FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]

TELETYPE

IMMEDIATE

CLEAR

6/11/77

FM DIRECTOR

TO ALL SACS IMMEDIATE

ALL LEGATS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit
1 - [redacted]
(Attn: [redacted]
1 - Each Other
Assistant Director

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; WANTED FLYER #500 "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE"; UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

REBUTEL JUNE 11, 1977 CAPTIONED AS ABOVE AND KXTEL DATED JUNE 11, 1977 (NOT TO ALL) CAPTIONED [redacted] AKA - FUGITIVE; UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE."

FOR INFORMATION OF ALL RECEIVING OFFICES, KNOXVILLE ADVISED APPROXIMATELY 2 P.M., EDT, TODAY, [redacted] APPREHENDED BY TENNESSEE STATE AUTHORITIES AFTER BEING OBSERVED FROM SURVEILLANCE HELICOPTER. SUBJECT BEING TRANSPORTED TO PRISON GROUNDS. EFFORTS BEING MADE BY KNOXVILLE AGENTS TO INTERVIEW [redacted] RE ESCAPE AND WHEREABOUTS OF FUGITIVE RAY. DISCONTINUE REGARDING [redacted]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

ESCAPE RISKS

BT

REC-83 88-26222

9 JUN 14 1977

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 11 1977

TELETYPE

1 - [redacted] (88-)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.
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Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

JUN 30 1977

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

NOTE: ASAC, Knoxville, advised [redacted] CID, 2 p.m., 6/11/77, re [redacted] apprehension. Section Chief C. P. Monroe advised an appropriate release is made. D. W. Moore advised who stated he would notify [redacted] and Mr. Adams. Attempts made to notify Attorney General at Homestead, Virginia; however, he was unavailable. Stops placed for his representative to call FBIHQ. b6 b7C

June 13, 1977
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Attached teletype from SAC, Knoxville advises that James Earl Ray was apprehended at 2:15 this morning by Brushy Mountain State Prison authorities approximately 11 miles from the correction complex.

Ray, who along with five others broke out of Brushy Mountain early Friday evening, was added to the Bureau's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" Saturday after the Attorney General authorized the issuance of Federal warrants charging all escapees with conspiracy to violate the Unlawful Flight Statute.

An intensive coordinated manhunt resulted in the apprehensions of [redacted] b6
[redacted], Earl Hill, Jr., with the latest arrest being b7C
Ray's. Separately Knoxville advised that when taken into custody, Ray was fatigued but unhurt, offered no resistance and declined to make any statement. There is some speculation that the Governor of Tennessee may request the Federal Government to take Ray into custody for confinement purposes. Two remaining escapees, [redacted] and [redacted] are still at large and we are pressing our efforts to locate these remaining fugitives.

The Attorney General has been advised of the above and appropriate press releases made. This matter will continue to be closely followed.

1 - [redacted] b6
1 - Mr. Adams b7C
1 - [redacted]
1 - Each Assistant Director
1 - [redacted]

[redacted]

APPROVED:
Director
Assoc. Dir.
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JUL 6 1977

1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - [redacted]

b6
b7C

The Attorney General

June 15, 1977

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - Each Assistant Director

Director, FBI

(1)

JAMES EARL RAY
AND OTHERS
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE;
CONSPIRACY
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

[redacted]

9-2
5-2
2-2

While you have been notified of all pertinent developments in this matter, this comprehensive summary sets forth the significant facts of this fast-breaking case in capsulized form.

At approximately 7:20 p.m. on June 10, 1977, six inmates from the Brushy Mountain Tennessee State Prison (BMSP) escaped custody by placing a makeshift ladder on an outside wall of the prison facility. The convicts, all inmates of the general prison population, had been allowed into the main prison courtyard at 6:00 p.m. for supervised exercise.

Their escape was made possible by two incidents which occurred in the courtyard; a staged fight involving two inmates and a feigned accident injury of another. The prisoners were able to accomplish their escape while the attention of a number of prison guards and the prison population was diverted to these two incidents. Those individuals who were successful in fleeing the prison grounds were:

James Earl Ray, who was serving a 99-year sentence following his conviction for the murder of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

(1) B. APPROY

[redacted] a Negro male, aged [redacted] of Chicago, Illinois, who in 1972 was sentenced to 100 years' confinement for the murder of a Shelby County, Tennessee theater cashier who was slain during the commission of an armed robbery.

b6
b7C

MAILED 2
JUN 15 1977
FBI

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REC 64 88-76222

SEE NOTE PAGE

[redacted] (25)

[redacted]

JUN 17 1977

54 JUL 21 1977

Sept to Mail Room

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

The Attorney General

(1) [redacted] white male, aged [redacted] of Kingsport, Tennessee, who was serving a 63-65-year term following convictions for felonious assault, grand larceny, and murder.

(1) Earl Hill, Jr., white male, aged 34, Ray's former cellmate, who in 1969 was sentenced to two life sentences for murder and three 21-year sentences for rape and assault to murder. These convictions were in connection with the 1967 murder of a Washington, D. C. policeman and the raping of his wife while the couple was vacationing in Tennessee's Cherokee National Forest. Hill, it is interesting to note, had previously escaped from the Tennessee State Penitentiary in Nashville in 1974.

(1) [redacted] a white male, aged [redacted] of Knoxville, who was serving a 50-year prison term for armed robbery and three 21-year terms for assault to murder. [redacted] also has previously attempted to escape from custody in 1973.

[redacted] a white male, aged [redacted] of Hamilton, Ohio, is a former escaped Federal prisoner and reported member of the loosely knit Willie Foster Sellers bank robbery gang. He was serving two 20-year sentences for armed robbery and faces a 25-year prison term for his involvement in a South Carolina bank robbery.

James Earl Ray and his co-escapees, after vaulting the prison wall, fled immediately into the nearby wooded area and then deeper into the mountainous terrain. [redacted] a white male, aged [redacted] who along with the others, had attempted to flee the prison complex, was wounded by prison authorities and promptly taken into custody. He was treated by hospital personnel and thereafter returned to BMSP.

In view of the nature of the escape and involvement of James Earl Ray, FBI Agents converged on the area shortly after being notified of the breakout. They joined with state, local, and prison officials to expeditiously recapture the subjects and determine if any violation of Federal statutes existed.

The Attorney General

Based on your personal authorization, complaints were sworn to and warrants were issued by United States District Judge David J. Kaufman, Knoxville, Tennessee, charging Ray and the other escapees with Conspiracy to Violate the Unlawful Flight Statute (Title 18, United States Code, Sections 371 and 1073). Shortly thereafter, additional Agent personnel were mobilized and Ray was placed on the FBI's list of Ten Most Wanted Fugitives.

An intensive coordinated manhunt ensued with [redacted] b6 b7C being the first taken into custody. His apprehension occurred shortly after 1:00 p.m., June 11, after he was spotted from a helicopter by state officers in an exhausted condition. Subsequently, at approximately 2:05 a.m., Sunday morning, [redacted] was located by FBI Agents and an Anderson County Sheriff's Deputy holed up in an area church. He was taken into custody after resisting slightly, and returned to BMSP. Later that evening, approximately 11:00 p.m., Earl Hill, Jr., was arrested by prison authorities just south of Oliver Springs, Tennessee. Finally, at 2:15 a.m., Monday morning, James Earl Ray was located by correction authorities approximately 11 miles from the prison and taken into custody. He was fatigued but unhurt, offered no resistance, and declined to make any statement. Then, shortly after 9:00 a.m., [redacted] was apprehended by officers of the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Police Department, in that city after FBI Agents notified them that an individual closely resembling [redacted] had stolen a truck, crashed a roadblock, and was headed in their direction. Our Knoxville Office advised yesterday that the remaining fugitive, [redacted] was apprehended by state correctional officers at approximately 9:20 a.m., June 14, 1977, in the possession of a stolen automobile approximately 14 miles from BMSP.

For your additional information, pursuant to your instructions, a Negro Special Agent of our Knoxville Office interviewed [redacted] at BMSP whereupon [redacted] advised b6 b7C that he was jogging around the prison track at the time of the escape, and noticed the makeshift ladder against the prison wall. He observed the others making their break for freedom, so he decided to join in the escape. [redacted] insisted that he had no advance notice of the escape, but simply dashed up the ladder that the others had placed against the wall.

The Attorney General

Further, prior to Ray's apprehension, also as you requested, Congressman Louis Stokes, House Select Committee on Assassinations, was contacted and briefed as to the developments of this matter as of that time. He was specifically advised that you had directed the FBI to make every effort humanly possible to take Ray into custody without any injury to him. Stokes stated that he was pleased to hear of your instructions, and wished that you be thanked for his briefing.

We have interviewed several inmates including those involved in the staged fight and the feigned injury, prison guards, and apprehended escapees. No evidence has been uncovered to date to indicate that Ray and his associates had any outside assistance in their escape. All of these dangerous escapees have now been apprehended and have been returned to the custody of state authorities at BMSP. As of this time, we have been unable to interview Ray; however, we anticipate that this will be accomplished very shortly. Of course, you will be advised of the results.

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

NOTE: Instant letter to the Attorney General furnishes summary of escape and fugitive investigation concerning James Earl Ray and his fellow escapees. No evidence uncovered as to conspiracy or outside assistance.

[redacted] b6 b7C

APPROVED:

Director
Assoc. D
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.

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ev. 1-24-77)

MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE

Date

PRECEDENCE: ☐ IMMEDIATE ☒ PRIORITY ☐ ROUTINE

CLASSIFICATION: 6/11/77 ☐ TOP SECRET ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☒ UNCLASSIFIED

FIELD AND LEGAT MESSAGES ONLY ☐ CLEAR ☒ EFTO

FM: DIRECTOR

TO: ALL SACS AND LEGATS

[redacted] b6 b7C

☒ Attorney General	☐ Drug Enforcement Administration	☒ The President
☒ Deputy Attorney General	☐ Energy Research and Development Administration	☒ White House Situation Room
☐ Attn: Emergency Programs Center		☐ Attn:
☐ Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Div.	☐ U. S. Postal Service	☐ The Vice President
☒ Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Div.		☐ Attn:
☐ Attn: Internal Security Section	☐ National Aeronautics & Space Adm.	☐
☒ Attn: General Crimes Section	☐ Department of Transportation Attn: Director of Security	☐
☐ Immigration and Naturalization Service	☐ Federal Aviation Administration	
☐ U. S. Marshal's Service	☐ Department of the Air Force (AFOSI)	
☐ U. S. Secret Service (PID)	☐ Department of the Army	
☐ [redacted]	☐ Naval Investigative Service	
☐ Secretary of State	☐ [redacted]	
☐ Department of Treasury	☐ Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard	
☐ Attn: U. S. Customs	☐ Director, Defense Intelligence Agency	
☐ Department of Treasury		
☐ Attn: Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms		

b3 b7E

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SUBJECT (TEXT BEGINS NEXT PAGE):

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

Foreign Liaison Unit
☐ Route through for review
☐ Cleared telephonically with

b6 b7C

ST-120 REC-45 88-76226

JUN 28 1977

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Director's Sec'y

ORIGINATOR [redacted] RM 5030 EXT 4188

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67 JUL 6 1977

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☒ [redacted]

XEROX

JUN 28 1977

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVES
COMMUNICATIONS SEC

JUN 11

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Director's Sec'y

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SUICIDE SOURCE

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PMS DIRECTOR FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON DC

IT IS IMPERATIVE FOR THE SAKE OF JUSTICE THAT THE INCIDENT WHI

HAPPENED IN 1963 NOT AGAIN BE REPEATED FOR THAT REASON IT IS ALSO

IMPERATIVE THAT DIRECTIVES BE ISSUED THAT JAMES EARL RAY WHILE BEING

BROUGHT TO JUSTICE BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE ALIVE

A CONNECTICUT CITIZEN

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55 JUL 5 1977

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
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Sec'y ____

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b7C

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 6/10/77

FROM :

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, ET AL.
UNAUTHORIZED FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT

1 - Mr. Adams
1 -
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 -
1 -
1 -
1 -
1 - Each Assis

At 8:45 p.m., 6/10/77, SAC Harold Swans[illegible] telephonically advised that he had just received information that captioned subject, along with 6 other individuals, escaped from the Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee. SAC Swanson had dispatched Agents to the prison and was en route himse[illegible]

b6
b7C

Subsequently, information was received that the following individuals also escaped:

Earl Hill, Jr.

FU[illegible]

It is noted that subject [redacted] was shot during the escape attempt and he is currently in the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Hospital.

V-3 DE-41 REC-45 88-76222-11 SF-120

All Bureau officials were notified and the Director advised at 10:29 p.m., that the Attorney General had authorized the FBI to conduct investigation to locate the subject at 10:22 p.m., 6/10/77. The Director advised that the Attorney General wished to be kept apprised of developments through his Special Assistant, [redacted] who along with the Attorney General, can be reached at 703-839-5500, Room 237, Homestead Hotel. The Attorney General is located in Room 231-33 and a Richmond Agent (SA [redacted] is located in Room 222.

b6
b7C

[redacted] Fraud Division of the Passport Office, contacted FBIHQ and was furnished with the descriptive data of Ray and appropriate stops are being placed as [redacted] is aware of Ray's previous escape through the use of a fraudulent passport.

JUN 17 1977

[redacted] (18)

CONTINUED - OVER

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XEROX

JUN 28 1977

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

FBI/DOJ

JUL 12 1977

Memo [redacted] to Mr. Moore
RE: JAMES EARL RAY, ET AL.

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b7C

In addition, FAA was alerted to circulate Ray's descriptive data to all pertinent airports.

Robert Lehner, Deputy Chief of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, also contacted the Bureau regarding this matter and he was later placed in contact with the Director.

A special group of headquarters Agents are reviewing files and setting out pertinent leads. In addition, Mr. Adams authorized that Ray be put on the Top 10 immediately.

ACTION: You will be kept apprised of developments.

APPROVED:

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

Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
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Training
Public Affs. Off.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
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TO : [redacted]

DATE: 6/11/77

FROM : [redacted]

1 - Mr. Adams
1 - [redacted]
1 -
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]
1 -
1 -

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY; ET AL.;
UNAUTHORIZED FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT

[redacted]

Following the escape of James Earl Ray on 6/10/77, the following actions were taken by Agents of the Congressional Inquiry Uni[redacted]

Ray's file (44-38861) was reviewed for the most current descriptive data and photograph of Ray, and current addresses of his relatives. Field offices (Chicago, Springfield, and St. Louis) covering residences of relatives were telephonically instructed to locate Ray's relatives, interview them for information concerning Ray's escape and whereabouts, institute their surveillance, and report investigative results by teletype.

The following agencies were contacted at times indicated and were furnished details of escape and physical description of Ray:

Fraud Division, Passport Office, U.S. Department of State, [redacted], 11:05 p.m., 6/10/77.

Federal Aviation Administration, Communications Center, [redacted] Duty Officer, 11:12 p.m., 6/10/77, (to alert airports).

REC-45 87-76222-12

Immigration and Naturalization Service, Communications Center, [redacted] 2:15 a.m., 6/11/77.

7 JUN 17 1977

[redacted] Legat, Mexico City, and [redacted] Legat, Ottawa, were telephonically advised of Ray's escape and description and were instructed to alert appropriate law enforcement agencies in Mexico and Canada respectively.

b6
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ACTION: None. For information.

APPROVED: [redacted]

Director	Adm. Ser[redacted]	Legal Coun.
Assoc. Dir.	Crim. Inv[redacted]	Plan. & Insp.
Dep. AD Adm.	Fin. & P[redacted]	Rec. Mgmt.
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[redacted]
(8)

55 JUN 30 1977

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

5010-110

FBI/DOJ

The Attorney General

June 22, 1977

1 - [redacted] b6 b7C
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

Director, FBI FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

JAMES EARL RAY
AND OTHERS
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE
CONSPIRACY
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM

Your attention is referred to my memorandum of June 15, 1977, captioned as above, by which you were furnished a summary of the investigation conducted to locate James Earl Ray and his co-escapees.

As you have been advised, FBI Agents were unable to interview Ray immediately after his apprehension; however, it was expected that we would have the opportunity to talk with him following his return to the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary (BMSP), Petros, Tennessee.

Our Knoxville Office has now been advised by the Warden of BMSP that Ray would not grant any interviews after his arrest and requested that he not be photographed. As you no doubt are aware, Ray's attorney is in close contact with him at the prison as are representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations. These representatives are attempting to continue their interviews of Ray. In view of the above, we contemplate no further efforts to interview Ray concerning his escape from custody.

MAILED 2
JUN 22 1977
FBI

1 - The Deputy Attorney General

1 - Assistant Attorney General
Criminal Division

EX-114 REC-57 87-76222-[illegible]

SEE NOTE PAGE 2 22 JUN 28 1977

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD
Dep. AD
Asst. Dir.
Adm. Ser.
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Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

Signed and sent 6/22/77

56 JUN 30 1977

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

FBI/DO

HII332 1641515 KX0581 1641515 JUN 13 12 13 PM '77

RECEIVED
FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

PP AED

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P 131514Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7224) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

- FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE

UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

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

ALL OFFICES DISCONTINUE.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.
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Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

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DATA PROCESSING
SECTION-F

ST-106

REC-55 88-76222-14

6 JUN 21 1977

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

22 TELETYPED TO:
57 JUL 16 1977 ANSJ, HN, RC

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dirs.
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
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Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

b6
b7C

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 6/13/77

FROM : B. H. Cooke

1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted] (Attn: [redacted])
1 - Movement

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE
AND OTHERS
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE
CONSPIRACY
[redacted]

PURPOSE: To advise of request from Knoxville Division for additional personnel from Atlanta Division.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

[redacted]

b6
b7C

FU[redacted]

DETAILS: SA [redacted] Knoxville Division, at approximately 8:00 a. m., 6/11/77, in connection with captioned fugitive matter, requested ten additional Agents and five cars for use within his division. He advised he was in telephonic contact with the Atlanta Division and tentative arrangements had been made to secure the necessary personnel and equipment from that division.

REC-55 88-76222-15

EX-114

Unit Chief [redacted] Finance and Personnel Division, was contacted by SA [redacted] Criminal Investigative Division, wherein approval was obtained. Atlanta was contacted and instructed to furnish the necessary personnel. Atlanta was advised to forward a teletype to the Bureau and Knoxville furnishing identities of the ten Agents involved.

JUN 17 1977

[redacted] (11)

b6
b7C

[redacted]

5 JUL 1 1977

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

5010-110

FBI/DOJ

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GO

Memorandum

Associate Dir. ___
Dep. AD Adm. ___
Dep. AD Inv. ___
Asst. Dirs:
Adm. Serv. ___
Crim. Inv. ___
Fin. & Pers. ___
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Spec. Inv. ___
Tech. Servs. ___
Training ___
Public Affs. Off. ___
Telephone Rm. ___
Director's Sec'y ___

b6
b7C

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 6/11/77

FROM : B. H. Cooke

1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]
1 -
1 -
1 -
1 -

SUBJECT: [redacted]
JAMES EARL RAY, AKA -
FUGITIVE
AND OTHERS
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE
CONSPIRACY

[redacted]

PURPOSE: To advise of instructions from Attorney General that FBIHQ telephonically contact Congressman Louis Stokes, Chairman, House Select Committee on Assassinations.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

[redacted]

b6
b7C

FU[redacted]

DETAILS: At 5:45 p.m., 6/11/77, Attorney General Bell contacted Bureau and instructed that Congressman Louis Stokes, Chairman, House Select Committee on Assassinations, be updated regarding case. He wanted Stokes contacted in Cleveland, Ohio, through the White House switchboard and during this contact advise him that the Bureau was making every effort to locate Ray alive and that the apprehended subject, [redacted] a Black, had refused to cooperate upon interview.

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b7C

At approximately 7:10 p.m., 6/11/77, the White House switchboard was requested to locate Congressman Stokes and arrange contact between Stokes and FBIHQ. As of 10 p.m. Stokes has not been in contact with FBIHQ.

REC-55

EX-114

88-16222-17

7 JUN 16 1977

[redacted] (10)

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b7C

57 JUL 1

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

5010-110

FBI/DOJ

The Attorney General

NOTE: Instant letter to Attorney General advises that we have not interviewed Ray concerning his escape for the reasons set forth herein. It is extremely doubtful that he would talk to our agents and in view of his present dealings with his attorney and House committee representatives no further efforts being made to talk with him concerning his escape.

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b7C

APPROVED:

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

Adm. Se
Crim. In
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
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Laboratory

Legal Coun.
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Public Affs. Off.

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HA1935 1642230 KX0596 1642230

RR HQ PH

DE KX

R 132229Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

PHILADELPHIA ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

ATTENTION: MOVEMENT SECTION

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

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND PHILADELPHIA JUNE 12, 1977.

SA [redacted] WHO WAS IN THE KNOXVILLE DIVISION TO TESTIFY IN A BANK ROBBERY TRIAL AND WHO WAS UTILIZED IN CONNECTION WITH CAPTIONED MATTER, HAS COMPLETED HIS ASSIGNMENT. HE WILL DEPART KNOXVILLE 9:00 AM, JUNE 14, 1977 VIA UAL, FLIGHT 399, AND ARRIVE ALLENTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA, 12:23 PM, JUNE 14, 1977.

BT

EX-114

88-76222-20

REC-55

JUN 16 1977

70 JUL 7 1977 FUGITIVE INDE[redacted]

JUN 13 6 RECEI FEDERAL CF INVEST COMMUNICATI

Assoc. Dir.
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Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C

COPY RETAINED IN PERSONNEL RECORDS UNIT

1 XEROX JUL 5 1977

Best Available Copy

P.O Box 374, Pineville, Ky. 40977
January 31, 1977

b6
b7C

Parole Commission
Greenbriar August Park, Suite 312
3500 Greenbriar Pky., SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30331

RE: [redacted] Terra Haute Inmate [redacted]

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to inform the commission of the assistance rendered to our Bureau by [redacted] in the apprehension of [redacted], an escaped federal prisoner from FCI Lexington, Kentucky. b6 b7C

Through the diligent efforts of [redacted] we were able to make a successful and safe apprehension of [redacted] has been assisting in this effort since May, 1976. I feel that this assistance could have brought about numerous hardships for a person who is incarcerated.

I can assure you that [redacted] may never have been captured without the efforts of [redacted] and we are very appreciative for his assistance.

If you have any further questions about [redacted] assistance to us please feel free to call me at 606-337-6146. b6 b7C

Sincerely,

[redacted]

Resident Agent in Charge

CARbon Copy

ENCLOSURE 88 - 76222-

0-73 (Rev. 12-29-76)

b6
b7C

MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE

Date 6/13/77

PRECEDENCE: ☐ IMMEDIATE ☑ PRIORITY ☐ ROUTINE

CLASSIFICATION: ☐ TOP SECRET ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☑ UNCLASSIFIED

FIELD AND LEGAT MESSAGES ONLY ☑ CLEAR ☐ EFTO

FM: DIRECTOR

TO: ALL LEGATS
ALL SAC'S

95

b6
b7C

☑ Attorney General
☑ Deputy Attorney General
☐ Attn: Analysis and Evaluation Unit
☐ Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Div.
☑ Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Div.
☐ Attn: Internal Security Section
☑ Attn: General Crimes Section
☐ Immigration and Naturalization Service
☐ U. S. Marshal's Service
☐ U. S. Secret Service (PID)
☐ [redacted]
☐ Secretary of State
☐ Department of Treasury
☐ Attn: U. S. Customs
☐ Department of Treasury
☐ Attn: Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms

☐ Drug Enforcement Administration
☐ Energy Research and Development Administration
☐ U. S. Postal Service
☐ National Aeronautics & Space Adm.
☐ Department of Transportation
Attn: Director of Security
☐ Federal Aviation Administration
☐ Department of the Air Force (AFOSI)
☐ Department of the Army
☐ Naval Investigative Service
☐ [redacted]
☐ Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard
☐ Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

☑ The [redacted]
☑ White House Situation Room
☐ Attn:
☐ The Vice President
☐ Attn:
☐
☐

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b7E

EX-114 REC-55 88-76222-21

(SUBJECT (TEXT BEGINS NEXT PAGE):

2/ JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES"; 2/ EARL HILL, JR.,
AKA - FUGITIVE.
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE
~~ARMED AND DANGEROUS~~

b6
b7C

☐ Foreign Liaison Unit
☐ Route through for review
☐ Cleared telephonically
with [redacted]

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Ext. Affairs
Fin. & Pers.
Gen. Inv.
Ident.
Intell.
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgt.
S. & T. Serv.
Spec. Inv.
Training
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

ORIGINATOR [redacted] RM 5027 EXT 2805

JUN 16 1977
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUN 17 1977

56 AUG 18 1977

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑

TELETYPE

FBI/DOJ

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Ident. ____
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Spec. Inv. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

TO : Mr. Moore

FROM :

DATE: 6/11/77

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE, AND OTHERS; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE CONSPIRACY

1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Moore
1 -
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 -
1 -
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1 -

b6
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PURPOSE: To advise of a conversation with ASAC , Knoxville, concerning James related fugitive matters.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

FUG

REC-55

EX-114

88-76222-23

DETAILS: At 9:55 a.m., 6/11/77, ASAC advised that at 7 a.m., he telephonically briefed , the Special Assistant to the Attorney General, concerning the circumstances surrounding Ray's escape. He furnished basically the identities of those who fled the institution and advised that additional Agents were being assigned from surrounding offices, particularly Atlanta, Memphis, and Louisville. He further advised that 2 planes and 3 helicopters were in the air in the Petros, Tennessee, region and bloodhounds were being used in an effort to pickup the scent of the escapees. asked whether this might have been an inside job and recommended that he could not determine at this time, but that and Ray have a history of escaping from custody.

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JUN 17 1977

For additional information, ASAC advised that his Agents have interview the inmate who was shot by co nal officials. He refused interview, being totally

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DETAILS CONTINUED - OVER

JUL 1 1977

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

FBI/DOJ

uncooperative. [redacted] and [redacted] became b6 b7C
involved in a fight on the prison grounds just prior to the escape. They were interviewed and likewise were uncooperative as was another inmate [redacted] who feigned an ankle injury during the primary stages of the breakout. Noting that fugitive [redacted] is a known associate of [redacted] who was being added to the Bureau's list of the 10 most wanted fugitives, 6/14/77, arrangements are being immediately made to effect concensual monitoring of 2 female sources in the Knoxville Division who have been in telephonic contact with fugitive associates of [redacted]. At the present time, Knoxville believes that they have sufficient personnel; however, in view of the heavy court commitments and the length of terrain search expected, additional requests for personnel may be forthcoming. ASAC [redacted] was instructed to insure that the Bureau was kept advised of any and all developments. It should be noted that SAC Swanson remains on the scene directing investigation.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dirs.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
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Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

b6
b7C

TO : Mr. Moore

FROM : B. H. Cooke

DATE: 6/13/77

1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]
1 -
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SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE;
AND OTHERS;
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE;
CONSPIRACY

[redacted]

[redacted]

PURPOSE: To advise of briefing of Congressman Louis St[redacted] Chairman, House Select Committee on Assassinations.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

EX-114 REC-55 88-76222-24

DETAILS: At 10:55 p.m., 6/11/77, Congressman Stokes, House Select Committee on Assassinations, telephonically contacted FBIHQ through the White House switchboard. Stokes was briefed on developments of captioned case per instructions of the Attorney General. Stokes was specifically advised that the Attorney General had directed that the FBI make every attempt to locate Ray alive and that interview of captured escapee [redacted] had been conducted and had been unproductive.

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Stokes advised that he was pleased to hear of the Attorney General's instructions and to personally thank him for the briefing.

JUN 17

[redacted]

FU[redacted]

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[redacted] (10)

[redacted]

5 JUL 1 1977 *Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan*

5010-110

FBI/DOJ

NOTE: Attorney General Bell called FBIHQ approximately 5 p.m., 6/11/77, from his Metropolitan area apartment after returning from Homestead, Virginia. He inquired as to the status of our investigation, whereupon he was briefed by [redacted] Criminal Investigative Division. He furnished specific instructions as noted herein. He advised that he was going to brief the President telephonically shortly after contacting FBIHQ. He was advised it was our intention to furnish both he and the White House a summary communication later this evening. He stated he was going to advise the President to expect such communication. b6 b7C

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dirs.
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____
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Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 6/16/77

FROM : B.H. Cooke

1 - Mr. Moore
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
ET AL
UFAC-ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY
00 KX

PURPOSE: To set forth for file and record purposes, log of investigative and administrative activity concerning instant matter as recorded 6/11 - 14/77 at FBIHQ.

RECOMMENDATION: For information.

DETAILS: In connection with the supervision of the fugitive manhunt to locate James Earl Ray and five other Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary escapees, a log was maintained at FBIHQ from 6/11 - 14/77. It is recommended that this log (attached) be included in the investigative file relating to the Ray escape.

ST-106

REC-55

88-76222-27

JUN 16 1977

Enclosure [ENCLOSURE ATTACHED]

File

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

88-76223-27

DATE	TIME	REMARKS
6/11/77	8 a.m.	Ten additional Agents and five cars from Atlanta sent Knoxville.
		Wire Room, Ident Division, advised that IO and Wanted Flyer to be printed, search request made.
		[redacted], Printing and Space Management Section, requested to provide appropriate personnel to expedite wanted notices. b6 b7C
	9 a.m.	Director Kelley, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Moore briefed re case.
	11:07 a.m.	Potential hijack alert re all fugitives including Ray placed with FAA Duty Officer [redacted]
	11:10 a.m.	ASAC [redacted], KX, advised that an Agent on special applicant assignment outside of his territory is home on weekend and is familiar with 3 fugitive suspects as well as territory where fugitives originate. Approval was granted for him to retain Agent in his territory advising the Bureau and the appropriate office.
		Rough draft Wanted Flyer forwarded Printing Unit after being initially approved by [redacted], Ident Division. b6 b7C
		Memo typed re briefing from ASAC [redacted] (see memo for details)
	11:50 a.m.	[redacted] briefed re case.
	11:57 a.m.	Photos of Ray and additional fugitives hand carried to CID by WFO. Photos flown in by commercial airline from Knoxville. Ray's photo forwarded to Printing Unit.
	12:05 a.m.	Knoxville Division requested expedite processing of photos of all fugitives other than Ray, with approximately 50 copies each to be flown to Knoxville.
		Supervisor [redacted] Division 7 Duty Agent, advised he is making appropriate arrangements for photographic personnel to respond to FBIHQ to handle.

12:30 p.m. Mr. Adams briefed re case; advised no new developments. b6 b7C

1:55 p.m. ASAC [redacted], Knoxville, reported that Tennessee authorities had spotted fugitive [redacted] from a helicopter and thereafter took him into custody. He is being returned to the prison grounds where he will be interviewed by SAC Swanson and Knoxville Agents. Assistant Director Moore, C.P. Monroe, Office of Public Affairs, advised. Attempts made to notify AG at Homestead, Virginia; he was not available. Message left for his representative to contact FBIHQ. Mr. Cooke advised.

4:30 p.m. ASAC [redacted], Knoxville, was contacted. He advised subject who was apprehended was interviewed and refused to furnish any information. SAC Swanson is still on the scene directing search with state authorities. Personnel working two 12 hour shifts. Upon nightfall, efforts will concentrate on roving road patrol for perimeter search purposes. [redacted] instructed to submit comprehensive summary teletype this evening. (Upon receipt, consideration will be given to disseminating it to Attorney General, Assistant Attorney General - Criminal Division and White House Situation Room. b6 b7C

5:04 p.m. Attorney General Bell contacted FBIHQ re status of case. He was briefed concerning up-to-minute details, including the one apprehension that has been effected. Bell instructed that a Black Agent attempt interview with [redacted] and that FBI make every effort humanly possible to take Ray into custody alive. Bell further stated he intended to brief the President telephonically shortly thereafter. He was informed that a comprehensive teletype would follow with the President to be furnished a copy of same. He concurred and approved this procedure. ASAC, Knoxville, was telephonically furnished instructions as set forth by Bell and confirming teletype forwarded. b6 b7C

5:15 p.m. Wanted Flyers at Knoxville and Atlanta Divisions (1,500 copies respectively) given to WFO Agent for transmittal via commercial airline to those cities. WFO to notify offices re itinerary.

5:45 p.m. Attorney General Bell again contacted Bureau and instructed that Congressman Louis Stokes, Chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, be updated re case. He wanted Stokes contacted in Cleveland through the White House switchboard and during this contact advised him that upon his specific direction, FBIHQ was updating him as to status of Ray manhunt. We were to highlight fact Bureau making every effort to locate Ray alive and that apprehended subject was a Negro and had refused to cooperate upon interview.

6:23 p.m. At 6:23 p.m. Director Kelly called and was given a full briefing as to developments in this matter. He specifically requested that in our summary to the President that we mention that if Congressman Stokes is contacted we mention this in our summary communication explaining generally what we furnished the Congressman.

7:10 p.m. White House switchboard was requested to locate Congressman Stokes and arrange contact between Stokes and FBIHQ. As of 10 p.m. Stokes has not been in contact with FBIHQ.

10:55 p.m. Congressman Stokes telephoned FBIHQ and was briefed on case. Stokes specifically advised of AG's instructions to make every effort to locate Ray alive and that captured escapee [redacted] had been interviewed and refused to cooperate. Stokes expressed appreciation for briefing and desired AG be thanked for him. b6 b7C

	11:30 p.m.	Director Kelley called in and was briefed as to developments of case. He is staying at the FBI Academy, Quantico, Room 503.
6/12/77	1:20 a.m.	SA [redacted], Knoxville, telephonically advised that everything was quiet and that the searchers had been pulled back for the night. He also advised that a black SA had attempted to interview [redacted] without any apparent success. [redacted], who is a physical fitness buff, claims that he was jogging in prison yard at time of escape, and saw other prisoners going over the wall. He decided at that moment to escape and followed them over the wall. Claimed no prior association with any of the escapees, and knows Ray only to exchange greetings. He could furnish no additional information regarding the escape or Ray's chances of surviving in the surrounding terrain. b6 b7C
	2:53 a.m.	SA [redacted] Knoxville, telephonically advised that fugitive [redacted] had been apprehended at 2:05 a.m. near the Beech Grove Baptist Church, Hwy 116, which is 4 miles from prison on same highway prison is on. Apprehension made by Bureau Agents and Deputies from the Anderson County Sheriff's Office. KX requested Bureau instructions regarding press release. b6 b7C
	2:55 a.m.	Supervisor [redacted] FBIHQ Public Affairs Office, was telephonically contacted and he advised that he would make press release to AP, UPI, and Time Magazine. KX and/or local authorities could make any local releases desired simultaneously with his.
	3:00 a.m.	SA [redacted] KX, was advised regarding the handling of press releases. b6 b7C
	3:10 a.m.	FBIHQ Supervisor [redacted] was telephonically advised of [redacted] apprehension. He requested that when summary teletype is received, it be relayed to all Legats as well as the dissemination made with previous incoming summaries.

8:01 a.m. [redacted], Chicago, telephonically advised that Jerry Ray, whom that office has under surveillance, had left his residence at 5:00 a.m. Surveillance determined he was going to the airport to catch a flight for Boston where he is to keep an appointment with writer [redacted] was instructed by SA [redacted], FBIHQ, to alert Boston to his itinerary and continue the surveillance upon the arrival until advised to the contrary. b6 b7C

8:04 a.m. Assistant Director Moore telephonically contacted at Quantico and briefed regarding developments during the night, including details relating to the apprehension of [redacted] Mr. Moore advised he would brief the Director.

8:07 a.m. Deputy Associate Director Adams briefed.

8:11 a.m. Section Chief Cooke briefed.

8:15 a.m. Attorney General Bell telephonically contacted at home and briefed regarding recent developments, including details relating to the arrest of [redacted]. Mr. Bell inquired about Washington Post story relating to arrest of [redacted] on 6/11/77, which stated two other persons seen with [redacted] just before his arrest had escaped. After checking with Knoxville, he was advised the story was erroneous. Mr. Bell was advised that Congressman Stokes had been briefed, was appreciative and thanked the Attorney General for his thoughtfulness and consideration. Mr. Bell remarked he thought the FBI was doing an outstanding job. b6 b7C

8:29 a.m. Inspector - Deputy Assistant Director Ingram advised of latest developments.

8:40 a.m. SA [redacted] Knoxville, telephonically advised manhunt has resumed but no new sightings have been made. He requested additional photos and fingerprints of remaining fugitives be sent to Knoxville as soon as possible. [redacted] Ident, preparing photocopies of prints and arrangements made through WFO to put on next available flight. [redacted] advised a Philadelphia Agent, [redacted] in Knoxville on subpoena, had joined the manhunt and requested approval for him to remain until no longer needed. Per [redacted] was given approval and instructed to submit UACB teletype to confirm the action. According to [redacted], several break-ins had been reported during the night in the general area where the fugitives are believed to be located. Prints of remaining fugitives will be compared with any latents discovered to determine if any of the fugitives are involved. b6 b7C

11:22 a.m. Director called regarding any new developments.

12:52 p.m. Mr. Bell called for latest developments.

2:45 p.m. Mr. Bell called for any developments.

4:04 p.m. SA [redacted] Knoxville, advised ASAC [redacted] Brushy Mountain State Prison search area, requested 10 night viewing devices for perimeter cars. Two devices now in search aircraft. b6 b7C

4:14 p.m. SA [redacted] Laboratory, requested to check on availability of viewing devices.

4:26 p.m. SA [redacted] advised SAs [redacted] Division 8, handle devices.

4:30 p.m. SA [redacted] advised Bureau has 30 units and all are distributed to the field.

	4:41 p.m.	SA [redacted] Knoxville, advised of above and will contact contingent offices for assistance. It is believed Memphis, Charlotte, Louisville and New Orleans are equipped. SA [redacted] advised that abandoned house in search area afire and checked out by Tennessee State Police negative. b6 b7C
	5:40 p.m.	Director Kelley telephonically inquired of status of Ray case. He was updated.
	6:25 p.m.	AG Griffin Bell telephonically inquired of status of Ray case. He was updated.
	6:35 p.m.	[redacted] Communications, advised telegram received 5:29 p.m. requesting information re Ray. Telegram included McBride alias and NCIC classification. Telex numbers 573498, traced to Utica Tool Co., Orangeburg, South Carolina. Information furnished Supervsior [redacted] Knoxville, who will initiate coverage through Columbia. b6 b7C
	11:20 p.m.	SA [redacted] Knoxville, advised Earl Hill, Jr., apprehended a few miles from State Penitentiary presumably by prison guards. No details at this time. Teletype will follow immediately upon receipt of details.
	11:30 p.m.	Assistant Director D. W. Moore, Jr., [redacted] and [redacted] advised Mr. Moore instructed that Director be advised tomorrow morning early. b6 b7C
6/13/77	2:55 a.m.	Night Clerk [redacted] Knoxville, advised James Earl Ray apprehended 2:30 a.m. by three Bureau Agnets and Anderson County Sheriff's Office near Lisafork (Phonetic), Tennessee, near Highway 116, north of Mountain State Prison, Tennessee.

3:00 a.m. The above information confirmed to [redacted]

3:05 a.m. Director Kelley advised. He instructed that AG Bell be advised.

3:08 a.m. AG Bell advised that Ray arrested.

3:10 a.m. J. B. Adams advised. b6 b7C

3:13 a.m. D. W. Moore advised.

3:40 a.m. ASAC [redacted] Knoxville, advised that Ray was actually apprehended by correctional officers about 11 miles from the prison. Ray was fatigued, unhurt, he did not resist and made no statement. State of Tennessee considering asking that Ray be turned over to Federal custody. b6 b7C

3:45 a.m. [redacted], advised of original and revised version of arrest.

3:50 a.m. Ben Cooke advised of original and revised version of arrest. b6 b7C

4:05 a.m. [redacted] advised he was aware of new version and had advised [redacted]

9:40 a.m. ASAC [redacted] advised [redacted] apprehended by Oak Ridge, Tennessee Police officer and returned to BMSP.

12:05 p.m. At request of Office of Public Affairs, official Bureau responses to three questions re matter for use of President during 2:30 p.m. press conference furnished (see B. H. Cooke to Mr. Moore memo 6/13/77). b6 b7C

2:00 p.m. [redacted], Buffalo, advised [redacted] that Bureau Agents pulling out of area as state authorities retreating to rest personnel and canine corps.

6/14/77	9:20 a.m.	ASAC [redacted] advised remaining fugitive, [redacted] apprehended by correctional officers in the possession of a stolen automobile approximately 14 miles from the prison and returned to BMSP.	b6 b7C

88-76222-27

FD-263 (Rev. 7-15-75)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN	DATE	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD
KNOXVILLE	KNOXVILLE	6/23/77	6/10-16/77

TITLE OF CASE

JAMES EARL RAY, aka - 1 cc Kx tel 6/13/77
FUGITIVE
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE"
W.F. #500; cc Kx tel 6/13/77
[redacted] - FUGITIVE;
[redacted] - FUGITIVE;
EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; 1 cc Kx tel 6/13/77
[redacted] - FUGITIVE; 1 cc Kx tel 6/14/77 7/5/77
[redacted] - FUGITIVE 1 cc Kx tel 6/14/77

REPORT MADE BY: SA [redacted]

TYPED BY: [redacted]

b6
b7C

CHARACTER OF CASE

1 UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY 1 cc Kx tel 6/12/77

- C -

[redacted]

b6
b7C

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

APPROVED [redacted] SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

88-76222-25X REC-53
ST-106

11 JUN 27 1977

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)

9 - [redacted]

b6
b7C

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	2-Criminal Div.; 1-Civil Rights Div.; 1-OPE USDJ
Request Recd.	1-Congressional Inquiry Unit
Date Fwd.	0-70(6) 7/11/77
How Fwd.	
By	

Notations [redacted]

A*

COVER PAGE

97 JUL 13 1977

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.
[redacted]
b6
b7C
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

TO : [redacted]

DATE: 6/13/77

FROM : [redacted]

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY,
AKA-FUGITIVE, CONSPIRACY
UFAC, ESCAPE

[redacted]

[redacted]

9

PURPOSE: To record overtime performed on June 11, 1977, in connection with the escape of James Earl Ray.

[redacted]
b6
b7C

DETAILS: On June 11, 1977, at 8:00 a.m., five Printing Sub-unit employees were instructed to report for duty in order to set, print and distribute a limited number of Wanted Flyers on James Earl Ray.

Employees reporting for duty were [redacted]

Printing and distribution of the flyer were completed by 6:00 p.m., June 11.

RECOMMENDATION:

For Information.

[redacted]
b6
b7C

APPROVED:
Director
Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.

REC-45 88-76222-32

ST-124

7 JUN 24 1977

1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Moore

b6
b7C

[redacted]

56 JUL 8 1977

[redacted]

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

5010-110

FBI/DOJ

0-73 (Rev. 12-29-76)

b6
b7C

MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE

Date 6/13/77

PRECEDENCE: ☐ IMMEDIATE ☑ PRIORITY ☐ ROUTINE

CLASSIFICATION: ☐ TOP SECRET ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☑ UNCLASSIFIED

FIELD AND LEGAT MESSAGES ONLY ☑ CLEAR ☐ EFTO

FM. DIRECTOR [redacted] LEGATS

b6
b7C

9

☑ Attorney General
☑ Deputy Attorney General
☐ Attn: Analysis and Evaluation Unit
☐ Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Div.
☑ Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Div.
☐ Attn: Internal Security Section
☑ Attn: General Crimes Section
☐ Immigration and Naturalization Service
☐ U. S. Marshal's Service
☐ U. S. Secret Service (PID)
☐ [redacted]
☐ Secretary of State
☐ Department of Treasury
☐ Attn: U. S. Customs
☐ Department of Treasury
☐ Attn: Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms

☐ Drug Enforcement Administration
☐ Energy Research and Development Administration
☐ U. S. Postal Service
☐ National Aeronautics & Space Adm.
☐ Department of Transportation
Attn: Director of Security
☐ Federal Aviation Administration
☐ Department of the Air Force (AFOSI)
☐ Department of the Army
☐ Naval Investigative Service
☐ [redacted]
☐ Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard
☐ Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

☑ The President
☑ White House S[redacted] Room
☐ Attn:
☐ The Vice President
☐ Attn:
☐
☐

b3
b7E

EX-114

33

REC-76 88-76222-33

(SUBJECT (TEXT BEGINS NEXT PAGE):
JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; ET AL,
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UNLAWFUL FLIGHT
TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE

Foreign Liaison Unit
☐ Route through for review
☐ Cleared telephonically
with [redacted]

Assoc. Dir. [redacted]
Dep. AD Adm. [redacted]
Dep. AD Inv. [redacted]
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. [redacted]
Ext. Affairs [redacted]
Fin. & Pers. [redacted]
Gen. Inv. [redacted]
Ident. [redacted]
Intell. [redacted]
Legal Coun. [redacted]
Plan. & Insp. [redacted]
Rec. Mgt. [redacted]
S. & T. Serv. [redacted]
Spec. Inv. [redacted]
Training [redacted]
Telephone Rm. [redacted]
Director's Sec'y [redacted]

4 JUN 14 1977

ORIGINATOR [redacted] RM 5027 EXT 2805

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

b6
b7C

JUN 13 1977
1034AM
TELETYPE [redacted]

415

20 JUL 12 1977

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☑ [redacted]

FBI/DOJ

#

HCI987 1652026 KX0616 1652026

RR HQ

DE KX

R 142023Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA, ET AL, CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE, OO: KNOXVILLE

RE BUTEL JUNE 14, 1977.

REFERENCED TEL INSTRUCTED KNOXVILLE TO ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW RAY AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY.

FOR INFORMATION OF BUREAU, AT THE TIME OF RAY'S APPREHENSION HE INFORMED THE WARDEN OF BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON THAT HE WOULD NOT GRANT ANY INTERVIEWS AND ALSO REQUESTED THAT THE PRESS ON THE SCENE NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE HIS PHOTOGRAPH. THE PRESS DID PHOTOGRAPH RAY AS HE WAS BROUGHT BACK INTO THE PRISON.

FUG.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, ACCORDING TO

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD, Adm.
Dep. AD
Asst. D
Adm.
Crim.
Fin. &
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgnt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

b6
b7C

ST-124 REC 12 88-76222-34

JUN 24 1977

56 JUL 8 1977

b6
b7C

KX 88-7223 PAGE TWO CLEAR

LOCAL PRESS, RAY'S ATTORNEY IS IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH HIM AT THE PRISON. ALSO, THE ASSASSINATION COMMITTEE OF THE U. S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IS AT THE PRISON ATTEMPTING TO CONTINUE INTERVIEWS WITH RAY.

IN VIEW OF THE ABOVE, NO ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO INTERVIEW RAY, UACB.

BT

FD-36 (Rev. 7-27-76)

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☒ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ E F T O
- ☐ CLEAR

Date 6/23/77

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE)

FROM: SAC, SPRINGFIELD (88-9112) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY,
Aka Et Al
UFAC - ESCAPE;
CONSPIRACY
OO: Knoxville

CC-Rxtel 6/13/77

On 6/21/77, [redacted], Newscaster, KHQA - TV, Quincy, Illinois, advised that on night of 6/20/77 JERRY RAY, the brother of JAMES EARL RAY, contacted KHQA - TV and wanted to be interviewed concerning JAMES EARL RAY.

JERRY RAY advised that he has been employed as a greens keeper at a country club in suburban Chicago, Illinois area. However, JERRY RAY has lost his jobs due to FBI pressure after JAMES EARL RAY recently escaped from prison in Tennessee. JERRY RAY stated that the country club also employs a number of illegal aliens and the country club did not want Federal authorities messing around the country club.

JERRY RAY stated JAMES EARL RAY does not want to go to a Federal prison because Justice Department people will see that JAMES EARL RAY is never heard of again.

JERRY RAY stated that JERRY RAY has been in contact with members of the House Committee on assassinations and that during the past few days he has talked to [redacted] This has been since JAMES EARL RAY's escape and recapture.

REC-84 88-11222-35

2 - Bureau
2 - Chicago
2 - Knoxville (88-7223)
1 - Springfield (88-9112)

ST-118

24 JUN 27 1977

ON 7/18/77 SUP. [redacted]
ADVISED WOULD SEND TO CHI. UNDER [redacted]

FUGITIVE INDEX

Approved: [redacted] Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

70 JUL 12 1977

JERRY RAY claimed that a business card was found in the car JAMES EARL RAY drove in Memphis at the time of the assassination of KING. This card belongs to an individual who also had the use of the car and it has been established that this person was connected with [redacted] JERRY RAY claimed his brother, JAMES EARL RAY, was set up concerning KING's assassination and that there is a witness who was four blocks away at the time of KING's death who can verify RAY could not have killed KING. b3 b7E

JERRY RAY saw JAMES EARL RAY a few days before the escape and at that time JAMES EARL RAY was very despondent so JERRY RAY was not surprised at the escape attempt.

JERRY RAY stated that definitely JAMES EARL RAY does not want to go to the Federal Penitentiary at Marion, Illinois. He stated that at one time before, Federal authorities attempted to place JAMES EARL RAY in the Federal hospital at Springfield, Missouri, in attempt to keep JAMES EARL RAY from talking.

This information is being furnished to the Bureau, Knoxville, and Chicago for informational purposes.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dirs.
Adm. Serv. ____
Crim. Inv. ____ b6
Fin. & Pers. ____ b7C
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgmt. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Tech. Servs. ____
Training ____
Public Affs. Off. ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director's Sec'y ____

TO : Mr. Moore

FROM : B. H. Cooke

DATE: 6/13/77

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, ALSO KNOWN AS, FUGITIVE;
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE;"
ET AL.;
CONSPIRACY; UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE

1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

PURPOSE: To furnish responses to questions of Press Office, U. S. Department of Justice, for use of the President in today's scheduled 2:30 p.m., press conference.

RECOMMENDATION: If approved, this memorandum should be forwarded to the Office of Public Affairs for appropriate handling.

b6
b7C

APPROVED:
Director
Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Serv.
Training
Public Affs.

DETAILS: The Office of Public Affairs advised that it had received a specific request from the U. S. Department of Justice Press Office for answers to the questions listed below for use of President Carter during today's scheduled 2:30 p.m., press conference in which the James Earl Ray matter will be discussed. The following are the pertinent questions and official Bureau answers:

Q. Does the FBI have any evidence of a conspiracy involving Ray's escape?

SI 10 REC-84 [illegible] - 76222-36

A. The FBI has uncovered no evidence or indication of a conspiracy concerning Ray's escape other than that involving fellow in-mates. There is no indication that this prison break was anything other than a "break for freedom." There is TO DATE absolutely no indication that Ray received any assistance from outside the prison complex.

CONTINUED - OVER

1 JUN 23 1977

b6
b7C

(13)

FUGITIVE INF[illegible]

Public Affairs Office

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

5010-106

JUL 19 1977

56 AUG 18 1977

Q. Has the FBI interviewed James Earl Ray?

A. The FBI as of this time has not made any attempt to interview Ray concerning his escape; however, an attempt will be made to interview him very shortly.

Q. Has the FBI talked to the other individuals believed involved?

A. The FBI has interviewed or attempted to interview the following individuals:

[redacted] who was wounded in the escape attempt, refused to be interviewed. b6 b7C

[redacted] and [redacted], all escapees and since apprehended, denied any prior planning in the escape.

[redacted], who engaged in a fight which is believed to have been a diversionary tactic, denied the fight was prearranged or had any connection with the prison break-out.

[redacted] who allegedly feigned an ankle injury as a diversionary tactic, refused to be interviewed.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 6/17/77

FROM: SAC, BALTIMORE (88-13890) (RUC)

SUBJECT: [redacted]
ET AL
Conspiracy To Violate UFAC-Escape
00:KNOXVILLE

Re Bureau telephone call to Baltimore 6/10/77.

Per Bureau instructions, SA [redacted] departed for Knoxville from Fort Belvoir, Virginia via Bureau aircraft at 9 a.m. on 6/11/77.

At Knoxville, SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] of the Alexandria Division, operating the Bureau aircraft, flew missions in support of captioned matter. Operational flight time was as follows:

Date	Flight Hours	Sorties	Mission
[redacted]			

SA [redacted] returned to Baltimore on 6/14/77.

The operational analysis of the Bureau aircraft usage at Knoxville will be submitted by the Knoxville Division per Bureau instructions.

REC-84 88-76222-37

ST-108

2 JUN 20 1977

2 - Bureau (1 - 62-116475)
2 - Knoxville
2 - Baltimore (1 - 66-3183)

[redacted]

FUGITIVE [redacted]

54 AUG 17 1977

57 JUL 14 1977

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

0-19 (Rev. 5-12-76)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Fin. & P ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Inspection ____
Intell. ____
Laboratory ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Eval. ____
Rec. Mgnt. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____
Telephone Rm. ____
Director Sec'y ____

b6
b7C

[redacted]

Ray Court Order Defied

PETROS, Tenn.—James Earl Ray, placed in a maximum-security cell at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, after his weekend escape, will remain there despite a federal court order requiring that he be treated the same as other inmates, Gov. Ray Blanton said.

Ray and his six companions in the escape were served warrants charging them with escape. They could be sentenced to an additional one to five years each if convicted.

"We are in violaton of the (federal) court order now and we are going to stay in violation of it as long as I am governor unless the federal government wants him," Blanton said on ABC's "Good Morning America" television show.

Ray is serving 99 years for the 1968 slaying of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. He and the others have remained silent on details of the escape.

Blanton and other state officials have said the escapees apparently had no outside help, and they discounted the possibility that the convicts were aided by prison officials.

b6
b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

44-38761-

ORIGINAL FILED IN

The Washington Post A-7
Washington Star-News ____
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The National Observer ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

Date 6-16-77

88-76222-A
NOT RECORDED
167 JUL 6 1977

[redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

70 JUL 8 1977

Ice - 88-

0-19 (Rev. 11-12-76)

Assoc. Dir. ____
Dep. AD Adm. ____
Dep. AD Inv. ____
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. ____
Ext. Affairs ____
Fin. & Pers. ____
Gen. Inv. ____
Ident. ____
Intell. ____
Legal Coun. ____
Plan. & Insp. ____
Rec. Mgt. ____
S. & T. Serv. ____
Spec. Inv. ____
Training ____ b6
Telephone Rm. ____ b7C
Director's Sec'y ____

Dreamed of Starting Orphan Asylum

Ray's Reveries: Curious Mix Of Concern and Hatred

George McMillan spent eight years researching the life of James Earl Ray and the killing of Martin Luther King Jr. for the book "The Making of an Assassin." This is the second of five installments of his work.

By George McMillan

James Earl Ray did have fantasies. He had them in Jeff City, and they were not quite the usual criminal daydreams. Ray's dream was to start an orphan asylum.

"When I pull a job," Ray used to tell his friend, Ray Curtis, "I'm gonna take that money and start an orphans' home. If people didn't want their kids, I'll take them, just go pick them up myself and take them to this orphans' home in the country. I'm going to pick the doctors and nurses myself. I won't let anybody else do that. Don't worry. I'll keep the place going! I'll do a job or two now and then."

This was a curious dream for a man who seemed not to have any close relationships at all, a loner. And yet there was more evidence that the plight of children, neglected children, struck some profound chord in him.

Once Curtis and Ray were watching a documentary on India on the cellblock TV. Some bloated-bellied, starving children were shown.

"That's a disgrace," Ray said angrily, "with all the money there is in the world."

Oddly, Ray's sympathy did not extend to adults. He seemed to hate them as much as he sympathized with children. When starving Indian adults appeared on the TV tube, Ray said: "I don't give a damn about those niggers." When the news program showed a crippled man fleeing on crutches from a burning Vietnamese building, Ray spat out: "Why, that sorry son of a bitch. All he wants is sympathy." To a radio item about a man who had been burned to death, Ray said: "He got what he deserved."

There were the fantasies about children, about adults, and then there were fantasies of violence. He would brag about what he would do if he were surrounded by cops, when and if he did his next job.

"IF THE COPS had me pinned down," Ray said, "I'd pretend to give up. I'd throw my gun down.

See RAY, A-11

44-38861-A

[redacted] b6 b7C

ORIGINAL FILE

The Washington Post ____
Washington Star-News A 1 & 11
Daily News (New York) ____
The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
The National Observer ____
The Los Angeles Times ____

Date Thurs., 6/16/77

98-76222-A
NOT RECORDED
167 JUL 6 1977

70 JUL 8 1977

[redacted] b6 b7C

FBI/DOJ

RAY

Continued From A-1

Then when they stepped up to take me, I'd take them with me. I'd do it with maybe two ounces, maybe four ounces of nitroglycerin."

What do these reveries mean, what do they reveal about Ray and his inner life, his unconscious, and do they tell us about the motives that led to his conscious acts? His concern for children and his hatred of adults, the way either seemed to set off explosions of feeling in him, show that his passions came from his own childhood, more exactly from his infant experiences.

To Ray all children are people who have not received their due, who have been treated unjustly; infancy and childhood stand to him as periods of unhappiness. His daydream of starting an orphan asylum proves that he felt unloved and unwanted in some way that was important to him.

But why did Martin Luther King magnetize and become the focal point of these emotions?

Martin Luther King stirred Ray's feelings by being a figure who offered love and warmth to thousands of people. King reminded Ray in a pointedly bitter way of how he had not been taken care of. In this sense, King became, in the symbolic functions of the mind, the mother Ray had not had; King performed the functions that his mother did not.

WHAT MADE KING an even more highly charged figure was that he made up for the vacancies of Ray's father, too. King was not effeminate. He may have had the loving capacities of a mother, but he had also combined the love and strong, dependable affections of a father. In the symbolic sense, Ray's decision to murder King was a parenticide, a revenge for the withholding, unloving aspects of both his actual parents.

A truck from the Renz honor prison farm backed up to the platform on Sunday morning, April 23, 1967. Because it was Sunday, the truck was driven by a relief man. He did not notice that something was a little unusual that day. One of the boxes in which the bread was shipped was already sitting on the lip of the platform. The usual practice was to wheel the boxes out when the truck arrived. Each box held 60 loaves; they were four feet long, three feet wide and three feet deep. The truck was covered, but open at the back.

There was a reason that box was out there ahead of time. The people who had put it there wanted to make sure that it got into the load that day. It contained a special cargo, human cargo, the living body of James Earl Ray. Its presence there meant that someone had helped Ray, taken a risk in helping him, had certainly been well paid.

The truck came on schedule, Ray's box was rolled into it, and when the order for Renz was filled, it drove out through the Jeff City walls. Somewhere out there, Ray unloaded himself, his radio (and $320 in cash) and hit the road, a free man.

THE HOTEL ATLANTIC, an old, graystone building with 450 rooms, had gone badly to seed. It had once served train passengers who arrived in Chicago at the La Salle Street station.

On the afternoon of April 24, 1967, two men approached the desk of the Atlantic and registered. One was James Earl Ray and the other was his brother Jack. Before nightfall, the two were joined by Jerry, another brother. They had business to discuss.

The three of them had not been together for nearly 20 years. It was not that they had all been in jail all that time, but it was that there had never been a moment in that 20 years when all of them were out at the same time. They were genuinely glad to see each other, and they put pleasure before business. As soon as they were all settled in their rooms, they went next door to the bar of the Hotel Victoria to hang a few on, and to catch up.

As they talked in the Victoria bar, Jimmy grew tense with excitement. It was the first time he had been in a bar in seven years. The very strangeness, the noises, the pace and unregulated movements of the people in the bar, all the life around him seemed to be anarchic and chaotic after the minutely regimented life of Jeff City.

Finally, when they rose to go to bed, each of them got a girl.

"The main reason we took separate rooms," says Jerry, as if his reason were self-explanatory, "is that Jimmy had been in a long time."

The next morning the brothers got down to business.

JACK HAD ALREADY helped Jimmy to escape. When Jimmy had kited a letter out to Jack asking him to come visit in Jeff City, Jack had gone; they arranged a rendezvous and Jimmy escaped the next day. They had driven to Chicago together.

continued on page 3

That was a sacrifice on Jack's part; if he, an ex-convict, had been caught for helping another convict escape, it would have gone hard for Jack. He would have done flat time.

"What we talked about was mainly legal stuff," Jerry says.

In fact, nothing they talked about was legal. It appeared that their definition of legal was — any job where you don't have to use a pistol.

Jerry suggested that Jimmy, and perhaps all of them, do a kidnaping. They could make a lot of money quickly; they would not need to shoot anybody; the victim would probably cooperate. It seemed "legal" by their standards.

"And one of us would have to get out of the country with the money," Jimmy said. He told them that they should all three have passports. The easiest place to get one, he told them, was Canada. He had studied it in Jeff City. He mentioned that he would like to go, if he were going to be the one to leave the country, to Rhodesia.

"It began to look like getting out of the country was the biggest thing on Jimmy's mind," recalls Jerry.

Jerry had seme names for them of people he believed could be kidnaped, and for whom there would be a big reward. He cited then-Governor Otto Kerner and another man whose name was a household word in Chicago: Jack Brickhouse, a sports broadcaster for WGN-TV.

They talked about those names, and the talk was conducted in a fuzz of unreality. They never got down to it. In fact, Jimmy seemed to have something else in the back of his mind. Pornography seemed the very thing for Jimmy to go into now

THE PORNO BUSINESS looked good. But long before agreement was reached, it had begun to be apparent that Jimmy had something more on his mind. Suddenly, he said:

"I'm gonna kill that nigger King. That's something that's been on my mind. That's something I've been working on."

Well! Jimmy had not been wasting his time in Jeff City.

Actually, neither Jerry nor Jack was that much surprised. It was just like Jimmy to get an idea like that, so big, so grandiose. As far as the notion itself, they could not agree more, at least as far as hating black people, hating "liberals," Jews, but neither of them would ever have conceived of killing King. For their separate personal reasons they would not have killed King.

"That's crazy!" Jack said. "You can count me out of that deal. There ain't no money in killin' a nigger. I'm going back to St. Louis."

GOVERNOR DEFIES ORDER TO RELAX RAY'S SECURITY

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — James Earl Ray, placed in a maximum security cell at Brushy Mountain State Prison after an abortive escape attempt, will remain there despite a federal court order requiring he be treated the same as other inmates, according to Gov. Ray Blanton.

Ray and his six companions in the escape attempt were formally served warrants charging them with escape late Tuesday. They could be sentenced to an additional one to five years each if convicted.

"We are in violation of the (federal) court order now and we are going to stay in violation of it as long as I am governor unless the federal government wants him," Blanton said yesterday in an appearance on the "Good Morning America" television show.

Ray was held in solitary confinement at the prison until a federal judge on Dec. 29, 1973, acting on Ray's petition, ordered him treated the same as other prisoners.

Blanton, who has asked that the federal government take custody of Ray, said the 1973 court order increased the likelihood of an escape by Ray.

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JAMES EARL RAY—HIS FIRST ESCAPE IN 1966

Nearly a decade after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., James Earl Ray continues to haunt America. The new investigations, his escape attempt, the lingering doubts about conspiracies — all combine to keep Ray in the public's mind. Author George McMillan spent eight years studying James Earl Ray for his book "The Making of an Assassin." This is the first of five excerpts from his research.

By George McMillan

James Earl Ray's situation was this: He was in a murderous rage at Martin Luther King and had constructed for himself a political ideology that gave him a justification, a logic, a context in which to make sense of his murderous intention. What's more, he had accumulated a considerable stash of money for himself outside the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City.

Having reached an accommodation between his anger and his ideals, he could no longer bear to be locked up.

On the night of March 10, 1966, James Earl Ray tried to escape.

Ray was out of his cell 27 hours, and charges were brought against him. This meant a court case, and Ray asked for a court-appointed lawyer who immediately, at Ray's direction, asked for a mental examination. This was granted by the Jefferson City Circuit Court. On Sept. 8, 1966, Ray was transferred to the state hospital in Fulton, Mo. On Oct. 24, the Fulton staff made this report on Ray:

"HE IS ORIENTED for time, place and person. His memory is unimpaired for both recent and remote events. He is coherent, alert, relevant, and there are no hallucinations or delusions. He appeared to be somewhat tense and anxious and at times showed some mild depression but not of psychotic proportions. He has a good verbal assessment of reality but in the past he has used poor [illegible] intellectual functioning. Tests showed no evidence of a psychosis.

"DIAGNOSIS: Sociopathic Personality, Antisocial Type with anxiety and depressive features."

This medical finding on Ray was written at the time when murdering Martin Luther King was a predominant thought in Ray's mind. Thus the report raises a question with a significance beyond its and Ray's: can assassins be spotted in advance, even by people qualified to perceive and diagnose mental diseases? The simple answer is that assassins cannot be spotted in advance, not as assassins, or not unless they do something so overt as to write a threatening letter to the person they mean to kill, and by no means does every assassin do that.

See RAY, A-8.

RAY

Continued From A-1

By saying that Ray was not "psychotic," the report is only saying that Ray was not outright crazy, as the layman thinks of crazy. If he had been crazy, he would not have been capable of killing King. In saying that Ray was a "sociopathic personality," the report was saying that he was sick in his relationships with society; that described Ray exactly.

The purpose of the Fulton examination must be kept in mind. They were deciding whether Ray was capable of standing trial for the charge that would be brought against him for trying to escape. They obviously were also looking at Ray to see [illegible] Jeff City than he would in a state mental institution. Was he too unstable to live the life of a prisoner?

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THUS THEY WERE in reality faced with the very real and cruel limitations of state mental institutions. If in prisons there is no rehabilitation, in mental hospitals there is more often than not little or no therapy. Both are devoted to custodial care. It might be said with hindsight that almost any amount of money it would have taken to "cure" James Earl Ray would have been well spent.

The social chaos that resulted from King's death brought property damage in the uncounted millions of dollars. The State of Missouri could have built a new mental hospital and financed its operation for a decade on what Ray's act was to cost.

Ray's case came up for routine hearing by the Missouri State Board of Pardon and Parole. The board assigned its psychiatric consultant, Dr. Henry V. Guhlman Jr., to interview Ray. Dr. Guhlman made this report:

"Ray is an interesting and rather complicated individual. He reports that within the last year, he has had considerable difficulties from a physical point of view, involving a number of sometic complaints. . . . On certain days, he has rather severe head pains but this is only intermittent. He is now on Librium and works intermittently on a construction job. . . .

"At the present time, there is no evidence of delusions, hallucinations or paranoid ideas. He is not psychotic but severely neurotic. . . . At the present time, it is doubtful that he is in a position to be considered for parole. It is felt that he is in need of psychiatric help. He is becoming increasingly concerned with himself."

JAMES EARL RAY was returned to prison to fester. Ray never did get better. He never did calm down at Jeff City. That Librium Dr. Guhlman put him on did not help tranquilize James Earl Ray in the sixth year of his incarceration at the Missouri State Penitentiary. People around him in prison were beginning to notice the change that was taking place in Ray. Jerry Ray became aware on his visits to his brother that Jimmy was getting "nervous."

He began to talk to his brother Jack, when Jack came to visit him, about Ian Smith, about Rhodesia, about going there when he escaped. His ideas had come together, the idea of killing King, the idea of working for a new political structure in America, were one. The two ideas that had been separately forming and reforming themselves in his reveries had come together in his head.

The idea of killing King had been given new layers of meaning for Ray by the realization that by killing King he could become himself an actor in the turbulent ideological drama of his times, the drama he had heretofore only watched on the cellblock TV. He saw how King's assassination could serve a larger political purpose, how he could alter (or so he thought) the balance of political power by a singe act performed by him. And he saw at the end of the road a hero's sanctuary, if he turned out to need a sanctuary, in several places, one of which was Rhodesia.

It had all come to have an appealing harmony to Ray — Ayn Rand, Goldwater, the rise of a new American conservative movement which would be abetted by him, by what he would do himself, by his killing the man he had begun to refer to as "Big Nigger."

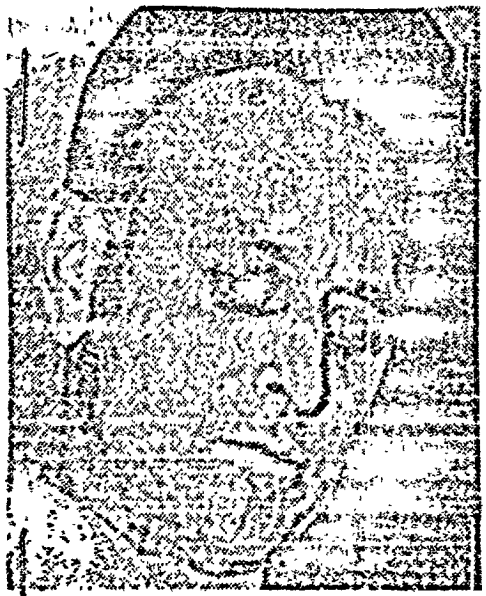
But wasn't this just another twisted dream cooked up by a stir-crazy man? Wasn't this a piece of audacity so zany it mocked itself, especially when it was conceived by a man who was locked solidly behind bars and would almost certainly be for another 14 years? Who was this little fella, this two-bit criminal — this little bungler — to sit in his cell and decide he would wipe out the life of the man thousands of other people had obviously hated? Martin Luther King had walked through the streets of the South for nearly a decade, presenting his body to his enemies since the Montgomery bus boycott of 1955, and not one person had ever fired a shot at him.

WHO WAS THIS ignominious little person to dare embody within himself the passions of hundreds, thousands of others, and set his mind to do the deed none of them had dared to do?

What set him apart?

The decision itself.

By its very nature it set James Earl Ray apart. He was going to kill Martin Luther King because King stood for something to him. It takes an exceptional person to kill a symbol. It is true that



JAMES EARL RAY
'A murderous rage

Ray felt deeply about black people, but so did others who did not kill King. What's more, King had never presented to Ray the direct threat he had to hundreds of thousands of others.

King had never come into Ray's hometown and raised up the blacks in demonstrations. Ray had no property or possessions threatened by the changes King was struggling to bring about. Besides, Ray had never met King or seen him in person, and almost all homicides are committed by people who know well, or are kin to, the people they murder. It is worth remembering that Ray had had few direct contacts with black people in his whole lifetime.

It is obvious then that the relationship that Ray saw as existing between himself and Martin Luther King was all inside Ray's head. The crime of assassination, when it is done by one person, grows out of a relationship between the assassin and the assassinee that exists solely within the mind of the assassin.

This is what makes it so difficult to comprehend the "why" of assassinations; more often than not the assassin does not seem to have any reason for his act. In fact, in the assassin's mind, the relationship between the assassin and his victim is close.

It is passionate, loaded with feeling, and those passions have found their genesis in the qualities he has attributed to the other person. You don't need to know another person to feel passionately about him or her. Love at first sight is a common experience. So is puppy love. And the qualities we attribute to the loved one are obviously in our minds for we don't really know the other person.

THE QUALITIES a man like Ray attributed to Martin Luther King are not in the reality of King but in Ray's construction of that reality. The materials for that construction grow out of Ray's emotional preparation for the perception of the other person, and James Earl Ray's life was a preparation for the act of King's assassination.

In this sense, there was a conspiracy, a conspiracy of the influences on Ray as an individual to lead him to make his decision; in this sense his decision to kill King was an over-determined act.

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Back in Cell

Ray Brought to Bay By Two Bloodhounds

By Bill Curry
Washington Post Staff Writer

PETROS, Tenn., June 13—James Earl Ray today resumed his 99-year term for the murder of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. after 55 hours of escape were quietly ended by six men and two bloodhounds who had pursued him up an inhospitable Tennsesee mountainside.

Ray's desperate dash for freedom, which began Friday night with an intricately planned seven-man climb over a prison wall here, played itself out at 2 this morning. Forty-seven minutes later, Ray—wearing his prison sweatshirt, dungarees and black track shoes with white stripes—was returned wet, muddied, handcuffed and dejected to the maximum security prison.

"I feel good," Ray was quoted as saying when dog handler Sammy Joe Chapman asked if he was all right. The capture came when the most wanted man in the United States was found lying exhausted and covered with leaves on the wet mountain slope.

From all appearances, the only assistance Ray received during his only brush with freedom since his 1968 arrest came from the two men with whom officials say he plotted the escape—cellmate Earl Hill Jr., who was arrested close by three hours earlier, and Douglas Shelton, the last remaining fugitive, who was being pursued late today in the same area.

"He didn't have anything on him that he was given on the outside," said the warden of Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, Stonney Lane.

By sheer luck, Ray was captured after officials hearing suspicious noises on both sides of Route 116 northeast of here, decided to send their only pair of dogs, Sandy and Little Red, to the east side of the road. Across the shallow but rather broad New River they went, up the west bank and still higher up the wooded mountain.

The team pursued its quarry across a logging road, back into the underbrush—so close the pursuers could hear the r prey—and into a powerline right-of-way. Then finally, in the woods beyond, there was Ray.

"It was random we took the [east] side," said Lane.

Ray, 49, was given a physical examination (normal upon an escapee's return), a shower, breakfast and a cell in the Brushy Mountain disciplinary wing. He was found to have suffered nothing more than scratches from his ordeal in these steep and rugged Cumberland Mountains.

He now faces prison disciplinary action and possible escape charges.

Ray's was the third apprehension in 24 hours, including that of Hill, who was serving two life terms

See RAY, A7, Col 1

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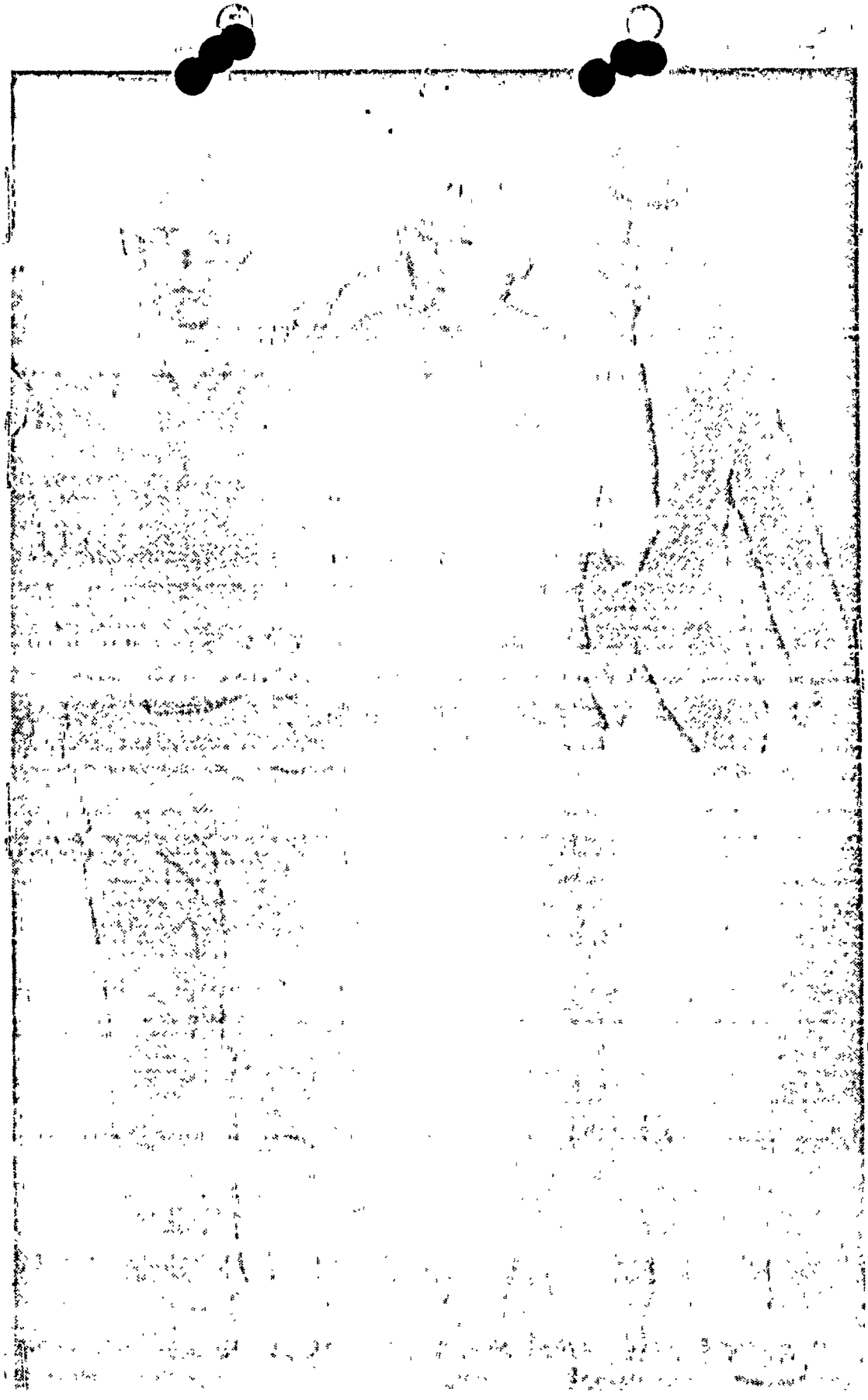


Associated Press

James Earl Ray is returned to prison by Warden Stoney Lane, left, and Deputy Herman Davis.

Wet, Dejected Ray Resumes Prison Term

RAY, From A1

for the shooting murder of a vacationing Washington, D.C., policeman, Lowell B. Bailey, and the rape and wounding of his wife.

Six hours and five minutes after Ray's arrest, the sixth of the seven fugitives, Donald Ray Caylor, 24, was taken into custody while walking along South Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge, Tenn., about 10 miles to the east.

But for millions, Ray was the only one who counted, for the escape was as rich in mystery—and speculation—as the entirety of his life since April 4, 1968, when King was gunned down on the balcony of a Memphis motel. Ray was arrested in London on June 8, 1968, under the alias of Eric Galt. He confessed that he alone killed King and was sentenced without a trial.

Ray has since disavowed the confession and claims instead that he only purchased the murder rifle for others. Several officials and black civil rights leaders had expressed fear that Ray's escape might have been arranged from outside, to bring about either his death or ultimate disappearance and thus preclude discovery of some broader conspiracy in the King killing.

At 4:15 p.m. today two representatives of the House Committee on Assassinations, which is reviewing the murders of King and President Kennedy, arrived at Brushy Mountain to meet with Warden Lane.

