

POPE NAMES JEWISH CONVERT TO HIGH POST

PARIS (WNS) -- Msgr. Jean-Marie Lustiger, a 54-year-old Jewish convert to Catholicism, was named by Pope John Paul II as Archbishop of Paris, the highest post in France's Roman Catholic Church. Lustiger, who was Bishop of Orleans, was converted at the age of 14 after his parents, Polish Jewish immigrants to France, hid him with a Catholic family in Orleans. Both his parents were deported.

Lustiger's mother died in Auschwitz in 1943. His father returned to France after the war, and although the two were close the father never was able to convince his son to return to Judaism. Lustiger has repeatedly stressed his contact with the Jewish people.

He said in a tele-

vision interview he was "first and foremost a Jew and the son of a Jewish martyr." He has visited Israel on several occasions and has always tried to develop relations with Jews and Jewish organizations. A traditionalist Lustiger is expected to be named a cardinal soon. Lustiger is believed to be the first Jewish convert to become Archbishop of Paris.

There have been several Cardinals in the Roman Catholic Church who have been of Jewish origin. But, reportedly, the only other convert was Cardinal Pietro Pierleoni, who was appointed a Cardinal in 1106 and who like Lustiger was a Jew who converted to Catholicism at the age of 14.

WALDHEIM APOLOGIZES ABOUT ISRAELI SOLDIERS

UNITED NATIONS (WNS) -- Secretary General Kurt Waldheim has apologized for the accusation by the United Nations

Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) that Israeli soldiers mutilated the bodies of five Palestinian terrorists killed Dec.

25. In a statement read by a UN spokesman Feb. 10, Waldheim said his apology is based on the report of the Board of Inquiry he appointed Jan. 15 to investigate the conflicting accounts by UNIFIL and Israel on the incident.

"After intensive investigation, the Board has concluded that it has not found evidence to support the account contained in the UNIFIL version of the incident," Waldheim said. "The Board believes that distance, angle and observation, smoke resulting from the explosions when the Israeli Defense Force soldiers blew up the ammunition and equipment of the Palestinian armed elements, and the prevailing tension all contributed to the Dutch soldiers of UNIFIL reporting what they thought they had seen, rather than what had actually occurred."

Waldheim stressed that "the Board unanimously agreed, however, that the UNIFIL soldiers had no intention of deliberately making incorrect statements." The Board was made up of Brig. Gen. Stig Waldenstrom of Sweden, the chief military observer of the UN

Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan; and Col. Osmo Karanka, of Finland, and Lt. Col. Brian Hanly, of Canada, both of the UN Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights.

In a brief statement, Israel said, "We are satisfied that the Board of Inquiry has carried out its task. We are pleased to note that in its report submitted to the Secretary General and published recently, Israel's position was fully vindicated."

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