

Reporter's Story

Ray Wanted to Join Mercenaries

London

The London Daily Telegraph said last night that a man calling himself Raymond Sneyd telephoned a Telegraph reporter several times in the last few weeks and asked how to become a mercenary soldier in Africa.

Reporter Ian Colvin said in a front-page story that the man calling himself Sneyd first telephoned the newspaper June 4 and spoke with the foreign desk. The call was transferred to Colvin because he had written several stories about foreign mercenaries fighting in Africa.

Colvin said Sneyd certainly was in a London hotel Friday morning, June 7.

VOICE

Colvin said when he first spoke to the man calling himself Sneyd, he said in a voice with a Canadian or American accent, "This is Raymond Sneyd. I want to join my brother who has been missing in Angola."

Colvin said Sneyd asked if he could be put in touch with a British mercenary officer who might be able to help. Colvin contacted Major Alistair Wicks, former second-in-command of Five Commando in the Congo. He said the name seemed to mean nothing to Wicks.

Colvin said the man called again Thursday, June 6, speaking from a public telephone booth. This time he said his brother was not

missing, but that he had not seen him for four months. He said he didn't as much want a search started for his brother as he wished to become a mercenary in Africa himself.

ADDRESS

On Sneyd's insistence, Colvin said, he offered an address in Brussels which might help Sneyd in his inquiries.

Kay was captured en route to Belgium.

Colvin said he ended his contact with Sneyd by sending a postcard advising him to pursue his inquiries through the consular section of the foreign office.

"When I heard of the arrest at Heathrow the disjointed conversations of the past week at last became clearer," he said.

He said investigations made by him after the Sneyd arrest led him to trace his caller to two small hotels, finding that the police had been there before him.

United Press

Usually Alone

Ray's Mystery Visit to Lisbon

LISBON

The man identified as James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., lived in a third-class hotel in downtown Lisbon for nine days in May and then disappeared, it was learned here yesterday.

"That's the man who called himself Ramon George Sneya," declared the day clerk of the Hotel Portugal, pointing to one of the photographs of Ray published in a Lisbon newspaper.

Ray signed into the 45-room, busy commercial hotel on the evening of May 8 and left on the morning of May 17.

PASSPORT

A spokesman for the Canadian Embassy in Lisbon also reported seeing a man who carried a Canadian passport in the name of Sneya.

"He came into the consulate and said that his name had been misspelled on the passport and that it should have been Sneyd," a Canadian consular official said.

"He produced a birth certificate in the name of Ramon George Sneyd and asked

us to change Sneya to Sneyd."

The Canadian consul said he pointed out that it was against embassy regulations to alter a passport and so issued a new passport in the name of Sneyd on May 16.

LATE

"The man called Sneya did not spend much time in the hotel," Louis Gentil, the hotel clerk, said. "I was on the night desk then and saw Sneya come back generally very late at night. Sometimes he didn't come back at all."

Ray gave no profession on signing into the Hotel Portugal. He stated he was 36 years old and that he had come from Lisbon airport. He left no forwarding address when he left.

He took a modest room on the second floor overlooking the noisy shopping street of Joao das Regras. He paid a little more than \$2 a day for the room without breakfast.

ALONE

Hotel employees said that he was generally alone. "Occasionally we would see him with girls and once he even asked if he could take a girl up to his room but it is against our rules," Gentil said.

Meanwhile, international police sources at Lisbon airport denied that the man called Sneyd had flown on a British European Airways plane to London Saturday morning, where he was picked up by Scotland Yard detectives.

"Either he was in transit and did not enter the country again - or else he was travelling with some other passport," a government spokesman said.

New York Times