

David Evanier

ADOLF'S FRIEND AT THE U.N.

And we're not talking about Kurt Waldheim.

Consider for a moment Ma'aruf-al-Dawalibi, president of the World Muslim Congress. The congress participated in the U.N. North American Regional NGO [Non-Governmental Organization] Symposium on the Question of Palestine last July. In 1984, Dawalibi spoke at a U.N. seminar at Geneva entitled, "The Encouragement of Understanding and Respect in Matters Relating to Freedom of Religion and Belief." He told the seminar he had read at least sixteen French books when he studied in Paris during World War II which proved that the Talmud, the Jewish religious book of law, teaches that "if a Jew does not drink every year the blood of a non-Jewish man, then he will be damned for eternity." Dawalibi explained that each year Jews kidnap and slaughter a non-Jewish boy. He told a little tale about a barber whom the Jews ordered to kill a priest and the priest's servant and to gather their blood. The barber "admitted to have killed him and gathered his blood. . . .

He was then asked about what happened with the bodies and he admitted to have cut them in pieces, put them in sacks. . . . They went to the field and found in the river the skull and various members. . . . [The barber] then added that a Jewish physician is not allowed to give a true medicine to someone who is not Israelite to the exclusion of medical experiments in the same way it is done with dogs. . . . And the barber stressed that this is the viewpoint of the Jewish religion to the non-Israelite. He then brought up another part of the Talmud which says that the whole world is the property of Israel and that the wealth, the blood and the souls of the non-Israelites are Israel's. This, Mister Chairman, this belief is the reason which has caused the discrimination and oppression against the Jews since the era of Nebuchadussor to the era of Israel.

James Finn, principal U.S. partici-

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pant in the Geneva seminar and editor of Freedom House's *Freedom at Issue*, promptly protested Dawalibi's remarks at the time. He told me, "The whole thing was astounding. At the end Dawalibi said we have to ask why Hitler killed the Jews. As if that were a perfectly sensible question with a rational answer."

The Board of Global Ministries at the United Methodist Church had a delegate at the U.N. symposium, but no one would tell me who it was.

Take Robert McClean, Board of Church and Society, United Methodist Church. Since McClean said he had not taken part in the symposium, but that the church's Board of Global Ministries had, I asked him who I could speak to at the Board of Global Ministries. Who was the delegate?

He replied, "I think you'll just have to find that out for yourself. I just don't feel like being very nice, when

you're obviously making trouble."

In reaction to my reading to him over the phone Dawalibi's remarks about the drinking of blood, he said: "I don't know about that."

"But what is your response?"

"I don't know. Just because you say he said it . . . you know, what I'm saying is, these are large, this is sorta like, well, what would they be in Christian or Jewish terms? What would they be? This would be sorta like . . . the . . . gosh, I don't know . . . American Jewish Congress would be similar . . . New Rabbinical Association . . . You're not dealing with some Johnny-come-lately or what have you here. . . . It's like writing an article about the Vatican."

"If provided with the documentation, would you speak out against them?"

"You're making the judgment. . . . If the documentation were from The American Spectator I would think this is a bunch of nonsense. Misinformation,

disinformation, and probably damn lies. . . . The publication you say you're representing is one of the least respectable journals, one of the smeariest sheets that is printed in the United States. It doesn't say much about your character either."

I called the U.N. office of the United Methodist Church and spoke to its director, Mia Adjali. She would not give me the name of the delegate from the Board of Global Ministries either. She would, however, forward my request to the delegate in due course, and if the delegate wished to contact me, perhaps she would.

"I am not allowed to give out names of representatives," she said.

"You mean there is no one at the Board of Global Ministries who will discuss this subject?"

"I don't know what it is that you want to discuss. I will send her a copy of your newspaper and ask her if she wants to be interviewed by you. I doubt very much she's heard of it. . . . I can't imagine why it's important for us to answer questions about the World Muslim Congress. That is not our organization."



NGOs are private groups which have been granted advisory status with the U.N.'s Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to serve as adjuncts to the official diplomacy—in effect, as propaganda arms—of the U.N. According to the U.N. rules governing the NGOs, they are "to promote the aims, objectives, and purposes of the U.N. and further the understanding of its work." The Council has urged the Secretary-General in his administrative capacity to "exclude all those organizations whose aims or practices tend or contribute to the propagation of Nazi ideology and racial and/or religious discrimination."

