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James Earl Ray Release Denied

■ NASHVILLE—Tennessee prison authorities said they have denied James Earl Ray's request to live out the rest of his life with his brother.

In a Dec. 5 letter to the confessed assassin of civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., prison authorities cited "security concerns" as the reason behind the refusal to allow Ray to leave a Nashville prison hospital and move in with his younger brother Jerry, who lives in a trailer home in nearby Smartt, Tenn., a corrections department spokesman said.

Ray made his request for a medical furlough last month, and prison policy requires that the inmate be in danger of "imminent death" to qualify. Ray, 69, has been ill with liver disease for months and has been near death from organ failure several times.

Jerry Ray said he was unaware that the furlough had been denied but was not surprised.