

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## GUNMAN WHO SHOT THE PRESIDENT'S LIBRARY LINKED TO THE AMERICAN NAZI PARTY AND A FAR RIGHT PARA-MILITARY GROUP CALLED POSSE COMITATUS

By William Saphire

APR 06 1981

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA) -- John Hinckley, Jr., charged with the attempted assassination of President Reagan yesterday, has been linked to the neo-Nazi National Socialist Party of America and to "Posse Comitatus," a far rightwing paramilitary organization that circulates anti-Semitic propaganda in several states and trains with weapons.

No official confirmation of his association with either group has emerged from the interrogation of Hinckley conducted by federal authorities in total secrecy at an undisclosed location. But Michael Allen, president-elect of the American Nazi Party, was quoted in various press reports today as saying that Hinckley was a member of that group for less than a year and was expelled in November, 1979 because he "wanted to shoot people and blow things up." Allen said he met Hinckley at a neo-Nazi rally in St. Louis in March, 1978 and regarded him as a "nut."

Harold Covington, incumbent leader of the American Nazis, was quoted as saying that Hinckley quit the organization in 1979 because it wasn't sufficiently "militant."

The 25-year-old college dropout who fired six shots wounding Reagan, Presidential Press Secretary James Brady, a secret service man and a Washington police officer yesterday, was apparently an admirer of Hitler. Prof. Otto-Nelson of Texas Tech University told the news media that Hinckley once submitted a book report on Hitler's "Mein Kampf." According to Nelson, "It was the first time any student of mine had ever tried to read 'Mein Kampf'."

### Background Of Far Right Group

Hinckley's reputed membership in Posse Comitatus, which means "Power to the County," was indicated in media interviews with some of his acquaintances but could not be immediately confirmed. According to the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Posse Comitatus was founded in 1974 by Henry Beach of Portland, Ore. and has been active mainly in Colorado, California and Wisconsin and has a membership of several thousand. Beach was a member of William Dudley Pelley's Silver Shirts, a virulently anti-Semitic organization in the 1930s.

Posse Comitatus was started as the "Citizens Law Enforcement and Research Committee," the ADL said. According to Terry Oaks, described as the leader of its Los Angeles chapter, its basic tenet is that power lies at the county level and with "the people" who can resort to arms to enforce the law if the authorities fail. Oaks reportedly boasted that the group can obtain "mortars, machine-guns, anything."

### Group Denies Holocaust Occurred

Mortimer Kass, the ADL information coordinator, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that Posse

Comitatus has been especially active in Wisconsin recently. Its "information coordinator" there, identified as James Hickstrom, published a pamphlet in July, 1980 titled "American Farmers: 20th Century Slave." The pamphlet claimed that Jews congenitally are unable to farm and therefore conspire to control the world's food supply by conspiring to control the international monetary system. It also claimed that Jesus was not a Jew and that the Holocaust never occurred.

The latter allegation has become a major theme of neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic propaganda circulated world-wide. Tons of pamphlets making the claim were seized by West German police in recent raids on the homes of rightwing extremists. According to the German authorities, the material was published mainly in the United States and also in Canada.

Bronson LaFollett, Wisconsin Attorney General, described Posse Comitatus as a "self-styled para-militaristic fundamentalist Christian organization," according to a recent report in the Milwaukee Journal. According to Kass, its membership is largely rural and made up of "Klan types" and former members of the Minute Men, a far rightwing anti-Semitic vigilante organization active in the 1960s. He said there was a frequent shifting of membership between the Ku Klux Klan, the American Nazi party, Posse Comitatus and similar violence-oriented groups.

### GERMAN AUTHORITIES FIND ARMS, ANTI-SEMITIC TRACTS AMONG NEO-NAZI, RIGHTWING TERROR GROUPS

By David Kantor

BONN, March 31 (JTA) -- Large quantities of arms, ammunition and explosives along with pamphlets calling for warfare against democratic institutions and Jews have been found by West German authorities in recent crackdowns on neo-Nazi and rightwing terrorist groups, according to information made available by the security services here.

The material found indicated that these groups have been systematically acquiring weapons and other lethal materials to conduct campaigns of terror aimed at restoring what they term "Hitler's legacy," the authorities said. The discoveries stemmed in part from investigations into the explosions at the Munich Oktoberfest last October.