At a special meeting of the committee in Washington earlier today, Chief Deputy Counsel Robert Lehner said "no aid from the outside has thus far been found." Lehner, who had been sent to the prison after Ray's escape, also told the committee there was no evidence to indicate that Ray had any funds or weapons to facilitate his escape. Investigator Edward Evans said it was unlikely that Ray had had any connection with the other fugitives before they were imprisoned.

State officials here were never shaken in their belief that, despite the cooperation of other inmates to cover the escape with a phony prison yard [illegible] was never evidence of outside help.

They felt, too, that they were unfairly portrayed as mountain bunglers who somehow had facilitated the escape by not providing the additional security that many people thought was warranted for Ray. But officials responded that Brushy Mountain is the state's most secure facility, and that a federal court order prevents them from isolating Ray and requires that he be in the general prison population.

Tennessee officials' frustrations were voiced today by Gov. Ray Blanton, who told a Nashville press conference that he had asked the federal government to take over custody of Ray.

"Since 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. The governor noted Ray's previous escape efforts and said state officials were "hampered by federal court order in our efforts to secure" him.

"So I'm offering him to the President," Blanton said.

The governor said he had sent President Carter a letter and also made his request by telephone, shortly after Ray's capture, to Attorney General Griffin B. Bell.

In Washington, Federal Bureau of Prisons director Norman Carlson said Blanton's request would be taken "under consideration. We have no idea right now where we would put him."

In the end, it was Brushy Mountain corrections personnel who terminated Ray's unauthorized freedom early this morning. It was an ending as spontaneous and restrained as Friday night's beginning was planned and bold—hooking a homemade pipe ladder over the wall near an unmanned watchtower and just beyond a hot electric wire and climbing to freedom before guards, their attention diverted by the feigned disturbance, could open fire.

About 10:30 Sunday night, the prison operation center was alerted that a resident in nearby Devonia had seen three strangers. Authorities responded and soon captured Earl Hill on a slope to the west side of Route 116 some five miles from the prison. Manacled, nervously smoking a cigarette, but looking clean and dry, Hill returned to Brushy Mountain in the back seat of a white prison car, driven by Deputy Warden Herman Davis.

Warden Lane then declared the chances of taking Ray excellent, as two men had been seen running in the same area—one matching the description of Ray, one of Shelton. Security was tightened, roads blocked to all but law enforcement vehicles.

For three hours, Lane said, the dog team led by Chapman and Johnny Newberry "run him hard," still not knowing which fugitive's tracks the dogs had scented. Ray's last run for freedom was a desperate race over the wide rocky bed of the New River, across a slow ankle-deep stream on the east side of the river bed, through the coal-littered yards of the West Coal Co., where a conveyor fills rail cars with their payload.

The uphill chase followed, for three miles — variously, the woods, a powerline marked by a water-carved runoff channel and a rocky and potholed logging road, and then, high on the mountainside, hundreds of steep feet above the New River, James Earl Ray was found — having unsuccessfully tried to hide himself in the leaves.

Soon he was back at the prison, from which Blanton says no man has ever permanently escaped.

The white prison car parked short of the administration wing entrance, and Lane and Davis escorted Ray up a short incline, 20 paces on the front walk, seven concrete steps, the double glass doors. A hush fell over the assembled reporters and police, and only the grind of motor-driven cameras could be heard.

Ray's left pants leg was smeared with mud, his hair was wet and his eyes made contact with no one's. In eight seconds he was inside.

Before Gov. Blanton's letter to President Carter was released, the Tennessee Commissioner of Correction, Murray Henderson, said Ray will probably continue to be housed at Brushy Mountain. Additional security measures are under consideration—a new watchtower in the northwest corner, realignment of the 2,300-volt hot wire.

"But there is always something you haven't thought of," said Henderson.

Does that mean the jailed are smarter than the jailers?

Well, said Henderson, "they have 24 hours a day to think about it."

Warden Lane --Professional And Proud

PETROS, Tenn., June 13—It was Stonney B. Lane's misfortune to be vacationing in Corpus Christi, Tex. when the news bolted from home that James Earl Ray had escaped Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary.

For the past 15 months Stonney (pronounced Stoney) Lane has been its warden. Described as "shrewd" and likeable, the 40-year-old—proud, professional and almost boyish-looking—played a key role in the biggest manhunt in Tennessee history.

Lane was born in Kentucky and grew up in Knoxville about 25 miles southeast of this remote village (Peetros). He holds a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Tennessee, a master's in criminal justice from Tennessee Polytechnical Institute.

He started as a prison teacher—going over the fundamentals of reading, writing and arithmetic with prisoners. He subsequently served as a district and then regional director of probation and parole. The Lanes have two daughters and a son.

During the Ray Odyssey, officials often found themselves struggling to explain how the 13-foot prison wall was reached, how the escapees avoided a 2300-volt hot wire atop the wall, and how guards apparently failed to detect the escapes of any but one last minute hanger-on.

Under media questioning, Lane had to concede that his statements—that the inmates were nearby, were moving slowly at night and would have to surface soon — were observations based on his experience and nothing more concrete.

But in the final scene of the final act of this mountain drama it was Lane who proved right. All of those who were apprehended were taken not far away, and most of them at night. And it was Lane and his deputy warden, Herman Davis, who had the final pleasure of walking the newly captured Ray past a phalanx of silent and perhaps awestruck newsmen.

After all, Ray had been taken not by state troopers, not by FBI agents, but by the Brushy Mountain bloodhound team composed of his men.

So when the governor announced that the federal government now take custody of Ray, Lane's reaction was: Whatever the governor says will be done, but "there is no doubt in my mind what we're capable of taking care of anyone."

A Reprise of Some Theories That Were Offered on Escape

Before the capture early yesterday of James Earl Ray these theories were propounded in news dispatches on the circumstances of his escape:

"There was a conspiracy for him to escape jail last night. Any man under maximum security and maximum observation could not walk out of jail."

—The Rev. Jesse Jackson

"I am convinced, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that James Earl Ray has not escaped but is part of a plan."

—The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy

"This leads me to believe we may not be dealing with an escape but with an abduction. The fact that he did escape with such a large group of men leads me to think that he was taken out."

—Jack Kershaw, Ray's attorney

"Obviously this was organized on the inside, at least, and it was conspiratorial in nature. I guess the fear I have is whether there was outside participation in the matter and if so, for what purpose. One possibility is that it was an attempt to get Ray to a place where he will never be found again. Another possibility is that it was an attempt to get him out to kill him."

—Rep. Louis Stokes, Chairman of the House Assassinations Committee

"I think there are people in the world who would like to see him dead. Dead men don't talk."

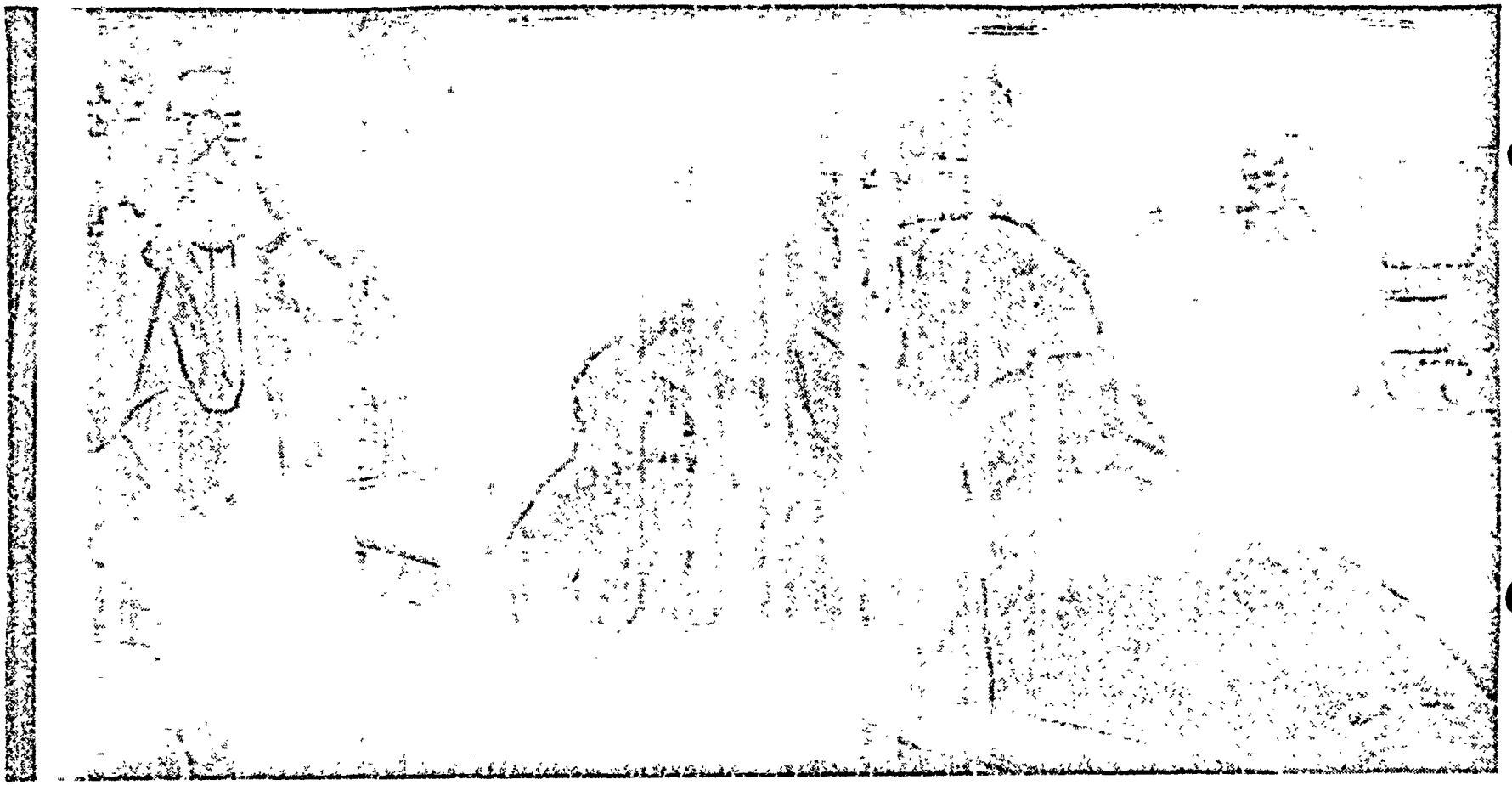
—Robert I. Livingston, former Ray attorney

"The escape was engineered to see to it that Ray is permanently lost and never heard from again, or to kill him."

—Rep. Stokes.

"If he had been captured by the FBI, 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."

—Jerry Ray, Ray's brother



Associated Press

Bloodhounds employed in search for James Earl Ray are surrounded by photo graphers as their truck drives into the state prison at Brushy Mountain, Tenn.

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Star to Publish Profile, Analysis Of James Earl Ray

It seems the puzzle of James Earl Ray just won't go away. Nearly a decade after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., Ray continues to stir controversy, arouse emotions, fan the flames of hatred.

Who is James Earl Ray? What special forces worked on him to actually commit the crime so many others had merely contemplated?

Author George McMillan spent eight years studying these and other major questions in research for the book "The Making of an Assassin."

Beginning tomorrow, The Washington Star will publish a five-part report of McMillan's analysis and conclusions. The first installment deals with the psychiatric studies which both predicted and failed to predict the extremes of violence that James Earl Ray was capable of committing.

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Hanging onto James Earl Ray

The feelings aroused by the recapture of James Earl Ray go well beyond the sense of relief that a dangerous criminal is back in custody.

His return unharmed to Tennessee's Brushy Mountain Penitentiary holds open the possibility that Ray might yet shed further light on the 1968 assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., of which Ray stands convicted.

And his thwarted escape from the maximum-security prison also spares the nation a new set of conspiracy theories about the King murder. There is mystery enough about the shooting of the beloved civil rights leader on a motel balcony in Memphis — an event that occasioned unprecedented turmoil and unbounded suspicion in black communities across the land.

The case against Ray was never fully aired in court because he pleaded guilty rather than stand trial and risk the death penalty. A convincing motivation for Ray acting alone has never been established, and the possibility that he had collaborators has never been disposed of. Ray himself has sought to recant his admission of guilt, peddling his own conspiracy story about a mastermind named "Raoul." There always has been widespread disbelief that Ray, unaided, could have planned and financed his international flight to evade capture for two months after the King murder. The lingering questions are the subject of a new congressional investigation, which also seeks additional data on the John F. Kennedy assassination of 1963.

So the legal resolution of the King assassination was already controversial and shrouded in nine years of suspicion before last Friday's prison break by Ray and five companions. The rumor mills lost no time giving that develop-

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ment a dozen conspiratorial twists. Was there official complicity to let Ray go as part of a "deal" under which other culprits are protected? Was the escape planned by persons worried that Ray, facing indefinite confinement, would end his "cover-up" of the assassination conspiracy? Was the plot really to get rid of Ray and his dangerous knowledge?

Some black leaders engaged publicly in such speculation. The Rev. Jesse Jackson predicted that Ray "will be killed by those who helped get him out of jail." The Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, Dr. King's successor as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, declared his outrage and said: "I am firmly convinced, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that James Earl Ray has not escaped but is part of a plan."

So there is at least a small measure of satisfaction that Ray's disappearance has turned out to be a short excursion in the Tennessee mountains by a convict long known as an escape artist. (Ray was a fugitive from a Missouri state prison at the time of the King assassination.) The infamous prisoner was not killed by his pursuers, nor did he disappear for good — either of which circumstance would have given the King assassination controversy another unwelcome dimension. The officers and bloodhounds that tracked down Ray were obviously having nothing to do with anyone's conspiracy.

Tennessee prison authorities have been reminded by the incident of the need for unflagging vigilance and foresight to keep Ray (and other dangerous inmates, for that matter) inside the prison walls where they belong. Ray behind bars may not do much to clear up the assassination mystery. But Ray on the lam again would have been a deplorable complication.

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James Earl Ray's Escape

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IN AN INTERVIEW on May 29, James Earl Ray said, "I'm interested in getting out. . . . They wouldn't have me in a maximum-security prison if I wasn't interested in getting out." And so he did get out—for a little more than 54 hours. His statement, just 12 days before he went over that wall in Tennessee, seems to us to explain his escape far better than all those hysterical comments over the weekend about conspiracies, outside helpers and plans to set him up so he could be killed.

The simple fact that was overlooked in the immediate reaction to news of Ray's escape is that he is a veteran inmate of prisons (more than half of his life has been spent in them) who has tried to break out again and again. He succeeded once, in Missouri a decade ago, and successfully eluded police for a year until he was arrested for the murder of Martin Luther King. Since then, he is reported to have tried twice previously to escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison. With a record like that, another escape attempt is hardly a surprise. Ray is not the kind of inmate who is likely to sit quietly while serving a 99-year sentence.

And that's what was lost sight of Friday night by those who are trying to establish that there was some vast conspiracy behind Dr. King's assassination. The idea of a prison breakout engineered to put Ray some place where he could not or would not talk—either in hiding abroad or in a grave—fits perfectly into that conspiracy theory. But like so much of the other "evidence" on which that theory rests, the facts of this escape do not support it. A fleeing convict who has helpers on the outside is not going to spend 54 hours wandering around the mountains and end up in a pile of leaves only 10 miles from where he started.

In other words, we suspect that James Earl Ray's adventures over the weekend can be written off as a routine prison break. There is no evidence to the contrary. Whether there was a breach of discipline or some bad judgment about manning the prison wall are questions for the Tennessee authorities to deal with. While the House Assassinations Committee could look into such questions, we doubt that it would accomplish much. It seems unlikely to us that the work of that committee had anything to do with the timing of Ray's dash for freedom. That was probably determined by opportunity, which is the key to most flights by prisoners who are unwilling to accept confinement for all or most of the remaining years of their lives.

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THE WASHINGTON POST A 11
Monday, June 13, 1977

King Sr. Hopes Ray Is Not Killed

KNOXVILLE, Tenn., June 12 (UPI)—The Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., preaching a sermon 40 miles from the site of a massive search for the man convicted of killing his son, said today he hopes James Earl Ray is not killed by authorities.

King appeared ruffled by a question concerning Ray to deliver a sermon at the installation of the Rev. Harold A. Middlebrook as pastor of the Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

Asked if he would pray for Ray, the 77-year-old King said: "Yes. Maybe he'll be back in prison in a day or two. I hope they don't kill him."

Ray and five other convicts at Brushy Mountain State Prison escaped Friday night. Ray had been serving a 99-year sentence for the April, 1968, slaying of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in Memphis.

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tially waiting them out."

He said that six correctional officers who grew up in this rugged terrain would make back-country searches tonight, checking the places where someone could hole up undetected.

He conceded that his belief that Ray is still within the search zone, which had earlier been confined to a 10-mile radius, was based on experience and not on any evidence or sightings of the fleeing men.

Blanton said late today that there were two possibilities on Ray's whereabouts—that he is "connected with a designed plan that could put him in Guatemala or he could still be in this area. Our best assumption is that he's still in the area."

"We may have had failures on our part and laxity—we don't know. But we will assure the country we believe we have done the utmost not only to preserve his rights but to return the inmates."

Blanton criticized a 1971 federal court order that removed Ray from almost perpetual surveillance and confinement into the general prison population. "If it hadn't been for the federal court order," he said, "it is more than likely that he'd still be here."

Lane said officials have identified at least three inmates—two who engaged in a fake fight and one who feigned an injury—to distract attention from the northwest wall of the prison where the men used a ladder made of plumbing pipe to climb to freedom.

See RAY, A11, Col. 1

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3d Escapee Caught; Ray Is Still Free

Search Broadened To 25 Mile Radius Of Tenn. Prison

By Bill Curry
Washington Post Staff Writer

PETROS, Tenn., June 12—One more of the six men who broke out of prison with James Earl Ray on Friday was apprehended today, but the 49-year-old Ray remained free.

He was thought by lawmen to be "moving slowly, moving deliberately" across these wooded mountains in 90-degree temperatures and late-afternoon thunderstorms.

Officials broadened their search area to a 25-mile radius of Brushy Mountain State Prison from which Ray, convicted killer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., escaped Friday night.

One of the six who broke out with him was shot and caught immediately, one was caught yesterday and a third, convicted armed robber Larry Edward Hacker, was found at 2:45 this morning. Prison warden Stonney Lane said Ray was thought to be with two others remaining at large, while the fourth man was believed to be fleeing alone.

Gov. Ray Blanton made available to searchers 300 National Guardsmen and "as many helicopters as are necessary" to assist in the search and flush out the escapees.

The sheriff's office in adjoining Anderson County today reported the overnight theft of a 1972 Dodge Duster and $500 worth of clothes about 25 miles from the prison. But no one could say whether the theft was related to the escapees.

"We haven't found sign one (of them) yet," Lane said at a late-afternoon press conference. "We're essentially waiting them out."

He said that six correctional officers who grew up in this rugged terrain would make back-country searches tonight, checking the places where someone could hole up undetected.

He conceded that his belief that Ray is still within the search zone, which had earlier been confined to a

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Ray's Escape Raises a Ques

By Bill Curry
Washington Post Staff Writer

PETROS, Tenn., June 12—The regular after-dinner headcount in the A and B wings of Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary had been completed about 6 p.m. Friday when the guard's voice came over the loudspeaker.

"The yard," the voice said, and, as usual, some 200 of the prison's 400 inmates, including James Earl Ray, filed into the recreation yard. By 7:30, however, the normal activity of softball, horseshoes and basketball had been broken. There was a scuffle in the basketball court. A prisoner nearby writhed seemingly in pain from an apparent injury to his leg.

Then a shotgun blast from a guard tower toward the northwest corner of the prison yard reverberated off the thick stone walls and sheer mountain slopes beyond.

James Earl Ray and six others had climbed a pipe ladder to freedom.

"How does America's most famous prisoner in that maximum security prison . . . escape so easily" asked Rep. Louis Stokes (D-Ohio), chairman of the House committee investigating the assassination of John F. Kennedy and Ray's victim, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

But for all his notoriety, all the aura of conspiracy that has attached to him, all the unanswered questions, James Earl Ray is to prison officials here essentially just another long-termer in a fortress of dangerous men.

"We have people here who are more dangerous than Ray," says the state commissioner of correction, Murray Henderson. "I think we have a man more dangerous" among those who escaped, he added in reference to Larry E. Hacker, who was recaptured hours later.

"Everybody here is under observation all the time," Henderson said. It is, after all, the state's tightest security facility. "Listen, you can't keep a man locked up and locked down [24 hours a day]. The courts won't let you."

A federal judge in 1971 ordered Ray removed from the virtually continuous confinement in which he had been kept, essentially for his own protection, and that he be placed in the general prisoner population. Ray was to be treated like a normal prisoner.

That, apparently combined with an imaginative and risky escape plan, an unmanned watchtower and widespread cooperation by other inmates, brought Ray his unauthorized freedom. Still unknown is whether that cooperation extended outside the prison walls or to the prison force.

Henderson spoke today of "distraction" and "negligence," but later revised that to say that if negligence is found disciplinary action will be taken.

Ray, for all intents and purposes, was just another prisoner. Housed in the A Wing, he worked in the prison laundry, had access to other inmates and was extended normal recreation yard privileges. He also, however, conducted media interviews here, and has been visited by members of the House Assassinations Committee.

Brushy Mountain Prison, wedged in the crevice of a valley between steep, precarious and wooded mountains, would normally look forboding, but for the dominance of the Cumberland. Yet the mountains are part of the

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security; one fourth of the north wall is the sheer sedimentary rock-faced cliff that rises above. The thick stone-block wall that forms the rest of the prison walls joins the mountain solidly, and a barbed wire carrying 2,300 volts of electricity tops it.

There is 16 to 18 inches of space between the top of the wall and the wire turns prematurely to leave part wire turns prematurely to leave part of the wall unguarded.

Six guard towers sit on the wall. All but one, no. 8, near that northwest corner, were manned Friday night. Officials say that the added-on tower (it is made of wood instead of stone block) has watchmen only when there is trouble or rumors of trouble.

So the props were in place Friday night. Why this particular Friday, when Ray was apparently nearing testimony to the House committee, is known only to those who broke out. But while the inmates tossed horseshoes, played softball and shot baskets, a group of men began assembling [illegible] ladder—a long [illegible] stem curved at the top with stubs of pipes sticking out as rungs. Prison officials theorize the pipe sections had been hidden in the recreation yard or under the inmates' clothing.

The ladder went up and was hooked over the wall, under the barbed wire. The men began climbing it. A passing kitchen worker decided to join in, and then a seventh and last man started. One hundred yards away and far beyond the closest manned watch tower came the report of a shotgun. Then more and more. One pellet hit one prisoner, Jerry W. Ward, 25, who was subsequently captured 100 yards out.

The other six were gone, into the woods, into the mountains, into the twilight. As the prison alarm system activated, a brief power failure—a matter of seconds, Henderson claimed—followed the escape, as did a telephone failure from nearby residents using their phones at the sound of the of the alarm.

Prison officials had to drive some distance to find working phones. Henderson concedes the existence of a conspiracy among so many people inside the prison walls, but he said there is no evidence of an outside one. "This is a maximum security prison," he said. "We have hard-core people here who can't get along. They live by the inmates' code, so you don't know what's going to happen."

Stokes, citing all of the coincidences, including the absence of the vacationing prison warden, wonders about an outside conspiracy. "If there was outside participation," he said, the reasons for it are obvious, and the escape would have been perpetrated for one of two reasons; either that once Ray got out he would never be heard from again or that he could have been lured out for the purpose of killing him."

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Officials Widen Search for Ray, 3 Other Convicts

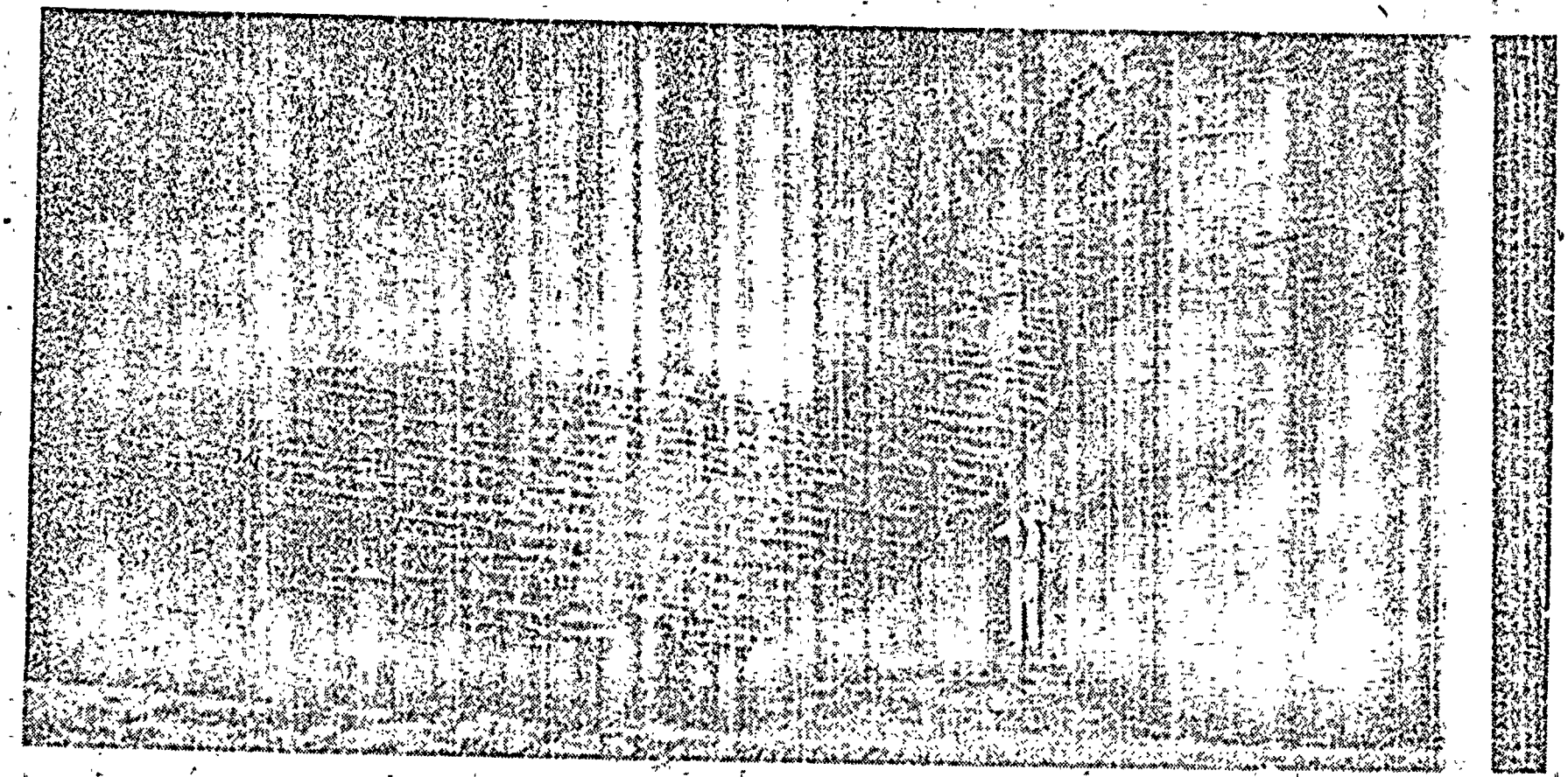
RAY, From A1

Hacker was arrested early today in a church at Beech Grove where he had taken refuge after being flushed out of a nearby stream. Hacker, 32, who is serving 28 years on conviction of robbery with a dangerous weapon and safe cracking, had worked in the prison plumbing shop. He had escaped Nov. 4 and remained free until April 27.

The three prisoners who have been reapprehended are now in the prison's "B" block, its disciplinary facility. They have been questioned, Lane said, but nothing was learned.

An internal investigation also is under way, Lane said, but no personnel action has been taken.

Officials continued to discount statements that Ray, who has disavowed his confession of King's 1968 killing and has said instead that he only bought the rifle for others, was freed by those wanting him dead or unavailable to the House Assassinations Committee. The committee has been investigating the murders of King and President Kennedy as well as officials' investigations of those murders.



Brushy Mountain's 13-foot-high northwest wall, where Ray and six others bolted for freedom in Friday's escape.

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Hill Assassinations Unit To Probe Ray's Escape

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

The chairman of the House Assassinations Committee said yesterday that it will conduct its own investigation into James Earl Ray's escape Friday night from a maximum security prison in Tennessee.

"I think we have to do it," said Chairman Louis Stokes (D-Ohio). "Here we have a famous prisoner who is the focal point of a congressional investigation and he escapes from a maximum security institution. I think we'd be subject to criticism if we just accepted whatever investigations that other authorities make."

The convicted assassin of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Ray was still at large last night after he and six other men scaled the wall at Brushy Mountain State Prison, where he had been serving a 99-year term for the murder. One of the men in the escape and was captured almost immediately, while another escapee was caught yesterday.

Two investigators for the committee, chief deputy counsel Robert Lehner and his top investigator, Edward Evans, were dispatched to Tennessee and are expected to report back to the committee for a hearing late Monday morning.

"I'm going to propose that we conduct our own investigation of all the circumstances surrounding the escape," Stokes said, adding that Lehner's initial report from the field raised some doubts in his mind about how secure the Tennessee prison really is. Although the prison wall is topped with electrified barbed wire, Stokes said he understood that the wire stops short of one corner, where prisoners might squeeze around it without too much difficulty.

Stokes said committee investigators had interviewed Ray half a dozen times this year for the inquiry that the House authorized last September into the April, 1968, murder of King.

"Obviously this was organized on the inside, at least, and it was conspiratorial in nature," Stokes said of the escape. "I guess the fear I have is whether there was outside participation in the matter also, and, if so, for what purpose. One possibility is that it was an attempt to get him to a place where he will never be found again. Another possibility is that it was an attempt to get him out to kill him. The question is whether he was a [illegible] participant or whether he was [illegible] into it."

Stokes also hinted that Ray might have some funds at his disposal. "I have information that Ray was getting a large amount of money" in connection with some of the recent publicity over the King murder; the chairman said, without elaborating. How one was

The escape quickly fueled a wide variety of speculation about its manner and motivation. It was Ray's third attempt to escape from Brushy Mountain. He made several attempts to escape from other prisons and he successfully broke out of the Missouri State Penitentiary in Jefferson City in 1967. He remained free then for more than a year before he was captured in London following King's murder.

"He's an escape artist," said George McMillan, author of a book about Ray called "The Making of an Assassin," which contends that Ray was essentially a loner who killed King for racist reasons. "Raymond Curtis [one of Ray's fellow inmates at Jefferson City] told me Ray just used to stare at the wall out there. He studied the cracks. I think this is about the eighth time he's tried to escape from various prisons."

McMillan doubted that "there's any plot at all, except with the other inmates he escaped with." He said he felt "the essential question is: If he's innocent [of King's murder], why did he try to escape? If he had a story to tell, he had the House committee to tell it to. And he's had access to the press for a decade. I think he realizes his alibis have run out."

Others disagreed. Ray's lawyer for some six years, Washington attorney James Lesar, said he felt Ray had simply given up hope in the courts and in the thought he might one day get a new trial. He started recanting almost immediately after he pleaded guilty, but it took him more than five years just to get an evidentiary hearing, Lesar said. "The U.S. Supreme Court turned him down last December."

Ray then placed his hopes in the House committee and its former counsel, Richard Sprague, Lesar said. Lesar said he warned Ray that "they'd already decided he was guilty" and that the House investigation was a [illegible] operation" in vain, but "he didn't believe me. Then two weeks ago, in a magazine interview, Sprague said Ray was part of a conspiracy instead of the dupe of a conspiracy."

"I think perhaps the warnings I'd given him had begun to sink in."

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2d Escapee Captured; Officials Broaden Search

Ray Remains at Large

By Bill Curry
and Jim Bransome
Washington Post Staff Writers

PETROS, Tenn., June 11 — James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., remained free tonight following his bold and well-organized breakout over the rock wall of a Tennessee state prison here. The early afternoon arrest of another escapee, however, led officials to believe that Ray and four other convicts at large were still nearby in this rugged mountain terrain.

While officials pressed their search for the escapees with hounds, helicopters and heavily armed state troopers, the state commissioner of correction discounted statements that the seven prisoners who bolted from the wall of the Brushy Mountain State Prison Friday night had outside help.

Ray has recanted his confession that he killed King and claimed instead that he bought the rifle for others. But the commissioner, Murray Henderson, particularly scoffed at suggestions that Ray had been freed by those who wanted to eliminate him in order to silence the key figure in what some believe is an as yet undetected conspiracy to kill King.

"We know they had help from other prisoners," Henderson said, referring to a fight and an injury other inmates feigned to distract guards during the escape.

But "we have no evidence there was any assistance from the outside, he said.

A simultaneous telephone outage this community, about 25 miles northwest of Knoxville, occurred when a prison whistle sounded the escape alarm and startled residents overloaded telephone circuits, he said.

In all, seven prisoners raced for the 13-foot-high northwest wall carved out of solid rock, near an unmanned guard tower when a ruse scuffle during an outdoor recreation period diverted attention. One prisoner was wounded in a hail of gunfire and was captured almost immediately, but Ray and the others, using a ladder fashioned from plumbing pipe, climbed over the wall, slithered under barbed wire charged with a 2,330 volt current and raced along a ravine into the heavily wooded mountains.

David Lee Powell, 27, serving a 100-year sentence on a first-degree murder conviction, was captured about 1:42 p.m. today after a police helicopter spotted him and two other escapees walking along Highway 62 near the entrance to Frozen Head State Park, about eight miles from the prison. Powell surrendered, as the prison's deputy warden, Herman Davis, but the other two dashed for cover as the helicopter touched down. It was not known if Ray was one of those who fled.

"They made better time than we would expect," Henderson said.

The FBI took over the search for Ray this morning after adding him to its "10 Most Wanted" list.

"This is the highest priority fugitive investigation we've got going," said

See RAY, A8, Col. 1

James Earl Ray in May interview insists he didn't kill King. Pa... A9.

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Ray, 4 Other Convicts Remain After Escape From Tennessee

RAY, From A1

FBI spokesman Tom Deakin. "Director (Clarence M.) Kelley has directed an all-out effort to apprehend him."

Attorney General Griffin B. Bell briefed President Carter on the escape in an 8 a.m. telephone call.

Officials said that Powell, the only black among the escapees, joined the escape from the state's most secure maximum security prison on the spur of the moment. Davis said the last breakout at Brushy Mountain was in 1971.

The facility houses 400 prisoners—300 locked up behind the walls and 100 in trusty facilities on the prison's perimeter.

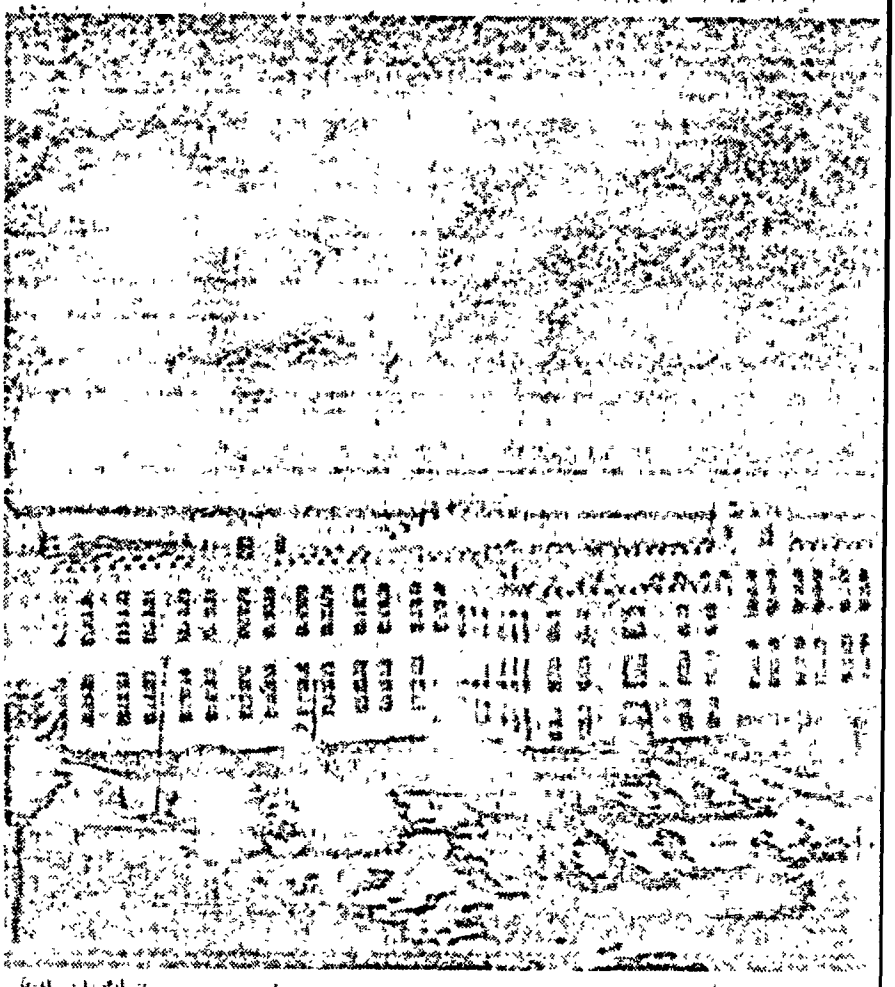
Some 250 correctional officers, state troopers and other police personnel are involved in the search, generally confined to a 10-mile radius of the prison. Earlier today, Knoxville police Capt. Bill Beck flew FBI agents with "special equipment" over the area and returned them to Knoxville for what apparently was processing of infrared film.

Brushy Mountain prison is ringed by high mountains, with some to the north reaching elevations of 2,960 feet. Dense growth of hardwood forest and the numerous, broken limestone rocks make walking the ridges arduous going. Strip miners, however, have ringed the mountains with ledges or "benches" — equivalent to roads — that run the mountaintops for miles.

Walking the benches can substantially increase a walker's pace, but at night the obscured, 100-foot dropoffs make walking or running dangerous.

While most of the mining in this area now is by stripping, there are active and abandoned deep mine shafts where it is possible to hide undetected from aerial search. The prison has an abandoned mine where convicts once worked.

The names of nearby towns speak volumes about the area's remoteness. For example, there is Charlie's Branch, Sainville, Coalville, Sunbright, Deer Lodge and Grimsley.



Aerial view of Brushy Mountain State Prison, where Ray and six other convi

Ray had been housed in the prison's A wing and had not been subjected to special security precautions. "Listen, you can't keep a man locked up and locked down," Henderson said. "The courts won't let you."

Late this afternoon, Gov. Ray Blanton said he has directed Tennessee law enforcement and correctional officers "to use all possible restraint in their efforts to capture the prisoners and to return them to custody without any loss of life." He added: "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."

Deputy warden Davis said that officials had met with representatives of the House Assassinations Committee today but said he did not know the purpose or the outcome of the meeting.

Davis acknowledged that it

time to join their pipe ladder together, hook it on the prison wall and climb slowly to freedom.

"It was the fault of someone" he said. "Any time you have an escape from a prison, it's the fault of some one."

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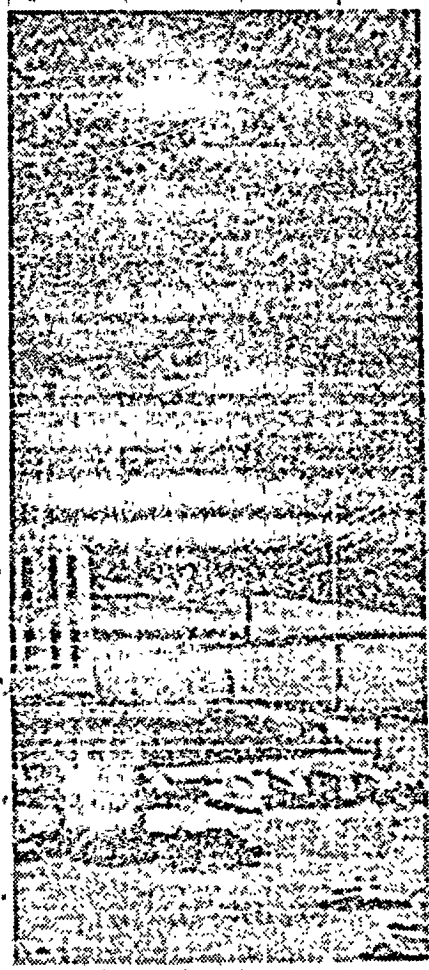
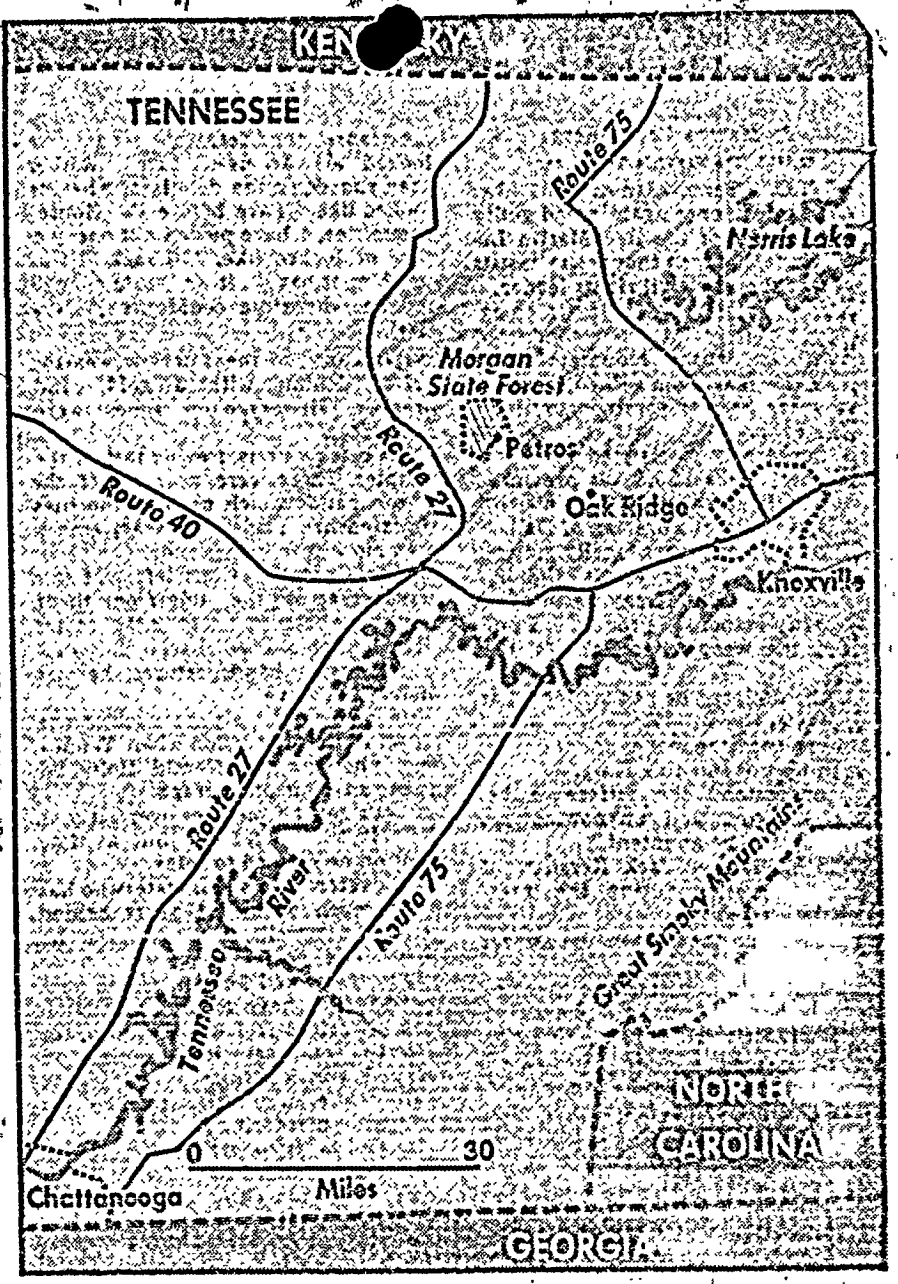
Prison



United Press International



By Bill Perkins—The Washington Post

ts went over the wall Friday night.

The prison is located a mile from the coal town of Petros, northwest of Knoxville.

tion by the warden, but said that neither Powell nor Jerry W. Ward, the convict wounded while attempting to escape, had been interrogated yet.

The escape occurred just yards from the unmanned No. 8 watchtower, a white, wooden observation post that officials say is used only when there is trouble or indications of trouble.

A guard in a watchtower perhaps 100 yards across the recreation yard fired the first of numerous shots. Officials said all roads in the area were sealed within 30 minutes of the escape.

harsh sentences due to expire in the 1990s or later, if ever.

One of those still free is Earl Hill Jr., 34. A Tennessean, he was serving two life sentences for the 1967 shooting death of a vacationing Washing-

and the wounding and rapee of Bailey's wife.

Lawmen originally believed they had Ray and his cohorts hemmed into a five-mile-square area immediately adjacent to the prison, but at midday they expanded the area.

Charles Bass of the state prison system said this was done "because the dogs appeared to have two hot trails" that took them outside the previously designated search area.

A light rain fell briefly this morning but quit before it wiped out the scents the bloodhounds were tracking.

The dingy little coal town of Petros, [illegible] from the prison and the home of the prison's work force, looked like it does any other day. Two of the town's four stores, Hunters Grocery and Gunter's Grocery, stationed within site of each other at opposite ends of the town, were open for

Jean Williams, a textile worker, said the massive manhunt in the area was "no big thing."

"There have been lots of other escapes before," she said, scoffingly, "but there wasn't this much excitement, because Ray wasn't involved. We're used to it anyway."

When the news of the escape broke, she said, "everybody loaded up their guns and got ready — no big thing."

Those still remaining at large besides Ray and Hill are:

• Larry E. Hacker, 37, serving 28 years on robbery with a deadly weapon and safecracking [illegible]

• Donald Ray Caylor, 24, serving 31 years on armed robbery, assault with intent to commit murder and jail escape convictions.

• Douglas Shelton, 32, serving 63 years on felonious assault, first degree

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UP-009
(RAY)
WASHINGTON (UPI) - THE THEORY THAT A CONSPIRACY LED TO THE SLAYING OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. NOT ONLY WAS REVIVED BUT FUELED BY THE DRAMATIC ESCAPE FROM PRISON OF HIS CONVICTED KILLER, JAMES EARL RAY.

NOW THAT RAY IS BACK IN CUSTODY, INVESTIGATORS ARE HOPEFUL RAY HIMSELF CAN PROVIDE EXPLANATIONS.

"WE WILL LOOK FORWARD TO RESUMING OUR INTERROGATIONS OF HIM," SAID WALTER FAUNTROY, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE INVESTIGATING KING'S ASSASSINATION, UPON LEARNING OF RAY'S CAPTURE EARLY TODAY.

"MY MAJOR CONCERN WAS GETTING HIM BACK INTO CUSTODY AND HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION HIM ABOUT THIS AND THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. KING. IT WAS ONLY A SECONDARY CONCERN ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT HE MAY HAVE ESCAPED AS A PART OF A CONSPIRACY. I THINK WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN NOW."

THE FULL COMMITTEE NAMED TO REINVESTIGATE THE SLAYINGS OF KING AND JOHN F. KENNEDY WAS SCHEDULED TO MEET TODAY TO THRASH OUT THE SITUATION.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN LOUIS STOKES SAID IN CLEVELAND SUNDAY - PRIOR TO RAY'S CAPTURE - THAT HE BELIEVED "THE ESCAPE WAS ENGINEERED TO SEE TO IT THAT RAY IS PERMANENTLY LOST AND NEVER HEARD FROM AGAIN, OR TO KILL HIM."

UPI 06-13 This Date 08:53 AED

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WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

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Congressional Inquiry [illegible]t
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Date 7/13/77

The following material has been reproduced for excising and review at FBIHQ by representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No. 88-76322

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(except following serials not in file on this date:

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N009
R
RAY ESCAPE-MYSTERY
BY RICHARD PYLE
BRUSHY MOUNTAIN, TENN. (AP) -- THE QUESTIONS LINGER IN THE JAMES EARL RAY ESCAPE STORY:

--HOW DID SEVEN CONVICTS GET UNDER A LIVE ELECTRIC WIRE THAT DANGLED LESS THAN A FOOT ABOVE THE TOP OF THE PRISON WALL?

--WHY DIDN'T GUARDS IN THE WALL TOWERS NOTICE THE BREAKOUT IN PROGRESS?

--AND PERHAPS THE MOST PUZZLING OF ALL, HOW WAS THE ESCAPE LADDER, A CONTRAPTION OF MORE THAN 20 PIECES OF PIPE SCREWED TOGETHER, MADE IN SECRET?

TENNESSEE GOV. RAY BLANTON'S THEORY ON THE 2,300-VOLT CABLE IS THAT THE FUGITIVES USED A NOTCH IN THE WALL TO BYPASS IT.

BLANTON SAID SUNDAY THAT INVESTIGATORS HAVE FOUND MARKS ON THE PRISON WALL WHERE IT MEETS A ROCK CLIFF THAT HELPS FORM ONE SIDE OF THE COMPOUND. THERE IS A GAP BETWEEN THE WALL AND THE CLIFF, CREATING A NOTCH THAT MAKES THE WALL LOWER AT THIS POINT AND PROVIDES MORE SPACE BENEATH THE CABLE. INVESTIGATORS THINK THE MARKS ON THE WALL CAME FROM A MAKESHIFT LADDER USED FOR THE ESCAPE, BLANTON SAID.

C. MURRAY HENDERSON, CORRECTIONS COMMISSIONER, SAID THE GAP APPARENTLY WORSENED BECAUSE SEVERE WINTER WEATHER ERODED THE AGING STONE WALL.

ANOTHER THEORY CONCERNS A POWER OUTAGE AT THE PRISON. HENDERSON ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS AN OUTAGE THE NIGHT OF THE ESCAPE, BUT HE SAID IT HAPPENED AFTER THE BREAKOUT AND LASTED ONLY MINUTES.

EARLIER, HOWEVER, DEPUTY WARDEN HERMAN DAVIS DISMISSED THE IDEA THAT THE POWER MIGHT HAVE BEEN OFF, CLAIMING THAT "IT IS ON 24 HOURS A DAY."

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THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR GUARDS FAILING TO SPOT THE BREAKOUT IS THAT OTHER PRISONERS COLLABORATED WITH THE ESCAPEES BY STAGING A FIGHT AND OTHER MINOR DISTURBANCES IN THE PRISON YARD TO DISTRACT THE GUARDS.

THE ONLY GUNFIRE CAME FROM TOWER 3, A WALL OBSERVATION POST MORE THAN 150 YARDS ACROSS THE COMPOUND. IT SLIGHTLY WOUNDED JERRY WARD, [illegible] TO MAKE IT OVER THE WALL. WARD WAS RECAPTURED ALMOST

ANOTHER GUARD POST LESS THAN 50 YARDS AWAY WAS EMPTY BECAUSE IT IS [illegible] "ONLY IN EMERGENCIES," ACCORDING TO DAVIS AND HENDERSON. [illegible] DEFINED AS "EMERGENCY."

70 JUL 8 1977

CENTRAL FILE NO 44-38587-4

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N015
R
RAY ESCAPE LEAD
BY RICHARD PYLE

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN, TENN. (AP) -- JAMES EARL RAY WAS TRACKED DOWN EARLY TODAY BY A BRACE OF BLOODHOUNDS NAMED SANDY AND LITTLE RED, ENDING A DESPERATE 54 1/2-HOUR FLIGHT FOR FREEDOM FROM LIFE IN PRISON.

AT THE END OF A THREE-HOUR, THREE-MILE RUN THROUGH A WOODED CREEK VALLEY AND UP THICKLY COVERED MOUNTAIN SLOPES, THE ASSASSIN OF CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WAS FOUND HIDING IN A PILE OF LEAVES.

A FEW HOURS AFTER RAY WAS SEIZED, POLICE ARRESTED ANOTHER OF THE SIX INMATES WHO HAD FLED WITH HIM -- LEAVING ONLY ONE FUGITIVE AT LARGE.

THE 49-YEAR-OLD RAY, DRIVEN AND EXHAUSTED, COVERED WITH MUD AND SAND, OFFERED NO RESISTANCE TO HIS CAPTORS. HIS FIRST WORDS, ACCORDING TO PRISON GUARD SAMMY JOE CHAPMAN, SANDY'S HANDLER AND THE FIRST OFFICER ON THE SCENE, WERE: "I FEEL GOOD."

CHAPMAN, 33, PETTED SANDY AFTER RETURNING WITH RAY AND SAID: "SHE'S THE PRETTIEST DOG IN THE WORLD." SANDY AND LITTLE RED ARE 14-MONTH-OLD SISTERS.

THE LOCATION OF RAY'S RECAPTURE WAS ONLY FIVE MILES FROM THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON WHERE HE AND THE SIX OTHERS ESCAPED OVER A WALL WITH A MAKESHIFT PIPE LADDER ON FRIDAY EVENING.

THE SIXTH FUGITIVE, DONALD RAY CAYLOR, 24, WAS SPOTTED THIS MORNING BY A PATROLMAN WALKING ALONG A STREET IN OAK RIDGE, 20 MILES EAST OF THE PRISON. OFFICERS SAID CAYLOR HAD NO IDENTIFICATION ON HIM AND THE PATROLMAN BROUGHT HIM TO POLICE HEADQUARTERS WHERE FBI AGENTS AND PRISON GUARDS IDENTIFIED HIM.

JOEL PLUMMER, STATE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMISSIONER, SAID AUTHORITIES WERE DELIGHTED WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE MANHUNT.

CAYLOR'S RETURN TO THE PRISON LEFT ONLY DOUGLAS SHELTON, 32, STILL FREE.

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Andy Young Remembers . . . and Wonders About the Escape

Jimmy Breslin

NEW YORK — It does not go away. On the wall of United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young's office, hanging like a station of the cross, is a framed poster of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Underneath, in large letters, are parts of the speech King delivered in Memphis on the night before he was killed in 1968, one of the years that lives in the soul.

". . . I don't know what will happen now. We have got difficult days ahead, but it doesn't matter with me because I've been to the mountaintop. Like anybody else I'd like to live a long life. But I'm not concerned with that. I just want to do God's will and He has allowed me to go up to the mountaintop. I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. I am happy tonight that I am not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. My eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

Andy Young sat on a couch under the poster. "Whenever Martin was depressed and a little afraid about getting killed, he gave that speech," Young was saying. Young was in a blue suit and striped tie. When I saw him in Memphis the morning after King was killed, he was wearing Levis and he was young but he was old.

YOU READ THE WORDS on the poster again and now you could smell the smoke and hear the sounds of strained voices and breaking glasses and on the walkway outside room 306 of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, the first light of dawn came through the moist darkness to reveal, at your feet, the dried, blackened blood of Martin [illegible] where he stood at this spot on the night before.

"I can tell you this," Andy Young was saying. "The FBI man in charge

BRESLIN

Continued From A-1

documentary on the CIA and Cuba. In the midst of the show came the report that convict James Earl Ray had escaped from the Brushy Mountain state prison in Tennessee. And now, yesterday morning, Young had in his hands a speech about the world that he was to give to Michigan State University, but all there really was to talk about was James Earl Ray.

"You have to wonder how he got away for so long after Martin was killed," Andy was saying. "Ray isn't smart. He's a dope. The only reason he ever got caught was because whoever they were, they'd given him two passports. Ray was at the airport in London and he gets asked for his passport and he gives them one and then he says, 'Oh, no, I gave you the wrong one,' and he takes the passport back and hands the other passport to the man. Bingo. That's how he got caught. That's how smart he is.

"Forging a passport takes real skills. Do you know how to do it? Do you know where to go to get a forged passport? I don't. How is some dumb guy out of jail going to know? Unless he has plenty of help."

"Now that he's out, do you think they'll kill him to get rid of him?" I asked.

"YOU DON'T KNOW what to think," Young said. "But given the experience of the past you can't help but be cynical. I figure there are forces out there working against us that we don't have any understanding of. I've felt that way for a long time, but you just go ahead and do [illegible]."

"Who do you think they are?" I asked him.

ORIGINAL FILED IN 44-38861-A

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The New York Times ____
The Wall Street Journal ____
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"I don't know," he said. "I don't know what'll come out of this now. You begin to feel tired. People still are investigating the assassinations of Abraham Lincoln and Huey Long. I don't know if we'll ever find out about Ray. I have no ideas. I just know that people are out there. The thing I always have to focus on, you have to continue in spite of everything. That's hard enough to do."

His voice was dead. For a couple of years now, Andy Young has been telling us that the South is different now, that in order to remain sane, people like Jimmy Carter had to struggle with race all their lives and now that they have won, they should lead a country. And then one news bulletin on Friday night brought everything back to the South as it was, the South of the late '50s, and the '60s. James Earl Ray was free and you suspected that the ones chasing him are the ones who let him go, and now you thought of them all in the South.

Bull Connor in Birmingham and Jim Clark in Selma and a kid named Collie Leroy Wilkins aiming his pistol out the car window and one of them with him saying, "Get yours, little baby brother," and Wilkins firing at a woman in a car alongside, a woman named Viola Liuzzo who died on the highway to Montgomery. And James Earl Ray shooting from a flophouse window and killing Martin Luther King with one shot and the police screaming over their radios about a white car while Ray slipped out of town and went to Canada and then Mexico and then Europe. Why did he do it? How did he travel around so much? Who paid him? The questions come up again as they stage another manhunt for James Earl Ray, who does not leave our lives.

OF COURSE, TODAY you must think again about the others. Lee Harvey Oswald. His checked sports shirt was dark with sweat when the two detectives in cowboy hats brought him out into the packed hallway of the Dallas police headquarters. They said they were taking him to the men's room, but I always thought they brought Oswald into the hall so they could get their faces on television.

"They'll get this guy killed," somebody in the hallway said that night, Nov. 22, 1963.

Two days later they walked Oswald down the ramp to a car in the basement of the headquarters. Walked Oswald in the lights of the television cameras and towards a crowd and out of the crowd came Jack Ruby. He had parked his car across the street from the police station, put all his identification into the trunk and locked it, then strolled across the street with a gun in his pocket and pushed his way to the front of the crowd and killed Lee Harvey Oswald. The country never knew Oswald, and Ruby died a mystery. On Friday on the television, here was this story about Kennedy trying to have Castro assassinated. We have the grave to prove that maybe Castro decided assassination is a two-way street.

Then there was Sirhan Sirhan. A little guy in a blue polo shirt on his back on a steam table in the kitchen. Roosevelt Grier, the football player, sat on him. Still, Sirhan's eyes rolled and his legs thrashed. He was trying to get away. On the kitchen floor Bobby Kennedy had one eye open and he stared at his last of the world.

Sirhan was nothing, everybody decided. A lone man committing a deranged act. Only people trying to earn with sensationalism disagreed.

But now yesterday as the name James Earl Ray dominated you, so too, did you wonder again, for the first time in years, about Sirhan Sirhan.

And Arthur Bremer. Always Arthur Bremer. Arthur Bremer in the crowd saying, "Hey, George, hey, George." Wallace had his hands out when Bremer shot him in the stomach. In those days the only way to beat Wallace was with a gun, which is what they did. And hours after the shooting, Colson of the White House had somebody rifling Bremer's apartment in Milwaukee.

YOU WANT TO BELIEVE that the world runs by stupidity and not by conspiracy. But yesterday brought the other side up, all the fear and suspicion and visions of some black hell that runs a part of America, and all you knew for sure, while the authorities searched the forests for James Earl Ray, is that E. Howard Hunt's wife, who knew, was on a plane to Chicago that was blown up in the air by a bomb on Dec. 8, 1972.

"What are you going to talk about in your speech today?" I asked Andy Young yesterday morning.

"The idealism in this country that enabled us to get a major leadership role in the world isn't apparent anymore," he said.

Young flew off to Michigan. He would say the speech, but the speech would not be on his mind.

He would be wondering about James Earl Ray, who killed Martin Luther King, for a reason we still don't know, and who all through yesterday as he tried to run for freedom, reminded us of the devil that lives in this country which is against it.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 7/6/77

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

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
UFAC
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Re Memphis teletype to Bureau and Knoxville dated 6/28/77, 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 [redacted] Office of the Attorney General, U.S. Department 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, M.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.

EX-114

ENCLOSURE

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2 - Bureau (Enc. 1)
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United States District Court

FOR THE

Middle Dist of Tenn

CIVIL ACTION FILE NO. 73292
VAC V

James Earl Ray

Plaintiff

v.

SUMMONS

The Hon. Ray Blanton, Gov. of Tenn.
" " Brooks McLemore Atty Gen of Tenn.
" " C. Murray Henderson, Com. of Corrections of Tenn.
" " Stanley Lane Insider, Brushy Mt Prison of Tenn.

Defendant

To the above named Defendant :

You are hereby summoned and required to serve upon

[redacted]

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plaintiff's attorney , whose address

[redacted]

Nashville Tenn 37204

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 [redacted]

Clerk of Court.

Rosalyn W. Morgan
Deputy Clerk.

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

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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. 77-3292 NA-C

COMPLAINT

The jurisdiction of this Court is invoked pursuant to the provisions of Title 28 United States Code # 2201, this being a suit wherin 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 or the statute or usage of state, of rights, privileges and immunities secured by the

above na[redacted]endments to the Const[redacted] 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 here with 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 Constitional 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 consulations 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-conspiriators" 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.

[redacted] b6 b7C b7E

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] b6 b7C

[redacted] SOLICITOR FOR PLAINTIFF

I certify that a copy of this Complaint has been delivered to the Attorney General of the State of Tennessee.

[redacted]

FIAT

TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT:

Issue the Temporary Restraining Order as prayed for herein.

[redacted]

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

RAY)
)
VS.)
)
BLANTON,) NO._____
)
ET AL)

AFFIDAVIT

Comes the affiant [redacted] and makes oath b6 b7C 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]

Sworn and subscribed before me_____, a Notary Public, this _____day of June, 1977, County of Davidson, State of Tennessee.

My commission expires_____.

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

Total Deleted Page(s) = 12
Page 13 ~ Duplicate;
Page 14 ~ Duplicate;
Page 15 ~ Duplicate;
Page 17 ~ Referral/Direct - EOUSA;
Page 20 ~ Referral/Direct - EOUSA;
Page 23 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 24 ~ Referral/Direct;
Page 37 ~ Duplicate;
Page 39 ~ Duplicate;
Page 45 ~ Duplicate;
Page 46 ~ Duplicate;
Page 47 ~ Duplicate;

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X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

OPTIONAL FORM NO.
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

b6
b7C

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: June 23, 1977

FROM SAC, BALTIMORE (88-13890) RUC

Q CR ltr tel 6/13/77

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka-FUGITIVE;
TEN MOST WANTED
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC
OO: KNOXVILLE

9

b6
b7C

Re Wanted Flyer 500.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Knoxville are two copies each of ten photographs of Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee. Also enclosed for Knoxville are the original negative of instant photographs.

Per authorization of SAC, Knoxville, photographs of the Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, were taken by SA [redacted] in a Bureau aircraft on June 12, 1977. These photographs are being submitted to the Bureau and Knoxville for assistance in compiling a major case write-up and to provide planning material for future actions at the prison facility.

0

b6
b7C

It is requested that one set of photographs designated for [redacted] be made availa[redacted]elective Operations Un[redacted]Attention: Burea[redacted] Operations.

6

EX-114

REC 12 88-16222-84

0 ENCLOSURE

ENC. BEHIND FILE

4 JUN 28 1977

2-Bureau (Enc. 20)
2-Knoxville (88-7223) (Enc. 20)
1-Baltimore
[redacted]
(5)

b6
b7C

FUGITIVE IND [redacted]

FUG

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

5010-106

70 JUL 18 1977

234

The RIGHT to be RIGHT Committee

[redacted] b6 b7C
Research Director

Member:
American Mensa Ltd.
American Civil Liberties Union

June 11th, 1977

[redacted]

OUTSIDE SOURCE

Mr. Clarence M. Kelley
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Constitution Avenue, N.W.
between 9th and 10th Streets N.W.
Washington, D.C.

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted]

Dear Mr. Kelley

We are shocked and dismayed at the involvement of the FBI in the recent escape of James Earl Ray. The State and Local Authorities did not even request assistance of the FBI. The dreaded FBI moved in on its own. This is the beginning of a super elite totalitarian police force right on American soil.

Our Committee intends to fight the FBI in this matter with every legal means at out disposal. This is a cheap attempt of the FBI to gain glory and honors at the expense of the State and Local Police.

If a left winger had escaped under similar circumstances nothing would have been done by the Bureau. The "Left" has you people "house broken" and catering to minority "pressure" groups like the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in particular. This Committee is going all out to expose the OGPU like conduct of the Bureau in this case. This is straight out of Stalin's Russia!

In the past members of this Committee have been harrassed by the FBI and we are looking for an excuse to jump on the FBI in retaliation! You and your "Special Agents" through sheer stupidity have jumped into the arena. We gladiators of "The Right To Be Right Committee" are only too glad to take you on. We look forward in the near future to the use of horrible and feared "investigative techniques" to stop us. All members of our Committee are private investigators and are only too happy to match wits with you.

Sincerely

[redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

EXP. PROC. JUN 13 1977
6/27/77 #53

EX-114 REC 12 DE-6 88-16222-85 4 JUN 28 1977

Enclosure

[redacted]

[redacted] XEROX

memo to [redacted] 6-17-77 Rick

JUL 12 1977

FBI - ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

[redacted]

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

JUN 14 2 58 PM '77

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

RECEIVED

JUN 13 4 52 PM '77

RECEIVED
CRIMINAL
INVESTIGATIVE
FRONT OFFICE

JUN 14 3 37 PM 1977

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

JUN 14 4 35 PM '77

REC'D-CRIMINAL SEC

FBI/DOJ

- Director's Sec'y
- Telephone Rm.
- Public Affs. Off.
- Training
- Tech. Servs.
- Spec. Inv.
- Rec. Mgnt.
- Plan. & Insp.
- Legal Coun.
- Laboratory
- Intell.
- Ident.
- Fin. & [illegible]
- Crim. In[illegible]
- Adm. Ser[illegible]

Asst. Dir.:

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

b6
b7C

Memorandum to Mr. Moore
Re: James Earl Ray

b6
b7C

DETAILS: The Bureau has received a letter dated 6/11/77 (attached) from the "Right to be Right Committee," Alexandria, Virginia, signed by its research director, [redacted] The letter in essence reports that [redacted] and his committee were opposed to the FBI's entry into the James Earl Ray fugitive manhunt. He alleges members of his committee have in the past been harrassed by the Bureau and his group is ...."looking for an excuse to jump on the FBI in retaliation."

In view of the content and tone of this letter, Criminal Investigative Division believes that it does not warrant any acknowledgement.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Moore

DATE: 6/17/77

FROM : B. H. Cooke

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
ET AL
UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY

1 - Mr. Moore
1 -
1 -
1 - Mr. Cooke
1 -
1 -

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dirs.
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

b6
b7C

PURPOSE: To advise of receipt of letter from [redacted] criticizing the FBI for entering fugitive manhunt to locate captioned subject.

RECOMMENDATION:

That correspondent's letter not be acknowledged.

APPROVED:

Director
Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.

EX-114

REC 12 88-16722-86

JUN 28 1977

Enclosure

-7-

CONTINUED - OVER

FUGITIVE IND

XEROX

JUL 12 1977

Bureau of Engraving and Printing
U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI/DOJ

SAC, Alexandria

6/22/77

Director, FBI

(Correspondent)

Enclosed herewith for Alexandria is one copy of 6/11/77 letter from captioned individual criticizing the Bureau for entering the fugitive manhunt to locate James Earl Ray who was recently taken into custody after escaping from the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary, Petros, Tennessee.

For your information, correspondence is not being acknowledged. A copy of his communication bei forwarded your office for information purposes.

Enclosure

MAILED 3
JUN 23 1977
FBI

NOTE: The Bureau has received a letter dated 6/11/77 (attached) from "The Right to Be Right Committee," Alexandria, Virginia, signed by its Research Director, The letter in essence reports that and his committee were opposed to the FBI's entry in the James Earl Ray fugitive manhunt. He alleges members of his committee have in the past been harrassed by the Bureau and his group is ... "looking for an excuse to jump on the FBI in retaliation". Bureau records reveal is the subject of Bufile 100-441238 (Extremist Matters - NSWPP; WPA). Latest information in file reveals correspondent member of White Party of America and employed as printer, Merkle Press, WDC. Considerable correspondence in file received from regarding FOIPA requests. Complaint of re alleged harrassment has no merit. Bureau's interests would be best served by not acknowledging recent letter.

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-441238

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Tech. Inv.
Spec. Inv.
Off.

EX-114 REC 12 88-76222-87
XEROX
JUN 28 1977

FBI/DOJ

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

[redacted]

b6
b7C

DATE: 6-29-77

[redacted]

JAMES EARL RAY aka

The attached WANTED NOTICE has been received in the Records Branch, appropriately initialed, and indicated for file. By use of instant transmittal memorandum, all necessary recording and indexing will be accomplished. It is to be noted this form is for internal use only within the Records Branch, principally by the Routing Unit where bulky material not accompanied by memorandum is usually received.

The enclosure, if bulky and not usually filed with other papers in file, may be detached but this action should be clearly noted under the word "Enclosure."

Enc.

88-76222-

NOT RECORDED
20 JUN 29 1977

ENCLOSURE "ENCLOSURE ATTACHED"

[redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

5 5 JUL 8 1977

FBI/DOJ

(Rev. 12-29-76)

MESSAGE RELAY VIA TELETYPE

Date 6/12/77

PRECEDENCE: ☒ IMMEDIATE ☐ PRIORITY ☐ ROUTINE

CLASSIFICATION: ☐ TOP SECRET ☐ SECRET ☐ CONFIDENTIAL ☒ UNCLASSIFIED

FIELD AND LEGAT MESSAGES ONLY ☐ CLEAR ☒ EFTO

FM: DIRECTOR

TO: ALL Legats

[redacted] b6 b7C

☐ ey General
☒ Deputy Attorney General
☐ Attn: Analysis and Evaluation Unit
☐ Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Div.
☒ Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Div.
☐ Attn: Internal Security Section
☒ Attn: General Crimes Section
☐ Immigration and Naturalization Service
☐ U. S. Marshal's Service
☐ U. S. Secret Service (PID)
☐ [redacted]
☐ Secretary of State
☐ Department of Treasury
☐ Attn: U. S. Customs
☐ Department of Treasury
☐ Attn: Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco & Firearms

☐ Drug Enforcement Administration
☐ Energy Research and Development Administration
☐ U. S. Postal Service
☐ National Aeronautics & Space Adm.
☐ Department of Transportation
Attn: Director of Security
☐ Federal Aviation Administration
☐ Department of the Air Force (AFOSI)
☐ Department of the Army
☐ Naval Investigative Service
☐ [redacted]
☐ Commandant, U. S. Coast Guard
☐ Director, Defense Intelligence Agency

☒ The President
☒ White House Situation Room
☐ Attn:
☐ The Vice President
☐ Attn:
☐
☐

[redacted] b3 b6 b7C b7E

SI-115

REC-36 88-76221-88

2-7 JUN 28 1977

(SUBJECT (TEXT BEGINS NEXT PAGE):

[redacted] aka; TN

JAMES EARL RAY, aka, FUGITIVE
ET AL
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE

Foreign Liaison Unit [redacted] b6 b7C
☐ Route through for review
☐ Cleared telephonically
with [redacted]

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN 76-57765-

Assoc. Dir. [redacted]
Dep. AD Adm. [redacted]
Dep. AD Inv. [redacted]
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv. [redacted]
Ext. Affairs [redacted]
Fin. & Pers. [redacted]
Gen. Inv. [redacted]
Ident. [redacted]
Intell. [redacted]
Legal Coun. [redacted]
Plan. & Insp. [redacted]
Rec. Mgt. [redacted]
S. & T. Serv. [redacted]
Spec. Inv. [redacted]
Training [redacted]
Telephone Rm. [redacted]
Director's Sec'y [redacted]

ORIGINATOR [redacted] RM 5027 EXT 2805

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JUL 20 1977

JUN 20 1977

[redacted] 1977

[redacted]

[redacted]

TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☒

FBI/DOJ

Best Available Copy

[redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] APPREHENDED ABOUT

2 AM, JUNE 12, 1977, BY ~~SURVAS~~ FBI AGENTS AND DEPUTIES ANDERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE NEAR BEACH GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH, HIGHWAY 116, ANDERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE APPROXIMATELY 4 MILES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUING TO LOCATE RAY and other ESCAPEES.

NOTE FOR ALL LEGATS ONLY

DISCONTINUE ALL INVESTIGATION TO LOCATE HACKER

ENCLOSURE

88—76222

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 8/11/77

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE (88-7223) -C-

SUBJECT: [redacted] JAMES EARL RAY, aka; ET AL
UFAC - ESCAPE;
CONSPIRACY
OO: Knoxville

b6
b7C

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau and WFO is one copy each of three letters.

As can be seen from enclosures, [redacted] Inmate [redacted], Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, had written a letter to [redacted] defense attorney for [redacted] who presently is on trial in Washington, D. C., for murder, kidnapping, and related offenses arising out of the armed takeover of three buildings in the District of Columbia in March, 1977. The letter from [redacted] indicates that in return for leniency for [redacted] and a transfer from Brushy Mountain State Prison for [redacted] he would furnish information pertinent to the escape of JAMES EARL RAY.

b6
b7C

Since Federal process has been dismissed in the JAMES EARL RAY case, Knoxville believes that no further action is necessary and is, therefore, considering this matter closed. This information is being provided to the Bureau and WFO for information should inquiries regarding this matter be made at a later date.

ENCLOSURE

ST 104

V-14 DE-44 REC-76 88-76222-89

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 3)
2 - WFO (Enc. 3)
1 - Knoxville
[redacted]
(5)

b6
b7C

ST AUG 15 1977

FUGITIVE [redacted]

[redacted]

AUG 25 1977

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

5010-110

Bismuck. N. [redacted] b6 b7C

Above [redacted]
Brushy Mt. Prison
Petros, Tn. 37845

25 Jumada 2, 1394
June 12, 1974

Hon. Harry T. Alexander
Attorney at Law
1100 - 6th Street N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Judge Alexander:

Please approach the U.S. Attorney in your court and advise him that I witnessed 99% of the escape incident transpiring here on June 10, 1974; and, that the official reports are garbage. Thus, in exchange for leniency for [redacted] and the faithful, and transfer from this prison, I will give him the proper perspective. b6 b7C

88-76222-89

ENCLOSURE

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Intell.
Laboratory
Legal Coun.
Plan. & Insp.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Pu
Tel
Dir

b6
b7C

TO : Clarence M. Kelley
Director, FBI

DATE: August 12, 1977

FROM : Griffin B. Bell
Attorney General

SUBJECT:

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

I attach a letter from Chris Dodd, a fine young Member of Congress, who expresses deep distress that his remark regarding the Bureau have been misinterpreted by some. This happened on the occasion of James Earl Ray's escape from the state prison.

I have assured Congressman Dodd that no harm was done and that we genuinely appreciate his letter. I spoke to him recently and told him that I wanted to send this letter to you, and he was quite agreeable.

Attachment

Griffin B. Bell

EXP. PROC.
AUG 15 1977
9/9/77
#33

EX-131

REC-34 88-76222 90

Ack to Dodd 8/[illegible]/77

SEP 13 1977

b6
b7C

2 ENC

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

August 12, 1977

Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Daar Congressman Dodd:

This will thank yau for your letter of June 30, 1977. You will note that I have forwarded it to Director Kelley of the FBI pursuant to our conversation some two weeks ago.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,

Griffin B. Bell

GBB/br

ENCLOSURE 88-76222-90

August 25, 1977

Honorable Christopher J. Dodd
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

16

Dear Congressman Dodd:

The Attorney General has sent me a copy of your letter to him regarding your remarks following the escape of James Earl Ray and how they may well have been misinterpreted. I certainly do not feel that you intended to convey anything other than a hope that nothing would happen to Mr. Ray and did not infer this would indicate your fear that we would be a party to an attack on Mr. Ray's life. We have great respect for you and particularly your understanding of the role we play in law enforcement and our efforts to do it in the proper manner.

