

The
Prague Trial

ITS ANTI-JEWISH IMPLICATIONS

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FOREWORD

By DR. A. COHEN

THE feature of the Prague Trial which disturbed Jews deeply in Britain and other countries was not that the large majority of the accused were Jews. In former purges Jews also figured conspicuously without that fact producing any repercussion in Jewish circles. In the present instance, however, a difference was detected which struck the average Jew as portentous, viz., that the Jewishness of the accused was highlighted by the prosecution throughout the trial. The words "Jew" and "Jewish" were dragged into the proceedings on every possible opportunity.

The truth of this criticism can only be denied by those who refuse to believe the indisputable. It must be remembered that no reporter of the "capitalist Press" was allowed to attend the trial, and our newspapers could do no more than reprint the official reports put out by the Prague radio. There can consequently be no charge of distortion or falsification. The evidence in the following pages is taken from what the Czech authorities wished to be read.

This compilation has but one aim: to inform the rulers of the "people's democracies" of the strong re-action which the anti-Jewish character of the Prague trial created, in the hope that if further trials are held in which Jews are implicated, their Jewish origin will not be made part of the crime for which they are being tried.

* * *

For the first time in today's history, a Trial was conducted in a Communist State in which emphasis was laid on the "Jewishness" of the accused. Of the fourteen prisoners no less than eleven were described as "Jewish bourgeois," "Jewish Nationalist," once or twice simply as "Jews," and many times as Zionists. The Communists, of course, deny that this technique indicated anti-Semitism. They claim it was merely accidental that eleven out of fourteen were Jews and maintain that they were sentenced only for the crimes they are alleged to have committed.

It is not necessary, nor indeed is it possible, for us to satisfy ourselves whether the accused committed any crimes or whether they were sentenced justly or not. This does not affect the question of the deliberate anti-Jewish tendencies revealed in the trial, for on every possible occasion the Jewish origin of the accused and witnesses was stressed. Although as stated above such-and-such a person was rarely described as a Jew pure and simple, it was also not stated that he was a bourgeois or nationalist pure and simple. The public were made aware by the addition of the word Jew to every one of these appellations, of his origin. The Public Prosecutor, the Broadcast Commentators, the accused in their "confessions," lost no opportunity of emphasising their Jewish origin. One Jew was accused of appointing other Jews to office in key positions to further extraneous Jewish purposes, so that the impression was given that a man of Jewish upbringing or origin was in fact alien to the true spirit of Czechoslovakia, and that there was a world-wide conspiracy in which Jewish Communists like Slansky, and other Jewish Communists, worked together with Jewish capitalists for the same purpose. The names of Rothschild, Morgenthau, Mandel, Baruch, and other foreign Jews were all dragged in to show the link-up with the alleged conspirators.

It would not be difficult to show that the ideas of that infamous forgery "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" were again being invoked to prove an international Jewish conspiracy, and to show that a person of Jewish birth, even though he may never have been identified in any way with the Jewish community, was basically alien. By spreading such ideas, by widely broadcasting them, as was done at this Trial, it is easy to propagate the idea in these Communist States that every person of Jewish origin is a potential enemy and traitor.

It should also be noted that a new crime has been invented—that of being a Zionist—and with it naturally came the attacks on the State of Israel, used either as a convenient camouflage for allegations of espionage or perhaps, as many imagine, as an approach to winning the friendship of the Arab States.

THE "EVIDENCE"

In order to emphasise what can be described as the anti-Semitic twist given to the Trial, one cannot do better than to give some illustrations from the indictment and from the evidence included in the "confessions" of the defendants. In the indictment, the Prosecutor stated that :

At Slansky's instigation the Trotskyite and Jewish bourgeois nationalist Bedrich Geminder one of his best friends was appointed to head the international department of the Communist Party's Central Committee. Andre Simone, whose real name is Otto Katz and who was an international spy, a Zionist and Trotskyite, was appointed one of the editors of *Rude Pravo*.

The U.S. spy Ohrenstein stated in his evidence on the direction of *Zionist* undermining activities in co-operation with U.S. monopolists, that in Washington in 1947 Truman, Acheson and the Israeli Premier, Ben-Gurion, had agreed at a conspiratorial meeting. . . . Later Ben-Gurion, Morgenthau, the former U.S. Minister of Finance, and Sharett, the Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs, agreed on the so-called Morgenthau plan laying down the conditions under which the U.S.A. would support the State of Israel. It was part of this plan that Zionist organisations should be widely used for espionage and other undermining activities in People's Democratic States in the interest of U.S. imperialism and world domination. The implementation of these criminal aims in Czechoslovakia was entrusted to the important agent of U.S. espionage and former Israeli Minister in Czechoslovakia, Avriel Ehud Uberall.

When Slansky himself gave evidence and was asked for whom he had procured important posts, he mentioned Geminder the Jewish bourgeois Nationalist, and he further explained in answer to questions that he had done so because the Zionists were conducting hostile activities aimed at the liquidation of the popular democratic regime in Czechoslovakia. "I collaborated with them and I placed various Zionist elements in important posts. . . . These Zionists in turn placed other Zionists in various posts in the Administration and Economic Offices, and

through them I was linked with the Zionist organisations."

The significance of this lay in the fact that Zionist organisations in Czechoslovakia were in turn connected with similar Zionist organisations in the capitalist countries. "The whole world-wide Zionist movement was in fact led and ruled by the imperialists, in particular the U.S. imperialists by means of U.S. Zionists. The U.S. Zionists who as in other capitalist countries are the financially most powerful and politically most influential Zionists form part of the ruling imperialist circles of the U.S." The Zionist organisations have, moreover, been a channel through which the imperialists carried out extensive espionage and subversive work in Czechoslovakia. The "Joint" organisation in Prague was "a branch of the American Zionists" and had played an important part in various hostile machinations. One of these had been "the abuse of the emigration scheme under which Jewish citizens left for the capitalist countries, thereby removing from Czechoslovakia property of an unjustifiably large value and causing grave economic damage to Czechoslovakia."

Slansky admitted that he had insured the legal existence in Czechoslovakia both before and after February 1948 of these bourgeois nationalist Zionist organisations. Though his attention had been drawn to the hostile work conducted by them he had protected them. "I deliberately shielded them by abusing the campaign against so-called anti-Semitism, by proposing that a big campaign be waged against anti-Semitism, by magnifying the danger of anti-Semitism and by proposing various measures against anti-Semitism—such as the writing of articles, the publication of pamphlets, the holding of lectures, etc.—I criminally prevented the waging of a campaign against Zionism."

"Our hostile activities consisted above all in appointments of cadres hostile to the régime . . . among them were Dr. Hodek, a Slovak bourgeois nationalist, Horvath also a Slovak bourgeois nationalist, the Jewish bourgeois nationalist Goldstuecker, who was made Minister to Israel."

The third witness was Dr. Eduard Goldstuecker. His relations with Slansky, he explained, went back to 1946, when Slansky's attention had been drawn to Goldstuecker's "Jewish bourgeois origin." Slansky had then advised him to change his name to Zlatisky in which case Goldstuecker's past would easily be forgotten.

In describing the Trial, the Radio announcers said :

“Goldstuecker, who described himself as of bourgeois Jewish origin, this proved Zionist, then told of the help he had given to Jewish nationalists like himself, whom he had helped to return from Israel to Czechoslovakia to enable them to hold responsible positions in our economic affairs.”

“After Kavan there appeared before the State Court—an international apache type—Mordechai Oren.” The announcer described Oren as a Zionist British and Titoite agent.

The next witness, Oscar Langer, had been employed in various functions. . . . In his evidence the witness told the court that he had returned to Czechoslovakia in 1946 from the U.S.A. He had returned because he had been sent to Czechoslovakia by the U.S. Zionists to work against the People's Democratic Regime. He had been working on drafting the Czechoslovak Restitution Law, and Slansky had promised to support this law. The purpose of this law had been to concentrate the property of the Jews who had returned from the concentration camps as well as for those who had not in Zionist hands and in this way the Zionists had intended with Slansky's help to strengthen and extend their economic power in Czechoslovakia. The Zionist activities had been directed towards the weakening of the Czechoslovak economy by sending important machinery abroad.

Geminder, in the course of his evidence, is reported to have said :

The conspirators were interested in connections with hostile Zionist organisations. In the second half of 1948 Slansky sent Geminder a representative of the Israeli Embassy in Prague, Dr. Felix, with whom Geminder discussed various campaigns by the Embassy in Czechoslovakia. Above all there was the emigration of citizens of Jewish origin, which was contrary with official agreements with the State of Israel. The Israeli Embassy wanted to organise these campaigns itself, and therefore asked for the continuation in Czechoslovakia of the activity of Zionist organisations. “When emigrating Jewish capitalists were given an opportunity to export various industrial equipment, machinery, objects of great value, silver, gold and objects d'art.”

The hostile Zionist organisation could work in Czechoslovakia under various pretexts. For example the U.S. “Joint” which was a camouflage branch of the American Intelligence Service, could carry on its activity under the guise of charity. The decision to permit “Joint” to continue its activities was taken

by Slansky himself. Also it was through his intervention that the Haganah and branches of the Stern Terrorist Organisation were enabled to continue their activities.

Vladimir Clementis, former Foreign Minister, one of the accused, said in the course of his evidence :

“ Above all the Jewish bourgeois nationalists, such as Otto Sling, Evzen Loeb, Erwin Polak, Rudolf Slansky, Vilem Novy, and others, who later thanks to their hostile connections attained important positions in Czechoslovakia. Also the cosmopolite Kolemán who acted as liaison between our Jewish bourgeois nationalists and similar groups in the Hungarian Communist Party which were exposed at the Rajk Trial. The Jewish bourgeois nationalists in London also rallied round Ludvig Freijka.”

Further commenting on the evidence, the Radio commentator said :

“ The root of the crimes of Freijka, as of all the other accused lies in the fact that the way of our people is completely alien to him and that he hated our people. Freijka, alias Freund, hails from a Jewish petit bourgeois family and despite joining the Communist Party he remained a complacent intellectual.”

Speaking about the placing of hostile persons in the economic sector, Freijka named “ our direct confederates ” who had been given important positions. They included the “ Jewish bourgeois nationalist and Ripka agent Loeb and Margolius who had a Zionist past.” Other confederates were “ the old servants of the international financial magnates Rothschilds.”

In the financial section Slansky himself had recruited the bourgeois lawyer and Zionist Otto Fischl, the Jewish bourgeois Dr. Otto Eisler, the nationalist Joseph Trojan, the Zionist Zdenek Rudinger. . . . “ We also seized control of regional commissions. We succeeded in this mainly because Slansky and Svermova appointed people like Sling, Fuchs, Landa, Lomsky, and Polak as chief regional secretaries of the party in the most industrialised regions. They were of bourgeois Jewish origin and during the war in London.”

In the examination of Rudolf Margolius, the following statements were made by the accused :

. . . . He pleaded guilty to having maintained espionage contacts right up to his arrest with representatives of imperialist states. These were : Vera Micheles-Dean, representative of the

U.S. Foreign Policy Association, the agent of the British imperialists—Konni Zilliacus, the Jewish international businessman and Czechoslovak emigre, the Zionist Brenner. . . . “Finally, I plead guilty that I placed hostile Zionist elements as Czechoslovak Trade representatives abroad.”

At this point the announcer said that Margolius was the son of a partner in the wholesale textile company Margolius Brothers, and a member of a *Jewish* Freemason Lodge. Many of his relatives were active Zionists and he too had been brought up in this spirit. He had been a member of various Zionist societies, he had succeeded in infiltrating into the Communist Party after 1945 by making untrue statements about his past.

Margolius then described a meeting at Freyka's office in 1948. . . . He had been aware of Slansky's sabotage intentions by the fact that leading positions in the country's economic machinery had been given to hostile elements, particularly Jewish bourgeois nationalists and Zionists.

The defendant then mentioned another espionage link, that with the Zionist Leo Brenner, whom he had met in 1948 through Loeb. . . . After his arrival in London, Margolius had contacted Brenner and had also arranged for the Rothschilds to be informed.

The Prosecutor asked Margolius to supply further details about the so-called Uberall scheme :

It was for this purpose that Loeb tried to secure credits from Jewish capitalists in the U.S.A., so as to create financial and economic dependence on the U.S.A. It was planned to repay by light industry exports to the U.S.A. If that was to be achieved, the switch-over to heavy industry would have to be sabotaged. *The profit was to go to Jewish capitalists in the U.S.A.*, and especially to Czechoslovak emigrés who were to become the key export-and-import agents and mediators in trade with Czechoslovakia. Thereby it was intended to help them to amass wealth, while at the same time Czechoslovak economy would be damaged.

The Prosecutor then submitted a photograph which the defendant recognised as a picture of Alex Taub, “a representative of the U.S. Zionists and a U.S. agent” who had been in Czechoslovakia since 1946. Taub was a Zionist, the representative of General Motors in the U.S.A.

Margolius went on to specify machinery exports to Palestine in 1948-49 when “Jewish bourgeois elements” had emigrated

to Palestine. In those years exports were made with the agreement and knowledge of the Commission for Foreign Trade attached to the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Party and consisting of Loeb, Fischl and Margolius. Ostensibly old but in fact very well preserved and usable machinery was exported, mostly taken from factories formerly owned by Czechoslovak capitalists who had already emigrated or who intended to emigrate to Palestine. . . . Margolius was then asked whether they had financed the "treacherous emigrés with the money of the working people." He admitted this. "The treacherous Czechoslovak emigrés in the capitalist countries had basically the same hostile aims as our conspiratorial centre, for this reason we directly supported them, these former Czechoslovak capitalists, many Zionists and Jewish capitalists and other hostile elements." . . . Margolius then gave a number of concrete examples. The representative of the Czechoslovak export firm Ligna in Britain was "the Jewish capitalist Czechoslovak emigré and Zionist Schnitzer," Zentrotex was represented in the U.S.A. by the Jewish capitalist family Lindt, Zionists from Czechoslovakia. The representative of Kovo in Argentina was the Jewish capitalist Becher, the representative of Kovo in Brazil was the Jewish manufacturer Singer, the representative of the Czechoslovak mines in Italy was the Jewish capitalist and former coal baron Guttmann.

There had been other methods too for supplying the treacherous enemies with funds. In all these cases the representatives of Czechoslovak Foreign Trade abroad, mostly emigré Zionists and other hostile elements, received huge sums amounting to tens of millions of Czechoslovak crowns.

The same allusions to Jewish bourgeois nationalists were made in the case of Otto Fischl.

He pleaded guilty, and said :

"As an accomplice of Rudolf Slansky and a Jewish bourgeois nationalist I took part in the hostile actions which were organised by the Anglo-U.S. imperialists and their agents in Israel, headed by Ben-Gurion; actions aimed at enriching the Jewish bourgeoisie." He had also collaborated with Geminder and had been in direct contact "with the U.S.-British agents sent to Czechoslovakia by Ben-Gurion."

Fischl was examined by the Presiding Judge who asked him why he adopted a hostile attitude to the "People's Democratic Czechoslovakia." Fischl answered that he could not possibly

have any other attitude because "I am a Jewish bourgeois nationalist." He had been a member of the Jewish bourgeois nationalist organisation Kapr, and the League of Czech Jews. He had begun the sabotage by supporting the endeavours of the Zionists and of the Jewish bourgeois nationalistic elements to get hold of the national administration of property." The national administration of property had fallen into the hands of Jewish reactionaries who had used it "for strengthening the bourgeois nationalist and Zionist position in the State by allocating the property mainly to Jewish bourgeois nationalists and Zionist elements."

Allegations were made that the emigration to Israel was part of this sabotage, and Fischl was asked why the Jewish religious communities were interested in this transfer of property. He replied: that this was so "because they were dominated by Jewish reactionaries, Zionists, cosmopolitans and other hostile elements. These elements in the end went so far as to misuse the cloak of the Jewish religion for carrying on Zionist hostile activities."

The accused then began to describe how he had sabotaged the penal department of the Finance Ministry. When a group of Israeli citizens, who had been sent to Czechosl to carry out fraudulent business deals and currency machinations, had been arrested, it had transpired that business deals had been organised from Israel all over the world, in which use had been made of differences in currency and prices. These deals had been organised by the Israeli Company Solel Boneh which had worked in collaboration with and under the direct supervision of the Israeli semi-fascist Histadruth.

In the final speech of the Chief Prosecutor he said that ample confirmation had been given that Slansky was a patron of all Jewish bourgeois nationalists and he had expressed himself that it was necessary to fill important positions in economic, political and public life with Zionists and Jewish bourgeois nationalists.

"Slansky cannot deny his Jewish bourgeois nationalist character. If we realise the true meaning of Jewish bourgeois nationalism, from which descend the international Zionist organisation, the most important agencies of American imperialism, we understand why Rudolf Slansky finds himself today before a People's Court, charged with the heaviest crimes in our penal code."

Enough can be gathered from these reports to show how the

mind of the Court and of the public was being poisoned by these continual references to the Jewish background of the defendants and by the unceasing attack on Zionism.

