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JWV SEEKS INFORMATION

JWV Evaluates Dangers Of Soviet Anti-Semitism

A growing number of Senators and Congressmen indicated support of the recent demand by the Jewish War Veterans for more active policies to stem the rising tide of anti-Semitic developments in the Soviet Union.

Senator Kenneth B. Keating said that "our Government should leave no stone unturned in the United Nations and elsewhere to publicize and document the infamy of Soviet anti-Semitism. The Senator also read into the Congressional Record—Senate, of Jan. 21, 1963, the news release, appearing in last month's issue of the Jewish Veteran, in which National Commander Morton L. London had asked for a "massive protest by the free world to challenge Soviet anti-Semitism."

Almost concurrently with Senator Keating's statement was the request made by JWV that the State Department reveal information on anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

In a letter to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Commander London expressed the belief that "our government will be in the forefront of the nations concerned with the preservation of religious survival and freedom of conscience and will do what we can to abate this evil."

The Jewish War Veteran is currently preparing an evaluation of the dangers involved in the anti-Semitic incidents in Soviet Russia. It is particularly interested in the recent reported events, such as execution for economic crimes, denial of equal opportunities, refusal of governmental positions, closing of synagogues, and closing of schools, which have been reported in the press.

Congress Lauds Award To Hoover

The award of the Gold Medal of Merit to J. Edgar Hoover, Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, by the Jewish War Veterans was cited in the Congressional Record, dated February 5, 1963. Reported were the remarks of the Hon. Ed Edmondson, Congressman from Oklahoma, who pointed out to the House of Representatives that

Dear Friends:
I am overwhelmed by the get-well cards and good wishes, prayers, contributions to charity and other manifestations of good will which I received after notice of my hospitalization appeared in the Jewish Veteran.
I want to express my great gratitude to all the members, members of the N.E.C., department, district and councils commanders and past national commanders for their good wishes. My heartfelt thanks to all of you.
Morris J. Mendelsohn
Past National Commander

Requests The Status Of Former Nazi Diplomat

Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy has been asked by the Jewish War Veterans to provide information on the presence and status in Washington of Gustav Hilger, a former Nazi diplomat who has been named as one of the "principal persons" involved in Nazi Soviet relations. National Commander Morton London wrote Mr. Kennedy he under-

stands Mr. Hilger is employed directly or indirectly as a consultant on Eastern European affairs by the Federal Government. He said that information given to his organization is that Mr. Hilger served as Counselor of the Nazi Embassy in Moscow and after Hitler invaded Russia, was the specialist for Nazi Foreign Minister Von Ribbentrop in organizing Nazi collaboration of elements within Russia.

Von Ribbentrop was tried and executed at the Nuremberg Trials for crimes against humanity. Said Mr. London, "If our information on Mr. Hilger is correct, then Hilger was the right-hand man for Von Ribbentrop in organizing pro-Fascists, anti-Jewish and other elements in Russia in the interest of the Nazi cause."

Mr. London said to Mr. Kennedy that it could "hardly be a source of encouragement to those trapped behind the Iron Curtain to know that a former Nazi official is now in Washington as a consultant on Eastern European affairs to our own government. The head of the veterans group asked the Attorney General for a report because "the American public is entitled to the facts of Mr. Hilger's employment and status here as well as why it is necessary to have a man with this background in a sensitive position in our government."

—Late News Item—
Walter Yeagley, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, in a letter dated February 13, has informed JWV that he has been advised by both the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency that Gustav Hilger "is not employed in any capacity by either agency."

Seeks Closing Of Loop-holes Which Allow Nazis U.S. Entry

The Jewish War Veterans has asked Chairman Philip A. Hart of the Senate Special Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees, to close loop-holes through which Nazis and Fascists are and have been entering the United States.

National Commander Morton London, told Senator Hart that the Jewish War Veterans "find it impossible to understand the McCarran-Walter concept embodied in the present laws which defferentiates between the extremists of the left and right by favoring the latter." He cited the case of Andria Artukovic who has been granted sanctuary here for a decade "despite his fraudulent visa application and notorious record as a Fascist war criminal." Artukovic was in charge of the police and concentration camps in the Nazi puppet State of Croatia during World War II, functioning as a zealous pro-Nazi quisling, and ordered on his own initiative, the torture and death of hundreds of thousands of innocent persons, both Christian and Jewish.

Mr. London noted that Artukovic is only one of the examples of the immigration philosophy of the McCarran-

Walter Act under which the United States has provided a refuge for oppressors and denied the same to the oppressed in many cases.

Inequities of the Immigration Law which require revision, said Mr. London, go far beyond its leniency to Fascists. He called attention to the distinctions under that law between native born and naturalized citizens, limitations of judicial review, needed amendments of grounds presently providing for denaturalization, discriminatory national origins quotas and other aspects.

Senator Hart was commended for drafting an immigration bill designed to correct some of these abuses which failed enactment during the 87th Congress. The National Commander invited his attention to other shortcomings with the hope that they could be introduced and passed in the 88th Session of Congress in a revision of the basic immigration law.

