after conviction, under the laws of the State of Tennessee, for crimes which are felonies under the laws of the State of Tennessee.

The complaint was filed on June 11, 1977, by SA [] before the Honorable U. S. District Judge FRANK A. KAUFMAN at Knoxville, Tennessee. U. S. District Judge KAUFMAN is from the District of Maryland and was sitting by designation in the Eastern District of Tennessee. Assistant U. S. Attorney [] recommended that the subjects be held without bond.

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KX 88-7223

IV. BACKGROUND OF SUBJECTS

KX 88-7223

A review of the prison records at BMSP on June 11, 1977, disclosed the following descriptive and background information regarding each subject:

JAMES EARL RAY:

Date of birth	March 10, 1928
Place of birth	Alden, Illinois, or St. Louis, Missouri
Race	White
Sex	Male
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Black and gray
Height	5' 10"
Weight	175 pounds
Complexion	Fair
Prison Number	65477
FBI Number	405942G
Offense	First Degree Murder - sentence 99 years

EARL HILL, JR.:

Date of birth	October 19, 1942
Place of birth	Erwin, Tennessee
Race	White
Sex	Male
Height	5' 6"
Weight	135 pounds
Hair	Black
Eyes	Green
Inmate Number	65855
FBI Number	73661G
Offense	First Degree Murder; Rape; Assault With Intent to Commit Murder - sentence-two life sentences

KX 88-7223

[REDACTED]

Date of birth
Place of birth
Race
Sex
Height
Weight
Eyes
Hair
Inmate Number
FBI Number
Offense

[REDACTED]

Clarksville, Mississippi
Black
Male

[REDACTED]

First Degree Murder - sentence
100 years

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[REDACTED]

Date of birth
Place of birth
Race
Sex
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Inmate Number
FBI Number
Offense

[REDACTED]

Kingsport, Tennessee
White
Male

[REDACTED]

Felonious Assault; First
Degree Murder; Grand Larceny -
sentence 65 years

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b7C

[REDACTED]

Date of birth
Place of birth
Race
Sex
Height
Weight
Eyes
Hair
Inmate Number
FBI Number

[REDACTED]

Knoxville, Tennessee
White
Male

[REDACTED]

KX 88-7223

Offense

Armed Robbery; Assault With
Intent to Commit Murder -
sentence 50 years

[REDACTED]:

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b7c

Date of birth
Place of birth
Race
Sex
Height
Weight
Hair
Eyes
Inmate Number
FBI Number
Offense

[REDACTED]

Hamilton, Ohio
White
Male

[REDACTED]

Robbery With Deadly Weapon;
Burglary and Safecracking -
sentence 28 years

KX 88-7223

V. INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE SUBJECTS
AND APPREHENSION

KX 88-7223

Immediately after the escape of the prisoners, BMSP officials notified surrounding law enforcement agencies and the Tennessee Highway Patrol. The area around the prison was sealed by prison guards and bloodhounds were immediately put into the woods behind the prison. Permanent roadblocks were set up by local authorities, and all roads were patrolled by surrounding law enforcement agencies.

FBI assistance in this investigation consisted of the following:

Agent personnel divided into two 12-hour shifts to provide continuous assistance in the search for the escapees. Each shift was organized in such a manner that two Agents were available to man the Command Post radios; ten Agents were available to man five roving patrols; two Agents available to assist in the coverage of local leads; and one complete Swat Team available as a backup to assist in the apprehension of any escapee located. Additionally, two aircraft manned by Special Agent pilots were provided. One aircraft was rented from a local aviation facility, and the other aircraft was provided by the Alexandria Division of the FBI. The Knoxville Division was also able to utilize the services of a trained bloodhound owned and handled by a clerical employee of the Knoxville Office.

Four of the six escapees were captured by local authorities and the other two with the assistance of the FBI.

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/13/77

At approximately 1:30 AM on June 12, 1977, SA [redacted], Deputy [redacted] and Deputy [redacted] of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office, were conducting a search to locate and apprehend the remaining five escaped prisoners from the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary (BMSP), Petros, Tennessee, in the area adjacent to State Highway 116, in the Fork Mountain area of Anderson County.

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While conducting investigation in the vicinity of Beech Grove Baptist Church, alongside State Highway 116, it was observed that the rear side entrance to the single story, framed building appeared to have been forcibly entered and was slightly ajar. No lights were visible through the windows of the church building. SA [redacted] and Deputy [redacted] pushed open the door and hurriedly entered while Deputy [redacted] remained just outside the entrance in order to cover the entry. An individual immediately recognized as Fugitive Escapee [redacted] was observed lying on a bench just inside the church entrance. [redacted] was ordered to place his hands on his head by SA [redacted] but failed to do so and the order was repeated, after which [redacted] complied. He was then ordered to his feet but again failed to comply until this instruction was likewise repeated, after which, [redacted] got to his feet but quickly dropped his hands to his sides. SA [redacted] grabbed [redacted] by the left arm and ordered [redacted] to lay prone on the floor, at which time [redacted] turned towards the agent and raised his right arm in a menacing manner. [redacted] was then forcibly taken to the floor, handcuffed and taken into custody by the agent and Deputy [redacted]. Deputy [redacted] was then summoned inside the building in order to cover [redacted] while a quick search of the dark building was conducted for any of the other remaining four prison escapees who had earlier escaped in company of [redacted] and could also have possibly been hidden in the building; however, no one else was located inside the church building at that time.

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[redacted] was, thereafter, transported to BMSP at Petros, Tennessee. While en route to the prison facility, [redacted] advised that he had been hidden inside the church building for approximately one hour before his arrest, but prior to that time he had wandered lost in the mountains for the past one and a half days. He denied that he had been in contact with any of the other

Interviewed on 6/12/77 at Fork Mountain, Tennessee File # KX 88-7228
(Anderson County)

by SA [redacted] / [redacted] Date dictated 6/13/77

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2
KX 88-7228

five escapees after having scaled the prison wall on Friday evening June 10, 1977. He stated that all of the escapees had immediately split up and had taken separate routes following the escape.

[] denied being involved in any prior planning of the escape and claimed he had only made the decision to attempt an escape after he saw two or three other inmates scale the back prison wall using a make-shift ladder. He, likewise, denied that he had any knowledge concerning the construction or concealment of the homemade ladder used to scale the wall prior to the actual escape. [] claimed to be unaware of the identities of any of the other inmates who had escaped at the same time during which he had escaped.

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[] further advised that he had not formulated any plan to be met by anyone following the escape and as previously stated, the escape had been a last-minute decision on his part, without any prior planning.

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Upon arriving at BMSP, custody of [] was turned over to prison authorities, and it was noted that [] received medical attention for a small scalp laceration of which he had complained while en route to the prison.

1

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 6/13/77

[redacted] was contacted at the Oak Ridge Police Department, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, by SA's [redacted] and [redacted] and also Deputy [redacted] Anderson County Sheriff's Office, where he had been taken after momentarily having been taken into custody by officers of the Oak Ridge Police Department as a suspected prison escapee. [redacted] was advised of the identities of the agents and Deputy [redacted] but denied his true identity. b6 b7C

In view of the obvious resemblance of [redacted] to his photograph, the presence of a 2" surgical scar on his forehead, and also identification of an inked impression taken of [redacted] right thumb print compared with his known right thumb print by SA [redacted], he was taken into custody on a Federal warrant charging Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement. Upon effecting identification of [redacted] he was orally advised of his rights by SA [redacted] which rights he stated he understood. [redacted] was, thereafter, transported to the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary by the agents and Deputy [redacted]. b6 b7C

While en route to the prison facility, [redacted] admitted his escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison on the evening of June 10, 1977. He stated that he had immediately lost contact with the other convicts who had escaped at the same time and denied knowledge of the identities of any of the other escapees. [redacted] stated that following his escape he had climbed up the mountains located directly to the rear of the prison and had wandered around lost in a heavily forested mountain area for the next two days. He denied the theft of a pickup truck from a location on State Highway 62 on the evening of June 12, 1977, and also denied crashing a law enforcement road block while driving this stolen pickup truck through Oliver Springs, Tennessee, later that same evening. He claimed to have traveled to the outskirts of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, by walking and hitch-hiking.

[redacted] advised that he had no prior knowledge of any escape plan on the part of any of the other escaped inmates. He likewise denied knowledge of the method of construction or method of concealment of the homemade ladder used by the escapees to scale the prison wall. [redacted] stated that he had observed two or three fellow inmates climb over the wall using

Interviewed on 6/13/77 at Oak Ridge, Tennessee File # KX 88-7224

by SA [redacted] SA [redacted] Date dictated 6/13/77

2

KX 88-7224

the make-shift ladder at which time he had decided on the spur of the moment to also attempt to escape. He repeated his denial about having been involved in any advanced planning of the escape or knowledge of identities of the other escaped inmates or direction of travel of the other escapees whom he stated had all immediately split up after climbing over the wall.

Upon arrival at Brushy Mountain State Prison custody of [] was relinquished to Deputy Warden [].

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KX 88-7223

The first prisoner arrested, [REDACTED], a black male, was interviewed by a black FBI Agent pursuant to instructions of U. S. Attorney General GRIFFIN BELL.

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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6/23/77

Date of transcription

[] was interviewed following his recapture by Brushy Mountain State Prison (BMSP) authorities. The purpose of the interview was to determine if [] had any information regarding the location of JAMES EARL RAY or other escapees or if [] had any prior knowledge of the escape.

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[] said that he had no prior knowledge of the escape, and at the time of the escape he was jogging around the prison yard when he noticed JAMES EARL RAY and several other inmates sitting near a wall. [] said that he was on his sixteenth lap and that he noticed these prisoners climbing over the wall on a ladder and that when he reached that location he spontaneously decided to escape.

[] said that he did not see RAY go over the wall nor did he see any of the other prisoners after he entered the woods. He said that he did hear bushes rattling but that he was not with any of the other prisoners. [] said that immediately after entering the woods behind the prison he ran straight up the mountain toward an abandoned fire tower and that he reached this location prior to dark. [] hid in the vicinity of the fire tower until nightfall and then after sleeping for awhile decided to move on.

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He said that he had no prior knowledge of the escape and that his decision to escape was motivated purely by seeing other inmates going over the wall.

[] said that he did not know that much about JAMES EARL RAY and that he would describe RAY as being a "loner." [] said that he does not know of any one prisoner who would be JAMES EARL RAY's best friend and said that he, [] had only spoke to RAY when RAY spoke to him. He did say that within the last month he had heard that JAMES EARL RAY had begun to do exercises and work out with weights.

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[] said that he could not state whether RAY had outside help or not nor could he make any statement regarding RAY's ability to survive the rugged terrain.

Brushy Mountain

Interviewed on 6/11/77

at State Prison, Petros, Tennessee

File # KX 88-7223

by

SA []

Date dictated

6/17/77

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KX 88-7223

Attempts were made by the interviewing Agent, who is a black male, to appeal to the fact that [redacted] was also black and that if he had any information which could lead to the capture of JAMES EARL RAY who had murdered MARTIN LUTHER KING, he should furnish same. [redacted] said that he had no such information to furnish and that he realized JAMES EARL RAY was the convicted murderer of KING but that he could not furnish any information whatsoever regarding the escape attempt.

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KX 88-7223

ARREST OF JAMES EARL RAY:

JAMES EARL RAY was arrested in the early morning hours of Monday, June 13, 1977, after being tracked down by a team of trackers and bloodhounds from BMSP. RAY was unharmed and was returned to the prison by BMSP officials. RAY refused to be interviewed and was placed into administrative detention by prison officials.

Investigation determined that RAY had \$290 hidden on his person when he was arrested. Eighty dollars was found during the initial search after his arrest, and the remaining \$210 was found during a strip search.

KX 88-7223

VI. DISMISSAL OF PROCESS

KX 88-7223

On June 14, 1977, Assistant U. S. Attorney [redacted] advised SA [redacted] of the Knoxville Office of the FBI that he had discussed the matter of Federal process against the subjects with Mr. [redacted] Office of Legal Counsel, U. S. Department of Justice, and that Mr. [redacted] had agreed to dismissing the complaints against the subjects since all of them were back in custody in the State of Tennessee.

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On June 15, 1977, U. S. District Judge JAMES R. MILLER, JR., in the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Northern Division, upon motion of the U. S. Attorney and with the approval of the Attorney General of the United States, ordered that the complaint against the subjects be dismissed without prejudice.

88-7226-46

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 27 1977	
FBI — KNOXVILLE	

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did (2) (continued)

and unlawfully and with felonious intent, to move and travel in interstate commerce with intent to avoid confinement after conviction, under the laws of the State of Tennessee, for crimes which are felonies under the laws of the State of Tennessee, to wit: JAMES EARL RAY, First Degree Murder (a felony); [redacted] Armed Robbery With A Deadly Weapon And Burglary (both felonies); EARL HILL, JR., First Degree Murder and Rape (both felonies); [redacted] First Degree Murder (a felony); [redacted] First Degree Murder (a felony); and [redacted] Armed Robbery and Assault With Intent To Commit Murder (both felonies).

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this complaint is based on (continued)

plumbing shop. Furthermore, the escape was aided by diversion, to wit: a feigned fight and injury on the part of other inmates.

at the time an escapee from the Missouri prison system,
JAMES EARL RAY, is known to have traveled in foreign commerce to avoid arrest and confinement, and is known to have escaped three previous times from lawful confinement in the State Prison System *of one or more other states*

[redacted] previously escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison and was apprehended on April 13, 1977, at Virginia Beach, Virginia, by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Subsequent to the aforementioned apprehension, [redacted] stated to Federal authorities words to the effect that he would be seeing them soon in Virginia.

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The location of Brushy Mountain State Prison is approximately fifty-five (55) miles from the State of Kentucky. Investigation is being conducted and, at the time of the filing of this complaint, none of the above six individuals have been located in the vicinity of the prison.

in Missouri, and prosecution in Tennessee

and to have fled from the then state of confinement immediately after at least two of those escapes

There is ~~good reason~~ probable cause to believe that one or more of the escapees has fled or is about to flee the state of Tennessee.

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v
JAMES EARL RAY;[REDACTED]
EARL HILL, Jr.;

[REDACTED]

Magistrate's Docket No.

Case No.

COMPLAINT for VIOLATION of

U.S.C. Title 18

Section 371

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BEFORE Honorable Frank A. Kaufman, U. S. District Court Judge

Name of Magistrate

Address of Magistrate

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

That on or about June 6, 1977, at up to and including June 10, 1977,
in the

Eastern District of Tennessee,

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(1) JAMES EARL RAY, [REDACTED], EARL HILL, Jr., [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] did⁽²⁾ in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, unlawfully, willfully, knowingly, feloniously, and fraudulently combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other, and with diverse other persons at the present time unknown, to commit offenses against the United States and the laws thereof, as follows:To violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1073, by willfully
(continued page 2)

And the complainant states that this complaint is based on the fact that the following named individuals were lawfully confined in Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, within the Eastern District of Tennessee, to wit:

JAMES EARL RAY, lawfully confined for First Degree Murder (a felony);

[REDACTED] lawfully confined for Armed Robbery With A Deadly

Weapon And Burglary (both felonies); EARL HILL, JR., lawfully confined

for First Degree Murder and Rape (both felonies); [REDACTED]

lawfully confined for First Degree Murder (a felony); [REDACTED]

lawfully confined for First Degree Murder (a felony); and [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] lawfully confined for Armed Robbery and Assault With Intent to

Commit Murder (both felonies); and, that, on June 10, 1977, at approxi-

mately 7:20 PM, the aforementioned individuals did escape from the afore-

mentioned state prison; and to aid in effecting their escape, they

utilized a homemade ladder made from pipes obtained from the prison

(continued page 2)

And the complainant further states that he believes that

[REDACTED], Special Agent, FBI, Knoxville, Tenn.;

[REDACTED], Special Agent, FBI, Knoxville, Tenn.;

[REDACTED], Special Agent, FBI, Knoxville, Tenn.; and

[REDACTED], Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI, Knoxville, Tenn.,

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are material witnesses in relation to this charge.

[REDACTED]

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence, June 11, 1977, at 4 AM

Special Agent FBI,
[Signature]
Frank A. Kaufman
United States Magistrate

(1) Insert name of accused.

(2) Insert statement of the essential facts constituting the offense charged.

District of Md
sitting by designat
in ALJ E.D. Tenn

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

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FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 88-7228-1A1

Date Received 6-10-77

From BRUSHY MT Prison
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

4 photos (2 views)

or

b6
b7C

b6
b7c

88-7228-1A1

88-7228 - 1A1

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

INSTRUCTIONS - Reverse side

TO : Director, FBI
Att: Special Investigative Division

DATE: 6/11/77

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT:

- ☒ Initial Submission
☐ Supplements FD-65 dated _____
☐ Photograph not needed

- Indicate following:
☐ Extremist (Black)
☐ Extremist (White)
☐ Rev. Act.
☐ Other Security background
☒ None of these

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Caution ☒		MKE	Name		NAM	Sex	SEX	Race	RAC			
						M		W				
Place of Birth					POB	Height	HGT	Weight	WGT			
						6		175				
Eye Color	EYE	Hair Color	HAI	FBI No.	Skin Tone		SKN					
Green		Brown			ACNE ROUGH							
Scars, Marks, Tattoos, etc.									SMT			
NCIC Fingerprint Classification			FPC	Other Identifying Number			MNU	Social Security #		SOC		
Operator's License Number			OLN	Operator's License State			OLS	Year Expire		OLY		
Offense Charged OFF <u>CONSPIRACY</u>												
U. S. Code, Title and Section <u>TITLE 18 USC Sec 371</u>												
Warrant Issued By <u>U.S. DIST. JUDGE FRANK A. KAUFMAN</u> on <u>6/11/77</u>							DOW	F. O. File #	OCA			
								88-7228				
Date PBV or Bond Default Case Referred to Office _____												
Miscellaneous Including Bond Recommended					MIS	Fingerprint Classification (Henry System)						
NONE												
LICENSE PLATE AND VEHICLE INFORMATION												
License Plate Number		LIC	State	LIS	Year Expires		LIY	License Plate Type		LIT		
Vehicle Identification #		VIN	Year	VYR	Make	VMA	Model	VMO	Style	VST	Color	VCO
Aliases					Additional Identifiers							
NIC #					NIC							

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88-7228-6

ZW.TNFBIXOO.NAM [REDACTED] DOB [REDACTED]

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TNFBIXOO

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HGT/600 WGT/170 EYE/GRY HAI/BRO FBI/ [REDACTED] SKN/RUD SMT/TAT L HND

FPC [REDACTED] SOC [REDACTED]

OFF/4901 DOW/020377 OCA/76-4234

MIS/ARMED&EXTRE-DANGEROUS-ESCAPE RISK/NO BOND/SUBJ MAY BE TA/WIT

H NIC [REDACTED]

NIC [REDACTED]

TNFBIXOO

ORI IS FBI MEMPHIS TN

SMT/TAT RF ARM

LOCATED/041377 VAFBINFOO 91-3893 EXTR

NIC [REDACTED]

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IMMED CONFIRM WARRANT AND EXTRADITION WITH ORI

TNFBIXOO

EW-C TNFBIXOO NAM [REDACTED] SEX/M RAC/W DOB [REDACTED] HGT/600

WGT/175 EYE/GRN HAI/BRO FBI/ [REDACTED] SKN/RUD

OFF/4902 DOW/061177 OCA/88-7228

MIS/UFAC CONSPIRACY NO BOND REC

NIC [REDACTED]

ORI IS FBI KNOXVILLE TN

NIC [REDACTED]

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88-7228-24

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 27 1977	
FBI — KNOXVILLE	

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NEWS RELEASE
(Inquiry Only)

August 10, 1977
Knoxville, Tenn.

HAROLD C. SWANSON, Agent in Charge of the East Tennessee Division of the FBI, advised today that an allegation reportedly made by JAMES EARL RAY, an inmate of the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, Petros, Tennessee, is a complete fabrication. SWANSON stated that RAY's alleged remarks indicating that LARRY EDWARD HACKER, also an escapee of the Brushy Mountain Prison in June 1977, was struck by FBI Agents at the time of his apprehension are totally unfounded.

According to SWANSON, HACKER was located by FBI Agents and Deputy Sheriffs of the Anderson County Sheriff's Office at approximately 1:30 AM, June 12, 1977, lying on a bench in a church near State Highway 116 in the Fork Mountain area of Anderson County. The FBI advised that HACKER failed to comply with officers' orders to lie on the floor and was forced to the floor of the church where he was handcuffed.

According to Mr. SWANSON, in the brief scuffle, during which HACKER was forced to the floor, he received a slight scalp laceration, possibly from striking his head on a bench or the floor.

① - 88-7228 1 - ASAC 1 - Media Coordinator
1 - 88-7227 1 - #3 Supr. 1 - Night Supervisor
1 - 80-2 1 - #4 Supr.
1 - SAC 1 - Complaint Desk

(10)

*Inquiries on
Back 11.*

88-7228-25

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SAC SWANSON emphatically denied that HACKER was struck with any object by any arresting officer and pointed out that the slight laceration was promptly treated upon HACKER's return to Brushy Mountain Prison authorities.

AP - - 455p 8/9 -

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United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

JAMES EARL RAY

WARRANT OF ARREST

To U. S. Marshal or any other duly authorized officer

You are hereby commanded to arrest JAMES EARL RAY, and bring him
here insert name of defendant or description
forthwith before the nearest available United States Magistrate to answer to a complaint charging him
with conspiracy to violate the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement
here describe offense charged in complaint
Statute,

in violation of U.S.C. Title, 18, Section 371

Date June 11, 1977.

United States Magistrate.

* Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

RETURN

Received _____, 19 at _____, and executed by arrest of

at _____

on _____, 19

Date _____

, 19

By _____, Deputy

*Name.*_____
*Title.*_____
District of _____

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

WARRANT OF ARREST

b6
b7cTo U. S. Marshal or any other duly authorized officer

You are hereby commanded to arrest

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forthwith before the nearest available United States Magistrate to answer to a complaint charging him

with conspiracy to violate the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement

here describe offense charged in complaint

Statute,

in violation of U.S.C. Title, 18, Section 371

Date June 11, 19 77.

United States Magistrate.* Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

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Received _____, 19 _____ at _____, and executed by arrest of

at _____

on _____

, 19 _____

Name._____
Title.

Date _____

District of _____

, 19 _____

By _____, Deputy

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

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Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

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at

on

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, 19

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United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

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here describe offense charged in complaint

Statute,

in violation of U.S.C. Title, 18, Section 371

Date June 11, 19 77.

United States Magistrate.

* Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

RETURN

Received _____, 19 at _____, and executed by arrest of

at

on

, 19

Name._____
Title.

Date

District of _____

, 19

By _____, Deputy

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE - NORTHERN DIVISION

Magistrate's Docket No. _____

Case No. _____

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v

EARL HILL, JR.

WARRANT OF ARREST

To U. S. Marshal or any other duly authorized officer

You are hereby commanded to arrest

EARL HILL, Jr.

, and bring him

here insert name of defendant or description

forthwith before the nearest available United States Magistrate to answer to a complaint charging him

with conspiracy to violate the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement

here describe offense charged in complaint

Statute,

in violation of U.S.C. Title, 18, Section 371

Date June 11, 19 77.

United States Magistrate.

* Here insert designation of officer to whom warrant is issued.

RETURN

Received

, 19

at

, and executed by arrest of

at

on

, 19

Name._____
Title.

Date

District of

, 19

By

Deputy

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Precedence: ROUTINE

Date: 1/28/98

To: Knoxville

Attn: Closed Files

From: PITC, Archives Unit

Approved By: [redacted]

Drafted By: Archive Technician: [redacted]

File Number(s): (Closed)

b6
b7C

Transmit -

FM KNOXVILLE (38-7228)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SAC'S PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[redacted], AKA - FUGITIVE, CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ESCAPE.

b6
b7C

OO KNOXVILLE.

Synopsis: File Destruction

Enclosures: Enclosed are 1 items.

These items are forwarded to your office since you were OO at the time our case was RUC'd.

Enclosure(s) are described as follows:

<u>1</u> 1-A EXHIBITS	_____ SURVEILLANCE LOGS
_____ FD-302 ORIGINALS	_____ INSERTS
_____ LABORATORY REPORTS	_____ TAX RETURNS
_____ LATENT FINGERPRINT REPORTS	_____ OTHER

Details:

NOTE: DO NOT BLOCK STAMP ORIGINAL ENCLOSURES

♦♦

1

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

b6
b7C

88-7228-26

Title

(File No.)

[illegible]

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
APR 21 1977
FBI-HOUSTON
[redacted]

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

TO: HO (88-9517)

FM: ME

Re Memphis airtel to Bureau 4/22/77

88-9517-1a2

File No. ME 88-9809

Date Received 4/18/77

From [REDACTED]
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

"Nashville Banner" (newspaper)
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Nashville, Tennessee
(CITY AND STATE)

By SA [REDACTED]
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes
☐ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes
☐ No

Description:

4 photo [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

ME 88-9809

b6

b7c

88-9517-1a2

ME 88-9809

b6

b7C

88-9517-1a2

ME 88-9809

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~~2/1~~ -

88-9517-1a2

1112 88-7807

88-9517-1a2

b6
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CW.TNFBIXOO.NAM [REDACTED].NIC [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

TNFBIXOO

CLEAR NAM [REDACTED] NIC [REDACTED]

88-7228-59

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 19 1967	
FBI-MEMPHIS	

b6
b7C

Post Office Box 10368
Knoxville, Tennessee, 37919
June 14, 1977

Mr. Dennis O. Trotter
Sheriff of Anderson County
Clinton, Tennessee, 37716

Dear Dennis,

I am personally aware of the invaluable assistance rendered by members of your department in connection with the apprehension, June 12, 1977, of [REDACTED], an escapee from the Brushy Mountain Prison, Petros, Tennessee.

b6
b7c

I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to you and particularly to Deputies [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. Their performance was exemplary in every respect and reflected much credit on your office.

I hope you will convey my sentiments to them.

Sincerely,

HAROLD C. SWANSON
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee
② - Knoxville (1 - 88-7228)
(1 - 80-339)

[REDACTED]
(3)



SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

b6
b7c

88-7228-70

DENNIS O. TROTTER
Sheriff



Office of The Sheriff
ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Courthouse • Clinton, Tennessee 37716
Phone 457-2414

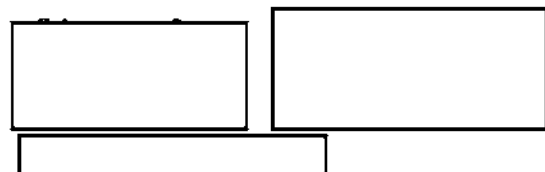
June 16, 1977

Mr. Harold C. Swanson
Special Agent in Charge
Knoxville F.B.I. Office

Dr. Mr. Swanson,

Thank you for your letter to Sheriff
Trotter in reference to our arrest of [REDACTED].
It is always a pleasure to assist Agent [REDACTED]
whenever possible. Please feel free to call upon me
at any time for anything. Working with your office
is always a learning experience and I enjoy it.
Thanks again.

b6
b7C



b6
b7C

Investigator

Anderson County Sheriff's Dept.

cc
80-339
made [REDACTED]

88-7228-72

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILE
JUN 20 1977	
FBI - KNOXVILLE	

b6
b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 98

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b6
b7C

b6
b7C

File No. 88-10052-1A1

Date Received 6-11-77

From Corp. Bremer.
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Classification Section, TSP
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By [Redacted]

To Be Returned ☒ Yes
☐ No

Receipt given ☒ Yes
☐ No

Description:

Negative of photo
TSP # 65477
of James Earl Ray
Taken 10-7-75

Returned 6/12/77
to [Redacted]

b6
b7C

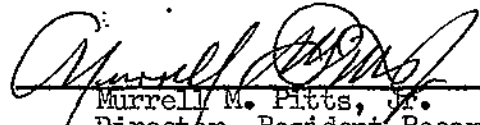


STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION
11TH FLOOR, FIRST AMERICAN CENTER
326 UNION STREET
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

June 17, 1977

Received this date from [redacted] Special Agent, F.B.I.,
two (2) negatives of James Earl Ray. These are the negatives released
to Special F.B.I. Agent [redacted] on July 11, 1977.

b6
b7C


Murrell M. Pitts, Jr.
Director, Resident Records

[redacted]
Special Agent
F.B.I.

SA, FBI

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No.

88-10052-1A21

Date Received

8-17-77

From

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

T.S.P. Kins

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Washington, D.C.

By

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes

☒ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes

☒ No

Description:

Receipt for return
of two (2) negatives
of James
Earl Ray

Obtained by SA

7/11/77

Receipt obtained by

SA

b6
b7C

FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 88-10052-1A 3

Date Received 6-11-77

From [Redacted]
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Bundy + SP
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Wahner Jr
By [Redacted]
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☒ Yes
☐ No

Receipt given ☒ Yes
☐ No

Description:

Negative Photo
James Earl Ray.
Link Date taken

Returned
6/17/77 [Redacted]

b6
b7C

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☒ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ ~~E F T O~~
☐ CLEAR

Date 6/11/77

FM MEMPHIS (88-10052) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BT

~~E F T O~~

ATTENTION: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC -
ESCAPE. OO KX.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO MEMPHIS, JUNE 11, 1977, AND BUREAU
LETTER TO MEMPHIS AUGUST 2, 1968, WITH LEGAT, MEXICO CITY,
ENCLOSURE, CAPTIONED "MURKIN."

PRIOR INVESTIGATION REFLECTS RAY AS ERIC STAVRO GALT
RESIDED HOTEL RIO MORELOS, 86, PUERTO VALLARTA, JALISCO, FOR
APPROXIMATELY 3 WEEKS AND ALSO FREQUENTED OTHER HOTELS THIS
AREA. RAY WAS KNOWN TO BARTENDERS, PROSTITUTES, AND HOTEL
EMPLOYEES AS GALT, INCLUDING [REDACTED] HOTEL
RIO.

(1) [REDACTED]

88-10052-4
SEARCHED [REDACTED]
SERIALIZED [REDACTED]
INDEXED [REDACTED]
FILED [REDACTED]

Approved: [REDACTED]

Transmitted

(Number)

296 2307Z

(Time)

Per [REDACTED]

b6
b7C
b7D

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO (ME 88-10052) ~~E F T O~~

[REDACTED], MEXICO, HELPED RAY SMUGGLE APPLIANCES INTO MEXICO FROM U. S. AND RAY HAS INDICATED IN THE PAST DESIRE TO SETTLE IN MEXICO.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

BUREAU REQUESTED TO FURNISH LEGAT, MEXICO CITY, COPY OF ENCLOSURE TO REFERENCED MEMPHIS LETTER AS WELL AS INFO TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATION AT CAMPECHE, MEXICO, RELATIVE TO [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] INVESTIGATION SHOULD ALSO BE CONDUCTED AT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CONCERNING ANY CONTACTS BY RAY WITH INDIVIDUALS PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO HIM.

ALSO LEGAT, OTTAWA, SHOULD HAVE INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED
[REDACTED]

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

b7D

b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C
b7D

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ E F T O
☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE THREE (ME 88-10052) ~~E F T O~~

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS; ESCAPE RISK.

BT

b6
b7C
b7D

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

#

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (88-10052) (P)

DATE: 6/11/77

FROM : SC [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE;
ET AL
UFAC

[REDACTED] SPC, Houston, advised at 1:00 a.m., Saturday, 6/11/77, Metro Airlines, Houston, is a commuter airlines and flies twin engine planes.

All aircraft for Metro Airlines were accounted for but he stated an aircraft belonging to Metro Airlines was sold to [REDACTED], representing Lark Corporation, Henderson, Ky., on 6/7/77. Aircraft described as Britton Norman Islander, BN2, twin engine, 7 hours flying time, maximum flying speed, 120 knots, auto pilot, color, red and white with blue trim, N-84CA, SN 274. Metro markings were still on plane when delivered to Henderson, Ky.

①-88-10052 (RAY)

1-88-10054 (HILL)

[REDACTED]

(6)

88-10052-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

b6
b7C

JUN 11 1977

[REDACTED]	CHIEF	[REDACTED]
------------	-------	------------



MEI554 1630218 N00796 1630218 1630215

OO HQ ME LA

DE NO

O 110057Z JUN 77

FM NEW ORLEANS (157-10673) RUC IMMEDIATE

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (88-10052) IMMEDIATE

LOS ANGELES IMMEDIATE

BT

E F T O

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA- FUGITIVE; "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE";
UFAC-ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO BUREAU 6/11/77.

[] INTERVIEWED INSTANT DATE. SHE HAS NOT HEARD FROM
JAMES EARL RAY AND HAS NO IDEA OF HIS PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

b6
b7C

[] RAY []

[]

[] RAY. []

[] LOS ANGELES, CALF., TELEPHONE []

REVIEW OF NEW ORLEANS FILE REVEALS [] WAS INTERVIEWED IN
LOS ANGELES ON 2/13/69. INTERVIEW INDICATES [] WAS MENTALLY
UNSTABLE AT THE TIME AND EAGER TO TESTIFY AT RAY'S TRIAL IN ORDER
TO WRITE ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES. HE INDICATED HE WOULD EMBELLISH
UPON HIS STORIES IN ORDER TO PROFIT FINANCIALLY.

b6
b7C

88-10052-13

[]	[]
[]	[]

[REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] RAY. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

LEADS:

LOS ANGELES AT LOS ANGELES LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

[REDACTED] TELEPHONE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RE HIS POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE OF RAY'S WHEREABOUTS, BEING
COGNIZANT OF [REDACTED] PAST MENTAL CONDITION.

BT

MEI556 1630337 MM0052 1630337

OO AT ME

DE MM

O 110333Z JUN 77

FM MIAMI 88-NEW

TO ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

BT

E F T O

JAMES EARL RAY AKA ERIC STAVRO GALT, JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY
LOWNEYEAR, HARVEY LOWNYER-FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT
URAC-ESCAPE. 00:KX

[REDACTED]
PALM SPRINGS FLORIDA ADVISED THAT [REDACTED] NOW RESIDES AT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] COLUMBUS GEORGIA, [REDACTED] DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE BORN [REDACTED]

6', 230 POUNDS, GRAY THINNING HAIR, BLUE EYES.

[REDACTED] STATES, [REDACTED] IS VERY NERVOUS AND HIGH STRUNG.

[REDACTED] STATES [REDACTED] WAS IN MSP WITH RAY AROUND 1966 AND DOES NOT BE-

LIEVE THAT [REDACTED] HAS HAD ANY CONTACT SINCE. [REDACTED] AT COLUMBUS

BECAUSE HE IS A DISABLED VETERAN AND RECEIVES TREATMENT AT FT. [REDACTED]

BENNING.

ATLANTA HANDLE MIAMI LEAD RE [REDACTED] AT COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, [REDACTED]

BT

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

88-10052-14
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MEI557 1630338 SC0267 1630338

RR HQ ME LA

DE SC

R 110325Z JUN 77

FM SACRAMENTO (88-NEW) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR

MEMPHIS (88-10052)

LOS ANGELES

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC STAVRO GALT, JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY LOWNEYEAR,
HARVEY LOWNYER - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC-ESCAPE.

OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE FACISILE TO SACRAMENTO BY LOS ANGELES DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

RECORDS FOLSOM STATE PEN SHOWED [] WAS PAROLLED ON JULY 2,
1973. LAST KNOWN ADDRESS FOR [] WAS []
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA.

LA INTERVIEW SUBJECT [] FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING SUBJECT
JAMES EARL RAY.

BT

MEI558 1630400

PP ME

BT

CHANNEL CHECK ABCDEF 12345

BT

88-10052-15

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 1 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

MEI559 1630522 WFO302 1630522

OO HI KX ME

DE WF

O 120510Z JUN 77

FM WASHINGTON FIELD (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA, ERIC STARVE GALT, JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY
LOWNEYEAR, HARVEY LOWNYER-FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT
UFAC-ESCAPE; OO: KNOXVILLE

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JUNE 11, 1977.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, [REDACTED] ATTORNEY
AT LAW, [REDACTED] WASHINGTON,
D.C. (WDC), ADVISED THAT HE WAS ONE OF THE ATTORNEYS CURRENTLY
BEING RETAINED BY SUBJECT RAY. [REDACTED] CONTINUED
THAT HE HAD PERSONALLY SEEN RAY REGARDING HIS APPEALS IN
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, IN 1976, AND HAD NOT SEEN HIM SINCE
THAT TIME.

[REDACTED] RECALLED THAT ONE OF RAY'S REGULAR

88-10052-16

b6
b7c

b6
b7c

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE TWO WF 88-NEW CLEAR

VISITORS WAS [REDACTED] WHO APPARENTLY SERVED RAY AS BOTH A CONFIDANT AND AS ATTORNEY. [REDACTED] SUGGESTED THAT [REDACTED] BE CONTACTED FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING RAY.

b6
b7c

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 11 HE HAD RECEIVED SEVERAL INQUIRIES FROM NEWSPAPER REPORTERS IN THE WDC AREA REQUESTING HIS COMMENTS REGARDING THE FUGITIVE'S STATUS OF RAY. [REDACTED] CONTINUED THAT DURING ONE OF THOSE CONTACTS BY THE PRESS HE WAS ADVISED THAT RAY'S BROTHER, JERRY, HAD VISITED AT THE BRUSHER MOUNT PRISON THE DAY BEFORE RAY ESCAPED. [REDACTED] CONTINUED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT ON THE DAY PRIOR TO RAY'S ESCAPE FROM THE MISSOURI PRISON IN 1969, HE WAS ALSO VISITED BY HIS BROTHER, JERRY.

b6
b7c

[REDACTED] CONCLUDED HIS REMARKS BY STATING THAT HE, PERSONALLY, HAD ONLY KNOWN RAY ONLY SLIGHTLY IN HIS ROLE AS DEFENSE ATTORNEY, BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS HIS CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT RAY WAS IN NO WAY MENTALLY DERANGED AND POSSESSED A HIGH DEGREE OF NATIVE INTELLIGENCE AND CUNNING.

b6
b7c

PAGE THREE WF 88-NEW CLEAR

WITH REGARD TO OTHER WDC ATTORNEY [REDACTED] STATED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT [REDACTED] HAD NOT SEEN RAY PERSONALLY IN THE PAST YEAR.

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b7c

WITH REGARD TO ATTORNEY [REDACTED] STATED THAT [REDACTED] WAS ONE OF RAY'S DEFENSE ATTORNEYS IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, AND THAT THE FALLS BUILDING WAS IN FACT LOCATED IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, INSTEAD OF WDC.

EFFORTS TO CONTACT ATTORNEY [REDACTED] HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BUT ARE CONTINUING.

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b7c

MEMPHIS, AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE. WILL INTERVIEW ATTORNEY [REDACTED] FOR ANY INFORMATION REGARDING RAY'S PRESENT WHEREABOUTS.

WASHINGTON FIELD, AT WDC. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW ATTORNEY [REDACTED] WDC, TELEPHONE NUMBER [REDACTED]

b6
b7c

LEAD TO CONTACT [REDACTED] IS BEING LEFT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-NEW)

DATE: 6/10/77

FROM :

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY; ET AL;
UFAC

On 6/10/77 at approximately 9:45 PM, this office was telephonically contacted by [REDACTED] inquired re JAMES EARL RAY's escape and advised he had some information concerning RAY.

[REDACTED] SA [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] (RAY) [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RAY's [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] JAMES
EARL RAY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] RAY [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

A tape recording was made of the above telephone call. SAC TRIMBACH was advised of above information and the appropriate Special Agents notified.

