Egypt's Office Here Fired On by a Sniper
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Egypt's Office Here Fired On by a Sniper

Four shots were fired through a fourth-floor window of the Egyptian Consulate at 900 Park Avenue at 12:45 P. M. yesterday.

No one was injured, for the top-floor office was unoccupied at the time.

The building has been guarded by the police constantly since last Wednesday. At that time an anonymous telephone caller had threatened to bomb the consulate. The bombing was to be in reprisal for the putting to death in Cairo of two Jews accused by the Egyptian Government of spying for Israel.

Detectives of the city bomb squad searched the building but found no explosives. Since then, however, patrolmen have paced before the consulate day and night.

A patrolman was on duty at 12:45 yesterday afternoon, having just relieved another for

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SNIPER HERE FIRES ON EGYPT'S OFFICE

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lunch. Mohammed Riad, second secretary of the consulate, heard a rapid series of shots and the smashing of glass in the office of Abdul Hasan and Salah Gabal, aides to the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations. Mr. Hassan and Mr. Gabal were in the building but out of the office at the time.

Four .22-caliber slugs, either from a pistol or small rifle, were picked out of the walls of the room. Later, police of the East Sixty-seventh Street Precinct found fourteen discharged .22-caliber cartridge casings on the roofs of two five-story buildings at 70 and 72 East Seventy-ninth Street, across the street from the consulate.

John J. McCloy, chairman of the board of the Chase National Bank, later informed the police that he had observed a man with a rifle on the roof of 72 East Seventy-ninth Street below his apartment on the fourteenth floor of 79 East Seventy-ninth Street. The shots had attracted Mr. McCloy to the window.

He could see that the man wore a trench coat, and could not tell whether he was wearing a beret or was dark-haired and bareheaded. Mr. McCloy also noticed an automobile speed away from 72 East Seventy-ninth Street soon afterward, but could not say whether the rifleman was in it. Through field glasses, however, he did read the license tag of the car.

A few hours later, the police questioned the owner of the automobile seen in front of 72 East Seventy-ninth Street at the time of the shooting. He was identified as Benjamin Sher of 280 Crown Street, Brooklyn.

First Deputy Police Commissioner James R. Kennedy said, however, that Mr. Sher had no connection with the shooting, and he was released after routine questioning. Mr. Sher explained that he had been in the neighborhood investigating a vacant apartment that he had seen advertised.

Commissioner Kennedy increased the guard at the consulate to three patrolmen and a sergeant.

Consul General Agiz Sherif and Omar Loutfy, chief of the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations, were not in the consulate at the time. Soon after the shooting the consulate was filled with local and Federal police making investigations.

Mr. McCloy's assistance to the police made him late for a luncheon by Governor Harriman for the Shah of Iran.

Last Monday in Cairo, Dr. Moussa L. Marzouk, 28-year-old surgeon at the Jewish Hospital there and a French citizen, and Samuel Azar, 26, an Alexandria teacher, were hanged. They were among thirteen persons accused of spying on Egypt and planting bombs there. Six of the defendants were sentenced to prison, two were acquitted, one committed suicide in jail and two escaped before trial.

The Israeli Government, the French Government, many Jewish organizations, and other groups and individuals protested the hangings as excessive.

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