

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff,

v.

BUFORD O'NEAL FURROW, JR.,
Defendant.

CASE NO. CR 99-838(A) NM

Order Granting in Part and Denying in
Part Defendant's Motion to Suppress
Post-indictment Statements and
Derivative Evidence

I. INTRODUCTION

Criminal defendant Buford O'Neal Furrow, Jr. ("Defendant") has been charged in a sixteen-count indictment filed on December 2, 1999 for the alleged murder of a U.S. postal worker, Joseph Iletto, the alleged shooting of five individuals at the North Valley Jewish Community Center ("NVJCC"), and various gun possession offenses. Pending before the court is Defendant's motion to suppress post-indictment statements and derivative evidence obtained during Defendant's pretrial detention in Los Angeles's Metropolitan Detention Center. At issue in this motion are three types of evidence, specifically:

1 1) a handwritten note in which Defendant threatened to kill fellow inmate
2 Raul Lopez and his “angel protectors” found on October 27, 1999 during a
routine strip-search of Defendant;

3 2) oral threats of violence against Lopez and prison guards communicated to
4 Dr. Burris during counseling sessions on October 27, 1999 and November
12, 1999.

5 3) two letters Defendant handed to a corrections officer May 16, 2000 for
6 delivery to

7 (a) Dr. Burris, a staff psychologist at MDC, and

8 (b) Dr. Burris, U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, and other
9 government officials;¹

10 II. RELEVANT FACTUAL BACKGROUND

11 Since his arraignment on August 11, 1999, Defendant has been detained in
12 the Special Housing Unit (“SHU”) of the Metropolitan Detention Center (“MDC”) in
13 Los Angeles pending trial.² A visible video camera inside Defendant’s cell
14 helps prison authorities monitor his activities. All six of the cells in the area
15 where Defendant is housed contain such cameras. These cameras relay but do not
16 record images of in-cell activity.

17 All MDC inmates are strip-searched after every visit to ensure that they do
18 not possess contraband. Accordingly, correctional officers strip-searched
19 Defendant October 27, 1999, after a visit from his attorneys. During the search,
20 Officer David Phillips discovered a handwritten note in the pocket of Defendant’s
21 uniform.³ The note contained threats directed toward Raul Lopez, an MDC inmate
22 who worked as an orderly in the SHU, and other SHU staff. Prior to discovery of

23 ¹ Although the government has not definitively decided what evidence it
24 intends to present at trial, it has identified the preceding statements as evidence it
25 may seek to introduce in its case in chief. Opp., at 2.

26 ² On August 19, 1999, the government filed an indictment charging
27 Defendant with two capital offenses and other felonies. On December 2, 1999, the
28 government filed a sixteen-count First Superseding Indictment.

³ Officer Phillips turned over the note to the SHU Lieutenant who also
participated in the search.

1 the note, Officer Phillips had never discussed Defendant with any government
2 agency or individual charged with prosecuting or investigating Defendant's case.

3 That day, SHU staff related the discovery of the threatening note to
4 Psychological Services. In response, Dr. Maureen Burris, a prison psychologist,
5 went to Defendant's cell to meet with him in order to assess the risk he posed to
6 the safety of others and to offer supportive counseling to minimize that risk.
7 Burris Decl. ¶2. According to Dr. Burris, corrections staff often ask for a prison
8 psychologist to speak with an inmate "to address behavior that raises [prison]
9 safety and management concerns."⁴ Id. During her first meeting with Defendant,
10 Dr. Burris explained that she was required to submit a monthly report about their
11 conversations to prison authorities and to disclose any statements threatening the
12 security of the facility. In Defendant's October 27, 1999 meeting with Dr. Burris,
13 he stated that "he could not rest until he had killed Lopez and the unit staff." Id.
14 ¶3; Gov.'s Exh. A. During their November 12, 1999 counseling session,
15 Defendant repeated his threat against Lopez. Gov.'s Exh. B. On each occasion,
16 Dr. Burris prepared a memorandum describing Defendant's statement. Dr. Burris
17 had no prior contact concerning Defendant with government authorities
18 responsible for prosecuting or investigating his case.⁵ Gov.'s Exhs. A & B.

