FD-36 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 2/25/69

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

Via AIRTEL _____ (Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau is one copy each of the following documents:

A. Memorandum dated 2/5/69, reflecting conversation between WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE and members of District Attorney General PHIL M. CANALE's staff on 2/4/69.

B. Letter dated 2/27/69, from JOACHIM JOESTEN to Judge W. PRESTON BATTLE. This was made available to the Memphis Office by General PHIL M. CANALE. Bureau has previously been advised of JOESTEN's interest in this case.

ENCLOSURE

REC. 25 44-38861-5582

Airtel _____

Teletype _____

A.M. _____

A.M.S.D. _____

Spec. Del. _____

FEB 26 1969

3 - Bureau (Encs. 1)
1 - Memphis

JCH:jap
(4)

53 MAR - 3 1969

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

For immediate release

January 27, 1969

OPEN LETTER

To Judge W. Preston Battle, Criminal Court, Memphis, Tenn.
concerning the JAMES EARL RAY HOAX
by JOACHIM JOESTEN

Your Honor:

James Earl Ray did not kill Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He was a paid decoy and as such deserves to be punished for his part in the conspiracy. But he did not fire the shot that killed Dr. King and, for all his criminal past, he, too, is entitled to justice.

Ray has been charged with murder by the State of Tennessee on the basis of a deliberately false and fraudulent FBI Report. The State knows, and so does the State, that Ray did not commit the murder of which he has been accused. The felony of this false accusation is compounded by the hidden intent to shield, through the sacrifice of a scapegoat, the real assassin of Dr. King, whose identity is well known to the FBI.

I am making these charges on the basis of a careful and detailed study of the case. My findings and conclusions are laid down in a 45,000-word documentation, of which a copy is being airmailed to you under separate cover today. Copies are also being sent to the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Head, Southern Christian Leadership Conference; to the American Civil Liberties Union; and to a select group of newspapers.

This documentation is not just a layman's brief for the defense of a man wrongfully accused. It is also a public indictment of his accusers, in particular J. Edgar Hoover, who personally supervised the frame-up.

I hereby declare and affirm that J. Edgar Hoover wilfully, knowingly and with malice aforethought conspired with other felonious "law enforcement officials" to bring about the judicial murder of James Earl Ray through trumped-up charges and doctored evidence.

Because Hoover knows that his false and fraudulent case will not stand up in court, extreme pressure is now being brought on Ray, a man virtually defenseless because of his long criminal record and his involvement in the conspiracy to kill King, falsely to plead guilty in return for a promise of leniency. Ray has been informed unambiguously that, if he defends himself against the murder charge, he will be convicted, sentenced to death and executed. On the other hand, he has been promised a recommendation of mercy, a comparatively light sentence and an early pardon if he accepts the role of a lone assassin.

That would obviate the inconvenience, for J. Edgar Hoover and the State authorities, of having to prove their false and untenable charges in court, but it would hardly serve the cause of justice in America.

I trust that you, the judge, will not tolerate this travesty of justice. The documentation which I am making available to Your Honor, will help you establish the truth.

Respectfully yours,

As the Moment of Truth Dawns in New Orleans...

At long last, the historic process of establishing the truth about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in Dallas is under way. The trial of Clay Shaw in New Orleans is only a first step in that direction; others will follow soon. In the end, the process inexorably will lead to the unmasking of Lyndon B. Johnson as the power behind what was in effect the first coup d'etat in American history (Nov. 22, 1963).

The time has come for thoughtful Americans to start thinking the

U N T H I N K A B L E — because it is true.

As the truth gradually emerges in the courts, in the press and in public debate or private discussions, a careful compilation of all the available literature on the assassination and the Warren Report becomes an urgent task for historians, political scientists and librarians, for at least two reasons:

One, each and every book that has been published on the subject makes a contribution to the search for the truth - some large, some small, but none is negligible.

And Two, some day students of history, pondering the era of breath-taking disclosures that is now ahead will ask in amazement: How did all this get started?

The Crime of Dallas was almost the perfect crime. Every precaution had been taken by its organizers to make sure that the truth would never come out. And then the Warren Report, this "gigantic fraud" (Garrison), all but sealed off the last avenues of truth-seeking.

