Harold:

Enclosed in this story, plus a copy of Reuters' dispatch from last Thursday, marks on the
Panama story were made by radio newswoman who broadcast it Thursday evening on KSAN in
San Francisco.

Also, I heard CBS radio account of your press conference -- I think it was voiced by Neal Shugyr (I don't know how to spell his name).

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A MARYLAND PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR HAS RELEASED PREVIOUSLY-CLASSIFIED F.B.I. REPORTS WHICH HE SAYS DESTROY THE GOVERNMENT’S CONTENTION THAT JAMES EARL RAY ASSASSINATED DOCTOR MARTIN LUTHER KING.

THE INVESTIGATOR, HAROLD WEISBERG, OBTAINED THE DOCUMENTS UNDER PROVISIONS OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

ONE F.B.I. REPORT, ACCORDING TO WEISBERG, PROVES THAT KING’S ASSASSIN DID NOT FIRE THE FATAL BULLET FROM THE WINDOW OF A MEMPHIS ROOMING HOUSE. THE MEMPHIS POLICE AND THE F.B.I. HAVE CLAIMED FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS THAT RAY FIRED THE MURDER WEAPON FROM THE SECOND STORY WINDOW OF A DOWNTOWN ROOM HOUSE.

HOWEVER, THE DOCUMENTS RELEASED BY WEISBERG SHOW THAT THE F.B.I. WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY PHYSICAL EVIDENCE THAT A RIFLE HAD BEEN FIRED FROM THE ALLEGED SNIPER’S WINDOW.

THE REPORTS STATE THAT THE F.B.I. LAB FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF GUN-POWDER IN OR AROUND THE WINDOW SILL; AND THAT INVESTIGATORS COULD FIND NO TRACES OF PAINT, WOOD OR SCRATCHES ON THE BARREL OF THE ALLEGED MURDER RIFLE THAT WOULD LINK IT TO THE SECOND-STORY ROOM.

WEISBERG SUGGESTS THAT RAY'S RIFLE WANTS PLANTED BY UNKNOWN CONSPIRATORS IN FRONT OF THE ROOMING HOUSE TO IMPLICATE RAY WHILE THE ACTUAL ASSASSIN FIRED AT KING FROM A LOCATION OUTSIDE THE ROOMING HOUSE.

WEISBERG ALSO ALLEGES THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT’S RECENTLY-ANNOUNCED "REINVESTIGATION" OF THE KING KILLING IS A "SHAM." HE CHARGES THAT THE AGENCIES CONDUCTING THE NEW PROBE ARE THE VERY SAME ONES WHICH COVERED UP ALL EVIDENCE OF A CONSPIRACY BACK IN 1968 -- ZODIAC.

Note: Weisberg's number is (301) 473-8186.
WASHINGTON, DEC 11, REUTER - THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WAS ACCUSED TODAY OF CONCEALING AND FAKING EVIDENCE IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING IN EFFORT TO QUICK CONVICTION.

AUTHOR HAROLD WEISBERG CHARGED THAT JAMES EARL RAY, WHO PLEADED GUILTY TO MURDERING THE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, ON APRIL 4, 1968, COULD NOT HAVE FIRED THE FATAL SHOT. "RAY WAS NOT AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME," MR. WEISBERG TOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE.

MR. WEISBERG IS THE AUTHOR OF A TWO-YEAR-OLD BOOK ENTITLED "FRAMEUP," ALLEGING THAT RAY WAS WRONGLY ACCUSED. HE HAS ALSO WRITTEN SEVEN BOOKS TAKING ISSUE WITH WARREN COMMISSION FINDINGS ON THE JOHN KENNEDY ASSASSINATION.
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He claimed that FBI documents he had obtained under the Freedom of Information Act showed that:

-- It was not physically possible to have fired the death bullet from where police and FBI said the murder had been committed -- the window of a hotel bathroom opposite the motel balcony where the civil rights leader was standing when he was shot.

-- It was impossible to conclude from Dr. King's wounds that the bullet's trajectory led to the bathroom window.

-- An autopsy report that might have shown Dr. King's fatal wound was caused by a shot fired from a lower level was changed because of the 'political needs' to make an arrest.

Mr. Weisberg said Ray had been extradited from Britain -- where he had fled following the murder -- as a result of a deliberate deception on the British government.

Producing FBI photographs and documents, he said there were no telltale powder marks on the windowsill where Ray had allegedly rested the murder rifle.

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He charged that FBI photographs of a bullet fragment recovered from Dr. King's body were not taken at an angle that would show grooves that would have indicated which rifle had fired it.

The autopsy report, he said, had been changed to hide the fact that the bullet had blown apart on impact -- because this would have made it impossible to trace the trajectory.

Mr. Weisberg also said a laboratory analysis of the metal found on Dr. King's clothing had been partially suppressed for the same reason.

The author, who described himself as Ray's investigator, said he had no theories on who had killed Dr. King.

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