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TÖBEN TO TRAVEL TO THE U.S.A. IN JUNE 2010

ARE THE PRIME UGLIES ASKING: 'IS HE AT IT AGAIN'?

WILL AUSTRALIA'S JEWS CONSPIRE TO PREVENT TÖBEN'S DEPARTUR AND AGAIN BEGIN AGAINST HIM ANOTHER CAMPAIGN OF PERSECUTION THROUGH LEGAL PROSECUTION?

Ten years ago, in 2000, Dr Fredrick Töben travelled to the U.S.A. for a conference. Little did he know that Australia's self-appointed Jewish watchdogs secretly had him covered with the intention of preventing his attending the conference. A similar form of interference was applied by these self-appointed Jewish watchdogs when they tried to prevent his attending the December 2006 Teheran International Holocaust conference. In this case it was implementing an open and direct legal form to stop Töben's exit from Australia – without success. Although Federal Police officers at Melbourne Airport had already been alerted of his departure, the ban had as yet not been legally activated, and after a brief informal discussion with immigrations/customs officers Töben was permitted to board his plane to Iran.

Of interest here is how a decade ago the local Australian self-appointed 'Holocaust believers' Jew watchdog initiated its attempt to stop Töben from leaving Australia. The following documentation clarifies this matter somewhat.

On **12 May 2000**, the Director of The B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation Commission Inc, Australia/ New Zealand, wrote a **PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL** letter to Mr Steven Engelken, Political Affairs, US Embassy, Canberra, Australia.

It must be noted that this body had at that time on its Board of Advisers, the following prominent Australians: President: The Rt Hon Sir Zelman Cowan; The Rt Hon Malcolm Fraser, The Rt Hon R J L Hawke, Dr Lowitja O'Donoghue, The Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen, The Hon Neville Wran; Chairman: Mr Kerry Klinsberg; Executive Director: Mr Danny Ben-Moshe – who was later awarded with an academic post at one of Melbourne's younger universities.

Here is the text of the letter:

Dear Steven,

As per our conversation yesterday, please find attached a background briefing paper on the Adelaide Institute, of which Fredrick Töben is the director.

As we discussed, Töben has either arrived or is on his way to California for the conference of the Institute for Historical Review, a large Holocaust denial organisation. I have contacted the Anti-Defamation League in the US for further information as to the exact date of this conference.

The way in which Fredrick Töben spells his first and last names is unusual and will assist in identifying him. Töben was born in Jade, Germany on 2 June 1944 and came to Australia in 1954. He is the son of Johannes Töben and Adelheid (nee Soltys). He currently resides in the suburb of Norwood in Adelaide.

In November 1999 Töben was convicted in Mannheim, Germany, for "defaming the dead". The attached briefing paper provides further information as to his activities and racist ideology.

Please let me know should you require any further information and whether you are able to ascertain if Töben is currently in the US.

Thankyou for your help in this matter.

Kind regards,

Benseon Apple

Director of Research & Public Affairs

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On Wednesday, **May 10, 2000** 4:23 PM, Steven C Engelken, of the US Embassy, generates some email correspondence with a number of staffers, headed:

Subject: Holocaust Denier

Paul, a thought on our holocaust denier. Do we have any way to check whether he has a criminal record here in Australia?

On **12 May 2000** Paul Fitzgerald writes to Elizabeth Jordan in an email headed:

Subject: Request for Quick Help – Holocaust Denier

Liz – below is my latest message to our Pol Counselor in Canberra on a case that is developing here. Mr. Frederick Tobin denies the existence of the Holocaust, and, we are told by third parties, spent some time in jail in Germany last year after having been convicted under a law that forbids such a denial. He is an Australian citizen who plans to travel to a “holocaust deniers” conference in California soon. We are trying to work out if there is any possible U.S. visa ineligibility, and our PR response if this becomes a public issue here. We are researching his DPOB. Our most recent analysis is outlined below, but we would appreciate any VO guidance that you or others can give. We’d appreciate your guidance asap. Regards, Paul Fitzgerald.

xx

Steve – our thoughts as of 5/11, after having done some research.

