

negotiations regarding the settlement of Palestinian refugees and the other developments that had indicated that the period of conflict was drawing to an end.<sup>17</sup> Later the Kata'ib claimed that one of the reasons for staging the attack on the Syrian Synagogue was that the latter was used as a meeting place for an underground Zionist organization and for hiding weapons.<sup>18</sup>

On November 6, 1949, Liet. Col. W. F. Stirling, a correspondent of The Times and former British political agent for tribal affairs was attacked at home by the Kata'ib men and wounded in the chest.<sup>19</sup> The Kata'ib leadership explained the attempted murder on the grounds that Liet. Col. Stirling was one of the most important British intelligence officers in Syria during the Hinnawi regime.<sup>20</sup>

Other acts of violence committed by the Kata'ib include the placing of bombs in an alliance school in Beirut at the same time the Syrian Synagogue was bombed and for apparently the same reasons; the throwing of hand grenades more than once at the United States and British legations in both Damascus and Beirut as an expression of

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<sup>17</sup>Albian Boss, "Syrian Synagogue Bombed", The New York Times, August 7, 1949, p. 1.

<sup>18</sup>Al-Hindi, loc. cit.

<sup>19</sup>Seale, loc. cit.

<sup>20</sup>Al-Hindi and Dhahi, loc. cit.