

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
Digital Library Collections

This is a PDF of a folder from our textual collections.

Collection: Green, Max: Files
Folder Title: Soviet Jewry (9)
Box: 24

To see more digitized collections visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/archives/digital-library>

To see all Ronald Reagan Presidential Library inventories visit:

<https://reaganlibrary.gov/document-collection>

Contact a reference archivist at: reagan.library@nara.gov

Citation Guidelines: <https://reaganlibrary.gov/citing>

National Archives Catalogue: <https://catalog.archives.gov/>

CHARLES H. PERCY, ILL., CHAIRMAN

HOWARD H. BAKER, JR., TENN.
JESSE HELMS, N.C.
S. I. HAYAKAWA, CALIF.
RICHARD G. LUGAR, IND.
CHARLES MC C. MATHIAS, JR., MD.
NANCY L. KASSEBAUM, KANS.
RUDY BOSCHWITZ, MINN.
LARRY PRESSLER, S. DAK.

CLAIBORNE PELL, R.I.
JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR., DEL.
JOHN GLENN, OHIO
PAUL S. SARBANES, MD.
EDWARD ZORINSKY, NEBR.
PAUL E. TSONGAS, MASS.
ALAN CRANSTON, CALIF.
CHRISTOPHER J. DODD, CONN.

EDWARD G. SANDERS, STAFF DIRECTOR
GERYLD B. CHRISTIANSON, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

May 14, 1982

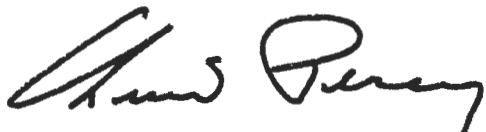
Mrs. Bronislava Tonkonogaya
34-19 29th Street, 5-J
Long Island City, New York 11106

Dear Mrs. Tonkonogaya:

I have again attempted to intercede with Soviet authorities through Ambassador Dobrynin here for permission for your husband, Gregory Gimpelson, to join his son Alexander in Israel.

I am hopeful that our combined efforts will eventually be successful.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Percy
Chairman

CHP:ggmj

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510
April 10, 1985

Mrs. Bronislava Gimpelson
34-19 29 Street, Apt. 5-J
Astoria, New York 11106

Dear Mrs. Gimpelson:

Thank you for your letter requesting that I urge the Soviets to expedite an exit visa for your husband, Gregory, during my scheduled visit to the U.S.S.R.

I am sorry to report that the trip has been cancelled.

The Senate delegation I was to head had been invited by the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences to discuss matters relating to arms control and U.S.-Soviet relations. Our group was to include Senators Joseph Biden (D-Delaware), Warren Rudman (R-New Hampshire), and Carl Levin (D-Michigan).

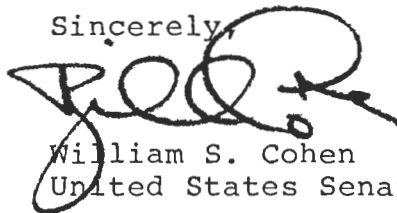
Unfortunately, Senators Biden, Levin, Rudman, and I felt compelled to cancel our scheduled visit when Soviet authorities refused to grant a visa to the aide Senator Biden had chosen to accompany him. The person in question had visited Afghanistan and written a report critical of Soviet actions and behavior in occupying that country.

My colleagues and I made clear to the Soviets that we could not tolerate attempts to interfere with the right of our delegation's members to choose their own aides. When the U.S.S.R. persisted in its refusal to grant Senator Biden's staff assistant a visa, we cancelled the trip.

I will retain your material in the event a trip is scheduled in the future.

With my best wishes for your success, I am

Sincerely,



William S. Cohen
United States Senator

WSCsal

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

10889 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD • SUITE 1500

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

(213) 879-1700 • (213) 477-0066

January 18, 1980

ARMAND HAMMER
CHAIRMAN AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mrs. Bronislava Tonkonogaya
34-19 29th Street
Apt. 5-J
Long Island City
New York, New York

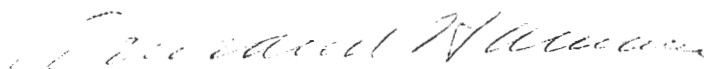
Dear Mrs. Tonkonogaya:

I regret that it has taken so long to answer your letters, but I have been travelling almost constantly these past months and my personal correspondence has fallen behind.

I will try to help you if I can to obtain an exit visa for your husband Gregory Solomonovich Gimpelson.

When I have some further information, I will advise you.

Sincerely yours,



AH/fa

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS
CONGRES JUIF MONDIAL • CONGRESO JUDIO MUNDIAL

ONE PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016

CABLE: WORLDGRESS, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: (212) 679-0600
TELEX: 23 61 29

BUENOS AIRES
Larrea 744

GENEVA
1 rue de Varembe

JERUSALEM
4 Rotenberg Street

LONDON
11 Hertford Street

PARIS
78 Av. des Ch. Elysees

ROME
Piazza Scanderbeg 51

June 28, 1985

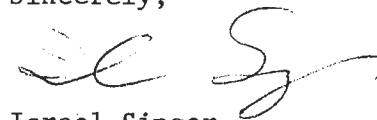
Mrs. Bronislava Tonkonogaya
34-19 29th Street Apt. 5-J
Astoria, New York 11106

Dear Mrs. Tonkonogaya:

These lines are to acknowledge your letter of June 18 addressed to WJC President Edgar M. Bronfman. Please be assured that we have not forgotten about the sad case of Gregory Gimpelson and his need to be reunited with his son in Israel.

We will certainly do whatever is possible on his behalf when we go to the Soviet Union for discussions with the authorities.

Sincerely,



Israel Singer
Executive Director

IS:er

Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc.

EXECUTIVE OFFICES

375 PARK AVENUE • SUITE 1809 • NEW YORK, NY 10152

VICE PRESIDENT
CORPORATE AFFAIRS

29 March 1983

Mrs. Bronislava Tonkonogaya
34-19 29 Street, Apt. 5-J
Astoria, New York 11106

Dear Ms. Tonkonogaya,

Thank you very much for your lovely Passover card. It was a pleasure to hear from you, even so briefly. If there are any new developments in your life or that of Gregory Gimpelson, I would be happy to have you stop by the office to tell me about them. In any case, I wish you all the best and thank you again for your thoughtfulness.

With best regards to you, I am,

Sincerely yours,

William K. Friedman.

William K Friedman

WKF:f

DANTE B. FASCELL
CHAIRMAN

ROBERT DOLE
CO-CHAIRMAN

COMMISSION ON
SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

March 27, 1985

R. SPENCER OLIVER
STAFF DIRECTOR

SAMUEL G. WISE
DEPUTY STAFF DIRECTOR

237 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING, ANNEY 2

(202) 225-1901

Rabbi Charles Sheer
Columbia University in the City of New York
Office of the Jewish Chaplain
New York, N.Y. 10027

Dear Rabbi Sheer:

Thank you for your letters of March 4 and March 20 containing updated information about Gregory Gimpelson and describing the recent efforts you have made on his behalf. I was pleased to receive you at the Commission and am glad that you think your trip to Washington was productive.

Let me take this opportunity to inform you that the Commission prepared a biography of the Gimpelson case and submitted it, along with a relatively short list of other cases, to the members of the House and Senate who met with the Soviet parliamentary delegation that visited the United States last month. Should I hear of any follow-through by the Members or any response they may receive from the Soviet side, I will let you know.

Other opportunities to raise the Gimpelson case are presented by two congressional delegations, led respectively by Senator Cohen of Maine and Speaker O'Neill, which will travel to the USSR in April (see enclosed Christian Science Monitor article). The O'Neill delegation is paying a return call on the Soviet parliamentarians whom the U.S. Congress received in March. You may want to contact Speaker O'Neill and remind him that the case had been submitted to the House leadership previously and should be raised again.

On our part, the Commission has offered to brief both congressional groups and will resubmit our list, containing the Gimpelson case.

With respect to Ottawa, I can assure you that the Commission plans to play an active role on the U.S. Delegation. The agenda will be agreed at the preparatory meeting immediately preceding the main meeting, but we expect the agenda to be non-specific. We anticipate the greatest amount of press and public interest in the Ottawa Meeting during the opening week of May 7. Any questions you may have about State Department lists presented to the Soviets in connection with Ottawa should be directed to John Schmidt at the Soviet Desk (telephone 202-632-2137)..

In closing, I would only join you and Mrs. Gimpelson in hoping that the recent developments in U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations will serve to open the door for Gregory and for others who have waited, and suffered, for so long. My thoughts and prayers will be with the Gimpelsons this Passover.

Sincerely,

Lynne Ann Davidson
Lynne Ann Davidson
Staff Assistant

enclosure as

above

FROM: MICHAEL LATHAM M.P. (RUTLAND & MELTON)



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

13th June, 1985

Dear Mrs. Gimpelson,

Thank you for your letter of the 7th June. I did as promised ensure that information relating to your husband's case was drawn to the attention of Mr. Gorbachev when he came here at the end of last year.

I will write to the Soviet Ambassador about this matter, though I really cannot promise any success, or indeed reply. However I know they do take account of such representations.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael Latham".

Mrs. Bronislava Gimpelson,
34-19 29th Street, Apt. 5J,
Astoria,
New York 11106,
U.S.A.

JAMES LAMOND J.P., M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

22nd June, 1985

Mrs. Bronislava Gimpelson,
34-19 29th Street,
Apt. 5J,
Astoria, New York 11106
N.Y., USA.

Dear Mrs. Gimpelson,

Thank you for your letter of June 7th, 1985, regarding your husband, Gregory.

Of course I recall our discussion at the House of Commons, and I would like to assist you in being re-united with your husband. I also understand the very deep feeling you have, and there is no need to apologise for writing to me. It is good to keep reminding me of my promise to help in any way I can.

You can be assured that whenever I get an opportunity, I shall discuss Gregory's case with my Soviet friends at the Embassy and elsewhere.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James Lamond".

James Lamond, J.P.
M.P. for Oldham Central and Royton.

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

His Excellency Leonid Brezhnev
Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR
Supreme Soviet
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Dear Mr. Chairman:

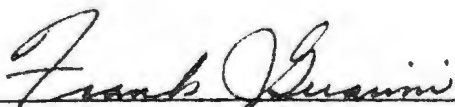
We are writing with regard to the case of Mr. Gregory Solomonsvich Gimpelson, who wishes to emigrate to join his son, Alexander.

Mr. Gimpelson has been denied permission to emigrate on five occasions. We understand that his most recent request of last November is presently under consideration. We also understand that the reason given for previous refusals of his visa requests is that he may have had access to secret information while working at the Central Research Institute of Ship Automation in Leningrad. Mr. Gimpelson, however, has not worked at the Institute for over seven years.

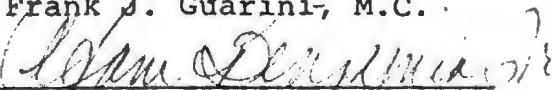
Mr. Gimpelson's son has not seen his father since the age of seventeen, when he emigrated from the Soviet Union in August of 1977. He has spent the last four years without the fatherly guidance so necessary to a young adult.

We hope that you will give this matter your full attention and reconsider the application of Mr. Gregory Solomonsvich Gimpelson to emigrate in light of the Helsinki agreement's family reunification provisions.

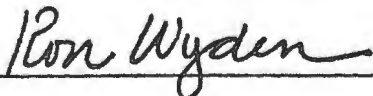
Sincerely,



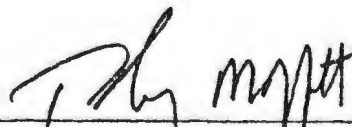
Frank J. Guarini, M.C.



Adam Benjamin, Jr., M.C.



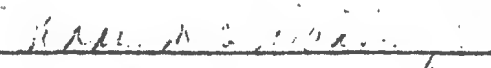
Ron Wyden, M.C.



Anthony Toby Moffett, M.C.



Buddy Roemer, M.C.



Barry M. Goldwater, Jr., M.C.

Signed by
98 Congressmen

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

His Excellency Leonid Brezhnev
Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR
Supreme Soviet
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing with regard to the case of Mr. Gregory Solomonsvich Gimpelson, who wishes to emigrate to join his son, Alexander.