A. Working this case thus far is difficult as we don’t have an application from Mr Tobin, and in fact don’t even have a date of birth. I spoke with the office of the South Australia Chief Police Commissioner today trying to get more details on him. They reacted immediately with privacy concerns, but promised to call me back.

2. Based upon our review of the FAM, it is difficult to see how Mr. Tobin would be ineligible absent further information. Under Section 2A1, Crime Involving Morale Turpitude (CIMT), libel is not ineligibility, if this was the crux of the German charge against him. If Germany somehow does involve a CIMT, then we might be able to make a case. Under the FAM section on Nazi activities, the applicant must have been a member of a particular organization and committed acts between certain dates (roughly 1933-45). And under the Foreign Policy Ineligibility (INA 212(a)(3) Swcurity and related grounds), an alien’s past, current or expected beliefs, statements and associations do not render him ineligible if those beliefs, statements and associations are legal in the U.S., UNLESS the SecState determines otherwise. If she went this route, she would then have to inform Congress of the determination of ineligibility.

3. All this being said, we still can submit an advisory opinion request to the Department IF he applies for a visa. We can also cable Embassy Berlin if someone can find a date of birth and hopefully some more identifying info. I’m waiting for the SA Police response. Can RSO or FBI following up with their contacts? Even if he doesn’t APPLY for a visa, if we do develop info on ineligibility then we can enter him into the lookout system, notify INSZ, and presumably notify him before he attempted to travel.

Paul.

WHAT A CONSPIRACY!

That’s how the **PRIME UGLIES** fight their battles, then accuse others of employing the dirty tricks they themselves use. The real haters see hatred all around because they themselves are full of hate.

It’s the PROXY work all over again, someone else doing their dirty work for them. If we recall that most of the world’s wars since the so-called French Revolution have been PROXY wars, then the pattern of the secret **PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL** activities is clear – and this needs to be exposed.

Adelaide Institute’s classic example is the Alan Goldberg letter sent to former South Australian education minister, Mrs Joyce Steele, wherein a veiled threat is used to achieve a determined result. Mrs Steele, however, stood firm and called his bluff – and advised Goldberg accordingly.

The real haters hate truth, and like all control freaks and liars that they are, they have nothing to contribute to world civilisations’ development. These are the PRIME UGLIES who cannot imbue the world

with life-giving impulses because they thrive on duplicity and life-denying impulses.

Of course, during the time of this 2000 concern, as expressed above, Töben did not apply for a U.S. visa because the Visa Waiver program enables eligible individuals from various countries to enter the U.S.A. without obtaining a visa. Töben had done this on a number of occasions but then noted it took too long to explain to U.S. Immigration about his seven-month German prison term, which was NOT for moral turpitude. Former U.S. Ambassador to Australia, Tom Schiefer, suggested it would expedite matters if Töben had a visa, and so in 2004 he applied and was granted a five-year U.S. visa, which remained valid until August 2009.

When he applied for his current U.S. visa Töben did ask if it was safe for him to travel to the U.S.A. without facing possible extradition requests from either Germany or Israel. The emails written in 2000 answer that question – so he hopes!

Fredrick Töben comments:
IN MATTERS LOCAL AUSTRALIAN POLITICS

THE HOLOCAUST-SHOAH -

**and how Prime Uglies line up for their pound of political blood?
Media Reports: 2 December 2009, 12 April, 6 May, 12 May 2010**

When Member for Wentworth, Malcolm Turnbull, announced his resignation from federal politics, it did not surprise because his successor to the Liberal party's leadership, Tony Abbott, would be assisted by Turnbull's exit. The Member for Wentworth was also known as the Member for Goldman Sachs because his intimate connection with the Macquarie Bank directly linked him to international finance and Jewish global banking. But he was also linked to local Jewish interests because his seat of Wentworth is located in the heartland of Sydney's Jewish community. In fact, Turnbull was parachuted into that safe Liberal seat by the Liberal Party in an untidy and somewhat messy pre-selection battle that saw local Jewish

sitting member, King, ousted with some evidence of a little fisty-cuffing on Turnbull's behalf.

The Australian Jewish News reported on this matter just before Malcolm Turnbull lost the leadership to Tony Abbott, with the Australian Labor Party positioning its own candidate in anticipation that Malcolm Turnbull would lose the leadership battle, and then quit politics altogether.

[Note that the spelling of 'Labor' Party is a deviation from the English spelling of 'Labour' because when Australia's Labor Party was formed the American influence in the birthing process predominated.]

The local *Wentworth Courier* reported the political wrangling thus:

Labor and Greens eye off Wentworth

BY MENIOS CONSTANTINOU, JENNIFER BENNETT AND ROB BATES
02 DECEMBER 2009 @ 07:00AM

EARLY this week, as Malcolm Turnbull prepared for battle against his Liberal stablemates Tony Abbott and Joe Hockey, at least one potential challenger for the Federal seat of Wentworth was licking his lips.

Steven Lewis, a "third-generation Wentworth resident", has spent the past year visiting local Labor Party branches and declaring his intention to run for preselection.

As he sat back watching the Liberal Party implode over its fractured stance on the Emissions Trading Scheme, he saw an opportunity to publicly announce his desire to do what no Labor candidate has done before - win the traditionally conservative seat for his party.



STEVEN LEWIS

Mr Lewis said it would "make no difference" whether Mr Turnbull decided to seek re-election in Wentworth, despite the fact he was the only Liberal candidate to increase his margin in 2007.

"It is now a marginal electorate, and while it would be a momentous task to defeat any Liberal Party candidate, be it Malcolm Turnbull or anyone else, it is now a real possibility for Labor," Mr Lewis said.

A member of the Jewish Board of Deputies, Mr Lewis has also been active in the No High Rise in Double Bay campaign and is a senior lawyer with Slater & Gordon.

He is the first Labor Party member to announce their intention to seek preselection in Wentworth, however the party's executive has not yet called for nominations.

A senior Labor source has suggested that the man who challenged Mr Turnbull in 2004, barrister David Patch, would also enter the fray.

Former AMA president Kerryn Phelps, who was previously rumoured to be Labor's favoured candidate to take on Mr Turnbull, declined to comment on whether she would stand. Given that pundits are tipping climate change to be the major issue at the next election, the Greens are expecting to improve on the 15 per cent they polled in Wentworth at the last election.

The Greens candidate in 2007, Susan Jarnason, said the party was "pretty enthusiastic because we think we'll poll very well".

"We think that Greens policies, not just on the environment but across the board, are pretty popular," she said.

Asked if the Greens could snatch Wentworth from both major parties, Ms Jarnason said: "It's very possible I think. It just seems volatile at the moment, anything can happen." Meanwhile, local Liberal hopefuls would no doubt be waiting with bated breath for Mr Turnbull to make his decision on whether or not to stand at the next election.

If he decides to retire from politics, the names that have been bandied about as potential challengers for Peter Debnam's state seat of Vaucluse - Gabrielle Upton and Arthur Sinodinos, to name two - might turn their attention to Wentworth.

<http://wentworthcourier.wherelive.com.au/news/story/labor-and-greens-eye-off-wentworth/>

Of course the name Steven Lewis is familiar to those who have followed my spending years in the Federal Court of Australia. In anticipation I continued to follow this developing political saga, recalling that as a minority Jews somehow do not know when to stop forcing their worldview on to the majority among whom they reside. The classic case of recent times was Joseph 'Diamond' Gutnick, who as the president of the Melbourne 'Demons' football club, demanded

there be no Saturday football games for his club so that members could observe the Sabbath. Fortunately for the Melbourne footy fans – and administration – his presidency was terminated. It is another example of Jewish over-reach, though I hasten to add that such a characteristic is NOT typically Jewish because it afflicts humanity all round. The Wentworth saga continued with an official Turnbull farewell to politics.

