SECRET #65-121-0 #961 : 049 # 968 CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW IFICATION AND NOR RFLEASE IN F <del>XX.</del> RALPH McGILL 'here Was a ' eal Be Ray

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.

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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. 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."

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ookin	g —	and in t	he U	I.S. p	ris-
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Will someone talk? Will State's someone turn 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 smalltime 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 thrain driving him to be a tope was a deal - and he had help - killer. We await the slow in-

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 5 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

killer. We await the slow in

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		Ray Extradition			
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		LONDON UPI —Efforts to return James Earl Ray to the			1
		United States for trial in the slaying of Dr. Martin Luther	· · · · · ·		1
		King Jr. may run into a sea of delay and difficulty because of Britain's complex extradition			
· · ·		laws, legal sources said today. The language of the 1870 law is vague on the subject of politi-			
		cal 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			1
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		sought to exclude political assas- sination from offenses of a "po- litical character"—and therefore			
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		not subject to extradition—but the language used was vague.			
	<u> </u>	They also said that if U.S. au- thorities are permitted to ques- tion Ray in his prison cell prior			
6/15/68		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		· _	
		sources said. Lawyers from both nations			
		planned to meet Monday to set a date for the hearings on Ameri- ca's extradition request.			
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THE EVENING STAR Washington, D. C., Thursday, June 13, 1968

## NO GRAND TOUR

a lough Time in

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., my hotel." was confused by British curren-CV.

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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. Hind gives the police and an easy but dull trong site in the stayed inne days. Luis, the receptionist, remem-bers Ray as quiet, lonely and shy. Chambermaid Maria Celes sites. The man state the stayed inne days. Luis, the receptionist, remem-bers Ray as quiet, lonely and shy. Chambermaid Maria Celes sites. The man state the stayed inne days. Some thing else. In Lisbon, the police and an FBI agent found an easy but dull trong sites and some times at 5 a.m. high certificates in Ray when he showed at the stayed inne days. Some the stayed inne days. So A London hotel clerk judged

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-oldescaped 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 staved 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 Liane 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 Ghannel island. But Miss Nassau remembers Ray. She is a northof-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 sny, pathetically shy. I didn't know why he was so secretive. I just thought he was nervous," she

LONDON (UPI)—James Earl him into another room and had a entered a third class waterfront Ray had a terrible tour of Eu-rope. Ray had a terrible tour of Eu-thought he had a lady in there. clerk gave him Room 2 on the young woman upstates Ray, accused of slaying the But he didn't have any lady in second floor.

said no. The girls in the ne

It overlooks a narrow street bars remember him. One in He left the hotel in the Pimlico and has a bed, a wardrobe, a Maria can't seem to recall if area early. "I thought, 'Good chest of drawers and two chairs spent one or two nights' riddance to you,' "Mrs. Thomas It costs \$2.10 a day. Ray set Ray. She will describe it all said. She said she now will down his suitcase and a brief. a tip. change the hotel name from case. There he stayed nine days.

night and sometimes at 6 a.m. birth certificate

On May 8, at 8 p.m., Ray He washed his own socks. The Toronte, where First L. 2 5 24

after 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 copyrighted story that a c driver reported picking up bag fat man" May 2 across the street from the rooming ho where Ray was staving

tip. Gloria at the Galo Bar

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THIS FOLLOMENT

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The cab driver, Manuel Rels 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 tungs ..... 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 currercy. "But' he was a bit thick and it didn't sink in. He was very slow," she said.

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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 Heathtow Airport.

Miss Nassau called out goodby 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 \$10.30 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



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DA	VID LAWRENCE	
	Fingerprints Key to Ray	Stall
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The most amazing thing about the capture in London of James Earl Ray, suspected assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is the fremendous 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.

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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. 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

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· · ·	THE EVENING STAR A-13			
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	U.S. Submit Request			
	For Ray Extradition	+		
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	London hotels between May 28 where King was slain while			
	and his arrest Saturday, but Toronto's John Willard 15 a			
	about 10 days, starting May 17 42-year-old insurance appraiser.	1	6/12/68	
	Extradition proceedings could names of three other Toronto-		1 1 0 0	
	last two months if the 40-year-old escaped convict police constable; Paul Bridg-			
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	British courts. Eric Galt, a warehouse foreman. None of the men knew each			
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Suspicion is a terribly corrosive force. Like an acid, it eats at the vitals of a society, opening sores o 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 ing 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-

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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 S0.

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

If this is so, we may be able to narrow some of the divi-sions 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 aloafness from American political life, at least for the rest of this vear.

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 dismaying 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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