

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief the signature of Frank Milton on the annexed document is the signature of Frank Milton Esquire, the Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate.

H. B. Wilson
Assistant Under-Secretary of State
for the Home Department.

Whitehall.
10th July, 1968.

Metropolitan
Police District,
to wit.

The Examination of
Philip Birch
Thomas Butler
Arthur Brinc
George Jacob Bonebrake

taken on oath this 27th day of June, One Thousand Nine Hundred and sixty-eight, at the BOW STREET MAGISTRATES' COURT, in the Inner London Area, and within the Metropolitan Police District, before me the undersigned Chief Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate sitting at the Magistrates' Court aforesaid, in the presence and hearing of

Ramon George Sneyd

who is brought this day before me, pursuant to the Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873, accused as set out in the list of charges within the jurisdiction of the Government of the United States of America.

This deponent on oath saith as follows: Philip Birch
Detective Sergeant of the Special Branch, New Scotland Yard,
temporarily attached to Heathron Airport, London.
P. Y. Birch, D/C

LIST OF CHARGES

1. Being accused of the commission of the crime of murder, to wit on 4th April 1968 in Shelby County, State of Tennessee did unlawfully, feloniously, wilfully, deliberately, premeditatedly and of his malice aforethought kill and murder Martin Luther King Junior.
2. Being convicted of the commission of the crime of robbery with violence, to wit on February 19th 1960 was sentenced for the crime of Robbery First Degree by means of a dangerous and deadly weapon.

I was on duty there at 11:30 AM on 8th June, 1968.

I was engaged on passport control on the outward section No. 2 building when defendant presented two Canadian Passports to the Immigration officer by whom I was sitting. I now produced those two passports....both Bow Street Exhibit 1.

As a result of what I had previously learned I asked defendant to accompany me to the Special Branch office at the airport in order that he might later be questioned by senior police officers.

After arriving at the office, I made certain telephone enquiries and as a result I decided to search the defendant.

In his right hand back trouser pocket I found this .38 Liberty Chief Special revolver. (Bow Street Exhibit 2).

It was loaded with five rounds of ammunition -- these Bow Street Exhibit 3.

He was detained until Det. Chief Supt. Butler and other officers arrived.

I now identify the defendant.

F. G. Gurch.

No cross examination.

And this witness, Thomas Butler, Detective Chief Supt., New Scotland Yard, on oath says:

On June 8th, 1968, I saw the defendant in company with Chief Inspector Thompson of New Scotland Yard at about 1:05 PM in a police office at London airport.

I said "We are police officers. I understand you have in your possession two passports in names of SNEYD and SNEYA. What is your name?" He replied, "I can't understand why I am here. My name is Sneyd". I said, "Both passports show that you are a Canadian citizen born in Toronto on 8 October 1932. Are those details correct?" He replied, "Yes, of course they are."

After further conversation he was cautioned and told he would be taken to Cannon Bow Police Station and detained.

At 4:45 PM again with Chief Inspector Thompson I saw accused in a cell at that Station. I said, "As a result of enquiries made since you were detained we have very good reason to believe that you are not a Canadian citizen but an American." He replied, "Oh well, yes I am" and he nodded.

I said, "I now believe that your name is not Sneyd but James Earl Ray, also known as Eric Starvo Galt and other names, and that you are wanted at present in the United States for serious criminal offences including murder in which a firearm was used." He had been standing up but at this he suddenly slumped down on the seat behind him, put his head in his hands, and said, "Oh God." After a moment or so he added, "I feel so trapped." I cautioned him again and he replied: "Well, yes, I shouldn't say anything more now. I can't think right."

At 5:20 PM he was charged with an offence against the Alien Order and one offence against the Firearms Act. Cautioned, he made no reply.

I spoke to him on June 18th, at the rear of this court at about 10:15 AM in presence of Mr. Eugene, his legal adviser. I read out these two extradition warrants -- Bow Street Exhibit 4. He was asked if he understood them and I then cautioned him.

In reply to the caution he said, "No Sir."

I identify the accused.

T. Butler, Supt.

Cross Examined

I agree he made no admissions of any kind in relation to any offence to me. Whilst he was in my presence he was very quiet.

I read to him the very words of the two warrants.

AND this witness, Arthur Brine, Detective Chief Supt., New Scotland Yard, of the Fingerprint Department, on oath says.

My duties are confined solely to ~~finger print work~~ and I have been so confined for 25 years or more with that Department. I therefore am not brought into contact with any political aspects of the Department's work except as may be through fingerprints.

I do, however, take a personal interest in the politics of my own country -- that of an intelligent man interested in the politics that affect his country..

Dr. Martin Luther King was a nationally known figure. He inspired great affection with some but dislike in others, though I would say rather the former than the latter. I have no doubt that there were in the United States people with a hearty dislike of what Dr. King stood for.

