

\$100,000 BAIL SET ON 3 IN NIXON PLOT

11/14/68 NYT

Yemeni Arab and Two Sons Said to Have Conspired to Kill President-Elect

By PETER KIHSS

A Yemeni Arab, now a naturalized United States citizen, and two of his sons were held in \$100,000 bail each yesterday in Brooklyn Criminal Court on charges of conspiracy to assassinate President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

The three stood in silence but watched intently while Elliott Golden, Acting District Attorney of Kings County, first moved to have them held without bail on the ground they had only "superficial roots" here and the father had a wife and three daughters in Yemen. On their behalf, Elliott Case, a Legal Aid Society lawyer, said none of the three had been in trouble here before.

Investigators were checking whether the men arrested here might have had any association with Sirhan Sirhan, the Jordanian awaiting trial for the Los Angeles assassination of Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

Ambassador Urges Caution

Mohsin Alaini, Yemen's Ambassador to the United Nations, said last night his consulate had no record of the three men. Ambassador Alaini urged caution in pre-judging the case. He suggested that someone with a quarrel might have accused the men and then arms might have been found in their apartment—"in Yemen, everyone has arms," he said.

"For President Nixon, I know our reaction to him is in his favor, and this is a feeling that most of the Arabs have, they have nothing against him," Ambassador Alaini said.

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The affidavit charged violations of three sections of the Penal Law—conspiracy in the first degree to commit a murder, punishable upon conviction by up to 15 years imprisonment; criminal solicitation in the first degree, involving importuning someone to commit murder, punishable by up to seven years in prison; and possession of weapons and dangerous instruments and appliances, punishable by up to a year in prison.

Two Rifles Seized

District Attorney Golden told the court that two rifles—an M-1 carbine with two clips of ammunition and a conventional rifle with 24 rounds—and two switchblade knives had been seized in the apartment.

About 60 persons were in the courtroom when the three men were taken in shortly after noon. They had been arrested Saturday night, reportedly after a telephone call to the police that had led to the issuance of a warrant by Mr. Golden and a raid by detectives and Secret Service agents. The father and Abdo were seized in the apartment and Hussein was picked up later.

In court, the father, who is bald with a fringe of white-specked black hair, and Abdo wore black raincoats, and Hussein had a gray topcoat. Mr. Case, representing the Legal Aid Society, said later he had talked to them for 20 minutes before the court session and he indicated they wanted to reach a lawyer of their own.

District Attorney Golden—who is acting Brooklyn prosecutor since District Attorney Aaron E. Koota resigned last Sept. 9 to run for Supreme Court justice—said he intended to present evidence to the grand jury tomorrow morning.

Judge Quinn said he knew of no law allowing him to hold the three without bail, so he fixed bail at \$100,000 apiece and set a further hearing for tomorrow.

A complaint in the form of an affidavit, as was made in this case, avoids revealing names of witnesses, but requires that a defendant be returned in 48 hours for another hearing. In addition to the affidavit by Detective King, a similar corroborating affidavit was filed by Detective Michael Gerhold of the Miller Avenue precinct, who arrested Hussein Namer.

Two Men Released

Two other men—Abdo Zandani, 30, a telephone company porter, and Ali Zandani, 21, a merchant seaman, both of 515 Riverdale Avenue, Brooklyn—had been questioned Saturday night, but were released without charges.

Details of the alleged plot were being withheld last night as investigations went on.

There was no indication at that point of any connection with the arrest of Edward Hotter, a 30-year-old Egyptian, five blocks from Mr. Nixon's apartment here on a charge of possessing a loaded rifle and a switchblade knife, or the case of Sirhan B. Sirhan, a Los Angeles Jordanian immigrant charged with assassinating Senator Robert F. Kennedy last June.

Ambassador Alaini said in a telephone interview last night that there were perhaps 5,000 or more Yemeni in the United States, both those of American citizenship and those still aliens.

"Personally, I do not think these people would have any connection with such plots," Ambassador Alaini said. "I know Yemenis in Brooklyn. They have some differences among themselves. They sometimes try [to bring up] some troubles in Yemen. They come from different tribes. They complain to the Government. They go from here to the courts."

"I do not think they are nationalists to that point, to do something for political reasons. The Republican regime has been there since six years ago. I know there are some still think of the Imam [royalist] era."

"So what I think is maybe

someone who has differences with these people did call and accuse them of something. The other thing is that in Yemen everyone has arms. It is permitted. The country is mountainous. So I would suggest they be very careful to check."

Dr. M. T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, which claims 20,000 members representing one million persons of Arab ancestry in the United States, commented last night that such a plot would be "an irresponsible reaction of an irresponsible individual, if it is true."

"We are opposed to any attempt against any person," he said, "particularly of course of the high officials—or any human individual."

Dr. Mehdi said his committee

had telegraphed congratulations to Mr. Nixon last Wednesday after his election.

"We expressed our hopes that he will consider the American interest in the Middle East and the four coming years under his Presidency may show better relations between America and the Arab world and that he should make a trip to visit the Arab capitals, Beirut and Cairo, at least," Dr. Mehdi said.

Dispatches from the Middle East said last night that Yemen Republican territory had been exposed to intensive United Arab Republic propaganda against Israel since the September, 1962, revolution.

Despite Yemen's distance from Israel, some Yemeni were described as feeling as strongly about the Palestine issue, as do Arabs in neighboring countries.

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"Some people say he said something during the campaign. In United States politics, a campaign is a campaign, and they have to say something against the opponent."

The three defendants are Ahmed Namer, 43 years old, and his sons, Hussein, 20, and Abdo, 16, all of 496 Hinsdale Street in Brooklyn's East New York section. Mr. Case told Judge T. Vincent Quinn that the father had lived for nine years at the address.

They were held on an affidavit by Detective Clifton King of the Miller Avenue station, who asserted that in their third-floor rear apartment last Thursday they "conspired to assassinate" Mr. Nixon.

<p>The Baathism movement, hostile to Israel, has also been active in Yemen.</p> <p>Mr. Nixon was informed of the arrests Saturday night at his vacation retreat in Key Biscayne, Fla. An aide said:</p> <p>"It's in the hands of the police and he has no concern over it. Any idea of a major plot is overexaggerated. You can't be concerned about it every time something like this happens."</p> <p>During the campaign, the Nixon campaign committee published a book, "Nixon on The Issues." On Israeli-Arab relations, this pledged his support to "a policy that would give Israel a technological military margin to more than offset her hostile neighbors' numerical superiority."</p> <p>"If the United States is to</p>	<p>help secure this [peace] for the future," the document went on, "then we must strengthen our ties with America's friends in the Arab world.</p> <p>"The channels of communications that have broken down must be repaired and the United States must re-establish its position on the side of all of those, Arab and Jew, who are appalled at the prospect of wasting their precious resources on another war."</p> <p>Suspect Called Nonpolitical</p> <p>SANA, Yemen, Nov. 10 (AP) —A Yemeni charged with his two sons in New York with plotting to assassinate President-elect Nixon, was remembered here today as "a man of good manners who cared nothing about politics."</p> <p>"He knew nothing except</p>	<p>how to earn a living and saddle his donkey," said Hamad Sanaa, a director of the Economics Ministry, who said he had known him.</p> <p>Before his migration to the United States, the accused, known here as Ahmad Rajih el-Nimer, lived with his wife, two sons and a daughter in the rural settlement of Thou Elnimer, near Redhayeh, 80 miles south of Sana.</p> <p>In his village, he made a living by cultivating qat, the mildly narcotic plant whose juicy leaves induce a feeling of boldness simply by dulling the senses. Almost all Yemins chew the plant.</p> <p>Mr. Namer's wife and 14-year-old daughter, Fatima, still live in Redhayeh.</p>
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