

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

ATLANTA

FEDERAL BUREAU

Handwritten signature/initials over 'FEDERAL BUREAU'

INVESTIGATION

ENTIRE FILE REVIEWED
FOR HISTORICAL
DECLASSIFICATION

Bureau File Number 44-38861

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 3/10/82 BY SP-10UR/SM

See also Nos.

DO NOT DESTROY
PRESERVE FOR SELECT
COMMITTEE ON ASSASSINATIONS

NO. 8

Handwritten notes:
Wilson 11/7/74
Closed 9/8/75
Wilson 8/26/75

FOIPA REQUESTED BY 101 DE
5 YEARS
SEE 190-210
PERSUANT

CLASSIFICATION NO.
44-2386

Volume Number 21
Serials 2336-2395

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (C)

DATE: 10/1/75

FROM : SA EDWARD A. SHEA

SUBJECT: MURKIN

On 9/18/75, JONATHAN PAUL VON NEWMAN, 331 D Lakemore Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, telephone # 255-0583, a student at Georgia State University (GSU), came into the Atlanta Office and talked to the writer.

Mr. VON NEWMAN, who appeared to be a sharp, bright young man indicated he is currently a student at GSU, Atlanta, Georgia, majoring in Physics and because of his class schedule he only had a few minutes to talk to the complaint agent.

Mr. VON NEWMAN then mentioned that back in the Spring of 1975, Mr. VON NEWMAN learned of a summer job opening at the Great American Silver Company and he was subsequently hired by this company for a sum of \$3,000.00 for the Summer of 1975. This was an oral agreement and nothing was put in writing as to the agreed salary.

Mr. VON NEWMAN then started work for this company, which lasted for three months and during this time Mr. VON NEWMAN performed various functions for the company, including handling their bookkeeping at various times. Mr. VON NEWMAN learned during his brief period of employment that most of the people connected with this company were members of the John Birch Society. This company is set up to sell silver, but it seemed strange to Mr. VON NEWMAN that the company kept various films, literature, etc., dealing with the Birch society, the making of booby traps, etc. In addition, the company kept some ammunition and some weapons in a back vault, reportedly for protection.

Most of the people affiliated with this company were strongly against the civil rights movement and believe it is a Socialist movement.

① - Atlanta
EAS/lru
(1) *lru*

Index p. 142

44-2386-2336

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 1 1975	
FBI-ATLANTA	



5010-108

Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

AT 44-2386

Mr. VON NEWMAN mentioned the names of various people connected with the Great American Silver Company, such as JERRY ADAMS, BEN SUTHERLAND, JOHN NELSON, and a Mr. JIM RAMAGE, who invested \$100,000 in the company. Mr. RAMAGE's son, JIM RAMAGE, JR., did some work for the company and in addition, he worked on the election campaign for LARRY McDONALD, who is a Bircher.

Mr. VON NEWMAN noted that the Great American Silver Company seems to be involved in all kinds of schemes, con jobs, etc., and have been in trouble with the Securities and Exchange Commission and Georgia Tax people. This company is in an insolvent state, but the company officials live high, drive big cars, run up big entertainment bills, floral bills, etc., even though the company has little money. Mr. VON NEWMAN worked for the company for three months and never received any salary and efforts by him to collect his \$3,000 have been unsuccessful.

Mr. VON NEWMAN went on that he was giving the above for informational purposes to show the nature of the above company and its people and he intended to furnish the above in more detail to Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

Mr. VON NEWMAN then went on to give some additional information which he indicated was the main purpose of contacting the FBI. During this past summer of 1975, Mr. VON NEWMAN, while he was working at the Great American Silver Company, learned that members of the Atlanta Police Department Intelligence Squad were coming out to the company to interview JERRY ADAMS. This interview was to try to develop information about an alleged report received by Commissioner REGINALD EAVES, Atlanta, Georgia, that new evidence had been received about the killing of the Rev. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., being a conspiracy. This alleged report had received considerable publicity by the Atlanta news media and the Atlanta Police Intelligence Squad detectives were checking out various aspects of this new evidence, which included interviewing JERRY ADAMS. Prior to the arrival of the Atlanta Police Intelligence Squad detectives to interview JERRY ADAMS, ADAMS took down all his marksmanship medals which he had on display in his office as ADAMS felt the police might attach some significance to medals of this type if they saw them inasmuch as they were investigating the shooting of Rev. KING.

AT 44-2386

Mr. VON NEWMAN was advised by the writer that his information would be made a matter of record in the Atlanta files and he was thanked for his interest in contacting the FBI regarding this matter.

No action - index names underscored.

AIRTEL

10/7/75

To: SAC, Memphis (44-1987)
From: Director, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN - 44-2386

ReMEairtel 2/27/75, advising that Federal process was still outstanding in U. S. District Court, Birmingham. The Birmingham Office has advised that the Federal process was dismissed 12/2/71.

The Birmingham Office should submit LHM appropriately showing this dismissal for dissemination to the Civil Rights Division which has already been orally advised. Insure your files show the correct information on this aspect.

① - SAC, Atlanta (INFO)
1 - SAC, Birmingham (INFO)

C
44-2386-2337

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
OCT 9 - 1975	
FBI - ATLANTA	

[Signature]

King Plot Inquiry Pushed

By VALERIE PRICE

Two civil rights activists said Friday they will officially call for reopening the investigation into the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a national demonstration at the White House on Thanksgiving Day.

Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and comedian-turned-civil rights activist Dick Gregory said they were calling for the new probe due to their "shock and outrage" at recent disclosures by the Senate Intelligence Committee "regarding the harassment, illegal wiretapping, surveillance and other intolerable actions perpetrated by the FBI against the late Dr. King."

"The disclosures brought out by that committee clearly indicate that violence was practiced by this agency against one of America's most distinguished citizens," they said in a prepared statement.

Gregory and Abernathy held a press conference at Hartsfield International Airport Friday evening minutes after both arrived from Washington where they said they had talked with congressional leaders about new information regarding the assassination of the late civil rights leader.

Part of that information involved photographs of a man Abernathy and Gregory identified as "Frenchie" or "Raoul" and who they said clearly resembles a man picked up after the assassination of the late President John F. Kennedy. They produced photographs and an FBI sketch of a man who was wanted in connection with King's assassination, and who they said also resembles "Frenchie."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Abernathy said that possible connection indicates there was some kind of master conspiracy to assassinate John Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Malcolm X and Medgar Evers, as well as King.

