

Arabs Hold 200 Aboard 2 Jetliners

From News Dispatches

Switzerland announced yesterday that it would release three imprisoned Arab guerrillas in exchange for the release of Swiss passengers being held hostage aboard two explosive-laden hijacked airliners in Jordan.

West Germany indicated that it also would meet a demand by Palestinian guerrillas that it release three commandos being held in Germany in exchange for the Germans aboard the TWA and Swissair planes, which were hijacked Sunday.

The British embassy in Washington said that a decision would be made today on a guerrilla demand for the release of a woman guerrilla being held in England and the body of her accomplice, killed in the unsuccessful hijacking attempt aboard an El Al airliner Sunday. Sources in London said the woman would probably not be released.

A fourth plane hijacked during the coordinated action by Palestinian guerrillas was blown up early yesterday in Cairo only a few minutes after the 177 people aboard slid down emergency chutes to safety. Most of the passengers and crew who had been aboard the Pan American World Airways 747 flew to Rome later yesterday, en route to New York, their original destination.

About 200 passengers were aboard the two airliners parked nose-to-nose at a remote airstrip near the town of Zarqa, Jordan. The guerrillas allowed between 80 and 120 passengers—mostly women and children—to go to a hotel in Amman.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a Marxist commando group that engineered all the hijackings, set a 72-hour deadline expiring late Thursday for the release of Palestinian prisoners in West Germany, Switzerland and Britain. They threatened

to blow up the two planes if their demands were not met.

A report that the guerrillas also demanded the release Sirhan B. Sirhan, a Palestinian sentenced to death in California for the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, was denied by guerrilla headquarters in Amman.

The guerrillas also said that the approximately 50 Israelis and undetermined number of American-Israelis aboard the planes would be held until Palestinian commandos in Israeli prisons were freed.

See HIJACK, A14, Col. 3

SEPTEMBER 8, 1970

THE WASHINGTON POST

Swiss to Release Jailed Guerrillas For Passengers



United Press International

Leilah Khaled is the hijacker held in England. Guerrillas demand her release in return for 200 passengers.

Swiss to Free 3 Jailed Guerrillas

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HIJACK, From A1

They also demanded the release of two Algerian officials recently arrested during a stop-over at an Israeli airport. Israeli and Israeli-American women and children remained aboard the planes.

The Front warned that they would blow up the planes and passengers if any attempt were made to regain control of the aircraft.

Switzerland was the first to meet the guerrilla demand, announcing after two emergency meetings of the cabinet in Bern that three commandos serving prison terms for an attack on an Israeli jetliner at Zurich in February 1969 would be freed.

British Prime Minister Edward Heath convened a crisis meeting with top aides on the guerrilla demand for release of Leila Khaled, 23, the woman captured when security agents foiled the hijacking of the Israeli El Al jet Sunday. Miss Khaled's accomplice was killed.

Unnamed British officials said that, despite the guerrilla threats, Heath and his top ministers had decided to go ahead with the case of Miss Khaled.

Earlier Hijack

The woman, the Palestine liberation movement's best-known exponent of women's liberation, also helped hijack a Trans World Airlines jetliner from Rome to Damascus, Syria, last summer. "An Arab girl is just as capable of fighting for liberty as an Arab man," she said after the exploit.

British government sources said Britain has been in contact with the Soviet Union about the hijacking. They disclosed no details but said it was assumed Britain sought Russian diplomatic help to get the hostages released.

The British sources said the British consul at Amman tried to drive to the desert airstrip where the two hijacked planes were held but was turned back. They said he reported the airstrip was surrounded by Jordanian army units, Iraqi infantry and guerrillas.

A guerrilla spokesman in Amman said the jumbo jet in Cairo was destroyed because of Egypt's acceptance of U.S.

peace proposals for the Middle East.

The commando spokesman told a news conference in Amman that all Israeli, American, British and West German male passengers were being held by the guerrillas in the jetliners, which became sweatboxes as they stood parked on the tiny airstrip.

Cairo Action

The three guerrillas who took the Pan American plane from Beirut to Cairo were taken into custody by Egyptian authorities. The plane was originally hijacked by four men as it left Amsterdam, but one left the plane at Beirut. Passengers said two of the original hijackers appeared to be Negroes rather than Arabs.

Egypt cooperated with the airline in assisting the passengers of the hijacked plane to continue on their voyage to Rome and New York. Some diplomats in Cairo were of the opinion that the hijacking and destruction of the American plane would worsen relations between Egypt and the Palestinian guerrillas. The guerrillas oppose Egyptian President Nasser's acceptance of the U.S. peace proposals for the Middle East.

The West German government said it was taking measures to secure the release of the German passengers. Although the statement did not say outright that Bonn would comply with the demand for the release of three Palestinians held in Germany, officials of the Bavarian State Justice Ministry said they had been alerted to the likelihood that the prisoners might have to be set free.

The three have been in the custody of Bavarian authorities awaiting trial since they attacked Israeli passengers at the Munich airport in February, killing one person and injuring 11 others.

Both West Germany and Switzerland condemned the hijacking in strong terms.

Israeli Reaction

In Paris, Israel's Transport Minister, Shimon Peres, said Israel will never negotiate with any Palestinian guerrilla organization over hijacked Israeli or Jewish prisoners.

"If the PLFP has decided to declare war against the Jewish people this is not something new in the history of the Jewish people, and I am sure the

Jewish people will find the means to protect their own lives," Peres said at a news conference.

Despite their ordeal, the women and children released in Jordan were remarkably poised and cheerful.

Chris Meili of New York said she first noticed the hijackers as one put an arm around the neck of the steward.

Mrs. Meili, whose husband, Ernest, 68, was still aboard the plane, said, "They were all very nice. Nobody panicked. It was amazing how quiet everyone was."

Peggy Burt 17, of Columbus, Ohio, said there was no electricity in the planes, "so that means no lights at night or air conditioning.

"It's not very comfortable out there in the desert" she added.

Dan Kenny, 10, of Douglaston, N.Y., who was traveling alone was very cool about the hijacking.

"It was a very interesting experience" he said.

Denmark Refuses To Extradite Hijacker

Reuters

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 7 — Denmark will not meet a Polish extradition demand for a 28-year-old butcher's assistant who hijacked a Polish Airlines plane and forced the pilot to land in Copenhagen June 5, the Justice Ministry announced today.

The 28-year-old Pole, Zbigniew Iwanicki, threatened the pilot with a couple of hand grenades. When the plane landed at Copenhagen Kastrup International Airport he requested political asylum.

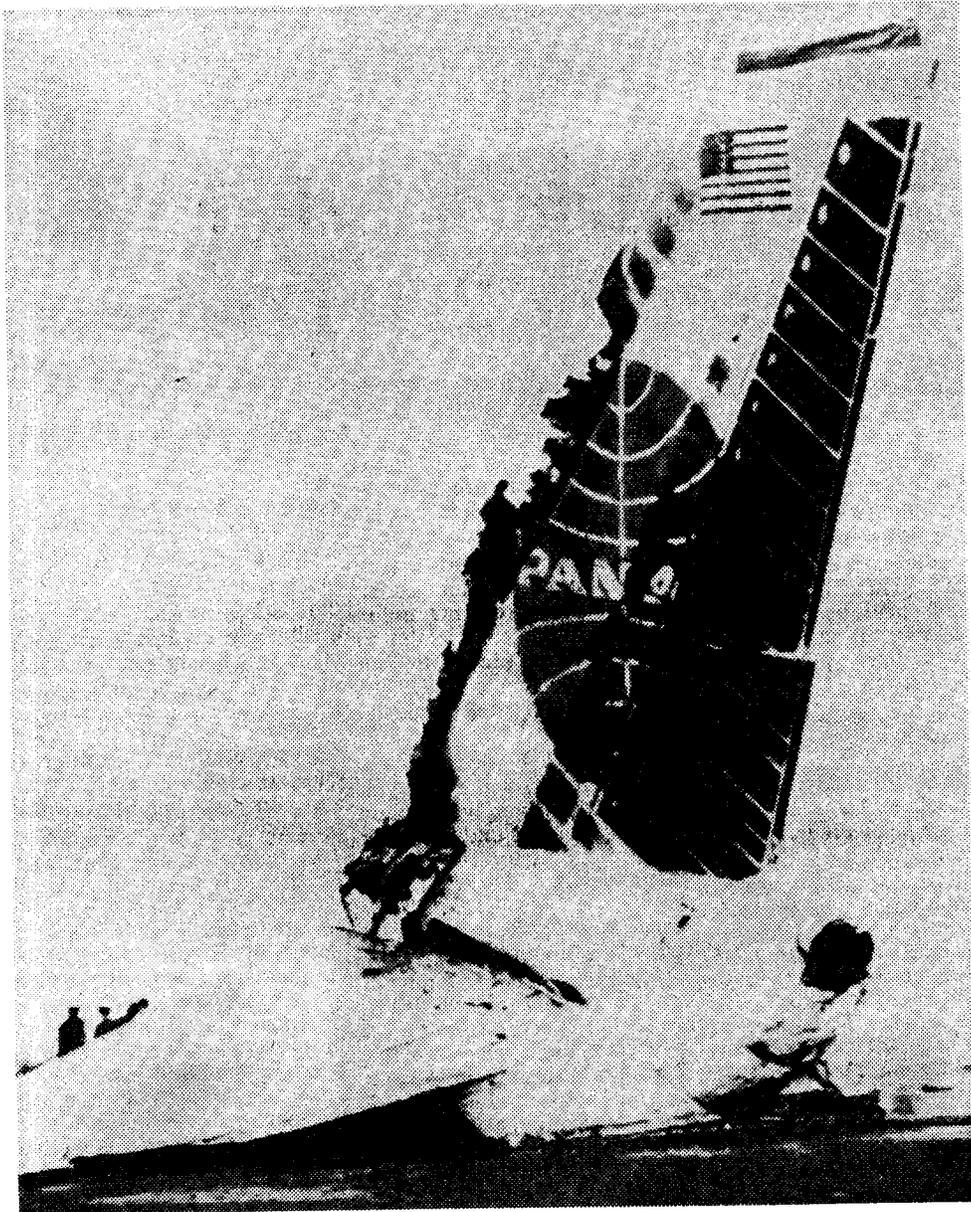
Since then Iwanicki has been remanded in custody on several charges that could bring him a total of six years imprisonment.

