

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

# **VIOLA LIUZZO MURDER**

## **PART 1 OF 14**

**FILE NUMBER : 44-28601**

The Attorney General

March 26, 1965

Director, FBI

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

MRS. ANTHONY JAMES LIUZZO

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth background information immediately available concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo.

This information has also been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

JWH/pak  
(13)



EX - 109

MCT-20

REC-3

44-28601-1

19 MAR 26 1965

MAR 30 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont

March 26, 1965

UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
VIOLA LIUZZO - VICTIM

1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

A check of the Michigan Secretary of State, the Detroit Police Department and the Detroit FBI files shows the following information concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo.

The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department files reveal that Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, at California, Pennsylvania, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, Michigan, was arrested on June 16, 1964, for "failing to send children to school." No disposition was shown for this arrest.

The files of the FBI Detroit Office disclose that Viola Liuzzo, no address given, wrote a letter to the "Detroit Free Press," a Detroit daily newspaper, belittling the Government's attack on James R. Hoffa, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The records of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office, Lansing, Michigan, indicate that a Michigan operator's license was issued to Viola Liuzzo, born April 11, 1925, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, on April 16, 1963. Her description is given as white female, blond hair, gray eyes, height 5 feet 2 1/2 inches, weight 127 pounds, no vision restriction.

Anthony J. Liuzzo

The records of the Michigan Secretary of State's Office also indicate that a chauffeur's license was issued to Anthony James Liuzzo, born October 5, 1913, residence 19375 Marlowe, Detroit. The license is to expire May 5, 1965. Liuzzo is described as a white male, height 5 feet 10 1/2 inches, weight 192 pounds, blue eyes, black hair, with no vision restriction.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JWH/pak  
(13)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

MAR 31 11 55 AM '65

44-28601-1

ENCLOSURE

A 1963 Oldsmobile coupe with 1965 Michigan license  
EJ 9177 is registered to Anthony J. Liuzzo, 19375 Marlowe,  
Detroit, Michigan.

[REDACTED] b7C, 1

[REDACTED] b7C

The 1964 City Directory for the West side of  
Detroit reveals that Anthony J. Liuzzo and his wife, Viola,  
reside at 19375 Marlowe, Detroit, and he is employed as a  
business agent for the Teamsters Union in Detroit. It is  
reported that Mrs. Liuzzo was employed as a laboratory  
technician at Mount Sinai Hospital, Detroit, and is a  
part-time student at Wayne University in Detroit. She is  
reported to be the mother of five children.

- 2 -

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen

March 26, 1965

1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan

1 - Mr. Hines

**MARCH FROM SELMA TO  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 21 - 25, 1965**

On March 25, 1965, the parade from St. Jude's, a Catholic Institution, started at approximately 10:10 a. m. Approximately 12,000 marchers participated in this parade.

The program at the State Capitol commenced at 1:35 p. m., and lasted until approximately 4:10 p. m.

After the parade, twenty delegates designated to contact Governor George C. Wallace attempted to go to his office at the Capitol building. They were advised that the Governor's Office was closed and he would not see them on March 25, 1965. The delegates plan to return to see Governor Wallace on March 26, 1965.

Prior to the parade, officers of the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office served papers on Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., and associates which arose out of a civil action filed in Dallas County Court, Selma, Alabama. This suit was filed by the City of Selma and the Selma Bus Lines.

This civil action involves a claim by the Selma Bus Lines in the amount of \$9,750 for the loss of revenue, and a notice of damage by the City of Selma in the amount of \$100,000 for loss of revenue arising from demonstrations and other activities. The defendants were also enjoined from operating buses and other means to transport people in and about Selma, Alabama.

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE

HCS/nkr  
(13)

44-28601-44-28601-  
NOT RECORDED  
17 MAR 29 1965

25 MAR 29 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

Information has been received that a Dr. Robert Wilken, Liza Senkler, Evans Johnson and two unidentified seminary students were attacked by unknown white persons in Montgomery, Alabama, just prior to their departure on a train for Washington, D. C.

These persons will be interviewed upon arrival in Washington, D. C., for complete details of the attack. Further action will be taken in accordance with the information furnished by the victims.

At approximately 3:50 p. m., on March 25, 1965, Mrs. Viola Liuzzo of Detroit, Michigan, was fatally shot in Lowndes County, approximately twenty miles from Selma, Alabama, on Highway 80 while driving her automobile, a 1963 Oldsmobile, from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

At the time the shooting occurred, Mrs. Liuzzo was accompanied by Mr. Leroy Jerome Moton, a nineteen-year-old Negro who resides in Selma, Alabama. Mrs. Liuzzo is white.

Mr. Moton had been coordinating transportation in Montgomery, Alabama, for demonstrators to return to Selma. Late in the afternoon, Mr. Moton and Mrs. Liuzzo picked up six passengers to return to Selma. They dropped off one passenger at the Montgomery, Alabama, Airport and then proceeded to Selma where the remaining passengers disembarked.

[REDACTED]

b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

An autopsy was performed by Dr. Paul Schoffert,  
Assistant State Toxicologist, University of Auburn, Auburn,  
Alabama.

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] Mrs. Liuzzo  
had puncture marks in her arm indicating recent use of a  
hypodermic needle. Dr. Schoffert has taken blood samples to  
determine whether any unusual circumstances are present.

The entire facilities of the FBI are fully committed  
to an all-out investigation of this killing.

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

MARCH FROM SELMA TO  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 21 - 25, 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach

March 23, 1965

1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth information concerning the events of the fifth and final day of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, which commenced on March 21, 1965, along with information concerning the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo.

This information is also being furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Attorney General (Enclosure)  
1 - Mr. John Edgar Hoover (Enclosure)  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

44-28601-  
NOT RECORDED  
47 MAR 29 1965

HCS/nkr  
(14)

ENCLOSURE



ENCLOSURE

79 MAR 30 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐



RE:

BERNARD S. LEE V. CLARENCE M. KELLEY, ET AL  
(U.S.D.C., D.C.) CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1185

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE (SC  
V. CLARENCE M. KELLY, ET AL (U.S.D.C., D.C.)  
CIVIL ACTION NUMBER 76-1186

Unrecorded serial dated 3/10/65 pulled from this file  
under court order of U.S. District Judge John Lewis  
Smith, Jr., and sent to National Archives.

44-28601

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 25, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen *AR*SUBJECT: MARCH FROM SELMA TO  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 21 - 25, 1965*6 -*  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Rowse*4*  
Tolson ☒  
Belmont ☒  
Mohr ☒  
DeLoach ☒  
Casper ☒  
Callahan ☒  
Conrad ☒  
Felt ☒  
Gale ☒  
Rosen ☒  
Sullivan ☒  
Tavel ☒  
Trotter ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holmes ☒  
Gandy ☒

At 11 p.m. SA [REDACTED] of the Montgomery Resident Agency called and advised that Colonel Al Lingo, Director of the Alabama Highway Safety Patrol advised that the reported ambush took place on the highway between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, and a white woman by the name of Viola Liuzzo driving a 1963 blue Oldsmobile bearing Michigan license EJ 9177 was allegedly shot. He stated a young boy by the name of Leroy Moton was in the automobile with Viola Liuzzo. He stated an automobile passed the Liuzzo automobile and a shot was fired and hit Viola Liuzzo, and the car went out of control into a field. He stated Leroy Moton is reportedly at the First Baptist Church in Selma at this time. *67C*

SA [REDACTED] further advised Inspector Sullivan was going to the scene with a squad of Agents and was investigating the matter and that he would keep the Bureau advised of all developments. SA [REDACTED] advised he had no further information that he could report concerning this matter at the present time.

ACTION:

1. The Department has been advised. *REC-120 411-28601-3*  
*3 MAR 29 1965*
2. SA [REDACTED] was instructed to advise Inspector Sullivan to give this matter continuous preferred attention and to keep the Bureau fully advised.

HGR:vev

(7) *10*  
*memo 2/25*  
*67C*  
MAR 29 1965

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
March 26, 1965

BY LIAISON

1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Honorable Marvin Watson  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth background information immediately available concerning Viola Liuzzo who was shot and killed near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965, and her husband Anthony J. Liuzzo. You may wish to bring this information to the attention of the President.

This information has also been furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

JWH/pak  
(10)

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

2 1965 ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC'D-READING ROOM  
FBI

REC-18

19 MAR 30 1965

FBI

Date: 3/26/65

PLAIN

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_

TELETYPE

URGENT

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

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

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND MOBILE

FROM: SAC, WFO (44-New)

UNSUB; VIOLA LIUZZO AKA AND LEROY GEROME MOTON - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS ELECTION LAWS. OO MO.

ON MARCH TWENTYSIX INSTANT [REDACTED]

ADVISED

THAT ON MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST HE WAS IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA AND  
PARTICIPATED IN MARCH. WHILE LEAVING THIS CITY BETWEEN SIX AND  
SIX THIRTY PM MARCH TWENTYFIVE IN CHARTERED BUS LOADED WITH  
MARCHERS ON WAY TO DANNTY AIRPORT HE PERSONALLY OBSERVED  
CORVAIR, WHITE TOP AND PEACOCK BLUE BOTTOM, OCCUPIED BY ONE  
WHITE MALE, BEARING ALABAMA LICENSE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] APPROACH ON RIGHT SIDE OF BUS. [REDACTED] WAS STANDING AND  
OBSERVED A REVOLVER TYPE GUN LYING TO RIGHT OF DRIVER. THIS  
GUN HAD CHROME BARREL LONGER THAN USUAL POLICE TYPE REVOLVER  
WITH DARK HANDLES [REDACTED] OBSERVED DRIVER OF AUTO GLANCE  
ANGRILY AT FEMALE ON BUS AND MADE UNKNOWN UTTERANCES AND PLACED  
HAND ON REVOLVER ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT POINT SAME AT BUS. AUTO

2 - Bureau  
2 - Teletype Unit  
1 - WFO  
LEB:mpc  
(5)  
TELETYPE

REC-99

44-28601-5

18 MAR 29 1965

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

64 APR 12 1965 Special Agent in Charge

FBI

Date:

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via \_\_\_\_\_

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

WFO 44-NEW  
PAGE TWO

REMAINED ALONG SIDE OF BUS FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE AND HALF BLOCKS BEFORE TURNING TO RIGHT. INCIDENT OCCURRED IN MONTGOMERY ABOUT FIVE MINUTES BUS TRAVELING DISTANCE FROM ROUTE EIGHTY WHICH LEADS TO AIRPORT.

██████████ RESONABLY CERTAIN ABOUT AUTO TAGS AS HE RECORDED IT IN NOTEBOOK ABOUT THREE MINUTES AFTER OBSERVING IT ON REAR OF CORVAIR. CAN IDENTIFY AUTO AND DRIVER AND DESCRIBED DRIVER AS WHITE MALE WITH DARK BROWN HORN RIMMED GLASSES, FIVE FIVE HEIGHT, MEDIUM TO STOCKY BUILD, LATE TWENTYS EARLY THIRTYS WEARING WHITE SHIRT AND TIE, NO COAT. ██████████ AND OTHERS IN BUS FROM WASHINGTON, DC DISCUSSED INCIDENT AND BELIEVE DRIVER OF CORVAIR ANGRY WHEN REALIZING BUS CONTAINED MARCHERS.

██████████ FURNISHED INFO AS HE IS OF OPINION IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL IN SOLVING MURDER OF FEMALE AFTER SELMA TO MONTGOMERY MARCH.

MOBILE IDENTIFY TAG OWNER AND HANDLE.

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont

DATE: March 26, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen *OR*SUBJECT: UNKNOWN SUBJECTS;  
VIOLA LUIZZO, AKA, MRS.  
ANTHONY LUIZZO - VICTIM  
LEROY JEROME MOTEN - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. HinesTolson ☒  
Belmont ☒  
Mohr ☒  
DeLoach ☒  
Casper ☒  
Callahan ☒  
Conrad ☒  
Felt ☒  
Gale ☒  
Rosen ☒  
Sullivan ☒  
Tavel ☒  
Trotter ☒  
Tele. Room ☒  
Holmes ☒  
Gandy ☒

By referral from the office of the Attorney General, [REDACTED] telephonically advised that he had been in Montgomery, Alabama, yesterday, and thought he might have some information which might bear on the murder which was committed last night in Lowndes County.

[REDACTED] stated he resides at [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] stated he had been in Montgomery, Alabama, yesterday in connection with the demonstration at the State Capitol and that an incident happened while he was en route to the airport in Montgomery which he thought might have some bearing on the murder. [REDACTED] advised that at 10 a.m. this date he would be at his [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] has advised that an Agent could contact him at his office at 10 a.m. for full details.

ACTION

Washington Field Office has been advised of the above information and instructed to have an Agent contact [REDACTED] for full details concerning this matter.

CLM/cac  
(9)44-23601-  
MOT-14

MAR 29 1965

REC-108



BACKGROUND

This concerns the four subjects (members of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan) who were arrested by Bureau Agents 3-26-65, charged with conspiracy to intimidate and injure citizens in the free exercise of their Constitutional rights in connection with the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo on the evening of 3-25-65. Mrs. Liuzzo was fatally shot as she drove in Lowndes County, Alabama, following the conclusion of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

*Chadwick R. B. m*  
WAF:hw

*k*



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

**TELETYPE**

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Egan	_____
Mr. Gurnea	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Pennington	_____
Mr. Quinn	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

*Handwritten signature*

ANTHONY J.  
JAN 11 1963  
FBI - NEW YORK

11

57A

REC-111-2011-9

APR 30 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

PAGE TWO.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ARREST OF SUBJECTS:

AT ELEVEN SIX A.M., MARCH TWENTYSIXTH, BUREAU INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED TO TAKE ALL SUBJECTS INTO CUSTODY. ALL ARRESTS WERE MADE BY BUREAU AGENTS. SUBJECT THOMAS ARRESTED ELEVEN EIGHT A.M. AT LORENE'S CAFE, BESSEMER, ALABAMA. SUBJECT WILKINS ARRESTED ELEVEN SEVEN A.M. IN HIS AUTOMOBILE ON HIGHWAY ELEVEN IN BESSEMER, ALABAMA. SUBJECT EATON ARRESTED ELEVEN SIXTEEN A.M. AT HIS RESIDENCE, ROUTE SIX, BOX EIGHT SIX SIX, BESSEMER, ALABAMA. SUBJECT ROVE WAS ALREADY IN CUSTODY OF BUREAU AGENTS WHEN ARREST .

END PAGE TWO.

[REDACTED]

INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM BUREAU AND WAS ACTUALLY EN ROUTE  
BIRMINGHAM TO SELMA WITH BUREAU AGENTS AT THAT TIME.

END PAGE THREE.

[illegible]

67A

SUBJECTS THOMAS, EATON, AND  
WILKINS, ALL THREE ARRAIGNED BEFORE U. S. COMMISSIONER LOUISE O.  
CHARLTON, BIRMINGHAM, APPROXIMATELY ONE THIRTYFIVE P.M.,  
MARCH TWENTYSIXTH. ALL THREE WERE REPRESENTED BY ATTORNEY MATT  
END PAGE FOUR

END PAGE FOUR

PAGE FIVE.

MURPHY, WHO IS ATTORNEY FOR KLAN AND VARIOUS KLAN MEMBERS THIS AREA. COMMISSIONER SET HEARING FOR APRIL FIFTEENTH NEXT. BOND THESE THREE SUBJECTS FIXED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS EACH. THESE SUBJECTS REMANDED TO CUSTODY U. S. MARSHAL, BIRMINGHAM, AND COMMITTED JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL, BIRMINGHAM.

FOLLOWING RETURN FROM SELMA, ALABAMA, SUBJECT ROWE APPEARED BEFORE U. S. COMMISSIONER CHARLTON FIVE TWENTYFIVE P.M., MARCH TWENTYFIFTH, AT WHICH TIME HEARING SET FOR APRIL FIFTEENTH NEXT. BOND FIXED AT FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS, AN ROWE COMMITTED JEFFERSON COUNTY JAIL IN CUSTODY U. S. MARSHAL. ROWE ALSO REPRESENTED BY ATTORNEY MATT MURPHY.

SEARCHES OF RESIDENCES AND CARS:

SEARCH WARRANTS ISSUED BY U. S. COMMISSIONER LOUISE O. CHARLTON MARCH TWENTYSIXTH FOR SEARCHES OF RESIDENCES OF SUBJECTS AND VEHICLES. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

57A

END PAGE FIVE.

Subjects Thomas, Eaton and Rone released on bond evening 3-26-65. Bond arranged for subject Wilkins, but he was not released, being held on probation violators warrant received by U. S. Marshal 3-26-65 in connection with prior Federal Firearms violation.

[REDACTED] b7A  
JGK:las

clm/jk

for 1968

12/28 3/27 way  
FBI SELMA ALA

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 26 1965

8:50PM CST URGENT 3-26-65 MFH  
TO DIRECTOR  
FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

TELETYPE JB 7

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	_____

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL. VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA. LEROY JEROME MOTON,  
VICTIMS, CR DASH EL.

RE BUTELCONS TO MOBILE (SELMA) TODAY

[REDACTED] ALABAMA HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATOR, ADVISED TODAY THAT MOTON IS BEING HELD AS QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE AT THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL. HE STATED THAT THE ONLY COMPLAINT HE HAD FROM MOTON WAS THAT HIS SHOULDER WAS HURTING HIM DUE TO THE FACT THAT HE, MOTON, INJURED HIS SHOULDER LAST NIGHT AS RESULT OF THE AUTOMOBILE HE WAS RIDING IN LEAVING THE ROAD. [REDACTED] STATED HE HAD REQUESTED THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL CONTACT A DOCTOR TO HAVE MOTON'S SHOULDER CHECKED.

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE WAS INFORMED BY HIS IMMEDIATE SUPERIOR [REDACTED] OF THE HIGHWAY PATROL INVESTIGATORS, TO HOLD MOTON AS A QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE IN THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL AND HE KNOWS OF NO FORMAL PAPERS THAT WERE FILED.

ARTHUR E. GAMBLE, JR., CIRCUIT SOLICITOR, LOWNDES COUNTY, ALA., ADVISED THAT HE FURNISHED ORAL AUTHORITY TO HAVE MOTON

END PAGE ONE

56 APR 2 1965

Bennett CR 10 sub 1030 MAR 3/27/65  
cc: Hines

8 MAR 30 1965

6-H

HELD AS A QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE. HE STATED THAT BOND CAN BE SET FOR MOTON HOWEVER, HE HAD NOT INTERVIEWED HIM AS YET AND HE AUTHORIZED MOTON BE HELD AS QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE UNTIL HE COULD INTERVIEW HIM NEXT DATE. GAMBLE STATED THAT NO FORMAL TYPE PAPERS HAD BEEN FILED IN ORDER TO HOLD MOTON HOWEVER THERE ARE STATUTORY PROVISIONS IN THE CODE OF ALABAMA TO COVER THIS TYPE SITUATION WHERE A PERSON NEEDS TO BE HELD AS A QUOTE MATERIAL WITNESS UNQUOTE. HE DOES NOT KNOW THE DETAILS OF THE STATUTE AT PRESENT AND WILL HAVE TO RESEARCH SAME IN ORDER TO FURNISH IT. GAMBLE ADVISED THAT HE WOULD DECIDE AFTER INTERVIEWING MOTON TOMORROW. DECIDE THEN WHETHER TO REQUIRE A BOND BE SET ON MOTON OR TO RELEASE HIM FROM CUSTODY WITHOUT BOND.

[REDACTED]

SELMA, ADVISED THAT HE HAD ATTENDED LEROY JEROME MOTON AT THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL THIS EVENING. HE STATED THAT MOTON WAS COMPLAINING OF HIS RIGHT SHOULDER HURTING HIM AND AFTER EXAMINATION [REDACTED] DISCOVERED THAT MOTON HAD A PARTIAL

END PAGE TWO

b7C



PAGE THREE.

DISLOCATION OF THE RIGHT SHOULDER. [REDACTED] STATED THAT MOTON ADVISED HIM THAT THIS OCCURRED WHEN HE WAS JARRED AGAINST THE DASH BOARD OF THE AUTOMOBILE LAST EVENING WHEN IT LEFT THE ROAD. [REDACTED] SAID HE SUCCESSFULLY MANIPULATED THE SHOULDER BACK INTO SHAPE. [REDACTED] ADVISED THIS WAS THE ONLY DISCOMFORT THAT MOTON COMPLAINED OF AT THE TIME HE EXAMINED HIM AT THE DALLAS COUNTY JAIL. 67C

JUDGE JAMES HARE, SELMA, ALA., ADVISED THAT PROVISIONS FOR HOLDING A MATERIAL WITNESS UNDER BOND IS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION ONE FOUR FIVE, TITLE FIFTEEN, ALABAMA CODE, AND SETS FORTH THAT THE BOND LIMIT FOR SUCH MATERIAL WITNESS IS ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS. HE SAID THAT SECTION ONE FOUR SIX, TITLE FIFTEEN, IS THE FORM USED FOR THE BIND.

END.

WA...

ACK FOR TWO MESSAGES PLS

WA...SML FOR 2

FBI WASH DC

T

44-28601-12

**CHANGED TO**

FILED AS ENCL TO SERIAL 13

gmh

APR 6 - 1965

9:39 a.m.

March 26, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. DE LOACH  
MR. ROSEN

The President called and said they want him to talk to the husband of the woman who was killed; that he had had the counsel talk to him; that the man on the White House switchboard last night indicated he (the President) would talk to the man when he (the President) woke up. He said, before he talked to the man, he wanted to be sure I don't have any reason why he shouldn't because our report indicated the man is a Teamster man. I told the President I don't say the man has a bad character but he is well known as a Teamster strongarm man and on the woman's body we found numerous needle marks indicating she had been taking dope although we can't say that definitely because she is dead. I said I would be inclined to have White or someone like that talk to the husband rather than the President. The President said all right, White has already talked to him.

I said I thought the thing was in pretty good shape; that as soon as I finished talking to him.

that we propose to file the same kind of warrant as we filed in the Penn case in Georgia. I said I would talk to Sullivan and then let the President know. He asked me to please do so.

I advised him of the information and evidence we have; that I was going to talk to Alabama right away; that if DeLoach agrees to serving the warrants, we will have them in custody soon; that I would call him and he would make a statement from the White House. The President suggested that the Attorney General and I come over to the White House; that maybe we could get there before the astronauts and let television cover us as we come in; that we don't have to have any appointment, to just call George DeLoach and tell him I'm coming over to see the President, then tell the Attorney General and just get in the car and come on over.

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

JEH:rm (8)

1031

REC 5

44-28661-15

25 MAR 30 1965

52 APR 1 5 1965 MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont,  
DeLoach, Rosen

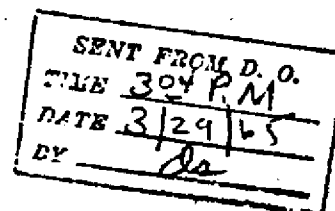
March 26, 1965

I told the President I would get this thing speeded up right  
away.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director



March 26, 1965

BY LIAISON

Honorable Marvin Watson  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Martindale

Dear Mr. Watson:

It is suggested that the President may be interested in the attached memorandum which sets forth additional details concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

The Attorney General has been advised of this information.

Sincerely yours,

*Personally delivered  
to Mr. Sigall at White House  
2/26/65 P.M.*

Enclosure  
LM:JWH/bec  
(11)  
ENCLOSURE  
FBI  
MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

44-24601  
REC-23  
19 MAR 31 1965

March 26, 1965

**MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO  
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA  
MARCH 25, 1965**

The following are the most recent developments concerning the murder of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo, who was fatally shot as she drove in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

A complaint was filed today before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham charging William Orville Eaton, Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., Eugene Thomas and Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., with violating Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, in that they conspired to intimidate and injure citizens in the free exercise of their Constitutional rights.

Eaton, Wilkins and Thomas were arrested by FBI Agents today and taken before the United States Commissioner at Birmingham who scheduled a preliminary hearing for Thursday, April 15, 1965, and remanded all three subjects to the custody of the United States Marshal in lieu of \$50,000 bond each. They are confined in the Jefferson County Jail in Birmingham. Rowe will be taken before the Commissioner at a later time.

At the Commissioner's hearing, the subjects were represented by Matt Murphy, a Klan attorney. *ALM*

All four of those charged in the complaint filed before the Commissioner are members of the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. *570*

A Negro man was with Mrs. Liuzzo and reportedly was sitting close to her.

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

WLM/JWH/cac  
*cac*

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

*44-24601-13*  
*44-26601-13*  
ENCLOSURE

*19 MAR 31 1965*

**The Attorney General**

**March 26, 1965**

**Director, FBI**

**MURDER OF MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO  
IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA,  
MARCH 25, 1965**

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines  
1 - Mr. Martindale

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth additional details of the murder of Mrs. Viola Luzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

This information has been furnished to the White House.

**Enclosure**

**1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)**

**1 - Mr. John Doar (Enclosure)  
Acting Assistant Attorney General**

WLM/JWH:bec  
(14)

SENT FROM D. O.  
TIME 6:25 PM  
DATE 3/26/65  
BY [Signature]

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

14 MAR 31 1965  
TELETYPE UNIT ☐

REC-23 19 MAR 31 1965

9:32 a. m.

March 26, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. BELMONT  
MR. DE LOACH  
MR. ROSEN

6  
Copies made by [initials]  
for review by Rowe Task Force  
Date 12-1-28

1121220  
VIOLE  
I called Attorney General Nicholas deB. Katzenbach and told him we have practically broken the case down in Selma, the killing of the woman, and that we have to move very rapidly. I stated I had instructed our men to go to see Ramsey Clark and lay the facts before him so he can decide what statute we can file under. The Attorney General said it will have to be John Deor as Ramsey Clark has left Alabama and is back here. I said the thought I had in mind was we ought to talk probably with Ramsey Clark or anyone the Attorney General designated to determine what statute to use and we wanted to get our hands on the people who did this before they destroy their guns and get out of the state.

I stated we had an informant in the car from which the shooting was done and he has, therefore, identified the two who actually fired the two guns that killed this woman; that he has identified the third man; and that the informant was the fourth man. I explained that the informant is a member of the Bessemer, Alabama, Klan. I stated that the three men we want to arrest are not going to work today and we have their homes under surveillance; that we want to move to take them into custody and conduct an intensive interrogation of them; that I think it is imperative we act fast so they can't get away from us and be another six-months case like we had in Mississippi.

The Attorney General stated, if we are going to get the stuff drawn quickly, we will do better to work with Deor down there. I stated I will do that then; that I will arrange for Sullivan to talk with Deor and work this thing out down there.

EX-103 REC 44-28601-16

I advised him that the President knows in substance what I had just told him because the President had called me this morning about six o'clock and two or three times last night. The Attorney General indicated the President had called him around eight o'clock this morning. I stated I told the President the developments as we had them and that there must be nothing said by him or anyone else about the nearness of breaking the case.

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

JEH:rm (8)

52 APR 25 1965

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

25 MAR 30 1965



Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, DeLoach, March 28, 1965  
Rosen

I told the Attorney General that the President asked if he should talk to the husband of the woman in Detroit who had died and I suggested the President have Lee White call this man and, if the man behaves himself, the President could consider talking to him later. I stated the man himself doesn't have too good a background and the woman had indications of needle marks in her arms where she had been taking dope; that she was sitting very, very close to the Negro in the car; that it had the appearance of a necking party.

I told the Attorney General I would get in touch with Doar right away. He said he thought that would be the fastest. I said I would get that done right away.

9:45 a. m.

I called the Attorney General to advise him of the President's call. I related that the President asked about the background of the man in Detroit (the husband of the woman killed in Alabama) and I told him what it was; that the President said Lee White had already talked to the man and he wanted to know what I thought about calling him. I stated I advised the President to hold off until after the case is broken and then he could consider whether he wants to call the man and extend condolences.

I told the Attorney General that the President then said he wanted the Attorney General and me, as soon as we get the warrants and make the arrests, to come to the White House, to try to get there before the astronauts arrive, and he would then make a statement on television with us present. I said the trouble is the astronauts get there at eleven o'clock and we can't complete matters by that time. The Attorney General said no, we would have to do it after.

I told him they will call here and let me know at once and I will let him know at once; that will be after eleven o'clock. The Attorney General said the ceremony for the astronauts would probably last forty-five minutes and I indicated I thought we could do it right after that.

The Attorney General said he was going to talk with Lee White in his (the Attorney General's) office then; that he would advise this same procedure and tell White to tell the President that we are just not going to make it before the astronauts.

The Attorney General asked where Sullivan is and I replied that Sullivan is in Selma. He remarked that Sullivan is fifty miles from Doar and I told him they can talk by telephone. I said I would let him know as soon as it is done.

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, Belmont, DeLoach,  
Rosen

March 26, 1965

10:57 a. m.

The Attorney General called. He said he had talked with Doar and Doar has drawn up the complaint but has to get it typed and then we are off. I told him I had just talked to our people and they advised he was to have it by 11:40; that they cleared it with Doar about 10:40 and it would take about an hour; that there will be four arrests made, including our informant; that the informant is scared to death and we may have to move him and his family out to some other part of the state or the country to protect them when it gets to trial.

I said I thought it would be ready at 11:40 so he could make arrangements to go over to the White House.

11:00 a. m.

The Attorney General called to ask if I would have typed up the factual information. I told him I was having it typed up; that either he or the President could read it.

12:11 p. m.

The Attorney General returned my call of a few moments before. I advised him that I had received a call from Mr. DeLoach, whom I had sent over to the White House, and that Mr. DeLoach advised the President had told him he would like to have us come over to the White House at once to stand by for the arrests. I stated the arrests had not yet been made. I told him I would come around and join him. He said he thought he would take along Ramsey Clark since he had been down there. I said I would come around to his office and he said that was fine.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 9:57 AM
DATE 3/29/65
BY <u>ds</u>

This matter concerns the murder of a civil rights worker by four Ku Klux Klansmen between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

Funeral services are being held for victim Liuzzo at Detroit on the morning of 3/30/65. Reverend Martin Luther King, Walter Reuther and other officials from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and Congress of Racial Equality are expected to attend.

Civil Rights Division of the Department is being advised.

VGM:hw

FBI SELMA ALA

MAR 29 1965

TELETYPE

10:30

PM

URGENT

3-29-65

MMA

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE /SELMA/ 44-1245/

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

EUGENE THOMAS ; ET AL; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA; LEROY JEROME MOTON  
Civil Rights - Election Laws  
VICTIMS. CR-EL.

SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE  
JAMES ORANGE, SCLC, ORGANIZER SELMA, ALABAMA, ANNOUNCED AT

AN EVENING MASS MEETING AT BROWN'S CHAPEL AME CHURCH, SELMA,  
THAT A MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN MEMORY OF MRS.  
VIOLA LIUZZO <sup>3/30/65</sup> ~~THREE THIRTY SIXTYFIVE~~ AT THE SITE OF HER MURDER.  
FIVE HEARSEs EACH WILL DEPART FROM SELMA AND MONTGOMERY, ALA.,  
ABOUT ELEVEN FIFTEEN AM AND CONVERGE AT DEATH SCENE.

CASKETS WILL BE PLACED AT SCENE THEN MOVED BACK TO HEARSEs  
THEN TRANSPORTED TO THE CAPITOL STEPS, MONTGOMERY, ALA., AND LEFT  
THERE ABOUT TWO THIRTY PM.. WITH A GROUP OF WOMEN DRESSED IN  
BLACK WHO WILL REMAIN UNTIL FIVE PM. THE CASKETS WILL BE LEFT  
ON THE CAPITOL STEPS.

ORANGE WAS ADVISED BY BUAGENTS THAT THE AREA WHEREIN HE  
PLANNED THE ACTIVITY AT THE CRIME SCENE WAS STILL BEING PROCESSED  
ACTIVELY FOR EVIDENCE PERTINENT TO THE MURDER OF MRS.  
LIUZZO. HE WAS INFORMED THAT THIS AREA WAS RESTRICTED AT THIS  
TIME THAT ANY LARGE CONGREGATION OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS WOULD  
SERIOUSLY INTERFERE WITH THE INVESTIGATION PROCEEDING IN THIS  
AREA. 58 APR 5 1965

END PAGE ONE

REC-3

114-286011

MAR 31 1965

Shady house OK'd  
advised 3/30/65  
+

6-HV

PAGE TWO

ORANGE STATED THAT NO EFFORT WOULD BE MADE TO STOP AT THE  
CRIME SCENE IF IT WAS RESTRICTED. THE MOTORCADE WOULD PASS  
BY AND PROCEED TO MONTGOMERY, ALA., FOR THE BALANCE OF THE  
PROGRAM.

3/30/65

57A

[REDACTED] DEMONSTRATORS WILL BE ADVISED THAT THE AREA IS  
RESTRICTED IF THEY APPEAR.

STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES, SO AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES  
ADVISED SELMA, ALA., AND MONTGOMERY, ALA.,

AGENTS WILL COVER DEMONSTRATIONS.

DEPARTMENTAL ATTORNEY ST. JOHN BARRETT ADVISED.

END

WA JR

FBI WASH DC

THREE INITIVALS PLS JCR

FBI WASH DC

TU P

F

FBI WASH DC

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 26 1965

TELETYPE

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

FBI SELMA ALA

A5:47AMCST URGENT 3-26-65 MFH

TO DIRECTOR

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-NEW)

UNSUBS; VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA MRS. ANTHONY LIUZZO; LEROY  
JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS, CR DASH EL.

AT TWO FIFTYFIVE A.M. MARCH TWENTY SIX INSTANT, DR. PAUL  
SCHOFFERTT, ASSISTANT STATE TOXICOLOGIST, AUBURN, ALABAMA,  
UNIVERSITY OF AUBURN, COMPLETED AUTOPSY ON VIOLA LIUZZO.

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

MAR 31 1965

[REDACTED] PATTERN  
AROUND ENTRY CAUSED BY GLASS AND SLIVERS OF LEAD. PUNCTURE  
MARKS AS THOUGH NEEDLE RECENTLY USED IN ARM. SCHOFFERTT HAS  
TAKEN BLOOD SPECIMENS TO DETERMINE IF ANY UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

PRESENT [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

64 APR 6 1965  
END PAGE ONE

67A  
286-119

52A  
6A

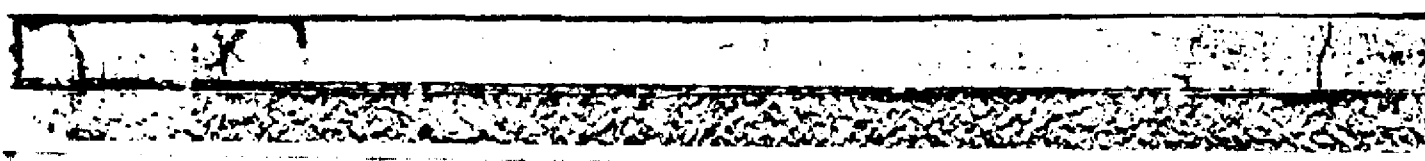
PAGE TWO

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

57A

[REDACTED]. SCHOFFERTT PERFORMED COMPLETE AUTOPSY AND WILL  
MAKE REPORT AVAILABLE AS SOON AS COMPLETED, BUT NOT TONIGHT.  
WILL START WORK ON BLOOD SAMPLES IN THE A.M.

END PAGE TWO



PAGE THREE

INTERVIEWS WITH PASSENGERS IN AUTOMOBILE  
OF VICTIM

FOUR INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE PASSENGERS IN THE VEHICLE OWNED BY MRS. LIUZZO ON A TRIP FROM MONTGOMERY TO SELMA, ALABAMA ON MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST WERE INTERVIEWED. THESE PERSONS COULD FURNISH NO INFORMATION CONCERNING ANY POSSIBLE THREATS OR SPECIFIC ACTIONS DIRECTED AGAINST THE VICTIMS. EN ROUTE FROM MONTGOMERY TO SELMA IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO THE TRIP FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY IN WHICH THE VICTIM WAS KILLED. NO INCIDENTS OCCURRED WHICH APPEAR SIGNIFICANT.

THOSE INTERVIEWED WERE MRS. BRENTON PAREN CLARISSA PAREN BROWN, ONE EIGHT THREE ZERO HILLSIDE ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, PA., LIZABETH STEWART, AGE SIXTEEN, ONE FIVE EIGHT FIVE WINDING ROAD, SOUTHAMPTON, PA.; CARLA BARD AUSTIN, AGE SIXTEEN, NINE TWO TWO SECOND STREET PIKE, SOUTHAMPTON, PA.; CLARENCE SMITH, JR., ONE FOUR THREE ZERO EUGENE STREET, SELMA, ALA.

END.

WA.....HFL

FBI WASH DC

YU CLR



FBI

Date: 3/27/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via **AIRTEL**

**AIRMAIL**

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI  
FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P)

EUGENE THOMAS; ET AL  
VIOLA LUZZO, aka.  
Mrs. Anthony J. Luzzo,  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS  
CR - EL

Transmitted herewith are three (3) photographs  
each of subjects THOMAS, EATON and WILKINS.

3 - Bureau (Encls. 9) **ENCLOSURE**  
2 - Birmingham

RGJ:mjh (E. E. Wick)  
(5)

REC-44

12 MAR 29 1965

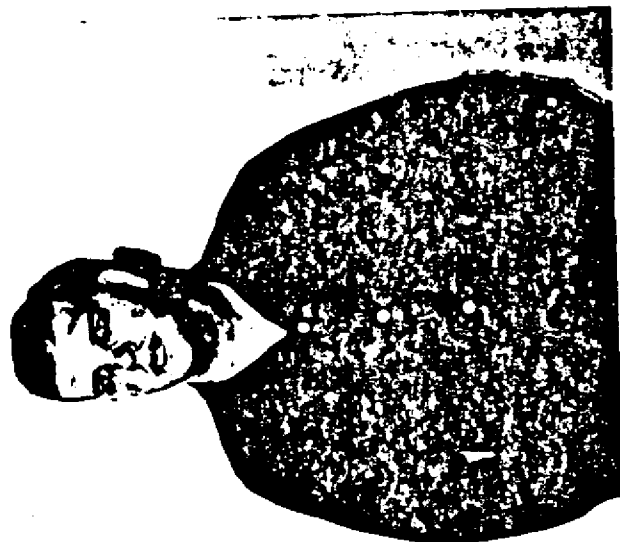
EX-102

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

67 APR 8 1965



Thomas  
44-1236





Eaton

44-1236

FBI

Date: 3/28/65

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_

(Type in plain text or code)

Via AIRTEL

AIR MAIL

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, BIRMINGHAM (44-1236) (P)

EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL;  
VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ET AL - VICTIM  
CR - EL

Transmitted herewith are individual photographs of each of the 4 subjects as prepared [REDACTED] These are being submitted for the Bureau's information.

C C - Wick

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

ENCLOSURE

REC 12

EX-101

2 MAR 29 1965

3 - Bureau (Enc. 4) (AMSD)  
2 - Birmingham  
RGJ:gah  
(5)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

APR 2 1965



113073  
BIRMINGHAM ALA. MARCH 26 65



BIRMINGHAM ALA. MARCH 26 65

EDITH THOMAS  
BH file # 44-1236 1A

WILLIAM C. EATON  
BH file 44-1236 1A



NO 78  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. MARCH 26, 66



NO 78  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA. MARCH 26, 66



BH File # 44-1236 1A

CELLER LEROY WILKINS  
BH File # 44-1236 1A

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : Mr. Belmont *ab*

DATE: March 26, 1965

FROM : A. Rosen *Rosen*

1-Mr. Belmont  
1-Mr. Rosen  
1-Mr. Malley  
1-Mr. McGowan  
1-Mr. Hines

SUBJECT: UNSUBS; UNIDENTIFIED  
MEMBERS OF SELMA, ALABAMA,  
POLICE DEPARTMENT, MORNING  
MARCH 26, 1965  
LEROY MOTON - VICTIM  
CIVIL RIGHTS

Mrs. James Bevel telephonically advised at 1:49 a. m. that she was a member of Dr. Martin Luther King's staff, Montgomery, Alabama, and that she was deeply concerned with the safety of Leroy Moton, a Negro male who is being held by the Selma, Alabama, local authorities. Mrs. Bevel indicated that she wanted to communicate directly with Acting Assistant Attorney General John Doar. Mrs. Bevel was advised that his present whereabouts was not known and that she should contact him through the Attorney General's Office.

## ACTION:

Inspector Sullivan was advised of the above information and indicated that their Agents had just completed interviewing Moton and were aware of his location.

*clerk*  
*SI-*

*Q* *P* *St*

MPG/pak *pk*  
(6)

REC-25 *44*

11 MAR 30 1965

*363*

*4/1*

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

TO : Mr. Rosen *Re*

DATE: 3-27-65

FROM : C. L. McGowan *✓*

SUBJECT: *0-12* EUGENE THOMAS, ET AL.  
VIOLA LIUZZO;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS  
CIVIL RIGHTS; ELECTION LAWS

1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. Shroder  
1 - Mr. Huppert

At 8:40 a. m., 3-27-65, Mr. St. John Barrett of the Department called and advised that the Attorney General wants the Bureau to obtain background information concerning Arthur Gamble, Circuit Solicitor, Lowndes County, Alabama. Barrett explained that Gamble is the individual who will probably handle the prosecution of subjects for the murder of Mrs. Liuzzo.

Mr. Barrett wants to know what kind of prosecutor Gamble is; whether or not he is or has been affiliated with organizations such as Klan groups; and any information concerning his background which might indicate what kind of a job he will do in the prosecution of subjects. Barrett requested that he be furnished this information today.

## ACTION

At 8:55 a. m., Special Agent [REDACTED] *57C* Mobile, was telephonically instructed to furnish all available information in conformance with the above request in teletype form by 12 noon today.

JDH:las  
(6) *la*

REC-108

58 APR 5 1965

3-26-65  
GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

This matter concerns the murder of  
a Civil Rights worker by four Ku Klux  
Klansmen between Montgomery and Selma,  
Alabama on the night of March 25, 1965.

The Department is being advised.

HGR:las

*HGR* *las*

FBI DETROIT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 27 1965

TELETYPE

531 PM URGENT 3/27/65 C W H

TO DIRECTOR AND ATLANTA

FROM DETROIT (44-643) 1P

UNSUBS; MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO THREE TWENTYFIVE SIXTYFIVE;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS DASH ELECTION  
LAWS.

REDEAIRTEL THREE TWENTYSEVEN SIXTYFIVE.

GOVERNOR GEORGE ROMNEY OF MICHIGAN HAS PROCLAIMED MONDAY AND  
TUESDAY AS DAYS OF MOURNING FOR MRS. VIOLA LIUZZO.  
REV. MARTIN LUTHER KING HAS TELEPHONICALLY ADVISED THE FAMILY  
HE WILL ARRIVE IN DETROIT ON SUNDAY MARCH TWENTYEIGHT, AND CHARLES  
O'BRIEN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO TEAMSTER PRESIDENT JAMES  
RIDDLE HOFFA, STATED KING HAS ASKED ABOUT HOLDING MEMORIAL  
SERVICES. OTHERS ARE BEING PLANNED FOR WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY  
AND ELSEWHERE, THE NAACP HAS SCHEDULED A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR  
SEVEN PM, MONDAY. ANOTHER SPONSORED BY THE MICHIGAN CITIZENS  
COUNCIL IS SCHEDULED FOR NOON ON TUESDAY. THE FUNERAL WILL  
BE TUESDAY MORNING.