Goodbye to politics, but not the Jewish community

NAOMI LEVIN, 12 April 2010

AFTER years of involvement, Malcolm Turnbull said his resignation as Wentworth MP will not see him cut ties with the Jewish community. Speaking to The AJN the day after announcing he would not contest the next election, the former Liberal leader called the local Jewish community "the heart and soul" of his electorate. "I don't intend to stop my association with the Jewish community just because I am out of Parliament. I've loved my involvement at so many communal events and just having so many friends in the Jewish community."



Malcolm Turnbull will not contest the next election.

Photo: AJN file

Using the new social medium Twitter, Turnbull announced on Tuesday he would not recontest the inner-eastern Sydney seat come the next election. The decision was made, he said, following his loss of the Liberal Party leadership to Tony Abbott by one vote in December last year. The catalyst for that vote was the emissions trading Bill, which Turnbull continues to strongly support, but which much of the Coalition opposes.

But he never had trouble keeping the Jewish community on his side – even those who weren't Liberal voters held Turnbull in high esteem because of his commitment to the community.

It was Chanukah parties that Turnbull highlighted as some of the best memories during his time in office. "I really enjoyed Chanukah celebrations, whether it was the event at Double Bay that Yanky Berger does, or the Russian ceremony," he said, adding he once gave a memorised speech in Russian, which "amused some of the older attendees".

One organisation that Turnbull has had a strong involvement with for the past three years is Sydney's Montefiore Home, where he is the ambassador.

This week, Montefiore vice-president Gary Inberg said he hoped Turnbull's role as the home's "ambassador, supporter and friend" would continue. "Our residents are always delighted to see Malcolm and we have enjoyed hosting him at the home on numerous occasions. It is a pleasure and an honour to be associated with him," Inberg said.

Executive Council of Australian Jewry president Robert Goot also paid tribute to the politician. "We regret, but understand, Mr Turnbull's decision. He was a most effective advocate for a variety of matters of concern for the Jewish community," Goot said.

In terms of a successor, the Liberal Party has opened nominations for a new candidate to contest the increasingly marginal seat. A number of Jewish names have been suggested – including party bigwigs Richard Shields and Julian Leeser, as well as former Turnbull staffer Anthony Orkin and current local councillor Anthony Boskovitz. The vote is expected to be held within a month.

Turnbull weighed in on the speculation of his successor, but in a non-partisan way. "People often assume, in a somewhat patronising way, that the Jewish community will always vote for a Jewish candidate. I think there are a lot of people in the Jewish community who would make great candidates for Parliament, but ultimately it is the quality of the candidate that matters," he said.

<http://jewishnews.net.au/2010/04/12/goodbye-to-politics-but-not-the-jewish-community/12860>

Within a matter of weeks Malcolm Turnbull reverses his decision and decides to stay in politics. Some acute political observers thought Turnbull's initial decision to quit politics had been influenced by U.S. President Barak Obama's announcement he would possibly initiate criminal proceedings for corruption against executives of the global banking giant Goldman Sachs. Turnbull's connections to that financial institutions are transparent but if the U.S. President is firm on his expressed intentions, then

some corruption ripple effect could possibly have influenced Turnbull's standing within Australia's political landscape.