The NGO committee of ECOSOC meets once a year to certify or re-certify the status of NGOs. Once certified by

ECOSOC, NGOs receive access to U.N. facilities. Their members can eat in the U.N. restaurants, sit in the lounge, mingle with U.N. delegates. They can consult and lobby. The NGOs' status with the U.N. gives them a prestige they would not have as individual groups and gives their declarations a certain public relations value—in this case redounding to the benefit of such organizations as the PLO.

Since the 1970s, Soviet international front groups have played a key role in the coordination of NGO activities. (One of these, the Christian Peace Conference, participated in last July's symposium.) National affiliates of Soviet fronts have also become involved. Among the groups present at the symposium were Women for Racial and Economic Equality, an activist group whose leaders include prominent Communist Party USA members, and the National Conference of Black Lawyers, which is affiliated with the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (identified by the State Department as a Soviet front).

The World Muslim Congress holds status as a Category I NGO, the highest available. This category is reserved for world-wide, as distinct from national, organizations. The World Peace Council also holds Category I status. Presumably such groups have international standing.

In 1985 the World Muslim Congress joined with forty-two other NGOs at the U.N. to plan their annual anti-Israel campaign in the United States and Canada. The three-day symposium at U.N. headquarters in New York was sponsored by the U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

A decision taken by the Committee

in 1982 initiated the formation of a pro-PLO body of NGOs. The Committee, which was formed at the time the 1975 "Zionism is Racism" resolution was adopted, sought collaboration with organizations representing a broad spectrum of interests to gain access to the local populations represented by the NGOs and shape their thinking on the Middle East. Savitri Kunadi, India's

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permanent representative to the U.N., and a member of the Committee, said at the 1985 symposium that the NGOs have been regarded from their inception "as a valuable asset in [the Committee's] struggle for Palestinian rights."

Throughout the symposium, discussion focused on American public opinion, the U.S. media, and the role to be played by the NGOs in reshaping both toward a pro-Palestinian position. Zehdi Labib Terzi, the PLO's U.N. observer, expressing alarm at the "ignorance" of the American public on the Palestinian issue, urged "consciousness raising" techniques such as polls and surveys specifically designed to promote American identification with the Palestinian cause.

One of the World Muslim Congress's representatives at the symposium was Issa Nakhleh, an attorney who has served as U.N. Observer of the Arab Higher Committee for Palestine, and who, during the 1960s and early 1970s, was associated with the late Gerald

L.K. Smith (writing for Smith's publication, *The Cross and the Flag*), and with the racist West Coast group, Western Front. In 1981 Nakhleh spoke at the Third Annual Convention of the Institute for Historical Review, a group that maintains that the Holocaust is a myth concocted by Jews. Nakhleh's address was called "Palestinians and Zionist Genocide."

"Those remarks are crazy," Ellen Siegel of the Washington Area Jews for Israeli-Palestinian Peace (a participant in the symposium) said in response to the Dawalibi quotes. "We're opposed to that stuff. It's not something we like to hear or want to hear or approve of. What do you want me to do? What should I do? . . ."

"Is such a group fit for NGO status?" I asked.

"I suppose not. . . . It's awful stuff. We don't want Arabs doing that. . . ."

In 1982 members of the U.S. Senate received packages in brown paper wrappers postmarked Pakistan but bearing no return address. The packages contained two books by William Grimstad. *The Six Million Reconsidered* attempts to prove that the Holocaust never occurred; *Antizion*, a compendium of anti-Semitic writing, includes a description of Hitler as a "twentieth century statesman" and the assertion, "There were no Jews killed in 'gas chambers.'" The edition of *Antizion* sent to the senators is a reproduction of one published by the Noontide Press of Torrance, California, which purveys racist and anti-Semitic books. Noontide is controlled by Willis Carto, head of the Liberty Lobby, which is widely regarded as anti-Semitic and which has recently been involved in litigation against *National Review* and William F. Buckley, Jr.

Grimstad also served as editor of *White Power*, the official publication of the neo-Nazi National Socialist White People's Party headed by George Lincoln Rockwell. In 1977 Grimstad registered with the Department of Justice as a Saudi agent. His registration form reported that the Saudi Embassy paid him \$20,000 in June 1977 as a "gift or honorarium apparently in appreciation for my book, *Antizion*." He sent the embassy a receipt for the money.

An investigation by the Anti-Defamation League revealed that the

books were mailed to the senators by the World Muslim Congress.

