

SECTION VII

CRIME SCENE

MO 44-1245

SECTION VIII

CRIME SCENE PHOTOGRAPHS AND
SKETCHES

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/651

b7c On March 25, 1965, photographs were taken
by Special Agent [REDACTED] of VIOLA GREGG LUIZZO
at White Chapel Funeral Home, 43 S. Jackson.

3/25/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c SA [REDACTED] ¹³¹ ~~131~~ 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.

MO 44-1245

On April 1, 1965, PAUL E. SHOFFEITT, Assistant Director, State of Alabama, Department of Toxicology and Criminal Investigation, Auburn, Alabama, furnished SA [REDACTED] b7c a copy of the autopsy report prepared by his Department in connection with the case of VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO, Case Number 50-49455.

The details of this report are as follows:

SUBJECT: Post-Mortem Examination

At the request of Major W. R. Jones, State Investigator, and with authorization of Circuit Solicitor Arthur E. Gamble, Jr., a post-mortem examination was conducted on the body of Viola Gregg Liuzzo, white female, at the White Chapel Funeral Home, Montgomery, Alabama. Time of examination was 12 midnight on March 25, 1965. Body was identified by State Investigator J. F. Gardner. State and Federal Officers and funeral home personnel were present part of the time during the post-mortem examination. Guy V. Purnell, Toxicologist, of this Department assisted with the examination.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

This is the unembalmed body of a moderately obese, white female, measured height 5 feet 2 inches and estimated weight 150 pounds, resembling the reported age of 39 years. Scalp hair is reddish-blond. Teeth are natural with three upper left, two upper right, three lower left, and four lower right missing but not of recent extraction. After photographs are made, bloodstained clothing consisting of a girdle, torso brassiere, slip and dress is removed from body. Two rings on ring finger on left hand, one ring on right finger of right hand, and wrist watch on left wrist are delivered to State Investigator Lt. E. J. Dixon.

Bloodstains cover the major portion of the head, neck, and face; especially, the left side. Bloodstains are also on hands and smaller stains are on lower extremities below the knees. Feet are soiled. Soiled areas also appear on the

back of right hand. Body is washed and additional photographs are made. On lateral surface of upper arms are small dark areas. Fingernails are short with no free edge present. An old linear scar of the lower mid-abdomen is judged to be surgical. Lower abdomen is marked with white lines (striae atrophicae).

[REDACTED] b7A

[REDACTED] b7A

THORACIC-ABDOMINAL;

The thoracic and abdominal cavities are opened with a Y incision. There is appreciable fat in the abdominal wall. No evidence of physical trauma is observed to organs of these cavities. Lungs possess the typical mottled, glistening outer surface with a crepitant feel. Heart is not remarkable in size. Coronaries are patent in the large observed sections. There is evidence of minimal atherosclerosis of the aorta in the area of the coronary orifices. An appreciable quantity of fat is around the kidneys. Capsules of kidneys peel easily revealing a smooth, slightly congested surface. A small quantity of a white milky liquid is observed in pelvis of each sectioned kidney. Stomach contains an estimated 5 ounces of a brownish, thick semiliquid. The appendix is not located. Uterus is non-pregnant. Adrenals, spleen, liver, and pancreas are not remarkable grossly.

134

MO 44-1245

SECTION XII

ACTIVITIES OF SUBJECTS

3/29/65

b7c At approximately 4 p.m., March 26, 1965, CARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., was placed under arrest by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at a location on the outskirts of Birmingham in the vicinity of the southern city limits of Birmingham, Alabama.

ROWE was advised that he did not have to furnish any information, that any information he furnished could be used against him in a court of law and that he could consult an attorney. He was informed that he would be transported immediately to the office of the U. S. Commissioner in the U. S. Post Office Building at Birmingham, Alabama, where bond would be set and that while at the U. S. Post Office Building he would be placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal. ROWE made no statement except to the effect that he would contact his attorney while at the office of the U. S. Marshal.

ROWE was immediately transported to the office of the U. S. Marshal at Birmingham, Alabama, and was afforded an immediate appearance before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, it being noted that ROWE's attorney, MATT MURPHY, JR., was present.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by b7c SAs [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/29/65

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.

- 157

1

b7c At 1:48 p.m., March 26, 1965, a search warrant was served at the apartment of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Apartment Number 35A, 205 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, in the company of Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] Special Agent [REDACTED] executed search warrant issued by the U. S. District Court, Northern District of Alabama.

The apartment was entered through the unlocked rear door, after permission to enter had been requested. It was determined upon entering the apartment that it was unoccupied. A copy of the search warrant and a list of items taken pursuant to the search warrant was left at the premises at 2:35 p.m.

The premises were searched by SA [REDACTED] b7c and [REDACTED] and the search was completed at 2:35 p.m. March 26, 1965.

The following items were taken:

1) One metal container, army brown in color with the following markings "Do not use as food container, 900 cartridges .30 carbine ball M1 in 50 round cartons lot LC 13029."

Containing as follows:

A) 4139 rounds of various caliber live ammunition and one spent .22 cartridge casing.

B) One 30 round capacity magazine for .30 caliber revolver.

C) One cloth bag containing 120 rounds of various caliber live ammunition and one spent .38 cartridge casing. The bag is marked Cherry-Burrell Corp.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7c SAs [REDACTED]

by [REDACTED]

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.

- 158

D) Four boxes of "Western Brand Super-Match" midrange .30 caliber ammunition containing a total of 80 rounds of live ammunition and 80 spent cartridges.

2) One German made bayonet and sheath.

3) One .38 caliber Western live cartridge found on bedroom dresser.

7A

3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS was placed under arrest by
Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]
at Lorene's Cafe, Bessemer, Alabama, at 11:08 a.m.,
March 26, 1965.

b7c

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] mjh 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.

- 161

3/26/65

EUGENE THOMAS arrived at the FBI Office,
14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 11:45 a.m.,
March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BE 44-1236
by b7C SA [REDACTED] 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.

3/26/65

D.

EUGENE THOMAS departed the FBI Office, 14th Floor, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama, at 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, en route to the U. S. Commissioner's Office, located in the U. S. Courthouse, 5th Avenue and 19th Street. He arrived at the U. S. Commissioner's Office in the U. S. Courthouse at 1:29 p.m. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] 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.

- 169

3/29/65

Using a Speed Graphic, 4 x 5 Camera and Kodak 4 x 5 Ektacolor film, six photographs were taken of a 1962 Impala, white over red, bearing 1965 Alabama License Plate 1B 36964.

Each photograph was taken using a Sylvania 40B bulb while vehicle was parked in front of Lorene's Cafe, 2200 - 8th Avenue North.

The photographs were made in the following sequence:

- (1) 3/4 view of passenger side of automobile from front.
- (2) Front view of vehicle
- (3) 3/4 rearview showing license plate.
- (4) 3/4 view of passenger side of vehicle from rear.
- (5) 3/4 view of front and driver side of vehicle
- (6) Driver side view of vehicle.

Transparencies and one copy of each photograph have been identified with the date taken and the initials KND.

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by b7C SA [REDACTED] 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.

175

In connection with the serving of a search warrant, served on Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS, wife of EUGENE THOMAS, 1819 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama, on March 26, 1965, and in connection with a Consent to Search statement voluntarily furnished by Mrs. FLOSSIE LOISE THOMAS concerning her 1958 Oldsmobile, bearing 1965 Alabama license 1B-19643, the following articles were taken, as indicated below: b7A

Article: b7C

2 - Smith & Wesson
 .38 revolver;
 SN C418827

6 rounds R-P .38
 Special ammunition

1 - .38 Smith and
 Wesson snub-
 nosed revolver
 SN 179485

5 rounds .38
 caliber ammunition
 (4 - REM-UMC .38
 special, 1 - R-P
 .38 special)

1 box Peters 12
 gauge SP extra long
 range shotgun shells

3 boxes Winchester
 .38 special ammuni-
 tion.

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

by b7C SA [redacted] 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.

2

BH 44-1236

b7c

b7A

Article:

6 Remington .38
special rounds of
ammunition in box

1 Revelation 12
gauge shotgun shell

1 Newport Model CN
double barrel sawed
off shotgun, Serial
Number T70594

1 box Remington
12 gauge shotgun
shells
containing 21 shells

1 box of spent .38
caliber shells

6 rounds Peters
.38 caliber
ammunition

021

In connection with a search conducted at the residence of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 12th Avenue North, Bessemer, Alabama, pursuant to a search warrant dated March 26, 1965, the following articles were observed in the residence of EUGENE THOMAS and are as follows:

Description of Article

1 bullwhip

1 rusty chain, 30" in length

1 rubber hose, metal lined, approximately 15" in length

White Klan robe and hood

5 United Klans of America applications

On 3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BY 44-1236

by SA [redacted] mfm Date dictated 3/29/65

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.

Pursuant to a consent to search, voluntarily furnished by EUGENE THOMAS, Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] proceeded to search a 1963 Chevrolet, two-door hardtop, white over red, which bore Alabama license 1H36964, Vehicle Identification Number 21847A118465. The following articles were taken:

Articles

1 ski mask

box Peters

3.38 caliber ammunition
 tion, which contained
 40 rounds of ammunition

~~Hand~~Screwdriver

yellow rug,
6' x 31"

Yellow rug,
3' x 2½'

1 roll Tuck
Electrical Tape

1 roll brown
Arno Tape

1 pair pliers-
cutters

1 pair pliers

3/26/65 at Bessemer, Alabama File # BR 44-1236

b7c SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] 181A Date dictated 3/29/65

D. 3/26/65

At 11:16 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was apprehended at his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

When EATON was placed under arrest he was standing in the middle of his living room on the first floor of his premises.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

S/26/65

Bessemer, Alabama

File # BH 44-1236

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.

Da. 3/26/65

b7c At 11:27 a.m., March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON was placed in an FBI car by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

He was then transported from his residence, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama, to FBI Headquarters, 2121 Building, Birmingham, Alabama. The arrival time at FBI Headquarters was 12:06 p.m., March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7c by SAs [REDACTED]

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.

D. March 27, 1965

b7C WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON arrived at the FBI Office, Birmingham, Alabama, in the custody of Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at 12:10 p.m., March 26, 1965. EATON was immediately taken into a private room and a physical description was obtained from him. The contents of his wallet were examined but nothing was taken from his wallet. EATON had no money on his person.

EATON was not interviewed at this time since he had previously advised that he wished to furnish no further information pertaining to the matter involved.

At 12:56 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was photographed in the FBI Office. At 1:01 p.m. on March 26, 1965, EATON was fingerprinted in the FBI Office. The fingerprinting was completed at 1:06 p.m.

b7C At 1:22 p.m., March 26, 1965, EATON was transported by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] from the FBI Office to the office of U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. EATON arrived at Mrs. CHARLTON's office at 1:36 p.m., March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
b7C by SA [REDACTED] SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/27/65

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.

187

Date March 27, 1965

b7C At 11:05 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., # 4005 - 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, was arrested at Highway 11, Bessemer, Alabama, while driving a two-tone green Chevrolet, bearing 1965 Alabama License Number 1B37863. WILKINS was advised of the identity of the Agents and SA [REDACTED] exhibited his credentials to WILKINS. WILKINS was advised that he was under arrest and no threats, force or promises were made to WILKINS. WILKINS was advised by SA [REDACTED] that he did not have to make a statement, any statement he did make could be used against him in a court of law and that he had a right to consult an attorney prior to making a statement.

b7A [REDACTED]

b7C At 11:09 a.m., WILKINS was placed in an automobile of the FBI and was driven to FBI Headquarters by SAs [REDACTED]

3/26/65 Bessemer, Alabama

BH 44-1236

by SAs [REDACTED]

3/27/65

Date dictated

Da. March 27, 1965

b7C At 11:49 a.m., March 26, 1965, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., accompanied by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] arrived in the Birmingham Office of the FBI. WILKINS was photographed and fingerprinted and departed the office in the company of Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] at 1:21 p.m.

In 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/27/65

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.

b7c Pursuant to a search warrant issued by LOUISE O. CHARLTON, United States Commissioner, Birmingham, on March 26, 1965, the living quarters of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., who resides with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, SR., at 4005 40th Way, Fairfield, Alabama, were searched by SAs [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. The search warrant was presented to Mr. and Mrs. WILKINS at their residence, by SA [REDACTED] at which time Mr. WILKINS stated that he would interpose no objections to the search.

b7A [REDACTED]
 one wards Western Field Repeating Rifle, Model 31A, .22 caliber, long rifle, which was disengaged from the stock, and contained in a brown canvas carrying case. No ammunition for this rifle was located.

b7A [REDACTED]
 A copy of the search warrant as issued by United States Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON was left with Mr. and Mrs. WILKINS, SR., reflecting the above described items had been taken pursuant to the search warrant [REDACTED] at 5:30 P.M. on March 26, 1965.

On 3/26/65 at Fairfield, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7c by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/29/65

Using a Speed Graphic, 4 x 5 Camera and Tri-X 4 x 5 Kodak film, the following individuals were photographed during the time set forth. In each instance front, profile and stand-up view were made.

12:46 - 12:54 p.m. - COLLIE LEROY WILKINS

12:54 - 1:01 p.m. - WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON

1:15 - 1:22 p.m. - EUGENE THOMAS

Negatives 1, 2 and 3 contain photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS.

Negatives 4, 5 and 6 contain photographs of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON.

Negatives 7, 8 and 9 contain photographs of EUGENE THOMAS.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by b7C SA [REDACTED] 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.

202A

Mo 44-1245

SECTION XIII

LAB REPORTS

SECTION XV

INVESTIGATION AS TO ACTIVITIES
OF SUBJECTS

b7c The following investigation was conducted by SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED] at Prattville, Alabama, on March 29, 1965.

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 POWELL, 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. CARLTON 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.

Date March 30, 1965

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.

3-30-65

at Montgomery, Alabama

File # BK 44-1225

b7c SA

:ko

245

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 7:15 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 **M. H. MITCHAM**, Plant Manager, is the custodian of repair records quoted above. MITCHAM's home address is 112 Brantwood Drive, Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. MC DANIEL advised that installer-repairman **A. T. SUMMERLIN** was the man who repaired the telephone. His home address is 833 Martha Street, Apartment B, Montgomery, Alabama.

3/30/65 at Montgomery, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c SA [REDACTED] /bah [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/30/65

246
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.

MO 44-1245

SECTION XVI

INVESTIGATION REGARDING SUBJECTS
AT SELMA, ALABAMA

Date 3/30/65

SPENCER EUGENE COONER, home address, Route #1, Townley, Alabama, employed as lineman, Alabama Power Company, advised that he has been in Selma since January 25, 1965, working on cross-country power lines to the Dan River Project.

