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JANUARY, 1971

Commander Writes Kosygin on Soviet Jewish Plight



NATIONAL COMMANDER MEETS WITH GOLDA MIER. During Prime Minister Golda Mier's recent visit to Washington, National Commander Albert Schlossberg was honored to spend a few moments with Mrs. Mier. The topics of their discussion included the JWV Forest in Israel, Jewish problems, progress and hopes, and the efforts involving Jewish POW's out of Israel.

POSTS PUSH CONTEST

Posts throughout the country are still responding enthusiastically to the 75th Diamond Jubilee Membership Contest. (See full page ad elsewhere in the Jewish Veteran.)

Three winning categories of Retention, Recruitment and Reclamation have been established as well as six Post categories and Posts who have under fifty members.

The Retention winner will be the member most responsible for retaining 100% of the 1970 Post members for the year 1971. He will win a wristwatch.

There will be five recruitment winners, with a wristwatch to be given to those who, through their own efforts and incentives, re-

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JWV Joins Challenge to Parochial Education Aid

The following statement was issued by the American Jewish Congress, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., National Council of Jewish Women, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the United Synagogue of America on President Nixon's Panel on Nonpublic Education:

On March 3, 1970, President Nixon announced a comprehensive program with respect to education and his intention to establish a Commission on School Finance. The only extent to which that intention has so far been carried out has been the appointment of a four-member Panel on Nonpublic Education.

Despite the President's assertion, in his message of March 3, that it is not his purpose "to aid religion in particular but to promote diversity in education," it is apparent that establishment of the Panel implies approval of government support for parochial education.

Any doubt that this is the mandate under which the Panel is expected to operate surely has been eliminated with the designation of its four members: Dr. Clarence Walton, president of Catholic University; the Most Rev. William E. McManus, Auxiliary Bishop of Chicago, formerly superintendent of that city's Catholic school system; William G. Saltonstall, former principal of Phillips Exeter

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Urges Soviet Leadership To Stop Anti-Semitism

The Jewish War Veterans has appealed to the leadership of the Soviet Union not to "enflame latent anti-semitic tendencies" in the Soviet Union and pledged to continue to "urge you to release those Jews who wish to go to Israel."

In a letter to Premier Alexey Kosygin of the Soviet Union, National Commander Schlossberg recalled that America had once fought with the U.S.S.R. to defeat Hitler, noting that many were of Jewish heritage. He pointed out that it was the haunting memory of what Hitler had done to the Jews that makes "Jews deeply sensitive to apparent manifestations of officially tolerated anti-semitism in your country."

Lawrence Gubow.

The event, which will honor veterans from all over the world, will be held Saturday, March 13, 1971 at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City.

Many JWV Posts have already put in their bids for tables, and the JWV dinner committee has urged that concrete reservations, including checks, are to be made as soon as possible. An application form appears elsewhere in the Jewish Veteran.

Dietary laws will be observed and all tables will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis.

Dinner reservations are \$25 per person. Checks should be made payable to Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A.

A special feature of the black tie affair will be the premiere of "Patriots For Peace," a specially produced film depicting JWV's 75 years of service to the nation.

The guest speaker has not yet been announced.

"Such acts have always been the harbingers of a fate worse to come," he added.

"As Jews," the Commander wrote, "we have no illusions about what is happening in your country. It is not easy to be a Jew in the Soviet Union, to profess a Jewish identity, to acknowledge a kinship with the people of Israel. We have heard repeatedly by Soviet officials that such accusations are false, that the Jews have a good life in the Soviet Union, that they are free to be themselves."

"Evidence indicates otherwise. The recent trials of Jews for an alleged hijacking attempt and the resultant sentences are glaring examples of such evidence."

He indicated that "There is simply too much history to acknowledge that he must give up his sense of Jewishness to survive as a citizen of a State." He cited the U.S.A. as an example that allows a Jew the "dignity of being himself, of being what you are, wherever you may reside."

