

Death by Starvation

By Robert E. Segal

In November, 1942, when those referred to by Josef Stalin as "the Hitler blackguards" turned on him, the Russian dictator said in great anger of those same blackguards: "They have turned Europe into a prison of nations, and this they call the New Order."

What now of the New Order structured by Stalin himself?

Nobel Prize Winner Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, author of "The First Circle," has exposed every fibre of its cruelty. Brilliant Russian scientists and other academicians are placing their lives in jeopardy by speaking up against the new "treason" trials. And by their dramatic decision to modify the death sentences of Edward Kuznetsov and Mark Dymshits, Russian jurists may be telling the world they now comprehend Stalin's own observation: "A single death is a tragedy; a million deaths are a statistic."

But it is asking too much of the distant American observer to temper his rejoicing over such display of Russian mercy by looking more carefully at the nature of the commutations. In his 15-year confinement, Edward Kuznetsov will have little to eat. Those familiar with the Russian prison regime suggest that 900 calories a day at most will be provided Kuznetsov. Slow starvation thus replaces the firing squad's bullet. Mark Dymshits who is older by 12 years may fare a little better.

Nor should we, in our relief at learning that immediate death sentences will not be imposed, neglect the possibility that the reduction in penalty is more likely due to a contest among political factions in the Soviet hierarchy rather than to any impulse of mercy. Indeed, there is a strong likelihood that Russian authorities strangely sensitive to a need to gain at least a modicum of approbation by world opinion played

the trump card in the Kuznetsov and Dymshits reversals.

One may even afford to imagine that the decision of Comrade Leonid I. Brezhnev's impulse to get on radio and television to wish the Russian people a Happy New Year as 1970 bowed out was a decision inspired by the winds of opinion blowing into Moscow in connection with the trials for those suspected of thinking about hijacking a plane to freedom. In that unique address, the leader of the Russian Communist Party asserted that the international position of the Soviet Union was strong as never before and the USSR's world prestige high. Brezhnev saw conditions favorable for peaceful construction in Russia.

Is he correct?

How can he be when men and women throughout the world are sickened by the hasty trials growing out of Russian accusations against nearly two score people possessing the courage to say they wish to leave the land in which they grew up? Moscow's prestige is shattered by the disparity between contempt for the judicial processes displayed in the current trials and the Soviet Union's defiance of Article 18 of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which reads: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion (including the right) to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, prayer, worship, and observance." The Soviet Union has subscribed to that Declaration. It cannot continue to mock it while claiming a high mark from world opinion.

Free men must continue to expose the disdain Russia is showing for due process. More than that, free men must join in a demand upon governments everywhere to strengthen the machinery guaranteeing the right to emigrate and start new life in a new land.

BRUSSELS (WNS)--More than 400 Jewish leaders from 50 countries will attend the World Conference on Soviet Jewry Feb. 23-26.

Passover Greetings

from

Open 7 Days a Week
Open Daily 8:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Sat. 8 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.
Sunday 8:30 A.M. to 2 P.M.

384-5623

9th & FREMONT CAR WASH
"IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN LAS VEGAS"
"THE HOME OF CLEAN CARS"

A Happy Passover

The House of David
Barber and Style Shop
Hair Styling • Manicures • Shoe Shines
4186 Koval Lane, Las Vegas 736-7577

**Very Special
Holiday Greetings**

**At
PASSOVER**

TO ALL OUR

JEWISH FRIENDS



from

Anderson  Dairy

*"First
with the finest"*



1440 L.V. Blvd. No. P.O. Box 560 642-7507