

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher  
RE: MURKIN

INTERVIEWS AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY:

Ray Godfrey has been fully identified as Arnold Ray Godfrey and was interviewed on 1/13/76. He advised that he did not talk with either of the Powells re the assassination of King nor did he introduce anyone to them re the assassination of King. He denied all knowledge of any assassination plot re King.

When Godfrey was interviewed on 1/13/76, he agreed to submit to a polygraph. When he was contacted re the polygraph on 1/16/76, however, Godfrey stated "I am innocent" and then advised he did not wish to take any polygraph examination and did not wish to talk to the FBI any further. He stated if the FBI needs any further information, they should contact his attorney.

OTHER INVESTIGATION: Extensive additional investigation was conducted including interviews of other relatives, associates, etc., of Leon and Claude Powell's and of Godfrey's. No information was developed during this extensive investigation to substantiate this allegation and no information was developed indicating this allegation was in anyway connected with James Earl Ray.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION: The results of our investigation have been closely coordinated with the Civil Rights Division.

On 2/27/76, Mr. Robert A. Murphy, Chief, Criminal Section, CRD, advised it appeared all logical investigation had been conducted and he would contact Godfrey's attorney to determine if Godfrey would be made available for further interview, including a polygraph examination, in an attempt to further resolve this matter.

On 3/11/76, Mr. Murphy advised that Godfrey's attorney informed him that Godfrey feels he told the FBI everything, is innocent, and will not consent to any further interview and will not consent to a polygraph examination. Mr. Murphy told Godfrey's attorney that he would review this matter to determine whether it should be presented to a Federal Grand Jury and whether Godfrey will be called before the Federal Grand Jury.

Mr. Murphy stated he would further review this matter to determine if there is any other logical investigation to be conducted and would advise if a decision is made to present this matter to a Federal Grand Jury.

**Civil Rights Division**

**March 9, 1976**  
**Attn: Mr. Robert A. Murphy**  
**Room 1038 TODD**

**ASSASSINATION OF**  
**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**XX (B) HNH/pwl**

**1**  
**NOTE: Attached is copy of Atlanta teletype dated March 8, 1976.**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 08 1976

TELETYPE

NR017 AT PLAIN

7:06 PM NITEL 3-8-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SAC, EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, MARCH 5, 1976.

ON MARCH 8, 1976, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. CONTACTED AND ADVISED HE WAS UNSURE WHETHER OR NOT PETE DAVIS PRESENT DURING INITIAL MEETING AT BAR. HE ADVISED INCIDENT HAPPENED QUITE A WHILE AGO AND UNABLE TO REMEMBER OR BE POSITIVE IF DAVIS PRESENT, HOWEVER, THINKS DAVIS WAS PRESENT AND ALSO THINKS THAT DAVIS OWNED BAR DURING MEETING. POWELL FURTHER ADVISED THAT HIS BROTHER, LEON, TOLD HIM ABOUT INITIAL CONTACT BETWEEN LEON POWELL AND RAY GODFREY IN REFERENCE TO ACTUAL CONTACT ABOUT ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING. HE LEARNED OF THIS INITIAL CONTACT FROM LEON SHORTLY AFTER THE TIME THAT RALPH CAME AND APPROACHED BOTH HE AND LEON.

IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ALL INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED IN THE ATLANTA DIVISION, ATLANTA NOT SENDING DAILY NITELS. ATLANTA WILL SUBMIT REPORT.  
END.

PLS HOLD

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**



Civil Rights Division

March 8, 1976  
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

**ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

B. x HNH:mlr

5

**NOTE: Attached are copies of Atlanta teletypes dated 3/3/76, 3/4/76, and 3/5/76, and a copy of a St. Louis teletype dated 3/5/76.**

**Also attached is a copy of an FD-302 concerning Claude Powell, Jr. on 2/26/76 at Midland, Texas.**



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 03 1976  
510  
TELETYPE

*Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Peltzman*

NR018 AT PLAIN

9:06 PM NITEL MARCH 3, 1976 LAP

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

REATNITEL, MARCH 2, 1976.

ON MARCH 3, 1976, JACKIE POWELL, CANBY LANE, DECATUR, GA., WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HER HUSBAND, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., IS RESIDING AT THAT RESIDENCE, HOWEVER HE IS NOT AT HOME AT PRESENT TIME. CLAUDE POWELL DOES NOT THINK HE WILL RETURN TO MIDLAND, TEX., AREA. CLAUDE POWELL HAS OBTAINED A JOB IN THE ATLANTA, GA., AREA, HOWEVER, SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE HE IS WORKING. JACKIE POWELL ADVISED SHE WOULD HAVE HER HUSBAND CONTACT THE FBI UPON HIS RETURN OR EARLY IN THE MORNING OF MARCH 4, 1976.

ATLANTA, AT ATLANTA, WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL,

JR.

END

HOLD FOR TWO MORE

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 04 1976

TELETYPE

*M. G. ...  
D. J. ...*

NR016 AT PLAIN

7:17 PM NITEL 3-4-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, MARCH 3, 1976.

ON INSTANT DATE, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. HAS NOT CONTACTED THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI AS HIS WIFE INDICATED HE WOULD ON MARCH 3, 1976. ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE EITHER CLAUDE POWELL OR JACKIE POWELL AT CANDY LANE, DECATUR, GA., ON THIS DATE WERE NEGATIVE. MESSAGES WERE LEFT AT THE RESIDENCES.

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT THE POWELL RESIDENCE ON CANDY LANE DOES NOT HAVE A TELEPHONE.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

END.

PLS HOLC

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 03 1976  
TELETYPE

*Heltbrunff*

NR015 AT PLAIN

9:19 PM NITEL 3-5-76 HLFW

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)  
MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, MARCH 4, 1976.

REPEATED ATTEMPTS TO CONTACT CLAUDE POWELL, JR.,  
AT HIS ADDRESS CANDY LANE, DECATUR, GA., MN THIS DATE  
WERE NEGATIVE, MESSAGES WERE LEFT REPEATED TIMES AT  
THAT RESIDENCE. THERE HAS BEEN NO PHONE CALL RECEIVED  
BY THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI FROM CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

ATLANTA. WILL MAKE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW  
CLAUDE POWELL, JR. MN MARCH 6, 1976.

END.

PLS HOLD

*orig Returns*

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 05 1976  
TELETYPE

NR013 SL PLAIN

8:22 PM NITEL 3/5/76 KCP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775) (RUC)

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO BUREAU FEBRUARY 26, 1976, BUTELCALL TO ST. LOUIS, MARCH 1, 1976; ST. LOUIS TEL TO BU, MARCH 2, 1976.

