

AJC Views The Threat To Soviet Jews

NEW YORK — Increasingly, the Soviet media is charging Jews and Zionists with having collaborated and having inspired the Nazis and with fomenting anti-Semitism, according to a new report, issued by the American Jewish Committee, that has been delivered by AJC officials to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid in an effort to alert Western leaders to the growing dangers surrounding two million Jews in the Soviet Union.

The goal of the media campaign is "to trigger hostility against Jews among the Soviet public by linking Jews to the archevil enemy of the Soviet state, explains Allan L. Kagedan, research analyst who prepared the survey for the AJC's International Relations Department, titled, "Soviet Anti-Jewish Publications, 1979-1984."

Mr. Kagedan warns in connection with the report: "The threat to Soviet Jews is immediate and gravely perilous. The media is giving a clear signal to the public that it may mistreat Jews as they wish with the blessing of the authorities."

He adds: "The strongest purpose of the campaign is to intimidate Jews into assimilating and giving up their struggle for their rights, but it goes beyond this. The Soviet regime wishes to win favor among the ethnic Russian population by driving Jewish professionals from their positions to make room for more Russians."

The report, which cites more than 20 anti-Semitic attacks appearing in major publications or on broadcasts in the last several years, notes that the terms "Zionists" and "Jews" are used interchangeably or in tandem, in the patterns of such classic anti-Semitic tracts as Mein Kampf and The Protocols of the Elders of Zion.

In discussing how Soviet writers have been developing the new theme that Jews are responsible for Nazism and the Holocaust, patterned on earlier claims in Mein Kampf and The Protocols that Jews themselves foment anti-Semitism, the study cites these examples:

* In Pravda, January 17, 1984, V. Bolshakov wrote, "As is known, Hitler called for the destruction of millions of people of 'inferior race.' But this cynical statement rightfully belongs to one of the 'pillars' of Zionism, Max Nordau."

* In a December 3, 1983 broadcast on Moscow Radio, Prof. Yevgeny A. Nozhin stated that Zionists saw "anti-Semitism as a blessing, as a force ensuring the separateness of the Jews." Nozhin is quoted next as alleging that "the Zionists were essentially the Hitlerites' accomplices and even participants in the mass annihilation of the Jews."

* In Rabochaia Gazeta, a journal of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, the following message is taken from a February 11, 1983 article: "The Zionists borrowed much from Hitler

and the Nazis: the doctrines of Blitzkrieg and concentration camps. The Zionist six-pointed Star of David has replaced the spider-like swastika."

* According to Soviet writer M. Starushko, writing in Komsomolskaia Znamia, Adolph Eichmann was executed because Zionists feared him revealing Zionist-Nazi collaboration. The study cites Starushko as making the assertion on March 28, 1979, where he observed that "among those who financed the National Socialist Party were Jewish bankers."

* In January 1979, L. Chernousko, writing in Voenny Vestnik, a journal of the Soviet Defense Ministry, declared, "Zionism is akin to fascism; both sooner or later lead to death camps and to crematoria chimneys smoking 24 hours a day

and to genocide."

Mr. Kagedan comments: "The popularity among Soviet anti-Jewish writers of the canard that Zionists aided the Nazis in murdering six million Jews has soared in recent years," with writers such as Lev Korneev frequently asserting that "Zionists encouraged and aided the Nazis, that they fomented anti-Semitism to advance their own narrow interests."

The booklet concludes by pointing out that the Soviet Union is guilty of violating the Declaration on Race and Racial Prejudice, which it helped pass in UNESCO in 1978, exhorting the media to refrain from racial incitement. The Soviet Union has also ratified the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which condemn incitement of racial hatred, the report adds.

Berman, Ending Term As Presidents Conference Head, Assesses Record

NEW YORK (WNS) — Julius Berman, the outgoing chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said that he was "very satisfied" with the relationship the Conference maintained over the past two years with the Reagan Administration.

Berman, who is president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, said he was equally satisfied with the access the White House and other Administration departments provided to the Conference during his two year tenure as head of the umbrella group of 38 national Jewish secular and religious groups.

He assessed his past two years at a press conference at the headquarters here of the Presidents Conference. Berman will step down from his post on July 1, and will

be succeeded by Kenneth Bialkin, the chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, who was elected to a one-year term as chairman.

In assessing the Presidents Conference's relationship with the Administration, Berman indicated that one of the factors which have influenced the Administration's attitude was the change

in personnel in the Administration, primarily the change from Alexander Haig to George Shultz as Secretary of State.

He suggested that Shultz's role within the Administration had somewhat muted the earlier influence maintained in foreign policy decisions by Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger.

Berman acknowledged that "it is no secret" that members of the Presidents Conference are divided on certain issues. One, he said, was the future of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But instead of the issues that separate the members of the organization, he noted that the Conference maintains a consensus on issues such as Jerusalem and the PLO.

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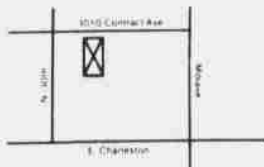
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