

ALERT

INFORMATION FROM THE
UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is a Washington-based, independent organization dedicated to the freedom of emigration and human rights for all Soviet Jews.

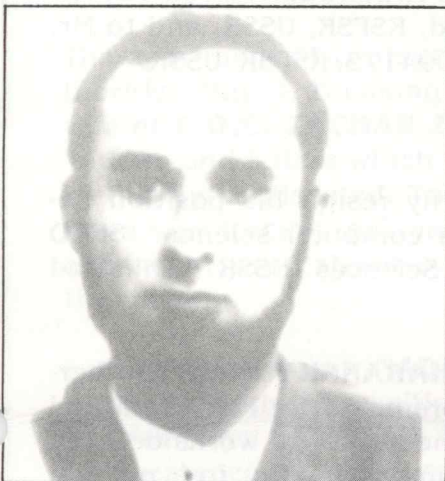
Vol. X No. 8

May 15, 1984

Next Month:

Fourteen Year Anniversary of Arrests Leading to Leningrad Trial

June Birthday of Remaining P.O.C.



Yuri Federov

For Jews in the Soviet Union who have been struggling to emigrate to Israel, the infamous Leningrad Trial in 1970 was a historic turning point. Eleven people were charged with "treason"; their only crime, a desire to emigrate.

"Most of the defendants had tried for years to leave the country legally. They were pushed by cynical refusals to the extremes of determination. Their escape attempt, first planned *only* as an escape, had grown into a political statement," wrote Edward Kuznetsov, one of the defendants who eventually was released from prison in 1979 and now lives in Israel.

The impact of the trial and the cruel sentences were meant to frighten other Soviet Jews, unleash the just-below-the-surface anti-Semitism, and demonstrate the vigilance of the Soviet system. But the Leningrad Trial did more. It singularly turned the world's attention to the plight of Soviet Jews and brought an international reaction so strong that the Soviet government had to reduce the original sentences, from death sentences to prison terms ranging from seven to fifteen years.

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Riga:

Zunshine and Balter Women Released: "They Hate Us; They will Kill all the Jews"

Tatiana Zunshine, the wife of Riga Prisoner of Conscience Zachar Zunshine; Polina and Svetlana Balter, wife and mother of Alexander Balter, were released on April 25, from their 15-day incarceration for protesting the arrests of Zachar and Alexander.

With Alexander and Evgeny Balter's release April 26, the families are once again reunited, except for the continued imprisonment of Zachar Zunshine. There is no word on Zunshine's status, but he is believed to be continuing his hunger strike.

In a telephone conversation with UCSJ Vice President Pamela Cohen (Chicago Action For Soviet Jewry), Tatiana Zunshine described the "intolerable atmosphere" of prison life for the three Jewish women, who were thrown together with sixteen women in one cell.

"The prison Administration staged an anti-Jewish campaign against us," Tatiana related. "They humiliated us and struggled against us. The guards told us that 'the hurts of our country are because of you; the Jews are guilty; we will kill you'," Tatiana detailed. "But these words were not their words; they were the words of the prison Administrators'," explained Tatiana.

"The guards told details of our biographies to the women cellmates: of our demonstration for repatriation, Zachar's imprisonment, and our desire to emigrate to Israel. The women were then incited against us," said Tatiana.

Despite the anti-Jewish harassment, the women refused to be broken from the day and night behavior of the guards and women cellmates. Holding fast to their commitment as Jews, the women studied Hebrew vocabulary, aided by Svetlana Balter's instruction.

Kiev:

Similar Threats To Son Of P.O.C. Elbert, Carmi; Harassed By Schoolmates

Prior to last October's trial of Prisoner of Conscience Lev Elbert, the former principal investigator on the case — Burlechenko — paid a visit to the Elbert's home in Kiev. Harassing Elbert's son Carmi, Burlechenko charged that he would "expose" Carmi and his family to the school's administrators and students.

Obviously incited by the increasingly vicious anti-Jewish campaign in the Soviet Union, and "briefed" by Burlechenko, the school children have recently hurled violent epithets at 13 year-old Carmi. Last week, one of the schoolchildren hit Carmi with an iron pipe, charging "You must be killed!" "The Jews must be killed!"

Send letters of support to:
USSR, Ukrainian SSR, Kiev, Volgogradskaya Street 6, Apt. 33, Elbert, Carmi.

NEWSBRIEFS

FROM KIEV TO LENINGRAD: Soviet authorities are now intimidating refuseniks to repudiate their applications for visas, by making them sign papers which state they "reject their application to emigrate."

JEWISH P.O.C. MIKHAIL MEJLAKH, a young Leningrad writer, who has been in prison since his arrest in late June, 1983, for "giving and selling anti-Soviet literature" under Article 70 of the Soviet Criminal Code, was sentenced on April 24 to seven years in labor camp followed by five years in internal exile. This was the maximum sentence allowable under Article 70. Mejlakh's health is not good; he suffers from chronic bronchitis and stomach problems. About one year ago, he had applied for permission to emigrate to Israel, but the authorities refused to even accept his application. **PROTEST THE HARSH SENTENCE TO:** Mr. Ponomaryov, Gorodskaya Procurator, ul. Belskogo 13, Leningrad, RSFSR, USSR, and to Mr. Sergey Solovyov, Oblast Procurator, Lesnoy Pr. 20/12, Leningrad 094175, RSFSR, USSR.

DIMITRI GREENBERG of Leningrad received an exit visa.

ALEX ZELICHENOK of Leningrad has been asked to voluntarily resign his position because "he is a member of a Zionist underground committee for computer science". **SEND TELEGRAMS TO:** Director of Institute of Cytology, Academy of Sciences, USSR, Leningrad 194064.

Last month, **IDA MILGROM**, mother of P.O.C. **ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY** wrote to Chernenko: "I appeal to you now both as Chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and as the head of a participant-state of the Helsinki Conferences, the author of works devoted to questions of human rights. And I repeat my request: Be compassionate, free my son Anatoly Shcharansky before his term is up, since his health does not permit further confinement. Help me to live, even if only a little, with the knowledge that my son is free. He has borne a heavy punishment for more than seven years and I, his old mother, bear this punishment along with him. Show humanity, satisfy my petition for my son's early release."

P.O.C. IOSEF BEGUN and Inna Shelmov-Speranskaya are now officially married. Inna has received letters from Iosef indicating he is working as an engraver's assistant. In his spare time, Iosef studies four languages: Hebrew, Yiddish, English and German. While he has no problem getting text books in English and German, he has not been able to get books in Hebrew and Yiddish. **SEND LETTERS TO IOSEF AT:** Permskaya Oblast, Chusovsky Rayon, St. Polvinka, Uchr. VS 389/37.

REFUSENIK ARON RASKIN of Electrostal died last month at the age of 73. Raskin and his wife, Fanya, had been refuseniks for seven years, and were trying to reunite with their two daughters who live in Israel. Fanya has applied for emigration again, but the OVIR requires she has a new invitation. Her children in Israel have repeatedly mailed invitations over the last few years, but none have been delivered. **SEND LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE** to Fanya Raskin, Yuzhny Prospekt 17-2, Apr. 58, Electrostal, Moscow Oblast 144009, RSFSR, USSR.

GRIGORY GENUSOV of Leningrad and visiting tourists were called to the police station May 4, and were placed under interrogation and harassed. Genusov lost his job at a scientific research institute when he first applied to emigrate in 1976. **HIS ADDRESS:** 12 Liniya 29/53, Apt. 20, Vasilyevsky Ostrov, Leningrad 199178, RSFSR, USSR.

NEWSBRIEFS

Jewish refusenik **ALEXANDER CHERNIAK** of Kiev was arrested and charged with Article 83 and Article 194 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code for "forging work timesheets". He was sentenced to four years in prison and confiscation of all property. **SEND TELEGRAMS PROTESTING THIS HARSH SENTENCE TO:** A.M. Rekunkov, Procurator General of the USSR, 15a Pushkinskaya Street, Moscow. (For complete story see page 10)

Jewish refusenik **MARK OCHERETYANSKY** of Kiev was arrested and sentenced to one year in labor camp for "violation of passport laws". He and his wife Olga had turned in their passports when they first applied to emigrate in 1979. Although they were originally given permission, they could not leave the USSR due to a last-minute, trumped-up charge. (For complete story, see page 10)

The apartment of Leningrad refusenik **YAKOV GORODETSKY** was searched by Soviet authorities May 4. Breaking down the door, Soviet authorities found **TATIANA ZUNSHINE**, wife of **P.O.C. ZACHAR ZUNSHINE**, visiting Gorodetsky. Soviet authorities strip-searched Tatiana and letters which were written to Soviet officials on behalf of her husband were immediately confiscated. Told she could not visit Moscow, Leningrad, or any other city, Tatiana was forcibly put on a train back to her home in Riga. The search of Gorodetsky's apartment was extensive. Soviet authorities guarded Gorodetsky's apartment throughout the evening.

Leningrad refusenik **NADEZHDA FRADKOVA** was forcibly taken to a psychiatric hospital on May 2, as she was waiting for a friend at the train station.

Fratkova was placed in the "Under Observation" ward, where Nadezhda was continually threatened and harassed with insults. She was taken in front of a "commission" where she was told that "something was wrong with her that she is not adjusting to Soviet life as evidenced by her desire to emigrate". She was told "there is no Jewish problem in the Soviet Union". On May 5, Fratkova was dismissed and sent home, although she now has a record and is registered with a local psychiatric clinic. Fratkova finally received the notarized documents stating she does not owe her father (whom she has not seen for many years) any financial debts. The OVIR has instructed her that she must begin the application process again if she is to reapply for a visa to emigrate. **SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO HER AT:** Zagorodny 15, Apt. 4, Leningrad, RSFSR, USSR.

Odessa refusenik **YAKOV LEVIN** — whose apartment was searched and raided of religious materials on March 20, just before Purim — was recently detained at work and taken to Soviet authorities to recant his application for a visa. Yakov was told to "stop studying Hebrew and Judaica". Twenty-four year old Levin was accused in a Odessa newspaper of being "taken over by Zionists", a claim prompted by a letter from Yakov's parents to the newspaper's editor, denouncing their son.

Jewish refusenik **MARK NEPOMNIASHY** of Odessa is having problems with his hearing, similar to that of refusenik Evgeny Lein. Nepomniashy was called into the KGB last January 1983 and ordered to sign a document denouncing Odessa refusenik Yakov Mesh. Nepomniashy first applied to emigrate in October 1979, and has been continually harassed since. He has been told by Soviet authorities that he will be confined to a mental institution, if he and his family (his wife Janna, and 22-year old daughter Judith) continue their efforts to emigrate to Israel. **SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:** USSR, Ukrainian SSR, Odessa, Gagarine 16/4, Apt. 5, Nepomniashy, Mark & Jana.

A Menacing Development: Pravda Equates Zionism With Fascism

LONDON, April 23 (JTA)—The equation of Zionism with fascism, a frequent theme in the official Soviet media, "acquired an authoritative-ness it did not hitherto possess" when it became the thesis of an article in the Communist Party daily Pravda, written by Vladimir Bolshakov, according to an analysis published here by the Institute of Jewish Affairs (IJA) in association with the World Jewish Congress.

The significance of the Bolshakov piece, titled "Fascism and Zionism; the roots of kinship," lies in the fact that its author is a writer of considerable status in Soviet society and is thus representative of the mainstream view on Zionism, the analysis noted. Furthermore, "Pravda itself does not, as a rule, indulge in publishing articles or cartoons equating Zionism with fascism or Nazism."

kinship cited by the author are alleged collaboration between Zionists and Nazis during World War II; common ideas of "racial purity"; the practice of "genocide" by Israel in Lebanon; and the role of Zionism, like fascism, as "a lackey of big capital and imperialism."

An All-Out Attack

According to Bolshakov, a "co-ordinated anti-Soviet campaign" alleging anti-Semitism in the USSR, is being conducted by Israeli and Western radio stations broadcasting to the USSR by "international Zionism"—mainly its American branch—and by the White House. The intention behind this campaign is "to discredit the USSR's nationalities policy and incite hatred of Socialism," Bolshakov wrote.

He added that Zionism is being

"downgrading" of the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public (AKSO), a body set up in April, 1983 amid much fanfare in the Soviet media. Its founders were "eight establishment Soviet Jews," headed by a retired Red Army general, David Dragunsky.

The purpose of AKSO was to demonstrate that Zionist policies are rejected by "Soviet citizens of Jewish nationality." But the fact that the Pravda article was written by Bolshakov, not Dragunsky "seems to be indicative of a continuing decline in AKSO's role."

"In the original appeal by AKSO's eight founders it was said that the new organization was necessary for the anti-Zionist struggle to be waged 'even more resolutely.' One aspect of Bolshakov's article seems to be that waging the anti-Zionist struggle 'even more resolutely' is too important a matter to be left to the Jews alone," the IJA analysts concluded.

JTA, April 24, 1984

Concerned Scientists Urge Help for Brailovsky

The Committee of Concerned Scientists, Inc. is mounting a campaign, international in scope, to avert the renewed victimization of **Victor Brailovsky**. As host and leader of the Moscow Scientific Seminar, Brailovsky sacrificed much to enable refuseniks barred from official science to continue their work against overwhelming odds.

Victor Brailovsky, who completed a five-year term in internal exile and returned to his Moscow home in mid-March, recently revealed to his friend and co-founder of the Moscow Scientific Seminar, emigre physicist Alexander Voronel, that the Soviet bureaucracy has geared up to visit new tribulations upon him.

Although Brailovsky was issued a "propiska" (residence permit) for Moscow, he is apparently blacklisted and has been unable to find gainful employment—professional or menial. Should this situation prevail for an extended period of time, Brailovsky will be open to a charge of parasitism and possible relegation to the gulag for a second time.

After almost 12 years of seeking emigration, the OVIR (Office of Visas and Registration) continues to re-

Continued on page 10

May 21: 63rd Birthday For Andrei Sakharov "A Personal & Moral Struggle For Human Rights"

Nobel laureate Andrei Dmitrievich Sakharov will see his 63rd birthday on May 21st while exiled in the city of Gorky. Writes Loren R. Graham, professor of history at M.I.T. in the *New York Times*, January 1983: "The Soviet authorities have simply incarcerated him extralegally, or, more accurately, illegally. In Gorky his door is guarded 24 hours a day and no one is permitted to see him without police approval; he has been cut off from scientific contacts necessary for his work; he has no telephone and is prevented from making calls from public phones; his apartment has been broken into several times and his manuscripts and papers stolen; and not long ago a radio-jamming tower was installed on his building to prevent him from listening to foreign broadcasts."

A recent issue of *Physics Today*, April 1984, notes that since last



Andrei Sakharov

May, on the eve of Sakharov's 62nd birthday, proclaimed by President Reagan as "National Andrei Sakharov Day," police have patrolled out-

Federov, continued from page 1

Almost all of the defendants in the Leningrad Trial are free today. But there are still two prisoners left: Ukrainian Alexei Murzhenko and Russian Orthodox believer Yuri Federov. Although they never applied for exit visas to emigrate, these non-Jews stood courageously with their Jewish friends to win the battle for human rights, freedom of religious beliefs, and freedom of emigration. Both made a personal plea to the court for mercy for Jewish defendants Edward Kuznetsov and Mark Dymshitz.

On June 14, Federov will "celebrate" his 41st birthday. He was twenty-seven years old when he was arrested at Smolny Airport with ten other defendants, on June 15, 1970. His birthday and the fourteenth anniversary of the arrests are sharp reminders of his continued incarceration. Both he and Murzhenko still languish in the strict regime camps of Perm in the Ural mountains, their health deteriorated to "nothing more than vegetables" as reported by their families after their last visit.

Federov is crippled from a calcium deficiency. He is suffering from failure of his kidneys and liver. His eyesight has diminished to near blindness.

Alexei has lost over 100 pounds, and suffers from many of the same ailments that Yuri has, and as a result from a lack of nutrition, his skin is turning black from tuberculosis.

"Why do we specifically pick out these two individuals (Federov and Murzhenko) and demand their freedom?" wrote Kuznetsov not long after he was released and emigrated to Israel. "It is because their fate has become symbolic."

Kuznetsov explains: "Over the years, the KGB has made no bones about saying to their faces 'it will be worse for you' . . . The idea is encouraged that anyone siding with the Jews will suffer worse . . ."

It is therefore essential to keep up the campaign for their release "for the sake of these individual people and for the sake of the immense significance that lies behind what happens to them."

We must reaffirm our commitment to the cause of Soviet Jewry and make known to the Administration and elected officials on all levels of government that we are intensifying our efforts on behalf of human rights and the freedom of emigration for all Soviet Jews, and their martyred supporters.

- SEND birthday greetings to Yuri Federov at USSR, RSFSR, Moscow, p/ya 5110/1, Utch. vs 389/36
- SEND letters of support to Alexei Muzhenko at above address.

