

CLASSIFICATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT

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**Birmingham Doctor Is Arrested
In Discovery of Weapons Cache**

By MARTIN WALDRON
Special to The New York Times

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Dec. 2—
Dr. Gus J. Prosch Jr., a 40-
year-old Birmingham physician,
was released on \$10,000 bond
today after Federal investiga-
tors had charged him with the
possession of illegal weapons.

More than 30 tons of guns,
ammunition and dynamite
raids Sunday and yesterday
were confiscated by county
and Federal officers in the Bir-
mingham area. The officers said
that the firearms had been
traced to Dr. Prosch.

Dr. Prosch refused to com-
ment at his arraignment this
morning. And officials refused
to speculate as to why the guns
were collected in the Birming-
ham area.

Federal investigators said
they had traced a number of
the weapons to gun dealers in
four states—Alabama, Missi-
ssippi, Florida and Tennessee—
but had not yet searched the
dealers records to see which
individuals had brought them.

The officers said that a com-
plete inventory had not been
made but that several hundred
weapons, including an 80-mm.
mortar, were seized. At least
15 of the guns were automat-
ics. The Gun Control Act of
1968 prohibits private owner-
ship of such weapons.

Sheriff Melvin Bailey of Jef-
ferson County said Sunday that
it was "obvious" that a trailer
load of weapons found near

Bessemer, a Birmingham sub-
urb, was intended to be used
by "leftist revolutionaries." To-
day, the sheriff said he did not
know whether the guns were
intended for distribution to
"rightists or leftists" but that it
still appeared they were des-
tined for revolutionaries.

In recent months, Dr. Prosch
has operated a clinic for the
treatment of the obese. Early
last month, he reported to the
police department that more
than 100,000 drugs used to de-
press appetites had been stolen.

Agents of the Treasury De-
partment's Alcohol, Tobacco
and Firearms Division declined
to say how they were led to
Dr. Prosch. But it was learned
that more than one box of
munitions found in the trailer
had Dr. Prosch's address on
them.

The Federal agents raided
Dr. Prosch's home in suburban
Birmingham late yesterday.
They said they had found a
quantity of arms and ammuni-
tion there and at a house in
South Birmingham that had
been rented by Dr. Prosch.

At least two automatic pis-
tols confiscated at Dr. Prosch's
home had been sold through
the Aero-Marine Supply Com-
pany, the Birmingham gun store
where James Earl Ray bought
the rifle that was left at the
scene of the murder of the
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



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