World Jewish Congress

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DATELINE WORLD JEWRY

NOVEMBER 1995

FOCUS: HATE GROUPS

COMPUTER HATE

Jewish community leaders have called on Australian parliamentarians to consider taking action against racist texts which are disseminated by computer by the "Bible Believers Bulletin Board," an organization which uses the Internet to circulate anti-Semitic books, articles, and sermons.

VANDALISM

A Berlin memorial for Jews deported to Nazi concentration camps has been badly damaged in the fourth act of vandalism in three weeks.

Three of 16 sculptures at the temporary exhibit were found smashed and scattered on the ground.

HATE CACHE

German police have found thousands of racist and neo-Nazi books and leaflets near the city of Solingen, scene of one of postwar Germany's most horrific racist attacks, the arson murder of five Turkish women and girls in 1993.

YIDDISH APPEAL

A restored recording of a 1949 Moscow concert by the late American singer Paul Robeson, recently discovered in archives of the former Soviet Union, is being released on CD in the U.S. and Europe.

Robeson, who was black, ended the concert, held during the height of Stalinist anti-Jewish persecution, with a passionate appeal against anti-Semitism, with a song he sang in Yiddish to a surprised and reportedly moved audience.

of the outlawed Viking Youth neo-Nazi group, to two years and nine months in prison.

HIT LIST

An extremist Turkish Islamic group has published a "hit list" which includes Istanbul's Jewish secondary school and the city's rabbinical college.

The outlawed group, known as IBDA-C, claimed responsibility earlier this year for a car bomb attack on the leader of the Ankara Jewish community.

FINAL VERDICT

Germany's highest court has upheld the conviction of neo-Nazi leader Guenter Deckert, who was sentenced for inciting racial hatred after he asserted, at an extreme-right rally, that the Holocaust never occurred.

Germany's justice system has been much criticized over the case, which took three trials and three years to reach conclusion.

HATE BAN

The European Parliament has adopted a resolution calling for a ban on all forms of discrimination and a condemnation of racism, xenophobia, and anti-Semitism.

The Parliament also takes the view that incitement to racism and the production and distribution of and support for racist material as well as any revisionist claims denying the Holocaust should be treated as criminal offenses.

"ARYAN OF THE YEAR"

Charles Scott, who set up a telephone hate line in Chilliwack, British Columbia, has been arrested for trespassing on a Canadian Forces base and for obstructing police.

Scott, named "Aryan of the Year" by a U.S.-based hate group, faces trial in British Columbia for public mischief.

SPLIT

Romania's leftist ruling party, the Party of Social Democracy, has severed its coalition with an extreme nationalist party, the Greater Romania Party (GRP), because of the GRP's continuing attacks on President Ion Iliescu.

The GRP, which espouses anti-Semitic views, has accused Iliescu of selling Romania to an international conspiracy led by Jews.

SWISS THREAT

A study of far-right groups in Switzerland has found that right-wing extremists remain a potential danger to democracy in the country, and that far-right ideas are spreading into government and everyday life.

The study, commissioned by Swiss Justice Minister Arnold Koller, found that although violence-prone skinheads and radical intellectuals remain sidelined from mainstream Swiss politics, they are active and closely linked with ideological comrades in neighboring France and Germany.

EUROPE

ADMISSION

The Roman Catholic Church in the Netherlands has admitted it shares responsibility for the mass murder of Jews during World War II.

"A tradition of theological and church anti-Semitism contributed to the climate which allowed the *Shoah* (Holocaust) to take place," the Dutch Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference said in a statement.

LORD HORROR

A novel banned in Britain under the Obscene Publications Act for alleged anti-Semitism is being auctioned in London.