

The Holocaust

By David Benarone

NEW YORK (WUP) -- "Christian anti-Semitism prepared the way for the Nazi crimes."

Thus declared Prof. Emil F. Fackenheim of the University of Toronto during the four-day conference of scholars on the theme "The Holocaust, a Generation After," held at the Carnegie Endowment Center here last week.

Enforcing his position, Prof. Fackenheim cited historian Dr. Paul Hilberg -- also present at the conference -- as having declared that "the

missionaries of Christianity had said in effect: 'You have no right to live among us as Jews. The secular rulers who followed had proclaimed: You have no right to live among us. The German Nazis at last decreed: You have no right to live!'"

The noted Toronto professor, recounting the anti-Semitism of St. John Chrysostom and of Luther, told his colleagues that "it is the anti-Semitism of the saints, not merely that of its sinners, that Christian thought must face if it is to make a beginning of any sort in moving toward an authentic response to the Holocaust.. Christianity can live only if it systematically affirms the Jew in his Jewishness."

The second day of the conference, during which Prof. Fackenheim made his statement, was devoted to the controversial subject of the role of God and Christianity in the Holocaust. Some of the other scholars present took strong objection to Dr. Fackenheim's views. Among them was a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto, Alexander Donat. Expressing deep skepticism, he asked: "Where was God? I was there," he said, "and I saw the face of God. It was not the face of a child on the gallows. It wore the helmet of an SS man."

Donat's blasphemous statement evoked much criticism from some of his colleagues, one of whom, Prof. Yoval of the Hebrew University, said that the full blame for the Holocaust lies exclusively with men. "The Holocaust," he declared "was neither the work of God, nor that of the devil...It was conceived and executed by men..."

To this writer, it appeared clear that none of the scholars present had come up with an adequate answer to this the greatest tragedy in world history. Not a single one of them invoked the Hebrew Bible or the mystic Caballa wherein alone one can find the real answer to the reasons of the age-long struggle between the "sons of light and the children of darkness" on planet Earth.

What happened during the Holocaust had its mainspring in what occurred, in Genesis and in Exodus. It was Amalek all over again, and Moses put it in these words which must still be properly understood by the scholars of the world:

"Because there is a 'hand' on the Throne

of Yah, war unto YHVH with Amalek since a generation of a generation." (Exodus 17: 16).

TEL AVIV (WNS) -- Mark Nashpitz and Boris Teitlionok, two of the seven Jewish activists arrested while demonstrating for exit visas outside the Lenin Library in Moscow, are being held for trial on "unspecified charges."

JERUSALEM (WNS) -- Eighty members of the militant Gush Emunim movement were forcibly removed by the Army when they attempted to set up a settlement near Ramallah on the West Bank.

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