Thank you for having taken the time to explain, but really there was no misunderstanding created.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Clarence Kelley

Clarence M. Kelley
Director

XEROX
SEP 16 1977

REC-34 88-76222-91

1 -

EX-131

SEP 13 1977

CMK
(3)

Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
Dep. AD Inv.
Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
Fin. & Pers.
Ident.
Rec. Mgmt.
Spec. Inv.
Tech. Servs.
Training
Public Affs. Off.
Telephone Rm.
Director's Sec'y

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 9:00 AM
DATE 8-26-77
BY

TELETYPE UNIT

FBI/DOJ

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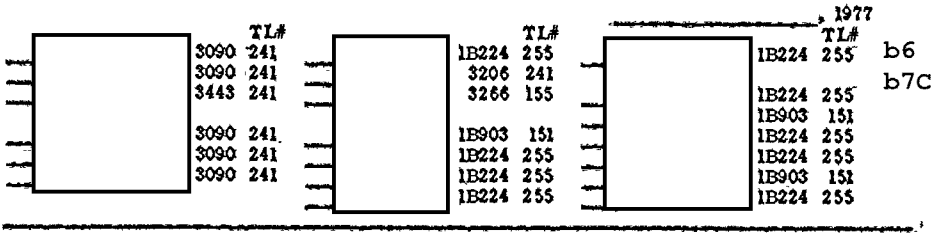
b6
b7C

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

(5/26/77)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
SPECIAL PROJECTS SECTION
FBI LABORATORY DIVISION



b6
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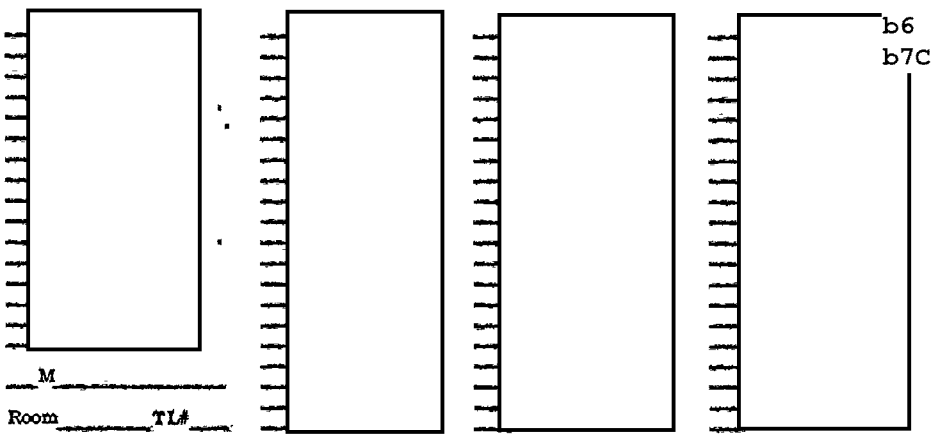

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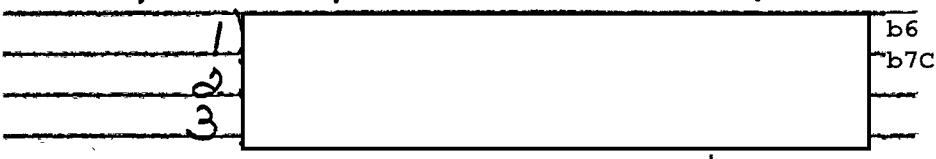
We called 3 men in To process the films from Photo Processing Unit



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ecial Projects Section
oom 1B224, Ext. 4220, TL#255

		TL#			TL#		
___	Space Management Unit	1B089 253	___	Photographic Processing Center	1B903 151	___	Initial for Approval
___	Data Processing Section	1344 153	___	Printing, Warehousing & Supply	1B973 151	___	Make Copies (No.)
___	Corres. Rev. Unit	6658 215	___	Classifying	4356 112	___	Return (By)
___	LFPS	10955 324	___	Records Section		___	See Me
___	Word Processing Center - Attn:	3431 241	___	Record & Return		___	Call Me
___	Mail Room	1B327 152	___	Recommendation/Comment		___	Necessary Action
___	Record Registry Number & Return		___	See Remarks on Reverse		___	Per Inquiry
						___	Information
						___	Coordinate

FBI/DOJ

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

RE: JAMES EARL RAY, aka; ET AL;
UFAC-ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY
OO: KNOXVILLE

Below is a list of the employees in the Administrative Services Division who were involved in the above-captioned case:

[redacted]

b6
b7C

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: 7/28/77

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

AIRTEL _____
(Precedence)

b6
b7C

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
ATTN: FUGITIVE UNIT

FROM [redacted] KNOXVILLE (67-0A-C)

RE : JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
ET AL
UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY
OO: Knoxville

1119

ReBuairtel 7/21/77.

Copies of refairtel, together with enclosure, have been furnished to offices from which personnel assisted in manhunt in captioned case. Set forth below is listing of personnel files in which copies of the Attorney General's letter should be included:

b6
b7C

Alexandria Office:
Baltimore Office:
Louisville Office:

[redacted]

[redacted]

Memphis Office:

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Copy of letter sent to each personnel file of employee involved from various field offices.

b6
b7C

(2) Bureau
1 - Knoxville
[redacted] (3)

REC-94 88-77622-92

10-4
AUG 1 1977

Approved: _____ Se
Special Agent in Charge

56 OCT 28 1977

Philadelphia Office: [redacted] b6 b7C
Atlanta Office: [redacted]

WFO: [redacted]
Knoxville Office: [redacted]

ASAC [redacted] (now at FBIHQ) b6 b7C
Sup. [redacted]
Sup. [redacted]
SA [redacted] b6 b7C
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KX 67-0A-C

Knoxville Office (Cont'd.):

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[redacted] b6 b7C

SAC HAROLD C. SWANSON

FBI HQ

[redacted]

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[redacted]

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Clarence M. Kelly
Director, FBI

FROM : Griffin B. Bell
Attorney General

SUBJECT:

June 15, 1977

Asst. Dir.:
Adm. Serv.
Crim. Inv.
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Intell.
Labo.
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This note will serve to thank you and your people assigned to the James Earl Ray case for a job well done. The President expressed his appreciation at the Cabinet meeting on Monday, and I hope that you will pass the word along.

Griffin B. Bell

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EXP-PROC

REC-46

EX-108

88-16822-93

24 OCT 21 1977

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5010-110

5 NOV 1 1977

42

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

Reproduction of Materia[illegible]orm
Congressional Inquiry U[illegible]t
6-

Date 8/15/77

The following material has been reproduced for excising and review at FBIHQ by representatives of the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No. 88-76222

Section 1

Serials 1 through 88

(except following serials not in file on this date:

[illegible]

[illegible]

Enclosure Behind File or Bulky Enclosure:

No. Copies 1 By [redacted]

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RETAIN THIS FORM AS TOP SERIAL

Airtel

1 - [redacted] b6
1 - Mr. Adams b7C
1 - [redacted]
1 - Each Assistant Director
7/21/77
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted]

To: SAC, Knoxville (88-7223) - Enc.

From: Director, FBI

PERSONAL ATTENTION
1 - [redacted]
1 - [redacted] n 1B 875
1 - [redacted] Rm 5121
1 - [redacted], Rm 6143

[redacted]

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
ET AL;
UFAC-ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY
OO: Knoxville

Enclosed herewith for Knoxville are two copies of 6/15/77 letter to the Director from the Attorney General favorably commenting on the noteworthy efforts of Bureau personnel in connection with the recent escape and apprehension of James Earl Ray and five other subjects.

The enclosed letter should be included in the field personnel files of deserving individuals who participated in and supported the massive manhunt conducted to locate the six escapees. Of course, in addition to your own personnel, those from other divisions who assisted your effort should also be recognized. Records should be available in your office as to the identities of these individuals. Accordingly, furnish copies of this communication together with its enclosure to the appropriate offices. Thereafter, submit an airtel using the above caption, Attention: Fugitive Unit and include a complete listing of those personnel files in which copies of the Attorney General's letter should be included.

[redacted] b6 b7C

MAILED 4
JUL 25 1977
FBI

EX-108 REC-46 88-7223-94
24 OCT 21 1977

NOTE: Bureau in receipt of commendatory letter from the Attorney General expressing his appreciation and that of the President for a job well done in connection with the escape and apprehension of James Earl Ray and five others (See attached). Judge Bell requests that the Director "pass the word along". Since several divisions at FBIHQ valuably contributed to the successful results achieved in this case, [redacted] their personnel warrant recognition. Accordingly, [redacted] ssistant Director is requested to submit a routing slip [redacted] minal Investigative Division - Fugitive Unit, Attention [redacted] advising the identities of those personnel [redacted] in which copies of the Attorney General's letter should [redacted] luded. b6 b7C

Assoc. [redacted]
Dep. [redacted]
Dep. [redacted]
Asst. [redacted]
Adm. [redacted]
Crim. [redacted]
Fin. [redacted]
Ident. [redacted]
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Spec. Inv. [redacted]
Tech. Servs. [redacted]
Train[redacted]
Public Aff. [redacted]
Telephone Rm. [redacted]
Director's Sec'y [redacted]

(25)

APPROVED:
Director
Assoc. Dir.
Dep. AD Adm.
AD Inv.

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56 OCT 28 1977
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MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

FBI/DOJ

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

b6
b7C

TO DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY UNIT)

DATE: 11/8/77

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

SUBJECT:
JAMES EARL RAY
UFAC - ESCAPE
(OO: Knoxville)

USA

9

Enclosed for the Bureau is one cassette tape recording from the KMOX-TV Newsbeat which was televised in St. Louis, 10/31-11/4/77. The interviewer is AUBLE of the KMOX-TV News Staff.

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(3) Bureau (Enc.)
1- St. Louis
(4)

1-Congressional Inquiry Unit

REC-93 88-76222295

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ENC. BEHIND FILE

FUGITIVE INQ

9

DEC

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

501-6-108

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 11/16/77

FROM : Legat, London

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka.
ET AL
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UNLAWFUL
FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE;
LONfile - 88-208

ASSASSINATION OF PRESIDENT
JOHN F. KENNEDY, DALLAS,
TEXAS, 11/22/63
INFORMATION CONCERNING
BUfile - 62-109060
LONfile - 62-358 (RUC)

DECLASSIFIED BY SP6 b6 b7C
ON 1/21/87 PER STATE DEPT. LTR 12/13/85

#211326
Classified by SP6
Declassify on: OADR 4/5/85

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN OTHERWISE

Enclosed for information is a copy of an incoming telegram the American Embassy, London, received from the Department of State on 11/9/77, and a letter dated 11/9/77, the Counselor for Political Affairs, American Embassy, London, directed to the in London.

The communications in substance relate to a request from G. ROBERT BLAKEY, Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Select Committee on Assassinations, House of Representatives, Washington, DC, for assistance from relative to captioned matters. b6 b7C b7D

If any additional pertinent information comes to Legat, London attention, same will be made available to FBIHQ.

REC-23 96

SI-132

(4) - Bureau (2 encls)
(1 - Foreign Liaison Unit)
2 - London
(6)

b6 b7C

SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR CLASSIFICATION ACTION

DYIE
CIAIPVCL
VELVETO
BOTANY

C 12 1977

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

London

November 9, 1977

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Dear [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

As I mentioned today on the telephone, our Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations, [redacted], has received the following request from Mr. G. Robert Blakley, Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Select Committee on Assassinations of the House of Representatives, for assistance from [redacted]:

"Dear Mr. Secretary: As explained in Chairman Stokes' letter of June 10, 1977, this Committee, as authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives, is investigating the circumstances surrounding the murders of President John F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King. As you may be aware, James Earl Ray, the self-confessed murderer of Dr. King, spent a considerable amount of time in Mexico, and shorter periods of time in both Portugal and Great Britain. He was, in fact, apprehended in London on June 8, 1968.

"We would therefore appreciate your efforts in establishing a cordial relationship for the Select Committee with the governments of those nations so that we can proceed with the foreign aspects of our investigation into Dr. King's death. In particular, we are interested in obtaining the assistance of [redacted] and the [redacted] b7D including access to their files concerning this matter and aid in locating and interviewing any potential witnesses.

88-76222-96

ENCLOSURE

"Your prompt attention to this request will be a valuable aid in our fulfilling the dictates of House Resolutions 222 and 433. Very truly yours, G. Robert Blakey."

I would appreciate your advice on how to proceed with this request. If you have no objection, our Legal Attache, [redacted] could raise the matter directly with [redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Sincerely yours,

[redacted]

Coun[redacted]or for Political Affairs

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: 1/18/78

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Precedence)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (~~[redacted]~~)

FROM : ACTING LEGAT, LONDON (62-604) (P)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
ET AL
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UNLAWFUL
FLIGHT TO AVOID CONFINEMENT - ESCAPE

ReLONlet 11/16/77.

Enclosed for information is a copy of an incoming telegram the American Embassy, London, received from Department of State on 1/14/78, and copy of Legat, London letter to the [redacted] dated 1/18/78.

Further pertinent information will be furnished when available.

ENCLOSURE

3 - Bureau (Encs. 2)
1 - Foreign Liaison Unit
1 - London
[redacted]
(4)

RECORDS: 62-117290 to 62-117290

EX-124 REC-30 1 cc 88-76222-97

7 JAN 31 1978

#2/58/88
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLAS
DATE 12-13-11

FUGITIVE IND [redacted] DIV. 5

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4- FU [redacted] P.

Approved: 198 Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

56 FEB 10 1978

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62-117290-
ENCLOSURE COPY AND COPY OF ENCLOSED IN

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No. 62-604

Your Ref.:

Office of Legal Attache
American Embassy
Grosvenor Square
London, W1A 1AE

January 18, 1978

[redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Re: Request from House Select Committee on Assassinations to Meet with [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Dear [redacted]:

By way of background, the House Select Committee on Assassinations, as authorized by the U. S. House of Representatives, is investigating the circumstances surrounding the murders of President J. F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Chief Counsel and Staff Director requested contact be made with [redacted] to interview appropriate police officials who were involved in the arrest of James Earl Ray in London on June 8, 1968. b6 b7C b7D

Assistant Legal Attache [redacted] had contact with you on December 6, 1977 regarding this matter. At that time you requested the following:

A) Purpose or scope of inquiry;

B) Names of individuals to be interviewed and reasons therefor;

[redacted] b6 b7C

ENCLOSURE 88-76222-97

AmEmbassy London
INCOMING TELEGRAM

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~~LIMITED OFFICIAL USE~~ STATE 010886

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:PINR, PDIP, UK

SUBJECT:REQUEST FROM HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS TO MEET WITH [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

RE: LONDON 20003

ASSISTANT SECRETARY BENNET HAS RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM G. ROBERT BLAKEY, CHIEF COUNSEL AND DIRECTOR, SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS: QUOTE: "DEAR MR. SECRETARY:

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR LETTER OF DECEMBER 9, 1977 ENCLOSING A TELEGRAM FROM [redacted]

AS YOU KNOW, THE LIFE OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE IS LIMITED TO THE LIFE OF THE 95TH CONGRESS. IT IS THEREFORE IMPERATIVE THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE BE ALLOWED TO MEET, AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT, WITH RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF [redacted] WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT ITS b7D PARTICIPATION IN THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE DEATH OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., THE RESULTING CAPTURE OF JAMES EARL RAY IN LONDON ON JUNE 8, 1968 AND ANY FURTHER INVESTIGATION FOLLOWING HIS CAPTURE. WE WILL BE HAPPY TO MEET WITH

THOSE REPRESENTATIVES IN GREAT BRITAIN TO PROVIDE ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY [redacted] TELEGRAM. b6 b7C b7D

AGAIN, WE EMPHASIZE THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE AND WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ARRANGING FOR SUCH A MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. VERY TRULY YOURS, G. ROBERT BLAKEY." END QUOTE.

CAN EMBASSY ASCERTAIN WHETHER [redacted] WILL PERMIT AN INTERVIEW BETWEEN MEMBERS OF THE STAFF OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE AND APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE INVESTIGATION MENTIONED IN [redacted] LETTER AND ADVISE US. [redacted]

C) Intended use of results of inquiry, i.e., public hearings, etc., it being noted that any records maintained by the [redacted] would be as the result of an official inquiry and this would normally be available for police use only, unless otherwise exempted by the [redacted] b7D

The Select Committee responded that due to the brevity of the 95th Congress, it was most important that representatives of the Select Committee be allowed to meet with appropriate members of [redacted] who are knowledgeable about the KING-RAY investigation. b7D The Committee advised they would be happy to meet personally with [redacted] in London to provide answers to the issues forwarded to them for clarification and elucidation.

I would be most appreciative if you would advise if this situation is agreeable to you.

Sincerely,

[redacted] b6
Acting Legal Attache b7C

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS VIA WASHINGTON PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[redacted] b6 b7C

FUGITIVE; EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; [redacted]

FUGITIVE; JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; [redacted]

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

AT 8:30 PM, JUNE 10, 1977, [redacted], ASSISTANT WARDEN, BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON (BMSP), PETROS, TENNESSEE, ADVISED THAT ABOVE CAPTIONED PERSONS, ALL INMATES OF BMSP, ESCAPED AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 PM, THE SAME DATE.

SUBJECTS ESCAPED BY USING A LADDER FABRICATED OUT OF THREE QUARTER INCH PIPE MADE IN SUCH A MANNER THAT

88-7223-1

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 PART OF THE PRISON PERIMETER. THE SUBJECTS ALSO HAD TO CROSS AN ELECTRIFIED WIRE WHICH IS EMPLACED AT THE TOP OF THE WALL AND ALONG THE ROCK CLIFF.

THE SUBJECTS WERE ALL INMATES OF THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION AND NOT CONFINED TO THE MAXIMUM SECURITY CELL BLOCK. AS MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION, THEY WERE MINGLED WITH OTHER PRISONERS WHEN THE PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED INTO THE PRISON YARD FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE AT 6:00 PM.

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 SUBJECTS ESCAPED WHILE THE ATTENTION OF THE GUARDS AND THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION WAS DIRECTED TO THESE INCIDENTS.

INTERVIEW OF [redacted] INMATE NUMBER [redacted] b6 b7C AND [redacted] INMATE NUMBER [redacted], CONDUCTED AT 1:00 AM, JUNE 11, 1977. BOTH DENIED FIGHT WAS PREARRANGED

AND STATED THAT THEIR FIGHT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PRISON BREAK.

THE OTHER INCIDENT INVOLVED [redacted] INMATE NUMBER [redacted] WHO FELL WHILE RUNNING IN FRONT OF GUARDS AND WHO APPEARED TO FAKE ANKLE INJURY ACCORDING TO GUARDS ON SCENE. [redacted] BROUGHT FROM CELL AT 1:30 AM, JUNE 11, 1977, AND WAS NOTICEABLY LIMPING. HE REFUSED TO TALK TO BUREAU AGENTS STATING ANY INFORMATION THEY WANTED HAD TO BE OBTAINED FROM RECORDS OR HIS LAWYER. b6 b7C

THE PRISONERS ESCAPED FROM A POSITION NEAR GUARD TOWER NUMBER FOUR MANNED BY BMSP GUARD [redacted] [redacted] APPARENTLY DID NOT OBSERVE ESCAPE. EFFORTS BEING MADE TO LOCATE [redacted] FOR INTERVIEW. BMSP GUARD [redacted], MANNING TOWER NUMBER THREE, WHICH IS LOCATED A SLIGHTLY GREATER DISTANCE FROM THE SITE OF THE ESCAPE, OBSERVED THE ACTION AND FIRED ON THE ESCAPING SUBJECTS, WOUNDING [redacted] INMATE NUMBER [redacted] WHO WAS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE. [redacted] WAS TAKEN b6 b7C b6 b7C

TO OAK RIDGE, TENNESSEE, HOSPITAL BY PRISON AUTHORITIES WHERE HE WAS TREATED FOR GUNSHOT WOUNDS TO HEAD AND ARM. [redacted] WAS RETURNED TO BMSP AT 11:00 PM, JUNE 10, 1977, AND REFUSED TO BE INTERVIEWED. b6 b7C

BMSP IS A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISON LOCATED IN A REMOTE, RURAL MOUNTAINOUS AREA OF MORGAN COUNTY, TENNESSEE. THE PRISON IS SURROUNDED ON THREE SIDES BY HIGH, HEAVILY WOODED MOUNTAINS. THE AREA AROUND BMSP IS CURRENTLY SEALED BY PRISON GUARDS, TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROLMEN, AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES. BMSP TRACKING DOGS AND SEARCH PARTIES ARE CURRENTLY SEARCHING AREA. PERMANENT ROADBLOCKS WERE SET UP BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND ALL ROADS ARE BEING PATROLLED BY SURROUNDING LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

BMSP OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT, BASED ON PREVIOUS EXPERIENCES WITH ESCAPES AND ROUTE TAKEN BY SUBJECTS, SUBJECTS ARE STILL IN THE VICINITY.

HELICOPTER AND PLANE SEARCH COMMENCING AT DAYBREAK.

KX 88-7223 PAGE FIVE CLEAR

ADDITIONAL UNUSUAL EVENT OCCURRED IN THAT BRUSHY MOUNTAIN WAS WITHOUT TELEPHONE SERVICE FOR ABOUT ONE HOUR PERIOD COMMENCING AROUND TIME OF ESCAPE.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO ATTORNEY GENERAL, FREDERICK BARRON, AND PREPARED BY AUSA [redacted] [redacted] WAS FILED BY SA [redacted] BEFORE THE HONORABLE USDJ FRANK A. KAUFMAN CHARGING THE SUBJECTS DID, IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 371, UNLAWFULLY, WILLFULLY, ETC., CONSPIRE, ETC., TO VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073 (UFAC - ESCAPE). IT WAS RECOMMENDED BY AUSA [redacted] THAT SUBJECTS BE HELD WITHOUT BOND.

b6
b7C

IT IS RECOMMENDED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE HANDLING OF THIS CASE THAT THIS TELETYPE BE CONSIDERED THE FIRST SERIAL OF SIX SEPARATE 88 CASES AND THAT THEREAFTER LEADS BE SET FORTH ON INDIVIDUAL OR COLLECTIVE SUBJECTS AS APPROPRIATE.

KX 88-7223 PAGE SIX CLEAR

SUBJECTS HAVE ALL BEEN CONVICTED OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER OR SIMILAR SERIOUS ASSAULT CHARGES AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

FD-340a (Rev. 3-1-67)

(Title)

(File No.) 88-7223-1A

Date Filed			Disposition
11-77 is	1. Original notes re interview of		
7-72 et	2. Photo of prison and surroundings		
3	1 photo of	1 photo of	

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88-7223-1A

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
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FD-340 REV. (6-24-65)

File No. 88-7223-1A1

Date Received 6/11/77

From [redacted]
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Bruce Mt. State Prison
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

Reno, Nevada

b6
b7C

[redacted]

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☒ No

Receipt Given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

Original notes re interview of [redacted]

b6
b7C

FD-302 is rec. 115

[redacted]

68-7723 6/11/77

[redacted] guard employed since last August (in 69-63) Came on duty at 2 pm 6/10/77 to 10 pm. on tower 4

Saw a black man near the west wall near tower #3 running [illegible] jumping (not the one who escaped) about 15 min. before escape which occurred between 7:45-7:50

Scuffle occurred on baseball field to gain attention of [illegible] 25-30 prisoners were playing horseshoes near the tower #8. when scuffle began — caught 2 men in corner

[redacted] was in tower #3 about 250-275 yards away.

When he stopped firing alarm was sounding b6 b7C

about 10-15 min later Capt [redacted] & Capt [redacted] came around in a jeep to area and found the one escapee hit

Stayed at tower platform the entire time.

Entire time of firing 1-2 min.

The men ran into the

bushes + trees near corner of wall next to tower 8

Prisoners due to go back in for the night at 8 pm — had come out at 6 pm
Was just ready to call in at 7:50 when the break occured

22 Remington Pump - had 12 rounds, .22 long adv. rifles
12 ga. Remington Pump - 5 rounds #4 buck shot

#4 tower 50-75 yds from wall corner

of eyes going over.
Grabbed shotgun first and the tower door with gun & door slammed.
By the time he got door open he saw 4 white shirts on the outside of wall.
fired 1 shotgun round 1st. Then 22 rifle and fired 10 rounds — last round fired he saw one go down,

picked up shotgun again and shot 2 more rounds

b6
b7C

Heard [redacted] shoot shotgun once about the same time he shot first

Date Rec'd 2/4/77

From

Dept. (Agency)

By (Name)

To Be Returned Yes ( ) No ( )

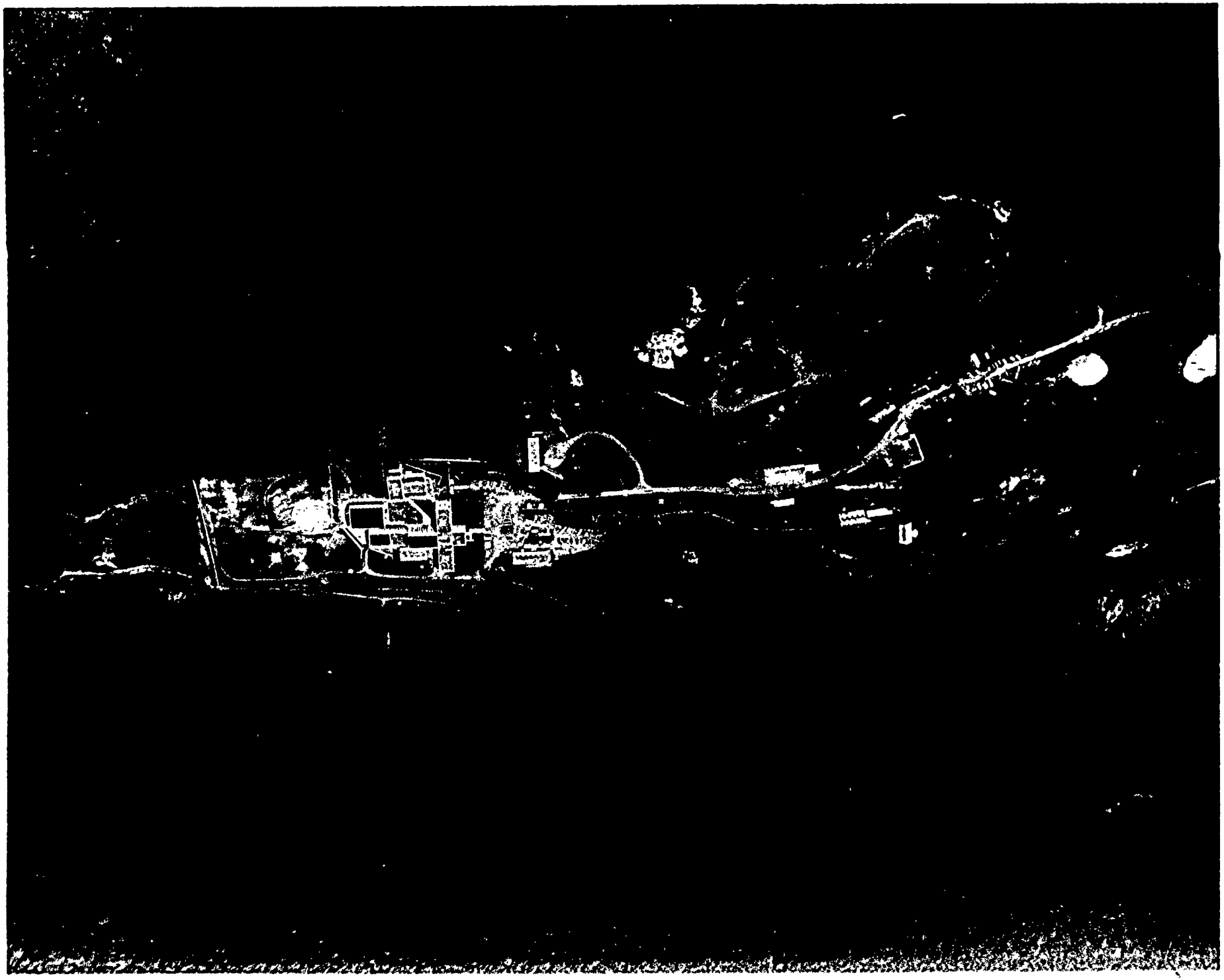
Description

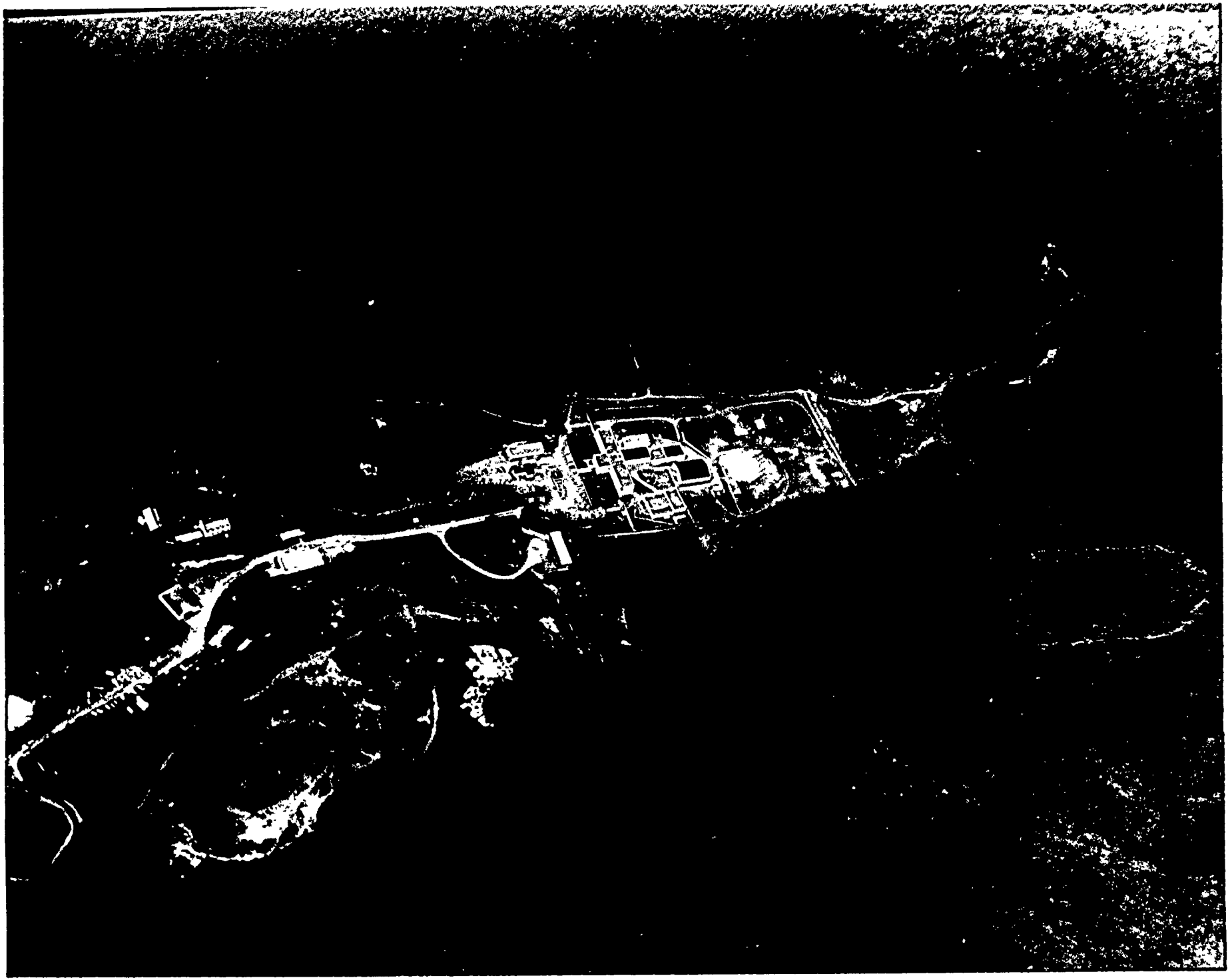
File No. 88-7223-1A2

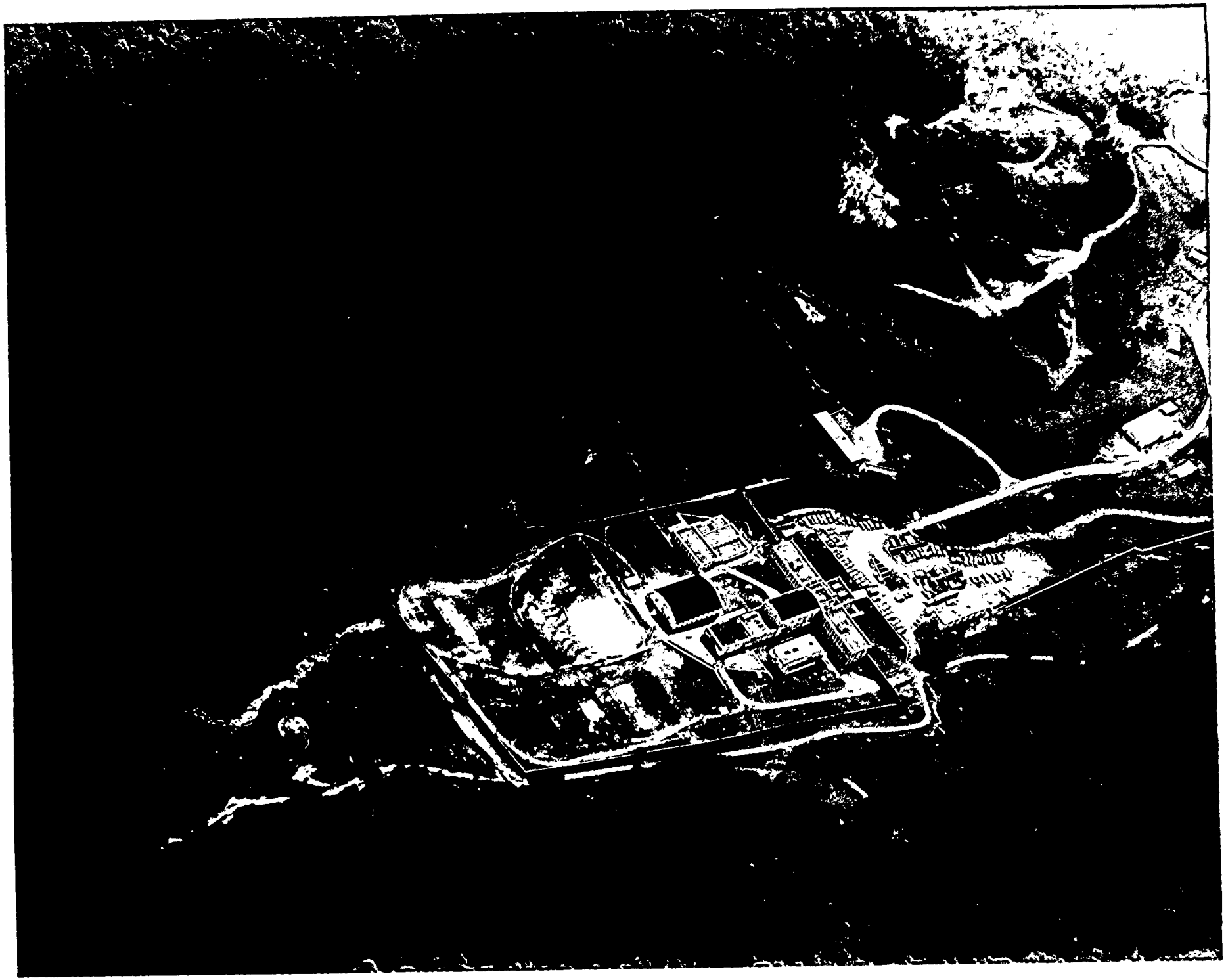
88-7223

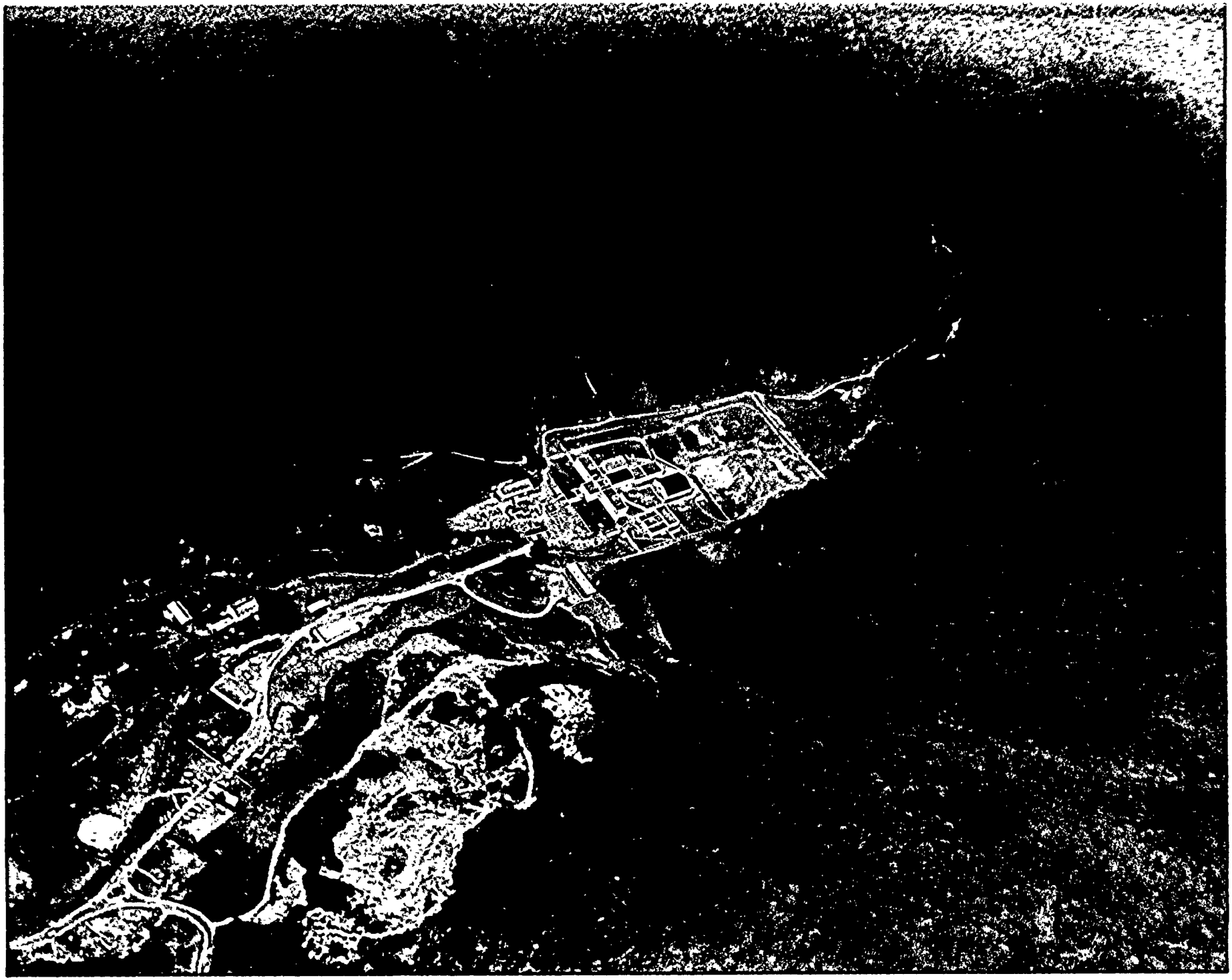
Put in 1A
Section of Ray
File

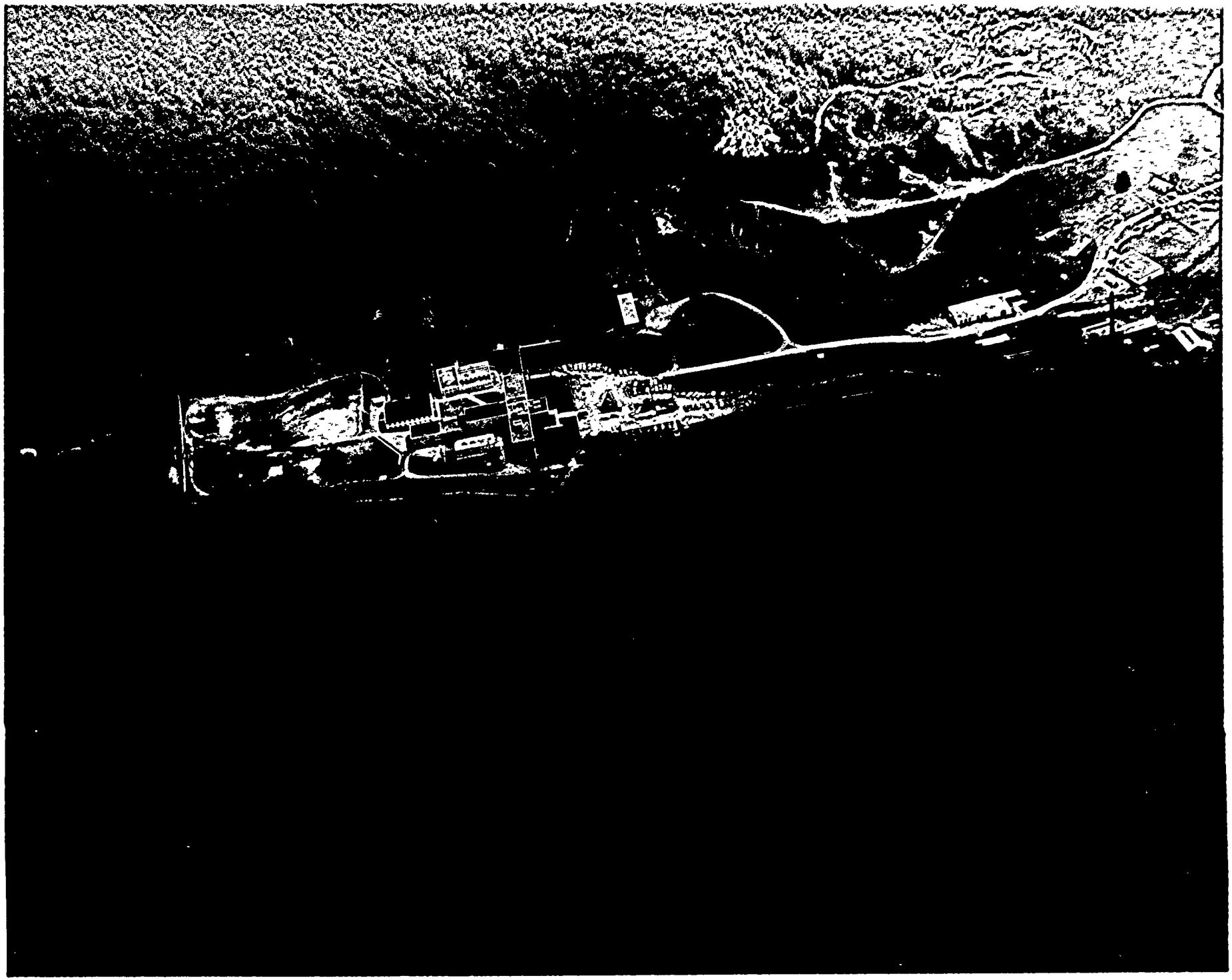
b6
b7C

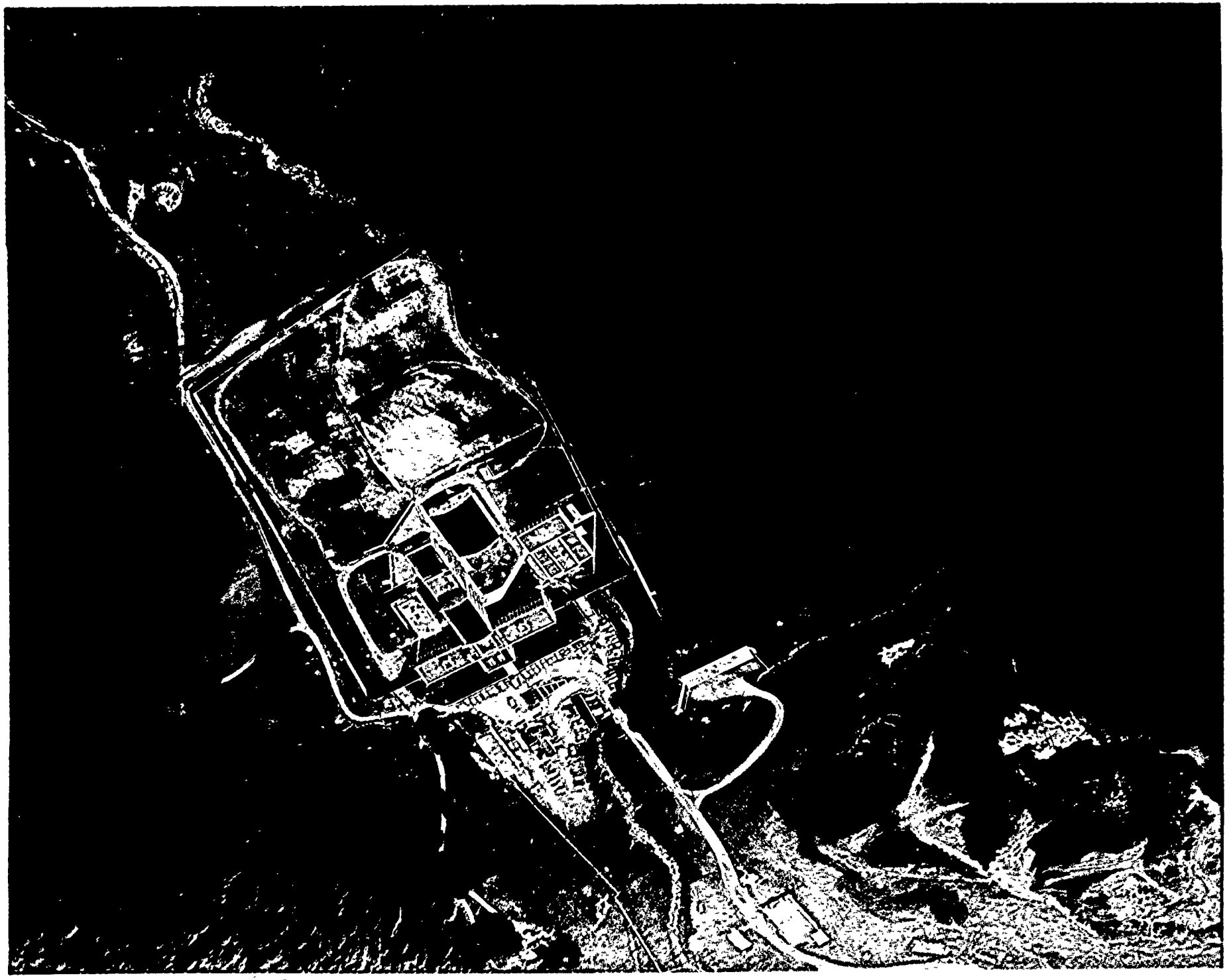


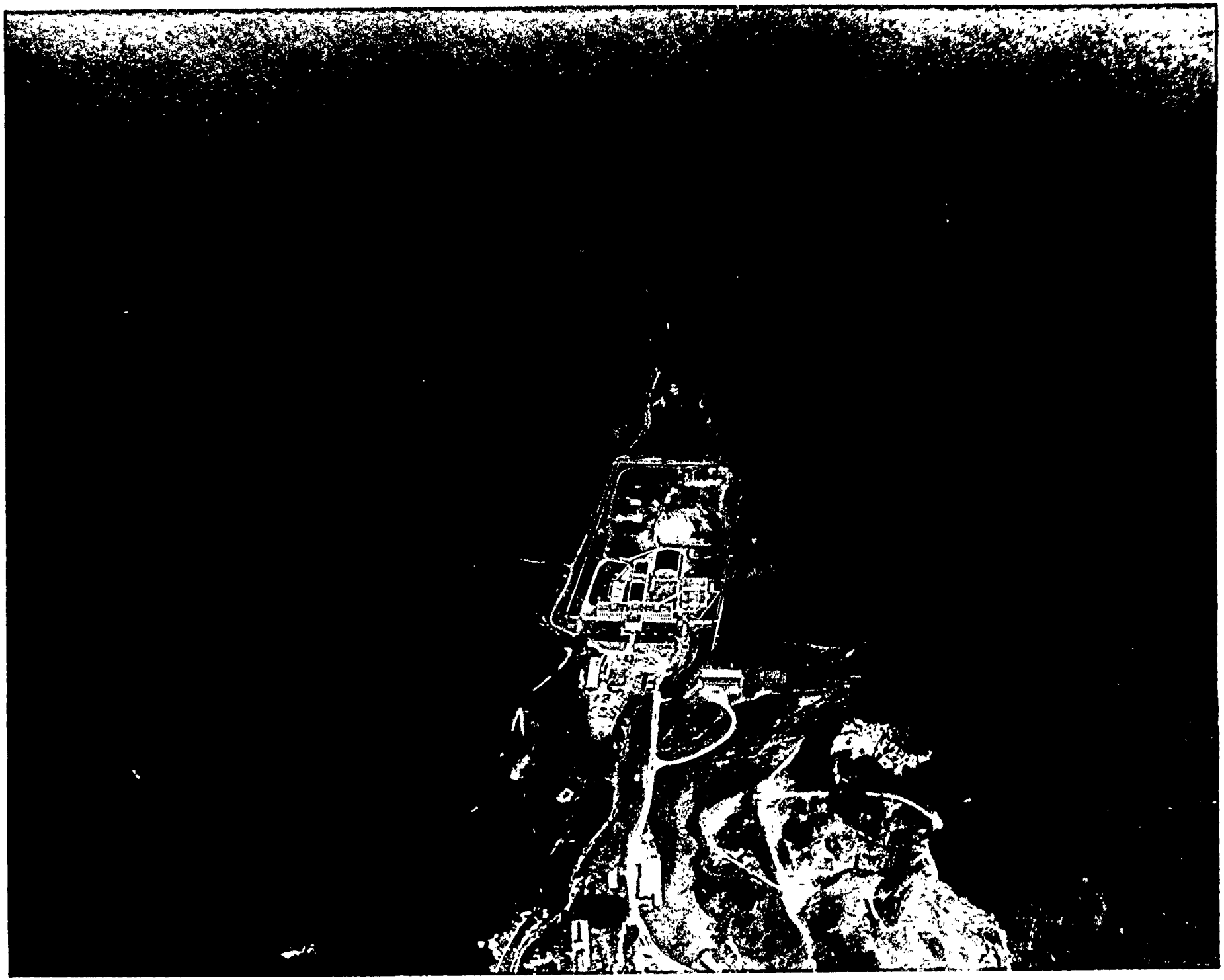


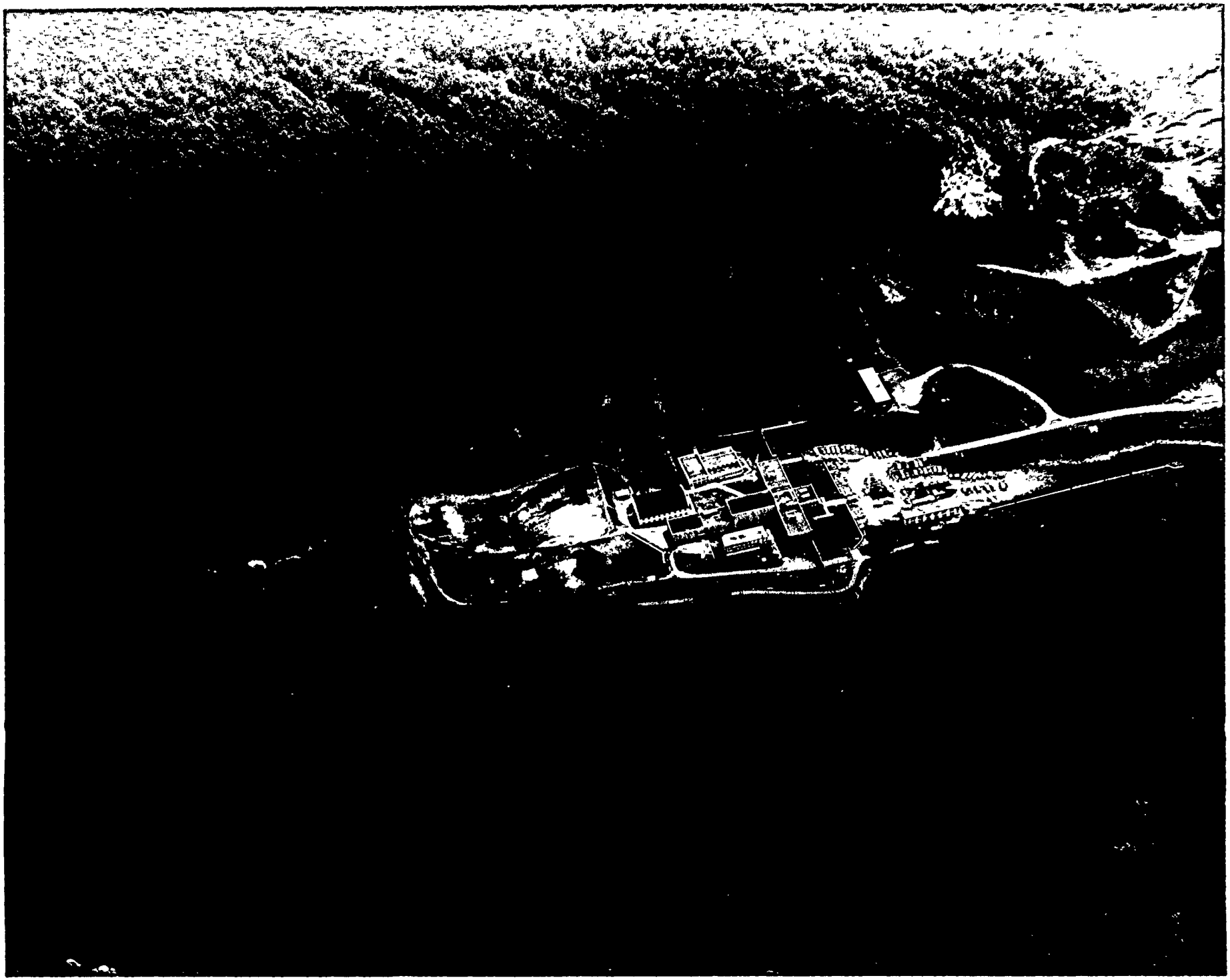


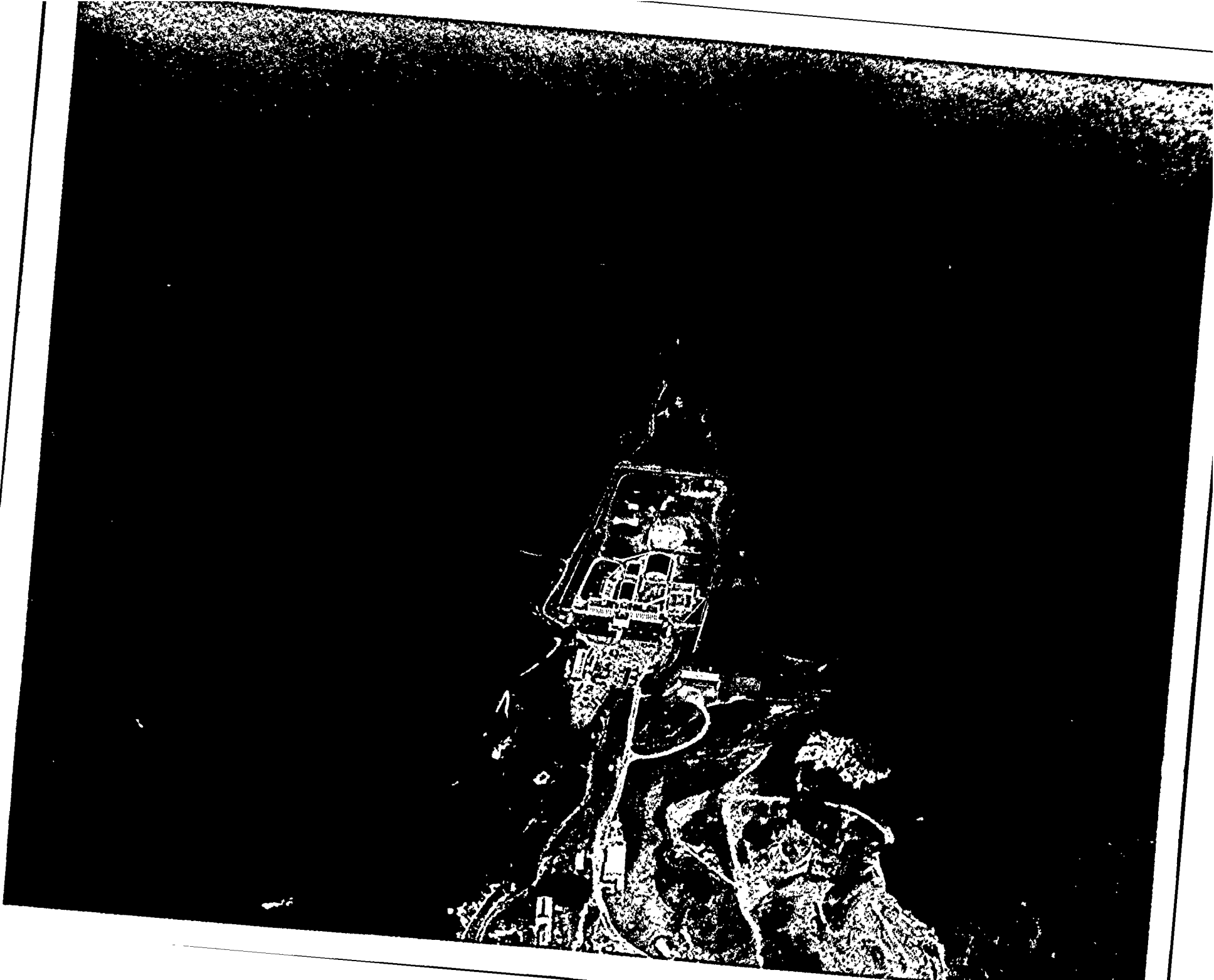


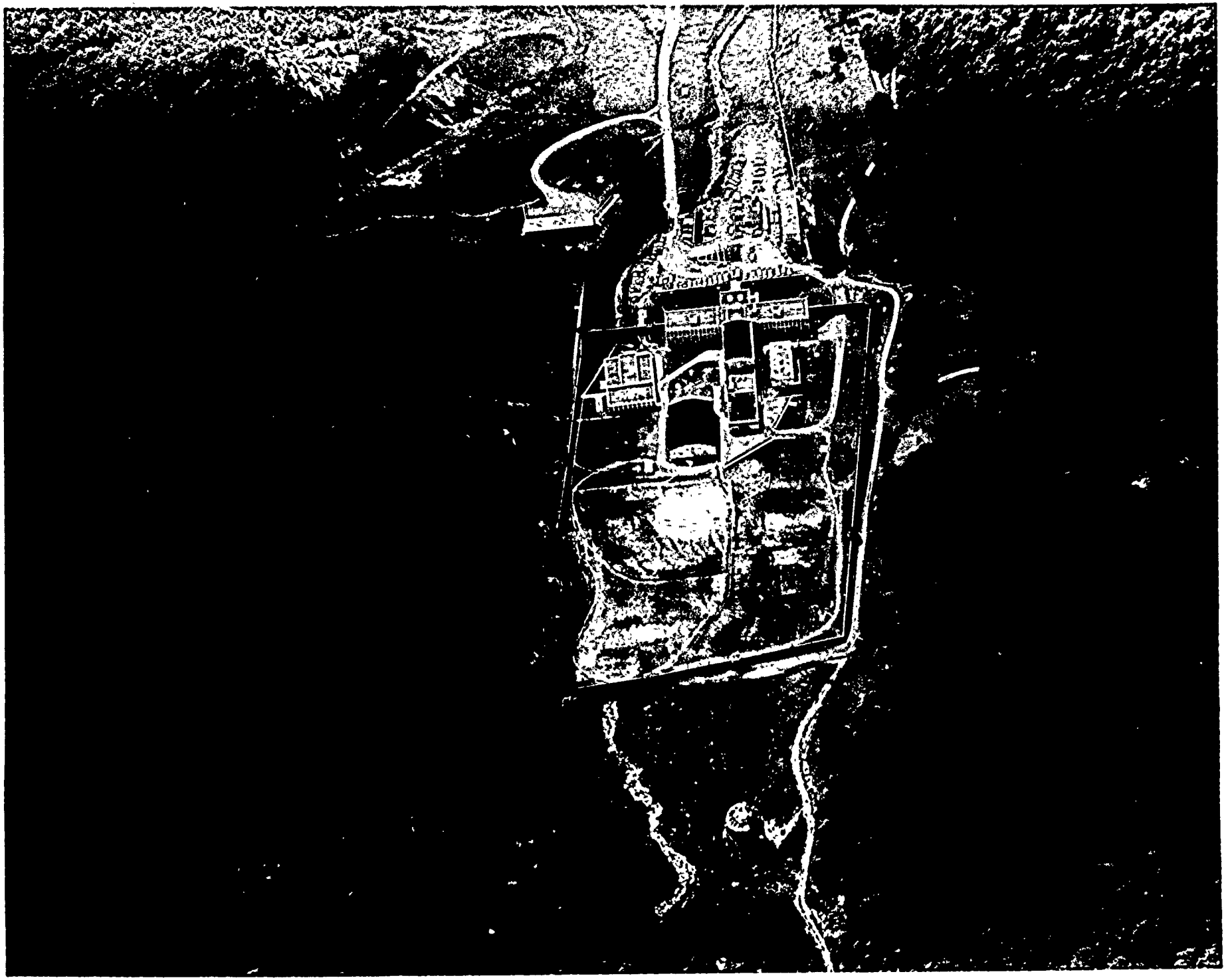


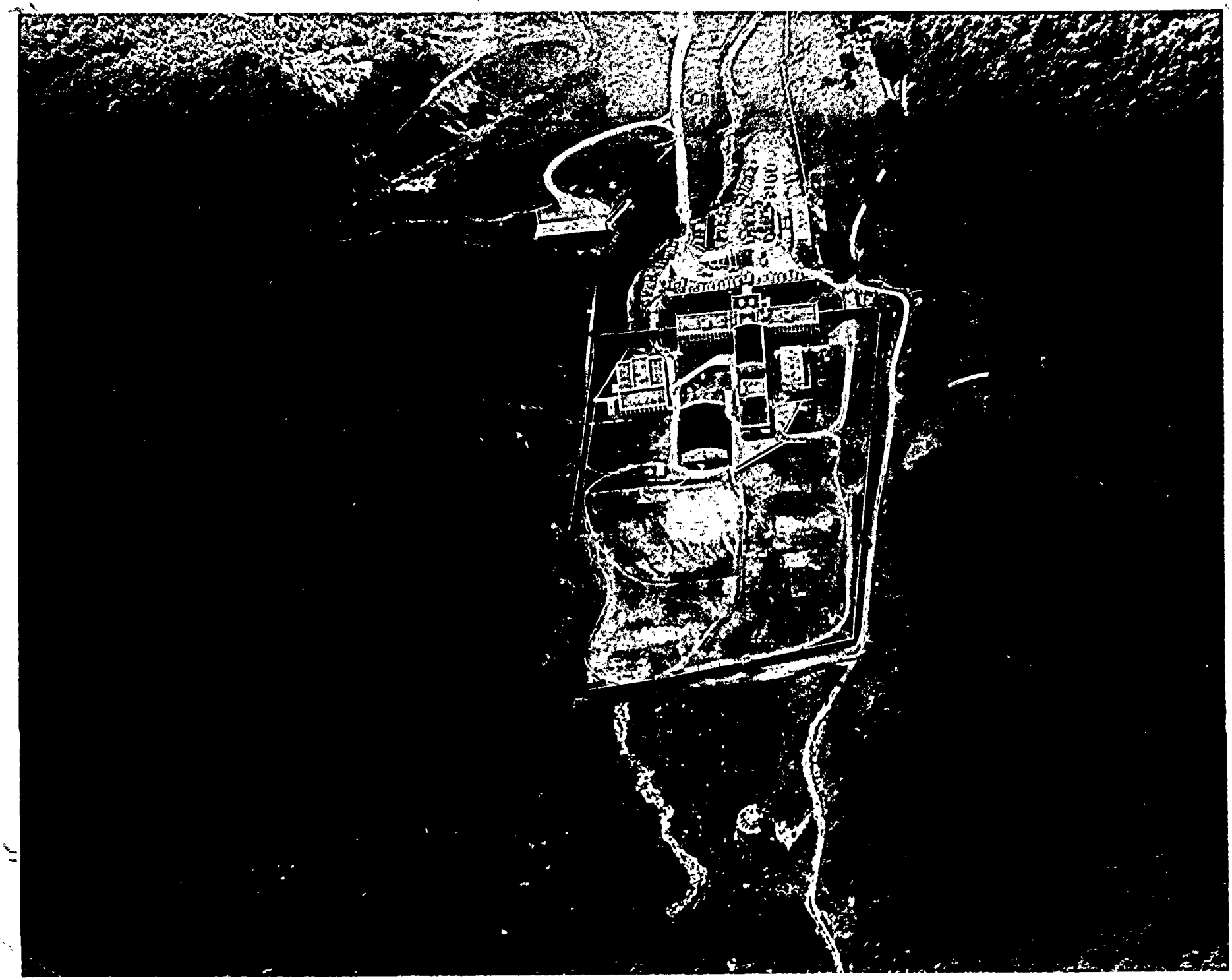


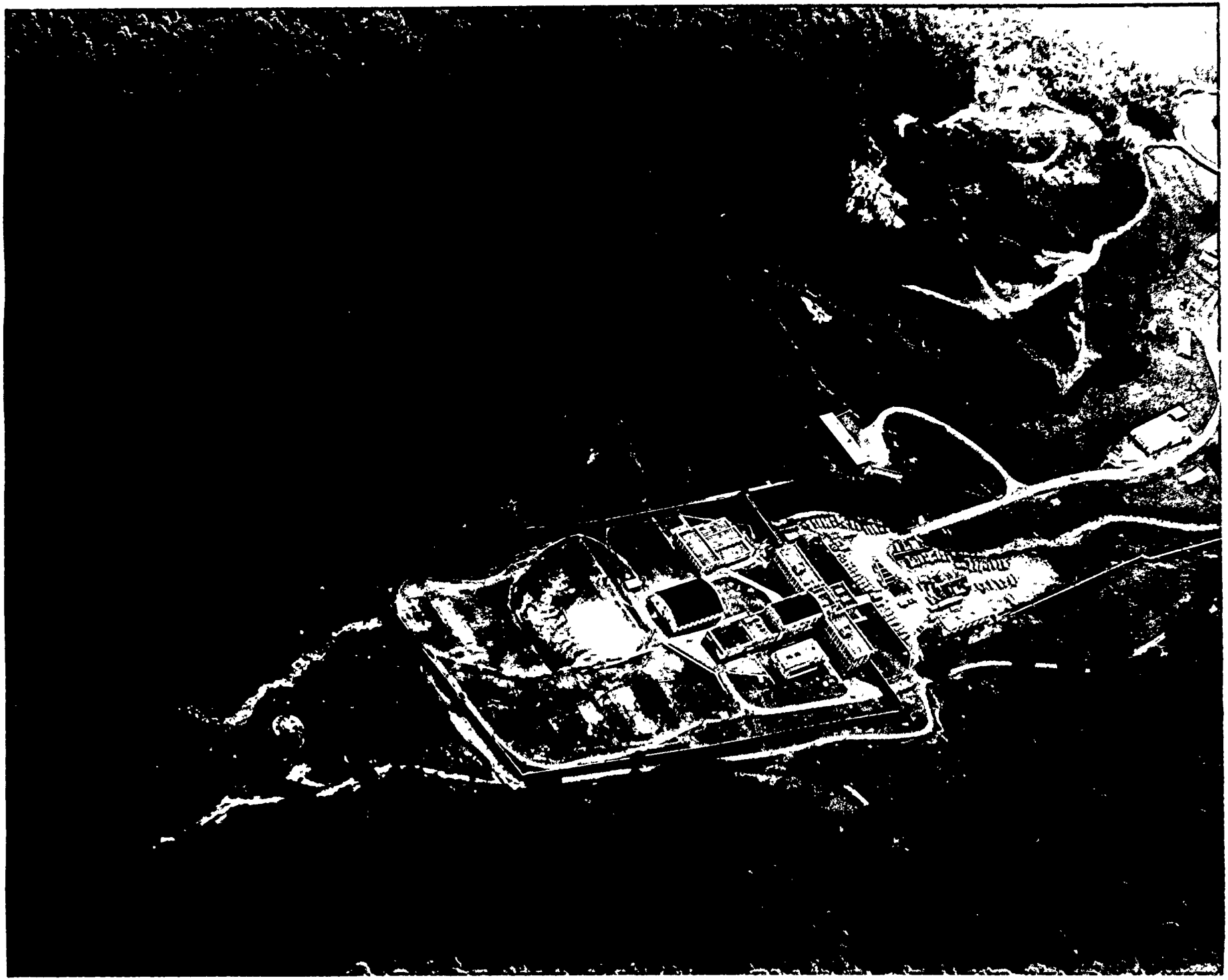


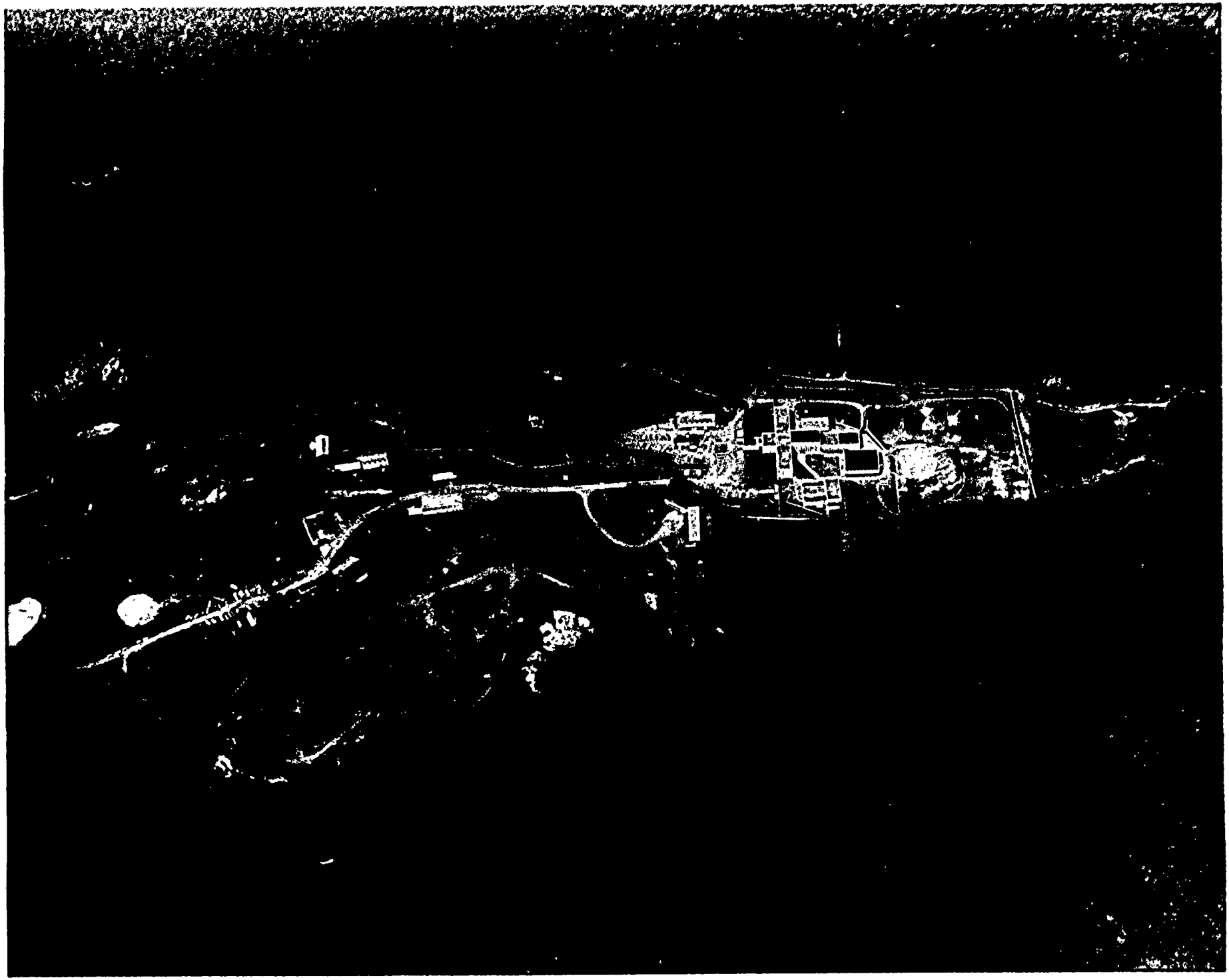


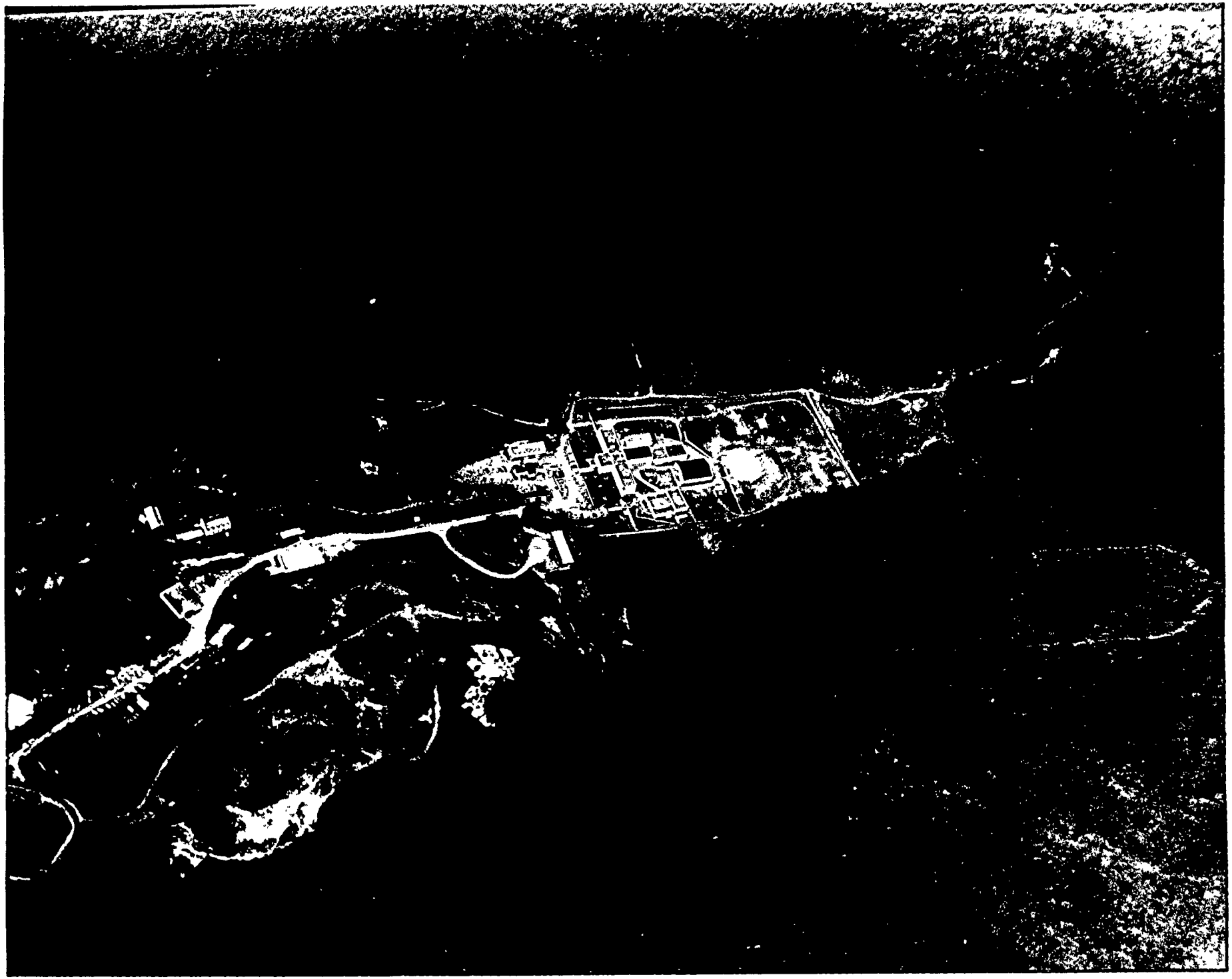


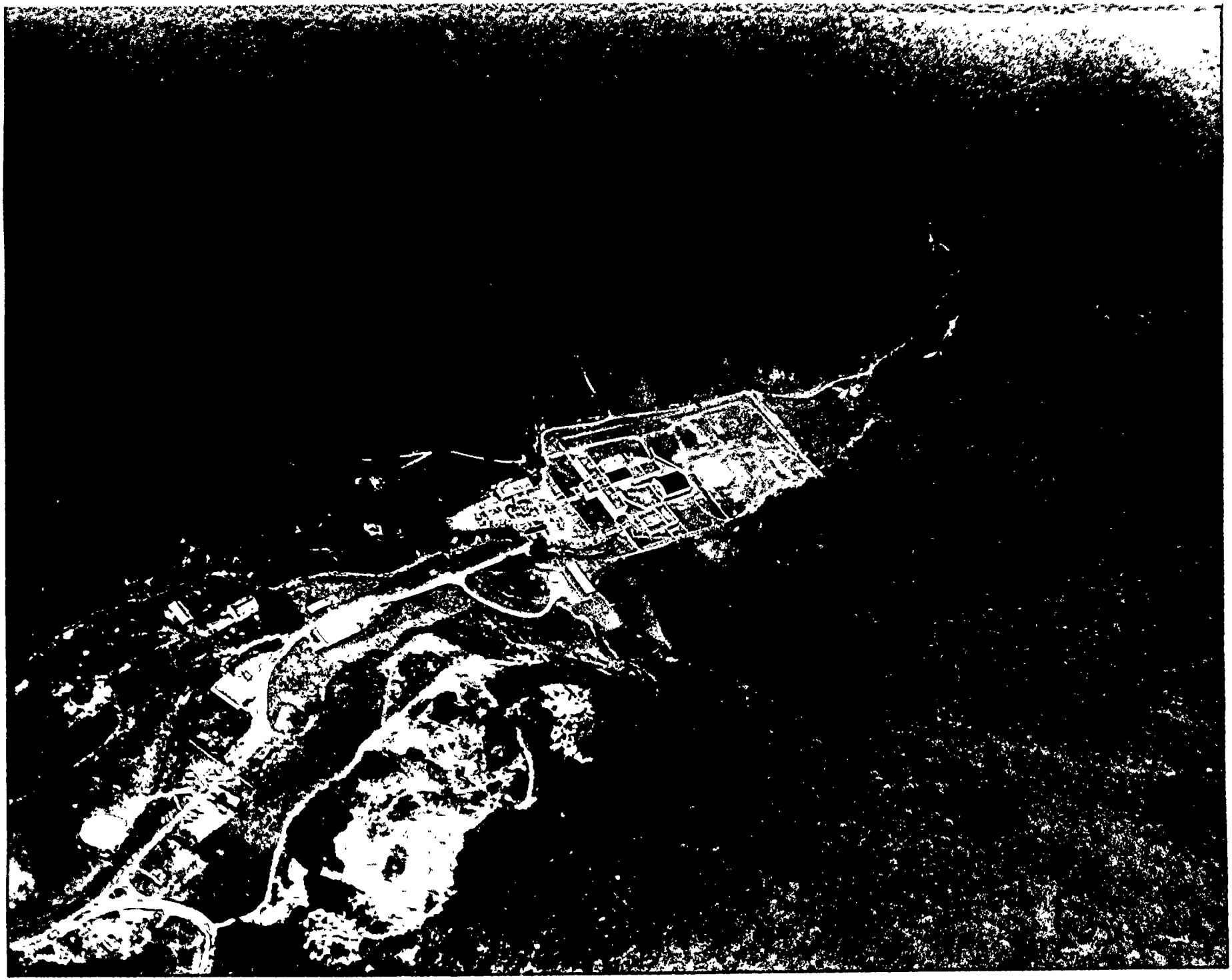


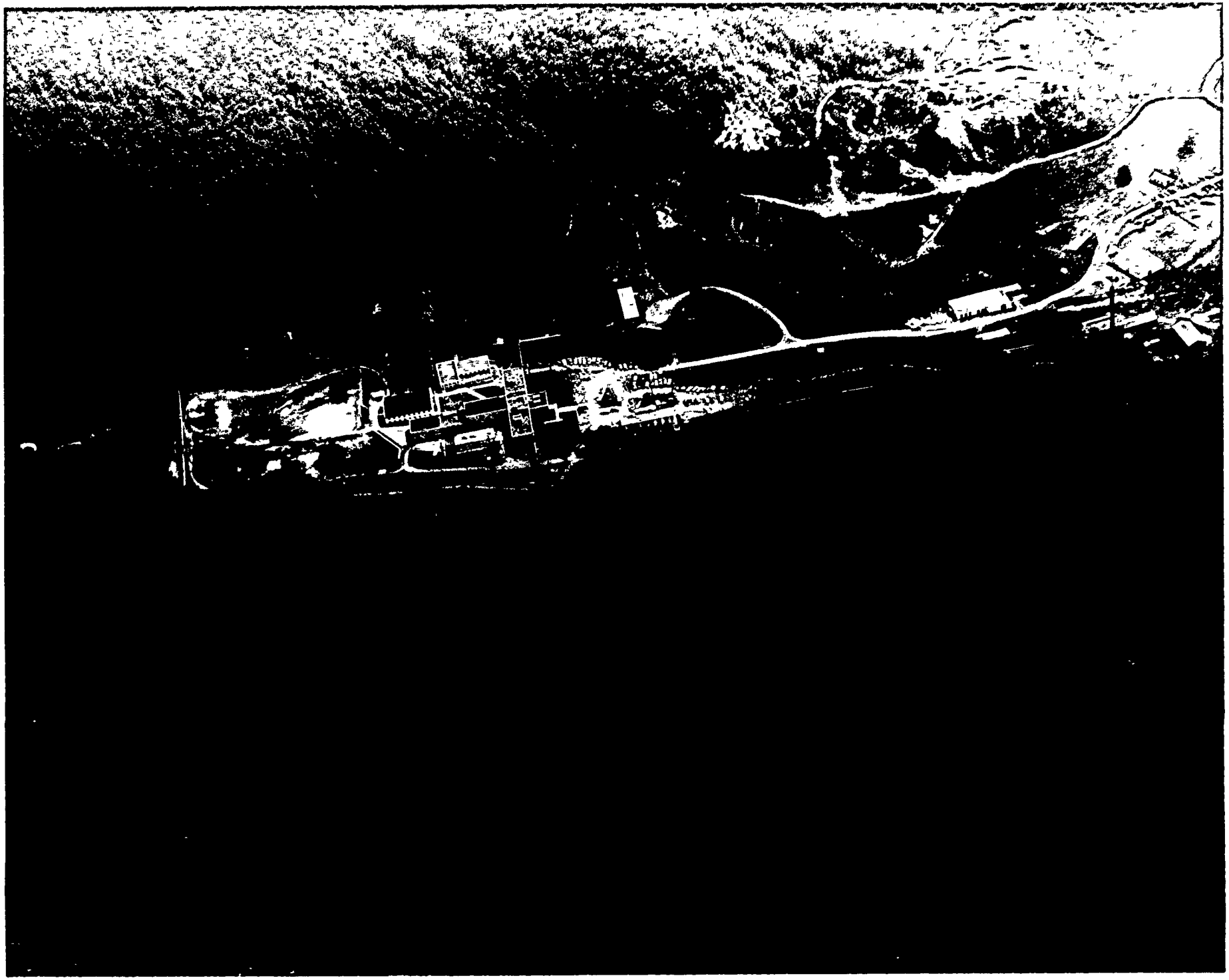


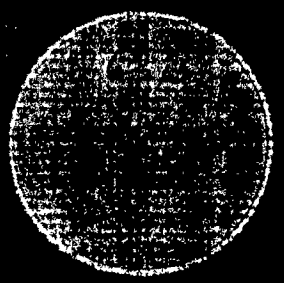












FD-340 (REV. 6-24-65)

KX 88-7223-1A 3

File No. 88-5687-1A ①

Date Received 11/22/61

From Memphis
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

By [redacted] b6 b7C
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned ☐ Yes ☐ No

Receipt given ☐ Yes ☒ No

Description:

1 photo of [redacted] b6 b7C

1 photo of [redacted]

See serial 211

8

KX1488 1620906 SI0481 1620906

PP HQ CG SL KX AT JN ME
DE SI

P 110902Z JUN 77

FM SPRINGFIELD (88-NEW) P.

