FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION

COVER SHEET

SUBJECT: DAVID KORESH

THE BEST COPY OBTAINABLE IS INCLUDED IN THE REPRODUCTION OF THESE DOCUMENTS. PAGES INCLUDED THAT ARE BLURRED, LIGHT, OR OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO READ ARE THE RESULT OF THE CONDITION OF THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT. NO BETTER COPY CAN BE REPRODUCED.

FD-610 (Rev. 4-16-87)

AIRTEL

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
Attn: Criminal Investigative Division
Civil Rights Unit

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (50-SA-37281) **Date:** 7/20/92

1. Title: (use additional page if necessary)
VERNON HOWELL,
aka DAVID KORESH;
ISS;
OO: SAN ANTONIO

BUDED:

RE:

2. Office of Origin File No: 50-SA-37281 (include alpha)

3. Auxiliary Office File No: _____-_____ (initial submission only)

4. X initial submission _____ Supplemental submission

5. Matter Type: (check more than one if applicable)

A. Brutality
☐ Law Enforcement
☐ Non-Law Enforcement

No Brutality
☐ Law Enforcement
☐ Non-Law Enforcement

B. Violence
☐ Racial ☐ Religious ☐ Other

C. ISS Matters
☐ Migrant Victim ☒ Other

D. Known/Suspected Extremist Group
☐ Klan ☐ Other _____

Use to describe above (check all applicable)
☐ Arson ☐ Injury ☐ Property damage
☐ Death ☐ No Injury ☐ Cross burning

6. Date of incident 6/23/92 7. Date of complaint 6/23/92

8. Synopsis of case:
VERNON HOWELL, aka DAVID KORESH, may have been planning a mass suicide for the members of his religious sect, "Branch Davidian Seventh Day Adventist." Allegations were also made against HOWELL of holding people against their will, which may constitute violations of the Federal laws pertaining to involuntary servitude and slavery.

50-SA-37281-1

9. Significant case: ☐ Yes ☒ No (if yes, provide reason) _____

Remarks/Administrative
2 - Bureau
2 - San Antonio
FV:tab
(4)

1- INDICY

FD-36 (Rev. 11-17-88)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [x] AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] UNCLAS E F T O
- [ ] UNCLAS

Date 7/21/92

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, SAN ANTONIO (50-SA-37281) (SQ. 11/WRA)

SUBJECT : VERNON HOWELL,
aka DAVID KORESH;
ISS;
OO: SAN ANTONIO

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and two copies of an FD-302 reflecting the interview of [redacted]

b7C

LEADS

SAN ANTONIO DIVISION

AT WACO, TEXAS: Obtain written report detailing interviews of members belonging to the religious organization headed by VERNON HOWELL.

50-SA-37281-2

2 - Bureau (Encs. 3)
2 - San Antonio
FV:tab
(4)

1*

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ (Number) _____ (Time) Per _____

50-SA-37281

On 7/10/92, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Waco, Texas declined prosecution due to lack of corroboration on allegations regarding involuntary servitude and slavery.

b7C

On 7/13/92, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) SA [redacted] was contacted regarding captioned subject. [redacted] was provided information to include a diagram of the [redacted] which captioned subject is living in, as well as photographs of the interior of the house. It was brought to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in Waco, Texas that ATF may possibly have a firearms violation regarding captioned subject. [redacted] advised he received information that subject may possibly be converting AR-15 rifles from semi-automatic to automatic weapons. #50, ENCL FOR DOJ/CRU is A copy of AN interview of [redacted]

All logical investigation having been conducted, San Antonio is considering this matter closed.

FD-302 (Rev. 3-10-82)

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/23/92

b7C

[redacted] Child Protective Services (CPS), Post Office Box 977, 504 North 6th Street, Waco, Texas 76703, telephone number (817) 756-5571, was contacted at her place of employment. After having been advised of the identity of the interviewing Agent and of the nature of the interview, [redacted] provided the following information:

[redacted] charge of the investigation conducted on a religious sect in Waco, Texas known as the "Branch Davidian, Seventh Day Adventist." An individual by the name of VERNON HOWELL, also known as DAVID KORESH, is the leader of the organization. Allegations had been made in the past by several ex-members that HOWELL was planning a mass murder/suicide event. Allegations were also made towards HOWELL in that he was holding several members of the sect under conditions which may constitute violations of Federal law pertaining to involuntary servitude and slavery.

