



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

September 15, 1981

Mr. Andres J. Washington
1061 Trinity Avenue
Bronx, New York 10456

Dear Mr. Washington:

I am writing in response to your letter dated August 21, 1981.

Enclosed, for your information, is a copy of an FBI publication entitled "The Science of Fingerprints." Chapters four and seven contain information concerning the Henry system and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) fingerprint classification (FPC) system. The Identification Division of the FBI has been utilizing the Henry system since 1924. The NCIC Computerized Criminal History File was added to the NCIC data base in November, 1971, utilizing an FPC field. The NCIC FPC is comprised of 20 characters.

Neither the Henry system nor the NCIC FPC system is a positive identifier. In both systems the individual fingerprint cards must be visually compared to make a positive identification. The NCIC FPC system was designed to facilitate an alphanumeric description of an individual's fingerprints into the NCIC data base. The Identification Division's utilization of the Henry system file sequence allows for a more detailed breakdown including subsecondary classification filing as indicated on page 126 of the enclosed book.

Sincerely yours,

David F. Nemecek
David F. Nemecek
Chief
National Crime Information Center

Enclosure