

Militance, Dissent Raise Queries

The explosion that rocked a Paris synagogue last Shabbat, and left four people dead, was only the culmination of a long series of increasingly fierce racist incidents. In recent months, the French Right, with the complicity of at least elements of the police, has become more open in its attacks against Jews and other "foreigners." At the same time, a large segment of French Jewry has become more militant; among the 20,000 people who marched on the Champs Elysee last Saturday night to protest the wave of attacks against Jews were some carrying a banner reading "Renouveau Juif" (Jewish Renewal). Young French Jews especially are angry about the fascist resurgence and groups like the Jewish Defence League have made strong inroads among them.

What we have now is something akin to war. Its first open salvos may have been fired a few weeks ago when Jewish demonstrators clashed with a few dozen neo-Nazis during the trial of Mark Fredrikson, leader of the outlawed Federation for European and National Action (FANE). In a violent brawl which lasted for nearly two hours, over a dozen people, including three policemen and two Jewish rioters, were injured.

Fredrikson, who was charged with incitement to racial hatred, justification of Nazi crimes, and spreading Nazi theories and propaganda, used the occasion to hoist himself by his own barbed petard. The 46-year-old bank teller cum fuhrer, (no slander intended on tellers, but what a perfect nondescript!) told the court: "I accuse Israel of having built itself on lies and corpses. Israel is an artificial state which has ignominiously behaved toward another people. It is only legitimate to destroy this state. . . I do not believe that the Germans carried out a Holocaust nor that they wanted to exterminate the Jews. This is all postwar propaganda invented by the Jews to obtain a land and from the Germans, money." Neo-Nazis are increasingly making use of the rhetorical trick of atrocity by metamorphosis; Nazi crimes against Jews become Jewish crimes against Palestinian Arabs.

While Gauleiter Fredrikson spoke, Jewish demonstrators and neo-Nazis began a pushing match in the corridors of the court. Expelled by police, they shifted their theatre of operations to the steps of the building and surrounding streets. Many of the Jewish activists, reportedly belonging to the JDL and organized by Member of Parliament Jean-Pierre Pierre-Bloch, wore heavy leather jackets in anticipation of the need for protection and, carried sticks or golf clubs. As the fighting spread into nearby shops, restaurants, and even the stairways of private homes, the police intervened, prompting still further clashes. The Jews, aroused by what looked like intervention on behalf of their enemies, as well as by reports of a not inconsiderable police membership in neo-Nazi groups, attacked the police as well.

As the war outside continued, an unfazed court heard a Catholic priest, Father Riquet, testify: "I personally saw the gas chambers and the ovens in which the bodies were burned. I am disgusted and revolted by those who speak with nostalgia about the good old days of the Nazis."

The terror in Paris, as well as the resurgence of fascism throughout Europe, raises some hard questions for Jews. Ought we to respond like citizens, solid members of the state, appealing to the law for redress of our grievances? Or ought we instead to remember the countless occasions on which the law was either indifferent to us, or used as an instrument against us, and organize our own self-defense groups? It is a troubling and potentially divisive question, and French Jewry has been wracked by it already.

And speaking of divisive questions, alert readers will doubtless notice the advertisement in this week's Post soliciting support for the Peace Now movement, itself the subject of considerable controversy. Although we have our own views on this matter, we will not, for the present anyway, inflict them on our readers, who do not need to be told how to think on matters affecting Israel. (At least, usually they do not need to be told. Once in a

while, we may decide differently.)

North American Jews, concerned about some aspects of current Israeli policy, have been debating more and more publicly the question of whether, in what circumstances, and how far it is permissible to dissent from such policies openly. In an article in the Baltimore Jewish Times, which favoring voicing such dissent, David M. Szonyi proposes four criteria by which we may judge the legitimacy of the dissenters.

• How knowledgeable are they about the subject they address? Have they spent time in Israel? Are they familiar with the geo-political constraints on its policies? Do they read the Hebrew press, or the Jerusalem Post?

• What is their record in support of Israel? Do they contribute to the UJA or to other Israel-associated charities?

• Do their words manifest 'ahavat Yisroel' (an abiding, deeply-felt love of the Jewish people and Israel) in terms of content, rhetoric, and tone? Or, conversely, do they simply spout vague or pious phrases? (An example of the latter: a recent statement by a group of mostly Jewish American intellectuals proclaiming that both Israeli and Palestinian violence "must stop" — as if the two were equatable and as if such a statement in an American newspaper would have the slightest effect on either the PLO or Meir Kahane's Kach movement.)

