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Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

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

*Puller  
cc McTough  
Hickman*

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.

*Go*

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.

REC-100

*44-38861-6028*

AIR MAIL COPY SENT TO MEMPHIS.

5 JAN 19 1976

END.

TKR FBIHQ 2

*0-70 BTM  
700 000  
11/5/76  
1-20 H/600*

REC.D-CRIMINVS SEC

JAN 10 1 33 PM '76

84 JAN 21 1976

8 3 JAN 10 1976

JAN 10 1 37 AM '76

REC'D-CRIMINAL SEC.  
F B I

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

JAN 10 1 38 AM '76

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

TO DIRECTOR

FROM

SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 9, 1976.

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 9, 1976.

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 9, 1976.

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RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 9, 1976.

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 9, 1976.

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 9, 1976.

END

100-100000 (100-100000)

100-100000 (100-100000) 100-100000

100-100000 (100-100000) 100-100000

100-100000 (100-100000)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 09 1976

TELETYPE

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

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

84 JAN 21 1976

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

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F. B. I.  
U S DEPT OF JUSTICE

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442611) FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)  
RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 9, 1976.  
SUBJECT: [Illegible] (NY 100-100000) (P)  
[Illegible text follows, mostly obscured by heavy noise and bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

END

NY 100-100000 (100-100000)

ADMINISTRATIVE

100-100000

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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

BRYSON), 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

JAN 9 9 53 PM '76

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

IT WAS CONDUCTING ACTIVE INVESTIGATION IN THIS MATTER.  
SERVICE BEING FURNISHED BY BUREAU FOR INFORMATION CONCERN

CHARLOTTE AND CONTACT STACEY HUNSON, SISTER, EVANSTON,  
LOUISIANA, TO LOCATE HER.

INTERVIEW EDWARD BOWEN, ALABAMA, AND HENRI AND ROBERT  
WILLIAMS, JR., HE WAS VISITED HOME, ATTEMPT TO LOCATE AND  
HUNT, AND FINE BUREAU FILE IN LOUISIANA, GA.

CHARLES, EVANSTON, ALA. AND A WOMAN HENRI AND A BROTHEN  
BUREAU FILE IN GA. 44-1112

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 09 1976

TELETYPE

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Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR001 EP PLAINTEXT

9:26AM URGENT JANUARY 9, 1975 OXM

TO: DIRECTOR (44-388681)

ATLANTA (44-2386)

MEMPHIS

FROM: EL PASO (44-920) (P) ///5P///

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 FORMEN 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

REC-100

44-38861-6030  
5 JAN 16 1976  
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12/11/68

84 JAN 21 1976

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REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

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

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

JAN 5 1 20 PM 1976

**FBI**  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

1. *Phragmites australis* (Cav.) Trin. ex Steud.



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

EP 44-920 PAGE FOUR

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 LATR 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 BECOOE A SUSPECT IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING.

END PAGE FOUR

EP 44-920 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", 170 LBS., DOB [REDACTED] POB STEPHENS COUNTY, GEORGIA: MOTHER, HEPSIE 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. PII  
EDUCATION FINISHED FOURTH GRADE. EMPLOYMENT - SELFEMPLOYED.  
OCCUPATION - DRY WALL CARPENTER.

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

END

AJN FBIHQ CLR TU

JAN 9 11 39 AM '76

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 12 1976

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

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

REC-100

5 JAN 19 1976

NR020 NEEDS A TAPE COULD YOU PLS RESEND IT

84 JAN 21 1976

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GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

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TELETYPE

JAN 13 1976

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

FBI

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

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

1-9-76  
 (Date)

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.

ENCLOSURE

(Do not type below this line.)