For something like 13 or 14 years before his death Dr. King had been active in promoting the causes he believed in. Some of those activities had led to opposition by other people. And in connection with some of them I agree there was strong feeling in some of the community/

I recall reading in 1955 of a negro boycott of buses in Montgomery, Alabama. Dr. King was, as far as I recall, presiding over the committee organizing that. The protest was, I believe, raised over segregation on the buses. I cannot remember whether Dr. King was arrested on that occasion or whether bombs were thrown at his house. I agree that off and on since then Dr. King was in the public eye.

I have read about the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. I know that Dr. King was one of the leaders of that. It was a body taking part in non-violent demonstrations. Some were students "sitting in" in various places. Arising out of such demonstrations there were acts of violence because of opposition. I agree that at various times there were arrests and I would agree there was pretty strong feelings on both sides.

In the beginning, to the best of my knowledge and belief, this body associated with Dr. King was uncommitted politically in the sense of party politics.

I would agree Dr. King was active most of the time from the time of the Montgomery bus boycott. There were demonstrations and sit-ins.

I recall reading of the Freedom Ride in possibly 1961. I think it was in connection with de-segregation of Inter-State transport. There were demonstrations against Dr. King during that ride. There was violence involved in several of those demonstrations. I do not recall the number of arrests made.

I agree that a more militant movement, Black Power, has grown up but I cannot speak of the timing. I believe that there was some disagreement between the two groups, i.e., Dr. King appeared to be opposed from two sides, id., from those who opposed his ideas and from those who thought he was not going far enough.

I recall slightly the March on Washington -- maybe it was in 1963. It was a very large gathering. I know there were mixed races in the March but could not give percentages.

I know of the Civil Rights Act passed in 1964 I believe. I am sure that the pattern of events must have had some influence

On 8 June, 1968, at 1:10 PM at London Airport I took the fingerprints of the accused know before the court. I produce those fingerprints -- Bow Street Exhibit 5.

No Cross examination.

AND this witness, George Jacob Bonebrake, on 12314 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland, on oath says:

~~I have already sworn on affidavit in these proceedings.~~
I am a fingerprint examiner in the Federal Department, Washington, D.C., having held that position since February, 1941.

During that time I have made millions of fingerprint comparisons for identification purposes.

On April 5, 1968, I received a Remington rifle, number 461476, a Red field telescopic sight, A 17350 and a pair of Bushnell binoculars, BQ 408664.

I examined each of those for latent fingerprints. I found one on the rifle, one on the telescopic sight and one on the binoculars.

On April 19th, 1968, I compared those three latent fingerprints with the known fingerprints of James Earl Ray from the officials of the Los Angeles Police Department. I found that the print on each of these items had been made by the same individual as had made the prints listed as those of James Earl Ray.

I have prepared comparison photographs. I now produce photographic enlargements, one portion being labeled "latent fingerprint 1" as an enlargement of the latent finger print on the rifle....another being labeled ink fingerprint 1 is an enlargement of the left thumb print appearing on the fingerprint card from the officials of the Los Angeles Police Department -- this Bow Street Exhibit 6.

I found 14 characteristic points of identity between these two.

I also produce on a similar card a comparison of the finger print found on the telescopic sight. I found in respect of that eleven points of identity -- Bow Street Exhibit 7.

I did the same in respect of the print found on the binoculars. I found eleven points here. I produce that card -- Bow Street Exhibit 8.

I also examined the finger print files in Washington containing the fingerprints of James Earl Ray taken in connection with his imprisonment in Missouri Penitentiary in 1960.

I compared the Los Angeles prints with the Missouri prints. They were the prints of one and the same man.

I now identify in the authenticated documents before the Court the Los Angeles prints which are Exhibit 1 to my affidavit. Exhibit 2 to that is the Missouri prints.

I look now at Bow Street Exhibit 5. I have compared those with the Los Angeles prints, with the Missouri prints, with the latent print on the rifle, with the print on the telescopic sight, and with the print on the binoculars -- each of those last 3,4,5 to my affidavit.

In my opinion these were all of one and the same man.

Cross examined:

on Congress but I cannot say to what extent.

I recall the Voting Rights Act being passed -- maybe in 1965. Between these two Acts I recall a March led by Dr. King from Selma to Montgomery. A large number took part I believe. I do recall two ministers being killed and a lady. I believe the Voting Rights Act was passed after that March.

I would think that Dr. King was the most well known name in this Movement. I believe he was one of the organizers of the Poor Peoples Crusade.

At the time of his death Dr. King was in Memphis at the time that Sanitary Workers were on strike.

Re-examination:

I have expressed purely my personal views and I must not be taken to represent officially any government view.

I have no knowledge of Dr. King ever being at odds with the Federal Government.

I have never heard of him as a man seeking political office for himself, nor have I heard his name referred to as advocating any violence. In my mind Dr. King is associated with the peaceful bringing about of integration and equal rights for negroes.

