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Formal Extradition Request for Ray

By United Press International and
 The Associated Press

LONDON — A formal request for the extradition of James Earl Ray, accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, was handed to the British Foreign Office today by U.S. officials.

The U.S. Embassy declined to announce details of the petition. It merely described it as "documents required for the extradition proceedings."

Stressing the urgency with which the Justice Department regards the case, officials managed to collect the documents a day ahead of their own deadline.

The documents run several hundred pages and contain information on Ray's identity and the cases against him — both in connection with Dr. King's murder and Ray's escape from the Missouri State Prison.

TREATY RULES

The Foreign Office now must certify that the request satisfies the terms of the extradition treaty with the United States. The Home Office then rules on the validity of the murder case under British as well as U.S. law.

Then the file goes to a judge for a court hearing.

The formal extradition request came as Scotland Yard delved into the mysteries of Ray's stay in Britain.

In Pimlico, a district that lies next to the glittering London West End but has not seen major development since Charles Dickens wrote of its pest houses, Mrs. Anna Thomas talked of the boarder in May who may have been Ray on the loose.

"He kept the door of his room locked at all times and when I brought his breakfast up he told me to leave it outside," the hotel keeper said.

BAR BIRLS

Her boarder paid Mrs. Thomas \$10.80 for three days' stay. His luggage was an airline bag. He refused to sign the register.

In Lisbon, a red-haired bar girl — "just call me Gloria" — remembered the face in the newspaper but not the name.

Gloria said she shared drinks with the man in the Galo bar. Other girls in other bars remembered the face.

Scotland Yard and the U.S. lawyers and diplomats here

were keeping mostly silent about their hunt for the missing days in Ray's life since the April 4 assassination in Memphis, Tenn. They do not want to offend British judges.

ANYTIME

The judges rule heavily against those who talk out of court before trial or hearing. And U.S. officials wanted nothing to interfere with their declared intention of getting Ray, 40, back to America as soon as possible.

A British deportation order could come anytime. More likely, a legal fight with his court-provided lawyers could stretch until August the time before Ray is bundled aboard a New York-bound plane.

Detectives sought to learn exactly what Ray, who last year escaped from a Missouri prison while serving a 20-year term for bank robbery, was doing in the London airport when arrested Saturday.

SEEK CONTACT

Some reports said he had just arrived from Lisbon and was on his way to Brussels. But, in Washington, the Department of Justice said yes-

terday he was not returning from Lisbon when picked up but was waiting for a plane to Brussels.

There were reports that Ray had been in London most of the time since his arrival from Canada. Other reports said he spent much of the time in Lisbon with Gloria and the other girls. The detectives seemed most interested in how he financed his flight and how his contacts might have been.

Meanwhile, police in Toronto were searching for a short blond man who reportedly came looking for Ray in a rooming house three or four days after the suspect flew to London.

The landlady, Mrs. Fela Szpakowski, told police about the caller. She said he presented a police identification card, but both the Mounted Police and the Toronto police said he was not a policeman.