

Iranian Airliner Hijacked

TEHRAN—Three Iranian students brandishing pistols and a stick of dynamite hijacked an Iranian jetliner Saturday, shot one of the persons aboard and threatened to blow up the plane at the Baghdad airport an abortive plot to force the release of political prisoners.

The drama ended when Iraqi authorities in Baghdad persuaded the hijackers to leave the plane and then arrested them. The pilot, Capt. Ross de Spenza of San Francisco, resumed the flight and none of his passengers was hurt.

The plane carried 44 passengers, including the three hijackers, and seven crew members.

The only casualty was the chief steward, Armen Ovanessian, who was shot once just below the heart when he approached one of the hijackers. He was taken to a Baghdad Hospital where he was reported in serious condition.

The hijackers were identified as Ali Reza Khia Bani, Hassan Eahami and Mohammed Mahnudi. Officials said they ranged in age from 20 to 25.

The youths had demanded the release of 21 political prisoners in Iran but the government denied these prisoners exist.



California Faces Massive Bombing

An explosion rocked a courthouse in New York City Saturday, and police tightened security at public buildings and airports on the West Coast in the face of an unprecedented wave of bomb threats.

At Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., a threat to bomb the football stadium Saturday during a game with the University of Southern California caused police to closely examine spectators' belongings. The stadium was searched before the game.

The National Guard in California

announced it had received information from undisclosed sources that beginning at

Letters from several Weatherman groups claimed credit for explosions in pre-dawn hours Thursday causing extensive damage at a courthouse in San Rafael, Calif., a National Guard armory in Santa Barbara, Calif., and an ROTC building in Seattle.

10:30 p.m. PDT Friday night "the Weathermen will start attacking throughout the weekend every public building, aircraft installation, aircraft and military building throughout the state."

In Washington Friday the Pentagon advised National Guard units to be prepared for possible terrorist attacks.

As security was heightened in several states, a bomb blew out the third floor front of a New York City courthouse at 1:20 a.m. EDT Saturday.

A warning was telephoned by a purported Weatherman a half-hour before the blast. Nobody was injured.

Bomb threats were received by police, newspapers and other agencies throughout California.

The messages came from groups named the "Purple Sunshine Clan," the Quarter Moon Tribe," the "Weatherman Underground" and the "Perfect Park Home Grown Garden Society."

The letter from the Perfect Park group, located in Santa Barbara, said: "Everywhere the people are moving against pig Amerika."

All the Weatherman letters referred to the nation as "Amerika." All were photostatic copies, a device to prevent tracing of the documents to a particular typewriter.

Diplomat's Kidnappers Take Cabinet Minister

MONTREAL—A Quebec provincial Cabinet minister was kidnaped Saturday night 15 minutes after the Canadian government rejected prisoner exchange for the life of an abducted British diplomat.

Pierre Laporte, provincial labor minister, was taken from his home by two men with machineguns, police in suburban St. Lambert, Que., reported.

Laporte was grabbed at 6:15 p.m. EDT, only 15 minutes after provincial Justice Minister Jerome Choquette finished reading on radio and television a government counter-offer to the kidnapers of British diplomat James R. Cross.

Cross was taken hostage Monday by the Front de Liberation du Quebec FIQ, an underground terror group seeking independence for French-speaking Quebec Province.

Laporte was kidnaped while playing ball with his son in front of their suburban home, police said. Police roadblocks were thrown up throughout the Montreal area in an attempt to intercept the kidnapers.

The second kidnaping came so swiftly on the heels of Choquette's counter-offer to the Cross kidnapers that if appeared the men who kidnaped Laporte were standing by near his home, ready to move in.

Choquette, speaking for the federal and provincial governments, turned down the main demand made by the kidnapers for the life of Cross—the release of 23 jailed

separatists with an airliner to fly them to sanctuary in Cuba or Algeria.

But he offered the kidnapers themselves safe conduct out of the country if they returned Cross unharmed.

The kidnapers were also offered "all clemency" if they ever come to trial if they will spare Cross' life.

In a statement broadcast in English and French on radio and television, Choquette said:

"As an ultimate concession to save Cross' life, the federal government has

instructed me to say it is disposed to offer safe conduct to a foreign country," for his safe release.

