

of the girls on the hijack team was an Israeli agent. Rima Issa was carrying a battery in her brassiere, and when the agents attacked, she had two minutes to connect the wires which would have blown up the Sabena 707 with its ninety passengers and crew. Either Rima Issa did not follow instructions, or the mechanism had been rendered harmless before it went aboard.

Since the mass hijacking of September 1970, when terrorists seized Swiss, American, and British planes — including a \$24 million 747 which they blew up after holding the terrorized passengers hostage in the desert — European sympathy for the Palestinian “Liberationists” has evaporated. Israeli agents have since then been free to roam the world’s airports at will. The Israelis might well have reasoned that if they could manage to lure the sort of people who staged the 1970 outrage into a plot which would set them up to be shot as examples, they could discourage further hijackings and receive general approval. It appears to trained observers that the Sabena business was just such a trap — brilliantly executed by Moshe Dayan.

✓ Speculation On Hoover Death

■ It was inevitable that the death of J. Edgar Hoover would be followed by rumors of assassination. The most fantastic stories were given weight among Europeans by their knowledge that Communist intelligence services have perfected modern, almost undetectable methods of poisoning; that the Communists have long conducted a

campaign against the Director of the F.B.I.; and, that a powerful Leftist wing exists in the C.I.A., which has been engaged for years in a sometimes deadly rivalry with the more effective F.B.I.

It is also known among intelligence men that, shortly before his death, J. Edgar Hoover had scored a victory over his C.I.A. rivals which elated the chiefs of counter-espionage in Western Europe, but which must have made a great many people nervous. Mr. Hoover was granted permission to post F.B.I. men in a number of sensitive foreign capitals as Embassy attachés. There have always been F.B.I. men in London and Paris, to the resentment of the C.I.A. Under the new plan, Hoover’s men would also be posted in Manila, Singapore, Rio de Janeiro, New Delhi, Canberra, Santo Domingo, and elsewhere.

Berrigan Huddles With Reds

■ As of this writing, there is intense activity going on behind the closed doors of the headquarters of the North Vietnamese Delegation in Paris. It is reported that officials from Hanoi and Father Daniel Berrigan, who arrived in Paris on May thirteenth, are discussing plans for “student” demonstrations to divert attention from North Vietnamese atrocities as the invasion of South Vietnam increases in force. The “spontaneous” demonstrations in the United States are supposed to be synchronized with similar activities by the Communist Parties in Europe. — H. du B. ■ ■

by H. du B.