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Notes on People

Kennedy and Wife Are Safe in Israeli

It was a déjà vu sort of thing for Senator Edward M. Kennedy yesterday when the Israeli Army helicopter in which he and his wife were riding made a forced landing on a Mediterranean beach south of Tel Aviv. This time, however, Mr. Kennedy was not hurt.

The helicopter, carrying the couple from a hospital in Geneva, where the Senator inspected socialized medical care facilities, to the home of Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, took off normally, but after about 10 minutes, a red warning light indicating engine trouble began flashing.

As the copter circled 1,000 feet over the sea, Mr. Kennedy said, "I've been through this before; fasten your seat belts." The copter made a rough landing on the sand, and for 15 minutes, while waiting for another to pick them up, the Kennedys strolled on the beach collecting sea shells.

It later turned out there was actually nothing wrong with the first helicopter. A short circuit caused the warning light to flash. In 1964, Mr. Kennedy was not so lucky. He broke his back in the crash of a light plane.

Providing he's out of jail in time, the Rev. Ralph David Abernathy, president of the South Christian Leadership Conference, will leave Sunday for a "preaching mission" in the Soviet Union. Abernathy was arrested in Butler, Ala., Wednesday after having led an anti-civil rights march that led to the death of a young man.



Senator and Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy after copter ride

Copter Mishap