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before the ninety-fifth Congress was to vote on establishment of the Select Committee for the life of that Congress, or until the end of 1978, a poll was taken of the Congress by those members who favored the investigation. They discovered that the establishing resolution would be defeated as long as Richard Sprague was counsel. If he resigned, it was determined, the resolution would barely pass. Sprague, saying that he had not come to Washington to prevent an investigation into the two murders, resigned. The resolution barely passed, and only after the committee's chairman on the floor during the debate assured the members, in answering heated inquiries, that Sprague would not be hired in any capacity.

The intelligence organizations had won an important, although partial, victory. There was to be a committee, there would be an investigation—but the investigator had been removed. Only the inexorable passage of time and events would reveal how much damage had been done to the integrity of the investigation.

As these words are being written in Tennessee, hard by the Brushy Mountain Penitentiary in Petros, where James Earl Ray is incarcerated for a crime that newly discovered evidence suggests he did not commit, I have learned that the FBI has refused to make any of its files and documents available to the Select Committee.

Following the publication of *Code Name "Zorro"* last spring, James Earl Ray told me that it was the first book on the subject that did not distort the facts about him. His confidence in my work as an investigator led him to consider asking me to represent him. He had already fired Bernard Fensterwald, James Lesar, and their investigator, Harold Weisberg, who in seven long years had failed to secure a trial for their client and failed, as well, I believe, to uncover significant new evidence in the case. After Lesar had been fired, he continued to write to the Select Committee stating that his client, James Earl Ray, would not testify before that body. In subsequent meetings with Ray, I urged him to consider testifying before the committee.

Following Sprague's induced resignation, the Select Committee began to founder. Ray had already agreed to testify before the committee and he was impressed by Sprague. He felt that if Sprague were able to secure the

Since the publication of *Code Name "Zorro"* in early 1977, evidence has been discovered that dramatically supports the contention of James Earl Ray that he did not kill Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Toward the end of that year Mr. Ray asked me to represent him primarily due to the fact that he had read this book. As counsel for the defendant, I continued and intensified my investigation into the murder of Dr. King.

In November, 1977, I interviewed important and perhaps decisive eyewitnesses not previously available to me. Their statements are published in the Epilogue, which was written especially for the paperback edition and which begins on page 337.

The Epilogue also serves to bring the reader up to date by discussing other significant events relative to the assassination and its investigation, which occurred subsequent to the original publication of this book in its hardcover edition.



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