

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: October 16, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen *AR*

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

The Birmingham Office previously advised that Arthur Hanes, a former attorney for James Earl Ray, the subject of this case, recently stated to an Assistant U. S. Attorney in Birmingham that he, Hanes, believed Ray was involved in a gunrunning conspiracy which was supplying guns to black militants and others when King was shot. Birmingham was instructed to interview Hanes and pin him down for specifics. Hanes is a former Bureau Agent and an individual who will do anything for publicity. He is known to be closely affiliated with the United Klans of America and as an attorney has represented many Klan members.

Hanes on interview entered into a lengthy discourse of his theories concerning the James Earl Ray case and stated that although Ray undoubtedly was involved, it was his theory that Ray had been led or instructed in his actions by other unknown individuals. He stated that he had two theories of groups which may have led Ray; one being the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and the other being black militant groups. He had no definite information in this connection whatsoever.

In alleged furtherance of the gunrunning conspiracy theory, Hanes furnished information regarding a local Birmingham burglary of some shotguns and silver service in December, 1968, which involved a client of his who was convicted in August, 1969, in connection with the local burglary. Hanes furnished no information to tie this burglary in with the gunrunning theory and it is noted that King was shot on 4-4-68, eight months before the burglary occurred.

**ACTION:** For information. The information furnished by Hanes is being forwarded to the Civil Rights Division for its information.

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