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PETITIONER'S EXHIBIT #20
Memo re: 1/11/94 Jennifer Roberts

RLL 1-19-94
JMH _____
GJS _____
FILE _____

PRIVILEGED AND CONFIDENTIAL - ATTORNEY WORK PRODUCT

MEMORANDUM

TO: MICHAEL ECHOLS FILE (CASE #1700-00-30182)
FROM: RONALD L. LAX
RE: STATEMENT OF JENNIFER ROBERTS
DATE: JANUARY 11, 1994

I interviewed Jennifer Roberts at her home address of Route 2, Box 1010, Marion, Arkansas on this date.

A transcript of the tape-recorded statement she gave is attached to this memorandum.



003272

1 This is a tape recorded statement taken on Tuesday, January 11,
2 1994, at the Highland Park Trailer Park in Marion, Arkansas between
3 Jennifer M. Roberts and Ron Lax, a Private Investigator. The time is
4 approximately 6:10 P.M.

5 MR. LAX: Jennifer, would you give your full name, please?
6 MS. ROBERTS: Jennifer Michelle Roberts.
7 MR. LAX: And your address?
8 MS. ROBERTS: Route 2, Box 1010.
9 MR. LAX: Marion, Ar--
10 MS. ROBERTS: Marion, Arkansas.
11 MR. LAX: Okay. Jennifer, your date of birth is [REDACTED]-77?
12 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
13 MR. LAX: And your mother is also present here? Is that correct?
14 MS. ROBERTS: That's correct.
15 MR. LAX: And what is her name?
16 MS. ROBERTS: Sharon Kaye Linberry.
17 MR. LAX: Okay. And this statement is being taken with her
18 approval?
19 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
20 MR. LAX: And consent?
21 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
22 MR. LAX: Have any threats or promises been made to you to make
23 this statement?
24 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
25 MR. LAX: Are you aware it is being tape recorded?
26 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
27 MR. LAX: And I have told you that I am a Private Investigator and
28 I am working for the attorneys who represent Jessie

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1 Misskelley, Jr. and Damien Echols? Is that correct?
2 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
3 MR. LAX: Jennifer--or Jen--I'll call you Jen since that's what you
4 enjoy. Did you know Damien Echols?
5 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
6 MR. LAX: Had you ever seen him?
7 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
8 MR. LAX: How about Jason Baldwin?
9 MS. ROBERTS: Don't know who he is.
10 MR. LAX: Ever have any conversation with him?
11 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
12 MR. LAX: Did you know Jessie Misskelley?
13 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
14 MR. LAX: How well did you know Jessie?
15 MS. ROBERTS: Real good.
16 MR. LAX: Okay. And you have known him for about a year? Is that
17 right?
18 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
19 MR. LAX: Did Jessie hang around with Jason or with Damien?
20 MS. ROBERTS: I've never seen them.
21 MR. LAX: Okay. And during the time that you knew Jessie, did
22 ya'll spend a lot of time together?
23 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir. For a while.
24 MR. LAX: Okay. During, I'd say March, April, and May of 1993,
25 were you and Jessie spending a lot of time together?
26 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
27 MR. LAX: On a daily basis?
28 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.

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1 MR. LAX: Was Damien or Jason either one involved at that time?
2 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
3 MR. LAX: Do you know a girl by the name of Vickie Hutcheson?
4 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
5 MR. LAX: How long have you known her?
6 MS. ROBERTS: About six months, eight months.
7 MR. LAX: Okay. And she's older than you? Isn't she?
8 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
9 MR. LAX: She has a son? Is that correct?
10 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
11 MR. LAX: And his name is--
12 MS. ROBERTS: Aaron Hutcheson.
13 MR. LAX: Aaron Hutcheson. Okay. Jennifer, you've told me about
14 several incidences that happened and I would like to go
15 through these quickly if we could. Remember the day
16 the little boys were killed?
17 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
18 MR. LAX: That was May 5, 1993?
19 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
20 MR. LAX: You stated that you were at your aunt's house, sitting in
21 the yard?
22 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
23 MR. LAX: Do you remember who was present at the time?
24 MS. ROBERTS: My aunt--
25 MR. LAX: Linda Sides?
26 MS. ROBERTS: Linda Sides. And Marine Collins.
27 MR. LAX: Marine Collins? What time of the day was it when you were
28 sitting in her yard?

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1 MS. ROBERTS: It was in the evening.
2 MR. LAX: 6:00, 6:30, 5:00, 5:30?
3 MS. ROBERTS: Somewhere between 5:30 and 6:30.
4 MR. LAX: Okay. Wasn't dark yet, then?
5 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
6 MR. LAX: Okay. Do you remember seeing Vickie Hutcheson that
7 night?
8 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
9 MR. LAX: Where did you see her?
10 MS. ROBERTS: Uh, she'd pulled up at the edge of the drive and then I
11 seen her later on that night.
12 MR. LAX: Okay. Whenever she pulled up at the edge of the drive,
13 what was she driving?
14 MS. ROBERTS: A blue truck.
15 MR. LAX: Did you walk out to the truck?
16 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
17 MR. LAX: And did you have a conversation with her?
18 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
19 MR. LAX: What was it about?
20 MS. ROBERTS: The little boys, uh, she had told me that they were
21 killed--that they were missing.
22 MR. LAX: And she told you this on May the fifth?
23 MS. ROBERTS: May 6, May the sixth.
24 MR. LAX: Okay, but this was when you were sitting at your aunt's
25 house?
26 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
27 MR. LAX: Didn't she tell you about another--
28 MS. ROBERTS: (Inaudible).

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1 MR. LAX: Okay. Did she know about the little boys that day?
2 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir. I don't think.
3 MR. LAX: So, she didn't talk to you that day about the little
4 boys?
5 MS. ROBERTS: No. It was May the 6.
6 MR. LAX: Okay. But on May the 5th, when you were in the yard,
7 your aunt's yard, she pulled up and you went out to the
8 truck and she talked to you about--
9 MS. ROBERTS: Uh, Connie hitting--someone called the officers
10 (inaudible).
11 MR. LAX: Okay. Was anyone with Vickie at the time?
12 MS. ROBERTS: Aaron was.
13 MR. LAX: Are you positive?
14 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
15 MR. LAX: Okay. On May the 6th, you said that you had talked to
16 Vickie and that's when she told you about the little boys
17 being murdered?
18 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
19 MR. LAX: Where did that conversation take place?
20 MS. ROBERTS: At the edge of the drive--
21 MR. LAX: At her house?
22 MS. ROBERTS: At her house.
23 MR. LAX: At her house?
24 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
25 MR. LAX: Uh, what did she say about it?
26 MS. ROBERTS: Uh, she had told me that they were missing and they had
27 been killed.
28 MR. LAX: Did she tell you they were friends of Aaron's?

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1 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
2 MR. LAX: Did she make any mention at that time that Aaron had been
3 with them?
4 MS. ROBERTS: She said he had played with them that day and they wanted
5 to know if he could spend the night with them.
6 MR. LAX: And she wouldn't let him?
7 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
8 MR. LAX: Did she tell you what had happened to the three boys?
9 MS. ROBERTS: She said that they were mutilated and castrated and tied
10 up.
11 MR. LAX: Okay. Over the next couple of months, you had several
12 occasions to be around Vickie? Is that correct?
13 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
14 MR. LAX: You told me one incidence where you were at her trailer,
15 in Highland Trailer Park, and she told you to look under
16 the bed?
17 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
18 MR. LAX: What was under the bed?
19 MS. ROBERTS: A black box (inaudible).
20 MR. LAX: What did she tell you that box was for?
21 MS. ROBERTS: She said it was for when somebody came in and they was
22 talking about it, (inaudible), and she was supposed to
23 turn it on and they'd hear what they were saying.
24 MR. LAX: Uh, about what in particular?
25 MS. ROBERTS: The murders.
26 MR. LAX: Okay. Did she tell you there were microphones in the
27 house, too?
28 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.

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1 MR. LAX: And did she show you where they were?
2 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
3 MR. LAX: And where were they?
4 MS. ROBERTS: One was in--facing the living room--and then there
5 was one in the bedroom.
6 MR. LAX: Okay. Did she tell you who had hooked-up the box?
7 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
8 MR. LAX: I mean, not the individual--
9 MS. ROBERTS: The police.
10 MR. LAX: The police? Okay. Do you know how long that box was
11 kept in the house?
12 MS. ROBERTS: At least for a month.
13 MR. LAX: And do you know when it was taken out?
14 MS. ROBERTS: June 2nd.
15 MR. LAX: How can you be sure of that?
16 MS. ROBERTS: Um--
17 MR. LAX: You wrote it down, right?
18 MS. ROBERTS: I wrote it down.
19 MR. LAX: Now, you told me at the beginning that you had kept sort
20 of a diary--
21 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
22 MR. LAX: That since the little boys had been murdered and
23 different things that had occurred?
24 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
25 MR. LAX: So, some of the dates you are sure of because you wrote
26 it down when it happened. Is that correct?
27 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
28 MR. LAX: Okay. And you wrote down in your diary that on June the

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1 2nd the box was taken out?
2 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
3 MR. LAX: Okay. Jen, you also told me that sometime in May, and
4 you didn't know the date, that you were at Vickie's
5 trailer and that she kept a fairly messy trailer?
6 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
7 MR. LAX: And you saw two books lying on the floor?
8 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
9 MR. LAX: Picked those books up?
10 MS. ROBERTS: Yes.
11 MR. LAX: What were the books about?
12 MS. ROBERTS: Witchcraft.
13 MR. LAX: Both of them?
14 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
15 MR. LAX: Did you comment to Vickie about that?
16 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
17 MR. LAX: And what did she say?
18 MS. ROBERTS: She--she said that she had checked them out of the
19 library because she wanted to read them.
20 MR. LAX: Did she say which library?
21 MS. ROBERTS: Marion.
22 MR. LAX: You find that odd or strange that she would do that?
23 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
24 MR. LAX: Did she ever talk to you about the occult, or witchcraft?
25 MS. ROBERTS: She had just stated that she thought Mark Byers was a
26 believer.
27 MR. LAX: And that was prior to Jessie and Jason and Damien being
28 arrested? Is that right?

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1 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
2 MR. LAX: But she told you she thought Mark Byers was the leader of
3 the cult?
4 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
5 MR. LAX: Did she give you any information why she felt that?
6 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
7 MR. LAX: Did Vickie ever tell you about going to a cult meeting?
8 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
9 MR. LAX: Okay. Now, you're sixteen years old? Aren't you?
10 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
11 MR. LAX: And Vickie was how old? Thirty-two? Thirty-three?
12 MS. ROBERTS: Thirty--thirty?
13 MR. LAX: Thirty? Okay. She was at least thirty, then?
14 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
15 MR. LAX: So, ya'll shouldn't have had too much in common?
16 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
17 MR. LAX: But yet you hung around a lot together?
18 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
19 MR. LAX: And she told you a lot of things?
20 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
21 MR. LAX: In fact, she even bought you whiskey to drink? Is that
22 correct?
23 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
24 MR. LAX: And gave you cigarettes?
25 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
26 MR. LAX: And, uh, I assumed that ya'll talked about boys or men
27 together? Is that right?
28 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.

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1 MR. LAX: Did she ever talk about Damien Echols?
2 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
3 MR. LAX: What did she say about him?
4 MS. ROBERTS: She said she had--she wants to meet with him--wants to go
5 out with him.
6 MR. LAX: Did she say why?
7 MS. ROBERTS: No.
8 MR. LAX: Do you know if she ever did go out with him?
9 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
10 MR. LAX: Do you know if she and Damien were ever together at any
11 time?
12 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
13 MR. LAX: How do you know that?
14 MS. ROBERTS: Because I went over there one night and she had asked
15 where did Damien go and nobody knew.
16 MR. LAX: Okay. How many times are you aware that Damien had seen
17 Vickie?
18 MS. ROBERTS: Once.
19 MR. LAX: Just once? Did Vickie ever tell you about going to a
20 cult meeting or I think she described it as an Espot
21 with Jessie and Damien?
22 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
23 MR. LAX: Somewhere up around Turrell or Twist?
24 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
25 MR. LAX: Did she ever talk about anything like that to you?
26 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
27 MR. LAX: Okay. Sometime within two weeks from the date Jessie was
28 arrested, sometime during I'd say the middle of June, you

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1 said that you were talking to Vickie at her trailer about
2 the case?
3 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
4 MR. LAX: And you made some comment about you didn't think Jessie
5 was guilty?
6 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
7 MR. LAX: What was Vickie's response?
8 MS. ROBERTS: That she told me that she could take me and let me read
9 his statement if I didn't believe he did it.
10 MR. LAX: Where was she going to take you to read his statement?
11 MS. ROBERTS: At Gary Gitchell's office.
12 MR. LAX: Did she indicate to you that she had already read the
13 statement?
14 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
15 MR. LAX: And she said that she could get you in to read the
16 statement?
17 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
18 MR. LAX: Did you take her up on that?
19 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
20 MR. LAX: Okay. You also told me that sometime in late August or
21 early September, you can't remember specifically, but a
22 family friend, a Johnny Hamilton, was in jail in
23 Harrisburg, Arkansas for non-payment of child support?
24 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
25 MR. LAX: Uh, you were having a conversation with someone about
26 this?
27 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
28 MR. LAX: Tell me what that conversation was about?

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1 MS. ROBERTS: Uh, Connie--
2 MR. LAX: Molden?
3 MS. ROBERTS: Molden--was telling me that Johnnie was in jail for
4 killing both the little boys and I said I don't believe
5 it. I said he's just about as guilty as little Jessie--
6 or he's not as--he's no more guilty than little Jessie is
7 and Aaron looked me and said neither one of them did it.
8 MR. LAX: Now, is this Aaron Hutcheson?
9 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
10 MR. LAX: And he was present during this conversation?
11 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
12 MR. LAX: Okay. From the time of the murders, until I think it was
13 probably about the end of June, you were around Vickie a
14 lot?
15 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
16 MR. LAX: Did you hear Vickie have several conversations with
17 different police officers?
18 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
19 MR. LAX: Who were the main police officers she talked to?
20 MS. ROBERTS: Don Bray and Gary Gitchell.
21 MR. LAX: How often would she have these conversations?
22 MS. ROBERTS: Four or five times a day.
23 MR. LAX: What was the purpose? Do you know?
24 MS. ROBERTS: No.
25 MR. LAX: Did you ever see Gitchell or Bray come to her house?
26 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
27 MR. LAX: She would always call them on the phone?
28 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir. Or go to their office.

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1 MR. LAX: Or go to their office? Okay. Did Vickie ever talk to
2 you about the reward?
3 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
4 MR. LAX: What'd she say?
5 MS. ROBERTS: She had told me that Aaron was receiving it and that she
6 told me how she was going to spend the money, buy
7 different things with it.
8 MR. LAX: Did you ask her why Aaron was going to receive the money?
9 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
10 MR. LAX: And what did she say?
11 MS. ROBERTS: She said because he had seen the murders.
12 MR. LAX: Did you believe it?
13 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
14 MR. LAX: Why not?
15 MS. ROBERTS: Because he was out here in the trailer park.
16 MR. LAX: Did you tell her that you knew he was out here in the
17 trailer park?
18 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
19 MR. LAX: And what did she say?
20 MS. ROBERTS: Nothing.
21 MR. LAX: Did not respond? Okay. You also told me that Vickie had
22 a party at her house, and again you have the date of
23 this, it was May 18th?
24 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
25 MR. LAX: Uh--
26 MS. ROBERTS: Well, it was the 17th up until 12:00 o'clock and then
27 18th.
28 MR. LAX: So, it was a long party?

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1 MS. ROBERTS: Yeah. About two, yeah.
2 MR. LAX: Okay. Who was present at this party?
3 MS. ROBERTS: Christie Anderson, Vickie Hutcheson, Joe, I don't know
4 his last name, and then Jessie, Jr., and me.
5 MR. LAX: Was there any alcohol present?
6 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
7 MR. LAX: This Joe, that you didn't know his last name, was he
8 legal age? Was he over twenty-one?
9 MS. ROBERTS: I believe so.
10 MR. LAX: How about Christie Anderson?
11 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
12 MR. LAX: Jessie, Jr.?
13 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
14 MR. LAX: And you weren't.
15 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
16 MR. LAX: So ya'll didn't drink did you?
17 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
18 MR. LAX: You did?
19 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
20 MR. LAX: Who purchased this whiskey?
21 MS. ROBERTS: Vickie Hutcheson.
22 MR. LAX: What kind of whiskey was it?
23 MS. ROBERTS: Wild Turkey.
24 MR. LAX: Okay. This Christie Anderson--was she a friend of
25 Vickie's?
26 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
27 MR. LAX: Did she live with her for a while?
28 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.

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1 MR. LAX: Did Christie ever tell you about a problem that she had
2 because of Vickie?
3 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
4 MR. LAX: What was that problem?
5 MS. ROBERTS: Hot checks.
6 MR. LAX: What did Christie tell you?
7 MS. ROBERTS: That Vickie had wrote--had took her bank book and she was
8 writing hot checks and that she had to go to court on
9 her.
10 MR. LAX: All right. You are a friend of the Misskelley family?
11 Is that correct?
12 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
13 MR. LAX: And have been for a while?
14 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
15 MR. LAX: You would, uh, do whatever you could to help them? Is
16 that right?
17 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
18 MR. LAX: Would you lie for them?
19 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
20 MR. LAX: Are you sure?
21 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
22 MR. LAX: You and Jessie were pretty tight? And you wouldn't lie
23 to keep--to help him?
24 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
25 MR. LAX: Have you lied today?
26 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
27 MR. LAX: Have you told me everything truthfully, as well as you
28 know it?

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1 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
2 MR. LAX: And you are aware this is being tape recorded?
3 MS. ROBERTS: Yes, sir.
4 MR. LAX: And I haven't threatened you or promised you anything?
5 MS. ROBERTS: No, sir.
6 MR. LAX: All right. This concludes our statement with Jen
7 Roberts.

8
9 AFFIDAVIT

10 I, Jennifer Michelle Roberts, swear the foregoing statement is true
11 and correct to the best of my knowledge. I gave said statement of my
12 own free will and accord with no threats or promises having been made.
13

14
15 JENNIFER MICHELLE ROBERTS

16 DATE: _____
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