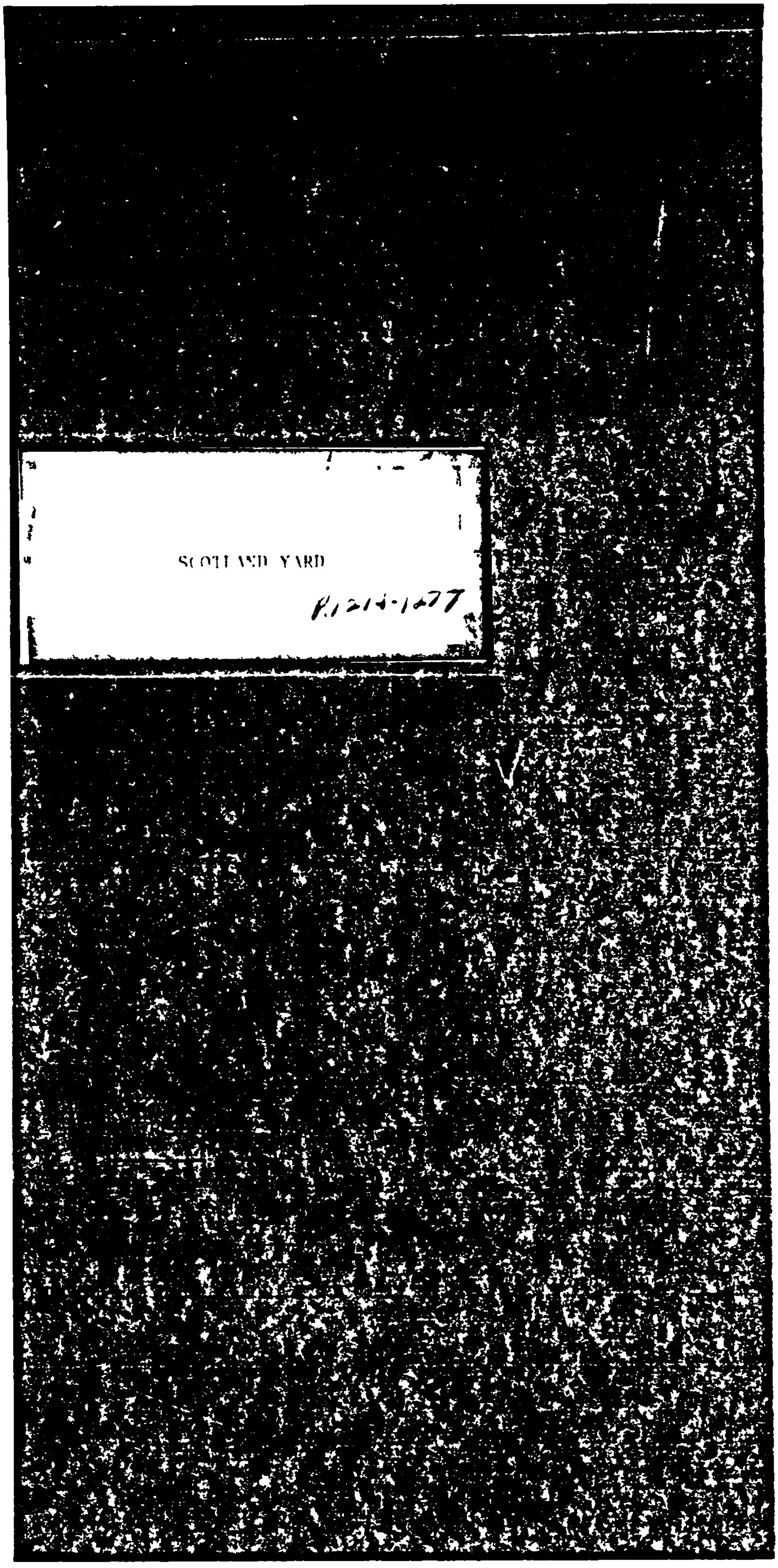
SCOTLAND YARD
R/214-1277

Scotland Yard report written by
Detective Chief Inspector K. Thompson

Detective Sergeant Ricky Brick made arrest,
& found loaded 38 revolver & 2 passports.

Ray interrogated by Thompson and
Detective Chief Supt. Butler.

Chief Insp. Arthur Brime examined finger-
prints and determined Lloyd was Ray.

Is "Liberty Chief" revolver American origin?
Yes - Japanese.

4

C-8

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SUBJECT.....

MURDER.

JAMES EARL RAY
C.R.O. No.
44372/68.
Reference to papers

201/68/94.

.....

FLYING SQUAD (C-8 BRANCH),
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT,
New Scotland Yard.

22nd day of July, 19 68.

1.

To Detective Chief Superintendent.

With further reference to correspondence marginally quoted, which deals with the arrest of Ramon George SNEYD, C.R.O. No. 44372/68, now known to be James Earl RAY, alias Eric Starvo GALT, wanted for the murder of Doctor Martin Luther KING.

Mr. John MINNICH, Legal Attache of the Embassy of the United States of America, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1, has made a request, on the instructions of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., to be furnished with a comprehensive report including all aspects of the investigation relative to the arrest of SNEYD.

On the 4th April, 1968, at Memphis, Tennessee, United States of America, Doctor Martin Luther KING, a coloured Civil Rights Leader, with a large following of supporters (mainly coloured) was assassinated by a gunman.

As the result of their enquiries, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D.C., identified the assassin as James Earl RAY, a convicted criminal and fugitive from Missouri State Penitentiary since the 23rd April, 1967, where he was serving a sentence of twenty years imprisonment for robbery.

Enquiries carried out on behalf of the Federal Bureau of Investigation by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, revealed that RAY had caused a

/false

M.P.-07-80189/84

false application to be made for a Birth Certificate in the name Ramon George SNEYD, born in Toronto on the 8th August, 1932.

Having obtained this, he presented it to support his application for a Canadian Passport at the Bureau of Passports, Ottawa, on the 24th April, 1968. It must be mentioned that in consequence of a clerical error, a Canadian Passport, No. DJ.909324, in the name of SNEYA, and not SNEYD, was issued.

On the 6th May, 1968, using this passport, RAY travelled in the name of SNEYD from Toronto to London by British Overseas Airways Corporation. He arrived on the 7th May, 1968, and later went along to the offices of the Corporation, situated in Regent Street, London, W.1, for a single ticket to Lisbon, Portugal. The latter information was, of course, not available at that stage to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The assistance of this Force (Central Branch) was sought on the 4th June, 1968, by the United States of America, and I, Detective Chief Inspector THOMPSON, was deputed to take up the investigation to trace RAY.

My enquiries confirmed the flight to London from Toronto, Canada, on the 6th/7th May, 1968, and the late flight to Lisbon on the 7th May, 1968, by British European Airways, using the B.O.A.C. ticket. This is, of course, normal procedure, for the two airlines operate reciprocally.

At this juncture I was unable to establish whether 'SNEYD' had left Lisbon, although it was later established he returned to London on the 17th May, 1968.

./As there

H.P.-62-70780/20m (2)

Statement
Page 1.

As there was a likelihood of RAY using one of the Ports in this country, an All Ports Warning was circulated on the 6th June, 1968, including, of course, London Airport. Because of the delicate nature of the enquiry, 'SNEYD' was shown to be wanted for serious offences in contravention of the Aliens Order, no mention being made of his true identity. Further, in the event of his arrest, any interrogation would be carried out by myself.

On Saturday, the 8th June, 1968, Detective Sergeant Philip BIRCH, of Special Branch, was on duty at Terminal 2, London Airport, when RAY presented himself at the Immigration Desk, having previously purchased a single ticket to Brussels at the West London Air Terminal, Gloucester Road, London, S.W.5.

RAY produced two Canadian Passports, one in the name of "SNEYA", and the other in the name of "SNEYD". The officer, on examination of the two passports, established that the one in the name of "SNEYA" referred to the All Ports Warning, and the other had been issued on the 16th May, 1968, in Lisbon.

Quickly realising the position, Detective Sergeant BIRCH asked the man to accompany him to an office in the Airport used by Special Branch officers. Here he later searched "SNEYD" and discovered in his right hand trouser pocket a .38 revolver, loaded with five rounds of ammunition.

The revolver was loaded in the very correct position, in that the hammer was at rest immediately upon the empty chamber. One merely has to pull the trigger, the next chamber is presented and the bullet discharged.

/When

M.P.-62-70789/20m (2)

When one realises the background of RAY, it is odd and, indeed, fortunate for Detective Sergeant BIRCH that he never used the firearm. It may well be, of course, that RAY believed it was merely a passport enquiry and he could explain the possession of two passports satisfactorily.

This belief is strengthened when it is realised that he could not know of the information uncovered by the Royal Mounted Police, which was in the possession of only a few selected officers.

Detective Sergeant BIRCH, in accordance with the directions set out in the All Ports Warning, immediately informed New Scotland Yard, C.O. C.1.

Statements
Pages 5 - 9.

The prisoner was later interrogated by Detective Chief Superintendent BUTLER and myself shortly after 1 p.m. on the 8th June, 1968.

He asserted that his name was "SNEYD" and he was a Canadian citizen. This facet was deliberately dealt with in an extremely brief fashion, for obvious reasons, and the questioning centred upon the possession of the revolver and ammunition.

"SNEYD" admitted the weapon was his property and that he was travelling to Brussels. When pressed about the necessity of carrying a firearm in the Belgian capital, he added that he was considering travelling on to Rhodesia and that "things are not too good there just now".

He admitted he had no firearms certificate for the weapon and ammunition, and was then taken to Cannon Row Police Station and detained whilst enquiries were continued.

Statement
Page 4.

At 4.45 p.m. the same day, after it had been established by Detective Chief Inspector Arthur BRINE,

/Fingerprint

M.P.-62-76786/20sr (2)

Fingerprint Department, New Scotland Yard, that "SNEYD" was identical with RAY, the prisoner was again interviewed by Detective Chief Superintendent BUTLER and myself in a cell.

The prisoner was told there was every reason to believe he was not a Canadian citizen, but one of American origin. He replied, "Oh, well, yes I am". He was then informed that there was reason to believe his name was not "SNEYD" but RAY, alias GALT, wanted in the United States for serious criminal offences, including murder, in the course of which a firearm was used.

The accused had been standing up, but when he heard this, he suddenly sat down on the bench in the cell, put his head in his hands and said, "Oh, god". He added after a moment or so, "I feel so trapped". He was again cautioned, and then said, "Well, yes, I shouldn't say anything more now. I can't think right". He was obviously engaged in some mental struggle, and when we left the cell, again dropped his head in his hands.

RAY was charged in the name of "SNEYD" at 5.20 p.m. at Cannon Row Police Station, with the following offences, but made no reply:-

1. That you did on the 8th June, 1968, at London Airport, without lawful authority use for the purposes of the Alien's Order, 1953, a forged passport.

   Contrary to Article 25(3) of the Aliens Order, 1953.

2. That you, not being a person exempted from the requirements of the Firearms Act, 1937, did, on the 8th June, 1968, at London Airport, have in your possession a firearm, namely a .38 'Liberty Chief' revolver and 5 rounds of .38 ammunition, to which Part 1 of the said Act applies and did not hold a firearms certificate at the time.

   Contrary to Section 1 of the Firearms Act, 1937.

H.P.-62-70786/20M (2)

/The

The accused appeared at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on Monday, the 10th June, 1968, and was remanded, in custody, until the 18th June, 1968. Legal Aid was granted to the prisoner by Mr. Frank MILTON, the Presiding Magistrate.

On the 18th June, 1968, the prisoner again appeared before the Court, being remanded in custody until the 27th June, 1968, without any evidence being given. The prisoner was legally represented by Mr. EUGENE, of Michael Dresden and Co., Solicitors, of 32, Tavistock Street, London, W.C.2.

Accordingly, on the 27th June, 1968, the prisoner again appeared before Mr. Frank MILTON, Magistrate, at the Bow Street Magistrates' Court, and was defended by Roger FRISBY, of Counsel, instructed by the defending solicitors.

Mr. Nigel MAW, of Rowe and Maw and Co., Solicitors, of Stafford House, Norfolk Street, W.C.2, acting on behalf of the American Embassy, had, through David CALCUTT, of Counsel, previously made a successful application for a provisional warrant for the extradition of RAY to the United States of America for:-

1. James Earl Ray, hereinafter called the defendant, suspected and accused of the commission of the crime of murder to wit, on April 4, 1968, in the Shelby County, State of Tennesee, did unlawfully, feloniously, wilfully, deliberately, premeditatedly and of his malice aforethought, kill and murder Martin Luther King, Junior, within the jurisdiction of the United States.

2. Unlawful flight to avoid confinement in connection with the commission of a crime of robbery in violation of title 18, Section 1073 of United States code.

The hearing of the two British offences was not proceeded with, but the application for extradition

/commenced.

H.P.-62-70786/20M (2)

C-8

commenced. It was not completed on the 27th June, 1968, and the prisoner was further remanded, in custody, until the 2nd July, 1968, when the Magistrate recommended extradition on both charges. Since that time RAY has remained in custody and appeared on the 9th July, 1968/16th July, 1968, at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, being remanded, in custody pending any appeal against the order of extradition.

The appeal period terminated on the 17th July, 1968, when RAY decided to abandon any further proceedings.

RAY's American Attorney at Law is Mr. Arthur HANES, of 617, Frank Nelson Buildings, Birmingham, Alabama, who travelled to this country on two occasions but never interviewed the prisoner. The legal procedure in this country debarred him from taking any active part in the Court proceedings. He has, however, been allowed to visit RAY in Prison as a friend. Such visits are supervised and two Prison officers are present throughout their duration. HANES visited RAY under these conditions on four occasions, viz. the 5th, 6th, 17th and 18th July, 1968.

On Thursday, the 18th July, 1968, the hearings in relation to the two British offences, namely of possessing a forged passport and of being found in possession of a firearm and ammunition without a certificate, were heard at Bow Street Magistrates' Court before Mr. K.J.G. BARRACLOUGH, Magistrate.

The prisoner did not appear personally, but he was represented by Mr. LEVEY, Solicitor, and Mr. HOPKIN, of the Director of Public Prosecutions Dept., attended on behalf of Police.

1220

/The

The Magistrate decided that the offence of possessing a forged passport be withdrawn by leave of the Court, and no evidence was offered in relation to the offence of possessing a firearm and ammunition, it being dismissed by virtue of Section 7 of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952.

I will now deal with the enquiries leading up to and subsequent to the arrest of the prisoner.

ENQUIRIES MADE PRIOR TO THE ARREST OF "SNEYD" TO TRACE HIS WHEREABOUTS.

It has already been mentioned in this report that "SNEYD" travelled from Toronto, Canada, on Monday, the 6th May, 1968, arriving in this country on the 7th May, 1968, by B.O.A.C. Flight No. BA 600. His further whereabouts at this stage were then unknown.

Officers of the Passport Squad, C.O. C.1, under the supervision of Detective Sergeant ELLIOTT, were deputed to firstly interview the crew of the aircraft in which "SNEYD" travelled to this country, and further, to make enquiries at the numerous airlines which operate at Heathrow Airport.

The interview of the eleven members of the crew of Flight BA 600 (Document 1) revealed that only one member remembered "SNEYD" travelling as a passenger. This is Mr. Robert Keith JOHNSTONE, a Steward, of 57, Boothfields, Knutsford, Cheshire. He made mention in his statement that "SNEYD" sat alone during the whole of the flight and had no conversation with either crew or fellow passengers.

The passengers, totalling 73, have now been interviewed by Police, but none was able to identify "SNEYD" as a passenger (Document 2).

/Enquiries

Statement
Page 14.

M.E.-02-70786/20M (2)

Enquiries were continued at Heathrow Airport at the various airlines, to trace the movements of "SNEYD", but without success. It was not until this particular line of enquiry was extended to area booking offices of airlines that it proved successful.

Statement Page 15.

Miss Monica BAKER, a reservation clerk, at the B.O.A.C. booking agency, Regent Street, London, W.1, remembered that SNEYD, whose photograph she was shown, called at the above mentioned office on the 7th May, 1968. He surrendered a return ticket from London to Toronto for a single ticket to Lisbon, being credited the difference in value by virtue of a miscellaneous charges order for 14 dollars, 60 cents.

Subsequent search of B.O.A.C. records revealed "SNEYD" travelled by B.E.A. Flight No. BE 074 on the 7th May, 1968, to Lisbon. The records, however, did not reveal at this stage his return to England. This is, perhaps, understandable because of the vast flow of passenger traffic at this time of the year, the airlines' records being in arrears in regard to documentation by at least two months.

I informed Mr. MINNICH, Legal Attache, of the United States Embassy in London, of the enquiries to date, and at his suggestion enquiries in Lisbon were conducted by a Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent. In addition, I had previously caused an "All Ports" warning to be circulated on the 6th May, 1968, relative to "SNEYD", showing he was wanted for serious emigration offences and that in the event of his being detained, any interrogation should be carried out by myself. For obvious reasons, "SNEYD's" true identity was not mentioned in the circulation. (Document 3).

1222

/"SNEYD"

"SNEYD" had, in fact, returned to England from Lisbon on Transportes Aereos, which is a Portuguese Airline, on the 17th May, 1968.

On the 8th June, 1968, after purchasing a single ticket from London to Brussels on a B.E.A. flight, at the West London Air Terminal, he made his way to London Airport, where he was arrested by Detective Sergeant BIRCH, of Special Branch, who was aware of the "All Ports" warning relative to "SNEYD". Immediately after "SNEYD's" arrest on the 8th June, 1968, it was realised that his suitcase and contents had already been sent by the aircraft on which he would normally have travelled, to Brussels. Arrangements were immediately made for its return, and it was taken possession of by Detective Sergeant ELLIOTT and Detective Constable WHITHAM, of C.1. Branch.

Statement Page 1.

Statements Pages 11 - 13.

Examination of the contents of the suitcase by these two officers at Cannon Row Police Station proved most enlightening, as evidence indicating "SNEYD's" true identity was found. Amongst the property was a jacket bearing the name "Eric GALT", one of the many aliases used by RAY in the United States.

ENQUIRIES MADE RELATIVE TO "SNEYD" AFTER HIS ARREST.

Air Flight to Lisbon on the 7th May, 1968, made by "SNEYD".

Members of the crew and, where possible, passengers as set out on the Aircraft Manifest (Documents 4 and 5) have been interviewed, but no one remembers "SNEYD" or having any conversation with him. This line of enquiry was, of course, conducted as it was thought at one stage RAY was in the

/company

company of another man. This proved negative and I have no reason to believe that he was accompanied by any other person.

ENQUIRIES TO TRACE MOVEMENTS OF "SNEYD" WHILST IN LONDON BETWEEN 7th MAY, 1968, AND 8th JUNE, 1968.

"SNEYD", when he first arrived in London from Toronto, Canada, on the 7th May, 1968, travelled the same day to Lisbon, and therefore his actual stay in this country amounted to only a few hours. There is no knowledge of where he spent his time on this particular occasion, except, of course, that he obtained his ticket to Lisbon at the B.O.A.C. office in Regent Street, London, W.1.

The movements of "SNEYD" in this country have now been checked and the details are shown on the attached Schedule (Document 6).

This information was only obtained after a protracted enquiry involving the personal visit of Police officers to over a thousand hotels and boarding houses in the West London area, by local officers and members of this Branch.

These enquiries established beyond any doubt that "SNEYD" stayed at the Heathfield House Hotel, 181/3, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.5, from the 17th May, 1968, until the 28th May, 1968. He is identified conclusively by Mrs. Doris Catherine WESTWOOD, the hotel proprietress.

Statement..
Pages 16 - 17.

Mrs. WESTWOOD, members of her staff, and where possible, residents who stayed at this hotel during the material times, have been most carefully interviewed, but there is no information which shows that "SNEYD" had any visitors, mail or, indeed, telephone calls. He may well have made a telephone call on his last day at the hotel, but

/if

H.P.-62-70766/20xi (2)

if reference is made to the statement of Mrs. WESTWOOD, there is some doubt whether he was responsible or not.

"SNEYD" stayed at New Earls Court Hotel, 36, Penywern Road, Earls Court, S.W.5, from the 28th May, 1968, until the 5th June, 1968, and is identified by Miss Janet Elizabeth NASSAU, the receptionist, as being a resident.

Statement Pages 18 - 19.

Miss NASSAU, who is a most astute person, paid particular attention to "SNEYD" during his stay and assisted him generally. She remembers he made two telephone calls to the Daily Telegraph newspaper, as she listened in to part of the telephone conversations to ensure correct connexion. She says he did not receive any mail, visits or telephone calls.

Statement Pages 20 - 22.

From the 5th June, 1968, until the 8th June, 1968 (the day of his arrest) "SNEYD" stayed at the Pax Hotel, 126, Warwick Way, London, S.W.1, and is identified by Mrs. Anna Elizabeth THOMAS, the hotel proprietress. Mrs. THOMAS, in her statement, mentions that "SNEYD" informed her he had booked a flight to Germany. Enquiries, however, have revealed that this did not, in fact, occur. She also mentions "SNEYD" received two telephone calls whilst at her hotel, one from a woman with an American accent, and the other from a man. Neither of these two persons has been identified by Police, and, on present facts, identification is not likely.

HIRE CAR FIRMS.

Enquiries have been made at every hire car firm in the locality of the aforementioned hotels and the West London Air Terminal, as it was thought

/that

M.P.-62-70786/20m (2)

that "SNEYD" might well have utilised this service. This is supported by the fact that telephone numbers relating to three separate hire car firms were found written on correspondence found in his possession. Responsible persons of the three firms concerned, namely Charmaine Car Hire Limited, 54, Guildford Avenue, Feltham, Middlesex; Ambassador Mini Cab Limited, 65, Lisson Street, N.W.11, and Kenway Court Cars Limited, 9, Kenway Road, S.W.5, have been interviewed, but their records do not show that "SNEYD" was a customer. Enquiries have also been made at taxi cab ranks in the same locality, but without success.

LEFT LUGGAGE LOCKERS, ETC.

Members of the Passport Squad have personally searched Left Luggage Lockers and Left and Lost Property Offices at the places shown on the attached list (Document 7), as it was thought that "SNEYD", who was at one stage believed to have been in possession of a green holdall, may have deposited it in one of these places. This enquiry proved negative. The existence of the green holdall is now viewed with some doubt, but cannot be ignored completely.

SAFE DEPOSITS.

A special enquiry (Document 8) was also instituted at all safe deposits in the London area to establish whether or not "SNEYD" had deposited any large sums of money, but without trace.

CLUBS.

Enquiries were made at the Overseas Visitors' Club, Earls Court, and the Zambesi Club, Earls

/Court,

M.P.-62-70786/20m (2)

Court, as both are in the vicinity of the hotels where "SNEYD" stayed, and these clubs are places where fellow Americans of doubtful character and ex mercenaries from Africa are sometimes known to congregate. Search of the Clubs' records revealed that he had not visited there.

Statement Pages 23 - 28.

During the course of my enquiries, I interviewed Mr. Ian COLVIN, Chief Foreign Lead Writer for the Daily Telegraph Newspaper. "SNEYD" had contacted Mr. COLVIN on the 4th June, 1968, and later had a telephone conversation with him, which is set out in detail in Mr. COLVIN's statement. It will be seen that mention is made of "SNEYD's" interest in mercenary volunteers, and it appears obvious he had a desire to join them. Mention was also made of a Major WICKS.

The latter was interviewed, but declined to make any statement, or indeed, disclose his address, but he frankly admitted to me he had in the past associated with mercenary activities in the Belgian Congo and could, if necessary, put any would-be volunteer in touch with parties interested in employing mercenaries. He was able to tell me that there is a Biafran Mission in Lisbon which, at one stage, might well have enlisted mercenaries in the conflict which is taking place in that country at the present time. Major WICKS says he had no conversation with "SNEYD" concerning this matter.

Major WICKS also mentioned that in Brussels there is an information centre, known as Liebor of Corps, which would be able to furnish particulars of any mercenaries serving in Africa. This may well, of course, be the reason why "SNEYD" first visited

/Lisbon

Lisbon and then later booked a passage to Brussels.

I also interviewed Mr. Paul DANIELS, 13, Terrace Road, London, E.9, who arranges for volunteers to assist African countries against internal aggression, but he assured me "SNEYD" has never applied to him as a volunteer.

The firearm, a Japanese .38 Liberty Chief revolver, was forwarded to the Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory, where it was examined by Mr. John McCAFFERTY, Senior Experimental Officer. At the request of the American Legal Attache, test bullets were fired from the weapon and were later handed to Mr. MINNICH. In addition, of course, comparison of test bullets have been made with any spent bullets found at the scenes of major crimes coming to the notice of Police in this country.

Statement
Page 10.

The clothing found in the suitcase belonging to "SNEYD" has been examined by ultra violet ray and cleaning marks found thereon. Enquiries were made at cleaners in the Victoria area, and it was established that "SNEYD" had taken a shirt to Columbia Cleaners, 95, Wilton Road, Victoria, S.W.1, prior to the 6th June, 1968. He had also made purchases in local shops for toilet requisites. No useful information was obtained from these sources which would help in furtherance of the enquiry.

Examination of the shoes that "SNEYD" was wearing at the time of his arrest revealed that they were an English make bearing certain manufacturer's numbers. As the result of enquiries at the British Shoe Corporation, it was established that, although the shoes were an English make,

/they

C-8

they were exclusively produced for sale in Canada and America, and would not, therefore, be sold in this country. This is supported by the fact that the shoes were badly worn and the likelihood, of course, is that they were obtained by "SNEYD" in Canada or America prior to coming to this country.

Enquiries have been made of the Portuguese Airlines to establish the identity of any person who remembers "SNEYD" as a passenger, but to date this has proved negative, although the enquiry itself has not been completed, because difficulty has been experienced in tracing all the passengers and crew, who are now in widely separated locations.

During the period RAY was in London, two separate offences were committed in different localities, for which he may be responsible. He has been interrogated regarding his activities here, but, of course, denies the commission of any criminal offence. Enquiries have not been completed, so details are not outlined in this report. At the conclusion of the enquiries, anything of a helpful nature will be reported.

It will be seen from the facts already disclosed that "SNEYD's" visit to London and Lisbon and intended visit to Brussels was to make enquiries regarding the possibility of joining a Mercenary Unit in Africa. If successful he would have had little fear of his true identity being discovered or, if discovered, little or nothing would have been done about it.

It is also worthy of mention that on a South African Airline timetable found amongst his possessions, a pencil mark has been made against a

/flight

M.P.-62-7078-6/20M (2)

flight to Salisbury, Rhodesia. In addition, a newspaper cutting advertising cheap flights to South Africa was found.

The officers most closely engaged on the far reaching enquiries made are satisfied that "SNEYD" has no firm associates in this country, and most certainly received no financial assistance whilst here. This latter aspect is very firmly supported by the inescapable fact that he endeavoured to bargain with the three hotel managements in his anxiety to secure a cheaper rate for the rooms he rented.

As is to be expected in an investigation in which there has been world wide publicity, members of the public genuinely believe they have seen "SNEYD" and have accordingly informed Police. All such information has been properly investigated, but without any useful information being obtained.

On Thursday, the 18th July, 1968, the Home Secretary signed a Warrant of Surrender, enabling this Force to hand RAY to the United States Authorities.

He was taken to the United States Air Force Base at Lakenheath, Suffolk, and, with his property, was transferred into the custody of the official escort. He left this country by air at 12.38 a.m. local time, on Friday, the 19th July, 1968.

Submitted for information and directions as to whether copies of report and relevant papers may be handed to the Legal Attache, American Embassy, Grosvenor Square, W.1, for transfer to the appropriate quarter.

K J Wright
Detective Chief Inspector.
K. ANDROS.

1230

Central Office,

New Scotland Yard,

London, S.W.1.

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Central Office,

New Scotland Yard,

London, S.W.1.

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Flying Squad Office,
New Scotland Yard.

10th June, 1968.

S T A T E M E N T O F Phillip BIRCH,
Detective Sergeant, Special Branch.

On Saturday, 8th June, 1968, at 11.30 a.m., whilst engaged on passport control duties at Heathrow Airport, London, a man presented two passports to the immigration officer. I noticed that one was a cancelled Canadian passport, No. DJ.909324, in the name of Ramon George SNEYA, and the other a current Canadian passport, No. YT.602294, in the name of Ramon George SNEYD.

As a result of what I had previously learned, I asked SNEYD to accompany me to the Special Branch office at the airport in order that he might later be questioned by a senior police officer. After arriving at the office, I made certain enquiries by telephone, and as a result of what I learned I decided to search the man. Amongst other property, in his right hand back trouser pocket I found a .38 Liberty Chief Special revolver loaded with five rounds of ammunition. I said to SNEYD, "Why are you carrying this gun?" He said, 'Well, I'm going to Africa and I felt that I might need it. You know how things are out there". SNEYD was detained in the office until the arrival of Detective Chief Superintendent Butler and other officers.

P. J. Birch.

Detective Sergeant.

Statement of: Mr. Kenneth Leonard HUMAN

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21

Occupation of Witness: Immigration Officer

Address: c/o London Airport, Heathrow - Terminal 2

On 8th June 1968 between the hours of 11 a.m. and mid-day, I was on duty on the control dealing with embarking British and Commonwealth passengers at Heathrow Airport, Terminal 2. At approximately 11.30 hours a male passenger presented himself at the control en route for Brussels. He took a wallet from an inner pocket and from this he extracted a Canadian passport which gave his name as Raymond George SNEYD (date of birth 8.10 32). As he closed the wallet I noticed another Canadian passport inside. I removed this passport, which had been cancelled, to inspect it. This cancelled passport was in the name of Raymond George SNEYA. In reply to my question as to why the surnames in the two passports differed, he stated that the Authorities who had issued the original had made a mistake.

Whilst this conversation was taking place, a minute or two had elapsed and during this time the Special Branch Officer working with me had consulted his suspect index and realised that Mr. SNEYD was wanted for criminal reasons. At this point,

the Special Branch Officer intervened saying that he was a Police Officer and that he would like to ask Mr. SNEYD a few questions. Mr. SNEYD then accompanied the Special Branch Officer away from the control and this was the last I saw of him.

Since the action in the case of the circular concerning Mr. SNEYD was to point out to the Police and nothing more, I was not required to take any further action at all.

This statement, consisting of 2 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 11th day of June, 1968.

(Signed) K. L. Human

Signature witnessed by R. Birch,
Detective Sergeant

No. 691A

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of ARTHUR BRIER

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21

Occupation of Witness Detective Chief Inspector

Address Finger Print Branch,
New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

On the 8th June, 1968, at 1.10 p.m. at London Airport, I took the finger prints of Ramon George SNEYD, which I compared with a set of finger prints which I had extracted from the records at New Scotland Yard in the name of James Earl RAY, C.R.O. No: 44372/68, which were received at the Finger Print Office, New Scotland Yard, on the 10th May, 1968 from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington.

These two sets of finger prints I found were identical.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 12th day of June 1968

(Signed) A Brier

Signature witnessed by.....

(being unable to read the above statement), of

read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the day of , 19

(Signed).....

* *Delete if inapplicable.*

C.P.-67-80733

1236

Flying Squad Office,
New Scotland Yard.
10th June, 1968.

S T A T E M E N T O F Thomas BUTLER, Detective Chief Superintendent, Flying Squad, New Scotland Yard.

On Saturday, 8th June, 1968, at about 1.5 p.m., with Detective Chief Inspector THOMPSON, I saw the accused in an office at London Airport. I said to him, "We are Police officers. I understand you have in your possession two Passports in the names SNEYA and SNEYD. What is your name?" He replied, "I can't understand why I am here. My name is SNEYD". I said to him, "Both Passports show that you are a Canadian citizen, born in Toronto on the 8th October, 1932. Are these details correct?" He replied, "Yes, of course they are". I said to him, "This .38 revolver with five rounds of ammunition in the chambers was found in your hip pocket when you were first seen. Is it your gun?" He replied, "Yes, it is mine". I said, "Would you like to tell us why you are carrying a gun at all?" He replied, "I am going to Brussels". I said, "Why should you want to take a gun to Brussels?" He replied, "Well, really I am thinking of going on to Rhodesia, and things are not too good there just now". I said to him, "You have to have a Firearms Certificate to possess a gun and even ammunition in this Country. Have you a Firearms Certificate issued by the competent Authority?" He replied, "No, I haven't any Certificate for it".

He was cautioned and told he would be taken to Cannon Row Police Station and detained.

/At

At 4.45 p.m., with Detective Chief Inspector THOMPSON, I saw the accused in a cell. I said to him, "As a result of enquiries made since you were detained, we have very good reason to believe that you are not a Canadian citizen, but an American". He replied, "Oh, well, yes I am", and nodded agreement. I said, "I now believe your name is not SNEYD, but James Earl RAY, also known as Eric Starvo GALT and other names, and that you are wanted at present in the United States for serious criminal offences, including murder in which a firearm was used". The accused had been standing up, but at this he suddenly slumped down onto the seat, put his head in his hands, and said, "Oh, God". After a moment or so he added, "I feel so trapped".

I cautioned him again, and he replied, "Well, yes, I shouldn't say anything more now. I can't think right".

He was charged at 5.20 p.m. The two charges were read over and he was cautioned formally, but made no reply.

Detective Chief Superintendent.
T. BUTLER.

No. 601E

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of ....Kenneth THOMPSON....

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") ....Over 21....