The CPS was brought into the religious sect due to allegations from ex-members of child neglect and abuse. [redacted] as well as two other investigators [redacted] and [redacted] were involved in the investigation. Interviews were conducted with several members of the organization, children as well as adults, and also HOWELL himself. Those members interviewed indicated to the CPS that all individuals on the premises were staying with the religious sect on their own accord.

b7C

Through observation and interview on both announced and unannounced visits, the Department of Human Services (DHS), CPS had no indication that any children or adults were being held against their will by HOWELL.

50-SA-37281-2

Investigation on 7/7/92 at Waco, Texas File # 50-SA-37281

by SA [redacted] tab b7C Date dictated 7/13/92

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency;

FD-36 (Rev. 11-17-88)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- [ ] Teletype
- [ ] Facsimile
- [x] AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
- [ ] Immediate
- [ ] Priority
- [ ] Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- [ ] TOP SECRET
- [ ] SECRET
- [ ] CONFIDENTIAL
- [ ] UNCLAS E F T O
- [ ] UNCLAS

NF

Date 7/29/92

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: CR UNIT)

FROM : SAC, SAN ANTONIO (50-SA-37281) (SQ. 11/WRA)

SUBJECT : VERNON HOWELL,
aka DAVID KORESH;
ISS;
OO: SAN ANTONIO

Re San Antonio airtel to the Bureau, dated 5/12/92.

Referenced communication was listed as a 163C-SA-37281, titled, "BRANCH DAVIDIAN, SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST; SENATOR DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR."

Enclosed for the Bureau are three copies of interviews with residents residing with the Branch Davidian, Seventh Day Adventist conducted by Child Protective Services (CPS) in Waco, Texas.

b7C

On 7/10/92, Special Agent (SA) [redacted] met with [redacted] and [redacted] Investigators for Texas Department of Human Services (DHS), CPS. Both [redacted] and [redacted] provided the enclosures which were taken from the investigation conducted by CPS on allegations of child abuse and neglect. The Texas DHS, CPS was provided the identical information received by United States (U.S.) Representative FRED UPTON, St. Joseph, Michigan. No information was developed by the San Antonio Division to verify the accuracy of reports regarding self-destruction or involuntary servitude and slavery.

b7C

50-SA-37281-3

2 - Bureau (Encs. 3)
2 - San Antonio
FV:tab
(4)

1-CID/CW
1-CID DO
6-94 QUH/CF
10-1-92

Approved: Transmitted (Number) (Time) Per

B7C

Form 2202-A/5-91

Texas Department of Human Services

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INTAKE AND CANRIS REPORT

1 Worker [redacted] N	Time Reported to DHS 1135 ☐ am ☑ pm	
1. CANRIS Incident No.	2. S.O. Use Only	3.

SECTION I—WORKER INFORMATION

4. Worker Name [redacted] First [redacted]

SECTION II—INCIDENT REPORT

(future use)

8. Date Occurred to Child	9. Date Reported to DHS	10. Date Invest. Completed	11. Source	12. PRIORITY a. At Intake	b. Actual
022692	022692	04 30 92	oth	01	02

13. DISPOSITION

X	1—Reason to Believe
	2—Unable to Determine
	3—Ruled Out
	4—Family Moved

14. ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME

	1—$0 to $8,999		4—$34,000 to $62,999
	2—$9,000 to $17,999		5—$63,000 or more
X	3—$18,000 to $33,999		

[redacted]

b7C

SECTION III—INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION

15. Line	16. Name	First	MI	17. Date of Birth	18. Mar. St.	19. Sex	20.	21.	22.
01	KORESH	DAVID		081759	MA	M	A	[illegible]	N