REVIEW MARCH 5, 1976, RECORDS MAINTAINED VETERAN'S ADMINISTRATION RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER (VARPC), ST. LOUIS, MO.,

INDICATED LEON POWELL, SERIAL NUMBER 14 478 523, SSAN [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] FILED VA CLAIM JUNE 17, 1958, UNDER NUMBER C19 894 619,

FOR OUTPATIENT DENTAL TREATMENT, ATLANTA, GA. CLAIM DENIED

JULY 23, 1959, DUE TO APPLICATION NOT FILED PRIOR TO ONE YEAR

OF SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE MILITARY SERVICE.

VA CLAIM FILED OCTOBER 14, 1969, UNDER SSAN [REDACTED] WAS

MADE BY VARPC AS A REQUEST TO NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER

(MILITARY BRANCH), ST. LOUIS, MO., FOR SERVICE NUMBER VERIFICA-

TION OF POWELL. NO OTHER VA CLAIMS WERE LOCATED IN THE RECORDS.

MEDICAL RECORDS CONTAINED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN REFERENCE TO PSYCHIATRIC COMPLAINTS.

HIS DPOB SHOWN AS APRIL 27, 1935, TACCOA, GEORGIA.

END

*W. P. [Signature]*

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**

3/3/76

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)  
FROM: SAC, EL PASO (44-920) (P)  
MURKIN

Enclosed for the Bureau are two copies of an FD-302 reflecting display of photographs to CLAUDE POWELL, JR., at Midland, Texas. Enclosed for Atlanta and Memphis is one copy each of the above FD-302.

② - Bureau (Enc. 2)  
2 - Atlanta (44-2386) (Enc. 1)  
2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)  
2 - El Paso

FWN:mg  
(8)

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date of transcription 3/3/76

The following photographs were displayed to CLAUDE POWELL, JR., who was located at his place of employment where he was working as a carpenter:

1. TRAVIS MERLE PHILLIPS, Odessa Police Department (OPD), Number 7174.
2. BILLY GENE SHAFFER, OPD Number 16969
3. OPD Number 19806
4. BOBBY JOE SMITH
5. Composite photograph bearing Bureau File Number 44-38861, Atlanta File 44-2386.

After viewing the above photographs, POWELL stated he would be unable to identify any one of these as being the individual who approached him and his brother, LEON POWELL, at Pete's Bar in Atlanta, Georgia, with the proposition of murdering MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., POWELL again stated that he would be unable to recognize the individual should he ever meet him again.

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Interviewed on 2/26/76 at Midland, Texas EP 44-920  
ME# 44-1987

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by SA FRANZ W. MENZEL:mg Date dictated 3/1/76

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This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.



March 3, 1976  
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

**ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

**B. x HNH:mlr**

**3**

**NOTE: Enclosed are an El Paso Teletype dated 3/1/76, a St. Louis Teletype dated 3/2/76, and an Atlanta Teletype dated 3/2/76.**



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 01 1976  
*low*  
TELETYPE

NR001 EP PLAIN

9:45AM URGENT MARCH 1, 1976 SXF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: EL PASO (44-920) (P) ///1///

MURKIN

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ATLANTA, FEBRUARY 27, 1976.

ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AT MIDLAND, TEXAS, DETERMINED HE IS CURRENTLY IN ATLANTA AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO RETURN TO MIDLAND UNTIL MARCH 4 OR 5, 1976.

ATLANTA IS REQUESTED TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AND DETERMINE INFORMATION REQUESTED BY BUREAU IN REFERENCED TELETYPE.

END.

BAS FBIHQ

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 02 1976

TELETYPE

*Mr. [unclear]  
on [unclear]*

NR014 SL PLAIN

920 PM NITEL 3-2-76 WRF

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM ST. LOUIS (44-775) (P)

MURKIN

REFERENCE ATLANTA NITEL TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY 26, 1976; BUREAU TELEPHONE CALL TO ST. LOUIS, MARCH 1, 1976.

RECORDS NATIONAL PERSONNEL RECORDS CENTER, MILITARY BRANCH, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, DISCLOSED LEON POWELL, ARMY SERVICE NUMBER RA14478523, SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER (SSAN) [REDACTED], BORN APRIL 27, 1935, TOCCOA, GEORGIA, ENLISTED UNITED STATES ARMY AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA, AND SERVED ACTIVE, SEPTEMBER, 1952, TO DECEMBER 21, 1955. HE WAS HONORABLY RELEASED FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A PRIVATE (LIGHT WEAPONS INFANTRY MAN) AT FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, AND TRANSFERRED TO UNITED STATES ARMY RESERVE (USAR). HE WAS HONORABLY DISCHARGED FROM USAR ON DECEMBER 23, 1960, BY REASON OF EXPIRATION TERM OF SERVICE.

LEON'S REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION DATED DECEMBER 19, 1955, DISCLOSED "MULTIPLE PSYCHOSOMATIC COMPLAINTS. DISQUALIFYING. EM (ENLISTED MAN). DID NOT KEEP APPOINTMENT WITH NP CLINIC. DOES NOT DESIRE TO REMAIN IN SERVICE FOR FURTHER TREATMENT AND/OR MEDICAL

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**



PAGE TWO SL 44-775

DISPOSTION."

LEON WAS TRIED AND CONVICTED BY SUMMARY COURT MARTIAL, JANUARY 23, 1953. FOR ABSENCE WITHOUT OFFICIAL LEAVE (AWOL), JANUARY 3 THROUGH 14, 1953, SENTENCED 45 DAYS HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$52.00; SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1954, FOR BREAKING RESTRICTION, SENTENCE 45 DAYS HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$55.00; AND BY SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL ON AUGUST 26, 1955, FOR AWOL AUGUST 15, THROUGH 21, 1955, SENTENCE SIX MONTHS CONFINEMENT HARD LABOR AND FORFEITURE \$234.00.

LEON OWEN POWELL UNDER SSAN [REDACTED] HAD VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) CLAIM WITH VA DATED OCTOBER 14, 1969.

MILITARY SERVICE RECORD WAS NOT LOCATED FOR CLAUDE POWELL.

ST. LOUIS WILL REVIEW LEON POWELL'S VA CLAIM FILE AT VA RECORD PROCESSING CENTER, ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI, WHEN MADE AVAILABLE AND FURNISH NITEL RESULTS TO BUREAU, ATLANTA, AND MEMPHIS.

