

Tight Security

Ray Extradition Steps Started

Times-Post Service

London

A provisional warrant was issued yesterday for the extradition of suspect James Earl Ray from Britain to the United States to face trial in Memphis, Tenn., for the killing of Dr. Martin Luther King on April 4.

This first step in the complex extradition procedure was taken after Ray was whisked through a magistrate's court in Bow street under tight security and remanded to Brixton prison, where two officers will be permanently stationed in his cell.

The next step will be the formal application for extradition, which will be submitted with supporting evidence to the Chief Magistrate, who will then decide whether the evidence submitted by officials in the U.S. is sufficient to justify Ray's trial.

TIMING

It is possible that this application will be made Thursday, and if the Chief magistrate rules that the evidence is sufficient, Ray will have up to 15 days to decide whether to appeal for a writ of habeas corpus.

This means that June 28 is the earliest possible date on which Ray can be returned to the U.S. under the 1935 extradition treaty signed by the two countries. If, as is likely, he should appeal, the process could last upward of two months.

Ray was arrested Saturday

See Back Page

From Page 1

morning at London's Heathrow airport as he was about to depart for Brussels, Belgium. He was charged with possessing a forged Canadian passport and with carrying a loaded pistol without a permit.

SECURITY

In the calendar of Bow Street Magistrate's court, he was listed as Case 24 under his Canadian alias of Ramon George Sneyd, 35. Unusual maximum security precautions were enforced to prevent a recurrence of a Jack Ruby-style assault on the prisoner.

Reporters who mobbed the entrance of the court were admitted one by one, and each was given a thorough frisking by detectives before being allowed to enter the courtroom.

About 30 members of the public, many of them colored, were allowed to stand in the back of the small and starkly austere courtroom. They also were searched.

DETECTIVES

Watching the proceedings was Fred M. Vinson, the U.S. Assistant Attorney General, who arrived here Sunday to oversee the extradition of Ray. At all times detectives warily studied the press benches and public enclosure.

Chief Magistrate Frank Milton briskly asked Ray if he had anything to say and the prisoner said "no" in a low, almost inaudible voice. He was then remanded in custody until June 18, when he will face trial for the two alleged offenses against British law.

The whole proceeding was over in less than two minutes.

Crowds outside waited for the black police van to carry Ray from the court, which is in the heart of the Covent Garden market district, to Brixton prison, which is in one of London's biggest colored neighborhoods.