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## JWV ISRAEL CONVOCATION IS OUTSTANDING EVENT



National Commander Samuel Samuels discusses captured Russian equipment with an Israeli army Captain at an Army base outside of Tel-Aviv. The Commander made the tour of inspection while in Israel attending the JWV-NEC Convocation which was attended by hundreds and hundreds of JWV members and their families. That's a 15mm Russian gun in back of Commander Samuels.

### Israeli Officials Briefed JWV National Executive Committee

TEL-AVIV, ISRAEL . . .

Top officials of the Israeli Government extensively briefed JWV National Executive Committeemen attending the historic JWV Convocation here on the massive political, social and economic problems affecting Israel, and peace and security in the Middle East.

In a series of briefings directed to the NEC men, Israeli officials discussed the serious impact of the Soviet penetration of the Middle East and the Mediterranean.

At the meeting, too, the NEC ratified the settlement between JWV and JWVA as well as a settlement of the National Shrine issue.

Commenting on both settlements by the National Executive Committee, after extensive debate and favorable vote, Commander Samuels told the gathering that "perhaps it is the dynamism of this young country of Israel that has inspired us to put our own house in order so that we can move on to bigger and better things."

Other highlights of the Convocation were a cocktail party at the Tel-Aviv Hilton for the NEC and their wives on February 28, a reception for the NEC on March 3 in the home of President Zalmon Shazar and a reception in Jerusalem by Mayor Teddy Kolleck on March 4.

The entire JWV Convocation, more than 1000 strong, attended a luncheon in Jerusalem at which Israel's Levi Eshkol was the principal speaker. Prime Minister Eshkol warmly greeted the veterans and their wives and thanked them for their moral and material help over the many years of Israel's existence.

Convocation attendees crisscrossed Israel in chartered buses shuttling through the major sites and cities of Israel. A memorable highlight of the tours was a visit to the JWV Memorial Forest in Israel where special ceremonies were held commemorating the event.

Special greetings were carried to Israeli officials through Commander Samuels from President Lyndon B. Johnson (see story elsewhere in this newspaper).

The convocation marked the first time that the execu-

tive body of the Jewish War Veterans ever met outside of the United States. JWV National Commander Samuel Samuels in addressing the National Executive Committee set the theme for the Convocation by warning that, "the occasion is a vital challenge not only to war veterans of Jewish faith but to American and free world security."

Commander Samuels stressed in his message that "it is imperative to combine the best thinking of America and Israel in efforts to meet the challenge imposed by the unprecedented Russian build-up in that part of the world." He asserted that "the Russians are not only massing nuclear submarines and missile ships in the Mediterranean, preparing aircraft carriers, stationing amphibious assault forces, but are insidiously working by proxy through the radical Arab states."

He said that the Kremlin has shown "by dissuading the Arabs from entering into a peace settlement with Israel that the Soviet Union does not want peace in the Middle East. They continue to ship the most sophisticated weapons to the Arabs, including the latest jet bombers, and are sending additional Soviet 'advisers' and 'military experts' to work at every echelon of the Arab armed forces."

The Commander said that "the Soviet threat poses a grave prob-

### NEC Meeting Focused On The Soviet Middle-East Penetration

As hundreds of JWV members and their families gathered in Israel last month, along with the NEC of the organization which held its first meeting outside the United States, National Commander Samuel Samuels made it clear that the JWV National Executive Committee took a first-hand look at the Communist thrust into the Middle East and Mediterranean.

Israel leaders and military officials of that country

briefed the JWV not only on the massive Soviet rearming of radical Arab States but also on the growing Russian naval buildup.

Commander Samuels issued a statement regarding the steps his organization was taking to assure the sight is not lost of the Communist drive to penetrate the Middle East at a time when we are strongly involved in the Far East."

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### Samuels Makes The Headlines in Trip To Copenhagen

National Commander Samuel Samuels, represented the JWV, in an official visit to Copenhagen, Denmark, and was thrilled by the reception and friendliness of the Danish people.

In a Page 2 story in Copenhagen's leading newspaper, Commander Samuels received a "write-up" to make the entire organization proud. The story states:

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# Editorially Speaking

## SACRILEGE

The Rules Committee of the House of Representatives has forestalled another attempt to perpetuate the memory of a hate spewing bigot, the late Congressman John E. Rankin. Despite the blatant affront to minorities inherent in the proposal to name a veterans hospital for Rankin, this tasteless scheme received support from some who call for gratitude from Jewish and Negro veterans for his accomplishments as House Veterans Committee chairman.

