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by [redacted]

Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) - James Earl Ray denied Thursday that he killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. fighting extradition to the United States to stand trial for the murder of the Negro civil rights leader, Ray professed innocence in Bow Street Magistrates Court.

The 40-year-old fugitive from the Missouri Penitentiary took the stand in his own defense after the U.S. government unveiled a carefully detailed case against him as the single hand'' in the assassination at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tenn., April 4.

George Jacob Lonebrake, a fingerprint expert of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, testified he found Ray's prints on the rifle, telescopic sight and binoculars that were dropped at the doorway of a shop near the motel shortly after King was slain.

oger Arisby, May declared in a soft, reedy drawl he
had never met King and that he bore him no grudge.

"Did you kill Martin Luther King?" Arisby asked.

"No, sir," the prisoner replied.

Chief Magistrate Frank Milton, presiding in a gray suit with lots of white cuff showing, later adjourned the hearing until next Tuesday. It is expected to be completed then. May went back to prison.

British lawyers retained by the United States told Milton of witnesses to the purchase of the rifle and of a disabled war veteran, Charles Stevens, 46, who said he heard the fatal shot fired from the common bathroom of a rooming house across South Main Street from the Lorraine Motel.

But May resisted moves to extradite him to stand trial for King's murder with all the legal ammunition provided by Britain's crowded extradition laws.

If the court's decision goes against him, Arisby is expected to appeal to a higher court on the ground that King's assassination was a political crime, for which Britain does not permit extradition.

Arisby electrified the court by summoning May to the stand

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all my client,'' he ordered.

y was formally addressed as amon eorge neyd, the
ias under which he is held here on charges of entering ritain
a forged anadian passport.

e sat rather than stood in the witness box to make less of a
rget in any attempt on his life and cotland ard detectives
dustered around him in a human screen. his was the exchange.

irsby. id you know artin uther ing personally.

y. o, sir.

risby. id you ever met him.

y. o, sir.

risby. ave you any ing of grudge against him.

y. o, sir.

risby. id you kill artin uther ing.

y. o, sir.

sked by the court clerk to sign a summary of this for evidence.