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File Folder USSR-SOVIET JEWRY (EMIGRATION) (10) **FOIA**
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SOV. JEWRY
Emigration1. USSR: JEWISH EMIGRATION DROPS TO PRE-DETENTE LEVEL

Soviet Jewish emigration probably will drop below the 3,000 level this year, a third of the 1981 figure and one-seventh of the 1980 total. The monthly figures so far this year have stayed within the 200-300 range. They are not likely to rise until Moscow decides the issue can once again be used as an inducement in negotiating US-Soviet bilateral matters.

* * *

Soviet emigration policy has returned to where it was a decade ago, before Moscow first allowed large-scale Jewish emigration in 1971. Some 14,000 left that year, compared to about 1,000 in 1970.

The decision to relax emigration curbs was in part the result of internal pressures, sparked by organized demands by militant Soviet Jews. But the regime found that allowing an alienated social group to leave could also provide useful leverage in the context of "detente." Emigration rates consistently have shown a close correlation to bilateral issues. For example, they rose during Congressional debate on the 1974 US Trade Act and dropped precipitously in retaliation for the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, which formally linked trade and emigration.

Emigration then rose gradually because Moscow continued to regard it as a valuable inducement in the context of other detente relationships. The high point of 50,000 visas for Israel was reached in 1979. A sharp drop followed as human rights controversies, SALT II, Afghanistan, and Poland soured the bilateral atmosphere.

The emigration cutoff and increased anti-Semitism in the USSR, meanwhile, have generated new internal pressures. Soviet Jews are now deprived of all three of their earlier alternatives: they cannot emigrate, assimilate, or preserve their religious and cultural identity. The regime is also discouraging emigration demands by other ethnic and religious groups. Besides Jews, only ethnic Germans and Armenians have been able to leave in appreciable numbers, and recently those numbers also have dropped sharply.

Soviet law does not recognize the right of Soviet citizens to emigrate by choice; family reunification is the only valid formal ground for departure, although Moscow manipulates this requirement as needed. Soviet authorities tend to see human rights and Jewish emigration as separate issues, and can be unyielding on the former while remaining relatively flexible on the latter, provided this serves to advance Soviet interests abroad. They evidently see no incentive for flexibility at this time.

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

Uncorrected proofs from
A Chronicle of Human Rights in the USSR
#48

ANDREI SAKHAROV – THREE YEARS IN EXILE

The following letter addressed to Sakharov's foreign colleagues was circulated in Moscow in late January. The anonymous authors explain that "the situation in the USSR prevents us from signing our names. Our signatures would add nothing to the letter and would jeopardize our work and families."

On January 22, 1980, Academician Andrei Sakharov was seized on a Moscow street and taken to Gorky on a special flight. His illegal exile has lasted for three years. It has been accompanied by acts of violence and pressure. The KGB held a young woman, his son's fiancée, hostage to Sakharov's public activity. Neither officials of the USSR Academy of Sciences nor other Soviet scientists responded to Sakharov's appeals in this crucial matter. Sakharov untied the knot himself by putting his life on the line. His victory after a 17-day hunger strike reassured many. "They could not allow Sakharov die. He was stronger than the KGB. They cannot harm him." But such confidence is a dangerous delusion.

The decision to meet Sakharov's demand and save his life was taken at the highest level, evidently at a meeting of the Politburo. The volume of support for Sakharov broke through to the Moscow center where power is wielded over the world from lofty isolation, where "they" make their decisions. But it could not last. The bureaucratic swamp soon recovered its grip. On December 24, 1981, just ten days after he ended his hunger strike, despite a coronary infarct, Sakharov was evicted from the hospital and returned to his Gagarin Street apartment which is kept under surveillance and frequently searched.

Since that time, Sakharov has been deprived of the medical care which he requires. Sakharov's friends wrote about this to Anatoly Alexandrov, president of the Academy of Sciences, in January 1982, but they received no reply. When Sakharov suffered last summer from thrombophlebitis, a serious condition, he was treated only by his wife. The illegitimate nature of Sakharov's exile in Gorky means that no one bears legal responsibility for his life.

Last fall the KGB struck again. On October 11, Sakharov's case with a 900 page manuscript was stolen after he had been momentarily stunned by a chemical agent. Sakharov asked a KGB official to return the stolen items, and called upon Academician Alexandrov to support his request. Alexandrov again failed to reply. But on December 7 the KGB—this time acting officially—searched Sakharov's wife, Elena Bonner, and confiscated 300 manuscript pages which Sakharov had reconstructed after the October 11 theft. Every

action of the KGB is a show of force which threatens further escalation. Nothing is impossible during the fluid and dynamic transition period.

A few words about the USSR Academy of Sciences and Sakharov's scientific contacts. During private conversations with foreign visitors, president Alexandrov, vice-president Velikhov, and scientific secretary Scriabin worked hard to "prove" to foreign colleagues that the "Sakharov problem" does not exist, that Sakharov is in fine shape in Gorky. Academician Scriabin has even claimed that Sakharov has a private secretary! The KGB wants to prevent possible protests and to involve the Academy's leadership in this game. Visits to Sakharov by his colleagues from Moscow's Lebedev Physics Institute are cited as evidence of his "welfare". The first such trips in the spring of 1980 represented a victory over the KGB. (This breakthrough coincided with the boycott announced by the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.) But these visits had no effect on the other conditions of Sakharov's Gorky exile. He was visited by theoretical physicists for a few hours once a month. But in October, during a particularly dramatic phase of the Sakharov saga, the visits were suspended for more than three months.

How can you help Sakharov? Appeal to the top Soviet leaders in a way which will not permit the KGB simply to file and forget your protests. Actions speak louder than words when trying to impress the mammoth Soviet bureaucracy. Fortunately, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences understands this. The U.S. Academy's decisive action in the spring of 1980 forced the KGB to change their tune from "the traitor Sakharov deteriorated as a scientist long ago" to "Academician Sakharov has every opportunity for scientific work in Gorky." (The U.S. Academy's action may have saved Sakharov's life.)

For the last three years the KGB has been forced to report on the boycott's effectiveness. Foreign scientists invited to the Soviet Union should keep in mind that their visits will be used to show that "Sakharov is forgotten" and that Western scientists accept his exile. (Their names will be cited without their knowledge or consent. Concern for Sakharov's fate expressed in private conversation with Soviet officials is not sufficient to prevent this happening.)

Open appeals to the government and to the Academy sent by registered mail from Moscow and published in the Western press can prevent the secret police from speculation with the names of foreign visitors. (Publication of a letter after the visitor has returned home is an alternative, but it is less effective.) Something useful may result if copies of appeals are circulated to foreign correspondents in Moscow (the KGB presumably reports such actions) and delivered to Academy officials and other Soviet scientists. (This approach should also be used to help Orlov, Shcharansky and other human rights advocates.)

Academy officials—president Alexandrov, vice-president Velikhov, Kotelnikov, Logunov and Ovchinnikov—enjoy direct access to the government and could discuss Sakharov's situation with the head of the KGB. Academicians N.G. Basov and Gury Marchuk enjoy similar influence. Basov, a Nobel laureate and director of the Institute of Physics, was made a member of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet in November 1982 at the same time as Yury Andropov. Marchuk is a deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

File USSR - human rights

David

the State Committee for Science and Technology. Marchuk recently conducted important negotiations in France and was received by President Mitterand on January 12. (Did Mitterand risk questioning Marchuk about the situation of Sakharov and other repressed scientists?)

Soviet scientists also react to deeds which affect them directly and not to words. It is essential, therefore, to mention international cooperation which benefits Soviet research on the peaceful use of thermonuclear energy. Academician Sakharov, together with the late Igor Tamm, was a pioneer in the field. The authorities' treatment of Sakharov is hardly consonant with international scientific cooperation. Letters and appeals on behalf of Sakharov must stress again and again his contributions to basic research. Thus, since Pravda published an article ("Secrets of Matter", January 23, 1983) on proton decay, Soviet leaders should be reminded of Sakharov's prophetic work on this problem.

Can we let a man like Sakharov suffocate in Gorky? His exile and detention resemble the ordeal of the American hostages in Iran. He can be freed as the American diplomats were. Sakharov should be able to lead a normal life, to attend scientific seminars, to resume his scientific contacts, to be treated by the Academy of Sciences' doctors, and to participate in the Academy's sessions since he has been a member for thirty years.

Sakharov should be allowed to return to his home in Moscow or, at the very least, to his house in the country nearby.

CHR 37, pp. 9-27, describes many details of Sakharov's exile to Gorky, and in particular, the February 1980 decision of the US National Academy of Sciences to suspend bilateral symposia, seminars and workshops involving the Soviet Academy, because of "actions by the Soviet government with respect to our Foreign Associate, Academician Andrei D. Sakharov."

We publish below Andrei Sakharov's letter to KGB chief Vitaly Fedorchuk written after the theft of Sakharov's possessions.

Once again I have been the target of a criminal act. A bag containing documents and manuscripts was stolen from me on October 11, 1982. Similar thefts occurred on March 13, 1981, and during a covert search of my Moscow apartment in 1978. The nature and circumstances of the thefts convince me that they were the work of KGB agents.

The items stolen on October 11 included: 900 handwritten pages and 500 typed pages of memoirs covering 60 years of my life; six notebooks with my personal diary; my passport; my driver's license; my will; and important and irreplaceable personal letters and documents.

A camera and a radio were also stolen (if I leave them home, someone breaks them), as well as my savings bank passbook and sixty rubles. They are the only items which would have interested a common thief; he would have thrown away the rest.

The theft took place at 4 PM in a square near the river landing in the center of Gorky while my wife was buying a train ticket. I was sitting in the front seat of our car. The bag was on the floor behind the driver's seat. Someone stuck his head in the window and asked me a question. I answered. My memory fails at that point. The glass in a rear window was shattered, and the pieces falling on the pavement must have made a lot of noise, but I can't remember it. I suppose, although I have no legal proof, that I was stunned by some narcotic. I remember only that I saw the bag being dragged out through the window.

I was unable to open the car door for several minutes because of my state. When I did get out of the car, three women were standing there, one carrying a small case which looked like a doctor's kit. They asked me why it had taken me so long to get out of the car. Then one said: "The thieves jumped over the fence with your suitcase. They broke your window. We called the police. They will arrive shortly."

It was a lie that they had notified the police. I believe these individuals were doctors assigned to assist me if necessary and to keep me from going quickly to the police. When my wife arrived, I went to the nearest police station and gave a deposition about the crime. (No one had assisted me at the scene of the crime.)

Please remember that a policeman is stationed at my door around the clock, and during trips and walks around town, KGB agents always follow me by car (sometimes in two cars) or on foot. They take note of everyone who approaches me, and I suspect that they would quickly apprehend a common thief who tried to steal my bag.

I am addressing you as chairman of the KGB. I insist upon the immediate return of all the stolen items and on guarantees that your subordinates will not repeat similar thefts or other criminal acts. I ask you to issue the appropriate orders.

enclosed ~~is~~ the following message to Anatoly Alexandrov, president of the USSR Academy of Sciences: -1e

I wish to devote the major part of my energy to scientific work. But it is simply impossible to talk of "quiet scientific work" when I am kept isolated in illegal exile and the repeated thefts of my scientific and other manuscripts require me to spend enormous energy simply restoring those works. I wish you and my colleagues in the USSR and abroad to understand this. I will be grateful, Anatoly Petrovich, if you support my request for the return of the items stolen on November 29, 1978, March 13, 1981, and October 11, 1982.

When I began to write my memoirs four and a half years ago, I considered them purely personal and did not plan their publication. Now, after the theft, I feel duty-bound to restore them and publish them as quickly as possible,

On November 10, Andrei Sakharov issued the following statement on the official warning which he had received on November 4:

On October 11, a bag containing my memoirs and other personal documents was stolen. It was the third such theft. I am convinced that this act was committed not by common criminals but rather by the KGB, which has been assigned responsibility for me. Three weeks after the theft, on November 4, I was summoned by Perelygin, the Deputy Procurator of the Gorky region. Perelygin asserted that my statement which had been distributed to foreign correspondents about the theft was slanderous since it contained unsubstantiated accusations against the KGB. By issuing a statement harmful to the USSR, I had violated the regimen established for me by the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the leading body of the State. Perelygin added that it was my second warning and a serious one.

The Deputy Procurator's warning lacked any foundation. My statement which describes what really happened is not slanderous. The persons who drugged me and stole my documents and manuscripts are criminally responsible.

I direct particular attention to Perelygin's assertion that the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet decreed my regimen. I have repeatedly asked the USSR Procurator General Rekunkov and Perelygin to show me a document confirming that assertion and indicating the date and signature on the decree ordering my removal by force to Gorky, my isolation, and my regimen here, but no such document has been produced. The *Vedomosti* (Gazette) of the Supreme Soviet has published only the decree of January 8, 1980, revoking my government awards. A decree ordering my regimen would doubtless be unconstitutional. Perelygin is a lawyer and should know that the use of the term "regimen" with regard to my status is illegitimate. Only a court can impose a regimen, specifying its nature in the verdict pronounced on a defendant. I have not been the subject of a legal procedure. I have not been accused of a crime, and no one has sentenced me.

I have been isolated in Gorky and deprived of my constitutional right to a fair trial (if grounds for a trial exist). I have also been deprived of: the inviolability of my home; my freedom of thought and expression; unhindered correspondence and telephone conversations; treatment by a doctor of my choice; my right to rest; even my right to leave this city. I refuse to believe that the Presidium issued such a decree. I believe that Perelygin is in fact blackmailing me with the implicit threat of harsher repression and new crimes. My banishment from Moscow, my isolation, the simple burglaries followed by the theft involving drugs were all illegal, but they have happened. What is to prevent the use of drugs again and some terrible new crime?

I have been forced to live away from my home and under restraint for almost three years, a period more than sufficient for any investigation and

exceeding the terms of punishment specified for many offenses by the Criminal Code. The Soviet press and official Soviet representatives in their contacts with my colleagues abroad and Western statesmen and public personalities portray my illegitimate and arbitrary treatment as originating from humanitarian motives. But humane law cannot be the source of tyrannical acts.

I have reported Perelygin's warning, his vague reference to an unpublished decree of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and his new threats in the hope that world public opinion will speak out against my illegal exile and isolation. I ask government leaders in States signing the Helsinki Final Act, public personalities and my scientific colleagues abroad to defend me on legal and humanitarian ground and to oppose new acts of repression.

* * *

In a letter to French physicist Louis Michel dated November 16, Sakharov's wife Elena Bonner wrote:

It will soon be three years since Andrei has been living in detention, deprived of medical care (it was made clear during our hunger strike that only "reliable" doctors will be permitted to treat us in Gorky), deprived of rest, of the right to leave the city, virtually deprived of the right to think or write, the right to free scientific and human contacts, the right to correspond, to talk over the telephone, and many other things without which his life is painful. He is miserable without the opportunity to phone some colleague and discuss an integral equation when the thought occurs... Andrei so lacks the atmosphere of science that he even talks to me about physics, and it would be difficult to find a less qualified audience. The days of absolute loneliness when I am forced to be in Moscow are particularly trying for him. Sometimes I must be away for days...

The movement for peace, for disarmament has grown—it has even become fashionable. The scientists who participate in that movement should remember that Sakharov was the first person in the USSR who fought seriously for a halt to nuclear testing. His initiative led to the agreement to ban testing in three environments—the only agreement so far in force. Scientists must understand that Sakharov's voice is the only independent and qualified voice from the USSR on disarmament, a critical issue for people everywhere. No struggle for peace is serious if it does not include the struggle to secure a free voice for Sakharov.

On December 7, Elena Bonner was searched while travelling by train from Moscow to Gorky. Further portions of Sakharov's memoirs as well as other documents were confiscated.

FILE - SOVIET
JEWRY
Emigrants

REFUSENIK PROFILE

NAME: Ilya Essas ADDRESS: Chasovaya 26-91
Moscow
RSFSR, USSR

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

Relationship	First Name	Date of Birth	Occupation/Profession
	Ilya	1946	Mathematician/Physicist (Kandidat of Mathematics) Engineer
Wife	Anya		
Son	Iosif	May 17, 1971	
Daughter	Esther	September 24, 1974	
Son	David	November 24, 1978	

RELATIVES ABROAD:

Parents: Tsvi and Sonia Essas
Moshe Sharett 52-32
Holon, Israel

VISA APPLICATION HISTORY: Date of First Application: May 5, 1973

Reason for Refusal: Wife's secrecy Date of First Refusal: November 1973

Most Recent Refusal: Repeatedly Permission:

CASE HISTORY/ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

Ilya Essas, a respected mathematician and physicist, and his family have been denied permission to emigrate to Israel since 1973. Soviet officials claim that Ilya's wife, Anya, allegedly had been exposed to classified material while working in a construction company. Though Anya left the job in 1971, and other co-workers who had access to these same "secrets" have emigrated, Soviet authorities continue to separate Ilya, his wife and three children from his parents who emigrated to Israel in February 1976--twenty years after they first applied.

Since his application, Ilya has been active in the Jewish emigration and culture movement, which has made him the target of constant KGB harassment. His home has been raided, books on Jewish culture and scores of private letters confiscated, and the whole family put under house arrest. While plans were being made for the Moscow Symposium on Jewish Culture in November 1976, plainclothesmen raided the home of ten Jews who were connected with the event. Ilya's flat was among the first searched. Dozens of documents were confiscated, including handwritten copies of lectures on various aspects of Jewish culture and religion which had been prepared for the Symposium. When Anya objected to the police action, she was warned: "Keep quiet. Your husband could be inside prison for two years on charges of promoting anti-Soviet propaganda."

Essas, an instructor of Jewish and Hebrew culture, was teaching at one of his student's homes in December 1980, when two uniformed militiamen and six plainclothes KGB agents stormed in. They threatened the group with holding an illegal religious gathering. Two books were confiscated, one being a prayer book that was published prior to the Revolution.

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

In May 1981, Ilya, an organizer of a gathering which was to commemorate the Holocaust, was summoned with other activists by the KGB and threatened with fifteen days in jail and an irrevocable rejection of emigration application. In view of these warnings, the activists decided to call off the event which was expected to attract several hundred Jews.

Ilya, an Orthodox Jew, has long advocated the right of Soviet Jews to learn Hebrew and enjoy full religious facilities within the USSR on an open and recognized basis.

More than thirty-six members of the United States Congress have written to Soviet officials on the Essas' behalf. Ilya's parents have spent endless days on their children's struggle. Many people from Western countries have also contributed their efforts, but to no avail.

On May 18, 1981, Anya Essas met with the Deputy Minister of the Interior of the RSFSR. He told her to reapply for an exit visa.

. . . French President Francois Mitterrand, moved by appeals made by Shcharansky's friends in France and several French political parties, among them the Socialist Party and the Gaullists, has promised to intervene on the POC's behalf . . .

PROMINENT ACTIVIST INTERROGATED BY KGB

MOSCOW -- Emigration activist ILYA ESSAS was interrogated by the KGB for several hours recently regarding the activities of Novosibirsk refusenik FELIKS KOCHUBIEVSKY, who was arrested on September 12 and charged with "circulating fabrications which defame the Soviet state and social system" (Press Service, October 29, 1982). The KGB ordered Essas to reveal details on several of Kochubievsky's writings, among them, works on the formation of a "USSR-Israel Friendship Society" and instructions on how to emigrate via the Soviet legal system. The activist refused to address their demands on the grounds that the charges against Kochubievsky are not connected with these writings.

POC UPDATE:

- Reports from POLINA PARITSKY, wife of POC ALEKSANDR PARITSKY, indicate that poor relations between her husband and labor camp officials where he is serving his three-year sentence for "circulation of fabrications which defame the Soviet state and social system," exacerbate the ill treatment inflicted on him. Paritsky was recently hospitalized, again, for high blood pressure.

REFUSENIK UPDATE:

- The authorities have refused VALENTINA KOCHUBIEVSKY, wife of recently-arrested Novosibirsk activist FELIKS KOCHUBIEVSKY (Press Service, October 29, 1982), permission to send her husband medication for a severe kidney ailment which requires surgery. She and her father-in-law, who resides in Kharkov, are prohibited from sending or receiving any correspondence.

- Leningrad activist ILYA SHOSTAKOVSKY, Canadian Committee for Soviet Jewry Director Martin Penn and Committee member Sharon Wolfe were beaten by unknown assailants while enroute to visit activist ABA TARATUTA. Penn and Wolfe were in the Soviet Union as part of an official delegation of the Canadian Parliamentary Committee for Soviet Jewry. Following the attack, both were interrogated by the Leningrad police. The Parliamentarians were not present during the incident; earlier, the delegation had met with high-ranking Soviet officials.

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National Conference on Soviet Jewry

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN
THEODORE R. MANN

December 10, 1982

The Honorable George F. Bush
Vice President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will take place in Jerusalem from March 15-17, 1983. Two previous conferences, held in Brussels in 1971 and 1976, were historic events in the annals of Western advocacy on behalf of Soviet Jewry, each bringing together delegates from several dozen countries.

On behalf of the Presidium and Conference Steering Committee, it is an honor to invite you to address the meeting. Every effort would, of course, be made to accommodate your schedule.

The Jerusalem Conference, like its predecessors, has been designed to involve major figures from political life. Joining them will be prominent leaders from the arts and sciences and academia, jurists, and Jewish community leadership and other supporters of Soviet Jewry from many parts of the world. Several hundred Americans will be among the delegates.

The aims of the Conference are threefold: 1) to express international solidarity with the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union, 2) to protest vigorously the closing of the emigration gates, the pervasive anti-Semitism and unrelenting treatment of Jewish culture and religion in the U.S.S.R., and 3) to make a call to the world's conscience concerning the flagrant violations of the human rights of two million Soviet Jews.

Please have your office advise David Harris, Director of our Washington Office, of the likelihood of your attendance.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Theodore R. Mann

Theodore R. Mann

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JN 3/15/2019

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USSR-SOVIET JEWRY (EMIGRATION) (10)

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229931 PAPER

1 12/10/1982 B1

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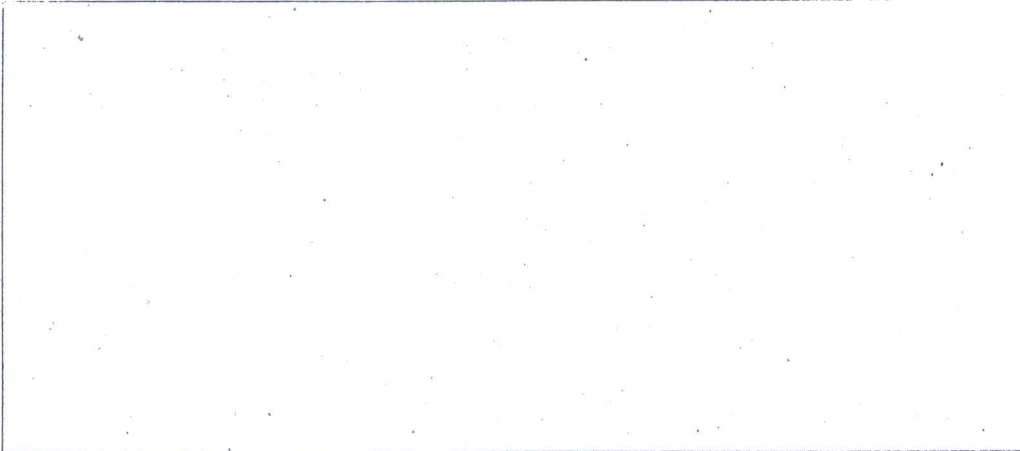
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USSR: Jewish Emigration

Soviet authorities issued 160 exit visas to Soviet Jews in November. This brings the total thus far in 1982 to 2,459 as compared with 8,714 at the same time last year. [redacted]

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Comment: The number of visas issued this year almost certainly will be less than 3,000, the lowest number since 1970. The new leadership is unlikely to ease Jewish emigration. Late last month Edgar Bronfman, the President of the World Jewish Congress, canceled a visit to Moscow after USA Institute Director Arbatov said he was "sick and tired" of discussing Jewish issues and would only discuss East-West relations. In addition, Foreign Minister Gromyko had declined to see Bronfman because such a meeting could be viewed as a conciliatory gesture to the US. [redacted]

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~~Top Secret~~

[redacted]
10 December 1982

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NLRR CREST
BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

January 5, 1983

TO:

BOB SIMS
WALT RAYMOND
PAULA DOBRIANSKY

FROM:

CARY LORD

FYI.

DECLASSIFIED/Released
Authority NLR-170-17-30-7-4
By JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

Editorial O-0454

FLCE →
January 3, 1982

→ SIMS
Rayna
Dobson

The Decline in Soviet Jewish Emigration (OUR42)

Annrc: Next, a VOA editorial reflecting the views of the U.S. Government.

Voice: There has been little sign of progress lately in Moscow's record of observing human rights, but an optimist might have hoped at least that conditions would not get worse for those under Soviet domination.

Unfortunately, even optimists will find nothing cheering in the latest unofficial statistics on Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union. Nineteen eighty-two was almost certainly the worst year since large-scale emigration began in nineteen seventy. By one count, fewer than three thousand Soviet Jews were allowed to leave the country. At the high point, in nineteen seventy-nine, more than fifty thousand Jews were granted exit permits.

Many minority groups are subject to official discrimination in the Soviet Union, but the case of the Jews is a special one. The Soviet Jews are the victims of traditional religious and ethnic hatreds as well as the more recent Marxist antagonism to religion in any form. They are a symbol of the repression that the Kremlin engages in against other groups within the Soviet population -- the various religious sects, ethnics groups and nationalities that are condemned at best to second-class status and at worst to outright persecution.

There is a special historic irony at work here. In the most terrible war in human history, it was the Jews, as Jews, and the population of the Soviet Union that suffered the most at Nazi hands. In a country where memories of the Second World War are still strong and where emotions still run very deep -- and where both are kept alive by official policy -- the persecution of the Jewish population is inexplicable.

Freedom of movement is a basic human right. It is guaranteed by

W

such international documents as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki Final Act. But no country in history has been ^a more effective and systematic violator of that right. With a formidable array of bureaucratic restrictions and criminal penalties, the Kremlin authorities use all the powers of the modern police state to keep their own population captive. As the New Year begins, we believe that the Soviet rulers should consider lifting the burden of this unjust policy.

Annrc: That was a VOA editorial reflecting the views of the U.S. Government.



B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL

1640 Rhode Island Ave., N.W.
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January 28, 1983

Mr. Michael Gale
Special Assistant to the President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Michael:

As I mentioned over the phone this afternoon, B'nai B'rith is taking the lead in organizing events in communities across the United States, as well as overseas, marking the opening on March 15th of the World Conference on Soviet Jewry in Jerusalem. These events, which will take a variety of forms (public rallies; black bread and water community meals, duplicating the prison fare of Soviet Jews; display of homemade banners like the ones that led to the arrest of Slepak and Ida Nudel; a moment of silence or prayer in state legislatures, etc.), will stress the despair and desperation of the Soviet Jewish movement today.

We would be grateful if President Reagan would issue a statement on that day, noting the opening of this third World Conference and the plight of Soviet Jews. That statement -- which I would hope could be transmitted to the Soviet government -- should call attention to the near halt in emigration and family reunification (violating the "right to leave" enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights); the stepped up arrests and harassment of those who express the desire to leave; the Soviet government's campaign to extinguish virtually every vestige of Jewish expression; the rank discrimination against Jews in education and employment, which now includes degree-stripping; and the constant drumbeat of Soviet propaganda against Jews and Jewishness which could at any moment set off mass violence against Jews.

Please call me if you have any questions. I am most appreciative of your help in this matter.

With warm wishes.

DECLASSIFIED/Released
Authority NLR-170-17-30-8-3
BY JW NARA DATE 8/15/2019

Sincerely,

George L. Spectre
Associate Director
International Council of
B'nai B'rith

GLS/yej
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1X

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

2/22/83

To: Paula Dobriansky

From: Michael Gale

DECLASSIFIED/Released
Authority NLR-170-17-30-8-3
BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2011

1/31 SOV. EMIG. JEW 15

TALKING POINTS

- Express your deep concern and outrage at the continued persecution of Soviet Jewry. Anti-semitism is still rampant in the Soviet Union. Jews are denied opportunities to gain higher education, are prevented from securing good jobs, ^{and} are thwarted from studying their own culture and Hebrew.
- Remark that the overall emigration picture remains bleak. The number of Soviet Jews emigrating from the USSR ~~have~~ ^{has} plummeted and the instances of those harassed and those denied exit visas have increased.
- State that this Administration has persistently and steadfastly maintained pressure on Soviet authorities through statements, high level exchanges and related international fora. Specifically, in the CSCE Review Conference, Max Kampelman has continued to raise not only the issue of emigration but those Soviet internal practices ^{which} denying Soviet Jews their basic human rights and ~~which in essence~~ violate the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Accords.
- Indicate that the tragic memory of the Holocaust is a pointed reminder and lesson that antisemitic practices must be resolutely opposed early, through all possible means, and must never be met with ~~cowardly~~ ^{timid} reticence.

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Authority NLR-17D-17-30-8-3
BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

FILE -
SOV. JEWRY

Document No. 728

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

URGENT

DATE: February 1 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 2:00 p.m. TODAY

SUBJECT: REMARKS TO MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERSHIP On 2/2/83

	ACTION	FYI		ACTION	FYI
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	FULLER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
MEESE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GERGEN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BAKER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HARPER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEAVER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JENKINS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
STOCKMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	MURPHY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
CLARK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROLLINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SS	WILLIAMSON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DOLE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VON DAMM	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DUBERSTEIN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BRADY/SPEAKES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FELDSTEIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FIELDING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BAKSHIAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Remarks:

Please provide any edits/comments directly to Aram Bakshian by 2:00 p.m. today, with an information copy to my office.

Richard G. Darman
Assistant to the President
(x2702)

Response:

(Rohrabacher/TD)
February 1, 1983
11:30 a.m.

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PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERSHIP
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1983

Thank you for your kind words and for coming to the White House today. I welcome this opportunity to meet with you, hear your concerns, and exchange ideas. ~~Before we chat,~~ I want to take a few moments^{now} to discuss some thoughts of my own about the critical issues we face together. But, first let me say that I am honored today that the leaders of World Jewry, many of you whom I've known for so long, are meeting together here in the White House.

As we remember the immigrants who made America their home, we must never forget the horror which befell millions of less fortunate Jews who remained in Europe. This week marks the 50th anniversary of Adolf Hitler's rise to power. It is incumbent upon us all, Jews and Gentiles alike, to remember the ~~lessons~~^{tragedy} of Nazi Germany -- to recall how a fascist regime conceived in hatred brought a reign of terror and atrocity on the Jewish people; and to pledge that never again will the decent people of the world permit such a thing to occur. Never again can people of conscience overlook the rise of anti-semitism in silence.

Americans can be proud that our government -- the only one other than that of Israel -- has established a Holocaust Memorial Council to commemorate those who perished as a result of Nazi terror. Those victims, millions of individual men, women and children whose lives were taken so senselessly, must never be forgotten.

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You know, perhaps better than I, that the defeat of the Third Reich did not represent a final triumph over anti-semitism. Even today in the free world, the scourge of anti-semitism and racism still rears its ugly head. Too often we hear of swastikas painted on synagogues, of holy books and scrolls desecrated by hoodlums, and of terrorist attacks against the Jewish people. We see Jewish schools in Europe forced to employ armed guards to protect children, and many congregations even in this country hiring guards to protect worshippers during high holy days. These things bear witness that the fight, even in the free world, is not yet won.

In less free societies, and particularly the Soviet Union, Jews face even greater adversity. Despite the rights enumerated in the Soviet constitution and in the Helsinki agreements, Soviet Jews are denied basic rights to study and practice their religion, to secure higher education and good jobs, or to emigrate freely. Heroic men and women, like Anatoly Scharansky, who openly proclaim their Jewish pride and desire to emigrate, are subjected to brutal harassment and imprisonment. [Thus the Soviet Union has become the world's number one anti-semitic power.]

But just as Soviet Jews will not forget their heritage nor abandon hope for freedom, we will not forget them. ^{nor abandon their cause} [We will not, as the Western democracies did four decades ago, turn a deaf ear to distant pleas for help.] The Soviet press tells us that a new era of improved East-West relations is possible because the new Soviet leadership shares Western values and perspectives. We are

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told that Mr. Andropov drinks scotch and fine French wines, listens to jazz and rock and roll, and reads Western literature. The P.R. campaign orchestrated by the Kremlin leadership should fool no one. The fact that one wears Western cuffs on his pants is no evidence that he respects human rights.

Make no mistake, we seek better relations with the Soviet Union. We pray for the day when all Soviet citizens will enjoy basic human liberties; improvement in that area -- and the Kremlin knows this -- would do much to better East-West relations. My Administration has persistently maintained pressure on Soviet authorities to live up to their agreements; specifically, in the CSCE Review Conference, our representative, Max Kampelman, has continued to raise not only the emigration issue but also to challenge those Soviet internal practices which deny Soviet Jews, and other citizens as well, their basic human rights and violate the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Accords. Secretary Shultz has also discussed these issues with Foreign Minister Gromyko.

take change

Those of us who believe in better relations with the Soviet Union, yet at the same time value freedom and human decency, want deeds -- not pledges or signals -- from the new Soviet leadership. There is no better way for them to begin than by releasing the prisoners of conscience in Siberia and restoring Jewish emigration to the levels of the early 1970's. And, I might add, they could give us an accounting of one of mankind's true heroes, Raoul Wallenberg.

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Now that I've said a few words about the constant threat of anti-semitism and the continuing plight of Soviet Jews, let me now turn to a third item I wanted to discuss with you, the Middle

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East. America's commitment to Israel remains strong and enduring. Again I ask you to focus on deeds. Since the foundation of the state of Israel, the U.S. has stood by her and helped her to pursue security, peace and economic growth. Our friendship is based on historic, moral and strategic ties, as well as our shared dedication to democracy. We've had disagreements, as should be expected between friends -- even good friends. But there should be no doubt, as long as I am in this office, America's commitment to Israel's security is ironclad.

Over the last year, U.S. diplomats and Marines have been engaged in a campaign for peace and security in the Middle East. As I said last September, we believe that the events of the past year have created new opportunities for peace that must not be lost. The current political fluidity and general desire to break the cycle of terror and war present a special chance to bring peace to this long-troubled region. It is vital to the United States, to Israel and to all those who yearn for an end to the killing that we not let current opportunities pass by.

The proposals I made to build an enduring peace are strongly rooted in the history of the region. They are based on an historic U.S. commitment to Israel's security. They reaffirm the Camp David Accords which deem that peace must bring security to Israel and provide for the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. Our proposals are founded on the Camp David process which produced the region's first meaningful peace treaty, ending the state of war between Egypt and Israel.

and
United
Nations
Security
Council
Resolutions
242 and
338

state
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11

Israeli and Arab leaders must take the necessary risks for peace to take root and bloom if we are to succeed. It is riskier to do nothing, than to let this time pass with no tangible sign of progress. We can't do it alone, and even working together we face a monumental task. We must achieve a speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon in a manner that guarantees that southern Lebanon will no longer be used as a staging ground for terrorist attacks against Israel. ~~Israel should demonstrate its willingness to show negotiating flexibility over Lebanon and in~~

This will require greater negotiating flexibility than Israel has thus far shown, as well as clearer indication that Syria and the PLO are also prepared to withdraw state change

Israel must also find ways to demonstrate that it is prepared to engage in serious negotiations over the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

~~the West Bank.~~ As I have stated previously, the most significant action demonstrating Israel's good faith would be a settlements freeze. On the other hand, King Hussein should step forward, ready to negotiate peace ^{directly} with Israel, ~~without preconditions~~. Each of these steps is independent but related and, for all three, the time to act is now.

state change

The fight against anti-semitism, the struggle for Soviet Jewry, and the search for peace and security in the Middle East require courage, sacrifice, and tenacity from all parties. There are ample excuses for those who do not share our goals or dedication. But if history is the guide, those who see opportunities for peace and pursue them, who see injustice and condemn it, and who fight for liberty, will, in the end, prevail. We are making the future in which our children will live. Only the courage to act will insure that it is a more peaceful, secure and free world. The Talmud tells us, "The day is short, the work is great. You do not have to finish the work, neither are you free to desist from it." And also from the Talmud, "for God

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could find no vessel which was full of blessing as shalom,
peace."

America knows God's blessing, our cup truly runneth over.
We seek only to share the blessings of liberty, peace and
prosperity. Thank you and shalom.

Emigration
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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

February 2, 1983

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
IN A
MEETING WITH JEWISH LEADERS

February 2, 1983

The East Room

DECLASSIFIED/Released
Authority NLR-170-17-30-30-8
BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

10:07 A.M. EST

THE PRESIDENT: Good morning, and please sit down. And thank you very much. I've just had the opportunity to hear from your leaders regarding the future of the Middle East and world Jewry, and I thank you all for coming to the White House today. We're honored to have you. And I want to take a few moments now, if I could, to discuss some thoughts of my own about the critical issues that we face together.

First, let me say again how honored I am that the leaders of American and world Jewry many of you whom I've known over the years, are meeting together here.

This week marks the 50th anniversary of Adolph Hitler's rise to power. It's incumbent upon us all, Jews and Gentiles alike, to remember the tragedy of Nazi Germany, to recall how a fascist regime conceived in hatred brought a reign of terror and atrocity on the Jewish people and on the world, and to pledge that never again will the decent people of the world permit such a thing to occur. Never again can people of conscience overlook the rise of anti-Semitism in silence.

But, just as Soviet Jews will not forget their own heritage, nor abandon hope for freedom, we will not forget them. We will not, as the Western democracies did four days*ago, turn a deaf ear to distant pleas for help.

There are those who suggest that a new era of improved East-West relations is possible because the new Soviet leadership shares Western tastes. Well, yes, we're told that Mr. Andropov drinks Scotch and fine French wines and listens to jazz and rock and roll and reads Western literature. Frankly, it doesn't appear to affect Soviet policy in Poland or Afghanistan.

But make no mistake, we seek better relations with the Soviet Union. We pray for the day when all Soviet citizens will enjoy basic human liberties, improvement in that area. And the Kremlin knows this would do much better for East-West relations.

My administration has persistently maintained pressure on Soviet authorities to live up to their agreements. Specifically in the CSCE Review Conference, our representative, Max Kampelman, has continued to raise, not only the emigration issue, but also to challenge those Soviet internal practices which deny Soviet Jews and other citizens as well their basic human rights and violate the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Accords. Secretary Shultz has also discussed these issues with Foreign Minister Gromyko. Those of us who believe in better relations with the Soviet Union, yet, at the same time, value freedom and human decency, we've made it plain now we want deeds, not rhetoric and repression from the new Soviet leadership. We've had enough of words. There's no better way for them to begin than by releasing the prisoners of conscience in Siberia and restoring Jewish emigration to the levels of the late 1970's. And I might add, they could give us an accounting of one of mankind's true heroes, Raoul Wallenberg.

Let me now turn to a third item that I wanted to discuss with you. the Middle East. America's commitment to Israel

25

The proposals I made to build an enduring peace are strongly rooted in the history of the region and are designed to promote negotiations that are designed to promote negotiations that will achieve a solution acceptable to all the parties. They are based on an historic U.S. commitment to Israeli's security. They reaffirm the Camp David Accords which deem that peace must bring security to Israel and provide for the legitimate rights of the Palestinians.

Our proposals are founded on the Camp David process and United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which produced the region's first meaningful peace treaty, ending the state of war between Egypt and Israel.

Israel and Arab leaders must take the necessary risks for peace to take root and bloom if we are to succeed. It is riskier to do nothing, to let this time pass with no tangible sign of progress.

We share with Israel three goals in Lebanon: A speedy withdrawal of all foreign forces, a strong central government for Lebanon with jurisdiction over all its territory and full and effective guarantees that Southern Lebanon will no longer be used as a staging ground for terrorist attacks against Israel.

To achieve these goals will require negotiating flexibility by all of the parties.

With respect to the broader peace process, again, great courage and some risk will be required on both sides. Israel must be prepared to engage in serious negotiations over the future of the West Bank and Gaza. As I've stated previously, the most significant action demonstrating Israel's good faith would be a settlements freeze. On the other hand, King Hussein should step forward, ready to negotiate peace directly with Israel.

Each of these steps is independent but related. And

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EMIGRATION
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DEPT FOR EUR/SOV, CA/VO, RP, HA
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E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: SREF, UR, US
SUBJECT: SOVIETS OBJECT TO "REFUGEE" PROCESSING OF
PERSONS GIVEN EXIT PERMISSION

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: MFA FEBRUARY 3 PRESENTED THE EMBASSY WITH A NON-PAPER OBJECTING TO THE U.S. PRACTICE OF DOCUMENTING SOME PERSONS GRANTED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES AS "REFUGEES." WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY PARTICULAR INCIDENT WHICH MIGHT HAVE OCCASIONED A SOVIET OBJECTION TO A PROGRAM NOW UNDERWAY FOR TEN YEARS. THE SOVIETS MAY WISH TO USE THIS AS A PRETEXT FOR ENDING A PROGRAM WHICH HAS ALREADY DWINDLED TO RECORD LOW LEVELS. AT THE SAME TIME, THE LOW-KEY MANNER IN WHICH THE SOVIET SIDE PRESENTED ITS OBJECTION OFFERS HOPE THAT THIS ISSUE WILL SIMPLY PASS. AS OUTLINED IN PARA 9, THE EMBASSY PROPOSES TO WAIT FOR THE SOVIETS TO RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN BEFORE MAKING A DETAILED AND FORMAL RESPONSE. END SUMMARY.

