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SOVIET TERROR AGAINST JEWS

HOW CLEVELAND INITIATED AN INTERFAITH PROTEST

THE PLAIN DEALER

Ohio's Largest Morning and Sunday Newspaper

Saturday, Nov. 9, 1963

Red Persecution

Twenty-five years ago tonight Hitler's storm troopers turned on the Jewish community throughout Germany, murdered many, arrested 20,000, set fire to synagogues, looted homes and broke so much glass that the night now is known as "Kristallnacht"—the night of the broken glass. The Jews had to pay for the destruction of their own property and were fined one billion Reichsmarks.

Today three million Jews are being hounded by the Soviet government, persecution is on the increase, the outlook is ominous. The Cleveland Committee on Soviet Anti-Semitism—composed of a small group of clergymen of all faiths—is preparing to circulate a protest which, it is hoped, will grow in volume until it is heard in the Kremlin. The world cannot afford another "Kristallnacht" and the Cleveland group deserves support.

The Cleveland Press

A Scripps-Howard Newspaper

Thursday, October 24, 1963

Red Anti-Semitism

Stirs Dread Memories

The evidence is unmistakable: anti-Semitism is becoming bolder in Soviet Russia.

The ghastly memories of the Hitler death camps are too painfully fresh, even after two decades, for the world to watch idly as new persecutions are inflicted on a minority.

Fortunately, Americans of various faiths have already begun to act. An interfaith, interracial group has opened a campaign to galvanize American and world opinion against Soviet repressions.

In Cleveland a committee has already formed, consisting of Monsignor Lawrence Cahill of St. John College, the Rev. B. Bruce Whittemore, executive director of the Cleveland Area Church Federation; Councilman Leo Jackson and Rabbi Philip Horowitz of Brith Emeth Congregation.

This project can be effective if the Russians and the world are reminded constantly that the Soviet principle of equality among national and ethnic groups is a vicious mockery.

THE PLAIN DEALER, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1963

Group Seeks Help for Russia's Jews

By ROY W. ADAMS

Religion Editor

A committee led by a Cleveland councilman and three Greater Cleveland religious leaders yesterday was formed to promote efforts to combat anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

The leaders are Councilman Leo A. Jackson, D-24, Msgr. Lawrence P. Cahill, president of St. John College in Cleveland; Rabbi Philip Horowitz of Brith Emeth Congregation and Rev. B. Bruce Whittemore, executive director of Cleveland Area Church Federation.

A spokesman said efforts by the committee would harmonize with a call Wednesday by Roman Catholic churchmen attending the Ecumenical Council in Rome aimed against anti-Semitism.

THE FIRST TASK these local church leaders have undertaken is to seek endorsements by Greater Clevelanders of an "appeal of conscience" to the Soviet Union made last weekend by 100 American religious, civic and intellectual leaders.

In that "appeal," made on behalf of three million Jews living in the U.S.S.R. and sent to Soviet leaders, the signers listed seven steps Soviet authorities might take to halt

the process threatening to "extinguish" Jewish life in Russia. The steps are:

- Reopen Jewish schools.
- Revive Jewish cultural life and institutions in Yiddish and Hebrew.
- Reopen closed synagogues and lift the ban against the performance of sacred Jewish rites.
- Permit cultural and religious ties between Soviet Jews and Jews of other lands.
- Permit Jewish emigration to reunite broken families.
- Eliminate the anti-Jewish character of the official campaign against economic crimes.
- Launch a vigorous educational campaign against anti-Semitism.

THE LOCAL committee also sent a telegram of thanks for the "appeal" to the national committee's chairman, the Rt. Rev. James A. Pike, Protestant Episcopal bishop of California. Among the 100 national sponsors were the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Walter Reuther, Norman Thomas and U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas.

Letters seeking endorsement are expected to be sent to Greater Cleveland leaders tomorrow, a spokesman said.

Jewish Independent Oct. 18, 1963

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THE CLEVELAND PRESS,

Cleveland Committee Of 100 To Organize Group In Support Of Nationwide Effort To End Russian Persecution Of Jews

Headed by Msgr. Lawrence P. Cahill, president of St. John College, Cleveland, Rabbi Philip Horowitz, Brith Emeth Temple, Cleveland, and Rev. B. Bruce Whittemore, executive director of the Cleveland Church Federation, a committee of 100 leading citizens of Cleveland is being formed to aid in the organization of a city-wide body in support of a movement already inaugurated at a meeting in New York to bring about a united protest against religious persecution of the Jews in Russia.

A message has been sent by Cleveland leaders to the New York

leaders of the movement, among whom are Senator Herbert Lehman and Supreme Court Justice Douglas, Walter Reuther and Norman Thomas approving steps already taken. Addressed to Rt. Rev. James A. Pike the message from Cleveland leaders is as follows: Congratulations on your leadership at the conference on Soviet Anti-Semitism held Oct. 12 in New York City. The seven recommendations to the USSR for halting its campaign of Anti-Jewish persecution should serve as rallying points for all concerned with human rights. Similar worthy

statements on behalf of other persecuted groups in the past have often failed to receive tangible public support.

Accordingly, we in Cleveland shall commence at once to present your statement to the community and to obtain signed endorsements from all men of good will. It is our hope that other communities will also obtain endorsements so that the protest of an entire nation can be presented to representatives of the Soviet government. We would appreciate your advice regarding the most effective de-

(Continued on Page 7)

Drive Seeks to Aid Jews in Russia

An interfaith, interracial group launched a campaign here today to "produce a tangible public response" to the plight of three million Jews in Russia.

The local committee telegraphed Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike of San Francisco and urged other communities to obtain signed endorsements so that the protest of an entire nation can be presented to representatives of the Soviet Union.

Bishop Pike headed a committee of 100 which held a conference on Soviet Anti-Semitism last week in New York.

Co-chairmen of the local committee are Monsignor Lawrence P. Cahill, president of St. John College; the Rev. B. Bruce Whittemore, executive director, Cleveland Area Church Federation; Rabbi Philip Horowitz of Brith Emeth Congregation and Councilman Leo A. Jackson.

They indicated that a mass appeal to Clevelanders would be made next week for signed endorsements of the statement issued by Bishop Pike's group.

"That statement called on Russia to halt anti-Jewish persecution, lift a ban on sacred rituals, permit Jewish emigration to reunite families and eliminate "the anti-Jewish character of the present official campaign against economic crimes."

Meanwhile, local officials of the American Jewish Committee hailed a report from Rome that the Vatican Council will act to re-emphasize that humanity, not the Jews, caused the death of Jesus.

CLEVELAND COMMITTEE (Continued from Page 1)

employment of our efforts. Msgr. Lawrence P. Cahill, President, St. John College, Cleveland, Rabbi Philip Horowitz, Brith Emeth Temple, Cleveland, Rev. B. Bruce Whittemore, Executive Director, Cleveland Church Federation, Co-chairman of the Cleveland Committee of 100.

Cleveland communal activity against Russia's attitude toward Russia's Jews had already been manifested prior to steps leading to the formation of the Cleveland Committee of 100.

Fifteen Cleveland clergymen representing the three major faiths—Catholic, Protestant and Jewish have appealed to President Kennedy to urge the Soviet Union "officially" to permit Jews in the USSR to bake matzoh from the wheat which the Administration has agreed to let Russia buy in this country.

In a telegram to the President, the 15 signers stated:

"In selling wheat to the Russians, America's traditional concern for reducing human suffering would be made most clear by an official and urgent plea that the wheat not be used as an instrument of discrimination against a minority group. Specifically, the Soviet Government should make this wheat available as desired for use as matzoh, which are essential to Jewish Passover observance. For the past two years, the Russian Government has prohibited the manufacture and sale of matzoh, along with many more serious harassments of Soviet Jewry which have included the closing of synagogues, 'show trials' for economic offense, special restrictions on educational and vocational opportunities, and a mounting campaign of terror and vilification in the press."

"We respectfully submit that American wheat should not become an instrument of official Soviet policy of persecuting the Jewish minority group for the seeming purpose of solving internal problems. Urging the Soviet Government to alter such policies would confirm the sincere desire of the United States to champion the worldwide cause of human rights."

