

FBI

Date: 6/10/68

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plaintext or code)

AIRTEL

AM

(Priority)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987) P
MURKIN

*Mr. L. J. ...
Div 3*

Enclosed are original and one of newspaper clippings pertaining to captioned matter.

20
3 BUREAU (Enc 10)
1 MEMPHIS ENCLOSURE

RGJ:BN
(4)

REC 16 44-3984-4451

JUN 12 1968

54 JUN 18 1968

Approved: _____ Sent _____ M Per _____
Special Agent in Charge

Inspected Slayer Of King Seized At London Airport As Police Teamwork Clicks

Sport Forged

Flight Touched
Canada And Portugal
Before Capture

GREGORY JAYNES

London's Cannon Row police
near James Earl Ray
night, his 65-day flight
by international police
work that Royal Cana-
Mounted Police called
sal" in its attention to
nds of details.

is the accused assassin
Martin Luther King Jr.
nphis April 4.

ng on information sup-
by the FBI, two veterans
otland Yard's "great
robbery" investigation
Ray into custody early
day at London's Heath-
rport about 15 minutes
his plane arrived from
1, Portugal.

wore horn-rimmed glass-
his hip pocket he carried
led pistol.

Scotland Yard charged Ray
with possessing a fraudulent
Canadian passport and carry-
ing a deadly weapon without a
permit.

He was en route to Brussels,
Belgium, from Lisbon. In re-
cent weeks he had used two
new names — Ramon George
Sneyd and Donald Bridgman.

It took the Federal Bureau
of Investigation, the Royal Ca-
nadian Mounted Police, Scot-
land Yard and Portuguese au-
thorities to pin down the elu-
sive 40-year-old Illinois man
with a hatful of names and
an ample supply of tricks.

The case was cracked by a
painstaking examination of
more than 90,000 passports in
Washington, Ottawa and To-
ronto, Canada. A spokesman
for the RCMP told The Com-
mercial Appeal last night that,
after going through more than
200,000 passports issued since
April 6, "We came up with
what appeared to be a likeness
of Ray and found it was
forged."

"We had the name Sneyd
then and it was quickly relayed
around the world. We found
he had left Toronto May 6 for
Lisbon. It was just a matter of
cooperation before we closed
the gap."

Toronto police said Ray is
first known to have arrived
there April 8, four days after
the murder of Dr. King outside
the Lorraine Motel here and
apparently driving to Atlanta,
where he abandoned his white
Mustang. It is believed he
went directly to Toronto from
Atlanta. In Toronto he rented a
room in a boarding house at
964 West Dundas Street, a run-
down building in the Italian-
Portuguese section of the city.

The FBI announced yester-
day that Ray was known to
have spent some time in Mont-
real, Canada, in the summer
of 1967, shortly after his es-
cape from the Missouri State
Penitentiary. This was before
he purchased the white Mus-
tang in Birmingham, the same
type of car that was seen out-
side the flophouse where he
rented a room in Memphis
April 4.

(Indicate page, name of
newspaper, city and state.)

COMMERCIAL APPEAL

MEMPHIS, TENN.

Date:

Edition:

Author:

Editor:

Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

4451
ENCLOSURE

evidently headed for Canada, a place familiar to him since he reported to have worked so '67 in Montreal only a months before.

who used the name "Willard" at the Memphis rooming house and Eric Galt at a Memphis rooming house in Birmingham, bought a day excursion ticket to London from the Kennedy Travel Agency in midtown Toronto on May 16. Mrs. Lillian Spencer, an employee there, said last week she booked him to London on a May 6 flight.

He paid \$321 in cash for the ticket, saying he would check in May. Then he set about getting a passport. He used the name Ramon George Sneyd which, ironically, belonged to a Toronto police officer.

He used the officer's name, and used the name Paul Bridgman while in Toronto, she said.

He checked the Toronto City Directory and found a Paul Bridgman as a consulting teacher with the Board of Education, living in a Toronto suburb. A Washington source said a Paul Bridgman, spelled differently, was a fellow prisoner of Ray in the Missouri State Penitentiary, from which Ray is known as an escapee.

Police there said last night that a birth certificate is all that is required to get a passport. They speculated Ray got a birth certificate by going through the files of a Toronto newspaper to find the name of someone born about 40 years ago.

Then all he had to do was go to the Bureau of Vital Statistics, say that he was born in Toronto at such and such a place at such and such a time, pay a small fee and they would give him a duplicate birth certificate," said a police spokesman.

Toronto authorities said it was probably "just chance" that Ray chose the name of an officer who is a police officer.

The passport was mailed to Ray at his rooming house on April 25. A second passport was issued on him yesterday and was used at the Canadian Embassy in Portugal May 15.

Under British law, even if cleared of the charges made by British authorities, Ray could be placed under provisional arrest at the request of the United States.

If Ray does not ask for a hearing under the terms of the extradition treaty, he might be returned to Memphis within a few days. But if he asked for a hearing, the procedure might take three to six weeks, according to American Embassy officials.

Memphis Fire and Police Director Frank Holloman yesterday sent this telegram to J. Edgar Hoover:

"Congratulations and deep appreciation for the outstanding performance of the FBI in the apprehension of James Earl Ray. I have had no doubt at any time as to the outcome of the investigation. You have again demonstrated forcefully that law and order will prevail and justice will be done. The Memphis Police Department is grateful to you."

Mr. Holloman said he is "hopeful James Earl Ray will be brought to Memphis at the earliest possible date to stand trial for murder. He will receive a fair and impartial trial."

Mr. Holloman added: "I think this is just another indication of the closing of ranks of law enforcement around the world against spiraling crime. I'm very encouraged."

The arrest of Ray quelled widespread theories that the man was paid to kill Dr. King, then killed himself. But in St. Louis, Ray's brother, John Larry Ray, said, "If my brother did kill King, he did it for a lot of money. He didn't do anything if it wasn't for money."

He said he was "surprised" his brother was caught and added he hopes Ray "lives to stand trial."

According to Toronto authorities, Ray purchased the second passport under the name



Resurrection City
Learns Of Capture

second passport under the name Donald Bridgman. The real Donald Bridgman is an official on the city's school board.

The owner of the Arcade Photo Studio in downtown Toronto said last night that "mounties took the negatives of the pictures I took for the man's passport. They came with a warrant last Wednesday. When I asked them why they wanted them, they said, 'Watch your newspapers and you'll find out.'"

In New York yesterday, Mrs. King was attending the funeral of Senator Robert Kennedy when told Ray had been captured. She made no comment.

Ray had served 7 years of a 20-year sentence in the Missouri State Penitentiary when he escaped in April, 1967.

The Shelby County Grand Jury returned a first-degree murder indictment on May 7, charging Ray. Necessary extradition proceedings are expected to be put in motion shortly. Ray will appear in Bow Street Magistrate's Court tomorrow to answer the fraudulent passport and deadly weapon charges.

Dr. King was shot as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel talking to friends in the parking lot below. The bullet was fired from a bathroom window in the flophouse across the street by a white man using the name John Willard and later identified as Ray.

The FBI said that Ray came to Birmingham in late summer, 1967, and set about establishing the Galt identity. The day after he checked into a Birmingham boarding house — on Aug. 26 — William D. Paisley, the sales manager of a lumber company there, ran an advertisement in the Birmingham News offering to sell a white 1966 Mustang.

Galt bought the car for \$1,995. He paid for it in cash he had drawn from his safety deposit box in a local bank. He got an Alabama's driver's license under the name Galt on Sept. 30.

He checked out of his boarding house room in Birmingham on Oct. 7, 1967, and disappeared. The FBI said he had driven the Mustang more than 19,000 miles from Aug. 30 until April 5, 1968, when it was abandoned in a housing project in Atlanta.

Agents said Galt made sev-

accused assassin in much of London Sunday went beyond that.

"I don't know anything about that" or "I haven't been following that" were the general hurried responses to questions about the arrest.

At London Airport where James Earl Ray, alias Eric Starvo Galt, alias Ramon Sneyd, was arrested as he waited to board a plane for Brussels, employes refused to talk to the press.

Perhaps it was the weather. June supposedly is the best month in Britain, and Sunday must have been the best of the lot. The last swatches of fog were burned off by 10 a.m. and bright sunshine was fanned by a constant soft breeze.

In the plump green parks, bare-chested boys kicked soccer balls while babies in carriages slept in the shade.

At Buckingham Palace, hundreds of picture-snapping tourists recorded the changing of the guard, while lovers in the adjoining St. James's Park lay embraced on the grassy knoll, the cooing of pigeons that only background music since the park is posted against portable radios the young people always seem to have wired to their ears these days.

Then, too, as Susie Murray, a plain but helpful employe of the London Tourist Board, put it: There is "that Kennedy thing."

Susie, like many Londoners I talked with, is still in a state of shock over the death of Senator Robert Kennedy.

"I mean, I was pretty shocked when they killed Luther King (almost everyone calls him that) but Kennedy, my God, I mean, it might happen once, but how many times is it going to keep on? I guess I haven't thought much at all about this fellow being arrested for Luther King's death. The FBI says it is their man, and I guess that is that. The FBI ought to know what it is talking about."

Susie is not alone in her adoration of the FBI. People here seen in as much awe of the federal agents as Americans are of Scotland Yard.

The London press is full of accounts of how FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover personally took charge of the search for Dr. King's assassin, which probably would come as a surprise to a number of sleepless, numb-footed agents who were assigned to the case.

At Trafalgar Square, two attractive young