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

CHICAGO PRIORITY

ST. LOUIS PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

ATLANTA PRIORITY

JACKSON PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY - UFAC. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE TELEPHONE CONVERSATION OF SA [redacted] BUREAU SUPERVISOR WITH SA [redacted] SPRINGFIELD DIVISION JUNE 11, 1977.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU AND RECEIVING OFFICES, ON MORNING OF JUNE 11, 1977, EFFORTS TO INTERVIEW [redacted] THE BROTHER OF THE SUBJECT AT THE U. S. PENITENTIARY, MARION, ILLINOIS WERE UNSUCCESSFUL. [redacted] REFUSED TO COME OUT OF HIS CELL AND ADVISED HE WOULD NOT TALK TO ANYONE CONCERNING

b6
b7C

88-7223-2
88-[redacted]

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 11 1977
FBI-KNOXVILL

b6
b7C

THIS MATTER UNLESS HIS LAWYER WAS PRESENT.

ON SAME DATE, [redacted] RECORD BOOK WAS REVIEWED AND THE FOLLOWING RELATIVES AND FRIENDS WERE LISTED: FATHER, JERRY ELLIS RAY, 2025 BELLVIEW, MAPLEWOOD, MISSOURI; SISTER, [redacted] CHICAGO, ILL. (AS FURNISHED BY BUREAU SUPERVISOR); BROTHER, [redacted] SPRINGFIELD, ILL.; BROTHER, [redacted] LAKE ZURICH, ILL.; SISTER, [redacted] QUINCY, ILL.; SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW, [redacted], ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI; FRIEND, [redacted], GREENVILLE, MISS.; FRIEND, [redacted], ST. LOUIS, MO,; FRIEND, [redacted] FREDERICK, MARYLAND; ATTORNEY, [redacted], MARIETTA, GA.; ATTORNEY, [redacted] MEMPHIS, TENN.

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b7C

b6
b7C

PER BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS, CHICAGO WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW SUBJECT'S SISTER [redacted] AND ST. LOUIS WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW SUBJECT'S FATHER, JERRY ELLIS RAY AT THE ABOVE ADDRESSES FOR INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE SUBJECT.

LEADS BASED ON THE OTHER RELATIVES AND FRIENDS ARE NOT BEING SET OUT AT THIS TIME AND ARE BEING FURNISHED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES. P.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

KXI492 1621048 CG0235 1621048

PP HQ KX

DE CG

P 111025Z JUN 77

FM CHICAGO (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

BT

~~E F T O~~

JAMES EARL RAY, ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONER, UFAP, OO: KX.

RE CHICAGO TELEPHONE CALLS TO BUREAU SUPERVISOR [redacted] [redacted] AND KNOXVILLE TELEPHONE CALL TO CG JUNE 11, 1977.

[redacted] BROTHER OF JAMES EARL RAY, INTERVIEWED BY BUAGENTS THIS AM. [redacted] ADVISED THAT A REPORTER FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE, [redacted], WHO IS ASSIGNED TO ATLANTA FINANCED HIS TRIP TO VISIT HIS BROTHER, JAMES EARL RAY AT THE FEDERAL PENETENTIARY AT KNOXVILLE, LAST SUNDAY. REPORTER WAS PRESENT DURING BULK OF CONVERSATION. [redacted] ADVISED THAT HIS BROTHER, JAMES EARL RAY, GAVE NO INDICATION TO HIM THAT HE WAS PLANNING TO ESCAPE AND SHOWED NO EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY. [redacted] ADVISED THAT HE WAS SURPRISED WHEN HE LEARNED OF HIS BROTHER'S ESCAPE AND HE HAS NO IDEA WHERE HIS BROTHER CURRENTLY IS. [redacted] INDICATED HIS COOPERATIVENESS AND STATED

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b7C

b6
b7C

88-7223-3

Telephone call to St. Louis 7:30 AM 6/11 re father + sister.

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 11 1977
FBI-KNOXVILLE

HE WOULD FURNISH THIS OFFICE WITH ANY INFORMATION THAT COMES TO HIS ATTENTION REGARDING HIS BROTHER. [redacted] ADVISED THAT HE KNOWS OF NO OUTSIDE PLOT TO EFFECT HIS BROTHER'S ESCAPE AND THAT HE BELIEVES THAT HIS BROTHER IS STILL IN THE WOODS SURROUNDING THE PRISON. b6 b7C

[redacted] INDICATED THAT HIS FATHER, AGE 75-76, LIVES WITH HIS SISTER [redacted] LEMAY, MISSOURI. [redacted] HAS BROTHER, [redacted] WHO IS AN INMATE AT MARION PRISON, MARION, IL., WHERE HE IS CONFINED ON A BANK ROBBERY CHARGE. [redacted] HAS AN ATTORNEY, [redacted] WHO IS REPRESENTING HIM IN A CIVIL LAWSUIT AGAINST A MAGAZINE. [redacted] IS RESIDENT OF WASHINGTON, DC.

[redacted] ADVISED THAT HE IS EMPLOYED BY THE TWIN ORCHARD COUNTRY CLUB, LONG GROVE, ILLINOIS AND THAT HIS ONLY TRIP TO KNOXVILLE WAS LAST SUNDAY. b6 b7C

[redacted] MANAGER OF THE COUNTRY CLUB, CONFIRMED

THAT [redacted] HAS BEEN PRESENT AT THE COUNTRY CLUB EVERY DAY THIS PAST WEEK.

b6
b7C

CHICAGO IS MAINTAINING SURVEILLANCE OF [redacted]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

450

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OO HI BH ME DE CI IP

DE KX

O 111105Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

DETROIT IMMEDIATE

CINCINNATI IMMEDIATE

INDIANAPOLIS IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

[redacted] AKA - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY;

UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE

ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FREDERICK BARRON AND PREPARED BY AUSA [redacted] AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., WAS FILED BY SA [redacted] BEFORE U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE FRANK A. KAUFMAN AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., CHARGING SUBJECT [redacted] WAS IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 371, IN UNLAWFULLY, ETC. CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073.

b6
b7C

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SUBJECT BE HELD WITHOUT BOND.

88-7223-5

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 P.M., JUNE 10, 1977, [redacted] IN THE COMPANY OF JAMES EARL RAY, EARL HILL, JR., [redacted], [redacted], OF THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENN., ESCAPED BY PLACING MAKESHIFT LADDER ON THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE PRISON COMPOUND. THE ESCAPEES WERE INMATES OF THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION. THE PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED INTO THE MAIN PRISON YARD AT 6:00 P.M. FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE.

b6
b7C

THE ESCAPE WAS FACILITATED BY TWO INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE PRISON YARD: A STAGED FIGHT AND A FAKED ACCIDENT. THE PRISONERS ESCAPED WHILE THE ATTENTION OF THE GUARDS AND THE MAIN PRISON POPULATION WAS DIRECTED TO THESE TWO INCIDENTS.

ONE OF THE PRISONERS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE AND WAS SHOT AND RECAPTURED BY PRISON GUARDS.

REVIEW OF TENNESSEE STATE PRISON RECORD NUMBER [redacted] FBI NUMBER [redacted], OF [redacted]

b6
b7C

PAGE THREE KX 88-NEW IMMEDIATE

REVEALS [redacted] WHITE MALE, [redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] RESIDENCE HAMILTON,

OHIO.

FILE REVEALS WIFE [redacted] ADDRESS [redacted]

[redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO. VISITORS LIST INCLUDES FORMER b6 b7C

WIFE [redacted] STREET ADDRESS UNKNOWN,

MATAMORE, INDIANA; ED HACKER, FATHER, 146 WEBSTER

AVENUE, HAMILTON, OHIO; GEORGIA HACKER, MOTHER, SAME

ADDRESS AS FATHER; [redacted] SISTER, [redacted]

HAMILTON, OHIO; [redacted] HAMILTON,

OHIO; [redacted], NASHVILLE,

TENN.; [redacted] TAYLOR, b6 b7C

MICHIGAN; [redacted]

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA; [redacted]

HAMILTON, OHIO.

EMPLOYMENTS LISTED AS SOUTHERN TEXAS DRY WALL COMPANY,

DAYTON, OHIO, 1969 - 1970. OCCUPATION CARPENTER,

CHAMPION PAPER COMPANY, HAMILTON, OHIO, MACHINE OPERATOR, 1966 - 1968; PHILCO, CONNERSVILLE, IND., SPOT WELDER, 1964 - 1966.

DUE TO THE FACT SUBJECT ACCOMPANIED JAMES EARL RAY IN ESCAPE, EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF ALL LEADS IS REQUESTED DUE TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE OF THIS MATTER.

RECEIVING OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO COVER LEADS SET OUT IN THIS COMMUNICATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

IN VIEW OF FACT SUBJECT CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AND BURGLARY, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

FD-65 (Rev. 8-5-74)
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

INSTRUCTIONS - Reverse side

TO : Director, FBI
Att: Special Investigative Division

DATE: 6-11-77

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT: James Earl Ray

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

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

Caution MKE	Name NAM	Sex SEX	Race RAC
☒	JAMES EARL RAY	MALE	W

Place of Birth POB	Birth Date DOB	Height HGT	Weight WGT
QUINCY OR ALTON, ILLINOIS	3-10-28	5-10	170

Eye Color EYE	Hair Color HAI	FBI No. FBI	Skin Tone SKN
	BLACK-GRAYING	405,942 G	

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 UFAC - CONSPIRACY

U. S. Code, Title and Section T-18, USC, Sec 371 & SEC. 1073

Warrant Issued By U.S.D.J. FRANK A. KAUFMAN on 6-11-77 DOW

F. O. File # OCA 88-7223

Date PBV or Bond Default Case Referred to Office _____

Miscellaneous Including Bond Recommended MIS

ARMED & DANGEROUS

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	Style VST	Color VCO

Aliases	Additional Identifiers

NCIC # NIC W168560456

88-7223-6

INSTRUCTIONS

1. **Caution (MKE)** - Insert "C" in block if caution statement indicated. Basis for caution statement must appear in Miscellaneous block, e.g. armed and dangerous.
2. **Name (NAM)** - Place name in this block. Aliases are not to be entered in this block but are to be placed in Aliases block.
3. **Sex (SEX)** - Sex will be designated by one letter, M (male) or F (female).
4. **Race (RAC)** - Race will be described by one letter, W (white), N (Negro), I (Indian), C (Chinese), J (Japanese), O (all other). Mexicans who are not definitely Indian or other nonwhite should be described as "W".
5. **Place of Birth (POB)** - Indicate city and state or, if foreign born, city and country. Where multiple birthplaces are reported, list verified birthplace or that which appears most logical in this block.
6. **Birth Date (DOB)** - Enter as month, day and year. Where multiple birth dates are reported, enter verified birth date or that which appears most logical in this block. Place other dates of birth in Additional Identifiers block.
7. **Height (HGT)** - Express in feet and inches, e.g., 6' 0". Round off fractions to nearest inch.
8. **Weight (WGT)** - Express in pounds. Omit fractions.
9. **Eye Color (EYE)** - Use appropriate three character symbol.
10. **Hair Color (HAI)** - Use appropriate three character symbol.
11. **Skin Tone (SKN)** - Use appropriate three character symbol.
12. **Scars, Marks, Tattoos, etc. (SMT)** - Place in this block only appropriate NCIC coding for scars, marks, tattoos, birthmarks, deformities, missing body parts and artificial body parts as defined in NCIC Operating Manual. If more than one SMT is to be entered, use Additional Identifiers block for additional appropriately coded items. Use Miscellaneous block to describe all scars, marks, tattoos, etc. which are not defined in the NCIC Operating Manual and to more fully describe SMT's which have been entered in SMT block. For example, an appendectomy scar, not being readily visible, would be described in the Miscellaneous block. A tattoo on right arm, shown as TAT R ARM in block, might be further described in Miscellaneous block as a rose tattoo on inside of lower right arm.
13. **NCIC Fingerprint Classification (FPC)** - Enter NCIC fingerprint classification.
14. **Other Identifying Number (MNU)** - Miscellaneous numbers may be entered with appropriate identifiers (prefixes) as shown below. For first miscellaneous identifying number, use MNU block. When military service number is in fact Social Security Account Number, the number should be entered in both MNU and SOC blocks. Additional identifying numbers are placed in Additional Identifiers block. The identifier (prefix) should precede the number and be separated from the number by use of a hyphen.

    AF - Air Force Serial Number
    AR - Alien Registration Number
    AS - Army Serial Number, National Guard Serial Number or Air National Guard Serial Number (regardless of State)
    CG - U. S. Coast Guard Serial Number
    MD - Mariner's Document or Identification Number
    MC - Marine Corps Serial Number
    MP - Royal Canadian Mounted Police Identification Number
    NS - Navy Serial Number
    PP - Passport Number
    PS - Port Security Card Number
    SS - Selective Service Number
    VA - Veterans Administration Claim Number

15. **Fingerprint classification (Henry System)** - The Henry System fingerprint classification is to be placed in this block, when available. Do not enter in NCIC.
16. **Social Security Number (SOC)** - Place subject's Social Security Account Number in this block.
17. **Operator's License Number** - Place subject's operator's license number in OLN block. Also show licensing state (OLS) and year license expires (OLY).
18. **Warrant Issued By-On-(DOW)** - In Escaped Federal Prisoner cases enter date of escape in DOW block.
19. **Miscellaneous (MIS)** - Enter additional pertinent information in this block. If caution statement used, basis for statement must be set forth as first item in this block.
20. **License Plate and Vehicle Information** - Place information concerning license plate and/or vehicle known to be in the possession of subject in appropriate blocks under License Plate and Vehicle Information heading.
21. **Additional Identifiers** - Enter information concerning additional license plates (number, state, year expires, and where applicable, type); Social Security Numbers; operator's license number, state and year expires; vehicle information (VIN, VYR, VMA, VMO, VST, VCO); MNU's (see list in item 13 above); visible scars, marks, tattoos, etc.; and dates of birth. Clearly identify what data is being set forth; e.g. Social Security # 423-56-3294; Michigan operator's license 234567, expires 1972; DOB's 4/5/32, 5/3/32; etc.
22. Changes and deletions should be so indicated in the appropriate blocks.

ZW.TNFBIKX00.NAM/RAY, JAMES EARL.DOB/031028

TNFBIKX00

EW-C TNFBIKX00 NAM/RAY, JAMES EARL SEX/M RAC/W POB/IL DOB/031028

HGT/510 WGT/170 HAI/BLK FBI/ 405942G

OFF/4902 DOW/061177 OCA/88-7223

MIS/UFAC CONSPIRACY NO BOND REC

NIC/W168560456

ORI IS FBI KNOXVILLE TN

NIC/W168560456

451

KX0451

00 HI CG CI DE JN LA LR LS ME SF

DE KX

O 111115Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

LOS ANGELES IMMEDIATE

CHICAGO IMMEDIATE

DETROIT IMMEDIATE

CINCINNATI IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

LOUISVILLE IMMEDIATE

SAN FRANCISCO IMMEDIATE

LITTLE ROCK IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

[redacted]; CONSPIRACY; b6 b7C

UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE

88-7223-7

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 P.M., JUNE 10, 1977, [redacted] [redacted] IN THE COMPANY OF JAMES EARL RAY, EARL HILL, JR., [redacted] AND [redacted], INMATES OF THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENN., ESCAPED BY PLACING A MAKESHIFT LADDER ON THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE PRISON COMPOUND. THE ESCAPEES WERE INMATES OF THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION. THE PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED IN THE MAIN PRISON YARD AT 6:00 P.M. FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE.

b6
b7C

THE ESCAPE WAS FACILITATED BY TWO INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE PRISON YARD: A STAGED FIGHT AND A FAKED ACCIDENT. THE PRISONERS ESCAPED WHILE THE ATTENTION OF THE GUARDS AND THE MAIN PRISON POPULATION WAS DIRECTED TO THESE TWO INCIDENTS.

ONE OTHER PRISONER ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE AND WAS SHOT AND RECAPTURED BY PRISON GUARDS.

REVIEW OF TENNESSEE STATE PRISON FILE NUMBER [redacted] REVEALS SUBJECT [redacted], NEGRO MALE, [redacted]

b6
b7C

DOB [redacted] POB CLARKSVILLE, MISSISSIPPI,

[redacted]

[redacted] SENTENCED OCT. 20, 1972 b6 b7C

TO 100 YEARS AFTER BEING CONVICTED IN [redacted]

[redacted] OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER IN THE SHOOTING DEATH

DURING AN ARMED ROBBERY OF A THEATER CASHIER.

MARITAL STATUS, SINGLE; VISITORS IN FILE LISTED

AS: [redacted], BERKLEY, CAL., [redacted],

CHICAGO, ILL.; [redacted],

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.; [redacted],

MEMPHIS, TENN.; [redacted], RELATION FATHER, [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted], MEMPHIS, TENN.; [redacted] SISTER, [redacted],

ADDRESS UNKNOWN, LOS ANGELES, CAL.; [redacted],

HALF-BROTHER, [redacted], MEMPHIS,

TENN.; [redacted] HALF-BROTHER, [redacted]

[redacted] MEMPHIS, TENN.; LILLIAN SMITH, GRANDMOTHER,

TAYLOR, MISS.; [redacted], HALF-BROTHER, ADDRESS b6 b7C

UNKNOWN, LOS ANGELES, CAL.; [redacted], HALF-

BROTHER, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, CHICAGO, ILL.; [redacted]

HALF-BROTHER, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, CHICAGO, ILL.; [redacted] [redacted] HALF-SISTER, [redacted], MEMPHIS, TENN.; [redacted] HALF-SISTER, [redacted], MEMPHIS, TENN.; [redacted] HALF-SISTER, AGE UNKNOWN, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, LOS ANGELES, CAL.; [redacted] [redacted] HALF-SISTER, AGE UNKNOWN, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, LOS ANGELES, CAL.; [redacted] STEP-SISTER, [redacted], MEMPHIS, TENN.; [redacted] STEP-MOTHER, [redacted], [redacted], MEMPHIS, TENN.; [redacted] STEP-BROTHER, [redacted] MICHIGAN STATE PENITENTIARY, JACKSON, MICHIGAN; [redacted] STEP-BROTHER, [redacted], OHIO STATE PENITENTIARY, COLUMBUS, OHIO; [redacted] [redacted] MEMPHIS, TENN., FRIEND; [redacted] ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH, NASHVILLE, TENN.

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EMPLOYMENTS SHOWN AS CHICAGO DIE, CHICAGO, ILL., FACTORY WORKER, 1971; RAWLINGS AND ZENITH, CHICAGO, ILL., 1971; METHODIST HOSPITAL, MEMPHIS, TENN., 1968.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FREDERICK

BARRON AND PREPARED BY AUSA [redacted] AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., WAS FILED BY SA [redacted] BEFORE U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE FRANK A. KAUFMAN AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., CHARGING SUBJECT [redacted] WAS IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 371, IN UNLAWFULLY, ETC. CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SUBJECT BE HELD WITHOUT BOND.

b6
b7C

IN VIEW OF THE FACT SUBJECT ESCAPED WITH JAMES EARL RAY AND THE FACT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE NATIONWIDE ATTENTION FOCUSED ON THIS MATTER, EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF LEADS IS REQUESTED.

RECEIVING OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO REVIEW THIS COMMUNICATION AND COVER LEADS EXPEDITIOUSLY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE DIVISIONS.

IN VIEW OF SUBJECT'S CONVICTION OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

BT

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FM KNOXVILLE (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

INDIANAPOLIS IMMEDIATE

RICHMOND IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

[redacted] - FUGITIVE;

CONSPIRACY; UFAP - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FREDERICK BARRON AND PREPARED BY AUSA [redacted] AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., WAS FILED BY SA [redacted] BEFORE U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE FRANK A. KAUFMAN AT KNOXVILLE, TENN. CHARGING SUBJECT [redacted] WAS IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 371, IN UNLAWFULLY, ETC. CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE TITLE 18, U. S. CODE, SECTION 1073.

b6
b7C

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SUBJECT BE HELD WITHOUT BOND.

88-7223-8

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 P.M., JUNE 10, 1977, [redacted], IN THE COMPANY OF JAMES EARL RAY, EARL HILL, JR., [redacted] AND [redacted], ALL INMATES OF THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENN., ESCAPED BY PLACING MAKESHIFT LADDER ON OUTSIDE WALL OF PRISON COMPOUND. ESCAPEES WERE INMATES OF GENERAL PRISON POPULATION. PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED IN MAIN PRISON YARD AT 6:00 P.M. FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE.

b6
b7C

ESCAPE WAS FACILITATED BY TWO INCIDENTS OCCURRING IN PRISON YARD: A STAGED FIGHT AND FAKED ACCIDENT. PRISONERS ESCAPED WHILE ATTENTION OF GUARDS AND MAIN PRISON POPULATION DIRECTED TOWARD THESE INCIDENTS. ONE PRISONER ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE WAS SHOT AND RECAPTURED BY PRISON GUARDS.

REVIEW OF TENNESSEE PRISON RECORD NUMBER [redacted] INDICATES FOLLOWING INFORMATION RE [redacted]: WHITE, MALE, DOB [redacted] POB KINGSPORT, TENN., [redacted]

b6
b7C

[redacted]

[redacted] EDUCATION: [redacted] MARITAL STATUS: SINGLE. b6 b7C

PRIOR OCCUPATIONS: BRICKMASON, LANDSCAPING, PAINTER AND PRESS OPERATOR. SSAN [redacted] FBI NUMBER [redacted] TENNESSEE PRISON NUMBER [redacted] CURRENTLY SERVING SENTENCES OF [redacted] YEARS FOR FELONIOUS ASSAULT, GRAND LARCENY AND FIRST DEGREE MURDER.

PRISON RECORDS INDICATE FOLLOWING RELATIVES: MOTHER AND FATHER WILLIAM MC KINLEY SHELTON, ROXIE PEARL SHELTON, RT. 4, P. O. BOX 262, KINGSPORT, TENN.; BROTHERS: [redacted], WHITING, IND.; [redacted], RICHMOND, VA.; [redacted] KINGSPORT, TENN.; [redacted] ADDRESS [redacted], WHITING, IND.; SISTERS: [redacted], KINGSPORT, TENN. b6 b7C

(HUSBAND'S NAME [redacted]

NEW YORK AVE., (2 858,&, IND.; FORMER GIRLFRIEND [redacted], KINGSPORT, TENN.

MOST RECENT VISITORS AT PRISON FOR [redacted] ON MAY 29, 1977: [redacted] BROTHER, [redacted] KINGSPORT, TENN.; [redacted] SISTER-IN-LAW, [redacted] KINGSPORT, TENN.; [redacted] NIECE AND NEPHEW, [redacted] KINGSPORT, TENN. b6 b7C

ON MAY 22, 1977, ROXIE SHELTON, MOTHER, RT. 4, BOX 262, KINGSPORT, TENN.; [redacted] FRIEND, RT. 4, KINGSPORT, TENN.; [redacted] FRIEND, [redacted] KINGSPORT, TENN. b6 b7C

ON MAY 9, 1977: [redacted] BROTHER, [redacted], WHITING, IND.

IN VIEW OF NATIONAL PROMINENCE OF JAMES EARL RAY WHO MAY BE ACCOMPANYING SUBJECT, EXPEDITIOUS COVERAGE OF LEADS IS REQUESTED BY RECEIVING OFFICES.

LEADS. INDIANAPOLIS. AT WHITING, IND. 1. WILL CONTACT BROTHERS [redacted]; [redacted], AVE., AND SISTER b6 b7C

[redacted] IN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND SUBJECT. WILL ADVISE OF OTHER ESCAPEES WHO MAY BE IN COMPANY OF SUBJECT.

RICHMOND. AT RICHMOND, IND. WILL CONTACT SUBJECT'S BROTHER, [redacted] IN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND SUBJECT AND WILL ADVISE OF OTHER ESCAPEES WHO MAY BE IN COMPANY OF SUBJECT.

KNOXVILLE. AT KINGSPORT, TENN. 1. WILL CONTACT ALL RELATIVES AND FRIENDS IN KINGSPORT, TENN. AS REQUESTED IN THIS COMMUNICATION IN ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND SUBJECT. 2. WILL CONTACT TBI AGENT [redacted] KINGSPORT, TENN., FOR ASSISTANCE AND ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION HE MAY HAVE RE SUBJECT. (FOR INFORMATION OF KINGSPORT, [redacted] WORKED CASE ON SUBJECT WHEN SUBJECT ORIGINALLY SENT PENITENTIARY).

SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS IN VIEW OF CHARGE OF MURDER AND PRESENT AND PRIOR ESCAPES.

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FM KNOXVILLE (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

[redacted] CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE; OO KNOXVILLE.

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 PM, JUNE 10,1977, [redacted] b6 b7C IN THE COMPANY OF JAMES EARL RAY, EARL HILL, JR., [redacted] [redacted] OF THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENN., ESCAPED BY PLACING MAKESHIFT LADDER ON OUTSIDE WALL OF PRISON COMPOUND. ESCAPEES WERE INMATES OF GENERAL PRISON POPULATION. PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED INTO MAIN PRISON YARD AT 6:00 PM FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE.

ESCAPE WAS FACILITATED BY TWO INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN PRISON YARD: STAGED FIGHT AND A FAKED ACCIDENT. PRISONERS

88-7223-9

ESCAPED WHILE ATTENTION OF GUARDS AND MAIN PRISON POPULATION WAS DIRECTED TO THESE TWO INCIDENTS. ONE OTHER PRISONER ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE AND WAS SHOT AND RECAPTURED BY PRISON GUARDS.

REVIEW OF RECORDS AT BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON ON JUNE 11, 1977, REFLECTS FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIVE AND BACKGROUND DATA OF [redacted] WHITE MALE, [redacted], [redacted], DOB [redacted] POB [redacted], [redacted] b6 b7C LAST ADDRESS [redacted] KNOXVILLE, TENN. BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON NO. [redacted] FBI NO. [redacted] SSN [redacted] NOT MARRIED. RELATIVES: FATHER, [redacted], KNOXVILLE, TENN.; MOTHER, [redacted] SAME ADDRESS; BROTHERS, [redacted], KNOXVILLE; [redacted] SISTERS, [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] ALL OF KNOXVILLE.

FOLLOWING IS LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WHO VISITED [redacted] AT BMSP:

XX 88-NEW PAGE THREE CLEAR

[redacted]

[redacted]

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ON NOV. 21, 1973, [redacted] WAS SENTENCED TO 50 YEARS IN PRISON FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND THREE - 21 YEAR SENTENCES FOR ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT MURDER, FIRST DEGREE. [redacted] RECEIVED A ONE YEAR SENTENCE FOR ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE FROM THE KNOX COUNTY JAIL IN 1973. IN 1971 [redacted] ENLISTED IN U. S. ARMY AND REPORTED BEING AWOL ON 2 OCCASIONS.

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PRIOR ARRESTS OF [redacted] DATE BACK TO 1970 TO INCLUDE BURGLARY, RECEIVING AND CONCEALING STOLEN PROPERTY, AWOL, ARMED ROBBERY, RESISTING ARREST, ASSAULT ON POLICE OFFICER, FELONIOUS ASSAULT AND ATTEMPTED JAIL ESCAPE.

KX 88-NEW PAGE FOUR CLEAR

KNOXVILLE, AT KNOXVILLE, TENN.:

(1) WILL CONTACT RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF [redacted] IN EFFORT TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND.

(2) IF SUBJECT NOT LOCATED, WILL OBTAIN EXTENSIVE BACKGROUND INFORMATION RE [redacted] AND SET OUT APPROPRIATE LEADS IN EFFORT TO EFFECT APPREHENSION.

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IN VIEW OF SUBJECT'S PAST RECORD OF ARMED ROBBERY AND ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT MURDER, HE WHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS. ALSO SINCE SUBJECT HAS ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE ON ONE OCCASION AND ESCAPED FROM PENITENTIARY IN THE STATE PRISON ON JUNE 10, 1977, HE SHOULDD BE CONSIDERED AN ESCAPE RISK.

BI

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P 111455Z JUN 77

FM LOUISVILLE (88-7401)(P)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

ATLANTA PRIORITY

CINCINNATI PRIORITY

INDIANAPOLIS PRIORITY

MEMPHIS PRIORITY

NORFOLK PRIORITY

BT

C L E A R

[redacted] - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE; b6 b7C

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

EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO

VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELCALL TO LOUISVILLE, JUNE 20, 1977, MEMPHIS

TELCALL TO LOUISVILLE, JUNE 11, 1977, AND LOUISVILLE TELCALLS TO

INDIANAPOLIS, MEMPHIS, AND KNOXVILLE, JUNE 11, 1977.

88-7223 10

[redacted] b6 b7C

INFO IN MEMPHIS TELCALL TO LOUISVILLE ADVISED A SOURCE OF MEMPHIS DIVISION ADVISED JAMES EARL RAY, WHO HAD RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM PRISON IN TENNESSEE, WAS TO BE FLOWN FROM PETROS, TENNESSEE, TO CAMDEN, TENNESSEE, ON AN OTTER AIRCRAFT SCHEDULED TO LAND CAMDEN, 6:00 AM. TELCALLS BY MEMPHIS DETERMINED ONLY OTTER AIRCRAFT UNACCOUNTED FOR WAS SOLD JUNE 7, 1977, TO [redacted] LARK b6 b7C CORPORATION, HENDERSON, KENTUCKY. AIRCRAFT DESCRIBED AS MANUFACTURED BY DE HAVILAND CORPORATION, TWIN ENGINE MODEL BN2, RED AND WHITE IN COLOR, BLUE TRIM, WITH TAIL NUMBER N84CA, SERIAL NUMBER 274. INVESTIGATION AT HENDERSON, KY., DETERMINED PLANE SEEN INSIDE HANGER AT HENDERSON AT 4:00 AM, EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME, BLOCKED IN HANGER BY THREE OR FOUR OTHER AIRCRAFT. AIR FIELD AT HENDERSON NOT OPERATIVE DURING NIGHT HOURS AND SHERIFF AT HENDERSON, KY., KNOWS [redacted] TO BE A BUSINESSMAN RESIDING IN EVANSVILLE, INDIANA, WHO OPERATES A RECREATIONAL VEHICLE SALES b6 b7C COMPANY. [redacted] IS 50-60 YEARS OF AGE, WAS FORMERLY A DEALER FOR THE ABOVE TYPE AIRCRAFT AT FT. LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA, AND ALLEGEDLY PURCHASED AIRCRAFT AT HENDERSON FOR SPECULATIVE PURPOSES AND DUE TO HEALTH, IS NOT LICENSED TO FLY AIRCRAFT, AND HAS NO KNOWN PILOT. AIRCRAFT HAS NOT BEEN FLOWN SINCE IT ARRIVED AT

HENDERSON PROBABLY SUBSEQUENT TO JUNE 7, 1977. SA CURRENTLY PROVIDING SURVEILLANCE OF AIRCRAFT AT HENDERSON, BUT WILL TERMINATE THIS SURVEILLANCE 9:30 AM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME, UAC, AS IT IS NOT KNOWN WHETHER ANY FURTHER CREDENCE CAN BE GIVEN TO INFO PROVIDED BY MEMPHIS.

ESCAPEE [redacted] WAS KNOWN TO BE IN THE COVINGTON, KY. AREA PRIOR TO HIS LAST ARREST. [redacted] WAS IN THE COMPANY OF [redacted] W/M, DOB [redacted] FBI NUMBER [redacted] WHO HAD BEEN SERVING TIME WITH [redacted] IN TENNESSEE PRISON AND ESCAPED WITH HIM. [redacted] BROKE HIS LEG IN JANUARY, 1977, AND BOTH HE AND [redacted] WERE TRACED TO THE NORFOLK, VIRGINIA AREA WHERE [redacted] WAS ARRESTED ON APRIL 13, 1977. NO INFO HAS BEEN RECEIVED RE ANY SITING OF [redacted] SINCE [redacted] ARREST AND IT IS BELIEVED [redacted] MAY HAVE BEEN KILLED BY [redacted] OR [redacted] THEN ASSOCIATES, [redacted] THE ABOVE INDIVIDUALS ARE BELIEVED RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BANK ROBBERY IN OAK CITY, NORTH CAROLINA, ON APRIL 1, 1977, AND [redacted] IS A RECENT ADDITION TO TOP TEN LIST. [redacted] HAS RELATIVES IN KENTUCKY, WHO HAVE BEEN CONTACTED DURING THE SEVERAL FUGITIVE INVESTIGATIONS CONDUCTED RE HIM AND IN 1972 HAD NOT SEEN [redacted]

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b7C

SINCE 1968. THESE RELATIVES, AS WELL AS SOURCES IN THE COVINGTON, KY. AREA FAMILIAR WITH [redacted] WILL BE CONTACTED TODAY AND RESULTS FURNISHED KNOXVILLE.

LOUISVILLE SWAT TEAM DEPARTED IN BUCAR 7:30 AM, JUNE 11, 1977, FOR PETROS, TENNESSEE. b6 b7C

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. [redacted] KNOWN TO UTILIZE POLICE SCANNERS. ESCAPE RISKS.

BT

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FM MEMPHIS (88-10054) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

BT

~~E F T O~~

CHANGED (IO) EARL HILL, JR., AKA JUNIOR EARL HILL - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE.

TITLE CHANGED TO ADD ALIAS JUNIOR EARL HILL.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE, JUNE 11, 1977.

A REVIEW OF MEMPHIS FILE REVEALED THE FOLLOWING INFO RE EARL HILL, JR.:

AKA JUNIOR EARL HILL; WM; DOB OCTOBER 19, 1942; POB ERWIN, TENN.; 5'6" TALL; 134 LBS.; BLACK HAIR; GREEN EYES; MEDIUM COMPLEXION; FBI NO. 736616; SSAN 408-68-7752; SCAR TOP OF RIGHT HAND; CRIMINAL RECORD - MURDER FIRST DEGREE, RAPE, ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT MURDER, SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT APRIL 29, 1969; RELATIVES: SISTER, [redacted] JOHNSON CITY, TENN.; FATHER, EARL HILL, SR., [redacted]

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88-7223-11

[redacted]

b6
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RT. 1, UNICOI, TENN.; MOTHER, WILLIE HILL, NEE STANLEY, SAME ADDRESS; BROTHER, [redacted] SAME ADDRESS; BROTHER, [redacted] JOHNSON CITY, TENN.; SISTER, [redacted] b6 b7C HAMPTON, TENN.; SISTER, [redacted] JOHNSON CITY, TENN.

KNOXVILLE, CONTACT ABOVE RELATIVES RE SUBJECT'S WHEREABOUTS. ARRED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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FM MEMPHIS (88-10052) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) IMMEDIATE

BT

~~E F T O~~

[redacted] - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE;

EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE; b6 b7C

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE;

CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. OO KX.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JUNE 11, 1977; MEMPHIS PHONE CALLS TO KNOXVILLE AND KNOXVILLE PHONE CALLS TO MEMPHIS, JUNE 10 AND 11, 1977; AND MEMPHIS PHONE CALL TO BUREAU, JUNE 11, 1977.

MEMPHIS RECEIVED PHONE CALL FROM INDIVIDUAL IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS [redacted] CAMDEN, TENN., FEDERAL PAROLEE FOR BR, WHO STATED JAMES EARL RAY WOULD BE IN BENTON COUNTY, TENN., SOMETIME BETWEEN 9:45 PM, JUNE 10, 1977, AND 6:00 AM,

b6 b7C

88-7223-12

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted] SERIALIZED [redacted] JUN 11 [redacted] FBI

JUNE 11, 1977, THAT HE WOULD BE ARRIVING BY PLANE AND THE LANDING WOULD BE NEAR HARMON'S CREEK. THE LANDING WOULD BE IN A CORN FIELD IN A TWIN ENGINE AIRCRAFT OWNED BY METRO AIRLINES, HOUSTON, TEXAS.

[redacted] STATED THAT RAY'S ESCAPE HAD BEEN SET UP BY [redacted] (PH), A PRISONER IN THE STATE REFORMATORY, ONLY, TENN., AND A [redacted] CAMDEN, TENN. b6 b7C

SAC, MEMPHIS, AND AGENTS, MEMPHIS OFFICE, LOCATED [redacted] AND INTERVIEWED HIM. HE DENIED MAKING PHONE CALL. A TAPE RECORDING WAS MADE OF INCOMING CALL FROM INDIVIDUAL ALLEGING TO BE [redacted]. AGENTS WHO INTERVIEWED [redacted] LISTENED TO TAPE AND SAID THIS IS DEFINITELY NOT [redacted]. b6 b7C

NO AIRCRAFT LANDED IN AREA NEAR HARMON'S CREEK IN BENTON COUNTY DURING NIGHT. SAC, MEMPHIS, HAS DISCONTINUED INVESTIGATION AT CAMDEN.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BI

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O 111415Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

CHICAGO IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS IMMEDIATE

ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

TAMPA IMMEDIATE

WASHINGTON FIELD IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

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

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 PM ON JUNE 10, 1977, JAMES EARL RAY IN THE COMPANY OF EARL HILL, JR., [redacted]

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b7C

[redacted]

88-7223-13

INMATES OF BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENN., ESCAPED BY PLACING MAKESHIFT LADDER ON OUTSIDE WALL OF PRISON COMPOUND. ESCAPEES WERE INMATES OF GENERAL PRISON POPULATION. THE PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED INTO MAIN PRISON YARD AT 6:00 PM FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE.

ESCAPE WAS FACILITATED BY TWO INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN PRISON YARD: A STAGED FIGHT AND A FAKED ACCIDENT. PRISONERS ESCAPED WHILE ATTENTION OF GUARDS AND MAIN PRISON POPULATION WAS DIRECTED TO THESE TWO INCIDENTS. ONE OTHER PRISONER WAS ATTEMPTING TO ESCAPE, WAS SHOT AND RECAPTURED BY PRISON GUARDS.

REVIEW OF PRISON RECORDS, BMSP ON JUNE 11, 1977, DISCLOSED FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIVE AND BACKGROUND DATA ON JAMES EARL RAY: DOB MARCH 10, 1928, POB ALTON, ILL., OR ST. LOUIS, MO., WHITE, MALE, BLUE EYES, 5 FT. 10 IN., 175 LBS., BLACK AND GRAY HAIR, FAIR COMPLEXION, BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON NO. 65477, RPT 65477. RELATIVES: FATHER GEORGE RAY, ADDRESS UNKNOWN; BROTHERS: [redacted], [redacted], ST. LOUIS, MO.; [redacted],

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LAKE ZURICH, ILL.; SISTER: [redacted]

[redacted], CITY AND STATE NOT LISTED, AND [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted], MAPLEWOOD, MO.

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF INDIVIDUALS WHO VISITED JAMES EARL RAY AT BMSP:

[redacted] LONGEROVE, ILL., OR [redacted] ST. LOUIS, MO.

[redacted], MEMPHIS, TENN., ATTORNEY. b6 b7C

[redacted], WASHINGTON, D. C., ATTORNEY.

[redacted] WASHINGTON, D. C., ATTORNEY.

[redacted], MEMPHIS, TENN. b6 b7C

[redacted] GENERAL DELIVERY, PETROS, TENN., PASTOR.

[redacted], CHICAGO, ILL.

[redacted], WASHINGTON, D. C. b6 b7C

[redacted], MEMPHIS, TENN.

KX 88-NEW PAGE FOUR CLEAR

[redacted], MARIETTA, GA. b6 b7C

[redacted] ORLANDO, FLA.

JAMES EARL RAY WAS INDICTED IN SHELBY COUNTY, TENN., MAY 7, 1968, FOR THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AT MEMPHIS, TENN., ON APRIL 4, 1968. ON MARCH 10, 1969, RAY WAS SENTENCED TO 99 YEARS IN PRISON FOR MURDER FIRST DEGREE. SUBJECT'S CRIMINAL RECORD DATES BACK TO 1949 TO INCLUDE CHARGES OF BURGLARY, ROBBERY, CASHING STOLEN MONEY ORDERS AND FORGERY OF U. S. MONEY ORDERS. SUBJECT ESCAPED FROM STATE PENITENTIARY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO., ON APRIL 23, 1967.

RECEIVING OFFICES REVIEW THIS COMMUNICATION FOR NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS IN YOUR RESPECTIVE DIVISION WHO SHOULD BE CONTACTED FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING WHEREABOUTS OF JAMES EARL RAY.

PERTINENT LEADS SHOULD BE PROMPTLY SET OUT IN EFFORT

KX 88-NEW PAGE FIVE CLEAR

TO LOCATE AND APPREHEND SUBJECT.

IN VIEW OF SUBJECTS CONVICTION OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS. ALSO SINCE SUBJECT HAS PRIOR RECORD OF ESCAPE AND ESCAPE FROM BMSP ON JUNE 10, 1977, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ESCAPE RISK.

BT

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FM KNOXVILLE (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

CHARLOTTE IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

EARL HILL, JR., AKA JUNIOR EARL HILL; CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE. 00 KNOXVILLE.

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 PM, JUNE 10, 1977, EARL HILL, JR., IN THE COMPANY OF JAMES EARL RAY, [redacted], [redacted], ALL INMATES OF BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PENITENTIARY, PETROS, TENN., ESCAPED BY PLACING A MAKESHIFT LADDER ON OUTER WALL OF PRISON COMPOUND. ESCAPEES WERE INMATES OF GENERAL PRISON POPULATION. PRISONERS WERE PERMITED INTO MAIN PRISON YARD AT 6:00 PM FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE.

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ESCAPE WAS FACILITATED BY TWO INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN PRISON YARD: A STAGED FIGHT AND A FAKED ACCIDENT.

88-7223-14

PRISONERS ESCAPED WHILE ATTENTION OF GUARDS AND MAIN PRISON POPULATION WAS DIRECTED TO THESE TWO INCIDENTS.

ONE OTHER PRISONER ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE, WAS SHOT AND RECAPTURED BY PRISON GUARDS.

EARL HILL WAS SENTENCED APRIL 29, 1969, IN WASHINGTON - UNICOI COUNTY COURT TO TWO LIFE SENTENCES FOR MURDER FIRST DEGREE AND THREE - 21 YEAR SENTENCES FOR RAPE, ASSAULT WITH INTENT TO COMMIT MURDER. THIS SENTENCE RESULTED FROM SUBJECT'S ARREST AND CONVICTION FOR MURDER OF WASHINGTON, D. C. POLICE-MAN AND ATTEMPTED MURDER OF HIS WIFE WHO WERE ON VACATION IN MOUNTAINS OF UPPER EAST TENNESSEE. SUBJECT ESCAPED TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY, NASHVILLE, MAY 19, 1974, AND ARRESTED MAY 25, 1974. HE WAS SENTENCED TO 11 MONTHS AND 29 DAYS ON THAT ESCAPE CHARGE. HE IS ELIGIBLE FOR PAROLE JUNE 29, 1998.

FILES OF TENNESSEE STATE PENITENTIARY, PETROS, REVEAL SUBJECT DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, BORN OCT. 19, 1942, AT ERWIN, TENN., SINGLE, 5 FT. 6, 135 LBS., BLACK HAIR, GREEN EYES,

KX 88-NEW PAGE THREE CLEAR

COMPLEXION MEDIUM, SCAR TOP RIGHT HAND, EDUCATION 8TH GRADE. MILITARY SERVICE: ENLISTED U. S. ARMY 1964, NO DISCHARGE. EMPLOYMENT: SWIFT & CO., JOHNSON CITY. TENN., 1964-66; PEPSI COLA BOTTLING CO., 1962-64, LABORER. BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON NO. 65855, RPT 65855. RELATIVES: FATHER, EARL HILL, SR., ROUTE 1, UNICOI; MOTHER, MILLIE STANLEY HILL, DECEASED 1953; BROTHERS: [redacted] UNICOI, TENN., [redacted], JOHNSON CITY, TENN.; SISTERS: [redacted] HUSBAND [redacted] HAMPTON, TENN.; [redacted], HUSBAND [redacted], JOHNSON CITY, TENN. (SUBJECT'S LEGAL RESIDENCE.); [redacted] HUSBAND [redacted] JOHNSON CITY, TENN.; [redacted] HUSBAND [redacted] UNICOI, TENN. b6 b7C

SUBJECT'S IMMEDIATE FAMILY REGULAR VISITORS AT PENITENTIARY. ONLY VISITOR OUTSIDE SUBJECT'S FAMILY IS [redacted], GREEN MOUNTAIN, N. C., A FRIEND, WHO VISITED SUBJECT FEB. 7, 1976. b6 b7C

KX 88-NEW PAGE FOUR CLEAR

CHARLOTTE, AT GREEN MOUNTAIN, N. C., IMMEDIATELY CONTACT [redacted] AND DETERMINE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH SUBJECT AND ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO SUBJECT'S WHEREABOUTS. b6 b7C

KNOXVILLE WILL ALERT LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND ESTABLISH SOURCES IN AREA OF SUBJECT'S RELATIVES IN JOHNSON CITY, UNICOI AND HAMPTON.

SUBJECT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS AND ESCAPE RISK.

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FM MEMPHIS (88-10052) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

PHILADELPHIA IMMEDIATE

BT

~~E F T O~~

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. OO KX.

RE KNOXVILLE TELCALL TODAY.

FOLLOWING S.W.A.T. TRAINED SA'S ARRIVING KNOXVILLE TODAY FROM MEMPHIS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFERENCED TELCALL:

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] LEAVING MEMPHIS 11:00 AM ON SOUTHERN FLIGHT 412 ARRIVING KNOXVILLE 1:25 PM. OTHERS LEAVING CAMDEN, TENN., 9:45 AM, VIA CHARTERED TWIN ENGINE AZTEC N6945Y ARRIVING MC GHEE TYSON AIRPORT, KNOXVILLE, 12:15 PM.

88-7223 15 b6 b7C

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
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FBI—[illegible]

PHILADELPHIA ADVISED AS SA [redacted] NOW ASSIGNED PHILADELPHIA BUT PRESENTLY IN MEMPHIS FOR TRIAL. b6 b7C

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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FM DETROIT (88-NEW) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-NEW) IMMEDIATE

BT

~~E F T O~~

[redacted], AKA, ET AL; UFAC - ESCAPE; OO: KNOXVILLE

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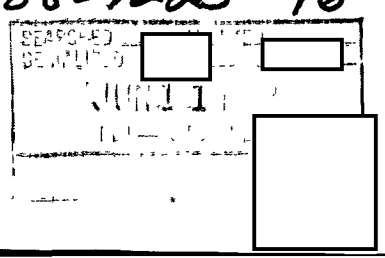
RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE JUNE 11, 1977.

UNABLE TO IDENTIFY STEP-BROTHER, [redacted] AT THE STATE PRISON OF SOUTHERN MICHIGAN, JACKSON, MICHIGAN. ONE POSSIBILITY OF IDENTIFICATION STILL EXISTS BUT UNABLE TO RESOLVE UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1977.

BT

88-7223-16



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R 111520Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

EARL HILL, JR., AKA - JUNIOR HILL, JIMMY HILBERT -

FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY; UFAC - ESCAPE. (OO: KNOXVILLE).

ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FREDERICK BARRON AND PREPARED BY AUSA [redacted] AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., WAS FILED BY SA [redacted] BEFORE U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE FRANK A. KAUFMAN AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., CHARGING SUBJECT HILL WAS IN VIOLATION OF T18, USC, S 371, IN UNLAWFULLY, ETC., CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SUBJECT BE HELD WITHOUT BOND.

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AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 PM, JUNE 10, 1977, EARL HILL,

88-7223-17

[redacted]

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JR., IN THE COMPANY OF JAMES EARL RAY, [redacted]

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[redacted] OF THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENN., ESCAPED BY PLACING MAKESHIFT LADDER ON OUTSIDE WALL OF PRISON COMPOUND. ESCAPEES WERE INMATES OF THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION. PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED INTO MAIN PRISON YARD AT 6 PM FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE.

ON MAY 5, 1969, A CRIMINAL COURT JURY AT JONESBORO, TENN., FOUND HILL GUILTY OF MURDERING A WASHINGTON, D.C., POLICEMAN IN TENNESSEE ON NOVEMBER 26, 1967. THE POLICEMAN'S WIFE WAS RAPED SEVERAL TIMES AND SHOT BY HILL. HILL RECEIVED SENTENCES OF LIFE IMPRISONMENT AND THREE 21-YEAR SENTENCES TO RUN CONSECUTIVELY.

IN MAY, 1974, HILL ESCAPED FROM STATE PRISON, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE. HE WAS CAPTURED A FEW DAYS AFTER ESCAPE.

HILL IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: WM AMERICAN, DOB OCTOBER 19, 1941, IN UNICOI COUNTY, TENNESSEE, 5'6 1/4", 142 POUNDS, MEDIUM-SLENDER BUILD, RUDDY COMPLEXION,

EYES HAZEL, HAIR BLACK, SINGLE, EDUCATION - 8TH GRADE, OCCUPATION AT TIME OF ARREST - E-4, U. S. ARMY, ASSIGNED 84TH TRANSPORT COMPANY, FORT STEWART, GEORGIA, ASN RA-25344223, SSAN 408-68-7752. HILL ALSO HAS MANY RELATIVES IN JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE, AREA.

INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED.

IN VIEW OF SUBJECT'S CONVICTION OR MURDER, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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FM ATLANTA (88-NEW) (P)

TO BUREAU PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY; UFAC; OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE BUREAU TELCAL OF SUPERVISOR [redacted] TO ATLANTA, JUNE LL, 1977.

ATLANTA IS SENDING FIVE BUCARS AND THE FOLLOWING AGENTS TO THE KNOXVILLE DIVISION PER INSTRUCTIONS OF SUPERVISOR [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

BT

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FM KNOXVILLE (88-NEW) (P)

DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

PITTSBURGH PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

ATTN: CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION, PERSONNEL AND FINANCE DIVISION

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE. (OO: KNOXVILLE).

RE KNOXVILLE TELCALL TO UNIT CHIEF [redacted] [redacted] 11, 1977.

SA [redacted] HAS BEEN TEMPORARILY ASSIGNED TO PITTSBURGH DIVISION FOR APPLICANT MATTERS. b6 b7C

SA [redacted] IS ONE OF FOUR AGENTS ASSIGNED TO RA IN WHICH TWO OF SUBJECTS WHO ESCAPED WITH SUBJECT RAY RESIDE. IN ADDITION, SA [redacted] HAS HAD PREVIOUS

88-7223-19

EXTENSIVE INVESTIGATIVE EXPERIENCE IN CONNECTION WITH

[redacted]

PER BUREAU AUTHORITY GRANTED IN RE TELCALL, SA [redacted] WILL REMAIN ON DUTY AT KNOXVILLE. PITTSBURGH WILL BE CONTACTED RE OBTAINING SA [redacted] BELONGINGS AND MAILING SAME TO THAT AGENT.

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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0111913Z JUNE 77

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

[redacted] FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY; UFAP; ESCAPE; OO: KNOXVILLE

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b7C

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, INDIANAPOLIS AND RICHMOND DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

FISUR CONDUCTED BY RICHMOND DIVISION FBI AGENTS AT RESIDENCE OF [redacted], BROTHER OF SUBJECT, FROM APPROXIMATELY 2:00 A.M. TO 7:00 A.M., JUNE 11, 1977, WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS REGARDING [redacted] FAMILY BEING AT RESIDENCE. NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED A.M. HOURS OF JUNE 11, 1977, INDICATED [redacted] AND FAMILY POSSBLY AWAY ON CAMPING TRIP.

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IT IS NOTED [redacted] OWNS CAMPER VEHICLE BEARING VA. LICENSE [redacted], WHICH HAS NOT BEEN IN DRIVEWAY OF THE RESIDENCE SINCE FISUR INITIATED. THIS VEHICLE IS FURTHER DESCRIBED AS A

88-7223-20

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JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOXVILLE

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1975 CHEVROLET PICKUP REGISTERED TO [redacted], RICHMOND, VA. b6 b7C

REVIEW OF RICHMOND FILES RELATED TO CAPTIONED SUBJECT INDICATES [redacted] INTERVIEWED IN PAST REGARDING HIS BROTHER AND DISPLAYED AN AFFABLE ATTITUDE, HOWEVER, INDICATED HE WOULD NOT AID AUTHORITIES IN LOCATING SUBJECT.

AS INDICATED, NEIGHBORHOOD SOURCES DEVELOPED AND RICHMOND WILL INTERVIEW [redacted] UPON HIS RETURN. IT IS NOTED [redacted] WAS LAST b6 b7C SEEN BY NEIGHBORHOOD SOURCES AFTERNOON OF JUNE 9, 1977. HIS CHILDREN WERE SEEN BY NEIGHBORHOOD SOURCES AFTERNOON OF JUNE 10, 1977. NEIGHBORHOOD SOURCES INDICATED [redacted] AND HIS FAMILY HAVE IN THE PAST GONE CAMPING FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND. b6 b7C

RICHMOND AT RICHMOND WILL INTERVIEW [redacted] REGARDING WHEREABOUTS OF HIS BROTHER AND WILL MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH NEIGHBORHOOD SOURCES.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

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FM INDIANAPOLIS (88-NEW)

TO KNOXVILLE

BT

CLEAR

[redacted] - FUGITIVE; b6 b7C

UFAC - CONSPIRACY - ESCAPE, OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JUNE 11, 1977.

ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT SUBJECT'S BROTHERS, [redacted], [redacted], NEGATIVE. SUBJECT'S NEPHEW, [redacted], WHITING, IND., ADVISED b6 b7C HE HAS NOT HEARD FROM HIS UNCLE AND DID NOT KNOW HE HAD ESCAPED. [redacted] STATED SUBJ. DOES NOT HAVE A SISTER LIVING IN WHITING, IND., AND THAT [redacted] IS ACTUALLY SUBJECT'S BROTHER AND IS HIS FATHER. HE ADVISED SUBJ. HAS A SISTER, [redacted], WHO RESIDES IN KINGSPORT, TENN., EXACT ADDRESS b6 b7C UNKNOWN; HOWEVER, SHE IS MARRIED TO [redacted], A TENN. STATE TROOPER. INVESTIGATION CONTINUING AT INDIANAPOLIS. ARMED AND DANGEROUS. ESCAPE RISK.

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FBI—KNOXVILLE

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FM LOUISVILLE (88-7401) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) ROUTINE

CINCINNATI ROUTINE

MEMPHIS ROUTINE

NORFOLK ROUTINE

BT

C L E A R

[redacted] - FUGITIVE, CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE

UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KNOXVILLE

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RE LOUISVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

AUNTS AND UNCLES OF [redacted] CONTACTED THIS DATE MANCHESTER, KENTUCKY HAVE NOT SEEN OR HAD CONTACT WITH SUBJECT FOR PAST TEN YEARS. INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED HAVE EXCELLENT REPUTATION IN COMMUNITY AND WILL CONTACT FBI IF KNOWLEDGE OF SUBJECT LOCATION COMES TO THEIR ATTENTION.

FORMER PCI'S [redacted] WERE CONTACTED ATP

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88-7223-22

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JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOXV

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[redacted]

BOTH SOURCES [redacted] WOULD RETURN TO [redacted]

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ARMED AND DANGEROUS; ESCAPE RISK.

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FM DETROIT (88-NEW) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-NEW) IMMEDIATE

MEMPHIS (88-NEW) IMMEDIATE

BT

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[redacted], AKA - FUGITIVE; CONSPRIACY; UFAC-ESCAPE;

OO: KNOXVILLE

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO DETROIT, JUNE 11, 1977.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, DETECTIVE [redacted] TAYLOR POLICE DEPARTMENT, TAYLOR, MICHIGAN, WAS CONTACTED REGARDING [redacted] HE ADVISED THAT A SEARCH OF HIS FINGERPRINT CARDS REVEALED NO RECORD FOR [redacted] DETECTIVE [redacted] INDICATED THAT FURTHER SEARCH OF HIS RECORDS WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE UNTIL THE MORNING OF JUNE 13, 1977, AS THE FILES WERE SECURED FOR THE WEEKEND.

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ON JUNE 11, 1977, A PHYSICAL INSPECTION OF A FOUR BLOCK AREA SURROUNDING 7340 OAK STREET, TAYLOR, MICHIGAN, REVEALED NO VEHICLES BEARING OUT OF STATE PLATES. ON THE SAME DATE

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NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED IN THE VICINITY OF 7340 OAK STREET, TAYLOR, MICHIGAN BY SAS [redacted] AND [redacted] CONTACT WITH NEIGHBORS IN THE VICINITY OF 7340 OAK STREET REVEALED THAT CURRENT OCCUPANT IS [redacted] AND THAT HE RESIDES THERE WITH HIS WIFE AND TWO CHILDREN. NEIGHBORS INDICATED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO UNUSUAL ACTIVITY AT HIS RESIDENCE AND THEY HAVE NOT OBSERVED ANY INDIVIDUALS AT HIS RESIDENCE WHO ARE UNFAMILIAR TO THEM. NEIGHBORS ADVISED THAT [redacted] AND HIS FAMILY WERE ORIGINALLY FROM THE STATE OF TENNESSEE. b6 b7C

ON JUNE 11, 1977, [redacted] WAS CONTACTED AT HIS RESIDENCE BY SAS [redacted]. [redacted] ADVISED THAT HE WAS AWARE FROM NEWS REPORTS OF THE ESCAPE WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE AT THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON. HE ADVISED THAT HIS YOUNGER BROTHER, [redacted], HAD SERVED TIME AT THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON WITH [redacted]. HE STATED THAT HIS BROTHER [redacted]. HE STATED THAT [redacted] AND [redacted] AND WERE THE ONLY INDIVIDUALS HE HAD CONTACT WITH AT THE PRISON AND THAT HE HAD GONE THERE SEVERAL TIMES TO TALK [redacted] b6 b7C b6 b7C

[redacted] HE FURTHER STATED THAT HIS BROTHER AND [redacted] HAD BEEN FRIENDS IN TENNESSEE AND HAD BEEN CELL MATES AT THE PRISON AND THAT BOTH HAD BEEN SENTENCED FOR SIMILAR CRIMES. [redacted] FURTHER STATED THAT IN APPROXIMATELY 1970 OR 1971, BOTH HIS BROTHER AND [redacted] HAD ESCAPED FROM PRISON AND WERE ON THE RUN TOGETHER FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS BEFORE BEING APPREHENDED AGAIN. [redacted] STATED THAT HIS BROTHER IS CURRENTLY AT THE TENNESSEE STATE PRISON AND THAT HE TALKED TO HIM APPROXIMATELY THREE WEEKS AGO. [redacted] STATED DURING THAT CONVERSATION HIS BROTHER HAD NOT MENTIONED EITHER [redacted] OR RAY. [redacted] STATED THAT HIS BROTHER HAD KNOWN JAMES EARL RAY; HOWEVER, THE ONLY INFORMATION THAT HIS BROTHER GAVE HIM WAS THAT RAY WAS A VERY RECLUSIVE INDIVIDUAL AND DID NOT HAVE VERY MUCH TO DO WITH HIM. [redacted] ADVISED THAT SHOULD HE OBTAIN ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE WHEREABOUTS OF [redacted] OR SHOULD HE BE ABLE TO DETERMINE FROM HIS BROTHER ANY INFORMATION REGARDING

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THE ESCAPE HE WOULD CONTACT THE DETROIT OFFICE OF THE FBI. IT IS NOTED THAT [redacted] APPEARED COOPERATIVE IN THIS MATTER.

KNOXVILLE AT TENNESSEE STATE PRISON, INTERVIEW [redacted] [redacted] CONCERNING HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH [redacted] IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THEY BOTH HAD BEEN ON THE RUN PREVIOUSLY FOR TWO YEARS AFTER ESCAPING FROM PRISON. OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM [redacted] CONCERNING THEIR ACTIVITIES WHILE THEY WERE IN FUGITIVE STATUS.

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FM PHILADELPHIA (88-NEW)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

[redacted]-FUGITIVE; JAMES EARL RAY-FUGITIVE; ETAL b6 b7C

UFAC-ESCAPE.

RE: KNOXVILLE AND PH TELETYPES AND TELEPHONE CALLS THIS DATE.

BROTHER OF [redacted], INTERVIEWED THIS AM AND EXTENTS FULL COOPERATION. [redacted] CURRENTLY RESIDES IN RUAL AREA IN GENNESEE, PA. [redacted] TELEPHONE [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] LAST SAW BROTHER [redacted] IN 1969 WHEN [redacted] LIVED FOR TWO MONTHS WITH HE AND HIS WIFE. THERE HAS BEEN NO CORRESPONDENCE OR CONTACT SINCE THAT TIME.

[redacted], AND [redacted] ARE HIS BROTHER AND SISTER ARE VERY CLOSE TO [redacted]. LAST SAW [redacted] b6 b7C CAME TO VISIT HIM IN CLINTON, TENN., JAIL IN 1973.

88-7223-25

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted] b6 b7C

SERIALIZED [redacted]

JUN 11 1977

FBI—KNOXV [redacted]

[redacted] BELIEVES [redacted] IS CURRENTLY PRISONIER IN BUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON (BMSP). [redacted] BELIEVES [redacted] WILL CONTACT [redacted] FOR HELP IF HE CONTACTS ANYONE. [redacted] IS MARRIED TO [redacted] [redacted]. [redacted] AND [redacted] ARE CLOSE ASSOCIATES. b6 b7C [redacted] MAY HAVE BEEN IN BMSP WITH [redacted]. [redacted] ADDRESS CAN BE OBTAINED FROM ANOTHER SISTER [redacted] [redacted] SEYMOUR, TENN., [redacted]

[redacted] CONTACTED [redacted] IN KNOXVILLE AFTER A PRIVIOUS ESCAPE. [redacted] ALLOWED [redacted] TO STAY WITH HIM FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. [redacted] DOESN'T KNOW [redacted] ADDRESS BUT ADVISES b6 b7C THAT HE IS WILL KNOWN BY THE LOCAL POLICE. [redacted] BELIEVES [redacted] HAS A BROTHER NAMED [redacted] WHO WAS ALSO IN BMSP AND WHO WAS INVOLVED IN PREVIOUS ESCAPE WITH [redacted].

[redacted] USED TO FENCE GOODS THROUGH [redacted] OR [redacted]. HE BELIEVES [redacted] WOULD HELP [redacted] IF CONTACTED.

HE HAS HEARD THE NAME [redacted] AND REMEMBERS THAT [redacted] WAS ON THE FRINGES OF THE CROWD HE USED TO HANG WITH. HE b6 b7C DOESN'T KNOW ANY SPECIFICS ON [redacted].

HE HAS A FORMER BROTHER-IN-LAW NAMED [redacted] WHO WAS MARRIED TO HIS SISTER [redacted] HAS A CHILD BY [redacted] AND

PAGE THREE, PH 88-NEW, CLEAR

[redacted] TOOK CHILD TO HIS HOME IN CLINTON, TENN. ABOUT ON MONTH AGO. [redacted] WHO MAY BE RELATED TO EARL HILL LIVES ABOUT TWELVE TO FIFTEENN MILES FROM THE BMSP, EXACT ADDRESS UNKNOWN.

[redacted] RELATES THAT [redacted] WAS IN JAIL IN EARLY 1976 AND NEEDED $400.00 TO GET OUT. [redacted] CALLED HIM AND ASKED FOR THE $400.00. HE TOLD [redacted] HE DID NOT HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY. [redacted] LATER TOLD HIM THAT THEY HAD OBTAINED THE MONEY FROM [redacted] FROM PRISON. b6 b7C

[redacted] WENT IN SERVICE IN THE 1960'S AND CAME OUT AN ADDICT. AFTER THAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN SEVERAL SHOOTINGS WITH THE POLICE. IF [redacted] IS ABLE TO GET HIS HANDS ON A GUN HE WILL NOT HESITATE TO USE IT. HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS. b6 b7C

THEIR PARENTS [redacted] RESIDE AT [redacted] KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE. HE BELIEVES THEY WOULD COOPERATE BUT [redacted] WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO CONTACT THEM. OTHER SISTERS ARE AS FOLLOWS: [redacted] NEW ALBANY, INDIANA; [redacted], ADDRESS UNKNOWN, CHATTANOGA, TENN. DOING REMODELING WORK; [redacted] [redacted] TWIN, WAS LIVING WITH PARENTS; [redacted] b6 b7C

AND [redacted] ADVISES THAT [redacted] WOULD KNOW ALL OF THEIR ADDRESSES.

OTHER NAMES INVOLVED IN ESCAPE UNKNOWN TO [redacted].

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b7C

[redacted] WILL ADVISE THIS OFFICE IMMEDIATELY IF CONTACTED BY HIS BROTHER OR OTHER ESCAPEES, OR LEARNS OF THEIR WHEREABOUTS.

LEADS TO INTERVIEW SISTER IN INDIANA AND OTHER LEADS BEING LEFT TO DISCRETION OF KNOXVILLE IN VIEW OF FACT THAT KNOXVILLE MAY HAVE ALREADY SET LEADS.

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FM MEMPHIS (88-10052) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

CHICAGO IMMEDIATE

CLEVELAND IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

JACKSONVILLE IMMEDIATE

KANSAS CITY IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

LOS ANGELES, IMMEDIATE

MIAMI IMMEDIATE

MINNEAPOLIS IMMEDIATE

NEWARK IMMEDIATE

NEW ORLEANS IMMEDIATE

OKLAHOMA CITY IMMEDIATE

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JUN 11 1977
FBI — KNOXVILLE

ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

SAN FRANCISCO IMMEDIATE

SPRINGFIELD IMMEDIATE

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~~E F T O~~

SECTION 1 OF 2

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

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JUNE 11, 1977.

FOR INFO RECEIVING OFFICES, ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY USAG GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FREDERICK BARRON 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 VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073. RAY AND COMPANIONS SHOULD BE HELD WITHOUT BOND. b6 b7C

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 P.M., JUNE 10, 1977, RAY, IN THE

COMPANY OF [redacted], EARL HILL, JR., [redacted] b6 b7C

[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, 1928, 5'10", 175 LBS., BLACK & 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 b6 b7C COUNTY JAIL, ON APPEAL FOR MURDER AND FORMER MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP) ASSOCIATE.

AT MARIETTA, GA. [redacted], COBB CO. JAIL, MSP.

AT ATLANTA, GA. [redacted], FORMER LANDLORD, b6 b7C [redacted]

BIRMINGHAM AT REFORM, ALA. [redacted] FBI [redacted],

AT BIRMINGHAM, ALA. FORMER ATTORNEY [redacted]

IF FEASIBLE, AUTHOR [redacted]

CHICAGO AT JOLIET, ILL. AT ILLINOIS STATE PRISON, INMATE [redacted] FBI [redacted] EX MSP. b6 b7C

[redacted] EX MSP.

AT LAKE ZURICH, ILL. [redacted] BROTHER, [redacted]

AT CHICAGO, ILL. [redacted] SISTER, [redacted]

MSP ASSOCIATES [redacted] b6 b7C

CLEVELAND AT CLEVELAND, OHIO. [redacted], INMATE, CUYHOGA COUNTY JAIL.

DALLAS AT SEAGOVILLE, TEXAS. [redacted], EX MSP.

HOUSTON AT HOUSTON, TEXAS. [redacted], EX MSP, RAMSEY UNIT, TEXAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. b6 b7C

JACKSONVILLE AT RAIFORD, FLA. [redacted], FLORIDA STATE PRISON.

KANSAS CITY AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO. [redacted] SALESMAN,

SCHANTZMEYER FORD COMPANY, EX MSP.

AT LEAVENWORTH FEDERAL PENITENTIARY. [redacted], b6 b7C EX MSP.

AT MOBERLY, MO., MEN'S TRAINING CENTER. EX MSP INMATES [redacted]

AT WARSAW, MO. [redacted], EX MSP. b6 b7C

AT MISSOURI STATE PRISON. INMATES [redacted], TO BE RELEASED ON FEDERAL DETAINER, 1968; [redacted], WHO PEDDLED AMPHETAMINES; [redacted] (HIS MOTHER RAN AWAY WITH [redacted] AT ONE TIME); [redacted], b6 b7C CLOSE ASSOCIATE.

AT KANSAS CITY, MO. [redacted], EX MSP, [redacted]

LOS ANGELES AT HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. [redacted], WHO WENT TO NEW ORLEANS WITH RAY AND COUSINS NAMED [redacted]. b6 b7C

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIF. [redacted], SUPRA, [redacted].

[redacted], FBI [redacted], CONTACTED BY RAY FOR MONEY AFTER KING ASSASSINATION. b6 b7C

BARTENDERS [redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted], RAY'S COURT APPOINTED ATTORNEY IN LONDON.

MIAMI AT PALM SPRINGS, FLA. [redacted], EX MSP, [redacted]

MINNEAPOLIS AT MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. [redacted] b6 b7C

EX MSP, [redacted], WHO GAVE RAY MONEY

AFTER HIS ESCAPE.

NEWARK AT NEWARK, N.J. [redacted]

[redacted] AND ASSOCIATES OF [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

NEW ORLEANS AT GRETNA, LA. [redacted]

SAW RAY IN NEW ORLEANS.

OKLAHOMA CITY AT FOLSOM STATE PENITENTIARY. [redacted]

[redacted], EX MSP.

ST. LOUIS AT CENTER, MO. [redacted] FATHER. b6 b7C

AT MAPLEWOOD, MO. [redacted]

[redacted].

AT ST. LOUIS, MO. [redacted], BROTHER.

EX MSP ASSOCIATES [redacted]

TWICE CALLED BY RAY AFTER KING KILLING. b6 b7C

[redacted]

[redacted].

[redacted]

[redacted], b6 b7C

SUNRISE LAKE, DESOTO, MO.

[redacted], BT

KXI589 1622258 MEO294 1622258 1622255Z

OO KX

DE ME

O 112255Z JUN 77. FM MEMPHIS (88-10052) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

CHICAGO IMMEDIATE

CLEVELAND IMMEDIATE

DALLAS IMMEDIATE

HOUSTON IMMEDIATE

JACKSONVILLE IMMEDIATE

KANSAS CITY IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

LOS ANGELES IMMEDIATE

MIAMI IMMEDIATE

MINNEAPOLIS IMMEDIATE

NEWARK IMMEDIATE

NEW ORLEANS IMMEDIATE

OKLAHOMA CITY IMMEDIATE

Section 1 of
KX I568

.ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

SAN FRANCISCO IMMEDIATE

SPRINGFIELD IMMEDIATE

BT

~~E F T O~~

SECTION 2 OF 2

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

SAN FRANCISCO AT FREEMONT, CALIF. [redacted],
EX MSP, [redacted].

AT SAN QUENTIN. [redacted] FBI [redacted] b6 b7C

SPRINGFIELD AT ALTON, ILL. [redacted], UNCLE, [redacted]
OR [redacted]

ALTON, ILL., PD FOR ANY CURRENT INFORMATION.

AT BARTONVILLE, ILL. [redacted], EX MSP,
[redacted]

AT QUINCY, ILL. [redacted], AUNT. b6 b7C
[redacted], STEPMOTHER.
[redacted], AUNT, [redacted]
[redacted].
[redacted]
[redacted] FBI [redacted]
[redacted], EX MSP. b6 b7C

AT WOOD RIVER, ILL. [redacted]
[redacted].

MEMPHIS AT NASHVILLE, TENN. [redacted] AUSTIN, CENTRAL
STATE HOSPITAL.

.PAGE NINE ME 88-10052 ~~E F T O~~

AT MEMPHIS, TENN. [redacted], EX MSP, [redacted]. b6 b7C

ARMED AND DANGEROUS. ESCAPE RISK.

BT

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :SAC (88-7225) (P) DATE: 6/11/77

FROM :SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT [redacted] - FUGITIVE;
ET AL
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE
(OO: KNOXVILLE)

On this date, SA [redacted] telephonically advised that [redacted] mother during interview admitted receiving a letter from [redacted] on Tuesday, 6/7/77, which [redacted] had written on the prior Thursday. Enclosed in the letter was a Polariod photograph with a notation on the back "My best friends, [redacted]. b6 b7C

This information was telephonically furnished to SA [redacted] at Petros with directions given to contact [redacted], an apparent inmate for purpose of interview.

b6
b7C

[redacted]
(2)

88-7223-26A

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 1 1 [illegible]
FBI—KNOXVILLE

[redacted]

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

5010-110

KXI571 1621958 KX04[redacted] 1621937

PP AFD

DE KX

P 111935Z JUN 77

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. OO: KNOXVILLE. b6 b7C

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

DISCONTINUE ON SUBJECT [redacted], [redacted] APPREHENDED IN EXHAUSTED CONDITION WHEN OBSERVED BY THP HELICOPTER. HELICOPTER LANDED AND [redacted] ARRESTED. b6 b7C

BT

88-7223-27

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 1 1 1977
FBI — KNOXVIL[redacted]

b6 b7C

KXI569 1621945 KX0489 1621924

PP AFD

DE KX

489

P 111920Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS VIA WASHINGTON PRIORITY

BI

CLEAR

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

b6
b7C

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE JUNE 11, 1977 CAPTIONED AS ABOVE.

