

The Times demands fascism in Israel

by Mark Burdman

The walls of New York City several years back were graced with a poster that gained much attention from passers-by. It showed a picture of Adolf Hitler, in full Nazi regalia, with a caption underneath: "I got my job through the *New York Times*." Those with longer memory and a flare for history remembered: The *Times* was among the most enthusiastic proponents of the Hitler regime and its economic policies during the early 1930s.

Fifty-one years after the rise of Hitler to power, things haven't changed a bit.

On Christmas Eve, of all nights, the *Times* called for the imposition of Hitler-like austerity policies, ironically, on the population of Israel. In return for requested levels of economic aid, the paper wrote, Israel must "demonstrate discipline and sacrifice" in compliance with what "the State Department has proposed" for Israel.

"The people [of Israel] are said to be ready for great sacrifices," the editorial lied, "but their leaders, though insulated from political assault, have been slow to act," out of fear of "high unemployment" and increased emigration from the country.

An even more savage blast was issued Dec. 27 by William Safire, who attacked Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres for failing to "enforce the necessary economic discipline. He acts as if he wants to blame the U.S. for demanding the suffering, the way a banana republic's leaders castigate the International Monetary Fund for strings on credit." Safire called for a series of specific austerity measures, which he labelled "cruel openers": "It means unemployment, hard times, the emigration of sunshine patriots, curtailment of dreams, even defense risks. . . . Needed now is some modern Joshua willing to break the bad news and rally the people to overcome it."

State Department Nazis

The *Times*' editorial board and the bloodthirsty Mr. Safire were preparing the due welcome for Secretary of State George Shultz's Christmas-period trip to Israel. Once he had arrived there, Israeli sources report, Shultz read the riot act, and demanded that Israel impose further austerity in return for receiving economic aid.

When the *Times* demands that Israel comply with "what

the State Department has proposed," it knows exactly whereof it speaks: The chief of the State Department component of the joint American-Israeli advisory team that is working out policies for "restructuring" the Israeli economy is one Mr. W. Allen Wallis, the State Department's undersecretary of state for monetary affairs. Wallis has been a lifelong proponent of fascist economic policies similar to those implemented by Nazi Minister of Economics Hjalmar Schacht.

In 1933, Wallis spoke before the American Museum of Natural History at a Harriman-family-sponsored conference on eugenics which endorsed the race-superiority policies of the Hitler regime. His conference theme: "The Statistical Distribution of the Nordic Racial Stock"!

The economic crisis facing Israel, embodied in inflation rates of over 1,000% and the highest per-capita debt in the world, is made even worse by the manner in which leading Israeli policymakers and economists are trying to outdo each other to appease the State Department-*New York Times* Nazis.

Finance Minister Yitzhak Modai, for example, went so far as to complain that even Shultz had not demanded enough austerity for Israel! "I think we have to go further and cut deeper," he declared.

Similarly, a top Israeli economist, Assaf Razin, who served in the Israeli finance ministry during the period that Milton Friedman was the official adviser to the Israeli government, wrote in the *New York Times* Dec. 28 that the solution for Israel's woes is for "Washington to monitor Israel's economy in much the same way that the International Monetary Fund keeps watch over the economic assistance it provides."

The Times' holy war against Israel

The *Times*' editorial is the latest chapter in an insidious campaign of trying to undermine the institutions that built Israel as a state.

In November 1982, the *Times* ran a famous dirty trick against the establishment leaders of the Israeli Labour Party, misquoting those leaders on issues of grave strategic importance for Israel—to such an extent that leading Labourites nearly sued the *Times* for libel.

That opened up traditional Labourites to attacks from the most expansion-hungry factions in Israel's political spectrum. Not accidentally, the *Times*' dirty trick coincided with attempts by Henry Kissinger and his mafia-connected cohorts to run a "land scam" series of real-estate deals on the West Bank.

Today, the *Times*-State Department push for the strangulation of the Israeli economy will further erode the democratic institutions of the country and pave the way for a strongman like Ariel Sharon, or someone worse, to rule the country. As the *Times* and its liberal Establishment allies imposed Hitler on Germany *from the outside* in the 1930s, so the *Times* today is attempting to bring fascism *from the outside* into Israel.