

# THE JEWISH COUNCIL TO COMBAT FASCISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM AND THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

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This article examines the campaign by the Melbourne Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism (JCCFAS) against Nazi war criminals entering Australia from 1947 till the late 1960s. Using mostly primary sources such as JCCFAS Annual Reports, Newsletters and Executive Committee Minutes plus ASIO files from the period, I document the key actions of the Council in exposing alleged war criminals and manifestations of antisemitism amongst migrants more broadly.

I argue that the Council was effective in placing these concerns on the public agenda, although at times its critique of particular migrant groups such as Balts, Hungarians and Croats seemed to involve examples of ethnic stereotyping and prejudice. Equally, there is no doubt that the Coalition Government exploited the Council's left-wing reputation to discredit its allegations, and at times was assisted in doing so by mainstream Jewish groups that were politically opposed to the Council.

## Introduction

The JCCFAS was arguably Australian Jewry's most controversial organisation. After attaining significant power in both the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies and the Executive Council of Australian Jewry in the mid-to-late 1940s, the Council experienced a sharp political decline during the Cold War due to its perceived allegiance with communism and the Soviet Union. Previous publications have examined a number of key themes pertaining to the Council's activities including Soviet antisemitism,<sup>1</sup> Israel,<sup>2</sup> and the specific campaign against German migration from 1949–51.<sup>3</sup> However, this article considers in depth the Council's activities against Nazi war criminals that both preceded and continued post the discrete campaign against German migration.

Following World War Two, successive Immigration Ministers Arthur Calwell (Australian Labor Party) and Harold Holt (Liberal-National Coalition) instigated plans for the large-scale migration of displaced persons (DPs) from Europe to Australia. The Labor government coined the phrase 'populate or

perish' to capture Australia's desperate need for large-scale immigration. Particular factors cited included Australia's declining birth rate, its continued vulnerability to regional aggression, and labour shortages in heavy industry, home building and public works. The government's initial preference was for British migrants followed by settlers from Western Europe and Scandinavia. However, these plans were frustrated by circumstances beyond the control of the government such as the non-availability of shipping.<sup>4</sup>

The Labor Government initially welcomed refugees from the Baltic States such as Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. They were followed by new arrivals from Southern and Northern Europe. Under the Displaced Persons Scheme introduced in July 1947, Australia accepted nearly 180,000 people over a four and a half year period. Most of these newcomers were genuine DPs and refugees, although a small number appear to have played important roles as Nazi collaborators in the mass killings of Jews during the Holocaust.<sup>5</sup>

A number of factors appear to have contributed to the entry of these war criminals, including lax security procedures, reliance on inadequate overseas sources such as the International Refugee Organisation selection officers, the inter-mixing and blurring of refugees and collaborators within Displaced Persons camps, and a concern at the height of the Cold War to exclude communists rather than fascists.<sup>6</sup>

As early as December 1947, the JCCFAS expressed concerns about the presence of alleged Nazi collaborators within the DP scheme. Evidence was gathered through overseas and local contacts pointing to the existence of significant antisemitic tendencies within migrant groups. A JCCFAS officer attended a Displaced Persons camp in Victoria and reported that Jewish migrants placed alongside Eastern European DPs in migrant centres were subjected to numerous antisemitic attacks. In addition, some migrants were found to have remnants of SS identification and blood group numbers under their armpits.<sup>7</sup>

The JCCFAS prepared a memorandum on the question of the DPs, urging closer screening of migrants to prevent the entry of fascists and former SS members, which was submitted to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry.<sup>8</sup> They also brought their concerns to the attention of the Labor Government and the media. For example, a December 1949 report in the *Truth* canvassed allegations that '12 foreigners now living in Australia were Nazi collaborators during the war and committed atrocities punishable by war crime courts'. Reference was made to three Latvians, three Poles, two Hungarians, one German, one Yugoslav and one Ukrainian.<sup>9</sup>

