

World and Nation

Soviet press publishes article that depicts anti-Semitic Stalin

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin long claimed anti-Semitism was a purely capitalist scourge that couldn't exist under socialism.

But the state-run press has thrown into doubt that official tenet and even suggested there may not have been much difference between Josef Stalin and Adolf Hitler on the question of anti-Semitism.

Soviet doctrine for decades has maintained that the overthrow of capitalism in the 1917 Russian Revolution did away with the economic exploitation that fosters anti-Semitism.

One of the publications in the forefront of the "glasnost" campaign, the weekly Ogonyok, recently published an expose on a grave near Minsk that contained the remains of thousands of people shot as "enemies of the people" in the late 1930s during Stalin's reign.

Alex Adamovich, who wrote the article, said he had clashed with another author who tried to justify the actions of Stalin's secret police.

"They believed," my opponent stressed, referring to the guards and the watchmen whose tower loomed over the head of all 170 million people (then the Soviet population)," Adamovich wrote. "Well, those who committed unthinkable atrocities in occupied Byelorussia, Ukraine, Russia and the Baltic states — could they not also refer to their 'symbols of faith'? They could, and that's how they justified themselves at the Nuremberg trial."

Another magazine, the monthly literary jour-

nal Oktyabr, in its latest edition, printed a passage from Vitaly Grossman's novel "Life and Fate" about the rise of "State anti-Semitism."

Oktyabr has been serializing Grossman's masterpiece, a World War II-era historical novel long banned in the Soviet Union, that sketches parallels between wartime Russia and Nazi Germany and the ideological tyrannies of Stalinism and Nazism.

But reader Viktor Koretsky complained in a letter that a "very important" segment had been skipped over in the serialization. The journal's editors acknowledged that part of the novel had been "omitted," but did not explain why. They then printed the missing 2.5-page fragment, including these passages:

"In the course of two millennia, have there ever been occasions when the forces of freedom and humanitarianism made use of anti-Semitism as a tool in their struggles? Possibly, but I do not know of them," wrote Grossman, who died in 1964.

In contrast, he said, "In totalitarian countries, where society as such no longer exists, there can arise state anti-Semitism."

"The first stage of state anti-Semitism is discrimination: the state limits the areas in which Jews can live," Grossman wrote. "The second stage is wholesale destruction. At a time when the forces of reaction enter a fatal struggle against the forces of freedom, then anti-Semitism becomes an ideology of Party and State — as happened with Fascism."

Oktyabr's editors noted the segment follows chapters dealing with Adolf Eichmann, the Gestapo official who oversaw the annihilation of millions of Jews, and said Grossman was describing the racist policy of state anti-Semitism.

But the passage would appear to embrace anti-Semitism in official Soviet life as well, and in one place, it mentions "cosmopolitanism," a charge used under Stalin to persecute Jewish authors, artists and other figures after World War II.

"No other writer has so convincingly established the identity of Nazism and Soviet Communism," Grossman's English-language translator Robert Chandler said in a forward to the British edition of the novel. "The parallels between the two systems are drawn repeatedly..."

Soviet officialdom had little illusion about the explosiveness of the message contained in "Life and Fate." In 1960, Grossman completed the 800-page novel and submitted it to an official literary journal, Znamya. It was returned with a rejection slip calling the work "anti-Soviet."

KGB officers were sent to Grossman's home with orders to confiscate not only the manuscript, but even sheets of used carbon paper and typewriter ribbons. When Grossman appealed to the ruling Politburo for the return of his manuscript, Kremlin ideologue Mikhail A. Suslov reportedly told him there would be no question of "Life and Fate" being published for another 200 years.

Nation's hospitals face financial illness

CHICAGO (AP) — The financial health of the nation's hospitals is taking a turn for the worse, which could lead to more hospital closings and a decline in the quality of patient care, an industry group said Monday.

The main cause of the hospitals' financial woes is less-than-adequate payments under government Medicare and Medicaid programs, the Healthcare Financial Management Association said, citing a survey of 1,400 hospitals. There are about 7,000 hospitals in the country.

"The first thing we need is to have a payment policy for Medicaid and Medicare services that is rational," association President Richard L.

Clarke said. "We feel that it is currently unfair to hospitals."

"We believe government and employers must... make decisions for payment of health care services which meet the financial needs of hospitals that conscientiously manage their costs," he said.

Under changes that took effect in October 1983, Medicare pays a set amount for a given service or treatment. The schedule was set by Congress in an effort to curb sharply escalating healthcare costs and reduce federal budget deficits.

Clarke said that move has resulted in more patients being treated at outpatient clinics and walk-in surgi-

cal centers, and a decline in hospital occupancy rates.

"I think what we'll find in the future is that more hospitals will close, others will eliminate unprofitable services such as emergency rooms and others will have no ability to borrow money to replace aging plant and equipment," Clarke said.

The organization for financial managers of hospitals and other businesses in the health-care field has 26,000 members.

A spokesman for the U.S. Health Care Finance Administration, which administers the Medicare government-insurance program, used primarily by senior citizens, declined to comment specifically on the report, saying he had not seen it.

But spokesman Robert Hardy said Medicare payment rates for hospitals are "fair and realistic."

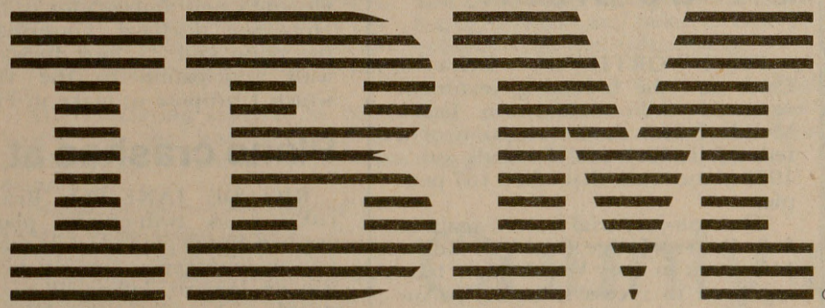
There were rate increases of 2.9 percent to 3.9 percent on Oct. 1, he said, noting the boosts varied depending on location.

"Basically, Medicare was put into business not to make sure that every hospital in the country makes a profit... but to make sure that senior citizens get quality health care," Hardy said.

He said a major factor in hospitals' financial problems is too many beds, citing nationwide occupancy rates averaging only about 60 percent.

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