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By ERIC PACE Special to The New York Times

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 7 — Palestine Liberation Organization officials said in interviews here today that a two-member P.L.O. delegation, headed by a leader of Al Fatah, the main guerrilla group, had arrived in Teheran and had begun efforts to protect the lives of Americans held hostage by students in the United States Embassy.

Zehdi Labib Terzi, the chief Palestinian observer here, said that the delegation had been the idea of Yasir Arafat, head of the P.L.O. An aide to Mr. Terzi, Hassan Rahman, said in a later interview here that he had no information indicating that parties outside the P.L.O. had any role in the decision.

"The P.L.O. usually acts on its own," he said.

In Washington, Representative Paul Findley, Republican of Illinois, said that he telephoned Mr. Arafat in Beirut yesterday and proposed the mission, knowing that Mr. Arafat was a friend of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. A high State Department official said that the indications were that the Palestinians had not reached Teheran and, further, that the Iranians were not interested in discussing with them the seizure of the American Embassy.

Mr. Terzi and Mr. Rahman were interviewed in the Delegates Lounge, where

they met during the day with various Arabs.

Mr. Terzi said: "We have great hope the Iranian students will respond to our appeal." The aim of the mission as reported from here last night was to seek the release of the hostages. Today, Mr. Terzi and Mr. Rahman spoke of protecting the hostages' lives.

The P.L.O. delegation in Teheran "will just sit down and reason with the students," Mr. Terzi said, adding: "We have learned how to handle such cases."

P.L.O. Said to Make Contact

Mr. Terzi said he had been in communication with the P.L.O. headquarters in Beirut by telephone and learned that the delegation had flown from Beirut to Teheran, where it was "establishing contact." He did not say with whom. He added that the P.L.O. was asking no compensation for its action.

Asked whether the P.L.O. felt the United States should take any specific action in the crisis in Iran, Mr. Terzi said: "We can't tell them what to do. If there's any way we can help, we're available."

Asked by the interviewer what lesson the P.L.O. thought the United States should learn from the crisis, Mr. Terzi smiled and said: "I'll leave that to you."

Mr. Rahman, who is a spokesman for the P.L.O. delegation here, which has the status of an observer at the United Nations, said the senior of the two P.L.O. representatives who had flown to Iran was Khalil al-Wazir, whose guerrilla code-name is Abu Jihad.

'Leading Figure' in Al Fatah

Abu Jihad, he said, is a member of the Central Committee of Al Fatah, the strongest of the P.L.O.'s member organizations, and a "leading figure" in Al Fatah.

The second representative, he said, is Saad Sayel, code-named Abu Walid, the P.L.O.'s chief of military operations.

Asked whether he was hopeful about the situation in Teheran, Mr. Rahman said: "I am always optimistic."

"The P.L.O. is close to Khomeini and to the Iranian people," he went on, but he emphasized: "We are not involved in negotiations. We are not authorized by any of the parties to be involved in negotiations. Our main purpose is to avoid a tragic conclusion of this episode. Our good offices are available for any role we may be able to play."

Asked whether the P.L.O. might be willing to send a peacekeeping unit of some kind to Teheran, he said he did not want to speculate about the future. Asked whether the P.L.O. intended to send other

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Ingeborg Lippman

Abu Jihad, a deputy chief of the Palestine Liberation Organization, is reportedly meeting with Iranian leaders on the fate of hostages.

Associated Press

Demonstrators outside the United States Embassy in Teheran

such delegations in similar situations in the future, he said: "I hope we will not have similar incidents."

In response to a question as to whether the initiative of the P.L.O. was an effort to improve its image, he said: "It is what we consider to be our moral responsibility toward a group of human beings."

Mr. Terzi met with Secretary General Kurt Waldheim after the Secretary General had talked by telephone with Secretary of State Cyrus R. Vance.

There was a feeling in Islamic quarters here that the P.L.O.'s move was the most effective one that the Arab camp could make right now to ease the situation in Teheran.

Mansur Rashid Kikhia, chief delegate of Libya, said in an interview: "In our opinion the P.L.O. is doing a very important job. It is a very positive gesture on their part. They have good relations in Iran. They are very popular. Now we hope the problem will be solved."