BRITISH PRESS OPINION

With one solitary exception, the Communist *Daily Worker*, the British Press—Liberal, Conservative and Labour—had no hesitation in declaring these trials to be inspired by anti-Semitic motives, though they differed as to the real reasons for so base a technique.

We give a few extracts from newspapers of standing, with differing political views.

Times (28.11.1952)

THE ROAD TO THE GALLOWS

The decline and fall of Rudolf Slansky exactly follows the pattern which was drawn in Russia during the thirties for removing leaders of a Communist State. Dismissal from office is followed by a long period of imprisonment, which culminates in a trial, self-accusation, and death. . . .

While the present state of the world may explain the form in which the indictment against Slansky and his group was drawn it does not explain why any trial should have been thought necessary in Czechoslovakia at this moment. . . .

A possible explanation is that since the end of the war, and more particularly since the *coup d'Etat* of February, 1948, the struggle for power between the two dominant personalities in the Czech Communist Party, Slansky and President Gottwald, has become so fierce that it could be resolved only by the elimination of one of them.

Once the elimination of Slansky had been decided upon (which naturally involved the fall of his closest associates and protégés) the full catalogue of current crimes had to be fastened on to them.

Among these crimes Zionism has taken a conspicuous place. Zionism has always been a proscribed movement in Communist countries, but never before has it been credited with such malevolent power as in this trial. Eleven of the fourteen accused were Jews, and throughout the trial their race and their racial links with the outside world were emphasised.

The trial of Slansky follows several on a smaller scale recently at which Czechoslovaks have been accused of treason and sabotage. These give evidence of considerable dislocation in the economic life of Czechoslovakia and of discontent among the workers. Communism cannot thrive without scapegoats; and apparently the more prominent they are the more salutary is considered the warning.

Manchester Guardian (27.11.52)

DANCE OF DEATH

The dance of death that is being enacted in Prague is familiar. It was enacted at the trials of Rajk and Kostov; its most obvious parallel is the spate of trials that wiped out most of the Communist old guard in Russia fifteen years ago. But to the outside world that can only listen to the voices of the self-condemned as Prague radio broadcasts them from Pankrac prison the ritual is as ghastly and fantastic as ever. . . .

Why the trial is being held at this time is, as always, a matter for conjecture. . . .

It may be that all of them are now being used as scapegoats for the difficulties of which the Czech Communists, faced with the task of subjugating an advanced and wideawake society, have had more than their share. . . .

But the fourteen accused are scapegoats in a new sense. Eleven of them are Jews, and for the first time in an important trial of this kind Zionism has been made one of the main charges.

Communist propagandists have been busy for some time denouncing Zionism as a "cosmopolitan ideology" and Israel as a "tool of the imperialists." But now a precise motive is beginning to appear for the tremendous publicity given at the trial of the so-called Zionist conspiracy. Among the crimes imputed to Israel by the Czech Communist newspaper *Rude Pravo* is its functions as "a base . . . directed against the enslaved Arab nations." The Middle East is a promising field for Communist agitation; denunciation of Zionism in these terms is a promising theme. Besides this the trial has most likely given the signal for a recrudescence of anti-Semitism in Eastern Europe, where it has deep roots.

The Communists still insist that anti-Zionism does not imply anti-Semitism. But the way in which the accused have been identified and have identified themselves as "Jewish bourgeois

nationalists" suggests the contrary. If to be a Jewish bourgeois is not worse than to be a plain bourgeois, then why mention it?

For all the differences between one form of tyranny and another the methods they use to divide and distract their subjects are strikingly similar. But this trial is calculated to strike terror into all Czechs, Jews and Gentiles, Communists and non-Communists. They now know, if they needed to be told, that the slightest contact with the West is fatal (even "extending economic links with the West" has been judged a crime, in the teeth of Mr. Stalin's "peaceful coexistence") and that not even the most highly placed are safe. The only question is to what further desperate remedies the Czech Communists will be driven in their effort to keep the prison walls staunch.

Yorkshire Post (27.11.52)

PERSECUTION IN PRAGUE

Another travesty of a trial has reached its close behind the Iron Curtain. It has followed exactly the grim precedent of earlier events of the kind. Vladimir Clementis, the former Communist Foreign Minister of Czechoslovakia, and Rudolf Slansky, former general-secretary of the Communist Party in that country, with other unhappy victims, have been arraigned on such charges as espionage and sabotage. One after another the prisoners have gone into the witness-box and have confessed themselves traitors, Titoists, Trotskyists or agents of Western capitalism. . . .

