## BYSTANDER HURT



HEAVILY ARMED cops, and police robot examining suspect's door, at East Village siege.

## Suspect's past was embattled

By CLAIRE SERANT

After being arrested on charges of bombing a Nigerian diplomat's car near the Soviet United Nations mission in 1981, a disenchanted Morde-chai (Mark) Levy left the Jewish De-fense League to head his own militant group, the Jewish Defense Organization.

Levy and the JDL have been at odds for years, battling over who inherited the mantle of the JDL's founder, Meir Kahane, now an ultraconservative member of Israel's Knesset. Levy claims at least 3,000 people

have joined his militant group, which calls for "Jewish justice" against anti-Semitic foes and for Jewish leaders to organize armed security patrols to curtail vandalism in synagogues and violence against Jews. Some moder-ate Jewish leaders have criticized Levy's group as being paramilitary and too volatile.

In June, the JDO lobbied record stores across the country to protest an anti-Semitic statement made by Professor Griff, a member of the popular



IN CUSTODY: Mordechai (Mark) Levy is seized by cops.

rap group Public Enemy, that called Jews "wickedo."

Last year, the JDO and a rival mili-tant group, the Jewish Defense Group, patrolled Yeshiva University in Washington Heights for several days after a 19-year-old student was stabbed and robbed on campus by a group of five black and Hispanic youths.

While patrolling the school, Levy and other members of his group hand-

ed out gun permit applications to stu-

dents and teachers.