

The Jewish® Veteran



American Legion Supports Secure Israel

The American Legion has passed a resolution officially supporting a safe and secure Israel during the Middle East peace talks. This resolution, delivered to the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. (JWV) was passed at the 74th Annual Convention of the American Legion, held in Chicago.



The American Legion has passed the American Legion dealing with the Middle East. Some have been critical of Israel. Most notably, the 1982 resolution which vilified Israel for her pre-emptive strike against the Iraqi nuclear reactor at Osirak. This attack severely crippled Iraq's nuclear capacity, thereby curtailing the threat of nuclear weapons being used during Operation Desert Storm.

JWV commends the American Legion for their forceful resolution in support of a secure and sovereign State of Israel, and a lasting Middle East peace.

RESOLUTION #206

Subject: Middle East

WHEREAS, the United States has a continuing regional interest in creating conditions wherein Israel can exist as a recognized nation living within secure borders, living in peace with its Arab neighbors and acting as a democratic ally of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Europe and Japan rely on the Middle East for a great deal of their petroleum, and the United States imports increasing amounts of petroleum from the area; and

WHEREAS, Restoration of Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon will contribute to stability in the area; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the American Legion in National

Convention assembled in Chicago, Illinois, August 25, 26, 27, 1992, That the American Legion urges the U.S. Government to adopt a comprehensive policy for the Middle East to achieve the following objectives:

- 1) A secure Israel living within recognized borders determined by negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.
- 2) Prevention of regional domination of the Middle East or Persian Gulf by any power.
- 3) A free and uninterrupted flow of petroleum from the Persian Gulf states to Europe, Japan and the United States.
- 4) Restoration of full Lebanese sovereignty and withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanon.

(passed by the 74th National Convention of The American Legion Chicago, IL, August 25-27, 1992) ■

INDEX

Forum	2
View From the Top	3
Director's Perspective	5
Centennial Programs	10
Year In Review	12
Keeping Posted	14
Routes To Roots	16
In Search Of	20
Reunions	21

Fact Finding in Germany The Visit of National Commander Warren S. Dolny

by Michelle Spivak Kelley, National Director—Communications, Development, and Programs

National Commander Warren S. Dolny and a small group of JWV leaders visited England and Germany in late England. While in London, the JWV representatives met with members of the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women of England (AJEX) and participated in Remembrance Day ceremonies.

With great anticipation, the group then traveled to Germany. National Commander Dolny had grave concerns for the well-being of our Jewish brethren residing in Germany, in light of media reports describing ethnic tension and anti-Semitism.

Within the context of the fiftieth anniversary of World War II, and the 60th anniversary (January 30, 1933) of Adolph Hitler's rise to power, Commander Dolny sought the truth in Germany. Here is his story.

Munich - Official Visits

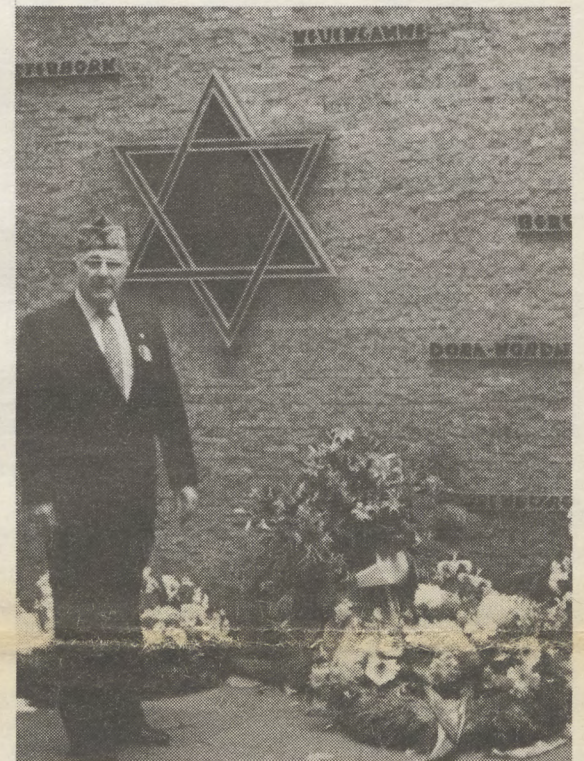
In the impeccably decorated offices of Munich's, Johann Böhn, everything was as it should be. An interpreter was provided - as were tea and cookies.

Herr Böhn, Director of the Bavarian Chancellery, spoke without expression, piercing his rambling conversation with an occasional exclamation. Commander Dolny waited patiently for the interpreter to translate. He saw his reflection in the finely polished

table. The table was perfect, he thought, not a nick or dent.

He met Böhn casually, with a story. He described a rowdy outburst in Italy following a highly competitive soccer match. The German team won. The Italian crowd went wild, throwing stones at passing cars and blocking an intersection. Böhn announced that had this

continued on page 7



Commander Dolny stands before a memorial at the Berlin Jewish Cultural Center dedicated to those who died in Nazi concentration camps.



Natl. Cmdr. Dolny, Jerzy Kanal, leader of Berlin Jewish community, Irving Weiner, Natl. Aide, Monroe Mayer, Natl. Chief of Staff.

Election Wrap-up
See page 4

Convention 93
See page 10

JWV Year In Review
See page 12

FORUM

Letters To The Editor

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I read each issue of *The Jewish Veteran* with interest as I am proud to be a member of our organization. However, some of the articles by our officials and staff members show such a partisan bias, I would question whether all Jewish war veterans should belong to JWV.

It is one thing to recommend to the President, the Executive Branch and the Congress our point of view. It is quite another to suggest that we are so unhappy with the present Administration, that we point out that Jews tend to vote heavily, and vote predominantly Democratic.

It is one thing to start a voter registration drive to involve more people in the democratic process in the belief that thus our democracy will be stronger and more capable of making wise decisions. It is something else for a 501(c) 19 (veterans' organization) to sponsor what we must assume is a partisan voter registration drive designed to put the Administration out of office.

It is one thing to recommend that JWV members write to Congress about the Notch issue. It is something else to write off the incumbent President as someone who "has no interest in the Jewish community or its agendas."

The tone of JWV's positions, in articles by our National Commander, National Director of Communications and Associate Editor just isn't very smart. Whatever our individual voter preferences in the elections, a specific attack on an elected official as opposed to policy is counter-productive.

It's not just a matter of access to the White House. It's a matter of credibility as the "Patriotic Voice of American Jewry".

Sincerely,
David M. Epstein
Palo Alto, CA

Dear Editor,

I was shocked and sickened when I read the "cartoon" in the "Forum" section of *The Jewish Veteran* (Fall 1992). The cartoon suggests that a bureaucrat believes that veterans should have died on active duty as a budgetary tool to lower spending on veterans' programs. This is one of the most mean-spirited cartoons I have ever seen.

I am a federal employee who has spent his career working for the Veterans Administration (now the Department of Veterans Affairs) and the Social Security Administration. While it would have been just as easy to stay in the private sector, and probably more lucrative, I embarked on a career of public service because I



believe that we as Americans, and especially as Jewish Americans, owe a debt to those who served our country or who now need assistance based on age or disability.

The cartoon portrays federal employees as worse than uncaring and unfeeling people. Every annual pay comparability study by the President's Council on Pay Comparability shows that federal employees lag considerably behind their counterparts in the private sector in terms of pay. To hold federal employees up to public ridicule and scorn does little to instill the respect and confidence which federal employees are entitled.

We object to cartoons that are stereotypical of Jews. Why must we condone the cartoon that you published?

Sincerely,
Robert L. Polinsky
Star of David Post 292
Columbia, MD

Dear Editor,

I am a comparatively new member of JWV, although my service ended at the conclusion of World War II. I am a member of Israel Post 180.

