

NR002 EP PLAIN

11:12AM URGENT FEBRUARY 26, 1976 JES

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 (

NU) RECEIVED AT

MIDLAND RESIDENT AGENCY, FEBRUARY 25, 1976.

ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (

NU) 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-302 FOLLOWS.

END. JES -5

FBI ATLANTA PG CLR

44-2386-2423

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| FEB 25 1976 |         |
| FBI-ATLANTA |         |

*Wilson*

1-2

FBI

Date: 2/26/76

017

Transmit the following in PLAIN  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) *6:44p*  
 SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) *8:37p* *RJA*  
 SAC, ST. LOUIS *2:00p* *RJA*  
 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

OUT-GOING

1-Atlanta  
TJW:hlf

SEARCHED

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Approved: *J. G. [Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

SEE AB.

M

Per *hlf*

GPO : 1975 O - 590-592

F B I

Date:

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

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE THREE, AT 44-2386

PSYCHOLOGICAL DETAILS ON EITHER LEON OR CLAUDE POWELL.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS A BACKGROUND OF LEON OWEN  
POWELL:W/M, DOB [REDACTED] STEVENS COUNTY, GA., SERVED IN  
ARMY FROM 1952-55, WITH REGULAR ARMY NO. [REDACTED].

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS FOR CLAUDE POWELL, JR.:

W/M, DOB [REDACTED] STEVENS COUNTY, GA., THERE IS NO  
RECORD IN 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 AND 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.Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1975 O - 590-592

NR017 AT PLAIN

7 8:37 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.

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END PAGE ONE

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

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*Wilson* *Pow*  
*44-2386-2424*

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

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

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR TWO AND TXS

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

2/27/76

SUPV. BERNARD R. BERRY

MURKIN

On 2/26/76, Supv. H. N. HELTERHOFF, FBI HQ, telephonically requested the following additional investigation be conducted:

(1) Recontact LEE CARROLL to determine if in any conversation with TOMMY CARROLL, his brother, if LEE mentioned ~~THE~~ name RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER. It is noted that in earlier conversation with TOM CARROLL he indicated that the name of RALPH SMITH and/or SETZER came up in his conversation with LEE and that was the first time he had heard those names. In essence this lead requires that we determine the origin of the names RALPH SMITH and RALPH SETZER.

(2) With regard to the sketches of Pete's Bar previously furnished the Bureau advise the location relative to the sketches where CLAUD and LEON POWELL have indicated they met RALPH (INU). In the event this information is not readily available do not recontact the POWELL's in this regard.

3 - Atlanta  
BRB:blp  
(3) *blp*

44-2386-2425

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| FBI - Atlanta    |               |

*B*

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

2/27/76

SUPV. BERNARD R. BERRY

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3 - Atlanta  
BRB:blp  
(3)

44-2386-2425

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| FEB 27 1976   |         |
| FBI - ATLANTA |         |

POK  
Loas #1  
CIA Wilson

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

DATE: 2/27/76

FROM : SUPV. BERNARD R. BERRY

SUBJECT: MURKIN

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3 - Atlanta  
BRB:blp  
(3)



5010-108

POE ADVISED 2/27/76

44-2386-2425

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| SEARCHED      | INDEXED |
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| FEB 27 1976   |         |
| FBI - ATLANTA |         |
| WILSON        | PJW     |

LEAD #1 - POE

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

FBI

Date: 2/27/76

Transmit the following in PLAIN  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) *957/p dls*  
 SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) *10:30p/jfr*  
 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. ~~HE~~ 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

1-Atlanta

TJW:hlf  
(1)Approved: *[Signature]*

Special Agent in Charge

Sent *see above*

M

Per *[Signature]*

44-2386-2426

GPO: 1975 O - 590-992

F B I

Date:

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

PAGE TWO,

THE NAME RALPH SMITH OR RALPH SETZER. OBTAIN FROM LEE CARROLL  
ANY INFORMATION REGARDING THE NAME, <sup>WHETHER</sup> ~~RATHER~~ IT BE RALPH SMITH  
OR RALPH SETZER, AND ANY OTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION.  
END.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

*me at*

M

Per

*[Signature]*

GPO : 1975 O - 590-992

NR014 AT PLAIN

10:30 PM NITEL 2-27-76 HLF

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

OUT-6

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WILSON *rw*

44-2386-2426

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.

JFH IN ME ACK FOR ONE TEL ME CL TO U

NR245 WA PLAIN

5:30PM URGENT 2-27-76 VLN

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-922)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

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

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RLT

PAGE TWO

GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH LEON OWEN POWELL  
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

NR045 WA PLAIN

5:30PM URGENT 2-27-76 VLN

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MURKIN

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*2/27  
No action  
pub*

44-2386-2427

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PAGE TWO

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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

NR001 EP PLAIN

10:01AM URGENT MARCH 1, 1976 SWE

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.

S

FBI AT LMM CLR TO

44-2386-2428

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| FBI-ATLANTA |         |

*Ref*

NR001 EP PLAIN

10:01AM URGENT MARCH 1, 1976 SXF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

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

MURKIN

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END.

S

FBI AT LHM CLR IU

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| MAR 01 1976 |         |
| FBI-ATLANTA |         |
| WILSON      | Pd      |

F B I

Date: 2 3/2/76

23

Transmit the following in PLAIN  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) 9:01P/CNN  
EL PASO (44-920) 8:52P LEC  
MEMPHIS (44-1987) 10:40P/RJH

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 SFTZER 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 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

44-2386-2429

Approved: JPD/

Special Agent in Charge

Sent see ab

M

Per cf

GPO : 1975 O - 590-982

F B I

Date:

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

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.

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

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

NR025 AT PLAIN

10:40 PM NITEL 3-2-76 HLF

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 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

OUT-GOING

RECORDED

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APR 1 1976

FBI - EL PASO

*Wilson RW*  
*44-2386-2429*

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.

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

END.

H

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE

SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

3/2/76

SA HAROLD J. POE

MURKIN

Re memo of Supervisor BERNARD R. BERRY,  
2/27/76.

On 3/2/76, LEE CARROLL GODFREY was recontacted and advised he did not know a RALPH SETZER or a SELTZER and did not mention either name to his brother, TOM. LEE GODFREY traveled to Atlanta on the weekend of 2/28/76, and talked to his brother ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD related he did 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. Neither knew of SMITH's current whereabouts. ARNOLD said he knew LEON and CLAUDE HOWELL by site but did not associate with either. He described them as drunks. LEE said ARNOLD is and has always been afraid of the law which is the reason he is not cooperating with the FBI. LEE said ARNOLD denied any knowledge of the alleged contract for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or anything related to the Bureau investigation.

LEE CARROLL GODFREY said that while incarcerated in the Reidsville, Georgia, Penitentiary, date unrecalled, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was arrested for participating in a demonstration and was placed in a cell adjacent to GODFREY's. LEE said he talked to KING for two days prior to his release.

② - Atlanta  
HJP:klm

(2) *rem.*

44-2386-2430

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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

DATE: 3/2/76

FROM : SA HAROLD J. POE

SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re memo of Supervisor BERNARD R. BERRY,  
2/27/76.

On 3/2/76, LEE CARROLL GODFREY was recontacted and advised he did not know a RALPH SETZER or a SELTZER and did not mention either name to his brother, TOM. LEE GODFREY traveled to Atlanta on the weekend of 2/28/76, and talked to his brother ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD related he did 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. Neither knew of SMITH's current whereabouts. ARNOLD said he knew LEON and CLAUDE HOWELL by site but did not associate with either. He described them as drunks. LEE said ARNOLD is and has always been afraid of the law which is the reason he is not cooperating with the FBI. LEE said ARNOLD denied any knowledge of the alleged contract for MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., or anything related to the Bureau investigation.

LEE CARROLL GODFREY said that while incarcerated in the Reidsville, Georgia, Penitentiary, date unrecalled, MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was arrested for participating in a demonstration and was placed in a cell adjacent to GODFREY's. LEE said he talked to KING for two days prior to his release.

② - Atlanta  
HJP:klm

(2)  
*klm*

44-2386-2430

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

NR014 SL PLAIN

745 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) 262-46-4181, 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 79, 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

44-2386-2431

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| MAR 2 1976  |         |
| FBI-ATLANTA |         |

*B*

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 260-46-4181, HAD VETERANS ADMINISTRATION (VA) CLAIM WITH VA DATED OCTOBER 14, 1969.

MILITARY SERVICE RECORD WAS NOT LOCATED FOR CLAUDE POWELL.

ST.

MOIS WILL REVIEW LEON POWELL'S VA CLAIM FILE AT VA RECORD PROCESSING CENTER, ST.

MOIS, MISSOURI, WHEN MADE AVAILABLE AND FURNISH NITEL RESULTS TO BUREAU, ATLANTA, AND MEMPHIS.

END

FBI AT ACK FOR ONE

RLF THANKS CLR

NR014 SL PLAIN

745 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.

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[REDACTED] SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER [REDACTED]

BORN

[REDACTED] TOCCOA, GEORGIA, ENLISTED UNITED STATES ARMY AT

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POWELL'S REPORT OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION DATED DECEMBER 79, 1955, DISCLOSED "MULTIPLE PSEUDOSOMATIC 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

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| FBI-ATLANTA |         |
| [Signature] |         |

PAGE TWO SL 44-775

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END

FBI AT ACK FOR ONE

HLF THANKS CLR

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) *908/SOP*  
EL PASO (44-920) *704/LCC*  
MEMPHIS (44-1987) *729/JH*  
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

TJW/lp  
(1)OUT-GOING

SEARCHED         
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44-2386-2432

Approved: J. D. [Signature]  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent

9:06

P M

Per

LP

NR018 AT PLAIN

9:06 PM NITEL MARCH 3, 1976 LAP

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-928)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

REATNITEL, MARCH 2, 1976.

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

END

HOLD FOR TWO MORE

OUT-GOING

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FILED

*Wilson* *PW*

44-2386- 2432

AT 44-2386

TJW:wy

1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON at Atlanta, Georgia on February 23, 1976:

Lieutenant STRICKLAND, Permit Section, Atlanta Police Department, Atlanta, Georgia, advised DIANE BRAND also known as Diane Brady took over the management of the bar named "The Office" on August 28, 1974. The previous owner was THOMAS M. HYATT, 2131 Flat Shoals Road, Atlanta, Georgia. HYATT owned the bar from February, 1972 until 1974. JAMES MAYNARD LIVINGSTONE, 622 Farrar Court, Decatur, Georgia, previously owned the bar from 1969 until 1972. The bar originally opened up in 1969.

PATRICIA BLUE, manager, apartments located at 4131 Flat Shoals Road advised THOMAS M. HYATT has not lived at that address for the last two years. She has been the manager of that complex for that period of time. She was unable to find any material in her file regarding THOMAS M. HYATT.

Records of the United States Post Office, East Atlanta Branch, Metropolitan Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, were reviewed with negative results regarding any forwarding address for THOMAS M. HYATT. The carrier for that route advised THOMAS HYATT has been gone from 4131 Flat Shoals Road for approximately three years.

A review of the Atlanta City Directory and the Atlanta suburban directory reflects approximately 1104 RALPH or R. SMITHs. The Greater Atlanta Southern Bell telephone directory lists in excess of 104 RALPH or R. SMITHs. Neither the city directory nor the telephone book shows any listing for R. SETZER.

On February 24, 1975, BARBARA WAGER, Department of Motor Vehicles, State of Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and requested to review the state tax records for any automobile owned by ARNOLD RAY GODFREY from 1967 to 1968.

44-2386-2433

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*Wilson* *HW*

AT 44-2386

2

On February 25, 1976, BARBARA WAGER, Department of Motor Vehicles, Atlanta, Georgia, advised her records reflect that in 1968 A. R. GODFREY of 569 Gresham Road, Atlanta, Georgia, had license in the State of Georgia for a 1960 Chevrolet Impala, Georgia license 2J40393. Ms. WAGER advised that there are no other cars registered to A. R. GODFREY.

On February 24, 1976, JOE WALLACE, Security Office, Delta Air Lines, Atlanta, Georgia, advised that the air lines do not keep the names of individuals who fly on their air lines longer than 90 days. According to the Civil Aeronautics Board, the actual tickets are maintained for 90 days. A computer run showing the history of the ticket is maintained in the air lines files for 30 days, therefore, after 90 days the air lines would not be able to supply any passenger information.

FBI

Date: 3/4/76

16

PLAIN

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plaintext or code)Via TELETYPE NITEL  
(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) *717P, SJP*  
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) *900P/rjk*  
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.

TJW

OUT-GOING

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44-2386-  
2434

Approved: *[Signature]*  
Special Agent in ChargeSent *[Signature]*M Per *[Signature]*

NR016 AT PLAIN

9:00 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.

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

END.

RJH

ME IS CLR FOR ONE

OUT-GOING

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INDEXED

*Wilson*  
*BW*  
*44-2386-2434*

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

FWM:mg  
(8)

44-7386-2435

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| MAR 5 1976  |         |
| FBI-ATLANTA |         |

B

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) <sup>dim</sup>
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 1)
- 2 - El Paso

PWN:mg  
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44-2386-2435

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| MAR 5 1976    |         |
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| <i>Wilton</i> | PW      |

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

3/3/76

Date of transcription

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.

44-2386-2436

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*hills* *Pow*

Interviewed on 2/26/76 at Midland, Texas

EP 44-920  
ME 44-1987

by SA FRANZ W. NENZEL:mg

3/1/76

Date dictated

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

RAYMOND GODFREY, 5228 Kingswood Circle, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

He is familiar with an individual named ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY was known to everyone as RAY GODFREY and he is known to everyone as RAYMOND 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 Place. He stated that CLAUDE POWELL had a reputation around the bar as having a beastful manner while he was drunk, however, being a very friendly fellow while sober. He never knew CLAUDE POWELL to be in any sort of trouble or to be vicious in any way.

He was quite friendly with RAY GODFREY, however, is not related to him in any way. He described RAY GODFREY as being a "good old boy" who would not be in any trouble. RAY GODFREY is a very friendly individual and he never saw RAY GODFREY cause any trouble in the bar. He was unable to identify from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown this photograph, he advised he had never seen this individual. He advised that he was in Pete's Place or Bill Bailey's Lounge almost every night from 1966 to 1967. RAYMOND GODFREY advised that through his association with RAY GODFREY, he knew that GODFREY had no use for Blacks, but would not harm anyone. GODFREY was not unique in his dislike for Blacks among the patrons of the bar, however, RAY GODFREY was an individual who would not resort to violence.

Interviewed on 2/19/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 2437  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

PATSY BOOZER, 1202 Fleetwood Drive, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She advised that approximately seven years ago, she had worked for a LEWIS CLARK at Bill Bailey's Lounge. She stated she was a bartender at this lounge. From the spread of photographs shown to her, she picked out the photograph of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY as a frequent customer at Bill Bailey's Lounge. As far as she knew, GODFREY had a good reputation and was not known to be a trouble-maker with the police department. She did not know of any of RAY GODFREY's friends. She was not familiar with the photograph of CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. She was unable to select a composite of RALPH (last name unknown). When specifically shown an artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) she advised she had never seen this individual.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 2438  
by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, JR.  
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 2/24/76

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

JACKIE POWELL, 4163 Camby Lane, Decatur, Georgia, was contacted and supplied the following information:

The only time that she heard about the incident involving the offer of money to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was when her husband mentioned it to her after KING had been assassinated. She was positive her husband had never mentioned it to her before the assassination. Her husband told her he had been offered a large sum of money to assassinate KING but had refused the contract.

She advised she had been married to CLAUDE POWELL for twenty years and knows him quite well. It is her opinion that the whole story is a fabrication made up by her husband and his brother, LEON. She considers LEON to be an alcoholic. She would not believe any of the stories that LEON and CLAUDE told her. She stated that she felt the Government was wasting its time on this allegation.

Interviewed on 2/17/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 2439  
by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, Jr.  
SA THOMAS J. WILSON tw Date dictated 2/24/76

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3/2/76

HAZEL EVANS, 788 Moreland Avenue, Atlanta, Georgia, was contacted and furnished the following information:

She worked as a bartender at Bill Bailey's Lounge from 1966 to 1969. She worked the night shift and generally came on duty at 6:00 P.M. and worked until 2:00 A.M. The day bartender was JUNE HALL. A couple of times her niece, PAT BOOZER, worked in the bar, however, she was not a regular employee. "BUCK" BAILEY owned the bar in 1966, however, LEWIS CLARK managed the business the whole time that BAILEY owned it. Sometime in 1967 or 1968 LEWIS CLARK bought out "BUCK" BAILEY and owned it himself. BAILEY had very little to do with the bar and it was very seldom that he would come out to the location.

She picked out the photograph of ARNOLD RAY GODFREY from a spread of photographs and advised she had known him since he moved to Atlanta from Copperhill, Tennessee. She advised he was a very quiet individual and could not believe he could be in any trouble. GODFREY was a very likeable individual and almost everybody seemed to be friends with him. She also picked out the picture of CLAUDE POWELL as being a frequent customer of the bar known as Bill Bailey's Lounge. She was unable to pick from a spread of photographs the artist's conception of RALPH (last name unknown) as being a customer of the bar or a friend of RAY GODFREY. When specifically shown the artist's conception, she stated she did not remember any individual looking like that as being at the bar. She advised GODFREY never worked as a bartender at Bill Bailey's Lounge. She knows of no other individual who frequented the bar named RALPH. She advised she does not know where any of the former patrons of Bill Bailey's Lounge can be located. She stated that the whole neighborhood where Bill Bailey's Lounge was located has changed racially and that all of the former patrons have moved to different parts of the city.

Interviewed on 2/18/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 2440  
by SA JAMES Y. BLANKNER, Jr.  
SA THOMAS J. WILSON Date dictated 2/24/76

FBI

Date: 3/5/76

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plaintext or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) 919/pmk  
SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) 935p/rjh  
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., ON 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. ON MARCH 6, 1976.

END.

1-Atlanta  
TJW:hlf  
(1) *chf*

OUT-9001

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

NR015 AT PLAIN

9:35 PM NITEL 3-5-76 HLFW

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

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

MURKIN.

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

RJH

ACK FOR WO A TWO AND HOLD

OUT-GOING

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*Wilson*  
*44-2386-2441*  
*NW*

NR015 SL PLAIN

1029 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 ADMINI-  
STRATION RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER (VARPC), ST. LOUIS, MO.,  
INDICATED LEON POWELL, SERIAL NUMBER [REDACTED], SSAN [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] FILED VA CLAIM JUNE 17, 1969, UNDER NUMBER [REDACTED],  
FOR OUTPATIENT DENTAL TREATMENT, ATLANTA, GA. CLAIM DENIED  
JULY 23, 1969, 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

HOLD FOR CORRECTION

LINE 10, SSAN [REDACTED] SHOULD READ [REDACTED]

3/5 no action  
just

44-2386-2442

|                                                |                                             |
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| SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   |
| MAR 5 1976                                     |                                             |
| FBI-ATLANTA                                    |                                             |
| Wilson                                         |                                             |

FBI A 1 CLR FOR TWO AND CLR ON CORRECTIONS

NR013 SL PLAIN

1029 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 [REDACTED], SSAN [REDACTED], FILED VA CLAIM JUNE 17, 1958, UNDER NUMBER [REDACTED], 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 VERIFICATION OF POWELL. NO OTHER VA CLAIMS WERE LOCATED IN THE RECORDS.

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

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

END

HOLD FOR CORRECTION

LINE 10, SSAN [REDACTED] SHOULD READ [REDACTED]

44-2386-2442

FBI AT CLR FOR TWO AND CLR ON CORRECTIONS

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| MAR 5 1976    |         |
| FBI - ATLANTA |         |

AT 44-2386

TJW:dd

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At Gilmer County, Georgia, on March 2, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY was recontacted and advised he did not know a RALPH SETZER or SELTZER and did not mention either name to his brother TOM.

LEE GODFREY traveled to Atlanta on the weekend of February 28, 1976, and talked to his brother ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. ARNOLD related that he did know a RALPH SMITH, however, when LEE described the individual he knew as RALPH SMITH, ARNOLD said he thought the man's name was JIM SMITH. Neither knew of SMITH's current whereabouts. ARNOLD stated he knew LEON and CLAUDE POWELL by sight but did not associate with either. ARNOLD described the POWELLS as drunks. LEE advised ARNOLD is and always had been afraid of the law which is the reason he is not cooperating with the FBI. LEE stated that ARNOLD denied any knowledge of the alleged contract to assassinate Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. or anything related to the Bureau investigation.

LEE CARROLL GODFREY advised that while incarcerated in the Reidsville, Georgia, State Penitentiary, date unrecalled, Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. was arrested for participating in a demonstration and placed in a cell adjacent to LEE CARROLL GODFREY. LEE CARROLL GODFREY stated that he talked to KING for two days prior to his release.

44-2386-2443

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| MAR 5 1976  |         |
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AT 44-2386

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At Fannin County, Georgia, on February 23, 1976, a composite photograph of an individual known 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 furthermore did not know anyone named RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER. He mentioned the name RALPH SETZER during the prior interview only because LEE CARROLL GODFREY related to him about his contact with the FBI and their interest in a RALPH. TOMMY stated LEE told him the man's name was RALPH SETZER.

On February 23, 1976, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, Boardtown Road, Gilmer County, Georgia, was shown a composite photograph of RALPH (Last Name Unknown) and advised it was quite dissimilar to the man he recognized as RALPH SMITH, a former associate of his and his brother ARNOLD. When he last saw RALPH SMITH three and a half years ago, RALPH had a duck haircut full on the sides and flat on the top. He was also approximately 45 years old at that time. The only individual LEE CARROLL could remember who knew RALPH was a divorcee named LAVENE COOK (phonetic), who resided in Marietta, Georgia. COOK used to date RALPH and both of them frequented the lounge known as The Office.

A review of the Greater Atlanta Southern Bell Telephone Directory failed to reflect any listings for a LAVENE or a LAVERNE COOK. A review of the Cobb County and City of Marietta Directory also failed to reflect any listing for a LAVERNE or a LAVENE COOK.

44-2386-2444

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| MAR 1976      |         |
| FBI - ATLANTA |         |
| Wilson        | TW      |

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 3-5-76

WILLIAM LOWERY was contacted at his place of employment, Lowery Music Incorporated, and furnished the following information:

In 1966, he handled a professional country and western singer named RAY GODFREY. His records show that GODFREY's real name was R. A. GODFREY. He did not have any personal contacts with GODFREY but mainly dealt with him on a professional basis.

His opinion of GODFREY was that GODFREY was just a "good ole country boy" and that GODFREY could not be in any sort of trouble.

LOWERY viewed a spread of photographs which included RALPH (Last Name Unknown) and was unable to identify any of the individuals. When specifically shown the photograph of RALPH (Last Name Unknown), LOWERY advised that he had not seen this 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 songs and be paid.

LOWERY was not familiar with any musician with RALPH SMITH or RALPH SETZER.

Interviewed on 2-27-76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386  
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON:dd Date dictated 3-3-76 2445

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