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Mrs. King Is Planning to Fly to Memphis Today

Hears About Husband's Death While at Atlanta Airport

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Special to The New York Times

ATLANTA, April 4 — Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr., who called off a trip to Memphis tonight after her husband's planned to fly here to claim his body tomorrow.

Mrs. King, informed that her husband had been wounded, was rushed to the Atlanta Airport by Mayor Ivan Ollen Jr. for Eastern Airlines Flight 399, scheduled to depart for Memphis at 8:25 P.M. A heavy rain delayed the flight, however.

She waited briefly in a private room at the airport with her two eldest children, Yolanda Denise and Martin Luther King Jr. She learned of her husband's death. He broke the news to her at the airport.

Mr. Allen drove Mrs. King back to the King residence, a modest home about two miles northeast of the downtown business district. There she received a few visits and telephone calls from friends.

Breaks Into Tears

Mrs. King broke into tears occasionally, they reported, but otherwise she appeared outwardly composed. For a time, she watched a television recounting of her husband's career as a civil rights leader.

Several whites went to the home to offer their sympathy. Among them was Herbert T.



United Press International

Mrs. Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta last night after she learned that her husband had been assassinated.

Jenkins, the Atlanta chief of police, who was a member of the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, and Sam Caldwell, the state Labor Commissioner.

About 15 men were posted around the King home by the police. The detail was headed by Capt. Howard Baugh, a 44-year-old Negro officer who re-

Mayor Drives Her to Home After Breaking the News

called that he had lived next-door to Dr. King when they were boys.

Dr. King's father, the Rev. Martin Luther King Sr., was sequestered at his home in another section of the city. Captain Baugh, who said he had talked to the elder Mr. King tonight, said he sounded as though he was bearing up "quite well."

The father was pastor and Dr. King was co-pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church. A brief prayer service was held there soon after the shooting, and several other Negro churches opened their doors also.

The time of Mrs. King's trip to Memphis tomorrow was not immediately known.

Recuperating From Surgery

ATLANTA, Ga., April 4 (AP) — Mrs. King, who has been recuperating from major surgery, had lived with the threat of death for her husband.

After he won the Nobel Prize in 1964, she said, "I have lived with the threat of death always present."

Mrs. King, a former voice instructor, has sung at concerts for numerous civil rights organizations and sometimes has accompanied her husband on his trips in the fight for civil rights.