"You go to a conference," Ruth Sillman, U.N. representative of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, told me. "We're not working with them. You go to a conference. With lots of organizations. . . ."

"Dawalibi said—"

"Don't give it to me. I don't know about it. You're just quoting it. And I have a feeling that your motives are not very good. . . . What about the forty-two other NGOs? Are you calling them? . . . We do not support [Dawalibi's statement]. We do not approve it. In any way."

"What about the U.N. resolution that called on the Secretary-General to exclude NGOs which propagate 'Nazi ideology and racial and religious discrimination'? Would you support it?"

"That was not an official NGO action. . . . Every year, every single NGO at the U.N. is accredited by an official body. And if an organization is a Nazi group, they would not be approved."

"But don't you think that resolution was a proper one?"

"A group of people offered that resolution. I had nothing to do with it."

"But you're not for it?"

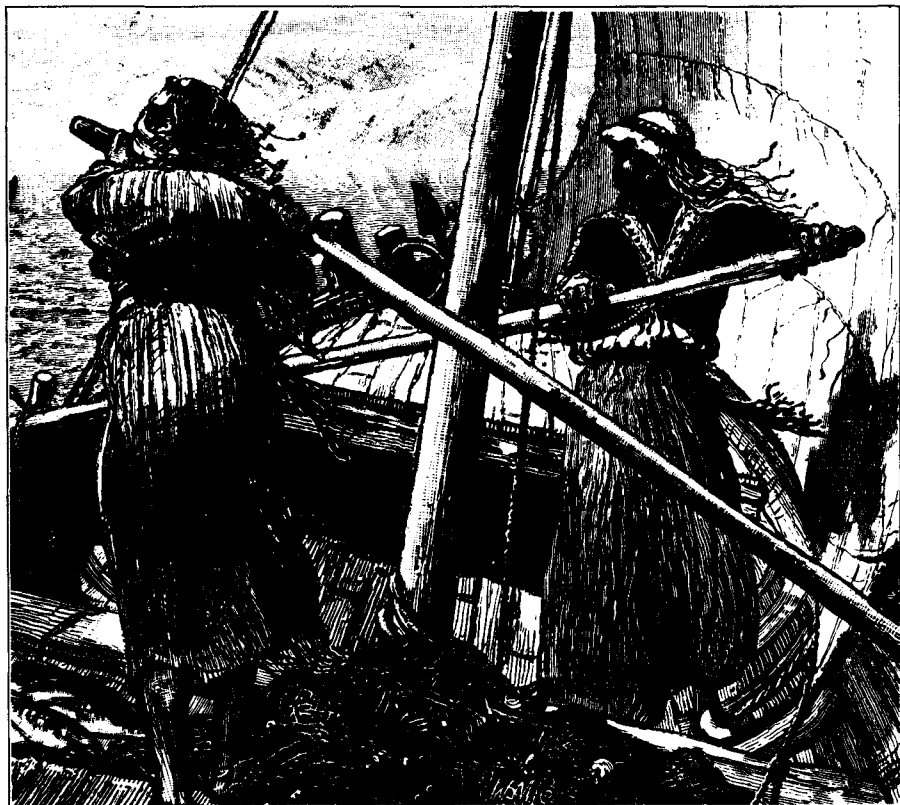
"I don't even remember. I may never have seen it. . . ."

"Well, the symposium is an annual event. What about the next one on Palestine? Would you support the resolution then?"

"Oh please, please—"

The World Muslim Congress is based in Karachi, Pakistan, where it was founded in 1949. For its first two decades, the congress was led by the late Hajj Muhammad Amin al-Husseini, Mufti of Jerusalem. During World War II, in broadcasts he beamed to the Middle East from Berlin, where he then lived, he urged Arabs to join the Axis powers. Following the Mufti's death in 1974, Ma'aruf-al-Dawalibi took over as president of the congress. Dawalibi lives in the Saudi capital and is an adviser to King Khaled. Financial support for the congress is provided through the World Muslim League. Based in the holy city of Mecca, the World Muslim League was created in 1962 through a Saudi government grant as a principal instrument of its policy to put all Islamic institutions, including those outside the country, under its own auspices.

