

Assault in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Jewish militants

(July 15, 1979)

While attending mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Fifth Avenue in New York City as part of the Captive Nations Day celebration, three members of a Jewish militant group led by a Mordechai Levy attacked Fritz Berg inside the cathedral. Mr. Berg was severely kicked and beaten to the ground. The perpetrators then fled from the church and were chased by Mr. Berg as well as some of the ushers and other individuals who had been attending the religious service.

Outside, a scuffle developed involving two other individuals apparently belonging to the same Jewish group, one of whom, a Mr. Joseph Sobel, pulled out a knife with which he threatened various individuals including Mr. Berg. He then ran into the church where he was cornered and eventually disarmed by the crowd, and held until the police arrived.

As the police were taking Sobel to a police car, Mr. Levy reappeared and was arrested also.

The apparent reason for the attack on Mr. Berg was his involvement with the anti-Holocaust movement which includes the complaint and petition by the Ridgewood Group which is before the FCC and against NBC's broadcast of the Holocaust miniseries. Mr. Berg is the corresponding secretary of the Ridgewood Group and it is his name which appears on all of the Ridgewood Group's correspondence to the FCC.

The two individuals who were arrested and charged with assault were:

Mordechai Levy
576 East 8th Street
Brooklyn, New York
age 19, weight 140 lbs., hair black, height 5'7"

Joseph Sobel
913 47th Street
Brooklyn, New York
age: 17, weight 140 lbs., hair black, height 5'8"