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Polish Communists Intensify Drive to Saddle Jews With Blame for Student Riots

LONDON, Mar. 14 (JTA)--Communist Party officialdom in Poland intensified its campaign today to link mounting student unrest to an "international Zionist conspiracy." It is employing the mass media -- press, TV and radio -- for the purpose and is propagandizing at factory mass meetings and among Government employees. But its efforts to blame Zionists and Jews for the student riots in Warsaw, Krakow and other cities has met with disbelief and outright rejection by the students themselves, according to reliable reports reaching here today.

Eight thousand students jammed the auditorium of the Warsaw Polytechnic School yesterday and demanded that the press and radio report the "true version" of events. They loudly rejected "official lies" that student protest against Communist Party control of cultural matters was an attempt by the Zionist movement to overthrow the Government.

(A dispatch today from Prague to the New York Times quoted some intellectuals there as expressing dismay at the anti-Jewish developments in Warsaw. "Some fear that the conservatives in Czechoslovakia may use the same kind of weapons against Czech liberals, some of whose most prominent and most articulate leaders are Jews," The Times said. There are about 18,000 Jews left in Czechoslovakia.)

Observers noted that the Polish Communist Party was using an old tactic of trying to make the Jews scapegoats for its own failings. The Guardian commented today that "it is difficult to resist a comparison between all this and the charges of the past by Hitler of an international Zionist plot." It noted that this should be happening in Poland, whose Jews suffered as much as the German Jews at Nazi hands, seems to be a sign of desperation. The newspaper warned in an editorial that if the party extremists in Poland are not curbed, "the world may be witnessing the rebirth of a movement to make Jews the scapegoats for a nation's ills."

Jews Caught in Middle in Liberal-Conservative Party Struggle

What appears to be happening in Poland according to reliable assessments of events there, is a struggle between the conservative and liberal elements within the ruling Communist Party with the Jews -- variously estimated to number between 18,000 and 30,000 compared to a pre-war Polish Jewish population of 3.5 million -- caught in the middle.

One of the leading spokesman for the conservative forces is Interior Minister Mieczyslaw Moczar, chairman of the influential Polish war veterans organization. Moczar has been denouncing Polish Jews as "unpatriotic" since last June's Arab-Israeli War when Communist Party chief Wladyslaw Gomułka described Zionists as "fifth columnists." The newspaper Zbowid, organ of the veterans organization, is today the most vociferous in linking the Warsaw student demonstrations with "international Zionism" and "imperialist and revisionist centers in the United States and Germany."

Reports from Poland reaching the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here, say the effects of the Government's anti-Zionist, anti-Jewish propaganda is to be seen in Warsaw streets. Counter-demonstrators against the students are carrying banners demanding, "clean the party of Zionists" and "away with the new fifth column." Resolutions are being passed at Communist Party-sponsored rallies urging "exemplary punishment" for Zionist instigators of riots and charging that "Zionists have been emboldened by the leniency shown them."

(The New York Times reported from Warsaw that a resolution adopted by workers of the Foreign Trade Ministry, which employs considerable numbers of Jews, demanded that "our authorities stop tolerating the activity of reactionary Zionist elements in the political, economic, cultural and social life of our country and that the mass information media, the press, radio and television, become at last instruments against political and ideological sabotage." "Observers noted that the news media also employed a relatively large number of Jews," the Times said.

(The Times said that "Edward Pietrzak, secretary of the party cell at the Zeran automobile factory in Warsaw, was typical of dozens of activists who were quoted in the press and on television in favor of an anti-Zionist line." But Pietrzak "insisted that he was not anti-Semitic," the Times said, and told how his father had saved the lives of "at least five Jews" during World War II at risk to his own life. But, the Times noted, "not all workers were accepting the party's explanations without question. Informed sources said that as many as half the workers at the Zeran plant disobeyed orders to attend a rally to protest the student demonstrations.")

British Communist Organ Publishes Goldmann Denunciation of Polish Regime

The British Communist Party newspaper, the London Morning Star, published today the statement by the World Jewish Congress in Geneva which condemned the current campaign of the Polish Communist Party to make Jews the scapegoats for student riots in that country. The Star is the only British newspaper freely circulated in the Soviet Union and the Communist bloc countries of Eastern Europe.

The statement, made by WJC president Dr. Nahum Goldmann, said in part that it was "unthinkable that the Polish Government should permit the Jews to be exploited as a scapegoat for its present internal difficulties and fail to denounce this attempt to revive the traditional anti-Semitism of former reactionary forces in Poland." Dr. Goldmann's statement received wide coverage in the British press, radio and TV.

