



The JEWISH VETERAN



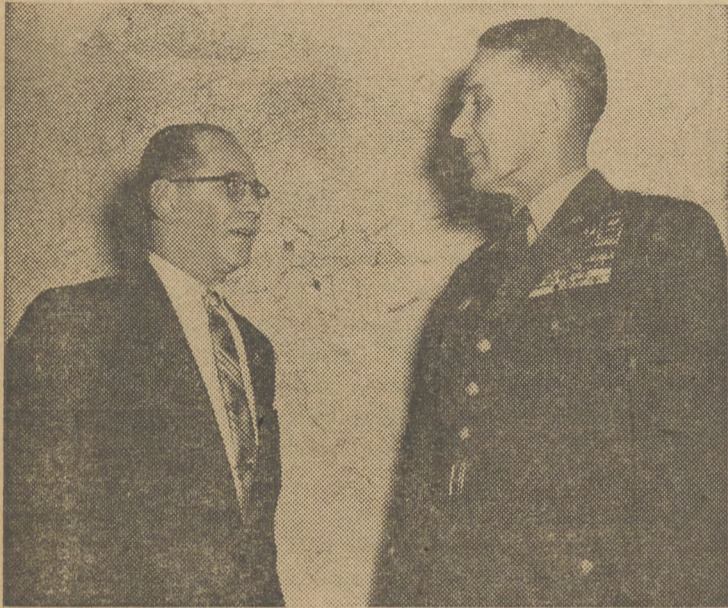
JEWISH WAR VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND LADIES' AUXILIARY

THE OLDEST VETERANS' ORGANIZATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Vol. 27—No. 3

8

DECEMBER, 1955



PENTAGON: Making the rounds of the Pentagon, Commander Reubin Kaminsky chats with Army Chief of Staff General Maxwell Taylor. Commander Kaminsky discussed the Reserve question and other defense matters.

Questions Answered On Israel Policies

Many questions with respect to the general policy on Israel of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. and its National Ladies Auxiliary have been raised by echelons of both groups, as well as by non-members in both the Jewish and non-Jewish community.

Likewise, Israeli groups and individuals as well as important local and federal officers have asked for such information.

The questions and answers quoted below are designed to increase your understanding as to the why's and wherefore's of JWV-JWA policy on this vital issue.

Q: What is the motivating thought in back of the policies of JWV-JWVA with respect to Israel and the Middle East?

A: The preservation of world peace. This involves fundamentally the security of the United States of America.

Q: What steps does the JWV and the JWVA believe will help thwart aggression in that area and thereby preserve peace?

A: We believe that two steps must be taken immediately if war is to be averted.

1. Israel must be given the assurance and insurance that her people will not be exposed to annihilation by aggressive action on the part of the Arab States, especially Egypt.

2. This means that the democratic powers in concert or the U.S.A. alone, must make provisions for a security pact which would guarantee Israel against aggressive attacks. We see no reason why a similar proposal should not be made for a pact with the Arab States against aggression.

Q: Should the treaties offered to both Israel and the Arab States by our country be based on mutual acceptance as proposed by Secretary Dulles on August 26, 1955?

A: We do not believe that these treaties should be either parallel or mutual, that is, either similar or dependent upon each other.

Q: Suppose those Arab States to whom the treaty is offered refuse to accept the conditions set forth by the proposed pact?

A: This should not prejudice our country's actions in committing itself to a pact with Israel.

Q: What was JWV's official reaction to Secretary Dulles' proposal of August 26th?

A: JWV went on record as favoring the general idea of the proposal, but criticized it by pointing out that the major obstacle to its implementation was the provision that the proposed security guarantee go into effect after Israel and the Arab States reached agreement on boundaries and other questions. In effect, this meant that so long as the Arab States refused to deal with Israel and reach such agreements, they could veto the Dulles' Plan.

Q: Would you be prepared to ask Secretary Dulles to amend his plan so that the agreements between Israel and the Arab States would be postponed until after an American guarantee against aggression by either side in that area is effected?

A: Yes. However, we deem it unlikely that the Arab States, particularly Egypt, in the light of the Cairo-Czech Arms Barter Agreement, will agree to sit down at a conference table with Israel.

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Kaminsky Asks State To Remove Edwin Plitt

Announce Winners

The "Guten Post", the publication of Morris R. Guten Post 487, Mil. Wisc. and the "Post Script", the publication of Post 644, St. Louis, Missouri, were selected as two first prize winners of the Post Publication Contest, it has been announced by Al Finkle, National Editor.

The "Post Script" won the first prize in the offset and letterpress competition and the "Guten Post" topped the honors for the mimeograph category.

Second place winners in their respective categories were the "Haim-Parnes Post News", the Publication of Post 151, Philadelphia, Pa., and "Weiss-Vues" the publication of Post 396 in Los Angeles, California.

The contest was judged by a panel of experts who included, Milton Friedman, Washington Correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency; William Seaton, Managing Editor of the Navy Times, and Roy Millenson, former editor at Bell Publications and now associated with Julius Klein, Public Relations, in Washington, D. C.

The three experts based their judgment on newsworthiness and accuracy; interest and readability; and layout and typography.

Prizes will be a publication plaque inscribed with the name of the Post Publication and the editor, and a certificate of editorial excellence containing the name of the Post publication and the editor.

Kaminsky Asks Explanation

National Commander Reubin Kaminsky has asked Secretary of State Dulles to furnish information to JWV that will enable him to report on what action the State Department has taken with reference to the recent remarks made by Ambassador Zeineddine of Syria.

Speaking before a Washington political club, Mr. Zeineddine made pointed anti-semitic references, and referred to the possibility of making the city and State of New York a homeland for persons of the Jewish faith.

Mr. Kaminsky wrote: "The incident in its entirety reminds one familiar with American history of the actions of one citizen Genet. One is apt to think of the reactions of President Washington and the Department of State in connection with the activities of that individual. The

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Reubin Kaminsky, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans has asked the State Department on behalf of JWV to remove Edwin A. Plitt, as a member of the Mixed Board that had recommended the parole of Josef (Sepp) Dietrich, convicted of war crimes in connection with the

Malmady massacre.

Write Congressmen On Nat'l Shrine

All members of both Posts and Auxiliaries throughout the United States are urged to write their congressmen to speed the enactment of HR 70308 providing for a National Charter for the National Shrine for the Jewish War Dead. (See LegisLetter.)

Will Consider Card Change

Members of the National Executive Committee meeting in Washington, D. C., in January, will consider a change in the membership application and card of JWV.

The change will come to the N.E.C. in the form of a recommendation from the Policy Committee. It will refer specifically to that line in the membership application and card which says, "I certify that I am a citizen of the United States, that I have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces and that I am not

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In a letter to Secretary of State Dulles, Commander Kaminsky pointed out that he felt "confident that every American veteran also feels outraged that an American representative on such a board should participate in such a callous disregard of what any reasonable person must have known would be the reaction of any American."

"I have received a number of inquiries," Commander Kaminsky wrote, "from echelons of this organization on all levels and copies of resolutions which have been passed in several of the Departments, requesting that in the name of the Jewish War Veterans I urge upon you the immediate removal of Mr. Plitt as a member of the Mixed Board and his replacement by a representative who will show a greater concern for the American veteran than did Mr. Plitt. How any American sitting as a member of such a board could join in recommending a parole to a confessed murderer of American soldiers under the conditions of the Malmady is beyond our comprehension."

The letter had the unanimous endorsement of the National Policy Committee which met in Washington December 11th.

Resolutions Passed At National Confab

The following is a list of the resolutions passed at the 60th Annual Convention of JWV. The resolutions are being put in this form for future use and as a permanent record for Posts throughout the country at the suggestion of William Carmen, of Boston, Massachusetts, who was chairman of the 1955 Resolutions Committee.

1. Deals with VA direct loans for home mortgages. The resolution urges the VA to maintain as a minimum the present level of \$150 million in funds for direct VA loans and also urges the VA to observe the operations of the Voluntary Home Mortgage Credit Program so as to be ready at all times to step in where there is an unusual delay in finding a lender for the veteran for his guaranteed home mortgage.

2. Calls attention to the necessity for a standing committee on Veterans Affairs in the Senate and urges the creation of such a standing committee in the United States Senate.

3. Urges the Administrator of the VA to use his discretionary power to fix the interest rate on VA guaranteed home loan mortgages at a maximum of 4%, petition Congress to limit the interest rate on such loans at 4%, and endorses H.R. 2020, a Bill which will exempt from taxation the interest received from loans guaranteed under Title 111 of the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944 provided such loans carry an interest rate not exceeding 3½% per annum.