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side the physicist's flat in Moscow and house in Gorky, checking IDs of all visitors and forbidding entry to foreigners. Last June, two physicians from the Soviet Academy of Sciences examined Sakharov and recommended that he be admitted to a hospital for treatment of heart and prostrate problems, but so far he has not been permitted to enter the Academy hospital. In November, Sakharov slipped out "A Letter To My Scientific Colleagues", from his place of exile in Gorky, appealing for help in securing permission from Soviet authorities to enable his wife to go abroad for treatment of a "life-threatening" heart condition and an operation on her eyes. Since that letter, Sakharov has sent a plea for help to Western delegations at the meeting of the 35-member Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Stockholm last January. The Soviet response to this was another denunciation of him in a journal called *Man and Law* (*Chelovek i zakon*), characterizing Sakharov as pathetic and mentally unbalanced. He is being used, say the authors, as a conduit for CIA and Zionist propaganda against the USSR.

Writes Graham: "Mr. Sakharov always unites moral conviction with rational analysis; in addition to making a personal and moral struggle for human rights, he has developed a theoretical argument for their defense, even an ideology of human rights. The nearly universal verbal agreement on human rights is embodied in such conventions as the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Helsinki Final Act, and even the Soviet Constitution. To call on governments to protect human rights is, therefore, not asking them to change the principles they profess, but simply to observe those principles."

In spite of the fact that Andrei Sakharov is not Jewish, the Soviets frequently use his wife's Jewishness as a weapon to enflame passion against Sakharov and his aggressive human rights postures.

As this goes to press, Sakharov's wife, Elena Bonner has been charged with Article 190-1, "anti-Soviet slander" with a maximum of three years. More in next issue of ALERT.

—editor's note.



The aggressor's relay baton.

Bakinski Rabochi June 23, 1967 Baku, Azerbaijan SSR

The analysts found "particularly disturbing" Bolshakov's implication of a "Zionist 'fifth column' in the countries of the world—first and foremost, presumably, in the USSR and the Socialist countries." That was suggested by the writer's allegation that Zionists view Jews throughout the world, no matter in which country they live, as obliged to support the State of Israel in every possible way and to remain loyal to it.

"This concept, Bolshakov claims, is reminiscent of the Nazi practice of recruiting 'volksdeutsche' to support the Fatherland," the IJA report noted.

Other claims of a Zionist-fascist

used by President Reagan in his "crusade" against Communism. But, according to Bolshakov, anti-Semitism does not exist in the USSR where it is forbidden by law and anti-Zionism anti-Semitism are not one and the same thing.

Purpose Of The Article

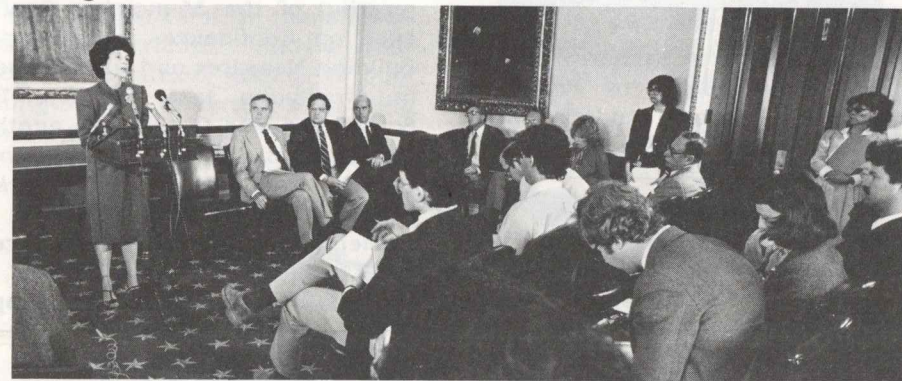
One purpose of the Pravda article, the IJA analysts stated, was to deny the existence of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, although "a fairly large number of the arguments are in fact anti-Semitic devices—whether distortions or inventions."

According to the IJA, the article also indicates that there has been a

Washington Talk

Senator Dennis Deconcini (D-Ariz.) hosted a press briefing on May 1, in the Capitol, at which he provided information on the upcoming preparatory conference in Paris, May 26-27, of the International Parliamentary Group for Human Rights in the Soviet Union (IPG). At the press briefing, he presented Senator Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), Senator Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.), Congressman John Porter (R-Ill) and Congressman Elliott Levitas (D-Ga.), who each spoke on the various roles of the IPG. Currently 75 U.S. Senators have joined with hundreds of Congressman and members of parliaments from over a dozen Western countries to form the first international group of parliamentarians to focus on human rights performance in the Soviet Union.

The IPG was founded in 1983 and operates out of Paris and Washington, D.C., to express Western unity on the issues of freedom of religion, emigration, & the free flow of information. The Preparatory Conference will provide members with the opportunity to discuss the IPG issue and program areas with leading government officials and experts from the private sector, as well as plan coordinated parliamentary actions throughout the world.



IPG Chairperson Rita Hauser addresses congressional IPG sponsors at recent press conference prior to May 26 meeting in Paris.

Also on the agenda for May 26-27 is the appointment of a delegation for the first IPG mission to the USSR and issuance of the first policy resolution on human rights in the Soviet Union. Other activities include final planning for the first International Conference in December 1984, also in Paris, which will bring together an even larger body of members to deal with broader areas of interest.

In introducing the members of Congress who would be at the IPG conference in Paris, Senator Deconcini made note of the fact that "the issue is not new & the answers are not easy. But if the Soviet Union is approached with one voice they may act in such a way that is more sensitive to world opinion. What we can expect is that one united voice will mean that the Soviets must listen, must hear, and must act." Senator Chiles spoke of the anti-religious policies of the USSR which in addition to the disenfranchisement of Soviet Jews also severely restricts the activities of Baptists, Pentacostals and other religious groups.

In discussing the issues of free flow of information, Congressman John Porter stated, "The Soviet Union has no intention of honoring its commitment to permit access to information from Western sources unless that information conforms to strict Communist ideological standards."

In response to the working conditions of western journalists in the Soviet Union Congressman Levitas said that the IPG must send a clear message to the Soviets: "We shall not be silent."

Rita Hauser, Co-Chairman of the IPG Advisory Board, who headed the UN Bureau of Human Rights during the Nixon Administration, voiced strong support for the effort, pledging to recruit new members and parliamentarians from a wide spectrum of ideologies, but with the clear common goals of human rights as determined by the final act of the Helsinki accords.

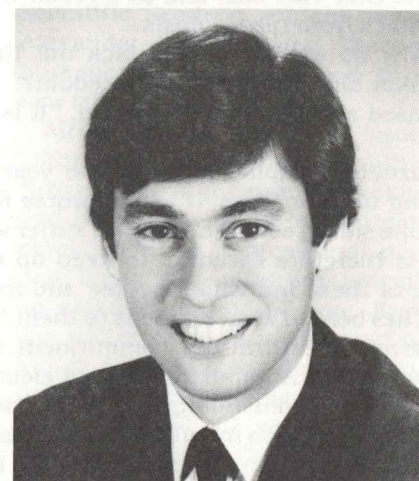
More Members of Congress Join IPG

Seven members of the House of Representatives and eight Senators recently joined the hundreds of other members of the Parliamentary Group of human rights activists. The following have joined IPG in the last week:

US Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ); US Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA); US Senator Paul Sarbanes (D-MD); US Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI); US Senator John McClure (R-ID); US Senator Claiborne Pell (D-RI); US Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ); US Senator Dale Bumpers (D-AR)

In addition, five Democrats from the New York delegation joined IPG: Henry Nowak, Sam Stratton, Steve Solarz, Tom Downey, John La Falce. In addition, Bill Ratchford (D-Ct) and Bill Boner (D-Tenn) joined, expressing strong and sincere interest in the goals of IPG

The newest member of IPG, Rep. Tom Downey (D-NY) said "Perhaps the most effective means of ending religious, ideological and racial oppression is through collective criticism. I am pleased that there is world-wide commitment to end the persecution the Soviet Union has practiced against a wide variety of ethnic minorities. I believe that the IPG will send a strong and constant message to the Soviets that human rights abuse will not be tolerated."



Rep. Tom Downey (D-NY)



ALERT On Capitol Hill



Congresswomen Return From USSR

Democratic Congresswomen Mary Rose Oakar (D-OH) and Patricia Schroeder (D-CO) recently returned from a trip to the Soviet Union made during the Passover holidays. Both met with Ida Milgrom, mother of Anatoly Shcharansky.

On the *Today* show, Representative Oakar described the meeting as "one of the more moving experiences we had."

The two Congresswomen were asked by Ida Milgrom to deliver a letter to Soviet Party Chief Chernenko through a meeting with Soviet Ambassador to the U.S. Anatoly Dobrynin, described by Representative Oakar as "a very humane, personal appeal by a mother asking Secretary Chernenko to free her son."

In an interview in her Washington, D.C. office shortly after her return from the USSR, Representative Schroeder was asked how this visit was different from the one she made in 1978. "In 1978, I went with Representative Henry Waxman (D-CA). We visited with many refuseniks in Leningrad and Moscow. We were very, very active. This time, there is a different mood . . . ; emigration is down to less than 50 per month. . . . They (the refuseniks) are concerned with the escalation of rhetoric (anti-Jewish), which is part of why they're being more careful."

"We were there during Passover. There were large numbers of people outside the synagogue—that is where they keep their contacts. It's very clear that they're dispersed all over Moscow; it is the reverse of a ghetto."

Schroeder was encouraged, however, by her visit with Dr. Alexander Lerner, who had been avoiding visitors.

"Lerner is back to painting; he has another book ready to be published. He is so vibrant and articulate," added Schroeder.

Schroeder noted, "We also met with Lev Blitshtein, who receives much less mail nowadays — from 20-30 pieces a day to maybe one a week. He hasn't seen his son and wife, and mail is difficult to get back and forth. Oakar noted, too, that communication is a real problem — "Mail doesn't get through; telephones are intermittently disconnected. It's a life of nearly constant harassment." However, she noted that the UCSJ

must continue in its effort to "insure that the human rights of Jews in the Soviet Union are not violated."

Both Congresswomen hold seats on the House Post Office Committee and each expressed a strong interest in the mail that travels between the Soviet Union and the United States. Letters to the Soviet Union that do get through are very important for the morale of many refuseniks. "They tell us," Schroeder said, "Don't be discouraged, keep writing." Schroeder credited the Colorado Committee of Concern For Soviet Jews for a thorough briefing prior to her trip.



Mother of Anatoly Shcharansky, Ida Milgrom (on left) visits with Representative Pat Schroeder (D-CO) during the congresswoman's recent trip to the USSR. Milgrom asked Rep. Schroeder to deliver an appeal on behalf of her son to U.S. Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.

Save This Date

The second annual Congressional Fast and Prayer Vigil will be held on June 14 on the Capitol Steps. This important event, a congressional demonstration in support of Soviet Jewry will be co-sponsored by Representative Bob Mrazek (D-NY), Jack Kemp (R-NY), Tom Lantos (D-CA) and John Porter (R-IL). The Congressional Fast and Prayer Vigil commemorates the Leningrad Trials of 1970 and still imprisoned Yuri Federov and Alexei Murzhenko. (See story on page 1).

Lifting the curtain

by Edith B. Frankel

NOT SO very many years ago, Soviet experts in New York used to joke about American newspaper correspondents in Moscow who gathered all their news in the lobby of the Moskva Hotel. Not so today.

In his four years in the Soviet Union, David Shipler travelled the length and breadth of the country, by train and plane, talking to the humble and the exalted, the old and the young, the sober and the drunk, the satisfied and the alienated, the Jews and the Gentiles. Shipler, who speaks Russian, had the experience that many of us in the field would greatly benefit from: years of living in Moscow with the sole aim of getting to know the Soviet Union and its people.

