

Memorandum

TO : SAC, Memphis (157-109A)

DATE: 3/29/68

FROM : ASAC C. O. HALTER

SUBJECT: SANITATION WORKERS STRIKE,
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE
RM

^{M.E.}
Lt. NICHOLS of the Memphis PD has furnished the following information to SA LOWE regarding the activities of MARTIN LUTHER KING and his associates at the time they left the march and shortly thereafter:

When the trouble started, KING, ABERNATHY, LEE and two additional Negro males were at the head of the march. They tried to commandeer a white panel truck to get them away from the march. The driver of the white panel truck refused to help. A white Pontiac occupied by two Negro females followed the panel truck. One of KING's aides managed to have the Pontiac stopped. The Aide asked if the women would assist in getting KING out of danger. The women agreed. One of KING's aides slid behind the steering wheel. The other four Negro males got in the rear seat of the Pontiac. KING's aide drove the Pontiac to McCall and Front Street. At this point the car was surrounded by approximately 50 individuals, consisting of Negroes as well as reporters.

Lt. NICHOLS, who was on a motorcycle, cleared the crowd from around the Pontiac and asked the driver of the Pontiac where he was going. The driver said he had Rev. KING in the back seat; that he had to get away, and asked the officer to escort them to Hotel Peabody. Officer NICHOLS explained that due to the rioting they could not get to the Peabody and asked if they desired to go to another place. The Negro driver said, "Just get us away from trouble." Officer NICHOLS then escorted them to the Rivermont Motel. Officer NICHOLS went to the desk clerk and asked if she had space for five Negroes, including Reverend KING. The desk clerk told NICHOLS the Negroes could remain in the lobby and an effort would be made to obtain a room for them.

COH:ME
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After the five male Negroes, including Rev. KING, left the Pontiac, the two Negro females drove on. Officer NICHOLS did not obtain the names of these Negro females and feels confident they had nothing to do with Rev. KING and were not a part of Rev. KING's party. Officer NICHOLS remained at the Rivermont Motel and knows that these two Negro females did not return to the Rivermont.

A contact at the Rivermont has stated Dr. KING has informed the desk he will leave at 2:30 PM, March 29, 1968.

The Sanitation Strike March will be held beginning at 3:00 PM, March 29, 1968, and will consist of approximately 500 marchers, all of whom will march in single file on the sidewalk. Youths will not be permitted in the march.