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SECRET 242216<sup>2</sup> APR 68 CITE [REDACTED] 6188

DIRECTOR  
RYBAT WOMUSE

24 APR 68 # 97560

1. 16 APRIL RODERICK CLAFLIN BROWN, PANAMANIAN NATIONAL, BORN 1 JULY 1917, BRITISH HONDURAS, VOL UNTIARILY APPEARED AT HYPERACE 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 EMPLOYMENT, DETAILS OF WHICH UNSPECIFIED. WENT ON TO DESCRIBE DR. KING AS "OUR GREATEST PROBLEM WHO IS CAUSING US MUCH TROUBLE." GAVE BROWN BUSINESS CARD

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PAGE 2 [redacted] 6180 S E C R E T

TO USE IN EVENT HE INTERESTED IN PURSUING EMPLOYMENT OFFER.

(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. COPY OF DEPOSITION GIVEN TO STATION BY [redacted] 24 APRIL. (PROTCOPY OF LITRELL LETTER OF 2 FEBRUARY 1963 ATTACHED THERETO.

3. NO STATION TRACES BROWN.

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*will be made available to the agency*

SECRET

2/17