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International links fostered by the British League of St. George

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international links
fostered by

the British League of St. George

Contact between antisemitic and neo-fascist bodies in various parts of the world is maintained by the British League of St. George which describes itself as "a non-party, non-sectarian political club, expressing a philosophy based on patriotism and dedicated to the principle of an ordered society within the context of our European civilisation". The League "recognises the threat to our traditions and standards in the existence of Marxist-Communism in its many guises" and "will liaise with European and other movements or groups whose philosophy can be identified with that of the League".

They do not on that account enjoy the good will of the National Front whose chief propagandist Martin Webster in fact has denounced the League as "a front for 'European nationalism'" and "a danger to British nationalism" (*Spearhead*, August and September 1975) because they were fostering international links (just as Mosley is despised because of his "European" interests). However, the League appears to be bearing no grudges and its 24 pp. *League Review*, December 1977, grants generous publicity to the National Front, also to the Front's break-away body, J. Kingsley Read's National Party (now known as the Democratic National Party).

Likewise the *League Review* features a report on the German neo-Nazi Manfred Roeder who addressed meetings, under League auspices, in London, Leeds and Stoke on Trent. Other friends are the Malmö-based *Sveriges Nationella Förbund* (Foreign Section), with its paper *Aktinform*, and the Canadian Western Guard Universal, with its two newsletters *News Focus*, edited by Paul Fromm, and *Campus Alternative* circulating in Canadian universities.

The following publications are advertised: *Christian Vanguard* and *The Thunderbolt*, the latter organ of the US National States Rights Party whose chairman, J. B. Stoner, once visited Britain as guest of the League; two minor British papers, *Candour*, (of the Candour League) and *The Raven Banner* (published by a London "Odinist Committee");

The Northlander, organ of the Northern League, Amsterdam; *Attakk*, published by the Norwegian Front, Oslo, and *Perseverance*, published by the Hungarist Movement, Merredin, Western Australia.

Other contacts are the Spanish *Cedade* which advertises an illustrated book on Hitler with excerpts from *Mein Kampf*; an apparently new White Solidarity Movement, Washington; a French newsletter *Europe Notre Patrie*, edited by Micheline Peyrebonne, and two Flemish newsletters, *HARO*, published by the Flemish Militant Order (VMO), and *Nieuwsbrief* (in English) published by the *Were Di* organisation. There is also a Japanese correspondent, Elji Kobayashi.

A foremost item in the League's propaganda is the whitewashing of Nazi Germany which is claimed to have been "guilty of no worse behaviour than any other combatant in the last war", certainly no worse than Britain "for its 'Terror Bombing' of the worker districts of German cities". An attack on the "liaisons and adulterations of the Vatican" refers to the Encyclical *Mit Brennender Sorge* of 1937 which, it is said, "gave weight to all the lies being preached in Britain and America about the excesses of National Socialism in Germany".

★

A National Front of Canada is about to come into being. Its apparent begetter, Hal Thompson, of Sarnia, Ontario, presents himself in the November 1977 issue of the British NF paper *Spearhead* where he writes about "Canada's urgent need" — "the formation of an entirely new party, a party that has completely shaken off the political dead-weight of at least half a century". He explains: "My recent visit to see at first hand the work of the National Front in Britain was so that I might contribute to the birth of such a party for only a National Front of Canada can reforge those vital ties of blood between Britain and our Dominions".

With his hankering after the past, Thompson gives Hitler credit for the "apparently curious offer to guarantee the British Empire", while Churchill is blamed for "his compulsion to follow the wrong course".

★

Desecrations of a Vienna synagogue (*Seitenstettergasse*) and a Jewish cemetery last summer were denounced by the city's Protestant Bishop Dr Sakrausky who "condemned, in the strongest terms, all actions directed

against the Jewish people in our country". On the other hand, the Archbishop of Vienna, Cardinal König, was conspicuous by his silence. A request for comment, addressed to him by the Austrian Campaign against Antisemitism, drew no response until three weeks later when the Cardinal's Secretary, while affirming "the Roman Catholic Church's identification with Jewish fellow-citizens", supplied a quotation from an article—a nondescript book review—in the Vienna *Kirchenzeitung* where it had been said: "Today it is often difficult to distinguish truth from untruth. When Jewish tombstones are daubed with anti-Jewish slogans, it is by no means certain that the daubers were antisemites. They may well have been people wishing to discredit groups notorious for their antisemitism". No further comment was deemed necessary.

Of the big political parties only one, the Freedom Party (FPÖ) "most strongly denounced" the outrage as "a detestable act of irresponsible people". None of the other parties—the Social Democrats (led by Herr Bruno Kreisky himself a Jew), the Austrian People's Party and the Communists — felt moved to speak up; nor did the trade unions or the Federation of Austrian Youth.

The Minister of the Interior kindly showed some understanding for "a reaction by our Jewish fellow-citizens which perhaps overrated the actual significance of the incidents", particularly "since many of them had suffered from the effects of antisemitism and Nazism". He gave an assurance that he would devote special attention to the safety of the Jews as indeed to any other group that might be exposed to defamation. He deprecated any attempts to judge Austria by the excesses of a few people if only because both Government and Parliament included many members who had personally resisted fascism and antisemitism. The Mayor of Vienna ordered the damage to be repaired at the city's expense.

In an editorial comment, the Newsletter of the Campaign against Antisemitism (*Mitteilungsblatt*) noted the widespread lack of any vigorous reaction; there had been some uproar in the press, it was said, "but where was the spontaneous reaction by the people, the scores of readers' letters condemning the daubings? where was the protest of the big public bodies and institutions? Where is there a manifestation of militant resistance to such provocations?"

South African Jews' dilemma

As the whole of the white community in South Africa now looks upon itself as a beleaguered fortress, the Jews like the rest assess the stake they have in the country. In a major study recently published of Johannesburg Jewry which numbers more than half of the total — 62,000 out of 116,000 — a Jewish Professor of Witwatersrand University, Dr. Allie Dubb, found them well integrated into white society, differing only on some aspects of Apartheid such as the prohibition against non-whites filling certain jobs, total disenfranchisement and the limitations of contacts across the colour line. On the whole Jews are thought to have perhaps stronger links than most with black attitudes and interests.

This obviously is the reason why relatively few of them care to join the (ruling) Nationalist Party. A poll on the question of party membership and support produced the following results: Nationalist Party members, two per cent, supporters, 13 per cent; United Party members, six per cent, supporters 22 per cent; Progressive Party members, six per cent, supporters, 11 per cent. (The United and Progressive parties recently joined forces in the Progressive Federal Party). The position is reflected in the new Parliament, of November 1977, where three out of the four Jewish M.P.s belong to the Progressives.

Jews are comparatively conspicuous in students' movements trying to promote radical socio-political change. On the other hand (writes Professor Marcus Arkin, Director-General of the S.A. Zionist Federation) Jewish support for the conservative elements of the one-time United Party was by no means negligible, and Jewish names are prominent in establishment organisations like the non-party-political South Africa Foundation. Generally speaking, of course, Jews do not follow a collective line, any more than others, and the S.A. Board of Deputies has repeatedly insisted that Jews involved in politics must act as individuals, not as representatives of the Jewish community. Where S.A. Jewry differs from other white sectors is the manner in which its outlook is determined by its Zionist background and its relations with Israel.