END

HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR023 AT PLAIN

MAR 02 1976

9:01 PM NITEL 3-2-76 HLF

TELETYPE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, FEB. 27, 1976.

ON MARCH 2, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY WAS RECONTACTED AND ADVISED HE DID NOT KNOW A RALPH SETZER OR A RALPH SELTZER AND DID NOT MENTION EITHER NAME TO HIS BROTHER, TOM. LEE GODFREY TRAVELED TO ATLANTA ON WEEKEND OF FEB. 28, 1976, AND TALKED TO HIS BROTHER, ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD GODFREY RELATED HE DID NOT KNOW A RALPH SMITH AND WHEN LEE DESCRIBED THE INDIVIDUAL HE KNEW AS RALPH SMITH, ARNOLD SAID HE THOUGHT THE MAN'S NAME WAS JIM SMITH. HE DID NOT KNOW SMITH'S CURRENT WHEREABOUTS. ARNOLD SAID HE KNEW LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL ON SIGHT BUT DID NOT ASSOCIATE WITH EITHER ONE. HE DESCRIBED THEM AS DRUNKS. LEE SAID <sup>Arnold?</sup> POWELL IS AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN AFRAID OF THE LAW WHICH IS THE REASON WHY HE IS NOT COOPERATING WITH THE FBI. LEE SAID ARNOLD DENIED ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE ALLEGED

END PAGE ONE

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

CONTRACT FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. OR ANYTHING RELATED TO THE BUREAU'S INVESTIGATION.

LEE CARROLL GODFREY SAID THAT WHILE INCARCERATED IN REIDSVILLE, GA., PENITENTIARY, DATE UNRECALLED, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WAS ARRESTED FOR PARTICIPATING IN A DEMONSTRATION AND WAS PLACED IN A CELL ADJACENT TO GODFREY. LEE SAID HE TALKED TO KING FOR TWO DAYS PRIOR TO HIS RELEASE. ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE CLAUDE POWELL, JR. ON MARCH 2, 1976, WERE NEGATIVE.

*Although this would only be relevant to Lee Carroll's credibility, should we check Reidville records to see if they were there at same time? EJM*

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR. AT HIS RESIDENCE.

END.

CMB FBIHQ ACK TKS

Civil Rights Division

3/1/76

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

2/27/76

xx CB/HNH/68

1 NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of a teletype dated  
2/27/76 from our Atlanta Office.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 27 1976

NR014 AT PLAIN

9:57 PM NTEL 2-27-76 HLT

TELETYPE

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT TEL, FEB. 26, 1976.

BILL LOWERY OF LOWERY MUSIC, INC., ATLANTA, GA., INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND ADVISED HE DOES NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY GODFREY'S FRIENDS OR ASSOCIATES. HE DEALT MAINLY WITH RAY GODFREY ON A PROFESSIONAL BASIS. HIS OPINION WAS THAT GODFREY WAS JUST A "GOOD OLE COUNTRY BOY" AND THAT HE COULD NOT BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE. LOWERY VIEWED A SPREAD OF PHOTOS, WHICH INCLUDED RALPH (LNU), AND WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OF THE INDIVIDUALS. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE PHOTO OF RALPH (LNU), LOWERY STATED HE HAD NEVER SEEN THAT INDIVIDUAL. LOWERY AGAIN STATED HE DID NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY GODFREY'S FRIENDS OR ASSOCIATES. GODFREY WOULD MERELY COME TO LOWERY MUSIC TO RECORD HIS MUSIC AND TO BE PAID.

ATLANTA AT BLUE RIDGE, GA. WILL RECONTACT LEE CARROLL TO DETERMINE IF, IN CONVERSATION WITH TOMMY CARROLL, HE MENTIONED  
END PAGE ONE

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**



PAGE TWO.

THE NAME RALPH SMITH OR RALPH SETZER. OBTAIN FROM LEE CARROLL  
ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE NAME, WHETHER IT BE RALPH SMITH  
OR RALPH SETZER, AND ANY OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION.

END.

PLS HOLD



PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO SACS ATLANTA (44-2386)  
EL PASO (44-920)  
MEMPHIS (44-1987)  
FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-3886)

2/27/76

1 - Mr. Moore  
1 - Mr. Helterhoff

MURKIN

ON FEBRUARY 27, 1976, DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY ROBERT A. MURPHY, CHIEF OF CRIMINAL SECTION, CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED JACK V. DORSEY, ATTORNEY FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN ATLANTA, RELATIVE TO WHETHER GODFREY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEW. DORSEY TOLD MURPHY HE WOULD DISCUSS THIS WITH HIS CLIENT, GODFREY, AND, THEREAFTER, WOULD CONTACT MURPHY DIRECT RE DECISION AS TO WHETHER GODFREY WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR ANY FURTHER INTERVIEW. ATLANTA WILL BE ADVISED OF RESULTS.

EL PASO REINTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AND ASK HIM WHETHER PETE DAVIS WAS PRESENT DURING THE INITIAL MEETING AT THE BAR. ALSO DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW HE LATER LEARNED GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH LEON OWEN POWELL

HNH:bap (4)

SEE NOTE PAGE THREE...



PAGE TWO (44-38861)

APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE UNKNOWN SUBJECTS  
PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING AS SET FORTH IN YOUR  
TELETYPE FEBRUARY 6, 1976. EL PASO SUTEL SUMMARY  
RESULTS.

END

TELETYPE TO SACS, AT, EP, ME  
RE: MURKIN

NOTE: This case pertains to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68. James Earl Ray pled guilty to this murder and presently is in local confinement.

As set forth in previous memoranda, we are conducting an investigation at the request of the CRD to resolve a recent allegation (made in January, 1976) by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of King, they were offered payment to murder King. Their accounts of this alleged incident differ in many respects.

Leon states he and Claude were in a bar in Atlanta in November of 1967, and a Ray Godfrey asked them if they would be interested in making "big money" to kill King. A couple of days later, a Ralph (LNU) approached them in the bar and indicated he had "25" in his briefcase and had "50" more when King was buried. Leon had initially stated during interview that Ralph only said "I guess you know why I'm here" and never actually said money being offered to them was to kill King. Claude states meeting occurred in about March of 1968. His account differs substantially from Leon's, however, does say they were approached in a bar by an unknown subject who offered them \$50,000 to kill King.

