10/31/68

AIRTEL

1 - Mr. Long

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)

From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

HURKIN

Bureau is in receipt of a copy of a letter from James Earl Ray addressed to J. B. Stoner, Savannah, Georgia, as provided to you by the Sheriff of Shelby County, Memphis, Tennessee. This letter is thanking Stoner for coming to Memphis and states that Ray's brother will be in touch with Stoner.

In your teletype of 9/30/68, you advised that in the motion filed by Arthur J. Hance, Ray's attorney, in Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, pertaining to Ray's corresponding with his attorney, Judge W. Preston Battle ruled that written notes exchanged between Ray and his attorney are privileged; however, the Shelby County Sheriff or his designated agent has the authority to peruse these notes to determine if there is any attempt to breach security of the jail. These notes should not be perused for the purpose of ascertaining the full contents of the messages.

In view of the above order of W. Preston Battle, you should not accept any written communication from the sheriff regarding correspondence between Ray and other individuals. If it is not in violation of the court order you may accept information from the sheriff if he volunteers this information and it is on an oral basis only.

REL:gcw
(4)

2 ENCLOSURE

REC-35 5310

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

15 NOV 5 1968

MAILED 4

COMM-FBI

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

NOTE:

Bureau is in receipt of a copy of a letter from James Earl Ray addressed to J. B. Stoner, Savannah, Georgia, as provided by the Sheriff of Shelb County, Memphis, Tennessee, to our Memphis Office. This letter is thanking Stoner for coming to Memphis and states that Ray's brother will be in touch with Stoner.

Memphis by teletype of 4-30-68, advised that in the motion filed by Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's attorney, in Shelby County Criminal Court, Memphis, Tennessee, pertaining to Ray's corresponding with his attorney, Judge W. Preston Battle, ruled that written notes exchanged between Ray and his attorney are privileged, however, the Shelby County Sheriff or his designated agent has the authority to peruse these notes to determine if there is any attempt to breach security of the jail. These notes should not be perused for the purpose of ascertaining the full contents of the messages.

This communication is advising Memphis not to accept any written communication from the sheriff regarding Ray's correspondence; however, they may accept information on an oral basis from the sheriff. Memphis also being instructed to insure that the acceptance of this oral information is not in violation of the court order.

Prior information indicates that Ray has been in contact with J. B. Stoner with a view towards engaging him as counsel, although Hanes continues to be Ray's attorney of record.

JAMES RAY
COUNTY. JAIL
MEMPHIS, TENN.

To. Mr. J. B. Stoner
P.O. Box - 6263
Savannah, Georgia - 31405

11-8-68

Dear Mr. Stoner;

I will just write a few lines to thank you for coming to memphis, also my brother come to visit me after you and I talked to him about the libel case and he said he would write you and explain some thing more fully, about one charge made in the magazine portraing. I was also informed that some scribbler named Drew pearson has been writing articles in some what the same vein, maybe his articles would interest you.

I suppose he's another one of Clark's stooges. I guess that's about all for now

Sincerely

James E. Ray

J. RAY
COUNTY JAIL
MEMPHIS, TENN.
U.S.A.

To. Mr. Frank Melton
Chief Magistrate
Bow Street Court
C/O Chief Clerk, London, England.

10-7-68

DEAR SIR;

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH IF IF YOU COULD GIVE ME ANY INFORMATION ON THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS.

MR. EUGENE ASK ME THIS QUESTION ALSO, THINKING I HAD SELECTED HIM, AS I UNDERSTAND IS THE PROCEDURE IN ENGLISH COURTS. I UNDERSTAND MR. FRANK MELTON APPOINTED HIM OFFICIALY BUT I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHO RECOMMED MR. EUGENE

SINCERELY

James E. Ray

P.S. THE NAME.
Ramon George Sneyd
WAS USE AT THE
BOW ST. HEARING.