

Thugs beat heckler

From MICHEL ZLOTOWSKI

Mr Arnaud Klarsfeld, 21, the son of Maitre Serge Klarsfeld and his wife, Beale, the Nazi-hunters, was severely beaten up at the annual rally of the extreme Right-wing French National Front at Le Bourget, near Paris.

As Mr Jean Marie Le Pen, the Front leader, stepped on the stage to speak to some 40,000 militant supporters, Mr Klarsfeld, who was following him, took off his pullover to reveal a T-shirt bearing the words: "Le Pen, Nazi." and shouted: "Le Pen, antisemite and racist."

Rally stewards immediately gagged Mr Klarsfeld and dragged him away, hurling such insults as: "You Jew, you Commie, you wog! Let's set the dogs on him."

They then took off Mr Klarsfeld's shoes and trousers, beat him up and released him to hurry through the crowd barefoot and in his underpants.

Other stewards caught up with him, slapped his face and said: "Let's finish him." He was hit again until a young woman Front member calmed them down and he was able to leave, half-naked and badly bruised.

Mr Klarsfeld was taken to hospital, but, was allowed to return home after a few hours.