88-10052-28

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 10 1977	
FBI - PHOENIX	



The following Special Agents were notified of this
matter:

SAC TRIMBACH

ASAC [REDACTED]

SRA [REDACTED]

SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Was Literally Hounded Into Handcuffs

From Our Press Services

PETROS, Tenn. — It was a bold break-out — climbing over a wall that had been scaled only once before — even for James Earl Ray, who likes to consider himself a master escape artist.

It ended just as desperately. After a three-hour chase up and down three miles of craggy mountain forests, the 49-year-old convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was so exhausted he could do nothing more to elude his pursuers but lie on the ground in the vain hope that a pair of young bloodhounds wouldn't find him under a thin cover of leaves.

Brushy Mountain State Prison officials believe Ray tried to prepare himself for Friday night's escape with rigorous exercises in the prison recreation yard.

And, once over the wall, he apparently paced himself. A couple of the seven men who escaped ran hard from the start. But Warden Stonney Lane was convinced Ray was traveling with two other desperadoes, Earl Hill and Douglas Shelton, and "they weren't traveling at a very rapid pace.

"They were moving short distances, staying under cover during the day," Lane said, "and we figured we'd just have to wait them out."

That pace continued for 50 hours. Then, late Sunday night, came the break Lane had hoped for. A resident of Devonia, a coal-mining camp eight miles northeast of



Warden Stonney Lane

UPI

the prison, reported seeing three strangers in the area. Bloodhounds were rushed to the scene.

The dogs picked up a trail within minutes, and their handlers quickly spotted three men. The men broke and ran — in three directions.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: 6-14-77

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor:

Title: James Earl Ray

Character: ME(88-10052)

or

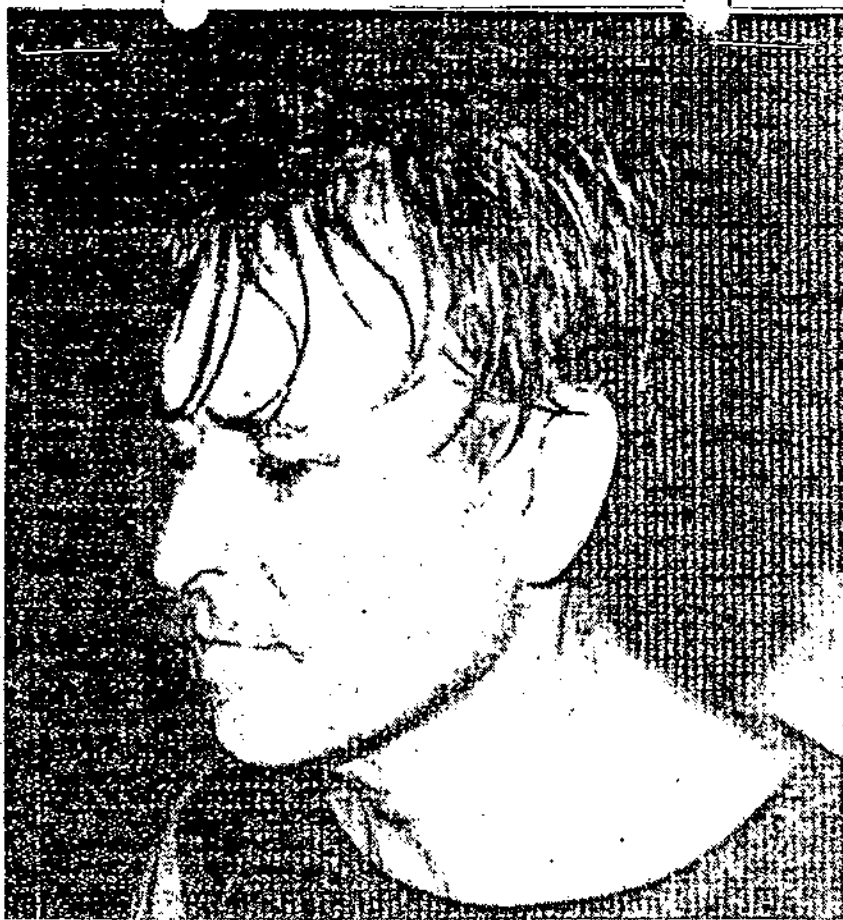
Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 15 1977	

b6
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Haggard James Earl Ray After Capture

The hounds stayed on the trail that led to Hill, Ray's cellmate. The convicted rapist and killer of a police officer was flushed from under a bush and captured. The guards radioed the prison that the other two men, on the run, matched the descriptions of Ray and Shelton.

Until they caught up with Ray they thought they might have been following Shelton.

That's because the fugitives split up, and the two bloodhounds, named Sandy and Little Red, were arbitrarily directed to follow one of the tracks.

Sammy Joe Chapman was leader of the team of six Brushy Mountain guards who took Ray into custody.

It was Chapman who put the handcuffs on Ray.

Ray said he had not eaten in a day, according to Chapman, who also said Ray was "pretty well covered" with leaves.

Chapman was wearing a shoulder holster and a cap with a small lamp attached to it.

Lane gave this account of the final moments of the chase:

"When the dogs picked up the scent, we did not know it was James Earl Ray . . .

"We had one subject on the east side of (Tennessee) 116 and one subject on the west side. We knew this. What we did, just at random, we took the west side, the river side. So OK, we'll get him first."

The two fresh 14-month-old bloodhounds were placed on what proved to be Ray's trail and, as Lane put it, "They ran him hard."

Ray tried to lose them by wading across the ankle-high water of New River, but the hounds followed his scent up one side of the stream and quickly picked it up again on the other.

His trail then led 750 yards up a wooded slope, then up and down a road and into another heavily wooded area.

"By this time he was climbing again," Lane said. "The dog handlers were reporting they could hear him up ahead."

The trail crossed a clearing cut for a power line and then pushed up to another cluster of woods. By now, Ray, the dogs still hot on his trail, had run three miles in three hours.

Finally, exhausted, scratched from the brush and the briars, without food for 54 hours, James Earl Ray could run no longer. He fell to earth but would not relent. He covered himself with leaves.

Soon the dogs came.

Sandy reached him first, pulling on a leash held by Chapman, at 2 a.m. Monday.

"James, are you all right?" Chapman asked.

"I'm OK," Ray replied.

They put handcuffs on him, arms in front in case he fell, and James Earl Ray, assassin and escapee, was marched slowly down the mountain.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Federal Custody Of Ray Requested By Governor

From Our Press Services

NASHVILLE — Gov. Ray Blanton Monday asked President Carter and the Justice Department to assume custody of James Earl Ray.

Blanton's request came 15 hours after Ray was captured following his escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros. He was put in a cell by himself and a guard was posted outside the cell.

Spokesmen for the White House and the Justice Department said Blanton's request would be considered and that there were no legal prohibitions to the transfer of the convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. However, the Justice Department spokesman said that Ray and his attorney would have to be consulted, that the state would have to pay the expenses and that the department would have to determine what category of custody to place Ray in.

"I know we have more than 200 state prisoners in federal prisons," the spokesman said, but added that federal prisons are so crowded that special consideration has to be given to such transfers.

He said the main decision is whether the Carter administration wishes to have the transfer made.

The expense of keeping Ray was one of the reasons cited by Blanton in a letter to Carter requesting federal custody.

Blanton also cited Ray's notoriety, his record of escapes in two states and the federal court order which required prison officials six years ago to take Ray out of isolation. Blanton blamed that order for Ray's escape Friday night.

Blanton conceded that court action might be necessary to remove Ray.

Rep. Harold Ford of Memphis said he agrees with Blanton's request and that he would sponsor any legislation needed to move Ray into federal custody. Sen. Howard Baker (R-Tenn.), the Senate minority leader, said he would support such legislation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: 6-14-77

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor:

Title:

James Earl Ray

Character: ME(88-10052)

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

Being Investigated

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JUN 15 1977	
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At a news conference in Nashville, Blanton said, "Since James Earl Ray is a national issue and has come up with national connotations and national concerns, we feel like rather than expending more of Tennessee taxpayers' money, the federal government should take custody of him," said Blanton.

"So, I'm offering him to the President."

The governor said he talked by telephone shortly after Ray's capture with Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell and made his wishes known.

Blanton said the search cost the state "at least \$175,000 in the last two days."

"This doesn't include our court costs or the pretrial costs."

Blanton, reported angry at criticism reported by newsmen from some federal officials because of Ray's escape, appeared at the news conference with C. Murray Henderson, state corrections commissioner, and Joel Plummer, state safety commissioner. Henderson and Plummer had overall charge of the manhunt.

"I think all of us have had our integrity questioned and there's this nonsense about a conspiracy," said Henderson.

Asked if federal officials had questioned the Tennessee leaders' integrity, Blanton replied, "Not directly, no, but they most certainly have raised questions about our integrity through the media."

Henderson also said officials are "in the process of making a complete investigation of the security of Brushy Mountain and we're making some changes in the security system."

Blanton said it would be a long time before Ray will be let out of "administrative segregation," which is not solitary confinement but removes Ray from other prisoners and restricts his movements.

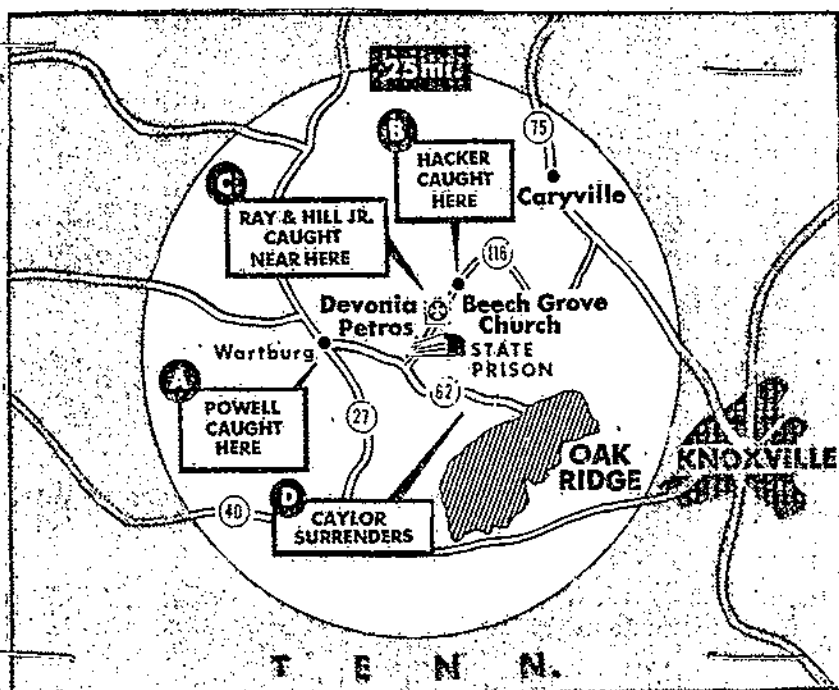
But later Monday, Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney Lane said Ray could not be kept in "administrative lockup" for more than seven days.

After Ray was brought to the Tennessee State Prison here and, after his transfer to Brushy Mountain, he was kept isolated from other prisoners until the spring of 1971.

But in 1970, Ray won from the late Judge William E. Miller, then presiding judge of the U.S. District Court here — as Blanton noted in his letter to the President — an order that forced the state to permit Ray out of his cell more frequently to perform odd jobs, and for recreation. The state contended he was being kept separate from other prisoners for his own protection.

A spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons said if Ray is transferred his new home could be at the maximum security prison at Marion in Southern Illinois.

The other escapees were also placed in





UPI

RAY'S CAPTORS — The men who captured James Earl Ray assemble at Brushy Mountain. From left: Mark Goddard, Sam Chapman, Larry Harris, John Newberry, Gil Monroe and David Heidel.

Ray Refuses To Talk About Escape Ordeal

"administrative segregation" when captured. They were Donald Ray Caylor, 24, of Knoxville, serving 51 years for assault with a deadly weapon, armed robbery and escape; Earl Hill, Jr., 34, of Tennessee's Washington County, Ray's cellmate, serving two life terms plus 27 years for first-degree murder, assault with attempt to murder and rape; Larry Edward Hacker, 32, of Hamilton, Ohio, serving 28 years for burglary, safecracking and robbery, and David Lee Powell, 28, of Memphis serving 100 years for first-degree murder of a theater clerk.

Lane said the last fugitive, Douglas Shelton, was hemmed up in the same craggy, coal-filled mountains in which Ray was retaken.

"We got him isolated. All we need is another set of bloodhounds."

The haggard, 49-year-old Ray fell exhausted on a dark mountainside before dawn and with his remaining strength tried to squirm under a pile of rotting leaves. "You might get over the wall" at Brushy Mountain, Lane said, "but you still have another huge wall to get over" — the mountain wilderness that rings the prison. Ray managed to flee only 10 miles through it in his 54 hours of freedom.

Becca Cottrill, a prison spokesman, said Ray looked "like a pig wallowing in a sty," caked with mud, hair wet and matted, cut from briars, and very hungry.

Henderson said Ray "was in good shape . . . nothing wrong except he was completely exhausted."

Lane was asked whether Ray had said anything about the escape since his recapture and he replied, "No. Nothing at all."

Another prison spokesman said that, when asked "What did you do?" Ray replied with one word:

"Nothing."

Ray was taken first to the prison infirmary, where he was pronounced fit despite scratches and cuts from his flight through the woods and thickets with two bloodhounds baying on his trail.

In the infirmary Monday morning, Ray was given a glass of juice, an egg, a biscuit with grape jelly and a glass of milk. He later ate a hearty lunch centered on barbecue pork and mustard greens.

He was placed in "administrative segregation" in a one-man cell in Block D. Lane said this means that although he can talk through the bars of his cell to other prisoners, he must remain locked up except for a daily 30-minute exercise period in a walkway of the block.

His meals will be brought to the cell and he loses his \$22-a-week job in the laundry. A hearing this week will determine whether he should be prosecuted for escape.

"I don't think Mr. Ray will be in the laundry for quite a while," Henderson said. He refused to say when Ray might return to his prison job.

If convicted of escape, the seven in-

mates could have from one to five years added to their sentences, which in Ray's case could keep him behind bars until the 21st Century. Before escaping, he had been eligible for parole in 1998.

Investigators, meanwhile, were analyzing the errors that allowed the convicts to break out.

The investigation is in the hands of the state Corrections Department and the state Bureau of Criminal Identification. Officials did not say how completely the details had been worked out. It was not known, for example, how large an effort it would be.

One central question will be why no guard manned the tower nearest the northeast corner of the prison recreation yard, where the convicts scaled a 14-foot wall with a makeshift ladder about one hour before dusk Friday.

Prison officials have said the post is manned only during emergencies but declined to specify what constitutes an emergency or how a guard could quickly be dispatched to the post.

Another question is whether guards, distracted by a prison yard fight, were negligent in allowing six inmates to scale the mountain stone wall before firing on and wounding a seventh.

"They should never have gotten over that wall," said Deputy Warden Herman Davis. "Anytime anyone goes over that wall, it's someone's fault."

A live wire carrying 2,300 volts hangs a foot over the wall and prison officials first said the escapees slid under the wire without touching it.

Hevaluate your prisons," he said. "I think there are some corrections we have to make."

Already the guard tower nearest to the escape route has been manned. Other specific plans to tighten security will be announced following the investigation.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Capture Left Guard Ready . . . Waiting

By JAN TAYLOR

From The Commercial Appeal
Dyersburg, Tenn., Bureau

DYERSBURG, Tenn. — Probably one of the most disgruntled Tennessee National Guardsmen who did not make the anticipated trip to Brushy Mountain Prison to hunt for James Earl Ray, was Dennis Ogden of Lake County.

Ogden, one of the 160 volunteers of the 168th Military Police Battalion of Dyersburg and Ripley, went to the trouble to get his long blond hair cut to regulation length Sunday night for the trip.

"After I got my hair cut, this is a real letdown," Ogden said. "Couldn't we hunt someone else?"

Ogden wears a wig to drill with his longish hair tucked underneath. But has to have a haircut when he goes to summer guard camp. This year, he got his hair cut early.

The guardsmen received orders to proceed to Brushy Mountain at 2 p.m. Sunday, during a routine drill session. The remainder of the day was spent packing company equipment, weapons and personal gear.

They did not learn of Ray's capture until they reported for duty at 5 a.m. Monday.

A sleepy-eyed Danny Roberts, an insurance man in civilian life, was planning on sleeping all the way to Petros.

"I live in Parsons and I had to make the trip there last night and back again this morning," he said. "I haven't had any sleep yet, and now I have to go home to work."

Ronnie Stutts of Dyersburg, said, "We were all prepared with snakebite kits, chigger spray and chewing tobacco."

Some remembered Ray from duty at the Nashville prison after a riot. One guardsman said, "He liked us. The guards said Ray was a model prisoner."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 3

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN

Date: 6/15/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title: James Earl Ray

Character: ME(88-10052)

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ☐ INDEXED ☐
SERIALIZED ☐ FILED ☐

JUN 15 1977

FBI - MEMPHIS

b6
b7c

Transmitted by Facsimile - CLEAR

Precedence: Priority

To: SAC, Memphis
 From: SAC, Knoxville
 Subject: James Earl Ray et al
URAC

Date: 6-16-77

Time Transmitted:

Initials:

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☐ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☒ Other _____

Special handling instructions:

Hand Delivered to SACApproved: b6
b7C

FBI/DOJ

88-10052-36

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 16 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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b7C

United States District Court

FOR THE

EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE -- NORTHWEST DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.
JAMES EARL RAY;EARL HULL, Jr.;
[REDACTED]

Magistrate's Docket No.

Case No.

COMPLAINT for VIOLATION of

U.S.C. Title 18

Section 371

b6
b7C

BEFORE Honorable Frank A. Kaufman, U. S. District Court Judge

District Judge

Attorney at Law

The undersigned complainant, being duly sworn, states:

That on or about June 6, 1977, up to and including June 10, 1977,

in the

Eastern District of Tennessee,

v. JAMES EARL RAY, [REDACTED] EARL HULL, Jr., [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

did in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, unlawfully, willfully, knowingly, feloniously, and fraudulently combine, conspire, confederate, and agree with each other, and with diverse other persons, at the present time unknown, to commit offenses against the United States and the laws thereof, as follows:

To violate Title 18, United States Code, Section 1073, by willfully
(continued page 2)

And the complainant states that this complaint is based on the fact that the following named individuals were lawfully confined in Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, within the Eastern District of Tennessee, to wit: JAMES EARL RAY, lawfully confined for First Degree Murder (a felony); [redacted] lawfully confined for Armed Robbery With A Deadly Weapon And Burglary (both felonies); EARL RICE, JR., lawfully confined for First Degree Murder and Rape (both felonies); [redacted] lawfully confined for First Degree Murder (a felony); [redacted] lawfully confined for First Degree Murder (a felony); and [redacted] lawfully confined for Armed Robbery and Assault With Intent to Commit Murder (both felonies); and, that, on June 10, 1977, at approximately 7:20 PM, the aforementioned individuals did escape from the aforementioned state prison; and to aid in effecting their escape, they utilized a homemade ladder made from pipes obtained from the prison.

(continued page 2)

And the complainant further states that he believes that:

[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Knoxville, Tenn.;
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Knoxville, Tenn.;
[redacted] Special Agent, FBI, Knoxville, Tenn.; and
[redacted] Assistant Special Agent in Charge, FBI, Knoxville, Tenn.

b6

b7c

no material witnesses are related to this charge.

Sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence, June 11, 1977, at Knoxville, Tenn.

Special Agent, FBI

John A. Kaufman

Subscribed and sworn to before me, June 11, 1977, at Knoxville, Tenn.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

*Respectfully,
[Signature]
in the E. District*

did (2) (continued)

and unlawfully and with felonious intent, to move and travel in interstate commerce with intent to avoid confinement after conviction, under the laws of the State of Tennessee, for crimes which are felonies under the laws of the State of Tennessee, to wit: JAMES EARL RAY, First Degree Murder (a felony); [redacted] Armed Robbery With A Deadly Weapon And Burglary (both felonies); EARL HILL, JR., First Degree Murder and Rape (both felonies); [redacted] First Degree Murder (a felony); [redacted] First Degree Murder (a felony); and [redacted] Armed Robbery and Assault With Intent To Commit Murder (both felonies). b6 b7c

this complaint is based on (continued)

plumbing shop. Furthermore, the escape was aided by diversion, to wit: a feigned fight and injury on the part of other inmates.

JAMES EARL RAY, at the time an escapee from the Missouri Prison System, is known to have traveled in foreign commerce to avoid confinement in Missouri and prosecution in Tennessee, and is known to have escaped three previous times from lawful confinement in the prison system of one or more other states and to have fled from the then state of confinement immediately after at least two of those escapes.

[redacted] previously escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison and was apprehended on April 13, 1977, at Virginia Beach, Virginia, by Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Subsequent to the aforementioned apprehension, [redacted] stated to Federal authorities words to the effect that he would be seeing them soon in Virginia. b7c

The location of Brushy Mountain State Prison is approximately fifty-five (55) miles from the State of Kentucky. Investigation is being conducted and, at the time of the filing of this complaint, none of the above six individuals have been located in the vicinity of the prison.

There is probable cause to believe that one or more of the escapees has fled or is about to flee the state of Tennessee.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Death, Flight Filled Years Between Ray Escapes

Important dates in the James Earl Ray case include:

April 23, 1967: Ray escapes from Missouri State Prison in Jefferson City.

April 4, 1968: Dr. Martin Luther King is assassinated outside the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, where he had gone to support the city's striking sanitation workers.

June 5, 1968: Ray is arrested in London.

March 10, 1969: Ray pleads guilty and is sentenced to 99 years.

March 13, 1969: Ray changes his story and denies firing the shot that killed King. He later contends he was in Memphis at the time of the killing on the instructions of a man named

"Raoul," whom he thought was part of a gun-running scheme.

May 1971: Ray escapes from his cell at Brushy Mountain state prison, Petros, Tenn., but is recaptured 15 minutes later.

Feb. 5, 1972: Ray attempts to escape from his work area at Brushy Mountain, but fails and

is sentenced to 30 days in a disciplinary cell.

Feb. 27, 1975: Federal judge refuses to allow Ray to withdraw his guilty plea and denies his request for a trial in the King slaying.

Aug. 15, 1975: Ray, released from the Tennessee penitentiary's maximum security unit, is assigned to a \$22-a-week job at the prison laundry.

Nov. 22, 1975: Ray's attorneys ask the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati to grant Ray a trial.

May 10, 1976: Appeals Court unanimously rules Ray cannot repudiate his confession and cannot stand trial.

March 16, 1977: Ray says he may be willing to testify before a House committee investigat-

ing the assassinations of King and President John Kennedy.

March 28, 1977: Ray meets with House committee investigators at Brushy Mountain—the first of five such meetings.

May 4, 1977: Ray's lawyer says Ray gave House committee investigators the name of a man who can place him at a service station when King was shot. But the man, Willie Green, says only his employer was the one who identified Ray as King's slayer.

June 10, 1977: Ray escapes from Brushy Mountain state prison.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 4

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Date: 6/11/77
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

88-10052-37

SERIALIZED FILED

JUN 25 1977

FBI - MEMPHIS

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Some Feared New Trial'

Ray Possibly Kidnaped, Attorney Says

Jack Kershaw, James Earl Ray's Nashville attorney, said last night there is a "possibility that should not be ignored" — that Ray was kidnaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison, instead of escaping.

Kershaw attributed such a possible kidnaping to people who might be "disturbed" at the prospect that Ray could get a new trial and develop new evidence concerning the 1968 slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ray has been serving a 99-year sentence for the slaying, on a guilty plea.

Ralph Abernathy, a close associate of assassinated civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., also doubted Ray's escape saying he believes the escape is a move to set Ray up to "be destroyed."

I am greatly outraged over this news. I firmly am convinced beyond a shadow of a

doubt that Ray has not escaped but is part of a plan," the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said.

KERSHAW SAID HE has had "rumblings" of such concern since he has been working with Ray in an effort to get a new trial.

"I can't be specific, but I have a rapport with certain elements that have indicated their concern with Ray's having a new trial," Kershaw said.

He said he has had contacts with "the underworld — the Mafia," and identified some of those who possibly wanted Ray out of prison as "the (Ku Klux) Klan, the FBI or CIA, black groups jealous of King's power and those violent black groups who were opposed to King's methods."

KERSHAW DID not say specifically why any of these groups would be interested in

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 4

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN.

Date: 6/11/77
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	
JUN 20 1977	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

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b7c

kidnaping Ray. But the Nashville attorney has contended in recent months that Ray himself did not shoot down King and said at one point "there had to be some sort of conspiracy" behind the assassination.

Asked how Ray could be kidnaped from a maximum security prison like Brushy Mountain, Kershaw noted incoming mail is not opened, and said it would be easy for interested people to send money into the prison to pay other inmates to kidnap Ray.

He implied Ray may not have gone along willingly with the other five inmates in the escape party.

"I AM WONDERING if the escape was engineered by him, or whether he had to go along with the situation, but this is pure speculation on my part," Kershaw said.

He added it was important to note that "Ray has said he wants to acquit himself, not convict anyone else. That shows his concern with reprisals."

When he was first notified of Ray's escape, Kershaw expressed "total surprise and shock."

"I TALKED with him this week and he indicated nothing of this nature," Kershaw said then. "His plans were definitely oriented to a new trial with renewed confidence."

"This must have been a hysterical, spur of the moment thing. I was getting him out of prison, but not this way."

Later, Kershaw came up with the theory of a possible kidnaping.

IN WASHINGTON, James H. Lesar, the attorney who represented Ray before the Supreme Court, said he wasn't

really surprised at Ray's escape. Lesar said Ray felt he had no alternative.

"After seven years of constant struggle to gain a hearing and reopening the case in court, I think he simply concluded the courts' claims to justice were farcical, that he had no alternative but to escape," Lesar said.

Lesar added Ray's escape "could have been avoided if the courts had at any time during the past eight years done what they were obligated to do, to give him the trial he deserved."

Lesar represented Ray in a plea to the Supreme Court to set aside a circuit court decision that affirmed a federal district court verdict, in effect sanctioning Ray's conviction.

Jerry Ray, the younger brother of Ray, said last night he does not believe his brother will succeed in his escape attempt.

2*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

He Had Hinted Break Interest To Interviewer

*1977 The Tennessean

By MARSHA VANDE BERG

James Earl Ray told me two weeks ago that "they wouldn't have me in a maximum security prison if I wasn't interested in getting out."

And the only question Ray refused to answer during an exclusive interview with him at Brushy Mountain State Prison was how he managed to escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1967.

HE DID ADMIT that he had help from other prison inmates in that escape 10 years ago, and he denied he had help from any prison officials. But that was as far as he would go.

Last night, Ray escaped from Brushy Mountain, where he was serving a 99-year sentence for the 1968 slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. At the time of the slaying, Ray was at large after that escape, from a 20-year sentence for armed robbery.

Prison officials were taken by surprise last night by Ray's escape with five other inmates, though Ray has made unsuccessful escape efforts at Brushy Mountain twice before. He bungled them, both in 1971 and 1972.

IN HIS 1971 effort, Ray used tools provided by another inmate, Roy Morelock, to scrape away cement from a concrete block in his cell wall. Removing that block and part of another, Ray crawled into an air chamber, ripped bars from a ventilation fan and escaped into the prison courtyard.

But there he tried to use the wrong concrete tunnel to crawl about 100 yards outside the prison walls. It was a steam tunnel, with a temperature of about 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

Ray suffered a few minor burns in the effort. He left his escape tools—a hammer, chisels and a crowbar—in the tunnel, backed out and

huddled in the courtyard trying to figure another way out. There he was found and surrounded by guards, who had been alerted by noise he made in the air chamber.

IN 1972, RAY tried to cut through the ceiling of a room adjoining the prison auditorium to the auditorium roof, and escape over the prison wall. Several other prisoners had succeeded in escaping by that route earlier.

Ray had obtained a hammer, a makeshift saw, rope, a block and bit and some plastic wood. They were thought to have been stolen from maintenance workers who had rebuilt a visiting area in the building not long before.

Ray had cut through the wooden ceiling of the room, apparently while movies were being shown in the darkened auditorium, and had used the plastic wood to put the cut board back into place and hide what he had been doing. He was captured while crawling back out of the room, apparently intending to attempt his escape later under cover of darkness.

HE HAS BEEN described as a "model prisoner" in recent months by prison officials, and Warden Stoney Lane said he voiced no objection to working with whites and blacks alike, side by side in the prison laundry. In his interview with me, Ray said he has no personal prejudice against blacks—but he added that he could not describe himself as a "humanitarian."

During that interview, arranged in the presence of Ray's present attorney, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, Ray

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

THE TENNESSEAN

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talked about a lot of things in connection with the King case.

One of his major contentions was that he did not slay King, but that a mysterious Latin companion whom he knew only as "Raoul" may have shot the civil rights leader.

AT LENGTH, RAY told how his attorney, Percy Foreman of Texas, had "coerced" him into pleading guilty to the King slaying. He said he took Foreman's advice because Foreman told him of threats made to his family if he did not admit that he assassinated King.

He said, however, that he is "legally innocent" of the murder, although "I may be in some way partly responsible for it."

He said it was his responsibility to purchase the 30.06 Remington rifle which authorities believe was used to shoot King.

RAY SAID his first knowledge of King's death came in a radio broadcast over the radio in the car he was driving in the vicinity of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis where King was shot.

Ray said he sped away because he feared being arrested as an escaped convict.

During my interview with him, Ray sat at the corner of a long conference table. Kershaw was with him at the time. Ray was undemonstrative during most of the two-hour session. His hands were almost always folded across his lap as he talked, often in a high-pitched voice in broken sentences and using bad grammar.

HE SEEMED to have little sense of humor and his lawyer

later described him as being "often sardonic."

Despite the broken sentences and grammar, Ray appeared to be cunning.

At one point, Ray was asked about the palm and fingerprints—identified by the FBI as his—on the Remington rifle. His answer began in the first person as he described himself handling the gun, but then shifted to what criminals do to avoid tracing the weapon.

"MY FINGERPRINTS should have been all over it as much as I handled it," Ray said. But then he added:

"Usually whenever I'm doing anything—in the past like armed robbery, you usually put band aids over your fingers and that way you won't leave any prints." Ray, who often expressed himself in legalistic terms, seemed also to know the ways of the criminal underworld.

FOR EXAMPLE, he said his "professional relationship" with the mysterious "Raoul" was begun so Raoul could obtain "passports" for Ray. He wanted to leave the country so he did not have to go back to the Missouri penitentiary, he said.

"I could have gotten the passports myself," he added. He also described the ease with which he said he obtained a phony passport which he used to flee Canada for London after King was assassinated.

Ray, discussing his plans to escape this country, was explicit about where he wanted to live. He specified a country where English is spoken but rejected Mexico.

IN MEXICO, he said he would be associated with the lower classes and added that

that would be difficult to become "accustomed to."

Ray claims that that is the reason he did not stay in Mexico although he says he illegally carried packages across the border into Mexico as well as Canada.

The packages containing narcotics and other things were carried for Raoul, Ray claims. The mysterious figure, whom Ray describes as a Latin American who used the alias Raoul, gave Ray the money to buy the rifle, Ray claims.

"I'M 99% certain there's no one by that name," Ray said. "It's just an alias like the four or five aliases I was using."

Ray was arrested in London using the alias of George Ramon George Sneed. He used the alias John Willard to register at the Memphis boarding house from where King is believed to have been shot.

Ray was classified at Brushy Mountain after sentencing, but then transferred to Nashville after the prison in the desolate, unpopulated area around Petros was closed.

IN 1976, after the prison was reopened and at Ray's request, Ray was returned to the East Tennessee maximum security unit.

Guards at the prison have said it is impossible to escape from the Petros facility. There are only two ways out, they say.

One is across a mountain infested with rattlesnakes. The other is down a road leading past the prison warden's house and through Petros.

RAY, WHO appeared during the interview two weeks ago to be healthy, despite a prison pallor, apparently knew a way out last night, however.

But if he was plotting his escape two weeks ago, he gave no hint of his plans.

It seemed to me that he was always aware of precisely what he was saying. If he began to misspeak himself, he seemed to quickly gloss over any potential misstatements that would lead to what Ray considered false conclusions.

He seemed always to be wary, and always cunning.

* * *

Mickey McGuire, a former Tennessee state trooper, who accompanied Ray from Memphis to be imprisoned in Nashville in 1969, said the convicted killer talked freely about his escape after the murder of King and about his earlier escape from prison in Missouri.

"He talked about it a lot," McGuire said. "There were three of us in the car and he just talked about how he went to London after King was killed and how he was supposed to meet somebody and go to South Africa."

"LOOKS LIKE he might have headed for there again," he added.

McGuire said Ray told stories of how, when he was in the Missouri prison, he managed to be placed in the psychiatric ward of the institution because "the duty was better."

"He said he wasn't crazy. He was just getting out of work," McGuire said.

McGUIRE SAID he drove Ray several other times after

he was charged with the King murder but Ray was never again as talkative.

He also recalled going with then State Safety Department Commissioner Greg O'Rear to meet Ray when he was returned to Tennessee after being apprehended in London.

"We picked him up at the airbase in Millington, Tenn. and escorted him from there with the FBI, the Memphis chief of police and people from the sheriff's department," McGuire said. "The press had been told he would land at the Memphis airport so they were all there and we just took him to the county jail."



Mickey McGuire
Talked with Ray in '69

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6 *

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

JAMES EARL

RAY

ESCAPES

5 Others Break Out; 7th Shot Going Over

By ALAN CARMICHAEL and JACK SIRICA

Tennessean Staff Correspondents

PETROS, Tenn. — James Earl Ray, serving 99 years for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from remote, fortress-like Brushy Mountain State Prison last night, along with five other men.

The men scaled a wall in the prison yard during the evening recreation period about 7 p.m. CST, using a homemade ladder fabricated out of lighting conduit, said Brooks Parker, spokesman for Gov. Ray Blanton. A prison spokeswoman said the prisoners apparently fashioned the ladder in the prison machine shop.

PRISON OFFICIALS said the escape was covered by a mock fight between two prisoners in the yard of the maximum security facility.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

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One of the inmates involved in the mock altercation feigned a broken leg, officials said. As guards moved to break up the fight they saw a prisoner going over the wall and shot him.

By that time, officers said, Ray and the other five had disappeared into the rugged, wooded mountains behind the prison, 40 miles northwest of Knoxville near the Kentucky line.

The six men — five white and one black — went over the wall into rugged mountain terrain at the rear of the prison, said Deputy Warden Herman Davis.

SOME 170 STATE Corrections Department officers were joined by state troopers, FBI and TBI agents and sheriff's officers from four East Tennessee counties in a search of the area surrounding the prison.

Prison bloodhounds picked up the scent of three of the men soon after the escape, Parker said.

"The fact that they went over the back wall indicates to me that they didn't have outside help," Davis said.

THE PRISON official said Highway Patrol helicopters will be enlisted in an "early morning search" of the mountains around the Morgan County prison.

Parker said officials feel the escapees "will try to wait it out in the mountains."

A seventh prisoner, Jerry Wayne Ward, serving 20 to 40 years for bank robbery from Davidson County, was captured by prison guards after being shot as he attempted to cross the wall, Parker said.

WARD WAS treated for "superficial bullet wounds" to the forehead and left arm at Oak Ridge Hospital and was returned to the prison infirmary, Parker said.

The walls of the prison vary from 12 to 16 feet.

The other men still at large last night, along with Ray, were identified by the Tennessee Highway Patrol as:

Donald Ray Taylor, 24, serving 51 years for attempted murder.

Douglas Shelton, 32, serving 60 years for attempted murder in Sullivan County.

David Lee Powell, 27, serving 100 years for murder, from Shelby County. Powell is the only black man among the escapees, officials said.

Earl Hill Jr., 34, serving 100 years plus an additional life sentence for murder, from Washington and Unicoi counties.

Larry Edward Hacker,

serving time on burglary and robbery charges from Hardin County.

Ward was treated at Oak Ridge Hospital for "superficial gunshot wounds" to the forehead and left arm and released, said Pauline Hahn, nursing supervisor at the hospital.

"He was X-rayed, treated and taken back to the prison," she said. "He was only in our emergency room for about half an hour."

ANOTHER hospital official said Ward was shouting: "James Earl Ray got out! Ray got out!"

A White House spokesman announced in Washington last night that "President Carter talked to Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell, who in turn talked to FBI

Director Clarence Kelley, who ordered the FBI to join in the search."

PARKER HAD said earlier that prison officials had requested the help of the FBI.

Parker said Blanton "is in touch with the situation," but he said the governor had no plans last night to go to the prison himself.

Walter A. Fauntroy, the District of Columbia Democrat who chairs the House Assassinations Committee, said last night he has directed staff members to come here to investigate the escape.

"SOMEBODY HAS to answer a lot of questions about the escape," Fauntroy said, adding that he is "shocked and dismayed that a key figure in a congressional investigation is able to escape from maximum security."

Ray has sought a new trial since shortly after he pleaded guilty in 1969 to the murder of Dr. King, the civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner, in Memphis April 4, 1968. The slaying touched off race riots across the country.

Ray has been housed at both the main state prison in Nashville and at Brushy Mountain since he was sentenced to a 99-year term. He attempted twice before — unsuccessfully — to escape from the remote prison here.

Ray has met with investigators for a House committee at the prison several times in recent months to discuss his knowledge of the slaying of Dr. King.

HE TOLD THE investigators that he never fired the shot that killed King. Ray claimed a mysterious man named "Raoul" had told him to go to a movie in Memphis that afternoon.

Ray admitted buying the rifle that the FBI said killed King, but said he did it on orders from Raoul and turned the gun over to him. When the shot was fired, Ray said, he was getting a spare tire fixed at a service station.

Ray has given interviews to various representatives of various news media in recent weeks, including the Tennessean, after a long period of refusing to comment for publication.

A House select committee probing the assassination of King has sent staffers to interview Ray at Brushy Mountain several times in the last few months. Ray and his attorney, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, have cooperated in these interviews, with the expressed hope that Ray can get a new trial.

King was shot to death by a sniper in Memphis, where he had gone to assist city sanitation workers in a strike against the city, long marred by violence.

KING WAS SHOT as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel. Investigators said later the bullet that struck him was fired from a run-down boarding house across the street from the motel.

The assassination touched off rioting and looting throughout the nation.

After the slaying, Ray fled to Europe, where he was arrested in London June 8, about two months after King's death, under the alias of Ramon George Sneed.

HE PLEADED GUILTY to the slaying in exchange for a 99-year sentence, and never testified in court. He has been housed at both the Tennessee State Prison here, where he was kept in solitary confinement for security and safety reasons, and at Brushy Mountain, where he has been permitted to mingle with the general prison population.

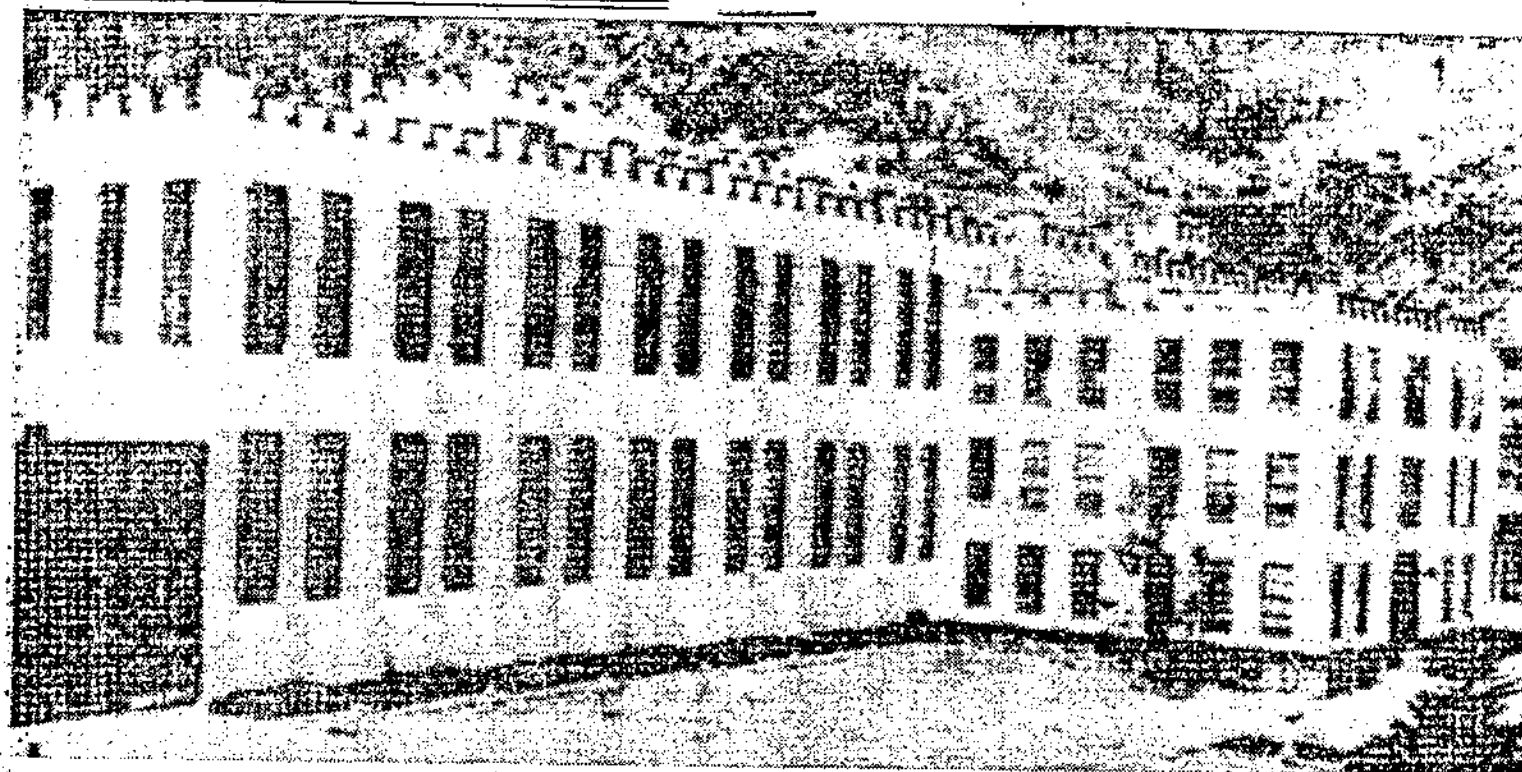
Ray has contended in his effort to gain a new trial that he did not kill King, although he acknowledged buying the rifle and binoculars said to have been used in the slaying.

He has said his first attorney, Percy Foreman, persuaded him to plead guilty, indicating he believed Foreman was primarily interested in cashing in on publicity surrounding the case.

RAY HAS SAID that a mysterious "Spanish-looking" man with auburn hair, named Raoul, was his associate in Memphis and that he bought the rifle and binoculars for Raoul. He has said he does not know Raoul's last name, or anything about his identity except that he thought Raoul was involved in some sort of gun-running operation.



James Earl Ray
Mock fight diverts guards' attention



Another Prison Ray Left Behind

—AP Wirephoto

PETROS, Tenn.—This is Brushy Mountain State Prison, from which James Earl Ray, serving 99 years for the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., escaped last night.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

All Five Escapees Have Break Records

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 6

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By MARGARET DECKBAR

All five of the convicts who successfully escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison Friday with convicted killer James Earl Ray have records of previous prison breaks and were serving lengthy sentences.

Only one, Jerry Ray Ward, 35, the seventh man involved in the escape who was shot as he

attempted to scale the prison wall, has never escaped from prison. He was taken into custody, treated for superficial wounds and returned to Brushy Mountain Friday night.

AMONG THE five men who made the escape along with Ray are three convicted murderers and two armed robbers.

Ward was convicted for bank robbery in 1971.

Brushy Mountain officials said yesterday all of those still at large are just as capable, "or even more capable" than Ray of escape and all are considered dangerous criminals.

David Lee Powell, who is serving 100 years from Shelby County for first degree murder, was apprehended yesterday afternoon.

The six men involved in Ray's escape Friday are:

Powell, 27, of Chicago, sentenced to 100 years in prison for the slaying of a theater cashier in Memphis in 1972. Miss Mary Percy was shot twice in the head during a robbery attempt at the Malco Theater ticket booth.

Powell was sent to Tennessee state prison in 1973. He escaped over an eight-foot prison wall in 1975, with the aid of two other inmates, and was captured three days later in an East Nashville grocery store after a massive police search.

Born in Mississippi, Powell was the only black in the group that escaped with Ray. He is 6 feet, 1 inch tall, weighs 158 pounds, has black hair and brown eyes. He would have been eligible for parole in 2002.

Earl Hill Jr., 34, of Unicoi County, Tennessee, a former Army corporal stationed at Ft. Stewart, Ga., who was serving two life sentences for conviction on charges of first degree murder, rape and assault with intent to commit first degree murder.

Hill was convicted in 1969 of the slaying of a vacationing Washington D.C. policeman on Unaka Mountain near Erwin, Tenn., in 1967. He was later convicted of the rape and assault with intent to commit first degree murder of the policeman's wife.

The policeman, Lowell E.

Bailey, a native of Erwin, was shot to death, and his wife, Beverly, was raped, shot and left for dead atop the mountain. She later testified against Hill when he was tried for the crimes. Hill denied he was guilty.

Hill and two other inmates "walked away" from the Tennessee state prison in May 1974 when he was a trusty in a minimum security stockade. He and another inmate had attended a program at Vanderbilt University, according to prison officials and was discovered missing later in the evening. He was captured a week later in an East Nashville apartment.

He is 5 feet, 6 inches, weighs 134 pounds and has black hair and blue eyes. He would have been eligible for parole in 1996.

Larry Edward Hacker, 32, of Hamilton, Ohio, who was serving 28 years for armed robbery, safe-cracking and burglary when he escaped from the Tennessee state prison in November 1976. He was recaptured less than two months ago in Norfolk.

Hacker, a former member of the "Dawson gang" which robbed banks all over the South, drew an additional 25 years for bank robbery when he was rereturned last year to South Carolina. He is also suspected of having organized the escape of two other bank robbery gang members from the Atlanta Jail in April.

FBI officials said at the time of his capture Hacker and the three other Tennessee state prison inmates who escaped with him were "strongly suspected" of being involved in an April 1 robbery of a North Carolina bank.

He is 6 feet tall, weighs 170 pounds, has brown hair and gray eyes. He would have been eligible for parole in 1985.

Douglas Swane Shelton, 32, of Kingsport, Tenn., who was serving a 68-year sentence for felonious assault and first degree murder. He was convicted in the shooting death of Gary Condry, 22, of Kingsport, in 1969.

Shelton escaped in July 1969 from a Tennessee state prison work gang detail on the grounds of the Capitol in Nashville. He was apprehended the next day as he was walking

down a country road near Springfield, Tenn.

He is 5 feet, 10 inches, weighs 157 pounds, has brown hair and brown eyes. He would have been eligible for parole in 1998.

Donald Ray Caylor, 24, of Knoxville, who was serving a 51-year term for armed robbery and assault with intent to commit first degree murder.

In July 1974, Caylor and 12 other inmates of the Tennessee state prison commandeered a prison bus from the prison farm where they had been working. Police captured Hacker and two others three hours after the escape in West Nashville.

He is 5 feet, 6 inches tall, weighs 330 pounds and has brown hair and eyes.

Ward, 35, of Wichita, Kan., serving 20 to 40 years for the robbery in 1971 of the South Madison branch of Third National Bank. Ward and Billy Ellis, of Oklahoma City, also convicted, were apprehended within minutes of the robbery in a nearby parking lot.

A total of \$14,194 was taken in the holdup.

Ward was treated for superficial bullet wounds at Oak Ridge Hospital after he was shot attempting to escape with Ray and the five other convicts. He was returned to the prison.



—Staff photo by Dale Ernsberger

Wall Crossover Point

PETROS, Tenn. — State Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson inspects the section of the Brushy Mountain Prison wall over which James Earl Ray escaped.



—Staff photo by Dale Emsberger

Inmates' Pipe 'Ladder'

PETROS, Tenn. — Herman Davis, deputy warden at Brushy Mountain State Prison, displays the pipe "ladder" James Earl Ray and six other inmates used to scale the prison wall.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Capture Ray Alive: Blanton

This story was prepared by Tennessean correspondents Frank Sutherland, Alan Carmichael and Jack Sirica.

PETROS, Tenn. — Gov. Ray Blanton directed state law enforcement officers yesterday to capture James Earl Ray and his fellow escapees alive, if possible, as the search in the rattlesnake-infested mountains entered its second long night.

"These search personnel are under orders to use all possible restraints in

• Related stories on 6-A, 8-A and 9-A

their efforts to capture the prisoners and return them to custody without any loss of life," Blanton said.

AUTHORITIES feared Ray and the other escapees had slipped through a 5-square-mile area which officers had tried to cordon off. That fear was realized at 12:40 p.m. yesterday when David Lee Powell was sighted walking along a road eight miles north of the prison. After the sighting by helicopter, a patrol car was dispatched along the road and Powell gave up without a fight.

Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said the search for Ray and the other four escapees was expanded to between 10 and 15 square miles north of the prison.

Police were using helicopters, equipped with infrared devices to detect human body heat, to augment a team of bloodhounds that were sniffing through the underbrush.

THERE WERE these other developments yesterday in the manhunt for Tennessee's most famous criminal:

• Ray was added to the FBI's 10 Most Wanted List. The FBI took charge of the search operations yesterday morning, directing more than 150 correctional officers, highway patrolmen, local police and FBI agents.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

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President Carter announced he is keeping close tabs on the search operations. Carter directed Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell to give him regular reports on the progress of the manhunt.

Staff members of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, which had interviewed Ray at Brushy Mountain a few weeks ago about the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., arrived at the prison yesterday afternoon, but they refused to discuss the purpose of their visit.

U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the committee, telephoned Blanton yesterday to discuss the search operation. Blanton said after talking to Stokes:

"The extenuating circumstances regarding the congressional and other investigations of the James Earl Ray case make it imperative that he be returned to custody safely and at the earliest possible moment.

State officials were investigating the breadth of the conspiracy which led to the

daring escape over a 12-foot wall and under a wire carrying 2,300 volts of electricity.

"We have no evidence that there was any outside help," Henderson said. "But there were a large number of persons involved on the inside. It was a big operation.

"But these are hard cons in here, and it's their rule not to talk."

HENDERSON SAID inmate Jerry W. Ward, who was wounded and captured immediately Friday night as the other six prisoners escaped, has refused to talk to law enforcement authorities.

The escapees put together a 12-foot section of old water pipes and, while other prisoners created diversions in the recreational yard Friday evening, Ray and his group scaled the north prison wall.

The escapees not only had to scale the wall, but they had to duck under the electric wires which were only 12 to 18 inches above the wall.

THE PRISON population had gone into the recreational yard for their regular exercise about 6 p.m. Friday. About 7:30 p.m., a half hour before dark and only a few minutes before the prisoners were to return to their cells, some inmates pretended to start a fight in the southwest corner of the huge field.

This attracted the attention of guards walking the yard as well as those in the two manned towers on the wall.

A second diversion was created when an inmate pretended to fall off an embankment and then screamed his ankle was broken.

STILL ANOTHER diversion was created by

other prisoner near the northeast corner of the yard.

"He was threatening like he was going to escape, walking over to the wall and then backing away," said guard Floyd Hooks, who manned the north wall.

Meanwhile, the west wall tower guard, Linwood Butler, was watching the fight.

IN THE OPPOSITE corner from the fight, Ray and six other inmates pushed their hooked pipe over the wall and began climbing. The seven had been standing among a group of 35 to 40 prisoners watching a horseshoe game, Henderson said.

"I heard someone in the yard yell," said Butler. "I don't know whether it was a guard or an inmate. They yelled, 'Look at the wall! Over the wall! I turned and started shooting.'"

Butler said he fired his shotgun first, pumping off two blasts.

"WHEN I OPENED fire with this old Betsy, they (inmates around the horseshoe game) hit the ground," Butler said, adding that he then began to fire his 22-caliber rifle at those going over the wall, 175 yards away.

"I was shooting at a body at the top of the wall. Then I saw 10 men. They were scrambling as hard as they could up that hill on the other side of the wall. One of them either hit him or I hit him."

There are two towers on the north wall, but only one had a guard in it.

"THE OTHER tower is not manned except in cases of emergency," Henderson said.

The unmanned tower was the post closest to Ray's escape point, but Henderson said the

manned tower on the north wall has responsibility for the entire wall.

"The guard in post number four (Hooks on the north wall) should have seen them before they were making their move to the wall," Henderson said. Hooks, who told reporters his attention had been riveted on the single inmate in a different corner, heard Butler shooting and turned around.

"I COULD see what they were using (the pipe ladder)," Hooks said. "They kept going over while I kept shooting."

From Hooks' vantage point in the north tower, he could shoot at inmates on either side of the wall, from a distance of about 80 yards.

"While I was shooting, one of them fell off the bank on the other side of the wall," he said. "I think I hit him."

HENDERSON SAID Ward suffered two bullet wounds in the leg and was captured only a few feet from the wall. Ward was treated at Oak Ridge Hospital and returned to the prison.

Ray and the remaining five had two choices when they cleared the wall: they could enter a tunnel which carried a creek under the full length of the prison, or they could scale a steep, wooded mountain.

"We closed off the other end of that tunnel right away," said Deputy Warden Herman Davis. "They didn't have time to get out that tunnel. They had to go up the mountain."

HENDERSON SAID the six escapees apparently split up immediately after their cleared the wall.

"The chances are that Ray wanted to get away from the others as soon as possible," the commissioner said.

"The bloodhounds picked up the scent of three of them but lost them. Then the hounds picked up the scents of two others and then lost them.

"**ONE OF** our officers thought he saw three of them about dusk (an hour after the escape), but they were too far away for him to do anything."

Since Ray and the other inmates timed their escape just before dark, Henderson said he had to adopt a strategy of containing them within a five-square-mile area until daybreak.

"I think we have them contained," Henderson said in the pre-dawn hours, but that hope was later dashed.

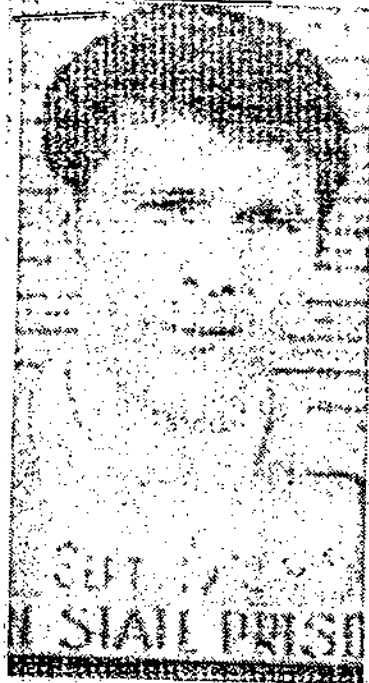
WHEN DAYBREAK did come, helicopters began making their sweep of their region and the bloodhounds, using scents from escapees' clothing, were turned loose in the forest and brush.

Five Highway Patrol Tactical Squads (Tennessee's version of SWAT teams) joined the search. The THP also brought into action an 18-wheel van containing a command post and communications center.

Communications had been hampered since Friday evening because almost all telephones in Petros were out of order.

THERE ARE about 300 maximum security and 100 minimum security prisoners at Brushy Mountain, which was reopened last August. Gov. Winfield Dunn had shut down the prison after a guard's strike in 1973.

June 12, 1977



Jerry W. Ward
Wounded at wall



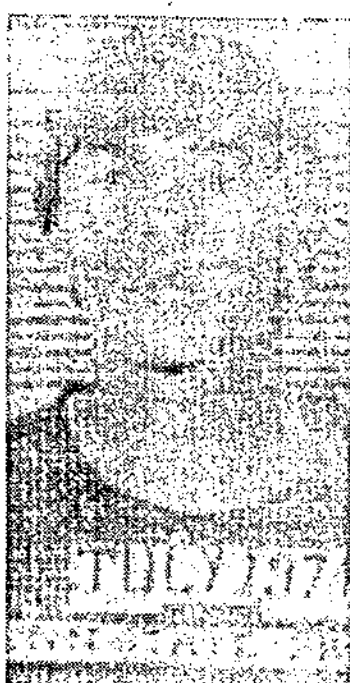
Earl Hill Jr.
Serving two life terms



David Lee Powell
Recaptured



Larry Edward Hacker
28-year term

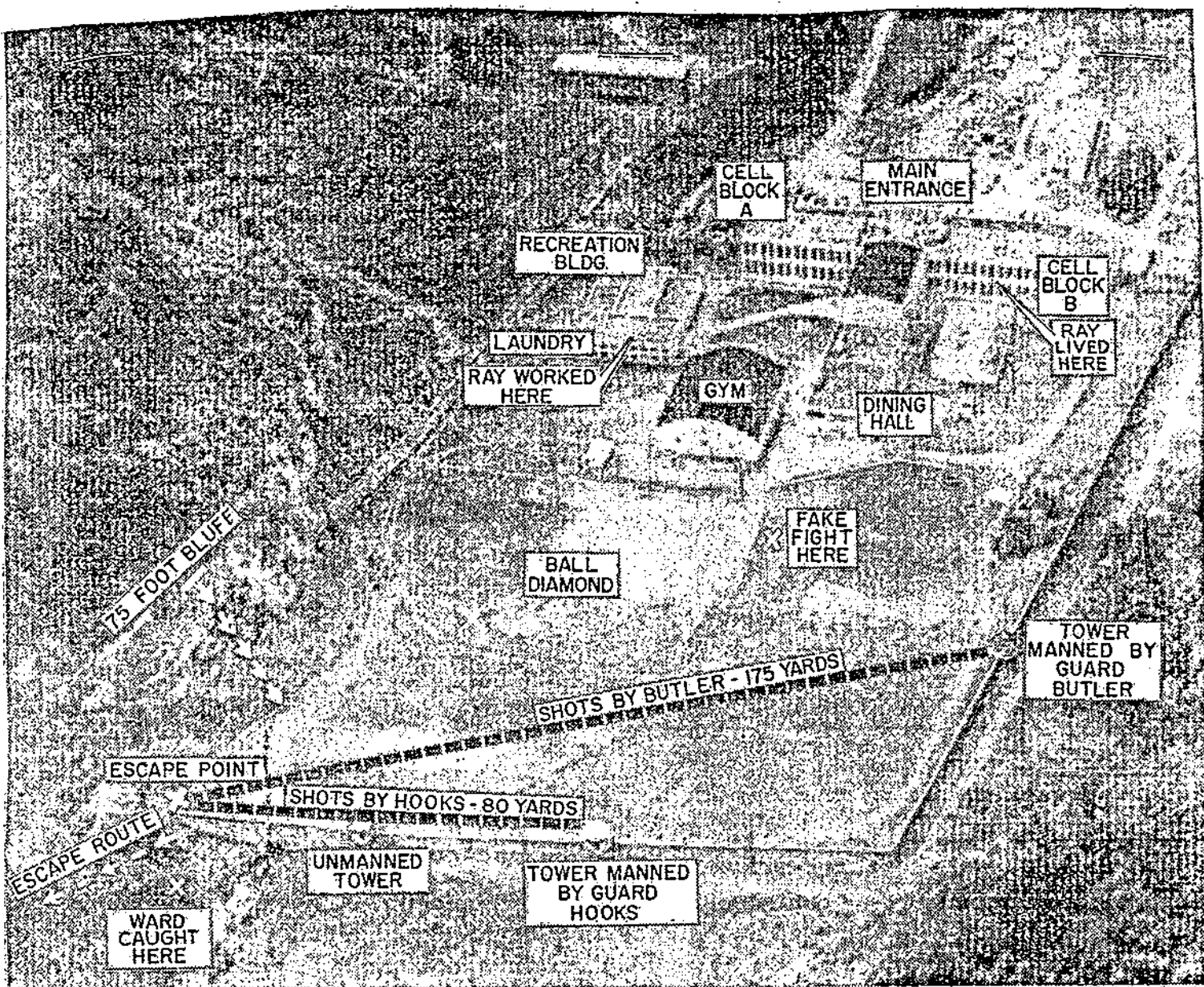


Douglas Ray Caylor
51-year term



Photos furnished by the State of Tennessee

Douglas Swane Shelton
Serving 68 years



Aerial Chart Pinpoints Scene

PETROS, Tenn.—Labels on this aerial photograph of Brushy Mountain State Prison show the major buildings, guard towers and the shots fired at James Earl Ray and six other prisoners as they scaled the prison wall Friday.

5-R

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Lax Security Tied To Escape

By WENDELL RAWLS

The New York Times News Service

For the first three years after his capture in London for the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, James Earl Ray was surrounded by extremely tight security.

Tighter, in fact, than the law allowed.

BUT SINCE July 1971, when a federal court judge ruled that solitary confinement for Ray's protection violated his constitutional rights, security loosened despite two previous attempts he had made to escape from Brushy Mountain Prison before successfully going over the walls of the mountain fortress Friday evening.

"Security arrangements for Ray were the same as for all others in the general prison population," Brooks Parker, a spokesman for Gov. Ray Blanton, said yesterday. "It is a maximum security prison, but Ray has always been watched closely."

Ray was confined to a two-man cell, worked in the prison laundry and was accorded the same open-yard exercise privi-

leges available to the other prisoners. And although his attorney and prison officials expressed surprise at his escape, it was obvious from the mechanics of the enterprise, including the equipment used, the placement of the equipment and the diversionary tactics employed, that Ray had been planning to escape for some time.

IT ALSO was apparent that security was somewhat lax.

For example, the homemade ladder, using lightning conduit wire and lead plumbing pipe, apparently was taken covertly to the open yard a piece at a time and assembled and hidden there.

The ladder then was placed in a corner of the yard about 200 yards from the nearest occupied guard tower and almost hidden from view from the tower. A closer guard house, that prison officials said was for emergency use, was unmanned at the time of the escape.

And the prison officials' intelligence network appears to have failed in light of the fact seven men attempted to escape (six

succeeding in getting over the wall); several other prisoners were involved in the diversionary, fake fight to attract the guards, and estimated half of the general prison population knew of the impending escape attempt while prison officials say they had no prior indication.

PRISON officials could have had an indication two weeks ago that Ray wanted "out."

Ray told *Tennessean* reporter Marcia Vandenberg two weeks ago "they wouldn't have me in maximum security prison if I wasn't interested in getting out."

The only question Ray refused to answer during the copyrighted interview was how he escaped from the Missouri prison.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

'Conspiracy' Theory Fed By Bizarre Circumstances

Ray and his fellow prisoners were at large. Deputy Warden Herman Davis had to send a messenger by car six miles, over winding roads, to a telephone outside the Petros exchange before he could notify the sheriff's office.

• Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., the father of the man Ray is convicted of killing, is due to speak this morning at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Knoxville— just 40 miles from the prison from which Ray escaped.

• State Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer, the man charged with the responsibility of directing the highway patrol's operations in such critical situations, was on a business trip to Texas when the break occurred.

• Plummer's second-in-command, Col. Richard M. Dawson, the man who would ordinarily take control of the patrol in the commissioner's absence, was on a trip to Alabama with his mother when Ray and the others made their getaway.

• Warden Stoney Lane, the man in charge of the institution here, was on vacation in

Corpus Christi, Tex., leaving the administration of the prison to Deputy Warden Davis.

• The guard tower nearest the point where Ray and the other inmates scaled the prison wall was unmanned at the time the prisoners escaped.

While prison authorities were suggesting the point of view that these factors were all "coincidences"—not part of a larger conspiracy—it is certain that those critics of the prosecution of Ray as the lone gunman who killed King will seize upon them to further make their case.

THE KNOCKOUT of telephone service brought the most comment in the prison.

Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said it is doubtful, though, that the telephone system had been sabotaged.

He said the best speculation now is that when the prison alarm sounded and was heard all over Petros, too many people picked up their telephones and blew out the system

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PETROS RESIDENTS say they frequently have such problems with their telephone service.

The lack of service did hinder both law enforcement and news media communications for several hours. At dawn yesterday, the Tennessee Highway Patrol brought in its 18-wheel command and mobile communications center that linked all official communications — radio and telephone — among federal and state authorities.

Henderson said he had no idea whether Ray knew that the father of the man he killed was scheduled to speak in Knoxville the same weekend the breakout was planned.

"I have no idea whether the two were connected," Henderson said.

While Ray's prison break caught several key people out of state, both Lane and Plummer returned to the state yesterday to participate in the search.

THE UNMANNED prison tower on the north wall has been the subject of much discussion here. Commissioner Henderson said the tower is manned only in case of emergencies.

Apparently Ray and his confederates knew this and picked this weak spot in prison security when they decided to scale the wall.

Actually, the conspiracy theory developed in the Ray case immediately after the death of King on April 4, 1968. There were "bizarre circumstances" back then which fed those rumors.

Within minutes after King was shot, a shortwave radio broadcast went out — its origin never positively traced to everybody's satisfaction — reporting an imaginary auto chase in a Memphis suburb.

THIS UNEXPLAINED report said shots were being fired in the chase. Police cars were dispatched to investigate. Some believe this was to take them away from the area where the shooting had occurred, while Ray was making his way out of town.

Police in Memphis believe a teenager was responsible for the call and that it was a prank, unrelated to the death of King. But many are dissatisfied with this explanation.

Ray's escape from Memphis, his flight to Atlanta, then to Canada and finally to Europe where he traveled extensively with no known source of funds, has furthered the suspicion that he did not act alone in the murder of King.

FBI SOURCES have hinted that Ray committed several minor armed robberies to support himself in this travel. But this has never been documented.

Some three weeks after the death of King, federal authorities swore out a warrant in Birmingham charging "Eric Starvo Galt" — an alias used by Ray — and a man "alleged to be his brother" with the assassination. This warrant was later dismissed after Ray's capture in June 1969, in London.

The warrant apparently was the result of information furnished by a man who sold Ray the rifle which killed Dr. King, based upon statements Ray made to the gun dealer. But there has been no official explanation of why that warrant was dropped, or who the man "alleged to be his brother" actually was.

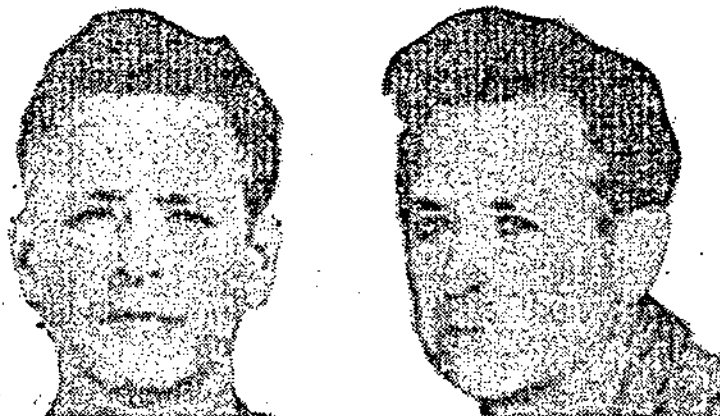
WANTED BY FBI

CONSPIRACY; INTERSTATE FLIGHT - ESCAPE

JAMES EARL RAY

Photographs taken 1975

FBI No. 405,942 G



Aliases: Paul Bridgeman, Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Connor, Raymond George Sneyd, James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, "Jim," and others.

DESCRIPTION

Age: 49, born March 10, 1928, Quincy or Alton, Illinois (not supported by birth records)
Height: 5' 10"
Weight: 170 pounds
Build: Medium
Hair: Black, graying
Eyes: Blue
Complexion: Medium
Race: White
Nationality: American
Occupations: Baker, color matcher, laborer
Scars and Marks: Small scar on center of forehead and small scar on palm of right hand.
Remarks: Noticeably protruding left ear; reportedly a lone wolf; allegedly attended dance instruction school; reportedly completed course in bartending.
Social Security Number Used: 334-22-6876

—AP Wirephoto

50,000 FBI Posters Distributed

WASHINGTON — Within hours of James Earl Ray's escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison, the FBI had added him to the bureau's "Ten Most Wanted" list and distributed close to 50,000 posters throughout the country.

Ray Move Asked; Last Escapee Caught

By LARRY BRINTON
and DAVID SPEAR
Banner Staff Writers

Petros — The last of James Earl Ray's escape comrades was captured 12 miles northeast of here early today and returned to Brushy Mountain State Prison where Ray was mapping plans to resist an effort to shift him to a federal penitentiary.

Douglas Shelton, 32, serving a first degree murder conviction, was apprehended in the Beech Fork area of the New River section

after overpowering the owner of a van and then wrecking it a quarter-mile away.

The capture of Shelton, a key figure in Friday's breakout by Ray and six others, occurred about four miles from the location where Ray and two of the other prisoners were caught.

Meanwhile, Ray met today with his Nashville lawyer, Jack Kershaw. Two members of the House Assassination Committee probing unit were at this maximum security facility awaiting an opportunity

to interview Ray about the escape.

Robert Lehner, chief counsel, and an aide, Edward Evans, also planned to interview various Brushy Mountain State Prison personnel in their efforts to determine if any conspiracy had been involved in Ray's breakout.

Gov. Ray Blanton announced Monday he had requested the federal government to take charge of Ray's imprisonment. Blanton said the request was made to Griffin Bell, U.S. Attorney General, who

said he would pass it on to President Carter.

Ray's attorney, Kershaw, immediately dampened the proposal by saying he would fight the move.

"It's very rare that I disagree with a governor and agree with a federal court," Kershaw said this morning as he awaited a meeting with Ray. "But this time I believe the governor is in error. I believe the state of Tennessee is able to take care of its own prisoners."

"There are no grounds for put-

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ting Ray in a federal prison," he told United Press International. "He is not even charged with a federal crime, and he is not guilty of a state crime, but that's another matter."

Blanton's proposal marks the second time Tennessee has attempted to relinquish jurisdiction over the imprisonment of the convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1973, the U.S. Bureau of Prisons agreed to accept the 49-year-old Ray for federal confinement.

Ray, however, petitioned federal court to prevent his transfer out of the Tennessee prison system. State officials later dropped their efforts, and Ray has served time since then in both Brushy Mountain and the main prison in Nashville.

Meanwhile, State Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said an engineer will begin an immediate study on the feasibility of a perimeter fence around the

Brushy Mountain facility — whether Ray remains there or not.

"I plan to send an engineer to Brushy Mountain to determine the cost of the fence and some other things we want to do, security-wise," said Henderson.

The 12-foot, heavy security fence would be topped with two or more strands of barbed wire, each carrying 2,300 volts of electricity.

"I think it's something that needs to be done in a maximum security prison regardless of whether Ray is confined there," Henderson explained.

The Petros prison facility now has only a high stone wall, with high voltage barbed wire, to prevent escapes such as the one that occurred Friday night.

"The best security we have there is the mountains," the corrections commissioner said. "If Ray had been at the main prison in Nashville and escaped, he would have been home free after getting a block or so away."

Henderson said other plans for upgrading security will be to move an emergency-manned wall tower about 50 feet to the northwest corner of the wall, where Ray and his companions climbed out with the aid of a makeshift ladder fashioned from water pipes.

Ray, exhausted and looking "like a pig wallowing in a sty," had little to say to his captors.

"I'm okay. I feel good," was all Ray said to lawmen who found him cowering in a pile of leaves.

On the drive back to the prison in

a Highway Patrol car, Henderson said Ray told officials he "didn't want to talk to any reporters, now or ever."

As the vehicle sped through the gate, a reporter asked if the convict was indeed Ray.

"Well," Ray shot back, "I'm not his mother."

Once inside the mountainside fortress, investigators quizzed Ray for about 15 minutes.

"Where have you been?" one asked him.

"I don't know," Ray replied.

"What did you do?" another asked.

"Nothing," Ray said.

Tennessee's most infamous criminal was then taken to the prison's maximum security D Block, "the safest of the safe places to keep him," a prison official said.

Ray is in a two-man cell with his former cellmate Earl Hill Jr., a frequent prison yard companion of Ray and suspected co-conspirator in the Friday night breakout.

The pair could remain together in the cell for a week.

"We're allowed seven days in which to prepare any case against those involved in the escape," Warden Stoney Lane said.

Ray apparently had little to eat during his brief flight to freedom.

Lane said the convict ate a breakfast of eggs and biscuits and a lunch of barbecue pork, potatoes, beans and mustard greens, all the while refusing to talk to officials or fellow inmates about his escape.

If Ray does remain in the Tennessee prison system, corrections officials have decided to keep him at Brushy Mountain instead of the central prison in Nashville, where he had previously served part of his 99-year sentence.

"It's the best possible place for him," Blanton said of the East Tennessee institution.

"Had this happened at the main prison in Nashville, he could have just gone two blocks and blended into West Nashville," Henderson added. "You can't find anyone there and it's hard to get information on someone there."

If Ray is to be kept by the state, officials say they intend to ignore a 1970 federal court order requiring them to grant Ray the freedom of movement accorded to other convicted murderers.

"We're going to keep him confined," Henderson vowed flatly.

And Blanton said that court order "very possibly" aided Ray in his escape.

The state had confined Ray in solitary lockup, but his 1970 petition to the federal court was granted and prison officials were ordered, among other things, to let Ray mingle with fellow inmates, particularly during exercise periods in the prison yard.

Virtually all prison officials believe that ruling enabled Ray and his fellow escapees to confer and plan their break.

And officials are determined Ray will not have that opportunity again.

He is presently confined in what

prison officials term administrative segregation.

Ray will eat all meals in his cell and will be confined to that cell all day, with the exception of a 30-minute exercise period to be carried out in the cellblock corridor.

Ray will also lose his \$22 a week job in the prison laundry and faces possible prosecution on the escape effort.

Officials will meet later this week to determine if that prosecution is to be pursued.

Ray will also lose all prison privileges, such as watching television and having cigarettes.

He also faces the loss of any accrued "good time" which might have allowed him to be eligible for parole before the originally-scheduled date of 1998.

If Ray is prosecuted for the escape try, he could also receive another sentence of up to five years, in addition to the 99 years he is serving for the King slaying.

Meanwhile, Ray's brother says he thinks the convict may have been tricked into escaping.

"I'm a little bit confused," Jerry Ray said in Boston. "At first, I thought he was tricked into it. He usually works with just one guy."

Ray's brother also said there was a "very good chance" FBI agents would have killed the fugitive had they found him before prison guards.

YK

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

~~Mountain~~ Destroys Ray Dream

By LARRY BRINTON
Banner Staff Writer

Petros — Just as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had a dream, so did his convicted killer, James Earl Ray.

King, the civil rights leader of the 1960s, dreamed of going to a mountain and seeing blacks and whites living together peacefully.

Ray also dreamed of freedom, but not for blacks. Ray dreamed of freedom for himself, and when he got it by breaking out of Brushy Mountain State Prison he went to a mountain — the treacherous Cumberland Mountains surrounding the prison.

Ray's dream lasted only 55 hours before his freedom was over and he was returned to confinement.

The slayer's mountain had been too tall — and rugged — for him to climb.

There were townspeople in this remote area who never did believe Ray could make good his escape and become Brushy Mountain's first prisoner to win the battle with the dense peaks and hollows.

One of those was State Wildlife Officer Quenton Henry, who has spent five years traveling in and out of the heavy undergrowth, jagged bluffs and snake-infested terrain.

"It's easy to get lost with all those hollows and ridges," said the 27-year-old conservation officer. "Everything looks like the same thing."

Henry said it was not easy to travel on foot day or night in the forest.

"It depends on how good a shape a person might be in," he continued. "If you don't know what you're

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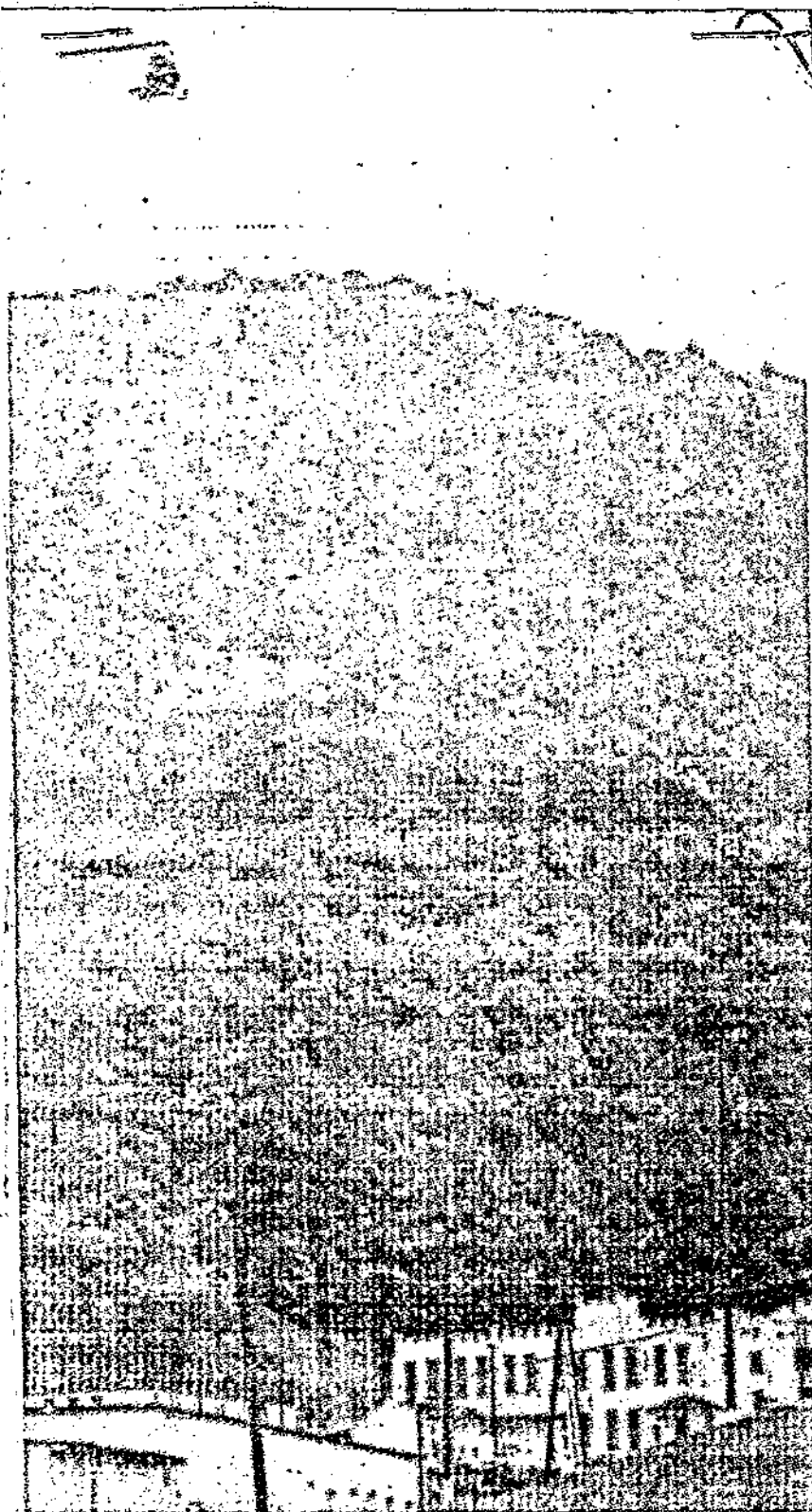
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— Banner Photo by Dean Dixon

Brushy Mountain Prison sits surrounded by rugged terrain.

