| JAMES H. LESAR, |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  | Plaintiff, |
| v. |  |
| U.S. DEPARTMENT | OF JUSTICE, |
|  | Defendant |

Civil Action No. 77-0692

> AFFIDAVIT OF JAMES H. LESAR PURSUANT TO RULE $56(\mathrm{f})$ OF THE FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE

I, James H. Lesar, first having been duly sworn, depose and say as follows:
I. I am the pro se plaintiff in the above entitled cause of action.
2. In order to effectively oppose defendant's motion for summary judgment, it is essential that $I$ be allowed to undertake discovery to establish facts which I cannot conclusively or satisfactorily demonstrate absent such discovery.
3. For example, with respect to defendant's Exemption 1 claim, I need to know just how disclosure of the purportedly classified OPR and Civil Rights Division materials might damage the national security or foreign relations of the United States. Would disclosure damage our foreign relations with a particular country? Would "disclosure" in fact disclose anything of importance not already known? Conversely, have facts already publicly known been withheld under a claim that they are classified? Has the Department of Justice withheld materials that were made public by the Church Committee? Was any of the purportedly classified information leaked to the press or others as part of the FBI's

COINTELPRO operations? Were the classifying officers aware of, and did they consult, the work of the Church Committee before making a determination that this information was to be classified? Was Dr. King ever charged with being a spy?
4. The Murphy Report, a copy of which is attached to the Supplemental Affidavit of James P. Turner, was originally classified in toto. Since much of it has now been disclosed, it seems evident that there never was any basis for classifying the parts which are now public. In order to assess the comptence and credibility of those who classified the Murphy Report (and the other materials as well), I need to engage in discovery to find out what criteria were employed in reaching these unjustifiable classification determinations.
5. Much of the information withheld by the Defendant is purportedly exempt pursuant to Exemptions $7(C)$ or $7(D)$. The government's reliance on these provisions is notoriously unreliable. As an example, I attach a copy of a document provided to my client, Mr. Harold Weisberg, by the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice. I was able to fill in all but one of the 30 excisions in this four-page document off of the top of my head because it was all public information. Yet the Department of Justice deleted it under Exemption $7(C)$ and $7(D)$.
6. With respect to Exemption $7(D)$, I need to engage in discovery to ascertain whether the government maintains that the FBI's COINTELPRO operation against Dr. King and the SCLC was a "lawful national security intelligence investigation," and to establish whether information has been withheld under Exemption $7(D)$ on the premise that it was. As with Exemption l, I need to ascertain whether, as ${ }^{\text {I }}$ think apparent, information has been withheld under this provision even though it is already publicly known. I wish to ascertain whether information which has appeared in the press
or on radio or $T . V$. has been withheld under this provision. I also need to establish through discovery the facts upon which defendant contends that the information allegedly protected by exemption $7(D)$ was furnished as the result of an express or implied agreement of confidentiality.
7. With respect to Exemption $7(E)$, many FBI investigative techniques and procedures are already publicly known. This is particularly true with respect to those employed by the FBI in its COINTELPRO operations. I believe that this exemption may have been unjustifiably utilized in this case to hide the details of illegal activities by FBI agents by applying this claim of exemption to techniques and procedures which are either already publicly known or supposed to have been abandoned. Discovery is esssential if I am to establish this.
8. It may also be necessary to take discovery in order to clear up a question as to whether what is being withheld as Memphis Police Department records also includes notes which Mr. James $F$. Walker or other members of the Justice Department Task Force may have taken while reviewing these records. This question arises because Mr. Walker's affidavit states that he went to Memphis on October 18, 1976 for the purpose of reviewing and securing copies of relevant Memphis Police Department records. In reviewing other records, the Task Force normally took notes on matters of interest. These notes constitute the bulk of the Appendix $C$ materials which have been provided to date. I have not been provided with any notes on the Memphis Police Department records. Inasmuch as Mr. Walker states that he did not serve a subpoena on Mr. Stanton until October 21,1976 , three days after he went to Memphis, he may have spent the intervening time reviewing and making notes on the Memphis Police Department records. Appendix

C to the Shaheen Report contains five volumes which have been described by defendant as containing Memphis Police Department documents. Yet the subpoena which Mr. Walker served on Mr. Stanton seems to apply to only some 400 to 500 pages of Memphis Police Department records. This is far less than would normally be containe in five volumes. Moreover, it is apparent that Mr. Walker must have made some notes on the Memphis Police Department records, if only to be able to specify which records he wanted to subpoena. Because any notes members of the Task Force made on Memphis Police Department records may arguably have a different legal status than the $P D$ records themselves, I need to undertake discovery on this question, too.


WASHINGTON, D.C.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 22na day of May, 1978.

My commission expires $\qquad$ 1979.



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