24. Street Address	25. City	26. St.	27. Zip	28. Co.	29.
Rt. 7 Box 471-B-Mt. Carmel Centre	Waco	TX	7620	10	NO

30. DHS Client No.	31. Social Security No.	32. Type of Abuse/Neglect	33. Total	34.	35.
NA	NA	PHNG	NA	NA	NA

37. Home Telephone No.	38. Work/School Telephone	39. Work/School Address

[redacted]

24. Street Address	25. City	26.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

30. DHS Client No.	31. Social Security No.	32. Type of Abuse/Neglect
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

37. Home Telephone No.	38. Work/School Telephone	39. Work/School Address

[redacted]

24. Street Address	25. City	26.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

30. DHS Client No.	31. Social Security No.	32. Type of Abuse/Neglect
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

37. Home Telephone No.	38. Work/School Telephone	39. Work/School Address

[redacted]

24. Street Address	25. City	26.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

30. DHS Client No.	31. Social Security No.	32. Type of Abuse/Neglect
NA	NA	[redacted]

37. Home Telephone No.	38. Work/School Telephone	39. Work/School Address

[redacted]

24. Street Address	25. City	26.
[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

30. DHS Client No.	31. Social Security No.	32. Type of Abuse/Neglect
NA	NA	[redacted]

37. Home Telephone No.	38. Work/School Telephone	39. Work/School Address

b7C

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

6 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552		Section 552a
☐ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☒ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	☒ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
☒ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

_____ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
HQ-50-SA-37281-3 Pages 3-8 (Texas Department of Human Services)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

b7C

Form 2202-A-S

Texas Department of Human Services

CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES INTAKE AND CANRIS REPORT

1

Work [redacted] | Time Reported to DHS 7:35 ☐ am ☑ pm

[redacted] | 2. S.O. Use Only | 3.

SECTION I—WORKER INFORMATION

4. W [redacted]

SECTION II—INCIDENT REPORT

8. Date Occurred to Child	9. Date Reported to DHS	10. Date Invest. Completed	11. Source	12. PRIORITY a. At Intake	b. Actual
02 26 92	02 26 92	04 30 92	07 H	0 1	0 2

13. DISPOSITION

- [ ] 1—Reason to Believe
- [ ] 2—Unable to Determine
- [ ] 3—Ruled Out
- [ ] 4—Family Moved

b7C

14. ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME

- [ ] 1—$0 to $8,999
- [ ] 2—$9,000 to $17,999
- [x] 3—$18,000 to $33,999
- [ ] 4—$34,000 to $62,999
- [ ] 5—$63,000 or more

SECTION III—INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION

15. Line 3 [redacted]

37. Home Telephone No. [redacted] | 38. Work/School Telephone [redacted] | 39. Work/School Address [redacted]

15. Line 3 [redacted]

24. Street Address [redacted]

37. Home Telephone No. [redacted] | 38. Work/School Telephone [redacted] | 39. Work/School Address [redacted]

15. Line 3 [redacted]

24. Street Address [redacted]

37. Home Telephone No. [redacted] | 38. Work/School Telephone [redacted] | 39. Work/School Address [redacted]

15. Line 02 | 16. Name—Last Howell | First Vernon | MI | 17. Date of Birth 08 12 59 | 18. M/F/S M | 19. S | 20. E | 21. R | 22. A | 23. A

24. Street Address [redacted] | 25. City [redacted] | 26. St. [redacted] | 27. ZIP [redacted] | 28. Co. 61

30. DHS Client No. NA | 31. Social Security No. NA | 32. Type of Abuse/Neglect NA | 33. NA

37. Home Telephone No. [redacted] | 38. Work/School Telephone [redacted] | 39. Work/School Address [redacted]

15. Line | 16. Name—Last | First | MI | 17. Date of Birth | 18. M/F/S | 19. S | 20. E | 21. R | 22. A | 23. A

24. Street Address | 25. City | 26. St. | 27. ZIP | 28. Co.

30. DHS Client No. | 31. Social Security No. | 32. Type of Abuse/Neglect | 33.

37. Home Telephone No. | 38. Work/School Telephone | 39. Work/School Address

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

1 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

☐ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552		Section 552a
☐ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	☒ (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	☒ (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
☒ (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

