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# MEMPHIS PARLEYS STRIVE FOR PEACE

## Meetings Seek to End Strife and Insure Calm March

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MEMPHIS, April 6 — Two critical conferences were held in this tense, deeply divided city today. The first sought to break the deadlock between the city and the striking sanitation workers; the second worked to insure that a memorial march for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Monday would not erupt in violence.

Representatives of the city and the sanitation workers met this afternoon with Under Secretary of Labor James Reynolds, who was sent here by President Johnson yesterday to try to resolve the eight-week long strike of the sanitation workers.

The strike and the city administration's refusal to recognize the union or grant a dues checkoff brought the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. here to rally support behind the predominantly Negro union.

In the second meeting, Negro leaders met with city, state and Federal officials to try to insure that next Monday's memorial march for Dr. King does not set off a new round of violence in the city.

Both meetings took place in the Claridge Hotel, which stands next to City Hall on the bank of the Mississippi River.

Among those attending the second meeting was Bayard Rustin, director of the A. Philip Randolph Institute in New York. Mr. Rustin organized the 1963 civil rights march in Washington.

### Police Attend Conference

Representatives of the city police, the National Guard, the Federal Community Relations Service, local business groups and several civil rights organizations were also scheduled to attend the hastily organized conference.

Organizers of Monday's

march said today that they expected between 20,000 and 40,000 persons to take part in the procession, which will wind two and a half miles through the center of the city from the Clayborn Temple African Methodist Episcopal Church to City Hall and back to the church.

The march was originally scheduled to be led by Dr. King in an effort to prove that he could organize a purely non-violent demonstration here in support of the sanitation workers. The leader of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference had been deeply disturbed when a march on March 28 deteriorated into the nation's first serious racial violence of the year.

Before Dr. King's assassination, the city had obtained a Federal Court injunction prohibiting the march on Monday but yesterday the city withdrew its objection to the march and United States District Judge Bailey Brown lifted the court ban.

The march will now be in honor of the slain winner of the Nobel Prize. But its organizers hope it will also serve to demonstrate the solidarity of blacks and many whites behind the aims of Dr. King, including demands of the sanitation men.

This morning the rioting here claimed its first victim. Ellis Tate, a 26-year-old Negro, died at John Gaston Hospital from multiple bullet wounds. The police said he had been shot Thursday night after he fired at policemen who found him looting a liquor store.

The meeting was designed to arrive at an understanding between organizers of the march and all city and state law enforcement officials about procedures so that there would be no serious misunderstanding that could lead to clashes.

The Rev. Ralph Abernathy, who has succeeded Dr. King as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is the official leader of the march. He accompanied Dr. King's body to Atlanta yesterday, but he is expected to return here late today or tomorrow.

In his absence, the Rev. James Lawson, pastor of Centenary Methodist Church, was acting as the march leader, with the Rev. H. Ralph Jackson, head of the Minimum Salary Department of the African Methodist Episcopal church as second in command.

Mr. Jackson said today that marchers were expected from New York, Boston, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati and many other cities. Virtually all of the nation's prominent civil rights and black power leaders were expected to participate in the march, as well as several film stars and other entertainers.