

# PLO LINKED TO PARIS ATTACK

PARIS (WNS) -- Interior Minister Gastan Defferre has implicated the extremist "Abu Nidal" group in the terrorist attack which killed six people, including two American citizens, and wounded 22, some of them critically when four terrorists opened fire on customers eating lunch in the city's best known Jewish restaurant in the heart of Paris' traditional Jewish quarter, the Marais, and then fired on fleeing shopkeepers and passersby. The attack was the deadliest carried out in recent years against a western Jewish community.

Defferre, after consultations with senior police officials and heads of France's various intelligence services said that the terrorists used the same weapons as those which had served in the attack on Israel's Ambassador to London, Shlomo Argov, on June 3, and in the attack on the Vienna synagogue last August. The Abu Nidal group, a pro - Iraqi Palestinian extremist faction, was responsible for both. The Minister said the terrorists had used Polish made "WZ-63" submachineguns, which ballistic experts have identified as being the same, or highly similar to those used in the London and Vienna attacks.

However, just 48 hours after the attack on Goldenberg's restaurant, one of France's best known Jewish restaurants, the Direct Action group claimed responsibility for a bomb explosion which damaged a building housing commercial firms linked to Israel and a Jewish owned bank. A passerby, a woman walking her dog, was seriously injured. French police had arrested eight suspected members of Direct Action, an extreme left - wing organization, in connection with the restaurant attack. The Direct Action group has claimed responsibility for four explosions and several machinegun attacks against Jewish or Israeli installations in France in recent weeks.

Police investigators said they found inscriptions on the adjacent building to where the bomb exploded calling for the "immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli fascists from Lebanon" and warned that "if the Palestinians are forced to leave Beirut, we shall kill the Zionist financiers and propagandists working for its (Israel) cause." The inscriptions were signed by the Direct Action group. Police said they are investigating the possibility that Direct Action might have given the terrorist hit squad "logistical help" or extended some other form of assistance.

The Jewish community was still reeling when the bomb exploded outside the building housing the firms with commercial interests in Israel. Police did however increase their patrols of Jewish quarters as well as near Jewish and Israeli installations. Riot police were also stationed near the Israeli Embassy. Defferre asked all organizations, including the country's largest trade union, the Communist - controlled CGT, which had called for a "Stop the War in Lebanon" march through Paris, accepted his appeal to cancel their meeting.

The Jewish community said however the situation was too serious and turned down the re-

quest. They held Israel solidarity rallies August 10 and 11 in front of the Israel Embassy. Thousands of horrified protests and messages of sympathy from all French political parties, groups and associations have poured in since the attack on Goldenberg's. Jewish organizations said the public response of outrage has been unparalleled but most Jewish organizations privately regret that practically none of these messages express sympathy or solidarity with Israel.

Even the opposition parties and the press carefully avoided attacking the government on its Middle East policy and its readiness to send troops to Beirut as part, the bulk, of the multinational force scheduled to ensure the PLO withdrawal from the Lebanese capital. Most of the press attacked Israel for having accused the French government and the French media of responsibility for the attack by "having created an anti - Semitic climate" in France. The papers denied the allegations and on August 10, Le Monde, in a front page editorial, implied that Israel's acts are to blame and not the fact that the press reported them.

Meanwhile President Francois Mitterrand was greeted with catcalls and shouts of "shame" and "Mitterrand traitor" when he attended a religious service at the Rue des Rosiers Synagogue, near the scene of the attack just several hours after the incident. Several hundred people, mainly Jewish residents of the area, gathered in the streets after the attack. Tempers soon flared and the crowd, first softly, then even louder, started shouting anti - government slogans.

Prime Minister Pierre Mauroy, who came shortly after the terrorist attack to present the government's condolences, was booed and jeered. His voice could barely be heard as he told the angry crowd: "France only wants peace. It is against violence, whether in the Middle East or Beirut and how much more so where Paris itself is concerned."

Pandemonium broke out when the President arrived. In spite of a police barricade, demonstrators managed to squeeze through. While Kaddish was recited inside the small, centuries old synagogue, the shouts of the demonstrators -- "Mitterrand, Oradour" and "Socialism, betrayed" -- could be heard inside the building. After the ceremony Mitterrand drove to the city's main hospital where close to 20 of the wounded are hospitalized, many in the intensive care ward.

The American Embassy in Paris announced

August 10 that two of the casualties were American citizens, presumably tourists. One was identified as Anne Van Zantan, 30, a curator of the archaeological collection at the Chicago Historical Society, and Grace Cutler, 66. Mrs. Van Zanten's husband, David, 34, an art historian at Northwestern University, is among those seriously wounded. Altogether, only a small number of Jews were among the injured and not a single Jew was among those killed. There were no Israelis among the wounded, the Israel Consulate in Paris said.

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