The civil rights activists said they also want the Justice department to investigate statements by Robert Watson, who has told authorities he overheard several men in Atlanta discussing a plot to kill King. Gregory said he fears for the life of Watson, who is serving a prison sentence on a drug conviction at Ashland, Ky.

State Rep. Hosea Williams, president of the Atlanta chapter of the SCLC, also appeared at the press conference.

Williams said that although he has been working in the civil rights movement for many years, recently he has been the subject of more harassment than ever before for his efforts to get the King assassination probe reopened.

"I've been in the civil rights movement for 18 years. But since working with Mr. Gregory to uncover this information and to pursue the activities surrounding Dr. King's assassination, the harassment has increased manifold," he said.

Also Friday, the Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, president of the Chicago-based People United to Save Humanity (PUSH) and a former associate of the slain civil rights leader, called for a reopening of the King assassination investigation.

Speaking at a news conference in New York, Jackson referred to the recent disclosure before the Senate Intelligence Committee of a letter sent by the FBI to King, then president of the SCLC, shortly before King was to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Jackson conceded that the evidence was circumstantial but said the letter—which King reportedly interpreted as suggesting that he commit suicide or face public exposure and embarrassment—implicated the intelligence agencies.

"This, then, is one more in a series of concrete revelations which reconfirm and give credence to our, and others', belief that the FBI and the CIA were involved in the assassinations of Dr. King, President John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy and Malcolm X," he said.

Earlier in Washington, Abernathy told a news conference that former Vice President Agnew and the late FBI director, J. Edgar Hoover, exchanged memos in 1968 agreeing that Abernathy was "one of the most dangerous of all black leaders and should be silenced."

Abernathy said he was shown the memos when Senate Intelligence Committee investigators interviewed him last weekend.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 16-A

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 11-22-75
Edition: Morning
Author: Valerie Price
Editor: Hal Gulliver
Title: MURKIN

Xerox copies made:
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NOV 23 1975	
FBI - ATLANTA	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

SEES CONSPIRACY

Probe Pushed By Mrs. King

By VALERIE PRICE

The widow of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said Thursday she believes investigations of her husband's assassination—which she said apparently was the result of a "government conspiracy"—should be reopened.

And Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, King's successor as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), called for a new investigation of the King assassination, to be conducted by "a committee of distinguished American citizens and private investigators."

Abernathy and comedian-turned-civil rights activist Dick Gregory led a demonstration at the White House Thursday calling for a renewed investigation into King's death in 1968 at the hands of a sniper in Memphis, Tenn.

Close associates of the late civil rights leader have been pressing for a new investigation in the wake of disclosures before the Senate Intelligence Committee of efforts by the FBI to discredit King.

And during a press conference Wednesday, President Ford endorsed planned reviews of the investigations of the assassinations of both King and President John F. Kennedy.

Mrs. Coretta Scott King, who made her statements in Nairobi, Kenya, said she does not have the basic facts to support her contention that her husband's death was caused by a government conspiracy.

But, she said, "the way he was documented and followed around by (the late FBI Director J. Edgar) Hoover and the CIA when he was abroad, it would have to have been attached to the forces of our government that felt was a threat to the system as it existed."

Mrs. King said she was encouraged by Ford's statements Wednesday that he abhorred the reported FBI harassment of King and that he would consult with U.S. Atty. Gen. Edward H. Levi on what action should be taken against those to blame.

Levi Wednesday announced plans to examine the original FBI investigation of the King killing because of the Senate disclosures. Levi emphasized, however, that the reexamination of the FBI file should not be considered a reopening of the investigation.

"New evidence, confirmed

evidence" from recent probes of the FBI and CIA indicate the need for "further investigation into the death of my husband as well as the assassinations of others, from the Kennedys on," Mrs. King said.

Also indicating approval of a new look at the King slaying was an attorney for James Earl Ray, King's confessed murderer who now is serving a life sentence for the assassination.

Robert Livingston said a new look at the case would prove that Ray was innocent of the murder and was set up by the real killers.

"Mr. Ray did not kill Dr. King," Livingston said. "He was not a willing part of a conspiracy. He was a dupe. He was used."

Rep. Andrew Young, accompanying Mrs. King on her three-nation African tour, called the reexamination "a good move on the part of the attorney general."

Young predicted that such a review will show that Ray had helped the afternoon King was shot while standing on a motel balcony in Memphis.

Just who will conduct the new investigation is what concerns Abernathy and state Rep. Hosea Williams.

"I would never trust the FBI to investigate itself," Abernathy said. The SCLC leader said a panel of "distinguished American citizens," both white and black, along with private investigators, should report its findings on the incident directly to the President.

Abernathy added that he believes the FBI withheld information about the King murder and that a second investigation will discredit the organization.

Williams was more emphatic in his criticism of the bureau. Allowing the FBI to handle the new probe would be "just like allowing a hungry dog to watch the meat house," he said.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 2-A

THE
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 11-28-75
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Author: Valerie Price
Editor: Hal Gulliver
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NOV 28 1975

FBI-ATLANTA

Hal Gulliver

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Coretta King and the FBI Letter

The timing was quite coincidental. The headlines that morning told of the FBI's anonymous letter to the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his wife, a letter seeming to suggest that King commit suicide rather than accept the Nobel Peace Prize and full of threats of how he would otherwise be disgraced. And there, at noon on the same day, there was Coretta Scott King, the widow of the slain civil rights leader, holding a news conference.



But the news conference was not about the FBI or the vicious, cowardly, unsigned letter. No, in fact, Mrs. King issued a small statement at the beginning, saying firmly that she would have no comment on such matters until all the investigations are complete.

But she is not dumb, this handsome thoughtful woman who has seen so much of the South's and the nation's history at close hand, both the suffering and the triumphs. She knows the allegations about her late husband's personal life are scurrilous and nasty and unpleasant.

Yet she goes on with the already-scheduled press conference about other matters, calm and concerned and wanting to talk about them. She talks some about plans for the King Center and about her late husband, but mostly the topic is full employment in the nation. Mrs. King is currently co-chairperson for the Full Employment Action Council, a group pressing for such a national policy. Its board of directors includes some distinguished names: Leonard Woodcock of the United Auto Workers, I.W. Abel of the United Steelworkers, Vernon Jordan of the National Urban League, Peter McCollough, chairman of the Xerox Corporation, Los Angeles.

Mayor Thomas Bradley (also, interestingly, former Georgia Gov. Jimmy Carter and LaDonna Harris, wife of former Sen. Fred Harris).

"I think jobs will come to be seen as a basic right, just as voting rights and public accommodations have come to be seen as basic," says Mrs. King.

A little leaflet printed by the Full Employment Action Council begins with a quote from President Harry Truman, just after he signed the Employment Act of 1946. "Full employment means more than jobs...it values ends as well as means; it values leisure as well as work; it values self-development as well as dedication to a common purpose; it values individual as well as group cooperation. Full employment means more than jobs...it means maximum opportunity under the American system of responsible freedom," said Truman.

The echoes intrigue. J. Edgar Hoover was director of the FBI in 1946 when Truman made those com-

ments. He was still director nearly 20 years later when the scurrilous, threatening anonymous letter was mailed by the FBI to King. Mrs. King has to hurry a bit at the end of the news conference; she must catch a plane that afternoon to begin a three-nation visit to Africa, including the dedication in one country of a U.S. Information Agency facility named after her late husband. A few days later there is an Associated Press story from Kenya quoting Mrs. King suggesting that the investigation of her late husband's death be reopened in the context of CIA and FBI revelations. "I have always felt there was more to it than came out. I also felt somehow in the long run of history it would be revealed—just what did happen," she said.

She has seen a long run of history in her own life, has Coretta King. She is a strong and remarkable woman who has lived through a great deal without slipping into the twin traps of self-pity and personal bitterness.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4-A

THE
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 11-29-75

Edition: Morning

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Editor: Hal Gulliver

Title: MURKIN

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DEC 2 1975

FBI-ATLANTA

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

New Inquiry . . .

There should be a congressional investigation of the 1968 assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the FBI's investigation of King's death.

The investigation is needed to clear up growing questions about the assassination of the civil rights leader April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tenn.

Increasing support for a congressional investigation was evidenced by recent calls by Democratic leaders in the Senate and House for congressional inquiries into the tragedy.

Democratic whip Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., urged the Senate intelligence committee to conduct a "thorough review" of the original FBI investigation of King's death. And Rep. Phillip Burton, D-Calif., chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, said the House judiciary committee should conduct an investigation because of the "shocking and confirmed" disclosure that the FBI had attempted to discredit King before his death.

That is one of two major reasons why there should be a congressional investigation of King's assassination. No one has turned up evidence that the FBI did not conduct a thorough and unbiased investigation of the event. But recent disclosures have shown that the FBI, prodded by its director, the late J. Edgar Hoover, conducted illegal wiretaps and har-

assed and intimidated King and his family before his assassination.

Could this hostility toward King, an Atlantan, have affected the completeness of the FBI investigation of his murder? (The Justice Department is already looking into the original FBI investigation.)

The other major reason is that there have always been considerable doubts by many whether James Earl Ray, who pled guilty to shooting King, acted alone in assassinating the Nobel Peace Prize winner.

There was some belief that a conspiracy was involved, but the FBI concluded Ray acted alone. Ray, who was sentenced to 99 years, later tried to change his plea, however, and has hinted that others were involved. There have also been doubts raised about how Ray could have eluded the police in this nation and Canada before he was captured in London. And where did his means for such travel come from?

More than likely, a congressional investigation of King's assassination will confirm the FBI's investigation. The FBI, except for some recent, well-documented slips, is an outstanding organization. But the tremendous accomplishments of Dr. King in his 39 years of life demand that there be absolutely no unanswered questions about the way he died.

1 Xerox copies made:
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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page 4-A

THE
ATLANTA CONSTITUTION
Atlanta, Georgia

Date: 12-5-75
Edition: Morning
Author: Editorial
Editor: Hal Gulliver
Title: MURKIN

Character: CR
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Submitting Office: ATLANTA

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DEC 9 1975

FBI-ATLANTA

NR001 AT PLAIN

10:53 AM URGENT 1-5-75 LMM

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

ATTENTION: GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION,
CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION, ROOM 5136, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELCALL TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 5, 1976.

ON JANUARY 4, 1976, ~~LEON OWEN POWELL~~, WHITE MALE, CONTACTED ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI ADVISING HE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE SUBJECT MATTER.

DURING PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH POWELL, HE ADVISED THAT DURING LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, 1967, DATE UNKNOWN, DURING THE LATER AFTERNOON HOURS, HE AND HIS BROTHER, ~~CLAUDE POWELL, JR.~~, AKA "SHOTGUN POWELL", A WHITE MALE, WERE HAVING A DRINK IN PETE'S BAR AT MORELAND AND CONFEDERATE AVENUES, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WHEN THEY WERE APPROACHED BY MUTUAL FRIEND ~~RAY GODFREY~~, A WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY FORTY YEARS OF AGE, SIX FEET ONE INCH, TWO HUNDRED TWENTY POUNDS, COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER, EMPLOYEE OF THE ATLANTA SANITATION DEPARTMENT, WHO ASKED IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING \$50,000. DURING THE POWELL BROTHERS CONVERSATION WITH GODFREY, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT GODFREY WOULD PUT
END PAGE ONE.

PI-3

44-2386-2341

Wilson
Boo: me
1/8/76

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

THEM IN CONTACT WITH AN INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD PAY THEM TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POWELL BROTHERS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE CONTRACT TO MURDER KING AND THE CONVERSATION WAS TERMINATED WITH GODREY.

APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK AFTER THE MEETING WITH GODREY, THE POWELL BROTHERS WERE AGAIN DRINKING IN PETE'S BAR, EXACT DATE UNKNOWN, AT APPROXIMATELY FOUR OR FIVE PM, WHEN THEY WERE APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED RALPH (LNU), WHITE MALE, HEAVY-SET, SIX FOOT ONE INCH TO TWO INCH, NO ACCENT, WELL-GROOMED, LATE FORTIES, WELL-SPOKEN, DESCRIBED AS "LAWYER-TYPE", WHO WAS IN POSSESSION OF A BRIEFCASE. RALPH (LNU) APPROACHED THE POWELL BROTHERS, PUT HIS BRIEFCASE ON THE TABLE AND SAID, "I GUESS YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE". THE POWELL BROTHERS NODDED IN ASSENT, AT WHICH TIME RALPH (LNU) OPENED HIS BRIEFCASE, DISPLAYING WHAT HE SAID WAS TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND THEN SAID, "IF YOU DECIDE TO TAKE THE JOB, THERE'S FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS MORE WHEN IT'S COMPLETED". "SHOTGUN" POWELL REPLIED TO RALPH THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER NEEDED TIME TO THINK IT OVER, AT WHICH TIME RALPH (LNU) STATED, "IF YOUR MIND IS NOT MADE UP NOW, I CAN'T DO BUSINESS WITH YOU". NOTHING ELSE WAS SAID AND RALPH

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

CLOSED HIS BRIEFCASE AND LEFT. - POWELL ADVISED THAT RALPH NEVER ACTUALLY SAID THAT THE MONEY BEING OFFERED TO THEM WAS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING.

NEITHER HE NOR HIS BROTHERS OBSERVED HOW RALPH (LNU) CAME OR LEFT THE BAR. THEY HAVE NOT SEEN RALPH (LNU) SINCE THAT DATE.

HE HAS NOT BEEN IN CONTACT WITH RAY GODFREY IN APPROXIMATELY SEVEN YEARS AND DOES NOT KNOW GODFREY'S LOCATION. THE ONLY OTHER INDIVIDUALS AWARE OF HE AND HIS BROTHER'S MEETING WITH RALPH (LNU) ARE HIS FORMER WIFE, ANNIE LOUISE COMPOS, WHITE FEMALE OF ATLANTA AND PETE DAVIS, WHITE MALE, OWNER OF THE BAR WHERE HE AND HIS BROTHER TALKED WITH RALPH (LNU).

HIS WIFE HAS NO FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER, SHE IS AWARE OF THE FACTS AS HE DESCRIBED THEM TO HER.

PETE DAVIS ACTUALLY OBSERVED RALPH (LNU) ENTER AND EXIT HIS BAR, BUT NEVER ENTERED THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN RALPH (LNU) AND THEMSELVES.

NEITHER HE NOR HIS BROTHER WERE INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BECAUSE THE WHOLE SITUATION, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE, "SCARED US". HE IS WILLING TO TAKE A POLYGRAPH IN THIS
END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

MATTER.

HE HAS WAITED NINE YEARS TO CONTACT THE FBI IN THIS MATTER BECAUSE HE RECENTLY OBSERVED A DOCUMENTARY ON TELEVISION WHICH DISTURBED HIS CONSCIENCE AND HE FELT THAT HE HAD TO FURNISH THIS INFORMATION TO THE FBI.

POWELL STATED THAT THE REASON HE BELIEVES HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE CONTACTED BY GODREY IS BECAUSE HIS BROTHER, "SHOTGUN" POWELL SERVED FIVE YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND, AT THAT TIME, 1967, HIS BROTHER HAD A REPUTATION FOR BEING AN EXPERT WITH A SHOTGUN. POWELL STATED HIS BROTHER, AT THAT TIME, CONSTANTLY CARRIED A SHOTGUN BECAUSE, "HE HAS AN INFERIORITY COMPLEX".

REQUEST OF THE BUREAU. CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE IF ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DESIRED AT THIS TIME.

END.

RSP FBIHQ

Mag unit, pls. return to JPM 7

FBI

Date: 1/5/76

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) *1053/A RSP*
FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)
ATTENTION: GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION,
CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION, ROOM 5136, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELCALL TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 5, 1976.

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END PAGE ONE.

1 - Atlanta

AWB:far

Approved: *JSO/D*Sent *1053/A WA* M D *WED*

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

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END PAGE TWO.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Precedence)

M 9

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

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HIS WIFE HAS NO FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF THE MATTER, SHE IS AWARE OF THE FACTS AS HE DESCRIBED THEM TO HER.

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END PAGE THREE.

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

MATTER.

HE HAS WAITED NINE YEARS TO CONTACT THE FBI IN THIS MATTER BECAUSE HE RECENTLY OBSERVED A DOCUMENTARY ON TELEVISION WHICH DISTURBED HIS CONSCIENCE AND HE FELT THAT HE HAD TO FURNISH THIS INFORMATION TO THE FBI.

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REQUEST OF THE BUREAU. CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE IF ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION CONCERNING THE ABOVE INFORMATION IS DESIRED AT THIS TIME.

END.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____

Mag sent, pls. return to JSM 7

FBI

Date: 1/5/76

Transmit the following in PLAINTEXT
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) *1053A RSP*
FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P) *Memphis (facsimile) 1/5/76 25% BEC*
ATTENTION: GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION,
CIVIL RIGHTS SECTION, ROOM 5136, JEH.

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELCALL TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 5, 1976.

ON JANUARY 4, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL, WHITE MALE, CONTACTED
ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI ADVISING HE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING
THE SUBJECT MATTER.

DURING PERSONAL INTERVIEW WITH POWELL, HE ADVISED THAT
DURING LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, 1967, DATE UNKNOWN, DURING
THE LATER AFTERNOON HOURS, HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR.,
AKA "SHOTGUN POWELL", A WHITE MALE, WERE HAVING A DRINK IN
PETE'S BAR AT MORELAND AND CONFEDERATE AVENUES, ATLANTA, GEORGIA,
WHEN THEY WERE APPROACHED BY MUTUAL FRIEND RAY GODFREY, A WHITE
MALE, APPROXIMATELY FORTY YEARS OF AGE, SIX FEET ONE INCH, TWO
HUNDRED TWENTY POUNDS, COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER, EMPLOYEE OF
THE ATLANTA SANITATION DEPARTMENT, WHO ASKED IF THEY WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN MAKING \$50,000. DURING THE POWELL BROTHERS CON-
VERSATION WITH GODFREY, IT WAS DETERMINED THAT GODFREY WOULD PUT

END PAGE ONE.

1 - Atlanta
AWB:far

Approved: *JJO/P*Sent *1053A WA* *Umm*

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
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PAGE TWO (44-2386)

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END PAGE TWO.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

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Mag unit, pls. return to JPM 7

FBI

Date: 1/5/76

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END PAGE ONE.

① - Atlanta
AWB:far

Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

1053A WP

M

Per

*Umm**44-2386-2341*

F B I

Date:

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(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
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Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : SAC Atlanta (44-2386)

DATE: 1/4/76

FROM : SPC Robert L. McKay

SUBJECT: MURKIN

At 2:19 AM January 4, 1976 writer was telephonically contacted by an unidentified white male who advised that he had information about the killing of Martin Luther King, Jr. The caller advised that in November of 1967 he and his brother were offered \$25,000.00 cash by two males in "PETE'S PLACE" on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta, Ga., for killing KING. The caller advised that he wanted to see an agent as soon as possible to relate the facts of this offer and to identify the principals in the transaction.

The caller advised that his telephone number was 289-1545 and his address 3841 Austin Dr., Decatur, Ga. The caller refused to give his name or to discuss the matter further over the telephone.

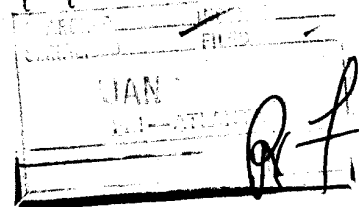
Supervisor BERRY advised of the above 3:40 AM 1/4/76.

Indices negative re address and telephone number.

Atlanta city and suburban Criss-Cross directories negative.



5010-108



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

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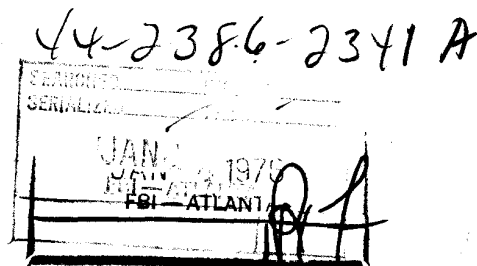
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5010-108



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

NR051 WA PLAIN

5:09PM URGENT 1/6/76 DLS

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MURKIN

REATTTEL JANUARY 5, 1976.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, REQUESTS THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE ALLEGATION MADE BY LEON OWEN POWELL AS SET FORTH IN RETEL.

INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, COMPOS AND DAVIS FOR ANY INFORMATION THEY HAVE RE LEON OWEN POWELL'S ALLEGATION.

OBTAIN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LAST NAME UNKNOWN) FROM LEON OWEN POWELL. HANDLE THROUGH FACIAL IDENTIFICATION CATALOG AS SET FORTH IN FBI HANDBOOK, PART I, PAGE 21. IMMEDIATELY FACSIMILE RESULTS DIRECTLY TO EXHIBITS SECTION, FBIHQ, AND TELEPHONICALLY DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS RE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION DIRECTLY WITH EXHIBITS SECTION.

DETERMINE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS INCLUDING RESIDENCE AND EMPLOYMENT OF RAY GODFREY. CRD STATED GODFREY SHOULD NOT BE INTERVIEWED AT THIS TIME.

*(Carl)
PETE DAVIS
Allegedly working for
Shrimp Boat company restaurants
in Macon, GA. Pls try to locate
& interview.
D*

44-2386-2342

JAN 1 1976
FBI-ATLANTA

WELTON

PAGE TWO

DETERMINE ALL PLACES WHERE CLAUDE POWELL REPORTEDLY INCARCERATED TO DETERMINE IF EVER INCARCERATED WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL OBVIOUS AND LOGICAL LEADS DEVELOPED SUCH AS THE INTERVIEW OF ANY ADDITIONAL WITNESSES DEVELOPED DURING INTERVIEW. IF ANY QUESTION ARISES RE COVERING ANY ADDITIONAL LEAD, PROMPTLY CONTACT FBIHQ.

CRD WILL MAKE A DETERMINATION RE PROVIDING LEON OWEN POWELL WITH POLYGRAPH UPON COMPLETION OF ABOVE INVESTIGATION.

IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT THIS INVESTIGATION AND SUTEL SUMMARY ON A DAILY BASIS UNTIL THIS INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. HANDLE ANY LEADS OUT OF YOUR DIVISION BY TELETYPE. HANDLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 27, VOLUME II, MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS. ALSO FURNISH ALL INFORMATION TO MEMPHIS, THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

END

FBI AT ACK FOR ONE

HLF THANKS CLR

NR051 WA PLAIN

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1/6
Berry advised
out

44-2386-2342

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 6 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
Wilson	RAW

PAGE TWO

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COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

END

FBI AT ACK FOR ONE

HLF THANKS CLR

NR005 EP PLAINTEXT

11:27PM URGENT JANUARY 7, 1976 HXG

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

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

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TEL TO DIRECTOR, EL PASO, CHARLOTTE, AND MEMPHIS
DATED JANUARY 1, 1976.

D.M. WILLIAMS, MANAGER, SCOTTISH INN MOTEL, MIDLAND, TEXAS,
ADVISED THOROUGH SEARCH OF MOTEL RECORDS FROM DECEMBER 1, 1975
TO PRESENT FAILED TO REVEAL ANY RECORD CONCERNING CLAUDE POWELL,
JR. AS RESIDING AT THAT MOTEL. DRIVER'S LICENSE CHECK STATE OF TEXAS,
ARREST CHECKS MIDLAND AND ODESSA, TEXAS, CITY AND TELEPHONE
DIRECTORY AND NEW LISTINGS ALL NEGATIVE CONCERNING CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA, GEORGIA: WILL RECONTACT LEON OWEN POWELL
FOR MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION CONCERNING RESIDENCE OF CLAUDE POWELL,
JR. AND/OR ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION SUCH AS CURRENT EMPLOYMENT
TO FACILITATE THE LOCATION OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR. FOR INTERVIEW
BY THE EL PASO DIVISION.

EL PASO AT EL PASO, TEXAS: WILL CONDUCT INVESTIGATION TO
DETERMINE IF POWELL IS STAYING AT DIFFERENT MOTEL. NOTE NO OTHER
MOTELS IN MIDLAND-ODESSA AREA HAVE NAME SIMILAR TO SCOTTISH
INN. CREDIT CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED MORNING OF JANUARY 8, 1976.

EL PASO WILL SUTEL RESULTS.

END

ATW/.FBI AT CLEAR

*1/8
1/20 Action
gms*

44-2386-2343

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 8 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
Wilson	PSW

NR051 WA PLAIN

5:09PM URGENT 1/6/76 DLS

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

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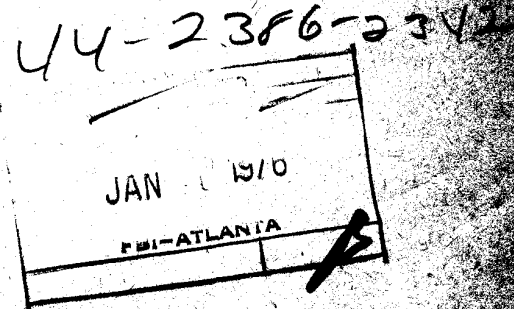
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44-2386-730

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 8 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	

JAN 07 1976

Transmit attached by Facsimile - PLAINTEXT

Priority URGENT

To: SAC, ATLANTA

Date: 1-7-1976

From: DIRECTOR FBI, IDENT DIV

Time: Transmitted -

Subject: LEON OWEN POWELL FBI# 220-012-E
CLAUDE POWELL JR. FBI# 212-946-A

Initials -

☐ Fingerprint Photo ☒ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph
☐ Artists Conception ☐ Other _____

Special handling instructions:

ATTN: S.A. DICK BERRY

COPIES OF RECORDS PER YOUR REQUEST ON PHONE CALL 1-7-76Approved: BRyant

44-2386-2344

JAN 7 1976	
WILLSON	PJW

JAN 07 1976

Transmit attached by Facsimile - PLAINTEXT

Priority URGENT

To: SAC, ATLANTA

Date: 1-7-1976

From: DIRECTOR FBI, IDENT DIV

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Subject: LEON OWEN POWELL FBI# 220-012-E
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☐ Fingerprint Photo ☒ Fingerprint Record ☐ Map ☐ Newspaper clipping ☐ Photograph
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Special handling instructions:

ATTN: S.A. DICK BERRY

COPIES OF RECORDS PER YOUR REQUEST ON PHONE CALL 1-7-76Approved: BRVANT

14-2386-2344

INDEXED	FILED
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JAN 7 1976	
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MASTER
14 (Rev. 12-2-60)

MASTER

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

1 DE JAN 07 1976 DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 220 012 E, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ON

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Provost Marshal Ft. Benning Ga.	Leon Powell #80475	8/26/55	Art. 86	
PD Atlanta Ga.	Leon O. Powell #211422	6/28/62	wife beating	withdrawn 7-6-62
PD Atlanta Ga	Leon Owen Powell #211422	6-29-62	AMC (abandnt of minor child)	withdrawn 7-6-62
De Kalb Co PD Decatur GA	Leon Owen Powell 34062 SID 258457	1-16-75	abandonment of children 3808	

Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors. Where final disposition is not shown or further explanation of charge is desired, communicate with agency contributing those fingerprints.

Notations indicated by * are NOT based on fingerprints in FBI files but are listed only as investigative leads as being possibly identical with subject of this record.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1964-0-000-000

44-2386-238

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MASTER

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

1 DEJAN 07 1976 DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER 220 012 R, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ON

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Provost Marshal Ft. Benning Ga.	Leon Powell #80475	8/26/55	Art. 86	
PD Atlanta Ga.	Leon O. Powell #211422	6/28/62	wife beating	withdrawn 7-6-62
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U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1964-O-341

44-2386-2345

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JAN 7 1976	
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MASTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

JAN 07 1976

The following FBI record, NUMBER **212 946 A**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors.
WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS
DESIRED, COMMUNICATE WITH AGENCY CONTRIBUTING THOSE FINGERPRINTS.

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Rockingham Co. Police Charlotte NC	Claude Powell Jr 4822	5-10-49	armed rob	5-10 yrs SPen
B of I Pr Div Raleigh NC	Claude Powell Jr 49663	5-24-49	rob	5-10 yrs 4-23-52 per 3-28-54 disch per exp
PD Atlanta GA	Claude Powell Jr 231799	6-22-65	under sent (allowing intax person to dr (2 cts)	\$125 & 8 mos
PD Atlanta GA	Claude Powell Jr 231799	8-25-73	1-ind exp 2-drk	1-\$25 or 13 das; 2-\$25 or 13 das
SO Ft Valley GA	Claude Powell Jr. 21-110-75 SID 287685	7-26-75	DUI refused test driv w/revoked lic	

44-2386-2346

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 7 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20537

JAN 07 1976

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Information shown on this Identification Record represents data furnished FBI by fingerprint contributors.
WHERE DISPOSITION IS NOT SHOWN OR FURTHER EXPLANATION OF CHARGE OR DISPOSITION IS
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Mecklenburg Co. Police Charlotte NC	Claude Powell Jr 4822	5-10-49	armed rob	5-10 yrs 8Pen
B of I Pr Div Raleigh NC	Claude Powell Jr 49663	5-24-49	rob	5-10 yrs 4-23-52 par 3-28-54 disch per exp
PD Atlanta GA	Claude Powell Jr 231799	6-28-65	under sent (allowing intax person to dr (3 cts)	\$125 & 8 mos
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44-2386-2346

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 7 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
6/15/76	74W

NR016 AT PLAIN

9:19 PM URGENT 1-7-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO

CHARLOTTE

MEMPHIS

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ATLANTA, JANUARY 6, 1976.

FOR INFO OF EL PASO AND CHARLOTTE, ON JANUARY 4, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL, WHITE MALE, ADVISED ATLANTA OFFICE THAT DURING LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, 1967, HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AKA "SHOTGUN" POWELL, WHITE MALE, WERE IN PETE'S BAR, ON MORELAND AVENUE IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA WHEN APPROACHED BY MUTUAL FRIEND, NAMED RAY GODFREY, WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY FORTY YEARS OF AGE, WHO ASKED IF THEY, THE POWELL BROTHERS, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING \$50,000. GODFREY WOULD GET THEM IN CONTACT WITH ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD PAY THEM TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. *approximately one week later a* ~~6-004918-567893-2386-77534~~, A WHITE MALE CAME INTO THE BAR AND ASKED FOR THE POWELL BROTHERS.

THIS WHITE MALE PUT HIS BRIEFCASE ON THE TABLE AND SAID, "I GUESS YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE". THE WHITE MALE INTRODUCED
END PAGE ONE,

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

WILSON New

44-2386

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

HIMSELF ONLY AS RALPH. HE THEN OPENED THE BRIEFCASE AND DISPLAYED WHAT HE SAID WAS \$25,000 AND SAID, "IF YOU DECIDE TO TAKE THE JOB, THERE IS \$50,000 MORE WHEN IT'S COMPLETED." CLAUDE POWELL TOLD RALPH THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER NEEDED TIME TO THINK IT OVER, AT WHICH TIME RALPH STATED, "IF YOUR MIND IS NOT MADE UP NOW I CAN'T DO BUSINESS WITH YOU." NOTHING ELSE WAS SAID. RALPH CLOSED THE BRIEFCASE AND LEFT. POWELL ADVISED THAT RALPH NEVER ACTUALLY STATED THAT THE MONEY BEING OFFERED TO HIM WAS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. LEON POWELL ADVISED HIS BROTHER IS NOW LIVING AT THE SCOTTISH INN IN MIDLAND, TEXAS. POWELL DENIED THAT HE OR HIS BROTHER WERE INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AFTER SEEING THE ASSASSINATION DOCUMENTARY ON TELEVISION, HE DECIDED TO COME FORWARD AND FURNISH THIS INFORMATION. POWELL STATED THE REASON HE BELIEVES HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE CONTACTED IS BECAUSE HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE SERVED FIVE YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND AT THAT TIME IN 1967, HIS BROTHER HAD A REPUTATION FOR BEING AN EXPERT WITH A SHOTGUN. POWELL STATED HIS BROTHER, AT THAT TIME, CONSTANTLY CARRIED A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN. LEON POWELL ALLEGED THAT PETE DAVIS, OWNER OF THE BAR, NOTICED RALPH (LNU) COME INTO THE BAR AND WOULD BE

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

ABLE TO VERIFY THAT PART OF THE STORY. FURTHERMORE, LEON POWELL TOLD HIS WIFE, ANNIE LOIS COMPOS OF THE MEETIN WITH RALPH.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, ATLANTA CITY DIRECTORY, HAINES CITY DIRECTORY AND GREATER ATLANTA SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FOR THE YEARS 1967, 1968, WERE REVIEWED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS REGARDING ANY ESTABLISHMENT ON MORELAND AVENUE NAMED PETE'S PLACE OR ANY SIMILAR NAME. SHIRLEY LANE, BARTENDER, DRIFTWOOD LOUNGE, 1575 MORELAND AVENUE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS AGO, AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED PETE DAVIS DID, IN FACT, OWN AND OPERATE A BAR IN THE NEXT BLOCK OF MORELAND AVENUE. SHE HAD HEARD THAT PETE DAVIS HAS SINCE PASSED AWAY. MS LANE ADVISED PETE'S WIFE, DOROTHY DAVIS, COULD PROBABLY BE CONTACTED AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 957-2626. DOROTHY DAVIS ADVISED HER ~~HUSBAND~~ ^{HUSBAND} DID OWN AND OPERATE BAR ON MORELAND AVENUE, AND, AT ONE TIME, WAS KNOWN AS PETE'S PLACE. HUSBAND DIED MAY, 1975. SHE IS UNFAMILIAR WITH THE NAMES RALPH (LNU), LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL. SHE REMEMBERS HER HUSBAND TALKING ABOUT RAY GODFREY, HOWEVER, HAS NO IDEA HOW HE COULD BE LOCATED.

END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

NUMEROUS ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE ANNIE LOIS COMPOS AT HER RESIDENCE, 4120 GLENWOOD ROAD, DURING JANUARY 7, 1976, PROVED NEGATIVE.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, MRS. L. S. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, ADVISED HE HAS REVIEWED CITY PERSONNEL RECORDS AND COULD FIND NO RECORD OF RAY GODFREY OR RAYMOND GODFREY EMPLOYED OR HAVING EVER BEEN EMPLOYED AT THE CITY OF ATLANTA. C. L. SNEED, SECRETARY, MUSICIANS NUMBER 48, ATLANTA, ADVISED HE REVIEWED UNION'S RECORDS AND COULD FIND NO REFERENCE TO RAY GODFREY. RECORDS OF ATLANTA PD NEGATIVE RE RAY GODFREY.

RECORDS OF ATLANTA PD REVEALED CLAUDE POWELL, JR. HAD BEEN ARRESTED ON MAY 10, 1949 FOR ARMED ROBBERY BY MECKLENBURG COUNTY POLICE, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, AND SENTENCED TO SERVE BETWEEN FIVE AND TEN YEARS IN STATE PENN; ARRESTED JUNE 28, 1965 FOR ALLOWING INTOXICATED PERSON TO DRIVE, BY ATLANTA PD, AND SENTENCED TO SERVE EIGHT MONTHS IN ATLANTA CITY FARM; ARRESTED AUGUST 25, 1973 FOR INDECENT EXPOSURE AND DRUNK BY ATLANTA PD AND SENTENCED TO THIRTEEN DAYS OR \$25. MECKLENBURG
END PAGE FOUR.

PAGE FIVE (44-2386)

COUNTY PD ARREST NUMBER IS 4822. DESCRIPTION OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR. IS WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] SIX FEET TWO INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE POUNDS, FBI NUMBER 212 946 A.

RECORDS OF THE ATLANTA PD REVEALED LEON POWELL ARRESTED AUGUST 26, 1955 BY PROVOST MARSHAL, FORT BENNING, GEORGIA, CHARGED WITH ARTICLE 86. NO DISPOSITION AVAILABLE. ARRESTED JUNE 28, 1962 FOR WIFE BEATING AND ABANDONMENT, CHARGE WITHDRAWN JULY 6, 1962. LEON OWEN POWELL DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED], FBI NUMBER 220 012 E.

BRENDA POWELL, DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF LEON POWELL, ADVISED LEON POWELL WORKING AT UNKNOWN LOCATION IN ROCKDALE COUNTY AND WOULD NOT RETURN TO ATLANTA UNTIL LATE PM OF JANUARY 7, 1976.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CYD), US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, REQUESTS THE FOLLOWING IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE ALLEGATION MADE BY LEON OWEN POWELL:

EL PASO AT MIDLAND. WILL INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL AT SCOTTISH INN FOR ANY INFORMATION HE HAS RE LEON OWEN POWELL'S ALLEGATION. OBTAIN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) FROM
END PAGE FIVE.

PAGE SIX (44-2386)

CLAUDE POWELL. HANDLYE THROUGH FACIAL IDENTIFIATION CATALOG AS SET FORTH IN FBI HANDBOOK, PARK I, PAGE 21. IMMEDIATELY FACSIMILE RESULTS DIRECTLY TO EXHIBITS SECTION, FBIHQ, AND TELEPHONICALLY DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS RE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION DIRECTLY WITH EXHIBITS SECTION.

CHARLOTTE AT CHARLOTTE. DETERMINE ALL PLACES WHERE CLAUDE POWELL REPORTEDLY INCARCERATED TO DETERMINE IF EVER INCARCERATED WITH JAMES EARL RAY.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. OBTAIN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) FROM LEON OWEN POWELL. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE RAY GODFREY AND ANNIE LOIS COMPOS.

ALL OFFICES HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL OBVIOUS AND LOGICAL LEADS DEVELOPED DURING INTERVIEW. IF ANY QUESTION ARISED RE COVERING ANY ADDITIONAL LEAD, PROMPTLY CONTACT FBIHQ.

IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT THIS INVESTIGATION AND SUTEL SUMMARY ON DAILY BASIS UNTIL INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. HANDLE ANY LEADS OUT OF YOUR DIVISION BY TELETYPE. HANDLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 27, VOLUME II, MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS. ALSO FURNISH ALL INFORMATION TO MEMPHIS, OFFICE OF ORIGIN AND ATLANTA.

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

END.

CORRECTION: PAGE ONE, PARAG ONE, LINE TEN SHOULD READ,
"KING, JR. APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK LATER" A WHITE MALE ETC

PLS HOLD

TAR

FBI

Date: JANUARY 7, 1976

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE URGENT
(Precedence)

TO: BUREAU (44-38861) 9:19P/TKR
 EL PASO 6:57P/HKG
 CHARLOTTE 6:53P/gdc
 MEMPHIS
 FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)
 MURKIN.

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ATLANTA DATED JANUARY 6, 1976.

FOR INFORMATION OF EL PASO, ^{AND CHARLOTTE} ON JANUARY 4, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL, WHITE MALE, ADVISED ATLANTA OFFICE THAT DURING LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, 1967, HE AND HIS BROTHER CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AKA, "SHOTGUN" POWELL, WHITE MALE, WERE IN PETE'S BAR, ON MORELAND AVENUE, IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WHEN APPROACHED BY MUTUAL FRIEND, NAMED RAY GODFREY, WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY FORTY YEARS OF AGE, WHO ASKED IF THEY, THE POWELL BROTHERS, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING \$50,000.00. GODFREY WOULD ^{GET} THEM IN CONTACT WITH ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD PAY THEM TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK LATER, A WHITE MALE, CAME INTO THE BAR AND ASKED FOR THE POWELL BROTHERS.

OUT-GOING
 END PAGE ONE.

1-ATLANTA
 1-MEMPHIS (AIRMAIL)
 TJW:cw
 (2)

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Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

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Per _____

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Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)Via _____
(Precedence)

AT 44-2386. PAGE TWO.

THIS WHITE MALE PUT HIS BRIEFCASE ON THE TABLE AND SAID, "I GUESS YOU KNOW WHY I'M HERE". THE WHITE MALE INTRODUCED HIMSELF ^{only} AS RALPH. HE THEN OPENED THE BRIEFCASE AND DISPLAYED WHAT HE SAID WAS \$25,000.00, AND SAID, "IF YOU DECIDE TO TAKE THE JOB, THERE IS \$50,000.00 MORE WHEN IT'S COMPLETED." CLAUDE POWELL TOLD RALPH THAT HE AND HIS BROTHER NEEDED TIME TO THINK IT OVER, AT WHICH TIME RALPH STATED, "IF YOUR MIND IS NOT MADE UP NOW, I CAN'T DO BUSINESS WITH YOU". NOTHING ELSE WAS SAID. RALPH CLOSED THE BRIEFCASE AND LEFT. POWELL ADVISED THAT RALPH NEVER ACTUALLY STATED THAT THE MONEY BEING OFFERED TO HIM WAS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING. LEON POWELL ADVISED HIS BROTHER IS NOW LIVING AT THE SCOTTISH INN IN MIDLAND, TEXAS. POWELL DENIED THAT HE OR HIS BROTHER WERE INVOLVED IN THE KILLING OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AFTER SEEING THE ASSASSINATION DOCUMENTARY ON TELEVISION, HE DECIDED TO COME FORWARD AND FURNISH THIS INFORMATION. POWELL STATED THE REASON HE BELIEVES HE AND HIS BROTHER WERE CONTACTED IS BECAUSE HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE, SERVED FIVE YEARS FOR ARMED ROBBERY AND AT THAT TIME IN 1967

END PAGE TWO.

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plaintext or code)

Via _____
(Precedence)

AT 44-2386. PAGE THREE.

HIS BROTHER HAD A REPUTATION FOR BEING AN EXPERT WITH A SHOTGUN. POWELL STATED HIS BROTHER, AT THAT TIME CONSTANTLY CARRIED A SAWED-OFF SHOTGUN. LEON POWELL ALLEGED THAT PETE DAVIS, OWNER OF THE BAR, NOTICED RALPH (LNU) COME INTO THE BAR AND WOULD BE ABLE TO VERIFY THAT PART OF THE STORY. FURTHERMORE, LEON POWELL TOLD HIS WIFE, ANNIE LOIS COMPOS, OF THE MEETING WITH RALPH.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, ATLANTA CITY DIRECTORY, HAINES CITY DIRECTORY, AND GREATER ATLANTA SOUTHERN BELL TELEPHONE DIRECTORY FOR THE YEARS 1967-1968, WERE REVIEWED WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS REGARDING ANY ESTABLISHMENT ON MORELAND AVENUE NAMED PETE'S PLACE OR ANY SIMILAR NAME. SHIRLEY LANE, BARTENDER, DRIFTWOOD LOUNGE, 1575 MORELAND AVENUE, ATLANTA, GEORGIA, ADVISED APPROXIMATELY SEVEN OR EIGHT YEARS AGO, AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED PETE DAVIS DID, IN FACT, OWN AND OPERATE A BAR IN THE NEXT BLOCK OF MORELAND AVENUE. SHE HAD HEARD THAT PETE DAVIS HAS SINCE PASSED AWAY. MS. LANE ADVISED PETE'S WIFE, DOROTHY DAVIS, COULD PROBABLY BE CONTACTED AT TELEPHONE 957-2626.

END PAGE THREE

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge