

NO REQUEST**Home Office
Denies Ray
Counsel Bar**

LONDON (UPI) — The Home Office denied today it has refused Alabama lawyer Arthur J. Hanes permission to visit the man the United States claims is the accused assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

A Home Office spokesman said Hanes, former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., has made no application to visit Raymond G. Sneyd, who the United States contends is James Earl Ray, King's accused assassin.

Hanes, a former FBI agent, arrived June 20, saying he had been asked by Sneyd to defend him against attempts by the U.S. Government to extradite him to the United States for trial on a murder charge in the April 4 killing of King in Memphis, Tenn. Sneyd, arrested in London June 1, is being held in a London prison and has been given until June 27 to prepare his defense against the U.S. extradition request.

Hanes was unavailable for comment. London's Royal Lancaster Hotel, where he has been staying, said he checked out several days ago, leaving no forwarding address.