

ADL and Pamyat make strange bedfellows

by Scott Thompson

The B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League (ADL) likes to portray itself as a watchdog against anti-Semitism. But it has a new, strange bedfellow: the anti-Semitic *Pamyat* (Memory) group in the U.S.S.R., which, along with the ADL, is avidly backing the strengthened role of Mikhail Gorbachov, who recently became "Czar of All the Russias."

The alliance should be no surprise to *EIR* readers who know that the ADL's leaders include Seagram's booze baron Edgar Bronfman, the chairman of ADL's Greater New York Appeal. As columnists Rowland Evans and Robert Novak detailed in a Jan. 23, 1989 article entitled "Swap Jews for U.S. Trade?" Edgar Bronfman is part of what they call an "ugly deal," from which he stands to make millions. The "deal" is that the Bush administration waives restrictions upon Most Favored Nation trading status for the U.S.S.R., now that Gorbachov is channeling Jewish emigrants fleeing from Pamyat's anti-Semitism, straight into the Israeli occupied territories, instead of allowing them to emigrate to Western Europe or the United States.

Bronfman's partner in the "ugly deal" is ADL funder and grain cartel magnate Dwayne Andreas, who is co-chairman of the U.S.S.R. Trade and Economic Council (USTEC), a group that includes Bronfman on its executive committee and advocates trading Jews for grain sales. (See *EIR* Sept. 29, 1989, "The Bronfmans' 'Golden handshake' with Gorbachov.") Also, as *EIR* reported last December, both Andreas and Bronfman have been involved in negotiations with Gorbachov to guarantee direct transport of Soviet Jews to Israel and to permit the ADL to open an office in Moscow.

'The historic exodus of Jews'

According to the March 1990 issue of the *ADL Bulletin*, this deal was very much on the agenda of the Feb. 8-11 meeting of the ADL's National Executive Committee held at The Breakers Hotel in Palm Beach, Florida. Says the *Bulletin*, "In resolutions passed during the NEC meeting, ADL called on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachov to publicly condemn the emergence of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union . . . [while] one resolution pointed out that anti-Semitic sentiment including public demonstrations by such groups as the nationalistic Pamyat organization . . . has become common-

place in certain Soviet cities. Another called on the United States to 'facilitate the historic exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel' by encouraging Moscow."

No wonder that with sponsors of this ADL operation like Bronfman and Andreas, Soviet dissident refusenik Vladimir Slepak told the *Jerusalem Post* back in 1987, that "Bronfman wanted to be tricked [by Gorbachov]. After all, he is a businessman, and does very good business with the Soviets."

At the same meeting, there was a report back from the ADL's director of international affairs, Kenneth Jacobson, who had just spent 11 days in Moscow meeting with officials of what the *Bulletin* describes as "the recently established Soviet Jewish umbrella organization known as the VAAD [Confederation of Jewish Organizations and Communities in the U.S.S.R.]" to discuss the danger posed by Pamyat. VAAD co-president Mikhail Chlenov does not share Slepak's concerns about Bronfman's greedy motives, if the Moscow University professor of ethnography's visit to New York during the week of March 26-31 is any indication. While in New York, Chlenov met with Bronfman's aide at the World Jewish Congress, Elon Steinberg, to discuss the formation of a Soviet Jewish Congress. On March 28, Reuters reported that he also met with the ADL's Jacobson to hash out an agreement on investigations of neo-Nazism in Moscow.

Gorbachov's Rasputin

What the ADL has deliberately avoided, is that Pamyat and related anti-Semitic, Great Russian nationalist groups are being promoted by Gorbachov, especially through his wife Raisa Gorbachova's Soviet Cultural Fund, which has been financing the ultra-ecologist "village prose" writer Valentin Rasputin. The aptly-named Rasputin, whom Gorbachov recently named to his select Presidential Council, has been the Great Russian-chauvinist border-guard for Gorbachov and for Gorbachov's palace maverick Boris Yeltsin, who are Pamyat's real patrons.

Raisa Gorbachova got her funds for Rasputin from Anglo-Soviet Trust agent Armand Hammer, who is on the executive board of USTEC with Bronfman and Andreas. There are also reports that the U.S. Information Agency (USIA) has invited Rasputin to the United States on a visit that may start in mid-April. USIA's main East-West body is the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), whose president is the former ADL official Carl Gershman. Gershman's new executive assistant is David E. Lowe, who until recently had been associate director of the ADL's Fact Finding Department under Irwin Suall, at the time when the ADL issued its 1989 pamphlet, "Pamyat: Hatred Under Glasnost," which identified Boris Yeltsin as having given Pamyat its "official stamp of approval." But the ADL has told *EIR* that it will no longer circulate or reprint this pamphlet; meanwhile, the NED-funded Center for Democracy, Inc., champions the "reformer" Yeltsin, whose Pamyat connection it conveniently overlooks.