

REPORT SHOWS THAT 89 NEO-NAZI AND EXTREMIST GROUPS IN GERMANY HAVE COMBINED MEMBERSHIP OF 22,000
By David Kantor

BONN, May 9 (JTA) — The Bonn government released a report today disclosing that as of 1984 there were 89 neo-Nazi and extreme rightwing organizations active in the Federal Republic, with a combined membership of 22,000, a 10 percent increase both in the number of organizations and in their membership.

These groups have shown an increased tendency to resort to violence and are a potential source of subversive activities which are relatively difficult to monitor, the report, prepared by the government Agency for the Protection of the Constitution, stated. It also devoted a section to Palestinian terrorist organizations operating in West Germany.

According to the report, many of the 89 organizations have a membership of only a few activists. The largest and most dangerous are the "German Peoples Union" with more than 12,000 members, led by Gerhard Frey, publisher of the Munich-based neo-Nazi weekly National Zeitung; and the National Democratic Party (NPD) with a membership of about 6,000. About a decade ago, the NPD participated in national, state and local elections.

Notable Omission From The Report

A notable omission from the report is HIAG, the umbrella organizations of veterans of the Nazi SS and Waffen SS divisions which hold annual reunions, usually in small resort towns.

The SS "Totenkopf" (Deaths Head) division alumni held their get-together last week in the Bavarian town of Nesselwang, at a hotel owned by a neo-Nazi activist. Veterans of the "Hitlerjugend" and "Liebstandarte Adolf Hitler" divisions are meeting in Nesselwang later this month.

Since the conservative government of Chancellor Helmut Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) took office, the activities of the former SS men have no longer been included in the government's annual report on political extremism.

According to the report, neo-Nazis in West Germany committed 74 acts of violence in 1984, 11 of which were officially classified as terrorist attacks. Police found large quantities of weapons and ammunition in their possession.

In a section devoted to political extremism among foreigners in the Federal Republic, the report noted that some 3,500 Arabs are organized into extremist groups which are a source of concern. Arab terrorism in Germany has been always directed primarily at Israeli and Jewish targets, the report said.

PANEL OF INQUIRY OPENS HEARING ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS LIVING IN CANADA
By Michael Solomon

MONTREAL, May 9 (JTA) — A Federal Commission of Inquiry into Nazi war criminals living in Canada heard testimony here this week from

representatives of Canadian Jewry, law enforcement and immigration officials and an attorney for local Ukrainian organizations which object vehemently to evidence against war criminals from Soviet bloc sources.

The one-man commission, consisting of former Quebec Superior Court Justice Jules Deschenes, was told by McGill University law professor Irwin Cotler that there is evidence that Canadian immigration officials "however inadvertently," facilitated the entry of Nazi war criminals into Canada after World War II.

That assertion was confirmed by Randolph Schramm, Assistant Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and George O'Leary, chief of the Immigration Department's Guidelines Division, who also appeared at the hearings at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel.

Cotler, a prominent jurist and legal consultant, testified on behalf of the Canadian Jewish Congress, along with Alan Rose, the CJC's executive vice president. He cited as an example Helmut Rauca who was extradited to West Germany in 1983 to face trial on charges of complicity in the murders of 11,000 Lithuanian Jews.

Rauca, who died before the trial began, lived openly in Canada for 20 years under his own name, Cotler pointed out. He said that "If no criminals are brought to justice there will be those who say there were no crimes."

Urges Measures Leading To Denaturalization

Leaders of Canadian Jewry are urging the commission to recommend legislative measures that would lead to the denaturalization, deportation and prosecution of war criminals in Canada. Rose called their presence in the country "a moral stain" and made an impassioned plea for action against those "guilty of the most terrible crimes in the history of barbarism."

He said, "War criminals should not be allowed to receive as a perverse reward for their acts, the Canadian citizenship valued by all of us. There are such persons dwelling amongst us who should be brought to justice." Rose added that the Canadian government's "lack of initiative in pursuing the matter over the past 30 years has been a major disappointment to the Canadian Jewish Congress."

