

Network refuses to remove actress from movie for favoring Palestinians

United Press International
NEW YORK — CBS has refused concentration camp survivor Fania Fenelon's request that actress Vanessa Redgrave be removed from the lead in "Playing for Time," a dramatization of Fenelon's book, because of Redgrave's pro-Palestinian sentiments.

Fenelon and Rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper, both of Yeshiva University of Los Angeles, met Monday with Gene Jankowski, president of the CBS Broadcast Group, and Gene Mater, vice president and assistant to the president.

"We met with them at their request," Mater said afterward. "We assured them it wasn't our intention to desecrate the memory of those who died or offend anyone or to seek publicity. But

we would not and could not remove Vanessa Redgrave from the part.

"At issue are two principles far more important than the simple question of casting — whether individual, personal and political views should be considered more important than his or her artistic ability, (and) whether any individual should have power to veto the decisions, editorial or artistic, of any entertainment or news medium."

Fenelon, a French woman who survived Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, objects to Redgrave playing the role because of her highly vocal support of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

"She's a fanatic," Fenelon said. "I can't accept that."

In Washington, State Department officials said European and American doctors had examined the shah and reported the former ruler is suffering from a "malignant tumor," a form of cancer, and a blocked bile duct.

The two problems, the officials said, are unrelated to each other, but contributed to a significant deterioration of his condition in the last several days.

Shah in New York for treatment

United Press International
NEW YORK — The exiled shah of Iran flew to New York Tuesday and was admitted to a local hospital for treatment of cancer, U.S. officials said.

In Washington, State Department officials said European and American doctors had examined the shah and reported the former ruler is suffering from a "malignant tumor," a form of cancer, and a blocked bile duct.

The two problems, the officials said, are unrelated to each other, but contributed to a significant deterioration of his condition in the last several days.

The shah, believed to be accompanied by his wife, Empress Farah, about a dozen aides and two Doberman pinschers, arrived at LaGuardia Airport at 10:30 p.m. on a chartered twin-engine jet.

State Department spokesman, David Passage, said in Washington that the shah was "quite ill and airport workers said he 'looked weak' and walked in a slow shuffle to a waiting Mercedes at the airport."

"I'm under the clear impression," Passage said, "that there's been a significant deterioration in the former shah's health in recent days."

Asked if the shah's life was in danger because of the illness, Passage said, "One has to read the information I've got this way."

At the Pahlavi family's adjoining townhouses on exclusive Beekman Place in Manhattan, a large Great Dane paced behind a wrought-iron gate, a television camera monitored the doorway and guards turned away reporters without comment.

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Camp survivor, Redgrave not friends despite view given on '60 Minutes'

By JOAN HANAVER
UPI Television Writer
NEW YORK — When "60 Minutes" did a segment on concentration camp survivor Fania Fenelon and actress Vanessa Redgrave, the impression at the end was of two women walking arm and arm into the sunset.

Who would she like to see playing her life? Jane Fonda.

Fenelon, a Frenchwoman, is in the United States under the auspices of the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies at Yeshi for the University of Los Angeles, which is trying to wrest

"I am for Israel, I am for the Palestinians, I am for the Puerto Ricans, I am for the blacks, I am for everybody who suffers."

What came over on "60 Minutes" was, "I am for Israel."

CBS, in the person of Gene Mater, vice president and assistant to Broadcast Group President Gene Jankowski, argues no one has a right to deprive an actor of a role because of his or her personal, or political opinions.

Rabbis Marvin Hier and Abraham Cooper of the Wiesenthal Center don't doubt Redgrave's ability to play Fania Fenelon. They fear she will capitalize on the part to prove her claim she is not anti-Semitic, merely anti-Israeli. She has not sold Fenelon on that point.

Seated together at a news conference after Fenelon and the

rabbis met with Jankowski and Mater were two women — Yvette Lennon and her sister, Lily Assael.

The women are Greek-born Jews who, like Fenelon, played music for their lives at Auschwitz-Birkenau, and who now live in New York. What did they think about all this?

"I don't care about politics," Lennon said. "If Vanessa Redgrave really is an anti-Semite, I don't want her in the play. But I don't know enough about her to know if that is true, and I don't want to accuse anyone who is innocent."

Assael, who at one point casually rolled up her sleeve to check the blurry blue concentration camp number tattooed on her arm, added: "If she is an anti-Semite, it would make the whole thing like a comedy."

Forget it! Fenelon continues to deplore the casting of Redgrave as the lead in the CBS dramatization of her book, "Playing for Time," which relates her experiences as an inmate-musician in the Nazi concentration camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

"I just can't accept her as me" — Fania Fenelon

an apology from CBS for insensitivity in casting Redgrave.

Fenelon was asked at a news conference if she and Redgrave parted friends after the "60 Minutes" broadcast.

"Friends? Oh, no!" was her reply. "We were not friendly at all."

She also objected to the way in which a statement she made was cut on "60 Minutes." She said her entire statement was:

Condemned man insists on innocence

Court orders Stafford executed

United Press International
OKLAHOMA CITY — Roger Dale Stafford, ordered Tuesday to be executed Jan. 17 for the murders of six restaurant workers, said he was not afraid to die, but would fight his sentence "to the very end."

praise of the trial and said he understood Stafford's pleas of innocence, "but under our system a decision is left to 12 jurors."

"I'm directing that you be held closely confined and imprisoned, until Jan. 17, 1980, upon which day I am further directing (the prison warden) to put you to death," Owens said.

"He (the warden) is to do so by the statutory method provided. That being by continuous, intravenous administration of a lethal quantity of an ultra-short acting barbiturate, in combination with a chemical paralytic agent, until death be pronounced by a physician."

Owens, who presided over the eight-day trial that led to Stafford's convictions for gunning down six employees in the meat freezer of a

south Oklahoma City Sirloin Stockade restaurant, overruled a defense motion for a new trial.

"When the state of Oklahoma can condemn an innocent man, what's the world coming to?" said Stafford, during an interview after the formal sentencing. "I'm going to fight this to the very end."

During the sentencing, Owens asked Stafford if he had anything to say before sentencing.

"Yeah, I'm innocent. I didn't do the crime," the soft-spoken Stafford told the judge.

Stafford then thanked Owens "for taking time to have a fair trial."

Owens acknowledged Stafford's

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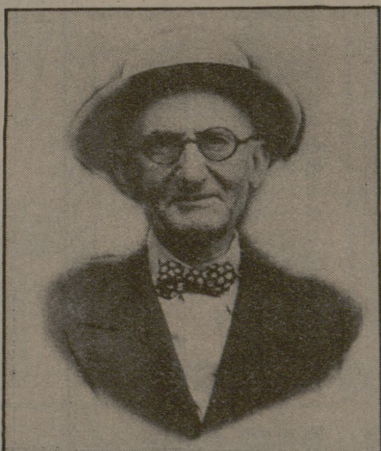
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