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RAY CLAIMS U.S. AGENTS KILLED KING

St. Louis (AP) - James Earl Ray says federal agents who recruited him ostensibly to help overthrow Fidel Castro's Cuban regime killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and "used me to be the fall guy."

Ray made the assertion in a statement dictated to his brother Jerry at the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville, where he is serving 99 years as the assassin of the civil rights leader. The statement was read by Jerry Ray in a televised program on station KMOX-TV.

In the statement, the convicted killer said the federal agents employed him during the spring of 1968.

"They told me I was helping them to supply arms and guns to Cuba refugees to overthrow Castro and the Communists in Cuba," Ray declared. "I knew nothing about King being in Memphis until after King had been killed."