According to a report today in Welt Am Sonntag, the cellar of one Robert Funk, 20, yielded grenades, 500 grams of explosives and a mine. In the flat of Michael Ruttar, 17, in Nuremberg, 10 detonators were found. Arms and ammunition were found in the homes of his friends, Hans Roehlich and Stefan Faber in Heidelberg.

A box containing 1500 rounds of ammunition was confiscated in the flat of Karl-Heinz Dissberger, 26, of Dusseldorf and his parents' home yielded thousands more bullets, a pistol, 30 grams of explosives and literature on the use of fire arms.

Bullets of various calibres, a number of fuses and 14 high explosive mines were found in the flat of Andreas Nuhn, 19, in Wilhelmshaven. In Schleswig, police found Gunnar Pahl, 25, in pos-

session of rifles, handguns, and chemicals for the manufacture of explosives. In *Seebe*, Joerg Hauschoelter, 24, a member of an organization called "Wehrsportgruppe Germania," was found in possession of 50 carbines, 1000 bullets, several gas pistols and other equipment.

Along with the weapons and ammunition seized in the various raids, security services discovered large quantities of printed matter containing instruction for guerrilla warfare against the West German political system. The literature termed it a "terror system led and coordinated by Jews." It urged continuous warfare against the system "until Germany is cleared of Judaism."

Police said some of the pamphlets indicated close contacts between the neo-Nazis in West Germany and similar organizations in North America and France and with the Palestine Liberation Organization.

### WIESENTHAL: RIGHT AND LEFT EXTREMISTS ARE RESORTING TO 'LEVEL OF DIRECT ACTION'

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, March 31 (JTA) -- Left and right political extremists are resorting to the "level of direct action" in a resurgence of neo-Nazism and anti-Semitism in Europe and much of their propaganda material comes from the United States, Simon Wiesenthal declared here. The 72-year-old Nazi-hunter from Austria urged that the U.S. adopt legislation against racial hatred as a means to help prevent the spread of anti-Semitism.

Wiesenthal received a standing ovation from approximately 2500 persons, mainly of college age, at George Washington University here where he spoke Sunday night under the auspices of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation on the campus. The extremists operating in France, Austria, Germany, the Scandinavian countries and other areas of Europe "cannot exist without the printed propaganda" from the U.S., he said. The material is supplied in six languages and is sent to a mailing list of 50,000 addresses in Europe.

Wiesenthal noted that West German police recently raided 2000 apartments late one night and found weapons, munitions and propaganda in the German language printed in the U.S. and also in Canada. The consequences, he said, include the desecration of Jewish cemeteries, daubing swastikas on Jewish buildings and killings of foreigners, including innocent Vietnamese in Hamburg.

Wiesenthal said he found a 15-year-old German boy with a leaflet printed in Lincoln, Neb. He said the boy told him that U.S. policy has changed and Americans now admire Hitler. Speaking of the rights under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Wiesenthal said the publishers of hate material in the U.S. are "abusing the freedom they have." He noted that while there is world-wide cooperation against the drug traffic "no cooperation exists against the poison being supplied to young people and in the schools" in the form of anti-Semitic propaganda.

In response to a student's question, he urged Americans to write to their Congressmen and to editors to help offset the wave of anti-Semitism now stirring the political climate. He said German authorities have received 3000 letters, most of them "not anonymous" providing information on Nazi activists during World War II.

Responding to a question, Wiesenthal said the American television docu-drama "Holocaust" was "very, very important." He lauded the Swedish diplomat, Raoul Wallenberg who saved 100,000

Jews from the Nazis in Hungary during World War II. He said that Soviet statements that Wallenberg died in prison in 1947 after his arrest by Soviet police in Budapest "up to now are not convincing evidence of his death."

### ADL IDENTIFIED THREE PURVEYORS OF HATE LITERATURE IN U.S. AND CANADA

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA) -- The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today traced the anti-Semitic material seized last week by West German police to "three notorious purveyors of hate literature in the United States and Canada." The three, named by Abraham Foxman, ADL's associate national director and head of its International Affairs Division, as the source of the material are:

George Dietz, president of Liberty Bell Publications, Reedy, West Virginia; Gerhard Lauck, Lincoln, Nebraska, editor of "New Order," an organ of the National Socialist Party of America; and Ernst Christof Friedrich Zundel, head of Samisdat Publishers, Ltd., Toronto, Canada.

