

ALERT

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

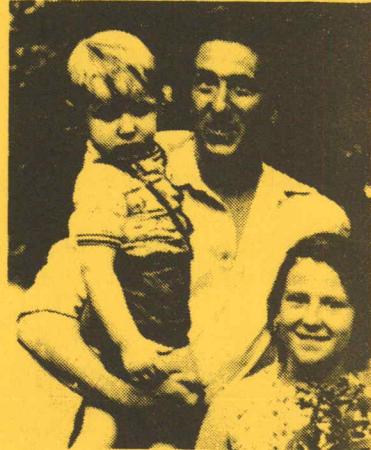
PRISONER UPDATE

Death Sentences Commuted

A trial of four Georgian Jews in 1978, ending in a death sentence for all four, has had a dramatic reversal. Ilya Mikhalashvili, one of those sentenced, has received a notice from the Supreme Soviet of the Ukraine commuting his sentence to 15 years. The other three condemned men, Rafael Adziashvili (Tbilisi), Gabriel Shepiashvili (Sukhumi) and M. Abasov (Baku) were told their death sentences will not be carried out and their cases are being reviewed by the Procurator General of Moscow.

Guberman Trial Begins

While the above news was heartening, other developments were much less encouraging. In a phone conversation from Moscow, news reached us that Igor Guberman, arrested in August 1979, will be brought to trial on March 11. His wife Tatiana was allowed to review the pre-trial investigation report and predicted that the trial would be lengthy. Two criminal charges of theft are being sought under articles 208, paragraph 4 and 144, paragraph 2 of the Soviet Criminal Code, with a maximum term of 12 years imprisonment and 5 years of exile, as well as possible confiscation of property. These articles discuss theft by groups, although no co-defendants have yet been named.



According to Moscow activists, Guberman's arrest is on a trumped-up criminal charge to hide the political nature of Igor's arrest. Guberman has been quite active in the Jewish cultural movement and is well respected in Soviet literary circles. According to information received, Guberman had been approached by the KGB to collaborate after his application to emigrate was received. His refusal occasioned threats from the KGB.

The investigator assigned to his case has been abusively and overtly anti-Semitic, and has attempted to bribe or coerce any and all acquaintances in fabricating a case against Igor. The family's lawyer has not been permitted to take part in the investigation, and the Moscow community is quite concerned.

Telegrams of support to Tatiana and of condemnation to the Procurator's Office should be sent immediately. Please ask your Senators to sign the "Dear Colleague" letter from Senator Levin's office.

Tatiana Guberman
Zelenogradskaya St. 23
Bldg. 2 - Apt. 73
Moscow 125475
RSFSR, USSR

Comrade Belykov
Dept. of Internal Affairs
9a Zagorskaya St.
Dmitrov
RSFSR, USSR

Shcharansky Marks Third Year In Prison

On the third anniversary of his imprisonment, Anatoly Shcharansky is slated to be transported from Chistopol Prison to a Soviet labor camp. We are pleased to report that Anatoly's health has improved, a situation he credits to his having practiced yoga exercises prescribed by a Moscow doctor!

(more)



The family is now concerned that any improvement in Anatoly's condition may be lost during the dreaded transfer to the labor camp. (See Grigory Goldstein's "Prison Memories" on page 6).

The third anniversary of Anatoly's arrest is being commemorated in Congress with a "Remember Anatoly Shcharansky Week" sponsored by the International Committee for the Release of Anatoly Shcharansky, under the chairmanship of Rep. Robert Drinan (D-Mass). Synagogues throughout the country will mark "Shcharansky Shabbat" with special sermons and a ceremony created by Rabbi Irving Greenberg.

Avital Shcharansky made the following statement to mark the third anniversary of her husband's arrest:

Dear Friends, for three long years my husband, Anatoly Shcharansky, has been in prison. He is one of many Soviet Jews who wanted to come to Israel and who appealed to the Soviet Union for permission to emigrate to Israel. The government refused them without explanation. The Jews appealed again and again. The government persecuted them, attacked them, divided their families, sent them to Siberia for years in prison.

