

Hearing

Set for

June 18

Extradition Being Readied

By United Press International and
The Associated Press

LONDON — Still refusing to talk, James Earl Ray, accused as the assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King, was half-dragged into a magistrate's court today and ordered held without bail on gun and passport violations in Britain.

The United States also obtained a provisional British warrant charging him with the assassination of Dr. King.

The formal application for extradition will be made in the next day or two. Legal experts said this meant the earliest Ray could be returned to face trial in the United States is June 28.

But they added if he decides to fight extradition the case could drag on here to July or August.

U.S. Assistant Attorney General Fred M. Vinson Jr. saw Ray in his cell yesterday. In Washington, Attorney General Ramsel Clark said Ray made no statement to him.

London's chief magistrate

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OAKLAND TRIBUNE

Ray May Fight Extradition

LONDON (AP) — James Earl Ray made a two-minute appearance in Bow Street Court today and indicated he would fight the U.S. government's attempt to seek his extradition in connection with the charge that he killed Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

London's chief magistrate ordered Ray held without bail for another court appearance on June 18.

There was no mention during the brief preliminary hearing of extradition. But Ray asked the court to appoint an attorney for him, and this was taken as an indication that he would fight being returned to America.

American legal officials said they were going ahead with the extradition process and hoped to return Ray to the United States "very soon."

The 40-year-old escaped convict, who had been on the run since King was killed April 4 in Memphis, Tenn., was arraigned under the alias of Ramon George Sneyd and was charged with carrying a false passport and a loaded revolver without a license.

A heavy police escort brought Ray secretly to the court three hours before the preliminary hearing was to begin. A crowd of about 300 laid siege to the courtroom later, and everyone entering it was searched for weapons.

Ray had been under heavy guard since his arrest Saturday.

Wearing a dark blue suit with dark brown checks and a blue shirt, Ray stood quietly with his hands clasped behind him as Chief Magistrate Frank Milton told him that under British criminal procedure press coverage of the details of the hearing would be limited unless he asked that the restriction be lifted.

Asked if he wanted the restriction lifted, he replied: "No sir."

Ray's dark hair was flecked with gray at the temples, and his face was tanned.

A government prosecutor asked that Ray be held in custody, and the judge granted Ray's application request that the court appoint a lawyer for him. Then he was taken away by a large force of plainclothesmen and uniformed police.

It was believed that he was taken to Brixton Prison, considered one of London's most secure jails.

Ray came into the court through a side door, flanked by two policemen. He looked calm and spoke in a firm voice.

The atmosphere in the courtroom was tense.

Two benches were occupied by about 35 reporters. Another 20 were outside the courtroom, and about 50 persons jammed the enclosure set aside for the public.

Plainclothesmen and uniformed police lined the courtroom, and five of them stood at the back of the dock, facing the press and public.

Ray had been in Canada, Portugal and Britain before the two-month hunt ended with his arrest at London airport. Informed sources gave credence to reports that he had been hiding out in London since mid-May.

"He's been like a caged man sensing the trap was closing in on him and looking desperately for an escape," one informant said.

Ray is wanted on a Tennessee charge of murder, a federal charge of conspiring to deny King his civil rights, and a Missouri charge that he escaped from prison there on April 23, 1967.

U.S. Asst. Atty. Gen. Fred M. Vinson Jr. flew to London and spoke with Ray in his cell yesterday but in Washington Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark said Ray had made no statement.

OVER

Quick Session

Ray Is Held Without Bail

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ordered Ray held without bail for another court appearance June 18.

Ray, a 40 year old escaped convict, then was taken under heavy guard to Brixton Prison to await the second hearing. His appearance in court lasted only 82 seconds, during which he either scowled or screwed his face into a half grin as he answered "no" to two questions.

U.S. extradition efforts will not have to wait until the second hearing. Embassy officials said both Missouri and Tennessee are preparing extradition papers — one for his jail break in Missouri and

another for the murder of Dr. King in Memphis.

American sources indicated the decision had not yet been made as to which, if either, of these states' possible extradition claims would be used.

They said Ray could simplify things by waiving extradition — though he has not spoken on this matter — or Britain could simply deport him as an undesirable.

American sources said Vinson did not ask Ray whether he would waive extradition and the embassy said it still does not know Ray's attitude.

COURT SEARCH

Vinson refused to see newsmen today and the embassy refused to disclose any information on Ray's activities, or even his whereabouts before his arrest at 11:15 a.m. Saturday.

Ray was brought into court by 12 police guards, almost shuffling as they propelled him along into a court room — where for the first time in memory every person entering was searched by detectives. The detectives themselves were armed, which is unusual in Britain.

Magistrate Frank Milton asked Ray if he objected to limiting press coverage of his hearing and if he had a lawyer. He answered "no" to both questions.

SOLICITOR

He then named Michael Dresden as Ray's solicitor. Dresden will prepare the defense on the British gun and passport charges, and choose a lawyer to argue this case in court.

Dresden's office would not answer questions about the case, including what stand it might take on an extradition request.

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Secrecy Due In Extradition Of James Ray

Chicago Daily News

WASHINGTON — James Earl Ray, accused slayer of Dr. Martin Luther King, may be flown secretly to the U.S. from London once details of his extradition are arranged.

Attorney General Ramsey Clark has placed top priority on the safe return of Ray to stand trial on a murder charge placed by Memphis authorities.

A secret flight, possibly in a military plane, would enhance the prospects of bringing him back unharmed, officials believe. Extreme security precautions will be taken.

The Justice Department may seek to return Ray under a federal fugitive warrant issued after his escape from the Jefferson City, Mo., prison early in 1967.

This might speed the extradition process, it is believed since there is no question about the conviction for armed robbery that landed him in jail.

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'A CAGED MAN'

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One report was that when picked up he was bound for Brussels, hoping to contact recruiters for mercenary troops in Africa.

He was held in an 8-by-10-foot cell under constant watch by two Scotland Yard men at Cannon Row police station, 200 yards from the Houses of Parliament.