B'nai B'rith Leader Calls Soviet Charge Of U.S. Anti-Semitism 'Cynical And Untrue'

GENEVA -- A world Jewish leader charged the Soviet Union with "a transparent attempt" to divert attention from the U.S.S.R.'s "long and sorry history of mistreatment of its Jewish citizens by accusing the United States of widespread anti-Semitism."

Gerald Kraft, president of B'nai B'rith International, called the Soviet accusation "cynical and untrue."

Kraft said that it is understandable that the Soviets would seek to evade or defuse the human rights issue at the summit meeting with President Reagan. "The Soviets own record is abysmal," said Kraft. "They have been promoting anti-Semitism with a worldwide distribution of bigoted material used by the czars."

The B'nai B'rith head added that Soviet Jews are denied basic rights "as a matter of policy." He cited the denial of higher education opportunities, the right to study Hebrew or learn about their cultural and religious heritage and the right to emigrate.

"The Soviet government initiates and supports

Las Vegas Israelite

these abrogations of Jewish rights," declared Kraft.

By contrast, he said, "anti-Semitism manifests itself sporadically in the United States and is discredited by federal, state and local governments, as well as by the vast majority of Americans."

'A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum' Plaza's **New Musical To Open December 24**

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