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# The Center for Russian Jewry with Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry

210 West 91st Street • New York, N.Y. 10024 (212) 799-8900 DECLASSIFIED/Released

Authority NLR-170-17-31-9-1

IV JN MARA DATE 3/18/12019

February 25, 1983

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Mr. William Clark
NSC - Old Executive Office Building
Washington DC 20506

Dear Mr. Clark:

As you well know, Soviet Jewish emigration has virtually ground to a halt. Less well publicized, however, is the almost equally total disruption of the unofficial Jewish cultural-relgious educational activities during recent months. The last private Jewish self-education groups are being forcibly eliminated.

In this connection, the arrest on November 6, 1982 of Dr. Joseph Begun, a towering figure in the Jewish cultural movement, should be noted. He has been interrogated for almost four months now, and KGB officials have informed his wife that a major trial is being prepared against him. In Begun's words, reported by his son Boris, "Let no one be mistaken. If my activities are represented as hostile to the Soviet regime, it will be a trial of Jewish culture."

We are aware of the rather limited options open to the Administration in the present state of U.S.-Soviet relations. Nonetheless, we believe in the possibility that a signal from the Administration in regard to this significant man may help diminish the length and severity of his sentence, which could total 12 years of imprisonment and exile under Article 70 of the RSFSR Criminal Code.

In general, we are deeply concerned that the question of the maintenance of minimal Jewish self-education facilities is less well understood in Washington than emigration. While emigration must remain first priority, the neglect of Soviet Jewish cultural rights in future Soviet-American discussion would be a great tragedy. Even worse would be a deal on emigration alone to their exclusion. We are not even demanding the facilities available to all

other Soviet minorities. But on the absolute minimum of nonharassment of unofficial Jewish self-education groups and support literature there can be no further compromise.

I have sent similar letters to Mssrs. Eagleburger and Abrams at the State Department. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely yours,

Jacob Birnbaum National Director

JB:ae

#### **MEMORANDUM**

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 3, 1983

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM:

PAULA DOBRIANSKY HOWARD TEICHER

SUBJECT:

The Third International Conference on Soviet

Jewry

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will be held in Jerusalem from March 15-17, 1983. As you may recall, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry has requested that the President send a video-taped message of three-to-five minute duration to be broadcasted at the opening session. Originally, we advised against a video-taped message from the President because of the often rowdy character of these sorts of conferences and the expectation that the participants would react discourteously.

The National Conference has stated that other Western European leaders are waiting to see if President Reagan will send a video-taped message before committing themselves to sending something similar. It is expected that if the President does not send a message, the other Western leaders will follow his example. For this reason, we believe that the original decision should be reversed (i.e., that a schedule proposal be sent to Bill Sadleir requesting that a video tape be made). The Department of State concurs with this position.

Given the ten-day time constraint on submission of schedule proposals, we seek your guidance as to viability of this suggestion.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That a schedule proposal be forwarded for a Presidential video-taping session.

Approve	Disapprove

ANTHORY NSC Waiver

NSC Waiver

NSC Waiver

NSC Waiver

NARADATE 3/18/2019

CONFIDENTIAL Declassify on: OADR

CONFIDENTIAL

RECEIVED 04 MAR 83 10

TO

CLARK

FROM DOBRIANSKY

DOCDATE 03 MAR 83

SOV. JEWRY Sobriansky

TYSON

DOBRIANSKY

09 MAR 83

KEYWORDS: USSR

HUMAN RIGHTS

AP

SUBJECT: PRES VIDEOTAPE FOR THIRD INTL CONF ON SOVIET JEWRY / PRES MSG

ACTION: FOR DECISION

DUE: 07 MAR 83 STATUS C FILES PA

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

CLARK

DECLASSIFIED/Released Authority NLR-170-17-31-3-7 BYUN NARA DATE 3/18/2019

COMMENTS

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MEMORANDUM FOR: DODIE LIVINGSTON

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: PRESIDENT

SOURCE: DULZIN, ARYE L

DATE: 23 MAR 83

KEYWORDS: USSR

HUMAN RIGHTS

AP

SUBJ: THANK YOU FOR PRES MSG TO THIRD WORLD CONF ON SOVIET JEWRY

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR YOUR INFORMATION

DUEDATE:

COMMENTS:

FOR MICHAEL O WHEELER

Michela E. Morton

STAFF SECRETARY

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ANTHONY NCR-170-17-31-3-7

BY JN MARADATE 3/18/2019



### WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

March 23, 1983.

Arye L. Dulzin, Chairman of the Executive

Mr. Ronald Reagan,
President of the United States,
White House,
Washington D.C.
U. S. A.

Dear Mr. President:

As Chairman of the Presidium of the Third World Conference on Soviet Jewry, held in Jerusalem March 15 to 17, 1983, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your firm and encouraging message which Ambassador Kirkpatrick delivered on your behalf to the 1,500 delegates convened at the opening night.

It was particularly heartening for the Conference, and for World Jewry, and indeed, for the entire free world, to know that active concern for Soviet Jewry is integral to the national interest and the foreign policy of the United States.

It was also important for the new Soviet leader to hear, from Jerusalem, of your personal care and concern for the rights of Soviet Jews.

Finally, yours was a much-needed message of hope for Soviet Jews undergoing at this time trials and tribulations because of their desire to join their families in their historic homeland - Israel.

For sending to us Ambassador Kirkpatrick, and for your powerful message, we are grateful to you.

Sincerely yours,

Arye L. Dulzin,

Chairman, Executive,

World Zionist Organization.

### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING WORKSHEET

□ O - OUTGOING □ H - INTERNAL □ I - INCOMING □ Date Correspondence Received (YY/MM/DD) / 3   6 / 9   1 / 1 / 1	<u>,</u>		DECLASSIF Anthony NEP-Y BY JN MARADA	10/Released
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#### MEMORANDUM

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

CONFIDENTIAL

March 3, 1983

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

DECLASSIFIED

THROUGH:

CHARLES P. TYSON

Authority DOS/NSC Waiver

FROM:

PAULA DOBRIANSKY

BY JN NARADATE 3/18/2019

SUBJECT:

Presidential Videotape for Third International

Conference on Soviet Jewry

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will be held in Jerusalem from March 15 - 17, 1983. The Conference's goals are threefold: 1) to express international solidarity with Soviet Jews, 2) to protest the drop in emigration and the increased harassment of Jews, and 3) to call international attention to Soviet human rights violations. Figures from political life, the arts and sciences, and academia joined by Jewish community leadership will attend.

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. They have indicated that the President's willingness to prepare a message would also have an important impact on other Western governments who are now considering their level of participation at the three-day conference (see letters, Tab B). Attached at Tab II is a Schedule Proposal from you to William Sadleir requesting that a videotape be made. At Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President which forwards the proposed Presidential message (Tab A). The text of the message has been cleared by speechwriters.

State (Eagleburger) and Howard Teicher concur.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President, and the schedule proposal at Tab II to William Sadleir.

Annualia	Disapprove
Approve	Disapprove

Attachments:

Tab I Memorandum to the President

Tab A Letters from National Conference on Soviet

Jewry, February 18 and March 2, 1983

Tab B Proposed Presidential message

Tab II Proposed schedule proposal



#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

#### CONFIDENTIAL

#### ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT:

Videotape for Third International Conference on

Soviet Jewry

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will be held in Jerusalem from March 15 - 17, 1983. The Conference's goals are threefold: 1) to express international solidarity with Soviet Jews, 2) to protest the drop in emigration and the increased harassment of Jews, and 3) to call international attention to Soviet human rights violations. Figures from political life, the arts and sciences, and academia joined by Jewish community leadership will attend.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has requested that you send a videotaped message of three-five minutes duration to be broadcasted at the opening session (see letters at Tab B). They have indicated that your willingness to prepare such a message will have a significant impact on other Western governments who are now considering their level of participation at the conference.

