

To Return Ray to U.S.

State Department officials said yesterday that legal and diplomatic steps were being instituted to secure the return of James Earl Ray, the suspected killer of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., to this country from London.

The officials said that under a

U.S.-British treaty of 1931, Ray is "fully extraditable."

What is necessary is for the United States government to demonstrate to the British courts that the man being held is indeed Ray and that there is "probable cause" that he committed murder — one of the offenses covered under the treaty.

There is a formal machinery for extradition which covers both legal and diplomatic steps that must be taken — including informing the British government of the U.S. request and of hiring local counsel to present the U.S. case to the British courts.

DATE

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- ___ THE EVENING STAR
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