

A-12  
\*\*\*

THE EVENING STAR  
Washington, D. C., Wednesday, July 17, 1968

# Extradition Fight Off, Ray's Return Due Soon

LONDON (AP) — American authorities pursued top secret plans today for a quick return to the United States of James Earl Ray to face trial for the assassination in Memphis, Tenn., of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray could be on his way by tonight or early tomorrow.

"I suspect the first word that Ray has left London will be news of his actual arrival in Memphis," one source said.

Ray cleared the way for his return by signing a declaration yesterday that he did not want to appeal the order for his extradition issued July 2 by London's chief magistrate, Frank Milton.

(His U.S. lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes Sr., said after visiting him for 45 minutes at London's Wandsworth Prison today that Ray wanted to return to the United States immediately. "So my client and I can begin without further delay to combat and counteract the unprecedented, vicious and libelous press and television campaign to portray him as a convicted murderer, a monster, a degenerate and a dope addict.")

(Hanes said Ray is innocent of the King murder and referred to the prisoner as "R. G. Sneyd," the alias on the passport Ray used and the name under which he was held in Britain, United Press International reported.)

(The lawyer, former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., said the visit of U.S. Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr. to London, where he was allowed to see Ray but not to talk with him, "was high-handed and wrong and I think highly prejudicial." He charged that Vinson's action in seeing Ray violated Ray's constitutional rights and U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

(Ray has asked Justice De-

partment authorities that Hanes accompany him at all times in the extradition process, Hanes said.)

The 40-year-old prisoner, a fugitive from the Missouri State Penitentiary, spent his remaining hours in prison under heavy guard.

Informed sources speculated that Ray would be flown back with a heavy guard aboard a U.S. military plane or a chartered civilian jet. They indicated Hanes would not be allowed to accompany him.

Home Secretary James Callaghan was to sign the order for Ray's extradition. He would then be delivered to U.S. Justice Department officials for the trans-Atlantic flight.

Ray's decision not to appeal the extradition order came after a routine court hearing yesterday at which he sat quietly while his British lawyers agreed to have him held in prison another eight days on charges he entered Britain on a forged Canadian passport and carried an unlicensed gun.

These were the charges on which he was arrested June 3 at London Airport, ending a two-month, worldwide search following the slaying of the civil rights leader April 4.

Ray's British lawyers had been preparing an appeal based on the contention that King's slaying was a political crime and that Ray therefore could not be extradited under British law. A hearing on the appeal had been tentatively set for June 29 even though it had not yet been filed.

In his declaration saying he would submit to extradition, Ray wrote: "I have made this decision after considering all the facts, and I believe that this is the best course of action to adopt."

DATE 7-17-68

PAGE A12

- \_\_\_ THE WASHINGTON POST & TIMES HERALD
- ✓ THE EVENING STAR
- \_\_\_ THE SUNDAY STAR
- \_\_\_ THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
- \_\_\_ WASHINGTON AFRO AMERICAN

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

44-7037

In his declaration saying he would submit to extradition, Ray wrote: "I have made this decision after considering all the facts, and I believe that this is the best course of action to adopt."

APPA  
1968  
FBI - WASH. F. O.  
Dawson