

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

Confrontationists arrive in Bonn

Propaganda campaigns of the WJC and ADL are undermining Judeo-Christian perspectives for cooperation in Germany.

On Jan. 12, Speaker of Parliament Rita Süßmuth received guests from the United States at her Bonn office: a delegation of the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), led by its president Melvin Saalberg, wanted information about the recent pattern of racist attacks and violence in Germany.

The ADL had been invited by Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and was scheduled to meet also with Chancellor Helmut Kohl and cabinet officials during its two-day visit. The ADL proposed the use in Germany of its "A World of Difference" program, to train educators about what it claims are methods to combat racism.

It is the height of absurdity that the ADL should be a partner in "combating racism." Not only is the ADL linked to organized crime and famous for manufacturing "anti-Semitic" incidents in order to increase its own gate receipts; it is also a spearhead of the current black propaganda campaigns against Germany, especially after the collapse of the East German regime in late 1989.

There are many Jews who reject the ADL and the associated World Jewish Congress (WJC) on well-founded grounds that they merely exploiting paranoia among Jews and Christians, by a clever marketing of products called "Holocaust" and "return of the Holocaust."

One of the most outspoken critics of this unscrupulous marketing policy (which neglects the ongoing holocaust suffered by the civilian population of Bosnia under Serbian attacks) has been the historian Michael Wolffsohn, an Israeli-born Jew who has lived in Germany for 20 years. He has

repeatedly charged U.S. Jewish groups around Edgar Bronfman's WJC with turning the Nazi Holocaust into a modern, profit-centered, political blackmail industry against Germany.

The reasons for this, Wolffsohn wrote on Sept. 25, 1992 in the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, lie in the present-day composition of the Jewish diaspora in the United States, but more broadly in the "fundamental dilemma of the Jewish community on a world scale.

"Like most Christians, most Jews are secularized, today. Religion is, therefore, neither determining their being nor their conscience. Only a Conservative or Orthodox minority knows and is still practicing Jewishness as a religion. . . . A second traditional pillar of the Jews was their history. Through auto-amputation, the present-day Jewish community has allowed about 4,000 years of Jewish history to shrink down to 12 years of the Nazi era and Holocaust.

"Deprived of religion and history, Jewish identity today can only be built by the Holocaust. For that purpose, the Jewish world needs the Holocaust as a builder of Jewish identity," Wolffsohn mourned. "And to achieve that, it also needs Germany: no longer the real Germany which is committed to democracy and human rights today, but rather the murderous image of national-socialist Germany, or a Germany that seems to be almost national-socialist once again.

"That is why in the United States and other diaspora communities, Holocaust memorials are growing from the soil like mushrooms. Under no cir-

cumstances, does the Jewish community need the image of the real Germany of today, but it needs the distorted image of the neo-Nazi Germany. It is in this context that one has to locate the disproportionate attention spent on xenophobia in Germany. Twenty percent for Le Pen in France or for his co-thinkers in Belgium is less stirring than 5 or 10% for right-wing extremists in Germany."

Observing that the Germans' response is to become increasingly callous on real Jewish issues, and that the WJC, ADL, and similar groups influence U.S. policymakers, Wolffsohn warned that "the German-Jewish-American scissors is cutting wider and wider."

Wolffsohn's concerns have been echoed by the Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation. On the same day the ADL met with Süßmuth and Kohl, it declared that "Jewish identity is more than Holocaust."

"It has been observed again and again that in the conscience of the public and in the education sector, the history of the Jews has been essentially reduced to the Holocaust and, eventually, also earlier pogroms," the statement read. "It is, however, as important to know about the genuine character of the Jews and their (historic) contribution to Europe and its various cultures."

The community of Jews in Germany is very small today (40,000 members). But 150,000 Jews from the former U.S.S.R., prompted by pogroms, have registered for migration to Germany. They are not deterred by news about racist attacks, but they can't leave because Bronfmanites in the United States and Israel have told Bonn not to let them in. The motive behind this is obvious: Mass immigration of Jews to Germany would destroy black propaganda lies about a "new German anti-Semitism."