I would like to express my appreciation for the policies that JWV has expressed, vis-a-vis, President Bush and James Baker's criticism of Israel during the peace process. It has been the most anti-Israel administration since Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles.

In particular, I wish to commend the article by Howard Metzger in the Spring 1992 edition of *The Jewish Veteran*, reporting on PNC Albert L. Cohen's specific itemization of the Bush Administration's conditions forcefully placed on Israel, in order to qualify for \$10 billion in humanitarian loan guarantees. It was no great secret that these conditions ultimately lead to the defeat of Prime Minister Yitzchak Shamir. Additionally, I commend him for his piece on JWV's anger towards the Bush Adminis-

tration's "selling-out" of Israel (*The Jewish Veteran*, Spring 1992).

Unfortunately, former Prime Minister Menachem Begin was wrong when he said, "Israel is no banana republic." But, what has been happening with U.S.-Israeli relations never would have taken place during Begin's tenure.

Now, the big joke in Israel is that the U.S. is going to continue Israel's qualitative edge against the 72 advanced and offensive F-15 fighter bombers being sold to Saudi Arabia, with a squadron of Apache helicopters, 10 Blackhawk helicopters, plus some satellite intelligence information. Incidentally, the Blackhawks won't be received by the IDF until 1994.

I might note that the Israeli government has turned down a U.S. offer to pre-position large amounts of armor and ammunition in Israel for possible future U.S. needs. The U.S. would control whether or not Israel could use them in their defense. We want no such help with strings attached.

Sincerely,
Gerald Katz
Israel Post 180
Haifa

continued on page 22

Where We Stand

by Albert Schlossberg, National Editor

Six decades ago, Germany's economy was in chaos, its leaders incapable of convincing the German people that outrageous inflation, hardship and despair would soon end. Then, like a predatory vulture sighting over-ripe carrion, Adolph Hitler surfaced out of the turmoil. He was, he proclaimed, the man on a white horse destined to recreate the power and grandeur of pre-World War II Germany. **Sieg Heil! Deutschland ubar alles!** The Third Reich would rule the world!

The men and women of the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A., who served in our armed forces during World War II - especially those who fought and bled in the European theatre of operations - personally experienced the catastrophic horror which Hitler and his Nazi ideologist supporters turned loose upon millions of helpless, hapless men, women and children. To this day, memories of that horrific time, burned into their minds, surface in the consciousness of those combat war veterans, as painful icons of that tragic period!

We mistakenly thought time had ameliorated the trauma. After WWII, conventional wisdom came to accept as a truism the belief that with the founding and nurturing of democracy in the Federal Republic of Germany, Nazism and all of its ills would never be allowed to rise from the ashes of Hitler's defeat. With passage of laws (more stringent than those in effect in any other nation) which forbade public display of swastikas and other related symbols of the discredited Nazi ideology and hatred, Germany and its people slowly recovered from the blood-stained history of the Nazi era, and were accepted back into the world's family of democratic nations.

Sadly, the joy which swept across the world as the Berlin Wall fell, and unification of West and East Germany became a reality, has now been greatly diminished. In its place deep concern - and in many quarters, fear - has surfaced. To a growing number of observers, the chemistry which spawned Hitler and his sick ideology seems to have oozed out of East Germany, into the West, personified by the presence of growing cadres of "skinheads". Unemployment, hopelessness, envy, blind hatred of non-Germans, native Germans who fall into the Nazi classification of non-Aryan German and rampant hooliganism, have combined to signal that the virus of ethnic and religious hatred has re-emerged from its dormant state.

The mood in Germany has changed since the first recent incident in which neo-Nazis from East Germany publicly demonstrated their blatant, racist hatred and contempt for Germany's laws against such actions. Then, the slight of ordinary Germans cheering-on violent thugs seemed not to greatly upset too many of Germany's elected officials.

continued on page 6

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