According to Foxman, the presence of the stockpile of anti-Semitic from the U.S. and Canada in the homes of West Germany neo-Nazis is further proof of the international linkage of extreme rightists.

In citing Dietz, Lauck and Zundel, Foxman said ADL has monitored their "hate-mongering output" for many years. He added that "the existence of a transatlantic pipeline for anti-Semitism calls for greater vigilance by authorities on both sides of the ocean."

### Examples Of International Cooperation

Foxman further asserted that international cooperation among extremists is not confined to the United States, Canada and West Germany but includes neo-Nazi groups in several other countries. He gave the following as examples:

\* The association of John Tyndall, leader of Great Britain's new-fascist National Front, with J.B. Stoner, head of the racist, anti-Semitic National States Rights Party, (NSRP). Tyndall was the featured speaker at a NSRP meeting in 1979.

\* The sanctuary given by American hate groups in 1979 and 1980 to Manfred Roeder, a leading German neo-Nazi, when he was in this country as a fugitive from West German justice. Roeder, convicted of neo-Nazi activity, is currently in jail in West Germany.

\* The participation in October, 1980, of two leaders of the neo-Nazi Vlaamse Militanten Orde (VMO) in an NSRP conference in Marietta, Georgia, prior to their expulsion from the U.S. at the order of the State Department following an ADL protest.

### Background Of The Gang Of Three

According to ADL records:

\* Dietz came to the United States from Germany in 1957. His Liberty Bell Publications is a subsidiary of Raybar, Inc., a commercial printing business. Liberty Bell is one of the largest hate propaganda mills in the United States. It produces and distributes anti-Semitic books, envelope seals and bumper stickers with anti-Jewish slogans.

\* Lauck, a leader of the National Socialist Party of America, is also the head of the NSDAP (National Sozialistische Deutsche Arbeiter Partei Auslandorganisation), a neo-Nazi group based in Nebraska.

\* Zundel, the spokesman for Concerned Parents of German Descent, has also been known as Christof Friedrich. He produces and distributes anti-Semitic in the form of books, pamphlets, leaflets, posters and cassettes.

# JEWISH LEADERS CALL FOR ACTION TO BAR TERRORISM: GUN CONTROL IN THE AFTERMATH OF ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

By Ben Gallo

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA) — Jewish leaders reacted today to the assassination attempt against President Reagan with urgent appeals for action to bar such terrorism and with requests for control of handguns. Prayers were offered by American Jews for the President's early and complete recovery.

Bertram Gold, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, expressed the hope that the attempt to kill the President "will encourage us, as a nation, to reverse this uncivilized style of heightened violence."

Howard Squadron, president of the American Jewish Congress, said that the attack on the President "is an attack on civil order," adding that "the minimum first step, by stringent legislation and strict information, is to put an end to the promiscuous possession of handguns."

Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said that "the assassin's bullets once again reminds us that the world is consumed with hatred and that violence and terrorism, by groups or individuals, must be outlawed by the civilized community."

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, president of the Synagogue Council of America, said the assassination attempt made it necessary for the American people to "soberly re-examine the security provisions for the safety of our leaders." He also said there must be a renewal of the search "for rational solutions to the continuing menace of violence in our land."

## Growing Threat Of Violence Seen

Rabbi Sol Roth, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, an Orthodox group, called on all Americans to go to their houses of worship and to pray for the President's rapid recovery.

Rabbi Benjamin Kreitman, executive vice president of the (Conservative) United Synagogue of America, said the assassination attempt had "aroused the Jewish community to the growing threat of violence on the American scene." He warned that "the availability and accessibility of firearms, and particularly handguns, help to fuel crime and brutality."

Rabbi William Berkowitz, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, sent a message to President Reagan's wife, Nancy, from Grossingers, N.Y., where the JNF is holding its assembly, declaring that the JNF "expresses its profound shock and dismay at the senseless and tragic violence which has once again struck our nation."

Berkowitz read to the delegates yesterday a message from Reagan declaring that the JNF, "as the organization most responsible for the afforestation and soil reclamation in Israel, you have inspired your people and made remarkable strides in transforming wasteland into lush and productive areas." The President also said: "Over the years you have worked diligently to fortify the bonds of friendship between the peoples of Israel and the United States."