19 In early January 2000, federal prosecutors requested from Lieutenant Cole,
20

21 ⁴ According to Dr. Burris, pretrial detainees are not required to submit to
22 interviews with prison psychologists, and Defendant would not have suffered any
23 reprisal for refusing to speak with her. Dr. Burris does not claim to have advised
24 Defendant of either fact.

25 ⁵ As Dr. Burris notes in her declaration, she was not acting at the behest of
26 the United States Attorney's office. Accordingly, she did not advise Defendant
27 that any statements he made might be turned over to prosecutors for use against
28 him at trial. Nor was Defendant's counsel notified that Dr. Burris intended to
initiate such counseling sessions "to assess the potential threat" Defendant posed
to MDC staff and fellow inmates. Burris Decl. ¶ 2.

1 an MDC Special Investigative Agent, information regarding Defendant's conduct
2 during his detention at MDC for purposes of evaluating his future dangerousness.
3 On January 21, 2000, Lt. Cole furnished federal prosecutors and investigators with
4 approximately 40 pages of reports describing Defendant's behavior at MDC.
5 Those reports included a copy of the handwritten note found during the October
6 27, 1999 strip-search and Dr. Burris's memoranda regarding the threatening
7 statements Defendant made during her counseling sessions with him. The
8 government produced all of this material in discovery.

9 On May 16, 2000, as SHU Lieutenant Stan Colvin came by to collect
10 Defendant's food tray after dinner, Defendant handed two letters to Lt. Colvin
11 through the food tray slot in his cell door and asked Lt. Colvin to deliver them.
12 This is the standard method MDC inmates use to mail letters. One letter was
13 addressed to Dr. Burris; the other was addressed to "Dr. Burris, Lt. on up the line
14 to Washington, D.C. (J. Reno)." Colvin Decl. ¶3. Lt. Colvin followed standard
15 procedure, conveying the letters to the MDC Operations Lieutenant. *Id.* ¶5. At
16 the time Lt. Colvin received these letters from Defendant, he had never discussed
17 Defendant with federal prosecutors or investigators. *Id.* ¶6.

18 Defendant now moves to suppress these post-indictment statements and
19 related evidence on the grounds that they were obtained in violation of his rights
20 to the assistance of counsel under the Sixth Amendment and to due process under
21 the Fifth Amendment.⁶

22 III. DISCUSSION

23 A. Legal Standard

24 Although a prisoner does not shed his constitutional rights at the jailhouse
25

26
27 ⁶ Although Defendant raises the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of
28 equal protection in support of his motion to suppress, he fails to articulate any
basis for his equal protection claim. Mot., at 9.

1 door, neither is he entitled to the full panoply of rights afforded unincarcerated
2 persons. See Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520, 536 (1978). Prisoners may enjoy only
3 “those rights not fundamentally inconsistent with imprisonment itself or
4 incompatible with the objectives of incarceration.” Hudson v. Palmer, 468 U.S.
5 517, 523 (1984) (prison inmates have no reasonable expectation of privacy in their
6 cells under the Fourth Amendment). As the Hudson court recognized, an inmate’s
7 rights must often be weighed against the need to maintain institutional security:
8 “[P]rison administrators are to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of not
9 only the prison staffs and administrative personnel, but also visitors. They are
10 under an obligation to take reasonable measures to guarantee the safety of the
11 inmates themselves.” Id. at 526-27.

12 1. Sixth Amendment

13 The Sixth Amendment provides: “In all criminal prosecutions, the accused
14 shall enjoy the right . . . to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.” U.S.
15 Const., Amend. VI. “The Sixth Amendment guarantees the accused, at least after
16 initiation of formal charges, the right to rely on counsel as a ‘medium’ between
17 him and the State.” Maine v. Moulton, 474 U.S. 159, 176 (1985); see also Moran
18 v. Burbine, 475 U.S. 412, 431 (1986) (Sixth Amendment right to counsel attaches
19 once formal charges have been filed.).

