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DEPUTY
April 15, 1975 GENERAL

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

Deputy Attorney General
U. S. Department of Justice
Washington, D. C. 20531

Sir:

On behalf of Mr. Harold Weisberg I am requesting disclosure of the following information on the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.:

1. The results of any ballistics tests.
2. The results of any spectrographic or neutron activation analyses.
3. The results of any scientific tests made on the dent in the windowsill of the bathroom window from which Dr. King was allegedly shot.
4. The results of any scientific tests performed on the butts, ashes or other cigarette remains found in the white Mustang abandoned in Atlanta after Dr. King's assassination and all reports made in regard to said cigarette remains.
5. All photographs or sketches of any suspects in the assassination of Dr. King.
6. All photographs from whatever source taken at the scene of the crime on April 4th or April 5th, 1968.
7. All information, documents, or reports made available to any author or writer, including but not limited to Clay Blair, Jeremiah O'Leary, George McMillan, Gerold Frank, and William Bradford Huie.

This request for disclosure is made under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, as amended by Public Law 93-502, 88 Stat. 1561.

Sincerely yours,

Jim [Signature]
190-709-71
DISCLOSURE

select which ones, if any, he wishes to have copied for him. This of course, will save everybody time and money.

I would appreciate it if this examination of the King assassination materials could be arranged for the earliest possible mutual convenient date. Mr. Weisberg is suffering from a serious case of phlebitis and no longer travels to Washington as frequently as he did in the past. This is why I phoned Mr. Wiseman on December 22nd to ask if he could arrange for Mr. Weisberg to view the photographs of the scene of the crime and the excluded ballistics materials on the afternoon of December 23rd when Mr. Weisberg was coming to D.C. for a medical appointment. Mr. Wiseman informed me, however, that the FBI agent responsible for assembling the King assassination documents had told him that it would not be possible to reassemble them in time for Mr. Weisberg's visit the following afternoon. Hopefully, Mr. Weisberg's examination of these materials, if arranged to coincide with his next trip to D.C.

With respect to the ballistics materials sought by Mr. Weisberg he has asked me to inform you that as of this date he has still not received the results of the ballistics comparisons which the FBI did perform. He further states that, notwithstanding Mr. Shea's letter of December 23, 1975, what has been provided him of the spectrograph and neutron activation analyses is incomplete and does not meet the normal standards for such tests.

You state that the photographs and sketches of suspects in the assassination of Dr. King portray only James Earl Ray "as there never were any other suspects in the case." If you are not already aware of it, I think you should be informed that on April 17, 1968, FBI Special Agent Joseph H. Gamble filed a conspiracy complaint with the U.S. Commissioner in Birmingham, Alabama. If, as you say, there never were any other suspects in the case, doesn't this constitute abuse of process?

I should also inform you that Mr. Weisberg and I have seen a sketch of at least one other suspect in the murder of Dr. King. In view of this, I suggest that you have the FBI make a further check of its files to see if it cannot find additional photographs and sketches of suspects in the assassination of Dr. King.

In reply to Mr. Weisberg's request for "all information, documents, or reports made available to any author or writer," you state that no information, documents, or reports made available to any author or writer "can be identified as such in our records." Assuming this to be true, it still dodges the issue by the use of semantics. As I indicated to Mr. Volney Brown when we spoke about this a couple of months ago, I think it is relatively simple for you

to ascertain what materials are included within this request if you will just make a few inquiries of the appropriate authors, writers, and FBI officials.

The alternative, of course, is to proceed to take depositions and testimony from these officials and writers and let the district court determine the matter. I think this is unnecessary, since the fact that FBI materials were made available to writers and authors is incontestable. I note, for example, that in his book The Strange Case of James Earl Ray, Clay Blair, Jr. thanks the FBI for its assistance. In addition, Mr. Weisberg informs me that some of the writers listed in his information request have copies of such evidence as the autopsy photographs which have been denied James Earl Ray's defense and that they have flashed FBI reports on the King assassination in order to impress people. Moreover, one of the writers mentioned in Mr. Weisberg's request has obtained copies of the bank records of Ray's sister, Carol Pepper.

In closing, let me apologize for the delay in responding to your letter. I work entirely alone. I have no secretary or law clerk to assist me and must of necessity do my own typing and filing. Recently I have been very pressed for time and this accounts for the delay. However, Mr. Weisberg did write both you and Attorney General Levi about these and other matters soon after he received a copy of your letter and I trust you paid him close attention.

Sincerely yours,

Jim Lesar
Jim Lesar

cc: Attorney General Edward H. Levi
FBI Director Clarence Kelley
FBI Special Agent Thomas Wiseman