MORE ABOUT TACUARA's ACTIVITIES

The situation around the Sarmiento High School and Tacuara's anti-Semitic attacks has been loosening in the last few weeks. May be it was due to the fact that a group of fathers and the Instituto took steps with some officials for denouncing them and widely publicize it in the press. But later on there were incidents again; everybody who is concerned feels that if appropriate measures are not taken quickly these out-breaks could develop into a problem even more serious.

Here are a few examples: One pupil of the School, Benedit by name, patched pictures of Hitler and Bormann on the blackboard. When his Jewish schoolfellow Trevis took them off he said he would bring more copies as a reminder; had nazism been in power for a couple of years more, he said, there would not have been a Jewish problem for the nazis would have slaughtered all the remaining Jews. D'Ovidio, another pupil of the same School, said that Jews "were cowards and have no dignity". A Jewish schoolfellow strode out and called him out to fight as a proof that Jews are no cowards. A non-identified pupil of the School pricked with a penknife a Jewish companion in the neck.

Incitements by word and by fact are going on almost every day. Tacuara's onslaughting groups are being seen again in the School's neighborhoods.

On November 12th, Saturday afternoon, two Jewish pupils of the Sarmiento School, Ernesto Socolosky and Daniel Berner, were stopped in the street (nearby Socolosky's home) by five Tacuara youngsters of 18 to 20 years old, who began calling them names and shouting death threats. Socolosky and Berner did not react since they were two against five and kept walking a couple of blocks until they were met by a second group of Tacuarites which not only insulted them but also struck them and ran away afterwards.

The case was taken to the Police. Policemen were sent together with some of the denouncing fathers to the home of Carlos Oliveira Avellaneda, a member of the first group of hooligans (none of the second group could be identified) where he was found with a kid brother and two other youngsters called Lucero Smith and Guevara Lynch, who also took part in the riot. The Police took their fingerprints and summoned up their fathers.
On November 15th the above mentioned Daniel Berner was phoned by another boy who called him to meet each other to talk over the possibilities of entering a so called group Facon in order to avoid further aggressions. Obviously it was a trick. Berner's father took the phone and asked the boy to give his name. He did. "Bernando Koremblit is my name, he said. I live with my aunt Mrs. Fidanza and everytime you want to leave me a message call my cousin Amilcar Fidanza." And he gave his phone number. Mr. Berner told him that his son did not belong to any organization and invited Koremblit to come and talk. The boy promised to do that later in the afternoon, but he did not come and Mr. Berner thought it would be better to call on in the phone. The boy's mother answered; in fact she was Mrs. Fidanza and asked Mr. Berner to visit her. "I did, said Mr. Berner, and Mr. Socolosky came with me. Mrs. Fidanza told us she was hopeless because her son belonged to Tacuara; she had discovered it by finding in his clothes some pamphlets of the organization which read Do for your fatherland and kill a Jew. The pamphlets -she said- could be identified as being printed in the Catholic School El Salvador. She also told us that after she failed in keeping her son from this kind of friends that were transforming him in a criminal, she wanted him to be sent to a reformatory." According to Mrs. Fidanza, Tacuara's meeting places were three main churches of the city (San Nicolás de Bari, Santo Domingo, El Salvador). Mr. Popesku, a teacher at El Salvador's Catholic School was urging Catholic students to join Tacuara's group. Members of the organization must take a gun at every demonstration and are inflicted physical punishment in case of disobedience. Membership must be kept under death threatening; even relatives are menaced and Mrs. Fidanza admitted she also was.

Mrs. Fidanza, who is a friend of many Jewish families in town, is very concerned with all these happenings. She offered her cooperation for taking steps whatsoever toward a solution.

She is also a relative to Congressman Tonelli "with whom we went -so said Mr. Berner- to the Police Quarter where the youngster Amilcar Fidanza had been arrested. The boy confessed that he was who had called up Mr. Berner at the phone pretending to be Koremblit, in accordance with Tacuara's orders to ambush Berner Jr to beat him."
The day after, Mrs. Fidanza introduced us to Ricardo Heuser, her son's fellow student 14 years old, whom we took to the Chamber of Deputies' offices. There we had a hearing with him in the presence of Congressman Tonelli. Heuser's declaration, which he later on repeated to the Police Inspector Martinez, was as follows:

He had affiliated with Tacuara last year and subsequently gave up as a member because he was not agreeing with their methods; he was not accepted the resignation but expelled instead as traitor and homosexual, as it is usual in this organization. A few days later a Tacuara youngster called him names in the street near his home and bludgeoned him too. Although being expelled from the organization they obligated him under death threatening, to attend every meeting and participate in the riots. As a result he had to join the group going to the Sarmiento School on August 17th this year (the day a Jewish boy named Trilnik was severely wounded by a gun bullet); he had been told to take a gun but he could not because his mother hid it; his group of Tacuarites waiting in the street corner for the School students to be out, began shouting "Long live Eichmann", "Long live Peron", "Long live Tacuara", "Death to the Jews", "Jews go to Israel" and so on. The outgoing schoolboys replied with counter-shoutings like "Down with Tacuara" and hails for democracy, and rushed to shock the nazis; but the Tacuarites did not stand the schoolboys' rush and drew back attracting behind a small persecutive group of thirty students and opened fire against them when they reached a little square two blocks from the School (Trilnik was wounded there).

By the way, Heuser said he guessed Tacuara must have its records and files in a foreign country.

Heuser then said that he was later on compelled to take part in a Peronist celebration organized by Tacuara in the Faculty of Law, breaking windows and throwing in "Molotov bottles" as a demonstration against the leading students-group in that School. According to Heuser, the "Molotov bottles" were being prepared in Tacuara's headquarters now located in the place of a nationalistic party called "Union Civica Nacionalista" (they have their own closed by the Police). He also said that the most visible top leader of Tacuara is the Secretary General Alberto Ezcurra, assisted by
Lucero Smith, Guevara Lynch, Carlos Oliveira Avellaneda and Ricardo Orlandi. The junior group is being led by someone called Fabio Fernandez, alias "El Chino". A trotskyst-minded lawyer and well known newspaperman, Mr. Adolfo Perez, a frequent lecturer at Tacuara's headquarters, is also one of its more active leaders and, surprisingly enough, sometimes its boxing trainer too. There are also some German nazi generals' sons whose names Heuser did not remember. He gave a few other names of members (with some addresses and phone numbers too): Frazer, Ricardo Orlandi, Ignacio Berra, Emilio D'Ovidio, Julio Cesar Casanova Ferro, Fernando Castro Feijoo, Raul Vivanco, Federico Erdman, Adrian Merini, Rodriguez Albornoz, Famularo.

When all was over and the police took the information, the group of fathers went to see the Senator Mr. Turano, who promised them to talk it over with the Chief of Police. They also met with the head of the Police Office in charge of this kind of investigations so as the procedures should not "be mislaid among other papers" and were promised to take strong measures against Tacuara. With the same purpose the group went to Mr. Landau, Director of the "Institute of the Mind", who showed himself most interested in the problem and blamed the priests for all he happenings.