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Michael: 395-  
3912 - Paula Dobriansky 8/8  
J: 30pm

Paula Dobriansky has agreed to  
address this group.

Before calling Howard Kohn with  
this, thought you might want to decide if  
Paula is the appropriate person for this group.  
Paula needs more detail on this.  
Burt

# Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

1411 K St., NW, Suite 402, Washington, DC 20005 202-393-4117



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August 9, 1982

Michael Gale  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Michael:

Congratulations on your new position. I'm sure these must be busy and troubled days for you.

Presently I am the Associate Director of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, and have been working here since June. I have put you on our mailing list so you will be receiving our weekly ALERT newsletters and bi-monthly magazines.

On September 10-13 we are holding our Annual Meeting at the Washington Sheraton, and would like to invite you to be our key-note speaker, either at the Saturday or Sunday luncheon sessions, at your convenience. One hundred and fifty Jewish leaders from across the U.S., Britain, Canada, France & Israel will be attending the meeting. We would ask you to discuss the Administration's policy on Soviet Jewry for approximately thirty minutes, to be followed by questions and answers if it is agreeable to you.

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience. With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,

*Sunday @ lunch  
on September 12<sup>th</sup> - Paula  
Dobriansky*

Judith Slovin  
Associate Director

JS/sh

*I called Judith Slovin + told  
her Paula Dobriansky accepted  
& asked her to call Paula  
directly to work out logistics.*

*yes - M.C.  
or st.*

*Richard Pipes  
will call back 5646*



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Founded 1970

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February 10, 1983

Mr. Michael Gale  
Liason to Jewish Committee  
from President Reagan  
The White House Executive Office  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Gale,

Enclosed is a copy of a news release issued by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, in which Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister of Great Britain, wrote to Mrs. Avital Shcharansky, wife of the famed Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, who is on a prolonged hunger strike in Chistopol Prison in the Soviet Union.

I am wondering if President Reagan would like to make a similar statement or write a letter to Mrs. Shcharansky for a press release.

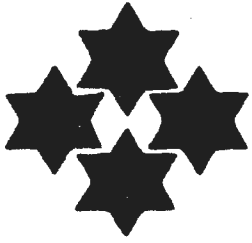
I enjoyed meeting you at our recent meeting in Washington, and I hope to see you when I come to Washington again.

Sincerely,

*Lillian Hoffman*  
Lillian Hoffman

LH/pd

Encl.



# NEWS RELEASE

**Union of Councils for Soviet Jews**

1411 K Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005

**Date:** January 24, 1983

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Judith E. Slovin, Associate Director  
UCSJ (202) 393-4117

## Thatcher Expresses Concern about Shcharansky

WASHINGTON--The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews today released a letter from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to Avital Shcharansky, wife of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky. Text follows:

"My dear Mrs. Shcharansky,

We are concerned with the condition of your husband who is presently on hunger strike in a Soviet labor camp.

As I told you when you came to see me in May 1981, I warmly support you in your efforts to secure the release of your husband from imprisonment. Your husband's case has caught the imagination of people of many faiths and nationalities, symbolizing as it does the right of every citizen to the basic freedoms of movement and non-violent dissent. Her Majesty's government has on several occasions raised your husband's case with the Soviet authorities, pointing out the effect of British public opinion of his continued imprisonment. A decision by the new Soviet leadership to release your husband and allow him to join you in Israel would be not only an humanitarian gesture but also a step towards better East-West relations.

I earnestly hope that they will now take this step. I welcome you to London and send you my best wishes for 1983, which I hope will be a year of happiness for you and your family."

Yours sincerely,  
Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

1411 K STREET, NW, SUITE 402

WASHINGTON, DC 20005

PHONE: 202-393-4117

BB- call & say I will  
try to stop by  
< lalard R

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The 35 s--Women's Campaign  
for Soviet Jewry, England  
The 35 s--Women's Campaign  
for Soviet Jewry, Canada

April 14, 1983

Mr. Michael Gale  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Michael Gale:

I invite you to a symposium on U.S.-Soviet relations, jointly sponsored by the Georgetown Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) and the UCSJ. This meeting will be held Monday, May 9, 1983 from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. in the Wadsworth Room at CSIS, 1800 K Street, N.W.

At the morning session of the symposium, we will focus on Soviet internal factors, specifically the Brezhnev succession, human rights and dissent, and the Soviet economy. Lunch will be devoted to arms control and national security issues, with Brent Scowcroft, Chairman of the President's Commission on Strategic Forces, as keynote speaker. During the afternoon, we will attempt to develop policy solutions in each area of U.S.-Soviet relations.

Among the participants at this symposium are Elliott Abrams, Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs; William Hyland, former Deputy National Security Adviser in the Nixon and Ford Administrations; Fritz Ermarth, former National Security Council official in the Carter Administration; John Hardt of the Congressional Research Service; and Nobel Laureate Arno Penzias of Bell Laboratories.

All remarks, with the exception of the lunch, are off the record. Please let the UCSJ office know if you will attend by calling Judith Slovin, 393-4117.

I look forward to seeing you on May 9. With kind regards.

Sincerely,

LYNN SINGER  
President

LS:csb

**THE UNION OF COUNCILS  
FOR SOVIET JEWS**



## INTRODUCTION

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews (UCSJ), founded in 1970, is the oldest and largest non-student organization in the United States representing the rights and interests of Soviet Jews. It is a grass roots organization composed of thirty-two membership councils and over 50,000 individual members across the country. The Union is solely concerned with the plight of Soviet Jews and is dedicated to further the cause of human rights and freedom of emigration for all Soviet Jews.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews was founded by six community Soviet Jewry groups in 1970. This confederation, under the leadership of NASA scientist Louis Rosenblum, realized the need for better intragroup communication and resource sharing, as well as the increased effectiveness that comes with a broad-based grass roots organization.

In the past decade, UCSJ grew into an umbrella organization encompassing member councils in thirty-two U.S. cities. UCSJ is also part of an international network of Soviet Jewry groups in Israel, Canada, Great Britain and France. The phenomenal growth of the Union in recent years has been accompanied by the formation of a prestigious Advisory Board, the hiring of office personnel in Washington, D.C. and Israel, publication of the *Alert* and the *Quarterly Report*, as well as the implementation of many other innovative programs on behalf of Soviet Jews.

UCSJ still considers resource sharing and intragroup communication as primary functions. The UCSJ does not mandate policies or programs for its members; rather, it provides a forum for discussion of political and programmatic ideas, and serves as a crisis center when immediate action on an issue is required. Close contact with the USSR refusenik community and Jewish emigres in Israel provides critical input into the UCSJ decision making process.

## HISTORY



## ACTIVITIES

- The UCSJ maintains the most extensive computerized data base in the United States for tracking refuseniks and their families. We are able to provide up-to-the-minute news of aggressions and persecutions of refuseniks to our councils and Congressional support people, so that they can respond quickly to Soviet antagonism toward Jews. An updated computerized listing of refuseniks, including addresses, telephone numbers, occupations and visa refusal dates is maintained and updated on a regular basis.

- The UCSJ and its councils organize and support major efforts toward the education of state and local officials, Members of Congress and their aides and White House Administration personnel about the current Soviet Jewry situation. The UCSJ conducted the Fourth Biennial Congressional Briefing on Soviet Jewry on Wednesday, January 26, 1983. The briefing was highly successful and was attended by more than 225 Members of Congress, Congressional aides and representatives of the human rights and foreign policy communities.

- The UCSJ is responsible for the national coordination of activities on behalf of prisoner of conscience Anatoly Scharansky. In 1979, the UCSJ sponsored a nationwide tour for Anatoly's wife, Avital, who sought American aid in freeing her imprisoned husband. In 1980 she spoke to delegates of the Helsinki Review Conference in Madrid under the sponsorship of UCSJ. The UCSJ's International Committee for the Release of Anatoly Scharansky has placed appeals on his behalf in the *Washington Post*, *New York Times* and other major newspapers. Hundreds of thousands of postcards and telegrams have been distributed in special emergency campaigns designed to increase public awareness of Anatoly's plight. In addition, several other campaigns have been launched for prisoners of conscience Iosef Begun, Victor Brailovsky and Lev Elbert.

- The UCSJ works with professional groups of scientists, lawyers, medical professionals, mathematicians and computer scientists to develop campaigns which bring to light violations of professional ethics, such as psychiatric abuse and illegal detainment.

- The UCSJ sponsors the Congressional Vigil for Soviet Jewry. The Vigil, now entering its eighth year, is a program designed to recognize and record the efforts of brave refuseniks and prisoners of conscience. Each week throughout the 98th Congress, statements regarding specific Soviet Jewry cases are entered into the Congressional Record by Members who have adopted a refusenik family or individual. The Vigil has been a particularly useful vehicle for bi-partisan Congres-

sional involvement with the Soviet Jewry movement. Representative Timothy E. Wirth (D-CO) is the Chairman of the 1983 Congressional Vigil for Soviet Jewry.

- The UCSJ advises government officials, scientists, reporters and representatives from councils who travel to the Soviet Union about critical Soviet Jewry cases. Such trips offer the visitors a first-hand encounter with the realities of a refusenik's situation and make a statement to Soviet officials about U.S. solidarity with the plight of refuseniks.

- The UCSJ published the first weekly newsletter on Soviet Jewry in the United States. The *Alert* includes recent news from the Soviet Union, developments in the West affecting Soviet Jews, council activities and relevant articles from newspapers and magazines around the country. The *Alert* is distributed to all councils.

- The UCSJ also publishes the *Quarterly Report* which is circulated to the national membership, representatives on Capitol Hill, synagogues, Federations, Community Relations Councils and Rabbis.

- The UCSJ organized a medical mobilization network to provide supportive health care for those Soviet Jews who cannot obtain adequate medical attention.

- In 1980, the UCSJ established the Robert F. Drinan Human Rights Information Center in Madrid during the review of the Helsinki Accords. The activities of the Center included disseminating information to the conference delegates and the press, as well as providing a forum for human rights activists to publicize their concerns. U.S. government officials and other human rights activists felt the UCSJ was the most effective non-governmental organization at the review meeting.

- The UCSJ sponsors two programs designed to educate and involve American families in the cause of Soviet Jewry: Adopt-A-Family/Prisoner Program (in its eleventh year) and Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning Program (in its eighth year). Both of these programs pair American families with Soviet Jews for the purpose of correspondence, emotional support and mutual celebration of holidays and events.

## ACTIVITIES

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## What are some of the unique programs?

- 1) The International Committee for the Release of Anatoly Scharansky
- 2) The Congressional Vigil
- 3) The Medical Mobilization for Soviet Jewry
- 4) The Robert F. Drinan Human Rights Information Center in Madrid
- 5) The national Soviet Jewry Adopt-A-Family Data Bank
- 6) The Telegram Bank
- 7) International Parliamentary Group (IPG)
- 8) The Right to Identity Cultural Aid program
- 9) The *Alert* and the *Quarterly Report*
- 10) Bar and Bat Mitzvah Twinings

## What types of programs does the UCSJ have in Washington, D.C.?

- 1) Biennial Congressional Briefings
- 2) The UCSJ Congressional Vigil, in which Congressmen adopt a refusenik or POC family and record a statement regularly into the Congressional record
- 3) The UCSJ Senatorial Vigil
- 4) Briefings and debriefings of legislators who travel to the Soviet Union
- 5) Special briefings are held whenever appropriate, such as before the recent conferences in Madrid to review the Helsinki Accords
- 6) Symposium on U.S.-Soviet relations
- 7) Organize annual meeting in Israel

## What is the UCSJ doing today to reach out to the American Jewish community?

First, we are reaching out to tens of thousands of individuals who are being contacted by a series of mass mailings from us. Second, we are working with new groups around the country, especially in areas with rapidly growing Jewish populations. Third, we are sending out the UCSJ publication to numerous Jewish newspapers, community centers and synagogues around the country.

