UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Mr. DeLoach

	1 - Mr. DeLoach	1 - Mr. [illegible]
A. Rosen	1 - Mr. Rosen	1 - Mr. Bishop
	1 - Mr. Malley	1 - Mr. Conrad
SUBJECT: MURKIN	1 - Mr. McGowan	1 - Mr. Gale
	1 - Mr. Long	1 - Mr. Sullivan
		1 - Mr. Trotter

This is the investigation into the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Based upon stops placed by New Scotland Yard as a result of information furnished by the FBI, James Earl Ray was arrested at the London International Airport, London, England, today, 6/8/68, at 11:18 a.m. London time (6:15 a.m. Washington, D. C., time).

Ray was traveling under a Canadian passport issued in the name of Ramon George Sneyd. At the time of his arrest he had two Canadian passports under this name. One had been issued at Ottawa on 4/24/68 and the other had been issued by the Canadian Embassy at Lisbon, Portugal, on 5/16/68. Ray obtained a second passport by claiming that his original passport had been destroyed.

Ray at the time of the arrest was carrying in his hip pocket a fully loaded revolver. He is being detained by English authorities for carrying a concealed weapon and for entering the country with illegal documentation (the passport). Ray is to be arraigned in court in London on Monday, 6/10/68, at 10:30 a.m. London time. Ray cannot be interviewed by FBI personnel before his arraignment. Subsequent to the arraignment he can be interviewed only if he consents to submitting to such an interview.

The Legal Attache in London has advised that Ray's identity has been confirmed through fingerprints. REC-31 - 5561 - 4616

The White House, the Department of State, Secret Service and officials of the Department of Justice were appropriately advised of the apprehension of Ray. Also, Public Safety Director, Frank Holloman, of Memphis, Tennessee, was personally informed that Ray had been

ENCLOSURE

Enclosures

PERS. REC. UNIT

79 JUN 1968

CLM:ves (12)

CONTINUED - OVER

Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

apprehended and was in custody in London, England. The Canadian Embassy in Washington, D. C., and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Liaison Officer Pantry were advised. It was pointed out to the Department of State and officials of the Department that extradition proceedings would have to be initiated. It is our understanding that the Unlawful Flight to Avoid Confinement charge as well as the Civil Rights - Conspiracy charge are not extraditable offenses. The murder charge which is outstanding against Ray based on the indictment in Tennessee is an avenue for extradition.

The Crime Records Division issued a national press release on this case at 11:35 a. m., after it had been cleared with both the Deputy Attorney General and with Cliff Sessions, the Department of Justice Information Officer. Prior to that the release had been read to and approved by the Legat in London and the SACs at Atlanta, Memphis and Birmingham. The latter SACs were advised it could be released to the local press at 11:55 a. m. Extremely wide press coverage has been given to the press release, both on radio, television and in newspapers. Attached is a copy of the press release as well as the story as it appeared in the 6/8/68 issue of the Washington "Evening Star."

ACTION:

You will be kept advised of pertinent developments in this matter.

OVER

ADDENDUM, ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR [illegible]

The Attorney General asked me to come to his office approximately 2:30 p. m. In his office were his wife, Assistant Attorney General Vinson, Assistant Attorney General Pollack, his Executive Assistant Bill Lindenbaum and the Deputy Attorney General, Warren Christopher.

The Attorney General first congratulated the FBI and stated that this was the greatest news he had ever heard. He next went into a long song and dance on the absolute necessity of security and the avoidance of evasion of civil rights of the subject, James Earl Ray. The Attorney General asked me questions concerning the quality of our Agent personnel in London and I told him we had absolute faith and confidence in these men, otherwise we would not have assigned them there. He stated he thought we should send additional men to London to assist in this case. I told him I thought this was both foolish and unnecessary. He asked me about Legal Attache Minnich's background and I provided this information for him. He asked me if the FBI had a representative in the same cell block with the subject. I told him we did not and that furthermore, inasmuch as this man was under British custody, we could not even talk to the prisoner unless he, the prisoner, agreed to interrogation. The Attorney General asked if we had a man next to the cell block. I told him we did not and that he must realize that this man was under British custody and, therefore, not the responsibility of American authorities. The Attorney General stated he would feel better if he knew the exact provisions under which security the prisoner was being maintained. I made no comment.