Leon was given a Bureau polygraph examination which was "inconclusive." Claude was given a Bureau polygraph, which determined that Claude was "truth-telling."

Our investigation fully identified Ray Godfrey as Arnold Ray Godfrey. During initial interview, Godfrey denied any involvement, and agreed to submit to a polygraph. When he was subsequently contacted re taking the polygraph, Godfrey stated "I am innocent"; stated he did wish to take the polygraph and did not wish to talk to the FBI any further. He stated if the FBI needs any further information they should contact his attorney.

We have conducted extensive investigation in this matter. On 2/27/76, Departmental Attorney Murphy contacted Godfrey's attorney as set forth above, to attempt to arrange further interviews with Godfrey in order to resolve this allegation.

This advises AT of this contact by Murphy and also instructs El Paso to reinterview Claude to resolve further discrepancies. (Leon claimed Pete Davis, the bar owner, observed Ralph. Our investigation determined Pete Davis is deceased and was not connected with bar at time of this alleged incident.)

Civil Rights Division

February 27, 1976  
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

2/25/76

B. x HNH:mlr

**3**  
**NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of an Atlanta teletype dated 2/25/76, an Atlanta teletype dated 2/26/76, and an El Paso teletype dated 2/26/76.**



NR010 AT PLAIN

7:56 PM NITEL 2-25-76 HLF

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, EL PASO (44-920)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1967)

FEB 24 1976

TELETYPE

*M. D. ...  
on Pechman*

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT TEL, FEB. 24, 1976.

ON THIS DATE, BARBARA WAGER, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES, ATLANTA, GA., ADVISED THAT HER RECORDS REFLECT THAT IN 1968, A. R. GODFREY OF 569 GRESHAM ROAD, ATLANTA, GA., HAD LICENSED IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA A 1968 CHEVROLET IMPALA, GA. LICENSE 2J46393. MRS. WAGER ADVISED THAT THERE ARE NO OTHER CARS REGISTERED TO A. R. GODFREY, HOWEVER, THERE ARE OTHER CARS REGISTERED TO AN ARNOLD GODFREY.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT A. R. GODFREY IS THE SAME AS ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN VIEW OF THE FACT THE ADDRESS, 569 GRESHAM, IS IDENTICAL WITH THE ADDRESS THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY GAVE TO THE CITY WHEN HE WAS EMPLOYED BY THEM.

A REVIEW OF THE ATLANTA FILE, 44-2386, REVEALED THAT THE DISTANCE FROM WHERE PETE'S BAR IS LOCATED TO WHERE JAMES EARL  
END PAGE ONE

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**



PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

RAY STAYED IS FIVE ONE HALF MILES AS THE CRO FLIES, THAT IS A DIRECT LINE DISTANCE, NOT TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE STREETS. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT IT IS A THREE AND ONE HALF MILE DISTANCE FROM THE PETE'S BAR TO WHERE THE CAR WAS LOCATED.

ATLANTA WILL FORWARD THE MAP OF THE CITY SHOWING THESE LOCATIONS BY REGISTERED MAIL.

A REVIEW OF THE GREATER ATLANTA SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FAILED TO REFLECT ANY LISTING FOR A LAVERNE OR LAVENE COOK. A REVIEW OF THE COBB COUNTY AND CITY OF MARIETTA DIRECTORY ALSO FAILED TO REFLECT ANY LISTING FOR LAVERNE OR LAVENE COOK.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEWS BILL LOWERYN LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY, AND ASCERTAIN IF HE HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE RE RALPH (LNU).

END.

PLS HOLD



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 26 1976 *md*

TELETYPE

*Mr. [unclear]  
or [unclear]*

NR017 AT PLAIN

6:44 PM NITEL 2-26-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SAC, ST. LOUIS

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE AT NITEL, FEB. 25, 1976.

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, DURING ORIGINAL INTERVIEW WITH LEON POWELL, POWELL ADVISED THAT WHEN HE FIRST MET RALPH (LNU), RALPH AND HE AND HIS BROTHER WENT TO BACK ROOM OF BAR AND SAT IN THE BOOTHS. HOWEVER, DURING SUBSEQUENT INTERVIEW, WHEN POWELL WAS SKETCHING DIAGRAM OF BAR, POWELL ADVISED THAT HE, HIS BROTHER AND RALPH WENT TO ONE OF THE TABLES LOCATED IN THE BACK PART OF THE BAR. POWELL ADVISED HE COULD NOT REMEMBER WHICH SPECIFIC TABLE, HOWEVER, THOUGHT IT WAS ONE RIGHT BEHIND THE PARTITION WHICH SEPARATED THIS ROOM FROM THE BAR.

ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW BILL LOWERY OF LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY ON TODAY'S DATE WAS NEGATIVE. LOWERY'S SECRETARY ADVISED THAT HE WOULD NOT RETURN TO OFFICE UNTIL A.M. OF FEB. 27, 1976.

END PAGE ONE

*0725  
1-3-76  
2-26-76*

*[Handwritten initials]*

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

FOR INFORMATION OF ST. LOUIS, ON JAN. 12, 1976, LEON POWELL TELEPHONICALLY CONTACTED ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI AND ADVISED THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER CLAUDE POWELL, JR., HAD BEEN APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL AND ASKED IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ASSASSINATING MARTIN LUTHER KING. THIS INDIVIDUAL THEN PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH A THIRD INDIVIDUAL, KNOWN ONLY TO THE POWELLS AS RALPH (LNU), WHO OFFERED THE POWELLS APPROXIMATELY \$75,000 TO DO THIS ASSASSINATION. THE POWELLS CLAIMED THEY NEVER TOOK THE CONTRACT AND DISMISSED THIS UNTIL THE RECENT DAN RATHER SPECIAL ON THE ASSASSINATION OF KING THE RELATIVES OF THE POWELLS HAVE BEEN CONTACTED AND ADVISED THAT THEY ARE NOT SURE THAT THIS INCIDENT AS RELATED BY THE POWELL BROTHERS ACTUALLY HAPPENED IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT BOTH LEON AND CLAUDE, JR., HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO DRINK QUITE HEAVILY. HOWEVER, BOTH LEON AND CLAUDE, JR., AFFORDED POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS BY POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS OF THE FBI AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.'S EXAMINATION INDICATED THAT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH. BUREAU HAS REQUESTED THAT THE MILITARY HISTORY ON BOTH CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL BE RESEARCHED TO NOTE WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS ANY INDICATIONS OF PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OR ANY OTHER

END PAGE TWO



PAGE THREE, UT 44-2386

PSYCHOLOGICAL DETAILS ON EITHER LEON OR CLAUDE POWELL.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BACKGROU D OF LEON OWEN  
POWELL:

W/M, DOB APRIL 27, 1935, STEVENS COUNTY, GA., SERVED IN  
ARMY FROM 1952-55, WITH REGULAR ARMY NO. RA 14478523.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR CLAUDE POWELL, JR.:

W/M, DOB MARCH 26, 1926, STEVENS COUNTY, GA., THERE IS NO  
RECORD I THE FILE THAT CLAUDE POWELL, JR. EVER SERVED IN ANY  
ARMED FORCES OF THE UNITED STATES.