LOCAL AGENCIES ADVISED.

LETTER HEAD MEMORANDUM  
LHM WILL FOLLOW.

END

WA.. SXC

FBI WASH DC

AT 123K  
66 APR 6 1965  
FBI ATLANTA CC MR. ROSEN

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

REC 27 4 MAR 30 1965

Quaintance  
advised 3/24/65

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

44-28601

6-11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 29 1965

TELETYPE

FBI WASH DC

FBI DETROIT

627 PM URGENT 3-29-65 LTU

TO DIRECTOR

FROM DETROIT (44-643) 1P

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

Unknown Subjects

UNSUBS; MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO, MARCH TWENTYFIVE LAST;  
LEROY JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIMS; CIVIL RIGHTS DASH ELECTION LAWS.

LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM

REDETROIT AIRTEL WITH LHM MARCH TWENTYSEVEN, LAST.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR VICTIM LIUZZO SCHEDULED TO BE  
HELD DETROIT AM MARCH THIRTY, NEXT.

ADVISED TODAY THAT REVEREND MARTIN LUTHER KING, PRESIDENT

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

WALTER REUTHER UAW-CIO AND OTHER OFFICIALS FROM THE NAACP

CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY

AND CORE EXPECTED TO ATTEND FUNERAL SERVICES FOR VICTIM

LETTERHEAD MEMORANDUM

AT DETROIT TOMORROW. LHM FOLLOWS.

END

WA... RPP

FBI WASH DC

P

CC-MR. ROSEN

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

18 MAR 30 1965

REC 27

66 APR 6, 1965 70

CC - HLM

Added to note on  
EX-117 mobile tel 3/29/65  
Jury  
G. rays hours 3/20/65  
H

67D

6-1  
7-1

This concerns further information relative to statements made by Sheriff James Clark to the press about the murder of Viola Liuzzo, by four Klan members on 3/25/65.

Clark's reference to Department driving King to Selma refers to the incident where former Department Attorney Thelton Henderson drove King to Selma in a car rented by Department. Department first issued a denial and when Henderson later admitted the incident, Department had to admit to the truth of the incident. Henderson submitted his resignation.

JWH:mas

(5)



**TELETYPE**

FROM MOBILE (SELMA) (44-1245)

EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.: VIOLA LIUZZO, AKA DASH VICTIM:

LERoy JEROME MOTON DASH VICTIM OR - EL.

REBUTELCON MARCH TWENTY EIGHT INSTANT FROM

CRIME RECORDS.

END PAGE ONE

64 APR 8 1965

MR. BELMONT FOR THE DIRECTOR

MAR 30 1965



PAGE TWO

QUOTE "LIAR" END QUOTE BEFORE BY THE JUSTICE DEPT WHEN HE  
OBSERVED MARTIN LUTHER KING IN A JUSTICE DEPT RENTED CAR IN  
OCTOBER, NINETEEN SIXTYTHREE. AT THAT TIME CLARK STATED THAT  
HE HAD MADE A PRESS RELEASE RELATIVE TO THE JUSTICE DEPT  
DRIVING KING TO SELMA AND THE DEPT HAD CALLED HIM A QUOTE  
"LIAR" END QUOTE AT THAT TIME; HOWEVER, HE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY  
PROVED THE ALLEGATION AND THE JUSTICE DEPT HAD TO QUOTE "EAT  
CROW" END QUOTE.

[REDACTED] ADVISED THAT HE HAD PHONED THE STORY INTO HIS  
OFFICE HOWEVER IT WAS LATE MARCH TWENTY SEVEN LAST AND HE  
DOUBTED IF IT WOULD MAKE ANY OF THE NEWSPAPERS. HOWEVER,  
HE BELIEVED IT WOULD PROBABLY BE RELEASED IN RADIO BROAD-  
CASTS OR TELEVISION BROADCASTS TODAY.

END.

WA.....JRL

FBI WASH DC

TJ CLR

cc-Mr. Rosen  
Mr. McLaughlin

67D

1 - Mr. Mohr  
1 - Mr. DeLoach  
1 - Mr. Sullivan  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
March 20, 1965

BY HANSON

1 - Mr. Rosen  
1 - Mr. Malley  
1 - Mr. McGowan  
1 - Mr. Hines

Honorable Marvin Watson  
Special Assistant to the President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

I am enclosing a memorandum setting forth information concerning the events of the first day of the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, which commenced on March 21, 1965, along with information concerning the killing of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo. You may wish to bring this information to the attention of the President.

This information is also being furnished to the Attorney General.

Sincerely yours,

Enclosure

HCS/nkr  
(10)

10 MAR 30 1965

44-2861-  
NOT RECORDED  
133 MAR 30 1965

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

1-Mr. Mohr  
1-Mr. DeLoach

March 27, 1965

1-Mr. Sullivan  
1-Mr. Belmont  
1-Mr. Rosen  
1-Mr. Walley  
1-Mr. McGowan  
1-Mr. Hines

The Attorney General

Director, FBI

MURDER OF MRS. VIOLA LIZZIO  
IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA,  
MARCH 25, 1965

Enclosed is a memorandum setting forth a contact by Governor George C. Wallace of the State of Alabama with a representative of this Bureau on March 26, 1965, with regard to the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Lizzio in Lowndes County, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. 6-1

The contact of Governor Wallace mentioned in enclosed memorandum was referred to Mr. St. John Barrett of the Civil Rights Division on the night of March 26, 1965, for consideration.

This information has been furnished to the White House.

Enclosure

1 - The Deputy Attorney General (Enclosure)

1 - Mr. John Dear (Enclosure)  
Acting Assistant Attorney General

JWH:gmk  
(12)

REC-22

44-28601-2

19 MAR 31 1965

SENT FROM D. O.	
TIME	2:30 PM
DATE	3/27/65
BY	SW

79 APR 2-1965

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

<input type="checkbox"/> Check, when		semiannual inventory, if no previous		once with Bureau.
Bufile	Status of Case	Submitting Office	File #	
	P	BIRMINGHAM	44-1236	
		Office of Origin	File #	
		MOBILE		

Title and Character of Case

EUGENE THOMAS, ETAL  
 VIOLA LIUZZO, aka, ETAL - Victims  
 CR, EL

Date Property Acquired	Source From Which Property Acquired
3-26-65	Search of residence of W. O. EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Ala
Location of Property or Bulky Exhibit	Reason for Retention of Property and Efforts Made to Dispose of Same
Gun Vault	Evidence

Description of Property or Exhibit and Identity of Agent Submitting Same

1. 3 boxes Federal .22 long rifle Hi-Power rimfire ctgs.
2. 1 box Hi-Power rimfire ctgs.
3. 1 box Canuck .22 long rifle standard velocity ctgs.

44-28621

NOT RECORDED

12 FEB 9 1966

3-31-65 sent to FBI Lab

Retained from Lab 11-20-65

*[Handwritten signature]*

SUBMITTED BY: SA [REDACTED]

b7c

44-1236-159	
SEARCHED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	INDEXED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SERIALIZED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FILED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MAR 26 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

SEMIANNUAL INVENTORY CERTIFICATION TO JUSTIFY RETENTION OF PROPERTY (Initial and date)

2-1-66	MPS			

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE <b>MOBILE</b>	OFFICE OF ORIGIN <b>MOBILE</b>	DATE <b>3/30/65</b>	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD <b>3/25 - 30/65</b>
TITLE OF CASE <b>CHANGED</b> <b>EUGENE THOMAS; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS; GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.; VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, aka Mrs. Anthony Liuzzo; LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIMS</b>		REPORT MADE BY <div style="background-color: black; width: 100px; height: 1.2em;"></div>	TYPED BY <b>bah</b>
		CHARACTER OF CASE  <b>CR - EL</b>	

The title is marked "Changed" to show the middle name of victim LIUZZO.

**REFERENCES:** Mobile teletypes to Bureau, 3/26 - 29/65;  
Bureau teletype to Birmingham and Mobile, 3/29/65.

## LEADS

### MOBILE DIVISION

AT AUBURN, ALA.

Will obtain the autopsy report.

AT SELMA and MONTGOMERY, ALA.

APPROVED <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; margin-top: 10px;">S</div>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW		
COPIES MADE:  5 - Bureau 1 - USA, Montgomery, Ala. 1 - Departmental Attorney, Montgomery, Ala. 4 - Birmingham (1 - USA, Birmingham, Ala.) 5 - Mobile (44-1245)	ENCL. BEHIND FILE COPIES BEHIND FILE	44	28601	
		- 28		
		4 APR 1 1965 <div style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">EX-101</div>		
DISSEMINATION RECORD OF ATTACHED REPORT		NOTATIONS  <div style="font-size: 1.5em; margin-top: 10px;">ST/2/28/65</div> <i>copy synopsis to CR Unit</i>		
RECEIVED	2000 CAD			
REQUEST REC'D				
DATE FWD.	3-31-65			
HOW FWD.	6-24-65			
FWD. BY				

60 MAY 11 1965

MO 44-1245

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1. Will continue investigation concerning activities of the subjects. (MURDER, Alabama)

2. Will interview E. J. DIXON, State Investigator, regarding chain of evidence in turning over the bullet from the victim's car to the State Toxicologist.

ADMINISTRATIVE DATA

All persons interviewed herein were advised that this investigation was being conducted at the specific request of Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR, Civil Rights Division, U. S. Department of Justice.

Copies are not being disseminated to Departmental Attorney or USAs until so advised by the Bureau.

Photographs of the victim have been forwarded to the Bureau for processing.

-- B\* --  
COVER PAGE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:  
1 - USA, Birmingham, Alabama  
1 - USA, Montgomery, Alabama  
1 - Departmental Attorney,  
Montgomery, Alabama

Report of: SA [REDACTED] b7c  
Date: 3/30/65

Office: MOBILE, ALABAMA

Field Office File #: MO 44-1245

Bureau File #: 5-4-1

Title: EUGENE THOMAS;  
WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON;  
COLLIE LEROY WILKINS;  
GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.;  
VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO - VICTIM  
Character: LEROY JEROME MOTON - VICTIM

CIVIL RIGHTS - ELECTION LAWS

Synopsis:

On 3/19/65, victim LIUZZO appeared at Selma, Ala., and was closely associated with the civil rights activities relating to the march from Selma to Montgomery, Ala.

Her vehicle, a 1963 light blue Oldsmobile bearing Mich. License EJ9177 was being utilized at Selma and during the march as a transportation vehicle for civil rights workers.

On the evening of 3/25/65, at about 8:00 p.m., as victims LIUZZO and MOTON were enroute from Selma to Montgomery, Ala., to pick up another load of passengers to return them to Selma following march, a vehicle later determined to be a 1962 Chevrolet Impala driven by subject THOMAS and occupied by other three subjects, pulled alongside the LIUZZO vehicle and fired several shots from a .38 caliber revolver and a .22 caliber weapon into the LIUZZO vehicle.

As a result of this action Mrs. LIUZZO was killed. The auto she was driving, her 1963 Oldsmobile, ran off the road and victim MOTON succeeded in stopping the vehicle by turning off the ignition and placing foot on brake.

The shooting was reported to the FBI shortly after 9:30 p.m. CST, night of 3/25/65. Investigation immediately instituted, crime scene examined, witness interviewed, and vehicle examined.

Independently the Ala. State Troopers were notified by an unidentified truck driver that he observed what appeared to be a wreck off

MO 44-1245

Highway 80 east. State Troopers arrived at scene minutes after this report, observed LIUZZO appeared to have been shot, and secured the scene. State authorities performed autopsy, [REDACTED]. Joint examination of vehicle and crime scene performed by state authorities and FBI Agents. b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

On 3/26/65, this case was discussed with Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR, at Montgomery, Ala., who authorized the filing of a complaint charging all subjects with violation of Title 18, Section 241, U. S. Code. SA [REDACTED] on same date filed a complaint against all subjects before USC JAMES M. GUTTERY at Montgomery and warrant was issued for the arrest of all subjects. b7C

[REDACTED] - b7A

Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE has offered FBI full cooperation of state authorities in the investigation and advises that the State of Alabama is interested in pursuing any state criminal action that might arise from the investigation.



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MO 44-1245

I.

PREDICATION AND KLAN PARADE OF March 21, 1965,  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA.

1  
MO 44-1245  
JRC/lc

DETAILS:

Negro civil rights demonstrators conducted a march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, March 21-25, 1965. The purpose of the march was to dramatize voting registration restrictions in Alabama and to present to Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE a petition of grievances. The march was led by Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING. It culminated in front of the State Capitol, Montgomery, Alabama, March 25, 1965, with some 12,000 demonstrators attending the ceremonies. The ceremonies in front of the State Capitol commenced at approximately 1:35 PM and lasted until approximately 4:10 PM, March 25, 1965. The crowd dispersed generally at the conclusion in all directions at request of Rev. RALPH ABERNATHY, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), who served as master of ceremonies. From observation there appeared no organized plan for the dispersal of the marchers and those from Selma, Alabama, were returning to Selma by common carrier, trucks, and private automobiles.

At Montgomery, Alabama, on March 21, 1965, IRA DE MENT, Attorney for the City of Montgomery, telephonically advised the Montgomery Resident Agency of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that a request was received by the Montgomery City Commission addressed to the Board of Commissioners by Parade Director BOBBY SHELTON signed by F. M. VANN, dated March 20, 1965, and represented the Knights of the Klux Klan of America, Inc. Mr. DE MENT believed that the Ku was probably an error of omission. The reason for the parade was listed as "to protest the order issued by FRANK JOHNSON (struck through and Federal Court written above) allowing 5 day demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama". DE MENT advised the City Commission had on March 21, 1965, issued a permit allowing a parade beginning at 2 PM, March 21, 1965, in the 1200 block of Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, proceeding west on Madison Avenue to Madison and Bainbridge Streets, south on Bainbridge to Bainbridge and Dexter, west on Dexter to Court Square. The return route would be the same. All were ordered to conduct themselves in orderly manner and no one in the parade would wear masks. When the parade ended the group was ordered to disperse in an orderly manner. The permit expired 6 PM, March 21, 1965.

2

MO 44-1245

A Klan motorcade led by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, in car number one, and BOB CREEK, Grand Dragon of Alabama, in car number two, consisting of some 240 people in 83 cars decorated with confederate flags departed Patterson Field, Madison Avenue, Montgomery, 2:40 PM, March 21, 1965. Bureau Agents observed this motorcade. Most of the cars were occupied by family groups, well dressed. A few old cars were occupied by men dressed in overalls. Lead cars were observed carrying signs such as "Voting rights - yes; Special attention - no"; "Be a Man - Join the Klan", and "KKK forever".