Among the signers were seven Protestant ministers; six rabbis; Msgr. Lawrence P. Cahill, president of St. John College; Rev. Vincent P. Haas, moderator of the Catholic Interracial Council of Greater Cleveland.

In a statement to leaders of Cleveland Jewish organizations issued recently, Jay D. Feder, chairman of the Federation Defense and Interpretation Committee said in part regarding persecution in Russia:

"In an effort to study this problem more closely and then to acquaint the Cleveland Jewish community with developments, the Defense and Interpretation Committee of the Community Relations Committee not long ago

Anti-Semitism Slap Sent to K

The four co-chairmen of the Cleveland Committee on Soviet Anti-Semitism sent a 137-word telegram to Soviet Premier Khrushchev yesterday linking the sale of wheat by this country to Russia with Soviet persecution of Russian Jewry.

Signed by Msgr. Lawrence P. Cahill, Rabbi Philip Horowitz, Cleveland Councilman

Leo A. Jackson, D-24, and the Rev. B. Bruce Whittemore, the telegram upbraided the premier for asking that the wheat deals be free of discriminatory clauses.

"We believe that your request for freedom from economic discrimination would carry more moral weight if your government were to end its discrimination against religious groups," the telegram said, citing widespread anti-Semitism in Russia as an example.

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Give Russian Jews Wheat, 15 Here Ask

Fifteen Cleveland ministers of all faiths sent a telegram yesterday to President Kennedy urging that he require that some of the wheat sold to the Soviet Union be made available to Russian Jews for making matzoh, the traditional unleavened bread for Passover.

The telegram was signed by six Cleveland rabbis, seven Protestant ministers, Msgr. Lawrence P. Cahill, president of St. John College, and the Rev. Vincent P. Haas, moderator of the Catholic Interracial Council of Cleveland.

The telegram said the Russian government had prohibited the manufacture and sale of matzoh for two years, "along with many more serious harassments of Soviet Jewry, including closing of synagogues... restrictions on educational and vocational opportunities, and a mounting campaign of terror."

The telegram asked that American wheat should not become "an instrument of the official Soviet policy of persecuting the Jewish minority." Urging the Soviet government to alter its policy toward the Jews would confirm the desire of the United States to champion the worldwide cause of human rights, the telegram concluded.

Members of Beth Israel West Temple, 14308 Triskett Road N.W., requested the telegram be sent to the President.

Cleveland Committee On Soviet Anti-Semitism Replies To Khrushchev Demand For No Discrimination In Wheat Deal

In an open message to Russia's Prime Minister Nikita S. Khrushchev, the Cleveland Committee on Soviet Anti-Semitism has answered Khrushchev's "no discrimination" demand in his proposal regarding the wheat deal with America, by noting that Russia is persecuting its Jews.

A telegram has been addressed to Khrushchev at the Kremlin by the Cleveland Committee consisting of Msgr. L. P. Cahill (co-chair-

man), president, St. John College; Rabbi Philip Horowitz, Brith Emeth Congregation; Leo A. Jackson, councilman, Cleveland City Council; Rev. B. Bruce Whittemore, executive director, Cleveland Area Church Federation. The telegram follows:

"Your wish that any wheat transactions between the United States and the U.S.S.R. be free of discriminatory clauses has been widely reported in the American

11 Rabbis Join Mantzoh Appeal

Eleven more Greater Cleveland rabbis have added their names to a plea to President Kennedy that be ask Soviet officials to make some of the wheat sold to Russia available to Russian Jews for making matzoh, the traditional unleavened bread for Passover.

The rabbis are Louis Engleberg, Jacob Muskin, Marvin J. Spiegelman, Isidore Pickholtz, Daniel Schur, Hugo Klein, Samuel Broude, Louis Lieberworth, Amram Blum, Benjamin Z. Rudavsky and Myron Silverman.

Fifteen ministers of all faiths originally signed the telegram to the President, sent Saturday.