All these three years you have been with us, as you have been with our brothers and sisters in their struggle for freedom - Yosif Mendelevich, Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak, Yosif Begun, Boris Kalendarov - all Prisoners of Conscience currently. You know their names.

On March 15, 1977, Anatoly was arrested on charges of spying. All the world knows he's innocent. All the world speaks about his innocence.

Today, March 15, 1980, he is due to be taken out of prison and sent to a labor camp in accordance with the verdict: 3 years prison, strict regime, plus 10 years in a labor camp. We don't know where or how he will be transferred, our Anatoly.

Thanks to you, Anatoly does not lose hope to attain his freedom, even though he is in a place that is totally inhuman.

We believe and hope that you will continue to fight with renewed strength to free him, to free all of the Prisoners of Conscience.

With the help of G-d, Anatoly will come out of this experience whole. For this we pray today.

The following is excerpted from a letter from Ida Milgrom, Anatoly's mother, to the leadership of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews:

You and I do not know one another but I know that you know of our family's great trouble, and I know how much you worry about my son's destiny, and about the very great role your organization has taken to defend him. Therefore, it is natural that I turn to you with words of deep, heartfelt thanks to you and to every member of your organization for your deeds and efforts to secure Anatoly's release.

I turn to you and ask you to intensify your efforts for Anatoly. I ask you to pass on my scream for help; that of a mother whose son is being lost. Help me! Use every possibility, every resource you have to save him! He is not guilty! Anatoly has struggled for his right and that of many others to emigrate from the country. He struggled constantly for violated rights. But in his struggle

he never violated the constitution of the USSR, and he himself, has become a sacrifice to illegality.

You know about this. The whole world knows about this. But I cannot remain silent, and again and again, I repeat the same. My son is not guilty! People, save him!

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE SOVIET UNION

* Though five Jewish families from Ilyinka recently received visas in the near-by town of Kuba, they are still not being allowed to leave Ilyinka. These people are in dire straits - without food or employment. Refusenik Boris Chernobilsky is in charge of efforts to help the Ilyinka Jews.

* An article in the Tomsk newspaper attacked Ida Nudel. Though her living conditions are physically acceptable (she has work as an accountant, a house to live in and food packages sent from Moscow), she suffers from a feeling of isolation which will now increase as her neighbors are made more aware of her pariah status. In a telegram to Brezhnev, Ida accused the authors of "knowingly inciting hatred for the purpose of bringing about violent reprisals."

* Efforts are being made to evict Abe Stolyar from his apartment in Moscow. He believes this is an attempt to get him out of Moscow before the Olympics. He is going to court to try to prevent this from happening.

* Twenty-nine Kiev families have been given permissions in a recent two-week period. During the same period some four hundred new applicants were sent away on the grounds of "insufficient kinship".

* On March 31, the first night of Passover, it will be ten years since the Smeliansky family of Moscow first applied for their visas. Emanuil, a metallurgical engineer, and his wife Alla have a 10 year old son Mikhail who has spent his entire life in this situation of tension, fear and waiting. They could use some words of support. Write to them at: Ul. Tashkentskaya 17, kv. 42, Moscow 109444, RSFSR, USSR.

* Scientist Alexander Paritsky from Kharkov received another refusal last month. He was told by an OVIR official not to bother to reapply for at least another year. Paritsky is now working as a laborer.

* The distribution of matza has already started in the Moscow synagogue. Each person receives 4 kg. at two rubles per kilo.

* Lev Gendin, many years separated from his wife Aviva Klein, is reported to be suffering from deep depression. The authorities have told him they do not recognize his marriage to Aviva as it was "only a religious ceremony" and has no validity in the USSR. His address is: Malysheva 19/19, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR.

* Alexander Podrabinek, whose work compiling evidence of Soviet abuse of psychiatry led to his sentence of five years of Siberian exile, is reported to have contracted hepatitis. His house has been searched and he has been threatened with a new trial. Other members of the Commission to Investigate Psychiatric Abuse have also been under attack by the authorities.

