

PAGE TWO (44-38861)

POWELL, JR., AS TO AVAILABILITY AND CONTACT SAN ANTONIO DIVISION
DIRECT RE ARRANGING THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THIS POLYGRAPH
EXAMINATION. OBTAIN NECESSARY WAIVERS.

HANDLE PROMPTLY AND SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS.

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

END

PAGE THREE (44-38861)

NOTE: See Peelman to Gallagher memorandum, same date,
same caption. All offices telephonically advised
1/14/76 of this request for polygraph examinations. SAC
Colwell, San Antonio, advised SA Lee is available.

Civil Rights Division

1/14/76

ATTN: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

my

1/12/76

XX

B/HNH/lop

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

Hand written

NOTE: Enclosed is a teletype dated 1/13/76 from our Atlanta Office. Also enclosed is an FBI Identification Record for Leon Owen Powell and Claude Powell, Jr.

Reference is made to conversations between Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy and SA H. N. Helterhoff re the status of this investigation. On 1/13/76, Mr. Murphy requested that FBI Identification Records be obtained for Leon Owen Powell, Claude Powell and Ray Godfrey. The FBI Identification Records for the Powells are enclosed and we are in the process of obtaining an FBI Identification Record for Ray Godfrey who has been fully identified as Arnold Ray Godfrey, date of birth 6/11/30. On 1/14/76, Mr. Murphy requested that polygraph examinations be afforded to the Powells and Arnold Ray Godfrey.

1-8-76 420 VES

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

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

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

1-8-76 420 VYS

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

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION

The following FBI record, NUMBER **220 012 E**, is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

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

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

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

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1967 O - 344-101

NR013 AT PLAIN

11:45 PM URGENT 1-13-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 13 1976

TELETYPE

McRae

DoD. 6/11/30 TENN. COOPER HILL W.M. Per R. Grogg, 11/11/76. H.K.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 12, 1976.

ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, AKA RAY GODFREY, INTERVIEWED AND DENIED ALL KNOWLEDGE OF ANY ASSASSINATION PLOT REGARDING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH NAMES CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL, BUT AFTER OBSERVING THEIR PICTURES KNEW THEM TO BE FREQUENT VISITORS TO PETE'S PLACE. GODFREY ADVISED HE WAS EMPLOYED AS A BARTENDER AT PETE'S PLACE. HE DID NOT TALK WITH EITHER OF THE POWELLS REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NOR DID HE INTRODUCE ANYONE TO THEM REGARDING THE ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT WELL-DRESSED INDIVIDUALS FREQUENTING PETE'S PLACE, GODFREY VOLUNTEERED THAT A WHITE MALE IN HIS FORTIES, APPROXIMATELY FIVE FEET ELEVEN INCHES TALL, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY TO ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY POUNDS WITH DARK WAVY HAIR, FURTHER DESCRIBED AS WELL-GROOMED AND WELL-SPOKEN, A SWARTHY COMPLEXION, POSSIBLY OF CUBAN DESCENT DID

END PAGE ONE.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

O. Peltman

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

FREQUENTLY COME INTO PETE'S PLACE. HE IS UNABLE TO RECALL THIS INDIVIDUAL'S NAME, HOWEVER, ANOTHER FORMER BARTENDER BY THE NAME OF DIANE (LNU), WHO NOW HAS A BAR NAMED, "THE OFFICE", LOCATED ON FLAT SHOALS ROAD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA, MIGHT POSSIBLY REMEMBER THIS INDIVIDUAL. GODFREY STATED THE ONLY OTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO MIGHT REMEMBER THIS WELL-DRESSED MAN IS PETE DAVIS.

GODFREY AGREED TO POLYGRAPH VERY READILY.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW DIANE (LNU).

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

PLS HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 12 1976

TELETYPE

NR012 AT PLAIN

9:06 PM URGENT 1-12-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE BUREAU TEL JANUARY 9, 1976.

ATTEMPTS TO RECONTACT LEON POWELL REGARDING IDENTIFICATION
OF ARTIST'S CONCEPTION ON TODAY'S DATE NEGATIVE.

INTERVIEW WITH RAY GODFREY ARRANGED WITH GODFREY'S EMPLOYER
FOR MORNING OF JANUARY 13, 1976.

ATLANTA. WILL INTERVIEW RAY GODFREY. LOCATE AND SHOW
ARTIST'S CONCEPTION TO LEON POWELL.

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

PLS EACK FOR FIVE

NR020 NEEDS A TAPE COULD YOU PLS RESEND IT

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

F B I

Transmit in _____ Via TELECOPIER _____
(Type in plaintext or code) (Precedence)

TO: SAC; ATLANTA (44-2386)

1-8-76
(Date)

FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

Re ~~ur Telecopier Transmission dated 1-8-76~~

1. ITEMS ENCLOSED PREPARED BY EXHIBITS SECTION, ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION:

~~One Artist's conception drawing~~

2. ACTION TO BE TAKEN:

- A. Have witness(es) view item(s) for evaluation.
- B. If modification is necessary, submit additional information and any pertinent comments of witness(es) to Exhibits Section, Administrative Division.
- C. When likeness is approved by witness(es) any extra copies needed should be made or obtained locally. If local copying facilities are not available additional copies may be requested from Exhibits Section.
- D. As the case progresses, advise Exhibits Section re use and effectiveness of item(s) as investigative aid(s). Upon apprehension of subject(s), submit arrest photographs(s).

Enc. Three photocopies of drawing are being forwarded to your office by routing slip.
 NOTE: WITNESS SHOULD FIRST SEE AND APPROVE DRAWING BEFORE SENDING PHOTOCOPIES TO OTHER OFFICES.

(Do not type below this line.)

① General Investigative Division (Mr. Helterhoff)(Enc)(Sent Direct)

GPN/kw

(3)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



MURKIN

Civil Rights Division

1/12/76

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

ASSASSINATION OF
DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

xx (B) HUH/699

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SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

Hand carried.

NOTE: Enclosed is a copy of a teletype dated 1/8/76 from our Atlanta Office; 2 teletypes dated 1/9/76 from El Paso; and 1 teletype dated 1/9/76 from Charlotte.

Reference is made to conversations between Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy, and SA H. N. Helterhoff re the status of this investigation. On 1/9/76, Mr. Murphy stated that Ray Godfrey should be interviewed and a determination should also be made as to whether he will submit to a polygraph examination. Mr. Murphy also stated that Claude Powell should be recontacted to determine if he will submit to a polygraph, and a determination should also be made as to whether any records of incoming and outgoing telephone calls are maintained at the Scottish Inn Motel, Midland, Texas.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 09 1976

TELETYPE

NR 006 EP PLAIN

9:55PM NITEL JANUARY 9, 1976 SMC

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861) ATLANTA (44-2386)
FROM EL PASO (44-920) (P)

MURKIN

RE WASHINGTON TEL SENT JANUARY 9, 1976.

ON JANUARY 9, 1976, D.M. WILLIAMS, MANAGER OF THE SCOTTISH INN MOTEL, MIDLAND, TEXAS, ADVISED THAT THE MOTEL RECORD FOR ROOM 211, WHERE CLAUDE POWELL JR. IS RESIDING, REFLECTS NO OUTGOING TELEPHONE CALLS. INCOMING TELEPHONE CALLS ARE NOT RECORDED, WHETHER LOCAL OR LONG DISTANCE, AS TO THEIR POINT OF ORIGIN.

CLAUDE POWELL JR. RECONTACTED AND ADVISED HE WOULD SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION CONCERNING THE INFORMATION HE PREVIOUSLY SUPPLIED ON JANUARY 8, 1976. EL PASO AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS BY BUREAU RE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.

AIR MAIL COPY SENT TO MEMPHIS.

END.

TKR FBIHQ 2

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 09 1976

~~TELETYPE~~

NR012 CE PLAIN

9:28PM NITEL JANUARY 9, 1976 JDC

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO

MEMPHIS

FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365)(P)

MURKIN.

RE CHARLOTTE TELETYPE DATED JANUARY 8, 1976.

WENDELL SUTTON POWELL, FOREMAN, PHARR YARNS, INTERVIEWED AT HIS HOME, 218 EWING DRIVE, BELMONT, N. C., ADVISED HIS CORRESPONDENCE WITH HIS BROTHER CLAUDE POWELL, JR., IS VERY POOR WITH ONLY AN OCCASIONAL TELEPHONE CALL. HE LAST SAW CLAUDE THREE YEARS AGO WHEN THEIR MOTHER, HEPSIE POWELL, WAS VERY ILL IN TOCCOA, GEORGIA. WENDELL RELATED HE HAD NOT HEARD OF ANYONE CONTACTING HIS BROTHERS CLAUDE AND LEON AND OFFERING THEM MONEY TO ASSASSINATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, AND ADVISED IF CLAUDE HAD SEEN \$25,000 IN ONE LUMP SUM, CLAUDE WOULD HAVE TOLD OTHERS ABOUT IT. HE SAID CLAUDE USED TO DRINK A LOT AND TALK GLIBLY WHEN IN A DRUNKEN CONDITION UNTIL A DOCTOR TOLD HIM TO RESTRICT HIS INTAKE OF ALCOHOL FOLLOWING AN ACCIDENT,

POWELL SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE CLAUDE AND LEON HAD THE

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO

CE 44-1365

CAPACITY TO ASSASSINATE KING. CLAUDE GOT NICKNAME "SHOTGUN" SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN A SHOTGUN WAS TAKEN FROM HIM BY A POLICEMAN AFTER CLAUDE WAS STOPPED FOR DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED. WENDELL SAID NEITHER HE NOR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY LIKED KING. WENDELL SAID KING STIRRED UP TROUBLE WHEREVER HE WENT AND HE AND MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY DID NOT BELIEVE IN TROUBLE. WENDELL BELIEVED KING BECAME A MARTYR TO HIS PEOPLE BY BEING ASSASSINATED WHICH MIGHT NOT HAVE OCCURRED HAD HE LIVED. WENDELL STATED IN ADDITION TO BEING INCARCERATED BY THE N. C. PRISON AUTHORITIES, HE HAD SERVED TIME AS A JUVENILE AT BOYS TOWN OF GEORGIA LOCATED BETWEEN ATHENS AND MACON, GA. WENDELL SAID NEITHER HE NOR MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT JAMES EARL RAY OTHER THAN WHAT THEY HAVE READ IN NEWSPAPERS, TO HIS KNOWLEDGE. NO MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY ARE KNOWN TO BE PRESENT OR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN OR OTHER EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS.

WENDELL POWELL SAID HE HAS THREE BROTHERS, CLAUDE JR., LEON, AND EDWARD, WHO RESIDED IN ATLANTA, GA., HE BELIEVED, PLACE NOT KNOWN, AND ONE SISTER, FLOYCE BRYSON (WIFE OF JOHN

PAGE THREE CE 44-1365

ERYSON), FRANKLIN, N. C., AND A MOTHER HEPSIE AND A BROTHER HUBERT, WHO LIVE SIDE BY SIDE IN TACCOA, GA.

ATLANTA WILL, IF NOT ALREADY DONE, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW EDWARD POWELL, ATLANTA, AND HEPSIE AND HUBERT POWELL, TOCCOA, GA.

CHARLOTTE WILL CONTACT FLOYCE BRYSON, SISTER, FRANKLIN, N. C.

TELETYPE BEING FURNISHED EL PASO FOR INFORMATION SINCE EL PASO CONDUCTING ACTIVE INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER.
END.

HOLD

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

1/9/76

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861)

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Helterhoff

REEPTEL JANUARY 9, 1976.

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION REQUESTS FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
INVESTIGATION:

ATLANTA, INTERVIEW RAY GODFREY. ADVISE HIM OF HIS
RIGHTS AND DETERMINE IF HE WILL SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH
EXAMINATION.

EL PASO, RECONTACT CLAUDE POWELL AND DETERMINE IF HE WILL
SUBMIT TO POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION. ALSO ASCERTAIN IF SCOTTISH
INN MOTEL MAINTAINS ANY RECORDS RECORDING INCOMING AND
OUTGOING TELEPHONE CALLS FOR CLAUDE POWELL, PARTICULARLY TO
DETERMINE IF HE HAS BEEN IN TELEPHONIC CONTACT WITH LEON
OWEN POWELL.

DO NOT CONDUCT ANY POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION UNTIL FURTHER
APPROVAL FROM FBIHQ. SUTEL SUMMARY RESULTS.

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

1 - MEMPHIS (44-1987)

END

HNH:bap (4)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

PAGE TWO (44-38861)

NOTE: This case pertains to the shooting death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on 4/4/68.

Pursuant to a Departmental request, we have instituted investigation to resolve an allegation by Leon Owen Powell that he and his brother, Claude Powell, were offered payment in 1967 to murder Dr. King. Leon Owen Powell claimed Ray Godfrey initially approached him re this payment. Claude Powell has also been interviewed and also states offered to kill Dr. King made; however, Claude Powell's account differs in many respects to that of Leon Owen Powell.

On 1/9/76, Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy, Chief, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division, requested the above additional investigation.

He stated no actual polygraph examination should be afforded until this matter further considered by Department; however, he desires to know whether Godfrey and Claude Powell would submit to polygraphs. (Leon Owen Powell has already indicated he will submit to a polygraph.)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 09 1976

TELETYPE

NR001 EP PLAINTEXT

9:26AM URGENT JANUARY 9, 1975 OXM

TO: DIRECTOR (44-388681)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS

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

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELS TO EL PASO DATED JANUARY 8, 1976.

ALTHOUGH MOTEL PERSONNEL AND RECORDS FAILED TO LOCATE
REGISTRATION FOR CLAUDE POWELL, JR., INVESTIGATION MIDLAND, TEXAS,
JANUARY 8, 1976, DETERMINED SEVERAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FROM
GEORGIA RESIDING VARIOUS ROOMS SCOTTISH INN MOTEL. INQUIRY WITH
FORMER AND MEMBERS OF CONSTRUCTION CREW UPON THEIR RETURN TO
MOTEL LATE EVENING JANUARY 8, 1976, DETERMINED POWELL RESIDING
ROOM 211 SINCE JANUARY 4, 1976 WITH THREE OTHER CONSTRUCTION WORKERS.

CLAUDE POWELL, JR. INTERVIEWED EVENING JANUARY 8, 1976.

AT OUTSET OF INTERVIEW POWELL DENIED HAVING CONTACT WITH ANY
MEMBER OF HIS FAMILY OR IN PARTICULAR HIS BROTHER LEON POWELL SINCE
DEPARTING FROM ATLANTA, GEORGIA, DECEMBER 31, 1975. WHEN

END PAGE ONE

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

EP 44-920 PAGE TWO

QUESTIONED IF HE HAD EVER BEEN OFFER A LARGE SUM OF MONEY TO COMMIT A MURDER HE IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED THAT HE HAD IN FACT BEEN OFFERED \$25,000 SHORTLY BEFORE THE ACTUAL ASSASSINATION OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.. HE RELATED THE FOLLOWING:

THREE OR FOUR WEEKS PRIOR TO THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING HE AND HIS BROTHER LEON WERE SEATED IN A BOOTH IN PETE'S BAR ON MORELAND AVENUE, IN ATLANTA. HE RECALLED THAT A FRIEND OF HIS BROTHER, RAY GODFREY, A MUSICIAN AND AN ATLANTA CITY EMPLOYEE JOINED THEM IN THEIR BOOTH AND ENGAGED IN CONVERSATION WITH LEON. HE PAID NO PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO WHAT THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT. GODFREY LEFT THE BOOTH AND, IN APPROXIMATELY TEN TO FIFTEEN MINUTES, AN INDIVIDUAL PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TO HIM CAME TO THEIR BOOTH AND SEATED HIMSELF OPPOSITE FROM HE AND LEON. HE RECALLED THIS INDIVIDUAL AS BEING A WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY 5'8" IN HEIGHT, MEDIUM BUILD, APPROXIMATELY 150 POUNDS, EARLY 30'S, WELL DRESSED, CALM AND COLD IN MANNER AND VERY CLEAN CUT. AS THE PERSON SET DOWN HE PLACED AN EXPENSIVE LOOKING BLACK BRIEFCASE ON THE TABLE. THIS INDIVIDUAL APPEARED TO BE OUT OF PLACE IN SUCH AN ESTABLISHMENT

END PAGE TWO

IN VIEW OF HIS DRESS AND HE IMPRESSED POWELL AS BEING A WELL EDUCATED PERSON WHO APPEAR TO BE A PROFESSIONAL TYPE, SUCH AS A LAWYER. HE MAY HAVE INTRODUCED HIMSELF BUT HE DOES NOT REMEMBER A NAME.

THE UNKNOWN PERSON ASKED HE AND LEON IF THEY WANTED TO PULL A JOB. HE DOES NOT REMEMBER THE EXACT CONVERSATION BUT HE QUESTIONED THE UNKNOWN PERSON CONCERNING THE NATURE OF THE JOB AND HOW MUCH MONEY IT PAID. THE UNKNOWN PERSON TOLD THEM THAT HE WANTED THEM TO DO AWAY WITH SOMEONE AND WHEN QUESTIONED FURTHER SAID IT WAS SOMEONE IMPORTANT. THE UNKNOWN PERSON THEN TOLD THEM HE WANTED THEM TO KILL MARTIN LUTHER KING AND WOULD PAY \$25,000 NOW AND \$25,000 WHEN THE JOB WAS DONE. THE UNKNOWN PERSON THEN OPENED HIS BRIEFCASE WHICH WAS FULL OF WRAPPED CURRENCY, SOME OF WHICH WERE IN \$100 DENOMINATION. HE STATED THAT HE WAS SHOCKED AND INITIALLY ASSUMED THAT IT WAS SOME SORT OF JOKE OR POSSIBLY A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER TRYING TO

END PAGE THREE

TRICK HIM. AFTER THE UNKNOWN PERSON MADE THE OFFER HE IGNORED ANY FURTHER CONVERSATION WHERE UPON THE UNKNOWN PERSON CLOSED HIS BRIEFCASE 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 A REPUTATION AS BEING A HOODLUM BECAUSE OF HIS PAST PRISON RECORD, PARTICIPATION IN SEVERAL FIGHTS, AND HIS HABIT OF CARRYING A SHOTGUN IN HIS VEHICLE. HE SAID HE FREQUENTLY LOANED HIS SHOTGUN TO THE BARTENDER AT PETE'S WHEN TROUBLE OCCURRED AT THE BAR. HE DENIED EVER RECEIVING SUCH AN OFFER PRIOR TO THIS INCIDENT AND FURTHER DENIED ANY AFFILIATION WITH A WHITE HATE GROUP. 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.

HE MENTIONED THAT HE WAS SHOCKED AND DISMAYED TO LEARN APPROXIMATELY THREE TO FOUR WEEKS LATER THAT MARTIN LUTHER KING HAD BEEN MURDERED. HE SAID HE DID NOT GO TO LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND TELL THEM OF HIS CONTACT WITH THE UNKNOWN PERSON BECAUSE HE FELT HE MIGHT BECOME A SUSPECT IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

END PAGE FOUR

EP 44-928 PAGE FIVE

POWELL STATED HIS CONTACT WITH THE UNKNOWN PERSON WAS APPROXIMATELY FIVE MINUTES IN DURATION AND THAT HE WOULD NOT RECOGNIZE HIM IF HE WAS BOUGHT INTO HIS MOTEL ROOM AT THAT MOMENT. A FACIAL IDENTIFICATION CATALOG WAS PRESENTED TO POWELL AND THOROUGHLY EXPLAINED. POWELL OBSERVED ALL ITEMS IN THE CATALOG AND STATED HE COULD NOT RECALL THE UNKNOWN PERSON'S FACIAL FEATURES AND WOULD BE UNABLE TO PROVIDE AN ARTIST CONCEPTION.

POWELL IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: WHITE MALE, 6'2", 178 LBS., DOB MARCH 26, 1926, POB STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGIA; MOTHER, MEPSIE POWELL, ROUTE 3, TOCCA, GEORGIA; FATHER DECEASED; SISTER, FLOIS BRYSON, ADDRESS UNKNOWN, FRANKLIN, NORTH CAROLINA; BROTHERS, LEON POWELL, ATLANTA, GEORGIA; HUBERT POWELL, ROUTE 3, TOCCA, GEORGIA; WENDALL POWELL, BELMONT, NORTH CAROLINA, ADDRESS UNKNOWN; EDWARD POWELL, SHANDON, GEORGIA; WIFE, JACKIE POWELL, 4163 CANBY LANE, DECATER, GEORGIA, NO TELEPHONE. EDUCATION FINISHED FOURTH GRADE. EMPLOYMENT - SELFEMPLOYED. OCCUPATION - DRY WALL CARPENTER.

EL PASO AT MIDLAND, TEXAS: WILL SUBMIT FD-302.

END

AJN FBIHQ CLR TU

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 08 1976

TELETYPE

*McDonnell
for Reelman*

NR012 AT PLAIN

4:37 PM URGENT 1-8-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO

MEMPHIS (AM)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE EL PASO TEL TO BUREAU, JANUARY 7, 1976; ATLANTA TEL TO DIRECTOR, JANUARY 7, 1976; AND BUREAU TEL CALL TO ATLANTA, JANUARY 8, 1976.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL RECONTACTED AND ADVISED HE WOULD "STICK BY HIS STORY". ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH (LNU) OBTAINED FROM LEON POWELL AND SENT TO EXHIBITS SECTION, VIA SEPARATE COMMUNICATION. POWELL ADVISED HIS BROTHER LOCATED IN ROOM 212 OF SCOTTISH INN, MIDLAND, TEXAS AND EMPLOYED THERE BY UNIDENTIFIED HOME BUILDER DOING EITHER CARPENTRY OR DRYWALL WORK.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, ANNIE LOIS CAMPOS, WHITE FEMALE, DATE OF BIRTH MAY 28, 1939, WAS CONTACTED AND ADVISED SHE HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY MARRIED TO LEON OWEN POWELL FROM 1959 UNTIL 1975. AFTER SOME PROMPTING, SHE REMEMBERED THE INCIDENT WHEREBY HER EX-HUSBAND, LEON POWELL, RELATED TO HER AN INDIVIDUAL HAD CONTACTED
END PAGE ONE.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

HIS BROTHER AND HIM REGARDING MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. POWELL TOLD HER THAT MAN HAD A SUITCASE FULL OF MONEY AND WANTED HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE, TO MURDER KING. POWELL WAS VERY INTOXICATED WHEN RELATING THIS STORY TO HER. SHE SPECIFICALLY REMEMBERS HE RELATED THIS TO HER AFTER THE KING ASSASSINATION. HER EX-HUSBAND WAS CONSTANTLY GETTING DRUNK AND SPENDING ALL HIS PAY CHECK ON BOOZE. NUMEROUS TIMES SHE HAD TO PULL HIM OUT OF A BAR BEFORE HE SPENT ALL HIS MONEY SO THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH LEFT TO BUY GROCERIES. NUMEROUS TIMES, WHILE HE WAS DRUNK, HER EX-HUSBAND WOULD TALK ABOUT VARIOUS KILINGS AND KILLERS. SHE THOUGHT THIS WAS MOSTLY THE LIQUOR TALKING; HOWEVER, IF HE STUCK BY HIS STORY WHEN HE WAS SOBER, SHE WOULD ATTRIBUTE SOME VALIDITY TO HIS TALE. SHE COULD NOT SUPPLY ANY FURTHER INFORMATION.

ON JANUARY 8, 1976, BOBBY JOHNSON, RADIO STATION, WPLC COUNTRY AND WESTERN MUSIC STATION, ADVISED THERE HAD BEEN A COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER BY THE NAME OF RAY GODFREY IN 1967 OR 1968. THIS SINGER WAS HANDLED LOCALLY BY LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. ON JANUARY 8, 1975, MARY TALLENT, END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

SECRETARY TO PRESIDENT, LOWERY MUSIC COMPANY, ADVISED IN 1967 HER FIRM HANDLED COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER BY NAME OF RAY GODFREY. GODFREY WOULD, AT THIS TIME, BE APPROXIMATELY FORTY-FIVE TO FIFTY YEARS OF AGE AND IS A WHITE MALE. SHE DESCRIBED GODFREY AS REAL "COUNTRY" FELLOW. SHE REFUSED TO BELIEVE GODFREY COULD BE IN ANY TROUBLE WHATSOEVER. NATURE OF ATLANTA'S INQUIRY NOT RELATED TO HER. SHE STATED GODFREY WORKED FOR ATLANTA WATER DEPARTMENT WITH TELEPHONE NUMBER 622-1481 AS WORK PHONE. SHE ALSO ADVISED RECORDS REFLECT GODFREY HAD SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER [REDACTED]. SHE ALSO FURNISHED NEGATIVE OF PHOTOGRAPH OF RAY GODFREY.

TELEPHONE NUMBER 622-1481 IS LISTED TO ATLANTA CITY DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND STREETS. MRS. L. S. PENNINGTON, DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL, CITY OF ATLANTA, RECONTACTED AND ADVISED THAT PAT SOJKA, SUPERVISOR, SEWER REPAIR DIVISION, WOULD BE PERSON TO CONTACT RE ANYONE EMPLOYED AT TELEPHONE NUMBER 622-1481.

PAT SOJKA ADVISED CITY OF ATLANTA DOES HAVE AN EMPLOYEE NAMED RAY GODFREY, EMPLOYED AS A SEWER SERVICE FOREMAN. GODFREY IS KNOWN TO BE A COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER. RAY GODFREY IS NOT
END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

HIS COMPLETE NAME, HOWEVER. CURRENT RECORDS OF SEWER DEPARTMENT REFLECT TRUE NAME AS A. R. GODFREY, LIVING AT 1105 LAKESHORE DRIVE, JONESBORO, GEORGIA, TELEPHONE 477-5836.

IN ORDER TO CLARIFY INFO RE PETE DAVIS IN ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 7, 1976, IT IS TO BE NOTED DOROTHY DAVIS ADVISED HER HUSBAND, PETE DAVIS, OWNED AND OPERATED BAR KNOWN AS "PETE'S PLACE" ON MORELAND AVENUE JUST SOUTH OF INTERSECTION OF CONFEDERATE AND MORELAND AND THAT HER HUSBAND DIED IN MAY, 1975 OF NATURAL CAUSES, NAMELY CANCER.

ON JANUARY 8, 1976, AT 3378-CI ADVISED TELEPHONE NUMBER 477-5836 SUBSCRIBED TO BY ARNOLD GODFREY, ORIGINALLY CONNECTED APRIL, 1961 AND TRANSFERRED TO ABOVE ADDRESS OCTOBER, 1974. UP TO 1970, EMPLOYED BY CITY OF ATLANTA CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT, NO UP-DATE AVAILABLE FOR EMPLOYMENT SINCE. IT WOULD APPEAR GODFREY'S NAME IS ARNOLD RAY OR RAYMOND GODFREY.

ATLANTA CONDUCTED ALL INVESTIGATION REQUESTED BY CIVIL RIGHTS DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, IS KEEPING CASE IN PENDING STATUS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT CHARLOTTE AND EL PASO HAVE OUTSTANDING INVESTIGATION.

END PAGE FOUR.

PAGE FIVE (44-2386)

POWELL BROTHERS, LEON AND CLAUDE, SHOULD BE CONSIDERED
POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS.

END.

PLS HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 11 1976
TELETYPE

NR006 CE PLAIN

6:30PM NITEL JANUARY 8, 1976 JDC

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)
ATLANTA (44-2386)
EL PASO
MEMPHIS

FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365)
MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE DIRECTOR, DATED JANUARY 7, 1976.
CHARLOTTE, N. C., AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
RECORDS REFLECT CLAUDE DOWELL, JR., BELMONT, N. C., WAS
SENTENCED MAY 16, 1949, FOR ARMED ROBBERY TO FIVE TO TEN YEARS
IN THE N. C. STATE PENITENTIARY, RALEIGH, N. C. ON MAY 22,
1953, POWELL ARRESTED LOCALLY FOR FAILURE TO STOP AT INTERSECTION.

MECKLENBURG COUNTY CLERK OF COURT RECORDS REFLECT WENDELL
SUTTON POWELL BORN JULY 10, 1929, ARRESTED AND SENTENCED AT SAME
TIME TO SAME TERM AS CLAUDE POWELL ON ARMED ROBBERY CHARGE.
WENDELL SUTTON POWELL, POSSIBLY A BROTHER OF CLAUDE, HAS
SEVERAL OTHER ARRESTS FOR OPERATING A VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE
INFLUENCE AND PUBLIC DRUNK, LAST BEING ARRESTED MARCH 17, 1974,
FOR PUBLIC DRUNK. WENDELL SUTTON POWELL RESIDED 218 EWING
DRIVE, BELMONT, N. C., AT THAT TIME.

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO

CE 44-1365

NO RECORD LOCATED RE BROTHER LEON OWEN POWELL.

ABOVE BEING SET FORTH FOR EL PASO FOR INFORMATION AS
EL PASO HAS LEAD TO INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

CHARLOTTE, AT BELMONT, N. C., WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW
WENDELL POWELL TO DETERMINE WENDELL POWELL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH
CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL AND IF HE IS ACQUAINTED WITH ALLEGED
MURDER PLOT.

END.

HOLD

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 08 1976

TELETYPE

NR002 AT PLAIN

11:00 AM URGENT 1-8-75 LMM

TO DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO

FROM ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE EL PASO TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 7, 1976.

ON JANUARY 7, 1976, LEON POWELL RECONTACTED AND ADVISED BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, IS TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, CURRENTLY STAYING AT SCOTTISH INN, MIDLAND, TEXAS, ROOM NUMBER 210. POWELL IS CURRENTLY EMPLOYED AT MIDLAND BY UNKNOWN HOME BUILDER. POWELL DOES BOTH CARPENTRY AND DRYWALL CONSTRUCTION. POWELL LEFT ATLANTA, GEORGIA, WEEK OF DECEMBER 31, 1975.

EL PASO AT MIDLAND, TEXAS. WILL ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW CLAUDE POWELL, JR.

END

CBL FBHQ

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 0 8 1976 *tm*

NR005 EP PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

11:54PM URGENT JANUARY 7, 1976 HXG

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

Mc Donough

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

MURKIN.

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

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

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

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

EL PASO WILL SUTEL RESULTS.

END

0 - Pullman
CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

NR016 AT PLAIN

9:19 PM URGENT 1-7-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

EL PASO

CHARLOTTE

MEMPHIS

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

JAN 07 1976

TELETYPE

Handwritten:
M. Don't
on [unclear]

RE BUREAU TELETYPE TO ATLANTA, JANUARY 6, 1976.

FOR INFO OF EL PASO AND CHARLOTTE, ON JANUARY 4, 1976, LEON OWEN POWELL, WHITE MALE, ADVISED ATLANTA OFFICE THAT DURING LATE OCTOBER OR EARLY NOVEMBER, 1967, HE AND HIS BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, JR., AKA "SHOTGUN" POWELL, WHITE MALE, WERE IN PETE'S BAR, ON MORELAND AVENUE IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA WHEN APPROACHED BY MUTUAL FRIEND, NAMED RAY GODFREY, WHITE MALE, APPROXIMATELY FORTY YEARS OF AGE, WHO ASKED IF THEY, THE POWELL BROTHERS, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN MAKING \$50,000. GODFREY WOULD GET THEM IN CONTACT WITH ANOTHER INDIVIDUAL WHO WOULD PAY THEM TO MURDER MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 6 ~~APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK LATER~~ ~~004978-5316-2,3-233(-)-534~~, A WHITE MALE CAME INTO THE BAR AND ASKED FOR THE POWELL BROTHERS.

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

CARBON COPY DO NOT FILE

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

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

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2386)

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

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

END PAGE THREE.

PAGE FOUR, (44-2386)

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

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

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

PAGE FIVE (44-2386)

COUNTY PD ARREST NUMBER IS 4822. DESCRIPTION OF CLAUDE POWELL, JR. IS WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH MARCH 26, 1926, SIX FEET TWO INCHES, ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-ONE POUNDS, FBI NUMBER 212 946 A.

RECORDS OF THE ATLANTA PD REVEALED LEON POWELL ARRESTED AUGUST 26, 1955 BY PROVOST MARSHAL, FORT BE NING, GEORGIA, CHARGED WITH ARTICLE 86. NO DISPOSITION AVAILABLE. ARRESTED JUNE 28, 1962 FOR WIFE BEATING AND ABANDONMENT, CHARGE WITHDRAWN JULY 6, 1962. LEON OWEN POWELL DESCRIBED AS WHITE MALE, DATE OF BIRTH APRIL 27, 1945, FBI NUMBER 220 012 E.

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

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

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

PAGE SIX (44-2386)

CLAUDE POWELL. HANDLYE THROUGH FACIAL IDENTIFIATION CATALOG AS SET FORTH IN FBI HANDBOOK, PARA 1, PAGE 21. IMMEDIATELY FACSIMILE RESULTS DIRECTLY TO EXHIBITS SECTION, FBIHQ, AND TELEPHONICALLY DISCUSS ANY PROBLEMS RE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION DIRECTLY WITH EXHIBITS SECTION.

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

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

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

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

COPY MAILED MENPHIS.

END.

CORRECTION: PAGE ONE, PARA ONE, LINE TEN SHOULD READ,

"KING, JR. APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK LATER" A WHITE MALE ETC
PLS HOLD

Mr. Gallagher

1/6/76

J. S. Peelman

MURKIN

1 - Mr. Callahan
1 - Mr. Adams
1 - Mr. Gallagher
1 - Mr. O'Connell
1 - Mr. Peelman
1 - Mr. Halterhoff
1 - Mr. Moore
1 - Mr. Wannall
1 - Mr. Walsh
(Mr. Morrissey)

PURPOSE: To advise of the institution of investigation to resolve an allegation by Leon Owen Powell that he and his brother were offered payment in 1967 to murder Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

By teletype dated 1/5/76, our Atlanta Office advised of information furnished by one Leon Owen Powell who, in essence, 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 Ralph never said the money being offered was to kill King. Powell states neither he nor his brother were involved in murder of King.

Leon Owen Powell also stated that the only other individuals aware of this meeting with Ralph (LNU) were his former wife, Annie Lois Compos and Pete Davis, owner of the bar. He stated Compos had no first-hand knowledge, and she is aware of the facts as he described them to her.

HNI:bap (10)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. Gallagher
RE: MURKIN

Davis observed Ralph (LNU) enter and exit the bar but had not entered into the conversation. Leon Owen Powell stated the reason he believes he and his brother were contacted by Godfrey is because his brother "Shotgun" served 5 years for armed robbery and had a reputation for being an expert with a shotgun. Leon Owen Powell stated he is willing to take a polygraph in this matter.

DETAILS: On 1/6/76, this matter discussed with Mr. Robert A. Murphy, Chief, Criminal Section, Civil Rights Division (CRD), U. S. Department of Justice and he requested immediate investigation to resolve this allegation. Mr. Murphy requested the following investigation:

Interview Claude Powell, Compos and Davis for any information they have re this allegation by Leon Owen Powell; obtain artist's conception of Ralph (LNU) from Leon Owen Powell; determine present whereabouts, including residence and employment of Godfrey - CRD stated Godfrey should not be interviewed at this time; determine all places where Claude Powell incarcerated to determine if he ever was incarcerated with James Earl Ray and handle any additional obvious and logical leads developed, such as the interview of any additional witnesses developed during interview. CRD will make a determination whether Leon Owen Powell should be given a polygraph examination upon the completion of the above investigation. This request from Mr. Murphy has been confirmed in writing.

Atlanta has been advised by separate communication to conduct this investigation immediately.

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

~~PLAINTEXT~~

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO ATLANTA (44-2386) 1 - Mr. Peelman
FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-38861) 1 - Mr. Morrissey
1 - Mr. Helterhoff
MURKIN

1/6/76

REATTTEL JANUARY 5, 1976.

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

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

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

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

1 - SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

HNH:bap (6)

SEE NOTE PAGE 3...

PAGE TWO (44-38861)

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

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

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

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

COPY MAILED MEMPHIS.

~~SECRET~~
TELETYPE TO SAC, AT
RE: MURKIN

NOTE: See Peelman to Gallagher memorandum, same date, same caption. The request concerning an artist's conception coordinated with Mr. J. F. Morrissey, Exhibits Section.

Civil Rights Division

1/6/76

ATTN: ROBERT A. MURPHY
ROOM 1038 TODD

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN
LUTHER KING, JR.

XX

(B) HNH/589

1 Enclosed is a copy of a teletype dated 1/5/76
from our Atlanta Office.

NOTE: Reference is made to a conversation between Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy and SA H. N. Helterhoff on 1/6/76. Mr. Murphy requested the following investigation re this allegation by Leon Owen Powell:

Interview Claude Powell, Compos and Davis for any information they have re Leon Owen Powell's allegation; obtain artist's conception of Ralph (Last Name Unknown) from Leon Owen Powell; determine present whereabouts including residence and employment of Ray Godfrey. Mr. Murphy stated Godfrey should not be interviewed at this time. Determine all places where Claude Powell reportedly incarcerated to determine if ever incarcerated with James Earl Ray; handle any additional obvious and local leads developed such as the interview of any additional witnesses developed during interview. The CRD will make a determination re providing Leon Owen Powell with polygraph upon completion of above investigation.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 05 1976

TELETYPE

NR001 AT PLAIN

10:53 AM URGENT 1-5-75 LMM

TO: DIRECTOR (44-33861)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

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

MURKIN.

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

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

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

END PAGE ONE.

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

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

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

END PAGE TWO.

PAGE THREE (44-2335)

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

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

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

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

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

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

PAGE FOUR (44-2386)

MATTER.

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

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

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

END.

HSP FBINO