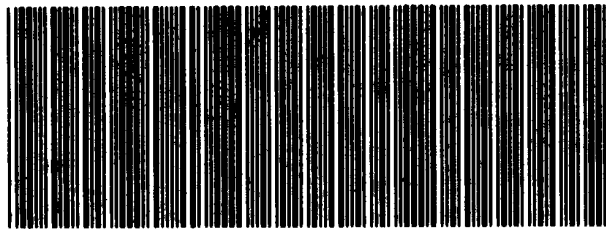


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ENCLOSURE

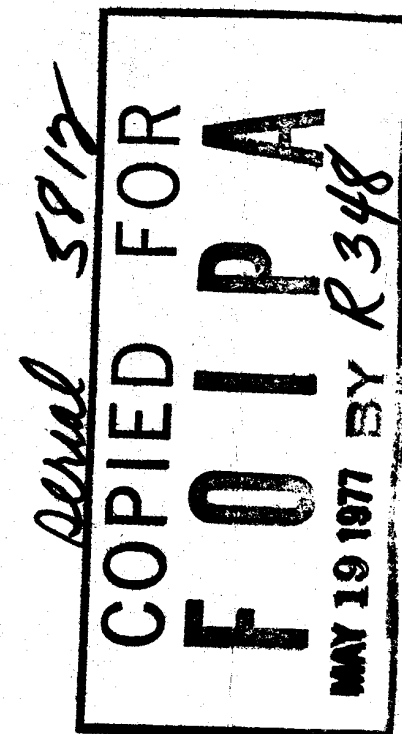
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ATTENTION

BEFORE CHANGING CLASSIFICATION
OR PROCESSING ANY DOCUMENT
FROM THIS FILE FOR RELEASE TO
THE GENERAL PUBLIC, CONTACT
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FBI/DOJ



ENCLOSURE

TO Supra File # 44-38861
FROM Re File # 44-371
RE _____
(X) enc to PHOENIX
Report (Letter) Airtel
date 9/4/69 described
as LHM

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Enclosure

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ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
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*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Phoenix, Arizona
September 4, 1969

JAMES EARL RAY
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. -
VICTIM

On July 25, 1969, C. R. CRANK, JR., Superintendent, Federal Detention Center, Florence, Arizona, made available the attached copy of a letter written by JOHN HAMILTON MORRIS, inmate of that institution to Mr. PETER GOLDMAN, 444 Madison Avenue, New York City, New York. Mr. CRANK pointed out that the significance of this letter was the fact that MORRIS indicated that JAMES EARL RAY had been paid by an individual known as "BIG D". Mr. CRANK advised that MORRIS was received at that institution on July 19, 1969, and was incarcerated there until July 25, 1969.

MORRIS was maintained at that institution as a stop-over while en route from San Francisco, California, to Leavenworth, Kansas. He explained that MORRIS was serving a sentence at U. S. Penitentiary, Leavenworth, and had been removed from that institution to San Francisco, where he was afforded a hearing on a Writ of Habeas Corpus.

Mr. CRANK advised that an information card maintained by that institution on MORRIS indicated that he had been convicted for crimes of bank robbery in 1949, bank robbery in 1969 and aircraft piracy in 1969. His attorney was listed as PAUL L. LARSEN, 309 South Third Street, Las Vegas, Nevada.

MORRIS is described as follows:

JAMES EARL RAY

John Hamilton Morris

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Michigan
Weight	165 pounds
Hair	Gray
Eyes	Hazel
Tattoos	Multiple tattoos on both arms
Occupation	Journalist
Marital Status	Single
Social Security Number	

Kansas
Ariz
Calif

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Re: U.S. v. Morris, No. CX-LV 1779 - L. Vegas, Nevada
22 July, 1969

Dear Mr. Goldman, There is somewhat of a similarity
between Tennessee v. Ray and the above Cause -
via the plea of guilty to alleged charges - but more
I say that my attorney and I find your statement
of March 24 a bit naïve, when you assert that
"a plea is normal enough in U.S. court rooms
at a time - and money-saving convenience - that permits
authorities to settle far more cases than they bring
to trial". Not exactly so, Pete - by reason of the
following examples in both cases, supra. On the
4th day of July, 1968, I attempted to commit Air
craft Piracy (i.e., the attempted hijacking of a
jetliner with 71 passengers aboard) while in the cu-
stody of U.S. Government Marshalls. The Govern-
ment made a "deal" with the defendant [pursuant to Fed.
R. 1, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure - which
provides for a Pretrial Conference - which
of any time - and money saving convenience -
the thing is applied primarily because the Gov-
did not want

To file a multi-million dollar civil
action damage suit against the U.S. Attorney
et al, as provided for under Title 28, U.S. Code
Chap. 171, Sections 1346 and 2671. The magnitude
of this case provided a "flexibility" beyond the
"normal" routine of the so-called "cop-out".

In the Ray "deal" the same "convenience" ap-
plies - but since the apprehension of the
in New Mexico two weeks ago 44-1987-Sub-M-6471
was made will now backfire! The events unfold - with the
placed source within the [redacted] the shock is
Ray himself was paid by big "I" to [redacted]
know not the intricate stages of [redacted]

44-38861-2512