

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: April 2, 1969

FROM : A. Rosen

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

SUBJECT: MURKIN

SEE NOTE ON REVERSE SIDE

SYNOPSIS:

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

William Bradford Huie <sup>TENN</sup> has written the third article for "Look" magazine and claims that as a result of notes received from Ray and his extensive investigation and retracing of Ray's travels, he has definitely concluded that Ray alone is the murderer of King. Huie points out in this article that a number of questionable items existed concerning Ray and the King murder, and he resolved these through his investigation. Huie concludes the article by stating James Earl Ray, the poor, contemptible little man, has killed a well-known figure.

Another comment in the current "Look" magazine is made by Percy Foreman, Ray's second <sup>TENN</sup> attorney, and Mr. Foreman states "I don't believe there was any conspiracy. James Earl Ray wanted to win recognition. He hoped that by killing Martin Luther King he could make the rest of his futile, boring life exciting."

In the same issue of "Look" magazine, Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's first attorney, states that he feels Ray was helped and points out different items to support his theory. We have conducted investigation on each of the items and determined no supporting evidence exists to corroborate theories of Hanes.

REC-87 44-38861-5698

ACTION:

For information.

2 APR 11 1969

1 copies made  
 2-2-78 JTA/jmm  
 re: Huie  
 for review at FBIHQ by  
 HNSA re: 2-20-78 request.  
 (See Bufile #100-117290)

REL: jms

66 APR 27 1969

DETAILS - OVER

*[Handwritten signatures and initials: JMM, SJM, R, Egn, nd, 4/2/69, SIX]*

Rosen to DeLoach memorandum  
RE: MURKIN

DETAILS:

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

William Bradford Huie has written the third in a series of articles for "Look" magazine. Huie previously advised us that he entered into a contract with James Earl Ray to write the true account of Ray's activities and background concerning the assassination of King. Huie has been provided with notes from Ray through Ray's first attorney, Arthur J. Hanes.

The first article appeared in the 11-12-68, issue and the second article appeared in the issue of 11-26-68. In this third article, which is dated 4-15-69, (circulated 4-1-69), Huie claims that as a result of notes received from Ray and his extensive investigation and retracing of Ray's travels, he has definitely concluded that Ray alone is the murderer of King.

Huie points out in this current article that a number of questionable items existed concerning Ray and the King murder, and he resolved these through his investigation. The items and his investigative results are as follows:

1. Item - Ray's ability to obtain a Canadian passport.  
Answer - It is relatively easy to obtain a Canadian passport and Ray is very capable of executing this matter.

2. Item - Ray's determination of the location of the motel in Memphis where King was staying.  
Answer - It was public knowledge through television and newspaper reports that King stayed at the Lorraine Motel and his room number was publicized.

3. Item - The fatal rifle shot could have been fired only by a practiced, experienced, and expert marksman.  
Answer - Ray had Army training, he was in the Military Police, he had practiced with guns, and the shot was easy for him. A 12-year-old boy familiar with a .22 caliber weapon could have killed King from the same position.

4. Item - Ray is stupid and inept.  
Answer - During Ray's seven years in the Missouri State Penitentiary, he matured as a criminal. His escape on 4-23-67, from the Missouri State Penitentiary was well planned and well executed.

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RE: MURKIN

5. Item - Ray could not have supported himself and his travels between 4-23-67, (escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary) and 6-8-68, (Ray apprehended in London, England) and, therefore, must have had financial assistance.

Answer - Ray obtained funds through robberies and other criminal activities.

6. Item - Ray is not a "racist" or "nigger-hater" and, therefore, could have been motivated only by money.

Answer - Ray, while incarcerated, did not feel he could live in an Honor Farm Dormitory because it was integrated. Ray made bitter anti-Negro remarks while he was in Canada, Mexico, and California.

7. Item - Ray was not a killer.

Answer - The superintendent at the Missouri State Hospital, who supervised the psychiatric examination of Ray, stated that Ray is capable of killing for gain, and he is capable of killing in the hope of relieving his anxieties and enhancing his self-respect.

Huie concludes his article by stating that James Earl Ray, the poor, contemptible little man, has killed a well-known figure.

Another comment in the current "Look" magazine is made by Percy Foreman, Ray's second attorney, and Mr. Foreman states "I don't believe there was any conspiracy. James Earl Ray wanted to win recognition. He hoped that by killing Martin Luther King he could make the rest of his futile, boring life exciting."

In this same issue of "Look" magazine, Arthur J. Hanes, Ray's first attorney, states that he feels Ray was helped and points out different items to support his theory.

1. Item - Ray had help in selecting the rooming house from which the fatal shot is alleged to have been fired, and no evidence exists that this house was entered by Ray until 3:15 p.m. on the day of the murder.

Facts - Ray was in Memphis on 4-3-68, (one day before the murder) and had sufficient time to choose the rooming house and it was public knowledge as to where King was staying and his assigned room number.

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RE: MURKIN

2. Item - According to a few witnesses, the shot was fired from the bushes which are 20 feet below the bathroom of the rooming house.

Facts - Interviews of witnesses and other individuals failed to corroborate any such statements.

3. Item - When Ray abandoned the Mustang, a search of the Mustang revealed that the clothing did not fit Ray and the car's ashtrays were filled with cigarette butts. According to Hanes, Ray does not smoke.

Facts - The clothing located in the Mustang was perfectly sized for Ray and our Laboratory matched certain threads from articles of clothing found in the car with items of evidence located at the scene of the killing. Our examination of the Mustang disclosed no cigarette butts or ashes.

4. Item - The state has no conclusive ballistic evidence. The .30-.06 bullet was recovered from King's body but no ballistic expert could say that the bullet was fired from the rifle purchased by Ray.

Facts - The bullet recovered from the body of King was such that it is impossible to state that the bullet was fired from the rifle purchased by Ray; however, there were certain characteristics which would indicate that it was fired from this rifle. It was further determined that the casing found in the rifle was fired from the rifle purchased by Ray.

5. Item - Within a few minutes after King was shot, there were mysterious radio reports concerning a Pontiac chasing a Mustang believed to have been occupied by the killer of King.

Facts - We completely checked this matter out and it was determined that the broadcast concerning a Pontiac chasing a Mustang was a fabrication, and no supporting evidence exists to verify the report.

6. Item - There was no motive in killing King as Ray was doing all right as a fugitive.

Facts - This is conjecture on Mr. Hanes' part, and we have statements that Ray could possibly have committed the murder for personal recognition for status among inmates in prison.

Mr. Hanes concludes his article by stating that the FBI has done its usual masterful job in this matter.

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*JHM*

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