

65-DAY SEARCH SPANNED 4 COUNTRIES

WASHINGTON — (UPI) — The break that led to the capture of James Earl Ray, accused of assassinating Dr. Martin Luther King, came after an examination of more than 300,000 passport photos in Washington and Ottawa, Canada.

Ray's capture came about through the co-operation of police in four countries — the FBI, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Scotland Yard and Portuguese authorities.

Before the break came, the FBI had examined well over 100,000 photos on passport applications on file with the State Department, and the Mounties had scanned more than 200,000 pictures of Canadian applicants.

ANOTHER NAME

The FBI's search failed to produce a clue. But the project in Ottawa struck pay dirt within the last few days when the Canadians turned up Ray's picture on a passport form under the name of Ramon George Sneyd.

"Project Passport" was initiated in Washington with the photo-by-photo examination of all applications filed after April 5 — the day following the murder.

And since there was evidence that Ray had visited

Canada in 1967, a similar operation was set up by the Mounties. For security reasons, the examination of the photos was conducted only at night, beginning several weeks ago.

The break came early this month. A searcher came across a passport form bearing Ray's photograph filed under the Sneyd name, which had been sent to Ottawa from a Toronto travel agency.

POLICEMAN

Toronto police had no trouble locating the real Sneyd.

200,000 Photos Sifted
By Canadian Police

He is a 35-year-old policeman (he spells his first name Raymond instead of Ramon as on the passport) and he knew nothing about any passport application.

Ray was traced to a Toronto rooming house.

He had lived in Toronto for a month, after arriving April

8, four days after the murder.

Police said Ray used two different addresses, one in the Italian district of Toronto, the other on Dundas Street, largely a district of small shops.

The trail then jumped to England from Toronto. It was learned that Ray, posing as Sneyd, had arranged with a travel agency to get him a passport and buy him a round-trip ticket to London. He flew to London May 6.

TO PORTUGAL

The next day, he turned in the return half of his ticket and obtained a flight to Lisbon instead. He is believed to have left for Portugal the same day.

In Lisbon, he obtained a second Canadian passport from the Canadian embassy May 16. He then dropped out of sight.

But Portuguese and British immigration officials, police and airline personnel were instructed to be on the lookout for a person using a Canadian passport under the name of Sneyd.

About 11 a.m. yesterday, London time, Ray — still posing as Sneyd — arrived at London airport in transit to Brussels, Belgium.

On landing, he had to pass through an immigration check. The authorities spotted him promptly.

The 65-day hunt was over.

Memphis
Welcomes
Capture

By United Press International and The Associated Press

MEMPHIS — This river city where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was slain warmly welcomed the news yesterday that King's suspected assassin had been captured.

"I think the news is great," said Mayor Henry Loeb. "Certainly the administration wants to see justice done, and will fully cooperate in extraditing him and diligently doing our duty."

Police Director Frank Holloman said immediate steps will be taken to return James Earl Ray here to stand trial.

PROCEDURE

Under normal procedure, Ray would be returned for trial in Criminal Court. How quickly the trial could be held or which judge would be assigned to the case could not be determined at once.

It was not immediately

clear how Ray will be returned under the U.S.-British extradition treaty, on a federal conspiracy charge, or under a Tennessee indictment for first-degree murder.

Under the latter charge, Tennessee would initiate the extradition proceeding. Gov. Buford Ellington said that "whatever needs to be done will be done" to return Ray here as soon as possible.

Minutes after the news of Ray's arrest, city and county law enforcement officials began making plans. Holloman said maximum security procedure would be observed, and refused to disclose where Ray would be held pending his trial.

SNIPER'S BULLET

Dr. King, the leading civil rights advocate of non-violence, was shot by a sniper as he stood on a motel balcony April 4. He was preparing to lead a demonstration on behalf of 1,300 striking city garbage collectors.

The long walkout was settled, with the help of a presidential mediator, soon after Dr. King's death — and the workers, most of them Negroes, now are represented by the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees.