September 25, 1968

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

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

The attached relates to information furnished to us on a confidential basis, and should not be disclosed outside this Bureau. Mr. Phil M. Canale, Jr., State Attorney General, Shelby County, Tennessee, who is handling the state's prosecution is aware of the contents in the attached.

J. B. Stoner is no doubt identical to Jesse B. Stoner, Vice-chairman of the National States Rights Party (a vicious anti-Semitic, anti-Negro, right wing hate group based in Savannah, Georgia.)

REL JMC

5193

(8-38 (Rev. 5-22-64)

FBI

Date: 9-23-68

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

Via AIRTEL AM (Priority)

Mr. Tolson
Mr. DeLoach
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Bishop
Mr. Casper
Mr. Callahan
Mr. Conrad
Mr. Felt
Mr. Gale
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Sullivan
Mr. Tavel
Mr. Trotter
Tele. Room
Miss Holmes
Miss Gandy

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P

MURKIN

On this date, Sheriff WILLIAM N. MORRIS, JR. advised that he received information that J. B. STONER, Attorney, had been in correspondence with JAMES EARL RAY. The nature of the correspondence was to the effect that J. B. STONER volunteered his services at no cost to JAMES EARL RAY and indicated that he would arrive in Memphis on Wednesday, 9/25/68, to meet with JAMES EARL RAY.

Sherff MORRIS was of the opinion that JAMES EARL RAY was losing interest in ARTHUR HANES, his present attorney, and might conceivably let STONER defend him in the forthcoming trial. Sheriff MORRIS also advised that he had picked up information indicating that JAMES EARL RAY at the present time was desirous of taking the stand on his own behalf when the trial occurs in Memphis. Sheriff MORRIS also stated that the current attorney, ARTHUR HANES, does not want his client JAMES EARL RAY to testify.

Bureau will be kept advised of additional developments as they occur.

3 BUREAU
1 ATLANTA (INFO)(AM)
1 BIRMINGHAM (INFO)(AM)
1 MEMPHIS

RGJ:BN
(6)

EX 106

REC 22

17 SEP 25 1968

C. C. - Bishop

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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge