

# Airports Tighten Security, Intensify Luggage Search

By ROBERT LINDSEY

Travelers boarding jetliners at airports around the world were met yesterday by security agents who searched carry-on bags, poked through women's purses and, in a few cases, searched the passengers.

The tightened security precautions were imposed as the airlines and Government officials sought ways to stop hijacking in the face of Arab guerrillas' seizures.

Airline officials and security officers of the Federal Aviation Administration will meet today to discuss, among other aspects of the problem, one tactic that has been considered and rejected several times in the past: placing armed agents to "ride shotgun" on all or some flights of United States airliners.

An official of Pan American World Airways said the possibility of using guards was under discussion and a decision might be made some time today.

President Nixon, during a meeting on the Mideast hijackings with top advisers yesterday, discussed the possibility of assigning armed United States marshals to the flights of United States airlines.

In the past, United States Government and airline security experts have rejected suggestions of posting armed guards because they feared a midair shoot-out between a security agent and a hijacker might end in a plane crash.

El Al, the Israeli national

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airline, has carried armed security agents on flights. Although the Israeli Government has not admitted it publicly, the man who killed a hijacker on the El Al flight to New York Sunday is believed to have been a security agent. This was the only one of the four hijackings Sunday to be thwarted.

Airline officials were generally noncommittal yesterday in discussing their tightened security programs.

However, Pan American, Trans World, and British Overseas Airways Corporation said that they were inspecting the hand baggage of virtually all passengers boarding flights at Kennedy International Airport and at several other unspecified airports around the world.

## Longer Waits Involved

The inspections have caused delays during the boarding process for many travelers at one of the airlines' busiest periods of the year. Because of the inspections, B.O.A.C. has advised passengers to arrive at airports 80 minutes rather than 60 before their scheduled departures. T.W.A. and Pan American said they were following a similar policy.

T.W.A., Pan Am, Eastern and Continental Airlines in some cases are using a two-part, F.A.A. - developed system to

detect hijackers. The first part is a screening in which departing passengers are scrutinized by airline agents to learn whether they show certain "behavioral traits" believed common to hijackers.

The second element of the system is a detection device known as a "magnetometer." It senses the presence of large amounts of iron-base metals. When airline agents spot who behaves in a suspicious manner and carries a large amount of metal, he is questioned. If he refuses to identify the item causing the magnetometer to flash, a United States marshal is summoned.

## A Typical Departure

The departure of T.W.A. Flight 9 from Kennedy Airport to Los Angeles—a Boeing 747 with 165 passengers — was typical of the scene at Kennedy yesterday.

The passengers walked single file toward their plane, guided by a hostess. As they entered a narrow corridor with a glass wall on one side, Joseph E. Flaherty, a security official for the line spoke to the first person in the line, a gray-haired woman.

"Pardon me, ma'am," he said, "may I inspect that?" Mr. Flaherty opened a parcel and found only a small doll.

"It's for one of my grandchildren," said the passenger, Mrs. E. G. Wiggins of Whittier,

Calif. "I don't mind your doing that," she said, "I'm just as much against hijacking as you are."

## Liquor Carton Opened

Meanwhile, two other security guards were interviewing other passengers and opening briefcases, cabin-bags, purses, and other belongings. One man carried a yellow and white box with the name of a liquor store in the Virgin Islands.

"It's only booze," the passenger said. But one of the agents opened up the box.

In the corridor, each passenger walked between two six-foot-high chromium poles about two inches thick. Beside the poles were two steel-cased boxes and a third box was on one of the poles.

That's the magnetometer," Mr. Flaherty said. "Watch."

The security agents took the hand baggage from passengers and carried it between the two poles. The passengers then walked past the poles.

Several times, a small needle on a gauge in the third metal box raced to either the right or left side of the gauge.

