

ANTI-SEMITISM MAY HIT FRANCE

PARIS (WNS) -- French Jewish leaders have expressed concern that the anti-Pompidou demonstrations in the United States and remarks made by President Georges Pompidou on his visit to America may spark a resurgence of anti-Semitism in their nation.

Jewish leaders so far have tried to play down this danger in public but have indicated in private talks that Mr. Pompidou's characterization of Israel as a "racial and religious" state and its constant appeal to Jews abroad for support have had the effect of raising the question of French Jews' loyalty to France.

Non-Jewish observers have joined Jewish leaders in the opinion that the Government's handling of the entire Mideast problem has created ripe conditions for the growth of French anti-Semitism.

Two leading newspapers commented on this danger in editorials on Mr. Pompidou's visit. La Figaro warned that "behind anti-Zionism lurks the ever present anti-Semitism," while Le Monde, which rapped the demonstrations in the U.S., commented that "polemical discussions on the racial and religious origins of individuals . . . will not contribute to national unity." Radio Luxemburg, a privately owned station, devoted one evening newscast to the subject.

The French Jewish Students Federations issued a statement warning that "declarations implying that Jews are agents of foreign powers can easily create a renaissance of anti-Semitism." And French Jewish organizations scheduled an extraordinary joint meeting this week to discuss this danger and the entire implications of Mr. Pompidou's remarks on Jews and Israel.

President Pompidou has said nothing in public about

the Mideast since his return to Paris. Government spokesmen indicated he would stand behind comments made before he left New York in which he offered to return the \$56 million Israel paid France for the embargoed jets and pledged that failing a return of the money, the embargo "will last as long as the war does."

In public statements, Jewish leaders and non-Jewish backers of Israel have reasserted their opposition to Paris' Mideast policy and reaffirmed support of Israel.

The demonstrations against Mr. Pompidou were climaxed by a turnout of more than 5,000 persons outside the hotel in New York in which the French leader was being feted. President Nixon rushed to the city in place of Vice President Spiro T. Agnew to attend the dinner in a move that mollified the French President. The American leader noted that this was the first time a President has substituted for a Vice President.

Mr. Nixon also humorously said: "I wanted Mr. Pompidou to see the U.S. as a President of the U.S. saw it. And I must say, we overdid it a bit, as we usually do."

Mr. Pompidou had been scheduled to meet with American Jewish leaders, but he failed to keep this appointment and did not notify the group that he was not going to attend. He explained later that he had already met with some Jewish leaders and there was a point at which these talks can sometimes be useless and counter-productive.

The Jewish leaders deplored Mr. Pompidou's "act of discourtesy" and said he had "consciously overreacted" to the demonstrations in Chicago and New York in an attempt to divert attention from the real issues on which Americans oppose French policy in the Mideast.

LETTER

Dear Sir:

For a number of years I used to receive your "Las Vegas Israelite" Newspaper and enjoyed it very much. I also would give it to some friends to read.

I regret, however, that lately the paper stopped arriving at my place. I miss it very much and would appreciate if you would start mailing it to me again.

With many thanks, I am,
Yours truly,
Rabbi Michael
Celniker
Toronto, Canada

(ED. NOTE: Sorry, things happen when there is a list of so many thousands. We'll send a dozen back numbers, J.T.)

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U.S. JEWS DON'T LIKE POMPIDOU BRUSH

By RICHARD COHEN

The following statement was issued Monday (March 2) by Dr. William A. Wexler, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and Philip Hoffman, president of the American Jewish Committee, following cancellation of its appointment with French President Georges Pompidou.

"We are dismayed at President Pompidou's sudden decision to cancel his meeting with us -- a decision we first learned about not from his office but from a local radio news reporter.

"Our delegation members, representing the national leadership of the Jewish Community, have travelled thousands of miles to New York to accept President

Pompidou's invitation to meet with him. Without offering any reason, he decided not to appear.

"We are appalled at this act of discourtesy, which is an affront not only to the American Jewish community but to the gracious traditions of the people of France.

"Had Monsieur Pompidou not rescinded his invitation after we had gathered to meet with him, we would have urged him to lift the arms embargo against Israel and to deliver to Israel the 50 Mirage jets bought and paid for. President Pompidou's anti-Israel pro-Arab policy shocks the many friends of France, for we recall the genuine sympathy and friendship extended by the French people to Israel in the past. It is gratifying to

know that even now the majority of Frenchmen repudiate their government's one-sided policy and share our apprehension over the course pursued by the Pompidou regime.

"This course jeopardizes the cause of peace in the Middle East and encourages Arab refusal to accept a cease-fire and to negotiate a peace settlement with Israel.

"Despite Monsieur Pompidou's rudeness we urge our fellow-Americans to act in an orderly, peaceful and non-violent manner in exercising their democratic right to communicate to Monsieur Pompidou and to the world their justifiable indignation over the dangers to the cause of world peace represented by French policy."

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