

A Kennedy Son On Hijacked Jet

Reuters & A.P.

Frankfurt,
West Germany

A Lufthansa 747 jumbo jet with 188 people aboard — including the eldest son of the late Senator Robert Kennedy — landed safely yesterday in Aden after being hijacked on a flight from New Delhi to Athens.

A spokesman for the airline said in Frankfurt that the plane, with 172 passengers — including Joseph P. Kennedy III — and 16 in the crew, had landed safely in the port city of Aden, at the southwestern tip of the Arabian peninsula, at 7:30 p.m. PST.

The spokesman said Lufthansa headquarters in Frankfurt had received a telex message from Bombay, India, which had been informed by ground control



JOSEPH KENNEDY III
Sightseeing in India

in Aden of the plane's landing.

He said all the passengers
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and crew were reported in good condition.

The hijacking, the first involving a Lufthansa plane, occurred about 45 minutes after the Boeing took off from New Delhi for Athens at 1 a.m. local time today (11:30 a.m. PST Monday). The plane was on a scheduled flight from Tokyo to Frankfurt by way of Hong Kong, Bangkok and Athens.

The pilot radioed Delhi control tower to say the aircraft was being diverted over the Arabian Sea instead of flying over Karachi. Then another voice, believed to be that of an Arab, came on the air saying the pilot had been relieved of his command.

MYSTERY

It was not immediately known how the hijacking was carried out or whether the sky-pirates were armed.

Joseph Kennedy III, 19, boarded the plane at New Delhi.

Young Kennedy had been touring in India for a week after a visit to Bangladesh with his uncle and aunt, Senator and Mrs. Edward M. Kennedy. The senator's wife, Joan, had accompanied young Joe to New Delhi while her husband returned to the United States via the Pacific, but she left India ahead of her nephew.

Young Kennedy's father, Robert Kennedy, was assassinated in 1968 by Palistinian immigrant Sirhan Sirhan, who said he killed the senator because he supported Israel.

A Lufthansa official in New Delhi said three Lebanese nationals and three

passengers from the Persian Gulf state of Oman were among the 41 people who boarded the plane in the Indian capital. But he could not positively say who had seized the aircraft.

An airline spokesman in Frankfurt also said three passengers were identified on the Boeing passenger list as Arabs carrying passports from Oman.

FAMILY

In Washington, Senator Kennedy said that while the family is concerned, "Our report is that there was calmness on the plane and I don't think there's any reason to believe he's in any danger at this point."

The senator appeared with Joseph's mother, Ethel Kennedy, at the family's home in McLean, Va., outside Washington, to answer newsmen's questions. Kennedy had brought Mrs. Kennedy and a group of her children home from the airport after a skiing holiday in New Hampshire.

Mrs. Kennedy had nothing to say. When asked her reaction to the incident, the senator said, "She's got her hands full with the children here."

FOURTH

Today's hijacking was the fourth involving a jumbo-jet — the world's biggest passenger plane. Two were forced to fly from the U.S. to Cuba in 1970 and 1971.

A third 747 was commandeered by Arab guerrillas after leaving Amsterdam in September 1970. It was blown up at Cairo airport after the passengers and crew had disembarked.