* Speaking to a tourist, Karl Grinberg expressed the painful pull of emotions felt by members of a separated family. He said he was pleased that his family was not subjected to the current viciously anti-Semitic atmosphere of the Soviet Union. But when presented with a picture of his wife and children in Israel, he was overcome with emotion and his eyes filled with tears.

KGB TO MAIMON: "YOU WILL NEVER LEAVE".

The following, excerpted from a letter by Prof. Nahum Maimon, presents a picture of the intolerable situation in which members of the Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group find themselves:

On the 25th, my telephone was again disconnected, and I fear that this time it is for good. Besides other inconveniences, the lack of a telephone deprives me of the possibility of calling for urgent medical help.

On the 30th, I was called in by Assistant Chief Smirnov of the Investigation Department of the Moscow Prosecutor's Office. Smirnov said that though this was not an interrogation, I ought to realize that a criminal case was being prepared against my friends and against me as well. In accordance with the humaneness typical of the Soviet system, however, I was being given a final warning. The entire proceedings after that consisted mainly of threats, various warnings and demands and were conducted by the KGB men.

Though I consider the threats quite substantial, I would like to dwell on a certain point. The superior man from the KGB said in particular: "Before it is too late, you must alter your behavior and way of life. You will never leave the Soviet Union." I objected that he was no prophet and could not know such a thing, to which his subordinate replied that there had been an official decision never to let me leave the USSR. There was a document to that effect, he added. I asked whose decision it was, and he replied that he could only say that it was taken by competent authorities.

I have been refused permission to emigrate many times since 1974, but so far it has always been a question of temporary detention. This Jan. 30, I was told for the first time that I will never be released. I think this is due to, and a sign of, a deterioration and aggravation of the general situation.

My situation is aggravated by the fact that my health worsened just before all those troubles, without the possibility of receiving adequate medical attention, having been expelled from the Academy Polyclinic in 1977.

Prof. Naum Maimon
Nab. Gorkogo 4/22, apt. 57
Moscow 113127, RSFSR, USSR

MEMORIES OF SAKHAROV: "FIGHTER FOR THE RIGHTS OF SUFFERING PEOPLE OF THIS COUNTRY"

While Andrei Sakharov remains in exile in Gorky, petitions demanding his release, as well as letters describing the help he has given to others continue to reach us. While in past ALERTS we have written about the support he has given to Jews in the USSR, this week we wish to highlight an endorsement of him which comes from another persecuted group, Soviet Christians. The following is excerpted from a letter written by Lydia Vashchenko, one of the Pentacostals who has sought assylum in the US Embassy in Moscow:

Jan. 27, 1980

"You shall not follow a multitude to do evil; nor shall you bear witness in a suit, turning aside after multitudes, so as to prevent Justice." (Exodus 23:2.) With these words from the Bible I would like to characterize Andrei Sakharov.

He does not forsake the truth, although there are so few who maintain it in my country and the oppression is difficult for them to bear. He does not know of God as we Christians know Him, but he has been trying to gain protection for Christians

in the USSR because God is able to work his will even through those who do not recognize Him. His influence has been a means of protection for Christians from the tyranny of the KGB. He has been a fighter for the rights of the suffering people of this country and he does not deserve any punishment by the Soviets.

We saw him twice when we were in the reception room of the Consulate Section. The first time he came up to us and found out what was happening and why we were here. (None of the leaders of the "Russian Baptist Church" came to talk with us about our situation during the time that we have been here but Andrei Sakharov has truly been a good Samaritan). We told him about our situation but he was not able to advise us because he could not foresee a possible solution to our problems. Many others would like to see us freed but they also can offer little advice because public opinion in the West is the only tool which we have against Soviet tyranny and we ourselves have no control over that.

We asked him to intercede on our behalf before the Soviets and he promised to write a letter to Brezhnev. But he warned us that he would not receive an answer for this letter to Brezhnev because he never received answers for any of his other letters. On his next visit to the Embassy (we still were sitting on the divans in the reception of the Consulate) we found out that he wrote the letter and that he did not receive any response.