The Association of Polish-Jewish ex-servicemen expressed "deep concern" today over the Polish Communist Party's current attempt to blame Jews for student riots and unrest in Polish cities. A spokesman for the group told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the anti-Semitic outbursts in the Polish press and radio were reminiscent of the rabid anti-Semitism displayed in Poland in the pre-World War II era.

Farbstein Says Warsaw Regime is Using 'Old Tactic' of Blaming Jews

WASHINGTON, Mar. 14 (JTA)--Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, told the House of Representatives today that the anti-Jewish developments in Poland were "the most recent manifestation of a Communist line building up since the June war." He pointed out that Israel defeated not only the Arabs but their Polish Communist supporters.

A member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Rep. Farbstein likened current Polish anti-Semitism to the pogroms of the past in the same country. He said it was an old tactic in Eastern Europe to divert the masses by use of anti-Semitism.

Rusk Reported Advising Israel to 'Exercise Restraint' in Occupied Areas

JERUSALEM, Mar. 14 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban has advised U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk that Israel's administration of occupied Arab territories is the most lenient possible under the circumstances and that the expropriation of land in East Jerusalem for new housing projects was an urgent necessity in order to provide decent living standards for the population, the independent daily Haaretz reported today. According to Haaretz, Mr. Eban's statement was contained in an exchange of letters with Mr. Rusk. The latter had written to him urging Israel to exercise "restraint" in the former Arab territories it administers. He also stated that the U.S. does not favor unilateral measures in Jerusalem that might prejudice peace agreements and the city's "international character," Haaretz said.

The Rusk letter, according to the newspaper, followed reports that houses were being blown up and extended curfews imposed on Arab villages in the occupied territories. Mr. Eban replied that these were necessary measures taken against terrorists and saboteurs who were acting against the interests of a majority of the population. He said that the return to normal life in the occupied regions and the resumption of farming, trade and crafts testified to the wishes of the population not to be involved in the acts of terrorists whose sole purpose was to disrupt peace and good order.

With regard to Jerusalem, Mr. Eban pointed out that it was a "living city" in addition to being a sacred one. He is also reported to have written that Jerusalem will never be divided again. He called the attention of the Secretary of State to the fact that Israeli law has not been imposed on occupied areas under military governorship, indicating that Israel considers those areas subject to negotiation whenever the Arabs are ready to talk peace.

Beisan Valley Kibbutz Member Killed By Arab Terrorist Mine

TEL AVIV, Mar. 14 (JTA)--The death of a kibbutz member in a mine explosion and renewed mortar and machine-gun fire by Jordanian units across the cease-fire demarcation line were reported by a military spokesman today. The death occurred at Kibbutz Ashdod Yaacov, in the Beisan Valley when a platform towed by a tractor struck a newly planted anti-vehicle mine in a field less than a mile from the Jordan River. It was the kibbutz's third fatality to result from the activities of Arab marauders. Three pairs of footprints were found near the scene leading back to the river.

The renewed firing, after one day of relative quiet along the demarcation line, began at 11:00 a.m., local time, in the vicinity of the Mandassa Bridge. Israeli forces are believed to have used artillery to silence the Jordanian guns as they did in the previous incident Tuesday in the same area.

Half Million Watch Tel Aviv Parade As Israel Celebrates Feast of Purim

TEL AVIV, Mar. 14 (JTA)--Gen. de Gaulle carried a pail of Iraqi oil through the streets of Haifa while Egypt's Nasser and Jordan's King Hussein conversed over the telephone in Tel Aviv today. It was all in the spirit of the Purim carnival which began last night and reached a peak in the famed Adioyada -- Israel's version of the Mardi Gras -- that filled the streets with song, dances and especially children in the wildest costumes they could create.

The international political figures appeared in the form of life-size puppets on mobile floats that inched their way through the throngs. An estimated half million spectators watched the Purim parade in Tel Aviv and only slightly fewer were witness to similar parades in Haifa. The Nasser-Hussein float was a pointed reference to the famous telephone conversation, monitored by Israel during last June's Six-Day War, in which the Egyptian leader and his Jordanian ally contrived the story of U.S. and British air support for Israeli forces.

