Australia has been asked by the FBI to make a "routine check" of whether James Earl Ray, sought in the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., has applied for a visa to go to that country.

An Embassy official here emphasized that "Australian authorities have no evidence at all that the person concerned (Ray) is in Australian"

American sources also underscored the routine nature of the request. They said it would be logical to assume that similar requests had or would be made of other nations in which I ay might seek refuge. The FBI had no comment on the embassy official's statement.

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