John Ray wants trial by 'international court'

John Larry Ray, accused of the armed robbery of a Liberty, Ill., bank, asked a judge in Adams County Circuit Court Wednesday that his bank robbery trial be held before the United Nations or an "international court of justice."

Ray told Associate Judge Harold L. Madsen in a hearing at Quincy, Ill., that "FBI propaganda" seeking to link him to the May 29 shooting of Vernon Jordan, national Urban League president, would make a fair trial impossible in this country.

Ray is the brother of James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Ray, who was arrested Monday in Alton, was transferred to Quincy Tuesday for a hearing on charges of robbing the Farmer's National Bank of Liberty May 30, the day after Jordan was shot in Fort Wayne, Ind.

Madsen agreed to permit Ray to act as his own attorney until a second hearing scheduled for Tuesday, but denied his request for access to a law library and typewriter. Madsen continued Ray's $200,000 bond.

Ray was being sought as a federal fugitive at the time of the Jordan shooting and the Liberty bank robbery. He had failed to report to a halfway house in St. Louis after his release in February from a federal medical center in Springfield, Mo. He had been serving time for bank robbery.