Sees 15% Vote for Extremists of Left, Right, Within West German Safety Limits

NEW YORK, Mar. 14 (JTA)--The German Information Center said in a statement here today that a possible vote of up to 15 percent polled by extremists of the Right or Left in West Germany "is considered within bounds" of safety by the Federal Republic. The statement, titled "Neo-Nazism And The Federal Republic of Germany," pointed out that the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party polled an average of less than seven percent in the recent elections held in six federal states.

(Owing to a transmission error between Bonn and London, JTA on Wednesday incorrectly quoted as 120,000 the number of investigations pending in West Germany of alleged Nazi war crimes. The correct number, as given by the North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Justice, should be 20,000.)

The statement was issued to allay fears of a Nazi revival in West Germany expressed in "sincere concern" in parts of the free world and to answer Communist attacks on the Federal Republic for allegedly condoning the NPD. It asserted that "the Government devotes inordinate attention and concern to ultra-rightist eruptions on the body politic" but has not taken steps to secure a constitutional ban on the NPD because the party's program "does not disclose enough overt evidence to enable the court to declare the NPD unconstitutional." The statement went on to say that "it is far better at this time for the radical fringe group to work in the open, even in Parliament, rather than drive it underground or encourage its supporters to make an effort at disrupting the two big parties."

(The Jewish Telegraphic Agency reported from Bonn this week that Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, president of the Bundestag, West Germany's lower house, predicted that the NPD would win seats in the Bundestag in the 1969 elections.)

The German Information Center's statement noted that "some observers have made an analogy between the insignificant number of NPD votes today and 1930 when a similar Nazi percentage suddenly escalated to alarming proportions under the impact of the depression." "But Bonn is not Weimar," the statement said. "The Nazi victory was possible only in the context of historical factors that have changed fundamentally. The Weimar Republic was never accepted by more than a slim majority of the German people, while the Federal Republic has consistently been hailed by over 90 percent of the voters for almost 20 years."

Analyzing the attraction that extremist movements may have for some Germans, the statement observed that "it is naive to assume that all Nazis vanished with the end of the war." It went on to note that "the new generation of Germans who have neither witnessed Hitler's crimes nor experienced the aftermath of the Third Reich may find it hard to automatically condemn their fathers or assume their guilt... But the vast majority of young Germans have adequately demonstrated their commitment to democratic ideals and government."

Canadian Jews To Send Passover Supplies to Cuba's Dwindling Jewish Colony

MONTREAL, Mar. 14 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress reported today it had approved a request from the Hebrew Religious Community of Cuba for the same quantity of kosher Passover foods as was requested last year. The CJC treasurer was authorized to buy the Passover products and to ship them to the Cuban Jewish community.

The Cuban Jews reported, in their request, that 150 Jews had either left Cuba or died during the past year but that they wanted the same quantity of Passover products for use in part for Passover and the rest for aid to needy Jews during the rest of the year. At a recent meeting of the Adath Israel Congregation in Havana, congregation officials said that, as of last December there were 1,700 Jews in Cuba, of whom 570 lived in outlying districts.

The officials noted that the congregation conducted an annual census of Cuban Jews to distribute Passover products sent annually by the Canadian Jewish Congress. Jews dependent on charity receive Passover products without any charge. Remaining Passover foods are sold to other Jewish families and the revenue is used for charity and to maintain the Jewish school in Havana.

New Center For Hassidim of Lubavitcher Is Movement Dedicated in London

LONDON, Mar. 14 (JTA)--A new community center to serve Hassidim of the Lubavitcher movement here, was formally opened last night with professions of devotion to the State of Israel and concern for all Jews the world over, particularly in the United States where, one speaker claimed, most of them suffered from "an abysmal lack of Jewish knowledge."

The Anglo-Jewish writers, Wolf Mankowitz and Chaim Bermant, were hosts at the opening assembly. The principal speaker was Rabbi Zalman I. Posner of Congregation Sheerit Israel, Nashville, Tenn., who declared that the attitude of the Lubavitch movement toward Israel was one of "total commitment and total devotion." He said that the Lubavitcher Rebbe, leader of the sect, "has an abiding interest in every Jew that comes to see him whether to seek knowledge or solace, but he is totally involved in everything that concerns the Holy Land and the State of Israel."

Mr. Bermant said that on his recent visit to America he found the "vast majority of members of all religious streams within the Jewish community had one thing in common -- an abysmal lack of Jewish knowledge."

