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DATE: 25 APRIL 1968

CLASSIFICATION: (PER ORIG)

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**SECRET**  
**PRIORITY**  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CITE DIRECTOR 34270  
7

1. 16 APRIL RODERICK CLAFLIN BROWN, PANAMANIAN NATIONAL,  
BORN 1 JULY 1917, BRITISH HONDURAS, VOLUNTARILY APPEARED AT  
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS (DENI) OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA AND SIGNED  
DEPOSITION HIGHLIGHTS OF WHICH AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) 26 OCTOBER 1962 SERVED AS COOK/SEAMAN ABOARD  
TEXACO S.S. SOUTHAMPTON WHICH DOCKED AT MOBILE, ALABAMA.
- (2) ON SHORE VISIT TO MOBILE AIRPORT MORNING OF  
26 OCTOBER IN COMPANY TWO FELLOW PANAMANIAN/SEAMAN HE APPROACHED  
BY MARVIN P. LITRELL, OWNER, LITRELL MOTOR CO., 921-25 SOUTH  
CLINTON STREET, ATHENS, ALABAMA, WHO AFTER ASCERTAINING BROWN  
PANAMANIAN SEAMAN, ASKED IF HE KNEW OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
- (3) LITRELL INQUIRED WHETHER BROWN INTERESTED IN EMPLOY-  
MENT, DETAILS OF WHICH UNSPECIFIED. WENT ON TO DESCRIBE DR. KING  
AS "OUR GREATEST PROBLEM WHO IS CAUSING US MUCH TROUBLE." GAVE  
BROWN BUSINESS CARD TO USE IN EVENT HE INTERESTED IN PURSUING  
EMPLOYMENT OFFER.

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-CONTINUED- 25 Apr 68  
201-0832732

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(4) 28 JANUARY 1963 BROWN WROTE LITRELL FROM NEW YORK CITY, STATING HE INTERESTED IN JOB AND REQUESTED \$75 FOR TRAVEL NEW YORK CITY TO MOBILE. 2 FEBRUARY 63 BROWN RECEIVED REPLY FROM LITRELL, RE-STATING THAT HE HAD A JOB WAITING FOR BROWN IN ALABAMA, BUT QUESTIONING WHY \$75 NEEDED SINCE FARE LESS THAN \$40 BY BUS.

(5) AFTER DISCUSSIONS WITH RELATIVE AND FRIENDS IN NEW YORK CITY, BROWN SUSPICIONED THAT LITRELL JOB OFFER RELATED WITH ASSASSINATION PLANS FOR DR. KING. THEREFORE HE DID NOT RESPOND TO LITRELL LETTER AND DISMISSED INCIDENT UNTIL DEATH OF DR. KING IN APRIL 1968. BROWN RETURNED PANAMA IN 1964.

2. A PHOTOCOPY OF LITRELL LETTER OF 2 FEBRUARY 1963 WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE TO YOUR BUREAU. THIS OFFICE HAS NO TRACES ON BROWN OR LITRELL.

END OF MESSAGE

*James Hunt*  
JAMES HUNT  
DC/CI

*WH/IR* [redacted] 03  
*C/WH/2/P* [redacted]  
*CI/OPS* - R. Ober [redacted]  
*WH/FI* [redacted]  
*CI/LSW* [redacted]

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