JCCFAS president, Norman Rothfield, expressed concern in the 1949 Council Annual Report that 'among the large numbers of Baltic migrants who

have landed here during the past year, there are many who, whether voluntarily or under some pressure, assisted the Nazis to kill European Jews. It is well known that many of the minor concentration camp officials who carried out the actual slaughter of Jews were Balts'. Rothfield warned against stereotyping all Balts 'for the crimes of a few', but nevertheless suggested that many Balts were arriving in Australia with attitudes that posed a threat not only to Jews but also to Australian democracy more generally.<sup>10</sup>

Even at this time there was some tension between the JCCFAS and the more conservative Victorian Board of Deputies (VJBD) on the best means of responding this issue. Although the two organisations worked closely together, the VJBD president, Maurice Ashkanasy, suggested that the JCCFAS had acted impulsively and without adequate consultation in releasing information to the media and making representations to the Minister of Immigration concerning alleged antisemitism amongst Baltic migrants.<sup>11</sup>

The Labor Government did not take the allegations seriously, and responded with a mixture of humour and anger. The humour was typified by Prime Minister Chifley's response to a JCCFAS delegation. On being informed of the evidence of substantial sympathy amongst the Balts for Nazi antisemitism, he joked, 'When these Baltic women get into bed with Australians they'll forget all that'.<sup>12</sup> The responsible Minister, Arthur Calwell, privately dismissed evidence from his own security service regarding the SS origins of some migrants as a 'farrago of nonsense', and directed that no further action be taken.<sup>13</sup> Publicly he warned that any cessation of Baltic immigration under the DP scheme would also threaten the arrival of Jewish migrants under the same scheme.<sup>14</sup>

The succeeding Coalition Minister, Harold Holt, also rejected allegations concerning the entry of Nazis into Australia. A note to the Minister from the Immigration Department Secretary, Tasman Heyes dated 18 January 1950 sought to discredit the source of the allegations. The note, which was based on a report by the Commonwealth Investigation Service, stated that 'charges are emanating from the Council to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism. This Council is said to be Communist dominated and is managed by Judah Waten, a known Communist. In addition, the Council naturally is weighted with Jewish members who have always been very anti-displaced persons'.<sup>15</sup>

In a March 1951 letter to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry president, Ben Green, Holt refuted specific accusations against five named migrants as based on 'evidence of a sketchy and hearsay nature'. Holt insisted that government screening methods were effective, and dismissed reports of Nazi paraphernalia found in migrant centres as involving nothing more than the collection of 'souvenirs'. He implied threateningly that campaigns against

migrant groups could rebound on the Jewish community by potentially provoking 'racial or religious bias' that had rarely been present in Australia. He emphasised that immigration policy would be determined by national interests, 'rather than any sectional aspect'.<sup>16</sup>

The JCCFAS continued to present evidence of concerns about the possible pro-Nazi views of migrant groups, including reports of violence, threats and hostility towards Jews.<sup>17</sup> They reported that officials at Bonegilla Migrant Camp had confiscated a statue of Hitler from a resident. Other seized items included leather cat-o'-nine-tails whips, German army bayonets, knives, decorations and swastikas.<sup>18</sup> The JCCFAS claimed that many Nazis, including 'former Hungarian officers who fought against the Allies in the last war and Latvians and Ukrainians who were members of infamous S.S. divisions which took part in the destruction of Warsaw and other cities in Europe' had entered Australia.<sup>19</sup> In June 1951, JCCFAS spokesperson, Sam Goldbloom, alleged that at least 30 migrants, whom he named, had served as Nazi collaborators. Similar statements were made by JCCFAS activist Sam Cohen, who was also Chairman of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry Standing Committee on Public Relations.<sup>20</sup>

