

# Nazi-Type Youth Organization Pledges Jews, Capitalism Fight

By RONALD ARIAS

Buenos Aires, Argentina. (AP)—The fuzzy-faced 15-year-old flushed with pride as the roomful of teen-agers fixed their gaze on him. Standing erect, he raised his arm in a stiff Nazi salute and "Hail Tacuara."

"Hail Tacuara," echoed others as their 24-year-old leader nodded approval.

Behind bolted doors in a small flat in the heart of Buenos Aires, this reporter was permitted to watch a ceremony which could have taken place in Hitler's Germany.

Thirty youngsters, most of them high-school age, had gathered to initiate new members into Argentina's Tacuara organization. Its leaders variously boast from 2,500 to 7,000 members throughout the country and claim it is growing rapidly.

As each convert went through the ritual, he pledged allegiance to the "nationalist" cause. With rapt attention I heard Tacuara's soft-spoken chief, Alberto Ezcurra, say the mission would be to "fight against capitalism and Zionism with one hand, and with the other hand against communism."



Arias

## TERSE RUNDOWN

The ceremony over, Ezcurra gave the new members a terse rundown on training courses. There would be trips to the pampas where they would be taught physical fitness and drilled in the nationalist-fascist ideology of Tacuara.

Stressing the importance of this training, Ezcurra cited the Youth Leagues of Spain and the United Arab Republic.

"We have to be strong, because our movement in Argentina is revolutionary, and logically we cannot work completely out in the open yet," he said.

As the doors were unbolted, the youths stood up and gave the Nazi salute.

"Hail Tacuara," they chorused, and filed out of the room.

Tacuara, named after the cowboy word for lance, has existed since 1955 when ex-president Juan



YOUTH MOVEMENT—Young followers of Argentina's Tacuara organization stage demonstration in Lavalle Street in center of Buenos Aires. Group, with Nazi tendency, stages attacks against Jews in Argentina. The Tacuara demonstrators raise their hands in typical Nazi salute while they shout their slogans. —(AP Wirephoto)

D. Peron was thrown out. It did not gain much public attention until this year.

In recent months, its members have ranged cities distributing anti-Semitic propaganda. Argentine Jewish organizations charge it has gone further of late, smearing school buildings with tar, terrorizing Jewish children and damaging synagogues.

## TREATED BETTER

"Fortunately Tacuara is treated much better under this government than under President Arturo Frondizi's regime," Ezcurra said.

Under Frondizl, Tacuara leaders were grilled by police, and several were jailed on charges of violating the nation's security.

Under President Jose Maria Guido's regime, Tacuara members have had free rein to distribute anti-Semitic pamphlets and posters.

Federal Police Chief Enrique Green brushes aside complaints about the organization, asserting that anti-Semitism in Argentina

has been "exaggerated and exploited by the Communists."

"They seek to show that racial persecution exists here," he said. "Racism exists, but on a very reduced scale and carried out by a minority."

Green said Tacuara is not a political party but a totalitarian group stemming from the old Nationalist Liberty Alliance which carried out strong-arm activities when Peron was in power.

He said there is no evidence to implicate Tacuara in the wave of anti-Semitic events which has swept Argentina in recent months.

## POLICE PROTECTION

He noted that police protection had been given synagogues and that the authorities had complied with other requests for aid from the Jewish community.

Green has cast doubt on the claims of several Argentine Jews, including a 19-year-old girl, who charged they were attacked and slashed with the symbol of the swastika. But Guido's government promised to stamp out such acts.

The wave of anti-Semitic outbursts erupted last spring, apparently triggered by the execution of Adolf Eichmann, who was abducted from Argentina.

Ezcurra, whose headquarters is adorned with a crucifix, says the group is influenced by the Roman Catholic Church, but "it is only a spiritual influence."

But he added that Tacuara agrees completely with the views expressed in a book by a Jesuit priest, the Rev. Julio Meinvielle. He accuses Jews — especially in Argentina — of advancing the cause of communism under the cloak of capitalism.

Last year the archbishop of Buenos Aires suspended Father Meinvielle for three months as editor of the magazine Presencia for having hinted that President Frondizi was a Communist agent.

The priest, now in charge of a spiritual retreat in Buenos Aires, says he often gives counsel to Tacuara youths.

"I know many of these boys," he said, "but of course they work by their own means and methods."