Fortunately such insensitivity is not prevalent among senior House Members who were embarrassed by the hateful vituperation in which Rankin often indulged on the floor of the House. On a number of occasions, Speaker McCormack, then House Majority Leader, criticized, in no uncertain terms, the vicious fulminations of his Mississippi colleague. Younger Congressman may be grateful for being spared the boorish diatribes that characterized Rankin's public posture.

The question of naming veterans installations is still up in the air. Regrettably the effort on behalf of three worthy former House greats was sullied and ultimately stymied by the inclusion of Rankin's name. Sam Rayburn, Edith Nourse Rogers and Albert Thomas made indelible contributions to all American veterans deserving of memorialization. Instead of Rankin, Congressman Jonathan Bingham suggests naming the Mississippi VA Hospital for Medgar Evers, veteran, civil rights martyr and native Mississippian. By contrast with the Rankin proposal, this is at least the seed of a good idea.

## HISTORY'S VERDICT ON U. S. ACTION IN VIETNAM

We are indebted to national columnist Howard K. Smith, whose recent syndicated column, above-entitled, bears summarizing as a trenchant, far-sighted editorial.

Highlights of the Smith column speak for themselves, and for history:

**"The enemy has perfected a form of warfare which in fact amounts to hiding behind the civilian population . . . That vision of the war (alleged American atrocities) is in fact a huge lie . . . The American effort is in fact amazingly humane in the circumstances. For example, . . . our attacks on the vital node of Nam Dinh (with bombs of 100 raids killed 89 civilians) were carried out with a care unprecedented in modern warfare."**

By contrast, "the essential truth: the enemy's war is a vast, carefully planned, thoroughly intended atrocity."

**"The conscience-stricken need to recall that in the long cold war, the U.S. has never once taken the initiative in a conflict. We have defended in Greece, Turkey, Berlin, Cuba and Korea, as we are doing in Vietnam. In each case, we were ready to stop defending whenever the enemy would stop aggressing."**

**"It is clear where guilt has consistently lodged. Given our good moral record, history has a simple imperative for President Johnson: Don't lose."**

## President Johnson Sends "Greetings"

President Lyndon B. Johnson took personal notice of JWV's long-planned Convocation in Israel and sent a warm, personal letter to National Commander Samuels, before the Commander left for abroad. In the letter the President asked that Commander Samuels convey his "warmest greetings" to Israeli Prime Minister and other Israeli leaders when Commander Samuels was in Israel.

In his letter from The White House, President Johnson, also sent "greetings" to JWV's National and State Officers. The text of his message to Com-

mander Samuels said:

**"On the eve of your departure for the long-planned Jewish War Veterans Convocation in Israel, I want to express my warmest greetings to your National and State Officers and to our many mutual friends in the Government of Israel who only recently were guests in this country."**

Prime Minister Eshkol was President Johnson's guest at the LBJ ranch in Texas when the Prime Minister came to this country last month.

## Samuels "Puts Teeth" In Toothbrush Campaign

Right after his recent return from a tour of Vietnam, National Commander Samuel Samuels started off to put plenty of teeth in a JWV campaign for toothbrushes for some of the children of South Vietnam . . . namely 200,000 toothbrushes.

### In Vietnam

The idea occurred to the Commander when he visited the Province of An Giang, a Province under the guidance of U.S. Advisor, Lt. Colonel Edward E. Lane, Senior Advisor of the U.S. Advisory Team. Here, Commander Samuels learned that the children of this Province had never even seen a toothbrush! He thought what a gesture of goodwill it would be for the organization he represented to start a campaign for toothbrushes for the children of this Province.

### Here at Home

He lost no time in getting the campaign rolling. When he returned to the States from Vietnam, in Los Angeles and San Francisco he presented the message of this latest JWV effort to the people in those areas. The January issue of The Veteran carried his "Operation Toothbrush" to its thousands and thousands of readers—and the response has been overwhelming.

### Our Marines

Commander Samuels also discloses that in Da Nang Province in South Vietnam, the U.S. Marines have provided all the money for the construction of a hospital that is open to all—servicemen and Vietnamese alike. It is staffed by Drs., and Corpsermen in their off-duty hours.

