

ROOM IN ATLANTA IS LINKED TO RAY

Suspect Is Reported to Have Rented Cheap Lodgings

Special to The New York Times

ATLANTA, June 12— man using the name Eric Starvo Galt and resembling pictures of James Earl Ray spent more than a week in a cheap Atlanta apartment just before the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., The Atlanta Constitution reported today.

The newspaper said in a copyrighted article that an apartment building manager had acknowledged informing the Federal Bureau of Investigation about renting a \$10.50-a-week room to a man identifying himself as Galt.

The manager was quoted as saying that F.B.I. agents had showed him a photograph that he later recognized as that of Ray, who has been arrested in the assassination.

"That was the picture of the man who stayed in the room," he told the newspaper. "There's no doubt about it."

He said that the Federal agents approached him sometime after the April 4 killing, saying that a suspect may have stayed in his building.

Drove White Mustang

The Constitution gave this account:

The apartment manager refused to talk until he had been assured his name and the exact location of his apartment building would not be published. For publication he would say only that the building was in the city's hippie district, which lies generally in the area round Peachtree and 14th Streets. He would not say specifically when the man had been in the apartment.

He said that the man had been driving a white Mustang automobile, the same type that was abandoned in an Atlanta public housing project the day after the assassination. The car is believed to have been used by the assassin.

"I only saw him three times," the landlord was quoted as saying. "Once when I rented him the apartment, once when he paid for the second week, and I saw him in the apartment one time—I don't remember when."

Galt left in the second week, he said.

The apartment building was said to be occupied principally by transient construction workers. It has a fast turnover of tenants.

"I asked him what he did for a living," the landlord told the newspaper. "He said he was a 'jack of all trades' and never did really answer. He acted more like a preacher than a convict. He was real smooth and friendly."

The F.B.I. had no comment when asked about the report.