

'THEY MIGHT HEAR OUR CRY...'

Mrs. Sirhan Hopes to Talk at U.N. 'in Search for Peace'

BY DAVE SMITH
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The mother of the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy said Wednesday she is going to New York to try to talk to the United Nations "in search for peace."

"I will take only a few minutes," she promised.

In New York, however, a U.N. spokesman said that under the rules of the world organization "no individual can address the General Assembly."

Mrs. Mary Sirhan, in a front porch news conference at her modest white frame house in Pasadena, admitted:

—She has not been in contact with U.N. officials.

—She has nowhere to stay in New York and knows no one.

—Her attorneys are opposed to the trip and have told her she is too weak to make the trip.

—Her son, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, now in San Quentin's Death Row, does not yet know of her plan.

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Mrs. Mary Sirhan
Times photo

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—And she is not quite sure what she wants to talk about when she gets there.

But, she said, "sometimes we simple people... They might hear our cry to them."

Mrs. Sirhan, 57, said she planned to leave immediately after the Wednesday morning news conference with her son, Munir, 21, doing the driving. She said a woman friend — "And she is Jewish, too!" — would go with them. The Sirhans did not name the woman.

Mrs. Sirhan, wearing her light blue, polka-dotted traveling dress, greeted reporters with a broad smile and handshake, then led them into her tiny, spotless living room for coffee and baklava she made herself.

She said that visits to

be in New York Monday, Oct. 13. I will phone you then. Thank you very much."

Mrs. Sirhan said she is "not accusing anyone" because of her son's fate. "I know America is full of justice," she said, but she said her plan might influence America to be more merciful.

Asked what she would do if she cannot speak, Mrs. Sirhan said, "I would even stand outside the door and say what I think, what is in my heart."

Mrs. Sirhan said she has had financial hard times in the six months since Sirhan was convicted.

But she said she has rejected several large offers from magazines—one of \$15,000 and another of \$22,000—for stories about her family.

"I cannot take money for this thing," she said. "I don't sell my son. I don't accept any money for innocent blood."

She said one son, Adel, 30, is working somewhere in the state of Washington and sends money when he can.

Munir, 21, has been unable to find work since the highly publicized trial—he has badly impaired eyesight—and she has not felt emotionally able to return to her old job at a church nursery school, she said. "When you care for children, you must be able to concentrate on them," she said.

Mrs. Sirhan said she had no qualms about the trip. "God will be with us," she said. "God is every place."

her imprisoned son have made her determined to try to speak at the United Nations for the last six months. "I can't sleep, I can't eat, I can't rest," she said, adding that she believed her plea, if she may be heard, might in some way help her son.

She said she would immediately send a telegram U.N. Secretary-General U Thant "to tell him I'm on my way."

The telegram, read by Munir, said: "I wish to talk before the General Assembly next week in search for peace in the Middle East. I will take only a few minutes. If all goes well with the automobile, I will