

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO Mr. W. C. Sullivan *9/3*

DATE 5/1/68

FROM D. J. Brennan, Jr.

SUBJECT MURKIN

Based on information from Atlanta, we asked

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ to check with the local Australian visa issuing authorities to determine whether any application for an Australian visa had been made during the past year under the name or aliases of the subject. The Atlanta request was based on information from an Austrian diplomatic representative who had received an anonymous telephone call from an individual asking whether his admission to Australia would be denied if he had a prior criminal record. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ completed the inquiry with negative results and routinely informed his headquarters regarding the matter. They apparently alerted Australian police regarding the case and the police have apparently informed the press as a number of inquiries have been received to which we are making no comment.

~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ telephoned 5/1/68 and stated that his Embassy is being besieged with press inquiries and would like to quiet these by saying that they have merely made a routine check of their records at FBI request to see if there had been a visa application for Australia under the name or aliases of the subject. ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~ was informed that we are making no response to press inquiries in this matter but that if his Embassy wished to make the statement proposed, we would have no objection as it was, of course, a matter for their own decision.

ACTION: For information.

REC-12

44-38861-2745

10 MAY 7 1968

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Bishop
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Long
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan
- 1 - Liaison

GAD:mlm  
(7)

55 MAY 5 1968

*Henry F. ...*  
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*57*

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

UPI-85  
(MANHUNT)

WASHINGTON--AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN ASKED BY THE FBI TO MAKE A "ROUTINE CHECK" OF WHETHER JAMES EARL RAY, SOUGHT IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, HAS APPLIED FOR A VISA TO GO TO THAT COUNTRY, AN EMBASSY OFFICIAL SAID TODAY.

THE OFFICIAL EMPHASIZED, HOWEVER, THAT "AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE NO EVIDENCE AT ALL THAT THE PERSON CONCERNED (RAY) IS IN AUSTRALIA."

AMERICAN SOURCES ALSO UNDERScoreD THE ROUTINE NATURE OF THE REQUEST THEY SAID IT WOULD BE LOGICAL TO ASSUME THAT SIMILAR REQUESTS EITHER HAD OR WOULD BE MADE OF OTHER NATIONS IN WHICH RAY MIGHT SEEK REFUGE. THE FBI HAD NO COMMENT ON THE EMBASSY OFFICIAL'S STATEMENT.

5/1--TD1251PED

*W. L. ...*  
 REC-12 44-38861-274

*Handwritten notes:*  
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COPY SENT TO MR. TOLSON

WASHINGTON CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE