

LL/B
24 Dec
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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

JUSTICE (1800)
Show Trials (1806)
SLANSKY Trial

RELIGION (2800)
Jews (2807)

COMMUNIST PARTY (0600)
Personalities (0600)

"Spirits That Return"

SOURCE STOCKHOLM: "Svenska Dagbladet"

DATE OF OBSERVATION: 11 December 1952

EVAL. COMMENT: Interesting Swedish Editorial about the parallel development of Nazism and Communism.

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One of Sweden's most popular chroniclers, WASTBERG Erik of the "Svenska Dagbladet" (Conservative,) is devoting his daily column today (11 December 1952) to the PRAGUE trials and to the renaissance of anti-Semitism in the Communist countries.

"The Spirits return," he writes. "More than five years the whole world fought to conquer not only mad ambition, but also tyranny, concentration camps, the persecution of the Jews and everything that the Nazis had committed.

'Our ideas will survive us,' GOEBBELS cried.

"The tyranny and the concentration camps exist more and better organized than ever behind the Iron Curtain and lately anti-Semitism, too, has reappeared. Ten years have not yet passed since HEYDRICH and his gang ravaged PRAGUE with torture and executions. Now anti-Semitism is again creeping like a blood-stained ghost through the alleys around the old Jewish cemetery. The hanging of the eleven Communist big-shots has been

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followed by the arrests of their less important sympathizers. There is a wave of suicides. Everything is repeating itself with almost boring cruelty."

Mr. WESTBERG continues to say that it is perfectly ludicrous to believe that a man like SLANSKY, "a MOSCOW-trained and irreligious Communist fanatic should have been a Zionist nationalist."

"To find accusations against the Jews is one of the most base things ever done in this world. Czaristic Russia used to be the only country - mostly due to religious reasons - which had anti-Semitism as official state policy. The Jews therefore, joined the opposition and HITLER could pretend that Bolshevism was a Jewish conspiracy. He spoke much about this and about the "international Jew" and thus many million people were taken to the gas-chambers. In order to get a country of their own, the Jews construed a Fatherland in Israel. And immediately the new death-sentences were ready - for Nationalism and anti-Bolshevism. After Nazi-Germany, Czechoslovakia is now the first state to reintroduce official anti-Semitism - although the motives are the exact opposite ones from those employed by HITLER.

"But of course the accusations and the confessions are equally unfounded. The one and only thing to believe in is the terror. If a wife demands a death-sentence for her husband, the blood-stained background can be understood. If a son writes that he had not understood what a rascal his father had been and that he hopes he will be sentenced very severely, only the most ferocious fright can motivate it," Mr. WESTBERG writes.