

U.S. Jews divided over Koch and Sharon

by Robert Dreyfuss, Middle East Editor

Not too long ago, after President Reagan held a private meeting with a group of six American Jewish leaders led by Reagan's long-time friend Albert Spiegel of Los Angeles, another American called it "outrageous" that the meeting even took place, and used the words "court Jews," or *Hofjuden*, to describe Spiegel and the others.

The diatribe against Reagan and Spiegel, which caused shock among many Jewish community leaders, was not the product of some unrepentant Nazi ideologue, its anti-Semitic tone notwithstanding. It was the opinion of Howard Squadron, the New York lawyer who heads the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. Squadron, enraged that *he* was not invited to the meeting, simply lost control of himself and loosed a stream of invective.

Exactly why Squadron would attack a presidential meeting with Jewish leaders held in the White House is a revealing story.

Squadron is the unofficial campaign manager for the most unlikely of ventures into political affairs: running New York Mayor Ed Koch for President in 1984! The clique of political hacks and others behind Koch is supported by the British intelligence service as a laboratory experiment in creating an "authentically American" fascist movement—under the obnoxious demagogue Koch, who announced in early May that New York would build concentration camps for youthful petty offenders.

The story behind the "Koch for President" movement explains why Squadron would object to Reagan's meeting with Spiegel. Spiegel, a friend not only of Reagan but of Ed Meese, the President's Counsellor, has long backed Reagan, even in 1976 when most Republican Jews followed Max Fisher in support of President Ford's hapless effort at reelection. Recently, Reagan has reached out to Los Angeles's Spiegel in an attempt to build a relationship of trust with a prominent Jewish

leader. Normally, any ethnic constituency group would welcome happily the idea that the President of the United States would seek to cultivate a friendship with an honorable representative of that group. But Squadron, ignoring Jewish concerns, has decided to play cutthroat politics.

Koch for President?

The British Secret Intelligence Service and the small but powerful clique behind Israeli General Ariel Sharon, the extremist defense minister, are using Mr. Squadron to increase their leverage inside the Democratic Party in anticipation of 1984. According to intelligence sources, the Koch-for-President idea is not farfetched, and is to be launched after Koch is elected as Governor of New York in 1982. The Koch campaign is meant in direct opposition to the rising influence of the National Democratic Policy Committee, the political arm of former Democratic Presidential candidate Lyndon H. LaRouche. Koch intends to work in parallel with the West Coast version of Adolf Hitler, California's governor Jerry Brown, whose national political hopes have been severely undercut by the NDPC's Will Wertz for Senator campaign.

Squadron is the lawyer for Rupert Murdoch's *New York Post* and, according to influential sources in the New York Jewish community, Murdoch is Squadron's "boss." The *Post*, a sex-and-violence tabloid modeled on London's yellow sheets, has been Koch's chief backer and almost singlehandedly started his campaign for governor this year by publishing front-page coupons and demanding that New York's citizens clip them and send them in to "draft Koch for Governor." Koch had just won the 1981 mayoral election, running simultaneously on both Republican and Democratic tickets.

An Australian multimillionaire, Murdoch is well known as an intelligence operative of the British Tories. Among his other publications are the obscene London *Sun*, the "chic-porno" *Village Voice* of New York, and the mouthpiece for the British oligarchy, the *Times* of London.

In Israel, the *New York Post* correspondent has long been the irresponsible Uri Dan. In early May, as a reward, Dan was appointed by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon to be his official press spokesman. Dan is also the official biographer of gangster kingpin Meyer Lansky, a close friend. The appointment of Dan has outraged many in Israel, among them General Motti Gur, a former chief of staff, who accused Dan of violating Israeli security laws and called him a threat to Israeli national security. Several years ago, Dan was fired by the daily *Maariv* and stripped of his press credentials for leaking classified information that jeopardized Israeli intelligence work.

The unsavory coalition of Sharon, Lansky, Murdoch, and Dan is not the only power behind Koch, although as lawyer for this clique Squadron will keep busy. Another Koch backer is David Garth, the political consultant who managed Koch's Madison Avenue campaign for mayor. Garth worked side-by-side with Sharon in 1981 in Israel when he managed Prime Minister Menachem Begin's reelection effort, a campaign marked by strongarm tactics described as "fascist" by opposition leader Shimon Peres.

Garth's business partners are interesting: Zeev Furst, of Garth-Furth Associates, is the former representative in Israel of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League (ADL). And Edward MacGregor, another Garth associate, lists among his credentials a position on the board of Charter Oil, the spook outfit that mediated Billy Carter's Libya connection to Muammar Qaddafi.

Squadron, the conductor of this off-key chorus, is also the chieftain of the American Jewish Congress. The first week in May, the Congress held its annual get-together in upstate New York, where it concluded with a pledge to rally American Jews against the Reagan administration because of the alleged anti-Semitism of the White House. Also backing the Congress is the similarly initialed American Jewish Committee, publish-

ers of the kooky extremist *Commentary* monthly. Its leading light, "neo-conservative" Norman Podhoretz, has just authored a *New York Times* magazine piece announcing, pompously, his "break" with Reagan.

According to New York Jewish sources, the two AJCs—the Committee and the Congress—are bankrupt and considering a merger. With the ADL, the AJCs are the elite of the *real* "court Jews," the New York mafia that serves the Episcopalian New York Council on Foreign Relations. Following their CFR masters, the ADL and the two AJCs are preparing to bring down the Reagan administration. No wonder that the B'nai B'rith *Messenger* proudly displayed Squadron's attack on Spiegel under banner headlines on its front page recently, or that, at a New York rally sponsored by this *Hofjuden* mafia, with Mayor Koch present, the crowd booed President Reagan when a message was read about the President's concern for Soviet Jewry.

Spiegel, intent on developing a close link with the President, especially in anticipation of coming storms in U.S.-Israeli relations over the Palestinian issue, has brushed off Squadron's hysterical attack. Yet in New York and Washington, the *Hofjuden* are nervous. "Spiegel is an outsider," said one Washington Jewish elitist. "We don't know him. If he gets too close to the President, it is going to cause trouble."

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