

SECRET



The Washington Star  
18 June 1968

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM  
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RALPH MCGILL

# If There Was a 'Deal,' Ray Will Be Thinking

If there was a plot, or conspiracy, to murder Dr. Martin Luther King, only a few — a very few — persons met together to make the agreement. But it was inevitable, if there was such an offer made to, and accepted by, the alleged killer, James Earl Ray, as his brother believes there was, that others outside the actual plotters knew about it.

So, in London's Cannon Row Prison, James Earl Ray is thinking. If, in whatever reading he has done, he has read about or seen pictured a balancing scale, he sees the shadow of it in his mind.

In one of the scales is his life. The other is empty. If his life is to be lifted up he must put something in the other scale.

So, he thinks how that may be done.

If Ray had a "big money deal" to assassinate Dr. Martin Luther King, as his brother Jerry believes as the only possible explanation, then James Earl Ray knows others than those with whom he dealt directly were aware of it. In such a money deal a number of talks were necessary by those who wanted Dr. King dead.

There would have had to have been a search of some time — a patient waiting and talking with underworld or fringe underworld characters until the right or likely man was found. One day, if there was such a plot, the word had

to go back to those who were to pay the murder money that a good prospect had been found.

Ray was a quiet kind of man — except when he got into arguments about Negroes. He hated them all. A bartender in a Los Angeles "club" bar told police he remembered Ray getting into an argument with a woman who had said she didn't think all colored people were bad. Ray was harsh with the woman and angrily denounced all Negroes.

He advertised himself.

Brother Jerry, himself an ex-con, and on friendly terms with his brother, rationalized it with the FBI. His brother had escaped after serving seven years of a 20-year term. He was broke. He had to have money. If he tried robbery he might get little or nothing. A deal with a lot of money would look good. He didn't have any love for colored people, but, said brother Jerry, "I know he wouldn't put himself in a spot like this (killing Dr. King) unless there was something in it for him."

So, in London he will be looking — and in the U.S. prison, he will be thinking too — if, indeed, there was a deal. Doubts will gnaw at his mind.

Will someone talk? Will someone turn State's evidence? Will someone claim the reward? Will someone, himself worried, go to police one day and say, "Look, I know how you can learn all about the King case and how Ray was picked?"

And if there was a deal, those who arranged it and provided the money also will be thinking. Will Ray talk? Will he, watching that shadow scale with his life in it sink lower and lower, one day begin to sing? The money is no good any more. If he can put a confession into that now empty scale, it might balance up the scales a bit and get him life, not death.

So, he — and others — will think. And fret.

Ray's record as a small-time thief and grocery store stick-up man does not reveal him as considerably intelligent, shrewd or resourceful.

So, brother Jerry's belief has a certain logic — there was a deal — and he had help. Coming out the door of the

cheap hotel after the shooting of Dr. King and dropping the gun on the sidewalk is an example. Police were converging on the scene. A man could not walk down the sidewalk carrying a gun. But, why was it not left behind, or hidden in some pre-arranged place, hopefully not to be found for a few days?

And finally, who would pay for such a crime?

There are at least five groups whose violence programs suggest them as possibilities. For some years now synagogues, churches and homes have been dynamited. Death has been a part of some of these acts of violence. The hatred for Dr. King by the leaders of these groups indeed has been open and vicious. If they determined on the deed and the criminal contacts with Ray, the money would have been simple for them.

But perhaps there was only Ray himself — his twisted brain driving him to be a lone killer. We await the slow unfolding of events.

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15 June 1968

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# Ray Extradition Faces Hurdles

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The language of the 1870 law is vague on the subject of political assassination, the sources said, and it will require U.S. authorities to present strong evidence that Ray is responsible for the civil rights leader's death.

The legal sources said framers of Britain's extradition laws sought to exclude political assassination from offenses of a "political character"—and therefore not subject to extradition—but the language used was vague.

They also said that if U.S. authorities are permitted to question Ray in his prison cell prior to the extradition hearing it could jeopardize their case.

They must go before the court with prima facie evidence of his guilt—not just suspicion—before he can be sent to America, the sources said.

Lawyers from both nations planned to meet Monday to set a date for the hearings on America's extradition request.

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NO GRAND TOUR

# Ray Had a Tough Time in Europe

LONDON (UPI)—James Earl Ray had a terrible tour of Europe.

Ray, accused of slaying the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., was confused by British currency.

