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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

San Antonio, Texas 78296

February 23, 1993

VERNON HOWELL,  
ALSO KNOWN AS (AKA)  
DAVID KORESH  
INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE AND SLAVERY

*Davidian*

VERNON HOWELL is the present leader and prophet of an organization known as the Branch Dividend, 7th Day Adventists, located at Mount (Mt) Carmel, near Waco, Texas. HOWELL also uses the name DAVID KORESH and is known by that name by the individuals living at Mt. Carmel. From the mid-1950's through 1978, the group was headed by an individual by the name of BENJAMIN RHODEN and his wife, LOIS. In 1978, RHODEN died and his wife was the sole leader until 1986. In 1986, LOIS RHODEN passed away and her son, GEORGE RHODEN, and VERNON HOWELL became the co-leaders of the organization.

Shortly after GEORGE RHODEN and HOWELL were appointed as the leaders, HOWELL was accused of raping RHODEN's mother. RHODEN dismissed VERNON HOWELL and several of his followers and renamed the land the organization was living on as Rhodenville. HOWELL and several of the residents that were dismissed, attempted to reclaim their land and were involved in a shoot-out with the McLennan County Sheriff's Office. Presently, GEORGE RHODEN is incarcerated for murder and HOWELL is the sole leader at Mt. Carmel.

Allegations were received by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the Spring of 1992, that HOWELL (also known as DAVID KORESH) may have been planning a mass suicide event at Mt. Carmel. Also, allegations were received that HOWELL may be holding members of the Sect under conditions which may constitute violations of the Federal laws pertaining to involuntary servitude and slavery.



VERNON HOWELL

On March 17, 1992, a complaint was received by the Office of the United States Representative FRED UPTON, St. Joseph, Michigan. The complaint alleged allegations similar to those previously received as well as child molestation charges regarding HOWELL. Due to the allegations made, several other agencies were advised by the FBI of the status at Mt. Carmel. These agencies included the Department of Human Services, Child Protective Services, Department of Public Safety Intelligence Division, Internal Revenue Service, McLennan County Sheriff's Office, and the Department of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms.

Investigative reports were received from Child Protective Services, reporting the results of unannounced visits and interviews at the Mt. Carmel compound. Investigation continued during the time frame for which the mass suicide was to take place, during the Spring of 1992. To date, no further information has been developed by the San Antonio Division of the FBI to substantiate the accuracy of the reports concerning any potential acts of violence/self-destruction by members and/or leaders of this religious sect. Those law enforcement agencies also notified of the circumstances involving Mt. Carmel have not filed charges as of February 1993. Close liaison is maintained by the FBI with each affected agency to ensure close monitoring of this situation as it may pertain to any potential federal violations of the law.

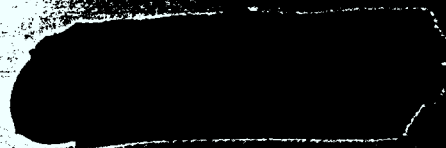
Due to the receipt of a duplicate letter forwarded to Congressman CHET EDWARDS Office, Waco, Texas, which was previously in the possession of Congressman FRED UPTON, St. Joseph, Michigan, all appropriate local and federal law enforcement agencies have been re-notified.





but should  
Branch Divident  
in LHM be changed to  
Favidian ??

(JW)



b7c





Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
**Internal Routing/Action Slip**

