

ADL goes on Jap-bashing spree

by Jeffrey Steinberg

Some 160 future Anti-Defamation League (ADL) bigshots descended on Washington, D.C. from March 18 to 20 for the group's 12th Annual Leadership Conference. And while the national media were playing up the growing tensions between the Bush administration and the Jewish community over the President's harsh warnings against expanded Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem, ADL officials spent the better part of their three-day visit being briefed and courted by some rather senior White House and administration officials.

- Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher, just back from a trip to Tokyo, delivered the luncheon keynote on March 19;

- National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft gave a briefing at Old Executive Office Building, joined there by the National Security Council's Director for European and Soviet Affairs, Condoleezza Rice;

- William Bennett, the President's Director of National Drug Control Policy, briefed the ADLers on the Bush administration's so-called War on Drugs;

- Health and Human Services Secretary Louis W. Sullivan met with the delegation;

- State Department officials Aaron Miller of the Policy Planning staff, Richard Schifter, Assistant Secretary for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, and Irvin Hicks, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of African Affairs, delivered a several-hour briefing at Foggy Bottom on March 20.

Not to be outdone by the Executive Branch, four U.S. senators, including three Democrats, Christopher Bond (R-Mo.), Bennett Johnston (D-La.), Herbert Kohl (D-Wisc.), and Howard Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), also gave the ADLers a two-hour briefing on Capitol Hill.

Anti-semitism in Japan?

The most telling signal of the ADL's wish to keep a place on the Bush team—despite tensions over the Israel-Palestine issue—was the dialogue between ADL National Chairman Burton Levinson and Secretary Mosbacher on the question of Japan. After hearing a carefully crafted diatribe against unfair Japanese trade practices by Secretary Mosbacher, Levinson launched into an incredible pitch about growing anti-Semitism in Japan and the proliferation of anti-Jewish propaganda.

The Levinson outburst of Jap-bashing reminded some

astute observers in the audience of the ADL's Reagan-era role in the Project Democracy covert effort to support the Contra rebels in Nicaragua, an effort that put the nominally tax-exempt charity group in bed with the Ollie North-Richard Secord "Enterprise." To this day, two former ADL Fact Finding Division employees, Carl Gershman and David Lowe, run the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

Russian Jews for U.S. grain

At a behind-closed-doors reception at the Israeli Embassy hosted by Ambassador Moshe Arad on March 19, the ADL delegation received a tough briefing on the need for the American Jewish community to speak with "one voice" on the issue of unfettered Soviet Jewish emigration to Israel. "President Bush distorted the peace process by inserting the issues of emigration and East Jerusalem," Ambassador Arad told the crowd. Israel needs enough aid to solve the housing and job crunch that will come as the result of an estimated two million Russian Jews migrating to Israel. The incoming Russian Jews must be "free to travel and live" wherever they wish, Arad said, according to an eyewitness account. At one point, in an apparent reference to President Bush's more recent softened remarks on the Jerusalem issue, a member of the ADL delegation commented, "Peewee Herman at the White House is toning down."

The ADL has been in the forefront of back-channel dealings between the Bush administration and Moscow over linking liberalized Russian Jewish emigration to Israel with the repeal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment and the increase of American grain shipments to the Soviet Union. The ADL's leading fundraiser and national commissioner Edgar Bronfman—along with another major ADL funder, Archer Daniels Midland grain merchant Dwayne Andreas—held a secret meeting at Bronfman's New York City apartment in January 1989 in order to broker a Moscow-authored grain-for-emigration deal. Up until the recent flak over the issue of expanded Jewish settlements in the West Bank areas stretching outward from East Jerusalem, the Bush administration had given its unqualified endorsement to the Gorbachov-Bronfman-Andreas scheme.

As longtime readers of *EIR* will recall, back in the fall of 1982 Bronfman and a gaggle of ADL-linked financiers gathered at the Negev Desert ranch of Gen. Ariel Sharon to plot out a real estate scam aimed at secretly purchasing large amounts of Arab-owned land in the occupied territories in anticipation of a future real estate boom of new Jewish settlements occupied by the very flood of Russian Jewish immigrants being herded to Israel under the terms of the deals now worked out between the Bronfman crowd and their friends in Moscow.

The ADL's cynical fronting for "Czar" Mikhail Gorbachov in the grain-for-immigrants deal puts the group squarely in the corner of those whose actions are driving the Middle East inexorably in the direction of war.