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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
SUB-COMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF
DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION
OF MINORITIES

Seventeenth session
Item 8 of the agenda

Dual distribution

MEASURES TO BE TAKEN FOR THE CESSATION OF ANY ADVOCACY OF NATIONAL, RACIAL
OR RELIGIOUS HOSTILITY THAT CONSTITUTES AN INCITEMENT TO HATRED AND
VIOLENCE, JOINTLY AND SEPARATELY

Statement submitted by the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations,
a non-governmental organization in consultative status, Category B

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is
circulated in accordance with paragraphs 28 and 29 of Economic and Social Council
resolution 288 B (A).

Received 14 December 1964

1. This item has been postponed for a number of sessions of the Sub-Commission. Even with the heavy agenda of the Sub-Commission it is to be hoped that the item will not be postponed again as there is an increasing need to look into the question of how to bring about a "cessation of any advocacy of national, racial or religious hostility that constitutes an incitement to hatred and violence, jointly or separately". This has been recognized by the General Assembly. In resolution 1779 (LVII), the Assembly recommended to the governments of all States that they "discourage actively, through education and all media of information, the creation, propagation and dissemination of ... prejudice and intolerance in any form whatever, ..." The historic Declaration on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted by the Assembly, specifies that incitement to violence "against any race or group of persons of another colour or ethnic origin" shall be considered "an offence against society ..." (It, of course, follows that incitement against a religious group shall also be considered "an offence against society," and, no doubt, this will be

spelled out in the proposed draft declaration on the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance.)

2. During the course of the past eighteen months, we have witnessed not only the continued outpouring of hate literature within various countries, but the shipping of such literature across State borders. Thus, during July, 1963, posters and leaflets bearing Nazi slogans and swastikas and signed by the "National Socialist Movement, London" (United Kingdom) were distributed in Frankfurt and Munich of the Federal Republic of Germany. There was also found in Karlsruhe some 100 reprints of a 1934 issue of Julius Streicher's Der Stuermer devoted to the alleged "Jewish practice of ritual murder". It was announced that these reprints were believed to have been produced in the United States by a Nazi organization.

3. Advocates of racism have even tried to exploit the tragic assassination of the President of the United States by incitatory appeals to hatred. Thus, in early December, 1963, in Toronto, Canada, anonymously-produced handbills were distributed with a heading "Special Bulletin - White Men Awake". The handbills carried vicious attacks upon Jews.

4. In one country, the incitatory racist interpretation of President Kennedy's assassination was actually carried in a semi-official government newspaper and on government radio. These organs of the mass media suggested that "Zionists" were responsible for the assassination. Another radio programme in the same country on December 2 said the following: "The savage Zionists and their companies killed him (President Kennedy); they killed him for the sake of money".

5. The various neo-Nazi international organizations (The European Social Movement, The European New Order, The Movement of Civil Action, Young Europe, Northern Ring, and World Union of National Socialists) have, as their principal activity, the distribution of hate propaganda. They publish over fifty periodicals and issue bulletins in a half-dozen languages. To this can be added the score of incitatory extremist publications issued by local neo-Nazi organizations. In one country alone, it has been estimated by official government sources, 223,000 copies of extreme right-wing newspapers are produced on a regular basis.

6. The Press in one country has published articles which have the effect of suggesting an identification of Jews with economic criminals and anti-social elements. At the same time, some periodicals and books in that country carry on sharp attacks upon the Jewish religion depicting it and its communal leaders as engaged in activities of an anti-social nature. Not atypical is the book A Gallery of Saints published by the Government in 1962 in 175,000 copies and which carries such canards about Jews as: "In the history of this 'God-chosen' people we see nothing but a long list of robbers, confidence tricksters, criminals notorious for their cruelty, treacheries, knavery ..." (The book is a translation of an 18th century author. Only at the end of the book does one find a disclaimer of the publisher's responsibility for the vicious stereotypes and the disclaimer itself is weak.) In October, 1963, a new book was officially produced which carried Stuermer-type caricatures of Jews and statements like: "... thievery, deception and debauchery ... are the real characteristics of many synagogue leaders". A third officially-printed book, published in February, 1964, resurrects an old discredited canard that "Truman, Acheson, and the then Secretary of the Treasury, Morgenthau, concluded an agreement, at a secret meeting, with Ben-Gurion and Sharett, according to which all the Zionist organizations and the diplomatic service of the State of Israel were to carry out the orders of American Intelligence".

7. To meet the need of dealing with incitatory hate propaganda, the Sub-Commission may wish to undertake in the near future a study of the problem of advocacy of national, racial and religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination and violence. It seems clear that many governments would welcome a careful study of this problem and of the kind of legal measures that might be taken to cope with the problem without at the same time hindering legitimate freedom of expression. The study, in addition to examining possible legal measures, could also investigate techniques of an educational and community action nature which might aid in overcoming the evil of national, racial and religious hatred.