TO	ROOM	NAME/TITLE	TO	ROOM	NAME/TITLE
	7162	The Director		7240	Inspector in Charge
	7142	Deputy Director		7240	Mr. Knapp (Acting) Inspector - Deputy Chief
				7240	Congressional Affairs Div.
	7110	Assoc. Deputy Director - Adm.		7222	Media Services Unit
	7116	Assoc. Deputy Director - Inv.		7867	Special Productions Unit
				N-956	Tour Office
	7176	Director's Secretary			
	7176	Director's Special Assistant (Attn: )		7278	Mr. Knapp Inspector - Deputy Chief
				6236	Correspondence Unit
				7262	Publications Unit
	7901	Office of EEO Affairs		7350	Research Unit
	7443	Office of Liaison & Intl. Aff.		6765	Special Events Unit
				7278	Speech Unit
	11255	Identification Division			
Quantico		Training Division		7156	Travel Office
	6012	Administrative Services Div.		6437	Information Desk
	5829	Information Management Div.		6437	Mail Room
	4026	Intelligence Division		6437	Payroll
a) ✓	5043	Criminal Investigative Div.		6912	Personnel Records
	3090	Laboratory Division		6248	Reading Room
	7159	Technical Services Division		6248	Reading Room (Autopass)
	7427	Legal Counsel Division		6167	Voucher Unit
	7125	Inspection Division			
	11661	Criminal Justice Information Services Division			

*Re [Signature]*  
*"Branch"*

Call Me  
 See Me  
 Approp. Action  
 Initial  
 Per Inquiry

For Your Info.  
 Note & Return  
 Record & Return  
 See Reverse Side

FROM: [Redacted]

Office of Public and Congressional Affairs

Room: [Redacted]  
 Date: [Redacted]  
 [Redacted]

b7C

EX



Please index  
w/ correct  
spelling:

BRANCH DAVIDIAN

Thanks

b7c



*Freedom of Information  
and  
Privacy Acts*

*Subject: DAVID KORESH / BEFORE WACO*

*File Number: 63-0-113357X, X1, X2*



*Federal Bureau of Investigation*



DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR.  
MICHIGAN

COMMITTEES:  
BANKING, HOUSING, AND  
URBAN AFFAIRS: Chairman  
FINANCE  
BUDGET

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2201

April 21, 1992

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Congressional Affairs Office  
10th and Pennsylvania Ave.  
Washington, D.C. 20535  
Attention: [REDACTED]

Dear Ms [REDACTED]

MISCELLANEOUS NON-SUBV [REDACTED]

b7c

I am writing you on behalf of my constituent, [REDACTED]

Mr [REDACTED] has contacted my office with his concerns regarding the activities of a religious cult in Texas known as the Branch Davidian Seventh Day Adventists. My Staff Assistant [REDACTED] has faxed to you a letter detailing [REDACTED] concerns as well as a statement given by [REDACTED]

Would you please give this matter your attention and consideration and provide my regional office listed below with your findings.

Thank you for your prompt assistance in this matter.

63-0-13357X

ENCLOSURE

Sincerely,

*Donald W. Riegle, Jr.*  
Donald W. Riegle, Jr.

Central Regional Office  
705 Washington Square Bldg.  
109 West Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48933

Interim sent to Sen Riegle  
4-21-92  
GMO

Final Reply to Hon. Riegle  
dated 6/10/92. HLL  
BHM/jur

### MICHIGAN REGIONAL OFFICES

WAYNE-MONROE  
1155 Brewery Park Blvd.  
Suite 343  
Detroit, MI 48207

SOUTHEASTERN  
Century Center Bldg., 3d Floor  
30800 Van Dyke  
Warren, MI 48093

EASTERN  
Suite 910  
352 S. Saginaw Street  
Flint, MI 48902

CENTRAL  
705 Washington Square Bldg.  
109 W. Michigan Ave.  
Lansing, MI 48933

WESTERN  
Suite 716 Federal Bldg.  
110 Michigan Ave., N.W.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

NORTHERN-LOWER  
308 Front Street  
Traverse City, MI 49683

UPPER PENINSULA  
Room 912  
209 W. Mack  
Marquette, MI 49855



b7C

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

OFFICE OF UNITED STATES  
SENATOR DONALD W. RIEGLE, JR.  
109 WEST MICHIGAN AVENUE, SUITE 705  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48933  
(517) 377- [REDACTED]

RECEIVED

b7C

DATE: 20 April 1992

TO: [REDACTED] b7C

FROM: [REDACTED] 1

RE: Allegation against religious cult

NUMBER OF PAGES (including cover sheet): 13

COMMENTS/INSTRUCTIONS:



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

(b)(7)(A)

(d)(5)

(b)(2)

(b)(7)(B)

(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

(k)(1)

(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(8)

(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

(k)(6)

(b)(6)

(k)(7)

- Information pertained only to a third party with no reference to the subject of your request or the subject of your request is listed in the title only.
- Documents originated with another Government agency(ies). These documents were referred to that agency(ies) for review and direct response to you.

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

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

Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of

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

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

63-0-113357X Pages 3-15 (Texas Department of Human Services)

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

XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX







163C-SA-37281  
BRG:brg

Results of this investigation, under San Antonio file #163C-SA-37281 (initial allegation received from authorities in Australia), will be furnished to the Bureau upon completion.



XXXXXX  
XXXXXX  
XXXXXX

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

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

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

Section 552

Section 552a

(b)(1)

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(d)(5)

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(j)(2)

(b)(3)

(b)(7)(C)

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(b)(7)(D)

(k)(2)

(b)(7)(E)

(k)(3)

(b)(7)(F)

(k)(4)

(b)(4)

(b)(8)

(k)(5)

(b)(5)

(b)(9)

(k)(6)

(b)(6)

(k)(7)

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Pages were not considered for release as they are duplicative of

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

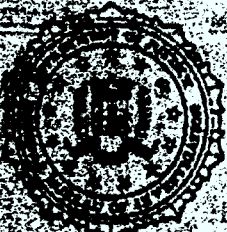
The following number is to be used for reference regarding these pages:

63-0-113357X1- Pages 2, 3, 5, 7-10

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FBI FACSIMILE  
COVERSHEET

CLASSIFICATION

PRECEDENCE

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

- Top Secret
- Secret
- Confidential
- Sensitive
- Unclassified

Time Transmitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Sender's Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Pages: \_\_\_\_\_

FBI HQ - Correspondence Unit  
(Name of Office)

Date: 5-22-57

[Redacted]

b7c

(Name) (Room) (Telephone No.)

FBI - DETROIT  
(Name of Office)

Subject: Inquiry re Branch Davidson  
Seventh Day Adventist from  
Senator Paul Ragle

Handling Instructions: pls hand carry to [Redacted]

Senator's Name: [Redacted] Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Senator's Facility: \_\_\_\_\_

NY 100

Reled 5-22-57  
[Handwritten initials]



Indices Search Slip  
FD-160 (Rev. 7-28-89)

To: Office Services Manager

Date: 5/22/92  
 Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ext. Squad: File No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Social Security Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Subject: Vernon W. Howell  
 Aliases: aka: David Koresh

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Place: \_\_\_\_\_ Race: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex:  Male  Female

Exact Spelling  All References  Main Security Case Files Only  Security References Only  
 Main Criminal Case Files Only  Criminal References Only  Main Security (if no Main, list all Security References)  Main Criminal (if no Main, list all Criminal References)  Restrict Locality of \_\_\_\_\_

<input type="checkbox"/> General Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> 1918: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS
Searched by: _____ Date: _____	Searched by: _____ Date: _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Confidential Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> OCIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS
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<input type="checkbox"/> ELSUR Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> INS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS
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<input type="checkbox"/> FORMS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> MICRO: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS
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<input type="checkbox"/> GLOBAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> REGIONAL: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS
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Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches.

