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Prosecution Potential

Based upon our present level of knowledge, most if not all of the FBI officials who participated in the King case at a decision-making level are as follows:

- 1) J. Edgar Hoover, Director (deceased)
- 2) Clyde Tolson, Associate Director (deceased)
- 3) Alan Belmont, Assistant to the Director (retired)
- 4) Cartha DeLoach, Assistant Director (retired)
- 5) Courtney Evans, Assistant Director (retired)
- 6) William Sullivan, Assistant Director (retired)
- 7) James Bland, Chief, Subversive Control Section (retired)
- 8) Joseph A. Sizoo, Assistant to the Assistant Director (retired)
- 9) Fred J. Baumgardner, Chief, Internal Security Section (retired)

*Write my file*

*(dead)*

*(u)*

The exchanges of memoranda among these men and others could establish the existence of a concert of action in which each participated. Most of the briefings of Congressmen, Senators, White House aides, press, and others were handled by Cartha DeLoach. William Sullivan apparently conceived and executed the mailing of the composite tape to Dr. King, processed and approved the microphone surveillances to gather information to be used against King, and was active in other Cointelpro-type activities. Belmont, Bland, Sizoo, and Baumgardner participated regularly in producing the various internal memoranda. We would have to know more about these men's actual roles in the Bureau's effort in order to estimate their culpability. Courtney Evans appears more as an honest broker between Hoover and Attorney General Kennedy than as a principal, although his actual role would have to be examined further to be understood. *(u)*

*? What is the actual role of Sizoo?*

The files reveal that Hoover and this relatively small group of Bureau officials made the critical decisions and authorized the critical actions which were then executed by a core of well-trained and disciplined agents. We have not attempted to identify each agent who participated at the direction of headquarters, nor to assess whether they also have died or retired, and if not, their culpability or exposure to formal discipline. (See Recommendations for further discussion on this point.) *(u)*

*Not even sure agent A + that in my file?*

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