

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Date April 16, 1968

CHARLES ELVIN STONE, 584 Orchard Drive, Memphis, Tennessee, was interviewed at the Number Two Engine House, Memphis Fire Department, 474 South Main Street. STONE advised that he is a member of the Memphis Fire Department, and has been in this employment for the past three years. He stated that he was on duty at the Firehouse on April 4, 1968, and was a witness to the shooting of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING. He stated that at approximately 6:00 p.m. on that date, he was in the rear locker room of the Fire Department, and was looking out the back window across the street to the motel where DR. KING was staying. He advised that DR. KING was standing on the balcony outside of his hotel room, and was talking to another individual below the balcony. STONE stated that there was another man standing to the right of DR. KING, and a number of other individuals located in the courtyard directly below the hotel room of DR. KING.

STONE stated that as KING was talking to the individual below him, a shot rang out, and DR. KING fell over backwards. STONE stated that he was stunned for a few seconds, and after realizing what had happened, ran inside to the center of the firehouse, and told both the other firemen and the police officers that were in the firehouse at that time that DR. KING had been shot. At first the officers thought that STONE was joking, but one of the other firemen came rushing in saying the same thing. At that instance, all of the police officers rushed out of the firehouse in an attempt to cut off the area in which the shooting occurred. STONE stated that at approximately ten seconds later, he went out the side door of the Fire Department, and proceeded towards Mulberry Street, the street on which DR. KING's motel was located. STONE stated there was mass confusion at the hotel as people were running to see what had happened, and the only ones he saw on the street at that time were the police officers who were converging on the area. STONE stated that he did not notice any white man in the area immediately after the shooting nor did he notice any individual wearing a white hood. STONE stated that after a few minutes, he walked to the front of the Firehouse, but stated that he did not observe any white Mustang on Front Street or in that vicinity.

On 4/16/68 at Memphis, Tennessee File # 44-1987 - 47 *Sub D-57*
 by SAs EDWARD M. QUINN / SHIELDS W. SMITH / EMO. Jms Date dictated 4/16/68

STONE also advised that he did not notice a Mustang of that type near the Firehouse at any time during that day.

STONE stated that with him in the locker room at the time of the shooting were Lieutenant JOENNEKE and Fireman KING, both members of the Fire Department, and a Negro police officer, Officer RICHMOND. STONE stated that all of these individuals were watching the hotel room at the time DR. KING was shot, and all saw the actual shooting. STONE stated that from the sound of the shot, he thought it came from the parking lot located north of the Fire Department, but that it could have been slightly further north.

STONE advised that he was unable to furnish any positive information concerning the individual who fired the shot killing DR. KING.