

Banned mag storm

For the second year running, furious protests following a ban on "antisemitic" material caused uproar on the last day of the National Union of Students spring conference.

The dispute centred on a magazine published by the anti-Zionist Jewish group, Return, which draws explicit parallels between Nazism and Zionism.

As Nazi policy in the 1930s set about "transferring" the Jews from Germany, so Zionism transferred most of the Arabs from Palestine in order to create a Jewish-majority state and now calls are growing in Israel for removal of the rest, the magazine's editorial says.

Produced by anti-Zionist Jewish stalwarts such as Uri Davis, Tony Greenstein and Roland Rance, it contains one article by Greenstein referring to "the Nazi pronouncements of Jewish Orthodoxy."

UJS hit back with a 36-page booklet "Jews and Jew-haters" attacking Return

and a leaflet signed by numerous past and present NUS executive members as well as president-elect Stephen Twigg condemning the magazine as "antisemitic."

When NUS president Maeve Sherlock finally banned the magazine, pro-Palestinian students surged to the front of the hall in noisy protest. But unlike last year they were unable to storm the podium.

Leaving the hall, they formed a tunnel outside, chanting "anti-Zionism is not antisemitism" and brandished copies of the offending publication.

Despite the commotion and the earlier disappointment of Naomi Cohen's narrow failure to get elected as national secretary, UJS and the Student and Academic Campaign for Soviet Jews campaigned successfully on Soviet Jewry.

Eugene Arokiasamy, from the pro-Palestinian National Union of Overseas Students, was elected NUS treasurer and Layla-al Hindi, a Palestinian, an executive member.