



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Date: 6/6/78

In reply refer to Case No. 820615
Dear Mr. Weinstein: (via CIA - appeal case)

I am writing in response to your recent request for material under the Freedom of Information Act.

- (1. Our search has revealed information relevant to your request, * and this will be sent to you on payment of \$ _____ (\$ _____ for search at _____ an hour and \$ _____ for duplication and \$ _____ for computer charge.) Please make check payable to U.S. Treasurer.
- () 2. If you prefer to come to the Department of State Reading Room (Room 2815, Main State Building, 23rd and D Street, N.W., Washington, D.C.) to examine the material, you may do so on payment of the search fee. The duplication fee is then payable only for those items you wish to take.
- () 3. Our search has revealed classified information relevant to your request which originated in _____
- () 4. Your request has been referred to _____ today and you will hear from them in due course.
- () 5. Our search has revealed no information relevant to your request.

Sincerely,

for B. E.
Barbara Ennis
Director
Freedom of Information Staff
Bureau of Public Affairs

* Seven documents referred by the CIA to State for review. These docs. result from your appeal case with the CIA.

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PAGE 01 LONDON 10017 181340Z

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ACTION-L 03

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O 181254Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4249

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PASS VINSON JUSTICE

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION JAMES EARL RAY

THE MAGISTRATE OF BOW STREET COURT MR. FRANK MILTON CONVENED COURT TUESDAY JUNE 18 AT 10:30 AM. THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION ADVISED THE COURT AT THE OPENING OF THE HEARING THAT HE HAD COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT AS EXTRADITION CHARGES AGAINST SNEYD WERE PENDING THEY TOOK PRECEDENCE OVER THE ENGLISH CHARGES AND THEREFORE REQUESTED THAT SNEYD BE REMANDED IN CUSTODY FOR THE MAXIMUM PERIOD UNTIL THE EXTRADITION HEARING WAS CONCLUDED. THE COURT AGREED. THE MAGISTRATE FORMALLY REMANDED SNEYD ALIAS RAY IN CUSTODY FOR THE MAXIMUM PERIOD. THE MAGISTRATE STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE EXTRADITION HEARING CONCLUDED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND PREFERABLY WITHIN THE PERIOD THAT RAY IS REMANDED IN CUSTODY ON THE ENGLISH CHARGES. THE MAGISTRATE SUGGESTED THE DATE OF THURSDAY, JUNE 27, FOR THE HEARING. BOTH NIGEL GRAHAM MAW, COUNSEL FOR THE U. S., AND DEFENSE COUNSEL, ROGER FRISBY, AGREED TO THIS DATE AND THE MAGISTRATE SO ORDERED THE HEARING TO BE HELD ON THE 27TH OF JUNE.

NIGEL GRAHAM MAW, COUNSEL FOR THE U. S., THEN FORMALLY READ THE CHARGES QUOTE JAMES EARL RAY, HEREINAFTER CALLED THE DEFENDANT, SUSPECTED AND ACCUSED OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CRIME OF MURDER, TO WIT ON 4 APRIL 1968 IN SHELBY COUNTY, STATE OF TENNESSEE, DID UNLAWFULLY, FELONIOUSLY, WILLFULLY, DELIBERATELY, PREMEDITATELY AND OF HIS MALICE AFORETHOUGHT KILL AND MURDER

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MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE USA. RAY, HEREINAFTER CALLED THE DEFENDANT, CONVICTED OF COMMISSION OF THE CRIME OF ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE TO WIT ON FEBRUARY 19, 1960 WAS SENTENCED FOR THE CRIME OF ROBBERY FIRST DEGREE BY MEANS OF A DANGEROUS AND DEADLY WEAPON WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE USA UNQUOTE

ROGER FRISBY, DEFENSE COUNSEL, WISHED TO MAKE A STATEMENT WHICH MR. SNEYD ASKED HIM TO MAKE. FRISBY REFERRED TO THE JUNE 10 LONDON TIMES HEADLINES WHICH STATED QUOTE U. S. JUSTICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF INTERVIEWS KING CASE MAN UNQUOTE FRISBY CONTINUED THAT MR. SNEYD STATED THAT HE WAS NOT INTERVIEWED BY MR. VINSON NOR ANY OTHER U. S. OFFICIAL. FRISBY ADVISED THAT COUNSEL WAS AUTHORIZED TO STATE BY CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT THOMAS BUTLER METROPOLITAN POLICE THAT AT NO TIME WAS MR. SNEYD INTERVIEWED BY MR. VINSON OR ANY OTHER AMERICAN OFFICIAL. MR. NAW, COUNSEL FOR U. S., CONFIRMED THIS STATEMENT. HEARING ADJOURNED UNTIL JUNE 27.

IN DISCUSSION WITH MAW PRIOR TO THE HEARING, HE ADVISED EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHO ALSO PRESENT AT HEARING THAT DEFENSE COUNSEL STATED OFF THE RECORD REPEAT OFF THE RECORD THAT HIS ONLY ARGUMENT IN THIS CASE IS ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS A POLITICAL EXTRADITION. MAW ALSO ADVISED THAT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH DEFENSE COUNSEL CASE WOULD BE COMPLETED ON 27TH.

IN ADDITION, TWO WARRANTS FOR ARREST WERE ISSUED BY THE COURT ON JUNE 13. COPIES WILL BE FURNISHED DEPT. SOONEST. BRUCE

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P 04, USIE 00, RSC 01, /070 R

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APPROVED BY: L/SCA-MARK B. FELDMAN
P/ON - ROBERT MCCLOSKEY

P 24143Z JUL 68
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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SUBJECT: RAY EXTRADITION

FOR HERFURT

1. YOU MAY INFORM FOREIGN OFFICE TENNESSEE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ROUTINELY FILED INDICTMENT WHICH HAD BEEN RETURNED ON WEAPONS CHARGE. WE HAVE ADVISED HIM OF TREATY OBLIGATION AND HE INTENDS MOVE TO WITHDRAW THE CHARGE PROMPTLY.

2. TENNESSEE AUTHORITIES WILL ANSWER PRESS QUERIES WITH SIMPLE STATEMENT THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INFORMED WEAPONS CHARGE IS NOT EXTRADITABLE OFFENSE UNDER EXTRADITION TREATY WITH GREAT BRITAIN AND THAT RAY CAN BE PROSECUTED ONLY FOR OFFENSES FOR WHICH HE WAS EXTRADITED. RUSK

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O 271712Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4487

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PASS LEWIN DEFENSE

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION JAMES EARL RAY

BOW STREET MAGISTRATE COURT CONVENED AT 10:30 AM AND ADJOURNED AT 5:00 PM. EVIDENCE WAS PRESENTED BY BOTH COUNSELS WITH DEFENSE DUE TO FINISH SUMMING UP HIS ARGUMENTS ON TUESDAY, JULY 2. COUNSEL FOR U.S. WILL ALSO SUM UP ON THAT DAY. THE MAGISTRATE STATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE CASE COMPLETED ON JULY 2 IN ORDER FOR HIM TO GIVE HIS DECISION THAT EVENING.

MR. VINSON US ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL WILL REMAIN FOR THE TUESDAY SESSION. BRUCE

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R 14 620Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2174
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY-PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1567

SUBJ: PRESENCE OF JAMES EARL RAY IN PORTUGAL

PASS USIA

PARIS FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

1. DESPITE EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS OF PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL FOR SOME DAYS IN MAY OF ALLEGED KILLER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO MENTION IN LOCAL PRESS OF THIS FACT.
2. NONETHELESS BY LAST WEEKEND INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPORTERS HERE HAD WIND OF PORTUGUESE ANGLE OF STORY AND HAD BEEN JOINED BY FAIRLY LARGE GROUP OF REPS FROM ENGLISH AND AMERICAN PRESS, MAGAZINES AND TV SEEKING DETAILS. INITIALLY THESE REPORTERS WERE FRUSTRATED BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY TRACING RAY/SNEYD'S ACTIVITIES DURING HIS STAY AND INABILITY TO FIND ANY SOURCES OF HARD INFO. EVENTUALLY REPORTERS DUG OUT NAME OF LOCAL HOTEL WHERE RAY, UNDER NAME OF SNEYD, HAD BEEN STAYING AND INTERVIEWED HOTEL EMPLOYEES, GIRLS IN NEARBY BARS AND OTHER LOW LEVEL SOURCES WHO, WE GATHER, WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE ANYTHING OTHER THAN LOCAL COLOR.
3. FOR DEPT'S INFO, WE BELIEVE REPORTERS, ESPECIALLY FROM LIFE, HAVE PURSUED TWO ANGLES HERE WHICH THEY MAY SEEK TO USE. FIRST OF THESE IS EXCHANGE OF

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NOTES CONNECTED WITH 1908 PORTUGAL/US EXTRADITION TREATY WHICH APPEARS TO FORECLOSE EXTRADITION TO US OF PERSON CHARGED WITH CAPITAL CRIME. WE UNDERSTAND REPORTERS MAY BE BUILDING ON THIS LIMITATION A SCENARIO BY WHICH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES, POSSIBLY INCLUDING EMBASSY, WERE AWARE OF RAY/SNEYD'S PRESENCE HERE BUT DID NOTHING ABOUT IT BECAUSE OF EXTRADITION TREATY PROVISIO, INSTEAD WAITING UNTIL HE WAS SOMEPLACE WHERE SUCH RESTRICTION DID NOT EXIST. ALTHOUGH EMBOFFS IN GOOD CONSCIENCE DENIED THEY HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE DURING DATES RAY/SNEYD WAS REPORTEDLY IN PORTUGAL OF HIS PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL, AND MADE NO COMMENT AFTER LEARNING OF FACTS FROM FBI REP, WE ARE NOT SURE THESE DENIALS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED IN LIGHT OF "ANGLE" REPORTERS HAVE DISCOVERED.

4. OTHER ANGLE WAS THAT RAY/SNEYD CAME HERE TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF ENLISTING AS MERCENARY GIVEN ALLEGED REPUTATION OF LISBON AS CENTER FOR MERCENARY RECRUITMENT. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW WHAT RAY/SNEYD MAY HAVE DONE ALONG THESE LINES NOR DO WE KNOW WHAT REPORTERS MAY HAVE FILED IN THIS CONNECTION. FONMINISTRY OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT CIRCULATION OF THIS PARTICULAR RUMOR IN INTERNATIONAL PRESS WAS ONE REASON WHY GOP HAD WITHHELD ANY STATEMENT OF FACTS TO PRESS UNTIL JUNE 12. HE ADDED GOP HAD ALSO WISHED TO GIVE APPROPRIATE AGENCIES ADEQUATE TIME TO CHECK AVAILABLE FACTS.

5. FONMINISTRY INFO DIRECTOR CALLED IN LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PRESS REPS JUNE 12. REPORTERS WERE GIVEN BRIEF FACTUAL ACCOUNT, INCLUDING DATES WHEN RAY/SNEYD HAD BEEN HERE, ISSUANCE SECOND CANADIAN PASSPORT BY CANADIAN EMBASSY LISBON, THAT PIDE HAD BEEN COOPERATING WITH FBI WHICH HAD SENT REP TO LISBON TO CHECK INTO RAY/SNEYD'S STAY HERE, THAT GOP HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF HIS STAY HERE AT THAT TIME, AND THAT THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT HIS ACTIVITIES HERE AS FAR AS AUTHORITIES COULD DETERMINE. PORTUGUESE REPORTERS APPARENTLY STILL PREVENTED BY CENSORSHIP FROM PUBLISHING ANY MENTION OF RAY/SNEYD'S PRESENCE IN PORTUGAL. GP-4. ~~WELLMAN~~

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DRAFTED BY: L/SCA:MBFELDMAN
APPROVED BY: L/SCA-MARK B. FELDMAN

R 121413Z JUN 68
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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FOR HERFURT

SUBJECT: EXTRADITION OF JAMES EARL RAY

1. WE ARE ADVISED THAT PHOTOGRAPH AND FINGERPRINT CARD SENT TO DEPARTMENT BY MISSOURI AND ATTACHED TO ORIGINAL WILKINSON CERTIFICATE FORWARDED TO LONDON ARE THE ORIGINAL RECORDS TAKEN FROM THE FILE OF THE MISSOURI STATE PENITENTIARY (BELIEVE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE DESCRIBES THEM AS TRUE COPIES).
2. YOU ARE REQUESTED TO PRESENT SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE REQUESTING RETURN OF ORIGINAL PHOTOGRAPH AND FINGERPRINT CARD TO USG UPON COMPLETION OF EXTRADITION HEARING. RUSK

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P 081700Z JUN 68
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3271 PRIORITY

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REPORTS OF APPREHENSION IN LONDON OF JAMES EARL RAY,
SUSPECTED MURDERER OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, HAVE BEEN FEATURED
ON LOCAL RADIO AND TV NEWSCASTS IN OTTAWA TODAY, NOTABLY
BECAUSE RAY WAS REPORTELY BEARER OF CANADIAN PASSPORT.
EMBASSY LEGAL ATTACHES STATES THAT RAY HAS IN FACT BEEN
IDENTIFIED AS BEARER OF CANADIAN PASSPORT IN NAME OF
RAMON GEORGE SNEYD PURSUANT EXHAUSTIVE CHECK OF CANADIAN
PASSPORT FILES BY EXTAFF AND RCMP. FULL DETAILS AVAILABLE
FBI HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON.

BUTTERWORTH

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SY 03, FBI 01, RSR 01, /068 W

R 141621Z MAY 68
FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2571
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO
AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

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MEXICO FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

1. IN VIEW OF REPORTS THAT ASSASSIN OF MARTIN LUTHER KING
IN GUATEMALA. WE REPORT FOLLOWING INFORMATION PICKED UP
PRIOR TO KING MURDER. LEWIS WEIR (UNSURE OF SPELLING) WHO
OWNS FARM AT PENA BLANCA NEAR LAKE YOJOA, DEPARTMENT OF CORTES,
HONDURAS, BRAGGED THAT MURDERERS OF CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS IN
MISSISSIPPI HAD STAYED WITH HIM AND THAT ANYONE ELSE IN SIMILAR
DIFFICULTIES WOULD ALSO FIND REFUGE AT HIS FARM. WEIR
REPRESENTS HIMSELF TO BE AMERICAN CITIZEN BUT NO RPT NO RECORD
AT EITHER EMBASSY OR CONSULATE.
JOVA

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