In 1981, Dawalibi had an audience with Pope John Paul II, during which they reportedly spoke about advancing the Christian-Muslim dialogue. Later that year, Dawalibi said in Paris that



such dialogues were necessary because "international Jewry is undoubtedly behind the persistence of misunderstanding between Muslim and Christian and has disseminated deviation among Christian clergymen. . . . It is an indisputable fact that the Jews have succeeded in penetrating the highest offices in the Church." The World Muslim Congress is also treated by the World Council of Churches as a leading spokesman for the Muslim world and engages it in Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Dawalibi was quoted in *Time* on March 15, 1954, when he was defense minister of Syria, as saying, "The Arabs would prefer a thousandfold to become a Soviet republic than a prey to world Jewry." In 1983 the Anti-Defamation League unearthed four documents from the archives of the

German Foreign Ministry that verify that Dawalibi served as the Paris agent of the Nazi party official in charge of Arab affairs, SS Obergruppenführer Erwin Ettel. The documents also disclose his close collaboration (as personal secretary) with the Grand Mufti in the latter's efforts in support of Hitler and the Axis powers.

"Most of my contact with the World Muslim Congress is through a loose coalition of religious NGOs," Roger Naumann of the Quaker U.N. office told me. "We meet together on a whole variety of subjects. Disarmament and one thing and another. . . ."

"But how does an organization like yours explain or justify working with a racist and neo-Nazi group?"

"Well, I know for a fact that what the guy said doesn't mean the organization

is pro-Nazi. . . . You have to look at the organization as a whole; you can't just look at the single statements made by one individual. . . . Our purpose is mediation, bringing economic justice and peace in the world. We're not worried about what you or anybody else think about us."

"What do you mean by 'us'?"

"Hang on a moment. As you know, the Quakers worked enormously with the Jewish community in the years when the Jewish community were on their knees. We now are working with a whole range of other people who are on their knees. . . ."

The World Muslim Congress appeared in the pages of Willis Carto's *Spotlight* in July 1985, the same month that the symposium on Palestine was

held at the U.N. In a letter to the editor, the general secretary of the congress, Inamullah Khan, wrote from Pakistan that he just wanted to express his appreciation for such an "excellent" publication. He wrote, "Your in-depth analysis is superb and clear-cut. Many of your stories are eye openers. . . ."

The third annual North American Regional NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine will take place June 9-13 at the United Nations. Regional NGO conferences met in Turkey in April and Latin America in May. There will be another in Vienna this month, and the series will wind up with an international NGO conference in Geneva in August. The U.N.'s grand obsession rolls on. The World Muslim Congress remains an NGO. □

William Tucker

DOWN ON THE FARM

The government subsidizes a crisis.

Just about every week the television news carries another story. A farm family is forced off its homestead in the Midwest. A depressed farmer in Georgia shoots himself. A bitter farmer in Minnesota kills the banker who foreclosed on his farm last year. The nation's Farm Belt is in crisis. Inevitably the question is put: Why don't we give farmers more aid?

Then every once in a while the networks will get tough and analytical. Sure, we've done a lot to help farmers, said Dan Rather in a week-long special last March. Farm subsidies have now risen to \$20 billion a year. But after all, shouldn't there be a limit? If the old-fashioned family farmers can't compete anymore, should people from other parts of the economy be forced to subsidize them?

Somewhat this endless parade of stories never gets around to asking the key questions: Could it be possible that all the government programs are ac-

tually hurting farmers? Rather than preserving homesteads, could farm subsidies actually be taking away the advantages of the family farm? Is it possible that if we only stopped trying to help farmers, everyone—taxpayers

and farmers alike—might be better off?

Farming is the only industry still operating under the New Deal. The original National Recovery Administration, which "cartelized" most major

American industries, was struck down by the Supreme Court in 1935. By that time everyone—including Franklin Roosevelt—had realized that it wasn't such a great idea. There was no serious effort to revive it.

But agriculture fared differently. Under pressure from Roosevelt's court-packing scheme, the Supreme Court made its famous "switch in time" in 1937 and upheld the second Agricultural Adjustment Act. Thereafter, agriculture was completely regulated. Every basic farm program that operates today comes out of the New Deal. As a result, there is almost no form of farming today where the government is not the main player.

Start, for example, with the price support program operated by the Commodity Credit Corporation, a quasi-government agency. In a wide variety of field crops—corn, wheat, rice, cotton, barley, sorghum—the government guarantees farmers an artificially high price. If market prices fall below the "target" level, the government makes up the difference to farmers in the form of a "deficiency" payment. The market price of corn, for example, is now



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