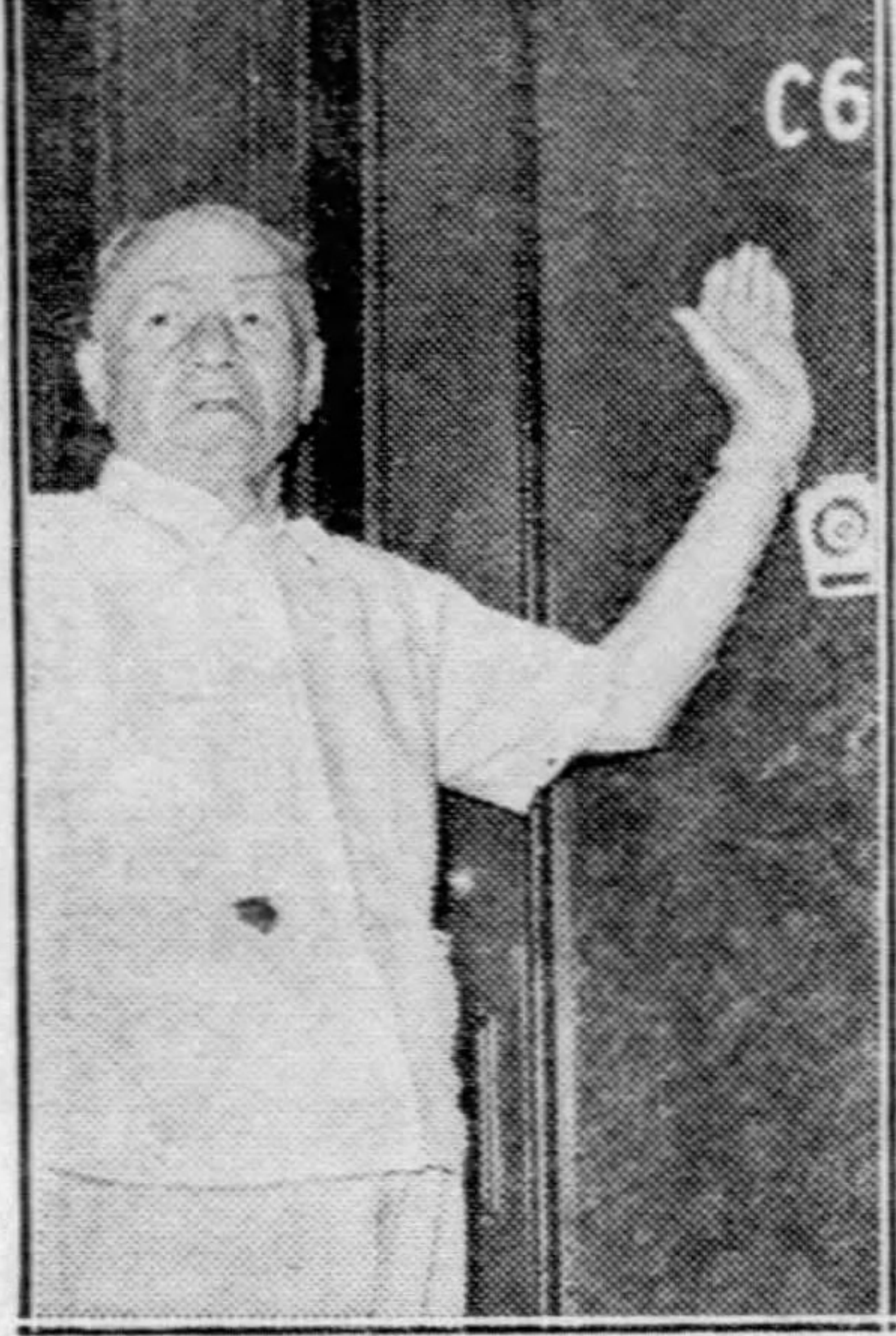


B'klyn Arabs Sympathetic To the Three

By DENNIS ESKOW

In the spice-scented Brooklyn casbah there were expressions of sympathy for the three Yemenis accused of plotting to kill President-elect Nixon.

Among the estimated 5,000 Arabs in Brooklyn are 1,000 to 1,500 from the ancient Red Sea land of Yemen, on the tip of the



NEWS photo by Leroy Jakob
 Isidore Flum, janitor of building where Namers lived, at door of their apartment.

Arabian peninsula. Most of them live, work and shop along shop-lined Atlantic Ave., Court St. and State St. in Cobble Hill.

Sheik Hopes to See Them

Spiritual leader of this Islamic community is white-bearded Sheik Al-Haj Daoud Ahmed Faisal, 76, director of the Islamic Mission of America. Interviewed in his third-floor office at the mosque on State St. at Court St., the sheik said he hoped to speak with the suspects.

The sheik said he did not know Ahmed Namer, 43, or his two sons, Hussein, 20, and Abdo, 19, but the father sometimes prayed at the mosque.

"If they really did intend to murder Nixon and if their motive was purely political," the Moslem leader said, "they should be released and sent back to Yemen. All they were trying to do was protect their homeland."

He referred to speculation that the alleged plot was triggered by Nixon's campaign statements that a strong Israel was the key to peace in the Middle East.

Predicts a Holy War

The sheik whose title haj means that he has visited Mecca, expressed the conviction that the Middle East crisis would result in a "holy war" in which all Moslems must take part.

In the Namers' East New York neighborhood, about six miles from the casbah, the talk was much calmer. One other Yemeni family lives in the neat four-story brick building at 496 Hinsdale St., where the Namers have a third-floor apartment. Several other Arab families, including a few from Yemen, live in the area.

"Kept to Themselves"

The 35 families in the Namers' building include Negroes, Puerto Ricans and people from the Caribbean. All seem to get along well.

"The Namers kept to themselves," said the janitor, Isidore Flum, 76, a Polish-born Jew.

"They didn't speak English too well. They paid their rent (\$59 a month) regularly and never caused any trouble. I'm surprised at what happened. They were always very friendly to me.

"I knew they were Arabs, but we never talked politics."

"The Namer boys are good kids," said Ali Amari, owner of a neighborhood candy store. "They always signed their pay checks over to their father. They had respect. But if they really meant to do this thing, they should all be burned."