RCMP Waited 20 Years To Begin A Serious Probe

Schramm testified that the RCMP did not begin serious investigations of alleged Nazi war criminals in Canada until 1982—20 years after an official policy on war criminals was promulgated on September 26, 1962. He said the RCMP officers had been instructed not to conduct investigations unless they received explicit instructions to do so from RCMP headquarters in Ottawa.

He attributed this to concern that individuals and organizations seeking to trace and punish war criminals would try to use the RCMP as an investigative agency for their own purposes. He said that policy was revised in July, 1975, to allow investigation of immigration violations in cases where extradition was possible, through diplomatic channels or by request from a foreign police force with which the RCMP had good relations.

Schramm said it was not until 1982 that the RCMP began investigating leads provided by private citizens about alleged Nazi war criminals in Canada.

O'Leary testified that all German nationals were officially denied entry into Canada until 1950 but after that date the rules were gradually eased and automatic rejection of former Nazi party members and the ban on former members of the SS and Waffen SS was removed in 1955.

But even before 1950, the screening was "patchy," O'Leary said, because the Canadian government was anxious to receive new immigrants. After 1955 there was no screening; applicants for admission to Canada were judged on their own merits, he told Deschenes.

The CJC said it will submit to the commission a confidential list naming 75 suspected war criminals living in Canada. The list was compiled over a period of several years from a variety of sources.

ISRAEL MARKS THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE ALLIED DEFEAT OF NAZI GERMANY
By Hugh Orgel

JERUSALEM, May 9 (JTA) — President Chaim Herzog sent messages of greetings yesterday to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Britain's Queen Elizabeth on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Allied victory over Nazi Germany.

The message to Gorbachev said that the people of Israel will never forget the role of the Red Army in helping to defeat the Nazis and the help that it gave the victims who survived the Holocaust. In his message to the Queen, Herzog noted the courage of the British people in fighting the forces of evil.

In events yesterday marking the defeat of Nazi Germany, Ambassador Niels Hanssen of West Germany laid a wreath at the Yad Vashem Memorial. He said, after a brief ceremony at which he was accompanied by a group of West German visitors to Israel, that he had laid the wreath "because on this day we think of what happened during the 12 Nazi years — all that had been done by Germans, in the name of Germans, to the Jews."

'We Germans Do Not Want To Forget'

Continuing, Hanssen declared: "We Germans do not want to forget it, and we feel responsible for it regardless of the generation. This is the attitude not only of official Germany, of my government and the Federal President, but it is my conviction that this opinion is shared by the overwhelming majority of the Germans at large."

"I think it is symbolic that a group of German visitors laid a wreath at Yad Vashem together with me."

At the Yad Eliahu stadium in Tel Aviv, delegations from 40 countries gathered for the main ceremony marking the 40th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany.

An Obligation To Learn A Lesson

Addressing 3,000 people assembled in the sports arena, Premier Shimon Peres declared, "I believe that the triumph in the second World War was the greatest military victory ever known in history. But not less than that, it was not just a military victory but a moral victory for all mankind."

The Premier added, "We all bear a sacred obligation to learn a lesson: No more yellow patch; no

more death march; no more final solution. In the spirit of the tradition of our deceased brothers who commanded us to live, for our children and those who come after us, let us decide to take action, to prevent discrimination, to wipe out hatred and route terrorism."

At the same rally, Education Minister Yitzhak Navon, a former President of Israel, formally announced the grant of "commemorative citizenship of Israel" to the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust and to the Righteous Gentiles who helped other Jews escape and who died for their efforts.

Speakers at the rally included Mayor Edward Koch of New York; the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Samuel Lewis; and the Israel Defense Force Chief of Staff, Gen. Moshe Levy.

JDO BEGINS 'ARMED PATROLS' IN LONG ISLAND TO PROTECT JEWISH PROPERTY
By Kevin Freeman

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA) — The Jewish Defense Organization announced today that it has begun "armed patrols" in several communities in Nassau and Suffolk counties in response to a recent series of attacks on synagogues and other Jewish-owned properties.

But Nassau County police officials told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that they had no knowledge of the patrols, and a rabbi of a synagogue that was damaged last week in a deliberately set fire said his synagogue had not sought out the aid of the JDO.