_____ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
HQ-50-SA-37281-3 Page 10 (Texas Department of Human Services)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

Form 2202-A
Page 3/3-91

COMPLAINANT INFORMATION:

Name	Relationship to Case	Home Telephone	Work Telephone
[redacted] b7C			

Comments: Both [redacted]

RECORDS CHECK: (Check each action completed:) ☐ CANRIS Soundex ☑ Local Records Check ☐ SSMS/SAVERS (optional)

Results: No record No record

Allegations appear to involve the following type(s) of abuse/neglect:

☐ ABAN ☐ EMAB ☐ MDNG ☐ NSUP ☑ PHAB ☐ PHNG ☑ RAPR

Initial Priority: _____

SUPERVISOR NOTIFIED OF REPORT [redacted] b7C 2-21-92 2:
(Within 24 hours for Priority I, Within 72 hours for Priority II) Date Time

WORKER RECOMMENDATION:

☑ **RTE** - Route for investigation to Unit No. 60

☐ **CWA** - Close without assignment

☐ **TRN** - Transfer to another jurisdiction: Region/Unit: ____/____ City: _____

Comments: _____

[redacted] b7C 2-21-92 2:
Signature Date Time

SUPERVISOR DECISION:

Review of Allegations: ☒ Approve ☐ Change to: _____ Reason: _____

Review of Initial Priority: ☒ Approve ☐ Change to: _____ Reason: _____

☒ **ASG** - Assigned for investigation to: [redacted] Unit 60
Worker/Unit

☐ **CWA** - Closed without assignment. Decision explained to complainant: _____
Date

☐ **TRN** - Transferred to another jurisdiction: Region/Unit: ____/____ City: _____

Comments: _____

b7C [redacted] 2-26-92
Date

OPCA-20 (12-3-96)

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

39 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.

X Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.

Section 552		Section 552a
☐ (b)(1)	☐ (b)(7)(A)	☐ (d)(5)
☐ (b)(2)	☐ (b)(7)(B)	☐ (j)(2)
☐ (b)(3)	X (b)(7)(C)	☐ (k)(1)
_____	X (b)(7)(D)	☐ (k)(2)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(E)	☐ (k)(3)
_____	☐ (b)(7)(F)	☐ (k)(4)
☐ (b)(4)	☐ (b)(8)	☐ (k)(5)
☐ (b)(5)	☐ (b)(9)	☐ (k)(6)
X (b)(6)		☐ (k)(7)

☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.

☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

_____ Pages contain information furnished by another Government agency(ies). You will be advised by the FBI as to the releasability of this information following our consultation with the other agency(ies).

_____ Page(s) withheld inasmuch as a final release determination has not been made. You will be advised as to the disposition at a later date.

_____ Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of _____

_____ Page(s) withheld for the following reason(s): _____

X The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:
HQ-50-SA-37281-3 Pages 12-50 (Texas Department of Human Services)

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
X Deleted Page(s) X
X No Duplication Fee X
X for this page X
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX
XXXXXX
XXXXXX

FBI/DOJ

Revelation [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Micah [illegible]

Ezekiel 36

Religious group denies mass suicide rumor

By MARK ENGLAND
Tribune-Herald staff writer

The leader of a religious group in Elk scoffed Friday at a rumor that he and his followers plan to commit suicide this weekend.

David Koresh, who used to go by the name Vernon Wayne Howell, said the Branch Davidian Seventh-day Advent- have merely gathered at their acre site 12 miles outside Waco to observe Passover, the Jewish holiday that commemorates the deliverance of the ancient Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

He called the rumor "hogwash."

"Hey, I'm not ready to die," Koresh said. ". . . It's all lies. Every year we've gathered here for Passover. Every year.