However, the JCCFAS was already an organisation in decline. Its loss of support at the height of the Cold War reflected a perception that the Council's left-wing alliances were associating the Jewish community *per se* with communist activities, and therefore creating, rather than combating antisemitism. Equally, the McCarthyism of the period tended to accentuate the significance of these associations, both in terms of exaggerating the extent of communist involvement, and equally in reinforcing the reluctance of leftist non-communists to openly join anti-communists in voicing criticisms of the Soviet Union. These complex internal manoeuvrings within the Council led to repeated conjecture as to whether the Council was sincerely leading campaigns against antisemitism, or alternatively and insidiously pursuing veiled political agendas.<sup>21</sup>

The conflict between the Council and its conservative critics came to a climax over the question of whether or not to reconcile with West Germany. The Council was determined both to continue the specific campaign against German immigrants, and also a broader campaign against West German rearmament. In contrast, the Jewish roof bodies were increasingly influenced by the State of Israel's reconciliation with West Germany, and the general Cold War concern to include the Germans in the Western alliance. Eventually, in July 1952 the Council was expelled from the Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies for refusing to cancel a protest demonstration against the new West German Ambassador. Subsequently, the Council's ongoing denial of Soviet

antisemitism eroded its community support further.<sup>22</sup>

Nevertheless, the Council continued to warn against the threat posed by anti-Jewish migrants, although the emphasis was now on their current as well as their past activities. An August 1952 parliamentary question to the Minister for Immigration by left-wing Labor Party, MP Eddie Ward, appears to have been influenced by the JCCFAS. Ward asked about the presence of statues of Hitler, swastikas, German army bayonets, knives and leather whips in migrant camps.<sup>23</sup> A further statement by the JCCFAS cited the presence of Nazi souvenirs in DP camps as evidence that 'undesirable migrants, Nazis and DPs who collaborated with the Nazis are still coming to Australia'. The JCCFAS argued that 'the increased distribution of anti-Semitic material in factories and offices is partly done by the same people who collect such plaques and other Nazi souvenirs'.<sup>24</sup>

The JCCFAS prepared a memo in 1953 exposing the 'wide network of Fascist organisations among the newcomers' who had earlier collaborated with the Nazis. Reference was made to anti-Jewish groups within the Ukrainian, Hungarian and Slovakian communities. The memo was widely distributed to parliamentarians, including the Federal Labor Party leader, Dr Herbert Evatt, the Victorian Attorney General, William Slater, and the trade union movement. The Council urged the Department of Immigration to distribute information to Eastern European migrants refuting antisemitic beliefs. Additionally, due to JCCFAS advocacy, a number of questions were asked in Parliament (House of Representatives, 22 September 1953) about the presence of Nazis in Australia.<sup>25</sup> The key details of the memo were also reported in the Melbourne *Truth* newspaper. The paper alleged a growth of Nazi activities in Australia including meetings of pro-Nazi groups and the presence of fifteen former German war criminals who were re-organising Nazi cells in Australia.<sup>26</sup>

The JCCFAS Secretary, Ernest Platz, personally presented a number of these allegations in a meeting with Tasman Heyes, the Secretary of the Department of Immigration. Reference was made in the meeting to evidence of Nazi paraphernalia and sympathies among migrants. However, Heyes found the evidence to be limited, and concluded that 'if there was any tendency at all [towards Nazi sympathies among migrants] it was of negligible proportions'. He also noted a request by Platz to publish an article against racial intolerance in the *New Australian*, but made no commitment other than stating that the Minister and he would 'do our best to eliminate all forms of racial intolerance in Australia'. Heyes added that whilst Jewish fears of antisemitism were understandable, he was concerned that Jews 'were in danger themselves of

becoming racially intolerant by their attacks, mostly on insufficient grounds, against other nationals'.<sup>27</sup>

Following the meeting with Heyes, Platz engaged in further correspondence, urging the Secretary to take further steps to inform New Australians that 'anti-Semitism is contrary to the Australian democratic way of life'.<sup>28</sup> Heyes replied by emphasising that all newcomers were informed via official government bulletins that 'any form of racial prejudice is not welcome in this country'.<sup>29</sup>

