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DESCRIPTION:

*1 Beta Cassette "TV-8, Cleveland, July 1985"*  
*1 audiocassette no title*

SERIES <i>USSR Subject Files</i>	BOX NO.
FILE FOLDER TITLE: <i>[Polyakin, Lev - Soviet Jewry]</i>	
TRANSFERRED BY: <i>Amf</i>	DATE OF TRANSFER: <i>10/17/95</i>

LEV POLYAKIN  
5905 MAYFIELD RD. APT. 703  
MAYFIELD HTS., OHIO 44124

Video Tape  
Inside!

**FIRST CLASS**

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Mr. Jack Matlock  
Chief of National Security Counsel  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

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**U.S. Rep. Louis Stokes**  
Pledges continued effort to help Soviet Jews.

PD/TIMOTHY C. BARMANN

## Stokes tries to aid violinist's kin

### Congressman sees summit as exodus key for Soviet Jews

By **WILLIAM F. MILLER**

STAFF WRITER

A telephone call from Cleveland to the Soviet Union on behalf of a Cleveland Orchestra violinist set Rep. Louis Stokes on a mission to try to get the musician's relatives out of Russia.

The story was told yesterday by Stokes, D-21, of Warrensville Heights. He addressed 125 people at a Jewish Community Center forum on his trip to the Soviet Union this month to monitor the treatment of Soviet Jews.

Stokes said that while he was in Russia, he received a telephone call from Sam H. Miller, vice chairman of Forest City Enterprises Inc., urging him to do what he could for the family of Lev Polyakin, 32, a violinist who emigrated with his parents five years ago.

Stokes said he tried unsuccessfully to contact Polyakin's sister, Litvak, 37, and her husband, Michael, 36. He did meet with 33 other Russian Jews who have been trying for years to emigrate to Israel or America.

He said he would work to reunite the Polyakin family.

Polyakin said he was assured by Soviet officials when he left that his sister, brother-in-law and their two children would soon follow, but they have been refused permission to emigrate five times. He said his sister was expecting a child in September.

"We want to have our family together, as we thought it would be when half of us were given permission to leave," said Polyakin, who formerly was assistant concertmaster of the Moscow Chamber Orchestra.

Stokes said the hopes of the Polyakin family and 350,000 other Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union might hinge on talks later this year between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

The congressman said that if friendlier relations emerged from the talks, the Russians might be more likely to permit Jews to emigrate. He said there was little hope of many leaving otherwise.

Stokes said the delegation that went to Moscow and Leningrad had written Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Soviet ambassador to the United States, asking for a meeting to discuss the plight of Soviet Jews. Tomorrow, Stokes and others who joined him on the trip, Rep. Barbara Mikulski, D-Md., and Rep. James Moody, D-Wisc., will report to Congress on their findings. The trip was sponsored by the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Stokes said he was impressed by the strength and commitment of the Jews he met and the families of those in prison. He told of learning about persecution of Jewish dissidents. This included beatings in prison, harassment by the secret police, loss of employment and other deprivations

for trying to practice the Jewish faith.

Persecution has increased, with 14 arrests during the past year, he said.

Stokes said two Hebrew teachers, Leonid Volvovsky and Ronald Zelichonok, were arrested last month. Volvovsky was not charged, and Zelichonok was accused of defaming the Soviet state and social system.

Stokes said his group met in the

middle of the night with the dissidents in an effort to avoid detection by Soviet authorities.

In answer to a question, Stokes said he believed the Soviets were not freeing Jews because it might spark interest by other groups that also want to go to the West.

Stokes pledged continued efforts to help Soviet Jews, whom he called a gallant people.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 99<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 131

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 16, 1985

No. 94

## House of Representatives

### Congressman Stokes Speaks Out On The Plight Of Soviet Jews

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I take this special order this evening in order to discuss with my colleagues in the House the matter of Soviet Jewry. I had the pleasure and the privilege and honor of traveling with five Members of the House during the period June 29 to July 7 to the Soviet Union. We were privileged to travel under the auspices of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Those who made this trip with me were the gentleman from Texas, Mr. STEVE BARTLETT, the gentlewoman from the Third Congressional District of Maryland, Ms. BARBARA MIKULSKI, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS, the gentleman from Alabama, Mr. BEN ERDREICH, and the gentleman from Wisconsin, Mr. JIM MOODY.

Once we had arrived at Zurich and were flying into the Soviet Union, we separated into two groups, three Members of the Congress in each group. Traveling with us were two very efficient and highly professional staff persons from the National Conference, in the person of Miss Robin Saite and Billie Keyserling.

One of our group went to Moscow, that is the group that I was with, and the other group went to Leningrad. After we spent 3 days in each of these cities, we then criss-crossed and came back, passing one another in the night, as one group went from Moscow to Leningrad on the train and the other group came from Leningrad back to Moscow.

It was an extremely interesting trip and one which I think all of us valued very much.

I had occasion to look into a very special case in Cleveland, OH, involving a refusenik by the name of Sofia Lipvak who had incurred six refusals since 1981. Her brother, Lev Payakin, is violinist in the Cleveland Symphony Orchestra. While I was unable to see

Miss Lipvak while I was there, we did make contact with her and we are still working on this case trying to get her out of the Soviet Union.

This morning the six of us who traveled together had a press conference regarding the fact that since our return here we have attempted to obtain a meeting with Ambassador Dobrynin and the other officials of the Soviet Embassy in order to share with them the facts that were found from our mission to the Soviet Union.

