

British Move on Extraditing Ray

London

The British government yesterday started official action on a formal United States request for the extradition of James Earl Ray to stand trial in

nation of Dr. Martin Luther King.

By the end of the day the application had cleared its first legal hurdle at the British Foreign Office.

But court formal extradition appeals, if the 40-year-old escaped convict chooses to use them, could delay Ray's return up to six weeks or even longer should the case take some unexpected turn.

U.S. officials, headed by Assistant Attorney General Fred M. Vinson Jr., chief of the Justice Department's criminal division, prepared the petition which was presented to the Foreign office by U.S. Consul General Jack Herbert.

The petition contained a summary of some of the evidence against Ray in Dr. King's murder at a Memphis motel April 4. It also contained information on his escape from the Missouri State Prison while serving an armed robbery charge.

The U.S. government is seeking extradition on both counts and must satisfy a British judge that both would also be crimes under British as well as U.S. law.

The petition also contains fingerprints and other material to identify Ray as the man now being held under round-the-clock guard in London's Wandsworth Prison.

Officially he is being held here as Ramon George Sneyd, traveling under a Canadian passport issued in that name and charged with passport offenses as well as carrying a loaded gun.

Associated Press

British Theory

Ray's Plan to Hide in Africa

Londoon

James Earl Ray, the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, conceived the idea of joining white mercenaries in Afri-

ca while he was hiding in Canada.

His preferred destination was Rhodesia, British investigators believe.

He wanted to go to Rhodesia, they said, because he felt he would find there a climate sympathetic to his own racist views and where, if his real identity were discovered — he was traveling with a Canadian passport under the name of Ramon George Sneyd — he would be in no danger of extradition.

REASONS

He knew that relations between Rhodesia and Britain were strained and that Rhodesians also regarded the United States as unfriendly.

Ray knew that Lisbon was a center for the recruitment of mercenaries and that is why he went there directly, pausing at London only to cash in the unused part of his British Overseas Airways Corporation ticket from Toronto — he had purchased a 21-day round trip ticket to screen his movements — and take a British European Airways plane to Lisbon, investigators indicated.

FAILURE

But in Lisbon Ray found no recruiters who were eager for his services.

Scotland Yard is convinced that no one in London aided Ray.

The thinking here is that Ray was paid in the U.S. for the killing of King, that he then fled to Toronto, where he received help in obtaining a false Canadian passport, and that he was running out of money and growing desperate during his final weeks of freedom in London.

Ray's Week In Atlanta Hippie Area

Atlanta

James Earl Ray, the man accused of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., spent more than a week in an apartment near Atlanta's hippie district just prior to the slaying, The Atlanta Constitution said yesterday in a copyrighted article.

The newspaper said an Atlanta apartment manager, whose identity and location was withheld at the manager's request, reported the tenant used the name Eric Starvo Galt.

The apartment manager was quoted as saying he was shown FBI photographs and identified one as being a former resident of a \$10.50 a week room. He said he learned later than the man he identified was actually Ray.

The apartment manager said the tenant was driving a white Mustang, the same type that was abandoned in Atlanta the day after King was killed in Memphis April 4.

Associated Press