Platz's advocacy with the government was not appreciated by the Jewish mainstream. Following the meeting with Platz that was publicised in the press, Heyes received a phone call from Mrs Caroline (Linka) Isaacson, Secretary of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ). Isaacson informed Heyes that Platz represented a very small group of people, was himself a communist and had absolutely no connection with the ECAJ. Heyes reassured Isaacson that Platz had not attained a meeting with the Minister.<sup>30</sup>

The JCCFAS prepared a specific leaflet for distribution at the September 1953 Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) Congress. This leaflet seemed to imply that large numbers of new migrants were sympathetic to fascist and anti-democratic viewpoints. According to the JCCFAS, 'There are many such bodies amongst the migrants which are of the well-known Nazi-fascist type. They are mostly led by former high-ranking officers and politicians, active collaborators with the German Nazi government or puppet regimes'. The JCCFAS added provocatively that 'these elements are bitter enemies of trade unionism, and are spreading racial prejudice to the detriment of the long-established Australian tradition of tolerance'. On a more positive note, the JCCFAS asked the trade unions to distribute literature to their members to re-educate migrants in regards to 'the principles of democracy'.<sup>31</sup>

The JCCFAS established a subcommittee in late 1953 to collect information regarding 'the anti-democratic activities of recent migrants to Australia'.<sup>32</sup>

A product of this subcommittee was a 1954 booklet which combined specific Jewish concerns about migrant antisemitism with a broader analysis of the alleged contribution of new migrants to anti-labour and pro-conservative politics. The JCCFAS constructed a direct alignment between antisemitism and anti-communism, and suggested that most migrants had supported far Right parties in their former countries. The JCCFAS argued on the basis of minimal evidence that leaders of the Polish, Ukrainian, Hungarian, Czech and Russian migrant organisations actively lobbied their community members to vote for conservative parties, and that in a number of electorates their influence had been decisive in electing Liberal Party candidates.<sup>33</sup> The JCCFAS



made no reference to the alternative possibility that only a small percentage of migrants may have identified with these extreme organisations, and that most may have been apolitical and concerned more with integration into Australian society than propagating the politics of their old country.

The JCCFAS alleged that 'large numbers of migrants from Eastern and Central Europe have pro-fascist and anti-Semitic prejudices'. They added that 'another large section of Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Slovakian, Hungarian and Latvian migrants actually fought for Hitler either in the German army, or one or other of the quisling traitor forces. Many committed atrocious crimes during the last war'.<sup>34</sup>

The solution proposed by the JCCFAS was for 'democratic organisations and institutions in Australia to begin a vigorous campaign of education amongst the rank and file of the migrants' to promote religious tolerance and counter anti-democratic influences. The JCCFAS specifically urged the labour movement to issue propaganda to New Australians in their own languages to educate them on the 'history and principles' of Australian trade unionism, and assist them to 'assimilate into the Australian community'.<sup>35</sup>

Further JCCFAS statements targeted manifestations of antisemitism within specific migrant groups. The JCCFAS uncovered alleged fascist groups within the Croatian community, and similar groups within the Hungarian, Latvian and Slovakian communities.<sup>36</sup> For example, the JCCFAS wrote a letter to the Minister for Immigration complaining about a Ukrainian organisation in South Australia that had commemorated the death of the first president of the Ukraine, Simon Petliura. During Petliura's reign as president from 1918–20, over 60,000 Jews were murdered in pogroms. The JCCFAS equated the 'commemoration of his death to a public commemoration of the death of Adolf Hitler'.<sup>37</sup> Although the Minister was dismissive of these concerns,<sup>38</sup> the JCCFAS wrote again asking the Minister to initiate 'actions of an educational kind to teach newcomers that antisemitism is incompatible with the Australian way of life'.<sup>39</sup> It does not appear any such action was taken.

