

Panther Eldridge Cleaver

American Black Panther leader Eldridge Cleaver has been invited to be the guest of Al Fatah leader Yasser Arafat starting in two weeks, Fatah spokesmen said yesterday.

They stressed that the invitation was a personal one.

Various spokesmen for the main Palestine commando organization differed on the relationship the visit implied between Fatah and the Panthers.

Richard C. Hottelet of CBS noted Abu Bassem, a Fatah

spokesman in Algiers, as saying that Fatah was considering training Panthers in combat against Israel and in sabotage for a campaign of assassination and destruction in the United States.

But an unidentified Fatah spokesman in Amman, Jordan, the guerrilla group's headquarters denied this to CBS radio correspondent Michael O. Sullivan.

The Amman spokesman said that Fatah's only connection with the United States was a

propaganda campaign to explain "the true nature of Israel" to the American public.

Hottelet quoted Bassem as saying that he spent two months in Canada and the United States a year ago looking into the Panthers and that the Fatah high command was now acting on his favorable report.

Bassem said the next step was the Cleaver visit.

Cleaver is living in exile in Algiers. The black power author and Panther information

minister left the United States in late 1968 to escape a California warrant for parole violation.

Cleaver and Arafat appeared together at a Palestine solidarity rally in Algiers Dec. 27. Cleaver expressed his "heartly support" for the Palestinians and attacked "American Zionists," saying that jailed Panther leaders had been convicted by Zionist judges.

Hottelet quoted the Algiers spokesman as saying that

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Invited to Visit Fatah Guerrillas

after their training. "When the time comes, the Panthers will carry out quick and deep strikes in the United States, assassinations of men responsible for the policy of discrimination, from high levels to low, and sabotage to factories and capitalist installations."

But in a dispatch from Algiers, the Associated Press quoted the same spokesman Hottelet interviewed as saying, "I firmly deny that we are training Black Panthers in terrorism or sabotage. We are for

the people's war against imperialism, but disapprove of terror methods."

Bassem told AP that Panthers were receiving combat training in Palestine, but did

not say what its purpose was. He said Fatah did not refuse foreign volunteers, but considered that its battle could only be fought by Palestinians.

The Fatah spokesman in

Amman said Cleaver was welcome to stay as long as he likes. The man Hottelet interviewed said Cleaver would spend two or three weeks touring Fatah positions there.

Stewardess Finds Hand Grenade on Viet Airliner

Reuters
SAIGON, Jan. 31—Fire trucks and ambulances raced to Saigon airport today to meet an Air Vietnam passenger plane after reports that a

hand grenade was found in its lavatory.

The grenade was found wrapped in toilet paper on the floor by an air stewardess just before it landed. It was not

known if the grenade was wired to explode.

The plane was on an international flight from Danang, about 380 miles northeast of Saigon.