Now I feel that it is our obligation to come forward and speak out for the protection of such a fine person who had so many times protected others...

NEWS FROM THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY

Hamburg Forum Expresses Western Indignation Over Sakharov

American protests over the Sakharov exile have been carried to the international audience of scientists convened at the Hamburg Forum. The forum is a "meeting of leading personalities in science from participating states to discuss interrelated problems of common interest". This is the last CSCE-sponsored meeting before the review session of the Helsinki Accords in Madrid this fall.

In preparation for the Hamburg meeting, the subject was reviewed during joint hearings held by several House sub-committees and the Helsinki Commission in early February. The American delegation rejected the option of boycotting the forum and instead decided to use the opportunity to raise the issue of human rights with the Soviet scientific colleagues.

In contrast to the international reaction to an Olympic boycott, the Americans at Hamburg were joined by fellow scientists from many other Western nations (including normally neutral Switzerland and Sweden) in their vocal protests over treatment of Soviet scientists. In a report by Bradley Graham of the Washington Post on Feb. 24, American scientists have urged their Soviet counterparts to pressure the Kremlin to rehabilitate these colleagues and relax curbs on scientific exchanges or else suffer a boycott on cooperation from the West. Graham reported that the "East-bloc delegations have answered these pleas with a mix of indifferent shrugs, bemused laughs and a steady recitation of the official Soviet explanation on the penalties for dissident scientists." The article went on to speculate that U.S. scientists will not accept "any document which does not include a strong reassertion of human rights. Too strong a statement, however, risks a veto from the Soviets who would prefer the forum to conclude with a simple catalogue of East-West programs undertaken so far, together with a pledge by all to continue to expand these exchanges."

American Scientists Take Decisive Action

High level American-Soviet scientific exchange has been temporarily halted for the first time since 1959. The U.S. National Academy of Sciences has suspended official bilateral meetings for six months as have several other major scientific associations. These groups have taken this unprecedented step in protest over Sakharov's exile, as well as the on-going repression of Soviet scientists. Several working sessions have already been cancelled, while planning meeting in several disciplines have been indefinitely postponed.

Cancellation of work sessions sponsored by scientific societies is being decided on a case-by-case basis using criteria administered by the State Department. Participation in private exchanges, on the other hand, is being decided by individual scientists. All concerned hope that official scientific relations will be restored sometime in the future.

Scientists generally oppose blanket boycotts and prefer dependence on the individual conscience for decisions on scientific participation. However, the Sakharov exile stretched the tolerance limits of the American scientific community, already incensed over the treatment of Soviet dissident scientists like Orlov and Shcharansky and the generally deteriorating conditions for Russian scientists.

SPOTLIGHT ON A REFUSENIK: MOISEI ZATS

The attempt of Moisei Zats of Chernovtsy to leave the Soviet Union with his family has been stymied by government investigations which have led nowhere. Zats is a construction engineer whose work at projects outside of his factory - all legal and authorized - led to an investigation in 1977. After nine months the local procurator decided not to charge him and the case appeared closed.

Late last year Zats, his wife, two children and mother-in-law received visas for Israel. The authorities then re-opened the investigation and took away their visas. The sequence of events since then has been a bitter one: though all the visas except Moisei's were returned, the family elected to stay until they could leave together. Then Mrs. Zats' mother suffered a heart attack and died on December 31st. As if that were not enough, the family's luggage has already been sent away, so they have had to brave the winter without even the bare necessities. Their apartment was given to new owners who are demanding that the Zats family move out.

The Zats family has been placed in an intolerable situation because of their desire to emigrate to Israel and be reunited with Mrs. Zats' sister, Miriam Koltochnik who resides in Kiryat Yam.

Letters of encouragement would be much appreciated. Write to Moisei Zats, Ul. Ruskaya 17, kv. 2, Chernovtsy, Ukr. SSR, USSR. Also, letters may be directed to the Regional Procurator: Mr. Panchenko, Oblastnoy Prokuror, Ul. Shevchenko, Chernovtsy, Ukr. SSR, USSR.

