Attorney General

Fred M. Vinson, Jr. Assistant Attorney General Criminal Division

James Earl Ray; Possible Defense Counsel

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June 17, 1968. Survan Mi. Tavel. Miss Holmes Miss, Gandy

Kill.

I received a telephone call this morning from one identifying himself as Lee-Bailey, an attorney. He stated that he had gotten a letter which purported to be from Ray requesting him to serve as defense counsel in connection with the murder indictment in Memphis, Tennessee. Bailey was calling me to see if I had any knowledge of the bona fides of the letter. He also stated that he intended to tell Ray that "Because of his (Bailey's) close relationship with Dr. King, he would consider handling the matter only if Ray's defense was that he did not commit the crime".

Upon my inquiries about the substance of the letter, Bailey stated that it contained a convict number, gave his address as the prison in which he is actually being held, and named his solicitor as Michael Dresden and Co., 32 Tavistock Street, London. The letter also indicated that the writer thought he would be returned to this country on about June 19. I confirmed to Builey that the information contained in the letter was accurate with the exception of the June 19 date which was uncertain. Eailey indicated that he would call Ray's solicitors in London to discuss the matter.

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Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

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