Mr. Gimpelson has been denied permission to emigrate on five occasions. We understand that his most recent request of last November is presently under consideration. We also understand that the reason given for previous refusals of his visa requests is that he may have had access to secret information while working at the Central Research Institute of Ship Automation in Leningrad. Mr. Gimpelson, however, has not worked at the Institute for over seven years.

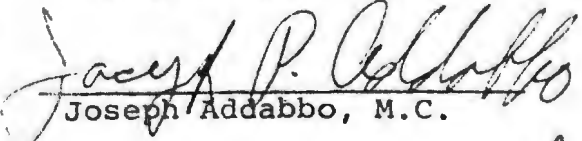
Mr. Gimpelson's son has not seen his father since the age of seventeen, when he emigrated from the Soviet Union in August of 1977. He has spent the last four years without the fatherly guidance so necessary to a young adult.

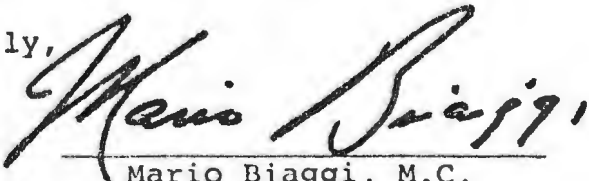
We hope that you will give this matter your full attention and reconsider the application of Mr. Gregory Solomonsvich Gimpelson to emigrate in light of the Helsinki agreement's family reunification provisions.

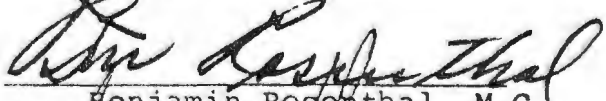
Sincerely,

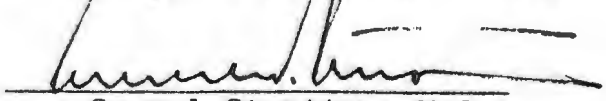

Geraldine A. Ferraro, M.C.


Lawrence Coughlin, M.C.


Joseph Addabbo, M.C.


Mario Biaggi, M.C.


Benjamin Rosenthal, M.C.


Samuel Stratton, M.C.

Signed by 100
Congressmen

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Attached is the
information you requested.
I hope it meets
your needs.

Richard J. Evans

GERALDINE A. FERRARO
9TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

COMMITTEES:
PUBLIC WORKS AND
TRANSPORTATION
SUBCOMMITTEES:
SURFACE TRANSPORTATION
WATER RESOURCES
AVIATION

POST OFFICE AND CIVIL SERVICE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
CENSUS AND POPULATION
POSTAL OPERATIONS AND SERVICES

SELECT COMMITTEE ON AGING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 6, 1981

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1725 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-3965

DISTRICT OFFICE:
65-31 GRAND AVENUE
MASPETH, NEW YORK 11378
(212) 456-8601

His Excellency Anatoliy F. Dobrynin
Ambassador of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
1125 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Ambassador,

Enclosed please find a letter signed by Members of the United States House of Representatives regarding the case of Mr. Gregory Solomonsvich Gimpelson.

Your assistance in seeing that this letter is received by His Excellency Leonid Brezhnev would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Geraldine A. Ferraro
Member of Congress

Paris, le 5 Septembre 1985

Madame,

Madame MITTERRAND a pris connaissance avec attention de votre courrier reçu le 3 Septembre qui a retenu toute son attention.

Elle m'a priée de vous renouveler sa sympathie pour la cause que vous défendez. Votre dossier a été transmis au Conseiller du Président de la République qui suivra ces affaires à l'occasion de la visite de Monsieur GORBATCHEV.

Je vous prie d'agréer, madame, l'expression de mes sentiments les meilleurs.



Dominique HERNU TETREAU

Madame Bronislava GIMPELSON
34-19 29 Street, Apt. 5-J
Astoria, NEW YORK 11106
U.S.A.



RÉGION DE FRANCHE-COMTÉ

LE PRÉSIDENT

CAB/JC/NB 591

Besançon, le 27 septembre 1985

Chère Madame,

Votre dernière lettre a retenu toute mon attention, et je vais à nouveau intervenir, pour tenter de venir en aide à Monsieur Gregory GIMPELSON.

Vous savez, hélas, combien ces démarches sont difficiles et aléatoires.

Je ne manquerai pas de vous tenir informée dès que des éléments nouveaux concernant la situation de votre époux me parviendront.

Je vous prie de croire, Chère Madame, en l'assurance de mes sentiments les meilleurs.



Edgar FAURE

Mrs Bronislava GIMPELSON
34-19 29th Street
Apt. 5J
Astoria
New York 11106
ETATS UNIS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

December 14, 1982

Mrs. Bronislava Tonkonogaya
34-19 29th Street, Apt. 5-J
Astoria, NY 11106

Dear Mrs. Tonkonogaya:

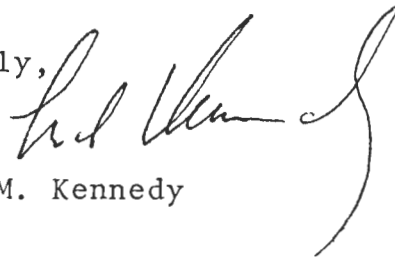
Thank you for your letter concerning your efforts to obtain permission for your husband, Gregory Gimpelson, to emigrate from the Soviet Union.

As you know, we are in a particularly difficult period in U.S.-Soviet relations and there are no easy solutions to these problems, but I will do everything possible to help them.

Please feel free to contact Alice Gallasch of my staff at (202) 244-2635 if you have any questions or additional information which might be helpful.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

STANDING COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 7, 1980

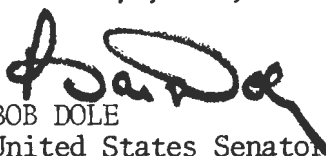
Mrs. Bronislava Tonkonogaya
34-19 29th Street, Apt. 5-J
Long Island City, N.Y. 11106

Dear Mrs. Tonkonogaya:

Thank you for keeping in touch regarding your husband, Gregory Gimpelson.

I am enclosing copy of the letter that I am addressing today to the USSR ambassador on his behalf. We will keep on trying.

Sincerely yours,



BOB DOLE
United States Senator

BD:bl
Encl.

THE ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE FOR THE RELEASE OF SOVIET JEWRY

Chairman: Peter Archer, Q.C., M.P.
Vice-Chairmen: Sir Bernard Braine, M.P.
Patrick Cormack, M.P.
Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, M.P.
Hugh Dykes, M.P.
Geraint Howells, M.P.
Greville Janner, Q.C., M.P.
Rev. Martin Smyth, M.P.
Donald Stewart, M.P.
David Sumberg, M.P.
Alec Woodall, M.P.
Hon. Sec.: Ivan Lawrence, Q.C., M.P.
Hon. Treas.: Baroness Seear



Patrons: The Lord Coggan
The Earl of Perth
The Lord Soper
The Lord Ramsey
The Lord Sieff

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mrs. B. Gimpelson
34-19 29th Street,
Apt. 53
Astoria
New York 11106
USA

6th December, 1985

Dear Mrs. Gimpelson -

Thank you very much for your letter of 26th November regarding your husband, Gregory Gimpelson.

I am placing the details of your husband's case before our Parliamentary Committee and I can assure you that we shall do everything in our power to try to obtain his release and reunification with his family.

With very best wishes,

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Greville Janner'.

Greville Janner

PERSONAL DATA OF GREGORY GIMPELSON

NAME: Gregory Gimpelson.

BORN: 1933, Leningrad, U.S.S.R.

ADDRESS: Prospect Parchomenko 33, Apt. 75
Leningrad, U.S.S.R.

EMPLOYMENT: Scientific Research Institute of Ship Automation
in Leningrad from 1960 to 1973.

APPLICATION FOR EXIT VISA: 15 times. The latest refusal
in March, 1986.

REASON FOR REFUSALS: Access to sensitive documents during
his employment at the Research Institute in Leningrad. However,
Gregory Gimpelson has not been employed at this Institute
since 1973.kl

Gregory Gimpelson has not been on good terms with the administra-
tion of the Institute over a long period of time. They for the eighth
consecutive year have been supplying the Leningrad OVIR with false data
about his access to security information in order to avenge him.

PERSONAL: The only way that his son and wife could emigrate was
for Gregory to divorce his wife. They were aware that if they filed
for emigration as a family they would be risking a refusal, in which
case their son would have been called up for military duty. The end
result could have been that their plans to emigrate from the U.S.S.R.
would have been shattered forever.

30 Senators and 100 Congressmen try to intervene on behalf of Gregory
Gimpelson writing letters to high Soviet officials. Gregory Gimpelson's
name is on the List of the State Department. His name is also in the
Report submitted to the Congress of the United States by the Commission
on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Hon. Andrew Maguire made
a speech on behalf of Gregory Gimpelson on the floor of the U.S.A.
Congress December 11, 1979.

SON: Alexander Gimpelson.

WIFE: Bronislava Gimpelson.

PRESENT ADDRESS: 34-19 29 Street, Apt. 5-J
Astoria, N.Y. 11106

TEL: (718) 786-2815.

NY Times - 4/25/86

~~NY Times~~
Sixier Jews

Dole Proposes Suspension of Law Restricting Soviet Trade

By **CLYDE H. FARNSWORTH**
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, April 24 — Senator Bob Dole, Republican of Kansas, the majority leader, proposed today that the Jackson-Vanik Amendment to the 1974 Trade Reform Act be temporarily suspended as "an encouragement and incentive to the Soviets to take another look at their human rights policies."

It was the first time that anyone in the Congressional leadership has spoken seriously in recent years of altering this milestone legislation, which has been championed by hardliners opposed to expanded trade relations with the Soviet Union.

The law denies tariff preferences, called "most-favored-nation" treatment, to countries like the Soviet Union

that do not permit free emigration. Repeal or suspension of the law has been a repeated Soviet demand in discussions between Moscow and Washington over improved relations.

Senator Dole, who is considered a Presidential contender for 1988, made the suggestion in an address to the American Committee on East-West Accord, a multinational body of business, academic and former government leaders espousing improved trade relations with the Soviet Union.

Senator Dole said that because the law had led to sharp reductions in emigration of Soviet Jews in recent years, "maybe it's time we ask the Administration to work with the Congress to fashion some new approach."

He said a temporary suspension to

see whether emigration would increase was one way to escape what he called a "circular deadlock — where they won't loosen up on emigration under the threat of Jackson-Vanik and we will not repeal Jackson-Vanik because they won't loosen up on emigration."

The White House had no immediate comment. Secretary of Malcolm Baldrige called it "an important proposal" and said "it should be studied."

Mr. Dole said he saw "some signs of change of attitude on the part of Jewish leaders who now believe there might be some other approach."

Ben Hyman Bookbinder, Washington representative of the American Jewish Committee, said: "Mr. Dole has got it backwards. He should call on the Soviets to improve the situation."

Mr. Bookbinder added, "My feeling is that there isn't a chance in a million that this present Congress would suspend the law."

"They might be willing to consider the waiver provision," to reflect improvements in the emigration picture, he said.

He was referring to a provision in the law under which the President could certify that freer emigration was taking place and ask Congress to waive the ban on tariff preferences for Moscow.

At present fewer than 1,000 Jews a year are permitted to leave the Soviet Union, compared with 34,700 in 1973 and 54,000 in 1979.

The New York Times Book Review every Sunday

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

RABBI MOSHE ABRAMOV

ARRESTED: December 19, 1983
CHARGE: Malicious Hooliganism
DATE OF TRIAL: January 23, 1984
SENTENCE: 3 Years Labor Camp
PRISON: Katta-Kurgan
Uzbekskay 9, SSR, USSR

IOSIF BEGUN

ARRESTED: November 1982
CHARGE: Anti-Soviet Agitation and Propaganda
DATE OF TRIAL: October 14, 1983
SENTENCE: 12 Years -- 7 Imprisonment, 5 Internal Exile
April 7, 1985 -- Sentenced Chistopol Prison 3 Years
PRISON: Chistopol Prison
Uchrezhdnie 5110/1, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR

YOSEF BERENSHTEIN

ARRESTED: November 12, 1984
CHARGE: Resisting the Authorities
DATE OF TRIAL: December 10, 1984
SENTENCE: 4 Years Labor Camp
PRISON: Zheltyevodi
Dnepropetrovsk Rayon, Ukr. SSR, USSR

VLADIMIR BRODSKY

ARRESTED: May 16, 1985
CHARGE: Malicious Hooliganism
DATE OF TRIAL: August 15, 1985
SENTENCE: 3 Years
PRISON: P. O. Box Ya. U 114-2D
ASINA
USSR Tomskaya Oblast



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

1411 K STREET, NW • SUITE 402 • WASHINGTON, DC 20005 • (202) 393-4117

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE**ALEXANDER CHERNIAK**

ARRESTED: March 1984
 CHARGE: Misuse of Government Property and Forging Certificates
 at His Place of Work
 DATE OF TRIAL: March 1984
 SENTENCE: 4 Years Labor Camp and Confiscation of Personal Property
 December 1985 -- Transferred to Doing Work for the
 Economy
 PRISON:

YULI BDELSHTBIN

ARRESTED: September 4, 1984
 CHARGE: Trafficking in Drugs
 DATE OF TRIAL: December 20, 1984
 SENTENCE: 3 Years Labor Camp
 PRISON: Pervy Otryad, Pos. Vidrino OV. 94/4
 Kebanski Rayon, Buryatskaya ASSR, USSR

NADEZHDA FRADKOVA

ARRESTED: May 1984
 CHARGE: Parasitism
 DATE OF TRIAL: December 1984
 SENTENCE: 2 Years
 PRISON: UG 42/15, Severo Onetsk, Plesetsky Rayon PGT,
 164 Arkhangelskaya Oblast, USSR

EVGENY KOIFMAN

ARRESTED: Week of June 19, 1985
 CHARGE: Possession of Drugs
 DATE OF TRIAL: September 17, 1985
 SENTENCE: 2½ Years Service to National Economy
 PRISON: N/A

YAKOV LEVIN

ARRESTED: August 10, 1984
 CHARGE: Dissemination of Anti-Soviet Propaganda
 DATE OF TRIAL: November 15-19, 1984
 SENTENCE: 3 Years Labor Camp
 PRISON: YU. E312/2 A-16
 343550 Dzerzhinks - 2, Donnetskaya Obl.
 Ukr. SSR, USSR



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

1411 K STREET, NW • SUITE 402 • WASHINGTON, DC 20005 • (202) 393-4117

AN APPEAL BY ANNA LIFSHITS TO HER FRIENDS IN THE WORLD

Soviet
Jews

I would like to thank all people for the support they give me.

Our authorities try to cut me off from the world. They have disconnected my telephone, they have stopped my correspondence from abroad. The way they are treating me now demonstrates that my husband was arrested not for a crime, but on a prefabricated charge of slandering the State.

My husband never slandered the bases of the State which he wanted to leave. The real reason for his prosecution is his strong will to leave for Israel.

Our Israeli passports were taken away during a search in June 1985, our invitations to Israel - during a search in January 1986. These facts speak for themselves.

On the 10th of January I have applied to the highest authorities of the USSR and asked them to stop this farce, otherwise it will be taken as an indication of new and more brutal persecutions of the Jews in the USSR. I have still received no answer and I believe there will not be one.

The investigators refused to show me a paper written by Vladimir concerning his wishes regarding a defence lawyer. Thus they practically deprived him of his right to organise his defence. I am sure that they do it intentionally. My numerous applications to Procurator General Rekunkov have brought no results - he never answered any of my telegrams. On the 26 of January I applied to the Dutch Embassy as an Israeli citizen and asked them to ensure their participation in the case by having jurists from Israel or Holland present at the trial. The same application was sent to the Procurator General of the USSR. I ask you to support me in my efforts to organize the defence of Vladimir. According to our law, a person has the right to have several lawyers in the court room.

I beg you to apply to your governments to give us support. I am afraid that in a short time it will be too late.

Anna Lifshits

Leningrad, Jan. 29

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY
3080 BROADWAY
NEW YORK NY 10027 18AM

Western
Union Mailgram®



1-0317758049 02/18/86 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WHSB
9143527238 MGMB TDMT SPRING VALLEY NY 99 02-18 0348P EST

MR MAX GREEN
OFFICE OF PUBLIC RELATIONS
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

*RR
eller*

FOLLOWING IS COPY OF ORIGINAL MAILGRAM SENT THIS DAY TO:

PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN
WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON DC 20500

DEAR MR PRESIDENT:

THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY, THE ORGANIZATION OF 1200 CONSERVATIVE RABBIS, APPLAUDS YOUR ROLE IN OBTAINING THE FREEDOM OF ANATOLY SHARANSKY; YOUR VISION FOR AMERICA AND THE WORLD IS TRULY INSPIRING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO EVEN GREATER SUCCESSSES IN THE STRUGGLE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND JEWISH PEOPLEHOOD IN THE SOVIET UNION, GOD BLESS YOU,

RABBI ALEXANDER SHAPIRO, PRESIDENT
RABBI ALLAN S MEYEROWITZ, SOVIET JEWRY CHRMN
THE RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY

15:46 EST

MGMCOMP



to

Max Green

from

Zissy Schmir

**COALITION
TO FREE
SOVIET
JEWS***

Representing
concerned organizations
in New York City, Long Island,
Westchester, Rockland and
Bergen Counties.

8 West 40th Street
Suite 602
New York, N.Y. 10018
(212) 354-1316



COALITION TO FREE SOVIET JEWS*

Representing concerned organizations in New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Rockland and Bergen Counties.

Rabbinical Council of America,
American Jewish Committee,
Center for Russian Jewry,
Westchester Jewish Conference,
Women's League for Conservative
Judaism, Queens Council for Soviet Jewry, Brooklyn Coalition for Soviet Jewry, Herut Zionists of America, Rabbinical Assembly, Betar, Council of Jewish Organizations in Civil Service, Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, N.Y. Legal Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, Survivors of Nazi Camps and Resistance Fighters, International League for the Repatriation of Russian Jews, Association of Orthodox Jewish Teachers, Poale Agudath Israel, Zionists Organization of America, Jewish Community Council of Canarsie, B'nai B'rith Metropolitan Conference, Warsaw Ghetto Resistance Organization, Rockland County Committee for Soviet Jewry, Association of Reform Rabbis of New York, Labor Zionists Alliance, Women's League for Israel, Staten Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Americans For Progressive Israel, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Jewish War Veterans, B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, United Jewish Community of Bergen County, Manhattan Coalition for Soviet Jewry, American Jewish Congress, Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jewry, Jewish Association of College Youth/Hillel, American ORT Federation, Queens Jewish Community Council, Emunah Women, Alumni Association Teachers Institute of Seminary College of Jewish Studies, Religious Zionists of America, B'nai Akiva, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, National Council of Young Israel, Economists for Ida Nudel, Jewish Community House of Bensonhurst, Women's American ORT, Board of Jewish Education, Jewish Teachers Association, AMIT Women, United Synagogue Youth, American Federation of Jewish Fighters, Camp Inmates and Nazi Victims, National Federation of Temple Youth, B'nai Zion, National Conference on Synagogue Youth, Association of Orthodox Jewish Scientists, Noar Mizrachi, Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, Jersey Action for Soviet Jewry, Washington Heights-Inwood Council for Soviet Jewry, Jewish Labor Committee, Young Israel Collegiates and Young Adults, New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, Workmen's Circle, Pioneer Women, Jewish American Political Affairs Committee, Hadassah, National Council of Jewish Women, B'nai B'rith Women, Masada/20A

8 West 40th Street, Suite 1510, New York, NY 10018 (212) 354-1316

Free Sons of Israel, Hashachar,
American Zionist Federation,
New York Board of Rabbis,
United Synagogue of America,
National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, International Network of Children of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, New York Legislators Coalition for Soviet Jewry, B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, Women's League for Conservative

- CHAIRMAN
Alan D. Pesky
- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Zeesy Schnur
- HONORARY CHAIRMAN
Elie Wiesel
- PAST CHAIRMEN
Herbert Kronish
Dr. Seymour P. Lachman
Mervin Riseman
Hon. Robert Abrams
Hon. Eugene Gold
Stanley H. Lowell
Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman
- VICE CHAIRMEN
Irving L. Bernstein
Edith Everett
Cecile Feder
Hon. Howard Golden
Seymour L. Katz
Ezra Levin
Rabbi Haskel Lookstein
Dr. Noam Shudofsky
Kenneth Smilen
Melvin Stein
Rabbi Abraham Weiss
- GENERAL COUNSEL
Prof. Howard Greenberger
- CORRESPONDING SECRETARY
Nechi Shudofsky
- FINANCIAL SECRETARY
Leonard S. Kesten
- RECORDING SECRETARY
Naomi Cohen
- TREASURER
Joshua Vogel
- EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
David Bar-Ilan
Andrew Benerofe
Froma Benerofe
Dorothy Bergman
Jacob Birnbaum
Dr. Judith Bleich
Bernard Breslin
Hon. Karen Burstein
Phil Cohen
Samuel Eisenstadt
Henry Everett
Rabbi Myron Fensler
Hon. Stanley Fink
Hon. Harrison J. Goldin
Sally Goodgold
Nahum Gordon
Blu Greenberg
Robert M. Greenberger
Hon. Kenneth Gribetz
Pearl Hack
Alvin Hellerstein
Irwin Hochberg
Bernard Kabak
Irving Kagan
Abraham S. Karlikow
Marilyn Katz
Alisa Kesten
Myron Kirschbaum
George Klein
Naomi Lippman
Sharon Mann
Matthew J. Maryles
Prof. Robert B. McKay
Elaine Moore
Hon. Manfred Ohrenstein
William Rapfogel
Burton Resnick
Irwin Robins
Irving Rosenbaum
Robert Schulman
Judith Shapiro
Bernard Shavitz
Hon. Sheldon Silver
Lynn Singer
Dr. Ronald B. Sobel
Dorothea Steindl
Eather Treitel
David Weil
Louis Weiser

February 18, 1986

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

re letter

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews representing 85 member organizations in the Greater New York area, we wish to warmly thank you and the members of your administration for your extraordinary efforts in obtaining the successful release of Anatoly Shcharansky.

Millions of people throughout the world who have identified with Shcharansky's struggle for human rights were heartened by the freeing of this courageous, heroic man, by his reunification with his beloved wife, Avital, and by his repatriation to his national homeland, Israel. We know that you share the immense joy we all feel at these events and take great pride in knowing that your administration played a decisive role in bringing them about.

Yet, our joy, as yours, is tempered with a certain sadness because the very freeing of Anatoly Shcharansky puts the plight of his Soviet Jewry compatriots -- who have so far been unable to join him in freedom -- into bold relief. We feel certain that your administration, which has so effectively advocated the cause of human rights, will continue to support our struggle to free those 400,000 Soviet Jews who have expressed a desire to leave, those 20,000 who have been repeatedly refused that internationally guaranteed right, and particularly those remaining prisoners of conscience who, like Shcharansky, languish in the Soviet Gulag for crimes they did not commit.

We thank you again, Mr. President, as well as all the members of your administration for your encouragement and forthright leadership on this issue.

Sincerely,
Zeesy Schnur
Zeesy Schnur
Executive Director

Alan Pesky
Alan Pesky
Chairman

ZS/AP/jd

Supported by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies

*Formerly the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry

47/100



To: Mr. Mowbray
From: J. Pratt

I thought you might find this
of interest

with

the Compliments of the
Embassy of Israel
at Washington

To the Delegates of the 27th Congress of the CPSU

The situation in which we, our relatives and friends - Jews wishing to leave the USSR for the State of Israel - find ourselves forces us to appeal to you. We consider our right to live in the Jewish state to be as natural as the right of an Armenian to live in Armenia and the right of a Russian to live in Russia, since it does not contradict Soviet law and corresponds completely with various international documents ratified by Soviet leaders. In fact, during the 1970's about a quarter of a million Soviet Jews received permits to leave for Israel.

However, since 1980 the number of emigration permits has been declining steadily and new bureaucratic measures, making registration of emigration application documents... even more complicated, if not impossible, have been introduced. A refusal has become the standard reply to applications for emigration.

What awaits now a Jew who decides to repatriate to Israel?

I. The OVIR offices agree to accept applications only if the applicant has in his possession an invitation from relatives residing in Israel. In the past this document was considered valid for a year and its validity could be extended at the Dutch Embassy. Later invitations, the validity of which had been extended, were not accepted for consideration and now an invitation is considered valid for a period of 6 months from the date on which it was drawn up in Israel. No changes in the text are allowed and a single wrong letter can be a pretext for rejecting the application. The situation becomes even more complicated because often the invitations are for some reason unable to overcome the postal barrier altogether or are delivered to the addressees after a delay which makes it impossible to use them. Few weeks, at best, are left for the registration of all the other documents.

In many cities the OVIR offices refuse to accept application documents if proof of direct kinship between the applicant and the person who sent the invitation is not available.

Often the administration at one's work-place refuses to issue the necessary document or issues it on condition that the prospective applicant resigns from his job.

The OVIR offices demand a document testifying that the applicant's parents intending to remain in the USSR or his former spouse do not have material claims against him. Since no legal steps can force the parents or the former spouse to produce such a document, it often becomes an object of blackmail and extortion by, for example, a father who has never seen his child or a former wife who demands that she be paid for such a document a sum of money several times larger than the total sum of alimony payments due to her until the child becomes of age.

Demands of various OVIR offices are often contradictory and one gets the impression that their work consists of creating an endless number of hindrances for the applicant.

What awaits one who manages to overcome all these difficulties? After an undetermined period of time he is informed about the decision taken in regards to his application and, despite the fact that the OVIR asks for a large number of documents, the refusal is given in verbal form. The formulas used for the refusals differ:

- "lack of grounds for reunification"
- "insufficient kinship"
- "inexpediency of emigration"
- "relatives remaining in the USSR have access to secrets"

and there can be refusals issued without any grounds being given.

All these refusals are issued to persons who have had no connection to state secrets and are, in our opinion, groundless.

In cases when a refusal is based on "regime considerations", no term of validity of the refusal is stated. Many people have been waiting for an emigration permit for more than 10 years.

It is impossible to appeal against a refusal through the courts or through administrative procedures. All complaints about the actions of OVIR officials are automatically sent to the very OVIR office about which the complaint was written and decisions to issue a refusal are not subject to reconsideration. One gets

the impression that : OVIR is a unique organization to which laws regulating the activity of government offices do not apply and this leads to lack of supervision and to arbitrariness in the actions of its officials.

II. After receiving a refusal people find themselves in a very complicated situation. The life of a refusenik goes on against the background of a massive anti-Israeli propaganda campaign, while the desire to repatriate to Israel is explained /in this campaign/ by the efforts of Zionist emissaries, the search for an easy life and various base motives. The desire to live among one's own people is equated with treason. There have also appeared some dubious publications, like the book by L. Korneev in which the author claims, repeating a charge made by neo-Nazis, that the number of 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis was a figment of Zionist imagination. (100 000 copies of this book were printed).

All this creates a difficult moral climate around the refusenik families. Alienation sets in, people are deprived of the opportunity to advance in their professions or to improve their social standing and they often suffer from material difficulties. Those who want to read Jewish books, speak Hebrew, become familiar with Jewish tradition and the ancient culture of our people, as well as to become part of this culture, find themselves in an especially complicated situation. The complete lack of a state-supported system of Hebrew studies and a lack of Hebrew textbooks and literature make this practically impossible. The language used by millions of Jews has been called "the language of religious cults" and its teaching - an expression of bourgeois nationalism.

Moreover, a number of people interested in Hebrew and Jewish culture have been put on trial in various Soviet cities on trumped-up charges involving criminal offences. We appealed many times to the Procurator's Office of the USSR and to various Soviet and party authorities, complaining about the illegal acts of investigation officials and about the violations of legal norms committed by courts, but, unfortunately, all our efforts were in vain.

The prosecution has also used private correspondence, private conversations, appeals sent to various official instances and even the desire to speak Hebrew at a trial investigation as grounds for criminal charges.

Officials responsible for the above-mentioned violations claim that they are protecting state interests. We are firmly convinced, however, that it is this practice, applied to Jews wishing to repatriate to Israel, and not the acts of people legally defending their right to emigrate, that causes harm to the interests of the Soviet Union.

III. In view of the above, we call on the delegates of the 27th Congress of the CPSU to solve the following questions when working out the guidelines for Soviet domestic and foreign policy for the coming years:

1. To release from prisons and camps all those who have been convicted unjustly and to give favourable replies to their applications for emigration to Israel;
2. To allow the repatriation of all Jews who have previously applied for emigration to Israel and to fix a maximum term of 5 years of waiting for those who receive refusals on grounds of "regime considerations";
3. To publish the "Regulations" dealing with emigration from the USSR because such a document is of general normative significance, and not merely internal instructions. This would remove all the artificial obstacles to free repatriation and fix concrete terms for reconsidering applications in cases of refusals issued for "reasons of regime".
4. We think that a conclusion of a bilateral agreement on repatriation between the USSR and Israel would contribute to finding a solution for our problem in all its aspects, the problem being a purely humanist problem not connected with any other matters.

The important changes occurring in Soviet society give us hope that positive steps in the spirit of law, humanism and respect for the individual will be made in regards to Jewish repatriation. We are convinced that finding a solution to this problem, which depends only on the good will of the USSR, will contribute to increasing its prestige and its credibility in any important negotiations.

Signatures:*

Moscow:

1. Babayeva Lera
2. Bayevsky Aleksandr (Krasnogorsk, Kirova 26-74) /1981/
3. Berdichevsky Aleksandr /1983/
4. Brailovsky Victor
5. Bekhman N.E.
6. Begun I.D. /1971/
7. Berenshtein Ya.I. /1977/
8. Belyakov M.P.
9. Birger A.I.
10. Vainblit Ilya
11. Gorelik Rosa
12. Vainshtok Boris /1976/
13. Grechanovsky E.I. /1981/
14. Grechanovskaya O.A.
15. Glozman E.I.
16. Dubrovskaya Alla /1979/
17. Dashevsky Vladimir (Troitsk, Akademicheskaya 7a-10) /1978/
18. Danovich Grigory (Lubertsy, Kirova, Kvartal 116, corp. 24, apt. 38)
19. Elistratov Victor /1973/
20. Elistratova Batsheva
21. Geller B.I.
22. Zisserman D.A.
23. Zlatkovsky Aleksander /1980/
24. Ioffe O.V. /1979/
25. Ioffe A. /1976/
26. Klots B.E. /1980/
27. Kopelman Z.L. /1979/
28. Kosharovsky Yu.M.
29. Gurvich Igor /1980/
30. Gurevich Evgeny /1980/
31. Gurevich Aron /1974/
32. Kara-Ivanov Mikhail /1981/

...6

* The number in brackets indicate the year of first refusal. - Tr.

33. Kvartin David
34. Kogan Naum
35. Kogan Boris
36. Kats Semyon
37. Ligovik Yu.A.
38. Litvak Zh.M. /1979/
39. Lubenskaya L.I. (Mytishchi, Yubileinaya 33-58-3). /1978/
40. Livshits Boris
41. Abramovich Pavel /1971/
42. Lifshits Andrey /1980/
43. Lerner Aleksander
44. Lvovsky Mark
45. Levitsky Grigory (Khimki, Yubileiny pr. 32-22) /1982/
46. Lorentszon Aleksey /1979/
47. Lukatskyi Aleksandr /1979/
48. Liberman Evgeny /1979/
49. Lantsman A.P. /1979/
50. Mezhiborsky Mark /1979/
51. Mezhiborsky Aleksander /1979/
52. May Arkady
53. Mukomolov Aleksander
54. Marinov Mikhail /1982/
55. Nekrasov N.Yu. /1981/
56. Nekrasova I.A. /1981/
57. Ovsishcher Lev
58. Prestin V.M. /1971/
59. Pyatigorsky Roman /1979/
60. Ryaboi Vladimir /1979/
61. Rozin Vladimir
62. Ruzer Sergey /1977/
63. Rokhlenko Yakov /1975/
64. Razgon Aleksander /1984/
65. Rozental A.
66. Slepak Vladimir /1972/
67. Sud L. /1984/
68. Ginis Boris /1978/

69. Sorin Valery /1982/
70. Segal Mikhail
71. Tufeld Vladimir
72. Tesmenitsky Boris /1979/
73. Finkelberg Evgeny
74. Fridman Roman /1979/
75. Fiskin Yury /1978/
76. Finarev Aleksander /1983/
77. Khasin G.B. /1976/
78. Khasina N.B. /1976/
79. Khasin Yu.I. /1979/
80. Kholmiansky M. /1979/
81. Khachaturyan A. /1982/
82. Chernobylsky Boris /1974/
83. Shipov Mikhail /1983/
84. Shchegolev L.V. /1979/
85. Shchegoleva I.V. /1979/
86. Edelshtein T.A. /1979/
87. Englin Abram /1974/
88. Yuzefovich L.Yu.
89. Yakobson M.A. /1979/
90. Zolotarevsky M.
91. Zamskaya I.G.
92. Matlina E.Sh.
93. Litovskaya C.A.
94. Tarshis Mark
95. Maizlin Isaak
96. Zaretskyi Yosif
97. Irlin Yosif
98. Khaikin I.G.
99. Uspenskyi I.
100. Ioffe I.
101. Zakuta J.
102. Udalova Yana
103. Roginskaya Yu.
104. Pilatovskaya A.
105. Abramovich Valery

Leningrad:

1. Akhiezer O.A.
2. Vasserman G.I.
3. Burshtein A.E.
4. Gorodnitsky D.A.
5. Bronfman Avraam
6. Babrina (Zelichenok) G.
7. Demin N.S.
8. Devyatov D.I.
9. Dynin A.R.
10. Ksido S.E.
11. Kleiman N.I.
12. Krasilnikova T.F.
13. Klyaiman L.
14. Novikova E.D.
15. Novikov D.A.
16. Peisin D.N.
17. Rokhlin L.Yu.
18. Taratuta A.
19. Furman Lev
20. Shapiro Lev
21. Shvartsburg E.
22. Tsyvin M.L.
23. Elman M.E.

Odessa:

1. Levina E.M.
2. Torgovitskaya Khana
3. Shekhter David

Chernovtsy:

1. Tokar D.

Bendery:

1. Nudel Ida

Kiev:

1. Elbert Lev
2. Yuzefovich Mikhail

Erevan:

1. Palanker V.Kh.
2. Fayerman M.

Tbilisi:

1. Goldshtein Grigory
2. Goldshtein Isay

Gorky:

1. Volvovsky Ludmila

Background Material on UCSJ Policy Statement

17. Hamilton, Lee H.; Congressional Record, Extension of Remarks; "Soviet Jewish Emigration;" 6/22/81; E 3111.
18. Hamilton, Lee H.; Congressional Record, Extension of Remarks; "Soviet Jewish Emigration;" 6/22/81; E 3111.
19. Listing of Emigration Figures by Year (UCSJ)
20. Schmeman, Serge; New York Times; "Moscow Sess Exit of Jews Near End;" 6/7/83.
21. Constitution of the USSR, Novosti Press Agency Publishing House, Moscow, 1977, Adopted at Seventh (Special) Session of Supreme Soviet of USSR, Ninth Convocation, October 7, 1977.
22. Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations Office of Public Information, Adopted by General Assembly, December 10, 1948.
23. Helsinki Accords, Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), Final Act, Helsinki, 1975 (our copy is from U.S. Department of State).
24. Kampelman, Ambassador Max M.; Alert, "Speech on Anti-Semitism;" , Vol. 1, No. 4, Passover, 1982; p. 3 (a publication of UCSJ).
25. Gidwitz, Betsy; Alert, "Antisemitica Sovietica: New Intensity in an Old Campaign;" Vol. I, No. 4, Passover, 1982; p. 3 (a publication of UCSJ).

* (Case information supplied by UCSJ.)

