



U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division

Office of the Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20035

SEP -9 1998

Harold Weisberg
7627 Old Receiver Rd.
Frederick, MD 21702

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

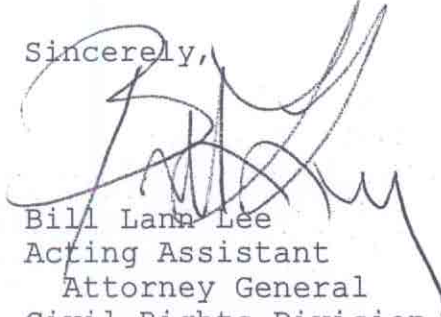
I am writing in response to your letter concerning whether to open an investigation of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. In April, 1998, the King family met with officials of the Department of Justice to recommend that we consider opening a new investigation into the death of Dr. King.

On August 26, 1998, the Attorney General announced that the Justice Department will conduct an inquiry into certain allegations regarding the 1968 assassination. The inquiry will review allegations raised by former FBI agent Donald Wilson and former Memphis bar owner, Lloyd Jowers, suggesting that there may have been an assassination conspiracy broader than James Earl Ray. The evidence gathered during the inquiry will be followed wherever it may lead. While federal prosecutions may be barred because the relevant statutes of limitations have expired, federal law gives the Attorney General power to conduct an investigations to detect whether criminal activity took place.

The inquiry will be overseen by the Department's Civil Rights Division, with support from the Criminal Division. The Department will issue a report outlining its findings. We are still reviewing this matter and no decision has been made regarding the appropriate course of action.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,



Bill Lann Lee
Acting Assistant
Attorney General
Civil Rights Division