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Ray-Passport Lead 230

OTTAWA AP - A "colossal investigation" by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police led to the arrest in London today of James Earl Ray, wanted for the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., an external affairs spokesman here said.

Ray was traveling under the name of Ramon George Sneyd and had two Canadian passports in that name, one issued in Ottawa and the other at the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal.

The RCMP came across a picture that looked like Ray after going through 200,000 to 400,000 passport applications in the files of the Canadian External Affairs Department. They quickly discovered that the application was fraudulent.

Continuing their investigation, they got on the trail of Ray, traced his journeys in Canada and learned that he was heading for Britain and possibly elsewhere in Europe, an RCMP spokesman said. They tipped off the FBI and Scotland Yard.

A person applying for a Canadian passport must have someone, usually a professional man, sign a declaration that he has known him for two years, or else swear an affidavit before a notary public.

The external affairs spokesman said he is not at liberty to say whether Ray had a guarantor on his application or swore an affidavit.

He said Ray's application was submitted by mail "from a point in Canada" and issued from here April 25.

The RCMP search of passport files, begun shortly after the FBI started looking for Ray, "took many days," the external affairs spokesman said. Discovery of the fraudulent application was made "some days ago."

Embarrassed officials here did not know that Ray had picked up a second passport at the embassy in Lisbon May 16, again using the Sneyd identity.

There have: 5th graf A012

db140ped June 8

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Ray-Passport 240

OTTAWA AP - The Royal Canadian Mounted Police, checking thousands of passports in Canadian files, got on the trail of James Earl Ray and tipped off the FBI and Scotland Yard that he was heading for Britain, it was learned Saturday.

An RCMP spokesman said a routine check of Canadian passport files was begun as soon as the FBI started looking for Ray, chief suspect in the slaying of Negro leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the United States.

After going through about 400,000 passport pictures, the RCMP came across one that looked like Ray. In short order, the RCMP discovered that the name with the picture, Ramon George Sneyd, was fraudulent.

The External Affairs Department learned to its embarrassment several days ago that Ray was traveling on a Canadian passport, issued in Ottawa under the assumed name of Sneyd. An official said he did not know that Ray had a second Canadian passport, issued in Lisbon.

There have been complaints to the government in the past that foreigners have been able to obtain Canadian passports too easily.

The government has tried to tighten up the procedures for obtaining them, but an External Affairs Department official said it was difficult to deny a person a Canadian passport when he presented an application properly notarized by a qualified, responsible sponsor.

"When the application is properly notarized, there is not very much the Passport Office can do," he added.

Passport applications must bear the signature of a sponsor—a lawyer, bank manager, or some other professionally responsible person—attesting that he has known the applicant for at least two years.

ED1251ped June 8

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Ray-Passport 2nd NL

OTTAWA AP - A photograph unearthed in a check of 200,000 to 400,000 Canadian passport applications led to the arrest in London Saturday of James Earl Ray, wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Foreign Affairs spokesman said.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police found the picture in a month-long search of Foreign Affairs department files and quickly discovered that the application to which it was attached—in the name of Ramon George Sneyd—was fraudulent.

Police said Ray used names the same as those of two Toronto area residents during a one-month stay in Toronto. Ramon George Sneyd is the name of a constable who police said knew nothing of Ray.

The other alias, Paul Bridgman, is the name of a teacher who lives in a Toronto suburb. It resembles closely that of Paul Bridgeman, an inmate at the Missouri state penitentiary, from which Ray is listed as a fugitive.

There have 3rd graf A068
rg934ped June 8

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Ray-Passport NL 500

OTTAWA AP - A photograph unearthed in a check of 200,000 to 400,000 Canadian passport applications led to the arrest in London Saturday of James Earl Ray, wanted in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a Foreign Affairs spokesman said.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police found the picture in a month-long search of Foreign Affairs department files and quickly discovered that the application to which it was attached, made out in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, was fraudulent.

There have been complaints in the past that foreigners are too easily able to obtain Canadian passports. Foreign Secretary Mitchell Sharp said Saturday, "In the light of this case, I have asked for a full study and report on whether stricter requirements for identification of persons applying for Canadian passports are necessary or desirable."

Sharp said the man arrested in London was carrying a Canadian birth certificate in addition to two Canadian passports under a false name. Birth certificates in Canada are issued by provincial governments; there was no indication whether the one mentioned by Sharp was forged.

A Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman said the RCMP had traced Ray's journeys in Canada, learned he was headed for Britain and tipped off Scotland Yard and the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation.

He said RCMP investigations in the case are closed and added, "From now on, it is up to Scotland Yard and the FBI."

To get a Canadian passport, an applicant must either have a sponsor who testifies he has known the applicant two years, or he must swear before a notary public that statements on his application—name, address, birth date and place, physical description—are true.

Ray got his passport without a sponsor. The application was reported submitted by mail "from a point in Canada" and issued in Ottawa on April 25.

A Foreign Affairs Department spokesman said the government has tried to tighten passport requirements but at present, "When the application is properly notarized, there is not much the Passport Office can do."

The spokesman said Ray took up quarters in a Toronto rooming house April 8—four days after King was killed in Memphis, Tenn.—and lived there and at another rooming house until he boarded a British Overseas Airways plane for London May 6.

An employe of a Toronto travel agency, Lillian Spencer, said she had mailed passport application forms to a George Sneyd, a "completely normal" procedure in the travel business, and booked him for the London flight and a return flight May 21.

The man who showed up at her office was "a completely nebulous character," she said. "If there had been anything distinguishable about him at all, I'd probably remember him."

The Foreign Affairs spokesman said the "colossal investigation" by the RCMP was begun shortly after the FBI started looking for Ray, 40, a fugitive from the Missouri state penitentiary, for the shooting of the civil rights leader, a 1964 Nobel Peace Prize winner.

SS554ped June 8

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Ray-Passport NL add 180

OTTAWA-Ray-Passport NL A068 add: winner.

The second passport in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, was obtained at the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon, Portugal, May 16. They said they didn't know why the suspected wanted two.

The Toronto Telegram said Ray had lived at a three-story rooming house on Dundas Street in midtown Toronto.

The paper quoted Mrs. Yee Loo, who operates the house, as saying Ray "never spoke to anybody."

"He came about four weeks ago with only a suit on his back and a newspaper in his hand," she said.

Sneyd, the alias Ray chose, is a name widely known in eastern Ontario. It dates back to British Loyalists who fled during the American Revolution.

Ramon George Sneyd, is the name of a constable on the Metropolitan Toronto police force.

Constable Sneyd, reached at his home in Toronto said he could not discuss the case: "I've been told I can't say anything about it."

There were reported Ray mailed his passport application to Ottawa from Toronto, gave his age as 35 and Toronto as his birthplace, and said he was unemployed and had no fixed address. A government spokesman said he was "not going to deny" these details, nor would he confirm them.

re609ped June 8

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Ray-Passport Original NL 2nd add 250

OTTAWA Ray-Passport NL A068 2nd add: confirm them.

Deputy Chief B.O. Simmonds of the Toronto police said Ray somehow learned enough about Constable Sneyd to take out a passport in his name and "our job now is to ascertain how he got that information. He said the constable knew nothing of Ray.

Besides Sneyd's name, Ray used the name Paul Bridgman while in Toronto, police said.

The Toronto City Directory lists a Paul Bridgman as a consulting teacher with the board of education, living in suburban Don Mills. A Washington source said a Paul Bridgeman, spelled differently, was a fellow prisoner of Ray at the Missouri State Penitentiary, from which Ray is listed as an escapee.

Mrs. Mabel Agnew, operator of a photography studio, said the arrested man called himself Bridgman when he had passport photographs made at her shop. The travel agency employe said the man who called himself Sneyd in buying plane tickets gave his address as 962 Dundas St. West, Toronto, and listed Paul Bridgman as the person to contact in case of illness or accident.

Mrs. Agnew said RCMP officers found pictures of the man at her shop on Wednesday. She said she "personally didn't remember" him because "I see so many people in a day." Her assistant, Margaret Eakin, said she recalled that the man looked like the "normal business executive type."

The Canadian passport photos show a neatly groomed man in a dark suit, white shirt and tie. He had a full head of neatly trimmed hair and was wearing glasses with dark rims.

db1010ped June 8

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OTTAWA-Ray-Passport Original NL A068 3rd add: rims.

Miss Spencer, who works for Kennedy Travel Bureau Ltd., said the man calling himself Sneyd gave Bridgman's address as 102 Ossington Ave., Toronto. A man who answered the telephone at that address identified himself as Paul Bridgman but hung up when told he was talking to a reporter.

DD1102aed June 8