At Tab A is a proposed message on Soviet Jewry. The text has been cleared by speechwriters.

#### RECOMMENDATION

OK No

\_\_ That you prepare a videotape for the opening session of the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry.

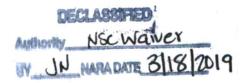
#### Attachments:

Tab A

Proposed text for videotape.

Tab B

Letters from National Conference on Soviet Jewry, dated February 18 and March 2, 1983



Prepared by: Paula Dobriansky

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassify on: OADR

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET

JEWRY

I want to express to you my deep concern for the tragic plight of the Soviet Jews. The issue of Soviet Jewry is of high priority to this Administration just as it is to you who are gathered at this Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry. We have stated repeatedly that active concern for human rights in general is integral to our national interest and our foreign policy. The rights of Soviet Jews, in particular, are and will remain in the forefront of U.S. human rights.

Such Soviet actions as denying Soviet Jews their freedom to emigrate are an affront to all of us who cherish individual liberties. Unfortunately, the situation continues to worsen. The rate of emigration has plummeted, instances of harassment have increased, and new applicants are regularly denied exit visas. The world community must intensify its effort to stem and reverse these trends. In this effort, I can assure you that the United States will continue to play a leadership role.

The tragic plight of Soviet Jews, however, is not solely limited to unreasonable visa denials and harassment of would-be emigrants and refuseniks. Their persecution has continued and has reached its current level primarily as a result of official government policies. We are told that many talented young Jews cannot gain admission to institutions of higher learning, and cannot secure jobs commensurate with their education and

DECLASSIFIED / Released Authority NLR-170-17-31-6-4 BY UN NARA DATE 3/18/2019 experience. Under the guise of anti-Zionism, the Soviet press frequently publishes slanderous articles and books deriding Jewish culture, traditions and religion. Despite the rights enumerated in the Soviet Constitution and despite the fact that the Soviet Union is a signatory to such international agreements as the Helsinki Accords, Soviet Jews are not permitted to study about their own culture and the Hebrew language.

Clearly, the intolerance of Soviet authorities violates both the letter and spirit of relevant international agreements. For this reason we must persist in our efforts. Let Jews in the Soviet Union -- refuseniks, prisoners of conscience or citizens seeking to maintain their human dignity -- know that we will not forget them and that we will firmly support their just cause.

My Administration remains firmly committed to do everything possible to assist the emigration of Jews and others who wish to live outside the Soviet Union and to bring before the eyes of the world the Soviet Union's continued unfair refusal to grant its citizens the basic human rights to which men and women everywhere justly aspire.

Western political leaders must convince their Soviet counterparts that a more flexible and humane approach to the questions of freedom of movement and fundamental rights is in the Soviet interest. U.S. officials will continue to discuss individual cases of visa denials, harassment, and family reunification with their Soviet counterparts. Moreover, the

12

plight of Soviet Jews will remain 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.

The Soviet Union, therefore, should know that this issue will remain an essential component of security and cooperation in Europe and of major concern to freedom loving people everywhere. Our unwavering stance has been that durable progress in East-West relations overall cannot be achieved without concurrent progress in human rights, particularly that of emigration and family reunification.

We will continue to encourage the Soviet Union to live up to the international standards it has freely accepted in a series of solemn agreements — especially on the freedom of movement and fundamental rights of Soviet Jews. Our commitment to basic human rights is borne by the spirit of freedom which is the breath of our democratic society. In refusing to accept Soviet mistreatment of its own citizens, we believe that actions by concerned citizens of other countries are extremely important. In saluting your meeting, I recognize that governments and private citizens are engaged in a common struggle for the rights of men and women everywhere. We stand with you and hope to achieve much together.

Please accept my best wishes for a most successful meeting.



# National Conference on Soviet Jewry

Theodore R. Mann

Vice-Chairpersons

Robert B. Goldmann, New York City Robbl David Hill, National Council of Young Israel Donald Lefton, Miami

Rita Salberg, Anti-Defamation League of Binoi Birth

Nan Wood, National Council of Jewish Women Treasurer

Merrin 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

Dovid A. Horris

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- Philip Lay Brook Brith

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Workmen's Circle Robbi Joseph Stemstein, American Zionist Federation

Marda Weinberg, Washington, D.C.

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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-Offici

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

March 2, 1983

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

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to our earlier correspondence concerning a videotaped message from yourself to be broadcast at the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry, we very much hope that our request will meet with your approval.

As we noted, five hundred Jewish leaders and other American supporters of Soviet Jewry, including elected officials, clergy, academicians, artists and writers, will join with delegates from several dozen other countries in the Free World to express support and solidarity for the beleaguered Soviet Jewish minority. Your message would serve as eloquent testimony to the priority your Administration has accorded this important humanitarian issue, and would be warmly received not only by Conference delegates but all who look to the United States as the foremost international defender of basic human rights and liberties.

Indeed, your willingness to prepare a message would also have an important impact on other Western governments, including the British, who are now considering their level of participation at the three-day Conference.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to a favorable reply.

T.P. Han

Theodore R. Mann, Chairman National Conference on Soviet Jewry Respectfully,

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

Authority NLR-770-17-31-6-4
BY JN NARADATE 3/18/2019



# ational Conference on Soviet Jewry

Chairman Theodore R. Monn Vice-Chairpersons

Robert B. Goldmann, New York City

Robbi David Hill, National Council of Young Israel Donald Lefton, Miami

Rita Salberg, Anti-Defamation League

of B'nai B'rith in Wood, National Council of Jewish Women

ervin Riseman, American Jewish Committee

Financial Secretary bble Abrams, Council of Jewish Federations

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** 

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Robbl David Goldstein, New Orleans Philip Lax, B'noi 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, Philodelphia

Joel J. Sprayregen, Chicago Will Stem, Jewish Labor Committee /

Workmen's Circle Robbl Joseph Stemsteln, American Zionist

Federation

Marda Welnberg, Washington, D.C. Former Chairmen

Eugene Gold, Jerusolem Label Katz, \* (deceased), Binai Binth Stanley H. Lowell, New York City

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American Zionist Federation Robbi Herschel Schocter, \* Religious Zionists of America

Lewis H. Weinstein, \* Boston

 American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry

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Washington Advisory Committee Betty Golomb, Commission on Education Chadotte Jacobson,

Soviet Jewry Research Bureau Dr. Seymour Lachman, Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry Jocqueline K. Levine,

Congressional Wives for Soviet Jewry Bernard White,

Washington Advisory Committee

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

Dear Mr. President:

DECLASSIFIED/Released
Authority NLR-170-17-31-10-4

February 18, 1983

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

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 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

Chairman, Conference of Presidents of Major American

Jewish Organizations

Respectfully,

Chairman, National Conferenc∈

on Soviet Jewry

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

#### WASHINGTON

#### SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TO:

WILLIAM K. SADLEIR

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM:

WILLIAM P. CLARK

REQUEST:

Videotape: Presidential Message on Soviet

Jewry

PURPOSE:

To reaffirm the President's personal concern about the plight of Soviet Jewry -- the decline in emigration, recent incidents of harassment, and the inability to learn about

their culture and language.

BACKGROUND:

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will be held in Jerusalem from March 15-17, 1983. 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. His willingness to prepare a message would have an important impact on other Western governments who are now

considering their level of participation at the conference. A message from the President would be well-received domestically (Jewish-American organizations) and internationally.

**PREVIOUS** 

PARTICIPATION:

None

DATE:

Before March 12, 1983 DURATION: 3-5 minutes any if a toping session is already scheduled.

