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January 31, 1978

Mr. William Schaffer
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
Civil Division
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, D.C. 20530

Re: Weisberg v. Department of Justice,
Civil Action No. 75-1996

Dear Mr. Schaffer:

When we conferred on November 11, 1977, you proposed that the Department of Justice pay my client, Mr. Harold Weisberg, to detail the FBI's unjustifiable excisions and withholdings in his suit for records pertaining to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At an in chambers conference on November 21, 1977, Judge June Green in effect directed this.

As health and circumstances permit, Mr. Weisberg has been laboring to accomplish this. As of December 26, 1977, he had already put in more than 80 hours of work on this project. Accordingly, I wrote Mrs. Lynne Zusman on that date to inquire about the rate of compensation, which had not been specified, and the possibility of an interim payment. On January 15, 1978, Mrs. Zusman called me to offer a rate of payment of \$75.00 per hour, and Mr. Weisberg has accepted this.

At the \$75.00 an hour rate, the bill for the first 80 hours of work comes to an even \$6,000. I would very much appreciate it if you could set in motion the processing which is needed to get this sum to Mr. Weisberg as soon as possible.

As I think you know, Mr. Weisberg lives in a rural area at Frederick, Maryland. Because of this, the sum of money involved, and the fact that his mailbox has been repeatedly subjected to vandalism, the check should be sent by registered mail to: Mr. Harold Weisberg, Route 12, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Mrs. Zusman requested that I explain the nature of the work done by Mr. Weisberg to date. Briefly, it is this. He began by assembling, with some difficulty, complete sets of his notes on

the MURKIN records provided him by the FBI, the worksheets which accompanied the records, and his correspondence with FBI agents.

After assembling the relevant records, he reviewed his notes on the 20,000 pages which comprise the FBI Headquarters' MURKIN files. These notes contain his comments and analysis of the substance of the MURKIN investigation as well as his criticisms of FBI excisions and withholdings and his review of them proved far more time-consuming than either of us had anticipated.

In reviewing his notes on the MURKIN files, Mr. Weisberg also consulted the FBI worksheets and augmented the criticisms of FBI deletions and withholdings reflected in those notes. For purposes of illustration he also made a page-by-page review of one entire section of the FBI Headquarters' MURKIN file, Section 60.

Mr. Weisberg's notes on the unjustifiable excisions and withholdings will be further augmented when he reviews his correspondence with FBI agents over these matters. After that is completed he will have a set of notes on the deletions and withholdings which is as comprehensive as is possible given the nature of his review, which is the only kind of review which he can possibly undertake. From this set of notes he will dictate his report, which will be typed up by his wife and then forwarded to me. Should it be necessary for me to edit or revise his report for greater clarity, I will do so. Hopefully all of this can be accomplished before too much longer.

If you wish any additional information, please do not hesitate to call or write me.

Sincerely yours,


James H. Lesar

cc: Mrs. Lynne K. Zusman
Mr. Harold Weisberg