The decision in the Iwanicki case is likely to set a precedent in the case of a 19-year-old Pole who last month forced the pilot of another Polish domestic airlines flight to fly to the Danish Baltic island of Bornholm.



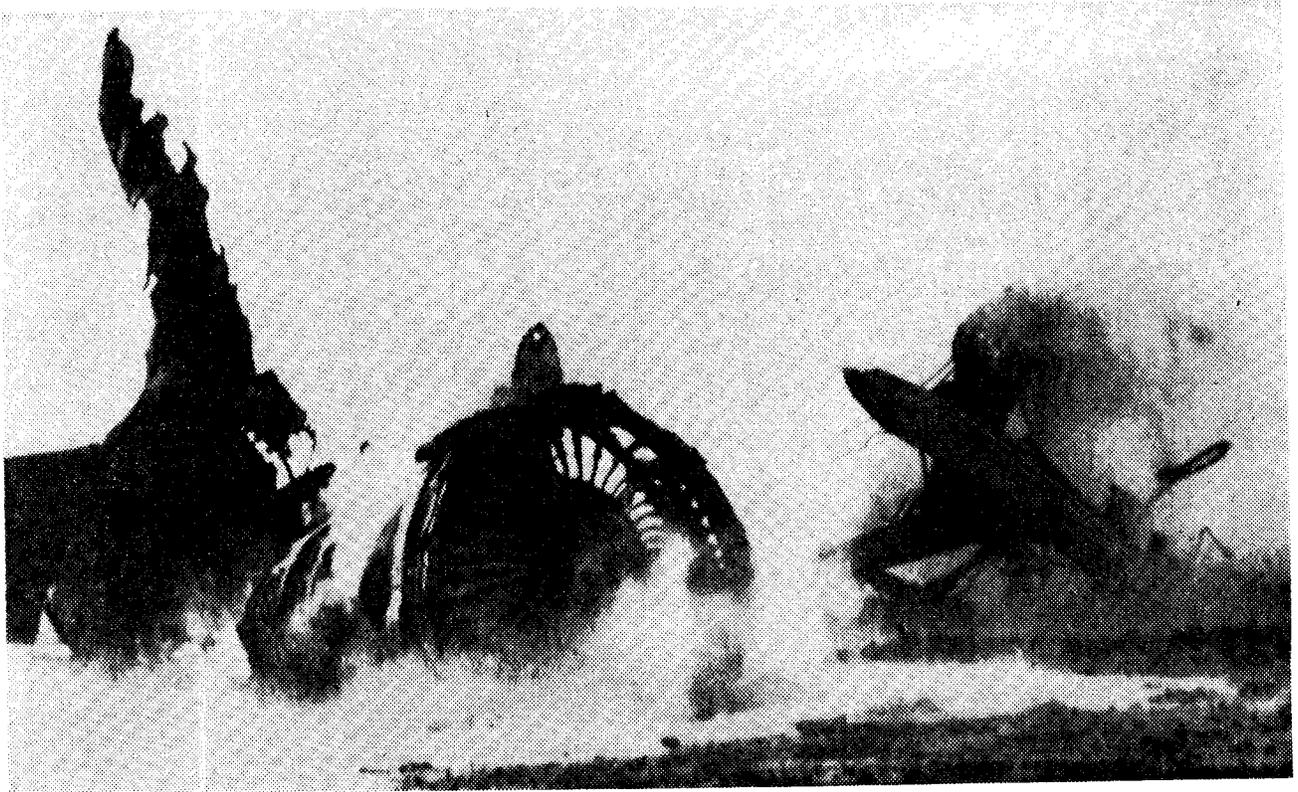
Associated Press

The Palestinian guerrillas who hijacked and blew up an airliner, wait to be questioned at Cairo's airport.



Associated Press

The tail is about all that's left of the 747 blown up by guerrillas at Cairo airport.



Associated Press

The wreckage of the hijacked Pan American jumbo jet after it was blown up by guerrillas in Cairo.

World Airlines Call for Tough Hijacking Laws

From News Dispatches

The International Air Transport Association (IATA), an organization of 104 of the world's airlines, yesterday renewed its call for tough legislation to deal with hijackers.

As the statement was released in Geneva, the director general of IATA, Knut Hamarskjold, cabled Egyptian and Jordanian leaders urging them to take action against the Palestinian guerrillas who hijacked three Western airliners to the Middle East Sunday.

He told a news conference in Hong Kong that Egypt and Jordan, together with other nations, said earlier this year they would act against hijackers.

"If those governments involved in this right now don't stick to their word, obviously there is going to be a credibility gap, he said.

Pilots Appeal

Hamarskjold said he sent another cable to Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, hosting the meetings on non-aligned nations in Lusaka, urging the meeting to take up the hijacking matter.

The International Feder-

ation of Airline Pilots Associations appealed in London yesterday for a boycott on airline service to countries harboring hijackers. The group called a meeting of its governing board for today to discuss proposals for a boycott and the introduction of armed guards on aircraft and possibly for arming pilots.

The federation's executive secretary, Charles Jackson, said that his group could put a boycott into effect in 12 hours and it would be absolute in 48 hours.