He related that he eats dinner regularly at three or four restaurants in Selma, one of which is the Silver Moon Cafe.

COONER recalls eating at the Silver Moon Cafe on Thursday evening, March 25, 1965. He estimates that he arrived at the cafe at approximately 7:00 PM and stayed from 45 minutes to an hour.

COONER does not recall observing any well-dressed individuals in the cafe. He was shown photographs of subjects WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., but he could not identify them as being individuals he had ever seen. He was also shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, and advised that he could not recall having seen this vehicle in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe at any time.

COONER explained that he always goes to dinner with a group of four or five other Alabama Power Company employees who work on the same crew that he does. Whenever this group goes into a restaurant for dinner, they always sit at the same table, converse among themselves, and generally do not associate, pay any attention to, or converse with local citizens who may be in the restaurant.

COONER could furnish no further information.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]

/bah

Date dictated 3/30/65

- 252

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 3/31/651

DAVID GAMBLE, also known as SHORTY, 1214 Railroad, was interviewed at his residence and furnished the following information:

He advised that he works on a part-time basis at the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. His duties consist of washing dishes and cleaning the restaurant on these two days.

He stated that on March 25, 1965, he was not working at the Silver Moon Cafe, and the first time that he heard that a person was killed on Highway 80 east of Selma was that evening while he was watching television, and a news bulletin was flashed over television concerning the killing.

He advised that he could not furnish any information in connection with this killing nor did he hear of anyone who may have been involved in the killing of VIOLA LUZZO the night of March 25, 1965.

3/31/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

SA [REDACTED]

PMC/JSW

253

Date dictated 3/31/65

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Mr. MORRIS PERRY, 2520 Water Street, advised that he recalls being in the Silver Moon Cafe on Thursday, March 25, 1965, at approximately 3:00 PM for a little while after which he left. He said later on that evening between 6:00 and 6:30 PM, he came back to the Silver Moon Cafe where he met HUGHIE CLAY NICHOLS, a fellow employee at Baggett Transfer Company who was already in the cafe. He said that they had a cup of coffee together, during which NICHOLS told him about a trip he was making for the company hauling material to various nearby cities and also to Birmingham, Alabama. PERRY stated that he was on vacation and had planned to take a ride with NICHOLS on this trip, and after approximately 20 minutes in the cafe, he went across the street to the Coffee Pot Cafe to call his mother to tell her he was going on this trip and would be away from home over night, whereupon they departed in a company truck and returned to Selma the next day.

PERRY recalled that PETE LACKEOS and OUIDA LARSON were the only two people he can specifically remember who were working at the Silver Moon but could not recall what other customers, if any, were in there at that time. He stated that he and NICHOLS sat at a table in front of the juke box, and he did not notice any strangers, particularly four men dressed in suits.

PERRY stated he was unable to identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE as anyone he has ever seen and stated he did not notice a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, parked anywhere around the Silver Moon that evening.

He stated that he recalls seeing photographs in the newspapers of the four men arrested in Birmingham, Alabama, for killing some white woman on the highway between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, and at that time looked them over carefully and did not recognize any of them as people he knew.

3/29/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]Date dictated 3/30/65
254

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/27/65

1

Mr. PETE Z. LACKEOS, 804 7th Avenue, Selma, Alabama, proprietor of Silver Moon Cafe (SMC), 138 Washington Street, Selma, furnished the following information:

He advised that on March 25, 1965, he reported on duty at the SMC at approximately 9 AM and as usual worked there until about 5:30 PM, when he was relieved by his wife, Mrs. CUOLA LACKEOS, who normally relieves him between the hours of 5:30 PM and 7:30 PM daily. Following a period of about 2 hours at his home, he returned to the SMC and remained there until closing time, midnight. Mr. LACKEOS stated that his wife left the SMC by cab at about 7:30 PM, however, he could not recall the cab company she used.

Mr. LACKEOS advised that the following employees of the SMC were on duty March 25, 1965, beginning at 2 PM that date:

QUIDA A. LARSON, 2 PM - 10 PM
 ELSIE GREINER (phonetic), 11 AM - 9 PM
 HELEN BEVERLY MARTIN, 10 PM - midnight.

The above three individuals are waitresses; HELEN BEVERLY MARTIN is not regularly employed at SMC and filled in the two hour period for LARSON who requested two hours off that evening.

In addition to the above, EDGAR STRIPLING, a general handyman, who also assists behind the bar and has no regular hours, was around the SMC most of the day and evening.

LACKEOS advised that he did not know exactly how long he was off duty during approximate period 5:30 to 7:30 PM, March 25, 1965, but believed he left at about 5:30 PM and returned at 7:30 PM or slightly later. On return to the SMC, he recalled the cafe was about $\frac{1}{2}$ full of people. Among those he noted as being there was NAMON O'NEAL HOGGIE, who was sitting on one of the bar stools and he believed HOGGIE left at about 8 PM alone. He did not observe HOGGIE to be with anyone while he was at the SMC. He also observed R. B. KELLY to be at SMC, however, he did not see him come in and first observed him at about 10 PM. He was alone, had one or two beers,

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7c
 SA [REDACTED]
 SA [REDACTED]

255

Date dictated 3/27/65

Document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

2
MO 44-1245

and left alone about 10:30 PM. LACKEOS advised that he did not see ELMER L. COOK or WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE in the SMC the evening of March 25, 1965.

He stated that the only other persons he could recall by name who were customers in the SMC during that night were MARIE and her husband (FNU) LANGSTON (phonetic) or LIVINGSTON (phonetic), and GRADY DEASON, a mechanic for the Ford Company in Selma who has a limp and whose father is in the vegetable business. He said that MARIE and her husband were there sometime after he returned to duty shortly after 7:30 PM, but he could not recall how long they stayed or when they left.

LACKEOS stated that GRADY DEASON arrived at SMC sometime between 7:30 PM and 8 PM with unknown male, stayed there with him about 1½ hours and then they left together. He could not recall these two individuals having any contact with other patrons in the SMC during that period. He described this unknown individual as follows:

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	About 35 years
Height	5' 9" - 5' 11"
Weight	Unrecalled
Build	Slim
Hair	Dark, full head of hair
Clothing	Dark blue suit, no hat, no top coat.

He stated he had not seen this individual previously to his knowledge.

LACKEOS stated that two other male individuals arrived at SMC shortly after 7:30 PM and a few minutes after GRADY DEASON and his companion arrived. These two individuals were unknown to him and to his knowledge he had not previously seen them in the SMC. He observed no contact between GRADY DEASON and his companion and these two unknown males. These individuals left SMC together after being there approximately 10 to 15 minutes. He believed that each had a beer although he was not sure of this and it was his recollection

3
MO 44-1245

they sat in a booth toward the back of the cafe. He described these two unknown individuals as follows:

#1

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	35 to 40 years
Height	5' 9" to 5' 10"
Weight	180 - 190
Build	Large
Hair	Black, full head
Clothing	Dark suit and light-weight, dark rain coat, or top coat, no hat.

#2

Race	White
Sex	Male
Age	35 to 40 years
Height	5' 9"
Weight	170 - 180
Build	Large
Hair	Dark, full head
Clothing	Dark suit, no rain coat, no hat.