Occupation of Witness....Detective Chief Inspector....

Address ....C.1. Department, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.....

On Saturday, 8th June, 1968, at 1.05 p.m., in company with Detective Chief Superintendent BUTLER and other police officers, I saw a man I now know to be James Earl RAY, in an office at London Airport. Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "We are police officers. I understand you have in your possession two passports in the names Sneya and Sneyd. What is your name?" He replied, "I can't understand why I am here. My name is Sneyd". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Both passports show that you are a Canadian citizen born in Toronto on the 8th October, 1932. Are those details correct?" He replied, "Yes, of course they are".

Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "This .38 revolver with five rounds of .38 ammunition was found in your hip pocket when you were first seen. Is it your gun?" He replied, "Yes, it is mine". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Would you like to tell us why you are carrying a gun at all?" He replied, "I am going to Brussels". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "Why should you want to take a gun to Brussels?" He replied, "Well, really, I am thinking of going on to Rhodesia and things are not too good there just now". Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said, "You have to

Signed..... *Signature witnessed by*.....

M.E.P.-67-80733

No. 901G

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Continuation of statement of Kenneth THOMPSON

have a firearms certificate to possess a gun, and even ammunition, in this country. Have you a firearms certificate issued by the competent authority?" He replied, "No, I havn't any certificate for it".

He was then cautioned and told he would be taken to Cannon Row Police Station.

At 4.45 p.m. the same day, together with Detective Chief Superintendent Butler, I saw the accused in a cell. Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to him, "As a result of enquiries made since you were detained we have very good reason to believe that you are not a Canadian citizen but an American". He replied, "Oh, well, yes, I am" and nodded his agreement.

Detective Chief Superintendent Butler said to the prisoner, "I now believe that your name is not Sneyd but James Earl Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt and other names, and that you are wanted at present in the United States for serious criminal offences, including murder in which a firearm was used". The prisoner had been standing up at this stage but suddenly he slumped down on a seat and said, "Oh, God". After a few minutes he added, "I feel so trapped". He was again cautioned and said, "Well, yes, I shouldn't say anything more now. I can't think right".

Signed..... *Signature witnessed by*.....

No. 091C

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Continuation of statement of.....Kenneth THOMPSON.....

At 5.20 p.m. he was formally charged and cautioned but made no reply.

This statement, consisting of 3 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of June, , 1968

(*Signed*).....

Signature witnessed by.....

*(being unable to read the above statement I,

of

read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the day of , 19

(*Signed*).....

* *Delete if inapplicable.*

M.P.-67-50733

No. 091A

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of John McCAFFERTY,

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21.

Occupation of Witness Senior Experimental Officer.

Address The Metropolitan Police Forensic Science Laboratory, 2, Richbell Place, Holborn, W.C.1.

I have examined this weapon. It was a JAPANESE made .38 (special) Revolver. It was in good condition and good working order. The barrel was fouled from firing, but not necessarily from recent origin.

It was a firearm subject to the provisions of the Firearms Act, 1937 Part I.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 12TH day of June, 1968.

(Signed) John McCafferty.

Signature witnessed by D. Dobson D/Sgt.

*(being unable to read the above statement I, of read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the day of , 19 .

(Signed)

* *Delete if inapplicable.*

M.P.-67-80733

1242 10

No. 991E

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of ..... Peter ELLIOTT .....

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter " over 21 ") ..... Over 21 .....

Occupation of Witness ..... Detective Sergeant .....

Address ..... Central Office, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1 .....

.....

On Saturday, 8th June 1968, with Detective Constable Whitham, I was at London Airport when an aircraft arrived from Brussels carrying a suitcase and contents belonging to Ramon George SNEYD. I took possession of the suitcase and contents and conveyed it to Cannon Row Police Station where, in the presence of Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, I showed it to Sneyd. I said to him, "Is this your suitcase and contents?" and he said, "Yes, Sir it is". I told him I had recovered it from a plane that had arrived from Brussels that day.

I later, with Detective Constable Whitham, examined and listed the contents of the suitcase which included a brown cloth jacket, on the inside pocket was a label bearing the name 'Mr. Eric GALE', the date July 21st 1967 and order No. 11526. I also found a pair of trousers which is an identical cloth to that of the jacket.

Later the same day I went to the cell in which Sneyd was detained and said to him, "I have been directed to take possession of the clothes you are wearing". At the same time I handed him another suit. Sneyd said, "I don't know what you're doing this for but it's no good for the Lab. boys if that's what you

Signed Peter Elliott, Signature witnessed by .....

67-80733

No. 0916

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Continuation of statement of Peter ELLIOTT, Det. Sgt.

think". I said to him, "I do not know the reason. I have been directed to do this by Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, who is in charge of the enquiry".

I took possession of the clothing he was wearing which I put into a cellophane bag.

This statement, consisting of 2 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of July, 1968.

(Signed) Peter Elliott Det Sgt.

Signature witnessed by.....

*(

being unable to read the above statement I,

of

read it to him before he signed it).

Dated the day of , 19 .

(Signed).....

F -57-80733

* *Delete if inapplicable.*

1244

No. 601E

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of John WITTHAM

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21

Occupation of Witness Detective Constable

Address Central Office, New Scotland Yard, S.W.1.

On Saturday, 8th June 1968, with Detective Sergeant Elliott, I was at London Airport when an aircraft arrived from Brussels carrying a suitcase and contents belonging to Ramon George SNEYD. Sergeant Elliott took possession of the suitcase and contents and conveyed it to Cannon Row Police Station where, in the presence of Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, he showed it to Sneyd. Sergeant Elliott said to him, "Is this your suitcase and contents?" and Sneyd said, "Yes, Sir, it is". Sergeant Elliott told him he had recovered it from a plane that had arrived from Brussels that day.

I later, with Detective Sergeant Elliott, examined and listed the contents of the suitcase which included a brown cloth jacket, on the inside pocket was a label bearing the name 'Mr. Eric GALT', the date July 21st, 1967 and order No. 11526. Also, a pair of trousers which is an identical cloth to that of the jacket.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of July 1968.

Signed J.Witham Signature witnessed by

P.-67-80733

S T A T E M E N T of: Robert Keith JOHNSTONE
Age of Witness: Over 21
Occupation of Witness: Flight Steward
Address: 57 Boothfields, Knutsford, Cheshire

I am a Flight Steward employed by B.O.A.C. and on the night of 6th/7th May 1968 was on flight B.A.600 from Toronto to London. There was about 60 passengers on this flight.

I have been shown a photograph of a man who I identify as being a passenger on this flight. He sat on the port side at a window seat amidships, approximately row 14 over the wings. He sat on his own and appeared to be alone. The photograph is a good likeness.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 26th day of June 1968

Signed: R. K. Johnstone

Signature witnessed by: P. Seymour, Det. Sgt.

No. 991A

STATEMENT OF WITNESS

Statement of ....Monica BAKER (Miss).....

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter " over 21 ").....Over 21 years.....

Occupation of Witness....Reservation Clerk, B.O.A.C.....

Address ....7, Winslow Way, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey.....

.....

I am employed as a Reservation Counter Clerk by B.O.A.C. On 7th May, 1968, a man speaking with a North American accent called at our Regent Street Office and booked a flight with me from London to Lisbon. This was a single flight. The man gave his name as Mr. R. SNEYD and he booked the flight for 7th May. I have been shown a photograph of a man by Police and I identify the subject of the photograph as the man who booked the flight with me.

This statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 14th day of June, , 19 68

(*Signed*).....M. Baker.....

Signature witnessed by.....J. Whitham, Det. Constable.

*[being unable to read the above statement I,

of

read it to him before he signed it].

Dated the day of , 19 .

(*Signed*).....

* *Delete if inapplicable.*

T.P.-67-80733

124715

S T A T E M E N T of: Doris Catherine WESTWOOD, (Mrs.)

Age of Witness: Over 21

Occupation of Witness: Hotel Proprietress

Address: 25 Fitzroy Square, W.1.
(Eus. 8301. Eus. 3500)

I am the proprietress of the Heathfield House Hotel, 181-183 Cromwell Road, S.W.5. I have been shown a photograph by Detective Sergeant Elliott of a man whom I recognize as Ramon George Sneyd, who stayed at the hotel. I produce the visitors book and under the 17th May 1968 is the signature Ramon George Sneyd of 962 Dindas-W-Toronto, Canada. He remained here from 17th May 1968 until 28th May 1968. I remember that on 27th May he asked for his bill to be made out. It was made out and it came to £18. 11. 6d. which included a ten per cent surcharge. I gave it to him and he said, "Would it be possible for me to stay another night?" I told him it would be all right and he stayed the night of 27th/28th May. On the latter date he paid his bill in full, which now amounted to £20. 12. 8d. As far as I can remember it was paid in sterling.