"Look, the place is being built up. We're spending lots of money. A lot of people are putting time and effort in," he said. "When we got this place back from George (Roden) it was terrible. So we've been working three years out in California and other places to raise money to get this place back on its feet.

"I've got the water well man coming in. I mean . . . Two weeks in a row we're supposed to be committing suicide. I wish they'd get their stories straight."

Rumors of a mass suicide apparently started in Australia, a country Koresh visited to gather new followers. The *Melbourne Herald-Sun* printed an article this week quoting relatives saying some Australian Branch Davidians have sold their property and called to say good-bye.

The relatives said Koresh had interpreted the book of Revelation in the Bible to say a certain number of people must become martyrs before the Second Coming of Christ.

Koresh said that's a rumor started by a former Australian member to smear the Branch Davidians.

"The end of time is a process," Koresh said. "It will happen when it happens. But the truth pertaining to the end of time is now. We've got to know what God requires of us in this generation . . . Just be informed what the word of God has stated by the prophet. In harmony with Christ. Hey, all we can do is hope for salvation. That's all we teach."

Perry Jones, a longtime Branch Davidian, said the rumor exasperated him.

"It's not only insulting, but it's ludicrous," Jones said.

The rumors about Passover have frightened relatives of the Branch Davidians, though.

June Craddock of Melbourne said she talked recently with her son, Graham, a Branch Davidian. He is at the religious group's site, called New Mount Carmel.

"I rang, Graham," Craddock said. "He said to remain calm. There's noth-

Please see DAVIDIANS, Page 2C

Waco TRIBUNE-HERALD
SATURDAY
April 18, 1992

DAVIDIANS

☐ From Page 1C

ing to it."

But Craddock said the rumors still upset her.

"I don't know the man," she said. "But he seems to be able to tell Graham what to do, and Graham does it."

Lisa Gent of Wheelers Hill is a former Branch Davidian. Her daughter, Nicole, and son, Peter, still belong to the group.

They won't speak to her, however, because she left the Branch Davidians, Gent said.

"We're worn out and devastated worrying," she said. "It's on our minds all the time."

The McLennan County Sheriff's Department sent a deputy to visit the group after hearing of the Australian newspaper article.

A sheriff's department spokesman said there was also a rumor suicides would occur if authorities visited New Mount Carmel.

"We went out," the spokesman said. "No one died. We talked to them for a few hours.

"They've got a right to believe what they want to believe. I think the unknown is causing them a lot of problems. People don't understand their religion."

The rumors also led a representative of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to contact the Branch Davidians. The group is careful to point out there is no relationship between them and the Branch Davidians, an Adventist spinoff.

Larry Guinn, pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church of Waco, said he contacted the Branch Davidians out of concern.

"We talked to their leader," Guinn said. "As best we can determine, this is just a malicious rumor started by someone in Australia."

V.T. Houteff started the Branch Davidians in 1935 at a site near Lake Waco. After Houteff's death, the group moved to Elk.

Houteff's wife, Florence, predicted the kingdom of God would be established in 1959. When her prediction failed to pass, the group lost many followers.

In recent years, the antics of George Roden put an unwelcome spotlight on the Branch Davidians. Among other things, Roden filed a motion with the Texas Supreme Court, the 10th Court of Appeals and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans urging God to inflict AIDS and herpes on the judges.

Roden also banished Koresh and his followers from New Mount Carmel and later dug up a casket and tried to resurrect the body of a Branch Davidian.

That led to a shootout between Koresh and seven of his followers and Roden. The men sneaked onto New Mount Carmel to try and photograph the casket in hopes of getting authorities to act against Roden, they said.

Roden claimed they came to kill him.

Now Roden is in prison on a murder conviction, and Koresh and his followers have New Mount Carmel to themselves.

Koresh, who changed his name to pursue a music career, said he doesn't know when the end of time will come and is just trying to live his life so he's ready for that occurrence.