In Ottawa, the Department of External Affairs said that at least one country had offered to accept the kidnapers if they took the government tent up on the offer.

Cross, 49, senior British trade commissioner in Montreal—the equivalent to a British consul—was kidnaped from his bed Monday by four FIQ gunmen. The kidnapers warned Friday he would be killed if their 23 comrades were not released by 6 p.m. EDT Saturday.

Russia Denounces Nixon Peace Bid

MOSCOW—The Soviet Union Saturday denounced President Nixon's Indochina ceasefire proposal as mere "dodging and shifting." It was the first direct Soviet reaction to the plan.

The reaction came in an editorial published in Pravda, the Communist party newspaper. The editorial was signed by Sergei Vishnevsky, a specialist in international affairs.

The ceasefire plan is "five points aimed at legalizing and perpetuating the

United States intervention in Indochina," Vishnevsky wrote.

Pravda's description of Nixon's proposal was similar to a statement by the Communist Vietnam News Agency, broadcast by Tass.

"The United States is striving to legalize the U.S. aggression in South Vietnam," the Vietnamese statement said. It also accused Nixon of trying to dodge demands for "speedy unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. troops and the troops of satellite countries from South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia."

The Pravda editorial said that the U.S. government "continues dodging and shifting to the people's demand for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Indochina."

Nixon's proposal calls for keeping in office "the most odious figures of the Thieu-Ky regime," the editorial said.

It said the "lawful" representatives of the Vietnamese people "quite justly reject Nixon's five points which do not provide a correct basis for an end to the war, for a political settlement."

Watchman Believes He Shot Protestors

MORRISTOWN, Tenn.—A security officer employed by the school said Saturday he apparently was responsible for the wounding of three black students during a demonstration at Morristown Junior College.

Lt. Chuck Hawkins, of Collins-Murray Guard Service Inc. said the disclosure the students had been hit by shotgun fire, rather than 38. caliber slugs, as first reported, led him to believe he was responsible.

"It has to be me, because I'm the only one who fired off a shotgun that night," the security officer said.

Three students, all from Ponpano Beach, Fla., were wounded in the shooting.

The three were injured early Friday morning after about 100 students at the

predominantly Negro school took over the Administration Building to back up demands for more liberal curfew hours, and longer library periods.

Hawkins said he and three other security service guards were summoned to the campus when it appeared trouble was brewing.

He said he was walking between the Administration Building and the men's dormitory searching for a fellow officer, whom he feared might have been hit by sniper fire, when he heard someone yell: "Man, Don't shoot. He's got a gun."

Seconds later, he said, three shots rang out, and he answered with a single blast from his shotgun.

Police said Hawkins came forward with his story after it was established the students had been hit with shotgun pellets.

Agency Wastes Million Dollars

WASHINGTON—The foreign aid agency wasted more than \$1 million by buying tons of steel for barges for Vietnam while most never were built and none probably ever was needed, the House Government Operations Committee said Saturday.

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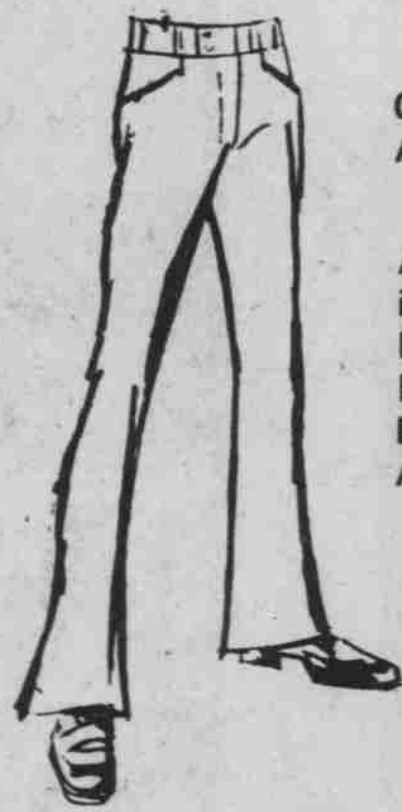
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