

APPROVED FOR RELEASE 1993 CIÁ HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

HONORS DR. K

200 Leading Churchmen in Procession in Memphis

> By GEORGE DUGAN Special to The New York Times

MEMPHIS, Jan. 23-More than 200 of the nation's leading churchmen marched in solemn procession through downtown Memphis today to pay tribute to the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

local residents, the procession council. Most of the churchmen local residents, the procession council. Most of the churchmen began at the Sheraton-Peabody Hotel and ended eight blocks away in the parking lot of the Lorraine Motel, where Dr. King was assassinated last April 4. The procession is below a sping like men escorted the procession.

ATLANTA, Jan. 23 — The ATLANTA, Jan. 23 — The meeting of the council's policy-said today that he had confidence in the "judgment and integrity" of the Rev. James Bevel.

Mr. Bevel, an official of the

sunshine, the churchmen con-ducted a service of "celebration and thanksgiving for the life" life of the life of t

Assembled under the balcony of Room 306, where Dr. King was standing when he was shot, the marchers sang hymns, prayed, read from the Scriptures and listened to short conference that his group was the conference, said that Mr. Bevel was trying to "move non-influence" and could violence into a new dimension of American life."

Mr. Bevel said in Philadelphia earlier this week that he did not believe Ray was guilty.

speeches of "thanksgiving and commitment from each church appreciation.".

Dr. Arthur G. Flemming, president of the National Council of equal employment opportuni-Churches; Metropolitan Niko- ties and money to run projects dim of the Russian Orthodox for the welfare of the black Church; Dr. R. H. Edwin Espy, community." general secretary of the coun- At the Lorraine Motel servcil; the Rev. Dr. Charles S. ice, Dr. Flemming told the Spivey Jr., director of the coun-churchmen that Dr. King had cil's department of social jus-done more than any other man tice, and the Most Rev. Joseph to help "close the gap between Durek, Roman Catholic Bishop reality and idealism. of Nashville.

Policy Board Meeting

Following in groups of six time to the cause were representatives of the 32 he lived and died." Protestant and Eastern Ortho-Augmented by some 300 dox churches affiliated with the

and thanksgiving for the life Later, Coby Smith, an offi-and work? of the slain civil cer of the Invaders, fold a news Mr. Abernathy, president of conference that his group was the conference, said that Mr.

leader here," he said. "Mourn-The procession was led by ing someone's death is nothing.

No greater tribute can be paid to Dr. King, he said, than to "dedicate our lives and our; time to the causes for which

Abernathy Backs Bevel

"We want some sort of a did not believe Ray was guilty.

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