

REAL DANGER FOR THE JEWS

The news item most likely to affect the security of the Jew was on the front pages last week -- but the Jewish community paid no attention.

The local and national Jewish public affairs agencies may have become "horse-and-buggy" mechanisms in a jet age. Perhaps it's a sign that while we weep over the Holocaust we have not learned its lessons.

The event which the Jewish community ignored last week was the matter of Soviet troops and military build-up in Cuba.

There are about 11 million Jews in the United States, Israel and the Soviet Union, about 80 per cent of the world Jewish population. Their fate depends directly on the outcome of the "contest" between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The only force capable of toppling Israel is the Soviet Union. The only major force interested in toppling Israel is the Soviet Union. Of course, the Soviet leaders wanted Israel there in the first place, and don't want it to disappear until it has served its purpose: the development of Arab conquerors who are Soviet-connected. That is the function of the PLO leadership, which the Soviet Union supports and supplies.

It is Sadat's understanding of that basic truth about the Soviet Union which has helped to keep the Egyptian-Israeli peace intact so far, even against the bumbling of the U.S. State Department. The Saudi feudal lords understand that basic truth also, and are trying to play both ends against the middle, without any constructive pressure from the State Department.

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The Soviet Union is the world's leading producer of anti-semitic material. But that is only symptomatic. The Soviet Union is a totalitarian country. Anti-semitism is a basic political weapon of western totalitarianism. *That* is a prime lesson of the Holocaust.

The presence of anti-semites and of anti-semitic vandalism in any country is always loathesome and actionable, but it does not in itself indicate that an anti-semitic regime is on the way. There were many more anti-semites and much more anti-semitic vandalism in the U.S. in the 1930s than there is today. But Nazism took place in Germany, not in the United States. That was because totalitarianism took place in Germany.

Even within the United States today, the most serious and dangerous public anti-semitism comes from a Soviet-connected issue. The most profound public charge of "dual loyalty" which has been made against American Jews since the 1930s was made recently by a supporter of Andrew Young's position on the PLO.

The future of totalitarianism is Soviet-connected. The future of major political anti-semitism is Soviet-connected. The contest between the Soviet Union and the U.S. is the contest between totalitarianism and democracy. The security of 11 million Jews rests on that contest, a contest of ideas and wills.

Last week the contest of wills was taking place in Cuba. Initially the American will was not as resolute as it had once been, as exhibited by President John F. Kennedy. The total American-Soviet contest was being seriously affected -- as was the fate of 11 million Jews.

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But was there any Action Alert from the JCRC? Or from the national Jewish agencies? No. Of course, they were not in a position to do so, there having developed neither a consensus nor a pervasive sense in the Jewish community that this was even a matter for special Jewish concern. That in itself may be a fatal sign of the failure of our agencies to shift gears and keep up with our real defense needs.

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