

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF VESTIGATION

File Number

FBI - CENTRAL RECORDS CENTER

ME - MEMPHIS

ME-0062-0002B: ME

Class / Case #	Sub	Vol.	Serial #
0062-0		114	13633 13688

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62-0  
 CLASSIFICATION NO.

Volume Number

Serials

114  
13633- 13688

 FIELD OFFICE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE  
AND ADMINISTRATIVE FILES

FOIPA REQUEST

Do Not Destroy Prior to \_\_\_\_\_

 Serial 13663  
 (190-ME-51602)

See also Nos.

*(See Vol. 114A - Serial 13647-Only)*
*See Next Section*
*Maintain on Loten*

# Memorandum



To : SAC, MEMPHIS

Date 2/22/91

From : SA [REDACTED] (62-0)

Subject: JAMES EARL RAY ✓ 44-1987  
MARTIN LUTHER KING - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
OO: MEMPHIS

On 2/11/91, the writer received a message from the U.S. Attorney's Office, Memphis, that they had received a telephone call from MELANIE MORTON-JOHNSTON of Rossville, Tennessee, phone 901-853-1781, regarding information she had recently received regarding the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING by JAMES EARL RAY. The writer contacted MORTON-JOHNSTON, who advised that she was regarded as a minister, a teacher, and a prophet, and had recently received a confession from an ailing elderly black man, who told her that he had murdered KING and that RAY was innocent. MORTON-JOHNSTON adamantly refused to identify the man who confessed to her, saying that she felt he "has suffered enough." MORTON-JOHNSTON is concerned that RAY, an innocent man, is "rotting in jail," and believes that he should be released based on her report of the unidentified individual's confession because she believes that this individual is telling the truth. When asked by the writer how the U.S. Judicial system could be expected to commute RAY's sentence based on her word, MORTON-JOHNSTON that she was an honest person, and she felt that she had done her moral duty in reporting this confession to the FBI.

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MW/mw  
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