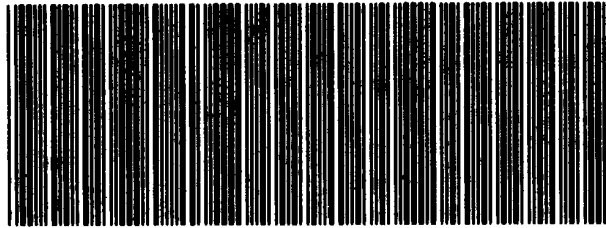


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ENCLOSURE

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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

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Re: U.S. v. Morris, No. CV 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 some 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 Aircraft Piracy (i.e., the attempted hijacking of a T-10 jetliner with 71 passengers aboard) while in the custody of U.S. Government Marshalls. The Government made a "deal" with the defendant [pursuant to Fed. R. 1, Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure - which provides for a Pretrial Conference] - not because of any "time" - and money - saving convenience - but because the thing is simply unworkable. I did not want

To file a multi-million dollar civil action damage suit against the U.S. Attorney, 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" applies - but since the apprehension of the [redacted] in New Mexico two weeks ago 44-1987-Sub M-6471 was made with now backfire! [redacted] which events unfold - with the [redacted] the shock is placed source within the [redacted] Ray himself was paid by big "I" to [redacted] know the intricate stages of [redacted]

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