Officialdom and the news media not only did nothing to help bring out the true facts, but they actively, and in concert, exerted every possible effort to obfuscate the truth and obstruct independent investigation.

BOOKS, and books alone, were the weapons of truth. District Attorney Jim Garrison himself has publicly acknowledged that it was through his reading of the published critiques of the Warren Report that he felt impelled to open an official investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy.

Now, it is a matter of record, easily to be verified, that the first book published in the United States which attacked the official version of the assassination as an unmitigated fraud was JOACHIM JOESTEN's Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy? (New York, June 1964). The same book, in its second edition (January 1965) contained the first critique of the Warren Report to come out between book covers.

Since then, JOACHIM JOESTEN has published seven more books about the assassination of President Kennedy which are not, however, generally available in the United States. They are "books-in-exile," published in England, Switzerland and France, because their outspokenness made them too "hot" for American publishers to handle.

However, these books - Oswald: The Truth; Marina Oswald; The Garrison Enquiry; How Kennedy Was Killed; Die Wahrheit über den Kennedy-Mord (Zurich); La vérité sur le cas de Jack Ruby; (Paris); and now The Dark Side of Lyndon B. Johnson are available at a fast increasing number of public and college libraries in America. They can be obtained by writing directly to the author: Joachim Joosten, 87-70 173rd Street, Jamaica 11432, New York City; or to his present address in Europe: Joachim Joosten, Munich 13, Griegstrasse 13, c/o Wahim, Germany.

The Writings of Joachim Joesten

About the Assassination of President John F. Kennedy

A. Trade Books

The Dark Side of Lyndon B. Johnson
with a large section about his role in the murder of his ...
372 pp. cloth - Peter Dawnay Ltd. London, September 1968 £ [illegible]

Now Kennedy Was Killed, 192 pp., paperback
Peter Dawnay, Ltd., London, April 1968 £ [illegible]

The Garrison Enquiry, 158 pp., paperback
Peter Dawnay, Ltd., London, October 1967 £ 3.00

Marina Oswald (Oswald of the CIA), 165 pp., cloth
Peter Dawnay, Ltd., London August 1967 £ 5.00

Oswald: The Truth, 372 pp., cloth,
Peter Dawnay, Ltd., London, July 1967 £ 7.5[illegible]

Oswald: Assassin or Fall Guy? (rare book - out of print)
2[illegible] pp., documentary section, cloth, Marzani & Munsell, Inc., New York, June 1964 and the Merlin Press, London, January 196[illegible] £ 10.00

Die Wahrheit über den Kennedy-Mord (in German)
[illegible] pp., cloth, Zurich, September 1966 £ 5.00

Le vérité sur le cas de Jack Ruby (in French)
176 pp., paperback (large format), Paris, May 1967 £ 5.5[illegible]

Note: Prices for the above trade books refer to signed copies which can be obtained only direct from the author.

B. Mimeographed publications, issued by the author himself

THE CASE AGAINST J. EDGAR HOOVER (in the assassinations of President John F. Kennedy, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and Dr. Martin Luther King) - about 15.000 words. January 1969 £ 2[illegible]

The Case Against Lyndon B. Johnson (in the assassination of President Kennedy) 2 vols. 1967 £ 30.00

The Case Against the Kennedy Clan, May 1968 £ 15.00

The Biggest Lie Ever Told (The Kennedy Murder Fraud - And How I Helped Expose It), four-part series, 1968-69. £ 5.00 per vol. £ 2[illegible].00

[illegible], biweekly, £ 45 a year; £ 25 six months
three-months trial £ 15.00 - Ask for free sample copy

All prices in US dollars

Ask for the printed 16-page catalogue "A List of Books by Joachim Joesten About the assassination of President Kennedy" in which the above books and pamphlets are described in detail. Addresses: Joachim Joesten, 87-70 173rd Street, Jamaica 11432, New York City, USA; or Joachim Joesten, Munich 13, Griegstr. 13, c/o Rahim, Germany.

MEMORANDUM

February 5, 1969

RE: CONVERSATION HELD WITH WILLIAM BRADFORD HUIE ON FEBRUARY 4, 1969, REGARDING STATE OF TENNESSEE VS. JAMES EARL RAY.

