AT 44-879

Synopsis cont'd:

Subject CHERRY. Evidence submitted indicating subject acted in line of duty and in self-defense. MARY EDITH ROBINSON, girlfriend of COUNTRYMAN, in signed statement advised she and Victim COUNTRYMAN standing in back yard about 1:30 AM, May 25, 1958, when they heard noise. COUNTRYMAN went to see who was there. She heard COUNTRYMAN say "I'm sorry, I didn't know it was you all." Also heard noise like someone falling and shot. She ran from COUNTRYMAN's yard. Her presence at scene apparently unknown to residents of Dawson, Ga. Discrepancies as to who found knife, where knife found, color, size, length and sharpness of blade. Whereabouts of knife unknown at present. Description and arrest record of Victim set forth. In newspaper interview CHERRY alleges he was attacked by COUNTRYMAN.

- P -

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon information furnished by JOHN WESLEY DOBBS, Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall, Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Jurisdiction of Georgia, 330 Auburn Avenue, N.E., Atlanta, Georgia, on May 28, 1958.

Mr. DOBBS turned over to Special Agent EDWARD T. KASSINGER a letter received by him from a group of Negroes, in Terrell County, Georgia.

Mr. DOBBS stated that Mr. CHARLES GILMAN, State CIO Labor Leader, 1026 Hurt Building, Atlanta, Georgia, and Mr. L. H. PITTS, State Secretary of the Georgia Education and Teachers Association (which is a statewide organization of Negro school teachers), Atlanta, Georgia, both had been in touch with him concerning the "situation" in Terrell County, Georgia, referred to in the letter. The following letter was furnished by Mr. DOBBS to SA KASSINGER:

"Dawson, Ga.
5/25/58

"TO OUR GRAND MASTER:

"Mr. JOHN WESLEY DOBBS. This is the report on the killing. from ST. Mark Lodge No. 59.

AT 44-879

"Please give this report to F.B.I. Willie Countrymon were killed 1:30 A.M Sunday morning by Officer Cheery & Officer Handcox in his yard something concerning his wife and him. Billie Flag were Beaten awful also Jene Windfro By the same night officers. Officer Cheery & Officer Handcox They shot TOBB Latimore Friday night the 23rd. It has been said that he MR Cheery say he is going to get four more. The colord people is worred and afred, But if something dont be done some are planing on getting there guns and trying to stop it that way seam like no one else cares if they kill all of us. They dont belive no one care for them we are praying that something be done in a hurry!! in a Hurry! in a Hurry! Seam like the whole City Official is so nasty. these colord men cant hardly talk to their women. You see it almost dangerst to go out to church at night. God only knows what we are going to do.

"B.W. Cooper have the Body On Grays Highway. His cursin Lives on Grays Highway Odell William. He can tell them something. Listen here are some to keep secret please this is the Committe that is working. We have a Name. L.J.O. Law, Justice, Order.

"Rev. JOHN B. HILLSMAN CHR.
311-W. 6th AVE
REV. ZH BAILEY.
2ND. AVE.
REV. W.W. REYNOLD
9TH. AVE. W.
REV. S. M. MASSEY
ROUTE
SASSER, GA.
MR. M. J. HALL
ROUTE
REV. JAMES RENOLD
P.O. BOX 45
SASSER, GA.

"WHEN THEY COME PLEASE GET TO THESE MEN! WE WORK UNDER THE L.J.O. PLEASE COME! PLEASE COME! PLEASE COME! WE CANT HOLD THESE PEOPLE MUCH LONGER."

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents JAMES J. WARD and HENRY L. BURGETT;

AT DAWSON, GEORGIA

On June 4, 1958, Chief of Police HOWARD L. LEE, was advised of allegation and that an investigation was being instituted.