

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.)

N 2 J.P.W. [unclear] W

REL:jmc

F B I

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.

Sheriff 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)

D. C. Bishop

EX 106

REC 22

17 SEP 25 1968

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Approved: R. G. Jensen
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____