Another JCCFAS letter to the Minister targeted alleged antisemitic organisations within the Yugoslav and Hungarian communities. However, the JCCFAS emphasised that 'the matter raised by us in this letter does not in any way affect the majority of migrants, but is only concerned with that small minority who, we believe, retain their Nazi and antisemitic beliefs'.<sup>40</sup>

The JCCFAS expressed concerns about two specific Nazi war criminals: Jaroslav Stetzko and Laszlo Megay. Stetzko, the world chairman of the Anti-Bolshevik Bloc of Nations (ABN) that has been called 'an international peak council of émigré Nazis',<sup>41</sup> visited Australia as a guest of a local Ukrainian organisation in April 1957 in order to establish an Australian branch of the

ABN. Despite his wartime record as the leader of a Nazi puppet government in the Ukraine, he was formally welcomed by leading parliamentarians and church leaders, including the Liberal Party Senator and future Prime Minister, John Gorton. The JCCFAS was able during his visit to expose Stetzko's involvement in the mass slaughter of Jews in the Western Ukrainian city of Lvov during World War Two.<sup>42</sup>

Similarly, the JCCFAS investigated the activities of Laszlo Megay, a Hungarian war criminal living in Australia, who was responsible for the murder of 18,000 Jews as mayor of the town of Ungvar. Megay, who was a well-known member of the Liberal Party, was the president of the pro-Nazi Federation of Hungarian Associations in Sydney, and became the first president of the ABN's Australian branch. He died peacefully in 1959.<sup>43</sup>

The JCCFAS contacted the Wiener Library in London and a Hungarian-Jewish organisation in Vienna to obtain detailed information on Megay's wartime activities.<sup>44</sup> They provided this information to Labor MPs Leslie Haylen and Eddie Ward who both raised the matter in Parliament in November 1956 and May 1957 respectively.<sup>45</sup> The JCCFAS also wrote to the Minister for Immigration, Alexander Downer, detailing Megay's war crimes and seeking an audience.<sup>46</sup> However, the Minister was advised by the Department Secretary, Tasman Heyes, not to meet with the JCCFAS. Heyes referred to his earlier meeting with Ernest Platz in 1953 and the subsequent intervention of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. Heyes emphasised that the ECAJ (in contrast to the JCCFAS) was 'a reputable body which has had considerable association with the Department'.<sup>47</sup>

The JCCFAS continued to campaign against manifestations of antisemitism amongst migrant groups, and claimed that its activities led to a reduction in the open circulation of antisemitic literature in work places and elsewhere.<sup>48</sup> They argued that 'a stop must be put to the activities of all the organisations of Nazi collaborators in Australia'.<sup>49</sup> Following an outbreak of antisemitism in early 1960, the JCCFAS alleged that 'German migrants in Australia included a small minority of former Nazis who had slipped through the Immigration Department screen'.<sup>50</sup> However, these allegations were rejected by Alexander Downer, who guaranteed that 'former members of the Gestapo and Nazi secret police had been firmly prohibited as migrants'.<sup>51</sup>

Not surprisingly, the JCCFAS strongly opposed the March 1961 statement by the Commonwealth Attorney-General, Sir Garfield Barwick, declaring a moratorium on any investigation or extradition of alleged war criminals living in Australia. Barwick's decision followed an extradition request from the Soviet Union for Ervin Viks, a former leading Nazi collaborator now living in Australia, who had held a senior role in a concentration camp in Estonia



where thousands of Jews and others had died.<sup>52</sup> Barwick refused the request and stated that: 'the time has come to close the chapter'. He added:

On the one hand, there is the utter abhorrence felt by Australians for those offences against humanity to which we give the generic name of war crimes. On the other hand, there is the right of this nation, by receiving people into its country, to enable men to turn their backs on past bitterness and to make a new life for themselves and for their families in a happier community.<sup>53</sup>

