

INFORMATION FROM THE  
UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS  
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Claudia Zorn & Judith Slovin, CO-EDITORS  
Lynn Singer, PRESIDENT

# ALERT

VOL. VIII NO. 20 DATE September 21, 1983

## SOVIETS MANUFACTURE NEW EVIDENCE ON ELBERT

While INNA ELBERT was in Moscow meeting with a delegation of U.S. Senators about her husband LEV, three militia men with a warrant from the Nivvitsa Procurator went to her apartment in Kiev. They went directly to a bookshelf, took out one book, and found an envelope with brown powder. They left immediately without looking at anything else.

The investigation against Elbert, who has not received mail since August 28, will close on October 4. His wife Inna is continuing her hunger strike in protest of the most recent accusations against her husband.



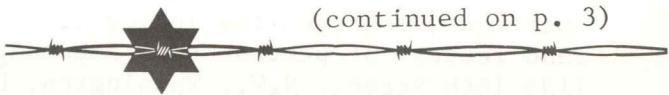
"I have attempted to deliver these copies of telegrams to stress the wide commitment to the cause of Lev Elbert and so many others who are continually under oppression in the Soviet Union," Singer stated.

## Mesh: The Soviet's Next Elbert?

UCSJ President Lynn Singer was refused permission by Soviet embassy officials to leave a mailbag of 1,500 copies of telegrams sent by outraged UCSJ members and councils on behalf of POC Lev Elbert. The embassy has routinely rejected accepting such telegrams to avoid any acknowledgement of injustices or "problems" for Jews living in the Soviet Union.

Leading activist from Odessa YAKOV MESH, who has recently been under acute pressure and KGB harassment for involvement in Jewish activities, received an official call-up notice for army reserve duty, requiring him to appear by September 20. Mesh refused on "moral grounds" for two reasons: 1) "state secrets"; 2) considers himself a citizen of Israel.

(continued on p. 3)



## NEWS BRIEFS

Further tightening the screws in Kharkov, the clerk at the OVIR refused to receive documents from long-term refusenik YEKIM BERKUN, who tried last month to apply for an exit visa. The clerk told Yekim not to delude himself because he will never be permitted to leave the Soviet Union...a prelude to the new policy of "final" refusals?

\* \* \*

DAVID SOLOVEICHIK of Kharkov was punished by a monetary fine for refusing to be a witness in YURI TARNOPOLSKY's trial. The fine will be deducted from his salary on a monthly basis.

\* \* \*

EFIM KRUPNIK, born October 28, 1915, and a refusenik since 1980, died in Leningrad last month. Krupnik was separated from his wife and son, Rozalia and Rostislav since October 1979.

\* \* \*

Lon David Augustenberg, Vice-Consul of the U.S. Consulate in Leningrad, was expelled from the Soviet Union along with his wife on alleged charges of "spying". This September 13 action was an apparent retaliation against a similar expulsion of two Soviet diplomats from the U.S..

\* \* \*

UCSJ expresses its condolences on the passing of Tanya Levich, wife of DR. BENJAMIN LEVICH, world renowned physical chemist and the most prominent Jewish scientist ever to emigrate from the Soviet Union, on August 28, at the age of 66.

Mrs. Levich, a gifted writer and translator with an excellent command of English, was born in Moscow and lived there until 1978. For almost seven years she and her husband endured the frustrations of life as refuseniks, having been denied permission to emigrate to Israel in 1972.

\* \* \*

Once again Zionism comes under vicious attack in an article by V. Gan entitled, "How the Tail Wags the Dog", published in Moscow.

Gan's diatribe, firmly in line with Soviet policy which frequently exaggerates the influence of the "Jewish lobby" in the U.S., contends that the American media is "under the direct control, or at least influence, of the Zionists".