Yesterday General Canale, James Beasley, John Carlisle and myself met with Mr. Bradford Huie. This meeting took place in Mr. Huie's room, No. 1108, Rivermont Hotel. When we entered the room, Mr. Huie was alone and started telling us that his interest in the James Earl Ray case was only as a businessman. He related that he had no concern for James Earl Ray one way or the other, other than it was strictly a business situation existing between him and Arthur Hanes, former counsel for Ray and now his attorney Percy Foreman. He further stated that his only other interest other than business in that matter was a earnest desire to get and expose other co-conspirators of Ray. He further related that he wanted to know whether there existed a possibility of there not being a trial in this matter. He felt that a trial should be averted in the common interest of the country and the state of Tennessee and that his thinking was that Ray would ultimately end up and be a witness for the State of Tennessee. He stated that he would like to see Ray and confer with him and that was the reason he was now in the city other than meeting with us. He wanted to explore the possibility with us of him being permitted by the Court to go up and confer personally with Ray and that his main objective would be to convince Ray that he should plead guilty. He also enquired of us as to how much time he would have to serve on a ninety-nine year sentence and also on a life sentence. He interrupted his relating of this statement to enquire as to the possibility of the State not wanting to try this case. He was informed by the General and myself that was our business and we like to try law suits. He felt that if he could confer with Ray that he would have Ray amenable to pleading guilty. He also related that he thought Mr. Foreman whom he had known quite a few years had made a bad mistake by getting into this case. He related that he told Mr. Foreman that this was not a Candis Moessler trial and that he was going to get knocked off in this case. He further related that he told Mr. Foreman James Earl Ray killed Martin Luther King and that everybody knew and was aware of that fact. He further

related that Mr. Foreman had done some soul searching since he had entered into the defense of James Earl Ray and that Mr. Foreman wanted out of this case. He then began to related that he had traveled extensively checking out information given to him from Ray through Hanes. Ray's story about his complicity in the murder of King. He related that Ray had spent some time in Puerto Vallarto, Mexico, and that Ray had registered at a hotel in Acapulco on October 8 and had made a long distance phone call from that hotel to Corpus Christi, Texas. He related that the Mexican police had checked his registration and found out this fact four days after Ray had left the hotel. He stated that Ray, after killing Dr. King went to Birmingham and he is convinced that he met with someone in Birmingham that night and then on to Atlanta. From Atlanta he is convinced from what he knows about the case that Ray went to Gary, Indiana, and met Jerry his brother. He further stated that Ray went to Toronto and held himself to be Bridgman and Sneyd and that he spent nine days in Montreal and that this can be verified by the fact that in Montreal he robbed a food store. He stated further that Ray came in here on the third and stayed in a motel here and that on the fourth he got a hair cut on Union Avenue, that he had a fixation about getting hair cuts everywhere he went. Stated that Ray bought the binoculars; Ray took the rifle up into his room in the rooming house and that Ray told him that he was sitting in the Mustang car when the fatal shot was fired and an unnamed party came down the steps, jumped in the back of the Mustang, pulled a sheet over him and they fled the scene. An earlier version was he stated Ray told him he was to be in the room and to get the room so that they might meet an unnamed, unknown party and discuss the sale of weapons. Huie related that Ray would tell Hanes and himself a story and they would check this story out and would find that Ray had lied. They would then confront Ray with the fact that they had found out that Ray had told them lies and then Ray would relate another story. Mr. Huie was conveying to us that Ray was apt to lie on many occasions. Mr. Huie says that from his knowledge of cons and from being a police reporter shows that Ray's behavior was par for the course for that type of person. I asked Mr. Huie if prior to our meeting if he had not turned over to Percy