LOCATION: The Oval Office

PARTICIPANTS:

The President

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

Videotape session

REMARKS:

Presidential Message on Soviet Jewry to be

provided by NSC.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

None

RECOMMENDED BY:

State, White House Public Liaison Office,

NSC

OPPOSED BY:

NONE

PROJECT OFFICER:

William P. Clark

WHELE IN CALLED

AUTHORN NSC Waiver

NSC Waiver

NSC Waiver

NSC Waiver

NSC Waiver

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#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

#### -CONFIDENTIAL

March 4, 1983

#### INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM K. SADLEIR

FROM:

CHARLES P. TYSON

SUBJECT:

Presidential Videotape for Third International

Conference on Soviet Jewry

Attached is an advance copy of a Schedule Proposal requesting that the President before March 12 videotape a message to be presented at the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry to be held in Jerusalem, March 15-17. The submission of this proposal does not conform to the ten-day ruling for the following reasons:

- -- Among the Soviet and Middle East experts in the various agencies, strong differences existed as to whether or not the President should consent to deliver a videotaped message. Time was needed to iron out these difficulties. In fact, the White House Public Liaison Office had to request that the National Conference on Soviet Jewry write a letter clearly explaining the reasons why the President should videotape his message. Their letter of explanation arrived only yesterday, March 3.
- -- Moreover, due to the sensitivity of the issue and the location of the Conference (Jerusalem), additional time had to be spent on carefully revising the text of the President's message which needed to go forward with the Schedule Proposal.

Authority NSC Waivey
BY JN NARADATE 3118 2019

Attachment

CONFIDENTIAL

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### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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#### MEMORANDUM

MARCH 3, 1983

TO:

WILLIAM CLARK

FROM:

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ: REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING

SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT:

Video taped message to the Third International

Conference on Soviet Jewry convening in

Jerusalem

DATE:

Conference to be held March 15, 1983

LOCATION:

Taping from the White House

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept Surrogate Regret Message Priority

Routine

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:



TO Fred Ryan RESPONSE DUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SOVIET 18 EAST 40 ST NEW YORK NY 10016



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PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN WHITE HOLSE WASHINGTON DC 20500

Stylo to N.s.C.

DEAR MR PRESIDENT

BECALSE CF 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

16:08 EST

MGMCCMP

\_CONFIDENTIAL

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

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SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TO:

WILLIAM K. SADLEIR

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

March 4,

FROM:

WILLIAM P. CLARK

REQUEST:

Videotape: Presidential Message on Soviet

Jewry

PURPOSE:

To reaffirm the President's personal concernabout the plight of Soviet Jewry -- the decline in emigration, recent incidents of harassment, and the inability to learn about

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considering their level of participation at the conference. A message from the President would be well-received domestically (Jewish-American organizations) and internationally.

**PREVIOUS** 

PARTICIPATION:

None

DATE:

Before March 12, 1983 DURATION: 3-5 minutes (Only if taping session is

LOCATION:

The Oval Office

already scheduled)

PARTICIPANTS:

The President

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

Videotape session

REMARKS:

Presidential Message on Soviet Jewry to be

provided by NSC.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

None

RECOMMENDED BY:

State, White House Public Liaison Office,

NSC

OPPOSED BY:

NONE

PROJECT OFFICER:

William P. Clark

CONFIDENTIAL Declassify on: OADR

Authority NSC Waiver

NARA DATE 3/19/2019



### THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON

March 4, 1983

Per JMP:

#1303 - Schedule Proposal

At Tab II of the Schedule Proposal under the Date add: only if a taping session is already scheduled.

Hold Meno to the Pres. Sud School Prop

klm

Day to Burn

Florence,

Am leaving the attached with your since JMP requested we "Hold here the memo to the President" and simply send the Schedule Proposal out today -- which I have done.

klm, 3/4

### National Security Council The White House

<del>565</del> 557

Package # \_\_\_\_\_\_/ 4 5 / **SEQUENCE TO** HAS SEEN **ACTION** John Poindexter **Bud McFarlane** Jacque Hill Judge Clark John Poindexter **Staff Secretary** Sit Room I-Information A-Action R-Retain D-Dispatch N-No further Action DISTRIBUTION cc: Meese Baker Deaver Other\_ COMMENTS

#### **MEMORANDUM**

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ONFIDENTIAL

March 3, 1983

#### ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

THROUGH:

CHARLES P. TYSON

FROM:

PAULA DOBRIANSKY

SUBJECT:

Presidential Videotape for Third International

Conference on Soviet Jewry

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will be held in Jerusalem from March 15 - 17, 1983. The Conference's goals are threefold: 1) to express international solidarity with Soviet Jews, 2) to protest the drop in emigration and the increased harassment of Jews, and 3) to call international attention to Soviet human rights violations. Figures from political life, the arts and sciences, and academia joined by Jewish community leadership will attend.