"If we judged that the Middle East is unsafe, it is our job not to fly there regardless of the circumstances, and I think our members would support this action," he said.

Jackson said Sunday's hijackings had brought about a "crisis as never before."

Dutch pilots at The Hague cabled the Dutch government to take "all measures adequate to safeguard air traffic against criminal attacks."

Airport Measures

Many European airports yesterday reinforced measures to prevent hijackers and explosive devices from getting aboard airlines. Many already have metal-detecting devices to screen passengers for weapons.

At Amsterdam's Schipol airport, all passengers on intercontinental flights were searched. Police armed with submachine guns ringed Frankfurt and Rome airports.

In London, 80 passengers and their baggage were taken off an Israeli airliner yesterday following an anonymous report that a bomb was on board.

Jumbo Insurance

Meanwhile, Lloyds of London said that the Pan American jumbo jet blown up in Cairo early yesterday was insured for \$24.5 million and

that the sum would be paid.

A spokesman for Lloyds said the Boeing 747 was insured under "all risk" and "war risk" policies and Pan Am was therefore assured of compensation.

The spokesman said that from an insurance point of view hijacking was a "gray area," but Lloyds introduced an insurance policy that specifically covered hijacking 12 months ago.

He added that premiums for this policy varied according to the airline's record and the routes flown.

Asked if Lloyds was demanding security provisions in airline insurance contracts, the spokesman said: "It's very difficult to insist on security precautions. Can you imagine how long it would take to frisk everybody on a jumbo—that's what it would amount to."

Guerrillas Protest Airline Self-Defense

BEIRUT, Lebanon, Sept. 7 (AP) — A Palestinian guerrilla spokesman protested today the presence of armed guards on Israel's El Al airline flights as "a gross violation of international law."

The spokesman, speaking over Damascus radio in Syria, said the failure of a guerrilla attempt to hijack an El Al airliner near London yesterday was a result of this "outrageous Israeli violation."