• Have the dissenters made a bona fide attempt to articulate their views in Jewish newspapers and magazines first, without turning to the general press?

Peace Now's future in Winnipeg will depend to a large extent on how it is able to answer these questions.

Whatever one may think of dissent, it will not vanish by being wished away. Even Prime Minister Begin has said that Israel belongs to the Jews of the Diaspora too, and the measure of their concern for what Israel does, and is, may be taken from an indication of the depth of their concern.

The Revival of the French Right

The increasing problems caused by inflation and unemployment, plus rising racial tensions directed against foreign immigrant labor are cited as one reason for an increase in antisemitism in France. A report on this issue was analyzed by a special correspondent in Paris, prior to the recent wave of right-wing attacks, culminating in last week's explosion at a fashionable synagogue, at which four people lost their lives.

A report recent issued on antisemitism in France reveals that extreme right-wing factions have taken "credit" for more than 60 attacks on Jewish persons or property during the last five years.

The factions included "The French National Liberation Front," "The French Combatants against Jewish Occupation" and "The New Forces Party." [Editor's note: A group calling itself the Revolutionary Nationalist Movement claimed responsibility for last week's bombing.]

The report, by Shimon Samuels, the European director of B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League (ADL), said that in 1980 "not a week has passed without the appearance of an article in a major

publication analyzing the conundrum of 'French Jews; French and Jews; French or Jews?' (The full report will appear in a forthcoming edition of The Jewish Post.)

"Intellectuals debate Jewish double allegiance vis-a-vis their government's discriminatory policy on Israel; antisemitic graffiti in Metro stations and street bill boards abound, and desecrations of synagogues and cemeteries are almost a daily occurrence."

Discussing the emergence of the "New Right" since the eclipse of the "New Left" in France in 1968, the report pointed out that the "New Right" has been organized into two inter-connected groups.

One, the Group for the Research and Study of European Civilization (GRECE), formed in 1968, is led by the writer Alain Benoist and has about 5000 members.

The other, the Club d'Horloge (Clock Club), was founded in 1975 by graduates of the prestigious National School of Administration (ENSA), who today occupy important positions in government ministries and are influential in the political bureaucracy.

The Figaro Magazine, the weekend color supplement of the Le Figaro, has become the "voice-box" of the New Right since the daily newspaper was taken over

by Robert Hersant, who now owns more than 20 per cent of the French press.

"In 1940," the report said, "Hersant was the leader of the racist-fascist 'young Front' established by the Nazi occupant on the Champs Elysees.

"He was at that time virulently antisemitic and, though GRECE has not openly espoused an anti-Jewish line, its glorification of Aryan racist elitism is small comfort to French Jewry."

"This led to a serious physical confrontation when 50 Jewish youths of the Jewish defence organization protested at a GRECE meeting at the Palais de Congress in December 1979."

Then there are the spokesmen of the "old right," whose easy access to the press demonstrates the influence enjoyed by this ideological wing. The report cites a November, 1978, interview in L'Express, a leading news weekly, with Louis Darquier de Pellepoix, the commissar for Jewish Affairs during the Vichy regime. Mr. de Pellepoix called the Holocaust "Jewish propaganda" and stated that "in Auschwitz, only lice were gassed."

Another Vichy collaborator, Alfred Fabre-Luce, launched a new book on a popular television program, proclaiming that French Jews should assimilate and support the country's pro-Arab policy.

The report said that "French governmental policy has continued to become increasingly anti-Israel in its fawning upon Arab oil sheikhs, its arm sales, opposition to Camp David, recognition of the Palestine Liberation Organization . . . and championing of a Euro-Arab dialogue predicated upon a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East."

The report then referred to changing trends in French public opinion. A July 1976 poll showed, it said, that 40 per cent of the public supported Israel; four per cent the

Arabs, and 24 per cent were indifferent.

According to a Paris Match poll in May, 1980, there was 18 per cent public support for Israel, 10 per cent for the Arabs, and 40 per cent were indifferent.

Commenting on the rising "indifference" factor, the report said that until 1973 this was in Israel's favor, but since then, "Israel is perceived as an irritant."

