

Two Frances?

BY RABBI MARC H. TANENBAUM

Are there two Frances? That question was raised by Israel's Prime Minister Begin a few weeks ago in the Knesset as he strongly condemned the outrageous bombing of the Rue Copernic Synagogue in Paris, and the savage loss of lives.

There is a France which Israelis and Jews will always admire and cherish, Begin said - the France of the French Revolution, equality, Jewish emancipation, culture, literature, and Emile Zola. There is the other France of the anti-Semitic accuser of Captain Dreyfus, and those who taunted Simone Veil, now president of the European Parliament, as a 4-year old child, with anti-Semitic epithets.

Both Frances confronted each other early in October. More than 150,000 French people, the majority of them non-Jews, marched in solidarity with French Jewry, condemning vigorously the monstrous bombing, and charging the French government with complicity in the attacks as a result of its tolerance of PLO and neo-Nazi terrorists. French Catholic and Protestant church leaders issued powerful statements of solidarity with Jews, calling the rise of neo-fascist and anti-Semitism the sign of a growing moral degradation of France itself.

The French government leaders finally made all the right statements but still refused to acknowledge their guilt for encouraging that "second France" through its consistent anti-Israel, pro-PLO policies. Since June 1980, there have been 40 separate attacks by neo-Nazis linked with the PLO against Jewish institutions, and the French police - who include some 30 neo-Nazis - failed to bring anyone to book.

Jews have been called the barometers of the moral health of a society. If the French government does nothing real to contain the sickness of anti-Semitism and its support of terrorist PLO groups, the French people will face the danger of being consumed by the social pathology of fascism. The time to act is now -- while there is still time.

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Gen. Yitzhak Segev, the military governor of the Gaza Strip, has ordered the release of 33 Arab prisoners as a gesture toward the Moslem population on the eve of the Moslem feast of Id Al Adha. Half of the released prisoners are security prisoners, the others are criminals. On the West Bank 24 prisoners were released.

AUTONOMY TALKS ARE PUT OFF

WASH. (WNS) -- The chief negotiators for the United States, Israel and Egypt ended two days of talks with the announcement that the West Bank - Gaza Strip autonomy talks will not be resumed until after the U.S. Presidential elections Nov. 4 and that the proposed U.N. conference will be held before the year.

Previous U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Israeli Premier Menachem Begin in mid-November while Begin demanded that progress on autonomy be achieved before a summit is held. But at a recent press conference with Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali, and Israeli Interior Minister Yosef Burg, U.S. special Ambassador Sol Linowitz said the summit would not take place until after many other meetings in order to prepare it for a successful conclusion.

He indicated that January, 1981, would be the earliest date. The parties would not want to go to a summit "unless we are certain it is timely and productive," Linowitz said. He announced that the U.S. will prepare a revised memorandum of understanding as a result of the two-day meeting and this will be discussed by representatives of the three nations at

a meeting Nov. 17 "in the area," presumably in Egypt or Israel. Linowitz said the Jerusalem issue will not be included in the new memorandum of understanding. "We have agreed that this is not the time to deal with the Jerusalem issue," he said. Linowitz, Burg and U.N. in their apprehensions as to whether there is greater urgency now about the strategic issue of the Iranian war, or whether the Palestinian issue is still seen as their top priority.

"Of course the Palestinian problem will and is now the top issue in the Middle East and will stay as such until we come to a comprehensive peace settlement in the area," Ali said. He said the Egyptian position is that the Palestinian problem is "the cornerstone or core" of the Middle East problem. But Burg said the Arabs should look toward the Persian Gulf "to see how devastating a war can be and should understand


that from the Libyan-Egyptian border to the Jordan River and the Syrian border, there is peace because there is a Camp David and the autonomy talks."

DAVID HOROWITZ TO GET AWARD

ner to be held in New York on November 11, in which he was informed that Prime Minister Menachem Begin will confer upon him the Jabotinsky Centennial Citation at a special reception to be held in Begin's suite at the Waldorf - Astoria Hotel on Wednesday morning, 12 November. Mr. Horowitz, who has devoted a lifetime to the cause of Israel and Jewry, is one of 100 notables from all phases of professional life who will receive the Award.

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