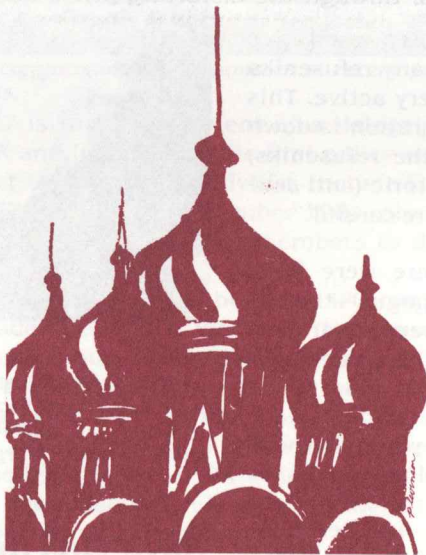
Someone who saw me reading the Shipler book recently asked if there was really anything new in it for the "expert." How much, she asked, could the book add to my knowledge? The truth is that nothing can replace the first-hand experience of gathering information at the source.

And it is for this reason that *Russia: Broken Idols, Solemn Dreams* is so valuable. Shipler has a keen eye and a good ear; he catches details and nuances that a less observant person might miss. Standing in the rain at an airport in Ashkhabad, or waiting in line at a disco in Tallin, he is absorbing impressions that will contribute to his understanding of the Soviet psyche. He sees people as individuals, but also as representatives of typical Soviet phenomena. His book is enhanced by the fact that he writes well. The narrative flows and is a pleasure to read, esthetically as well as intellectually.

Like other *New York Times* reporters before him, Shipler made the transition from reporting from Moscow to reporting from Jerusalem. In his case this has given him the added possibility of supplementing information here through conversations with various Russian Jews

whom he knew there. It has also enabled him to continue certain parts of his tale — the Soviet Union is thus not cut off with his exit in 1979. This adds an interesting dimension to his analysis; though perhaps greater use could have been made of these readily available sources.

WRITING a book of this kind, especially about a society with a political base and system of rule for which one feels deep-seated suspicion and dislike, is a dangerous exercise, calling for balance between objective analysis and subjective reactions. It is very easy to find negative features in any country, to criticize the distasteful aspects and to omit those which are attractive. Shipler does not fall into the pit of total criticism, although there are certainly times when one feels that his fault-finding might be equally applicable to other societies.



What image of Soviet society — for that is the main thrust of the book, not the leadership or the Party — does the book offer? Shipler has gone to great trouble to see Russia (and he uses the term globally to refer to the Soviet Union) in all its aspects, starting with childhood and the school system and including the development of ideals in the young, the process of growing up and finding one's place in the educational and vocational system, in the social framework.

In a country that experienced great upward mobility in the years following the revolution, Shipler now sees a solidifying of ranks, which makes it very hard to transfer out of the proletarian and kolkhoz sectors; and, beyond this, he discerns sentiments of superiority felt by the urban population *vis a vis* the rural, by the intellectual *vis a vis* the manual worker.

The Soviet citizen is early locked to a production belt that moves him inexorably towards his career, be it blue collar or white. The *raspredelenie*, the distribution or assignment of graduating students to places of work, is the last of the stages passed by the young which determine their future, and it is, for university students, the worst. Although the compulsory assignment of post-graduate employment is for three years, the young Soviet citizen is going to find it very difficult to extricate himself, once this stint is over, from his specialization and the geographic location where he has been sent.

Add to this the rampant bribery and the use of well-placed connections, which are exploited during the period of *raspredelenie*, and it is easy to see the early snuffing out of idealism and belief in individual achievement as the key to success.

SHIPLER here, as elsewhere, is making an implied comparison with usual American practice, which permits children to have the most general education for as long as possible, results in a large percentage of the young going on to some form of post-high-school study, and allows university students to defer the selection of a major field of concentration until their third year.

But were the comparison made with European or Israeli schools, the difference would not be nearly as marked. Besides the differentiation between academic and vocational high schools, there is streaming of classes here, too, in terms of "science" and "humanities," and a student at a European or Israeli university must select one or two departments within which he will confine his studies.

Even in America, a visit to a working-class neighborhood will produce very few high-school pupils looking beyond to a university education. The reasons in both nations are in many ways similar: children of intellectuals are better prepared, more stimulated, and more motivated to apply to academic high schools and universities and thus more likely to be accepted. The question here is one of relative mobility.

But of course this is not, and is not intended to be, a sociological study. What Shipler offers us is individual human experience, which can in no way be duplicated in a statistical survey. His technique is largely successful, although one is occasionally brought up sharp by certain observations.

For example, in reading about his discussion with a group of Komsomol activists, I wondered how differently a foreign editor would have fared with an American or Israeli high-school group. Asked who their heroes were, these *Komsomoltsy*, after offering the names of Lenin, Che Guevara and Fidel Castro, were at a loss. But how would a similar group respond in the West? Do our youth have more readily identifiable heroes? Thus, reading the book makes one look at one's own society with fresh eyes.

SHIPLER describes the Soviet Union as a country where insecurity and secrecy lie just below the surface of everyday life. The secrecy takes all kinds of forms, sometimes absurd. The lack of information that exists within the country is often dangerous to the well-being of the society. Shipler tells of doctors who are unaware of alternative treatment or of medical machinery available in their own city for particular ailments. It is quite common, he says, for Russians to try to gain information about research being done in their own field in their own country from foreign scientists.

Other examples of lack of information are the Intourist guide who was unaware of the fact that internal passports had not yet been distributed to all *kolkhozniki* (in fact, she had thought that everyone had always had them), and the guides who

were ignorant of the fact that they were living at the base of a new dam which was causing earth tremors.

The "overprotectiveness" of the government can often be stifling, but is felt to be necessary to ward off the danger of chaos not far below the surface. One Russian, commenting on the Soviet Constitution, quipped, "What's not forbidden is compulsory."

