



# The Jewish Veteran

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## Audience with Pope Reveals Concern for Jews in Soviet

### Chooses JWV Meeting For Historic Statement On 3.5 Million People

Pope Paul VI chose a private audience with the National Commander on April 14th to publicly announce, for the first time, his deep concern over the fate of 3.5 million Jews in the Soviet Union.

In a fifteen-minute audience, significantly held in the Chamber Room of Pope Paul V, National Commander Daniel Neal Heller and Past National Commander Abraham Kraditor, were "gratified and elated" over the Pope's deep concern for the 3.5 million Jews in the Soviet Union, who are suffering under a stepped-up anti-Semitic campaign.

The historical meeting has been characterized as one of the most significant face-to-face meetings involving the leaders of an American Jewish organization and the spiritual leader of 600,000,000 Catholics throughout the world.

According to Mr. Heller, the Pope's pronouncements on the fate of Soviet Jewry have put the Church on record as expressing, for the first time, the Pope's awareness of the existence of Soviet anti-Semitism and his disapproval of such discrimination as well as his deep feeling for and understanding of the predicament of the Soviet Jews.

"He made it known to us," Commander Heller said, "of his desire to promote through a spiritual call to conscience, the alleviation of their problems. 'Those poor poor people,' exclaimed the Pope, 'we must all pray very hard for them, I will personally pray for them.'"

Commander Heller, upon assuming the office of the JWV National Commander in August,

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His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, is shown as he, in a precedent-shattering audience, expressed his most emphatic disapproval of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and elsewhere, during a private audience with National Commander Daniel Neal Heller and Past National Commander Abraham Kraditor. The historic fifteen-minute meeting took place in the Pope Paul V Room at the Vatican.

## 'Frankfurt Trials a Joke' Says Jewish Veterans Chief

"The war crimes trial at Frankfurt, Germany, of the SS guards from the Auschwitz concentration camp is a joke," National Commander Daniel Neal Heller declared on his return from Frankfurt, Germany, where he observed the German War Crimes trials.

He said half the defendants at the trial are free on bond and go home to their families every night.

"These Nazi Gestapo guards from Auschwitz are not worried about their fate," Heller said.

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Mrs. Heller receives a book on Frankfurt from the City's Mayor, Rudolf Menzer, as Commander Heller looks on. Note the late President Kennedy's picture in the background.

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