

Washington's family withholds autopsy report

CHICAGO -- Harold Washington's family is satisfied with an autopsy that showed the late mayor died of a massive heart attack, not poisoning, but they will not release a toxicology report, authorities say.

Washington's relatives believe releasing the report would be an invasion of privacy and called Wednesday for an end to "unfounded speculation and insinuation" about the mayor's death in November.

Members of the family issued the statement through Dr. Antonio Senat, Washington's personal physician, after broadcast reports said he had been poisoned with cocaine.

"The family is satisfied the cause of death was correctly stated and calls upon those who have questioned these findings to let the matter rest," Senat said.

Dr. Robert Stein, the Cook County medical examiner, said Tuesday the family would release the toxicology report to dispel "ridiculous" rumors that Washington was



Washington

poisoned.

But Senat said the family concluded that was unnecessary after reviewing the autopsy and toxicology reports with himself and Dr. Lonnie Edwards, a close friend of Washington who serves as commissioner of the city's health department.

"They ask that people continue

to honor that great man by respecting the right of the family to be free from unfounded speculation and insinuations," Senat said.

"The family believes these documents are personal and should remain personal ... as the last vestige of privacy between them and the mayor," said spokesman Bill Juneau in Stein's office.

Washington was felled by a massive heart attack in his City Hall office Nov. 25 and died within hours at Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Washington, 65, weighed 284 pounds and his heart was nearly three times normal size, Stein said after examining the body.

He said Washington's fatal heart attack was inevitable given the mayor's stressful job, hypertension and 100 pounds of excess weight.

"All of the (toxicology tests) were negative," Juneau said Wednesday. "We tested for poisons, abusive drugs, tranquilizers, alcohol, etcetera."

The source of the poisoning report was self-styled legal gadfly

Sherman Kolnick of the Citizens Committee to Clear Up the Courts.

Kolnick alleged during his weekly radio show that Washington "was apparently assassinated" and poisoned with cocaine. He claimed the death was the "largest coverup in the history of political murders."

M.L. King's son cancels appearance after KKK threats

By The Associated Press

FONTANA, Calif. -- A threat by a white supremacist group to cause disturbances at a Jan. 17 celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. forced the slain civil rights leader's son to cancel a parade appearance here.

The Rev. David B. Rodriguez, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Fontana and chairman of the Fontana Ministerial Association, which is sponsoring the rally honoring King's birth, told reporters security concerns caused Martin Luther King III to drop out.

However, a spokeswoman for King's son said scheduling problems caused him to cancel the parade appearance but he still plans to address an interfaith service at Fontana's Performing Arts Center following the parade.

Rodriguez said he and others were alarmed by a recent recorded telephone message from a white supremacist group in San Diego County urging a counterdemonstration in Fontana the day of the parade.

The December message on the "Aryan Update" information line service run by former California Knights of the Ku Klux Klan leader Tom Metzger said that "white workers of Fontana" will demonstrate if Martin Luther King III marched in the parade honoring his father.

James Farrands, the so-called

Imperial Wizard, or national head of the KKK, confirmed Wednesday that he will be in Fontana to protest the King celebration.

"I will be there with my bodyguards," Farrands said from his Shelton, Conn., home.

Metzger, meanwhile, said he planned to attend a similar protest in Raleigh, N.C.

King's spokeswoman, Sheila Pierce, said, "The decision for him not to participate in the parade came prior to our awareness of the tape."

She added, "Since we became aware of it, of course, we are concerned ... but not enough to cancel his appearance."

She said King, a Fulton County, Ga., commissioner, couldn't get a flight from Atlanta to Southern California in time to make the parade.

Local authorities indicated they would keep a close watch on the event.

"We will certainly do everything we can to provide the best protection we can on this," said police Lt. Alan Fowlkes.

As recently as 1981, members of the white supremacist group burned crosses, held rallies and conducted public membership drives, but police reported no evidence of recent Klan activity in Fontana.

Metzger said the Invisible Empire Knights of the KKK, which claimed that the California Klan had moved its headquarters

from Fontana to San Bernardino two years ago, placed the message on the tape. Fontana is 50 miles east of Los Angeles.

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Vietnam War, says Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich. At a King birthday celebration Sunday at Mount Zion Baptist Church, Conyers also praised Democratic presidential contender Jesse Jackson as "a disciple of Martin Luther King."

Jackson denies plagiarism reports

Jesse Jackson denies knowing a former college secretary who said she typed an English paper for him copied mostly from a Time magazine article when he was a student in 1960.

Singer Michael Jackson begins his first solo concert in New York City

Singer Michael Jackson's first solo concert in New York City will be a benefit to raise money for scholarships for minorities, a spokesman for the show's sponsor said Monday.

Andy Young on South Africa

Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young says blacks in South Africa who resort to violence in opposition to apartheid are harming their chances of accomplishing change.