He was so nervous that he had his breakfast tray set down outside his hotel door.

A London hotel clerk judged him simple. A Lisbon waiter called him cheap. One hotel owner said his going was "good riddance" and announced plans to change the name of the hotel where Ray slept.

### Extradition Proceedings

As more details of Ray's stay in Europe became known, British Home Secretary James Callaghan signed an order authorizing the Bow Street Magistrate's Court to conduct extradition proceedings against the 40-year-old escaped convict. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton was expected to schedule a hearing in about a week.

Ray had about a month in Europe to visit such sights as the Tower of London, the sunny beaches of Portugal and the British Museum. But he was on the run, it rained and Ray stayed mostly in his hotel rooms or sought out just those bars that feed on luckless travelers.

A girl in thigh-high miniskirt, a hotel clerk who thought Ray was neurotic and a night porter who refused to let the lonely man bring a girl upstairs have filled in some of the pieces of the last days of freedom of James Earl Ray.

### Arrives in Taxi

Jane Nassau, 21, first saw Ray when he showed up May 28 in a taxicab at London's new Earl's Court Hotel, a building of white stone adorned with blue awnings. Miss Nassau, a hotel clerk, said he "gave the impression he had just come from an air terminal."

The clerk who checked in Ray is off on holiday on a Channel island. But Miss Nassau remembers Ray. She is a north-of-England girl, with dark hair and shapely legs and a blue miniskirt, and she came to London to better herself and see the world. Ray interested Jane.

"He was extremely shy, pathetically shy. I didn't know why he was so secretive. I just thought he was nervous," she

him into another room and had a look. "Yanks are all the same. I thought he had a lady in there. But he didn't have any lady in my hotel."

He left the hotel in the Pimlico area early. "I thought, 'Good riddance to you,'" Mrs. Thomas said. She said she now will change the hotel name from Pax, meaning peace, to something else.

In Lisbon, the police and an FBI agent found an easy but dull trail left by Ray early last month.

On May 8, at 8 p.m., Ray

entered a third class waterfront hotel and asked for a room. The clerk gave him Room 2 on the second floor.

It overlooks a narrow street and has a bed, a wardrobe, a chest of drawers and two chairs. It costs \$2.10 a day. Ray set down his suitcase and a briefcase. There he stayed nine days.

Luis, the receptionist, remembers Ray as quiet, lonely and shy. Chambermaid Maria Celestine 31, said he did not tip. Both recall he went out very late at night and sometimes at 6 a.m.

He washed his own socks.

Ray asked Joao, the night porter, for permission to take a young woman upstairs. Joao said no. The girls in the neighborhood bars remember him. One Maria can't seem to recall if Ray spent one or two nights there. She will describe it all for a tip.

Gloria at the Gato Bar remembers when asked. Paula around the corner at the Bohemia smiles. The man at the Indian Embassy remembers the embassy fixed up a passport for Ray when he showed a Canadian birth certificate.

In Toronto, where King

was killed in Memphis, police continued to look for a fat man who reportedly delivered an envelope to him.

The Toronto Star said in a copyrighted story that a cab driver reported picking up a "bag fat man" May 2 across the street from the rooming house where Ray was staying.

The cab driver, Manuel Reis, 35, said he drove the man and an unidentified companion to a bank 3 blocks away, the Star reported.

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vous, always doing things  
his hands.

#### Knocks Porter Over

"I tried to talk to him but then I stopped myself. I was afraid he might think I was trying to chat him up (flirt)," Miss Nassau said.

Ray emerged one night from his room in search of the bathroom. In a dark hall he bowled over a porter who had climbed a ladder to change a light bulb. "He apologized," Miss Nassau said.

Patiently Miss Nassau tried to explain British currency. "But he was a bit thick and it didn't sink in. He was very slow," she said.

Later another hotel clerk found a paperback spy novel, "Assignment Tangier," that Ray had dropped. In the back was a mass of figures indicating Ray's attempts to compare the value of dollars to pounds.

A second man had appeared with Ray when he checked in. Miss Nassau never saw him again. Ray left June 5, carrying the airline flight bag he always clutched, possibly containing the Liberty chief pistol he was arrested with Saturday at Heathrow Airport.

Miss Nassau called out goodbye and that Sen. Robert F. Kennedy had been shot. "He just shrugged and walked away," she said.

