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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

Tolson
DeLoach
Mohr
Bishop
Casper
Callahan
Conrad
Felt
Gale
Rosen
Sullivan
Tavel
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holmes
Gandy

TO : MR. TOLSON

DATE: June 10, 1968

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

FROM : C. D. DE LOACH

SUBJECT : MURKIN

Legal Attache (Legat) Minnich, London, called me at 5:30 a.m., Sunday morning, June 9, 1968.

Minnich told me that U. S. Ambassador Bruce had received a lengthy telegram signed by Governor Buford Ellington of Tennessee. Governor Ellington's telegram inquired if Ray had been identified through the medium of fingerprints. The telegram also requested the identity of the arresting officers as well as the officers who would escort Ray back to the United States in the event extradition proceedings were successful. In this connection, Minnich stated that he would like to obtain authority to name himself, Special Agents [redacted] I told Minnich that this was in accordance with the Director's instructions and that he should feel free to do this if requested. MARTINDALE, ZEISS + BOLINDS

Minnich told me that it might be possible to obtain a restraining kit (leg irons and handcuffs) from Scotland Yard for usage when subject Ray was brought back to the United States. I told him to check into this but to let me know if one was available.

I also instructed Minnich to be sure and tell Assistant Attorney General Vinson regarding the receipt of the telegram from Governor Ellington by Ambassador Bruce.

Minnich called me again at 11:00 a.m., Sunday, June 9, 1968, and stated that he had just returned from being with Vinson. He did not meet Vinson at the airport inasmuch as he was extremely tied up on matters affecting this case. The Ambassador's office called for Minnich and asked him to meet with the Ambassador, the two U. S. Ministers, and with Vinson in the Ambassador's office.

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Minnich stated that the conference dealt with security matters affecting subject Ray and that Vinson had stressed that he wanted to see to it that subject did not escape, commit suicide, or be the subject of assassination. Vinson also told the conference that he was there to look into matters of deportation and extradition. He claimed that he had a team of experts in Washington who, at the time, were considering deportation but that the thinking seemed to be that deportation might prejudice the trial.

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Vinson also was quoted as saying that transportation by military aircraft might prejudice the trial, furthermore, that usage of restraining devices might prejudice the trial of subject.

Ambassador Bruce made arrangements for Vinson to meet with Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler of the Home Secretary's office. Vinson asked Legat Minnich to accompany him to meet with Chief Superintendent Butler. In answer to questions from Vinson, Superintendent Butler told Vinson the same facts that had previously appeared in the press release made by FBI Headquarters. Vinson requested permission to see the cell in which subject Ray was being held. He made approximately a 5-minute inspection of the cell and told Butler and Minnich that he was satisfied that subject could not escape. Vinson then asked Superintendent Butler if subject Ray was vulnerable to assassination while en route to the Magistrate's Court hearing at 10:30 a.m., Monday, 6/10/68. Superintendent Butler told him that the only way this could be accomplished would be from a high powered rifle being shot into the prison moving van.

Minnich stated that Vinson made no suggestions or recommendations whatsoever. Superintendent Butler made arrangements for Vinson to attend Magistrate Court on 6/10/68. Minnich summed up the interview with Superintendent Butler by stating that Vinson went through a ridiculous procedure of asking useless questions. He stated that Superintendent Butler was not impressed in the least and refused to make any answers whatsoever regarding the investigation being conducted by Scotland Yard.

Vinson told Minnich that he would make a report to the Attorney General (AG) early that Sunday afternoon. He claimed that he would spend Monday conferring with English and Home Secretary officials. Minnich described Vinson's attitude as cool and informal. He did not inquire as to whether our people had been spending the night at Cannon Row Jail where subject Ray is being detained. Minnich deliberately told Vinson that he was somewhat "sleepy" as a result of working long hours.

Minnich advised that [redacted] had arrived in London from Lisbon. He stated that [redacted] had arrived at Lakenheath Airport and were en route to the American Embassy at that time.

