

Ray Charges U.S. Agents Killed King

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St. Louis

A television station quoted James Earl Ray yesterday as saying Federal agents killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and "used me to be the fall guy."

Station KMOX-TV said this was part of a statement dictated by Ray to his brother, Jerry Ray, in the Tennessee State Prison in Nashville. Jerry Ray read the statement on camera to Barry Serafin, a KMOX-TV reporter.

James Earl Ray, an escaper from the Missouri State Prison, pleaded guilty to killing King and was sentenced to 99 years. His attempts to obtain a new trial have been unsuccessful.

STATEMENT

The statement was written in longhand by Jerry Ray, who signed his brother's name, Serafin said.

The statement said James Earl Ray was working with Federal agents — not otherwise identified by name or organization — 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," the statement continued. "The reason why I've made trips to Mexico was in regard to helping the agents of the Federal government to supply arms to Cuban refugees there to overthrow Castro. The Federal agents led me to believe that I was in Memphis in April for the same purpose."

'DEAL'

At another point the statement said: "I knew nothing about King being in Memphis until after King had been killed. I could not argue with the Federal agents I worked for because they would have put me back in the Missouri State Prison at Jefferson City if I failed to take orders from them. I know that the Federal agents merely used me to be the fall guy when they killed King."

The statement said Ray hopes some high government official "will expose the whole deal" so Ray will be freed.

"If they don't, we have more information which we will release in the near future. I don't know what motives the Federal agents had for killing King. Ask former Attorney General Ramsey Clark. Maybe he knows."

Associated Press