FOLEY, HOAG & ELIOT

ONE POST OFFICE SQUARE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02109

TELEPHONE: (617) 482-1390

CABLE ADDRESS "FOLEYHOAG"

TELECOPIER (617) 482-7347

TELEX 940693

IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

SUITE 360

1300 19TH STREET, N.W.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036

TELEPHONE (202) 828-1288

LEWIS H. WEINSTEIN
EXTENSION 3071

March 19, 1986

Mr. Max Green
Associate Director
Office of Public Liaison
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Green:

Many thanks for your letter of March 10th and for the copy of the remarks by the President which he made before the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations on March 5th.

I thought that Ken Bialkin expressed very effectively our feelings on the issues that the President discussed. It was good to see him again in person and to listen to him.

For your information, you may not know that I was Chairman of the Presidents' Conference and also of the NJCRAC and the Conference on Soviet Jewry as well as President of the Council of Jewish Federations, in addition to other national and local groups. I had hoped to become a member of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council; but I understand that all of the President's appointments have now been made.

I am enclosing a galley sheet of an article which will appear in the April 1986 issue of "Midstream" which describes the liberation of the first three death camps by the American Army in April 1945 and how I succeeded in arranging that General Eisenhower be present at Ohrdruf, the first of the liberated camps.

Warmest greetings.

Sincerely,



Lewis H. Weinstein

Enclosure

The Liberation of the Death-Camps

LEWIS H. WEINSTEIN

In April, 1945, the American Army liberated three Nazi death camps: Ohrdruf on April 4; Buchenwald on April 11; and Dachau on April 29. I was present at each. What I saw, heard, and smelled was seared into my memory. I told my wife and some close friends that I had been present when the camps were liberated, but I refused to report on what I had seen: for two decades I was silent. Then I could no longer keep what I had seen locked within me.

In early 1945, I was a Lieutenant Colonel and chief of the Liaison Section of General Eisenhower's staff of ETOUSA (European Theater of Operations of the United States Army). I made daily visits to the Situation Room in our Paris headquarters with its walls covered by War Maps. On March 31, 1945, I noticed near the town of Gotha an "X" in red crayon with the words "Death-Camp." It was the first time I had ever seen those two words on a map or in a report. A red arrow pointed to "Death-Camp" and was marked "Fourth Armored Division." Immediately there flashed through my mind: "Death-camp? It can't be a cemetery. It must be a murder-camp and the victims must be Jews: a death-camp to murder Jews."

Within minutes, I talked to the Deputy Assistant Chief of Staff, G-2 (Intelligence). I reminded him of my "Top Secret" clearance. He told me that a million, perhaps two million Jews had been murdered at Auschwitz. I was stunned. I had never heard such numbers. I had not known of the bestiality of systematic, scientific, high priority Nazi mass murder. I knew little more in early 1945 than I had known when I enlisted in 1942. In North Africa, England, and Normandy I learned not much more. I had heard of murders in the hundreds, in the thousands — but millions of murders!? The information was shattering. The G-2 also told me that the death-camp was in Ohrdruf outside the city of Gotha; it was not even on the War Maps; it was a small camp, a kind of satellite of Buchenwald to its northeast and of Dachau to its southeast; and it was the first to be liberated by the American Army. He showed me other death-camp locations in our Allied zones; but he was sparing of details, almost embarrassed, hesitant, reluctant to talk. I listened but I heard little. I was in a state of shock.

I rushed back to my office and telephoned the secretary to General Walter Bedell Smith, the ETOUSA Chief of Staff; I asked how soon Smith could see me about General Eisenhower's coming to the liberation of Ohrdruf. The secretary's answer was: "Be here in half an hour, but make it short: Beedle's up to his ears, the office is loaded with VIP's, and the Old Man [Eisenhower] wants everything yesterday."

I knew a physician in the 46th Armored Medical Battalion, part of the Fourth Armored Division, and I reached him on the open field phone. I told him I would attach myself to his unit. "Great!" my doctor friend replied. "You can sleep on a cot in my ambulance. But stick to your knitting. And don't try to practice surgery." In our own impromptu private code he told me the unit would probably reach the destination on Wednesday (April 4). I said I'd try to be with him Tuesday afternoon. He answered: "Get here on time; we're rushing like a comet."

"Beedle" Smith saw me; heard me out and answered: "The Old Man can't make it, absolutely not. We want to finish this war before June. He just can't come." I argued that the Commanding General's presence was absolutely essential. Smith's retort was: "Tell that to the Old Man. I'll send him a note as to why you're here. But don't punch too hard."

Eisenhower greeted me by spitting out staccato: "I just can't be at Ohrdruf on the fourth. I know that it's specially important to you personally, but I just can't." I

knew what he meant by "personally." At General Eisenhower's pause, I interrupted:

"It's not so much that it's important to me as a Jew, but it's important the world know the Nazis are deliberately, scientifically annihilating Jews in enormous numbers. The Allied liberation of the first Nazi death-camp is one of the most important events of the war. And there's always the possibility that someone in the future might claim that no such extermination ever took place, and that it was all war propaganda. And the Nazis have killed millions, non-Jews as well as Jews."

I kept arguing. I drew my breath. The General who had been looking at me sharply, pointed to the door and said: "I ought to order you out of the office. You're persistent as hell and you never give up, do you?" He was referring to an earlier encounter dealing with the integration of black soldiers into the Emergency Replacement Pool. "I can't make it," he continued. "There's too much to do."

He then began reading documents. At the door I turned back and said: "If the camp is as horrible and barbaric as I think, I'll ask General Hoge, commander of the Fourth Armored Division which is headed there, to telephone the Commander-in-Chief from the field."

Eisenhower did not respond in any way.

I reached the Fourth Armored Division and the 46th Medical Battalion on April 3 before dark. I found my doctor friend; we reminisced; especially, we discussed the events of the next day: I got little sleep on the ambulance cot. At dawn the next morning, forward elements of the Fourth Armored Division entered Ohrdruf, with the 602nd Tank Destroyer Battalion crashing into the camp. Most of the Germans had escaped, but a dozen SS men and about 20 German soldiers were taken prisoners. There were also six civilians who had worked at the camp.

At 9:20 A.M. I was in the trailer of Colonel Hayden Sears, Chief of Fourth Armored's Combat Command B, when he reported to the Fourth's Chief of Staff that Ohrdruf had been liberated. Shortly thereafter we learned that Combat Command A of the Fourth Armored Division and Colonel Creighton Abrams (later Chief of Staff of the Army), received the surrender of the Gotha Burgermeister.

The medical units, including my ambulance, entered Ohrdruf as it was being liberated; one medic was wounded by enemy fire, but not seriously. In Colonel Sears's jeep we went through the camp. We saw evidence of the horror: hundreds of bodies thrown into shallow pits, hundreds of others stacked like cord-wood or thrown about at random in buildings or sheds or along the roads. Emaciated, putrefied, covered by flies and maggots, they created an unbearable stench. All around me I saw the consequences of barbarism, appalling atrocities, and monstrous slaughter-houses.

Human beings were dying before our eyes. One moment they were slow-moving, living skeletons; the next moment they collapsed and were dead. Some uttered *essen* (food); others just held out their arms; and I saw the tattooed numbers. The medical staff, officers, and men were working with tense fury, without respite. Prisoners in their pajama-like striped suits (which hung on them like bags) begged for food and were given soup and warned to eat slowly. One living corpse lay on a blanket. His mouth and lips were swollen, covered with sores and pus. He tried to talk and I understood him to say in broken German and Yiddish that his brother had been murdered the day before. A medical captain ordered he be handled with extreme care and fed intravenously. But it was too late, in a few moments the

572

living corpse was dead. After the doctor returned, the medical aides covered the body with an army blanket. I was shaken. I had to force myself to remain standing. Then I became physically sick; but I soon stood erect and tried to give the appearance of being cool and hardened.

In one building we saw boxes of soap I was told was made from human bodies. In the camp commander's office were piles of human hair, gold dentures and teeth, eye-glasses, small boxes of jewelry and pocket notebooks, rings, some with parts of fingers, and earrings with the flesh of ears. Almost filling a small building next to the gallows and the whipping table were corpses, thrown together like dead animals in a slaughterhouse. And there within a safe opened by a New Jersey Jewish sergeant (part of a tank destroyer unit) we found a volume efficiently giving the names and numbers of each camp inmate and the date of death.

The gallows in an open space near the camp commander's building had been used to hang any inmate who tried to escape. One inmate told me the hanging noose was made of wire, and its height could be changed; the victim's toes were allowed barely to reach the ground and death took some 10-15 minutes, all to the delight of the spectators, steeped in Nazi *Kultur*.

I found General Hoge, the Division Commander, and asked whether General Eisenhower should not be informed and urged to come and hear directly and see for himself. In minutes, Hoge got Bedell Smith on the phone and briefly described the barbarism. Smith responded: "I'll talk to the General. I'll do my best. If Weinstein is with you, tell him that he is to make the necessary arrangements with me in Paris if the Old Man can come." Smith called back in a few minutes. It was impossible for Eisenhower to come any day that week; but he and General Bradley would be at General Patton's headquarters at Third Army the next week; and all of them would come to Ohrdruf on April 12; Smith would see me in the next day or two in Paris to get a detailed report and we would set up plans for the General's visit.

When Colonel Sears and I returned from our sickening jeep ride, we found the Division G-5 (Military Government) Chief and, under guard, the Gotha Burgermeister and his wife. Colonel Sears ordered Herr and Frau Burgermeister to make an inspection with one of the American soldiers and to be back within 10 minutes. When the German couple returned to the trailer, their faces were ashen; she was sobbing and he repeatedly denied any knowledge of the camp or even of its existence. His words sounded like those in Deuteronomy of the elders of the village nearest a murdered corpse, who had to pronounce the formula: "Our hands did not shed this blood; nor have our eyes seen." He repeated, reiterated, renounced the words: "I did not know." But he could not explain why inhabitants of his town were found working in the camp or how those in Gotha could not have smelled the stench of death. (I learned later that Colonel Sears and his father had each been Military Attaché in Berlin, the son until World War II and the father until World War I.)

Sears then told the Burgermeister and his wife that they would lead a walk through the camp of every inhabitant of Gotha age 12 or more, beginning the next morning at eight o'clock. Sears asked the Burgermeister to repeat the order and his answer showed that he understood. Because of urgent work waiting for me in Paris, I told Sears I had to leave immediately for the long ride back to my headquarters. Sears grabbed my arms and said: "Don't let this death-camp remain a se-

cret. And be sure that the Old Man sees what's left of this when he comes next week."

It was not until October 28, 1981, at the "International Liberators' Conference" of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council in the States Department Building in Washington did I learn from Colonel Sears what had happened at Gotha on April 5, 1945, more than 36 years earlier.

that I learned

I was a member of the military panel at the Conference with an American military historian and various foreign military officers from the Soviet Union, Great Britain, France, Poland, and others including "the Jewish Brigade." After the panel members completed their talks and answered questions, Colonel Sears, now a civilian in the Midwest, came to the podium, shook my hand and said: "Weinstein, I didn't recognize your face or remember your name; but, when I heard your voice, it all came back to me. You were there when I told the Gotha Burgermeister that he and his wife would lead the walk through the Ohrdruf Camp the next day." "Right!" I interrupted. "And they answered, 'yes.'" Sears continued: "The march took place, but without the Burgermeister couple; they had committed suicide the night before." He stared at me; and I at him. And we threw our arms around one another. I later read the strong, unrestrained statement that Sears had made to the Gotha marchers on April 5, 1945.

On April 11, 1945, I was present at the liberation of Buchenwald. The special shock of Buchenwald came from its enormous size and the huge number of victims; but the horror I felt was not as overwhelming as at Ohrdruf. Ohrdruf had been forced into my brain. Buchenwald had larger piles of corpses, thousands strewn about and unburied, huge cartons of "human soap" stacked high, large containers of personal belongings, dentures — all signs of a human slaughterhouse. Some of the bodies surrounding the area of the gallows had rotting faces; huge numbers of survivors were being treated by Army doctors and enlisted "medics"; some were fed intravenously; a few skeleton-like individuals walked like human beings. All this was overwhelming, compared to the relatively small scale of Ohrdruf.

