



U.S. Department of Justice

Office of the Associate Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

FEB 3 1981

James H. Lesar, Esquire  
2101 L Street, N. W.  
Suite 203  
Washington, D. C. 20037

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is in further response to the request of your client, Mr. Harold Weisberg, for access to all records of the Offices of the Attorney General and Deputy Attorney General pertaining to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Because of the results of the consultative process with various components of the Department, it proved impossible to complete the processing of these records by December 1980, as I had earlier estimated, but our efforts in this regard are still continuing. At Tab A is a list of the components and records which are encompassed by your client's request. Enclosed herewith are copies of fifty-three of the one hundred and two items, all of which are being released to Mr. Weisberg without excisions. Three others have been previously released to him. As to the remaining items, components have recommended that some be withheld in their entireties and that others be released with excisions. There are even a few documents as to which one component has recommended release, but where another component has recommended complete or partial withholding of the same item, or of another record containing substantially identical content. I anticipate that all of these matters will be resolved, one way or the other, within the next four to six weeks, thereby permitting either their release or a decision to withhold prior to April 1, 1981.

I do wish to advise you that I have personally examined all of the records as to which a recommendation to deny access has been made. All of those recommended for complete withholding appear to be exempt from mandatory disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to at least 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(5); recommended excisions are primarily on grounds of personal privacy.

Nonetheless, within the time constraints imposed on us by the pending suit, as indicated above, I and my staff will continue to explore the possibility of additional disclosure of this material either by establishing that personal privacy considerations do not apply, or as a matter of agency discretion.

Sincerely,

Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director  
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Weisberg ✓

Assistant United States  
Attorney Jason Kogin