

AT 44-857

The following is a signed statement furnished by CHARLIE JOHNSON on January 2, 1958:

"Columbus, Ga.

January 2, 1958

"I, CHARLIE JOHNSON, make the following free and voluntary statement to HENRY L. BURGETT and MAURICE L. FOSHEE who have identified themselves to me as special agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. No threats or promises have been made to get me to make a statement. I have been told I do not have to make a statement and that any statement I make may be used in a court of law.

"On the Saturday before Christmas day, 1957 I was in the city jail, Columbus, Georgia as a prisoner. I, with about six other prisoners, was in the 'Run a round' which is located directly across the hall from the tank. The tank is about 8 or 9 feet from the run a round. The door leading from the run a round to the hall has a glass in it which is about 5 feet or 5½ feet from the floor. The door to the tank is made of bars.

"At about 20 minutes before we were fed our supper on the Saturday before Christmas, 1957 a man who I later learned was the 'Preacher' was brought into the jail by the police and he, the Preacher was put in the tank.

"Shortly after the Preacher was locked in the tank he started cursing in a loud voice and wanting out of jail.

"A policeman with two trustees brought us our food on trays about 20 minutes after the Preacher was brought in and locked up. While the Policeman was there with the two trustees, the Preacher continued to curse. The Preacher said to the Policeman, 'You big son of a bitch come open this door and let me out. I've got the money to pay out.' The policeman, at that time, was standing near where the trustees were passing trays of food into us. The policeman said, 'I've got to quieten him down.' The policeman then walked to the tank door, took his key, and unlocked the door and walked into the tank. The Preacher was standing in the tank and near the bars when the policeman walked in.