4. Urges legislation providing a presumptive service connection for psychosis, brain tumor, multiple sclerosis, and arthritis when such disabilities become manifest to a compensable degree within three years from separation from service.

5. Proposes that commercial insurance, as well as bank accounts,

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By Bernard Weitzer
National Legislative Director
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Bouquets To . . .

The views and philosophies expressed by the eminent columnist David Lawrence have often elicited many-toothed barbs of criticism from the Jewish War Veterans. But every once-in-awhile Mr. Lawrence comes up with an idea that is so sparkling in its wisdom and incisive in its analysis that it rips away the shell of confusion and misapprehension and cuts right to the kernel of truth.

A recent column dealing with the "facts of international life" offers an eloquent case in point. Mr. Lawrence was discussing the policy of standing by Americans friends and allies. He pointed out:

"Everybody knows that Israel . . . is innately imbued with Western ideals. There is naturally a strong pro-American sentiment in Israel and a strong pro-Israel sentiment in the United States just as there have always been strong ties between Americans of Irish ancestry and Ireland.

"The first allegiance of the American Jews is the United States, but it is natural for many of them for sentimental reasons along with many non-Jews to be deeply sympathetic with the efforts of the infant republic of Israel to preserve her independence in the troubled Middle East.

"The principle involved is not a "Jewish question". In fact, in recent months it has become an American defense question due to Egypt's peculiar behavior.

"It looks not as if it will be to the best interests of the United States Government to play ball with Israel and, if necessary, to furnish military aid as in the case of Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey and Greece. For Israel has not tried to play the Western alliance off against the Kremlin in a sort of bidding match."

Elsewhere in this issue are a number of important articles dealing with JWV's position with respect to Israel. One written by the National Commander is a forthright and stimulating analysis of our present policies with regard to Israel.

The other is a question and answer brief in which the many questions regarding JWV's Israel policies are adequately answered. These should be must reading for every member of our organization, for it will provide the insights which are necessary for a complete understanding of the problems involved.

. . . And From

Since this appears to be the month of bouquets, it is a pleasure for JWV to accept one from the executive head of a brother organization.

In a recent letter to PNC Major General Julius Klein, Henry Edward Schultz, National Chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith pointed out that "Our (ADL's) National Executive Committee at its last meeting adopted a forthright resolution on UNESCO in similar vein to splendid action taken by the Jewish War Veterans."

Readers Forum

Dear Editor:

In a box on Page 2 of a recent JEWISH VETERAN, I note the last three lines read: "based upon program themes suggested in part by J.W.V. Americanism Officers."

I think you do an injustice to J.W.V. and to some of the individuals involved in the KYA Week program. Since its beginning, Joseph J. Woolfson, of Hartford, Conn. and a past Dept. Commander of JWV was Secretary to the KYA program and last year and, again this year, he was the Chairman. Joe devotes much time and sacrifice to make this the outstanding Americanism program not only of the All American Conference but of all similar efforts.

Many important national organizations and over 400 cities this year participated actively in this program, and it would do credit to JWV to at least mention Woolfson's name and contribution.

J. George Fredman

Changes

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a member of any Fascist, Nazi or Communist group."

According to the recommendation, that sentence will be amended so that it will read "I certify that I am a citizen of the United States, that I have been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces and I stand dedicated to the Constitution of the United States and I am not a member of any Fascists, Nazi or Communist group."

Members of the Policy Committee felt some positive statement should accompany the negative clause at the end of the sentence.

Explanation

(Continued from Page 1)

silence in the present instance causes me to wonder whether the climate of public opinion in this country of ours has weakened our understanding to an extent that would permit your ignoring the remarks of Mr. Zeineddine, the Ambassador from Syria."

Commander Kaminsky asked Secretary Dulles to inform him of what action had been taken and not publicize to call to this gentleman's attention the affront to which he has been guilty.

Announce Hospital Prize Winners

The following awards have been announced by Paul W. Guten, D.D.S., National Hospitalization Chairman, for outstanding services to hospitalized veterans:

- Ben Kaufman Traveling Trophy to best Post: Valley of the Sun 194, Phoenix, Arizona.
- Post 487 Traveling Trophy to best Department: Department of New York.
- National Plaque to the best County Council: Philadelphia County Council.

