

DR. KING KILLED

President Johnson Joins Mourners, Urges Unity In Nation

King feared neither man, jail, death

By ELIZABETH M. OLIVER

Leaving Baltimore early this morning (Friday) in his private plane is Dr. I. Logan Kearsse, pastor of the Cornerstone Baptist Church and closest Baltimore friend of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Dr. Kearsse told the AFRO Thursday night shortly after the world famed civil rights leader died he had talked with Mrs. King long distance and was leaving to join her and the family in plans for the last rites.

Dr. Kearsse was responsible for bringing Dr. King to Baltimore on many occasions since 1954.

According to the Baltimore minister, Dr. King will be buried from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Ga.

This is the church founded by his maternal grandfather, the Rev. A. D. Williams who was succeeded by Dr. King's father, Dr. Martin Luther King Sr.

Dr. King Jr. became his father's co-pastor six years ago after the elder Rev. Mr. King had served 40 years. The church has over 3,000 members.



DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. A sniper's bullet ended his life before his dream of an integrated America could be realized.



DR. AND MRS. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. When he could find the time the fallen civil rights leader found his happiest moments with wife, Coretta, and their four children.

Assassinated by white rifleman

By CHARLES ROND

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was shot in the back of the neck and killed late Thursday as he stood alone on the balcony of his hotel. He was 39.

"He had always lived with that expectation," sobbed one of Mr. King's aides outside the emergency room where he died at 8:05 p.m. EST, almost an hour after the high-powered rifle, a 30.06 Browning automatic rifle bullet tore a gaping hole in the right side of his neck.

Police issued a bulletin for a young white man who darted out of a building across the street from the hotel.

There were reports that police — and civilian cars — were pursuing and firing upon a car carrying three white men that sped out of the city. Police also hustled two young white men into the police station.

It was not immediately known if there was any connection with King's death.

"I and all citizens of Memphis deeply regret the murder today of Dr. Martin Luther King," said Police Chief Frank Holloman.

King was rushed to the hospital emergency room with a bullet wound in the neck.

POLICE CHASED a late model, blue car through Memphis and north to Millington. They reported a civilian, in a car with a citizens band radio, had closed on the car and opened fire. Dr. Andrew Young, King's chief lieutenant, reported the Nobel Peace Prize winner was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel when the shot felled him.

Young and other aides were in King's hotel room. THE SHOT apparently came from a brick building across the street. The police bulletin was for a "young white male, well-dressed, who ran out of the building, dropped a rifle on the street and leaped into a car about a block away.

There were three white males in the car police were pursuing. More than 100 helmeted policemen and sheriff's deputies sealed off a five-square block area of Memphis around the hotel.

Hundreds of spectators flooded around the cordon. In Washington, the FBI said it was investigating the shooting "at the specific request of the attorney general."

Young and King's other lieutenants stood outside the emergency room of St. Joseph's Hospital while doctors worked over King.

"Oh my God, oh my God," sobbed the Rev. W. Herbert Burter, a local civil rights leader. In Atlanta, King's wife prepared to fly to Memphis immediately. "I was just told he had been shot," she said. "The report I got was in the shoulder, and he was in serious condition."

King was rushed to the same hospital where James Meredith was taken after his ambush wounding in Hernando, Miss., south of Memphis in June, 1965.

Meredith was shot and wounded by a Memphis man who lay in waiting for him on the second day of his Memphis-to-Jackson march. He was not seriously wounded.

King WAS in Memphis to lead a massive march Monday to prove — in the face of last week's riot — that he could conduct a peaceful march. His attorneys went to

expected to take part. The body was moved to the accompaniment of 50 to 100 cars to Memphis Airport where King's closest aide, the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, met Mrs. King for the trip to Atlanta.

At a press conference Friday morning beneath the balcony where only minutes before the blood of the Rev. Dr. King was scrubbed from the cement, Dr. Abernathy told newsmen that the non-violent movement must be intensified.

MORE PHOTOS, STORIES ON PAGES 2, 3, 12, 14, 15, 16 AND 24

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Shocked LBJ Baltimore shocked, angered, hurt, grieved by death of Dr. King

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Johnson Thursday night postponed his trip to Honolulu, Hawaii because of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King until Friday.

"America is shocked and saddened by the brutal slaying tonight of Dr. Martin Luther King," Johnson said in a television address to the nation.

"I know every American of good will joins me in mourning the death of this leader and in praying for understanding throughout the land.

"We can achieve nothing by violence — it is only by joining together and working together that we can continue to move toward full equality for all of our people."

In a nation-wide television and radio broadcast, the President said that the United States "can achieve nothing by lawlessness and violence."

Johnson expressed hope that the nation might learn from the tragic death of

SEN. VERDA F. WEL-COME: "This is a tragic loss. Dr.

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Mayor Thomas J. D'Allesandro III, led Baltimore in officially mourning the death of Dr. Martin Luther King. This is what he said:

"This is a very sad day. Dr. King was a responsible leader of the nation. He was a churchman and distinguished citizen.

