S E C R E T

25 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR:  Mr. Robert Barteaux
Chief, Information Services Staff,
Information Processing Group

FROM           :  Maurice A. Sovern
Office of the Special Assistant
to the DDO for External Oversight

SUBJECT        :  Dr. Martin Luther King and
Mr. James Earl Ray

REFERENCES     :  A.  House Select Committee on
Assassinations' Letter dated
11 November 1977, Same Subject

                  B.  O/SA/DO/O Letter, 2 March 1977,
Subject: DOJ Inquiry - Martin Luther
King, Jr. Task Force

     1.   As you will note from the attached, the HSCA asks
for our material on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. for the period
1963 through 1968 and our material on Mr. James Earl Ray for
the period 1967 through 1968.

     2.   As was indicated in reference B, you provided a
substantial amount of Directorate material which was sanitized
for review by a DOJ task force in its efforts to review the
extent and nature of the FBI/CIA contacts concerning the
Reverend Dr. King.  We indicated at that time to the OLC that
we would hold the sanitized King material, which was prepared
for the Justice investigation, for possible eventual review by
the investigators from the HSCA.  We believe that this material
that we have, previously made available to Justice, is most
pertinent to the HSCA investigation; however, the distinction
in the original request was that we permit them to review FBI
material.  In this instance, since we are talking about third
agency material, we should confine our review to Directorate
material indicating only that there is FBI material available.

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3.   As the material is developed, and if it is required that the Directorate be requeried, please keep the undersigned advised.   We suggest a deadline of 15 December 1977 in view of your other priorities.

(signed) Maurice A. Sovern

Maurice A. Sovern

Attachment

O/SA/DO/O:MASovern:kaw (1542)

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