

SECRET

2 MAR 78 03 53z

RECEIVED
LIMITED OFFICE FEDERAL BUREAU
OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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LONDON 03364 011759Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 MCT-01 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 INR-10
L-03 /028 W

Handwritten signature
Brewer

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3684

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LONDON 03364

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDD/MR

REVIEWED BY *Blawie* DATE *3/29/86*

RDS of XDS EXT. DATE _____

TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS _____

DECLASSIFIED RELEASABLE _____

RELEASE DENIED in *part* _____

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS *HSBA*

FOR H (ASST SEC BENNET) AND EUR/NE

EX-110

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: P INR UK

DE-65

REC-13

15-25

Handwritten: 62-117290-496

MAR 9 1978

SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

57 MAR 24 1978
REF: LONDON 1641

THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A LETTER DATED FEB 27 FROM THE HOME OFFICE APOLOGIZING FOR THE DELAY OCCASIONED BY THE NECESSITY TO CONSULT WITH THE COMMISSIONER OF THE (LONDON) METROPOLITAN POLICE AND RESPONDING TO THE SELECT COMMITTEE'S REQUEST

HCGA

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] AS FOLLOWS:

U.S.A.
ENGLAND

QUOTE I SHOULD PERHAPS BEGIN BY EXPLAINING THAT THERE ARE LIMITATIONS ON CHIEF OFFICERS OF POLICE MAKING AVAILABLE INFORMATION OBTAINED BY THEIR OFFICERS IN THE COURSE OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS. CERTAIN INFORMATION WOULD, OF COURSE, BECOME PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE IN THE COURSE OF CRIMINAL OR, IN THIS CASE, EXTRADITION PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A COURT, BUT THERE IS NO RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION HELD BY THE POLICE EVEN FOR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT IN THIS COUNTRY.

THERE ARE ALSO PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES. THE ARREST OF RAY TOOK PLACE ALMOST TEN YEARS AGO AND MOST OF THE

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OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH THE CASE HAVE SINCE RETIRED FROM THE FORCE. INDEED, THE POLICE OFFICER PRINCIPALLY CONCERNED, CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT BUTLER, IS NOW DEAD. ANY OFFICERS STILL SERVING, WHO WERE INVOLVED IN THE CASE, WERE OF RELATIVELY JUNIOR RANK AT THE TIME AND MAY NOT BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE THE SELECT COMMITTEE THE TYPE OF INFORMATION IT MAY REQUIRE.

REALISING THE PUBLIC IMPORTANCE OF THE MURDERS WITH WHICH THE SENATE COMMITTEE IS CONCERNED, THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES WISH TO CO-OPERATE AS FAR AS THEY CAN, AND ARE PREPARED TO SEE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE COMMITTEE, IF THEY COME TO THIS COUNTRY, AND TO FACILITATE THE PROVISION OF INFORMATION BY THE POLICE AS APPROPRIATE. WE SHOULD, HOWEVER, BE IN A MUCH BETTER POSITION TO HELP IF THE COMMITTEE COULD PROVIDE IN ADVANCE THE INFORMATION REQUESTED AS TO THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE INQUIRY AND THE USE THAT WOULD BE MADE OF ANY EVIDENCE OBTAINED. I SHOULD EMPHASISE, HOWEVER, THAT THERE CANNOT BE ANY PROSPECT OF THE COMMITTEE BEING GRANTED DIRECT ACCESS TO POLICE FILES. END QUOTE.

BREWSTER