



# The Jewish VETERAN

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APRIL, 1968

## JWV PROTESTS POW'S PLIGHT

### JWV Looks To 73rd National Convention Ambassador Rabin To Be Main Speaker

The Jewish War Veterans 73rd Annual National Convention will take place at the luxury Hotel Diplomat in Hollywood-by-the-Sea, Florida the week of August 18th through the 25th.

It is with great pride that the Convention committee, through its Chairman, Judge Isaac J. Murov, has announced that the new Israeli Ambassador to the United States, General Yitzhak Rabin will be the principal speaker at the Convention. General Rabin is the first "Sabra" or native-born Israeli to represent his country in the United States in this top-flight diplomatic role.

This annual National Meeting of the JWV will be held at a time when this great Republic is in the throes of an election year to select the person to fill the highest office of the land—the President of the United States.

It is a time unprecedented in

the annals of this country for the vast number of grave national and international problems that confront its leaders. Perhaps, it is a time unequalled in its gravity except during the grim struggle in the War between the States.

It is a time that is bound to make this 1968 JWV National Convention even more meaningful to everyone in the organization. It is bound to be the best attended convention ever held.

The fabulous Hotel Diplomat will be the headquarters for the Convention . . . the same hotel where the great 1964 JWV convention was held.

This a luxury hotel in every sense of the word . . . from its accommodations to its 'round the clock festivities for guests.

There is everything here to make your stay enjoyable. The surroundings are beautiful, there are five swimming pools, a

championship golf course, a magnificent beach with water skiing and boating . . . and tennis courts for the racket set.

Children are not forgotten in the plans of the hotel and they will enjoy everything from their own kiddies' pools to Rumpus Rooms.

Teenagers are not forgotten either as the convention committee has a whole entertainment program on tap for them.

Your Convention Committee has a full schedule of business and social functions which will be revealed in a future issue of The Veteran.

Meantime—NOW is the time to make your plans to attend the Convention . . . the 1968 JWV Convention . . . just bound to be one of the most memorable Conventions in the history of The Jewish War Veterans.

See the Ad on Page 16.

### NC Samuels Condemns Cruelty Of No. Vietnam and Vietcong

The Jewish War Veterans has gone on record as strongly condemning the barbarous treatment of prisoners of war by North Vietnam and Vietcong.

In a scorching statement calling for immediate action on the problem, National Commander Samuels, condemned both of them for their refusal to abide by the basic tenets of fair treatment and humanity in dealing with prisoners of war.

The Commander's statement, released at JWV National Headquarters in Washington, D. C., vigorously protested the "blanket of inhuman silence" cast over the fate of American Servicemen believed captive behind the Communist lines in Vietnam.

Speaking for the JWV, National Commander Samuel Samuels said:

April 1, 1968

*Honorable  
Lyndon B. Johnson  
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.*

*Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America warmly commends your inspiring leadership and self-sacrifice for peace as in war. We pledge continued full support for our country's welfare and security abroad as well as at home. You merit the deep appreciation of free men everywhere.*

*Samuel Samuels  
National Commander  
Jewish War Veterans*

humanity, the Commander said, "To date, the International Red Cross, in spite of numerous and persistent attempts, has been unable to obtain from either the Vietcong or the North Vietnamese any conclusive information on the type of treatment American prisoners receive at the hands of both. International Red Cross delegates or representatives have not been allowed to visit American prisoners in Vietnam to determine at first hand either their treatment or their condition since being captured."

North Vietnam has signed the Geneva Conventions with the reservation excluding "prisoners of war prosecuted and convicted of war crimes, or for crimes against humanity in accordance with the principle laid down by the Nuremberg Court of Justice." Thus, the North Vietnamese government considers American Prisoners "war criminals" and not covered by the Geneva Conventions concerning treatment of POW's.

The plight of some Americans held in North Vietnam recently received world-wide publicity when some of them were publicly paraded for propaganda purposes.

Speaking for the JWV, Commander Samuels said, "The National Liberation Front (the Vietcong) has not signed the Geneva Conventions but claims

### Two Countries Receive JWV Medal of Merit

One of the most impressive official duties performed by National Commander Samuels when he was abroad, prior to attending the JWV-NEC Convocation in Israel, were the trips he made to Denmark and Holland to present the JWV National Medal of Merit to the peoples of both countries. It was given in tribute to them for their valiant efforts

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National Commander Samuel Samuels paid his respects to Israel's New Ambassador to the United States, General Yitzhak Rabin, at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D. C. Both the Commander and the Ambassador enjoyed an informal talk on issues of the day and on the recent JWV-NEC Convocation held in Israel and attended by thousands of JWV delegates and their families.