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

EPN/kw  
 (3)

44-38861-  
 NOT RECORDED

15 JAN 13 1976

84 JAN 15 1976

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



BUR 44-38861 AT 44-2386  
1-9-76



MURKIN

44-38861-  
ENCLOSURE



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

1-14-76 807 MLH

None Assigned

The following FBI record, NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_, 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
PD Forest Park GA	Arnold Ray Godfrey 13110	3-7-64	D/C drunk D/C cursing driving wrong side of road suspicion poss dangerous drugs	
<div style="position: relative; height: 400px;"> <div style="position: absolute; top: 10%; left: 10%; font-size: 2em;">2</div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 40%; left: 30%; border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; font-size: 1.5em;">Markin</div> <div style="position: absolute; top: 45%; right: 10%; font-size: 2em;">60</div> </div>				
<div style="position: relative; height: 150px;"> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10%; left: 10%; font-size: 0.8em;">           Since neither fingerprints nor an identifying number which is indexed in our files accompanied your request, FBI cannot guarantee in any manner that this material concerns the individual in whom you are interested.         </div> <div style="position: absolute; bottom: 10%; right: 10%; text-align: right;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">REC-100</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; margin-top: 5px;">44-38861-6032</div> <div style="font-weight: bold; margin-top: 5px;">NOT RECORDED</div> <div style="margin-top: 5px;">5 JAN 19 1976</div> </div> </div>				

8 4 JAN 21 1976

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

1-14-76 807 MLH

2

The following information from FBI record, NUMBER  
is furnished FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY.

None Assigned

Description and Related Data: ~~ARNOLD RAY GODFREY~~

Race: W

Sex: M

Height: 74"

Weight: 184

Hair: Brn

Eyes: Brn

Date and Place of Birth:  Cooperhill TN

P11

Scars and Marks: Scar R/F arm 2"

Address: In 1964 569 Greham Ave Atlanta GA

Occupation: Construction

Social Security Number: Unknown

Since neither fingerprints nor an  
identifying number which is indexed  
in our files accompanied your request,  
FBI cannot guarantee in any manner  
that this material concerns the  
individual in whom you are interested.



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

FROM : Director, FBI

DATE: 1/16/76

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

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

*Murkin*

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated 1/14/76  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*44-38861-*

NOT RECORDED

5 JAN 19 1976

Enc.

4

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

84 JAN 21 1976

*FILE COPY*

*[Signature]*

NOTE: Reference is made to conversation between Departmental Attorney Robert A. Murphy and SA H. N. Helterhoff re the status of this investigation. Enclosed are copies of Atlanta teletypes, both dated 1/15/76, and a copy of a Charlotte teletype dated 1/14/76. Also enclosed is an FBI Identification Record for Arnold Ray Godfrey.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

FROM : Director, FBI

DATE: 1/12/76

ATTENTION: MR. ROBERT A. MURPHY

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

*Murkin*

Reference is made to \_\_\_\_\_ memorandum dated \_\_\_\_\_  
(your file \_\_\_\_\_).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Enc. 4

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO...

FILE  
COPY

44-38861-  
NOT RECORDED  
5 JAN 19 1976

84 JAN 21 1976



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.

NR 15 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

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

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.

5 JAN 19 1976

84 JAN 21 1976



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



RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT



**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
Macklenburg 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	<i>Lib</i>

REC-100

*44-38861-6034*  
 NOT RECORDED  
 5 JAN 19 1976

84 JAN 21 1976

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

1-8-76 420 VYS

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: 1961-O-615915

NR017 CE CODE

10:00PM NITEL JANUARY 14, 1976 JDC

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

FROM: CHARLOTTE (44-1365)

MURKIN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 14 1976

TELETYPE

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

RE CHARLOTTE TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, DATED JANUARY 8, 1976.

FLOYCE POWELL BRYSON, ROUTE NUMBER FIVE, BOX 180,  
FRANKLIN, N. C., INTERVIEWED ON JANUARY 14, 1976, AND ADVISED  
AS FOLLOWS:

LEON AND CLAUDE POWELL ARE BRYSON'S BROTHERS AND ALTHOUGH  
THEY ARE BOTH MORALLY GOOD MEN THEY EACH HAVE A DRINKING  
PROBLEM. NEITHER LEON NOR CLAUDE HAS EVER BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH  
THE KU KLUX KLAN OR ANY BLACK HATE ORGANIZATIONS. LIKEWISE,  
NEITHER HAS EVER SPOKEN AGAINST MARTIN LUTHER KING.

