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3 Men Plead Innocent In Plot to Kill Nixon

NEW YORK, Nov. 13 (AP)—A father and his two sons, immigrants from the Arab nation of Yemen, pleaded innocent today to charges of conspiring to assassinate President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

Justice John R. Starkey of Brooklyn Supreme Court reduced their bail from \$100,000 to \$25,000 each. In New York, the Supreme Court is a trial court.

The defendants did not immediately post the lower bail.

Ahmed Rageh Namer, 43, and his sons, Hussein, 20, and Abdo, 18, were indicted earlier today on four counts—conspiracy to kill Nixon, criminal solicitation of an unidentified person to commit the crime, possession of two rifles and possession of two switchblade knives.

Although all three defendants are said to speak fairly good English, they entered their pleas through an interpreter.

Starkey rejected pleas by Assistant District Attorney Harold Rosenbaum that the \$100,000 bail be continued because police are investigating "many other aspects of this case."

Defense attorneys argued that the Namers had no previous criminal records, had roots in New York and were presumed innocent.

The elder Namer came to the United States from Yemen about 13 years ago and is a naturalized citizen.

He and his two sons work in New York's garment district as shipping clerks and live in a Brooklyn apartment.

Police raided the apartment Saturday night, acting on a telephoned tip from an unidentified informer. They said the informer told them the trio had offered him money to be the triggerman in the assassination plot.

The elder Namer and Abdo

were arrested in the apartment, where the police said they confiscated the guns, knives and 24 rounds of ammunition. Hussein, who was said to have fled down a fire escape, was arrested five hours later outside the building.

A cousin in Yemen said Namer had once been a member of the secret police in Aden, a former British protectorate at the tip of the Arabian Peninsula. Aden is now independent South Yemen.

The Secret Service and other agencies were investigating the possibility that one of the Namers had once worked for foreign intelligence organizations. The possibility was said to be based on correspondence found in the apartment.

One law enforcement officer said there was reason to believe that one of the trio "was perhaps a spy before or after he came to this country."

[United Press International reported meanwhile that the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, which claims to represent 1 million Arabs in the United States, today denounced the indictments as "utterly preposterous." M. T. Mehdi, secretary general, said there was no conspiracy to assassinate Nixon, "rather, it seems that there is a conspiracy to assassinate the Arab character in America." He said acting Brooklyn District Attorney Elliott Golden, some jurors and judges who "might be involved in this case and who have strong Zionist affiliations" should disqualify themselves "in the interests of justice."]

Yemen Villagers Talk Of Links to Namers

AL MATAWIR, Yemen (AP) — This rural village in a remote mountain region of northern Yemen is where Ahmed Rageh Namer was born.

Namer, 43, and his sons, Hussein, 20, and Abdo, 18, are under arrest in New York, charged with plotting the assassination of President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

Of its 109 natives, 19 villagers are in the United States. Al Matawir is a poor village, but it is the envy of the other villages around, for it is rich by their standards.

The reason is the money sent home by the Namers and the others who left to earn a living in the United States.

"We are a cooperative society," said one old villager. "The immigrants send money home to relatives who need it, regardless of the relationship. When another goes he pays that honorary loan."

"Only women, children and old men live here. Young men capable of work should emigrate to America and earn money to rebuild the houses."

Said a sister of Namer: "We love America. Because of America we get money, clothes and gold, and life becomes easier."

The sister, like the rest of the Namer family, believe the three are innocent.

Mrs. Namer told reporters she had asked for guns — "a gun is an identity in Yemen" — and letters she wrote her husband will prove it.

A rifle and a carbine were found in the New York apartment where the Namers lived. Mrs. Namer said both Namer and Abdo wrote that a gun was being sent.

"Ahmed could never do a thing against anybody," Mrs. Namer said, and a cousin described Namer as "good, kind and merciful."

This cousin, Hizam Najy Namer, 43, said, however, Namer was a secret policeman in the former British protectorate of Aden, now South Yemen, before he went to the United States.

"Maybe this is God's revenge for sending an innocent person to jail while he was in the secret police in Aden before he emigrated to the United States," he said.

Zeinab Ahmed Namer, 12-year-old daughter of Ahmed Namer, asked with tears in her eyes: "Will they kill my father?"

Zeinab has never seen her father. He left before she was born.

Another daughter, Dawlah, 25, said: "We need him. We want him alive. We don't care for money. We will sell our clothes and house and everything. We want him to return."