JWV Constitutional Convention Enacts Important Amendments

The Jewish War Veterans convened, as a Constitutional Convention, in New York City last month and passed amendments providing for increased representation on the National Executive Committee, recognition of the Sons of Jewish War Veterans, the bonding of individuals who have authority to approve disbursement vouchers and others. National Commander Morton L. London opened the meeting and then the National Judge Advocate, Daniel N. Heller took over the chair.

One of the most important amendments passed, in effect, doubles the numbers of Delegates-at-Large to the National Executive Committee. Article VI was amended to decrease basis for election of delegates-at-large to 1500 members from the originally stated 3000 members. Now, each of the Regions will elect at the National Convention one Delegate-at-Large for each additional 1500 members. N.E.C. representation was also increased by granting full rights of membership—vote and voice—to the National Commander's appointments of National Adjutant, Na-

tional Quartermaster, National Inspector, the National Public Affairs Officer and the National Editor.

Also passed were provisions for amending or altering the By-Laws by a Constitutional Convention assembled for the purpose of considering proposed amendments Representation as such Convention shall be limited to Post delegates. Each Post shall be entitled to the same vote such Post had at the last National Convention immediately preceding such Constitutional Convention. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present

(Continued on Page 10)

Ill. Department Halts Bigot!

It has been the consistent policy of JWV to do all in its power to stop the apparent use of the auspices of responsible organizations and institutions as a cover for the nefarious activities and the irresponsible rantings and ravings of the extreme rightist and leftist groups.

The latest successful effort is that of the Department of Illinois, which was greatly instrumental in preventing George Lincoln Rockwell, self-styled Nazi leader, from speaking on the Northwestern University campus.

The Department learned that a group

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THE JEWISH VETERAN

Organized 1896

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The Commander Reports

By Morton L. London National Commander

Of growing concern is the spiritual strangulation of Soviet Jewry under a policy of overt and covert anti-Jewish measures which are Government-inspired and directed. While the present state of affairs is not as ominous as that during Stalin's "Black Years," the last five years of his dictatorial reign when masses of Jews were exiled to barren Siberia or wantonly executed, all signs point to a "slower death" to the Jewish community in Soviet Russia through denial to Jews of the ethnic and cultural rights accorded to other Soviet nationalities.

A thriving Jewish cultural life has been extinguished through the closing of such institutions as Yiddish theatres, literary and cultural research institutions, the banning of the publication of Yiddish books, professional journals and newspapers. Jews are not permitted to maintain schools to teach Yiddish or Hebrew to their children nor instruct them on Jewish history and culture. The study of Hebrew has been outlawed, even for religious purposes. No Hebrew Bible has been published for Jews since 1917. Only four rabbinical students are currently in training throughout Soviet Russia today. The production of religious objects such as prayer shawls (tallisim) and phylacteries (tefillim) are prohibited. The public baking and the sale of matzah are forbidden.

In the last 18 months, the Government has stepped up its program of harassment and denouncement of Jews. Synagogue leaders have been forced to resign from their jobs. Some who have been secretly tried and convicted of alleged espionage ended up with lengthy prison terms. In the press, the Jews have been vilified as money worshippers. Jewish rites such as circumcision have been mocked as barbarous. The synagogue has been painted as the scene for drunkenness and brawling. Adult children of elderly pious Jews are held up to public scorn. Advancement of Jews in political and economic life of the country has been retarded. Of 70 individuals sentenced to death since May 1961 for "economic crimes against the State," at least 42 are known to be Jews. In Vilna, the people were invited to the "Jewish show trial."

It is quite evident that the Jews in Soviet Russia cannot protest. If given the free choice, many would obviously leave the country for Israel or other havens. But Soviet policy, unlike that of some satellite nations in the Communist orbit in Eastern Europe which permits some emigration, severely restricts the free movement of its citizens.

There exists a body of opinion in the American Jewish community which alleges that any protests organized in this country will only do further harm to Soviet Jewry. They assert that the best approach is to mobilize public opinion of outstanding liberal leaders throughout the world whose record of friendship for the Soviet Union is acknowledged by the Russian leaders. Frankly, I remain unconvinced by their approach. If I read the events in Nazi Germany correctly, our "friends" never accomplished anything significant in the rescue of the German Jewish community. This is our fight to be fought in the arena of world public opinion.

The world must be informed of the atrocities committed against the Jews of Soviet Russia. The "neutralist" nations who are flirting with the Russian bear must be educated regarding the denial of human rights to Jews in Russia. We must demand from our government that they vigorously protest in the United Nations this wanton attack against our fellow Jews. We are alerting our fellow veterans to join in this fight, and we are writing to Jewish veteran associations whom we met in Israel last September to make similar protests through their respective governments. Obviously, we are consulting with the other major Jewish organizations on this subject as well.

This issue will be the major topic for discussion at our Policy Committee later this month. Directives on what you can do in your community will be sent following the meeting.

Capitol Corridors



by Felix Putterman National Legislative Director

The other day the Army awarded the Air Medal, a high honor indeed, to a non-com for giving aid to casualties while in helicopter flight over combat areas in South Viet-Nam. While this was still another incident in a long series of quiet American bravery in the sullen swampland and jungles of Southeast Asia, it serves as a reminder that this is still a part of what is euphemistically called peacetime duty.