20 In the Massiah line of cases, the Supreme Court held that the government
21 violates the Sixth Amendment when it deliberately elicits incriminating
22 information from a defendant outside the presence of counsel. See Massiah v.
23 United States, 377 U.S. 201 (1964) (government violated Sixth Amendment by
24 using post-indictment statements defendant made to codefendant who was secretly
25 cooperating with narcotics agents); United States v. Henry, 447 U.S. 264 (1980)
26 (government violated Sixth Amendment by seeking to use defendant’s confession
27 to jailhouse informant placed in cell with defendant); Maine v. Moulton, 474 U.S.
28 159 (government violated Sixth Amendment by enlisting codefendant to stimulate

1 incriminating conversations with defendant and recording those conversations).

2 In Kuhlmann v. Wilson, 477 U.S. 436, 459 (1986), the Supreme Court held
3 that no Sixth Amendment violation occurred where a fellow inmate merely
4 listened to defendant’s jailhouse confession and reported what he heard to police.
5 “[T]he primary concern of the Massiah line of decisions is secret interrogation by
6 investigatory techniques that are the equivalent of direct police interrogation.” Id.
7 at 459 (reviewing Massiah and its progeny).

8 Thus, the Sixth Amendment is not violated whenever — by luck or
9 happenstance — the State obtains incriminating statements from the
10 accused after the right to counsel has attached. However, knowing
11 exploitation by the State of an opportunity to confront the accused without
12 counsel being present is as much a breach of the State’s obligation not to
13 circumvent the right to the assistance of counsel as is the intentional
14 creation of such an opportunity.⁷

12 Maine v. Moulton, 474 U.S. at 176.

13 In Estelle v. Smith, 451 U.S. 454, 466 (1981), the Supreme Court held that a
14 capital defendant’s Sixth Amendment right to counsel was violated when
15 prosecutors introduced at the penalty phase of his trial testimony as to defendant’s
16 future dangerousness offered by a psychiatrist who had conducted a court-ordered
17 competency examination. Noting that the decision whether to submit to a
18 psychiatric evaluation “is ‘literally a life or death matter’ and is ‘difficult . . . even
19 for an attorney,’” the Court concluded, “[i]t follows logically from our precedents
20 that a defendant should not be forced to resolve such an important issue without
21 ‘the guiding hand of counsel.’” Id. (citation omitted). In Powell v. Texas, 492
22 U.S. 680 (1989), the Court reaffirmed the principles set forth in Estelle, finding
23 the defendant was deprived of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel when

24
25 ⁷ Because a defendant will seldom be able to prove through direct evidence
26 that the government knowingly interposed itself between him and counsel, “proof
27 that the State ‘must have known’ that its agent was likely to obtain incriminating
28 statements from the accused in the absence of counsel suffices to establish a Sixth
Amendment violation.” Maine v. Moulton, 474 U.S. at 176 n.12.

1 psychiatric examinations were performed by state experts, without notice to the
2 defendant or his attorney that the examinations would encompass the issue of
3 future dangerousness.

4 2. Due Process

5 The Fifth Amendment states that no person shall “be deprived of life,
6 liberty, or property without due process of law.” U.S. Const., Amend. V. The
7 Supreme Court held in Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520 (1979), that the conditions
8 and restrictions of pretrial detention are constitutional as long as they do not
9 amount to punishment of the detainee. Id. at 535. The Court noted that the
10 “legitimate operational concerns [of correctional authorities] may require
11 administrative measures that go beyond those that are, strictly speaking, necessary
12 to ensure that the detainee shows up at trial.” Id. at 540. More recently, the
13 Supreme Court has announced the following standard for constitutional challenges
14 to prison rules: “[W]hen a prison regulation impinges on inmates’ constitutional
15 rights, the regulation is valid if it is reasonably related to legitimate penological
16 interests.” Turner v. Safley, 482 U.S. 78, 89 (1987).

