

France-Friend or Foe

BY ROBERT E. SEGAL

Ever since six people were killed and 22 wounded during a gun and grenade attack on Jo Goldenberg's Paris restaurant on August 9, critics and defenders of France have been trading verbal blows.

Typical of the charge and counter-charge is a Boston case history, the first page of which was an article in The Boston Globe by Leonard Zakim, East Coast Civil Rights Director of the Anti-Defamation League, followed by fervid rebuttals sent to The Globe by Andre Nemo, France Consul General in Boston, and Professor Stanley Hoffman, Harvard Chairman of the Center for European Studies.

Citing several recent violent anti-Semitic acts in Paris, Mr. Zakim attributed a part of the cause to fall - out from the historic late 19th Century Dreyfus case. He next gave a nod to France's tragic quota of Jewish persecution and massacre during Hitler's conquest of France, then went on to indict the French government and especially the police for failure to deal effectively with terrorists. Indeed, he asserted the killers of innocents in the Goldenberg restaurant were "paid by the oil suppliers France placates" and trained by the French - protected PLO.

Consul Nemo chided Mr. Zakim for maintaining that the current anti - Jewish manifestations in Paris reflect a consistency in French history. Had not Jews, for the first time in history, won full - fledged citizenship in their country of birth as a result of the French Revolution, he asked, Did not the tradition of democracy in France make possible Emile Zola's courageous defense of Dreyfus, leading to a major victory over anti - Semitism? And did not many French men and women risk their lives to rescue French Jews? Come, come, Mr. Zakim the French government is determined to find out who is really behind terrorist activity on French soil. Moreover, Paris thirsts for an enduring peace in the Near East. The best weapon against anti - Semitism, Mr. Nemo concluded, is "dialogue."

Professor Hoffman came on stronger than the Consul. He pronounced the Zakim piece "a tissue of exaggerations, errors and faulty logic." In Dr. Hoffman's view, it is not French anti - Semitism that is at fault but French police laxity in combatting terrorism. And don't forget, Arabs as well as Jews are the victims of terrorists, he added. Along the way, he asked that notice be taken of how free of anti - Semitism French public life has been since World

War II. Then he lashed out at Israel Defense Minister Ariel Sharon's own brand of "state terrorism," asserted that Israel's historic mission can be accomplished only through recognition of the rights of both the Israelis and the Palestinian people, and pointed to the current Mitterrand regime as France's most pro-Israel on record.

Little of this debate can be comprehended intelligently unless several facts are underscored. First, France's historic close relationship with beleaguered Lebanon together with the anti - Israel nature of a good part of the media's coverage of Israel's Lebanese incursion must be recalled. Again, the presence of a PLO headquarters in Paris is an obvious irritant.

As for the nesting of terrorists in France, both Consul Nemo and Dr. Hoffman might profitably review the Abu Daoud scandal. Believed to have been the master mind of the murder of 11 Israelis at the 1972 Munich Olympics, Daoud was arrested by French counterespionage agents in 1977 only to be released in haste by the French judiciary despite strong appeals for his extradition by both West Germany and Israel.

Whatever conclusions some may draw from the Zakim - Nemo - Hoffman debate, the reference by both Messrs. Nemo and Hoffman to the Dreyfus Affair must not go unchallenged. When Professor Hoffman dismisses this black

moment in world history as primarily a simple polarization over the guilt or innocence of one man and when Consul Nemo refers to the case largely as a major victory over anti-Semitism, most Jews cognizant of extended history of Jews in France will be shocked and unconvinced.

Jewish hearts have had much with which to be burdened regarding France. Pogroms in France during the Crusades; the expulsion of Jews from France in the 14th Century; the

spread through the printed word of the hateful anti - Semitic doctrines of Charles Maurras, Edouard Drumont, Leon Daudet, and Count Joseph Arthur Gobineau; and treasonous bending of the knee to the Nazis by Laval, Darlan, and Petain in World War II will not be forgotten.

Finally, we would summon for the most telling rebuttal of the Nemo - Hoffman conclusions about the Dreyfus Affair the judgment of Father Edward Flannery set forth in "The Anguish of the Jews": "Although the Dreyfus case ended justly and dealt a death blow to all hopes for an organized official French anti-Semitism...it was nonetheless responsible for the growth of anti - Semitism in France. Hatred of Jews was transferred, one might say, from the academic level to the streets."

RUSTIN ASSAILS U.S. MEDIA

NEW YORK (WNS) -- While asserting that the media had been a "liberating factor" during the civil rights movement by its coverage of racist actions against Black Americans, Bayard Rustin, the Black civil rights leader, said: "I have never observed a situation where the press was more unfair to any group of people as they were to the nobility of the Israeli soldiers as they moved into Lebanon." In an address to some 125 leaders of the United Jewish Appeal Women's campaign advisory board

of greater New York, Rustin reported on his recent visit to Israel and his tour of Lebanon as part of a group of seven persons. A written report

on his observations and meetings with various Israeli officials was distributed at the October 4 conclave. One aspect of Rustin's report assailed the terrorist PLO who controlled parts of Lebanon. "What law there was

was PLO law, what justice there was was PLO justice," Rustin said. "Those of us whose Black ancestors lived in areas under the Ku Klux Klan control have special reasons to know what it means."

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