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Ray Lead

WASHINGTON AP - James Earl Ray, charged with conspiracy and murder in the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was arrested today in London, England.

Ray, sought since shortly after the Nobel Peace Prize winner and civil rights leader was gunned down April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., was armed with a loaded pistol when apprehended by Scotland Yard detectives, it was announced.

The announcement was issued under the names of Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark and FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover but neither was present when it was given to newsmen at the Justice Department. Other FBI officials declined to elaborate on it or answer any questions.

The announcement said Ray, using the name Ramon George sneyd, was passing through England on two canadian passports en route to Brussels when taken into custody at 11:15 a.m. London time. It said he was being held under maximum security conditions and extradition proceedings would be started shortly.

It was not explained how Ray, previously described as poor, obtained the money to travel to Europe. There has been speculation King's murderer obtained aid from conspirators and even might have been a paid assassin.

King's killing sparked racial riots in more than 100 cities and came as he was organizing the Poor People's Campaign-an attempt to push the federal government to greater efforts on behalf of the nation's poor.

At the State Department, officials said they expect a formal request to be made of Britain for return of Ray through the U.S.-British extradition treaty. They said murder is one of the crimes included in the treaty.

The officials expect Tennessee, the state where a murder indictment was returned against Ray, to initiate the proceedings. This in turn would probably be the basis for the U.S. government's request, they said.

The State Department officials also said they did not know how Ray obtained the canadian passports.

Hoover said 6th graf ApoyWX

By JOHN BECKLER

Associated Press Writer

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BULLETIN

Ray

WASHINGTON AP - James Earl Ray, chief suspect in the slaying of Martin Luther King Jr., has been arrested in London, Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark announced today.

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Washington Ray A096WX add: today.

Ray, object of an intensive manhunt for two months, was arrested by Scotland Yard detectives as he passed through British immigration offices for a flight to Brussels, Clark said.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said Ray is being held under maximum security conditions on a passport violation.

Hoover said Ray was armed with a fully loaded pistol when taken into custody at 11:15 a.m., London time, today.

He was traveling under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and had two Canadian passports in that name in his possession, Hoover said.

Hoover said the search for Ray, named in an FBI complaint as having entered into a conspiracy to shoot King, covered all 50 states, Canada, Mexico, Portugal, England and other countries.

King, 39 and a 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was standing on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., when the fatal shot was fired apparently from a cheap roominghouse 205 feet away. He died of a bullet wound of the neck less than an hour later at St. Joseph Hospital.

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Washington Ray A097WX 2nd add: hospital.

A state first-degree murder charge was issued April 17, charging the man then known as Eric Starvo Galt, with 'unlawfully, feloniously, willfully, deliberately, premeditatedly and of his malice aforethought kill and murder King. A federal warrant had already been issued charging him with conspiracy in King's death.

The FBI placed Ray, originally sought as Galt, on its most wanted list April 20, lengthening its usual 10-name roll of dishonor to 11.

King was founder of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and perhaps the most well-known civil rights leader in the United States.

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Washington Ray A098WX 3rd add: States.

Ray, 40, is a fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo. He had served seven years of a 20-year sentence when reported missing in April 1967.

A first-degree murder indictment was returned against Ray by a grand jury in Memphis last May 7 and necessary extradition proceedings will begin shortly, Hoover said.

The charges on which he is being detained in England is the use of fraudulent documentation—a passport—and for carrying a concealed weapon.

Hoover said one passport Ray was using was issued in Ottawa on April 24, almost three weeks after the murder of King. The other was issued May 16, at Lisbon, Portugal, by the Canadian embassy in that city, Hoover said.

Ray's arrest was announced in a statement released by the FBI and no elaboration was given by FBI officials.

The announcement came during the funeral in New York of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy attended by King's widow, Coretta. Kennedy had attended King's funeral April 9 in Atlanta, Ga.

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Ray add

Washington Ray A101WX 4th add: AtlantaN ga.

In addition to armed robbery, Ray has been convicted of burglary, forgery of a postal money order and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He also had been confined in the Los Angeles County jail, two state prisons in Illinois and the U.S. Penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan.

During nearly three years in the Army he received a three-month sentence for drunkenness and breaking arrest. HE WAS DISCHARGED IN December 1948 for ineptness and lack of adaptability to military service.

The manhunt for Ray spread throughout the United States and several other countries including Canada, Mexico and Australia.

Mexican authorities questioned in late April a U.S. citizen they said resembled Ray, but released him without pressing any charges. Daniel David Kennedy, 41, of Baltimore, Md., picked up for questioning while on a walking tour of Sonora state, denied any connection with the slaying. The FBI said later there was no resemblance between Kennedy and Ray.

Australian police began a nationwide search May 1 for Ray after, it said, the FBI cabled that it had information indicating Ray might have fled to Australia. Canadian Mounties also were alerted.

Ray used a number of aliases, three of which were listed on the FBI warrant—Eric Starvo Galt, John Willard and Harvey Lowmyer. Other names used included James McBride, James Walton, W.C. Herron and James O'Connor.

A fellow inmate at the Missouri Penitentiary, Raymond Curtis, 40, said Ray told him while both were prisoners at Jefferson City he would be willing to kill King for \$1 million. Curtis now is in Whitfield county jail at Dalton, Ga., awaiting action on appeal from a murder conviction.

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