

**RETURN TO CIA**  
 Background Use Only  
 Do Not Reproduce

MESSAGE FORM  
 TOTAL COPIES: 15

S-E-C-R-E-T

DATE: 25 APRIL 1968

CLASSIFICATION: (PER ORIG)

INDEX  DESTROY  RETURN TO \_\_\_\_\_ SEARCH  FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

NO INDEX  FILE IN CS FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

CONF: C/WH 6  MID COPY

FILE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ VER. \_\_\_\_\_ ORG. C/S/ CS/DO

25 15 31 Z (date and time filed)

(classification) (date and time filed) (reference number)

**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.

RECORD COPY

-CONTINUED- 25 Apr 68  
 201-0832732

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS  
 S-E-C-R-E-T

2500Y  
 Features from automatic  
 duplicating and  
 can. 2500Y 10/68

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED.

COPY NO.

**RETURN TO CIA**  
 Background Use Only  
 Do Not Reproduce

MESSAGE FORM  
TOTAL COPIES:

**S-E-C-R-E-T**

1	6
2	7
3	8
4	9
5	10

CLASSIFICATION INFORMATION

BY: \_\_\_\_\_ PER: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

INFO: \_\_\_\_\_

FILE \_\_\_\_\_

INFO: \_\_\_\_\_

FILE \_\_\_\_\_

SECRET

CITE DIRECTOR 94270

(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 <sup>YOUR BUREAU</sup> ~~THE BUREAU~~. THIS OFFICE HAS NO TRACES ON BROWN OR LITRELL.

END OF MESSAGE

WH/PR [Signature] 03

C/WH/2/P [Signature]

CI/PS - R. Ober [Signature]

WH/FI [Signature]

CI/LSW [Signature]

IP/WH	X
IP/WH	
IP/WH	
IP/WH	
IP/WH	
IP/WH	
IP/WH	
IP/WH	
IP/WH	
IP/WH	

EDWIN M. TERRELL 03  
C/WH/2

JAMES HUNT  
DC/GI

RELEASING OFFICER

COORDINATING OFFICERS

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

AUTHENTICATING OFFICER

REPRODUCTION BY OTHER THAN THE ISSUING OFFICE IS PROHIBITED. COPY NO.

21BR