According to the report, the "12 Hours for Israel" rally in Paris in April was a massive manifestation of the French Jews' relationship with Israel and their political opposition to their government's policy.

"Almost 150,000 Jews," it said, "heard an emergent young leader, the lawyer Henri Hajdenberg, declare to the media that Jews were a lobby to be reckoned with in the presidential elections in 1981."

"This demonstration, unknown in French Jewish history, has shocked the community's establishment and heated up the debate in the press on Jewish double loyalty and the feasibility of Jewish political clout."

The report repeated the view of the leaders of the Representative Council of French Jewry (CRIF), that "in the light of the growing intensity and brutality of resurgent antisemitism in France, there is need for professional documentation, of data and research into the international links between antisemitic organizations in France and the rest of Europe and the United States."

A leaflet, carrying a swastika, an anti-Jewish slogan in French and a Nebraska post office box number, was distributed recently in the 17th arrondissement of Paris.

Within a week, the ADL had provided the background information on Gary Lauck's NSDAP neo-Nazi organization, based in the United States and West Ger-

many, which was responsible for the leaflet.

This material was used in official representations on the case.

The report referred to the annual rally of European neo-Nazis organized by the Vlaamse Militante Orde in Tour d'Ijzer, near Diksmuide, Belgium, and said that "the delicate fabric of European democracy is gravely threatened by economic, social, and political instability."

"The increasing problems of inflation, unemployment, rising racial tensions directed against foreign immigrant labor and general confusion nourish the forces of Rightist and Leftist and Arab terror . . . [Editor's note: The general xenophobia of the latest wave terrorism was evidenced in the car bombing of a Dutch tourist.]

"The common denominator in France, as elsewhere, has not changed: It is Jew-hatred, whether in the guise of Leftist anti-Zionism, Rightist antisemitism or the Arab combination of both."

The report said in conclusion that French and European Jewry was girding itself in an increasing difficult situation.

Killer Convicted

New York (JCNS) — Carl Miller, a 19-year-old adherent of a militant Black Muslim group, has been convicted in Brooklyn of the murder last October of Rabbi David Okunov.

The rabbi, who had lived in Crown Heights for two years after emigrating from the Soviet Union with his two sons, was on his way to synagogue for morning prayers when Miller attempted to rob him of his prayer shawl. As Rabbi Okunov struggled to defend himself, Miller shot him once in the head.

Maximum sentence for the crime is imprisonment for 25 years to life.

Strategic Studies Institute Survey Notes Arms Build-up by Arabs

London (JCNS) — For the third year running the prestigious London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies has drawn attention to the build-up of the Arab military potential by both the Soviet Union and the Western powers.

The latest edition of its annual review, *The Military Balance 1980-81*, furnishes fresh evidence that "although the United States and the Soviet Union still transfer large quantities of weapons to their traditional clients, there is some significant diversification of previous patterns, particularly in the Middle East.

What the Institute calls "significant diversification" is not limited to the fact that the United States now supplies sophisticated weapons to Egypt as well as Israel. Both East and West are feeding the massive rearmament programs also of Arab states which are implacably opposed to the Israeli-Egyptian peace process.

Thus Iraq, "while continuing to buy arms from the Soviet Union, has turned to France for helicopters, some strike aircraft and missiles. Kuwait has purchased missiles (surface-to-surface and surface-to-air) from the Soviet Union. Britain is selling 278 Shih/Chieftain tanks to Jordan, while Saudi Arabia has contracted

to buy AMX-10P infantry combat vehicles from France. Both north and south Yemen and Syria are now receiving larger quantities of Soviet weapons, while the United States is arming Egypt as well as Israel."

A more detailed survey of the military strength of individual Middle Eastern and North African States shows that the build-up of the "rejection front" proceeds at a more rapid pace than that of Egypt or Israel.

In fact, until the contracted deliveries from the U.S. become operational, the numbers of combat aircraft of both are at present lower than in the previous survey last year. The Israeli Air Force is credited with 481 combat planes (compared with 576) because some of the older types are no longer combat-worthy. But as the older (French) aircraft are phased out, they are being replaced with Israeli-produced Kfir and with the American fighters now on order.

