

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC (157-)

FROM : Supv. ANDREW M. SMITH

SUBJECT: UNSUB.;
MARTIN LUTHER KING,
Deceased - VICTIM
CR

DATE: 4/5/68

At 9:05 a.m., 4/5/68, SA HOWARD TETEN, Memphis Office, called with regard to Birmingham investigation to trace the Remington rifle at Wimberly & Thomas Hardware Company (W & T), Birmingham. SA TETEN advised Mr. DeLOACH at the Bureau had instructed that it is imperative that Mr. JOE BIDDLE at W & T not furnish information concerning this rifle to anyone except the FBI. He further stated that the Memphis Office needs the information on the rifle as soon as it can be obtained.

This information was immediately furnished to SAC GAMBLE and thereafter at 9:15 a.m., SA NEIL P. SHANAHAN, who is conducting investigation on the rifle, was contacted by telephone. He advised that he had already left W & T and had informed Mr. BIDDLE that he should maintain inquiries and information concerning the rifle in confidence. I instructed SA SHANAHAN that he should immediately call Mr. BIDDLE and instruct him not to disclose either FBI inquiries or information concerning the rifle to anyone other than the FBI. I informed SA SHANAHAN that Mr. DeLOACH had instructed that this is imperative. SA SHANAHAN stated he would immediately call Mr. BIDDLE and advise him to this effect.

SA SHANAHAN was also instructed not to disclose to any persons contacted concerning the rifle the reason for our inquiry on the rifle.

SA SHANAHAN stated he had learned at W & T that the rifle had been sold to AEROMARINE in Birmingham and he was then en route there to obtain further information.

AMS:rvm
(3)



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