



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Case No. 720-119

June 22, 1977

Mr. James H. Lesar,
Attorney at Law
1231 Fourth Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Lesar:

I refer to your letter of June 11, 1976, addressed to Mr. Gene F. Wilson, Freedom of Information Coordinator, Central Intelligence Agency, in which you request on behalf of your client, Mr. Harold Weisberg, access to all records pertaining to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; records pertaining to Dr. King's assassination; records pertaining to James Earl Ray, under whatever name or alias; all records and data relevant to the above, as itemized in your letter.

My colleagues and I have reviewed one document which was referred to this Bureau, and we have determined that a portion of this document constitutes an investigatory record compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of such records would (E) disclose investigative techniques and procedures. That portion is, therefore, exempt from disclosure under Section (b)(7) of the Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552). The sense of the deleted portion however is to confirm that James Earl Ray was in fact the bearer of a Canadian passport in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, information which is already in the public domain. The Freedom of Information Office, Bureau of Public Affairs, will be in touch with you regarding the released portion of this document.

You should be aware that, under the Freedom of Information Act, you have the right to appeal this determination to the Council on Classification Policy under the Department of State's regulation on appeals, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Richard D. Vine
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of European Affairs

Enclosure:

Appeals regulation.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE REGULATIONS

Chapter I, Part 6, Section 8:

6.8 Appeals.

(a) Review of an initial denial under 6.6(b) may be requested by the person who submitted the original request for a record. The review (hereinafter the appeal) must be requested in writing within 60 days of the date that the requester is informed either: (1) that the request is denied completely, or (2) that all records which are being furnished in response to his request have been released and he has been so informed.

(b) The appeal must be sent by certified mail to the Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, Chairman, Council on Classification Policy, Department of State, Washington, D.C. 20520. The time for decision on appeal begins on the date the appeal is actually received in the Office of the Assistant Secretary. The request shall include a statement of the circumstances, reasons, or arguments advanced for insistence upon disclosure of the originally requested record and a copy of the initial denial letter.

(c) The Council on Classification Policy shall decide the appeal; there shall be a written record of the reasons for the decision and the views of each member. The decision shall be communicated in writing to the requester by a letter from the Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs. If the decision is to withhold, the letter shall identify the exemption or exemptions exercised under 6.4, the reason, and if the Council is prepared to give further consideration notwithstanding expiration of the time allocated for decision, the letter shall so state and indicate when that consideration is expected to be completed.

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Department of State

REFER TO STATE
(JAMES EARL RAY)

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REPORTS OF APPREHENSION IN LONDON OF JAMES EARL RAY,
SUSPECTED MURDERER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, HAVE BEEN FEATURED
ON LOCAL RADIO AND TV NEWSCASTS IN OTTAWA TODAY, NOTABLY
BECAUSE RAY WAS REPORTELY BEARER OF CANADIAN PASSPORT.

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