

affair apparently refers to the case involving ORION N. DANIEL JOHNSON, recently convicted of first degree murder and sentenced to death for the murder of Marion County Sheriff EDWARD PORTER, N.C.

Sergeant SIMMS said that he had been able to determine from talking with the wife of the victim and the victim's daughter, that MOORE and his family had gone home some 45 minutes before the blast occurred and that MOORE and his wife had retired and the daughter had gone to bed but had read for a period of 15 minutes or so before actually turning out the light. He said the daughter, ANNA MOORE, told him she was just dozing off to sleep when the blast struck.

Sergeant SIMMS said that he had overheard some conversation among the colored folks who viewed the blast scene on December 26, 1951, mentioning something about having seen a 1950 or 1951 Ford sedan with Duval County tag (Jacksonville, Florida) in the vicinity of MOORE's residence several weeks ago and that they believed the car was occupied by white men. SIMMS said he had endeavored to determine who was responsible for the remark but had been unable to identify the person making the remark and was uncertain as to whether or not the person making the remark was, in fact, referring to suspicious individuals or not.

It might be noted at this point that during the early morning hours and afternoon of December 26, 1951 approximately 1000 to 1200 people came into the area in order to view the blasted remains of MOORE's residence.

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JOE WARREN and his wife, MAGNOLIA, were interviewed at their residence and WARREN advised that he was a member of the N.A.A.C.P. and had for a period of time traveled with HARRY MOORE, the victim, in connection with his activities of recruiting members for the N.A.A.C.P. He said that during his travels with the victim they had covered a large section of the State of Florida but he said that for the past six months he had had little or no contact with MOORE and knew very little concerning his activities:

WARREN said he had known MOORE intimately for a period of 30 years and he verified that MOORE and his family had been at the SIMMS home for dinner on Christmas Day and that during the dinner and ensuing evening no conversation was had concerning business matters or anything pertaining to MOORE's activities. He said that it was all family talk.

WARREN said that he believes he was close enough to MOORE that had MOORE been the recipient of any threats that MOORE would have told him, WARREN, and WARREN said he honestly and sincerely believed, and those are his

words, that MOORE was the kind of a man that had he received any threats of any kind he would have called a meeting of the members of the NAACP and made a full report concerning it. WARREN said he knew of no definite individuals that could be considered as suspects but it was just his off-hand observation and belief that no person in Brevard County was responsible for the blasting of MOORE's home. He ventured to say that possibly the work of MOORE in the Lake County case may be responsible.

WARREN advised that among those present on the Christmas afternoon for dinner at ARNOLD SILMS' home were the following:

ARNOLD SILMS and wife and ARNOLD SILMS' mother, ANNIE SILMS;  
Mrs. CHERRY GREER, mother of ARNOLD SILMS' wife;  
Sergeant SILMS and wife;  
ELLEN SILMS and wife, both of whom reside in Cocoa;  
Victim HARRY MOORE, his wife, HARRIETT, SILMS' daughter ANN, ROSALIE and  
victim's mother ROSA;  
JOE WARREN and his wife and his step-daughter, KATRINE.

WARREN said that all the aforementioned persons had eaten dinner between 4 and 5 P.M. and thereafter sat around and talked until the early part of the evening and WARREN said, to the best of his recollection, he left the SILMS home between 6:30 and 7 P.M. and that SILMS had left the home about 6 P.M. to return to Cocoa.

WARREN said that he had returned to his home and had retired at the time of the blast and was awakened by the sound of the blast and after much inquiring around, had found out MOORE's home had been bombed. He immediately went to the scene but upon his arrival found that MOORE, his wife, daughter and mother had been taken to the Sanford Hospital.

WARREN said he knew of no other individual in the area or anywhere else who might possibly be able to furnish information concerning the perpetration of this crime.

The victim's mother, ROSA A. MOORE, 1751 Louisiana Street, Jacksonville, Florida, was interviewed at the WARREN residence at which time she was highly nervous and suffering from mild shock. She said she had come to Miami, Florida on December 23, 1951 from Jacksonville to visit with her son and his family for the Christmas holidays and that she understood from HARRY that he and his wife had come up from Lake Park on December 13, 1951. She said she knew very little concerning her son's recent activities with reference to the recent past but that she knew that several weeks ago or within the last two

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MH 44-270 12-26-51

VALERIE SIMMS at Melbourne, Florida, advised that she was a sister of HARRIETT MOORE, one of the victims in instant case. She said she last saw HARRIETT on Wednesday, December 19, 1951 when she and HARRY were driving from Lake Park to their home in Mims, Florida. She said that she did not see HARRY but she believed that he was in the car. She said HARRIETT merely came by the steps and told her they would like to have her come up to Mims Christmas Day if she could.