George Jacob Bonebrake.

I hereby certify that the above depositions of

Philip Birhh
Thomas Butler
Arthur Brine
and George Jacob Bonebrake

were taken and sworn before me in the presence of the said accused,

Ramon George Sneyd

and that the said accused or his counsel had full opportunity of cross-examining each of the witnesses called for the prosecution.

Dated the 27th day of June, 1968.

The aforesaid Magistrate

STATEMENT OF THE ACCUSED.

Ramon George Sneyd
(hereinafter called the Accused) stands charged before the undersigned, Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate sitting at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, in the Metropolitan Police District, this 27th day of June, 1968, as hereinbefore set forth:

And the witnesses for the prosecution, whose evidence has been taken at this Court having been severally examined in the Accused:

and the accused having had an opportunity of perusing the evidence taken elsewhere:

And the said charges being read and its nature explained in ordinary language to the Accused;

And the Accused being informed of his right to call witnesses and, if he desires, to give evidence on his own behalf;

The Accused is now addressed by me, the undersigned, as follows:

Do you wish to say anything in answer to the charge?"

You are not obliged to say anything unless you desire to do so, but whatever you say will be taken down in writing, and may be given in evidence upon your trial.

Whereupon the said Accused saith as follows:

by his counsel: I disagree with a large part of the evidence given by Chief Supt. Tutler. In particular I wish to state emphatically that I did not make the observation, "I feel so trapped" nor did I say "Oh, God", nor did I collapse on to a seat in the manner the Chief Superintendent has described. I made no statement to that or any other police officer and I refused to sign my fingerprint form.

R. G. Sneyd

And the Accused having made the statement above set out in answer to the charges.

And the Accused being asked by me, the undersigned, whether he desires to give evidence on his own behalf and whether he desires to call witnesses?"

The Accused saith as follows: YES

Taken and done before me at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on the 27th day of June, 1968.

Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate.

The Examination of Peter Hopkink (for the defence) taken on oath this 27th day of June, One Thousand Nine Hundred and sixty-eight at the Bow Street Magistrates' Court, in the Inner London Area, and within the Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate, sitting at the Magistrates' Court aforesaid, in the presence and hearing of Ramon George Sneyd, who is brought this day before me, pursuant to the Extradition Acts, 1870 and 1873, accused as hereinbefore set forth within the jurisdiction of the Government of the United States of America. This deponent Peter Hopkink on oath saith as follows: Of the Times, printing House Square ECY, where I'm employed as a correspondent for the last two years.

I appear here having been sub-poenaed. Any evidence I give is my own personal evidence and has nothing to do with the Times newspaper. I am most anxious to make that clear.

I have been a journalist in Fleet Street for fifteen years. In that time I have covered many fields of journalism.

There were two periods when I was in America as a journalist. When with the Daily Express, I was there for two years, 1959-1961. In that time, I acquired a certain amount of experience of the American scene, political and otherwise. On April 2nd, 1968, I was again sent to the U.S.A. to cover the primary presidential elections. As result of a cable from my office I went to Memphis arriving there in the morning of April 5th. I was in Memphis in all for 5 or 6 days being there on 3 occasions. Whilst there I was making enquiries into the death of Dr. King. I spoke to local police officers and a member of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. On the basis of all my experience, I would say that it was no secret that Dr. King was disliked by many white people living in the South -- on a variety of grounds depending on the individual. But I would say the grounds were those arising from what he stood for. I doubt whether many white people knew him personally. And so, there would be no room for any personal animosity that I know of.

It is also common knowledge that there are movements in America that disliked what he stood for, e.g., the Klu Klux Klan.

I am not competent to say whether there was any opposition to Dr. King from amongst his own people. From hearsay and from my reading I would say that for example in Memphis when the negroes were boycotting certain white stores and consumer goods in Memphis profits fell by reported, I think, 40% and this over Easter Week rose to a reported 80%.

For a man who was trying to change the existing social order I would say that he was important, though I am not competent to judge whether he was effective.

Cross examination:

I now listen to an extract from the Times obituary of Dr. King (garbled word) "as regards the ultimate success of the Civil Rights Movement King's discipline proved that unlike white extremists negroes could fight for their rights in a civilized way."

Broadly speaking, I agree with that statement, but I do not speak as an expert on the Civil Rights Movement. I listen to another quotation from the Times of April 6th, namely: "He was also an orator who could not only take his audience with him to a peak but also and more remarkably let down the temperature before he allowed the audience to disperse back into the streets." I cannot comment as I have never heard him speak except on television, but the quotation does accord with what information I was able to gain when I reached Memphis and subsequently. I knew he was a Nobel Prize winner for Peace in 1964.

I have read that a few hours before his death Dr. King had made a broadcast speech emphasizing his principles of non violence.

(s) Peter Hopkink