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Rebel Prisoners Release Hostage in New Jersey



UPI Telephoto

Prisoner Ali Bey Hassan counted off demands in front of smashed window

Governor Makes Deal After Riot

U.P. & A.P.

Rahway, N.J.

Rebellious inmates, who controlled two wings of the maximum security Rahway State Prison, released the first of five hostages last night under an agreement made with the consent of New Jersey's Governor William T. Cahill.

The four remaining hostages — including the warden — were to be released following a meeting between inmates and three newsmen under terms of the agreement. The inmates had seized control of the wings Wednesday night.

Ira Grayson, a special aide to Cahill, announced at 9:30 last night that the one hostage had been released.

He was identified as Al Iorio. There was no immediate word on his condition.

Three newsmen entered the prison, outside of Elizabeth, with a member of the institution's board of trustees last evening.

DEAL

"We've been informed prisoners have made agreements by which they agreed to immediately release one hostage upon a promise we will produce three members of the press to whom they can hand their grievances," Cahill had said earlier.

He said the deal provided that after the release of the initial hostage, a member of the prison board of trustees, would then introduce the newsmen to the prisoners. The inmates were then to turn over a list of grievances and release the remaining hostages.

Announcement of the arrangement to turn over the grievances followed negotiations between the prisoners and a special fact-finding team sent to the institution by Cahill, who awaited developments at a headquarters set up at a nearby state school.

The three newsmen who
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accompanied trustee Archibald Alexander into the prison were Carl Zeitz of The Associated Press, John Needham of United Press International and Jim Dolan of The Daily Journal of Elizabeth, N.J.

The meeting followed release of one guard seized Wednesday night. Anthony Piscitelli, 24, was admitted to Rahway Hospital where he was listed in fair condition with head and back injuries.

It was not known how he was injured.

Later, another unidentified man was taken out of the prison complex by ambulance.

WARDEN

During the afternoon a Red Cross worker, who refused to identify himself but said he had been in the prison for more than six hours, told newsmen he had seen Warden Samuel Vukcevich on a stairwell in the prison and he was injured. The Red Cross worker said he was told by inmates the warden had been stabbed but state officials said they could not confirm the report.

The fact-finding team was sent to the prison by Governor William T. Cahill after the rebel inmates relayed word through a go-between that they wanted to discuss conditions at the 70-year-old prison with high state officials.

The governor came to Rahway earlier in the day and was awaiting word from the team at headquarters set up at nearby Woodridge State School.

TALKS

A spokesman for Cahill said negotiations "are actively continuing."

The chaplain of the maximum-security institution said he spoke with some prisoners but they refused to tell him what they wanted.

An inmate who said his name was Ali Bey Hassan shouted to reporters that one of the prisoners' demands was a "rehearing of their cases before the parole board."

Other prisoners roamed throughout the institution, noisily celebrating. "The place was a bedlam," one guard said.

Seven guards were injured in an attempt to rescue Vukcevich and the other hostages shortly after they were grabbed following a movie in the prison auditorium late Wednesday night.

They said the disturbance began when one inmate jumped up and began to address the others about "injustices in society."

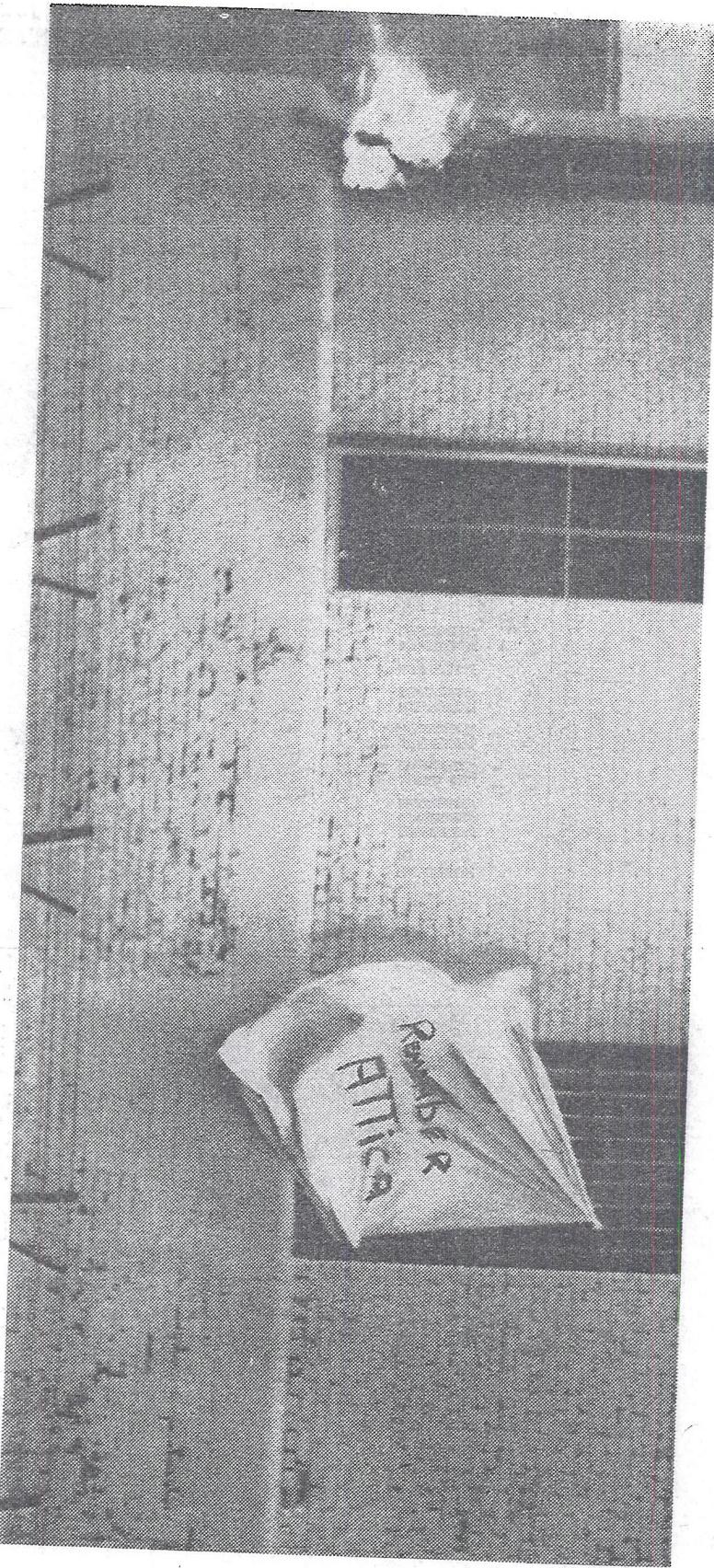
About 550 of the 1143 inmates were in the auditorium at the time.



AP Wirephoto

SAMUEL VUKCEVICH
Warden of prison

Fri. Nov. 26, 1971



A 'Remember Attica' sign and a small fire fold that this was an inmate-seized section of the prison

UPI Telephoto



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Two guards in bulletproof vests walked past state police at Rahway State Prison.