

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**  
**FREEDOM OF INFORMATION/PRIVACY ACTS SECTION**  
**COVER SHEET**

**SUBJECT: DAVID KORESH**



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

FROM: SAC, SAN ANTONIO (50-SA-37281)

Date: 7/20/92

1. Title: (use additional page if necessary)

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

BUDED:

RE:

2. Office of Origin File No: 50-SA-37281 (include alpha)
3. Auxiliary Office File No: \_\_\_\_\_ (initial submission only)
4. X initial submission \_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental submission
5. Matter Type: (check more than one if applicable)

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| A. Brutality                                 | No Brutality                                 |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement     | <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Law Enforcement | <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Law Enforcement |  |
| B. Violence                                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racial              | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other           |
| C. ISS Matters                               |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Migrant Victim      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other    |  |
| D. Known/Suspected Extremist Group           |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Klan                | <input type="checkbox"/> Other               |  |
| Use to describe above (check all applicable) |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arson               | <input type="checkbox"/> Injury              | <input type="checkbox"/> Property damage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Death               | <input type="checkbox"/> No Injury           | <input type="checkbox"/> Cross burning   |

6. Date of incident 6/23/92

7. Date of complaint 6/23/92

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

**50-SA-37281-1**

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

Remarks/Administrative

(2) - Bureau  
2 - San Antonio  
FV:tab  
(4)



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 7/21/92

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 FROM : SAC, SAN ANTONIO (50-SA-37281) (SQ. 11/WRA)  
 SUBJECT : VERNON HOWELL,  
 aka DAVID KORESH;  
 ISS;  
 OO: SAN ANTONIO

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

LEADSSAN ANTONIO DIVISION

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

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

50-SA-37281-2

1\*

Approved: J/Pao

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per



50-SA-37281

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

b7C On 7/13/92, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) SA [REDACTED] was contacted regarding captioned subject. [REDACTED] provided information to include a diagram of the house in which captioned subject is living in, as well as photographs of the interior of the house. It was brought to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in Waco, Texas that ATF may possibly have a firearms violation regarding captioned subject. [REDACTED] advised he received information that subject may possibly be converting AR-15 rifles from semi-automatic to automatic weapons. 4/50, ENCL 6  
FOR DOJ/CRU'S A COPY OF AN INTERVIEW OF [REDACTED]

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



- 1 -

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date of transcription 7/23/92

b7C

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

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

b7C

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

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

50-SA-37281-2

Investigation on 7/7/92 at Waco, Texas File # 50-SA-37281by 7 SA [REDACTED]

tab

b7C

Date dictated 7/13/92



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 7/23/92

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI  
 (ATTN: CR UNIT)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

50-SA-37281-3

Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted

(Number) (Time)

Per



1

Worker's Name	Time Reported to DHS
[REDACTED]	N 1:35 <input type="checkbox"/> am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pm
DHS Incident No.	250 Use Only

4. Worker Name: [REDACTED]

8. Date Occurred to CHS 02/21/92	9. Date Reported to DHS 02/26/92
-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1-Reason to Believe
<input type="checkbox"/>	2-Unable to Determine
<input type="checkbox"/>	3-Ruled Out
<input type="checkbox"/>	4-Family Moved

14. ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME	
1-\$0 to \$8,999	4-\$34,000 to \$62,999
2-\$9,000 to \$17,999	5-\$63,000 or more
3-\$18,000 to \$33,999	

15. Line 01 KOREA RE

24. Street Address Rt. 7, Box 471 - B - Mt. Carmel, Va. Co.		32. Type of Abuse/Neglect PHYSICAL		33. Fetal Death NA		34. Child's Name NA		35. Child's Age NA		36. Child's Sex NA	
30. DHS Client No. NA		31. Social Security No. NA		37. Home Telephone No.		38. Work/School Telephone		39. Work/School Address		40. Date of Report 12/10/91	

24. Street No. _____		25. Security No. _____	
26. Home Telephone No. _____		27. Work/School Telephone _____	
28. _____		29. _____	

24. Street		32. Type of Apartment	
30. Social Security No.		39. Work/School Telephone	
31. Home Telephone No.		40. Work/School Telephone	

24. Street Address		11	
30. DHS Client No.	31. Social Security No.	BINGHAM	
N/A	N/A		
37. Home Telephone No.	38. Work/School Telephone	Home Address	

15. <b>DATE</b>	
24. <b>Street Address</b>	
30. <b>DHS Client No.</b>	31. <b>Spec. Category No.</b>
37. <b>Home Telephone No.</b>	38. <b>Work/School Telephone No.</b>

570



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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HQ-50-SA 37281-3 Pages 3-8 (Texas Department of Human Service)

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X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX



b7C

1	Worker	Time Reported to DHS
	[REDACTED]	7:35 <input type="checkbox"/> am <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> pm
2. S.O. Use Only		3.