## To what does the UCSJ attribute its continued growth?

All councils join the UCSJ on a voluntary basis. Clearly, the UCSJ has continued to attract a growing number of councils due to the success of its ongoing programs. The issue of Soviet Jewry has continued to grow in importance in the American Jewish community and as such, the UCSJ has continued to mirror this growth.

## To what does the UCSJ attribute its effectiveness?

Simply put, to grass-roots participation. Our members exercise their Constitutional franchise. They approach their congressional representatives as constituents concerned about Soviet Jews. We are consistently told by Members of Congress this is much more effective than an approach by Jewish leaders who are not from the district. Our basic message over the years has indeed struck a responsive chord, not only in Washington, but in the press throughout the U.S.

## What are the sources of UCSJ funds?

Dues and contributions from councils, grants from foundations and contributions from many individuals around the country.

## How large a professional staff does UCSJ have?

We have a staff of four in Washington and a part-time representative in Jerusalem.

## What types of organizations are members of the UCSJ?

Many kinds; some are committees of local Jewish Community Relations Councils, some are councils of local Welfare Federations and others are independent groups.

## Are the policies and programs of the UCSJ mandatory or binding on its member groups?

No. Policies are determined by consensus of all councils; however, local councils are not required to endorse every action or position. We respect the local autonomy of each council.

## What is the UCSJ policy regarding individuals who are concerned about Soviet Jewry, but who are not members of a member council?

We welcome all, whether organizations or individuals, who wish to work on behalf of Soviet Jews. We will supply information or programs to individuals regardless of organization affiliation.

## Does the work of the UCSJ duplicate that of other organizations?

No. In many cases, there is no other activity in a particular area other than that of the local UCSJ affiliate. Also many UCSJ programs are unique.

## What do Soviet Jewish activists think of the UCSJ's efforts?

"It would be impossible to list all your contributions to the cause. Your activities on behalf of many refuseniks and former refuseniks surely helped to save them from prison terms. Your assistance and the information you fed to the American Helsinki Monitoring Committee was

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

invaluable. Finally, your handling of the Scharansky case was the most important contribution to the campaign on behalf of Scharansky, which is now the most important issue of the entire Soviet Jewry movement.

The contribution of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews to our struggle is strongly praised for both by those whose life depends on your activities—Jewish activists in the Soviet Union—and by the people in the free world who are concerned about human rights.”

### ***A letter from ex-Soviet Jewish activists now living in Israel.***

“For the past several years we who live in Israel have been following the development of the struggle for Soviet Jewry on the U.S. scene. All of us had been involved in this struggle behind the Iron Curtain before our release from Russia and we still continue to try to help our families and friends whom we have left behind. We are deeply convinced that the only way to help Soviet Jews to reunite our people in Israel and protect activists in the USSR from even greater harassment is to maintain a wide and persistent public campaign on their behalf in the countries of the free world, and particularly, the United States.

“It would not be an exaggeration to say that your organization has become a major component in the movement for Soviet Jewry. As the events of the past few years have shown, there are certain kinds of activity which can be carried out successfully by the Union of Councils. Due to your imagination and perseverance, wide-spread support in local communities, excellent contacts in the Administration, Congress, Trade Unions, etc., . . . an efficient communications system, . . . and, what is most important, the devotion and self-sacrifice of your members, you have been able to carry out the important projects which, to a major extent, shaped the development of the struggle for Soviet Jewry in the past few years. It would be impossible to list all your contributions to the cause . . .”

*Letter from Avital Scharansky*

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Chemistry, Stanford University

**Sister Ann Gillen,**  
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Magazine; noted TV commentator

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Professor of Jewish Studies, Boston University;  
Chairman of the Presidential Holocaust Commission;  
noted author and lecturer

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England

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Canada

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(602) 264-2325

Chairperson: Jerry Beck

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(301) 358-8211

Co-Chairpersons: Alvin and Elaine Mintzes

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(415) 585-1400

Chairperson: Morey Schapira; Executive Director: David Waksberg

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(617) 893-2331

Co-Chairpersons: Bailey Barron and Judy Patkin

**Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry**

1724 First Street, Highland Park, IL 60035  
(312) 433-0155

Co-Chairpersons: Pamela Cohen and Marillyn Tallman

**Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jewry**

2615 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45220  
(513) 221-7134

Executive Director: Sandra Spinner; Chairperson: Frank Harkavy

**Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism**

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(216) 449-3662

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Chairperson: Sondra Levy

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Chairperson: Steve Rovner

**Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee of the  
Jewish Community Council**

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(313) 962-1880

Executive Director: Beverly Yost

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President: Jackie Iger

**Kansas City Council for Soviet Jews**

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(913) 649-0290

Chairperson: Barbara Sidary

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(516) 538-5454

Executive Director: Lynn Singer; President: Carole Abramson

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9 Village Pl., White Rock Village, Los Alamos, NM 87544

(505) 672-3783

Chairperson: Jeff Colvin

**Minnesota-Dakotas Action Committee for Soviet Jewry**

15 S. 9th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55402

(612) 338-7816

Co-Chairpersons: Harriet and Steve Swartz

**Newport News Soviet Jewry Committee**

Jewish Federation

114 James River Dr., Newport News, VA 23600

(304) 595-0709

Chairperson: Rhoda Mazur

**Soviet Jewry Committee of the North Shore**

40 Donegal Rd., Peabody MA 01960

(617) 535-5254

Co-Chairpersons: Linda Lane and Eliot Wyner

**Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jews**

4089 Ocean Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11235

(212) 891-9685

Co-Chairpersons: Ira and Pauline Bilus

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5633 South Gary, Tulsa, OK 74105

(918) 747-6390

Chairperson: Shirley Golan

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(402) 558-7087

Chairperson: Shirley Goldstein

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Co-Chairpersons: Lana Dishler and Harold Levine

**Pittsfield Council for Soviet Jewry**

22 Marlboro Dr., Pittsfield, MA 02101

(413) 448-8043

Chairperson: Naomi Schwartz

**Sarasota Council on Soviet Jewry**

P.O. Box 2778, Sarasota, FL 33578

(813) 349-5725

Co-Chairpersons: Susan G. Rosenthal and Jesse Amass

**Seattle Action for Soviet Jewry**

5229 S. Morgan, Seattle, WA 98118

(206) 723-6897

Chairperson: Judy Balint

**Soviet Jewry Action Council of Harrisburg**

3560 Green St., Harrisburg, PA 17110

(717) 238-5673

Co-Chairpersons: Diane and Michael Sand

**Soviet Jewry Committee of South Bend**

1105 N. Ironwood Dr., South Bend, IN 46615

(219) 234-3829

Chairperson: Dorothy Jaffe

**Southern California Council for Soviet Jews**

401 East 6th St., Los Angeles, CA 90014

(213) 628-2972

Chairperson: Si Frumkin; Executive Director: Joe Ribakoff

**South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry**

4200 Biscayne Blvd., Miami, FL 33137

(305) 576-4000

Chairperson: Hinda Cantor

**Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry**

8402 Freyman Dr., Chevy Chase, MD 20815

(301) 587-4455

President: Joan Dodek; Executive Director: Ruth Newman

UCSJ operates solely with the monies donated by our members from all across the country. These members are directly responsible for making refusenik life bearable. Add your concern and support to theirs; join UCSJ today.

**I would like to make a contribution of:**

- \$25 Annual Membership  \$50 Circle of Conscience  
 \$100 Circle of Freedom  other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send me:**

- details for joining the telegram bank  
 information for organizing a council  
 details for adopting a refusenik family or Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning  
 information for arranging for a speaker  
 the fall Quarterly Report

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_



**1411 K Street, N.W.  
Suite 402  
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(202) 393-4117**



INFORMATION FROM  
THE UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

## WEEKLY UPDATE

*Felt*

# Release Victor Brailovsky



*Victor Brailovsky*

A seven nation campaign demanding the September release of Moscow cyberneticist VICTOR BRAILOVSKY is being mounted among scientific communities. Brailovsky was sentenced last June to five years of internal exile for "defamation of the Soviet State," however for eighteen months prior to that trial he was held incommunicado in prison. According to Soviet law, each month of prison equals three in exile, thus making September 12, 1982 the date he is eligible for parole.

Although Brailovsky was supposed to receive a favorable character reference from his place of employment last month (ALERT 7/26/82) his wife has doubts about his early release. It seems that he never received the reference and without that document he cannot apply for remission. Local police and authorities at his work claim that they must await orders from higher officials before providing the reference.

Brailovsky is well known for his role as one of the founders and leaders of the Moscow Sunday Scientific Seminar which he and his wife IRINA hosted. The seminars were designed to keep ostracized scientists abreast of new developments in their fields. Since he first applied to emigrate in 1972, Brailovsky and his family were subject to an official campaign of harassment which culminated last June at his trial.

The Brailovskys have a twenty one year old son, LEONID, and a seven year old daughter, DALIA. Leonid was just last week refused an exit visa on the pretext of his mother's "secrecy."

Rallies and conferences are being held on Brailovsky's behalf, and world-wide activity is stepping up in the hope of his imminent release from exile and ultimately, his emigration to Israel. Appeals for Victor's early release from exile should be sent to: USSR/Moscow 103009/U1. Ogareva 2/Ministry of Internal Affairs/Head of 5th Main Dept./Avrusin, E.

## Kiev Fast Continues

Last April (ALERT 4/5/82) a group of eleven Kiev refuseniks undertook a rotational hunger strike in protest of their continual harassment by authorities. The hunger strikers also called for officials to immediately reconsider emigration applications rejected for unsubstantial reasons and to release Kiev POCs STANISLAV ZUBKO, VALERY PILNIKOV, VLADIMIR KISLIK and KIM FRIDMAN. (Fridman has since been released).

As the movement caught on, strikers from Odessa and Moscow joined their protest. At this time, eight of the original Kiev eleven are still on the protest rotation; among them ANNA LEVITSKAYA, SVETLANA YEFANOVA, VLADIMIR TERESHCHENKO, VLADIMIR and TANYA KORETSKY, and ALEXANDER KOTOVSKY. OLGA PILNIKOV, wife of POC Valery Pilnikov, dropped out after she was promised that instead of serving his time in a labor camp, he would be allowed to work for the national economy. However no change in his circumstances has been reported at this time.

## Leningrad Jews Appeal

The following appeal was submitted to authorities by a group of Jewish activists in Leningrad who are seeking official recognition for their Jewish cultural activities.

*To the Ministers of Interior, Culture, Justice, and Procurator General of the USSR:*

*In recent years, Jews in Leningrad have become very interested in Jewish history and culture. Our desire to know more about our people, about its historical path, and about its traditions and achievements is quite natural. Unfortunately, possibilities for getting information on these matters are extremely limited; book publishers and the mass communication media devote very little attention to Jewish history and culture. Thus, the initiative of a few Leningrad enthusiasts, who have begun to prepare information on the themes indicated and to make it known to anyone interested, seems to us to be very opportune and necessary. Two years of quiet work convinced us of the great interest of the Jews of Leningrad in their culture and of the complete legality of our activity.*



However, certain employees of the state apparatus do not understand this. Recently, administrative pressure on persons listening to talks on Jewish history and culture has increased sharply. Illegal attempts are made to break up the talks, the campaign to intimidate persons participating in the talks does not cease. The matter has even gone so far as the completely illegal intrusion of a group of police officers into one of the apartments with the aim of breaking up our talk.

In connection with what we have stated above, we ask you to give us a written answer to the following questions:

1. Is our interest in the history and culture of our people legal?
2. Are the means which we have chosen to satisfy this interest legal? We gather in private apartments where one of us, who has carefully studied the available sources on matters of Jewish history or culture, tells about it to persons invited by the owner of the apartment. (We point out the great discipline of the listeners and the blameless manner in which they maintain public order.)
3. Do we have a right to count upon the assistance of the USSR Ministry of Culture in the future, and can we count upon its support and aid?

A Group of Leningrad Jews

This statement was submitted to the addresses in June, 1981. More than half a year has passed. Until now there has been no reply.

## News Briefs

\*Refuseniks IRAIDA and ALEXANDER LANIS of Berdichev, a well known Jewish shtetl in Tsarist Russia, were the subject of a defamatory article published in the local paper last month. The article accused "the Zionist family in their town" of treacherous behavior, and they have since been afraid to go out. Alexander suffers from a heart condition and is confined to bed. The family has been refused since 1976. Please lend support to this family: USSR/Ukr. SSR/ Berdichev/ul. Frunze 5 A pt. 64/Lanis.

\*POC IGOR GUBERMAN is not allowed to apply for clemency due to his "bad characteristic."

\*The USSR has declared that "for technical reasons" there will be a drastic reduction in the number of channels of automatic telephone communication between the USSR and Western countries. On the Austria-USSR line, 4 channels out of 24 will be left; on the England-USSR line, 14 out of 42; on the USSR-England line, 14 out of 46; on the Finland-USSR line, 21 out of 24, on the USSR-Finland 16 out of 24; on the USA-USSR 15 out of 23; on the West Germany-USSR 16 out of 42; on the USSR-France and France-USSR 16 out of 29; on the Switzerland-USSR 10 out of 19, and on the USSR-Switzerland 9 out of 19; communication is also affected with Italy, Belgium, Holland and the Scandinavian countries.

\*STEPAN NESTEROVICH MUKHA was appointed Chairman of the Ukrainian SSR KGB on June 4. He has been working in the KGB since 1971.

\*The report on anti-Semitism at Moscow University, compiled by VALERY SENDEROV, BORIS KANIEVSKY, NAUM MEIMAN, and GRIGORY FREIMAN has come to the attention of the West. In this report, they claim that the selection for the mathematics department, particularly for Moscow University, was conducted by "purely racial standards" in 1979-1981. In one case study, a young man originally believed to be of Jewish origin was denied entrance, and the decision was reversed only after his mother produced a family tree proving that the man had no Jewish family.

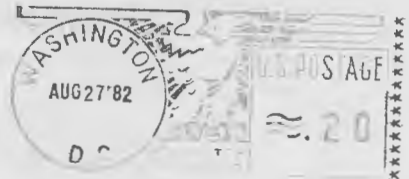
Figures for 1981 show that out of forty nine non-Jewish applicants, forty one were accepted at the University. However out of the fifteen Jewish applicants, only two were admitted.

Meanwhile, Senderov and Kanievsky are still under arrest for dissemination of anti-Soviet material.

\*On July 7, Leningrad refuseniks YAKOV and POLINA GORODEYSKY had a baby daughter.

\*LEV FURMAN of Leningrad was again refused an exit visa, under the pretext that his leaving is "against the interest of the nation."

**Union of Councils for Soviet Jews**  
1411 K St., NW, Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20005



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Mr. Michael Gale  
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20500

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The Alert is published by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, an organization dedicated to helping the Jews of the Soviet Union, especially those desiring to leave.

Editorial Staff: Judith Slovin and Paul W. Meek.

President: Lynn Singer. Vice Presidents: Pam Cohen, Ruth Newman, Joel Sandberg, Morey Schapira.

INFORMATION FROM  
THE UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

## WEEKLY UPDATE

# "The Night of the Murdered Poets" -- Thirtieth Anniversary Commemorated

August 12 commemorates the thirtieth anniversary of "The Night of the Murdered Poets." On that tragic night, 24 Soviet Jewish artists, writers, poets, musicians and actors were executed by the Stalinist authorities in a final effort to completely obliterate Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. The execution of these prominent Jewish intellectuals was a culmination of the Great Purge and a precursor to the notorious Doctor's Plot in 1953. It was not until three years later that this massacre was exposed to the rest of the world.

Today, thirty years later, the cultural genocide of the Jewish people in the Soviet Union continues. Unlike all other nationalities in the USSR, the Jews are prohibited from studying their language, history, and culture. There are no Hebrew or Yiddish schools. Despite this, unofficial Hebrew classes and cultural seminars exist, although in an attempt to squash all Jewish activities, the KGB has mounted a crack-down on all Hebrew teachers in recent months. This type of repression persists in spite of its blatant violation of international agreements on human rights.

In July, only 186 Jews were allowed to emigrate, making a total of 1723 emigres thus far in 1982, the lowest figure since the beginning of the movement.

While many Jews who see that the Soviet Union holds no future for them focus their hopes on emigrating to Israel, they watch as the gates to freedom continue to close. Today as we remember those 24 slain during the "Night of the Murdered Poets" we hold the Soviet government accountable for the fate of contemporary Soviet Jewry.

As of this publication, the ALERT weekly newsletter and bi-monthly magazine will be under the editorship of Judith E. Slovin, new associate director of the national office of the UCSJ.

## News of POCs

\*On June 9, 1982 refusenik biologist YEFREM SEMYONOVICH LUVISHCHUK was arrested in Odessa. When the KGB came to search his house without a warrant, Luvishchuk resisted and the KGB broke down the door. A collection of his poems was found during the search, and one poem was said to be "slanderous." Luvishchuk was subsequently charged under Article 187-1 of the Ukrainian criminal code. No further details are known at this time.

\*POC ALEKSEI MURZHENKO's wife saw him at Perm for two hours behind the glass. She reported that he does not look well. Murzhenko was sentenced during the notorious Leningrad Hijacking Trial in 1970 and still faces two more years of his prison term.

\*ELENA CHERNOBILSKY, wife of POC BORIS CHERNOBILSKY, receives few letters from her husband who is serving one year in labor camp in Susuman in the Far East. According to Mrs. Chernobilsky, Boris is in very low spirits. To help brighten his life, please write letters to him. USSR/RSFSR/Magadanskaya Oblast 686310/G Susuman/Uchr. Av. 261/5.

\*POC VLADIMIR TSUKERMAN of Kishnev, serving a three year sentence for organizing a refusenik protest, was visited last week by his parents and friend YAAKOV MESH. Tsukerman is suffering from acute abdominal pain.

On the way back, key Odessa refusenik Mesh was taken off the plane on the premise that he was involved in a robbery that occurred on board. After authorities searched him and found nothing, they nevertheless detained him for 24 hours.

\*POC VLADIMIR KISLIK is working in the technical inspection department of a factory and feels fine. His address is USSR/RSFSR/Do Vostrebovaniya/Zhdanov 26.

\*POC VICTOR BRAILOVSKY suffers from frequent attacks of biliary colic with pain and fever, and occasional jaundice which requires treatment that is not administered.

\*IDA MILGROM, mother of POC ANATOLY SCHARANSKY, met with Moscow officials to extract verification of Anatoly's state of health. No word has been heard from Scharansky for several months. The only information the officials would concede to her is that he is being punished for not fulfilling his share of work.

\*POC ALEXANDER PARITSKY of Kharkov, currently serving three years in labor camp for "defaming the Soviet State", is under intense pressure by authorities to go on television and radio and publicly retract his news. When he refused, he was threatened with a

stricter regime and possible loss of privileges. His wife POLINA was not allowed to bring him food or clothing, and a parcel sent from Canada was rejected by the Camp Commandant. Letters should be sent on Paritsky's behalf to: USSR/RSSR/Moscow/Pushkinskaya 15/Rekunkov, A.M./Procurator General of the USSR; and to President Ronald Reagan/The White House/Washington, D.C. 20500

## News Briefs

\*Former POC EVGENY LEIN has been unable to find work in Leningrad. His daughter SASHA was recently expelled from the Institute of Geology where she was a student, under the pretext that she was failing her studies. While in exile, Lein was warned that his daughter would be thrown out of her institute because of his activities, but she had already passed her exams.

\*The assistant director of OVIR in Kiev told LEV ELBERT that he would not receive an exit visa until 1992. Elbert immediately appealed to Central Committee Secretary ANDROPOV. His application for a visa was rejected on the basis of "state secrets" that he obtained while in the army, despite the fact that Elbert's job while in service was to dig trenches for pools.

\*The latest scientist to be stripped of his academic degree is EDUARD NADGORNYYI of Moscow, a founder-member of the Solid State Physics Institute of the Academy of Sciences. Nadgornyyi and his wife NINA had applied for permission to emigrate in December, and shortly thereafter his title of Soviet Scientist was revoked and he was demoted to a lab technician. After suffering a heart attack, he appealed to the Academy of Sciences that he had been condemned by a "Kangaroo Court." His wife Nina was sacked from her job as a technical assistant in the same institute. Other scientists who have met the same fate are listed in ALERT 3/5/82.

\*We are saddened by the news that LEONID SHABASHEV's daughter ZOYA recently drowned. She was only fifteen years old. The Moscow family has been refused exit visas since 1974. The Shabashevs have a younger daughter. Please send letters of sympathy: USSR/RSSR/Moscow 123317/Podvoyskogo 26/Apt. 82/Shabeshev, Leonid.

\*GRIGORY GEISHIS, who was released from prison last month (ALERT 7/26/82) has been called up for a physical for the army for September 6th. Geishis was imprisoned for "draft evasion." He recently received a temporary propiska (residence permit) for Leningrad for one year, subject to good behavior on the job.

\*LEV UTEVSKY's daughter received her first refusal last week.

\*Moscow activist VALERY GODIAK's apartment was broken into and searched on July 20. He was detained for a few hours but was not held.

\*YURI FISKIN of Moscow was demoted from his position as a senior electronics engineer. He and his wife SILVA have been waiting to join their daughter in Israel since 1975.

\*VLADIMIR TUFELD of Moscow was taken to the hospital recently suffering from gallstones. Letters of support should be sent to: USSR/RSFSR/Moscow B-120/Chkalova 41/2/Apt. 272/Tufeld, Vladimir and Isolfe.

\*VLADIMIR GERSHUNI of Moscow, Member of the editorial board of the dissident journal "Poiski" ("Searches") and of SMOT (Free Inter-Professional Union of Workers) was arrested last month. He is being charged under Article 190/1 with "circulation of fabrications known to be false." It seems that he and two other activists had been accumulating statistical evidence regarding the appointment of Jews to university posts.

\*More news on the "Group to Establish Trust between the USSR and the USA" (See ALERT 7/12/82) has come to light. The group has been joined by several activists including Drs. Yuri and Olga Medvedkov, Dr. Valery Godiak, and Dr. Mark Reitman. Original members Vladimir and Maria Fleishgakker and Mark Reitman were supposedly given permission to emigrate, but the Fleishgakkers' was soon withdrawn. Reitman's status is not clear at this time. Over 170 people have signed a statement of support for the Group's Declaration.

Pressure on group members continues as Fleishgakker and Sergei Batovrin are under house arrest. Batovrin has also been pressured by authorities to drop out of the Group and condemn U.S. foreign policy or else a case of "illegal currency operations" would be instituted against him. Batovrin refused to do so.

## Around the Country

\*The California State Senate and the Assembly have voiced their support for the immediate release of POC Anatoly Scharansky by approving Senate Joint Resolution 42, of which Senate President Pro Tempore David Roberti was the author. The measure calls for the Soviet government to honor its commitment to the Helsinki Accord by allowing Scharansky to emigrate to Israel. The Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry was largely responsible for promoting the resolution.

\*Michael Gale, President Reagan's liason with the Jewish Community, stated the Administration's position that it will raise the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration at all top level meetings between the USSR and the U.S. He continued to say that the President hopes that Soviet leaders "will reconsider their politics on emigration and human rights and renew their commitment to the Helsinki Final Act, not just with empty words but with deeds."

## UCSJ News

\*UCSJ Washington Director Paul W. Meek testified before the Sub-Committee on Human Rights and International Organizations on July 29 relative to the current situation of Soviet Jewry.

\*Joyce Zakim has been appointed the new director of Medical Mobilization for Soviet Jewry. After returning from a trip to the Soviet Union, she and her husband Leonard Zakim testified before the Human Rights Sub-Committee on July 27 on behalf of the Soviet Pentecostals. The Zakims visited with the Vashchenkos and the Chmykhalovs in the American Embassy where they have sought asylum for the past four years. Any questions or information regarding Soviet scientists or medical practices should be directed to: Joyce Zakim/24 Crescent St. Suite 3B/Waltham, Mass. 02154.

## Emigration Report

\*Permissions in Leningrad are down to an all-time low of three per month.

\*The OVIR office in Odessa issued seventy exit visas between May 20th and June 20th. Exit visas are usually given on Tuesday.

### ARRIVED IN ISRAEL:

MIKHAIL BRODSKY : DMITROV  
MIKHAIL GOIKHER : LENINGRAD

### EMIGRATED:

AVSHALOM AVSHALOMOV : BAKU : ILIA TEMKIN : LENINGRAD  
YUKHANAN BENIAMINOV : TASHKENT : DMITRY SHVARTSMAN : KISHINEV  
FRIDA BRESLAV : RIGA : YUSIF ZUFUGAROV : RIGA  
LEV FAIMAN : MOSCOW  
MIKHAIL FISHBEIN : MOSCOW  
ALEKSANDR GRINSHTEIN : IVANO FRANKOVSK  
YADVIGA KHORT : MOSCOW  
ALEKSANDR LEICHENKO : RIGA  
SOLOMON LOKSHIN : VILNIUS  
ALEKSANDR LURIE : TALLIN  
LEV PODRABINOK : BOBRUISK  
OLEG POPOV : MOSCOW

# Routinely Cruel in Moscow

NYT 8/6/82

Why would a 29-year-old photographer refuse all food for 51 days and starve himself to the point of death? Sergei Petrov offered this explanation to a Times correspondent in Moscow:

"You speak to me of logic, but out there is a society that for me has become totally illogical. I have no job, and they will not give me one. They deny me the right to express myself through my work, and they deny me the right to seek a future elsewhere. Above all, they deny me the right to live with the woman I love, and to have a family. In the face of this, you ask me to act logically?"

Sadly, Mr. Petrov's despair is far from unique. He is one more casualty of a system that needs continually to advertise its meanness, so that no other young photographers will repeat Mr. Petrov's error of falling in love with a foreigner, especially an American. In numbing routine, these are some recent tidings from the Soviet Union:

□ A Moscow house once inhabited by Igor Stravinsky was deliberately razed in this centennial year of the composer's birth — as a spiteful reminder that his genius is suspect.

□ Plainclothes security police officers in Mos-

cow treated as criminals a dozen demonstrators who dared, without permission, to march for disarmament.

□ Aleksandr Lerner, age 69, a former university professor, after a decade is still waiting for an exit visa to Israel, or an explanation why he and other Soviet Jews have been denied visas. "I have tried to extract the criteria the authorities use," he said, "but my scientific theory is not strong enough for such complicated matters."

□ "Peace March '82" ended with 300 Scandinavian visitors being compared to Nazis when they refused, as was their right, to attend a rally at a town named Khatyn. At another Katyn, in Poland, thousands of Polish officers were slaughtered by Soviet troops in 1943, and mere mention of that massacre brought a frenzy of denunciations on the visitors.

What these reports have in common is their affront to the accords signed seven years ago at Helsinki. These bound the Soviet Union and 34 other countries to freer movements of people, goods and ideas. Other signers may have no means of enforcing compliance with a treaty signed by President Brezhnev. But they can and should cry shame.

R. T. Davies NYT 8/5/82

# We Can Help the 'Prisoners' in Our Embassy

On July 13, the Senate by unanimous consent passed a bill co-sponsored by 71 of its members to give the status of permanent resident of the United States to the seven Pentecostals from Chernogorsk, Siberia, with effect from June 27, 1978, when they entered the U.S. Embassy in Moscow. The bill, HR 2873, now awaits action in the House.

The Reagan administration opposes the legislation. On Oct. 2, 1979, in one of his radio commentaries on current affairs, Ronald Reagan said: "Detente is supposed to be a two-way street. Our wheat and technology can get into Russia—why can't the Vashchenko and Chmykhalov families get out?" But the State Department continues to follow the Carter policy—expressing sympathy, but taking no action to help the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs.

The administration objects that HR 2873 would create a risky precedent: it would "reward" persons who enter

American diplomatic premises by giving them the status of permanent resident of the United States and would consequently encourage Soviet citizens who want to get out of the U.S.S.R. to "flood" the embassy.

In written replies to Americans who have inquired about the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs, officials of the State Department have explained that the U.S. government "neither recognizes nor practices the granting of political asylum within our diplomatic or consular premises." "However," such letters go on, "we do recognize the humanitarian obligation to provide temporary refuge in an embassy or consulate to persons in physical danger. Anyone granted such refuge . . . must leave the premises as soon as circumstances permit."

By allowing the Pentecostals to live in the embassy, two successive administrations have recognized that circumstances do not permit the Vashchenkos and

Chmykhalovs to leave without risking physical danger. And there is no prospect of a change in those circumstances.

At the same time, the State Department constantly repeats that the "ultimate responsibility for the resolution of the plight of these brave individuals lies squarely with the Soviet government."

So the superpowers have created a Catch-22 around the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs. The Soviets say they can apply for passports only from Chernogorsk, where for 16 years—from 1962 to 1978—they strove in vain to do just that. For its part, the American government recognizes that it must grant them refuge, but disclaims any further responsibility.

Earlier this year, alarmed by the hunger strike upon which Augustina Vashchenko and her daughter, Lydia, had embarked, Reagan wrote and asked Leonid Brezhnev to let the families leave the U.S.S.R. The only publicly known re-

sponse is a mocking *Tass* commentary of Feb. 15, calling the president's concern "absurd" and "unsavory."

According to present plans, construction of the new embassy building in Moscow should be completed in 1984. What will then become of the U.S. government's policy of "continuing" to allow the Pentecostals to live in the embassy? After all, they will then have to leave the old building and the protection of the American government in order to get to the new one. The State Department acknowledges the problem, but can say only that it has "every hope of resolving this situation well before then."

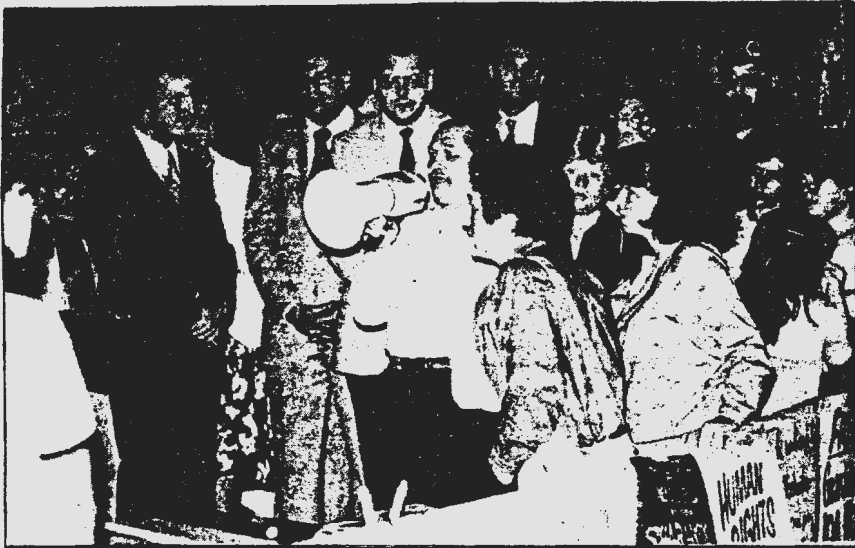
Is it not time to recognize the moral responsibility the U.S. government has assumed for these people through granting them refuge in the embassy for more than four years, and to stop opposing the only possible relief now available for them?

The legislation before Congress will not secure Soviet passports and exit visas for the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs. That can be done only by convincing the Soviet authorities that they lose more by not issuing them than they gain by perpetuating the present stalemate. Permanent resident status as of June 27, 1978, would raise the possibility that the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs could acquire American citizenship before the old embassy building reverts to Soviet control. Would the Soviets want to see that happen or, in the face of it, would they prefer to cut their losses and let the Vashchenkos and Chmykhalovs go?

There is only one way to find out: by passing HR 2873.

The writer, a retired foreign service officer, is director of the Research Center for Religion and Human Rights in Closed Societies.





Over 150 people participated in a vigil for Soviet Jewry outside the Soviet country estate in Glen Cove last Saturday night.



Rita Nashpitz, seated, emigrated to Haifa from Russia eight years ago. Since that time, she has not seen her son Mark, her only child, who was sent to Siberia for five years. Standing with Nashpitz are (left) Carole Abramson, president, and Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry.

# Soviet Jewry Supporters Hold Vigil in Glen Cove

By CAROL STEINBERG

More than 150 people held a spirited vigil late Saturday night outside the Glen Cove retreat of the Soviet Mission to the United Nations to press for freedom for Soviet Jews.

The demonstration was the 11th annual Soviet Jewry vigil sponsored by the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry. It coincided with the week preceding Tisha B'av, commemorating the destruction of the Holy Temple.

During the vigil, Lynn Singer, the Long Island Committee's executive director, pointed to the relationship between the Soviet Jewry problem and Tisha B'av: "Each Jewish home is a temple and if you cannot practice religion and be a free person, your temple is destroyed." She declared, "We cannot let the situation go . . . We will keep coming back here until the temple is rebuilt."

Long Island Committee President Carole Abramson added that the vigil took on increased importance this year because "we're at the low, low ebb of Soviet emigration." Last year, an estimated 10,000 visas were granted to Soviet Jews, down from 21,000 the previous year and from 51,000 in 1976, according to Long Island Committee figures.

Currently, there are an estimated 2.5 million Jews living in the Soviet Union.

### Message to Soviet Leaders & Refuseniks

Vigil organizers emphasized that the demonstration of solidarity is aimed at relaying the message for freedom to both Soviet leaders and refuseniks — those Russian Jews denied exit visas. Declared Abramson, "Just as the official government knows we're here, the refuseniks know we're not silent."

Attesting to this, among the vigil participants, Elizabeth and Lev Pozind of Forest Hills attributed demonstrations like this one to their release from Russia nine years ago. Said Mrs. Pozind, "We were only allowed to leave because American Jews made noise."

For three hours, beginning at 10 p.m., the vigil participants pierced the summer air with chants of "Freedom Now" and with the singing of Hatikvah and Hebrew folk songs, as they stood clustered behind police barricades strung with placards demanding human rights for Soviet Jews. On a stone wall in the rear, ten candles were lit to commemorate the 28 Soviet Jewish prisoners of conscience and the hundreds of refuseniks.

In stark contrast to this commitment to freedom, Killenworth, the sprawling Soviet country estate across the road on Dosoris Lane, stood completely dark behind iron gates and a brick wall. A Glen Cove police car guarded the entrance.

*"Each Jewish home is a temple, and if you cannot practice religion and be a free person, your temple is destroyed."*

Included among the vigil participants, and among those who took the bullhorn to make brief remarks to the crowd, were a mother of a Soviet refusenik, religious leaders and a host of Long Island political figures, including Hempstead Presiding Supervisor Thomas Gulotta, Nassau District Attorney Denis Dillon, State Senator Carol Berman and several political candidates.

### Woman Hopes for Son's Freedom

On hand to tell first-hand of a family separated by Russian emigration policies, Rita Nashpitz related that she was allowed to join her husband in Haifa eight years ago and was promised that her only child, Mark, would be allowed to leave Moscow six months afterward. Instead, Mark was sent to Siberia for five years; Mark, a dentist, now lives on the outskirts of Moscow with his wife and two-year-old son, and has been assigned to the midnight shift in the morgue. According to Singer, Mark is apparently being punished for his father's defection 28 years ago.

Addressing the crowd in Yiddish — which Singer translated into English — Nashpitz expressed hope that "we all will be able to come visit here together and say at last that we are in freedom." Nashpitz also came here from Haifa in 1976 to join the Long Island Committee in its vigil.

Privately, Nashpitz told the Long Island Jewish World that a vigil like this "has to help. I keep pleading and pleading and hoping . . . Silence is not golden." Meanwhile, two weeks ago, Singer met with Senator

Edward Kennedy to ask him to intervene on Mark Nashpitz's behalf.

In his remarks to the crowd, Presiding Supervisor Gulotta called it a "tragedy that we have to join together in a vigil. All we ask is for our fellow human beings to enjoy the same dignity, respect and liberty of religion that we enjoy."

Likewise, District Attorney Dillon also spoke of "our obligation to stand up" to leaders who dehumanize Soviet Jews. And, he added, "There's a lot to be done about sensitivity even in our own country."

### Teenage Shout Anti-Semitic Remarks

Not long after Dillon made this comment, teenagers in several cars that passed by the vigil site shouted anti-Semitic remarks. In contrast, passengers in some other cars riding on Dosoris Lane honked in recognition of the vigil.

Other speakers expressed the hope that this would be the last Soviet Jewry demonstration that would have to be held. "Tisha B'av has taught us that out of sorrow comes joy," noted Rabbi Seymour Baumrind of the Lake Success Jewish Center. "We hope and pray that we can see the redemption of all people behind the Iron Curtain and that we can turn this into rejoicing."

The three hour length of the vigil compares with 27-hour vigils held outside Killenworth the past ten years. Vigil organizers explained it was cut short this year because of the growing awareness in the Jewish community and in Glen Cove itself of the Soviet Jewry problem.

In particular, Singer referred to the resolution passed on May 18 by the Glen Cove City Council which denies Killenworth residents access to the city's beaches and other recreational facilities after reports that the embassy here is used for electronic spying. However, following intervention by the U.S. State Department, which cited local interference with U.S. foreign policy, the City Council has said it will consider the State Department's request to reinstate privileges at its next meeting.

Said Singer, "Since the Russians already got such a message from Glen Cove, three hours is a strong enough message from us." The Long Island Committee plans another Soviet Jewry rally on October 7 in Mineola.

RENEW WORLD LONG ISLAND JEWRY

# Jewish Federation plans fast Tuesday

SALEM — A group of Greater Salem residents are so concerned with the plight of Soviet Jews they are not eating.

The Soviet and Ethiopian Jewry Committee of the Jewish Federation of the North Shore Inc., in conjunction with the North Shore Rabbinical Association, has organized a public fast day for Tuesday.

Close to 200 persons are expected to break fast together Tuesday evening at 6 at Temple Shalom,

Lafayette Street.

According to Soviet Jewry activists, this is the first such event ever staged in New England. In Judaism, fasting is a traditional response to a crisis situation.

Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union is at its lowest in years. An average of 4,000 exit visas per month were granted in 1979, but the current average is only 290. During the month of May, only 205 Jews were allowed to leave Russia and that

number is expected to be even lower during June.

Soviet Jews who remain face harassment and imprisonment. Any Jew who applies for an exit visa automatically loses his or her job. Meanwhile, the Soviets have stepped up a campaign against Jewish culture and anti-Semitic attacks have been on the increase.

Robert Gordon, past president of the National Union of Councils for Soviet

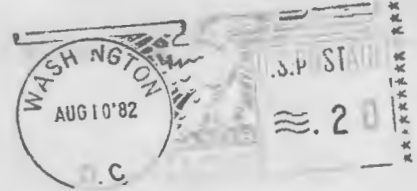
Jewry, plans to elaborate upon the existing situation within the Soviet Union during the Temple Shalom meeting Tuesday night.

The mayors of Lynn, Salem, Beverly and Peabody, as well as municipal leaders in Marblehead, Swampscott and Lynnfield, have indicated their support of the public fast for Soviet Jewry having declared Tuesday to be "North Shore Solidar. Day."

**Union of Councils for Soviet Jews**  
1411 K St., NW, Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20005



*Full*



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The Alert is published by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, an organization dedicated to helping the Jews of the Soviet Union, especially those desiring to leave.

Editorial Staff: Judith Slovin and Paul W. Meek.

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INFORMATION FROM  
THE UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

## WEEKLY UPDATE

# UCSJ Holds Annual Meeting



(From L to R) UCSJ  
Vice President Ruth Newman,  
Kissye Ratner, Grigorii Kanovich,  
UCSJ President Lynn Singer,  
Donna Stoller and Joan Dodek,  
Washington Committee for Soviet  
Jewry.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews held its 12th Annual Meeting from September 10-13, 1982 in Washington, D.C. Over one hundred activists from across the United States, Canada, Britain and Israel attended the conference to discuss the current critical situation of Soviet Jewry. Workshops and panels on subjects ranging from anti-Semitism in the USSR to scientific exchanges were convened in an effort to find solutions to the declining level of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, now at its lowest point in twelve years.

Highlights included former Leningrad refusenik GRIGORII KANOVICH, now of Israel, and KISSYE RATNER, mother of refusenik JUDITH RATNER BYALY. Kanovich was one of the founders of the Leningrad cultural seminars, and was the last of the long-term refuseniks and activists in Leningrad to receive an exit visa. According to Kanovich, despite Soviet persecution and suppression, Jewish cultural life has seen a revival and continues to thrive, as tens of thousands of young people are reaching out to be involved in Jewish cultural life. "I am a happy man because I saw an historical process. I saw young people who had not heard of Judaism for three or four generations and now they are striving to know their background." In a most moving speech, Grigorii appealed to the UCSJ to continue its work to help support his friends in Leningrad and the entire refusenik community in the USSR which is in great danger.

Paula Dobriansky of the National Security Council told the participants that the Reagan Administration's commitment to human rights for Soviet Jews remains steadfast and strong. The UCSJ presented "Legislator of the Year" awards to Senators Gary Hart (D-CO) and Charles Grassley (R-IO) and to Representatives Don Bonker (D-WA), Bill Frenzel (R-MN) and William Lehman (D-FL) in recognition of their dedicated work for Soviet Jewry.

As Kanovich so eloquently stated, "The struggle now for human rights for Soviet Jews is comparable to Jewish struggles in biblical times- although the forms are different, the sense is the same." Participants at the Annual Meeting reaffirmed their commitment to this ongoing struggle.



*Paula Dobriansky, National Security Council, addresses the luncheon session of the UCSJ Conference.*

*Boris and Lisa Aleiner with Phyllis Daniel and Co-Chairpersons Lillian Hoffman and Rhoda Friedman of the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry.*





*Congressman Bill Brodhead (D-MI), his aide John Schelble, and Jerry Rogers, Detroit Committee for Soviet Jewry.*

*Michael Sherbourne and UCSJ Vice President Morey Schapira, Chairperson of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry.*



*UCSJ President Lynn Singer; David Waksberg, Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry; Bailey Barron and Judy Patkin, Co-Chairpersons of Boston Action for Soviet Jewry.*

## Kochubievsky Arrested

FELIKS KOCHUBIEVSKY, refusenik and activist from Novosibirsk, was arrested on September 10th. He was accused of "circulating fabrications known to be false which defame the Soviet state and social system." The maximum sentence for this charge (section 190, part 1 of the Soviet criminal code) is up to three years in prison or internal exile. POC VICTOR BRAILOVSKY (ALERT 8/30/82) was found guilty on this same charge.

Since 1978, Kochubievsky has been actively trying to organize a group to establish a "USSR-Israel Friendship Society." Such a group exists in Israel, and Feliks has made repeated appeals to authorities to revive its Soviet counterpart, now long defunct. A collection of these appeals was published last year in "The Transparent Book" in which he also expressed his fear that he would be arrested by Soviet authorities. The book was published in Russian by Hebrew University in "Jews and the Jewish People," no. 24. Last March (ALERT 3/12/82) the KGB called Kochubievsky in and informed him that they intended to charge him with illegally sending written material to the West.

Feliks and his wife, VALENTINA, have sought to join their two sons and Feliks' sister in Israel since 1978. Their application in an exit visa was refused on the grounds of secrecy, although Kochubievsky denies ever having had access to classified information. After twenty five years of service as an electrical engineer, he was sacked from his work as a senior researcher in April 1981, as was his wife. The Kochubievskys have been subject to repeated KGB harassment in which their home was searched, materials were confiscated and they were personally threatened.

With his impending trial, Feliks' fate is uncertain. Please send letters of protest to: Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, USSR Embassy, 1125 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036 and to the Administration.

## ABA Adopts Resolutions on Human Rights

The American Bar Association, which recently held its 1982 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California, adopted the following resolutions on human rights in the Soviet Union.

*BE IT RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association, taking note of international human rights treaties signed and ratified by the Soviet Union which guarantee, inter alia, the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, expresses concern about the Soviet Union's tremendous cutback in Jewish emigration in 1982 and calls upon the Soviet authorities to respect the rights of Soviet Jews and others to leave the country, if they so desire; and*

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association, recalling its resolution of 1978, again urges Soviet authorities to cease their harassment and imprisonment of Soviet citizens when they attempt to exercise their basic human and legal rights; and*

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a representative of the American Bar Association will transmit the text of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the President of the Soviet Union, the President of the United States, and the Soviet Ambassador to the United States.

## Moscow Helsinki Group Disbands

The Moscow Helsinki Group, established in May 1976 to monitor Soviet compliance with the Helsinki Accords (to which the USSR was a signatory) officially disbanded on September 8, 1982. The Helsinki Accords, signed by thirty-five countries in 1975, established rules of behavior in the areas of military balance, economic relations, and human rights, including family reunification and freedom of religion. ELENA BONNER, wife of renown POC ANDREI SAKHAROV, and one of the three remaining members of the Group, sadly announced the formal dissolution of the Group, referring to the "cruel persecution" of the monitors by Soviet authorities.

Most of the original monitors have either been arrested or exiled. The thirty eight currently imprisoned members of the various Helsinki Groups in the Soviet Union are serving a total of 355 years in prison or exile. Besides Elena Bonner, only SOFIA KALISTRATOVA and NAUM MEIMAN remained active until the disbanding last week.

Apparently, the determining reason for calling a halt to the Group's activities was due to the possible prosecution of seventy five year old Kalistratova, who is practically an invalid and suffers from a heart condition. She was first informed by Soviet officials in December 1981 that she faced possible criminal prosecution for "anti-Soviet slander." On September 6, 1982, she was again warned by authorities as part of their pressures to silence the remaining Group.

Despite Soviet repression, the Moscow Helsinki Group was successful in compiling over two hundred documents which demonstrated breaches of the Soviet Union's human rights commitments under the Helsinki Accords.

## News of POCs

\*ALEXANDER PARITSKY recently suffered from a heart attack. Preceding the attack, he had been in solitary confinement for fifteen days. Prison officials called his wife, POLINA, to break the news. Authorities refuse to allow her to visit him, however, or to send him packages. In addition, Alexander's clothes were stolen again.

Paritsky, of Kharkov, was sentenced last November to three years in prison for "defaming the Soviet State" (article 190-1 of the Soviet criminal code and 187-1 of the Ukrainian code). Send letters demanding that Polina be allowed to see her husband to:

The Chief of the Camp  
Buriat ASSR Kabanskiy Rayon  
St. Vydrino  
P.O.B. 94/4

Nikolai Anisimovich Shchelokov  
Minister of Interior USSR  
Ogarev St. 6  
Moscow



\*POC VICTOR BRAILOVSKY, who was eligible to appeal for clemency, was denied last week on the grounds that he was once ten minutes late for work. Brailovsky now faces two more years of prison.

## News Briefs

\*On September 10, all phone lines from the U.S. to the USSR were disconnected for one day. Service was restored, but direct dial phone calls are not possible.

\*IDA NUDEL was recently told that if she stepped foot in Moscow, she would be put back into exile for one to three years. She has been officially banned from the capital until at least July 1983. Nudel is presently living outside of Moscow in Strunino.

\*Refuseniks ALEXANDER LERNER and JUDITH RATNER BYALY, both of Moscow, were warned by the KGB last week that they would be arrested if they continued to see tourists.

\*Leningrad activist ILYA SHOSTOKOVSKY was beaten up badly by eight KGB men while visiting ABA TARATUTA recently. His wife was beaten up in June of this year. Shostokovsky has been refused an exit visa since 1970 on the pretext of the "secrecy" of his former job as an electrical engineer.

\*On September 8, BORIS GULKO, thirty five year old former chess champion, was picked up by the militia in Moscow when he raised a banner demanding the right to emigrate to Israel outside the hotel where a regional chess tournament was underway. He was detained for nearly four hours before being released.

Earlier, Gulko had notified the world's major chess journals, federations, and top Grand Masters that unless he and his wife ANNA AKHSHARUMOVA and their three year old child DAVID were granted exit visas by October 20th, he would start a hunger strike. They first applied to emigrate in 1979.

\*Professor GRIGORY FREIMAN of Moscow was summoned by authorities on September 7, for the second time this month. His friends suspect that the inquiries are in connection with a letter by Freiman and other Soviet scientists sent to their colleagues in the West. Jewish scientists, refuseniks and non refuseniks alike, are increasingly being singled out and persecuted by Soviet authorities.

\*IOSIF BEGUN, former POC who now lives in Strunino, has been unemployed for the past four months. He is worried that he will be rearrested for parasitism. EVGENY LEIN of Leningrad is in the same bind.

\*TAMARA LIVSHITZ'S application for emigration was refused. Her husband SEMION LIVSHITZ lives in Detroit, Michigan.

\*AUGUSTINA and LILIA VASHCHENKO are off their hunger strike, after forty days. Their condition had been reported as very grave. Their families, who are Pentecostals, have been living in the basement of the American Embassy in Moscow since 1978.



# Emigration Report

Only 238 Soviet Jews arrived in Vienna during the month of May.

ARRIVED IN ISRAEL: DMITRI RAIZMAN : KIEV

PERMISSIONS: SHMUEL AND ROZALIA SHRARTSBAND AND DAUGHTER  
SOFIA : RIGA

\*OVIR authorities in Riga seem to be automatically turning down all applications for exit visas. Experienced refuseniks are of the opinion that this is an official policy in order to discourage new people from applying. Indeed, one third of new refuseniks do not apply again. Those who do eventually reapply are subject to rigorous investigations.

## U.S. GROUP ASSAILS SOVIET REPRESSION

20 Antinuclear Arms Leaders  
Say Moscow Is Harassing  
Russian Counterparts

NY TIMES

By JUDITH MILLER  
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Sept. 4 — Twenty American leaders of the movement to freeze Soviet and American nuclear arsenals have protested what they described as Soviet efforts to "harass and persecute" their Soviet counterparts.

In a letter to the Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Americans urged him to release from a psychiatric institution Sergei Batovrin, leader of the Soviet peace group, and to stop suppressing the "tiny" movement.

"The double standard by which the Soviet Government abides — applauding widespread public debate in the West, while crushing the most benign form of free expression at home — only strengthens the complex of forces that impel the nuclear arms race," the letter states.

In sending the letter, the American antinuclear weapons movement appeared to be breaking new ground. So far, opponents of the nuclear arms race have focused criticism on the Reagan Administration's program to expand and improve the nation's nuclear forces, rather than on berating Soviet behavior.

### Los Alamos Scientists

The letter is signed by 20 of the nation's most prominent advocates of a halt to the nuclear arms race. Signatories include many leading scientists and former Government officials who specialized in defense issues and arms control, and the national coordinator of the grass-roots nuclear freeze campaign. Among those who signed are three scientists who worked on the nuclear weapons program at Los Alamos Laboratory — Hans A. Bethe, winner of the Nobel Prize for physics in 1967, George B. Kistiakowsky, chairman of the Council for a Livable World, and Victor F. Weisskopf, who is one of the few American members of the Soviet Union's Academy of Sciences.

Kurt Gottfried, a physics professor at Cornell University, and Mr. Bethe drafted and circulated the letter a couple of weeks ago within the arms control community. Mr. Gottfried, who has been active in supporting Russian scientists persecuted by their Government, said in an interview today that he was "surprised and very pleased by the willingness of so many in the forefront of the American movement to halt the arms race" to sign the letter.

"We hope that our effort will make the Soviet leaders see that it doesn't make sense to take a hard-line with their peace movement," he said.

### 'Enormous Creative Potency'

The focus of the arms control advocates' protest is the Soviet Union's crackdown on a fledgling independent disarmament group. On June 4, members of the group said at a news conference for Western correspondents that their goal was to harness the "enormous creative potency" of the broad public in the search for disarmament and peace. Members said that they would press for direct contacts between the American and Soviet peoples and open discussion on both sides of disarmament proposals and other questions touching on peace and war.

On Aug. 6, the police arrested Mr. Batovrin, a 25-year-old artist who founded the group, and put him in a psychiatric hospital. A group of American peace activists had been scheduled to visit him that day.

One week later, the Soviet police sealed off the apartment where other members of the group were planning to meet, charging that the movement was provocative, antisocial and illegal. The crackdown occurred on the day that the Soviet press carried glowing accounts of the huge protest against nuclear war the day before in New York.

### Threatened With Electric Shock

Since his incarceration, Mr. Batovrin has been administered antidepressant drugs against his will and threatened with electric shock treatments if he did not take his medication, according to Natasha Batovrin, his wife.

On August 11, Amnesty International, the London-based international human rights group, selected Mr. Batovrin as a "prisoner of conscience," and urged supporters to press for his release.

"We have been dismayed that the Soviet Government has chosen to harass and persecute this tiny group," the American letter states.

Mr. Gottfried said that he did not believe that the crackdown on the peace group indicated that the Soviet Union was not willing to negotiate a "mutual and verifiable freeze or reductions" in atomic arsenals. The Soviet Union would agree to a freeze if the United States did and if it was consistent with its security interests, he asserted.

Rather, the crackdown reflected the fact that the "Soviet Union has not learned to tolerate any kind of criticism," Mr. Gottfried said.

Denver Post 9/14/82

## Jewish Group Honors Hart

WASHINGTON — Cited as a "steadfast champion for the cause of human rights," Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., was named a "Legislator of the Year," Monday by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

Mrs. Lillian Hoffman of Denver, long an activist on behalf of oppressed Soviet Jewry, said in making the presentation that Hart, a member of the Congressional Advisory Board, has been "invaluable" in the cause of helping Soviet Jews emigrate from the Soviet Union.

# Ben Wattenberg *Washington Post* **Russia Shrinks; Why Should We?**

The Russians have a problem that ought to be riveting, not only for them but for Americans and the House of Representatives, which will vote soon on the immigration bill. According to Murray Feshbach of Georgetown University, who has been studying the Soviet population for 30 years, their problem is this: they are sort of running short of Russians. That is, the fertility rate of women in the "Russian" republic of the U.S.S.R. is 1.9 children per woman. That rate is "negative." After some decades at that fertility rate, a population declines. At the same time, in the Central Asian republic of the U.S.S.R.,—where the Kirgiz, Tadzhik, Turkmen and Uzbek live—there is a fertility rate of about five children per woman. There are some important facts to note about these Central Asians. They are mostly Moslems, as are their Transcaucasian sister republics. And they don't generally like the Russians.

Of course, as Feshbach points out, the Russians still make up 52 percent of the U.S.S.R.'s population. The "Slavic" republics, which include not only Russians but 50 million Ukrainians, make up 72 percent of the U.S.S.R. Soviet authorities have recently instituted some modest pro-natalist measures.

Still, the problem is there for the Soviets. By the year 2000 Russians in the U.S.S.R. will be a minority: about 47 percent. There is already a labor problem: a decline in the number of workers in Russia that will

get progressively more serious while at the same time the labor force of the Central Asians grows steeply. The same phenomenon is apparent in the military. By the year 2000, the Russian military force will be composed of a majority of non-Russians—56 percent. All this is exacerbated by an incredible development that has received only scant attention in the West. The Soviet death rate has gone up. Way up. It was 6.9 per thousand in 1964, and it is 10.3 today. Much of the increase, says Feshbach, is due to a pandemic of alcoholism, which strikes particularly at young Russian males and leaves the abstemious Moslems untouched.

All this should be of interest to the House of Representatives. For America also has a negative fertility rate—about as low as the Russians'. But America has a secret weapon allowing it to grow in a healthy way because immigrants want to come here. (No one volunteers to relocate in Russia.) Furthermore, ethnic groups in America not only don't feel like captive nations yearning to be free; they also make fine citizens.

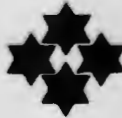
If it weren't for civil wars, purges, epidemics, wars, famines, liquidation of the Kulaks—the Soviet population today would be about 200 million more than it is! How would you like to have an arms race with a Soviet nation of 470 million—about twice as large as ours? Power, remember, is still related to population size.

With a moderately expansionist immigration policy, America can grow, remain strong and influential, able to support our values in a turbulent world. Unfortunately, the immigration levels in the bill before the House set in motion a demographic process that can lead to a no-growth population pattern in the United States—just like that of the Russians. It can be easily and moderately loosened, and it should be.

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## **Union of Councils for Soviet Jews**

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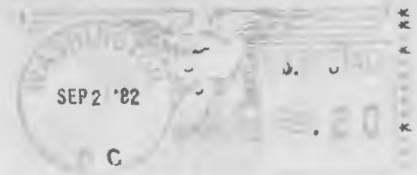
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INFORMATION FROM  
THE UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

## WEEKLY UPDATE

### Interview with Congressman Brodhead



*(From l to r) Leonid Shcharansky and Ida Milgrom (Anatoly Shcharansky's brother and mother) and Congressman William Brodhead in Dr. Alexander Lerner's apartment in Moscow.*

Congressman William Brodhead (D-MI) recently returned from a trip to the Soviet Union, sponsored by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews and the Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee. The Congressman met with over fifty refusenik families in Moscow and Leningrad. Judith Slovin, Associate Director of the UCSJ and Editor of the ALERT, interviewed him on his experience in the Soviet Union.

- Q. Congressman Brodhead, what overall impressions did you have of the political and economic situation in the Soviet Union, especially in regards to Soviet Jews?
- A. My impression is that economically the Soviets are very far behind the United States; the vast majority of the country's resources is going to the military, rather than to improving the life of the people. When a country is on a wartime footing, which I think the Soviet Union essentially is, dissent is not tolerated. So it's a very rigid, repressive economic and political system.
- Q. How did you find the general mood of the refuseniks?

