

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. Gebhardt

FROM : C. L. McGowan

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: 11/7/74

- 1 - Mr. Gebhardt
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Lawn
- 1 - Mr. McDermott

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King in Memphis, Tennessee, in April, 1968. James Earl Ray had pleaded guilty in State Court, Tennessee, and is presently serving a 99-year sentence.

During the conduct of an extensive investigation by this Bureau, Federal process was obtained charging Ray with violation of T18, Section 241, conspiracy to interfere with a constitutional right of Martin Luther King, namely, the right to travel freely from state to state. This Federal process remains outstanding to date, although investigation by this Bureau indicated that Ray acted alone and no evidence of a conspiracy was then, or has since been developed.

FEDERAL
PROCESS
DISMISSED
12/2/71
CC MEMO
10/2/75

On November 6, 1974, Mr. Frank Allen, Deputy Chief, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, advised that the Department intends to make no effort to have this Federal process dismissed until after the U. S. District Judge, Memphis, makes his decision, based upon a recent special hearing, whether to grant Ray a new trial.

Mr. Allen indicated that the Department would not at this time make any efforts to dismiss this Federal process which charges Ray with conspiracy, even though it is within their province to do so, since this action would engender publicity concerning this Federal process and might, therefore, precipitate new speculation that Ray did not act alone. The Department would prefer to await the decision of the State of Tennessee concerning whether Ray should be granted a new trial, which decision should be forthcoming by the end of this calendar year.

Mr. Allen indicated that no Federal detainer has been placed against Ray but that there is already a ~~detainer~~ against Ray from the State of Missouri charging Ray with escape.

ACTION: None. For information.
JCL:bap (5)

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