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Ray Bjt NL, 410 3 takes total 1,250

By MICHAEL R. CODEL

Associated Press Writer

LONDON AP - The U.S. government obtained Monday night a provisional British warrant charging James Earl Ray with the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., clearing ground for a formal application in the next day or two for Ray's return to the United States.

The move followed a calm and impassive appearance by Ray at a perfunctory, two-minute British court session during which he was assigned a British lawyer in what legal experts said could be his first move to fight extradition for trial.

It was the first bit of legal sparring in a case capable of spiralling into months of argument if the suspect contests the U.S. Justice Department request to extradite him "very soon." Legal sources said the earliest possible date for Ray's return would be June 28, but arguments could run into August if there is a battle.

Quick movement was already delayed Monday when Ray, 40, was ordered held without bail by Chief Magistrate Frank Milton, for a hearing June 18. The issuance of the warrant followed.

Asst. U.S. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr., is expected to make formal application to Britain's home secretary for extradition as soon as he receives the necessary documentation from the United States.

The home secretary, James Callaghan, will forward the application to the chief magistrate at Bow Street Court who will consider whether the documentary evidence submitted by Vinson would be substantial for extradition. The application is expected to reach the court on Tuesday.

Ray will then have 15 days to apply for a writ of habeas corpus.

Under British law and the 1935 treaty of extradition between Britain and the United States, the home secretary cannot surrender Ray to U.S. authorities before 15 days have passed.

Security measures so tight that even lawyers submitted to frisking, were in effect when Ray, husky and straight shouldered, was brought into court Monday. No one except the police and legal officers had seen Ray since his arrest Saturday when he tried to board a plane for Brussels.

Under the name Sneyd, Ray was charged with using a false passport with that name and carrying an unlicensed, loaded gun. There was no mention in court of the name Ray or of the American charges against him.

Sitting a few feet from the suspect was Vinson, who went directly from the court to a second day of consultations with British officials in his effort to speed up Ray's extradition.

U.S. legal officials in London had said earlier "the process toward extradition is already in motion and we hope to get him back to the United States very soon."

Ray is sought on an American federal warrant charging that he took part in a conspiracy to deprive King of his civil rights. He is also charged by a Tennessee court with first-degree murder in the slaying of King in Memphis April 4.

The suspect was flanked by two policemen as he faced the bench. For security reasons, Ray did not mount the raised witness stand. A cordon of police stood between him and the gallery in back of the room, providing a human shield against any possible attempt on Ray's life.

A score of policemen stood against the walls, eyeing the spectators, who included a few Negroes and four women.

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Ray looked the picture of holiday health-well tanned, his straight black hair combed back and tinged with gray at the temples. He wore a dark blue suit with brown checks and a blue shirt. He stood quietly with his hands folded behind his back. He didn't turn his head, and seemed to ignore the 100 or so newsmen, police and spectators crammed into the back of the court.

Detective Superintendent Thomas Butler, in a low voice, named Ray as Sneyd and listed the charges. He then asked for a "remand"—that Ray be held in custody until June 18.

This is a normal procedure used while the British prosecution prepares its case.

The judge accepted Ray's written application for a lawyer, who was later named as Michael Dresden. His office refused to comment on the case.

Before Ray left the court, Milton asked in a barely audible voice if he wanted legal restrictions on press coverage lifted.

Ray replied firmly: "No, sir."

Milton then asked Ray: "Do you have anything to say?"

Again, the firm answer: "No, sir."

Milton ordered Ray held fo

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a further hearing next Tuesday and the prisoner was swiftly escorted out of the courtroom and into a van believed headed to the top security Brixton Prison.

About 300 spectators and newsmen had lined up for more than two hours in the warm sunshine before the great oak doors to Bow Street Court swung open just after 10 a.m. The crowd surged forward but was blocked by a dozen plain-clothesmen.

The onlookers and newsmen were admitted one by one and searched from head to toe for concealed weapons. Only the first 100 were admitted. The rest, including flower sellers from neighboring Covent Gardens and a few pin-striped businessmen, had to wait outside.

The warrant granted by the Bow Street Court will be served on Ray, arrested here under the name Ramon George Sneyd, by British police in his prison cell.

It is expected that Ray will be moved from Brixton Prison where he is now held to Wandsworth Prison later this week. This move is being made so that two police officers may be stationed in Ray's cell to keep a 24-hour watch on him.

Under the regime at Wandsworth Prison, Ray will be permitted to wear his own clothes and buy his own food. He will not be required to work and limited visiting privileges will be granted, principally to permit him to see his attorneys.

It is expected that the application for an extradition order will be made both on the charge of murder and that of robbery for which he was serving a sentence in Missouri State penitentiary when he escaped.

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Vinson is expected to produce a certificate from the warden of the Missouri penitentiary that Ray is an escaped prisoner, and additional documentation from Tennessee on the murder charge.

The extradition proceedings will be held in open court. Normally, the documentation submitted would be read in court.

Legal sources expect Ray to ask for a new team of attorneys to defend him on the extradition request. The attorneys then would be likely to ask for time to study the case.

If convicted on a charge of entering Britain illegally, Ray could simply be deported. However, legal experts here say there is a strong tradition against using this measure as a substitute for extradition.

The 15-day period following the extradition hearing is designed to permit an appeal to the High Court. This presumably could be dealt with quickly by the High Court, but if Ray's attorneys raised a point of law a further appeal could be made to the House of Lords.

The extradition treaty provides that a person shall not be surrendered for a "political offense." This might form a possible basis for appeal on Ray's behalf.

As Ray appeared in court, bits and pieces emerged of the life he led while on the run. Ray entered Canada April 8, spent until May 6 in Toronto, then left aboard a BOAC plane for London. He went from there to Lisbon May 8, and stayed in the Portuguese capital until May 17.

It is believed he then returned to London, traveling on the Canadian passport he obtained in Lisbon. He had received one earlier in Toronto by applying through the mails, using the name of Sneyd, a Toronto constable. But Ray did not resurface until May 28 in London.

He apparently had an idea of going on to Brussels, where he thought he might join a mercenary army and ship out to Africa. This supposition grew out of the report of a British journalist, Ian Colvan, who said a man identifying himself as Ramon Sneyd questioned him by telephone last week about joining a mercenary group.

Police in Toronto, London and Lisbon were directing their investigations toward determining if Ray had assistance—people who might have known him or helped him.

In Toronto, a spokesman for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said there was no definite indication that Ray had any contacts during the month he spent in the city.

This followed a report that Mrs. Sun Loo, the owner of a rooming house in which he stayed, said that she saw a "fat man" pass a small envelope to Ray about four days before he flew to London. Ray got the envelope on the day his rent was due and the day he paid \$345 for an excursion flight ticket to London.

The RCMP spokesman said preliminary investigation showed that the man who delivered the package did not know Ray and was simply making a delivery. "Every effort is being made to trace this man, but so far there is no indication as to who he is," the spokesman said.

Toronto Metropolitan police dismissed another report that a blonde woman, calling herself "Sneyd's aunt," picked up a birth certificate for him at a provincial registrar's office.

Waiters at a bar in Toronto's West End said they remember seeing Ray drinking beer and watching go-go girls on at least three occasions. He is also remembered at two pool halls where customers say he asked to shoot a game.

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