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**May 12, 2003 - CanWest News Service
By: Adrian Humphreys**

A large U.S. Internet service provider hosting Ernst Zundel's Web site has pulled the plug on the controversial site

TORONTO - A large U.S. Internet service provider hosting Ernst Zundel's Web site has pulled the plug on the controversial site after being told of a Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruling that some content is deemed hate literature.

The commission sent a letter dated March 27 to the chief executive officer of QWest Communications, a massive Denver-based company with 25 million customers, bringing the Internet giant's attention to material on the Zundel site.

"We have an acceptable use policy and when the Canadian Human Rights Commission brought to our attention that Mr. Zundel was publishing hateful material we worked ... to see it was removed," said Claire Maledon, spokeswoman for QWest. QWest's policy prohibits distribution of material that is hateful, obscene, abusive or excessively violent.

Daniel Lavoie, spokesman for the commission, said Zundel's return to Canada in February, after his deportation from the United States, revived the commission's interest in the ruling that the Zundel site was spreading material inciting hatred against Jews, a violation of the Canadian Human Rights Act.

The site, however, re-emerged on Monday on another U.S. host server.

Zundel is in detention in Canada pending a Federal Court review of the government's declaration he is a threat to national security, an order requiring removal to his native Germany.

He lived in Canada for decades, drawing criticism for his Holocaust denial and for publishing the views of neo-Nazis and white supremacists. Some of the material placed on the Zundel site brought public complaints to the commission in 1996.

It sparked a lengthy case before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. Hearings started on May 26, 1997, ended on Feb. 28, 2001 and a decision was not rendered until Jan. 18, 2002.

By the time the decision was filed, Zundel left Canada for Tennessee and the Zundel site was moved from a Canadian-based Internet server to one in the U.S.

"When he came back to Canada a few months ago, he was served with a copy of that decision so that we could be sure that he was aware of the decision," said Lavoie.

"Since then, we have been looking at our options E Should he not comply (with the order to remove the hateful material), he may be found to be in contempt."

Jewish groups were pleased the commission is aggressive in enforcing the tribunal's ruling. "It is important that all effective means be used against any individual who would support or spread hate. The content of the Web site he was found responsible for continues to contain much of the original material," said Anita Bromberg, in-house counsel for B'nai Brith Canada, a group accepted as an interested party in the original complaint against the site. "It is quite appropriate that the site continue to be monitored," she said.

Len Rudner, a spokesman for the Canadian Jewish Congress, said: "We're pleased that the



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commission is acting proactively and sharing information with organizations across the border and, in this particular case, pleased that Zundel's server took the information and made the right decision."

The actions of the commission, however, drew the ire of Ingrid Rimland, Zundel's wife, who called the tribunal that ruled against her husband an "obscene, Marxist-flavoured outfit."

In an e-mail to supporters, she said: "An administrative Canadian body with no enforcement powers of their own _ recently described by Ernst as a 'hick tribunal' that had ruled that historical truth not be allowed as a defense _ is telling an American communications giant like QWest to 'cease and desist' _ or have its employees face arrest at the northern border! And the giant falls to his knees and gives in. "This is for all freedom-loving Americans to decide if other countries can dictate to America what can or can't be on a Web site."

Rimland did not return phone calls on Monday. Lavoie and Maledon said no such threat against Qwest employees was ever made.

Meanwhile, Zundel's U.S. lawyer, Boyd W. Venable III, who lived near Zundel and his wife in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., said he was filing suit in U.S. court claiming Zundel's deportation to Canada was illegal.

"Zundel had been living with his wife peaceably in Tennessee for almost three years, awaiting immigration processing. He posed a threat to no one," Venable said in a written statement. He said U.S. immigration authorities were sent written notification by Zundel's immigration attorney of a need to change a scheduled court appearance in Zundel's bid to be granted status in the U.S.

Despite that, when Zundel did not appear in court he was deemed to have abandoned his claim and was immediately deported to Canada, said Venable.

Venable said he has been trying to attract support from the American Civil Liberties Union, academics and civil libertarians but there is little interest.

"Perhaps because Zundel is such a reviled figure," he said.

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Internet Service Provider Drops Zundel site

TORONTO — QWest Communications, the Denver-based Internet company that hosted Ernst Zundel's neo-Nazi "Zundel site," announced last week it was removing the site from its servers. However, the Web site, which has been condemned by the Canadian Human Rights Commission (CHRC) for inciting contempt of Jews, quickly switched to another Internet service provider and is still available on the Web.

A spokesperson for QWest said the site was removed after QWest was informed by the CHRC that Zundel was using it to publish hate materials. QWest policy prohibits distribution of hateful, obscene, abusive or excessively violent material.

The Web site, meanwhile, denounced the move, saying QWest "caved in" to pressure from "the fanatic censors in the Canadian Government." In a "ZGram" ostensibly written by Ingrid Rimland, Zundel's wife, the CHRC is described as "that obscene Marxist-flavoured outfit."

Rimland claimed the CHRC "served QWest with a 75-page order to 'cease and desist' [hosting the site] within 48 hours — or have QWest employees face arrest for contempt of court, should they ever travel to Canada!"

QWest denied the allegation.

Zundel, meanwhile, remains in custody pending conclusion of a Federal Court review of a government certificate alleging he is a security threat. Should the court uphold the finding, Zundel could be removed to his native Germany.

— THE CANADIAN JEWISH NEWS

May 22, 2003