

The history of a photograph

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A conference was held in Moscow on January 26-27, 2002, organized by the Encyclopedia of Russian Civilization, whose director was that well-known denouncer of Jews, Masons and all sorts of other anti-Russian conspirators, Oleg Platonov. At first glance the conference topic was trivial: "Global Problems in Modern History." In actual fact, it was a gathering of extreme anti-Semites and Holocaust-deniers, for some of whom it is impossible not only to speak publicly, but even to live in the liberal social and political climate of the countries they come from. At this conference, the latest in a succession of "research results" were voiced, to the effect that there is no evidence of there having been any slaughter of the Jews in concentration camps, as well as political statements to the effect that the Jews control the government, the media and the economy of the United States; that West-

ern politicians "are nothing more than Jewish puppets"; that the Jews blackmailed Switzerland for the money they had lost in Swiss banks during the Second World War, and so forth.

Also present at the conference was the leader of the Attack Coalition Volen Siderov, who enlightened his listeners on the subject of how globalization represents the final phase in the colonization of the Orthodox Christian world, in which the leading role is played by those God-killing evil-doers, the Jews, who via their banks financed the Bolshevik revolution, which inflicted so much misery and suffering to the Russian people. This is the same empty propaganda that we would be able to read several months later in his book *The Boomerang of Evil*, as well as in other materials published by him.

For Siderov, this conference appears to have been something of an initiation into international anti-Semitic circles. That's what it looks like in a photograph that the participants took as a parting souvenir, in which he appears to be coyly ingratiating himself with the "founding fathers." But let's see who some of these characters are:



AHMED RAMI - a former Moroccan officer, who received political asylum in Sweden in 1973 due to his alleged participation in an August 1972 coup attempt against King Hussein. In Sweden he founded Radio Islam, which soon became a primary source of anti-Semitic propaganda in the country. In 1996, Rami launched an Internet site by the same name. In a 2003 report, the European Union's Center for Monitoring Racism and Xenophobia described it as "one of the most radical right-wing, anti-Semitic sites on the Internet, with close ties to radical Islamic groups." On the site one can read numerous articles and books about "Zionist murders," "Jewish racism," and "Jewish hypocrisy," including *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. In 1990, Rami was sentenced to six months imprisonment for "instigating hatred against groups of people," and Radio Islam's license was suspended for one year. In 1991, it resumed broadcasting under the direction of the well-known Swedish Nazi, David Janson. In 1993, Janson was convicted of the same crime as Rami. In October 2000, Ahmed Rami was again convicted by a Swedish court and fined.

DAVID DUKE - former "Grand Wizard" of the Ku Klux Klan, chosen for that post in 1974.

Under his stewardship, the organization attempted to modernize itself and become a contemporary far-right political force. Duke replaced the title "Grand Wizard" with "National Director," and the white robes with business suits. In the end, however, he left the Ku Klux Klan in 1978, and began to make attempts (for the most part unsuccessful) at launching a political career. Those attempts were based upon an extreme right-wing, anti-minority and anti-Semitic ideology. Of the Jews, Duke said that "they are trying to destroy all other cultures... as a survival mechanism," and of Israel, that it "is the only Nazi country in the world." The Anti-Defamation League in the United States called him "one of the most dangerous extremists" of modern times. In December 2002, Duke pled guilty to tax fraud, and four months later he was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment, as well as a 10,000 USD fine, in addition to the back taxes he owed. He was released from prison in May 2004. Soon afterwards, in September 2005, Duke received a doctoral degree from the anti-Semitic Interregional Academy of Personnel Management in the Ukraine, with his dissertation on the topic "Zionism as a Doctrine of Ethnic Supremacy."

GERALD FREDERICK TOBEN - director of the Adelaide Institute in Australia, founded in 1994. The institute is considered to be xenophobic and anti-Semitic, not only in that country, but also by many investigators from abroad. Its main purpose is to disseminate propaganda denying the Holocaust: in published pamphlets, on the streets of Australian cities, and on its Internet site. One of the institute's biggest publicity campaigns was conducted on the eve of the Australian premiere of the movie *Schindler's List*. In April 1999 Toben was arrested in Germany and sentenced to 10 months imprisonment for denial of the Holocaust. He only served seven months, and was then released upon paying a 5,000-dollar bond. In 2002 the Federal Court of Australia ordered the Adelaide Institute to remove from its Internet site materials casting doubt upon the existence of the Holocaust and of the gas chambers, as well as some material offensive to Jews.

DUKE, RAMI, GRAF, TOBEN, BERCLAZ - although they

are the "founding fathers" of international anti-Semitism, they have been marginalized in their own countries, and bounce between prison and exile. In her report on the Moscow conference in the March 2002 issue of the famous anti-fascist magazine *Searchlight*, journalist Mina Sodman characterized the speech given by "some guy named Siderov" as being "curious." The speech was indeed curious, but four years onwards Sodman could hardly call him "some guy." Because out of that entire xenophobic rogues' gallery, Siderov is the only one who verbalizes not only from Internet sites or books printed by unknown publishers, but from the podium of the highest legislative body in his own country. Not only that, he does so with immunity from criminal prosecution - which for his crimes, for the likes of which elsewhere people like him serve prison time - is absolute.

JURGEN GRAF - Swiss revisionist and Holocaust-denier, famous for writing several books on the subject, including *The Myth of the Holocaust*, published in Bulgarian translation in 2003. In them, Graf endeavors to disprove "the lie of the gas chambers and the annihilation of the Jews" by the Nazis during the Second World War. He worked in Switzerland as a provincial schoolteacher. In 1993, he received a suspended sentence, for collaboration with the Nazi group Avalon. In 1998, he was accused, along with his publicist, Gerhard Forster, of denying the Holocaust, and in July of that year he was sentenced to 15 months imprisonment and ordered to pay a sizable fine. Graf should have begun serving that sentence in October 2000, but he fled to Iran, where he had been invited by a group of Iranian scholars. Later on, he married a Russian national and currently lives in Russia and Belarus.

RENE-LOUIS BERCLAZ - former secretary of the forgotten Swiss organization Truth and Justice. Its activity entailed denying the Holocaust and spreading extreme anti-Semitic propaganda. Berclaz himself was an active author of anti-Semitic pamphlets. For that activity, he was sentenced by a Swiss court in 1998 to a four-month suspended prison sentence. After the organization was banned in 2002, he was sentenced to eight months effective imprisonment for "inciting racial hatred." Berclaz fled Switzerland and hid for some time in Serbia and Romania, from where he continued to supply his Internet site with anti-Semitic material. For that activity he got new convictions. The Swiss government issued an international warrant for his arrest, and in November 2004 he was handed over to the Swiss Embassy in Bucharest. He was extradited to Switzerland, where he began serving an effective 17-month sentence.