Northeast	Mid-Atlantic	Central	Western
<input type="checkbox"/> Albany <input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland <input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany <input type="checkbox"/> Boston <input type="checkbox"/> London England <input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> New York City <input type="checkbox"/> Newark <input type="checkbox"/> Paris France <input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia <input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta <input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore <input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte <input type="checkbox"/> Jackson <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville <input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville <input type="checkbox"/> Memphis <input type="checkbox"/> Miami <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans <input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk <input type="checkbox"/> Quantico <input type="checkbox"/> Richmond <input type="checkbox"/> San Juan <input type="checkbox"/> Savannah <input type="checkbox"/> Tampa <input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo <input type="checkbox"/> Chicago <input type="checkbox"/> Cincinnati <input type="checkbox"/> Cleveland <input type="checkbox"/> Dallas <input type="checkbox"/> Denver <input type="checkbox"/> Detroit <input type="checkbox"/> El Paso <input type="checkbox"/> Houston <input type="checkbox"/> Indianapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Kansas City <input type="checkbox"/> Little Rock <input type="checkbox"/> Louisville <input type="checkbox"/> Milwaukee <input type="checkbox"/> Minneapolis <input type="checkbox"/> Oklahoma City <input type="checkbox"/> Omaha <input type="checkbox"/> Pittsburgh <input type="checkbox"/> San Antonio <input type="checkbox"/> Springfield <input type="checkbox"/> St. Louis <input type="checkbox"/> All above	<input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque <input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage <input type="checkbox"/> Butte <input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu <input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas <input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles <input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix <input type="checkbox"/> Portland <input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento <input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City <input type="checkbox"/> San Diego <input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco <input type="checkbox"/> Seattle <input type="checkbox"/> All above

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks
<u>50Z-1-36 p. 2 (2-92)</u>			

Consolidated by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 File Review Symbols: \_\_\_\_\_



Indices Search Slip  
FD-160 (Rev. 7-28-89)

Date: 5/22/92

Requested by:

Ext. Squad: File No.

To: Office Services Manager

Subject: Branch Seventh Day Adventists

Aliases:

Social Security Account #

Address Birth Date Birth Place Race Sex

- Exact Spelling
- All References
- Main Security Case Files Only
- Security References Only
- Main Criminal Case Files Only
- Criminal References Only
- Main Security (If no Main, list all Security References)
- Main Criminal (If no Main, list all Criminal References)
- Restrict Locality of

<input type="checkbox"/> General Indices: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS	<input type="checkbox"/> ISIS: <input type="checkbox"/> NEG <input type="checkbox"/> POS
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Place an "X" by the Field Office(s) to Query for Regional Searches

- | Northeast  | Mid-Atlantic  | Central   | Western  |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Albany<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bern Switzerland<br><input type="checkbox"/> Bonn Germany<br><input type="checkbox"/> Boston<br><input type="checkbox"/> London England<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mexico City Mexico<br><input type="checkbox"/> New York City<br><input type="checkbox"/> Newark<br><input type="checkbox"/> Paris France<br><input type="checkbox"/> Philadelphia<br><input type="checkbox"/> Rome Italy<br><input type="checkbox"/> All above | <input type="checkbox"/> Atlanta<br><input type="checkbox"/> Baltimore<br><input type="checkbox"/> Birmingham<br><input type="checkbox"/> Charlotte<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jackson<br><input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville<br><input type="checkbox"/> Knoxville<br><input type="checkbox"/> Memphis<br><input type="checkbox"/> Miami<br><input type="checkbox"/> Mobile | <input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans<br><input type="checkbox"/> Norfolk<br><input type="checkbox"/> Quantico<br><input type="checkbox"/> Richmond<br><input type="checkbox"/> San Juan<br><input type="checkbox"/> Savannah<br><input type="checkbox"/> Tampa<br><input type="checkbox"/> Washington Field<br><input type="checkbox"/> All above | <input type="checkbox"/> Albuquerque<br><input type="checkbox"/> Anchorage<br><input type="checkbox"/> Butte<br><input type="checkbox"/> Honolulu<br><input type="checkbox"/> Las Vegas<br><input type="checkbox"/> Los Angeles<br><input type="checkbox"/> Phoenix<br><input type="checkbox"/> Portland<br><input type="checkbox"/> Sacramento<br><input type="checkbox"/> Salt Lake City<br><input type="checkbox"/> San Diego<br><input type="checkbox"/> San Francisco<br><input type="checkbox"/> Seattle<br><input type="checkbox"/> All above |

File & Serial Number	Remarks	File & Serial Number	Remarks

Consolidated by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I - Identical  
 NI - Not identical

File Review Symbols  
 ? - Not identifiable  
 U - Unavailable reference



June 10, 1992

Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr.  
United States Senator  
705 Washington Square Building  
109 West Michigan Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48933

Dear Senator Riegle:

MISCELLANEOUS NON-INDEXED

This is in further response to your April 21st communication on behalf of Mr. [redacted]. Mr. [redacted] has contacted you regarding the Branch Davidian Seventh Day Adventists, a group he described as being a religious cult. We certainly appreciate Mr. [redacted] concern in furnishing you a copy of the statement of a former member of this group.

b7c

We have furnished this information to our San Antonio Office for appropriate law enforcement attention. FBI and Department of Justice policy precludes confirming or denying the existence of an investigation; therefore, we will not be able to furnish reports on what action we might take in this matter.

