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LAW OFFICES OF
PERCY FOREMAN
804 SOUTH COAST BUILDING
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002

MAIN AT RUSK

CA 4-9321

May 10, 1969

Mr. Richard J. Ryan
Attorney at Law
Falls Building
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Ryan:

This acknowledges your letter of April 30, 1969
which reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Foreman:

"As you probably know, I now represent Mr.
James Earl Ray.

"It has now become necessary for me to have
whatever files you have in your possession
including investigation reports. Would you
kindly mail these at your convenience.

"Should you feel that for your protection
you need a Court Order, please do not hesi-
tate to advise me, if that is the case.

"Yours very truly,

" /s/ Richard J. Ryan

"Richard J. Ryan

"RJR:mr"

Regretfully, I had not heard of you either as a law-
yer or an individual, until I received your letter. There
are two law suits pending in the United States District
Courts in Tennessee - one in Memphis styled: "Renfro Hayes
versus Percy Foreman" and one in Nashville styled: "James
Earl Ray versus Percy Foreman" - in which my work product
in the Ray case is essential to the defense. I think the
Honorable Hugh Stantons Sr. and Jr. of Memphis, who were
co-counsel in the James Earl Ray case, have a copy of all
material that would be of any use and which you could
read and understand.

Mr. Richard J. Ryan
May 10, 1969
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My own investigation and interviews with witnesses are in a cryptic form of shorthand, being a combination of Gregg, Pitman, Percy Foreman and Alabama-Coushatta Indian hieroglyphics. In other words, no living human being except myself can decipher whatever has been reduced to writing by me as a result of interviews in the James Earl Ray case.

It has been my policy to make my investigations in this form in every case where the Federal Government is involved. This practice started in the winter of 1964-1965 and continued until now and includes the Ray case. I considered the Ray case a Federal case because of the involvement of the Department of Justice.

Mr. Ray has my good wishes. I sincerely hope he obtains a new trial. He is not legally entitled to one, but that does not affect my attitude.

I was released from further responsibility as his attorney sometime about March 15, 1969. I do not know whether the Messrs. Stantons have been so relieved or not. They were appointed to represent Mr. Ray; and, so far as I know, they still represent him. I suggest that you consult with them and the successor to His Honor, Judge Preston Battle, with reference to access to any material you think you can use.

I am sending a copy of this letter to them so that they may be advised of our exchange of communication.

Respectfully yours,

Percy Foreman

PF:ma

cc: ✓ Mr. Hugh Stanton, Sr.