BRYSON'S BROTHERS HAVE NEVER MENTIONED TO HER THE ALLEGED  
OFFER TO KILL KING AND BRYSON QUITE FRANKLY DOES NOT BELIEVE  
THE EVENT EVER OCCURRED. ALSO, NEITHER POSSESSES THE CAPABILITY  
TO KILL KING.

LEON POWELL WAS A KOREAN WAR VETERAN AND WHENEVER HE

REC-100

44-38861-6035

5 JAN 19 1976

84 JAN 21 1976



B 0 14N S J 1040

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
FBI

JAN 15 6 47 AM 1976

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

JAN 15 1 16 AM '76

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

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (100-442100) FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000) (P)  
RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 14, 1976.  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]  
[Illegible text follows]

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 14, 1976.  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]  
[Illegible text follows]

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY 14, 1976.  
SUBJECT: [Illegible]  
[Illegible text follows]

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

PAGE TWO

CE 44-1365

DRINKS TO EXCESS HE BECOMES DEPRESSED AND OFTEN CALLS MEMBERS OF HIS FAMILY IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT FOR CONSOLATION. LEON OFTEN STATES HE WISHES HE WERE DEAD LIKE THE REST OF THE BOYS IN HIS UNIT WHO WERE KILLED IN KOREA. BRYSON BELIEVES LEON'S EXPERIENCES IN KOREA HAVE ADVERSELY AFFECTED HIS MIND. LAST CALL WAS MADE BY LEON TO BRYSON SEVERAL MONTHS AGO.

LEON LAST SEEN BY BRYSON DURING CHRISTMAS, 1975, AND ALL APPEARED WELL.

BRYSON PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF HER BROTHERS:

WENDELL POWELL, BELMONT, N. C.

CLAUDE POWELL, JR., CHAMBE LANE, DEKATUR, GA.

EDWARD POWELL, SHALLOWFORD, CHAMBLEE, GA.

HUBERT POWELL, ROUTE THREE, TACOA, GA.

LEON POWELL.

ATLANTA, HANDLE INTERVIEWS OF FAMILY.

TELETYPE FURNISHED EL PASO AND MEMPHIS PER REQUEST.

END.

HOLD



76

ED: UN

NR 032 AT PLAIN

12:00 AM URGENT 1-15-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

SAC, MEMPHIS

SAC, EL PASO

FROM: SAC, ATLANTA (44-2638) (P)

MURKIN

RE AT TEL TO BU, JAN. 13, 1976.

ON INSTANT DATE, DIANE BRADY, WHITE FEMALE, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] POB ATLANTA, GA., CURRENT OWNER OF THE OFFICE LOUNGE,

INTERVIEWED AND ADVISED SHE IS QUITE CERTAIN THAT IN 1967

SHE WAS EMPLOYED AS A CARHOP AND BARTENDER AT PETE'S PLACE

ON MORELAND AVE. SHE IS FAMILIAR WITH RAY GODFREY AND AFTER

VIEWING PHOTO OF CLAUDE AND LEON POWELL, WAS FAMILIAR WITH

BOTH OF THEM. SHE STATED SHE NEVER HEARD ANYONE TALKING

ABOUT ANY MURDER OF ANY TYPE AT PETE'S PLACE. SHE WAS UNABLE

TO IDENTIFY ANYONE RESEMBLING ARTIST'S CONCEPTION OF RALPH

(LNU). SHE CAN ONLY DESCRIBE ONE INDIVIDUAL WHO CAME INTO

PETE'S PLACE WHO WAS WELL-DRESSED AND WALKED WITH A LIMP.

SHE KNEW THE INDIVIDUAL AS "DUKE". "DUKE" WAS A WHITE MALE

APPROXIMATELY 6', 180 LBS., DARK HAIR, WALKED WITH A LIMP,

DROVE A LARGE DARK CAR WITH A GWINNETT COUNTY TAG.