"Our leadership is not asking for help," Rabbi David Artz of the South Baldwin Jewish Center said in a telephone interview. "We have been taking care of our own affairs for the past thirty years and we will continue taking care of our own affairs. If we need some outside help we'll get it."

The JDO patrols followed last weekend's arson attack on the South Baldwin synagogue where prayer books and prayer shawls were among the items damaged. Also discovered last weekend were slogans such as "Jews Die," "Jews for Sale," and "We kill Jews," scrawled along with swastikas on the stairwell walls and ceilings of an apartment building in Great Neck, where the residents are mainly Orthodox Jews.

Mordechai Levy, the 23-year-old president of the JDO, which claims a national membership of 1,500, would not disclose the precise locations of the patrols, citing security reasons. But he indicated that one community where patrols are underway is Baldwin, on the south shore of Long Island.

Levy told the JTA that some 35 persons are currently involved in the patrols and that many of the participants are not JDO members, but members of the South Baldwin Jewish Center. He would not disclose what "arms" the patrols carried, except to assert that they were "legal but deadly weapons."

"The patrols are simply to defend the Jewish community," Levy said. He confirmed that he had not received formal approval for the patrols from the leadership of the Baldwin Jewish community, and said that he had attended the emergency meeting held Monday, called in response to the arson attack last weekend.

TEL AVIV (JTA) — Aulcie Perry, Israel's first Black basketball star, a native of New Jersey who twice led the Tel Aviv Maccabi team to victory in the European Cup championships, was fined \$600 and given a three-month suspended sentence Thursday after pleading guilty to heroin possession. Perry, 34, is a convert to Judaism. He came to Israel in 1977 and has served in the Israeli army.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES

A TALE OF 3 CENTRAL EUROPEAN CITIES

By Aviva Cantor

(Part Three Of A Five-Part Series)

BUDAPEST, May 9 (JTA) — The Jewish community of Hungary, estimated at 80,000, is polarized between the few thousand who are observant and the many thousand who are assimilated. The youth who seek to learn more about their Jewishness, and fit into neither category, are largely ignored by the leadership.

In interviews with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, young people charged that the Central Board of Hungarian Jewry (MIOK)'s lack of effort to prevent further inroads by assimilation was due to their fear — "a legacy of the troubled past" — or lack of concern or both.

"George," a young academic who requested anonymity, said that after the war, many Jews with Jewish consciousness left the country. Survivors, he said, either wanted "to keep away from anything Jewish," or became Zionists or Communists.

Welcomed Into The State Apparatus

While before the war Jews, however wealthy, could hold no government positions, after the war they were "welcomed into the state apparatus," it being obvious that, as Jews, they could not be suspected of fascist politics. This generation, the children of the "ruined bourgeoisie," became civil servants, technocrats, academics.

The young Jewish intellectuals of today, George continued, were raised in a Communist culture. Many broke with the Party, but did not want to move away from the left.

The solution for them, he said, would be to "get in touch with Hungarian Jewish culture — the flourishing Jewish secular culture with its Central European Jewish identity and non-Communist leftist Jewish intellectual tradition." But this tradition, he said, is "very alien to the official Jewish community because it was always critical of the establishment."

Very few intellectuals have any contact with the Jewish community today. The leadership's position, he said, is, "if you're not religious, you're not a Jew."

Lack Of Communal Activities Criticized

The absence of communal activities to attract and hold the youth was denounced by a young Jew, "Thomas," who also insisted on anonymity. Thomas told JTA that there is a "little wave of religious feeling" in Eastern Europe — a phenomenon which also obtains in Czechoslovakia, the World Jewish Congress delegation learned when it later visited Prague. The Catholics and Protestants in Hungary, said Thomas, capitalized on this with meetings and special encampments; they also reportedly have stores where religious materials are sold.

"The Jews," Thomas said, "do nothing. The leadership doesn't care about the youth." In what could only be called a *cri de coeur*, Thomas told JTA that "nowadays there are thousands of young Jews who have some Jewish feeling. But they have no meeting place, no way to do something, to make themselves more knowledgeable."

