

Former Presidential Guard Draws Assault Conviction

Arlington, D. C. (RNS) — Frederick T. Verduin, a US Army private who is also a member of the Nazi Party, has been found guilty of assaulting a black off-duty policeman in a racial incident involving the officer's white wife.

A former member of the Army's elite Presidential Honor Guard before his Nazi affiliation became known, Verduin was convicted by a five-member Arlington Circuit Court jury of assaulting Officer Edward L. Threat. He was fined \$1,000.

Verduin, 22, was convicted in October before

Arlington General District Court Judge Richard Corman of assault and battery on the police officer. He was sentenced to 20 days in jail and a \$200 fine. He appealed the decision to the Circuit Court.

The case stems from an incident last September at a gasoline station in Arlington, across the street from the national headquarters of the National Socialist White People's Party (formerly the American Nazi Party).

According to the testimony, Patrolman Threat stopped with his wife, Karen, and their two

children at the station for gas and soft drinks from a vending machine. Mrs. Threat and two men identified as Nazis in a nearby car exchanged comments and Threat subsequently became drawn into a scuffle with the men. Threat said the two Nazis were joined by Verduin.

Verduin, who was initially charged with assaulting Threat and breaking his glasses, testified that he merely went to the gas station for a soda after a rally at the Nazi headquarters. He said he tried to stop the fight and struck Threat in self defense.

In his testimony, Verduin said he joined the Nazi party because "I always considered myself to be patriotic. And the National Socialist White People's Party was the only patriotic organization." He said he became dissatisfied with what he called the Army's tendency to discipline black soldiers less firmly than whites.

Verduin was removed from the Presidential Honor Guard after Army officials were informed of his Nazi affiliation. He has been demoted twice since. An Army officer testified that Verduin is under investigation even though Nazi membership is not

covered by Army regulations.

walking down the street together."

To correct America's racial problems, according to Verduin, the US should "revert to laws we had 50 years ago. For instance, 50 years ago in Virginia this couple (the Threats) would have been arrested, for

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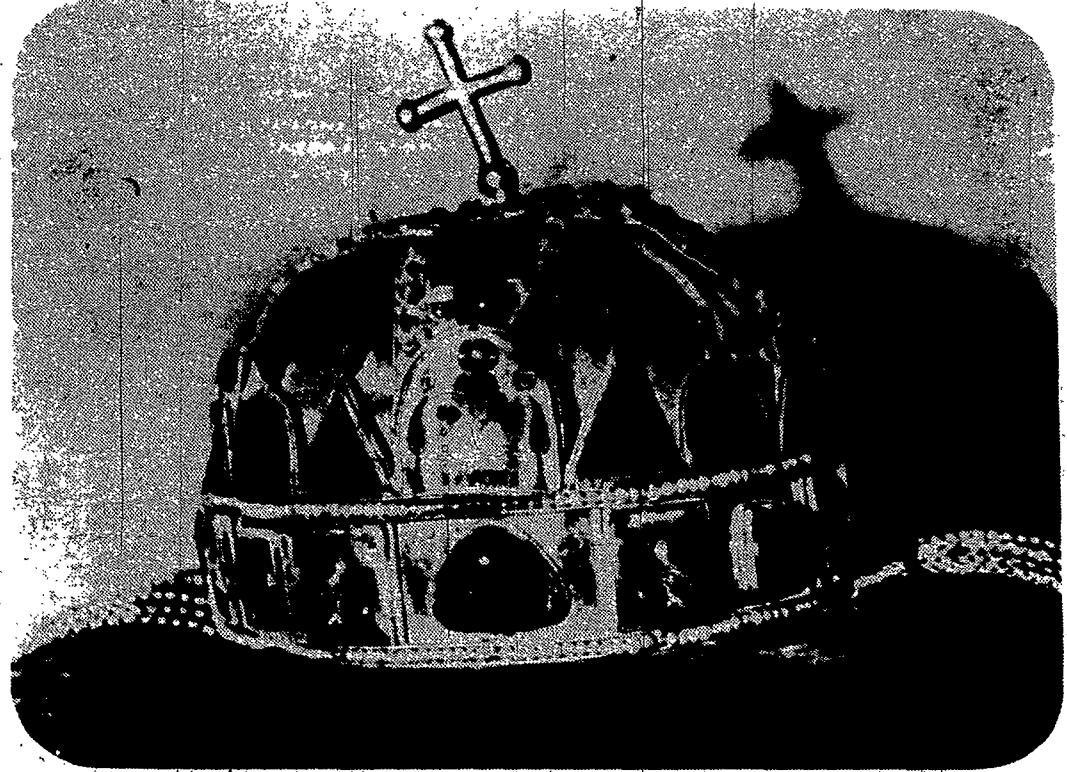
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Despite vociferous opposition by many anti-Communist Hungarian-Americans, the crown of St. Stephen was flown to Hungary Jan. 5 by a U.S. delegation, which included Rep. Ted Weiss of New York who immigrated to the U.S. from his native Hungary in 1938. The U.S. Bishops Conference declined to oppose its return. Vatican City sources indicated that Pope Paul VI, when consulted by the U.S., did not oppose the return of the crown which is a symbol of Hungarian sovereignty. It was entrusted to U.S. forces in 1945 when it was feared that it might fall into Russian hands. (RNS)

Plebiscite Endorses Junta

Santiago, Chile (RNS) — Chilean President Augusto Pinochet has apparently received what he set out to get: endorsement from the electorate of his military rule.

Announcing results of a national plebiscite of Jan. 4, the Ministry of Interior said that with more than half of the votes counted, 2,362,340, or 77.4 per cent of the votes cast were in support of the President.

The plebiscite was designed to endorse the President "in his defense of the dignity of Chile" against a United Nations General Assembly resolution condemning Chile for alleged violations of human rights.

President Pinochet had said the purpose of what he called a "national consultation" was to allow Chileans to repudiate the U.N. resolution.

Meanwhile, on Jan. 4, the International Commission of Jurists charged that violations of human rights continue in Chile even if on a reduced scale.

The Geneva-based commission, a non-governmental organization supported by lawyers in most non-Communist countries, said "the whole structure of repression and the suspension of basic rights and fundamental freedoms remains unchanged" in Chile.

Chile's Roman Catholic bishops had urged that the plebiscite be "suspended or postponed in the public interest."

A Church spokesman said a fair vote was impossible

under the current state of seige, with an intimidation of voters by the regime's record of repressive action and without any debates.

Two members of Chile's military junta, Gen. Gustavo Leigh Guzman, the Air Force commander, and Adm. Jose T. Merino Castro, commander of the Navy, also declared their opposition to the plebiscite on legal and political grounds.

The ballot on which 4.5 million eligible voters were asked to mark the "yes" or "no" said:

In the face of international aggression unleashed against the government of our homeland, I support President Pinochet in his defense of the dignity of Chile, and reaffirm the legitimacy of the government of the republic to conduct, in a sovereign way, the process of institutionalization of the country."

The space for the "yes" vote was under a Chilean flag. The space for "no" was under the black flag of anarchism.

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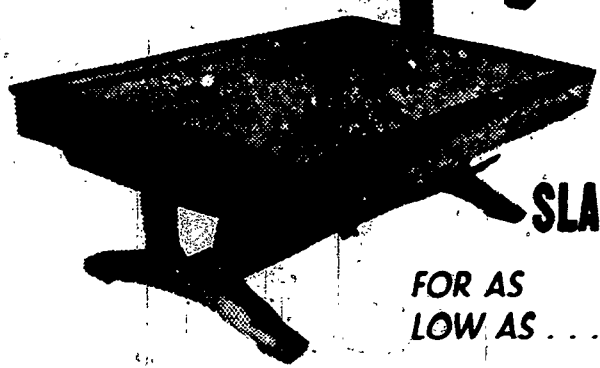
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