

World and Nation

Jailed journalist says he's 'in for long haul'

MOSCOW (AP) — Jailed American reporter Nicholas Daniloff fears U.S.-Soviet tensions over his case are "escalating dangerously" and believes he won't be released soon, his wife said Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov told reporters a "mutual solution" to the Daniloff case could be found, but he declined to be specific. Daniloff was arrested Aug. 30 and accused of spying.

Ruth Daniloff, accompanied by U.S. Consul Roger Daley, met with her husband for the third time in Moscow's Lefortovo prison.

She has accused the Soviet government of framing the 51-year-old journalist and holding him hostage so an exchange can be arranged for Gennady Zakharov, a Soviet U.N. employee arrested Aug. 23 in New York and indicted Tuesday on spy charges.

After seeing her husband for an hour and 20 minutes, Mrs. Daniloff told reporters he looked drawn but was composed and gave her a thorough rundown on his conditions and KGB interrogations that have covered 28 hours.

"He is philosophical," she said. "He thinks it will be a rather long haul."

Daniloff, correspondent for U.S. News & World Report magazine, was arrested by eight KGB agents after a Soviet acquaintance handed him a package later found to contain military photographs and maps marked "secret."

On Sunday he was formally charged with espionage, which under Soviet law can carry a prison term of seven to 15 years or the death penalty. Daniloff has denied the charge.

"He thinks his case is escalating rather dangerously and that he wouldn't like to see it torpedo the

summit or torpedo U.S.-Soviet relations," his wife said, referring to possibility of diplomatic reprisal by the United States if Daniloff is not released.

"He said this is getting out of

hand," she said. "We have to resolve it fairly soon or it will jeopardize some important meetings." She apparently referred to Soviet and U.S. moves to arrange a second superpower summit.

Concern for Daniloff on rise, Reagan says

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviets' detention of American journalist Nicholas Daniloff "is a matter of increasing concern" to President Reagan as diplomatic efforts to win his release continue with no apparent success, the White House said Tuesday.

A day after Reagan publicly pronounced Daniloff innocent of the espionage charges lodged against him and warned Moscow that holding him prisoner threatens U.S.-Soviet relations, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes refused to discuss what further steps the administration is considering, except to say "there are some."

Reagan and Secretary of State George P. Shultz briefed congressional leaders on the case but pledged these lawmakers not to divulge what retaliatory moves the administration is considering.

British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe, talking to reporters at Dulles International Airport in suburban Virginia as he prepared for a flight home, said the Daniloff case "casts a very great shadow over Soviet good faith, a matter which must be of great concern to us."

Administration sources, speaking on condition they not be identified, have said the United States may begin expelling Soviets attached to the United Nations a few at a time until Daniloff is freed.

In New York, meanwhile, a federal grand jury indicted Gennady F. Zakharov, a Soviet physicist employed by the United Nations, on charges he tried to buy U.S. military secrets for the Soviet Union.

The administration has suggested that Daniloff, the Moscow correspondent for U.S. News & World Report, was framed by Soviet secret police in a scheme to exchange him for Zakharov, who was arrested in a New York subway station Aug. 23. Daniloff was arrested in Moscow one week later.

In an independent action, The Associated Press board of directors, made up of newspaper publishers and executives of the world's largest news-gathering organization, canceled a scheduled visit to the Soviet Union later this month, calling Daniloff's arrest unjustified and demanding his immediate release.

Witness says hijackers panicked

WIESBADEN, West Germany (AP) — Passengers tried to calm the hijackers of a Pan Am jumbo jet in Pakistan when the lights failed, but the pirates panicked and started shooting because they could not understand English, an American survivor said Tuesday.

Nadya Hussain, 16, choked back tears as she told reporters in Wiesbaden about the shooting aboard the plane last Friday. Nineteen people died and at least 120 were injured. The four hijackers are in custody.

Asked to describe the scene when the hijackers began firing inside the plane, Hussain said:

"When the lights went out, people tried to tell them (the hijackers) the power was off, but they couldn't understand English . . . and they started shooting."

"They asked the passengers what had happened, and the passengers said the power was bad. But as these hijackers couldn't understand English, except for one, they panicked anyway, and they asked for a radio."

"That's when I realized that the captain wasn't on board. If he had been on board, he could have calmed them and they wouldn't have started shooting finally, and shot me."

The three-man cockpit crew escaped through a rooftop hatch after the Palestinians seized the plane. Pan Am officials have defended the crew's actions, saying that is the best way to ensure that hijackers remain on the ground.

Hussain, brought to West Germany Sunday for treatment, appeared with her right arm in a sling because of a bullet wound. She also had a long wound on the left side of her face.

"I couldn't walk because my arm had a bullet in it," she said. "It was heavy. It was my arm or my leg."

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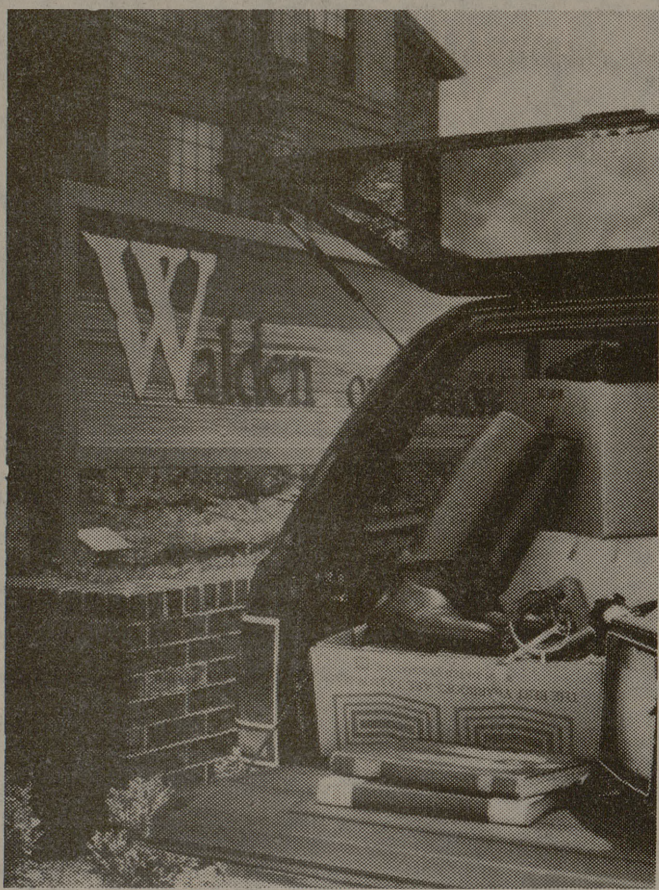
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