One inmate told me in Yiddish that he came from Budapest and had been at Auschwitz. He spoke of a Swede (whose name he could not remember), a "hero" who had rescued tens of thousands of Hungarian Jews near the end of 1944. He asked me if I could find what had happened to the "hero"; the story had spread that the Russians had seized him. With this scanty lead, my subsequent efforts with G-2 had no results, and one of the staff of the Swedish Embassy in Paris said that he knew nothing about such a person. Not until 1980 did I learn that the hero's name was Raoul Wallenberg and that the Russians had imprisoned him and then claimed he died in prison (although the Swedish government has not accepted this report).

The day after Buchenwald's liberation, April 12, I came directly to Ohrdruf, a short distance away. Shortly after my arrival, Generals Eisenhower, Bradley, and Patton, several other generals and staff personnel, and about 20 others, mostly correspondents and photographers, appeared on the scene. The liberating Fourth Armored Division had moved rapidly forward. Other divisions had followed. There were no Germans left and only a few of the former inmates, none of them as emaciated as the living skeletons I had seen eight days earlier. American Military government personnel, with civilian help, had partially cleaned up the camp, but some unburied bodies and limbs remained; the stench

of death seemed more overwhelming than a week earlier, even more than Buchenwald, because of the small, concentrated area.

I saw Eisenhower go to the opposite side of the road and vomit. From a distance I saw Patton bend over, holding his head with one hand and his abdomen with the other. I too soon became sick. I suggested to Eisenhower that cables be sent immediately to Roosevelt, Churchill, and DeGaulle urging people to come and see for themselves. The General nodded, then stuck out his hand and said, "You and Hoge did a good job in pushing me to come. Weinstein, you're persistent as all hell, and I was pissed off, but you were right. I never would have believed that this was possible."

Before I left Ohrdruf I learned the final count of the Ohrdruf's murders; I can still see those numbers in my mind's eye. On the morning of its liberation, the Germans killed 60 inmates — all Jews — before the Americans took over. In the preceding five days, about 3,000 Jews had been murdered and some 1,000 shipped out to Buchenwald and Dachau. During the five months of the camp's existence after its establishment on November 6, 1944, the Germans had killed some 7,000 human beings. All but a few were Jews, according to the SS records. All in a camp no bigger than a few city blocks.

When Eisenhower returned to Third Army headquarters near Hersfeld, he decided that what he had seen at Ohrdruf and what would undoubtedly be found in other camps would have to be seen and told to the world by eyewitnesses and photographers. He was determined that this not be treated as "just war propaganda." He also sent messages to Washington and London "to send instantly to Germany newspaper editors and members of Congress and Parliament to view personally the horrors of Nazism."

The following is a portion of a message Eisenhower sent on the evening of April 12, 1945, the day he visited Ohrdruf. The message was directed to the Chief of Staff, General George C. Marshall, in Washington:

The things I saw beggar description. . . . The visual evidence and the verbal testimony of starvation, cruelty, and bestiality were so overpowering as to leave me a bit sick. In one room, where there were piled up twenty or thirty naked men, killed by starvation, George Patton would not even enter. He said he would get sick if he did so. I made the visit deliberately, in order to be in a position to give first-hand evidence of these things if ever, in the future, there develops a tendency to charge these allegations merely to propaganda.

That night I also learned that, on the same day, April 12, 1945, Third Army units uncovered Goering's salt mines with its treasures of looted art and gold (the gold alone worth about a half billion dollars at the then-fixed price).

My driver and I went back to Paris. I sat in my jeep, physically trembling, bitter, uncommunicative. We stopped only a few times for gas and the latrine. I could not eat; nor could my driver. When we arrived at our headquarters, I said to him: "Go to the movies, get some sleep; try to forget." His answer was, "Never." He insisted on walking up the four flights of stairs with me to my billet. The next morning, April 13, as I was shaving and listening to the BBC, the news of President Roosevelt's death (also on the 12th) came over the radio. I sat on the edge of the bathtub. In a few weeks victory would come, and Roosevelt would not live to see it; nor had he seen or read what was uncovered at Ohrdruf; but he must have known, if not in detail, what the Nazis' Final Solution meant: the most barbaric, monstrous, mass annihilation in history.

LEWIS H. WEINSTEIN, an attorney living in Boston, is writing a book entitled 'The Odyssey of an American Jew. He has visited numerous national and local Jewish organizations.

A briefer version of this article was the opening address of the Plenary Session of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council at the Holocaust Memorial, San Francisco, in February, 1985.

When our armies approached Dachau, I decided not to be present at its liberation. But an invisible magnet drew me there. This time we traveled the long roads in a sedan, instead of a jeep. As we came close to the death-camp, my driver asked if he could be excused from entering into the enclosure. I answered: "Let's wait and see." And he added: "And hear and smell." We soon began to smell death.

We entered the camp. The expanse was huge, and a captain volunteered to drive me through the area. He gave me some details, a huge enlargement of what I knew of Ohrdruf, of incredibly massive and monstrous bestiality. I cut him short. I had much work to complete. The war would end soon (surrender came a week later). I wanted to be ready for victory, and the post-victory closing-out work. I wanted to be free to go home. But I forced myself to see the gas chambers and crematoria. We drove back, the driver tired, but obviously relieved. I sat beside him; but the return was again almost silent. Again he walked me up to my billet. He whispered: "I'm glad we went. I'm happy that we did not stay." VE Day came and went, and VJ Day. And on August 27, 1945, back home, I had a reunion with my wife and our son, then nine, after two and a half years of separation, with no communication except by letters, mostly "V-mail" (photostatic miniatures on special paper).

For 20 years I did not speak or write about the death-camps except to say that I was there. One night in 1965, my wife Selma awakened me. I had been screaming; I had had a nightmare. I saw myself heading a line at the entrance to a gas chamber near the crematoria at Dachau. Bodies were being carried out of the gas chamber. My wife said I muttered words that sounded like "Shema Yisrael." She urged me to get some sleep and gave me a sleeping pill. I could not sleep; but she did. The next day, my friends, Professor Harry Wolfson of Harvard, and his cousin, my physician, Dr. Harry Savitz, told me I had to write and talk about the death-camps: Wolfson emphasized my role as witness — Savitz my health. That evening, my wife listened as the tragic memories poured out. At times I had to stop, drink some water, wipe my eyes, as I filled in details and remembered more and more. I have had no nightmares since. (Lewis H. Weinstein, 1976)

REFUSENIK PROFILE

NAME: IDA NUDEL
ADDRESS: ul. Sovetskaya 69-2
Bendery 278100
Mold.SSR, USSR

FAMILY BACKGROUND:

<u>Relationship</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Occupation/Profession</u>
	Ida	April 27, 1931	Economist

RELATIVES ABROAD: Elana Fridman (Sister)
P. O. Box 119
Rehovot 76110, Israel

VISA APPLICATION HISTORY: Date of First Application: May 1971
Reason for Refusal: Secrecy Date of First Refusal: January 1972
Most Recent Refusal: Permissions:

CASE HISTORY/ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:

On June 1, 1978, after seven years of harassment and interrogations since she first applied to emigrate from the USSR to Israel, Ida Nudel placed a banner outside her apartment window which stated, "KGB, Give Me a Visa to Israel." For this desperate display, she was tried for "malicious hooliganism" and sentenced to four years of internal exile.

In Ida's last public statement at her trial, she said: "During the past seven years I have learned to walk proudly with my head high as a human being and as a Jewish woman...These seven years have been filled with a daily battle for myself and others....None of you, my Judges, is capable of finding a punishment that would take revenge and deprive me of the triumph and victory of these seven years."

Known as the "Guardian Angel" for her activities on behalf of Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience, Ida Nudel had been arrested on numerous occasions. She has written, "What haven't they done to me since I first applied to leave? I was placed in a prison punishment cell...there I was tortured with hunger and with difficult conditions. I was beaten and hounded like a wild beast during a hunt. Many times I have been seized on the street and thrown into dirty smelly cellars they call detention cells..."

Ida was taught Zionism by her grandfather, a member of Hashomer Hatzair. In 1953, after Stalin's death, she began to gather information about Israel and occasionally tuned in to the "Voice of Israel." The Six-Day War, with its dramatic impact on Soviet Jews, prompted Ida to translate her thoughts into deeds. In 1971 she applied to leave, together with her sister, Elana Fridman.

Upon her arrival in exile in June of 1978, Ida was placed in a hostel four miles from Krivosheino, the only female among sixty male criminals. She slept with an axe under her bed to protect herself. In the summer of 1979, with the help of friends from Moscow and as a result of worldwide appeals on her behalf, Ida was moved to a one-room hut in Krivosheino. She acquired a dog as a protector and companion. She had no running water and was forced to carry water, kindling wood and other provisions long distances to her hut. When it got dark, Ida locked herself in, thus spending the long cold nights in complete isolation. Her hardships were exacerbated by the local resident's hostile attitude.

The world did not forget Ida Nudel. Hundreds of letters and appeals were sent to US and Soviet government officials on her behalf. Demonstrations, marches and campaigns were launched. In July 1981, the British Parliament presented Ida Nudel and Viktor Brallovskay in absentia with the "All-Parliamentary Award for Services to Soviet Jewry." One month later, Hadassah awarded Ida its highest honor, the "Henrietta Szold Award."

On Ida's fiftieth birthday, April 27, 1981, she received numerous telegrams and letters from all over the world, as people voiced their love and support. A special order was introduced in the House of Representatives on April 27 to mark her birthday and "to let the Soviet government know that we have not forgotten Ida Nudel..."

Ida was released from her exile location on March 20, 1982 and returned to Moscow several days later to resume pursuing a visa to Israel. Shortly after her return, she was summoned to a police station in Moscow and told by Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) officials that she would not receive a visa, so as not to encourage other Soviet citizens to seek permission to leave. She was then told to secure gainful employment and rejoin the "mainstream" of Soviet life.

After several months of trying to secure a legal residence permit in numerous cities, Nudel was informed in December that she would be permitted to reside in Bendery, in the Moldavian Republic.

Ida is one of three Moscow emigration activists denounced in a 1983 Soviet pamphlet, "An Alien Voice." The booklet deals with acts of "treason" committed by the three.

In January 1984, Ida was warned by the authorities in Bendery not to "socialize with refuseniks," and that "appropriate actions" would be taken if she continued to do so. Nudel responded to the warning by affirming her right, accorded by Soviet law, to choose her friends and entertain them.

In April 1984, Ida was visited by American actress and political activist Jane Fonda, the first foreigner she had seen in six years. On her trip to the Soviet Union Fonda also met with Soviet officials to plead for Nudel's release.

After Fonda's visit, it seemed that Ida's situation might improve, as neighbors and acquaintances became somewhat friendlier due to the immense Western exposure. However, in July 1984, Ida was once again refused an exit visa, and her Moscow residence permit was permanently revoked. In spite of this, Ida continued her refusenik activities. In September, she joined other prominent refuseniks in a letter to the International Committee for Human Rights protesting the renewed persecution of Soviet-Jewish Hebrew teachers. In February of 1985, Ida was awarded Israel's Golda Meir award for her continued heroic struggle. Her sister, Elana, accepted the award on Ida's behalf in Jerusalem.

That same month, Ida's apartment was taken from her by the authorities. Later, in April, she was forced to leave a train bound for Moscow and informed that she is prohibited from entering that city at least through July.

In July 1985, new efforts to win Ida's freedom were launched in Tel Aviv and Los Angeles, as public appeals were heard by Nudel's sister, Elana, actress Jane Fonda and L.A. Mayor Tom Bradley. Press conferences in both cities followed news that Nudel is suffering from a critical illness, and that her efforts to obtain medical care have been impeded by harassment from Soviet authorities.

In Tel Aviv, Fridman revealed details of Nudel's current situation and called for a renewed campaign to win her sister's release. "For more than six months, information has been reaching us concerning the seriously deteriorating state of Ida's health," she said. "Doctors say that her severe physical condition, coupled with the emotional stress to which she is subject by being cut off and alone, are endangering her life."

Fonda, joined by Mayor Bradley at City Hall, reiterated the appeal to Gorbachev on Ida's behalf. "I ask you to understand the legitimate desire of Ida to be with her sister in Israel, particularly at this time when her health is so precarious."

