

SOVIET  
"ANTI-SEMITISM"

*The Big Lie!*

5¢

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# Soviet "Anti-Semitism"—THE BIG LIE!

*Drums are beating and women are wailing. The primitive tribe of the Bhars is in trouble. An epidemic of cholera has broken out. Man after man is stricken with the dread disease. Sanitation and medical science are totally lacking. The only cause for pestilence known to the Bhars is the anger of evil demons, and something must be done to get rid of them.*

*The priests swing into action. They parade the streets, chanting prayers in weird minor tunes. . . . Then the priests cast lots with small white sticks and choose a young water buffalo. They daub it with red paint. The buffalo is driven through the village. The people rush out of their houses carrying lighted torches and making a tremendous din, screaming, beating pans and drums, to frighten the cholera demons into the body of the unfortunate victim. Finally, the terrified animal is pelted with sticks and stones, driven into the jungle, and never allowed to return. The village plunges into an orgy of rejoicing, convinced that the plague has been carried bodily away.*

KENNETH GOULD

**W**HEN WE READ stories like this, we usually smile and think how naive and uncivilized primitive tribal life was. We "civilized" people wouldn't fall for stuff like that.

Wouldn't we? Don't we?

The story that follows in these pages will serve to wipe out any notions of our modern superiority. It is the story of one of the dirties hoaxes ever perpetrated.

The incantations of ancient sorcerers had a purpose—to drive out evil spirits. The job of the modern votaries of Wall Street's Imperialism is to destroy reason and sanity, to divide people from one another and to create hobgoblins to divert their attention from the real enemy.

This is the story of the latest and foulest of the big lies to be spewed forth by the hate and venom distorted

minds. It is the story of the malicious campaign to poison men's minds with the absurd notion that the Soviet Union, which outlawed anti-Semitism and race hatred on the very day it took power, has now embarked on an official anti-Semitic campaign.

The main purpose of this vicious campaign is to prepare men's minds to accept the "cold war" and to add to the confusion, fear and distrust necessary to fan the flames of a talking war into the actual shooting war that Wall Street wants. To gain these ends, the Jewish masses, above all, must be lured away from the respect and sympathy they have come to feel for the Soviet Union because of its consistent struggle against racism and anti-Semitism over the years and, more recently, because of its magnificent role in the fight for the creation and maintenance of a free and independent Israel.

This is not a new campaign. It has been used every time the world situation became critical, every time relations between the major powers became strained. That the large portion of the American press jumped whole heartedly into the mess, distorting facts, lying about sources, reprinting fabrications in spite of and after being forced to print repudiations of their own stories, is not new, either. More shocking, however, is the fact that a number of Jewish organizations, consciously aiding the press and even originating their own slanders, is also not new.

### ***This Is the Lie***

Let's take this big lie apart and see of what it is made.

It turned up first in *Newsweek* on April 4. "A widespread official and anti-Semitic campaign clearly emerged for the first time last week as one of the chief reasons for the current Soviet 'cultural' offensive against Western 'decadence' and 'cosmopolitanism'. . . . A campaign to eliminate Jewish intellectuals from cultural life is now under way in the Soviet Union."

*Newsweek* went on to prove its contention by showing

that a number of Jewish intellectuals had been attacked in the campaign against cosmopolitanism, adding, "Where the Jewish origin of the accused is obscured by an adopted Russian name, the original Jewish name is quoted by the Soviet press in parenthesis. This is unprecedented in a country where anti-Semitism is a criminal offense."

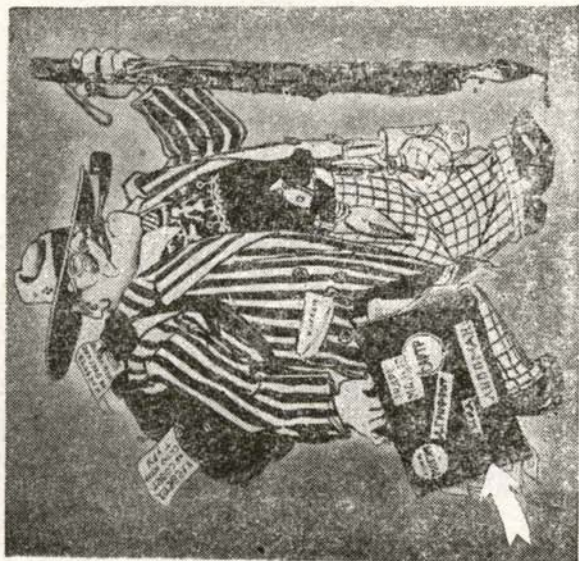
*Newsweek* had a field day, citing names outside and inside parentheses and the criticisms made of those named. Nor did the writer forget to take into account the incredibility of the charge of anti-Semitism being leveled at the Soviet Union. Undaunted by the obvious contradiction with the first paragraph of his story, he added, "Western observers in Moscow hesitate to assume that the present campaign is deliberately designed to arouse this latent anti-Semitism. But they feel it may be intended as a stern warning that only by strict adherence to the precepts of the Soviet state can the Jew hope to survive."

So, from "a widespread official anti-Semitic campaign" in the beginning of the article, the matter became "a stern warning" at the end.

### ***The Pack Starts***

The first to climb on the bandwagon was the *New York Post*, that great, liberal newspaper, from which editor T. O. Thackrey was forced to resign recently because he dared disapprove of America's foreign policy. On April 6th, George Fielding Eliot wept bitterly over the "deadly peril" of the Jews in Eastern Europe. "Once more," mourned Eliot, "the handwriting appears on the wall — the ancient, terrible wall, stained with Jewish blood through the centuries." On May 3rd, the *Post* got permission to reprint the *Newsweek* article in full.

