

U.S. OFFICE STONED BY MOB IN YEMEN

Americans Are Detained—
Washington Protests

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WASHINGTON, April 26 —

A rioting mob stoned and attacked the United States aid mission in Yemen today and several American aid officials were taken into custody by the Yemeni authorities, the State Department announced.

A spokesman said the United States had filed a protest demanding compensation for damages and an explanation of the arrests.

Lucius D. Battle, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, summoned Ambassador Abdelaziz al-Futaih to give to him the protest note.

The attack occurred in Taiz, the former royal capital and now the site of a training center for terrorists and tribal dissidents in Aden and South Arabia.

The Yemeni republican Government, which is pro-Egyptian and is supported by 40,000 Egyptian troops, has been dissatisfied for more than a year with the low level of American aid and has been critical of American offers to provide emergency food supplies to both the republican government and its royalist opposition in

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Yemen's intermittent civil war.

From time to time American officials have been harassed by Yemeni authorities. Some Americans have been accused of using aid connections as a cover for Central Intelligence Agency activities.

Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department's spokesman, said that Washington received a report this morning that "a serious demonstration" by a crowd of about 3,000 people had erupted into violence against the aid mission and the United States consulate in Taiz.

There were no reports of injury to Americans, he said, but he added that the department had "some reports, unconfirmed, that several American aid officials are being detained by Yemeni authorities for unexplained reasons."

Other officials said apparently fewer than half a dozen officials were being detained. There are 60 aid employes and dependents and an American consul and staff in Taiz, the department said.

Bonfire Is Started

Reports from the American Embassy in Sana, about 225 miles north of Taiz, disclosed that the Yemeni mob had started a bonfire outside the aid compound and had heavily stoned the building, shattering many windows.

Later, American officials said, the crowd stormed the compound, wrecking four vehicles, smashing office furniture and damaging personal property in an apartment.

State Department officials said that Yemeni security forces "were brought in, but apparently were unable to control the rioters" for some time. Eventually, the crowd was dispersed.

It was understood to have been the worst incident against a foreign installation in Taiz since a mob burned the West German Embassy in 1965 to protest Bonn's arms shipments to Israel.

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