LACKEOS advised that he could recall nothing further at this time concerning other patrons in the SMC during evening of March 25, 1965.

257

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

Mrs. CUOLA LACKEOS, proprietor, with her husband, TE Z. LACKEOS, of the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, was contacted at the Silver Moon Cafe and she advised that she did not desire to discuss any matters or be questioned by the FBI as she was ill. She stated she knew no information she could furnish to the FBI and any further discussion would cause her condition to become worse.

She refused to view the photographs of the following individuals for identification purposes:

EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office # 113 073, Birmingham, Alabama, date of photograph, March 26, 1965.

GARY THOMAS ROWE, Jr., Sheriff's Office #113 076, Birmingham, Alabama, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

The interview was terminated at this point.

3/29/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

b7c SA
SA

258
RLE/jaw

Date dictated 3/29/65

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 3/29/65

Mr. PETE Z. LACKEOS was contacted at his place of business, the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, and he advised that he did not desire to talk to the FBI any further concerning matters of an official nature. He said he was ill and that any further discussion concerning the Silver Moon Cafe or what may have happened in the Silver Moon Cafe or on Washington Street outside the Silver Moon Cafe would upset him further.

He refused to view the photographs of the following individuals for identification purposes:

EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office # 113 073,
Birmingham, Alabama, date of photograph,
March 26, 1965.

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office #113 076,
Birmingham, Alabama, date of photograph
March 26, 1965.

WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office,
Birmingham, Alabama, Number unknown, date
of photograph March 26, 1965.

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office,
Birmingham, Alabama, Number unknown, date
of photograph March 26, 1965.

The interview was terminated at this point.

3/29/65at Selma, AlabamaFile # MO 44-1245

259

RLB/jew

Date dictated 3/29/65

b7c [REDACTED] document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/30/65

Mr. PETE LACKEOS, owner of the Silver Moon Cafe, 134 Washington Street, advised that since he was last contacted by FBI Agents he had spoken with his waitress, OUIDA LARSON, in an attempt to determine who may have been around the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of March 25, 1965. He said the only strangers OUIDA mentioned having seen that evening were three young men who told her they were in Selma in connection with some new factory which supposedly is moving to Selma. He said he knows nothing more about these men and does not recall seeing them.

Mr. LACKEOS viewed the photographs of THOMAS, EATON, WILKINS, and ROWE but stated he could not identify any of them as persons he has seen in the Silver Moon Cafe or elsewhere. He was also shown a photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color, and said he could not recall ever seeing this automobile at any time.

He added that the only persons he recalls specifically seeing at the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of March 35, 1965, were DEASON and his friend, name unknown, who was a complete stranger.

3/30/65

at

Selma, Alabama

File #

Mobile 44-1245

SAs

260

Date dictated

3/30/65

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

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. GODWIN, 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 upon leaving the restaurant a person would view the Prattville water tower.

-MO 44-1245

MGT/mj

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.

W. 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.

240

Date March 29, 1965

b7c

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.

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.

b7c 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 at Montgomery, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA [REDACTED] b7c /mjr [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/28/65

On March 1, 1965, Special Agent [REDACTED] b7c
ascertained the following information from Major General
FRED HARRISON, Adjutant General for State of Alabama:

The military personnel guarding the route of
the March on March 25, 1965 in Montgomery, was integrated
with units from the 503 MP Battalion (regular Army), Ft.
Tagg, North Carolina; the 31st MP Company, Alabama National
Guard from Birmingham; and the 156th MP Battalion, Headquarters,
Montom Linden, Alabama.

There is no record of names or ranks of persons
stationed at particular points along the parade route, and
other than the above, there is no way of pinpointing the name
or rank of any individual.

The remaining manner of determining the identity
of this Major would be to interview all majors assigned to
the above listed units.

Date 4/1/65

1

Photographs of the following business establishments were taken using a 4x5 Speed Graphic Camera with Kodak Tri-X film:

American Oil Company Service Station, 351 Dexter Avenue, on northwest corner of Dexter Avenue and Hull Street, Montgomery, Alabama. Photo taken from center of Dexter Avenue looking north.

Jack's Grill, located on U. S. Highway 31 north of Montgomery, Alabama, and about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile west of the overpass leading to the main entrance to Maxwell Air Force Base. Photo taken looking northwest. Grill is located on north side of Highway 31.

Old Hickory Bar-B-Q located on southwest corner of intersection of U. S. Highway 31 and Alabama Route 14 at Prattville, Alabama. This establishment is directly across Route 14 from the Go-Go Restaurant.

Go-Go Restaurant, located on northwest corner of intersection of U. S. Highway 31 and Alabama Route 14 at Prattville, Alabama. This photo shows a water tank in the background with the lettering "PRATTVILLE". The tank is painted aluminum while the lettering is faded red. This restaurant is directly north across Route 14 from the Old Hickory Bar-B-Q.

The original negatives of these photos were developed in Montgomery, Alabama.

3/31/65

Montgomery, Alabama, and
Prattville, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

BA

b7C

Date dictated 4/1/65

243
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.

The following investigation was conducted by SAs [redacted] and [redacted]

On April 1, 1965, photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and a 1962 Chevrolet, Impala, color red and white, bearing Alabama License 1B-36964, were shown to the following individuals with negative results:

CHARLES FREEMAN, Owner, Freeman's Amoco Station, Route #6, Box 35-A, Montgomery, Alabama;

NORMAN WELCH, Manager, Taylor's American Station, 2310 Birmingham Highway, Montgomery, Alabama.

Mr. FREEMAN stated he is the owner and operator of Freeman's Amoco Station, and remains at the station until closing time each night. He stated he can think of no one else who was at the station, other than himself, on March 25, 1965, between the hours of 8:30 and 9:00 PM.

Mr. WELCH stated he is the manager of Taylor's American Station and was the only employee there during the evening of March 25, 1965. Mr. WELCH further stated that on March 25, 1965, Taylor's American Station was closed at about 8:00 PM, which is the normal closing time for each Thursday.

It is to be noted that the above-described American Service Stations were the only ones observed on Highway #31, North, from the North City Limits of Montgomery, Alabama, to within fifty miles of Birmingham, Alabama.

W. TOM JONES, American Oil Company Distributor in Montgomery, Alabama, advised SA [redacted] that all charge tickets for March 25, 1965, have been forwarded to the Credit Department, American Oil Company, 910 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

Date 3/30/65

1

HELEN BEVERLY MARTIN, 210 Franklin Street, Selma, Alabama, was interviewed at her residence and was advised of the identity of interviewing Agents and MARTIN furnished the following information:

She advised that on the evening of March 25, 1965, OUIDA A. LARSON, waitress at Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) telephonically contacted her and asked MARTIN if she would work that evening between hours 10 PM and midnight because LARSON wanted to go out on a date. MARTIN stated that she arrived at the SMC at approximately 10 PM on the evening of March 25, 1965, and worked until 12 midnight.

During this time she did not observe anything out of the ordinary other than some of the regular customers who patronize the SMC whom she can not recall by name. She advised that she can recognize them when she sees them due to the fact they are customers of the SMC. She did state that about 11:15 PM, R. B. KELLY came into the cafe by himself, had a beer and stayed about 15 minutes and left. She stated that during the time she was at the cafe, she could not recall seeing ELMER L. COOK, RAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE, or WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE that evening.

She could furnish no further information.