17 B. Application

18 Defendant moves for a blanket suppression of statements and derivative
19 evidence obtained from MDC staff or inmates, citing the Sixth Amendment right
20 to the assistance of counsel and due process. Mot., at 4. However, Defendant
21 does not identify the offending statements he seeks to suppress.⁸ Nor does he offer
22 any evidence that “prosecutors have used MDC staff members to elicit statements
23
24
25

26 ⁸ In its opposition, the government identifies the post-indictment statements
27 and related evidence it plans to offer at trial. As noted above, the evidence was
28 acquired in a variety of ways.

1 and collect evidence from Mr. Furrow.”⁹ Id. (without citation). Instead, he argues
2 that “[t]he conditions of [his] confinement during pretrial detention increase the
3 risk of improper elicitation or stimulation of post-indictment statements.” Mot., at
4 7 (citing Henry, 447 U.S. at 274 (“[T]he mere fact of custody imposes pressures on
5 the accused; confinement may bring into play subtle influences that will make him
6 particularly susceptible to the ploys of undercover agents.”)).

7 The court declines Defendant’s invitation to ban all post-indictment
8 statements derived from his interaction with MDC staff, regardless of whether
9 they are voluntary or coerced, spontaneous or stimulated by government agents.
10 The better approach is to examine each post-indictment statement the government
11 intends to offer at trial in context, to determine whether it was deliberately elicited
12 in violation of Defendant’s constitutional rights.

13 1. Sixth Amendment Right to Counsel

14 There is no question that Defendant’s Sixth Amendment right to counsel
15 had attached when Defendant made the disputed statements, as a federal
16 indictment was issued against him on August 19, 1999.

17 a) Handwritten Note Found During October 27, 1999 Strip-Search of Defendant

18 MDC policy requires staff to search SHU inmates for contraband after every
19 visit. Such a policy is reasonably related to legitimate penological purposes. In
20 Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S. 520 (1979), the Supreme Court expressly recognized the
21 government’s duty “to take steps to maintain security and order at the institution
22 and make certain no weapons or illicit drugs reach detainees.” Id. at 540; see also
23

24 ⁹ Defendant alleges a secret conspiracy between MDC officials and federal
25 prosecutors. Defendant analogizes MDC staff to government informants,
26 reasoning that, as paid employees of the government, they have a strong interest in
27 assisting prosecutors by inducing Defendant to make incriminating statements.
28 Mot., at 6. This argument insults public employees and, ultimately, proves too
much.

1 Hudson v. Palmer, 468 U.S. 517, 526-27 (1984) (Corrections officials “must be
2 ever alert to attempts to introduce drugs and other contraband into the premises
3 which, we can judicially notice, is one of the most perplexing problems of prisons
4 today.”).

5 Pursuant to this policy, Defendant was searched after an October 27, 1999
6 visit from his attorney. The search was conducted in accordance with standard
7 procedure. Phillips Decl. ¶5. Defendant was first instructed to disrobe and then
8 searched by two correctional officers. MDC staff removed a handwritten note
9 “protruding from the top pocket of defendant’s orange jumpsuit.” Id. In no way
10 could this search be construed as “a knowing exploitation by the State of an
11 opportunity to confront the accused” outside the presence of counsel. Maine v.
12 Moulton, 474 U.S. at 176. MDC staff had no reason to believe such a routine
13 search would yield any information concerning Defendant’s future dangerousness.
14 Only by “luck or happenstance” did MDC staff find such evidence on Defendant’s
15 person. Kuhlmann, 477 U.S. at 459. Because the search did not constitute an
16 “investigatory technique[] [that is] the equivalent of direct police interrogation,” it
17 does not raise Sixth Amendment concerns. Kuhlmann, 477 U.S. at 459.

