

Kahane, Accepting Deal, Pleads Guilty to Plotting

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Rabbi Meir Kahane, the head of the Jewish Defense League, and two other members of the militant organization pleaded guilty in Federal Court in Brooklyn yesterday to conspiracy charges involving the manufacture of explosives.

The defendants were among 13 persons indicted last May 13 on those charges and on charges of transporting firearms across state lines. All had previously pleaded not guilty.

Under conditions agreed to by defense and Government lawyers, all charges against the remaining 10 defendants will be dropped and the charges involving firearms will be

dropped for the three who pleaded guilty, provided that the league turns over to the Government any illegal explosives and firearms in its possession and submits to an inspection of its camp in Woodburn, N. Y.

The three who pleaded guilty face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The chief assistant United States attorney, Robert A. Morse, appearing before Judge Jack B. Weinstein, said the disposition had been approved "at the highest level of Gov-

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ernment." One of the defense lawyers, Barry Slotnick, said later that the approval had been granted by the United States Attorney General's office.

Pleading guilty with Rabbi Kahane, 38 years old, of Brooklyn, was Chaim Bieber, 41, and Stewart Cohen, 18, both of Queens.

In a statement accompanying his change of plea and in remarks to newsmen later, Rabbi Kahane admitted that he had "agreed to make explosives" at the league's camp last August and had not filed the required application or paid a \$200 tax.

He said a single explosive device had been set off "to graphically illustrate to youngsters of the camp the type of bomb described in pamphlets of the radical left and right "for the propose of overthrowing the Government."

Rabbi Kahane said the youngsters had led sheltered middle-class lives and had friends who were raising money for the Black Panthers, Weathermen and other groups.

He added that the bomb had been exploded in the presence of a police informer whose identity they had known for a year. "We had no idea that it was illegal to explode a bomb on our own property and in a classroom atmosphere," Rabbi Kahane said.

Ties Arrests to Soviet

Rabbi Kahane charged that the Government had pressed the case merely because of pressure from the Soviet Union over anti-Soviet demonstrations by the league.

"They used this particular case as a weapon to crush the J.D.L.," he declared.

The three who pleaded are to appear for sentencing July 23. At that time charges against the remaining defendants are expected to be dropped.

The militant tactics of Rabbi Kahane, who is also a journalist, have drawn the disapproval of most of the country's leading Jewish organizations. The rabbi founded the league three years ago convinced that an aggressive organization was needed to combat anti-Semitism.

Many Arrest

Since then he and many of his followers have been arrested a number of times for disruptive demonstrations here and elsewhere aimed at protesting the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union and in the Arab states.

Harassment of Russians visiting the United States—diplomats, artists and athletes—became one of the league's principal activities.

Last May 13, Rabbi Kahane joined forces with Joseph A. Colombo Sr., the reputed underworld figure and founder of the Italian-American Civil Rights League. Their intention, it was said at the time, was to fight what they called harassment by the Federal Government.

Colombo was shot and seriously wounded shortly before the start of his organization's second annual Unity Day rally at Columbus Circle on June 28. Rabbi Kahane was among those who stood vigil at Roosevelt Hospital.