Nazi Propagandist Missing at Hearing; May Have Fled U.S.

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Body

A former Yale University lecturer who was stripped of his <u>United States</u> citizenship for his role as a <u>propagandist</u> for the Nazis in World War II, has failed to attend a deportation <u>hearing</u>, and members of his family said today that they believe he has *fled* the country.

The former lecturer, Vladimir Sokolov, 75 years old, did not show up at the deportation <u>hearing</u> in Hartford Friday. His stepdaughter, Irene Moroz, said he <u>may</u> be in Europe. She said she last saw Mr. Sokolov in March.

Mr. Sokolov'<u>s</u> son-in-law, George Moroz, said he last spoke to Mr. Sokolov was about three months ago. He said Mr. Sokolov avoided the *hearing* because he feared being deported to his native Soviet Union.

He said his father-in-law has friends in Europe, Australia and Canada.

Joseph F. Lynch, trial attorney for the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigation, said that he was not surprised by Mr. Sokolov's absence and that Mr. Sokolov's friends and neighbors had said he was no longer in the country.

Judge Thomas L. Pullen of the Immigration and Naturalization Service gave Mr. Lynch 30 days to provide a brief supporting the deportation.

Judge Pullen said he will also allow Mr. Sokolov 30 days to respond.

Judge Thomas F. Murphy of Federal District Court in Hartford stripped Mr. Sokolov of his citizenship in June 1986, saying he had concealed his *Nazi* background from immigration officials.

Mr. Sokolov was a writer and editor for Rech, a <u>Nazi</u>-controlled, Russian-language newspaper, during 1942 and 1943. He had testified that his articles were altered without his knowledge, but the Federal Government had portrayed him as a <u>Nazi</u> who wrote "vicious attacks against the Jews" during World War II.

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