Terrain

doing, you'll walk around and around.

"At night I just don't think he could get out of there. He's liable to walk off a bluff in the dark. And then those snakes. You can see them in the daytime but you can't at night.

"There's just one thing for someone to do at night in that wilderness. That is, sit down and wait for daylight. That's what I would do."

While the search for Ray and his small band of followers was widened to include a 10-mile radius, some prison optimists believed Sunday that the notorious killer was probably less than half that distance away from his cell. When Ray was caught hours later, he had traveled eight miles from the state's maximum security prison.

The elevation of this mountainous region averages about 2,200 feet, although the highest peak, according to Morgan County forester Jasper Phillips, is 3,200 feet at Frozen Head State Park.

Most of the mountainsides are thickly covered with hickory, oak and poplar trees and saplings. There are many hollows and drop-offs with sharp rocky ledges.

Squirrels, raccoons and opossums play on the hillside and are often joined by larger game, turkeys, deer and occasional wild bears and boars.

There is little to be found to eat,

although Henry said there was plenty of water in branches despite the dry weather.

"I think at this point food would be James Earl Ray's main concern — finding something to eat," he said.

"As far back as he is there's not much to eat unless he wants to try some roots or lizards or ground cherries. There are a lot of blackberries in there, but it's too early for them to be ripe."

Henry said Ray might run across a strip mining office while searching for food. The conservation officer didn't know it at the time, but Ray was near the Cumberland Coal Co., a mining operation.

The best way out of the forest, Henry said, would be to follow a branch.

"But that wouldn't be too smart because police know that, too. That's what they're watching."

Phillips, who has been the Morgan County Ranger for 25 years, said Ray could walk for miles and miles, some 50-75,000 acres "and never come out of the woods."

Phillips gave Ray and the other escapees a chance of making good the escape.

"I thought if he had a good enough plan to get out of prison, then he'd have a good enough plan to get out of the forest," he said.

Subsequent events proved him wrong.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Kershaw Claims He Has 'Raoul's' Photo

Jack Kershaw, James Earl Ray's attorney, said yesterday he has a photograph of the mysterious "Raoul" who Ray claims gave him instructions to buy the gun used to shoot Martin Luther King Jr.

Kershaw said he "discovered" the photo in the process of investigating Ray's case. He said he will not release it until Ray is recaptured "or something happens."

The attorney said he had been planning to release the picture before Ray made his escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison Friday.

"I feel it would be a

disservice to my client if I released the photo without his permission," said Kershaw. He said he found the picture about 10 days ago.

Scheels in Mexico

MERIDA, Mexico (UPI) — West German President Walter Scheel and his wife, Mildred, arrived at this sea-front tourist resort yesterday to tour ancient Mayan ruins.

Scheel was taking time out from an official visit to tour Mayan sites before resuming talks with President Jose Lopez Portillo in Mexico City today.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Pack Journalists Flood Brushy

By ALAN CARMICHAEL
Tennessean Staff Correspondent

PETROS, Tenn.—A bearded reporter from Florida standing at the entrance to Brushy Mountain State Prison was getting tired of official pronouncements about "expanding perimeters" in the search for James Earl Ray.

"When they send them a post card from Acapulco, they'll know where the escapees are," grunted Paul Jenkins, a reporter for the Orlando Sentinel-Star.

JENKINS IS one of about 200 reporters, representing almost every major news organization in the country, who are

camped at the gates of Brushy Mountain State Prison. The three national television networks have set up extensive motor homes just outside the gate, drawing the ire of print reporters who were ordered to move their cars away from the entrance.

The Washington Post and New York Times are represented here, as well as Time, Newsweek, Associated Press and United Press International.

The herd of newsmen draw as much attention from visitors as the trucks of guards and bloodhounds moving in and out of the prison.

EVERY TIME someone even remotely resembling an official spokesman walks to the gate, he is besieged by dozens of reporters and subjected to a barrage of questions. An arriving helicopter pilot joining the search receive the same treatment.

Tempers on both sides become a little frayed as reporters' unquenchable demand for facts sometimes meets an inability to provide information.

The procedure is known as "pack journalism" and has as many enemies in the press as among the officials.

"I WALKED up to ask a guard a few questions about the townspeople, and looked around and about six other reporters were taking notes," said Jenkins.

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At times, state troopers return to the prison with plainclothes men in the rear seat acting as if they are prisoners. The joke empties the makeshift press room set up in a prison chapel.

"The situation stimulates false alarms," Jenkins said. "Everybody's got a deadline, and everybody's paranoid."

JENKINS believes the large number of reporters stifles the gathering of the most useful information.

"When the officials say they are confident, that's in direct odds with when they talk about expanding the perimeters," he said.

"Nobody said 'you guys' don't have any idea where they are do you.'"

The crowd of journalists inhibits reporters from asking the proper followup questions he said.

PHOTOGRAPHERS with Japanese cameras dangling from their necks take pictures of guards who seem surprised at the attention they are receiving. A weary searcher taking a nap outside the Administration Building also drew a crowd of photographers.

"There's no way you can do your best when you're crowded like we are here," Jenkins said.



—Staff photo by Dale Emsberger

Infrared Device Used in Search

PETROS, Tenn.—A helicopter pilot aims an infrared device, used to detect human body heat, at the rugged mountains where James Earl Ray was presumably still at large last night.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Eyed As Governor Race Issue

By SUSAN THOMAS

State Republican leaders were divided yesterday over whether they might try to make the escape of James Earl Ray an issue in next year's governor's race.

Former state GOP chairman Dortch Oldham said some Republican is "sure" to use it. Oldham's successor, Tom Beasley, said the GOP should avoid it. Former Gov. Winfield Dunn said he is "not sure" whether the escape should be used.

NASHVILLE Mayor Richard Fulton, a probable candidate for governor in the Democratic primary, said it would be irresponsible to use such a tactic.

"The escape does seem unnecessary," Oldham said. "I'm sure someone will bring it into the campaign next year."

But Beasley said the escape would not be a "fair" political issue to use; therefore, he would not generate use of it himself.

"USING the escape in next year's election would not be a responsible position to take," Beasley said. "It may be made an issue but I won't make it one."

Dunn said there is "no way to tell" if the escape will become an issue next year. "I believe the overall record of the present administration will be a factor in the election though," Dunn said.

"I assume they (the Blanton administration) used their best judgment reopening the prison. But from all indications it was not in condition to reopen."

IN 1972, Dunn ordered the prison closed after 180 striking guards rejected offers to settle the labor dispute over whether the state would recognize the guard's union.

When Gov. Ray Blanton took office in January 1975, he decided to reopen the prison and many of the same guards were rehired.

Dunn said the condition of the prison was "dreadful" at that time and that his administration had planned to phase it out in a year or two even before the guards went on strike.

FULTON said although he believes the entire prison system will be an issue next year, he said he does not believe Ray's escape will be.

"I anticipate many more significant issues of substance to be used other than this issue," Fulton said.

But State Rep. Harold Sterling, R-Memphis, said he believes the escape will be a "real political football to be kicked around in next year's election."

"REPUBLICANS were opposed when the Democrats reopened the prison," said Sterling, a possible candidate for governor in the Republican primary. "So I guess we'll just let the chips fall where they may if it is used next year."

Bob Clement, State Public Service commissioner, said any issue dealing with the efficiency of state government would probably be questioned in the election.

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JAMES EARL RAY CAUGHT

BULLETIN

PETROS, Tenn.-James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was captured early this morning in a wooded area near Brushy Mountain State Prison.

Ray was captured without resistance and without injury. He appeared tired but alert and wide-eyed as he was returned by car to the prison.

By ALAN CARMICHAEL and JACK SIRICA
Tennessean Staff Correspondents

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PETROS, Tenn.—Another convict who escaped with James Earl Ray was captured late last night and police were in pursuit of two other men, one of whom was believed to be Ray.

Authorities said Earl Hill Jr., 34, a former cellmate of Ray's, was arrested by state troopers in the New River section, about 8½ miles east of Brushy Mountain State Prison. He was in good physical condition, officials said.

WHEN HILL was caught, two other men with him—believed to be Ray and Douglas Wayne Shelton—split up and ran. Bloodhounds were in pursuit of both trails about midnight.

Earlier yesterday, Gov. Ray Blanton announced he is ordering 150 to 200 National

Guardsmen and as many helicopters "as needed" to join the search for Ray and the two other escapees who remained at large early today.

HILL WAS the second of seven original escapees to be captured yesterday.

Early yesterday morning, searchers found the alleged mastermind of the escape hiding in a tiny rural church in the New River area six miles north of the prison.

AN EXHAUSTED Larry Hacker, believed by state officials to be the ringleader of the escape, offered no resistance to deputy sheriffs who had

followed him along a creekbed for more than an hour.

There were these other developments in the search which began after the daring escape over the prison walls Friday night:

• Warden Stonney Lane said areas as far as 25 miles away are being searched although the main effort is still within a 10-mile radius of the prison.

• Blanton arrived at the prison late yesterday afternoon after touring the area by helicopter with Adj. Gen. Carl Wallace.

The governor said there may have been "some laxity" at the prison, but if federal court had not ordered Ray released from isolated confinement, "we would still have him."

• Police reported a car and a change of clothing were stolen yesterday in Caryville, about 20 miles northeast of the prison. Officers said the clothing, a red shirt and a pair of black and white pants, were stolen from a car in a parking lot.

The automobile was stolen from an adjacent parking lot. Authorities said they did not know whether the theft was related to the break, but police were searching hard for the car.

• A special task force of six prison guards raised in the mountains was formed yesterday to conduct a special search in the backcountry. These guards, familiar with the mountain terrain, will search streams in remote areas which have not been covered in earlier operations.

• State Safety Commission Joel Plummer was named by Blanton to head the search operation. Working under Plummer will be Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson and Wallace.

Henderson said previous reports from Washington that the FBI was directing the search "are not true."

• Prison officials speculated that Ray is traveling with Douglas Wayne Shelton and Earl Hill Jr., the latter being Ray's cellmate, according to authorities.

Lane said this speculation is based on the personalities of the men involved and scents picked up by bloodhounds.

Lane said Donald Ray Caylor may have been traveling with Hacker shortly before Hacker was

arrested, but Caylor is now alone.

The other inmates participating in the breakout were Jerry Ward, shot as he escaped and captured just outside the wall, and David Lee Powell, picked up walking on a road about eight miles north of the prison Saturday.

BEFORE ANDERSON County deputies and an FBI agent arrested Hacker yesterday, they said they flushed two men on a creekbed. Lane said the officers followed "the loudest sound" for more than an hour before tracking Hacker to the Beech Grove Baptist Church.

Lane said Caylor had been running wildly while Ray and the other two are apparently traveling slowly, resting a lot and using extreme caution when traveling in daylight hours.

Henderson, however, said Ray is a loner and offered the opinion that Ray split from the others immediately after the breakout.

AS THE SEARCH operation entered its third night, authorities became increasingly worried that the remaining escapees might slip through the area that had been cordoned off.

"There are two extreme possibilities," Blanton told a prison press conference. "One is that the escape was concocted, designed or planned in such a way that Ray could be in Guatemala by now. Or he could still be in the confined area. The best assumption of the experts is that Ray is still in the area."

Blanton said he has talked with U. S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell and requested FBI aid in watching borders, bus stations and airports.

HE SAID 150 guardsmen from the 168th Military Police unit at Ripley will arrive here today. The helicopters from the 455th aviation unit at Smyrna will arrive this afternoon, he said, adding that both units were put on alert yesterday.

"Having Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison was the state's responsibility and one that the state assumed," Blanton said.

"The federal court order which did not allow them to keep him in solitary confinement or lockup and which required them to treat him like other murderers, if it had not been for that court order, I believe we would still have him. That's one of the reasons I believe he is free now."

"**WE MAY HAVE** had some laxity, some failure on our part (in the escape attempt). We have been neither lax nor soft in our immediate action (after the escape)."

Blanton started to describe some of the details of the search area but stopped in mid-sentence.

"I'm not going to tell you where they have placed the grids, but they (the escapees) are not going to get through that grid," he said. "I am not going to tell you how many ways there are to get out of the mountains."

HE LEFT the impression with reporters that there are very few ways out.

"No one has been successful in getting out of these mountains," he said.

"I share the concerns about the escape being a conspiracy. When you have a prisoner of Ray's notoriety and consider the

fact he is talking in different terms to the press and committee investigators—talking out of both sides of his mouth—I don't know whether it is a conspiracy."

BLANTON SAID he talked yesterday with Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations which is investigating Ray and his murder of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis in 1968.

Stokes said he fears for Ray's life and has scheduled a meeting of the committee this morning to discuss the escape. He said he will recommend subpoenas for prison officials to tell how Ray escaped.

Two committee staff members arrived on the scene yesterday but have not been available for interviews.

HENDERSON SAID speculation that authorities at the prison helped Ray escape is "absurd, irresponsible and absolutely untrue."

"We will make a full

investigation," the commissioner said. "If I am wrong, the evidence will prove it."

Officials at the prison were not commenting about the significance of the stolen car and clothing, but Anderson County Deputy Sheriff J. D. Mathis said:

"**THE INTERESTING** thing is that they only stole clothing from the car and left behind many dollars worth of camera equipment and jewelry."

Mathis said the stolen car was black and brown with a Knoxville license plate, 3B-0915. Police in Oak Ridge reported that a Tennessee license plate, 10Z-434, was stolen there.

Henderson said there had been no reports of any home broken into within 25 miles of the prison since Friday's escape.

AUTHORITIES SAID they now believe Ray and the others escaped a few feet further down the wall than had been first reported.

The significance of this is that the escapees would have had more than 18 inches to slip between the wall and wires carrying 2,300 volts of electricity.

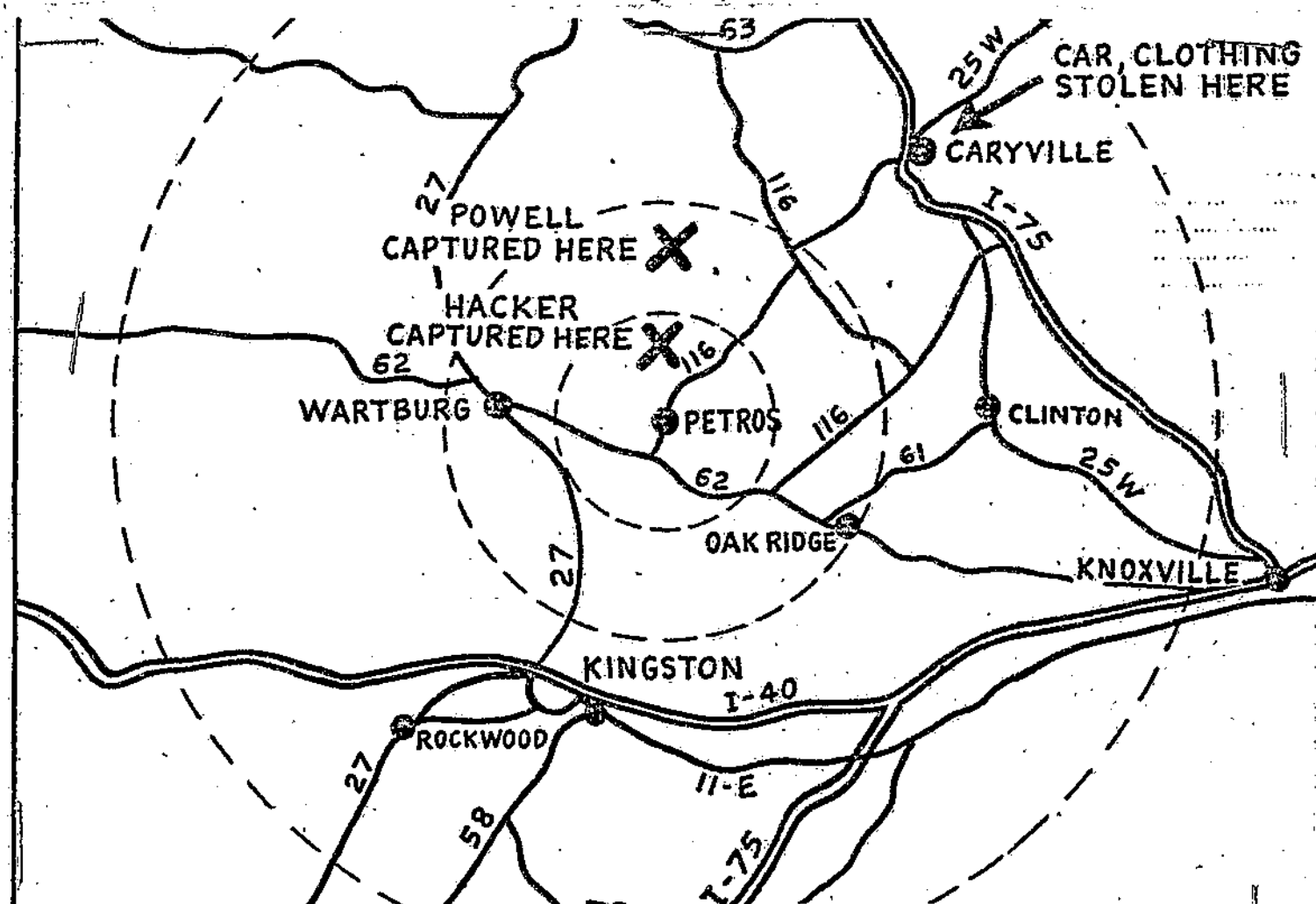
They said scratches found from the ladder made out of old water pipes indicate the escapees first scaled part of a steep bluff to get under the wires and then crossed the prison wall where it meets the bluff. **HENDERSON SAID** this was not discovered until yesterday because official efforts have concentrated on the search.



—Staff photo by J.T. Phillips

When It Rains It Pours

PETROS, Tenn. — Gov. Ray Blanton uses a raincoat to shield himself from a shower upon his arrival here with Adj. Gen. Carl Wallace, left, to inspect firsthand the efforts being made to apprehend James Earl Ray.



Search Dimensions Broadened

This map shows how the search for James Earl Ray and other inmates has broadened since their escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison. The inner circle is a five-mile radius where the first day's search was concentrated. The second circle is a

10-mile radius for the second day. Prison officials say they are now searching some areas as far away as 25 miles, indicated by the outer circle. This map was drawn before the capture late last night of Earl Hill Jr.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Capture Relief For Reporters

By LARRY BRINTON
And JOHN BRITTINGHAM
Banner Staff Writers

Petros — The end of the James Earl Ray escape saga couldn't have come too soon to please reporters.

Covering the dramatic escape of Ray and his wily confederates was about as exciting as watching paint dry.

Most of the more than 100 reporters assigned to the headline story from around the country were tired of telephone break-

downs, police harassment and sleepless nights by the time Ray was captured early today.

There were even several displays of tempers involving the radio, television and newspaper correspondents.

Most of the reporters spent their time passing on rumors which had little or no basis to their cohorts.

Joining the various Tennessee journalists were scores of reporters for out-of-state publications. In addition, all three major television

networks drove to the scene in luxury-equipped motor homes.

Among the major newspapers with reporters or correspondents in Petros were *The Los Angeles Times*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Washington Star*, *Miami Herald*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Chicago Daily News*, *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* and papers from Kansas City, Atlanta, Detroit and many more.

Even the *Christian Science Mon-*

See PRESS, Page 12

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)	
PAGE 1	NASHVILLE BANNER
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— AP Wirephoto

A dirty, exhausted Ray is led back to prison after 55-hour trek through the woods.

Press

itor dispatched a reporter to this small, out-of-the way coal mining area where its most famous resident is the killer of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Headquarters for the press crews was a one-room frame building, resembling a small country church, which mostly is used to teach the prison inmates a course in "positive mental attitude."

Almost hourly prison officials took the short drive from the fortress-like facility for maximum security prisoners, parked near the front gate and gave reporters an update on the much-publicized manhunt.

But James Earl Ray was the man everybody wanted to hear about, and reporters seemed to care little about such people as David Lee Powell, Earl Hill Jr. or Larry Hacker, who were safely back behind locked cells.

The avalanche of reporters, calling their home bases to dictate news stories, was clearly too much for the small telephone system that keeps Brushy Mountain State Prison in contact with the rest of the world.

Time and again the phones went dead, often with reporters desperately trying to meet their deadlines.

"It rains a little bit and the phones go dead," said a disgruntled Miami reporter.

"But it doesn't necessarily take rain for there to be a communications gap," interjected another reporter.

There was a shoving contest between a reporter and a photographer Sunday afternoon. Both were trying to get on the front row of an impromptu press briefing conducted by Warden Stonney Lane.

"Watch that," said the young-looking reporter to the burly cameraman as he was jostled aside.

Even the frustrations of the tiring ordeal affected Gov. Ray Blanton, who made a brief appearance Sunday afternoon before reporters and gave a sarcastic answer to what he considered a stupid question.

Blanton was asked if he could assure the Tennessee residents that there was no danger from the escapees.

The governor replied, "Are you sure there's not a court jester in your ancestry?"

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray

Captured

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

NASHVILLE BANNER

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SEARCHED

INDEXED

JUN 07 1977

Memphis

By LARRY BRINTON
And JOHN BRITTINGHAM
Banner Staff Writers

Petros — Sniffed out of the backwoods wilderness by a team of bloodhounds, a tired and dejected James Earl Ray was captured early today and returned to Brushy Mountain State Prison.

The convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the country's most infamous criminal was apprehended in what has been described as the biggest manhunt in Tennessee history. He gave up without a struggle.

Ray laid on the ground and covered himself with leaves in a frantic effort to avoid the

✓ *Two pages of stories and photos on Ray's escape and capture — pages 11A, 11B.*

approaching bloodhounds.

Sammy Joe Chapman, a Brushy Mountain Prison officer, and his dog, Sandy, ran up on the reposed and partially concealed Ray.

"I asked him if he was OK," said Chapman. "He said he felt fine." Ray also told Chapman he had had nothing to eat today, apparently referring to Sunday.

Only one of the original seven escapees now remains at large. He is Douglas Shelton, 32.

See RAY, Page 12.

serving a 68-year sentence for murder, assault and grand larceny.

About the time the dog team picked up Ray's scent, another dog team from Taft Center at Pikeville tracked down Earl Hill Jr. about 500 yards from where Ray was eventually nabbed. Hill was the fourth of the seven who went over the wall Friday to be taken into custody.

Six hours after the arrest of Ray, police at Oak Ridge arrested another escapee, Donald Ray Caylor, 24, serving a 51-year term for assault with intent to commit murder, armed robbery and jail escape.

Caylor was taken into custody by Patrolman Stephen Buxton as the escapee walked down a business district street in Oak Ridge, 15 miles from the prison. Like all of his companions, he offered no resistance.

Caylor, picked up because he was acting in a suspicious manner, had no identification on him. He was taken to police headquarters, where he was identified by FBI agents and prison guards.

Ray, wearing a dark sweat shirt and dungarees, made no comment as he was whisked into the prison's front door. His clothing was moist with perspiration and his face was dirty from the 55-hour chase through the treacherous Cumberland Mountains.

A doctor who examined Ray found only a few scratches. According to State Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson, Ray "had some scratches but he's in good shape."

Ray was given a bath and some clean clothes, then placed in a one-man cell as part of his "administrative segregation." The other captured fugitives have also been placed in one-man cells in the same cellblock.

Ray will not be allowed to mingle with other inmates.

The capture of Ray, serving a 99-year term for the slaying of King in 1968, occurred about 2 a.m. (EDT) as he apparently tired from three continuous hours of being chased by dog teams. The end came in a densely wooded area after Ray had been followed through a heavy undergrowth, a shallow river and down a logging road in the New River section, eight miles southeast of the prison.

Ray's capture came about eight hours after Gov. Ray Blanton arrived at the prison by helicopter and announced the activation of two Tennessee National Guard units to join the massive search operation.

The units were the 450th Aviation Unit, stationed at Smyrna, and the 168th MP Detachment at Dyersburg.

Shortly after Ray was apprehended, State Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer announced the Guard call was off.

"This concludes one of the largest manhunts in the history of Tennessee," said Plummer, named by Blanton to direct the search.

Later Plummer said, "It has been decided the Guard will not be committed."

Blanton, who had kept in close contact with Plummer and Henderson throughout the search, blamed Ray's escape on a 1975 federal court order directing Tennessee penal officials to remove Ray from segregated isolation.

The governor, who earlier ordered law enforcement officers to use every precaution to capture Ray alive, told reporters Sunday:

"A federal court ordered us not to have him in solitary confinement and not to have him in a lockup and to treat him like other prisoners convicted of the crime of murder. We did that, but that's one of the reasons I think he's outside the walls today."

During Blanton's Sunday afternoon press conference, he said the possibility of a conspiracy being involved in the escape had not been ruled out by him. The later capture, however, virtually ruled out that possibility.

Blanton noted that he had been in contact with U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, chairman of the House Assassination Committee. The committee's investigators have interviewed Ray five times during the past three months.

Ray and six other desperadoes made the escape about 7:30 p.m. Friday by climbing a 15-foot rock wall with a ladder fashioned from water pipes.

One of the inmates, Jerry Ward, 35, was wounded by guards' gunfire as he headed over the top. The prisoner was taken into custody a short distance away when he was unable to run because of leg and arm wounds.

Another escapee, David Lee Powell, 27, serving a 100-year murder conviction, was rounded up Saturday on the fringe of the 14,000 acre Frozen Head State

Park off State Route 62, about seven miles west of the prison.

Then, early Sunday, in the New River section only about three miles from where Ray and Hill were captured, two deputy sheriffs and a FBI agent nabbed Larry E. Hacker, a 32-year-old bank robber. He was caught inside the one-room Beech Grove Baptist Church.

Although officials initially reported that the escapees slid beneath two strands of high-voltage wire atop the wall in making their getaway, it was later reported that the escape actually occurred in the northwest corner of the wall where there was no wire.

"Commissioner Plummer and myself went to the wall today and made a close inspection of it because there had been some controversy concerning how the men got under the wire," Henderson said Sunday.

"After examining it, it was obvious to us that last winter's hard freeze had caused some erosion of the bluff and enough rock had fallen from it to allow the men to climb over the wall without having to pass under the wire."

The wall at the point of the escape butts against the towering bluff.

Henderson said officials have learned "absolutely nothing" from the escapees.

Blanton ordered a thorough probe to determine details of the escape and if there was any laxity on the part of prison personnel.

Warden Stonney Lane said about 200 of the prison's 300 maximum security inmates were on the recreation yard Friday evening when one prisoner feigned a broken ankle, another pretended he was going to scale the wall and two others faked a fistfight.

With the attention of guards on the two manned towers diverted, the seven prisoners pulled off the escape.

Lane said the three inmates actually involved in diverting the guards' attention have been identified and will face disciplinary hearings. He said as many as 20 other prisoners may have been involved in aiding the breakout.

Lane and Warden Vinson Thompson of the Tennessee State Penitentiary at Nashville had joined their men in working almost continuously in the field searching for the escapees.

Lane said a tip led a team of dog handlers into the New River area. The dogs, headed by handler T.J. Higginbotham of Taft Center, tracked down Hill and then picked up Ray's trail.

"We thought we were on the trail of Shelton, but as it turned out it was James Earl Ray's scent the dogs were tracking," said Thompson and Asst. Warden Barry Gaither of Nashville.

Thompson said the Taft dogs trailed Ray's scent for about two hours before the dogs tired and a fresh team of dogs took over.

"We returned to New River," Lane said. "We dispatched the Brushy Mountain bloodhounds to tracks east of the river. They picked them up immediately, took it to the west bank down the river about 500 yards and then into the woods."

"I was in radio contact constantly with the dog team and they informed me they were on a 'hot track.'"

"They cut through a heavily wooded area, caught the logging road up a power line and then back into the woods."

"He (Ray) was taken into custody in the woods. He laid down, covered himself up with leaves and the dog team walked up on him. There was no shooting — no incident at all in taking Ray."

Following Ray's capture, Blanton issued a statement commending state officials and law enforcement officers for their coordinated efforts.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

The Conspiracy Hangup

JAMES EARL RAY has fed the legend himself, and his brief escape from Brush Mountain Prison — even though he was captured — has enlarged it.

But the Ray legend is one thing. The hangup that so many others have about the possibility of a conspiracy among high officials in American government to "destroy" the convicted murderer of Martin Luther King Jr. is something else altogether.

MOST OF THE KNOWN facts about Ray's history were totally ignored by the people who immediately reacted to his escape with five other tough Brushy Mountain inmates with emotional statements that it could only have happened to get rid of Ray.

No. 1, Ray himself has stated that he wouldn't have been kept in a maximum security prison if authorities hadn't expected him to try to get out.

No. 2, he has tried before to escape. Twice, since he went to prison on a guilty plea after the April 4, 1968, slaying of King in Memphis. Moreover, he was an escapee from a Missouri prison at the time of that killing. And Missouri authorities said he had attempted to escape four times before he did.

By the time other facts were put together, it turned out that four of the five other escapees with Ray on Friday night had prior prison escape records. Only David Lee Powell of Memphis, the lone black in the breakout, was new to the escape game, and he was the first recaptured.

The question of security also arises. Knowing that prisoners like Ray can be expected to try to flee, and knowing the diversions that inmates can create to help their buddies, it would appear that Brushy Mountain's "maximum security" was less than maximum. That weakness is not a reason for assuming conspiracy, however. It needs to be treated separately.

Looking back on the statements that were made just after the world heard about Ray going over the wall it is disturbing to see how widespread the conspiracy attitude has become and the instant analysis that follows such an event.

Rev. Ralph Abernathy, who for a time succeeded King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, sounded

the keynote: "I would say he is going to be destroyed as so many others have been destroyed. I really believe that the prison officials, authorities in very high places, have planned the escape."

Memphis' own Rep. Harold Ford, a member of the select House committee looking in the King and John F. Kennedy assassinations, rushed to say: "I personally think the whole thing was set up. They're going to let him escape or they're going to kill when they capture him." They? Who are "they"?

Jesse Jackson of PUSH was equally irresponsible: "He will be killed by those who helped him get out of jail."

And there was Lyndon Wade, director of the Atlanta Urban League: "I'm wondering if his escape is not part of a master plan to eliminate him just when he's started talking . . ."

THE UNSPECTACULAR, nonviolent way in which Ray was run to ground certainly was fortunate. After that barrage of suspicion what might have followed had Ray resisted and been slain is obvious. The conspiracy theory would have soared to such emotional heights that refuting it — even with facts — might have been impossible.

It is sad that the nation is so conditioned by the revelations of conspiracies in high places — the CIA, the FBI and even the White House — that Ray's escape could so quickly be framed in that context.

It shows once more how the secrecy that surrounded the investigation of the King murder and the absence of a full court trial have nurtured minds that jump to conspiracy conclusions.

And it indicates again how important it is to bring out in public an unpolicitized, undistorted, unemotional case history of how a bullet from a rifle owned by James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King Jr.

The trouble is that the House committee assigned to do that has lost its own credibility, and damage — self still further with such statements as that by Harold Ford. Initially The Commercial Appeal supported the House inquiry because of the long-standing suspicion it might have put to rest. But that seems impossible now in view of the reflex attitude that always assumes a conspiracy.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 6

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Said Ringleader In Plot To Escape

By FRANK SUTHERLAND

James Earl Ray was the ringleader of the escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison and was "the first man over the wall," according to intelligence gathered by prison officials.

"We assume that James Earl Ray was the ringleader," said Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson.

"MY BEST INFORMATION is that he was the first one across the fence."

Henderson said his information is based on casual conversations between corrections officers and inmates at the prison who had some knowledge about the escape.

Ray and six other prisoners at the maximum security facility near Petros scaled a 12-foot wall Friday afternoon, prompting one of the biggest manhunts in Tennessee history.

ALL ESCAPEES, including Ray, were recaptured by Monday afternoon in the rugged, snake-infested terrain of the East Tennessee mountains.

Since the escape, prison officials have been questioning inmates, several of whom had prior knowledge of the escape and created diversions in the prison yard while Ray and the others scaled the wall.

Henderson said he cannot divulge how prison officials determined that Ray was the ringleader.

"IT WOULD BE dangerous to say because it could cost some lives," Henderson said.

The commissioner did say none of the seven escapees would talk.

"They won't talk to us at all," he said. "Oh, they will talk

(Turn to Page 10, Column 1)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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First Man Over the Wall

Ray Said Leader In Plotting Escape

Ray Got No Pay

The Tennessean did not pay convicted assassin James Earl Ray for the interview with reporter Marsha Vande Berg which appeared in this newspaper two weeks ago.

Published reports have said that Ray was asking \$2,000 before he would submit to press interviews. The Tennessean did not provide any compensation in order to interview the admitted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King.

FBI "impeded" the capture operation.

"Impeded is not maybe the good word, but they were around in the way," Blanton said.

THE GOVERNOR repeated his assertion that Ray would never have escaped if federal court had not ordered the state to take Ray out of solitary confinement and to allow him to mingle with the general prison population.

"We are in violation of that court order now," Blanton said.

"We are going to stay in violation of the court order as long as I am governor."

(Continued From Page One)
about the weather, but nothing else."

WHILE RAY was still free, some prison officials had speculated the break-out had been planned by Larry Hacker, a member of the notorious "Dawson Gang" that robbed banks all over the Southeast.

But now, Henderson said, they believe Ray initiated the scheme along with his cellmate, Earl Hill Jr., who was captured shortly before Ray.

About 200 inmates were in the huge recreation area when a fake fight broke out in one area of the yard. Another inmate pretended to fall down an embankment and break his leg. Still another inmate made

menacing motions like he might climb the wall.

ALL OF THIS distracted the attention of guards in towers while Ray and the others ran part way up a bluff and placed a pipe over the shortest section of the wall.

Henderson said his best information is the escapees smuggled sections of the pipe out to the yard the afternoon of the escape.

The pipes, in several sections, were fitted together with a large bend at one end to hook over the top of the prison wall.

"THE PIPE could have come from the plumbing shop, it could have come from several different places," Henderson said.

"I would assume that they probably carried it

out there that day. Three or four men could have hidden it in their clothing. Or, they could have brought it out in a trash can.

"They could have put it together out there in a few minutes—or a few seconds, for that matter. The parts that needed to be steady could have been put together with a pipe wrench before they went outside."

MEANWHILE, GOV. Ray Blanton discussed the escape in an appearance on ABC Television's Good Morning America show yesterday.

"We had to send the FBI home Sunday because they were in the way," Blanton said.

"How?" asked host David Hartmann.

"THEY WENT out and grabbed one of the escapees when the city of Oak Ridge had arrested him," Blanton said. "They grabbed him because they wanted to walk up in front of the cameras with him."

Hartmann asked if the

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Petros Citizen 'Just Couldn't Shoot Pitiful-Looking' Escapees

By FRANK CASON
and JACK SIRICA

Tennessee Staff Correspondents

PETROS, Tenn.—David West, who was patrolling the road in front of his home, leveled his pistol on two haggard convicts late Sunday night, but could not bring himself to shoot them as they fled.

West, 44, a former guard at Brushy Mountain State Prison here, was walking down Highway 116 about 100 yards from his home when he heard a loud crackling of underbrush on the hillside across the road.

TWO CONVICTS scrambled out in front of him. West pointed his pistol at them and ordered them to put up their hands.

To his right was Douglas Shelton, 32, and Earl Hill Jr., 44, both convicted murderers.

"They looked pitiful," West recalled. "They were wet and dirty, and they looked exhausted."

"I told them to hold it or I would shoot," West continued. "And Shelton said to 'go ahead and shoot, that he didn't care.' But West shook his head and said 'No, I can't shoot you in the back,' and instead fired a shot at Shelton's feet.

The convicts kept running and got away, West said, adding that "I could have killed them, but I didn't have no right to."

The former guard was shaken by the experience, but his sighting eventually led to Hill's capture several hundred yards away.

AND THE incident also reinforced prison official's belief that James Earl Ray and Shelton were not far away.

Ray was captured several hours later not far from where

West spotted the pair, and Shelton was still at large late last night.

West, who is thin and suffers from a nervous condition, looks to be no match for a pair of convicted murderers. He had been patrolling the road for about an hour before he heard the convicts come stumbling down the hillside.

"I DON'T never bother nobody or fight with nobody," West said. "But if they had come after my family, I would have emptied that gun into them."

The escapees stood wet and out of breath before West, illuminated by the headlights of a car that West had flagged down. Shelton kept his back turned to West with his hands up, and Hill stood 20 feet away, never uttering a word.

West felt he was doing right by holding the prisoners, "because 'the law' passed by before as I was patrolling the road, and told me they appreciated my help.

"It don't bother me living so close to the prison," West added. "I grew up here and so did my wife and daughter. But I'll tell you, Sunday morning I didn't go to bed until day-break."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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—AP Wirephoto

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Compliments of 'Tennessean' Photographer

This is the front cover of the current *Time* magazine. The cover story is about the escape by James Earl Ray from Brushy Mountain State Prison. The cover picture was taken by Tennessean photographer Gerald Holly during an interview of Ray by Tennessean reporter Marsha Vandenberg several weeks ago.

JUN 20 1977

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Is Back Behind Bars, And State Learns Lesson

THE NATION's most notorious prisoner, James Earl Ray, is back behind prison bars, along with all but one of those who escaped with him. That news brought a vast sigh of relief.

In the early hours after the escape, conspiracy theories seemed to abound. They were fed by such incidents as a breakdown in the telephone system at the prison and nearby Petros, the fact the nearest guard tower to the escape point was unmanned, and by the fact that the warden was on vacation, and by a rumor that there was a power failure on the fence above the walls.

Added to this was the fact that inmates in the prison yard did create a diversion that permitted Ray and the others to crawl up a home-made ladder and go over the wall. One of the escapees was wounded going over the wall and was recaptured, but the rest fled.

Those who jumped to the "conspiracy" theory thought it possible that Ray's escape was engineered from outside, with the purpose of either spiriting him from the country or leaving him dead and forever silent about all he knows of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

Prison authorities had viewed most of these as coincidents and, with the exception of the inmate diversions, it seems they were right.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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It was also rumored that the Federal Bureau of Investigation had taken "charge" of the manhunt. Although the FBI participated in the search, Tennessee officials under Gov. Ray Blanton directed the manhunt.

Commissioner of Public Safety Joel Plummer, National Guard Gen. Carl Wallace and Commissioner of Corrections C. Murray Henderson directed the vast effort and in the end they could be pleased with the way it turned out.

They, Governor Blanton, and hundreds of others, are to be commended for the long and arduous efforts that finally paid off in the capture of Ray, whose escape drew national and virtually world wide notice.