In the case of Egypt (which has also been promised U.S. aircraft), the main reason for the decline is the Soviet refusal to provide spare parts for the planes (or tanks) of the people of Palestine and a solution of the Middle East conflict.

East Germans, PLO Ink Pact

East Berlin (JCNS) — The East German Socialist Unity Party (SED) and the PLO have signed an agreement to co-operate with each other in 1980 and 1981. The agreement was signed by Farouk al Khadomy, head of the PLO's political section, and Hermann Axen, member of the SED's executive committee.

Khadomy was invited here by East German Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer. During the signing ceremony, he thanked the East German Democratic Republic for its "effective support" of the PLO in its fight for the national rights

with which the Russians equipped the Egyptian Armed Forces during the years of their military and political co-operation.

The latest Soviet equipment — including MIG-27 planes and T-72 tanks — is being supplied to Iraq, Syria, and Libya. Though neither Iraq nor Libya have a direct border with Israel, both are committed to military confrontation and Syria and Libya have recently entered into a union.

The Iraqi Armed Forces number 242,250 and are equipped with 2850 tanks (mainly Soviet but some American) and 332 combat aircraft (mainly Russian but also modern French Mirages) used to bomb the Iranian refinery at Abadan last week.

The Syrian Armed Forces number 247,500 and dispose of 2920 tanks and 395 combat planes. Their Libyan allies could add little by way of military manpower — 53,000 in all — but they have a tank force of 2400 (with 200 German Leopards on order) and an air force of 287 aircraft (both Soviet and French) which is operated not only by Libyans but also by Russian, Pakistani, and Palestinian crews.

Both Axen and Khadomy expressed their "unshaking conviction" that the Palestinian people's fight, under the leadership of its only legitimate representative, the PLO, would finally lead to the realization of its right of self-determination, including the establishment of its own State. Only on this basis would a comprehensive and durable Middle East peace solution ever be possible, they said.

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Florida Style Winter Curling in Fort Lauderdale

To the editor:

I am sure that many of your readers would be interested in knowing that if they are down Florida way for the winter, or part of the winter, that they can enjoy curling in the land of sunshine and oranges.

Several years ago we formed the Fort Lauderdale Curling Association.

I must admit that the ice is terrible, the curling is worse, but the fun is superlative.

If any of your readers are interested in curling on a seasonal or casual basis, they can get in touch with me, for further information, at 805-386 Broadway Ave., tel. 944-9945, or at home, tel. 489-2148.

Julius H. Goldman, CLU
Winnipeg

Education Board Figures on Teacher's Salaries Disputed

To the editor:

The front page article of September 24, 1980 concerning the press conference held by Bob Freeman, chairman of the Board of Jewish Education, and Baruch Rand, Board superintendent, includes some inaccuracies which should be corrected. Mr. Rand's statements of the need for more money from the province is commendable. The Jewish school system receive between \$500 and \$4900 less than teachers in the public school system and English teachers at Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate who have the same qualifications and experience.

We agree that Hebrew teachers are underpaid, but we also feel teachers with equal qualifications and experience should receive equal pay.

Sandy Hurwitz
President
English Teachers Association of Winnipeg Hebrew and Jewish Day Schools

raises of: 1977, 8.1 per cent; 1978, 7 per cent; 1979, 7.8 per cent; 1980, 7 per cent.

Mr. Freedman's statement saying teachers' salaries in the English program are comparable to those in the public schools is also incorrect. Elementary school teachers in the Jewish school system receive between \$500 and \$4900 less than teachers in the public school system and English teachers at Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate who have the same qualifications and experience.

We agree that Hebrew teachers are underpaid, but we also feel teachers with equal qualifications and experience should receive equal pay.

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the continuation of the better type of human and appointed Noah, a "man righteous and wholehearted," to become the root from which the renewed world shall spring again. He counselled him how to save himself from the deluge — build an ark.

After the flood, we are told how man was again disciplined, when he dared to rebel against the Omnipotent, by trying to build a tower to reach the Heavens. The punishment: confounding the single unifying language that existed till then into a variety of tongues that caused their dispersion over the globe.

There are many implications from the magnificent narrative of the ancient past on the issues of present days. History does repeat itself. Our present generations are experiencing the problems that faced that of Noah. We too are being threatened with a deluge. We are flooded with assimilation, apathy, darkness. As in ancient days we too need an ark, a Jewishly spirited ark, for education for our children and for ourselves, an ark that will save our values, our tradition.

