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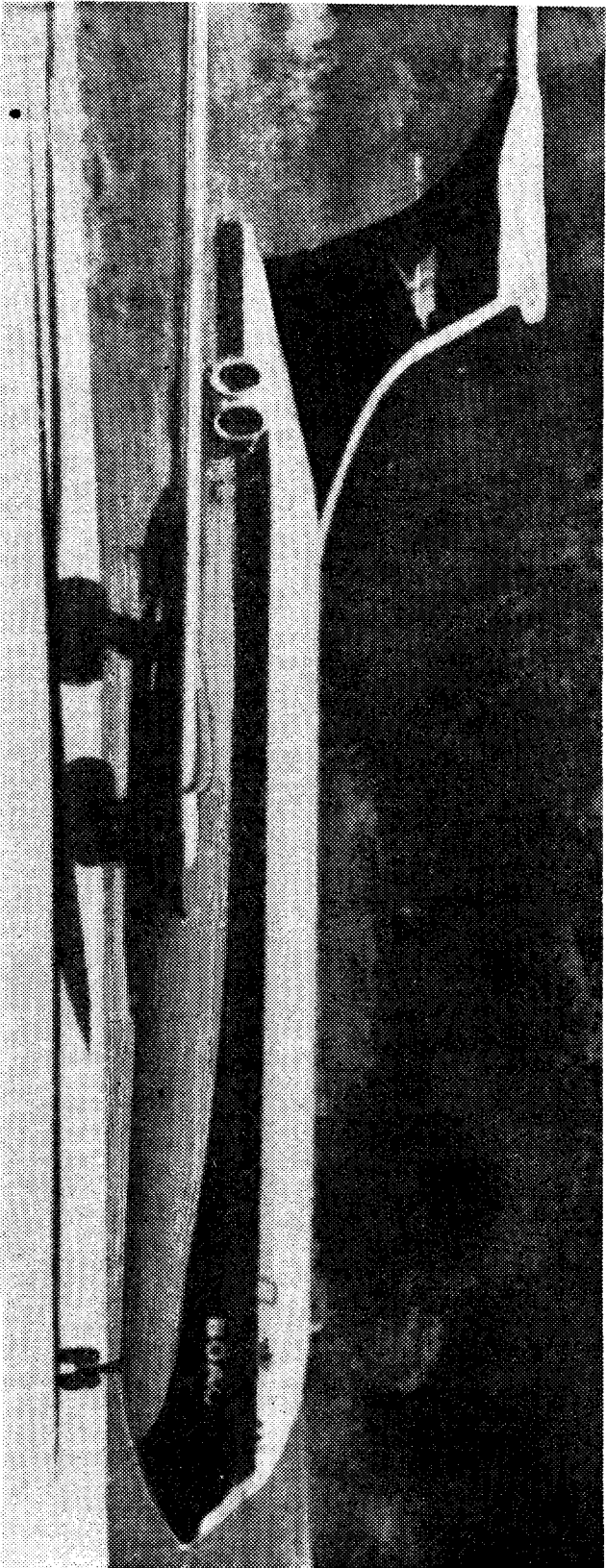
Times Herald

