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LONDON AP - James Earl Ray returns to court Tuesday for his first public response on a U.S. demand for his return to stand trial in the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The 40-year-old escaped convict has been under round-the-clock guard in Wandsworth Prison since his appearance in Bow Street Magistrates Court last Monday on charges of entering Britain on a forged Canadian passport and carrying an unlicensed loaded pistol.

He made a brief appearance in court a week ago under the name of Ramon George Sneyd—the name on his Canadian passport. In the interim, the U.S. Embassy requested his extradition to face charges of murdering King in Memphis, Tenn., April 4. He is also sought by Missouri State Prison officials to finish a term for armed robbery.

When Ray appears in court, Frank Milton, chief metropolitan magistrate, is expected to refer to the extradition request.

Ray could waive extradition then and there, but this is considered highly unlikely by officials in London. He is more likely to ask for time to consult with his lawyers. The magistrate would then set a tentative date for a full extradition hearing, probably later this week.

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