

RAY EXTRADITION IS SPED BY BRITISH

Provisional Order Is Based on Murder of Dr. King

11 JUN 68

By DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, June 10 — Bow Street Magistrate's Court issued today a provisional extradition warrant on the ground of murder, the first step toward bringing James Earl Ray to trial in Memphis, Tenn., for the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The court issued the warrant at the request of the American Embassy, relayed through the British Foreign Office and Home Office. It acted a few hours after Ray had been arraigned, under the name of Ramon George Sneyd, on charges of using a fraudulent passport and carrying a revolver without a permit.

[Police investigators in Canada are considering the possibility that Ray had accomplices, perhaps in the underworld, helping him make his escape to Europe.]

When arrested at London Airport on Saturday, the 40-year-old Ray was traveling on a Canadian passport under the Sneyd name and was carrying, according to Scotland Yard officials, a fully loaded pistol. The authorities said he had flown in from Lisbon.

Ray has been indicted for

Continued on Page 36, Column 2
murder in Tennessee in the rifle slaying of Dr. King last April 4.

The American Embassy told the British authorities it hoped to submit to the magistrate's court the case against Ray—identifying him and presenting supporting evidence on the murder charge—by Thursday.

To Brixton Prison

If the American authorities meet this deadline and all proceedings move along without snags or appeals to higher courts, the British Home Secretary, James Callaghan, might issue a final extradition order by June 28. Ray could then be flown to the United States.

But British officials doubted whether such rapid action would be possible. If Ray appeals, they said, it might take several months.

After today's arraignment Ray was taken in a police patrol wagon to Brixton Prison in southwest London. British officials said that before the end of the week he would be taken to Wandsworth Prison, near Wimbledon, eight miles southwest of London.



Associated Press

A police van leaving court in Bow Street, London, after a hearing for James Earl Ray. For security, this and another van were used, and it was not disclosed which held Ray.

They said Ray was being guarded 24 hours a day by two men at a time, with instructions never to let him out of their sight.

The officials could not remember security precautions of this kind having been employed in Britain since the abolition of capital punishment in 1965. Before that, comparable measures had been taken to safeguard men sentenced to death.

Spectators admitted to the arraignment in Bow Street Court today were carefully searched for weapons, a precaution that British police reporters could not recall ever having observed in this courthouse.

From a crowd of several hundred in the narrow street between the courthouse and the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, about 100 managed to push their way into the brown paneled courtroom.

One who entered by a private doorway was Fred M. Vinson Jr., United States Assistant Attorney General, who arrived in London yesterday to help expedite the case.

There were about 50 newsmen in the room.

The tall, white-haired chief metropolitan magistrate, Frank Milton, entered from a door behind his chair, and a moment later the defendant was escorted from a side door to a dock in the center of the room. He wore a slate-blue shirt buttoned to the neck, no tie and a blue-green suit with a faint check. Five constables stood between him and the spectators.

Detective Chief Superintendent Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard stated the charges and asked that Ray be held in cus-

tody pending further inquiries. Ray be remanded in custody for a hearing June 18 on the pistol and passport charges. He asked Ray whether he had anything to say about the order.

Ray answered, "No." It was the only word he uttered in the court.

The magistrate then ordered that Ray be provided with legal counsel, and Ray was led out of the court the way he had come in.

He was not handcuffed. He walked with a long, loping stride, swallowing hard as he went.

The courtroom proceeding had taken only two minutes.

Ray's passport offense was described in the charges as a violation of the Aliens Order of 1953. The charge of illegal possession of a gun, a .38 Liberty Chief revolver with five rounds of ammunition, was termed a violation of the firearms Act of 1937.

When Ray is brought back to court June 18, the magistrate may deal with the passport case but will probably refer the gun charge to a higher court.

Under the provisional extradition warrant issued today, Ray, if released on the two lesser charges, could immediately be taken back into custody. This point is theoretical, however, since the British courts are most unlikely to set him free.

The American authorities must now within two months come forward with "reasonable evidence," in the words of a British lawyer, to support the charges on which they seek a final extradition order.

The evidence, amounting to a prima facie case on the murder charge, must be submitted to the Bow Street Magistrate's Court. The Home Secretary would issue the extradition order.

The Home Secretary would then allow Ray 15 days to appeal. If he appealed, the case would go to a Divisional Court.

