

FRENCH RABBI SPEAKS ON ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Visiting the United States for the first time since the wave of terrorist attacks against Jewish and Israeli installations rocked France, Rinat Sirat, the Chief Rabbi of France said here that while he was not sure of the reasons behind the attacks, he suggested it may be that the French Jewish community "affirms its Jewishness."

Speaking at a news conference sponsored by the World Jewish Congress -- American Section, Sirat suggested that the elements responsible for the rash of terrorists attacks is part of an organized effort by extremist groups to "destabilize Western democracies." He said it appears clear that "The Jewish community of France has been singled out...."

Addressing the issue of anti-Semitism in France and the terrorist attacks which culminated in the killing of six people

and wounding of 22 at Jo-Goldenberg's restaurant in the heart of Paris' Jewish Quarter, Sirat would not attribute these directly to a climate of incitement which may have been created in France, as some have suggested, nor would he blame the media for its coverage of Israel's "Peace for Galilee" operation.

"It is not my intention to condemn the press in general terms or to formulate any judgement," the Rabbi declared, "I believe that journalists are responsible to their own conscience... but it seems to me that a certain amount of responsibility is called for" when covering events like Israel's action in Lebanon.

He then cited as an example the recent incident in which an allegedly armless Lebanese infant was pictured in newspapers around the world and which was reported to be displayed on President Reagan's desk as a symbol of the

suffering in Lebanon as a result of Israel's invasion. Israeli officials, after investigating the fate of the child, found that the child's arms were intact.

United Press International which circulated the photo and caption said that it regretted the error. H. L. Stevenson, UPI editor-in-chief, attributed the error to "the confusion at the time, at the hospital and in the city" of Beirut where the photo was taken.

Sirat also said that the current administration of President Francois Mitterrand has expressed its sincere concern over the recent events and has initiated a program in an effort to combat terrorist activities on French soil. Sirat suggested that time was needed to see if the plans outlined by Mitterrand will have an effect. He said that while steps have been taken to curtail violent incidents like the attack on Golden-

berg's restaurant, no arrests have yet been made of any of those responsible.

"What is very grave in my eyes is the fact that over the years, no terrorists have been arrested, which can be taken as a sign of encouragement to other terrorists to continue and increase their attacks," Sirat said. Asked whether there was any "plan of action" which the Jewish community might take to combat future terrorist attacks, Sirat replied: "Plans of action are the responsibility of government, and I, as a rabbi, have a more spiritual task."

have cooperated in providing regular shipments from Israel to Lebanon, including powdered milk, cement, foam rubber mattresses, cooking and supplies, crutches, school supplies, and the like.

"Contacts have been made with Lebanese social welfare officials for a continuing relationship," the Committee report indicates. It continues: "In Israel proper, there is by now a systematic way in which hundreds of Lebanese civilians, suffering from war wounds or ordinary illness, are admitted in Israel hospitals."

Dr. M. Bernard Resnikoff, director of the American Jewish Committee's Israel Offices, added: "Voluntary organizations have played a major role in servicing the

companions of hospitalized Lebanese. A child is rushed from Tyre to an Israeli hospital, together with her distracted mother.

The mother frequently comes without clothing; she needs to be housed somewhere in the city where the child is hospitalized, to be with him, or her, for all the days of confinement."

The report listed a number of groups active in the effort, among them the public Council for the People of Lebanon; the Jerusalem Inter-Faith Committee for Aid to Lebanese War Victims; the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; People-to-People, the Christian Service Training Center; and the City Council Municipality of Jerusalem.

ANTI-ISRAEL RALLY HELD IN BRAZIL

NEW YORK (WNS) -- Israeli citizens have responded vigorously to the humanitarian needs of the Lebanese affected by the current fighting in Lebanon, the American Jewish Committee's Israel office reported.

A number of voluntary organizations, the AJC stated in a report

JEWISH NEW YEAR, 5743 , BEGINS AT SUNDOWN

A capacity crowd of 1200 people will attend High Holiday services at Temple Beth Sholom and join their Jewish brethren throughout the free world to celebrate Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year, beginning at sundown on Friday, September 17, 1982. According to the Hebrew calendar, this begins the year 5743.

Herb Kaufman, President of Temple Beth Sholom, stated that Rosh Hashana services will be conducted at the Temple at 8:00 P.M. on Friday and Saturday evenings, Sept. 17th & 18th and at 8:30 A.M. on Saturday morning & Sunday morning, Sept. 18th and 19th. Saturday evening services are designated as "Youth

Family Night" and feature the participation of Temple youth. The Kol Nidre Services, signaling the beginning of Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, will be held on Sunday evening, Sept. 26th at 6:30 P.M. Yom Kippur Day Services on Monday, Sept. 27th, will begin at 9:00 A.M. and end at dark. All Services will be conducted and officiated by Rabbi Kalman Appel, Spiritual Leader of the Temple, who will also deliver the special Holiday sermons. Cantor Simon Bergman will chant the liturgy, assisted by the Temple High Holiday Choir, conducted by Morry King. Jack Guinn will be at the organ. The period of ten days, from

the first day of Rosh Hashana until the end of Yom Kippur, is known as the Ten Days of Repentance. These days of meditation are designed for man to prove his worth. During this period the tradition speaks of man's deeds of the past year being reviewed by God. The shofar (ram's horn) which is blown during the Rosh Hashana Service is sounded again at the end of Yom Kippur, marking the end of this Holy Season.

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