

**AJC: POLISH JEWS SCAPEGOATS VEGAN HEADS HADASSAH REGIONAL EVENT**

By Morton Yorman

NEW YORK, The AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, while acknowledging the apparent effort of Communist party chief Wladslaw Gomulka to halt the current anti-Semitic tide in Poland, added that it was "disappointed" at the results of a meeting its officials had with a Polish Embassy official in Washington because the answers to its inquiries were "unsatisfactory." The purpose of the meeting was to register concern and to elicit assurances from the Polish Government that it will suppress any and all public manifestations of anti-Semitism.

"While the Embassy spokesman was courteous, the issues remain unresolved and the answers to our inquiries were unsatisfactory," the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE reported.

"We do not presume to interfere with internal Polish affairs, and have no comments on the general student protests," the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE said. "Nevertheless, the repeated pointing to the Jewish and alleged 'Zionist' affiliation of the protesters, and the purging of Jews from middle and top echelon positions, seems plainly indicative of the use of classical scapegoat techniques. We are dismayed at the possibility of a general resurgence of anti-Semitism in the absence of firm actions by the highest authorities."

According to the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, the Polish position, as expressed by its spokesman, was that if Jews were involved, "they were not being punished as Jews nor as Zionists." The Polish spokesman added that contrary reports in the foreign press were unfair, and he denied that the Polish press had participated in a campaign of vilification of the Jews, as has been charged.

The address by Mr. Gomulka to members of the Warsaw United Worker's (Communist) party seemed to the COMMITTEE to confirm its allegations about the anti-Semitic character of the current "anti-Zionist" campaign. The party leader sought to reassure Poland's 20,000 Jews, and conceded that some accusations had gone too far and were "Wrongly understood."

"The AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE acknowledges the apparent effort of Mr. Gomulka to halt the current anti-Semitic tide in Poland. Until this is done, we will continue to demand the cessation of any anti-Semitic provocations," the COMMITTEE added.

Founded in 1906, the AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE is this country's pioneer human relations agency. It combats bigotry, protects the civil and religious rights of Jews at home and abroad, and seeks improved human relations for all men everywhere.

**POLISH ANTI-SEMITISM**  
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stretch of the imagination be held responsible if only because of their miniscule numbers in Poland.

Foreign diplomats in Warsaw watching the development were reported to have expressed amazement at what one of them called "the incredible attempt" to blame "Zionists," meaning Jews, for a youth movement "whose currency is as popular these days in the western countries as it is in those within the communist perimeter."

It had been expected that the anti-Zionist campaign would lose its momentum after a speech by Communist Party boss Wladislaw Gomulka in which he said "it would be a misunderstanding if we saw in Zionism a danger for socialism in Poland" and that he was prepared to offer emigration facilities to those Jews who gloried in Israel's victory last June. But late reports indicate no change in the anti-Zionist drive. In fact, on the day after Gomulka spoke, the Warsaw radio again took up the charge that members of the Babel Club, a Jewish student organization, were involved in the fomenting of the student demonstration. The broadcaster said the club is "notorious for its joy at the success of Israel's aggression against the peace loving Arab states."

Meanwhile, Jewish lead-

ers throughout the world are watching the situation in Poland to determine to what extent the anti-Zionist campaign may infiltrate the Polish masses and their attitudes toward Jews.

The voice of protests against the development in Poland resounded in the American Jewish communities from coast to coast, in all areas of Jewish living in the free and unfree countries in Europe, and in Israel.

In Israel, Poland's resort to anti-Semitism as a political instrument against the dissident student movement was assailed on the floor of Knesset by deputies of all shades of political opinion, including the communists. The current of shock and indignation came in the wake of a speech by Premier Levi Eshkol in which he denounced Polish imputation of the student demonstrations to the influence of Zionist elements in the Jewish community of that country. Mr. Eshkol rejected the contention that Jews and Zionists were responsible for the internal upheavels in Poland, calling the charge "a flagrant falsehood." Some of the deputies spoke of the situation in Poland in measured tones while others minced no words. One of the speakers, Communist deputy Shmuel Mikunis, told the house that what is happening in Poland is a sequel to Warsaw's one-sided support of the Arabs in the Six-Day War of last June.



