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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF A.C.L.U. AT ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE AT TOWN HALL, Monday, February 5, 1940.

"While the American Civil Liberties Union does not make any test of opinion on political or economic questions a condition of membership, and makes no distinction in defending the right to hold and utter any opinions, the personnel of its governing committees and staff is properly subject to the test of consistency in the defense of civil liberties in all aspects and all places.

That consistency is inevitably compromised by persons who champion civil liberties in the United States and yet who justify or tolerate the denial of civil liberties by dictatorships abroad. Such a dual position in these days, when issues are far sharper and more profound, makes it desirable that the Civil Liberties Union makes its position unmistakably clear.

"The Board of Directors and the National Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union therefore hold it inappropriate for any person to serve on the governing committees of the Union or on its staff, who is a member of any political organization which supports totalitarian dictatorship in any country, or who by his public declarations indicates his support of such a principle.

"Within this category we include organizations in the United States supporting the totalitarian governments of the Soviet Union and of the Fascist and Nazi countries, (such as the Communist Party, the German-American Bund and others); as well as native organizations with obvious anti-democratic objectives or practices."

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Correspondence-Organizational Matters, Volume 2164. 1940. MS The Roger Baldwin Years, 1912-1950: Sub-Series 18: Organizational Matters – Correspondence, 1917-1951. Mudd Library, Princeton University. American Civil Liberties Union Papers, 1912-1990, http://tinyurl.gale.com/tinyurl/CW2P66. Accessed 12 Dec. 2019.