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un-hostages

united nations (ap) - a u.n. committee working on a draft treaty against international hostage was stymied tuesday by a disagreement among western countries.

the 34-nation ad hoc committee on the drafting of an international convention on the taking of hostages was expected to end discussion of treaty language wednesday and direct its attention to a possible recommendation to the general assembly.

the disagreement concerns a west german proposal that would require any signer to prosecute any international hostage taker it caught, unless the suspect were extradited.

henry j. heinemann of the netherlands objected that a nation might want to extradite the offender but could find itself forced to prosecute if extradition were not requested.

robert rosenstock of the united states said the provision should be left as it was to insure that there would be "no safe haven" for hostage takers.

heinemann responded by posing a situation in which country after country would refuse landing rights to airborne hostage takers until one had to accept them because the plane was out of fuel.

that country then would have to prosecute, he concluded, while the country where the offense was committed was happy to be rid of the responsibility.

the debate ended with the point unresolved.

(end)

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u.n.-hostages

united nations (ap) - a new u.n. committee meets monday to try to work out an international treaty to stop the growing terrorist practice of seizing hostages.

diplomats involved said that west germany, which got the 1976 general assembly to establish the committee, had circulated a suggested draft for it to start out with.

they said the draft would make the transportation of hostages across international frontiers a crime in all countries accepting the treaty and would require them to take action against anybody caught doing it, either by trying him under their own laws or sending him back for trial where he started out.

the ad hoc committee on the drafting of an international convention against the taking of hostages is still short two of its intended 35 members because the eastern european group produced nominees for only three of the five seats it is entitled to.

committee members are hopeful that that group can get together on two more before the u.n. legal counsel, erik suy, convenes the committee at 3 p.m. (1900 gmt) monday to begin work by electing officers and adopting its agenda.

those that assembly president hamilton shirley amerasinghe of sri lanka has already named to membership on nomination by various regional groups are:

algeria, egypt, libya, somalia, guinea, niger,  
tanzania= south yemen, jordan, syria, iran, japan, the philippines=  
barbados, surinam, mexico, nicaragua, venezuela, chile= the soviet  
union, poland, yugoslavia= britain, france, west germany, the  
netherlands, italy, denmark, sweden, the united states and canada.

(end)

0342g 31 jul 77