STARK PRISON LIFE REMEMBERED

March 1980 marks the first anniversary of the release of Grigory Goldstein from prison. A fearless campaigner for Jewish rights along with his brother Isai, Grigory served a one year sentence in the bitter reaches of the north on a charge of parasitism. The following is an excerpt of his recollections of prison life which constitutes a bitter denunciation of the Soviet penal system:

I spent more than two and one half months in prison trains and transit prisons on my way to the labor camp located in the Arkhangelsk region near the Arctic circle.

I travelled in a prison train where a sleeping compartment normally containing four persons was packed with 17-20 persons. The only meal between the stops in transit prisons, usually located at a two to three day distance from one another was herring and bread. Water was obtained only at the discretion of the guard, as was permission to use the toilet. The guard often refused one or both which constituted a form of torture. Several times during this trip I was insulted and beaten by the guards.

In the transit prisons, a cell built for 25 inmates contained 60-70 prisoners. Conditions were extremely unsanitary. The mattresses were full of lice and, as a result, when I arrived at the labor camp my body was covered with bites and I was lice ridden.

The camp as I saw it was Soviet society viewed through the wrong end of a telescope. Like opportunists in Soviet society at large, prisoners are encouraged to supervise other prisoners and are rewarded by not having to work themselves. As in Soviet society, the prisoner-opportunists are given additional privileges, including official benefits; food and visiting rights, as well as unofficial benefits - tea, vodka and narcotics. Also, as in Soviet society, these prisoner-supervisors are allowed to violate regulations that are obligatory for others. All the prisoners try to steal whatever they can and wherever they can. Bribery is prevalent and is used to obtain small privileges, as well as early release.

There is, too, the same system of shadowing and denunciation and the constant indoctrination in the form of mandatory films, lectures and discussions. There are placards and slogans everywhere. Anti-Semitism exists among the inmates, as well as among the officials, just as it exists in Soviet society at large.

The system of labor camps is highly profitable to the Soviet state. Camps are located mostly in areas with extremely harsh weather, thereby lacking a sufficient labor force. Prisoners are used for the most difficult physical labor and receive minimum remuneration. Half of this "salary" is taken away by the state. Part of the other half pays for prison clothing and for meals. The sum of approximately 15 rubles is taken per month as payment for meals, making an average of 48 kopecks per day. Anyone who is familiar with food prices in the Soviet Union knows very well that inmates are constantly suffering from hunger.

Camp officials try to increase labor efficiency. For this reason they encourage physical abuse of those inmates who fail to fulfill their quota. Officially, beating is forbidden and, therefore, the system of prisoner-supervisors is encouraged. Instructions are given to those prisoner-supervisors to beat other prisoners in such a way that no traces are left. If a prisoner refuses to work, he is subject to incarceration. In such cases prisoners are held in unheated cells in extremely cold weather and with no sleeping facilities. Prisoners receive one meal per day, the meal consisting of bread and water. Every other day this 'meal' includes a bowl of hot soup. Unofficial beating is also frequent.

The level of on-the-job safety is very low. Work accidents occur very often. Medical care is almost purely symbolic, and all kinds of illness are often treated with the same pills. If a prisoner does not have high temperature, he is accused by the physician of faking his illness and is incarcerated. For example, when my right cheek was swollen as a result of an infection, a doctor called Gromov refused to treat me and threatened to send me to incarceration. Only after the intervention of high-ranking officials did the doctor treat me for 5 days.

Political prisoners are treated more harshly than criminals in the Soviet Union. Officially there are no political prisoners at all.

NEW REFUSENIKS

Yakov Kofman and his cousin
Romen Rolana 7
Apt.100
Kiev, 252158,Ukr. SSR, USSR
Birth date: 7/1/30

Sara Spektor
Romen Rolana 3
Apt. 195
Kiev, 252194,Ukr. SSR, USSR
Birth Date: 6/29/15

Vladimir Zininberg
Nevsky Prospect
140, apt.17
Leningrad 193036
RSFSR, USSR
Birthdate: 1954

Irina Kregal
66 Marata St., Apt. 21
Leningrad, RSFSR, USSR
Married for 25 years to Vladimir Segal
Irina is a Librarian and speaks French, Italian
and English.

