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Speck Spends First Night In Cook Jail

CHICAGO (AP) — Richard Speck, indicted in the methodical mass murder of eight student nurses, spent his first night in Cook County Jail after being confined to a hospital bed since his arrest July 17.

Speck, 24, was transferred Friday from the House of Correction hospital to the jail. The move was veiled by a conference the hospital had called to ask news media cooperation in preventing any incident.

Dr. William N. Norcross, the city jail chief surgeon, told newsmen, "The events surrounding the transfer of a maximum security prisoner in Dallas were regrettable."

"The pride and interest of Chicago would not be served if

the incident were repeated," he added, alluding to the slaying of Lee Harvey Oswald, named by the Warren Commission as the assassin of President Kennedy.

Two vans were used in the one-block move that took only eight minutes. One carried Speck, handcuffed to a policeman, and three other prisoners, manacled to one another.

The second van was filled with six armed guards.

Speck was immediately placed in the infirmary. Warden Jack Johnson said Speck "is docile, and is following orders. He is no problem at all."

Shortly after Speck's transfer was announced, the Cook County grand jury revised the murder indictments to insert additional material. John Stamos, an assistant state's attorney, said the amendments included references to the Illinois Criminal Code. He added that although the original indictments were not invalid, the revisions

were more technically correct.

Johnson said Speck would remain in the jail infirmary over the weekend and will probably be transferred to a maximum security cell next week.

Johnson said Speck was under sedation but looked healthy. He said there was no reason why Speck could not appear in Circuit Court for his scheduled arraignment Monday.

Speck's counsel, Gerald W. Getty, chief of the public defender's office, has said he will ask for a continuance. Getty also has said he will enter a plea that Speck is innocent by reason of insanity.

A former Philippine ambassador to the United States, Amelito Mutec, announced Friday the establishment of an annual award for the outstanding Philippine exchange nurse at South Chicago Community Hospital where the victims of the July 14 slayings and the sole survivor were employed.