

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 13, 1979

James H. Lesar, Esq. Suite 600 910 16th Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lesar:

In reference to your letter of January 19, 1979, we are prepared to answer, to the fullest extent possible, the questions posed therein. At the outset, we would like you to note that we consider the first three paragraphs of your letter as inquiries regarding information relevant to the House Select Committee on Assassinations! (HSCA) investigations, and not, as you indicate, a part of the pending litigation with the Department of Justice (Civil Action No. 75-1996).

In your first paragraph, you request advice as to "whether the FBI processed any records on or pertaining to the assassination" for the HSCA which were not processed for Mr. Weisberg. Numerous records on a wide variety of individuals and organizations were requested of us by, and were processed for, the HSCA. The total volume of documents requested and reviewed by the Committee far exceeded the documents that have been received by Mr. Weisberg. We are simply unable to state prior to the release of the Committee report, if any of the material furnished the Committee, but not furnished to Mr. Weisberg, is pertinent to the assassination of Dr. King.

You inquired, in your second paragraph, concerning a list of records which were processed for the HSCA. In responding to HSCA requests we treated each one as a separate entity, and no compilation of the records processed as a result thereof was made. We are therefore unable to furnish you such a list.

With respect to your third paragraph, records were processed for the HSCA at their request for either access by staff members at FBI Headquarters or delivery to the Committee. There are no records which reflect



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those documents to which access only was provided. In addition, the HSCA was refused access to certain requested records. This refusal of access was based upon the Memorandum of Understanding which was ratified by the Department of Justice and the HSCA. This memorandum, in part, precluded the HSCA from access to certain records disclosure of which would reveal informant identities; foreign intelligence operations; sensitive foreign intelligence sources; or disclose matters in litigation and pending prosecution. We are unable to cite with any specificity those records which were refused as this information has not been compiled.

You requested in the fourth paragraph of your letter that delivery be made of Serials 5310 and 5327 of the FBI Headquarters MURKIN file as they were processed for the HSCA. The Committee was given access to those serials exactly as they were provided to your client, Mr. Weisberg, that is, with no excisions. If you continue to be interested in personally receiving copies of those serials, they will be provided to you as a new request under the Freedom of Information Act.

If we can be of any further assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

Thoma H. Bresson

Thomas H. Bresson, Acting Chief Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts Branch Records Management Division