

VIA TELETYPE
ENCIPHERED

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

WA ---28---

FBI NEW YORK
9:35 PM URGENT 3-13-69 AWS
TO DIRECTOR AND MEMPHIS (PLAIN)
FROM NEW YORK 44-1639

MURKIN; (ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING)

ATTORNEY JACK GREENBERG, DIRECTOR, LEGAL DEFENSE
FUND, NAACP, TEN COLUMBUS CIRCLE, NYC CONTACTED USA ROBERT
M. MORGENTHAU, SDNY, THREE FOURTEEN, AND ADVISED HE
HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM RUSSELL THOMPSON,
A MEMPHIS, TENN. ATTORNEY WHO CLAIMED HE HAD BEEN
RETAINED BY JAMES EARL RAY AT AN EARLY STAGE OF THE PROCEED-
INGS AGAINST RAY, PRIOR TO REPRESENTATION BY ATTORNEY
HANES OF BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA.

END PAGE ONE

REC-33 44-37761-5626

3 MAR 19 1969

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ENCLOSURE

COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

SPV

PAGE TWO

ACCORDING TO GREENBERG, THOMPSON ASKED TO SEE HIM IN ORDER TO TELL HIM THE NAMES OF OTHER PEOPLE INVOLVED WITH RAY IN THE MARTIN LUTHER KING KILLING, AND TO FURNISH SUPPORTING DETAILS. GREENBERG ARRANGED AN APPOINTMENT TO MEET WITH THOMPSON AT GREENBERG'S OFFICE AT NINE THIRTY AM, MONDAY, THREE SEVENTEEN, SIXTYNINE. GREENBERG TOLD MORGENTHAU THAT THOMPSON IS KNOWN TO NAACP AS A REPUTABLE INDIVIDUAL WHO PREVIOUSLY HAS DONE RELIABLE WORK FOR THE NAACP IN THE MEMPHIS AREA. GREENBERG INFORMED MORGENTHAU, HOWEVER, THAT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT THOMPSON'S INFORMATION, AND DID NOT KNOW IF IT WERE A PUBLICITY STUNT. GREENBERG SAID THE NY DAILY NEWS CALLED HIM TODAY AND KNOWS THOMPSON IS DUE IN NYC NEXT MONDAY. HOWEVER, THE DAILY NEWS DID NOT KNOW THE PURPOSE OF THE TRIP, AND GREENBERG DID NOT TELL THEM.

GREENBERG TOLD MORGENTHAU HE CANNOT DO ANYTHING WITH THOMPSON'S INFORMATION, AND HAS NO WAY TO EVALUATE IT, AND ^HUS SUGGESTED AN FBI AGENT BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING. MORGENTHAU TOLD GREENBERG THE FBI WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THAT DECISION. GREENBERG THEN CONTACTED THE NYO AND FURNISHED THE SAME INFORMATION SET OUT

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE

ABOVE.

IT IS ⁷NOED THAT RUSSELL THOMPSON HAS BEEN REPORTED
ON NY RADIO NEWSBROADCASTS, THREE FOURTEEN, SIXTYNINE, AS
GOING TO NY FROM MEMPHIS ON SUNDAY THREE SIXTEEN, SIXTYNINE
TO TALK TO THE NAACP.

THE ^{NYO}NYO HAS HAD FREQUENT CONTACT WITH NAACP
OFFICIALS OVER A NUMBER OF YEARS, AND RELATIONS HAVE ALWAYS
BEEN CORDIAL, BUT NO SPECIFIC CONTACTS WITH GREENBERG.

THE BUREAU IS REQUESTED TO ADVISE THE NYO WHETHER
NY SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERVIEW OF THOMPSON ^{AT}AND
GREENBERG'S OFFICE ON THREE SEVENTEEN, SIXTYNINE.

END

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~~THIS THIS BE NUMBER TWENTYSEVEN-GA~~

YES IU

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FJB

FBI WASH DC

March 15, 1969

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

Jack Greenberg, Director, Legal Defense Fund, National Association For The Advancement of Colored People, contacted our New York Office on 3-14-69, and advised that Attorney Russell Thompson, Memphis, Tennessee, who professed to have once represented James Earl Ray, was to meet Greenberg on 3-17-69, to furnish him names of other people involved with Ray in the Martin Luther King killing. Greenberg requested an Agent be present at the meeting. The "New York Daily News" contacted Greenberg regarding Thompson's visit but Greenberg did not advise them of purpose of trip. Nothing derogatory in Bureau files concerning Greenberg. About one week after the King murder and before

Ray was identified as the assassin, Thompson contacted our Memphis Office and related that he had been visited by a man whom he would not identify because of possible client-attorney relationship. This man indicated he might need legal help in the future and advised Thompson that authorities were wrong about murder weapon and killer had fled on a motorcycle and not in a white Mustang. It is significant to note that after Ray was identified as the subject, Thompson contacted Memphis Office and indicated that the unknown man was probably a mental case but Thompson still refused to identify him.

To prevent charges being made that FBI would not accept information concerning a possible conspiracy, it is recommended that New York be instructed to have an Agent present to accept any information Thompson has to offer.

CLM:erg

*Mr. Thompson has
been at the
office many times
he & I have
some conversation
point.*

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