But there is a far greater local factor operating that influenced Turnbull changing his mind to quit politics: the Labor Party candidates' pre-selection process has possible embarrassing consequences, as alluded to in the following articles from the AJN, where I add the emphasis:

Board deputies line up in battle for Wentworth

NAOMI LEVIN, 06 May 2010

THE battle for Sydney's most Jewish seat, Wentworth, is for now all on the Labor side, as this week Malcolm Turnbull backed down on his decision to resign and **NSW Jewish Board of Deputies president Robin Margo** emerged as a potential ALP candidate.

Turnbull told The AJN that after receiving messages of support and pleas to remain from both his constituents and the party, he reversed his decision to step away from politics.

"There was a very large body of opinion encouraging me to reconsider my decision, so I did reconsider it and I came to the realisation that my passion for public service and my commitment to making a contribution to the many issues that affect our nation today, and in the years ahead, is as strong as ever, and the best place to participate in that debate is as a member of parliament," he said on Monday. But while Turnbull was declaring his return to politics just weeks after announcing he would leave, a stoush was emerging on the Labor side between two senior Jewish figures.



Malcolm Turnbull (left) with Rabbi Elimelech Levy at

Sydney's Lag b'Omer parade. Photo: Reality Media

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (JBD) president Robin Margo was approached by the ALP to consider standing for

preselection in the Eastern Suburbs seat, but he told *The AJN* he had not made up his mind.

"I said last week that I was talking to people and considering whether or not to nominate when nominations are opened," Margo said.

"Nominations are not yet open, and I am still talking to people. Whatever my decision, the board [of Deputies] has always been, and will remain, entirely non-partisan."

However, declared Wentworth ALP hopeful Steven Lewis – himself a long-time member of the JBD – said Margo should show his hand for the sake of the Jewish community.

"It is not a difficult decision to make," Lewis said. "You are either running or not, it is about time he declared his intentions to the Jewish community."

He added: "I think it would be very unfortunate if two seniors members of the Sydney Jewish community are in conflict over preselection."

While Margo only signed on as an ALP member a few weeks ago, *The AJN* understands he has been courting members of the ALP Left in Wentworth.

He has circulated a leaflet to members detailing his "progressive activities", including his participation in the Save the Franklin Dam campaign, his contribution to the Free Mandela movement, **and his pro-bono work on civil proceedings against Holocaust denier Fredrick Toben.**

He has also used the JBD as an example of his progressive credentials.

"I have changed culture of the NSW JBD during my presidency; bringing in more Jewish members of the Left and more young people; creating space for freer expression of all view on Israel and Palestine," the leaflet reads.

The NSW ALP is scheduled to meet on Friday to discuss preselection, and an ALP insider said the only two names in contention as of this week are those of Margo and Lewis.

<http://jewishnews.net.au/2010/05/06/board-deputies-line-up-in-battle-for-wentworth/13324>

And so the Holocaust-Shoah is brought into politics, and this confirms what I have always maintained – that for the devote litigious Holocaust believers matters Holocaust-Shoah has become a political-business matter where truth has no home, where claims made by its believers are not tested for their veracity but rather for their utility, their material gain. In this way the Prime Uglies deceive truth-seekers by claiming hurt feelings motivates their

desire to keep the lid on any critical Holocaust-Shoah investigations.

In other words, the Holocaust-Shoah, as pointed out some years ago by Norman Finkelstein, has become a huge industry, which aspiring politicians Robin Margo and Steven Lewis exploit to the full.

Malcolm Turnbull's re-entry into politics reverses, for a while at least, this blatant politicisation of the Holocaust-Shoah.

Margo pulls out of race for Wentworth

PETER KOHN, 12 May 2010

AS news of Robin Margo's pullout from preselection for Wentworth filtered out this week, political pundits were left musing if there is something in Sydney's water that makes political aspirants perform 180-degree turns.

In recent weeks, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (JBD) president has been wondering out loud whether he would

take up an ALP approach for him to raise his hand for Labor preselection in Wentworth at this year's federal election.

Just as quickly, the well-known barrister decided to withdraw from the battle for the Eastern Suburbs seat -- well ahead of the June 5 preselection ballot.