The *New York Times* joined the pack next. A certain Harry Schwartz broke out with stories that anti-Semitism was appearing in the Soviet Union and that the anti-Zionist stand of the Soviet Union was one aspect of this



Here is reproduced the Krokodil cartoon as it appeared in Newsweek. Observe that the "Andre" has been blocked out, and only the "Zhid" is visible.



This reproduction is from the original as it appeared in the March 20 issue of Krokodil. The arrow clearly shows the name "Andre Zhid," which is the Russian transliteration for Andre Gide, French writer.

anti-Semitic campaign. On April 20th, Schwartz wrote, "Meanwhile observers of the Soviet press have noted that the cartoon campaign against 'cosmopolitanism' in *Krokodil*, the lavishly illustrated Soviet humor publication, has been marked by the use of hooked noses on the figures used to represent 'cosmopolitanism.' One cartoon on the front page of *Krokodil* juxtaposes the name Lippman — which is usually Jewish in the Soviet Union — with the word 'Zhidi,' a derisive Russian term for Jews used by Russian-speaking anti-Semites."

Who fired the opening gun on this campaign of slander? On April 1st, 1949, the Library of Jewish Information of the American Jewish Committee issued a document called "Jews Behind the Iron Curtain." This document produced by the organization of America's wealthiest Jews was supposed to be the final word and up-to-the-minute proof that anti-Semitism is now an official weapon of the Soviet Union and the new democracies. From the way in which the material in this document has been used, it is evident that if the American Jewish Committee did not actually help initiate this disgusting and dangerous campaign, it has certainly done all it can to keep it going. Frederick Woltman, starting a scurrilous series in the *World-Telegram* on May 16th, wrote, "This incredible development in a nation where discrimination is supposed to be a state crime — was established in a survey by the *World-Telegram*, based chiefly on Jewish sources. One of them, the American Jewish Committee, terms the campaign against Soviet Jews both 'violent' and 'official.' " Throughout his series, Woltman refers constantly to statements made by the American Jewish Committee, either in the document above or in the *Committee Reporter*.

### **Case of the "Herald Tribune"**

Evidence that another Jewish organization is involved in this psychopathic slander campaign came to light in a

very interesting manner. A few months back at their convention in Atlantic City, the Jewish Labor Committee, an organization of Jewish Social-Democrats, made a big play for the front pages by unearthing a supposedly documented study of the persecution of Jews in the "Iron Curtain" countries. This would have got scant notice, if Keith Spalding on the night desk for the *Herald Tribune News Service* had not made a slight mistake. Mr. Spalding addressed a letter to the American Jewish Labor Council, the organization of progressive Jewish labor leaders, which he really intended to address to the Jewish Labor Committee. In this letter he wrote as follows:

"Gentlemen:

I should very much like to obtain a copy of the report made by your organization some months ago in Atlantic City, detailing evidences of anti-Semitism in the Soviet sphere.

"It has come to my attention that your organization is in a position to have valid sources of information on this important matter. May I, although belatedly, congratulate you on bringing it to the attention of the public.

Sincerely  
Keith Spalding  
Night Desk  
*Herald Tribune News Service*"

William Levner, Public Relations Director of the American Jewish Labor Council, released the contents of this letter to the press, together with a short, documented study of Jewish life in the East European countries with this comment: "It is apparent from the reference made to the 'report made in Atlantic City,' that this communication was intended for the Jewish Labor Committee. The *Herald Tribune News Service* has, of course, every right to request copies of reports and other pertinent information. The contents of this request, however, prejudice the validity of the information desired and the congratulations extended to the Jewish Labor Committee

go beyond the limit of objectivity and professional ethics to which your news service lays claim."

The *Jewish Forward*, the *Jewish Morning Journal* and the *Jewish Day* leaped into the campaign, competing hysterically to see who could print more shrieking headlines and bigger and better fabrications. Nor did the right wing, conservative Yiddish press confine itself to reprinting what had appeared in the English press. They added their own concoctions. According to these newspapers, not only was there anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, but leading Jewish writers like Itzik Feffer, David Bergelson and a host of others had already been "purged," were either dead or dying, had been sent to Siberia, had disappeared and so on and on, *ad nauseam*.

So blatant was the note of glee in the Jewish press that one noted Jewish journalist, William Zuckerman, was led to comment on these antics in an article entitled "A Case for Psycho-Pathology," in which he pointed out that to "rush to reprint jubilantly such falsifications and rejoice in the discovery that another sixth of the world which has outlawed anti-Semitism has turned anti-Semitic, seems to be a case for psycho-pathology."

Later, we shall return to these Jewish organizations and newspapers and their great happiness in having "discovered" anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. Now, let us nail some of the lies that were spread as the gospel truth and held up as absolute proof of "official anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union."

## **The "Zhid" Lie**

The *Krokodil* cartoon which the *New York Times* asserted is anti-Semitic is reproduced here. An arrow points to the word supposed to have been a slur upon Jews. With no knowledge of Russian, but eyes with which to see, one can see that there are two words, not one. And it turns out that the two words are "Andre Gide," the name of the

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## The New York Times REDS HERE PERSIST IN BERATING ISRAEL

Freiheit, Yiddish Daily, Labels  
Nation Vassal of U. S. and  
Ingrate on Soviet Help

By HARRY SCHWARTZ

Israel's leaders, led by President Chaim Weizmann, are aiding the United States to "enslave" their country and conspiring to have it join a Mediterranean pact against the Soviet Union in alliance with

... Russian pacifists or writers being attacked for "cosmopolitanism."

Meanwhile, observers of the Soviet press have noted that the cartoon campaign against "cosmopolitanism" in Krokodil, the lavishly illustrated Soviet humor publication, has been marked by the use of hooked noses on the figures used to represent "cosmopolitanism." One cartoon on the front page of Krokodil juxtaposes the name Lippman—which is usually Jewish in the Soviet Union—with the word "Zhid," a derisive Russian term for Jews used by Russian-speaking anti-Semites.

## GIDE NAMED IN CARTOON

'Zhid' Used in Soviet Magazine  
Was Transliteration of Name

An article published April 20 in THE NEW YORK TIMES stated that observers of the Soviet press had noted that the cartoon campaign in Krokodil, Soviet humor magazine, against "cosmopolitanism" had been marked by the use of hooked noses on figures representing "cosmopolitanism."

The article added that one cartoon "juxtaposes the name Lippman—which is usually Jewish in the Soviet Union—with the word 'Zhid,' a derisive Russian term for Jews used by Russian-speaking anti-Semites."

It has been pointed out that "Zhid," as used in the cartoon, is the Russian transliteration for the last name of Andre Gide, French author, whose first name also appears in the cartoon.

*When the New York Times  
is forced to admit it lied, it  
buries the story in three  
paragraphs at the bottom of  
the book page.*

←  
*When the New York Times  
lies, it spreads it over 12 col-  
umn inches of type.*

French novelist. It also turns out that, when transliterated into Russian, "Gide" would appear as "Zhid." In fact, the cartoon turns out to be a caricature of widely known intellectuals, who are preaching a philosophy called 'cosmopolitanism.' Named in the cartoon are Andre Malraux, Jean Paul Sartre, Somerset Maugham, D. W. Griffith and

"Lipman"—obviously Walter Lippmann. Of these only one is Jewish.

Once attention had been focussed on the truth, the *Times* was forced to print a grudging retraction. Of course, the retraction was a short, buried item in the back of the paper and made no mention of Harry Schwartz, the author of the original lie. Is it possible that the great *Times* was concerned lest future contributions from the nimble brain of Mr. Schwartz might be discredited?

That new champion of the Jewish cause, *Newsweek*, was not to be outdone. On May 2 it declared, "Even anti-communists found it hard to believe the first reports that the Soviet Union had deliberately launched a large scale and officially inspired campaign of anti-Semitism," printed the same cartoon which the *Times* had been forced to repudiate and for good measure a few more cartoons which depict the 'cosmopolitans' as birds with long beaks. After all, beaks are long noses and long noses mean Jews, so there you have it. "Curiously enough," added *Newsweek*, "the cartoons were drawn by a Jew, the well-known artist Boris Efeimoff."

Freddie Woltman made his own original contribution to the *Krokodil* matter. Figuring that some people might have read the *Times* repudiation, Woltman came up with this one. True, the "tag pasted on his suitcase read 'Andre Gide.' This presumably referred to Andre Gide, the French writer who is unpublished and virtually unknown in Russia.

"However, the 'Andre' was shaded and the 'Zhid' caught the eye."

The cartoon as it is reproduced here is from *Krokodil* and exactly as it appeared originally there. There is no shading of the word 'Andre.' We would not want to go on record as saying that Freddie Woltman is above creating things out of his own mind when it serves his purpose, but, in this case, in the interest of honesty we have to admit he had a source. We present here a photostatic



copy of the *Newsweek* version of the cartoon from *Krokodil*. Here is a shining example of the uses to which America's widely heralded freedom of the press is put!

The *Krokodil* cartoon was by no means enough for the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, the *New York Post* and the *World-Telegram*. The big lie needed more substance and this they added by a tremendous howl about Jewish names appearing in parentheses. According to Harry Schwartz, in the *New York Times*, "this is unprecedented" and happens to no one else in the Soviet press.

Yet, we have been able to reproduce here part of the April 10th issue of *Pravda* and have underlined instances where Stalin Prize winners are identified by their pseudonyms and their real names are printed in parentheses. Thus you will find among the fiction writers: Boris Nikolaevich Polyevoi (Kampov), Elizaria Yerevich Maltsev (Pupko), Anna Ottovna Saksa (Abzalov); among the poets: Mikola (Nikolai Platonovich) Bazhan, Rahim Mamed (Mamed Rahim Abas Olga Gusenov), Yakub Kolas (Konstantin Mikhailovich Mitskevich); among the dramatists: Sandro (Alexander Ilyich) Shanshiashvili; and documentary film worker Roman Gregorovich Katsman (Grigoryev).

Obviously most of these names are not Jewish. Yet, both their real names and pseudonyms are being given, complete with parentheses.

A more telling argument is an analysis of the April 9th and 10th *Pravda*, in which the Stalin prize winners are listed. People thoroughly familiar with Russian have gone over the lists carefully for us and have found over 120 obviously Jewish names. Here are only a few of the names that appear in the April 9th list:

Lev Benyaminovich Marmorshtein, chief engineer of the factory "Serp and Hammer,"

Ephraim Feitelevich Schwartzberg, aeroplane engineer,

Binyomin Bezalelevich Gurevich, engineer of the factory "Electro-Apparat,"

Aharon Isakovich Liberman, engineer of Moscow instrument factory,

Samuel Moisieyevich Silberglit, engineer-constructor of building construction,

Yuri Aronovich Shapiro, engineer of the Yaroslav Auto factory,

Yaakov Solomonovich Epstein, engineer,

Shlomo Izakovich Amrom, chemist,

Gershon Shimonovitz Brodsky and Abraham Samuelovich Feinstein, plastic engineers,

Leib Davidovich Yaffe, radio constructor,

Yisroel Pinyevitch Weiner, constructor of new military weapons.

Faced with facts like these, what are the brilliant conclusions drawn by the great and free American press? Here's an example, taken from *Newsweek* on May 23rd, which purports to be based on a special report received from a "Western diplomat who returned from Moscow last week."

### **"Convincing Evidence"**

"However," says *Newsweek* on that date, "the drive to eliminate the Jews from literary and artistic activities continues unabated — though without fanfare. The recently published list of Stalin prizewinners provides convincing evidence of the nature of the campaign. In literature and art, a field in which Russian Jews have been traditionally active, only nine of 241 awards were given to Jews. In the field of science Jews were given six out of 36 awards. But the long list of 760 prizewinners in industrial and technical development contains as many as 83 obviously Jewish names.

"This breakdown, coupled with well substantiated reports that Jews are being gradually eliminated from party propaganda positions and especially from the so-called Agitprop units, led *Newsweek's* informant to conclude

that, though Soviet Jews may enjoy opportunities in industrial and technical fields, they will be driven out of art and literature as ruthlessly as they have already been eliminated from positions of influence in national defense and foreign affairs."

Just to show the puerility of the arguments used by *Newsweek*, it must be remembered that the Jewish people in the Soviet Union constitute about one percent of the population, which means they are exceptionally well represented in all the fields in which the Stalin prizes were awarded.

### ***How Freddie Quotes***

To show the depths to which these hate campaigners will stoop, it is necessary to show up their technique of distortion. Quotation out of context is one method. On May 20th, Freddie Woltman wrote for his bosses, "Probably no better authority could be found, attesting to the virtual disappearance of Jewish life itself in the USSR, than B. Z. Goldberg, columnist on *The Day*, New York Jewish Daily. . . .

"Returning after a six months' tour of the USSR, Mr. Goldberg, as far back as August 14, 1946, wrote in *The Day*:

" 'There are no Jewish districts in the cities and towns. There are no specifically Jewish occupations, there are no Jewish hospitals, no Jewish old-folks' homes, no Jewish clubs, no Jewish parties, no Jewish philanthropies, no Jewish educational institutions.' "

No comment is needed on this beyond presenting the full article from which Freddie Woltman yanked this one paragraph. Here is what Mr. Goldberg really said in full.

"Well, what shall I tell you of the life of the Jews in Kiev? . . .

"We Jews always yearned for one thing: to be equal with all other people and that there should be no excep-

tion made of Jews. This being made an exception was always like a hump on our back and we wanted to get rid of this. . . . Numbers of Jews who went to Palestine left not so much because of their love for Palestine, but because of their hatred of being different. They didn't want to be different from any other part of the population. . . .

"Well, here we have an example of an end to this being different, an example of equality. We have an example of where the hump has been taken off our shoulders. And so some feel that their backs are a little cold. . . .

"There are no special Jewish living quarters or areas. There are no specifically Jewish occupations. There are no Jewish hospitals, no Jewish old folks' homes, no Jewish clubs, no Jewish parties, no Jewish philanthropies. There are no special Jewish educational institutions — even where Jewish education exists, either for example in the 'Jewish cabinet' or in the Research Institute of the General Academy. In such cases, once again it is not something apart but an integral part of the general academy, under the direction of the general academy and subsidized by the general budget of the country. The only difference is that the language is Yiddish and the theme is Jewish. Other than that the technique and the mechanics—everything is a part of the general.

"Let me try to clear this question up a little more. The 'Jewish cabinet' of the Ukrainian Academy is much bigger than the YIVO in America. In it work many more research people and scholars than in the New York YIVO and it has a much greater budget, of course, than the YIVO.

"Surrounding the YIVO there is a big apparatus to collect funds for the institutions. People are sent out. Meetings are held, not only in the States, but even outside of the States as in Canada and in Mexico to raise funds for the YIVO. . . .

"One finds no such activities going on in connection with the 'Jewish cabinet.' No single Jew is ever ap-

proached for any aid for the cabinet. There is not one single person sent out to collect any funds for the cabinet. . . . The directorate of the cabinet works out its budget . . . and, if the directorate has not gone off too far into the clouds, there is no doubt but that its budget will be accepted and the only thing that remains is for the check to be written out and that's the end of that.

"Is it better this way or worse? My opinion is that it is better, certainly it gives much more assurance of security and is certainly more conducive to dignity. . . ."

## **War Record Remade**

It shouldn't be necessary to point out the difference between what B. Z. Goldberg said and what Freddie Woltman said he said. But distortion is by no means Mr. Woltman's only device. He shows especial genius in finding his "authorities." For his May 23rd article, which appeared under the blaring headline, "DOUBLECROSSING RUSSIANS LEFT JEWS TO MERCY OF HITLER'S INVADING HORDES," he had two excellent sources. A Dr. Solomon M. Schwarz, who Woltman says, is "an authority on current economic and social problems in Russia and a researcher for leading Jewish organizations," supplied this tidbit, "The Russian people were never told Hitlerism signified the complete extermination of the Jews." Woltman's other authority was Gregor Aronson, a member of the editorial staff of *Novoye Russkoe Slovo*, a Russian language daily well known as a white-guard newspaper, which has been calling for the overthrow of the Soviet Union for years. Woltman quotes in his article from "a forthcoming documented pamphlet" written by Gregor Aronson, in which Aronson states: "Stalin and his officials did not worry about the fate of the Jews. They simply forgot about this problem."

It is hard to believe that anyone, whether he agrees with Soviet ideology or not, can have forgotten the glori-

ous role the Soviet Union played in world events in the years since 1939. But, since filthy hands have been laid on the history of those years, maybe it must be recorded once again in black and white. The whole story cannot be told, of course, in this pamphlet. But, in telling some of the story again, it can be shown that the present campaign of lies has been tried before.

On December 3, 1939, an article appeared in the *Nation* under the signature of Oswald Garrison Villard and written from the Hague. "One other piece of bad news I must give," wrote Villard. "It is widely believed in responsible circles in Germany that part of the bargain with Stalin calls for the application of the Nuremberg Laws to Russian Jews, and that this will be done within six months from the signing of the Pact. It is not thought that such laws will actually be put on the statute books. Stalin will simply give certain orders; that will be enough."

Immediately, the Jewish press took up the hue and cry, reprinting Villard's story in the *Jewish Daily Forward* and the *Jewish Morning Journal*, which latter even added some choice details made up of fabrications about the spreading of nazi literature in the Soviet Union.

The news columns and editorials of the *Jewish Forward* in those days give a fine picture of mental gymnastics. For example, writing editorially on February 1, 1940, the *Forward* carried: "There is nothing to envy about the Jews who were 'saved' in those parts of Poland which the Red Army has taken over.

"According to the reports that manage to get through from those areas, a reign of terror has been instituted which is aimed at the so-called 'bourgeoisie.' . . . The number of such victims is naturally quite large. But even greater are the number of Jewish victims of the economic regime which the Soviet power is instituting there. . . . In this respect Soviet Poland is probably no different from the rest of the Soviet paradise where the population has

not had it any too well in the course of the two decades of the Soviet dictatorship."

### **Truth Breaks Out**

But it seems that, like all of the other Jewish newspapers, the *Forward* was being deluged with letters from hundreds and hundreds of Jews who had been saved by the Red Army, until it couldn't ignore them any longer. On February 4, the *Forward* again editorialized with: "Many American Jews have lately been receiving letters from their relatives in that part of Poland which has been taken by the Bolsheviks. The writers of these letters thank God that they have saved themselves from the nazi hell and they express great satisfaction at the fact that they now find themselves in a country where they are sure of their lives and are no longer insulted or persecuted as Jews."

While the *Forward* was engaged in its contortions, reports of what was taking place were pouring in.

On February 26, 1940, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was reporting that: "the Soviet government takes into consideration the tragic position of the refugees and gives them the opportunity to move deeper into Russia. Despite that, the number of refugees [in Western Ukraine] does not let up. Thousands of Jewish refugees from nazi Poland continue to come into Russia. Their number is growing daily and among them are not only Polish Jews, but Austrian, German and Czechoslovak Jews as well, who are fleeing from nazi terror."

There are many stories that could be told of those trying days for the Jews and of the scandalous slanders made by the American Jewish press against the Soviet Union. One, that of Dr. Joseph Nover, a Polish refugee, will serve. Toward the end of November, 1948, Dr. Nover grew so incensed by the lies printed in the *Forward* that he wrote a protesting letter to the *Forward* which that paper refused to print. Dr. Nover then sent it to the

*Morning Freiheit*, which printed it on December 12, 1948 and printed an English translation in *Jewish Life*, February, 1949. This is Dr. Nover's letter.

"I am driven to write because my conscience is troubled by the *Forward* interview with Shimen Haar. I propose to tell the whole story and to fill in the gaps left by Haar. At the outset I want to make clear that I have been a Zionist for almost 30 years. In speech and writing I have fought against the Soviet Union as an enemy of Zionist ideology. Consequently no one can accuse me of subjectivity or of being an advocate of the Soviet Union. I write here in the name of justice and human dignity, which require an honest person to present the facts as they actually occurred. . . .

"Herr Haar, did you see the terrifying spectacle of tremendous masses of Jews pouring across the Russian border? Did you not wonder that the Soviet power should allow countless hordes of Jewish refugees to cross its borders from Poland—that country which for many years carried on open anti-Soviet and anti-communist propaganda? What did you feel, friend Haar, when you crossed the Russian border?

"I shall tell you how we felt. When the Russian border guard gave us the sign to enter, my family and I and friends from our city sobbed and cried and fell upon each other's necks and kissed each other with indescribable joy. Very soon the Russian militia came up to us and, speaking Yiddish, comforted us and told us to calm ourselves. They assured us that we were out of danger, for we were now under the protection of the Russian power. How new and wonderful for us—these expressions of understanding and sympathy by militia and police. . . .

"When I think what a long journey every one of us refugees had to travel to come to America from the American zone in Germany, it seems impossible to understand how the Soviet Union allowed thousands of refugees over its borders without conditions or obstacles. Among these

refugees were varied elements. Among them were anti-communists and many who were demoralized by the indescribable hardships of their flight. Regardless of my attitude to the Soviet system, have I the right ever to forget that this humanitarian act of the Russians saved my family and myself, as well as the lives of the Haar family and 200,000 other Jews?"

## **Soviets Save Jews**

Recently, a book called *The Role of the Jews in the Partisan Movement in the Soviet Union*, written by Moïshe Kaganovitch, came to our attention. Kaganovitch, together with a number of other Jewish partisans eager to go to Palestine, travelled across Europe and ended up in Italy. There they created their own organization. Part of their purpose was to present just such an historical work as this 402-page book. In the course of the stirring stories of the heroism of the Jews in the Partisan movement, Kaganovitch states, "I must stress that the Soviet government and the Soviet partisans were the only ones in this bitter and bloody epoch of Jewish life, who saved the Jews and made it possible for tens of thousands of Jews particularly in the Western part of White Russia and the Ukraine to live through the war. . . . The Soviet government was the only one that carried out the decisions of the tragically renowned Bermuda conference, of the great powers on saving Jews wherever they were found." Kaganovitch quotes in full the historic decree issued by the Supreme Soviet in 1941 giving precedence to "evacuating first of all citizens of the Jewish nationality from those areas where they are endangered by the enemy."

Hundreds of stories of the concern of the Soviet government for the Jews and of the efforts it made to save the Jewish people and protect them from the nazis have appeared even in magazines and newspapers consistently

hostile to the Soviet Union. Yet, Freddie Woltman still has the stomach to quote from Gregor Aronson that "Stalin and his officials did not worry about the fate of the Jews. They simply forgot about this problem."

I could find no better way to sum up the role of the Soviet Union with regard to the Jewish people, than to quote from a speech of the late James N. Rosenberg, a noted banker and honorary chairman, executive committee, Joint Distribution Committee and Agro-Joint. The speech was delivered at an affair in honor of Solomon Mikhoels and Itzik Feffer, when they visited the United States in 1943. Mr. Rosenberg stated at the time: "To Jews, the word [Stalingrad] will be immortal. What Jew, or non-Jew for that matter, dares shut his eyes to the menacing poison of anti-Semitism which has not only murdered two million helpless Jews but has been the entering wedge with which Hitler has divided peoples and conquered nations? In Russia that wedge failed him. It failed because Russia has since the October Revolution forbidden discrimination between man and man, Jew and non-Jew. Real equality, regardless of race, religion, or nationality is a cornerstone of Soviet policy. Here—let the world take note—is the key to the courage, morale, and unity of the Russian people.

"That this humane, wise and far-seeing Soviet policy is not a mere scrap of paper, that it is the Soviet way of life, I testify from first-hand knowledge. . . .

"We turn now to the immense Jewish population of White Russia, Ukraine and Crimea. What happened to them? I quote from the scholarly article by Dr. Jacob Robinson in last April's issue of *International Conciliation*, the authoritative journal published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"Of some 1,750,000 Jews who succeeded in escaping the Axis since the outbreak of hostilities, about 1,600,000 were evacuated by the Soviet Government from Eastern

Poland and subsequently occupied Soviet territory and transported far into the Russian interior and beyond the Urals. About 150,000 others managed to reach Palestine, the United States and other countries beyond the seas.'

"On the basis of these data which I believe to be conservative, Russia has saved over ten times as many Jews from nazi extermination as all the rest of the world put together. Let that also sink into your minds, my fellow Jews."

Those who are so eager to besmirch the record of the Soviet Union might perhaps compare the previous statement quoted from Mr. Rosenberg with an analysis of the role of our own State Department in those days as recorded by Henry Morgenthau in *Collier's*, November 1, 1947. Said Mr. Morgenthau: "We know in Washington, from August 1942 on, that the nazis were planning to exterminate all the Jews in Europe. Yet for nearly 18 months after the first report of the nazi horror-plan, the State Department did practically nothing. Officials dodged their grim responsibility, procrastinated when concrete rescue schemes were placed before them, and even suppressed information about atrocities in order to prevent an outraged public opinion from forcing their hand."

## **Soviet Fight Against Racism**

Those who are not completely consumed by this frenzy of hatred can easily find out for themselves, if they do not know already, the history of the fight of the Soviet Union against racism and anti-Semitism. From the very first days of its existence, the Soviet Union took steps to eradicate anti-Semitism. On July 27, 1919, a special decree was issued against anti-Semitism. In the first years of the Soviet regime, days of bitter struggle and constant battles against invading armies, the Soviet leaders never halted their continuous efforts to bring real equality to the Jewish masses, so many of whom had been declassed

and had been prevented under the Tzar from living a normal, human life.

There are few people who foam at the mouth every time they talk about the Soviet Union as does Jacob Lestchinsky, who is regarded in certain circles as a foremost Jewish economist. Yet, in a book of his published in Vilna in 1930, *Zvishn Lebn Un Toit* (Between Life and Death), even he was forced to report, "Anyone who is acquainted with the pogroms in the entire Ukraine . . . must admit that the Red Army saved the Jews of the Ukraine from physical disappearance; that the Red Army did not permit the extermination of 2,500,000 Russian Jews. . . .

"One of the most outstanding facts which everyone could observe was the following. Jews would evacuate scores of cities and towns together with the Red Army whenever the Bolsheviks had to leave a place, for a few days or even for a few hours . . . no matter, the Jews always ran away and followed the Red Army. . . . When the Poles occupied Kiev the entire Jewish population of the right side of the Dnieper came from Kiev to Tcherkas. Entire families including the elderly people left their place of residence and all their possessions. People ran away without any idea of returning. . . . At that time one really could believe that the Bolshevik regime was a Jewish regime, so much time, attention and energy to the evacuation of Jewish population were given by the Red Army. . . ."

It was the Soviet government that wrote article 123 into its constitution, stating, "Equality of rights of citizens of the USSR, irrespective of their nationality or race, in all spheres of economic, state, cultural, social and political life, is an indefeasible law.