National Conference on Soviet Jewry
2027 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 265-8114

To:
From: Mark B. Levin
Associate Director,
Washington Office

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

P.O. Box 1119
Rehovot, Israel

June 5, 1986

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

Dear Mr. President:

The support of the American people and especially of your administration relating to efforts to gain the release of my sister, Ida Nudel, from the Soviet Union has given me strength and hope that one day we will be able to greet Ida in Israel. I am well aware of your continued concern which has been expressed in concrete terms when your government presented various lists of individuals, including Ida's, at meetings with the Soviet authorities.

While resolution of some long term cases has been accomplished in this way, it is now clear, after 15 years, that in Ida's case this has not been fruitful. The Soviets obviously have dealt with Ida's case in a very specific and personal way.

The absurdity of the Soviet accusations and treatment of my sister is incomprehensible to me. She has only expressed her desire to live with me in Israel and has often helped others maintain their hope to be reunited with their own families.

I appeal to you to also place Ida in a category of one, and to personally raise your concern for Ida in a separate and sole representation to Mr. Gorbachev. Your success following a similar path in the sad case of Anatoly Shcharansky leads me to hope that you may have similar success in raising my sister's plight in a similar fashion.

The Soviet officials have subtly made us guess that this will be the only way in which Ida's sad odyssey may be resolved.

Please again accept my gratitude and share with the American people my thanks for the ongoing support and hope you provide me and Ida.

Yours sincerely,

Egaps
Elena Fridman

Agreement To Expand Contacts

By George P. Shultz

The Reykjavik meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev was an extraordinary event. Far more was achieved than anyone had considered possible. If the Soviets are as prepared as we to follow through on the work done last week, Reykjavik could set the stage for a major advance in United States-Soviet relations, one that could potentially transform the international security landscape. In Reykjavik, we drew within sight of a major goal of this Administration — achieving the reduction and eventual elimination of the danger posed by nuclear weapons.

Of course, we were disappointed by the way the meeting ended. That was hardly surprising. For a few hours, a truly historic outcome seemed within our grasp. It was hard to have to walk away from that. But the President was prepared to do so rather than compromise his conscience and the security of this country and our allies.

Here's what we achieved in two days of intense but civil discussions:

Human rights, as we had promised,

George P. Shultz is Secretary of State.

were front and center in Iceland. Perhaps never before has the Government and interested groups and individuals in this country cooperated so extensively in preparing for such a meeting. In Reykjavik, the President drew heavily on materials provided by the National Council on Soviet Jewry and other organizations. It made for a strong and convincing presentation. We believe the Soviets will consider it carefully. We hope it will have an impact in the months ahead.

We made real progress on bilateral issues. We agreed on an ambitious work plan for expanding contacts between our two societies. It provided for intensive negotiations over the months ahead on space cooperation, multilateral cooperation in nuclear fusion research, and improving cooperation in maritime search and rescue. The two leaders endorsed this work, and we are operating on the assumption that the schedule we outlined remains valid.

There was a wide-ranging discussion of regional problems. It is in the nature of these issues that we disagreed more than we agreed; and we

Human rights were 'front and center'

put down some strong markers on the impact on our relations of Soviet behavior in such places as Afghanistan and Central America. But one thing we did agree on was the utility of continuing to exchange views on these issues, and to find common ground where we can. We expect to continue the regional dialogue in the months ahead.

And of course we discussed arms control. This was no ordinary dialogue. Both the President and General Secretary demonstrated themselves to be men of vision, capable of taking bold and creative decisions on the spot. Those decisions brought us very close to concluding understandings on dramatic reductions of strategic offensive weapons, on the virtual elimination of longer range intermediate nuclear force missiles and on a nuclear testing regime that would protect our vital interests.

The two leaders discussed strategic defense at great length. The President did his utmost to demonstrate that the Soviets have nothing to fear from the Strategic Defense Initiative. He even proposed to postpone deployment of a strategic defense system for 10 years in conjunction with 50 percent reductions of strategic forces over the first five years, and the elimination of all American and Soviet ballistic missiles over the second five years. He assured them that, during that period, we would continue to abide by the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

It was unfortunate that this was not enough for the Soviets, who insisted that we had to amend the ABM treaty by agreeing to a ban on any testing of S.D.I.-related activities outside the laboratory. This went well beyond what we — and the Soviets — had agreed to when the treaty was signed

'We have cut through much of the underbrush'

in 1972. It was clear that the effect would have been to kill S.D.I. This the President could not accept. He would not abandon a program that has acted as an incentive for arms reductions and that would be critical in insuring compliance with reductions we might ultimately agree to. That was a decision that took vision and courage.

In walking away from a quick deal in Reykjavik, have we reached the end of the road? Hardly. We have said we are prepared to build on the work done there and during the months preceding the meeting. Our negotiators are on their way back to Geneva to follow up on the discussions between the President and Mr. Gorbachev. The issues are clearer now. We have cut through much of the underbrush in the path of agreements. We are ready to push ahead with the rest of the agenda as well.

In his public statements since Reykjavik, Mr. Gorbachev has said that his meeting with the President was not in vain. We could not agree more. The real significance of Reykjavik is that we got so close. Serious work lies ahead. The United States is ready.



סגור
JPM

To: Mr. Max Green
From: J. Pratt

I thought you might find this
of interest

with

the Compliments of the
Embassy of Israel
at Washington

J. Pratt

FROM: "Rabochaya Gazeta," 24 July 1986.

NOTES ON
"CONTRABAND, CONTRABAND..."

By D. Poliakov

General Remarks

D. Poliakov is a Novosti Press Agency correspondent.

The present article deals with "pseudo-tourists" bringing Zionist literature into the USSR in general, with no discussion of this phenomenon in the Ukraine in particular. Nevertheless, the article appears in Rabochaya Gazeta, the republican newspaper of the Ukraine. Thus it would seem that the authorities were not interested in the article being disseminated on more than a republican scale.

The article gives the names of "pseudo-tourists," but not the names of the Jews for whom the literature being brought in was intended. Seeing this, the impression is created that the article was meant as a specific criticism of Western Zionists.

The most important aspect of this article for us was the statement in it that "the Soviet authorities, of course, will not allow the territory of the Soviet Union to be turned into a field of activity for aggressive Jewish nationalism."

Contents

The article speaks separately about literature intended "for people professing Judaism," and gives the name of a rabbi who gave this literature to the tourists.

The anti-Soviet tone of Zionist publications is emphasized, including the assertion that these publications contain a call "to Soviet Jews to unite in a 'fifth column'...." The author of the article asserts that Zionist propaganda is not popular, not only in the USSR, but also in the West, and explains this by the fact that "the genuinely tragic consequences of Zionist policies in the Middle East are too fresh in the memory of the peoples...."

The following organizations are named in the article: "National Conference

in Defense of Soviet Jews" (i.e., the National Conference on Soviet Jewry in the US), the "Committee of the 35s" (England), and the "Committee of the 15" (France). In other words, the article shows that Zionist organizations operate in the US, England, and France. (We note that in the mind of the Soviet reader, these three countries practically take in "everything abroad.") "Amnesty International" was also named.

The article also contains a reaction to the Bern meeting, in the sense that the article shows how the bringing in of "ideological bombs" hinders contacts.

Conclusions

The significance of this article for us lies in its remark about aggressive Jewish nationalism.

This is not the only article to speak about Jewish nationalism very recently. Also, especially sharp attacks have been made on Judaism recently. This leads us to suppose that a campaign is being prepared on national-religious lines against Jewish activists in the USSR.

FROM: "Komsomol'skaia Pravda," 18 July 1986.

NOTES ON
"ZIONISM - AGGRESSION - LIES"

by Tsezar Solodar

General Remarks

Ts. Solodar is one of the leading Soviet writers on Zionism.

Komsomol'skaia Pravda is a newspaper which is popular not only among the youth, which shows that the authorities were interested in a wide readership for this article.

The article was published under the heading "Exposé."

The article is written in a very sharp tone, such as has not been seen recently in the Soviet press. Even the article of Lev Korneev, published in June 1986, has a more restrained character.

Contents

Like everything Solodar writes, this article is verbose, packed with primitive demagoguery and cheap pathos, appropriate for the mass reader, not the intellectual.

From the hodgepodge of assertions made in this article, several basic points may be dug out. The first one: Zionism was declared racism by the General Assembly of the UN, and not the Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee, as it appeared from the "Outline of the History of the Second World War" published in the Israeli journal Krug. (This material really was published in Krug about a year ago.)

Solodar's second point: Zionism was declared racism for the following reasons: a) There is documentary proof that international Zionism was connected with Himmler's government office. The activity of the Cologne bank "Salomon Oppenheimer und Ko.," which "conducted treacherous talks with the Nazi bosses regarding the final solution of the Jewish question," and the ransoming by Zionist agents of Jewish youths for the colonization of Arab territories in Palestine, serve as confirmation of this.

Solodar's third point: the Zionists prevent Nazi criminals from being brought to trial, because they themselves fear being exposed. Eichmann, in particular, was executed in Israel because he knew too much about the deals

Zionists had made with the Nazis, and in addition, in order to conceal low-ranking criminals.

Solodar's fourth point: "The Beginns and Sharons, the Shamirs and Arenses - unfortunately, not from the prisoner's dock, but from the Knesset podium - " assert that the whole Jewish people is with them (just like the Nazi criminals at the Nuremberg trials who asserted the same thing about the German people), and this is a lie. Even in Israel itself there are progressive forces, one of the proofs of which is the speech delivered by the native Israeli, Yakov Shein, at the Anti-Imperialist Tribunal which was held during the XIIth World Youth and Student Festival.

Solodar's fifth point: Zionism numbers all those Jews killed during the Holocaust as citizens of Israel, so that the young generation should think that the Zionists saved Nazi victims.

And the conclusion: Zionism today is committing even greater crimes than the help it gave the Nazis in the "final solution of the Jewish question." Thus, the condemnation of Zionism is inevitable, just as was the condemnation of Nazism.

Conclusions

One gets the impression from this article that its central aim was to prove the objective necessity for the condemnation of Zionism. The article explains to the mass reader that it is not the USSR and the Anti-Zionist Committee who consider Zionism racism, proceeding in accord with their subjective aims, but rather that it is international public opinion which views Zionism as racism, proceeding from objective reality.

It is noteworthy that for all its sharpness, the article never once called Zionism fascism (as occurred about a year ago), but only racism. Judging by the general impression the article makes, it is possible to interpret this fact as a desire to show that whatever Zionism is called, its essence is the same, and it deserves to be condemned, in the literal sense of the word, that is, by a tribunal similar to that of the Nuremberg trials.

FROM: "Sovetskaia Rossiia," 24 July 1986.

NOTES ON
"2,000 CURSED DAYS"

General Remarks

Sovetskaia Rossiia is the organ of the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet and the PSFSR Council of Ministers. More than other newspapers it publishes materials close in spirit to those of scandal-sheets, which appeal to its class of readers.

The article is a letter from the US written by a Russian woman, who emigrated with her son. The article is given as an illustration of a remark made by Sovetskaia Rossiia correspondent G. Alekseev, to the effect that sometimes people's acts do not correspond with common sense. In the present case the act was leaving the USSR.

Contents

The letter which makes up this article dwells exclusively on the details of the terrible life in the US. However, there are two aspects of the article which make it worthy of our attention.

a) The author of the letter is a Russian woman, which the editors emphasize by giving not only her full name (first name, patronymic, and family name), but also the full names of her parents. She emigrated because she believed in what her husband told her. He, "who had gone to Israel several years earlier, but soon exchanged the 'promised land' for the USA. For some benefit or other to himself he called Liudmila and their son to come to him, but he did not join them" when they arrived in the US.

This theme of the deceived Russian person who was drawn into a tragedy by Jews showed up in the press some two years ago. So the present article is just a return to that idea.

b) In the blazing spite and hatred which fill this Russian woman's letter, the following passage is noteworthy: "America amassed a fortune during the war and climbed out of the prewar Great Depresssion, which it had gotten into, having swallowed all the wealth of ravaged revolutionary Russia (all the Russian wealth is in the Jewish banks of Manhattan)...."
(Emphasis added.)