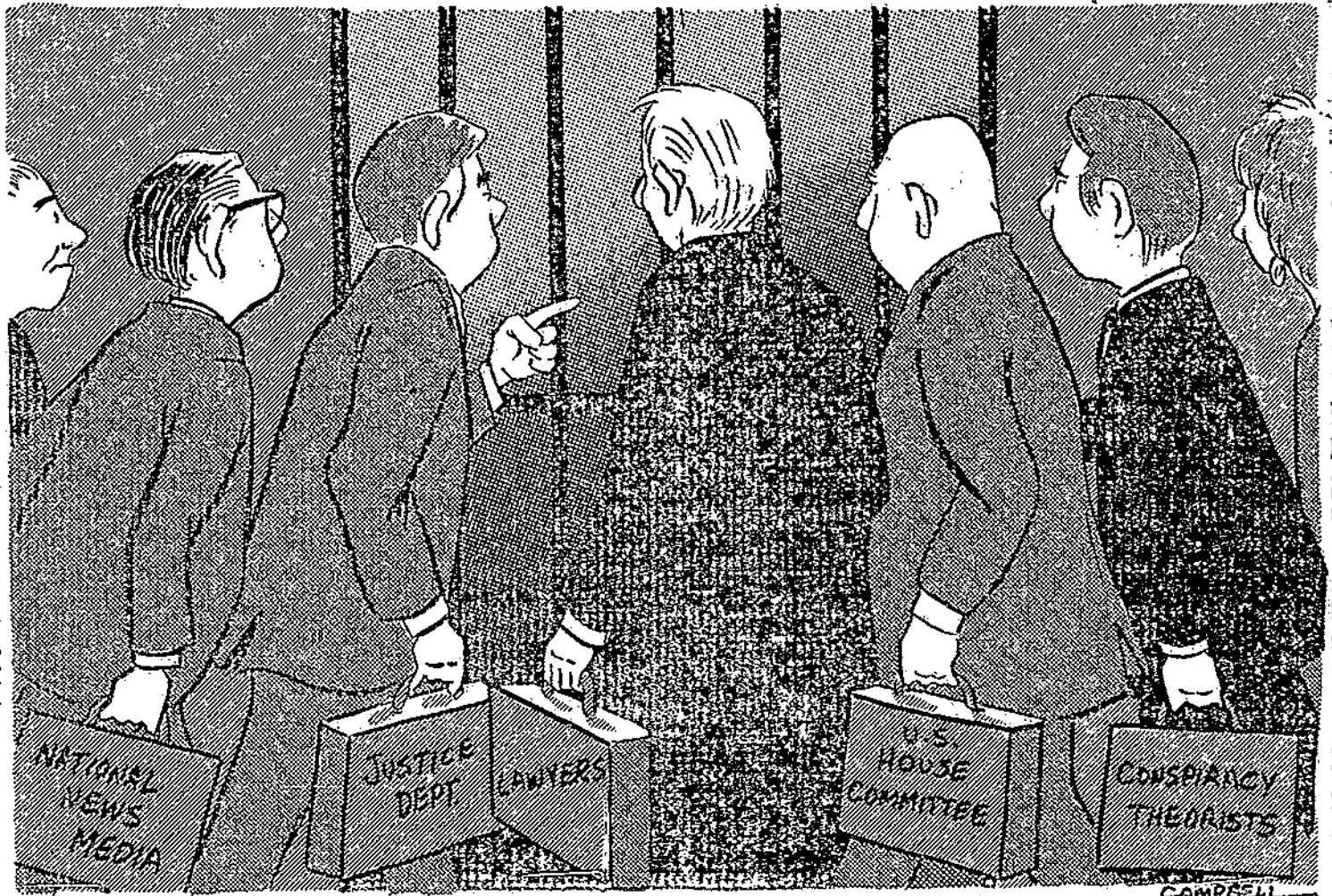
There are still many unanswered questions to the daring escape: Why there was not greater attention paid to Ray, and why was the guard tower not manned at the time and how did the escapees manage to put together the pipe ladder unobserved?

It is clear that some laxity was present. Governor Blanton has laid much of the blame on a federal court order instructing prison officials to treat Ray like any other convicted murderer. Thus, he was taken out of "lockdown" and allowed to mingle with other prisoners.

The governor yesterday called on the federal government to take over the responsibility of imprisoning Ray. Mr. Blanton said Ray has become a national figure and that the state is under court orders with regard to his confinement. "It's unfair to the taxpayers of Tennessee to continue to bear the expense of confining him under these conditions," the governor said.

Ray has made two previous attempts to escape from Brushy Mountain State prison. He bungled both, once when he climbed into the wrong air duct and once when lights in a prison movie were turned on unexpectedly. This was his third attempt, and it seems safe to say that James Earl Ray will keep trying. That puts a continuing burden on the state.

'Now Mr. Ray, Where Were We?'



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Interviews May Resume Today at Ray's Option

By DWIGHT LEWIS and ALAN CARMICHAEL

Tennessee Staff Correspondents

PETROS, Tenn. — A haggard James Earl Ray, in close confinement after a weekend of freedom, may resume interviews this morning with congressional investigators and his Nashville attorney, if Ray chooses.

Warden Stonney Lane of Brushy Mountain State Prison said yesterday that staffers from the House Assassinations Committee are here, and Atty. Jack Kershaw of

Nashville will arrive about 8 a.m. today. Ray will be permitted to talk to them if he so chooses, Lane said.

IN THE aftermath of the spectacular escape of Ray, convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and five other inmates Friday night, C. Murray Henderson, state correction commissioner, said several plans are being considered to tighten security at the fortress-like prison.

Among the new security arrangements, he said will be a

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12-foot outer perimeter fence beyond the prison's stone walls, and a new guard tower near the spot where Ray and the others scaled the wall.

In Nashville, Gov. Ray Blanton said he has requested President Carter and U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell to take over the responsibility of keeping Ray in custody in a federal institution. But Lane said he feels Brushy Mountain is "still capable" of holding the escape-prone Ray.

AFTER A COMPLETE physical examination in the prison infirmary, Ray was placed in Cell Block D, the prison's "administrative segregation" or maximum security unit. He was joined in his cell by Earl Hill, one of the escapees identified as a lead plotter in the jailbreak along with Ray and Douglas Shelton, 32, the only one of the group still at large last night.

Inmates in D block lose their jobs on the prison grounds and are not permitted to go to the dining hall or outside exercise areas. They may leave their cell for 30 minutes a day for exercise inside a walkway in the cell block.

Robert Lehner and Edward Evans, staff investigators for the House Assassinations Committee, which is probing the slayings of King and President Kennedy, arrived at the prison yesterday afternoon. They discussed details of the escape with Lane and other correctional officials.

COMMITTEE STAFFERS have questioned Ray several times in recent months in an effort to determine whether others were involved in King's murder, to which Ray confessed in 1969. Kershaw is seeking to get Ray a new trial for the slaying.

Henderson said increased security measures at the prison, in addition to the fence and a new guard tower, will include shoring up with steel and concrete a mountain embankment that forms part of the prison's side wall. Already the guard tower nearest Friday's escape route has been manned, Henderson said, though it previously was occupied only during "emergencies" and was unmanned when Ray and the others went over the wall.

In a joint press conference with Henderson on their return to Nashville from the prison, Blanton was highly critical of a 1970 federal court decree that, in effect, ordered the state to relax the solitary confinement in which Ray was being held. Since then, Blanton said, Ray has made three escape efforts.

BLANTON SAID HE telephoned Bell at 2:30 a.m. yesterday to inform him of Ray's recapture eight miles from the prison, and at that time re-

quested the federal government to take over his custody. He repeated the request in a letter to Carter.

"I don't expect any instant response," Blanton said. "There may have to be some court action."

He said Ray has become a national figure, the subject of a congressional investigation, the state is under federal court order as to how he shall be confined, and "it's unfair to the taxpayers of Tennessee to continue to bear the expense of confining him under these conditions."

AFTER 54 HOURS of freedom, in which he managed to scramble only 10 miles, the Ray, 49, was run to ground by bloodhounds in the early hours yesterday morning. He fell exhausted on the dark mountainside and with his remaining strength tried to squirm under a pile of rotting leaves.

"You might get over the wall" at Brushy Mountain, Lane said, "but you still have another huge wall to get over" — the rugged mountain wilderness that rings the prison.

Ray and two companions — Shelton and Hill — had been free nearly 50 hours when bloodhounds caught their trail Sunday night near a strip mine. They ran in different directions.

OFFICERS QUICKLY found Hill hiding in a thicket. Then fresh bloodhounds — 14-month-old sisters named Sandy and Little Red — were placed on the trail.

For three hours they raced westward along and across the ankle-deep New River, at times so close to their quarry the handlers could hear him crashing through the woods ahead.

Sandy reached him first, about 2 a.m., tugging at the leash held by prison guard Sammy Joe Chapman.

"JAMES, ARE YOU all right?" Chapman asked.

"I'm okay," replied Ray, covered with mud and sand. "I feel good."

Five other guards arrived as Chapman cuffed Ray's hands behind his back.

RAY WAS RETURNED to the prison in a Tennessee Highway Patrol squad car. On

the ride back to the prison, Lane told Ray photographers were waiting there, and asked if he would accommodate them.

Ray, who has been selling interviews to newspapers at \$2,000 each, said he preferred not to.

But as the car sped through the gates, a reporter shouted: "Is that Ray?"

"I'M NOT HIS mother," Ray shouted back.

Prison spokeswoman Becca Cottrell said Ray looked "like a pig wallowing in a sty" on his

return — caked with mud, hair wet and matted, cut from briars and very hungry.

Lane said Ray was doggedly silent about his flight, but he learned that Ray, Hill and Shelton moved at a slow pace for short distances, mostly at night. The prison is surrounded on three sides by 3,000-foot hillsides, covered with trees under which are rattlesnakes, moccasins, assorted insects and sawballs — thorny rose-bush vines.

THE SEARCH involved at least eight helicopters at one time and 200 law enforcement officials with six teams of bloodhounds. In addition, hundreds of area residents went into the hills with shotguns for the excitement of the chase and the possibility of collecting the \$25 bounty for each fugitive.

Seven hours after Ray was caught, Donald Ray Caylor, 24, was arrested by police in Oak Ridge. Caylor, a holdup artist serving 51 years, was the only fugitive to make it out of the craggy mountains.

Lane said Shelton was penned up in the New River area where Ray was caught, and it would be only a matter of hours before he was taken, thus keeping intact Brushy Mountain's record of no successful escapes.

"**WE STARTED** with seven, we're down to two," said Joel Plummer, state safety commissioner, before Caylor's recapture.

Two others were captured Sunday: Larry Hacker, 32, of Hamilton, Ohio, serving 23 years for armed robbery and safe cracking, and Hill, 34, of Erwin, Tenn., convicted murderer and rapist and a former cellmate of Ray's.

Another fugitive, David Lee Powell, 27, of Chicago, serving 100 years for murder, was recaptured Saturday.

JERRY WARD, serving 20 to 40 years for bank robbery, was shot and captured as he scaled the prison wall, the last man to go over, Friday night.

Henderson said speculation that authorities at the prison helped Ray escape is "absurd, irresponsible and absolutely untrue."

"We'll make a full investigation," he said. "If I'm wrong, the evidence will prove it."

LANE, IN AN evening press conference last night, said he does not believe there was any outside conspiracy involved in the escape, nor that prison personnel assisted it in any way.

He said he is still investigating questions surrounding lack of proper security during the escape, but no prison guards have been suspended or disciplined.

Lane said the pipe used in the escape over the northeast wall apparently was obtained by Shelton.

"**SHELTON WORKED** on the plumbing gang and Ray and Hill were cellmates," Lane said. "Shelton and Ray were not close friends, but there were often in close contact with each other inside the prison compound."

Henderson said in an interview here yesterday that he had concluded before Ray's capture that there was no conspiracy from outside to help him escape.

"Had there been a conspiracy, the whole thing would have been better organized," he said. But he added: "If anything had happened to Ray, we would never have been able to explain it."

HENDERSON SAID he thought only three of the group who scaled the wall actually planned to escape, and Ray was one of them.

"I think the others just saw the ladder against the wall and decided to go too," he said.

"I am personally confident they (Ray and two others) worked out the plan to escape while inside the prison walls. We didn't find anything in

Ray's pockets when we captured him to make us think otherwise."

BLANTON WAS preparing to send Tennessee National Guard troops into the search when Ray was recaptured. The governor was full of praise for state and local law enforcement personnel who participated in the manhunt.

Although FBI agents were present at Brushy Mountain, Blanton said he told Bell Friday night the state would take responsibility for controlling the search within Tennessee and he asked only that the FBI seal the state's borders.

"I said that while he (Ray) is in Tennessee, he's ours and we'll handle the problem," Blanton said. "And we did."

LANE SAID RAY will be kept in "administrative segregation" for three days while a hearing on his escape is in progress to determine whether he should be prosecuted for the escape. If convicted, he could be held under administrative segregation and have his chances of being considered for parole delayed until some time early in the next century.

At present, he is eligible for parole consideration in 1998.

During the hearing, he will remain locked up, though he can talk through the bars of his cell to other prisoners. His meals will be brought to the cell, and he loses his \$22-a-week job in the laundry.

HENDERSON INDICATED

Ray will be kept at Brushy Mountain as long as he is in state custody.

"Had this happened out at the main prison (in Nashville), two blocks to a bus line and he blends in with West Nashville

Displaying the escape ladder at his Nashville press conference, Henderson said it was made of common water pipe found around any institution. He said it could have been smuggled in sections to the wall and assembled there, hidden in clothing, athletic equipment or trash cans on the way out.

THE INVESTIGATION into the prison's security is in the hands of the Correction Department and the TBI.

One central question in the probe will be why no guard manned the tower nearest the northeast corner of the prison recreation yard, where the convicts scaled a 14-foot wall about an hour before dusk Friday.

Prison officials have said the post is manned only during emergencies, but declined to specify what constitutes an emergency.

ANOTHER QUESTION is whether guards, distracted by a prison yard fight, were neg-

ligent in allowing six inmates to slide over the mountain stone wall before firing on and wounding the seventh.

"They should never have gotten over that wall," said Deputy Warden Herman C. Davis. "Any time anyone goes over that wall, it's someone's fault."

A live wire carrying 2,300 volts hangs a foot over the wall. Henderson said rough weather last winter had caused minor rock slides near a cliff where it was anchored, leaving a gap on that side through which the men slipped.

"ISN'T IT STRANGE that in a maximum security prison, something like that wasn't

Costly Catch

How much did it cost the state of Tennessee to track down James Earl Ray after he fled Friday night from Brushy Mountain State Prison?

Nobody knows for sure, but Gov. Ray Blanton estimated yesterday that overtime and other expenses for state personnel will total at least \$173,000.

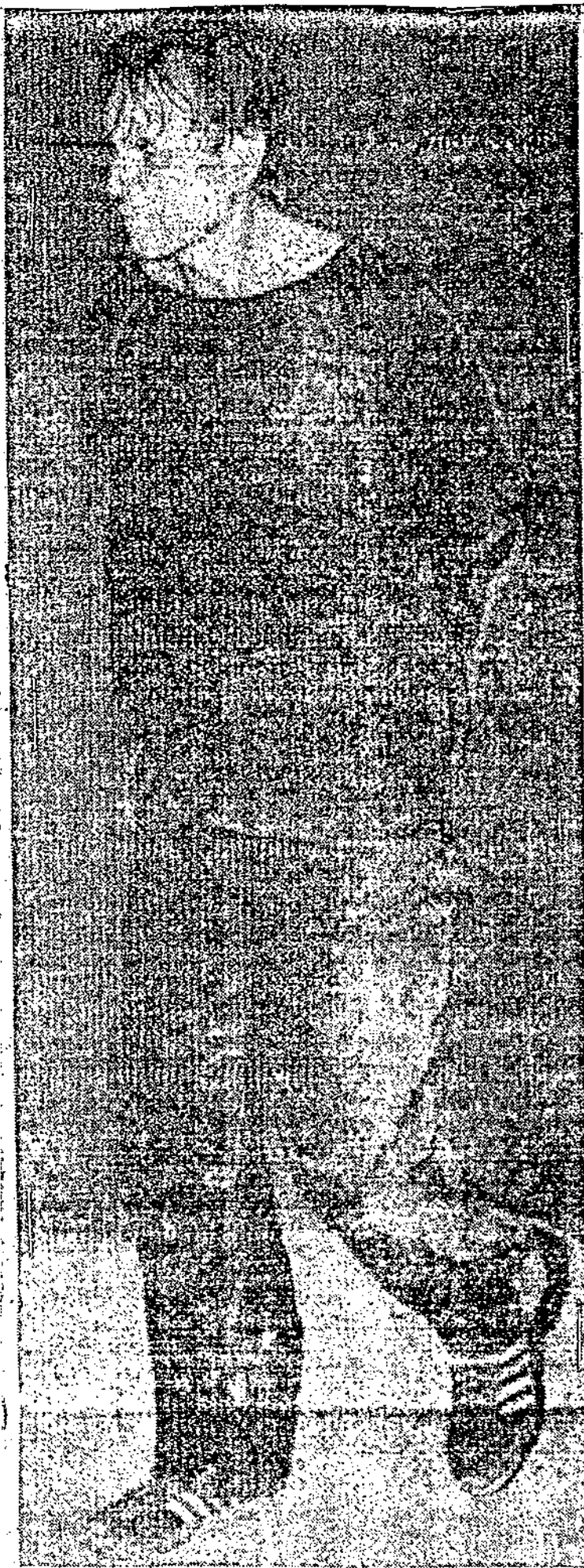
spotted?" Henderson was asked.

"I agree," he replied.

There had been some speculation that a power failure at the prison might have rendered the wire ineffective, but Henderson said the power cut-off happened after the breakout and lasted only a few minutes.

WITH REFERENCE to his letter to Carter and his request to Bell, Blanton told his press conference: "If he (Ray) is going to be a federal case, he ought to be a federal prisoner."

Michael Aum, a spokesman for the U. S. Bureau of Prisons in Washington, said the bureau had not been notified of Blanton's request officially.



—Staff photo by Bill Welch

Dejected James Earl Ray
At end of 55 hours of freedom

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Escape Not Future Political Issue, Democrats Say

Democratic leaders predicted yesterday James Earl Ray's escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison will not become an issue in next year's gubernatorial contest now that he is back behind bars.

They said some Republicans may cite the short-lived escape, however, in an attempt to fault the Blanton administration and its Department of Correction.

ON SUNDAY, only hours before Ray was tracked down and recaptured in the woods near Petros, former State GOP Chairman Dortch Oldham said some Republicans next year may seek to make an issue of the escape.

Public Service Commission Chairman Bob Clement, who is considered a possible candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor next year, said he would not be surprised if GOP campaigners try to blame the Democrats for the escape.

"I think everything that Gov. (Ray) Blanton has done or failed to do would be used by the Republicans in the gubernatorial race in 1978," Clement said. "There will always be a need for improvements, particularly in the Department of Correction and the need to

place more emphasis on rehabilitation...

"THE REPUBLICANS as well as the Democrats are going to talk about all the issues in the upcoming race. But I have always had a lot of confidence in (State Correction) Commissioner Murray Henderson," Clement added. "I think he is an expert in penology."

State Democratic Chairman Bob Farris, a Memphis attorney, could not be reached for comment yesterday. But another top Democrat, Lt. Gov. John Wilder, said prison escapes are "not a partisan matter."

"We've had prison breaks and we've had riots during both Republican administrations and during Democratic administrations," Wilder said in Somerville. "Of course, we haven't had many during Republican administrations because we haven't had as many Republican governors."

"JAMES EARL RAY seems to have a unique ability of escaping—and he's accomplished it not only in Tennessee but in other places. The only difference between him and any other prisoner is that he got more notoriety than the rest of them," Wilder said.

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"I think it's very significant that a person who had the capacity to get to Canada and England, as James Earl Ray did at one time, didn't get out of the county this time," he added.

"It appears to me somebody did a good job."

REP. CLIFFORD Allen, a long-time Democratic politician in Nashville and now congressman from Tennessee's 5th District, said yesterday Ray's capture eliminates the possibility that the escape will be an issue in state politics next year.

"I think it possibly could

have been an issue if he (Ray) had remained free," he said.

"But now that he has been recaptured, I don't think it can be any persuasive issue, one way or the other. The fact that he has been captured—and captured alive—ends it."

STATE SEN. Ed Blank, D-Columbia, said Ray's escape probably will not be a campaign issue.

"The fact that he did get over the wall would lead you to believe there were breakdowns in procedures in the prison, but I think that could happen anyway," Blank said.

"I don't see how it really falls back on the governor's staff."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

No Evidence Yet Shows Ray Had Help: House Panel

By **PATRICIA WELCH**
Tennessean Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — No evidence has been found to indicate that James Earl Ray received any outside help in his prison escape, two investigators of the House Assassinations Committee said yesterday.

"There is no evidence he had any funds or arms" when Ray was recaptured early yesterday, Robert Lehner, deputy chief counsel, told the committee during an open meeting.

EDWARD EVANS, chief investigator of a subcommittee probing the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said there was no evidence that clothing stolen from a car near the prison "had anything to do with the escape."

"No aid from the outside has been found," said Lehner. "There is a possibility he acted alone. There is a possibility he acted with others."

"There is even the possibility he was a late comer to the escape."

LEHNER SAID it "is apparent there was a plan, with the seven that went over the wall and at least two others." But he said he could not "state that all conspired," ahead of time, and some of the escapees, including Ray, may have joined the escape after it was in progress.

Several members of the committee, which is looking into the possibility of conspiracies in the assassinations of King and President Kennedy, had expressed fear that Ray was sprung in order to be killed, lest he implicate others. Ray's Nashville attorney, Jack Kershaw, put forth the same possibility right after Ray's escape Friday night.

Ray is serving 99 years for King's slaying. He confessed to the murder and never testified in court, but since then he has contended he was "pressured" into the confession and did not actually shoot King. Kershaw is seeking a new trial for him, and Assassinations Committee staffers have questioned him several times.

LEHNER AND EVANS traveled to Brushy Mountain Prison in Tennessee over the weekend, and Lehner said the Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification is conducting a thorough investigation of the escape.

In giving his initial report, Lehner said there were two general theories about the escape:

- It was organized internally by the prisoners and it is possible that some prisoners joined the escape at the last moment when they saw it unfolding.

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● The possibility of outside aid, then "every man for himself" if prison authorities sounded an alarm that could be heard throughout the valley in which the prison is located.

THE INVESTIGATORS reported Ray's brother, Jerry, visited the prisoner the weekend before the escape, but saw no indication that Jerry Ray had aided his brother in any way.

Evans said the investigators tried to find out if there was any previous association between Ray and the other escapees. He said they found none, except that one was Ray's cellmate at the prison.

Chairman Louis Stokes, D-Ohio, said Gov. Ray Blanton told him a full investigation will be made of prison security, particularly whether "there was any laxity in the security" for Ray.

REP. HAROLD Ford, D-Tenn., said he is "satisfied" for the present with the investigators' report. But he said "serious questions" were raised by the timing of the escape, its quick execution and the fact that power and telephone service were interrupted at the prison.

One committee member, Rep. Richardson

Preyer, D-N.C., said the committee should "be very careful not to draw any hasty conclusions" from the escape, and not "jump to the conclusion that there was anything sinister" about it.

Another member, Rep. Robert W. Edgar, D-Pa., said it is "very critical" that Ray be available for further interviews by the committee.

"WE'RE AT A very critical stage in the investigation," Edgar said.

Lehner said he has no reason to believe Ray will not continue to cooperate with the investigation of the King assassination.

In Nashville, Kershaw said Ray's abortive escape attempt will have no effect on attempts to gain him a new trial.

"I CALLED THE prison to see how he was and when he wants to see me," Kershaw said. "I'll see him as soon as I contact the warden."

Kershaw said Ray's escape attempt "makes him a less sympathetic character, but does not in the slightest affect his legal rights, which were violated by his coerced guilty plea."

"His rights have not been altered in the slightest. Those wrongs still exist. I don't think anybody is going to be happy with this situation until it is cleared up."

IN ATLANTA, black leaders, some of whom had thought Ray's jailbreak was part of a conspiracy, expressed relief he was captured alive, and urged authorities to tighten security around him.

"Well, I feel a great deal of relief that he has been found, and I don't know if there is anything more to his escape than the natural desire to get out of prison," said state Sen. Julian Bond of Georgia.

Bond said there are still unanswered questions about King's murder and Ray's involvement, such as where Ray obtained money to go to Europe after the King slaying, when he was a fugitive from a Missouri prison at the time.

"I HOPE THE House committee investigating Dr. King's assassination will continue to investigate the death of Dr. King," said John Lewis, an associate of King in the civil rights struggle during the 1960s. He suggested that prison officials take "extraordinary measures to keep him (Ray) in prison and keep him alive."

Ray's brother, Jerry, said in Boston he feared FBI agents would have killed Ray if they had recaptured him after the escape. Ray was recaptured by prison guards.

Jerry Ray said the FBI wanted to stop his

brother's cooperation in the congressional investigation.

IF HE HAD not been recaptured, Jerry Ray said, "I think there is a good chance his life would be in danger. They'd like to silence him. Once he's out of the way, there's no way to check anything."

He said that when he saw his brother the previous weekend, "he was kind of depressed — it's the first time I've ever seen him like that," and suggested he may have attempted the escape because "some of the news media is trying to disband the (assassinations) committee."

And in Battle Creek, Mich., Billy M. Hender-

son, a former cellmate of Ray's for a short time at Brushy Mountain, said: "I'm sorry he got captured. I was hoping he'd be in Cuba by now — some place where they wouldn't send him back."

HENDERSON, who was released from Brushy Mountain last February, said most inmates liked Ray and believed him in-

nocent of King's slaying. "The man is innocent," said Henderson. "When you do time with a man, you can figure out if he's guilty or innocent."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dog Handlers Shun Publicity After Ray Catch

By ALAN CARMICHAEL
Tennessean Staff Correspondent

PETROS, Tenn.—Despite weariness, the dog-team trackers who captured Brushy Mountain Prison's most famous inmate early yesterday wanted to keep on searching for the convicts who were still at large.

"We don't have time to answer questions," said Sammy Joe Chapman as he and his team of bloodhound-handlers avoided reporters' queries after the dogs sniffed James Earl Ray out from under a pile of leaves.

MOST OF THE men were raised in the mountains and their grandfathers were prison trackers just like they are.

Their chase of Ray had been relentless and fast-paced.

Sandy and Little Red, the team's 14-month-old female bloodhounds, ran up on Ray at the same time, as he attempt-

ed to cover himself with leaves.

"ARE YOU O.K.?" Chapman asked the captured convict.

"I feel good," Ray replied. But the ordeal had taken its toll—Ray was exhausted.

JEALOUSY EMERGED back at the prison following the capture, between members of Chapman's team and a team of dog-handlers from Taft Youth Center at Pikeville.

"They're getting all the credit and the team from Taft actually discovered Ray's scent," said Vinson Thompson, warden of the state prison in Nashville, who led the Taft team along with T.J. Higginbotham.

"We had been running Ray for about an hour and a half when he went into a creek," Thompson said.

"THE DOGS tired out and the men had to leave to change clothes. That's when they brought out the Brushy Mountain team and dogs."

Chapman's team, which is made up of Johnny Newberry, Mark Goddard, Larry Harris, Gil Monroe and David Heidle, wasn't seeking publicity, however. They shifted uncomfortably in front of television lights. Goddard was shaking.

Trackers and hounds waded through thick underbrush and heavily wooded forest in pursuit of Ray. The convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., wearing black sweatshirt and pants, was dirty and disheveled when he was taken by the trackers.

AFTER DEALING with the press, the team drifted away from the prison gates. Newberry was asked if he didn't have a special feeling at capturing someone as famous as James Earl Ray.

"It's just my job," he replied matter-of-factly, and walked away.

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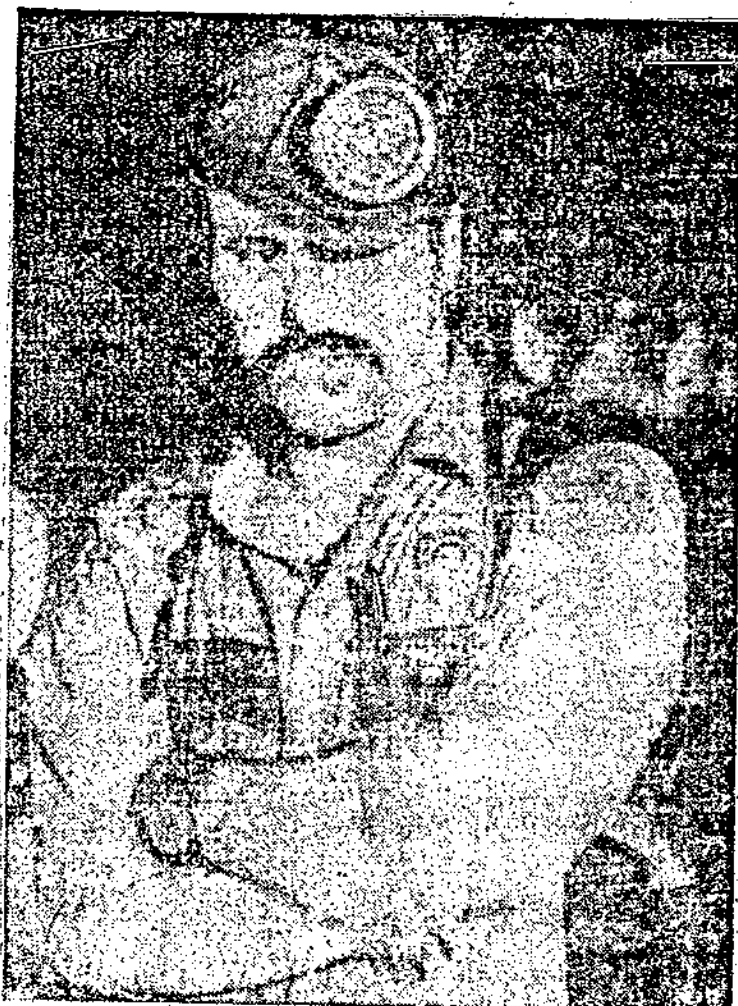
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—Staff photo by Bill Welch

Sammy Joe Chapman
'Are you O.K.?' he asked Ray

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Says 'I Don't Know' To Officials' Questions

By FRANK CASON
and JACK SIRICA
Tennessean Staff Correspondents

PETROS, Tenn. — The first thing they did yesterday when they got James Earl Ray back inside Brushy Mountain Prison was ask him where he had been.

"I don't know," Ray replied.

WHAT HAD he been doing since his escape Friday night over the prison walls, along with five other inmates?

"Nothing," the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. muttered.

And so it went for 15 minutes as prison officials conducted an interrogation which they must have known would prove to be unproductive.

RAY, TRUE to the convicts' code, wasn't talking. His answers to questions, when there were any answers at all, were one-word responses.

So they took him to the prison infirmary and gave him a hasty check — Ray declined a more thorough physical exam — and allowed him to take a shower.

They gave him a glass of fruit juice before he went to bed, exhausted after nearly 55 hours of running through the rugged mountains which surrounds Brushy Mountain Prison.

HE SLEPT until 6:45 a.m. Upon being awakened, he was given a breakfast of one egg, a biscuit with jelly and a glass of milk.

At 10:45 a.m., Ray was served a lunch of barbecued pork, potatoes, greens, beans, peaches and juice.

They then took him to the maximum security building at the prison where he was placed in a cell with Earl Hill Jr., one of those who had escaped Friday with Ray.

WARDEN Stonney Lane said Ray was placed in the cell with Hill, his former cellmate, because of "space problems."

Officials said it as "the safest of safe places to keep him," Ray will be kept for several days until an investigation is complete.

A review board will make a recommendation on whether Ray should stay in the maximum security unit for up to 30 days under "punitive segregation." That status, decided by the warden, does not isolate a prisoner entirely but means he

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takes meals in his cell and cannot leave it except with guard escort.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES — if they are needed — will be brought to his cell. Items such as cigarettes, radios and television can also be confiscated from prisoners in administrative segregation.

The review board will interview Ray once a month and recommend whether to end or continue the punitive segregation. This means he could be kept at that status indefinitely.

Ray can be prosecuted on charges of escape. And, for that offense, he could be sentenced to an additional one to five years if convicted.

RAY IS SERVING a 99-year sentence for killing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With good behavior, he could be eligible for parole in 1998 — the year he would be 70.

But Ray's escape is expected to strip away some, perhaps all, of the time he has accumulated for good behavior, extending the time before parole can be considered to 2001. Ray accumulated one month of honor time for his first year in

prison, officials said, two months the second year, and three months for each year since.

If all that worried him yesterday, he didn't show it much. Prison authorities said he spent most of the day sleeping.

IT COULD not be learned if he and Hill spent any time discussing the events which transpired from the time they went over the wall until they were captured. Prison officials say they don't bug the cells; therefore, any conversations between Ray and his cellmate would be confidential.

If Ray does feel free to talk to Hill about the attempted escape, the two convicts must be asking themselves: "Where did it go wrong?"



—Staff photo by Robert Johnson

Escape Route Reminder

The makeshift pipe ladder up which James Earl Ray scrambled to safety at Brushy Mountain State Prison night stands in the foreground as Gov. Ray Blanton, center, holds a press conference after Ray's recapture. With Blanton are Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson, left, and Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Editorials

Prompt Action Praised In Capture Of Ray

TENNESSEANS CAN BE generous in their praise of the hundreds of law enforcement personnel who worked long hours in difficult terrain to recapture James Earl Ray. Five other convicts also made it into the woods beyond Brushy Mountain State Prison, and the last of them was recaptured today.

Gov. Ray Blanton and other state officials acted promptly following the escape. The massive manhunt was extraordinarily difficult and pressure-ridden. And with Ray back in prison, these points are most apparent:

- Ray lacks credibility and is a confirmed escape artist. He makes little pretense about it and must be kept so he doesn't succeed. A federal court had forced some relaxation of security around Ray and Gov. Blanton rightly protested. He's now asking the federal government to take over custody of Ray. He's got a good point.

- There should be a quick but thorough investigation of the security at Brushy Mountain and the escape. Too many little things aided the break.

- We are glad Ray was captured alive. Moreover, had he died in the capture it would have fed forever the conspiracy myth. It made interesting reading and had to be reported, but we never believed that Ray had been kidnaped by other prisoners, that he had been allowed to escape so someone could kill him, or that he had outside help waiting to spirit him away. None of that happened.

Conspiracy myths also have been nurtured by members of the House assassinations committee, and this has potential for confusing a follow-up investigation. That investigation is a matter of responsibility and fairness. And it is a state matter, with state officials responsible for it.

The focus now not only is on what happened but what must be done to keep it from happening again. Prison security is the job of state officials. There may be criticism for the escape, but there is nothing but praise for the prompt reaction of authorities, and the recapture of desperate men.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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NASHVILLE BANNER

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FILE - MEMPHIS

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Ray Had Map, \$290 When Seized

By DWIGHT LEWIS and FRANK CASON

Tennessee Staff Correspondents

PETROS, Tenn.—James Earl Ray had \$290 and a partial Tennessee travel map in his possession when he was captured early Monday morning after escaping from Brushy Mountain State Prison, Warden Stonney Lane disclosed yesterday.

Lane's disclosure about Ray's money and map came shortly after Brushy Mountain prison personnel caught Douglas Shelton, the last of six inmates who escaped from the state's maximum security penal facility in this small East Tennessee town last Friday night.

ASST. DIST. Atty. Gen. Paul Phillips of Huntsville, Tenn., said Ray and the other escapees will be prosecuted.

"We plan to prosecute all seven of them on escaping from a state penitentiary while serving a felony sentence," Phillips said. Conviction of the crime carries a sentence of from one to five years.

If the men are bound to the Morgan County grand jury, Phillips said, the grand jury could hear the case as early as July 26. Phillips said the men first would be entitled to a preliminary hearing, at which they must be physically present, unless they waive their right to the hearing. He said strict security would be imposed if the convicts have to leave the prison for any kind of court proceeding.

A SEVENTH inmate, Jerry Ward, serving 20 to 40 years for bank robbery, attempted to escape along with Ray and the five others but was apprehended after being wounded in the legs by a prison correctional officer just after scaling the prison wall.

"When Ray was captured about eight miles from the prison Monday morning, the correctional officers found \$240 in cash on him," Lane said. "Then after getting him back to the prison, we found another \$50 in cash in one of his shoes."

The warden added that the \$290 Ray had in his possession included one \$100 bill, two \$50 bills, three \$10 bills, 11 \$5 bills and five \$1 bills.

LANE, WHO has been warden at Brushy Mountain since March 1976, said the map found on Ray was one which had been cut up to show only an approximately 40-mile area—from Oak Ridge west to Morgan County. Brushy Mountain is located in Morgan County.

Apparently Ray had been saving the money in his cell or at some other place for a period of time while planning the escape, Lane said, adding that Brushy Mountain prison inmates are allowed to have free-world money but not more than \$70 in their possession at any time unless they have permission to do so.

Lane said prior to his escape, Ray was being paid \$35 on the first of each month for working in the prison's laundry. He added that all inmates are allowed to withdraw money from their personal account at the prison on the middle of the month.

"HE SHOULDN'T have had this much money on him," Lane said.

Meanwhile, as prison working parties began going outside the prison walls once again yesterday and Lane announced that visitation rights for prisoners would resume today, White House press secretary Jody Powell said in Washington that Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell is considering a Tennessee request to put Ray in a federal prison.

In a news conference Monday in Nashville, Gov. Ray Blanton released a letter he had written to President Carter which said:

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

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"CONSIDERING that James Earl Ray was convicted of murdering a figure of national prominence, that he was an escapee from a Missouri state prison at the time of this murder, that he has made one escape from behind walls in Tennessee and attempted two others, and considering the immense cost...and that we are hampered by federal court order in our efforts to secure this prisoner—I am requesting that the federal government accept custody of Ray."

Powell said: "It is not unusual for the federal system to take charge" of a state prisoner. He said 200 state convicts already were in the federal prison system.

Prior to the White House's announcement concerning Ray, Nashville attorney Jack Kershaw, who represents the convicted murderer of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., emerged from a meeting with his client at 9:40 a.m. and first told reporters "I really don't have anything to say."

AFTER a few seconds, however, he changed his mind and said Ray had been through "quiet an ordeal."

After escaping, Ray, who arrived in the Tennessee prison system in March 1969, managed to avoid authorities by hiding in the mountains surrounding the prison for about 55-hours before being captured.

"Jim is mentally exhausted but he is in pretty good physical condition," Kershaw said. "I think he regrets his caper."

KERSHAW ADDED that now that the escape attempt by Ray is over, both he and his client are concentrating on getting Ray a new trial.

"We want to let the truth fall where it may," Kershaw said.

Wearing a light brown suit and brown and white shoes, Kershaw also told reporters that he now discounts any idea about a conspiracy to get Ray out of prison, adding that Ray had said his escape was not part of some conspiracy.

THE NASHVILLE attorney also added that Ray is anxious to talk to members of the House Assassinations Committee looking into the King murder. Two of the committee's staff members, Robert Lehner, chief deputy counsel, and Edward Evans, chief investigator, were at the prison yesterday trying to get more information about the escape.

"We will have an early meeting with the committee members but Jim (Ray) is just too tired today and he didn't feel like being subjective to extensive questioning by Washington lawyers," Kershaw said.

Kershaw also confirmed a report yesterday that he asked officials last Saturday to permit him to come up to Brushy Mountain and get in a helicopter and fly over the area where Ray was thought to be.

"I **SIMPLY** offered my services," the attorney said. "I felt he (Ray) would surrender to me before he would surrender to anybody else and I called Gov. Blanton and Adjutant Gen. Carl Wallace to permit me to fly over the area and use a horn to call Ray out. They took my idea under consideration but said they thought they were about to apprehend him."

"It was no big deal," he added.

