



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

JAN 16 1978

James Hiram Lesar, Esq.
Suite 600
910 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is in response to your Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts requests directed to our Washington, Baltimore, and Memphis Field Offices.

A search of their indices reflected that documents had been sent to FBI Headquarters regarding other cases.

Enclosed you will find copies of these documents in their entirety. No exemptions have been cited.

Sincerely yours,

Allen H. McCreight

Allen H. McCreight, Chief
Freedom of Information-Privacy Acts
Branch
Records Management Division

Enclosure



October 9, 1974

REC-59

44-38861-5967

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. White
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Farrington
- 1 - Mr. Herington

EX 104

Mr James H. Lesar
 1231 4th Street, S.W.
 Washington, D. C. 20024

Dear Mr. Lesar:

This is to acknowledge your request on October 8, 1974, for photographs of a bullet fragment removed from the body of Dr. Martin Luther King

Although I would like to be of assistance, the evidence in question was submitted to the FBI Laboratory by the Memphis Police Department. Accordingly, we are unable to furnish the photographs you requested in the absence of specific authorization from that department or the prosecutor who handled the case.

Sincerely yours,

C. M. Kelley
 Clarence M. Kelley
 Director

MAILED 6
 OCT 9 1974
 -FBI

NOTE: Based on memorandum Legal Counsel to Mr. J. B. Adams dated 10/8/74, captioned "James Earl Ray, Request for Laboratory Data" JH:deh.

JH:deh
 (8)

- Assoc. Dir. _____
- Dep. AD Adm. _____
- Dep. AD Inv. _____
- Asst. Dir.:
- Admin. _____
- Comp. Syst. _____
- Ext. Affairs _____
- Files & Com. _____
- Gen. Inv. _____
- Ident. _____
- Inspection _____
- Intell. _____
- Laboratory _____
- Plan. & Eval. _____
- Spec. Inv. _____
- Training _____
- Off. of Cong. & Public Affairs _____
- Telephone Rm. _____
- Director's Sec'y _____

OCT 30 1974

MAIL ROOM

TELETYPE UNIT

OCT 23 1974

Handwritten signature/initials

Handwritten initials JH

Handwritten signature

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. J. B. Adams

DATE: 10/8/74

FROM : Legal Counsel

SUBJECT: JAMES EARL RAY
REQUEST FOR LABORATORY DATA

Assoc. Dir. _____
 Dep. AD Adm. _____
 Dep. AD Inv.
 Asst. Dir.:
 Admin. _____
 Comp. Syst. _____
 Ext. Affairs _____
 Files & Com.
 Ident. _____
 Inspection _____
 Intell. _____
 Laboratory _____
 Plan. & Eval. _____
 Spec. Inv. _____
 Training _____
 Legal Coun. _____
 Tele. Rm. _____
 Director Sec'y _____

On referral from the Director's Office, Inspector Herington spoke to James H. Lesar (1231 4th Street, S.W., Washington, D. C. 20024, telephone number 484-6023). Lesar alleged he was Ray's attorney and was seeking copies of photographs of a bullet fragment removed from the body of Martin Luther King. He stated that his reason for calling the FBI was because he needed this data quickly and believed he could get it from us faster than from other sources. He noted that Ray had pled guilty but that the bullet evidence had been introduced into court and was presently being held by the court.

Lesar was advised that it would be impossible to furnish him copies immediately if at all since we would have to first check our records and he was further advised that if the evidence was not collected by the FBI we probably would not be in a position to furnish him a copy in any event without an appropriate release from the prosecutor or local investigating agency.

Contact with the Laboratory determined that the bullet evidence was submitted to the FBI Laboratory by the Memphis Police Department and our examination was accordingly made for that department.

Accordingly, attached is a letter to Mr. Lesar advising him that we are unable to be of assistance without specific authorization from the Memphis Police Department or the prosecutor. Bufiles indicate that James Lesar, the "present counsel for James Earl Ray" participated in a conference during November, 1973, at Georgetown University sponsored by the Committee to Investigate Assassinations.

- 1 - Mr. Adams
- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. White
- 1 - Mr. Mintz
- 1 - Mr. Farrington
- 1 - Mr. Herington

JH:deh

(8) 62-112697

Enc. 10/9/74

REC-59 44-38861-5967

EX 104

CONTINUED - OVER

LEGAL COUNSEL

10/22/74

Memorandum Legal Counsel to Mr. J. B. Adams
RE: JAMES EARL RAY
REQUEST FOR LABORATORY DATA

RECOMMENDATION:

That attached letter be sent to Mr. Lesar.