TRIBUNE-HERALD SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 1992

Davidians observe Passover

More than 150 people gathered in Elk Saturday as the Branch Davidian Seventh-day Adventists observed Passover, the Jewish holiday that commemorates the deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt.

Rumors of a mass suicide by those attending proved to be false.

"People are here for life," said Steven Schneider of LaVerne, Calif., who joined others at the New Mount Carmel compound 12 miles outside of Waco.

"You mention a word like death, and I'm out of here myself," Schneider said.

The *Melborne Herald-Sun* in Australia printed an article this week quoting relatives saying some Australian Branch Davidians have sold their property and called to say good-bye.

Leaders of the religious group called the rumor "hogwash" and said it was created by a former member trying to smear the group's name.

Schneider said he didn't think the rumor had any affect on Saturday's event.

"No, not at all," he said. "No one has even bothered with that."

6-94 (Rev. 8-6-85)

Memorandum

To : Assistant Attorney General
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Date 10-1-92

Attn: Criminal Section

From : Director, FBI

Subject : VERNON HOWELL,
AKA DAVID KORESH;
ISS;
CIVIL RIGHTS
OO: SAN ANTONIO

Field Office File Number 50 SA - 37281

DOJ File Number _____ - _____ - _____

Reference:

Enclosed is one copy of: See below.

☐ Also enclosed is an Internal Affairs Report

DOI: 6-23-92

☒ A. This is the initial communication in this matter:

Type matter (Initial communication only)
- ☐ Brutality - Law Enforcement
- ☐ Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- ☐ No Brutality - Law Enforcement
- ☐ No Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- ☐ Racial Violence
- ☐ ISS Matter
- ☐ Death Case

☐ B. FBI Status-Pending

☒ C. FBI Status-Closed

☐ D. This covers the receipt of a complaint and no further action will be taken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation unless specifically requested by the Department of Justice. 50-SA-37281-4

☐ E. Due to the nature of this matter, it should receive your expeditious attention. Please contact the Civil Rights Unit, FBIHQ, Attn: _____

SENT BY COURIER
DATE 10-1-92 INITIAL [illegible]

b7C

Enc (1)
Quild F

Note: Enclosed for DOJ/CRU, are interviews with residents residing with the Branch Davidian, seventh Day Adventist conducted by Child Protective Services (CPS) in WACO, Texas.

On 7/10/92, Special Agents (SA) [redacted] met wit[redacted] and [redacted] Investigators for Texas Department of Human Services (DHS), CPS.

investigation conducted by CPS on allegation of child abuse and neglect. The Texas DHS, CPS was provided the identical information received by the United States (U.S.) Representative FRED UPTON, St. Joseph, Michigan. No information was developed by the San Antonio Division to verify the accuracy of reports regarding self-destruction or involuntary servitude and slavery.

On 7-10-92, the U.S. Attorney's Office in Waco, Texas declined prosecution due to lack of corroboration on allegations regarding involuntary servitude and slavery.

b7C

On 7-13-92, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) SA [redacted] was contacted regarding captioned subject. [redacted] was provided information to include a diagram of the house in which captioned subject is living in, as well as photographs of the interior of the house. It was brought to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in Waco, Texas that ATF may possibly have a firearms violation regarding captioned subject. [redacted] advised he received information that subject may possibly be converting AK-15 rifles for a semi-automatic to automatic weapons. Also, enclosed for DOJ/CRU is a copy of and interview of [redacted].

All logical investigation having been conducted, San Antonio is considering this matter closed.

Memorandum

Subject

Notice of File Closing
CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

Date

OCT 16 1992

To

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From

John R. Dunne
Assistant Attorney General
Civil Rights Division

Reference is made to your field office file captioned as on the attached closing form and numbered 50-SA-37281. This matter has been closed as of the date on the attached form.