In response, the JCCFAS wrote to the Wiener Library seeking detailed information about Viks and his involvement in the murder of Jews.<sup>54</sup> They subsequently issued a policy statement that was distributed to Garfield Barwick and other Members of Parliament. The JCCFAS rejected the notion of any statute of limitations for war crimes, and insisted that 'the little Eichmanns' should not be permitted to 'go scot-free'.<sup>55</sup>

Further JCCFAS statements expressed particular concern about the presence of Lithuanian Nazi war criminals.<sup>56</sup> According to the JCCFAS, 'There are living in Sydney several notorious Lithuanian collaborators who took an active part in the destruction of the Jewish population of Lithuania. There is no doubt that these people, together with like-minded migrants from other countries, are receiving assistance from groups here, mostly of their compatriots and connected with extreme right-wing organisations.'<sup>57</sup>

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation (ASIO) investigated specific allegations against an immigrant who was alleged to be responsible for the arrest and mass killing of Jewish families in Lithuania, and found them to be unreliable.<sup>58</sup> ASIO noted that the allegations emanated from Ernest Platz of the JCCFAS, and argued in an associated report that the JCCFAS was a communist organisation, and that Platz and other leading figures such as Judah Waten and Sam Goldbloom 'have loyalties more devoted to Communism than to Semitism'.<sup>59</sup> These alleged communist loyalties were used by ASIO to discredit the Council's allegations, even though they had nothing to do with the question of whether or not significant Nazi war criminals were present in Australia.

Similar concerns were raised by the JCCFAS about Croatian Nazis. The JCCFAS criticised the Commonwealth Minister for Shipping, Hubert Opperman, for attending a meeting of former Croatian Nazi collaborators. The JCCFAS argued that such official approval hindered attempts to oppose antisemitism among migrants.<sup>60</sup> Further JCCFAS statements attacked the activities of the fascist Croatian Liberation Movement known as the Ustashi, including their alleged involvement in violent assaults on members of the

Yugoslavian community.<sup>61</sup> As a result, concerns about the Ustashi were raised by a number of Labor Party Members of Parliament, including former Council president Senator Sam Cohen, Clyde Holding and Jim Cairns. The JCCFAS also joined a delegation of Labor Party and trade union representatives that presented evidence of antisemitic activities by the Ustashi to the Victorian Chief Secretary, Rupert Hamer.<sup>62</sup> The JCCFAS cautioned that they were 'not attacking migrants as a whole. The overwhelming majority of migrants coming to these shores are law abiding citizens who will have nothing to do with the minority of Nazi-minded groups which should never be allowed to come to this country.'<sup>63</sup>

The JCCFAS subsequently participated in a deputation to the Victorian Attorney-General and Chief Secretary protesting against the activities of fascist migrant groups. They again emphasised that 'Fascist migrant groups are only a tiny section of the large migrant community'.<sup>64</sup> The JCCFAS continued to raise concerns about expressions of antisemitism from Eastern European migrant groups, including the publication of a new far-Right journal called *The International News Digest*.<sup>65</sup>

## Conclusion

The JCCFAS persistently campaigned against the migration of Nazis from 1947 until its demise in 1970. A range of strategies was utilised, including the collection of evidence about alleged war criminals, communication with Ministers and other parliamentarians, petitions, media releases and public forums. The JCCFAS's dogged advocacy was effective in placing the issue on the public agenda, and many of their allegations were found by later government inquiries to be 'substantially correct'.<sup>66</sup> Yet their campaign did not succeed in changing the policy direction of successive Labor and Coalition Governments.

The JCCFAS campaign confronted a number of powerful key barriers. The first and principal factor was that consecutive governments regarded the mass migration scheme as crucial for Australia's long-term social and economic prosperity, and were inclined to turn a blind eye to any arguments to the contrary, such as evidence of a few 'bad apples' in the migrant intake.<sup>67</sup> An associated factor was that the priority of governments during the Cold War was to block the entry of communists, not Nazis. Consequently, left-wing refugees from the Spanish Civil War were blocked from entering Australia, but extreme anti-communists, including even those who had committed mass murder, were not.

A further factor was the aggressive strategy by the Coalition Government of labelling protests as driven by sectional Jewish interests that was clearly

intended not only to intimidate Jewish opposition, but also to deter other potential (more powerful) opponents of the mass migration scheme, such as trade unions and more broadly those who desired only British immigration.<sup>68</sup>

The JCCFAS campaign was also hindered by a number of internal Jewish community factors. One was the Jewish infighting that contributed to the undermining of the Council's credibility with government authorities. To be sure, the JCCFAS's communist links were problematic in the Cold War context, and gave the government a convenient opportunity to discredit their concerns. Additionally, the JCCFAS campaign did at times exaggerate both the proportion of war criminals amongst specific migrant groups, and the overall significance of antisemitism within the large DP population. But it is unlikely that a different protest campaign controlled by the Jewish roof bodies and uncontaminated by left-wing connections or exaggerated numbers would have made any significant difference to the outcome. The problem was not the merits of the JCCFAS argument which was strong, but rather the rigid determination of Australian governments to continue their immigration plans, irrespective of opposing views.

## Notes

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- 4 John Lack and Jacqueline Templeton, *Bold Experiment: A documentary history of Australian immigration since 1945* (Melbourne: Oxford University Press, 1995), pp. 2-21; Andrew Markus, 'Labour and Immigration 1946-9: The Displaced Persons Program', *Labour History*, 47 (1984), pp. 73-90.
- 5 Mark Aarons, *Sanctuary: Nazi Fugitives in Australia* (Melbourne: William Heinemann Australia, 1989), pp. 83-8; Mark Aarons, *War Criminals Welcome* (Melbourne: Black Inc., 2001), pp. 244-51; David Horner, *The Spy Catchers* (Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 2014), p. 254.
- 6 Suzanne Rutland, *The Jews in Australia* (Melbourne: Cambridge University Press, 2005), p. 72; Suzanne Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora* (Sydney: Brandl & Schlesinger, 1997), pp. 244-9.
- 7 Aarons, *Sanctuary*, pp. 89-98; JCCFAS Newsletter, 5, January 1949, pp. 3-4; JCCFAS *Annual Report 1949-50*, pp. 5-6; Rutland, *Edge of the Diaspora*, p. 246.