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1970

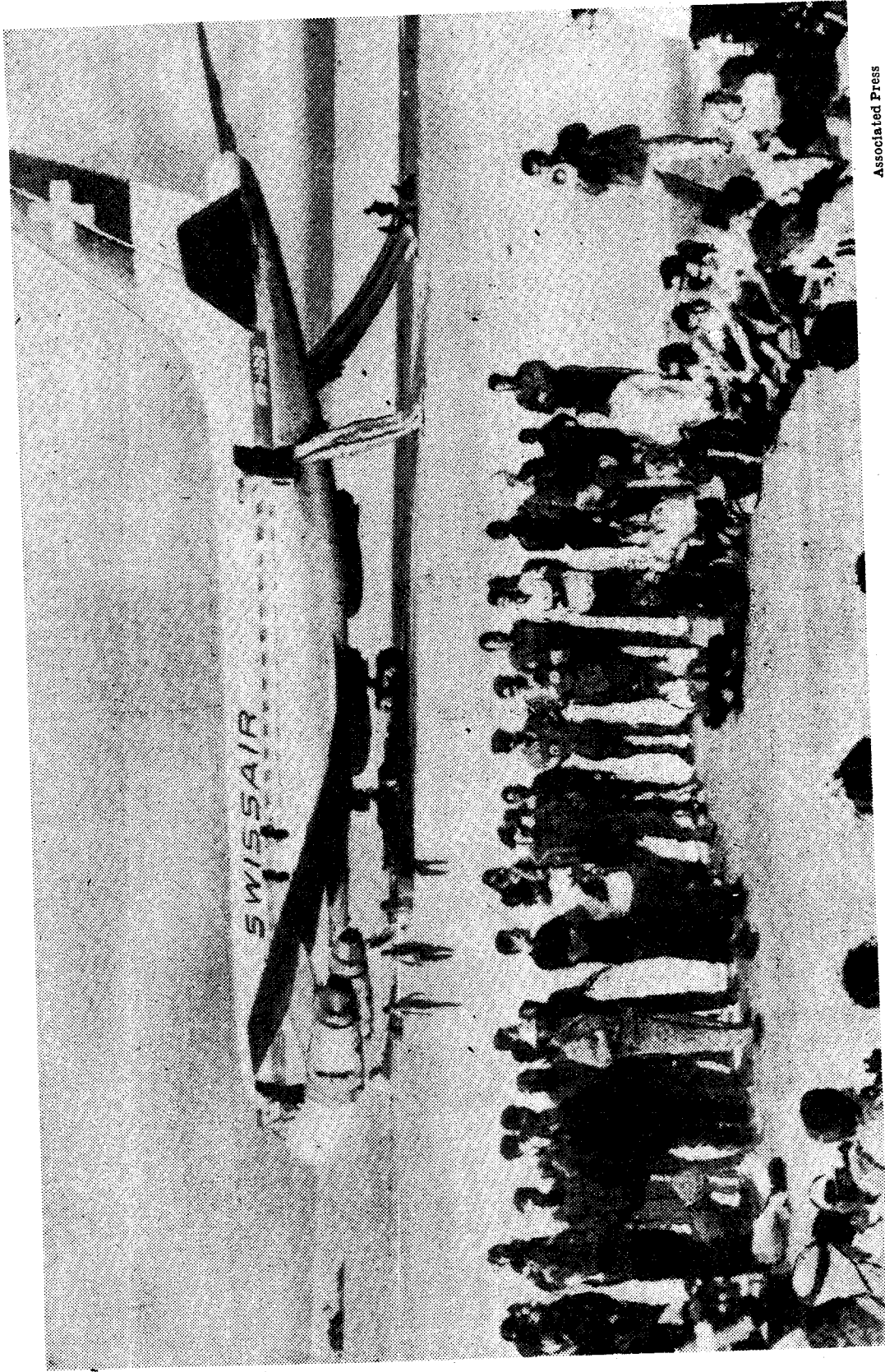