Among international leaders who sent messages to the President, Premier Menachem Begin reacted with "shock and astonishment." Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir sent a cablegram to the President, expressing "shock at the attempt

on the life of the leader of the free world" and Israel's wishes for a "speedy recovery."

## 22 ANTI-NAZI ACTIVISTS GO ON TRIAL IN WEST GERMANY

By David Kantor

BONN, March 31 (JTA) — The trial of 22 anti-Nazi activists accused of violent behavior opened in Bad Hersfeld today amid protests by more than 200 demonstrators who denounced the proceedings. The charges, brought by the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD), stem from nationwide rallies against the NPD's traditional "Deutschland Meeting" last June 17 in which the defendants were allegedly involved.

The prosecutor of the federal state of Hessen claims the anti-Nazis resorted to intimidation and violence in the course of illegal demonstrations that constituted a breach of the peace. The protestors, who began their vigil outside the Bad Hersfeld court last weekend, said their demonstration would continue as long as the proceedings lasted. But they themselves face possible prosecution in the nearby city of Fulda.

The authorities there are reported to be considering bringing charges against the anti-Nazis for intimidating the court in Bad Hersfeld. They cited a placard carried by the protestors that warned that unless the accused are acquitted there would be riots.

One of the accused is 22-year-old Leon Shackman, an Israeli photographer who has been covering neo-Nazi activities in West Germany for two years. Shackman said he was severely beaten by neo-Nazis without provocation. The NPD intends to show the court an 8 mm. film allegedly proving that the photographer had acted in a violent manner.

Meanwhile, Peter Chotjewitz, an author who is participating in the Bad Hersfeld protest, observed that the federal constitution guarantees the right of every citizen to resist Nazism. He said the charges brought against the anti-Nazi activists were a violation of that right.

## ISRAELIS HIT TERRORISTS

By Hugh Orgel

TEL AVIV, March 31 (JTA) — An Israeli raiding party put ashore in south Lebanon north of Tyre last night destroyed two armed terrorist jeeps and killed or wounded between 5-7 of their occupants, an army spokesman reported today. The Israeli force returned safely to its base. The terrorist vehicles reportedly were equipped with anti-tank recoilless rifles and heavy machineguns.

Meanwhile, Chief of Staff Gen. Rafael Eitan expressed concern today over the firing of Katyusha rockets from Jordanian territory last night in the direction of Kibbutz Maaz Haim in the upper Jordan Valley. There was no damage or casualties and Israelis were unaware of the attack until an army patrol came across the impact craters left by the rockets while investigating the source of explosions heard during the night.

It was the first time in many months that rockets were fired from Jordan. Eitan said that while he thought it was an "exceptional matter," the attack from Jordanian territory should be regarded seriously. He said there would be no letdown in terrorist preparations for incursions against Israel but their activities were limited by Israeli counter-measures.

Artillery exchanges between Maj. Saad Haddad's Christian forces in south Lebanon and pro-Lebanese government leftists continued yesterday for the fifth successive day. Each side blamed the other for starting the shooting. Damage was reported to houses and property in the Christian enclave but no serious casualties.

## BEHIND THE HEADLINES THE JEWS OF NEW ZEALAND

By Joseph Palakoff

(Part Two Of A Two-Part Series)

AUCKLAND, March 31 (JTA) -- Educational standards at Auckland's small Jewish elementary school are so high that non-Jewish parents compete to enroll their children in it. Thus, while its cuisine is kosher and the character of an important part of its curriculum is Jewish, two-thirds of both pupils and teachers are non-Jewish.

Founded in 1965 as a kindergarten, Kadim (Forward) College is partly supported by New Zealand tax revenue like other schools with a religious base. Public funds are provided on condition children of other faiths are allowed to enroll. Of the 120 children now in its four elementary grades and kindergarten, only 40 are Jewish. Of the six teachers, only two are Jewish. They teach Hebrew and Jewish liturgy. The principal also is non-Jewish.

All the children and faculty are required to bring only kosher food to school for lunch. Usually, the meals are vegetarian or dairy. While non-Jewish children are exempt from religious services and education, some join in Jewish prayers after lunch but only with permission of their parents. Jewish children are required to participate in the religious program. In keeping with the British tradition of school uniforms, all the children wear blue and gray clothing that bear the Magen David, the school's insignia.