50-SA-37281-5

10-26-92

TO SAC San Antonio
acHdf
11-27-92

CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Notice to Close File

File No. 50-76-48 Date OCT 1 6 1992

To: Chief, Criminal Section

Re: Vernon Howell,
aka David Koresh;
San Antonio, TX
CIVIL RIGHTS

This ISS matter from Texas apparently came to the FBI's attention through the Congressman Fred Upton's office (MI). Congressman Upton received material suggesting that members of a religious group at a commune near Waco, Texas, were planning a mass suicide and practiced involuntary servitude and slavery. We did not receive the material which originally made these allegations.

The local Child Protective Services unit of the Texas Department of Public Health investigated the commune and its treatment of children. The FBI has submitted its report. The CPS report summarizes CPS interviews with residents of the commune (approximately 10 adults) and with children.

Albert S. Glenn
Attorney

To: Records Section
Office of Legal Administration

The above numbered file has been closed as of this date.

Date Chief, Criminal Section

FORMERLY CVR-3 FORM CL-3

(approximately 10 children). These reports show no evidence of any involuntary servitude by any child or adult. There is no evidence of any extensive work by the children, nor of any child abuse. No actions were taken by CPS to remove any children from the commune. The commune's leader said that there was a person in Michigan who was spreading rumors about the group.

This investigation has shown no evidence of ISS. There are no additional areas of potentially fruitful investigation which are apparent. I recommend that this matter be closed. The FBI report indicates that the U.S. Attorney's office has declined prosecution.

FD-36 (Rev. 11-17-88)

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:
- ☐ Teletype
- ☐ Facsimile
- ☒ AIRTEL

PRECEDENCE:
- ☐ Immediate
- ☐ Priority
- ☐ Routine

CLASSIFICATION:
- ☐ TOP SECRET
- ☐ SECRET
- ☐ CONFIDENTIAL
- ☐ UNCLAS E F T O
- ☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/23/93

3/3

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
(ATTN: CONGRESSIONAL/PUBLIC AFFAIRS UNIT, FBIHQ)

FROM : SAC, SAN ANTONIO (50-SA-37281) (C)
(SQ. #11/WRA)

SUBJECT : VERNON HOWELL, aka
David Koresh;
ISS;
OO: SAN ANTONIO

Re San Antonio airtel to the Bureau dated 7/21/92 and letter from Congressman CHET EDWARDS dated 2/2/93.

Enclosed for the Bureau are the original and four copies of a self-explanatory Letterhead Memorandum (LHM) for dissemination purposes.

b7C

On February 2, 1993, the Office of Congressman CHET EDWARDS, 710 University Tower, 700 South University Drive, Waco, Texas, 76706, requested a response regarding a letter written by [redacted] provided to Congressman EDWARDS as well as to Congressman FRED UPTON, St. Joseph, Michigan and Senator DONALD W. RIEGLE, Jr., Lansing, Michigan, a letter regarding captioned subject. Mr. [redacted] letter was dated March 17, 1992.

The letter written by [redacted] contained allegation of child abuse and neglect, tax evasion, involuntary servitude, and slavery as well as reports of possible mass self-destruction.

(2) - Bureau (Enc. 5)
1 - San Antonio
FV:sa
(3)

ENCLOSURE

"ENCLOSURE ATTACHED" 50-SA-37281-6

1-cc to CID 3-1-93

Approved: _____ Transmitted _____ Per _____
(Number) (Time)

50-SA-37281

According to the letter, plans for self-destruction or sacrifices were to take place during Passover. A review of this letter would indicate that the time frame of the alleged acts of self-destruction would have been between the date [redacted] letter was written (March 17, 1992) and Easter 1992.

b7C

Appropriate personnel have been notified in McLennan County, (Waco) Texas in the event that subject attempted such plans. These agencies include the McLennan County Sheriff's Department, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Texas Department of Public Safety and the Texas Rangers Service. As of February 23, 1993, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, Western District of Texas, Waco Branch was also contacted where Assistant United States Attorney JOHN PHINIZY was briefed regarding the facts developed in this case.

To date, no information has been developed to verify the accuracy of the allegations. Law enforcement authorities with possible violations regarding this matter have been re-notified and appropriate contact will be maintained to ensure monitoring of this matter for possible federal violations.