

2 HELD IN YEMEN FED BY U.S. AIDES

Detained Americans Drink Wine and Play Cribbage

By **ERIC PACE**

Special to The New York Times

TAIZ, Yemen, May 3—American diplomats bearing food and drink trudged up a hillside today to the detention house where two of their colleagues are being held by the Yemeni authorities.

Barefoot Yemenis fingered their daggers and watched the procession, which has become a regular feature since the two men, Stephen Liapis and Harold Hartman, were arrested April 26 and informally accused of having tried to blow up Taiz.

Washington has called the accusation unfounded but has evacuated other aid personnel and their families — 142 persons in all — after Yemen said they had been involved in sabotage and espionage and had demanded their withdrawal.

Since then, the two prisoners, who are held in a dimly lit room 10 feet wide and 20 feet long, have been getting non-Yemeni fare like steak and table wine to fuel their running cribbage game.

Unpresumptuous Wine

"One night we brought sparkling burgundy and one night an unpresumptuous young red wine," reported the ranking American diplomat here, Ellis Oliver Jones 3d.

A lean six-footer from New London, Conn., Mr. Jones has been warned by the Yemeni authorities that his life is in danger if he ventures into the stony streets of Taiz from his office, a branch of the American Embassy in Sana.

Mr. Jones' office was stoned by Yemenis after the arrest of Messrs. Liapis and Hartman. Mobs also sacked the building of the United States aid mission and raided the living quarters of aid personnel.

Mr. Jones makes the daily rounds of Yemeni Government offices carrying a yellow legal pad with a list of unfulfilled demands for redress in wake of the incidents.

"The long man is very brave," said an English-speaking Yemeni who gave his name as Abdul as he watched Mr. Jones stride past.

Anti-American feeling is high in Yemen after a barrage of propaganda by the Egyptian-supported republican regime.

Accusations Detailed

Despairing of getting further American aid, the United Arab Republic has lately taken a more belligerent stance toward the United States. President Gamal Abdel Nasser resents its friendly relations with Israel and with Saudi Arabia, whose King Faisal is Mr. Nasser's chief rival for power and prestige in the Arab world.

Specific accusations against Mr. Liapis, who is from Grand Forks, N.D., and Mr. Hartman, who is from Baltimore, also provided a useful way to account for the otherwise unexplained burst of fire in Taiz last week.

The Yemenis said the two men had tried to shoot at an ammunition dump with a bazooka in an attempt to blow up the city, but other sources who declined to be identified said the two men had been at the residential compound when the attack was alleged to have happened.

The Yemenis may have been particularly interested in detaining Mr. Liapis, an American citizen who was born in Alexandria, Egypt, and speaks Arabic. He had been interpreter for the aid mission and was evidently regarded by the Yemenis as a source of intelligence to the Americans.

The Yemeni authorities interrogated the prisoners last week. They failed to provide beds for the first nights of their internment, but have not physically abused them. Their quarters are shared voluntarily by Roscoe S. Suddarth, a member of the United States Embassy staff, who watches over their treatment and joins in their cribbage game.

The New York Times

Published: May 4, 1967

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