3. IN A MEETING AT MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION FEBRUARY 3, AMERICAS SECTION CHIEF KULESHOV READ A NON-PAPER OBJECTING TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S PRACTICE OF PROCESSING SOME SOVIET EMIGRANTS FOR ENTRY INTO THE UNITED STATES AS "REFUGEES." THE TEXT OF THE NON-PAPER FOLLOWS:
AS HAS BECOME KNOWN TO THE CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION, EVENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN RECENT TIMES WHEN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAS NOT GIVEN AMERICAN ENTRY VISAS TO SOVIET CITIZENS DEPARTING FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN THE USA, BUT HAS PLACED A NOTE IN THEIR PASSPORT THAT THE AFOREMENTIONED SHOULD APPEAR AT THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME "FOR THE CONDUCT THERE OF IMMIGRATION FORMALITIES." AFTER CONDUCTING FORMALITIES, THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ROME GIVES THEM A VISA FOR ENTRY INTO THE USA AS "REFUGEES."
THE EMBASSY'S ATTENTION IS DIRECTED TO THE FACT THAT GIVING THE STATUS OF "REFUGEES" TO PERSONS DEPARTING

FOR THE USA FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION DOES NOT ACCORD WITH THEIR ACTUAL MOTIVES OF DEPARTURE FROM THE USSR AND CONTRADICTS THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. END TEXT.

4. CONOFF ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SOME PERSONS GRANTED SOVIET EXIT PERMISSION ARE PROCESSED FOR ENTRY INTO THE U.S. AS REFUGEES (OUR THIRD-COUNTRY PROCESSING (TCP) PROGRAM), BUT REJECTED THE ASSERTION THAT THIS IS IN ANY WAY A VIOLATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. KULESHOV ASKED WHETHER THIS PROGRAM WERE A RECENT ONE, TO WHICH CONOFF REPLIED THAT IT HAD BEEN IN EFFECT FOR A DECADE. KULESHOV THEN ASKED ABOUT THE TYPE OF VISA STAMPED INTO THE PASSPORTS OF REFUGEES (TCP APPLICANTS) VERSUS PERSONS RECEIVING IMMIGRANT VISAS AT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY; WHETHER SOMEONE GIVEN A TCP VISA BY EMBASSY MOSCOW COULD ENTER THE U.S. DIRECTLY; AND HOW THEIR PASSPORTS MIGHT BE ANNOTATED BY INS ROME AND AT THE PORT OF ENTRY. CONOFF EXPLAINED SOME CATEGORIES OF PERSONS COULD ONLY BE PROCESSED BY THE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE, WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A REPRESENTATIVE IN MOSCOW. THE EMBASSY PREScreens SUCH PERSONS TO DETERMINE THEIR ELIGIBILITY FOR ADMISSION INTO THE U.S., BUT THE APPLICANTS MUST NONETHELESS GO TO ROME FOR FINAL APPROVAL. A STAMP IS PLACED IN THEIR PASSPORT MUCH LIKE THAT RECEIVED BY DIRECT IMMIGRANTS AND IT DOES NOT IDENTIFY THEM AS "REFUGEES." KULESHOV ASKED WHETHER "REFUGEES" OBTAINED ANY ADVANTAGE OVER DIRECT IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S. CONOFF REPLIED THAT THEY DID NOT AND, IN FACT, BOTH GROUPS ARE DOCUMENTED AS SOON AS PRACTICABLE WITH ALIEN REGISTRATION CARDS IDENTIFYING THEM ONLY AS PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS.

5. CONOFF EXPLAINED THE UNITED STATES' WORLD-WIDE QUOTA SYSTEM WHICH TRIES TO EQUALIZE THE WAITING PERIOD FOR PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES APPLYING FOR THE SAME TYPE OF VISA. HE NOTED THAT EMIGRANTS FROM THE USSR ARE REQUIRED TO QUIT THEIR JOBS AND VACATE THEIR HOUSES IN ORDER TO RECEIVE EXIT PASSPORTS WITH SHORT VALIDITY EXIT VISAS. IN THE CASE OF THE SOVIET UNION, REFUGEE PROCESSING CAN THUS ALLOW PERSONS WHO MIGHT BE LEFT IN LIMBO FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME UNTIL THEY QUALIFIED AS DIRECT IMMIGRANTS TO BE REUNITED IMMEDIATELY WITH THEIR BT

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/19

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FAMILIES IN THE UNITED STATES.
THE REFUGEE LAW, HE ALSO EXPLAINED, INTER ALIA ESTABLISHES
ENTRY PRIORITIES FOR CLOSE RELATIVES OF AMERICAN RESIDENTS
AND CAN THUS BE VIEWED AS A FAMILY REUNIFICATION PRO-
CEDURE.

6. KULESHOV, WHO WAS OBVIOUSLY AWARE OF THE REFUGEE ACT
OF 1980 WHILE NOT FAMILIAR WITH ITS PROVISIONS, ASKED
WHETHER U.S. REFUGEE PROCESSING WERE A NEW THING. CONOFF
REPLIED THAT THERE HAS IN FACT BEEN SPECIAL U.S. LAWS
ON REFUGEES FOR YEARS. KULESHOV ASKED THAT THE EMBASSY
PROVIDE HIM WITH A COPY OF THE 1980 LAW IF IT WERE SHORT.
CONOFF VOLUNTEERED TO DO SO, BUT WARNED KULESHOV MIGHT
FIND IT LONG AND COMPLEX. KULESHOV CLOSED THE SUBJECT
BY REQUESTING A COPY OF ANY SHORT SUMMARY THE EMBASSY
MIGHT HAVE OF THE LAW, BUT SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO
SEND ANYTHING IF SUCH WERE NOT AVAILABLE.

7. COMMENT: OUR RECORDS REFLECT THAT SINCE THE BEGINNING
OF THE TCP PROGRAM BOTH THE EMBASSY AND THE DEPARTMENT
HAVE BEEN CONCERNED THAT SOVIET AUTHORITIES WOULD TAKE
OFFENSE AT THE PROCESSING OF SOVIET CITIZENS GRANTED
LEGAL EXIT PERMISSION AS "REFUGEES." THE EMBASSY'S IN-
STRUCTIONS TO TCP APPLICANTS TAKE GREAT CARE TO REFER
TO THIS CLASS OF PERSONS AS "IMMIGRANTS ENTERING THE U.S.
THROUGH ROME." THE PACKET OF DOCUMENTS WHICH IS HAND-
CARRIED BY TCP APPLICANTS TO ROME REFERS TO THEM AS
"CONDITIONAL ENTRANTS" SAVE FOR ONE FORM (G-646) LABELED
"SWORN STATEMENT OF REFUGEE." IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING
THAT THE PASSPORT STAMP AND I-94 OF TCP APPLICANTS
ADMITTED TO THE U.S. REFERS TO THEM AS "CONDITIONAL
ENTRANTS."

8. DESPITE OUR LONGTIME CONCERN THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD
MAKE AN ISSUE OF OUR TCP PROGRAM, OUR COLLECTIVE MEMORY
IS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE ONLY ONCE MENTIONED IT. WHILE
WE FIND NO RECORD OF IT IN OUR FILES, WE BELIEVE THAT
A SOVIET CONSUL IN WASHINGTON OBJECTED TO "REFUGEE"

PROCESSING OF SOVIET EMIGRANTS SOMETIME IN THE LATE
1970'S. MFA MAY HAVE CHOSEN TO RAISE THE ISSUE AT THIS

TIME AS A PRETEXT FOR FURTHER REDUCING EMIGRATION FROM THE
USSR. SUCH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE GENERAL SOVIET
REDUCTION OF ALL CATEGORIES OF EMIGRANTS. ON BALANCE,
HOWEVER, WE DO NOT THINK THAT THIS IS LIKELY. MFA
BROACHED THIS MATTER IN A RELATIVELY LOW KEY WAY, BY
NON-PAPER RATHER THAN NOTE. THE QUESTIONS ASKED BY
KULESHOV INDICATED THAT HE WAS TRULY IGNORANT OF OUR PRO-
CEDURES AND WAS FEELING US OUT A BIT TO DETERMINE WHETHER
THE USSR SHOULD TAKE OFFENSE.

9. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT OUR EXPLANATION OF THE TCP
PROGRAM FULLY SATISFIED OUR MFA INTERLOCUTORS, ALTHOUGH
THEY EXPRESSED SOME UNDERSTANDING OF THE NEED FOR A
FLEXIBLE APPROACH TO PROCESSING PERSONS WITH VERY LIMITED
EXIT VISAS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY SEMANTIC MIRACLES
ARE LIKELY TO RECONCILE THE SOVIETS TO OUR REFUGEE PROGRAM.
THE USSR VEHEMENTLY DENIES PRACTICING THE SORT OF PER-
SECUTION WHICH PRODUCES REFUGEES, EVEN THOUGH IT CERTAINLY
IS GUILTY ON THAT SCORE. FOR THE MOMENT, THEREFORE, WE
INTEND SIMPLY TO LET THE ISSUE DROP UNLESS MFA RAISES
IT ONCE AGAIN. IF THE TOPIC IS AGAIN ADDRESSED, WE
PLAN TO PRESENT THE TCP PROGRAM IN THE LEAST OFFENSIVE
LIGHT AS A "FAMILY REUNIFICATION" MEASURE. WE WILL NOTE
THAT:

--OUR DOCUMENTATION OF TCP APPLICANTS REFERS TO THEM AS
CONDITIONAL ENTRANTS;

--THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980 "DE-POLITICIZED" REFUGEE PRO-
CESSING BY STRIKING REFERENCE TO REFUGEES AS PERSONS
FLEEING "FROM ANY COMMUNIST OR COMMUNIST-DOMINATED COUNTRY
OR AREA;

--THE REFUGEE ACT OF 1980 CONTAINS SPECIFIC PROVISIONS CON-
CERNING FAMILY REUNIFICATION; AND

--CONDITIONAL ENTRANT PROCESSING IS A HUMANITARIAN WAY TO
FACILITATE FAMILY REUNIFICATION WITHOUT LEAVING SOVIET
EMIGRANTS HOMELESS AND UNEMPLOYED FOR LONG PERIODS OF TIME.
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~~C O N F I D E N T I A L~~ SECTION 03 OF 03 MOSCOW 01430

10. WE WELCOME THE DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS.
HARTMAN
BT

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 8, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR MICHAEL WHEELER

FROM: DODIE LIVINGSTON *DL*

SUBJECT: Presidential Message for Soviet Jewry Meeting

We have just received an urgent request from Michael Gale's office for a brief Presidential Message to the first meeting of the 98th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry.

This class will be held at 5 p.m. today.

Would it be possible to get a draft? It does not have to be long.

Many thanks!

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Authority NLR-170-17-30-32-6
BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2015

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National Conference on Soviet Jewry

February 4, 1983

- Chairman
Theodore R. Mann
- Vice-Chairpersons
Robert D. Goldmann, New York City
Rabbi David Hill, National Council of Young Israel
Donald Lefton, Miami
Rita Salberg, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith
Nan Wood, National Council of Jewish Women
- Treasurer
Mervin Riseman, American Jewish Committee
- Financial Secretary
Bobbie Abrams, Council of Jewish Federations
- Secretary
Margery Kohrman, Women's American ORT
Immediate Past Chairman
Burton S. Levinson, Los Angeles
Executive Director
Jerry Goodman
Washington Director
David A. Harris
Executive Committee
(In Addition to the Officers)
Roslyn K. Brecher, Hadassah
Lucille Brotman, San Diego
Dr. Robert O. Freedman, Baltimore
Rabbi David Goldstein, New Orleans
Philip Lax, B'nai B'rith
Jules Lippert, Union of American Hebrew Congregations
Elaine Pittell, Hollywood, Fla.
Edward Robin, Los Angeles
Herbert Rosenthal, Dallas
Daniel Rubin, Bergen County, N.J.
Joseph Smukler, Philadelphia
Joel J. Sprayregen, Chicago
Will Stern, Jewish Labor Committee / Workmen's Circle
Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, American Zionist Federation
Marcia Weinberg, Washington, D.C.
Former Chairmen
Eugene Gold, Jerusalem
Label Katz, *(deceased), B'nai B'rith
Stanley H. Lowell, New York City
Richard Maass, American Jewish Committee
George Maislen, *
United Synagogue of America
Rabbi Israel Miller, *
American Zionist Federation
Rabbi Herschel Schacter, *
Religious Zionists of America
Lewis H. Weinstein, * Boston
* American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry
- Ex-Officio
Marvin E. Frankel, National Lawyers Committee for Soviet Jewry
Sol Goldstein, Washington Advisory Committee
Betty Golomb, Commission on Education
Charlotte Jacobson, Soviet Jewry Research Bureau
Dr. Seymour Lachman, Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry
Jacqueline K. Levine, Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry
Bernard White, Washington Advisory Committee

Mr. Michale Gale
Office of the Public Liaison
Old Executive Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 2500

Dear Michael,

The 98th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry, chaired by Steve Bartlett(R-TX) and Mel Levine(D-CA), has already attracted more than fifty freshman members.

A first meeting and reception will be held on Tuesday, February 8 at 5 p.m. in the Rayburn Building. A number of congressmen will be joining national and community Jewish leadership for the event.

Steve Bartlett is in touch with the office of Congressional Liaison at the White House to request a brief statement from President Reagan. Your help in securing such a statement would be most appreciated.

I enclose for your information the letter of invitation for the 98th Class, a list of members and a reference to the 97th Class.

Many thanks.

Sincerely,

David A. Harris
Director
NCSJ Washington Office

DAH:mkb
Encs.

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Authority NLR-170-17-30-36-6
BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

A coalition of forty major national organizations and over two hundred local community councils and federations

National Office: 10 East 40th Street, Suite 907, New York, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 679-6122/Cable Address: AMCONSOV, N.Y. • Telex: 237311 NCSJ
Washington Office: 2027 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 265-8114

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 15, 1982

Dear Chris:

On behalf of the President, I would like to thank you for your March 23 letter, cosigned by Congressman Coyne, regarding the establishment of the 97th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry.

We are grateful to have this information, and you may be assured that we share the concerns you have expressed for the remaining two million Jews in the Soviet Union. I have taken the liberty of sharing your letter with the appropriate staff members here, and please know that we look forward to working with you and your colleagues on this very important issue.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth M. Duberstein
Assistant to the President

The Honorable Christopher H. Smith
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Authority NLR-110-17-30-32-6
JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

98th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry

Co-Chairmen
Steve Bartlett (R-TX)
Mel Levine (D-CA)

November 22, 1982

Mr.

Dear Mr. :

We are presently forming the 98th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry in cooperation with the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, a coalition of forty major national Jewish organizations and 200 local federations and community relations councils which seeks to improve the condition of Jews in the Soviet Union. The 98th Class will be composed of freshman Members of Congress and will be modeled after the highly successful 97th Congressional Class which consisted of nearly fifty Members elected in 1980.

Since 1971, more than 260,000 Jews have left the Soviet Union, but, recently, the rate of emigration has been declining precipitously (October's figure of 168 emigrants represents an eleven-year low.) There are now well over 10,000 refuseniks (Jews denied emigration visas in the Soviet Union, some awaiting exit visas as long as ten years, and repression of Jewish religious and cultural self-study efforts continues to increase. Given these circumstances, it is essential that we, the new Members of Congress, show our collective solidarity with Soviet Jews.

The 98th Class will promote "Dear Colleague" letters and legislation that expresses the sense of Congress on this important humanitarian issue. Further, participants will be asked to "adopt" a refusenik family and to advocate on its behalf, and to attend discussions with key figures on the Soviet Jewry issue.

The plight of Soviet Jewry is one of great and growing concern to all those in the United States who care deeply about human rights. While participation in the 98th Class will not require a major time commitment, it will offer an unparalleled opportunity for newly-elected Members to send a strong message to Soviet Jews and to Soviet officials of the ongoing Congressional concern over the fate of the 2.5 million Jews in the USSR.

Please return the enclosed postcard at your earliest convenience. Additional information is available upon request.

Sincerely,

Steve Bartlett
Congressman-elect (R-TX)

Mel Levine
Congressman-elect (D-CA)

SB/ML:mkb
Encs.

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Authority NLR-170-17-30-32-G
BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

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— (SOVIET JEWRY)
NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL Israel

- World Jewish Congress: March 5

* Eagleburger -

Vidrotape - taped message (2-5 min.)

Has about ^a dozen other world leaders

- haven't

① Quote from forced labor Report
(issued Feb. 83) → [content time]

My Admin. did a report - of deep
to me (Pres.)

> meese -

> Jeanne Kirkpatrick -

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/19

SOV.
JEWRY 3A

February 8, 1983

I am happy to extend my greetings and warm regard to members of the 98th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry as you convene your inaugural meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on this vital issue.

The issue of Soviet Jewry is of high priority to the Administration. We have repeatedly stated that our concern for human rights in general, and Soviet Jewry in particular, is integral to our national interest and remains a major focus of our foreign policy.

In the last few years, we have witnessed a steady decrease in the number of Jews permitted to emigrate from the Soviet Union. The fact that levels of emigration have plummeted and that the instances of harassment and denial of exit visas have increased clearly signify the intensification of Soviet repression and arbitrary treatment of Soviet Jews. Jews are still denied opportunities to gain higher education. They are prevented from securing good jobs, and they are thwarted from studying their own culture and the Hebrew language. Clearly, anti-semitism is rampant in the Soviet Union.

The inhumane actions of Soviet authorities violate both the spirit and the letter of the Helsinki Accords as well as other relevant international agreements to which the Soviet Union is a signatory.

I want you to know that the fate of these people, as well as that of other Soviet citizens deprived of their basic human rights and freedoms, is of immense

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

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concern to this Administration. We have worked and will continue to work assiduously to induce more flexible and benign practices by Soviet authorities with regard to the freedom of movement and fundamental rights. The issue of Soviet Jewry has been an integral issue on the agenda of such international forums as the Madrid Review Meeting on CSCE and the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

We have strived to make the Soviet Union cognizant of the strong importance we attach to this issue as an essential component of security and cooperation in Europe and as a major issue in U.S.-Soviet bilateral relations. Our unwavering stance has been that progress in the security area cannot be achieved without concurrent progress in human rights, particularly that of emigration and family reunification.

I can assure you that we will continue to seek opportunities to encourage the Soviet Union to liberalize its policies on freedom of movement and fundamental rights.

Our commitment to basic human rights is spurred by the spirit of freedom which is the cement of our democratic society. We will not accept the egregious violations committed by Soviet authorities. In providing an effective response to these violations, we recognize that actions by concerned citizens are extremely important. Your meeting constitutes an important part of our common struggle for the rights of the oppressed Soviet Jews.

Please accept my best wishes for a most successful meeting.

To Michael Gale when signed.

RR:Dobriansky:Livingston:plr
cc: K.Osborne/D.Livingston/M.Gale/
P.Dobriansky, NSC/CF

Teicher file
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1028

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 14, 1983

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. MCFARLANE

FROM: GEOFFREY KEMP *GK*
HOWARD J. TEICHER *HJT*

SUBJECT: Conference on Soviet Jewry

This memorandum responds to your request for our views on who should attend the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry, with specific reference to Larry Eagleburger's letter of February 8 (attached).

There are several possibilities:

- A senior official, e.g., the Vice President, Secretary Eagleburger, or Ambassador Kirkpatrick;
- A lower-ranking official, e.g., Elliott Abrams;
- Secretary Shultz, if a trip by him to the Middle East coincides with the Conference; and
- A videotaped message from the President.

With respect to senior officials, Eagleburger opines that the uncertainties of Middle East diplomacy and the strengthening of the perception that the Soviet Jewry problem is a U.S.-Soviet issue argue against attendance. While this may be true for the Vice President, Secretary Shultz or Eagleburger, we believe that Ambassador Kirkpatrick would manage either issue without much risk, provided that there were no major, controversial U.N. deliberations underway at the time and provided her proposed remarks were cleared by State and NSC.