The motorcade rather than disbanding at the Court Square in Montgomery, Alabama, continued on past the Court Square and proceeded to the city limits of Prattville, Alabama, where the occupants of the cars took the confederate flags off the cars and disbanded completely going away in different directions. No speech making was made at the disbanding spot. The entire group was disbanded at 3:32 PM, March 21, 1965.

5

MO 44-1245

II.

IDENTIFICATION OF CARS PARTICIPATING IN KLAN RALLY  
AT MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, March 21, 1965

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

1

On March 21, 1965, at approximately 12:30 PM, a number of automobiles were observed being parked in the parking lot of Crampton Bowl, Montgomery, Alabama. The automobiles were parked in lines facing Madison Avenue and persons arriving in these vehicles were observed placing confederate flags on these automobiles. ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, was observed standing in front of the parked automobiles talking to other people. Several cars were observed bearing signs with the slogan, "BE A MAN JOIN THE KLAN".

J. B. STONER, an attorney who resides near Atlanta, Georgia, was observed in Crampton Bowl with his 1960 Oldsmobile, bearing 1964 Georgia license number 2A8697, parked with the other vehicles. STONER's automobile had a large confederate flag flying from the radio antenna, located on the right side of this vehicle near the front.

At approximately 2:50 PM, the vehicles left Crampton Bowl parking lot forming a motorcade and proceeded through the city of Montgomery and out of Montgomery on U. S. Highway 31 where the motorcade pulled over to the side of the highway and dispersed.

The following license plate numbers were observed parked in the Crampton Bowl parking lot or in the motorcade:

Montgomery, Alabama

[REDACTED]

b7c

7

On 3/21/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

by SA [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] /ls b7c Date dictated 3/26/65

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date 3/29/65

The following vehicle license numbers were observed on automobiles which assembled at the Crampton Bowl Parking Lot on the afternoon of March 21, 1965:

<u>Make of Car</u>	<u>Year No.</u>	<u>Car Description</u>	<u>1965 Alabama Tag No. (except as noted)</u>
Chevrolet	1960	Impala, blue, with one white male	Not known
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, black in color	Not known
Ford Mustang	1965	Blue	[REDACTED]
Pontiac	1962	Grand Prix, two door hardtop, antenna (Shelton)	[REDACTED] b7c
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, white	[REDACTED]
Plymouth	1964	Fury, blue, two white males	Not known
Plymouth	1964	Fury, two-tone blue and white	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1961	Impala, gray color, two white males	[REDACTED]
Plymouth	1965	Blue, four door	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1965	Black	[REDACTED]
Cadillac	1965	Red	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1960	Station wagon, white color	Not known

On 3/21/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SAs [REDACTED]

and

b7c

MO 44-1245

2

<u>Make of Car</u>	<u>Year No.</u>	<u>Car Description</u>	<u>1965 Ala Tag No.</u> (except as noted)
Ford Mustang	1965	Blue color	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1960	One-ton pick-up truck, one male, one female, one child	[REDACTED]
Pontiac	1964	Green color, four white males, Citizens Band radio	[REDACTED]
Buick	1951	Gray over cream	[REDACTED] b7c
Rambler	1965	Maroon over beige	[REDACTED]
Dodge	1963	Dart, white color	[REDACTED]
Plymouth	1964	Fury, blue color	[REDACTED]
Pontiac	1964	Gold, 2-door	[REDACTED]
Mercury	1961	Black and white 2-door	[REDACTED]
Chrysler	1963	2-door blue 6 or 7 white males	Alabama tag not known
Cadillac	1955	Brown and beige	[REDACTED]
Plymouth	1960	White color	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1951	Green pick-up truck	[REDACTED]
Falcon	1960	White station	[REDACTED]



MO 44-1245

3

<u>Make of Car</u>	<u>Year No.</u>	<u>Car Description</u>	<u>1965 Ala. Tag No.</u> (except as noted)
Ford	1955	Green sedan, four white males	[REDACTED]
Oldsmobile	1956	Two-tone green and white, two white males	[REDACTED]
Falcon	1960 or 1961	Red sedan	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1960	Olive green color	[REDACTED]
Buick	1962	Metallic tan	[REDACTED]
Ford	1957	Beige and white	[REDACTED] b7c
Buick	1962	Hardtop Wildcat, blue with black top, one white male and one white female	[REDACTED]
Plymouth	1956	Station wagon, white	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1963	Bel Air, white male, female and some children	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1951	Black with two males	[REDACTED]
Ford	1959	White, four-door, with four white males	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1963	Hardtop, four-door, white color	[REDACTED]
Plymouth	1960	Two door	[REDACTED]

MO 44-1245,

<u>Make of Car</u>	<u>Year No.</u>	<u>Car Description</u>	<u>1965 Ala. Tag No.</u> (except as noted)
Buick	1962 or 1963	Brown and tan	[REDACTED]
Ford	1962	Pick-up, two white males	[REDACTED]
Dodge	1958	Green four-door, four white males	[REDACTED]
Oldsmobile	1956	Two-tone blue four-door, three white males	[REDACTED]
Chrysler	1963	Blue four-door, seven white males	No license
Plymouth	1955	Green Savoy with two white males	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1963	White	no license
Ford	1961	Light blue	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1959	Red, two white males and one white female	[REDACTED]
Cadillac	1963 or 1964	Black Fleetwood, four-door, two antennas	[REDACTED]
Chrysler	1958	New Yorker, red and white	[REDACTED]
Plymouth	1965	Blue color, Fury	[REDACTED]
Ford Mustang	1965	Black	[REDACTED]
Ford	1963	Beige, four door, two males and two females	[REDACTED]

b7c

MO 44-1245

5

<u>Make of Car</u>	<u>Year No.</u>	<u>Car Description</u>	<u>1965 Ala. Tag No.</u> (except as noted)
Nash	Unknown	Red and black, four males	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1963	White	[REDACTED]
Ford	1964	Blue two door with one white male	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1964	Impala, red and white	Not known
Chevrolet	1965	Two-door, red color	[REDACTED] b7c
Chevrolet	1958	Station wagon, Red and white	[REDACTED]
Buick	1956	Special, green over white	[REDACTED]
DeSoto	1956 or 1957	Gold and white with four white males	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1962	Maroon, two door hard top	Not known
Chevrolet	1956	Two-door Bel Air, green color, white male and white female, approximately 60 years of age	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1954	White over aqua two-door Bel Air	[REDACTED]
Pontiac	1956	Orange and white	[REDACTED]

MO 44-1245

6

<u>Make of Car</u>	<u>Year No.</u>	<u>Car Description</u>	<u>1965 Ala. Tag No.</u> (except as noted)
Studebaker	1959 or 1960	Lark, black, two white males	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1948	Black	[REDACTED]
DeSoto	1958	Gold and Cream, three white males	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1963	Red Impala, two white males	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1963	White Impala, one white male	[REDACTED]
Buick	1962	Black color	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1951	Green	[REDACTED] b7C
Chevrolet	1958	Light green Impala	[REDACTED]
Ford	1955	White	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1961	Nova, white one white male	[REDACTED]
Ford	1953	Station Wagon, red and white	[REDACTED]
Chrysler	1964	Convertible, beige, two white males	[REDACTED]
Mercedes Benz	Unknown	Two-door sedan, white, one male and three white females	[REDACTED]
Pontiac	Unknown	Grand Prix	[REDACTED]
Chevelle	Unknown	Red, three white males	[REDACTED]

MO 44-1245

7

<u>Make of Car</u>	<u>Year No.</u>	<u>Car Description</u>	<u>1965 Ala. Tag No.</u> (except as noted)
Unknown	Unknown	Four-door, blue and white	[REDACTED]
Unknown	Unknown	Red and white station wagon	[REDACTED]
Volkswagen	Unknown	Gray in color with Fort Benning sticker	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1962	White	[REDACTED]
Mercury Comet	1958	3 white males	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1951	Black	[REDACTED]
Pontiac	1958	Green	[REDACTED]
Ford	1962	Two males, two females, three children	[REDACTED]
Chevrolet	1964	-	[REDACTED]
Falcon	Unknown	White, with two white males	[REDACTED]

The following license numbers were observed and descriptions of vehicles not obtained:

1965 Alabama

[REDACTED]

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/24/65

The following license plates for 1965 issued in Alabama were observed at the Ku Klux Klan rally in Montgomery on March 21, 1965. Motor Vehicle Registration records reflect these tags issued as follows, by counties:

Tag No.	Issued To	Make of Car
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1962 Chevrolet Impala, four-door
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1957 Plymouth four-door
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1964 Pontiac, four-door
40217	WAT H. MURPHY, JR., 210 Frank Nelson Building, Birmingham	1964 Chrysler NP convertible
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1961 Oldsmobile 88, four door
[REDACTED]	Hertz Corp. Rent-A-Car, 2020 Fifth Avenue, North, Birmingham	1965 Chevrolet, four door, Impala
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1962 Buick Sp, four door
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1959 Met, two door
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	1963 Falcon

MO 44-557

2

1950 Dodge,  
four door

1962 Ford

1962 Chevrolet  
Impala, two  
door

1964 Buick  
Wildcat

b7C

1955 Chevrolet

1965 Ford  
Mustang

1957 Mercury

1964 Rambler,  
four door

1964 Chevy II,  
four door

1960 Chevrolet,  
four door

1962 Buick  
Special  
four door

1954 Chevrolet  
sedan

1951 Chevrolet

3

1955 Ford  
two door

b7c



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[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1962 Studebaker  
Lark

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1958 Chevrolet,  
four door

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1960 Ford  
Falcon

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1955 Chevrolet,  
two door

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1958 Plymouth,  
two door

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1956 Plymouth,  
two door

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1954 Chevrolet

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1956 Pontiac,  
four door

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1954 Cadillac  
DeVille

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1955 DeSoto  
two door

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1964 Pontiac  
GP, two door

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] 1965 Pontiac,  
four door

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] Ben Ellis Supply Company,  
851 Bell Street, Montgomery

57C  
1948 Chevrolet,  
four door

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1956 Ford

1962 Dodge Dart,  
four door

1958 Pontiac,  
two door

1965 Chevrolet  
Impala

1965 Chevrolet  
Chevelle Super  
Sports

1965 Chevrolet  
Spt

DKW, 1964

1957 Ford

1963 Chevy II,  
Nova

1954 Ford  
station wagon

1963 Ford  
Falcon, four  
door

1962 Chevrolet  
Impala, two door

Hertz Corp. Rent-A-Car,  
353 Montgomery Street,  
Montgomery

NO 44-557

8

1963 Pontiac Sp

1962 Chevrolet  
BelAir

1955 Oldsmobile

1962 Ford two  
door

1962 Mercedes,  
four door

not listed in Montgomery

1957 Mercury,  
four door

1960 Dodge

1965 Chevrolet,  
two door, Super  
Sports

1956 Oldsmobile,  
two door

1961 Falcon  
station wagon

1960 Dodge,  
four door

1955 Chevrolet,  
four door

1963 Chevrolet,  
four door

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1952 Chevrolet,  
two door

1959 Buick, two  
door

1956 Chrysler,  
four door

not listed in Montgomery

1962 Chevrolet,  
two door

1958 Ford,  
four door

not listed in Montgomery

Teal Motors, Albertville

1959 Chevrolet,  
two door  
VIN FS9J301124

Kiker Motors, Albertville,  
sold to Jack Collins Motors,  
Bessemer

1964 Chevrolet,  
two door,  
VIN 41847J143948

K & W Motors, Boaz

1963 Chevrolet  
Impala, two door,  
VIN S1847A110043

1963 Chevrolet  
Impala

1963 Plymouth  
four door

1964 Pontiac GP

1960 Chevrolet,  
four door

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

1961 Cadillac,  
four door

DEALER TAGS:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Motordrone, Inc.,  
Sheffield

[REDACTED]

Summerford Used Cars,  
500 North Stewart,  
Hartselle

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

b7c

MO 44-1245

It is to be noted that the automobile of subject  
EUGENE THOMAS was noted in connection with this Rally.

MO 44-1245

III.

ACTIVITIES OF VIOLA LIUZZO IN SELMA-MONTGOMERY AREA

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/651

Miss FRANCES JACKSON, 1370 George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

She first met Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan, on Friday, March 19, 1965. A boy brought Mrs. LIUZZO from the Brown Chapel AME Church to the residence of Miss JACKSON and her mother and advised the JACKSONs that Mrs. LIUZZO was assigned to live in their apartment during the week of the civil rights demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO stayed Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning at the JACKSON residence. She left Sunday morning and marched with the marchers from Selma, Alabama, toward Montgomery, Alabama, returning to the apartment that same Sunday evening, March 21, 1965.

Mrs. LIUZZO remained at the JACKSON home and in the area until Wednesday morning between 6:30 and 7:00 AM, March 24, 1965. At this time she departed from the JACKSON apartment to join the marchers near Montgomery, Alabama. This was the last time that Miss JACKSON saw Mrs. LIUZZO.

During her residence in the apartment, Mrs. LIUZZO advised Miss JACKSON that she had been working with colored people in Detroit, Michigan, and that she had come to Selma, Alabama, to participate in the civil rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama.

Miss JACKSON advised that Mrs. LIUZZO had been alone when she came to their home and she did not know if Mrs. LIUZZO had been accompanied by any persons on her trip from Detroit, Michigan, to Selma, Alabama.

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by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted], JR./ls 67C Date dictated 3/30/65



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

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Mrs. WILLIE LEE JACKSON, Apartment 137 C, George Washington Carver Apartments, advised that she is manager of Smith's Cafe, 1811 Griffin Street, and works every day from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

She stated that she has resided in Selma, Alabama, during the past twelve years and during the past two months has been helping with preparation of food served to the demonstrators at Brown's Chapel on Sylvan Street. She stated that she is not a member of any organization, however, has been helping with the food and also making her apartment available for sleeping quarters for some of the people coming to Selma who are involved with the racial demonstrations.

She stated that when she returned home on Friday, March 19, 1965, she found that a Mrs. LIUZZO, whom she knows better as "VI," had moved into her apartment, having been sent there by someone who was in charge of registering the arriving demonstrators and furnishing them with places to stay. She stated that she believes Mrs. LIUZZO had arrived in Selma sometime during the morning of March 19, 1965, from Detroit, Michigan. She stated Mrs. LIUZZO was traveling alone and, to her knowledge, never went with any other person while around Selma.

She stated that also staying in her apartment were four white women, identified as follows:

"KITS" Last name unknown, from California, who stayed until March 21, 1965, at which time she went on the march to Montgomery.

