

Nov/Dec 1984

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JEWISH AFFAIRS



Decorating Kremlin with peace appeal for the 67th Anniversary of the October Revolution.

The USSR on its 67th Anniversary

**The 1984 Elections:
Analysis and Prognosis**
By Herbert Aptheker

The Israeli Economic Crisis
By Victor Perlo

The New Anti-Semitism Abroad
By Maurice Kurzman

An Update on Jews in the USSR
By Judith Albert

Zegota and Polish Jewry
By Sol Flapan

**Turning Point in the Struggle
of Arab Americans**

Frelchs in Moscow
By Irina Nikolenko

The USSR on its 67th Anniversary: Bulwark of World Peace

As we mark and celebrate the 67th anniversary of the October Revolution in Czarist Russia, it is more than historical interest to note that the first two decrees of the newly created workers and peasants government were those calling for: (1) peace and peaceful co-existence between states with differing social systems; (2) the guarantee of equality and sovereignty of all people's of Russia, the right of nations to self determination and the abolition of national and religious privileges in Russia which under the Czar was known as the "prison house of nations."

Throughout its long history in international tribunals the Soviet Union consistently and persistently offered and fought for proposals to secure world peace. Prior to World War II the USSR fought for collective security against the fascist aggressors. Noting the valor and sacrifices of the USSR during World War II, U.S. General Douglas MacArthur proclaimed: "the fate of mankind rested on the banners of the glorious Red Army." The USSR saved the lives of hundreds of thousands of Jews and prevented the extinction of European Jewry. Today, first of all the nuclear powers, the USSR pledged itself to a no first strike use of nuclear weapons.

Consistent with its policy on the national question, the Soviet representative in the UN, Andrei Gromyko, played the key role in the approval of the UN Resolution establishing the two state solution to the Palestine question, leading to the establishment of the State of Israel. It is the USSR which is still struggling for the establishment of a Palestinian state as called for by the UN.

However, the big lie of the Soviet threat to world peace is still with us. But now sober voices in the U.S. and throughout the world are exposing and combating the big lie in their quest for world peace and detente with the USSR.

For his efforts, former Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Elliot Trudeau recently received the Albert Einstein Peace Prize.

In the face of continuing Zionist propaganda against the USSR, Jewish American leaders are speaking out rejecting the big lie of the Soviet threat.

It was at the Jewish American Demonstration for Peace in Washington, D.C. that strong pleas for peace and detente were delivered.

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The 1984 Elections: Analysis and Prognosis

By Herbert Aptheker

This was delivered November 11, 1984 at the First Unitarian Church in Los Angeles before 400 people. It was broadcast via KPFK in that city on November 13 — Editor.

A significant component of the U.S. ruling class has opted for fascism — American style, of course. That this is far from unanimous was shown by the endorsement of Mondale-Ferraro by the *New York Times* — and by the existence of an opposition party, however divided, confused and dispirited the latter may be.

It is vital, however, to understand that the Republican Dallas convention last summer and the platform there adopted were not typical events and pledges of a Republican Party — not even of the Hoover vintage. That convention and platform — and the mind-set of the ignoramus chosen to be the con artist — are not Conservative in the sense of a two-party bourgeois-democratic contest — “conservative” and “liberal.” That convention, platform and ignoramus reflect the capture, after a generation of effort, of the traditional Republican Party — of Theodore Roosevelt and Dwight D. Eisenhower — by extreme right-wing forces and ideologues reminiscent of the Liberty League, of Coughlin and Spellman, of America First, of McCarthyism, the Birch Society, the States Rights Party and of the Watergate gangsters.

Desperate monopoly capitalism, including U.S. elements, financed Mussolini in Italy, Hitler in Germany and Franco in Spain. Elements among such forces in the past financed such extreme right-wing groupings as the Birch Society. Now the list of multimillionaires and billionaire corporations financing the whole network of racist, jingoist, male supremacist, anti-Semitic, anti-labor, anti-rational, anti-scientific, anti-democratic gangs, think tanks, ultra-reactionary political action forces, fanatical fundamentalist fakers, and straight out kluxer and nazi criminals (home-grown and imported) reads like a *Fortune* 500 issue. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers are included; funding ideological fountains are the Adolph Coors Foundation (brewing), the Bechtel Foundation (construction), the John M. Olin Foundation (chemicals), the J. Howard Pew Trust (oil),

the Sarah Mellon Scaife Foundation (oil).

Allied with the above are the Johns-Manville Corporation which bankrolled the American Enterprise Institute, Sears, Roebuck (American Security Council), and such colossal trusts as Hewlett-Packard, Du Pont, U.S. Steel, Rockwell International, Proctor and Gamble, most of the generals — General Electric, General Motors, General Foods — the Hearst Enterprises, the Rockefeller and Hunt oil interests and Chase Manhattan. (1)

Gus Hall in his recently-published *The New Danger* correctly described what came out of the Dallas 1984 convention by referring to “the emergence” therefrom “of a co-ordinated network of fully mobilized, disciplined, sophisticated and well-financed ultra-right and fascist forces.”

Using this network with its unlimited funds and its domination of a technically developed communications industry and the enormous power and prestige flowing out of the office of an incumbent President, the U.S. population was subjected to a propaganda assault, culminating November 6, that surely would have been the envy of Goebbels. A military-industrial-financial complex of global dimensions, obsessed with fear and hatred for the Soviet Union and socialism, of Marxism, of efforts to end colonialism and utter squalor and perpetual insult, and fully capable of the most awful systematized brutality, as shown in its employment of nazi murderers, (2) in its training and financing the tormenters of the people from Chile to El Salvador, from Turkey to the Philippines, has set its aim as the complete conquest of the U.S.A. first, of the utter brainwashing of its population and of accomplishing abroad the program that Hitler almost managed to impose upon the globe.

Hitlerism meant disaster for the world and catastrophe for Germany; with present weaponry, the pursuit of world-wide U.S. imperialist hegemony threatens the termination of all life.

09015402 Considering the forces involved and the propaganda unleashed, the 1984 elections were far from the smashing victory sought by the ultra-right. True, their Great Prevaricator received 59 percent of the vote from the 52.9 of the voting age population which went to the polls. There was a .3 percent increase in the voting figures over those for 1980; miniscule, but it does mark the first climb in the percentage of voters since the 1960 elections, resulting largely from increased registration.

There still is a very disproportionately smaller percentage of voters among the poor, the Hispanic-Ameri-

can and the Afro-American, precisely the groups —together this time with the Jewish population — which gave Mondale-Ferraro a majority of its vote, with 61 percent of the poor, 65 percent of the Hispanic, 70 percent of the Jewish and 90 percent of the Afro-American people voting against Reagan. Union households also voted against Reagan by 53 percent.

This represented an increase of the Mondale vote over that of Carter of 6 percent for the Hispanic people, 25 percent for the Jewish people (3) and 5 percent for the Afro-American people. It meant also a growth of 5 percent in the vote for Mondale compared to Carter for union households — this reflecting the greater independence and effort shown by the trade-union movement in 1984 as compared with 1980. Also, in terms of class, those households with incomes under \$12,500 gave Mondale-Ferraro 53 percent of their vote; the progression downward for that ticket depended on the rise of income, with households having incomes over \$50,000 giving Reagan 68 percent of their votes. One may add that of the unemployed who did vote, 68 percent went against Reagan.

Noteworthy is the fact that the continued inhibition of the Black vote in the South (though, of course, less than in the past) and the unrestrained racism of the Reagan administration produced a new Solid South with all such states, giving Reagan at least 60 percent of their vote. Noting that 90 percent of the Afro-American voters rejected Reagan one may observe that again as is characteristic of history, the Afro-American people, being the most exploited and oppressed, are pioneering the way towards rescuing democracy, decency and peace for the United States.

Votes on a state-wide and local basis were far from a sweep for the ultra-right. In the House, the Republican ticket gained about thirteen seats as this is written (a few seats are in question), half the goal set by its mentors and far from sufficient to make any change in the relationship of forces in the House. In this connection one may observe that the *New York Times* (November 8) stated:

In advance of the election, Representative Guy Vander Jagt of Michigan, chairman of the Republican Congressional Campaign Committee, said the Republicans needed 20 to 22 seats in the House or 'the Reagan Revolution' (sic) is over."

In the Senate, the Republicans suffered a net loss of two seats and both involved the defeats of ardent Reaganites — Percy in Illinois and Jepsen in Iowa. In local voting generally mean-spirited measures — such

as Proposition 41 in California — were defeated, the latter seeking to cut social welfare payments, rejected by the voter three to one.

While a few especially vicious espousers of the ultra-right did win — as the vile Senator Helms of North Carolina (who spent tens of millions of dollars and barely squeaked in at that) — it is also true that progressive members of Congress who were targeted by the ultra-right held their own. A notable instance of this is the case of Representative Ron Dellums of the Berkeley area in California. Here the national Republican leadership heavily invested in the campaign of Mr. Dellums' opponent, but the Congressman Dellums won by the largest plurality he has ever received — over 61 percent of the vote. Thus, the one member of Congress who avows his socialist beliefs was re-elected handsomely.

17128902All this means that the ultra-right program of further cuts in appropriations serving human needs can be blocked; it means that Reagan's Star Wars nightmare and his hopes to increase military expenditure by additional tens of billions and his plans to continue support to every reactionary state in the world from Israel to Pakistan, from the Philippines to South Africa, can be turned back; it means that his stubborn resistance to thawing the Cold War and making moves towards detente and control and reduction of nuclear weaponry can be overcome; it means, specifically, that Reagan's refusal to join the Soviet Union and China in pledging no first-use of nuclear weapons can be reversed; it means above all, at this moment, that Reagan can be forced to give up his support for every anti-human murderous clique in Central America and South America and especially and most urgently, that his plans to invade Nicaragua can be thwarted.

An ultra-right reactionary program can be defeated only by a proudly presented progressive program. A vigorously organized assault by right-wing forces can be successfully defeated only by a more vigorously organized assault by liberal, progressive and radical forces. The demands of such forces were most cogently advanced by the Communists — Gus Hall and Angela Y. Davis.

With eight and a half million officially admitted fully unemployed, with about five million partially employed, with about one and a half million unemployed but "discouraged" and so no longer counted, with thirty-five million officially listed as in poverty, with hundreds of thousands — probably millions — homeless, hungry and wandering the streets, with racism and anti-Semitism intensifying, with 20 percent of youth in

general unemployed, and 35 percent of Hispanic youth unemployed and 40 percent of Black youth unemployed, with trillions being expended, nevertheless, on genocidal weapons and with plans going forward for the waging of new wars of intervention — with all this, and more, being true, surely this is no time for discouragement or inactivity on the part of the left.

On the contrary, this is *the* testing time for the left. Never was our analysis more needed, our vision, our will, our determination more vital.

Put in positive terms these are some measures currently needed in our country: a 6-hour day to make significant reduction in the numbers unemployed; a vast public works program to end the housing crisis, to modernize the mass transportation systems, to eliminate the scandal where over twenty million adult Americans cannot read or write in any language, to provide free, adequate health care for all, and free quality education for all from kindergarten through university; to provide unemployment insurance as soon as lack of employment appears; to enforce a strict affirmative action program; to equalize in all respects the status of women; to illegalize the KKK and the nazis.

To pay for this we need a sharp reduction in armament expenditure in the order of one hundred billion dollars annually and an end to a tax system where, for example, seventeen of the wealthiest corporations paid *no* taxes for the first three years of the Reagan administration, while showing admitted profits of fifteen billion. In 1983, 129 of the largest U.S. corporations paid taxes at rates under 12 percent. In fact, if the 250 most profitable corporations had paid at statutory corporate tax rates, they would have contributed almost thirty-billion dollars in 1983 alone.

Observe that General Electric paid *no* taxes since Reagan has been in office; it also claimed \$283 million in refunds of taxes paid under Carter! One must hope that the fact that General Electric was Reagan's employer before he became a statesman is merely coincidental. (4)

If the tax system were humanized and if the Pentagon's budget were cut in half, the United States would be able to pay off its deficit quickly and thus bring down interest rates.

Such actions on the domestic front would accompany a foreign policy that would set itself the requirement of pushing ahead peaceful coexistence with the Socialist world, would renunciate interventionist activities and would throw its weight not on the side of reaction but rather on the side of enhancing popular capacities throughout the world.

It is this kind of vision — the reverse of the mean-spirited, racist, arrogant, militaristic and jingoistic essence of Reaganism — that alone can mobilize and unite a vast popular movement, not of 52.9 percent of the electorate but 95.2 percent! — thus to bury Reaganism and reaction in the Congressional elections of 1986 and the Presidential election of 1988.

That is the message carried by the vital effort of comrades Hall and Davis. Those seeds will sprout; no blow for human freedom is ever wholly lost.

Shall we again have time of the domination of slave owners when as Whittier wrote:

... Men creep,

Not walk; with blood too pale and tame
To pay the debt they owe to shame;
Buy cheap, sell dear; eat, drink, and sleep
Down-pillowed, deaf to moaning wail;
Pay tithes for soul-insurance; keep
Six days to Mammon, one to Cant.

George Bernard Shaw wrote: "You see things and say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were and I say 'Why not?'"

We insist, with Shaw, why not? Can the dream that was and is America end in besieging heaven by trampling humanity to death? In conquering islands whereon live one hundred thousand Black men and women, by launching a kind of mass lynching? Shall that dream again be besmirched by a nation of two hundred and fifty million assaulting a struggling, striving, achieving Nicaragua of some three million, pouring napalm and explosives upon their just-completed clinics, homes and schools, upon their women and children?

We will not *permit* it so to end.

No, we sing with William Morris:

I see the deeds to be done and the day
to come on earth

Riches vanished and sorrow turned to mirth
I see the city squalor and the country stupor gone
And we part of it all — we are not alone

In the days to come of the pleasure,
in the days that are of the fight —

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**FOR A
NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREEZE
NOW!**

JEWISH AFFAIRS

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Dear Reader:

Jewish Affairs is proud of the role it played in the securing of the large Jewish vote against Reaganism (70% to 30%) in the elections. This vote alongside the overwhelming anti-Reagan vote of the Black people, helped prevent an ultra right take-over of Congress and state offices.

The correctness of our estimate highlighted at our 12th Annual Jewish Affairs Dinner was confirmed. We called for the fullest mobilization of the Jewish people without money in unity with Catholics and Protestants without money, Afro-Americans and Chicanos without money" to defeat the Reaganites and their domestic and foreign policies.

In the period of continuing fight back Jewish Affairs will exert its energies to the further strengthening of Black-Jewish people's unity and the building of the all people's coalition to ensure the fight for peace, jobs and social justice and against the growing danger of racism and anti-Semitism.

Jewish Affairs will continue its tradition of activist journalism, involving our associates in mass struggles of our people and our nation. In 1984 we brought the historic "Appeal of Soviet Jews to US Jews For World Peace" to the attention of Jewish Americans nationwide and to the American people generally.

Our task for 1985 is to assist fully in the fight-back movements. We, therefore, plan to issue more supplements, to conduct a national speaking tour for our editors and to conduct readers' conferences across the land, not alone to discuss the content and the improvement of our magazine but to draw up plans for reaching out to new and broader forces whom we can and must bring into the all people's coalition against Reagan and Reaganism.

We are embarking on this road by announcing a "FIGHT BACK SUBSCRIPTION CAMPAIGN". In this effort we look forward to your continuing support to make this a successful campaign. Please feel free to send us your suggestions for a successful campaign. Please fill out the attached form and send it to us by return mail.

Comradely yours,

Herbert Aptheker
Herbert Aptheker

Lewis M. Moroze
Lewis M. Moroze

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The Israeli Economic Crisis

By Victor Perlo

Israeli's financial crisis, which has been intensifying for a number of years, became extreme in 1984. The consumer price index, which increased 25 percent a year in the early 70s and 50 percent a year in the later 70s, has more than doubled annually during the early 1980s. In 1984 it reached "runaway inflation," multiplying at the rate of five times a year, with prices rising each month as much as they did in a year one decade ago.

The national currency, the shekel, is correspondingly devalued, but the capitalists maintain their wealth in U.S. dollars, and more and more commodities can be bought only with dollars.

The ultimate cause of Israeli inflation is the country's continuous aggression against its neighbors, which has raised its military spending to roughly 30 percent of its gross national product — the highest percentage of any country in the world for which statistics are available. And this has been going on for decades. No other country has ever carried so heavy a military-financial burden for so long: *the military spending uses up more than 40 percent of the average per capita personal income of the Israeli population.*

Naturally such an enormous military program requires vast imports of armaments, materials to make armaments, and supplies for the armed forces, as well as the absorption of domestic supplies that might otherwise be exported. As a result, there is a net foreign trade deficit of \$3 billion per year. Israel has covered a lot of that by borrowing from the U.S. government, from banks and individuals. Its foreign debt payments come to \$3.5 billion per year on the foreign debt of \$24 billion. This amounts to \$6,000 per capita, about the highest in the world and more than the average per capita income of the people.

The combined deficit on international payments amounts to even more than the military budget! This debt is covered mainly from the United States, through rising amounts of U.S. government aid (now \$2.6 billion per year), increased outright gifts and low-interest loans from U.S. citizens (now running to more than \$800 million per year), and substantial bank loans. Bankers in other countries lend money to Israel, but the overwhelming funding comes from the United States.

The inflation runs wild because the foreign aid is never enough, nor can it ever be. The expansionist ap-

petites of Israel's rulers always stretch further than their financial resources can cover. And too much of the available funds end up in the hands of Israeli capitalists and U.S. capitalist investors in Israel who convert the monies back into dollars for purchases or investments in the United States.

The latest intensification of the financial crisis was spurred by the prolonged Israeli invasion of and occupation of southern Lebanon, the strategic defeat Israel suffered there, and the growing opposition within Israel to the government's expansionist program, as well as by the growing resistance by the people of the occupied West Bank.

In September the Israelis let it be known that the budgeted U.S. aid of \$2.6 billion would not be enough. They sent a special representative to the United States to ask that \$4 billion be made available. No results were announced, but the effective answer was published in the Israeli press. Just as the International Monetary Fund is the mentor that demands severe slashes in real wages and social benefits as a condition for relief from defaulted debts owed by the developing countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia, so the U.S. Treasury Department imposes terms on Israel. The central point is a radical cut in real wages.

The new Israeli coalition government, two days before the U.S. elections, obliged with a "wage-price freeze." This phrase is in quotes because it is obviously far from a genuine freeze insofar as prices are concerned. On the very first day of the "freeze," the press reported that proprietors hastened to up their price tags — one more price hike that nobody stopped.

Moreover, the most important basic necessities, from the viewpoint of the workers are, in effect, excerpted from the freeze. These prices have been heavily subsidized. Now the government will reduce the subsidies and prices will rise accordingly. Union officials complain they were deceived, that they were promised subsidies would not be reduced, that prices of essentials would really be frozen. Be that as it may, there is no sign yet that they plan to call a general strike or to mobilize the Israeli masses to enforce a real price freeze.

Government officials express the "hope" that the rate of inflation will be reduced in three months from 25 percent per month to 10 percent. Meanwhile, basic wages are frozen, and cost of living adjustments will be limited to two-thirds of the increase in the consumer price index.

Despite the formal freeze of dividends and rents, it is obvious that the rate of exploitation of labor, and the

overall profits of big business and finance, will increase substantially at the expense of Israeli labor. Furthermore, as an essential part of the program, the foreign creditors require the Israeli government to sharply reduce its budget deficit. Without a sharp cut in military spending, this can be done only by firing large numbers of government employees — the method most referred to in the press. This will raise the rate of unemployment to the high rates prevailing in Western Europe and the United States.

Naturally the Arab minority and the dispossessed immigrants from the West bank, who do the lowest paid, unpleasant jobs that the Israelis do not want, will be the main victims of these anti-labor "reforms."

We do not know yet the political price imposed on the Israeli government for the additional U.S. aid: more aid to interventionists in El Salvador and Nicaragua? increased aid to South African aggression and other African ventures of imperialism? and/or new support to the CIA and the Pentagon in places yet unpublicized? There is no doubt that Washington wants Israel to continue as the chief aggressive front for imperialism in the Middle East: the Pentagon recently agreed to provide Israel with its most advanced fighter technology to produce the new ultra-modern Lavi jet fighter, for which the United States is providing \$550 million in aid. The armament manufacturers who profit from this and other Israeli orders agree in return to spend 15 percent of sales receipts from this and other Israeli goods, assuring a piece of the action to Israeli manufacturers. No doubt the goods sold Israel will be priced high enough to provide ample profit, after subtracting the 15 percent buy-back provision.

At this point, the personalities and policies of U.S. imperialism and Israeli ruling circles have become so intertwined that it is possible that no specific orders from Washington are necessary. Israel's rulers want to do whatever coincides with Washington's strategic goals.

Thus Washington is cautious about its relations with South Africa's rulers. But not so is Tel Aviv. Who was not shocked by the stories in the *New York Times* on Election Day? *From Johannesburg: Ten South Africans Killed in Protest* — the largest, most united Black mass strike and demonstration in the history of South Africa. And above the page 13 continuation of the item, a smiling, handshake pictured between Israel's Foreign Minister Shamir and South Africa's Foreign Minister Botha, who was accorded every official dignity on his visit to Jerusalem. The Israeli spokesman boasted of the "thriving Jewish community" of 130,000

in South Africa, and the growing trade between the two countries.

Jewish Americans who support struggles against racism and war in the United States and at the same time support Washington's pro-Israeli foreign policy should ponder the contradiction.

However, the "reward" of a supplementary aid package for Israel is not a certainty. The reelection of the Reagan administration greatly increases the influence of the TV preacher Falwell, who spreads anti-Semitic propaganda of the crudest sort. It brings to mind the fact that every U.S. administration has to weigh the political losses this collaboration effects throughout the rest of the Middle East. The increasing influence of the anti-Semitic ultra right in Washington could lead to a change in policy.

Israeli political and economic/financial security can only be created through retreat from occupied lands and a turn to a policy of peace with its neighbors. There would still be the enormous foreign debt. But the productivity the Israeli people, freed from the vast military drain, would be able to cope with it and resume positive steps forward in economic life. □

Victor Perlo is chairman of the Economic Commission, CPUSA.

Continued from page 5

Away, then, to the fight again. Yes, just now with the setbacks, *because* of the setbacks, away again to the fight.

Educate, agitate, organize dear friends and comrades: the lives of our children and children's children are at stake. □

Notes

- (1) For latest details, see John S. Saloma III, *Ominous Politics: The New Conservative Labyrinth* (Hill & Wang, N.Y., 1984) and the excellent analysis of this book by Jim West in *Political Affairs*, November, 1984.
- (2) See John Loftus, *The Belarus Secret* (Knopf, N.Y., 1982) and the essay by the present writer in *Political Affairs*, November, 1984.
- (3) On the Jewish people and the elections, see this writer's article in *Jewish Affairs*, September-October, 1984.
- (4) On the tax system see Christopher Hitchens in *The Nation*, November 3, 1984.

EVERY READER GET A READER

The New Anti-Semitism Abroad

By Maurice Kurzman

Anti-Semitism which had existed in Europe for many centuries culminated in the murder of six million Jews in Hitler's Germany. There was a brief lull for a short time after that when the facts about the Holocaust became known to a shocked world.

But now again, within the past two or three years, we note a big upsurge in neo-Nazism in Europe with its concomitant anti-Semitism.

All across Western Europe violent incidents aimed at Jews are now on the increase. There has been a spate of raids against Jewish synagogues and defilement of Jewish cemeteries, shops and homes. There have been murderous attacks against Jewish citizens.

These atrocities have been committed in many European cities — Paris, London, Rome, Munich.

In August 1982, in the heavily Jewish district in Paris, a hand grenade was thrown into a famous Jewish restaurant, followed by gun-fire. The massacre left six people dead and 22 injured — the bloodiest anti-Jewish attack in France since WWII. Previously that year, a rising tide of terrorism had claimed 18 lives.

Following the restaurant killings another bomb explosion rocked the building where the Citrus Marketing Board of Israel was housed. Later a Jewish chapel in northern Paris was damaged by a fire bomb.

A month later gunmen raked four Jewish institutions with machine gun fire. Their targets were a school, a day-care center, a synagogue and a memorial honoring Jews who were deported in WWII to the death camps.

After these attacks, telephone callers from a group called the National European Fascists claimed responsibility for the shootings. The police arrested six members of that organization but the French Interior Minister warned that there was unlikely to be a quick solution.

The Grand Rabbi of France said that "it was with attacks against the Jewish community such as these that the Nazis started in Germany." The cry "Death to the Jew" is once again heard in the streets of Paris as in the time of Dreyfus.

In Italy, as in France, the Jewish community has come under unprecedented attack since Israel's invasion of Lebanon. Trade unions, politicians and the press had raised the level of rhetoric to such a pitch that a violent explosion seemed inevitable. In Milan in 1982

an explosion rocked an apartment building where many of the tenants were Jews. Then there occurred the fatal attack against Rome's main synagogue and other Jewish communal buildings.

In the Netherlands there has been a wave of unsettling incidents and anti-Semitic violence there is on the upsurge. There have been many cases involving anti-Semitic literature, public insults and statements condemning the Jews for their practices and beliefs, vandalism, riots and defacements and anti-Jewish discrimination in employment practices.

In England, too, the National Front, a neo-Nazi group openly engages in violent attacks against Jews. Incidentally, there is a growing Ku Klux Klan movement there which emphasizes anti-Semitism.

A new dimension has been added to the problem of European anti-Semitism. A number of far-right or neo-Nazi groups which had been pretty much under cover for many years have suddenly emerged into a political arena and have made some important gains. For example, in France, the rightist National Front Party led by Jean Marie Le Pen won 11 percent of the vote which gave it 10 seats in the French Parliament. Le Pen in the 60s was head of a terrorist organization and has been involved in all major far right upsurges since then. On one occasion he stated, "The Jews have a tendency to occupy all the key posts in Western countries."

In Greece, too, the far-right have won seats in the Legislature for the first time.

Why this upsurge now? Violent anti-Semitic outbreaks have been a traditional European phenomenon for many ages — glaring up periodically but dying down again for various lengths of time. Certain events or conditions in the past few years have triggered another such outbreak.

A very important factor to consider in seeking the reasons for the upsurge of European anti-Semitism is the present world economic crisis. High inflation, high interest rates, recessions, devalued currencies and energy crises which are plaguing many of the European countries have caused great distress and suffering. There was a need to find a scapegoat for the domestic hard times and the traditional answer was, of course, to single out the Jews.

What is the connection of these manifestations with the United States?

Much of the economic distress which Europe is experiencing at this time is due to the economic policies of our present administration. The high value of our dollar is causing a down-grading of European currency. Our high interest rates are drawing foreign in-

vestments to our country which is preventing investments from going into domestic uses in their own countries. Our protectionist policies which President Reagan is pleased to call "free trade with quotas" is worsening Europe's export market.

The administration under the rubric of "free speech" is permitting hate groups in this country — the Ku Klux Klan, American Nazi Party, Christian Patriots Defense League and the Posse Comitatus — to spread their poisonous, racist and anti-Semitic materials not only here but abroad as well.

Last year in a number of homes in West Germany police raids uncovered thousands of Nazi leaflets ready for distribution. It was learned that this hate-filled propaganda against Jews had been printed in the United States and shipped to neo-Nazi centers by the American Nazi Party operating in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Financial support from the organized anti-Semitic groups in the United States has emboldened the neo-Nazis in Europe who had been declared illegal, to resume their activities and brought them out in the open.

The dissemination of racist and anti-Semitic propaganda is outlawed under provisions of the United Nations Convention on Genocide and the UN resolution outlawing racism, adopted by the UN 35 years ago. The United States is still the only great power that has not ratified it.

With Reagan's reelection, we can anticipate the further encouragement and spread of racist and anti-Semitic vandalism and terrorism. □

Maurice Kurzman is a retired school teacher.

Jewish Affairs

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An update on Jews in the USSR

By Judith Albert

The January-February, 1983 issue of *Jewish Affairs* carried a report by this reviewer on a booklet entitled *Jews in the USSR* by Avtandil Rukhadze. First issued by the Novosti Press Agency in 1978, the second edition appeared in 1982 (the one reviewed), and there is now a third, revised edition — published in 1984.

A line by line comparison of the latter two reveals that much of the subject matter has not been amended or altered in any way. This is not surprising inasmuch as background information, historical facts, official documents, and other such materials remain as valid now as they were heretofore. However, there are some changes, additions, and new information that are very significant.

Beginning with the foreword, the author convincingly points out that to counteract the growing world indignation and revulsion against Israeli aggression in Lebanon, to deflect attention from the unspeakable atrocities and acts of genocide committed by the Israeli military forces against Palestinian Arab and Lebanese people, the Israeli government calculatedly increased its usual tirades about "Soviet anti-Semitism." The climax of this particular campaign was that in the midst of the Lebanese holocaust, they had the temerity to hold an "extraordinary world conference in defense of Soviet Jewry" in Jerusalem in March of 1983.

Such Israeli and world-Zionist tactics go hand in hand with the "crusade against Communism" carried on simultaneously by Israel's friends and protectors in the Western "free" world. These forces, having no facts to back their charges of "official anti-Semitism" in the Soviet Union, deliberately equate anti-Zionist and anti-Israeli criticism with anti-Semitism. This has become a favorite and frequently used device which attempts to make "religious freedom" synonymous with Jewish culture. These deceptions serve to obfuscate the truth and heighten the confusion in the minds of the ill-informed.

Interestingly enough, these same elements are largely and strangely silent about the proliferation of anti-Semitic acts (bombing of Jewish homes and synagogues, cross burnings, desecration of cemeteries and houses of worship, etc.) and the concomitant growth and open functioning of anti-Semitic organizations and

Jewish Affairs

bookstores in their own countries. Not much is heard from them either about the anti-Semitic utterances of the so-called New Right. The New York Times (Oct. 20, 1984) reported that a Michigan Republican Congressman signed a letter urging local ministers to help oust the incumbent Democratic representative (who happens to be Jewish) and "send another Christian to Congress." The Jewish establishment is also curiously mute about the anti-Semitic attitudes towards and the persecution of other Semitic groups — namely, Israeli Arabs and Jews of African or Asian origin. Such callous indifference condones and perpetuates the chauvinism of the ruling caste in Israel.

Contrast this with the situation in the Soviet Union where not only are there a number of very diverse Jewish ethnic groups (Ashkenazis, Tats, Georgians, Bukharans and Crimeans) which all enjoy equal rights and privileges, but also the Jewish Autonomous Region is a multi-national area in which Russians, Ukrainians, Buryats, Byelorussians, and people of many other nationalities live and work side by side with Jews.

Incidentally, the booklet notes the current (1984) celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Jewish Autonomous Region of the USSR, commonly referred to as Birobidzhan. No new material has been added to the chapter about the area, its people and accomplishments, but since the previous review reported extensively about it, and since the March-April, 1984 issue of *Jewish Affairs* and the October 4, 1984 issue of the *Daily World* both carried reports on the anniversary, it is probably safe to assume that most readers are familiar with the facts about the region.

Both the second and third editions of the pamphlet recount that several thousand Jews have been elected to Soviet legislative bodies on all levels (national, regional, local); that many Jews hold prominent positions in all fields of endeavor (arts, sciences, education, journalism, law, etc.); that numerous honors have been bestowed on Jewish citizens for various accomplishments; and that many cities, towns, squares and streets have been named in honor of famous Jews. But one new refreshing detail is now added — namely, the number of Jewish members elected to the Supreme Soviet of the USSR was six in 1982 and has risen to eight in 1984!

For those whose friends and relatives aren't sufficiently convinced about the equality of Jews in the Soviet Union, and whose hearts bleed for the sad plight of such "dissidents" as Shcharansky, Guberman, Braiulovsky, et. al., there is a section exposing their activities and the true charges for which they were tried and

convicted. There is also a chapter about the way in which many Soviet Jews were inveigled into leaving, and a new chapter called *Testimony of the Deceived* reporting pleas and requests for permission to return received in the Soviet Union from emigres who learned the bitter truth of life in the capitalist paradise.

Most interesting to me was the account about and by Peter Osnos, former Moscow correspondent of the *Washington Post*, who was forced to leave the Soviet Union because of his "help" to Shcharansky and other "Jewish activists" and for his many articles on the "plight" of Soviet Jews. He was next assigned to Israel, where he again reported on the same subject. In 1978 he wrote that those Jews who emigrated for economic reasons found conditions difficult. Quoting from records issued by government immigration authorities, he said that three years after arriving, a majority were less satisfied with jobs in Israel than they had been with the ones they had held in the Soviet Union. Less than half were satisfied with their salaries. More than 40 percent said that after one year, their living standards were lower in Israel than they had been in the Soviet Union. Continuing his report from official sources, Osnos stated that skilled people couldn't find jobs to suit their skills, and that according to an analysis issued by the law faculty of Tel Aviv University, these factors explain why more and more Soviet emigrants with higher education refuse to emigrate to Israel. Other reasons cited by Osnos are the fear of war in the Middle East, intolerance of mixed marriages, and difficulty of adjustment (particularly for immigrants from Tajikistan, Azerbaijan, Daghestan and the Caucasus). Further, if emigres wish to leave Israel, they must repay all aid given by the government and find another country willing to take them — both difficult conditions to fulfill.