ST. LOUIS AT ST. LOUIS. WILL AT FEDERAL RECORDS CENTER,  
ST. LOUIS, ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING MILITARY  
HISTORY OF BOTH CLAUDE A D LEON POWELL, NOTING PARTICULARLY ANY  
REFERENCES TO ANY MEDICAL PROBLEMS OR PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS  
OF EITHER OR BOTH OF THEM.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT BILL LOWERY  
AND ASCERTAIN FROM HIM IF HE KNOWS ANY RALPH (LNU).

END.

PLS HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 23 1976

NR002 EP PLAIN

TELETYPE

10:57AM URGENT FEBRUARY 26, 1976 MGS

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM: EL PASO (44-920)

MURKINS.

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO EL PASO, FEBRUARY 17, 1976.

COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPH OF RALPH (LNU) RECEIVED AT  
MIDLARD RESIDENT AGENCY, FEBRUARY 25, 1976.

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) DISPLAYED IN  
SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS TO CLAUDE POWELL, JR., FEBRUARY 26,  
1976. POWELL UNABLE TO IDENTIFY ANY OF PHOTOGRAPHS AS  
BEING INDIVIDUAL WHO APPROACHED HIM AND HIS BROTHER IN  
PETE'S BAR IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN  
LUTHER KING. POWELL AGAIN STATED HE WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE  
THE INDIVIDUAL IF HE WERE EVER TO MEET HIM AGAIN.

FD-322 FOLLOWS.

END.

CMB FBIHQ ACK CLR TU

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

Transmit attached by Facsimile - ~~PLAINTEXT~~ FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

Priority

~~Urgent~~  
Urgent

To: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) FEB 25 1976

Date: 2/25/76

From: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) TELETYPE

Time Transmitted -

Subject: MURKIN

Initials -

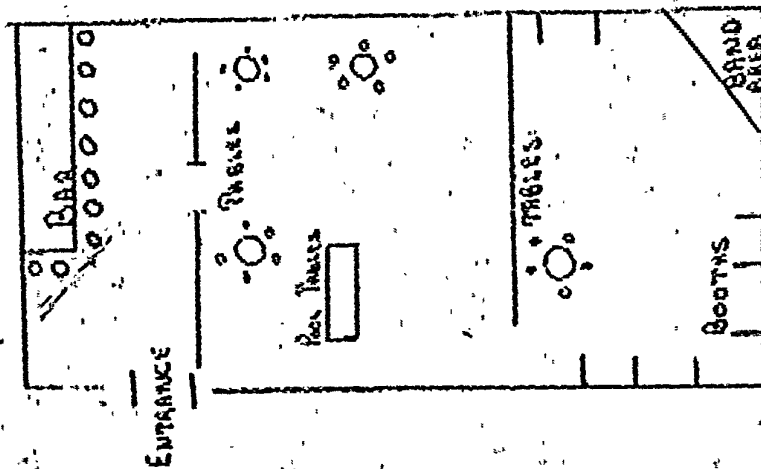
- Fingerprint Photo    Fingerprint Record    Map    Newspaper clipping    Photograph  
 Artists Conception    Other SKETCHES

Special handling instructions:

ATTN: H. W. HELTERHOFF  
RM 5131 JEH

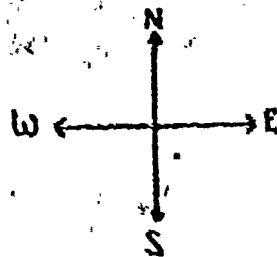
Approved: B

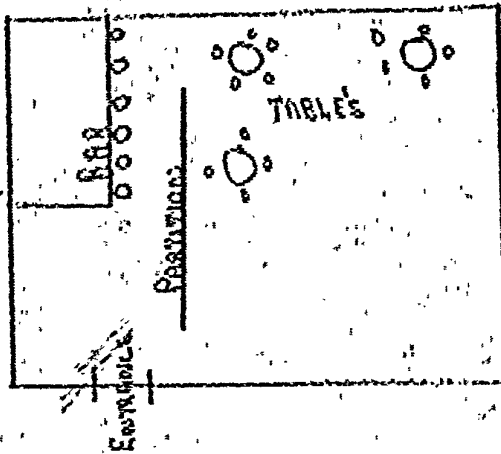
CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE



SKETCH OF BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE AS DESCRIBED BY  
 L. W. CLARK. (NOTE - THIRD AREA OF BAR CONSTRUCTED BY L. W. CLARK  
 IN 1969 - AREA WITH BANDSTAND)

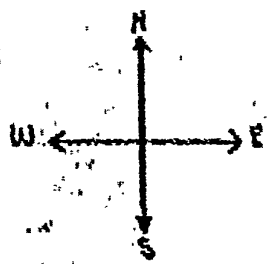
MORNING AVE





SKETCH OF PATE'S PLACE AS DESCRIBED BY  
LEON POWELL

MICKELSON AVE



Civil Rights Division

February 25, 1976

ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY  
ROOM 1038 TODD

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

2/24/76

xx (B/A) 2/24/76

2 NOTE: Attached are copies of a teletype from  
Atlanta dated 2/24/76 and a teletype from  
Memphis dated 2/24/76.



NR018 AT PLAIN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

8:13 PM NITEL 2-24-76 HLFQ

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

FEB 24 1976

SAC, EL PASO (44-920)

TELETYPE

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

*M. O'Connell*  
*P. [unclear]*  
*DM*

MURKIN

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE DATED FEBRUARY 23, 1976.

