

FBI

TRANSMIT VIA:

- Teletype
- Facsimile
- \_\_\_\_\_

PRECEDENCE:

- Immediate
- Priority
- Routine

CLASSIFICATION:

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

99125  
99527

Date 4/16/81

FM CHARLOTTE (89A-NEW) (P)

TO DIRECTOR PRIORITY *-2249*

BUFFALO PRIORITY *-0036*

WFO PRIORITY *-0009*

BT

UNCLAS

UNSUB, AKA  VICTIM; UNITED STATES

SENATOR JESSE HELMS - VICTIM; CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION

STATUTE, OO: BUFFALO.

RE BUFFALO TELCALL TO CHARLOTTE, APRIL 16, 1981.

THE TRI-COUNTY NEWS IS A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN MITCHELL, YANCEY, AND AVERY COUNTIES IN NORTH CAROLINA. IT HAS A SUBSCRIBER LIST OF 4,000, AND IT IS LOCATED IN SPRUCE PINE, NORTH CAROLINA, A TOWN OF 1,400.

A HANDWRITTEN ENVELOPE POSTMARKED BUFFALO, NEW YORK, CONTAINING THE LETTERS "PM" AND NUMBER "142," DATED APRIL 6, 1981, WAS RECEIVED AT THE TRI-COUNTY NEWS ON APRIL 8, 1981. THE

SPW:rep  
(1) *rep*

SENT VIA  
REGISTERED TELETYPE

*89A-2249*  
*Whit*  
*AW*  
*GA*  
*CA*

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: *[Signature]* Transmitted *010* *[Signature]* Per *[Signature]*  
(Number) (Time)

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PAGE TWO CE 89A-NEW UNCLAS

NEWSPAPER ADVISED THE CHARLOTTE FBI OFFICE OF THE LETTER ON APRIL 10, 1981. ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO "TRI-COUNTY NEWS, SPRUCE PINE, NORTH CAROLINA, 28777." THE HANDWRITTEN LETTER ENCLOSED IN THE ENVELOPE READ AS FOLLOWS:

"EVIL DAYS ARE UPON US. THE MOVIE ACTOR GOT CAUGHT IN THE HEART WHERE HE HAD NO PITY FOR ANYONE BUT HIS GANGSTERS. TOO BAD ABOUT [REDACTED] HE IS SUFFERING THE BLUNT OF THE CRIMES, BUT THE LORD SAID SHARE DANGER OR YOU PERISH IN IT. HE WAS WITH A BAD GANG - ALSO TOO BAD ABOUT THE POLICE AND FBI MAN.

"THERE IS ANOTHER MAN MARKED TO GO - HE COMES FROM THE STATE OF N. C. - J. H.

"OUR HISTORY BOOKS TELL US THAT IN OLDEN DAYS THE COURTS OF EUROPE HAD A COURT (FOOL) JESTER - WELL THE U. S. HAS ONE - THE JESTERS HAD VERY LITTLE GRAY MATTER BUT THEY WOULD LAUGH, JUGGLE, DANCE, AND MAKE THEIR KINGS HAPPY. THAT IS JUST WHAT JESSE HELMS IS DOING. MAKING THE MOVIE ACTOR HAPPY TO INFLICT SORROW AND SUFFERING ON THE POOR - JESTER JESSE SHOULD WATCH HIS STEP AND MOUTH - ALSO THE POMPOUS NITWIT [REDACTED] HAD BETTER NOT WEAR THAT FUR COAT. SOMEDAY SHE MIGHT RECEIVE A PELLET IN HER FANNY - A HUNTER MIGHT TAKE HER FOR A BEAR OR A MINK - WHO KNOWS? THEY WILL -

SINCERELY, [REDACTED]

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE THREE CE 89A-NEW UNCLAS

CHARLOTTE INDICES NEGATIVE RE [REDACTED] PER RETELCALL,  
BUFFALO INDICES ALSO NEGATIVE.

U. S. SECRET SERVICE, CHARLOTTE, N. C., ADVISED OF CONTENTS  
OF LETTER, APRIL 10, 1981.

INQUIRY AT SPRUCE PINE, N. C., PD AND TRI-COUNTY NEWS FAILED  
TO DEVELOP SUSPECT. [REDACTED] UNKNOWN TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN  
SPRUCE PINE AREA.

ON APRIL 14, 1981, AS A RESULT OF MEETING BETWEEN FBI AND  
SECRET SERVICE IN ASHEVILLE, N. C., RESIDENT AGENCY, IN VIEW OF  
PRESIDENTIAL FAMILY THREAT, ORIGINAL COPY OF LETTER AND ENVELOPE,  
AS WELL AS ELIMINATION FINGERPRINTS TAKEN OF FOUR EMPLOYEES AT  
THE TRI-COUNTY NEWS WHO HAD HANDLED THE LETTER, WERE TURNED OVER  
TO U. S. SECRET SERVICE. SECRET SERVICE WILL PROCESS LETTER FOR  
PRINTS AND CHECK [REDACTED] NAME THROUGH ITS FILES. SECRET SERVICE  
AT CHARLOTTE, N. C., WILL ALSO CONTACT ITS OFFICE IN BUFFALO, AS  
WELL AS MAIN OFFICE IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

LHM FOLLOWS.

REQUEST OF FBIHQ:

THROUGH CONGRESSIONAL LIAISON OFFICE, WILL ADVISE SENATOR  
HELMS' OFFICE OF THREAT.

BT

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_



FD-340 REV. (6-14-77)

Field File No. 89A-222-1A1

OO and File No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received 4/18/81

From Sen J. Helms  
(NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)  
Arlington, Va.

By \_\_\_\_\_

To Be Returned  Yes  No  
Receipt Given  Yes  No

Description:  
  
telephonic interview  
notes - J. Helms, U.S.  
Senator, 4/18/81.

4/18/81

890000  
W. J. [unclear]

b6  
b7c

no other in world.

Arlington, Va.

Red

Bennyfield, got call -

some man - holding one of [unclear]

both daughters in Red. - ok  
genetic base



-

CE-89A222-1A2

Field File No. Buffalo

OO and File No. Buffalo

Date Received 4/13/81

From Tri-County News editor

[Redacted] OF CONTRIBUTOR)  
123 LOCUST ST.

(ADDRESS OF CONTRIBUTOR)  
Spencer, NC

[Redacted] STATE)  
By [Redacted]

(NAME OF SPECIAL AGENT)

To Be Returned  Yes  No  
Receipt Given  Yes  No

Description:

Copy of letter and envelope signed

[Redacted]

2 - Bu  
2 - Buffalo } 4-21-81. JEB

FBI

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- UNCLAS

Date 4/18/81

FM CHARLOTTE FBI (89A-222)

TO DIRECTOR FBI ROUTINE ~~0736Z~~ ~~0736Z~~ 0935Z

FBI WASHINGTON FIELD (89A-690) ROUTINE 0904Z

FBI BUFFALO (89A-111) ROUTINE 0736Z

BT

U N C L A S

UNSUB, AKA [REDACTED] - VICTIM; U.S. SENATOR  
 JESSE HELMS - VICTIM, CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE;  
 EXTORTION, OO:BUFFALO

REFERENCE WASHINGTON FIELD TELETYPE TO DIRECTOR DATED APRIL 17, 1981.

ON 4/18/81, U.S. SENATOR JESSE HELMS WAS TELEPHONICAY CONTACTED AT HIS ARLINGTON, VA. RESEDENCE AND WAS APPRAISED OF THREAT. SENATOR HELMS STATED HE KNEW NO ONE NAMED [REDACTED] HE ADDED THAT SUCH THREATS, WRITTEN AND TELEPHONEC, WERE RELATEVILY COMMONPLACE TO HIM. AS AN EXANPLE, HE NOTED THAT RECENTLY [REDACTED] OF HIS RALEIGH,,NC. OFFICE HAD RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL DURING WHICH AN UNKNOWN MALE SAID HE WAS HOLDING ONE OF SENATOR HELMES" DAUGHTERS CAPTIVE. THE MATTER WAS DETERMINED UNFOUNDED AS BOTH DOUGHTERS WERE LOCATED WITHOUT UNSUAL CIRCUMSTANCE.

WLB/kvc  
(1)

[REDACTED]

SEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_

Approved

[REDACTED]

Transmitted

(Number)

(Time)

Per



FBI

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

PAGE TWO CE 89A-222 UNCLAS

SENATOR HELMS NOTED THAT [REDACTED] OF HIS WASHINGTON, D.C. OFFICE, MAY HAVE A FILE OF PAST THREATING LETTERS, BUT THAT THIS FILE MAY BE INCOMPLETE.

LEAD: WASHINGTON FIELD, WASHINGTON, D.C., CONTACT [REDACTED] [REDACTED] (SUPRA) RE: ANY FILE OF THREATING LETTERS AGAINST SENATOR HELMS.

BT

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Transmitted \_\_\_\_\_ (Number) \_\_\_\_\_ (Time) Per \_\_\_\_\_

CE 89A-222  
SPW:jeb

1

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agent [redacted], on the dates indicated:

AT ASHEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA

On April 10, 1981, [redacted] Editor, The Tri-County News in Spruce Pine, North Carolina, telephonically advised the Asheville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that his newspaper had received in the mail on April 8, 1981, an envelope postmarked Buffalo, New York, and dated April 6, 1981. It had been addressed to the Tri-County News in Spruce Pine, North Carolina, and it contained a handwritten letter signed [redacted] read the contents of the letter, which contained a threat against President RONALD REAGAN's [redacted] and North Carolina United States Senator JESSE HELMS.

[redacted] said that he had not contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation immediately after receiving the letter on April 8, 1981, inasmuch as he did not take the letter seriously and thought the letter writer merely meant to be considered as sending a letter to the Editor of the paper.

No employees at Tri-County News knew anyone by the name of [redacted] and [redacted] said that no one there could think of anyone who might have written the letter.

On April 10, 1981, the Asheville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation contacted the Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the United States Secret Service in Charlotte, North Carolina, LOUIS ALFARO. ALFARO was advised of the contents of the letter.

AT SPRUCE PINE, NORTH CAROLINA

On April 13, 1981, the Chief of Police of the Spruce Pine Police Department, as well as members of that department, were contacted regarding the [redacted] letter. No one recognized the handwriting and the name [redacted] was unknown to them. The department could not identify anyone who might have written the letter.

*Original of letter sent to Buffalo in the article to Bureau 4/21/81, jeb/jtz*

89A-222-5

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 21 1981	
FBI - CHARLOTTE	
[redacted]	[redacted]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription April 20, 1981

[redacted] The Tri-County News, 123 Locust Street, was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent and was told that the interview would pertain to a letter signed [redacted] volunteered the following information:

b6  
b7c

She picks up the mail for the newspaper each morning and when she went to the Spruce Pine Post Office on April 8, 1981, an envelope postmarked Buffalo, New York, and dated April 6, 1981, was in the mailbox. It was addressed to the Tri-County News, Spruce Pine, North Carolina.

One of her functions is to open all mail, which she did that morning, after arriving at work with the mail.

She opened the above-described letter, read it, and turned it over to Editor [redacted]

She did not recognize the handwriting and had no idea who had written the letter. She knew no one by the name of [redacted]

89A-222-6

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 21 1981	
FBI - CHARLOTTE	
[redacted]	[initials]

Investigation on 4/13/81 at Spruce Pine, N. C. File # CE 89A-222  
by SA [redacted] :jeb Date dictated 4/17/81

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.

*original and 8 copies sent to Buffalo in CE airtel to Bureau dated 4/21/81. jeb/ef*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription April 20, 1981

[redacted] Editor, The Tri-County News, 123 Locust Street, was personally contacted and was advised of the official identity of the interviewing Agent. [redacted] was advised that the interview would concern the receipt at the Tri-County News of a letter signed [redacted] which contained threats against President REAGAN's [redacted] and United States Senator JESSE HELMS.

[redacted] made available the original copy of the letter and the envelope, and volunteered the following information:

The Tri-County News is distributed in Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties, and has a subscriber list of 4,000. Spruce Pine, North Carolina, is a town of 1400.

He has no idea why an individual named [redacted] would write such a letter and address it to the Tri-County News. Neither he nor his staff know anyone by that name, and he knows of no one who would have written such a letter.

No present or former employee would have written this letter. He did not recognize the handwriting. No one on their subscriber list resides in Buffalo, New York. He knew of no former employee who currently resides in Buffalo, New York.

