

James Ray Extradition Appeal Set

Washington Post Foreign Service

LONDON, July 9—An appeal of the extradition ruling against James Earl Ray, 40, will be heard July 29, before the Divisional Court of the High Court, it was learned today.

The date was set by mutual agreement between court officials and British lawyers representing Ray, whom the United States is seeking to extradite to face charges of murdering the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray lost the first round in Bow Street Court last Thursday when Frank Milton, the chief metropolitan magistrate, upheld a U.S. request for his extradition on the murder charge and on the charge of armed robbery, an offense for which he was serving a jail sentence until his escape from prison last year.

Ray has denied murdering Dr. King in Memphis, Tenn., and on the court docket he is still listed as "Ramon George Sneyd," the name under which he was arrested at London Airport on June 8. Chief Magistrate Milton has ruled that he is in fact Ray.

The expectation is that Ray's court-appointed lawyers will reiterate the argument that the murder of Dr. King was a political offense and hence not subject to extradition. Appearing for Ray at the Law Courts will be Roger Frisby, who as a barrister has right of audience in the High Court.

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