

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DeLoach
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<input type="checkbox"/>	Holmes
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gandy

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: July 19, 1968

FROM : A. Rosen

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Rosen
- 1 - Mr. Malley
- 1 - Mr. McGowan
- 1 - Mr. McDonough
- 1 - Mr. Bishop

SUBJECT: C  
MURKIN

This is the case involving the murder of Martin Luther King, Jr.

James Earl Ray was returned to the United States today on a U. S. Air Force plane in the custody of FBI Agents and was turned over to the Sheriff's Office of Shelby County (Memphis), Tennessee, early this morning. This mission was completed without incident.

The extradition order was signed by the British Home Secretary at 6 p. m., London time, 7/18/68 (1 p. m., Washington, D. C., time).

The Air Force plane departed London at 7:38 p. m., Washington, D. C., time, 7/18/68, and touched down at the Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tennessee, at 4:37 a. m., Washington, D. C., time, 7/19/68. The subject was afforded a physical examination by the Air Force flight surgeon aboard the aircraft, was processed by the Customs Inspector and Ray was then turned over to the custody of Sheriff William M. Morris of the Shelby County (Memphis), Tennessee, Sheriff's Office.

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The subject was then transported in an armored van preceded by three Sheriff's Office cars and followed by three additional Sheriff's Office cars. The party escorting the prisoner left the Naval Air Station at Memphis at 5:07 a. m., Washington, D. C., time, and Ray was incarcerated in the Shelby County Jail at 5:32 a. m., Washington, D. C., time. The transportation of the subject from Great Britain to the Naval Air Station in Memphis and from thence to the jail was accomplished without incident.

JUL 24 1968

Enclosures (2)

EJM:cs/mls

SENT DIRECTOR  
7-17-68  
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CONTINUED - OVER

Memo Rosen to DeLoach  
RE: MURKIN

According to SA Harold Light, who was in charge of the FBI escort crew, Ray was no problem on the plane, was docile and although food and drink was offered to him, he declined to eat or drink. No effort was made to interview him and he volunteered no information. Just prior to touchdown in Memphis Ray complained of having a headache, the Air Force doctor was notified and he provided Ray a couple of aspirins. The Air Force flight surgeon, after giving Ray a physical examination on departure from England and arrival in Memphis, stated that he was in good physical condition.

The original proposed press release (copy attached) was discussed with Cliff Sessions, Departmental Public Information Officer, on 7/18/68 and he insisted the release be discussed with Assistant Attorney General Vinson and the Attorney General. Vinson and the Attorney General instructed that the press release be shortened and the names of the Attorney General and the Director be omitted in order to, as they stated, play the release in a lower key. Appropriate action, however, was taken by the Crime Records Division on conferring with our news contacts in making an extensive dissemination to the news media of the attached approved release at 5:34 a.m., Washington time, today, 7/19/68. The release was also furnished to the Memphis Office.

Letters have been prepared for the White House and the Attorney General advising them of the successful completion of this mission. *(sent 8:25 am 7-19-68)*

ACTION:

For information.

*TES*

*Rosen*

*h*

*V. p. m.*



*In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 19, 1968

James Earl Ray, who is charged with the murder of  
Martin Luther King, Jr., was returned safely to the United States  
today.

British authorities turned Ray over yesterday evening to  
the custody of FBI Agents, who accompanied him on a nonstop flight  
from London aboard a U. S. Air Force C-135 to Memphis, Tennessee.

The plane left Great Britain at 7:38 p.m., EDT, yesterday  
and arrived at the Memphis Naval Air Station at 4:37 a.m., EDT,  
today.

Upon arrival he was turned over by the FBI to the Shelby  
County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office and was lodged in the Shelby  
County jail.

The transportation of Ray to the United States was  
accomplished without incident.

44-38861-4910

ENCLOSURE



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20535

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

James Earl Ray, wanted in connection with the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was returned to the United States today according to an announcement by Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said that British authorities released Ray at today to the custody of FBI Agents. Ray was immediately placed aboard a U. S. Air Force plane which proceeded nonstop to the Memphis Naval Air Station, Memphis, Tennessee. Upon arrival in Memphis, FBI Agents released Ray to the custody of the Shelby County Sheriff's Office.

Mr. Hoover explained that Ray, due to his failure to appeal a British court ruling that he be extradited to the U. S., had, in effect, waived further judicial proceedings in Great Britain. Mr. Hoover said that the extradition proceedings in Great Britain had been based on a first degree murder indictment which was returned by the Shelby County Grand Jury in Memphis on May 7, 1968, and on his escape from the Missouri State Penitentiary at Jefferson City, Missouri, in April, 1967.

44-38861-4910  
ENCLOSURE

Mr. Hoover further advised that Ray will be held  
in custody in Memphis pending prosecutive action by local authorities.