Much more recently, *Newsweek* wrote in its issue of January 17, 1983, "Hampered by linguistic and cultural differences, they (Soviet Jews in Israel - JA seem trapped in a psychological no-man's land . . . 'In Israel they are ashamed to be Russians,' said Juri Miloslavski, an emigrant from the USSR." We might add here, that for those "lucky" enough to come to the United States instead of to Israel, the cultural shock is no easier. Many have never been able to find suitable work or a suitable place to live despite the assistance by government and Jewish agencies. Some, unfortunately, have also experienced aspects of our "culture" almost totally non-existent in the Soviet Union — theft, rape, murder, etc.

In view of the deteriorating world situation, in

Zegota and Polish Jewry

By Sol Flapan

view of the continued escalation of Soviet-baiting by the Zionist and capitalist forces the world over, a group of very prominent Soviet political and public figures of Jewish nationality issued an appeal in April of 1983 which was carried in Soviet newspapers. Their statement lashed out at the reactionary circles of U.S. and world imperialism for accelerating the arms race and threatening world peace through their provocations against the Soviet Union. It exposed the manipulation of Israel by the imperialist powers to occupy Arab territories, to invade Lebanon, and commit nazi-like atrocities in Palestinian refugee camps. The statement goes on to declare that, based on the political and military policies it pursues, "In its essence Zionism is extreme nationalism, chauvinism and racial intolerance; it is justification of territorial seizures and annexation and armed adventurism; it is a cult of political arbitrariness and impunity; it is demagogy and ideological sabotage, sordid maneuvers and perfidy.

"Zionism as a form of racism and policy of the Israeli government vis-a-vis the Arab peoples have been repeatedly condemned in the decisions of the United Nations organization." (p. 66)

The call concludes that because of the slanders and lies by the Zionist leaders against the Soviet Union and its Jewish citizens, because of the contempt aroused by such denunciations, the signers of the appeal call on all Soviet citizens to expose Zionism's political role, rebuff its intrigues, criticize its reactionary and aggressive behavior, reveal the anti-human and anti-people nature of its propaganda. To coordinate such efforts, the formation of an Anti-Zionist Committee of Soviet Public Opinion is proposed.

This call met with positive response, not only in the form of many letters to the initiating committee and the newspaper, but by the convening of a founding meeting on April 21, 1983 in Moscow attended by both public and press, as well as representatives from such leading organizations as the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the Soviet Women's Committee, the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR, the Soviet War Veterans Committee, the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, and others. A thirty-seven member committee of outstanding public figures was elected, as well as a presidium of thirteen. Colonel-General David Dragunsky was chosen chairman, and Professor Samuel Zivis one of the vice-chairmen. Rabbi Yakov Fishman (since deceased) was also elected to the presidium.

At the first press conference held for foreign and Soviet journalists, first vice-chairman Zivis stressed that

(Continued on page 21)

Poland is interested in the Washington, D.C. based museum-in-the-making which will deal with the extermination of the Jews in Europe during World War II. A relevant public body here is ready to serve that interest by offering its services to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council.

This was told to Neal M. Sher who heads a special investigations section at the Department of Justice by Professor Czeslaw Pilichowski, director of the Polish body in question, namely, the Main Commission for Investigating Nazi Crimes in Poland/Institute for National Remembrance. This Main Commission has been feeding U.S. officials comprehensive legal and documentary data on nazi criminals and wartime nazi collaborators who are now U.S. citizens and have not yet been brought to the bar of justice.

In talks with Sher in September, Professor Pilichowski said his institution's cooperation with the Holocaust museum would depend on whether that documentary center will truthfully present the extermination of Polish Jews by the Hitlerites. This presentation would also depict the many sided Polish assistance to Jews being attacked by the fascist Germans though the Poles themselves were the target of nazi genocide.

Professor Pilichowski turned Sher's attention to the cancerous spreading in the U.S. of the slander that Poles had turned their backs on the persecuted Jews. Worse, that they had collaborated with the murderous occupant in annihilating the Jews.

This libel, he averred, is being disseminated by films and the mass media on the popular level, and by "scholarly" works such as the Encyclopedia Americana which harp on the presence of the nazi death factories on occupied Polish territory. These contain implicit and explicit accusations that those camps were "Polish houses of death," Pilichowski charged.

One of the latest rabid attempts along this line was the mid-August story in the *Washington Times* by Ian Gilbert. He accuses the Poles of working hand-in-hand with the nazis in wiping out the Warsaw Ghetto. And he too spices his calumny with the above "scholarly" falsehood that the nazis found fertile soil here to build and operate their slaughter houses.

Yet with just a minimum of honest journalist research Gilbert would have learned of the eerie silence of the U.S. State Department, the British Foreign Of-

fice and the leadership of the world zionist movement while millions of Jews were being put to death by the nazis. All he had to do was to thumb through the documents of the World Jewish Congress assembly of February 1982 in Washington, especially the report by Gerhard Riegner who was the main supplier of accounts to the West in World War II of the extermination of the Jews.

He could have also examined the unfinished report of the J. Eisner commission under the chairmanship of Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg. More than enough relevant data has been marshalled therein to present an in depth reply to the gnawing question why nothing or nearly nothing was done by the Western democracies and the world zionist leadership to rescue the Jews from mass annihilation.

As for the nazis setting up their main death factories in occupied Poland neither Hitler nor any of his henchmen solicited or reckoned with the opinion of the conquered peoples. Much less the Poles who were also rated as "sub humans" and as such were on Berlin's hit list for biological extermination.

While Poland's Anglo-American allies were graveyard silent* (*While Six Million Died — a Chronicle of American Apathy*, Arthur D. Morse) Poles from the political Left to Right to the unaffiliated were actually risking life and limb rescuing their Jewish compatriots. Some 100,000 Jews were thus snatched from the clutches of the swastika wearing hangmen. Thousands of Poles were thus involved in activity which tempted fate by inviting death and collective punishment ranging from on-the-spot executions of whole families to torching entire hamlets and villages.

Nearly 1,300 of the 5,000 people around the world who have been awarded the Righteous Among Nations Medal by the Jerusalem based Yad Va-Shem Institute for the Remembrance of Heroes and Martyrs for rescuing Jews, are Poles.

Also in Jerusalem there stands a mausoleum with the ashes of Jews murdered in the larger nazi concentration camps. Three trees were planted in front of it dedicated to organizations which helped rescue Jews in the years of the holocaust. One of those trees represents the wartime underground Polish Council to Assist Jews. Code named *Zegota* it sheltered Jews, supplied them with so-called Aryan identification documents and with arms.

Not satisfied with vilifying contemporary Poles, "historian" Gilbert insults them with the defamation that "Polish anti-Semitism" was and is the greatest enemy of Jewry. Yet history belies that. It bears wit-

ness that in the course of its ups and downs over the centuries Poland was a land of tolerance. It received with sympathy and understanding wave after wave of Jewish (and not only Jewish) refugees escaping persecution in other countries.

This fact was honestly assessed by Kalman Sultnik, vice president of the World Jewish Congress, among others. During the 40th anniversary of the Warsaw Jewish Uprising here in April 1983, he declared that Jews will not forget Casimir the Great (1310-70, King of Poland since 1333) and then the rulers of the Jagiellonian dynasty (spanning from 1377 to 1526) who opened their kingdoms to the Jews who were being oppressed and tormented in the more "enlightened" countries of Western Europe. "We will never forget that tolerance," he vowed.

Gilbert's anti-Polish libel in the *Washington Times* has triggered a storm of indignation among Poles and Jews here.

"Disgusting, I'm at a loss for words," Dr. Zygmunt Hoffman, deputy director of Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute (JHI) told the Polish Press Agency. Dr. Hoffman cites the number of Polish recipients of the Yad va-Shem medal as one proof belying the *Washington Times* smear story. "And how many such heroes and heroines are still unknown, unnamed," he says.

"The death sentence threatened the rescuers of Jews. And there were thousands of such executions. Scores of rural homesteads were put to the torch and the dwellers therein shot — very often on the mere suspicion that they may have given some Jewish person a helping hand."

Gilbert's fabrication from beginning to end falsifies the essence and significance of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, charges the JHI official. Not a single credible source can be cited to back up Gilbert's rabid remarks.

"The whole world knows," continues Hoffman, that the desperate signals pouring out of the Warsaw Ghetto and other places where Jews were being massacred en masse and reaching Polish emigre centers in London were passed on to the (Western) governments of the anti-nazi coalition. These were dismissed in silence."

Dr. Hoffman concludes branding the Gilbert-*Washington Times* story a "premeditated falsification of history . . . This type of journalism serves no one — neither the Poles, the Jews nor Americans."

Similar anger was expressed by Ms. Teresa Preke-rowa, formerly of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS), a researcher on the fate of the Jews in World War II and the author of the book *Underground Coun-*

cil for the Assistance of Jews in Warsaw 1942-1945.
That's the above mentioned *Zegota*.

"Assisting Jews," she says, "became a platform of cooperation between Polish and Jewish organizations. *Zegota* operations shine as a sterling example in the history of Polish-Jewish relations."

Gilbert's slime is probably meant to be a balm for someone's guilty conscience, says Colonel W. Zielinski in the armed forces daily *Zolnierz Wolnosci*.

He recalls the words by Ludwik Hirszfild, one of the few survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto *gehenna*, outstanding immunologist and serologist, member of the Warsaw Scientific Society and co-founder of the Polish Academy of Science that "Jews were aware of the Poles' solidarity with them. The Poles did not limit their sentiments to words. Assistance was organized for Jews in armed struggle, in escape operations, in sheltering Jews under the threat of death."

On his own and quoting Professor Hirszfild, Colonel Zielinski decries the wartime silence of the West while Jews were being pogromed here by the nazis.

"Apparently," says this Polish army officer, "'big shot' Jews in America are suffering from a moral hang-over and a slight touch of guilty conscience." They are trying to ease the pain by defaming those who actually rescued their ethnic brothers and sisters and co-religionists, he says.

"That's not the way it was," declared *Folks Shtime*, the bi-lingual weekly organ of the Socio-Cultural Society of Jews in Poland. It brands the Ian Gilbert-Washington *Times* libel as one big lie. Symbolically, in an adjoining feature, *Folks Shtime* carries another in its ongoing series titled *Whoever saves one life is as though he (she) has preserved the existence of the entire world.* (*The Talmud*).

"The time will yet come," says *Folks Shtime*, "for that grand Book in Golden Letters of Poles who . . . extended a fraternal hand to Jews, snatched them from death, and who became for the underground Jewish resistance movement an encouraging symbol of humanity and comradeship of peoples."

Indeed, the Poles deserve that honor. For when Western Europe was burning "heretics" at the stake centuries ago, they were then one of the Righteous Among Nations. When the nazi inquisition was burning just yesterday millions of political opponents, Jews, Poles and other "sub-humans" in crematoria, they were again one of the Righteous Among Nations. □

*See the analysis of the Goldberg Report by Herbert Aptheker, *JA*, July/August 1984.

Sol Flapan is Warsaw correspondent for Jewish Affairs.

Czeslaw Pilichowski

Dr. Czeslaw Pilichowski, world renowned Polish scholar of the Holocaust, died in Warsaw, Poland, Tuesday, October 23.

Dr. Pilichowski was the founder and director of the High Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in Poland. He served in the underground army during the German occupation of Poland. His scholarly works on the German Nazi era are renowned throughout the world.

He delivered an historic address at the opening of the International Scientific Conference on *Nazi Genocide in Poland and in Europe 1939-1945* held in Warsaw, Poland, April 14, 1983. Scholars from around the world attended over 100 of whom delivered papers at the gathering. It was my privilege to deliver two papers as a representative of *Jewish Affairs*.

Dr. Pilichowski called for international support in requesting the U.S. government to open for public inspection the U.S. archives in West Berlin and in Washington on the activities of the Nazis, the perpetrators of the Holocaust. Such requests by scholars from around the world have gone unheeded to date.

He announced then that the Commission he headed would become a permanent body not alone to continue the efforts of the past 38 years in paying tribute to the anti-fascist fighters and the victims of fascism but also to mount a warning to the contemporary and future generations against the threat of war as an important voice for the defense of humanity from the danger of a nuclear holocaust.

"In their efforts to save Jews from imminent death," he reported, "the Poles rescued directly or helped to rescue the lives of about 120,000 Polish Jews" individually as well as through *Zegota*, the Council for the Assistance to Jews, despite the fact that such aid called for a death sentence for the Poles involved.

Commenting on Jewish resistance, Dr. Pilichowski asserted that "The uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto, undertaken by the Jewish Combat Organization together with the Jewish Military Union was a determined and heroic response to the Nazi action aimed at the final liquidation of the just over 90,000 survivors of the Jewish community in Warsaw."

He revealed that as early as December 2, 1939, Poland issued a protest against the terror of the Germans, proposing that Germany be condemned for violating the rights of nations under the Hague Convention of 1907. He reminded the participants at the Confer-

ence of the tragic letter of protest that Shmul Zygielbojm, the Jewish member of the Polish National Council in London addressed to the conscience of the world. The letter was written in May 1943 just before he committed suicide. Zygielbojm wrote: "responsibility for the crime of exterminating the entire Jewish community in Poland above all falls upon its perpetrators, the Germans. The nations of the allied states have until this very day failed to take any concrete steps to halt this crime."

Dr. Pilichowski further reported that as early as December 2, 1939, Poland issued a protest against the terror of the Germans and proposed that Germany be condemned for violating the rights of nations under the Hague Convention of 1904.

He warned that in the Federal Republic of Germany ideas are spreading about "not befouling one's nest," about "God's judgement" which alone has the right to try and judge Nazi crimes. He exposed the falsehood being spread in the U.S., Canada and South America denying the existence of concentration camps, crematoria and gas chambers. In the FRG Poles and Western powers are accused of crimes against the German people.

In his closing remarks Dr. Pilichowski, looking toward the future observed: "Auschwitz and Hiroshima, Warsaw and Nagasaki — those are the terrible symbols and, at the same time, warnings to all of mankind . . . Hence laser weapons and microwaves in outer space and the nuclear and atomic potential in their hands is nothing but the continuation of Auschwitz and Hiroshima. This must be condemned and halted by all peoples the world over."

As we say farewell to a trusted and heroic anti-fascist, a fitting tribute in his honor and in honor of the 12 million victims of Nazi genocide would be a determined effort to have the U.S. Senate ratify the Genocide Convention, a concept developed by the Pole, Raphael Lemkin. Further would be a pledge to step up all efforts to bring about a mutual and verifiable nuclear weapons freeze. L.M.M. □

**HANDS OFF
NICARAGUA**

Turning Point in the Struggle of Arab-Americans

The weekend of March 16, 1984 was of historic significance for Arab-Americans and Arab peoples throughout the world. The largest single political gathering of Arab-Americans ever convened met in Washington, D.C. under the leadership of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, known as ADC. This convention resolved to "use its grassroots strength in an effective and organized effort to end the exclusion of Arab-Americans from political life and to raise a new voice challenging America to debate foreign and domestic policy issues of concern to Arab-Americans."

The convention reflected a strong desire to challenge the anti-Arab racism and chauvinism of the U.S. imperialist propaganda media that has for so long held even progressive Americans hostage and that has done untold harm to the unity of democratic and liberation forces in the United States, the Middle East and throughout the world.

Many leading people in the political and social life of the U.S. and other nations participated in the sessions, panels, luncheon forums and other activities of the convention.

We publish here, in abridged form, from the special summer 1984 convention issue of *ADC Reports*, statements of some of the participants in this gathering so vital, not only to Arab-Americans, but to all those who cherish real democracy and peace.

Rep. George Crockett — Democratic Congressman from Michigan and long time fighter for the rights of Afro-Americans and all oppressed peoples:

I have been fighting discrimination since I finished University of Michigan Law School 50 years ago. Your community, I believe, must learn from the experience of other ethnic and racial groups, which shows us that only through political and economic power can effective changes be made in American society and government.

You are two to three million Arab-Americans. Blacks are between 25 and 30 million, and they're fast being overtaken by the Hispanic-American population. You can see what a tremendous political force we could have if just Blacks, Arabs and Hispanics could come together in a coalition. There's also a very large majority group treated as a minority — women. Together we could change the character of this

country. We could bring it into compliance with these lofty ideals we read in our Constitution and our Declaration of Independence.

Jack O'Dell — Editor of *Freedomways*, the Afro-American quarterly working for an end to discrimination and for social liberation:

The 1984 elections are the most important since the presidential elections of 1860 during the Civil War.

The emerging politically active community of Arab-Americans stands in the forefront of the general effort to change U.S. policy toward the Middle East.

The Rainbow Coalition has Jesse Jackson as its presidential candidate. The central challenge that we face in the area of foreign policy is to begin to redefine the American national identity. Peace with justice — that's the point, because we recognize that neither peace nor justice is today an ingredient of U.S. foreign policy.

Rev. Paul Mayer — Director of the Religious Task Force of Mobilization for Survival, which has been fighting to end the nuclear arms race:

The time has come, and it has long passed, for the American peace movement to come out of the closet on the issue of peace in the Middle East.

As a Jewish refugee from Nazi Germany, who grew up in a Zionist home, I must oppose oppression of every kind. My experience is precisely why I cannot tolerate the oppression of the Palestinians. Precisely because I came to this eternal status as refugees. It is because I was subjected to racism as a six year old child that I cannot live with the stereotype of Arab people that I see.

There are many progressive Jews with similar views, or at least growing doubts. And it is important for the dialogue that Rev. Jesse Jackson has challenged us with to take place, between Jews and Arabs and the Black community and, of course, many others.

Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad — Mayor of Nazareth and a leading member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Israel, who as Mayor of Nazareth has worked tirelessly for an increased understanding by Jews of Arab culture:

The failure of Israeli policy to impose on the

Arab-Palestinian people a capitulation through military force means half the victory to the Arab-Palestinian people. In the Middle East there is no place for Pax Americana, or for Pax Israeliana, but there is a place for Pax Palestina.

Who cares only for the Palestinian problem cares not for the Palestinian problem. You have to take care of the American issues, participate in the daily struggle of the American people. If you want to win them to your side of the cause, you have to mobilize yourselves to the side of their cause. So its very important to stand at the side of all those oppressed in the United States — Blacks, trade unions, social rights struggles."

Special Convention Event — Hagar's Tent

In a demonstration of solidarity and fidelity to their heritage, delegates to the ADC National Convention donated over \$15,000 for a monument, to be raised in the main square of the city of Nazareth, symbolizing the anguish of exiled Palestinians and their longing to return to their homeland in peace and equality. The monument is sponsored by the Nazareth Municipality Executive and a circle of scholars in Israel who maintain solidarity with Nazareth.

The first commemoration in Arab villages of those who have gone, the Nazareth Monument, entitled *Hagar's Tent* will be a hollow bronze statue of Hagar holding the infant Ishmael, father of the Arab peoples, created by the renowned sculptor, Gershon Knispel. The hem of Hagar's skirt will be torn in the shape of a tent entrance. Inside the monument, which measures over five meters high, will be a solitary place of worship. On its interior walls will be engraved drawings portraying the Hagar legend and topical poetry including exile ballads by Bertold Brecht, Nazim Chikmet, Abu Alma and Alexander Pen.

Receiving the donation from ADC was Nazareth Mayor Tawfiq Zayyad, who expressed his gratitude to ADC for its continuing work on behalf of Arabs and their heritage.

Rev. Jesse Jackson — Address (abridged) to the ADC national convention, which brought the over 2,000 Arab-Americans from across the nation to their feet again and again in a display of solidarity and unity of racially and nationally oppressed peoples in the U.S.:

I come to you this morning after having addressed the B'nai Brith in Framingham (Mass.), the Indian reservations of Arizona, the barrios of

South Texas, the Black churches throughout the nation. As I know the sufferings of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, the poor whites and Jews, I also know of your pain.

Anti-Arab sentiments so prevalent in Western culture are but another form of anti-Semitism. The dehumanization of Arab people, as I know, has brought great suffering to you as a people. Because of it, the Crusades and centuries of colonialism and oppression were justified. And even today, killings and occupation are legitimized by anti-Arab racism.

Blacks, Arab-Americans and Jewish-Americans must begin to relate to one another right here. I have long felt that it is a tragedy to see the lack of talk in the Middle East. But it's even worse to see it here. We must begin a dialogue among Blacks, Arabs and Jews as equal members of the rainbow in America so that we can chart a new course for peace, together.

Since my return from my first trip to the Middle East in 1979, I have felt strongly that dialogue is necessary and peace is possible. A just and lasting peace in the Middle East must take into account the legitimate concerns and needs of all the people of the region. To Israelis and Palestinians alike, we should say that just as security for Israel within internationally recognized boundaries is necessary for peace, so is statehood and security for the Palestinians necessary for peace in the Middle East.

Our job is to help move Israelis and Palestinians from the battlefield to the negotiating table. We must talk. We must talk as a nation to both the Israeli government and to the PLO. We must bring them together to talk peace.

We must have a wise and compassionate policy for Lebanon. There is no military solution to Lebanon's civil war. We must all of us work to bring Lebanon's people together. Lebanon has no need for U.S. weapons, U.S. Marines, or one-ton shells from the U.S.S. New Jersey's 16-inch guns. Lebanon needs a new power sharing formula and democratic reform. Lebanon needs national reconciliation and this Lebanon can only achieve at a reconvened all-Party Geneva conference. □

Rabbi Arthur Schneier for: Wider Soviet-American Contact

MOSCOW — Early in September this country hosted New York's Rabbi Arthur Schneier, chairman of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation.

In an interview with Novosti Press Agency Rabbi Arthur Schneier said that the Foundation he headed was an organization representing virtually all the religious communities and congregations of the United States . . . The trustees council of the Foundation involves, apart from the clergy and heads of religious communities, also prominent American businessmen. Arthur Schneier noted that this circumstance as well as the fact that certain members of the Trustees' Council from among the religious leaders were also members of the boards of directors of major financial and industrial corporations and companies determined the Foundation's wide outreach and prestige.

He stressed that in the context of the menacing deterioration of Soviet-American relations, the appeal of Conscience Foundation as an influential mass organization intended to spare no effort to establish friendly contacts with Soviet religious communities of various faiths and with other organizations concerned.

The aim of such contacts was better mutual understanding and greater trust between the American and Soviet public.

During his stay in Moscow, Arthur Schneier met with high-ranking spokesmen for various religious communities and talked with the leaders of the Council for Religions under the Council of Ministers of the USSR. He expressed the hope that an expected Soviet tour of the Foundation's authoritative delegation in 1985, the year marking the 40th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany, would largely help to improve Soviet-American relations.

Since 1966, Rabbi Arthur Schneier has been in the USSR on many occasions. He noted with satisfaction that the life of the Jewish religious community here was quite normal.

Quiet a natural rejuvenation of the rabbis is taking place, with the old ones being succeeded by young but well-educated rabbis and community heads. Rabbis are being trained at one of Europe's best Judaic Seminaries in Budapest.

In conclusion, Arthur Schneier said that he was leaving with the hope for better times in relations between the two countries. To this end all the people of good will in the USSR and the USA should take joint action. □



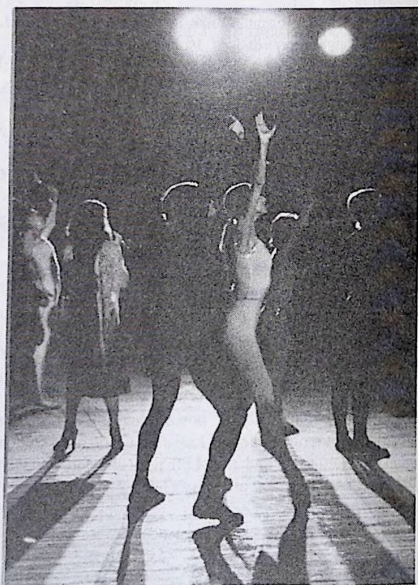
Soloists of the Freilechs Jewish Folklore rock-group. A. Mozzhukhina (left) and R. Fradkina (right).



Freilechs Jewish folklore rock-group in a dramatization of the song, "Mazltov."



Ilya Lerner, art director of the Jewish folklore rock-group. Novosti photos by B. Rodinov, 1984



Freilechs Jewish folklore rock-group

Frelichs in Moscow

By Irina Nikolenko

"Lachn iz gizunt doktorim heishn lachn" (a laugh is good for you — doctors recommend laughter). It was with these words in Yiddish by Sholem Aleichem that the Frelichs pop group started off its recent concert performances in Moscow. The group comes from the Soviet city of Birobidzhan, the capital of the Jewish Autonomous Region (Soviet Far East). Featured on the program are dances performed by young girls in festive national dresses and men in frock-coats, long waistcoats and yarmolka caps. They greet each other with genuinely national humor, singing and dancing in a ring. The orchestra plays fiery melodies. One of the numbers features a Jewish wedding. There are jokes, and laughter to the accompaniment of the strains of the violin. "Halloo, musicians! Where are you going?" a badchen (jester) shouts out. "We are going to a wedding. Laughter is particularly good at weddings and en route!"

This is the second time that the Frelichs group has brought its festive programme to the Soviet capital. New numbers consist of Jewish national music in rock style, modern songs and various short plays. The program was devoted to two jubilees — the 50th anniversary of the Jewish Autonomous Region and the 125th anniversary of the birth of Sholem Aleichem, a classic of Jewish literature.

"We are very pleased with our guest performances," says Ilya Lerner, 43, the leader of the ensemble, as well as one of its actors. "Despite the fact that we are a relatively small group, all our concerts in Moscow were sold out. About 30,000 people saw us perform at concert halls all over the city." The Frelichs pop group, which was only set up in 1981, is going from strong to stronger.

What makes the group stand out is its high degree of professionalism, rich vocal quality, subtle expressive movements and elegance. The group includes 23 graduates from various art and music schools. "Those we selected by a synthesis principle were expected to have different gifts," says Ilya Lerner, one of the group's founders. "Frelichs is still in the process of being formed but its core has, of course, been established. It includes, first and foremost, Rita Fradkina, who learned the art of singing in Kiev, Inna Slavskaya, the former soloist of the Chuvash variety group, and also Alexandra Mozhukhina and Grigory Mensky. They

sing, dance and act out skits based on episodes from everyday life."

Ilya Lerner never leaves the stage. Being a protean actor and musician, he is also the master of ceremonies who translates songs from Yiddish into Russian.

The people who make the show — Ilya Lerner, composers Vladimir Portnikov and Dmitry Kemelfeld, and art director Nikolai Baranov — have created both on stage and in the auditorium, an atmosphere of revelry. The whole program is accompanied by happy and rhythmical music, which harmoniously combines national coloring and modern style. Many songs are caught up by the audience which becomes something like a huge choir singing in Yiddish. The name of the pop group Frelichs is fully justified. When translated from Yiddish, it means "gaiety and joy," or "a joyful dance," from the name of the popular Jewish folk melody often performed at weddings and other festive occasions.

"We like the concert very much. The Birobidzhan group has given us great pleasure. We look forward to seeing the second part," said engineer Mikhail Godyovsky during intermission. He had come to the concert with his wife and two children. Cosmetician Irina Molokova attended the group's performances twice. "We knew a great deal about the group, had seen it perform on TV, and the concerts have given us all we wanted," said Moscow students.

Frelichs performances are interesting to people of different nationalities. They always become a notable event in the country's cultural life. "Our group tours a lot," says Lerner. "We've been to many cities in Siberia and the Far East, in Central Asia and the Caucasus."

"Of late Yiddish culture has made noticeable progress in the USSR. There are different interesting artistic groups in many cities," says Ilya Lerner. "Among them are such popular groups as the Jewish Chamber Musical Theater led by Yuri Sherling. My group has close contacts with the famous composer Zinoviy Kompaneyets, and well-known poets Aron Vergelis and Haim Beider. I'm glad that Soviet artists involved with Yiddish culture ever more often turn to national sources."

Ilya Lerner expressed the credo of the Frelichs pop group in the following way: "We do not want our group to be like any other. We want it to have its own identity. We are working on a fully dramatized program illustrating the best characteristics of our people — kindness, warmth and a sense of humor." □

Irina Nikolenko is an APN correspondent.

Jewish American Demonstration for Peace

The theme and mood of the Washington demonstration of the Jewish Sukkat Shalom Shelter of Peace was best expressed in the words of Ted Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress, "We are here to build vigorous, sustained, unrelenting opposition to the arms race." The demonstration took place in LaFayette Park, opposite the White House, Sunday, October 14.

Sponsors included the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations, the National Federation of Temple Youth, New Jewish Agenda and the Rabbinical Assembly and the Social Action Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Rabbinical Assembly chair Rabbi Myron Fenster said "the American people and the Soviet people seek the promotion of peace and desire better relations" and called for "the revival of detente and the development of more amicable relations with the Soviet Union."

The Sukkat Shelter of Peace, constructed on the site, was decorated with children's posters with appeals in English and in Russian to "Save Life on Earth." Among the drawings was one of U.S., Israeli and Soviet flags joined together.

Literature tables displayed materials issued by a wide variety of peace groups. There were Dump Reagan buttons and T-shirts for sale. A folder with the message, "Reagan is a Danger to the Jews," was issued by Die Yiddishe Shvestern (The Jewish Sisters), P.O. Box 90, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215.

Addressing the youthful crowd of 500 men and women, Ted Mann said, "The Reagan administration is not seriously addressing itself to the issue of future generations threatened by nuclear weaponry and war . . . covert activity in Nicaragua does not do our nation proud." He then charged that Reagan's Star Wars plan "amounts to the undoing of the signed ABM agreements, bringing to higher levels the nuclear arms race . . . We must protest when our president calls the USSR 'an evil empire' and jokes about bombing the Soviet Union . . . We are here to build vigorous, sustained, unrelenting opposition to the arms race. Public pressure is good when calling for negotiations to be pursued vigorously with tenacity."

David Cohen, national director of Professionals for Nuclear Arms Control, brought a message from Walter Mondale declaring "this gathering (is) a proud moment" and pledging "to take steps toward negotiations from the first day" he enters office. Cohen said,

"this election is a referendum on the fate of the earth . . . everyday we do not negotiate, we step closer to nuclear annihilation."

"We must combat military madness now and beyond election day," said Christie Balka, national co-chair of New Jewish Agenda. "We call for peace in Central America . . . an end to covert war. We must work to put an end to the Israeli-Arab conflict. Central America and the Middle East are flash points for world war."

A leaflet issued by Jewish Affairs Associates placed side by side the plea of Soviet Jewry to U.S. Jewry for joint efforts for world peace and the Sukkat Shalom statement for peace. The leaflet was well received. It called for the removal of the Pershing and cruise missiles from Europe, a conference to outlaw nuclear weaponry in outer space, a U.S.-USSR treaty for a verifiable nuclear weapons freeze and a U.S.-USSR pledge not to engage in a first use of nuclear arms. □

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סאָוועטן-פאַרבאַנד שטענדיק און באַשטימט פאַרגעלייגט הונדערטער פּרעפּאָזיציעס צו די קאָפיטאַליסטישע לענדער פאַר אַ געזוכערטן שלום און פּריינטשאַפט צווישן די פעלקער פון דער וועלט. אין אונזערע ענגלישע זייטן פון היינטיקן נומער זיינען פאַראַן אַרטיקלען וואָס באַגריסן דעם 67סטן יוביליי פון דער באַלשעוויסטישער רעוואָלוציע און דיסקוטירן דעם היינצייטיקן סטאַטוס פון יידן און דער יידישער קולטור אין סאָוועטן-פאַרבאַנד און דעקן אויף דעם ליגן וועגן די באַשולדיגונגען פון אַנטי-סעמיטיזם און דאָס אומברענגען פון דער יידישער קולטור אין סאָוועטן-פאַרבאַנד.

די פּרייע אַנטוויקלונג פון נאַציאָנאַלע מינאָריטעטן און עטנישע גרופּן וועלכע באַוואוינען רוסלאַנד. די קאָפיטאַליסטישע מאַכטן, אַריינגערעכנט ביידע צדדים אין דער ערשטער וועלט-מלחמה האָבן אַטאַקירט דעם נייעם אַרבעטער-שטאַט גלייך נאָך זיין פאַרמירונג. די צווייטע וועלט-מלחמה האָט אַנטפלעקט די שטאַרקע פאַרבינדונג צווישן אַלע נאַציאָנאַליטעטן אין סאָוועטן-פאַרבאַנד וועלכע האָבן געקעמפט און זיך מקריב געווען צוזאַמען פאַר זייער סאָוועטישער היימלאַנד. און צו באַזיגן די פאַראייניקטע פאַסיטישע מאַכטן. יונט זייער ערשטן שלום-דעקעט האָט

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"We must protest when our President accuses the Soviet Union of being an 'evil empire' . . . We are here to build vigorous, sustained, unrelenting opposition to the arms race," said Ted Mann, president of the American Jewish Congress.

Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative) condemned Reagan's "bad jokes about nuclear war with the Soviet Union" and called for "responsible dialogue with the Soviet Union."

The Sukkat Shalom Peace Demonstration was sponsored by: the B'Nai B'Rith Hilel Foundation, the Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations (conservative), the National Federation of Temple Youth (Reformed), New Jewish Agenda, the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative) and the Social Action Committee of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Reformed).

U.S. chapters of the International Jewish Peace Union are mounting a nationwide petition drive for an international conference to establish a just and lasting peace in the Middle East with the participation of the U.S.A. and the USSR.

The large Jewish American vote against Reagan indicates that more and more Jewish Americans can be drawn in to play a more significant role in the movements for detente and for a settlement in the Middle East which alone can guarantee peace and justice for the Israelis, the Palestinians and all other Arab peoples in the area.

