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# The Palestinian Question

President Nixon's triumphant tour of the Mideast has already produced a backlash, which could upset the peace Secretary of State Henry Kissinger has labored so hard to fashion.

Secret intelligence reports warn that the Palestinians are deeply disgruntled over the President's failure to come to grips with the Palestinian problem. This is almost certain to encourage the extremists to step up their terrorist activities.

Israel can be expected to respond by retaliating against guerrilla bases in Lebanon and Syria. Indeed, President Nixon had scarcely left Israel before Israeli warplanes hit back at Palestinian raiders by pounding the Lebanese border villages where they hole up.

Commando strikes against Israel and Israeli retaliation raids would only polarize Arab opinion and prevent a peaceful settlement. This plea was made to the President, according to diplomatic reports, by both Egypt's President Sadat and Saudi Arabia's King Faisal.

Emotionally, Sadat pleaded with the President to bring the Palestinians to the peace table in Geneva. The Egyptian leader promised to use his influence to persuade them to negotiate their future borders and relationships with Israel.

If the Palestine problem isn't settled by negotiation, he warned urgently, the extremists would seek their own solutions through violence and terrorism. The President received similar warnings at every stop in the Arab world.

Yet in Israel, he joined Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in a joint statement condemning "armed bands" and "mercenaries" who invade "the territory of another state." The emotional Palestinians took this to mean that President Nixon was siding with the Israelis against the Palestinians. Even moderate Palestinian leaders joined in the angry denunciation of the President.

The extremists are expected to express their displeasure more emphatically by launching new guerrilla attacks upon Israel. But Israel security is getting so tough to crack, intelligence analysts predict, that the terrorists will have to seek other targets.

High on their list, intelligence reports warn, will be U.S. targets, including airliners, embassies and consulates around the world. "It just doesn't look

good for the United States," one analyst told us bluntly.

Ominously, Palestinian extremists are armed with sophisticated, Soviet-made Katyusha and Strella rockets. These have been furnished to the terrorists, according to intelligence reports, by Libya's strongman, Col. Muammar Qaddafi.

At least one commercial plane already has been destroyed by Arab terrorists using Strella rockets. And Israeli police discovered three Katyusha rockets, one of them aimed at the sacred Wailing Wall in Jerusalem. The rockets were found moments before they were to be exploded by automatic timing devices.

Rep. John Murphy (D-N.Y.), during a trip to the Mideast, learned from intelligence sources that Arab terrorists have also adapted a new arsenal of makeshift, terrorist weapons from everyday American products. These weapons, Murphy told us, include the following:

• "Pig Bomb"—This is a cardboard tube, usually a toilet-paper tube or kitchen-towel tube, packed with black

powder and .22 caliber bullets. It contains a fuse which is actuated when the hand releases its grip on the tube. This nasty device can be gift-wrapped and delivered to an assassination victim. The time fuse gives the messenger time to get away before it explodes.

• Aerosol Flame Thrower—This is a simple, lacquer-base aerosol can with a Zippo or butane lighter taped to its side. The lighter is ignited, the spray button pushed and a spurt of flame shoots out 12 to 13 feet.

• Refrigerator Bomb—Narcotics or other valuables are stashed in a refrigerator, which is wired with a gigantic explosive charge. A detonator blasting cap is inserted in the refrigerator's light socket. The terrorists simply unplug the refrigerator when they want access to the stash. Police or soldiers, raiding their hideout would be blown to bits.

• Pen Gun—This is an Italian-made weapon, which looks exactly like a chrome ballpoint pen or pencil. But it fires a .22 caliber shell and is exceedingly difficult to detect at airports.

Murphy points out that these weap-

ons are already known to the terrorists, who are expected to use them for hijackings, assassinations and sabotage. A victim marked for assassination, for example, could have his refrigerator turned into a bomb, or the aerosol flame thrower could be used to set off a sabotage charge from a safe distance, suggests the congressman.

Intelligence reports warn that the terrorists might provoke incidents against Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, because of their pro-American policies.

The Egyptians stressed to President Nixon that a Palestinian solution would end most of the terrorism and put the Palestinians to work building their own nation. President Sadat, however, didn't define the borders of the proposed Palestine state. He preferred to leave the specifics to be negotiated at Geneva.

Our sources say that Kissinger, in his secret talks, promised U.S. support to the moderate Palestinians. Presumably, this would include CIA backing. But the moderates, angry over the President's statement in Israel, are now in no mood to deal with the U.S.

