

# Mitchell Bars Belgian Marxist From U.S. Visit

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26—

Rejecting the advice of Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Attorney General John N. Mitchell acted today to bar a Belgian Marxist from visiting the United States.

The Justice Department refused to take the legal steps required under the 1952 McCarran-Walter Act to admit Dr. Ernest Mandel, editor of *La Gauche*, the weekly journal, for a one-week lecture tour that was to start this Saturday.

State Department officials made the decision known after the Attorney General's opinion had been conveyed to them in writing.

They took the unusual step of disassociating the Secretary of State from the decision, stating that the department had recommended that Dr. Mandel be allowed to make his scheduled visit. They further indicated that an effort might be made to reverse the decision, although this probably could

## He Rejects Advice by Rogers to Give Scholar a Visa

not be done in time for Dr. Mandel's first scheduled appearance in New York this Saturday.

Justice Department spokesmen refused to comment on the case, referring all questions to the State Department.

Liberal academic figures in the United States have warned that the Mandel case raises the question of whether a person should be excluded from the United States because of his political views.

Dr. Mandel visited the United States twice before, in 1962 and 1968, under special visas authorized by the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations.

Reliable sources said that earlier this month, when Dr. Mandel's present application was made, State Department officials reviewed his case and, with the specific endorsement of Under Secretary of State Elliot L. Richardson and Mr. Rogers, proposed to the Justice Department that he be admitted.

From consultations between the two departments, the sources added it was clear in advance that the Attorney General did not share their opinion on how the visa-granting power should be used.

Even in today's announcement, no effort was made to paper over the differences among two Cabinet members, as is usually done once a decision is made final.

State Department officials re-

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refused to make public the Justice Department's explanation for the decision. One said, "It's not up to us to take the blame for their argument."

Dr. Mandel is technically ineligible for a visa, under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, because of membership in certain "proscribed organizations" on a list compiled by the Justice Department. Only the Attorney General has the statutory authority to grant exemptions from this ban.

Democratic officials granted so-called "waivers" of this ineligibility for his two previous trips, noting at the time that the political atmosphere had changed since the act was passed during the McCarthy era.

Dr. Mandel's initial visa application last month was turned down by the State Department on technicalities without any reference to high policy-making officials. When letters and statements of protest were received at the department, the case was quickly reviewed and Dr. Mandel was advised to submit another application.

In two letters, the second one last week endorsed by both Mr. Rogers and Mr. Richardson, the

department urged the Attorney General to grant the waiver as being "in the national interest."

## Action Is Denounced

By WILL LISSNER

Several of the sponsors of Dr. Mandel's projected visit to this country held a news conference yesterday to announce that the Justice Department had blocked the issuance of a visa by the State Department and to denounce the action as "ignorant" and "bigoted."

The sponsors said Dr. Mandel was one of the major socialist critics of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August, 1968.

Among those at the conference were Ralph Schoenman, director, and Arthur Felberbaum, New York executive secretary of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, and George Novack of the Steering Committee of the Socialist Scholars' Conference.

Also present was Prof. Arno Mayer, a historian at Princeton University, where Dr. Mandel had been scheduled to address the philosophy department next Monday.

## Town Hall Conference

The foundation and the conference have scheduled an all-day conference Saturday at Town Hall at which Dr. Mandel was expected to speak, along

with Andre Gorz, an editor of *Les Temps Modernes* in Paris, and Paul Sweezy, co-editor of *The Monthly Review*.

The conference, according to Mr. Felberbaum, is on "Agencies of Social Change: Toward a Revolutionary Strategy for Advanced Industrial Countries."

Despite the ban, Dr. Mandel will contribute his views by a recording and will take part in the discussions over a trans-Atlantic telephone hoow-up, Mr. Felberbaum and the other sponsors said.

Mr. Schoenman termed the Justice Department's action inconsistent because Dr. Mandel had been given visas in 1962 and 1968. He spoke at 30 colleges and universities last year.

"It should be made clear," Mr. Schoenman said, "that the refusal to grant Dr. Mandel a visa is of a piece with the Nixon Administration's attacks on the news media and its attempt to suppress news about the massacres in Vietnam."

## 'Fear His Ideas'

Mr. Schoenman said the Administration had cultural exchanges with the Soviet Union and had notified Communist China that it wished to engage in cultural exchanges that would involve admitting Chinese Marxist economists, Dr.

Mandel's Asian counterparts, to the United States.

"It refuses to admit Dr. Mandel because it knows he will make an analysis of Nixon Administration policy," Mr. Schoenman said. "It is his ideas that they fear."

Besides his scheduled talks at Town Hall and Princeton, Dr. Mandel had planned to lecture at Amherst, Columbia, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Vassar and the New School for Social Research.

Miss Edith Tiger of the National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee said that Leonard Boudin, its counsel, was studying the matter to see if American participants in the events in which Dr. Mandel was to have taken part might challenge the constitutionality of the law that prevents them from hearing him.

Mr. Felberbaum exhibited several folders of letters and telegrams that he said were protests by professors and students.

## McCarranism Revisited

The arbitrary refusal by the Justice Department to issue the waiver that would have allowed Dr. Ernest Mandel, a Belgian Marxist scholar, to speak at academic conferences in the United States, is an incredible example of autocratic insensitivity. It has resulted in public humiliation of the State Department by an Attorney General who ignores the damage thus inflicted on the image of America as the defender of freedom of ideas.

The denial of the waiver that was necessary for issuance of a visa by the State Department assumes added significance because Secretary Rogers himself is known to have recommended approval of Dr. Mandel's visit. While the battle of the visa began at low levels of routine bureaucratic hurdles, it has culminated in a contest of conflicting authority and ideology at the highest stratum of the Administration. The plain fact is that the Justice Department, on Attorney General Mitchell's orders, overruled a request which the State Department considered in the national interest.

The planners of the Socialist Scholars Conference now expect to have the Belgian professor "attend" via trans-Atlantic telephone. The empty chair on the panel and the electronic circumvention of the travel ban will add to the embarrassment suffered by this country as a result of this triumph of police over diplomacy, of fear over freedom and of ideological rigidity over democratic common sense.

(editorial)