MBH

JL

Lesar

Ray

JL

44-38861-5967

Ray Appeals Conviction in King Murder

Associated Press

James Earl Ray, convicted killer of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., asked the Supreme Court yesterday to review his case, claiming he was "set up to take the rap for a crime he didn't commit."

Ray's appeal said he was "framed by the FBI and local police, and then coerced by his own attorney to plead guilty against his will."

James H. Lesar, the Washington attorney representing Ray, wrote in asking the court to review Ray's conviction: "The charge is that those who did kill Dr. King are still at large, protected in part by the unwillingness of the courts to face these unpleasant facts."

The petition did not mention an investigation recently begun by the House into the assassinations of King and President Kennedy.

King was killed by a rifle blast as he stood on a motel balcony in Memphis in 1968.

Ray was arrested in London and brought back to the United States to stand trial. He pleaded guilty.

In his petition, Ray, now an inmate serving a life term in the Tennessee state penitentiary, said a thorough review of his conviction is needed because potential conflicts of interest between two of his attorneys denied him "effective assistance of counsel." Ray was represented originally by attorneys Arthur Hanes and Percy Foreman.

The Washington Post _____
Washington Star-News A _____
Daily News (New York) _____
The New York Times _____
The Wall Street Journal _____
The National Observer _____
The Los Angeles Times _____

Date 10/9/76

Enclosure 44-38861

ENCLOSURE

memo Reelment to Hollings 11-8-76, 7:10 PM
with LCB ad Lanning 11-10-76, 7:10 PM

FD 36

F B I

Date: 9/14/65

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (100-439048)

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-148c47)

SUBJECT: COMINFIL
 STUDENTS FOR A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY
 IS - C
 (OO: CHICAGO)

Submitted herewith are 6 copies of an LHM dated and captioned as above in regard to the activities of a member of the US Army.

- 4 - Bureau (Encls. 6) (RM)
- (1 - 100-) (JIM LESAR)
- ① - Baltimore (100-) (JIM LESAR) (Encl. 1) (RM)
- 1 - Chicago (100-40903) (SDS) (Encl. 1) (RM)
- 1 - Springfield (100-) (JIM LESAR) (Encl. 1) (RM)
- 1 - Washington Field (100-) (JIM LESAR) (Encl. 1) (RM)
- 1 - New York

AEF:jaw
 (10) *WJM*

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
 Special Agent in Charge

100-439048-34-8

ENCLOSURE



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Bufile 100-439048
NY file 100-148047

New York, New York
September 14, 1965

CONFIDENTIAL

Communist Infiltration of
Students for a Democratic Society
Internal Security - C

On August 24, 1965, a source, who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available information reflecting that on March 12, 1965, Jim Lesar, United States 55-767-503, Headquarters Company, USASCC-CONUS, 4200 Silver Hill Road, Suitland, Maryland, had stated that he was formerly a member of Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) at the University of Illinois some two years ago.

Lesar stated that he had accepted an invitation to join the Peace Corps training program for Brazil. After six weeks of training, Lesar was released because of his long record as a student agitator.

Lesar stated that he then returned to the University of Illinois to begin research on his master's thesis in History and also made application for Law School.

Lesar was then drafted into the United States Army and was stationed at Suitland, Maryland, "just eight miles from the World Center of Crime, the Capitol Building," which allows him to participate in the various political demonstrations in Washington, D. C.

Lesar joined the pickets on February 20, 1965, at the White House protesting the war in Viet Nam and consequently became aware of the April 17th March on Washington.

CONFIDENTIAL

Group I
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

100-439048-34-8

ENCLOSURE

CONFIDENTIAL

NY 100-148047

Lesar stated he was under the impression that some SDS leaders were to discuss the situation in Viet Nam with members of Congress at that time. He felt they should also confront these Congressional leaders with a representative of the Armed Forces that is opposed to the continuance and extension of the war.

Lesar asked to be included with the SDS group which would talk with the members of Congress, as he was sure that he was the only such soldier ready to take such a position publically.

Lesar was subsequently advised by a coordinator of the March that his offer was appreciated and that he should consult a lawyer about the consequences of appearing with the delegation. He was told that in a 1962 demonstration a man in uniform on the picket line was carried away by Secret Service men.

CONFIDENTIAL

100-439048-34-8