

THE MEANING OF VANESSA REDGRAVE

A number of people have said that they don't want to patronize the picture Julia because Vanessa Redgrave is in it, she being pro-Palestinian. There is a much graver point to be made about the picture, and about Vanessa Redgrave.

The picture is part of the current romantic glorification of the role of Communist Party circles in America. And when that glorification is done in the name of "fighting anti-semitism," it is hard to keep a grip on one's stomach. Vanessa Redgrave even made such a reference in her Academy Award performance.

Koestler said that "everyone has his own Kronstadt" -- that is, a particular historical event which revealed to that person the true nature of the Communist Party movement. (Kronstadt was the site of an early Bolshevik slaughter.) It is understandable that different people would have different Kronstadts, depending on their age, education and state of resistance. After all, most people did join the Communist movement in good faith, out of revulsion against serious social evils.

However, there was one Kronstadt which no one -- especially no Jew -- should have swallowed. That was the Soviet-Nazi Pact of August, 1939. That was no simple trade pact. By that act, the Soviet Union knowingly turned almost two million Jews over to the Nazis.

Everyone knew it. As the Jewish Frontier wrote a month later, about the Soviet Union: "Who was it that signalled the Nazi tyrant to start his destructive expedition? Who handed two million Jews into the hands of Nazi Germany? Who was it that assured Hitler during the most critical hour

for the western democracies and for world Jewry that he need not fear for his eastern front...?"

Molotov explained this wanton act to the world by saying that Nazism, after all, was "a matter of taste." Talk about Kronstadts! Those Party members who stayed, and those sympathizers who remained silent, have much to account for.

Senator Joseph McCarthy was a monstrosity, and caused suffering to a number of individuals in the political and entertainment worlds. But because he used Communists as the point of his irresponsible and pathological attacks, does not mean that they were thereby heroes and heroines -- as current revisionist attempts like Julia are making them out to be. Many of those now being painted as heroes and heroines had sailed coolly by the Soviet-Nazi pact.

That is not so surprising. While they did not want to see Jews killed, these hardy ideologues did want to see Jews, as such, disappear. In the Fall of 1939, The Day wrote about the million Jews who ended up in the Soviet sector, after the Nazi-Soviet partition of Poland: "Anyone acquainted with the fate of Zionism and Bundism in the Soviet Union will immediately understand what this means: the G.P.U. will throw them into prison, send them to concentration camps, or to an even worse fate." The Reconstructionist wrote: "We cannot say that we would rather have Polish Jews living under Hitler, but at this hour of Communist rejoicing at this "liberation," let us not forget the tens of thousands who will join their fellow Jews in the Soviet jails in Siberia, because they dare think the way we do."

The Bolshevik hostility towards Jews has always been there. It made the Nazi-Soviet pact easier for them to swallow. And now that stream of hostility flourishes on its own, as the main ideological enemy of the Jew in the world today. Vanessa Redgrave is part of that stream, and her piety about "fighting anti-semitism" comes with bad grace. It is something larger than just being "pro-Palestinian," which in itself is no crime.

The Jew will always be caught between the Bolshevik-like Left and the Nazi-like Right. To both of them, Jewish existence is anathema. The Jew is the element that fuses the two. The Trotskyites, and similar groups, will be attacking the Nazis at their rally in San Francisco this week, as they did in San Jose. But they will be anti-semites, on both sides of the barricade. Indeed, the Bolshevik-like Left is more of a real threat to Jewish existence in today's world than is the Nazi-like Right.