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Our Seventy-Fifth Year



Editorially Speaking

When the World Cries Out

The commutation of the death sentences of the Leningrad Jewish defectors and the Basque separatists in Spain offers a unique insight into the changing relationship between world opinion and what happens within a given country. Such questions as "Does the mobilization of world opinion have any effect; some effect; or no effect; or does such a mobilization force actions by the country in question?"

Soviet Union and Spain

Both the Soviet Union and Spain have been notoriously unmoved by public outcries against persecutions and inhuman treatment within their borders. Even when world opinion was aroused against Stalin's outrages of the '30s, '40s, and '50s, he refused to acknowledge that it was any of the world's business to worry about what happens within the borders of the Soviet Union.

We are now willing to concede that world outcries can make some difference in today's environment. We are supported in that conclusion by a recent letter printed in *The New York Times* earlier this month, written by Mrs. Rita Hauser, U.S. Representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. Mrs. Hauser writes as follows:

Declaration of Rights

"In 1948 the United Nations Commission on Human Rights produced a signal document, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, one which continues to have a profound influence on the development of basic rights everywhere. In the Leningrad trial it became the supreme standard on which the defendants rightly relied when the laws of their own country were the vehicle of repression. The right of any person to leave his country and emigrate freely, proclaimed in the declaration but not yet granted by the Soviet Union to its citizens, formed the basic defense for the admitted skyjacking plan and was the ground urged by so many in mitigation of the death penalty.

"Serious violations of human rights are continually debated in the Human Rights Commission. Our country adheres to the view, a singular and recent one in international law, that no member of the United Nations may assert that a persistent and gross violation of human rights within its territory is a 'domestic' issue not amenable to international scrutiny. We believe the U.N. Charter obligates all members to promote the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons; a defaulting member is subject to criticism by others.

"It is well to contrast this attitude with the lamentable position taken by many in the Western world when Hitler's extermination policies became known, namely that this was regrettable indeed but that it was a purely internal matter between a Government and its own citizens on which no other nation could properly comment."

Western World's Position

If Mrs. Hauser's analysis is correct, then the world last month witnessed a great step backward from the brink of the primeval ooze that has mired much of man's history over the last few thousand years.

Yes, it does pay to roar your disapproval on acts that are an insult to the human race.

Maybe we are not careening towards oblivion after all.

ARE YOU HAVING A REUNION?

The 94th Infantry Division Association, Inc., is holding a reunion in Atlanta, Georgia, on July 15 through 17, 1971. For additional information, contact Roger H. Keith, 170 Hillberg Avenue, Brockton, Massachusetts 02401.

The Flying Tigers of the 14th Air Force Association composed of AVG, CATF and the 14th Air Force, and other personnel assigned to the China Theatre during World War II are invited to attend the reunion in New York City, March 13 and the National Convention in Washington, D.C., July 27 to 30. For additional information write to Milton Klein, 9 Interstate St., Suffern, N.Y. 10901.

Kosygin

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It is a world-wide phenomenon. It is happening also in the Soviet Union, and no amount of repression will halt it."

The Commander also pointed out that his organization did not "believe in the tactic of violence as either necessary or productive in the effort to call attention to the fate of Jews in your country."

He pledged that his organization will "continue to arouse the conscience of America and the world towards the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union" and expressed the hope that many would join in his efforts.

Herbert Fisher Recipient of JWV Award

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States, celebrating its 75th Diamond Jubilee, presented its highest award, the Medal of Merit, to Herbert Fisher, Oradell, New Jersey, at a dinner dance Thursday evening, January 28, at the Americana Hotel, New York City.

Mr. Fisher was awarded the Medal of Merit for his many years of service to mankind. This concept for helping others started when he was 16 years old and President of the Junior League of the Infants Home in Brooklyn. He has also been active in Temple Sholem in River Edge; he was Co-Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of River Edge and Oradell; and has been a valued supporter of the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training Group (O.R.T.); and as an encore, he is a vice-president of the Bergen County Philharmonic Orchestra.

The award winner was one of a group who organized the Corporal Charles M. Wallach Post #773, J.W.V. of New Milford-Oradell-River Edge (New Jersey) and served as a Senior Vice Commander. His J.W.V. activities include an appointment as a Special Consultant on Financial Affairs to the National Commander. He served 4 years as a non-commissioned officer in the United States Air Force.

A pioneer in the mass retailing field he has been honored as a trustee and Vice-President of the Mass Retailing Institute.

The Medal of Merit winner is married and has 3 daughters, 10, 12, and 16 years of age.

Full Text of Kosygin Letter

Following is the complete text of the letter of protest written to Premier Alexey Kosygin, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the U.S.S.R. See Page 1 for complete details.

Dear Premier Kosygin:

Almost twenty-six years ago, the U.S. and U.S.S.R. fought side by side to defeat the Hitler war machine which had devastated your country and brought indescribable suffering to millions of your people and those of other nations. Among those who died were many Americans and Soviet citizens of Jewish heritage. Others returned home wounded and maimed. Much of the leadership of our own as well as that of your country served in the war against Nazism.

Our joint World War II experience is the basis for writing this letter. Furthermore, many Jewish citizens of this country are descendants of those who were forced to flee the persecution of the Czars whose inhuman treatment of Jews is also part of our common heritage. Indeed, it would be presumptuous to recite to a Soviet leader the cruelties of the Czars. Who knew it better than your people? Only Hitler ranks higher in painful memories of Jewish sufferings.

It is these haunting memories that make Jews deeply sensitive to apparent manifestations of officially tolerated anti-semitism in your country. Such acts have always been the harbingers of a worse fate to come.

As Jews, we have no illusions about what is happening in your country. It is not easy to be a Jew in the Soviet Union, to profess a Jewish identity, to acknowledge a kinship with the people of Israel. We have heard repeatedly by Soviet officials that such accusations are false, that the Jews have a good life in the Soviet Union, that they are free to be themselves.

Evidence indicates otherwise. The recent trials of Jews for an alleged hijacking attempt and the resultant sentences are glaring examples of such evidence.

For a Jew, there is simply too much history to acknowledge that he must give up his sense of Jewishness to survive as a citizen of the State. He will be a good and loyal citizen of any State that allows him the dignity of being himself, as is our right in the United States.

Why should a Jew be denied his Jewishness anywhere on earth? Or a Christian his Christianity? A Muslim his Islam? The Jews have no identity problem. They suffered for it. They died for it. They should not—indeed, they will not—give it up.

That is why there is so much animosity toward your treatment of the Jews in your country. It does not come only from Jews. It comes from people who believe, above all, in the dignity of self, of being what you are, wherever you may reside. It is a world-wide phenomenon. It is happening also in the Soviet Union, and no amount of repression will halt it.

We do not believe in the tactic of violence as either necessary or productive in the effort to call attention to the fate of Jews in your country. Just as we do not believe that the tactic of violence used by Soviet officialdom against the Jews in your country will succeed.

Certainly, reality should dictate that it does no good to enflame latent anti-semitic tendencies in your own country. What is to be gained by fostering hatred among your own citizens? And what good would it do, by State acts, to cast upon your leadership the image of Adolph Hitler, who caused your countrymen so much pain in this century?

On our part, we must tell you that we will continue to arouse the conscience of America and the world toward the plight of Jews in your country and will continue to urge you to release from your country those Jews who wish to go to Israel. We hope there will be many who join us in our efforts.

We also hope that your government will one day come to the realization that the State cannot control human destiny.

Yours truly,

Albert Schlossberg
National Commander, JWV

Special Tours
Easter Holiday
Memorial Holiday
see pages 6-7