Attorney General

June 17, 1968

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

James Earl Ray;
Possible Defense Counsel

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 Bailey that the information contained in the letter was accurate with the exception of the June 19 date which was uncertain. Bailey indicated that he would call Ray's solicitors in London to discuss the matter.

REC 36 44-38861-4700

12 JUN 18 1968

Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

EX-PROC

JUN 18 1968