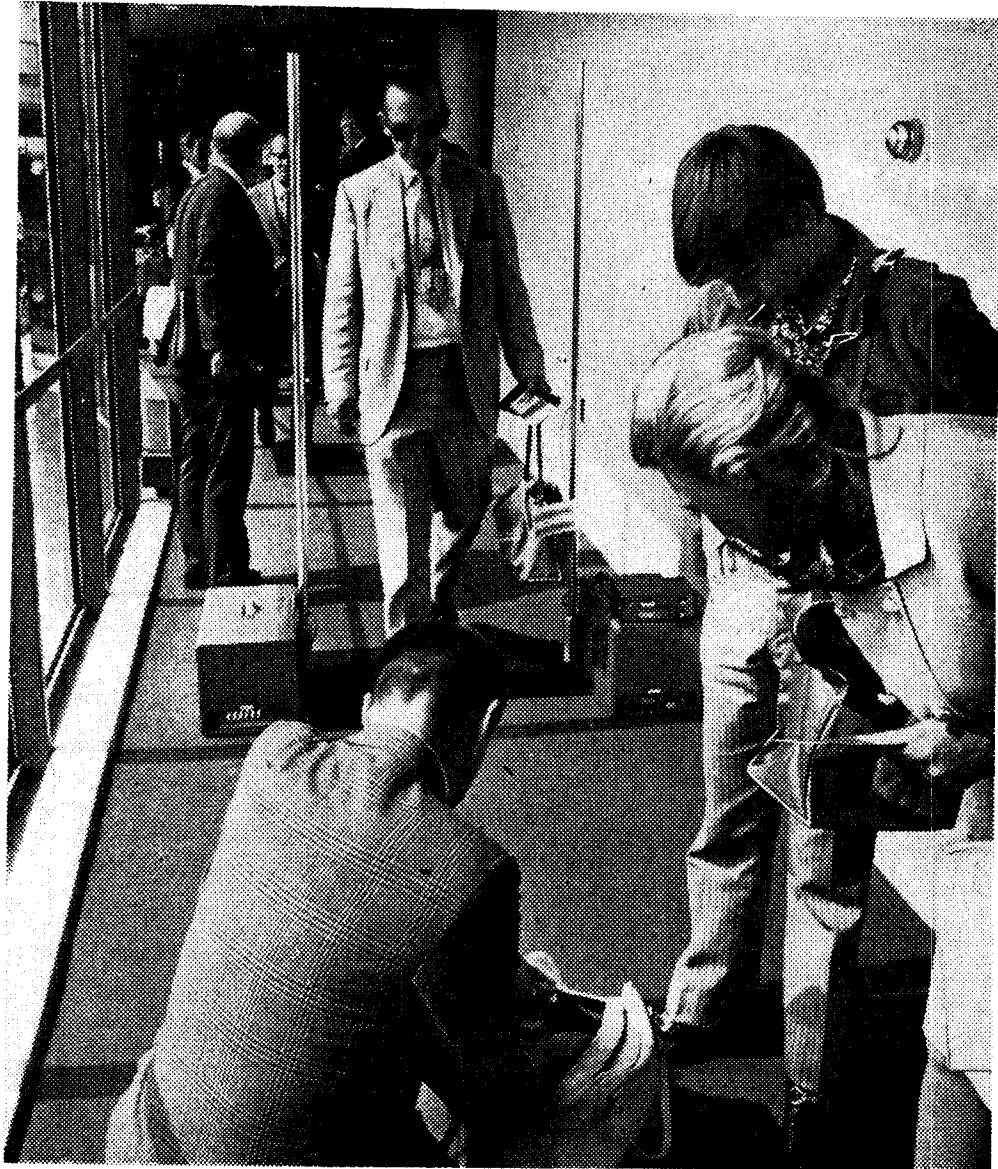
"They have metal on them," the T.W.A. official said, explaining that a small tape recorder or a portable radio can set the device off.

He said none of the passengers on the flight had fit the hijacker "profile," but all hand baggage was being checked nonetheless.



Associated Press

Policeman with submachine gun slung over shoulder patrols airliner in Stuttgart, West Germany. All planes there are now thoroughly searched before they fly.



The New York Times (by Neal Boenzi)

**INCREASED SECURITY AT KENNEDY: Security agent searching bag in T.W.A. terminal yesterday. Magnetometers, used to detect large amounts of ferrous metals, are at rear.**



Associated Press

**SEARCHED IN BRUSSELS: Passenger and baggage, left, bound for Tel Aviv on a Sabena airliner, being examined by Belgian policemen as part of strengthened security program.**