

August 19, 1970

REC-55 -

44-38841-5894

Mr. George McMillan  
Coffin Point  
Frogmore, South Carolina 29920

Dear Mr. McMillan:

I have received your letter of August 14, 1970, requesting information for a book you are writing about James Earl Ray, convicted assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

While, as you noted in your letter, Ray has nearly exhausted all of the appeal remedies available to him under state law, Process for violation of Federal civil rights laws is still outstanding against Ray. In view of this and since the release of information in such matters is a determination within the province of the Department of Justice, I am referring your request to Mr. Jerris Leonard, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, United States Department of Justice.

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

- 1 - Mr. Jerris Leonard, AAG, Civil Rights Division, DJ
- 1 - Mr. Sullivan (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Bishop - (detached)
- 1 - Mr. Rosen (detached)
- 1 - M. A. Jones (detached)

NOTE: See M. A. Jones to Bishop memo dated 8/18/70, captioned "George McMillan, Coffin Point, Frogmore, South Carolina, Request for Information Concerning James Earl Ray, Convicted Assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King."

JHC:mjl (8)

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

MAILED 6  
AUG 19 1970  
COMM-FBI

Red 2

WES  
Coffin  
P. Bishop

Don R

WES

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

GEORGE McMILLAN

August 14, 1970

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Brennan
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Casper
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Walters
Mr. Soyars
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

*M A Joffe*

Dear Mr. Hoover:

I am writing a biography of James Earl Ray for Little, Brown and Company-- the shape and approach of my book are known to Mr. Tom Bishop, your assistant.

I write you to ask whether the time has not perhaps arrived when you can release more information about Ray? He seems to be about through with his procedures for appeal. The last one may be his post-conviction hearing which is to be held in Memphis on September 2, 1970.

If this appeal is turned down, would it be appropriate for me to submit a list of questions to you which I need answered to prepare a useful biography of Ray?

Sincerely,

*George McMILLAN*

REC

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

EXP. PROC.  
33-AUG-17-1970

*John Lett  
8-17-70  
HCL*

*Letter to Bishop  
8-18-70  
HCL*

44-37161-589  
AUG 17 1970

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION