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SECRET 222144Z APR 68 CITE 22 APR 68 H 50853

IMMEDIATE INFO PRIORITY DIRECTOR

1. LOCAL PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE DETAINED TWO AMERICANS WHO TRAVELLED FROM SAN JOSE TO PANAMA CITY VIA PANAMERICAN HIGHWAY. ACCORDING TO PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES THEY WERE TIPPED OFF BY COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE TWO AMERICANS WERE INVOLVED IN THE ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. PANAMANIAN AUTHORITIES DO NOT KNOW BASIS FOR COSTA RICAN SUSPICIONS, AND LATTER HAVE NOT ANSWERED QUERIES. CAN YOU INQUIRE FROM YOUR [] CONTACTS AS REASON WHY COSTA RICANS SUSPECT THESE TWO INDIVIDUALS? ANSWER BY IMMEDIATE PRECEDENCE CABLE.

2. AMERICANS ARE MR TOM WOLMAN; DPOB; 17 JULY 1944, NEW YORK. PASSPORT J085474 ISSUED 29 JANUARY 1968. HOME ADDRESS: 30 LARRY'S LANE, PLEASANTVILLE, NEW YORK. (PASSPORT PICTURE SHOWS NO RESEMBLANCE TO KING ASSASSIN.)

DOUGLAS HARRY HULBARD, PASSPORT NO. 330926. ACCORDING TO PANAMANIAN [] WOLMAN IS JUST A KID AND HULBARD IS A FORMER SOLDIER STATIONED IN PANAMA WHO WAS RETURNING TO PANAMA TO MARRY A GIRL HE MET HERE. THE PAIR WERE TRAVELING IN A CHEVROLET LICENSE PLATE 23GH195 MOTOR NO. 13-387-13-113711. NEITHER THE YEAR OF THE AUTO NOR THE STATE OF ISSUANCE OF THE LICENSE PLATE WERE NOTED IN THE [] REPORT.

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ACCORDING TO WOLMAN'S PASSPORT HE ENTERED AND DEPARTED EL SALVADOR AND HONDURAS ON 17 APRIL, NICARAGUA 18 APRIL AND PASO DE CANOA PANAMA 10 APRIL. NO EVIDENCE FROM PASSPORT THAT WOLMAN TRANSITTED COSTA RICA.

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