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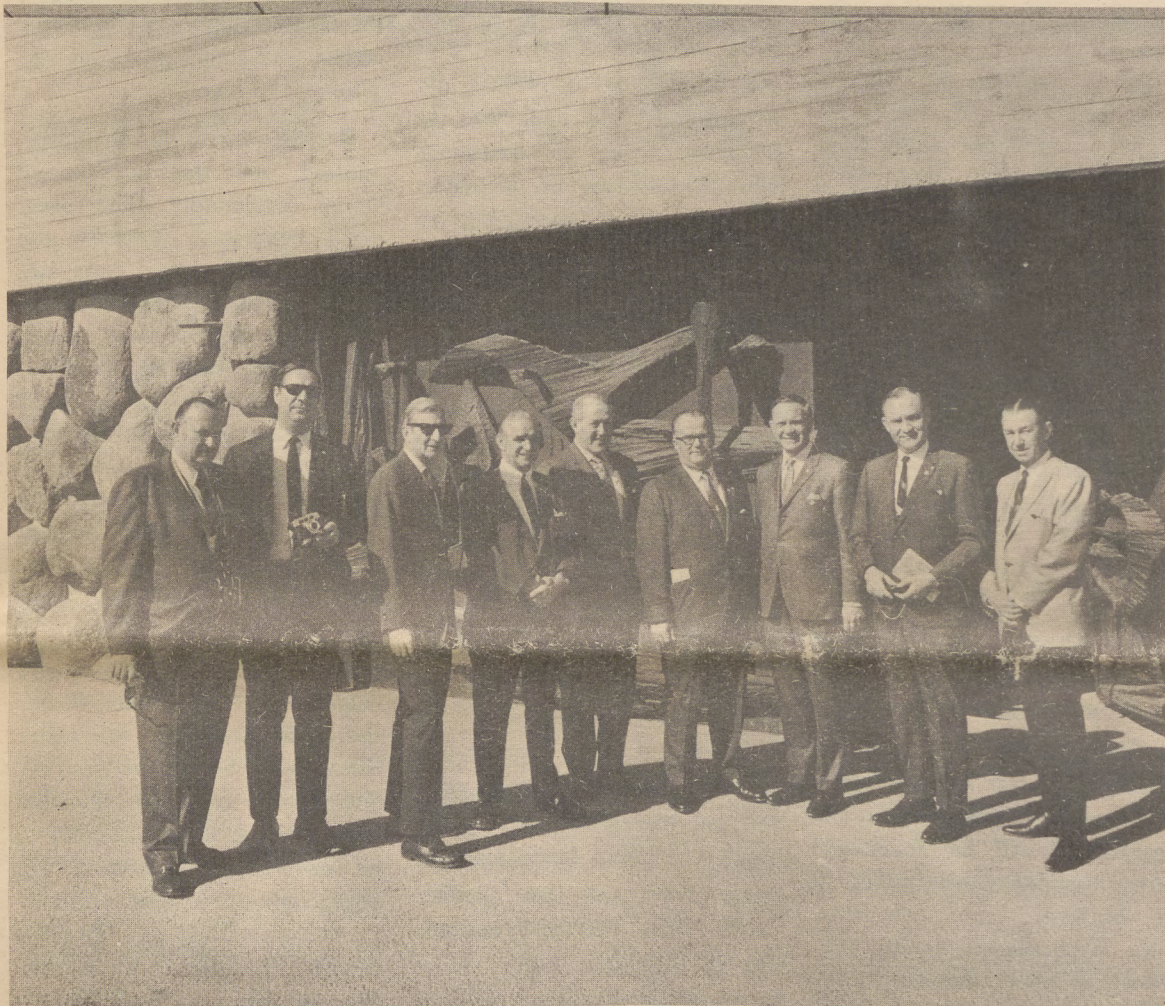
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COMMANDER ASKS ROGERS FOR MIDEAST CLARIFICATION



Joining National Commander Bernard B. Dierenfeld in front of the Yad Va'Shem, Martyrs and Heroes Memorial just outside of Jerusalem are the following Past National Commanders of the major veterans groups: (L to R) Malcolm Tarlov, Jewish War Veterans; Claude L. Callegary, Disabled American Veterans; Eldon James, American Legion; John Davis, American Legion; Mr. Dierenfeld; Ralph Hall, Amvets; Cooper Holt, Veterans of Foreign Wars; Ted C. Connel, Veterans of Foreign Wars; and Robert O'Leary, Catholic War Veterans.

National Commander Bernard B. Dierenfeld disclosed that he had asked Secretary of State William P. Rogers to clarify whether the Administration has abandoned the Middle Eastern policy espoused by President Nixon.

The action was separate from Commander Dierenfeld's visit to the Secretary of State as part of a delegation of the President's Conference. The delegation met with Secretary Rogers to learn details of the new U.S. policy with respect to the Middle East.

The JWV leader said his organization was "deeply concerned by the implications of Secretary Rogers' speech of December 9. This new statement of U.S. policy appears to favor a concession by Israel for unilateral withdrawal without a similar prior agreement by the Arabs to sign a real peace treaty. It is an apparent departure from the previous position of the U.S. and a seeming concession to the Arabs and the Soviet Union."

Commander Dierenfeld, voiced fear lest "Mr. Rogers' statements be interpreted by the Arabs and Russians as a sign that the United States does not support Israel as the victim of Arab aggression.

Mr. Rogers speaks of Israeli "conquest" and "expansionism" in what appears to be an acceptance of the Arab and Communist line that the Six Day War was not the result of Arab aggression but was entirely the fault of Israel."

A warning was voiced by Commander Dierenfeld that "Mr. Rogers' words may encourage the Arabs and Russians to desist even further from a real peace settlement. It can contribute to Arab truculence and Soviet opportunism. The Arabs may very well conclude that the United States is pressing Israel for unilateral withdrawal and that they can accomplish through diplomatic pressure what they failed to achieve on the field of battle."

He said "I can not believe that the undertakings solemnly made
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An Editorial No Sellout on Israel

Jews are not alone in fighting any attempts to sell-out Israel by State Department appeasers of the Arab-Communist coalition. Many other Americans, in and out of Congress and representing both major political parties, have called for just and honorable treatment of Israel.

A very moving expression, for example, has come from Richard Cardinal Cushing, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston. He is a man of deep and sincere faith. Cardinal Cushing warned that State Department pressures for a Middle East settlement dictated by Russia, France, and Britain "may end in calamity for Israel."

Cardinal Cushing said face-to-face negotiations between Israel and the Arab aggressors represented the only effective approach to real peace.

The Cardinal warned that "proposals made in Washington seem to me to reflect a departure from a previous well-established determination on the part of the United States to insist on direct negotiations." He was concerned lest American collaboration with the Arab-Soviet line leads to the destruction of Israel. He appealed to the Administration to respect its commitments in the interest of a lasting peace with justice for Israel.
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Six Veteran Leaders On Tour of Israel

The Past National Commanders of six of the major United States veterans' organizations concluded a ten day fact finding tour of the State of Israel.

Following a final air flight to Eilat and Sinai, the Past National Commanders of the American Legion, AMVETS, Catholic War Veterans, Disabled American Veterans, Jewish War Veterans and the Veterans of Foreign Wars issued the following statement of the 28th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor:

"During our stay in Israel we have talked with military and civil leaders, as well as with the "man in the street," we visited

installations and action points involved in this continuing Middle East problem, and it is our personal conclusion, that Israel seeks only a guaranteed peace with attendant recognition, security and protection from invasion and intimidation.

It is our further belief that the United Nations may best serve the cause of peace and continue to contribute to the solution of the problems facing these nations by using its influence to bring about direct negotiations between the parties involved.

We doubt seriously that the Soviet Union could be an impar-
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