A white woman, name unknown, who departed Saturday morning, March 20, 1965, and she did not know where this woman came from or went to; however, her luggage is still at Mrs. JACKSON's apartment.

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by SA [redacted] and 67C  
SA [redacted]

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A white woman, named JOAN, last name unknown, from Wisconsin, who departed the apartment on Wednesday, March 24, 1965, enroute to Montgomery.

PAT last name unknown, who arrived from Boston on March 20, 1965, and who left on March 21, 1965.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that there were also two Negro girls, SHIRLEY last name unknown and DEAN last name unknown, who came together from Boston, Massachusetts, on Friday, March 19, 1965, and departed Sunday evening, March 21, 1965, at approximately 9:00 p.m. enroute back to Boston.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that her daughter, FRANCES JACKSON, age 17, stayed at the apartment during the daytime hours and has told Mrs. JACKSON that Mrs. LIUZZO stayed around the apartment all day every day either sleeping or playing with FRANCES' baby, except for an hour or so each day when Mrs. LIUZZO went to Brown's Chapel.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she was home every evening during this period and Mrs. LIUZZO stayed in the apartment every evening with the exception of about an hour or less each evening when she left the apartment saying she was going to Brown's Chapel.

Mrs. JACKSON said she had numerous conversations with Mrs. LIUZZO and found her to be a person who likes everyone she meets and after a while, you had the feeling you had known her a long time. She said during her conversations Mrs. LIUZZO never mentioned anything to her indicating that she had been molested or involved in any trouble while in Selma. Mrs. LIUZZO appeared to be in good health and the only medication she knows of was on Sunday, March 21, 1965, when Mrs. LIUZZO took an aspirin. She said Mrs. LIUZZO told her that her husband did not want her to go to Selma, Alabama, however, if she really believed in the march from Selma to Montgomery, for her to go on down to Selma.

Mrs. JACKSON said to her knowledge, Mrs. LIUZZO, when she left the apartment, was always alone and that she ate most of her meals at the apartment.

She stated that it was her impression that some of the workers of the SCLC were using Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile from the time she arrived in Selma, including taking it on the march from Selma to Montgomery, as Mrs. JACKSON had never seen her automobile. Mrs. JACKSON recalled that on Sunday, March 21, 1965, between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., Mrs. LIUZZO was assigned to answering the telephone in Apartment 134 C, which is occupied by ERMATINE WILLIAMS, on which people in connection with the demonstrations were calling, possibly for instructions, but she is not certain what the calls were about.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that at approximately 6:30 to 7:00 a.m., on Wednesday, March 24, 1965, Mrs. LIUZZO left the apartment alone on foot stating she was going to Brown's Chapel to catch a bus to Montgomery, Alabama, to St. Jude's Hospital, where she intended to take part in the march from St. Jude's onto the Alabama State Capitol Building in Montgomery. She said Mrs. LIUZZO told her at that time that her automobile was in Montgomery all the while Mrs. LIUZZO was staying at Mrs. JACKSON's residence.

Mrs. JACKSON stated that she never again saw Mrs. LIUZZO after about 7:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 1965.

Mrs. JACKSON was shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color; however, she stated she has never seen such an automobile in the vicinity of her apartment. She was also shown photographs of GARY THOMAS ROWE, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and stated that she had never seen any of these men to her knowledge.

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JRC:gmh

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By communication of March 26, 1965, the Detroit Office advised that records of the Michigan Secretary of State Office, Lansing, Michigan, indicated a 1963 Oldsmobile Coupe, 1965 Michigan license EJ9177, was registered to ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan, Vehicle Registration No. 6326M60486. A Michigan Operators License, No. L200-847-015-283, was issued on April 16, 1963, to VIOLA LIUZZO, born April 11, 1925; address 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan; described as a female, blonde hair, gray eyes, 5 feet 2½ inches tall, weighing 127 pounds.

The Detroit, Michigan, Police Department files revealed that VIOLA LIUZZO of 19375 Marloe, Detroit, Michigan, born April 11, 1925, at California, Pennsylvania, was arrested on June 16, 1964, for "failing to send children to school"; no disposition was shown.

The 1964 Detroit Directory revealed that ANTHONY J. LIUZZO, wife VIOLA, resided at 19375 Marloe Street, and that he was employed as Business Agent for the Teamsters of Detroit, Michigan.

[REDACTED]

b7C

[REDACTED]

b7C, D

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1  
Rev. JAMES EDWARD ORANGE, home address 2310 25th Court North, Birmingham, Alabama, was interviewed at the Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama. He furnished the following information.

One day during the civil rights march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, held between March 21 and 25, 1965, he had made an announcement at Brown Chapel AME Church concerning transportation for persons on the march. He believed this announcement was made on Tuesday, March 23, 1965. He requested that persons who had automobiles which might be used for transporting marchers come to the front of the audience.

After this announcement one of the persons who came forward and volunteered the use of her automobile for transporting civil rights marchers on the march was Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan. Rev. ORANGE advised that this was the same individual who had later been killed on Thursday night, March 25, 1965, near Selma, Alabama.

Rev. ORANGE advised that to the best of his recollection this was the only time he held any conversation with Mrs. LIUZZO during the period she was in Selma, Alabama.

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by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] /s/ 67C Date dictated 3/30/65

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

1  
Mrs. LORETTA MITCHELL, 538 George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

Mrs. MITCHELL advised that she had been acquainted with Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO only through having met her on the street in the George Washington Carver Homes area during the past week. She recalled that Mrs. LIUZZO had stopped and talked to her a few minutes on the street. Their conversation consisted only of a discussion about the rainy weather. She did not know at this time this white woman's name but was later advised that this person was the woman who had been killed on the highway near Selma, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965.

Mrs. MITCHELL stated that this conversation which she had with Mrs. LIUZZO was the only time she had spoken with her. She believed this conversation was held on Wednesday, March 24, 1965.

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by SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] 67C Date dictated 3/30/65

Date 3/30/65

1

Mrs. ~~MANNIE~~ ~~IRA~~ WASHBURN, home address Atlanta, Georgia, was interviewed at 106 George Washington Carver Home, Selma, Alabama. Mrs. WASHBURN refused to give her home address and stated as the reason for her refusal, her fear of retribution by the White Citizens Council and the KKK. She furnished the following information.

Mrs. WASHBURN advised she had on one occasion during the period March 21 to 25, 1965, had lunch with a woman who introduced herself as Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO from Detroit, Michigan. This lunch was held at Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama, where the civil rights marchers were being fed meals.

During this conversation with Mrs. LIUZZO, Mrs. LIUZZO told Mrs. WASHBURN "I had to come because of brutality in Selma, Alabama. I don't see how anybody could keep from coming". Mrs. LIUZZO indicated she had come to Selma, Alabama, for the specific purpose of participating in the civil rights demonstration march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama.

Mrs. LIUZZO also advised Mrs. WASHBURN "she sent a check here to buy food or something for these people". Mrs. LIUZZO also asked what the demonstrators needed more, food or money.

After this question by Mrs. LIUZZO, Mrs. WASHBURN searched for a person in charge and discussed this question with some minister whose name she can not recall. This minister told her that either food or money would be acceptable. Mrs. WASHBURN relayed this information to Mrs. LIUZZO.

Mrs. LIUZZO asked Mrs. WASHBURN where she was from and Mrs. WASHBURN advised her she was from Atlanta, Georgia. Mrs. WASHBURN stated that she told Mrs. LIUZZO to be careful while in Selma, Alabama, because she knew from personal experience that a lot of innocent persons in the south had been killed. She further advised Mrs. LIUZZO that women in this area were in as much danger as the men.

Mrs. WASHBURN said she told Mrs. LIUZZO that this was a dangerous place, that anywhere police used gas and prods on people is a dangerous place.

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## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

Mrs. NELL LAWSON, 5625 Thompson Mill Road, Decatur, Georgia, was interviewed at 100 George Washington Carver Homes, Selma, Alabama. She furnished the following information.

During the period March 21 to 25, 1965, Mrs. LAWSON had been working in the kitchen at Brown Chapel AME Church, Selma, Alabama. One day during this week, exact day not recalled, but believed to be Tuesday, March 23, 1965, a woman introduced herself to Mrs. LAWSON in the kitchen. This woman stated that she was Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan. Mrs. LIUZZO asked Mrs. LAWSON to ride with her from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery, Alabama, to take some persons to Montgomery for the last day's march on that city. This was to be a portion of the civil rights march made from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Mrs. LAWSON told Mrs. LIUZZO that she could not ride with her as she intended to drive her own vehicle in order that more transportation would be available as needed.

Mrs. LAWSON stated that to the best of her recollection this was the only time she had any discussion with Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO.

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NO 44-1245

IV. REPORT OF SHOOTING

MO 44-1245

The pictures on the following page are of LEROY  
JEROME MOTON.



MO 44-1245

V.

INTERVIEWS OF PASSENGERS IN CAR OF VIOLA LIUZZO  
ON MONTGOMERY TO SELMA TRIP, March 25, 1965

Date March 25, 1965

Mrs. BRENTON (CLARISSA) BROWN, 1830 Hillside Road, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she attended the civil rights rally near the Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 25, 1965. She left this area approximately 5:30 p.m. and rode in a car belonging to Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO of Detroit, Michigan, to the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama. The car was driven by a colored male by the name of LEROY MOTON from the area near the Capitol to the city of St. Jude located on Highway 80 West of Montgomery, Alabama. At the city of St. Jude they let a colored man out of the car and Mrs. LIUZZO entered the car at this place. Mrs. LIUZZO then drove her car from the city of St. Jude to the Municipal Airport where a man by the name of BART COOPERSMITH left the vehicle to catch a plane. When they left the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama, Mrs. BROWN was seated in the rear seat on the left side immediately behind the driver, Mrs. LIUZZO. In the center of the back seat, next to Mrs. BROWN, was LIZ STEWART, white female, age 16. On the right of the rear seat was seated CAREA AUSTIN, white female, age 16.

A young Negro male from Selma, Alabama, by the name of CLARENCE SMITH, was seated in the center of the front seat and LEROY MOTON was seated in the right side of the front seat.

Some place between Montgomery and Selma, Alabama, Mrs. LIUZZO stopped and purchased \$3.00 worth of gasoline. Mrs. BROWN advised that she cannot recall where this gasoline was purchased as to geographic location; nor could she recall the brand of gasoline sold at this service station.

Just before driving away from the area of the capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, a military jeep driven by white military police with a colored military policeman as a passenger in the front seat, stopped the car and asked LEROY MOTON what part of Michigan they were from. LEROY answered that he did not know.

Sometime after they drove away from the airport in Montgomery, Alabama, the exact location not known, a car approached Mrs. LIUZZO's vehicle from the rear. The car turned its lights on high beam and left them on. VIOLA remarked, "Two can

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"play at the same game." She slowed down and shortly thereafter the car behind passed them at a high rate of speed. Mrs. BROWN stated she had no idea concerning the make or model of the vehicle which passed them. She could furnish no information concerning the license displayed on this vehicle. She advised that it was dark at this time; however, it was her impression that this vehicle was a buff color.

Sometime after the incident occurred, as they were proceeding on the way to Selma, a car approached the vehicle from the rear and pulled up alongside Mrs. LIUZZO's automobile. The car ahead of their vehicle had slowed down and it was her impression that the car alongside had "boxed them in." Mrs. LIUZZO had slammed on the brakes and slowed the vehicle down. Mrs. BROWN described the vehicle which had pulled alongside them as also buff in color and a two-door model. She stated she had no idea as to the make of this vehicle or any other description concerning it.

To the best of Mrs. BROWN's knowledge, the drivers of neither of the two vehicles described above had stated any words or made any remarks to the occupants of her car; nor did they make any attempt to stop Mrs. LIUZZO's vehicle.

A short time later, the vehicle in which Mrs. BROWN was riding passed a car with a Negro family in it. They observed that this automobile had no taillights. Mrs. LIUZZO honked at the occupants of this car and they shouted to the Negro family that the automobile had no taillights.

Mrs. BROWN could not recall any further incidents out of the ordinary which may have occurred on their trip from Montgomery to Selma, Alabama. She advised that the only stops they made were the stops at St. Jude's Church, the Municipal Airport, and the service station where the gasoline was purchased. No other stops were made until they arrived at the George Washington Carver Homes in Selma, Alabama, where Mrs. BROWN left the car.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

CARLA \*ARD AUSTIN, age 16, 922 Second Street Pike, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she attended the civil rights rally at the front of the Capitol Building in Montgomery, Alabama, on the afternoon of March 25, 1965. She left there shortly before dark and walked one or two blocks to an automobile owned by Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO. She entered the vehicle with several others and was driven in this car to the city of St. Jude on Highway 80 outside Montgomery, Alabama. One of the passengers, whom she described only as a colored man with a beard, and whose name she does not know, left the vehicle at this point. LEROY MOTON had driven the automobile from downtown Montgomery to the city of St. Jude. Mrs. LIUZZO entered the car as the driver at the city of St. Jude and drove the vehicle to the Municipal Airport in Montgomery, Alabama. A white man whose last name was COOPERSMITH left the vehicle at this airport in order to catch a plane back to Washington. This left Mrs. CLARISSA BROWN, LIZ STEWART, and CARLA AUSTIN in the rear seat of the vehicle with CLARENCE SMITH and LEROY MOTON in the front seat of the vehicle alongside Mrs. LIUZZO, who was driving.

Shortly after they left the airport, they stopped at a service station for gasoline. She could not recall the brand of gasoline sold at this station but she described it as being the service station "just across the street" from the airport. She stated this service station was on the right hand side of Highway 80 coming towards Selma, Alabama, from Montgomery, Alabama. She noticed no particular incidents which might have occurred at any of the stops described above. They left the service station just about dusk.

They traveled then to Selma, Alabama; and en route to Selma, one car came up behind their vehicle pretty close. The driver of this vehicle turned his bright lights on their car. She recalls Mrs. LIUZZO remarked that the man wanted to see the license plates and who was in the car. They were travelling at about sixty miles per hour at this time. Mrs. LIUZZO remarked that she would give the driver of the car behind a taste of his own medicine, and she slowed down to approximately thirty-five miles per hour. The driver of the car behind them then passed the vehicle in which she was

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riding and continued on down the highway.

Miss AUSTIN advised that she did not know the make of the vehicle which passed them at this time; nor did she know the model or color. She did not notice the license plates on the car. She does recall that she looked out a back window of the vehicle when the bright lights were turned on and observed that the car behind them had four headlights, one large light and one small light on each side of the front with the smaller light on the outside.

