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Death Conspiracy Debunked

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An authority on the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. yesterday offered what he considered clinching arguments why James Earl Ray was the sole assassin of the civil rights leader.

"All the hard evidence points to the fact that Ray did everything himself," author Gerold Frank told a press luncheon. "He researched the rifle to buy, the right scope, he got the car, rented the room, bought the tickets to Europe, everything ...

"He needed money all the time he was in Europe where he fled, and there was nobody to finance him. If he had \$200 more, he could have escaped to Africa where there's no extradition. He was planning to become a white mercenary. He would have been safe."

The writer of the recently published "An American Death" said more than three years of research went into the book. He worked with police intelligence reports, borrowed private diaries

(including one kept by former Attorney General Ramsey Clark) and interviewed virtually everyone connected with the case.

In spite of all his research, pointing to what he feels is irrefutable evidence that Ray was the sole assassin, Frank feels the conspiracy theory will continue to be firmly held.

"People seem to feel there has to have been a conspiracy or else it's as if the world has no meaning," he said.