"Any direct or indirect restriction of the rights of, or conversely any establishment of direct or indirect privileges for citizens on account of their race or nationality, as well as any advocacy of racial or national exclusiveness or hatred and contempt, is punishable by law."

Soviet leaders did not take the question of achieving equality for all peoples lightly. Again and again they stated that equality could not be achieved through formal declarations and pronouncements. Real equality could be won only by bringing all peoples up to the same economic levels, through affording them equal opportunity. That is why one of the first steps undertaken by the Soviet Union was to afford the Jewish people the right to become productive workers, to become farmers, to take part in all the types of activity from which they had been excluded for centuries. That is why Biro-Bidjan was created, so that those Jews who longed for complete national fulfillment would have the opportunity to find it. There was no compulsion involved. Those who wished to go were permitted to do so and were aided in every way in their efforts. Those who wished to stay behind, were given every opportunity to become completely free and equal citizens wherever they were.

Anyone who has been to the Soviet Union, as well as many here who keep up with Soviet-Jewish affairs, can testify to the vast network of Jewish schools and institutions that were and are in existence in the Soviet Union. More Jewish literature and books were published in the Soviet Union than in all of the other countries of the world put together.

### ***“Missing Persons”***

At this point, some readers are probably saying to themselves, “All this may be true. But what about the reports that are appearing, particularly in the Yiddish press, that some of the leading Jewish-Soviet writers, like Itzik Feffer and David Bergelson are missing? Why, some of the newspapers have even stated that they have been arrested and sent to Siberia.”

Frankly, we have no more knowledge of where these gentlemen are than do the writers for the Yiddish press,

who concocted these stories. Neither they, nor we, have been to the Soviet Union lately. Neither they nor we have had any word from the Soviet Union as to what these gentlemen are doing, or where they are.

Our memory, however, reminds us that hair raising tales of this kind are by no means new. A number of years ago, we remember, Litvinov was purged and disappeared, not once, but four or five times—in the *Forward*, that is. We also remember a fabricated story of a disappearance which turned out quite embarrassing to its creators in the Yiddish press. In fact, the feeling was left that the Yiddish press would have been happier, on the whole, if the object of its story had really disappeared and stayed that way.

On August 29, 1945, the *Jewish Morning Journal* printed a cable from its correspondent in Jerusalem that Rabbi Dr. Mordecai Nurok had been “banished” and was in “dire need” in Tashkent. Rabbi Nurok was for many years the chief rabbi of Riga and a former member of the parliament in Latvia.

As it turned out but a short while later, in October of 1945 to be exact, a cable came through from the Soviet Union with a New Year's greeting addressed to American Jewry by Dr. Nurok.

How seriously can one take the crocodile tears wept by the Woltmans and the *Forward* writers for Feffer and Bergelson and a host of other Soviet-Jewish writers, when in the past these same weepers have done nothing but heap scorn on those same writers?

### ***The Anti-Israel Canard***

Most contemptible of all is the present attempt to distort the role of the Soviet Union in the establishment of the state of Israel. Not only have the Woltmans and the Schwartzes of the *Times* tried to make the Soviet Union's opposition to Zionism appear as anti-Semitism, they have

also tried to make it appear as though the Soviet Union were anti-Israel.

This distortion is so dangerous that William Zuckerman, a well known Jewish writer with whose views we frequently disagree, felt impelled to deliver a warning in the March 17 *Jewish Review*. Zuckerman wrote: "The attempt which is already being made to present these restrictions (against Zionism) as a new anti-Semitic movement by pro-communist countries, is as untrue as it is dangerous. . . . It must be made clear to every Jew and non-Jew that anti-Zionism does not mean anti-Semitism; nor does it even mean anti-Israelism. . . . It (communism) does not single out Jews or a section of Jews, as its special target. Those who are trying to utilize the charge to raise an hysteria about communistic anti-Semitism, are not only confusing the issue, but are doing the cause of the Jews and of Israel an incalculable harm."

It is difficult within the limits of a pamphlet to go into a lengthy analysis of the role of the Soviet Union in the long struggle both inside and outside of the United Nations with regard to the creation of the state of Israel. Briefly, it was the Soviet Union that frustrated the efforts of the American delegation to put across the trusteeship plan. It was because of the uncompromising fight of the Soviet Union that the Bernadotte plan was defeated. And, in those days when Israel was fighting for its very life and the American government placed an embargo on arms, it was Czechoslovakia that sent the material aid without which it is hard to imagine that the heroic fighters of Israel could have won their battle.

That the Jewish masses of Israel recognize the Soviet Union as a friend is attested to by the press in Israel. On August 8, 1948, the influential right-wing newspaper, *Haboker*, stated: "The words and deeds of the Soviet representatives in dark hours have deeply sunk into our memory. The firm and consistent support of Israel by the USSR at Lake Success has given the USSR and its state-

ments a place of honor in the new history of Israel." *Davar*, organ of the Jewish Federation of Labor in Israel, wrote: "We'll never forget the friendship the USSR showed us in the worst hour when the state of Israel was established and was struggling for its existence."

