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**MASSIVE MARCH THROUGH PARIS
DEPLORES CEMETERY DESECRATIONS**

By Edwin Eytan

PARIS, May 14 (JTA) -- Close to 100,000 people, and possibly many more, marched through the center of Paris on Monday evening in an unprecedented display of solidarity with French Jews, following the brutal desecration of the historic Jewish cemetery in Carpentras four days earlier.

President Francois Mitterrand was one of the marchers, the first time since the end of World War II that a president of the French Republic participated in a street demonstration.

His presence was a measure of the shock and outrage felt in France over the incident, in which a recently buried corpse was unearthed and mutilated, and 34 gravestones overturned.

Prime Minister Michel Rocard took part in the demonstration as well, saying the great assemblage of people would "show foreigners shaken by crimes like that of Carpentras that although our nation, like others, harbors a few sick criminals, France is neither racist nor anti-Semitic."

But the revulsion was not universal.

Only hours before the Paris march, another 32 tombstones were desecrated in the Jewish cemetery in Clichy, a northern quarter of Paris.

Anti-Semitic slogans were daubed with red paint on the graves and the cemetery walls. Six headstones were painted with Nazi emblems. Police admit they have no clues, and are urging witnesses to step forward.

The body of the recently disinterred man, Felix Germon, was again exhumed, probably for forensic purposes.

The Parisians marched Monday night under a single banner: "No to Racism. No to Anti-Semitism."

The massive procession was led by Rocard and Danielle Mitterrand, the president's wife. They were followed by dozens of ministers, opposition leaders, Catholic prelates, cardinals, the archbishop of Lyon, the head of France's Episcopal Conference and trade union representatives.

Biggest Rally In Memory

Virtually the entire French political spectrum was represented, except the far right.

Jean-Marie Le Pen's extreme right-wing National Front, hated and feared for its blatant racism and ill-disguised anti-Semitism, was warned to keep away.

The marchers included concentration camp survivors wearing their striped prison uniforms, some with Stars of David pinned to their chests.

There were many schoolchildren, many non-Jews and a sprinkling of North Africans and blacks who joined the demonstration, which became a denunciation of racism in all its forms.

The rally was called by CRIF, the representative body of French Jewish organizations. Jewish leaders said the outpouring was an unprecedented show of solidarity with French Jewry.

Leon Maslian, executive director of the Central Consistory of French Jews, another Jewish body, termed the rally the biggest in Paris in recent memory.

He said police estimated the crowd at 250,000. "We feel a great comfort, although not a solution to our problem," Maslian said.

Later in the evening, a religious service was held in Paris' main synagogue on the Rue de la Victoire, conducted by the chief rabbi of France, Joseph Sitruk. Many French ministers and representatives of the government filled the pews.

The bells of Notre Dame Cathedral chimed as a token of sympathy with the Jewish people.

There was also a demonstration of sympathy in Rome, where several hundred people staged a sit-in Sunday in front of the French Embassy, to protest the incident in Carpentras.

The French ambassador came out to address them, expressing his government's abhorrence.

"It was a very good crowd, a very good climate," said Tullia Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities.

Similar protests were organized outside the French consulates in Florence and Milan.

(JTA correspondent Ruth E. Gruber contributed to this report.)

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES:
CRIMES AGAINST THE DEAD SHOCK
FRENCH TOWN OF 30,000 PEOPLE**
By Edwin Eytan

CARPENTRAS, France, May 14 (JTA) -- The desecration of the dead and the mutilation of a corpse seem to evoke more profound emotions than crimes against a living person.

That partly explains why France has been in virtual uproar since last week over the brutal vandalism of a historic but obscure Jewish cemetery in this lively, prosperous town of some 30,000 in southern France.

Not only was a powerful taboo against the violation of the dead broken, but the episode made clear that vicious racism is not the dusty relic of a long-dead era many thought it to be.

The Carpentras drama began May 10 when two Jewish women ran shrieking from the cemetery. They had gone there to visit the graves of family members, but what they found was 34 overturned headstones.

