

10:45 AM

July 17, 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON  
MR. DE LOACH  
MR. ROSEN  
MR. BISHOP

*0*  
*MURKIN*

While talking to the Attorney General on another matter, I told him there were some developments in the James Earl Ray matter. I stated first that the airport from which we were going to leave in England is under repair so the plane will be leaving from a different airport called Lakenheath, which is near the other one and is perfectly satisfactory so far as we are concerned. The Attorney General asked if it were a public airport or a Royal Air Force airport and I told him it was a Royal Air Force airport.

I continued that we were told yesterday here in Washington that the Air Force was contemplating going to another field in Arkansas in case some emergency prevented their landing at Memphis. I stated we took the position this was most undesirable because it would involve the transportation of the prisoner from Arkansas to Memphis. The Attorney General stated there are all those bridges to cross, too. I stated also there was the matter of jurisdiction which would be raised. I stated we would not leave the plane if it had to land in Arkansas and just wait until the emergency was resolved and then take off for Memphis.

I said there is also complication in regard to the matter of a plane from here. I stated that Assistant Attorney General Fred Vinson yesterday indicated the Air Force indicated a plane might not be available in view of the President going to Honolulu and having to press a number of planes into service. I said there has been no further word this morning. I said this man can leave right now if we had the plane over there, but we have to wait and see what the Air Force is going to do and if they won't furnish a plane, we will have to charter a commercial plane. The Attorney General said he could not believe the Air Force does not have enough planes. I commented that it is ridiculous.

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

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Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, D. Loach, Rosen, Bishop July 17, 1968

I told the Attorney General that confidentially, the Commandant of the Air Base in London when he was here last week was briefed and told the plane is standing by ready to take off without advance notice. I said this is highly confidential because the Commandant was told this by officers of the Air Force. I said I think they are playing games at the Air Force as they say we have to wait for the return of this Colonel Burleson (phonetic), who is the one Mr. Vinson has been dealing with and he is due back around noon today. I said at that time we will probably know more what the situation is because Ray has now signed the order waiving any appeal so he is ready to move as soon as we get a plane over there. The Attorney General said the Home Secretary has to sign the order. I said he had not yet but he would by noon today so that will clear all formalities, but Ray has already signed the paper he was supposed to sign waiving appeal.

The Attorney General said he would talk with Mr. Vinson, that Clark Clifford, Secretary of Defense, was out of the country. I said I thought it was a matter where he might talk to the highest official over there. The Attorney General said he was sure there was no problem. I said our men are ready to leave at a moment's notice and it should be possible to leave as soon as the Air Force gives clearance and be over in England by evening and be able to arrange to come back tomorrow.

The Attorney General said that the jail may not be ready down there yet, which would be another complicating factor. I told him we understood from our people in Memphis that they were ready as they had put in the bullet-proof shields, et cetera, the Sheriff had picked his squad, and he had five cars standing by in case they were needed.

The Attorney General said then he would talk with Mr. Vinson further and see if we can't move it out and thanked me for calling.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

SENT FROM	B. 4
TIME	2:00 PM
DATE	7-17-68
BY	J. E. H.