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 . They have indicated that the President's willingness to prepare a message would also have an important impact on other Western governments who are now considering their level of participation at the three-day conference (see letters, Tab B). Attached at Tab II is a Schedule Proposal from you to William Sadleir requesting that a videotape be made. At Tab I is a memorandum from you to the President which forwards the proposed Presidential message (Tab A). The text of the message has been cleared by speechwriters.

State (Eagleburger) and Howard Teicher concur.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That you forward the memorandum at Tab I to the President, and the schedule proposal at Tab II to William Sadleir.

Aj	oprove/	Disapprove	
Attachments	: 314 pm	addition Tole II Date	
Tab I		to the President	

Letters from National Conference on Soviet Tab A

Jewry, February 18 and March 2, 1983

Proposed Presidential message DECLASSIFIED Proposed schedule proposal

Authority NSC/DOS Waiver CONFIDENTIAL BY JN NARA DATE 3/18/2019 Declassify on: OADR

### -CONFIDENTIAL

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CLASSIFICATION

#### THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

#### CONFIDENTIAL

#### ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM:

WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT:

Videotape for Third International Conference on

Soviet Jewry

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will be held in Jerusalem from March 15 - 17, 1983. The Conference's goals are threefold: 1) to express international solidarity with Soviet Jews, 2) to protest the drop in emigration and the increased harassment of Jews, and 3) to call international attention to Soviet human rights violations. Figures from political life, the arts and sciences, and academia joined by Jewish community leadership will attend.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry has requested that you send a videotaped message of three-five minutes duration to be broadcasted at the opening session (see letters at Tab B). They have indicated that your willingness to prepare such a message will have a significant impact on other Western governments who are now considering their level of participation at the conference.

At Tab A is a proposed message on Soviet Jewry. The text has been cleared by speechwriters.

#### RECOMMENDATION

OK No

\_\_ \_ That you prepare a videotape for the opening session of the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry.

#### Attachments:

Tab A

Proposed text for videotape.

Tab B

Letters from National Conference on Soviet Jewry, dated February 18 and March 2, 1983

Authority M NSC Waiver

BY JN NARADATE 3/18/2019

Prepared by: Paula Dobriansky

Declassify on: OADR

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE: THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET

JEWRY

I want to express to you my deep concern for the tragic plight of the Soviet Jews. The issue of Soviet Jewry is of high priority to this Administration just as it is to you who are gathered at this Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry. We have stated repeatedly that active concern for human rights in general is integral to our national interest and our foreign policy. The rights of Soviet Jews, in particular, are and will remain in the forefront of U.S. human rights.

Such Soviet actions as denying Soviet Jews their freedom to emigrate are an affront to all of us who cherish individual liberties. Unfortunately, the situation continues to worsen. The rate of emigration has plummeted, instances of harassment have increased, and new applicants are regularly denied exit visas. The world community must intensify its effort to stem and reverse these trends. In this effort, I can assure you that the United States will continue to play a leadership role.

The tragic plight of Soviet Jews, however, is not solely limited to unreasonable visa denials and harassment of would-be emigrants and refuseniks. Their persecution has continued and has reached its current level primarily as a result of official government policies. We are told that many talented young Jews cannot gain admission to institutions of higher learning, and cannot secure jobs commensurate with their education and

experience. Under the guise of anti-Zionism, the Soviet press frequently publishes slanderous articles and books deriding Jewish culture, traditions and religion. Despite the rights enumerated in the Soviet Constitution and despite the fact that the Soviet Union is a signatory to such international agreements as the Helsinki Accords, Soviet Jews are not permitted to study about their own culture and the Hebrew language.

Clearly, the intolerance of Soviet authorities violates both the letter and spirit of relevant international agreements. For this reason we must persist in our efforts. Let Jews in the Soviet Union -- refuseniks, prisoners of conscience or citizens seeking to maintain their human dignity -- know that we will not forget them and that we will firmly support their just cause.

My Administration remains firmly committed to do everything possible to assist the emigration of Jews and others who wish to live outside the Soviet Union and to bring before the eyes of the world the Soviet Union's continued unfair refusal to grant its citizens the basic human rights to which men and women everywhere justly aspire.

Western political leaders must convince their Soviet counterparts that a more flexible and humane approach to the questions of freedom of movement and fundamental rights is in the Soviet interest. U.S. officials will continue to discuss individual cases of visa denials, harassment, and family reunification with their Soviet counterparts. Moreover, the

plight of Soviet Jews will remain 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.

The Soviet Union, therefore, should know that this issue will remain an essential component of security and cooperation in Europe and of major concern to freedom loving people everywhere. Our unwavering stance has been that durable progress in East-West relations overall cannot be achieved without concurrent progress in human rights, particularly that of emigration and family reunification.

We will continue to encourage the Soviet Union to live up to the international standards it has freely accepted in a series of solemn agreements — especially on the freedom of movement and fundamental rights of Soviet Jews. Our commitment to basic human rights is borne by the spirit of freedom which is the breath of our democratic society. In refusing to accept Soviet mistreatment of its own citizens, we believe that actions by concerned citizens of other countries are extremely important. In saluting your meeting, I recognize that governments and private citizens are engaged in a common struggle for the rights of men and women everywhere. We stand with you and hope to achieve much together.

Please accept my best wishes for a most successful meeting.



# lational Conference on Soviet Jewry

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 Nan Wood, National Council of Jewish Women

Treasurer

Mervin Riseman, American Jewish Committee Financial Secretary

**3obble Abrams**, Council of Jewish Federations Secretory

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 Stem, Jewish Labor Committee /

Workmen's Circle Rabbi Joseph Stemstein, 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 Bemard White,

Washington Advisory Committee

President Ronald Reagan The White House

Washington, D.C. 20500

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 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.

Julius Berman

Chairman, Conference of

Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

Respectfully,

February 18, 1983

Chairman, National Conference

on Soviet Jewry



### National Conference on Soviet Jewry

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 Nan Wood, National Council of Jewish Women

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

Jerry Goodman

Washington Director

David A. Harris

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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 Stem, Jewish Labor Committee / Workmen's Circle

Rabbi Joseph Stemstein, American Zionist Federation

Marcia Weinberg, Washington, D.C.

Former Chairmen

Eugene Gold, Jerusalem

Label Katz. \*(deceased) B'noi B'rith

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

March 2, 1983

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

Dear Mr. President:

Pursuant to our earlier correspondence concerning a videotaped message from yourself to be broadcast at the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry, we very much hope that our request will meet with your approval.

As we noted, five hundred Jewish leaders and other American supporters of Soviet Jewry, including elected officials, clergy, academicians, artists and writers, will join with delegates from several dozen other countries in the Free World to express support and solidarity for the beleaguered Soviet Jewish minority. Your message would serve as eloquent testimony to the priority your Administration has accorded this important humanitarian issue, and would be warmly received not only by Conference delegates but all who look to the United States as the foremost international defender of basic human rights and liberties.

Indeed, your willingness to prepare a message would also have an important impact on other Western governments, including the British, who are now considering their level of participation at the three-day Conference.

We thank you for your consideration of this matter and look forward to a favorable reply.

T. R. Ham

Theodore R. Mann, Chairman National Conference on Soviet Jewry Respectfully,

Ju√ius Berman, Chairman Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

March 4, 1983

SCHEDULE PROPOSAL

TO:

WILLIAM K. SADLEIR

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

FROM:

WILLIAM P. CLARK NC

REQUEST:

Videotape: Presidential Message on Soviet

Jewry

PURPOSE:

To reaffirm the President's personal concern about the plight of Soviet Jewry -- the decline in emigration, recent incidents of harassment, and the inability to learn about

their culture and language.