Similarly, as in ancient days, we too suffer from a confusion of languages. Jews are specialists in all tongues excepting their own. When the fashion for French began in Manitoba the Talmud-Torah was first in instituting that language in kindergarten and in grade one. Yiddish, if you please, can wait till grade five — no panic

and end in that grade.

George Skulsky
Winnipeg

News in Brief

New York (JCNS) — Yale University in the United States has been accused of "callousness" towards the Jewish community by Rabbi Arnold Jacob Wolf, the outgoing Hillel rabbi and Jewish chaplain.

In a final sermon, Rabbi Wolf said that this attitude kept Jews from "decision-making positions" at the university, and that this was a "carry-over" from a long tradition of antisemitism which was assumed to have ended two decades ago, with the dramatic increase in the number of Jewish students and members of the teaching staff.

According to Rabbi Wolf, the authorities said: "You come to our school, but we still run our school." Rabbi Wolf added: "I do not call it antisemitism, but . . . callousness."

Dr. A. Bartlett Giamatti, Yale's president, defended the university's record by pointing out that there was a big Jewish studies curriculum.

Professor John Hollander and Harold Bloom, members of the Yale English department, rejected the allegations.

New York — Frank Terpil, an ex-CIA agent accused of heading an international gun-running organization and a terrorist school in Libya, failed to show up for his trial here recently. Warrants were issued for Terpil and his co-defendant George Korkala. At the time of his December arrest, Terpil boasted of training terrorist "Carlos" Ramirez Sanchez and members of the PLO and of advising Idi Amin. Federal officials confiscated briefcase bombs, grenades, letter bombs, poison darts, firearms and scores of documents describing the gun-running ring. Terpil is believed to be in Iraq, Syria, or Libya.

Jerusalem (JCNS) — The Jewish National Fund has rejected a large contribution made for the planting of a grove in the name of Canadian Jewish congregation. The reason is that the donor is a group of young Jewish homosexuals who had insisted that the plaque on their grove state precisely the title of their community "Nahat — the Jewish Gay Club of Montreal."

The members are committed religious Jews who run their own prayer services as well. A spokesman for the JNF said that the contribution had regrettably been returned because it had been felt that if the plaque referring to the homosexual donors had been allowed, the organization would have come under intense public criticism in Israel and from Jews abroad. "The decision had not been taken without sincere soul-searching."

Polish Radio-TV Post for Anti-Zionism

Warsaw (JCNS) — Kazimierz Kakel, one of the main supporters of General Mieczyslaw Mozar during the 1968 "anti-Zionist" (i.e. anti-Jewish) campaign in Poland and author of some of the most virulent statements published during that campaign, has been appointed as deputy director of the committee in charge of Polish radio and television.

Kakel is a lawyer, whose attempt to embark on an academic career in the law faculty of Warsaw University was frustrated, because of his too obvious connection with the Polish security police.

Enjoying Mozar's patronage (Mozar was in charge of the Security Services), Kakel was appointed editor-in-chief of the Polish periodical *Frawe i Zycie* ("Law and Life"). He also became head of the faculty of journalism of Warsaw University and assistant dean of its faculty of social sciences.

During the 1968 anti-Zionist campaign he was one of the commentators on Polish radio and television and in this capacity accused Polish Jews of attempting to overthrow the regime. The periodical he edited contained some of the most virulent antisemitic statements of the campaign.

Golan Settlers Are Seeking Israeli Law

Jerusalem (JCNS) — A public opinion survey commissioned by settlers on the Golan Heights has suggested that three out of four Israelis want Israeli law to be extended to the Heights.

The results of the poll were relayed by the settlers to a group of 18 coalition and opposition Members of Knesset who toured Golan to study the situation of the two dozen or so settlements established since 1967 and five Druze villages, whose 12,000 residents have just been granted the right to apply for full Israeli citizenship.

The Members of Knesset, who all belong to the so-called "Golan lobby," promised that after the summer recess in November, they would initiate legislation to annex the area. They would not, they said be deterred by the adverse international reaction which had come in the wake of the recent Knesset legislation about Israeli sovereignty over all of Jerusalem.

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HAROLD MARKUSOFF
Publisher
MARTIN LEVIN
Editor