"This is what our forces are doing over there," Commander Samuels was proud to say.

Those who haven't sent those toothbrushes yet . . . simply send them to Lt. Colonel Edward E. Lane, Senior U.S. Advisory Team, No. 53, APO, San Francisco.

### All Smiles

It's such a small way to help bring a smile to those sad little faces of the real victims of this—or any conflict.

## Thinking Out Loud



By Albert Schlosser  
National Editor

### A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME . . .

Speaking of names, the name Rankin seems to be popping up in the news again.

I've been admonished that if he is wise a gentleman should avoid getting involved in controversy with a woman. Usually I heed this good advice, but for just this one time I'll have to stick my neck out. The lady I'm tilting lances with is the venerable Jeanette Rankin.

Somehow my antennae seem to tell me that the honorable former representative from the great state of Montana, Jeanette Rankin, is just as-wrong today, as a leader in the mother-marchers for peace, as she was in some of her actions in the Congress of the U.S.A. Always a rugged individualist, Miss Rankin voted against U.S. participation in World War I and then followed up that classic action, thus assuring herself a place in history, by casting the only vote in the United States House of Representatives against United States participation in World War II. It would be "chutzpah" on my part to question the philosophical rationale behind the position she took on these votes, but I can not help wondering if Adolph Hitler would have permitted Miss Rankin to lead a march against his government policies, had "Mein Kampf" become a reality.

History will note several items beside the name Jeanette Rankin. The first woman to be elected to Congress. Her votes prior to World Wars I and II. But I wonder, without questioning her motivation, when she studied at the School of Philanthropy in New York, in her younger days, were the philanthropic ideologies ever adequately transposed from philosophy to the hard, cruel world of reality. Unfortunately for the world, the prophecy of Isaiah has not come to pass and mankind seems uninclined to beat the swords into plowshares and the spears into pruning hooks. Men continue to lift up sword against nation and still prepare for war.

Now to the other Rankin, Representative John Rankin, of Mississippi, that is. This is a flora of another scent and color. From 1921 to 1953 this demagogue held sway in the halls of Congress and misused his position to spew forth the greatest mass of vitriolic garbage ever to echo in our nation's hallowed capitol. Not content to villify his fellow Americans who happened to be Jewish, John Rankin did his utmost on the floor of the Congress

to justify the Nazi slaughter of millions of European Jews. In the late and unlamented mind of John Rankin genocide was worthwhile endeavor.

The venom that spewed forth from the lips of the gentleman from Mississippi against the Jews was as nothing when compared to his derogation of Negroes. In his mind any concept of equal rights and opportunities for American Negroes was fallacious and was to be discarded as an insult to his white Southern tradition. In the eyes of John Rankin Negroes were mere chattel and any attempt to equate their status with the position of white Americans was an "un-American act" in his murky mind.

When John Rankin passed from this life it was thought that his name would slowly but certainly fade into obscurity. So it was thought, but it was not meant to be. An epilogue in the life of John Rankin was the attempt a short time ago to slip a bill through the mills of Congress that would have named a new Veterans Administration hospital in his memory and honor.

What an insult to the memory of the thousands of Negro and Jewish servicemen who gave their lives in defense of the America we love! How galling it would be to a Negro veteran to be hospitalized in a building dedicated in honor of John Rankin, "bigot extraordinaire." How could any Jewish American veteran feel comfortable in an institution memorializing a man who extolled the virtues of Hitler's plan to exterminate the Jews of the world. How small and short memoried was the mind of the person who gave birth to the plan to perpetuate the vitriolic personality, John Rankin.

Fortunately there were those who had strong memories. They stood up and shouted that this would never do. Because of their forthright action the bill to name the hospital "John Rankin Hospital" has been deferred indefinitely. We hope that a bright warning flag will be attached to the bill so that should it be resurrected the danger signals will alarm the country. Surely the Jewish War Veterans will keep a sharp eye out for any stirring in this direction.

If the Veterans Administration is short of ideas for a name, how about "The Four Chaplains Veterans Administration Hospital," in honor and memory of gallant men.

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Exciting highlights of JWV Israel Convocation
- Editorials with plenty of important impact
- News about JWV Posts and all their "doings"
- Brush up on Operation Toothbrushes for Tots
- And pictures! pictures! and more pictures