Thank you for your interest, and please assure Mr. [redacted] that this matter will receive appropriate attention.

Sincerely yours, *63-0-113357X2*

*LS*  
Danny O. Coulson  
Deputy Assistant Director  
Criminal Investigative Division

MAILED 2  
JUN 12 1992

FBI

- Dep. Dir. \_\_\_\_\_ 1 - Detroit - Enclosures (6)
- ADD Adm. \_\_\_\_\_ Refac 5/22/92 from PLA [redacted] to [redacted] OPA.
- ADD Inv. \_\_\_\_\_
- Asst. Dir.: \_\_\_\_\_ 1 - San Antonio (163C-SA-37281, 100-0-16869) - Enclosures (6)
- Adm. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_ Reurairtel 5/12/92 and Bucal 6/5/92 from [redacted]
- Crim. Inv. \_\_\_\_\_ OPA, to PLA [redacted]
- Ident. \_\_\_\_\_
- Info. Mgnt. \_\_\_\_\_ 1 - Mr. Coulson
- Insp. \_\_\_\_\_
- Intell. \_\_\_\_\_ 1 - Mr. [redacted] (Room 5214)
- Lab. \_\_\_\_\_ 1 - Congressional Affairs Office
- Legal Coun. \_\_\_\_\_
- Tech. Servs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Training \_\_\_\_\_
- Long. Affs. Off. \_\_\_\_\_ BHM:rfy (10) *ML*
- Off. of EEO \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. Liaison & Int. Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Off. of Public Affs. \_\_\_\_\_
- Telephone Rm. \_\_\_\_\_ MAIL ROOM
- Director's Sec'y \_\_\_\_\_

SEE NOTE PAGE TWO

*K*



Honorable Donald W. Riegle, Jr.

NOTE: Senator Riegle wrote on behalf of [redacted] had sent him a copy of a statement made by [redacted] a former member of the BRANCH DAVIDIAN SEVENTH DAY ADVENTISTS. [redacted] recently won a child custody battle based on his former wife exposing his 11-year-old daughter to the practices of the ADVENTISTS. He stated he was concerned for the other children in the group because he had heard that the group's leader, VERNON W. HOWELL, aka DAVID KORESH, had announced a plan for mass self-destruction. He also indicated that he had reported this to the FBI but that "they have offered no confirmation of action." By airtel dated 5/12/92, San Antonio advised that it is currently investigating the possibility that HOWELL may be planning a mass murder-suicide event. Also, allegations have been received that HOWELL has been holding members of the sect under conditions which may constitute violations of Federal laws pertaining to involuntary servitude or slavery. San Antonio's investigation is based upon a complaint received from Congressman Fred Upton, and the allegations furnished in Senator Riegle's communication are essentially the same as those provided by Congressman Upton. Based on available information, Bufiles contain no information regarding [redacted] or [redacted] Detroit indices were also searched, and only two 50% references were found on a VERNON W. HOWELL; however, they had been destroyed. Neither Detroit nor San Antonio has any record of having been contacted by [redacted] Interim reply sent by CAO 4/29/92. Final reply discussed with SSA [redacted] CID.

b7

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Adm. Serv.	Laboratory	Off. of Liaison
Crim. Inv.	Legal Coun.	Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.
Ident.	Tech. Servs.	Off. of Intell.
Info. Mgmt.	Training	Off. of Public Affs.
Inspection	Off. of Cong. & Public Affs.	
Intell.	Off. of EEO	

*CAO* *caj* *mm*