

**File #:**

**DO NOT  
DESTROY**

FOIPA# N/A

62-0T-539

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**Serial Scope:**

16, 18, 19, 21

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Ambassador

July 29, 1977

Robert L. Moore  
Legal Attache

DECLASSIFIED BY 9803 RDD/ma  
ON 9/22/93

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE  
REPORTS IN POSSESSION OF THE  
HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

The House Select Committee on Assassinations (HSCA) has been conducting extensive investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., and has made several requests of FBIHQ for various documents relating to the FBI investigation into the murder. It has been the position of the FBI that information received from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) reporting its investigation in this matter was on a confidential basis and all reference to the RCMP investigation has been deleted from any responses by FBIHQ to the Committee.

On July 21, 1977, RCMP Ottawa advised that subsequent to their denial of a request in March 1977 by the HSCA for production of all RCMP records in this matter, a request was received at the Canadian Embassy, Washington, D.C., concerning the refusal. After several discussions with their Canadian External Affairs Department, the RCMP stated they would consider answering specific questions if drafted by the Committee.

RCMP Ottawa advised that a list of questions had been received in Washington, D.C., and from a cursory study they believed the House Committee was in possession of many original documents furnished by RCMP during that period of time. A detailed study would be undertaken as soon as the documents arrived in Ottawa.

On July 29, 1977, FBIHQ advised Legal Attache that pursuant to a review of this matter at FBIHQ, it appears that on July 12, 1968, Legal Attache Ottawa was advised that in view of the apprehension of James Earl Ray on June 8, 1968, and his prosecution to be undertaken by Tennessee authorities, it would be necessary to furnish information to the Tennessee authorities that had been obtained from the RCMP and other foreign law enforcement agencies. On July 18, 1968, former Legal Attache advised FBIHQ that Assistant Commissioner H. S. Cooper, Director of

1 - Ambassador  
1 - Ottawa  
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*RLM*

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Criminal Investigations, RCMP, had advised that there was no objection to furnishing Tennessee authorities with any information developed as a result of RCMP investigation. On July 29, 1968, the former Legal Attache furnished FBIHQ with a two-page list of RCMP reports relating to this matter and advised that all or any portion of the documents could be made available to Tennessee authorities. It is not clear at this time at what time the documents were furnished to the Tennessee authorities or the quantity of these documents.

The Memphis Office of the FBI has determined from the District Attorney's Office, Shelby County, Tennessee, that in response to a subpoena from the HSCA all records relating to this matter have been furnished to the Committee, including the copies of the RCMP reports.

On this date, RCMP advised Legal Attache that the Canadian Ministry of External Affairs is fully aware of this situation and RCMP is working closely with the Ministry in preparing responses to the Committee. RCMP advise that it is the position of the RCMP, and, presumably, the Canadian government, that it wishes to cooperate fully with the Committee investigation; however, there may be various questions which, for one reason or another, may be unanswerable.

To date, there has been no publicity given to this situation by either the Canadian or American press and the RCMP has requested that the request of the HSCA be considered confidential at this time.

Legal Attache will follow this matter and keep you advised.

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~~AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON 11-15-95~~  
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ 4/20/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: LEGAT, OTTAWA (62-539)  
SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

DECLASSIFIED BY 9803 RDD/mcc  
ON 9/22/93  
(SPK)

Congressman ROBERT EDGAR (D-Pa.), HSCA member, travelled to Ottawa, Ontario, with three staff members and on 4/14/78 met with Deputy Solicitor General P.A. BISSONNETTE and later met with RCMP officers, including the Officer in Charge of Federal Policing Branch.

The purpose of Congressman EDGAR's trip was, according to sources, to obtain a promise of cooperation from the Canadian Government in the HSCA investigation relating to JAMES EARL RAY while he was in Canada. Congressman EDGAR advised Mr. BISSONNETTE that some investigative activity would be directed toward determining if there had been any connection between RAY and J.B. STONER and others of the National States Rights Party.

Congressman EDGAR was received cordially by Mr. BISSONNETTE but no definite commitments were made by the latter beyond the desire of the Canadian Government to cooperate with the U.S. Government whenever it is possible to do so.

Congressman EDGAR got off to a bad start at RCMP Headquarters with an initial remark that one of the purposes of HSCA investigation was "to inquire into the adequacy of the

- 4 - Bureau  
(1 - Foreign Liaison)
- 2 - Ottawa (cc: 44-4)

~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~

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Classified by 1145-3 Jtm  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1, 3  
Date of Declassification Indefinite

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62-539-18

C O N F I D E N T I A L

(prior) investigation." He was informed that the RCMP considered the prior investigation to be adequate in every degree and Congressman EDGAR made repeated efforts to explain away the remark.

