

January 17, 1974

Dear James Earl Ray:

Thanks for sending me a copy of your letter to Jack.

I am sorry to say that the Federal Bureau of Prisons and the Justice Department did ask for a stay and file an appeal in my case. My attorney is going to ask for an expedited appeal, ask that the Justice Department be required to file its new brief within two weeks. But in actual fact I don't know when I will be able to see Jack--if ever.

I am enclosing a copy of the decision in my case for your information.

You are yourself affected. If you are moved to a federal penitentiary, you will not be able to talk to any member of the communication media face-to-face. That includes TV, newspapermen, book writers, and magazine writers.

I have been corresponding with Jack for some months. My system has been to send him the completed drafts of my manuscript chapters and ask him to point out the errors in them. He has done this. I find Jack to be very tough-minded, very objective. He doesn't kid around. He's straight-forward. He has helped me a lot.

Again, thank you for the letter. I would be glad to have any comment you want to make on Judge Murray's decision.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Earl Ray
#65477, Station-A
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Enclosure
cc: John Ray

GM:mlz