\* \* \*

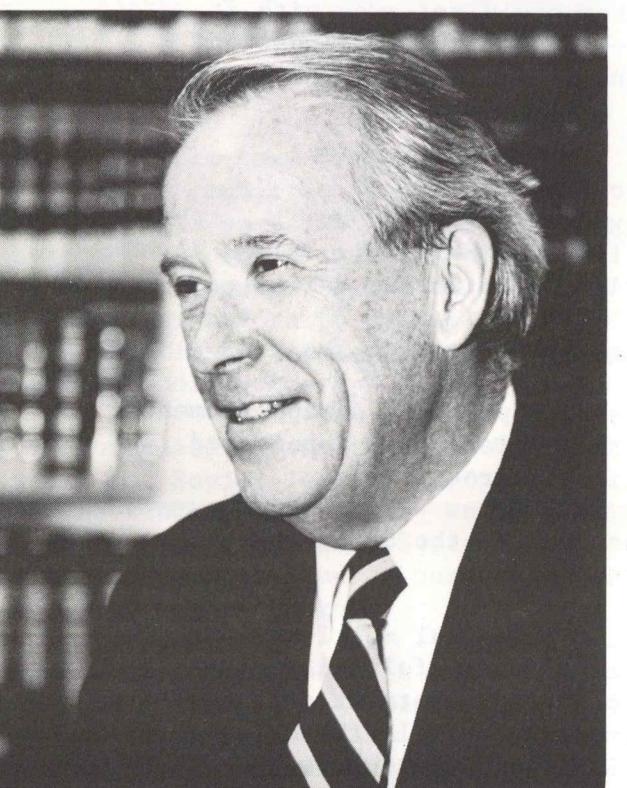
Former POC IRINA GRIVINA and her newborn daughter have been denied residence permits in Moscow. Irina has refused to leave the apartment where her husband VLADIMIR lives.

Demanding their eviction, Soviet militia men stormed their apartment on August 24, physically harassing Vladimir, and threatening Irina with placing her in a psychiatric hospital. A foreign tourist visiting Irina and Vladimir's apartment, observed the incident.

Send letters of protest to: Ambassador Anatoly Dobrinin, Soviet Embassy, 1125 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

## UCSJ MOURNS JACKSON'S DEATH

SENATOR JACKSON was at the forefront in the struggle for Soviet Jewish emigration. The UCSJ will never forget the close cooperation, assistance and leadership shown by Senator Jackson in passing the 1974 Jackson-Vanik Amendment linking U.S. government loans and credits to Soviet emigration performance.

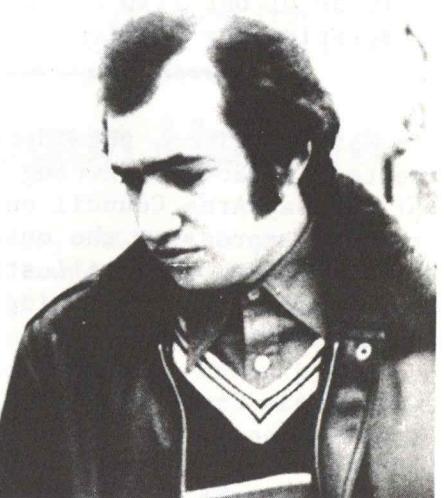


Senator Jackson was a champion of the ideals expressed in the Helsinki Accords and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. A staunch defender of human rights for Soviet Jews, a forceful advocate of their problems in the U.S. Congress and international fora, Senator Jackson was a committed fighter for the survival of Jewish identity in the Soviet Union.

The loss of such an outstanding supporter of human rights leaves a great void in the efforts of the UCSJ to work for the ultimate freedom of all Soviet Jews. The UCSJ will sorely miss Senator Jackson's dedication, leadership and counsel in the battle for human decency throughout the world.

MESH-- (continued from p. 1)  
It is not surprising that Mesh is the latest target for the Soviet's new tactic of issuing a call for army reserve duty to give further reason for denying an exit visa -- and to further repress leading Jewish refuseniks. On June 29, Mesh was summoned to the Directorate of the KGB of the Odessa Oblast Executive Committee. Mesh wrote that he was "openly blackmailed", and was told: "You have driven yourself into a corner, and if you want to embrace your parents, you must come out in the press and on local television with a repentance and exposure of Zionism. If you refuse to do this, then you will never see your parents." Mesh's parents and his wife's parents have lived in the State of Israel since 1978, and have been petitioning for his emigration to Israel.

This latest development for Mesh draws obvious parallels to the case of POC LEV ELBERT, who was also called for army reserve duty last May. Denied an exit visa in 1976 for "state secrets acquired in the army", Elbert refused to comply with the draft orders unless he received assurances that he would not be denied an exit visa in the future on such grounds. Elbert is currently serving a one-year sentence.



