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NATIONAL REPORT

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'Raul' Documents In King Slaying Pass One Test

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICES

WASHINGTON — A scientific test has failed to discredit two documents a former FBI agent said he took from James Earl Ray's car in 1968 after the assassination of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., but the failure does not prove the documents are authentic or that they clear Ray in the murder, a federal official said yesterday.

The former agent, Donald Wilson, came forward last March with the two documents, which he said he had kept hidden for 30 years after the civil rights leader's assassination. An FBI spokesman at that time called them fabrications.

Wilson's documents both have the name "Raul" written on them.

Ray, who died in prison in April at age 70 from liver disease, claimed after he was sentenced that he had been set up by a smuggler he knew only as Raul. Ray pleaded guilty in 1969 to the King assassination in exchange for a 99-year sentence but recanted within days and tried unsuccessfully for the rest of his life to obtain a trial. The King family supported his efforts.

"The tests can't establish authenticity, but they can determine if a document is bogus in certain ways. One test failed to show the documents were bogus," said a federal official who requested anonymity.

Other tests are planned, this official said. "Investigators still have doubts about them."

Although the test results fall short of confirming the documents' validity, Wilson told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, which first reported the results, that he believed the test was "a very positive development."

Witness in Physician Slaying Possibly Hiding Out in Mexico

WASHINGTON — Federal investigators have evidence that the abortion foe wanted for questioning in the sniper slaying of a Buffalo, N.Y., doctor may have fled to Mexico, a Justice Department official said yesterday.

There is some evidence that anti-abortion activist James Charles Kopp, 44, was driven