



# STATE DEPT. CONCERNED

## JWV Asks State Dept. Views On Aid To Nasser

## Soviet Anti-Semitism Receives High Priority

Noting new reports of the aggressive use of Soviet jet bombers and Russian equipment by Nasser's United Arab Republic, the Jewish Veterans asked Secretary of State Dean Rusk to define the State Department's position on increased American aid to Nasser.

The Department of State this week informed the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. that American concern over increasing anti-Semitic developments in the Soviet Union has been made known at "the highest levels of the Soviet Government" and the problem is receiving "a high priority of attention" from State Department experts.

National Commander Morton L. London pointed out in a letter to Secretary Rusk that at the time our government gave diplomatic recognition to the regime which, with the assistance of Nasser's U.A.R. military forces, seized power in Yemen, the Department of State voiced expectations that the intervening Egyptian troops would be immediately withdrawn. But I. Keith had of withdrawing, said Commander London, "Nasser has increased military occupation forces."



National Commander Morton L. London, center and Felix Putterman, National Legislative Director right, meet with Lt. Gen. Lewis Hershey, Director of Selective Service. General Hershey commended JWV on the various aspects of its program.

Secretary Rusk was asked to state the views of the Department on Nasser's continued failure to withdraw his forces and his defiant disregard for the expressed by the United States. Rusk was also requested to define the current State Department philosophy as the light of the U.A.R. incurred about increased American grants and loans to Nasser. These indicate release Egyptian funds for use in aggression and subversive infiltration of other nations and for acquisition of additional Soviet military equipment including jet bombers.

## JWV Group Hosp. Indemnity Plan Now Open To Members

The JWV Official Group Hospital Indemnity Insurance Plan is now available to all members of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. and its National Ladies Auxiliary.

National Commander Morton L. London, in commenting about the new plan, called it "another milestone" and an "important addition to those services which are already being offered to members of JWV."

Elsewhere in this issue of The Jewish Veteran is a full page advertisement heralding the arrival of the new plan, and members are urged to fill out the application form immediately and mail it, along with an enclosed check, to the Insurance Administrator.

Members of JWV and its Auxiliaries are now eligible to obtain this vital, low cost protection, for themselves and their families when they are hospitalized and unable to work. The plan pays up to \$150 a week when it is needed the most . . . when you are hospitalized and your income is temporarily reduced or eliminated.

The plan, which is underwritten by the Illinois Mid-Continent Life Insurance Company, Chicago, Ill., offers many important benefits: ready cash over and above any hospitalization you may already have; benefits paid directly to you from the first day of confinement, with no waiting periods or deductions; protection for the whole family at the lowest possible rates; provides income for as long as 52 weeks a year for each accident or sickness when hospitalized.

One important feature of the plan is that full payments are made at any age when you are hospitalized, without regard as to how long your JWV policy is in effect. Your Hospital Indemnity Plan cannot be terminated by the company as long as you pay your premium, maintain your membership in JWV, and the master policy remains in force.

Turn to page 9 now and read the complete details on the JWV Official Group Hospital Indemnity Insurance Plan . . . and then send your application and check to the Administrator of the plan, National Insurance Plans, Inc.

### Notice To Members And Post Officers

JWV is compiling a list of names of Gold Star Mothers of the Jewish faith. Please, send the names and addresses of all Gold Star Mothers in your community to the Jewish War Veterans, 1712 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C.

In a letter to Morton L. London, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans, the Department of State said, in response to a letter from the JWV National Commander, which requested attention by the State Department to the Soviet Jewish problem and a current report on the Department's thinking and activities:

- 1) Anti-Jewish pressures by the Kremlin now are "such as to prevent the normal maintenance and development of Jewish religious and cultural life."
- 2) Increased discrimination has become "a matter of deep concern to the Department," and "Jewish religious activities have been curtailed to the point where functioning synagogues are a rarity and opportunities to train and educate Jewish religious leaders have been practically eliminated."
- 3) Jews seem to be receiving "a disproportionate amount of condemnation and victimization" in the Soviet Government campaign against private speculation in goods.
- 4) Intensified anti-Semitism in the post-Stalin era is seen in trials of religious leaders on criminal charges, increased application of social pressures, administrative restrictions and legal impediments, as in the case of the ban on Matzoth baking.
- 5) Reports have been received, from official and non-official sources, of anti-Semitism "in many areas of the Soviet Union."