Margo is, of course, not the only Wentworth candidate suffering from second thoughts. Sitting Liberal member and ex-party leader Malcolm Turnbull stunned Canberra watchers with his intention to contest the seat, after announcing his departure from politics only a few weeks earlier.

When The AJN made contact this week, a tight-lipped Margo would not give any reason for his change of mind.

So speculation that Margo did not want to go head-to-head with Steven Lewis, a barrister and close professional colleague – **they both conducted the long-running, successful contempt-of-court action against Holocaust denier Fredrick Toben** – will remain just that, as will any speculation that Margo decided taking on Turnbull was a daunting challenge.

Lewis, who had urged his rival to declare his hand, told *The AJN* this week he had no response to make about Margo's withdrawal.

The AJN understands that Lewis is the sole contender, ahead of nominations closing this Friday.

<http://jewishnews.net.au/2010/05/12/margo-pulls-out-of-race-for-wentworth/13371#more-13371>



**NSW Jewish Board of Deputies president
Robin Margo. Photo: AJN file**

... and the Prime Ugliers' celebrations of success as noted on 13 August 2009:

Töben jailed for Holocaust denial

PETER KOHN, 13 August 2009

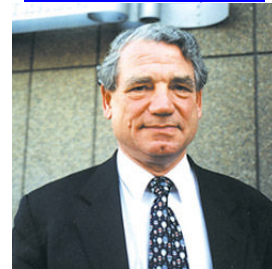
HOLOCAUST denier Fredrick Toben was taken into custody today (Thursday) and will serve three months in jail for flagrantly denying there was a Holocaust.

After the hearing, three Federal Police officers handcuffed Toben outside the court and took him to a waiting car.

At the end of the almost eight-hour proceeding, much of it taken up by Töben's rhetoric, a full bench of the Federal Court of Australia dismissed his appeal against a contempt finding over offensive material on his Adelaide Institute website. Toben, of Adelaide, has spent time in jail for Holocaust denial in the UK, Germany and Austria, but has not been jailed in Australia before.

He is likely to serve his sentence at Adelaide's Yatala high-to-medium security prison.

<http://jewishnews.net.au/2009/08/13/toben-jailed-for-holocaust-denial/6788>



Frederick Toben

Corrections to the article were not published by the AJN, thus revealing how Prime Ugliers exaggerate, distort and outright lie about non-Jews.

- 1.** The prison sentence was NOT 'for flagrantly denying there was a Holocaust' but rather for contempt of court.
- 2.** Two Federal Police officers did not handcuff Töben, and he accompanied them to the basement car park of the Angas Street court building.

3. Barrister David Perkins did all the talking on behalf of Töben.

4. After one week in G Division – maximum/isolation/solitary/punishment – Töben was taken to a prison farm where after a few days his security rating was reduced from Low 2 to Low 1, which enabled him to participate in community work outside the prison farm.

IN BRIEF

Zentai appeal rescheduled

PETER KOHN, 13 April 2010

THE Federal Court in Western Australia will next month begin hearing an appeal from Perth man Charles Zentai against his extradition to Hungary to face war crimes charges. The court has postponed the start of a judicial

review into the case to April 27; it was supposed to begin last month. A review favourable to Zentai is widely seen as his final opportunity to avoid extradition.

Earlier this month, lawyers representing Zentai and Home Affairs Minister Brendan O'Connor met in Federal Court over the defendant's right to see a full version of the documents used by O'Connor in reaching his decision to green-light the

extradition. Zentai is accused of playing a role in the murder of Peter Balazs, a young Budapest Jew who was beaten to death in November 1944.



