

Russian Clergy

WHEREAS the Baptist World Alliance has admitted into its membership the All Union Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists of Russia; and

WHEREAS the Baptist World Alliance had elevated to its vice presidency the Rev. Jakov Zhidkov who is chairman of this Evangelical Baptist Union; and

WHEREAS the record concerning Mr. Zhidkov shows the following items:

1. On October 25, 1962, a cablegram from Moscow was sent to Mr. U Thant, Secretary General of the United Nations, accusing the United States of bringing about a possible world war when President Kennedy ordered Cuba and Russia to remove the guided missiles which were pointed toward the United States. The cablegram said, among other things, "We cannot but declare to the whole world that the reckless steps of the United States government are a crying violation of Christian teaching and a great sin before God." One of the signers of this cablegram was Jakov Zkidkov.
2. Mr. Zkidkov is the editor of the magazine entitled *The Brotherly Messenger*. This magazine was barred from United States mails and described by the United States Post Office Department as "found to consist of Communist propaganda."
3. In May, 1952, Mr. Zhidkov signed a tribute to Joseph Stalin. The statement was as follows: "With the greatest enthusiasm as the representatives of various denominations we turn to you, Joseph Vrrarionovich Stalin, to present our greetings and to assure you of our obedience and to wish our best for you. A long, long life for the joy of our people and the joy of the whole peace loving mankind."
4. In October, 1957, the All Russian Council of Evangelical Christian Baptists (Zhidkov's group) sent a greeting to the Soviet government which in part read as follows: "The Evangelical Christian Baptists are thankful and praise God that the Soviet government during the course of the past forty years has acted according to the high ideals precious to Christianity. . . . While the Christian Western World speaks much of its Christian civilization and about the ideals of Christianity, yet in fact, it acts quite contrary to these ideals.

A fellowship is daily built up in the USSR, which in all areas of life is recreating the righteousness of the Kingdom of God. . . . Step by step the Soviet Union is translating into practice the eternal truths. No exploitation of man by man"; and

WHEREAS Mr. Zhidkov, and other Russian Baptist clergymen who are associated with him, are to be prominent delegates to the Baptist World Alliance in Miami, Florida, beginning June 25, 1965; and

WHEREAS they will, as always, take this opportunity to present the spurious Communist peace line propaganda and to eulogize the Soviet government which they will again claim gives the church freedom and liberty; and

WHEREAS in a letter dated April 10, 1963, Dr. Edwin Tuller, general secretary of the American Baptist Convention, admits that this is what they do in the following words: "With respect to the visiting churchmen, let me say that we are all aware that they must say and do certain things in order to get out of the country and, when they get back, to continue their work for Christ. They know that we know these things. When we hear them speak about peace many times at points where the subject is not germane to the rest of what is being said, it is perfectly clear that this is one of the prices they must pay. We listen as they speak; we understand what they are saying, and why they are saying it. They know we understand this. After it is said and they have discharged their required obligation we get down to discussing the things that concern us as Christians and church people"; and

WHEREAS Mr. Zhidkov has shown himself to be thoroughly behind the godless Soviet government and its wickedness;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the General Association of Regular Baptist Churches, meeting in its 34th Annual Conference in Des Moines, Iowa, June 21-25, 1965

1. Declares its Biblical indignation (Eph. 4:26) in respect to the appearance of these Russian Baptist clergymen on the platform of the Baptist World Alliance (Eph. 5:11); and
2. That we call upon every born-again Baptist in the various Baptist groups making up the Baptist World Alliance to protest the appearance of these men (Jude 3, 4). Furthermore, we call upon Christians to separate themselves from all that dishonors God and denies every

historic Baptist doctrine and position which our Baptist forefathers maintained at the risk of their lives (2 Cor. 6:14-17).

June 21-25, 1965
Des Moines, Iowa