The achievement of detente with the Soviet Union will make possible the successful application of our energies to the solution of the problems of hunger, poverty, homelessness and joblessness, the concerns so powerfully placed by sectors of the all people's front,

most recently by the two historic Catholic Bishops statements on attaining world peace and turning our economy around to the benefit of the whole people.

L.M.M. □

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"the committee, expressing the opinion of the Soviet public, upheld the right of Israel to exist and the right of the Arab people of Palestine to establish their own sovereign state." He rebuffed the attempts to depict "Soviet criticism of Zionism . . . as a manifestation of 'Soviet anti-Semitism,' as well as attempts to identify . . . Jews with Zionists." (p. 71)

Another vice-chairman of the committee, Yuri Kolesnikov, stated, "The most extraordinary thing is that voice 'in defense of Soviet Jews' are heard mainly from those countries where nazi criminals stained with Jewish blood have taken shelter and are living unperturbed." (p. 73)

The formation, continued existence of growth of this committee have received little, if any, attention in the United States. Small wonder! But it would seem obvious that knowledge of its activities would be crucial for all who desire to be fully informed about all aspects of Soviet Jewry. The chapter about the establishment of this organization was, to me, the single most important new development in the third edition of *Jews in the USSR*. It points up all the more usefulness of the booklet and the need to disseminate it as widely as possible. □

סטאליארעם, גארבערס, וואליקעס-מאכער, בלעכער, קאָפּפּעקס-מאכער, בעקער, פּרווידער א. א. וו. די מיטגלידער פון אַס די קאָפּפּעראַטיוון זיינען אָדער געוועזענע באלמעלאַכעס, אָדער געוועזענע הענדלער, וואָס האָבן זיך אויסגעלערנט די מלאכה. דער קאָפּפּעראַטיוו איז פאַררעכט פאַר אַ טייל פון דער סאָציאַליסטישער עקאָנאָמיק. די מיטגלידער פאַרמאָגן אַפּט מאַשינען און אַפאַראַטן און זייער אַרבעט-פּלאַץ איז ניט זעלטן אַרגאַניזירט ווי אַ פאַבריק. דער אונטערשייד איז נאָך, וואָס די הכנסה פון דער פאַבריק ווערט פאַנדערגעטיילט צווישן די מיטגלידער פונעם קאָפּפּעראַטיוו.

איז קאָפּפּעראַטיוו האָט מען אַריינגענומען אַלע, ווער עס האָט נאָר געוואָלט גיין. די קאָפּפּעראַטיוון אַרבעטן איצט גוט. זייערע סחורות ווערן אויסגענוצט פאַר מאַסן-געברויך. די קאָפּפּעראַטיוון שטעלן-צו אַ סך פון די סחורות, וואָס די מלוכה-פאַבריקן קענען ניט באַזאָרגן. דער פאַקט איז, אַז די מלוכה שטיצט זיי אַפּר די אַרעטלן ווי אויף קוואַל פון געברויך-אַרטיקלען פאַר די מאַסן. יעדע אַרבעט פון באַדינען די באַפעלקערונג איז איצט אין סאָועטן-פאַרבאַנד אַרגאַניזירט אויף אַן אַרבעט-באַזיס. צייטונגס-פאַרקויפער זיינען ניט קיין פּרווידאַנטיקעס, נאָר מיטגלידער פון אַן אַרעטל. דעסגלייכן שטייל-פּאָזער, דעסגלייכן פאַרקויפער פון סאָדאַ-וואַסער אין גאַס. אַזוי ווי די פאַרטיקטן פון די אַרעטלען זיינען גוט, לוינט זיך מער ניט ידעס דעקלאַרטירט צו פאַרנעמען זיך מיט פּרווידאַטן האַנדל. ער טרעט אַריין אין קאָפּפּעראַטיוו און פילט הינטער זיך די מאַכט פון אַן אַרגאַניזאַציע, וואָס האָט די אַנערקענונג פון דער רעגירונג.

זיינען נאָך ערגעץ פאַרבליבן, פּרווידאַנטיקעס? מיר פרעזענטלעך איז שוין ניט אויסגעקומען צו באַגעגענען אַט דעם סאָרט באַשעפּעניש. סתמא זיינען זיי נאָך דאָ. אָבער שוין גאָר אין אַ נישטיגער צאָל מיט אַנדערע ווערטער: דער לופט-מענטש איז פאַרשוואַונדן.

דער פּערטער היפּט-קוואַל איז אַפּ׳ס אַרבעט. אידן זיינען פון לאַנגע יאָרן געווען אַנגעשטעלטע אין קאַנטאַרן. איצט געפינט מען אידישע אַנגעשטעלטע אַלע טיילן פונעם רעגירונגס-אַפאַראַט, סיי אין זיין אינדוסטריעלן טייל, סיי אין זיין האַנדלס-טייל, סיי אין דער קרעדיט-סיסטעם, סיי אין דעם אַדמיניסטראַטיוון אַפאַראַט. מיר דאכט זיך, אַז אין די בעזן פון דאָס קאָפּע און כאַראָוו און קיעוו און אַדעס איז נאָך דאָ צופיל איז. אָבער דער סאָוועטן-רעגירונג האָט זיך דאָס אידן. יעדער איינער איז פריי צו באַשעפּעקן זיך מיט וואָס ער וויל. די אַנגעשטעלטע קריגן אַפּט זייער גוטן געהאַלט. אָבער דורכשניטלעך באַקומען זיי ווייניגער ווי פאַבריק-אַרבעטער און אַוודאַ ווייניגער ווי טעכניקער און איזשענערן. דעריבער רייסן זיך די

קינדער פון אידישע אַנגעשטעלטע דוקא אין די טעכניקומס און טעכנישע אינסטיטוטן. זיי ווילן פאַרנעמען און העכערן פּלאַץ אין דער געזעלשאַפּט. קיינער קען אויף זיי דערפאַר קיין פאַראַיבל ניט האָבן. דער פינפטער היפּט-קוואַל איז דאָס וואָס מען רופט אינטעליגענטע פּראַפּעסענט. אידן פאַרנעמען און באַדייטנדיקן אַלס לערער, פּראַפּעסאָרן און פאַרוואַלטער פון שולן, טעכניקום, אוניווערזיטעטן, אַקאַדעמיעס, פּאַרשונגס-אינסטיטוטן. פאַראַן אַ גרויסע צאָל אידישע שריפטשטעלער, וועלכע שרייבן סיי אויף אידיש, סיי אויף אַנדערע שפּראַכן. פאַראַן אַ סך אידישע דאָטוירים. פאַראַן אַ גרויסע צאָל אידישע אַקטיאָרן, וועלכע שפילן סיי אויף רוסיש, סיי אויף אידיש, סיי אויף אוקראַיניש און ווייט-רוסיש. פאַראַן אַ גרויסע צאָל אידישער קינסטלער. די אַלע פּראַפּעסאָנאַלן פאַרדינען גאָר גוט. אין דער אווואַציע, אין דעם פּלאַט פאַרנעמען אידן איד אַן אַנגעזענעם פּלאַץ.

הכלל, אין אידן פאַרנעמען זיך איצט מיט פּראָדוקטיווער אַרבעט. די לאַגע פונעם לאַנד ווערט אַלץ בעסער, און די לאַגע פון די אידן בעסערס זיך פּראַפּאַציאָנעל שנעלער. וואונדערן זיך דערויף איז ניטאָ וואָס, ווייל די עקאָנאָמישע לאַגע פון די אידישע מאַסן איז טאָקע געווען זייער שלעכט צוריק מיט אַ יאָר 12'10. יעדע בעסערונג אינעם לעבן פונעם לאַנד גיט די אידישע מאַסן אַ גרויסן רוק פאַראַויס.

(1934)

באַמערקונגען פון רעדאַקציע

נאָוועמבער 1984 פאַרצייכנט דעם 067סטן יוביליי פון דער גלאָרייכער באלשעוויטישער רעוואָלוציע, וועלכע האָט אָפּגעריסן איין זעקסטל פון דער וועלט פון דער מאַכט פון די אימפעריאַליסטן. די ערשטע צוויי דעקערטן אַרויסגעגעבן אין נאָמען פון דער באלשעוויטישער רעגירונג זיינען געווען יענע וועלכע האָבן גערופן פאַר אַ שלום-דיקער קאָעקזיסטענץ צווישן דער קאָמפּיאַליסטישער וועלט און דער נייער, סאָציאַליסטישער רעגירונג אין רוסלאַנד.

דער צווייטער דעקערט, אַרויסגעגעבן נאָוועמבער 15, 1917, איז געווען די דעקלאַראַציע וועגן די רעכטן פון די פעלקער אין רוסלאַנד וואָס האָט דערקלערט: 1) גלייכהייט און סאָווערעניטעט פון אַלע נאַציאָנאַליטעטן אין רוסלאַנד. 2) דאָס רעכט פון די נאַציאָנאַליטעטן אין רוסלאַנד פאַר אַ פּרייער זעלבסט אַנטוויקלונג ביו צו אַפּוידערטקייט און פאַרמירן זעלבסטשטענדיקע שטאַטן; 3) אָפּשאַפן פון יעדע און אַלע נאַציאָנאַלע פּרווילעגיעס און פאַרבאַטן; און העלפן

חחונה וועט מוזן אראָפּ פון דער סצענע. אין קאמפ פון דער סאציאליסטישער ווירטשאפט געגן דער פרווואַסער (דער היסטאָרישער געוועטס קאמפ), ווער (וועמען?) האָט געמוזט זיגן די ערשטע. די פראַגע וועגן דער צוקונפט פון די הונדערטער טויזנטער אידישע פּרווואַסטיקעס? האָט באַשפּעטיגט די פּאָטי און די רעגירונג. אידן זיינען ביסלעכווייז אַריינגעצויגן אין פּאַבליק: אידן האָבן פאַרנומען ערטער אין דער שול-סיסטעם און אין דער רעגירונג. אַכער ס'האָט געמוזט בלייבן אַ גרויסע צאָל דעקלאַרירטע. וואָס וועט פון זיי ווערן?

דער לאַזונג: „אידישע קאָלאָניאַציע אויף דער ערד“, איז אַרויסגערופט געוואָרן צו לייוו די פראַגע. עס הייבט זיך אָן די אַנגעשרטענגטע סיסטעמאַטישע אַרבעט צו פאַרזאָנדלען גרויסע מאַסן אידן אין די קאָלעקטיוועס פון דער ערד.

ס'איז אַוועק נאָך זיבן יאָר. ווען איך בין געקומען אין סאַוועטס-פאַרבאַנד אין 1931, האָב איך שוין געטראָפן בילענדעג אידישע קאָלאָניעס אין אַרמאַניע, אין קרים און אין ווייסרוסלאַנד. איך האָב געטראָפן אַ אידישע באַפעלקערונג, וואָס האָט פאַרנומען אַ פּראָפּאַרצאַנעלע הויכן פּלאַץ אפילו אין דער שווער-אינדוסטריע. אין די שטעטלעך האָב איך געטראָפן די נעווערוב-אַפּאַרטאַציע, אַרגאַניזאַציעס פון אידישע באַמלעכאַסע. אין די האָב געפונען, אַ געוועזענע הענדלער און מעקלער לערנען זיך אויך צו ווערן באַמלעכאַסע. איך האָב געזען אַז אויפגעלעבטע אידישע מאַסע. אַכער דאָ האָט מען דאָ אַ דאַרטן געקענט געפּינען דעם אַלטן טיפּ אידן: דרייער, לויפער, פליער, געטיגע סעב.