Owing to his bad writing I thought his name was Snezel. I now realise this should have been Sneyd. His bill, a copy of which I produce, shows the first night to be 18th May 1968. This should be 17th May as shown in the visitors book and it is likely that I have undercharged him one night.

During his stay here he kept himself to himself and made very little conversation, except to ask for directions to the bus stop or tube. He did not receive any mail, phone calls or visitors. The telephone extension is outside his room and also serves another room. His bill shows a 6d. call which was either an error or could possibly have been for a hire car or taxi, in which case the call would have been made direct from the switchboard and therefore not recorded against his extension, which in fact it is not. He went out between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. every morning after breakfast and returned at about 1 a.m. I do not think he stayed out all night on any occasion but cannot be sure. It will be seen that receipt No. 05100 is headed 'College Place Hotel, 1-4 University Street, W.C.1'. These receipts are also used for Heathfield House, which is all part of the same firm.

This statement, consisting of 2 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 9th day of July 1968.

Signed: Doris Westwood

Signature witnessed by: P. A. Elliott
Detective Sergeant

Statement of: Janet Elizabeth NASSAU MISS

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") 21 years

Occupation of Witness: Hotel Receptionist

Address: Flat 9, 29 Earls Court Square, S.W.5.
373 5433 (373 6431)

I am the receptionist of the New Earls Court Hotel, 36 Penywern Road, S.W.5. I have been so employed for two weeks. The procedure when a visitor comes to the hotel is for them to sign the visiters book first. I have examined the visiters book, and on the 28th May 1968 a man who signed the book as RAMON E. SNEYD giving the address "Toronto Canada" booked room No. 54 at the hotel. I produce the visitors book showing the entry. I have been shown by Detective Chief Inspector Thompson a photograph of JAMES EARL RAY which I positively identify as the man SNEYD who stayed at the hotel. SNEYD was a very shy man and because of this I tried to help him. I explained currency differences and talked to him generally. He used to go out most days but never said where he went. Whilst he was at the hotel he did not receive any mail or telephone calls. I can remember that on the 4th June 1968, he made two telephone calls which I know were made to the Daily Telegraph Newspaper. The gist of the conversation by SNEYD was as follows: "About eight to ten days ago he had read in the Telegraph about a man, (he mentioned the name but I cannot

remember it) who had been deported from "POGO LAND" and he (SNEYD) wanted to know the man's address. He was most persistent in the enquiry to trace this man. Because he was so incoherent nobody seemed able to help him. I now remember that the man who was deported was a Captain or Major. In the end I think he got this man's address. I do not know who he spoke to at the Daily Telegraph.

Sneyd eventually left the hotel on Wednesday, 5th June to go to the Air Terminal. He paid his bill in English currency. I have been shown a receipt No. 59 in the name Mr. Sneyd. This refers to the £10 deposit he paid on the 28th May 1968 when he first came to the hotel. I can remember that at some stage of Sneyd's stay he asked me how much the bill would be as he would have to get English currency to pay for it. There is no record at the hotel that he has stayed here on more than the one occasion.

This statement, consisting of 2 pages each signed by me is true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I make it knowing that if it is tendered in evidence, Ishall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated day of 1968.

(Signed) J.E. Nassau

Statement taken down in writing and signature witnessed by me in the presence of Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, P. Elliott, Detective Sergeant

Statement of: Anna Elizabeth THOMAS

Age of Witness (if over 21 enter "over 21") Over 21

Occupation: Hotel Proprietoress

Address: Pax Hotel, 126 Warwick Way, London, S.W.1.

I am the proprietoress of the above mentioned hotel. I live here with my husband and I have been proprietoress of the hotel for one year. I let off four of my rooms to paying guests. On Wednesday 5th June 1968 at about 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. a man speaking with a Canadian or American accent called at my hotel asking to rent a room for three nights. The man was wearing a fawn raincoat and glasses that appeared to have dark lenses. He was about 5' 10", slim build with a slim face. I told him that the price was 30/- a night. He agreed to the price and he gave me a £5 note and I gave him 10/- change plus my hotel card. I then showed him into room number 2 on the ground floor, he closed the door. Before he went to his room he told me he was a Canadian and he came from Toronto and he looked very tired. On Thursday morning at 7.45 a.m. I brought his breakfast. I knocked on the door but his door was locked from the inside as I tried the key in the lock. I left the breakfast outside the door. After I had walked away a few paces he opened the door took the tray in and locked the door. On Thursday afternoon at about 4. p.m. I went

up to his room, let myself in with a key and the man was lying on the bed reading. I came to collect my visitors book which I had previously asked him to sign. I picked the book up without looking inside it and I said to him, "What is your name?" He said, "Sneyd". He opened his wallet and showed me a plane ticket. He said, "I have a flight booked for Germany." I left the room and I did not see him at all that day. On Friday I again took up his tray for breakfast and left it there. About 10.0 a.m. Friday I again went to his room and told him that I had to move him to room 3 because of a prior booking of Room 2. I think I caught a glimpse of him on Friday evening when he was going upstairs. I then did not see him again until Saturday morning about 9.30 a.m. I saw him rushing out of the hotel and jump into a taxi, he was carrying a small air flight bag which he had over his shoulder. He was not carrying a suitcase. During the time he was here he had 4 phone calls. He had two calls from a woman from B.E.A. who asked for Mr. Sneyd. The first call was on Wednesday night when the caller asked that I leave a message for him regarding a 7/- coach fare. The second B.E.A. call again from a woman on Thursday morning when she asked me to leave a message for Mr. Sneyd regarding the availability of a flight to the Continent. On Thursday evening a a lady phoned asked for Mr. Sneyd, she sounded American, she left no name or message. The last call was on Friday morning from a man who left no name or message. On Friday morning a white post card came addressed to

Mr. Sneyd. I did not read it however I discovered that Sneyd had not signed the visitors book, but this is not unusual in the hotel. From the photographs I have seen of Sneyd I would not recognise him but the one in the News of the World was the nearest but he is now older. I would recognise the man if I saw him again.

This statement, consisting of 3 pages each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it knowing that, if it is tendered in evidence, I shall be liable to prosecution if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 10th day of June, 1968.

(Signed) A. E. Thomas

Signature witnessed by John Whitham
Detective Constable

S T A T E M E N T of: Ian COLVIN, Chief Foreign Leader Writer, The Daily Telegraph, London, E.C.4.

On the afternoon of June 4th, 1968, I found a note on my typewriter written by my temporary secretary to say that Mr. Raymond Sneyd had telephoned and would telephone again. He did that, I think about 5 p.m. that day. The voice came up :

"This is Raymond Sneyd". He said he was a Canadian with a brother who had been in Angola, with whom he wished to get in touch. As his brother was a mercenary could I give him the telephone number of Major Alastair Wicks, so that he could get advice on the way to find his brother?

I was aware that Major Wicks had last year been troubled by informants who posed as mercenary volunteers and afterwards denounced his attempt to get volunteers for Biafra. So I offered instead to get Major Wicks to phone him. Would he give me a number? Mr. Sneyd gave me a telephone number which I later discovered to be that of the New Earl's Court Hotel in Penywern Road and an extension number which corresponded to the room that he occupied.

I telephoned to Major Wicks, passed the telephone number to him and asked whether he recognised the name. Wicks did not and for that reason did not take up the contact. I thought no more about it and on Thursday, 6th June, I found a

second note on my desk at the Daily Telegraph, to say that Mr. Raymond Sneyd would telephone again. He came through again in the same voice and style - "This is Raymond Sneyd". I asked had he been telephoned by Major Wicks? Sneyd said that he had since changed his hotel and then set about discussing his problem with me. He was no nearer moving on to join his brother, he said. All the officials had been unhelpful. I asked him more about his brother - how was he missing? Mr. Sneyd then said that his brother was not really missing, though he had not heard from him for four months. The fact was that he would like to join him and become himself a mercenary. Mr. Sneyd did not revert to enquiring for Major Wicks and seemed content to discuss his problem with me instead. As I had just published a book about Mr. Tshombe in which the mercenary force in the Congo is frequently mentioned, this did not strike me as extraordinary, and as the man seemed to be in some sort of troubled state of mind, I was patient and listened. Now and then the conversation was interrupted, as he was telephoning from a call box. I said to him that the mercenary forces had largely left Africa. He might find the remnants of them in Belgium and Jean Schramme was certainly there. There were ex-servicemen's associations and welfare organisations for the former settlers in Africa who might put him in touch with his brother. I had no idea of their addresses but mentioned to him the name of a research editor on Congo affairs, M. Jean Gerard - Liebor's of CRIPS, the Centre de Recherches et Informations Sociales et Politiques who could

tell him where to inquire next. Mr. Sneyd took care to note this name and appeared to be writing it down, as he got me to spell it out.

