

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

DEPARTMENT

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Sullivan	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Bishop	_____
Mr. Brennan, C.D.	_____
Mr. Callahan	_____
Mr. Casper	_____
Mr. Conrad	_____
Mr. Dalbey	_____
Mr. Felt	_____
Mr. Gale	_____
Mr. Rosen	<i>[Signature]</i>
Mr. Tavel	_____
Mr. Walters	_____
Mr. Soyars	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

TO : Director,
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: M

JL:MG:p

DJ 144-

FROM : Jerris Leonard
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

by 3/25/71

SUBJECT: Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.
CIVIL RIGHTS

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 16, 1971 at Atlanta and to previous communications in the captioned matter.

It appears that Robert Byron Watson (Byron Watson) may have information pertinent to the captioned matter. Please interview Byron Watson fully with respect to all details of this matter and with respect to his background, education, employment, criminal record if any, and any other matters which may cast light on the creditability of his statements in connection with the captioned matter.

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If the statement furnished by Byron Watson is substantially similar to that attributed to him and his mother by your source (pp. 3-5 of your memorandum of 3/16) or to the statement attributed to him by Ken Smith (my memorandum of 2/1/71, pp. 5-8 of attachment), please provide full background information on Byron Watson and his parents, and, in addition, please conduct the investigation requested in paragraph III (4.) of my memorandum of February 1, 1971.

EXP. PROC.

36 MAR 26 1971

REC 98

44-38861-5908

115 10 1 11 11

*Outlet 4/9/71 EX-112
rel/ [unclear]
[unclear]*

15 MAR 26 1971

[Handwritten initials]

Memorandum

TO : Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: APR 24 1974

FROM: J. Stanley Pottinger
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

JSP:FDA:SH:bmp

DJ 144-72-662

SUBJECT: Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Reference is made to your investigation of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Bureau file #44-38861, and the attached correspondence between this Division and Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, attorney for James Earl Ray.

Mr. Fensterwald asserts that authors Gerold Frank, William Bradford Huie and George McMillan have had access to FBI reports in connection with this matter.

Please interview the appropriate Bureau personnel who may have information, or comments, with regard to Mr. Fensterwald's assertion and advise us whether there is any indication that these authors had access to the reports as asserted.

ST-1 APR 25 1974

EXP. PROC.

1 cc to Dept of Justice for review
see FOIA log of Hengel, AR, lha
2/7/75 gpl

REC-118

44-38861-5942

Facsimile to SACs BS - ENC. 3
CO - ENC. 3
1 - ME (INFC) ENC. 3
EJM/PWL 4/26/74

3 APR 25 1974

Mc [Signature]

Law Offices
FENSTERWALD AND OHLHAUSEN

810 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20006
TELEPHONE (202) 223-1867

BERNARD FENSTERWALD, JR.
WILLIAM G. OHLHAUSEN
GORDON F. HARRISON
OF COUNSEL

NEW YORK ASSOCIATES
BASS & ULLMAN
342 MADISON AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

March 27, 1974

Mr. William O'Connor
550 11th St., N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bill:

I enclose a copy of a letter which I obtained, and which should be of interest to you. It is from George McMillan, well known writer and hopeful biographer of James Earl Ray; it is to John Ray, Jame's brother.

As you will note, McMillan claims access to the FBI file and asserts that both Gerold Frank and William Huie had access.

If this is true, and I have reason to believe it is true at least in the cases of Huie and Frank, I believe that I, as Ray's attorney, am entitled to access. In fact, I believe I'm entitled under the FOI Act as an individual. It would be to everyone's advantage, I believe, to let me examine it quietly rather than after a big, public flap.

Would you look into this and take it up with your elders.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Berd

Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.

BF:crf
Encl

PS.

Despite our best efforts, Ray is still in solitary; starting his 18th month.

We go to Houston to depose Percy Foreman on April 2, 1974

Oh joy!!

44-38861-594

144-72-662	STICE	R
APR 2 1974		
O.H.S.M.		
CIV. RIGHTS DIV.		

and
to FDAlman
4/4/74
Q. talk
F. on file
4/4

Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

APR 24 1974

Mr. Bernard Fensterwald, Jr.
Law Offices
Fensterwald and Ohlhausen
910 Sixteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. Fensterwald:

This is to reply to your letter of March 27, 1974, enclosing a letter from one George McMillen to John Larry Ray, and requesting access to our investigative file pertaining to the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King.

As an investigative file pertaining to a possible violation of federal criminal statutes, this material is specifically exempted from disclosure pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. See 5 U.S.C. §552. Any disclosure of the contents of this file would be contrary to Department policy and regulations.

I regret that we could not be of more assistance.

Sincerely,

K. William O'Connor
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

44-38861-5942
ENCLOSURE
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