The Russian — or at least the intelligent Russian — knows that all is not truth in *Pravda*; and we are aware of the fact that Russians read between the lines in their press to get a glimpse of what is really going on. Westerners have long felt that Russians believe they can depend more on the western press than on their own for information.

But Shipler modifies this view somewhat. The Russians, he says, view western qualities, western liberties, through the distorting prism of their own "constitutional liberties," the quality of life that has been assured them. He cites the keen cynicism Russians have for the hypocrisy of their own society and argues that they then project this same cynical view on to the rest of the world.

The western attributes most highly prized in the Soviet Union are material and this fact accounts for the flourishing trade in jeans and other American goods. The application of Soviet assumptions to the United States was amusingly exemplified at a U.S. exhibition in Moscow when two women asked a guide if Americans had internal passports, as Russians do. On being told that they do not, one woman crowed, "You see? I told you that Americans couldn't travel freely inside their own country."

In some cases, the differences between the Soviet Union and the West are not so apparent — as in the case of the conductor Rudolf Barshai, who was refused the right to perform a particular work for ideological reasons in the Soviet Union (Kipling's poetry set to music) and then was turned down again, this time in London, for esthetic reasons (the music was insufficiently avant garde).

This book is full of interesting information and opinion. Shipler gives fascinating background material on some famous figures — Slepak and Shcharansky immediately come to mind. (He does, however, produce the peculiar non-fact that 100,000 Jews were rounded up in Moscow in 1951 and exiled.)

Shipler spent a good deal of time talking with dissidents of all kinds — political, religious, Jewish activists. Of those still in the Soviet Union, the ones who come out very favourably are Roy Medvedev, Anatoly Shcharansky, Valentin Turchin and Irina and Victor Brailovsky. Sakharov fares less well: his devotion to humanitarian causes appears to be too single-mindedly dedicated to intellectuals. His attitude towards the proletariat seems condescending, his preconceptions too nurtured by a Soviet upbringing.

In general, it is difficult for westerners to come to terms with Soviet dissidence. We somehow expect a dissident to be some kind of western-style liberal. It was with a high degree of dismay that many Americans discovered that Solzhenitsyn did not fit their image, that he was not a representative of the anti-Vietnam War movement, did not espouse western parliamentarianism for Russia.

The Russians, with their background of 20th century totalitarianism, their long history of tsarist rule, of wars, of all-controlling government and xenophobia, are simply different. Nor can they make the rapid transition, even if they want to. This is a point that Shipler makes amply clear in his examination of the Russian psyche. He says it with some regret, but his experience has taught him that uncritical optimism serves no purpose. Whatever changes take place in the Soviet Union will be within the context of the Russians' own history, their own personality, their own goals, not ours.

Shipler, who is at present the *New York Times* bureau chief in Jerusalem, has written an intelligent and challenging book. It will be most instructive to see what he someday writes about Israel after he has moved on to his next post. □

Cherniaka & Ocheretyansky: Two New POCs From Kiev

Jewish refusenik Alexander Cherniak of Kiev was arrested and charged with Article 83 of the Ukrainian Criminal Code and Article 194. Cherniak, who was a member of a group of young, junior engineers working in provincial cities for "on-site" projects, was accused of forging his work timesheets "in order to leave the sites early and return home to Kiev". Cherniak was the only one from the group of young engineers who was arrested. Alexander and his wife Lina first applied to emigrate in 1978.

Cherniak was sentenced to four years in prison and confiscation of all property. Send letters of support to Lina at: Visilkovskaya Street 4, Apt. 24, Kiev, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

It is not a coincidence that Cherniak is a friend of Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Lev Elbert of Kiev, who is due to be released from prison camp in June. Vladimir Kislik, who was released in March, was also from Kiev.

Again from Kiev, Jewish refusenik **Mark Ocheretyansky** was recently arrested and sentenced to one year in labor camp for "violation of passport laws" in refusing to receive his Russian passport from the OVIR.

In 1979, Ocheretyansky, his wife Olga, and his teenage son Alexander applied to emigrate. They were given permission; their Russian passports were taken by the Soviet authorities, and they were required to pay the OVIR 200 rubles for each visa and 500 rubles for each person relinquishing their citizenship.

One week prior to receiving the visas, Ocheretyansky was accused of stealing state property at his former place of work (a construction site), and detained five months in Kiev during the investigation. He spent three months in prison prior to the trial, where the accusation was changed to "abuse of position". Mark was sentenced to one year of "administrative work" — with his earnings accrued to the State. His time spent in prison had applied towards his sentence; therefore, only one month of "administrative work" was required of him.

The Ocheretyansky family reapplied to emigrate in 1980, but were refused again in 1981. The rubles paid to the OVIR have never been returned.

Send telegrams protesting these sentences and urging that the families receive exit visas to: A.M. Rekunkov, Procurator General of the USSR, 15a Pushinskaya Street, Moscow.

Also send letters to support to: Olga Oscheretyansky, Strazhesko 11, Apt. 49, Kiev 252165, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

Brailovsky

Continued from page 4

fuse the Brailovsky family's latest application for exit visas on the grounds that Victor's seventy-six year-old mother-in-law, Fanya Feffa, has not submitted her birth certificate. Although their earlier applications were also unaccompanied by this document, their applications

were accepted. While Victor's wife Irina has gone to Dnepropetrovsk to search the archives for her mother's birth certificate, it is nevertheless questionable as to whether the authorities will accept the application, or raise another technicality.

The Committee requests your urgent action, by sending telegrams to A.P. Aleksandrov, President, Academy of Science of the USSR, v-71, Leninsky Prospect 14, Moscow 117901, GSP-1, RSFSR, USSR, and Rudolf Kuznetsov, Chief, All-Union OVIR, Ogarev 6, Moscow 103009, RSFSR, USSR.

More than 300 chemists, as members of the Committee for Concerned Scientists, signed petitions to Soviet officials last month on behalf of Soviet organic chemist Prisoner of Conscience Yuri Tarnopolsky, appealing for his early release.

