

3 ARABS INDICTED IN PLOT ON NIXON

Yemeni Father and 2 Sons
Named on 4 Counts Each

By JOHN C. DEVLIN

A grand jury in Brooklyn Supreme Court returned indictments yesterday against three Yemeni Arabs being held in the investigation of an alleged plot to murder President-elect Richard M. Nixon.

The indictments did not mention Mr. Nixon, and Assistant District Attorney Harold Rosenbaum explained: "I felt in a case of this gravity we didn't want to soup up the evidence. I wanted the suspects to get a fair trial."

There was no further explanation of the omission of Mr. Nixon's name from the indictments.

The three defendants pleaded not guilty to four counts in each indictment against each of them. The counts were conspiracy in the first degree, criminal conspiracy in the first degree and two counts of possession of "weapons and dangerous instruments and appliances."

Two rifles and two switchblade knives had been reported found in the Brooklyn home of the suspects.

Justice John R. Sharkey, on the plea of defense counsel that none of the defendants had a criminal record, were steady workers in Manhattan's garment section and supported relatives abroad, reduced their bail of \$100,000 each to \$25,000 each.

If convicted, the defendants, who were unable to raise bail yesterday, could face a maximum of 23 years in prison. The maximum sentence for criminal conspiracy is 15 years, with seven years for criminal solicitation and one year for the weapon-possession counts.

The suspects, who were arrested last Saturday, were identified in the indictment as Ahmed Rageh Namer, 43 years old, and his two sons, Abdo Ahmad Namer, 19, and Hussein Ahmad Regah, 20.

There was no explanation for the spelling of the family names.

In opposing the lower bail, Mr. Rosenbaum said the case involved "a very serious problem, one of the most serious to be brought before the court."

He said the defendants had "strong ties abroad" and that the New York Police Department was interested in "many, many aspects of the case." He said the Secret Service and the office of the United States Attorney had also talked "with us on other aspects of the case." He gave no details.

Counsel for the defense, who had an interpreter to translate English and Arabic for the court, said the defendants pleaded not guilty on all counts. In arguing for the lower bail, the defense counsel noted that the men could not leave the country, in any event, without a passport.

The defendants, led from the fourth-floor courtroom handcuffed, had been watchful but quiet during the proceedings. The small courtroom was partly filled and numerous security officers were present.

M. T. Mehdi, secretary general of the Action Committee on American-Arab Relations, denounced the indictments as "utterly preposterous" and called for a change of venue.