Kershaw also told reporters that his reaction to the idea to move Ray to a federal facility is "that it would be very unwise and unjustified. I will absolutely fight it."

KERSHAW ALSO said Ray told him that he didn't help plan the escape.

"THEY'VE GOT him," shouted Linwood Butler, a prison correctional officer who happened to be at the prison's main entrance when the whistle sounded. "It's all over."

Butler was one of two-prison guards who fired shots at Ward last Friday night when the inmate attempted to escape along with the other six.

The capture of Shelton, who is serving 68 years for first degree murder and felonious assault, ended more than 85 hours of searching by local, state and federal authorities for the escaped convicts.

PRIOR TO being captured about 8 a.m. yesterday, Shelton, of Sullivan County, got into a parked van belonging to Larry Joe Phillips of Beachfork area in Anderson County and went to sleep.

When Phillips went to his truck to take a trip to Lake City, Tenn., to pick up his mother, he first opened the door, then put the keys in the ignition and was about to start the truck when Shelton raised up and grabbed him by the arms and shoulders.

Phillips, however, managed

to jerk away from Shelton and jumped out of the truck so he could go back inside his house and call police. While he was running, Shelton shouted: "Come back, wait, come back."

PHILLIPS, WHO also went to get a gun from his house forgot and left his keys in the van. Shelton took and keys and drove a short distance before wrecking the vehicle and being captured by Sammy Joe Chapman, a Brushy Mountain prison bloodhound trainer who had participated in the capture of Ray.

"He went off the road and when I said for him to get out and come up where I was," Chapman said, "he told me he was too tired and I went down and put the handcuffs on him."

Shelton, when captured, was only wearing a pair of pants. He had lost one shoe and had taken his shirt off in the van.

"THE RAIN last night helped us," Lane, the prison warden, said after Shelton was returned. "His capture still makes the prison have a perfect record in not letting an inmate successfully escape since becoming a maximum security prison in 1969."

Lane added: "We felt like we knew what we were doing all the time. It was just a matter of time."

The warden also said, "I am very relieved and glad this is all over."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Someone Yelled:**'Look, Over the
Wall'**By FRANK SUTHERLAND
Tennessean Staff Writer

PETROS, Tenn. — James Earl Ray scrambled through the underbrush that clawed at his clothing and scratched his skin.

He was not worried about copperheads and rattlesnakes in the 2 a.m. darkness Monday. He was trying to find a way to elude the bloodhounds gaining on him every minute.

He slipped and fell on the ground moistened by Sunday's rain — rain that made it tougher for him but easier for the bloodhounds following his scent.

Only three hours before, he had been running with two other escapees from Brushy Mountain State Prison — Earl Hill Jr., his cellmate, and Douglas Wayne Shelton.

Suddenly, they realized that bloodhounds had their scent and were closing in. The three decided to split up to confuse their pursuers.

Hill was captured first, almost immediately after the three had parted.

Ray was exhausted. His sweatshirt and jeans were soaked from sweat, rain and the muddy ground on which he had slept sparingly. His black and gray hair normally combed straight back — was a tangled mat.

Despite his weariness, Ray was still calculating the best way to lose the bloodhounds. He crossed a creek, hoping the water would deter the dogs from the scent.

But it did not work. After's Hill capture, the pursuers brought in fresh dogs, Sandy and Little Red, who relentlessly followed the "hot track."

Ray came to a railroad and walked down the tracks, hoping the ties or gravel or rails might help throw off those sensitive noses. That did not work, either.

Ray decided to cross the creek again and enter the dense thicket on the other side.

Still the dogs came.

The map of the Petros area and the \$250 cash he had brought with him from the prison were of no use to him now.

Hearing dogs almost upon him, Ray had to make a desperate decision. His circling

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route back across the creek had brought him to a spot only about 500 yards from where Hill had been captured.

Ray could continue running in the hope the dogs would lose the scent, or he could hide and hope the dogs would pass him by.

Weariness won out.

Ray found a spot with leaves and brush and lay down. He frantically pulled the wet leaves over most of his body and tried to control his heavy breathing.

He could hear the dogs and men approach. First the footsteps of man and dog and then the breath of the bloodhound Sandy.

"James, are you all right?" asked Sammy Joe Chapman, holding on to his dog.

"I am OK," Ray replied. "I feel good."

Ray was immediately handcuffed and searched as other officers quickly joined Chapman. The nation's most famous criminal was led out of the forest to a waiting highway patrol car.

Warden Stonney Lane, notified by radio of the capture, had driven to the scene and rode back with Ray. He explained the routine they would follow when they got back to the prison.

Lane told Ray that a large number of reporters and photographers were waiting for him and asked if he wanted to meet with them.

"I don't want any interviews," Ray said.

Back at the prison, officials had roped off an area for the press, next to the walk entering the main building of the prison. Highway patrol Col. Richard Dawson made an announcement:

"That rope is there for a reason. Nobody's crossing the rope and nobody's pushing it out."

Only moments before, Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson had told a small group of reporters: "We don't want another Ruby."

Henderson was referring to Jack Ruby, who had mingled with reporters and shot Lee Harvey Oswald, assassin of President John F. Kennedy. Ruby lept from the crowd and shot Oswald as he was being brought out of the Dallas police building in front of news cameras.

At Brushy Mountain, some news organizations had reporters at both the main building and the prison gate. As the highway patrol car entered the gate, AP reporter Eric Newhouse shouted, "Is that Ray?"

"I'm not his mother," Ray shouted back.

The car pulled beside the waiting line of reporters at the main building and Ray was quickly escorted inside. A consensus of the reporters was that Ray appeared disgusted and even embarrassed about his capture.

There were 40 or more news people around the building, and usually in situations like that, rapid-fire questions are put to the person walking by a row of reporters.

This situation was different. Ray was not on the walkway that long, and he gazed away from reporters' stares and the cameras clicking. Not a single question was put to Ray.

Then Ray was back inside, ending 55 hours of "freedom." It was Ray's third escape attempt from this mountain fortress, and the first time he had actually gotten outside the walls.

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Plans for the escape began long before the men went over the wall. The details of the escape were first formulated in the cell occupied by Ray and Hill. Douglas Wayne Shelton was also brought into the plan.

"We have Ray really being the leader," Henderson said. "All the evidence points to him, Hill and Shelton. They could have been others involved, we don't know."

Henderson said he was not sure whether Larry E. Hacker, a member of the notorious "Dawson Gang" which robbed banks all over the Southeast, was originally involved in the escape.

"He was the most intelligent of the entire group," Henderson said. "He was also the most dangerous."

As Ray and the other inmates plotted their breakout, they looked for the weakest link in Tennessee's most escape-proof prison.

They decided on the northeast corner of the prison wall for a number of reasons. Brushy Mountain Prison has only three man-made walls. The fourth wall is a rock bluff rising 60 to 75 feet on the east side of the prison.

Wire carrying 2,300 volts of electricity tops all three walls and runs along the side of the bluff. Ray knew that others who tried to escape over the walls had tried to short out those wires.

But Ray had another idea. The harsh winter and snows had caused some of the bluff to erode, with loose rocks and dirt tumbling to the bottom of the bluff.

While the electrified wires were only 12 to 18 inches above the tower walls, the erosion on the bluff had filled in the area so that escapees could actually step over the wire along the bluff. Then running along the side of the bluff, they could reach a part of the wall over which there were no wires.

This solved the problem of getting past the wires. They still had to go over the wall which was built into the side of the bluff. At its lowest point, the wall next to the bluff was about nine feet high.

Obviously, they needed a ladder or a rope. Ray and his cohorts decided to make a ladder out of plumbing pipe with a huge hook on one end to grasp the top of the wall.

The inmates had access to such material because the plumbing shop was inside the walls. Working over several days, Ray and his fellow conspirators gathered lengths of pipe, threaded on each end, which could be put together with joints.

The top of the ladder, which was to go over the wall, had to be in the shape of a semicircle, so right angle joints were found. The escapees needed a foothold at the bottom, so they fashioned a "T" bar at the other end of the ladder.

Given that first foothold, Ray and the others figured they could shimmy up the pole to the top of the wall. The top and bottom of the ladder needed to be especially stable, so the joints at those ends were probably tightened with a pipe wrench long before the pipes were taken into the yard. The rest of the ladder could be put together once the group was in the recreation yard.

There was still another reason for selecting the northeast corner as the escape route. There were three guard towers on the recreation yard walls — two on the north wall and one on the west wall.

But Ray knew that the tower nearest the planned escape point was unmanned except in cases of emergency. The other towers were 80 and 175 yards away. Still, at that distance, the two guards could foil an escape attempt.

Ray decided they needed to create diversions in the huge recreation yard that would distract the two tower guards. To establish such diversions meant bringing more people into the escape plan and increasing the risk of a leak to prison officials.

Ray knew that no inmate at Brushy Mountain had ever successfully escaped over the walls and out of the mountains. He himself had tried two previous escapes from Brushy Mountain.

In 1971, Ray, in an elaborate, time consuming scheme, removed a concrete block from his cell and escaped through an air duct into the prison courtyard. But he picked the wrong tunnel leading out of the prison. It was full of steam. He was forced to back out of the tunnel and was caught.

In 1972, Ray was caught by guards after he attempted to saw his way out of the prison movie theater.

This time, Ray was determined to give himself an edge. From inside the prison, he managed to obtain a map of the area. An escapee could travel 40 miles and never see civilization — even if he were looking for it.

Ray also knew he would need money at some point. By saving money he had earned and perhaps selling some of his possessions to other inmates, Ray accumulated \$290.

The final decision Ray and other escapees had to make was the timing. Brushy Mountain inmates do not have free run of the recreation yard at just any time.

Every evening at 6 p.m. the prisoners are allowed in the yard to play softball, horseshoes or other games. The inmates usually remain in the yard until about a half hour before dark. Ray decided the best time to escape would be just before the end of the recreation period.

Such a time would give the escapees the advantage of running the entire night when neither helicopters nor men could easily see them.

It was not known whether Ray knew that Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney Lane would be on vacation June 10. It is also not known whether he knew that Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer and his top assistant, Col. Richard Dawson, would be out of the state, too. And it is not known whether Ray knew or cared that Dr. Martin Luther King Sr., father of the man he had slain, would be preaching in a Knoxville church that weekend.

But the decision was made to go about 7:30 p.m. Ray, Shelton and Hill gathered in the northeast corner of the recreation yard where some inmates were pitching horseshoes among a crowd of 35 to 40 prisoners. Also standing in the



Gov. Ray Blanton
"Take Ray alive"

group were Hacker, Jerry Ray Ward, David Lee Powell and Donald Ray Caylor.

Suddenly, there were loud noises in the southwest corner of the yard. Some inmates were staging a fight. Guards walking in the yard rushed to the scene. Ray's plan had begun.

Linwood Butler was the guard manning the tower nearest the fight scene. Watching the fracas, he held his shotgun.

Near the fight scene, another inmate pretended to fall down an embankment.

"I broke my ankle, I broke my ankle," the inmate screamed.

The disturbance also had the attention of the north wall tower guard, Floyd Hooks.

"Then I saw an inmate by himself in the (northwest) corner," Hooks said. "He was threatening like he was going to escape, walking over to the wall and then backing away."

Prison rules say inmates are not allowed within 10 feet of the wall. The guards have the responsibility

of the entire length of wall on which their tower sits.

During the diversions, Ray and the others were placing the ladder over the wall.

"Most people say Ray was the first over the wall," Henderson said. "Some say he was the second."

Shelton and Hill were right behind Ray. The others may or may not have been in on the plan. Powell, the only black in the group, was obviously not prepared for the escape — he was wearing white pants and no shirt. He just saw the ladder there and went.

Ray, on the other hand, was wearing sneakers that prison officials allow inmates to have.

Butler said his attention was on the west wall's fake fight when "I heard someone in the yard yell."

"I don't know whether it was a guard or an inmate," Butler said.

"They yelled, 'Look at the wall! Over the wall!' I turned and started shooting."

Butler first fired two blasts from his pump shotgun.

"When I opened fire with this Old Betsy, they (inmates around the horseshoe game) hit the ground," he said.

Then he picked up his 22-caliber rifle, filled with long rifle cartridges, and began shooting from 175 yards away.

"I was shooting at a body at the top of the wall," he said. "Then I saw two men. They were scrambling as hard as they could up that hill on the other side of the wall. One of them either tripped or I hit him."

Hooks said he did not see the escape attempt until he heard Butler shooting.

"I immediately started shooting," Hooks said. "I could see what they were using (the pipe ladder). They kept going over while I kept shooting."

From Hooks' vantage point, he could shoot at inmates on either side of the wall, about 80 yards from his tower.

"While I was shooting, one of them fell off the bank on the other side of the wall," he said. "I think I hit him."

Both Hooks and Butler say they think they shot one escapee. Ward, a bank robber serving 20 to 40 years, was shot twice in the leg and was immediately captured about 15 feet outside the wall.

Ray and the other five escapees fled through the woods and began the long night of climbing the mountains whose tops reach more than 3,000 high in a natural barrier around the prison.

The prison alarm sounded, signaling the escape. The alarm can be heard all over Petros, and when the townspeople heard it, too many of them picked up their telephones to find out what was happening.

The overloaded Petros telephone system went dead.

Deputy Warden Herman Davis had to send a messenger several miles to notify the Morgan County sheriff's office of the breakout.

Meanwhile, at the prison some thought one or two of the inmates might have slipped into a tunnel just beneath the section of the wall they scaled. The tunnel carries a creek that flows under the entire length of the prison.

"We immediately sealed off the other end of the tunnel," Davis said. "Nobody got out that way."

Henderson and numerous other state officials drove immediately to the prison. Reporters from Tennessee and across the nation also poured into the tiny town.

Henderson, in-between hourly briefings for the press, devised a search strategy with prison officials: Contain the escapees within a mile or two of the prison until daylight when a major search with helicopters and dogs and men could be launched.

The helicopters were using an infrared device — used extensively during the Vietnam War — that could detect human body heat.

"But the helicopters were not of too much use as far as the search is concerned," Henderson said. "Their main use was psychological, keeping them from traveling too much and keeping them inside the area."

All Friday night and Saturday morning, Henderson kept telling reporters he believed the escapees were "boxed in" by a five-square mile perimeter correctional officers had set up.

Dogs would pick up scents and lose them. Fresh dogs would try again.

"They are running in circles," Henderson said. "We feel like we have got them contained."

About 12:45 p.m. Saturday, a helicopter spotted Powell walking along a road eight miles north of the prison. Powell, serving 100 years for shooting and killing a Memphis clerk, surrendered to officers without a fight.

Powell's capture at that distance from the prison forced officials to expand their search area to a 10-mile radius. But it would be 13 hours before another escapee would be caught.

Ray, meanwhile, was traveling with Hill and Shelton, having parted company with the other three almost immediately after the breakout.

At 49, Ray knew the need to conserve energy — even if he had worked in prison to keep in shape.

While they had traveled all night up the steep mountain, Ray and the other two were extremely cautious about daylight movements. When they did move in daylight hours, it was slowly and with maximum concealment.

Saturday-morning the state brought in every man and piece of equipment officials believed could be helpful in the search. That included five Tennessee Highway Patrol Tactical Teams (the state's version of SWAT) and an 18-wheel mobile command post with a communications center to coordinate radio communications and to replace the beleaguered Petros telephone system.

FBI agents also arrived. There was an announcement from Washington that Ray was on the FBI's "10 Most Wanted List," and the FBI was now directing the search. Henderson said the FBI was never in charge of the search, which was directed by state authorities.

President Carter and Gov. Ray Blanton announced they were keeping tabs on the search, getting hourly progress reports. The House Select Committee on Assassinations, which only a few weeks before had interviewed Ray about his murder of Dr. Martin Luther King in Memphis nine years ago, sent two staff members to observe the search.

There were charges of conspiracies of different types: Ray was kidnaped; Ray had outside help; the escape was a plot to kill Ray.

Henderson would interrupt his search operation to deny the rumors. Blanton issued orders that Ray be taken alive, if possible. The

governor knew too well the political and national implications if Ray were to be killed.

The one report that Henderson worried about was speculation that the escapees had managed to get beyond the area cordoned off by officers. But the commissioner stood firm:

"There are only about four ways to get out of those mountains. We have them all cut off."

Then as midnight approached Saturday, a team of dogs picked up a scent along a creek bed six miles northeast of the prison. Trackers followed the trail for more than an hour, at times hearing noises ahead of them.

Hacker knew the dogs were after him, and he was not losing them in the creek bed. When the creek neared a road, Hacker crossed the road and ran into the small Beech Grove Baptist Church.

Exhausted, he could do nothing but hide and wait. For 20 minutes, nothing happened, and he hoped he had lost them. But a few minutes later, two deputy sheriffs and an FBI agent searched the church and arrested him. It was 1:45 a.m.

State officials speculated upon Hacker's return that he may have been the "mastermind" of the breakout, but prison officials now say that was just a hunch.

After dawn Sunday, helicopters returned to the search. The bloodhounds were having difficulty following and holding scents because the ground was dusty and officers had often criss-crossed trails.

But in the middle of the day Sunday, searchers got two breaks. The first blurted out over police radios: "Two suspects" were seen crossing a fire road by a tower just over the mountain east of the prison.

Authorities quickly devised a plan to flush them out: They would clear the side of the mountain of searchers and dogs and take a group of men to the top of the mountain. This force would then move down the side of the mountain, forcing the escapees toward a road at the base of the mountain. Every 100 yards along that road was at least one officer in sight of another.

The plan was momentarily stalled when authorities learned newsmen were in the search area. Henderson dispatched a van to escort the reporters and photographers out.

Then nature provided the second break: rain that would clear the air and ground of dust which bothered bloodhounds' sensitive noses. The searchers decided to wait for the rain to end.

Meanwhile, Blanton and Adj. Gen. Carl Wallace toured the area by helicopter and then the governor announced at a prison press conference he was activating two units of the Tennessee National Guard.

About 150 guardsmen in the Ripley military police unit and as many helicopters "as needed" from the Smyrna aviation unit would arrive at the prison Monday, he said.

Blanton also announced that Safety Commissioner Plummer would head the search operation, assisted by Henderson and Wallace.

Also, prison authorities were putting together a special task force of Brushy Mountain guards who grew up in the backcountry and knew streams and other areas where the escapees might hide.

Then there was a startling piece of news: police in Careyville, Tenn.,

reported a change of men's clothing had been stolen from a car in a parking lot, and the thieves had not touched cameras or jewels in the car. In an adjacent parking lot, a car had been stolen.

Authorities suddenly expanded the search areas north and east of the prison to a distance of 25 miles.

After the rain stopped Sunday afternoon, searchers began their sweep of the other side of the mountain east of the prison. The dogs turned up "hot tracks" that led first to the capture of Hill, a two-time murderer serving two life sentences, and then Ray himself.

With the capture of Ray, Blanton decided the National Guard was not needed after all. But the search for the remaining two fugitives continued.

At 8 a.m. Monday, police officers in Oak Ridge spotted Caylor walking down a city street. Caylor, serving 51 years for armed robbery, attempted murder and attempted escape, offered no resistance.

Warden Lane drove to Oak Ridge to pick up the prisoner, but he was told the FBI had already taken him into custody.

Blanton said later the FBI agents refused to turn Caylor over to state officials because they wanted to parade him before the cameras.

Lane went back to the prison to resume the search for the last escapee. That search ended at 9 a.m. Tuesday when Shelton, who was serving a 68-year sentence for assault and murder, was found in an area not too far from where Hill and Ray had been captured.

In the aftermath of the escape, there have been some changes at Brushy Mountain. Floyd Hooks, the guard on the wall over the escape occurred, was fired.

"There was no question the man was derelict in his duty," Henderson said.

Henderson and prison officials have begun making plans to install a fence outside the prison wall. If inmates ever do scale the wall again, guards will have a chance to fire at them while they climb the second fence.

Corrections officials are discussing building another guard tower on the corner where Ray escaped. The unmanned tower will now have a guard when prisoners are in the recreation yard.

Meanwhile, Blanton has asked President Carter to order the federal government to take custody of Ray. Blanton said the search cost Tennessee more than \$200,000, and Ray really should be a federal prisoner. Blanton said Ray would not have been able to escape if a federal court had not said prisoners in similar circumstances are to be treated the same. The ruling said prisoners may not be locked in solitary confinement without hearings and a review each 30 days.

State officials interpreted that ruling to mean Ray had to be allowed to mix with other maximum security prisoners at Brushy Mountain.

But Ray is back in administrative confinement, separated from the other prisoners. Blanton and Henderson vow Ray will remain separated as long as they are in office.

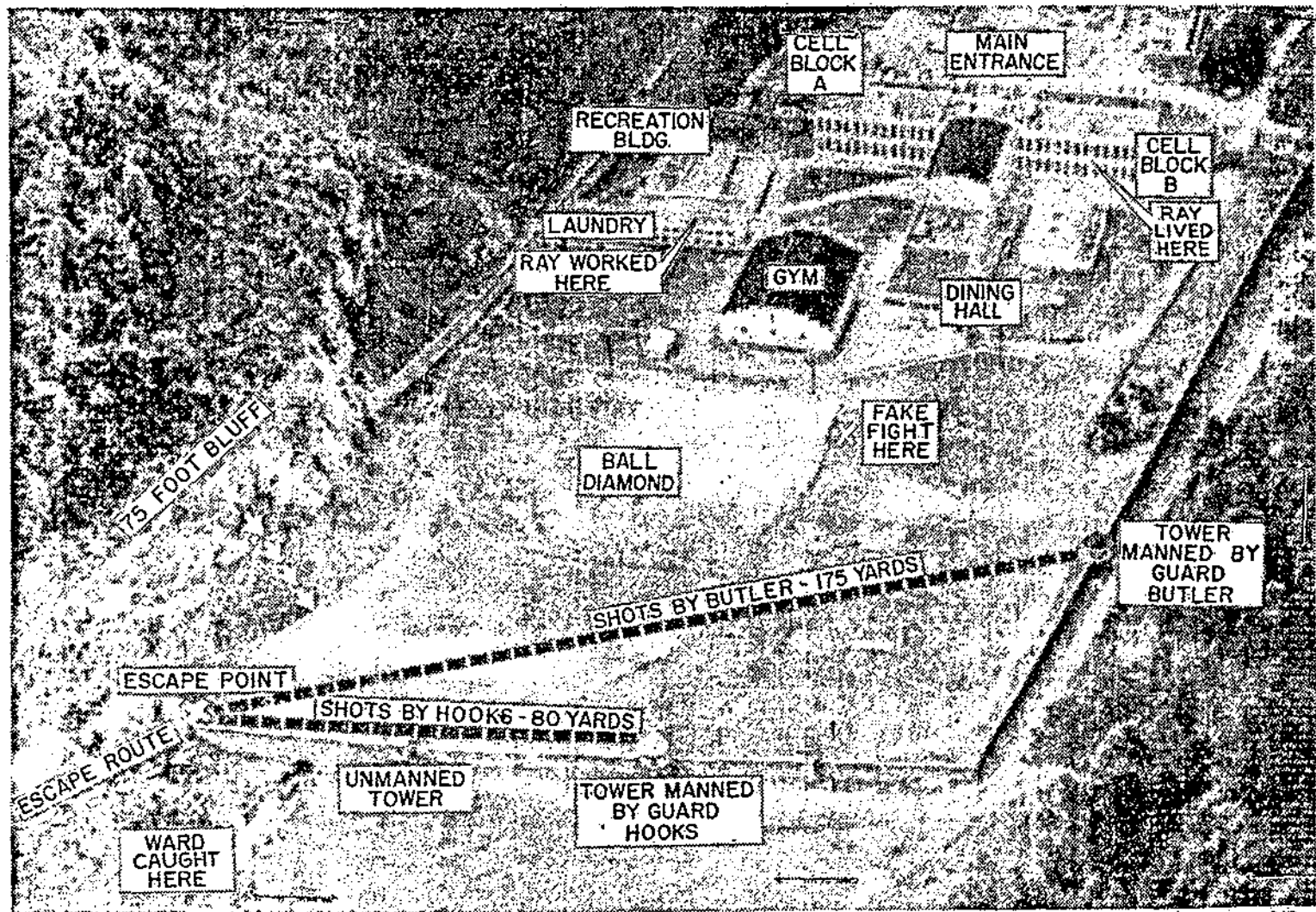
No matter what happens to Ray, Henderson said he will make Brushy Mountain the most escape-proof prison possible. He said he expects no problem getting additional funds from the State Building Commission.

This will be done, he said, even though there has never been a successful escape over the walls at Brushy Mountain.

At Brushy Mountain, they consider those 3,000-foot mountains and snake-infested woods as part of the walls.

7 *

This photo of the Brushy Mountain State Prison recreation yard shows where inmates staged a diversionary fight during the escape, the escape route and the towers with the guards who tried too late to stop the breakout with their rifles.





—Staff photo by Bill Welch.

Sammy Joe Chapman (standing right), the dog handler who tracked down James Earl Ray, shows how he found him. Playing the part of Ray is prison guard John Trail, lying in the exact spot where Ray was found. Others are, from left, Bill Garrison, John Heidle and Johnny Newberry.



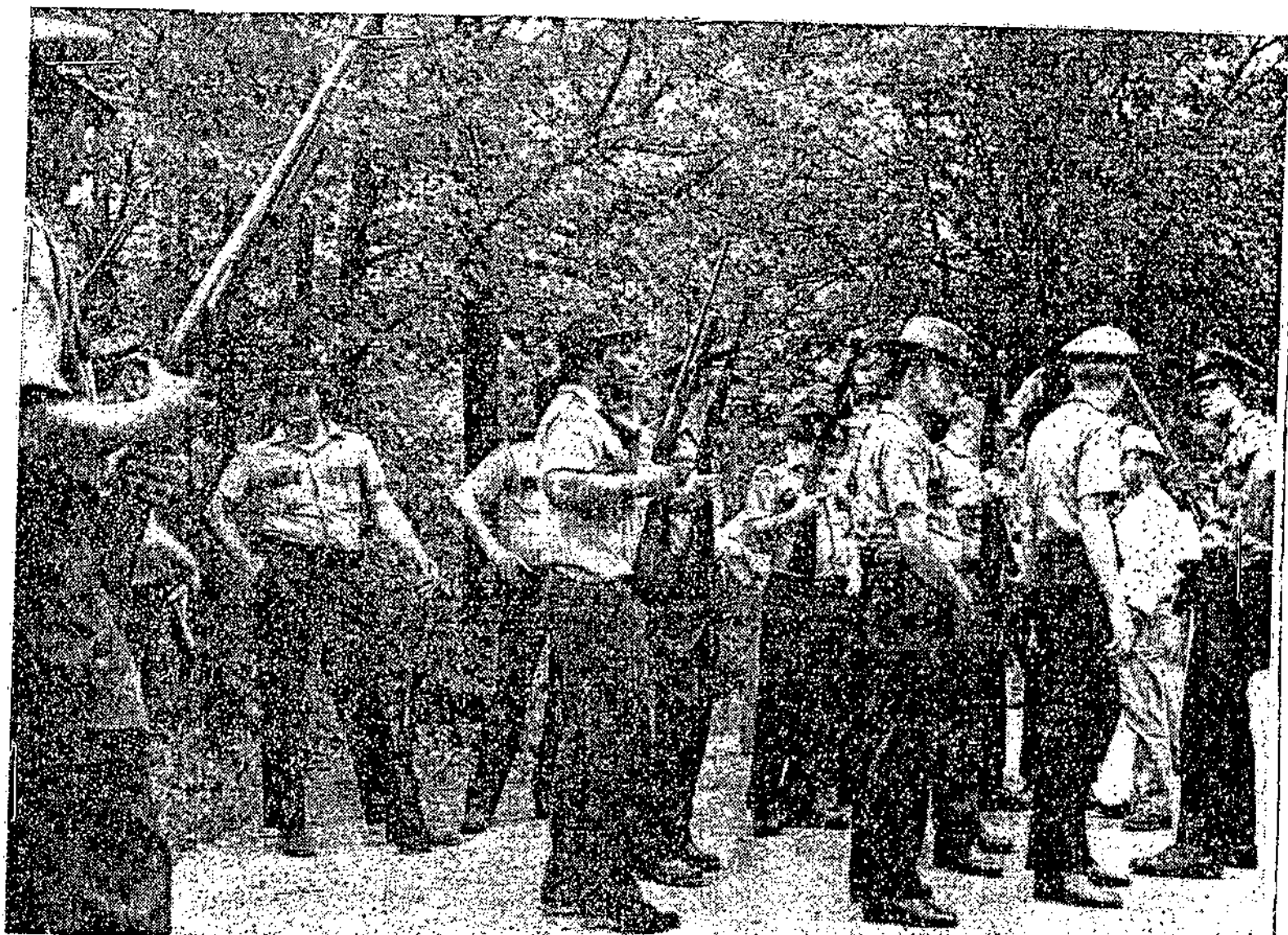
—Staff photo by Robert Johnson

Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson displays the ladder Ray and the other escapees fashioned out of plumbing pipe.



—Photo by Alan Carmichael

James Earl Ray, wet and hair tangled, is led back to prison.



—Staff photo by Dan Litten
Corrections department officers and prison guards, armed with revolvers, shotguns and rifles, wait along the road to which officials hoped to flush Ray and the other escapees.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (88-10052)

DATE: 6/16 '77

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
UFAC - CONSPIRACY

During the early morning hours of June 11, 1977, the following individuals at Tennessee State Prison, Nashville, Tennessee, were contacted concerning JAMES EARL RAY, and furnished the following:

[REDACTED] white male born [REDACTED] Tennessee, currently serving a 30 year term for rape from Davidson County, advised he is an [REDACTED] at the prison. His [REDACTED] Camden, Tennessee, telephone number [REDACTED]. He has been in the penitentiary since November 11, 1971. He knows [REDACTED] one of the escapees who escaped with JAMES EARL RAY and knows [REDACTED] who is at the Tennessee State Prison. [REDACTED] is from Holiday, Tennessee, which is near Camden, Tennessee, where [REDACTED] grew up. [REDACTED] was caught again three or four weeks ago, but [REDACTED] has not talked to [REDACTED] since 1975. [REDACTED] was recently recaptured and LEEPER did have a short discussion with him. [REDACTED] knows of no plot concerning JAMES EARL RAY and knows of no aircraft or any other way that he might be involved with the escape of JAMES EARL RAY. [REDACTED] furnished additional other details concerning his personal situation, which are not being reported, because RAY has been apprehended.

[REDACTED], Tennessee State Prison, currently serving a 28 year term for armed robbery from Savannah, Tennessee, advised his rap partner is [REDACTED] who is one of the escapees with JAMES EARL RAY from Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee. [REDACTED] talked to [REDACTED] about one month ago when [REDACTED] was brought through the Tennessee State Prison for return to Petros, Tennessee. The investigator, [REDACTED] from the State, was present at the time and they did not have a chance to say much of anything. [REDACTED] knows [REDACTED] and EARL HILL, JR.,

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

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88-10052-66

and [] and JAMES EARL RAY, but did not know the other two escapees. He had no idea where [] would go and no information about any previous escape plan.

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[] currently serving a ten to twenty year sentence for second degree murder. advised he is from Crossville, Tennessee, where his [] Crab Orchard, Tennessee. He celled with JAMES EARL RAY for one year at the Tennessee State Prison in cell number eight on walk one in unit three. RAY left the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville about one year ago. During the time RAY was at Nashville, he never talked much. [] and RAY greeted each other in the morning and at night, and that was about all the conversation they had. RAY typed most of the time that he was in the cell. He never told anything about his past or anything about his present or future plans. [] knew nothing about any escape plans that RAY may have had or anyone he might contact. [] stated he did not know any of the other escapees.

On the morning of June 11, 1977, [] [] Key Host Motel, James Robertson Parkway, Nashville, Tennessee, advised that recently, a telephone operator at the Key Host overheard accidentally a person calling in to a guest at the hotel on a long distance call. The long distance caller used the name JAMES EARL RAY. This person who received the call was [] of [] [] and has been in the hotel several times using different addresses. He has used the address [] Memphis, Tennessee; [] Ashland City, Tennessee; and [] Ashland City, Tennessee. He has always listed a Chevrolet with various Tennessee license plates on it. These are []

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She advised that she knew nothing of the description concerning [] and stated that a number of people frequent the motel that she does not know of.

It is noted that the Key Host Motel is a motel now featuring pornographic movies and has a day rate for people who desire to use the motel for a short period of time. It would appear that a number of people use code names when calling in to the Key Host Motel and this is

ME 88-10052

probably what happened at this time. The question is moot inasmuch as JAMES EARL RAY has been apprehended anyway.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, MEMPHIS (88-10052) (C)

DATE: 6 17 77

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE;
ET AL
UFAC

On 6 '11 '77, SA [REDACTED] Supervisor, Knoxville Division, telephonically advised the writer that the Bureau is currently planning to issue a wanted flier on JAMES EARL RAY and was in need of a photograph and negative of JAMES EARL RAY as taken by the Tennessee State Penitentiary, Nashville, Tennessee, on 10 '75. SA [REDACTED] requested that a negative of JAMES EARL RAY as taken 10 '75, be obtained from the Tennessee State Prison system and forwarded immediately to the Bureau, this request coming from Supervisor [REDACTED].

On 6 '11 77, [REDACTED] Director of Records system, Tennessee State Prison, Nashville, Tennessee, was contacted and after a check of records of his office, furnished a negative of a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, Tennessee State Prison number 65477, however, this negative appeared to be older than 10 '75. [REDACTED] made available this negative in the event it would be of use and thereafter referred the writer to Corporal [REDACTED] Classification Division, Tennessee State Prison, in efforts to locate the 10 '75 negative.

On 6 '11 '77, Corporal [REDACTED] Classification Section, Tennessee State Prison, was contacted and made available the negative of a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, Tennessee State Prison number 65477 dated 10 7 '75.

(1) - 88-10052

(1)

INDEXED
DATE 6/28/77

88-10052-62

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ME 88-10052

On 6 '11 '77, the aforescribed negative of photograph of JAMES EARL RAY, Tennessee State Prison number 65477, dated 10 7 75, as well as one photograph of RAY, was forwarded to the Bureau via American Airlines Priority Parcel Service. Supervisor [] at the Bureau was advised that these items had been forwarded from Nashville and stated they would be picked up at the air terminal, Washington, D.C., upon arrival.

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The above described items that were obtained from Tennessee State Prison officials have been returned by the Bureau and have been returned to prison officials, Nashville.

841 Clifford Davis Federal Building
Memphis, Tennessee 38103
June 27, 1977

Sheriff Wayne H. Davis
Benton County
Camden, Tennessee 38320

Dear Wayne:

I want you to know we certainly appreciated the excellent assistance you and Deputy Sheriff [redacted] gave to our office during the recent investigation involving James Earl Ray. Needless to say, without your cooperation we could not have instituted the necessary coverage that evening.

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We are indeed grateful for your assistance and hope you will convey our thanks to Deputy [redacted].

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

 Joseph H. Trimbach
Special Agent in Charge

- 1 - Addressee
① - Memphis (88- James Earl Ray)

JHT [redacted]

(2) [redacted]

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b7c

88-10052-68

SEARCHED [redacted]

SERIALIZED [redacted]

INDEXED [redacted]

FILED [redacted]

FBI

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☒ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☒ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☒ ~~E F T O~~
☐ CLEAR

Date 6/28/77

FM MEMPHIS (88-10052) (RUC)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

BT

~~E F T O~~

JAMES EARL RAY; UFAC. OO: KNOXVILLE.

THE FOLLOWING IS BEING FURNISHED TO THE BUREAU AND KNOXVILLE
 DUE TO THE STATEMENTS MADE ABOUT THE FBI.

[REDACTED] ATTORNEY AT LAW, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE,
 REPRESENTING JAMES EARL RAY, FILED A COMPLAINT IN THE CHANCERY
 COURT OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, ON JUNE 27,
 1977, IN A CASE ENTITLED "JAMES EARL RAY, PLAINTIFF, VERSUS
 THE HONORABLE RAY BLANTON, GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE; THE HONORABLE
 BROOKS MC LEMORE, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REPORTER OF TENNESSEE;
 THE HONORABLE C. MURRAY HENDERSON, COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS
 OF TENNESSEE; THE HONORABLE STONEY LANE, WARDEN OF BRUSHY

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FILE STRIPPED
 INITIALS
 DATE 6/29/77
 SA

88-10052-69

SEARCHED

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Approved: [Signature]

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(Number)

HQ 0056Z

KX 0036Z

(Time)

Per [Signature]

FBI

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☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
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☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE TWO ME 88-10052 ~~E F T O~~

MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON. THE PLAINTIFF RESPECTFULLY SHOWS TO THE COURT: "THAT PLAINTIFF UPON A PLEA OF GUILTY TO MURDER IN THE FIRST DEGREE MADE IN CRIMINAL COURT OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, ON APRIL 4, 1969, WAS DULY SENTENCED TO A TERM OF 99 YEARS IN THE TENNESSEE STATE PENAL SYSTEM, WHICH HE IS PRESENTLY SERVING IN BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON AT PETROS, TENNESSEE. . .

"THIS ACTION IS BROUGHT UNDER AUTHORITY OF T.C.A. 23-1101-2-3 ET SEQ AND RULE 57 OF THE TENNESSEE RULES OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURES. THIS IS A REAL CONTROVERSY BETWEEN THE PARTIES: THE PLAINTIFF ASCERTAINING HIS RIGHTS TO REMAIN IN TENNESSEE AND THE DEFENDANTS SEEKING TO EXILE HIM TO FEDERAL PENITENTIARIES OUTSIDE OF THE STATE. . .

"TO TRANSFER PLAINTIFF TO A FEDERAL PRISON IS NOT 'REASONABLE' NOR 'HUMANE' AND CONSTITUTES CRUEL AND INHUMAN TREATMENT IN VIOLATION OF ARTICLE 1, SECTION 16 AND SECTION 32, WHEN ALL THE SURROUNDING CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE GUILTY PLEA, AND THE PLEA ITSELF, UNDER WHICH PLAINTIFF IS PRESENTLY SERVING TIME, IS EVEN NOW BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED

Approved: _____

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(Number) (Time)

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PRECEDENCE:

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CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
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☐ CLEAR

Date _____

PAGE THREE ME 88-10052 ~~E F T O~~

STATES FOR POSSIBLE IRREGULARITIES BY OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE FBI.

"PLAINTIFF HEREBY ALLEGES THAT HE WAS THREATENED BY F.B.I. AGENTS WITH REPRISALS AGAINST HIS FAMILY IF HE DID NOT 'COOPERATE' WITH THE AGENCY IN NAMING ALLEGED 'CO-CONSPIRATORS' TO THE CRIME CHARGED. PLAINTIFF HEREBY ASSERTS THAT HIS PLEA OF GUILTY WAS MADE ON INFORMATION CONVEYED TO HIM BY COUNSEL THAT THERE WOULD BE F.B.I. REPRISAL ON MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY IF HE DID NOT PLEAD GUILTY TO THE CRIME AS CHAGED (SEE CODE NAME ZORRO, A WORK BY MARK LANE AND DICK GREGORY), AND F.B.I. AGENTS HAVE READY ACCESS TO FEDERAL PRISONS; THEY DO NOT TO STATE PRISONS. THEREFORE, PLAINTIFF VERILY BELIEVES THAT HIS LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER IF SENT TO A FEDERAL PRISON. IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED THAT PLAINTIFF VERILY BELIEVES THAT THE OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAVE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT PLAINTIFF'S LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER IF HE IS SENT TO A FEDERAL PRISON. . . RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, [REDACTED] SOLICITOR FOR PLAINTIFF."

THE JUNE 28, 1977, ISSUE OF "THE TENNESSEAN", A NASHVILLE,

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Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

FBI

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CLASSIFICATION:

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Date _____

PAGE FOUR ME 88-10052 ~~E F T O~~

TENNESSEE, DAILY PUBLICATION, REVEALED THAT CHANCELLOR ROBERT BRANDT REFUSED TO RESTRAIN STATE OFFICIALS FROM CARRYING OUT PLANS FOR A PROPOSED TRANSFER OF JAMES EARL RAY TO FEDERAL PRISON AFTER RAY'S ATTORNEY FILED TWO LAWSUITS SEEKING TO BLOCK A TRANSFER. BRANDT SAID RAY FAILED TO SHOW THAT HE WOULD SUFFER IMMEDIATE AND IRREPARABLE INJURY IF OFFICIALS PROCEEDED WITH DISCUSSION PLANS TO TRANSFER RAY FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON TO A FEDERAL INSTITUTION.

HOWEVER, BRANDT SET THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1977, AT 1:30 P.M. FOR RAY'S HEARING ON RAY'S REQUEST FOR A TEMPORARY INJUNCTION AGAINST HIS PROPOSED TRANSFER.

IT IS NOTED THAT INFORMATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED THAT THE AFORE-MENTIONED HEARING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR JULY 5, 1977, AT WHICH TIME [] PLANS TO BRING [] TO NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE FOR THIS HEARING.

IN ADDITION, [] FILED A COMPLAINT IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE AT NASHVILLE ENTITLED "JAMES EARL RAY, PLAINTIFF, VERSUS THE HONORABLE RAY BLANTON, GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE; THE HONORABLE

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Date _____

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BROOKS MC LEMORE, ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REPORTER OF TENNESSEE; THE HONORABLE C. MURRAY HENDERSON, COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS OF TENNESSEE; THE HONORABLE STONEY LANE, WARDEN OF BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON; THE HONORABLE GRIFFEN BELL, ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES." THE COMPLAINT STATES IN PART AS FOLLOWS:

"THE JURISDICTION OF HIS COURT IS INVOLVED PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF TITLE 28, USC, NUMBER 2201, THIS BEING A SUIT WHEREIN A DECLARATORY JUDGMENT IS SOUGHT AS TO THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF TENNESSEE COURT ANNOTATED 41-1901-2-3 KNOWN AS THE INTERSTATE CORRECTION COMPACT WHEREBY AN INMATE OF A STATE PRISON MAY BE SENT TO THE PRISON OF ANY COMPACT SIGNATORY, INCLUDING THE UNITED STATES, WITHOUT A HEARING EVEN THOUGH HIS CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS UNDER THE 5TH, 6TH, 8TH, AND 14TH AMENDMENTS, IN THE INSTANT CASE ARE VIOLATED. . .

"THE PLAINTIFF ALLEGES THE DEFENDANT RAY BLANTON HAS APPLIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3 TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, THE HONORABLE GRIFFEN BELL, FOR A TRANSFER OF JAMES EARL RAY, BUT NONE OF THE SIX OTHER

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CLASSIFICATION:

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☐ CLEAR

Date _____

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ESCAPEES, TO A FEDERAL PRISON OUTSIDE OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE. DEFENDANT HAS STATED OPENLY THAT PLAINTIFF RAY WAS A NATIONAL PROBLEM AND WOULD NOT HAVE ESCAPED EXCEPT FOR THE ALLEGED FACT THAT THE FEDERAL JUDICIARY HAD ORDERED PLAINTIFF RELEASED FROM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT AND THUS ENABLING PLAINTIFF TO ESCAPE.

"TO TRANSFER PLAINTIFF TO A FEDERAL PRISON IS NOT 'REASONABLE' NOR 'HUMANE' AND CONSTITUTES CRUEL AND INHUMAN TREATMENT IN VIOLATION OF THE 8TH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES WHEN ALL OF THE SURROUNDING CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE GUILTY PLEA, AND THE PLEA ITSELF, UNDER WHICH PLAINTIFF IS PRESENTLY SERVING TIME, IS EVEN NOW BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR POSSIBLE IRREGULARITIES BY OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE FBI.

"PLAINTIFF HEREBY ALLEGES THAT HE WAS THREATENED BY THE FBI AGENTS WITH REPRISALS AGAINST HIS FAMILY IF HE DID NOT 'COOPERATE' WITH THE AGENCY IN NAMING ALLEGED 'CONSPIRATORS' TO THE CRIME CHARGED. PLAINTIFF HEREBY ASSERTS THAT HIS PLEA OF GUILTY WAS MADE ON HIS INFORMATION CONVEYED TO HIM BY COUNSEL THAT THERE WOULD BE FBI REPRISAL ON MEMBERS OF HIS

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(Number) (Time)

Per _____

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PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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☐ CONFIDENTIAL
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Date _____

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FAMILY IF HE DID NOT PLEAD GUILTY TO THE CRIME AS CHARGED (SEE CODE NAME ZORRO BY MARK LANE AND DICK GREGORY). FBI AGENTS HAVE READY ACCESS TO FEDERAL PRISONS; THEY DO NOT TO STATE PRISONS. THEREFORE, PLAINTIFF VERILY BELIEVES THAT HIS LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER IF SENT TO A FEDERAL PRISON. IT IS RELIABLY REPORTED AND PLAINTIFF VERILY BELIEVES THAT THE OFFICIALS OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE HAVE EXPRESSED FEAR THAT PLAINTIFF'S LIFE WOULD BE IN DANGER IF HE IS SENT TO A FEDERAL PRISON. . .RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED, SOLICITOR FOR PLAINTIFF."

ON JUNE 28, 1977, IN THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE, U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE FRANK GRAY, JR., HANDED DOWN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: "UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE IMPLICATION FOR A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER, THE COURT IS OF THE OPINION THAT IT IS NOT WELL TAKEN AND ACCORDINGLY IT IS DENIED."

THE QUESTION OF A HEARING ON AN APPLICATION FOR A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION IS RESERVED.

THE MEMPHIS DIVISION CONTEMPLATES NO FURTHER ACTION ON THIS MATTER UNLESS ADVISED TO THE CONTRARY.

BT

Approved: _____

Transmitted _____

(Number)

(Time)

Per _____

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge Refuses To Block Ray Transfer Plan

By MARSHA VANDE BERG

Chancellor Robert Brandt refused yesterday to restrain state officials from carrying out plans for a proposed transfer of James Earl Ray to federal prison after Ray's attorney filed two lawsuits seeking to block the transfer.

Brandt said Ray failed to show that he would "suffer immediate and irreparable injury" if officials proceed with discussing plans to transfer Ray from Brushy Mountain prison to a federal institution.

HOWEVER, Brandt set Thursday at 1:30 p.m. for a hearing on Ray's request for a temporary injunction against his proposed

transfer. Yesterday's action was a denial of Ray's request for a restraining order.

Nashville attorney Jack Kershaw, who is the latest in a string of lawyers to represent the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., filed the two suits yesterday in Chancery and federal courts alleging that a transfer of Ray without a hearing would violate the prisoner's civil rights.

The suits also charge that the

law, which provides for the Interstate Corrections Compact and which is cited as the basis for Ray's transfer, is unconstitutional because it does not guarantee a prisoner a due process hearing.

The suits also argue that a transfer would make Ray inaccessible to his attorney and therefore would deny him effective assistance of counsel.

In the suit filed in chancery

court, Kershaw also alleged that Ray "believes that his life would be in danger" at a federal institution because of the FBI's accessibility to federal prisons.

RAY PLEADED guilty to killing King because he feared "FBI reprisal" against members of his family, the suit argues.

The suits ask for injunctive relief preventing a transfer which was

requested by Gov. Ray Blanton in the aftermath of an escape attempt by Ray and six other prisoners June 10 from Brushy Mountain state prison.

Blanton has said he wants federal authorities to assume responsibility for incarcerating Ray. He cited security reasons and the cost of keeping Ray, whose attempted break earlier this month was the third attempt since he was imprisoned in 1969.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date:

6/28/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigatedb6
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88-10052-70

① SAC

② Davis

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Judge Denies Ray's Request To Halt Transfer Discussion

James Earl Ray's request to halt discussions on his proposed transfer to a federal penitentiary was denied yesterday by U.S. Dist. Court Judge Frank Gray Jr.

In a brief order, Gray reserved a decision on Ray's request for a preliminary injunction against the proposed transfer.

IN Washington, meantime, Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell told Gov. Ray Blanton by telephone that the governor's proposal to transfer Ray to a federal

institution will be discussed with House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr. and the House Assassinations Committee. The committee has interviewed Ray six times at Brushy Mountain State Prison.

"There has been discussion at the White House [about the transfer proposal]," said Jim Russell, a spokesman for the Justice Department. "I don't know whether or not it has been at the Carter level."

Gray ruled on Ray's request for a temporary restraining order against discussion of the transfer after a hearing in chambers with Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, Asst. U.S. Atty. Gary Blackburn and Joe

Haynes, assistant Tennessee attorney general.

MEANWHILE, Chancellor Robert Brandt reset from tomorrow to July 5 a hearing date in a separate suit filed Monday by Kershaw on Ray's behalf. Kershaw is seeking to block the transfer at the state level in Brandt's court and at the federal level in Gray's court.

Kershaw has charged the proposed transfer would violate Ray's constitutional rights if it is carried out without a hearing. Both Kershaw and Ray also have said Ray's life might be endangered if he is placed in a federal institution.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: 6/29/77
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:
or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

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Numbers Linking Ray, 'Raoul' Said Stored

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — A brother of James Earl Ray says telephone numbers linking the confessed killer of Martin Luther King with a mysterious "Raoul" are stored in a safe deposit box, the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* reported yesterday.

Jerry Ray was quoted as saying he had decided to share knowledge given to the House Select Committee on Assassinations because efforts to trace the telephone numbers had been unsuccessful.

"Critics are always saying to me, 'Why don't you finally put up or shut up?'" the newspaper quoted Ray. "But we don't have subpoena power to find out about those telephone numbers. We have given our information to the House assassinations group, but it's a one-way street. We tell them what we know, but they won't tell us anything."

James Earl Ray has claimed that a man he knew as "Raoul" told him to buy the gun which became the murder weapon in King's assassination.

Jerry Ray said his brother asked that the telephone numbers be put into a safe deposit box owned by Jerry Ray and his sister in St. Louis.

"He [James] gave us the numbers and said even if something happened to him in prison, he wanted to be cleared some day," Jerry Ray said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Hearing Date Under Wraps

WARTBURG, Tenn. (AP) — At the request of prison officials, a judge set an undisclosed date yesterday for a preliminary hearing on a criminal escape charge against James Earl Ray.

Six other inmates who fled with Ray over the wall of Brushy Mountain Penitentiary on June 10 appeared at a preliminary hearing here yesterday and were bound over to the Morgan County grand jury on escape charges.

RAY, ALSO scheduled to appear yesterday, was granted a continuance by Sessions Court Judge John M. Davis at the request of his lawyer, Jack Kershaw of Nashville.

Court Clerk Russell Scott said the hearing, with Ray present, will be conducted before the Morgan County grand jury meets July 25.

Scott said the exact date is being kept confidential at the request of prison officials, who have to transport Ray 12 miles from the penitentiary to the courthouse and back.

EARLIER THIS week, Ray, the confessed assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., sent a letter to the circuit judge clerk's office here saying he would waive the preliminary hearing.

However, Scott said Kershaw instead requested the continuance in a phone call to Davis.

The seven escapes, all recaptured within three days after the break, are now housed in the D-block, apart from the general inmate population, as part of the prison's administrative punishment.

SCOTT SAID none of the six who appeared before Judge Davis entered a plea on the criminal charges, which could result in additional terms of one to five years. Each was bound over to the grand jury under \$5,000 bond.

Meanwhile, a hearing on Ray's request for an injunction to prevent state officials from having him transferred from Brushy Mountain to a state penitentiary has been postponed until next Tuesday.

NASHVILLE Chancery Court Judge Robert Brandt originally had scheduled the hearing for Thursday after refusing Kershaw's request for a order restraining state officials from working on the proposed transfer.

U.S. Dist. Court Judge Frank Gray also denied a similar request for a restraining order filed by

Kershaw in federal court. However, Gray reserved a decision on Ray's request for an injunction against the transfer.

Following the breakout, Gov. Ray Blanton, citing the high costs of keeping Ray behind bars, asked the federal government to take over his custody. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell has said he make a decision on Blanton's request by the end of this week.

Ray, serving a 99-year term after pleading guilty in a Memphis state court to killing King, and Kershaw are fighting the proposed transfer.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: 6/30/77
Edition:
Author:
Editor:
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: MEMPHIS

☐ Being Investigated

1977

BB-10052-72

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United States District Court

FOR THE

Middle Dist of Tenn

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. *77-3292*
WACV

James Earl Ray

Plaintiff

SUMMONS

v.

The Hon. Ray Blanton, Gov. of Tenn.
" " Brooks McQuinn, Atty Gen of Tenn.
" " C. Maxey Henderson, Com. of Corrections of Tenn.
" " Starnes Lane Warden, Brushy Mt Prison of Tenn.

Defendant

To the above named Defendant :

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon

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plaintiff's attorney , whose address

an answer to the complaint which is herewith served upon you, within *60* days after service of this summons upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint

Date: *June 28, 1977*

[Seal of Court]

NOTE:—This summons is issued pursuant to Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

JUN 27 1977

JAMES EARL RAY,)
)
PLAINTIFF)
)
VS.)
)
THE HONORABLE RAY BLANTON)
GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE,)
)
THE HONORABLE BROOKS McLEMORE)
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REPORTER)
OF TENNESSEE,)
)
THE HONORABLE C. MURRAY HENDERSON)
COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS)
OF TENNESSEE,)
)
THE HONORABLE STONNEY LANE)
WARDEN OF BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE)
PRISON,)
)
THE HONORABLE GRIFFEN BELL)
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED)
STATES)

NO. 77-32921A-CV

COMPLAINT

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 United States Code § 2201, this being a suit wherein a Declaratory Judgement is sought as to the constitutionality of Tennessee Code Annotated 41-1901-2-3 known as the Interstate Corrections Compact whereby an inmate of a state prison may be sent to the prison of any compact signatory, including the United States, without a hearing even though his constitutional rights under the 5th, 6th, 8th, and 14th Amendments, in the instant case, are violated. The amount in controversy will exceed \$10,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs, arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States, and this being a suit in equity authorized by law, Title 42 U.S.C.A. Sections 1983 and 1981, to be commenced by any citizen of the United States to redress deprivations under color of the statute or usage of state, of rights, privileges and immunities secured by the

above named amendments to the Constitution of the United States.

II.

That plaintiff upon a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree made in Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, was duly sentenced to a term of 99 years in the Tennessee State Penal system, which he is presently serving in Brushy Mountain Prison at Petros, Tennessee.

III.

The defendant Ray Blanton is made a defendant herein in his official capacity as chief of the administrative branch of the Government of Tennessee.

The defendant Brooks McLemore is made a defendant herein pursuant to T.C.A. Section 23-1107.

The defendant C. Murray Henderson is a defendant herein in his official capacity as director of the penal institutions and the Department of Corrections of Tennessee.

The Honorable Stonney Lane is made a party defendant herein in his official capacity of Warden of Brushy Mountain Prison in direct control of plaintiff's welfare and safe keeping.

IV.

Plaintiff alleges the fact situation to be that plaintiff James Earl Ray and six other inmates of Brushy Mountain State Prison are on Friday the 10th of June, 1977, alleged to have escaped the prison grounds; James Earl Ray was returned to barracks on June 13th, having failed to report for duty a total of 55 hours.

Plaintiff alleges the defendant Ray Blanton has applied under authority of T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3 to the Attorney General of the United States, the Honorable Griffen Bell, for a transfer of James Earl Ray, but not the six other escapees, to a Federal prison outside the state of Tennessee. Defendant

has stated openly and notoriously that Plaintiff Ray was a national problem and would not have escaped except for the alleged fact that the Federal Judiciary had ordered plaintiff released from solitary confinement and thus enabled plaintiff to escape, and that therefore plaintiff Ray is a charge of our Federal system and should be incarcerated in our Federal penal system because the State of Tennessee is unable to keep him from attempting escape.

V.

Plaintiff would show that he was not released from solitary confinement by Federal Court order; that Brushy Mountain Prison is a maximum security prison from which no inmate has ever successfully escaped; that the alleged crime for which he is incarcerated is not a Federal crime and that it is a state crime no greater in nature than charged to several of the other six escapees.

Plaintiff would further show that numerous escapes have been successfully made from Federal prisons.

VI.

Plaintiff would show that T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3, known as the Interstate Corrections Compact, provides inter alia that:

"The party states (including the United States) desiring by common action to fully utilize and improve their institutional facilities and provide adequate programs for the confinement, treatment, and rehabilitation of various types of offenders, declare that it is the policy of each of the party states...(to serve)...the best interests of such offenders and society...with the most economical use of human and material resources."

In Article 4, Paragraph (e) of the Compact, it is stated that:

"All inmates...shall be treated in a reasonable and humane manner and shall be treated equally.... The fact of confinement in a receiving state shall not deprive any inmate so confined of any legal rights which said inmate would have had if confined in an appropriate institution of the sending state. (Tennessee) " *

*(Emphasis supplied.)

In Paragraph (f), it is provided that:

"Any hearing...to which an inmate confined pursuant to this compact may be entitled by the laws of the sending state (Tennessee), may be had before the appropriate authorities of the sending state...and no final determination shall be made in any matter except by the appropriate officials of the sending state."

The above statute is not designed to punish, but to utilize national resources for rehabilitation.

VII.

Plaintiff would show that the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States provides inter alia that:

"...No person shall be...deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law."

And that the due process clause and the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States apply herewith equal force.

Therefore, plaintiff asserts that he has been singled out for particular punishment and that only "when the laws operate on all alike, and do not subject an individual to an arbitrary exercise of government the equal protection of the laws is secured." (Duncan v. Mo. 152 US 377)

Plaintiff would further show that the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments' due process clauses require that a judicial hearing is required under the circumstances at bar and therefore if T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3 obliterates such a hearing it is unconstitutional; that defendants may not abruptly and arbitrarily single out and remove plaintiff without due process of law where other constitutional violations are also involved.

VIII.

Plaintiff would show that in his particular case a transfer to a Federal Penitentiary his Constitutional rights other than those of due process would be violated as follows:

1) To transfer him out of Tennessee when he has employed Tennessee counsel for the purpose of securing for him a new trial in this state would place an undue burden on counsel to travel to a distant prison for the necessary frequent consultations required to prepare his client's case and would amount to a denial of plaintiff's effective right to counsel under Article 1, Section 9.

Furthermore, plaintiff is now charged with "escape" under Tennessee law. He must have reasonable access to counsel to prepare for this trial. To deprive him thus would also be a violation of his Sixth Amendment rights.

2) To transfer plaintiff to a Federal prison is not "reasonable" nor "humane" and constitutes cruel and inhuman treatment in violation of the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, when all the surrounding circumstances of the guilty plea, and the plea itself, under which plaintiff is presently serving time, is even now being investigated by the Congress of the United States for possible irregularities by official and unofficial agencies, including the F.B.I.

Plaintiff hereby alleges that he was threatened by the F.B.I. agents with reprisals against his family if he did not "co-operate" with the agency in naming alleged "co-conspirators" to the crime charged. Plaintiff hereby asserts that his plea of guilty was made on information conveyed to him by counsel that there would be F.B.I. reprisal on members of his family if he did not plead guilty to the crime as charged. (See Code Name Zorro, a work by Mark Lane and Dick Gregory, attached hereto as Exhibit "A", but not to be copied for service of process.)

F.B.I. agents have ready access to Federal prisons; they do not to state prisons. Therefore, plaintiff verily believes that his life would be in danger if sent to a Federal prison. It is reliably reported and plaintiff verily believes

that the officials of the U.S. Attorney General's office have expressed fear that plaintiff's life would be in danger if he is sent to a Federal prison.

The Court is requested to take judicial notice of the many unexplained deaths suffered by persons too close to President Kennedy's murder, several of them in prison. This affair is also under Congressional investigation.

IX.

Plaintiff would assert that there is nothing on the face of the law (T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3) that indicates Congressional approval of a compact between the states as required by Article I, Section 10, Paragraph (3) of the Constitution of the United States which provides that: "No state shall...enter into any...compact with another state..."

Further, plaintiff finds no authority for the Congress to enter the United States into a compact with the several states.

X.

PREMISES CONSIDERED, PLAINTIFF PRAYS:

- 1) That proper process issue and be served on defendants requiring them to appear and answer this Complaint, but not under oath, their oath being expressly waived.
- 2) That the Court herein determine the issues presented by this action under the Declaratory Judgement Act.
- 3) That if after a hearing the Court finds T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3 to not provide for a hearing as required by due process, that the statute be declared unconstitutional and void, and the defendant Governor be enjoined from proceeding thereunder.
- 4) That if after a hearing the Court finds that T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3, in adjunct to any other law or constitutional provision, does provide a hearing

that the defendant Governor be enjoined from proceeding further without a duly constituted hearing.

5) That if after a hearing, T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3 be found not to comply with requirements of Article 1, Section 10, Paragraph (3) of the Constitution of the United States, it shall be declared void.

6) That plaintiff be treated equally with other prisoners and escapees.

7) That after a hearing, the defendants, the Governor of Tennessee, the Commissioner of Corrections, and/or the Warden of Brushy Mountain Prison, and Attorney General Griffen Bell be enjoined from proceeding further in an unconstitutional exile and transfer of plaintiff.

8) That a temporary restraining order issue herewith.

9) That the plaintiff be awarded such other, further, and general relief as may be deemed meet and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Name], SOLICITOR FOR PLAINTIFF

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I certify that a copy of this Complaint has been delivered to the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee.

[Redacted Signature]

FIAT

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT:

Issue the Temporary Restraining Order as prayed for herein.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

RAY

VS.

BLANTON,

ET AL

)
)
)
)
)
)

NO. _____

AFFIDAVIT

Comes the affiant [] and makes oath
that plaintiff's rights will be violated by the adverse
party and that the applicant will suffer immediate and
irreparable injury, loss, or damage before notice can be
served and a hearing had thereon.

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[]

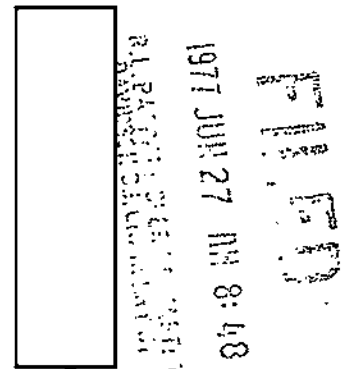
[] Affiant

Sworn and subscribed before me _____,
a Notary Public, this _____ day of June, 1977, County of
Davidson, State of Tennessee.

My commission expires _____.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

JAMES EARL RAY)
VS.)
THE HONORABLE RAY BLANTON)
GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE,)
THE HONORABLE BROOKS McLEMORE)
ATTORNEY GENERAL AND REPORTER)
OF TENNESSEE,)
THE HONORABLE C. MURRAY HENDERSON)
COMMISSIONER OF CORRECTIONS)
OF TENNESSEE,)
THE HONORABLE STONNEY LANE)
WARDEN OF BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON)



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NO. 77-988-III

COMPLAINT

The plaintiff respectfully shows to the Court:

I.

That plaintiff upon a plea of guilty to murder in the first degree made in Criminal Court of Shelby County, Tennessee, on April 4, 1969, was duly sentenced to a term of 99 years in the Tennessee State Penal system, which he is presently serving in Brushy Mountain Prison at Petros, Tennessee.

II.

The defendant Ray Blanton is made a defendant herein in his official capacity as chief of the administrative branch of the Government of Tennessee.

The defendant Brooks McLemore is made a defendant herein in pursuant to T.C.A. Section 23-1107.

The defendant C. Murray Henderson is a defendant herein

88-10058

in his official capacity as director of the penal institutions and the Department of Corrections of Tennessee.

The Honorable Stonney Lane is made a party defendant herein in his official capacity of Warden of Brushy Mountain Prison in direct control of plaintiff's welfare and safe keeping.

III.

This action is brought under authority of T.C.A. 23-1101-2-3 et seq and Rule 57 of the Tennessee Rules of Civil Procedure. There is a real controversy between the parties: the plaintiff asserting his right to remain in Tennessee and the defendants seeking to exile him to Federal Penitentiaries outside the state.

IV.

Plaintiff alleges the fact situation to be that plaintiff James Earl Ray and six other inmates of Brushy Mountain State Prison are on Friday the 10th of June, 1977, alleged to have escaped the prison grounds; James Earl Ray was returned to barracks on June 13th having failed to report for duty a total of 55 hours.

Plaintiff alleges the defendant Ray Blanton has applied under authority of T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3 to the Attorney General of the United States, the Honorable Griffen Bell, for a transfer of James Earl Ray, but not the six other escapees, to a Federal prison outside the state of Tennessee. Defendant has stated openly and notoriously that ^{Plaintiff}~~defendant~~ Ray was a national problem and would not have escaped except for the alleged fact that the Federal Judiciary had ordered plaintiff released from solitary confinement and thus enabled to escape, and that therefore plaintiff Ray is a

charge of our Federal System and should be incarcerated in our Federal Penal System because the State of Tennessee is unable to keep him from attempting escape.

V.

Plaintiff would show that he was not released from solitary confinement by Federal Court order; that Brushy Mountain Prison is a maximum security prison from which no inmate has ever successfully escaped; that the alleged crime for which he is incarcerated is not a Federal crime and that it is a state crime no greater in nature than charged to several of the other six escapees.

Plaintiff would show further that numerous escapes have been made successfully from Federal prisons.

VI.

Plaintiff would show that T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3, known as the Interstate Corrections Compact, provides inter alia that:

"The party states (including the United States) desiring by common action to fully utilize and improve their institutional facilities and provide adequate programs for the confinement, treatment, and rehabilitation of various types of offenders, declare that it is the policy of each of the party states..(to serve).. the best interests of such offenders and society... with the most economical use of human and material resources."

In Article 4, Paragraph (e) of the Compact it is stated that:

"All inmates...shall be treated in a reasonable and humane manner and shall be treated equally.... The fact of confinement in a receiving state shall not deprive any inmate so confined of any legal rights which said inmate would have had if confined in an appropriate institution of the sending state. (Tennessee)" *

In Paragraph (1), it is provided that:

"Any hearing...to which an inmate confined pursuant to this compact may be entitled by the laws of the sending state (Tennessee), may be had before the appropriate authorities of the sending state...and no final determination shall be made in any matter except by the appropriate officials of the sending state."

The above statute is not designed to punish, but to utilize national resources for rehabilitation.

VII.

Plaintiff would show that Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of Tennessee provides:

"No man to be disturbed but by law...that no man shall be taken or imprisoned, or disseized of his freehold, liberties, and privileges or outlawed, or exiled or in any manner destroyed or deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the judgement of his peers or the law of the land."

It has been held many times that the phrase "law of the land" and the phrase "due process of law" are synonymous.
(Annotation 62 of Section 8)

Plaintiff would further show that Article I, Section 17 of the Constitution of Tennessee provides:

"That all courts shall be open; and every man, for an injury done him in his lands, goods, person or reputation shall have remedy by due course of law, and right and justice administered without sale, denial, or delay."

VIII.

Plaintiff would show that Article I, Section 8 of our Constitution requires "due process" and therefore a hearing is required and if T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3 obliterates such a hearing, it is unconstitutional; that, defendant Governor may not abruptly and arbitrarily single out and exile plaintiff without regard for "...the judgement of his peers or the law of the land."

In like manner the requirements of Article 1, Section 17 must be observed: a mere administrative hearing is not sufficient.

IX.

Plaintiff would show that in his particular case a transfer to a Federal Penitentiary his constitutional rights other than those of due process would be violated as follows:

1) To transfer him out of Tennessee when he has employed Tennessee counsel for the purpose of securing for him a new trial in this state would place an undue burden on counsel to travel to a distant prison for the necessary frequent consultations required to prepare his clients case and would amount a denial of plaintiffs effective right to counsel under Article 1, Section 9.

Furthermore, plaintiff is now charged with "escape" under Tennessee law. He must have reasonable access to counsel to prepare for this trial. To deprive him thus would also be a violation of his Art. 1, Sec. 9 rights.

2) To transfer plaintiff to a Federal prison is not "reasonable" nor "humane" and constitutes cruel and inhuman treatment in violation of Article I, Section 16 and Section 32, when all the surrounding circumstances of the guilty plea, and the plea itself, under which plaintiff is presently serving time, is even now being investigated by the Congress of the United States for possible irregularities by official and unofficial agencies including the F.B. I.

Plaintiff hereby alleges that he was threatened by F.B.I. agents with reprisals against his family if he did not "co-operate" with the agency in naming alleged "co-conspirators" to the crime charged. Plaintiff hereby asserts that his plea of guilty was made on information conveyed to him by counsel that there would be F.B.I. reprisal on members of his family if he did not plead guilty to the crime as charged. (See Code Name Zorro, a work by Mark Lane and Dick Gregory, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" but not to be copied for service of process.) And, F.B.I. agents have ready access to Federal Prisons; they do not to state prisons. Therefore, plaintiff verily believes that his life would be in danger if sent to a Federal Prison. It is reliably reported and plaintiff verily believes that the officials of the U.S. Attorney General's office have expressed fear that plaintiff's life would be in danger if he is sent to a Federal Prison.

The Court is requested to take judicial notice of the many unexplained deaths suffered by persons too close to President's Kennedy's murder, several of them in prison. This affair is also under Congressional investigation.

X

The unrestricted power which the defendants claim to have to dispose of the person is martial in nature and is violation of Article 1, Section 25, of the Constitution of Tennessee.

X!

PREMISES CONSIDERED, PLAINTIFF PRAYS:

- 1) That proper process issue and be served on defendants

requiring them to appear and answer this Complaint, but not under oath, their oath being expressly waived.

2) That the Court herein determine the issues presented by this action under the Declaratory Judgement Act.

3) That if after a hearing the Court finds T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3 to not provide for a hearing as required by due process, that the statute be declared unconstitutional and void, and the defendant Governor be enjoined from proceeding thereunder.

4) That if after a hearing the Court finds that T.C.A. 41-1901-2-3, in adjunct to any other law or constitutional provision, does provide a hearing that the defendant Governor be enjoined from proceeding further without a duly constituted hearing.

5) That plaintiff be treated equally with other prisoners and escapees.

6) That after a hearing the defendants, the Commissioner of Corrections, and/or the Warden of Brushy Mountain Prison be enjoined from proceeding further in an unconstitutional exile and transfer of plaintiff.

7) That a temporary restraining order issue herewith.

8) That the plaintiff be awarded such other, further, and general relief as may be deemed meet and proper.

[Redacted]
[Redacted] Solicitor for Plaintiff

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I certify that a copy of this Complaint has been delivered to the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee.

I am ready for court
FIAT
[Redacted]
TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT:
Issue the Temporary Restraining Order as prayed for herein.

CHANCELLOR

FILED

1977 JUN 27 AM 8:48

F. L. RABBITT, CLERK
DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF DAVIDSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

RAY

VS.

BLANTON

ET AL

NO. 77-988-III

AFFIDAVIT

Comes the affiant [redacted] and makes oath that plaintiff's rights will be violated by the adverse party and that the applicant will suffer immediate and irreparable injury, loss, or damage before notice can be served and a hearing had thereon.

[redacted]
[redacted] AFFIANT

Sworn and subscribed before me [redacted]

a Deputy Clerk & Master, this 27th day of June, 1977, County of Davidson, State of Tennessee.

~~My commission expires~~

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE DIVISION

RECEIVED FOR ENTRY
11/15/71 M

JAMES EARL RAY

VS.

THE HONORABLE RAY BLANTON,
Governor of Tennessee, ET AL.

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NO. 77-3292-NA-CV

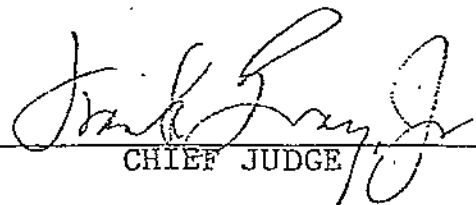
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O R D E R

In this action, there appeared before the court, at Chambers, [REDACTED] Esquire, representing the plaintiff, William J. Haynes, Jr., Esquire, Assistant Attorney General of the State of Tennessee, representing the State defendants, and Gary Blackburn, Esquire, Assistant United States Attorney, representing the Attorney General of the United States. Upon consideration of the application for a temporary restraining order, the court is of the opinion that it is not well taken, and, accordingly, it is DENIED.

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The question of a hearing on an application for a preliminary injunction is RESERVED. It is so ORDERED.


CHIEF JUDGE

(Mount Cl)

No-Notice Ray Shift Said Legal

By ALAN CARMICHAEL

James Earl Ray can be transferred to a federal prison without notice or hearing, state attorneys argued yesterday in a motion to dismiss a suit by the prisoner seeking to prevent such a move.

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has no constitutional right to be held only in Brushy Mountain State Prison, state attorneys said in their Chancery Court motion here.

"HE HAS NO constitutional right to be incarcerated in any particular prison or to be confined at Brushy Mountain State Prison," said Asst. State Atty. Gen. C. Hayes Cooney.

"He has no constitutional right to notice or hearing before he is transferred."

The state filed its motion in response to a suit brought by Ray's Nashville attorney, Jack Kershaw, which seeks to block plans by state officials to have the inmate transferred to a federal facility. Gov. Ray Blanton asked federal officials last month to assume responsibility for Ray's imprisonment after the convicted assassin and six other inmates

escaped the Brushy Mountain facility.

U.S. ATTY. Gen. Griffin Bell is reportedly having second thoughts about approving the transfer of Ray after objections raised by some members of Congress.

"If he backs off, this whole thing becomes moot anyway," Cooney said.

Chancellor Robert S. Brandt has scheduled a hearing at 2 p.m. Friday on two of Kershaw's motions which were filed after the original complaint.

THOSE motions ask that Ray be allowed to appear in person and for Blanton to give oral testimony in the case.

Cooney said state attorneys will contend that testimony of the governor and commissioner of correction can be given through deposition.

"It's only a matter of law at this stage," Cooney said. The state attorney indicated that officials would appeal any de-

cision by Brandt to allow Ray to testify in person, citing the expense and security measures involved.

KERSHAW filed his original suit last month, contending his client's constitutional rights would be violated by a transfer to a federal institution. Ray's safety would be jeopardized by such a move, the attorney added.

Ray's access to his attorney would also be diminished by a transfer, Kershaw argued. Cooney, however, pointed out that Ray had used out of state lawyers for most of the period following his conviction.

COONEY SAID the state had an "interstate compact" with the federal government by which Tennessee assumed the responsibility for prisoners who had state and federal sentences to serve concurrently.

The law allows the federal government to reciprocate by taking such prisoners as Ray out of state custody, he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

PAGE 1

THE TENNESSEAN

NASHVILLE, TENN

Date: 7/6/77

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

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DIRECTOR, FBI

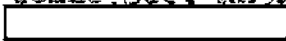
7/6/77

SAC, MEMPHIS (33-10052) *RL*

JAMES EARL RAY
UFAC

(OO: KNOXVILLE)

Re Memphis teletype to Bureau and Knoxville
dated 6/23/77, captioned as above.

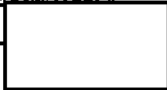
By letter dated June 29, 1977, a representative
of the United States Attorney's Office, Middle District of
Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee, directed a communication to
 Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Depart-
ment of Justice, Washington, D.C., with copies to the
Nashville Resident Agency of the Memphis Division of the
FBI. This letter concerns JAMES EARL RAY versus the
Honorable RAY BLANTON, Governor of Tennessee, et al.,
Civil No. 77-3292-NA-CV, U.D. Tenn.

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A copy of the United States Attorney's letter
to the Department of Justice with the enclosures are being
submitted to the Bureau and Knoxville for information
purposes.

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2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
2 - Knoxville (Enc. 1)
1 - Memphis


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88-10052-75
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SERIALIZED 

INDEXED 

FILE 

AIRTEL

TRANSMIT VIA: _____

CLASSIFICATION: _____

DATE: SEP 13 1983

FROM: Director, FBI

TO: SAC, Memphis (62-1881)

 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS REQUEST
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Reurairtel, dated 7/13/77.

Enclosed are the original Memphis files sent to FBIHQ
for duplication and FOIPA processing.

ME 44-1987

44-1987- - 7 volumes

- 1A - 11 volumes
- Sub - 2 volumes
- Sub A - 7 volumes
- Sub B - 8 volumes
- Sub C - 5 volumes
- Sub D - 3 volumes
- Sub E - 20 volumes
- Sub F - 1 volume
- Sub G - 40 volumes
- Sub H - 3 volumes
- Sub I - 1 volume
- Sub J - 2 volumes
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- Sub L - 2 volumes
- Sub M - 11 volumes
- Sub N - 1 volume
- Sub O - 3 volumes
- Sub P - 1 volume
- Sub Q - 1 volume
- 1B5
- 1B7 (sent to FBIHQ by airtel 4/9/76)
- 1B9
- 1B10
- 1B12
- 1B13
- 1B14

Enclosures (174)

1 cc filed 44-1987
157-1067
157-1092

88-10052-76

SEARCHED _____	INDEXED _____
SERIALIZED _____	FILED _____
SEP 14 1983	

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Airtel to SAC, Memphis (62-1881)

Re:
Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts Request

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ME 88-10052
88-10052 - 1 volume

ME 157-1067

157-1067- 25 volumes
- 1A - 4 volumes

ME 157-1092

157-1092- 5 volumes
- Sub - 1 volume

The enclosed files have been reviewed under current classification procedures. You are requested to make the classification changes on all other file copies in your division. Local agencies previously receiving copies of these records must be apprised of changes.

Before returning form 4-37 to Headquarters, insure Registry Number is recorded in the space provided.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 88-7771-1a(1)

Date Received 6/13/77

From Quinta
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

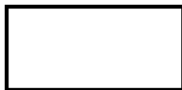
(CITY AND STATE)

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☐ No

Description:

5CC WF#500 ☐



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88-7721-1a(1)

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FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS VIA WASHINGTON PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] -
FUGITIVE; EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] -
FUGITIVE; JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] -
FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. 00:
KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS
DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

DISCONTINUE ON SUBJECT [REDACTED] APPREHENDED
IN EXHAUSTED CONDITION WHEN OBSERVED BY THP HELICOPTER.
HELICOPTER LANDED AND [REDACTED] ARRESTED.

BT

*Sup info 8
2:30pm*

88-7771-3

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 11 1977	

b6
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b6
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b7C

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC BUTTE (173-2) (88-)

DATE: JUNE 12, 1977

FROM : REDPATH

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE":
UFAC - ESCAPE: CONSPIRACY : OO: KNOWVILLE.

RE KX TEL JUNE 12, 1977.

INSTANT DATE OPERATOR #95 ADVISED THAT ONLY CITY IN MONTANA
OR IDAHO WITH PREFIX 574 IN TELEPHONE NUMBER IS WAYAN, IDAHO.

SA [] ADVISED THAT WAYAN IS SMALL TOWN IN IDAHO
POP. APPROXIMATELY 100 OR LESS AND THAT WAYAN HAS PREFIX 574
HOWEVER BALANCE OF NUMBERS START WITH 2.

b6
b7C



1-173-2

88-

88-7771-9

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 12 1977	



b6
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5010-110

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

BT1317 1630722 KX0521 1630722

PP AFD

DE KX

P 120700Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7228)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SAC'S PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR.

