

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS

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FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

**WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS WARNS SECRETARY DULLES AGAINST
FURTHER CLEMENCY TO NAZI WAR CRIMINALS**

WJCongress Letter to Dulles Charges that
Past Review Boards Have Freed Over 60% of
Convicted War Criminals and Commuted Death
and Lifelong Sentences to Short Terms.

The World Jewish Congress today (Sunday, November 22) appealed to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to define the scope of the newly-established Allied-German Board of Clemency in the U.S. Zone of Germany, lest the 300 war criminals now imprisoned escape full punishment for their crimes. Further clemency, particularly for the high Nazis convicted in Nuremberg, the WJCongress warned, "cannot but weaken seriously" the Allied action on war criminals, as well as the foundations and authority of Allied military tribunals; and would be "particularly unfortunate at the present time when even the Holy See has come to the conclusion that the punishment of war criminals is an inescapable duty of the civilized world."

The WJCongress appeal to Secretary Dulles, in the form of a letter signed by Dr. Nehemiah Robinson, acting director of the Department of International Affairs, was prompted by a recent order of the three Western Allied High Commissioners in Germany calling for the creation of three Allied-German boards, one for each Zone, to make recommendations for clemency or parole for the German war criminals still held by them. In the U.S. Zone, where approximately 300 imprisoned war criminals are affected by the new order, the board will reportedly have five members, two of them Germans.

In calling Secretary Dulles' attention to the functions of the new clemency board, the WJCongress pointed out that a Board of Clemency,

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established in March, 1950, by the U.S. High Commission for Germany, has already reviewed the sentences of a majority of the imprisoned war criminals, drastically reducing a number of them in spite of the crimes committed "whose hideous nature," the WJCongress declared, "the Board of Clemency and the High Commission fully admitted." The reduction of these penalties, the WJCongress letter continued, "resulted in the release, as of this time, of more than sixty percent of all convicted criminals and in the commutation of death and lifelong imprisonment sentences to short terms." This action by the Board of Clemency, the WJCongress charges, "has served to strengthen the position of the Neo-Nazis who claim that the sentences of the Allied tribunals were motivated more by 'vengeance' than by the dictates of justice."

The WJCongress warned, further, that a new review of the sentences passed by the Allied Tribunals on the basis of alleged "new evidence" or similar considerations "cannot serve any other purpose than totally to discredit the action of these courts as well as the whole philosophy which underlined the necessity of adequate punishment of those who committed crimes against humanity or war crimes." In accepting new evidence, the WJCongress went on, the newly-established Board of Clemency "would inevitably call in question the validity of the original sentence," a procedure which is contrary to the Convention prepared to make an end to the occupation of Germany. In this connection, the WJCongress cited the recent decision of a German denazification court which, in effect, exonerated the late Nazi General Alfred Jodl as a major war criminal, in a "clear violation" of the judgment of the International Military Tribunal in Nuremberg.