

10/31/68

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/13/86 BY SP/mae

MURKIN

Confidential Source

Bureau is in receipt of a copy of a letter from James Earl Ray addressed to T. F. Stoner, Savannah, Georgia, as provided to you by the Memphis, Tennessee. This letter is concerning Stoner's coming to Memphis and states that Ray's brother will be in touch with Stoner.

In your teletype of 9/30/68, you advised that in the motion filed by Arthur S. Hance, Ray's attorney, in Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, pertaining to Ray's corresponding with his attorney, Judge W. Preston Battle ruled that written notes exchanged between Ray and his attorney are privileged; however, the Shelby County Sheriff or his designated agent has the authority to peruse these notes to determine if there is any attempt to breach security of the jail. These notes should not be perused for the purpose of ascertaining the full contents of the messages.

In view of the above order of W. Preston Battle, you should not accept any written communication from the [redacted] regarding correspondence between Ray and other individuals. If it is not in violation of the court order you may accept information from the [redacted] if he volunteers this information and it is on an oral basis only.

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ENCLOSURE

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

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NOTE:

Bureau is in receipt of a copy of a letter from James Earl Ray addressed to J. B. Stoner, Savannah, Georgia, as provided by the [redacted] Memphis, Tennessee, to our Memphis Office. This letter is inquiring Stoner for coming to Memphis and states that Ray's brother will be in touch with Stoner.

Memphis by teletype of 9-30-68, advised that in the Motion filed by Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's attorney, in Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, pertaining to Ray's corresponding with his attorney, Judge W. Preston Battle, ruled that written notes exchanged between Ray and his attorney are privileged; however, the Shelby County Sheriff or his designated agent has the authority to peruse these notes to determine if there is any attempt to breach security of the jail. These notes should not be perused for the purpose of ascertaining the full contents of the messages.

This communication is advising Memphis not to accept any written communication from [redacted] regarding Ray's correspondence. However, they may accept information on an oral basis from [redacted] Memphis also being instructed to insure that the acceptance of this oral information is not in violation of the court order.

Prior information indicates that Ray has been in contact with J. B. Stoner with a view towards engaging him as counsel, although Hanes continues to be Ray's attorney of record.