

Sirhan's Mother Talks to Thant Aide on Mideast Peace

Exclusive to The Times from a Staff Writer

NEW YORK—The mother of the assassin of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy attained a partial victory Monday in her effort to appear before the United Nations on behalf of peace in the Middle East.

Mrs. Mary Sirhan did not get her wish to speak to the General Assembly, but was given a 15-minute interview with Undersecretary for General Assembly Affairs Constantin A. Stavropoulos.

Both Mrs. Sirhan and U.N. officials were reported satisfied with the compromise.

The diminutive, Jerusalem-born mother of Sirhan Bishara Sirhan told newsmen in Pasadena last Wednesday that she and her son, Munir, 21, were departing that afternoon by car for New York.

She admitted she had had no previous contact with U.N. officials, but expressed confidence that she would get to set forth her views. She said she would deliver it from the front steps, if necessary.

Telephone Thant's Office

The Sirhans arrived in New York early Monday and telephoned the office of Secretary-General U Thant. Unaware of her intentions—or her whereabouts at the time of the call—Thant's aides told her to call back at 3 p.m. to speak to Stavropoulos.

Instead, she simply appeared at his office at the appointed hour.

Munir told The Times that his mother and Stavropoulos discussed the tension in the Middle East, the plight of homeless Palestinian refugees, and her conviction that the Mideast's troubles were responsible for her son's assassination of Kennedy.

Stavropoulos later assigned plainclothes security guards to escort Mrs. Sirhan and her son on a private tour of the U.N. building. At 4 p.m., ringed by about 30 security guards, Mrs. Sirhan held a brief news conference for some 40 newsmen, criticizing Zionism.

Munir told The Times that his mother was "very satisfied" with the reception she received, although she would have preferred to fulfill her original aim.

He said they planned to leave New York immediately on the return trip to their home in Pasadena.

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MRS. MARY SIRHAN, mother of the convicted killer of Sen. Robert Kennedy, talks with newsmen yesterday outside the United Nations building in New York after she was turned down by U.N. officials in an attempt to address the General Assembly on Middle East peace. Mrs. Sirhan's 21-year-old son, **MOUNIR**, stands at her right. **DR. M. T. MEHDI**, head of the Action Committee on American-Arab relations, is at her left.