3/29/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

b7c

SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]

264

Date dictated 3/30/65

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 3/29/651

HELEN BEVERLY MARTIN, 210 Franklin Street, Selma, Alabama, was interviewed at her residence and furnished the following information:

HELEN MARTIN after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Number 113073, photo taken March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, number not available, but photo taken March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number not known, but reflects date photo taken as March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., Number 113076, photo taken March 26, 1965, stated she was unable to identify any of the persons represented by the photographs as having been in the Silver Moon Cafe, Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/29/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

b7c
SA
SI

266

Date dictated 3/29/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

ELsie GRINER, 38 Mechanic Street, furnished the following information:

She advised that she is a waitress at the Silver Moon Cafe in Selma, Alabama, and on March 25, 1965, she worked from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m.

She further advised she does not know EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM EATON, GARY ROWE, and COLLIE WILKINS and could not remember any strangers being in the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of March 25, 1965.

GRINER also stated she remembers the following persons as being customers at the Silver Moon sometime during the evening of March 25, 1965: BILLY HALL, "SLIM" WRIGHT, and GRADY DEASON.

3/26/65at Selma, AlabamaFile # Mobile 44-1245b7c SAs [REDACTED]

267

Date dictated

3/29/65

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

EDGAR WILTON STRIPLING, who lives over Gordon's Cafe, Washington Street and Selma Avenue, Selma, Alabama, advised he worked on the evening of March 25, 1965, at the Silver Moon Cafe. STRIPLING advised he could not remember the names of any customers who were in the Cafe during the evening of March 25, 1965.

STRIPLING stated that EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM EATON, GARY ROWE, and COLLIE WILKINS are unknown to him and he was unable to say if they were in the Silver Moon Cafe during the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/26/65

at

Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 44-1245SAs [REDACTED]

268

Date dictated 3/29/65

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/29/65

1
EDGAR WILTON STRIPLING who lives in a room over BILL GORDON's Cafe, Washington Street and Selma Avenue, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

STRIPLING after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113073, photo taken March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number not available, but photo taken March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number not known, but reflects date photo taken as March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., #113076, photo taken March 26, 1965, stated he was unable to identify any of the persons represented by the photographs as having been in the Silver Moon Cafe, Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/29/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

b7c
SA [REDACTED]
SA [REDACTED]

269

Date dictated 3/29/65

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.

Date 4/3/65

Mr. HENRY H. BAGGETT, 114 Mabry Street, a technician at the LaPorte TV Shop, was contacted at his place of employment and furnished the following information:

BAGGETT advised that he is a regular customer of the Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) and goes there once or twice a week normally to drink beer on his way home from work. He could not recall specifically whether he was at the SMC the night of March 25, 1965, but if he had been there, he probably would have left around 7:00 PM.

He advised he had no information as to who may have been involved in the murder of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO.

BAGGETT, after observing EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., advised that he could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons he had ever seen. He was shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, also and advised that he could not identify this car as being one that he ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c
SA
SA

[REDACTED]

270

Date dictated 4/1/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/29/65

GRADY DEASON, 523 Hooper Drive, advised on the evening of March 25, 1965, he and a friend, CECIL A. BRASHER, arrived at the Silver Moon Cafe in Selma sometime between 6 and 7 p.m. and remained at the Cafe until approximately 8:30 p.m.

DEASON stated he and BRASHER were together and he, DEASON, did not talk with any other customers at the Cafe. DEASON further stated the only person he remembers being in the Silver Moon Cafe was J. P. WRIGHT. DEASON advised he does not know EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM EATON, GARY ROWE, and COLLIE WILKINS and does not know if these persons were in the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/26/65 at Selma, AlabamaFile # Mobile 44-1245

b7c

SA [REDACTED]271 [REDACTED]Date dictated 3/29/65

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 3/29/65

CECIL A. BRASHER, 408 West Miriam Street, Baytown, Texas, furnished the following information at the residence of GRADY DEASON, 523 Hooper, Selma, Alabama:

He advised that on March 25, 1965, he was visiting in Selma, Alabama, and that during this visit he and GRADY DEASON went to the Silver Moon Cafe. BRASHER stated that he arrived at the residence of GRADY DEASON sometime between 5:30 and 6 p.m., March 25, 1965, and that sometime later, early in the evening, they both went to the Silver Moon Cafe and stayed approximately thirty minutes. While at the Silver Moon Cafe, BRASHER stated that the only individuals he recalls talking to were one (FNU) HALL, about 23 years old from Maplesville, Alabama, and one "SLIM" WRIGHT, whom he believes to be a welder. BRASHER stated he did not talk to any other persons and could not identify any other customers in the Cafe.

BRASHER advised he does not know EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM EATON, GARY ROWE, and COLLIE WILKINS.

3/26/65at Selma, AlabamaFile # Mobile 44-1245b7c
SA [REDACTED]

272

Date dictated 3/29/65

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.

JESSE P. WRIGHT, 528 Alabama Street, Selma, Alabama, advised that on the evening of March 25, 1965, he had coffee at the Silver Moon Cafe (SMC) around 8 PM and stayed there about 10 minutes. While at the SMC he sat at a table with GRADY DEASON, an employee of the Reliable Olds Company in Selma, and an unknown individual who now lives in Texas who formerly lives in Selma and formerly worked for GRADY DEASON at a body shop on Green Street about 5 or 6 years ago. He stated he could not recall this individual well enough to describe him but believed he was visiting Selma and intended to return that same night or the next day.

WRIGHT advised that he could not recall any other customers of the SMC, during the time he was there, by name, although he believed some construction workers may have been in the cafe. He could not recall any of these individuals by name. He stated that he did not observe KIM L. COOK, MAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE, WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE or R. B. KELLY at the SMC during the time he was there and further that he recalls no one being there who are dressed up in a suit and everyone to his recollection was dressed casually.

After leaving the SMC, he went to Zimmerman Billard Parlor near SMC and played pool, visited his mother, and then went to his home, arriving there about 9:15 PM. He stayed there the remainder of the evening.

WRIGHT viewed photographs of the following individuals and stated to his knowledge he has never seen any of them at any time:

EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965;

GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113076, date of photograph March 26, 1965;

WILLIAM OSVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, number unknown, photo dated March 26, 1965;

COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965.

3/29/65

at

Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

b7C
SA
SA

273

Date dictated 3/30/65

2
MO 44-1245

WRIGHT also viewed a photograph of subject's car, a 1962 red and white Chevrolet Impala, at which time he advised he could not identify this car as being in the vicinity of the 100 block of Washington Street, Selma, Alabama, on the evening of March 25, 1965.

1

ELSIE GRINER, 38 Mechanic Street, Selma, Alabama, who is employed as a waitress at the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, Selma, was contacted and viewed photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number unknown, photograph dated March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, SO Number 113076, dated March 26, 1965. She stated that she was unable to identify any of these photographs as individuals known to her.

She advised after viewing the photograph of a 1962 Chevrolet, red and white in color, that she did not observe this car in the vicinity of the Silver Moon Cafe March 25, 1965.

She could not furnish any information in connection with the murder of VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which took place on Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, March 25, 1965.

4-1-65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

67C SAs [REDACTED]

275 Date dictated 4-1-65

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.

Date 4/2/65

Mrs. BONITA JEAN FULLER, #77 Capps Trailer Park, (Buddy Trailer), was contacted at her place of residence, at which time she furnished the following information:

She advised that she is employed as secretary to ELMER L. COOK, owner of the C & C Novelty Company in Selma, Alabama.