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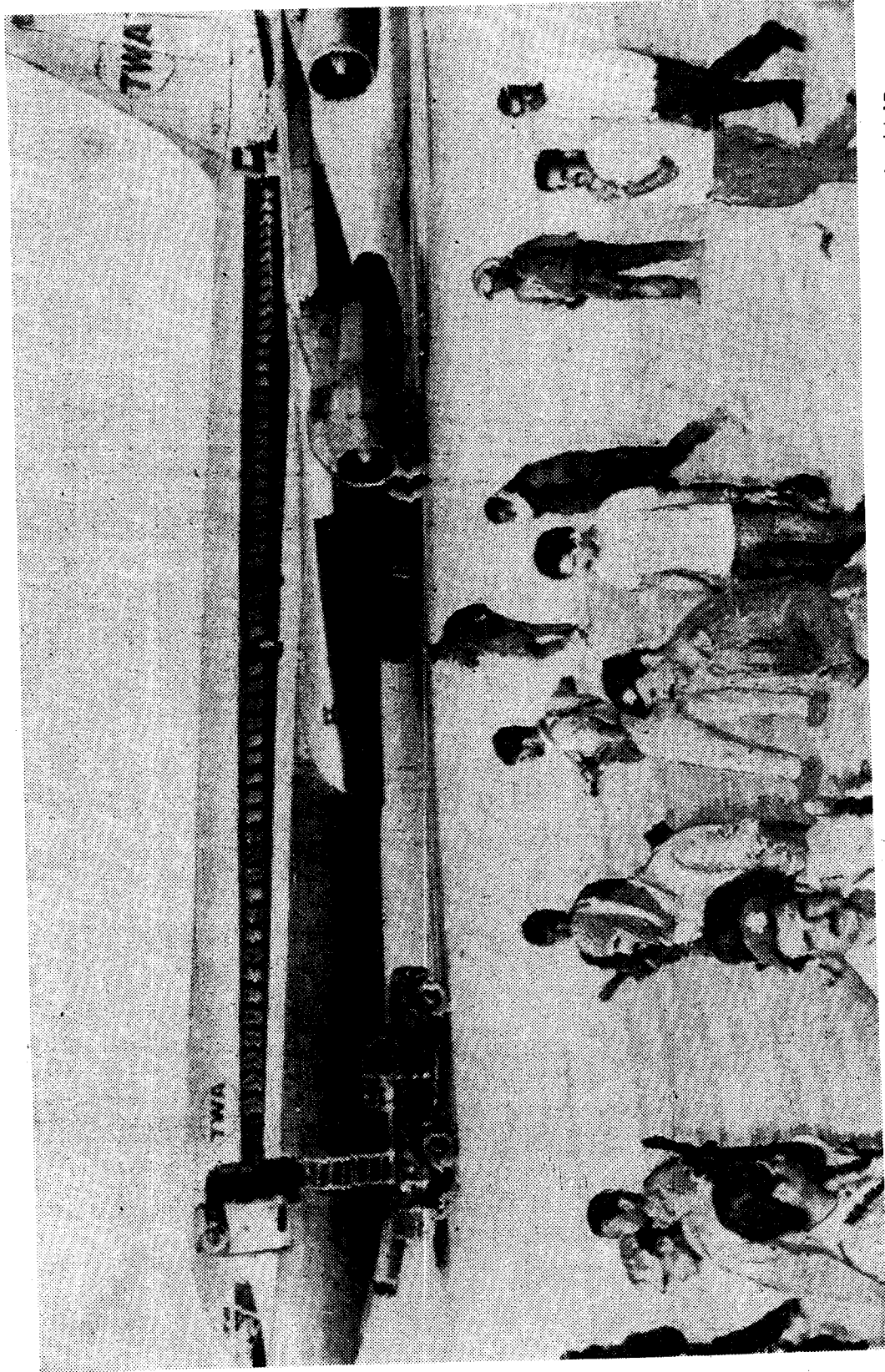