At approximately 11:50 a.m., Sunday, 6/9/68, I received a call from AAG Pollock of the Civil Rights Division of the Department. Pollock asked me if the State of Tennessee had officially informed the FBI relative to

the indictment of subject Ray. I told him I did not know the answer to this question but would be glad to check. He indicated that this would not be necessary inasmuch as he could find out from other sources. Pollock informed me that it would probably be necessary to have the Laboratory men, who examined the official evidence in this case, prepare affidavits certifying their examinations and findings. I asked Pollock if it would not be sufficient merely for the Laboratory Examiners to notarize the Laboratory reports which had previously been sent to the state and which had been included in the FBI investigative reports. He stated he thought this might be sufficient, however, he would have to check and see.

Pollock asked me if I was certain that the Laboratory reports were included in the FBI investigative reports which had already been sent to the Department of Justice and to the U. S. Attorneys in Memphis and Birmingham. I told him I felt these reports had been included inasmuch as this was usual procedure, however, a check would have to be made concerning this point. (The General Investigative Division is checking this matter and will so inform Pollock.)

Pollock asked me for the identity of the four FBI representatives who had been designated by the Director to bring subject Ray back to the United States. I gave him the names of Legat Minnich, [redacted]

In talking with Pollock, I made specific reference to the conference in the AG's office on Saturday, 6/8/68. Pollock indicated that he wanted me to know that the most important facet of this case had been thoroughly resolved, that being the successful investigation of this case by the FBI. He stated he was very grateful in this regard. I told him we appreciated his common sense.

Legat Minnich called me at 7:00 a. m., Monday, 6/10/68, to bring up to date the proceedings in London. He stated that Vinson had informed him that several FBI offices were obtaining affidavits from Agents to support extradition papers. Vinson claimed that extradition would take approximately three and a half weeks or even up to five or six weeks. Vinson stated that he may not accept deportation offers even if this chance is given by the British authorities. Vinson told Minnich that deportation may not be a safe route from a legal standpoint.

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Minnich stated that Vinson had been successful in obtaining a professional warrant simply for the purposes of continued detention of subject Ray in the event, by some remote chance, the Magistrate Court in London freed Ray at the hearing Monday morning, 6/10/68.

Minnich stated that Vinson had held a press conference on the steps of the American Embassy on Sunday, 6/9/68. Minnich indicated that there was considerable pressure on the part of the press for further news. He stated he had received a number of calls, particularly from one New York "Times" representative who claimed that he had close friends in the FBI. Minnich wanted to know what action he should take in handling these calls. I told him that he should make no comment whatsoever. I stated that furthermore the New York "Times" was lying if they claimed they had close friends in the FBI.

Minnich told me that Vinson has scheduled another press conference Tuesday morning, 6/11/68, at 10:00 a. m. Vinson claimed that this conference would be very brief and that he felt like he had to do this in order to "take the pressure off."

Vinson told Minnich that he may decide to charter a commercial aircraft rather than use military transportation for subject Ray to be escorted back to the United States. Vinson apparently ruled himself out of accompanying subject Ray back inasmuch as he told Minnich that he hopes to be back in the United States by Wednesday, 6/12/68.

Minnich specifically asked that FBI Headquarters send him a restraining kit in the event we are able to arrange free transportation by military aircraft. He also stated that we should keep in mind that in the event the Department decides to have subject Ray brought back to the United States by military aircraft, there definitely should be a military doctor on board. I told Minnich that both points were good ones and that we would send the restraining kit immediately. (The General Investigative Division should take care of this matter without delay.)

Minnich told me that Commissioner Lindsay of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) was in London and had called by the Legat's office. Lindsay was very enthusiastic about the capture of Ray. He also was very grateful for the publicity that the Director had allowed the RCMP in connection with Ray's apprehension. - Lindsay stated that this publicity will be of great assistance to the RCMP not only in subduing their enemies but in allowing for badly needed appropriations for his force.

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ACTION:

(1) The General Investigative Division should see to it that a restraining kit is sent to Minnich immediately in London. The Liaison Section of the Domestic Intelligence Division should ascertain if military transportation is available for this kit. Minnich should be advised by cablegram of the approximate time of arrival so that a representative from the Legat's office can meet the plane.

(2) In the event the Department finally makes a decision concerning transportation of subject by military aircraft, the Department should be specifically advised of the desirability of having a military doctor aboard the aircraft.

O.K.
JL