

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

12 June 1961

The Secretary of the Army today announced the admonishment of Major General Edwin A. Walker for taking injudicious actions and for making derogatory public statements about prominent Americans while in command of the 24th Infantry Division in Germany.

The official admonition was administered to General Walker by General Bruce C. Clarke, Commander in Chief of U. S. Army, Europe.

General Clarke took the action at the conclusion of an official investigation which he directed into certain actions and statements attributed to General Walker. The investigation was conducted by Lieutenant General Frederic J. Brown, Commanding General of V Corps in Germany, appointed as a Special Inspector General by General Clarke.

General Clarke concluded his consideration of the case that General Walker:

- a. In a speech before about 200 members and dependents of his Division made derogatory remarks of a serious nature about certain prominent Americans, the American Press, and TV industry and certain commentators, which linked the persons and institutions with Communism and Communist influence.
- b. Failed to heed cautions by superior officers to refrain from participating in controversial activities which were contrary to long-standing customs of the military service and beyond the prerogatives of a senior military commander.

The investigation disclosed that the 24th Division's Pro-Blue program instituted by General Walker last October was not attributable to any program of the John Birch Society.

The USAREUR Commander said he had considered General Walker's 30-year outstanding record as a professional soldier in arriving at the decision in this case.

General Clarke further stated:

"General Walker's past military and combat record is commendable. No one can question General Walker's sincerity of purpose, but his actions exceeded the limits of propriety for an officer of the Army."

Department of the Army now considers the case closed and plans no further action in connection with the investigation.

General Walker will remain assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Army, Europe, pending eventual reassignment within the United States.

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