

Dumas's Damascus Visit Is Called Off

PARIS (Reuters) — A visit to Syria by the French foreign minister, Roland Dumas, has been called off amid reports of a bilateral dispute over a Nazi war criminal whom Paris wants extradited from Damascus.

The French Foreign Ministry said that Mr. Dumas had postponed the visit, set for this week, because of scheduling problems and would instead attend a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels. The NATO meeting was scheduled long before Mr. Dumas agreed to go to Damascus.

The French Nazi-hunter Serge Karsfeld said that Syria had canceled Mr. Dumas's visit because it did not want to discuss the extradition of Alois Brunner, 79, who is wanted as a war criminal in France and Germany. He commanded a transit camp for Jews near Paris during World War II and was convicted in his absence in France for his role in sending 120,000 Jews to their deaths in Nazi concentration camps.