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FRANCE REPORTS A CAPTIVE ARAB ADMITS ATTACKS

By JUDITH MILLER, SPECIAL TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

A 25-year-old Tunisian has confessed that he carried out three terrorist acts, including the bombings of Marks & Spencer department stores in Paris and London, the Interior Ministry said today.

A ministry spokesman said that Habib Maammar, who had been living illegally in France for several years, was charged today in the eastern city of Nancy with terrorist acts and illegal possession of explosives, which the police found in his apartment. Two women, an Algerian named Souad Aissaoui and a Frenchwoman named Isabelle Frigerio, were charged with possessing explosives and concealing a criminal. No Foreign Government Link

Robert Pandraud, Deputy Interior Minister in charge of security, said there was no indication "that any government of a foreign power" was involved. Western nations have charged the Libyan and Syrian Governments with sponsoring terrorism. [Libya ordered the expulsion of 36 staff members of seven West European embassies in retaliation for diplomatic sanctions imposed by their governments. Page A12.] A 'Contact in Baghdad'

The French police said Mr. Maammar had received orders and assistance from a "contact in Baghdad." They declined to name the contact, but press reports have identified the man as Abu Ibrahim, the nom de guerre of a Palestinian named Mohammed Amri.

Abu Ibrahim is believed to head a dissident splinter group of the Palestine Liberation Organization based in Iraq. Some accounts said Abu Ibrahim was working with another breakaway Palestinian faction under Sabry al-Banna, better known as Abu Nidal.

Ibrahim Souss, representative of the P.L.O. in Paris, warned against drawing any "implication" that the P.L.O. was involved in the attacks against Marks & Spencer.

"The P.L.O. has already condemned any and every terrorist attack, whoever the perpetrator may be," Mr. Souss said. "The P.L.O. has been the victim of terrorist operations committed both by Israeli forces and by the dissident Palestinian group Abu Nidal."

Mr. Maammar's arrest and his confession were being hailed in Paris as a major success in France's fight against terrorism. But police confirmed today that his arrest had resulted not from investigations of the Marks & Spencer attacks and other terrorist acts in France, but because Miss Aissaoui had denounced him. A Domestic Quarrel

The police said Mr. Maammar was questioned after Miss Aissaoui, 21 years old, reported to the police that he had beaten her during a quarrel.

On May 8, she complained again of mistreatment, accusing him of having broken into her apartment. He justified the break-in by saying he had only wanted to see their child, police officials said.

In her complaint to the police, Miss Aissaoui divulged that Mr. Maammar had carried out terrorist bombings

in France and in England.

The French daily Le Monde reported that Miss Aissaoui had told the French police that she and Mr. Maamar went to London shortly before Christmas 1983. When they heard a television report that the Marks & Spencer store had been bombed, wounding two, Mr. Maammar boasted: "It was I who planted the bomb," the newspaper reported.

The police said Mr. Maammar also confessed to the bombing of the department store branch in central Paris on Feb. 23, 1985. An employee was killed and 14 people were wounded in the attack. Mr. Maammar was also said to have confessed to the August 1984 bombing of a Paris branch of the Israeli-owned Bank Leumi. No one was hurt in the bank bombing. Explosives Found

The Associated Press reported today that Mr. Maammar was first contacted by associates of Abu Ibrahim in 1982 in Toulon, in southern France, where his brother is serving a prison term for murder.

French television said tonight that the young Tunisian was receiving \$3,000 a month from Abu Ibrahim's group. The Associated Press, quoting Israeli and American antiterrorism sources, identified the group as the Arab Organization of May 15, a maverick Palestinian group named for the date of the outbreak of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War.

During a search of Mr. Maamar's apartment, the police found 150 grams of penthrite, an explosive frequently used in Middle East-related terrorist attacks, the Interior Ministry said. They also found an address book that contained the telephone numbers which, they said, confirmed Mr. Maammar's Middle Eastern connections, as well as two Moroccan passports.