It occurred to me that I did not have the address of CRISP in the office and so offered to send him a postcard that evening with the address from my home. He mentioned the Pax Hotel, Warwick Way, as his address. I said I knew the street in Pimlico and would write as soon as I could find the address of CRISP.

On Thursday evening I reflected that this visitor might be a nuisance to M. Liebois and that it was perhaps not correct to pass on a total stranger in this way, especially as his manner and purpose gave an odd, almost unbalanced impression, so on Friday, at 2.30 p.m., I simply posted a postcard suggesting that he consult the Belgian Embassy or the Consular Section of the British Foreign Office about his brother. This postcard was returned to me by the Post Office on the following Monday, 10th, as having insufficient address. The card was handed over by me to Chief Inspector Thompson at Scotland Yard the same afternoon.

It was on reading the Sunday newspapers on the 9th that I realised that the suspect arrested at Heathrow must be the same Raymond Sneyd who had been telephoning to me. I told Mr. S. R. Pawley, Managing Editor of the Daily Telegraph and set out in a taxi to find the Pax Hotel, which was not listed in the telephone book. One hotel in Warwick Way had a sign without a name and on enquiring there

I was told by the proprietor, Mrs. Anna Thomas, that this was the Pax Hotel. I had previously telephoned the hotel number that Sneyd had first given me and this proved to be the New Earl's Court Hotel in Penywern Road.

Mrs. Thomas admitted me. She said that Mr. Sneyd had spent Thursday and Friday there and had left on Saturday morning. She thought that he had simply walked down from B.O.A.C. air terminal, she said later, and that her hotel was one of the first in sight. Until I mentioned his arrest Mrs. Thomas did not refer to it. She then said that he had made a bad impression on her, was nervous, furtive, locked his bedroom door at night and stayed in bed most of the day. He had laundered his own clothes in his room, had a lot of newspapers, and tore up a lot of papers. Mrs. Thomas went to the trouble to turn out her dustbins for me and I advised her to keep anything she recovered thus for the police. I then discussed with her how to keep the name of her hotel quiet as I did not wish, and nor did she, to have every reporter in London there later that night. She told me that she was ex-directory, that the Post Office would not give her number and that the name of her hotel was on her cards only. As to the lack of a sign, she was having a sign made and had meanwhile borrowed the glass HOTEL sign. I asked why she did not have her hotel in the telephone book. She replied that she did not want to have people who had lived in her hotel ringing her up and bothering her. She did not bring me in to see her husband,

but asked him through the door of a basement room whether he thought the photographs in the Sunday newspapers resembled their visitor. "It could be him" she remarked, "though he is much thinner in the face. The eyes are the same".

From this I assumed that the Thomases had noticed the reports about Raymond Sneyd earlier in the day and not simply heard his identity from me.

I asked about his departure. He had been trying to leave for Germany, Mr. Thomas said, on the Friday and a B.E.A. Ground Staff girl had rung up to tell him of a change of flight schedule and to remind him that he had not paid his coach ticket. Had he received a postcard from me before he left? I asked. She thought and said she remembered "something white" arriving for him in the Saturday morning post, which he had probably taken with him. The postcard, as I stated above, had never been delivered, but at the time of this conversation I did not know that.

As to how Mr. Sneyd found his way to me in the first place, I am still unclear. I do not believe that he just rang the Daily Telegraph foreign room, but that he was acting on advice that the paper had recently published something about mercenaries or about Major Wicks, and that he was seeking the address or telephone number of a mercenary officer in London. Indeed his first words to me related to this. I am now trying to work out what person could have put Sneyd up to this enquiry, whether he might have read some old cutting or picked up my recently

published book about Mr. Tshombe and the mercenaries from a bookstall. If I have a likely idea, I will be in touch with Chief Inspector Thompson again.

Signed: Ian Colvin
51 Cadogan Place,
S.W.1.
11.6.68

This statement, consisting of ten pages, each signed by me, is true to the best of my knowledge and belief and I make it, knowing that if it is tendered in evidence I shall be liable to prosecution, if I have wilfully stated in it anything which I know to be false or do not believe to be true.

Dated the 11th day of June 1968

Signed: Ian Colvin

" John Whitham
Detective Constable
New Scotland Yard

Central Office,
New Scotland Yard,
London, S.W.1.

I N D E X T O D O C U M E N T S

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L.C.C.
No. 1

B.O.A.C. CREW, FLIGHT No. BA600
TORONTO/LONDON. 6th MAY 1968

Captain Edward Raymond BROWN,
'Sunnywood',
15 Cargate Close, Burwood Park,
WALTON-ON-THAMES.

First Officer Alan Edward WOOD,
'Heatherway',
Prince Consort Drive,
ASCOT, Berkshire.

First Officer Ronald THOMAS,
3 Sprine Woods,
Sandhurst, CAMBERLEY, Surrey.

Engineer Officer John Douglas MORTON,
25 Rossley Close,
Nea Estate,
HIGHCLIFFE, Hampshire.

Stewardess Marie Anne JAGINSKA,
45 Waldegrave Road,
TWICKENHAM, Middlesex.

Steward Dennis Albert HILL,
14 Chepstow Court,
Chepstow Crescent,
Notting Hill Gate, W.11.

Steward John Douglas MARTIN,
50 Solent Avenue,
Thornhill, SOUTHAMPTON.

Steward Robert Keith JOHNSTONE,
57 Boothfields,
Boothsmere,
KNUTSFORD, Cheshire.

Stewardess Suzanne May ELLIS,
7 Daver Court,
Chelsea Manor Street, S.W.3.

Stewardess Evelyn May CRUMP,
14 Charlemont Road,
LONDON, E.6.

Stewardess Alison Doris THICK,
103 Lexham Gardens,
Earls Court, W.8.

[illegible] 2369

[illegible] 1INF

[illegible]

To: All Ports Warning where Special Branch Officers are in attendance.

Raymond George SNEYD, born 8th October 1932, at Toronto, Canada, 5' 10" in height, black hair, blue eyes, in possession of a Canadian Passport No. DJ 909324 issued on 24th April 1968 at Ottawa, is wanted for interview by Detective Chief Inspector Thompson of the Passport Squad C.1 for serious offences in contravention of the Aliens Order.

It is known that Sneyd may travel to either Canada or Europe in the near future. In the event of Sneyd presenting himself at a port to travel abroad, he is to be detained and Detective Chief Inspector Thompson informed immediately. Sneyd is not to be interrogated.

Any information to Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, telephone No. 230-1212, Ext: 2678.

ALL PORTS MESSAGE

DOVER
FOLKESTONE
GATWICK
HARWICH
HEATHROW
PORT OF LONDON
Lower
Upper
LYDD
LYMPNE
NEWHAVEN
PRESTWICK
SOUTHAMPTON
SOUTHEND
TRAIN FERRY
GRAVESEND/TILBURY

B.E.A. CREW ON FLIGHT BE074 TO LISBON
ON 6th MAY 1968

Captain J. PROCTOR,
Brentor,
Southill Avenue,
HARROW-ON-THE-HILL.

First Officer C. P. COWPER,
Bryn Cottage,
Spleen,
AYLESBURY, Bucks.

First Officer A. H. PYNE,
2 Spring Meadows,
BRACKNELL, Berkshire.

Senior Steward G. TUCKER,
310 Uxbridge Road,
RICKMANSWORTH, Herts.

Steward L. M. DAVIGE,
24 Manor Avenue,
NORTHOLT, Middlesex.

Stewardess M. MOSTYN,
100 Castlenau,
Barnes, S.W.13.