18 b) Defendant’s Statements to Dr. Burriss during October 27, 1999 and November
19 12, 1999 Counseling Sessions and Burriss Memoranda

20 Defendant cites Estelle v. Smith, 451 U.S. 454, 466 (1981), in support of his
21 argument that admission of statements Defendant made during his counseling
22 sessions with Dr. Burriss would violate his Sixth Amendment right to counsel.¹⁰

23
24 ¹⁰ In his Reply, Defendant asserts for the first time his Fifth Amendment
25 right against self-incrimination as a basis for suppressing his statements to Dr.
26 Burriss. Reply, at 6. As the government has not had an adequate opportunity to
27 respond to this argument and the court grants Defendant’s motion to suppress his
28 statements to Dr. Burriss on Sixth Amendment grounds, the court does not address
the belatedly raised Fifth Amendment issue.

1 Reply, at 5-6. In Estelle, the Supreme Court addressed the issue “whether a
2 defendant’s Sixth Amendment right to the assistance of counsel is abridged when
3 the defendant is not given prior opportunity to consult with counsel about his
4 participation in [a court-ordered pretrial] psychiatric examination” to determine
5 his competency to stand trial. 451 U.S. at 471 n.14. The Court answered that
6 question in the affirmative. Because the government improperly used the
7 psychiatrist’s testimony to prove future dangerousness at the penalty phase of the
8 trial, the Court affirmed an earlier decision vacating defendant’s death sentence.

9 Respondent’s future dangerousness was a critical issue at the sentencing
10 hearing, and one on which the State had the burden of proof beyond a
11 reasonable doubt. To meet its burden, the State used respondent’s own
statements, unwittingly made without an awareness that he was assisting the
State’s efforts to obtain the death penalty.

12 Id. at 466 (citations omitted).

13 Relying on Bey v. Morton, 124 F.3d 524 (3d Cir. 1997), the government
14 argues that no Sixth Amendment violation occurred because MDC staff were not
15 working in concert with prosecutors to acquire evidence for use at trial. Opp., at
16 10. In Bey, 124 F.3d 524, the defendant admitted his guilt in several casual
17 conversations with Pearson, a prison guard, prior to reversal of his conviction.
18 The Third Circuit affirmed the trial court’s decision to allow the prison guard to
19 testify on retrial, finding no Sixth Amendment violation. The Bey court relied on
20 two factors: 1) Pearson was not responsible for collecting information for use in
21 the prosecution of defendant’s case and was not cooperating with anyone who had
22 that responsibility;¹¹ 2) Pearson’s conduct did not suggest deliberate elicitation.
23 124 F.3d at 531. The government emphasizes the former, but gives short shrift to
24 the latter.

25
26 ¹¹ Distinguishing Massiah and Estelle, the Bey court noted that “Pearson,
27 while a state actor, was not a state actor deliberately engaged in trying to secure
28 information from the defendant for use in connection with the prosecution that
was the subject matter of counsel’s representation.” 124 F.3d at 531.

1 First, the fact that an individual did not gather evidence against the
2 defendant on instructions from prosecuting authorities is not dispositive of
3 whether such evidence is deliberately elicited. The Supreme Court made this clear
4 in Estelle:

5 That respondent was questioned by a psychiatrist designated by the trial
6 court to conduct a neutral competency examination, rather than by a police
7 officer, government informant, or prosecuting attorney, is immaterial.
8 When Dr. Grigson went beyond simply reporting to the court on the issue of
9 competence and testified for the prosecution at the penalty phase on the
10 crucial issue of respondent's future dangerousness, his role changed and
11 became essentially like that of an agent of the State recounting unwarned
12 statements made in a postarrest custodial setting.

13 451 U.S. at 467.

14 Although Dr. Burriss did not "deliberately set out to secure information for
15 use in a pending prosecution,"¹² "the determinative issue is not the informant's
16 subjective intentions, but rather whether the federal law enforcement officials
17 created a situation which would likely cause the defendant to make incriminating
18 statements."¹³ Dr. Burriss may have initiated contact with Defendant for the sole
19 purpose of assessing the threat he posed to MDC security; however, the
20 government's subsequent attempt to use the contents of their discussions as
21 evidence of Defendant's future dangerousness renders those sessions the
22 functional equivalent of a custodial interrogation conducted outside the presence
23 of counsel. If Dr. Burriss is permitted to testify at the penalty phase of
24 Defendant's trial, her role would expand well beyond merely advising prison

25 ¹² Bey, 124 F.3d at 530.