With regard to the statement made by her son, MELVIN CORRETT, to the effect that HARRY MOORE had been run out of Groveland and into Orange County, VALERIE said that approximately a year ago she had read in the TAMPA BULLETIN something about HARRY being run out of Groveland. She doesn't recall any of the details of the article and doesn't know of any trouble he has had since that time. She said that HARRY did not discuss his activities with his family and while VALERIE knew he was very active in the Progressive Voters League and the NAACP, she said she did not have any reason to believe that his life was in danger.

VALERIE SIMMS said that at no time did her sister HARRIETT ever mention to her that she feared for HARRY's life or that HARRY had any trouble in connection with his work.

AT COCOA, FLORIDA.

ELMER SILAS, 140 St. Charles Street, Cocoa, Florida, advised he has known HARRY T. MOORE and his wife, HARRIETT, for over 25 years. He said that HARRIETT roomed with him and his wife until she married HARRY.

SILAS said he has been active in the NAACP work and with HARRY in the same work since 1934. He said the County Chapter of the NAACP was organized in this year and HARRY was elected County Chapter Secretary at that time. He said for approximately 7 years he, SILAS was County Chapter President.

SILAS said that HARRY MOORE was elected State Executive Secretary of the NAACP about 4 years ago. SILAS said that he and the victim, HARRY, were very close to one another and had many conferences concerning NAACP work. He said he last saw HARRY on Christmas Day when he, SILAS, and his wife were at ARNOLD SILAS' home for Christmas dinner. SILAS explained that his wife and ARNOLD SILAS' wife were half-sisters. He said that on Christmas day he and his wife spent the entire afternoon at ARNOLD'S home and that much of the time he spent alone with the victim, HARRY. He said during the afternoon he

words, that MOORE was the kind of a man that had he received any threats of any kind he would have called a meeting of the members of the NAACP and made a full report concerning it. WARREN said he knew of no definite individuals that could be considered as suspects but it was just his off-hand observation and belief that no person in Brevard County was responsible for the blasting of MOORE's home. He ventured to say that possibly the work of MOORE in the Lake County case may be responsible.

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12-26-51 The victim's mother, ROSA A. MOORE, 1751 Louisiana Street, Jacksonville, Florida, was interviewed at the WARREN residence at which time she was highly nervous and suffering from mild shock. She said she had come to Miami, Florida on December 23, 1951 from Jacksonville to visit with her son and his family for the Christmas holidays and that she understood from HARRY that he and his wife had come up from Lake Park on December 13, 1951. She said she knew very little concerning her son's recent activities with reference to the recent past but that she knew that several weeks ago or within the last two

or three months HARRY had been working on the Groveland case and she said she knew by reading the papers and from conversation which she had with friends, that HARRY was trying to raise money to support the appeal for the boys in the Groveland case and that in this connection she knew he had been mailing out many pamphlets soliciting contributions for this appeal fund.

Mrs. LOORE said that "I think that undoubtedly HARRY's work in the Groveland case was responsible for his death" however, she was unable to furnish the names of any definite individuals responsible and was unable to suggest the names of any suspects, possible suspects or logical sources of information.

Mrs. MOORE added that HARRY's wife, HARRIETT, had made a remark subsequent to her admittance to the Sanford Hospital to the effect that one of the officials of Brevard County had sometime ago asked HARRY "if he wasn't going a little too far". She was unable to identify the official allegedly involved and said that she was not present when HARRIETT MOORE made this remark and had not discussed it with her. She said she knew of no enemies which her son had, however, it was clearly apparent to her that from the nature of his activities he was more or less always in a rather precarious position.

Mrs. MOORE verified the fact that numerous members of her family and friends had eaten Christmas dinner at the SIMS residence and she said that since her arrival in Mims from Jacksonville, neither HARRY, his wife, nor any other member of the family had discussed any business activities or activities of HARRY with reference to the NAACP. She said that all the conversation at the SIMS house was family talk and she said that as best she could recall she, HARRY her son, HARRIETT his wife and ANNE, his daughter had left the SIMS residence about 45 minutes prior to the blast. She said they got in HARRY's car and drove to the front porch of HARRY's home, they got out, went inside and that HARRIETT immediately retired.

She said that she and her son, HARRY, sat around the dining table in the dining room, talked for a little while and she went and got a fruit cake and cut her son a piece of cake, which he sat at the table and ate while they talked. She said that the daughter, during the interim had apparently retired but was in bed reading with the light on. She said within a very short period of time she retired and that HARRY came through her room to go to the bath room, and that her light was off and she called to him and said "HARRY, is that you?" to which he replied "Yes, mama, that's me". She said HARRY returned to his bedroom, apparently got in bed, the light having already been turned off by his wife when she retired and that she, Mrs. MOORE, was just in the process of dozing off when a terrific explosion rocked the house. She does not

know how long it was after HARRY actually got in bed that the explosion occurred but she said that it must have been just a matter of minutes.

She said that after the explosion she heard groaning sounds coming from the bedroom of her son and his wife and then heard the daughter ANNA screaming and crying that "something has happened to Papa". She said she was groggy and not completely aware of what had happened and had walked out of her bedroom into the living room in the darkness toward the bedroom of HARRY and his wife and that upon reaching the door of HARRY's bedroom she stepped forward and her leg went through a hole in the floor caused by the blast and that her leg was almost broken.

She said that the daughter then came into the living room and apparently turned the light on and she was able to see HARRY and his wife on the bed amid a pile of debris, dust, dirt and rubble. She said that when she first saw HARRIETT that HARRIETT was sitting up in bed groaning and making some inaudible remarks concerning VAN, her daughter, presently employed in Washington, D. C. She said that a bookcase or desk or some article of furniture was on top of HARRIETT and that she finally managed to shove this piece of furniture off of her and in the interim the daughter had gone to the back of the house screaming and yelling for GEORGE and ARNOLD. The mother said that she had to remind her granddaughter that the back door was closed and that the granddaughter should open the door and go out on the back porch if she ever expected anyone to hear her.

She said that within a very short time GEORGE and ARNOLD arrived and finally extricated HARRY and HARRIETT from the wreckage, placed them in the car and took them to the hospital. She said that she accompanied her son and his wife to the hospital and that she had sat on the back seat of the car holding HARRY in her arms with his head resting on her shoulder. She said that at no time on the trip did he make any statements, he merely groaned and his head bobbed and weaved as they traveled hurriedly to the hospital.

She said that during the trip HARRIETT, the wife, made incoherent statements concerning her daughter. She said that just prior to the time they arrived at the hospital HARRY gave a loud groan and approximately a quart of blood spurted from his mouth all over her clothes and the back seat of the car.

Mrs. MOORE said that she paid no particular attention to the immediate vicinity of the house upon their return from the SHERS' but that she saw no suspicious persons, as a matter of fact, she saw no one during the drive, saw no automobiles, heard no noises and was unable to furnish any additional information concerning the matter or which would assist in identifying the parties responsible.

EDD:JMS  
MM 74-270

The following investigation was conducted by Special Agents ED. J. H. DUFF III and FRED E. GORDON on January 1, 1952:

BASES: ROSA MOORE, victim's mother, reinterviewed for pertinent details.

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ROSA MOORE, mother of victim, reinterviewed after she had had an opportunity to recover from nervous shock and she advised she had not seen her son for quite a period of time and knew nothing specific concerning his recent activities. She said she had received a letter from her son dated December 4, 1951 mailed from West Palm Beach and also a letter from her son mailed from Mims, Florida on December 19, 1951 in which HARRY had said he had arrived at Mims, Florida, last night (December 16) and enclosed \$10.00 to pay her bus fare from Jacksonville to Mims.

ROSA MOORE said that she arrived at Titusville by train on the afternoon of December 22, 1951 and took a cab to her son's home at Mims. She said that subsequent to her arrival she did not question HARRY as to his immediate past activities nor did he volunteer any information as to where he had been or what he was doing.

She said that on the 23rd of December she could recall no visitors and that HARRY spent the majority of the day working the orange trees in his grove. She said she recalled that either the 23rd or 24th HARRY was visited by some unknown white man who drove up to the house in a car and he apparently honked the horn and HARRY went out to greet him. She said that HARRY talked to him for a few minutes, possibly 5 minutes, and then HARRY came back into the house and his reaction, as she recalls it, was perfectly normal, there was no obvious indication of fright or anything to lead her to believe the contact was anything but routine.

She said that she and HARRY were the only ones home at the time as his daughter and the mother had gone to Titusville.

ROSA MOORE said that subsequent to the bombing she had learned from a member of the congregation of the Methodist Church, which HARRY attended on the 23rd of December, that "HARRY preached his own funeral at church that Sunday". She said that she questioned the member of the congregation, whose name she does not know, as to why such a remark should have been made and was informed that on that particular Sunday the Pastor asked the congregation if any of them had anything to say and HARRY spoke up and made some sort of a

REF: JAS  
ME 47-270

talk with the congregation member, upon reflection, said made her feel HARRY must have felt that something was going to happen to him by the nature of his remarks.

ROSA MOORE said that members of the McCLELLAND family and the GRANT family go to the same church and that Rev. MASSEY is the Pastor.

The mother of the victim said that as best she could recall there were no visitors at all at the house on Sunday and so far as she can recall no one went away from the house that night.

ROSA MOORE said she did not know until a couple of hours prior to dinner time on Christmas day that they were actually going to eat Christmas dinner at the SIMS' and that HARRY came to her before he went to church, apparently on Christmas day, and told his mother that they were planning to have dinner with the SIMS'. She said that she, her son HARRY, his wife and his daughter drove to the SIMS residence from the MOORE house at approximately 3:30 P.M. on Christmas day. She said upon arrival there were about six automobiles around the SIMS residence and she knew of no individuals present, whose names have not already previously been mentioned.

With regard to the actual explosion the mother said that she was lying in bed just about to doze off when there came a flash of light. She said that the ceiling reflector for the light seemed to fall to the floor prior to the time she heard the actual blast. She said that there was positively no smoke or heavy powder odor immediately after the blast as she got out of bed and walked to the bedroom door which had been completely blasted away by the explosion and that after the light had been turned on she could very clearly see HARRY and his wife lying on the mattress amid the dust and debris.

She said that after HARRY and his wife had been removed from the bedroom, while enroute to the hospital she was riding with HARRY's head resting on her left shoulder and that every now and then she recalls smelling a "sort of powder odor", however, she said that immediately following the explosion there definitely was no smoke and no heavy powder odor.



100-72  
(1-10-49)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FORM NO. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

MIAMI

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 6-19-52	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 6/7/52	REPORT MADE BY HAROLD G. EVANS
TITLE MURKIN; MARTIN T. MOORE, MURKIN MOORE (deceased) - VICTIMS			CHARACTER OF CASE CIVIL RIGHTS

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** JUANITA EVANGELINE MOORE, daughter of victims, reinterviewed.

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**DETAILS:** AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

JUANITA EVANGELINE MOORE, daughter of the victims, was interviewed by Special Agent HAROLD G. EVANS on 6/19/52 at his office, 1400 Belmont Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., and is employed by the Department of Labor in the Stereographic Division.

Miss MOORE advised she was born in Miami, Florida, and resided in Florida until the time she came to Washington, D. C., which was in 1947. She was educated from Scotland, Georgia, and Florida, and she stated that she was active in NAACP activities in Florida and was once secretary of the Miami branch of the Youth League and later State Vice President and Treasurer of the Florida Youth Council. She also attended college in 1947 and thereafter attended the Florida State College.

Miss MOORE advised that her father became active in NAACP activities in Florida probably in 1930, and was Secretary of the Broward County branch of the association in 1939. She added that her father later became State President and Executive Secretary of the association, and finally Coordinator of NAACP activities in the State of Florida. She stated that this was a full-time occupation by her father and his primary duty in this capacity was the investigation of injustices to negroes in Florida. Miss MOORE added that during the same time her father was associated with the NAACP he was also Executive Secretary of the Progressive Voters League of Florida, which she recalled as a political organization whose purpose was to express the views of

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**EXHIBIT**

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