FOLLOWING PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF ALL SUBJECTS SET FORTH:

REVIEW OF PRISON RECORDS, BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, ON JUNE 11, 1977, DISCLOSED FOLLOWING DESCRIPTIVE

88-7223-28

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOX

b6
b7C

AND BACKGROUND DATA ON JAMES EARL RAY: D MAR PN QOWIN POB ALTON, ILL., OR ST. LOUIS, MO., WHITE, MALE, BLUE EYES, 5'10", 175 POUNDS, BLACK AND GRAY HAIR, FAIR COMPLEXION, BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON 65477. RELATIVES: FATHER GEORGE RAY, ADDRESS UNKNOWN; BROTHERS: [redacted] ST., ST. LOUIS, MO.; [redacted] LAKE ZURICH, ILL.; SISTER: [redacted] CITY AND STATE NOT LISTED, AND [redacted], MAPLEWOOD, MO. b6 b7C

REVIEW OF TENNESSEE PRISON RECORD NUMBER [redacted] INDICATES FOLLOWING INFORMATION RE [redacted]: WHITE, MALE, DOB [redacted] POB KINGSPORT, TENN., [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted]

[redacted] EDUCATION: 11TH GRADE. MARITAL STATUS: SINGLE. b6 b7C

PRIOR OCCUPATIONS: BRICKMASON, LANDSCAPING, PAINTER AND PRESS OPERATOR. SSAN [redacted] FBI NO. [redacted]

KX 88-7223 PAGE THREE CLEAR

TENNESSEE PRISON NUMBER [redacted] CURRENTLY SERVING b6 b7C
SENTENCES OF 63 TO 65 YEARS FOR FELONIOUS ASSAULT,
GRAND LARCENY AND FIRST DEGREE MURDER.

EARL HILL. WHITE, MALE, DOB OCTOBER 19, 1942, ERWIN, TENNESSEE, SINGLE, 5'6", 135 POUNDS, BLACK HAIR, GREEN EYES, COMPLEXION MEDIUM, SCAR TOP RIGHT HAND. EDUCATION 8TH GRADE.

[redacted], NEGRO MALE, [redacted] DOB [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] CLARKSVILLE, MISSISSIPPI, [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]

[redacted], WHITE MALE, [redacted], b6 b7C
[redacted]
[redacted]

HAMILTON, OHIO.

[redacted], WHITE MALE, [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted]
[redacted], KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, [redacted]

KX 88-7223 PAGE FOUR CLEAR

[redacted] b6 b7C

ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

BT

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

FBI

Date: 6/11/77

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

Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (88-NEW) (P)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE;
ET AL;
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC - ESCAPE
(OO: KX).

Enclosed for the Bureau are three xerox copies of complaint filed against six subjects pertinent to this investigation.

Mr. FREDERICK BARRON, a Special Assistant to the Attorney General, telephonically requested a copy of this complaint on the morning of 6/11/77. In addition, Mr. JOHN HARMAN, Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel, Department of Justice, had indicated a desire to be apprised of any pertinent action. He, of course, knows of the filing of this complaint.

It is requested that the Bureau transmit one copy of enclosed complaint to Mr. BARRON and one to Mr. HARMON. The additional copy is for the use of FBI HQ.

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
INDEXED
FILED

b6
b7C

2 - Bureau (Enc - 3)
2 - Knoxville
1 copy each file
RTK/mls
(4)

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

88-7223-30

GPO : 1975 O - 590-592

FD-36 (Rev. 2-14-74)

498

FBI

Date: 6/11/77

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

Via TELETYPE _____ (Precedence)

4:51 P

FM KNOXVILLE (1-110)

DIRECTOR PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

ATTN: UNIT CHIEF [redacted], CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION AND TRAINING DIVISION

IN-SERVICE TRAINING, GENERAL POLICE, INSTRUCTOR, JUNE 12-14, 1977.

RE KNOXVILLE LETTER TO BUREAU DATED MAY 23, 1977.

DUE TO CASE INVOLVING ESCAPE OF JAMES EARL RAY; ETAL, [redacted], SENIOR RESIDENT AGENT OF RA COVERING ESCAPE SITE, WILL NOT REPORT FOR IN-SERVICE, UACB.

BT

b6
b7C

1 - 88-7223

[redacted]

(2)

b6
b7C

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

88-7223-30A

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

Q

KX1579 1622158 HF0635 1622136

RR AFD

DE HQ

R 111823Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR

TO ALL SACS ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

Ray's file

[redacted] AKA - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY; b6 b7C

UFAC - ESCAPE. OO: KX.

[redacted] AKA - FUGITIVE, AND ASSOCIATES,

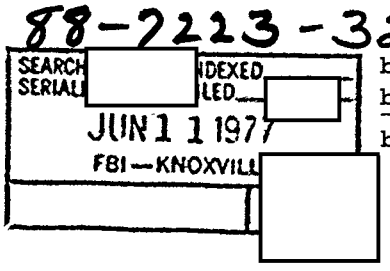
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES MATTER."

REFERENCE IS MADE TO RECENT CORRESPONDENCE UNDER CAPTION NOTED ABOVE:

FOR YOU INFORMATION:

ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FREDERICK b6 b7C BARRON AND PREPARED BY AUSA [redacted] AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., WAS FILED BY SA [redacted] BEFORE U. S. DISTRICT JUDGE FRANK A. KAUFMAN AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., CHARGING SUBJECT [redacted] WAS IN VIOLATION OF TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 371, IN UNLAWFULLY, ETC. CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073.

88-2223-32



b6 b7C b7C

PAGE TWO CLEAR.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SUBJECT BE HELD WITHOUT BOND.

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 P.M., JUNE 10, 1977, [redacted] IN THE COMPANY OF JAMES EARL RAY, EARL HILL, JR., [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] OF THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENN., ESCAPED BY PLACING MAKESHIFT LADDER ON THE OUTSIDE WALL OF THE PRISON COMPOUND. THE ESCAPEES WERE INMATES OF THE GENERAL PRISON POPULATION. THE PRISONERS WERE ALLOWED INTO THE MAIN PRISON YARD AT 6:00 P.M. FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE.

THE ESCAPE WAS FACILITATED BY TWO INCIDENTS WHICH OCCURRED IN THE PRISON YARD: A STAGED FIGHT AND A FAKED ACCIDENT. THE PRISONERS ESCAPED WHILE THE ATTENTION OF THE GUARDS AND THE MAIN PRISON POPULATION WAS DIRECTED TO THESE TWO INCIDENTS.

ONE OF THE PRISONERS ALSO ATTEMPTED TO ESCAPE AND WAS SHOT AND RECAPTURED BY PRISON GUARDS.

REVIEW OF TENNESSEE STATE PRISON RECORD NUMBER [redacted] FBI NUMBER [redacted] OF [redacted] b6 b7C REVEALS [redacted] WHITE MALE, [redacted] YEARS OLD, [redacted],

PAGE THREE CLEAR

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] RESIDENCE HAMILTON, OHIO.

FILE REVEALS WIFE [redacted] ADDRESS [redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO. VISITORS LIST INCLUDES FORMER WIFE [redacted] b6 b7C, STREET ADDRESS UNKNOWN, MATAMORE, INDIANA; ED HACKER, FATHER, 146 WEBSTER AVENUE, HAMILTON, OHIO; GEORGIA HACKER, MOTHER, SAME ADDRESS AS FATHER; [redacted] SISTER, [redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO; [redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO; [redacted], NASHVILLE, TENN.; [redacted] b6 b7C TAYLOR, MICHIGAN; [redacted] HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA; [redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO.

EMPLOYMENTS LISTED AS SOUTHERN TEXAS DRY WALL COMPANY, DAYTON, OHIO, 1969 - 1970. OCCUPATION CARPENTER, CHAMPION PAPER COMPANY, HAMILTON, OHIO, MACHINE OPERATOR, 1966 - 1968; PHILCO, CONNERSVILLE, IND., SPOT WELDER, 1964 - 1966.

PAGE FOUR CLEAR

AS ALL OFFICES KNOW, [redacted] A KNOWN ASSOCIATE OF [redacted] WAS RECENTLY APPREHENDED AT NORFOLK, VIRGINIA, BY BUREAU AGENTS. IT IS SUSPECTED THAT HE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN A RECENT NORTH CAROLINA BANK HOLDUP. [redacted] TO BE ADDED TO TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE LIST, A.M. JUNE 14, 1977. INSURE INTENSIFIED EFFORTS MADE IN CONNECTION WITH FUGITIVE [redacted] AND RELATED SUBJECTS.

b6
b7C

DUE TO FACT SUBJECT ACCOMPANIED JAMES EARL RAY IN ESCAPE, EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF ALL LEADS IS REQUIRED DUE TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE OF THIS MATTER.

RECEIVING OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO COVER LEADS SET OUT IN THE COMMUNICATION IN THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS.

IN VIEW OF FACT SUBJECT CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AND BURGLARY, HE SOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

ALL LEGATS ADVISED SEPARATELY.

BT

KX I580 1622200 CV0288 1622200

PP KX MP

DE CV

P 112158Z JUN 77

FM CLEVELAND

TO KNOXVILLE PRIORITY

MEMPHIS (88-10052) PRIORITY

BT

E F T O

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

RE MEMPHIS TEL TO DIRECTOR, JUNE 11, 1977.

INQUIRY AT THE BOOKING DESK, CUYAHOGA COUNTY JAIL, CLEVELAND, OHIO ON JUNE 11, 1977 REVEALS THAT NO INMATE IS INCARCERATED NAMED [redacted] FURTHER AVAILABLE RECORDS OF PAST INCARCERATIONS DO NOT GO BACK TO 1968. b6 b7C

NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION BEING CONDUCTED BY CLEVELAND PER [redacted] UNLESS ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE PROVIDED BY MEMPHIS.

BT

88-7223-33

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted] SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]

JUN 11 1977

FBI — KNOXVILLE

b6 b7C

[redacted]

KX0500

PP HQ CE

DE KX

P 112100Z JUN 77

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY

CHARLOTTE PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

500

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

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS, JUNE 11, 1977, AND KNOXVILLE TELCALL TO CHARLOTTE, JUNE 11, 1977.

CAPTAIN [redacted] OF GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA, PD REPORTEDLY IN POSSESSION OF INFORMATION THAT AT ABOUT 11:30 AM IN THAT CITY, A MAN AND A YOUNGSTER OBSERVED THREE MEN, ONE OF WHOM WAS ALLEGEDLY IDENTIFIED AS JAMES EARL RAY. SOME APPARENT PURSUIT TAKING PLACE ON U. S. 220 NORTH.

b6
b7C

88-7223-3K

CHARLOTTE APPARENTLY AWARE OF SITUATION AND HANDLING.

BT

KX I582 1622210 HF0636 1622145

OO AFD

DE HQ

O 112010Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR

TO ALL SACS IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; WANTED FLYER 500 "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE"; UFAC- ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

REBUTEL JUNE 11, 1977 CAPTIONED AS ABOVE AND KXTEL DATED JUNE 11, 1977 (NOT TO ALL) CAPTIONED [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] AKA - FUGITIVE; UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE."

FOR INFORMATION OF ALL RECEIVING OFFICES, KNOXVILLE ADVISED APPROXIMATELY 2 P.M., EDT, TODAY, [redacted] APPREHENDED BY TENNESSEE STATE AUTHORITIES AFTER BEING OBSERVED FROM SURVEILLANCE HELICOPTER. SUBJECT BEING TRANSPORTED TO PRISON GROUNDS. EFFORTS BEING MADE BY KNOXVILLE AGENTS TO INTERVIEW [redacted] RE ESCAPE AND WHEREABOUTS b6 b7C OF FUGITIVE RAY. DISCONTINUE REGARDING [redacted]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

ESCAPE RISKS.

ALL LEGATS ADVISED SEPARATELY.

BT

88-7223-35

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOX

[redacted] b6 b7C

KXI585 1622226 HF0637 1622204

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O 112001Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR

TO ALL SACS IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

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

FOR THE INFORMATION OF ALL LEGATS AND OFFICES WHO MAY NOT HAVE RECEIVED PRIOR CORRESPONDENCE IN THIS MATTER, AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 P.M., JUNE 10, 1977, CAPTIONED SUBJECT, ALONG WITH FIVE OTHERS, ALL INMATES AT THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETRO, TENNESSEE, ESCAPED CUSTODY BY PLACING A MAKESHIFT LADDER ON OUTSIDE WALL OF PRISON COMPOUND. INMATES HAD BEEN ALLOWED TO ENTER PRISON YARD AT 6 P.M. FOR SUPERVISED EXERCISE. ESCAPE ACCOMPLISHED BY TWO INCIDENTS, ONE A PURPORTED STAGED FIGHT INVOLVING TWO INMATES; THE SECOND A FAKED ACCIDENT INVOLVING ANOTHER. ONE INMATE IN ATTEMPTING TO SCALE THE WALL WAS SHOT BY PRISON GUARDS AND APPREHENDED.

SUBJECT RAY, FBI NUMBER 405942G, WAS INCARCERATED

88-7223-36

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZE FILED
JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOXV

b6
b7C

PAGE TWO CLEAR

IN THE CUSTODY OF THE TENNESSEE AUTHORITIES SERVING A 99-YEAR PRISON SENTENCE FOLLOWING HIS CONVICTION FOR SLAYING THE LATE REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HE IS DESCRIBED AS:

AGE: 49

BORN: MARCH 10, 1928

PLACE OF BIRTH: QUINCY OR ALTON, ILLINOIS

HEIGHT: 5'10"

WEIGHT: 170 POUNDS

BUILD: MEDIUM

HAIR: BLACK - GRAYING

EYES: BLUE

COMPLEXION: MEDIUM

RACE: WHITE

NATIONALITY: AMERICAN

OCCUPATIONS: BAKER, LABORER

SCARS AND MARKS: SMALL SCAR ON CENTER OF FOREHEAD AND SMALL SCAR ON PALM OF RIGHT HAND

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER: 334-22-6876

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 1073).

EXTENSIVE AIR AND TERRAIN SEARCHES BEING CONDUCTED IN PETROS, TENNESSEE, AREA. SURVEILLANCES INSTITUTED RE KNOWN RELATIVES OF RAY AFTER INTERVIEW ATTEMPTS PROVED NEGATIVE. THESE SURVEILLANCES SHOULD CONTINUE. FAA HEADQUARTERS ALERTED WITH INSTRUCTIONS TO NOTIFY ALL AIRLINES CONCERNING RAY'S FUGITIVE STATUS. A POSSIBILITY DOES EXIST THAT RAY AND OTHER ESCAPEES MAY COMMANDEER AIRLINE. ACCORDINGLY, AN APPROPRIATE FAA ALERT BEING MADE. PASSPORT OFFICES AND INS HEADQUARTERS REQUESTED TO PLACE APPROPRIATE STOPS THROUGH WDC HEADQUARTERS. WANTED FLYERS BEING PREPARED TODAY AND SUBJECT APPROVED AS ADDITION TO BUREAU'S LIST OF TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES. APPROPRIATE PRESS RELEASES BEING MADE.

FOR YOUR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, SEPARATE CASES HAVE BEEN OPENED RE OTHER FUGITIVES, WHO ARE:

EARL HILL, JR.; WHITE MALE, BORN OCTOBER 19, 1942; HEIGHT 5'6", WEIGHT 135, BLACK HAIR, GREEN EYES, INCARCERATED FOLLOWING MURDER, RAPE AND ASSAULT CONVICTIONS. EARL CONVICTED OF MURDERING A WDC POLICEMAN AND ATTEMPTING TO MURDER HIS WIFE WHILE BOTH WERE ON VACATION IN TENNESSEE.

PAGE FOUR CLEAR

[redacted], NEGRO MALE, [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] CLARKSVILLE, MISSISSIPPI, [redacted]
[redacted]; SENTENCED TO 100 YEARS FOLLOWING MURDER CONVICTION.

[redacted], WHITE MALE; BORN [redacted]
[redacted] AT KINGSPORT, TENNESSEE, [redacted]
[redacted] FBI NUMBER [redacted] WAS SERVING 65 YEAR SENTENCE
FOR ASSAULT, MURDER AND GRAND LARCENY. b6 b7C

[redacted] WHITE MALE, BORN [redacted]
AT KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE, [redacted]
FBI NUMBER [redacted] SERVING 50 YEAR SENTENCE FOR ARMED CONSPIRACY
AND THREE 21 YEAR SENTENCES ASSAULT TO MURDER. (NOTE: HAS
ASSAULTED POLICE OFFICER IN PAST).

[redacted], WHITE MALE; BORN [redacted]
FBI NUMBER [redacted], HEIGHT [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted] [redacted] CLOSE ASSOCIATE OF [redacted]
SOON TO BE ADDED TO BUREAU'S TOP MOST WANTED LIST).

ALL OFFICES SHOULD INSURE THAT APPROPRIATE ALERTS
ARE PLACED CONCERNING RAY AND ASSOCIATES WITH LOCAL AND STATE
POLICE AGENCIES, AIR AND GROUND TRANSPORTATION CONCERNS,
INCLUDING MAJOR AIRLINES, BUSES, CAR RENTAL AGENCIES, ETC.

VPAGE FIVE CLEAR

ALL BORDER STOPS MUST BE PLACED TO PREVENT RAY AND ASSOCIATES FROM LEAVING COUNTRY. ALL LEGATS OF COURSE SHOULD PLACE SIMILAR STOPS WHERE APPROPRIATE WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE TERRITORIES.

DURING THE INITIAL STAGES OF THIS IMPORTANT INVESTIGATION, LEADS SHOULD BE HANDLED TELEPHONICALLY, CONFIRMED BY TELETYPE. LEADS SHOULD RECEIVE PROMPT RESPONSE. INSTANT MATTER IS BEING DESIGNATED A MAJOR CASE AND SHOULD BE HANDLED ACCORDINGLY. AN ALL-OUT EFFORT MUST BE EXPENDED TO LOCATE RAY AND OTHER ESCAPEES WHO ARE ALSO BEING SOUGHT FOR CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE THE UNLAWFUL FLIGHT STATUTE. INSURE FBIHQ AND KNOXVILLE, THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN, ARE KEPT ADVISED OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT JAMES EARL RAY IS ALSO KNOWN AS: PAUL BRIDGEMAN, ERIC STARVO GALT, W. C. HERRON, HARVEY LOWMYER, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES O'CONNER, RAYMOND GEORGE SNEYD, JAMES WALTON, JAMES WALYON, JOHN WILLARD, "JIM," AND OTHERS.

ALL LEGATS ADVISED SEPARATELY.

BT

KX I591 1622305 ME0295 1622305 1622300Z

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FM MEMPHIS (88-10052) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

CLEVELAND IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

ST. LOUIS IMMEDIATE

SAVANNAH IMMEDIATE

BI

~~E F T O~~

CHANGED, JAMES EARL RAY, AKA ERIC STAVRO GALT, JOHN WILLARD, HARVEY LOWNEYEAR, HARVEY LOWNYER, 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. 00 KX.

TITLE CHANGED TO ADD ALIASES JIM RAY, JAMES MC BRIDE, JAMES WALTON, W. C. HERRON, JAMES O'CONNER, JAMES WALYOU, RAMON GEORGE, AND PAUL BRIDGMAN.

88-7223-39

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JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOXVILLE

b6
b7C

FOR INFO OFFICES NOT RECEIVING PRIOR COMMUNICATIONS IN THIS MATTER, ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY USAG GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FREDERICK BARRON 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 VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073. RAY AND COMPANIONS SHOULD BE HELD WITHOUT BOND. b6 b7C

AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 PM, 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. b6 b7C

BMSP RECORDS REFLECT JAMES EARL RAY AS WM, DOB MARCH 10, 1928, 5'10", 175 LBS., BLACK AND GRAY HAIR, BLUE EYES, FAIR COMPLEXION.

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:

BIRMINGHAM AT BIRMINGHAM, [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted] BUSINESS ADDRESS 2154 HIGHLAND AVE. SOUTH, BIRMINGHAM, RESIDENCE [redacted] BIRMINGHAM, PER 137 INFORMATION WAS AN ASSOCIATE OF RAY.

BIRMINGHAM AT REFORM, ALA., [redacted] REPORTEDLY A PRISON ASSOCIATE.

BIRMINGHAM AT HALEYVILLE, ALA., [redacted] (ADDRESS b6 b7C UNKNOWN, BIRMINGHAM REFER TO BHFILE [redacted], PRISON ASSOCIATE MISSOURI STATE PRISON, SEPTEMBER, 1965.

CLEVELAND AT CLEVELAND, [redacted] ST., MISSOURI STATE PRISON ASSOCIATE.

KNOXVILLE AT WHITESBURG, TENN., MRS. [redacted] b6 b7C [redacted], REPORTEDLY WAS [redacted] FORMER COMMON-LAW WIFE.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, [redacted] PERSHING ROOM, [redacted] PRISON ASSOCIATE, MISSOURI STATE PRISON.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS, [redacted], ADDRESS UNKNOWN, RAY'S COURT-APPOINTED ATTORNEY IN MISSOURI.

b6
b7C

SAVANNAH AT SAVANNAH, [redacted] ATTORNEY. RAY'S MEMPHIS ATTORNEY HAS STATED IF RAY WOULD CONTACT ANY ATTORNEY IN THE U. S., IT WOULD BE [redacted]

ARMED AND DANGEROUS; ESCAPE RISK.

BT

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OO HQ AT BH CG CI CO CV DE IP JN KX TP

DE ME

O 112313Z JUN 77

FM MEMPHIS (88-10057) (P)

TO DIRECTOR IMMEDIATE

ATLANTA IMMEDIATE

BIRMINGHAM IMMEDIATE

CHICAGO IMMEDIATE

CINCINNATI IMMEDIATE

COLUMBIA IMMEDIATE

CLEVELAND IMMEDIATE

DETROIT IMMEDIATE

INDIANAPOLIS IMMEDIATE

JACKSON IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

TAMPA IMMEDIATE

BT

~~E F T O~~

CHANGED. [redacted] - FUGITIVE; b6 b7C

CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE. OO KX.

88-7223-40

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TITLE CHANGED TO ADD ALIAS [redacted] b6 b7C

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU AND ALL SAC'S, JUNE 11, 1977, AND KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JUNE 11, 1977.

FOR INFO OFFICES NOT RECEIVING REFERENCED KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JUNE 11, 1977, ON JUNE 11, 1977, COMPLAINT AUTHORIZED BY USAG GRIFFIN BELL THROUGH SPECIAL ASSISTANT FREDERICK BARRON AND PREPARED BY AUSA [redacted] b6 b7C AT KNOXVILLE, TENN., WAS FILED BY SA [redacted] BEFORE USDJ FRANK A. KAUFMAN AT KNOXVILLE CHARGING SUBJECT [redacted] WAS IN VIOLATION TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 371, IN UNLAWFULLY, ETC., CONSPIRING TO VIOLATE TITLE 18, USC, SECTION 1073. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT SUBJECT BE HELD WITHOUT BOND.

A REVIEW OF MEMPHIS FILE CONCERNING [redacted] REVEALS THAT b6 b7C HE IS A WM, [redacted]

[redacted]

RESIDENCE HAMILTON, OHIO.

MEMPHIS FILES REVEAL THAT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS HAVE AT ONE TIME BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH [redacted] THESE INDIVIDUALS SHOULD BE IMMEDIATELY INTERVIEWED RE WHEREABOUTS OF [redacted] AND OTHER ESCAPEES:

[redacted] ATLANTA, GA.

[redacted]

[redacted], HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

[redacted]

DECATUR, ALA.

[redacted], HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

[redacted] LAYTON, ALA.

[redacted], HUNTSVILLE, ALA.

[redacted] BURGLARY SQUAD, HUNTSVILLE, ALA., PD

[redacted] AKA (UFAP) OO CHICAGO, CGFILE

[redacted], WHO WAS ARRESTED WITH [redacted] AT ONE TIME

[redacted] CHICAGO

[redacted], LOCKPORT, ILL.

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

b6
b7C
b7D

[redacted], OXFORD, OHIO

[redacted], NEWARK, OHIO

[redacted] WEST ALEXANDRIA, OHIO

[redacted], OXFORD, OHIO

[redacted] GREENVILLE, S. C.

[redacted], GREENVILLE, S. C.

[redacted] GAFFNEY, S. C.

[redacted] HUB CAFE, EATON ST., HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted], HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted] DORO CONSTRUCTION CO., 414 PARK ST., HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted] SOUTHERN OHIO AND TEXAS DRY WALL CO., HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted], HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO

DET. [redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO, PD

[redacted], HAMILTON, OHIO

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

b6
b7C

[redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO b6 b7C

GEORGIA HACKER, MOTHER, 146 WEBSTER AVE., HAMILTON, OHIO

ED HACKER, FATHER, SAME ADDRESS

[redacted], HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted], HAMILTON, OHIO

[redacted], HAMILTON, OHIO

DET. [redacted] HAMILTON, OHIO, PD

[redacted], TAYLOR, MICH.

[redacted] DAUGHTER, METAMORA, IND. b6 b7C b7D

[redacted]

[redacted] APOPKA, FLA.

DUE TO THE FACT SUBJECT ACCOMPANIED JAMES EARL RAY IN ESCAPE, EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF ALL LEADS IS REQUESTED DUE TO NATIONAL PROMINENCE OF THIS MATTER. RECEIVING OFFICES ARE REQUESTED TO COVER LEADS SET OUT IN THIS COMMUNICATION IN

THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS. IN VIEW OF THE FACT THE SUBJECT WAS CONVICTED OF ROBBERY WITH A DEADLY WEAPON AND BURGLARY, HE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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DE HQ

O 112340Z JUN 77

FM DIRECTOR

TO KNOXVILLE IMMEDIATE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA - FUGITIVE; WANTED FLYER 500 "TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES"; UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE.

REBUTELS AND BUREAU CALL JUNE 11, 1977.

THIS IS TO CONFIRM INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN YOUR OFFICE BY RETELCAL. THIS AFTERNOON ATTORNEY GENERAL GRIFFIN BELL CONTACTED FBIHQ TO INQUIRE AS TO THE STATUS OF OUR ONGOING EFFORTS TO LOCATE CAPTIONED FUGITIVE AND HIS ESCAPEE ASSOCIATES. JUDGE BELL WAS FURNISHED FULL DETAILS WHEREIN HE SPECIFICALLY INQUIRED AS TO WHETHER [redacted] HAD BEEN INTERVIEWED. HE WAS ADVISED THAT AN ATTEMPT HAD BEEN MADE; HOWEVER, [redacted] REFUSED TO COOPERATE.

b6
b7C

BELL ORDERED THAT IF NOT ALREADY DONE, A NEGRO AGENT ATTEMPT TO INTERVIEW [redacted] HIGHLIGHTING THE FACT THAT RAY HAD MURDERED NEGRO CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

88-7223-41

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
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b6
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PAGE TWO CLEAR

JUDGE BELL FURTHER INSTRUCTED THAT THE BUREAU MAKE EVERY EFFORT HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO TAKE RAY INTO CUSTODY ALIVE. STATE OFFICIALS SHOULD BE NOTIFIED OF OUR STRONG DESIRE IN THIS REGARD. JUDGE BELL WAS ADVISED THAT IT WAS OUR INTENTION TO FURNISH THE PRESIDENT A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF OUR INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED TO DATE. THEREFORE, KNOXVILLE PREPARE A SUMMARY TELETYPE SUITABLE FOR DISSEMINATION TO THE WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM TO BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN 9 P.M., JUNE 11, 1977.

INSURE BUREAU CONTINUES TO BE ADVISED OF ALL DEVELOPMENTS AS THEY HAPPEN.

ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS; ESCAPE RISK.

BT

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PP HQ AT KX

DE WF

P 11Ø004Z JUN 77

FM WASHINGTON FIELD (88-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

ATLANTA PRIORITY

KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

BT

C L E A R

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

b6
b7C

WFO IS SENDING A PACKAGE OF INDENTIFICATION ORDERS REGARDING SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY TO KNOXVILLE VIA DELTA AIRLINES FLIGHT NUMBER 371 TRANSFERRING TO DELTA AIRLINES FLIGHT NUMBER 372 AT ATLANTA, AND ARRIVING AT KNOXVILLE AT 1:48 A.M., 6/12/77. THIS PACKAGE IS BEING SENT UNDER GOVERNMENT BILL OF LADING NUMBER L Ø999112. KNOXVILLE IS REQUESTED TO HAVE AN AGENT MEET THE PLANE AND PICK UP PACKAGE.

BT

88-7223-42

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOX

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FM: KANSAS CITY (88-NEW)

TO: DIRECTOR (IMMEDIATE)

MEMPHIS (88-10052) (IMMEDIATE)

KNOXVILLE (IMMEDIATE)

SPRINGFIELD (IMMEDIATE)

ST. LOUIS (IMMEDIATE)

BT

CLEAR

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

KANSAS CITY AT MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (MSP), JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI, ATTEMPTING ACCESS TO RECORDS TO DETERMINE LOCATION OF FORMER OR CURRENT INMATE ASSOCIATES OF RAY.

DESCRIPTION OF ALL FUGITIVES FURNISHED TO DETECTIVE [redacted] b6 b7C
[redacted], CRIME AGAINST PERSONS UNIT, KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR APB FOR MISSOURI AND KANSAS, AND FOR DISSEMINATION TO BUS AND TRAIN TERMINALS.

88-7223-43

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOXV

b6 b7C

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PAGE TWO CLEAR

DESCRIPTION OF ALL FUGITIVES FURNISHED APPROPRIATE SECURITY PERSONNEL AT KANSAS CITY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE [redacted] KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI (KCMO) NEGATIVE. NEIGHBOR ADVISED [redacted] LEFT RESIDENCE IN FEBRUARY 1977 AND ATTEMPTS BEING MADE TO CONTACT MISSOURI STATE PROBATION OFFICE RE HIS LOCATION. b6 b7C

NO RECORD RE INCARCERATION FOR [redacted] EX MSP INMATE AT LEAVENWORTH FEDERAL PENITENTIARY, SEARCH OF RECORDS BEING MADE.

KANSAS CITY FILE REVIEW SET FORTH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

CO-DEFENDANT IN BURGLARY OF POST OFFICE AND FORMER INMATE OF RAY IS WALTER TERRY RIFE, WM, DOB APRIL 19, 1924, 5'9", 160 LBS, BROWN HAIR, TATTOO OF CROSS ON LEFT ARM, MOTHER, ROSIE RIFE, 400 COLLEGE, QUINCY, ILLINOIS; SISTER, [redacted], QUINCY, ILL.; BROTHER, [redacted] QUINCY, ILL.; NIECE, [redacted] HARRISBURG, ILL.; SISTER, [redacted] HARRISBURG, ILL.; FIANCE, [redacted] QUINCY, ILL. ADDRESSES ARE AS OF 1957. [redacted] ACCORDING TO POSTAL INSPECTOR, KCMO, ASSOCIATE OF RAY. PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION DETERMINED RIFE IS ONE OF FEW PEOPLE RAY WOULD SEEK AID FROM AND TRUST. b6 b7C

PAGE THREE CLEAR

RAY REQUESTED CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WHEN INCARCERATED IN 1955:

[redacted] COUSIN, [redacted], QUINCY, ILL.

[redacted], UNCLE, [redacted], ALTON, ILL.

MONEY ORDERS WERE RECEIVED BY RAY FROM THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS: b6 b7C

[redacted], POSSIBLE SISTER, [redacted] ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI ON MARCH 25, 1964.

[redacted], POSSIBLE SISTER, [redacted] ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI ON DECEMBER 20, 1966.

[redacted], COLUMBIA, MISSOURI ON JUNE 19, 1963. b6 b7C

[redacted] QUINCY, ILL., ON JANUARY 3, 1964 THRU DECEMBER 20, 1965.

LEADS:

SPRINGFIELD, ST. LOUIS, AND KANSAS CITY, WILL CONTACT INDIVIDUALS AS LISTED ABOVE IN RESPECTIVE DIVISIONS RE SUBJECTS LOCATION.

ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS.

BT

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FM KNOXVILLE (88-7223) (P)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

[redacted] - FUGITIVE; [redacted] - FUGITIVE; b6 b7C

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

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

TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE, OO: KNOXVILLE

RE EARLIER TELETYPES THIS DATE.

THE FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY OF THE INVESTIGATION AND EVENTS INCIDENTAL TO CAPTIONED MATTER:

GENERAL MATTER:

SIX CAPTIONED SUBJECTS ESCAPED FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN PRISON (BMP) JUNE 10, 1977, AT ABOUT 7:20 PM, AND FLED TO RUGGED MOUNTAINOUS TERRITORY. ONE WOULD-BE ESCAPEE UNSUCCESSFUL AND WOUNDED SLIGHTLY IN ATTEMPT. LOCAL AUTHORITIES

88-7223-44

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FBI—KNOXVILLE

[redacted] b6 b7C

CONVERGED ON AREA AND JOINED EFFORTS TO RECAPTURE SUBJECTS. FBI AGENTS ON SCENE TO DETERMINE ANY EXISTENCE OF FEDERAL VIOLATION.

PROCESS AUTHORIZED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL AND FILED BEFORE USDJ DAVID A. KAUFMAN BY FBI AGENT ABOUT 4:00 AM, JUNE 11, 1977. ADDITIONAL AGENTS ARRIVED IN KNOXVILLE FROM SURROUNDING OFFICES AND PROCEEDED TO SCENE.

JAMES EARL RAY PLACED ON TOP TEN THIS DATE.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, SR., ARRIVED THIS DATE AT KNOXVILLE FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT AND AFFORDED EXTENSIVE POLICE PROTECTION.

INVESTIGATION AT BMP:

[redacted] APPREHENDED JUNE 11, 1977, BY TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL (THP) AFTER BEING OBSERVED FROM HELICOPTER.

b6
b7C

MAIN THRUST OF INVESTIGATION PLACED ON LOCATING ESCAPEES. [redacted] UNSUCCESSFUL ESCAPEE, DECLINED INTERVIEW. INTERVIEWS OF INMATES BELIEVED TO HAVE FEIGNED DISTURBANCE UNPRODUCTIVE. GUARD NEAREST THE ESCAPEES INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED HE WAS DISTRACTED BY FIGHT AND APPARENT ACCIDENT. WHEN HE OBSERVED

ESCAPEES, HE ACCIDENTALLY JAMMED DOOR TO GUARD TOWER WHILE REACHING FOR WEAPON. SUBSEQUENTLY, HE FIRED A SHOTGUN AND THEN A .22 RIFLE AT ESCAPEES. HE BELIEVES THAT HE MAY HAVE WOUNDED ONE. NO BLOOD KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN OBSERVED IN AREA. TRACKS OBSERVED IN SEVERAL AREAS BEING SEARCHED. SEARCH PARTIES USING BLOODHOUNDS WORKED THROUGHOUT JUNE 10-11, 1977. ON JUNE 11, 1977, TWO THP HELICOPTERS, ONE FBI PLANE, AND ONE PLANE RENTED BY THE FBI, AS WELL AS ONE SWAT HELICOPTER FROM KNOXVILLE, TENN. PD, UTILIZED IN SEARCHING AREA.

ROADBLOCKS ORGANIZED IN CONJUNCTION WITH ROVING PATROLS. AGENTS ON SCENE OPERATING IN 12-HOUR SHIFTS WHERE SEARCH TO CONTINUE FROM DAWN TO DUSK. FBI, STATE, AND LOCAL SWAT TEAMS, AS WELL AS TRACKERS ARE OPERATING.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH RAILROADS FOR SEARCH OF TRAINS PASSING THROUGH AREAS CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE PRISON.

INVESTIGATION KNOXVILLE DIVISION OTHER THAN AT BMP:

RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECTS [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted] AND HILL CONTACTED THROUGHOUT EASTERN TENN. WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. CONTINUED COVERAGE BEING AFFORDED AND

APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES NOTIFIED.

AIRLINES AND BUS TERMINALS AT KNOXVILLE PLACED ON ALERT WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF SUBJECTS.

COPIES OF PHOTOS OF SUBJECTS BEING PREPARED TO BE DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY THIS DATE.

NATIONWIDE INVESTIGATION:

ALL FBI FIELD OFFICES HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO ESCAPE AND OUTSTANDING PROCESS ON SUBJECTS. FIELD OFFICES AFFORDING CLOSE COVERAGE OF RELATIVES, FRIENDS, AND ASSOCIATES OF SUBJECTS AND AGGRESSIVELY INVESTIGATING THIS MATTER. MOST OF JAMES EARL RAY'S RELATIVES CONTACTED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS RE HIS WHEREABOUTS.

WANTED FLYERS BEING DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT NEWS MEDIA IN EASTERN TENN.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

IT IS NOTED THAT ON THE PLANES OWNED AND RENTED BY THE FBI WE ARE USING SENSITIVE EQUIPMENT AND EXPECT THIS EQUIPMENT TO BE MOST EFFECTIVE DURING LATE AFTERNOON OR EARLY MORNING HOURS. IT IS NOTED ALSO THAT INVESTIGATION IS BEING

KX 88-7223 PAGE FIVE CLEAR

PURSUED WITH FULL AWARENESS OF THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATION OF FEDERAL FUGITIVE [redacted] AND HIS ASSOCIATES. IN THIS REGARD, KNOXVILLE HAS RECEIVED PERMISSION FOR THE CONSENSUAL MONITORING OF THE TELEPHONE UTILIZED BY TWO FEMALE FRIENDS OF [redacted] ASSOCIATES, [redacted] AND [redacted] b6 b7C

NEGRO AGENT CURRENTLY ASSIGNED KNOXVILLE AND ON THE SCENE WILL RE-INTERVIEW [redacted] PER AG INSTRUCTIONS.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES NOTIFIED OF AG'S DESIRES RE CAPTURE OF RAY.

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FM BUFFALO (88-NEW)

TO DIRECTOR ROUTINE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

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

UFAC - ESCAPE; CONSPIRACY; OO: KNOXVILLE

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ALL SACS, JUNE 11, 1977.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE, BATAVIA, N.Y. ADVISED OF ESCAPE AND DESCRIPTIONS OF RAY AND ASSOCIATES AND BE ON LOOKOUT (BOLO) MESSAGE SENT BY STATE POLICE TO ALL STATE AND LOCAL POLICE AGENCIES.

U.S. CUSTOMS, BUFFALO, LIKEWISE ADVISED AND STOPS PLACED WITH U.S. AND CANADIAN BORDER CROSSING AUTHORITIES.

BUS LINES, TRAIN STATION, AIRLINES, AND MAJOR CAR RENTAL AGENCIES ADVISED.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS; ESCAPE RISK.

BT

88-7223-45

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ...
SERIALIZED ... FILED ...
JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOXVILLE

b6
b7C

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, (88-7223) DATE: 6/11/77

FROM : SUPERVISOR [redacted]

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

b6
b7C

Re Bureau tel to Knoxville 6/11/77.

On 6/11/77 SAC [redacted] advised C. MURRAY HENDERSON, State Commissioner of Corrections; JOE PLUMMER, State Commissioner of Safety; and Captain [redacted] Tennessee Highway Patrol, all of whom are at the Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, of the desire of Attorney General BELL that every effort humanly possible should be made to take RAY into custody alive.

b6
b7C

Also on 6/11/77 SA [redacted] was assigned to attempt to re-interview [redacted] along the lines referred to in referenced Bureau tel.

88-7223-46

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED
JUN 11 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE
[redacted]

b6
b7C

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

[redacted]
(6)

5010-110

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

3F Rev. 7-27-76

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
[X] Teletype
[ ] Facsimile
[ ] Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
[ ] Immediate
[X] Priority
[ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
[ ] TOP SECRET
[ ] SECRET
[ ] CONFIDENTIAL
[ ] EFTO
[X] CLEAR

Date JUNE 11, 1977

FM CHARLOTTE (88-15431) (P)

TO KNOXVILLE (88-7223) PRIORITY

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE; CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE.

OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE KNOXVILLE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, DATED JUNE 11, 1977.

ON JUNE 11, 1977, CAPTAIN [redacted] GREENSBORO, N. C., PD, ADVISED THAT AT APPROXIMATELY 11 A.M., JUNE 11, 1977, [redacted] GREENSBORO, N. C., REPORTED THREE MEN APPARENTLY SPENT THE NIGHT OF JUNE 10-11, 1977, IN THE WOODS NEAR HIS HOME. [redacted] HIS WIFE, AND HIS BROTHER TALKED WITH ONE OF THE THREE "HOBOS" AND GAVE HIM SOME BREAKFAST. SUBSEQUENTLY [redacted] BROTHER SAW RAY'S PICTURE IN A NEWSPAPER AND NOTIFIED SIMPSON HE BELIEVED THE HOBO WAS RAY. b6 b7C

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GREENSBORO, N. C. PD ATTEMPTED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO LOCATE THE THREE HOBOS. THEY DID LOCATE WITNESSES WHO OBSERVED THE THREE MEN NEAR THE [redacted] HOME DURING THE DAYLIGHT HOURS ON 6/10/77. b6 b7C

WITNESSES AND [redacted] DESCRIBED HOBO WHOM [redacted] BROTHER

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 11
FBI - [redacted]

HES:kty

88-7223-47

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☐ Airtel

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ E F T O
- ☐ CLEAR

Date

PAGE TWO CE 88-15431 CLEAR

FELT RESEMBLED RAY AS BEING SIX FEET TALL AND HAVING GROWTH ON FOREHEAD. INASMUCH AS THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS DEFINITELY SEEN IN GREENSBORO AREA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO SUBJECTS ESCAPE, NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION REGARDING HIM IS BEING CONDUCTED.

OTHER ASPECTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION CONTINUING.

ARMED AND DANGEROUS

KX1610 1630301 AT 0441 1630301

OO JK KX

DE AT

O 110257Z JUN 77

FM ATLANTA (88-NEW) (P)

TO JACKSONVILLE IMMEDIATE

KNOXVILLE ROUTINE

BT

CLEAR

JAMES EARL RAY, AKA-FUGITIVE. CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC-

ESCAPE.

TOP TEN FUGITIVE OO: KNOXVILLE.

RE MEMPHIS TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR, JUNE 11, 1977.

RE TEL SET FORTH LEAD FOR ATLANTA TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW [redacted] FORMER ASSOCIATE OF SUBJECT IN MISSOURI STATE PRISON FOR ANY INFORMATION PERTAINING TO SUBJECTS WHEREABOUTS. [redacted] PREVIOUSLY INCARCERATED COBB COUNTY JAIL, MARIETTA, GA.

b6
b7C

RECORDS AT THE COBB COUNTY JAIL REFLECT [redacted], [redacted] WHITE MALE, DOB [redacted] FBI NUMBER

88-7223-48

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 11 1977
FBI—KNOXV

b6
b7C

[redacted] LAST IN COBB COUNTY JAIL ON FEBRUARY 20, 1971, ON CHARGES OF ISSUING WORTHLESS CHECKS, ABONDONMENT AND DEFRAUDING AN INN KEEPER. HE RECEIVED CONCURRENT 12 MONTH SENTENCES ON FIRST AND SECOND CHARGES AND CHARGE OF DEFRAUDING AN INN KEEPER DISMISSED. HIS FATHER WAS LISTED AS [redacted] DELAND, FLA. b6 b7C

CONTACT WITH FBI IDENTIFICATION DIVISION DETERMINED SUBJECT LAST FINGERPRINTED BY ORLANDO, FLA., POLICE DEPARTMENT ON NOVEMBER 18, 1974, ON CHARGE OF BEING AN ESCAPEE FROM FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS, LAKE BUTLER, FLA., WHERE HE WAS SERVING 10 YEAR SENTENCE FOR POSSESSION OF DRUGS.

JACKSONVILLE AT TALLAHASSEE, FLA. IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND DETERMINE IF [redacted] STILL INCARCERATED. IF SO INTERVIEW HIM AS PER LEAD SET FORTH FOR ATLANTA IN RE TEL. b6 b7C

IF NOT INCARCERATED, REVIEW PRISON RECORDS FOR LEAD INFORMATION LEADING TO HIS LOCATION FOR INTERVIEW.

IF [redacted] NOT LOCATED FROM ABOVE, INTERVIEW HIS FATHER, [redacted] DELAND, FLA., FOR INFORMATION AS TO HIS WHEREABOUTS. b6 b7C

ARMED AND DANGEROUS.

BT

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

Total Deleted Page(s) = 25
Page 3 ~ Duplicate;
Page 4 ~ Duplicate;
Page 5 ~ Duplicate;
Page 6 ~ Duplicate;
Page 7 ~ Duplicate;
Page 8 ~ Duplicate;
Page 9 ~ Duplicate;
Page 10 ~ Duplicate;
Page 11 ~ Duplicate;
Page 12 ~ Duplicate;
Page 13 ~ Duplicate;
Page 14 ~ Duplicate;
Page 15 ~ Duplicate;
Page 16 ~ Duplicate;
Page 17 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 22 ~ Duplicate;
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Page 24 ~ Duplicate;
Page 25 ~ Duplicate;
Page 26 ~ Duplicate;
Page 27 ~ Duplicate;

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X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET
FOI/PA# 1350673-000

Total Deleted Page(s) = 4
Page 4 ~ Duplicate;
Page 12 ~ Duplicate;
Page 13 ~ Duplicate;
Page 14 ~ Duplicate;

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X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X For this Page X
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FD-487 (3-4-76)

NCIC ACTIVITY LOG

(Instructions - Reverse Side)

File No. 88-7223

Activity	Date	Serial	NCIC Number	Miscellaneous Information
EW-C	6-11-77			
CW	6-13-77			

b6
b7C

Validation: *(Date/Initials)*

1	5	9
2	6	10
3	7	11
4	8	12

TOP SERIAL - NOT TO BE SERIALIZED

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's six cohorts plead guilty to Brushy Mt. break

The six inmates who followed James Earl Ray over the Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary wall near Petros in June pleaded guilty Friday to state charges of escape.

The six inmates who followed Ray in his daring June 10 escape were taken to the Morgan County Vocational School to change their earlier pleas of innocent.

Criminal Court Judge Lee Asbury sentenced each to an additional one year in prison following the new pleas. The maximum term for escape is five years.

"It all came up rather sudden," Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney Lane said. "They called us up yesterday and said to get the six of them to court as soon as possible because they were changing their pleas."

event of his death, he wanted to have the killers caught."

The victim was Jerry D. Cooper, 32, of Shelbyville, whose body was found Aug. 23 near the Noah Community near the Coffee-Bedford county line. Police say Cooper was shot six times with a .25-caliber pistol.

"And he said that when the letter was opened, it would blow this town wide open," she said. "He was afraid of something and thought he might be killed, but he never told me why."

• OAK RIDGE — Residents of this East Tennessee community are trying to pressure Uruguay to release from

orig & Bew
9-14-77

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE 3

Date: 9/8/77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title: b6 b7C

James Earl Ray

Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-201
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ☐ INDEXED ☐ b6
SERIALIZED ☐ FILED ☐ b7C

SEP 14 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-53)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

3 Months After Ray Escape, Warden Can Laugh About It

By KEN MINK
News-Sentinel Sunday Editor

Stonney Lane can laugh about it now.

Lane

In fact, the Brushy Mountain State Prison (Petros) warden had dozens of journalists laughing along with him last night as he delivered a series of one-liners about the June 10 escape of James Earl Ray and six others.

Mr. Lane, speaking to the local chapter of Sigma Delta Chi journalism society, regaled the group with down-home humor.

"I was in Texas vacationing when I first got word of the escape," he said. "I didn't know much about it at first. But I got a call down there from some woman from Time magazine. She asked me didn't I think this and didn't I think that. If you read all those quotes from me in Time, forget it. That's what she said, not me."

MR. LANE also again discounted the FBI's having played any significant role in capturing Ray.

He said: "The FBI did very little to assist us. They came in there with the idea of taking over, but I made it clear to my men that they were to take orders from me and nobody else — the FBI, or the Governor . . . whoever.

"The FBI didn't know how to function in those mountains. My men and I did. I couldn't function in New York City, and city trained officers couldn't function here. They (the FBI) ran cars up and down Highway 116 shining spotlights along the road. I told my secretary to wire the FBI director that we never have run over a prisoner at night along that road.

"And they brought in their own Shepherd dog (to help track). They stuck its head down into a bag of Ray's clothes, and it was struggling like crazy to get loose. They finally let it out, and it went running out into the woods and turned over a log or two.

"I TOLD THE FBI if they wanted to help, about all they could do was to seal off the perimeter of the search area. They finally left in a cloud of dust after a word battle."

Mr. Lane said he was in a state of shock when he got back to Petros from Texas. "I saw that gang of reporters waiting at the prison, and I wished I could have kept right on going across to the New River and gotten the hell out of there. But I felt better after one of the guards told me they had sealed off Highway 116 before the alarm whistle had quit blowing. I knew we had them then — because there's no other way for them to get out of that hollow they were in."

Mr. Lane said he kept trying to emphasize to the press that officials were sure they had the escapees blocked off and capture would be just a matter of hours.

"But the national press just wouldn't believe it," he said. "The local press people went along with me, but those national guys kept trying to cook up some kind of conspiracy angle. They had me tied in with everything from the KKK (Ku Klux Klan) on down.

"THAT'S ANOTHER thing I want to mention: We had a devil of a time keeping those national press guys from tromping up and down the woods. We didn't need the FBI, so you can be damn sure we didn't need any press guys getting in the way out there. Again, the local press cooperated."

He said some members of the national press "were too pushy," adding: "When we brought Earl Hill back to the prison after capturing him, two reporters jockeying for position near my car got into a fist fight."

Mr. Lane said the escape focused world attention on East Tennessee and he wanted to try to overcome the idea the search for Ray was being headed by "a hick warden and his hillbilly troopers."

"But there on the third day after the escape, Sam Chapman, a dog trainer, and I were so tired we were talking in gibberish," he said. "Neither one of us knew what the other was saying."

Concerning the fact that Ray's lawyer, Jack Kershaw, got a Playboy magazine reporter into the prison to interview Ray after his recapture by telling Mr. Lane the reporter was "an investigator" helping him, Mr. Lane said:

"I finally got around to reading that article. And you know, I'm not going to say anything bad about Playboy. How can I say anything bad about them after they described me as being 'young and cool?'"

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

The Knoxville News Sentinel

Knoxville, Tenn.

Page 28

ORIGINAL SENT RU
ON 9-27-77 [redacted] b6 b7C

Date: 9/16/77
Edition: Home
Author:
Editor: Ralph L. Millett Jr.
Title: James Earl Ray

Character:
or
Classification: 88-8223-202
Submitting Office: Knoxville

[redacted] Being Investigated b6 b7C

1977

[redacted]

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

AP WIREPHOTO

James Earl Ray leaves a pre-trial hearing in Wartburg Tuesday.

Lane Is New Ray Attorney

By The Associated Press

WARTBURG — Controversial assassinations buff Mark Lane became James Earl Ray's new attorney Tuesday, two days before Ray is scheduled to go on trial for escaping from a Tennessee prison.

Criminal Court Judge Lee Asbury approved Ray's motion to dismiss his former attorney, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, and hire Lane and two Wartburg lawyers as his new counsel.

In a one-hour hearing on pretrial motions, Asbury also allowed Lane to withdraw two motions submitted earlier by Kershaw, including one requesting a psychiatric examination of Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Kershaw, who had been Ray's attorney since last January, filed the motion at a similar hearing Monday, contending that Ray, 49, was mentally incompetent to stand trial or choose his attorney.

Asbury said Kershaw handed him a statement after Monday's hearing saying that he was withdrawing as Ray's attorney. Kershaw was not present at Tuesday's hearing.

Ray is to go on trial Thursday on a charge of escape in his June 10 breakout from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary, about 10 miles east of Wartburg. Two bloodhounds and their handler chased Ray down in the mountainous woods surrounding the prison 54½ hours after the escape.

After the hearing, Lane said Ray dismissed Kershaw because he believed Kershaw received between $15,000 and $20,000 for an interview with Ray published in the September issue of Playboy magazine.

He said Kershaw also had tried to persuade Ray to plead guilty to the escape charge and that Ray believed Kershaw had a conflict of interest because of the money he had received from the magazine.

"The final blow came when Ray called me on Oct. 15, saying he had just received a letter from his brother that Kershaw was selling T-shirts of pictures of Ray and the statement 'I Didn't Do It' printed on them," Lane said.

Ray, wearing blue jeans stained by white paint and a green fatigue jacket, sat glum-faced through most of the hearing, occasionally smiling while talking with his attorneys.

He rose from his seat and answered 'Yes, sir' when Asbury asked if he no longer wished to have Kershaw as his attorney. Ray also answered 'Yes, sir' when Asbury asked if he wished to employ Lane and Wartburg lawyers George Buxton III and Kenneth Krushenski as his new counsel.

Asbury also allowed Lane to withdraw a motion filed by Kershaw last week seeking to dismiss the indictment

ORIGINAL SENT RU
ON 11-26-77

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE 1

Date: 10/26/77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title: James Earl Ray

Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-203
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

Being Investigated
FILED ... RECORDED b6
SERIALIZED ... INDEXED b7C

OCT 28 1977

FBI—KNOXVILLE

on grounds that Ray was illegally incarcerated when he escaped.

Lane called the motion premature and said the issue "is the heart of the defense that should be heard in the trial." Ray has said in the past his motivation for the escape was to eventually win a trial before a jury.

Ray pleaded guilty in 1969 to killing King in April 1968 in Memphis and was sentenced to a 99-year term in prison. He tried to withdraw the plea within a week later but was unsuccessful and had been trying to win a new trial ever since.

"The main line of our case is that Ray cannot be charged with escape from an institution unless the state can prove he belonged there," Lane said. "We will introduce evidence, if the court allows us, that he was both tortured and coerced by Memphis authorities and threatened and coerced by the FBI into pleading guilty."

Ray and six other inmates used a pipe ladder to climb over the prison walls on June 10. All were recaptured within the next four days. The six other escapees pleaded guilty to the charge on Sept. 2 and each was given an additional one-year sentence.

However, in the Playboy interview, Ray said he alone planned the escape and that the others only followed him once they realized it was occurring. Ray could be sentenced up to an additional five years in prison if convicted on the escape charge. He is now eligible for parole in 2001.

The interview accompanied the results of a polygraph examination which Playboy said indicated Ray was not telling the truth when he answered no to a question asking if he killed King. Ray also was quoted in the interview as saying, "Yes, I know that," when Playboy asked him if he knew he was a liar.

Lane said Ray maintains he never uttered that statement or other remarks attributed to him in the interview and that Ray plans to file a suit against Playboy.

Lane said it was when Ray realized that Playboy was going to publish the interview without allowing him to see it beforehand that Ray first approached him about dropping Kershaw as his attorney.

"Kershaw was serving two masters, his benefactor, Playboy, which was paying him, and Ray, who was not," Lane said. Kershaw could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

Lane said he will object to any effort by the prosecution to use the interview as evidence in the escape trial, which he predicted will last about two days.

Lane co-authored a book with black comedian Dick Gregory on the King assassination called "Code Name 'Zorro'," published last May, and was Gregory's vice presidential candidate when Gregory ran for president in 1968.

Lane said he hopes that he will be representing Ray for as little as two months and indicated he believes that Ray may be out of prison in that time.

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

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Attorneys Have Elaborate Plan To Force New Murder Trial

OAK RIDGE (UPI) — Attorneys for James Earl Ray mapped a three-pronged strategy Friday, including plans for a new lie detector test, aimed at one goal: To bring Ray to trial for the 1968 murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray's latest attorney, Mark Lane, said Ray would meet Nov. 14 at Brushy Mountain State Prison with investigators for the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

"Sometime after that meeting," Lane said, "we plan to set up a polygraph test for Mr. Ray." He said he did not know exactly when the test would be run, but he said the results would be thoroughly studied by experts and would be made public.

The lie detector test will be the second given Ray, who is serving 99 years for the murder of the Civil Rights leader he claims was the victim of an elaborate conspiracy directed by a man he knew only as "Raoul."

PLAYBOY MAGAZINE published results late in the summer of a lie detector test given Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison after his June 10 escape from the East Tennessee prison. In its story, Playboy said the test showed Ray acted alone in King's assassination.

The second part of the strategy to bring Ray to trial will involve a motion for a new trial for the escape.

Ray was convicted Thursday on the escape charge and given a sentence of one to two years additional time in prison by a Morgan County jury that took two hours and 55 minutes to reach a decision on his punishment.

"Ray was very pleased with the way the trial went," Lane said, "especially with the fact that the jury took so long on what was obviously a cut and dried case.

"The jury gave a very clear indication it was deeply concerned about the facts in the King case and wanted to find some way to focus on that question," he said.

LANE, ALONG with George Buxton III and Kenneth Krushenski of Oak Ridge, replaced Jack Kershaw of Nashville as attorneys for Ray two days before the escape case was tried at Wartburg.

"We reached a firm decision today to enter a motion for a new trial," Buxton said. Criminal Court Judge Lee Asbury had given until Nov. 22, the anniversary of President Kennedy's assassination in Dallas, for the motion to be filed.

A hearing on the new trial motion will be held Nov. 28.

The third part of the strategy planned to bring Ray to trial for King's murder involves an appeal of his guilty plea, March 10, 1969, at Memphis.

LANE HOPES to force the State Court of Criminal Appeals or the State Supreme Court to deal directly with a letter Ray wrote to Judge W. Preston Battle withdrawing his guilty plea and seeking a full trial for the King murder.

"The appeals court and the Supreme Court have never ruled on that question in all the appeals filed previously," Lane said. He also said the March 10 trial clearly violated state statutes because the jury selected for the trial did not reach a verdict nor fix Ray's sentence.

"They were handed a verdict and a sentence already agreed upon," Lane said. "This clearly violates Tennessee statutes."

Lane, who planned to leave Tennessee for his California home this weekend, said he believed that public opinion is clearly swinging in Ray's favor, and in favor of a trial in the King case to clear up finally all the questions which still hang over the investigation.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 6

Date: 10/29/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLET
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-204
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ☐ INDEXED ☐
SERIALIZED ☐ FILED ☐

NOV 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

b6
b7C

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-7223)

DATE: 1/5/78

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
UFAC

At 2:17 PM, 1/4/78, [redacted] Reporter, Courier Journal Newspaper, Louisville, Kentucky, telephonically inquired of SAC SWANSON as to why FBI agents were involved in the efforts to recapture JAMES EARL RAY after his escape from Brushy Mountain Prison in June of 1977.

[redacted] advised that an editorial had recently appeared in the Federal Criminal Investigator's (FCI) publication indicating that FBI involvement in the efforts to recapture RAY may not have had firm Federal jurisdiction. b6 b7C

[redacted] was advised by SAC SWANSON that FBI participation in the investigation to recapture RAY was based on a Federal warrant issued by U. S. District Court Judge FRANK A. KAUFMAN, District of Maryland, who was sitting at that time in the Eastern District of Tennessee as a visiting judge. Mr. SWANSON explained that the warrant issued charged RAY, along with other escapees at that time, with conspiring to commit an offense against the United States Government with intent to move and travel in interstate commerce to avoid confinement after conviction.

The above is for information.

[redacted] b6 b7C

JAN 5 1978

FBI-KNOXVILLE

[redacted]

1 - 88-7223
1 - 80-2
[redacted]
(2)

88-7223-205

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

5010-110

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-7223) DATE: 5/3/78

FROM : SUPERVISOR [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
UFAC

On 5/2/78, [redacted] Legal Counsel Division, FBIHQ, telephonically contacted the Knoxville Office and advised that he had received information from the House Select Committee on Assassinations that they had learned of a plan of JAMES EARL RAY to attempt another escape from the Brushy Mountain Prison. [redacted] said that a representative of the Committee had requested FBIHQ for the FBI to conduct an investigation under possible UFAC - CONSPIRACY Statutes. b6 b7C

[redacted] said that the Director had personally instructed that the FBI not become involved at this time for lack of jurisdiction. [redacted] said that he had relayed this information to the Committee and that the Committee had requested that FBIHQ contact the Knoxville Field Office and determine the identity of the proper State law enforcement official through which the Committee might obtain the necessary investigation. b6 b7C

After discussing the matter with SAC SWANSON and SSRA [redacted], Nashville RA, the writer telephonically advised [redacted] that it was the recommendation of the SAC at Knoxville as well as the SSRA at Nashville, that the Committee might desire to make their contact with JOEL PLUMMER, Commissioner of Safety, 1228 Andrew Jackson State Office Building, Nashville, Tennessee 37219, telephone number 615-741-2101. b6 b7C

[redacted] said he would contact SSRA [redacted] and put members of the Committee in touch with SSRA [redacted] for the purpose of arranging a meeting with JOEL PLUMMER. [redacted] said that no further action was desired of the Knoxville Office at this time. b6 b7C

88-7223-206

[redacted]
(1)

SAC ✓
ASAC [redacted]

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
MAY 3 1978
FBI - KNOXVILLE
#4 [redacted]

b6 b7C

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

5010-110

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO [redacted] (88-7223) DATE: 6/16/80 b6 b7C

FROM [redacted]

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

At approximately 2:10 PM on 6/13/80 a woman telephonically contacted me sounding as though she were white. She began to ask me a number of questions regarding the Senate Committee on Assassinations and asked how I could explain certain conclusions to which the Committee had come. She said that the Committee found that JAMES EARL RAY and his brothers, JOHN and JERRY, conspired to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, yet neither of RAY's brothers have been charged with that conspiracy. She asked if Conspiracy to Commit Murder was a crime. I advised that it was and she asked how I could explain that the Committee would name JAMES EARL RAY's brothers as Conspirators in the murder yet they not be charged. I said I would make no attempt to explain the Committee's findings. She wanted to know why if they were guilty, they were not charged. She also inquired as to why the Committee could say the RAY Brothers robbed a certain bank when neither of them have been charged with a bank robbery. She noted that comments about them having robbed [redacted] bank were made by [redacted] in public. b6 b7C

At this point the woman identified herself as [redacted] and she advised most of [redacted] situation had deteriorated because of the whole surroundings in relation to the killing of MARTIN LUTHER KING and she emphasized that JAMES did not kill Dr. KING. She pointed out [redacted] to be harassed over the situation

[redacted]

(1)

88-7223-208 b6 b7C

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

JUN 16 1980

FBI - KNOXVILLE

SAC

5010-106

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

and wanted to know why in our society people could make statements that were not true about [redacted] and not have to prove them in court. She asked what gives anyone the right to accuse someone of a crime in public without benefit of charges being brought against the accused. b6 b7C

[redacted] is a scapegoat and made several comments regarding the [redacted] editing findings brought before the Committee prior to the findings being made public. I suggested that she may have legal recourse which she was free to explore and she indicated she did not have funds to pay for attorneys. She also mentioned that [redacted] lives here in Knoxville. She declined to furnish her address and her telephone number indicating that the FBI would have that information on file. b3 b6 b7C b7E

The above is for information only.

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-7223) (C) DATE: 4/2/81

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

On 3/30/81, at 2:10 p.m., a female who identified herself as [redacted] telephonically contacted this office. [redacted] asked if the FBI had jurisdiction over the Brushy Mountain Prison. SA [redacted] advised that if a violation of Federal law within the jurisdiction of the FBI was being committed at Brushy Mountain, the FBI would have jurisdiction. She then stated that every time she visits James Earl Ray at the Brushy Mountain Prison, something happens to her car. The last time she drove her car to the prison, she had transmission problems a few days later. She said she had never seen anyone tampering with her car, but on one occasion a lady (not further identified) told her that she saw two female prison guards breaking into her car. Most recently, [redacted] was driven to the prison by a [redacted] is also incarcerated at Brushy Mountain. [redacted] but has accepted two rides with her to the prison. The last trip, [redacted] car failed to start when they returned to the car after visiting their [redacted] The personnel at the prison would not allow [redacted] to use the prison telephone to call a service station; however, after a while, they allowed a "trusty" to check her car and he discovered that the starter wire had been disconnected. b6 b7C

SA [redacted] advised [redacted] contact the FBI office since her car was allegedly tampered with and since it was [redacted] who appeared to be the person having problems with personnel at the Brushy Mountain Prison. b6 b7C

In addition to above information, [redacted] said that the last time she called the FBI she was told by an FBI Agent that since she was [redacted] she could come to the FBI office and she would not be beaten with a rubber hose. She also stated that in the past she dated an FBI Agent who was married and the [redacted] At this point, SA [redacted] told [redacted] that he found this hard to believe and she advised SA [redacted] that he was not perfect either and that her attorney told her not to trust the FBI. b6 b7C

88-7223-209
SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
APR 2 1981
FBI - KNOXVILLE
SAC
INFO.

[redacted] (1)

[redacted]

[redacted]

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

5010-110

KX 88-7223

It should be noted that the above-mentioned female who identified herself as [redacted] refused to furnish her address or telephone number. This telephone conversation was terminated at 2:22 p.m.

b6
b7C

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
THE KNOXVILLE NEWS SENTINEL
KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE
Date: 5/11/81 Page C-1
Edition:

Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: Knoxville

Hosea Williams Fails To Visit With Mrs. Ray

Atlanta civil rights leader Hosea Williams did not appear at a news conference yesterday at Brushy Mountain State Prison or on a WIVK radio program. Mrs. James Earl Ray, wife of the confessed slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, said the former King aide was delayed in Washington, D.C., on personal business.

The Tennessee Parole Board is planning to decide on a hearing request within six weeks for Ray, serving a 99-year prison term at Brushy Mountain for the murder of King. Williams has said he believes Ray is innocent of the King killing. Mrs. Ray said she asked him to be here to focus attention on the case.

88-7223-210

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
MAY 14 1981
FBI KNOXVILLE

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b7C

FD-491 (Rev. 4-21-80)

Memorandum

To : SAC Knoxville (88-7223) Date 8/10/91

From : SAC Boston (88-5687)

Subject : [redacted]

☒ RUC

☐ File Destruction Program

b6
b7C

[redacted]; Earl Hill, Jr.; James Earl Ray; Fugitives

Enclosed are 1 items.

These items are forwarded your office since:

☒ All logical investigation completed in this Division

☒ You were OO at the time our case was RUC'd.

Enclosures are described as follows:

1 - 1A

88-7223-211

SEARCHED [ ] INDEXED [ ]
SERIALIZED [ ] FILED [ ]
AUG 2 [illegible] 1991
FBI — KNOXVILLE

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Enc.

NOTE: DO NOT BLOCK STAMP ORIGINAL ENCLOSURES.

FBI/DOJ

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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TO ALL STATIONS TENNESSEE
ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS

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

A SECOND ESCAPEE, [redacted] W/M, FROM HARDIN COUNTY HAS BEEN APPREHENDED.

JAMES EARL RAY, [redacted] AND EARL HILL, JR. ARE STILL AT LARGE.

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL KNOXVILLE, OPR. TEDFORD, 3:58 A.M. EDT

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SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 13 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE

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88-7223-76

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

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Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
rmy	James Earl Ray #16 163 129	February 19, 1946		
heriff's Office os Angeles, alifornia	James Earl Ray #B-119908	October 11, 1949	suspicion of burglary	
olice Department os Angeles, alifornia	James Earl Ray #139648	October 11, 1949	suspicion 459 Penal Code (burglary)	8 months County Jail suspended; 2 years probation served; first 90 days County Jail; 146 December 30, 1949 Cs129438
heriff's Office edar Rapids, Iowa	James E. Ray #5937	April 18, 1950	vagrancy	
olice Department lton, Illinois	James Earl Ray #7514	July 23, 1951	no operator's license - no State License - no City License	released to pay later
				b3
ook County Jail hicago, Illinois	James Ray #131165	May 9, 1952	robbery	June 13, 1952 sentenced to penitentiary 1 to 2 years
tate Penitentiary oliet, Illinois	James E. Ray #32419	June 13, 1952	robbery	1 to 2 years
tate Penitentiary ontiac, Illinois	James E. Ray #19121	July 7, 1952 in transfer from Joliet	robbery	1 to 2 years March 12, 1954 discharged

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SEARCH SERIALI ... JUN 1 ... 1977 FBI—K...

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

88-7223-78

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

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Sheriff's Office Edwardsville, Illinois	James Earl Ray #2640	August 30, 1954	burglary and larceny	
Police Department Hannibal, Missouri	James E. Ray #40714	March 23, 1955	investigation of breaking and entering Post Office	
State Highway Patrol Macon, Missouri	James Earl Ray #B-3376	March 23, 1955	cashing stolen postal money orders	released to Postal Inspector Kansas City, Missouri March 24, 1955
United States Marshal Kansas City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #12018	March 28, 1955	forgery United States Postal Money Order	sentenced to 15 months custody of Attorney General
Sheriff's Office Kansas City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #29637	March 28, 1955	Forgery - Government	July 7, 1955 3 years and 9 months
United States Penitentiary Leavenworth, Kansas	James Earl Ray #72498-L	July 7, 1955	Post Office Laws Forge : Money Orders	3 years and 9 months May 20, 1958 conditional release March 31, 1959 maximum April 5, 1958 conditional release on charge of Post Office forgery Post Office Money Orders
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #81071	October 10, 1959	suspicion of robbery	

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

[redacted]

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

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Police Department Saint Louis, Missouri	James Earl Ray #81071	October 16, 1959	suspicion of robbery stealing and fugitive other authorities	
State Penitentiary Jefferson City, Missouri	James Earl Ray #00416	March 17, 1960	"TC" operating motor vehicle without permission of owner robbery first "b/m DDW" (2 charges)	20 years (20, 7, 5, concurrent) April 23, 1967 escaped
State Hospital Number 1 Fulton, Missouri	James Earl Ray #37045 C-5	September 8, 1966	Patient	
SO Memphis Tenn	James Earl Ray #39723	7-19-68	murder 1st deg	
SO Memphis Tenn	James Earl Ray #39728	7-19-68	Capias-murder 1st and CDW	
SPen Nashville Tenn	James Earl Ray #65477	3-11-69	Murder 1st degree	99 yrs

1-BU

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

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
	WANTED BY BUREAU: James Earl Ray, aka James McBride, James Walyon, W. C. Herron, James O'Connor, Jim, for UFAC-Robbery First Fug Index #121426 Bu file #88-41730 O.O. Kansas City inf rec 7-27-67 CAUTION: ARMED AND DANGEROUS Chg Conspiracy Civil rights added Burfile #44-388861 changed O.O. Memphis changed per BM 4-25-68 NO LONGER WANTED per inf rec 7-19-68 FLASH BY BUREAU: James Earl Ray aka Eric Starvo Galt, W. C. Herron, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James O'Connor James Walton, James Walyon, John Willard, "Jim" If any inf or inq rec refer one copy of record to Top Ten Superv Crim Research Sec Div 8 Bu inf rec 6-10-68 (TO REMAIN ACTIVE UNTIL SUBJECT'S DEATH)			

THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI.

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

2-BU

The following FBI record, NUMBER 405 942 G , is furnished ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~.
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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
CC-Top Ten Superv Crim Research Sec Div 8				

THIS PAGE SHOULD NOT BE DISSEMINATED OUTSIDE FBI.

FBI Checks are listed only as investigative leads as

(Rev. 10-7-66)

SAC, Kansas City (88-9449) August 14, 1967

Director, FBI (88-41730)

JAMES EARL RAY, aka, FUGITIVE
UFAC-ROBBERY; FIRST

☒ Enclosed is information extracted from subject's identification record which may be of lead value. It is essential that any discrepancies be resolved through investigation in order to set forth only the most current description in future communications.

☐ Enclosed is information extracted from the identification record of an individual who may or may not be identical with subject. It is desired that you conduct appropriate investigation at an early date to determine whether these individuals are identical. The results of this investigation should be promptly submitted to the Bureau by letter marked for the attention of the Special Investigative Division, and should be included in the next investigative report from your office. In the event it is determined this individual is not identical with your subject, endeavor to promptly develop additional data that will identify your subject with a fingerprint record.

☐ Enclosed are data supplementing that previously furnished your office.

☐ A search of the name files of the Identification Division did not disclose a fingerprint record for the above-named fugitive. Your office should endeavor to develop any additional data that will identify this individual with a fingerprint record. A copy of fingerprints, if available from any source, would be of material assistance. As complete a description as possible, together with any aliases that might have been used by the subject also should be obtained when interviewing relatives, acquaintances, and employers of the fugitive. Information concerning any enlistment in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard Services of the United States, should, of course, be procured concerning this individual. This matter should be pursued vigorously.

☒ Signature available. ☐ Signature not available.

☒ Photographs and negative transmitted herewith. ☐ No photograph available in identification record. Endeavor to obtain and forward same to Identification Division.

☐

☐ Washington Field Office ☐ Indianapolis Office ☐ San Antonio Office is requested to:

☐ Conduct appropriate service search(es) and advise office of origin.
☐ Obtain and forward to Identification Division copy of service prints if available.

Enc. (7)

1 - Fugitive Supervisor, Room 1521, (enclosures 2)

1 - Uniform Crime Reporting (NCIC) Room 610 OPO (enclosure)

☐ 44 CS

(6) ☐

RETAIN PERMANENTLY IN
IDENT JACKET #

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Re: JAMES EARL RAY, aka, FUGITIVE
UFAC-ROBBERY FIRST

The following is a summary prepared by FBI Identification Division of descriptive data appearing in FBI #305 441 A:

405-944-C

Race	White
Sex	Male
Dates of Birth	March 10, 1928; March 10, 1929
Places of Birth	Decatur, Illinois; Quincy, Illinois; Alton, Illinois
Height	Approximately 5' 10"
Weight	174 pounds, September, 1966
Complexion	Ruddy
Eyes	Blue
Hair	Brown
Build	Medium
Occupations	Laborer; baker
Scars and Marks	Small scar on center of forehead; scar in palm of right hand
Addresses	Saint Louis, Missouri, March, 1960; 2015 Park, Saint Louis, Missouri, October, 1959; Quincy, Illinois, July, 1955, March, 1955, April, 1950; Hotel Quincy, Quincy, Illinois, March, 1955; Victor Hotel, Quincy, Illinois, March, 1955, August, 1954; 1429 Chery, Hannibal, Missouri, March, 1955; 853 West Fullerton, Chicago, Illinois, May, 1952; 805 Alby Street, Alton, Illinois, July, 1951

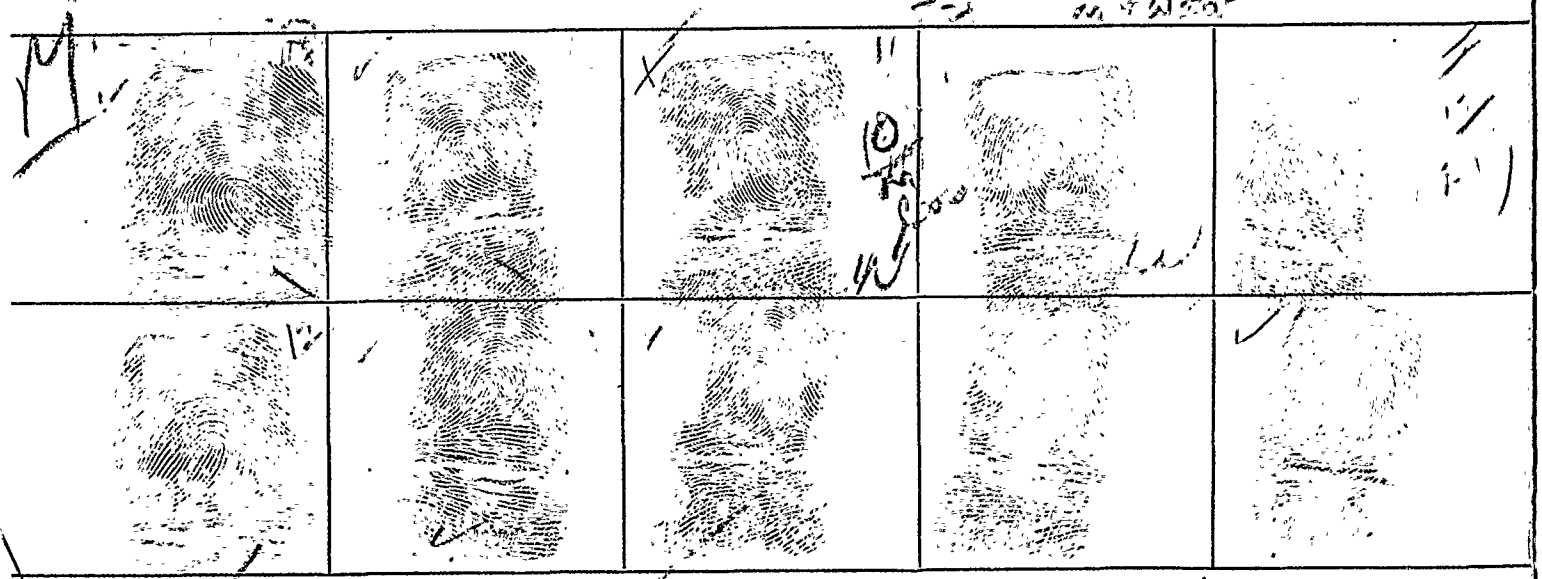
Fingerprint Classification

16 M 9 U OOO 12 Ref 9
M 4 W IOI 12

NCIC Fingerprint Classification

16131100121211121117

NAME RAY, James Earl NO. B-119908 CLASS MALE



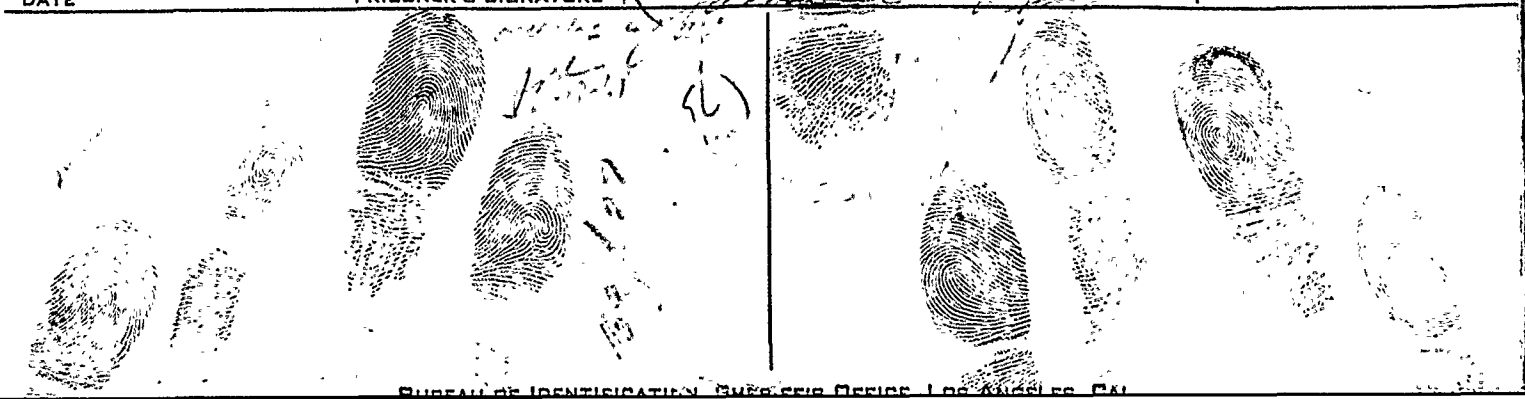
21 140 5/10 Illinois Unemployed
Hair brown; eyes blue

Suspicion Burglary LAPD 10-11-49

PHOTO TAKEN BY

SEARCHED

DATE 10-11-49 PRISONER'S SIGNATURE



BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION, SHERIFF'S OFFICE, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

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QW.TNFBIKX00.NAM/RAY, JAMES EARL.DOB/031028

TNFBIKX00

EW-C TNFBIKX00 NAM/RAY, JAMES EARL SEX/M RAC/W POB/IL DOB/031028

HGT/510 WGT/170 HAI/BLK FBI/ 405942G

OFF/4902 DOW/061177 OCA/88-7223

MIS/UFAC CONSPIRACY NO BOND REC

NIC/W168560456

ORI IS FBI KNOXVILLE TN

NIC/W168560456

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CLEAR NAM/RAY, JAMES EARL NIC/W168560456

88-7223-94

SEARCH SERIALI[redacted] IDE FILE[redacted]

JUN 1[illegible] 1977

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HAVE UNIT OR NOTIFY UNIT 770 TO CONTACT 760 AND DOG HANDLER
TO MEET OUR OFFICER ON WINDROCK RD JUST OUT SIDE OLIVER SPRINGS
WHO IS CHECKING AN ABANDON VEHICLE. OFFICER BELIEVES MAY BE RELATED
TO ESCAPEE. REQUEST THAT IT BE URGENT RESPONCE. VEHICLE HAS GARD
CAP FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN AND BADGE NAME THURNER.