26 ¹³ United States v. Harris, 738 F.2d 1068, 1071 (9th Cir. 1984). Moreover,
27 "[t]o allow the admission of evidence obtained from the accused in violation of his
28 Sixth Amendment rights whenever the police assert an alternative, legitimate
reason for their surveillance invites abuse by law enforcement personnel in the
form of fabricated investigations and risks the evisceration of the Sixth
Amendment right recognized in Massiah." Maine v. Moulton, 474 U.S. at 180.

1 authorities of the risk Defendant poses to fellow inmates and MDC staff. She
2 would be actively participating in the government’s efforts to prosecute Defendant
3 by advising the jury with respect to factors bearing on its decision whether to
4 impose the death penalty. Yet Defendant was not informed that his sessions with
5 Dr. Burris would influence whether, if convicted, he should be sentenced to
6 death.¹⁴ Cf. Estelle, 451 U.S. at 467, 471. As a result, defendant “was denied the
7 assistance of his attorneys in making the significant decision of whether to submit
8 to the examination and to what end the psychiatrist’s findings could be employed.”
9 Id. at 571.

10 Second, the factual circumstances of this case distinguish it from Bey.
11 Significantly, the prison guard in Bey neither initiated contact with the defendant
12 nor asked him questions designed to induce incriminating utterances. Nor did he
13 take notes or compile any reports of his conversations with the defendant. Lastly,
14 he only disclosed the confession five years later, when questioned by the
15 prosecution. Bey, 124 F.3d at 531; cf. United State v. York, 933 F.2d 1991 (7th
16 Cir. 1991) (informant did not report incriminating information to FBI until several
17 months after his conversations with defendant).

18 By contrast, Dr. Burris contacted Defendant for the express purpose of
19 evaluating his future dangerousness, a factor that looms large in the sentencing
20 phase of his trial. Thus, it was not by mere “luck or happenstance” that the
21 government obtained these incriminating statements. Maine v. Moulton, 474 U.S.

22
23
24
25 ¹⁴ Although Dr. Burris explained to Defendant that she was required to
26 submit a monthly report based on their sessions to prison authorities and to
27 disclose statements threatening the security of the facility, she never apprised him
28 of his Sixth Amendment right to counsel, or that his statements might be turned
over to prosecutors for use against him.

1 at 176.¹⁵ By engaging Defendant in conversation about his violent intentions
2 toward Lopez and unit staff, Dr. Burris was certain to elicit statements relevant to
3 a jury's determination of his future dangerousness. Unlike the guard in Bey, Dr.
4 Burris prepared written summaries of the two sessions in which Defendant
5 threatened to kill Lopez and MDC guards, and those reports were promptly
6 provided, at prosecutors' request, a mere two months after they were created.

7 The government contends that this case is distinguishable from Massiah and
8 its progeny because Defendant knew he was dealing with an agent of the state,
9 rather than a fellow inmate. Opp., at 21; Bey, 124 F.3d at 531. However, this
10 factor was not decisive in Estelle, where the Supreme Court suppressed statements
11 made during a psychiatric examination arranged by the state's attorney. 451 U.S.
12 at 457-58. Here, Defendant, reasonably believing he was communicating with a
13 psychologist rather than an investigator, "exercis[ed] no judgment as to whether
14 counsel's advice should be sought." Bey, 124 F.3d at 530.

