

U.S. and 4 Nations Seek Joint Stand on Detention

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 7 — Secretary of State William P. Rogers met urgently here today with diplomats from four other governments whose aircraft and citizens were involved in the Arab commando hijackings yesterday.

The session was aimed at a joint policy toward the Palestinian guerrillas' demand for the release of imprisoned commandos in return at least 150 passengers on two seized airliners.

Later in the day, Mr. Rogers discussed the hijackings with President Nixon at the White House.

As the Middle East drama interrupted the Labor Day holiday in Washington and turned the State Department into a center of activity, the Administration saw the hijackings and their possible consequences as affecting the entire Middle East situation.

Coinciding with Israel's withdrawal from the peace talks in protest against reported violations of the month-old truce by

the United Arab Republic, the hijackings raised basic questions of the ability of the Arab governments to participate effectively in the peace efforts.

American officials, who believe that the aim of the commandos is to hamper the peace negotiations, noted the inability of the Egyptian Government to prevent the guerrillas from blowing up a jet of Pan American World Airways at the Cairo Airport and the helplessness of the Jordanian army to protect two other airliners in the desert.

Among the demands reportedly made by the commandos was the freeing of Palestinian commandos now in Israeli prisons. Israel's insistence that governments must not "submit to blackmail" left the prospects for a prompt liberation of the passengers highly uncertain.

Other demands by the commandos included the freeing of their companions in Switzerland, West Germany and Brit-

Continued on Page 17, Column 2

ain. While Switzerland agreed earlier today to let go the three Palestinian guerrillas held since 1969, Bonn was withholding its decision pending consultations in Washington, and Britain turned down the demand.

Reporting on Mr. Rogers' conference with diplomats from Israel, Britain, West Germany and Switzerland, State Department officials said no decisions have been reached.

They said the International Committee of the Red Cross, a past intermediary with the Palestinian guerrillas over foreign hostages, has not thus far been asked to enter the situation.

The problem facing the United States was to evolve a common approach to the guerrillas' demands, but after the day's conferences the State Department said the United States had not yet formulated its own position.

Officials said matters might have been better coordinated if Switzerland had not acted alone, but they recognized her right of sovereign decision-making in a situation in which her citizens and aircraft were involved.

Israeli sources said Israeli traditional policy was to oppose "horse-trading" practices with the Arabs. They indicated that unless the Israeli Cabinet decided to reverse this policy for humanitarian reasons, the Government was unlikely to release any of the 3,000 guerrillas and other prisoners in its hands.

Mr. Nixon and Mr. Rogers returned to Washington late last night from the Western White House at San Clemente, Calif.

The White House press secretary, Ronald L. Ziegler, said, "We are doing all in our power to bring about the release of the passengers and the aircraft."

No Plans for Intervention

Although the Administration offered no details about its efforts to free the two jetliners—the Boeing 707 of Trans World Airlines and the DC-8 of Swissair—and their passengers and crews, State Department officials said there were no contingency plans for action by United States armed forces to move to their rescue.

State Department officials said contacts with the Jordanian Government at this stage covered only the case of an unidentified United States Army

sergeant who was reportedly kidnapped by the guerrillas in Amman on Saturday.

There were no known meetings today with Jordanian Embassy officials, and the State Department said the dealings with Jordan were being handled by the United States chargé d'affaires in Amman, Harry Odell.

The impression given here was that Mr. Odell was not trying to discuss the hijacking situation with Jordanian authorities on the ground that the Amman Government seemed to have little control over the situation.

Mental Health Care Lags

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI)—A shortage of trained health experts is hindering effective care in mental disease according to a panel of psychiatrists. About 1.4 million children need psychiatric care but fewer than 50,000 are getting it.

Dummy Officer on Patrol

KYOTO, Japan (UPI) The police erected a life-sized model of a traffic policeman near a bridge on a major highway in an attempt to frighten speeders into slowing their vehicles.