No. 5

PASSENGER LIST ON FLIGHT BE074 to LISBON
ON 6th MAY 1968

TURNER
BIRKETT
CHESTNUT
BROOKS
HUNN
DA COSTA (2)
HENDIA
CARVELO
SHELTON
HAYWARD
HOOPER (2 children)
BESWICK
GATEHOUSE
BARROS
PAIVA (2)
NUNES
LOPES
CAMOES
DE CARVALHO
DA SILVA
PIRES
RIBEIRO
CHAVEIRO
SOBREIRA
DE OLIVEIRA
AMGOGA
BENTO
CARNO
SNEYD
JAMES (2)
DEVEAUD
ENG

SCHEDULE OF MOVEMENTS OF JAMES EARL RAY

	Travelling Information.	Passport.	Persons Able to Identify.	Statement	Hotels	
	Left Toronto during late evening by B.O.A.C. Flight BA-600.	Canadian Passport No. D.J.909324 (SNEYA).				Passport No.D/J 909324 issued in surname of SNEYA (Typing error by Canadian Passport Office Otawa).
	Arrived London (Heathrow Airport) during early hours.	Canadian Passport D.J.909324.	Robert Keith JOHNSTONE, B.O.A.C. Steward on flight from Canada	Page 14 Remembers SNEYD as passenger on flight.		
	Left London at 22.30 hrs. by B.E.A. for Lisbon.	Canadian Passport D.J.909324.	Miss Monica BAKER. Employee of B O.A.C. ticket office, Regent Street, W.1.	Page 15. Identifies SNEYD as man who booked to Lisbon.		Exchanged B.O.A.C. return ticket, Toronto-London-Toronto for a single ticket Toronto-London-Lisbon. He was given an M.C.O. for £14-60.
	Arrived in Lisbon, where he remained until returning to London on 17th May, 1968.	Canadian Passport D.J.909324.				On this day re-exchanged Passport D.J.909324 for Canadian Passport No. YT.602294 at the Canadia Embassy in Lisbon.

Contd...

	Travelling Information.	Passport.	Persons Able to Identify.	Statement	Hotels	
	Returned from Lisbon by T.A.P. flight.	Canadian Passport YT.602294.	Mrs. Doris Catherine WESTWOOD. Hotel Proprietress.	Pages 16-17	Heathfield House Hotel, 181-183, Cromwell Rd., S.W.5.	On his return from Lisbon he booked into this hotel Mrs. Westwood identifies him as staying there and produces the visitors' book. On 27th May asked for his bill, and when given it, asked to stay another night, 27/28th, which he did, eventually leaving on 28th May.
						Left Heathfield House Hotel, after paying his bill of £20.12.8d. in cash (Sterling).
			Miss Janet Elizabeth NASSAU, Hotel receptionist.	Pages 18-19	New Earls Court Hotel, 36, Penywern Rd., S.W.5.	Later the same day booke into this hotel, where h remained until 5th June, 1968.
						Miss Nassau states that prior to his departure RAY asked her how much his bill would be as he "had to get some money" At about 2.13 p.m. on 4 June, RAY entered a branch of The London Trustee Savings Bank, 7 Clem Attlee Parade, Nor End Road, S.W.6, held up the staff with a gun an stole £95.10.- cash.

Contd...

	Travelling Information.	Passport.	Persons Able to Identify.	Statement.	Hotels	
ay, e,			Mrs. Anna Elizabeth THOMAS, Hotel Proprietress.	Pages 20-22	PAX Hotel, 126, Warwick Jay, S.W.1.	Left New Earls Court Hotel after paying his bill in cash (Sterling). Booked into this hotel later the same day, where he remained until 8th June, 1968.
ay, ne,						Left Pax Hotel after paying his bill in cash (Sterling). Later that morning, at about 11.30 a.m., was arrested at Heathrow Airport as he was about to embark for Brussels.

ARRESTED.

DOC. No. 7

SEARCHES MADE IN RESPECT OF THE AIR BAG MENTIONED BY MRS. THOMAS - Statement dated 20 - 22

Left Luggage Lockers Searched

West London Air Terminal,
Gloucester Road, S.W.5.

Victoria Coach Station,
Victoria, S.W.1.

Earls Court Underground Station,
Earls Court Road, S.W.5.

Terminals 2 and 3,
Heathrow Airport

Paddington Railway Station,
London, W.2.

Euston Railway Station,
London, N.W.1.

King's Cross Railway Station,
London, N.1.

B.O.A.C. Air Terminal,
Victoria, S.W.1.

Victoria Railway Station,
Victoria, S.W.1.

Overseas Visitors Club,
Earls Court Road,
S.W.5.

Piccadilly Underground Station,
Piccadilly, W.1.

Charing Cross Railway Station,
Strand, W.C.2.

Waterloo Railway Station,
London, S.E.1.

In addition to the above locker searches in respect of the 'alleged airbag' enquiries were also made at the following places in an effort to trace it :-

AIR LINGUS,
Cromwell Road, S.W.5

and also at Heathrow Airport

Gerald Row, Chelsea, Rochester Row, Kensington and West End Central Police Stations, re the possibility of it being lost in the street or a cab, and

Metropolitan Police Lost Property Office, all without success.

All 'air bags' or similar items of property found within the Metropolitan Police District between 5th and 10th June 1968 have been opened, but nothing can be traced to the possession of Sneyd. Similar enquiries made at London Transport Lost Property Office, 200 Baker Street, N.W.1, also proved negative.

Enquiries have also been made at B.O.A.C., B.E.A. and Air Lingus in respect of lost property, especially the coaches carrying passengers between the Airport and central London, but without success.

Special Enquiry

In connection with arrest of Ramon George SNEYD, alias James Earl RAY, Eric Starvo GALT, W. C. HERRON, Harvey LOWMYER, James McBRIDE, James O'CONNER, James WILTON, James MALYON and John WILLARD, it is requested that all firms operating a safety deposit box service in the Metropolitan Police District be visited in order to ascertain if a person with any of the above names has applied for service, as it is believed that the man concerned may be in possession of a large sum of money.

If any enquiry is successful, do not take further action but immediately inform Detective Chief Inspector Thompson, C.O.C.1. (Ext. 2678).

PROPERTY IN RESPECT OF RAMON GEORGE SNEYD

On Person

ONE .38 'Liberty Chief' revolver
FIVE rounds of .38 ammunition
ONE Canadian Passport No. YT 602294 in name of Ramon George Sneyd.
ONE Canadian Passport (cancelled) No. DJ 909324 in the name of Ramon George Sneya.
ONE Birth Certificate No. NO 33785 in the name of Ramon George Sneyd
ONE black billfold
ONE comb
ONE pencil
ONE Airline ticket B.E.A. No. 0602/9903/116- London to Brussels
ONE Airline ticket B.O.A.C. No. 0614/4256/8753- London to Toronto
ONE Key on ring
ONE yellow metal tie clip
ONE white metal wristlet watch on white metal bracelet
A quantity of correspondence includes silencer info

Elsewhere

ONE suitcase
ONE light brown jacket
ONE pair blue trousers
ONE pair brown trousers
ONE pair grey trousers
ONE Polaroid 220 camera
THREE gent's shirts
TWO pairs of underpants
TWO gent's singlets
FIVE handkerchiefs
THREE pairs of socks
TWO towels
ONE blue cap
FIVE ties
ONE Hifi Deluxe radio in case
TWO pairs of sunglasses
ONE Collin's dictionary
ONE plastic wallet

Elsewhere (continued)

ONE Portuguese 50 centavos piece
TWENTY-ONE air mail envelopes
ONE bottle opener
ONE writing pad
ONE screwdriver
ONE pair of nail clippers
FIFTEEN Aspros
ONE can shaving foam
ONE safety razor
ONE can deodorant
ONE jar skin cream
ONE bottle shampoo
ONE tube hair dressing
TWO tubes toothpaste
ONE toothbrush
ONE inhaler
ONE bottle liniment
ONE suede brush
ONE tin shoe polish
ONE hand mirror
TWO bars soap
TEN safety pins
ONE book matches
THREE plasters
TWO metal clips
ONE reel thread
ONE comb
ONE roll adhesive tape
ONE raincoat
ONE vest
ONE tie
ONE belt
ONE pair of trousers
ONE jacket
ONE baggage ticket
ONE envelope bearing name 'R. SNEYD: 962 Dundas Street, Toronto
ONE Barclays Bank slip in name of Sneyd
ONE passenger ticket No. 0471"125363 T.A.P. Airlines
ONE envelope containing five photographs of self

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Elsewhere (continued)

ONE receipt No. 177 from Hotel Portugal
ONE Kennedy travel bureau receipt No. 33273
ONE S.A.A. time table
ONE 1967 almanac
ONE book on Rhodesia
ONE book 'The Ninth Directive'
ONE map of London
ONE S.A.L. timetable
ONE map of Portugal
ONE picture magazine
ONE book 'Self Hypnotism'
ONE book 'Psycho'
ONE book 'How to cash on your hidden memory power'
TWO paper-backed books on hypnotism