

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
FRONT OFFICE

FEB 4 1 51 PM '76

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FEB 4 1 51 PM '76

FEB 4 1 26 PM '76

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

FEB 4
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

FBI
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D - CIV RIGHTS

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ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR
F. B. I.

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

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RECEIVED

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 Godfrey and to the Powells to attempt to resolve this allegation.

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.

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.

2 CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

The results of our investigation have been closely coordinated with the CRD. Mr. Robert A. Murphy, Chief, Criminal Section, CRD, stated he desired to know the results of the polygraph examination of Leon Owen Powell, who was not immediately available, 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.

DETAILS: Leon Owen Powell was not available for a Bureau polygraph examination until the p.m. of 1/29/76. During pre-polygraph interview, Leon Owen Powell stated Godfrey never mentioned the amount of money to be paid other than "big money." (initially stated Godfrey offered \$50,000.) He advised while at the bar, someone stated King should be killed, and Claude made statement to the effect he would kill him for the right amount of money. When questioned during the polygraph about Ralph (LNU) saying he had \$25,000 in the briefcase, Powell stated Ralph had only said "25," and there would be "50" (not \$50,000 as initially stated) when King was buried.

During the polygraph Powell appeared to have difficulty in breathing, and stated he was very nervous concerning the whole matter. The polygraph examination was determined to be "inconclusive."

On 2/2/76, this matter was thoroughly discussed with Departmental Attorney Murphy. He stated Godfrey's attorney should not be contacted at this time, and the following additional investigation should be conducted to resolve this allegation: Reinterview the Powells to resolve differences in their accounts of the alleged meeting; have each of the Powells prepare a diagram of the bar and booth where alleged meeting took place; verify that Powells and Godfrey were in Atlanta at time of alleged meeting; interview co-workers of Claude to see if he has talked about this alleged meeting; identify and interview former employees and customers of

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

Pete's Bar re any knowledge of alleged meeting or of Ralph (LNU); conduct investigation into the background of Godfrey; interview Claude's wife; reinterview Dorothy Davis, wife of deceased bar owner Pete Davis, to see if he had ever talked of any such payment offer; show artist's conception of Ralph (LNU) (as prepared by Leon) to Claude and all pertinent witnesses; show on an Atlanta city map location of Pete's Bar in comparison to where James Earl Ray stayed in Atlanta; and conduct other obvious and logical investigation.

Mr. Murphy advised he was advising the USA, Atlanta, and the USA, Memphis, of the institution of this investigation re the Powell allegation.

Mr. Murphy 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 and El Paso are being instructed by separate communication to promptly conduct this investigation.

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

*9/3/74
Joe*

SO m

[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

*JBA
PLM*

[Handwritten signature]

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 04 1976

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
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Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR014 AT PLAIN

7:24 PM URGENT 2-4-76 HLFW

TO: DIRECTOR (44-33861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

Handwritten notes:
P. [unclear]
cc [unclear]
[unclear]

Handwritten: HELMSTOFF

RE BUREAU NITEL TO ATLANTA, FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL THIS DATE NEGATIVE. MESSAGE LEFT AT PLACE OF RESIDENCE TO IMMEDIATELY CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN. EFFORTS ALSO NEGATIVE IN CONTACTING DOROTHY DAVIS REGARDING ANY RECORDS OF FORMER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S BAR. MESSAGE ALSO LEFT AT DAVIS' RESIDENCE TO CONTACT FBI, ATLANTA, UPON RETURN.

OTHER LEADS BEING HELD IN ABEYANCE UNTIL ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS SHOWN TO POWELL.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL REGARDING DIFFERENCES IN ORIGINAL INTERVIEWS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND HIS BROTHER. DISPLAY ARTIST'S CONCEPTION TO POWELL AND ASCERTAIN IF IDENTICAL WITH RALPH (LNU).

END.

HOLD FOR ONE

TKR FBIHQ 3

REC-100

44-38861-6061

FEB 17 1976

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84 FEB 19 1976

8 FEB 1 3 1976

GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION
FEB 4 9 04 PM '76

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FBI

FEB 5 6 52 AM 1976

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

REC-100

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FEB 4 1976

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Director	_____
Deputy Dir.	_____
Asst. Dir.:	_____
Adm. Serv.	_____
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Off. Liaison	_____
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Director's Sec'y	_____

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

fm
TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: **2/3/76**

FROM : Director, FBI

ATTENTION: **ROBERT A. MURPHY**

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

Reference is made to _____ memorandum dated _____
(your file _____) **2/2/76**

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 action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

44-38861-

NOT RECORDED

20 FEB 17 1976

Enc.

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO....

FILE COPY

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84 FEB 18 1976

NOTE: Reference is made to a conversation between Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy and SA H. N. Helterhoff on 2/2/76 wherein Mr. Murphy requested the following investigation:

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 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.

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. El Paso will 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." 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. Mr. Murphy 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.

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.

Mr. Murphy stated he is advising the USAs at Atlanta and Memphis of the institution of the investigation re the Powell allegation.

Mr. Murphy also stated that no information should be disseminated to the USAs. Mr. Murphy stated that 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.

1 - Mr. Callahan
 1 - Mr. Adams
 1 - Mr. Mintz
 1 - Mr. Moore
 1 - Mr. Wannall
 1 - Mr. Helgeson
 1 - Mr. Deegan 1 - Mr. Maurice
 Intelligence Division 1 - Mr. Tansey

INFORMATIVE NOTE

Date 2/2/76

UPI on 2/1/76 quoted Long Island, New York, newspaper "Newsday" as reporting "several FBI Agents and at least one Memphis (Tenn.) police officer" infiltrated black militant group, the Invaders, which was "in the vanguard of rioting" 3/28/68 in Memphis in which one was killed and several injured. Martin Luther King's return to Memphis, where he was assassinated, is attributed to this riot. It is stated "the FBI and Memphis police have verified that their agents were working within the Invaders organization at the time of the riots and King's assassination."

Attached Memphis teletype advises that Invaders, aka Black Organizing Project, was organized in Memphis in 1967, and adopted philosophy of nihilism and anarchy. Bureau investigation ran from 1/15/68 to 10/70.

During 3/68 riots, Memphis was operating 5 extremist informants, none in a policy level in any organization, only one was a member of Invaders and he was not a leader. No Bureau Agents ever penetrated Invaders. One Memphis Police Department undercover officer penetrated Invaders, but not in policy position. He has been publicly disclosed and is no longer in police department.

Memphis has never publicly reported Agents or informants worked within Invaders (External Affairs, Press Office similarly has made no such report.)

JDP:dsh

CONTINUED - OVER

Memphis sources have reported King's group used Invader members as parade marshals and guards as reported by UPI.

Memphis sources reported on organization plans, structure and activities, but never tried to turn Invaders against King group, nor did they advocate or plan riots. Attorney General will be advised of the facts of this matter.

WREAF

JCP

WREW
HEK

JMA

PCM

KH

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 02 1976
TELETYPE

NR 003 ME CODE

1:38 PM IMMEDIATE FEBRUARY 2, 1976 BES

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: MEMPHIS (157-1067) (C)

"NEWSDAY" ARTICLE RE INVADERS AND DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

DATED FEBRUARY 1, 1976. EM.

RE BUREAU FACSIMILE TO MEMPHIS, FEBRUARY 1, 1976

THE INVESTIGATION OF THE INVADERS WAS INSTITUTED PER INSTRUCTION OF BUREAU DATED JANUARY 15, 1968, TO KEEP BUREAU ADVISED OF THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT KNOWN AS THE INVADERS.

THE INVADERS, ALSO KNOWN AS BLACK ORGANIZING PROJECT, A BLACK MILITANT ORGANIZATION THAT ADOPTED THE PHILOSOPHY NIHILISM AND ANARCHY, WAS ORGANIZED IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, IN 1967. THE INFLUENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION WAS WEAKENED BY ARREST OF NUMEROUS MEMBERS AND ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN 1969. IN AUGUST, 1970, THE ORGANIZATION SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS AND IN OCTOBER, 1970, THE TWO GROUPS DISCONTINUED ALL ASSOCIATION WITH EACH OTHER AND THE INVADERS BECAME A DEFUNCT ORGANIZATION.

DURING THE 1968 RIOTS IN MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE, THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI WAS OPERATING FIVE INFORMANTS WHO WERE FURNISHING INFORMATION REGARDING EXTREMIST

Assoc. Dir.	
Dep. A.D. Adm.	
Dep. A.D. Inv.	
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Training	
Legal Coun.	
Telephone Rm.	
Director Sec'y	

REC-44 157-8460-54
ORIGINAL FILED IN

MAR 12 1976
44-38861-
NOT RECORDED
MAR 15 1976

cc DEEGAN

70 MAR 22 1976

ACTIVITIES AT MEMPHIS. NONE OF THESE INFORMANTS WERE ON A POLICY MAKING LEVEL WITH ANY ORGANIZATION AT MEMPHIS. ONLY ONE OF THESE INFORMANTS WAS A MEMBER OF THE BLACK MILITANT GROUP KNOWN AS THE INVADERS. HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP IN THIS ORGANIZATION. NO SPECIAL AGENTS OF THE FBI AT ANY TIME PENETRATED THE INVADERS. ONE UNDERCOVER OFFICER OF THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT PENETRATED THE INVADERS AND WAS A MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION DURING THE 1968 RIOTS. HE WAS NOT IN A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP NOR WAS HE IN A POSITION TO FORMULATE POLICY FOR THIS ORGANIZATION.

THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI HAS NEVER PUBLICLY REPORTED "THAT THEIR AGENTS WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION" NOR HAS THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI PUBLICLY REPORTED THAT THEIR INFORMANTS OR SOURCES WERE WORKING WITHIN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION.

SOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE MEMPHIS OFFICE HAVE ADVISED THAT DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1968 RIOTS AT MEMPHIS, SCLC DID USE INVADER MEMBERS AS PARADE MARSHALS AND AS SECURITY GUARDS.

PAGE THREE ME 157-1067

SOURCES UTILIZED BY THE MEMPHIS OFFICE OF THE FBI NEVER AT ANY TIME MADE ANY EFFORT TO TURN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AGAINST THE SCLC.

THE MEMPHIS POLICE OFFICER WHO WORKED UNDERCOVER IN THE INVADER ORGANIZATION IS MARRELL MC COLLOUGH. MC COLLOUGH, WHO HAS BEEN PUBLICLY IDENTIFIED AS AN UNDERCOVER OFFICER, IS NO LONGER EMPLOYED BY THE MEMPHIS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

DURING THE PERIOD OF THE 1968 RIOTS IN MEMPHIS, FORMER ME 352-R WAS A MEMBER OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION AND FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING THE ACTIVITIES OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMANTS AND FORMER INFORMANTS REPORTED ON ACTIVITIES OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION DURING 1968 BUT WERE NOT MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION: FORMER ME 339-R; FORMER ME 353-R; FORMER ME 282-R; ME 338-R.

THESE SOURCES FURNISHED INFORMATION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP, FINANCES, ACTIVITIES, AND PLANS OF THE INVADER ORGANIZATION, BUT AT NO TIME DID THEY ADVOCATE RIOTS NOR DID THEY TAKE PART IN THE PLANNING OF ANY RIOT AT MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.
END.

QMB FBIHQ ACK TU

1- Callahan
1- Adams
1- Mintz
1- Moore
1- Wannall
1- Helgeson
1- Deigan
1- Mauriel
1- Jansky

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 05 1976 *ms*

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Assoc. Dir.	_____
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Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

for
NR018 AT PLAIN

8:25 PM NITEL 2-5-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
 SAC, EL PASO (44-920)
 SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

cc
Pulley
Mitchell
Healey

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

MURKIN

RE AT TELETYPE TO BU, FEB. 4, 1976.

DOROTHY DAVIS CONTACTED AND ADVISED HAS NO RECORDS
 RE PETE'S BAR. ALL RECORDS DESTROYED. ARRANGEMENTS MADE
 TO FULLY INTERVIEW DAVIS ON MONDAY, FEB. 9, 1976.

ARRANGEMENTS MADE WITH PERSONNEL DEPT., CITY OF ATLANTA,
 TO INTERVIEW DIRECTOR, MRS. PENNINGTON, ON FEB. 6, 1976.

ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS MADE ON THIS DAY TO INTERVIEW LEON
 POWELL WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND
 INTERVIEW LEON POWELL. INTERVIEW MRS. PENNINGTON RE BACKGROUND
 OF GODFREY.

REC-100

44-38861-6062

END.

FEB 17 1976

PLS ACK FOR SIX

CBL FBIHQ ACK FOR NR014, 018, 020, 021, 022, 028.

LEE

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 1-CEO
 HNH:mch 2/9/76

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U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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FBI

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TELETYPE UNIT

FEB 5 8 28 PM '76

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	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

RELEASE

FEB 10 1976

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

FEB 06 1976

^{low}
TELETYPE

NR001 EP PLAIN

11:35AM URGENT FEBRUARY 6, 1976 GJP

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM EL PASO (44-920) (P)

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Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

Pullman

MURKIN

Hester

RE BUREAU NITEL DATED FEBRUARY 3, 1976.

CLAUDE POWELL, JR. RECONTACTED LATE PM FEBRUARY 5, 1976, SCOTTISH INN, ROOM 211, MIDLAND, TEXAS. DISCREPANCIES IN VERSION OF INCIDENT PETE'S BAR, ATLANTA, AS RELATED BY LEON AND HE (CLAUDE) DISCUSSED. CLAUDE STATED ANY DISCREPANCIES ARE RESULT OF PASSAGE OF TIME SINCE INCIDENT AND HIS STATEMENT IS ACCURATE IN HIS RECOLLECTION. HE CLARIFIED HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH GODFREY, STATING GODFREY WAS A FRIEND WHOM HE HAD KNOWN FOR MANY YEARS BUT GODFREY WAS MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH AND A BETTER FRIEND OF LEON. CLAUDE ALSO COMMENTED HE HAD LATER LEARNED GODFREY MADE AN INITIAL CONTACT WITH LEON APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE UNKNOWN WHITE MALE'S PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING, BUT HE DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE MEETING AT PETE'S BAR UNTIL THE UNKNOWN MALE SEATED HIMSELF AND MADE THE OFFER, NOR DID HE HAVE ANY PRIOR KNOWLEDGE OF WHAT TRANSPIRED BETWEEN

I

REC-100

44-38861-60063

FEB 17 1976

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2/19/76

[Signature]

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TELETYPE

FEB 06 1976

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

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	_____
Miss Holmes	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

EP 44-920

PAGE TWO

GODFREY AND LEON.

OTHER THAN THESE CHANGES, CLAUDE STANDS BY HIS ORIGINAL STATEMENT, EMPHASIZING THAT HIS STATEMENT MAY DIFFER IN SOME ASPECTS WITH LEON'S STATEMENT, BUT THE FACT IS BOTH HE AND LEON WITNESSED AN OFFER OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO MURDER KING BY AN UNKNOWN WHITE MALE.

IN ADDITION, THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS OBTAINED:

HE AND LEON TALKED FREQUENTLY ABOUT THE ALLEGED MEETING AT PETE'S BAR AFTER THE MEETING OCCURRED, BUT AS TIME PASSED, THEY TALKED ABOUT THE MEETING WITH LESS FREQUENCY. CLAUDE STATED HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY NAMES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO COULD VERIFY THAT HE AND LEON WERE IN ATLANTA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING, BUT STATED HE AND LEON WORKED TOGETHER AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING AND HAVE DONE SO UNTIL APPROXIMATELY THREE MONTHS AGO. BOTH HE AND LEON WERE RESIDING AT DECATUR, GEORGIA AT THE TIME OF THE ALLEGED MEETING. A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR WAS PROVIDED BY CLAUDE. CLAUDE STATED THAT THE UNKNOWN
END PAGE TWO

EP 44-920

PAGE THREE

WHITE MALE DID NOT HAVE ANY TYPE OF ACCENT. CLAUDE DENIED KNOWLEDGE OF THE UNIDENTIFIED PERSON WHO ALLEGEDLY MADE THE PROPOSITION TO MURDER KING.

CLAUDE ADMITTED TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH HIS BROTHER AFTER FIRST INTERVIEW BY FBI AT MIDLAND. CLAUDE STATED HE DISCUSSED THE INTERVIEW BY THE FBI AT MIDLAND.

RECORDS OF SCOTTISH INN FOR OUTGOING CALLS DO NOT REFLECT ANY TELEPHONE CALLS MADE BY CLAUDE POWELL, JR. IT IS NOTED THAT AS MANY AS FOUR INDIVIDUALS STAYED TOGETHER IN THE MOTEL ROOM OCCUPIED BY POWELL, BUT AT THE PRESENT TIME POWELL HAS ONLY ONE ROOMMATE. EL PASO OBTAINED LIST OF ALL LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE CALLS FOR ROOM 211.

EL PASO WILL SHOW ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) UPON RECEIPT.

FD-302 FOLLOWS.

END

EGB ACK FBIHQ

TELETYPE UNIT

FEB 6 1 46 PM '76

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

~~FEB 06 1976~~
TELETYPE

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Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR021 AT PLAIN

6:07 PM URGENT 2-6-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
EL PASO (44-920)
MEMPHIS (44-1987)
KNOXVILLE

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

Redman
11 m
Hester

RE ATLANTA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR, FEBRUARY 5, 1976. FOR THE INFORMATION OF KNOXVILLE, LEON POWELL, A RESIDENT OF ATLANTA, CONTACTED THE ATLANTA OFFICE ON JANUARY 4, 1976 AND ADVISED HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR. WERE APPROACHED BY AN INDIVIDUAL NAMED ARNOLD RAY GODFREY IN LATE NOVEMBER, 1967 WITH AN OFFER TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. FOR A SUM OF MONEY. GODFREY ALLEGEDLY PUT THEM IN CONTACT WITH A RALPH (LNU) WHO OFFERED THE POWELL'S \$75,000 TO ASSASSINATE KING. THE POWELLS REFUSED THE OFFER. LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL HAVE BEEN POLYGRAPHED. LEON'S POLYGRAPH WAS INCONCLUSIVE, HOWEVER, EXAMINER FOR CLAUDE POWELL WAS OF OPINION POWELL TELLING TRUTH. ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DENIES INVOLVEMENT, HOWEVER, REFUSED POLYGRAPH AND HAS SINCE HIRED ATTORNEY AND REFUSED TO ANSWER FURTHER QUESTION. GODFREY IS A WHITE MALE, BORN JUNE 11, 1930 AT COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE.
END PAGE ONE.

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2/9/76

44-38861-6064

FEB 17 1976

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

FEB 6 7 31 PM '76

F. B. I.

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
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FEB 9 6 47 AM 1976

WHITE MALE * BORN JUNE 11 * 1936 AT CORBETT HILL * TENNESSEE *
 MILOMEX AND BELONGED TO NUMEROUS OTHERS * CODES IN A
 TULSA * HOME * BELONGED TO BOSTON AND HAS SINCE RATED
 WAS OF OPINION BOMBER TIGHTEN * BOSTON WAS CODES DEPT
 BOSTON WAS INCONCLUSIVE * HOME * EXAMINED FOR STAFF BOMBER
 OFFER * FROM AND STAFF BOMBER HAVE BEEN BOSTON * FROM
 BOMBER'S * TO ASSASSINATE KING * THE BOMBER BELONGED THE
 WITNESSES FOR THEM IN CONTACT WITH A BOSTON (G.M.) AND BELONGED THE
 ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING * JR * FOR A STAFF OF HOME * CODES
 WITNESSES BOSTON WAS CODES IN STAFF BOSTON * 1963 WITH AN OFFER TO
 HIS BOSTON * STAFF BOMBER * JR * WERE APPROVED BY AN INDIVIDUAL
 CONTACTED THE VIRGINIA OFFICE OF JUNE 4 * 1966 AND ADVISED HE AND
 INFORMATION OF KNOXVILLE * FROM BOMBER * A RESIDENT OF VIRGINIA *
 RE VIRGINIA TEL TO THE DIRECTOR * FEBRUARY 2 * 1976 * FOR THE
 WORKING *

FROM: VIRGINIA (44-8388) (P)

KNOXVILLE

MEMPHIS (44-1981)

ET WASH (44-888)

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

DATE BY AGENT 2-9-76 HGE

WASH DC 8/10

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COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
FEB 9 1976

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FEB 9 1976	
FBI - MEMPHIS	

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEON POWELL ON THIS DATE STILL NEGATIVE. POWELL'S DAUGHTER-IN-LAW CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE HAS NOT SEEN HER FATHER-IN-LAW SINCE HE LEFT HER RESIDENCE. SHE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE HIM AND ADVISE HIM TO CONTACT THE ATLANTA OFFICE OF THE FBI.

MRS. L. N. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, REVIEWED HER RECORDS ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. THE RECORDS SHOW THAT GODFREY HAS A WIFE NAMED MILLIE. NO OTHER RELATIVES ARE LISTED ON THE EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION. EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION WAS FILED IN 1949 AND THE FOLLOWING REFERENCES WERE NOTED: FRANK WALDON, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL, TENNESSEE; WALTER STYNUS, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL; CLAUDE CRANFORD, ROUTE 1, COPPER HILL. RECORDS FURTHER REFLECT THAT GODFREY WENT THROUGH THE FIFTH GRADE AT COPPER HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

CLINTON STANFORD, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT, ENVIRONMENT AND STREET SERVICES, CITY OF ATLANTA, WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED ALL RECORDS CONCERNING THE EXACT DAYS WORKED BY ANY CITY EMPLOYEES ARE CURRENTLY STORED IN A VAULT AT CITY HALL. HE WOULD ATTEMPT TO LOCATE THESE RECORDS AND VERIFY THE WHEREABOUTS OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER
END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

1967, AND MARCH AND APRIL, 1968 HE STATED HE WOULD TELEPHONICALLY CONTACT THE FBI OFFICE WHEN HE LOCATED THESE RECORDS.

KNOXVILLE AT COPPER HILL. WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE REFERENCES FOR ARNOLD RAY GODFREY AND ALSO ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY RELATIVES OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY. CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, HAS REQUESTED THAT GODFREY'S RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES BE IDENTIFIED AND INTERVIEWED CONCERNING ANY ASSOCIATE OF GODFREY NAMED RALPH.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW LEON POWELL.

END.

PLS HOLD

BYG HQFD

END

INTERVIEW GEOR BOMETT

VLFVHLV VL VLFVHLV • RIFF COMLINE EREBIS TO FOCVLE VMD
VMD IMLEBAMEMED CONSERVING VMA VEGOCIVLE OE CODESEA WVMED BVGB
HVS REQUERIED IHV1 CODESEY.S BELVILLES • VEGOCIVLES BE IDENTIFI
VBYWGD BVA CODESEY • CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION • DELVBLAMEM OMBLICE

FEB 6 6 27 PM '76

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TELETYPE UNIT

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KMOXVIGGE VL COBBER RIFF • RIFF VLEMBL TO FOCVLE EREBIS
COMVCL IRE BEL OFFICE WHEN HE FOCVLED THESE RECORDS

1961 • VMD MARCH VMD VBBIT • 1960 HE STATED HE WOULD TELEPHONICVIGY

BVGE IHSEE (SN-3280)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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

MR003 KX PLAIN

415 PM URGENT FEB. 7, 1976 DCK

!TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM KNOXVILLE (44-696) (RUC)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR FEB. 6, 1976.

LOIS ~~WALDEN~~ GODFREY AND HUSBAND, ^{MR & MRS} ROBERT K. GODFREY, ROUTE ONE, GRASSY CREEK ROAD, COPPER HILL, TENN., INTERVIEWED FEB. 7, 1976. GODFREY STATED ENTIRE FAMILY MOVED TO ATLANTA, GA. AREA IN LATE 1940'S AND HE IS ONLY MEMBER OF FAMILY CURRENT IN TENN.

HE ADVISED HIS MOTHER, MARY GODFREY, RESIDES WITH HIS SISTER, SHIRLEY BULLOCK, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, BUT THAT BULLOCK CAN BE REACHED THROUGH THE MARIETTA, GA. SCHOOL BOARD WHERE SHE IS EMPLOYED DIRECTING TRAFFIC AT SCHOOL CROSSINGS. OTHER SISTERS, MRS. R. L. (EDNA) ENSLEY AND MRS. IRA (DENA) SMITH, RESIDE ON ROUTE ONE, BLUE RIDGE, GA. BROTHER, JAMES T. GODFREY, ALSO RESIDES ROUTE ONE, BLUE

Peetman
cc to Mc...

I

44-38861-6015

Ridge ga
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1-CRU
1-NH/mh/2/1/76

REC-100
FEB 17 1976

84 FEB 19 1976

8 FEB 10 1976

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FEB 9 6 47 AM 1976

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.
FEB 7 5 44 PM '76
F. B. I.
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

[Faint, mostly illegible typed text, possibly a memorandum or report]

TELETYPE

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PAGE TWO

KX 44-696

RIDGE, GA. MRS. GODFREY ADVISED OTHER BROTHER, LEE
CARROLL GODFREY, HAS IN THE PAST BEEN INVOLVED IN *gn*
CRIMINAL ACTIVITY AND HAS USED THE NAME ARNOLD RAY
GODFREY IN THE PAST. ACCORDING TO THE GODFREYS, LEE
CARROLL GODFREY'S WHEREABOUTS PRESENTLY UNKNOWN, HOWEVER,
WAS INCARCERATED AT BLUE RIDGE COUNTY JAIL DURING CHRISTMAS,
1974. THEY ALSO ADVISED THAT IN NOV. 1975, ANOTHER BROTHER,
RAY S. GODFREY, DIED AND EFFORTS TO LOCATE LEE GODFREY
AT THAT TIME NEGATIVE. LEE GODFREY IN THE BLUE RIDGE, GA.
AREA SINCE NOV. AND RELATIVES BELIEVE HE IS RESIDING IN
ELLIJAY, GA. NEITHER LOIS OR ROBERT GODFREY ACQUAINTED
WITH A RALPH (LNU) AND STATED THAT BROTHER ARNOLD HAS
NOT RESIDED IN THE COPPER HILL AREA IN 27 YEARS AND HAS NO
ASSOCIATES IN THE AREA. THEY ADVISED ARNOLD MARRIED TO
MILLIE CAMERON AFTER MOVING TO ATLANTA.

REFERENCES FRANK WALDEN, WALTER STYMUS AND CLAUDE
CRAWFORD LISTED AS REFERENCES BY ARNOLD IN 1949 WERE
NEIGHBORS OF THE GODFREY FAMILY IN COPPER HILL PRIOR TO

PAGE THREE

KX 44-696

MOVING TO ATLANTA. LOIS GODFREY ADVISED ARNOLD NOT IN CONTACT WITH THESE INDIVIDUALS SINCE MOVING TO ATLANTA.

LEAD. ATLANTA. AT MARIETTA AND BLUE RIDGE, GA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW RELATIVES OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY CONCERNING ASSOCIATE BY THE NAME OF RALPH (LNU). ALSO ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE WHEREABOUTS OF BROTHER, LEE CARROLL GODFREY, WHITE MALE, AGE 42, AND SET FORTH LEADS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW HIM CONCERNING INSTANT MATTER.
END

SJP FBIHQ CLR AND TKS

FEB 7 4 27 PM '76

RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

FILE
COPY

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

DATE: **February 9, 1976**
ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

FROM : Director, FBI

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

Reference is made to my memorandum dated February 3, 1976
(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 action will be taken by this Bureau unless the Department so directs.

Enc. 4

NOTE: Attached are copies of teletypes from Atlanta dated 2/5/76, El Paso dated 2/6/76, Atlanta dated 2/6/76, and Knoxville dated 2/7/76.

FILE COPY 

F B I

Date: 2/4/76

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Priority)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

McDonough

Re CI airtel and LHM to Bureau, 12/2/75.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY".

Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

Information furnished in the enclosed LHM was obtained from records at the U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, by SC DWIGHT H. VOGEL.

Cincinnati will maintain contact with the U.S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

- 2-Bureau (Enc. 6)
- 2-Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
- 2-Cincinnati

DHV:cmm
(6)

1-CRD
1-CRU
076 F
2/13/76
HNH/jet
FX 103
REC-42

44-38861-6066

FEB 7 1976

FILE
[Signature]

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

FEB 18 1976

RECEIVED
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

FEB 7 12 41 PM '76

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

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INTELLIGENCE DIV.

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FBI

FEB 9 6 42 AM 1976

FEB 7 12 33 PM '76

FEB 13 1 07 PM '76
RECEIVED
INTELLIGENCE DIV.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Cincinnati, Ohio
February 4, 1976

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On February 4, 1976, Betty Tibbles, Deputy Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that the following additional entries were recorded on Docket Number 75-1795:

1976

January 19, 1976	Motion of Appellee to strike exhibits from Appellant's Appendix
January 30, 1976	Opposition to Appellee's motion to strike exhibits
January 30, 1976	Motion of Appellant to correct errors and omissions in transcript
February 2, 1976	Response to Appellant's motion to correct errors and omissions

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.

- 1* -

ENCLOSURE

44-38861-6066



FBI

Date: 2/10/76

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

Via AIRTEL _____
(Precedence)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)
FROM : SAC, CINCINNATI (157-1893) (P*)
SUBJECT: MURKIN

Re Cincinnati airtel and LHM to Bureau, 2/4/76.

Enclosed for the Bureau are six copies of an LHM captioned "JAMES EARL RAY". Enclosed for Memphis are two copies of the same LHM.

Information furnished in the enclosed LHM was obtained from records at the U. S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati, Ohio, by SC DWIGHT H. VOGEL.

Cincinnati will maintain close contact with the U. S. Court of Appeals in this matter.

- 2 - Bureau (Enc. 6)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987) (Enc. 2)
- 2 - Cincinnati

DHV:gmb
(6)

3- ENCLOSED

1-CRD EX 103
1-CRU
070F REC-42
2/13/76
HNH/jet

44-38861-6067

5 FEB 12 1976

ALERT SERVICE DIV
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Handwritten signatures and initials: P...
F...
m...

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

57 FEB 24 1976

23 FEB 5 1976

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FEB 12 4 38 PM 1976

FEB 11
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

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INTELLIGENCE DIV.

(C)

TO :

FROM :
SUBJECT :
REFERENCE :

RE: [Faint text]

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[Faint text]

10130



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

Cincinnati, Ohio
February 10, 1976

RE: JAMES EARL RAY

On February 9, 1976, Betty Tibbles, Deputy Clerk,
United States Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit, Cincinnati,
Ohio, advised an employee of the Federal Bureau of
Investigation (FBI) that the following additional entry
was recorded on Docket Number 75-1795:

1976

February 3, 1976

Cause argued by James Hiram
Lesar for Appellant, by
William J. Haynes, Jr., for
Appellee and case submitted to
the court.

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

44-38861-6067

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

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	_____

NR011 AT PLAIN

FEB 18 1976

7:46 PM URGENT FEBRUARY 18, 1976 TLI

TELETYPE

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

Handwritten notes:
P. Edwards
C. M. Slopper
H. J. [unclear]

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

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

Handwritten initials: DA

EX 104

REC-14

44-38861-6068

5 FEB 20 1976

END PAGE ONE.

Handwritten notes:
0-70(B)
RAG, CRD-ENC-3
2-20-76
ESM/pal

Handwritten notes:
6-8pm

84 FEB 27 1976

8 FEB 5 1976

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

FEB 18 8 58 PM '76

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

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS
FBI

FEB 19 6 51 AM 1976

REC'D

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

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

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

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

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

END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

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

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

END.

PLS HOLD FOR ONE MORE TEL

APR 11 1964

TELETYPE UNIT

FEB 18 7 54 PM '76

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442600)

FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, FEBRUARY SEVENTEEN LAST.

NY FILE NO. 100-100000-100000

NY FILE NO. 100-100000-100000

NY FILE NO. 100-100000-100000

NY FILE NO. 100-100000-100000

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ATLANTA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MEMPHIS	DATE 2/3/76	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 1/4/76 - 1/21/76
TITLE OF CASE SHIRKIN		REPORT MADE BY SA THOMAS J. WILSON	TYPED BY LCW
		CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS	

REFERENCES:

Atlanta teletype to the Bureau, 1/5/76, and Bureau teletype to Atlanta, 1/6/76.

- P -

ADMINISTRATIVE:

ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, telephone 477-5036, was telephonically contacted on 1/16/76, and requested to submit to a polygraph examination at which time he stated "I'm innocent, I don't want to talk to the FBI any further".

GODFREY stated if the FBI is interested in pursuing this matter any further, he will not talk unless the FBI contacts his attorney JACK V. DORSEY, 934-8921, or 633-9507.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS CLAIMED					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NONE	ACQUIT-TALS	CASE HAS BEEN:	
CONVICTION	RETRIAL	FINES	SAVINGS	RECOVERIES				PENDING OVER ONE YEAR
							PENDING PROSECUTION OVER SIX MONTHS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

APPROVED: *[Signature]* SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

COPIES MADE:

- 2 - Bureau (44-38861)
- 2 - El Paso (44-920)
- 2 - Memphis (44-1987)
- 2 - Atlanta (44-2386)

44-38861-6069

FEB 8 1976

REC-113

Dissemination Record of Attached Report

Agency	1 - CRD		
Request Recd.			
Date Fwd.	2/11/76		
How Fwd.	070-B		
By	HWH:mlw		

Notations: McDONOUGH

SIX

DATA PROC

84 MAR 1 1976

COVER PAGE

EXP. PROC.

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE
DIVISION

FEB-9 8 47 AM '76

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

ET

AT 44-2386

On 1/19/76, LEON OWEN POWELL, 2786 Alston Drive, Apartment 9, Decatur, Georgia, telephonically contacted the Atlanta Office of the FBI, advising he was sick and desired to postpone his polygraph examination until the week of 1/26 - 30/76.

On 1/29/76, LEON OWEN POWELL voluntarily appeared at the Atlanta Office of the FBI to submit to a polygraph examination. POWELL was advised of his rights by SA JOHN B. REYNOLDS as shown on a warning and waiver of rights form, which he signed after reading. POWELL also executed a consent or waiver to take a polygraph examination form.

On 1/29/76, at 7:45 PM, LEON OWEN POWELL, after executing FD-328 (Polygraph Consent Form), was afforded a polygraph examination in the Atlanta Office of the FBI. Assisting in the collateral interview was SA AUGUST W. BULFER. POWELL, during pre-polygraph interview, substantially furnished the same information as in previous interviews with the exception to information concerning money offered by GODFREY. POWELL, according to his recollection, 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, JR. POWELL previously stated GODFREY made the statement \$50,000 was to be paid. However, when going over the polygraph questions to be asked him, he requested that the amount be deleted from the question and the words "big money" be substituted for \$50,000. According to POWELL, the conversation with GODFREY came about while they were sitting in Pete's Bar during the fall of 1967, and the conversation was concerning MARTIN LUTHER KING's activities at which time someone stated KING should be killed and POWELL's brother, CLAUDE POWELL, made a statement to the effect that 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 acknowledged 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.

B- B -
COVER PAGE

AT 44-2386

POWELL stated this white male never 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 of 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 \$2,500 or \$25,000, stated RALPH never did state the amount but he realized that that much money in that size briefcase would have to be at least \$25,000. RALPH also made the statement that there would be "fifty more" when MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., 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 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 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.

Examinations two, three, and four, all containing relevant, irrelevant and control questions, the 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, JR.?". The 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".

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

- C -
COVER PAGE

AT 44-2386

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 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, however, denied drinking anything during the day of the examination.

A review of these charts reflects that POWELL responded generally in the same manner to all questions asked with no significant response to any individual question whereby a conclusion could be drawn as to his being truthful or untruthful. Therefore, these polygraph examinations were determined to be inconclusive.

On 1/19/76, at 8:15 PM, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., was afforded a polygraph examination by SA LOREN K. LEE, of the San Antonio Division of the FBI, who was unassisted in the collateral interview.

POWELL's "yes" responses to questions, "Did someone offer you and LEON \$50,000 to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?" and "Did someone ask you to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?" were less than responses to control question, indicating POWELL is truthfelling in stating someone did, in fact, offer him and his brother \$50,000 to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POWELL's "no" response to question, "Do you know who asked you and LEON to kill MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.?" and his reactions following the answer indicate a possible knowledge regarding the unidentified person mentioned in the above questions.

POWELL was left with the impression that results of the polygraph examination were unclear and that the strong possibility existed wherein the FBI would request an additional test in the immediate future. Results of the test were not discussed in any way with POWELL nor was interrogation effected.

LEADS:

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- D -
COVER PAGE

AT 44-2386

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Will recontact LEON OWEN POWELL and display to him revised artist's conception and ascertain if identical with RALPH (Last Name Unknown).

- E* -
COVER PAGE