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By JAY BOWLES

Associated Press Writer

MEMPHIS, Tenn. AP - Law enforcement officers remained tight-lipped Tuesday about their search for a man they say is "on the run"-the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Federal authorities have taken complete charge of the case, refusing all comment except to say that the necessary manpower has been committed to the investigation.

Police Chief J. C. M. McDonald, reporting that local officers no longer have jurisdiction over the case, said, "I don't know any more about it than you do."

Rolando Velez, the Mexican consul here, said FBI agents questioned him Tuesday morning about a man who had obtained a tourist card, giving a false address and telephone number, the day before King was shot last Thursday. Velez had contacted authorities after reporting a resemblance between the man and a sketch carried Saturday by a local newspaper.

The Justice Department in Washington, denied, however, a report that the investigation had extended into Mexico.

The newspaper composite picture was drawn from 6 descriptions given by persons living in the second-floor downtown flophouse where police believe the assassin shot King through a bathroom window.

It pictured a clean and well-dressed white man, 26 to 32 years of age, with a sharp nose.

King was shot as he stood on the balcony of a motel directly across the street and behind the flophouse. Police said a .30-.06 pump rifle was the murder weapon.

A similar weapon was found by police on a doorstep near the flophouse minutes after the shooting, and has been sent to the FBI laboratory in Washington for ballistics tests. No results of the tests have been disclosed, however.

FBI agents also confiscated a suitcase, but refused to disclose its contents.

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