[redacted] said that four employees, including himself, had handled the letter, and he permitted the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to obtain elimination fingerprints from these four:

(1)

[redacted]

(2)

[redacted]

89A-222-7

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

[redacted] 222 [initials]

Investigation on 4/13/81 at Spruce Pine, N. C.

by SA [redacted] jeb Date dictated 4/17/81

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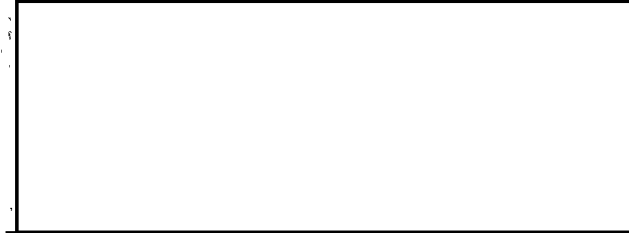
*Original & copies sent to Buffalo in CE airtel to Bureau dated 4/21/81. jeb/Sg*


CE 89A-222

2

(3)

(4)



 advised that if his newspaper receives any additional threats, he would immediately contact the FBI.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

1

Date of transcription April 20, 1981

[redacted] Special Agent, United States Secret Service, Charlotte, North Carolina, personally appeared at the Asheville Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to discuss the [redacted] letter which had been received at the Tri-County News, Spruce Pine, North Carolina, on April 8, 1981.

After conferring with the FBI and after telephonically contacting his supervisor in Charlotte, North Carolina, it was agreed that the original copy of the letter and envelope, as well as the four sets of elimination fingerprints obtained by the FBI at the Tri-County News, would be turned over to the United States Secret Service.

89A-222-8

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
APR 21 1981	
[redacted]	
[redacted]	

Investigation on 4/14/81 at Asheville, N. C. File # CE 89A-222  
by SA [redacted] :jeb Date dictated 4/17/81

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*Original & 8 copies sent to Buffalo in CE airtel to Bureau dated 4/21/81. jeb ffg*

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

April 22, 1981

Date of transcription

1

United States Senator JESSE HELMS was contacted telephonically and was advised of a threat contained in a letter to the Tri-County News, Spruce Pines, North Carolina, postmarked Buffalo, New York, bearing the name [redacted]

b6  
b7c

Senator HELMS advised he knew no one named [redacted] and could not recall ever having received any correspondence from this person before. He noted that threats to himself, both telephonic and written, were relatively commonplace and cited as an example, a telephone call received by [redacted] of his Raleigh, North Carolina, staff recently wherein a male caller said he was holding [redacted] hostage and was going to [redacted] this threat proved unfounded and [redacted] were located safe in Raleigh, North Carolina, and neither reported any unusual circumstance recently.

Senator HELMS advised that [redacted] of his Washington, D. C., Office possibly had a record of threatening letter sent to him, but noted this record may be incomplete as threats of this nature are handled frequently and somewhat casually.

89A-222-111  
SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FBI - RALEIGH  
APR 22 1981

Investigation on 4/18/81 at Raleigh, N.C. File # CE 89A-222

by SA [redacted] :egp Date dictated 4/20/81

DIRECTOR, FBI

7/8/81

SAC, BUFFALO (89A-111) (C)

UNSUB, aka

[redacted]

- VICTIM;  
U.S. SENATOR JESSE HELMS - VICTIM  
CONGRESSIONAL ASSASSINATION STATUTE;  
EXTORTION  
(OO: BUFFALO)

Re Charlotte teletype to the Bureau and Buffalo dated 4/16/81, Buffalo teletype to the Bureau dated 4/17/81, and Charlotte teletype to the Bureau and Buffalo dated 4/21/81.

This case was initiated at Buffalo on 4/16/81 as a result of information supplied by Charlotte. A letter sent to the Tri-County News, Spruce Pine, North Carolina, indirectly threatened [redacted] and U.S. Senator Jesse Helms. The letter was postmarked from Buffalo, New York.

Investigation at Buffalo has failed to reveal any person with the name [redacted] residing in the Buffalo, New York area. Public source documents, FBI indices, police checks with the Buffalo Police Department and the Erie County, New York Sheriff's Department and New York State DMV group checks are negative regarding any person using the name [redacted]. Additionally, liaison with Special Agent [redacted] U.S. Secret Service, has indicated that the Secret Service has not located any person using that name.

UACB, Buffalo is closing this case.

- 2 - Bureau
  - ② - Charlotte (89A-222)
  - 1 - Buffalo
- HAM;kjm  
(5)

89A-222-12

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 12 1981	
FBI - CHARLOTTE	
DWT	

(info)



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
FOIPA  
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

No Duplication Fees are charged for Deleted Page Information Sheet(s).

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 9

Page 13 ~ Duplicate

Page 14 ~ Duplicate

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Page 35 ~ Duplicate