



stalemate in US-Soviet relations. He then associated with the Mafia, establishing contacts to the famous criminal Joe Colombo who headed a Mafia front organization: Organization for Italian American Rights. Colombo was later shot to death in a Mafia dispute. Kahane was standing beside him but was not hurt. The media, however, picked up on the relationship and this caused some friction between Kahane and the US authorities.

The KACH movement's finances are kept secret. Kahane solicits the bulk of his funds in the US, but the sources are not published. One cannot rule out that he still receives CIA funds for his activities.

### Terror - from New York to Palestine

In 1968, Kahane took advantage of the increased militarism generated in the Zionist community by the 1967 war and occupation, to establish the Jewish Defense League, the fascist style organization based in New York. Aside from threat letters to leftists championing the Palestinian cause, the JL is most noted for its bomb attacks on the Soviet mission. The rationale for such attacks is to protest restrictions on the emigration of Soviet Jews, but such actions also fall neatly in line with recurring anti-communist campaigns launched by the US itself.

In the same period Kahane wrote a book entitled *Never Again*, the Zionist version of Hitler's *Mein Kampf*. Here he formulated the theory justifying the need for violence to enforce Zionist aims. According to Kahane, Jews everywhere in the world are facing another extermination attempt, this time by joint US-Soviet collaboration (sic). In the face of this supposed threat, he claimed that the existing Jewish organizations had become corrupt and betrayed their people. On the other hand, he presented himself as the saviour, a descendent of the Maccabees and other heroes from past Jewish history.

In 1969, Kahane again went to 'Israel' and became one of the founders of the extremist newspaper, *Jewish Press*, which is still in operation. More important, only days after his arrival he initiated a new movement in Jerusalem called *Doof*, which in Hebrew means *repressing the traitors* (a reference to fellow Jews including Zionists who are «too soft» according to Kahane's standards). One of the movement's main slogans was «A clenched fist from within David's shield», the same used by the Jewish Defense League. This movement is KACH's origin.

On his second immigration to 'Israel', Kahane was accompanied by a small number of followers from the USA. He received much attention and was considered a nationalist figure among right-wing circles. He chose the univer-

sity grounds as his first battlefield on which to attack Palestinian Arabs and Jewish leftists. The Israeli government overlooked his terrorist activities until he was caught in the act of shipping weapons to the JDL in September 1972. Yet he has never been tried for this incident.

In the late seventies, Kahane initiated a series of activities attesting to his adoption of the Nazi slogan: «The fist and the gun». In February 1979, Kahane organized 30 of his followers to violently disrupt a meeting on Jewish-Arab Brotherhood, held in the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. After this, Uri Avneri, editor of *Haolam Hazeh*, who was attending the meeting, shouted «Hail, Hitler». Six months later Kahane carried out a revenge operation against the magazine's office. He arrived carrying the bloody head of a camel as a punishment for the editorial board's positions against terrorism.

In May 1980, Kahane and his deputy, responsible for operations in the US were arrested and detained for six months. One of the main reasons for their imprisonment was the large amount of weapons possessed by KACH and stored throughout 'Israel'. Since the two were the main contacts to the US from whence KACH draws its funds, some thought the organization would be greatly weakened. However, the opposite has proved to be the case. With the steady shift to the right in the