I think all of us were in the same position, that is, all of us had been active in this movement in order to bring attention to the plight of Soviet Jews who were being denied the right of immigration, but none of us had previously been afforded the opportunity to visit with these refuseniks whose cause we had advocated.

In some cases we met with many members of families and in some cases just individuals. Most of the meetings were held in the evenings at the homes of some of the leaders in the movement.

I believe on the 3 days in Moscow and 1 of the days in Leningrad we met with somewhere in the neighborhood of about 33 of these very fine people.

In some cases we met with the wives of those who are imprisoned in the Soviet Union. We learned of arrests under some very bizarre and unusual circumstances in the middle of the night, of imprisonment for charges such as hooliganism and parasitism, of planted evidence, of 12-hour searches of homes, and of a prisoner now 90-percent blind as a result of being stabbed in his eyes in his jail cell which authorities say was self-inflicted.

It was very depressing to sit and listen to some of the stories of the things that these people are encountering simply because of their desire to be able to emigrate from the Soviet

Union and to be able to become repatriated.

We learned of some people who had now been refused the right of emigration and repatriation for as long as 12, 14, and even 16 years. These people are painfully aware that the number of Jews being permitted to emigrate has been steadily declining since 1982.

That year, 2,688 Soviet Jews emigrated. In 1983, the figure disintegrated down to 1,314. In 1984, there was another drastic drop to a total of 896. In 1985, as of June, the paucity sum of 36 have been permitted to emigrate.

Those with whom we visited are part of approximately 350,000 Soviet Jews who desire to emigrate from the Soviet Union; 10,000 of these are refuseniks, those who have applied and who have been refused. There are approximately 20 who have been imprisoned for some official sounding criminal charge whose real offense, in the eyes of the Soviets, was the teaching of Hebrew. Ten of these persons were imprisoned in the month of June.

Many of the refuseniks with whom we met were very learned individuals with extensive degrees and educational background, who after applying for exit visas now find themselves either doing menial work or altogether unemployed.

But in spite of the anti-Semitism, in spite of the oppression and the degradation, and the pain of being separated from their families, I found an indomitable spirit among these people. They were involved in a movement in which they are totally committed and dedicated. They are seeking, and they seem to be extremely pleased to know that people of good will throughout our Nation are concerned about their plight and are attempting to wield such influence as they can in order to be able to help them be able to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

# ORCHESTRATING

THE ISSUE

# SOVIET JEWRY



Members of

The Cleveland Orchestra

featuring

Lev Polyakin and Cantor Sarah Sager  
Violinist of the Fairmount Temple

also with

Lawrence Angell, Boris Chusid,  
Michael Haber

in concert on behalf of Soviet Refuseniks

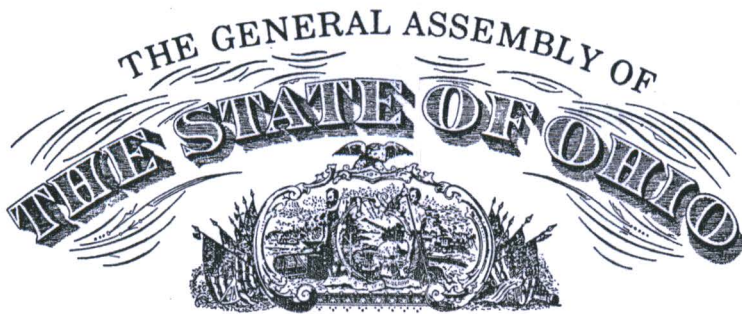
Sunday, Oct. 13, 1985

7:30 p.m., Fairmount Temple

Tickets \$2.50 in advance \$3.00 at the door

For additional information call 464-1330

Tickets may be purchased at Fairmount Temple Concert sponsored by Fairmount Temple World Jewry & Music Committees



## OHIO SENATE

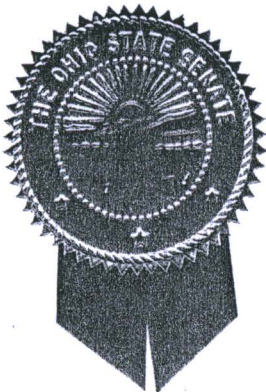
### CONGRATULATING LEV POLYAKIN ON YOUR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AT THE ROMANO ROMANINI VIOLIN COMPETITION


On behalf of the members of the Senate of the 116th General Assembly of Ohio, we offer our warmest congratulations to Lev Polyakin of The Cleveland Orchestra, for winning a Gold Medal and a special prize for your performance of Batzini's "The Round of the Goblins" at the third annual Romano Romanini Violin Competition in Brescia, Italy.


Your reputation as a musical virtuoso has followed you from your Russian homeland. Since immigrating to the United States in 1980, you have taken international honors at the Karl Flesch International Violin Competition in London in addition to your most recent achievements at the Romano Romanini Violin Competition.

You have achieved international acclaim as an exceptional musician through years of patiently pursuing the development of your talents and the perfection of your technique. This recognition is indeed well-deserved and is indicative of the superb quality of your musical abilities.

Thus, with great pleasure, we congratulate you on your most recent accomplishment and wish you continued success in your future musical endeavors.



  
Senator Paul E. Gillmor  
President of the Ohio Senate

  
Senator Lee I. Fisher  
25th Senatorial District