It should be emphasized that anti-Semitic expressions on such a low level (reminiscent of the gutter-language of pre-revolutionary Russia) are rarely found in the Soviet press. During the last five or six years there was perhaps only one case of such an openly anti-Semitic style, in Zuev's book Amplitude.

Conclusions

There were only two points relating to Jews in the article, but both have an openly anti-Semitic character (especially the latter).

We note that the main aim of the article is to show that in America everything without exception is bad, while the anti-Semitic aspect of the article is secondary.

Nevertheless, the emotional effect of this aspect on the reader will probably be very strong, since it is connected with the most sordid descriptions of the terrors of American life.

There are grounds for supposing that the anti-Semitic remark about Russian treasures in Manhattan Jewish banks is another attempt to explain to the Soviet reader that the prosperity of the US is based on stolen Russian wealth. In other words, if the US had not plundered the USSR, then the latter would be in a much better position.

FROM: "Sovetskaia Belorussia," 3-4 July 1986.

NOTES ON

"TRAP"

by I. Osinskii

General Remarks

This article was published under the heading "Beware: Zionism!" in the newspaper of the Belorussian republic. This republic ranks third in the number of its Jewish population.

The article is very long; it appeared in two parts on consecutive days.

Aiming for an emotional effect, the article relates the tragic fates of Jews who left the USSR.

The article also describes the activity of Zionists who come to the USSR in the guise of tourists. There is a photo of one of them. The connections Zionist emissaries have with the CIA are also talked about.

Contents

This article clearly places the accent on Jewish nationalism. The article indicates, though not overtly, that the latter prepares the soil for the Zionist emissaries, who come under the guise of tourists and, in their turn, poison Jews "with the fatal poison of nationalism."

There are numerous stories in the article which tell in detail about the tragedies of Jews who emigrated from the USSR, mainly to Israel, but also to other countries. One of these stories is noteworthy. Here the names of the persons involved are not given, allegedly at the request of relatives.

The story goes like this: A former worker in a Minsk radio factory who now lives in Israel, openly criticized Israel. As a result of this, thugs broke into his apartment. "They tormented the father for a long time and cruelly in front of his children, cut out his tongue, and finished off by promising to do the same thing to other members of the family if they dared to complain."

Conclusions

One gets the impression that this article was aimed at the local population and first of all the Jews.

The story about the man's tongue being cut out is as sordid as the story about the Arab woman's stomach being ripped open by Israeli soldiers, which L. Korneev wrote about a year and a half ago. We note that this same Sovetskaia Belorussia one day earlier published the article "My Path to the Truth," on another topic but on the same level.

Perhaps because these articles were intended for a local audience the newspaper allowed itself to sink to the level of Korneev. In addition, the article under review makes no reference to the Western or the Israeli press, as such articles usually do when they are intended for the outside world.

FROM: "Komsomol'skaia Pravda," 30 July 1986.

NOTES ON
"FLIRTING WITH GOD"

by I. Kryvelev

General Remarks

The author of this article is a leading specialist on questions of religion and a Doctor of Philosophical Sciences.

The fact that this article appeared in Komsomol'skaia Pravda, and not in Nauka i Religiia, where Kryvelev usually publishes his works, indicates that the authorities are interested in its dissemination among broader circles than the readers of the anti-religious journal.

The article has some very sharp attacks on the Old Testament as the holy book of Judaism.

Kryvelev does not attack Judaism alone, but also other faiths. However, he does not write about the practical harm of other religions, while he does talk about the fact that "for Israeli soldiers biblical admonitions serve as important material giving an 'ideological basis' for the destruction of the Arabs."

There is another exceptional feature of the article, which does not relate to Judaism directly, but which can be applied to it as the religion of a national minority. Kryvelev attacks such pillars of national literature as Chingiz Aitmanov and Vasil Bykov, and simultaneously the well-known writer V. Astaf'ev, for their religious tendencies. Till now (at least, till the last writers' congress) the Soviet press only extolled Ch. Aitmanov and V. Bykov and always cited them as examples of the flourishing of national culture.

We should note that there were other attacks on the Old Testament in the Soviet press during July 1986, besides Kryvelev's.

Contents

This article examines questions of religion, or, more precisely, the harmful influence of religion on man and society. In particular, Kryvelev "exposes" the Old Testament as preaching "the most unbridled bloodshed, the

killing of persons for any trifle, and, finally, direct mass genocide." This quote is sufficient to illustrate the level of the author's attack on the Old Testament. However, there is also another remark worthy of being quoted: "...the activity of Joshua ben Nun, this direct successor of Moses in the conquest of Palestine."

Comparing these two quotes with Kryvelev's remarks about Israeli soldiers which we cited at the beginning of this paper, in which he said that the Bible promotes the destruction of the Arabs, it is not difficult to figure out Kryvelev's plan: the Bible preaches genocide; in ancient times it served for the conquest of Palestine; in our times - for the destruction of the Arabs.

We must note that in order to reach his goal Doctor of Philosophical Sciences Kryvelev juggles historical terms. Joshua ben Nun did not conquer Palestine, but Canaan, and the Palestinians of his day, i.e., the Philistines, are in no way related to the Arabs who today call themselves Palestinians. Kryvelev is surely aware of these distinctions, but he evidently ignored them in order to impress more strongly on his Soviet readers the aggressiveness of contemporary Israel.

Conclusions

Judging by its title and general contents, this article belongs to anti-religious literature. However, even a superficial acquaintance with its text indicates that it has a deeply political character, and religion serves the author only as a basis from which he promotes his ideas.

There are some grounds for assuming that the sharp attacks on Judaism which appeared in the Soviet press in July (even more when they come from the pen of such specialists on religion as Kryvelev) might signify a preliminary stage in a campaign against Jewish youths having a religious orientation, and especially those who want to emigrate to Israel. Only time will tell whether this assumption is correct.

SURVEY OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS ON SOVIET JEWRY

The preceding twelve months have brought no significant improvement in the position of Soviet Jews despite the advent of a new Soviet leadership and a summit conference between the leaders of the USSR and the USA. In some respects, in fact, their situation has deteriorated further. The hopes inspired by the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975 have thus been further dimmed even as the decade of its signing was celebrated.

Against the background of the generally deteriorating condition of the Jews of the USSR, the recent highly publicized release (in the context of a prisoner exchange) of Prisoner of Zion Anatoly Shcharansky on February 11 appears to be an isolated event calculated for its public relations effect and without positive implications for the overall situation of Soviet Jewry.

With respect to emigration, the same general level has been maintained for the last three years with an average of less than 100 Jews per month being permitted to leave the USSR. This trend has continued into the initial months of the current year demonstrating clearly the continuity of the extremely restrictive Soviet policy. With the sole exception of Ilya Essas, those Jews allowed to leave do not include veteran refuseniks (i.e. those waiting ten years or more) notwithstanding the specific reference by General Secretary Gorbachev (in his well known interview on French television) to a maximal ten year waiting period. With the exception of Isaak Shkolnik and Mark Nashpitz, who arrived in Israel in the second half of 1985, and Grigory Goldshtein and Boris Kalendarev, who have been given permission to leave, former Prisoners of Zion also continue to be denied exit permits.

While emigration has been kept to a constant token level, arrests, trials and other forms of harassment of Jewish activists have continued unabated. It is clear that the accession to power of M. Gorbachev has not changed this situation in any basic way: of the present 20 Prisoners of Zion, 7 have been arrested or tried since March 11, 1985, the date Gorbachev came to power, not taking into account the recent arrests of Aleksei Magarik and Bezalel Shalolashvili. The police methods employed in a number of these cases have been exceptionally crude and have involved,

among other things, the planting of incriminating evidence by the police without even a serious attempt on their part to conceal their misdeeds. (Since a major thrust of the arrests has been directed at key figures in the network of Hebrew teachers, and the authorities wish to maintain the myth that the study of Hebrew by Jews is permissible, the need to fabricate crimes is perhaps understandable.) Wide-ranging searches have been conducted in the homes of scores of Jews in connection with these cases and have involved the seizure not only of Hebrew instructional material, but also of religious articles and books.

Efforts to isolate the refuseniks and, in particular, to cut them off from all sources of foreign support, have been intensified as exemplified by the trials of Alec Zelichenok and Vladimir Lifshits, whose "crimes" consisted of the sending of letters and appeals through the mail, publicizing the injustices affecting Soviet Jews.

Further evidence of the hardening of the attitude of the authorities can be seen in the brutal beatings of activists such as Leonid Kelbert in Leningrad, as well as in the beating of Vladimir Lifshits by criminals while in police custody (and quite possibly at police instigation). The Prisoners of Zion in the prisons and camps continue to be subjected to varying degrees of maltreatment ranging from medical neglect to violations of their rights to correspondence and visits, long periods in isolation and punishment cells and beatings and other forms of maltreatment by guards and fellow prisoners. With increasing frequency they are being subjected to relentless pressure to "confess their crimes."

The welter of vicious articles in the media and television broadcasts attacking Israel, Zionism and individual Jewish activists has continued. While there has been some abatement of such attacks in recent weeks, it remains to be seen whether this results from public relations considerations dictated by the holding of the Party Congress in Moscow, or something more basic.

The response of Soviet Jews to the toughening of the authorities' attitude has been unrelenting public activity manifested mainly in the signing of petitions and protests to the Soviet authorities, as well as to individuals and organizations abroad. These have focused on the authorities' abuses and on the renewed demand for "repatriation to

Israel," as recently expressed in communications addressed to foreign communist parties and to the XXVII Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which were signed by scores of refuseniks from 9 of the largest cities in the USSR. The hunger strike staged by scores of refuseniks during the Party Congress attests to their unbroken spirit.

Now, this policy is now paying dividends -- one sign of this in Iceland was the progress on the issue of arms control. For the first time in a long while, Soviet-American negotiations in the area of arms reductions are moving, and moving in the right direction -- not just toward arms control, but toward arms reduction.

But for all the progress we made on arms reductions, we must remember there were other issues on the table in Iceland, issues that are fundamental.

As I mentioned, one such issue is human rights. As President Kennedy once said, "And, is not peace, in the last analysis, basically a matter of human rights?"

I made it plain that the United States would not seek to exploit improvement in these matters for purposes of propoganda. But I also made it plain, once again, that an improvement of the human condition within the Soviet Union is indispensable for an improvement in bilateral relations with the United States. For a government that will break faith with its own people cannot be trusted to keep faith with foreign powers. So, I told Mr. Gorbachev -- again in Reykjavik as I had in Geneva -- we Americans place far less weight upon the words that are spoken at meetings such as these, than upon the deeds that follow. When it comes to human rights and judging Soviet intentions, we're all from Missouri -- you got to show us.

*Soviet
J. K. 1987?*

Another subject area we took up in Iceland also lies at the heart of the differences between the Soviet Union and America. This is the issue of regional conflicts. Summit meetings cannot make the American people forget what Soviet actions have meant for the peoples of Afghanistan, Central America, Africa, and Southeast Asia. Until Soviet policies change, we will make sure that our friends in these areas -- those who fight for freedom and independence -- will have the support they need.

Finally, there was a fourth item. And this area was that of bilateral relations, people-to-people contacts. In Geneva last year, we welcomed several cultural exchange accords; in Iceland, we saw indications of more movement in these areas. But let me say now the United States remains committed to people-to-people programs that could lead to exchanges between not just a few elite but thousands of everyday citizens from both our countries.

So I think, then, that you can see that we did make progress in Iceland on a broad range of topics. We reaffirmed our four-point agenda; we discovered major new grounds of agreement; we probed again some old areas of disagreement.

And let me return again to the SDI issue. I realize some Americans may be asking tonight: Why not accept Mr. Gorbachev's demand? Why not give up SDI for this agreement?

Well, the answer, my friends, is simple. SDI is America's insurance policy that the Soviet Union would keep the commitments made at Reykjavik. SDI is America's security guarantee -- if the Soviets should -- as they have done too often in the past -- fail to comply with their solemn commitments. SDI is what brought the Soviets back to arms control talks at Geneva and Iceland. SDI is the key to a world without nuclear weapons.

The Soviets understand this. They have devoted far more resources for a lot longer time than we, to their own SDI. The world's only operational missile defense today surrounds Moscow, the capital of the Soviet Union.

*R.R. on
return for
Iceland*