

Hijacks Prompt Security Measures

From News Dispatches

New security clamps were ordered at major European airports yesterday in an effort to block loopholes that allowed Palestinian guerrillas to intitate four plane hijacking plots Sunday.

Immigration and airline officials were using electronic detection aids and making laborious checks on baggage and passengers to try to prevent weapons or explosives from being smuggled aboard planes.

At some airports, armed police roamed the aprons to screen grounded airliners, and plainclothes detectives mingled with throngs in departure lounges.

Baggage searches were causing delays of up to several hours at international airports handling thousands of passengers an hour.

World Developments

Measures included:

• Britain — London Airport closed its roof gardens; throughout the world, the British Overseas Airways Corp. (BOAC) was searching all passengers before allowing them to board overseas flights. Items confiscated included a toy pistol, several knives and a large can of cooking oil that officials said could conceivably be used in a hijack attempt.

• Sweden—Tighter security was in order for British planes in particular since Britain, holding a woman guerrilla in one of Sunday's hijack plots, was regarded as a target for the Palestinians. Despite more watchful measures, a security man admitted: "There is no really effective way to stop hijackers."

• Denmark—Armed police have guarded the weekly El Al flight to Tel Aviv since 1969, but airport officials said a check on all Israel-bound flights was impossible. Danish pilots are not prepared to act alone to force action against hijackers.

• Holland—Since Sunday, when two flights from Amsterdam, were hijacked, all passengers and luggage on inter-

continental flights have been searched. Delays of an hour and a half were reported yesterday.

• Switzyerland—A Middle East Airlines Coronado with 61 passengers was evacuated and searched during a stop-over in Geneva following an anonymous telephone warning of a bomb on board. No bomb was found in a search of hand baggage, and police moved the plane to a deserted part of the airfield for a later search of baggage still aboard.

• Belgium—Airport officials were making special checks and searches of passengers for the Pan American Airways jumbo jet service between Brussels, Amsterdam and New York, since a plane on that flight was hijacked Sunday and blown up.

• Greece—Two young men believed to be Arabs were being questioned by security police in Athens yesterday after explosives were found in their hotel room Monday night, according to usually reliable sources.

Thant Urges Action

Meanwhile, in New York, U.N. Secretary General Thant said the international community should take firm measures to deal with the hijack problem. He told newsmen he had discussed the problem with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the International Pilots Association, but did not disclose any recommendations.

The ICAO later sent a "strong request" to Egypt to take legal action against the Arab guerrillas who blew up a jetliner Monday and "urgently" reminded five nations involved in Sunday's quadruple hijackings of their obligations under a June agreement to guard against hijackings and to take strong action against hijackers.

ICAO, the United Nations agency charged with insuring safe international air travel, is powerless to force nations to comply with the "Montreal resolution."