15 In short, the critical issue is not whether, at the time of her interviews, Dr.
16 Burris was acting in concert with prosecutors to dupe Defendant into making
17 incriminating statements. Clearly she was not. She was, however, initiating
18 inquiries into an area the Supreme Court has recognized as "a matter of life or
19 death," without Defendant's counsel having had an opportunity to advise him
20
21

22
23 ¹⁵ The government seeks to distinguish Defendant's October 27, 1999
24 statements to Dr. Burris from his November 12, 1999 statements to her, noting that
25 the latter followed two weeks of counseling sessions between Defendant and Dr.
26 Burris. Opp., at 21 (citing Burris Decl. ¶4). As these sessions were triggered by
27 Dr. Burris's self-initiated meeting with Defendant for the purpose of assessing his
28 future dangerousness, the court can discern no reason for treating Defendant's
statements.

1 whether to speak with Dr. Burris.¹⁶ Use of such statements to prove Defendant's
2 future dangerousness in the penalty phase of his trial would make meaningless the
3 guarantee that Defendant be afforded the assistance of counsel "when he faces
4 decisions that may have a crucial effect on his trial." Smith v. Estelle, 602 F.2d
5 694, 709 (5th Cir. 1979), aff'd sub nom., Estelle v. Smith, 451 U.S. 454 (1981).

6 c) Letters Addressed to Dr. Burris and U.S. Attorney General J. Reno et al.

7 The means by which the government obtained Defendant's letters do not
8 give rise to a Sixth Amendment violation, as there is no indication that Lt. Colvin
9 conspired with prosecutors to gather evidence against Defendant.¹⁷ Moreover, the
10 factual circumstances surrounding Defendant's interaction with Lt. Colvin on May
11 16, 2000 do not support a finding of deliberate elicitation. First, Lt. Colvin
12 regularly collects dinner trays from inmates. Colvin Decl. ¶2. These routine visits
13 were not designed to elicit incriminating information from Defendant for use in
14 connection with Defendant's trial.

15 Second, like the prison guard in Bey v. Morton, Lt. Colvin never sought to
16 gain information from defendant. 124 F.3d at 526. Lt. Colvin never engaged
17 Defendant in conversation regarding the charges leveled against him. Rather,
18 Defendant initiated the May 16, 2000 encounter by asking Lt. Colvin to deliver the
19 letters for him.¹⁸ Colvin Decl. ¶3. Moreover, the government did nothing to
20 stimulate these communications. The letters in question were completely

21
22 ¹⁶ As noted above, the government insists Defendant had the absolute right
23 not to speak with Dr. Burris. It appears uncontested that no one advised him of
24 that right.

25 ¹⁷ As noted above, Defendant's unsupported assertion that MDC staff were
26 acting on instructions from prosecutors is not sufficient to establish a Sixth
27 Amendment violation.

28 ¹⁸ Defendant even invited Lt. Colvin to read the letters. Lt. Colvin
declined. Colvin Decl. ¶¶3-4.

1 unsolicited. The government was the passive recipient of Defendant’s voluntary
2 admissions. See Kuhlmann v. Wilson, 477 U.S. 436 (1986) (finding no Sixth
3 Amendment violation where a fellow inmate merely listened to defendant’s
4 confession and reported what he heard to police); Bey, 124 F.3d at 530 (“Massiah-
5 type situations [are those where] the state has deliberately set out to secure
6 information for use in a pending prosecution . . .”).

7 Defendant does not claim that his mail was intercepted. Cf. United States v.
8 Workman, 80 F.3d 688 (2d Cir. 1996) (prison officials had good cause for
9 intercepting mail from defendant to his co-conspirators). If anything, Defendant’s
10 complaint stems from the fact that his letters reached their intended destination.
11 Defendant clearly meant for his letters to reach the eyes of federal law
12 enforcement personnel, as they were addressed to Dr. Burris, U.S. Attorney
13 General Janet Reno, and other government employees.

14 These facts show that the missives were not obtained through secret
15 “investigatory techniques [that are] the equivalent of direct police interrogation.”
16 Kuhlmann, 477 U.S. at 459 (describing such methods as “the primary concern of
17 the Massiah line of decisions”). Thus, their admission at trial does not offend the
18 Sixth Amendment. See Maine v. Moulton, 474 U.S. at 176 (“[T]he Sixth
19 Amendment is not violated whenever — by luck or happenstance — the State
20 obtains incriminating statements from the accused after the right to counsel has
21 attached.”).