- 8 JCCFAS *Annual Report* 1949–50, p. 6; JCCFAS *Executive Meeting Minutes*, 9 May 1950.
- 9 ‘Twelve Alleged Nazi War Collaborators in Security Quiz’, *Truth*, 24 December 1949, p. 1. See also ‘Meeting protests against Anti-Semitism among D.Ps’, *Australian Jewish Herald*, 2 December 1949, p. 2.
- 10 JCCFAS *Annual Report* 1948–49, pp. 6–7. See also JCCFAS *Newsletter*, 9, September 1949, p. 3.
- 11 Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies *Annual Report* 1949, pp. 8–9. For further discussion of these tensions, see Philip Mendes, ‘The Cold War, McCarthyism, the Melbourne Jewish Council to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism, and Australian Jewry 1948–1953’, *Journal of Australian Studies*, No.64 (2000), pp. 196–206.
- 12 Norman Rothfield, *Many Paths to Peace* (Melbourne: Yarraford Publications, 1997), p. 32.
- 13 Mark Aarons, ‘A legacy of war criminal protection’, *The Age*, 9 January 2000.
- 14 Mark Aarons, *Sanctuary*, pp. 93–4.
- 15 Cited in Special Investigation Unit, *Report of The Investigations of War Criminals in Australia* (Canberra: Attorney General’s Department, 1993), p. 177; Aarons, *Sanctuary*, pp. 108–9.
- 16 Harold Holt, *Letter to Ben Green* (Canberra, 28 March 1951).
- 17 See report by Victorian Jewish Board of Deputies Public Relations Chairman Sam Cohen, December 1950, p. 5. Cohen was also a leading JCCFAS activist.
- 18 JCCFAS *Newsletter*, 15, February 1951, p. 3; JCCFAS *Executive Meeting Minutes*, 23 January 1951.
- 19 JCCFAS, *German and Volks Migration Will Flood Australia With Nazis* (Melbourne: JCCFAS, 1950), p. 5. See also Ernest Platz, ‘Hitler’s men are slipping through migrant screen’, *The Argus*, 1 November 1950, and ‘Dossier on Nazis already here’, *Sydney Jewish News*, 23 February 1951.
- 20 JCCFAS *Newsletter*, 16 June 1951, p. 3; Sam Cohen, *Report of the Standing Committee on Public Relations to the Executive Council of Australian Jewry Annual Conference* (Melbourne, ECAJ, 1951), p. 5.
- 21 Mendes, *Jews, Nazis and Communists Down Under*, pp. 89–90.
- 22 Philip Mendes, ‘Jewish Communism in Australia’ in Henry Srebrnik, ed., *A Vanished Ideology: Essays on the Jewish Communist Movement in the English-speaking World in the Twentieth Century* (New York: State University of New York Press, 2015, forthcoming).
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- 28 Ernest Platz, *Letter to Tasman Heyes*, 16 September 1953.
- 29 Tasman Heyes, *Letter to Ernest Platz*, 23 September 1953.
- 30 Heyes, *Note to the Minister*.
- 31 JCCFAS, *You are the Guardians of Democracy: To all delegates of the ACTU Congress* (Melbourne: Federation of Jewish Councils to Combat Fascism and Anti-Semitism, 1953).
- 32 JCCFAS *Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*, 1 December 1953.
- 33 Ernest Platz, *The integration of migrants in the Australian community* (Melbourne: JCCFAS, 1954), p. 1.
- 34 Platz, p. 1.
- 35 Platz, p. 3.
- 36 JCCFAS *Annual Report 1956-57*, p. 3; JCCFAS *Jewish Advocate*, April-May 1959, p. 1.
- 37 Ernest Platz, *Letter to Harold Holt Minister for Immigration*, 5 May 1955.
- 38 Harold Holt, *Letter to Ernest Platz*, 24 May 1955.
- 39 Lilian Dorin, *Letter to Harold Holt*, 2 June 1955.
- 40 Ernest Platz, *Letter to Harold Holt*, 4 May 1956. See also JCCFAS, 'Private armies in Australia', *Australian Jewish News*, 25 May 1956; JCCFAS, 'Petliura', *Australian Jewish News*, 6 July 1956; Aarons, *Sanctuary*, p. 208.
- 41 Aarons, *War Criminals Welcome*, p. 314.
- 42 JCCFAS *Annual Report 1957-58*, p. 4; JCCFAS *Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*, 13 May 1958. See also Aarons, *War Criminals Welcome*, pp. 316-7; Aarons, *Sanctuary*, pp. 51-6, 80-2.
- 43 Aarons, *Sanctuary*, p. 82; Aarons, *War Criminals Welcome*, pp. 313, 318-29; David Horner, *The Spy Catchers* (Sydney: Allen and Unwin, 2014), pp. 275-7.
- 44 JCCFAS *Executive Committee Meeting Minutes*, 13 November 1956; JCCFAS *Annual Report 1957-58*, p. 4.
- 45 Aarons, *Sanctuary*, pp. 173-4.
- 46 Ernest Platz, *Letter to Alexander Downer*, 25 June 1958.
- 47 Tasman Heyes, *Screening of Migrants: Allegations of Nazi elements with anti-Jewish sentiments being permitted to enter Australia*, Memo to Minister, 23 July 1958.
- 48 JCCFAS *Annual Report 1958-59*, p. 7.
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