A new feature in the present trials is particularly disturbing. It is the introduction of an anti-Zionist note. One prisoner, Geminder, is said to have been in touch "with international Jewry," a phrase that has a Nazi ring; and Zionism is classed with Trotskyism and Titoism among the crimes committed by some of the accused. Will this prove a signal for Communist moves against the unfortunate Jews in Eastern Europe who have suffered such cruel oppression during the past 20 years?

Economist (29.11.52)

MOSCOW'S CHANGE OF TACTICS

This is also the first of the satellite show trials in which Zionism receives more than a glancing blow, although for some time it has been growing clearer that the remaining Jews in

Eastern Europe are again to be penalised. Most of the accused are Jews, and the greatest emphasis has been laid on their origins and on the help and encouragement that they gave to the new State of Israel. It is true that Communism is traditionally anti-Zionist; but it is conveniently forgotten that four years ago this in no way prevented the Russians from making every effort to win Israel over to the Communist camp. . . .

Anti-Zionism is not, however, officially accompanied by anti-Semitism; a careful distinction is still drawn between the two. All the same it looks as if Gottwald, Gheorgiu-Dej and the rest are using the latent anti-Semitism of the East Europeans as a safety valve for popular discontent.

Daily Herald (8.12.52)

ANTI-SEMITISM

So the International Communist conspiracy is now using anti-Semitism as one of its political weapons. The word "Zionist" takes its place among official Communist terms of abuse, alongside "warmonger," "Imperialist," and "Titoite."

How grotesquely similar are the antics of the modern police states. The Communists imitate Hitler not only in the barbarous injustices of framed-up trials, but even in the propaganda tricks designed to excuse them.

Belfast Telegraph (28.11.52)

ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE

The Prague trials, which have ended in death sentences on eleven former Communist leaders and life sentences on three others, have followed the familiar pattern, but it is important that they should be appreciated in the free world as another fantastic example of Communist justice. . . .

It is noteworthy that eleven of the fourteen defendants were Jewish and that they were charged among other things with taking part in "a Zionist plot." Communist propagandists have been busy denouncing Zionism, but this is the first time it has been listed as a conspiracy, which would seem to indicate that Stalin has adopted anti-Jewish tactics after the manner of Hitler. . . .

The Scotsman (28.11.52)

PRAGUE PURGE

Eleven out of the fourteen accused in the Prague trial have been sentenced to death. The others have been condemned to life imprisonment. This was just another callously stage-managed trial on the Soviet model. Slansky, the leading figure, was the chief Czech architect of the Communist *putsch* in 1948. . . .

Gottwald and Zapotocky, the Czech Prime Minister, turned the tables on Slansky, by beginning an attack on "cosmopolitanism"—meaning the Jews. This happened to coincide with a phase of Russian policy in which the Jews are beginning to figure as the chief enemies of mankind. . . .

There is no doubt that the trial had an anti-Jewish slant. Eleven of the accused were Jews. Hitler could hardly have done better than Stalin on this occasion. Slansky, the model secretary of the Czech Communist Party, confessed to being a Jewish capitalist. Apparently even the Communist M.I.5 is not perfect. Perhaps Stalin has been reading some of Hitler's speeches.

Communist propaganda has recently been denouncing Zionism while pretending that Soviet policy is not anti-Semitic. In the elections in Israel the Communists were routed, and the Soviet have apparently taken the view that Israel has become an American-controlled base for action against the enslaved Arab nations. As a faithful disciple of Hitler, Stalin will really have to rewrite history a little more thoroughly than he has hitherto done. Karl Marx will have to be eliminated.

Christian (28.11.52)

AT THE MERCY OF CAPRICE

The remark of Edmund Burke, contemplating the fate of Robespierre and other originators of the Reign of Terror in France, 160 years ago, that Revolutions devour their own children, is still being exemplified by the succession of "purges" of former Communist leaders in all the countries behind the Iron Curtain. The present Czech trials follow the sinister pattern of the Russian purges. . . .

The Soviet leaders, following Czarist precedent in this as in

other policies, have become anti-Semitic, with the result that the aid given several years ago by the Czech Government to Jews who wished to emigrate to Israel, is now listed as a crime calling for condign punishment.

