WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS MAKES SECRETARY DULLES APPEAL AGAINST FURTHER CLEMENCY TO NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

World Jewish Congress today (Sunday, November 23) 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 WJCogress warned, "cannot but weaken seriously" the Allied nations in our common, as well as the foundation 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 indispensable duty of the civilized world."

The WJCogress appeal to Secretary Dulles, in the form of a letter signed by Dr. Nathan Abraham, 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 200 imprisoned war criminals are affected by the new order, the board will reportedly have five members, two of them German.

In calling Secretary Dulles' attention to the limitations of the new clemency board, the WJCogress pointed out that a Board of Clemency,
established in March, 1946, by the U.S. High Commission for Germany, has already reviewed the sentences of a majority of the imprisoned war criminals, drastically reducing the number of those in prison from the crimes committed "under hideous nature," the Nuremberg charged, "the Board of Clemency and the High Commission fully admitted." The reduction of these penalties, the Nuremberg letter continued, "resulted in the release, as of this date, of more than sixty percent of all convicted criminals and in the commutation of death and long-term imprisonment sentences to short terms." This action by the Board of Clemency, the Nuremberg charges, "has served to strengthen the position of the Repub-
licans who claim that the sentences of the Allied tribunals were moti-
ted more by "vengeance" than by the dictates of justice."

The Nuremberg warned, further, that a new review of the sen-
tences 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 notion 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 Nuremberg went on, the newly-established Board of Clemency "would inevitably cast in question the validity of the original sentences," a procedure which is contrary to the Conven-
tion prepared to make no end to the occupation of Germany. In this connection, the Nuremberg cited the recent decision of a German de-
nestituting 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.