

SEP 13 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

Re: James Earl Ray - Possible Evidence of Conspiracy

FBI to check with Hanes from

not the evidence presented

The FBI has reported that William Bradford Huie, a journalist and writer residing in Hartselle, Alabama, has exhibited to a ^{B7C} certain letters or notes which he has received from Arthur Hanes, counsel for James Earl Ray. According to ^{B7C} the documents are in Ray's handwriting. Huie advised them that he was given these papers in exchange for his underwriting of Ray's defense. He told ^{B7C} that the notes recounted, among other things, the plans made for the murder of Dr. King. According to his story, Ray was approached in Illinois and asked to commit the murder in exchange for a specified sum. The plans included flight by Ray to Mexico and/or Canada after the shooting - which, according to this version, Ray did not actually commit. Huie also stated that the material he had gathered would be used as the basis for an article to appear in the November issue of Look magazine. ^{B7C} were told that they would receive a copy of the proofs of this article on September 10.

In addition, newspapers and newsmagazines have, during this past week, reported that Huie has announced that he has paid a substantial sum of money - possibly \$25,000 - for Ray's "life story" in the form of a handwritten narrative that Ray has been writing since he returned to the United States. See Attachments A (Time magazine, issue dated September 13, 1968) and B (Washington Post, September 12, 1968).

If such letters are actually in Huie's possession, they constitute evidence of at least two violations of federal criminal law: (1) a conspiracy to violate Dr. King's civil rights (18 U.S.C. 241) - the offense which was the basis for the issuance of a federal arrest warrant for Ray, and (2) a conspiracy to violate the Fugitive Felon Act (18 U.S.C. 371, 1073) - established by the details on how Ray was to travel to Mexico and/or Canada after the commission of the murder.

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As a result of Warden v. Hayden, 387 U.S. 294 (1967), and Section 1401 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, 82 Stat. 197, a federal warrant may now be obtained "to search for and seize any property that constitutes evidence of a criminal offense in violation of the laws of the United States." The notes and letters in Julie's possession are such evidence because they amount to voluntary written declarations by a principal participant in an illegal conspiracy admitting his guilt. The FBI would like to be given authority to obtain a search warrant for these documents in order to seize them.

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i. In my view, |

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2. A somewhat less difficult problem.

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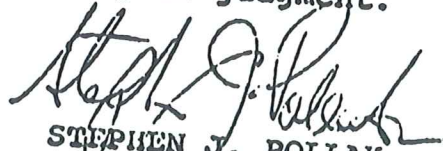
6.

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7. On balance, my recommendation is that we go forward with a search warrant under tight, specifically defined procedures like those outlined above.

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I am sending a copy of this memorandum to Fred Vinson and suggest that he and I discuss the matter with you at a brief meeting to obtain your judgment.



STEPHEN J. POLLAK
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Since the above memorandum was prepared, I received the attached memorandum from the FBI Director. It reports that the Bureau has interviewed Mr. Hule, at his request, and that Hule is willing to divulge the information he has received to date, provided the Bureau will give him some current, unpublicized photographs of Ray.

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