

# British Reluctant to Try Californian

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LONDON, Jan. 3—A young Santa Barbara woman, allegedly caught here with a small arsenal concealed in her suitcase, has become the center of an international mystery involving Arab terrorists and Britain's thirst for oil.

Allison Thompson, 18, was picked up by police at Heathrow Airport on Saturday. Scotland Yard says she flew in from Los Angeles with five machine pistols and 150 rounds of ammunition in a secret compartment in her valise.

Arrested with her was Abelhkir Hakaoui, a 25-year-old Moroccan, also from the Los Angeles area. The Moroccan met Miss Thompson at the airport and both were seized as they boarded a bus.

Two days later, police grabbed another incoming passenger from Los Angeles, Atler Naseen, 29, a Pakistani. Authorities here say that Naseen is a boyfriend of Miss Thompson, who worked as a waitress in a Santa Barbara cafe.

Whether Miss Thompson will be charged with illegal possession of arms or simply sent back to the United States has touched off a great row here at the highest levels of government.

According to the Home Office, the ministry in charge of police and immigration matters, the affair is a straightforward matter of British justice and no political considerations can affect it. A spokesman said that authorities will decide, perhaps on Friday, whether there is enough evidence to bring Miss Thompson to trial.

The authorities could conclude, the spokesman said, that there is not enough evidence to rule out the possibility that she was simply the innocent victim of a plant. In that case, she and Naseen will simply be sent back to the United States.

Law enforcement officials here, however, scoff at the theory. They say no one can carry a suitcase weighed down with five automatic weapons and 150 rounds of ammunition without knowing that more than clothes were inside.

If Miss Thompson is sent home, these sources say, the decision will clearly be political. They quote Robert Carr, the home secretary, as saying in private that the "general Arab situation" makes it difficult to prosecute her.

Intelligence sources have disclosed that Prime Minister



ALLISON THOMPSON  
... arsenal in suitcase

Edward Heath's government is fearful of upsetting a mammoth and secret deal that is being negotiated with Saudi Arabia. The arrangement would supply Britain with 600,000 barrels of Saudi oil daily—30 per cent of current consumption—for three years. In return, the British would build a modern industrial base in Saudi Arabia, including capacity for an arms industry.

Negotiations for the deal began Dec. 10 in Riyadh, the Saudi capital. The British team was led by Lord Aldington, former chairman of the Conservative Party, now chairman of the London Port Authority and a close friend of Heath. Accompanying Lord Aldington was John Taylor, the assistant under secretary at the Foreign Office in charge of energy matters.

The government here tried to keep the mission secret but news of it leaked. It is known that Aldington, who returned to London Dec. 13, saw King Faisal and some Saudi ministers.

Since then, the Foreign Office will acknowledge only that contacts have been maintained between the two countries on the subject of an assured oil supply for Britain and long-term industrialization of Saudi Arabia.

According to those familiar with the bargaining, the talks are moving along well. Officials from the Department of Trade and Industry, the agency in charge of energy, exports and other business affairs here, are now said to be running the British end of the negotiations.

The prospective deal would assure Britain of a large portion of its energy needs during the critical period before oil is extracted on a big scale from the North Sea. The Saudis will reportedly get capital goods, technical know-how,

training of executives and technicians, maintenance of new industries and anything else needed to build an industrial structure. Among other things, the Saudis will receive the base for an arms industry, although not armaments themselves, to supply the entire Arab world.

The arrangement would involve several billions of dollars in goods and services. In its initial stages, the Saudis would be equipped with the means to produce transport planes and relatively unsophisticated weapons. Ultimately, it is envisioned that they could turn out advanced weapons, too.

This deal, intelligence sources say, rules the government's attitude toward the Arab world and affects its concern with Miss Thompson.

Some law enforcement officials here are arguing that London is behaving in a politically obtuse fashion, that King Faisal has no interest in protecting Arab terrorists. But these officials say that their political masters are so eager to avoid difficulties with any kind of Arab or Arab supporter that distinctions are not being made.

Police at the West London station of Ealing have been questioning Miss Thompson and Hakaoui for six days and Naseen, the Pakistani, for four days. Scotland Yard says that the three have yielded very little.

However, the Yard now believes that the key man is Hakaoui, the Moroccan, and that

he is part of a small group of revolutionaries seeking to overthrow King Hassan II of Morocco.

The trio are believed to have been awaiting the arrival of two accomplices from Los Angeles. But press accounts of Miss Thompson's arrest seemed to have frightened this pair off.

Scotland Yard says that the original tipoff about Miss Thompson and her luggage came from the FBI. Its agents are thought to be watching the two California accomplices who failed to turn up here.

If, as widely predicted, Miss Thompson and Naseen are released without charge, the authorities face a bureaucratic problem over Hakaoui. Unlike the other two, the Moroccan holds a valid visa to stay here for two months and has been in London since Dec. 11. Miss Thompson and the Pakistani have not yet been given permission to enter Britain, but Hakaoui cannot be sent back to the United States without a formal deportation order.

[U.S. sources in Washington said Miss Thompson's involvement in the arms smuggling appeared to be connected with her romance with Naseen, rather than part of any large conspiracy. They said there was no evidence that she had violated any U.S. law, and she could not be charged with any such violation unless it could be demonstrated that she had knowingly transported firearms on a plane across state lines within the United States.]