

AJC PRAISES SWISS

NEW YORK--The American Jewish Committee has sent a message of appreciation to the government and people of Switzerland, applauding their recent conduct "in the face of the unprovoked violations of Swiss neutrality by Arab terrorists and their wanton disregard for the property and rights of civilian airlines and their brutal taking of innocent human life," it was announced today by Philip E. Hoffman, Committee President.

A Swissair plane bound from Zurich to Tel Aviv crashed February 21 after a midair explosion in which all 47 persons aboard were killed, and Arab terrorists have been suspected. A year before, Arab terrorists attacked an Israeli plane on the ground at Zurich air-

port, killing the co-pilot and injuring four passengers.

In the earlier instance, the Swiss courts convicted the responsible Arab terrorists of murder, rejecting their claim that they had been performing a legitimate political act, and sentenced them to twelve years' imprisonment. The same court acquitted the El Al security officer who had shot one of the terrorists in an attempt to defend the plane.

In response to the latest incident, Switzerland has called for an international emergency conference on air security.

The AJC message declared that "had all other governments taken equally vigorous action, the latest tragedy might well have been avoided," and expressed the hope "that the Swiss example will

prompt other nations and international bodies to live up to their responsibilities."

REDS CONDEMN ISRAEL

LONDON (WNS)--The Russian Government has sponsored a news conference at which dozens of Soviet Jews appeared to pledge loyalty to Moscow's Mideast policy and condemn Israel, Zionism and the United States, it was reported from Moscow.

A statement attacking Israel's militarism, Zionism's chauvinistic views and America's distortion of the true conditions of Russian Jews and signed by 52 Jews including a deputy premier, other government officials, scientists, artists, musicians, journalists, teachers, writers, poets, workers, and military officers was distributed at the two-hour news conference.

The conference was held after the Government sponsored a one-day nationwide protest against "Israeli aggression" and individual Jews, including Moscow's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin denounced Jerusalem and assailed claims that Russian Jews wanted to leave the Soviet Union.

While this campaign was being held within Russia -- mainly for the benefit of foreign observers as most local Soviet Republics did not play up the anti-Israel activities -- a Government spokesman said Moscow rejected the Arab terrorists program for the destruction

of the State of Israel. The spokesman said "our policy is clear. We are for the continued existence of Israel in peaceful coexistence with its neighbors."

But the Soviet Government, the spokesman said, considered "as just the Palestinian movement to free the Israeli-occupied lands." He declined to comment on Arab guerrillas claims that the Soviet Union would aid the El Fatah movement and also denied reports that Egypt had asked Moscow for its new MIG-23 jet fighter bomber.

ARAB THREATS

LONDON (WNS) -- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the most extreme Arab terrorist organization, has issued a "Statement To World Public Opinion" in which it renews its threat to act against Israeli embassies and businesses without regard to the lives of people on these premises.

The Front, which claimed credit for recent attacks on El Al airlines and offices and Israeli and Jewish firms, said that these facilities and offices and all other Zionist commercial or tourist centers (were) organic extensions of the Zionist expansionist racial state of Israel" and any commercial support of these centers "is considered an act of aggression against the Palestinian Arab people."

While expressing "in ad-

vance...the deep sorrow we would feel if some foreign individuals do not comply with this warning," the Front noted it "will not be respon-

sible for any harm which might be inflicted on them. The Front is determined to translate this warning into action."



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