The Talmud Torah, he said, is only for the "small circle" of several thousand religious Jews in

Hungary. "But what about the other 90 percent of Jews? There is no attempt to catch (sic) them. They will be assimilated in 30 years — there is nothing to turn it around."

Thomas said there used to be a Shalos Sudos (supper) on Saturday evening for the youth, initiated mainly by them. "It was very popular — lots of people came to hear lectures on the Bible and Jewish culture." The community stopped it after three such events, he said.

There are, he continued, only two large gatherings catering to the youth — the dances at Chanukah and Purim. These used to be held in the old Goldmark Hall, now in need of repairs. This past Chanukah, the dance was held in a Jewish high school classroom which was too small for the 600 people who converged on the place. "Within the first hour, people felt like they were on a transport," and half had to go home for lack of space, he said.

Thomas and other young people would like to have a meeting place for youth, lectures, camps like they've heard the Yugoslav Jewish community maintains, screenings of Jewish films, a modern library.

"The only thing for the youth is Dr. (Sandor) Scheiber's lectures," Thomas said. On Friday nights, including the evening in February when the World Jewish Congress delegation visited his Rabbinical Seminary, it was overflowing with youth who had come to hear the rabbi speak on Jewish tradition and philosophy, and hand each individual present a morsel of bread.

Scheiber died in March.

Finding no means within the officially-constituted Jewish community to explore their Jewishness, some young Jews reportedly participate in home study circles, thus risking the consequences of government disapproval of any self-organized activity.

Denies Existence Of Assimilation

Ilona Seifert, secretary-general of MIOK, asked what this official communal body is doing to combat assimilation, denied its existence. "There was great assimilation until Auschwitz," she told JTA, "but no assimilation since the Holocaust." But she did acknowledge that "there are Jews who are not religious."

Hundreds of children, she said, attend the Simhat Torah celebration, and there are Bar Mitzvahs and circumcisions in the community. Asked about the youth, she spoke of Chanukah and Purim dances at Goldmark Hall and of the two Talmud Torah classes per week held for adults.

As for the suggestion of summer camps, the idea was broached to the parents who, she said, did not like it as they prefer to have more time with their children during the summer. The young people attending Scheiber's lectures were mostly "looking for a match," she said.

Seifert described the social service activities of the community — a day center for the elderly, a 200-bed hospital (supported by the government), three old-age homes (where residents pay, in contrast with Rumania where 94 percent pay nothing), a 60-bed holiday home at Lake Balaton, 200 "meals on wheels" for the homebound, and eight eating places. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee allocated \$1,100,000 in 1985 for these services.

She expressed optimism about the future of the Jewish community of Hungary. "Rebuilding is our duty," she said. "We lost one-and-a-half generations. Very few children survived the Holocaust. But 40 years later, we are over the crisis." She concluded:

"I am sure the community has a future. Twenty years from now, there will be fewer than 80,000 Jews. But we will be stronger. We will be the greatest community in Central Europe."

Thomas' prediction, albeit depressing, seems closer to the mark. "Within 100 years, there will be only 1-2,000 religious Jews and absolutely nothing else," he told JTA. "The rest of Hungarian Jews face a dire perspective -- to forget everything about the past and about their people. They will not know if they are Jews or not."

(Next: Prague)

SPECIAL TO THE JTA AMERICAN INDIAN LEADER APPEALED TO REAGAN, NOT TO GO TO BITBURG

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA) -- An American Indian, speaking for a tribe native to New York State, was among the first American non-Jews to appeal to President Reagan to reverse his decision to visit the military cemetery at Bitburg.

Writing to the President on April 30 "as a people seasoned in suffering," Chief Irving Powless, Jr., Secretary of the Onondaga Nation, pointed out that "Your visit to a cemetery that has the graves of former SS troops could be perceived to support the cause" of the "fast rising groups in America of neo-Nazi and fascist inclined paramilitary organizations espousing the same dogma expressed by the Third Reich."

In his letter, released to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, nearly a week after Reagan placed a wreath at the Bitburg cemetery, Powless urged the President to ponder "the position taken by Rabbi Joseph B. Glaser, executive vice president, Central Conference of American Rabbis in his letter (to Reagan) of March 19, 1985."