Sometime later in the trip she recalls that the tires screeched as Mrs. LIUZZO put on the brakes. At this time a car had pulled alongside their automobile. Miss AUSTIN advised she had the impression this was a police car, but she stated she did not know why she had this impression as she could not recall that this vehicle had any police markings or red lights on it to her knowledge. She stated that the car alongside of them pulled over to the right lane of the traffic as Mrs. LIUZZO slowed down and continued on west towards Selma, Alabama.

Miss AUSTIN advised that she did not observe the occupants of either of the vehicles in the incidents described above. The occupants of neither car made any remarks to them to her knowledge; nor did they attempt to get the vehicle in which she was riding to stop.

When they reached the bridge over the river at Selma, Alabama, they saw a car filled with Negroes, which car had no taillights. Mrs. LIUZZO remarked, "These are our people." So they shouted to them that they should get their taillights fixed.

After the stop at the service station for gasoline, the car in which Miss AUSTIN was riding made no stops whatsoever between Montgomery, Alabama, and the George Washington Carver Homes at Selma, where Miss AUSTIN alighted from the car.

She recalled from discussion in the car that Mrs. LIUZZO and LEROY MOTON were going to drive back to Montgomery, Alabama, after Miss AUSTIN and her companions got out of the car at the George Washington Carver Homes.

Miss AUSTIN further advised that she could not recall any descriptive matter whatsoever concerning the vehicle which had pulled alongside of them and then pulled in front of them on the highway while enroute to Selma, Alabama.



## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

LIZBETH STEWART, age 16, 1585 Winding Road, Southampton, Pennsylvania, furnished the following information:

She stated she left the civil rights rally at Montgomery, Alabama, shortly before dark on March 25, 1965. She walked to an automobile owned by Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO, which vehicle was parked approximately three to four blocks away. She got into the rear seat of this automobile with Mrs. CLARISSA BROWN and GARLA AUSTIN. CLARENCE SMITH was also sitting in the rear seat. A colored man with a beard and a white man whose name she did not know sat in the front seat of the vehicle with LEROY MOTON, who was driving.

MOTON drove the vehicle to the city of St. Jude, where the colored man with the beard got out. Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO entered the car as the driver at this point. At this time CLARENCE SMITH also got out of the rear seat and got into the front seat.

Miss STEWART could not recall whether the vehicle stopped for gasoline anywhere en route from Montgomery, to Selma, Alabama, on this trip. She advised that she was very tired and was not clear on the details of the ride.

Somewhere en route between the airport and Selma, Alabama, possibly on the two lane section of the highway, another automobile got behind them and blinked his bright lights. VIOLA slowed down and they passed. She advised that she could not furnish any information concerning the make, model, color, lights, or license which might have been on this automobile. She did not have any idea as to the number of occupants. She again stated she was very tired and had not paid much attention to this incident.

Sometime later during the same trip, the car in which she was riding braked suddenly. She heard others in the vehicle talking about being "boxed in." She advised that she could not recall anything further about this incident, such as any cars involved or why the brakes were suddenly applied.

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Again Miss STEWART stated that she did not believe that they had stopped anywhere along the road between the Municipal Airport at Montgomery, Alabama, and the George Washington Carver Homes at Selma, Alabama, where she left the vehicle.

She advised she could recall no other incidents out of the ordinary which might have occurred along the road. Specifically, she could not recall any vehicle passing them slowly or anyone casting remarks at them in a manner to arouse her suspicion.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 26, 1965

CLARENCE SMITH, JR., 1430 Eugene Street, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

He stated he had attended the civil rights rally in front of the Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, and left that area at approximately 6:00 p.m. He walked to a car which was parked about two blocks from the Capitol Building. LEROY MOTON drove this vehicle from the area of the Capitol grounds to the city of St. Jude on Highway 80 outside of the city of Montgomery, Alabama. In the car besides MOTON and SMITH was a Mrs. BROWN and two young white girls named LIZ and CARLA. There was also one other white man and one colored man whose names are not known to SMITH.

After MOTON had driven to the city of St. Jude, the colored man got out of the vehicle at this place. Mrs. VIOLA LIUZZO then got into the auto as the driver and drove to the Municipal Airport outside Montgomery, Alabama. The white man got out of the car at the airport.

After they drove away from the airport they stopped at a service station near the Municipal Airport. SMITH stated he does not recall what brand of gasoline was sold at this service station but it was the closest service station to the airport entrance. Nothing out of the ordinary occurred while they were at the city of St. Jude, at the airport, or at the service station.

After they left the service station, they drove on to Selma, Alabama, without any further stops. Somewhere along the road he recalls an automobile came up behind them and turned on his bright lights. The lady driving the car in which he was riding slowed up considerably at this time. The car stayed behind them with his lights on. His car then slowed even more. About this time, the car behind them, which he believes was occupied by one white man, passed them and continued on down the highway towards Selma, Alabama. Mrs. LIUZZO then speeded up in her car and turned her bright lights on behind the car which had passed them.

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SMITH advised that he cannot be sure as to the color of the vehicle which passed them at this time, but stated it seemed that the color was between an orange and a red, but more of an orange color. He thought from the taillights of this vehicle that it might be a 1964 or 1965 Pontiac Bonneville model. He described the taillights as being tall and slender. He stated he did not notice the model of this automobile; nor could he describe the license plate which appeared on it.

SMITH stated that he could recall no other incident out of the ordinary which had occurred during their travel from the airport to Selma, Alabama. When they arrived at Selma, Alabama, they went directly to the George Washington Carver Housing Project, where he and the white lady and two white girls got out of the car. LEROY MOTON remained in the car with Mrs. LIUZZO as they were going to return to Montgomery, Alabama, in order to bring more of the civil rights workers back to Selma.

NO 44-1245

VI. CRIME SCENE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

MO 44-1245

VII. CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS AND SKETCHES

61

NO. 44-1245

VIII. CRIME SCENE SEARCH

MO 44-1245

IX. SEARCH OF VICTIM'S CAR

March 23

D.

PORT

CRIMINAL



NO 44-1245

X. AUTOPSY

MO 44-1245

JRC:gmh

At 2:55 a.m., March 26, 1965, Dr. PAUL SCHOFFERTT, Assistant State Toxicologist, Auburn University, Auburn, Alabama, advised SA [REDACTED] that he had completed an autopsy on VIOLA LIUZZO. [REDACTED] advised that a bullet entered the left side of her head about the [REDACTED] of the jaw bone near the ear and went through the spinal cord at the [REDACTED] brain and caused almost instantaneous death. The bullet lodged at the base of the brain and did not go out of the head. [REDACTED]

b7C

A puncture mark was observed as though a needle was recently used in the arm of Mrs. LIUZZO. Blood specimens were being taken to determine if any unusual circumstances were present. [REDACTED]

b7C  
b7A

Dr. SCHOFFERTT advised SA [REDACTED] that he desired to make further examinations and that he would make a report available as soon as he had completed all of his examinations.

MO 44-1245

XI. ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS

NO 44-1245

XII. FEDERAL PROSECUTION

MO 44-1243

JRC/mjr

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The facts of this matter were brought to the attention of Acting Assistant Attorney General JOHN DOAR who authorized the filing of a complaint for violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code. Accordingly, a complaint ~~was~~ filed by SA SPENCER H. ROBB before United States Commissioner JAMES M. GUTTERY, Montgomery, Alabama, at 10:25 a.m., March 26, 1965. Warrants were issued the same date.

The complaint states that on or about March 25, 1965, at Lowndes County, in the Middle District of Alabama, did, commencing on or about January 1, 1965, and continuing to date of this complaint, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., EUGENE THOMAS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., within the Middle District of Alabama, Northern Division, conspired together with each other and with other persons unknown to injure, oppress, threaten, and intimidate citizens of the United States in the vicinity of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, in the free exercise and enjoyment of the following rights and privileges secured them by the Constitution and laws of the United States:

- 1) The right to peacefully assemble, publicly protest and petition the Governor of Alabama for redress of grievances on behalf of Negro citizens of Alabama free from arbitrary and oppressive interference from the State of Alabama.
- 2) The right to publicly protest unlawful deprivation of the right of Negroes of Alabama to register to vote and to vote for candidates for Federal offices.
- 3) The right to encourage and assist Negro citizens of Alabama in the exercise of their right to register to vote and to vote for candidates for Federal Offices.
- 4) The right to participate in a protest march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama, to present a petition to Governor of Alabama in Montgomery, Alabama, and to participate

MO 44-1245

JRC/mjr

2

in the carrying out of a proposed plan for such march pursuant to and under the terms of an order entered on March 17, 1965, by the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama in the case of WILLIAMS versus WALLACE, No. 2181-N.

It was part of the plan and purpose of the conspiracy that the defendant would harass, threaten, assault, shoot and kill persons who came to the area of Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, to participate in and lend their support to a demonstration march from Selma to Montgomery pursuant to a plan approved by an order of the United States District Court, Middle District of Alabama on March 17, 1965, referred to above, and to harass, threaten, assault, shoot and kill Negro citizens of Alabama who participated in or supported the march, in violation of Section 241, Title 18, United States Code, and complainant stated that this complaint is based on information coming to the attention of Special Agent SPENCER ROBE of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, during the course of an official investigation.

MO 44-1245

JRC/gmh/njr

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By communication of March 26, 1965, the Birmingham Office advised that subject ROWE was taken into custody at 11:06 a.m., March 26, 1965; subject THOMAS was arrested at 11:08 a.m., at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama; subject WILKINS was arrested at 11:07 a.m., in his automobile on Highway 11 in Bessemer; and subject EATON was arrested at 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, at his residence on Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

All four subjects were arraigned before United States Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, at Birmingham, Alabama, on March 26, 1965. Subjects THOMAS, EATON and WILKINS were represented by Attorney MATT MURPHY. Bond for the subjects was fixed at \$50,000 each and they were remanded to the custody of the United States Marshal at Birmingham and committed to the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Alabama.

Subjects THOMAS, EATON and ROWE were released on bond from the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, Alabama, at 8:19 p.m., March 26, 1965. Bond was arranged by Attorney MATT MURPHY. Bond had also been arranged for subject WILKINS; however, he was not released since the United States Marshal received a Probation Violator's Warrant on WILKINS in connection with a Federal Firearms violation.

MO 44-1245

XIII. INVESTIGATION AS TO ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS



MO 44-1245

JRC/mjr

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By communication of March 28, 1965, the Birmingham Office advised that all four subjects had breakfast in a restaurant at Prattville, Alabama. This restaurant was located on the left side of U. S. Highway 31, at the intersection of the first road that crosses U. S. Highway 31, south of a large green water tower with the sign Prattville written thereon.

NO 44-1245

MGT/mjr

1

The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] at Prattville, Alabama, on March 29, 1965. 67C

JEAN COLLINS, employee, Go Go Restaurant, was shown photographs of four subjects and she related she did not recall them being at that restaurant on the morning of Thursday, March 25, 1965. She said she felt she would recall the boys had they been in the restaurant together for breakfast. She stated that Mr. R. K. JACKSON eats breakfast there almost every morning and might recall the four subjects.

R. K. JACKSON was shown photographs of the subjects and was unable to identify them. He stated he had breakfast at the Go Go Restaurant on March 25, 1965, but does not recall the four subjects being there for breakfast on that date.

FLORENCE ALINE FOWELL, employee, Go Go Restaurant, said she was the waitress working at the Go Go Restaurant on the morning of March 25, 1965. She viewed photographs of the subjects and stated she did not recall any of them eating breakfast there on that date. She stated the restaurant is operated by a Mr. BOIN and he had owned the restaurant for only two weeks and he was not there on the morning of March 25, 1965.

Mr. R. C. CARLSON advised he frequently eats breakfast at the Go Go Restaurant but was not there on the morning of March 25, 1965.

From observation it was observed that the Go Go Restaurant is located on a cross street just West of U. S. Highway 31. It is the first place of business located on this cross street and the restaurant faces South. The cross street is the first cross street South of the water tank which bears the name Prattville, Alabama.

TOM H. KENNEDY, owner, Bek's Frostop Cafe, advised he does not serve breakfast and does not open each day until approximately 10:00 a.m. He stated he serves almost exclusively barbecue at the cafe. He was shown photographs of the subjects and stated he did not recall seeing any of them at his cafe.

MO 44-1245

MGT/mjr

2

From observation it is noted the Frostop Cafe faces West and is located on the East side of U. S. 31 just North of the above-mentioned cross street.

SARAH COOK, waitress, American Cafe and Pan-Am Service Station, U. S. Highway 31, advised she was the only employee working at that Cafe on Thursday morning, March 25, 1965. She viewed photographs of the subjects and advised she does not recall them having breakfast at that Cafe on March 25, 1965. She stated she felt sure she would recall them had they eaten breakfast there.

L. GORDON, employee, Pan-Am Service Station, located on U. S. Highway 31, was shown photographs of the subjects and he related he does not recall ever seeing either of them in the past.

Through observation it was observed that the American Cafe faces East on U. S. 31 and is across the street from the Frostop Cafe. It is on the West side of U. S. 31 and is on the corner of the first cross street below the water tower.

H. F. GATES, Old Hickory Barbeque Restaurant, stated he was the only employee working at that restaurant on the morning of March 25, 1965. He stated that restaurant does not serve breakfast and only sells barbeque and camp stew. He viewed photographs of the subjects and stated that they are unknown to him and he does not recall them being in his restaurant.

Mr. J. J. FULLER and his wife, THELMA, stated they have operated the Old Hickory Restaurant for two weeks. They stated they were not working on the morning of March 25, 1965 as only Mr. GATES was there. They viewed photographs of the subjects and stated the subjects were unknown to them.

Through observation it was observed that the Old Hickory Barbeque faces North and is across the street from the Go Go Restaurant. It has an artificial brick front and on leaving the restaurant a person would view the Prattville water tower.

MO 44-1245

MGT/mjm

3

Through observation it was determined there is no all-day parking lot in the Prattville area near the area of the Go Go Restaurant.

H. MARTIN, operator of a Standard Oil Service Station on Page Court, Prattville, Alabama, advised there are no all-day parking lots in the area of that station or the Go Go Restaurant.

JOE PENTON, Joe's Cities Service Station, 615 North Main Street, Prattville, Alabama, advised there are no parking lots in the area of his service station or the Go Go Restaurant.

Date March 29, 1965

During the morning and afternoon of March 25, 1965, this Agent, in the company of SA [REDACTED] was assigned to follow the march of the demonstrators from the camp site at the City of St. Jude, Montgomery, Alabama, to the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama, and thereafter to mingle in the area of the assembly to observe any incidents in violation of Federal law.