United Press International

A BOAC jet, hijacked yesterday, lands in Beirut for refueling (top). It was taken to join two other hijacked planes at airstrip in Jordan, where guerrillas let newsmen interview hostages (middle). Other guerrillas milled in front of TWA jet that sits near other two (bottom).



Associated Press



Associated Press

Guerrillas Lift Deadline On Hostages

From News Dispatches

Four nations were negotiating last night for the release of three hijacked airliners and their passengers, with the hijackers' deadline for blowing up the planes apparently lifted as long as talks continued.

A third plane was seized by Palestinian extremists earlier yesterday, and was landed near the two previously hijacked jets in the Jordanian desert.

The hijackers originally said they would blow up the airliners by 10 p.m. last night (Washington time) if Palestinian guerrillas being held in Britain, Switzerland and West Germany were not released. But reports here indicated the deadline had been postponed indefinitely.

The three countries holding the guerrillas, and the United States, have reportedly worked out a joint negotiating position under which all passengers and crews would have to be released together. Earlier the Palestinians had attempted to trade with each country separately.

The negotiations are being carried on through the International Red Cross, which has representatives at the dirt-surfaced landing strip northeast of Amman where the aircraft and about 300 passengers and crewmen are being held.

The planes are surrounded by armed guerrillas of the extremist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The guerrillas are in turn surrounded by units of the Jordanian army.

Heavy fighting broke out between guerrillas and the army during the day in Amman, Jordan's capital, and north of it. Communication with the city was cut off.

The Popular Front, which engineered the three hijackings, has never explicitly stated its intentions if its demands are not met. But it has left the impression that it might blow up the aircraft with passengers in them.

See **HJACK**, A12, Col. 1

Israel has so far refused to deal with the Front, which is also demanding the release of some 3,000 Palestinians held there.

Several of the passengers on the aircraft are believed to be Israelis, and there is some evidence that the Front is treating all Jewish passengers, including those with American passports, as Israelis.

Israel earlier voiced concern that the Western European powers would trade off the Palestinians in their jails to secure the return of their own nationals, leaving the Israelis in the hands of the guerrillas.

The United States and the Western European governments are apparently working out a joint position requiring all passengers to be released together to foreclose that possibility.

Jordan has been powerless to act.

Since 1967, the Jordanian regime of King Hussein has seen its power eroded by the organizations repre-

senting the Palestinian refugees.

All the Palestinian groups are opposed to Jordan's participation in the current U.S.-initiated effort to bring about a peace settlement between the Arabs and the Israelis. They all seek the destruction of the state of Israel. The Popular Front, however, has refused to go along with the more moderate groups in muting criticism of the effort.

In a statement issued after a Pan American 747 Jumbo jet was blown up at the Cairo airport, the Front said it was done as a gesture of opposition to Egypt's willingness to negotiate.

Reports from Britain last night said a stream of police cars sped out of the Ealing jail in suburban London and appeared headed for a nearby airport. Leila Khamed, the fiery female guerrilla, had been held at Ealing since she was seized during the thwarted attempt to hijack an El Al plane Sunday.

There was speculation that the police were moving her to an airport so that she could be taken to Zurich, where the Arab guerrilla prisoners imprisoned by the Swiss and Germans were being assembled.

The British cabinet met yesterday following the report of the BOAC hijacking, but there was no report of its decision.

A West German spokesman, commenting on that government's decision to free the three guerrillas held since February, said that Bonn had agreed to handle the situation on the basis of this "four-power cooperation." Observers believed the Germans would not carry out any unilateral deal with the Popular Front.

The situation of those American passengers who are Jewish is confused. None of them, apparently, was among the 127, mostly women and children, from the TWA and Swissair planes who were allowed to go to hotels in Amman on Monday.

Spokesmen for the Front have asserted that the American Jews have dual U.S.-Israeli citizenship, apparently implying that their allegiance to Israel is just as strong as that to the United States.

After yesterday's hijacking, the BOAC office in London said there were three Americans aboard the VC-10 and gave their last names as Bowler, Lameir and Marciano. The airline said the other passengers included 52 British, 19 Indians, 13 Bahreinis and three Egyptians. There were unconfirmed reports that members of the Bahrain royal family were aboard the ship.

While the plane was refueling in Beirut, Lebanon's minister of public works, Pierre Gemayel, and the British ambassador in Beirut went to the control tower, which was in the hands of armed guerrillas, and appealed to the hijackers by radio to free any women and children on board.