[REDACTED], AKA - FUGITIVE, CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ESCAPE.
OO KNOXVILLE.

b6
b7C

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SAC'S DATED
JUNE 11, 1977.

DISCONTINUE ON SUBJECT [REDACTED] APPREHENDED ABOUT
2 A M, JUNE 12, 1977, BY BUREAU AGENTS AND ANDERSON COUNTY S O,
NEAR BEACH GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGHWAY 116, ANDERSON COUNTY
APPROXIMATELY 4 MILES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON.

BT

88-7771-10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 12 1977	
[REDACTED]	

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BT0392 164054734

BTI339 1640547

BTI338 1640523 KX0563 1640522

PP AFD

DE KX

P 130514Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (77-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED]

EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED]; JAMES EARL

RAY - FUGITIVE; [REDACTED] - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY

TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

TITLE CHANGED TO DELETE FUGITIVE FROM SUBJECTS

[REDACTED]

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPES JUNE 11 AND JUNE 12, 1977.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED JUNE 12, 1977.

[REDACTED] INTERVIEWED

[REDACTED] BY NEGRO SPECIAL AGENT

AND ADVISED THAT HE WAS RUNNING AROUND THE TRACK AT THE

88-7771-11

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1977	
[REDACTED]	

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KX 88-7223 PAGE TWO CLEAR

TIME THE ESCAPE TOOK PLACE. [] STATED HE NOTICED A LADDER AGAINST THE WALL AND SAW INMATES GOING OVER THE WALL AND DECIDED TO JOIN THEM. [] STATED THAT HE HAD NO ADVANCE NOTICE OF THE ESCAPE PLANS, HOWEVER, HE DID KNOW THE INMATES WHO ESCAPED. [] STATED THAT AFTER HE GOT OVER THE WALL HE NEVER SAW THE OTHER SUBJECTS.

[] ARRESTED APPROXIMATELY 2:00 A.M., JUNE 12, 1977, BY BUREAU AGENTS AND LOCAL DEPUTY SHERIFF WHO WERE PATROLLING THE BACK ROADS AND HEARD WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS AN UNUSUAL NOISE IN THE WOODS. AGENTS AND DEPUTY CHECKED THE AREA AND CAME ACROSS A SMALL CHURCH, THE DOOR WHICH APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN SLIGHTLY FORCED OPEN THEY THEN ENTERED THE CHURCH AND DISCOVERED [] SLEEPING IN THE CHURCH. THEY WOKE [] UP, INFORMED HIM HE WAS UNDER ARREST. [] RESISTED SLIGHTLY AND HAD TO BE FORCIBLY SUBDUED. [] SUFFERED A SLIGHT WOUND TO THE HEAD WHICH WAS CAUSED BY HIS FALLING AGAINST A CHURCH PEW. THIS WOUND WAS TREATED BY AN INMATE ORDERLY AND NOTHING FURTHER HAS OCCURRED CONCERNING THIS.

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KX 88-7223 PAGE THREE CLEAR

SAC MADE A COMPLETE TERRAIN ANALYSIS OF AREA SURROUNDING BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON BY HELICOPTER. SAC DETERMINED TERRAIN VERY ROUGH AND MOUNTAINEOUS AND CONCLUDED THAT A TERRAIN SEARCH IMPOSSIBLE.

NUMEROUS SITINGS OCCURRED NECESSITATING THE EMPLOYMENT OF SWAT TEAMS AND REACTION FORCES, HOWEVER, NO SUBJECTS LOCATED. ROVING PATROLS, AIR PATROL, AND DOG TEAMS CONTINUE TO BE UTILIZED.

TENNESSEE GOVERNOR BLANTON VISITED BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PENITENTIARY AT APPROXIMATELY 5:00 P.M., THIS DATE, AND HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE PRISON GROUNDS. BLANTON REPORTEDLY STATED TO THE PRESS THAT THIS WAS A STATE AFFAIR DESPITE ITS NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS. PRESS REPORTS FURTHER INDICATED BLANTON IS TO ACTIVATE 300 NATIONAL GUARDSMEN TO ASSIST IN THE SEARCH.

FOLLOWING GOVERNOR BLANTON'S DEPARTURE, IT APPEARED THAT MANY MORE PERSONNEL WERE ARRIVING AND PLANS WERE BEING MADE FOR STEPPED UP OPERATIONS. IN A CONFERENCE AT 9:45 P.M., SAFETY COMMISSIONER [REDACTED] ADVISED

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KX 88-7223 PAGE FOUR CLEAR

SAC SWANSON THAT HE HAD ASSUMED COMMAND OF THE STATE OPERATION AND WAS IN CHARGE OF THE TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL AND THE PRISON PERSONNEL. IN ADDITION, ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 13, 1977, SEVENTEEN NATIONAL GUARD HELICOPTERS WERE GOING TO ARRIVE AND CONTINUALLY SEARCH THE AREA. A COMPANY OF NATIONAL GUARD MILITARY POLICEMEN, APPROXIMATELY 150 IN NUMBER, WAS TO ARRIVE IN THE AFTERNOON. THEY WERE NOT AT THIS TIME PLANNING A SWEEP AND SOUGHT SOME SUGGESTIONS ON HOW THESE MEN COULD BE DEPLOYED. THEY REQUESTED THAT THE FBI CONTINUE OPERATIONS AS BEFORE AND INDICATED THAT ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 13 THEY WERE GOING TO ESTABLISH AN INTELLIGENCE BANK (LIAISON) FOR AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION.

SUBJECT EARL HILL, JR. APPREHENDED BY CORRECTION AUTHORITIES SOUTH OF OLIVER SPRINGS, TENNESSEE, AT ABOUT 11:00 P.M.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

AS THE BUREAU IS AWARE, THE MEMPHIS DIVISION CURRENTLY HAS A RICO AND HOBBS ACT INVESTIGATION AGAINST

KX 88-7223 PAGE FIVE CLEAR

SOME MEMBERS OF GOVERNOR BLANTON'S STAFF. HE HAS PUBLICLY STATED THAT HE FELT THESE INVESTIGATIONS WERE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED AND AT FIRST PUBLICLY CRITICIZED THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY AT NASHVILLE AND THEN EXPANDED THIS TO PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE FBI. IN ADDITION, NEWSPAPERS, TELEVISION NEWSCASTS, AND RADIO NEWS BROADCASTS HAVE FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS INDICATED THAT THE PRESIDENT AND/OR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HAS ORDERED THE FBI TO ASSUME CONTROL OF THE SEARCH AND THE INVESTIGATION. SAC SWANSON HAS ASSURED OFFICIALS ON THE SCENE THAT THE BUREAU HAS RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS TO ATTEMPT TO DO THIS, IN FACT, HE HAS FROM THE OUTSET ADVISED ALL WITH WHOM WE ARE IN CONTACT THAT OUR OBJECTIVE IS TO WORK HARMONIOUSLY WITH OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICES IN OBTAINING THE OBJECTIVE OF LOCATING THESE DANGEROUS FUGITIVES.

TELEPHONE SERVICE AT THE PRISON HAS BEEN EXTREMELY SPASMODIC THIS DATE DUE TO SEVERE THUNDERSTORMS IN AREA. ELECTRICITY INTERRUPTED, HOWEVER, PRISON OPERATED

KX 88-7223 PAGE SIX CLEAR
EFFICIENTLY ON EMERGENCY GENERATORS.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

K
BT1337 1640507 KX0562 1640507

PP AFD

DE KX

P 130505Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7227) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE. "TEN MOST WANTED
FUGITIVE". EARL HILL, JR., AKA - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY
TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

REMYTEL JUNE 11, 1977.

SUBJECT HILL APPREHENDED BY PRISON GUARDS APPROXIMATELY
FOUR MILES FROM PRISON.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BR

88-7771-12

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1977	

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BT1343 1640826 KX0568 1640826

PP AFD

DE KX

P 130825Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE: ET AL. CONSPIRACY
TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. (OO: KNOXVILLE).

JAMES EARL RAY APPREHENDED ABOUT 2:15 AM, JUNE 13,
1977, APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN MILES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN
STATE PRISON BY CORRECTION AUTHORITIES. ALL OFFICES
DISCONTINUE INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE RAY.

BT

88-7771-13

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1977	

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BT1357 1642244 KX0597 1642244

PP AFD

DE XX

P 132240Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[REDACTED] EARL HILL, JR.;

[REDACTED]; JAMES EARL RAY; [REDACTED] -

FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. 00:
KNOXVILLE.

TITLE CHANGED TO DELETE FUGITIVE FROM SUBJECTS

[REDACTED] HILL AND RAY.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE JUNE 12, 1977.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED
JUN 19 JAMES EARL RAY WAS APPREHENDED BY CORRECTION
AUTHORITIES AT APPROXIMATELY 2:15 AM, JUNE 13, 1977, IN
A MOUNTAINOUS AREA APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN MILES FROM BRUSHY

88-7223-14

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 13 1977	

[REDACTED]

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PAGE TWO XX 88-7223 CLEAR
MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON (BMSP).

INVESTIGATION BY BUREAU AGENTS AND ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE, DEPUTY SHERIFFS DETERMINED THAT INDIVIDUAL FITTING [REDACTED] DESCRIPTION HAD POSSIBLY STOLEN A PICKUP TRUCK FROM A VILLAGE NEAR THE PRISON. A BROADCAST WAS PUT OUT ON THIS TRUCK AND IT WAS LATER WRECKED AT A ROADBLOCK NEAR OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, WITH THE DRIVER ESCAPING.

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BUREAU AGENT TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, TO APPRISE THEM OF THE ABOVE INFORMATION, AND [REDACTED] WAS APPREHENDED BY OAK RIDGE, TENN., P.D. AS RESULT OF THIS INFORMATION.

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PRISON AUTHORITIES STATE SUBJECT [REDACTED] ONLY REMAINING FUGITIVE IS IN A MOUNTAIN APPROXIMATELY TEN MILES FROM THE PRISON, AND THAT THEY ARE RESTING THEIR DOGS AND HAVE THE MOUNTAIN SURROUNDED. PRISON AUTHORITIES STATE THEIR FORCES PLAN TO ATTEMPT TO APPREHEND [REDACTED] PM, JUNE 13, 1977.

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SAC RELEASED ALL SPECIAL AGENTS ASSIGNED FROM OTHER DIVISIONS.

KNOXVILLE SPECIAL AGENTS DEPARTED PRISON PREMISES.

PAGE THREE KXX88-7223 CLEAR

DAILY TELETYPE SUMMARY BEING DISCONTINUED.

INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE CONTINUING.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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U

BT1372 1651458 KX0609 1651457

PP AFD

DE KX

P 141455Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7225)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[REDACTED], AKA - FUGITIVE; JAMES EARL RAY, ET AL,
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE, OO: KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT [REDACTED] APPREHENDED IN A STOLEN AUTOMOBILE BY
TENN. STATE CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS APPROXIMATELY 14 MILES FROM
THE PRISON.

[REDACTED] IS THE LAST OF THE ESCAPEES.

KNOXVILLE WILL SUBMIT A SUMMARY AIRTEL IN THIS MATTER.

BT

88-7771-15

SEARCHED	[REDACTED]	INDEXED	[REDACTED]
SERIALIZED	[REDACTED]	FILED	[REDACTED]
JUN 14 1977			
[REDACTED]			

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BTI349 1641515 · KX0581 1641515

PP AFD

DE KX

P 131514Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7224) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

[REDACTED] - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE
UFAC - ESCAPE. 00: KNOXVILLE.

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SUBJECT [REDACTED] ARRESTED BY OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE,
POLICE DEPARTMENT, THAT CITY, JUNE 13, 1977.

ALL OFFICES DISCONTINUE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

88-7771-16

SEARCHED	[REDACTED]	INDEXED	[REDACTED]
SERIALIZED	[REDACTED]	FILED	[REDACTED]
JUN 13 1977			
[REDACTED]			

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-7771)

DATE: 6/24/77

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

SUBJECT:

[REDACTED]
aka - FUGITIVE;
JAMES EARL RAY;
ET AL
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE
UFAC - ESCAPE
OO: Knoxville

Re SA [REDACTED] telephone call to SA
[REDACTED] 6/11/77.

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Referenced telephone call requested that stops
be placed with INS concerning captioned individuals, who
escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison, 6/10/77.

For information, the last escapee apprehended,
[REDACTED], was apprehended on 6/13/77. His appre-
hension completes investigation to locate captioned in-
dividuals.

LEAD

AT HAVRE, MONTANA

Will contact INS Border Patrol and remove stops
placed on captioned individuals.

[REDACTED]
(2) [REDACTED]

*Cancelled
6/28/77
US Border Patrol*

88-7771-17

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

[REDACTED]

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-7771)

DATE: 7/21/77

FROM : SA [REDACTED]

b6
b7C

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]
aka - FUGITIVE;
JAMES EARL RAY;
ET AL
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE
UFAC - ESCAPE
OO: Knoxville

Rememo of SA [REDACTED] 6/24/77.

For information, investigation in this matter was initiated on 6/13/77, when captioned individuals escaped from the Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, 6/10/77.

The only investigation in this Division at that time was a stop placed with the U. S. Border Patrol.

On 6/14/77, the last of these individuals, [REDACTED], was apprehended by Tennessee State Correctional officers. The other escapees had been apprehended prior to [REDACTED] apprehension.

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On 6/28/77, SA [REDACTED] cancelled the stop with the U. S. Border Patrol in Havre, Montana, for these individuals, which completed all investigation in this file, to date.

In view of the fact that all investigation in this file has been conducted and all individuals have been apprehended, it is recommended this case be RUcd administratively.

FILE STRIPPED

88-7771-18

Date 7/22/77 Initials [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SL	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]		

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DESTROY FILE 1/78
(Month - Year)



5010-110

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

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype
☐ Facsimile
☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate
☐ Priority
☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET
☐ SECRET
☐ CONFIDENTIAL
☐ UNCLAS E F T O
☐ UNCLAS

Date 11-14-86

TO: SAC, ALBANY

FROM: ACTING SAC, KNOXVILLE (66-812)

DESTRUCTION OF RECORDS
 NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION (NARA)
 APPRAISAL OF FBIHQ AND FIELD RECORDS

Re Bureau airtel to All SACs, dated 10/31/86.

Per instructions in referenced Bureau airtel, you are requested to stamp for permanent retention your corresponding case file, if not destroyed pursuant to a previously authorized file destruction program, on the following:

88-7771*
 173-2*
JAMES EARL RAY, Aka. - FUGITIVE:
 WANTED FLYER 500 "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE"
 UFAC - ESCAPE: CONSPIRACY;
 OO: KNOXVILLE (KX File 88-7223)

Above file opened 6/11/77 and closed 6/23/77 in the Knoxville Office.

CRUSADERS FOR ECONOMIC LIBERTY

VOORHIS ACT

OO: KNOXVILLE (KX File 102-2)

Above file opened 9/10/41 and closed 1/6/67 in the Knoxville Office.

Auxiliary office file covers should be affixed with the stamp "X, DO NOT DESTROY, HISTORICAL VALUE, NATIONAL ARCHIVES."

- ① - EACH FIELD OFFICE Butte
 1 - Knoxville

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 b7c

(59)
 Approved: _____

(Number) (Time)

NOV 20 1986

88-7771-19

10 in
 66-14130

Please Mark files

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 3

Page 1 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 2 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

Page 3 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 4
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Page 3 ~ b7D;
Page 4 ~ b6; b7C; b7D;

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 5

Page 18 ~ Referral/Direct - OLA;

Page 19 ~ Referral/Direct - OLA;

Page 20 ~ Referral/Direct - OLA;

Page 21 ~ Referral/Direct - OLA;

Page 24 ~ Referral/Direct - OLA;

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Mr. William H. Webster
Director, F.B.I.
Washington, D.C. 20535.

27 June 1980

James E. Ray #6477
Brushy Mountain prison
Petros, ... 37845

NOTICE

Dear Sir:

~~OUTSIDE SOURCE~~

During the past several days, as reported in Tennessee news media, the F.B.I. in connivance with bureau free press mouth-pieces, in particular United Press International (UPI), have convicted my brother, John Larry Ray, of: escaping from a federal prison (he was paroled), robbing a bank for \$15,000, and being interrogated as a prime suspect in the shooting of civil rights leader, Vernon Jordan. All the bureau need's to do now is maneuver Percy Foreman in as John Ray's defense counsel and the F.B.I. can solve the Abe Lincoln incident. Naturally UPI et al have interspersed the above mentioned charges with comments about, James Earl Ray, the self-admitted, confessed, and so on, killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (MLK).

This is the same old public relations game the F.B.I. resorted to in January 1976 when bureau mouth-piece, George "alternate life style" McMillian, published a false & malicious accusations about me in the January 26, 1976, issue of "Time" Magazine just a few days before the U.S. Sixth circuit court handed down a decision deny me a public trial in the MLK homicide. Then in January 1978 during the "Select Committee" of the U.S. House of Reps. investigation of the MLK homicide, the F.B.I. in league with UPI published another pack of fabrications about the MLK case intended to justify the "Select Committee's" pending white-wash of the F.B.I. conclusions in the M.L.K. case. These "fabrications" were later characterized by Attorney General Griffin Bell as "gossip". Now that I have pending another petition for a public trial in the MLK homicide before the Tennessee Supreme court the FBI & UPI are orchestrating the above Vernon Jordan humbug.

In order to make certain that the Tennessee Supreme court does receive the FBI/UPI latest "message" I will forward a copy of this letter to the court.

In respect to the MLK & Vernon Jordan assaults, has the F.B.I. interrogated former F.B.I. official Cartha D. DeLoach about the Jordan assault since your office appears to be associating the two assaults? Mr. DeLoach, who evidently had knowledge before the fact in the MLK assault, has consistently relied on a "Nuremberg defense" when ever he appears before a tribunal investigating the MLK homicide and related matter, especially when he is questioned about the F.B.I. COINTELPRO operation which he had day to day direction of; one purposed of COINTELPRO being to "eliminate" MLK.

In addition, Mr. DeLoach was not only liaison between the F.B.I. & Department of Justice during the period of the COINTELPRO operations but also confidant of Pres. Lyndon Johnson & White House aide Walter Jenkins, before Mr. Jenkins was arrested on a morals charge. In this capacity Mr. DeLoach electronically surveilled M.L.K. at the 1964 Democrat convention in Atlantic City, New Jersey. (This information is all documented in an October 1973 Senate "Watergate Committee interview of Mr. DeLoach).

The F.B.I. might also interrogate, [redacted] about the M.L.K. homicide, [redacted] a former government informant and part of the [redacted]

[redacted] the chairman of the Knox county Democratic Party, for the above mentioned "Select Committee" investigating the MLK homicide.

Finally, the F.B.I. might interrogate the present Secretary of Commerce about the MLK homicide since one of his former financial associates evidently financed the MLK homicide; rather than having characters harass my [redacted] on the phone & tamper with her automobile.

OCT 6 1982

In orchestrating the aforementioned FBI/UPI charges, the bureau apparently collected another straight-man in, [redacted] a Madison county, Illinois, deputy sheriff and former "investigator" for said "Select Committee". [redacted] has had published over the past year several false accusations against me including one published in the, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, on July 22, 1979, that one, [redacted], payed me indirectly money to assasult MLK. Now just recently (6/25/80), [redacted] & the F.B.I. have implied that I have been involved in a number of bank robberies in the United States--apparently in 1967-68, robberies which after twelve (12) years could have been solved by, Barney Fife.

In respect to [redacted] abilities and techniques as an "investigator", I have a sworn affidavit from, [redacted] of St. Louis, Missouri, a former F.B.I. & "Select Committee" undercover agent who defected, that while "investigating" the MLK homicide for the "Select Committee" [redacted] spent considerable time at [redacted] residence viewing video pornographic movies, and on occasions acquired the services of the video movies "Actresses". Further, I also have an affidavit from [redacted] stating he [redacted], was instructed by [redacted] while they were both employed by the "Select Committee", to accompany my brother, Jerry W. Ray, to Washington D.C., where Jerry was under Committee subpoena, and after checking into a hotel authorized by the Committee(Capitol Hill Quality Inn), to "search" Jerry Ray's personal belongings. Subsequently [redacted] as instructed by [redacted] did search Jerry Ray's personal belongings and purloined for [redacted] several items belonging to me. A copy of [redacted] latter affidavit is attached herein for the St. Louis District court.

IN SUMMARY, please consider this letter a NOTICE of a Complaint to be filed in my behalf in the U.S. Dis. Ct. for the E.D. of Missouri naming F.B.I. Director, William H. Webster, in a libel & obstruction of justice action, and [redacted] for libel and thief of personal property belonging to me. Since TRUTH is an absolute defense for libel I assum the defendant will look forward to the Complaint.

Sincerely:

cc: U.S. Dis. Ct. E.D. Missouri.
cc: [redacted]
cc: Sup. Ct., State of Tennessee.
cc: United Press International

James E. Ray

Ray, J-65477

bmp

Petros, T. 37845.

7 June 1982

Mr. John A. Mintz
Legal Counsel
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535.

James E. Ray #65477
Station-A
Nashville, TN. 37203.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Dear Mr. Mintz:

By letter dated December 12, 1980, I received from your office, with a duplicate to the Tennessee Board of Parole, the F.B.I. indicated they would consider a request from the Parole Board for classified information in the, Rev. Martin Luther King jr, case.

The reason for this letter is to inquire if the Tennessee Board of Paroles has submitted any requests to the F.B.I. for information referred to above ?

Sincerely:

cc: Board of Paroles
309 State office building
Nashville, TN. 37219.

James E. Ray (signature)

62-119809-3

JUL 7 1982

ack 6-30-82
SEP 1 1982

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b7C
9-

Ray, J-65477
station-A
Nashville, TN 37203.



ALWAYS USE
ZIP CODE



Mr. John A. Mintz
Legal Counsel
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
Washington, D.C...20535.

OUTSIDE SOURCE

December 12, 1980

Mr. James E. Ray
#65477
Brushy Mountain Prison
Petros, Tennessee 37845

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1 -
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1 -
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IPALU

Dear Mr. Ray:

Reference is made to your November 12, 1980, letter to the United States Department of Justice, and their response to you, dated December 8, 1980.

In response to your letter of November 12, 1980, which requests the United States Department of Justice to provide information to the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles in the event a hearing is held in connection with your recent application for a pardon, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has determined that no action can be taken unless this request is submitted by the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles.

This response, however, should not be construed to mean that this Bureau has the information you seek, or, if such information is contained in our files, that the same will be furnished to the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles if requested.

Sincerely,

John A. Mintz
Assistant Director - Legal Counsel

1 - Board of Paroles
309 State Office Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

1 - [redacted]
Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility
United States Department of Justice
Attention: [redacted]
Assistant Counsel

1 - Knoxville
ATTENTION SAC: For information.

1 - Memphis
ATTENTION SAC: For information.

SEE NOTE, PAGE 2

MAIL ROOM

SEP 1 1982

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Mr. James E. Ray

NOTE: Instant letter represents the Bureau's response to DOJ-OPR's referral of James Earl Ray's letter of November 12, 1980. In this letter, Ray requested DOJ-OPR to furnish certain information contained in the files of the Memphis and Atlanta Police Departments to the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles. Ray also requested that classified information appearing in the Martin Luther King, Jr., Internal Security Investigation be made available, and that the Court Order in Lee v. Kelley, Civil Action Number 76-1185 (D.D.C., Jan. 31, 1977), be modified by motion of the DOJ to permit disclosure of sealed materials to either a representative of Ray, or the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles.

Discussions with DOJ Attorney [redacted] confirmed that similar materials were at issue in Lesar v. Department of Justice, 455 F.Supp. 921 (D.D.C. 1978), aff'd, F.2d (D.C. Cir. 1980) (No. 78-2305). All records involved in that case were DOJ records maintained by the DOJ, and the FBI's involvement in that litigation was limited to the extent that Bureau files were the "underlying" basis of the DOJ records.

This matter was also discussed with [redacted] Assistant Counsel, OPR, DOJ. She interposed no objection to the Bureau responding in this manner, and agreed that if the Tennessee authorities join in Ray's request, the matter will be coordinated with the FBI prior to any action on their part.

APPROVED:	Adm Serv. _____	Legal Co. _____
Director _____	Crim. Inv. _____	Plan. & Insp. _____
Asst. Dir. _____	Ident. _____	Rec. Mgmt. _____
Exec AD-Inv. _____	Intell. _____	Tech. Servs. _____
Exec AD-LES _____	Laboratory _____	Training _____
		Off. of Cong. & Public Affs. _____

June 30, 1982

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. James E. Ray
#65477
Station-A
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Mr. Ray:

Reference is made to your letter, dated June 7, 1982, wherein you inquired as to whether the Tennessee Board of Paroles had made a request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for certain information.

In respect to your inquiry, the FBI is unable to ascertain whether the Tennessee Board of Paroles has made any inquiry to the FBI. For retrievability purposes, requests for information received at FBI Headquarters are not indexed under the name of the agency making the request, i.e., Tennessee Board of Paroles; rather, they are indexed under the name of an authorized individual making the request on behalf of the agency. Therefore, without knowing the name of the individual who may have made a request for the Tennessee Board of Paroles, the FBI is unable to ascertain whether any such request has ever been made.

I would suggest that you contact the Tennessee Board of Paroles directly to ascertain if such a request has been made to the FBI.

Sincerely yours,

JUL 7 1982

John A. Mintz
Assistant Director - Legal Counsel

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FBI

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Exec. AD-Inv.
Exec. AD-LES
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Crim. Inv.
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Training
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

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IPALU

REAT AS
YELLOW OUTGOING

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

SEP 1 1982

MAIL ROOM ☒

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Mr. James E. Ray

- 1 - Board of Paroles
309 State Office Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219
- 1 - Knoxville
Attention SAC: For information.
- 1 - Memphis
Attention SAC: For information.

NOTE: Instant letter represents the Bureau's response to James Earl Ray's letter of June 7, 1982, inquiring as to whether the Tennessee Board of Paroles had made any request to the FBI for classified information concerning the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. case.



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FEDERAL GOVERNMENT



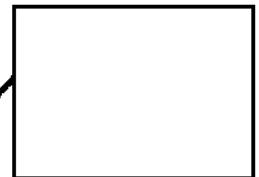
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6- ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED



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OLA Controlled Correspondence

From Sen. Howard Baker		To C. Marshall Cain		Control Number 535	b6 b7C
Subject and Date 6/18/82 letter transmitting materials from <u>James Earl Ray</u> concerning his application for parole <i>X</i> <i>JAMES E. RAY</i>				Date Received 6/24/82	
				Due Date 7/14/82 7-26-82	
(1) Referred To <u>USP</u>	(2) Referred To FYI:AG,DAG,AAG	(3) Referred To <u>FBI</u>	(4) Referred To	Interim Response Sent on 6/29/82	
Date 6/29/82	Date 6/29/82	Date 7-12-82	Date	Date	
Prepare Reply for Signature of <u>USP</u> <i>FBI</i>				Date Released	
Remarks Please follow all special handling procedures. Send this form and a copy of the reply to OLA, Room 1607, Main Justice, 633-4561				File	
				☐ Prior ☐ (Explain in Remarks)	

7/2/82

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[REDACTED]
Per request from your office, I am
returning the enclosed.

[REDACTED]
USPC

FBI

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
INTERNAL ROUTING SLIP

FBI/DOJ



ENCLOSURE

62-119707-5

claimed under Act could best be determined after an in camera inspection which would fully disclose nature of materials involved and enable court to balance public interest against those strong considerations of policy underlying exemptions claimed. 5 U.S.C.A. § 552(b)(1, 2), (b)(7)(C, E).

★ 5. Records ⇐14

Atlanta Ga.
Police dept--

Records of local police agencies detailing various threats on life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by named individuals and tips or other information from Dr. King's entourage concerning threats or suspicious activity and covering immediate investigation of killing and subsequent investigation of leads and suspects were exempt from disclosure under Freedom of Information Act where FBI cooperation with state and local law enforcing agencies would be seriously impaired if material from cooperating agencies was not treated as "confidential source" data and no substantial countervailing reason for disclosure is shown. 5 U.S.C.A. § 552(b)(1), (b)(7)(D); Executive Order No. 11652, 50 U.S.C.A. § 401 note.

See publication Words and Phrases for other judicial constructions and definitions.

★ 6. Records ⇐14

Memphis, Tn.
police dept--

Public interest requires that cooperative arrangement of FBI with local police not be breached under compulsion of Freedom of Information Act where cooperative agencies have objected and by affidavits continued to insist upon confidentiality. 5 U.S.C.A. § 552(b)(1), (b)(7)(D); Executive Order No. 11652, 50 U.S.C.A. § 401 note.

★ 7. Records ⇐14

Materials which related primarily to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to which were classified in strict compliance with Executive Order 11652 in order to protect the identity of confidential intelligence sources, including sources in contact with foreign establishments with and without United States, and sources which had penetrated the domestic organizations controlled by foreign powers that were targets of national security investigation were exempt from disclosure under Freedom of Information Act. 5 U.S.C.A.

§ 552(b)(1), (b)(7)(D); Executive Order No. 11652, 50 U.S.C.A. § 401 note.

8. Records ⇐14

Fact that certain documents on assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in form of notes taken from classified documents in preparation of a task force study were not immediately classified and lay dormant and unclassified until a request for disclosure was made did not mean that documents were subject to disclosure under Freedom of Information Act where they were otherwise entitled to an exemption. 5 U.S.C.A. § 552(b)(1), (b)(7)(D); Executive Order No. 11652, 50 U.S.C.A. § 401 note.

9. Records ⇐14

Exemption claimed under Freedom of Information Act for deletion of symbol numbers from documents otherwise supplied with respect to assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. would be sustained where there was no legitimate public interest in releasing such symbols and release would aid identification of informers and significantly harm governmental interests. Executive Order No. 11652, §§ 4(A), 6(B), 50 U.S.C.A. § 401 note; 5 U.S.C.A. § 552(b)(2).

★ 10. Records ⇐14

Exemption claimed under Freedom of Information Act to protect certain aspects of privacy of family of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and identity of persons connected with FBI investigation into assassination of Dr. King where privacy interests were involved would be sustained as there was no reason to question bona fides of such deletions. 5 U.S.C.A. § 552(b)(7)(C).

11. Records ⇐14

Fact that an expert can piece together identifying data did not make identifications in question automatically part of the public domain so as to require disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. 5 U.S.C.A. § 552(b)(7)(C).

12. Records ⇐14

As to nonname information deleted from materials released with respect to as-



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20535

December 12, 1980

Mr. James E. Ray
#65477
Brushy Mountain Prison
Petros, Tennessee 37845

Dear Mr. Ray:

Reference is made to your November 12, 1980, letter to the United States Department of Justice, and their response to you, dated December 8, 1980.

In response to your letter of November 12, 1980, which requests the United States Department of Justice to provide information to the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles in the event a hearing is held in connection with your recent application for a pardon, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has determined that no action can be taken unless this request is submitted by the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles.

This response, however, should not be construed to mean that this Bureau has the information you seek, or, if such information is contained in our files, that the same will be furnished to the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles if requested.

Sincerely,

John A. Mintz
Assistant Director - Legal Counsel

1 - Board of Paroles
309 State Office Building
Nashville, Tennessee 37219

1 - [redacted]
Counsel, Office of Professional Responsibility
United States Department of Justice
Attention: [redacted]
Assistant Counsel

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June 8, 1982

Mr. Navin C. Trammell, Jr.
Chairman, Board of Paroles
309 State office Bldg.
Nashville, TN. 37219.

James E. Ray #65477
Station-A
Nashville, TN. 37203.

Dear Sir:

In a paper dated October 6, 1980, I filed an application for a pardon based on 'substantial evidence of innocence in the, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr (MLK), homicide. Subsequently, before the Board ruled on the application, I was transferred to the Nashville prison from the "Brushy Mountain" prison (BMP), because of being stabbed in the latter prison. Thereafter an Attorney helping me, [redacted] in a letter to the Board dated March 1, 1982, petitioned the Board to hold in abeyance the pardon application until the Board could rule on a commutation application we had filed. The reason for filing the commutation application--beside the interest in having me removed from the stabbing jurisdiction to, Missouri's prison system--was that certain Tennessee politicians and bureaucrats in the 'federal bureau of prisons had, several times, attempted illegally to transfer the applicant to a federal prison. The first attempt was by the administration of, Gov. Winfield Dunn, in December, 1973. Since informant types can evidently assault or murder with impunity other prisoners in the federal system I assume that is why the above mentioned politicians were interested in having me transferred to federal jurisdiction: I have a detainer on me from Missouri and no attempt was ever made to transfer me to, Missouri. (It might be noted that U.S. Attorney Generals have stated they did not want custody of me and, that Tennessee prisons were qualified to handle State prisoners).

In respect to the commutation application which the Board on May 27, 1982, denied, I didn't receive a letter of denial, rather Newspapers reported a hearing was denied because I had "been to violent". I don't know where the Parole Board obtained this information unless from a Nashville "Tennessean" editorial. The only "violence" I have ever been charged with outside of prison is the MLK homicide, which I have denied. The only prison violence I have ever been involved in was when I was stabbed in the BMP in June, 1981; then in February, 1982, in the Nashville Prison segregation building; a homosexual rapist (who had assaulted his former cell partner in segregation and in consequence was afraid to return to prison population), broke into the segregation visiting room and injured my Wife's arm with an ash-tray. This act was committed by the assaulter to obtain a prison transfer and, subsequently, he was transferred to Fort Pillow, a medium security prison.

The above is the extent of the applicant's "violence", assuming the Parole Board considers anyone defending himself from attack is also guilty of 'violence.

In respect to the pardon applications: By letter dated December 12, 1980, to the applicant, with a duplicate copy to the Board of Paroles, the United States Department of Justice/Federal Bureau of Investigation stated the Department would consider a request from the Tennessee Board of Paroles for classified information, maintained in the Department's files, pertaining to the MLK case. Subsequently your office apparently assigned the matter to Parole Board employee, [redacted]. Thereafter by letter to, [redacted], dated March 3, 1982, I suggested material, [redacted] might request from the JD/FBI. In as much as I have never received further information in this matter I assume the Parole Board, in perhaps an over abundance of prudence, decided against requesting information from the Department of Justice, although apparently under T.O.A. 40-3603 (f), the Board has the responsibility to request information unless prohibited by federal law--which is not the case in the instant matter since the federal government is offering to consider providing the parole Board with information. Concluding, I will attempt to have the aforementioned classified information made available to the Board through channels: An Argentine News source has ordered the FBI file for me on, David Graiver, the former Argentine national who probably financed the MLK homicide, before becoming a Rockefeller protege; in addition, I'll request Gov. Lamar Alexander & U.S. Senator Howard H. Baker to use their good offices to apply for declassification of the information. Until the classification be held in abeyance.

cc: Parole Board members
cc: Hon. Lamar Alexander
cc: Hon. Howard H. Baker

Sincerely:

James E. Ray

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs

July 30, 1982

Director, FBI

JAMES EARL RAY'S CORRESPONDENCE
WITH SENATOR HOWARD BAKER REGARDING
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., MATERIAL

James E. Ray

This letter is being provided to assist you in preparing a response to Senator Baker's inquiry regarding correspondence received from James Earl Ray.

Over a period of several years numerous Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts (FOIPA) requests for information pertaining to Martin Luther King, Jr., have been made by James Earl Ray to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The FBI has made appropriate responses to each request.

Mr. Ray's recent letter to Senator Howard Baker requests that the Justice Department and the FBI provide to the Tennessee Board of Pardons classified files in the Martin Luther King, Jr., case. A similar request was made to the Department of Justice, and subsequently referred to the FBI, by Mr. Ray on November 11, 1980. By letter dated December 12, 1980 (copy attached), Mr. Ray was advised by the FBI that any such request would have to be made by the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Pardons.

Mr. Ray recently made an inquiry to the FBI regarding whether the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Pardons ever made the request referred to above. For the reasons set forth in the response letter, dated June 30, 1982 (copy attached), Mr. Ray was advised the FBI was unable to ascertain whether any such request was ever made, and

- 1 - [redacted] (Enc.)
1 - [redacted] (Enc.)
Attn: [redacted]
1 - [redacted] (Enc.)
Attn: [redacted]
1 - Mr. Mintz (Enc.)
1 - [redacted]
1 - IPALH

2- ENCLOSURE 62-119809

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MAIL ROOM ☐

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FBI

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Training _____
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Director's Sec'y _____

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Assistant Attorney General
Office of Legislative Affairs

further, it was suggested that he should contact the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles directly to ascertain if any such request has been made.

No further action will be taken by the FBI in this matter, until such time as the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles makes such a request.

Enclosures (2)

NOTE: Instant letter represents the Bureau's response to the DOJ referral of a letter received from Senator Howard Baker, regarding James Earl Ray's request that classified information pertaining to Martin Luther King, Jr., be provided to the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles.

APPROVED:	Adm. Servs. _____	Laboratory _____
	Crim. Inv. _____	Legal Coun. _____
Director <i>[Signature]</i>		Off. of Cong. & Public A. _____
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Exec. AD-Inv. _____	Inspection _____	Tech. Servs. _____
Exec. AD-LES _____	Intell. _____	Training _____

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b7C

December 12, 1980

Mr. James E. Ray
#65477
Brushy Mountain Prison
Petros, Tennessee 37845

Dear Mr. Ray:

Reference is made to your November 12, 1980, letter to the United States Department of Justice, and their response to you, dated December 8, 1980.

In response to your letter of November 12, 1980, which requests the United States Department of Justice to provide information to the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles in the event a hearing is held in connection with your recent application for a pardon, the Federal Bureau of Investigation has determined that no action can be taken unless this request is submitted by the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles.

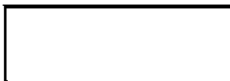
This response, however, should not be construed to mean that this Bureau has the information you seek, or, if such information is contained in our files, that the same will be furnished to the Tennessee Board of Pardon and Paroles if requested.

Sincerely,

John A. Mintz
Assistant Director - Legal Counsel

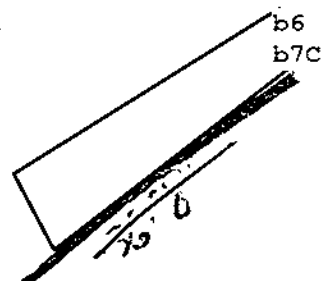
Memo Director to AAG-OLA

7-26-82



ENCLOSURE

62-119809-6



June 30, 1982

Mr. James E. Ray
#65477
Station-A
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Mr. Ray:

Reference is made to your letter, dated June 7, 1982, wherein you inquired as to whether the Tennessee Board of Paroles had made a request to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for certain information.

In respect to your inquiry, the FBI is unable to ascertain whether the Tennessee Board of Paroles has made any inquiry to the FBI. For retrievability purposes, requests for information received at FBI Headquarters are not indexed under the name of the agency making the request, i.e., Tennessee Board of Paroles; rather, they are indexed under the name of an authorized individual making the request on behalf of the agency. Therefore, without knowing the name of the individual who may have made a request for the Tennessee Board of Paroles, the FBI is unable to ascertain whether any such request has ever been made.

I would suggest that you contact the Tennessee Board of Paroles directly to ascertain if such a request has been made to the FBI.

Sincerely yours,

John A. Mintz
Assistant Director - Legal Counsel

62-119809-7
ENCLOSURE