OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

DATE: October 20, 1969

1 - Mr. DeLoach
1 - Mr. Rosen
1 - Mr. Malley
1 - Mr. McGowan
1 - Mr. McDonough
1 - Mr. Bishop
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan

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

The Internal Security Division of the Department has advised that pursuant to his request, Harold Weisberg, a free-lance writer who resides in Frederick, Maryland, was interviewed by a Department attorney 10-8-69. During the course of the interview Weisberg advised that he had recently received a telephone call from J. B. Stoner, National Chairman of the National States Rights Party in which Stoner claimed that two men in his party formerly served as informants of the FBI and these two men are prepared to testify in court that the FBI offerred them $25,000 to frame James Earl Ray for the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weisberg said the testimony presumably would be furnished in a habeas corpus proceeding.

This is obviously an attempt by Weisberg and Stoner to discredit the Bureau with such unwarranted, scurrilous allegations.

Weisberg is apparently identical with Harold Weisberg an individual who has been most critical of the Bureau in the past. He is the author of several books including one entitled, "Whitewash - The Report of the Warren Report" and has been critical of the FBI, Secret Service, police agencies and other branches of Government. He was one of ten employees fired by the State Department during 1947 because of his loyalty being suspected. He was later allowed to resign. (This is public source data, article in "Washington Post" 11-18-47.) Weisberg by letter in April, 1969, requested information on the King murder case for a forthcoming book. It was approved that his letter not be acknowledged. (100-35138)

J. B. Stoner, one of the present attorneys for James Earl Ray who has petitioned the Supreme Court of Tennessee for a Writ of Certiorari in connection with his motion for a new trial, is a

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notorious segregationist who continually attacks the Bureau and the Director. On the basis of the information furnished, the two alleged former informants referred to cannot be identified in Bureau files.

ACTION:

1. In view of the nature of the information and the background on Weisberg and Stoner it is not felt that they should be interviewed regarding this matter.

2. The Savannah Office which is the office of origin in the case covering the activities of Stoner and the National States Rights Party and the Memphis Office which is office of origin in the James Earl Ray case and is following any appeals are being furnished background information in this matter and are being instructed to be alert for any further information along these lines in order that appropriate action can be taken on any such additional information as warranted.

3. The Memphis Office is being instructed to advise responsible Tennessee state authorities handling the King murder case of the information furnished by the Department and that there is no basis to the allegation that the FBI offered money to anyone to frame James Earl Ray for the King murder. Information furnished Tennessee state authorities will be confirmed in writing by the Memphis Office. Airtel along these lines attached for approval. Letter to Department attached for approval denying allegation against FBI.