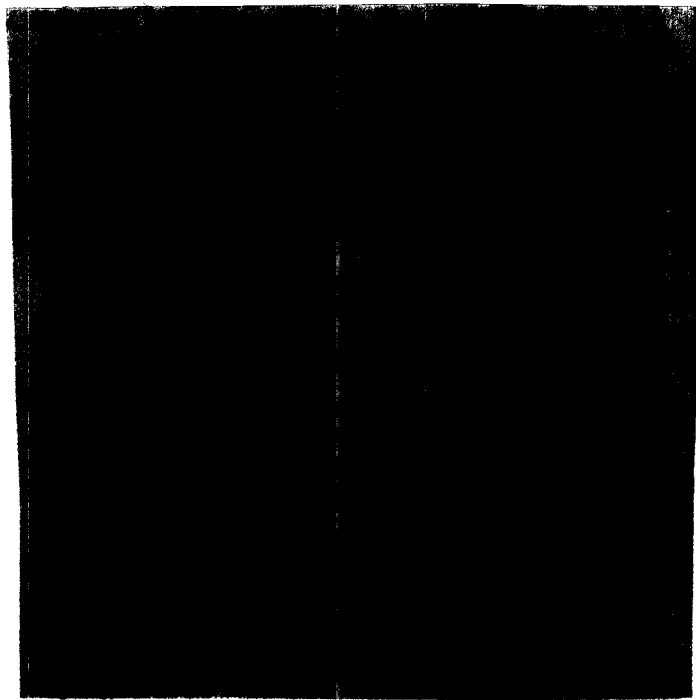
Gemayel said they replied: "No, we are leaving with everybody or we are blowing up the plane with everybody."

Gemayel, who has frequently expressed sympathy for the Palestinians' cause, said he would ask his fellow cabinet ministers to announce that Lebanon would no longer permit hijacked planes to land at Beirut.

Cairo's airport, 13 miles from the Egyptian capital, was shut down shortly after news of the BOAC hijacking, apparently to thwart any attempt to land the plane there. Egypt has condemned the hijackings, claiming they damage the Arab cause by alienating world opinion.

Cairo remained silent on the fate of the three hijackers who were taken into custody Sunday after they blew up the 747. Officials said the government was continuing its investigation.

Meanwhile yesterday, Dr. G. van der Wal, president of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, disclosed that Lloyd's of London had given his carrier a week's cancellation no-



U.S. Is Prepared To Airlift Hostages

By A. D. Horne

Washington Post Staff Writer

The United States sent six Air Force C-130 transports to southern Turkey yesterday for use if needed in evacuating the airline passengers held hostage by Palestinian guerrillas in Jordan.

The White House announced that the 60-to-100-passenger planes had landed at Incirlik air base near the Syrian border, about an hour's flying time from Amman. Each was carrying a medical evacuation team as a precautionary measure.

President Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and other high officials continued to spend much of their time yesterday on the hijacking crisis.

Late in the day, Rogers went to the White House to brief the President, who was described by Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler as having discussed the crisis by phone

Rogers, Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird and Central Intelligence Agency Director Richard M. Helms.

Mr. Nixon also dropped in at a White House meeting chaired by special assistant Peter M. Flanigan at which Federal Aviation Administrator John H. Shaffer, Assistant Treasury Secretary Eugene T. Rossides and representatives from the FBI, CIA, Secret Service and other agencies reportedly discussed security measures to prevent future hijackings.

This meeting, informed sources said, also dealt with fears that a run of international hijackings would be disastrous for airline revenues.

A second, larger meeting at the FAA included aviation industry representatives and was described as covering "every conceivable method" of hijacking prevention.

See **DIPLOMACY, A15, Col. 1**

DIPLOMACY, From A1

With Shaffer called to the White House, this meeting was chaired by Associate Administrator George Moore. The roughly 30 participants, later scaled down to a working group of about 12, included Pan American World Airways president Najeeb Halaby, Trans World Airways president F.C. Wiser Jr., Air Line Pilots Association president Charles H. Ruby and repre-

sentatives of the International Air Transport Association.