Contrary to what he had told her, Ray headed for a new hotel. It was raining and the first hotel he tried was full. The clerk recommended the Hotel Pax, owned by Mrs. Anna Thomas.

He paid \$10.00 in advance for three nights' stay. Mrs. Thomas saved the 5-pound note he paid with. She also saved the syringe she found in his room. She didn't like Ray.

Ray had a "friend" with him when he asked at the first hotel. The second man was gone when he checked into his small room at the Pax.

#### Got 4 Phone Calls

He received four telephone calls — Scotland Yard is trying to find out who from — and a postcard. The card came for Ian Colvin, a newspaperman Ray had telephoned in search of help in joining an African mercenary unit.

Mrs. Thomas said one telephone caller was a woman with an American "twang." Ray was out and the twang was heard no more. Mrs. Thomas thought something was funny.

"I always thought he slept in bed with his clothes on. When I brought his breakfast tray, he told me to leave it outside, like he was still in bed. Then, a minute later, before I had gone a step, he was at the door fully dressed, picking it up . . . he was so neurotic," she said.

Ray kept out the maid. He . . . she ordered

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A-12

THE EVENING STAR  
Washington, D. C., Wednesday, June 12, 1968

# Canada Passport Laxity Boon for Fleeing Ray

By MICHAEL COPE  
Special to The Star

TORONTO — James Earl Ray, the nondescript suspected assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., had two genuine Canadian passports when he was caught at London Airport after a worldwide two-month search for him.

Ray was the latest of scores of criminals and Communist spies who for years have been outwitting law enforcement agencies around the world with mail order passports from Ottawa.

Here is how Ray worked it:

He picked up a passport application from a Toronto travel agency, had three unsmiling pictures taken and mailed them off to Ottawa with \$5.

Before filling out the application he probably bought a name and date and place of birth — Ramon George Sneyd — from an underworld documentation agency. The going price would be about \$200.

### A \$2 Fee

At the Ontario Provincial government's registrar office he paid another \$2 for a documented copy of a birth certificate in the name of Sneyd—the only proof the Canadian government requires from a passport applicant.

But in Ray's case he chose the wrong name as the real Ramon Sneyd is a Toronto police officer who was astounded when the federal mounties questioned him about the passport he had never applied for.

Later in Lisbon, Portugal, Ray went to the Canadian consulate and bought another passport over the counter there claiming his name had been misspelled on the original.

It was only because the FBI had a hunch that Ray might have fled to Canada following the Memphis assassination that the Mounties started sifting through more than 200,000 photographs submitted by persons who had applied for passports recently.

are well known in jails and prisons around the world. The Mounties know that in one American penitentiary the inmates run night classes for prisoners soon to be released coaching them how to get a passport in Canada.

In both Toronto and Montreal the underworld has lists of names, dates and places of birth (the only information required to get a birth certificate), which are for sale to criminals on the run.

In Toronto there is at least one source which offers genuine passports for sale already filled in, but minus the bearer's picture.

Canadian passports have long been favorites with spies also. Gordon Lonsdale, the biggest Soviet spy ever caught by the British, traveled on a Canadian passport.

His two assistants, New York-born Helen and Peter Kroger were also provided with Canadian passports. Even in Australia, counterespionage agents in 1960 recovered a Canadian passport being used by a Soviet spy ring.

### Trotsky Recalled

The Communists' hatchet man who murdered Leon Trotsky as long ago as 1940 traveled on a Canadian passport identifying him as Frank Jackson.

When Igor Gouzenko, a top secret cypher clerk in the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa defected to the West in 1945, he told the Canadians that Communist agents even had access to the Government's maximum security passport records office in the External Affairs Department.

On at least one occasion, he said, Soviet agents actually broke into the office and substituted genuine passport applications with fakes.

Canada's new prime minister, Pierre Trudeau, is determined to halt this trafficking in his country's passports.

When he was justice minister a few weeks ago he proposed such stiff penalties as to...

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He is also reportedly enthusiastic about a recommendation from the International Civil Aviation Organization in Montreal that present passport be replaced with credit card-type passports embossed with computer digits which examining officers would feed into a computer to check on its validity and status of its holder.

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DAVID LAWRENCE

Wash Star 6/12/68

# Fingerprints Key to Ray Capture

The most amazing thing about the capture in London of James Earl Ray, suspected assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is the tremendous amount of work that had to be done in order to accomplish this.

"Fingerprints," a word much used but little understood, were the key, and few people realize what an enormous task was involved in identifying the suspected killer of Dr. King. Latent prints found on items near the scene of the King shooting on April 4 were not clear enough or complete enough to enable an identification to be made from fingerprints on file with the FBI.

The break in the Ray case came 10 days after the shooting of Dr. King, when the FBI located a rooming house in Atlanta where the suspect, then known as Eric Starvo Galt, had stayed and where he had left some papers. Included in these were maps, on one of which there was a clear print of one finger. But this was enough for the FBI, even though there are more than 188 million cards in its fingerprint files, representing nearly 82 million individuals.

To narrow the search, the FBI made certain assumptions on the basis of what was known about the suspected killer, including the likelihood that the man sought was a fugitive from justice, and the identity cards of nearly 2,000 fugitives were then subjected to an "eyeball" search by the FBI identification experts.

Within a few hours, it was determined that the print belonged to James Earl Ray, who was found to have more than a dozen sets of fingerprints in FBI files. Copies of Ray's prints were sent to police agencies abroad. When he was picked up in London, fingerprints definitely identified him as the wanted man.

Fingerprinting is regarded as the only fool-proof system of identification. No two persons have identical prints. The appearance of an individual can be changed—hair can be dyed, eyeglasses worn, teeth pulled, mustaches or beard grown or shaven. But the pattern of fingerprints cannot be altered. It runs through layer after layer of skin, and, though it can be temporarily hidden by the removal of the flesh at the ends of the fingers or by burning them with acid, the same ridges will reappear as the scars heal.

Fingerprints as a means of identification go back hundreds of years. Chinese documents of the eighth century refer to fingerprints being impressed upon business contracts. The first authenticated record of official use of fingerprints in the United States occurred in 1882, when a man in charge of a field project of the U. S. Geological Survey working in New Mexico put his own print on commissary orders to prevent their forgery.

It was in 1902 that the New York Civil Service Commission began the first known systematic use of fingerprints in

the United States. Police and prisons quickly picked up the method for identification of criminals, and the same system was adopted in 1905 by the United States Army. In 1924, the identification division of the FBI consolidated fingerprint records from all the various agencies, including many not concerned with law enforcement or criminals. The international exchange of fingerprint data was initiated in 1932.

Once an individual's fingerprints are on file, his identity can be determined no matter how many aliases he uses or physical changes he may make. Thus, James Earl Ray assumed different names and disguises, and carried fraudulent identification as he moved around from country to country. There was, however, no way by which he could change his fingerprints.

The big question now is where Ray got the money for his trips and the various documents he used in traveling under assumed identities. The suspicion is growing that he may have had accomplices in this country as well as in Canada, and the whole affair has the appearance of a planned conspiracy. In the search for possible associates, fingerprints undoubtedly will play a major role just as they have brought about the capture of James Earl Ray, who now will be tried on a murder charge as the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

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THE EVENING STAR  
Washington, D. C., Wednesday, June 12, 1968 A-13  
★★

# U.S. Submit Request For Ray Extradition

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

Stressing the urgency with which the United States regards the case, officials managed to collect the necessary 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 King's murder and Ray's escape from the Missouri State Prison while serving an armed robbery sentence.

### Britain Must Rule

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.

Ray has been traced to two London hotels between May 28 and his arrest Saturday, but there is an unexplained gap of about 10 days, starting May 17 when he left Lisbon.

Extradition proceedings could last two months if the 40-year-old escaped convict fights all the way through the British courts.

### Contacts Are Sought

While British police were trying to ascertain whether Ray had any contacts in London, detectives 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, the second Ray reportedly had during his month-long stay in Toronto after King was killed April 4 in Memphis. The first was an unidentified man who was reported to have called on Ray at another rooming house.

Mrs. Szpakowski said the blond caller presented a police identification card, but both the Mounted Police and the Toronto police said he was not a police man.

"I'd like to have known about this sooner," commented Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sgt. C. R. Doey. "We'll have to see her again and explore this. It seems factual enough."

### Willard in Toronto

Doey said John Willard, another of the aliases used by Ray, is the name of a man living in Toronto.

John Willard was the name given by a man in Memphis who rented a room with a vantage point on the Loraine Hotel, where King was slain while standing on a balcony.

Toronto's John Willard is a 42-year-old insurance appraiser.