**SOMETHING SPECIAL INSIDE!** THE COMMEMORATIVE SECTION ON THE ISRAEL CONVOCATION

## Editorially Speaking

### Soviet Jews and the Six-Day War

Speaking of Soviet Jewry, this cry has reverberated around the world:

*"Let my people live as Jews, or let my people go!"*

The Six Day War, in June of 1967, has added a new, deeper, and more poignant dimension to that cry. The worldwide sense of Jewish pride, consciousness and identification with the Jewish people was a vital product and result of Israel's victory-in-crisis.

Now, more than ever, the Jewish people, re-awakened and re-inspired to oneness by Israel's magnificent fight for survival, knows we cannot afford to lose the great, traditional Jewish community facing bloodless (and perhaps bloody!) genocide behind the Iron Curtain.

On one hand, world Jewry, and especially Soviet Jewry, has been electrified by the Six Day War. On the other hand, the Communist reaction to Israel's victory of survival has been massively, venomously anti-Jewish, anti-Israel, and, in fact, openly dedicated to the destruction of the concept and the fact of Jewish peoplehood.

One basic solution must be the goal of world Jewry, as well as of all men of good will:

*"Let my people go . . . to Israel!"*

### GENOCIDE, POLISH STYLE

Twenty-five years ago, the Warsaw Ghetto ran red with Jewish blood. In 1943, the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto, desperately defending their self-respect and their lives, fought bravely against the overwhelming power of the murderous Nazis in a desperate and futile attempt to avoid slaughter. To their shame, the people of Warsaw and the rest of Poland, as well as the Communists of Russia, looked the other way while the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto made their gallant fight, were overwhelmed and murdered.

Now, a quarter of a century later, Communist Poland threatens a new pogrom. In an attempt to distract the attention of the Polish people from the significance of student and other demonstrations, the Polish Communist leaders are blaming "the Zionists" for the alleged subversive liberalism.

Of course, in the eyes of the Communist leaders of Poland, a "Zionist" is anyone who does not agree with the official Communist line favoring the Arabs and strongly denouncing Israel in its recent six-day war of self-defense and independence.

It is significant that Gomulka, Polish Communist party chief, takes the trouble to deny an anti-Semitic or anti-Zionist motivation by the Communists in reaction to their recent domestic crisis.

We would welcome Gomulka's proclaimed offer to the Jews of Poland to emigrate to Israel, if we were not so suspicious of the possibility that the offer is a typical Communist trap. The Russians in the past have made such offers and then severely punished Russian Jews who have come forward to "register" for emigration to Israel or other lands.

In the light of the ominous threats and actual dangers to the Jews behind the Iron Curtain, especially since the six-day war, and in the light of the grim record of Nazi genocide against Jews in Poland and elsewhere, the conscience of the world must not be again stained by apathy or inaction in the face of the threat of new pogroms and genocide, Polish style.

### Laskin Family of War Hero Suffers Another Great Loss

The Laskin family of Washington, D.C., suffered another heavy blow with the death last month of Isadore Laskin, the father of Frank H. Laskin, the Washington area's first casualty of the Vietnam struggle, and in whose honor Post 787 in Washington, D.C., is named.

The Commander of Post 787 is Joseph A. Laskin, the brother and uncle of the deceased members of this family. An outpouring of hundreds and hundreds of sympathizers attended Mr. Laskin's rites, and the sympathy of the entire JWV organization goes to his widow and family.

### President Shazar Receives NEC in His Residence

One of the highlights of the NEC convocation in Israel was the reception given by the President of Israel, Zalman Shazar.

In words that thrilled those Jewish War Veterans, who were present, President Shazar addressed them as "Heroes of Israel."

**"You are indeed," said the President, "representatives in your country of that Jewish heroism which in its concentrated, national form is to be found here in Israel."**

President Shazar told how in the anxious days of Israel's establishment when the country wondered on what forces or groups it could rely in the struggles of a reborn republic, that he once wrote: "We will find our staunchest support among those in two different camps — the wretched, tormented refugees in the D.P. Camps, and the Veterans in the camps of the armies of the free countries."

He said that in the second half of this prediction that the role of the Jewish War Veterans has come true . . . that at every crucial moment in Israel's existence JWV has been a source of true strength and support for Israel.

### Medal of Merit To Two Countries

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to help Jewish citizens during the terrible days of the Nazi regime. The help was given at great risk to their own lives.

In the formal presentations in both capitals of the countries . . . Amsterdam and Copenhagen . . . Commander Samuels expressed the heartfelt gratitude of the JWV for the efforts of the Danes and Dutch during that critical period in history.