## ***Soviet Prestige in Israel***

Perhaps most revealing of all of the sentiment of the Jews in Israel toward the Soviet Union is in a report by Kenneth Bilby, in the New York *Herald Tribune* of August 5, 1948. Bilby wrote:

"Russian prestige has soared enormously among all political factions. . . . Through its consistent espousal of Israel's cause in the United Nations, the Soviet Union has established a good will reservoir, with leftists, moderates and right wing elements. **Perhaps of more importance** to a new nation fighting for its existence has been a fact less generally known — that Russia provided practical help when practical help was needed. While the United States continued its arms embargo, Russia opened its military stores to Israel. From the Soviet satellite nation of Czechoslovakia, Jews made some of their most important and possibly their most sizable bulk purchases. Certain Czech arms shipments which reached Israel during critical junctures of the war played a vital role in blunting the invasion's five Arab armies. When Jewish troops marched in review down Tel Aviv's Allenby Street last week, new Czechoslovak rifles appeared on the shoulders of infantry soldiers. In the hodge-podge of weapons which the Jews have amassed, this rifle stands out as the basic weapon of the Israeli army."

This then is the record of the Soviet Union in its fight for Israel, in its struggles against fascism, in its aid to the Jewish people. And can those who today seek to besmirch this record and spread all kinds of lies and filth about anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, equal in any

shape or manner even the smallest part of this record?

Let us take the American Jewish Committee for example. Its former president and one of its most distinguished leaders, former Judge Proskauer, lays claim to being very deeply concerned with the fate of the Jewish people all over the world. He claims to be a staunch fighter for the cause of Israel. Such claims, however, did not prevent him from being attorney for Aramco, the leading oil combine in the Middle East and one of the chief enemies of the state of Israel. Aramco is one of the groups closest to the State Department which has consistently done everything in its power to frustrate the establishment of a free and independent Israel. By what shall we judge this distinguished Judge Proskauer, by his words, or deeds?

### ***Dubious Jewish Defender***

The American Jewish Committee rushed into print with so-called documented studies and lost no time in feeding material to the press on the supposed fate of the Jews in Eastern Europe. But, if the fate of the Jews concerns the Committee so much, why did it not rush into a campaign when Ilse Koch was freed? Why has it made no fanfare, or organized protests against the failure of the American government to denazify Germany? Why has it not led the American Jewish masses in protest against the obvious rebuilding of a nazi Germany, which constitutes one of the direst threats to the future of the Jewish people? Why is it so anxious to fight anti-Semitism where it doesn't exist, but so completely silent on the problem where it manifests itself in the most shocking forms? In England, for instance, where the Mosley movement has begun to assault the Jews openly on the streets. And what about the growing evidences of discrimination and anti-Semitism in our own country?

When confronted with such facts, many people will shake their heads and argue that it is incredible. It is

hard to believe that any Jew, regardless of his economic status, would do anything to harm the Jewish people. Yes, it is hard to believe. Yet, history, both past and present, is filled with instances and examples of the betrayal of the Jewish people, of the misleadership of the Jewish people and of the holding back of the people from struggle through demagoguery, confusion and even intimidation by bourgeois Jewish organizations and leaders. The so-called "hush-hush" policy of the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Labor Committee with regard to the struggle against anti-Semitism; the notorious role of the American Jewish Committee in seeking to hold back the anti-Nazi boycott movement that had developed in the American Jewish community in the thirties, are characteristic of the attempt to silence militant Jewish action particularly when it began to ally itself with the progressive labor forces of America. They are indicative of the tendency of the top economic brackets to subordinate the interests of the Jewish people to their own narrow class and economic interests.

And why not? These American Jewish Committee leaders have something to protect that's a little closer to home than the Jews of the world. It is impossible here to give a complete breakdown of the membership of this wide-flung Committee, but an examination of the structure of a small part of its executive committee of 150 members, as of 1944, is illuminating. Forty members of the 1944 executive committee were officers and/or directors of business corporations. Three of those executive committee members were partners of Kuhn, Loeb and Company and three were members of the New York Stock Exchange. Among the corporation executives are Jacob Blaustein, an oil tycoon; Sam Lewisohn and Roger W. Strauss, mining magnates; Henry Ittelson, investment executive; Harris Perlstein of Chicago, president of the Pabst Brewing Company. For a more complete listing, see *Jewish Life* for April, 1948. This is the first in a

series of four articles by Louis Harap in *Jewish Life*, April-July, 1948, which shed an interesting light on the character of the American Jewish Committee.

No doubt many honest people have been taken in, confused and shocked, by the hysterical campaign against the Soviet Union. But the leaders of the American Jewish Committee or of the Jewish Labor Committee are not among them. They know the record of the Soviet Union. Their files are full of facts and documents on what the Soviet Union has done for the Jewish people. These gentlemen know where to find the truth—if they want it. No. These are no misinformed, misled souls. These are groups determined to distort the facts so as to mislead the Jewish masses.

The purpose of this despicable campaign of calumny was expressed clearly in an article by George Fielding Eliot in the *New York Post* of April 6th, in which he said, "The blind and stupid support of the Soviet Union by many American Jews who can see only that 'Russia voted for partition' must come to an end."

This then is the purpose of this filthy campaign—to alienate the Jewish people from the Soviet Union, since they look to this land with gratitude for its consistent support of Israel and for its glorious record of struggle against anti-Semitism. Eliot and his pack may consider the Jews "stupid and blind." He knows that it is necessary to arouse hatred to a hysterical pitch, since preparations are moving apace to plunge the world into a war against the Soviet Union. Those who know that there is no cause for war other than the rapacious appetites of profit-mad imperialists who will stop at nothing even if it means rebuilding fascism all over again, have to be deceived, if they are to be won over to the war camp.

To this end, no lie is too big, no slander too great. And, of all the lies, the one about anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union is one of the dirtiest and foulest ever spewed out by minds distorted by venom and hatred.

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