

Soviet Anti-Semitism

"From the first days of the Nazi German state, mutual contacts were established between the Nazi leadership of Germany and the ring-leaders of the leading Zionist organizations, and cooperation beneficial to both sides was arranged."

That historical note was just struck in a book published by the Soviet presses, titled Wild Wormwood of Treachery. Written by one Samoilovich Solodar, a well-known Soviet author and dramatist, the book proves that there is really nothing new in the world of anti-semitism.

Well, some fellow from Phoenix did just come up with a new explanation of the "historic tie" between international communism and the Jews. You will recall from your Genesis that Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage which was described as "red -" presumably red lentils. Indeed, it is now explained, the contemporary Jews are descended from the Edomites, and when the Jews set up their international Communist conspiracy, they identified themselves as "Reds," in honor of their ancient red pottage.

However, no such ingenuity is being exercised in the Soviet Union; and that story would scarcely serve their purposes in any case. The standard Soviet line is that Zionism is just the instrument of rich Jews for strengthening world capitalism/imperialism -- and for creating the State of Israel as sovereign instrument of American and world capitalism/imperialism.

Yuri Ivanov, a theorist on Jewish matters for official Soviet journals, has framed the official definition: "Zionism is the ideology, the complex system of organizations and the political practice of the big Jewish bourgeoisie which has merged with the monopolistic circles of the United States and other imperialistic powers."

This anti-semitic litany is streaming out of the Soviet presses, coupled with the continued halt in Soviet Jewish emigration. These anti-Jewish devices serve a

political purpose. Whether the Soviet leaders actually dislike Jews is irrelevant. As one Soviet diplomat recently told an American diplomat in private: "if you will give us economic detente, we'll give you all the Jews you want." And the general anti-semitism serves the Soviet Union's foreign policy stance.

In the hullabaloo, we tend to forget that most Middle East conflicts must be framed within the larger global conflict that is going on. Beneath their anti-semitic perversion, Samoilivich Soladar and Yuri Ivanov have a point: America's fate and Israel's fate are linked. Those people who attack Israel -- and "Zionism" -- also attack the U.S.; those people who attack the U.S. also attack Israel. It is the free anti-totalitarian world which is under attack.

The American people understand that. As of last Monday, there had been four national polls of American public opinion since the Lebanese action: Gallup, Harris, the Los Angeles Times and CBS. All demonstrated continuing general support for Israel, even where indicating some reservations about the full nature of the Israeli military operation. All of the polls indicate that Americans still favor the Israelis over the Arabs by at least a five to one margin; in some cases the margin was higher than ever before. And fewer than 10 per cent of all Americans thought that the U.S. should criticize Israel. America and Israel are bound together.

So Soviet anti-semitism serves a negative purpose for them, linking Zionism to the United States. But in serving that purpose, Soviet anti-semitism is in itself frightening and dangerous for Soviet Jews -- whose captive condition we must never forget.