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late edition

# Say Girl Was Kept Prisoner by Leftists

By JAY LEVIN

A 22-year-old woman, allegedly held prisoner for two days by a leftist group, emerged as the key figure today in a bizarre adventure her accused captors said involved assassination, hypnosis and suicide.

Six members of the National Caucus of Labor Committees were charged with the unlawful imprisonment of fellow member Alieja Weitzman in a Washington Heights apartment.

They told investigators they were merely trying to "deprogram" Miss Weitzman from "hypnotic brainwashing" by the KGB, the Soviet secret police, before she "infiltrated" the NCLC.

Police spokesmen doubted the story. However they said the department's Security and Investigations Section, which keeps tabs on radical groups, was investigating anyway.

The NCLC is an independent Communist organization, opposed to the Moscow-oriented U.S. Communist Party.

The case surfaced last night, police said, when Miss Weitzman tossed a note onto the street saying she was being held captive in an apartment. A passerby found the note

and gave it to police.

Several officers went to the apartment and, after being refused admittance, forced their way inside when they heard Miss Weitzman screaming from a back room.

Police said Miss Weitzman had told them she had been incommunicado for two days while caucus members attempted to give her a "mental de briefing" because they believed she was a KGB agent.

The arrested suspects told police Miss Weitzman had been picked up by the KGB in various places, including West Germany, Turkey and Iran, and hypnotized to serve the Soviet agency.

A spokeswoman for the caucus, at 231 W. 29th St., said Miss Weitzman had been placed "in isolation"

when the organization learned of a plot to assassinate NCLC founder-chairman Lyn Marcus, 51.

Last Monday, she said, a caucus member named Christopher White arrived from England. White acted suspiciously, the spokeswoman apartment at 9 Cabrinl Blvd. said, and responded positively to a surprise command in Russian.

Under interrogation, she said, White disclosed the plot to assassinate Marcus and revealed the names of several alleged Soviet agents, one of whom was Miss Weitzman.

The assassination plot thwarted, the spokeswoman claimed that White had attempted suicide by biting a cyanide capsule hidden in his mouth. He survived when he vomited the poison, she said.

Arrested caucus members were identified as Fernando Quijano, 26, Mary Fletcher, 25, Daniel Sneider, 22, Edward Spannus, 30, and Khushro Gandhi, 22, all of Washington Heights, and Renee Typaldos, 22, of the Bronx.

They were charged with unlawful imprisonment in the first degree and face up to four years in jail if convicted.

## Killer Eclipse?

**BOGOTA**—A 17-year-old Colombian, Juan de Jesus Osorio, who watched a solar eclipse, Dec. 24 without eye protection has died after suffering a brain lesion, hospital authorities said here last night.

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE