

Ray Acted Alone To Kill

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WASHINGTON (UPI) — A thorough FBI investigation indicates James Earl Ray acted alone in the 1968 assassination of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., the Justice Department announced today.

"In all the years following the assassination, the investigation has failed to reveal any connection between any alleged conspirator(s) and James Earl Ray — including those alleged by Ray himself," the 201-page report of the investigation stated.

"Indeed, the overwhelming evidence indicates that Ray was almost totally

alone during the year after his escape from Missouri State Prison" before he shot King from a flophouse bathroom in Memphis, the report said.

However, the investigation ordered by former Attorney General Edward Levi could not determine the source of the funds Ray expended to buy equipment and then escape abroad before his capture, the report said. But it suggested the money may have come from robberies committed by Ray.

The report, developed by the Justice Department's "Martin Luther King Task Force," found that during Ray's imprisonment in Missouri State Prison

he had told inmates he "hated Negroes" and vowed on several occasions he would kill King "if the price was right."

"The only new evidence that was developed related to details that did not affect the ultimate conclusion that James Earl Ray was the properly convicted murderer," the Justice Department announced in releasing the report.

Ray is currently serving a 99-year prison sentence in Tennessee.

The task force said it was "satisfied" after its review of the files "that the FBI did a credible and a thorough job in attempting to identify any possi-

King, FBI Concludes

ble conspiracy or persons who could have been involved in the murder."

The FBI focused on finding sources of funds Ray used in his wide travels before and after the assassination, following his escape from prison, the report showed.

Checks of Ray's possible involvement in various bank robberies occurring in that period proved negative, the report said.

"It is the bureau's opinion that Ray most likely committed on a periodic basis several robberies and burglaries during this period in order to support

himself," the report said.

Members of the Congressional Black Caucus have been skeptical of the assertion that Ray acted alone.

Some claim Ray had insufficient intelligence to plot the assassination and make good his escape. Others question whether he had the money needed to execute the operation. Still others question his motives.

The Justice Department report, which drew on some 203,000 documents in the King assassination file in Memphis reportedly states Ray's IQ is 110 — or slightly above average

intelligence.

At his trial, Ray pleaded guilty to murdering King and later claimed he had been coerced. Ray has lost subsequent efforts for a retrial.

One of the reasons rumors abound about the King assassination is that there has never been any detailed presentation of the known facts in the case.

Ray pleaded guilty to an 8,000-word accusation of "stipulated facts" and was found guilty without exhaustive court hearings.