On one lay the naked corpse of an 81-year-old man buried just two weeks earlier. He was impaled on the handle of a beach umbrella.

Between his open legs lay a stone Star of David hacked off another monument. On his chest was a large stone plaque, deposited there as if to prevent the dead man from rising.

The mutilated corpse was identified as the remains of Felix Germon, an almost anonymous pensioner born in Sousa, Tunisia, who settled in Carpentras two years ago, and who until his death in mid-April was virtually unknown to the local Jewish community.

His widow, 81-year-old Magdalene, a non-Jew, said tearfully, "He came to Carpentras because I was born in this city. When Felix saw the Jewish cemetery with its huge willow trees and smelled the perfume of the thousands of wild Provencal flowers, he told me, 'When I die, this is where I want to rest.'"

"The barbarians," as the local press calls them, apparently picked Germon's grave at random because it was freshly dug and easy to unearth.

Police investigators believe there were at least four vandals who used special stone-breaking hammers, hammers and ropes to complete their destructive work in a single night.

Police believe they must have used masks to protect themselves from the stench and surgical gloves, but no clues were found. Even the soft earth on the side of the cemetery, where they probably parked their car, had been freshly cleaned as if to erase the tire imprints which might have led to their identification.

Skinhead Suspects Released

Four young Skinheads with previous police records for their neo-Nazi activities were arrested last Friday in nearby Avignon, but they were released Saturday night after producing ironclad alibis.

On Sunday morning, over 10,000 people gathered near the desecrated tombs to pay homage to the dead and then to show, in the words of French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe, France's determination to oppose racism and anti-Semitism in all its forms.

Among them was a personal representative of President Francois Mitterrand, three Cabinet ministers and opposition leaders.

In normally bustling Carpentras, shops open on Sunday mornings were closed. Traffic stopped and residents stayed indoors.

The ugliness of the incident is in stark contrast to the beauty and tranquility of this medieval hamlet, perched on a hill in the Provençal landscape.

The cemetery itself, established in 1322 and believed to be the second oldest in Europe after that of Prague, is a green mass of wild-growing pine trees, perfumed moss and wildflowers.

The history of Carpentras' Jews is one of the happiest in Europe. Jews, who have lived in the village uninterrupted since the first century BCE, were known as "the pope's own Jews," because of the pontifical protection they enjoyed in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries.

Today, there are about 80 Jewish families left in Carpentras, comprising in all some 260 people. Most of them are newcomers from North Africa, who have assimilated easily into the southern Provençal atmosphere.

There is rarely a minyan at the synagogue, which, built in 1367, is the oldest in France.

Even after the shock of the cemetery violation, the cantor had to start Friday night services late while he waited for the quorum to show up.

'A Happy Community'

"We are, or at least were up till now, a happy community with no special problems. We have practically no poor, we get on especially well with our non-Jewish neighbors, we felt as if we were well liked and respected," congregants told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Community President Freddy Haddad is a youngish country doctor with a fairly large practice who is well liked by the entire town.

Politically, the extreme right-wing is strong in southern France. In the Carpentras, Avignon and Aix-en-Provence areas, Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Front, won over 20 percent in the latest municipal elections.

Despite his disclaimers, Le Pen is widely regarded by French Jews as an anti-Semite, and his movement, if not directly responsible for the cemetery outrage, is believed by many Jews to have helped establish the climate for it.

Nevertheless, the Jewish community finds it hard to believe local people, even supporters of Le Pen, were responsible for the desecration.

"We know well the people with whom we live," the local Jews tell each other. "There might be a few madmen among them, but we simply cannot conceive that there could be four or six insane enough to conceive such a project and carry it out.

"The barbarians must have come from elsewhere, from the big cities, from Marseille or even from Paris itself. In a small city like ours, such things are inconceivable."

Even after the cemetery was despoiled, no special security precautions were visible. There are no police guards near the synagogue and no Jewish security service. Late at night, the ancient building stood empty and unguarded.

"Our best security is to have confidence in the good will of our neighbors," one local Jew explained.

But it seems as if the country has rediscovered all of the old demons of ultranationalism, anti-Semitism and collaborationism long thought to be dead and buried.