The Attorney General asked me if I thought it was necessary to send a Departmental representative to London. I told him I thought this was completely unnecessary if the representative would be going for the purpose of attempting to look into FBI activities. The Attorney General stated this representative would be going for the purpose of expediting legal activities in connection with the extradition of the subject. He added that the Departmental representative would also check with the British authorities to make certain there was ample security. Furthermore, to make certain that the prisoner's civil rights were being protected.

The Attorney General asked me whom I thought should be responsible for bringing the prisoner back to the United States. I told him I previously discussed this with the Director and that the Director was agreeable to the FBI escorting the prisoner back to the United States. He asked how many men would do this. I told him we would utilize three very capable men. He stated he thought we needed more. I told him I disagreed and that three men

CONTINUED - OVER

would be sufficient, particularly if [illegible] were used. The Attorney General asked me if I thought military [illegible] or commercial transportation should be utilized. [illegible] military transportation would probably be better and furthermore that the plane should land at a military base, possibly near Memphis, Tennessee, so that maximum security could be afforded. The Attorney General agreed. He then called Governor Buford Ellington in Tennessee and specifically asked him to expedite extradition proceedings by immediately making a request to the President of the United States so that the White House in turn could forward this request to the British Home Secretary. The Attorney General also told Governor Ellington that he would personally feel better if Federal officers (meaning the FBI) would escort the prisoner back to the United States. Governor Ellington agreed to all terms and stated that he would comply with the wishes of the Federal Government in this matter.

The Attorney General next turned to the Deputy Attorney General and asked him if he thought a Departmental representative should be sent to England. The Deputy Attorney General replied, "Without question." The Attorney General next asked the entire group whom they thought should be sent. He ventured the personal opinion that it should either be Vinson or Pollack. There was no comment. The Attorney General then stated that Vinson should go and should leave tonight, June 8, 1968. He asked that Vinson be placed in touch with our Legal Attache. I told the Attorney General that sending Vinson was his own business, however, I would like to make absolutely certain that Vinson did nothing to upset the very excellent relationship between the FBI and Scotland Yard. I stated that Vinson under no circumstances should attempt to push Scotland Yard around by insisting on different types of security. The Attorney General repeated that Vinson would be there primarily for the purpose of expediting legal activities. The Attorney General then told Lindenbaum to have several Bureau of Prisons officials go to Memphis early Monday, June 10, 1968, for the purpose of taking a look at the county jail in Memphis so that proper security could be afforded the prisoner once he was turned over to the state authorities. (This, of course, is none of the Attorney General's business inasmuch as once the prisoner is turned over to the state he is strictly the state's responsibility.)

Upon leaving, the Attorney General told me that he would like to sit down with me within the next several days and completely go over this case. I told him that we had already provided him with reports in the matter and that these reports, plus the press release of today, covered all necessary details. He made no comment other than to commend the FBI once again and to say that hard work paid off.

CONTINUED - OVER

[redacted] the FBI [redacted] called upon to bring the subject back to the United States. It is suggested that Legal Attache Minnich, Special Agent Supervisor Wilbur [redacted] Martindale and [redacted] Special Agent Supervisor [redacted] be assigned this responsibility. [redacted] is approximately 6 feet 4 inches tall, is in excellent physical shape, is a certified firearms instructor and is currently assigned to the General Investigative Division here at FBI Headquarters. He has an excellent background. In the event the Director approves this recommendation, we will have [redacted] obtain a passport and the necessary medical shots so that he can proceed to London, England, upon instructions.

I am advising Legal Attache Minnich this afternoon, June 8, 1968, that while he should confer with Assistant Attorney General Vinson he should not be "bossed around" by Vinson or allow Vinson to upset any delicate relations that we have with law enforcement authorities in England.

Date, 6/8/68

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 8, 1968

Attorney General Ramsey Clark today announced that James Earl Ray, an escaped convict being sought in connection with the fatal shooting of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in Memphis, Tennessee, on April 4, 1968, has been located in London, England.

FBI Director John Edgar Hoover said that Ray, who has used the name of Eric Starvo Galt and other alias, was detained by officers of New Scotland Yard at 11:15 a.m., London time, this morning. Ray was traveling under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and had two Canadian passports in that name in his possession. One passport had been issued at Ottawa on April 24, 1968, and the other had been issued May 16, 1968, at Lisbon, Portugal, by the Canadian embassy in that city. Mr. Hoover advised that Ray was located based on information furnished by the FBI to New Scotland Yard. At the time of his detention, Ray was passing through British immigration offices and was planning to take a flight to Brussels, Belgium.

ENCLOSURE

Mr. Hoover said that Ray is now being held in London's Cannon Row Police Station under maximum security conditions.

Mr. Hoover further advised that Ray was armed with a fully loaded pistol which was found in his hip pocket. He was wearing glasses and was dressed in a light colored raincoat, a sports jacket and gray trousers.

Director Hoover advised that Ray's arrest was the direct result of intensive investigation by the FBI pursued in all fifty states--as well as in Canada, Mexico, Portugal, England and other countries. In particular, Mr. Hoover signaled out the outstanding cooperation received from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and from England's New Scotland Yard.

FBI Director Hoover pointed out that Ray was detained in England based on his use of fraudulent documentation--a passport--and also on the fact he was carrying a concealed weapon. A 1st degree murder indictment was returned by the Shelby County Grand Jury in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 7, 1968, charging Ray and necessary extradition proceedings will be initiated shortly.

According to Mr. Hoover, Ray was added to the FBI's list of "Ten Most Wanted Fugitives" on April 20, 1968.

Mr. Hoover stated that the 40-year-old [redacted] escaped from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri. He was received at the institution on March 17, 1960, to serve a 20-year sentence following conviction in St. Louis for armed robbery and for operating a motor vehicle without permission of the owner. In April, 1967, he was reported missing from the State Penitentiary; and on July 20, 1967, based on information indicating Ray had fled from Missouri, an FBI complaint was filed at Jefferson City charging him with unlawful flight to avoid confinement for armed robbery.

On April 17, 1968, the FBI filed a complaint at Birmingham, Alabama, charging him, under the name of Eric Starvo Galt, with conspiring to violate the civil rights of Dr. King in violation of Title 18, Section 241, of the United States Code.

This FBI complaint charges that:

"On or about March 28, 1968, at Birmingham, Alabama, ... Eric Starvo Galt and an individual whom he alleged to be his brother, entered into a conspiracy which continued until on or about April 5, 1968, to injure, oppress, threaten, or intimidate Martin Luther King, Jr., ... in the free exercise or enjoyment of a right secured to him by the Constitution or

laws of the United States, namely, the right to freely travel from state to state. In furtherance of this conspiracy, Eric Starvo Galt did, on or about March 30, 1968, purchase a rifle at Birmingham, Alabama..."

Immediately after the fatal shooting, a 30.06 rifle with a telescopic sight was found near a rooming house on South Main Street in Memphis which overlooks the Lorraine Hotel and Motel where Dr. King was staying. Mr. Hoover said FBI Agents determined that the rifle had been purchased on March 30, 1968, from a gun dealer in Birmingham and that the telescopic sight was also purchased from this dealer.

On April 19, 1968, Mr. Hoover announced that a systematic and exhaustive search of latent fingerprints uncovered in the Dr. King case against the fingerprints of the over 53,000 persons for whom "Wanted Notices" had been posted in the files of the FBI's Identification Division led to the determination that Galt and Ray were identical.

FBI Agents also identified him as the owner of an abandoned 1968 white Mustang bearing Alabama license plates which was

located in Atlanta, Georgia, on April 11, 1968. As Eric Galt, he had purchased the Mustang from a private citizen in Birmingham on August 30, 1967. From that date until it was abandoned in early April, 1968, the car was driven more than 19,000 miles.

Mr. Hoover said that the fugitive's travels in the Mustang included trips to Los Angeles, New Orleans, Birmingham, Memphis and Atlanta, as well as to Mexico. He visited Mexico in October and November, 1967. He made a trip to Canada earlier in 1967 before purchasing the Mustang.

According to the FBI Director, while in Montreal, Canada, in the Summer of 1967, Ray enrolled as Eric Galt for a correspondence course in locksmithing offered by a school in New Jersey. He also took a course in bartending in Los Angeles early this year, graduating on March 2, 1968. In addition, he also took dance lessons in Long Beach, California, from December, 1967, to February, 1968.

Mr. Hoover said that a summary of the FBI's investigation in this case, together with the findings of the FBI Laboratory and the results of fingerprint examinations by the Identification Division, will be made available to Tennessee authorities.

Accused Slaye
Of King Seized a
London Airport

By JEREMIAH O'LEARY
Star Staff Writer

James Earl Ray, accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was arrested today in London.

The 40-year-old fugitive was seized by Scotland Yard operatives at 11:15 a.m. (7:15 EDT) as he disembarked from an airliner en route from Lisbon, Portugal, to Brussels, Belgium. Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover announced.

The FBI, which has sought Ray since King's death April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., said Ray had a snub-nosed, fully loaded revolver in his hip pocket when British police made the arrest. Ray was arrested on the basis of information furnished Scotland Yard by the FBI.

An announcement by Scotland Yard said Ray was charged with possessing a forged passport and possessing a firearm without a certificate.

Ray was wearing a light raincoat, sports jacket and gray trousers.

He was traveling with a Canadian passport listing him as Ramon George Sneyd. The FBI said he obtained the Canadian passport April 24 in Ottawa, Canada, where he apparently fled after King's assassination.

The arrest was announced as King's widow was attending funeral services for Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in New York.

JAMES EARL RAY

Hoover said Ray had b traced by the FBI to Canada that he had flown to London May 7 with a round-trip tick In London, Ray had cashed the unused part of the ticket exchange for a ticket to Lisb and a voucher for the differen of $14.00.

Last night, Ray boarded a airliner in the Portuguese cap tal, checked his luggage throug to Brussels and stopped in Lon don only as part of a refueling stop.

The FBI, already aware of the false identity he had assumed, had alerted Scotland Yard to watch for anyone using the name Ramon George Sneyd.

The arrest came when Scotland Yard detectives checked the passenger list of the Lisbon to Brussels airplane at Heath Row International Airport in London.

The FBI said Ray's extradition to the United States will be sought on the basis of the murder charge filed against him by the State of Tennessee rather than the federal fugitive and civ-

See RAY, Page A-5

ENCLOSURE

RAY

Suspect Is Captured In Slaying of King

Continued From Page A-1

ll rights warrants outstanding against him.

According to information reaching here, Ray refused to admit his identity but he was identified quickly by British police from fingerprints taken after his arrest. Ray is being held in London's Canon Row police station under maximum guard.

Washington officials said they understood he would be arraigned on the British charges against him on Monday and that extradition proceedings would be started as soon as possible.

Hoover said the arrest was the result of close cooperation between the FBI, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and Scotland Yard. The FBI had lost Ray's trail in the first several weeks after the murder of Dr. King, but picked up his scent again after routine checks of all passports issued in the United States and Canada.

Ray had applied for and obtained the Canadian passport under the name of Sneyd, using the name of one Paul Bridgeman of Toronto as a reference.

Hoover said no Paul Bridgeman had been located in Toronto, but that was the name of one of Ray's fellow prisoners in the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo. Ray himself apparently used the name Paul Bridgeman during his stay in Toronto before flying to London on May 7.

He had continued his old habits of living in cheap boarding houses and frequenting bars during his stay in Canada, FBI agents learned. The pursuit of Ray intensified in mid-May when the FBI learned that he had gone to the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon to apply for a second passport under the name of Sneyd, saying that the first one had been spoiled.

Ray had been the object of an intensive, worldwide manhunt since King's death, even before the FBI knew the true identity of the man they sought. The accused sniper had left a confused network of false identities behind him from the day in April 1967 when he escaped from the Missouri prison until his arrest today.

The first alias he used was Eric Starvo Galt, under which name he traveled to Canada in the summer of 1967 and bought the white Mustang that linked him with the King slaying.

When the suspect bought the presumed murder weapon, a Remington Gamemaster 30.06 pump gun, in Birmingham, Ala., on March 30, 1968, he used the name of Harvey Lowmyer. And when he registered in the Memphis flophouse several hours before Dr. King was fatally wounded on the balcony of the nearby Lorraine Motel on April 4, he was calling himself John Willard, the FBI said.

It was not until the white Mustang was located in Atlanta, Ga., parked near the state capital building, on April 11, that the name of Galt entered the investigation. FBI agents already knew that an Eric S. Galt had registered at the Rebel Motel in Memphis the night before King's murder but had not been able to connect him with the crime.

Registration of the car in Alabama gave investigators the name of Galt but a week went by before the FBI determined that this, too, was a false identity.

The FBI found that a man using the name Galt had traveled to Canada, Mexico, the Los Angeles area and New Orleans in a 19,000-mile journey from September, 1967 until early April, 1968. FBI agents located photographs of "Galt" at a bartending school in Los Angeles, in possession of a Mexican prostitute in Puerto Vallarta, and at the home of a Los Angeles girl to whom the suspect had written a lonely-hearts letter.

But it was not until April 18 that the FBI determined that the fugitive's real name was James Earl Ray.