MESH, Mar./Apr. 1982

# REACTIONS TO KAL 007 INCIDENT

The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry held a "Call to Conscience" ceremony in front of Aeroflot Russian Airlines' Fifth Avenue offices on the eve of Rosh Hashanah. The SSSJ called for the expulsion of Russian diplomats and the shutdown of Aeroflot's offices in the U.S. as a "minimum" response to the Soviet shootdown of the KAL jumbo jet and the Kremlin's current anti-semitic campaign, a "flagrant abuse of the Helsinki Agreement."

CONGRESSMAN RAY McGRATH (R-Long Island, NY) who was in Leningrad at the time: "When the American consulate telephoned my hotel room to notify me, I was repulsed and shocked...I couldn't believe that anyone could commit this reprehensible act and think they could get away with it... This is a vivid example of Soviet policy - 'control by intimidation' - the same policy that guides their treatment of the many refuseniks with whom we met."

[Editors' note: Upon hearing the news of the KAL 007, Congressman McGrath's group, sponsored by the UCSJ, immediately left for Helsinki, cutting short their trip to the Soviet Union by one day.]

CONGRESSMAN HAL DAUB (R-Nebraska): "It is with profound disappointment that I must cancel our scheduled trip to the Soviet Union (sponsored by the UCSJ) in the wake of this international atrocity.

"The murder of 269 civilians is yet another one of the crimes the Soviets have committed against peaceful people.

"Considering the grave circumstances and the potential multi-national implications of this situation, our trip could never fulfill its mission of drawing international attention to the treatment of Soviet Jews... Nevertheless, we affirm our commitment to fulfill the original purpose of our trip and to the plight of Soviet Jews and look forward to completing our mission at a later date."

In San Francisco, outside the Soviet consulate, hundreds of people protested the Soviet downing of KAL 007. On Sunday, September 4, Greg Smith of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry (BACSJ), spoke before 500 protesters expressing the outrage of the members of BACSJ. Smith said: "This incident only illustrates the inhuman policies the leaders of the Kremlin have been pursuing against Jews and other persecuted people within the Soviet Union."

California Congresswoman Barbara Boxer, in Helsinki, cancelled an intended trip to the Soviet Union at the behest of the BACSJ in protest of the incident. Upon her return to San Francisco, Boxer expressed "deep concern for the plight of Soviet Jews" and her "hope that the Western world will continue to focus attention on Soviet human rights abuses."

# UCSJ ANNUAL MEETING: "A Watershed Time"

"We are facing a critical moment in the Soviet Jewry movement," says Lynn Singer, President of UCSJ. "This is a watershed time for activists in Soviet Jewry. The recent callous destruction of the KAL 007 passenger plane has promoted a period of reassessment and redefinition of U.S.-Soviet relations."

Furthermore, the loss of Senator Henry M. Jackson, a committed leader and outspoken advocate on behalf of Soviet Jewry, "leaves our efforts with a tremendous void," added Singer. "It is crucial now, more than ever before to engage our activists in a national forum with congressional leaders and policymakers," Singer asserted.

"It is fortunate timing that the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is having their Annual Meeting at this time. We have an opportunity to ensure that Soviet Jewry is a high priority issue on our national agenda," concluded Singer.

A significant highlight will be on Saturday evening, October 15, when United States Senator Christopher Dodd is presented with the Anatoly Shcharansky Freedom Award at an evening reception. Senator Dodd has been a strong voice in the Congress on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

"We are also planning a major tribute to Senator Jackson's unfaltering leadership and far-reaching vision," commented Singer. "The full attendance of those concerned about Soviet Jewry is vital in making his vision of freedom for all Soviet Jews a reality," concluded Singer.

The October 14-17 UCSJ annual meeting will include an exciting and thought-provoking program of congressional panelists, representatives of the Administration, and former refuseniks. An opportunity will be available to exchange ideas during workshops devoted to the media, scientists, and community action.

# Half-way Mark For Shcharansky

Thursday, September 15, designated the half-way mark for Anatoly Shcharansky's sentence to thirteen years of imprisonment.

Since July 1978, Shcharansky has been subject to extremely harsh prison treatment, including isolation, severe cold and inadequate food, sleep and health care.