איצט איז אויך אַס דער עלעמענט כמעט אינגאַנצן פאַרשוואַנדן. די גאַנצע אידישע באַפעלקערונג פאַרנעמט זיך מיט פּראָדוקטיווער אַרבעט.

די בעסטע פּאַרטיי כּכּוּדוויקטע אַרבעטן אין די פּאַבליק. דער ערשטער און צווייטער פינף-יאָר-פּלאַן האָבן געפאַדערט גרויסע מאַסן אַרבעטער. אַ מענטש מיט גוטע הענט און מיט אַ קאַפּ אויף די פּליעציע איז בייס גאַלד גלייך. אידן האָבן זיך אַ לאַז געטאָן אין די פאַבריקן. אַ געוועזענער באַמלעכאַסע איז אַוודאי געווען ווילקאַמען. אַכער איך געוועזענע הענדלער און גלאַט מענטשן אָן באַשיטענע פּראַפּעטיעס האָבן זיך אַריינגערוקט אין די פאַבריקן. מען האָט וועגן דעם קיין גרויסן וועגן זיך געמאַכט, אויב אַ מענטש איז גרייט צו אַרבעטן, לערנט זיך שנעל אויס די מלאכה און איז דערצו נאָך איבערגעגעבן דער אַרבעט, פּרעגט מען זיך נישט שטאַרק נאָך אויף זיין אָפּשטאַם. אידן האָבן זיך גענומען צו אַזוינע אַרבעטן, וואָס זיינען פאַר זיי גוילן אינגאַנצן ניי. אַ שטייגער, די אַרבעט פון די קוילן גרובן פונעם דאַנבאַס. אָפּטמאַל איז די אידישע יונגעלייט אַריינגעקומען צו לייוו אומצוטרוי פון די אַנדערע קוילן-גרעבער: יענע האָבן זיך געגלויבט, אַז

די אידן זאלן זיך אויסטייגן צו אַזאָ שווערער אַרבעט. ווען אַכער עס איז קלאָר געוואָרן, אַז די אידן אַרבעטן גוט, האָט די באַצייאונג זיך געבעטערט.

אידן אַרבעטן איצט אין אלע פאַבריקן, אין אַלע זאַוואַרדן, אין דער שווער-אינדוסטריע און אין דער לייכטער אינדוסטריע, אויף די איינזאַמען, אויף די שפּיץ, און אונטער דער ערד. אידן פאַרנעמען זיך מיט דער גראַבסטער אַרבעט און מיט דער קאָמפּליצירטסטער הויך-קוואַליפּירטער אינדוסטריעלע אַרבעט. פאַראַ מאַסן אידישע אינוועשנערן און מעכאַניקער, וואָס זיינען פאַרנומען אין דער פּראָדוקציע. פאַבליק-אַרבעט איז געוואָרן דער הויפּט-קוואַל פונעם לעבן פון די אידישע מאַסן.

דער צווייטער הויפּט-קוואַל איז אַגריקולטור. די אידישע קאָלאָניעס אין די פאַרשיידענע געגנטן פונעם סאַוועטס-פאַרבאַנד האָבן דורכגעמאַכט אַ גרויסע אַנטוויקלונג. זיי זיינען אַלע קאָלעקטיוויזירט. זיי באַקומען די זעלביגע שטיצע, וואָס אַלע סאַוועטישע קאָלעכאַזן. זיי טראַקטאָרן און דער גוטער מאַדערנער אַקער, די זיי-מאַשין און שנייד-מאַשין און דער-מאַשין זיינען אַ וואַכעדיקע פּראַקטיק אין די אידישע קאָלעקטיוועס. אפילו דער אַקמאַנן איז דאָ נישט קיין זעלטענע זאַך. דער וואַרשאַטנד פון די אידישע פּויערים וואַקסט. מען האָט אַריבערגענוגן ווייץ און קאָרן און קאַרטאָפּל און פּירטש און גרינס; מען האַלט אַ קו; מען האַדעוועט היינען און קראַליקעס און חוירמינלעך — און מען איז פאַרזאָרגט מיט אַלציינג. די קינדער לערנען אין שול אין דער קאָלאָניע גומא און אַ סך פאַרן זיך די אַוניווערזיטעטן און טעכנאָלאָגישע אינסטיטוטן. ווען אַזאָ איינער ענדיקט זיין קורס און ווערט אַ סעציאָליסט, וויל ער זיך שוין נישט אומקערן אין דאַרף. ער געפינט מלאַז אין פאַבריק, אַדער אין אַ סאַוועטישער אַנאַשטאַל. ווייט-זענדיקע חברים האָבן גע'דאַה'ט אין געשפּרעכן מיט מיר: וואָס וועט זיין מיט אידישע יוגנט וועט אַזאָ וועק אין די אַוניווערזיטעטן און איינגעשלונגען ווערן פון די פאַבריקן און זאַוואַרדן און סאַוועטישע אַנאַשטאַל, טאָ ווער וועט באַאַרבעטן די ערד אויף דערשיף האָבן גע'דערע' חברים געענטפּערט. אַז מיט דער צייט וועט דאָס לעבן אין דאַרף זיך אויפהויבן ווייט נאָך אַ העכערער שטופּע — און דעמאָלט וועט שוין די יוגנט נישט האָבן קיין גרונט צו וועלן אַזעקגיין אין שטאָט.

אַזוי צי אַזוי — דער דאָזיקער פּאַקט אַליין באַווייזט, וואָס פאַר אַ מעגלעכקייטן עס זיינען אָפּן פאַר דעם יונגן דור פון די אידישע מאַסן. דער דריטער קוואַל פון חיונה איז: די אידן אין די שטעטלעך און אפילו אין די גרעסערע שטעט זיינען פאַראייניקט אין פּראָדוצירן-געזעלשאַפטן, וואָס רופן זיך ארטלן. פאַראַ אַרטעלן פון שוסטער, שניידער,

ווֹדִישַׁע עֲנִינִים



מיט דער אַקטאַבער-רעוואָלוציע איז דער איד אויפגעריכט געוואָרן

פון מ. אלגין
(פון זיין בוך „סאָוועטן־פאַרבאַנד“, ניריאַרק, 1944).

גרויסע איבערקערענישן מיט די שלאַכטן צווישן
כאַלשעוויקס און קאָנטר־רעוואָלוציאָנערן אין
אוקראַינע; מען האָט געהאַט איבערגעטראָגן די פּויל־
שע אַקאָפּאַציע אין ווייס־רוסלאַנד. מען האָט געהאַט
איבערגעליטן די פּאָגראַמען. די סאָוועט־מאַכט האָט
זיך אַקאַרשט געהאַט פּאַרפּעטיגט סיי אין אוקראַינע,
סיי אין ווייס־רוסלאַנד. מען האָט נאָר ערשט געקענט
אנהויבן טראַכטן ווי צו פאַרבכטערן דאָס לעבן פון די
מיליאָנען אידן, וואָס האָבן אונטער דער צאָרישער
הערשאַפט ניט געהאַט קיין עקאָנאָמישן באַדן אונטער
די פּי.ס.

אַבער שוין דעמאָלט האָב אידן בייגעוואוינט אַ
באַראַטונג פון רעגירונגס־פאַרטערער מיט אידישע
מאַסן־טער צו באַטראַכטן די פּראַגע, ווי אזוי צו
פראַדוקטיוויזירן די אידישע מאַסן. אין מיטלען אידן די
רעגירונג נאָך געווען אַרעם; די לאַגע פונעם לאַנד איז
געווען אַ שווערע. אָבער שוין האָבן די באַלשעוויקס
און די רעגירונג אוועקגעשטעלט פאַר זיך די אידן־
פּראַגע אין איר גאַנצער שאַרפּקייט.

ווען אידן בין געקומען נאָכאַמאָל אין
סאָוועט־פאַרבאַנד אין 1924, האָט געהערשט די נייע
עקאָנאָמישע פּאָליטיק מיט פּולער מאַכט. דאָ און דאַרטן
האָבן זיך געעפנט פּריוואַטע פאַבריקן; קאָנצעסיאָנערן
האָבן זיך צעלייגט ווי ביי זיך אין ווייז־גאַרטן; קרעמער
האָבן געמאַכט גוטע געשעפטן; מעקלער האָבן געעפנט
קאָנטאַרן. אידן האָבן געהאַוועט און געשמייצט און
פאַרדינט אַ רובל — און אַ סך האָט זיך אויסגעדאַכט, אַז
די „אַלטע גוטע צייטן“ ווײַנען דאָ צוריק. דער לופט־
מענטש האָט זיך נאָך אַ ביסל צוגעפאַסט צו די
סאָוועטישע געזעצן — מיטן צוויקע צו ברעכן אָט די
געזעצן אין וויי אַגעניש נאָכן רובל.

אַבער שוין דאָן האָט די רעגירונג געוואוסט, און
ס'האָבן געוואוסט די קאָמוניסטן, אַז אָט די גאַנצע

אַלגין איז געווען אין סאָוועט־פאַרבאַנד אין
1920-1921, 1924, 1931, 1934. ער איז אין משך
פון אַ סך יאָרן געווען דער קאָרעספּאָנענט פון דער
מאַסקווער „פּראַוודאַ“ אין ניו יאָרק (זיין לעצטע
קעיבל פון ניו יאָרק איז דערשינען דעם 21טן
נאָוועמבער, 1939, איין טאָג פאַר זיין טויט). אין די
אַלע יאָרן, צווישן 1921 און 1939 — ביז זיין
לעצטער רעדע וועגן דער נאַציאָנאַלער און
אידישער פּראַגע, אין מעדיסאָן סקווער גאַרדן, דעם
13טן נאָוועמבער, 1939 (געדרוקט אין דער
„מאַרגן־פּרייהייט“ מיט צוויי טעג שפעטער האָט
אַלגין פאַרטיידיגט דעם סאָוועטן־פאַרבאַנד געגן
אַלע אַטאַקעס פון די מערשעוויקעס אַנטר־
סאָוועטישע רענעגאַטן.

— די רעוואָלוציע האָט געשאַדט די אידן מער ווי
אַנדערע פעלקער, — האָבן גענגער יאָרן גע'עננה'ט.
— די רעוואָלוציע האָט געגעבן די אידן מער ווי
אַנדערע פעלקער, — קענען מיר איצט זאָגן, ווען מיר
זען דעם אויפבויע פונעם אידישן לעבן אין
סאָוועט־פאַרבאַנד.

— די באַלשעוויקעס אונטערדיקן און פאַרפאַלגן
זיך אידן, — האָבן גענגער גע'עננה'ט.
— די באַלשעוויקס האָבן געגעבן די אידן פּולע
פּרייהייט, אזוינע ווי זיי האָבן קיינמאָל ניט געהאַט אין
דער געשיכטע, — וועט דערקלערן יעדערער, ווער עס
האָט געזען דאָס לעבן פון די אידישע מאַסן אונטערן
טערפ און האַמער.

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אידן האָבן געזען די אידן אין סאָוועטן־פאַרבאַנד אין
1920. גרויסע מאַסן געוועזענע הענדלער, געוועזענע
קרעמער, געוועזענע לופט־מענטשן האָבן פשוט
געהונגערט. מען האָט געהאַט איבערגעטראָגן די