

NR005 AT PLAIN

4:58 PM NITEL 1-22-76 LMNI

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION. ATTENTION EXHIBITS SECTION.

MURKIN.

RE BUREAU TELCALL TO ATLANTA, JANUARY 22, 1976

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE BUREAU, LEON OWEN POWELL ADVISED THAT THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION SHOULD BE CHANGED TO ELIMINATE SOME OF THE GRAY AROUND TEMPLES AND THE FACE SHOULD BE MADE SHORTER. POWELL STATED ONLY SPECKS OF GRAY SHOULD APPEAR ON TEMPLES AND THE FACE IN THE PRESENT ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IS A LITTLE TOO LONG. POWELL STATED HAS NO IDEA AS TO WHERE EDWARD POWELL WORKS OR RESIDES.

INVESTIGATION AT TOCCOA CONTINUING AND REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

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

END.

HOLD

FBIHQ TRR

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

Butler

44-2386-2373

Mag unit, pls. return to Say

H/9
5

FBI

Date: 1/22/76

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) 438/P TRK

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION. ATTENTION EXHIBITS SECTION.

MURKIN.

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INVESTIGATION AT TACCOA CONTINUING AND REPORT WILL FOLLOW.

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

END.

(1) - Atlanta
RCF:far

(1)

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

44-2386-2373

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

438/P

WA

M

Per

LMM

NR012 AT PLAIN

11:45 PM NITEL 1-22-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386)

MURKIN.

MRS. HEPSIE POWELL AND HUBERT POWELL, MOTHER AND BROTHER OF
LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR., LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED AT TOCCOA,
GEORGIA. MRS. HEPSIE POWELL STATED SHE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE, WHAT-
SOEVER OF INCIDENT AS REPORTED BY LEON POWELL TO ATLANTA DIVISION.
HUBERT POWELL ADVISED HE WAS CONTACTED BY LEON POWELL AFTER BUREAU
AGENTS CONTACTED ANOTHER BROTHER, WENDELL POWELL, BELMONT, NORTH
CAROLINA. HUBERT POWELL FURTHER ADVISED THAT LEON RELATED TO
HIM, AT THAT TIME, ABOUT THE INCIDENT. HUBERT POWELL OF THE
OPINION LEON POWELL WAS DRUNK DURING THIS PHONE CALL. HUBERT
POWELL STATED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENT BEFORE THE RECENT
PHONE CALL.

END.

PLS ACK FOR TWO

HOLD FOR FOUR

DLA FBIHQ

ACK FOR TWO

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

Butler
44-2386-2374

Mag unit, pls rtr to Jcy

FBI

Date: 1/22/76

PLAINTEXT

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

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386)

MURKIN.

MRS. HEPSIE POWELL AND HUBERT POWELL, MOTHER AND BROTHER OF LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL, JR., LOCATED AND INTERVIEWED AT TOCCOA, GEORGIA. MRS. HEPSIE POWELL STATED SHE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE, WHATSOEVER OF INCIDENT AS REPORTED BY LEON POWELL TO ATLANTA DIVISION. HUBERT POWELL ADVISED HE WAS CONTACTED BY LEON POWELL AFTER BUREAU AGENTS CONTACTED ^{ED} ANOTHER BROTHER, WENDELL POWELL, BELMONT, NORTH CAROLINA. HUBERT POWELL FURTHER ADVISED THAT LEON RELATED TO HIM, AT THAT TIME, ABOUT THE INCIDENT. HUBERT POWELL OF THE OPINION LEON POWELL WAS DRUNK DURING THIS PHONE CALL. HUBERT POWELL STATED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF INCIDENT BEFORE THE RECENT PHONE CALL.

END.

1 - Atlanta

JDB:far

(1)

OUT-GOING

SEARCHED

SERIALIZED

INDEXED

FILED

44-2386-2374

Approved: _____

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____

M

Per _____

FBI

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

(Precedence)

TO: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2386)
FROM: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861)

1/23/76
(Date)

MURKIN

Re: urtelcall of 1/22/76 and urteltype dated 1/22/76

1. ITEMS ENCLOSED PREPARED BY EXHIBITS SECTION, ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION:
One revised 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 witness 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 photograph(s).**

Enc. Three photocopies of drawing also being sent to you by routing slip.

(Do not type below this line.)

(This line for LEFT MARGIN)

(Do not type BEYOND THIS MARGIN)

44-2386-2375

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
FBI - ATLANTA	
BULFER	AMB



BUR 44-38861 AT 44-2386
1-23-76

1/15/76

AIRTEL

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

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

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

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

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

44-2386-
~~44-2638-2376~~

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 30 1976	
FBI - EL PASO	
BULFER AWB	

1/15/76

AIRTEL

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

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

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

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

44-2386-2376

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 23 1976	
FBI - EL PASO	

R.F.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/15/76

1

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

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

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

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

Interviewed on 1/8/76 at Midland, Texas

File #

EP 44-920

by SA GERALD D. GALBREATH

SA FRANZ W. NENZEL

FWN:pm

Date dictated

44-2386-2377

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1/14/76	
JAN 13 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
BULFET	AWB

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.