OUR OWN FRAN COHEN, SEATED, SECOND FROM RIGHT, CHAIRMAN, SO. PAC. COAST REGION OF HADASSAH, AT ANNUAL SPRING MEMBERSHIP EVENT WITH LEFT TO RIGHT, SEATED; MRS. JOSEPH HELLER, PRES.;

MRS. WILLIAM COHEN, HOSTESSES; AND MRS. BARBARA KLEIN, MAILINGS. STANDING ARE MRS. ROBERT CLAYMAN, ADVISOR; MRS. HERB SPIVAK, CO-CHAIRMAN, AND MRS. DEAN SURKIS, ADVISOR.

The annual Spring Membership event of the Southern Pacific Coast Region of Hadassah at the Beverly Hilton Hotel, embraced the states of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Texas, with Mrs. Carl Cohen, of Las Vegas, Re-

gional Membership Chairman, in charge of the culminating Membership Drive for Hadassah, which numbers over 300,000 women.

Mrs. Cohen headed a Membership Council for the wind-up meeting lauding Joey Bishop, Myrtle Wreath

Awards were presented to Miss Jan Sterling, Dr. Jerome Kay and, posthumously, to Dr. Morse J. Shapiro. She was assisted by Mrs. Herbert Spavak of Ladera Heights; Mrs. William Cohen of Los Angeles; Mrs. Barbara Kline of Beverly-

wood; Mrs. Charles Seckler of the Life Membership Division; Mrs. Raymond Ziff and Mrs. Dena Surkis. Mrs. Avigdor Rechtman will represent the San Fernando Valley for the culmination membership event, assisted by Mrs. David A. Miller.

In the United States, major Jewish organizations issued an array of statements condemning the attempt to make the Jews of Poland appear to be the directing force behind the student unrest through the transparent medium of blaming Zionists when the wrath in fact is against Jews.

The American Jewish Committee, after meeting in Washington with a spokesman for the Polish Embassy, reported that the Polish official denied that the press in his country was engaging in a campaign of vilification against Jews or that Jews involved in the current unrest in his country were being punished as Jews or Zionists. The AJC delegation reported that "the embassy spokesman was courteous" but that the issue remained unsolved.

In another statement, ZOA president Jacques Torczyner called on the American people and the Government of the United States to "protest the latest Polish excesses against Jews."

Statements of protest also came from the American Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Congress and an array of other organizations.

One of the organizations, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, declared in a statement by its chairman, Rabbi Herschel Schachter, that while it welcomed the offer by Polish Communist Party chief Wladislaw Gomulka to let Polish Jews emigrate to Israel if they

wished, it hoped that Jews indicating such intentions "will suffer no official harassment or delay." Also, under the aegis of the conference, several hundred youths and adults participated in a protest demonstration in the area of the Polish Mission to the United Nations.

Joining in the protests were a number of leaders in the Negro community of America, among them Bayard Rustin of the A. Philip Randolph Institute. In a statement, the prominent civil rights leader said he deplored "the pogrom atmosphere" that has been generated in Poland against "the tiny minority of over 20,000 Jews, among 32 million people." He was sure, Mr. Rustin said, that "the best elements of Polish society will reject the absurd efforts to blame all of Poland's ills on the few thousand Jews left in that country," adding that "this is an issue which must engage all of mankind regardless of the particular social or economic system to which we aspire."

In Montreal, the Canadian Jewish Congress denounced the "baseless propaganda by Polish politicians and the Polish press," calling the alleged Zionist influence in the student demonstrations "an outrageous calumny against a small Jewish community of 20,000 souls."

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