

Re: James Earl Ray

officers any reason for being in the area of the Lorraine Motel at the time of the shooting of Reverend King. According to the arresting officers, these two individuals were placed in a marked patrol car, questioned, and then transferred to an unmarked police car for transportation to Central Police Headquarters. According to Inspector [REDACTED], Memphis Police Department, the handling of these prisoners was standard operating procedure and most persons arrested by tactical units during disturbances during this period were transported to Headquarters in unmarked cars, one arrestee to a car.

According to Mr. Flannery's memorandum, [REDACTED] claims that an unidentified Negro policeman was removed from his assignment at the Fire Station at about 5 p.m. on the day of the assassination. [REDACTED] identifies this policeman as [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] also states that two Negro firemen were moved from the station a day or two before the shooting. One of them had reportedly told friends that two or three days before Dr. King was shot a telescope or binoculars had been set up on a tripod in the Fire Station and focused on the Lorraine Motel balcony. According to this memorandum, [REDACTED] in August advised Flannery that one fireman left the Department or was suspended, shortly after the shooting, and that he had been unable to locate either of them.

In this regard, Inspector [REDACTED] Intelligence Unit, Memphis Police Department, advised on 11/18/68, that on 4/3/68 he assigned Detective [REDACTED] and Patrolman [REDACTED], Negro officers, both of whom are assigned to the Inspection Division of the Memphis Police Department, to a security detail at the Memphis Fire Station, Engine House #2, located at Butler and Main Streets. This location is approximately one block from the Lorraine Motel. The purpose of this assignment was to observe the activities of the "Invaders," local Black Power group at Memphis. A number of the "Invaders" were rooming at the Lorraine Motel at this time. These two officers were equipped with binoculars and were stationed in a room at the rear of the fire station, with a view that included

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the room later occupied by the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.

In connection with this assignment, and prior to the time Officers [redacted] and [redacted] physically proceeded to this assigned location, it was determined by the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department that a Negro fireman stationed at the Fire Station and named [redacted] had taken an active part in demonstrations by the striking sanitation workers in February and March, 1968, and had been closely associated with black militants connected with the strike. In order to insure security for Officers [redacted] and [redacted] and to insure that no information regarding the Memphis Police Department Intelligence Unit's efforts to keep abreast of the activities of the "Invaders" was leaked to the black militants in Memphis, the Chief of the Memphis Fire Department was requested to temporarily transfer Fireman [redacted] to another fire station. This was done on 4/3/68.

In addition, on 4/4/68, Negro Fireman [redacted] was routinely assigned from Fire Station #2 to Fire Station #31, due to a manpower shortage at Fire Station #31.

On 11/18/68, [redacted] advised that by letter dated 5/18/68, Fireman [redacted] resigned from the Memphis Fire Department after thirteen years of service, giving as his reason for leaving "Personal Reasons." [redacted] advised it is his understanding that [redacted] has become an active worker with the NAACP at Memphis subsequent to his resignation from the Memphis Fire Department.

At approximately 4:15 p.m. on 4/4/68, Lt. [redacted] of the Intelligence Unit of the Memphis Police Department, on instructions from Inspector [redacted] proceeded to Fire Engine House #2 and removed Detective [redacted] from this station, leaving Officer [redacted] at this post. The reason for the removal of Officer [redacted] was due to the receipt of a telephone call on the morning of 4/4/68 by [redacted] for Senator McClellan's Senate Investigating Committee, Washington, D. C., to the effect that information had been

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received by the Committee that a Negro detective on the Memphis Police Department was to be killed.

Due to Detective [redacted] activities in attending meetings of the striking sanitation workers in February and March 1968, [redacted] had been threatened on several occasions. Inspector [redacted] therefore believed the telephone call received by the McClellan Committee was another threat directed against [redacted]. He therefore ordered [redacted] removed from his lookout post at Engine House #2 for [redacted] own protection. A police guard of two officers was assigned to [redacted] and his family as a result of this threat.

A review of the tapes of the Memphis Police Department radio transmissions for April 4, 1968, failed to reflect any transmissions from Police Dispatcher ordering [redacted] to move from his observation post and, in fact, it has been ascertained that no radio equipment was maintained by the Police officers at this observation post with which to receive radio transmissions.

According to this memorandum, [redacted] mentions something to the effect that [redacted] of the Memphis Police Department telephonically contacted the Lorraine Motel regarding stationing detectives at the motel.

In this regard, [redacted] as advised that he does not recall talking to any maid at the Lorraine Motel on 4/4/68; however, he stated he had been in telephonic contact on a number of occasions with [redacted] regarding the identity of certain individuals registered at the Motel.

It has been determined from the Memphis Police Department that on the morning of 4/3/68, Memphis [redacted] ordered [redacted] of the Department to send a detail of men to the Memphis Metropolitan Airport to offer security to the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. and his party. Police records reflect that Inspector [redacted] offered the services of the police detail to [redacted]

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Approved: [Signature]
Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____