San Francisco 'New Left' Theatrical Troupe Accused of Anti-Semitism

GARDEN GROVE, Calif., Mar. 14 (JTA)--The Jewish Community Council of Orange County charged today that a "New Left" radical theatre group, the San Francisco Mime Troupe, was guilty of anti-Semitism in its presentation of a distorted adaptation of an 18th Century Italian farce. The production was given here on the Irvine Campus of the University of California.

The Council's bulletin pointed out that in its original form, the farce, "L'Amant Militaire," portrayed a money-hungry Italian profiteer. In the version presented here, the troupe depicted the villain "as a Jew with an exaggerated hook nose, a Yiddish accent, sexually deprived and obsessed with making money." The San Francisco group whose presentations are directed to creating anti-war feeling, is popular in underground and "hippie" circles in major American cities.

The Council bulletin noted that "unfortunately, young college students unaware and uninterested in the history of anti-Semitism, do not recognize that such stereotypes build racial and religious hatred."

Canadian Jewish Congress Appeals to Quebec Govt. to Approve School Aid Pact

MONTREAL, Mar. 14 (JTA)--The Canadian Jewish Congress said today it had appealed to Quebec's Education Minister to approve promptly an agreement with a Montreal suburban Jewish day school so that the school can obtain public funds under a recently-adopted provincial law. The issue also involves provision of such funds to eight other Montreal Jewish day schools.

Under Bill 37, the Chomedey Talmud Torah became the first school to work out an affiliation agreement with the Protestant School Board of Greater St. Martin for such provincial aid. Subsequently, the other eight schools negotiated similar agreements with the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal. The law requires approval by the Provincial Education Minister, Juy G. Cardinal but he informed the St. Martin school board that he was withholding such approval from the Chomedey agreement.

He informed the board that he felt it would be "unwise to give immediate approval to the contemplated agreement because a new bill now before the Quebec legislature, which he said would affect the status of private schools in the efforts to obtain funds from the provincial government. Dr. Samuel Lewin, associate educational director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, said that if the Chomedey agreement was not approved by the Education Ministry, neither would the pacts of the eight other Jewish day schools.

"Mr. Cardinal is using the bill as an excuse to postpone approval," Dr. Lewin charged. He did not specify the nature of the bill, however, other than say it would regulate the operation of private schools. Under Bill 37, a private school affiliating with a Protestant or Catholic school system, considered the equivalent of public schools in Quebec, is eligible for provincial financing of its secular departments by public funds and bus transportation for pupils living a mile or more from the school. About 5,000 children attend Jewish day schools in Montreal. Approval by the ministry would affect some 500 of them, including a cut in tuition.

Revisionist Leader Says Israel Must Make Changes To Attract U.S. Immigration

NEW YORK, Mar. 14 (JTA)--Immigration is the matter of greatest importance to the future security of Israel and the future of the Zionist movement, the executive committee of the United Zionists-Revisionists of America was told here today by Joseph Klarman, member of the Jewish Agency Executive in Jerusalem representing the Revisionist movement. But, according to Mr. Klarman, Israel will have to change its economic and social order to attract large-scale immigration, especially from among American Jews.

The Revisionist leader came here to confer on the movement's aliyah plans which will be the main topic on the agenda of the World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem in June. He claimed that Revisionist policy which rejects the return of any of the territories occupied by Israel to the Arabs is "supported by the overwhelming majority of the people in Israel."

Boston University Confers Unique Honor on Dewey and Harry Stone

BOSTON, Mar. 14 (JTA)--Boston University, the fourth largest private university in the country, honored two of its alumni, Dr. Dewey D. Stone and his brother, Judge Harry K. Stone, yesterday at Founders' Day exercises by making them Associate Founders of the institution. They are the first Jews to be so honored and are the tenth and eleventh persons to be given the title in the 99-year history of the institution.

Dr. Stone, who is chairman of the United Israel Appeal and a leading personality on the national Jewish scene, is a member of the Boston University board of governors. His brother received the university's bronze medal as an outstanding alumnus. The brothers gave the Stone Science Building to the university and established several scholarships there.

Tanhum Tanpiloff, Founding Father of Degania, Israeli Celebrity, Dead at 80

TEL AVIV, Mar. 14 (JTA)--Tanhum Tanpiloff, the founding father of Degania, Israel's first kibbutz, was buried here today, thus ending a chapter of Israel's history that began 60 years ago. Tanpiloff, who three generations of Israelis knew by his first name only, died yesterday at the age of 80. He was born in Russia and arrived in Palestine, then a Turkish province, in 1908.