An address by Assistant Secretary Abrams on human rights and Soviet Jewry would probably satisfy the substantive interests of the Conference but fail to project the desired symbolism of a senior official. Nevertheless, if Kirkpatrick cannot do it, we would suggest Abrams.

We strongly advise against a videotaped message from the President. Given the often rowdy character of these sorts of Conferences in

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/19

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Declassify OADR

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Israel, we expect that some participants would, as Eagleburger notes, react discourteously. There is no doubt that the media would focus on audience reaction, not the President's remarks.

On balance, we think that Jeane Kirkpatrick's participation has more going for it than against it. Her remarks could open with a message from the President.

Recommendation

That you call Larry Eagleburger and recommend that Jeane Kirkpatrick or, as a fall-back, Elliott Abrams represent the President at the Conference and that all proposed remarks be cleared with State and the NSC staff.

Approve

Disapprove

Done 2/24 RCW

Attachment

Tab A Letter of February 8, 1983 from Secretary Eagleburger

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 9, 1983


Geoff Kemp
✓ Howard Teicher

Subject: Conference on Soviet Jewry

Please review the attached and give me your recommendations as to how to proceed.

Many thanks

Bud

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bud", written over the typed name "Bud".

199
United States Department of State

*Under Secretary of State
for Political Affairs*

Washington, D.C. 20520

February 8, 1983

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear Bud:

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry is to be held in Jerusalem this March. The organizers of the Conference seek to have a senior Administration official address the group. I understand that they have approached the Vice President's office, Jean Kirkpatrick and me to request our participation.

I believe it would be a mistake for a senior official to speak at the Jerusalem conference. A prominent personal appearance by a senior U.S. official would reinforce the perception that Soviet Jewry is primarily a U.S.-Soviet issue. That will not help the Soviet Jews nor advance our objectives vis-a-vis the Soviets.

Of even greater concerns are the difficulties that could spring up to face a senior official visiting Israel in March. The unpredictable, choppy course of Middle Eastern diplomacy could well create an embarrassing and potentially damaging situation.

Nonetheless, we should make an effort to show the flag at the Jerusalem meeting. If we refuse to have anyone attend, the Jewish community may take it as a sign that we are boycotting Israel or backing away from our commitment to Soviet Jewish rights.

One suggestion, which I think has considerable merit, is to ask the President to videotape a five minute greeting to the conference that could be played on a large screen during the opening ceremonies. This is a perfect medium for the President, would score points with the American Jewish community, and would eliminate the need for a senior official to attend the meeting. In his short message, the President could speak about his personal commitment to the cause of Soviet Jewry without portraying it as an anti-Soviet issue, and would be able to avoid any references to the Middle East.

Mr. Robert C. McFarlane,
Deputy Assistant to the President
for National Security Affairs,
The White House.

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Authority: DOS Waiver

BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
DECL: OADR

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~


2

There is, of course, the danger that the audience may greet the President's message discourteously. The probability depends on the course of Middle Eastern diplomacy over the next month.

How do you think we should proceed on this?

Sincerely,

Lawrence S. Eagleburger

Call me, pls.


~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Paula - -

A

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

Caroline Correll

225-3761

works for

Cong. Mark Siljander
(Rep - Mich)

137 Cannon Bldg.

20515

> [Statement to Jewish leaders
- "
-]

CALLED - DAVID HARRIS -
WHO SENT ABOVE
MATERIAL.

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Authority NLR-170-17-30-36-2

BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

Drop in Oil Prices Hits Main Street

Petroleum prices around the world plummeted in early February—along with gasoline prices in the U.S.—as producers undercut each other in a desperate scramble for business.

For the first time in three years, scattered service stations from Seattle to Miami posted gasoline prices below \$1 a gallon. That trend seemed likely to intensify in weeks ahead, with one oil-producing country after another offering cheaper rates.

The price tumble became inevitable, analysts said, when the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries failed in January to agree on a plan to protect its \$34-a-barrel benchmark charge.

Early February saw most major American oil companies cut by \$1 the amount they were willing to pay for a barrel of U.S. oil. That reduction—to an average of \$30 to \$31—was the second such slide in American prices in two months.

The Soviet Union trimmed the price of crude oil sold in Europe by \$2.15, down to \$29.35 a barrel. Egypt, with a cut of up to \$2, offered to sell some of its exported oil for as little as \$25 a barrel.

On the European spot market, traders sold oil from Britain and Kuwait at \$4-a-barrel discounts. Saudi Arabia saw its price sink to \$29.55.

OPEC Secretary General MarcNguema said the 13-nation cartel might



SETH PERLMAN-AP

Gas in Denver: Below \$1 and falling.

be forced to officially cut prices to keep from losing its market. One OPEC member, Nigeria, reported going five days without selling a barrel of oil.

To avoid price cuts, experts explained, OPEC somehow must regain control of production and dry up the oil glut. Said William Randol, an analyst with First Boston Corporation: "Without any restraint on production, this could turn into a free-for-all."

Since the first of the year, the average price of gasoline in the U.S. has dropped a nickel a gallon to \$1.18—the result not only of falling oil prices but also of vigorous competition among refiners and dealers during a recessionary period of slack demand.

In early February, self-service regular sold for 88 cents a gallon in Port-

SOVI. JEWRY (ENIG.)

Oil Search Fades

The slumping oil market is causing a sharp drop in drilling activity in the U.S.

Hughes Tool Company, which sells drilling equipment, reported 2,456 rigs probing for oil or gas in the U.S. in the last week of January—down 43 percent from drilling work a year earlier.

Here's how many rigs were drilling in the 17 busiest states—

	January Drilling	One-Year Change
Texas	853	Down 36%
Oklahoma	336	Down 61%
Louisiana	325	Down 30%
Kansas	142	Down 33%
California	99	Down 42%
Wyoming	90	Down 57%
New Mexico	76	Down 49%
Ohio	67	Down 36%
Illinois	52	Down 41%
Colorado	47	Down 46%
North Dakota	43	Down 61%
West Virginia	43	Down 33%
Utah	42	Down 24%
Mississippi	36	Down 43%
Pennsylvania	34	Down 11%
Michigan	34	Down 23%
Arkansas	31	Down 16%

land, Oreg., 94 cents in Denver, 96 in Wichita and 99 in South Miami.

"This isn't a gas war," said service-station operator Ray DePouli in Seattle, who cut his price to 93 cents a gallon. "This is a classic case of supply and demand." □

Afghanistan: Fire, Blood and Death

The Kremlin is reducing Afghanistan's population—through starvation, executions and even massacres—to make the war-racked country more manageable.

That claim was voiced February 1 by Afghan refugees, who told lawmakers the Soviet Union's three-year occupa-

tion has forced a fourth of the population into exile. Many who stay, they said, keep moving to escape repression and avoid having their children sent to Russia for Marxist schooling.

"The Soviets have used every weapon in their arsenal against us except the atom bomb," said Ghafoor Yussofzai, one of six Afghans later asked to the White House by President Reagan.

Russian soldiers burn crops, cut down orchards and turn pastures into mine fields, testified Omar Babrakzai, a former judge in Kabul.

Red Cross markings are no longer used on hospitals in some areas, Babrakzai said. Reason: Soviet pilots use the crosses as targets for bombs.

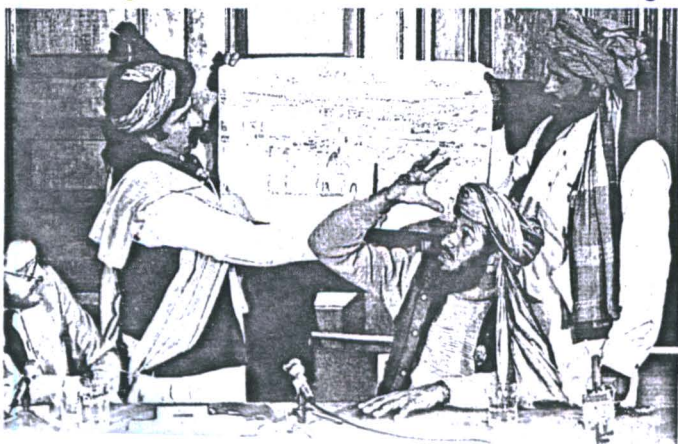
The Afghans displayed a primitive drawing of Soviet tanks and aircraft at the village of Padkhwab-e Shana, 30 miles from Kabul. Scores of villagers, they said, hid in an underground irrigation canal when Russians surrounded the village last September.

The Afghans said the Soviets poured a yellow liquid, white powder and gasoline into the canal and ignited it with incendiary bullets. The Afghans reported recovering 105 bodies, some of them children as young as 6 years of age.

A day after seeing the Afghans at the White House, Reagan urged Kremlin leader Yuri Andropov to change Soviet policies toward Soviet Jews, Poland and Afghanistan as a condition for improving relations with the West.

"We're told that Mr. Andropov drinks Scotch and fine French wines, listens to jazz and rock-and-roll and reads Western literature," Reagan told a group of Jewish leaders. "Frankly, it doesn't appear to affect Soviet policy in Poland and Afghanistan." □

Afghans show lawmakers how Soviets attacked village.



STEPHEN H. BRONWAL-USA/ANA

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Authority NLR-170-17-80-36-2 BY JN DATE 3/15/2019

National Conference on Soviet Jewry
10 East 40th St., New York, N.Y. 10016
212-679-6122

file -
Sov. Emig. 43

Michael Gale

Conference on Soviet Jewry

To: *Michael Gale*
From: Jerry Goodman
Executive Director

I thought you might find this of interest

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

Because of your deep concern for human rights and the particular plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, we would like to have this Administration represented at the forthcoming Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry, convening in Jerusalem March 15. We understand that you will not be able to personally attend this historic gathering, but we hope an appropriate Cabinet level representative can open the proceedings. In addition, Mr. President, your personal sentiments can be conveyed to more than 1,000 delegates via a video taped message. Together with those of other heads of state, this would be one of the most important components of the conference.

We are hopeful this request will be filled, and we look forward to working with your associates to facilitate this undertaking.

Respectfully,

Theodore R. Mann, Chairman
National Conference on Soviet
Jewry

Julius Berman, Chairman
Conference of Presidents
of Major American Jewish
Organizations

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

This message was sent by cable to the President.





