UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: June 21, 196

FROM : A. Rosen

SUBJECT: MURKIN

1-Mr. DeLoach
1-Mr. Rosen
1-Mr. Malley
1-Mr. McGowan
1-Mr. Long
1-Mr. Conrad
1-Mr. Bishop
1-Mr. Gale
1-Mr. Mohr
1-Mr. Sullivan
1-Mr. Trotter

Assistant Attorney General Vinson called with reference to the above-entitled matter involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr. He said he has been in touch with British lawyers, believes they will further stipulate as to the identity of subject Ray; however, this has not been firmed up to the point that he is in a position to advise the Bureau that Latent Fingerprint Examiner George Bonebrake will not be needed in London to testify. Vinson said he is going to make one more pass at this matter with the British and will either be in touch with the Bureau today or tomorrow concerning whether Bonebrake is needed.

He said inasmuch as the Department and the Bureau are going to be involved in devising some plans for the travel of Ray from London to the United States, he had been instructed by the Attorney General to get some background on the prison security in Tennessee and thought he had this pretty well lined up inasmuch as some men had been in Tennessee for several days looking over the security there.

Insofar as transporting the subject is concerned, he said that is going to be primarily one for the FBI and he wanted to know whether we could get together on Monday to talk over such things as the most desirable time to leave London, the possibility of private airfield, and other matters which would allow Ray to be taken from London quietly because he felt the British press were even more aggressive than the press here in the States.

I inquired as to whether he had taken any steps with reference to the suggestions concerning the use of military aircraft and the other matters which were set forth in the memorandum that was sent to the Attorney General yesterday. He said he had seen something on it. I told him a copy was designated for him. He said the alternative would be to hire a commercial aircraft but, of course, this presented some problems.

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Memorandum to Mr. DeLoach
Re: MURKIN

I advised him we would like to know the Department's decision with reference to the matters raised yesterday.

ACTION:

It is suggested we find out what Vinson has in mind on Monday. As he indicated, he wanted me to see him on this and then it can be determined what steps need be taken. Obviously, if we are going to use military aircraft our problems can be greatly reduced and we, of course, will have much more control over the situation than if we went by commercial aircraft.

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We do not want to use commercial aircraft.