Texas Department of Human Services  
**CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES  
INTAKE AND CANRIS REPORT**

**SECTION I - WORKER INFORMATION**

4. Worker	[REDACTED]
-----------	------------

**SECTION II - INCIDENT REPORT**

8. Date Occurred to Child	9. Date Reported to DHS	10. Date Invest. Completed	11. Source a. At Intake b. Actual
02-26-92	02-26-92	04-30-92	0740 1 0.2

**13. DISPOSITION**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-Reason to Believe
<input type="checkbox"/> 2-Unable to Determine
<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Ruled Out
<input type="checkbox"/> 4-Family Moved

b7C

**14. ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME**

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-\$0 to \$8,999	<input type="checkbox"/> 4-\$34,000 to \$62,999
<input type="checkbox"/> 2-\$9,000 to \$17,999	<input type="checkbox"/> 5-\$63,000 or more
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3-\$18,000 to \$33,999	

**SECTION III - INDIVIDUAL INFORMATION**

15. Line 1	16. Name - Last	17. Date of Birth	18. M/F	19. S/P	20. E/M	21. R/S
35	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
24. Street Address						
[REDACTED]						
30. DHS Client No.						
[REDACTED]						
37. Home Telephone No.						
[REDACTED]						

15. Line 1	16. Name - Last	17. Date of Birth	18. M/F	19. S/P	20. E/M	21. R/S
35	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
24. Street Address						
[REDACTED]						
30. DHS Client No.						
[REDACTED]						
37. Home Telephone No.						
[REDACTED]						

15. Line 1	16. Name - Last	17. Date of Birth	18. M/F	19. S/P	20. E/M	21. R/S
36	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
24. Street Address						
[REDACTED]						
30. DHS Client No.						
[REDACTED]						
37. Home Telephone No.						
[REDACTED]						

15. Line 1	16. Name - Last	17. Date of Birth	18. M/F	19. S/P	20. E/M	21. R/S
02	Howell	08/17/89	MALE	11	AA	AA
24. Street Address						
[REDACTED]						
30. DHS Client No.	31. Social Security No.	32. Type of Abuse/Neglect	33. Child's Name	34. Child's Age	35. Child's Sex	36. Child's Race
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
37. Home Telephone No.	38. Work/School Telephone	39. Work/School Address				
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				

15. Line 1	16. Name - Last	17. Date of Birth	18. M/F	19. S/P	20. E/M	21. R/S
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
24. Street Address						
[REDACTED]						
30. DHS Client No.	31. Social Security No.	32. Type of Abuse/Neglect	33. Child's Name	34. Child's Age	35. Child's Sex	36. Child's Race
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
37. Home Telephone No.	38. Work/School Telephone	39. Work/School Address				
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]				



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

- ☒ The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

HQ-50-SA-37281-3 Page 10 (Texas Department of Human Services)

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X No Duplication Fee X  
X for this page X  
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX



COMPLAINANT INFORMATION:

Name: [REDACTED]	Relationship to Case: [REDACTED]	Home Telephone: [REDACTED]	Work Telephone: [REDACTED]
------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------	----------------------------

b7C

Comments: *both line in*

RECORDS CHECK: (Check each action completed.) ☐ CARRIS Soundex ☒ Local Records Check ☐ SSMS/SAVER (optional)

Results: *no record* *no record*

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

☐ ABAN ☐ EMAB ☐ MDNG ☐ NSUP ☒ PHAB ☐ PHNG ☒ RABR

Initial Priority: \_\_\_\_\_

SUPERVISOR NOTIFIED OF REPORT

(Within 24 hours for Priority I,  
Within 72 hours for Priority II)

[REDACTED] b7C *2-21-72*

WORKER RECOMMENDATION:

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

☐ CWA - Close without assignment

☐ TRN - Transfer to another jurisdiction: Region/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

[REDACTED] b7C *2-26-72*

SUPERVISOR DECISION:

Review of Allegations: ☒ Approve ☐ Change to: \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Review of Initial Priority: ☒ Approve ☐ Change to: \_\_\_\_\_ Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

☒ ASG - Assigned for investigation to: [REDACTED] *Unit 60*

☐ CWA - Closed without assignment. Decision explained to complainant: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ TRN - Transferred to another jurisdiction: Region/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

b7C [REDACTED] *2-26-72*



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXXFEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET39 Page(s) withheld entirely at this location in the file. One or more of the following statements, where indicated, explain this deletion.☒ Deletions were made pursuant to the exemptions indicated below with no segregable material available for release to you.Section 552Section 552a☐ (b)(1)☐ (b)(7)(A)☐ (d)(5)☐ (b)(2)☐ (b)(7)(B)☐ (j)(2)☐ (b)(3)☒ (b)(7)(C)☐ (k)(1)☒ (b)(7)(D)☐ (k)(2)☐ (b)(7)(E)☐ (k)(3)☐ (b)(7)(F)☐ (k)(4)☐ (b)(4)☐ (b)(8)☐ (k)(5)☐ (b)(5)☐ (b)(9)☐ (k)(6)☒ (b)(6)☐ (k)(7)☐ Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.☐ Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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HQ-50-SA-37281-3 Pages 12-50 (Texas Department of Human Services)

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



Revelation 10-57  
Micah 1-30  
Ezekiel 30



# Religious group denies mass suicide rumor

By MARK ENGLAND  
Tribune-Herald staff writer

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

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

He called the rumor "hogwash." "Hey, I'm not ready to die," Koresh said. "It's all lies. Every year we've

gathered here for Passover. Every year.

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

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

Rumors of a mass suicide apparently started in Australia, a country Koresh visited to gather new followers. The Melbourne Herald-Sun printed an ar-

icle this week quoting relatives saying some Australian Branch Davidians have sold their property and called to say good-bye.

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

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

"The end of time is a process," Koresh said. "It will happen when it happens. But the truth pertaining to the end of time is now. We've got to know what God requires of us in this generation."

Just be informed what the word of God

has stated. The prophet in harmony with Christ. He's a law-giving prophet for salvation. That's all we teach."

Perry Rogers, a longtime Branch Davidian, said the rumor exaggerates what he's reportedly insulting, but it's still crazy. "Jones said the rumor is about Passover. It's a freshened relative of the Branch Davidians, though."

June Craddock of Melbourne said she talked recently with her son, Graham, a Branch Davidian. He said the religious group's site, called New Mountain, is in "I rang, Graham," Craddock said.

He said to remain calm. There's nothing to worry about. "Please see DAVIDIANS, Page 2C."

WACO

TRIBUNE-HERALD

SATURDAY

April 18, 1992



# DAVIDIANS

□ From Page 1C

ing to it."

But Craddock said the rumors still upset her.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roden claimed they came to kill him.

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

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



### Davidians observe Passover

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# Memorandum



To : Assistant Attorney General  
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

From : Director, FBI  
VERNON HOWELL,  
AKA DAVID KORESH;

Subject : ISS;  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
OO: SAN ANTONIO

Date 10-1-92

Attn: Criminal Section

Field Office File Number 50 SA 37281

DOJ File Number \_\_\_\_\_

Reference:

Enclosed is one copy of: See below.

☐ Also enclosed is an Internal Affairs Report

DOI: 6-23-92

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

Type matter (Initial communication only)

- ☐ Brutality - Law Enforcement
- ☐ Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- ☐ No Brutality - Law Enforcement
- ☐ No Brutality - Nonlaw Enforcement
- ☐ Racial Violence
- ☐ ISS Matter
- ☐ Death Case

☐ B. FBI Status-Pending

☒ C. FBI Status-Closed

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

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

**50-SA-37281-4**

SENT BY COURIER

**10-1-92** INITIAL *[Signature]*

**b7C**

Enc (1)  
*Quid*

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

On 7/10/92, Special Agents (SA) \_\_\_\_\_ met with \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Investigators for Texas Department of Human Services (DHS) and CPS.



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

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

b7C  
On 7-13-92, Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) SA [REDACTED] as contacted regarding captioned subject. [REDACTED] was provided information to include a diagram of the house in which captioned subject is living in, as well as photographs of the interior of the house. It was brought to the attention of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office in Waco, Texas that ATF may possibly have a firearms violation regarding captioned subject. [REDACTED] advised he received information that subject may possibly be converting AK-47 rifles for a semi-automatic to automatic weapons. Also, enclosed for DOJ/CRI is a copy of and interview of [REDACTED]

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



Memorandum



Subject

Notice of File Closing  
CIVIL RIGHTS MATTER

Date

OCT 16 1992

To

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation

From

John R. Dunne  
Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Rights Division

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

50-SA-37281-5

10-26-92

To Sac San Antonio

actHox

11-27-92



CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

Notice to Close File

File No. 50-76-48

Date OCT 16 1992

To: Chief, Criminal Section

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

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

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

Albert S. Glenn  
Attorney

To: Records Section  
Office of Legal Administration

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

Date

Chief, Criminal Section

FORMERLY CVR-3 FORM CL-3

50-SA-37281-5



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

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



FBI

## TRANSMIT VIA:

☐ Teletype  
☐ Facsimile  
☒ AIRTEL

## PRECEDENCE:

☐ Immediate  
☐ Priority  
☐ Routine

## CLASSIFICATION:

☐ TOP SECRET  
☐ SECRET  
☐ CONFIDENTIAL  
☐ UNCLAS E F T O  
☐ UNCLAS

Date 2/23/93

3/3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 - Bureau (Enc. 5)

1 - San Antonio

FV:sa

(3)

ENCLOSURE

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

50-SA-37281-6

Approved: *[Signature]*

Transmitted

(Number) (Time)

Per *[Signature]*



50-SA-37281

b7C [REDACTED] According to the letter, plans for self-destruction or sacrifices were to take place during Passover. A review of this letter would indicate that the time frame of the alleged acts of self-destruction would have been between the date [REDACTED] letter was written (March 17, 1992) and Easter 1992.

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

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