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William Pepper, left, attorney for Ray, accompanied former FBI agent **Donald Wilson**, right, on a visit to authorities in Atlanta. Wilson said he withheld documents found in 1968.

Ex-FBI agent says papers back Ray's 'Raoul' story

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ATLANTA — After 30 years of silence, a former FBI agent said yesterday that papers he took from James Earl Ray's car after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. support conspiracy claims.

Donald Wilson, who worked in the FBI's Atlanta office when King was slain in 1968, showed copies of the documents yesterday to Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard.

Wilson said he found an envelope containing two papers with the name "Raoul" written on them. Ray says he was set up by a gunrunner named Raoul, whose existence has never been verified.

"This is the first time ... there has been a verification of the existence of a man whom James said set him up all of these years," said William Pepper, Ray's attorney, who was with Wilson yesterday.

Wilson declined to say why he withheld the papers from his FBI superiors. Pepper described Wilson at that time as an idealistic young agent who doubted the integrity of the FBI investigation into King's death.

Cartha DeLoach, who was assistant to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover in 1968, said he was not aware of Wilson's evidence.

"If Mr. Wilson had received such evidence during the course of his official duties, he should have