

STATINTL

HENRY J. TAYLOR

Jordan's Brave King Hussein

Our Central Intelligence Agency reports an unrevealed assassination attempt on the life of King Hussein of Jordan. This is the eleventh attempt. And the CIA traces it to Palestinian Arab guerrillas objecting to Hussein's December 1 statement that he is willing to reach a formal peace with Israel.

Brave King Hussein has visited President Nixon at the White House repeatedly and is well and favorably known to Secretary of State William P. Rogers. To them he has always looked like the one frail hope for stability in this country which is of immense strategic importance to us. But by joining in the 1970 peace initiative put forward by Mr. Rogers, showing a semblance of moderation toward Israel and now unilaterally offering to negotiate a peace with Israel Premier Golda Meir, Hussein put his head on the block.

Although 150,000 additional Palestinian Arabs poured into King Hussein's country when the Israelis mopped up the west bank of the Jordan River during the 1967 Six-Day War they are still a minority in Jordan. But two years ago Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco had to cancel a visit to King Hussein because the Arabs stoned the American Embassy in Amman and, at their demand, the King was forced to ask the recall of U.S. Ambassador Harrison M. Symmes.

Similarly, the Palestinian Arab revolutionaries pressed the government of neighboring Lebanon for the recall of American Ambassador Dwight J. Porter and all but collapsed Maj. Gen. Emile Bustani's Lebanese army and the Beirut government. And all this typifies the current chaos in the 13 countries of the Arab League; a chaos virtually complicating President Nixon's peace efforts.

ALONG WITH Jordan and Lebanon the Arab League consists of Algeria; Egypt, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Sudan,

Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. It embraces more than 100 million people. But upheavals abound. Syria, for example, has had nine coups d'etat in 25 years. And Jordan has had to fight an intermittent civil war with the Palestinian Arab revolutionists.

Hussein has won the civil war militarily but not politically. And that revolution surfaces again and again throughout the Arab League.

One offshoot well known to us is the Black September group responsible for the Munich Olympic Games horror and the many plane hijackings. It is led by Munzeer Salman Khalifah, a Palestinian Arab formerly of Beirut. Khalifah named the Black September group in protest against King Hussein's military action against the Palestinian Arabs in Jordan in September, 1970.

THE POLICY is a ghastly blend of terror and blackmail. But "Inshallah" (God willing) is the Palestinian Arab revolutionists' key word and philosophy. They designate their movement the "Sira'a" ("The Historic Struggle") and preach it as interminable, and they are everlastingly relentless in achieving what they call their "akhad taro" — their revenge; witness the fact that the attempts to assassinate Hussein now total eleven.

The Palestinian Arab revolutionists insist that war weariness will grow in Israel (as weariness of the Vietnam war grew here through the years), that Israel's economy (not strong) will increasingly feel the strain, and that there will never be a settlement with Israel except on their terms.

Can the King control strategic Jordan against the further tests? In Mr. Sisco's opinion, expressed to the White House, the Palestinian Arab revolutionists' success in destroying the King's control will demonstrate their true political strength or lack of strength — and supply the crystal ball.

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Yasir Arafat--Man With the Bloody Hands

Arab terrorism, again headlined, begins with Palestinian guerrilla leader Yasir Arafat, alias Abu Tmmar, whom I once went to see at his hideout in Amman, Jordan, and have written about. In all the Arab world no man's hands are more bloody than his.



Arafat is a broad-shouldered, rocklike man with a grip that is a crusher—a mercilessly cruel, evil character, zero Fahrenheit temperature. His tanned face is leathery, his mustache fierce and immense, his ancestral nose hooked, like a scimitar, and his daring brown eyes exchange glances as sharp as swords in the air.

He was holed up in a shabby room in an old house built in the cliffside. He had an automatic rifle on the table and was heavily guarded by camouflage-uniformed "militia." It was the moment of the Moslem prayer before sundown: "salat li'asr."

ARAB ETIQUETTE demands that a host bid his guest "mit ahlan wasah'lan"—a hundred times welcome. Substituting "alf"—a thousand—for "mit," a hundred—builds extravagance into the courtesy and makes it ironic, as all Mideast hands well know. He hit me with "alf" at once.

Arafat leads both Al Fatah, the largest Arab guerrilla commando group and the all-encompassing United Commando Command and operates the powerful, insidious Voice of Assifa radio, the "Voice of Storm," and the Cairo-based Voice of the Palestine Revolution radio, which blanket the Arab world.

His followers are drawn from the Palestine evictees, who now total about two and a half million. They have had no political life. They are the moths; Arafat is the candle. They are the victims of two wars and the cause of another. For yesterday's Arab refugees are today's guerrillas who, in a great oversimplification, feel that Israel deprives them of their birthright.

"Inshallah" (God willing) is the key word and philosophy in the Arab world. And all Arabs are willing to pay high for what they call their "akhad taro"—their revenge.

ARAFAT AND HIS FOLLOWERS call their Israel assaults the Sira's ("The Historic Struggle") and preach the war in terms of decades. He admitted to me that his followers "can be mobilized only around the issue of fighting." But the movement is deeply at odds within itself. And this accounts for the Black September group in his Al Fatah which claims responsibility for the Munich Olympic Games horror.

It is led by Munzeer Salman Khalifah, 29, a Palestinian Arab formerly of Beirut. Khalifah himself calls Al Fatah "the mother organization." In September, 1970, brave King Hussein, ordered his army to battle the guerrillas in Jordan. He won the civil war militarily, but not politically. And Khalifah named his Black September group in protest against King Hussein's action.

In February it began striking European targets and our Central Intelligence Agency estimates that it has expanded from 150 to about 300 members, including members in Western Europe and Yugoslavia, with some 51 cells throughout West Germany alone.

The CIA has discovered members arriving at East Berlin's Schonfeld Airport and being smuggled into West Berlin. They use false passports and each cell is a self-contained secret; cell members do not know the members of the other cells. And the CIA is convinced that it was this group that received a \$5 million ransom from the West German government last winter for a hijacked Lufthansa jet, although Bonn has never stated to whom it was paid.

ARAFAT TOLD ME that he and his followers must move the destiny of Arab world negotiations out of the hands of the Arab governments and, by veto, into their own. The Arab world is unorganized, and probably unorganizable, and this militant veto power represents a force which even the best-organized Arab governments cannot ignore or suppress.

The Communist Party Secretary Leonid I. Brezhnev, recognizing the importance of this veto force, invited Arafat to Moscow. With me, Arafat was evasive about the results, saying only that "the hearts in Moscow are warm and the snow is cold." He clearly got recognition, however, as a power independent of the Arab governments.

It is a superb blend of terror and blackmail—unspeakably brutish and unspeakably violent—but the prospect is not visionary. The Arab governments are shot through with individuals whose real loyalties are to dissident factions. Arafat swoops down on the opportunity like a hawk.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

STATINTL

Terrorists Hope to Murder Hussein

By Jack Anderson

The Black September terrorists, who were behind the Olympic massacre, have marked Jordan's King Hussein as their No. 1 assassination target. They hope to kill him on one of his trips abroad.

They take their name from September, 1970, a black month on their calendar, when King Hussein's forces crushed the Palestinian guerrillas and drove them out of Jordan. They have sworn revenge.

The Central Intelligence Agency, indeed, has linked the Black September terrorists to al Fatah, the main Palestinian guerrilla organization. They reportedly belong to a secret assassination arm of Fatah's intelligence service.

Whether Fatah's leader, Yasser Arafat, controls the Black September group is disputed. He has disavowed any responsibility for the terrorists. But the CIA has received "reliable" information that Black September is merely a cover for Fatah's assassination arm.

The CIA got wind of the assassination plot against King Hussein from inside Fatah's intelligence service, which

goes by the name Jihaz al Rasd.

Warns a secret CIA report: "Fakhri al Amari, who is chief of the special services section of Rasd, which is responsible for assassinations, kidnappings, sabotage and other acts of terrorism, was still working on his plan to to 'get' King Hussein of Jordan the next time the latter travels outside Jordan. . . .

"Part of the plan involves one al Husayni, who is a captain and a pilot for Royal Jordanian Airlines, who many times has piloted the King's plane when the King has traveled abroad.

"Husayni's role is to provide Rasd with intelligence on the exact flight data when the King next flies, including Amman take-off time and any planned stops enroute. This information is needed for a possible backup emergency attempt, if Rasd discovers that the primary plan has been leaked. Husayni is also to provide the King's estimated time of arrival at the destination and is to tell Rasd in advance whether Husayni will be flying on that particular out-of-country trip or not."

Because the King was ex-

pected to visit Paris, the plot on his life became known, at first, as the "Paris plan." The trip, however, never took place, and the terrorists are still waiting for their opportunity.

Terrorists dressed as Muslim or Christian priests also are reported to be stalking other Jordanian leaders. Declares the CIA:

"Fatah's assassination plans are aimed solely at Jordanian ministers, army officers and members of the Royal Hashemite family. It is planned to execute these individuals wherever they may be found abroad in Arab countries, Europe or America.

"For this purpose Fatah has accumulated a number of forged passports which will be used in appropriate countries, i.e., Syrian passports in Egypt, Egyptian or Kuwaiti passports in the Sudan and Gulf passports in Saudi Arabia.

"The plans include the adoption of Muslim or Christian priestly disguise to use when appropriate or necessary."

Some 200 trained terrorists, all Fatah members, are reported to belong to the Black September organization. They assassinated Jordan's Premier

Wasfi Tal in Cairo last November and, subsequently, made an unsuccessful attempt on the life of Jordan's ambassador to London, Zayed Rifal.

Black September terrorists also have claimed responsibility for sabotaging a West German plant that manufactured parts for the Israeli Air Force, blowing up the oil complex at Trieste, Italy, and murdering five Jordanians who allegedly had been spying on Palestinians in Europe.

The Black September group has also attempted to hijack several Jordanian airliners, once successfully. Last May, four Black September members—two men and two girls—hijacked a Sabena airliner to Tel Aviv. But Israeli security men killed the men and captured the girls.

Jordanian authorities have linked Egyptian intelligence with the Black September movement. Five days before the assassination of Wasfi Tal, a top Jordanian security official told the CIA, classified Black September documents "were delivered to Egyptian intelligence officer in Amman Muhammad Abd al Salam for safekeeping."

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