Police have said Ray used the names of three other Torontonians: Ramon George Sneyd, a police constable; Paul Bridgman, a teaching consultant, and Eric Galt, a warehouse foreman.

None of the men knew each other and none knew his name was being used by Ray until he read it in the newspaper, police said.

### May Have Sought Job

Toronto detectives also questioned Samuel Marshall, an assistant manager of a supermarket who claimed he saw a man resembling Ray in his store on April 23. Marshall reportedly told police the man asked for employment but left when the store manager approached.

Mrs. Sun Loo, Ray's other landlady, was reported to have found in his room after he left for London an empty overnight bag, six rolls of film, a photographic light meter, a small empty strongbox, a map of Toronto, three girlie magazines, three empty beer bottles and a dirty white shirt.

The Atlanta, Ga., Constitution, in a copyrighted article, said that an apartment manager in the Southern city's hippie district reported a man using the name Eric Starvo Galt stayed in his building for more than a week prior to the slaying of King.

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Opinions of Our Columnists

Wash Star 6/16/68

CARL T. ROWAN

The Nation's Greatest Burden—Suspicion

Suspicion is a terribly corrosive force. Like an acid, it eats at the vitals of a society, opening sores of hatred, leaving vast and ugly scars of old but unforgotten conflicts.

Our society has for many years borne the burden of an abundance of suspicion. Erasing sores of hatred, leaving it is one of the major keys to national reconciliation.

Millions of people have clung for more than four years to their suspicions that President John F. Kennedy was the victim of an ugly conspiracy — that his assassination could not have been simply the work of Lee Harvey Oswald.

And that bit of poisonous thought still swishes about in the bloodstream of American politics.

When Dr. Martin Luther King was slain the immediate speculation was that he had fallen victim to a conspiracy of bigots. Rumors were everywhere that a group of "millionaire racists" had put a million dollar bounty on his head.

And that explosive notion still charges the atmosphere. Millions of people have re-

vealed gnawing suspicions about the investigations in both the John F. Kennedy and King assassinations. Numerous were those who would announce at a cocktail party that they did not trust the FBI or the CIA. People who might otherwise scorn Stokely Carmichael would repeat his claim that "the CIA has a license to kill" because they were bedeviled by some irrational suspicion that even the FBI and CIA were running around "bumping off" Americans.

Then some businessmen and other Americans were almost panicky with suspicions about what Sen. Robert F. Kennedy would do if he became President.

Thus it boggles the mind just to think of the deep suspicions that would have gripped the country had Sirhan Sirhan not been seized at the time of the Senator's assassination.

Perhaps we have reached a point where we can reveal some of these suspicions for what they are: mere fantasies aroused by men's fear, by their emotionalism, and in

some cases by their maliciousness.

The FBI has tracked down James Earl Ray, accused killer of Dr. King. This ought to silence most of the critics who argued that the FBI isn't interested in finding murderers of Negroes. And it ought to put an end to the nonsense of people believing the wildest sorts of claims about the FBI and the CIA.

If Ray is the murderer, he ought to be able to end a lot of speculation about who was and was not plotting against the life of the Negro Nobel Prize winner.

We are similarly fortunate in that the alleged murderer of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy is alive to stand trial — and hopefully to enlighten the nation as to why he committed this bestial act, and who, if anyone, encouraged him to do so.

As of now, the evidence suggests that it was not a case of shooting down the Senator because he had the courage to speak out in behalf of social change, peace in Vietnam, justice for the Negro, or help for the poor. Sirhan apparent-

ly cared only about Senator Kennedy's support of Israel.

If this is so, we may be able to narrow some of the divisions that have marred our national life. Especially with the help of Sen. Edward Kennedy and others in or close to the Kennedy family.

Either out of grief or fury, some Kennedy friends have suggested that the Kennedys adopt a posture of angry aloofness from American political life, at least for the rest of this year.

But the country even more than the Democratic party needs a gesture of reconciliation from Ted Kennedy. The people need to hear the Kennedys say that, for all the evil, all the incredible sorrow, heaped upon that family, they are not ready to disavow their country, their party, or the other men who must carry the burdens of public service.

The trauma of these last few dimaying years is great. It will not be erased quickly. But an act of reconciliation here, the erasure of a bit of suspicion there, is surely the way to set the nation on a sane and proper course.

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*Washington Star*  
**Ray Extradition  
Faces Hurdles**

*June 14, 1968*

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