"From the very beginning he adopted non-violent tactics in trying to correct injustices in our society.

"I hope this tragedy will serve as a symbol to all Americans once and for all that we have to rid our society of the injustices, hatred and prejudice which brought his death."

George L. Russell Jr., City Solicitor: "History will record that this is one of the darkest hours of our history. We must do something to bring sanity back to our society. It is a deep personal loss."

SEN. VERDA F. WEL-COME: "This is a tragic loss. Dr.

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King's death is a tragic loss not only for colored Americans but for all the American people and the world.

"I hope we will remember the words of Dr. King that we can achieve nothing by lawlessness.

"I hope we press on toward the goals set by Dr. King for complete freedom and justice."

Madeline Murphy, Community Action Commissioner, and civil rights activist: "The death of Martin Luther King is a senseless act. A man who preached nonviolence is the innocent victim of a violent, white racist America.

"A man of peace had become a victim of war, the insidious war against 20 million black people.

"We mourn him and shall mourn him on every rung of the ladder towards freedom from oppression which our black brothers and sisters have suffered too long.

"Always his death will be a reminder that the sleep-

ing black giant must be awakened. "We must sleep no more. "We knock on every door — organize, mobilize for action, for freedom in unity."

Mrs. Juanita J. Mitchell, president of Maryland NAACP: "In his dying, Dr. King's spirit of love and non-violence rise above the assassin's bullet to inspire and challenge our youth to continue the fight for freedom with love.

"He has joined the long list of martyrs, Medgar Evers, Schermer, Goodman and Chaney of Philadelphia, Miss. Vernon Dahmer of Hattiesburg, Miss.,

whose restless spirits call us to rededicate our talents and efforts to speed the end of injustice."

James Griffin, chairman, Baltimore CORE and school commissioner: "Mahalia Jackson is singing 'Where You There When They Crucified My Lord,'—that's how I feel now.

"The shooting of Dr. King demonstrates how white America will not tolerate non-violence and passive aggressiveness on the part of black people.

"It clearly points out that we have to reorganize our thinking and become uni-

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — "I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land.

Thus spoke Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., less than 24 hours before he was cut down by an assassin's bullet.

King addressed a Memphis rally Wednesday night in his continuing campaign here in support of striking garbage workers.

Speaking impromptu to an audience of about 2,000, Dr. King said: "Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place, but I'm not concerned about that now.

"I just want to do God's will and he has allowed me to go up the mountain and I've seen the Promised Land.

"I may not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land.

"So, I'm happy tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."

At another point, speaking of an injunction banning his proposed march scheduled for next Monday in support of the garbage workers, he added: "If I lived in Russia, in China, or any totalitarian country, maybe I could understand some of these ille-

gal injunctions. Maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic first-amendment privileges, because they haven't committed themselves to that over there.

"But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of press.

"Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. And so, just as I say that we aren't going to let any dogs or water hoses turn us around, we're not going to let any injunction turn us around."

AFRO there; funeral Tuesday

By DAVID E. SLOAN, AFRO Staff Writer

MEMPHIS — Men and women cried without shame as thousands started moving past the casket of the assassinated Dr. Martin Luther King here in the R. S. Lewis Funeral Home.

Tentative plans are for funeral services on Tuesday in Atlanta, possibly at the city auditorium due to lack of space at the slain leader's father's church, Ebenezer Baptist.

The mass march Dr. King had returned to Memphis to lead was still scheduled for Monday and thousands from around the nation are

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Leaders from across nation express sorrow at slaying

Expressions of sorrow poured in from around the country and there were fears that the killing would lead to more trouble in the country.

"A TERRIBLE, inexcusable, awful thing," said Sen. Howard Baker Jr., R-Tenn.

Sen. Fred Harris, D-Okla., who was a member of the President's Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, called the death "an American tragedy."

"It's tragically ironic that a man who stood for non-violence should be struck down by violence," Harris told newsmen at the Democratic dinner.

Asked if he thought the killing would spur further violence, Harris replied: "I hope not. I think this is the time for calm and deliberate rededication to the concept of non-violence and to the kind of strength that came from Dr. King's life."

"The cause for which he marched and worked will find new strength. The

poverty of discrimination, poverty and neglect must be cleaned from America. An America full of freedom, full of equal opportunity shall be his memorial."

At the door, a white policeman and a colored po-

"IT DOESN'T seem appropriate to continue an evening of partisanship and festivities," explained Sen. Edmund Muskie, D-Maine, and the audience applauded in agreement. The crowd filed out of the ballroom.

"I think this is horrible," said Sen. Clinton P. Anderson, D-N.M., "Horrible. Horrible."

Louis Martin, deputy Democratic National chairman, said "A black day for the nation" had occurred. "This is what this land needed the least as we were on the threshold of perhaps international peace negotiations and a new day."

"The nation will mourn," said Sen. Walter F. Mondale, D-Minn.

Sen. Henry M. Jackson, D-Wash., said he hoped that now "men of goodwill everywhere will do every-

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