Hardly a week goes by without an announcement of casualties and deaths among United States servicemen on the hot front of the Cold War. Yet as far as recognition and benefits are concerned, there is no distinction made between garrison duty here at home and service abroad on this razor-edge exposed nerve of the struggle between freedom and tyranny.

President Kennedy has taken an initial step in asking the Congress for legislative authority to award medals, the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, and Silver Star, now restricted to heroic service in active combat with an enemy of the United States during wartime. Such legislation is consistent with the President's action of last April when Mr. Kennedy issued an Executive Order to establish eligibility for the award of the Purple Heart to Cold War casualties.

Many distinctions are drawn by the

government based upon the supposed differences between hot and cold war duty. Among these are a number that are artificial and arbitrary at best.

Servicemen carrying out the national commitment in Berlin, on the armistice line in Korea, in Laos and the agony of Viet-Nam cannot purchase National Service Life Insurance. If they lose a limb, they are not eligible for the special automobile available to World War II and Korean veterans. The benefits of a GI Bill are as yet unattainable. Their eligibility for service-connected disability compensation is severely limited by much stricter presumptions of pre-service fitness than predecessors of Korea and World War II. After discharge, veterans of Viet-Nam, Berlin, etc., are not eligible for the same pension given war veterans totally and permanently disabled by reason of non-service-connected cause.

Apparently, the government's distinction between hot and cold war has not inhibited insurance companies. There have been a number of complaints from parents and widows that policies held on deceased sons and spouses are not being paid because the death occurred on a hazardous mission overseas! An insurance company refused to pay double indemnity for an accidental death to the widow of a Warrant Officer lost in a transport crash in Laos two years ago. A number of dependents have been trapped in this whiplash between the Government's artificial distinction of what comprises wartime duty and the private insurance companies' strict views on accidental death.

Obviously, the situation beggars a sensible, rational, and humane solution. The Congress can take a constructive step in the right direction by adopting the President's proposal on awards. The logical next step would be an adjustment of our entire schedule of benefits to bring in deserving veterans who have been exposed to hazardous duty. The term "hazardous duty" should be interpreted in a limited sense so that the Administration could not be accused of creating an all-encompassing Mother Hubbard for every peacetime serviceman. Finally, the GI Bill for which Senator Ralph Yarborough has been leading a valiant and almost lonesome fight should be moved up high on the agenda of a Congress which may have time on its hands while waiting around a godly portion of next summer for the Tax Bill to be reported out into daylight from the inner recesses of the Senate Finance Committee.

Admittedly the GI Bill is expensive—not extravagant—but expensive. It is inconceivable that the talents of our most "fiscally responsible" Members of Congress cannot be used for something positive rather than merely being "agin" every spending proposal. One contribution would be a GI Bill of Rights, carefully drawn to limit, if necessary, its benefits to those cold war vets enduring the hazards of perilous duty while plugging the leaky dikes of the Free World.

What is right is right! At the expense of some of our finest young men, the Government treasury and private insurance companies have been eating their cake and having it as well.

Halts Bigot

(Continued from Page 1)

of students at Elder Hall had invited the Nazi to speak to their group at their quarters on February 1, 1963.

As a result of protests to school officials by the Jewish War Veterans in Illinois, and possibly others, Department Commander Sidney Bick was informed by Dean McCloud that the talk had been cancelled.

Hoover

(Continued from Page 1)

the FBI Director, in addition to receiving the organizations highest honor, had also been presented with a lifetime honorary membership.

The remarks made by Congressman Edmondson follow:

"Mr. Speaker, last fall, a great American was honored by one of the most distinguished war veterans' organization in the United States. I am speaking of the Gold Medal of Merit awarded to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, last November, by the Jewish War Veterans.

This honor, coupled with a lifetime honorary membership in the organization, is the highest recognition presented by the Jewish War Veterans.

The inscription on the plaque accompanying the Medal of Merit reads: In recognition of outstanding and meritorious services in the battle for civil rights and liberties. His integrity and devotion to justice will be remembered forever.

I can think of no person more deserving of this award. In his 39 years as Director of the FBI, J. Edgar Hoover has quietly but effectively advanced the cause of civil rights and civil liberties. His devotion to the fair and impartial administration of justice for all citizens, while protecting our basic rights and privileges from those who would destroy them, has earned for him a prominent place in our history.

J. Edgar Hoover has most significantly advanced the cause of liberty by impartially advancing the cause of justice. His record of transforming the FBI from a politically dominated and inept organization in the early 1920's into the most trusted and effective crime-fighting agency in the world is indeed a landmark which benefits every American.

I think the greatness of J. Edgar Hoover can also be measured by his humility. For example, he accepted the award from the Jewish War Veterans, "on behalf of the men and women of the FBI." I think Mr. Hoover's remarks are both penetrating and worthwhile and at this time I wish to have them inserted in the Record."

(See Nov.-Dec. 1962 issue.)