

Symposium Exposes Soviet Anti-Jewish Propaganda

NEW YORK — An array of anti-Jewish propaganda, from "satirical" cartoons equating Zionists with Nazis to a feature-length "documentary" portraying Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union for Israel as "traitors," was viewed today at a Symposium on Soviet Anti-Zionism and Anti-Semitism. The event, co-sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ) and the Jacob Goodman Institute of the Zionist Organization of America (ZOA), was termed a "response to the vitriolic campaign in the USSR which vilifies the Jewish people, the Jewish religion, Zionism and the State of Israel."

"Anti-Semitism in the form of anti-Zionism and anti-Israel propaganda is repeated in the Soviet Union with increasing frequency, permeating all aspects of the media," stated Dr. Joseph P. Sternstein, NCSJ Vice Chairman and former ZOA National President, who chaired the event. "It reverberates with familiar themes geared toward discrediting individual refuseniks and Soviet Jews as a whole, and delegitimizing Israel as the historic Jewish homeland."

Speakers at the event, held at the Jacob and Libby Goodman ZOA House, included Representative Robert J. Mrazek (D-NY); Dr. Jonathan Helfand, Associate Professor of Jewish History, Judaic Studies Department, Brooklyn College, N.Y.; Dr. Gene Sosin, former Director of Program Planning for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; Irving M. Levine, Director of the Institute for American Pluralism of the American Jewish Committee; David Bar-Illan, who hosts "International Dateline," a Public Affairs program of National Jewish Television and NCSJ Chairman Morris B. Abram. Their discussions included an examination of the effect of anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic propaganda on Jews and non-Jews in the USSR and beyond Soviet borders, as well as the historic and current perspectives of anti-Jewish sentiment.

The symposium opened with a screening of "Hirelings and Accomplices," a 27-minute "documentary" aired on Leningrad television in November 1984. Sternstein described it as a "quasi-documentary, which vividly reflects the Soviet propaganda line equating Soviet Jews who seek to emigrate to Israel with anti-Soviet behavior." The film seeks to unfold a Zionist "conspiracy," operating in concert with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and influential "powerbrokers" of the American Jewish community. One segment of the film focuses on several leading Jewish activists in the Soviet Union, identified as "traitors who betray their country in return for material rewards from the West."

"The most frightening aspect of 'Hirelings and Accomplices' is that in theme, structure and thrust there is a great similarity to the anti-Jewish propaganda promoted by the Nazis in the 1930's," noted Bar-Illan.

In comparing the Nazi and Soviet formats, he added that while the film is "typical" of Soviet anti-Jewish propaganda, "it is somewhat milder than much of the printed anti-Semitism which is widely distributed throughout the Soviet Union."

Much of the present-day Soviet campaign was credited to the "Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public," a government-sponsored group which has figured prominently as an outlet for Soviet anti-Jewish propaganda since its inception in April 1983. In a resolution approved at the Symposium, participants urged the Committee to "stop the spread of lies and group hatred as a

violation of international law and standards." The resolution deplored the Committee's "constant campaign of slander as a serious threat to the status and security of Jews everywhere," and pledged to further expose the "heinous anti-Jewish campaign in the Soviet Union," calling upon Western Public opinion and governments to do the same.

A personal account of Soviet anti-Semitism was provided through a videotaped interview with Alexandra Finkelshtein, a former refusenik who, after a 12-year struggle, was permitted to emigrate to Israel in December 1983.

Reviewing the event, Abram stressed that "the first step toward effecting change is to understand the situation," calling the Symposium "the beginning of a process of public education and exposure."

U.S. - Israel Relations, Zionism In America Focus Of Hadassah National Convention

71st Annual Meeting To Draw 3,000 Women To New York City, August 18-21, 1985

NEW YORK — The American Jewish woman's vital role in the future of Zionism in the United States and in American Jewry's partnership with Israel top the list of major issues on the agenda of the 71st National Convention of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Ruth W. Popkin, Hadassah National President, announced.

The Convention, scheduled for August 18-21 in the New York Hilton Hotel, is expected to attract 3,000 delegates representing 370,000 members in 1,700 chapters and groups throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, Mrs. Popkin said. The theme of the 1985 Convention is "I Lift My Lamp," from the Emma Lazarus poem inscribed on the Statue of Liberty.

"Like 'Miss Liberty,' the American Jewish woman has become a symbol of freedom and opportunity. She is a unique force for positive change in her community, her nation and her world. And for almost 75 years Hadassah's programs here and in Israel have provided her with a focus for her energy and commitment," Mrs. Popkin stated.

"The National Convention has been carefully planned to give women in positions of leadership in the American Jewish community the tools to understand the issues confronting our world Jewish family and to respond to them effectively as Jews, as Zionists and as citizens of this nation," she added.

The four day event also includes sessions on Hadassah programs in Jewish education, youth activities and Zionist and American affairs in the U.S. and workshops on chapter organizational skills.

Mrs. Popkin also announced that Blanche Shukow of Huntington Station, New York, Hadassah's Coordinator of the Fund Raising Division, will serve as Chairman of the Convention. Convention co-chairman is Thelma Wolf of Lawrence, New York, American Affairs Chairman.

Mrs. Shukow said the agenda for the Convention -- which will be preceded by a meeting of the full Hadassah National Board -- encompasses a range of issues of major concern to American and world Jewry as well as Hadassah's medical, educational, vocational, youth and land reclamation programs in Israel.

Highlights of the Convention include briefings by top-level representatives of the United States and Israel governments and other figures prominent in Hadassah's Israel programs and Jewish affairs, special workshops for career women and young leaders and presentation of annual awards for Jewish educational programming and membership growth, the Convention chairman said.

The Convention also is the occasion for the annual presentation of the Henrietta Szold Award, named for Hadassah's founder and given in her name to a man or woman who exemplifies the highest principles of humanitarianism and Zionism. This year's recipient will be announced shortly.

Additional information about the Convention is available from local Hadassah chapters and the Hadassah National Convention office at 212/303-8224.

Israel Exports Increase

JERUSALEM (WNS) — Israel's exports, which have registered low figures for a long period, increased by 12 percent in April and May, largely due to a rise in military exports, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics.

Exports totalled \$1.6 billion in the first five months of 1985 as compared to \$1.5 billion during the same period last year. The figure for May was \$503 million.

The largest increases were recorded in optical and precision instruments, metallurgics, machinery and electronics.

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