

Hunt Single Killer In 'Well-Planned' Slaying

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A single white man, following an apparently well planned procedure, was the assassin yesterday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Police Director Frank Holloman said today.

Holloman said the investigation showed the assassin checked into a main street flop-house at midafternoon, shot

King from a second floor window of the building three hours later and then disappeared in the resulting confusion.

THE MURDER WEAPON apparently was a new .30-06 Remington pump rifle with telescopic sights, Holloman said. The assassin also carried a new set of binoculars and a new suitcase.

A .30-06 Remington pump rifle was one of 15 weapons stolen a night earlier from a Memphis sporting goods store, but Holloman refused to say immediately that the stolen gun was the death weapon.

"As far as we know, and from the evidence at this time, there was only one man in the physical area of the slaying," Holloman said.

He said one of the 30 to 40 officers on duty in the vicinity of the motel saw the bullet strike King, and all immediately converged on the scene.

THE FATAL shot was fired from the window of a common bathroom in the flop-house, Holloman said. King's room was 205 feet away, through trees and across a street but in "clear" view of the window.

Holloman said the assassin was a white male, between 26 and 32 years of age, standing six feet tall and weighing 165-175 pounds. Police radios said he had dark to sandy hair, medium build, a ruddy complexion and was wearing a black suit and white shirt.

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