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, A COMPOSITE PHOTOGRAPH OF AN INDIVIDUAL AS RALPH (LAST NAME UNKNOWN) WAS SHOWN TO TOMMY GODFREY RESIDING ON SUGAR CREEK ROAD, FANNIN COUNTY, GEORGIA. TOMMY IS A BROTHER TO BOTH LEE CARROLL AND ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. TOMMY ADVISED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THE INDIVIDUAL DEPICTED IN THE COMPOSITE AND FURTHER ANNOUNCED HE ACTUALLY DID NOT KNOW ANY ONE NAMED RALPH SMITH OR RALPH SETZER. HE MENTIONED THE NAME RALPH SETZER DURING A PRIOR INTERVIEW ONLY BECAUSE LEE GODFREY RELATED TO HIM ABOUT HIS CONTACT WITH THE FBI AND THEIR INTEREST IN RALPH. TOMMY THOUGHT LEE SAID THE MAN'S NAME WAS RALPH SETZER.

ON FEBRUARY 23, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, BOARD TOWN ROAD, GILMER COUNTY, GEORGIA, VIEWED THE ABOVE DESCRIBED COMPOSITE AND STATED IT WAS QUITE DISSIMILAR TO THE MAN HE REMEMBERED  
END OF PAGE NUMBER ONE

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE



PAGE NUMBER TWO

AT 44-2386

AS RALPH SMITH, A FORMER ASSOCIATE OF HIS AND HIS BROTHER'S ARNOLD RAY. WHEN HE LAST SAW RALPH THREE AND ONE HALF YEARS AGO RALPH HAD A DUCK TAIL HAIR CUT, FULL ON THE SIDES AND FLAT ON TOP. HE WAS APPROXIMATELY 45 YEARS OLD, MUCH OLDER THAN THE COMPOSITE. THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL LEE COULD REMEMBER WHO KNEW RALPH WAS A DIVORCEE NAMED LAVENE COOK (PRONETIC) WHO RESIDED IN MARIETTA, GEORGIA.

ON TODAY'S DATE, BARBARA WAGER, DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR THE STATE OF GEORGIA, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WAS CONTACTED AND REQUESTED THAT SHE REVIEW THE STATE OF GEORGIA'S RECORDS FOR AN AUTOMOBILE OWNED BY ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DURING THE YEAR 1967 AND 1968. MRS. WAGER ADVISED IT WOULD BE QUITE EXTENSIVE TO REVIEW THESE FILES BUT WOULD ATTEMPT TO DO SO.

JOE WALLACE, SECURITY OFFICER, DELTA AIR LINES, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED THAT THE AIR LINES DOES NOT KEEP THE ACTUAL NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO FLY ON THEIR AIR LINES. THE NAMES ARE KEPT ON A COMPUTER RUN WHICH IS ONLY MAINTAINED IN THEIR FILES FOR 30 DAYS. THE ACTUAL TICKETS ARE MAINTAINED BY THE

END OF PAGE NUMBER TWO

PAGE NUMBER THREE

AT 44-2386

AIR LINES FOR 90 DAYS ACCORDING TO THE REGULATIONS OF THE  
CAB.

ON TODAY'S DATE, BETTY H. PEELY, PERSONAL RECORDS, GEORGIA  
NATIONAL GUARD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY,  
BORN ON JUNE 11, 1930, COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE, AND ENLISTED IN  
THE GUARD ON JANUARY 9, 1951. HE ENLISTED INTO THE MEDICAL  
COMPANY WITH THE 122 INFANTRY. THIS UNIT WAS LOCATED IN ATLANTA,  
GEORGIA. GODFREY WAS DISCHARGED 1954 AS A CORPORAL WITH AN HONORABLE  
DISCHARGE. HIS OCCUPATION DURING SERVICE WAS A LIGHT TRUCK  
DRIVER. RECORDS HAVE NO FURTHER INFORMATION.

NUMEROUS INDIVIDUALS WHO KNEW ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN  
1968-69, INTERVIEWED AND ALL ACKNOWLEDGED GODFREY AS A "GOOD  
OLD COUNTRY BOY" WITH NO VIOLENT TENDENCIES. ONE INDIVIDUAL  
STATED GODFREY HAD NO USE FOR NEGROES BUT WOULD NOT HARM  
ANYONE.

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR, AT 44-2386.

DIANE BRADY ADVISED GODFREY STILL FREQUENTS THE "OFFICE" AND IS WELL KNOWN TO HER. GODFREY IS A VERY AMIABLE PERSON WITH NO VIOLENT TENDENCIES.

IT IS TO BE NOTED IN PREVIOUS TELETYPE, LEE CARROLL GODFREY WAS MENTIONED AS A COUSIN OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, WHEN IN FACT, HE IS BROTHER OF ARNOLD.

LEADS. ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL RECONTACT BARBARA WAGER, AT MARIETTA, GA. ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LOVINE

COOK.

END.

PLS HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR008 ME PLAIN

7:16PM NITEL FEBURARY 24, 1976 RJH

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2387)

FROM MEMPHIS (44-1987) (P)

MURKIN.

FEB 24 1976

TELETYPE

*Handwritten signatures and initials:*  
W. C. Smith  
J. P. ...  
D. J. ...

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, FEBRUARY 23, 1976;  
BUREAU TELCALL TO MEMPHIS, FEBRUARY 24, 1976.

A REVIEW OF THE 1968 NASHVILLE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY REVEALED  
THAT THERE WERE FORTY MOTELS IN DOWNTOWN AREA AND 22 IN THE  
SUBURBAN AREA.

THE FOLLOWING SAMPLING WAS MADE OF SOME OF THE MOTELS:

ALAMO PLAZA HOTEL COURTS, 450 MURFREESBORO ROAD, REVEALED  
THAT THEY HAVE RECORDS DATING BACK TO SEVEN YEARS;

BILTMORE MOTEL, 2400 FRANKLIN ROAD, ONLY HAVING RECORDS  
DATING BACK TO 1970; ANY PREVIOUS RECORDS POSSIBLY EXIST AT  
PROVIDENT TRUST COMPANY IN NASHVILLE;

CONTINENTAL INNS OF AMERICA, 303 INTERSTATE DRIVE, HAVING  
RECORDS DATING BACK FIVE TO SEVEN YEARS;

CAPITAL PARK INN, 400 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH, HAVING RECORDS  
IN STORAGE ROOM BUT NOT FILED BY YEARS;

**CARRON COPY DO NOT FILE**

.PAGE TWO (ME 44-1987)

MONTEREY MOTEL, 3301 DICKERSON ROAD, HAVING RECORDS DATING  
BACK APPROXIMATELY SIX YEARS;

HOLIDAY INN, 230 WEST TRINITY, ONE OF THE HOTELS LISTED  
AS OPENING IN MAY, 1968.

NO ATTEMPT WILL BE MADE TO LOCATE GUEST REGISTRATION CARD  
FOR GODFREY MENTIONED IN RE BUCALL UACB.

END.



Civil Rights Division

February 24, 1976

Attn: Mr. Robert A. Murphy  
Room 1038 TODD

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

February 20, 1976

xx (B) HNH/pwl

**2**  
**NOTE: Attached are copies of Atlanta teletypes 2/20/76 and 2/23/76.**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 23 1976

TELETYPE

*Handwritten:*  
M. J. ...  
on ...

NR012 AT PLAIN

6:30 PM NITEL 2-23-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIA (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE, FEBRUARY 20, 1976.

LIEUTENANT STRICKLAND, PERMIT SECTION, ATLANTA PD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED DIANE BRAND, AKA BRADY, TOOK OVER MANAGEMENT OF BAR NAMED "THE OFFICE" ON AUGUST 28, 1974. PREVIOUS OWNER THOMAS M. HYATT, 2131 FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ATLANTA. HYATT OWNED BAR FROM FEBRUARY, 1972 TO AUGUST, 1974. OWNER PRIOR TO THAT WAS A JAMES MAYNARD LIVINGSTONE, 622 FARRAR COURT, DECATUR, GEORGIA. LIVINGSTONE OWNED BAR FROM 1969 THROUGH 1972.

MANAGER, APARTMENTS LOCATED AT 4131 FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ADVISED THOMAS M. HYATT HAS NOT LIVED AT THAT ADDRESS FOR AT LEAST TWO YEARS. SHE HAS BEEN MANAGER AT THAT COMPLEX FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME. SHE WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY MATERIAL IN HER FILE REGARDING THOMAS M. HYATT. RECORDS OF THE US POST OFFICE, EAST ATLANTA BRANCH, METROPOLITAN AVENUE, ATLANTA, GA., REVIEWED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS REGARDING ANY FORWARDING ADDRESS FOR THOMAS M. HYATT.  
END PAGE ONE.

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**

PAGE TWO (44-3486)

CARRIER FOR THAT ROUTE ADVISED HYATT HAS BEEN GONE FROM THAT ADDRESS FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS.

ATLANTA CITY DIRECTORY AND ATLANTA SUBURBAN DIRECTORY LISTS APPROXIMATELY ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR EITHER RALPH OR INITIAL R. SMITHS. THE GREATER ATLANTA SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY LISTS IN EXCESS OF ONE HUNDRED AND FOUR EITHER RALPH OR INITIAL R. SMITHS. NEITHER THE CITY DIRECTORY NOR THE TELEPHONE BOOK HAVE ANY LISTING FOR AN R. OR RALPH SETZER.

IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT DURING ORIGINAL INTERVIEW OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, AKA RAY GODFREY, HE STATED HE THOUGHT HE WAS IN NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE "SHACKED UP" ON THE DAY MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WAS KILLED. GODFREY THOUGHT HE COULD VERIFY THIS THROUGH SOME PERSONAL RECORDS, HOWEVER, SINCE THAT TIME IT IS TO BE NOTED THAT HE HAS BECOME UNCOOPERATIVE.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. (1) ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH TYPE OF VEHICLE GODFREY OWNED IN 1968. (2) ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH FURTHER BACKGROUND ON ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. (3) ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN IF GODFREY EVER IN MILITARY SERVICE.

END.

PLS HOLD



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 20 1976

TELETYPE

NR017 AT PLAIN

5:40 PM URGENT 2-20-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL, FEBRUARY 19, 1976.

RAYMOND GODFREY INTERVIEWED THIS DATE AND ADVISED HE IS FAMILIAR WITH INDIVIDUAL NAMED ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, AKA RAY GODFREY. BOTH HE AND RAY GODFREY FREQUENTED A BAR ON MORELAND AVENUE KNOWN AS PETE'S PLACE. HE PICKED FROM A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS THE PICTURES OF CLAUDE POWELL AND RAY GODFREY AS FREQUENT PATRONS OF PETE'S BAR. RAYMOND GODFREY ADVISED HE IS NO RELATIVE OF RAY GODFREY, HOWEVER, CAME TO KNOW HIM FAIRLY WELL WHILE THEY WERE BOTH PATRONS OF PETE'S BAR. HE KNEW THAT CLAUDE POWELL HAD A REPUTATION AROUND THE BAR AS HAVING QUITE A BOASTFUL MANNER WHILE HE WAS DRUNK. HE NEVER KNEW CLAUDE POWELL TO BE IN ANY TROUBLE OR TO BE VICIOUS IN ANY WAY. HE DESCRIBED RAY GODFREY AS BEING A "GOOD OLE BOY" WHO WOULD NOT BE IN ANY TROUBLE. HE WAS UNABLE TO IDENTIFY, FROM THE SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS, THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LOUD). WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THIS PHOTO

END PAGE ONE.

*Mr. [unclear]  
Or [unclear]*

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**



PAGE TWO (44-2386)

HE ADVISED HE HAS NEVER SEEN THIS INDIVIDUAL. HE STATED THAT HE WAS IN PETE'S BAR AND BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE ALMOST EVERY NIGHT DURING THE TIME PERIOD OF LATE 1966 THROUGH 1967.

A REVIEW OF THE FILE INDICATES THAT ALL LEADS, EXCEPT ONE, HAS BEEN COVERED BY THE ATLANTA OFFICE. THE LEAD TO SHOW PHOTO OF RALPH (LNU) TO LEE CARROLL GODFREY, TO ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (SMITH OR SETZER) (PHONETIC) IS ANTICIPATED TO BE ACCOMPLISHED ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1976.

REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

END.

HOLD



Civil Rights Division

February 20, 1976

ATTENTION: Mr. Robert A. Murphy

ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

February 18, 1976

X (B) EJM/pwl

<sup>3</sup>  
NOTE: Attached are copies of Atlanta teletypes dated February 18 and 19, 1976.



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 18 1976

TELETYPE

NR011 AT PLAIN

7:46 PM URGENT FEBRUARY 18, 1976 TLL

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE BUREAU, FEBRUARY 17, 1976.

