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New Twist in Assassination Investigation

Memphis, Tenn.

The possibility that unauthorized broadcasts on police radio frequencies threw authorities off the trail of Dr. Martin Luther King's killer was being investigated here, it was revealed yesterday.

The new twist in the complex case came as authorities lifted the curfew dropped over Memphis for six nights following the assassination and Federal authorities expanded their search for the assassin.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal said in a copyrighted story that conspirators may have faked a series of police radio reports of a car chase involving a white Mustang.

"Could someone have used a transmitter tuned to the police frequency to put out misleading information — information which would take the focus of the search north from the city and open up escape routes . . . into Arkansas or south into Mississippi?" asked a page one story.

Frank C. Holloman, the city's police director, confirmed he is investigating what seem to be false police radio reports.

Lieutenant R. W. Bradshaw, who operates the police car from which the radio reports supposedly came, said he did not broadcast them.

The search for the assassin is in the hands of Federal authorities. The search spread for a time to Mexico, but officials later said the man they were looking for apparently had nothing to do with the slaying.

Associated Press

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Hunt for Assassin Slows Up

MEMPHIS — (AP) — The task of finding the person who killed Dr. Martin Luther King apparently has settled down to the grueling police routine of sifting every clue and checking every lead.

There was no talk of an early arrest, as there has been shortly after Dr. King was assassinated last Thursday night.

The Memphis Commercial Appeal reported today that the city's fire and police director is investigating the possibility that someone used the police radio frequency to draw officers off the trail of the fleeing assassin.

The paper said Frank C. Holloman, Memphis fire and police director, "would only say last night that such a possibility is under investigation."

There were reports, meantime, of arrests in various parts of the country and of a widespread search in Mexico.

The Mexican rumor started after Rolando Veloz, the Mexican counsel here, told authorities there was a resemblance between a composite sketch carried in a local newspaper and a young man who applied for a tourist card the day before Dr. King was shot.

The young man turned out to be a 19 year old student at Memphis State University, Memphis police said. They said what was thought to be a false address and phone number were those of his father in Park Ridge, Ill. They dismissed the possibility that he was connected with the case.

In Washington, the Justice Department denied that the investigation had extended into Mexico. The Memphis Commercial Appeal said however it had learned the FBI had contacted the central police office in Mexico City.