

A-70

U.S. Agents Killed King, Ray Claims

ST. LOUIS (AP)—James Earl Ray claims federal agents recruited him ostensibly to help overthrow Fidel Castro's Cuban regime, then they killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and used him as 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 for murdering the civil rights leader. The statement was read by the brother in a televised program on station KMOX-TV here.

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."

44-775-1146

SEARCHED.....	INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED.....	FILED.....
AUG 13 1969	
FBI - SAINT LOUIS	

F B I

Date: 8/18/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via Airtel _____
(Priority)

To: SAC, St. Louis

JH From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Attached are two copies of an article which appeared in the "Washington Evening Star" 8/15/69, indicating that in a statement read by his brother, Jerry Ray, on station KMOX-TV in St. Louis, James Earl Ray claimed that Federal Agents recruited him ostensibly to help overthrow Fidel Castro's Cuban regime and then they killed King and used Ray as the "fall guy."

The St. Louis Office through its appropriate sources should obtain the complete detailed statement of Jerry Ray made on station KMOX-TV in St. Louis and forward this to the Bureau and take no further action at this time. Handle immediately.

Enclosures - 2

1 - SAC, Memphis (44-1987) (Enclosure)

1-822
44-775-1146

SEARCHED
SERIALIZED
AUG 19 1969
FBI - ST. LOUIS
[Signature]

Sent Via _____ M Per _____

In the spring of 1968 I James EARL RAY WAS WORKING WITH AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDING RACON. THEY TOLD ME THAT I WAS HELPING THEM TO SUPPLY ARMS AND GUNS TO CUBAN REFUGEES TO OVERTHROW CASTRO AND THE COMMUNIST IN CUBA. 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. I KNEW THAT I WAS WORKING WITH FEDERAL AGENTS THE WAY THEY HAD ME PASSED ACROSS THE MEXICAN AND CANADAN BORDERS IS ONLY ONE THING THAT PROVES THEY WERE FEDERAL AGENTS. THEY GOT ME ACROSS THE CANADAN AND MEXICAN BORDERS UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT THE HELP OF FEDERAL AGENTS.

AT A LATER TIME IF NECESSARY, I WILL GIVE MORE EXTENSIVE PROOF ABOUT THE FEDERAL AGENTS WITH WHOM I WAS INVOLVED. IT IS A KNOWN FACT THAT AGENTS OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND THE MEXICAN POLICE KNEW ABOUT MY TRIPS TO MEXICO AND PROTECTED ME THERE.

EVEN WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE ADMITS THAT THE FBI AND MEXICAN POLICE KNEW ALL OF MY MOVEMENTS IN MEXICO. I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT KING BEING IN MEMPHIS UNTILL 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

44-775-1148
SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____

now realize that they had no interest in over throwing
astro and, their whole purpose was to use me to cover
their own crime. Two Federal Agencies are guilty
and I am fully innocent. We hope that someone higher
up in the government will come forward and, expose the
whole deal so that I will be freed from prison. If
they don't we have more information which we will
release in the near future. I don't know what motive
the federal agents had for killing King ask former
Attorney General Ramsey Clark maybe he knows.
Enclosing I want to pass along a little message
to Percy Forman, Auther Haynes and, William
Bradford Huie you three, got your wish but, it's not
over with yet before it is the three of yous will
be ruined along with your friend Ramsey Clark. I
hope to be able to talk to CBS in person in the
near future if the state of Tenn and, the federal
government don't block it being they don't want being
exposed they might not allow it. Sirhan got to talk
it, I am innocent so I probably won't be allowed to

James Earl Ray

8-21-69

AIRTEL AIRMAIL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM: SAC, ST. LOUIS (44-775) -C-
RE: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are five xerox copies of a two page statement allegedly dictated by JAMES EARL RAY to his brother JERRY RAY in the Tennessee State Prison at Nashville. Second page of this statement bears the signature of JAMES EARL RAY but this signature was actually written by JERRY RAY.

The above was confidentially made available to the St. Louis Office by AL MANN, News Chief, KMOX-TV, St. Louis, Mo. MANN advised that JERRY RAY read the statement in a taped interview and after editing it, KMOX-TV aired the interview twice during evening of 8-14-69.

MANN further confidentially advised that his station was expending a great deal of time and possibly expense in "developing" JERRY RAY for the purpose of uncovering the "true story" of the assassination of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., and JAMES EARL RAY'S part in it.

2-Bureau (Encl. 5)
1-Memphis (44-1987) (INFO)
2-St. Louis

JAF:kls
(5)

Kls

44-775-1149

SEARCHED _____
SERIALIZED _____
INDEXED _____
FILED _____