

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson	_____
DeLoach	_____
Mohr	_____
Bishop	_____
Casper	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
Felt	_____
Gale	_____
Rosen	_____
Sullivan	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Holmes	_____
Gandy	_____

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: March 24, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. Long

SUBJECT: MURKIN

typed

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Articles appearing in the news media state that James Earl Ray has written a letter to Judge W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee, requesting a post-hearing concerning his recent conviction and sentence to the Tennessee State Prison for a term of 99 years. The newspaper media states that no petition or writ has been filed with the Clerk of the Court demanding any type of a hearing.

SAC Jensen of our Memphis Office has advised that Judge Battle received a letter from Ray requesting a post-hearing; however, no writ or motion has been filed with the Clerk of the Court. According to Jensen, the Judge stated that he fully expected some type of action such as this; however, no action has been taken by him at this time.

You will recall that SAC Jensen contacted Ray on 3/13 and 3/14/69, in an effort to interview Ray in connection with Ray's public statement in court that he did not agree that a conspiracy did not exist in connection with the assassination of King.

On those occasions Ray engaged in "small talk" but refused to discuss any aspects of an alleged conspiracy.

On 3/20/69, Jensen was contacted as to his views concerning the desirability of initiating further contacts with Ray. Jensen stated in view of Ray's current maneuverings to obtain a post-hearing, he felt no useful purpose would be served by attempting further contacts with Ray at this time. He will continue to follow the matter closely and at such time as it appears a further contact with Ray is feasible, he will so advise the Bureau. He will make no further contact with Ray without first clearing it with us.

Enclosure *same 3-24-69*

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ACTION - PAGE TWO

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Memorandum Rosen to DeLoach
RE: MURKIN

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a letter to the Department advising them of the results of interviews with Ray and also advising them that in view of recent developments no further attempts will be made to interview Ray at this time.

We will continue to follow the matter closely and you will be advised of pertinent developments.

[Handwritten initials and marks]