

SFChronicle ** 10 Jun 68

How London Will Deal With Ray

New York Times

London

Assistant Attorney General Fred M. Vinson yesterday saw James Earl Ray, chief suspect in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, in Canon Row police station.

Vinson, who arrived yesterday to "expedite" Ray's extradition to the United States declined to give any details of the meeting.

British police officials understood, however, that Vinson had assisted in the identification of Ray, who was carrying a passport in the name of Ramon George Sneyd of

Toronto when he was arrested in London Saturday.

Scotland Yard detectives picked him up as he waited

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for a flight to Brussels following his arrival from Lisbon. He had been a fugitive

since the day of Dr. King's murder in Memphis, Tenn., on April 4, flying first from Toronto to London on May 6, then to Lisbon, and Saturday back to London.

Royal Canadian mounted Police got on Ray's trail by checking thousands of passports and discovering that one issued in the name of Sneyd bore a picture of Ray.

Ray will appear this morning at Bow street magistrates court on charges of traveling with a forged passport and carrying a weapon without a certificate.

Asked whether he would seek a "voluntary" or a "compulsory" extradition order, Vinson replied that "the easiest way is always the best one."

HOPED

This would suggest that he hoped that Ray would not demand an extradition hearing, this making "voluntary" extradition possible. Extradition would become "compulsory" if ordered by a British magistrate after a court hearing.

Vinson observed that "people in the United States are delighted he has been apprehended. We have been looking for him for two months."

Later in the day, on the steps of the American embassy, Vinson added that it was "very doubtful" that he would be able to take Ray back to the U.S. with him. He paid tribute to "splendid" cooperation of Scotland Yard and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in apprehending Ray.

AUTHORITY

An authority on British law explained tonight that charges would be brought against Ray in Bow street magistrate's court today mainly to give U.S. authorities time to begin the procedure of extradition.

They said the magistrate would most likely "remand him in custody," that is order his held in prison, for a period up to eight days. This is to provide time for further investigation.

Under the extradition act of 1870 a person must be held for 15 days after an extradition order has been made in order to safeguard his rights. This means that instead of rushing him out of the country he is given 15 days during which he could apply for a writ of habeas corpus in order to dispute his extradition.