In 1974, Shcharansky asked to emigrate to Israel to join his wife Avital. Pursuing his request after being denied, Shcharansky was charged with treason.

After five years in Soviet prisons and labor camps and months in solitary confinement, Shcharansky embarked on a hunger strike in protest of the official banning of family visits and mail.

"With the Yom Kippur fast so recently passed, we recall the Soviet's refusal to allow Shcharansky to emigrate to Israel. We who live in freedom must not let the plight of Shcharansky and others be forgotten," urged UCSJ President Lynn Singer.

The UCSJ has learned that Avital Shcharansky received a letter last week directly from her husband Anatoly. She had not heard first-hand from her husband since 1981. Contents of the letter are unknown at this time.

# Begun Update

Leonid Popov, BEGUN's former court-appointed lawyer told INNA that "Begun's future will not be determined in Vladimir but in Moscow." The court did not reach a decision regarding the trial date.

Inna feels that the date and verdict will be determined according to the will of the authorities.

Contrary to earlier reports, Begun's recently-appointed judge, Nikolai Kolosov Nikitovich refused to go into details about whether procedural codes would be provided, but did tell Inna that Begun would be supplied with the necessary materials for his defense.

## Soviet couple wed in traditional Jewish ceremony



Julia and Michael under the tallit being held by Michael places the ring on Julia's finger. His mother, Gita, is back.

In a tiny apartment a few weeks ago a small, modern miracle occurred.

It was the wedding of Julia and Michael Stolar.

The father of the bridegroom and his friends held the tallit high so the bride and bridegroom could stand under the chuppah.

The bridegroom read the ketuba

to his bride.

Together they drank from the cup of wine.

Confidently the bridegroom crushed the glass beneath his foot.

The apartment was in Moscow. The bridegroom and his parents are Soviet Jews who have been denied exit visas so they may leave for Israel.

The guests joined in a chorus of "mazel tov, mazel tov."

It's a scene repeated over and over

by Jewish couples.

But this one was different in many aspects.

The apartment was in Moscow.

The bridegroom and his parents are Soviet Jews who have been denied exit visas so they may leave for Israel.

The ceremony was performed by a rabbi.

Abe and Gita Stolar have been waiting years for permission to leave, but each application has been rejected by the Soviet government.

The rabbi happened to be visiting the USSR in July and met the Stolars and while he was there performed the religious ceremony. In Russia, weddings are civil affairs, with the couple going to a municipal office for

the perfunctory ceremony.

Only a few weeks ago Denverite Natalie Strauss visited the Stolars in Moscow and they gave her these photos to show their Denver friends who have supported them through the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry.

The guests joined in a chorus of "mazel tov, mazel tov."

It's a scene repeated over and over

## 130 JEWS LEFT USSR IN AUGUST

Soviet emigration in 1983 has dropped dramatically in the last few years. As of August 1983, only 934 Jews have emigrated from the Soviet Union. This is a shocking figure when compared to the 33,553 Jews who emigrated in the same time period in 1979. Based on the last eight months, we can expect the number of Jews emigrating from the Soviet Union in 1983 to be approximately 1,401. Again, compared to the 1979 total of 51,331, this represents less than three percent of the Soviet emigration only four years ago.

The following chart compares the 1979 and 1983 emigration figures.

	1979	1981
January	3,702	81
February	3,837	123
March	4,418	101
April	4,296	114
May	4,163	116
June	4,358	102
July	4,068	167
August	4,711	130
September	4,663	N/A
October	4,746	N/A
November	4,193	N/A
December	4,145	N/A
TOTAL	51,331	934*

The UCSJ welcomes Claudia Zorn as Associate Director for Communications and Editor of the ALERT newsletter. Ms. Zorn, a native of Los Angeles, California, has been the Washington correspondent for ISRAEL TODAY.



\*Jan.-Aug.

## Moscow's Best Cellar List

By Vladimir Voinovich

MUNICH, West Germany — The Fourth International Book Fair is open in Moscow. As a veteran of the first two fairs, I deserve, like a war veteran, a medal of honor and a free pass to the Moscow subway. I was escorted to the first two fairs by two dozen K.G.B. agents. This made me feel like a very important and dangerous dignitary. They wouldn't let me forget that Soviet writers, unlike writers in other countries, are very well cared for by the state.

The third fair took place not only in Moscow but also in New York City, which is where a lot of Russian writers had ended up, myself included. But I didn't notice anybody tailing me, and I was hurt that the Secret Service didn't seem to appreciate me. I guess they just didn't know how dangerous I am, or they would have assigned at least two agents to shadow me. But I made good use of this opportunity. I hid a microfilm of my latest secret novel in the heel of my shoe and smuggled it to bourgeois publishers.

The latest fair ought to have been held in Moscow, in New York — and in the Perm and Mordovian labor camps. A fair number of writers have been resettled there. They chop wood and perform other jobs useful to the state.

These writers have been jailed for distributing deliberately false fabrications, according to some people, or, according to others, for their convictions. The labor camps provide the best working conditions for writers, and valiant soldiers from the Ministry of Internal Affairs stand by to protect them from bourgeois publishers.

If everyone who writes anything is considered a "writer" (and it seems like it's coming to that), then Nikolai A. Shchelokov, former Minister of Internal Affairs, is a writer as well. I once saw his book — it was titled "In Defense of Orders" or some such thing. I've heard that Shchelokov is in jail now, too — for distributing deliberately appropriated foreign cars to his relatives. Or, to put it another way, for his convictions. As a minister, he was convinced that there is a

Vladimir Voinovich, author "The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin," was stripped of his Soviet citizenship in 1981 while traveling abroad. (This was translated from the Russian by Catherine A. Fitzpatrick, a staff member of the U.S. Helsinki Watch Committee.)

## Potemkin, '83-Style

By Robert L. Bernstein

In just six years, the Soviet Union has unmistakably demonstrated that a totalitarian state cannot hold a legitimate international book fair.

The Moscow Book Fair, now underway, is a sterile "cultural" event. It is empty of the dynamic exchange of ideas that is a condition of life in the world of books, rife with intimidation of Soviet writers and American publishers who would meet with them and devoid of serious business content. After the discouraging experience of the last three fairs, any publisher who attends must consider this question: Will my presence and prestige help the regime mask its systematic brutality?

When the first fair was held, in 1977, it gained support from publishers

big difference between jailers and the jailed. This is a very risky and harmful assumption to make. Many of his predecessors thought this way and suffered the consequences. They forgot that in our country, human rights are not a myth, but a reality — everybody has the right to jail or be jailed.

They say that in the Soviet Union, the best writers are persecuted. Unfortunately, this sometimes happens. Take the writer Leonid I. Brezhnev. Not so long ago, millions of people, from pre-schoolers to pensioners, were reading his books, studying them, taking notes and discussing them at endless readers' conferences. The most venerable critics extolled Brezhnev as a writer no worse than Tolstoy. Maybe Brezhnev was even a little better, since Tolstoy had certain shortcomings, while Brezhnev didn't have any. It was no accident that Georgi M. Markov, First Secretary of the Soviet Writers Union and himself a major writer, awarded the writer Brezhnev the Lenin Prize for high achievement in literature.

And now what? Brezhnev's books are no longer published, are no longer studied and soon, I think, will be banned in the same as, let's say, my books. But still, you can make some use of them. We have a great system that works as follows. If you turn in 20 kilograms of Brezhnev's works at the paper-recycling center, you can get a coupon for one kilogram of Markov's works. For 400 kilograms of Brezhnev, you can get 20 kilograms of Markov. For 20 kilograms of Markov, you can obtain one book by Mark Twain, George Simenon or Yulian Semyonov. For three of Twain, Simenon and Semyonov, you can get one of Milovan Djilas's books. For one of Djilas's books on the black market, you can get seven years. In seven years, you can chop down a whole forest. Then the forest can be turned into paper. On that paper, you can print the works of Yuri V. Andropov, who by that time will have become a writer no worse than Tolstoy. Even if Andropov's works are later banned — no problem. Four hundred kilograms of Andropov's works can be traded in for 20 kilograms of Markov's books. For 20 kilograms of Markov, you can get ... but I think I told you that already.

Soviet literature, the most progressive in the world, continues its consistent, unwavering and unique development.

Book

Governments must negotiate and trade and so must some businesses, but books are different. They are the achievement of the individual mind. When changed and forced into molds by government pressures, they cease to exist. Freedom to create and to circulate the product of creation are to books what water and sun are to grain. In the Soviet Union, where such freedom is stifled, there is nothing for Americans and Soviet publishers to discuss. Yet, every two years the Russians beckon us Americans to come to Moscow for a book fair.

