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Agency Information

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Released under the John  
F. Kennedy  
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(44 USC 2107 Note).  
Case#:NW 55509 Date:  
12-07-2017

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FBI

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☐ Priority  
☒ Routine

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☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☒ E F T O  
☐ CLEAR

Date 6/8/78

007

FM NEWARK (100-57235)

TO DIRECTOR (62-117290) ROUTINE *3:32 PM*

BT

UNCLAS E F T O

HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS (HSCA), BUDED: JUNE 12,  
 1978.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE, JUNE 5, 1978.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, A REVIEW OF APPROPRIATE  
 FILES FOR PERTINENT TIME PERIOD FAILED TO DISCLOSE EXISTENCE  
 OF ANY COMMUNICATION MEETING CRITERIA SET OUT IN REFERENCED  
 BUREAU TELETYPE.

NEWARK CONDUCTING NO FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

BT

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RGS/lmw *lmw*

SEARCHED INDEXED  
 SERIALIZED FILED

100-57235-33

Approved: *TE/2*

Transmitted

(Number)

007

(Time)

3:32 PM

Per

*cur*

## memorandum

DATE: 8/29/78

REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: SA FRANCIS J. THIEL

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION CONCERNING THE ASSASSINATION  
OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

TO: SAC, NEWARK <sup>100-57235</sup>  
(62-0)

On 8/18/78, ROBERT J. HORDESKY, Special Agent, Coast Guard Intelligence, Cape May Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May, New Jersey, telephone number (FTS) 346-9507, telephonically contacted the Camden Resident Agency of the FBI.

HORDESKY stated that he wished to furnish some information to the FBI concerning circumstances in which he was involved at the time of the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

HORDESKY advised that he was attending the U.S. Coast Guard's Jet and Propulsion Engine School in Memphis, Tenn., during the time period involving the assassination. He stated that he and another Coast Guardsman, MICHAEL BUTLER, had driven to the Y.W.C.A. in Memphis, Tenn., where they were waiting for a couple of girls. They were in HORDESKY's black, 1965 Chevelle, and were listening to the radio. The news of the assassination came over the air and the girls came out to the car. The news was also being broadcast on local television. The broadcast stated that the police were looking for a white Ford Mustang in connection with the assassination. One of the girls mentioned that the motel where the shooting had occurred was only about two blocks away from their current location. At that point, a white car, either a Cougar or a Mustang, came down the street and went past them. HORDESKY recalls that the driver was a white male, in his late 20's or early 30's and that the car was not brand new. HORDESKY stated that he really did not see the driver clearly and does not believe he would recognize him if he were to see him.

FJT/lan  
(2)

*lan*

*Case dismissed 8/8/66*

[REDACTED]

100-57235-34

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 29 1978	
FBI - NEWARK	

*JB*



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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10  
(REV. 7-76)  
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6  
5010-112

NK 62-0

again. HORDESKY stated that he was looking more at the car than at the driver, but did not notice anything unusual. The car was not speeding nor was it being driven erratically. He and his friends only noticed it because they had just heard the broadcast relating to the white Mustang and were saying that they were glad they had a black car so they would not be stopped.

HORDESKY stated that he had never thought about this event as being significant, but in the light of the current re-investigation of the assassination, he decided to relate this to the FBI.

2\*

SAC

ASAC (C)

ASAC (A)

1-1

1-2

1-3

1-4

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

1-5

1-6

1-7

1-8

1-9

1-10

FCI-1

FCI-2

Night Super.

SA

Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

The Star-Ledger  
Newark N.J.

Date:

Edition:

11/6/80

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

NEWARK

## Ray appeals for a pardon

NASHVILLE (UPI) — James Earl Ray, serving a 99-year sentence for the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., asked Tennessee officials yesterday to pardon him.

Ray, 52, facing imprisonment until the year 2034, submitted a 38-page document to the state board of parole requesting a hearing on his bid for executive clemency.

Board Chairman Nevin Trammel said the board will probably decide in about a week whether to grant the hearing, which would be held in 60 to 90 days.

"What he is asking for is a full and complete pardon," said Trammel, adding that some lesser form of relief, such as commutation of sentence, also could be considered.

Ray, imprisoned for various crimes for all but 14 months since 1959, claimed in a statement that he had been placed in solitary confinement for years for his attempts to gain a trial in the killing of King, felled by a sniper's bullet on April 4, 1968, in Memphis.

Trammel said the board decides most executive clemency requests "eyeball-to-eyeball" with the prison-

er at the time the hearing is completed. He said the Ray petition was so complicated, however, that the board would probably have to take it under advisement "unless he presented some startling thing — like a witness who said, 'I killed him.'"

\* \* \*

Only the governor has pardoning powers under the Tennessee constitution and Trammel said the board recommends pardons only under the most unusual circumstances to prisoners with exemplary records.

Ray's petition said he had spent six of his more than 12 years in the Tennessee prison system in solitary confinement — three of those years as a result of "efforts by me then to gain trial in the MLK case."

The application notes that Ray had been disciplined for a Nov. 3, 1975, attempted escape from the fortress-like Brushy Mountain State Prison in east Tennessee.

"The reason for the attempt (sic) escape is that I have been led to believe escaping is the only way I will be released (sic) from prison, whether guilty or innocent," Ray typed on the petition.

Case Dismissed 8/10/81

100-57235-35

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV - 6 1980	
FBI-NEWARK	