### An Exhilarating Experience

Ernest Markham, the New Zealand Zionist Federation's president, told this reporter that most of the non-Jewish pupils are from the middle and upper middle income Protestant families who live mainly in Auckland's suburbs. Their parents are attracted to the relatively small classes and quality of education compared with the public schools.

"It is exhilarating," Markham said, "to hear Christian children -- some of Chinese and Indian parents -- chatting completely naturally with Jewish children -- in Hebrew!"

Practically all of Auckland's Jewish children, including those of Soviet families, attend the Hebrew Sunday schools -- Orthodox and Liberal. One Soviet family that arrived in Auckland last November on a Thursday had its children in Hebrew School on the following Sunday. Two children in this Soviet family had Stars of David sewn on their clothing when they arrived in Auckland.

### Jews Were Early Settlers

The earliest Jewish settlers came to the beautiful Bay of Islands to the north of Auckland and to Dunedin, the Scottish-style city far to the south towards the Antarctic Ocean. Among the Bay of Islands' first settlers in the 1840s was the Sephardic Nathan family which founded a commercial company that still bears the family name. Lawrence Nathan was for a score of years the president of Auckland Hebrew Congregation, New Zealand's most Orthodox.

During the gold rush period in the 1870s, Dunedin had the largest Jewish congregation in New Zealand. A large synagogue served the community until the population dwindled with the fading of the gold-based economy in the

area. The original synagogue was demolished and the land on which it stood was sold. From these proceeds, a small synagogue was built that now serves the community's six families. However, this group is enhanced by Jewish students from other communities who study at the medical school in Dunedin. Many New Zealand university students spend a year in study in Israel.

A large Star of David outlined against a circular stained window characterizes the magnificent Gothic style stone synagogue in Christchurch. The Canterbury Hebrew Congregation laid its cornerstone in 1881 -- just a century ago. Jews were in Christchurch in 1865 when the city was first coming into existence. It had 35 families during the gold rush. Now it has perhaps 100 souls.

The Goldsmith brothers -- Jack and Sydney -- are the present leaders. Its Sunday school has eight children. Tillie Williams, who is active in the Jewish Welfare Society of Christchurch, observed that two Soviet Jewish families, in which the mothers are sisters, help maintain the community.

### Erosion Of Community's Jewish Character

Intermarriage and assimilation have eroded much of the community's Jewish character. Christchurch's telephone directory lists nine Cohens and 12 Levys but the listings proved misleading as indices to Jewry. One Mrs. Cohen who responded to this reporter's phone call thought she was the butt of a joke. "You're putting me on," she said. "Nobody here is Jewish." Another Mrs. Cohen said her husband had been Jewish-but he was not involved in the community. Several calls went unanswered. It was only on the sixth call that a non-Jewish Cohen put the reporter in touch with Mrs. Williams.

### ANOTHER KIEV REFUSENIK ARRESTED

NEW YORK, March 31 (JTA) -- Kim Fridman, a long-term refusenik from Kiev, was arrested March 18 and was transferred to a local prison two days ago, it was reported here today by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry (NCSJ). No details were available as to the nature of the charges against him.

The news of Fridman's arrest follows on the heels of the arrest of another emigration activist, Vladimir Kislik, who was charged last week with "malicious hooliganism," a charge which could result in his being imprisoned for five years in a labor camp.

Fridman, a 46-year-old radio technician has been arrested several times in the past few years and harassed by the KGB for teaching Hebrew and the history of Russian Jews. Since 1972 he has repeatedly been denied an exit visa to Israel because of his alleged access to secret documents at a Kiev radio plant where he worked. His wife and daughter were allowed to leave in 1976 and have been waiting in Israel for him to join them.

An NCSJ spokesman expressed his fear that an effort may be in progress to crush the small group of Jewish emigration activists in Kiev. Jews in that city feel themselves particularly isolated since the closing of the U.S. Consular offices in Kiev after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

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TEL AVIV (JTA) -- Israel radio reported Monday that Anatoly Shecharansky has been held in strict solitary confinement in labor camp 35 in Perm for the past three months. The Soviet authorities were reported to be trying to break him by psychological methods. He is not allowed to send or receive messages or food parcels. Letters from his mother are being confiscated and photographs sent by relatives are not being delivered to him.