BACKGROUND:

The Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry will be held in Jerusalem from March 15-17, 1983. 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. His willingness to prepare a message would have an important impact on

other Western governments who are now

considering their level of participation at the conference. A message from the President would be well-received domestically (Jewish-American organizations) and internationally.

PREVIOUS

PARTICIPATION:

None

DATE:

Before March 12, 1983 DURATION: 3-5 minutes (Only if taping session is

LOCATION:

The Oval Office

already scheduled)

PARTICIPANTS:

The President

OUTLINE OF EVENT:

Videotape session

REMARKS:

Presidential Message on Soviet Jewry to be

provided by NSC.

MEDIA COVERAGE:

None

RECOMMENDED BY:

State, White House Public Liaison Office,

OPPOSED BY:

NONE

PROJECT OFFICER:

William P. Clark

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassify on: OADR

MAR 0 4 1983

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### National Security Council The White House

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John Poindexter			
Bud McFarlane			
Jacque Hill			
Judge Clark			
John Poindexter			
Staff Secretary			
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#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

March 4, 1983

Brian,

Please add these attachments to Log No. 1437 (3/3/83).

Thanks, fl

Thou

# THE WHITE HOUSE

1309 Add-m MARCH 3, 1983

#### MEMORANDUM

WILLIAM CLARK

FROM:

FREDERICK J. RYAN, JR., DIRECTOR

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS AND SCHEDULING

SUBJ:

REQUEST FOR SCHEDULING RECOMMENDATION

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR RECOMMENDATION ON THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULING REQUEST UNDER CONSIDERATION:

EVENT:

Video taped message to the Third International

Conference on Soviet Jewry convening in

Jerusalem

DATE:

Conference to be held March 15, 1983

LOCATION:

Taping from the White House

BACKGROUND: See attached

YOUR RECOMMENDATION:

Accept Regret Surrogate Message Other Priority Routine

IF RECOMMENDATION IS TO ACCEPT, PLEASE CITE REASONS:

52 NATICNAL CONFERENCE OF SOVIET NEW YORK NY 10016



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1 Juliang

Required for the former below

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC 20500

Stiff to N.s.C.

(

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

16:08 EST

MGMCCMP

1263

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

- Dodsor nosky

CONFIDENTIAL

March 5, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE JEANE KIRKPATRICK

United States Representative to

the United Nations

SUBJECT:

Third International Conference on

Soviet Jewry (U)

Your participation as the Administration's representative to the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry to be held in Jerusalem, March 15-17, is welcomed by the White House. As you know, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry has requested that the Administration's representative deliver a lengthy address on U.S. Government's policies on Soviet Jewry. It is expected, also, that the President will send a message to be read at the opening session or by you. To ensure cohesiveness and uniformity in the portrayal of the Administration's policies, once the text of your speech is prepared, we would like the opportunity to review your remarks. (C)

Sill

William P. Clark

DECLASSIFIED & BOYCE Authority NSC Waiver BY JN MARADATE 3/18/2019

CONFIDENTIAL Declassify on: OADR

#### **MEMORANDUM**

#### NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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March 1, 1983

DECLASSIFIED Naived NSCIDOS Waived NSCIDOS Waived 2019

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR WILLIAM P. CLARK

SIGNED

FROM:

PAULA DOBRIANSKY

SUBJECT:

Conference on Soviet Jewry

Attached (Tab I) is a memorandum from you to Ambassador Kirkpatrick which states that clearance has been obtained on her participation as the Administration's representative to the Third International Conference on Soviet Jewry in Jerusalem.

Howard Teicher co concurs.

#### RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memorandum at Tab I.

Disapprove\_

Attachments:

Tab I Memorandum to Ambassador Kirkpatrick

Declassify on: OADR