On March 25, 1965, she finished her day's work at the C & C Novelty Company at about 6:00 PM that evening and went directly home. She advised that she has a three-year old child which necessitates her getting home around 6:00 PM each evening. She advised that she has a maid who takes care of her child during the day. FULLER, after observing photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS, ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, advised that she could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons she had ever seen. She was also shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, and advised that she could not identify this car as being one that she ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

She could furnish no information concerning the killing of Mrs. VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO which occurred on Highway #80 east on the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/31/65 at Selma, Alabama File # Mobile 44-1245

SA
SA

276 Date dictated 4/1/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

MO 44-1245

SMM:mf

1

67c SA [REDACTED] The following investigation was conducted by

At Selma, Alabama:

On March 25, 1965, WINTHROP WORMLEY, Dispatcher for Southwind Taxi Service, 1st and Range Street, advised that he comes on duty each night at 11:00 p.m. He advised that the preceeding shift is handled by TERESA ADAMS, who runs the dispatching radio from 3:00-11:00 p.m. He stated that he had noticed nothing peculiar since he had been on duty and had not seen any cars in the area that he paid any particular attention to. He stated that the area of 1st and Range is almost entirely Negro, with the exception of some white civil rights workers who have been living in the area. WORMLEY added that the taxi-cab drivers for Southwind often are at the dispatching office when they are not in service and that it is possible some of them might have noticed if any cars containing a group of white males was in the vicinity for any length of time on March 25, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1Date 3/26/65

RICHARD MOORE, 901 Green Street, Selma, Alabama, who is a cab driver for the Southwind Cab Company, Selma, Alabama, advised the Southwind Cab Company is just off the corner of Range Street and First Avenue and stated that he had come on duty at about 9:30 p.m., March 25, 1965. He added that PHILLIP GREEN, Green's Service Station, Range Street and First Avenue, had told him about the murder which happened on Highway 80, east of Selma, at about midnight. He added that he could not remember if Mr. GREEN told him where he received the information.

Mr. MOORE further advised that directly across from Green's Service Station is the B and P Gulf Station, which is operated by PHILLIP ECKIN; and also that the CMA Market, 1624 Range Street, is directly across the street from the B and P Gulf Station. Mr. MOORE added that the area of Range Street and First Avenue is populated mainly by Negroes and that all the businesses in the area are operated by Negroes. He further advised that there are some white persons living in the area and purchase food at the local grocery store.

Mr. MOORE advised that he knew nothing else concerning the murder and that the only person who had mentioned it to him was Mr. GREEN.

3/26/65at Selma, AlabamaFile # Mobile 44-1245

b7c

SAs [REDACTED]

278

Date dictated 3/26/65

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/26/65

1
VIRGINIA LACKOIS, owner, Jet Restaurant, Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, advised she had been on duty since 11 a.m., March 25, 1965. She added that business during the evening of March 25, 1965, had been very slow and that she had had practically no customers at all.

Mrs. LACKOIS further advised that during no period after 5 p.m., March 25, 1965, did three men in any one car come into the restaurant. She added that she does not remember anyone being at the restaurant in a Ford with the model from 1955 to 1960. She also stated she could not remember anyone in a 1964 or 1965 Chevrolet.

Mrs. LACKOIS further stated she has no information regarding the murder which took place on Highway 80 between Selma and Montgomery, Alabama, on the evening of March 25, 1965, but that she had heard about it from a Deputy Sheriff.

3/26/65 at Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c SAs [REDACTED] 279

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

1Date 3/26/65

MARY MIMS, 313 Warren, Selma, Alabama, waitress, Jet Restaurant, Highway 80 East, Selma, Alabama, advised that she had been on duty since 11 a.m., March 25, 1965. She stated that business had been very slow during the early and late evening of March 25, 1965.

Miss MIMS stated that at no time during the evening did three men in any one car come into the restaurant. She added that she does not remember seeing a Ford car with model from 1955 through 1960 at the restaurant during the evening. She added that she does not remember seeing a 1965 or 1965 white Chevrolet during the evening of March 25, 1965.

She further stated that she knows nothing concerning the murder which took place on Highway 80, east of Selma, Alabama, but that she had heard about it from a Deputy Sheriff.

3/26/65 at Selma, AlabamaFile # Mobile 44-1245

b7c SAs [REDACTED] 280 [REDACTED]

Date dictated 3/26/65

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/31/65

Mr. GRADY DEASON was contacted at the Reliable Oldsmobile Company, 16 Lawrence Street, and was shown photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, at which time he stated that he could not identify any of those persons as anyone he saw in the Silver Moon Cafe during the evening of March 25, 1965, and could not identify the photograph of the 1962 Chevrolet, red and white in color, as any automobile he noticed parked near the Silver Moon.

DEASON stated that while he was in the Silver Moon Cafe that evening he was with a friend of his, CECIL BRASHER, and they were talking together, and he did not notice who may have been around the Silver Moon while he was in there.

3/29/65

Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

b7c
SA
SA

[REDACTED]

181

Date dictated 3/30/65

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.

Date 4/1/65

WILLIAM TROY MITCHELL, employed as timekeeper with the Alabama Power Company, advised that he has been in Selma since January 25, 1965, working on cross-country power lines to the Dan River Project.

He related that he eats dinner regularly at three or four restaurants in Selma, one of which is the Silver Moon Cafe. MITCHELL stated he does not recall whether he ate at the Silver Moon Cafe on March 25, 1965.

MITCHELL, after observing photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, advised that he could not recognize any of these individuals as being persons he had ever seen. He was also shown photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet automobile, white over red in color, and advised that he could not identify this car as being one that he ever saw in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe.

3/29/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

b7C SA
SA

282
/bah

Date dictated 3/30/65

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.

Date 4/1/65

NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE was contacted at the Selma Motor Company, 100 block of Franklin Street, at which time he advised that he had been in the Silver Moon Cafe on the evening of Thursday, March 25, 1965, for a few minutes between 8:00 and 8:30 PM. He stated that he does not recall seeing anyone in the cafe wearing a suit, and he was unable to identify photographs of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS, COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, or GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., as anyone he has ever met. He stated that he does not recall having any conversation whatever with any strangers in the Silver Moon Cafe that evening and could not identify photographs of a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red in color, as any car he has seen around Selma.

HOGGLE stated that he has no information whatever regarding this matter.

3/30/65 at Selma, Alabama File # MO 44-1245

SA
SA

/bah

283

Date dictated 3/30/65

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

1
MO 44-1245
RTB/lr

The following investigation was conducted at Craig Air Force Base, Selma, Alabama, on April 1, 1965, by SA [REDACTED] and SA [REDACTED]

b7c

A2/C CURTIS SNEED and A3/C EDWARD ZILIAK advised that they were on duty at the main gate, Craig Air Force Base, between hours 3:30 PM and 12 midnight, on March 25, 1965. Both were displayed photographs of subjects and the car subjects were travelling in. Both SNEED and ZILIAK stated that this vehicle is unknown to them. They pointed out that they were the only officers on duty at the main gate and that there was no military police vehicle in the area. Both SNEED and ZILIAK are attached to Headquarters Squadron, 316th Training Wing, in the capacity of Air Police.

