

A 'Revolt' by Sirhan -- He's Gassed and Put in Isolation

Sirhan B. Sirhan, assassin of Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was tear gassed on San Quentin's death row Wednesday and then placed in a special isolation cell after he refused to give up a food tray.

Associate Warden James

Park said yesterday the trouble began when the 25-year-old Jordanian Arab's request to send a telegram to attorney Luke McKissack of Los Angeles was turned down.

Park refused to disclose the contents of the telegram but said it was on the "gen-

eral subject" of the Middle East plane hijackings.

Attorney McKissack unsuccessfully attempted to fly to Amman two days ago with Sirhan's mother, Mary Sirhan, to plead for the release of hostages in the hijacked planes.

Sirhan became angry when

his request to send the telegram to McKissack was denied, Park said.

He refused to give up his meal tray. Guards tried for an hour and a half to persuade him to surrender the tray and, finally, he threw it at them from his cell, Park said.

Sirhan, the warden said, was then ordered to come out of his cell so that guards could recover the fork and spoon that went with the tray.

When Sirhan refused he was given a shot of tear gas and then he came out of the cell quietly, Park said.

How long Sirhan will remain in isolation, cut off from all news of the Middle East crisis, will be determined today by the prison disciplinary committee.

Sirhan has been on death row since May 23, 1969. No date for his execution has been set while his conviction

undergoes an automatic review by the State Supreme Court.

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Sirhan Tear-Gassed In Cell After Having A 'Temper Tantrum'

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., Sept. 10 (AP)—Sirhan B. Sirhan, convicted of assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy, was given a mild tear-gassing by guards after throwing a "temper tantrum" in his cell on San Quentin Prison's Death Row, Warden Louis S. Nelson said today.

Later, he was given a sedative and placed in an isolation cell, the warden added.

Mr. Nelson said that Sirhan, who had refused to give up his meal tray and thrown food at a guard, had not resisted and had come out of the cell on his own after guards used "a very little tear gas."

He said that the incident occurred yesterday after Sirhan, a Palestinian Arab had demanded to speak to Associate Warden James W. Park. Mr. Nelson said that he did not know if Sirhan's demand had anything to do with the Arab guerrilla hijackings.

At one point, the hijackers had reportedly demanded Sirhan's freedom as part of the ransom for 300 hostages on two hijacked planes.

Noting that yesterday was a state holiday—Admission Day, marking California's admission into the Union—the warden said: "It was a holiday, and there was nobody around, so he got into a snit about it—I guess a little temper tantrum."

He said that Sirhan had access to newspapers and radio and probably was following the hijacking closely.

Mr. Park said that Sirhan was apparently disturbed over his mother's attempt to go to the Middle East in connection with the hijackings.

He said that Sirhan had been "on edge" since the refusal of prison officials to allow him to send a telegram to one of his attorneys over his mother's proposed trip.