Charles Zentai. Photo: AJN file

Zentai, who was arrested in 2005 on a Hungarian warrant, denies the charges. Late last year, shortly after O'Connor made the decision to allow the extradition, the 88-year-old <http://jewishnews.net.au/2010/04/13/zentai-appeal-rescheduled/12869>



Diplomats: US will not pressure Israel on nukes JTA , 06 May 2010

WASHINGTON - A statement from the major powers committing to a nuclear-free Middle East will not result in pressure on Israel, according to two diplomats familiar with the issue. Reuters reported Wednesday that the five permanent, veto-wielding members of the UN Security Council — including the United States — have prepared a unanimous statement committing “to a full implementation of the 1995 NPT resolution on the Middle East and we support all ongoing efforts to this end.” The NPT, or nuclear non-proliferation treaty, commits signatories to not acquiring nuclear weapons or to reducing existing stockpiles. Israel, which is not a signatory, is believed to possess as many as 200 warheads.

In a related story, the Associated Press said U.S. officials were discussing with Israel “practical measures” toward Israel’s NPT compliance. Two diplomats separately told JTA that such discussions would not amount to pressure on Israel to end its nuclear capability. One of the diplomats said “practical measures” could include a moratorium on testing or setting up a body to deal with nuclear

disarmament. Such steps would not affect Israel’s alleged existing reserve of nuclear weapons.

It seems clear, however, that any Israeli cooperation in such a venture would require a degree of transparency. Until now, Israel has refused to confirm or deny its nuclear capability.

Talks on NPT compliance, initiated by the United States and under United Nations auspices, are under way in New York. Egypt is leading an effort to make the Middle East a nuclear-free zone and, with Iran, wants to cite Israel in any such resolution. The Western diplomats told JTA that the United States and its Western allies would quash any such mention.

<http://jewishnews.net.au/2010/05/06/diplomats-us-will-not-pressure-israel-on-nukes/13331>

AJN probe prompts pulling of books AJN, 10 May 2010

THREE of Australia’s biggest book retailers this week agreed to pull a number of virulently anti-Semitic titles from their websites, following an investigation by *The AJN*.

Among the poisonous works that could be purchased on the Borders and Angus & Robertson websites were *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which alleges that Jews are plotting to take over the world, and *The International Jew* by Henry Ford, which states: “Whichever way you turn to trace the harmful streams of influence that flow through society, you come upon a group of Jews.”

Visitors to the stores’ websites could also purchase Martin Luther’s *The Jews and their Lies*, in which the medieval theologian describes Jews as “base, whoring people ... full of the devil’s feces ... which they wallow in like swine.”

The Protocols of the Elders of Zion, meanwhile, was also available online from Dymocks.

The AJN undertook the investigation into the sale of hate literature on the net as part of the paper’s ongoing coverage of, and campaign against, cyber-racism.

After alerting the retailers to the pernicious nature of the books they were selling via their websites, on Tuesday all three agreed to withdraw them.

Dymocks buying manager Sophie Groom said: “We have taken the decision to remove the title from our website and this will be completed within the next two business days.”

Briony Lewis, general counsel for Redgroup Retail – the parent company of Borders and Angus & Robertson – also confirmed that the publications were being pulled.

The swift action taken by the retailers was welcomed by community leaders.

Expressing his disappointment that “such vehemently anti-Semitic and racist literature can be so easily obtained”, John Searle, president of the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV), said: “Nevertheless, I’m pleased the bookstores concerned have immediately agreed and

acknowledged that it's inappropriate for such books to be available. It is precisely the dissemination of this kind of material that leads to ongoing problems of vilification and racism within our community, which the JCCV, together with other organisations, is working to eradicate."

The sentiment was echoed by Vic Alhadeff, CEO of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies.

"Given the disturbing ease with which the internet is abused and pernicious and racist material disseminated, it places an onus on all disseminators of information to exercise care and diligence over what they put out there," he said. "We therefore applaud these bookstores for their responsible approach and The AJN for raising the issue."

