

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date 4/15/68

TORRENCE N. LANDERS, Patrolman, Memphis Police Department, furnished the following information:

On the afternoon of April 4, 1968, he was a member of Mobile Tactical Unit Ten which consisted of 3 vehicles. Shortly prior to 6:00 PM, the unit stopped at the fire station located in the 400 block of S. Main Street at E. Butler Avenue. Doctor MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was staying at the Lorraine Motel at the time, and the motel was located approximately one block from the fire station. At approximately 5:50 PM on April 4, he heard a sharp sound which resembled a firearm being discharged, however, no one else paid any attention to the noise and he paid no further attention to it, however, a few moments later someone in the fire station announced that Doctor KING had been shot. He immediately left the fire station by the door on the northwest corner, ran along side the station to a retaining wall in back of the station which is also Mulberry Avenue. He and another officer jumped down onto Mulberry Street and ran to the Lorraine Motel where a group of Negroes were gathered on the walk beneath the balcony. There was a great deal of turmoil, and he asked one of the men present, from what direction the shot was fired. This individual pointed to the second floor windows of a rooming house on S. Main Street and said, "from over there."

Officer FLANDERS immediately left the motel on foot, ran across Mulberry Street, and leaping on an empty 55 gallon drum which was on the sidewalk, he boosted himself up onto the top of a retaining wall. He then searched the ground in back of the rooming house for footprints, however, he found none with the exception of 2 footprints near a cellar door. It had rained the previous day and the ground was soft and any footprints would have been easily noted. Just a few minutes later, he was joined in the search by a deputy sheriff, who was wearing a light colored helmet. LANDERS stated that he, himself, had no hat and he was wearing a light blue shirt, no tie, and dark blue trousers.

4/13/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # ME 44-1987-Sub-D-77

MELVIN E. DE GRAW *MD*
KENNETH A. WILLIAMS *KAW/bbs* Date dictated 4/13/68

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The ground level premises in the area were immediately searched, however, nothing was revealed or noted connected to this investigation. He also advised that in a matter of a few minutes the area was swarming with officers who sealed off the area in a effort to apprehend the individual responsible for shooting Doctor KING. He reiterated that he is positive if anyone had been across the street from the Lorraine Motel in the area behind the rooming house in the 400 block of S. Main Street, he would have been able to observe the individual's footprints, however, none were noted,