In the Denmark ceremony, the presentation was made at the Resistance Museum, and the Medal was accepted by Mr. Henning Rohde, Permanent Under-Secretary. It was then presented to the Director of the Museum, Mr. Aage Roussel. Ambassador Elizabeth White represented the government of the United States. (See photograph on Page 15.)

In Amsterdam, the Medal was accepted by Professor H. L. C. Jaffee of the Museum. The United States Consul at Amsterdam, Mr. Harold E. Howland, represented the American community at the ceremony. (See story on Page 4.)

The Medal will have a permanent place of Honor in both Museums. It is The Jewish War Veterans lasting salute to the brave and gallant people of both Denmark and Holland.

### Thinking Out Loud



By Albert Schlossberg  
National Editor

### Springtime Weeds From Seeds of Hatred

The flowers that bloom in the Spring, tra-la, are not necessarily sweet flowers of love. The sights and sounds of Spring foretell troublesome times. The rumblings are reminders that anti-Semitism is a tough weed to stamp out. Of late we've been disposed to delude ourselves into a euphoric never-never land viz-a-viz anti-Jewish attitudes. Of course we've made giant strides along the road to mutual understanding. Church leaders in this country and abroad have been exceptional in their efforts to erase the thorns of prejudice from their liturgy and dogma. But weeds grow quickly. Memories grow short. Old shibboleths become dulled. New generations revive superstitions of their ancestors and we, the Jews, find that once again we are ready for the slaughter, handy scape-goats for the ills of the world.

Here at home the symptoms are evident. Full spectrum, some headline grabbers, some backpage one-liners, but all part of the same evil infection—if you need a dog to kick, pick a Jew!

**EXAMPLE.** A hockey player, Larry Zeidel, the only Jewish player in the NHL speaking, "... (I) was provoked beyond control by 'riding' of other hockey players. When they say 'Jew-boy' and 'you're next for the gas ovens' they're on sensitive grounds!"

**EXAMPLE.** Mr. Sinden, manager of the Boston Bruins hockey team, when told of Zeidel's charge indicated, "taunts such as Jew-boy are really nothing to get excited about." I suppose not, if you're not a Jew!

**EXAMPLE,** on the more urgent side, with summer only a few short months away, warning flags from Negro extremists. New York—A "memorial meeting" for Malcolm X at Intermediate School 201, Leroi Jones and Herman B. Ferguson turned the meeting into a "kill whitey, anti-Semitic performance" as vitriolic as anything that ever exploded out of the slime of the Nazi beer halls.

**EXAMPLE.** Los Angeles. Tommy Jacquette, a Negro militant leader, speaking to Ephraim Evron, Minister of Israel to the United States, "... them trees you got planted all over Israel should have our names on them, not the Jews' names. The money from them trees comes out of my back, out of the back of every black brother in the ghetto!"

The Ides of March are past, but what of the summer to come? Jewish businessmen with stores and shops in the tension areas, what do they do? Do they pack up and leave? Do they sell out to Negroes? Should every vestige of Jewish interest be uprooted from the ghettos, the landlords; the doctors; the lawyers; the auto service stations and the host of other nerve-ends that can be exposed to contacts between the Black community and the Jews?

The pernicious stench of the gas chambers still fouls the nostrils of the world and the indelible image of the slaughter in the Warsaw ghetto, branded in the consciousness of people of good will, has not faded, BUT HAVE THEY? Once again pogroms are in the making in Poland. Student unrest is being blamed on "Jewish instigators". This would be bad enough if it were just man-in-the-street agitation, but it's official policy of the Polish government. Emanating from government sources and Communist-front newspapers such as *Slowo Powszchine*, a phony "Catholic" newspaper supported by the Communist party hierarchy, reams of diatribes against Jews and "Zionist fifth columnists" mirror the planned stimulation of anti-Jewish attitudes.

Twenty thousand poor souls remain in Poland out of the pre-World War II population of 3.5 million Jews. A preconditioning process seems to be taking place in Russia and Poland as well as other trouble spots around the world. Preconditioning for mass murder, mass murder of Jews. But as the Israelis taught Nasser in the Middle East, the Jews will never again allow themselves to be meekly led to the slaughter. Like the Jews of the Warsaw ghetto, Jews will resist to the last breath. For Jews degradation ended in the rubble of Hitler's bunker as the smoke curled up over his putrid, evil smelling corpse.

See The Convention Ad on Page 16 of This Issue. Fill in the coupon for Your Reservation and send to The Hotel Diplomat.