told us that on the advise of his attorneys he had given every scrap of paper in Ray's handwriting to Percy Foreman shortly after Foreman came into the case. I asked Mr. Huie if as he had stated earlier that his only interest in this matter was helping to effect the apprehension and exposure of co-conspirators, how he felt that his turning notes of Ray's over to Foreman was fair and consistent with that statement. I also asked Mr. Huie if General Canale hadn't on many occasions asked to confer with him and he had put General Canale off until this date. I reiterated that I couldn't see how his acts in delivering Ray's notes to Foreman was compatible with his statement that his only interest in the case was the exposure and apprehension of co-conspirators. Mr. Huie stated he would have to reflect on that for a while in view of what I had said. He related after reflection that if any time during the trial that we needed to verify something Ray is supposed to have said that that we thought would be beneficial, he would be available and would co-operate with us to that extent. I asked Mr. Huie if he had not made a statement that he had copies of all of these notes and would deliver them upon request to the State of Tennessee. He stated he might have made such a statement but he didn't have any material in his possession that he could copy. Mr. Huie related examples of Ray's lying to him as follows: The version of the escape from the Missouri Penitentiary as published in LOOK magazine was found to be a lie upon subsequent checking by Mr. Huie. The information as published in reference to the hold up of the house of prostitution in Montreal was later admitted to be a lie by Ray and in truth and in fact he held up a food center in Montreal along in early August of 1967 but when questioned about this by Mr. Huie, Ray said it was a half truth because in 1959 he did rob a house of prostitution in the same manner that he described to Mr. Huie. Mr. Huie related that he tried to verify Ray's hold up in Alton, Illinois, a bank and obtaining in the neighborhood of $20,000 and Mr. Huie stated that he never could verify that he held up the bank in Alton, Illinois. Mr. Huie further related that he had working with him on verifying Ray's story a investigator by the name of Groovich (phoenetic). He then related that Oswald had lived in Exchange Alley in back of the Monte Leon Hotel and that

at that time the Monte Leon family had as their guests, pilots who had been ransomed from Cuba who had participated in the invasion of the Bay of Pigs. Huie related that Ray on his trip to New Orleans with Stein had met unknown, unnamed parties in a bar from which diagrams made by Ray, Huie concluded was across the street from the Monte Leon. Huie started relating about John F. Kennedy not supporting the invasion of Cuba and that because of that there was much resentment for the Kennedy family among the rescued participants of the invasion of Cuba. He further related that Garrison didn't have anything in his opinion other than a conspiracy that began and ended in the atmosphere of New Orleans. We asked Mr. Huie pointed questions about prior statements made by him in different localities as to him making the assertion that there are other co-conspirators. He stated he mighted have made statements of that kind. We asked Mr. Huie that if he had any facts or evidence or proof in his possession from any source that would indicate to him from his knowledge of this matter if there were and if there are any co-conspirators. He said that he did not have any proof and that his statements were based on suppositions and inferences that he had drawn from checking Ray's story. We informed Mr. Huie that in view of the fact that he had made these statements about the country and in particular Shelby County that we were handing him a subpoena for his appearance before the Shelby County Grand Jury on Friday, February 7. Mr. Huie accepted his subpoena and said he was not and would not try to avoid it and would be here and would testify. Mr. Huie also added that from his interviewing witnesses he had found that the FBI in showing mug shots to different witnesses for identification purposes that there had been in a group of pictures shown two or three pictures of the same individuals. Mr. Huie stated that the green spread that was used by James Earl Ray to wrap the bundle with the rifle that he dropped on Main Street had come from California. Mr. Huie state that he had purchased an identical rifle that Ray used from Donald Wood at Aeromarine Supply and that he had gone to the rooming house and re-enacted the assassination and that he was convinced that anyone could have made a shot of that kind. It did not take a marksman. Mr. Huie

Mr. Huie further related that it struck him as peculiar that Ray did make trips to Aeromarine Supply which is in the vicinity of the airport in Birmingham and that also in that location was the headquarters of General Doster. He stated that Doster assembled the pilots that participated in the Bay of Pigs Invasion. He also stated that it was a known fact that people could come and go there in General Doster's headquarters who were of like character as Ray. Mr. Huie further related that Ray and his brothers were 100 per cent convinced that Wallace was going to be elected president of the United States and that we knew that Ray was politically motivated toward Wallace because of his activities in Los Angeles. He further related that Ray is very disappointed at this time in that Wallace was not elected and that he didn't receive the support from the people that he thought he was going to receive by killing King. Mr. Huie felt that Jerry Ray knew prior to the killing what James Earl was going to do and that he knew after the killing and that he assisted James Earl Ray.

MEF R.K.D.

Special Agent in Charge