Special Notice

Any one having knowledge of the whereabouts of Stanley Tuckman, formerly of the Sgt. Meyer Levin-Flatbush Post 169, in Brooklyn, New York, should please contact National Headquarters. It is believed Comrade Tuckman is in California with his family. Comrade Tuckman is 23 years old, has blond hair, and has two children. He has worked in photography, either selling equipment or taking pictures.

National Commander's Column

By Reubin Kaminsky
National Commander



Free World's Conscience

The events of the last several months have pointed up that the existence of Israel is a question for the conscience of the free world and, in particular, of the United States of America. These events serve to illustrate the necessity of an answer to the question of whether the protestations of our political and diplomatic leaders about democratic ideals are merely pious expressions or are we Americans ready to put our money where our mouths are.

For that tiny strip of land on the shores of the Mediterranean; imbedded deeply in the soul of its people and in its soil, is a symbol of democracy . . . not the expectation of democracy, not the promise of democracy or even the beginnings of democracy, rather, a living, pulsating, mature concept of that same ideology which has made our own nation great.

All of us talk about support for democracy. This makes all the more apparent the failure of responsible American leaders to recognize that the experiment in democracy in the Middle East, in Israel, faces the danger of virtual extinction. To one who, as I do, thinks of Israel in the context both of tradition as a Jew, and of the survival of democracy as an American, the prospect is intolerable.

One, who, because of what has transpired during the postwar years, has lost faith in the ability of our leaders to recognize genuine friendships, cannot help but feel a deep sense of anxiety over what the future may be in this area.

Political and diplomatic expedience too often has motivated our thinking in dealing with other nations. Surely the time has come to accept the fact that every time we substitute expediency for morality, we eat the bitter dust of defeat.

I am a strong believer in the truths we are instructed to teach our children, as directed by the Mosaic Law. How, therefore, do we explain to our children that when it comes to our relations with nations we suspend these truths or abridge or bend them to suit our purposes?

The people of Israel are devoted friends of the United States, a fact they have proven time and time again. Not simply a friend of the American Jewish community, but of all America and all Americans.

If we, the people of the United States of America, knowing of the participation and support given the cause of freedom, without stint, since 1914 by the Jewish people of the Middle East, really believe Israel is our friend, why have we deliberately participated in policies of exclusion which in turn, lead us to ignore the needs of Israel? Why does the most powerful nation on earth find it necessary to bribe nations which have, over this very same period, repeatedly accepted our treasure and then tried to betray us to our enemies? Why have we allowed ourselves to be dragged along a path of action that has resulted in betrayal of our interests?

Make no mistake about it, the free world including the United States has been betrayed by the Arab nations, particularly Egypt into whose ungrateful hands we Americans have poured millions of dollars in economic aid. Must we continue to accept the proposition that the only dividends of our kindnesses are to be ingratitude and insult, culminating in the betrayal of the cause of democracy?

Only a fool will tell you that the crisis in Israel is a "Jewish question". It takes no genius to realize that the principle involved in the dispute between Israel and the Arab states is an American defense question.

Who will help defend the free world against the menace of communism in the Middle East? Who is prepared to stand across the path of communist infiltration in the Middle East . . . the entrance to North Africa and hence to the "soft underbelly of Europe?"

Do these questions make one feel squeamish? Is there a ripple of fear in your heart? There is in mine. As an American, I could not, dare not, cannot allow the defense of my country to be dependent upon countries whose Armies shoulder Soviet arms, using Soviet ammunition and who are instructed in the use of these arms by Soviet technicians.

We, who have fought subversion in this country, who have recognized the communist menace early in the game, must not allow the fruits of our years of labor to be destroyed by "diplomatic blundering."

Is there a solution? What will solve the dilemma of the Middle East? My answer may not be the panacea. I would suggest we apply these truths we teach our children. Help those who are ready to help you. Support those who believe in and support the idea that the freedom of the individual, created in God's image, is the basis of democracy.

Give Israel the help she needs. For if Israel goes down the Red Flag will fly over areas which will separate East from West and will block the bridge between the two.

If, because of our heritage of both blood and tradition, we are in the vanguard of a movement to bring home to the American people the communist menace in the Middle East, we are there because we want to be there. We must be true to our faith in God and our belief and trust in the American way of life.