Pointing in their message to Tarnopolsky's "chronic heart and gallbladder conditions," conferees of the national meeting of the American Chemical Society asked that he "be granted early release . . . in light of his poor health." While calling for his earliest possible release, the signers asked that in the meantime, he be allowed family visits and given "work commensurate with his capability."

The message was addressed to the procurator general of the USSR, A.M. Rekunkov, to the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Academician A.P. Aleksandrov, and to the camp commandant at the Chita labor camp where Tarnopolsky is serving his sentence, at 672022 Chita P/a ya Q14/6, 5th Group, USSR.

Action **ALERT** From Local Councils

Group aids Soviet Jews Plight worsens, founder says

By RON JENSEN

Harrassment of Jews in the Soviet Union is on the increase, says the founder and president of an Oklahoma group working to help them.

In 1979, 51,000 Soviet Jews were allowed to leave the country, said Shirley Golan of Tulsa. Last year, only 1,300 were allowed to leave, and the rate has slowed even more during the first three months of 1984, she said.

"The gates are virtually shut."

Golan said her information comes from the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, a group based in Washington, D.C., that receives information regarding Soviet Jews from tourists and contacts inside the country.

Lawrence Goldberg, executive director of that group said 300,000 Jews have applied to leave the Soviet Union. Last month 50 were given permission.

"It's the only country since the rise of Hitler in Nazi Germany that has had an official policy of anti-Semitism," Goldberg said.

Golan organized the Oklahoma Commission for Soviet Jewry in 1981 to make Oklahomans aware of the human rights problems facing Jews in the Soviet Union, she said.

The group has about 300 members.

Of particular interest to the group are "refuseniks," a term used to describe those Jews who have been denied permission to leave the Soviet Union.

"When Jews become refuseniks, they become like 10th-class citizens," she said.

They are often fired from their jobs; people with professional skills have been forced to take jobs cleaning toilets in hotels in order to support their families, she said.

In late March, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews said homes of Jews in Odessa had been raided by police on the pretext of looking for arms. Instead, all of the religious materials in the homes were removed.

"The Soviet government has come up with a new way to exterminate Jews and that's cultural genocide," Golan said. "The Jews are an easy target."

"They're set up as an example for others. The treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union is a barometer for the treatment of others."

The Soviet government has outlawed the Hebrew language, she said.

"Hebrew is considered anti-Soviet slander."

"Judaism without Hebrew is not Judaism."

The Oklahoma Commission for Soviet Jewry writes letters of support to the families of refuseniks, Golan said. It also supports the "adoption" of a Soviet family or of a prisoner of conscience — someone jailed for their beliefs and ideas.

To adopt a family or prisoner means to keep in touch with them and perhaps provide material support. Letters also are written to authorities requesting the release of a prisoner.

Another program is the Bar/Bat Mitzvah Twinning program, in which a Jewish child in the United States shares his Bar/Bat Mitzvah with a child in the Soviet Union, Golan said.

The group is interested in the plight of Zachar Zunshine, who was arrested several weeks ago in Riga and charged with "defamation of the Soviet State," Golan said.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews said Zunshine, who had been turned down for emigration, was in custody and was being denied contact with the outside world.

"The situation for refuseniks in Riga is very dangerous now, and the world must know what is happening there," Golan said.

"The Zunshine family applied for a visa to repatriate to Israel 3½ years

ago. Then the harassment of being a refusenik began," she said.

"This has the effect of making the procedure of repatriation to Israel and the attempt to repatriate anti-Soviet activity."

GOLAN ENCOURAGED people to write to the prosecutor of Zunshine's case to protest and appeal for his release and emigration.

Golan said the Oklahoma group has gathered the support of some U.S. lawmakers.

Sen. David Boren, D-Okla., has offered to call the investigator of the case in the Soviet Union, and Rep. Mike Synar, D-2nd District, made a call to the family of another refusenik last fall, she said.

Golan said people of all religions are encouraged to join the Oklahoma Commission for Soviet Jewry.

"It is in the interest of all Americans to support the Jews who want to repatriate to Israel," she said. "It is not only important for the sake of human rights, but crucial to peace."

"If the Jewish emigration movement is destroyed, there will be no prospects for the revitalization and continued existence of dissident groups, such as the independent peace activists" in the Soviet Union, she said.

Reprinted from *The Tulsa Tribune*, Saturday, April 7, 1984

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, AND REGISTER EARLY FOR THE UCSJ ANNUAL MEETING AT THE WASHINGTON CAPITAL HILTON September 9-11

For Further Information Telephone the UCSJ Offices
At (202) 393-4117

• **Boston Action for Soviet Jewry** and Temple Emanuel are sponsoring a forum on May 23 with the Democratic and Republican candidates for the Senate seat being vacated by Senator Paul E. Tsongas. This offers as opportunity to approach individuals seeking public office and inquire as to their stand on Soviet Jewry and other topics of interest.

• **Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry** sponsored their sixth annual Walk-a-thon for Soviet Jewry on April 29 in Great Neck, New York. Over 2500 individuals participated in the 10-kilometer hike and hundreds of others, including many elected officials, turned out to show their support for Soviet Jews.

By Bill Day for *The Commercial Appeal*



As announced May 8, the Soviet Union has pulled out of the 1984 summer Olympics.

—editor's note.

Washington Post, 4/14/84



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is composed of 34 local councils, 3 domestic affiliates, 3 international affiliates and 55,000 individual members dedicated to helping Soviet Jews, especially those desiring to emigrate.

Editor: Claudia Zorn

President: Lynn Singer. Vice Presidents: Hinda Cantor (Miami, FL), Pamela Cohen (Chicago, IL), Ruth Newman (Washington, DC), Morey Schapira (San Francisco, CA).

74 Jews left Soviet Union in April