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Americans Urged Not To Join Anti-Axis 'Free Movements'

The State Department yesterday "requested" Americans citizens not to join the governing committees of various "free movements" set up in this country and dedicated to restoration of the independence of Austria, Rumania and other Axis-occupied nations.

Department officials said their "statement of policy" was not directed against the Free French or any other specific "free movement" and that they had no objection to American membership on supporting or advisory committees in these movements.

They pointed out, however, that

the various "free movements," particularly in central and southeastern Europe, may clash in their individual objectives and thus might involve the energies of American citizens in disputes over boundaries and similar problems of the post-war settlement.

All the "free movements" may be bona fide anti-Axis organizations and yet at the same time, if they attracted large numbers of American citizens to their governing bodies, could result in a weakening of "strictly American" anti-Axis solidarity, it was said.

"You could pick up a nickel's worth of support for the anti-Axis cause that way," one official explained, "and lose a dollar's worth of American unity."

The department's announcement said American citizens have "a sympathetic interest in movements by aliens in this country who desire to liberate their countries from Axis domination."

It pointed out, however, that registration of such movements with the State Department, required by law, does not indicate official approval or disapproval of the aims of the organizations.