Powless quoted to Reagan parts of Glaser's letter: "You see, Mr. President, how one sin leads to another. We did our best to ignore the massacre of the Armenians and the obliteration of the Indians, and that helped us to look the other way as the Nazis sought to exterminate the entire Jewish people, and now, the decision that the President of the United States not to visit Dachau is being used to further 'bury in our conscience' the massacre of the Indians even though, in the same breath, we admit that 'we perpetrated (it) ourselves.'"

Powless wrote, in his letter: "The comparison made by Rabbi Glaser is important because it comes from a perspective of a people who were victims of the Holocaust." He added that Reagan's later inclusion of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp site on his itinerary "does not justify the visit to the cemetery at Bitburg." The Indian leader said in his letter that he was writing "without rancor." Glaser has long been active on behalf of American Indians.

O'CONNOR: VISIT TO DACHAU WAS MOST 'COMPELLING EXPERIENCE IN MY LIFE'

NEW YORK, May 9 (JTA) -- Wearing a red yarmulke he had been given only moments earlier, Cardinal-designate John O'Connor told some 2,500 members and guests of Sutton Place Synagogue that his visit to Dachau was "the most compelling experience of my life."

O'Connor, who flies to Rome next week for his investiture as a Prince of the Church, was warmly received by the Jewish audience in the opening event of the synagogue's Jewish Town Hall series. It was

his first appearance in a synagogue since becoming Archbishop of New York over a year ago. Asked by Rabbi David Kahane of Sutton Place Synagogue, who conducted the interview, to comment on the results of President Reagan's visit to Germany, O'Connor replied:

"Perhaps some good did come from it after all. President Reagan seems to have understood more deeply the agony of the Jewish people. But we must continue to make clear to him that it was a mistake to go to Bitburg and that he and all of us must continue to remember what happened in the Holocaust."

The Catholic leader called the Holocaust "a mystery that can never be washed away, any more than the Crucifixion can be washed away. Let it be seared into every heart and every being, so that each of us will remember to look at every other human as someone made in the image and likeness of God."

Importance Of Rallies For Soviet Jewry

In response to a question on the effectiveness of demonstrations for Soviet Jewry, O'Connor replied: "These demonstrations are tremendously important because their ultimate impact is in Washington. We must make it consistently clear that the Soviet Jewry movement in this country is a serious matter, and that our government must respond. This is a valid and legitimate way to influence the makers of public policy--and we must never falter."

The Cardinal-designate had greeted Soviet Jewry marchers from the steps of St. Patrick's Cathedral during the Soviet Jewry Solidarity Day demonstration Sunday.

View Of Catholic-Jewish Relations

On Catholic-Jewish relations, O'Connor said he was "gratified but not satisfied" at the progress made since the Vatican Council acted 20 years ago in issuing "Nostra Aetate."

"We have come far, but there is still far to go" in strengthening understanding between Jews and Catholics, the Catholic prelate told Kahane. He continued: "We Catholics have a major responsibility to stop playing games and come to grips with the reality of our teaching. If we are really to be Catholics, we must recognize the value, the authenticity and the reality of Judaism."

"Catholicism flowered out of Judaism, Catholicism is rooted in Judaism. To be a closet hater of Jews, or to discriminate against Jews, is profoundly sinful. That is the lesson of Nostra Aetate and that is what we must emphasize in our own Catholic teachings."

ISRAEL ASKS INTERPOL TO ARREST MENGELE

JERUSALEM, May 9 (JTA) -- Israel has asked Interpol, the international police agency, to arrest and hand over to Israeli authorities Dr. Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz death camp doctor, the most notorious Nazi war criminal still at large. He is reported living in Paraguay under the protection of the military government there.

The decision to seek the assistance of Interpol was taken by the special inter-ministerial committee set up here specifically to bring Mengele to justice. Justice Minister Moshe Nissim announced in the Knesset Tuesday that the government and the World Zionist Organization are jointly offering a \$1 million reward for information leading to the capture of Mengele to stand trial in Israel. Anyone is eligible for the reward, except employees of the Israeli or other governments or of public bodies in Israel.