

EXTRADITION EFFORT PRESSED

Ray Is Put in Tight-Security Prison

By COLIN FROST

LONDON (AP)—James Earl Ray, the escaped convict accused of slaying Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was transferred under police guard today to Wandsworth Prison, where security has been tightened since one of Britain's Great Train Robbers went over the walls four years ago.

Wandsworth is considered a safer place for Ray than Brix-

ton Prison, where he has been held since his arrest Saturday.

U.S. legal experts worked on plans to take Ray quickly and safely back to the United States for trial, and police on both sides of the Atlantic tried

to learn if Ray had help in his four-nation flight.

AMERICAN AUTHORITIES took the first formal step toward extradition last night by obtaining a provi-

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NEW SECURITY measures were instituted at Wandsworth since Ronald Arthur Briggs, one of the train robbers, disappeared over the wall. Ray escaped from Missouri State Prison in 1967 by hiding in a bread truck.

Wandsworth is used for Britain's long-term prisoners and Ray will have two British police officers in his cell around the clock.

American authorities have not yet interrogated Ray and legal experts say he can veto any attempts to do so as long as he is in British custody.

RAY AT HIS FIRST court appearance yesterday, was assigned a British lawyer at his own request and ordered held without bail for another hearing June 18 on the passport and gun charges.

If extradition proceedings are brought, the court will require evidence of a case against Ray and he will then have 15 days to appeal to the High Court. If Ray's lawyers raised points of law there, a further appeal might be made to the House of Lords and the process could take months.

Some experts saw a precedent for the deportation of Ray in the case of Robert Soblen, who fled from the United States to Israel in 1962 after being sentenced to life imprisonment on charges that he was a Soviet spy. En route back to America, he stabbed himself and was taken off a plane at London for treatment.

THE BRITISH government ordered Soblen out of the country as an undesirable alien and an appeals court ruled the move legal. But Soblen took poison while being sent to the airport and died.

In the two months American authorities searched for Ray following King's assassination April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., he went from the United States to Canada on April 8, to London May 6 and to Lisbon May 8. He left his Lisbon hotel on May 7 and surfaced again in London on May 28.

Police in those countries sought anyone who might have known or helped Ray, and authorities in Canada also tried to learn how Ray obtained information on the three Toronto men whose names he used as aliases.

ALL THREE MEN have dark hair and are about the same height and weight as Ray.

Ramon George Sneyd, whose name Ray used on his passport, is a Toronto constable. Paul Bridgman, whose name Ray used at one Toronto rooming house, is a consultant teacher with the Toronto board of education.

Ray first was sought under the name Eric Starvo Galt. Eric St. Vincent Galt, a Toronto warehouse foreman, has a signature which looks like Eric Starvo Galt. He uses the middle initials, St. V., but with small zeros instead of periods.

THE FOREMAN and Ray have similar scars, in the middle of the forehead and on the palm of the right hand.

"I don't know what to think," Galt said. "It's a bit more than coincidence. The weight is right, the height range is right and the identification marks are there.

"I've wondered where our paths might have crossed, but I just don't know."

Galt said he was in the Memphis area two years ago and that he traveled regularly to Florida for skin diving in the summer.

RAY, HOWEVER, was in the Missouri state prison until he escaped in April 1967 with more than 12 years remaining of a 20-year sentence. Missouri also seeks Ray's extradition from Britain on the prison break charge. If he is returned to the United States, the Tennessee murder charge is expected to be given precedence over the Missouri charge and a federal charge that Ray conspired to violate Dr. King's civil rights.

Police believe Ray was the man who checked into a Montreal rooming house last summer under the name of Galt. Galt said he was not in Montreal last summer and the FBI agents told him he was the only Eric S. Galt in Canada.

CANADIAN POLICE also were checking a report by Mrs. Yee Sun Loo, owner of a Toronto rooming house where Ray stayed, that a "fat man" passed an envelope to Ray on May 2, the day he paid \$345 for an excursion flight ticket to London.

A spokesman for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said

preliminary investigation indicated the man may not have known Ray and may just have been making a delivery.

"Every effort is being made to trace this man, but so far there is no indication as to who he is," the spokesman said.

Others in Toronto who encountered a man they thought was Ray included two waiters at the Silver Dollar Bar in the Waverly Hotel and a go-go dancer there. The waiters said the man sat at a front table, drinking beer and watching the dancers.

"He looked at me," said the dancer. "It wasn't the way a man looks at a girl. It was ... sort of like he didn't approve. The first night I smiled at him. He looked kind of disgusted."