Irish News (Belfast) (28.11.52)

THE TRIALS AT PRAGUE

The trials at Prague are not new. We have been made familiar with such trials ever since Communist regimes established themselves in Czechoslovakia and other countries. But this one was distinguished by an undisguised anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic character. The accused were described in the official indictment as being of Jewish origin, and the prosecutor not alone referred to them as Zionists and of Jewish origin, but declared that the Ben-Gurion Government in Israel was "servile to the United States," and that the "building of Socialism is contrary to the most elementary interests of Zionist elements."

New York Herald-Tribune (3.12.52)

THE DARK DESIGN

Eleven Czechoslovakian Communists have been condemned to be hanged and three sentenced to life imprisonment for alleged crimes against the State. Since tenure of office in Communist lands is uncertain and dismissal is likely to come in the form of a noose or a firing squad, this result of the Prague trials is not unexpected. But other aspects of the rise and fall of Vladimir Clementis and his associates have a grim significance that extends beyond the individual tragedies and the exposure of the brutal methods of the Red bureaucracy.

The accusations of a "Jewish plot" levelled against the men, the attacks upon Zionism and Israel, are already producing repercussions among the Jews behind the Iron Curtain and tremors in the Middle East. . . .

The specific reasons why the Communists are borrowing the Nazi weapon of anti-Semitism are obscure. Unrest in Czechoslovakia and other satellite countries might be one explanation, with the Jews offered up as scapegoats for the crimes and errors of the Red masters. Another possibility is that the Kremlin has decided to woo the Arab States actively and to stir up further

trouble in the disturbed Middle East by identifying itself with Arab nationalism and renouncing its pro-Israeli past. . . .

The Daily Telegraph

And finally special articles in the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Manchester Guardian* are worth noting. In the *Daily Telegraph* of the 27th November, David Floyd, in "Why Communism has Turned Anti-Semitic," writes :

"There is, however, an entirely new element about the Slansky trial to which it is our duty to pay attention. For by its undisguised anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic character it has added a new crime to the Stalinist-Communist codex. Only seven years after the defeat of Nazism President Gottwald, fresh from consultations in Moscow, has staged a trial the one clear message of which is that Jewish birth is to be the cause of discrimination throughout the Communist world.

"The producers of the 'trial' have spared no pains to make their point clear. Eleven of the fourteen men accused are described in the official indictment as being 'of Jewish origin,' without any reference to their Czech nationality. Clementis is described as 'a Slovak,' and Frank as 'a Czech.' But the others are just Jews, in Czech Communist eyes.

"It is also clear that the high proportion of Jews among the defendants has been deliberately arranged. For there were many other equally important non-Jews, who were allegedly implicated in the 'conspiracy' and who were referred to in evidence but who were not brought before the court. . . .

"Slansky and his associates 'of Jewish origin' had, in fact, done everything in their power to dissociate themselves from Jewry and Zionism and had themselves committed many anti-Semitic acts. Their present 'confession' of loyalty to the cause of Zionism are as nonsensical as their admitting to having been British and American agents. But to the average Czech Jew and to the two-and-a-half million Jews still living behind the Iron Curtain the anti-Semitic tone of the trial is as ominous as a speech by Goebbels. . . ."

The Manchester Guardian

And in the *Manchester Guardian* of the 29th November, under the title, "Subjugating the Satellites," B. G. Kratochvil, former Czechoslovak Ambassador to Great Britain, writes :

“ For some months I have been collecting material for a study of the status of Jews in Czechoslovakia. So far I have found hardly any classical racial or economic forms of official anti-Semitism. I found, of course, many proofs of the political anti-Israeli and anti-Zionist attitude. This trial, however, changes the picture and reveals a new approach by the authorities towards the Jews. Although Prague is trying to clear itself of the suspicion of a Nazi pattern of anti-Semitism, this trial aimed at provoking anti-Semitic feelings in the population and thus diverting public wrath and dissatisfaction to the Jews. . . .

“ The trial is aimed at discrediting the State of Israel, attacking the policy of the United States towards it, smearing Jewry and flattering the Arab States. As it is Moscow that stage-manages this trial it is pretty safe to assume that the Kremlin wishes to manifest even more active interest in the Arab States and wishes to stress Soviet sympathy with the ‘ peace-loving people and the enslaved Arab nations.’ ”

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