If the Divisional Court rejected the appeal the case would go back to the Home Secretary, who would then wait 14 days more to see whether Ray would appeal to the House of Lords.

If the Lords rejected an appeal, Ray would be extradited. If the Lords decided in Ray's

favor, he would be set free, unless the American authorities brought another charge against him.

Scotland Yard officials continued today to maintain that Ray was arrested here on Saturday morning following his arrival from Portugal, when he attempted to pass through immigration while in transit to Brussels. However, there was evidence that Ray may have been in London for some time up to his arrest on Saturday.

Mrs. Anna Thomas, the proprietor of the Pax Hotel in Warwick Way, in a part of London known as Pimlico, said Ray stayed at her hotel from last Thursday until Saturday morning. She gave this information to Ian Colvin, a reporter of The Daily Telegraph, on Saturday after Ray's arrest had been announced. Later Scotland Yard detectives asked her to keep silent.

She told Mr. Colvin that Ray attempted on Thursday and Friday to obtain a booking with

British European Airways to Germany but found its flights booked up.

On Saturday morning, he took his small flight bag crammed with newspapers, paid his bill and departed, she told Mr. Colvin.

When informed of Mrs. Thomas's statements, a high British official with access to confidential information said that he personally would "go along with" what she had said. He observed that "even Scotland Yard officials can make mistakes."

The Pax Hotel does not display its name, but merely the word "Hotel," and does not list its number in the telephone book.

The narrow, four-story hotel building stands out because it is painted white in contrast to the yellow buildings on both sides. It has a window box of geraniums and other flowers. Nearby are many small hotels and rooming houses advertising "bed and breakfast," some of which are popular among American travelers on a tight budget.

Both The Telegraph and The Daily Express reported yesterday that Ray had been in London for three weeks before his arrest.

Ray was said to be staying at another hotel last Tuesday when he called Mr. Colvin of The Telegraph for information about how to become a mercenary soldier in Africa. The

hotel was reported as the New Earl's Court Hotel in Penywern Road, in the Earl's Court area, favored by students from abroad.

The receptionist at the hotel today referred inquiries to Scotland Yard.

Mr. Colvin recalled that the first time Ray, who gave the name of Raymond Sneyd, called him, the reporter undertook to put him in touch with a British mercenary officer. But nothing came of this, he said, because the officer was not interested.

"When he called me the second time, on June 6," Mr. Colvin recalled, "he said he wanted to try to join his brother, who was a mercenary in Angola."

Mr. Colvin said he told the man that this was no time to become a mercenary in Africa.

"I said that from the point of view of finding his brother, I would give him an address, but did not have it with me," Mr. Colvin said. "I said I would send it to him on a postcard when I got home, and he gave me his Pax Hotel address."

"After thinking it over, I decided it was better not to give him the address but advised him in the postcard to get in touch with the consular section of the Foreign Office. But even this did not reach him. The post office, apparently unacquainted with the name 'Pax Hotel' without a street number, returned the card to me."

Mr. Colvin thought Ray might have wanted to fly to Brussels because Brussels is known as a center where mercenaries have in the past been recruited for Africa.

No Data on Belgian Contacts

Special to The New York Times

BRUSSELS, June 10—The Belgian authorities have no

knowledge of contacts that James Earl Ray may have had among agents recruiting mercenaries in Brussels.

This was asserted tonight by both the security police and the Department of Justice. A spokesman for the department noted that under Belgian law "signing up for military service abroad is not an offense but recruiting agents can be prosecuted."

Check by Lisbon Banks

Special to The New York Times

LISBON, June 10—The United States Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Portuguese political police are cooperating closely to trace every move and possible contacts of James Earl Ray while he was in Lisbon.

Lisbon banks and money exchange houses are being asked to check all newly opened accounts and the transfer of large sums from Lisbon to Brussels, where Ray was said to be heading when he was arrested in London.

The Portuguese police closely control all persons entering or leaving the neat Hotel Portugal in downtown Lisbon, where Ray stayed. He was registered there between May 8 and 17.

Police sources believe, however, that Ray stayed in Portugal for a longer period under a different name.

The Canadian Embassy, which issued Ray a passport on May 16 in the name of Ramon George Sneyd, has made no public declaration on the affair. Ray was believed to have flown from Toronto to London on May 6 and to Lisbon on May 7.