At an unrecalled time early during this afternoon, this Agent went to an Amoco Service Station located on Dexter Street, and which is recalled to be Hull Street, approximately two blocks away from the Capitol for the purpose of attempting to get something to eat.

In order to leave the immediate area of the assembly, this Agent was requested by National Guard personnel to show his credentials. Immediately thereafter, "Security Officers" of the marchers requested identification at the perimeter of the crowd.

Upon entering onto the premises of the Amoco Station, with credentials still in hand, the owner of same asked for identification. At this time the credentials were shown again. b7c

At the Amoco Station this Agent obtained two Coca Colas, a package of donuts, a package of fig bars, and a package of cigarettes. While in this station, this Agent did not use the telephone.

Upon obtaining the afore-mentioned items, this Agent left the station and returned to an observation point established by Agent [REDACTED] where the refreshments were consumed.

While at the service station, observation determined that there were approximately 17 to 20 white males on the premises. These persons were observing the demonstration and speaking to each other and at the time were not heckling the marchers.

The person who waited on this Agent spoke of having lost money by the day's activities, which indicated he was the owner of this service station. He was observed to be a white male, approximately 48 - 50 years of age, 5' 8", 175 pounds, graying hair, wearing glasses and a gray uniform.

3/25/65

Montgomery, Alabama

File #

MO 44-1245

SA [REDACTED] 57c  
/mjr

Date dictated 3/28/65

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.

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date March 30, 19651

Mr. MURRAY PATTERSON, Owner, American Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, advised as follows:

He stated that during the afternoon of the civil rights demonstration and march, which took place on March 25, 1965, a spectator to the march entered his station and advised him that one of the demonstrators had cut the line to a public phone booth located outside of his station. He stated he did not know the identity of the spectator. He added that during this same day, an Army Major was sometimes parked outside of his station in an Army jeep. He stated that on about two occasions this Army Major entered his station. He stated that he believed the Major's last name was GIBSON, but added that he was not positive of this. He added that he did not know if the Major was attached to the regular Army or the Army National Guard.

117

On 3-30-65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA

and

67c

Date dictated 3-30-65

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

RAY MC DANIEL, Office Manager, Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company, furnished the following information:

He located a repair order for telephone number 269-9731 reflecting that at 1:07 PM, March 25, 1965, a report was received marked PATTERSON, 351 Dexter, reporting a cord broken during march. The report reflects that installer-repairman with initials "A.T.S." was dispatched at 7:13 AM on March 26, 1965, and he reported the receiver cord was cut during march. The cord was replaced and the complaint cleared at 8:22 AM, March 26, 1965.

Mr. MC DANIEL advised that H. H. MITCHAM, Plant Manager, is the custodian of repair records quoted above. MITCHAM's home address is [REDACTED] 67C

Mr. MC DANIEL advised that installer-repairman A. I. SUMMERLIN was the man who repaired the telephone. His home address is [REDACTED]

3/30/65

Montgomery, Alabama

File # Mobile 44-1245

MO 44-1245

SHR/mjr

1

On March 29, 1965, BENJAMIN VAN CLARK, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) Headquarters, Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA [REDACTED] that no persons remain in Montgomery who would be familiar with Mrs. LIUZZO's participation in the Civil Rights activities in this area. He advised that AL LINGO and HOSEA WILLIAMS of SCLC in Atlanta, are the only persons he knows of who would be familiar with Mrs. LIUZZO's Civil Rights activities in connection with the March on Montgomery. b7c

On March 29, 1965, GIORA BENFORD, Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) Headquarters, Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA [REDACTED] that no SNCC people would be familiar with Mrs. LIUZZO's Civil Rights activities as she was working exclusively with SCLC people. b7c



MO 44-1245

JWB/lw

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On March 29, 1965, MURRAY PATTERSON, American Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama, Telephone Number 262-9402, advised Special Agent [redacted] and [redacted] that he is the owner and manager of the service station. He stated that he was at the station on March 25, 1965, all day and that due to the march of civil rights demonstrators, did not attempt to conduct business that day inasmuch as the streets were blocked off and the crowds were too large.

PATTERSON advised that there were mass numbers of people in the vicinity of his gas station all day long and that he could not recall any four individuals who were there for any length of time. PATTERSON was shown photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, ROBERT JERRY WILKINS, and RY THOMAS ROWE, JR. PATTERSON said he could not state that these four individuals were at his gas station on March 25, 1965, as the crowds were so large he could not recognize any particular person. b7c

PATTERSON further advised that EDWARD CASTLEBERRY is working part time at the gas station on March 25, 1965, it was his day off. He said that CASTLEBERRY lives onenville Road, Montgomery, Alabama and works for the Board Railroad Company.

On March 29, 1965, ROBERT E. HORTON, Clerk King Lot, Montgomery, Alabama, advised he was working that day on March 25, 1965, and stated that he recalled that cars were parked in his lot that day and inasmuch as this parking lot is a self-park type place, he could not recall specific cars that were parked there. HORTON was specifically asked if he recalled a 1962 red and white, two door, hardtop Chevrolet in the lot on that date and HORTON replied that he could not recall make or color of any specific car in his lot.

On March 29, 1965, JOHN A. SPINER, employee, Clark Parking Lot, Monroe and Lawrence Streets, advised he did not recall seeing the red and white, two door, hardtop Chevrolet on that lot inasmuch as the cars are parked by the rows, and due to the large number of vehicles in the lot.

MO 44-1245

XIV. STATE PROSECUTION

MO 44-1245

JRC:gmh

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Governor GEORGE C. WALLACE, State of Alabama, telephonically contacted Special Agent [REDACTED] at Montgomery, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, and expressed complete disgust with the "cowardly act" perpetrated by the subjects of the case or anyone who would do such an act of violence. Governor WALLACE stated he had instructed Colonel AL LINGO, Director, Alabama State Department of Public Safety, to make available all resources of his department and to afford complete cooperation to the FBI in pursuing the investigation in this matter. Governor WALLACE stated he also had requested the State Toxicologist Office at Auburn, Alabama, to cooperate fully with the FBI. He also advised that he would contact Circuit Solicitor ARTHUR GAMBLE, JR., Greenville, Alabama, and request that he also afford his cooperation. b7C

Governor WALLACE requested that State authorities be afforded the results of the FBI investigation that would support the issuance of a warrant for murder, as soon as completed.

[REDACTED] Alabama Highway Patrol Investigator, advised on March 26, 1965, that LEROY JEROME MCTON was being held at the Dallas County Jail as a "material witness."

MO 44-1245

XV.

MISCELLANEOUS

149

MO 44-1745

EGP:kq

Colonel CARL MORGAN, 156 M.P. Battalion, Army National Guard, Linden, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, advised Special Agent [REDACTED] that he had received orders to pull his men out of the Selma, Alabama, area as of 4 P.M., March 25, 1965. Colonel MORGAN advised that he would maintain a skeleton force in the Selma area during the period of 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., March 25, 1965.

Colonel MORGAN stated that he was informed by the Alabama State Troopers that a shooting of an individual had taken place on Highway 80 East on the evening of March 25, 1965. Colonel MORGAN did not dispatch any troops to the scene as he had previously received orders to take his troops out of the area.

Lt. JAMES W. OVERSTREET, 156 M.P. Battalion, Army National Guard, advised that he was the only officer on duty in Selma, Alabama, during the period of 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., March 25, 1965. Lt. OVERSTREET further advised that there were nine other men on duty during this period. They were stationed at various points throughout the city. Lt. OVERSTREET, whose home address is Box 111, Selma, Alabama, was unable to furnish any information that would be of assistance in any way. b7C

According to Lt. OVERSTREET, Warrant Officer W. F. COSBY was the duty officer on March 25, 1965.

Warrant Officer COSBY stated that he had received the information concerning the shooting that occurred on Route 80 East the evening of March 25, 1965, from the Alabama State Troopers and rushed this call directly to Colonel CARL MORGAN. He stated that while on duty March 25, 1965, he received no reports concerning suspicious activity, persons or vehicles in the Selma, Alabama, area.

The following men, all members of 156 M.P. Battalion, who were on duty 4 P.M. to 10 P.M., Selma, Alabama, March 25, 1965, including the vicinity of Brown

MO 44-1245

RGP:kq

2

Chapel. were interviewed on March 26, 1965. They were questioned concerning any suspicious person, cars or events that took place during the afternoon and evening of March 25, 1965. They were questioned as to whether they had seen a 1963 light blue Oldsmobile bearing Michigan license or if they had observed a red and white vehicle in the area. They could furnish no information of value:

GEORGE THOMAS TURNER, SAs, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

NORRIS LOVETT, SP4, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

RON JENKINS, SP4, interviewed by Special  
Agent [REDACTED]

ED HEAPE BRADLEY, Corporal, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

HESSIE GRIFFITH, Sergeant, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED] b7C

JAMES THOMPSON, SAs, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

JAMES H. CARPENTER, PFC, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

JOE HOFFMAN, SP4, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

BOB GRIFFITH, PFC, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

JAMES E. TURNER, SP4, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

BILLY PATTON, Sergeant, interviewed by  
Special Agent [REDACTED]

MO 44-1245

TEB/bah

Mr. THOMAS BISSINGER, 116 Perry Street, New York 14, New York  
presently residing at 21-C George Washington Carter Apartments, Selma, Alabama  
furnished the following information to SA [REDACTED]

At about 11:00 PM, March 25, 1965, he received a telephone call  
at the First Baptist Church from a white male, southerner. The caller stated he  
had heard on the news that a woman had been shot and that he had some information.  
The caller disclosed that at about 8:30 or 9:00 PM that evening he had observed a  
1960 or 1961 red Chevrolet convertible following very closely behind a blue Olds-  
mobile driven by a white woman and containing one Negro passenger. The  
Chevrolet appeared very suspicious, and the caller stated that he followed the two  
cars along Broad Street and out Highway 80 to Cap's Service Station where he  
discontinued following the vehicles. The caller stated there were four white  
males in the Chevrolet, two in the front and two in the rear. 670

The informant refused to disclose his name to Mr. BISSINGER  
but stated that he might come around to the Baptist Church the following morning.

MT 44-1245

EB:kg

On March 25, 1965, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED]:

b7c

TOM BESSINGER, who was presently residing at 121 George Washington Courts, advised that the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee office had received a telephone call at approximately 11 P.M. from an unidentified male indicating that this unidentified male had heard on a news report that a woman had just been killed. The unidentified caller had refused to make his identity known, but advised that at approximately 7 P.M. on March 25, 1965, he had seen a 1960 or 1961 red convertible following a 1963 blue Oldsmobile that was being driven by a white woman and carrying a Negro passenger. BESSINGER advised that the unidentified caller stated that he was quite suspicious of the red Chevrolet in that it had followed the Oldsmobile very closely. He stated that this unidentified caller advised him that he had followed the red Chevrolet and Oldsmobile down Broad Street and out route 80 East to Kapps Service Station before turning around. BESSINGER advised he would immediately contact the FBI if he received any more information in reference to the case or if he received information that would identify the person making the call.

BILL BURDICK, First Baptist Church, who was residing at 2216 Mary in Selma advised he was driving a rented truck for the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and had left Montgomery, Alabama, at an unrecalled time. He stated he was carrying two adults and four youths as passengers and the electrical equipment that had been used for the demonstration march. He advised that approximately 25 miles from Montgomery he saw a light and dark car parked on the right side of the roadway. He advised these vehicles were headed towards Selma, but that he could not recall any further description as to the type of cars. BURDICK stated he did not see the 1963 Oldsmobile on the left side of the highway.



MO 44-1249

CB:ka

B. T. BONNER, Negro male, home address 1907  
Hatters Street, Austin, Texas, advised he had been  
following BILL HURDIER and was about five miles behind  
him when he advised he also saw two cars on the highway  
approximately 25 miles from Montgomery. He stated as he  
approached the vehicle one car pulled out in front of him  
and disappeared, heading east towards Selma. He stated  
he got behind the other vehicle and noticed it to be a  
cream colored car, type of vehicle unknown, pulling a  
trailer with large tail lights. He advised he had seen  
a green and light colored 1955 Ford on the left side of  
the highway as he was driving east towards Selma ten or  
fifteen miles from Montgomery. He stated that this  
vehicle was parked near a gasoline station, name unrecalled.  
He advised he was unable to recall any further descriptive  
information as to the type of vehicles he saw on the  
highway. He stated that as he proceeded east on Highway 80  
a Negro male came from the side of the highway and attempted  
to flag him down. [REDACTED]

EVAN HACKER, 211 East Freeman Street, Carbondale, Illinois, advised he was one of the last buses to leave the capitol area. He advised when they passed St. Jude's Church on Highway 80 traveling east an ambulance passed them at a high rate of speed with its red light on. He advised when the bus passed the scene of the murder, several State Police cars were in the area. HACKER stated that he had seen a 1960 model light colored car on the right side of the roadway near the scene of the accident, but that this car was probably an unmarked law enforcement vehicle. He advised that he could not recall seeing a 1955 Ford along the roadway.

The following individuals were contact with negative results as to developing information about suspect's vehicle:

**JAMES HOUSER: 102 Bridge Street, St. Augustine,  
Florida:**

MO 44-1245

CB:kg

3

ABRAHAM BANKS, 1217 Voeglin, Selma, Alabama;

LEWIS DAVIDSON, 1140 Union Avenue;

JONATHON DANIELS, 118C George Washington Carver;

JOHN UPHAM, 118C George Washington Carver;

LYNN ADDISON, 118C George Washington Carver;

MARGARET DOBBIE, 118C George Washington Carver;

DAVID BEY, Torch Motel;

JIM WILSON, Torch Motel;

FRANK SORACCO, 2021 Eugene;

WILLIE JAMES HAWKIN, 862 Lucy Street,  
Montgomery, Alabama;

JAMES BROWN, Route 1, Box 180, Bratt, Alabama.

APPENDIX

UNITED KLANS OF AMERICA, INCORPORATED  
KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN (UNITED KLANS)

Records of Superior Court of Fulton County, Georgia, reflect that this Klan organization was granted a corporate charter on February 21, 1961, at Atlanta, Georgia, under the name United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc.

A source advised on February 27, 1961, that United Klans was formed as a result of a split in U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc. According to the source, the split resulted from a leadership dispute and United Klans has the same aims and objectives as the parent group. These are the promotion of Americanism, white supremacy and segregation of the races.

The first source and a second source advised in July, 1961, that United Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of America, Inc., merged with Alabama Knights, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The merged organization established headquarters in Suite 401, The Alston Building, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The organization is directed by ROBERT SHELTON, Imperial Wizard, and is the dominant Klan group in the South with units in several southern states.

Second source advised that at a meeting at Prattville, Alabama, on October 22, 1961, the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, merged with the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.