

For immediate release:

Rabbi Marvin Hier, Dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, announced today that he has learned that Patrick Buchanan, the former White House Communications Director, met with Attorney General Ed Meese on Friday to urge Meese not to deport convicted Nazi war criminal and mass murderer Karl Linnas.

Hier stated that Buchanan has been lobbying the Attorney General on behalf of Nazi war criminals who have been prosecuted in U.S. Courts by the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations. Karl Linnas, who served as Chief of the Nazi concentration camp in Tartu, Estonia, has been ordered deported from the United States, and the United States Supreme Court has recently made that order of deportation final. Hier stated that Mr. Buchanan is urging Attorney General Meese to interfere in court proceedings which have already taken place, and to disobey laws which were passed by Congress and signed by the President of the U.S. Hier stated that the law is clear that Linnas must be deported to the Soviet Union, and the Attorney General must carry out that law. Rabbi Hier stated that if the Attorney General does not do so, the integrity of the chief law enforcement official of the United States will be called into question.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center also criticized coverage of the Linnas case by Los Angeles Times writer Robert Gillette. Jeffrey Mausner, a former Justice Department Trial Attorney who was one of the prosecutors in the Linnas case and is now an attorney for the Wiesenthal Center, stated that Gillette misstated the evidence against Linnas. In an article appearing on the front page of the Los Angeles Times on February 12, Gillette wrote that

"All the evidence against Linnas came from the Soviet government."

Mausner stated that that was untrue. Mausner detailed the additional, non-Soviet evidence against Linnas, as follows:

1. In interviews with the New York Times and Newsday in 1961, Linnas admitted being the supervisor of concentration camp guards in Tartu, Estonia. Mausner stated that those newspaper articles are in the record of the case, and if Gillette had read any part of the record, he would have known that.

2. A friend of Linnas who lives in Long Island, New York testified at the trial. This individual testified that Linnas told him that he had served as a guard at the concentration camp. Mausner stated that he spoke with Gillette after the article had appeared in the L.A. Times, and that Gillette admitted that he knew about this evidence, but did not include it in his article.

3. The documents which the Justice Department received from the Soviet government are documents which Linnas signed. The heading he signed over states "Karl Linnas, Chief of Concentration Camps." These documents were examined by an FBI forensic document expert, who testified that they were authentic and that Linnas had signed them. Linnas took the 5th Amendment and refused to testify regarding these documents. Mausner stated that Mr. Gillette admitted that he knew these documents had been found authentic by the FBI, but he failed to say that in his article. Linnas himself never denied that he had been chief of the concentration camp, but took the fifth amendment at his trial.

Mausner stated that it was extremely irresponsible for Gillette to make the statement that the only evidence against Linnas was supplied by the Soviet government, especially in light of the fact that he knew that that was not true. Five United States Courts have found Linnas guilty, and those courts stated that the evidence was overwhelming. Mausner stated that this is not the first time that Mr. Gillette has distorted the facts regarding convicted Nazi war criminals. In April 1986, Gillette wrote a series of articles which were similarly incorrect. The LA Times refused to print any corrections or even letters to the editor pointing out those false statements.

Mausner noted that in all other cases when he had been with the Justice Department, orders of deportation had been carried out routinely and quickly after the courts finally ruled. Mausner stated that the law is clear that Linnas must be deported. Congress specifically wrote the law regarding Nazi war criminals so that the Attorney General could not afford any kind of discretionary relief. Mausner stated that Attorney General Meese must carry out the law, and deport Linnas.

Rabbi Hier criticized what he called the tremendous effort being carried out by several organizations to free Karl Linnas, a convicted Nazi mass murderer. He stated that if the Los Angeles Times wished to get involved in that effort, it should at least report the facts correctly. Hier stated that Linnas has been found guilty by five United States courts, and the law is clear that he must be deported. Hier said that instead of meeting with Patrick Buchanan, Mr. Meese should be meeting with the survivors of the Holocaust but that unfortunately, thanks to Mr. Linnas and

his kind, there aren't many left. Rabbi Hier requested that if Mr. Meese has any doubts as to whether he will carry out the clear mandate of the law, he meet with the Rabbi and a group of Holocaust survivors.



I have called this press conference to announce two events, and also to correct several complete mistruths printed by the Los Angeles Times last Thursday and Friday:

1. A lawsuit against the Simon Wiesenthal Center and myself, brought by David McCalden, a so called Holocaust Revisionist Historian, has been dismissed by the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles.

2. I have just learned that Patrick Buchanan, the former White House Communications Director, met with Attorney General Ed Meese on Friday to urge Meese not to deport convicted Nazi war criminal and mass murderer Karl Linnas.

As you know, Buchanan has been defending Nazi war criminals who have been prosecuted in U.S. Courts by the Justice Dept's Office of Special Investigations. Karl Linnas has been ordered deported by U.S. Courts, and the Supreme Court has recently made that order of deportation final. Mr. Buchanan is urging Attny Gen Meese to interfere in court proceedings which have already taken place, and to disobey laws which were passed by Congress and signed by the President of the U.S. The law is clear that Linnas must be deported to the Soviet Union, and the attorney general must carry out that law. If he does not do so, the integrity of the chief law enforcement official of the United States will be called into question.

Bob Gillette of the Los Angeles Times has also become involved in this effort to prevent Linnas' deportation. The LA Times last Thursday ran an article on the front page, written by Gillette, which is completely untrue. Here with me today is Jeffrey Mausner, a former trial attorney with the Justice Dept's

Office of Special Investigations, who was one of the prosecutors in the Linnas case, who will explain the true facts of the Linnas case:

Mr. Gillette states in his article that "All the evidence against Linnas came from the Soviet government." That is untrue.

1. In interviews with the NYT and Newsday in 1961, Linnas admitted being the supervisor of concentration camp guards in Tartu, Estonia. Those newspaper articles are in the record of the case -- if Gillette had read any part of the record, he would have known that. Copies of the newspaper articles have been distributed to you.

May 23, 1961 p 13 NYT
 p 3 Newsday

2. A friend of Linnas who lives in Long Island testified at the trial. This individual testified that Linnas told him that he had served as a guard at the concentration camp. Gillette failed to state this in his article, even tho he knew about it. I spoke with Mr. Gillette on Fri and he admitted to me that he knew about this evidence, but did not include it in his article.

3. The documents which the Justice Dept received from the Soviet government are documents which Linnas signed. The heading he signed over states "Karl Linnas, Chief of Concentration Camps." I have copies of those documents for you. These documents were examined by an FBI forensic document expert, who testified that they were authentic and that Linnas had signed them. Linnas took the 5th Amendment and refused to testify regarding these documents. Mr. Gillette admitted to me that he knew these documents had been found authentic by the U.S. FBI,

but he failed to say that in his article.

The only argument against all this, which Gillette makes for Linnas' innocence is that "it is inherently implausible that the Germans would have placed a 21 or 22 year-old native in charge of a prison camp in his own occupied country." This argument was, of course, made in every one of the six U.S. courts which found Linnas guilty. Each of those courts found the evidence overwhelming that Linnas was guilty. Linnas himself never denied that he had been chief of the concentration camp -- he took the fifth amendment at his trial.

It is clear that Mr. Gillette and the LA Times had no inclination to find the true facts -- they were completely wrong on what the evidence was, and all of that evidence was readily accessible. It is extremely irresponsible to make the statement that the only evidence against Linnas was supplied by the Soviet government. On these wrong facts, Mr. Gillette has assumed the leadership, along with Mr. Buchanan, of a movement to free a convicted Nazi mass murderer. This is not the first time that Mr. Gillette has distorted the facts regarding convicted Nazi war criminals. In April 1986, he wrote a series of articles which were similarly incorrect. The LA Times refused to print any corrections or even letters to the editor pointing out those false statements.

I would like to note that in all other cases when I was with the Justice Dept., orders of deportation have been carried out routinely and quickly after the courts finally ruled. The law is clear that Linnas must be deported. Congress specifically wrote

the law regarding Nazi war criminals so that the Attorney General could not afford any kind of discretionary relief. Mr. Meese must carry out the law, and deport Linnas.

As you can see, several organizations are mounting a tremendous effort to free Karl Linnas, a convicted Nazi mass murderer. He has been found guilty by five United States courts, and the law is clear that he must be deported. Instead of meeting with Patrick Buchanan, Mr. Meese should be meeting with the survivors of the Holocaust. Unfortunately, thanks to Mr. Linnas and his kind, there aren't many left. I request that if Mr. Meese has any doubts as to whether he will carry out the clear mandate of the law, he meet with me and group of survivors.