



*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

March 27, 1965

MURDER OF VIOLA LIUZZO
LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA
MARCH 25, 1965

Governor George C. Wallace of the State of Alabama contacted Spencer H. Robb, our Senior Resident Agent at Montgomery, Alabama, on the night of March 26, 1965, with regard to the fatal shooting of Mrs. Viola Liuzzo in Lowndes County, Alabama, on the night of March 25, 1965. Governor Wallace expressed complete disgust with the "cowardly act" perpetrated by the four men who have been charged with the crime or anyone else who would commit such an act of violence.

Governor Wallace advised that he had instructed Colonel Al Lingo, Director of the Alabama State Department of Public Safety to make available all of the resources of his department and to afford complete cooperation to the FBI in pursuing the investigation of the killing. He said he had also requested the State Toxicologist's Office at Auburn, Alabama, to cooperate fully with the FBI and he intends to contact the Circuit Solicitor, Lowndes County, Arthur Gamble, Jr., of Greenville, Alabama, to request that he also afford his full cooperation.

Governor Wallace requested that the Alabama state authorities be afforded the results of the FBI's investigation that would support the issuance of a warrant for murder as soon as it is completed. His request has been referred to the Department of Justice for appropriate consideration.

With regard to the four subjects, Eugene Thomas, William Orville Eaton, Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., and Collie Leroy Wilkins, Jr., who were arrested in connection with this matter on March 26, 1965, my previous memorandum of March 26, 1965, stated that Thomas, Eaton and Wilkins were arraigned before a U. S. Commissioner on March 26, 1965, and held. Later on March 26, 1965, subject Rowe also was arraigned before the U. S. Commissioner in Birmingham, Alabama, and he also was held in lieu of \$50,000 bond.

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At 9:18 p.m. on March 26, 1965, subjects Thomas, Eaton and Rowe were released from the Jefferson County Jail, Birmingham, after posting bond which was arranged for them by their attorney, Mr. Matt Murphy. Bond was also arranged for subject Wilkins by Mr. Murphy but he was not released as a Probation Violators Warrant on Wilkins in connection with a previous Federal Firearms Act violation in the Northern District of Alabama was delivered to the U. S. Marshal on March 26, 1965. Wilkins is presently being held on the Probation Violators Warrant.