22 2. Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process

23 Defendant’s due process claim is based on the proposition that prosecutors
24 have exploited the conditions of his detention “to gain a tactical advantage at the
25 capital trial.” Mot., at 10. First, he issues a broad objection to the prosecution’s
26 use of correctional authorities to investigate him. However, Defendant has offered
27 no evidence in support of his theory that MDC staff have conspired with
28 prosecutors to gather evidence for use at trial. Absent a particularized showing

1 that the government has used the conditions of Defendant’s confinement as
2 investigatory tools, the court cannot conclude that Defendant’s due process rights
3 have been violated.

4 Defendant further objects to “prison authorities’ use of 24-hour camera
5 surveillance and other monitoring,”¹⁹ and seeks to restrict such monitoring to
6 “legitimate penological purposes.”²⁰ Mot., at 10. Common sense dictates that
7 potentially dangerous detainees should be subject to constant supervision. See
8 Hudson, 468 U.S. at 527-28 (“[C]lose and continual surveillance of inmates and
9 their cells [is] required to ensure institutional security and internal order. We are
10 satisfied that society would insist that the prisoner’s expectation of privacy always
11 yield to what must be considered the paramount interest in institutional security.”).
12 Twenty-four-hour video surveillance facilitates such supervision.

13 Prosecutors did not request that MDC staff install video cameras in
14 Defendant’s cell or conduct around-the-clock surveillance of Defendant. Instead,
15 these safeguards predated Defendant’s arrival at MDC and apply to all cells in the
16 detention area where Defendant is housed. Such measures are clearly designed to
17 enhance institutional security, not to gather evidence for use in connection with
18 Defendant’s prosecution. See id. Notably, none of the statements the government
19 seeks to offer at trial were obtained through such surveillance or other monitoring.

20 The court thus finds that the video surveillance of which Defendant
21

22 ¹⁹ Defendant does not further define the term “other monitoring.”
23

24 ²⁰ As the government points out, Defendant does not challenge the 24-hour
25 camera surveillance as an unconstitutional condition per se. Opp., at 24. The court
26 notes that such a challenge would necessarily fail. See Bell v. Wolfish, 441 U.S.
27 at 537 (“Once the Government has exercised its conceded authority to detain a
28 person pending trial, it obviously is entitled to employ devices that are calculated
to effectuate this detention. . . . Loss of . . . privacy [is an] inherent incident[] of
confinement in [a pretrial detention] facility.”).

1 complains is reasonably related to the legitimate penalogical purposes —
2 specifically, the need to ensure a secure environment for inmates, staff, and
3 visitors. See Turner v. Safley, 482 U.S. 78 (rule allowing extrafamilial, nonlegal
4 inmate-to-inmate correspondence only if it was in best interest of parties upheld as
5 reasonably related to legitimate security concerns of prison officials); Hudson v.
6 Palmer, 468 U.S. at 526-27 (societal interest in the security of its correctional
7 facilities outweighs prisoner’s interest in privacy of his cell).

8 IV. CONCLUSION

9 For the reasons set forth above, the court finds that the note discovered on
10 Defendant during a routine strip search and the letters Defendant gave to an MDC
11 corrections officer do not constitute statements deliberately elicited by the
12 government in violation of Defendant’s constitutional rights. Accordingly, they
13 may be introduced, if relevant, at the trial or penalty phase of the case. In contrast,
14 the court determines that introduction of Defendant’s oral statements made in the
15 course of interviews initiated by Dr. Burris without defendant being advised of his
16 right to consult with counsel would violate Defendant’s Sixth Amendment right to
17 the assistance of counsel. Accordingly, those statements may not be used in the
18 government’s case in chief in the guilt or penalty phase of the trial.

19
20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21
22 DATED: August 19, 2000

23 _____
24 Nora M. Manella
25 United States District Judge
26
27
28