February 7, 1969

GENERAL INVESTIGATI[illegible] DIVISION

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The attached is the results of an interview of William Bradford Huie, author, conducted by Mr. Phil Canale, State Attorney General, Shelby County, who is prosecuting the case in state court. Huie is to appear before a Shelby County Grand Jury at Memphis today.

The attached also states that five petitions filed on behalf of Ray are to be argued before Judge Battle today. The petitions include authority to take depositions out of state (SAC Frank Hitt, Atlanta and Fingerprint examiner George Bonebrake listed), permission for Huie to confer with Ray, and permission to take photographs of Ray.

This is being closely followed. The investigation suggested by Memphis is being ordered.

REL:rl[illegible]

5546

(Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 2/5/69

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies each of five petitions which are to be argued 2/7/69 before Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE regarding instant matter.

On 2/5/69 State Attorney General PHIL CANALE, Shelby County, Tenn., advised that on 2/4/69 he and members of his staff conferred with WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE in HUIE's hotel room at Memphis, Tenn. HUIE is to be served with a subpoena and is to appear before a Shelby County Grand Jury at Memphis on 2/7/69.

HUIE advised Mr. CANALE that he has no interest in JAMES EARL RAY whatsoever except as a businessman and as a citizen desirous of uncovering and exposing any possible co-conspirators. He said he desires to confer with RAY in hopes of having RAY plead guilty and then testifying against his co-conspirators as a witness for the prosecution. Mr. CANALE said that HUIE gives the impression that he is firmly convinced of RAY's guilt as the murderer of MARTIN LUTHER KING; however, HUIE seems to be genuinely persuaded that others were involved with RAY. Mr. CANALE noted that HUIE readily admits that he has no real evidence of a conspiracy and HUIE admits that he has caught RAY in a number of falsehoods. HUIE is convinced that RAY's story of going over the wall in his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary is not true and RAY has admitted that the story he told HUIE about the armed robbery of a house of prostitution in Montreal is also a lie. RAY now admits that he committed an armed robbery of a food store in

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ENCLOSURE
A.M. 3 - Bureau (Encs. 10)
2 - Memphis
A.M.S.D. JCH/ngm
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Spec. Del.

44-38861-5546

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Approved: R C Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

C. C. - Bishop

Montreal during a visit there in 1967, and he has told HUIE that he robbed another food store in Montreal after the murder and during his flight from Memphis to England. HUIE furnished no additional details and it is presumed that RAY furnished him no additional details regarding these robberies. HUIE advised Mr. CANALE that RAY came to Memphis on 4/3/68, stayed in a motel at Memphis that night, and on 4/4/68 purchased binoculars from a local store. HUIE admits that RAY rented a room in a rooming house and then brought the rifle which was later recovered to the rooming house. He said RAY claims to have been sitting in a white Mustang outside the rooming house when the fatal shot was fired. RAY has told HUIE that an unnamed individual ran out of the rooming house, jumped into the rear seat of the Mustang, pulled a sheet over his head, and RAY then fled the scene in the Mustang. HUIE admitted that RAY has told more than one story concerning the reason he rented the room in the rooming house, but HUIE leaves no doubt that he believes RAY pulled the trigger on the murder weapon.

HUIE stated that following the murder RAY drove to Birmingham, talked with an unnamed individual in Birmingham that same night, and then drove to Atlanta. From Atlanta he went to Gary, Indiana, where he met his brother, JERRY RAY. The subject then went to Toronto and from Toronto to Montreal where he stayed for about nine days prior to leaving for London.

HUIE volunteered the information that RAY had gone to Acapulco, Mexico, prior to the murder and while in Acapulco had made a call to unnamed person or persons at Corpus Christi, Texas. According to HUIE, Mexican police had later come to the hotel and had examined his registration card. HUIE also mentioned that the green bedspread abandoned with the rifle in Memphis had come from some place in California.

HUIE characterized RAY as an individual who is starved for public recognition. He said that RAY and his brothers are most disappointed that the public has not rallied to the subject's support. He said they and the subject had been convinced that GEORGE WALLACE would be successful in his bid for the presidency and they were much disappointed in the outcome of the national election.

While HUIE has furnished no positive information which would indicate a conspiracy, it is suggested that the Bureau request the Legat, Mexico, to conduct investigation in Acapulco in an effort to identify any telephone calls the subject might have made from there. It is also suggested that Legat, Canada, contact Montreal police to determine if they can identify the food store robberies in which subject was involved.

The Bureau will be promptly advised as to whether or not motions being made by the defense are granted.

2-10-69

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long

To: Legat, Mexico City (173-1)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)— 5546

MURKIN

Information has come to the Bureau's attention that James Earl Ray, while in Acapulco, Mexico, allegedly made a telephone call to Corpus Christi, Texas. It was also alleged that the Mexican police came to the hotel and had examined his registration card.

It is noted that investigation conducted by you established that Ray entered Mexico on October 7, 1967, at Nuevo Laredo and registered in Hotel San Francisco, Acapulco on October 10, 1967, as Eric S. Galt. According to the hotel manager, they were unable to locate the registration card on Ray and, therefore, a limited amount of information was obtained.

Legat, Mexico should contact the appropriate authorities to determine if such a telephone call was made and if the Mexican police examined the register.

1 - Memphis (44-1987) (for info)

1 - Foreign Liaison (Cleared through SA [redacted])

REL: jms
(6)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO. . .

MAILED 2
FEB 11 1969
COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☑ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

NOTE:

William Bradford Huie, author, who has been writing series of articles concerning the life of James Earl Ray which appeared in "Look" magazine, was interviewed by Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee. It was learned during this interview that Huie claims that Ray told him he made a telephone call in Acapulco, Mexico, to Corpus Christi, Texas. According to Huie, Ray also stated that the Mexican police came to the hotel and examined his registration card.

We previously knew that Ray registered at the Hotel San Francisco in Acapulco, however, they could only provide us limited information as the registration records were destroyed. We are requesting Legat Mexico, through proper authorities, to conduct the appropriate investigation.