ANDERSON COUNTY SO OPR/ [redacted] b6 b7C

88-7223 b6 b7C

SEARCHE [redacted] RAD [redacted]
SERIALIZ FI

JUN 13 1977

FBI—KNOXVI

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-7223) DATE: 6/13/77

FROM : ASAC [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE"
UFAC - ESCAPE;
CONSPIRACY
(O.O. Knoxville)

The following answers to the indicated questions were furnished on 6/13/77, to Unit Chief [redacted] b6 b7C

1. Does the FBI have any evidence of a conspiracy involving the escape of RAY?

The FBI has no evidence or indication of a conspiracy involving any persons other than inmates in helping RAY escape. There is no indication that anything more than a break for freedom was the motivation for this escape. There is no evidence or indication of any outside assistance in this escape.

2. Has the FBI interviewed JAMES EARL RAY?

No.

3. Has the FBI talked to the other escapees and individuals believed involved?

[redacted] who was wounded in the escape attempt, refused to be interviewed. b6 b7C

[redacted] denied any prior planning for escape, but merely indicated he escaped since others were escaping.

[redacted] advised he escaped since he had an opportunity. b6 b7C

[redacted]
(2)

88-7223-105
SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED
JUN 13 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE
[redacted]

5010-110

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

[redacted] advised he escaped because he had an opportunity to go. b6 b7C

[redacted] who engaged in a fight which appeared to be a diversionary tactic, denied the fight was prearranged or had any relationship with the prison break.

[redacted] who appeared to fake an ankle injury, refused to be interviewed.

AM.TNTHP0100
02:59 06/13/77 00010
03:31 06/13/77 00005 TN
TXT AP.

427A TNTHP0100 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE JUNE 13, 1977

REQUEST FOR NATIONWIDE BROADCAST

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

A THIRD ESCAPEE, EARL HILL, JR. HAS BEEN APPRENDED.

JAMES EARL RAY, [redacted] ARE STILL AT LARGE. b6 b7C

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL KNOXVILLE,OPR. [redacted] 2:00 A.M. EDT

RR//TNTHP0000 0002 13 0059 13 0059

AM..TNTHP0100
02:15 06/13/77 00027
03:33 06/13/77 00006 TN
TXT AP.

427B TNTHP0100 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE JUNE 13, 1977

REQUEST FOR NATIONWIDE BROADCAST

REFERENCE ESCAPEES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENNESSEE.

JAMES EARL RAY HAS BEEN APPREHENDED AND RETURNED TO THE PRISON AT 3:00 A.M.EDT.

AUTHORITY COLONEL [redacted] b6 b7C

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL KNOXVILLE,OPR. [redacted] 3:15 A.M. EDT

RR//TNTHP0000 0010 13 0215 13 0215

88-7223-110

SEARCH [redacted] INDEXED
SERIALIZ [redacted] FI [redacted]
JUN 13 1977
FBI - KNOXVIL [redacted]

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray Goes 'Over Wall' With 6 More at Brushy Mountain; Serving 99 Years in King's Death

1 Escapee Is Shot, Taken—Others Flee in Hills

By ERIC NEWHOUSE
Associated Press Writer

PETROS, Tenn. — James Earl Ray, the admitted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., scaled a state prison wall Firday and escaped with six other prisoners into the East Tennessee hills.

The prisoners went over the wall about 8 p.m. EDT using a makeshift ladder made of metal conduit. Prison officials said the escape was covered by a mock fight between two prisoners in the yard of Brushy Mountain State Prison, the state's maximum security facility.

One of the inmates involved in the mock altercation feigned a broken leg, officials said. As guards went to break up the disturbance, they noted one of the seven escaping inmates, Jerry W. Ward, 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.

Ward was treated for a superficial gunshot wound at a nearby hospital and returned to the prison.

State troopers set up roadblocks near the prison and 125 prison guards, FBI agents, agents of the Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification and sheriff's officers from at least six counties joined in the search for the state's most famous prisoner.

Ray was serving 99 years for the assassination of King at Memphis and at least one of the others who escaped, identified as Johnny Hacker, was serving a similar term for murder, prison officials said.

Becca Cottrill, spokeswoman for the state prison system, said she did not know what the other prisoners were there for. But she said she had been told the fugitives included "some of the real mean ones."

Ray, 49, a Missouri prison fugitive when King was slain, was sentenced March 10, 1969 — his 41st birthday — on his plea of guilty to the slaying of King, a Nobel Prize-winning civil rights leader.

King was gunned down on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis on April 4, 1968. Ray was later arrested in London, where he had fled under an assumed name.

"We've got all our cars out looking for him. Authorities in Morgan County, Campell County and Ed say Fentress County, Anderson County, Knox County and all those around there have been notified," said Mike Wilson, a sheriff's deputy in neighboring Scott County.

The FBI said in Washington it was sending additional agents to the area. State troopers broadcast an all points alert.

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

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

PAGE 1,3

Date: 6/11/77
Edition: 3 Star
Author:
Editor: MARTIN S. OCHS
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

88-7223-111

SEARCH [ ] INDEX [ ]
SERIAL [ ] FILE [ ]

JUN 13 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

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b7C

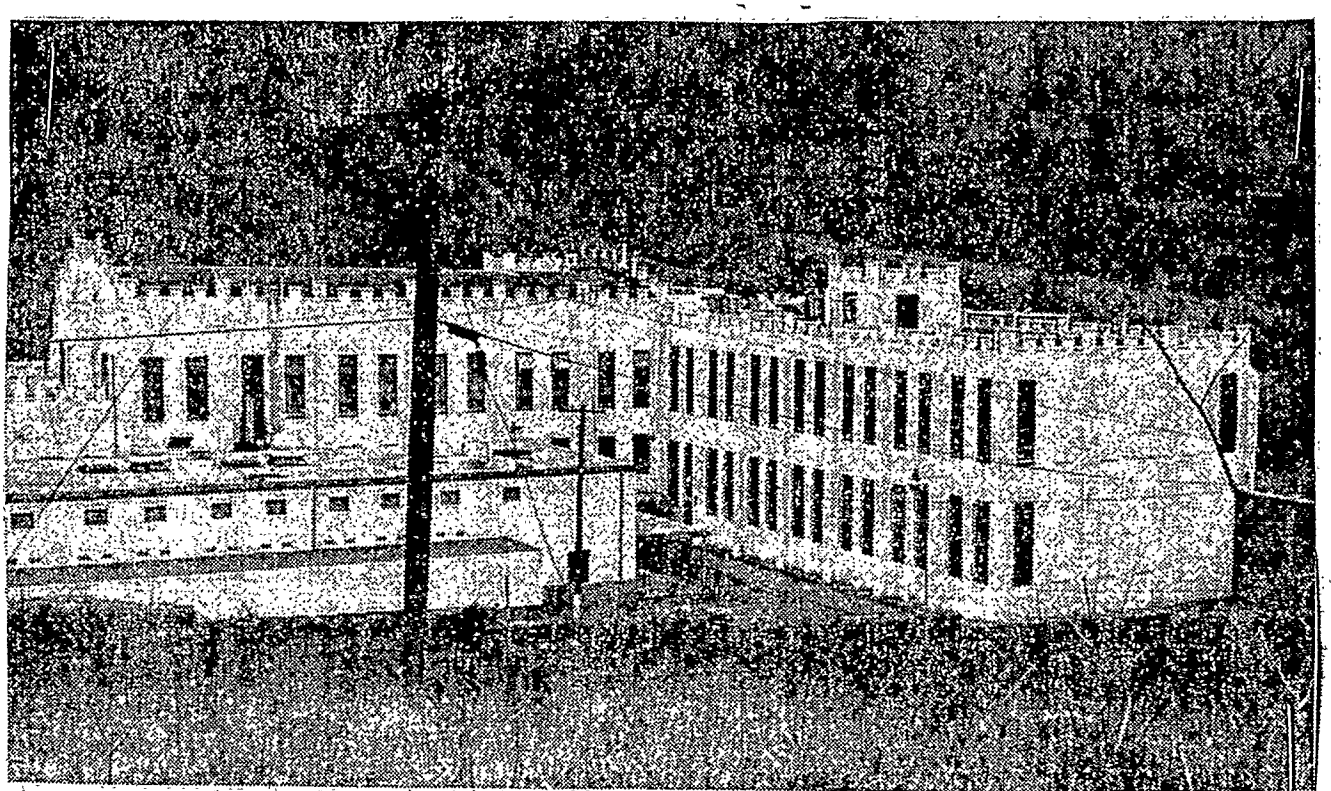
Almost immediately after entering prison, Ray recanted his guilty plea and has been trying to win a full trial ever since. He has claimed, in an unsuccessful Memphis hearing to win a new trial and in interviews, that he purchased the rifle that killed King but did not fire the gun.

Instead, he said, he was a dupe in a conspiracy — a claim which has resulted in recent questioning of Ray here by members of the U.S. House Assassinations Committee.

Twice before, Ray had tried to flee from the 85-year-old, white stone prison 40 miles northwest of Knoxville. He was found once in a hot steam vent and again cowering in the prison yard.

—AP

James Earl Ray in Interview Last Month



—Porter Binks

Wall Borders One Side of Brushy Prison Where Ray Escaped on Friday

Ray 'Escape Artist' in Crime Life

By MARTIN WALDRON
c. New York Times News Service

During his 25-year prison career, James Earl Ray had earned a reputation of being an "escape artist" and indeed was on the lam from the Missouri State Penitentiary in 1968 when he was accused of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Memphis, Tenn.

Other convicts who served time with Ray in prison have said he was constantly plotting escape. He had a history of bizarre escape attempts, most of which failed.

Authorities still do not know how Ray escaped from the Missouri Penitentiary at Jefferson City in April 1967. He slipped away one Sunday morning while assigned to work in the prison bakery.

The official version has been that he probably hid under loaves of bread being shipped from the main prison to satellite prison farms.

Unofficially, authorities believe he had considerable help in getting out of the maximum-security prison. For several months, attention was focused on his brother, John L. Ray, who had visited James Earl Ray the day before the escape. But no charges were ever brought against John Ray.

Ray himself said he got out of the Missouri prison by scaling the wall, an assertion discounted by investigators.

Before Friday, Ray had previously tried to escape twice from the Tennessee State Penitentiary where he was serving a 99-year sentence for killing King.

A high school dropout, Ray has been in trouble every day of his life since 1950, when he was arrested in Los Angeles for stealing a typewriter and sentenced to 90 days in jail.

In 1952, he was charged with holding up a cab driver in Chicago, and was sentenced to two years in the Illinois State Prison. After serving his term, he was arrested in 1955 for forging postal money orders in Hannibal, Mo., and sentenced to three years in prison.

In 1959, he was caught holding up a St. Louis supermarket, and was sentenced to 20 years in prison as a habitual criminal.

Before he took up a life of crime, Ray had been in the Army and had been discharged because he showed a general ineptness for the military life.

Although Ray has steadfastly denied having fired the shots that killed King, he did plead guilty and was sentenced to the 99-year term under an arrangement worked out with the court by the third of a series of attorneys he had.

From the time he escaped from the penitentiary in Missouri in 1967 until he was arrested in Britain on June 8, 1968, two months after King was killed, Ray led authorities on a 25,000-mile chase through three countries, eluding them with an ease which belied the general ineptness which he had shown as a criminal.

During his life of crime, he had jumped into a police car on one occasion thinking it was a cab which he hoped to use to escape from the scene of a hold-up. On another occasion, after robbing a dry-cleaning establishment, Ray dropped his wallet on the floor and cut himself on the glass he broke to get into the store.

This ineptness in robbery and his ability to escape apprehension during a long period of intensive search has caused many authorities to believe that Ray received considerable assistance from others while outside prison.

After escaping from the Missouri State Penitentiary, Ray went to Chicago where he worked as a busboy in a restaurant for several weeks, and then to Montreal. He later told his attorneys that he was trying to get false identification papers to be used to get out of the country. Instead, he said that he ran into a "blond Latin" man whom he referred to as Raoul, who enlisted him in a smuggling scheme.

Ray said that he brought several items into the United States from Canada for Raoul, for which he was paid money.

After leaving Montreal, he set up housekeeping in Birmingham, Ala., in the summer of 1967.

Ray said he was told to wait there for further orders from Raoul, and that on Raoul's order and with money furnished to him by the "blonde Latin" he bought a white Mustang automobile.

While in Alabama, Ray got a driver's license, and took dancing lessons in Birmingham.

In the fall of 1967, he left Birmingham and went to Mexico where he spent several weeks.

Ray has never said what he did in Mexico, but officials believe that he was engaged in some sort of smuggling activities there.

In the late winter of 1967-68, Ray came to Los Angeles where he took a course in bartending, and continued his dancing lessons. He also underwent hypnosis and had plastic surgery done on his nose.

Ray had a long pointed nose, and a distinctive walk. Many persons who knew him described him as walking as if he were plowing.

While in Los Angeles, Ray struck up acquaintances with several inhabitants of a bar on Hollywood Boulevard, and later drove with one of them to New Orleans.

Officials believe that the trip from Los Angeles to New Orleans was connected in some fashion with one of the criminal conspiracies Ray was engaged in.

In the early spring of 1968, after visiting in Louisiana twice, Ray went to Alabama, where King was leading a civil rights movement.

After checking into the motel which was near where King was working, Ray stayed a couple of days, and then moved on to Atlanta, where he rented a room on the city's North Side. In late March of 1968, Ray drove to Birmingham where he bought a rifle from a Marine supply store in that city.

The day after he bought the rifle, he returned it to the store, saying that it was the wrong size, and that his brother wanted him to get a rifle of larger caliber. The second rifle was the one which was found on the scene of King's slaying in Memphis.

The day that King was shot in Memphis, James Earl Ray checked into a flop house across the street from the motel where King was staying. The manager of the motel, a woman, later was unable to recognize Ray, but authorities said they found his fingerprints in the room.

After King was shot, about 6 p.m. on the evening of April 4, 1968, Memphis police put up road blocks around the city, but Ray was able to elude them and drive back to Atlanta.

In that city, he abandoned his automobile and caught a bus to Toronto. There, he set about getting a false birth certificate. With the phoney birth certificate, he obtained a visa to London, and flew there while 4,000 agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and scores of thousands of other police were looking for him.

In London, he stayed mostly to himself in small hotels for several days, and then flew to Portugal. While in London, he expressed interest in joining white mercenaries fighting in Africa, going so far as to call several people whose names had appeared in the newspapers as being connected with these mercenaries.

After staying several days in Portugal, Ray flew back to London, where he was arrested on the same day that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was being buried, June 8, 1968.

James Earl Ray Flees Prison With 6

Continued From Page One

The prison itself was closed in 1971, following a strike by prison guards, with Ray transferred back to the overcrowded Tennessee State Prison in Nashville, which he entered briefly for classification before he originally was transferred to Brushy in 1970.

When Brushy Mountain was reopened, following a Nashville prison riot in which Ray took no part, he asked to return to Brushy Mountain where he had remained until the escape.

Those who escaped with Ray were identified as Johnny Hacker, Earl Hill Jr., David Lee Powell, Jerry W. Ward, Donald Ray Taylor and Douglas Shelton.

Ward was recaptured almost immediately, officers said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray flees Petros

One of East Tennessee's largest manhunts ever was developing early today after the escape of James Earl Ray from Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros.

Ray was serving a 99-year sentence for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Making their way with Ray to freedom from the prison, which is situated in a valley between two high mountains, were six other prisoners. One was injured slightly by gunfire in the escape and captured near the prison.

Early today, authorities said bloodhounds had tracked the fugitives to the Big Spring Hollow area near Petros reservoir, where they had split into three groups. The dogs were following all three tracks.

Searchers said the reservoir is about a mile from the prison and that they believed the prisoners were no more than two or three miles from the scene. Some were expecting that contact might be made by daybreak.

In Washington, White House press secretary Jody Powell said President Carter ordered Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell to offer whatever federal assistance was needed in the search for Ray.

Powell said Carter had ordered the Justice Department to give him a report on the progress of the search this morning.

State Department of Correction officials said a fight broke out in the prison yard about 7:30 p.m. Friday and security officers' attention was diverted, allowing Ray and five others to make a successful escape over the wall on a makeshift ladder made of conduit.

The fight in which one prisoner pretended to suffer a broken leg was evidently a ruse planned in advance. Ray and the five at large were not fired at, but Jerry Wayne Ward was shot as he climbed the ladder over the wall.

Almost every law enforcement agency in East Tennessee joined in the search over a wide area. Many officers were armed with shotguns, some with submachine guns, a

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE 1, 7

Date: 6/11/77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

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JUN 13 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

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88-7223-112

Journal reporter at the scene reported. White officials do not feel the two incidents are connected, the prison switchboard was out of order and power was out in parts of the town of Petros at the time of the escape and Warden Stoney Lane was on vacation.

Roadblocks were set up through the area around Petros, 40 miles northwest of Knoxville. The FBI, which released a nationwide all points bulletin for Ray, said an aerial search would begin this morning.

Prison officials were questioning the captured prisoner, identified as Jerry Wayne Ward, late Friday in an attempt to learn something about the escape. Ward was listed as serving a term of 20 to 40 years for bank robbery.

> Rev. Martin Luther King Sr. is scheduled to speak tomorrow at the Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Knoxville.
>
> King's sermon at 10:45 a.m. was planned as a part of the installation service for Rev. Harold A. Middlebrook.
>
> The father of slain civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., King is pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. He is also honorary president of the Martin Luther King Sr. Center for Social Change in Atlanta.

Arzo Carson, attorney general for Morgan and Scott counties, said Friday night he had information leading him to believe an escape attempt was in the works.

"We (area law enforcement officers) have been aware of a relative of James Earl Ray in the Petros area and we had notified officials of the prison of the relative's presence. Carson said the man seen in the area was Ray's brother.

Jerry Ray, who lives in Chicago, said Friday he visited his brother last week but there was no talk of escape. He said he doubted Ray had outside help in the breakout.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol listed these as the fugitives, in addition to Ray:

- **Donald Ray Taylor,** white male, 5 feet 6 inches tall, 130 pounds, born Sept. 30, 1952; two-inch scar on forehead; serving 51 years for attempt to commit murder;
- **Douglas Shelton,** white male, 5 feet 10 inches tall, 157 pounds; tattoo on both arms, heavyset, brown hair; serving 60 years on conviction from Sullivan County;
- **Larry Edward Hacker,** white male, 6 feet, 170 pounds, spider tattoo on arm, ruddy complexion, brown eyes, gray hair, serving conviction for burglary and robbery, Hardin County;
- **David Lee Powell,** black male, born July 18, 1949, 6 feet 1 inch tall, 158 pounds, black hair, brown eyes; tattoo upper right arm; serving 100 years for murder from Shelby County;
- **Earl Hill Jr.,** white male, medium compexion, black hair, green eyes, 5 feet 6 inches, 134 pounds; scar upper top right forehead; serving life sentence on conviction of murdering a Washington, D. C., policeman and the abduction, rape and shooting of the officer's wife at a lookout point on Unaka Mountain in November, 1967.

The prisoner caught in the escape, Jerry Wayne Ward, was serving a term of 20 to 40 years for bank robbery in Davidson County. He was shot in the capture and treated at Oak Ridge Hospital for superficial wounds, a spokesman at the hospital said. He then was returned to the prison.

Ray, 49, a Missouri prison fugitive when King was slain, was sentenced March 10, 1969 — his 41st birthday — on his plea of guilty to the slaying of King, a Nobel Prize-winning civil rights leader, in Memphis.

Almost immediately after entering prison, Ray recanted his guilty plea and has been trying to win a full trial ever since. He has claimed, in an unsuccessful Memphis hearing to win a new trial and in interviews, that he purchased the rifle that killed King but did not fire the gun.

AP Wirephoto

JAMES EARL RAY, serving 99 years for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., escaped Friday from Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros, officials said. Ray is shown during an interview at Petros on May 29, 1977.

Ray escape 2nd in 10 years

KANSAS CITY

James Earl Ray's escape Friday night from the Bushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee was his second such jailbreak in just over 10 years.

Ray, currently serving a 99-year sentence for the slaying of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., fled the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City on April 23, 1967. That was less than a year before the April 4, 1968, murder of King.

Tennessee prison officials said Friday night that Ray and six other men escaped by climbing over a wall.

But there still is confusion about how he managed his first break 10 years ago from the maximum-security facility in central Missouri.

Prison officials maintain Ray escaped by hiding in a large bread container taken out of the prison by a truck. But Ray has said he climbed a water pipe and used a stolen steel hook to pull himself over the prison wall.

Most investigators of the incident have accepted the prison version, and a copyright story in the Kansas City Star last year quoted an inmate as confirming the bread container theory.

The inmate said he had originally agreed to help another prisoner escape via the bread container. But Ray came along and entered the container first and the inmate was afraid to stop him.

Ray's arrest record stretches back to 1949 in Los Angeles County, where he was convicted of stealing a typewriter.

He later served time at the federal penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., and began his Missouri prison term in 1959 after being convicted of robbing a St. Louis grocery store.

But even before that, he had tried to keep his freedom, first by resisting the officers arresting him and then by trying to flee the municipal courts building in St. Louis on the last day of his trial.

Ray attempted to escape the penitentiary in 1961, but failed when the ladder he was using to scale the wall collapsed.

Then, in March 1966 he was found crouching behind a fan in the prison ventilator shaft after he and another inmate were missed at roll call and dummies were found in their beds.

At the time, officials said Ray had been under consideration for parole. He was evaluated at the state mental hospital in Fulton, then returned to prison when no symptoms of mental disease were found.

A year later, he was free.

— Associated Press

Abernathy calls Ray escape 'a set-up'

ATLANTA

Ralph Abernathy, a close associate of assassinated civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Friday he believes the escape from prison by James Earl Ray 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 James Earl Ray has not escaped but is part of a plan," the Rev. Mr. Abernathy said of Ray's escape Friday night from a Tennessee prison.

Abernathy succeeded King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference after King was killed in 1968.

"I really believe that the prison officials, authorities in very high places, have planned for his escape. I just do not see how an individual who is being held for the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in maximum security can possibly escape," he added.

Abernathy said someone is trying to keep Ray from revealing the story of King's assassination.

"I am just greatly outraged. There is a scheme in this country to destroy an individual who has the information and the facts and has come to the point now where he is willing to tell those facts,

AP Wirephoto

JAMES EARL RAY, serving 99 years for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., escaped Friday from Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros, officials said. Ray is shown during an interview at Petros on May 29, 1977.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Reaction in Washington One of Disbelief, Fear

By WENDELL POTTER
News-Sentinel Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — The general reaction in official Washington to James Earl Ray's escape has been disbelief and fear — disbelief that Ray could or would even want to escape now from the fortress-like prison at Petros, and fear that he will never be seen alive again.

President Carter was sufficiently alarmed when he heard of the escape to personally order the FBI to take charge of the search for Ray and the other escapees.

The FBI acted swiftly. Within two hours and 20 minutes after the escape, FBI Director Clarence Kelley had placed FBI agents in charge of the search. A short time later, Ray's name was at the top of the FBI's list of the nation's 10 most wanted fugitives.

Kelley, according to FBI spokesman Tom Deakin, ordered an "all out effort" to apprehend Ray, who for the second time in less than 10 years has had the dubious distinction of being the FBI's "highest priority" fugitive.

On Capitol Hill, members of the House Committee on Assassinations were virtually stunned to hear of Ray's escape. All of the members who could be reached for comment expressed the urgent necessity of Ray's apprehension — alive.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Carl Stokes (D-Ohio) was on the phone to U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell, Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton and Tennessee Correction Commissioner Murray Henderson as soon as he heard of the escape.

Stokes told The News-Sentinel last night that he and other members of the Assassinations Committee were particularly concerned about possible "outside participation" in the escape.

"If there was outside participation," Stokes said, "the reasons for it are obvious and the escape would have been perpetrated for one of two reasons — either that once Ray got out he would never be heard from again or that he could have been lured out for the purpose of killing him."

Stokes said he wonders if Ray was a willing participant in the escape or whether he was "lured into it" by persons who did not want Ray to testify before the Assassinations Committee about his role in Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s death.

"How does America's most famous prisoner in that maximum security prison, second possibly only to Alcatraz, escape so easily?" Stokes asked, "particularly in light of the fact that it was so organized that a fight was staged to distract the guards. These are some of the very serious aspects of it."

STOKES ALSO SAID he does not understand how Ray, who had been in solitary confinement and who was considered a "loner" at the prison, would have had the opportunity to help plan the escape.

Other members of the committee were equally perplexed that Ray, who had asked and been granted permission to testify in Washington about his knowledge of the King assassination, would willfully try to escape.

Rep. Harold Ford of Memphis, a member of the subcommittee investigating Dr. King's death, said he was under the impression that Ray was always kept in maximum security and that "he should have been safe."

Ford noted that Ray in recent weeks had talked to several members of the assassinations committee, including former committee chief counsel Richard Sprague, and had expressed a willingness and desire to appear before the committee in person and answer questions about the King assassination.

"I can't imagine why he would escape when plans were being made for him to testify," Ford said. "Our only hope now is that he can be captured before he is conveniently killed."

88-7223-113

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE A-1

Date: 6-12-77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: KK 88-7223
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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JUN 14 1977

FBI—KNOXVILL[redacted]

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FORD ~~WAS OUT~~ of town when the escape occurred, but he said he has since talked to Justice Department officials and with members of the assassinations committeee staff, two of whom were dispatched to Petros to investigate.

Robert Lehner, chief investigator of the committee, arrived at the prison Saturday with one other staff member.

Ford later said the panel would meet in special session Monday to discuss Ray's escape.

Congressional Delegate Walter Pauntroy of Washington, D.C., chairman of the subcommittee investigating the King assassination, said the method of escape in particular raises serious questions.

"I just don't understand how a fellow in maximum security is able to get out," he said.

Rep. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) said Ray's escape "certainly adds a new dimension to the congressional investigation of the King assassination.

"MY CONCERN is that he be apprehended as quickly as possible and without any harm," he said. "If the man who has pled guilty to assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King is gone, then we lose the key link in the assassination case."

Unlike members of Congress, President Carter chose not to comment on the escape except to say that he considered it of such importance that the FBI should immediately assist law enforcement officers in Tennessee.

The President telephoned Atty. Gen. Bell Friday night and asked to be briefed on the progress of the search the next day (Saturday).

The only comment about the escape from the White House was that Bell had called the President at 8 a.m. Saturday and that the FBI had entered the case at the request of the President.

CARL ROWAN / Viewpoint

Reform at the FBI

WASHINGTON — Almost exactly four years ago, President Richard M. Nixon nominated Clarence M. Kelley to become director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The graying, slightly-stooped chief of police in Kansas City, Mo., came to Washington to lead the once-glorified FBI through its darkest hours in half a century.

Kelley, himself an FBI agent for 21 years, would guide the bureau through four years marked by revelations of FBI burglaries, FBI destruction of Watergate evidence, FBI funny games with Kennedy assassination evidence, FBI harassment of the late Dr. Martin Luther King (including efforts to provoke him to commit suicide), illegal FBI wiretaps and other unlawful surveillances. Kelley would head an FBI buffeted by charges that it is anti-minority, anti-women's liberation, Jim Crow in staffing, a threat to civil liberties and much more.

Kelley, now 65, is about to leave the FBI — and busy on the search committee that will recommend his successor. I dropped by the Hoover Building recently to breakfast with Kelley and to ask him what, if anything, has changed during his tenure. Kelley expressed great pride in the fact that he has reined in FBI investigators to the extent that they no longer are a threat to the liberties and dignity of the American people.

Kelley says there were some 23,000 "domestic security" investigations under way when he took over. There are 124 today — 100 targeted on individuals and 24 against organizations.

Kelley and his top aides have been criticized for pulling back too severely, for not knowing enough about the Hanafi Muslims who held several hostages in Washington recently, for not being able to infiltrate and throw into disarray the resurgent Ku Klux Klan. But Kelley insists that the FBI has not reduced surveillances of Americans to a dangerous point.

He endorses former Atty. Gen. Edward Levi's decree that, as Kelley puts it, "unless there is a present danger, the greater danger is in the investigation that violates human rights and personal dignity."

Kelley spoke proudly of the new guidelines under which the FBI operates, and he says the whole agency awaits a "charter" from Congress spelling out what it is or is not to do.

I asked him if "guidelines" mattered a whit if the President was angered by a leak and wanted to tap the telephones of members of the White House staff and several journalists.

Kelley said he would refuse to take a blanket order for such wiretaps. If the White House said it was in the interest of national security, he said, he would demand that it be put in writing. "If it were not in writing . . . I would say no, I am not going to do it without a written order. And if I didn't get it, I'd just have to go."

And what about the charge that under Hoover the FBI amassed files which could prove so embarrassing the FBI could use the threat of blackmail to silence congressmen — even a President.

Kelley told me that in his four years as director he had not been given a single report "about sexual deviation, about bedroom gossip or anything I would term as unprofessional." He said the FBI's agents "are happier in a situation where it's not expected that tidbits be brought to the director."

Furthermore, Kelley says, the "official and confidential" files are locked up where he has no fear that they will leak out. In any case, he says, the files are overrated.

Kelley clearly believes that he has returned the FBI to a non-political law enforcement role and that no American ought now consider it a menace.

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

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

PAGE 14

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JUN 14 1977

FBI—KNOXVILLE

b6
b7C

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO SAC (88-7223) (P) DATE: 6/13/77

FROM SUPR. [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT JAMES EARL RAY, aka - FUGITIVE;
ET AL
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE
(OO: KX)

It is noted that the Tennessee Highway Patrol placed a BOLO at 2:50 a.m., 6/13/77, which stated as follows:

"BOLO 1973 rusty brown Oldsmobile, [redacted] b6 b7C vehicle last seen I-40 eastbound inside city of Knoxville at Exit 379. Occupied by two males, subject in back seat wearing large white hat pulled down low, holding gun to driver's neck...vehicle traveling at high speed, was followed by witness from Oliver Springs, Tenn., to Knoxville... [redacted] registered to 1977 Buick LeSabre to Hertz Rental of Alcoa, Tenn."

At 6 a.m., SA [redacted] telephonically b6 b7C contacted the writer from the Oliver Springs Police Department. He advised that he had received information from the Knoxville Police Department that the Hertz rental car, with Tennessee license [redacted], had been rented by one [redacted] a CBS newsman from Miami, Florida. The car was said to have been rented from Hertz at McGhee-Tyson Airport and was used by newsman [redacted] in connection with his assignment at the Brushy Mountain Prison. The Knoxville Police Department, who had been unable to communicate directly with the Brushy Mountain Prison, requested that efforts be made to determine whether or not this automobile had been stolen from [redacted]

This information was immediately furnished by SA [redacted] at the Brushy Mountain Prison, and at b6 b7C 6:20 a.m., SA [redacted] telephonically advised the writer that inquiry in the vicinity of the prison had disclosed that [redacted] along with two other CBS newsmen, had left the prison in the Hertz rental automobile at about 2:10 a.m. and had proceeded to the Hyatt Regency at [redacted]

[redacted] (2)

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

5010-110

[redacted]

88-7223-117

Tennessee, carrying with them news tapes and other items. The three arrived back at the prison at about 4:10 a.m., and they left again at about 4:30 a.m. for the McGhee-Tyson Airport to carry tapes that they were going to place on an airplane to be transported to their base headquarters at Miami, Florida. SA [redacted] said that he had called McGhee-Tyson Airport and had [redacted] paged but had been unable to reach him in order to confirm the above information as of 6:20 a.m. b6 b7C

SA [redacted] said that his inquiry at the prison had given every indication that this Hertz rental automobile had not been stolen, but had in fact been used by the CBS newsmen in connection with their assignment at the prison. He said that he had learned that [redacted] did in fact wear a large white hat as described in the BOLO, and that there was equipment in the automobile which could have easily been mistaken for weapons.

At 6:40 a.m., 6/13/77, Officer [redacted] Knoxville Police Department, dispatcher was contacted regarding the above vehicle, and he advised that the lookout was cancelled at 4 a.m. this date.

At 6:45 a.m., the writer telephonically contacted Tennessee Highway Patrol and advised them of above information, at which time he said that he was going to cancel the THP BOLO.

At 6:50 a.m., [redacted] Hertz Rental Agency, McGhee-Tyson Airport, telephonically advised that Hertz had rented the 1977 Buick LeSabre, dark brown, with Tennessee license [redacted], on 6/11/77 to [redacted] and the car was to be returned by 6/18/77. b6 b7C

While talking with [redacted] on the telephone, [redacted] appeared at the Hertz Rental Office, at which time the writer talked with him. He advised that he is with CBS News stationed at Atlanta, however, he resides at Miami, Florida. He said he came to Knoxville to cover the Brushy Mountain Prison escape on Saturday, 6/11/77. He rented the 1977 brown Buick LeSabre from Hertz at about 7 a.m. He said he went directly to the Brushy Mountain Prison and remained

there until between 2 and 2:30 a.m. on 6/13/77, at which time he and two other CBS newsmen left the prison after having cleared their departure with the appropriate prison personnel who assured them clearance through the roadblocks leaving the prison. He said that he and his two associates traveled at a high rate of speed to the Hyatt House in Knoxville. They then went from the Hyatt House to the WBIR Studios in Knoxville to drop off the film. He then returned to the Hyatt House where he slept for about an hour. He and his associates then went in the same Hertz rental car to the McGhee-Tyson Airport, where they are now waiting on an airplane to transport news items to their office at Atlanta. He said that he and his associates intend to return to the prison as soon as they have completed their mission at the airport.

[redacted] advised that he will turn the Buick in to Hertz Rental immediately and take a different automobile in order that there will be no confusion in connection with the THP BOLO that was put out for this automobile earlier in the morning. b6 b7C

At 7 a.m., the writer telephonically recontacted the THP Office to insure that the BOLO would be cancelled. Also, SA [redacted] at the prison was advised of the location of this automobile.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Brushy fugitives noted for violence, escapes

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN — James Earl Ray and two men who remain at large after escaping from Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros Friday night have been convicted of crimes of violence and carry prior escape records, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

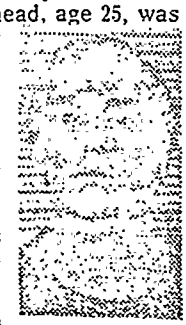
Ray, who was serving 99 years for the 1968 slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has repeatedly tried to escape from the mountainside prison and from the main state penitentiary in Nashville where he spent two years.

Ray, described as white male, 5 feet 10, 170 pounds, black greying hair, age 49, had escaped from a Missouri prison when King was slain.

Ray has been added to the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" list.

The other two men also have experienced brief periods of freedom since being sent to prison for crimes ranging from armed robbery and safe-cracking to murder.

• **Donald Ray Caylor** of Knoxville, white male, 5 feet 6, 130 pounds, two-inch scar on left forehead, age 25, was serving 51 years for assault with intent to commit murder and armed robbery. He was one of 12 inmates who commandeered a prison bus in 1974 while working on a prison farm. He was recaptured three hours later.



Caylor

• **Douglas Shelton** of Kingsport, white male, 5 feet 10, 157 pounds, brown hair, brown eyes, numerous tattoos on both arms, age 32, was serving 68 years for felonious assault and murder. In prison since 1969, he fled a prison work detail in Nashville months after his incarceration and was caught the next day in nearby Springfield.

Shelton

Three of the six men who scaled the prison walls, David Lee Powell and Larry E. Hacker, had been recaptured by Sunday night.

Earl Hill of Erwin, 34, convicted in 1969 of murder of a vacationing Washington, D.C., policeman and the rape of the officer's wife, was captured late Sunday night.

Powell, 27, of Chicago, the first to be recaptured Saturday and the only black among them, was serving 100 years for the slaying of a Memphis theater cashier in 1972.

Hacker, 32, of Hamilton, Ohio was serving 28 years for armed robbery and safe-cracking. Police in his hometown remember him as a regular customer "who left town because we didn't have enough banks for him to rob." A 25-year sentence for bank robbery awaits him in South Carolina upon his release from prison here.

A seventh member of the escape band, Jerry Ray Ward, 35, of Wichita, Kan. was serving a 20- to 40-year sentence for the 1971 robbery of a Nashville bank. His first escape attempt ended when a guard shot him in the leg as he scaled the wall with Ray and the other inmates.

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUN 14 1977

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

National Black Leaders See Conspiracy in Ray's Escape

Compiled From Press Dispatches

Black leaders, most of whom were close associates of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said Saturday they fear James Earl Ray's prison escape was part of a conspiracy and King's murder may never be solved.

"He will be killed by those who helped get him out of jail," said Rev. Jesse Jackson in Chicago.

Jackson, who was with King whe the Civil Rights leader was cut down by a sniper's bullet on a motel balcony in Memphis nine years ago, charged there was a conspiracy behind the jailbreak.

"Any man under maximum security and maximum observation could not walk out jail," he said.

IN ATLANTA, Rev. Ralph David Abernathy said that Ray's escape was part of a move by authorities to silence him.

The escape was part of an attempt to "destroy" Ray and keep him from discussing King's slaying, said Rev. Abernathy, who succeeded King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

He called for a special investigation into the escape.

"I really believe that the prison officials, authorities in very high places, have planned for his escape," Rev. Abernathy said. "I just do not see how an individual who is being held for the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in maximum security can possibly escape."

Rev. Abernathy, who stepped down from his SCLC post in an unsuccessful congressional election bid earlier this year, said someone was trying to keep Ray from revealing the story of King's assassination.

"THERE IS A SCHEME in this country to destroy an individual who has the information and the facts and has come to the point now where he is willing to tell those facts, and I would say he is going to be destroyed as so many others have been destroyed," he said.

Georgia state Sen. Julian Bond described the escape as "terrifying" and said, "A madman is on the loose."

Director of the Atlanta Urban League, Lyndon Wade, said, "I'm just wondering if his escape is not part of a master plan to eliminate him just when he's started talking and close the doors forever."

And King's associate in the 1960s Civil Rights fight, John Lewis, echoed Wade's concerns:

"I hope that James Earl Ray is captured and that the American people will have an opportunity to know what led to the assassination of Dr. King."

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

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KNOXVILLE, TENN.

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JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC-ESCAPE

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Knox Man Fled With Ray Had Made Earlier Escape Attempts

By JAN MAXWELL AVENT
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

Donald Ray Caylor, one of the Brushy Mountain State Prison inmates who escaped Friday with James Earl Ray, is a Knoxville man who also had made earlier escape attempts.

Caylor, 24, was serving a 51-year sentence on charges of armed robbery and assault with intent to commit murder. He was sentenced in Knox County Criminal Court to 50 years on the robbery charge and 21 years on the felonious assault charge in 1973. The sentences were to run concurrently.

The case involved the robbery of Mrs. Irene Porter, then owner of Broadway Freezo, 1229 N. Broadway. Mrs. Mary Jane Mitchell was shot during the robbery when she pulled the ski mask from the face of one of the robbers. Two men later were apprehended by police.

Caylor escaped in 1974 with six other convicts from the Tennessee State Prison Farm in Nashville. He also attempted to escape from Knox County Jail in 1973, but the attempt was foiled by a karate-trained jailer.

Caylor's home address during his Knox County trial was 1036 Lee St. The News-Sentinel was unable to locate the house but learned some homes in that block have recently been torn down. Efforts to contact Caylor's relatives here failed.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

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Ladder to Freedom-

Clayton Davis, deputy warden at Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros, displays the homemade ladder used by seven inmates to scale the prison's north wall Friday. The seven, including James Earl Ray, convicted murderer of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., escaped as other prisoners staged a fight in an exercise yard to distract guards.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Still Out, 2nd Escapee Caught

By WILLARD YARBROUGH
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

PETROS — The biggest manhunt in Tennessee history Saturday bagged the second of seven maximum security escapees who scaled the wall of the state's Brushy Mountain Penitentiary here Friday night, but the most wanted of them all — James Earl Ray — was still a fugitive.

Ray, convicted killer of Civil Rights leader Martin Luther King at Memphis in 1968, and four other escapees were sought by air and land by more than 200 officers.

The search had centered on a wilderness area about eight miles by air from the prison walls. The area covers the state's Frozen Head Park and the onetime honor farm outside the park gates. It was at the farm where a barefoot David Lee Powell, 27, meekly surrendered at 1:50 p.m. Saturday after being spotted in an open field by a helicopter patrol.

THERE WERE unconfirmed reports of shooting by officers near the New Providence and Mount View Churches in that area Saturday night. The FBI reportedly was chasing one of the escapees in that area.

Powell was scratched and bruised from his flight through mountain terrain. Prison Guard Lt. Otie Jones and state Trooper Bob Higgs took him into custody, a trooper returning him handcuffed to the prison.

State Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson, who, with Prison Warden Stonney Lane and Assistant Warden Clayton Davis, is directing the massive search, was encouraged by Powell's capture. "It makes us believe the other five are in the same general area," Henderon said.

"I believe Ray and the others are within a 10-mile sector where our search is now concentrated," he added. The area is just off State Highway 62 and where troopers cleared some 50 overnight campers in the park Friday midnight and closed the gates.

HOWEVER, according to Gov. Ray Blanton, Powell may have been on his own and running in a different direction from the other five. J.Bazzell Mull, a confidante of the Governor who appointed Rev. Mull to a law enforcement advisory committee, quoted Blanton as saying Powell explained his escape role to officials.

"The Governor told me that Powell said he was in the second floor prison dining room, looked out the window and saw a makeshift ladder on the north wall of the compound," Rev. Mull told The News-Sentinel.

"Powell, in white clothing as a kitchen helper, knew nothing of the escape plot but on an impulse joined the others, scaled the wall, and took a different direction from plotters Ray and the others."

Should his story stand, it would mean Ray and associates could be running northward and not to the West as Powell had done.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE A1 & A4 A3

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JUN 14 1977

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88-7223-[redacted]

PERCY FOREMAN, noted lawyer who represented Ray at his 1969 trial at Memphis, discounted reports that Ray is anywhere close to being captured.

"They say they have him contained. I say that's manure. They (officials) have to be smart — or appear smart — as long as they can, to cover their stupidity in letting him escape."

Foreman said Ray is very cuning. "But he has nothing to fight with. But that's all he thought about, escaping. He will come nearer evading officers than any of them."

Commissioner Henderson also said that since Ray has a reputation as a loner he likely will split off from the other escapees. "He's hot, hotter than any of them. They likely would want him to split off."

HENDERSON SAID that if Ray is recaptured he will be placed in "lockdown" — meaning he will have no cellmate and will be locked in his cell for all but one hour per day. And he will lose his $22 per week job in the prison laundry.

Gov. Blanton canceled a visit to Pennsylvania honoring a gathering of 120 United Nations ambassadors in order to keep tabs on the Ray case.

Henderson also discounted speculative reports by various noted persons nationwide that Ray's escape may be a conspiracy to have him killed.

"In my judgment, there's no conspiracy of any kind," he said. "And the Governor doesn't believe there is, either."

Gov. Blanton asked officers to use "utmost care" in apprehending Ray, asking that efforts be made to recapture him without killing him or causing him serious injury.

Commissioner Henderson said perhaps as many as 400 of the approximately 500 inmates in maximum lockup knew about the escape plan, which reportedly had been underway for days. He believes, too, that Ray was the ringleader, having tried twice to flee the prison.

HENDERSON ALSO said that escapee Larry Edward Hacker was considered "the most dangerous" of any of the fugitives — "more so than James Earl Ray." Hacker, the prison plumber, is believed to have fashioned the makeshift escape ladder from stiff conduit wire. He is serving time for a robbery conviction in Hardin County. Hacker, 32, is an alleged member of a gang suspected of more than 30 bank robberies.

The ladder, with a hook to hold it erect at the top of the 14-foot north wall, permitted the seven to scale the two-foot thick rock barricade. Ray is believed to have been the first one over, clamoring up a steep mountain that helps enclose the prison compound.

A prison trusty who helped instal the electric barbed wire fence atop the wall told The News-Sentinel that shears were used to snip two wires that fed 2300 volts of electricity into the low fence. The current was supplied by two transformers perched atop metal shelves just inside the wall.

Henderson said the cutting of wires feeding the electric fence caused a power outage within the prison, but did not eliminate all electricity. He explained that the telephone failure just after the escape was caused by many residents trying to use their phones at the same time. The escape siren sounded for some 10 minutes, the phone blackout much, much longer.

The last of the seven to scale the wall got only 100 feet upgrade on the other side when felled by a single pellet fired by a guard's shotgun from a nearby tower. The inmate, in prison for a bank robbery in Memphis, sustained a superficial arm wound. He was treated at an Oak Ridge hospital and returned.

ALL FIVE still sought are considered highly dangerous. The others are Earl Hill Jr., of Erwin, a young man convicted of slaying a visiting Washington, D.C., policeman, raping the officer's wife, and leaving her for dead on a mountain overlooking Erwin; Donald Ray Caylor, 24, Knoxville, sentenced for armed robbery and assault with intent to commit murder; and Douglas Shelton of Kingsport, doing time for murder and with a body tattoo reading, "Send this convict to Heaven — He spent his time in Hell."

Greene County Sheriff Gale Colyer said Shelton escaped the Greeneville county jail a few years ago but was captured in Sullivan County.

All seven involved in the break here have escaped Federal prisons in the past, officials said. And now Ray has added another mark to his long record: He's just made the FBI's 10 Most Wanted list for the second time.

TOWER GUARDS' attention was distracted by a simulated fight in the prison yard, just behind an old gymnasium but near the breached wall, with one exercising inmate screaming he had suffered a broken leg or otherwise. Some 40 inmates were there taking their turn at the outside from cellblocks, where they are locked two to a cell virtually around the clock.

First reports, when the 7:30 p.m. break occurred, said the escapees had

~~been surrounded~~ in a cemetery behind the prison, in the honor farm sector, and that their escape route had been closed off. But anyone seen there, officials later explained, was not an inmate. As Trooper helicopters criss-crossed the mountains they reported every suspicious movement on the ground. Two men were reported "running across the road" near Cumberland Coal Co. building in New River section, miles from the prison. Searchers, bone weary after an all night patrol, were rushed there. The men spotted were not inmates.

If there was an inside plot involving other than inmates, or if there was inefficient security at the time, Henderson said, it will be ascertained later and discipline meted. He emphasized all efforts now are toward capture of the remaining five.

Commissioner Henderson, as Saturday wore on, explained that guard towers nearest the breached wall were not manned and that gunfire directed at the wall scalers came from towers farther away. He said it wasn't routine to have armed guards in the two north wall towers except at during normal times and that no emergency apparently existed.

The searchers got relief Saturday night when some 40 prison guards were brought here from Nashville and elsewhere to fill in.

Knoxville's police helicopter and crews were helping, its infra-red cameras that can pick up heat-generating bodies even in the dark.

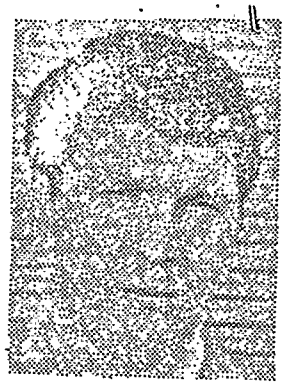
THE TASK of recapturing the remaining five, in event they're still in the area, was exacting at best. The state park, now barred to all visitors, is criss-crossed by 60 miles of hiking trails leading through thick forests. The area park has 12,000 acres and 14 miles of flowing streams.

One searcher said the men, if in that area, could slip down to Panther or Nancy Creek for water, or even below the two streams that form Flat Fork Creek. The state has stocked Rainbow trout there, but they would be elusive to catch even by a hungry man.

Along the creeks' banks, both inside and just outside Frozen Head Park, men have been reported by low-flying helicopters. Since this is the Flat Fork area where inmate Powell was captured, every ground movement is reported. Thus far, all have been false trails.

Larry Hacker

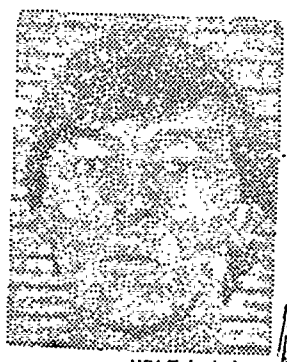
Earl Hill Jr.



Jerry Ward

Douglas Shelton

David Powell

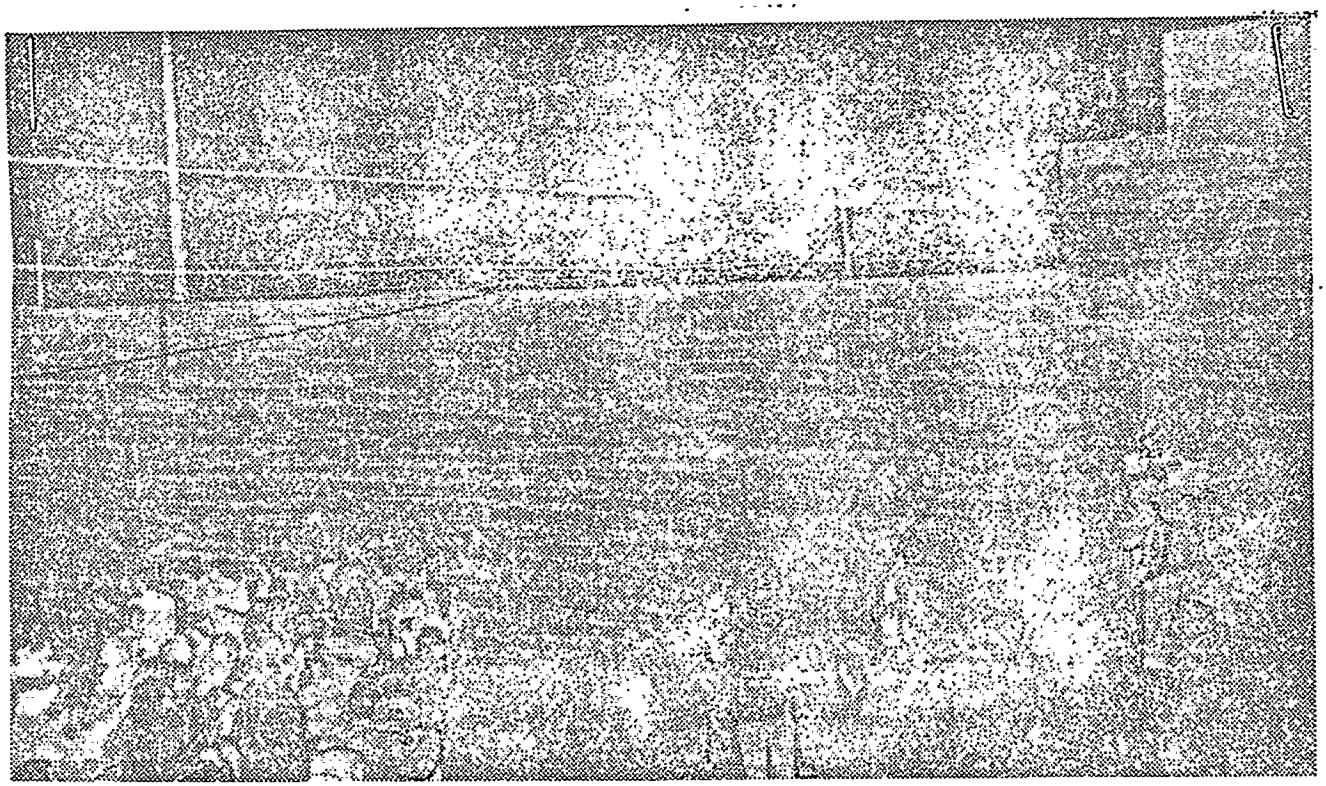


UPI Telephotos

Donald Caylor

Henderson Directs Manhunt

State Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson looks over the file of James Earl Ray at Brushy Mountain Prison after arriving on the scene Saturday. Two escapees have been captured, but Ray and four others remain at large. (News-Sentinel Photos by Jack Kirkland)

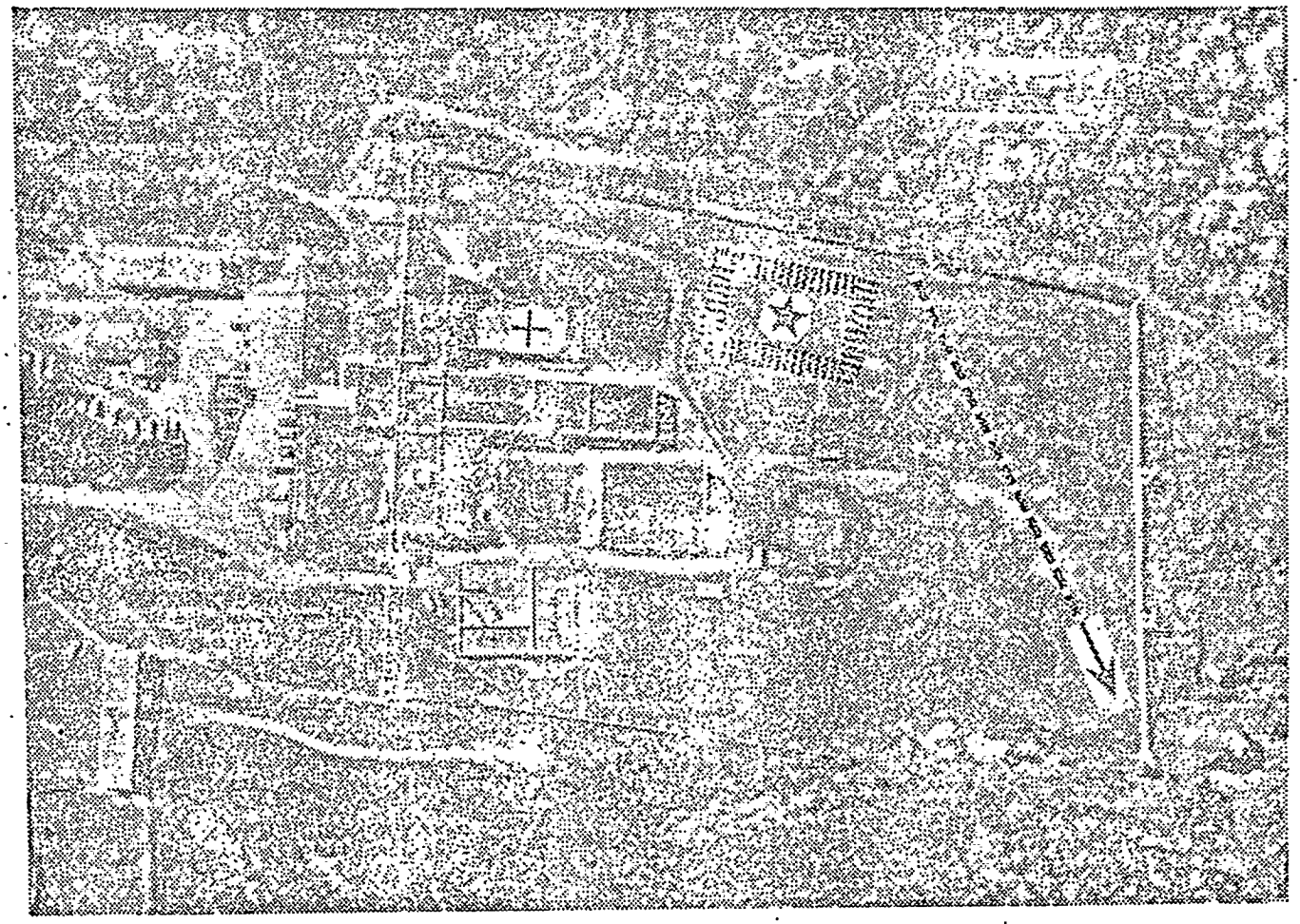


North Wall at Brushy Mountain Prison

Newsmen gather beneath the north wall at Brushy Mountain State Prison where James Earl Ray and six other prisoners escaped late Friday. One of the escapees was shot and captured just outside the wall and a second escapee was captured Saturday near the prison.

Deputies Search Trains

Knox County Deputy Sheriff Bill Chambers scans the undercarriage of a freight car during a search of a train at Powell Saturday night in connection with the escape of James Earl Ray and six others from Brushy Mountain State Prison. Knox County deputies searched three trains that had passed through the Petros area and other law enforcement agencies in some East Tennesse counties were instructed to conduct similar train searches late Saturday and early Sunday.



Brushy Mountain from Air

This aerial photo of the prison complex at Petros shows how and where James Earl Ray and several other inmates made good their getaway Friday night. The cross at upper left marks Ray's cell block; the starbox indicates where the fight took place; and the broken lines show the approximate line of fire toward where a guard shot the seventh man off the wall as they went over.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray Not Close to Family, Labeled a Drifter, Lonely

NASHVILLE (UPI) — The confessed killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. never got along with his povety-stricken family, drifted between holdups and led a bitterly lonely life.

James Earl Ray, dark-haired and slight, was born 49 years ago in a run-down shack in Alton, Ill., on the banks of the Mississippi River. His father was a drifter and sometime tenant farmer who took odd railroad jobs.

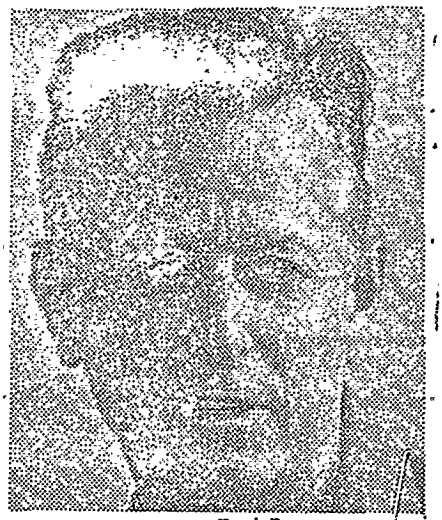
"The children grew up in a red light district. The mother drank. The father absconded," wrote a blunt social worker who visited the Ray home during early Depression days.

The sullen and defiant man never was close to his four brothers and four sisters, two of whom are dead now, as is Ray's mother.

TEACHERS AT the junior high school he attended in Ewing, Mo., remember he always fought with smaller children and pilfered lunch money. One bitter winter the sallow-faced boy and his brothers ripped out the inside walls of their dirt-floor home to use as kindling. The flimsy shack collapsed about them by spring.

Ray did poorly in school and rarely made a passing grade. Shortly after he joined the Army he drew three months at hard labor and a general discharge because of drunkeness and petty crime.

For his part in a St. Louis grocery store hold up, Ray was sentenced to 20 years at the Missouri state prison at Jefferson City. After a couple of bungled attempts, Ray escaped in April 1967.



James Earl Ray

Retired Warden Harold Swenson recalls Ray was a quiet prisoner who had no problems with black inmates but a Memphis prosecutor said Ray was a racist who griped openly about the integrated prison. Famed attorney Percy Foreman of Houston said his former client never hid his hatred of blacks

"HE CONSIDERED himself as the great white hope," Foreman said. Ray wanted the notoriety but not the punishment which came with being King's killer, Foremen said.

That was why, he said, Ray left fingerprints on his rifle which was used to slay King on April 4, 1967.

Ray pleaded guilty to King's murder on his 41st birthday and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. He took the prison sentence rather than gamble on the death penalty.

Two weeks ago, Ray refused to tell a reporter the details of his only successful escape attempt — from the Missouri penitentiary.

"They wouldn't have me in a maximum security prison if I wasn't interested in getting out," Ray said.

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Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title: JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE
Character:
or
Classification: KX 88-7223
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

Being Investigated

FILED

JUN 14 1977

FBI—KNOXVILLE

#4

b6
b7C

Ray Continues Flight Into Tennessee Hills; 2nd Fugitive Is Taken

Helicopters, Bloodhounds, Infrared Sensors Used as FBI Leads Hunt

PETROS, Tenn. (AP) — With the FBI in command, searchers using a helicopter tracked down one of James Earl Ray's fellow escapees Saturday and continued their hunt through a snake-infested mountainside for the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The recaptured fugitive was identified as David Lee Powell, 27, also a convicted murderer.

Tennessee's prison chief told reporters Powell offered no resistance as he was taken into custody while walking down the road near the entrance to the Frozen Head State Park about eight miles northeast of the penitentiary.

He said Powell apparently had been sighted first by a helicopter.

Officials said earlier they believed the six convicts had split into two or more groups are were "pretty much going around in circles" in the heavily forested Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee.

Powell was returned immediately to the penitentiary in a state police car past a gathering of reporters and cameramen into the compound.

The search continued for Ray and the other four. A tennis shoe print belonging to one of the escapees provided authorities with their most tangible clue to date.

"This time of year, someone who knows how to live in the woods could make out very well," said Tennessee Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson, adding there are berries to eat. "They could hide out for 10 days and not move."

Henderson virtually ruled out the possibility that Ray, the convicted slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had outside help in the spectacular Friday night escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison. The men bolted over a wall on a makeshift ladder as other prisoners created diversions in the yard.

As helicopters equipped with infrared sensors and fresh teams of tracking dogs were brought in, more than 150 searchers concentrated on the thickly forested hills above the forbidding prison.

Residents of the area were alerted by telephone that the fugitives were at large, but there were no reports of break-ins.

In the nearby town of Petros residents were reported mostly staying home and keeping firearms close at hand for protection.

Mabel Farmer, an elderly woman who has lived in Petros for 19 years,

ORIGINAL SENT RM
ON JUN 14 1977

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

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

PAGE 1

Date: 6/12/77
Edition: 3 Star
Author:
Editor: MARTIN S. OCHS
Title:
JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC
Character: -ESCAPE
or
Classification: KX 88-7223
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

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b7C

INDEXED
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JUN 14 1977

FBI—KNOXVILLE

#4

88-7223-123

said prison breaks are "just one of those things when you've been here as long as I have."

In Washington, the FBI announced Saturday that it had taken over the search and had placed Ray on its list of 10 Most Wanted Fugitives. All six fugitives were charged with conspiring to violate a 1946 federal law against flight to avoid confinement.

The White House said Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell telephoned President Carter on Saturday morning to give him a progress report on the search.

Charles Bass, assistant corrections commissioner, said the search area was expanded from five square miles to 10 square miles late in the morning after officials found a tennis shoe print. He said the print most likely was made by Larry Hacker, whom he described as the probable leader of the escape.

Henderson said the escapees, four of them convicted murderers, were "pretty much going around in circles," as he said other escaped prisoners have done in the heavily forested area.

Bass said there were strong indications the fugitives split into at least two groups. The search was focused on two areas known as "Frozen Head, a promontory 10 miles from Brushy Mountain, and another area called "Twin Forks."

He said authorities thought the men had split up because of the way the dogs were reacting to the scents they were following.

"Now that they're in daylight, they are a little better oriented than they were before ... But they are still not sure where they are."

Henderson said, "As far as we can determine, there are at least three in this general area."

He also disclosed that three of the men were seen by a guard "at a distance" an hour after they went over the wall with a makeshift ladder just before dusk.

"They picked up the scent of three, then one or two," Henderson said. "Apparently they divided and are going in different directions."

The only paved road leading from the prison was sealed off in several places by police roadblocks intended to keep the curious out of the area and the escapees in.

A seventh felon was wounded and recaptured almost immediately after the escape.

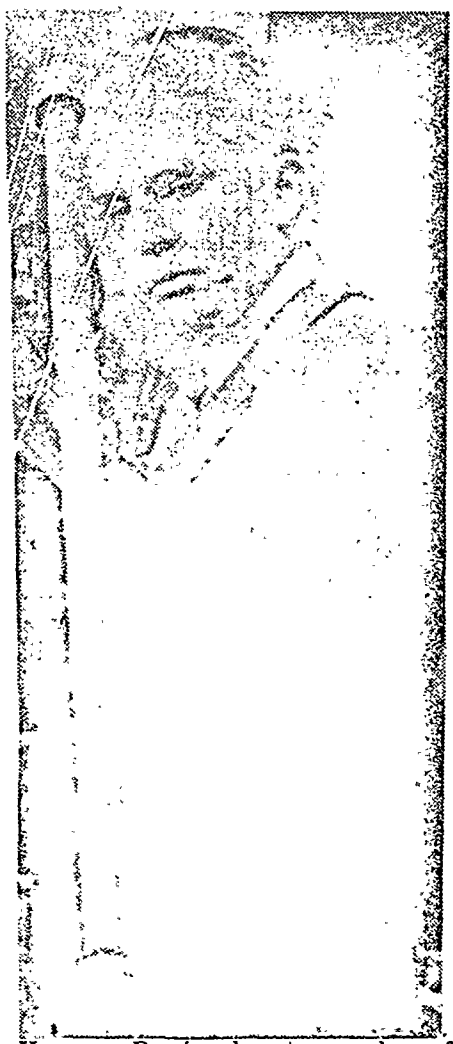
Henderson said the man, Jerry W. Ward, a convicted bank robber serving 20 to 40 years, refused to talk about the escape.

"I don't think they had any outside help," Henderson told reporters clustered at the prison gates. "We had no evidence to indicate there was any outside help at all."

John Downs of INCON Inc., a Nashville firm which supplied the infrared devices for the helicopters at the request of the FBI, said the camera-like machines were extremely sensitive to temperature variations on the forest floor.

"If you get it focused and in range, you actualy get a picture," he said, "a thermal image." To be effective, however, operation of the machine must be closely coordinated with the pilot. Moreover the heat of the sun prevents its use between early morning and evening. Downs said the sensors are normally used to detect home heat loss.

The manhunters' ranks swelled to more than 150 with the arrival of five vanloads of specially trained state police SWAT teams. A huge communications van also was brought in because the telephone system at the prison went out, perhaps coincidentally, when the escape took place.



Herman Davis, deputy warden of Brushy Mountain Correctional Institution, holds the makeshift pipe ladder used by James Earl Ray and six other inmates to scale the Petros, Tenn., prison wall Friday night.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Officials Say Ray Capture Imminent As Manhunt Focuses On New River

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE
KX 88-7223

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUN 14 1977

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE 1+2

Date: 6-13-77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title:

Character:
or
Classification:
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

88-7223-124

SERIALIZED ☐ INDEXED b6
FILED b7C

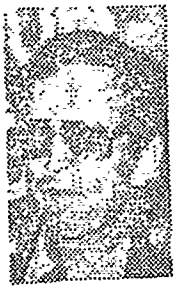
JUN 14 1977

FBI-KNOXVILLE

#4

By ROBERT JONES and RICK LOCKER
Journal Reporters

Authorities sealed off a 500-square-yard area Sunday night where they believed two escaped convicts, answering the descriptions of James Earl Ray and a companion, were trapped.



Lane

Convicted murderer Earl Hill Jr. was captured late Sunday near the New River section of Anderson County, and authorities believed they were closing in on Ray in the same area.

"Our chances right now are excellent" for the imminent capture of Ray, said Brushy Mountain Warden Stonney Lane.

Hill was captured without resistance nearly 30 minutes after nearby residents reported three unidentified men in the area near Cumberland Coal Co. The site is approximately 8½ miles from the prison.

Two unidentified men, who authorities believe are Ray and escapee Doug Shelton, were spotted by officers at the scene, but the men fled in different directions, Lane said.

The massive manhunt, now in its third day, is centering on that area.

Hill, dressed in a dirty sweatshirt, was returned to the prison early today and appeared tired and sweaty.

Earlier in the evening Sunday, Gov. Ray Blanton said sixteen National Guard helicopters and probably a military police force of 160 men were to be called out in the hunt for Ray and the two others still missing today, Gov. Ray Blanton said Sunday.

Besides Ray and Shelton, Donald Ray Caylor still was at large early this morning.

Sunday morning, escapee Larry E. Hacker was captured at a church in the New River community, four miles from the prison.

Authorities said Hill, who was Ray's cellmate, was alone when captured. Two other men had been apprehended and returned earlier.

Blanton, speaking to the press at the front gates of the maximum security prison, also designated Joel Plummer, commissioner of public safety, as the director of search operations. Under Plummer will be National Guard Gen. Carl Wallace and Commissioner of Corrections C. Murray Henderson.

Blanton said he made the decision to call in the National Guard helicopter groups based at Smyrna and Bristol and probably will bring in about 170 men of an MP force by this afternoon.

Earlier, authorites said six national guard helicopters would be added to the search squadron consisting of Highway Patrol and local enforcment aircraft.

Blanton was to meet with his aides Sunday night in order to assess fully the National Guard activation before returning to Nashville.

Blanton laid much of the blame for Ray's escape on a federal court order instructing prison officials to treat him as any other convicted murderer. Ray was taken out of "lockdown" and was allowed to mingle with other prisoners, he said.

"If it hadn't been for that court order Ray wouldn't have escaped," the governor said.

"We may have had laxity or failure on our part," he continued, "but we are doing the utmost and are being neither soft or lax on the search procedures."

Asked by reporters if he was certain Ray and the two others were contained in the 25-mile perimeter, Gov. Blanton replied: "There are two extreme possibilities. Either the escape was so well planned that Ray is in Guatemala or somewhere, or they are still within the perimeter."

Blanton announced he has spoken with U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell, briefing him on the current status of the recapture attempts.

"We plan to do everything in our power to make sure Ray and the others are returned safely," the governor said.

Ray and the other two men have managed to avoid capture for more than 48 hours.

Warden Stonney Lane said Hacker was flushed out by an FBI agent and two Anderson County deputies.

"We think there was another man with him, but he was lost in the chase," Lane said. He speculated it was Caylor and said he believes the latter no longer is with Ray and Shelton.

The actual search area is a 15- to 20-

mile radius, the warden said.

A 25-mile "double fence" was initiated earlier Sunday by Commissioner C. Murray Henderson. He said this did not mean the men were suspected to be in an area that large, but said, "We'd rather not take any chances. We feel they are still contained and going around in circles."

The commissioner was asked if the captured men had given any information. "We haven't obtained any from them. Hacker isn't interested in talking," was his reply.

Three of the recaptured men now are being held in "D Block," the commissioner explained, and investigation is continuing.

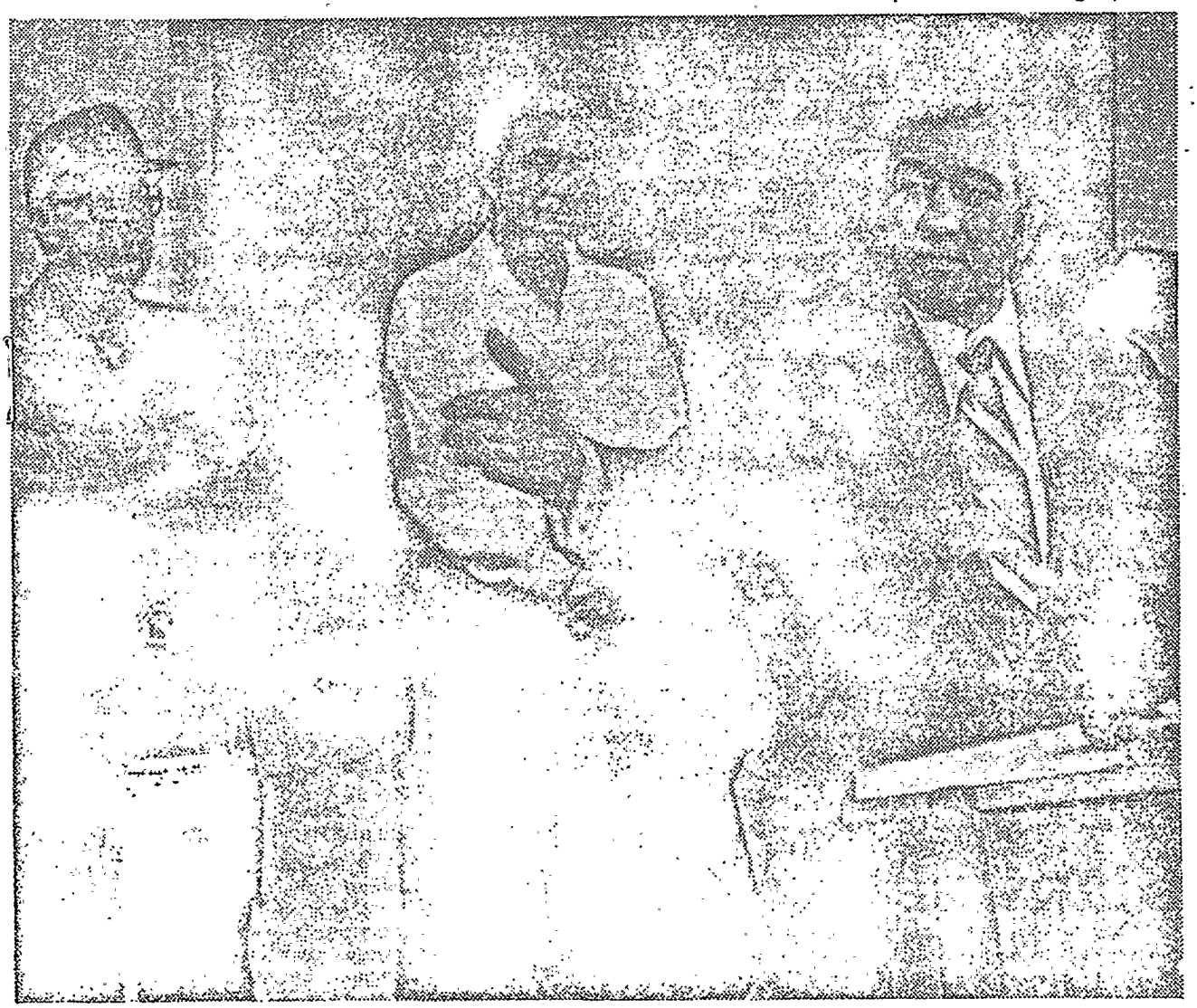
Warden Lane said the men cannot be interrogated until they have had a hearing. Hacker, along with David Lee Powell and another man who was shot while trying to escape, will be charged with fleeing the penitentiary and will come before a judge for a hearing as well as a prison administrative board.

Sixteen local county sheriff's departments, highway patrolmen and FBI agents totaling about 180 men combed the rugged terrain around Brushy Mountain all day Sunday for the escapees.

Warden Lane said the thundershowers which drenched the area Sunday afternoon would make it easier for the searchers.

"Our bloodhounds are exhausted by the heat. They will be able to last long-

Continued on Page 2, Col. 1



Staff photo by HUGH LUNSFORD

OFFICIALS IN CHARGE of search procedures for James Earl Ray and three other felons are announced by Gov. Ray Blanton (right) at a press conference Sunday at Brushy Mountain Prison. From left are Gen. Carl Wallace, adjuatant of the state National Guard and Commissioner of Public Safety Joel Plummer.

er in the cooler weather," he said. He added that the dampness will make the trails easier for the dogs to follow.

Commissioner Henderson said Ray was not in good physical condition, according to his reports, and the commissioner did not think he could last very long in the densely covered terrain.

Gatekeepers at the prison said those who have escaped in the past have eaten berries, "or anything they could get hold of," in order to stay alive.

Several theories as to the escape plan have been mentioned.

One reliable source who works at the prison said he believes the whole thing was a "shrewd plan" involving several inmates.

At least two incidents erupted at the time of escape, according to authorities.

One man was running across the prison yard and fell, yelling, "I broke my leg."

At the same time, according to reports, a fight erupted between two other inmates. Others crowded around the fracas.

The source said there could have been 20 or 30 men involved in the diversionary tactics.

Moreover, the source pointed out that the escape ladder was made up of pieces of pipe less than two feet long. "That required cooperation in obtaining that much pipe," the source said.

He also said the manpower and facilities at the prison were inadequate for a maximum security prison, adding there is internal trouble between personnel and inmates.

"Everyone was expecting trouble," he said, "but we just didn't know when it was going to happen."

The source speculated Ray could have bought cooperation from other inmates with money he has received from several national and international magazines, newspapers and television networks for interviews.

