

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library  
Digital Library Collections

---

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

---

**Collection:** Range, Rebecca: Files  
**Folder Title:** Meeting with Soviet Refusniks (P)  
10/25/1988 Oval Office 1:15 p.m.  
**Box:** OA 17724

---

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](mailto:reagan.library@nara.gov)

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

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

*Confidence  
of the  
Lionel Lincoln*

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS FOR SOVIET RUFUSNIKS

- MORRIS ABRAM
- YITZHAK KOGAN (YITZ-HAHK KOE-GAN)
- YOISIF BEGUN (YOI-SIF BAY-GOON)
- NATAN SHARANSKY (NAH-TAHN SHAH-RANSKY)
- SHMUEL AZARKH (SHMOO-EL AH-ZARK)
- YAACOV AGAM (YAH-KOVE AH-GAHM) — ARTIST
- NACHUM DONNER (NAH-CHOOM DONNER)
- HERMAN BRANOVER (BRA-NOVER)
- MARVIN ASHENDORF
- JOSEPH WASSNER (WAHS-NER)
- JOSEPH MILLER
- MOSHE OIRICHMAN (MOE-SHAY OY-RIK-MAN)
- MENACHEM LUBINSKY (MEH-NAH-KEM LOO-BINSKY)

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 24, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR REBECCA RANGE

FROM BEN WALDMAN *BW*

SUBJECT Background for 10/25/88 luncheon

I. PURPOSE

To meet with former Soviet refuseniks who gained their freedom because of the work of this Administration. These refuseniks will be meeting with the POTUS after the luncheon to present him with a valuable Passover Haggadah. The Hagaddah is the story of the Jewish Exodus from Egypt during the time of the Pharaoh's. It has a message of freedom and hope for all enslaved people, but especially for the refuseniks.

II. BACKGROUND

Senator Rudy Boschwitz requested the photo opportunity for this group through the office of Congressional Affairs, but will not attend the luncheon or the Oval Office meeting. Consequently, you are the hosting official.

III. PARTICIPANTS

Morris Abram is the Chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry. He is known by the President and has been an Administration appointee (Member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights). He is also the immediate past president of the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations.

Marvin Ashendorf is director of the American Friends of Shamir. Shamir is an organization of orthodox professionals who emigrated from the Soviet Union to Israel. Mr. Ashendorf is an American.

Yaacov Agam is the famous Israeli artist who designed the Hagaddah being presented to the POTUS. Mr. Agam was not a refusenik.

IV. PRESS PLAN

The luncheon is private and without press coverage.

V. SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

- The guests will arrive in my office at 12:30 PM. I will escort them to the Roosevelt room at 12:55 PM.
- Lunch will begin at 1:00 PM. I will ask Rabbi Kogan to bless the meal.
- Lunch will end at 1:40 PM and you will escort the group into the Oval Office for the photo opportunity.



Yoisuf Begun is one of the most famous Jewish refuseniks. He was trained as a radio engineer and mathematician in the Soviet Union and received a doctoral degree in 1967 from Moscow University. In 1971 he was refused an exit visa on the grounds that he possessed "state secrets." He was then dismissed from his job and refused other employment. Six years later he was arrested on the charge of parasitism. Between 1977 and 1987, Begun suffered internal exile, imprisonment and torture. President Reagan spoke out several times on behalf of Begun and is credited with applying the pressure necessary to force the Soviets to release Begun.

Professor Herman Branover is a professor of magnetohydrodynamics at Ben Gurion University in Israel. He also serves as chairman of Shamir in Israel. Dr. Branover arrived in Israel in 1972 from the Soviet Union.

Nachum Donner - No information -

Rabbi Yitzchak Kogan is called the "Tzadik of Leningrad" (Tzadik is the Jewish equivalent of a Saint). He was a refusenik for 12 years during which time he dedicated himself to supervising all aspects of Jewish practices in the city of Leningrad. At present, he organizes reception committees for new Russian immigrants arriving in Israel and assists them with their immediate needs and general absorption.

Menachem Lubinsky is the President of Lubicom, an advertising and public relations company in New York City. He is handling the PR needs of several members of this group.

Moshe Oirichman is the head of R'mach, a social service agency in Israel, which assists Soviet emigres. Mr. Oirichman is not a refusenik.

Natan Sharansky is another of the more celebrated refuseniks to be released during the Reagan Administration. In his book Fear No Evil, Sharansky credits the President and the Administration with forcing the Soviet hand on his behalf.

Joseph Wassner is an American businessman and philanthropist who has been active in the fight to free Soviet Jews.

Administration attendees: Lisa Jameson, Director for Soviet Affairs, NSC; Linas Kojelis, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Refugee Admissions, State Department; Ben Waldman.

# LUBICOM

LUBINSKY COMMUNICATIONS INC.

October 26, 1988

Ms. Rebecca G. Range  
Assistant to the President  
Office of Public Liaison  
The White House  
Washington, DC

Dear Rebecca:

Thank you so much for your help in coordinating and organizing such a dignified and inspiring event. The Soviet Jewish refuseniks and their friends were totally overwhelmed by the lunch and by the cordial reception by the President.

Although I am intimately involved in the campaign, it was a homecoming of sorts for me as I pointed out to you. I had the pleasure of working with your predecessors on a daily basis. It was delightful to see that we shared so many mutual friends.

I look forward to meeting you again soon. All good wishes.

Sincerely,



Menachem Lubinsky  
President

ML/sl