

Law Firm Named for Ray Defense

LONDON (UPI) — A British law firm today started preparing a rebuttal to an American demand for extradition of James Earl Ray, accused of killing the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Diplomatic sources said the London law firm of Dresden and Co. had been given American documents supporting the request that Ray be turned over to U.S. authorities for extradition to the United States. The firm was named by the British court to defend Ray.

The American extradition demand is expected to be presented in court for the first time at a hearing tomorrow at the Bow Street magistrate's court. A formal extradition hearing probably will be held a week to 10 days after tomorrow's hearing.

Yesterday Chief Magistrate Frank Milton ordered Ray held for eight days on charges of carrying a false Canadian passport and possession of a loaded pistol. He was arrested at London's Heathrow Airport June 8 while traveling under the name Ramon George Sneyd.

Legal sources said Milton probably will order Ray's conditional imprisonment extended tomorrow.