

JEWISH TRAVEL AGENTS MURDERED IN PARIS

PARIS (WNS) -- An unknown gunman murdered the Jewish owners of a Paris travel agency that specialized in tours to Israel. The assailant walked into the offices of IT-Tours and fired eight bullets from an automatic pistol, fatally wounding Edwin Douek, 53, the proprietor and killing his wife, Michelle, 29, instantly. A clerk was slightly wounded.

The incident was the first fatal attack on Jews in France since the bombing of the Rue Copernic synagogue which took four lives. Police immediately took precautionary measures to protect Jewish institutions. The Rothschild Bank, only a block away from the travel agency, was cordoned off and cars were not permitted to park on adjacent streets. Other Jewish-owned businesses associated with Israel were placed under round-the-clock guard.

Marcel LeClerc, chief of the French criminal police, said the police are convinced the murders were politically motivated and committed on behalf of an Arab country or an Arab terrorist organization opposed to the Camp David

agreements. The gunman did not take any money. Eyewitnesses said the gunman took his weapon from under a raincoat and opened fire without saying a word and then fled.

Some eyewitnesses said he appeared to be an Arab. The police said the weapon that was used was an Italian-made Beretta 7.65 automatic pistol equipped with a Czech-made silencer. The bullets were of Czech manufacture, the police said. They noted the same type of weapon was used in the murder of the Syrian leader, Saleh el-Bittar last July, and in the attack last summer on former Iranian Premier Shapur Bakhtiar.

But a member of the Israel Knesset who was visiting Paris, Assaf Yagouri, disagreed, claiming the killings were the work of "an anti-Semitic organization." Yagouri said his own investigation and consultations with the "appropriate sources" convinced him that the Doueks were the victims of anti-Semites. The couple was well known in the Jewish community and their murder touched off a near panic in some Jewish quarters.

ARABS EYE REAGAN

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- King Hussein of Jordan has said he "would be delighted" to meet with Ronald Reagan after he is inaugurated as President. The King made his comment in an interview in the Beirut weekly An Nahar in which he had been asked if the Camp David peace process had run its course with

the affairs of the region and start a new page in its dealings with the Arab world," Hussein said. He said he would agree to a federation with a Palestinian entity if that is what the Palestinians wanted.

the election of Reagan.

"I believe it is a suitable opportunity for the President and the New Administration to reconsider

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