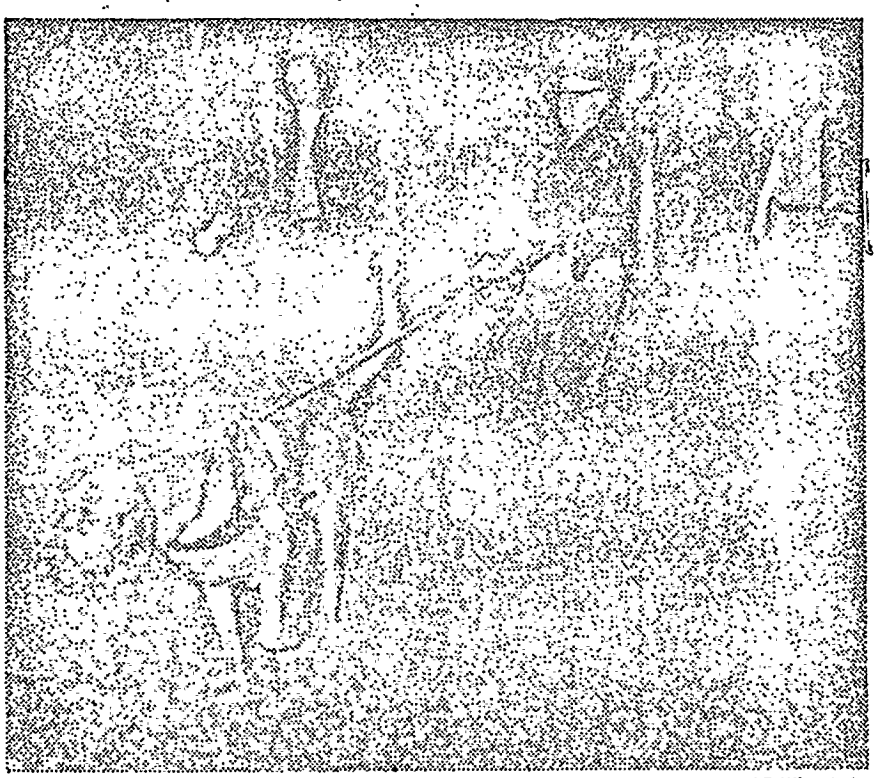
Jim Henderson, director of information for the Departement of Public Safety, said he found it hard to believe Ray could pay all those men to help him escape.

Henderson explained inmates will find any way they can to fight back at authority.

"Also, you're talking about six men and not just James Earl Ray," he said. "It's just their way of beating the system."

AP Wirephoto

ANOTHER TRY is made in the search for James Earl Ray and others still at large Sunday. A pickup truck loaded with bloodhounds and lawmen leaves Brushy Mountain State Prison.



AP Wirephoto

A bloodhound is used in search for James Earl Ray.

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

[redacted] b6 b7C

Smoky Mountain Aero, Inc.
Airport Highway
Alcoa, Tennessee 37701

Dear [redacted]

I have been informed of the cooperation exhibited by you and your support staff to flying personnel of this Bureau in making aircraft available to our office, often on very short notice. Your assistance in that regard during the weekend of June 10 - 13, 1977, was particularly helpful to us.

It is this type of aid that makes our task much easier in fast-breaking cases. My associates and I are indeed grateful for your help, and they join me in thanking you for your cooperation in this as well as many past instances.

Sincerely,

HAROLD C. SWANSON
Special Agent in Charge

1 - addressee
2 - Knoxville (1 - 88-7223)
(1 - 80-339)

[redacted]
(3) [redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

88-7223-125

Post Office Box 10368
Knoxville, Tennessee, 37919
June 16, 1977

Mr. Joe Fowler
Chief of Police
Knoxville Police Department
800 Church Avenue
Knoxville, Tennessee, 37915

Dear Chief Fowler,

I would like to express my appreciation for the outstanding assistance rendered by Captain [redacted] in providing helicopter service for this office during recent terrain search for escapees in the Petros, Tennessee, area. Captain [redacted] handles aircraft in a most skillful manner, and his presence contributed in no small measure to the overall operation. b6 b7C

I am certainly grateful for your courtesy and cooperation in this matter and would appreciate it if you would extend my thanks to Captain [redacted] for a job well done.

Sincerely,

HAROLD C. SWANSON
Special Agent in Charge

1 - Addressee
(2) - Knoxville (1 - 88-7223)
(1 - 80-339)

[redacted]
(3)

[redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted]
INDEXED
FILED [redacted]

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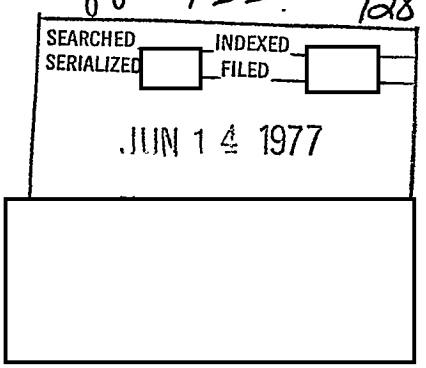
88-7223-127

88-7223-128



b6
b7C

1
KX 88-7223
[redacted]

b6
b7C

On June 12, 1977, SA's [redacted] and [redacted] furnished copies of Wanted Flyer 500 regarding JAMES EARL RAY to the following companies all located at Knoxville, Tennessee:

Airport Limousine Service

American Airlines

Avis Rent-a-Car

Big Orange Taxi Company

Budget Rent-a-Car

Courtesy Radio Cab

Delta Airlines

Dixie Cab Company

Dollar Rent-a-Car

Greyhound Bus Lines

Hertz Rent-a-Car

Piedmont Airlines

Southern Airlines

"Taxi Company"

Trailways Bus Lines

United Arlines

88-7223-129

Copies of Wanted Flyer 500 also furnished to appropriate security personnel McGhee Tyson Airport, Knoxville, Tennessee.

SERIALIZED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted] FILED [redacted]

b6
b7C

JUN 15 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

[redacted]

1
KX 88-7223
[redacted]

b6
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] at Knoxville, Tennessee, on June 11, 1977:

Supervisor [redacted] advised that an individual registered at the Days Inn in Jellico, Tennessee, approximately 2 a.m. on June 11, 1977, using name [redacted] This individual walked in dressed in a rumpled fashion and furnished no identification. He made a long distance telephone call through the motel switchboard to 588-5341 in Knoxville, Tennessee. This number is subscribed to by the Christian Broadcasting Network, 5616 Kingston Pike, Suite 102. This call was made at approximately 3 a.m. and another call was made by the same party to the same organization in Virginia at approximately 3:30 a.m.

Investigation at 5616 Kingston Pike disclosed an office building which was locked. [redacted] b6
employed by the [redacted] in the same building, b7C
advised that the building is owned by [redacted]
telephone [redacted], residence [redacted]. Suite 102 of this building is occupied by the Club 700, a religious broadcasting show. When she left this building at approximately 7:15 p.m. on June 10, 1977, no one appeared to be working in Suite 102.

[redacted] of the above building, b6
stated that the Club 700 was having an all weekend telethon, and this may account for a call very early in the morning to that place of business. She has no way to contact anyone at that business when it is not operating.

Attempts to call the above telephone number disclosed that the number is temporarily out of service. A check with South Central Bell Telephone Repair Service disclosed that they had no record as to how long the telephone had been out of service.

88-7223-130

[redacted] b6
b7C
1977

[redacted]

1
KX 88-7223
[redacted]

b6
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] on June 12, 1977:

SA [redacted] advised [redacted], telephone [redacted] observed two white males aboard a Southern Railway train approximately 5:05 p.m. proceeding through Strawberry Plains in a northerly direction. These individuals were wearing blue shirts, blue pants, and blue caps.

[redacted], Southern Railway, Morristown, Tennessee, advised that this train had just passed through Morristown, Tennessee, enroute to Asheville, North Carolina. No unusual persons had been noted aboard. He, along with other Southern Railway officials, had been alerted to watch for any unknown persons aboard their trains.

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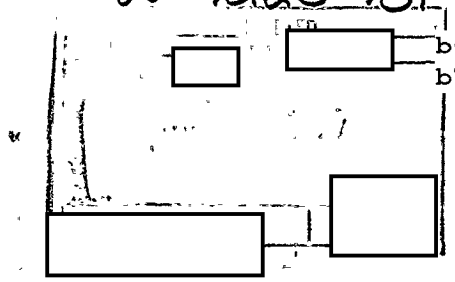
[redacted] added that the usual dress for crew members of these trains is blue pants (blue jeans), blue shirts, and blue caps.

88-7223-131



b6
b7C

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray, Others Formally Charged With Escape

HUNTSVILLE (UPI) — James Earl Ray and six companions in an unsuccessful attempt to flee Brushy Mountain State Prison have been formally charged with escape, a state Corrections Department spokeswoman said today.

Rebecca Cottrill said Ray and the others have all been served with warrants in their cells at the prison. (Earlier story on Page D-1.)

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 1

Date: 6/15/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title:

Character:
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Classification: 88-7223-133
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Being Investigated

JUN 17 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE

#4

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b7C

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Blanton Admits Ray Confinement Violates Order

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gov. Ray Blanton said today Tennessee is violating a Federal court order regarding the confinement of James Earl Ray and intends to keep on violating it.

"The Federal court has ordered us to keep him different than we would," Blanton said in an appearance on the ABC television show "Good Morning, America."

"We are in violation of that order now and we will stay in violation of it as long as I'm Governor."

"He's not going to escape any more while I'm there," Blanton said.

Blanton said a 1970 Federal court order that requires Tennessee to keep Ray in with the general prison population increased the likelihood that he would attempt to flee again.

The 49-year-old Ray was placed in administrative segregation, a close confinement short of solitary, shortly after he was recaptured Monday.

"I would keep him in administrative confinement like he is now," Blanton told ABC newsman Steve Bell.

Blanton also he had "sent the FBI home" during the manhunt, because Federal agents were getting "in the way" of state and local police efforts to recapture the fugitives.

U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell had said following Ray's escape that the FBI was taking charge of the hunt, but Tennessee officials never acknowledged this.

Blanton said that after one fugitive was recaptured by Tennessee authorities, FBI agents insisted on escorting him back to the prison, because "they wanted to grab the cameras."

Blanton's office said today that the last fugitive caught, Douglas Shelton, is to be charged with theft of a van in Campbell County. Shelton made a desparate bid for freedom yesterday morning in the vehicle, overpowering the van's owner as he got in. With police in pursuit, he crashed but was not hurt.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE D-1

Date: 6-15-77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-134
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

JUN 17 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

#4

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b7C

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tracking Guard Believes No Wild Animals in Wood

By ERIC NEWHOUSE
Associated Press Writer

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN, Tenn. — An escapee from the Brushy Mountain State Prison could walk 40 miles north through the mountains into Kentucky without seeing another human, a bloodhound handler on the manhunt for James Earl Ray said Sunday.

Heavily wooded mountains surround the 430-inmate penitentiary where the convicted murderer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and six other convicts scaled a wall Friday evening.

One man was shot and recaptured immediately, a second surrendered in a state park eight miles to the west Saturday, and a third was recaptured early Sunday in a country church about four miles north.

"There are more mountains to the north," said Don Daugherty, a prison guard for 14 years who said he has tracked down more than 100 escaped convicts with the dogs.

"You could go from here to Kentucky and never come out of the forest," he said. "There's 40-odd miles of just mountain with a few homes, but most of them aren't occupied."

Daugherty said there are no bears or mountain lions in the woods but there are cottonmouths in the valley and copperheads and rattlesnakes in the mountains.

Daugherty said undergrowth is heavy around the state prison but that only a few miles away it clears out. "That's big timber country," he said, "and it's not bad traveling."

An escapee who hiked westward would encounter the same terrain as one who went north, but would find more people, Daugherty said.

"You've got your problems anyway you go," he said, "you've got to face the mountains if you go west or north but if you go south you're in a populated area. And if you break this big mountain to the east (Little Brushy Mountain) you begin to hit populated areas like Oak Ridge and Knoxville."

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

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

PAGE 18

Date: 6-13-77
Edition: 3 Star
Author:
Editor: MARTIN S. OCHS
Title:

Character:
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☐ Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED ____ FILED ☐

JUN 17 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

#4

b6
b7C

—AP

Pickup Carries Bloodhounds Into Search

Post Office Box 10368
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919
June 20, 1977

[redacted] b6 b7C
News Director, WOKI Radio
The WOKI Building
Suite 202
114 Tulsa Road
Oak Ridge, Tennessee 37830

Dear [redacted]:

Thank you for the favorable comments in your letter of June 17, 1977 concerning the work of our Agents and for the cooperation you received regarding the recent Brushy Mountain State Prison escape.

It is always a source of encouragement to receive communications such as yours, and my associates and I are very appreciative of your generous remarks.

Please be assured of our desire to cooperate with you at all times in matters of mutual interest.

Sincerely,

HAROLD C. SWINSON
Special Agent in Charge

1 - addressee
2 - Knoxville (1 - 88-7223
1 - 80-339)

[redacted]
(3)

[redacted]

[redacted]

SEARCHED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] b6 b7C
INDEXED
FILED [redacted]

88-7223-136

wokiradio
FM 100
AM 1550

THE WOKI BUILDING
SUITE 202
114 TULSA ROAD
OAK RIDGE TN. 37830
(615) 483-8451
KNOXVILLE: 546-2861

June 17, 1977

Mr. Harold Swanson
Special Agent in Charge
East Tennessee Office
Federal Bureau of Investigation
P.O. Box 10368
Knoxville, Tennessee 37919

Dear Mr. Swanson,

I am writing to praise the agents working in your office and to thank them and you for the cooperation I received in reporting the escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison last weekend.

During the course of covering the story I spoke with agents [redacted] and all were as cooperative and responsive as they could be under the circumstances. b6 b7C

This indicated to me that they have a clear understanding of the responsibility of the news media to provide the public with information in a situation like the one we had last weekend, and that they realize how crucial their cooperation is for the news media to do a proper job. It is my opinion that your men did a thoroughly professional job, at least in all of my contacts with them, and that you are all deserving of praise.

Of course, I have heard Governor Blanton's remarks about the involvement of the FBI in the search for the escapees, but I had decided to write this letter even before then. It is regretful that when law enforcement officers are responsive to the media in a professional manner they become subject to accusations of "camera grabbing".

[redacted]

Sincerely,

Howard Fox
News Director

88-7223-138 b6 b7C

SEARCHED ..... INDEX
SERIALIZED ..... FILED
JUN 10 1977
FBI — KNOXVILLE

FD-350 (Rev. 7-10-59)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Sad-Eyed Bloodhounds Are Celebrities in Arrest

By RICHARD PYLE
Associated Press Writer

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN, Tenn. — "She's the prettiest dog in the world."

So said Sammy Joe Chapman, 33, scratching the flopping ears of his sad-eyed Bloodhound, Sandy, who — pretty or not — was celebrity-dog-of-the-moment.

Sandy and her 14-month-old sister, Little Red, were the tracking dogs who pursued and found James Earl Ray, ending the convicted assassin's unscheduled weekend outside the walls of Brushy Mountain State Prison in the small hours of Monday morning.

Sandy and Little Red, with their handlers, prison guards Chapman and Johnny Newberg, 33, are members of the Brushy Mountain Bloodhound Dog Team. Their function is singular. "They only track human beings," said Chapman.

AFTER RAY AND five other prisoners went over the wall on Friday, the team's six men and six dogs were put to work. Operating in relays, they were moved by truck from one place to another — wherever there appeared signs that one or more of the fugitives might be present.

For the first 36 hours the tracking wasn't easy, prison officials said. Dry terrain doesn't hold scent well, and dogs tend to become confused under such circumstances, they said.

But a Cumberland Mountain cloudburst on Sunday afternoon helped solve the problem. "When the ground is wet and damp, the scent is stronger. It hangs on the ground longer," Chapman explained.

When three escapees were tentatively spotted in the New River area five miles from the prison Sunday night, Sandy and Little Red were fresh. They went in to replace another two-dog team that had been working the area.

SOON THEY WERE working a "hot track," meaning the scent was strong. One fugitive, Earl Hill Jr., was swiftly captured and authorities believed Ray was one of the two remaining.

The two split up and ran in different directions. "We picked one at random," recalled Warden Stonney Lane afterward. "At the time, we didn't know it was Ray." Sandy, the No. 1 dog, took the lead with Chapman, wearing his miner's camp with a headlamp, trucking along behind at the end of a seven-foot leather tether. Following closely were Newberg and Little Red.

The trail led down and across the New River, a shallow rocky stream, along the other bank and up the slope through heavy underbrush to a logging road and finally to a wooded area.

THERE, SANDY found and sniffed out James Earl Ray, 49, covered with mud, exahausted and trying to hide in a pile of leaves. "I feel good," said Ray. Chapman put the cuffs on him.

Later, back at the prison Sandy and Little Red were trotted out for a news conference.

The dogs looked mildly interested, but Chapman, a chunky mountaineer type, did what talking there was.

"When they catch that man, that's satisfaction to the dog," he said.

What sort of reward do you give them, he was asked.

"Give 'em a rest."

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

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JUN 20 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

#4

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FD-350 (Rev. (-10-00)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Attorney To Release Photograph of 'Raoul'

NASHVILLE (UPI) — James Earl Ray's attorney yesterday said he will release a photograph of the mysterious "Raoul" who the confessed assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. claims gave him instructions to buy the gun which killed the civil rights leader.

Jack Kershaw of Nashville said he will release the picture after conferring with Ray, captured early today after escaping Friday evening from Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros.

He said he had planned to release the picture before Ray escaped. Kershaw said he "discovered" it during the course of his investigation of the case about 10 days ago.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

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#4

FD-350 (Rev. [illegible])

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Prober 'Relieved' at Ray's Capture

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The chairman of the House subcommittee investigating the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., said today he was "extremely happy and relieved" at the capture without bloodshed of King's confessed killer, James Earl Ray.

"We will look forward to resuming our interrogation of him," said Walter Fauntroy, the District of Columbia's delegate to Congress, upon learning Ray had been caught.

Fauntroy said he would not discount the possibility Ray's escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee was engineered as a conspiracy to stifle the investigation of the King assassination. But there were no signs of outside accomplices when Ray was apprehended.

"My major concern was getting him back into custody and having the opportunity to question him about this and the assassination of Dr. King," Fauntroy said.

"It was only a secondary concern about whether or not he may have escaped as a part of a conspiracy. I think we have an opportunity to learn now."

The full House Select Committee on Assassinations was scheduled to meet today to discuss the circumstances surrounding the prison escape and any clues to a possible conspiracy.

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THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-10-59)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Brother Is Sorry Ray Was Captured

BOSTON (AP) — The brother of convicted assassin James Earl Ray, when told of Ray's capture by Bloodhounds after a 54½-hour search of the Tennessee mountains, said, "I'm just sorry to hear it. That's all I can say."

Jerry Ray, who had said earlier he hoped his brother would "keep on trucking," said he would decide later today whether to go to Brushy Mountain State Prison to try to see Ray.

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

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

National Press Leaves After Ray's Capture

Members of the national press who had gathered at Petros over the weekend began packing their equipment almost as soon as the announcement was given that Ray had been captured.

There was a steady exodus of cars and motor homes from the area in front of the main prison gate in the early hours today.

By daybreak, as fog curled over the valleys, the town of Petros appeared to have returned to near normal, with the exception of some newsmen still waiting for word of additional captures and a few others catching up on their sleep.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

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JUN 20 1977

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Flight and Capture

The shortlived freedom of James Earl Ray from Brushy Mountain Prison ended in routine fashion. He was run down, alone and bedraggled, by armed search parties with bloodhounds a few miles from the isolated maximum security prison in northeast Tennessee.

Obviously the manhunt, brief as it was, was at the center of national attention. Ray is the admitted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader felled by a rifle bullet in Memphis almost a decade ago. Ray's subsequent repudiation of his guilty plea and, more recently, his fuzzy denial of pulling the trigger while confirming participation in the plot, has rekindled the glare of publicity about him.

Neither the relatively brief absence from his life-term cell nor the manner of his capture, however, lend any credence to the theories of the conspiracy-minded that he was "set up" in the escape.

Whatever else is known about James Earl Ray, it is certain that he is wise in the ways of prisons in which he has spent a major part of his lifetime and that he has a reputation for being an escape artist who has vowed to gain his freedom one way or another. The method of his escape, along with six others, included the fashioning of a crude ladder by joining together short lengths of lead pipe. Prisoners in the yard distracted guards' attention by feigning a couple of fist fights while Ray and the others scaled the wall. It was well planned but with nothing to indicate any unusual degree of conspiratorial involvement.

Thus forewarned, prison officials have one clear course to follow — place Ray under still heavier guard and keep him there as long as it is necessary for him to pay the penalty for the crime he said he committed.

Gov. Ray Blanton has a valid point in saying that since the federal government has dictated the conditions of Ray's confinement, it's time for Uncle Sam to become his jailer. Perhaps the shift cannot be made but the state is justified in asking.

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

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

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JUN 20 1977

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#4

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

State Seeks To Make Brushy More Secure

By The Associated Press

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN, Tenn. — The state corrections commissioner and two engineers surveyed Brushy Mountain Penitentiary on Wednesday for ways to tighten security after last Friday's escape by James Earl Ray and six other inmates.

"I want to be able to assume that when I want to talk to Mr. Ray, I will know where to get in touch with him," Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said.

Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the other six men were charged Tuesday with escape. If convicted they could face an additional 1 to 5 years in prison.

Meanwhile, Gov. Ray Blanton said in Washington that Tennessee would continue to keep Ray apart from other inmates — a violation of federal court orders saying he must be treated as any other prisoner.

"We are in violation of that order now and we will stay in violation of it as long as I'm governor," Blanton said on ABC's "Good Morning, America."

After Ray was recaptured early Monday, Warden Stonney Lane filed a petition which sought to hold Ray in "administrative segregation" for up to seven days before giving him a hearing.

After the hearing, Ray could be held in "punitive segregation" for up to 30 days under state law and federal guidelines. He would be allowed out of his cell one hour a day for a walk. When the 30-day period ended, he could be held in administrative segregation indefinitely.

Blanton said Wednesday he "sent the FBI home" during the manhunt because the federal agents "wanted to grab the cameras" and "were in the way" of state and local efforts to recapture the escapees.

However, Henderson on Wednesday praised the efforts of the FBI, the Tennessee Bureau of Criminal Identification, the Highway Patrol, wildlife officers and local law enforcement officers in the search.

Blanton said he was willing to meet with anyone about his request to have federal officials take over custody of Ray.

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

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JUN 20 1977

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#4

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (88-7223) (C) DATE: 6/22/77

FROM : SA [redacted] b6 b7C

SUBJECT: [redacted] aka -
FUGITIVE
UFAC - MURDER;
CONSPIRACY
OO: Knoxville

On 6/11/77, the following persons were contacted in an effort to locate [redacted] in the vicinity of Kingsport, Tennessee by SA's [redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

88-7223-146

On 6/13/77, [redacted], advised SA [redacted] that he had seen subject [redacted] at Greeneville, Tenn. on 6/12/77 at a bootleg joint operated by [redacted] claimed that he had a beer with subject at [redacted] bootleg joint and then drove

RAL/kjj
(1)

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b6 b7C

the subject to the resevior road area of Kingsport to a house which he could not further describe. He stated that there was a party going on at the house when they arrived and that subject immediately took up with one, [redacted] b6 b7C exact address unknown.

[redacted] advised that he had known [redacted] since they were small boys and that they had grown up together. He stated that [redacted] had taken a shot at him five or six years ago over a "personal matter".

Efforts to verify [redacted] story on 6/13/77 met b6 with negative results and efforts to locate the house where b7C he allegedly had left [redacted] on 6/12/77 met with negative results.

It is noted that [redacted] was captured in the vicinity of Petros, Tenn. early on the morning of 6/14/77.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

150 State Guardmen Join in Ray Manhunt; Auto, Clothing Stolen

Thefts Not Directly Linked to Escape of King Killer, 3 Others at Large

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN, Tenn. (AP) — National Guardmen were activated and a special force of mountain-wise trackers was dispatched into the rainsoaked green hills near Brushy Mountain State Prison Sunday in an all-out effort to capture James Earl Ray and three other fugitives.

As the killer of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. began his third night of freedom, authorities expanded the search to a 25-mile radius of the prison in snake-infested mountainous terrain — an area of about 2,000 square miles. The communities of Wartburg, Oliver Springs and Caryville were in the search area.

In Caryville, about 20 miles northeast of the prison, police said a car was stolen from a parking lot and a man's plaid shirt, a pair of pants and $300 were stolen from another car Sunday. They refused to speculate whether there was any connection between the theft and the breakout by Ray and six other inmates Friday night.

"The interesting thing is they only stole clothing from the car and they left behind many dollars worth of camera equipment and jewlery," said Anderson County Sheriff's Deputy J.D. Mathis.

The escaped men were wearing denim jeans and workshirts when they fled, according to prison guards.

One of the seven escapees was shot and wounded and taken back into custody immediately after the breakout, and another was apprehended on Saturday. The reputed mastermind of the escape, convict Larry E. Hacker, was captured early Sunday.

Warden Stoney Lane said the three have been placed in isolation and will receive an administrative hearing and be charged with escape.

On Sunday, Gov. Ray Blanton and Maj. Gen. Carl Wallace, adjutant general of the Tennessee National Guard flew to the prison, where officials were growing more pessimistic about the likelihood of capture.

Blanton announced he had ordered about 150 guardmen with helicopters into the search. He said it is possible that Ray has managed to get out of the Cumberland Mountains around the prison but that he is convinced Ray is still in the area and will be found.

Lane chose six to nine prison guards for what he called "a special force raised in the mountains" to search the backwoods areas with bloodhounds for Ray and the three other convicts still at large.

"What we've been doing is covering the hollers, access roads, creeks and railroads and this type thing," Lane said. "What I'm going to do with these six men is put them in the back country."

Local citizens earlier joined manhunters tracking Ray and the others — four hardened criminals, two with life terms and two with sentences totalling 119 years.

With the special force and the National Guard, the number of official trackers climbed to about 350. Lane said he could not estimate the number of volunteer trackers. "I don't know how many," he said. "I saw plenty last night."

Severe thunderstorms knocked out telephone communications in the Brushy Mountain area and grounded helicopters Sunday afternoon, but Lane said the rain helped the bloodhounds.

"A dog runs a better track when wet," he said.

Another official said he was told by experts that rain clears away dust in the air that blunts the dogs' sense of smell.

ORIGINAL SENT BU ON JUN 24 1977

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

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

PAGE 1

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Editor: MARTIN S. OCHS
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JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
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ESCAPE

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or
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Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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Lane said one of the four men at large, Donald Ray Caylor, apparently was separated from the others. Caylor, he said, was running wild over the country while Ray and two others were "moving slowly and very deliberately."

Blanton, who earlier issued instructions that Ray was to be taken alive, said he believed Ray's whereabouts were "one of two extremes ... He is either in a foreign country or he is still in the confined area around here.

"The breakout was concocted, designed and planned in such a manner that he could be in Guatemala by now," Blanton said, but he added that he did not necessarily believe that was the case.

He noted that "no person who escaped this prison has ever successfully made it out of these mountains."

He said his decision to call out the National Guard reflected the need for more airborne resources.

Blanton said he had briefed U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell on the search and that Bell discussed with him the briefing Bell had given to President Carter on the situation. The governor said FBI agents had been sent as "observers" in the search but that state Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer was in charge.

"We appreciate whatever help the FBI has given us," Blanton said, adding that he was asking federal agents to watch the borders to keep Ray and the others from fleeing Tennessee into surrounding states.

Meanwhile, state Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said speculation that authorities at the maximum-security prison helped Ray escape was "absurd, irresponsible and absolutely untrue.

"We'll make a full investigation," Henderson said. "If I'm wrong, the evidence will prove it."

He said that people seemed to think that "maximum security" means that the man would be locked up 24 hours a day in his cell.

"A few years ago, a federal court ordered Ray released from his cell, from lockdown," Henderson said. "It shouldn't surprise anyone he is not in isolation."

Henderson said the search perimeter was expanded in order not to take a chance, adding, "We still believe they are still contained in the area. We still believe they are traveling in circles. I don't believe there's any evidence otherwise."

He said that Hacker, serving a 28-year term for safecracking and robbery with a deadly weapon, most certainly had traveled farther in more than a day of freedom than the four miles' distance from the prison where he was captured.

Lane said he felt sure trackers had flushed Hacker out, forcing him to go up a railroad track and into a small church in the woods where an FBI agent and two sheriff's deputies took him into custody.

Asked whether he thought the 49-year-old Ray would be able to survive for long in the rugged woods by subsisting on berries and roots, Henderson replied: "I think it could be pretty difficult. An individual who had courses in mountain survival could do it."

He said guards at the prison did not think Ray's physical condition was that good.

Henderson said it was assumed the men might try to steal a car.

If Ray or any of the others elude the search, they would be the first inmates to make a successful escape from behind the prison's walls.

Former warden Robert Moore said trusties, inmates allowed to work beyond the walls, have walked away but no one from inside has managed to get out and stay out.

In 1970, two men sawed through vent bars on the hospital roof, made their way to the top of the main prison and let themselves down on a rope made of sheets. They were captured an hour and 15 minutes later.

The 81-year-old prison operated a coal mine with inmate labor until 1966, when two prisoners were killed in a cave-in and the mine was declared unsafe. The fortress-like penitentiary was closed in 1972 by a guards' strike, and all prisoners — including Ray — were transferred to a Nashville facility.

Blanton reopened Brushy Mountain in 1975, partly to relieve inmate overcrowding in other facilities in the state's corrections system.

Henderson said the guard on Tower No. 4 — the man best able to spot Ray and the others going over the wall on a ladder built of pipe scraps — may have been negligent.

But he said an investigation into the circumstances of the escape would have to wait until the men have been recaptured.

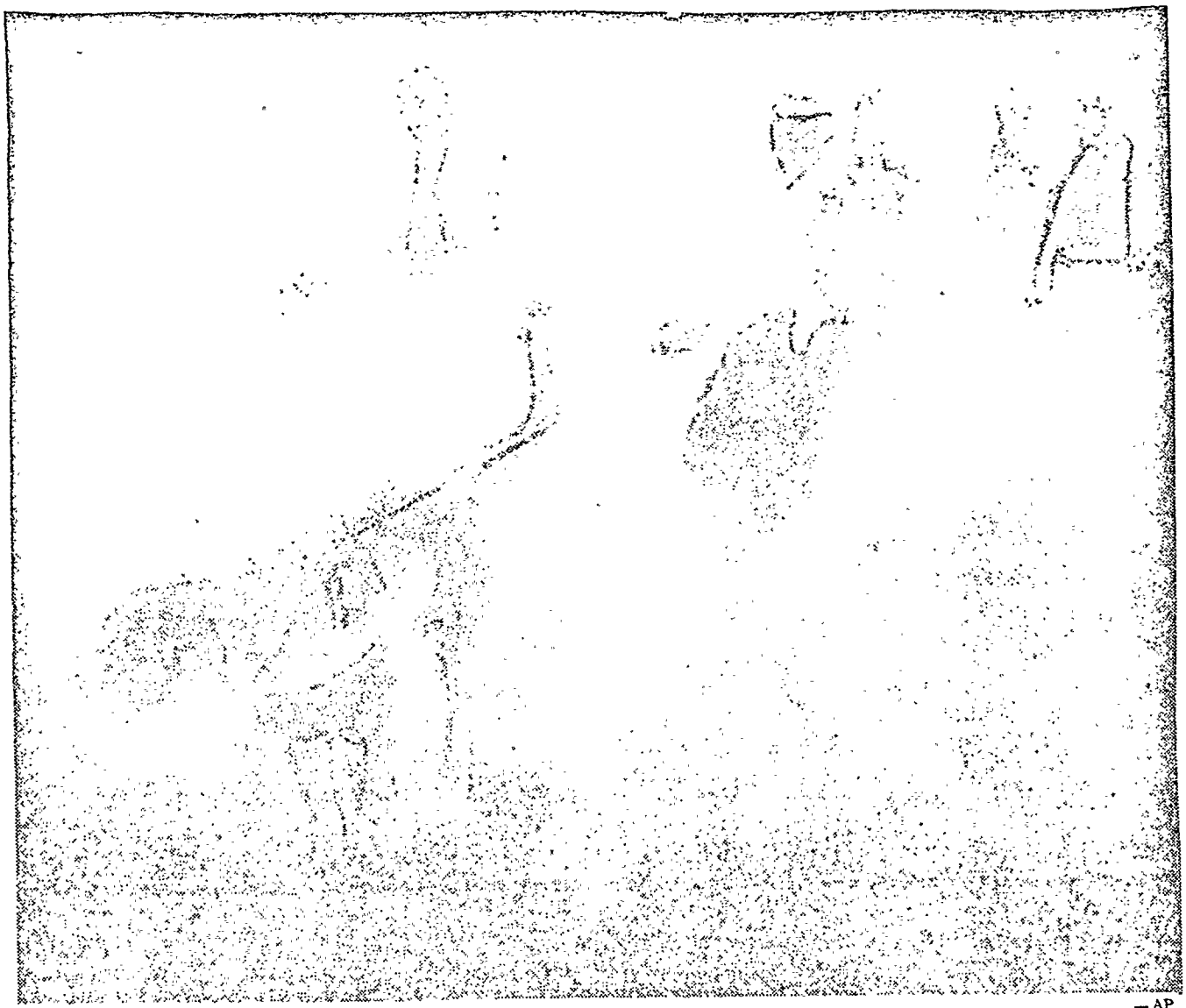
Blanton press aide Jim Gilchrist, who used to work in the corrections division, described Hacker, one of the three escapees apprehended since the break, as "a thoroughly dangerous individual. I think if one person initiated this, I think it was Larry Hacker."

The inmate shot when he went over the north wall of the huge unpaved track that serves as the prison yard, Jerry W. Ward, was reported to have suffered superficial wounds.

David Lee Powell, the only black in the group, was spotted Saturday by helicopter and apparently waited until officers on the ground picked him up.

Gilchrist said that Powell apparently had nothing to do with the escape plan, which involved diversions during early evening yard time by some of the institution's 400 prisoners.

Gilchrist said Powell was "walking by when they (other escapees) threw the ladder up."



— AP

A Bloodhound, Handled by Lawmen Seeking James Earl Ray and Others, Hits Trail

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Dog Handler Who Found Ray Catches Last of 6 Escapees

BRUSHY MOUNTAIN, Tenn. (AP) — The most extensive manhunt in Tennessee history ended in triumph Tuesday when the same dog handler who ran down James Earl Ray caught the last of six inmates who fled Brushy Mountain Penitentiary with Ray five days before.

Douglas Shelton, 32, was recaptured about 9 a.m. by guard Sammy Joe Chapman. Shelton, Ray and Ray's cellmate, Earl Hill Jr., are believed by prison officials to have planned the breakout.

But Warden Stonney Lane said in connection with that theory: "I don't think we'll ever know for sure. They are the only ones who really know and they aren't saying anything."

A lawyer for Ray, the confessed slayer of Martin Luther King Jr., said his client denied participation in the planning. The lawyer also said he didn't think Ray had outside help.

Lane said a small map of the immediate area cut out of a state highway map and $290 were found on Ray after his capture Monday.

In Ray's left front pocket, officers found a wad of $80 in a rubber band, Lane said. The remainder was located during a strip search before a physical examination in the prison infirmary.

The warden said inmates are allowed to have up to $70 in cash but guards routinely find more money in cells than the rule allows.

Ray was paid $35 at the first of each month for work in the prison laundry. He was also entitled to draw $35 in the middle of each month from a prison account provided each prisoner for income from relatives and prison work. Money also changes hands among the inmates for various purposes, including gambling. Lane said.

Shelton's capture kept unblemished the maximum security prison's record of no successful escapes. Officials said the hunt had been the biggest in state history, involving 175 searchers and costing $175,000 in overtime pay alone.

Stole a Van

Shelton was found after a van he stole in the Beech Fork area of Anderson County ran off a state highway and over an embankment as guards gave chase.

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

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CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

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JUN 22 1977

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ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUN 22 1977

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray, Mate Together In Security Cell

PETROS — James Earl Ray and Earl Hill Jr. are back together, temporarily, in Brushy Mountain State Prison's maximum security cellblock D until the escapees face disciplinary hearings.

Ray was moved out of the prison's infirmary Tuesday and placed in D block, a building behind the main prison, with Hill, his cellmate before Friday night's escape.

The disciplinary hearings will be held within the next seven days for all six escapees.

The last of the escapees, Douglas Shelton, 32, was captured about 9 a.m. by prison guard Sammy Joe Chapman. Shelton was found after a van he stole in the Beech Fork area of Anderson County ran off a state highway and over an embankment as officers were chasing him.

Prison officials said Larry Phillips, the van's owner, had just gotten in when he was grabbed from behind and thrown out by Shelton who was hiding in the back. Shelton was caught about 18 miles down the winding highway from where Ray was captured and about seven miles northeast of the prison.

In other developments Tuesday, White House Press Secretary Jody Powell said Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell is considering Gov. Ray Blanton's request that Ray be placed in federal custody.

"It is not unusual for the federal government to take custody of persons in the state (penal) system." He said some 200 state prisoners are presently in federal custody.

Powell said the arrangement is done by contract between the federal government and the states and that the states reimburse the federal government for the expense it incurs.

Ray's lawyer, Jack Kershaw of Nashville, said he would oppose any attempts by the state or federal governments to move Ray.

Ray, the convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is serving a 99-year sentence. He escaped Brushy Mountain Friday and was at large 54 hours before he was recaptured early Monday.

John Stoker, Tennessee's assistant director of probations and parole, said of the federal government: "They will take our prisoners if we will pay them their cost per day plus some administrative costs. We simply enter into a contract with the federal government, but they have to agree to take the people and be willing to sign the contract."

But Kershaw said: "Ray is not charged with any federal crime, he is charged with a state crime."

Ray has denied participation in the breakout although prison officials have called Hill and Ray the planners.

"I don't think we'll ever know for sure. They are the only ones who really know and they aren't saying anything," said Warden Stonney Lane Tuesday.

Kershaw said he does not think his client had any outside help in the escape.

Lane said a small map of the im-

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The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

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"It was a routine escape as far as the prison was concerned," Lane said. "What we have still to determine is if there was any negligence on the parts of any guards or other employees."

Ray met with Kershaw for less than an hour Tuesday but refused to meet with investigators from the House Select Committee on Assassinations at the prison to inquire about the escape.

The prison and House committee staffers will continue separate investigations of the escape throughout the week.

Kershaw said he will file a petition within the next 60 days asking for a new trial for his client. He said the petition will be filed in Shelby County Criminal Court in Memphis, where Ray was convicted in the April 1968 King slaying.

Ray contends he was pressured into a guilty plea by officials and Percy Foreman, his lawyer at the time. He says he was in Memphis and purchased the rifle that killed King at the direction of a mysterious man whom he knew only as Raoul. Until he heard news reports, Ray says, he did not know of King's death.

In other breakout sidelights, Blanton says he offered a telephone tip to members of his cabinet Saturday on where to look for Ray and his cabinet members say the tip paid off. And, it was the same dog handler, Sammy Joe Chapman, who ran down Ray that captured Shelton Tuesday.

"Ray himself said that when he broke out in Missouri he stayed close to railroad tracks and creekbeds during his escape," Blanton said after reading background information about Ray.

The governor said he called Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson and Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer and told them to "quadruple their men at the railroad tracks and streams near Brushy Mountain."

"He sure did," Henderson said, "and we did it and in the end, it paid off."

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Exhausted Ray Caught Unharmed

By BOB BARRETT
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

PETROS — "Gentlemen, we have Mr. Ray in custody."

With those words, Jim Henderson, director of public information for the State Department of Public Safety, announced the capture of James Earl Ray, convicted killer of Martin Luther King Jr. and Tennessee's most widely-known prisoner.

Ray's capture was followed a few hours later this morning by that of Donald Ray Caylor, 24, the only Knoxvillian among the escapees. He was captured in downtown Oak Ridge by an alert city policeman. Only one escapee, Douglas Shelton, Kingsport, was still at large.

Ray, who had escaped at 7:30 p.m. Friday with six other prisoners, was recaptured at 2 a.m. today — just 54½ hours after the escapees went over the wall at the northwest corner of Brushy Mountain State Prison here.

Ray, exhausted and still wearing his prison clothes, was found by a team of East Tennessee Bloodhounds, "Sandy" and "Little Red," and a team of handlers from the area around the prison.

Ray had laid down to rest, covering himself with leaves in a futile attempt to avoid discovery. He was six miles northeast of the prison.

He was exhausted from the chase through the hills after the dogs picked up the scent.

CHIEF dog handler Sonny ~~Joe~~ Chapman, Petros, and his assistant, Johnny Newberry, Harriman, were credited with the capture, along with four dog handling helpers.

"Are you hurt?" one of the men reportedly asked Ray when they found him.

"No, I'm OK," he said, according to Warden Stonney Lane.

The warden said Ray told him he didn't want any interviews with the press, and preferred no photographs.

Prison officials walked Ray swiftly past newsmen into the main administration building of the prison, where he reportedly received a physical examination that is routine for all returned escapees.

He then was placed in Cell Block D, under administrative detention.

Warden Lane explained that this means he will have strictly supervised exercise periods, but will be in contact with other prisoners, pending administrative charges and possible state suits in Morgan County Criminal Ct.

OAK RIDGE Patrolman S.R. Buxton took Caylor into custody at the intersection of South Illinois Ave. and Tulane Ave. at about 8:05 a.m. today. The intersection is a block from the city's Downtown Shopping Center.

Oak Ridge Police Capt. Harry Thomas said Patrolman Buxton was driving alone in his patrol car when he noticed Caylor walking on the street.

Thomas said Caylor was "watching the patrol car in a furtive manner" and Buxton noticed his height and weight matched the description of the escapee. Thomas added that Caylor appeared "unkempt and unshaved."

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Capt. Thomas said Caylor gave Buxton the name "Jerry Bradshaw" and told Buxton he was on his way to enlist in the U.S. Army. However, when Caylor was unable to show any identification, he was placed under arrest.

Capt. Thomas said Caylor, who was dressed in a blue shirt and trousers and was unarmed, was taken to the Oak Ridge Police Station where he was positively identified at 8:45 a.m.

Capt. Thomas said Caylor said nothing after being confronted with his true identity. He was immediately taken back to the prison, about 12 miles away.

Caylor was serving a 51-year sentence on charges of armed robbery and assault with intent to commit murder in connection with the 1973 robbery of Mrs. Irene Porter, then owner of Broadway Freezo, 1229 N. Broadway. Mrs. Mary Jane Mitchell was shot during the robbery.

OFFICIALS captured Larry E. Hacker in the one-room Beech Grove Church Sunday morning, about four miles from the prison in the New River community of Anderson County.

They caught Earl Hill Jr. in the same section shortly before midnight last night, again in the New River section.

Officials had been tipped there were three men in the area near the Cumberland Coal Co. property, and newsmen were told by officials that they thought Ray was one of them.

After Hill's capture, Warden Lane said, "We had one subject on the east side of (Highway) 116, and one on the west. At random we took the one on the west (with Bloodhounds)."

He added that officials feel they are close to capturing the third man, who they believe is Shelton.

Warden Lane said Ray had nothing on him that would indicate he had received any help from the outside.

Ray told the dog handlers who captured him he had not eaten anything all day Sunday.

Reminded that there were those who had speculated Ray had outside help, and would have had a car waiting on him, State Corrections Commissioner C Murray Henderson said, "If he did he missed it."

WARDEN LANE had said Sunday afternoon that thundershowers which moved through the area would help the hunters, not the escapees.

He said the dogs were hot from long search hours, and that dampness made the scent remain longer.

Gov. Ray Blanton visited the prison Sunday afternoon to announce the National Guard would enter the search today, but State Commissioner of Public Safety Joel Plummer announced about two hours after Ray's capture that the Governor had decided not to deploy the Guard after all.

Prison and Corrections Department officials had said all along that they did not think the prisoners had escaped from the area around the prison, and did not have any reason to believe there was any help from the outside.

Gov. Blanton charged that "if it hadn't been for a Federal Court order, I believe he (Ray) would have still been inside these walls. A Federal court ordered us not to keep him in solitary confinement, but to treat him as any other convicted murderer."

In his Sunday announcement that the Guard would enter the search for Ray today, Gov. Blanton said he was placing Commissioner Plummer in charge of the search. Commissioner Henderson had been in charge of it until that time.

THE GOVERNOR said, "We appreciate whatever help the FBI has given, but all I have asked Atty. Gen. (Griffin) Bell to do is watch the state's borders."

He said Bell had requested that the FBI be allowed to enter the search.

Warden Lane had announced Sunday afternoon that they were going to use a special team of correctional officers last night, whose members had grown up in the area and knew of springs and other places where a prisoner might be able to hide out for several days.

He said this team would be in addition to the regular patrols on the roads, and the team would be working in the back country.

Warden Lane said this morning that Ray was found in a wooded area, but an "open" wooded area, without heavy underbrush.

AFTER THE capture, Gov. Blanton relayed a message that he "is extremely pleased with the capture of James Earl Ray.

"This confirms the belief I had in my officials, Commissioner Murray Henderson, Commissioner Joel Plummer and others involved in the capture who assured me that Ray and the other escapees were contained within the area near the prison."

Warden Lane said he was sure the prisoners had been hiding during the days and trying to move at night. He said the search will continue unabated for the remaining escapee.

AFTER THE capture of Ray, Commissioner Henderson said, "I think we have a security problem at that point of the prison."

He said he thought they would put a guard tower at the point where the prisoners were able to avoid the 2300-volt electric lines that top most of the prison's wall.

Officials said Ray had apparently prepared himself for the escape ordeal by exercising vigorously in the days before the attempt Friday night.

Officials said they also believe that Ray paced himself once he was out, instead of running "all out."

When captured, however, he was exhausted, soaked with sweat and mud, and surrendered without a struggle.

Warden Lane said questioning of prisoners involved in the diversions Friday that kept guards from spotting the escape for the first critical minutes have refused to talk, and prison officials have found out "nothing" about the plans.

Back in Custody

James Earl Ray, convicted killer of Martin Luther King Jr., is returned to Brushy Mountain State Prison early today after his capture by Bloodhounds about eight miles from the prison. Ray, right, is being led into the administration building by Highway Patrol Col. Richard Dawson, left, and Warden Stonney Lane, center. (News-Sentinel Photo by Bob Barrett)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Ray Escape: Conspiracy Gap

It all sounded like the plot of a Jim Garrison novel— right up to the time that James Earl Ray was captured and returned to Brushy Mountain State Prison alive.

Ray's escape Friday evening excited all sorts of speculation that a new conspiracy was afoot, thereby proving to the satisfaction of many that multiple conspiracies were behind all the assassinations of the 1960s..

Indeed, there are still far too many questions arising from the circumstance of escape of Ray and six others from the maximum security facility at Petros. Brushy Mountan simply isn't the easiest prison in the country to flee; and once out, the surrounding terrain can become a prison in itself.

For all practical purposes, to fully escape from Brushy Mountain, a convict would have to have either unreasonably good luck or a lot of outside help. And outside help would fit nicely with any of the several conspiracy theories which continue to emerge in connection with the slaying of not only the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., but the killings of President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Sen. Robert Kennedy as well.

But Ray either had no outside help all along or somehow failed to receive it when needed. He was chased down by bloodhounds and caught hiding in the woods, only miles from the prison itself. He got over the walls, only to be trapped by the mountains —the same as so many other convicts over the years who found freedom from Brushy Mountain short-lived.

Perhaps further investigation will yield some reasonable answers about the escape itself, but the episode at this point seems to have just about as much sinister daring as a chapter from the old television series, "Hogan's Heroes."

How could the construction of a ladder from 20 pieces of pipe escape attention? How could an alert prison staff fail to notice a gap in the high-voltage cable atop the wall? How could experienced guards fall for the oldest trick in the book—a staged brawl in the prison yards—long enough for seven men to climb the wall and for six of them to get out of sight on the other side?

Conspiracy? Still possible, obviously. That would at least add some dignity to the whole situation. But at the moment a far more likely answer appears to rest with an embarrassing collection of foul-ups. It may all boil down to too many persons being less than alert.

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(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Morgan County Will Charge Ray and Six Other Escapees

Compiled From Press Dispatches

HUNTSVILLE — James Earl Ray and six convicts who escaped with him from Brushy Mountain State Prison will be prosecuted for slipping over a rear wall of the prison, according to Morgan County Asst. Dist. Atty. Gen. Paul Phillips.

"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.

"As of this moment, I know of no other charges that will be filed," he said.

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.

MEANWHILE, Gov. Ray Blanton was in Washington today to testify before a Senate committee on a confirmation matter.

Gov. Blanton was willing to confer with any official who would listen about giving Ray to the Federal Government, his press secretary said.

"No meeting has been set up," Blanton spokesman Brooks Parker said when asked about progress on Blanton's request that Ray be transferred to a Federal prison. "Of course if Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell or someone else contacts the Governor, that will be a different matter."

Bell said yesterday the Federal Government has not decided whether to take custody of Ray.

Gov. Blanton Monday requested Ray be locked in a Federal prison following his recapture in a Tennessee prison escape.

"No decision has been made," Bell told a news conference after a speech to the National Association of Attorneys General in Indianapolis. However, Bell said such a decision could be made by the end of the week.

A LARGE NUMBER of state prisoners are confined in Federal penitentiaries under contractual arrangements and Ray could be handled the same way, he said. But the state of Tennessee would probably continue to pay the costs.

"Gov. Blanton called me Monday morning to let me know Ray had been captured," Bell said. "After we had exchanged some pleasantries, he said, 'Now that it's over with, I'd like to have him transferred to a Federal prison.'

"It seems Gov. Blanton feels Ray is quite an expense to the state. Of course, he is in prison for committing a state crime. I told him we'd consider it. I've talked to the director of prisons about it.

"I understand that since then, he's sent a letter to the President, but the President hasn't talked to me about it."

Blanton announced Monday he had asked Carter to have the Federal Gov-

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ernment take custody on grounds a 1970 Federal court decision hampers state efforts to guard Ray.

IN ANOTHER development, Gov. Blanton has said he offered a telephone tip to members of his Cabinet Saturday on where to look for Ray, and his Cabinet members say the tip paid off.

Blanton said after Ray escaped last Friday, he began reading background information and viewing films about Ray and a previous prison break he had made in Missouri.

"Ray himself said that when he broke out in Missouri he stayed close to railroad tracks and creekbeds during his escape," Blanton said.

The governor said he called Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson and Safety Commissioner Joel Plummer and "told them to quadruple their men at the railroad tracks and streams near Brushy Mountain (State Prison)."

"He sure did," Henderson said, "and we did it and in the end, it paid off."

How Ray Was Found

Sammy Chapman, the dog handler who tracked down James Earl Ray, shows how Ray was found early Monday. Playing the part of Ray is Rick Trail, a prison guard. Trail is lying in the exact spot where Ray was found. Others shown are, from left, Bill Garrison, John Heidel, Johnny Newberry and Chapman. (UPI Telephoto)

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Role of FBI Agents in Search for Ray and Other Escapees Clarified

By WILLARD YARBROUGH
News-Sentinel Staff Writer

State officials say Federal agents "hindered" the search for James Earl Ray and other escapees from Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros but the FBI feels it "helped."

On-the-scene reports of dissension between FBI agents and local and state law enforcement agencies surfaced nationwide yesterday when Gov. Ray Blanton went on national television in Washington.

The Governor said, on ABC's "Good Morning, America" show, that he "sent the FBI home" during the manhunt because Federal agents were "getting in the way" of state and local police efforts to recapture the fugitives.

At Petros, Warden Stonney Lane said he had complained to the Governor about FBI's active role in the mountainous search for the escapees, and afterward encouraged the FBI to withdraw.

BOTH LANE and Harold Swanson, special agent in charge of the Knoxville FBI office, agreed that the FBI withdrew around noon last Monday, with one Brushy inmate still at large. Both also agreed that Mr. Swanson broached the subject after the sixth escapee, Donald Caylor, was taken into custody in Oak Ridge around 10 a.m. Monday.

"Caylor was taken by Oak Ridge police and I went there to identify him," said Warden Lane. "I sought to take him into custody and return him to the prison. FBI agents there refused to turn him over, told me in no uncertain terms to go away because Caylor was their prisoner and was being held on Federal charges. The FBI drove him back to Brushy later." Gov. Blanton on TV said the FBI "wanted to grab the cameras," alluding to mass media at the prison gates.

"Caylor was apprehended by Oak Ridge police after the FBI asked them to be on the outlook for him," responded Mr. Swanson. "The Oliver Springs police chief set up a roadblock there, expecting the suspect. A stolen pickup truck crashed the barricade and the driver escaped. Knowing this, our office alerted Oak Ridge police to be on the outlook for a man fitting Caylor's description. They set up a roadblock near Solway (State 62), but a policeman saw Caylor walking on Illinois Ave. and took him into custody.

"CAYLOR denied his identity. We held him, immediately following his identification, as a fugitive from justice. We took him back to the prison and turned him over to the warden."

At this juncture, Mr. Swanson told the writer, "I approached the ward[illegible] and said it appeared that the FBI was no longer needed in the search, since only one of the seven escapees was still at large and appeared to be hemmed in. So we withdrew."

Warden Lane concurred, saying he agreed the FBI was needed no further. Both men agreed there was a verbal exchange at the prison over the Caylor incident in Oak Ridge. Agent Swanson said it had been established that Caylor was the driver of the stolen truck — taken in the mountainous area from a used car lot not too far from the prison — which crashed the Oliver Springs roadblock.

Everyone involved in Tennessee now agrees that the FBI never took charge of the pursuit of the six at-large escapees, despite wire stories that quoted U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell as say-

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ing he had instructed the FBI to take over the search.

"I NEVER GOT such instructions," Agent Swanson said. "When we heard of the prison break, I telephoned Petros and offered our help. Deputy Warden Herman Clayton Davis accepted the offer, said he needed us. We went in to help local officers find the escapees. We left when we were no longer needed."

"The Governor's office never was informed that the FBI had been instructed to take charge," said Brooks Parker, press information officer for Gov. Blanton at Nashville. He said the reporter's information was the first time he had heard of the report, which circulated nationwide.

Warden Lane said the FBI never assumed control, that State Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson, State Safety Director Joel Plummer, Brushy Deputy Warden Davis and he always were in charge of operations.

Still, there was obvious and outspoken objection to the FBI's presence and some reported happenings, at least among the prison guards and trackers. The conflict apparently never reached the ears of some 100 media representatives that jammed the prison gates and kept 24-hour vigils.

"GUARDS complained to me," said Warden Lane, "that FBI agents 'got in the way,' tailed searchers with Bloodhounds on the leash, and at one time stopped a posse in New River by turning a spotlight on them.

"On the other hand, FBI agents helped us mightily in sealing off the escape perimeter at positions where the fugitives could have used for escape. The agents did not hit the trails where searchers were in hot pursuit."

Agent Swanson said he recognized his men were not as well equipped or knowledgeable of the isolated areas as were local guards and other enforcement men leading the pursuit.

A major contribution by FBI in final capture of a fugitive came when an agent accompanied two Anderson County deputies who found one inmate hiding in a church in the New River section.

ONE BRUSHY "complaint" was that the FBI intercepted messages on the prison radio hookup and "rushed" to areas where suspected fugitives were reported sighted. There were 33 agents altogether in the Petros area during the search from Friday evening until Monday noon.

Here, according to Warden Lane's records, is how each escapee was taken and the circumstances:

No. 1. Jerry Ward. Felled by a shotgun pellet just as he cleared the prison wall around 8 p. m. Friday, and quickly apprehended by prison guards.

No. 2. David Powell. Sighted or flushed by Highway Patrol helicoper in the Flat Fork area (old Honor Farm). State trooper and Prison Lt. Otie Jones took Powell into custody without resistance around 2 p.m. Saturday.

No. 3. Larry Hacker. Flushed from cover by prison hounds and guards, after citizen tips, and found in a New River church near Rosedale. Anderson Deputy Totie Phillips and two FBI agents. (Agent Swanson said he was informed two deputies and one FBI agent entered the church. The time was after midnight Saturday).

No. 4. Earl Hill. Prison Guard Bill Garrison took Hill into custody after he was hotly pursued by Brushy guards and Pikeville Correctional facility's personnel and Pikeville Bloodhounds. The time was late Saturday. The place, in New River near Cumberland Coal Co.

No. 5. James Earl Ray. Run to earth and captured in a pile of leaves in a New River vale around 2 a.m. Monday. Sammy Joe Chapman and Johnny Newberry, along with Bloodhounds "Sandy" and "Little Red," were first to find Ray. Guard David Heidel, on the Brushy staff, trained a shotgun on him, and another guard stood by with sidearm.

No. 6. Donald Caylor. Seized by alerted Oak Ridge police while walking alone, around 10 a.m. Monday.

No. 7. Douglas Shelton. Chased by Brushy guards and state troopers from a New River hiding place, tracked down by trainer Chapman and his Bloodhounds, "Sandy" and "Little Red," and taken into custody a mile from a wrecked van he had commandeered. The capture came Tuesday, some eight miles northeast of the prison following a chase by prison guards and troopers in New River.

The scoreboard:

FBI was indirectly involved in one capture, participated in a second.

State guards and prison officials were involved in six captures.

Bloodhounds were in the forefront of three captures in tracking three fugitives to the end of the line.

The denouement today: Hardly anyone was angry with anyone else, regardless of agency, and Brushy Mountain Prison's maximum security record begun in 1972 was still intact. No inmate has ever made a successful getaway.

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Ray's A National Issue, U.S. Told, Blanton Take Him

By ROBERT JONES
Journal Reporter

PETROS — James Earl Ray may get his wish and leave Brushy Mountain State Prison for good.

Gov. Ray Blanton Monday asked President Carter to take custody of Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the 1968 Memphis slaying of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

"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," the Associated Press in Nashville quoted Blanton as saying.

"So, I'm offering him to the President," Blanton added.

Ray, back in custody resting and eating after 54 hours of freedom in the rugged Cumberland Mountains, escaped with six others in a daring dash over a high wall at the fortress-like prison here Friday night.

Only one, Douglas S. Shelton of Kingsport, serving 68 years for assault and murder, is still at large. But prison spokesmen Monday night indicated officers were concentrating on a portion of the mountainous terrain where Shelton is thought to be hiding.

Gov. Blanton, at an afternoon press conference, said he asked Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell to relay to the President his request that the U.S. government take custody of Ray. If that should happen, and federal officials said it is being considered, Ray likely would be transferred to the U.S Penitentiary in Marion, Ill.

"I feel that the great national concern with James Earl Ray, including the House Assassination Committee, should cause you (President Carter) to give this request earnest and serious consideration," Blanton said.

Meanwhile, Brushy Mountain State Prison was returning to normal Monday.

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An official said Ray was still in the prison hospital Monday afternoon, but was to be assigned a cell by Warden Stoney Lane sometime Monday night.

Donald Ray Caylor was arrested while walking down South Illinois Avenue in Oak Ridge by City Police at 8 a.m. Monday. A patrolman spotted him on the street and took him in for questioning, according to reports. After checking, police determined he was the fugitive. Caylor apparently made it to Oak Ridge, a distance of about 15 miles, on foot. The 25-year-old Knoxville man is serving 51 years for assault with intent to commit murder and armed robbery.

A prison offficial explained that Ray and the others will have to go before a disciplinary board which will determine if and how the men are to be punished.

"They can get one of two punishments," he said. "One is administrative segregation and the other is punitive segregation."

The supervisor explained that the former placed an inmate in a cell by himself, but with most of his personal possessions still intact, such as books and a TV. The prisoner is not allowed to mingle with other inmates.

The latter punishment is more severe and only allows a Bible or similar religious text and paper and pencil as personal property. Visitation is restricted to an attorney and mail privileges are allowed only with courts, attorneys and immediate family.

The official declined to say what Ray's penalty would be but said, "He will not be put in the general (prison) population, I can assure you."

The state Corrections Department and state Bureau of Criminal Identification will be in charge of the investigation of the escape. Joel Plummer, commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and also director of the search, said he could not be certain when the investigation would be completed.

Despite sophisticated aircraft and infrared spotters, the heroes of the successful captures were the local men employed at the prison and their trusty bloodhounds. Sonny Chapman and Johnny Newberry, along with "Sandy" and "Little Red," was the man-dog team that finally ran Ray down after a three-hour chase through the rough terrain around New River.

Don Daugherty, a 14-year prison employe and former dog trainer, explained that the local men have chased numerous escapees through the mountains around the prison. Daugherty said the men could fairly well determine who would be running with who. "Ray and Hill were cellmates, and while they may not have been the best of friends, they got along with each other."

Hill was captured at 11 p.m. Sunday after a man sitting in the front yard of his house called and said he saw two strangers nearby. Dogs caught his scent and he was chased down without any resistance. Daugherty said he was with a team of dogs from Pikeville when Hill was apprehended and the runners had trouble getting the dogs to take another scent.

The dogs finally took off on another track, he said, but ran into trouble at New River because Ray had apparently stepped into the water, "and let his scent drift down stream."

Two fresh dogs were brought in by Chapman and Newberry. They caught the scent and took off. "You can tell by the way they act when they've got a fresh scent," Daugherty explained. At that time, the men didn't know who they were chasing. They found out later when they crossed a creek, ran up a logging road and into a thicket where the dogs ran up to Ray, who was covered with leaves.

Chapman and Newberry told reporters they thought he was dead at first. But Ray got up and allowed the men to handcuff him saying, "I feel good."

As guards sped Ray through the gate in a car, a reporter asked, "Is that Ray?" To which the assassin replied, "I'm not his mother!"

Daugherty said the thundershowers which fell on the area Sunday definitely helped the dogs in their tracking. "The dampness cools the ground and keeps down dust," the Petros native said. "That's how the dog works. The better the working conditions the better the dog can do his job."

THE SECOND STEP DOWN from the top of this wall in the northeast corner of Brushy Mountain Prison (photo at left) was the escape route of James Earl Ray and six others Friday. The men climbed a lead-pipe ladder just inches away from wires charged with 2,300 volts of electricity. In right photo, tired dog handlers Johnny Newberry, left, and Sonny Joe Chapman leave the prison; the two men, along with bloodhounds, captured Ray.

AP WIREPHOTO

HIS HAIR in his face, James Earl Ray walks back into Brushy Mountain State Prison early Monday following his capture after 54 hours of hiding in the forest near Petros.

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(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Ray, Others Officially in Segregation

Compiled From Press Dispatches

PETROS — James Earl Ray and six other inmates who attempted to escape from Brushy Mountain State Prison a week ago were placed in "administrative segregation" indefinitely today.

Brushy Mountain's Prison Review Board took less than two hours to take the action.

A spokesman said the convicts were tried in the order of their escape.

Becca Cottrill, information officer for the State Department of Corrections, said Ray, confessed assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., made no plea to the escape charges. "I have no statement to make," Mrs. Cottrill quoted the inmate as saying

The board also said that the "administrative segregation," a form of solitary confinement, would be reviewed every 30 days. The board also imposed a sentence of a loss of a year and a half of honor time and a year and a half in good time. Both forms of punishment delay eligibility for parole.

PLEADING NOT guilty to the charges were Jerry Ward, David Powell, Earl Hill Jr., Donald Caylor and Douglas Shelton, the last inmate to be picked up on Tuesday.

Larry Hacker pleaded guilty to the charges.

Ward was shot as he went over the mountain bastion and was captured immediately. The others were picked up one by one in the Cumberland Mountain wilderness within a few miles of the institution.

The Brushy Mountain State Prison guard stationed closest to the spot where Ray and the others escaped over the weekend has been fired for negligence, Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson says.

"There's no question but what he was negligent," Henderson said yesterday of the guard, Floyd Hooks, 38, Oliver Srings.

"We're not looking for a scapegoat, but we have to take corrective action when this happens."

Hooks refused to comment on his dismissal, which came at the recommendation of Warden Stonney Lane.

"RIGHT NOW, I don't want to do any talking about it," Hooks said. He refused to say if he plans to appeal the decision.

Henderson said prison officials do not believe at this point that there was any active cooperation between Hooks and the prisoners in the escape.

"He never had a chance to talk with any of these guys and we don't suspect a conspiracy at this point," he said.

Hooks was hired as a guard at Brushy Mountain, the state prison for maximum security prisoners, July 26, 1976. He was stationed on the rear wall, the one abuting a sheer cliff and closest to the mountains behind the prison, about 250 feet from the point of escape.

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

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KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 1

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ON JUN 22 1977

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Tripped Over Rifle, Guard Says

PETROS (TPI) — A Brushy Mountain State Prison guard who lost his job says he tripped over his rifle and locked himself in a watchtower as James Earl Ray and six other inmates scrambled over the wall near his post last week.

Floyd Hooks, 38, Oliver Springs, told a WNGE-TV newsman Friday that he expects state Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson to reinstate him after reading Hooks' explanation of events surrounding the prison break.

RAY AND HIS six fellow escapees laughed and joked Friday as a disciplinary board found them guilty of escape and placed them in administrative segregation indefinitely, prison officials said.

Federal authorities, meanwhile, were reported "leaning strongly" toward granting a request from Gov. Ray Blanton that Ray be taken into Federal custody.

"They were laughing and joking, treating the whole thing like a big caper," said Associate Warden Herman Wayland, who presided over the disciplinary hearing at the prison.

Ray and his companions scaled a 12-foot wall at the rear of the prison recreation yard at dusk last Friday with a crude ladder built of water pipes.

HOOKS WAS posted in a tower about 75 yards away, but Henderson charged he was reading or "looking the other way" and did not open fire on the fleeing prisoners until another guard began shooting.

Hooks said he was watching a prisoner pretending to escape when Ray and the others ran for the wall nearest him.

"I grabbed my rifle and started to run outside," Hooks told the TV newsman. "In the process of going outside I tripped on my gun, my gun hit the door, and the door locked shut."

Hooks said four convicts were outside the prison and three others had nearly cleared the wall when he got the tower door open.

"As soon as I got the door open, I went outside and fired my gun," Hooks said. "I heard (the guard in watchtower) No. 3 fire at the same time."

GUARD said an unmanned tower stood between him and the spot where the inmates slipped over the wall, making it impossible to shoot from inside his post. He said he had to reach around the door to aim his gun.

"If anyone is to blame, it's the upper echelon prison officials," Hooks said, adding that the search did not begin until an hour after the convicts escaped. He denied he was reading at the time of the break, as a prison review board was told Thursday. It was the board that recommended Hooks' dismissal, and Henderson agreed.

"There's only two pieces of paper in that tower — a phone book and an ammunition log," he said. "No magazines, newspapers or anything else."

At Friday's hearing, five of the escapees entered pleas of "not guilty" and one, Larry Hacker, pleaded guilty. Ray, serving a 99-year sentence, refused to enter a plea.

INMATES IN administrative segregation are confined to a maximum-security cell area and are not allowed special privileges such a visits to the recreation yard and prison cafeteria and cannot hold prison jobs.

Corrections Department officials said the prisoners' administrative segregation status would be reviewed every 30 days, and if their behavior warrants they could be allowed to return to the general prison population.

It is highly unlikely, however, that Ray will be allowed to leave administrative segregation any time in the forseeable future. Gov. Ray Blanton, who asked that the Federal Government take custody of Ray, has vowed to violate a Federal court order if necessary to keep Ray under maximum security.

In addition to segregation from the rest of the prisoners, the seven escapees each lost a total of three years' "good and honor time." Correction Commissioner Henderson said this would mean the date the men are eligible for parole would be set back three years.

The Commercial Appeal of Memphis reported Friday that the Carter administration was "leaning strongly" toward accepting Ray and was considering putting him at a prison in either Leavenworth, Kan., or Marion, Ill. Both are maximum-security Federal prisons.

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Ray Transfer

Carter Orders Fast, Full Consideration Of Blanton Plea For Federal Takeover

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Carter has ordered the Justice Department to give "speedy and full consideration" to a Tennessee request that James Earl Ray be transferred to federal custody, a White House spokesman said Monday.

Press secretary Jody Powell said Carter has received a formal request from Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton that Ray, the convicted slayer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., be moved to a federal prison.

Ray escaped from Tennessee's Brushy Mountain Penitentiary earlier this month but was recaptured.

Powell said Blanton's letter to Carter was forwarded to Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell by White House Counsel Robert Lipshutz.

The spokesman added that Bell "has been acting as though we had an official request" ever since Blanton telephoned the attorney general last week to ask informally that Ray be accepted as a federal prisoner.

Asked for Carter's reaction to the request, Powell said, "The President asked that it be given speedy and full consideration."

"I think it's a decision that Justice basically makes," he added.

Powell said the transfer of state prisoners to federal jurisdiction "is not a particularly unusual procedure." He said there are about 200 such prisoners in federal custody, with states making reimbursement payments.

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

House panel coming to interview Ray

By The Associated Press

PETROS — House Assassinations Committee investigators will return here next week to interview James Earl Ray for the first time after his escape from prison and recapture, Ray's attorney said Tuesday.

However, Jack Kershaw, who has been representing the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said the day for the meeting has not yet been set.

A spokesman for the committee in Washington refused to confirm the meeting, saying new rules adopted Monday prohibit disclosure of any information concerning the investigation.

An interwoven wire fence topped by barbed wire is now being erected around Brushy Mountain State Prison here. The secondary fence will create a 30-foot space between it and the present prison wall.

Ray, 49, and six other inmates crawled over the wall of Brushy Mountain Penitentiary on June 10. He was captured 54½ hours later about eight miles from the maximum security prison.

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

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(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Ray says UPI was in error

James Earl Ray has requested a retraction by United Press International (UPI) for a May 30 story which quoted Ray as saying he again would plead guilty of the murder of Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray takes issue with the story as run in Knoxville's afternoon newspaper under the headline "Would Plead Guilty Again, Ray Admits."

Under Tennessee law, the request for retraction is the first step for a libel suit. If a publication does retract a story and it is proved erroneous, the publication cannot be sued for punitive damages.

Ray sent a two-page letter to UPI's general offices in New York Monday requesting the retraction. He mailed a copy to U.S. District Court here, although that court would not be involved initially in litigation involving state libel statutes.

Ray also took issue with a comment in the story that he pleaded guilty to escape being executed.

"Answering the distortions per se are not even worth the postage required for mailing but . . . it is necessary for legal reasons to make one reply to Scripps-Howard and UPI's latest malicious fabrications," Ray said.

He said he never, in court testimony and news interview testified he pleaded guilty to avoid execution.

"Secondly, what I told The Tennessean was words to the effect that based on the position Percy Foreman and the U.S. Government had manuevered me into in 1968-69 I could not even now envision having any other choice then except the plea I made in 1969," he said.

The wire story followed an interview with Ray May 29 in The Tennessean.

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for King's murder, also said whenever a story of significance is printed regarding the case, UPI "invariably begins plunking out accompanying stories alleging 'Ray was raised in a whorehouse,'" was alienated from his family and is a loner.

The letter ended: "Please consider this a legal notice under T.C.A. (Tennessee Code Annotated) Section 23-2605, Volume Five."

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

New Petros Fence Is Being Built

PETROS (Special) — Construction has begun on an interwoven wire fence that will create a 30-foot no-man's land beyond the stone wall at Brushy Mountain State Prison. Other safeguards against escape also are being installed.

"The new 'wall' will enclose the entire maximum security facility," Warden Stonney Lane said. "The state had awarded a contract before the James Earl Ray escape to fence in the front of Brushy Prison.

"The new fence will be topped by barbwire and stand as high as the old wall. It will be prefabricated outside Petros, perhaps in Knoxville, and be set in place by a crane.

"Meanwhile, the 3200-volt, 18-inch wire atop the old wall will be extended. Ray and the six others who escaped went under a gap in the electrified fence at the northeast corner, where the electrified wire made a shortcut."

Lane said two new guard towers would be erected atop the old wall and one removed. No. 1 tower, just outside the prison's front gate, will guard the front entrance as it does now. A new tower will be erected between No. 2 and No. 3 towers on the west; the unmanned tower at the time of the escape will be removed and replaced by No. 8 tower on the north wall. The new No. 8 will provide two towers on the north wall. Nos. 5, 6 and 7 on the east and south walls will complete the ring of towers.

Warden Lane also said he was misquoted in Time magazine, which quoted him as saying "outside" forces were involved in Ray's escape. He said both Time and Newsweek reports were "full of factual errors," but that he had been too preoccupied with other matters to complain to them and ask for corrections.

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

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(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

U.S. May Take Custody of Ray Without Notice

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — If the Federal Government decides to take custody of James Earl Ray, a Justice Department official said yesterday, it might move to do so without notice.

Attorneys for Ray, serving a 99-year term for the slaying of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., say he would be in "grave danger" if moved from Brushy Mountain State Prison near here to a Federal penitentiary. Gov. Ray Blanton made such a request following Ray's unsuccessful bid for freedom last week.

John Russell, a Justice Department official, said Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell is studying Blanton's request and presidential Press Secretary Jody Powell said the President wants the matter given "speedy and full consideration."

ASKED WHETHER Ray could be transferred without notice, Russell said, "I wouldn't discount that as a possibility."

Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, said that "Ray will be in grave danger in a Federal prison."

"A contract would be put out on him," Kershaw said. "He would be killed, and that would be the end of the Ray Case."

Asked who would arrange such a killing, Kershaw said:

"Whoever managed the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King."

Transferring Ray to a Federal penitentiary would give the FBI "ready access" to him, Kershaw said, adding, "I feel this should be taken into consideration."

KERSHAW SAID a contract for Ray's death could easily be arranged with a prison inmate.

Kershaw sad he had invited Bell to personally visit Petros and talk with Ray at Brushy Mountain.

Kershaw also maintained that Earl Hill Jr., Ray's cellmate at Brushy and one of those who went over the wall with Ray, was "beaten up good" by FBI agents. Hill, 34, serving two life sentences for murder, was captured about three hours before Ray near a coal mining camp about four miles from the prison.

KERSHAW INTERVIEWED Ray following his capture and said he was told by Ray that Hill had been beaten by FBI agents. "He (Ray) said it looked like Hill had been pistol-whipped"

Assistant Warden Herman Davis said, however, the FBI was not even involved in the capture of Hill and emphatically denied Hill was beaten by anyone.

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

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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Brushy Warden Recommends Firing of Guard Closest to Escape Point

NASHVILLE (UPI) — The warden at Brushy Mountain State Prison said today he has recommended the firing of the guard closest to the point where James Earl Ray and five other inmates escaped last Friday for "negligence while on duty."

Warden Stonney Lane said he made his recommendation to fire Floyd Hooks, 38, and it will be passed on to Correction Commissioner C. Murray Henderson.

Hooks was on a guard tower at the rear of the prison yard 80 yards from where Ray and his confederates escaped Friday evening.

"The Prison Review Board held a hearing this morning," Correction Department Information Officer Becca Cottrill said. "The hearing indicated negligence while on duty based on his ranking officer's recommendation and on other facts brought up during the hearing."

She said she did not know what the "other facts" were.

Lane said that Hooks, who was hired July 26, 1976, will be the only guard disciplined because of the escape.

[redacted] - FUGITIVE
[redacted] - FUGITIVE
EARL HILL, JR. - FUGITIVE
[redacted] - FUGITIVE
JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
[redacted] - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE
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FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

six Petros prisoners caught after escape

BY ELENORA E. EDWARDS

Five of the six inmates who escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Morgan County Friday night were recaptured in Anderson County. A number of officers from Anderson County, sheriff's deputies and state troopers, assisted in the search effort, and two local officers recaptured one of the escapees.

The first convict was returned to custody at 1:50 a.m. Saturday, some six hours after the prison break, and the last was arrested about 9 a.m. Tuesday, three days and 14 hours after the escape. The prison break occurred about 7:30 p.m. Friday.

The incident drew into the area hundreds of officers from the Departments of Corrections and Safety, area sheriff's departments, Tennessee Bureau of Identification and Federal Bureau of Investigation, as well as bloodhounds from various agencies and from citizens.

The most-sought escapee was James Earl Ray, 39, convicted killer of black rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who was shot to death at a Memphis motel in April 1968. Ray's part in the incident of which authorities believe he was the ringleader, made it a matter of international interest, and many news media representatives covered the story from the prison and the Petros area.

All escapees were considered dangerous, but all were taken into custody without incident or injury.

Troopers from Anderson County, along with others from the area, were assigned to 12-hour shifts and manned stations on area highways to check vehicles. Officers from this county were Lt. Thomas Edwards, Sgt. Rankin Long and Troopers David A. King, Mike A. Wamack and Benny Parker.

Officers from the sheriff's department assisting were Lt. Kenneth Kanipes, Investigator Lynn Murphy, Deputy Dale Tucker and Sgt. Carlos Phillips.

Murphy and Tucker, along

(Continued on Page 5)

age, name of
, city and state.)

Pp. 1, 5.
The Clinton Courier
Clinton, Tennessee

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Six Petros prisoners are caught

(Continued from Page 1)

with FBI Agent John Johnson, recaptured Larry Edward Hacker, 32, said to be the most dangerous of the fugitives. He was found at 2:30 a.m. Sunday just inside the rear door of Beech Grove Baptist Church near the Fork Mountain, community about four miles from Morgan County. Hacker had been asleep. He was the second escapee to be caught.

Murphy and Tucker said they and Johnson were checking places which would be likely shelter for the convicts when they noticed the rear door of the church ajar. After handcuffing Hacker, they returned him to the prison.

Hacker, the prison plumber, is believed to have made the ladder which made the escape possible from sections of pipe. He is serving time for a robbery conviction in Hardin County and is allegedly a member of a gang which has robbed some 30 banks.

The last escapee to be arrested, Douglas Shelton, 32, was captured Tuesday morning when he wrecked a van he had just stolen in the Beech Fork community.

Mrs. Stella Phillips told the Courier-News that her son, Larry Joe, 22, got into his van, parked near the home, and someone grabbed him around the neck from behind. Phillips jumped from the vehicle and ran to the house, as Shelton called to him, "Wait a minute."

Shelton fled in the vehicle but wrecked it just before reaching the County Bridge on State Highway 116 between Anderson and Campbell Counties. Corrections officers took Shelton from the van.

The Phillips home is beside Fellowship Baptist Church, on a road which leaves Highway 116 at the bridge.

Shelton, from Kingsport, is serving ~~time~~ after being convicted of murder.

The first inmate to be found, David Lee Powell, 27, surrendered about 1:50 p.m. Saturday after a helicopter patrol spotted him in a field not far from the entrance to Frozen Head State Park, in Morgan County. A prison guard and Trooper Bob Higgs, originally from Lake City, took him into custody and drove him to the prison.

Powell is serving a 99-year prison sentence for murder. He is from Shelby County.

Taken in custody third was Earl Hill Jr., 34, who was found just before midnight Sunday near the Cumberland Coal Corp. property in the New River area of Anderson County.

J. S. Phillips, father of the sheriff's department sergeant, was working as a night watchman for the coal firm when he saw three men walking down a road. He shot into the air, local officers said, and this drew the attention of prison officials nearby. They got Hill, but Ray and Shelton were able to get away.

Ray was the fourth to be captured, and he was found at 2 a.m. Monday as he tried to conceal himself under leaves in a wooded area of Anderson County on the east side of Highway 116.

Ray was found by Sandy and Little Red, bloodhounds, and their four handlers.

Sgt. Phillips, who resides at Rosedale, spent a great deal of time assisting in the search and was nearby when Ray was captured, officers here said.

Next located was Donald Ray Caylor, 25, ~~of Knoxville~~, sentenced for armed robbery and assault with intent to commit murder. He was captured about 8:05 a.m. Monday walking down Illinois Ave. in Oak Ridge, apparently on his way to Knoxville.

Caylor had stolen a truck from a car lot in Morgan County and later had run through a road block in Oliver Springs. Then he wrecked the truck on Winter Gap Rd. at Spring. St. in Oliver Springs and fled on foot.

Caylor was spotted on Illinois at Tulane Ave. by Officer Steve Buxton, who thought he looked suspicious and realized he met the description of one the escapees.

Caylor offered no resistance but gave a fictitious name and address.

The prison break elicited suspicion that outside help had been provided the men and some even said they feared Ray had been spirited from the facility to be murdered by persons who might be implicated through Ray's discussions with the U. S. House of Representatives Assassinations Committee. Five conferences with Ray have been held, and more are scheduled.

However, the fact that all the men were recaptured in the area dispelled most suspicions about outside help.

In the meantime, Gov. Ray Blanton, who said the search operation cost Tennessee nearly $200,000, asked President Jimmy Carter to take custody of Ray, calling him "a national issue."

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Court Order Aided Ray Flight: Blanton

PETROS, Tenn. (UPI) — Gov. Ray Blanton says there may have been "some laxity" on the part of prison officials in the escape of James Earl Ray, but a Federal judge's order requiring that Ray be taken out of solitary confinement is "one of the reasons he's free now."

Blanton, speaking at a news conference yesterday after flying to the scene to confer with authorities involved in the search, said keeping Ray at Brushy Mountain State Prison "was the state's responsibility and one that the state assumed."

"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," Blanton said. "That's one of the reasons I believe he is free now."

Ray, who made two previous escape attempts at the prison and escaped from the Missouri State Prison prior to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was once placed in solitary confinement at the prison. But he contended in court that such confinement violated his rights and a Federal judge ordered him treated the same as other prisoners.

"We may have had some laxity, some failure on our part (in the escape)," Blanton said. "We have been neither lax nor soft in our immediate action (after the escape)."

Blanton said he shared concerns about the escape being a conspiracy, but voiced some doubts.

"WHEN YOU HAVE a prisoner of Ray's notoriety and consider the fact he is talking in different terms to the press and (House Assassinations) committee investigators — talking out of both sides of his mouth — I don't know whether it is a conspiracy."

Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said speculation that Ray's escape was a conspiracy is "absurb, irresponsible and untrue."

"We will make a full investigation," Henderson said. "If I am wrong, the evidence will prove it."

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

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Governor on the Scene

Gov. Ray Blanton announces at a press conference at Brushy Mountain Prison that he would mobilize Tennessee National Guardsmen in the search for escapees. After the capture of James Earl Ray, the mobilization order was rescinded. (UPI Telephoto)

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Famished Ray Given 2 Breakfasts

By WILLARD YARBROUGH
News-Sentinel Staff Write.

PETROS — James Earl Ray, exhausted and near collapse after 54 hours hours of hiding out, found helping hands upon his return to Brushy Mountain State Prison before dawn today.

"We sent him two trays of breakfast food," steward Lawrence Langley told the writer. "He consumed sausage, ham, eggs, fried apples, biscuits and gravy. He drank three cartons of milk and said he had eaten nothing since he escaped over the prison wall around 7:30 p.m. last Friday." Wild berries in the surrounding mountains are not yet ripe.

Soaking wet from an overnight thundershower, the nearly starved Ray was helped from a wooded vale in his cover of leaves to a crusier near Rosedale Elementary School in New River, six miles from the prison. He surrendered meekly, surrounded by four men and two Bloodhounds with a barely audible "OK" and then raised his hands in surrender from his blanket of leaves.

CAPTORS FOUND $80 in cash on him at the scene and at a more thorough frisking back at the prison found more than $100 secreted in his clothing. He was unarmed when captured, at 2 this morning after a three-mile three-hour chase ahead of yelping hounds, prison officials said.

State Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson said Ray would remain in state custody at this maximum security lockup in a cell by himself, and new of no request to transfer him to a Federal facility.

By early afternoon, the net tightened at an area near where Ray was captured and where officials believed that Douglas Shelton, last of the seven escapees, was hiding.

"It may take several hours to get Shelton," Warden Stonney Lane told Commisioner Henderson and Safety Commissoner Joel Plummer at a belated breakfast at the warden's residence here:

HENDERSON SAID he was more convinced than ever that there was no outside plot to help Ray escape from Brushy Mountain and he had no reason to believe at this time the escape here involved any state guards or personnel. He said, however, that a thorough investigation had already been launched and that everybody involved in prison duties would be questioned.

First reports here were that prison guards Sammy Chapman and John NewBerry, each handling a leashed Bloodhound came upon Ray buried in the leaves with only his arms and head partially exposed. They first thought he was dead. Guard David Heidel trained a shotgun on the prostate Ray. The scratched and bruised Ray but had nothing further to sat was helped to his feet but had nothing further to say.

LANE DESCRIBED the dramatic last minutes of the chase: "When the dogs picked up the scent, we did not know it was James Earl Ray. The dogs took that particular subject down to the river, across the river which is very shallow on the west bank and then down the west bank something like 500 to 750 yards. From there he turned into a wooded area heavily thicketed, went through that, and by this time he's climbing.

"He went across the log road, went back into a heavily wooded area, came out at a power line, crossed the power lines and then into more clear wooded area . . . By the time they (the searchers) hit the log road . . . they had a hot track, they could hear the subject in front of them. When they got to the power lines and were crossing the woods again, they gave me the same report.

"THE NEXT REPORT I had is they had the subject in custody.

Commissoner Henderson set the record straight on how the prisoners scaled the compound wall. They placed the makeshift pipe ladder at the northeast corner of the wall — just beyond the electrified fence — and went over the top. On the other side it was just a step to the ground because erosion of the mountainside has filled in next to the outside wall. The 2300-volt electric

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUN 22 1977

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE A 1

Date: 6/13/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title:
JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC -
ESCAPE
Character:
or
Classification: KX 88-7223 - 165
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

SEARCHED ... INDEXED ... SERIALIZED ... FILED ... b6 b7C

JUN 22 1977

FBI-KNOXVILLE

E4

"THE DOGS ARE worn out. And the terrain is rough. But Shelton should be in custody in a few hours."

A similar prediction was made late Sunday night and made good by Ray's capture

As for Ray, Commissioner Henderson said, "He is a state prisoner. He is in my jurisdiction. He is safer here than he would be at the main penitentiary in Nashville.

"An inmate went over the wall there (Nashville), boarded a street bus and deposited 25 cents. And rode away. The bus driver didn't pay any attention to ~~the man's~~ striped unifrom. We have no plans to turn Ray over to anyone."

Ray's Captors

These are the dog handlers who actually captured James Earl Ray about 2 a.m. today, some eight miles from Brushy Mountain State Prison in the New River community. Sonny Joe Chapman, second from the left (with a light attached to his cap), was the man in charge of the group. His main assistant was Johnny Newberry, fourth from left, looking at Chapman. Others in the group were Mark Goddard, Larry Harris, Gilman Rowe and David Heidel. (N-S Photo by Bob Barrett)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

State Asked Ray Be Held In Jail Here

By PORTER BINKS

James Earl Ray almost was housed here instead of Brushy Mountain State Prison.

County police confirmed Tuesday that in mid-April state corrections department officials asked that the convicted killer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. be placed in the Hamilton County Jail.

"We told them no," said Police Chief Luther Mowery.

Ray was the object of a massive manhunt for two days following his escape from Brushy Mountain Prison in Petros, Tenn., with six other inmates last Friday.

"Charles Bass, the assistant corrections commissioner in charge of adult institutions, was on an inspection visit here with his assistant in early April," said Mowery.

"He said this jail was more secure than anything the state had," the chief said.

However, even though Sheriff Jerry Pitts has been exploring the possibility of housing state prisoners here, Mowery said the incarceration of Ray here "would not fit in our local guidelines whereby we house local offenders here to serve their time locally."

Mowery said the architect of the jail said it is the second most secure of its type in the country, preceded only by a jail in Denver.

Mowery said that Ray's presence here would have a disquieting effect on jail operations.

The jail is equipped with maximum security facilities that the police chief says no one can get out of.

"It's on the sixth floor in the east wing. For a person to get out, he would have to open the electronically controlled door to his cell, then he would have to get out of a second electronically controlled door and he'd be in a corridor where there is a third door.

"It would take 3,700 hacksaw blades to make one cut in the bars and the screen over the glass can't be cut. In addition, we have movement sensors all over the building and the cameras."

Still a Question

Whether Ray would or could be kept under maximum security conditions is still a question, however.

In 1970, Ray petitioned the federal courts to allow him more freedom in prison and, in 1971, the state was ordered to treat Ray no differently than any other inmate confined for murder.

Gov. Blanton said that order hampered the state's effort to watch Ray as closely as the state felt he should be watched.

Ray's weekend break from "Old Brushy," as it is known to most who live near the prison, was his second escape and his 17th attempt since he began spending his life behind bars.

Ray and his cellmate Earl Hill Jr. are once again being housed in the same cell in the prison's "D" cellblock maximum security building behind the main prison.

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

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATTANOOGA, TENN.

PAGE 1

Date: 6/15/77
Edition: 3 Star
Author:
Editor: MARTIN S. OCHS
Title: JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC &
ESCAPE
Character:
or
Classification: KX 88-7223-166
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ____ INDEXED ____
SERIALIZED ☐ FILED ☐
JUN 22 1977
FBI-KNOXVILLE
#4

b6
b7C

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUN 22 1977

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (Attn: TRAINING DIV.) DATE: 6/23/77
UNIT CHIEF [redacted] b6 b7C

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE (1-350)

SUBJECT: SWAT TEAM OPERATIONS
KNOXVILLE DIVISION

As the Bureau has noted, the Knoxville Office within the past two years has on a number of occasions become involved in man-hunt situations in remote mountainous areas of the division, necessitating the use of special equipment and additional SWAT Teams from surrounding Divisions. Many of the operations have been extremely complex and conducted under very arduous conditions.

The following cases are being cited as an example:

[redacted] aka - FUGITIVE b6 b7C
TEN MOST WANTED
OO: Knoxville
KX FILE: 88-6514
BU FILE: 88-66281

In August 1975, 30 agents, 10 each from Knoxville, Memphis and Louisville Divisions, including three SWAT Teams, conducted investigation for one week in Fentress County, Tennessee, Memphis Division, involving terrain searches of remote mountainous areas and caves, utilizing 4-wheel drive vehicles, repelling techniques and aerial observations.

[redacted] - FUGITIVE; b6 b7C
ET AL
BR
OO: Knoxville
KX FILE: 91-5598
BU FILE: 91-60162

2 - Bureau
5 - Knoxville (1 - 1-350)
(1 - 88-6514)
(1 - 88-7223)
(1 - 88-6945)

88-7223-171

SEARCHED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted]
INDEXED [redacted]
FILED [redacted]

[redacted] (7)

5010-110

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

KX 1-350

Subject [redacted] and an accomplice, armed with handguns and an M-16 automatic rifle, robbed the bank in Tazewell, Tennessee, and fired 16 rounds in the bank. They abandoned their getaway car at a roadblock and fled into the woods. Approximately 30 agents, including two SWAT Teams, conducted cross-country searches, roving patrols, manned roadblocks which resulted in the apprehension of one of the bank robbers, and the arrest of three other subjects who had come into the search area in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue the fugities. This was an around-the-clock operation lasting three days in which aircraft and dogs were also employed. b6 b7C

[redacted], aka - FUGITIVE
UFAP - MURDER
KX FILE: 88-6945
BU FILE: 88-72240

Subject, after murdering his entire family in Virginia, fled and abandoned his automobile in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park near Gatlinburg, Tennessee. SWAT Teams, dogs, aircraft and helicopters employed in cross-country terrain searches, looking for the subject or his body in very rugged, remote, snake-infested mountains. This operation lasted approximately one week and taxed search parties to the point of exhaustion and resulted in one agent suffering an attack of hypo-thermia.

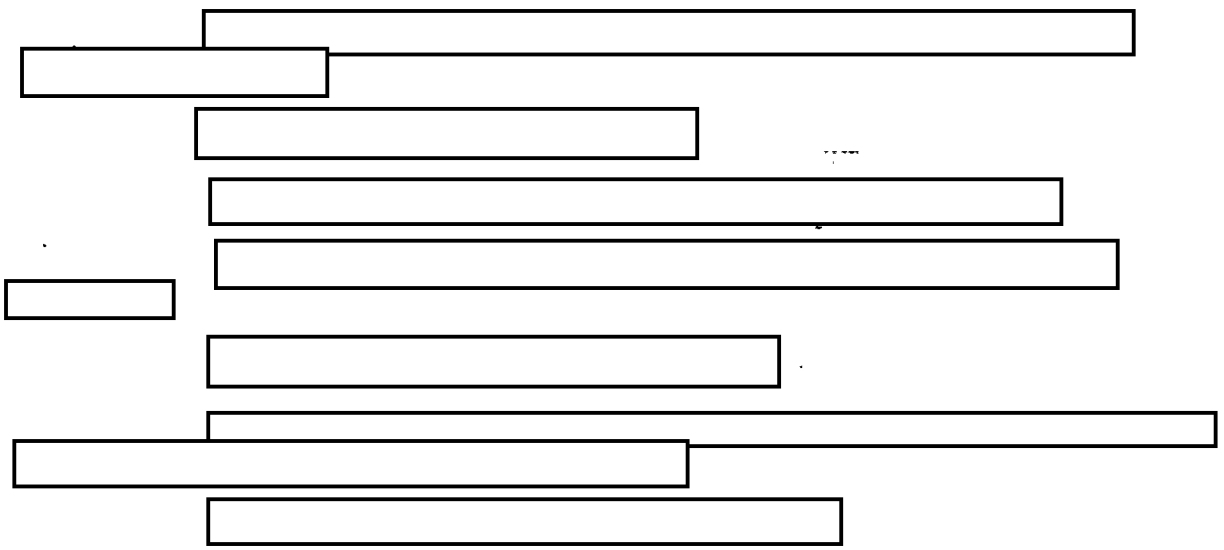
JAMES EARL RAY
TOP TEN FUGITIVE - CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC
KX FILE: 88-7223

RAY and six other convicts went over the wall at the State Penitentiary, Petros, Tennessee, Knoxville Division, and fled into the mountains surrounding the prison. SWAT Teams from Knoxville, Atlanta, Memphis, and Louisville utilized, as well as dogs and aircraft. Cross-country terrain searches conducted, roadblocks and roving patrols established around-the-clock under most trying conditions of weather and mountainous terrain. All subjects taken into custody, operation lasted four days.

KX 1-350

Analysis of SWAT Team equipment, as a result of our experience in these operations, shows the following items are needed and necessary for the 15 SWAT Team members in this division:

b7E



The Training Division is requested to advise if the above items can be expeditiously furnished to Knoxville from present Bureau inventories.

DIRECTOR, FBI

June 23, 1977

SAC, BALTIMORE (88-13890) RUC

JAMES EARL RAY, aka-FUGITIVE;
TEN MOST WANTED
CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT UFAC
OO: KNOXVILLE

Re Wanted Flyer 500.

Enclosed for the Bureau and Knoxville are two copies each of ten photographs of Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee. Also enclosed for Knoxville are the original negative of instant photographs.

Per authorization of SAC, Knoxville, photographs of the Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, were taken by SA [redacted] in a Bureau aircraft on June 12, 1977. These photographs are being submitted to the Bureau and Knoxville for assistance in compiling a major case write-up and to provide planning material for future actions at the prison facility. b6 b7C

It is requested that one set of photographs designated for the Bureau be made available to the Selective Operations Unit, CID, Attention: Bureau Aircraft Operations.

2-Bureau (Enc. 20)
2-Knoxville (88-7223) (Enc. 20 [redacted]
1-Baltimore
[redacted]
(5)

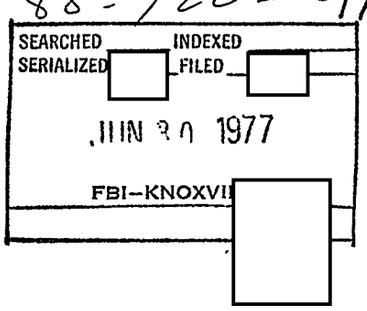
b6
b7C

88-7223-172

SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE

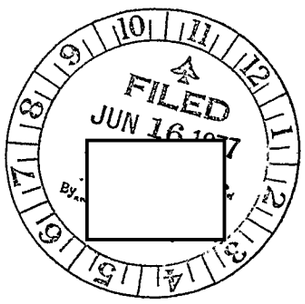
Since no need for a major case write-up

88-1223-173



b6
b7C

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NORTHERN DIVISION



b6
b7C

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
v.) COMPLAINT NO. 8/0856
)
JAMES EARL RAY, ET AL)

ORDER

Upon motion of the United States Attorney, and with the approval of the Attorney General of the United States, it is ORDERED that the Complaint in this case be and the same is hereby dismissed without prejudice.

Enter:

6/15/77 S/ James R. Miller Jr
United States District Judge

Approved:

JOHN L. BOWERS, JR.
United States Attorney

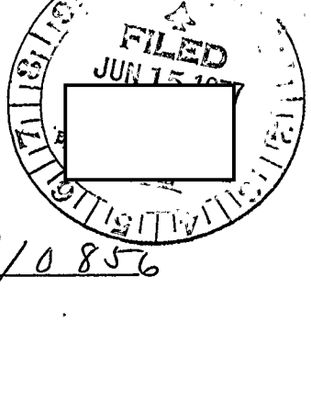
By: S/ Edward E. Wilson
EDWARD E. WILSON
Assistant United States Attorney

ATTEST: A true copy
Certified this 6-16-77

Clerk

b6
b7C

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NORTHERN DIVISION



b6
b7C

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
v.) COMPLAINT NO. B/0856
)
JAMES EARL RAY, ET AL 88-7223)
)

MOTION

Comes the United States of America, by and through John L. Bowers, Jr., United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and pursuant to Rule 48(a), Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, moves the Court to dismiss the Complaint in this case without prejudice.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN L. BOWERS, JR.
United States Attorney

By: S/ Edward E. Wilson
EDWARD E. WILSON
Assistant United States Attorney

ATTEST: A true copy
Certified this 6-16-77

[redacted] Dep. Clerk

b6
b7C

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE
NORTHERN DIVISION

[redacted] b6 b7C

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)
)
v.) COMPLAINT NO. 8/0-856
)
JAMES EARL RAY, ET AL)

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF TENNESSEE

COUNTY OF KNOX

Comes the undersigned affiant, after being duly sworn, and deposes as follows:

1. He is the Assistant United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee in charge of the prosecution of the Complaint filed in the captioned cause.

2. Approval from the Attorney General of the United States for the dismissal of the Complaint in this cause was received June 14, 1977.

s/ Edward E. Wilson b6 b7C
EDWARD E. WILSON
Assistant United States Attorney

Sworn to and subscribed before
me this 15th day of June, 1977.

[redacted]
United States District Court
Eastern District of Tennessee

By: s/ [redacted]

ATTEST: A true copy
Certified this 6-16-77
[illegible] D. SAULPAW, JR.
By Dorothy Parker Dep. Clerk

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Restraint of Ray Transfer Denied

NASHVILLE (AP) — A state judge has refused to restrain Tennessee officials from trying to have James Earl Ray moved to a Federal prison.

Chancellor Robert Brandt said yesterday that Ray, serving 99 years for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., failed to show where he would "suffer immediate and irreparable injury" by being transferred from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary.

Gov. Ray Blanton called for Ray's transfer after he escaped from the maximum security East Tennessee prison with six other inmates on June 10. State officials are awaiting a Justice Department decision on the transfer request.

Brandt set a Thursday hearing on Ray's proposal for a temporary injuction against the proposed transfer. The judge's action yesterday was a denial for a restraining order.

Jack Kershaw, Ray's attorney, filed the suits, saying his client's rights would be violated without a hearing.

Kershaw also alleged in the suit that transferring Ray would deny him effective legal counsel, and that Ray feels such a move would put his life in danger.

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC -
ESCAPE, OO:KX

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUN 29 1977

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 7

Date: 6/29/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
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Classification: KX 88-7223-174
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

Being Investigated

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SERIALIZED FILED

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b7C

JUN 29 1977

FBI-KNOX

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Bell Tells Blanton He'll Decide This Week on Ray Transfer

By WENDELL POTTER
News-Sentinel Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON — U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell has told Tennessee Gov. Ray Blanton he will decide later this week whether convicted assassin James Earl Ray should be transferred from Brushy Mountain Prison at Petros to a Federal prison.

Blanton asked Bell to authorize the transfer shortly after Ray's escape and capture two weeks ago. The Governor has contended that since the Federal Government is still investigating Ray's involvement in the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Ray should be confined in a Federal rather than a state penitentiary.

The Governor said yesterday Bell told him during a telephone conversation that he wanted to consult with some members of Congress, presumably members of the House Committee on Assassinations, before making a final decision on transferring Ray.

The Governor once again expressed his displeasure with a 1971 Federal court order that instructed Tennessee prison officials to treat Ray as any other prison.

Blanton said that if the state had not been required to follow that court order, Ray would have been kept in "administrative detention" and would not have had the opportunity to plan the escape.

"IF THEY (the Federal courts) let us alone, Ray will be incarcerated and he won't escape again," the Governor said.

On another matter, the Governor said the state is continuing to investigate a fire earlier this week that killed 42 persons at the Maury County Jail in Columbia, Tenn.

"If the preliminary investigation proves that cyanide fumes (from a burning foam rubber padded cell) killed those people in a matter of four minutes, we most assuredly want to change that," the Governor said, referring to materials used in jail cell mattresses and padding.

Other institutions, such as state mental hospitals, are also being checked.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE A7

Date: 6/29/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLE
Title:

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC -
ESCAPE
00:KX

Character:
or
Classification: KX 88-7223-175
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

Being Investigated

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ORIGINAL SENT TO HQ
ON JUL 1 1977

JUL 1 1977

FBI-KNOXVI

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray's Brother Took Pictures Around Prison, Report Says

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — James Earl Ray's brother says he took pictures around Brushy Mountain State Prison and sent them to Ray before his June 10 escape, The Kansas City Star reported yesterday.

"It wasn't no secret of me taking pictures," The Star quoted Jerry Ray as saying. "I even taken pictures in front of the guards. I've even sent pictures in to him."

James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., eluded a massive manhunt for 54 hours after climbing the wall with six fellow inmates at Brushy Mountain.

Jerry Ray visited his brother at Brushy Mountain several times and was in the area four days before the escape.

"Every time I go down there, I take pictures," he said. "Highway 116 runs right by the prison. And he tried to get me to draw a little map. Well, I was on 116 taking pictures, all around there, you know, the prison and Brushy Mountain, and taking a lot of pictures. And so them guards came by there all the time and I didn't do anything differently, and I didn't give them a thought."

Jerry Ray was asked if his brother asked him to describe the terrain.

"I don't remember him talking too much about that," Jerry Ray said.

In Nashville, Charles Bass, Tennessee assistant correction commissioner, said he knows of no way Jerry Ray could have slipped pictures to his brother.

Officials Hope To Keep Ray's Hearing Quiet

WARTBURG (AP) — James Earl Ray will be brought to court for a preliminary hearing within the next month on an escape charge in what prison officials hope will be a quiet, unnoticed event.

Judge John M. Davis of Morgan County Sessions Court set the hearing date yesterday but, at the request of prison officials, instructed court officers not to release it.

The officials are concerned about protecting Ray from harm during the 12-mile trip from Brushy Mountain State Prison to the county courthouse and back.

Ray had said he waived the preliminary hearing, but Sessions Court Clerk Russell Scott said yesterday he only asked for a continuance.

Six other inmates who fled with Ray over the prison's wall on June 10 appeared at a preliminary hearing yesterday and were bound over to the July 25 Morgan County grand jury on charges of escape.

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC-
ESCAPE

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUL 1 1977

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL
KNOXVILLE, TENN.
PAGE 7

Date: 6/30/77
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Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title:

Character:
or
Classification: KX 88-7223-176
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

Being Investigated

b6
b7C

JUL 1 1977

FBI-KNOXVILLE

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Ray To Waive Preliminary Hearing

PETROS (AP) — James Earl Ray has notified the county clerk that he will waive a preliminary hearing on criminal escape charges in connection with his breakout from Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary more than two weeks ago.

Prison records officer John Reddick said the convicted assassin of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and the six inmates who escaped with him had been arraigned inside the prison and were not likely to appear before a judge until July 29, when Morgan County Criminal Court convenes.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE A 7

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Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
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or
Classification: KX 88-7223-177
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC -
ESCAPE
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Being Investigated b6 b7C

JUL 1 1977

FBI-KNOXVILLE

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUL - 1 1977

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 7

Date: 6/28

Edition: HOME

Author:

Editor: RALPH L. MILLER

Title:

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC -
ESCAPE

Character:

or

Classification: KX 88-7223-1988

Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

Being Investigated

ORIGINAL SENT BY
ON JUL -1 1977

FILED b6 b7C

JUL 1 1977

FBI-KNOXVILLE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray waives preliminary

By The Associated Press

PETROS — James Earl Ray says he is waiving a preliminary hearing on a criminal charge of escape in connection with his June 10 breakout from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary near Petros.

"After consultation with the attorney representing me, it has been decided to waive said preliminary hearing," Ray wrote in a letter dated June 26 to the Morgan County Circuit Court Clerk's office in Wartburg.

Ray said he understands the preliminary hearing is to be held July 1. Nevertheless, officials in the prison's records office said they don't know of any hearing being set.

John Reddick, in charge of the prison's records office, said Ray and the six other inmates who escaped with him 2½ weeks ago are not likely to appear before a judge until at least July 29, when the Morgan County Criminal Court convenes.

On Monday, a Nashville chancellor refused a request by Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, to immediately restrain Tennessee officials from trying to get Ray transferred to a federal prison. A full hearing on the request was to be conducted Thursday.

Gov. Ray Blanton asked federal officials to take custody of Ray the same day he was recaptured. That request is now being considered by U.S. Atty. Griffen Bell.

JAMES EARL RAY _ FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE - UFAC
- ESCAPE

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUL - 1 1977

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE 13

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Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
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or
Classification: KX 88-7223-179
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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JUL 1 1977

FBI-KNOXVILLE

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

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THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 7

Date: 6/30/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title:

JAMES EARL RAY - FUGITIVE
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE UFAC - ESCAPE

Character:
or
Classification: KX 88-72231
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON JUL - 6 1977

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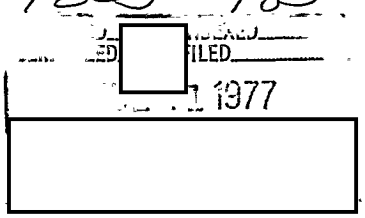
JUL 6 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE

88-7223-183



b6
b7C

[redacted] b6 b7C

JAMES EARL RAY
UFAP - MURDER
SL 88-10663

On 6/15/77 [redacted] provided the following information to SA [redacted] b6 b7C b7D b7E

He stated that he was in Missouri State [redacted]

Source stated that [redacted] told him, after accounts of RAY's escape became public, that RAY had not actually [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

He stated that RAY was working in the kitchen and when his shift quit at 4:30, [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Source stated that [redacted]

He also advised that he thought there had likely [redacted] b6 b7C b7D

Source stated that prison officials did not [redacted]

[redacted] b6 b7C

[redacted]

b6
b7C
b7D

Source further advised that [redacted] told him that [redacted]

Source stated he did not know RAY but did know RAY [redacted] who source described as being a "sharp thief".

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, KNOXVILLE (88-7223) DATE: 7/6/77

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

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka,
ET AL
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE
UFAC - ESCAPE
00:KX

Re Knoxville airtel to Bureau, ET AL, 6/14/77.

Enclosed for Knoxville and Kansas City are two copies each of an investigative insert with information from [redacted] for whatever value it may be. b7D b7E

ARMED AND DANGEROUS; ESCAPE RISK; NARCOTICS

(2) - Knoxville (Encs. 2)
2 - Kansas City (Encs. 2)
(1 - 88-NEW)
(1 - 44-760)
1 - St. Louis
[redacted]
(5)

rec'd 2

88-7223-184

[redacted] b6 b7C

1977

[redacted]

info

5010-110

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

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Davidson Court May Go to Petros To Get Testimony From Ray

By MARK MCNEELY
News-Sentinel Nashville Correspondent

NASHVILLE — The court may go to Petros in James Earl Ray's lawsuit to prevent his transfer to a Federal prison from Brushy Mountain State Prison at Petros.

Davidson County Chancellor Robert Brandt Friday took under advisement a motion by Ray's attorney, Jack Kershaw, that the convicted killer of Martin Luther King Jr. be allowed to testify in person in Brandt's court. He also asked Kershaw if he objected to taking the hearing to Petros. Kershaw said he had not discussed it with his client, but had no immediate objections.

A preliminary hearing in Wartburg on escape charges against Ray will be held next Friday. Ray, who escaped from Brushy with six others on June 10 and remained at large for three days, is scheduled to appear at the hearing which Morgan County officials earlier said would be held at an undisclosed date before July 25.

AFTER THE UNSUCCESSFUL escape, Gov. Ray Blanton asked U.S. Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell to take custody of Ray, but Ray's attorney has resisted the move through the Chancery Court suit here claiming Ray's safety would be jeopardized by the transfer.

The state has argued that no hearing is needed and prisoners have no constitutional right to determine which penal facility they go to. Brandt Friday set a hearing at 9 a.m. next Wednesday for arguments in the state's motion to dismiss the suit.

The chancellor also took under advisement Kershaw's motion that Gov. Ray Blanton, State Corrections Commissioner C. Murray Henderson, and Brushy Warden Stonney Lane be required to testify in person at the trial.

Kershaw said Ray had been threatened by Federal agents before and would be threatened again if moved to a Federal prison.

"Very much of the outcome of this case will depend on the testimony of Ray," he said, explaining the need for Ray's presence. His bearing manner and demeanor will be very important in this hearing"

OF FEDERAL PRISONS, Kershaw said: "Agents of the FBI have ready access (to prisoners) and this will be a real source of danger to the prisoner (Ray). If the FBI, as the prisoner will allege and testify to, did threaten and make statements compelling a plea of guilty when Ray was first sentenced, then we have a serious situation."

Asst. State Atty. Gen. Joe Haynes, arguing against bringing Ray to Nashville, said Corrections Department officals have estimated that it would cost in excess of $500 per day, that Ray had a record of escapes, and that there had been a "substantial amount of concern over his personal safety."

He said the state would be agreeable to a filmed deposition from Ray as an "appropriate method of observing his demeanor" and added that it was willing to consider any other alternative.

Brandt asked how much notice would be required to bring Ray to Nashville if he decided to grant Kershaw's motion. Kershaw said he had discussed the matter with corrections officials, and said it would create "no great problem."

KERSHAW, HOWEVER, said Brushy officials did say Ray had developed a "paranoid fear of the FBI."

"We'll try to keep the FBI outside the courtroom if he's here," Brandt said.

Then Brandt asked about the possibility of holding the hearing at the prison.

"I haven't talked to him about it," Kershaw said. "I see no objections. Personal confrontation is what is important."

Brandt told Kershaw he would re-

ORIGINAL SENT. BU. ON 7-13-77 JC

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 3

Date: 7/9/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title: James Earl Ray, aka ETAL
Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-186
~~Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE~~

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SERIALIZED FILED
JUL 13 1977
FBI — KNOXVILLE

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b7C

serve a decision on the motion until Kershaw provided four items; a signed oath by Ray stating that an affadavit detailing the FBI threat is true, a statement that he does not object to the transfer, a statement that he desires to be brought to the hearing, and a summary of Ray's proposed testimony. The document is due by July 18.

RAY IS SERVING a 99-year prison term after pleading guilty to the 1968 assassination of the Civil Rights leader in Memphis.

Since his conviction, however, Ray has charged that he was coerced into pleading guilty and was a scapegoat for a larger conspiracy.

Concening the motion to produce Blanton, Henderson and Lane, Kershaw said "Blanton has made bitter remarks regarding this particular escapee. Seven escaped from Brushy Mountain. The Governor has singled out only one of them."

Blanton, he said, should be willing to testify in court on the same subject of many public statements since the escape.

Haynes, meanwhile, argued that the officials are simply servants of the state and the lawsuit basically is filed against the state, not the three men as individuals.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-10-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray hearing secret, cohorts bound

By The Associated Press

WARTBURG — At the request of prison officials, a judge Wednesday set an undisclosed date 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 Wednesday and were bound over to the Morgan County grand jury on escape charges.

Ray, also scheduled to appear Wednesday, 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.

In addition to Ray, three of the escapees are now serving terms for first-degree murder. The other three are serving a total of 99 years.

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.)

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE A-3

Date: 6/30/77

Edition: CITY

Author:

Editor: W. F. CHILDRI

Title: James Earl Ray, aka ETAL

Character:

or

Classification: 88-7223 -187

Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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JUL 15 1977

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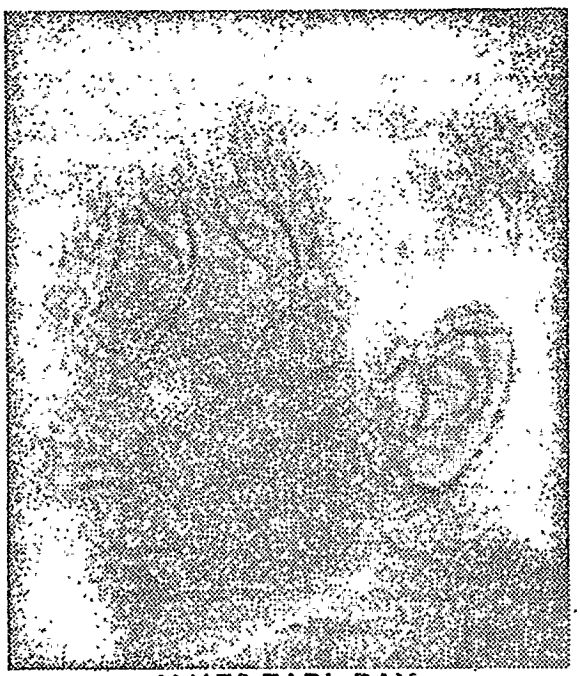

JAMES EARL RAY

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Took Brushy photos, Ray's brother claims

By The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY — The Kansas City Star quoted a brother of James Earl Ray as saying he took pictures around Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee and sent them to the confessed assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King before Ray escaped briefly.

"It wasn't no secret of me taking pictures," the Star quoted Jerry Ray. "I even taken pictures in front of the guards. I've even sent pictures in to him."

The Star's J. J. Maloney, who is a specialist in handling crime news and covered the Tennessee manhunt, talked by telephone to Jerry Ray at the home of a sister in St. Louis. The quotes were published Wednesday in a copyright story.

Jerry Ray visited his brother at Brushy Mountain several times and was in the area four days before the escape.

"Every time I go down there, I take pictures," he said.

"Highway 116 runs right by the prison. And he tried to get me to draw a little map. Well, I was on 116 taking pictures, all around there, you know, the prison and Brushy Mountains, and taking a lot of pictures. And so them guards came by there all the time and I didn't do anything differently, and I didn't give them a thought."

Jerry Ray was asked if James Earl Ray asked him to describe the terrain.

"I don't remember him talking too much about that," Jerry Ray said.

He acknowledged he took pictures of the approach to the prison as well as from the highway.

While the hunt for James Earl Ray still was in progress, the Tennessee attorney general said authorities were told a relative was seen on property adjacent to the prison; and Maloney reported there has been speculation that Jerry Ray might have in some way helped his brother.

"I can understand that," Jerry Ray said, "and plus about me being down there four days before he escaped."

One of James Earl Ray's brothers visited him at the Missouri Penitentiary on the day before he escaped there in 1967. Jerry Ray and John Larry Ray both used the same visiting pass, and it was never established which one was there. John Larry Ray is serving an 18-year federal sentence for bank robbery.

Jerry Ray was working at the Twin Orchard Country Club near Chicago as a night watchman, and he said the manager woke him up to tell him about the escape at Brushy Mountain.

He said he had to take a leave of absence from the club because FBI agents were all over the place.

"Right here at my sister's house they camped out across the street," he said.

"I'll stay at my sister's house a few more days. Then I'm gonna go down south. Have to wait a few more days before I can see Jimmy. I got a Polaroid now — so I can make instant pictures."

ORIGINAL SENT BU ON 7-13-77

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE A-3

Date: 6-30-77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title: James Earl Ray, aka ETAL
Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223 - 188
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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JUL 13 1977

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(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

Says FBI Will Kill Him

Ray Fears Federal Prison Move

NASHVILLE (AP)—James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., fears he will be killed by the FBI if he is transferred to a federal prison, his lawyer said Wednesday.

Jack Kershaw, seeking to block Ray's transfer from Tennessee, outlined Ray's fears to Chancellor Robert S. Brandt at a hearing on the state's request to dismiss Kershaw's petition and clear the way for the transfer.

After Ray escaped from prison last month and was recaptured, the state asked the federal government to take over Ray's custody for the remainder of his 99-year sentence.

After the hearing, the Nashville lawyer told reporters Ray will plead innocent to the escape charges at a hearing Friday in Wartburg, Tenn. Conviction on the escape charge could add up to five years to Ray's sentence.

Kershaw claimed a transfer to a federal prison would violate Ray's constitutional rights, deny him his right to confer with Kershaw and would place Ray in danger.

The judge said he will not rule before Monday, when an affidavit is due from Ray outlining what Kershaw said is Ray's belief that his life is in danger, from the FBI and others, should he be transferred.

Ray broke out of Brushy Mountain State Prison in East Tennessee with six other inmates June 10. He was recaptured after 54½ hours of freedom, and all seven were captured within four days.

At the hearing here, Kershaw's assertion that Ray felt the FBI would harm him drew most of Judge Brandt's attention.

There was this exchange: Brandt: "Why will it be be easier to cut his throat or poison him or whatever they plan to do to him?"

Kershaw: "The warden at the state prison has absolute authority over that prison."

Brandt: "Are you saying that the federal warden will let the FBI in a federal prison kill him?"

Kershaw: "Yes."

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

THE CHATTANOOGA TIMES
CHATT., TENN.

PAGE 2

Date: 7/14/77
Edition: 3 STAR
Author:
Editor: NORMAN BRADLEY
Title: James Earl Ray
Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-189
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON 7-15-77

SEARCHED: INDEXED
SERIALIZED: FILED
JUL 15 1977
FBI-KNOXVILLE

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray fears FBI harm in prison, lawyer says

By The Associated Press

NASHVILLE — James Earl Ray, who will plead innocent to charges stemming from his widely publicized prison break last month, fears harm from the FBI if he is transferred to a federal prison, Ray's lawyer said Wednesday.

Jack Kershaw, seeking to block Ray's transfer from Tennessee, outlined Ray's fear of harm from the FBI to Chancellor Robert S. Brandt, at a hearing on the state's request to dismiss Kershaw's petition and clear the way for the transfer.

After the hearing, the Nashville lawyer told reporters Ray will plead innocent to the escape charges at a hearing Friday in Wartburg, Tenn.

Conviction on the escape charge could add up to five years to Ray's 99-year sentence for the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights leader.

Kershaw claimed a transfer to a federal prison would violate Ray's constitutional rights, deny him his right to confer with Kershaw and would place Ray in danger.

The judge said he will not rule before Monday, when an affidavit is due from Ray outlining what Kershaw said is Ray's belief that his life is in danger, from the FBI and others, should he be transferred.

Gov. Ray Blanton asked the Justice Department to take charge of Ray following the escape. The federal government has been awaiting rulings on Kershaw's efforts to block any transfer before announcing any position in the matter.

At the hearing here, Kershaw's assertion that Ray felt the FBI would harm him drew most of Judge Brandt's attention.

There was this exchange:

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

Kershaw: "The warden at the state prison has absolute authority over that prison."

Brandt: "Are you saying that the federal warden will let the FBI in a federal prison to kill him?"

Kershaw: "Yes."

Brandt: "The federal prisons are not run by the FBI, they are run by the federal Bureau of Prisons...

"Does your client (Ray) have any FBI agents in particular in mind who are out to get him or is it just the FBI in general?"

Kershaw: "He will name Robert Jensen, who was in Memphis at the time of his arrest." He said Jensen visited Ray at the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville soon after his guilty plea in King's death in March 1969.

Brandt: "Did Jensen try to kill him or anything?"

Kershaw: "No. He just said that if he didn't cooperate, members of his family would be down to join him in prison."

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE 9-1

Date: 7/14/77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title: JAMES EARL RAY
Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-190
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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JUL 19 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE
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ORIGINAL SENT TO
ON 7-19-77

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Attorneys Say Escape May Help Ray in Hearing

PETROS (UPI) — Attorneys for James Earl Ray Friday said his chances for a full hearing on the Martin Luther King assassination may have been greatly aided by the June 10 breakout at Brushy Mountain State Prison.

Ray was bound by Sessions Court Judge John M. Davis to the Morgan County grand jury under $5000 bond for his part in the escape after a hearing which lasted about an hour and a half. Ray pleaded innocent to the escape charge.

Mark Lane, a New York attorney who has written extensively about conspiracy theories in the death of President John F. Kennedy and King, said that if Ray is tried on the escape charge later this month the whole question of his confinement at Memphis in 1969 will be raised.

Lane said if for some reason, Morgan County authorities decide not to prosecute the escape charge, suit will be filed in Federal court in Memphis raising the same issues.

Lane joined Jack Kershaw of Nashville in representing Ray during the preliminary hearing. He said he had been asked by Kershaw to assist Ray following the escape.

Kershaw said Ray probably did not plan the escape with any idea of using it as a means of getting a new trial. He and Lane, in researching the law, came up with cases supporting the contention that Tennessee will have to prove that Ray was legally confined in order to show that he illegally escaped from the maximum security facility.

Lane also said that if the escape charges are not prosecuted "the issue of coercion in Ray's original guilty plea will be raised before the Federal courts. That issue has not been decided by the U.S. Supreme Court.

"Ray was treated worse than a Nazi war criminal," Lane said.

Ray told the court that he originally pleaded guilty to the King assassination because of threats against his family and because his attorney told him he had a "99 per cent chance of execution and a 100 per cent chance of conviction."

Since that time Ray has gone to Federal and state courts in an attempt to get a new trial.

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 3

Date: 7/16/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title:
James Earl Ray
Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-191
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

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JUL 19 1977

FBI - KNOXVILLE

#4

ORIGINAL SENT BY
ON 7-19-77

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray pleads innocent but is bound to jury

By MATT YANCEY
Associated Press Writer

PETROS

James Earl Ray was bound over to a grand jury Friday on a state charge of escape in connection with his June 10 breakout from Brushy Mountain State Prison.

The convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. pleaded innocent to the escape charge at a hearing inside the prison, saying his inability to get a new trial in King's murder "played a part" in his breakout.

Ray's attorneys said the escape with six other inmates over the back wall of the prison may prove to be the best thing that has happened in their client's eight-year battle to win a new trial.

"It is now apparent that James Earl Ray was not trying to escape prison so much as he was trying to get into a courtroom, although he himself may not have realized it," said Jack Kershaw, Ray's Nashville attorney. "It looks like he may get into a courtroom now."

Ray was recaptured after about 2½ days.

Ray, serving a 99-year sentence after pleading guilty in 1969 to killing King, testified that he was pressured into entering the plea by his former attorney, Percy Foreman, and local, state and federal agents.

He told Judge John M. Davis of Morgan County General Sessions Court that he wrote the trial judge in Memphis to recant the plea the day after he was taken to the state penitentiary in Nashville in 1969.

Clean-shaven and dressed casually in a blue work shirt, Ray testified for about 10 minutes during the 1½-hour hearing, never taking his eyes away from the floor below him.

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

___ The Knoxville Journal

___ Knoxville, Tenn.

___ PAGE 8

Date: 7/16/77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title: James Earl Ray

Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223 -192
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

Being Investigated

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
JUL 19 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE

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#4

ORIGINAL SENT BU
ON 7-19-77

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : All Investigative Employees DATE: 7/15/77

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: [redacted] b6 b7C
FUGITIVE
I. O. #4748
UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID
PROSECUTION - MURDER
"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES" PROGRAM
RELEASE DATE: FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1977

THE CRIME: [redacted] is being sought in connection with the August 8, 1975, contract murder of a man in Detroit, Michigan. b6 b7C

THE CRIMINAL: [redacted], convicted in the past for robbery and conspiracy to commit robbery, has reportedly confessed to seven other homicides while in custody in Detroit, Michigan. At the time of his escape from a Michigan hospital, he had been serving a life-imprisonment sentence for aggravated robbery.

PROCESS: A Federal warrant for [redacted] was issued on June 2, 1977, at Detroit, Michigan, charging him with unlawful flight to avoid prosecution for murder.

"TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVES": [redacted] replaces James Earl Ray, who was apprehended on June 23, 1977. The list as of July 15, 1977, will be:

				b6
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	b7C
Patrick James Huston	IO #4688	Billy Dean Anderson	IO #4649	
[redacted]	[redacted]	Joseph Maurice McDonald	IO #4693	
		Raymond Luc Levasseur	IO #4733	
		[redacted]	[redacted]	

PHOTOGRAPHS, FINGERPRINTS, AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA OF ALL FUTITIVES ON THE LIST ARE ON THE REVERSE SIDE. THEY ARE ALL ARMED AND DANGEROUS. IF YOU RECEIVE ANY INFORMATION, GIVE IT AT ONCE TO YOUR SAC OR APPROPRIATE SUPERVISOR.

88-7223-193

[redacted] b6 b7C

FBI—[illegible]

5010-108

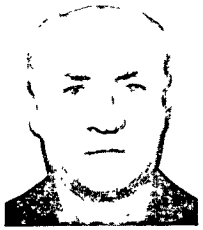
Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

FBI/DOJ

CONSIDER ALL ARMED AND DANGEROUS

The FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" Fugitives

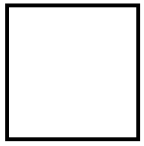
Friday p.m., July 15, 1977



JOSEPH MAURICE McDONALD, also known as: Thomas Campbell, Joseph Maurice MacDonald, Joe McDonald, Joseph Morris McDonald. 19 L 25 W IOM 14 Ref: 25 25 25 M 4 W 00I 8 12 16
NCIC: 19CI11PM1412P011PI15
W; born 7-14-17; 5'9"; 165-175 lbs; med bld; gray hair; bl eyes; fair comp; occ - lab, truck driver.
Wanted by the FBI for INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF STOLEN PROPERTY; CONSPIRACY.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4693
FBI#-863 391 B
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE

rt index

[redacted] also known as: [redacted] 12 M 10 U 000 13 S 2 U IOM
NCIC: [redacted]
B; born [redacted] 6'2"; 170 lbs; sldr bld; blk hair, may be styled in pony-tail; brn eyes; lt brn comp; may be wearing mustache and beard. occ- butcher, cook, floor waxer, hand crane opr, janitor, lab. Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL INTERSTATE FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - Murder; Armed Robbery; Atrocious Assault and Battery.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4657
FBI #[redacted] F
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE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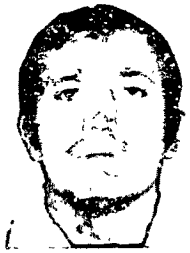
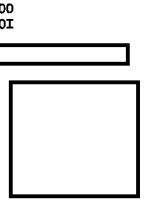


BILLY DEAN ANDERSON, also known as: Bill Dean Anderson, Billie Dean Anderson, James Forster, William David Upohurch. 14 O 14 U Ref: 14 I 22 Tt 24
NCIC: PO1414PIPIPITTTTCICI
W; born 7-12-34; 5'8"; 160-170 lbs; stky bld; brn hair; bl or grn eyes; fair comp; occ - artist, farmer, lab, mech, tree surgeon.
Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL INTERSTATE FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - Assault to Murder; Attempted Burglary.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4649
FBI#-650 125 C
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE

lt ring

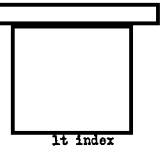
[redacted] also known as: [redacted] 16 O 14 U 000 I 22 U 00I
NCIC: [redacted]
W; born [redacted] 6'2"; 215-220 lbs; hvy bld; reddish brn hair; haz eyes; med comp; occ - barkeeper, carpenter, electrician, night club mgr, welder.
Wanted by FBI as ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONER.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4745
FBI #[redacted]
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE


lt thumb

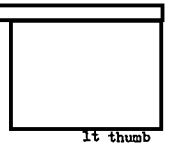
PATRICK JAMES HUSTON, also known as: Patrick Adams, "Pat." 16 O 1 U 000 M 21 U 000 13
W; born 3-5-30; 5'10"; 225 lbs; stky bld; blk hair; hazel eyes; fair comp; occ - laborer, roofer. Wanted by FBI for BANK ROBBERY; CONSPIRACY; ESCAPED FEDERAL PRISONER.
NCIC: DO161615PO1610131413
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4688
FBI#-4 734 627
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE

rt thumb

[redacted] also known as: [redacted] 8 S 9 U OIO 16 S 1 U IO0
B; born [redacted] 5'8"; 150 lbs; med bld; blk hair; brn eyes; med comp; occ - carpenter, janitor, laborer.
Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL INTERSTATE FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - Murder.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4748
FBI #[redacted] F1
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE
NCIC: [redacted]


lt index

[redacted] also known as: [redacted] 13 O 29 W 000 10 I 18 U 00I
N; born [redacted] (?); 5'7"-5'8"; 145-150 lbs; sldr bld; blk hair; brn eyes; dk comp; occ - clerk. Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION (Murder; Assault with Intent to Commit Murder).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4163
FBI#[redacted]
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE
NCIC: [redacted]


lt thumb

RAYMOND LUC LEVASSEUR, also known as: Joseph Michael Mocchi, Robert Raymond, Walter Rogers, "Animal," "Jimmy," "Melville." 17 L 9 A 00 13 Ref: 1 S 2 A IO 2
NCIC: 17AA11C01309AA10P009
W; born 10-10-46; 6'0"; 185 lbs; med bld; brn hair, long; grn eyes; dk comp; occ - forklift opr, lab, lumber mill worker. Wanted by FBI for BANK ROBBERY; UNLAWFUL INTERSTATE FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - Unlawful Possession of Weapon.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4733
FBI#-791 943 G
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE

lt ring

[redacted] also known as: [redacted]
W; born [redacted] 5'0"; 145-150 lbs; stky bld; lt brn hair, may be dyed black; haz eyes; med comp. Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL INTERSTATE FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION (Murder; Theft Of Government Property; Bank Robbery).
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4402
FBI#[redacted]
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE

NO FINGERPRINTS AVAILABLE

[redacted] also known as: [redacted] 13 M 1 T II 12 Ref: R T R M 1 T II T R R
B; born [redacted] 5'10"; 195 lbs; stky bld; blk hair; brn eyes; drk comp; occ - clerk, lab, plumber, radio opr, steam fitter. Wanted by FBI for UNLAWFUL INTERSTATE FLIGHT TO AVOID PROSECUTION - Murder.
IDENTIFICATION ORDER #-4707
FBI #[redacted] E
FBI TOP TEN FUGITIVE
NCIC: [redacted]

lt middle

FBI/DOJ

DIRECTOR, FBI 8/11/77

SAC, KNOXVILLE (88-7223) -C-

JAMES EARL RAY, aka;
ET AL
UFAC - ESCAPE;
CONSPIRACY
CO: Knoxville

Enclosed for the information of the Bureau and WFO is one copy each of three letters.

88-7223-19C

As can be seen from enclosures, [redacted] Inmate [redacted] Brushy Mountain State Prison, Petros, Tennessee, had written a letter to HARRY T. ALEXANDER, defense attorney for [redacted] who presently is on trial in Washington, D. C., for murder, kidnapping, and related offenses arising out of the armed takeover of three buildings in the District of Columbia in March, 1977. The letter from [redacted] indicates that in return for leniency for [redacted] and a transfer from Brushy Mountain State Prison for [redacted], he would furnish information pertinent to the escape of JAMES EARL RAY.

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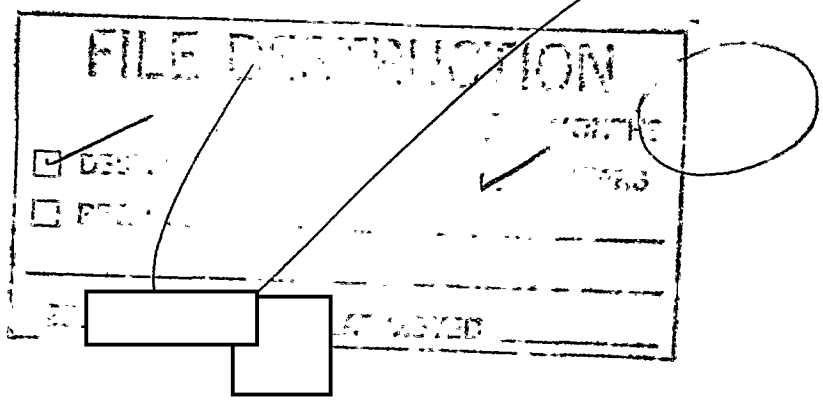
Since Federal process has been dismissed in the JAMES EARL RAY case, Knoxville believes that no further action is necessary and is, therefore, considering this matter closed. This information is being provided to the Bureau and WFO for information should inquiries regarding this matter be made at a later date.

2 - Bureau (Enc. 3)
2 - WFO (Enc. 3)
1 - Knoxville
[redacted]
(5)



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[redacted]

88-7223-194

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Warden Lane Doubts Ray's Claim to Planning Breakout

PETROS (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.

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 inteview, 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 Knoxville office, 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 Curtley. "In the brief scuffle . . . he received a slight scalp laceration, possibly from striking his head on a bench or the floor."

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

THE KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL

KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE B-9

Date: 8/10/77
Edition: HOME
Author:
Editor: RALPH L. MILLER
Title: JAMES EARL RAY, AKA; ET AL.

Character: UFAC-ESCAPE
or
Classification: 88-7223-175
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

b6
b7C

AUG 1 1977

KNOXVILLE

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray didn't plan alone on breakout: warden

By The Associated Press

PETROS — James Earl Ray's claim that he planned his daring breakout from Brushy Mountain Penitentiary by himself was disputed Tuesday 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 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 Tuesday 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.

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE 9

Date: 8/10/77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title: JAMES EARL RAY, AKA. ET AL.

Character: ULFAC - ESCAPE
or
Classification: 88-7223-196
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

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b7C

In the Playboy inteview, 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 Divison, 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 Curtley.

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

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, KNOXVILLE (88-7223) DATE: 8/17/77

FROM : SAC, BUFFALO (88-6444) (RUC)

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY, aka -
FUGITIVE (A)
TEN MOST WANTED FUGITIVE;
ET AL
UFAC - ESCAPE
CONSPIRACY
(OO: KNOXVILLE)

Re Knoxville teletype to Bureau, 6/11/77.

The following agencies with whom stops were placed on 6/12/77 regarding captioned matter were contacted on the dates indicated and requested to remove stops inasmuch as subject returned to custody:

New York State Police
[redacted]
7/7/77

United States Customs
[redacted]
7/7/77

Greyhound Bus Terminal
[redacted]
7/7/77

Trailways Terminal
[redacted]
7/7/77

Avis Car Rental
[redacted]
7/7/77

Hertz Car Rental
[redacted]
7/7/77

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b7C

88-7223-197
SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted]
SERIALIZED [redacted] FILED [redacted]
AUG [illegible] 1977
FBI—KNOXVILLE

(2) - Knoxville
1 - Buffalo
[redacted]
(3)

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

5010-108-02

BU 88-6444

American Airlines
[redacted]
7/12/77

Amtrak
[redacted]
7/12/77

Allegheny Airlines
[redacted]
7/12/77

Eastern Airlines
[redacted]
7/12/77

United Airlines
[redacted]
7/12/77

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b7C

On 8/12/77, a review of captioned case filed discloses no further investigation warranted in this matter and Buffalo Office is taking no further action.

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Ray won't sue, says U.S. court

James Earl Ray has decided not to pursue his libel suit against Playboy Magazine.

Sources in Federal Court here said a letter has been received from Ray saying he would not prosecute the $1 million action against the publication "at this time." Other details of the letter were not publicized.

The suit has never actually been filed with the clerk because all the necessary paperwork was not complete when the petition was mailed by Ray from Brushy Mountain Prison at Petros.

Ray had taken the action without the knowledge of his Nashville attorney, Jack Kershaw, who said Monday he would advise Ray not to continue the suit.

The libel action resulted from an article in the latest edition of Playboy which reported that Ray had failed a lie detector test concerning his role in the death of the civil rights leader in 1968.

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

The Knoxville Journal

Knoxville, Tenn.

PAGE B - 7

Date: 8/19/77
Edition: CITY
Author:
Editor: W. F. CHILDRESS
Title: James Earl Ray
Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-198
Submitting Office: KNOXVILLE

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED ☐ INDEXED ☐ b6 b7C
SERIALIZED ☐ FILED ☐

AUG 22 1977

FBI—KNOXVILLE

#4

ORIGINAL SENT TO BU ☐
ON 8-22-77

SAC, KANSAS CITY 8-29-77

SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775)(RUC)

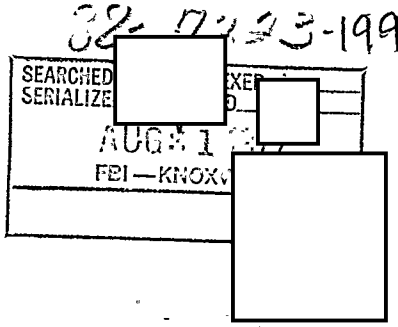
JAMES EARL RAY;
"MURKIN"
CIVIL RIGHTS

Re Newark letter to Bureau, 8-25-77.

Enclosed for Kansas City Division is one copy of above referenced communication, including enclosure.

Copy being furnished to Kansas City inasmuch as [redacted] referred to in [redacted]' letter claimed he spent time in Missouri State Prison. b6 b7C

2 - Kansas City (Encl. 2)
1 - Bureau (INFO)
1 - Alexandria (INFO)
1 - Memphis (INFO)
1 - Knoxville (INFO)
3 - Newark (1 - 44-2104)(INFO)
(1 - 87-29367)
(1 - 88-12106)
1 - St. Louis
[redacted]
10



FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

6 Inmates Who Escaped With Ray Change Pleas to Guilty

WARTBURG (AP)— The six prisoners who climed over the wall of Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary with James Earl Ray today pleaded guilty to escape charges.

In a surprise move, they were taken to the Morgan County Vocational School to appear before Criminal Court Judge Lee Asbury, who sentenced each to an additional year in prison. The maximum sentence for escape is five years.

Ray, who has said he mastermined the June 10 breakout, is to be tried for escape Oct. 27. Trials for the other six were to have begun Sept. 26.

Ray, convicted slayer of Civil Rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the six other escapes pleaded innocent to the charges in preliminary hearings before Asbury last month. Ray is the only one of the seven who did not change his plea.

"It all came up rather sudden," Warden Stonney Lane said. "They called us up yesterday and said to get the six of them to court as soon as possible because they were changing their pleas."

All of the escapees were recaptured in the woods surrounding the East Tennessee prison within three days of the breakout.

The six inmates who appeared before Asbury and received additional prison terms are:

Earl Hill Jr., 34, of Erwin, Tenn., Ray's cellmate at the time of the escape and who was serving two life terms for murder and rape; Larry E. Hacker, 31, who is serving a 28-year term for armed robbery and safecracking in Hardin County; Donald Ray Caylor, 24, of Knoxville, serving 51 years for armed robbery, assault with intent to commit murder and a previous jail escape; David Lee Powell, 27, of Memphis, serving a 100-year term for first-degree murder; Douglas Shelton, 32, of Kingsport, serving a 64- to 68-year term for first-degree murder, felonious assault and grand larceny; and Jerry W. Ward, 35, of Dallas, Tex., serving a 40-year term from Davidson County for bank robbery.

Ray pleaded guilty to the King slaying but recanted. His lawyer says Ray is not guilty of escape because Ray's plea was coerced and his confinement is, therefore, illegal.

orig 9-14-77

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL
KNOXVILLE, TENN.

PAGE 24

Date: 9/2/77
Edition:
Author:
Editor: b6
Title: b7C
James Earl Ray

Character:
or
Classification: 88-7223-200
Submitting Office: KNOX.

☐ Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED b6
SERIALIZED FILED b7C
SEP 1 1977
FBI - KNOXVILLE

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

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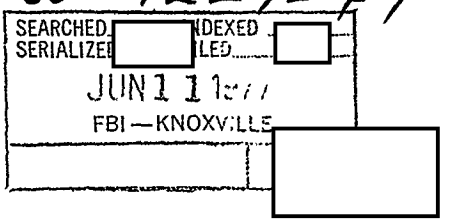

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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1967 O—276-365

MASTER
1-4 (Rev. 1-26-67)

MASTER

MASTER

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

The following FBI record, NUMBER 73 661 G , is furnished ~~FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~.
Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. WHERE FINAL DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE IS DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Army	Junior Earl Hill #RA 25 344 223	12-9-66		
USM Savannah Ga	Earl Hill Jr. #05493	11-28-67	unlawful flight to avoid pros (mur)	
FBI Savannah Ga	Earl Hill Jr.	11-28-67	Title 18 Sec 1073 USC (UFAP mur)	
SO Savannah Ga	Junior E. Hill	12-1-67	mur	
SPen Nashville Tenn	Earl Hill Jr. #65855	6-3-69	mur 1st deg	life
PD Nashville TN	Earl Hill Jr 55452	6-4-74	escape (TN SPr) 4901	

88-7227-26

SEARCH [redacted] INDEX [redacted] b6 b7C
SERIAL [redacted] FILED [redacted]
JUN 1 8 1977
FBI—KNOXVIL

[redacted]

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

IDENTIFICATION

☆GPO : 1973 O—509-479

MASTER
1-4 (Rev. 5-9-72)

2

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

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CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
CC-DA General 607 Metropolitan Crthse Nashville TN	37201			

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73-661G

TYPE OR PRINT

LAST NAME: HILL, FIRST NAME: JUNIOR, MIDDLE NAME: E

SEX: M | RACE: W

HT. (Inches): 5'6" | WT.: 135

HAIR: BLACK | EYES: BROWN

DATE OF BIRTH: 10-19-41

PLACE OF BIRTH: UNICOI COUNTY, TENN

CONTRIBUTOR AND ADDRESS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SAVANNAH, GA. 31402

ALIASES

SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED

X Jackson E. Hill

SCARS AND MARKS: NONE

AMPUTATION: NONE

YOUR NUMBER

PLACE FBI NUMBER HERE

CHECK IF NO REPLY IS DESIRED

SIGNATURE OF OFFICIAL TAKING FINGERPRINTS: L Mason

DATE: 12/29/67

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2. RIGHT INDEX
3. RIGHT MIDDLE
4. RIGHT RING
5. RIGHT LITTLE
6. LEFT THUMB
7. LEFT INDEX
8. LEFT MIDDLE
9. LEFT RING
10. LEFT LITTLE

LEFT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY

LEFT THUMB

RIGHT THUMB

RIGHT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY

U.S GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1963 OF—713-787

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INFBIKXOO

CLEAR NAM/HILL, EARL JR NIC/W168561051

88-7227-94

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SERIALIZED ____ FILED ____

JUN 1 [illegible]

FBI - KNOX

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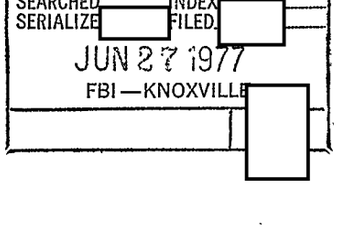
b7C

88-7227-105



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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOI/PA
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FD-340a (Rev. 3-1-67)

(Title) _____

(File No.) 88-7227-1A

Date Filed	
(1) 6/14/77	2 photos of EARL HILL JR

	Disposition

88-7227-1A

JUN 14 1977

b6
b7C

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

File No. 88-7227-1A1

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

EARL HILL JR

88- ~~7224~~ 7227 - 141

Earl Hill, Jr.

88- ~~7224~~ 7227 - 141

Earl Hill, Jr.

1
KX 88-7227
[redacted]

b6
b7C

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted] in Unicoi County, Tennessee:

On June 11, 1977, the following individuals were contacted regarding the location of EARL HILL, JR., who had escaped from the Brushy Mountain State Prison in Petros, Tennessee. The following individuals were alerted that HILL had escaped and were unable to furnish any information concerning his whereabouts:

ROBY OSBORNE, Sheriff, Unicoi County, Tennessee;

BILL BOGART, Chief of Police, Erwin, Tennessee;

EARL HILL, SR., Route 1, Unicoi, Tennessee;

[redacted], Route 1, Unicoi, Tennessee;

b6
b7C

[redacted], Route 1, Hampton, Tennessee

Inserts

FD-65 (Rev. 8-5-74)
OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA GEN. REG. NO. 27

5010-106

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

INSTRUCTIONS - Reverse side

TO : Director, FBI
Att: Special Investigative Division

DATE: 6-11-77

FROM : SAC, KNOXVILLE

SUBJECT: EARL HILL JR.

- [X] Initial Submission
- [ ] Supplements FD-65 dated _____
- [ ] Photograph not needed

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

Caution MKE	Name NAM	Sex SEX	Race RAC
X	EARL HILL, JR.	M	W

Place of Birth POB	Birth Date DOB	Height HGT	Weight WGT
Union County, Tennessee	10-19-42	5'6"	134

Eye Color EYE	Hair Color HAI	FBI No. FBI	Skin Tone SKN
GREEN	BLACK	736616	

Scars, Marks, Tattoos, etc. SMT
SCAR FOREHEAD

NCIC Fingerprint Classification FPC	Other Identifying Numbers MNU	Social Security # SOC
	U.S. ARMY	b6 b7C

Operator's License Number OLN	Operator's License State OLS	Year Expire OLY

Offense Charged OFF UFAC - CONSPIRACY

U. S. Code, Title and Section T.18, USC, SECT 1073 & 371

Warrant Issued By U.S.D.J FRANK A. KAUFMAN on 6-11-77 DOW

Date PBV or Bond Default Case Referred to Office _____

F. O. File # OCA 88-7227

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	Style VST	Color VCO

Aliases	Additional Identifiers

NCIC # W168561051 NIC

88-7227-6

ZW.TNFBIKX00.NAM/HILL, EARL JR.DOB/101942

TNFBIKX00

EW-C TNFBIKX00 NAM/HILL, EARL JR SEX/M RAC/W POB/TN DOB/101942 HGT/506

WGT/134 EYE/GRN HAI/BLK FBI/ 73661G SMT/SC FHD

MNU/AS-[redacted] SOC/[redacted] b6 b7C

OFF/4902 DOW/061177 OCA/88-7227

MIS/UFAC CONSPIRACY NO BOND REC

NIC/W168561051

TNFBIKX00

ORI IS FBI KNOXVILLE TN

NIC/W168561051

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:	PRECEDENCE:	CLASSIFICATION:
☐ Teletype	☐ Immediate	☐ TOP SECRET
☐ Facsimile	☐ Priority	☐ SECRET
☐ AIRTEL	☐ Routine	☐ CONFIDENTIAL
		☐ UNCLAS E F T O
		☐ UNCLAS

Date 11/18/81

TO: SAC, NEW YORK (91A-22662)

FROM: SAC, KNOXVILLE (91A-6094) (P)

MYROB
MAJOR CASE 37
BR (A);
TFIS - MURDER;
RICO
OO: NY

Re New Orleans airtel to New York 11/12/81.

On 11/17/81, it was determined that telephone number (615)324-0711, is a pay station telephone located inside Brushy Mountain State Prison (BMP), Petros, Tennessee.

According to prison officials, there are three pay telephones located behind the maximum security section of the prison and inmates make calls by dialing collect via 0 plus dialing. Inmate cannot deposit money into these telephones and complete a call which is not charged to the number dialed.

It is noted that a black radical group calling themselves Alke-Bu-Lan, comprised of approximately 25 active inmate members at BMP were recently denied recognition by the warden when he revoked their charter. Members of this group were believed to be responsible for the recent attempt on the life of James Earl Ray, inmate, BMP, at BMP.

ARMED AND EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

b6
b7C

(2) - New York
2 - Knoxville
(4)

ISIS

91A-22662

R

V-2

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) Per _____

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

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CT 2267 KB2067 KC2061 KP0054 KL0061 KN0074
KP0065 KS02Z6
2267 06/11/77

AM.TNTHP6100
10.39 06/11/77 0B340
10.55 06/11/77 LL356 OK
TXI AP.

4251 TNTHP6100 KNOXVILLE,TENNESSEE JUNE 11,1977.

APS NATIONWIDE,ATTN. ALL STATIONS,SOUTHEAST U.S.

APO,ALL STATIONS TENNESSEE.

ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS.

UPDATE,ESCAPE BRUSHY MTN STATE PRISON,PETROS TENNESSEE JUNE 10,1977

ADVISED THAT 1 OF THE 6 ESCAPEES HAVE BEEN RECOVERED, 4,

[redacted] b6 b7C

BE ADVISED THAT JAMES EARL RAY [redacted]

EARL HILL JR [redacted] ARE STILL AT LARGE.

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL,F.B.I.,AND OTHER AGENCYS ARE STILL CONDUTING SEARCH IN PETROS AREA.

ANY CONTACT CONTACT THIS AUTH..

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL,KNOXVILLE,OPR.M.THURMAN [redacted] b6 b7C

SERIALIZED SEARCHED FILED INDEXED 57 MDST
JUN 11 1977
FBI—OKLAHOMA [redacted]

88-11613

88-11613-13

#

CT 0104 KS0003 KC0005 KF0003 KL0002 KN0002
KP0004 KS0001
0104 06/13/77

AM.TNTHP0100
23.00 06/12/77 00475
23.00 06/12/77 00386 OK
1X1 AP.

4274 TNTHP0100 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE JUNE 13, 1977

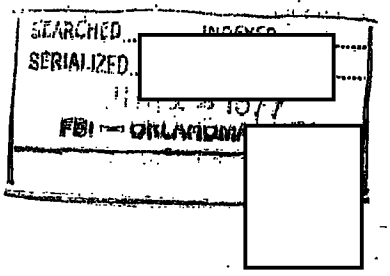
REQUEST FOR NATIONWIDE BROADCAST

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

A THIRD ESCAPEE, EARL HILL, JR. HAS BEEN APPREHENDED.

JAMES EARL RAY, [redacted] ARE STILL AT LARGE. b6 b7C

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL KNOXVILLE,OPR.K. EVERETT,2.00 A.M. EDT



b6 b7C

#

WW 0100 KD0010 KC0006 KF0004 KL0003 KN0003
KP0005 KS0002
0100 06/13/77
.Y.
YOUR NCIC LINE REOPENED 0205 EDT.
NCIC CCH FILE IN FULL SERVICE.
NCIC PROPERTY, WANTED & MISSING PERSON FILES IN RESTRICTED SERVICE.

88-11613-15

#

CI 2649 KB2094 KC2076 KF0059 KL2066 KN0081
KP0672 KS0029
2052 06/11/77

AM.INTHP0100
16.44 06/11/77 02429
16.45 06/11/77 00464 OK
TXI AP.

4252 INTHP0100 KNOXVILLE,TENNESSEE JUNE 11,1977.

TO ALL STATIONS NATIONWIDE

REPEAT OF MESSAGE 4227,JUNE 10,1977.

TO ALL STATIONS THAT DID NOT RECIEVE ORIGINAL REF ESCAPEES.

ESCAPEES TENNESSEE STATE PRISON,PETROS P.M. 061077.

1.JAMES EARL RAY.W/M.031926.5'10"-170.BLACK GRAYING HAIR,LSW,STREET CLOTHES.
NOD,SERVING 99 YEARS FOR MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

2. [redacted] IN SCR LEFT FORHEAD,NOD
99 YEARS ATT MURDER. b6 b7C

3. [redacted] -BRO-BRO-NUMEROUS TATOOS BOTH ARMS
NOD,SERV 99 YRS,ATT MURDER FROM SULLIVAN CO TENN

4 [redacted] -BLK-BRO- ½ CAPTURED ¼

5.EARL HILL JR-WM-101942-5'06-154-BLK-BRN-SCR FOREHEAD-NOD
100 YRS MURDER,FROM WASHINGTON COUNTY AND UNICOI CO.

6. [redacted] BRO-GRY-SPIDER TATOO ON ARM
FROM HARDIN COUNTY, NOD

REPEAT THIS FOR AUTHORITYS WHO DID NOT RECIEVE ONE.

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL,KNOXVILLE,CPL.M.THUMMEL

SERIALIZED [redacted] ED
SEARCHED [redacted] EXE
JUN 11 19 [redacted]

b6 b7C

88-11613-14

#

CI 6240 KB6615 KC6609 KP6609 KL6617 KN6606
KP0612 KS0603
6241 06/13/77

AM.INTRP0106
06.10 06/13/77 060602
06.10 06/13/77 060607 OK
TXT AP.

4273 INTRP0106 KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE JUNE 13, 1977

REQUEST FOR NATIONWILE BROADCAST

REFERENCE ESCAPEES FROM BRUSHY MOUNTAIN STATE PRISON, PETROS, TENNESSEE.

JAMES EARL RAY HAS BEEN APPREHENDED AND RETURNED TO THE PRISON AT 3.06 A .M.EDT.

AUTHORITY COLONEL [redacted] b6 b7C

TENNESSEE HIGHWAY PATROL KNOXVILLE,OPR.[redacted];3.15 A.M. EDT

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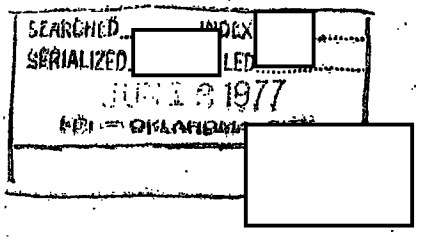

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88-11613-16

FD-350 (Rev. 12-5-78)

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)
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DAILY OKLAHOMAN
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.
Date: 6/27/80
Edition: MORNING

Title:

Character:
or
Classification: 88-11613
44-686
Submitting Office: OKLAHOMA CITY

FBI Ends Probe of Ray in Shooting

QUINCY, Ill. (AP) — The FBI has no plans to question the brother of James Earl Ray any further about the shooting of civil rights leader Vernon Jordan, a spokesman for the agency said Thursday.

FBI Agent Wayne G. Davis said that "at this juncture" there will be no further interviews with John Larry Ray, brother of James Earl Ray, who pleaded guilty to assassinating civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.

"In the absence of any other information, we don't anticipate talking to him again," Davis said.

FBI agents on Wednesday interviewed Ray in a jail cell here to discuss "where his travels have taken him recently," Davis said. Ray is being held on $200,000 bond for bank robbery that occurred on May 30.

Davis said that the FBI intends to talk again to Jordan, 44, the president of the National Urban League, who is in a New York hospital recovering from wounds he suffered in a May 29 shooting.

SEARCHED [redacted] INDEXED [redacted] FILED
JUN 3 1980
FBI — OKLAHOMA CITY
DOJ [redacted]

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88-11613-23

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FD-340a (Rev. 3-12-74)

(Title) JAMES EARL RAY
~~UFAP~~

(File No.) 88-6902-1a

Item	Date Filed		Disposition
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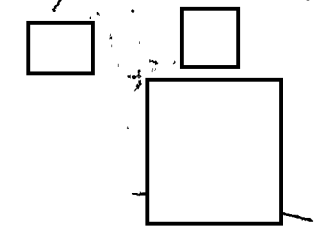
88-6902-1A



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

File No. 88-6902-1a(1)

Date Received 6/14/77

From WF

(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)

(CITY AND STATE)

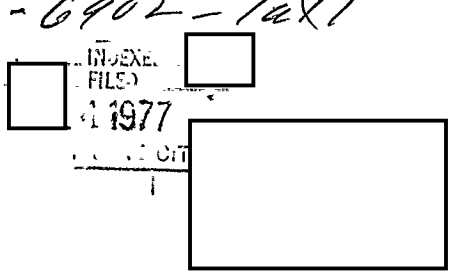
(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

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

Description:

WF #560 JAMES EARL RAY

88-6902-1a(7



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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
JULY 1973 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, SALT LAKE CITY

DATE: 6/12/77

FROM : SPC, [redacted] b6 b7C

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

Re Knoxville teletype # 546, 6/12/77, to all field divisions.

Referenced teletype instructed all offices to determine if the telephone exchange 574-7327 is within the division. Upon receipt of re teletype, writer immediatly contacted telephone operator to determine if there was an exchange # 574 in the state of Utah. Telephone operator advised in the 801 area code, which covers the state of Utah, no 574 exchange could be located.

The above is being provided for information purposes.

88-6902 [redacted] b6 b7C

(1) [redacted]

K

SUI411 1640910 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

88-6902-5

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 15 1977
FBI - SALT LAKE

b6
b7C

FTJK

SUI369 1630804 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. b6 b7C

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

88-6902-16

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED
JUN 1977
FBI - SALT LAKE

[redacted] b6 b7C

KVZLU0624 165142151

EAT

N

FM KNOXVILLE (88-7225)

TO DIRECTOR AND ALL SACS PRIORITY

ST

CLEAR

[redacted], AKA - FUGITIVE; JAMES EARL RAY; ET AL, b6 b7C
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.

ST

88-6902-16

SEARCHED INDEXED
SERIALIZED FILED b6 b7C

OCT 1 1977

FBI - SALT LAKE