The Department concludes that the most effective action available against the above is through such bodies as the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and by world public opinion, rallied by private organizations. In the view of the Department, the Soviet regime in such matters is "to a degree" susceptible to the influence of world opinion.

The Honorable Dean Rusk  
Secretary of State  
The State Department  
Washington, D. C.  
My Dear Mr. Rusk:

"Many members of our organization are expressing great concern over recent reports of increasing anti-Semitism on the part of the government of the U.S.-S.R. We are positive that our govern-

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## Congressional Support

Congressional support of the demand for the Jewish War Veterans for vigorous action against Soviet anti-Semitism, stated in the February issue of the Jewish Veteran, continued to grow. Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr., New Jersey, in a speech to the Senate last month called attention to JWV's action, pointing out that in the past year and a half there has developed an accelerated harassment of Russian Jews. He cited "the singling out of Jews for discriminatory treatment" in the Soviet Union. He also mentioned Khrushchev's cynical denials, while the machinery pushes inexorably toward the extinction of Jewish cultural life. He had little effect on the reprehensible actions of Russian officials and publications. The Senator said, "the closing of synagogues and the incidence of social and economic crimes, punishable by law, are the most obvious facets of the sinister pattern of Soviet anti-Semitism." He quoted extensive material on Soviet anti-Semitism.

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Capitol Corridors



by Felix Putterman

National Legislative Director

At the Jet Age rate of six and a half million dollars per minute, the House of Representatives used up four hours of its time in authorizing new defense expenditures amounting to over fifteen billions of dollars. That kind of money can buy a lot of Indian nuts; unfortunately, it also buys a lot of trouble. Ask Mr. McNamara.

Only yesterday the Secretary of Defense was hailed far and wide even in the Halls of Congress, as the prize pick of the Kennedy Administration. Here at last was the human computer; the head knocker; the first really efficient business administrator to conquer the Pentagon; a real American business hero conspicuously outstanding among the college professors and professional politicians of the New Frontier. In fact, he was good enough to make some GOP politicians drool at the thought of his possible future as a Republican presidential candidate.

Then came the deluge. Congressional bullies have now cornered the bright boy, ripped his glasses off and begun to flail away at him with the relentless abandon of a politico smelling blood. By contrast, his defenders in the Congress seem merely to be going through the motions in a reflex action characterized by a singular lack of zeal and conviction. Unless the President and his Congressional leaders blow the whistle and call a halt to this donnybrook, serious damage will be done not only to a courageous and resourceful cabinet officer, but to the entire Administration as well.

This most recent set-to resulted from the latest in a series of difficult decisions by Secretary McNamara bringing him face-to-face with the awesome power generated by the skill of a few well placed Senators in tandem with the military-industrial colossus.

The competing interests have a vital stake in this battle of titans. It is quite natural that each of the armed services and its complex of suppliers ranging from the production of military hardware to the most esoteric research are making a fight for the lion's share of a mammoth \$53 billion budget.

They are dealing with a Secretary of Defense who dollar budget, in his two year stretch has not hesitated to cancel programs begun by predecessors whenever they appeared to be dubious investments or when they failed to meet promised performance standards. Anticipated earnings have gone up in smoke like some wild dream for the contractors in the Skybolt missile project; those who envisioned a piece of the ten billion dollar RS-70 plane have come up with

a handful of air despite heavy Congressional support; a one hundred million dollar investment in a radio telescope scheme has been deemed a waste and written off; the off button has been pushed on a dubious communications satellite project after one hundred seventy millions had been poured into it.

The generals and admirals proposed a sixty-seven billion dollar budget to their civilian boss only to have him trim off over thirteen billion before bringing it to the Congress for approval. This action has real meaning to all parties concerned. Since it must work for Uncle Sam or die, for a large segment of American industry, this is an exercise of the power of life or death. For the vested interest of each military service, it is truly the survival of the fittest. With manned aircraft possibly becoming obsolete the Air Force, after a meteoric rise from World War II to the advent of the ICBM, is beginning to taste ashes in its mouth. For the same reason the Navy's air arm may be shivering at the thought of an all sub Navy. The march of history has caught up with the Army and its traditional role. Its decisions and actions, more and more, fall squarely within the political and diplomatic area. Coinciding with control by a strong civilian Secretary is the arrival of that point in time when traditions, experience and leadership must be reoriented to new revolutionary concepts of strategy and control.

For many Senators and Representatives very little is more crucial than the placement of defense contracts. Cities, states and entire regions stand to benefit or suffer as a consequence of Secretary McNamara's judgment. A six and a half billion dollar contract for TFX fighter planes could mean economic life and death for several communities, not to speak of the political lives of Members of Congress. After all what Senator, worth his salt, with an established reputation and a demanding constituency in the military-industrial world, would not now look upon the Secretary as an usurper and the executive decision-making process as a personal affront.

After lo these many years during which Presidents have been looking for a master manager to rule and run the Pentagon, the prodigy is here. Secretary McNamara is managing the Pentagon. He has discarded, without hesitation and with little regard to political consequences, expensive and highly publicized weapons systems when they proved to be extravagant playthings with minimal military effect. When country after country has gone on a lickety-split military leadership spree, we in the United States have the good fortune to have a responsible military

The Commander Reports

By

Morton L. London

National Commander

In previous Commander's column, I reported at length on the abilities suffered by our co-religionist in the Soviet Union. Our organization is indebted to Senator Harrison Williams of New Jersey inserting the column in the Congressional Record, thereby permitting a far wider dissemination of the facts citing the discrimination to Soviet Jewry is subjected by their government.

In recent weeks, the national member agencies affiliated with National Community Relations Advisory Council (NCRAC) have by their efforts to render direct assistance to relieve the plight of Jewishry.

Our first concern, and a most practical one, was to devise a strategy to provide Matzos for distribution in the Soviet Union. Jointly with writing the financial obligations, we made arrangements to fly Matzos to Moscow. We cabled Krushchev to accept responsibility for the distribution. Simultaneously, we released a statement to the press appealing on world leaders to join in persuading the Soviet government to accede to our request for the distribution of the Matzos.

Then we supported the appeal by our religious leaders that at Seder this year, we set aside Matzos as a symbol of the denial suffered by our brethren in the Soviet Union. Through this act, our children reminded that in every generation, the Jews have been confronted by tyrants who sought to choke off our religious freedom.

As your National Commander, I view it as a solemn duty to pursue an unrelenting campaign to expose before the bar of world opinion the injustices and tyranny that befall Russian Jewry. With your support our organization shall carry on this campaign until Soviet Jewry is accorded full freedom to practice their religion or granted their rights under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which says, "Every one has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country."

The survival of Soviet Jewry will be the major item for consideration at the forthcoming meeting of the National Executive Committee in month. At that time, I will offer a specific program for our organization to adopt in this regard.

Of equal concern are the developments in Egypt where Government scientists are preparing new weapons aimed at destroying Israel. We need only reflect on the apprehension in this country last October over the Cuban crisis when offensive Russian missiles were installed 90 miles from our shores to comprehend the anxiety in Israel over the Egyptian weapons.

On a more joyous note, I intend to propose that the National Executive Committee approve a program of continued JWV pilgrimages to Israel. As previously reported, I would like to make available this opportunity for every member and his family to visit Israel. From personal experience, I can attest to the sense of fulfillment one can derive from this trip.

Tribute To The 'Jewish War Veteran'

The following appeared on the front page of the Bulletin of the Ohev Yisrael synagogue of Chester, Pa. Rabbi Louis Kaplan pays JWV one of the finest and eloquent tributes ever made by a member of the Rabbinate.

On Thanksgiving Day we pause to express gratitude for Life's blessings. In this November of increasing world tension it is especially fitting that we acknowledge our indebtedness to those who have served honorably in our armed forces and those who are ready, if need be, to defend once more this country's freedom and integrity.

We most honor those men and women when remembrance of their sacrifice inspires us to better dedicate ourselves to the American (and Jewish) values of individual worth, human brotherhood, and confidence in man's potentiality to fully solve His problems and build the good society.

Unlike some veterans groups in this and other lands, the "Jewish War Veterans" organization has been a consistent advocate of these democratic ideals. It has inspired many to strive relentlessly for their implementation on the personal, community, state, national, and international levels. As a Jewish association, it also endeavored to defend the Jewish name.

May the JWV continue to effectively serve our God and fellowmen, the people and our country!

Rabbi Louis Kaplan

establishment clearly under civilian control.

Some admirals and generals may howl—some. Some Senators and Congressmen may thrash out in blind rage—some. Some reckless politicians and embryonic candidates may make cynical use of the professional military—some. But all of us have a vested interest and overriding responsibility to recognize

that the Secretary of Defense is a greater foe of interest than the conflicting interests. He must weigh and blend the needs, the interests and the effect of our military. Mr. McNamara is not the perfect choice of Defense, but, surely he is the closest to meeting the specific challenge for the most challenging task in Washington today.