National Conference on Soviet Jewry

AA

Chairman

Theodore R. Mann

Vice-Chairpersons

Robert B. Goldmann, New York City
Rabbi David Hill, National Council
of Young Israel

Donald Lefton, Miami

Rita Salberg, Anti-Defamation League
of B'nai B'rith
an Wood, National Council of Jewish Women

Treasurer

Ervin Riseman, American Jewish Committee

Financial Secretary

Abbie Abrams, Council of Jewish Federations

Secretary

Margery Kohrman, Women's American ORT

Immediate Past Chairman

Burton S. Levinson, Los Angeles

Executive Director

Jerry Goodman

Washington Director

David A. Harris

Executive Committee

(In Addition to the Officers)

Roslyn K. Brecher, Hadassah

Lucille Brotman, San Diego

Dr. Robert O. Freedman, Baltimore

Rabbi David Goldstein, New Orleans

Philip Lax, B'nai B'rith

Jules Lippert, Union of American

Hebrew Congregations

Elaine Pittell, Hollywood, Fla.

Edward Robin, Los Angeles

Herbert Rosenthal, Dallas

Daniel Rubin, Bergen County, N.J.

Joseph Smukler, Philadelphia

Joel J. Sprayregen, Chicago

Will Stern, Jewish Labor Committee /

Workmen's Circle

Rabbi Joseph Sternstein, American Zionist

Federation

Marcia Weinberg, Washington, D.C.

Former Chairmen

Eugene Gold, Jerusalem

Label Katz, * (deceased), B'nai B'rith

Stanley H. Lowell, New York City

Richard Maass, American Jewish Committee

George Malslen, *

United Synagogue of America

Rabbi Israel Miller, *

American Zionist Federation

Rabbi Herschel Schacter, *

Religious Zionists of America

Lewis H. Weinstein, * Boston

* American Jewish Conference

on Soviet Jewry

Ex-Officio

Marvin E. Frankel, National Lawyers

Committee for Soviet Jewry

Sol Goldstein,

Washington Advisory Committee

Betty Golomb, Commission on Education

Charlotte Jacobson,

Soviet Jewry Research Bureau

Dr. Seymour Lachman, Greater New York

Conference on Soviet Jewry

Jacqueline K. Levine,

Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry

Bernard White,

Washington Advisory Committee

February 18, 1983

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/25/2019

Dear Mr. President:

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will take place in Jerusalem from March 15-17, 1983. Two previous conferences, held in Brussels in 1971 and 1976, were historic events in the annals of Western advocacy on behalf of Soviet Jewry, each bringing together delegates from several dozen countries.

The Jerusalem Conference, like its predecessors, will involve major figures from political life, arts and sciences, academia, jurisprudence and many other fields, joined by Jewish community leadership and other supporters from around the world. Several hundred Americans will be among the delegates.

The aims of the Conference are threefold: 1) to express international solidarity with the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union, 2) to protest vigorously the closing of the emigration gates, the pervasive anti-Semitism, and the unrelenting harassment of Jewish cultural and religious expression in the U.S.S.R., and 3) to call upon the conscience of the world at large concerning the flagrant violations of the human rights of two million Soviet Jews.

Aware that your schedule does not permit your personal attendance at the Conference, we would like to request a videotaped message of 3-5 minutes' duration, to be broadcast at the opening session. Such a message would underscore still further to the international community the importance of our Government attaches to the fate of Soviet Jewry. We would, of course, assume all expenses associated with the videotaping.

Please have a member of your staff contact, David Harris, director of our Washington Office, for any additional information.

Respectfully,

T. R. Mann

Theodore R. Mann
Chairman, National Conference
on Soviet Jewry

Julius Berman

Julius Berman
Chairman, Conference of
Presidents of Major American
Jewish Organizations

A coalition of forty major national organizations and over two hundred local community councils and federations

National Office: 10 East 40th Street, Suite 907, New York, N.Y. 10016 • (212) 679-6122/Cable Address: AMCONSOV, N.Y. • Telex: 237311 NCSI
Washington Office: 2027 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 • (202) 265-8114



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

February 8, 1983

I am happy to extend my greetings and warm regard to members of the 98th Congressional Class for Soviet Jewry as you convene your inaugural meeting. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts on this vital issue.

The issue of Soviet Jewry is of high priority to the Administration. We have repeatedly stated that our concern for human rights in general, and Soviet Jewry in particular, is integral to our national interest and remains a major focus of our foreign policy.

In the last few years, we have witnessed a steady decrease in the number of Jews permitted to emigrate from the Soviet Union. The fact that levels of emigration have plummeted and that the instances of harassment and denial of exit visas have increased clearly signify the intensification of Soviet repression and arbitrary treatment of Soviet Jews. Jews are still denied opportunities to gain higher education. They are prevented from securing good jobs, and they are thwarted from studying their own culture and the Hebrew language. Clearly, anti-semitism is rampant in the Soviet Union.

The inhumane actions of Soviet authorities violate both the spirit and the letter of the Helsinki Accords as well as other relevant international agreements to which the Soviet Union is a signatory.

I want you to know that the fate of these people, as well as that of other Soviet citizens deprived of their basic human rights and freedoms, is of immense

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BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

concern to this Administration. We have worked and will continue to work assiduously to induce more flexible and benign practices by Soviet authorities with regard to the freedom of movement and fundamental rights. The issue of Soviet Jewry has been an integral issue on the agenda of such international forums as the Madrid Review Meeting on CSCE and the meeting of the United Nations Human Rights Commission.

We have strived to make the Soviet Union cognizant of the strong importance we attach to this issue as an essential component of security and cooperation in Europe and as a major issue in U.S.-Soviet bilateral relations. Our unwavering stance has been that progress in the security area cannot be achieved without concurrent progress in human rights, particularly that of emigration and family reunification.

I can assure you that we will continue to seek opportunities to encourage the Soviet Union to liberalize its policies on freedom of movement and fundamental rights.

Our commitment to basic human rights is spurred by the spirit of freedom which is the cement of our democratic society. We will not accept the egregious violations committed by Soviet authorities. In providing an effective response to these violations, we recognize that actions by concerned citizens are extremely important. Your meeting constitutes an important part of our common struggle for the rights of the oppressed Soviet Jews.

Please accept my best wishes for a most successful meeting.

Ronald Reagan

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 24, 1983

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

FROM: PAULA DOBRIANSKY (PD)

SUBJECT: Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will be held in Jerusalem from March 15 - 17, 1983. It will involve major figures from political life, the arts and sciences, and academia joined by Jewish community leadership.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has requested that the President send a videotaped message of three-five minutes duration to be broadcasted at the opening session (Schedule Proposal forthcoming). They have also asked that an Administration official attend the Conference and deliver a lengthy address on Soviet Jewry. Two candidates were proposed: Under Secretary Eagleburger and UN Ambassador Kirkpatrick. Due to a previous commitment, Eagleburger has declined; Ambassador Kirkpatrick, however, is interested but would like to receive verbal White House (NSC) clearance as soon as possible, followed by written clearance. Kirkpatrick's representation has been strongly endorsed by the American Jewish community organizations and the State Department.

I recommend that NSC give clearance on her participation.

Howard Teicher ^{HT} concurs.

RECOMMENDATION

That Ambassador Kirkpatrick be the Administration's representative to the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Approve Disapprove

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NSC/Waiver
BY JN ^{DOS} NARA DATE 3/15/2019

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassify on: OADR

8

554

National Security Council
The White House

Package # 1263

1620P
FEB 24 1983

	SEQUENCE TO	HAS SEEN	ACTION
John Poindexter	<u>1</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>A</u>
Bud McFarlane	<u>2</u>	<u>M</u>	
Jacque Hill	<u>3</u>		
Judge Clark	<u>4</u>	<u>✓</u>	<u>A</u>
John Poindexter			
Staff Secretary			
Sit Room			

I-Information A-Action R-Retain D-Dispatch N-No further Action

DISTRIBUTION

cc: VP Meese Baker Deaver Other

COMMENTS

I recommend approval but we should review her remarks to make sure they track with what President will say on tape.

James G. Sullivan is in charge of this

VP

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VP

FILE - 19
SOV. X
SEWRY



SPERTUS COLLEGE OF JUDAICA

OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

February 24, 1983

103051 Moskva USSR
Ul. Yermolova 10A, Ministurstvo Yustitsii RSFSR
Ministry V.M. Blinovu

Dear Minister Blinovu:

Joseph Begun, Osipenko St. 17, Strunino, Vladimir Oblast, RSFSR, was arrested on November 7th and is currently being held in Vladimir prison for pre-trial interrogation.

The evidence being used against him includes materials confiscated from the apartment of a friend. None of the materials confiscated are of anti-Soviet nature, all being materials for the teaching of Hebrew language which, in fact, appears now to be on trial.

The Soviet government has consistently maintained that the teaching of Hebrew language is not illegal in the Soviet Union. We are aware that Hebrew is taught to a few non-Jews at Moscow University, however, Jews outside Moscow University attempting to teach Hebrew are officially harassed and often imprisoned. This inconsistency appears to be a flagrant contradiction of Soviet policy.

We must ask if the arrest of Joseph Begun is intended to be a threat to others involved in the teaching of Hebrew? The apparent hypocrisy and contradiction of your government's actions against Begun and other Hebrew teachers casts serious question on the ability of the United States government to recognize and accept a nuclear disarmament treaty with the Soviet government. Americans seriously question our ability to verify Soviet compliance.

Knowing the Soviet official policy, one would have to find suspect your government's action.

My colleagues join me in requesting the immediate release of Joseph Begun.

DECLASSIFIED/Released
Authority NLR-170-17-30-39-9
BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019

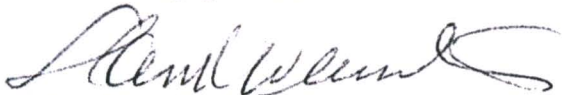
I would like to ask that in your official position you reach out to your colleagues in high leadership positions to reappraise what seems to be a policy of repression against Hebrew teachers.

Since it has been brought to the world's attention that Hebrew is taught to a few select non-Jews in Moscow University, I would like a verification of why Jews are punished for trying to teach the same language outside the University domain.

I will be in touch with leading academicians in the U.S. and the West who share the same concerns.

I am looking forward to a positive meaningful reply.

Sincerely yours,



David Weinstein
Chancellor
Distinguished Service Professor of Hebrew Studies

DW:rds

cc: President Ronald Reagan
Secretary of State George Schultz
International Commission of Jurists
The Honorable Max Kampelman
Senator Charles Percy

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

February 24, 1983

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Approve _____ Disapprove _____

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Declassify on: OADR

DECLASSIFIED
 Authority NSC/DOS Waiver
 BY JN NARA DATE 3/15/2019