

Propagand at Work

By ROBERT E. SEGAL

In recent weeks, hard-liners opposed to the State of Israel's Jerusalem policies and plans have unleashed a propaganda attack hearing signs of originating at high international levels. The obvious attempt is to prevail upon Pope Paul VI to subordinate his fears over further incursions by Soviet Russia in the Middle East and Africa while taking a tougher stand against Israel.

One could see the campaign coming when President Tito of Yugoslavia visited the Vatican late in March and succeeded in giving the world the impression that the Holy Father agreed with Tito's assertion that the Six-Day War of 1967 was purely a matter of military aggression on Israel's part. At approximately the same time, "L'Osservatore Romano," convenient for launching opinion trial balloons for the Vatican, complained that Israel, through its Jerusalem policies, seemed to be aiming at "slow suffocation" of the Moslem and Christian populations. Again, three Jordanian bishops have complained to Rome that a "Hebrew belt" around Jerusalem threatens to confine thousands of Arab families, Christian and Moslems, into a "suffocating ghetto." Closer

home, pro-Arab propagandists have picked up the new line and made mileage with it in Catholic papers and the general press.

A hundred years ago, there were, roughly, 5000 Christians, 7000 Moslems, and 12,000 Jews in Jerusalem. Today, the figures run to about 12,000 Christians, 54,000 Moslems, and 200,000 Jews.

When Israel was born, the Proclamation of Independence stated: "It (the new State) will maintain complete equality of social and political rights for all its citizens, without distinction of creed, race and sex. It will guarantee freedom of religion and conscience, of language, education and culture. It will safeguard the Holy Places of all religions. It will remain loyal to the United Nations Charter."

In the light of that declaration, what has Israel's record been with regard to Jerusalem? And what is the record of those who continue to try to deny the right of independence and sovereignty to Israel?

When the United Nations, anxious to protect the Holy Places and to ensure access thereto, originally recommended internationalization of Jerusalem, Israel voiced acceptance. Jordan

not only refused the proposal but went on to annex the Old City of Jerusalem even after the armistice of 1949. (Jordan might still be in possession of the Old City had she not, in 1967, rejected Israel's offer to spare her if she chose to stay out of the conflict.)

Having failed with its original call for internationalization of Jerusalem, the UN tried again in 1949; but that proposal was so unworkable that the United States itself rejected it. Israel suggested functional internationalization, giving the UN the opportunity to establish an authority to supervise the Holy Places. Jordan said no. Israel tried again. Jordan remained adamant and went on to establish a frightful record for maltreatment of Holy Places. No Jews were ever allowed by Jordan to worship at the Western Wall; the ancient Jewish quarter was ravaged; all of Old Jerusalem's seven great main synagogues and dozens of smaller ones were wiped out. Never has Jordan denied that her forces took up Jewish tombstones and used them as flooring for Jordanian legion barracks and fortifications -- perhaps the ultimate in desecration.

Yet here we are today with a propaganda claim on the part of bitterly biased Christians and Moslems declaring that Israel is tightening a ghetto noose about their throats and stiffly refusing to leave Jerusalem once more at the mercy of some who in the past have proved contemptuous of the religious and civil rights of Jews.

Catholics in America and elsewhere may want to search the facts carefully before they accept the claims of the propaganda entrepreneurs now storming the gates of the Vatican.

LOS ANGELES (WNS) --Ruth Aleksandrovich is in poor health, suffering from asthma and high blood pressure in a Riga prison, Margaritya Shpilberg, wife of the imprisoned Riga Jew, Arkady Shpilberg, reported in a telephone conversation with Zev Yaroslavsky, chairman of the California Students for Soviet Jews. Mrs. Shpilberg confirmed reports that Miss Aleksandrovich's sentence of one year will be counted from her first day of imprisonment last October.

TEL AVIV (WNS)-- Soviet Jewish immi-

grants reported that Roiza Palatnik, the 35-year-old librarian, who was arrested in Odessa and placed in solitary confinement last December 1 after applying for an emigration visa, will be tried later this month. They also reported that Rubin Aleksandrovich, whose daughter Ruth was one of the four Jews convicted at last month's Riga trial, had been warned his exit visa may be revoked unless his wife, Rivka, stops trying to arouse public opinion in the U.S. and Canada on behalf of their daughter.

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AMER. PHYSICIANS ASSEMBLY JUNE 21

The 21st Annual Assembly of the American Physicians Fellowship, Inc. for the Israel Medical Association will take place at the Chalfonte-Haddon Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey on Monday, June 21st, at 8:30 P.M. during the week of the A.M.A. convention.

Mr. Moshe Yegar, Consul General of Israel in Philadelphia will speak on "Israel's Quest for Peace." The annual awards will be presented and election

of officers will be held.

The American Physicians Fellowship is an organization of over 7100 members who have done much to help the physician and medicine in Israel. Its activities include the stimulation of Israeli medical research, providing loan funds for immigrant physicians who settle in Israel and fellowships to selected Israeli physicians for postgraduate study in the United States, providing the major part of the financial support for the construction and maintenance of the Jerusalem Academy of Medicine, supporting 21 medical libraries in Israel, conducting yearly seminars in Israel with internationally famous physicians, providing funds for the construction and maintenance of the National Museum and Library of Medical History, etc.



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