One of France's best-known sociologists, Edgar Morin, explained: "The protective taboo which surrounded the Jews is gone. What is even more sacred than life is death. Even in wartime, the enemy is left to bury his dead.

"Why Carpentras happened is because some people felt an overpowering hate that could not be satisfied on the living, so it was expressed against the dead," he said.

DERANGED JEWISH MAN, ECCENTRIC FRIEND HELD FOR HAIFA CEMETERY DESECRATIONS By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA) -- Two Jewish men have been detained for the desecration Saturday night of two Jewish cemeteries in Haifa, in which 305 graves were spray-painted with rabidly anti-Jewish graffiti.

Police initially arrested a 41-year-old man with a history of mental aberrations as the prime suspect in the crime. The second man, described as a resident of a Haifa Bay town, is a friend of the first suspect.

However, the police have not ruled out an intifada-related motive for the spray-painting of violently anti-Jewish slogans on tombstones at the Kfar Samir and Hof Carmel cemeteries.

The first suspect was picked up Sunday night, wandering in one of the cemeteries, where he has been seen before. Police identified him as a resident of Kiryat Motzkin, east of Haifa, who has been in trouble with the law for attacking his wife and setting fire to his parents' house.

He was described as an engineer formerly employed by the government-owned Weapons Development Authority. He left his job several years ago, after becoming a ba'al teshuvah, or returnee to Orthodox Judaism. He is a follower of Kabbalistic mysticism who described himself as an instrument of the Messiah, police said.

Police describe the second suspect, too, as an eccentric. He was arrested Monday.

There were scenes of anguish Sunday, as bereaved families rushed to the Haifa cemeteries to check the graves of their loved ones.

Religious Affairs Minister Ze'evulun Hammer has promised his ministry will help restore the defaced gravestones. The cost of the restoration is estimated at between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

**KEY LAWMAKER DEFENDS PLO DIALOGUE,
SPEAKS OF 'POWERFUL' JEWISH LOBBY**
By Howard Rosenberg

WASHINGTON, May 14 (JTA) -- The United States must continue its dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization to achieve peace in the Middle East, the chairman of the House subcommittee dealing with the Middle East said Monday.

"It is not feasible to obtain a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue in isolation or in disassociation from the PLO," Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.) told 125 visiting members of Churches for a Middle East Peace.

The pro-Palestinian group, composed of a dozen Protestant denominations, is holding a three-day lobbying effort here this week, dubbed Washington Advocacy Days.

Hamilton, who chairs the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East, said the 17-month-old U.S. dialogue with the PLO "weakens what was previously a Soviet monopoly in dealing with the PLO."

The dialogue also "holds the PLO to its renunciation of terrorism" and allows the United States "to try to influence Palestinian thinking," he said.

During its visit here, participants in the lobbying mission had hoped to urge members of Congress not to approve \$400 million in loan guarantees to building housing for Soviet immigrants in Israel.

They seemed disappointed when Hamilton told them, "That seems to be moving through the Congress without much opposition."

But Hamilton seemed sympathetic to the aims of the church group, saying it provides "a badly needed voice to give us more balance" on the Middle East.

Favors Cut In Aid To Israel

He also told the group that "over time, the proportion of assistance that goes to Israel and Egypt, in my view, should be reduced."

"I think both Israel and Egypt understand that this has to happen and that it is in their own long-term interest that there be a reduction in the level of assistance," he said.

Gordon Shull, a Presbyterian from Wooster, Ohio, received applause when he asked why the United States does not "speak vigorously to Israel, 'Look, you've got to accept a Palestinian state.'"

But Hamilton replied, "We can't force them to do something that they perceive to be against their national interest, even though we provide \$3 billion worth of aid, closer to \$4 billion."

"What gives us the arrogance to decide that we know what's best for the Middle East?" Hamilton asked.

The group gave its biggest round of applause after Andrew Harless, a Presbyterian from Sarasota, Fla., asked, "How can we save Congress from the Israeli lobby," so that it is "not constantly feeling any fear of being voted out of office" or "bought out of office?"

Foreign aid is popular "because of the very sophisticated and powerful and well-financed Jewish lobby," replied Hamilton. "But it would be a mistake to assume that that's the only reason."

"I represent an area of southeastern Indiana. I don't have in my district a single Jewish synagogue," he said. But "I find among the fundamentalist Christian churches as strong a support for Israel as I find in the synagogues," he said.

**ISRAEL TO OPEN ARAB UNIVERSITIES
IN WEST BANK, CLOSED 29 MONTHS AGO**
By David Landau and Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA) -- Israel announced Monday that it is ready to reopen the Arab universities in the West Bank it closed when the intifada erupted 29 months ago.

Shmuel Goren, coordinator of government affairs in the administered territories, said the first university would be reopened "within days or a very few weeks."

He did not say which of the six universities in the territories it would be, but indicated that if conditions were satisfactory, the other five would be opened shortly afterward.

That would depend on the Palestinian population, Goren said.

Avi Pazner, acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's media spokesman, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency on Monday night that the decision was "not directed abroad," meaning it was not intended to mollify world opinion.

Nevertheless, Pazner said he presumed the move would be well received abroad.

Political observers noted that Israel has gotten strong protests, especially from the European Community, over the sustained closure of Arab schools of higher learning.

They also noted that the reopening of the universities might coincide with the formation of a Likud-led right-wing government. The message, therefore, is that expectations of how such a government would act may be off the mark.

**LEVINGER BEGINS HIS PRISON SENTENCE
WITH HERO'S SEND-OFF, HOSPITAL VISIT**
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Levinger, leader of the militant settlers movement in Hebron, was taken to the hospital Monday almost immediately after his arrival in prison, where he is to serve time for killing an Arab civilian.

Levinger reportedly felt unwell during the routine medical examination upon admission, and prison doctors decided to hospitalize him for observation. He was sent to Meir Hospital, near Eyal Prison, which is in Kfar Sava.

Levinger received a hero's send-off from his followers Monday, as he went off to begin serving his five-month sentence.

Hundreds, including yeshiva students and kindergarten children given time off for the occasion, gathered singing and dancing, to escort Levinger from his home in Kiryat Arba, overlooking Hebron, to his car for the trip to prison.

Outside the prison, a crowd of about 1,000 from all over the West Bank awaited him. Singing and dancing and waving large Israeli flags, they carried the charismatic rabbi on their shoulders up to the prison gates.

Levinger was sentenced May 1 for negligently causing the death of an Arab shopkeeper in Hebron 18 months earlier. He received a year's sentence, seven months of it suspended.

Levinger was originally charged with murder. He had fired his rifle into an Arab crowd after his car was hit by a stone.

After lengthy hearings, the charge was reduced to manslaughter, which also carries a stiff mandatory sentence. But lengthy pretrial plea-bargaining resulted in a further reduction to "killing by negligence."

LIKUD COALITION PROSPECTS BRIGHTEN AS STORM CLOUDS GATHER OVER LABOR
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA) -- Acting Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir made additional progress Monday toward forming a narrow Likud-led government, while the deeply troubled Labor Party prepared for an internal leadership showdown.

Shamir met with heads of the ultra-Orthodox Shas party, who reportedly indicated they are prepared now to participate in a Likud government. Shas' earlier position was that it would support the new government, but not join it for two months to test Likud's peace policies.

With Shas' five Knesset votes now more securely in the Likud camp and talks going well with other potential coalition partners, Shamir is expected to be in a position to present a new government for parliamentary approval by the end of this week, or early next week at the latest.

Labor, meanwhile, is deeply divided.

Supporters of former Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin are demanding a nationwide "primary," in which all registered members would be able to choose between him and incumbent Chairman Shimon Peres to lead the party. They want to hold the vote within the next few weeks.

The Peres camp is anxious to postpone it, arguing that the membership roles are outdated. They say they want to complete a new membership drive before polling the members, which means deferring the leadership contest until early next year.

Political pundits expect a Rabin-Peres confrontation Thursday, when the Labor Party's Central Committee is scheduled to meet.

