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January 2, 1977

Mr. Macei
c/o Mr. Carl T. Rowan
1220 19th Street, N.W., Suite 801
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Macei:

As Mr. Weisberg and I promised you last week, I enclose a copy of the March 31, 1975 Murphy memorandum to former Assistant Attorney General J. Stanley Pottinger.

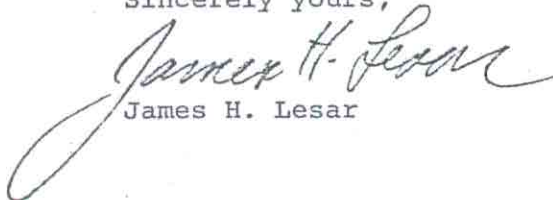
As you will see, this memorandum on the FBI's harassment of Dr. King bears different (and irregular) classification markings, including the "Top Secret" label. It is apparent that there never was any justification for classifying the information in this memorandum which has now been released. It is also apparent that much of what remains classified, and perhaps all of it, is already publicly known.

Obviously a lot of the taxpayers' money is being wasted by government officials who are busy classifying what the public already knows and what is not national security information. I suggest Mr. Rowan may want to fill in some of the blanks in the Murphy memorandum on the basis of his own knowledge. If he does do that, I would like to know the results. On the basis of my knowledge of the King assassination I was able to fill in 28 out of 29 blanks in another Civil Rights Division memorandum. A copy of it is attached to my October 17, 1977 letter to Attorney General Griffin Bell, which I also enclose.

The Murphy memorandum was obtained as a result of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit. Ultimately, I expect to obtain an entirely undeleted copy of it.

As Mr. Weisberg mentioned to you last week, the Murphy memorandum is being made available to you on a confidential basis, as he may wish to make first use of it himself. If Mr. Rowan would like to make any use of it, he should consult Mr. Weisberg first. Regardless of whether he wants to make use of it, I suggest he may want to talk with Mr. Weisberg about this memorandum and Dr. King's assassination.

Sincerely yours,


James H. Lesar