

U.S. ASKS EXTRADITION OF RAY

in Dr. King's Murder

By Robert C. Toth
Los Angeles Times

LONDON, June 12—The United States formally applied today for the extradition of James Earl Ray to stand trial for the murder of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A folder of documents at least an inch thick was delivered to the Foreign Office and will go from there, probably Thursday morning, to the Bow Street Magistrates Court.

A preliminary hearing on the case was expected in that court either Thursday or Friday, at which time a formal hearing will be scheduled. This will probably be seven to ten days later in order to give defense counsel an opportunity to examine the documents.

The number of documents and their content were not disclosed, but it is understood

they fell into three broad categories:

1. Those seeking to prove that the Ramon George Sneyd arrested here Saturday on passport and gun charges is in fact James Earl Ray.

2. Those seeking to establish a prima facie case that Ray was involved in the murder of Dr. King. These must be sufficient to commit Ray for trial for murder under British law as if the crime had occurred here. Affidavits and a summary of testimony before the Tennessee grand jury that indicted Ray for the King murder are understood to have been turned over, but not the full 300 pages of the grand jury proceedings.

3. Those seeking to show that Ray is wanted in Missouri for breaking out of prison last year.

None of this evidence becomes part of the public record, and therefore publishable, until the formal hearing. Presumably all the American submissions at that point enter the public domain.

Ray, meanwhile, spent his first full day today in his new home, Wandsworth Prison, in South London, where he will probably remain until his return to the United States.

The prison achieved notoriety three years ago when one of the Great Train Robbery gang, Ronald Arthur Biggs, broke out in a well-planned escape. He was being exercised in a yard bordering an outside road when a man standing on a parked van threw a rope ladder over the 20-foot brick wall. He remains at large.

The British are taking extreme precautions in Ray's case, with two policemen always in his cell.

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44-703-637

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Ray May Have Altered Passport to Hide Trail

Special to The Washington Post

TORONTO, June 12—Canadian officials raised the possibility today that James Earl Ray, traveling as Toronto policeman Ramon George Sneyd, may have altered his passport himself to cover his trail.

A Department of External Affairs spokesman in Ottawa confirmed that the suspect, accused in the April 4 killing of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., had applied in Lisbon for a second Canadian passport in the name of Sneyd, saying his name had been

misspelled "Sneya" on the original one.

He was issued a second passport and the original was also returned to him with each page perforated with the word "void," authorities said. If he had destroyed the original, he would have destroyed with it any visas and entry stamps giving clues to his travels. But he still had it with him when he was seized in London Saturday.

Galt Sought Data Here on Rhodesia

By Jared Stout

Washington Post Staff Writer

Last Dec. 30th the man accused of killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote the American South African Council here seeking informa-

tion on how he might emigrate to the white minority-ruled country of Rhodesia.

But Rhodesian authorities here and in the capital of Salisbury said there were no records of any direct contacts from the man who made the inquiry, Eric Starvo Galt.

Galt is one of several aliases used by James Earl Ray who is accused of shooting Dr. King in Memphis on April 4.

The FBI declined any comment on the letter's contents or on the return address it bore, a listing in North Hollywood, Calif., which sources said was one used by Galt.

Confirmation of its existence came from John Acord, director of the Council, which has been active in information activities promoting the

apartheid South African regime and the government of Prime Minister Ian Smith of Rhodesia.

Acord said his office received a letter from one Eric Starvo Galt on Dec. 30, 1967 inquiring about emigration to Rhodesia. "Our office responded by suggesting that he write the Rhodesian Ministry of Immigration," he said. "The letter was accidentally discovered in our correspondence files and immediately given form the FBI." That apparently happened in early May.

Kenneth Towsey of the Rhodesian Information Office here said a check of records in Washington and in Salisbury showed Ray "was never in touch with this office and was never in touch with authorities in Salisbury."