

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Peter F. Flaherty
Deputy Attorney General

DATE: OCT 31 1977

FROM : Quinlan J. Shea, Jr., Director
Office of Privacy and Information Appeals

SUBJECT: Administrative Appeal of James H. Lesar, Esquire

Mr. Lesar requested access to all documents maintained by the Civil Rights Division and the Office of Professional Responsibility pertaining to their reviews of the investigation by the F.B.I. of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. There will now be substantial supplemental releases by both components. All remaining classified information has been upheld by the D.R.C. Other excisions were made to protect the existence of Bureau files on other individuals and the privacy of Dr. King's family.

Exemption 7(C) was also asserted to withhold the residence addresses and telephone numbers of certain individuals interviewed by the Task Force and the names of Special Agents. Although it is known that the Memphis Police Department furnished the Office of Professional Responsibility with copies of its reports, the contents are still confidential and, therefore, the reports have been withheld in their entirety on the basis of the second clause of 7(D). The Memphis Police Department has been consulted and strenuously objects to our release of any of its documents.

Excisions was on the original document.

The fact that the Bureau had an extensive security investigation concerning [redacted], a principal advisor to Dr. King, could enable a knowledgeable person to determine the reasons for such investigation -- which are currently classified "Top Secret" to protect a highly sensitive source. Any unclassified references to and discussions of the [redacted] security files should, therefore, be withheld not only to protect his privacy, but also to protect the content of the classified information.