<http://jewishnews.net.au/2010/05/10/ajn-probe-prompts-pulling-of-books/13395>

Post-Zionism exposed



JULIE SZEGO, AJN, 19 March 2010

IF you hadn't yet heard of Israeli historian Shlomo Sand, you probably would have soon enough. His book, *The Invention of the Jewish People*, has tapped into the Zeitgeist, snatching the prestigious Ajourd'hui Award of the association of French journalists and hitting the bestseller lists.

Sand knows the value of ruffling feathers, especially among the sometimes defensive pro-Israel communities of the Diaspora. But sometimes outrage can cloud the mind. For while Sand wants to appear the trendy "post-Zionist", he's actually more a "postmodern Canaanite", to quote literary essayist Hillel Halkin.

In other words, you could draw a snaky line from Sand's thesis back to the radical extreme of revisionist Zionism that peaked in popularity in the 1930s and '40s. And in his eyes, that would be one big insult indeed.

As the title of his book suggests, Sand argues the idea that Jewish peoplehood – as opposed to religion – is an "invention" of 19th-century historians. The exile of 70 AD is myth, Sand insists, because most Jews weren't actually expelled from biblical Israel at all. And of course, if Zionism is a myth, the entire rationale of the State of Israel, including the Law of Return, collapses. As many commentators have stated, such theories are routinely espoused in the universities of the Arab world, but when an Israeli jumps on the bandwagon, it's suddenly news.

I'm not going to bother with any thorough demolition of Sand's theory; that's the easy bit. Most of us intuitively know it's flawed. As Halkin elegantly argues in *The New*

Republic, Jewish peoplehood has been taken for granted throughout history by both Jews and non-Jews alike.

You can't read the Bible without acknowledging its nationalist themes, and whatever the truth about the Roman expulsion, the loss of Jewish sovereignty and political power was the real issue. Every nationalist movement requires a pinch of mythology, and the Jewish version has more zest and endurance than most.

What I found revealing was Sand's recently published interview with Fairfax Middle East correspondent Jason Koutsoukis. This is where Sand elaborates on his brand of "post-Zionism". He says he feels a greater connection to his Arab-Israeli neighbour, who grew up breathing the same air and speaking the same language as him, than to, say, the granddaughter of a Holocaust survivor in Melbourne. (Someone who projects her identity onto Israel but doesn't necessarily want to live there.) He defines himself as Israeli on the basis of the Hebrew language, the food he eats and the football team he follows.

There's no doubt that the imagined Israel of the Diaspora doesn't always conform with the real, maddeningly complex state in the Middle East. But you can hear in Sand's words echoes of the Canaanites of old, who were drawn mostly from the ranks of the Irgun and Lehi. They also sought to erase the centuries of Jewish heritage from the Diaspora and rediscover themselves as "Hebrews", descendent from the ancient inhabitants of the Fertile Crescent. They also clung to a notion of indigenous "solidarity" with the Arabs of Palestine and dreamt of merging with them.

And despite Sand's fashionable snubbing of Diaspora Jews – insisting his only link with them is religious – the ghosts of Zionism still linger in him. He rejects the notion of a one-state solution, preferring that an independent Palestinian state confederate with Israel – an idea that's nowhere near as radical as it seems. (Quite a few mainstream Israelis see this as a logical, if very long-term, goal.) And he would still allow Jews fleeing persecution to settle in Israel – he just wouldn't let the granddaughter-types turn up as a matter of right.

But Jews in real or anticipatory strife have accounted for the overwhelming majority of olim, so his distinction would make little practical difference. The history of Israel's birth was as much about the desperation of post-Holocaust refugees as it was about sentimental notions of exile and return. Sand isn't quite prepared to rescind Israel as an insurance policy.

The irony is that no matter how much hummous Sand eats, his Arab neighbour will continue to see in him a European Jew, an intruder, an enemy nation. Try telling this neighbour it's all an invention.

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<http://jewishnews.net.au/2010/03/19/postzionismexposed/12611>