

July 12, 1968

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

This morning, the Attorney General called at my office and during the course of the conference, he referred in some detail to the plans for the removal of James Earl Ray from Great Britain to Memphis, Tennessee.

He told me that he had been advised that we were going to have four Agents accompany Ray. I told him it was my understanding that there would be three and also an Air Force physician. The Attorney General told me that he understood that we would deliver Ray to the Sheriff of Shelby County, Tennessee, and inquired whether that would be done at the airport or at the Shelby County Jail. I told him that I had indicated my desire that the transfer to the custody of the Sheriff of Shelby County, be consummated at the Naval Airport as soon as the plane from Great Britain touched down and that from there on, the security and custody of Ray was the responsibility of the Sheriff of Shelby County. The Attorney General expressed some concern as to what might happen to Ray en route from the airport to the Shelby County Jail. He asked that this Bureau keep in touch with the situation so as to know of any intelligence that would be of value in preventing any overt act against Ray even after he is placed in the custody of the Sheriff of Shelby County at the airport.

He inquired of me as to the security of the jail at Memphis. I told him I understood that he, the Attorney General, had already sent representatives of the Prison Bureau to Memphis to inspect the jail and that they had and had indicated that it was secure. The Attorney General stated that he would prefer to have the FBI check the proposed arrangements at the jail and advise him of its security. Please see that immediate telephonic instructions are issued to the SAC at Memphis to contact the Sheriff of Shelby County and ascertain just exactly what his plans are for the incarceration of Ray and the security of the same. Our Agent in Charge should also ascertain what his plans are should Ray be turned over to him at the Naval Airport -- namely, the number of guards that the Sheriff will have and other details

Concerning the transportation of Ray from the airport to the Shelby County Jail after we have turned Ray over to the Sheriff at the airport.

JER:EDM (8)

FX-103

REC-1 44-38861-4827  
25 JUL 15 1968

67 JUL 17 1968

Memorandum for Messrs. Tolson, DeLoach, Rosen

July 12, 1968

I indicated to the Attorney General that if the Air Force was going to send a plane from the United States to Great Britain to bring Ray back, the representatives of the Bureau who were to conduct Ray from Great Britain to the United States should be allowed to go over to Great Britain on the same plane that will be used for that purpose. The Attorney General indicated agreement with this suggestion.

At the time the Attorney General talked with me, I had not been advised of the details worked out by Mr. Foyen and Mr. [redacted] with Assistant Attorney General Fred Vinson, but subsequent to the Attorney General's conference with me, a memorandum was received from Mr. Vinson setting forth the details which Mr. Vinson has worked out after consultation with Mr. Rosen and Mr. Minich and I have sent this memorandum through with the indication that since representatives of the Bureau have already committed the Bureau to certain phases of the transportation of Ray, I was, consequently, bound by them; while I had not known of these commitments in advance and certainly would have made certain changes in them, I, nevertheless, would be bound by the commitments.

I think that in the future, it would be a great deal better for representatives of this Bureau conferring with Departmental representatives to make no commitments of an important character without first submitting such commitments to me for approval. It is embarrassing to learn from Departmental sources of commitments, some of which I had never even heard about before.

Very truly yours,

J. E. H.

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

SENT FROM D. O.
TIME 4:27 PM
DATE 7-12-68
BY [signature]