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

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

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

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

The following descriptive data was obtained through interview and observation:

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

EP 44-920

4

Sister	FLORIS BRYSON Franklin, North Carolina (address unknown)
Wife	JACKIE POWELL, unemployed, 4163 Camby Lane, no telephone, Decatur, Georgia
Permanent address	Same as wife
Tattoos	Dragon, left bicep; "LUCY, my wife is so dear to me", left forearm; "LOIS" inside right forearm; "Too sweet to live, to mean to die", across chest; "BONNIE" upper right shoulder; "BETTY", upper left shoulder

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/15/76

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by SA GERALD D. GALBREATH
SA FRANZ W. NENZEL

FWN:pm

Date dictated

44-2386-
EP 44-9202377

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
1/14/76	
JAN 28 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

RT

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Routing Slip
0-7 (Rev. 12-73)

(Copies to Offices Checked)

TO: SAC: **ATLANTA**

<input type="checkbox"/> Albany	<input type="checkbox"/> Houston
<input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque	<input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis
<input type="checkbox"/> Alexandria	<input type="checkbox"/> Jackson
<input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage	<input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville
<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta	<input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City
<input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore	<input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville
<input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham	<input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas
<input type="checkbox"/> Boston	<input type="checkbox"/> Little Rock
<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles
<input type="checkbox"/> Butte	<input type="checkbox"/> Louisville
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<input type="checkbox"/> Dallas	<input type="checkbox"/> Newark
<input type="checkbox"/> Denver	<input type="checkbox"/> New Haven
<input type="checkbox"/> Detroit	<input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans
<input type="checkbox"/> El Paso	<input type="checkbox"/> New York City
<input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu	<input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk

<input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma City
<input type="checkbox"/> Omaha
<input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia
<input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix
<input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh
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<input type="checkbox"/> San Juan
<input type="checkbox"/> Savannah
<input type="checkbox"/> Seattle
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<input type="checkbox"/> Tampa
<input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field
<input type="checkbox"/> Quantico

TO LEGAT:

<input type="checkbox"/> Beirut
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<input type="checkbox"/> Caracas
<input type="checkbox"/> Hong Kong
<input type="checkbox"/> London
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<input type="checkbox"/> Manila
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<input type="checkbox"/> Ottawa
<input type="checkbox"/> Paris
<input type="checkbox"/> Rome
<input type="checkbox"/> Singapore
<input type="checkbox"/> Tel Aviv
<input type="checkbox"/> Tokyo

RE: **MURKIN**

Date **1/23/76**

☐ For information ☐ Retention optional ☐ For appropriate action ☐ Surep, by _____

☐ The enclosed is for your information. If used in a future report, ☐ conceal all sources, ☐ paraphrase contents.

☐ Enclosed are corrected pages from report of SA _____ dated _____.

Remarks:

Per urtelcall of 1/22/76 and urteletype dated 1/22/76 and Bureau Telecopier Transmission of 1/23/76. Three photocopies of revised artist's conception drawing are enclosed.

44-2386-2378

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 26 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

WILSON *RW*

Enc. (3)
Bufile 44-38861
Urfile 44-2386

EXHIBITS SECTION
ADMINISTRATIVE DIVISION
1B 224 JEH

NR005 AT PLAIN

2:45 PM NITEL 1-27-76 LMM

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 20, 1976.

RECONTACT WITH LEON POWELL'S RELATIVES DETERMINED THAT POWELL HAS NOW MOVED TO THE CROOK'S CORNER ROOMING HOUSE LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF ALSTON STREET AND CANDLER ROAD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. POWELL'S RELATIVES FURTHER ADVISED THAT POWELL DOES NOT HAVE A PHONE AT THAT ADDRESS AND ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE HIM HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE.

ATLANTA WILL LOCATE POWELL AND MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO HAVE HIM APPEAR AND TAKE A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION DURING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2, 1976.

UACB, ATLANTA WILL SUBMIT NO FURTHER TELETYPES IN THIS MATTER UNTIL POWELL IS POLYGRAPHED.

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

END.

HOLD

FBIHQ AJN

BULFER *ewo*

44-2386-2379

Mag unit, pls. rtr to Jay

T2

FBI

Date: 1/27/76

5

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

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861) 245P HJN

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

RE ATLANTA NITEL TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 20, 1976.

RECONTACT WITH LEON POWELL'S RELATIVES DETERMINED THAT POWELL HAS NOW MOVED TO THE CROOK'S CORNER ROOMING HOUSE LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF ALSTON STREET AND CANDLER ROAD IN ATLANTA, GEORGIA. POWELL'S RELATIVES FURTHER ADVISED THAT POWELL DOES NOT HAVE A PHONE AT THAT ADDRESS AND ATTEMPTS TO LOCATE HIM HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE.

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

END.

1 - Atlanta
RSE:far
(1)

44-2386-2379

Approved: PO/Rif

Special Agent in Charge

Sent 2 45P WA

M

Per Lmn

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

James Earl Ray threatens to tell all— New evidence points to King murder conspiracy

By ELIZABETH ROSS

NEW YORK, Dec. 27—James Earl Ray is going "to tell all—everything I knew about people and events leading up to and after King's murder in Memphis" if he loses his appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, the man convicted of the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., told a reporter for the Pacific News Service recently.

Despite the political nature of the assassination, and despite Ray's own statements in court that there was a conspiracy, the U.S. and Tennessee authorities who imprisoned Ray have done everything to prevent any investigation into who was behind the King assassination. Since the sensational stories of recent months concerning FBI attempts to discredit King, however, several people have been motivated to speak out.

One of them is Arthur Murtagh, a retired FBI agent who headed a "labyrinthine underground of Black informers" in Atlanta, King's headquarters.

"My superiors—both in the Atlanta bureau and Washington—washed out leads suggesting a right-wing conspiracy," Murtagh told PNS reporter Wayne Chastain, Jr., last week. "Had a more thorough investigation been conducted by the FBI, I believe links would have been established between the King assassination and the Kennedy murders—both those of JFK and RJK."

It is well known that J. Edgar Hoover had King's phones tapped.

According to Murtagh, Ray could not wiggle his ears without the FBI knowing about it.

Now James Early Ray has told reporter Chastain, in an exclusive interview, that he was informed of King's intentions to be in Memphis 3 days before that information was made public.

"I got my moving orders to go to Memphis on March 28 (1968) in Birmingham, Alabama. I was told to drive no more than three hours a day and not to arrive in Memphis before April 3. At that time those orders could only have come from either someone in King's camp or some high Justice Department official having access to information gained from wiretaps on King's telephone in Atlanta."

Ray claims he was a "palsy"—that he was set up with a rifle and address near the killing to be blamed as the murderer. Whether he really was a fall guy or was involved in the conspiracy, the evidence of a conspiracy is overwhelming. Ray knew before anyone else what King's plans were. And someone gave Ray plenty of money after the shooting so that he was able to travel throughout Europe for 2 months before he was finally picked up in London.

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

"Workers World"

Page 7

1/2/76

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

☐ Being Investigated

44-2386-2380

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JAN 27 1976	
FBI - ATLANTA	

RT

FBI

Date: 1/30/76

25

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

TELETYPE

NITEL

Via _____

(Precedence)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) 9:17p/ala
(80-5-2)

EL PASO (44-920) (MAIL)

SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (MAIL)

MEMPHIS (MAIL)

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

MURKIN.

ON JANUARY 29, 1976, AT 7:45 P.M., LEON OWEN POWELL, AFTER EXECUTING FD-328 (POLYGRAPH CONSENT FORM), AFFORDED POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION IN ATLANTA OFFICE OF FBI. ASSISTING IN COLLATERAL INTERVIEW WAS SA AUGUST W. BULFER. POWELL DURING PRE-POLYGRAPH INTERVIEW FURNISHED SUBSTANTIALLY SAME INFORMATION AS IN PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS WITH EXCEPTION TO INFORMATION CONCERNING MONEY OFFERED BY GODFREY. POWELL, ACCORDING TO HIS 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. POWELL PREVIOUSLY STATED GODFREY MADE STATEMENT FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.

END PAGE ONE

1 - El Paso (Mail)

1 - San Antonio (Mail)

1 - Memphis (Mail)

2 - Atlanta (1 - 44-2386) (1 - 94-481)

JBR:ld

Approved: (5)

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

F B I

Date:

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

AT 44-2386 (PAGE TWO)

WAS TO BE PAID. HOWEVER, WHEN GOING OVER POLYGRAPH QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED OF HIM, HE REQUESTED THAT THE AMOUNT BE DELETED FROM QUESTION AND WORDS "BIG MONEY" BE SUBSTITUTED FOR FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS. ACCORDING TO POWELL, THE CONVERSATION WITH GODFREY CAME ABOUT WHILE THEY WERE SITTING IN PETE'S BAR DURING FALL OF 1967 AND CONVERSATION WAS CONCERNING MARTIN LUTHER KING'S ACTIVITIES AT WHICH TIME SOMEONE STATED KING SHOULD BE KILLED AND POWELL'S BROTHER, CLAUDE POWELL, MADE STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT HE WOULD KILL HIM FOR THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF MONEY. POWELL ADVISED A COUPLE OF DAYS AFTER THE INITIAL CONVERSATION WITH GODFREY WHILE THEY WERE IN PETE'S BAR A WHITE MALE ENTERED THE BAR INQUIRING ABOUT THE POWELLS. AFTER LOCATING THEM, HE STATED HE CAME TO TALK TO THEM CONCERNING A MATTER THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY ~~BEEN~~ DISCUSSED AFTER THEY 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. 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 ON THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION WAS "DID RALPH SAY HE HAD

END PAGE TWO

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

F B I

Date:

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

AT 44-2386 (PAGE THREE)

TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS IN THE BRIEFCASE?" HOWEVER, POWELL STATED RALPH NEVER INDICATED THE EXACT AMOUNT, ONLY STATING HE HAD "TWENTY-FIVE." POWELL, WHEN QUESTIONED AS TO WHETHER HE MEANT TWENTY-FIVE HUNDRED OR TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND, STATED RALPH NEVER DID STATE THE AMOUNT BUT HE REALIZED THAT THAT MUCH MONEY IN THAT SIZE BRIEFCASE WOULD HAVE TO BE AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS. RALPH ALSO MADE STATEMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE "FIFTY MORE" WHEN MARTIN LUTHER KING WAS BURIED. HOWEVER, WHEN HE QUESTIONED THEM AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THEY WOULD GO THROUGH WITH IT, CLAUDE POWELL STATED THEY WOULD HAVE TO THINK ABOUT IT AT WHICH TIME RALPH DEPARTED THE BAR STATING THAT IF THEY HAD NOT MADE UP THEIR MINDS BY THAT TIME HE COULD NOT DO BUSINESS WITH THEM.

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

END PAGE THREE

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

F B I

Date:

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

AT 44-2386 (PAGE FOUR)

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?" 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 FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS 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 PROPERLY,
END PAGE FOUR

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

F B I

Date:

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

AT 44-2386 (PAGE FIVE)

PARTICULARLY AS THE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION PROGRESSED. WHEN QUESTIONED CONCERNING RESPONSES INDICATED ON THE CHART, POWELL WOULD ONLY STATE THAT HE WAS TELLING THE TRUTH AND THAT HE TOLD ALL THAT HE KNEW AND COULD RECALL CONCERNING THIS INCIDENT. POWELL INDICATED HE HAD A HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY DEGREE, HOWEVER, HE APPEARED TO BE OF LIMITED INTELLIGENCE AND APPEARED TO BE MUCH OLDER THAN FORTY YEARS OF AGE. DURING QUESTIONING, HE ADMITTED TO DOING A LOT OF BEER DRINKING, HOWEVER, DENIED DRINKING ANYTHING DURING THE DAY OF THE EXAMINATION.

A REVIEW OF THREE CHARTS REFLECTS POWELL RESPONDED GENERALLY IN THE SAME MANNER TO ALL QUESTIONS ASKED WITH NO SIGNIFICANT RESPONSE TO ANY INDIVIDUAL QUESTION WHEREBY A CONCLUSION COULD BE DRAWN AS TO HIS BEING TRUTHFUL OR UNTRUTHFUL. THEREFORE, THESE POLYGRAPH EXAMINATIONS WERE DETERMINED TO BE INCONCLUSIVE.

END.

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

NR025 AT PLAIN

9:17 PM NITEL 1-30-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) (80-5-2)
EL PASO (44-920) (AM)
SAN ANTONIO (44-1242) (AM)
MEMPHIS (AM)

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

MURKIN.

ON JANUARY 29, 1976, AT 7:45 PM, LEON OWEN POWELL,
AFTER EXECUTING FD 328 (POLYGRAPH CONSENT FORM), AFFORDED
POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION IN ATLANTA OFFICE OF FBI. ASSISTING IN
COLLATERAL INTERVIEW WAS SA AUGUST W. BULFER. POWELL DURING
PRE-POLYGRAPH INTERVIEW FURNISHED SUBSTANTIALLY SAME
INFORMATION AS IN PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS WITH EXCEPTION TO
INFORMATION CONCERNING MONEY OFFERED BY GODFREY. POWELL,
ACCORDING TO HIS 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. POWELL PREVIOUSLY STATED GODFREY
END PAGE ONE

WILSON RW

44-2386-2381

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2386

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

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

END PAGE TWO

PAGE THREE, AT 44-2386

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

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

END PAGE THREE

PAGE FOUR, AT 44-2386

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

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?" 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."

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE, AT 44-2386

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

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

END PAGE FIVE

PAGE SIX, AT 44-2386

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

END.

PLS ACK FOR TWO

DLA FBIHQ

ACK FOR TWO

NR041 WA PLAIN

8:30PM NITEL 2/3/76 AJN

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-920)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MURKIN

11:30pm
MRS. Peerminght

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

ATLANTA AND EL PASO SHOULD THOROUGHLY REVIEW THE
INTERVIEWS OF THE POWELLS NOTING THE DIFFERENCES IN EACH OF
THEIR VERSIONS AND REINTERVIEW THE POWELLS TO FURTHER
RESOLVE ALL DETAILS OF THIS ALLEGED MEETING IN THE BAR.

a DETERMINE WHEN AND HOW MANY TIMES THEY TALKED WITH EACH OTHER
ABOUT THIS ALLEGED MEETING SINCE ITS OCCURRENCE. b 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. c HAVE EACH OF THE
POWELLS PREPARE A DIAGRAM OF THE INTERIOR OF PETE'S BAR,
INCLUDING THE BOOTH WHERE EACH PARTICIPANT OF THE ALLEGED

2/3
No Action
and

44-2386-2382

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FEB - 3 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	
WILSON	THD

PAGE TWO

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

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

② - ^{Dot Davis} 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).

③ ^{DIANE BRADY} ATLANTA SHOULD ALSO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW ALL KNOWN FORMER CUSTOMERS OF PETE'S BAR NOTING THAT DIANE BRADY, WHO OPERATES "THE OFFICE" BAR, STATED A LOT OF THE CUSTOMERS ARE STILL AROUND AND FREQUENT HER BAR, "THE OFFICE."

PAGE THREE

MAKE FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW "DUKE."

(A) 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.

(B) - C. 111 OF ATLANTA 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 (C) IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW HIS RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES,

INCLUDING ANY "COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER" ASSOCIATES.

PARTICULARLY DETERMINE IF GODFREY EVER KNOWN TO ASSOCIATE

WITH A RALPH AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW RALPH.

VERIFY GODFREY'S PRESENCE IN ATLANTA AT TIME OF ALLEGED

MEETING. CRD STATED GODFREY'S ATTORNEY SHOULD NOT BE

CONTACTED AT THIS TIME.

(D) 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.

PAGE FOUR

② ATLANTA REINTERVIEW DOROTHY DAVIS RE REMEMBERING WHETHER HER HUSBAND EVER TOLD HER OF ANYONE COMING INTO BAR WITH LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY, OR IF SHE HAS ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS INCIDENT; SHOW ON AN ATLANTA CITY MAP LOCATION OF PETE'S BAR IN COMPARISON TO WHERE JAMES EARL RAY HAD STAYED IN ATLANTA.

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

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

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

PROMPTLY CONDUCT THIS INVESTIGATION AND SUTEL SUMMARY ON A DAILY BASIS UNTIL THIS INVESTIGATION

PAGE FIVE

IS COMPLETED. HANDLE ANY LEADS OUT OF YOUR
DIVISION BY TELETYPE. HANDLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 27,
VOLUME II, MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS.

END

FBI AT ACK FOR ONE

HLF THANKS CLR

URGENT WA PLAIN

6130PM NITEL 2/3/76 AJN

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

EL PASO (44-928)

MEMPHIS (44-1987)

FROM DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MURKIN

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

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

44-2386-2382

SEARCHED	INDEXED
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FEB - 3 1976	
FBI-ATLANTA	

PAGE TWO

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

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

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

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

PAGE THREE

MAKE FURTHER ATTEMPTS TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW "DUKE."

ATLANTA SHOULD MAKE FURTHER EFFORTS TO LOCATE AND INTERVIEW

"DOTTIE," A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF PETE'S BAR. IF NECESSARY,

IF IT CAN BE ARRANGED, HAVE DIANE BRADY OBSERVE DOTTIE UNDERHILL TO DETERMINE IF SHE IS IDENTICAL WITH THE DOTTIE FORMERLY EMPLOYED AT PETE'S BAR, SINCE UNDERHILL DENIED SHE EVER WORKED THERE.

ATLANTA SHOULD CONDUCT INVESTIGATION INTO THE BACKGROUND OF ARNOLD RAY GODFREY TO ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE ALLEGATION BY THE POWELLS THAT HE INTRODUCED THE UNSUB TO THEM IN THE BAR. IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW HIS RELATIVES, ASSOCIATES, INCLUDING ANY "COUNTRY AND WESTERN SINGER" ASSOCIATES.

PARTICULARLY DETERMINE IF GODFREY EVER KNOWN TO ASSOCIATE WITH A RALPH AND ATTEMPT TO IDENTIFY AND INTERVIEW RALPH. VERIFY GODFREY'S PRESENCE IN ATLANTA AT TIME OF ALLEGED MEETING. CRD STATED GODFREY'S ATTORNEY SHOULD NOT BE CONTACTED AT THIS TIME.

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

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

PAGE FOUR

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.

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

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

PROMPTLY CONDUCT THIS INVESTIGATION AND SUTEL SUMMARY ON A DAILY BASIS UNTIL THIS INVESTIGATION

PAGE FIVE

IS COMPLETED. HANDLE ANY LEADS OUT OF YOUR
DIVISION BY TELETYPE. HANDLE PURSUANT TO SECTION 27,
VOLUME II, MANUAL OF INSTRUCTIONS.

END

FBI AT ACK FOR ONE

HLF THANKS CLR

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/14/76

ARNOLD RAY GODFREY, 1105 Lakeshore Drive, Jonesboro, Georgia, was contacted at his place of employment, City of Atlanta Sewer Department, 360 Englewood Road, SE, and advised that an interview was desired with him concerning an allegation regarding his participation in a plot to assassinate MARTIN LUTHER KING. He was promptly advised of his rights by Special Agent THOMAS J. WILSON and stated he understood his rights, but did not wish to sign anything, however, would consent to be interviewed. Thereafter, and promptly following this, he was interviewed and furnished the following information:

He has been employed by the City of Atlanta in the Sewer Department since 1949. He worked for approximately eight years as a laborer, the last five years as a foreman and all the time in between as a truck driver. He was also a country and western singer for some time. Most of his records were produced in 1967 or 1968. One of the records under the Saber label was on one side "Count me out" and on the other side "Try one on for size". Another record under the Columbia label was called "Always room for one more Fool like Me".

When he was actually engaged as a country and western singer he was tending bar part-time at a bar known as Pete's Bar on Moreland Avenue. He also had a band and sang with them at the same time.

He did not know anything about any assassination plot of any kind. He never talked with anyone regarding the murder of MARTIN LUTHER KING before KING had been assassinated. He did not make any arrangements with anyone to have KING assassinated by CLAUDE and LEON POWELL. When questioned about any well-dressed individuals frequenting Pete's Place GODFREY remembered a white male approximately 45 years of age with wavy hair, very clean-cut and very well spoken being in Pete's Place numerous times. This individual carried a walking stick in his right hand and to the best of GODFREY's memory, this individual had something wrong with his right leg.

1/13/76 Atlanta, Georgia AT 44-2386 -2383
Interviewed on _____ at _____ File # _____
SA BERNARD R. BERRY
SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy
by _____ Date dictated 1/13/76

AT 44-2386

GODFREY could not remember the individual's name but described him as approximately 5'11", 170-180 pounds, of Latin descent. GODFREY further stated that this individual could talk in two different languages, one of which he thought was "Mexican". He stated that this individual had lots of money and was thought to be owner of a number of bars in honky tonk places around Atlanta. He thought that one of the bars that this individual owned in 1967 was located at the corner of Hunter and Bell Street in Atlanta. This individual was driving a big black automobile, probably a Lincoln. He was reportedly associated with the Venable Music Company in some manner. GODFREY thought that it was possible that some individual connected with Venable Music Company and this individual were connected in numerous enterprises throughout the city. GODFREY stated that PETE DAVIS would be able to identify this individual. GODFREY further stated that possibly DIANE (last name unknown) a former bartender at Pete's Place may also be able to identify this individual. DIANE also owns a bar known as "The Office" located on Flat Shoals in Atlanta

GODFREY again denied having any conversation with the POWELLS' or anyone else regarding the assassination of MARTIN LUTHER KING prior to his actual assassination. GODFREY advised he would be more than willing to take a polygraph examination to clear the air.

The following description was obtained through observation and interview:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Date of birth	
Place of birth	Copperhill, Tennessee
Height	6'3"
Weight	210

AT 44-2386

Hair	Greying
Residence	1105 Lakeshore Drive Jonesboro, Georgia
Telephone	477-5036
Military service	Served with the National Guard, State of Georgia Number 24-77-30-31, honorable discharge
Arrest record	None admitted other than drunk driving

GODFREY stated he had never been a member of the
Ku Klux Klan or any other radical organization.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1/14/76

JO PRESSLEY, Identification Division, Atlanta Police Department, advised her department had the following records on a LEON OWEN POWELL, date of birth [redacted] and a CLAUDE POWELL, JR. Ms. PRESSLEY provided photostatic copies of the identification record for both individuals which are attached hereto.

Ms. PRESSLEY was advised at the outset that any information she furnished could be used in a court of law.

Interviewed on 1/7/76 at Atlanta, Georgia File # AT 44-2386 2384
by SA THOMAS J. WILSON :wy Date dictated 1/13/76

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BUREAU NO.

211422

NAME POWELL, LEON OWEN RACE WHITE SEX MALE
ALIASES _____ NATIONALITY U.S.A.
ADDRESS 371 TERRY STREET S.E. CITY ATLANTA STATE GEORGIA
OCCUPATION SERVICE STATION ATTENDENT EMPLOYER GRESHAM PARK PHILLIPS 66: ?? GRESHAM RD
DEKALB CO., GA.
BIRTHPLACE STEPHENS CO., GA. DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] AGE 27
EDUCATION 11 BUILD MEDIUM HEIGHT 6-0 WEIGHT 150
COMPLEXION RUDDY ~~BLOND~~ HAIR BLOND EYES GREY
SCARS & MARKS TT OF WOMAN IN GLASS RT. UPPER OUTER ARM
TT "HERES MINE - WHERE'S YOURS" & CHERRY LT. OUTER UPPER ARM
SPOUSE LOIS POWELL ADDRESS SAME AS PRISONER
PARENT MO: HEPSIE POWELL ADDRESS 509 SPRING ST., TOCCOA, GEORGIA
RELATIVE BRO: EDWARD POWELL ADDRESS 963 ~~WEST~~ MORELAND AVE., NE., ATLANTA, GA
CRIME A.M.C. DOCKET _____
ARRESTED JUN 29 1962 OFFICERS MOSS FROM COURT HOUSE WARR. ISSUED 6-29-62
JAIL ENTRY 662W-27-M-Warr-AMC-300-Civil-6-29-62
RELEASED FROM JAIL 397 Bond - Fulton - JUN 29 1962 B.F. _____
DISPOSITION 58096 Aband. NYC withdrawn 7-6-62

FURNISHED TO: Walter J. B. J. B. J.DATE 1-7-76 BY: [Signature]

211422

RECEIVED AT BELLWOOD _____

RELEASED FROM BELLWOOD _____

12 M 29 W 100 15
I 19 W 100 12

FPC _____

SIGNATURE Leon O. PowellINFORMATION BY W.F. SHATTLESFINGERPRINTED BY [Signature]

(Right Index)

DATE JUN 29 1962

BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION, ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT, ATLANTA, GA.

PHOTO BY OK

CONSOLIDATED

By

Captain in Charge

The following is the record of APD No.

and FBI No. 220 012 E

FURNISHED TO:

DATE _____

224

* Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints

NOTICE: This record is furnished for official use only

SS# UNKNOWN

BUREAU NO. 231799

NAME POWELL, CLAUDE JR. RACE W SEX M
ALIASES POWELL, J.R. NATIONALITY
ADDRESS 4163 CANBY LANE S.W. CITY DECATUR, STATE GA.
OCCUPATION DRY WALL FINISHER EMPLOYER SELF EMPLOYED
BIRTHPLACE STEVENS CO. GA. DATE OF BIRTH AGE 48
EDUCATION 5 BUILD MED. HEIGHT 602 WEIGHT 171
(SLENDER-MEDIUM-STOUT)
COMPLEXION RUD HAIR BRO HAIR TYPE STRAIGHT
(FAIR-DARK-RUDDY-FRECKLED-ETC.) (RECEDING-BALD-CURLY-KINKY-PROCESSED-ETC.)
EYES BRN EYE DEFECT - (DESCRIBE) NONE MUSTACH-BEARD-GOATEE NONE
TEETH NORMAL NOSE NORMAL
(FALSE-PROTRUDING-BROKEN-MISSING-DECAYED-GOLD CAP) (HOOKED-PUG-CROOKED-LONG-BROAD-ETC.)
MARKS TT: DRAGON-LUCY-MY WIFE IS SO DEAR TO ME... LEFT ARM
(TATTOOS-MOLES-WARTS-DIMPLES-BIRTHMARKS-ETC.-DESCRIBE LOCATION)
VISIBLE SCARS-(DESCRIBE) NONE VISIBLE
(CUT-BURN-ETC.-DESCRIBE & LOCATION ON BODY)
AMPUTATIONS & DEFORMITIES NONE
MISC. CHARACTERISTICS RIGHT HANDED
(LEFT HANDED-HARE LIP-PIERCED EARLOBES-ETC.)
SPEECH NORMAL GAIT NORMAL
(SOFT-LOUD-RAPID-FOREIGN-VULGAR-LISPS-STUTTERS-MUMBLES-ETC.) (FAST-SLOW-SHUFFLES-LIMPS)
CLOTHING TYPE - (SPORT-BUSINESS-WORK-ETC.) SPORT
SPOUSE JACKIE POWELL ADDRESS SAME AS P
PARENTS MO: HEPSIE POWELL ADDRESS TOCCOA, GA.
RELATIVES BO: LEON POWELL ADDRESS ?? MEADOW LANE, DECATUR, GA.
CRIME INDECENT EXPOSURE 2. DRUNK DOCKET 44564-70
ARRESTED 082573 OFFICERS ML CROWDER WARR. ISS.
JAIL ENTRY
RELEASE FROM JAIL

DISPOSITION Indecent Exposure \$25 or 13 days 8/27/73
Dish \$25 or 13 days 8/27/73

FURNISHED TO: Wilson, J.P. 2
DATE 1-7-74

REC'D AT BELLWOOD

RELEASED FROM BELLWOOD

SIGNATURE

INFORMATION BY

RILEY STANSON

PRINTED BY

*PHOTOGRAPHED BY

RILEY STANSON

DATE

082573

* FLC PREV. ARRI ROBB RPD
+ Indecent Exposure

11 0 5 T 00 16
I 18 T 01 15

IDENTIFICATION SECTION - ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

M 32-1-39 REVISED

ATLANTA POLICE DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF IDENTIFICATION
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Herbert T. Jenkins,
Chief of Police

231799

By _____
 Captain in Charge

The following is the record of APD No. _____ and FBI No. 212 946 A

CONTRIBUTOR OF FINGERPRINTS	NAME AND NUMBER	ARRESTED OR RECEIVED	CHARGE	DISPOSITION
Mecklenburg Co. Pol. Charlotte, N. C.	Claude Powell, Jr. #4822	5-10-49	Armed Robb.	5-10 Yrs. S. Pen
B. of I. Pr. Div. Raleigh, N. C.	Claude Powell, Jr. #49663	5-24-49	Robb.	5-10 Yrs. 4-23-52 Paroled 3-28-54 Disch. Per Exp.
PD Atlanta, Ga	Claude Powell Jr #231799	6-28-65	Allowing Intox. Person to Drive (2)	56127- Ct 1- \$100 and 8 mos; 56128 Ct 2 \$25 and 4 mos conc w/ 56127 6-28-65
PD, Atlanta, Ga.	Claude Powell #231799	8-25-73	Indecent Exposure	\$25 or 13 das 8-27-73
			Drunk	\$25 or 13 das. 8-27-73
FURNISHED TO: <i>Wilson</i>				
DATE: <i>1-7-76</i>				

* Represents notations unsupported by fingerprints

NOTICE: This record is furnished for official use only

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1-23-76

Mrs. HEPSIE POWELL was interviewed at her residence, Anderson Terrace Road, telephone 404-886-4754, by SAs JIMMIE D. BURRIS and DAVID E. PHILLIPS who identified themselves as Special Agents of the FBI.

Mrs. POWELL was informed by SA BURRIS of the nature of the inquiry and thereafter freely and voluntarily advised as follows:

Mrs. POWELL, who is 85 years of age, stated that she is the mother of CLAUDE POWELL, JR. and LEON POWELL. She stated that at no time had her sons ever mentioned to her anything regarding being approached by anyone to make a lot of money.

Mrs. POWELL advised that she felt sure that she would know of the incident if it had happened to her sons, as in her opinion, they would have told her.

Mrs. POWELL could offer nothing further regarding this matter.

Mrs. POWELL was advised at the outset by SA BURRIS that any information she furnished could be used in a court of law. She declined to furnish a signed statement.

Interviewed on 1-19-76 at Toccoa, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA DAVID E. PHILLIPS
SA JIMMIE D. BURRIS :dd Date dictated 1-22-76 2385

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 1-23-76

HUBERT POWELL, Black Mountain Road, telephone 404-886-4754, was interviewed by SA JIMMIE D. BURRIS who identified himself to him as a Special Agent of the FBI.

HUBERT POWELL was informed by SA BURRIS of the nature of the inquiry and thereafter freely and voluntarily advised as follows:

He advised that he is the older brother of LEON POWELL and CLAUDE POWELL, JR. He stated that approximately one to two weeks ago, exact date unrecalled, WENDELL POWELL, another brother who resides in Belmont, North Carolina, telephoned him and told him that FBI agents had been to talk with him about LEON and CLAUDE.

He also stated that shortly after his talk with WENDELL, LEON telephoned him and, in his opinion, was in a drunken condition. He advised that LEON told him the FBI would probably be by to see him and LEON then added that several years ago, he (LEON) and CLAUDE were in a club in Atlanta when an unknown male individual asked anyone in the club if they were interested in making a lot of money. CLAUDE told the unknown person that he was interested.

According to HUBERT POWELL, LEON told him that some time later on this unknown person came back into the club with a briefcase and that he (LEON) and CLAUDE knew this person meant business. LEON told HUBERT that CLAUDE, at that time, told this person that they were not interested.

HUBERT POWELL stated that he could not recall any other details about the telephone call with LEON, however, he definitely knew that LEON nor CLAUDE had ever mentioned this story to him before.

HUBERT POWELL added that LEON and CLAUDE both liked to drink and talk a lot while drinking.

Interviewed on 1-22-76 at Toccoa, Georgia File # Atlanta 44-2386

by SA JIMMIE D. BURRIS:dd Date dictated 1-22-76

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