Cleveland Hebrew Schools Parent Council To Hold Opening Program Meeting

The Parent Council of the Cleveland Hebrew Schools will hold the opening program meeting for members and friends of all PTA branches on Wednesday evening, Nov. 20 at the Lander-Zelman Building, 1690 Lander Road. Mrs. Martin Azoff, president will preside. A Chanukah gift sale organized by the PTA branches will precede the program and will be held from 8 to 8:45 p.m.

The program at 8:45 p.m. will feature Dr. David Gitlin, a Cleveland allergist on the staff of Western Reserve University and several hospitals. He will present an illustrated talk on "Can We Save Russian Jewry?", a subject on which he has spent several years of study. Chairman for the program is Mrs. Sanford Gordon, vice-president of programming.

"Jews in Soviet Russia" To Be Theme Of Meeting Of Bar Ilan Religious Zionists

"The Plight of the Jews in Soviet Russia" will be the theme for the first Bar Ilan cultural meeting of the season to be held, Saturday evening, Oct. 26 at 8:30 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chadwick Rakusin, 3373 E. Scarborough Road.

Dr. David Gitlin, chairman of the Social Action Committee of the West Side Temple, will address the meeting, offering comment and interpretation of a series of slides taken this year depicting Jewish life in Soviet Russia. Appearing with Dr. Gitlin will be Dr. Herbert Caren, assistant professor of psychology at Western Reserve University and a member of the Medical Research Hospital. Dr. Caren is also a member of the Defense and Interpretation Committee of the Jewish Community Federation. The slides, showing present-day life of the Jews in Soviet Russia were taken by Herman Marks who visited there recently and were prepared and edited by Morton Epstein.

This meeting, arranged by Dr. Gerald Tauber, program chairman and his committee is open to the public and non-members of Bar Ilan are welcome. Mordechai Felgenbaum, chapter president, will conduct a business meeting preceding the cultural program. A general discussion and question and answer period will conclude the meeting.

"APPEAL TO CONSCIENCE" ADOPTED BY NEW YORK "CONFERENCE OF 100"

"An Appeal to Conscience" to the Soviet Union on behalf of three million Jews living in the U.S.S.R. was made on October 12, 1963 by 100 American religious, civic, and intellectual leaders meeting in New York. These leaders included Negro Civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., the Honorable Herbert Lehman, Labor leader Walter Reuther, Socialist leader Norman Thomas, Associate Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas, author Robert Penn Warren, with Episcopal Bishop James A. Pike presiding.

The "Appeal to Conscience" listed steps the Soviet authorities might take in order to halt the anti-Jewish campaign now in progress that threatens to extinguish Jewish life in Russia:

1. Eliminate the Anti-Jewish character of the official campaign against economic crimes (in which an attempt has been made to blame the Jews for the economic and moral breakdown in Soviet internal affairs. The death penalty has been meted out to hundreds of persons, most of whom have been identified as Jews in the Soviet press).
2. Permit Jewish emigration to reunite separated families.
3. Permit cultural and religious ties between Soviet Jews and Jews of other lands.
4. Reopen closed Synagogues and lift the ban against the performance of sacred Jewish rites.
5. Reopen Jewish schools.
6. Revive Jewish Institutions in Yiddish and Hebrew.
7. Launch a vigorous educational campaign against Anti-Semitism, directly attacking endemic Anti-Jewish feelings and the official campaigns of vilification in the press and other mass media.

The appeal was directed to the Soviet government and to all men of good will within the Soviet Union. (Information abstracted from news articles in the New York Times, UP, AP, of October 13, 1963 and other papers throughout the country.)

CLEVELAND COMMITTEE ON SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM:

--- I am in sympathy with efforts to persuade the Soviet Union to call a halt to the current official program of Anti-semitism.

I approve of the 7 point "Appeal to Conscience" as endorsed by the "N.Y. Conference of 100".

--- I permit you to use my name in the campaign to protest the Soviet persecution of Jews.

(Please initial any or all of the boxes above, sign and mail at once.)

Signature _____

Address _____

Above is the endorsement postcard enclosed with the letter and the documents, to be returned to the committee.