

Will U.S. Move Against A 'Nazi' in Mineola?

By JANE PERLEZ

On a quiet, tree-green Long Island street yesterday 40 men and women gathered with homemade placards before a shuttered house. Their messages evoked nightmare memories two generations old. "No Nazis in Mineola," they said. "How do you sleep?" they asked.

The target of the protest was Boleslavs Maikovskis, 69, a Latvian World War II policeman condemned to death in absentia in 1965 by a Soviet war crimes tribunal.

The group on the sidewalk were survivors of the Riga ghetto who want the U. S. Immigration and Naturaliza-

tion Service to deport Maikovskis.

In 1965 a Russian court found Maikovskis guilty of atrocities against Jews and Russian prisoners of war at Rezekne, Latvia. The following year the Immigration Service investigated the case without taking any action. The protesters claim the service has information that should lead to his deportation.

Yesterday, Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman (D-Brooklyn) said in Washington she was disturbed at the lack of "aggressive action" against alleged war criminals by the U. S. Immigration Service.

"I certainly hope that this

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WCBS-TV Photo

BOLESLAVS MAIKOVSKIS
Pictured last year.



Demonstrators picket Mineola, L. I. home of Boleslavs Maikovskis, demanding his deportation. Placards show him in World War II police uniform.

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picketing will carry a clear message to the Immigration Service," she said, "Namely the people in this country do not want to see the U. S. used as a haven for people who have committed some of the most atrocious crimes in human history."

The Maikovskis case has provoked controversy within the Immigration Service.

One of the bystanders at the Mineola demonstration was Anthony DeVito, a former Immigration Service officer, who headed the investigation against Queens housewife Hermine Ryan, a former Nazi prison camp guard deported from the U. S. last year and now awaiting trial in West Germany.

DeVito resigned in protest last year against what he termed "blocking" and reluctance by the New York Immigration office to pursue the investigation of Maikovskis. Vincent D. Schiano, the former chief trial attorney for the service and prosecutor of the government's deportation cases against reputed mob lord Carlo Gambino and Mrs. Ryan, among others, also resigned abruptly last year, reportedly over the handling of the Maikovskis investigation.

According to an Immigration Service report shown to The Post, Maikovskis arrived in the U. S. on Dec. 22, 1951, and was given permanent residence under the provisions of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948.

An investigation into his background was begun in 1966 following the Soviet trial and then closed. It was reopened after the Service was given two potentially incriminating items—a picture of Maikovskis allegedly in German uniform during World War II and the photostat of an execution order reputedly signed by him on Nov. 24, 1943. He was then chief of the second police precinct at Rezekne.

Immigration files show

Maikovskis was born on Jan. 21, 1904 at Stirniece, Latvia, completed his high school education there around 1930 and immediately enlisted in the Latvian Army, where he became a sergeant. On May 20, 1939, according to the file, he married Janina Ritins and about that time he joined the Aizsargi, a national-guard type organization to Latvia.

During the German occupation of Latvia in 1941, he held the rank of captain in the Aizsargi and "helped the German occupation authorities for a few months restoring order in his country," the file says, adding,

"When the Germans evacuated Latvia in 1944, the subject claimed they ordered him to do likewise and eventually he settled in Germany."

According to the 1966 Immigration investigation that followed the news of Maikovskis's conviction in absentia, he was charged and found guilty by the Soviet court of participating in the liquidation of Andriņi Village and its 200 inhabitants, including women and children and with "carrying out the racial policies of the Third Reich in Latvia by exterminating Jews and Gypsies."

Reject Extradition Bid

A Soviet request for the extradition of Maikovskis (who unlike his wife, has not acquired U. S. citizenship) was rejected by the U. S. government on the grounds that the U. S. never recognized the incorporation of Latvia into the USSR.

A professor of education at City College, Dr. Gertrude Schneider, who went to Latvia to study the transcripts of the Soviet tribunal in preparation for a thesis on the Riga ghetto, said yesterday the trial papers showed that Maikovskis was a *Sturmbannführer* in charge of the extermination of Jews in Rezekne and had won an iron cross for his activities.

According to Dr. Schneider, papers prepared by the

International Military Tribunal of the Nuremberg Trials estimated that 3000 people died in a mass grave at Rezekne.

An Immigration file on Maikovskis says that from "Jan. 25 to May 12, 1966, 60 leads encompassing 19 cities throughout the U. S. were exhausted together with conventional agency checks plus one from the Berlin Documentary Center." It also states that Maikovskis and his wife denied all allegations and "disclosed membership in several Catholic and Latvian organizations. The ultimate outcome found no basis on which to base any Service action."

Request Trial Transcript

But DeVito claimed yesterday that leads from the FBI and a suggestion by him to request information on Maikovskis from the Soviet Embassy in Washington had been rejected by Sol Marks, the district director of the Immigration Service.

The new head of the Immigration Services Nazi War Criminal Project in New York, Samuel Zutty, said that the transcript from the Soviet trial on Maikovskis had been requested from Russian authorities.

Zutty, who took over the Maikovskis case following DeVito's departure said that 33 alleged war criminals were being actively investigated but emphasized that in the Maikovskis case: "We are not trying him for war crimes."

Maikovskis could be deported only, said Zutty, on the grounds that he had lied on his visa application