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of

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INVESTIGATION

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44-HQ-38861-86*

SERIALS 6054-6105

44- HQ-38861

SECTION 86

SECTION 86
SERIALS 6054-6105

SUBJECT - KING ASSASSINATION
FILE # - MURKIN

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

209 Pages

ANALYST - 7harp
EXT - 5566
TEAM - 0-2

b3 b7d

Section 86

FILE #	SERIAL/ENC OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	b1	2	5	7C	D	OTHER	k1	2	5	6	OTHER	REMARKS
44-38861	6054	TIT TO ATLANTA		5	5						✓						RELEASE
	6055	NEW YORK AT		2	2						✓						EXCISE
	6056	EL PASO AT		9	9						✓						RELEASE
	6057	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		3	3												RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1												
	6058	ATLANTA TIT		6	6						✓						RELEASE
	6059	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		1	1												
	6060	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		4	4												RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	MEMPHIS TIT		5	5						✓						RELEASE
	"	LETTER TO MURPHY		3	3						✓						RELEASE
	6061	ATLANTA TIT		1	1						✓						RELEASE
	6062	ATLANTA TIT		1	1						✓						RELEASE
	6063	EL PASO TIT		3	3						✓						RELEASE
	6064	ATLANTA TIT		3	3						✓						RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1												
	6065	KNOXVILLE TIT		3	3						✓						RELEASE
	6066	CONCORDIA AT		2	2												

REMOVED BY _____ DATE _____

XEROXED BY _____ DATE _____

REFILED BY _____ DATE _____

SUBJECT
FILE #

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

ANALYST -
EXT -
TEAM -

Section 86

FILE #	SERIAL/ENC OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	EXEMPTIONS											REMARKS
						b1	2	5	7C	D	OTHER	k1	2	5	6	OTHER	
44-38861	6067	CINCINNATI AT		2	2												
	6068	ATLANTA TIT		4	4						✓						RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		4	4						✓						RELEASE
	6069	ATLANTA REPORT		41	36						✓ b3						RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	ARREST RECORD		3	0						b3						RELEASE
	6070	ATLANTA TIT		1	1						✓						RELEASE
	6071	ATLANTA TIT		2	2						✓						RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		2	2						✓						RELEASE
	6072	EL PASO AT		4	4						✓						RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1						✓						RELEASE
	6073	ATLANTA TIT		4	4						✓						RELEASE
	6074	ATLANTA TIT		1	1						✓						RELEASE
	6075	ATLANTA TIT		2	2						✓						RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1												
	6076	ATLANTA TIT		4	4						✓						RELEASE
	6077	TIT TO ATLANTA		3	3						✓						RELEASE
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1												

REMOVED BY _____ DATE _____

XEROXED BY _____ DATE _____

REFILED BY _____ DATE _____

SUBJECT
FILE # *Murphy*

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

ANALYST - *7/ary*
EXT -
TEAM -

Section 86

FILE #	SERIAL/ENC OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	EXEMPTIONS										REMARKS	
						b1	2	5	7C	D	OTHER	k1	2	5	6		OTHER
44-38861	6078	MEMPHIS LETTER		3	3												
	6079	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		3	3												
	6080	ATLANTA TIT		3	3					✓							Release
	6081	ATLANTA TIT		2	2					✓							Release
	6082	ATLANTA TIT		2	2					✓							Release
	6083	MEMPHIS TIT		2	2					✓							Release
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1												
	6084	ATLANTA TIT		4	4					✓							Release
	6085	CHARLOTTE AT		1	1												
	6086	ATLANTA TIT		2	2					✓							Release
	6087	ATLANTA TIT		3	3					✓							Release
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1												
	6088	EL PASO TIT		1	1					✓							Release
	Unrecorded Serial	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		5	5					✓							Release
	6089	ATLANTA TIT		3	3					✓							Release
	Unrecorded Serial	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1												
	6090	ATLANTA TIT		2	2					✓							Release

REMOVED BY _____ DATE _____

XEROXED BY _____ DATE _____

REFILED BY _____ DATE _____

SUBJECT
FILE # *Martin*

WORK SHEET - XEROX REQUEST

ANALYST - *Harp*
EXT -
TEAM # -

Section 86

FILE #	SERIAL/ENC OR DATE	DESCRIPTION	XEROX INSTR.	# OF ACT.	PAGES REL.	b1	2	5	EXEMPTIONS						OTHER	REMARKS
44-38861	6091	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		1	1											
	6092	EL PASO TIT		1	1				✓							Release
	6093	ST. LOUIS TIT		2	2				✓							Release
	<i>Unmarked Serial</i>	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1											
	6094	ATLANTA TIT		2	2				✓							Release
	<i>Unmarked Serial</i>	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		2	2											
	"	LETTER TO MURPHY		1	1											
	6095	EL PASO AT		2	2				✓							Release
	6096	ATLANTA TIT		1	1				✓							Release
	6097	ATLANTA TIT		1	1				✓							Release
	6098	ST. LOUIS TIT		1	1				✓							Release
	6099	ATLANTA TIT		1	1				✓							Release
	6100	ATLANTA TIT		1	1				✓							Release
	6101	AT TO ATLANTA		1	1				✓							Release
	6102	CINCINNATI AT		2	2											
	6103	EL PASO AT		1	1				✓							Release
	6104	INTERNAL MEMORANDUM		8	8				✓							Release

REMOVED BY _____ DATE _____

XEROXED BY _____ DATE _____

REFILED BY _____ DATE _____

W. W. W.

ANALYST - *Harp*
EXT -
TEAM 1 -

Section 86

RELEASE

APPROVED BY _____ DATE _____

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Congressional Inquiry Unit
6-

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2/11/77

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The following material has been reproduced
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the House Select Committee on Assassinations:

File No.

44-38861

Sub A

Section

86

Serials

6054

through

6105

(except following serials not in
file on this date:

Enclosure Behind File or Bulky Enclosure:

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By

JTA

RETAIN THIS FORM AS TOP SERIAL

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

NITEL

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

2/3/76

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

1 - Mr. Peelman

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

1 - Mr. Helterhoff

MURKIN

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION (CRD), U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
HAS REQUESTED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE
THE ALLEGATION OF LEON OWEN POWELL AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

ATLANTA AND EL PASO SHOULD THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE
INTERVIEWS OF THE POWELLS NOTING THE DIFFERENCES IN EACH OF
THEIR VERSIONS AND REINTERVIEW THE POWELLS TO FURTHER
RESOLVE ALL DETAILS OF THIS ALLEGED MEETING IN THE BAR.
DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW MANY TIMES THEY TALKED WITH EACH OTHER
ABOUT THIS ALLEGED MEETING SINCE ITS OCCURRENCE. DETERMINE
FROM THEM HOW IT CAN BE VERIFIED THAT THEY WERE IN ATLANTA
AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING AND CONDUCT ANY
INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION TO VERIFY THEY WERE ACTUALLY
IN ATLANTA AT THE TIME OF THE MEETING. HAVE EACH OF THE
POWELLS PREPARE A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR,
INCLUDING THE BOOTH WHERE EACH PARTICIPANT OF THE ALLEGED

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Legal Coun. _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

HNH:bap (4)

SEE NOTE PAGE 5...

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 03 1976

TELETYPE

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

GPO : 1975 O - 569-920

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

PAGE TWO (44-38861)

MEETING WAS SEATED. DETERMINE FROM EACH IF THE UNSUB (RALPH LNU) HAD ANY TYPE OF AN ACCENT. EL PASO QUESTION CLAUDE SPECIFICALLY RE POLYGRAPH INDICATING HE HAS POSSIBLE KNOWLEDGE REGARDING THE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON AS SET FORTH IN YOUR JANUARY 20, 1976, TELETYPE.

EL PASO SHOULD SHOW THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) (THE FINAL, AS PREPARED BY LEON OWEN POWELL) TO CLAUDE POWELL, JR., IN A SPREAD OF PHOTOGRAPHS. EL PASO SHOULD ALSO INTERVIEW CO-WORKERS OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR., TO DETERMINE IF HE HAS TALKED ABOUT THIS ALLEGED MEETING. RE-CHECK RECORDS OF SCOTTISH INN FOR RECORD OF ANY OUTGOING CALLS MADE BY CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

ATLANTA SHOULD ASCERTAIN IF ANY RECORDS ARE IN EXISTENCE TO ESTABLISH IDENTITY OF ALL FORMER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S BAR AND INTERVIEW THEM FOR ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY RALPH (LNU).

ATLANTA SHOULD ALSO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW ALL KNOWN FORMER CUSTOMERS OF PETE'S BAR NOTING THAT DIANE BRADY, WHO OPERATES "THE OFFICE" BAR, STATED A LOT OF THE CUSTOMERS ARE STILL AROUND AND FREQUENT HER BAR, "THE OFFICE."

PAGE THREE (44-38861)

MAKE FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW "DUKE."
ATLANTA SHOULD MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW
"DOTTIE," A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF PETE'S BAR. IF NECESSARY,
IF IT CAN BE ARRANGED, HAVE DIANE BRADY OBSERVE DOTTIE UNDERHILL TO
DETERMINE IF SHE IS IDENTICAL WITH THE DOTTIE FORMERLY EMPLOYED AT
PETE'S BAR, SINCE UNDERHILL DENIED SHE EVER WORKED THERE.

ATLANTA SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION INTO THE BACKGROUND
OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION
BY THE POWELLS THAT HE INTRODUCED THE UNSUB TO THEM IN THE
BAR. IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW HIS RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES,
INCLUDING ANY "COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER" ASSOCIATES.
PARTICULARLY DETERMINE IF GODFREY EVER KNOWN TO ASSOCIATE
WITH A RALPH AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW RALPH.
VERIFY GODFREY'S PRESENCE IN ATLANTA AT TIME OF ALLEGED
MEETING. CRD STATED GODFREY'S ATTORNEY SHOULD NOT BE
CONTACTED AT THIS TIME.

ATLANTA INTERVIEW JACKIE POWELL, 4163 CANBY LANE, DECATUR,
GEORGIA, WIFE OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR., FOR ANY KNOWLEDGE
OF THIS INCIDENT, INCLUDING WHETHER CLAUDE POWELL, JR., EVER
TOLD HER ABOUT THIS ALLEGED PAYMENT OFFER.

PAGE FOUR (44-38861)

ATLANTA AND EL PASO SHOULD SHOW THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) IN A SPREAD TO ALL PERTINENT WITNESSES.

ATLANTA REINTERVIEW DOROTHY DAVIS RE REMEMBERING WHETHER HER HUSBAND EVER TOLD HER OF ANYONE COMING INTO BAR WITH LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY, OR IF SHE HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT; SHOW ON AN ATLANTA CITY MAP LOCATION OF PETE'S BAR IN COMPARISON TO WHERE JAMES EARL RAY HAD STAYED IN ATLANTA.

THE CRD IS ADVISING THE USAS AT ATLANTA AND MEMPHIS OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE INVESTIGATION RE THE POWELL ALLEGATION. CRD, HOWEVER, REQUESTED THAT YOU DO NOT DISSEMINATE ANY INFORMATION TO THE USAS. IF THE USAS HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, ADVISE THEM TO CONTACT THE CRD DIRECT.

CRD STATED THE FBI SHOULD NOT COMMENT TO ANY INQUIRIES FROM THE NEWS MEDIA CONCERNING THIS INVESTIGATION AND ANY SUCH INQUIRIES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE CRD.

ATLANTA SHOULD COORDINATE ALL ASPECTS OF THIS INVESTIGATION TO RESOLVE THE POWELL ALLEGATION. HANDLE ANY ADDITIONAL OBVIOUS AND LOGICAL LEADS DEVELOPED AND IF ANY QUESTION ARISES RE COVERING ANY ADDITIONAL LEAD, PROMPTLY CONTACT FBIHQ.

PAGE FIVE (44-3886])

PROMPTLY 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.
END

NOTE: See Peelman to Gallagher memorandum, same date,
same caption.

FBI

CONFIDENTIAL

Date: 1/16/76

Transmit the following in _____

Via AIRTELClassified by 275 WW/DMS
Declassify on: OADR 4/25/89
Garratt/King 87-0546

(Type in plaintext or code)

CLASSIFIED BY SPICKER/02
DECLASSIFY ON: 25X 1(Priority) 10-22-01

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK

SUBJECT: DEMONSTRATION BY RESEARCH ACTION GROUP ON
ASSASSINATION AT NYO, 1/15/76

ReButel call from Supervisor THOMAS B. CALL, 1/14/76.

At 11:30 AM, 1/15/76, a group of fifteen (15) demonstrators representing Research Action Group on Assassination appeared at the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. ROBERT RANFTLE, spokesman for the group, was met by SAC PHILIP A. MC NIFF.

According to RANFTLE, the purpose of the demonstration was to bring to the public's attention the possibility that a conspiracy existed in the killing of Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. and that this should be pursued.

RANFTLE was advised that the Attorney General of the United States is currently reviewing the FBI investigation of Dr. KING's death. They were also advised that the NYO does not have the complete investigative files concerning this matter.

RANFTLE indicated he would communicate with the Attorney General concerning this matter.

The demonstration lasted one hour and was peaceful.

- 2 - Bureau
1 - New York

MMM:mgm
(3)

FEB 10 1976

15 JAN 19 1976

59 FEB 19 1976

Approved: PG

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

CONFIDENTIAL

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1969 O - 346-090 (11)

CONFIDENTIAL

FEB 5 1976
JAN 29 1976

JAN 19 2 25 PM '76
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INTELLIGENCE DIV

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ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
DIVISION

FEB 4 10 08 AM '76

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (100-157341)
SUBJECT: [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows, appearing to be a teletype message with several lines of information.]

RECEIVED
CHANCERY

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New York indices contain no record of Research Action Group on Assassination.

NYfile 100-128968, entitled "LIBERATION MAGAZINE", serial 487, contains a report by NY 7615-S dated 7/29/75, advising that Liberation is now working with the Assassination Information Bureau, a group from Boston. CARL OBELSBY and BOB KATZ have recently visited NYC to hold meetings with local activists on the group's work. Local contact is ROBERT RANFTLE, telephone 982-8545.

-2-

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CONFIDENTIAL

New York indices contain no record of Research
Action Group on Assassination

NYfile 100-158328, entitled "LIBERATION MAGAZINE",
serial 187, contains a report dated 7/15/75, dated 7/15/75,
stating that Liberation is now working with the
Assassination Information Bureau, a group from Boston.
CART OBERBY and EOD KAT have recently visited NY to
hold meetings with local activists on the group's
work. Local contact as ROBERT TAVELLE, telephone
302-6565.

CONFIDENTIAL

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section

1/20

, 19____

☐	Name Searching Unit - Room 6527
☐	Service Unit - Room 6524
☐	Forward to File Review
☐	Attention
☒	Return to <u>Aldhizer 4077 JEH 4643</u>
	Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

☐ Regular Request (Analytical Search)
☒ All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)
☐ Subversive References Only
☐ Nonsubversive References Only
☐ Main _____ References Only

Type of Search Requested:

☐ Restricted to Locality of _____
☒ Exact Name Only (On the Nose)
☐ Buildup ☐ Variations

Research Action Group on

Subject Assassination

Birthdate & Place

Address

Localities

R# _____ Date _____ Initials _____

Initials

Prod.

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

NR

F B I

Date: 1/15/76

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

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

Re El Paso teletype to Bureau, 1/8/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau and receiving offices
are two copies each of an FD-302 reflecting interview of
CLAUDE POWELL, JR., at Midland, Texas, on 1/8/76.

El Paso Division will leave this matter pending
until such time as the Bureau or receiving offices request
additional interview or polygraph examination of CLAUDE
POWELL, JR.

ENCLOSURE
② Bureau (Enc. 2)
2- Atlanta (44-2638) (Enc. 2)
2- Memphis (Enc. 2)
2- El Paso
FWN:pm
(8)

REC-100

44-38861-6056
23 JAN 23 1976

Not disseminated to CRD as FD 302 included in report.

Approved: _____

Sent _____ M Per _____

84 FEB 19 1976

Special Agent in Charge

GPO : 1970 O - 402-735

8 FEB 13 1976

INCONS FEB 5 1976
outcons FEB 5 1976
BAO

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

JAN 26 9 54 AM '76

F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

1/15/76

AIRTEL

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②- Bureau (Enc. 2)
2- Atlanta (44-2639) (Enc. 2)
2- Memphis (Enc. 2)
2- El Paso
FWM:pm
(8)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/15/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was located at the Scottish Inn Motel, Interstate Highway 20 at Holiday Hill Road, Room 211. POWELL was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and at the outset of the interview was asked if he had been in contact with any member of his family or in particular, his brother, LEON POWELL. POWELL denied being in contact with any member of his family, including LEON POWELL, since his departure from Atlanta, Georgia, on December 31, 1975. He was then interviewed as follows:

POWELL was asked if he had ever been offered a large sum of money to commit a murder, and he immediately volunteered that he had been offered \$25,000 shortly before the actual assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING. He recalled the circumstances of that offer as follows:

Approximately three to four weeks prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he and his brother, LEON POWELL, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. A friend of his brother, RAY GODFREY, a musician and Atlanta City employee, joined them at their booth and engaged in conversation with LEON. He paid no particular attention to what LEON and RAY were talking about. GODFREY left the booth, and, in approximately 10 to 15 minutes, an individual previously unknown to him, came to their booth and seated himself opposite from LEON and him.

As this unknown person sat down, he placed an expensive-looking black brief case on the table. He described the unknown person as being a white male, approximately 5'8" in height, medium build, approximately 150 pounds, approximately 30 years of age. POWELL explained that the unknown person appeared to him to be out of place in such an establishment as Pete's Bar, in view of his dress, which did not fit into the crowd that frequented Pete's Bar.

On 1/8/76 at Midland, Texas File # EP 44-920
by SA GERALD D. GALBREATH
SA FRANZ W. NENZEL FWN:pm Date dictated 1/14/76

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.

ENCLOSURE
44-38861-6056

The unknown person impressed him as being a well educated person, who appeared to be a professional type such as a lawyer. He said the unknown person was clean cut, and very calm and cool in his manner. He stated the unknown person may have introduced himself, but he does not recall any names. The unknown person asked LEON and him if they wanted to pull a job. He does not know the exact wording, but he questioned the unknown person concerning the nature of the job, and how much money it paid. The unknown person told him and LEON that he wanted them to do away with someone and when POWELL questioned the unknown person further, he was told that it was someone important. The unknown person then told him and LEON that he wanted them to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, and would pay them \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unknown person then opened his brief case which was full of wrapped currency; some of the bills he noticed were in \$100 denominations. He stated that he was shocked by the statements of the unknown person, and initially assumed that it was some sort of prank or possibly a law enforcement officer trying to trick him. After the unknown person made the offer, he ignored any further conversation, whereupon the unknown person closed his brief case and departed.

He has never had any further contact, nor did he ever ascertain the identity of the unknown person, or means or reason for the offered payment to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He related that he had gained the bad reputation of being a hoodlum because of his past prison record, participation in several fights, and habit of carrying a shotgun in his vehicle, which he frequently loaned to the bartender at Pete's Bar whenever trouble occurred. He denied ever receiving such an offer prior to this incident, and further denied affiliation with any group which advocated racial hatred. He admitted that he had made statements while drunk to the effect that he had no aversion to killing blacks, although he had never seriously considered doing so.

POWELL stated he was shocked and dismayed to learn, approximately three to four weeks later, that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been murdered. He advised that he did not

go to any law enforcement officers, and tell them of the above contact with the unknown person, because he felt he might become a suspect in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

POWELL was then requested to assist the FBI by providing an artist conception of the unknown person who contacted him at Pete's Bar by the use of a facial identification catalogue. It was explained to POWELL that a sketch would be made from a combination of features that he selected from photographs displayed in the catalogue. Each category in the catalogue was thoroughly explained and photographs in these categories were shown to POWELL. POWELL then stated that he would be unable to assist in this regard because he had only talked with the unknown person for approximately five minutes, and that he would not recognize him even if he was brought into his motel room at that moment.

The following descriptive data was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	CLAUDE POWELL, JR.
Alias	Junior Powell Shotgun Powell
Sex	Male
Race	White
Date of Birth	
Place of Birth	Stephens County, Georgia
Height	6'2
Weight	Pll 170
Hair	Gray-Black
Eyes	Blue
Education	Finished 4th grade
Employment	Self employed
Occupation	Carpenter and dry wall finisher
Parent	HEPSIE POWELL, Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia
Brothers	LEON POWELL, Atlanta, Georgia HUBERT POWELL Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia WENDELL POWELL, Belmont, North Carolina (address unknown) EDWARD POWELL, Shamdon, Georgia

EP 44-920

4

Sister

FLORIS BRYSON
Franklin, North Carolina
(address unknown)

Wife

JACKIE POWELL,
unemployed, 4163 Camby Lane,
no telephone, Decatur, Georgia
Same as wife

Permanent address
Tattoos

Dragon, left bicep; "LUCY,
my wife is so dear to me",
left forearm; "LOIS" inside
right forearm; "Too sweet
to live, to mean to die",
across chest; "BONNIE" upper
right shoulder; "BETTY", upper
left shoulder

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/15/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was located at the Scottish Inn Motel, Interstate Highway 20 at Holiday Hill Road, Room 211. POWELL was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and at the outset of the interview was asked if he had been in contact with any member of his family or in particular, his brother LEON POWELL. POWELL denied being in contact with any member of his family including LEON POWELL since his departure from Atlanta, Georgia, on December 31, 1975. He was then interviewed as follows:

POWELL was asked if he had ever been offered a large sum of money to commit a murder and he immediately volunteered that he had been offered \$25,000 shortly before the actual assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING. He recalled the circumstances of that offer as follows:

Approximately three to four weeks prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he and his brother, LEON POWELL were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. A friend of his brother, RAY GODFREY, a musician and Atlanta City employee, joined them at their booth and engaged in conversation with LEON. He paid no particular attention to what LEON and RAY were talking about and GODFREY left the booth after approximately 10 to 15 minutes had passed.

After GODFREY left, an individual previously unknown to him came to their booth and seated himself opposite from he and LEON. As this unknown person sat down he placed an expensive looking black brief case on the table. He described the unknown person as being a white male, approximately 5'8" in height, medium build, approximately 150 pounds, approximately 30 years of age. POWELL explained that the unknown person appeared to him to be out of place in such an establishment as Pete's Bar in view of his dress which did not fit into the crowd that frequented Pete's Bar. The unknown person impressed him as being a well educated

Interviewed on 1/8/76 at Midland, Texas File # EP 44-920
by SA GERALD D. GALBREATH
SA FRANZ W. NENZEL FWN:pm Date dictated 1/14/76

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

person, who appeared to be a professional type such as a lawyer. He said the unknown person was clean cut, and very calm and cool in his manner. He said the unknown person may have introduced himself but he does not recall any names. The unknown person asked he and LEON if they wanted to pull a job. He does not know the exact wording but he questioned the unknown person concerning the nature of the job and how much money it paid. The unknown person told him and LEON that he wanted them to do away with someone and when POWELL questioned the unknown person further he was told that it was someone important. The unknown person then told him and LEON that he wanted them to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING and would pay them \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unknown person then opened his brief case which was full of wrapped currency, some of the bills he noticed were in \$100 denominations. He stated that he was shocked by the statements of the unknown person and initially assumed that it was some sort of prank or possibly a law enforcement officer trying to trick him. After the unknown person made the offer, he ignored any further conversation whereupon the unknown person closed his brief case and departed.

He has never had any further contact nor did he ever ascertain the identity of the unknown person or means or reason for the offered payment to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He related that he had gained the bad reputation of being a hoodlum because of his past prison record, participation in several fights and habit of carrying a shotgun in his vehicle, which he frequently loaned to the bartender at Pete's Bar whenever trouble occurred. He denied ever receiving such an offer prior to this incident and further denied affiliation with any group which advocated racial hatred. He admitted that he had made statements while drunk to the effect that he had no aversion to killing blacks, although he had never seriously considered doing so.

POWELL was then requested to assist the FBI by providing an artist conception of the unknown person who contacted him at Pete's Bar by the use of a facial

identification catalog. It was explained to POWELL that a sketch would be made from a combination of features that he selected from photographs displayed in the catalog. Each category in the catalog was thoroughly explained and photographs in these categories were shown to POWELL. POWELL then stated that he would be unable to assist in this regard because he had only talked with the unknown person for approximately five minutes and that he would not recognize him even if he was brought into his motel room at that moment.

The following descriptive data was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	CLAUDE POWELL, JR.
Alias	Junior Powell Shotgun Powell
Sex	Male
Race	White PII
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Stephens County, Georgia
Height	6'2"
Weight	170 pounds
Hair	Gray-black
Eyes	Blue
Education	Finished 4th grade
Employment	Self employed
Occupation	Carpenter and dry wall finisher
Parent	HEPSIE POWELL, Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia
Brothers	LEON POWELL, Atlanta, Georgia HUBERT POWELL Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia WENDELL POWELL, Belmont, North Carolina (address unknown) EDWARD POWELL, Shamdon, Georgia

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 1/15/76

1

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was located at the Scottish Inn Motel, Interstate Highway 20 at Holiday Hill Road, Room 211. POWELL was advised of the identities of the interviewing Agents and at the outset of the interview, was asked if he had been in contact with any member of his family or in particular, his brother, LEON POWELL. POWELL denied being in contact with any member of his family, including LEON POWELL, since his departure from Atlanta, Georgia, on December 31, 1975. He was then interviewed as follows:

POWELL was asked if he had ever been offered a large sum of money to commit a murder, and he immediately volunteered that he had been offered \$25,000 shortly before the actual assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING to murder MARTIN LUTHER KING. He recalled the circumstances of that offer as follows:

Approximately three to four weeks prior to the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING, he and his brother, LEON POWELL, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia. A friend of his brother, RAY GODFREY, a musician and Atlanta City employee, joined them at their booth and engaged in conversation with LEON. He paid no particular attention to what LEON and RAY were talking about. GODFREY left the booth, and, in approximately 10 to 15 minutes, an individual previously unknown to him, came to their booth and seated himself opposite from LEON and him.

As this unknown person sat down, he placed an expensive-looking black brief case on the table. He described the unknown person as being a white male, approximately 5'8" in height, medium build, approximately 150 pounds, approximately 30 years of age. POWELL explained that the unknown person appeared to him to be out of place in such an establishment as Pete's Bar, in view of his dress, which did not fit into the crowd that frequented Pete's Bar.

On 1/8/76 at Midland, Texas File # EP 44-920
by SA GERALD D. GALBREATH
SA FRANZ W. NENZEL FWN:pm Date dictated 1/14/76

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The unknown person impressed him as being a well educated person, who appeared to be a professional type such as a lawyer. He said the unknown person was clean cut, and very calm and cool in his manner. He stated the unknown person may have introduced himself, but he does not recall any names. The unknown person asked LEON and him if they wanted to pull a job. He does not know the exact wording, but he questioned the unknown person concerning the nature of the job, and how much money it paid. The unknown person told him and LEON that he wanted them to do away with someone and when POWELL questioned the unknown person further, he was told that it was someone important. The unknown person then told him and LEON that he wanted them to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, and would pay them \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unknown person then opened his brief case which was full of wrapped currency; some of the bills he noticed were in \$100 denominations. He stated that he was shocked by the statements of the unknown person, and initially assumed that it was some sort of prank or possibly a law enforcement officer trying to trick him. After the unknown person made the offer, he ignored any further conversation, whereupon the unknown person closed his brief case and departed.

He has never had any further contact, nor did he ever ascertain the identity of the unknown person, or means or reason for the offered payment to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING. He related that he had gained the bad reputation of being a hoodlum because of his past prison record, participation in several fights, and habit of carrying a shotgun in his vehicle, which he frequently loaned to the bartender at Pete's Bar whenever trouble occurred. He denied ever receiving such an offer prior to this incident, and further denied affiliation with any group which advocated racial hatred. He admitted that he had made statements while drunk to the effect that he had no aversion to killing blacks, although he had never seriously considered doing so.

POWELL stated he was shocked and dismayed to learn, approximately three to four weeks later, that MARTIN LUTHER KING had been murdered. He advised that he did not

go to any law enforcement officers, and tell them of the above contact with the unknown person, because he felt he might become a suspect in the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING.

POWELL was then requested to assist the FBI by providing an artist conception of the unknown person who contacted him at Pete's Bar by the use of a facial identification catalogue. It was explained to POWELL that a sketch would be made from a combination of features that he selected from photographs displayed in the catalogue. Each category in the catalogue was thoroughly explained and photographs in these categories were shown to POWELL. POWELL then stated that he would be unable to assist in this regard because he had only talked with the unknown person for approximately five minutes, and that he would not recognize him even if he was brought into his motel room at that moment.

The following descriptive data was obtained through interview and observation:

Name	CLAUDE POWELL, JR.	
Alias	Junior Powell	
	Shotgun Powell	
Sex	Male	
Race	White	P11
Date of Birth		
Place of Birth	Stephens County, Georgia	
Height	6'2	
Weight	170	
Hair	Gray-Black	
Eyes	Blue	
Education	Finished 4th grade	
Employment	Self employed	
Occupation	Carpenter and dry wall finisher	
Parent	HEPSIE POWELL, Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia	
Brothers	LEON POWELL, Atlanta, Georgia HUBERT POWELL Route 3, Toccoa, Georgia WENDELL POWELL, Belmont, North Carolina (address unknown) EDWARD POWELL, Shamdon, Georgia	

EP 44-920

4

Sister

Wife

Permanent address

Tattoos

FLORIS BRYSON

Franklin, North Carolina
(address unknown)

JACKIE POWELL,
unemployed, 4163 Camby Lane,
no telephone, Decatur, Georgia
Same as wife

Dragon, left bicep; "LUCY,
my wife is so dear to me",
left forearm; "LOIS" inside
right forearm; "Too sweet
to live, to mean to die",
across chest; "BONNIE" upper
right shoulder; "BETTY", upper
left shoulder

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir.: _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 1/21/76

FROM : J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. O'Connell
1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. Helterhoff
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Wannall
1 - Mr. Cochran
(Attn: Mr. Balog)

PURPOSE: To advise of the status of the investigation recently instituted to resolve an allegation by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they were offered payment to murder Dr. King.

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

You were advised in previous memoranda that we are conducting an investigation at the request of the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, to resolve a recent allegation (made in January, 1976) by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of Dr. King, they were offered payment to murder Dr. King.

Leon Owen Powell claims he and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., while in an Atlanta bar in October - November, 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey told them he would put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. Approximately one week later at the same bar, the Powells were approached by an individual named Ralph (last name unknown), who said "I guess you know why I'm here" and subsequently opened his briefcase displaying what he said was \$25,000. Powell said they told Ralph they needed time to think it over. Ralph replied "if your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Powell said

44-38861

HNH:bap (10)

CONTINUED - OVER FEB 17 1976



84 FEB 19 1976

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

5010-108

JAN 22 11 23 AM '76

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

JAN 4 2 00 PM '76

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535
JAN 10 1961
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: [Illegible]
[Illegible text follows]

CONSIDERATION OF THE FACT THAT THE ABOVE DESCRIBED BUILDING IS
IN THE AREA OF THE "SOUTH BAY" AND IS IN THE AREA OF THE
"SOUTH BAY" (1906 TO 1910) OF THE "SOUTH BAY" (1906 TO 1910)
AND IS IN THE AREA OF THE "SOUTH BAY" (1906 TO 1910) OF THE
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"SOUTH BAY" (1906 TO 1910) OF THE "SOUTH BAY" (1906 TO 1910)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 08-19-2010 BY 60322 UCBAW/SJS

66-15997-1

D-CIV RI
FBI

[illegible]

1 - Mr. Tolson
 1 - Mr. Ladd
 1 - Mr. Nichols
 1 - Mr. Belmont
 1 - Mr. Clegg
 1 - Mr. Glavin
 1 - Mr. Rosen
 1 - Mr. Tracy
 1 - Mr. Harbo
 1 - Mr. Mohr
 1 - Mr. Winterrowd
 1 - Mr. Holloman
 1 - Mr. Gandy

1951

WILSON

TRAINING OF THE COMBATANT

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
FBI
JUN 26 1 59 PM '66

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

Ralph never said the money being offered was to kill King. Powell states neither he nor his brother were involved in the murder of King.

Claude Powell, Jr., was interviewed and although he also claims a payment offer was made to kill King, his account differs somewhat from that of Leon Owen Powell. Claude Powell, Jr., states that three or four weeks prior to the murder of King, he and his brother, Leon, were seated in a booth in Pete's Bar in Atlanta. Ray Godfrey, a friend of Leon's, joined them in their booth and engaged in conversation with Leon. Claude paid no particular attention to what they were talking about. Godfrey then left the booth and approximately ten to fifteen minutes later, an unknown subject (unsub), a white male, joined them in their booth and placed an expensive-looking briefcase on the table. The unsub told them he wanted them to kill King and would pay \$25,000 now and \$25,000 when the job was done. The unsub then opened his briefcase, which was full of wrapped currency. Claude stated he was shocked, assumed it was some sort of a joke and he ignored the unsub. The unsub then closed his briefcase and departed.

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

The CRD requested that Bureau polygraph examinations be afforded to the Powells and to Godfrey to attempt to resolve this allegation.

DETAILS: Leon Owen Powell was scheduled to appear at our Atlanta Office on 1/19/76 to submit to a polygraph examination. On 1/19/76, Powell telephonically contacted the Atlanta Office advising he was sick and desired to postpone the polygraph examination until the week of January 26, 1976. Powell was tentatively rescheduled to take the polygraph on 1/26/76 or 1/27/76.

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

On 1/19/76, Claude Powell, Jr., was afforded a Bureau polygraph examination at Midland, Texas. The polygraph examiner concluded that Claude Powell's response to certain questions indicated he is "truthtelling" in stating someone did, in fact, offer him and his brother \$50,000 to kill Dr. King. Claude Powell's response to another question and his reactions following the answer indicate he has possible knowledge regarding the unidentified person who made the payment offer.

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

The results of our investigation have been closely coordinated with the CRD. On 1/20/76, Mr. Robert A. Murphy, Chief, Criminal Section, CRD, stated he desired to know the results of the polygraph examination of Leon Owen Powell (tentatively scheduled for 1/26 or 1/27/76) before making a determination as to whether Godfrey's attorney should be contacted concerning his polygraph examination, and before making a determination as to what additional investigation should be conducted to resolve this allegation.

ACTION: For information. You will be advised of any pertinent developments.

Handwritten signatures and initials:
- *SGM*
- *JSF*
- *G/JSF*
- *JBA*
- *PM*
- *K*

Routing Slip
FD-4 (Rev. 12-22-69)

Date 1/27/76

To: ☒ Director

Bufile: 44-38861

Att.: Supervisor

FILE EP file: 44-920

HAL N. HELTERHOFF, Room 5131,

JEH Building

Title MURKIN

☐ SAC

☐ ASAC

☐ Supv.

☐ Agent

☐ SE

☐ IC

☐ CC

☐ Steno

☐ Clerk

Bureau FTS call to EP,
RE: 1/26/76; EP FTS call to
Bureau, 1/26/76; EP
airtel to Bureau,
1/15/76.

☐ Rotor #

ACTION DESIRED

☐ Acknowledge

☐ Assign Reassign

☐ Bring file

☐ Call me

☐ Correct

☐ Deadline

☒ Deadline passed

☐ Delinquent

☐ Discontinue

☐ Expedite

☐ File

☐ For information

☐ Handle

☐ Initial & return

☐ Leads need attention

☐ Return with explanation or notation as to action taken

☐ Open Case

☐ Prepare lead cards

☐ Prepare tickler

☐ Return assignment card

☐ Return file

☐ Search and return

☐ See me

☐ Serial #

☐ Post ☐ Recharge ☐ Return

☐ Send to

☐ Submit new charge out

☐ Submit report by

☐ Type

Attached hereto for Bureau and receiving offices are two copies each of amended pages 1,2,&3 of FD 302 sent as enclosure to referenced El Paso airtel to Director, 1/15/76. El Paso copies have been corrected.

ENCLOSURE

①-Bureau (Encs.6)

1-Atlanta (44-2638) (Encs.6)

1-Memphis (Encs.6)

1-El Paso

EJM:pmg

(4)

SAC JOHN M. REED

Office EL PASO

123456

Bureau 44-38861

Mr. Tolson, Mr. Ladd

Mr. Nichols, Mr. Belmont

Supervisor

Mr. M. Holloman, Room 5131

2nd Building

Bureau file call to EP
1/25/76; EP file call to
Bureau, 1/25/76; EP
called to Bureau
1/25/76.

Attached hereto for Bureau and receiving offices
are two copies each of amended pages 1, 2, 3 & 4
of 102 sent as enclosure to referenced EL PASO
Bureau to Director, 1/15/76. EL PASO copies have
been corrected.

JOHN A. REED

1-Bureau (Encls. 6)
1-Atlanta (44-2638) (Encls. 6) EL PASO
1-Memphis (Encls. 6)

1-El Paso
1-Phoenix

(4)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 30 1976

TELETYPE

NR025 AT PLAIN

9:17 PM NITEL 1-30-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) (~~34-5-2~~)
EL PASO (44-920) (AM)
SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (AM)
MEMPHIS (AM)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (94-481) (P)

MURKIN.

ON JANUARY 29, 1976, AT 7:45 PM, LEON OWEN POWELL,
AFTER EXECUTING FD 328 (POLYGRAPH CONSENT FORM), UFFORDED
POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION IN ATLANTA OFFICE OF FBI. ASSISTING IN
COLLATERAL INTERVIEW WAS SA AUGUST W. BULFER. POWELL DURING
PRE-POLYGRAPH INTERVIEW FURNISHED SUBSTANTIALLY SAME
INFORMATION AS IN PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS WITH EXCEPTION TO
INFORMATION CONCERNING MONEY OFFERED BY GODFREY. POWELL,
ACCORDING TO HIS RECOLLECION, STATED GODFREY NEVER MENTIONED
THE AMOUNT OF MONEY TO BE PAID BUT INDICATED HE STATED HE
WAS LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO WAS INTERESTED IN MAKING "BIG
MONEY." ALSO GODFREY INDICATED "BIG MONEY" WOULD BE PAID FOR
KILLING MARTIN LUTHER KING. POWELL PREVIOUSLY STATED GODFREY
END PAGE ONE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
Ext. Affairs	_____
Files & Com.	_____
Gen. Inv.	_____
Ident.	_____
Inspection	_____
Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

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070-B
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MWH: mch 2/2/76

REC-100 44-38861 6058

FEB 17 1976

84 FEB 19 1976

8 FEB 10 1976

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

JAN 30 11 06 PM '76

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F B I

FEB 2 7 19 AM 1976

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

MADE STATEMENT FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS WAS TO BE PAID. HOWEVER, WHEN GOING OVER POLYGRAPH QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF HIM, HE REQUESTED THAT THE AMOUNT BE DELETED FROM QUESTION AND WORDS "BIG MONEY" BE SUBSTITUTED FOR FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

ACCORDING TO POWELL, THE CONVERSATION WITH GODFREY CAME ABOUT WHILE THEY WERE SITTING IN PETE'S BAR DURING FALL OF 1967 AND CONVERSATION WAS CONCERNING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ACTIVITIES AT WHICH TIME SOMEONE STATED KING SHOULD BE KILLED AND POWELL'S BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, MADE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT HE WOULD KILL HIM FOR THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF MONEY. POWELL ADVISED A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH GODFREY WHILE THEY WERE IN PETE'S BAR, A WHITE MALE ENTERED THE BAR INQUIRING ABOUT THE POWELLS. AFTER LOCATING THEM, HE STATED HE CAME TO TALK TO THEM CONCERNING A MATTER THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN DISCUSSED AFTER THEY ACKNOWLEDGE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE THAT THEY KNEW WHY HE WAS THERE. THE WHITE MALE, WHOM POWELL IDENTIFIED AS RALPH, THEN ASKED IF THEY WERE READY TO GO THROUGH WITH IT. POWELL STATED THIS WHITE MALE NEVER

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE, AT 44-2386

MENTIONED THE KILLING OF KING OR DISCUSSED HOW THE KILLING WOULD TAKE PLACE BUT ONLY DISPLAYED A SMALL BRIEFCASE WHICH CONTAINED A LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY. ONE QUESTION ON THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION WAS "DID RALPH SAY HE HAD \$25,000 IN THE BRIEFCASE?" HOWEVER, POWELL STATED RALPH NEVER INDICATED THE EXACT AMOUNT, ONLY STATING HE HAD "TWENTY-FIVE". POWELL, WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER HE MEANT TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED OR TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND, STATED RALPH NEVER DID STATE THE AMOUNT BUT HE REALIZED THAT THAT MUCH MONEY IN THAT SIZE BRIEFCASE WOULD HAVE TO BE AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. RALPH ALSO MADE STATEMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE "FIFTY MORE" WHEN MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS BURIED. HOWEVER, WHEN HE QUESTIONED THEM AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD GO THROUGH WITH IT, CLAUDE POWELL STATED THEY WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT AT WHICH TIME RALPH DEPARTED THE BAR STATING THAT IF THEY HAD NOT MADE UP THEIR MINDS BY THAT TIME, HE COULD NOT DO BUSINESS WITH THEM.

POWELL WAS AFFORDED FOUR SEPARATE EXAMINATIONS, THE FIRST BEING A CARD TEST WHERE POWELL VIEWED THREE DIFFERENT CARDS
END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR, AT 44-2386

OF DIFFERENT COLORS BUT WAS ADVISED TO DELIBERATELY LIE TO THE COLOR OF TWO OF THESE CARDS. IT WAS NOTED THE RESULTS OF THIS EXAMINATION INDICATED NO SIGNIFICANT REACTION TO THESE QUESTIONS AND THIS TEST WAS INCONCLUSIVE,

EXANINATIONS TWO, HREE AND FOUR, ALL CONTAINING RELEVANT, IRRELEVANT AND CONTROL QUESTIONS, HE RELEVANT QUESTIONS CONCERNING STATEMENTS MADE BY GODFREY AND CONTACT BY RALPH, WERE ALSO INCONCLUSIVE IN THAT POWELL DID NOT REACT SIGNIFICANTLY TO ANY ONE OF THESE QUESTIONS. POWELL DID REACT TO TWO QUESTIONS CONCERNING GODFREY, PARTICULARLY THE QUESTIONS, "DID GODFREY EVER ASK YOU IF YOU WERE INTERESTED IN MAKING BIG MONEY?" AND "DID GODFREY TELL YOU THE BIG MONEY WAS TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING?" HE REACTION INDICATED ON THE CHART WAS NOT SIGNIFICANTLY STRONG ENOUGH TO DRAW A CONCLUSION AS TO DECEPTION AND IT IS POSSIBLE THIS REACTION COULD BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO POWELL'S CHANGING HIS STORY FROM THE ORIGINAL INTERVIEW OF GODFREY MAKING THE STATEMENT CONCERNING \$50,000 TO NOW STATING "BIG MONEY."

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE, AT 44-2386

DURING THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION, POWELL APPEARED TO HAVE DIFFICULTY BREATHING AND THE UPPER PNEUMOGRAPH HAD TO BE CONTINUALLY ADJUSTED BY THE EXAMINER. POWELL DID NOT APPEAR OVERLY NERVOUS, DID NOT DISPLAY ANY OUTWARD SIGN OF EMOTION, BUT DID STATE ALL DURING THE POLYGRAPH THAT HE WAS VERY NERVOUS CONCERNING THIS WHOLE MATTER AND THAT HE HAD A HARD TIME BREATHING PROPERLY, PARTICULARLY AS THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION PROGRESSED. WHEN QUESTIONED CONCERNING RESPONSES INDICATED ON THE CHART, POWELL WOULD ONLY STATE THAT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AND THAT HE TOLD ALL THAT HE KNEW AND COULD RECALL CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT. POWELL INDICATED HE HAD A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DEGREE, HOWEVER, HE APPEARED TO BE OF LIMITED INTELLIGENCE AND APPEARED TO BE MUCH OLDER THAN FORTY YEARS OF AGE. DURING QUESTIONING, HE ADMITTED TO DOING A LOT OF BEER DRINKING, OWEVER, DENIED DRINKING ANYTHING DURING THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION.

A REVIEW OF THREE CHARTS REFLECTS POWELL RESPONDED GENERALLY IN THE SAME MANNER TO ALL QUESTIONS ASKED WITH NO SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL QUESTION WHEREBY A
END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX, AT 44-2386

CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN AS TO HIS BEING TRUTHFUL OR
UNTRUTHFUL. THEREFORE, THESE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS WERE
DETERMINED TO BE INCONCLUSIVE.

END.

PLS ACK FOR TWO

DLA FBIHQ

ACK FOR TWO

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Gallagher

FROM : J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
DEPARTMENTAL REVIEW
COST DATA

DATE: 2/2/76

- 1 - Mr. Gallagher
- 1 - Mr. O'Connell
- 1 - Mr. Peelman
- 1 - Mr. Helterhoff
- 1 - Mr. Walsh

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. DeLoach _____
Mr. Mohr _____
Mr. Bishop _____
Mr. Casper _____
Mr. Callahan _____
Mr. Conrad _____
Mr. Felt _____
Mr. Gale _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Sullivan _____
Mr. Tavel _____
Mr. Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Director's Sec'y _____

Reference is made to the Mr. Walsh to Mr. Jenkins memorandum dated 12/12/75, which requested that cost data reports be submitted to the Budget and Accounting Section, Administrative Division, setting out manpower utilized and money expended relative to the Departmental review of the files of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The General Investigative Division (GID), in handling assignments relating to this Departmental review, has utilized the following manpower hours during January, 1976.

Manpower: Supervisor Hal N. Helterhoff, GS-14, Step 3, 72 hours.
Barbara Pitz, GS-6, Step 6, 3 hours.

There were no monetary expenditures during this reporting period.

ACTION: That the GID cost data report be forwarded to the Budget and Accounting Section, Administrative Division, for review.

RM:bap (6)
44-38861

REC-100

44-38861-6059

3 FEB 4 1976

84 FEB 19 1976



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9-11-75

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

FEB 4 11 02 AM '75

F.B.I.
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
F.B.I.

FEB 4 11 03 AM '75

ST-101

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442100) FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY TWO, SEVEN FIVE.

FOR INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, THE NEW YORK OFFICE HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT

ON FEBRUARY TWO, SEVEN FIVE, A PERSON IDENTIFYING HIMSELF AS

JOHN J. [REDACTED] TELEPHONED THE NEW YORK OFFICE AND STATED THAT HE

WAS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A PASSPORT FOR A TRIP TO [REDACTED]

HE STATED THAT HE WAS CURRENTLY RESIDING IN [REDACTED] AND WAS

EMPLOYED AS A [REDACTED] IN [REDACTED]. HE STATED THAT HE HAD NO OTHER

PERSONAL INFORMATION TO PROVIDE AT THIS TIME.

THE NEW YORK OFFICE IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING AN INVESTIGATION INTO

THE ACTIVITY OF [REDACTED] AND IS ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE ALL INDIVIDUALS

WHO MAY BE IN CONTACT WITH [REDACTED]. THE NEW YORK OFFICE IS REQUESTING

YOUR OFFICE TO ADVISE IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT MAY BE

USEFUL IN THIS MATTER.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

FILE
COPY

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: February 2, 1976
ATTN: ROBERT A. MURPHY

FROM : Director, FBI

SUBJECT: ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____).

There is enclosed one copy of the report of Special Agent _____
dated _____ at _____.

A. ☐ This covers the preliminary investigation and no further action concerning a full investigation will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

B. ☒ The investigation is continuing and you will be furnished copies of reports as they are received.

C. ☐ The investigation requested by you has now been completed. Unless advised to the contrary no further inquiries will be made by this Bureau.

D. ☐ Pursuant to instructions issued by the Department, no investigation will be conducted in this matter unless specifically directed by the Department.

E. ☐ Please advise whether you desire any further investigation.

F. ☐ This is submitted for your information and you will be advised of further developments.

G. ☐ This is submitted for your information and no further investigation will be conducted unless specifically requested by the Department.

H. ☐ This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further _____
taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. 1

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of a teletype from Atlanta dated 1/30/76.

FILE
COPY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Assoc. Dir. _____
Dep. AD Adm. _____
Dep. AD Inv. _____
Asst. Dir. _____
Admin. _____
Comp. Syst. _____
Ext. Affairs _____
Files & Com. _____
Gen. Inv. _____
Ident. _____
Inspection _____
Intell. _____
Laboratory _____
Legal Coun. _____
Plan. & Eval. _____
Spec. Inv. _____
Training _____
Telephone Rm. _____
Director Sec'y _____

TO : Mr. Gallagher

DATE: 2/3/76

FROM : J. S. Peelman

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. O'Connell
1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. Helterhoff
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Wannall
1 - Mr. Cochran
(Attn: Mr. Balog)

PURPOSE: To advise of the status of the investigation recently instituted to resolve an allegation by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., they were offered payment to murder Dr. King.

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

You were advised in previous memoranda that we are conducting an investigation at the request of the Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice, to resolve a recent allegation (made in January, 1976) by Leon Owen Powell and his brother, Claude Powell, Jr., that prior to the assassination of Dr. King, they were offered payment to murder Dr. King.

Leon Owen Powell claims he and Claude Powell, Jr., while in an Atlanta bar in October - November, 1967, were approached by a mutual friend, Ray Godfrey, who asked the Powells if they were interested in making \$50,000. Godfrey told them he would put them in contact with an individual who would pay them to murder King. Approximately one week later at the same bar, the Powells were approached by an individual named Ralph (last name unknown), who said "I guess you know why I'm here" and subsequently opened his briefcase displaying what he said was \$25,000, and then said, "If you decide to take the job, there's \$50,000 more when it's completed." Powell said they told Ralph they needed time to think it over. Ralph replied "if your mind is not made up now, I can't do business with you." Powell said

44-38861

HNH:bap (10)

CONTINUED - OVER



84 FEB 19 1976

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