END PAGE ONE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 15 1976

TELETYPE

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

cc - M. R. R. [Signature]

P11

P11

REC-100

44-38861-6536

"DUKE"  
5 JAN 19 1976

84 JAN 21 1976

8 3 JAN 31 1976

REC'D-CIV RIGHTS  
F B I

JAN 15 6 47 AM 1976

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION 5030 J.E.H.

JAN 15 2 08 AM '76

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

TO DIRECTOR

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

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

RE: [REDACTED]

ON 1/14/76, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

PAGE TWO, AT 44-2638

ALWAYS SEEMED TO HAVE MONEY, IN FACT, GAVE HER \$50 TIP. SHE CANNOT LOCATE DUKE AT THIS TIME, IN FACT, HAS BEEN TRYING TO FIND HIM ON HER OWN. DUKE VERY RARELY WENT INTO BAR, ALWAYS GOT HIS BEVERAGES THROUGH THE CARHOPS. DIANE ADVISED ANOTHER CARHOP NAMED DOTTIE (LNU), WHO SHE THINKS IS CURRENTLY WORKING FOR BARBARA'S LOUNGE ON MORELAND AVE., MIGHT BE ABLE TO ASSIST IN THE IDENTIFICATION OF THE INDIVIDUAL IN THE ARTIST'S CONCEPTION IN VIEW OF FACT SHE WAS A LONG-TIME EMPLOYEE OF PETE'S PLACE.

LEON POWELL REINTERVIEWED AND SHOWN ARTIST'S CONCEPTION. TO THE BEST OF HIS RECOLLECTION, WITH SOME MINOR COSMETIC CHANGES, CONCEPTION RESEMBLES INDIVIDUAL WHO CONTACTED HIM RE ASSASSINATION. POWELL IS CERTAIN INDIVIDUAL WHO CONTACTED HIM KNOWN AS RALPH DID NOT, REPEAT DID NOT, WALK WITH LIMP.

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. LOCATE AND INTERVIEW DOTTIE (LNU) AND SHOW ARTIST'S CONCEPTION.

END.

PLS HOLD

TO DIRECTOR

FROM SAC, NEW YORK (100-100000)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] (NY 100-100000)

RE: [REDACTED] (NY 100-100000)

ON [REDACTED] (NY 100-100000)

AT [REDACTED] (NY 100-100000)

FOR [REDACTED] (NY 100-100000)

BY [REDACTED] (NY 100-100000)

DATE: [REDACTED]

CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]

REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION: [REDACTED]

EXEMPTION CODE: [REDACTED]

REVIEW DATE: [REDACTED]

APPROVAL: [REDACTED]

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE: [REDACTED]

STENOGRAPHER: [REDACTED]

TELETYPE UNIT: [REDACTED]

MAIL ROOM: [REDACTED]

JAN 15 12 07 AM '76

RECEIVED UNIT



NR012 AT PLAIN

8:30 PM URGENT 1-15-76 HLF

TO: DIRECTOR (44-38861)

MEMPHIS

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM: ATLANTA (44-2386) (P)

MURKIN.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 15 1976

TELETYPE

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

RE ATLANTA TELETYPE TO THE BUREAU, JANUARY 15, 1976.

ON INSTANT DATE, EDNA MC KINNON, OWNER OF MC KINNON'S RESTAURANT, MORELAND AVENUE, ADVISED SHE DOES HAVE EMPLOYED AN EMPLOYEE NAMED "DOTTIE". "DOTTIE" DID WORK FOR HER WHEN SHE OWNED THE PIGLET RESTAURANT LOCATED AT HILL AND MORELAND, ATLANTA, GEORGIA. "DOTTIE" HAD THE DAY OFF AND IS CURRENTLY OUT OF TOWN, SHE WILL BE BACK AND REPORT FOR WORK AT 2:00 PM, FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 1976.

DIANE BRADY RECONTACTED, ADVISED ALL OTHER EMPLOYEES OF PETE'S PLACE HAVE DIED SINCE PETE'S PLACE WAS CLOSED. AS FAR AS SHE CAN REMEMBER, THE ONLY INDIVIDUALS STILL LIVING THAT WERE CONNECTED WITH PETE'S PLACE ARE HERSELF, "DOTTIE", AND RAY GODFREY. A LOT OF THE CUSTOMERS ARE STILL AROUND AND FREQUENT HER BAR, "THE OFFICE".

END PAGE ONE.

5 JAN 19 1976

84 JAN 21 1976

84 JAN 5 1976

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

JAN 16 6 38 AM 1976

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION JAN 15 1976 J.E.H.

JAN 15 10 02 PM '76

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

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

PAGE TWO (44-2386)

ATLANTA AT ATLANTA. WILL LOCATE AND INTERVIEW "DOTTIE"  
AT MC KINNON'S RESTAURANT.

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

END.

PLS HOLD

JAN 15 8 59 PM '76

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

JAN 08 1976

TELETYPE

Assoc. Dir.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Adm.	_____
Dep.-A.D.-Inv.	_____
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Admin.	_____
Comp. Syst.	_____
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Intell.	_____
Laboratory	_____
Plan. & Eval.	_____
Spec. Inv.	_____
Training	_____
Legal Coun.	_____
Telephone Rm.	_____
Director Sec'y	_____

NR002 AT PLAIN

11:08 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 FBIHQ

REC-100

44-38861-6038

5 JAN 19 1976

84 JAN 21 1976

FBI  
U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

PLAINTEXT

TELETYPE

URGENT

TO ATLANTA (44-2386)

1/9/76

EL PASO (44-920)

FROM DIRECTOR FBI (44-3886])

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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

1 - MEMPHIS (44-1987)

END

HNH:bap (4)

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO....

5 JAN 13 1976

Assoc. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Dep. AD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Admin. \_\_\_\_\_  
Comp. Syst. \_\_\_\_\_  
Ext. Affairs \_\_\_\_\_  
Files & Com. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Inspection \_\_\_\_\_  
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Laboratory \_\_\_\_\_  
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Spec. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_  
Training \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
Director Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

MAILED ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

84 JAN 21 1976

GPO : 1975 O - 569-920

8 4 JAN 1 1976

JAN 14 1976

JAN 9 5 17 PM '76

RECEIVED  
TELETYPE UNIT

URGENT (P)

T - MEMPHIS (44-1981)

FROM WASHINGTON, D.C.

URGENT 12 11 55 PM 1/9/76

TO DIRECTOR, FBI (44-38861) AND SAC, NEW YORK (44-38861) FROM WASHINGTON, D.C. (44-1981) (P)

RE NEW YORK TELETYPE TO BUREAU, JANUARY NINE LAST, AND BUREAU TELETYPE TO NEW YORK, JANUARY TEN LAST, RE: MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., APRIL FOUR, SIXTYEIGHT, CIVIL RIGHTS. NEW YORK ADVISED THAT IT HAS BEEN ADVISED THAT AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS A MEMBER OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY, TELEPHONED NEW YORK AND STATED THAT HE HAD INFORMATION CONCERNING THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

NEW YORK IS ATTEMPTING TO LOCATE THIS INDIVIDUAL AND DETERMINE HIS IDENTITY AND WHERE HE IS CURRENTLY LOCATED. NEW YORK IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS ANY CONTACT WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

NEW YORK IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS ANY CONTACT WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

NEW YORK IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS ANY CONTACT WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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NEW YORK IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS ANY CONTACT WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

END

NEW YORK IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS ANY CONTACT WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

NEW YORK IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS ANY CONTACT WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

NEW YORK IS ALSO ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE IF THIS INDIVIDUAL HAS ANY CONTACT WITH OTHER INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE MURDER OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.



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 07 1976

TELETYPE

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

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.

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<sup>M</sup>, 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. ~~APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK LATER~~ ~~6-224978-5376 9,3 233(-) 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.

84 JAN 21 1976

8 JAN 8 1976

RECEIVED  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE  
DIVISION

JAN 7 11 02 PM '76

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

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JAN 8 6 57 AM 1976