284

The following persons, all residents of Lawrence Street, Selma, Alabama, were contacted on March 31, 1965. Special Agents [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] were extensively interviewed and displayed photographs of subjects and subjects' vehicle to determine if any of them had observed this vehicle in the area of Lawrence Street on the evening of March 25, 1965. All persons contacted were unable to make any identification. 67C

CHARLIE OLDS, 1518 Jeff Davis.
MILTON HOPKINS, 113 C, Carver Homes.
GERTRUDE SMITH, 713 Lawrence Street.
AMANDA KEMP, 711 Lawrence Street.
WILLIE SMITH, 707 Lawrence Street.
ARTHUR SMITH, 707 Lawrence Street.
ISAAC FULLER, 802 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. BILLY LESTER, 904 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. GREEN, 716 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. STELLA DAVIS, 712 Lawrence Street.
SALLY PEARL LUNDY, 708 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. SMILEY, 710 Lawrence Street.
Mrs. CHERIN, 710 Lawrence Street.
ROSIE MARSHALL, 614 Lawrence Street.
JOHN MC GHEE, 612 Lawrence Street.

Numerous other persons were located on Lawrence Street and displayed photographs of subjects' vehicle. All were unable to make any type of identification and their names were too numerous to record.

Mr. W. W. CUNNINGHAM, JR., construction foreman, Alabama Power Company, was contacted on Highway 10, eight miles west of Luverne, Alabama, at which time he advised that G. K. SNOW, WILLIAM J. WEBSTER, and JERRY V. LEITH are members of his crew but at that time were out of contact back in the woods in an inaccessible area on the power line.

He stated that he knew the FBI had contacted SPENCER E. COONER and WILLIAM T. MITCHELL recently, who are members of his crew, regarding some activity around the Silver Moon Cafe in Selma, Alabama. He said he and his crew worked out of Selma for the past several weeks and they ate in several restaurants in Selma, including the Silver Moon. He stated they ate together and had no contact with local people in the restaurant and he was unable to identify photographs of ELMER L. COOK, R. B. KELLY, NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE, and WILLIAM STANLEY HOGGLE. He was also unable to identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., EUGENE THOMAS, and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, as any persons he saw around the Silver Moon Cafe and was also unable to identify photographs showing a 1962 Chevrolet, white over red, as any vehicle he noticed in that area.

He stated that he does not recall if he even ate at the Silver Moon Cafe during the evening of March 9 and March 25, 1965, and did not witness any assault on three men in that area.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM said since he had learned that two of his men had been contacted by the FBI, he has questioned his entire crew of seventeen and they all have stated that they knew nothing about any assault or other incidents around the Silver Moon Cafe.

4/1/65

at Luverne, Alabama

File # Mobile 44-1233

Mobile 44-1245

b7c SAs [REDACTED]

Date dictated

4/1/65

286
This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/30/65

O. T. JACKSON, home address 128 Washington Avenue, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information:

JACKSON advised that on Monday, March 22, 1965, he began working for his father at the Black and White Cab Company on Washington Avenue, Selma, Alabama, as a taxicab dispatcher.

He stated that he was not in the Silver Moon Cafe on March 25, 1965, and could not identify photographs of COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, EUGENE THOMAS, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, and GARY THOMAS ROWE as being any individuals he has ever seen. JACKSON also observed photographs of a red and white 1962 Chevrolet. He related that he had never seen this vehicle parked in the area of the Silver Moon Cafe to the best of his recollection.

JACKSON could furnish no further information in regard to this matter.

3/29/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # Mobile 44-1245

b7c
SA
SA

/bah

Date dictated 3/30/65

287
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 3/31/65

1

R. E. LANGSTON, Route 1, Box 188, Billingsley, Alabama, was interviewed at his place of employment, Baggett Transportation Company, Selma, Alabama, and furnished the following information:

He advised he is a truck driver for Baggett Transportation Company and on March 25, 1965, he reported for work about 3:00 a.m. that morning. He stated he did not return from making his regular deliveries until 7:30 p.m. When he returned that evening, his wife, MARIE LANGSTON, was at the Baggett Transportation Company, waiting for him, at which time he got off work and his wife and he proceeded home and stayed there all evening. He stated that they did not stop along the way and were not at the Silver Moon Cafe that evening.

He stated that his wife was employed as a waitress at the Silver Moon Cafe for approximately 14 years and he stated that they visited the Silver Moon Cafe frequently.

He stated that he knows ELMER L. COOK, WILLIAM STANLEY and NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE and R. B. KELLY, due to the fact that his wife worked at the Silver Moon Cafe and he became acquainted with them.

Mr. LANGSTON, after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number 113073, date of photograph March 26, 1965; WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number unknown, date of photograph March 26, 1965; and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, Sheriff's Office Number 113076, date of photograph March 26, 1965, stated he was unable to identify any of these persons as being known to him.

Mr. LANGSTON, after viewing photographs of a 1962 red and white Chevrolet Impala, was unable to state whether

3/30/65at Selma, AlabamaFile # MO 44-1245

b7c SAS

FBI/JSN

Date dictated 3/31/65

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

he had seen this automobile in the vicinity of Selma, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

Mr. LANGSTON could furnish no further information in connection with the killing which happened on Highway 80 east of Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 3/31/65

MARIE LANGSTON, Route 1, Box 188, Billingsley, Alabama, was interviewed at the Baggett Transportation Company, Selma, Alabama, and furnished the following information:

She advised that she leaves her house at approximately 4:30 p.m. each day and arrives at the Baggett Transportation Company approximately 5:00 p.m., where she waits for her husband, R. E. LANGSTON, who is employed at the Baggett Transportation Company as a truck driver.

On March 25, 1965, she arrived at Baggett Transportation Company as usual and picked up her husband who arrived late that evening approximately between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. She advised that both went directly home and did not leave their residence that night.

The first time she heard of a person being killed on Highway 80, east of Selma, Alabama, was that night when she was watching television and a news bulletin was flashed over television concerning this murder.

She further stated that she has worked at the Silver Moon Cafe, 138 Washington Street, Selma, Alabama, for about 14 years, but has not worked at this cafe during the past two years. Mrs. LANGSTON was unable to furnish any names of people who might patronize the Silver Moon Cafe.

She advised she knows R. B. KELLY, WILLIAM STANLEY and NAMON O'NEAL HOGGLE and ELMER COOK, due to the fact that they patronize the Silver Moon Cafe and she knew them when she was a waitress.

Mrs. LANGSTON could not furnish any information in connection with the killing which happened on Highway 80 east of Selma, Alabama, the evening of March 25, 1965.

3/30/65at Selma, AlabamaFile # MO 44-1245

b7c SA

PMC/jsw 290

Date dictated 3/31/65

document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

Date 3/1/65

1

Mrs. FRANCES E. BOWDEN, 813 Pettus Street, Selma, Alabama, was interviewed and stated that she was in the vicinity of the 100 block of Washington Street, Selma, from 2 PM, March 25, 1965, until about 6 PM that evening at which time she left the Coffee Pot Cafe and went home. She advised she went home so her mother could attend church that evening. She advised she could furnish no information about the killing which took place on Highway 80 east of Selma, on March 25, 1965.

Mrs. BOWDEN after viewing the photographs of EUGENE THOMAS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, #113073, date of photo March 26, 1965; WILLIAM OFVILLE EATON, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number unknown, date of photo March 26, 1965; COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., number unknown, date of photo March 26, 1965, and GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., Sheriff's Office, Birmingham, Ala., #113076, date of photo March 26, 1965, stated she was unable to identify any of these persons as being known to her.

