

Report from Bonn by Rainer Apel

A word on Kristallnacht remembrance

Edgar Bronfman is sabotaging efforts toward German-Jewish reconciliation.

In late October, the German history professor Ernst Nolte learned that his invitation to take part in the Wolffson Lectures at Oxford University, Britain, was canceled. He had planned to speak about the fact that Hitler and Stalin were twins in genocide, that one who attacks Hitler should do so to Stalin as well.

Among those who had Ernst Nolte disinvited was Robert Maxwell, a key sponsor of the Wolffson Lectures, one of the world's biggest media magnates. Maxwell, born in Czechoslovakia of Jewish origin, is today an influential Gorbachovite in the West.

The Oxford decision to disinvite Nolte came on the eve of "Kristallnacht Remembrance Week" (Nov. 7-14), which featured intense black propaganda campaigns against West Germany. Prominently involved in this campaign were radical circles with tight East bloc connections, like Edgar Bronfman's World Jewish Congress (WJC) and their co-thinkers among German Jews.

The same circles launched the huge black propaganda campaign against President Reagan's visit to a cemetery in the German town of Bitburg in May 1985. In Germany, especially the left-wing "Frankfurt Jewish Group," which maintains contact with real estate speculator Ignaz Bubis, a figure of the "Frankfurt Jewish mob," mobilized around the phony issue that a few Waffen-SS soldiers who died shortly before the end of World War II were buried at this Bitburg cemetery.

Until that time, nobody had made an issue of these few graves in this cemetery, but all of a sudden the me-

dia turned it into a big issue internationally, by methods that can only be called disgusting. *Newsweek* reporters desecrated graves in the cemetery, taking away flowers to rearrange them on the graves of the Waffen-SS soldiers, to create the false impression that "the people here still honor the SS." Pictures of this orchestrated affair appeared on the cover of *Newsweek*, giving Bronfman's WJC and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith a pretext to attack Reagan for allegedly "honoring" these SS graves. The campaign, a top news item in the Soviet media, caused considerable trouble for Reagan, and also for Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

In late 1987, the head of the German Central Council of Jews, Werner Nachmann, contacted the government in Bonn. He had opposed the media show around Bitburg in 1985, and wanted to make sure that this year's sensitive Kristallnacht Remembrance Week, 50 years after the November 1938 Nazi pogroms against the German Jews, did not turn into a new chain of fabricated incidents against the West German government.

An agreement was reached between the government and Nachmann not to have a big event in the Parliament in Bonn, but rather at the Synagogue in Frankfurt, to which Chancellor Kohl would be invited. This was opposed by Bubis and the left-wing Frankfurt Jewish Group, who called the invitation to Kohl a betrayal of "true Jewish interests." Nachmann insisted on upholding the Kohl invitation.

But in January 1988, Nachmann

died suddenly. His post as chairman of the German Central Council of Jews was taken over by Heinz Galinski, a Bronfmanite and advocate of confrontation with the Bonn government. Galinski and Bronfman are engaged in shuttle diplomacy with the Soviets and their puppet regime in East Germany, on reopening of relations between Jews and the ruling powers in Moscow and East Berlin.

Galinski (who knew of Nachmann's 1987 agreement with Bonn) attacked the West German Parliament and the government for not having invited him to speak on Kristallnacht Remembrance Day, Nov. 9, but had warm words for East Germany's leader Erich Honecker for inviting him to a commemoration at the East German Parliament.

Yet, of 4,000 Jews still alive in East Germany in 1945, only 380 are left today, and of the 15,000 Jews who have emigrated from the Soviet Union (fleeing anti-Semitic pogroms) this year, only a few went to East Germany, but many to West Germany. In recent years, many Jews who left Israel have settled in West Germany. And in May this year, Isaac Neuman, a Polish-born Jew, quit his post as chief rabbi in East Germany, to protest daily repressions by the East German political police, the Stasi.

Moreover, since Nachmann's death, the Jewish issue in West Germany has stayed highly controversial among the Jews themselves. In October, "Nachmannite" Michael Fuerst resigned from all functions in the German Jewish Central Council, and on Nov. 3, Fuerst attacked Heinz Galinski for threatening to ruin of all reconciliation efforts between Jews and Germans. Fuerst's remarks show that Bronfman and his friends in Moscow have not yet taken full control of Jewish affairs in West Germany.