

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 8, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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

At the time of his arrest in London, on June 8, 1968, subject Ray among other things, had in his possession a .38 caliber "Liberty Chief" revolver manufactured by the Miroku Firearms Manufacturing Company, Japan. Upon request of our Legal Attache in Tokyo, [redacted] determined that records of the Miroku Firearms Manufacturing Company, Shikoku, Japan, show that this weapon was shipped on August 3, 1966, destined for the Liberty Arms Corporation in Montrose, California. We traced this pistol from the Liberty Arms Corporation in Montrose, California, to the person who sold it to Ray in October, 1967 in Birmingham, Alabama.

The Legal Attache in Tokyo has advised that [redacted] is concerned that they would be embarrassed by Japanese reporters who might learn of the tracing of Ray's gun to Japan and ask questions which they may not feel free to answer. [redacted] requested to be advised whether or not there was any restriction regarding the release of data relating to the gun's origin. [redacted] also desire to know whether this information has been made public and whether such a release is contemplated.

Since the information developed by [redacted] only indicates where the pistol was manufactured and to whom it was first shipped, the release of this information should have no adverse effect on this case.

Enclosure *sent 7-9-68*

EJM:mt  
(8)

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Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

The inquiry of the [redacted] has been referred to Assistant Attorney General Stephen J. Pollak of the Civil Rights Division, and he advised that this information on the weapon would not be relevant to the State or Federal charges against Ray, and [redacted] may be informed that the information developed by them relative to this weapon has not been, and it is not contemplated that it will be, released in the near future by the U. S. Government.

Mr. Pollak stated [redacted] can be advised that the Department of Justice would not interpose an objection to their disclosing results of their investigation relative to the manufacturer and the first receiver of the gun; however, [redacted] may wish to consider the desirability of not disclosing results of investigation in this matter before prosecutive action is completed, although this is a matter for their determination.

ACTION:

Attached for approval is a cablegram to our Legal Attache in Tokyo, instructing him in line with the Department's observations. Discussion with Mr. Pollak is being confirmed in writing.

*Handwritten notes:*  
OK ✓  
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[unclear signature]