

STATE DEPT. SAYS A 'SOVIET FRONT' WON'T GET VISAS

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Body

The State Department said today that except in "special circumstances," visas for "members of Soviet-front groups" wanting to attend the United Nations disarmament sessions would not be granted by the United States. The sessions start in New York on Monday.

The department defined the "World Peace Council, its affiliates, and other Soviet-dominated and similar organizations" as "Sovietfront groups."

"Barring special circumstances we expect that visas will not be issued to members of Soviet-front groups," the department said in a two-page statement released today on its visa policy toward the World Peace Council and associated organizations.

WASHINGTON, June 4 - The State Department said today that except in "special circumstances," visas for "members of Soviet-front groups" wanting to attend the United Nations disarmament sessions would not be granted by the United States. Earlier Figure Incorrect

Restricted-travel visas have been granted or are being granted to 32 members of the World Peace Council who received official invitations from the United Nations to the disarmament sessions, a department spokesman, Alan Romberg, said. Mr. Romberg said that an earlier figure of 50, released by the department, had been incorrect.

The restricted visas were issued in accordance with an agreement between the United States and the United Nations that says that persons who have official invitations from the U.N. for U.N. business will be permitted to enter the United States, a spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service said.

The restricted visas, which limit travel to within 25 miles of Columbus Circle, are known as C-2 visas. They are issued for a maximum of 29 days, the Immigration spokesman, Duke Austin, said.

In New York, Judge Pierre M. Leval of Federal District Court refused to order the Justice Department to process by Monday night the visa applications of 347 antinuclear-war activists, many from Japan, who want to attend the United Nations disarmament conference.

The New York Civil Liberties Union had complained of delays in visa processing, but the judge said that many of the applications had been "submitted at the last minute" and that there was no indication the Government was acting "in bad faith."

Speakers' Platform Sought

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Meantime, organizers of a June 12 antinuclear march and rally in New York asked the Police Department for permission to set up a speakers' platform at 47th Street and First Avenue, the starting point for the march. Police officials were considering the request.

Mr. Romberg said that visa applications from 380 Japanese who did not have official invitations were under review by the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Forty-eight other visa applications from non-Japanese who did not have official invitations were also under review, he said.

Mr. Romberg said he did not know whether all the applications under review were from the World Peace Council. The policy statement on visas for the monthlong Second Special Session on Disarmament said in part: "We do not have a policy of denying visas to advocates of nuclear disarmament. "As for Soviet-front groups, we are carefully reviewing visa applications from members of the World Peace Council, its affiliates, and other Soviet-dominated and similar organizations who are seeking to exploit activities related" to the United Nations disarmament sessions "just as they have sought to exploit peace movements elsewhere."

'Longstanding Affiliation'

The statement continued: "Cases will be reviewed individually to determine special circumstances. The World Peace Council and its affiliates have longstanding direct political and financial affiliation with the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

"The Council's activities, policy line and financing indicated that it is an instrument of Soviet policy. Their actions led to their expulsions from other Western democracies in earlier years.

"Further details of the Council activities are outlined in the April 1982 Department of State publication entitled 'World Peace Council: Instrument of Soviet Policy.'

"The World Peace Council and its affiliates are thus among the types of organizations defined in section 212 (a) (28) of the Immigration and Nationality Act which render ineligible for a visa anyone who is a member of or affiliated with such an organization."

Mr. Romberg said that the visa reviews were being conducted under the process set up by the McGovern Amendment to the Immigration and Nationality Act. The amendment requires the State Department to seek waivers from the Immigration and Naturalization Service for those who would be barred from entry because of affiliation with Communist groups.

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