RCMP agreed to assist the HSCA by making available any of its members for interview; attempting to locate persons previously interviewed by RCMP and determine if the person was agreeable to interview by HSCA investigators, in the presence of RCMP; and doing name checks on any new names surfaced in the HSCA investigation. RCMP did not agree to allowing HSCA to review its files, to conduct any new investigation for the HSCA or to allow the committee to conduct any investigation in Canada. Congressman EDGAR was told that any requests for investigation in Canada must be presented to the RCMP through the FBI or through diplomatic channels.

C O N F I D E N T I A L



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

March 17, 1978

TO: H - Mr. Schnee

FROM: EUR/CAN - John H. Rouse, Jr *JH*

SUBJECT: Request of Select Committee on Assassinations  
for Information from Canada

Percy Sherwood, Counselor of the Canadian Embassy, called on me March 17 to convey the Canadian Government response to the request of the Select Committee for a meeting with RCMP officials to facilitate Committee investigations in Canada.

Sherwood said that the Canadian Government had approved direct RCMP cooperation with the Committee as follows: 1) RCMP officials would be prepared to hold an exploratory meeting in early April with Committee staff to review investigation plans and work out agreed procedures. 2) On agreed terms thereafter, to assist in facilitating Committee interviews with residents of Canada on a voluntary basis.

Percy said the RCMP is prepared to use the tentative investigation plan of the Committee as a basis for discussions without prejudice as to the extent and nature of the cooperation that might eventually be agreed to. (Congressman Edgar had given a copy of this plan to Ambassador Towe during his March 14 call.)

Sherwood suggested that the initial meeting involve perhaps two Committee staff members for a day, or two if necessary. He asked that the Committee suggest alternate dates early in April that could be passed back to the RCMP; he promised a prompt response.

For background (which can be passed on to the Committee in a tentative way) Sherwood indicated that the Committee investigation plan itself presents difficulties for the GOC. It appears to overlook the comments earlier made by Canada as to the limits on additional information that might be made available from official files and the limited role that the RCMP might be able to play in locating individuals. The RCMP cannot search its files for general review. Nor does it have the power to conduct extensive, open-ended searches for

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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MAR 17 1978	
LEGAL ATTACHE - OTTAWA	

FBI INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10/21/93 BY 9803 RDD/mc

62-539-1972m

individuals. The RCMP would like the Committee to identify people they wish to interview, where they might be found, and the line of questioning that is proposed. It would then try to contact these individuals and inquire as to their willingness to be interviewed. The RCMP would also offer to be present or allow anyone of the witnesses' choosing to be present if they wished. The RCMP thinks it unlikely that the 6 or 7 people mentioned in the Committee's investigation plan can be located or, if located, will be willing to testify about events 10 years old on which they have already been interviewed by the RCMP. However, they are prepared to inquire at the behest of the Committee.

All of this can be discussed and worked out directly during the initial meeting with Committee staff.

Action requested: Please pass the above to the appropriate Committee staff and ask the Committee to suggest dates for a meeting in Ottawa in early April. It would also be useful if we could give the Canadian Embassy the names of the two staff members who will be participating. The Embassy will telephone Congressman Edgar this afternoon to let him know they have passed a positive response to the State Department, so you may wish to convey this information as early as possible.

If you will let me have the Committee response on dates and participation, I will pass it to the Canadian Embassy.

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6/8/78

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: LEGAT, OTTAWA (62-539)  
SUBJECT: HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA)

ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY  
UNIT - RECORDS  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

DECLASSIFIED BY 9803 RSP/ma  
9/22/93  
(JFK)

ReOTTairtel 4/20/78.

Four staff members of HSCA recently completed interviewing a number of RCMP personnel at RCMP Headquarters who had been associated with the James Earl Ray investigation in Canada. According to RCMP sources, nothing unusual was discussed and the members were not asked any questions that would indicate that any new material had been uncovered by the staff members, who were very amiable and courteous throughout the contacts.

The RCMP is now in the process of contacting approximately 50 residents of Canada, who were interviewed by the RCMP during the course of the investigation, to determine if they would be willing to be interviewed in Canada by HSCA staff members.

The Canadian Government has taken the position that no federal employee, with exception of RCMP personnel, can be made available for interview and, therefore, people such as the person(s) who accepted application for and issued Canadian passport cannot be interviewed.

- 4 - Bureau  
(1 - Foreign Liaison)
- 2 - Ottawa (cc: 44-4)

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RLM:fo/  
(6)

Classified by 1145-394m  
Exempt from GDS, Category 1, 3  
Date of Review Indefinite

John  
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