POLICE INVESTIGATING YAIR KLEIN FOR UNAUTHORIZED ANTIGUA TALKS
By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, May 14 (JTA) -- The Defense Ministry has asked the police to investigate an Israel Defense Force reserve officer for allegedly unauthorized discussions he held on establishing a military training camp in Antigua.

The defense establishment wants to know if reserve Lt. Col. Yair Klein engaged in unsanctioned negotiations with Antigua to open a military school there, which was to train mercenaries to overthrow the former Panamanian dictator, Gen. Manuel Noriega.

The school was reportedly never opened.

Klein owns a company, Hod Hahanit (Spearhead), which exports military technology and know-how overseas. He was identified in a videotape made last year in Colombia showing the alleged training of guerrillas for death squads for Colombia's drug cartel.

Klein maintains he was training security guards for Colombian ranchers, to fend off guerrillas and cattle thieves.

Last week, Israel Television reported that Klein had arranged an arms shipment to Antigua, which subsequently wound up in the mansion of a Colombian drug lord. The Israeli police have been investigating Klein intermittently for a year on his involvement in Colombia.

He was also interviewed last week by investigators from Antigua, who are trying to unravel the mystery behind the \$200,000 Israeli arms shipment to Antigua, found last year on the estate of slain drug kingpin Jose Rodriguez Gacha.

According to media reports, Klein admits he

planned to set up the school in Antigua, for which part of the Israeli weapons shipment would have been needed.

The latest complaint against Klein reportedly does not mention the weapons shipment. The Defense Ministry filed an earlier complaint against Klein in connection with his Colombian operations.

Klein's lawyer, Yigal Shapira, maintains that existing defense regulations did not require him to get special permission for the Antigua project. The Defense Ministry, however, insists permission was required to initiate negotiations and again before the project was implemented.

ITALIAN POLICE SEIZE WEAPONS AND MATERIEL DESTINED FOR IRAQ
By Ruth E. Gruber

ROME, May 14 (JTA) -- The police seized about 100 tons of weapons and other military equipment due to be shipped illegally to Iraq in raids in four Italian cities, officials announced Saturday.

The equipment was linked to a so-called "super-cannon" the Iraqis alleged to be building. No arrests were reported.

The state-run RAI Television said Italian police staged the raids in Rome, Naples, Brescia and Terni.

In Naples, four containers holding 75 tons of "metal products" consigned to Iraq were confiscated before they could be loaded aboard a ship.

Fifteen tons of equipment made of special steel were seized in Terni, in central Italy, and 1.5 tons were seized in the northern city of Brescia. Many documents found with the shipments are being scrutinized, the authorities said.

In Athens, meanwhile, a British truck driver arrested in Greece last month for allegedly transporting a 29.5-ton steel pipe believed to be the "super-cannon's" barrel was released from jail last Friday on a bail of 50 million drachmas, or \$3,100,000.

But the driver, Paul Ashwell, 26, of Northampton, England, was forbidden to leave the country and must report to the public prosecutor every five days until a court hearing on his case.

(JTA correspondent Jean Cohen in Athens contributed to this report.)

FINAL APPEAL OPENS FOR DEMJANJUK
By David Landau

JERUSALEM, May 14 (JTA) -- The High Court of Justice opened hearings Monday on John Demjanjuk's final appeal against his sentence to death for war crimes.

Demjanjuk's lawyer, Yoram Sheftel, has promised to present new evidence that the Ukrainian-born former U.S. citizen is not the brutal Treblinka death camp guard who was known as "Ivan the Terrible."

But Sheftel spent the first day of the hearing denouncing the 15-month trial in Jerusalem District Court, which convicted Demjanjuk and pronounced the death penalty.

Calling the president of that court, Justice Dov Levin, "hostile," the Israeli lawyer contended that "justice was neither seen nor, with all due respect, done."

Sheftel complained that a circus atmosphere prevailed at the trial, that spectators "behaved like a football crowd," and the panel of three justices consistently commented to the news media on matters that were under judicial consideration.