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U.S. Ambassador Seized In Arab Attack in Sudan

Release Of Sirhan Demanded

Associated Press

Beirut

Palestinian guerrillas stormed a diplomatic reception yesterday in Khartoum, seized the U.S. ambassador and colleagues as hostages, then demanded the release of Sirhan Sirhan in California and other prisoners elsewhere.

The British Foreign Office said its ambassador reported that the Black September guerrillas shot their way into the reception, and the West German government said a Belgian diplomat was wounded.

An Associated Press dispatch from Khartoum said the guerrillas demanded the release within 24 hours of Sirhan, the Jordanian immigrant to the United States who was convicted of assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy. They also sought freedom for the leaders of an urban guerrilla group in West Germany and Arab prisoners held in several countries, including all Palestinian women held by Israel.

It was not known what the



AP Wirephoto
CLEO A. NOEL
Hostage

Palestinian women prisoners.

• That West Germany release members of the Baader-Meinhof gang, an anarchist, anticapitalist organization in West Germany.

The gang is named after Andreas Baader and Ulrike Meinhof, both of whom are being held for trial on charges stemming from a series of bombings and other violence.

In Washington, State Department press officer Charles W. Bray refused comment on the demand that Sirhan be released.

Reminded of a longstanding U.S. policy to reject blackmail attempts or to pay ransom to terrorists, Bray acknowledged: "That has been our policy."

Noel, a native of Oklahoma City, was the first U.S. ambassador to Sudan since the two countries resumed diplomatic relations last July. He has been in the U.S. foreign service since 1949 and had served twice previously in Khartoum. He had been appointed ambassador in December.

Black September takes its

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State Plans to Hold Onto Sirhan

Sirhan B. Sirhan is in solitary confinement in San Quentin Prison, and California officials plan to keep him there despite demands for his release being made by Palestinian guerrillas in Khartoum.

"We're taking no special precautions because of the situation," Associate Warden James Park said, "but we're in a state of extra alertness and watchfulness."

Sirhan has been in San Quentin since he assassinated Senator Robert Kennedy in Los Angeles in 1968.

Governor Ronald Reagan, asked to comment on the guerrilla demand for the release of Sirhan, said he "would have to take a long, deep look at the situation," according to a spokesman.

Clyde Walthall, associate press secretary, said Reagan learned in Washington of the seizure of Ambassador Cleo A. Noel Jr. and other diplomats in Khartoum, the Sudan, by Black September Palestinian terrorists.

"The governor was just boarding a plane for California when he was advised of what happened," Walthall said.

From SFChronicle 10 Mar 73 (Jim Hoagland, Washington Post Service) filed Nix Ad:

Khartoum - A two-word coded death sentence resulted in the murders of the American ambassador to the Sudan, his chief deputy and a Belgium diplomat by Black September Palestinian guerrillas last week. . . . One of the two Arab diplomats held hostage by Black September in Khartoum says that the guerrillas' mood toward their hostages changed radically after they received the message on the night of March 2, apparently on a radio link they established with someone outside the Sudan. The guerrillas reportedly mentioned President Nixon's message of that night - in which he said the U.S. would not give in to the terrorists' "blackmail" - in saying they had to kill the Americans. . . .