Halaby, after returning to New York, told a press conference that he would support the use of armed security guards on international flights provided they were put there by the government and were "highly trained, precisely instructed and under command of the airplane's captain."

He said the pilots, previously opposed, now would accept the guards. Informed sources said there was growing senti-

ment for the idea at the FAA meeting, but that the group didn't resolve whether such guards should be military or civilian.

Halaby said new security measures were now being taken on airliners and at airports, but he refused to spell out what was involved. A TWA spokesman earlier in the day said his airline's "stepped-up security efforts" included additional inspection of hand-carried luggage "and a number of

other things that we can't disclose."

The consensus at yesterday's FAA meeting was said to be that passengers no longer were objecting strenuously to luggage searches. The meeting also discussed new security equipment, such as improved metal-sensing devices, for use at airports.

Suggestions that the United States support a boycott of airports in countries that fail to act against hijackers continued to be received coolly. State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey noted that the United States "has traditionally supported the expansion of international aviation," but left open a possible shift of position "if it arises as a live issue."

Both McCloskey and Ziegler stressed repeatedly that the U.S. objective was to obtain the early release of all the hostages.

McCloskey denounced as "a particularly deplorable action" the guerrillas' decision to hold Israeli and Jewish passengers aboard the hijacked planes while taking others to Amman hotels. He called the hijackers "fanatics who have obviously no regard for the welfare of innocent people."

When asked whether the United States would agree to a deal that would leave Israel to strike a separate bargain with the guerrillas for release of its citizens, McCloskey said, "I would hope that would not be the result."

But he did not rule out that possibility, nor the further suggestion that the hijackers would release all but the Israelis and the American Jewish passengers.

"My hope is that we would not have to face such a decision," he said. "That would add cruelty to cruelty."

Guerrillas, Troops Battle in Jordan

From News Dispatches

AMMAN, Sept. 9—Gun battles between Jordanian troops and guerrillas raged through Amman for more than three hours this afternoon, with almost continuous shelling and machine-gun fire reported to be taking a heavy toll in casualties.

Shells rocketed through Jebel Amman, the hilltop suburb where some of the women and children released from the hijacked Western airliners huddled for safety in the basement of the Intercontinental Hotel.

Amman Radio broadcast orders by the Jordanian chief of staff, Lt. Gen. Masrihour Haditha, and guerrilla chief Yasser Arafat for both sides to stop firing immediately.

[In Baghdad, the Palestinian guerrilla leadership appealed to all Arab heads of state to intervene and put an end to the fighting in Jordan before "untold destruction engulfs the entire country." The official Iraqi News Agency said a copy of an urgent message from the central committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization to Iraqi President Ahmed Hassan al Bakr warned that a conspiracy was being carried out in Jordan to liquidate the guerrillas.]

See JORDAN, A14, Col. 1

JORDAN, From A1

King Hussein, facing the country's gravest crisis since the 1967 June war, entrusted full military powers to Haditha, the only military leader trusted by the commandos, after an emergency cabinet meeting.

Haditha and Prime Minister Abdul Moneim Rifai went from the cabinet to discuss with the king the wave of clashes in the Irbid area and the north Jordan Valley which led the guerrillas to renounce a short-lived peace pact signed yesterday. A previous cease-fire last Saturday also broke down with a renewal of fighting.

The chief of staff ordered an immediate cease-fire at 4:30 p.m. threatening that anyone who disobeyed "will be pun-

ished with the severest military measures."

This and other statements suggested that some troops were attacking guerrillas on their own initiative.

Yasser Arafat, leader of Al Fatah, responded to Haditha's order with an order telling "all commandos and militia to stop firing immediately." Arafat's order was broadcast on both the guerrilla radio and Amman Radio.

The fighting died down at about 6:45 p.m.

Fatah reported that the firing in the capital had come from the area of the royal palace, Qalaa (the Citadel) and the U.S. embassy.

Army Troops shelled and machine-gunned guerrilla offices in the northern town of Irbid, where 30 guerrillas were reported killed yesterday.

In the northern Jordan Valley area, Fatah said tanks and field guns shelled Guerrilla positions.

A government spokesman said army officers responsible for the attacks on guerrilla

bases in Irbid would be punished.

Today's investiture of full military powers in Haditha apparently pleased guerrillas. Arafat's statement ordering a cease-fire paid tribute to Haditha's "swift action to bring bloodshed to an immediate end."

Exploded in Afternoon

After sporadic clashes in some parts of the capital and around the city, today's fighting exploded at about 3:15 p.m.

During the fighting power supplies were cut in several parts of the capital and on Jebel Amman, but were later restored.

The Intercontinental Hotel—where about 200 foreign guests including many of the 127 freed hijack passengers were sheltering in the basement—was plunged into darkness but was not hit.

Casualties in the current fighting, the fourth such crisis since November 1968, have steadily mounted since the reported Sept. 1 attempt to assassinate Hussein, and are now believed to number about 400.

Observers here held out lit-

tle hope for the success of the Arab mediation committee now in Amman unless there is a rapid easing of tension.

The committee, appointed by the Arab League and consisting of Egyptian, Algerian and Sudanese representatives, had separate meetings yesterday with government and commando officials, but played no part in the negotiations leading to yesterday's short-lived agreement.

Free Hostages, Council Urges

The United Nations Security Council agreed on a consensus last night appealing for the immediate release of all hostages being held in Jordan by guerrilla hijackers. The consensus also asked states to take legal measures to prevent future hijackings.

Details on Page A14.

By Robert H. Estabrook
Washington Post Foreign Service

UNITED NATIONS, Sept. 9—The Security Council appealed tonight for immediate release of all airplane passengers and crews currently held by Palestinian guerrilla hijackers at a desert airstrip in Jordan.

Following a day of intensive consultations, Council Presi-

dent Davidson Nicol of Sierra Leone stated a consensus that also expressed grave concern over the threat to innocent civilian lives and asked legal measures to prevent future hijackings and similar interference with air travel.

The United States and Britain asked separately this morning for an urgent meeting of the council to deal with

the situation of passengers and crewmen of planes hijacked to Jordan by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

No one here believes that a mere hortatory statement from the United Nations will have much immediate effect on those who are viewed as fanatics. But it is regarded as a possible help in persuading

Arab governments to take stronger measures to deny succor to the guerillas.

Inter-Arab Dispute

Many diplomats here believe that the Palestinian guerrillas have aimed their actions as much at Arab governments such as Egypt and Jordan as at Israel and its Western supporters. The guerrillas have denounced Egypt and Jordan for agreeing to the cease-fire and the still unrealized peace talks with Israel.

President Nasser of Egypt and King Hussein of Jordan both have exhibited annoyance with the guerillas and have taken some steps to curb them.

Tonight's Security Council action was in the form of a consensus, rather than a resolution as originally proposed, in order to avoid the necessity of a formal vote that would have embarrassed Syria.

Syria reportedly agreed to go along with the consensus when the language was altered slightly to qualify the call on states to take all legal measures against hijacking. The U.S. and Britain raised no objection to the change.

Algerian Desire

Efforts to evolve a quick, unanimously supported statement had been imperiled by the insistence of Algerian representative Mohamed Yazid that he wanted to speak afterward about two Algerian citizens detained in Israel. They were removed from a British airliner last month when it stopped at Tel Aviv.

Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah said he would speak if Yazid spoke. The prospect was that other delegations including the Syrians and perhaps the Russians then would feel it necessary to join in the debate.

However, Yazid eventually was persuaded to withdraw his plan.