When Yuri V. Andropov took over as leader, Western journalists briefly pictured him possibly having some cultural sophistication, including a taste for American jazz and Western literature. The only sophistication Mr. Andropov, long head of the K.G.B., has shown with regard to Soviet culture has been to refine a series of tortures for writers and other creative people — tortures he deems more acceptable than outright hanging.

1. The torture of exile. Take Lev Kopelev, who served his country gallantly as an officer in World War II and then served years in labor camps under Stalin for no crime. For writing of these experiences and speaking up for Andrei D. Sakharov, he has been exiled from his children and grandchildren and friends forever.

2. The torture of psychiatric care. Sergei Batovrin, who tried to start a peace movement, was confined with 20 psychotic patients. He was the only one never permitted out of the room, and he regularly received a depressant at eight or nine times normal dosage. He is now in exile.

3. The torture of internal exile. Mr. Andropov created the "Sakharov cage," an arrangement by which a brilliant man is kidnapped and confined in internal exile in a Soviet city where no foreigners or Russian friends are admitted and where he is harassed. Many members of Mr. Sakharov's family have fled the country, for normal life is impossible.

Robert L. Bernstein is chairman and president of Random House.

In 1977, when the First International Books Fair opened in Moscow, American publishers agreed to participate on the condition that Jewish publishers and Israel be allowed to participate as well. But this year, at the Fourth International Book Fair, Soviet authorities have barred 49 books on Jewish issues — among them: *The Jewish Year Book*; *The Jewish Catalogue*; *History of the Jews*, by Cecil Roth; *My Name is Asher Lev*, by Chaim Potok; *The History of Israel*, by Howard Sachar. Such literature is largely denied to those living in the Soviet Union.

The Moscow exhibition which is held every two years, has been an attraction for Soviet Jews who come to the fair from all parts of the Soviet Union.

Apparently the Soviets took this action to indicate their displeasure with the many Soviet Jews flocking to the American Jewish exhibits.

4. The torture of the "Orlov-Scharansky snake pit." Mr. Andropov has perfected this method of punishment, which combines labor camp, prison, solitary confinement, physical abuse and deprivation of food, mail and visits for long periods. It usually entails seven years in a labor camp plus years in internal exile. Anatoly Marchenko, distinguished writer, is now serving a second, even longer term in a camp. Yuri Orlov and Anatoly Shcharansky, human rights activists, are also in camps and prisons.

5. The torture of withholding employment. This common method of wasting away a person's self-respect and dignity is often visited on the relatives of those being persecuted.

Once, if enough international publicity were brought to bear, a writer might be released from captivity and allowed to come to the West. Today, the Kremlin is imprisoning people faster than their names can be made known. More than 100 prominent writers are being punished, as are 52 monitors of the Helsinki Accords. It is not enough to concentrate only on the names. The Soviet policy must be exposed and condemned, over and over again.

The Kremlin has chosen to make writers symbols of its determination to regulate the thoughts of the Soviet people even as it continues to court the benefits of holding an International book fair. Every two years, when a fair is announced, I will stay home and say, as loudly as I can, that the Soviet Union cannot continue to torture its writers and expect the publishers of the world's great free writers to troop obligingly to Moscow, keeping quiet to gain the privilege. It is a sham, a Potemkin book fair, and we should have no part in it.

UCSJ ANNUAL MEETING.....WASHINGTON, D.C.

JOIN WITH US ON OCTOBER 14-17, 1983

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL ON CAPITOL HILL  
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HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- o Saturday Evening Reception Honoring  
Sen. Christopher Dodd
- o Tribute to Senator Henry Jackson
- o Representatives from the White House,  
State Department, Congress, Journalists,  
International Affiliates
- o Former Leading Refuseniks from Israel
- o Shabbat Dinner with Separated Families
- o State Department Briefing
- o Vigil at Soviet Embassy
- o Workshops on:
  - Scientific Exchanges
  - Media
  - US-Soviet Relations
  - Helsinki Accords
  - Legal Advocacy
  - Congress
  - Community Action
- o Resource Room/Audio Visual



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

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