

**JEWISH COMMUNITY ROW OVER WAR CRIMES TRIAL - Sun Herald, The (Sydney, Australia) - August 5, 1990 - page 5**

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A ROW has erupted in the Jewish community over the war crimes trial which was postponed last week when the accused, 74-year-old Ivan Polyukhovich, was mysteriously shot.

Outspoken Jewish intellectual, Dr Frank Knopfelmacher, has been criticised by fellow Jews for calling for an end to Nazi war crimes trials in Australia.

He appeared on Channel Nine's A Current Affair last week to tell Jana Wendt that war crimes prosecutions should be halted.

This has been followed by a withering editorial attack on Dr Knopfelmacher in the Jewish community's most influential newspaper, The Australian Jewish News, edited by Mr Sam Lipski.

The editorial accused Dr Knopfelmacher of making "outrageous, irrelevant and unrepresentative comments".

It added: "In Melbourne, Dr Knopfelmacher offers his wild conspiracy theories to an ignorant media fascinated by the novelty of an eccentric Jew who attacks fellow Jews in language which he knows to be wounding and offensive.

"If the media really want a story they should ask some Holocaust survivors how they view Dr Knopfelmacher's absurd assertions."

The editorial concluded: "There is a time to speak and a time to be silent

"This is a time for Jewish leaders to observe that silence on the airwaves and in the press."

Police will interview Polyukhovich in Adelaide's Queen Elizabeth Hospital tomorrow in an attempt to discover how he was shot last Sunday night with a .22 Beretta.

The results of forensic tests on the gun, three cartridge shells found at the scene and Polyukhovich's clothing will also be known this week.

The mysterious shooting occurred just 14 hours before the Adelaide pensioner was due to face a magistrate's court on 24 counts of murder and with being knowingly concerned with the death of 850 Jews from Serniki ghetto in the Ukraine in World War Two.

Australia's first war crimes trial was adjourned until this Wednesday when the defendant's shooting was reported to the court.

Professor Raoul Hillberg, a history expert on the Holocaust who was due to start testifying last Monday, has left Adelaide and returned to the US where he teaches at the University of Vermont.

Police advised him that he would not be available "in the immediate future".

About 40 other witnesses expected to arrive from the Soviet Union, Israel and the US have also been told to cancel their trips.

No other cases against alleged war criminals have been sent to the Commonwealth Director of Public prosecutions, Mr Mark Weinberg QC.

But the war crimes Special Investigations Unit (SIU) director, Mr Bob Greenwood QC, has given notice he has 12 other cases ready for the courts.

In Sydney, the Captive Nations Council of Australia, which represents Baltic states and Russian republics

under the domination of Moscow, will meet tomorrow to demand the war crimes trials cease.

Council secretary, Mrs Lia Looveer, said the trials were divisive and unconstitutional.

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