- A. Not hopeful. I think they recognize that the likelihood of their getting out is very slim under current conditions.
- Q. You visited with refuseniks in both Moscow and Leningrad. Because the refusenik community in Leningrad has been allowed to engage more openly in cultural activities, until recently, did you find a more positive attitude among refuseniks there?
- A. Yes. There seemed to be a little more freedom in Leningrad. The refuseniks seemed to be more accepting. I had the feeling that they were enjoying their lives a little more than the people in Moscow. The refuseniks in Moscow seem to feel like they are under the gun.
- Q. For the past eight years since you first came to Congress I know that you have been particularly concerned with the case of Alexander Maryasin of Riga. He has been your adopted refusenik. What was it like to finally meet him?
- A. We met in the home of a mutual friend and spontaneously threw our arms around each other. We were just so thrilled and excited to see each other and talk about all the things that have happened in the last eight years since we have been corresponding. There was a very warm feeling between us.
- Q. Of all the fifty odd refuseniks that you met with, was there anything in your conversations that was particularly impressive?
- A. The most striking conversation I had was with Dr. Alexander Lerner who, since we met with him, has been denied access to Westerners by Soviet authorities. I was so impressed with him. For someone who had held such a prominent position in the Soviet scientific community, I asked him why he had made his decision to apply to emigrate, knowing that number one, he would lose his job, and number two, he might not receive an exit visa. He explained that he was very concerned about the Soviet policy of anti-Semitism, and that he was being held up as an example that there was no discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union. He felt that he had to bear testimony as a matter of conscience. The best testimony that he could give was to ask to be allowed to emigrate knowing what the results would be. He made a martyr of himself.
- Q. Would you describe your meetings with the people at the American Embassy in Moscow?
- A. The officials there were very helpful, they were very knowledgeable about the problem and very concerned. Their views were similar to the refuseniks, i.e. that there was increased repression, constantly lower toleration of any kind of dissenting element in the Soviet Union, and that a solution to the problem depended on somehow making a breakthrough in terms of U.S.-Soviet relations.

As long as relations between the two countries are as bad as they are now, the United States government doesn't have very much leverage in terms of trying to help these people.

Q. What kinds of suggestions or ideas do you advocate for better U.S.-Soviet relations?

A. I have felt for a long time that we are trying to obstruct and fight with the Soviet Union on every front, particularly since the latter part of the Carter Administration. Since President Reagan has been in office, we seem to be trying to confront them on virtually every issue. My view is that we should pick out a few things that are really important and confront them on those issues, and try to seek peaceful relations in other areas. For example, I think that we ought to try to expand tourism and cultural contacts between the two countries. I don't think we ought to prevent them from getting technology, unless it's very advanced technology that has military use, and I think that we ought to move the questions of human rights up near the top of the agenda.

Q. So you feel that human rights is not a high priority in this Administration?

A. I don't think it's a high priority with them. Their priority seems to be to contain and crack the Soviet Union. My impression of the Soviet Union is that it's a very strong country internally. After seeing and hearing about the Second World War and the hard times that these people have been through for 60 or 70 years, I came to the conclusion that we are not going to crack these people. The Communists can stand just about any pressure that we put on them. Given their military strengths, and their power in the world, we are going to have to learn to live with them. We are not going to defeat them militarily. I think the net effect of our policy over the last few years has been to give them good reasons to clamp down on people internally. I believe we have had a self-defeating policy in the areas of human rights and emigration. As a general proposition, when relations between the two countries have been good, the rate of emigration has been high. When relations are bad, it's been low. Now certainly there are times and issues when we have to take a stand, and if that causes relations to be bad, then so be it.

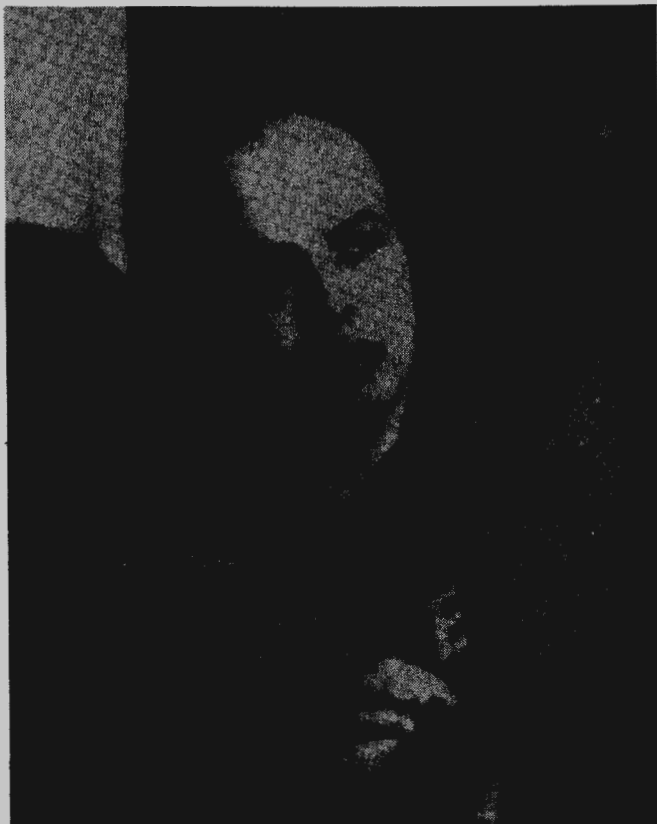
But for example, I don't agree with our government's positions with respect to the pipeline, and making it difficult for Soviet citizens to come to the United States. I don't think there's any more effective way we could subvert the Soviet system than to allow large numbers of Soviet citizens to come to the United States and see the kind of life that we have here.



- Q. You have been deeply involved with Soviet Jewry for eight years now. How did your trip there and your meetings with the refuseniks who you have been working for for so long, affect you emotionally? Did the visit change your political perceptions?
- A. You hear about these things and read about them, talk about them, but you don't have a sense of it, really. I don't think I did have a sense of it until I saw it for myself. To see these very capable and talented people, who in most cases are not allowed to work at their chosen profession, to experience being followed by the KGB, as we were, to see and talk to people who literally have no hope, other than their friends in the free world - it's hard to imagine people could be so without resources. But when you see it, you know it's true.
- Q. You mentioned being followed by the KGB. Did you have any other experiences of harassment that you would like to talk about?
- A. Well, when we were at the Taratuta apartment in Leningrad, the local militia came three times within an hour, for no reason, saying that they had reports that there was a disturbance going on. There was just a group of 20 or 25 people who were sitting and talking. That was all that was going on. But what we went through with the KGB is minor, really, compared with what those refuseniks go through in terms of losing their jobs, being sent to Siberia for holding up signs, etc. Compared to that, it was nothing.
- Q. What more can we do in this country to help the refuseniks? Have our efforts been effective thus far?
- A. We can't get discouraged. We have to keep up the efforts, make whatever contacts we can, always sensitive to the fact that we may, sometimes, inadvertently or accidentally do something that causes these people to get into trouble. We should always be very careful about this. They seemed to be very glad to see us. They said what we were doing is very helpful to them. As Americans, if we really want to do something about this problem, we have to begin to think about how we can take a much more pragmatic approach toward the Soviet Union, towards relations between the two countries. Our approach now really does not make any sense. As a member of Congress, I found the Soviet authorities somewhat responsive in earlier years, when they had hopes that they would get something in exchange. They know now that no concessions are possible. They have no reason to listen to me now. We have no leverage with them.

(Continued on page 10)

# SHCHARANSKY ON HUNGER STRIKE



*Anatoly Shcharansky*

On Yom Kippur eve, POC ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY began an indefinite hunger strike in the notorious Chistopol Prison to protest against an official blockade of his mail and visits by his family. No one has heard from Shcharansky since January, and his mother IDA MILGROM has been turned away twice from attempts to see him at the prison in April and July. Mrs. Milgrom stated, "In January when I last saw him, he looked like a virtual skeleton. A long fast means inevitable death. I don't think he will survive."

After hearing the news about her son's hunger strike, Mrs. Milgrom met with two prison authorities charging them with responsibility for Anatoly's deteriorated physical condition and holding them morally responsible for his hunger strike. At that point, the authorities told her that they would not let Shcharansky die.

Shcharansky, a mathematician and chess master, had become the unofficial spokesman of the Jewish emigration movement in the USSR until his arrest on March 15, 1977. On July 4, 1974, he married his beloved AVITAL. The following day, she was forced out of the Soviet Union and has not seen her husband since. She is now living in Jerusalem where she spends every waking moment working for Anatoly's release.

After Shcharansky was arrested for "treason" in 1977, he was held incommunicado for sixteen months, and ultimately sentenced in July 1978 to thirteen years of forced labor in camps and exile.

In 1981 alone, he spent over half the year in solitary confinement and prison cells.

In a statement by Avital, she said: "Jews around the world have fasted for one day, Yom Kippur, but Anatoly has begun an unlimited hunger strike to protest against his complete isolation from the outside world. Because of his deteriorating health and appeals to the Kremlin to no avail, he decided to declare a hunger strike."

On September 27th, State Department spokesman Alan Romberg declared: "We wish to emphasize how thoroughly we deplore the Soviet authorities' willful abuse of Mr. Shcharansky's rights which has led to this desperate decision. We call on Soviet authorities to reconsider their treatment of Mr. Shcharansky and restore his ability to be allowed to communicate with friends and relatives."

Shcharansky's situation has never been more critical or desperate. He needs our support! Demand that Ida Milgrom be allowed to visit her son. Demand that Anatoly Shcharansky be allowed to join his wife in Israel. Send letters to:

Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin  
Soviet Embassy  
1125 16th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Col. Malofeyev (Chistopol Prison Director)  
Uchr. 5110/1 UE  
Moscow, USSR

Letters of support to:

President Reagan  
White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Anatoly Shcharansky  
Chistopol Prison  
Moscow, USSR

## Crushing a Hunger Strike

*Anatoly's former prisonmate JOSEPH MENDELEVICH, now living in Israel, describes a hunger strike in a Soviet Prison.*

A hunger strike formally begins when a prisoner conveys a declaration of his intention to strike to the prison authorities. The prison director calls in the prisoner and declares that the Soviet regime does not recognize such an act, and thus it is illegal. "You're allowed to not eat as much as you want," he explains, "but we must carry out our obligations to give you food according to regulations."

Despite the inmate's refusal to eat, guards bring food to the cell, so the sight of it will stimulate him. They deliberately keep the hunger striker with other prisoners who are eating as usual so they can say, "how do we know if you're hunger striking or not? We're serving food as usual. Your rations are right next to you." The prison authorities show total lack of concern for the issues for which the prisoner is hunger striking. They seek only to persecute the prisoner and convince him to give up.

The next step is official disinterest in the hunger strike, and the accusation that this is an anti-Soviet act warranting criminal punishment. Because he is so weak, the hunger striker cannot work. He's then accused of refusing to work, and can be incarcerated for 15 days in solitary confinement in a cement box with no bed, table or window, and with only a hole in the floor for sewage. After these measures, many hunger strikers cannot withstand the physical and psychological pressure and give up.

If the strike continues, a doctor eventually comes to visit the prisoner, but any layman could diagnose that the striker is on



the verge of exhaustion. The doctor's role here is not to help but to exert additional psychological pressure. In harshest terms, he describes how a hunger strike harms all of one's internal vital organs. He repeats this many times.

At this stage, the striker is isolated for the entire day in a solitary confinement cell. He is not allowed to see friends, but KGB agents persist in coming to intimidate him. Next comes a period of total neglect. The hunger striker is led to believe that the authorities consider him dead. According to the regulations, biological deterioration has set in, and artificial feeding must be implemented as the next stage.

The guards enter the cell, throw the prisoner to the floor and put him in handcuffs, chains and a straitjacket. They force open his mouth with a special instrument. The assault costs the prisoner a few broken ribs and teeth. A tube is put in his mouth with direct access to his stomach. 1000 calories of liquid food is poured in. If the hunger striker stops the flow by pressing the tube with his teeth, the tube is then shoved up his nose.

This type of feeding harms the body's metabolism and causes painful headaches and stomach aches. As it is given between long breaks, it forces the prisoner to start his hunger strike over again many times. This course of action is much more painful than a continuous hunger strike, as the amount of food given at one forced feeding ~~is not enough~~ to allow the body to function. This form of artificial nutrition is a most fierce, sophisticated form of torture. It is a torture that perpetrates serious degeneration of the body.

However, cases are known where, thanks to public support, the hunger striker withstands these hardships and reaches his objectives. You and I are part of that public who must help Anatoly Shcharansky achieve his objectives of life and freedom.

## World Reaction

\*AVITAL SHCHARANSKY came to Washington, D.C. on an emergency visit to rally the support of the U.S. government and administration for her husband, Anatoly, with regard to his hunger strike. On October 6, 1982, a press conference directly opposite the Soviet Embassy was held with Avital, Senators Paul Tsongas (D-MA), Carl Levin (D-MI), and John Heinz (R-PA). Senator Tsongas announced that he would attempt to go to the Soviet Union to visit Anatoly at Chistopol prison to determine his physical and psychological condition. He called on Soviet authorities to allow Shcharansky contact with his family through mail and personal visits, and ultimately for his emigration from the USSR. Following the press conference, the three senators met with Soviet Embassy officials to discuss the case.

**\*DECLARATION BY FORMER PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE**

*We have just been informed that Anatoly Shcharansky began an unlimited hunger strike, demanding an end to his isolation from the outside world. For six years, he has not been allowed to send or receive letters from his wife, and now has been denied the right to meet with relatives. The letters he writes and which are sent him are confiscated, in direct contradiction to international law.*

*We have no doubt that the Soviet government has taken these measures to exert pressure on our friend and to force him to admit to the false accusations that caused him to be sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment. The Soviet government wants to break his spirit and kill him.*

*Anatoly's life is of paramount importance to us because we love him as a close friend and a human being. His fate represents that of millions of Soviet Jews threatened by national genocide.*

*At this moment, when our dear friend is isolated in a Soviet cell in the dreadful Chistopol Prison, courageously fighting for his life and for the life of his people, we, former victims of the Soviet prison system, turn to you, our Jewish brethren and all people of goodwill throughout the world with our cry: Rise up as one soul and protest. We cannot let the white collar wardens of the Kremlin exterminate this precious human life. We will win his freedom!*

*(signed by) Ruth Alexandrovich, Anatoly Altman, Tina Brodetsky, Hillel Butman, Jacob Vinarov, Meir Gelfand, Anatoly Goldfeld, Alexander Galperin, Shlomo Dreisner, Sylva Zalmanson, Israel Zalmanson, Wolf Zalmanson, Lassal Kaminsky, Edward Kuznetsov, Mikhail Korenblit, Sender Levinson, Lazar Lubarsky, Mark Lutsker, Joseph Mendelevich, Natan Malkin, Joseph Mishiner, Vladimir Mogilever, Boris Penson, Raiza Palatnik, Lev Roitburd, Alexander Silnitsky, Aaron Farberov, Alexander Feldman, Aryeh Khanokh, Boris Tsitlonak, Aaron Shpilberg.*

**\*DECLARATION BY FORMER LONG-TERM REFUSENIKS**

*This appeal is addressed to you by former long-term refuseniks and by relatives of Soviet Jews who have been forcibly separated for many years from their families in Israel. This appeal is of an emergency nature in view of the dramatic development in the situation of Anatoly Shcharansky. We have just learned that he has begun a hunger strike on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.*

*For many months, he has been kept in an internal punishment cell which is so horrible that even by Soviet law a prisoner cannot be kept there for more than 15 days. Anatoly's health has been reeled completely by hunger, cold and lack of fresh air. He is alone, isolated from his family and surrounded by secret police guards, but he continues his struggle despite the totally inhuman conditions in which he is kept by the Soviet authorities. He could only take this risky decision to begin a hunger strike as a last step in his struggle for his ideals.*

*The life of our beloved friend and great hero is now in mortal danger. We urge you to mobilize world public opinion, urge you to explain to the Soviet government that they cannot crush Anatoly's life in this way. We ask you to react immediately before it is too late.*

*(signed by) Joseph Ahs, Jacob Arieiev, Shmuel Bronfman, Joseph & Dina Beilin, Dr. Ilya Ginsburg, Prof. Benjamin Fain, Elana Nudel, Dr. Sonya Lerner-Levin, Dr. Alexander Lunts, Evgeny Lenchik, Emanuel Luboshitz, Mikhail Mager, Dr. Dan Roginsky, Ina Rubin, Lev Ulanovsky, Dr. Alexander Voronel.*

\*Secretary of State GEORGE SHULTZ and Soviet Foreign Minister ANDREI GROMYKO began talks on September 28 in New York to "exchange views on matters of concern to both countries." It was reported that Shultz put special emphasis on human rights questions and submitted to Gromyko a list of Soviet Jewish refuseniks whose situations are of particular concern to the United States. The talks continued the following week, although they are not expected to substantially ease the tense relations between the two countries.

\*Learning of Shcharansky's hunger strike, the Committee of Concerned Scientists coordinated activities among leading American and Canadian computer scientists to protest his harsh treatment and virtual isolation from his family and friends. The scientists called upon Minister of the Interior SHCHELOKOV and Director of Chistopol Prison ROMANOV to "restore our colleague's human rights," and to "seek amnesty for him, leading to his emigration from the USSR."

## Emigration Report

\*Former POC AMNER ZAVUROV and his father, BORIS, finally received exit visas after eight years of being refuseniks. In August 1975 they were given exit visas, but while their luggage was being processed for shipment, they were informed that the visas had expired. ~~All efforts to obtain an extension were refused, and~~ they were officially denied permission to emigrate in January 1976 because of "regime considerations."

Amner was subsequently arrested in January 1977 on the pretext of "hooliganism and passport regulations" and sentenced to three years in Soviet prison. Amner and his father will be joining their family in Israel.

\*The Ratevsky family of Bucharest arrived in Israel last month. They had been refuseniks for twelve years.

\*Forty refuseniks gathered at the Moscow OVIR office and submitted a letter of protest concerning the long periods of time they are forced to wait for invitations and exit visas. Three representatives of this group requested a meeting with the OVIR manager, but he only agreed to speak with each of them separately. The refuseniks would not accept the offer, instead sending the letter to the general Soviet OVIR. According to Soviet law, the OVIR must answer the letter within one month.

ONLY 246 JEWS LEFT THE SOVIET UNION IN SEPTEMBER 1982.

(continued from page 4)

I think, in the end, we are talking tough here, but we are just bluffing. In the end, we are not about to go to war with the Soviet Union. The American people don't want that. Our European Allies, who are much more directly threatened by the Soviet Union than we are, in the geographic sense, are trying to trade and expand relations with them. So the Soviets see the West as divided. That doesn't convince them that we mean business. We need to try to unite the Allies and figure out a policy that will achieve defined goals. Otherwise, we are just following a blind anti-Communist policy. I don't think it makes any sense to just bang your head against the wall. Let's try to figure out how to win.

- Q. Has the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews been an effective voice for the refuseniks?
- A. I think so. Refuseniks feel that their friends in America are about the only friends they have. To the extent that it is tolerated by Soviet authorities, the UCSJ has been able to get messages to them, communicate with them, give them hope, help, and many of the people that are active in the UCSJ are widely known among the Jewish community in the Soviet Union.
- Q. How did you find the Vaschenkos and the Chmykhalovs, (the Pentecostal families in the American Embassy)?
- A. I think they are very sad, very pathetic. They are asking for something which I don't think they are going to get. They are in a slightly different category than the Jews there. I don't think there is any particular reason why the Soviets want or need to keep those people. But the tactic that the families are choosing is not one that is designed to be effective: namely, the hunger strike. If these people starve themselves to death, I don't think it will cause any tears in the Kremlin. \*(The families have recently ended their hunger strike). Clearly, the Soviets yielded a couple times to the hunger strikers. They have now made the decision that they are not going to yield. The United States just doesn't have any legal ability to help these people.
- Q. Recently, on Yom Kippur, Shcharansky declared a hunger strike. Do you think that is going to get him anywhere?
- A. I think the case of Shcharansky is different. I mean, his case appears to be on the surface so hopeless, that, clearly, he is a desperate man. The treatment of Shcharansky by the Soviet authorities is so monstrous and so outrageous, that one doesn't even know how to begin to reason with people like that.
- A. Earlier you were discussing the sense of hopelessness and helplessness of the Soviet Jews. Did you also perceive a sense of fear?

A. Well, not exactly fear as such. The people that we talked to are pretty intelligent people. They seem to know what their limits are and are able to operate within those limits. They are well trained by the Soviet authorities. They are not venturesome at all in terms of desiring to cause dissent or disruption. They just want to leave, and they know that they can make a certain amount of noise; but once they reach a certain decibel level, it's not going to be tolerated. So it is fear in that sense, but it's more something that they have accommodated themselves to and learned to live with.

Q. Do you have any additional comments?

A. I won't say it was an enjoyable trip, but it was a fascinating, frustrating, exhilarating and deeply emotional experience. I will never be the same after that. It was quite an education, and I would certainly encourage anybody who has an interest in this problem to go to the Soviet Union. After only eight or nine days, I really understand Communism and the Soviet Union and the violations of human rights as I never have understood them before. It was one of the great experiences of my life, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to go.

Ms. Slovin: Thank you.

## News Briefs

\*On September 8th, Moscow refusenik and former Soviet national chess champion Grandmaster BORIS GULKO was attacked as he attempted to enter as a spectator into the international interzonal chess tournament held in the Soviet capital. The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry received a copy of a letter he addressed to the tourney's participants explaining what happened:

*"When I came to the tournament I was stopped in front of the entrance. My ticket was confiscated as if it were false. I was kicked by plainclothesmen in front of uniformed police and a crowd of chess lovers. After that, I was taken away to the police station for three hours and was forbidden to attend the interzonal chess tournament. This is an unprecedented case in chess life. I'm sure that the cause for that incident is that I applied to emigrate to Israel. I hope that chess players will draw their conclusions from my case and will demand the observance of their colleague's rights."*

Gulko was officially threatened several days ago with imprisonment if he persisted in his efforts to emigrate.

\*ARI VOLVOVSKY's wife, MILA, recently underwent gall bladder surgery. Ten days later, she was rushed back to the hospital due to complications. Please write letters of support to the family. USSR/RSFSR/Gorky/ul. Krilova 14 a/Apt. 115/Volvovsky



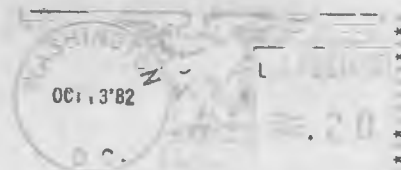
# Stop Press....Stop Press....Stop Press....

According to information from Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry, YURI TARNOPOLSKY of Kharkov, who has been refused an exit visa for six years, began a hunger strike on October 1st. He is only drinking water, and plans to continue hunger striking at least until November 9, when the Madrid Conference reconvenes.

Tarnopolsky, like SHCHARANSKY, is undergoing the strike in a desperate call to Soviet officials to grant him permission to emigrate. In November 1980, Yuri embarked on a similar hunger strike together with a group of refuseniks which again coincided with the opening of the Madrid Conference.

On the same day that Kharkov activist and POC ALEXANDER PARITSKY was arrested in August 1981, Tarnopolsky's home was raided, along with the homes of his friends DAVID SOLOVEICHIK and EVGENY CHUDNOVSKY, and various books and papers were confiscated. Tarnopolsky is a teacher in the unofficial "Kharkov University" which was formed in September 1980 by a group of refuseniks.

**Union of Councils for Soviet Jews**  
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