LEE CARROLL GODFREY, BROADWATER ROAD, GILMER COUNTY, GEORGIA ADVISED HAS USED ARNOLD RAY'S NAME IN THE PAST. HE HAS NEVER HEARD MENTIONED OF ANY ASSASSINATION PLOT TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., AND DOES NOT KNOW JAMES EARL RAY. HE IS FRIENDLY WITH ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, IN FACT, HE, ARNOLD RAY, AND ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL PLAYED IN A BAND AT THE OFFICE BAR LOCATED ON FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. HE DOES NOT KNOW CLAUDE OR LEON POWELL. THE OTHER INDIVIDUAL'S FIRST NAME WAS RALPH. LEE GODFREY THINKS THE LAST NAME OR RALPH WAS SMITH. LEE GODFREY DESCRIBED RALPH AS A WHITE MALE, FORTY-FIVE YEARS OF AGE, FIVE FOOT ELEVEN, ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-FIVE POUNDS, CARPENTER BY TRADE. SISTERS OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY; MRS. IRA SMITH, EPWORTH COMMUNITY AND MRS. R. L. ENSLEY, ROUTE 1, BLUE RIDGE, GEORGIA, HAD NO INFORMATION REGARDING ANY ASSASSINATION PLOT. THEY DO NOT KNOW THE POWELLS AND DO NOT KNOW

END PAGE ONE.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE



PAGE TWO (44-2386)

ANYONE BY THE NAME OF RALPH. JAMES P. "TOMMY" GODFREY, SUGAR CREEK ROAD, FANNIN COUNTY, GEORGIA, ADVISED HE HAS NEVER HEARD OF ANY ASSASSINATION PLOT. HE HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANYONE NAMED POWELL. HE DOES KNOW THAT HIS BROTHER, ARNOLD RAY, AND COUSIN, LEE CARROLL, PLAYED IN A BAND WITH AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED RALPH, SETZER (PHONETIC). THE BAND PLAYED AT A BAR LOCATED IN ATLANTA CALLED "THE OFFICE". NONE OF THE FAMILY CAN BELIEVE THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY COULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE.

PATSY DOOZER, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED SHE WORKED FOR LEWIS CLARK AT BILL BAILEY'S LOUNGE. SHE PICKED OUT THE PICTURE OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY FROM A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. SHE STATED GODFREY A FREQUENT CUSTOMER. SHE HAD NEVER KNOWN GODFREY TO BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE. SHE HAS NEVER HEARD OF CLAUDE OR LEON POWELL. SHE DID NOT KNOW ANY OF RAY GODFREY'S FRIENDS. SHE WAS UNABLE TO SELECT THE COMPOSITE OF RALPH FROM A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS AS BEING A CUSTOMER IN BILL BAILEY'S. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE COMPOSITE, SHE STATED SHE HAD NEVER THE INDIVIDUAL.

END PAGE TWO.



PAGE THREE (44-2386)

HAZEL EVANS CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE WAS BARTENDER AT BILL BAILEY'S FROM 1966 UNTIL 1969. SHE WORKED THE NIGHT SHIFT. SHE CAME IN AT 6:30 PM AND WORKED UNTIL 2:00 AM. THE DAY BARTENDER WAS JUNE HALL. A COUPLE OF TIMES HER NIECE, PATSY BOOZER, WORKED IN THE BAR. BILL BAILEY OWNED THE BAR IN 1966, HOWEVER, WAS BOUGHT OUT IN 1967 OR 1968 BY LEWIS CLARK; HOWEVER, CLARK MANAGED THE BUSINESS DURING THE WHOLE TIME. BAILEY HAD VERY LITTLE TO DO WITH THE BAR AND IT WAS VERY SELDOM HE CAME TO THE LOCATION. SHE PICKED THE PHOTOGRAPH OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY OUT OF A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND ADVISED SHE HAS KNOWN HIM SINCE HE MOVED TO ATLANTA FROM COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE. SHE STATED HE WAS A VERY QUIET INDIVIDUAL AND COULD NOT BELIEVE HE WOULD BE IN ANY SORT OF TROUBLE. SHE ALSO PICKED THE PICTURE OF CLAUDE POWELL AS BEING A FREQUENT PATRON AT THE BAR. SHE WAS UNABLE TO PICK FROM THE SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) AS BEING EITHER A PATRON OF THE BAR OR A FRIEND OF RAY GODFREY. WHEN SPECIFICALLY SHOWN THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION, SHE STATED SHE DID NOT REMEMBER ANY INDIVIDUAL WHO LOOKED LIKE THAT EVER BEING AT THE BAR. EVANS ADVISED GODFREY NEVER WORKED AS A BARTENDER AT BAILEY'S.

END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

SHE KNOWS OF NO OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO FREQUENTED THE BAR, NAMED RALPH. SHE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE ANY OF THE FORMER PATRONS OF BILL BAILEY'S CAN NOW BE LOCATED.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA, WILL ATTEMPT TO CONTACT DIANE BRADY, "THE OFFICE BAR", TO IDENTIFY RALPH SETZER (PHONETIC).

END.

PLS HOLD FOR ONE MORE TEL



NR018 AT PLAIN

8:35 PM URGENT 2-19-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL FEBRUARY 18, 1976.

CLINTON STANFORD, ASSISTANT TO THE COMMISSIONER, ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SERVICES, CITY OF ATLANTA, ADVISED THAT HIS RECORDS SHOW THAT ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DID NOT TAKE ANY LEAVE DURING OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER, 1967. THIS WOULD TEND TO SHOW THAT GODFREY WAS ON DUTY EVERY DAY THOSE TWO MONTHS. HOWEVER, FOR THE PAY PERIOD APRIL 3, THROUGH APRIL 17, 1968, GODFREY WAS CHARGED WITH THREE VACATION DAYS. FOR THE PAY PERIOD APRIL 17 THROUGH MAY 1, 1968, GODFREY WAS CHARGED WITH TWO VACATION DAYS. ATLANTA CITY RECORDS DO NOT SHOW EXACT DAYS THAT GODFREY WAS ON VACATION. ALL OF THIS TYPE OF RECORDS ARE PURGED EVERY THREE YEARS.

DIANE BRADY, OWNER/OPERATOR OF "THE OFFICE BAR" LOCATED AT MORELAND AND FLAT SHOALS ROAD, ADVISED SHE HAS NEVER EMPLOYED ANY BAND AT HER BUSINESS. RAY GODFREY DOES COME INTO THERE EVERY NOW AND THEN PLAYS HIS GUITAR. SHE CONTACTED HER DAY BARTENDER  
END PAGE ONE.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 19 1976

TELETYPE

*Milroy  
Day*

**CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE**