

At London Airport

Scotland Yard Seizes King Killer Suspect

WASHINGTON — (AP) — James Earl Ray, the escaped convict wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King, was arrested in London yesterday as he was about to fly to Belgium, the FBI announced.

A "colossal investigation" in which 200,000 passport photos were examined by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police led to the arrest.

Scotland Yard detectives took Ray into custody, ending an intensive two-month search that spread through the United States, Canada, Mexico and Europe.

FBI Director J. Edgar

Hoover said Ray, carrying a fully-loaded pistol, was arrested as he was passing through British immigration offices on his way to Brussels.

British authorities, charging him with using a false passport and carrying a concealed weapon, placed him under maximum security arrest.

EXTRADITION

Hoover said extradition proceedings would begin shortly, but it was not immediately clear whether Ray would be returned under the federal complaint charging him with conspiracy in Dr. King's death or under a first-degree murder indictment re-

turned against him by a grand jury in Memphis.

It was in Memphis on April 4 that King was killed as he stood on the balcony of a motel talking to friends. The search for his killer first turned up a suspect identified as Eric Starvo Galt, but the FBI later said Galt really is Ray, a 40-year-old escaper from the Missouri State Penitentiary.

Ray was using the name Ramon George Sneyd when

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he was arrested and was carrying two Canadian passports under that name. He had obtained one in Ottawa on April 24 and the other from the Canadian embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, on May 16.

FINGERPRINTS

Chief Inspector Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard's Flying Squad told newsmen in London:

"Although the man claims to be Sneyd, his physical description is in fact identical to that of James Earl Ray."

The Justice Department statement said unconditionally he is Ray without providing details on how the identification was verified.

It learned later, however, that the arrested man's fingerprints had been checked against Ray's and found to be identical.

British authorities said the man arrived in London by jet airliner yesterday morning from Lisbon, en route to Brussels.

While his passport was



SUSPECT; INTERNATIONAL TRAVELER

James Earl Ray, nabbed in London on way to Brussels

being examined and he was being interviewed at London Airport, he was searched and the loaded pistol was found in a hip pocket, the immigration men said.

Scotland Yard then was called and the arrest followed.

THE MONEY

Among the questions raised by Ray's extensive travels since the shooting is where he got the money.

He had escaped from prison at Jefferson City about a year before Dr. King's murder. An extensive check of his activities during that year showed he rarely worked and had no apparent income but appeared to be well supplied with money.

A chief source of speculation about the shooting has been that Ray was part of a group that plotted Dr. King's death with care, but no other persons are known to be involved at this point.

A fellow inmate at Jefferson said Ray told him he would be willing to kill Dr. King for \$1 million.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, who worked close-

ly with the FBI in the hunt for Ray, supplied the tip that focused the search on London.

An RCMP spokesman said a check of Canadian passport files, begun soon after the FBI started looking for Ray, finally turned up one with a picture that looked like Ray. It had been issued to Sneyd and was found to be fraudulent.

There have been complaints from police authorities in the past that fugitives have been able to obtain Canadian passports too easily.

Hoover praised the cooperation of the Canadian police and Scotland Yard, but said Ray's arrest was the direct result of an intensive investigation by the FBI that covered all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Portugal, England and other countries.

Ray, the son of a laborer, had a long list of arrests for burglary, vagrancy, driving a car without an operator's license and forgery. He was a man of many aliases— including Eric Starvo Galt, John Willard, Harvey Lowmyer, James McBride, James Walton, James O'Conner, and now Ramon George Sneyd.

At the State Department, officials said they expect a formal request will be made for his return to the United States under a U.S.-British extradition treaty, which lists murder as one of the crimes for which extradition will be authorized.