BOWDEN after viewing photographs of 1962 red and white Chevrolet Impala, was unable to state whether she had seen this automobile in vicinity of Selma, Alabama, on March 25, 1965.

3/31/65

at Selma, Alabama

File # MO 44-1245

b7c SA
SA

291

Date dictated 3/31/65

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.

MO 44-1245

SECTION XVII

MISCELLANEOUS INTERVIEWS WITH
NATIONAL GUARD PERSONNEL AND
INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN CIVIL
RIGHTS WORK, SELMA, ALABAMA

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 troops out of the Selma, Alabama, area as of 9 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. b7c

Colonel MORGAN advised 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 L. 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 312, Clanton, Alabama, was unable to furnish any information that would be of assistance in any way.

According to Lt. OVERSTREET, Warrant Officer W. P. 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 are 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

Chapel. were interviewed on March 26, 1965. They were questioned concerning the 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, SP4, interviewed by
Special Agent WENNIE G. POLLARD;

NORRIS LOVETT, SP4, interviewed by
Special Agent WILLIAM H. HAGERTY, JR.;

DON JENKINS, SP4, interviewed by Special
Agent WILLIAM H. HAGERTY, JR.;

ED HENRY BRADLEY, Corporal, interviewed by
Special Agent WILLIAM H. HAGERTY, JR.;

JESSIE GRIFFITH, PC, interviewed by
Special Agent MICHAEL R. KILGALLON;

JAMES THOMPSON, PC, interviewed by
Special Agent MICHAEL R. KILGALLON;

JAMES H. CARPENTER, PIC, interviewed by
Special Agent MICHAEL R. KILGALLON;

JOE HOFMEYER, SP4, interviewed by
Special Agent MICHAEL R. KILGALLON;

DON GRIFFITH, PC, interviewed by
Special Agent JOHN R. RILEY;

JAMES F. TURNER, SP1, interviewed by
Special Agent JOHN R. RILEY;

BILLY TAYLOR, Sergeant, interviewed by
Special Agent DANIEL T. CLANCY

Mr. THOMAS BISSINGER, 116 Perry Street, New York 14, New York, presently residing at 121-C George Washington Carter Apartments, Selma, Alabama, furnished the following information to SA [REDACTED] b7c

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 Oldsmobile 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.

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

On March 25, 1965, the following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [REDACTED] b7c

TOM BESSINGER, who was presently residing at 121 George Washington Court, 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 Hardy 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 1961 Oldsmobile on the left side of the highway.

B. T. BONNER, Negro male, home address 1907 Witters Street, Augusta, Georgia, advised he had been following BILL BUSBY 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 tall wheels. 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 gas 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. He advised it was at that time that he saw a car to the left of the highway. He stated he did not stop at that time and that he did not know who the Negro was. He advised he proceeded on to Selma and upon his return he determined that LEROY MOORE was a Negro who had attempted to stop him.

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:

ABRAHAM BATES. 1211 Voeglin. Selma, Alabama;

LEWIS DAVIDSON. 1149 Union Avenue;

JONATHAN DANIELS. 1180 George Washington Carver;

JOHN UPHAM, 1180 George Washington Carver;

LYNN ADDISON. 1180 George Washington Carver;

MARGARET DOBBIE, 1180 George Washington Carver;

DAVID BEY. Torch Motel;

JIM WILSON, Torch Motel;

FRANK SORACCO. 1021 Eugene;

WILLIE JAMES HARKIN. 862 Lucy Street,
Montgomery, Alabama;

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

MO 44-1245

SECTION. VIII

FEDERAL PROSECUTION

b7c 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 [REDACTED] 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

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 ROBB of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, during the course of an official investigation.

NO 44-1245

JRC/gmh/mjr

1

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.

BH 44-1236

RGJ:mjh

Miss MILLIE DAVIS, U. S. Marshal's Office, Birmingham, Alabama, advised that EUGENE THOMAS, GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR., and WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON were released on \$50,000 bond at 9:30 p.m., March 26, 1965.

She advised that COLLIE LEROY WILKINS was not released on March 26, 1965, as he was held on a probation violator's warrant issued by U. S. District Judge C. W. ALGOOD, Birmingham, Alabama. Miss DAVIS said that WILKINS was subsequently released on \$50,000 bond for the warrant in connection with the shooting of victim, Mrs. ANTHONY J. LIUZZO and an additional \$500 bond on the probation violator's warrant. WILKINS was released at approximately 2:30 p.m., March 29, 1965.

March 27, 1965

At 1:41 p.m. on March 26, 1965, WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, EUGENE THOMAS and COLLIE LEROY WILKINS, JR., appeared before U. S. Commissioner LOUISE O. CHARLTON, Room 300, Federal Building, Birmingham, Alabama. All three men were represented by Attorney MATT MURPHY. The U. S. Government was represented by Assistant U. S. Attorney R. MACEY TAYLOR.

Mr. TAYLOR advised the U. S. Commissioner that warrants had been issued for EATON, THOMAS and WILKINS in the Middle District of Alabama on March 26, 1965, for violation of Title 18, U. S. Code, Section 241. Mr. TAYLOR further stated the original warrant had not arrived at that time in Birmingham but should be in the possession of the U. S. Marshal in Birmingham on or before March 29, 1965.

At this time U. S. Commissioner CHARLTON stated that she would then set a temporary bond for the above three men. Mr. TAYLOR asked the Commissioner if she wished the recommendation of the U. S. Attorney's Office pertaining to the amount of the bond. The U. S. Commissioner stated she did not wish this recommendation and then set bond for each of the three above-listed men at \$50,000 each.

At this point, EATON, THOMAS and WILKINS were placed in the custody of the U. S. Marshal in Birmingham, Alabama, in lieu of bond.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236
by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/27/65

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.

304

Da. March 29, 1965

b7c LOUISE O. CHARLTON, U. S. Commissioner, Birmingham, Alabama, issued the following search warrants on affidavits sworn to by SA [REDACTED] on March 26, 1965:

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18408, for the search of Apartment #35-A, 205 - 16th Place, Southwest, Birmingham, Alabama, the residence of GARY THOMAS ROWE, JR.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18406, for the search of the residence and automobile of WILLIAM ORVILLE EATON, Route 6, Box 866, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18409, for the search of the residence and automobile of EUGENE THOMAS, 1519 - 12th Avenue, North, Bessemer, Alabama.

Commissioner's Docket #75, Case #18407, for the search of the residence and automobile of COLLEY LEROY WILKINS, JR., 4005 - 40th Way, Birmingham, Alabama.

On March 26, 1965, the above-described search warrant issued in Case #18406 was returned unexecuted.

On 3/26/65 at Birmingham, Alabama File # BH 44-1236

b7c by SA [REDACTED] Date dictated 3/29/65

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.

305

— MO 44-1245

SECTION XVIV

STATE PROSECUTION

MO 44-1245

JRC:gmh

1

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.

RUFUS HEAD, 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."

307

MO 44-1245

Information in this memo is furnished solely for the official use of the persons and authorities to whom it has been furnished for the prosecution of the subjects who have been identified in the investigation of the attacks on VIOLA GREGG LIUZZO (deceased) and LEROY JEROME MOTON.

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.

307A