

With Jewish Responsibility

THE developments which have occurred since the Prague trial in East Germany, Hungary and Moscow concerning Zionism and Jews have filled every Jewish heart with trepidation. The incident of the accused doctors in Moscow, some of whose Jewish connections are underlined in the official announcements, has aroused natural and understandable feelings among Jews. At this moment, the matter of the Jewish doctors itself is not important for us—although it needs comment of its own—but the tying in of the accusations against them as part of a Zionist plot for “betrayal of the homeland,” for subversion against the state which they served and in which they lived, is the important thing.

The Moscow indictments tied the Jews among the accused to the Joint (Joint Distribution Committee). It accused them of engaging in undermining the state by poisoning leaders of the Soviet Union. Not only this, but the Joint was labeled by the accusations as a Zionist group which together with the entire Zionist movement,

“... had sold themselves body and soul to the United States Intelligence Service, which recruited them with the aid of Joint—the international Jewish bourgeois-nationalist organization. Set up by the United States Intelligence Service allegedly for rendering material aid to Jews in other countries, this Zionist organization, which plays by no means the least role in the evil designs of United States aggressive imperialism, actually conducts on the assignment and under the guidance of the U.S. Intelligence Service, wholesale espionage, terrorist and other subversive activity in a number of countries, including the Soviet Union.” (*For A Lasting Peace, For A People's Democracy*, No. 3 (219) January 16, 1953).

This kind of attack on the Joint Distribution Committee is far-reaching. The Joint remained active in the Soviet Union after all Zionist work was prohibited. The Joint was allowed to continue with governmental approval. There were periods when the Soviet Government directly encouraged Joint aid activities for the Jewish population in its own borders for the productivization of the Jewish masses. We can

recall the period of Agro-Joint, a branch of the world Joint Distribution Committee whose years of work in Crimea was done together with and under the supervision of the Soviet Government for the purpose of establishing Jewish rural settlements. Later this was extended to the establishment of Jewish farms in Birobidjan. This latter work ended many years ago and the Joint ceased to exist in the Soviet Union.

In Hungary, it is worth noting, the Joint Distribution Committee's activities which continued until a few days ago, were directly under Hungarian governmental supervision and its monies went into the country through the most official channels—the Hungarian State Bank.

The Joint, whose funds come from Jewish philanthropists and from popular Jewish campaigns, fulfilled and continues to fulfill social services for thousands of Jews who are in distress and in need. Examples are many, but it will suffice to mention the financing of the great immigration to Israel after World War II, and the establishment of Malben, the institution for the care of hard-core chronically-ill immigrants in Israel. It carried on without the cooperation and even sometimes without the approval of Zionist organizations such activities as its settlement work in Crimea and Birobidjan and its social assistance for the Jews of North Africa.

This is constructive and humanitarian work. Certainly the Joint Distribution Committee will not affirm that all its employees are entirely free from any hint of intervention in the internal political affairs of the countries where they operate. This is not within its purview. And in these days, organizations of much different and more monolithic character than the JDC are not free of subversive elements. But from this assumption to the total indictment of the JDC as an underground for giving orders to Jewish doctors to poison the leaders of the Soviet Union—is a tremendous stretch of imagination.

The accusation that the Joint Distribution Committee is a Zionist group is more serious

from a Jewish-historical viewpoint. The purpose is to label the Zionist Movement rather than the Joint and to prove that the latter is "Zionist in nature." By this misleading thought process, the Joint becomes an arm of the Zionist Movement only in order to strengthen the imaginary accusations against the Zionist Movement.

We reject completely this complex of accusations against the Zionist Movement, as already stated in *Israel Horizons* of January,

1953, and we here repeat and underline this fact.

"Never did socialist theory negate national independence because of a mistaken policy or reactionary errors by the temporary leaders of this independence. . . ." ". . . The Jewish national liberation movement, which is Zionism, occupies a most respected place among such movements because it is the liberation movement of the most oppressed and persecuted of peoples."

Aryai Vineroth:

Again and Again— The Ingathering of Exiles

WE live in a confused world. It is difficult to discover the real reasons behind the hazy accusations against the Zionist Movement made at Prague and Moscow. It is beyond doubt, however, that the Communist world not only has made up its mind to erect a Chinese Wall between it and Zionism but that it has determined to cut all ties between the 2½ million Jews in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and the rest of world Jewry. This is not only a matter of physical contact between various Jewish communities and dispersed Jewish families, but of ideological contact.

Why are these things being done? They are the results of the historical fact that even the Soviet society has not solved the Jewish problem any more successfully than other societies in the Diaspora. For decades the Soviets, at first with the help of the *Yevsektzia* (Jewish Section) and later without it, tried two paths toward a solution—one, the settlement of Jews on the land and their concentration territorially within the boundaries of the Soviet Union (Crimea, Birobidjan) and two, the assimilation of Jewish communities within the Soviet culture, economy and society. Both paths led to bitter disappointments. The attempts at territorial concentrations failed because they attracted so few individuals despite full equality of rights extended to the Jews. Their assimilation was only superficial. Within the Soviet Jewish community deep feelings of Jewish national solidarity apparently remained.

Moreover, despite their full social and economic equality, the Jewish population within the Soviet economy continued to stand on the same inverted pyramid outlined by Borochov—Jews did not penetrate into basic industries and occupations. The majority of the Jewish middle class remained in a different form: Instead of storekeepers they became managers of cooperatives and collective stores; large numbers of Jews remained in or entered the professions and never became a recognizable factor in heavy industry. We have no statistics on the occupational structure of the Jews in the Soviet Union but there is no doubt that no basic shift in occupations has occurred. The old has merely taken on a new form.

Because the Communist world has had a mistaken grasp of the basic Jewish problem from the beginning and did not recognize the universal character of this problem and the need for the territorial concentration of Jews in their own land for the purpose of full national and social liberation—it now finds itself faced with an impasse. Instead of the sole possible solution—recognition of Zionism as the Jewish national liberation movement and emigration of Jews from all lands to Israel—it has taken the severe method of cutting off the narrow bonds which tie its Jews to the Jews of other parts of the world—family ties, cultural heritage, sentiment, religion, Jewish solidarity in the sense of "All Jews are brothers," the ancient love of Zion and of Israel.

But even more than amidst apparently of a horrible possibilities, hot war, to World War II, the Jewish people find our people's situation with only 10-12% in Israel. We have not wasted many opportunities. We waste them today. In the world and amidst war, there is a growing this unfortunate people. Jews are attacked because of the Diaspora, an extra-territorial concentration in their own land.

However, in these times of no common language of Zionism and the Jewish people was always, as its origin. "Bund of Russia, Poland emphasized a disbelief in the Jewish problem. A Bund through its endorsement of the Zionist solution and did the *Yevsektzia*, the Jews to the countries the difference that this is not within a Communist its own "Socialist" reform. What gives the remnants of their affiliated groupings in defense of Judaism?

The American Jewish people considered themselves a persuasion." Who are the defenders of Jewry and Zion? I suspect that these are the countries who are today quantities to the Arab aggression.

It is good business to see and at the same time to Semitism in the U.S.S.R. many, still filled with uncertainty, lent itself to the "defense" of world reaction joins in disguised as knights of "Soviet Anti-Semitism."

In the Soviet Union Semites are being arrested. Anti-Semitism, according to the Revolution. Those who cliche "Nazi anti-Semitism" either do not or are unaware that if through some ma-