U.S. asks Ray extradition, while cops probe activities

LONDON (UPI) — The United States Wednesday formally requested extradition of James Earl Ray to the United States as the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Extradition papers were flown here from Washington and chief U.S. Consular Officer Jack A. Herfurt presented them to the British Foreign Office at a meeting.

At the same time, police intensified their search for any associates of Ray. Informed sources said the police were looking for a man-or men—reported to have been seen with Ray shortly before he checked into two London hotels.

The extradition paners listed the State of Tennessee's case against Ray for the shooting of the civil rights leader in Memphis. They also listed the State of Missouri's claim to Ray as an escaped convict.

MEANWHILE RAY'S mysterious activities in Europe were clouded in a fog of conflicting reports.

Officials confirmed Tuesday only that Ray had been transferred from ancient Brixton Prison to the maximum security wing at Wandsworth Prison. Two policemen were posted inside Ray's prison cell at all times.

Scotland Yard detectives fanned out across London,

interviewing hotelkeepers where Rav staved under the alias of Ramon Sneyd and confiscating registration records in an effort to determine if he had any contacts in this city.

Hotels reported he seldom ventured from his rooms and received no phone calls, mail or visitors before his arrest at the London Airport last Saturday on a tip from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation that he was the alleged King assassin.

BECAUSE OFFICIALS offered no explanations for fear pre-trial leaks would prejudice a case against Ray, the London press was in an uproar over the mystery.

The two versions of Ray's, movements circulated here

were:
Ray arrived in London from Canada around May 5, flew to Lisbon, May 7 and returned June 8 to London to make a connecting flight to Brussels. He was arrested after he walked into the airport transit lounge and questioned for three hours.

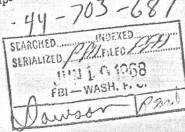
This version was furnished by police sources within minutes of the announcement of Ray's arrest and continued to be supplied by the FBI in Washington after local evidence to the contrary appeared here.

RAY RETURNED from Liston to London May 17 and stayed in at least two small hotels until he was arrested at the airporten route to Brussels. But passengers leaving England would not go through the transit lounge, although officals insisted that was where he was apprehended.

Reports circulated Ray had gone to Lisbon and planned to travel to Brussels to pick up money transferred to him from a Swiss bank. Lisbon banks were said to have been asked by Scotland Yard to cleek all new accounts and transfers.

Unanswered was who had

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oplined any accounts, when and why.

address in Brussels of a now-outlawed recruiting office for white mercenaries? fighting in Africa.

MERCENARY TERS also are said to exist Informed legal sources in Lisbon, causing belieft Informed legal sources that a wish to hide out in a said that the American mercenary squad and not request for Ray's extradimoney drew Ray to Portug would have to establish his and Relgium. TERS also are said to exist said.

al and Belgium.

The owner of an obscure shadow of a doubt "in the hotel in the run-down Pimer shadow of a doubt "in the lico district Monday conference of British law."

The United States also

Mrs. Anna Thomas, Tennessee, the legal Ray "refused to sign the sources said. name was Sneyd" when he checked in last Wednesday for three days.

Thomas told reporters.

"SNEYD HAD very little luggage, only an airline flight bag and I thought The London Daily Tele-long flight. He looked so graph insisted Ray tele-long flight. He looked so graph insisted Ray tele-long flight. He looked so graph insisted Ray tele-long flight. American or Canadian accent."

The tenant left suddenly Saturday morning, paying 4 pounds 10 shillings (\$10.80) CEN- for his room, Mrs. Thomas

firmed the second version must lay out a good legal of Ray's movements. must lay out a good legal case for murder charges in

TIJE METROPOLITAN Chief Magistrate, Frank Milton, examined the U.S. He kept the door of his documents at the hearing room locked at all times If he is convinced of ard when I brought his Sneyd's identity as Ray and breakfast up he told me to satisfied the murder leave it outside." Mrs. charges are based solidly, he will recommend extradition to the British home secretary.

If Ray fights extradition and tries all appeals under Britsh law, it could talle from one to three months to return him to America.

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