PERMISSIONS:

Valentina Khait - Leningrad
Grigory Shadur - Riga
Yosif Gorenstein - Kishinev
Yefim & Bella Zigelboim - Vilnius

EMIGRES:

Dmitry Akivson - Vinnitsa
Alexander Aronov - Odessa
Denis Buziashvili - Kutaisi
Georgy Elizarov - Baku
Tamara Feldman - Kishinev
Asia Garber - Chernovtsy
Iosif Geller - Kishinev
Khaya Grinshtein - Ivano-frankovsk
Maria Khmelnitskaya - Minsk
Grigory Yuris - Kolomiya
Daniel Krikheli - Tskhinval
Shalva Krikheli - Tbilisi
Abrasha Leviev - Tashkent
Solomon Loifman - Kaunas
Samson Loifman - Kiev
Mokko Mamontlivy - Kishinev
Iosif Nederozov - Leningrad
Boris Shamaev - Derbent
Burikh Sokolovsky - Belgorod-Dnestr
Yuda Tendler - Kharkov
Reomald Vinokur - Kishinev
Shalva Yakobashvili - Tbilisi
Arkady Zaragatsky - Riga
Khaim Samorodinitsky - Lvov
Grigory Shulman - Lvov
Efim Torban - Donetsk
Leonid Tsipelson - Donetsk
Rafail Uvaidov - Tashkent
Barbala Yakovovich - Beregovoy
Alexander Zaitsev - Leningrad

Lev Abolnikov - Leningrad
Asia Beiland - Osh
Zigmund Berkovich - Beregovoy
Semyon Bolotsky - Donetsk
Vladimir Bril - Leningrad
Danil Farkash - Perm
Samuil Fridliand - Minsk
Mikhail Furiaka - Kiev
Isaak Goldreer - Donetsk
Yury Gorfein - Leningrad
Vladimir Gurevich - Moscow
Lev Kaplan - Minsk
Arkady Kats - Leningrad
Yuri Kisim - Moscow
Meir Kotliar - Krasnodar
Natalia Kramer - Leningrad
Leonid Krongold - Lvov
Gennday Levin - Sukhumi
Vadim Liatsky - Leningrad
Marks Liubner - Minsk
Alexander Mozison - Riga
Yakov Rabinovich - Leningrad
Valery Raines - Riga
Mikhail Shtitsberg - Kishinev
Solomon Sirkin - Minsk
Mikhail Torban - Donetsk
Inessa Tuman - Pskov
Isaak Veitsman - Alma-Ata
Serge Yuzvinsky - Leningrad
Ludmila Zlobinskaya - Kiev

In February, 3023 left the Soviet Union, 42% went to Israel.

Jerusalem Post, Feb. 17-23, 1980

Some aliya activists ask Israel to boycott Olympics

By SARAH HONIG
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — An emotional appeal to Israeli athletes to stay away from the Moscow Olympics this summer was made last week by one of the USSR's leading Jewish activists — Grigori Rosenstein.

But not all the members of the aliya movement in the USSR agree with Rosenstein. Some favour an Israeli presence at the games.

Rosenstein and his wife Natalya made their appeal during a telephone conversation to Israel with Rivka Drori, the sister of Prisoner of Zion Yosef Menedelevich — the only Jewish Leningrad trial defendant still behind bars. The Rosensteins have adopted Menedelevich, who has no relatives left in the USSR.

Drori told *The Jerusalem Post* that the Rosensteins said that the best thing Israel's athletes can do this summer would be to shun Moscow. They explained that contact with Aliya activists will be impossible since most activists are likely to be exiled from the Soviet capital and other Olympic sites.

The Rosensteins have already been told that they have to vacate their flat, and they fear that they will be kept out of Moscow even after the games are over.

Twenty-seven MKs from eight factions have signed a statement

urging a boycott of the Olympic Games.

The statement, initiated by Geula Cohen (Tehiya) said that most of the signatories were motivated by solidarity with the Prisoners of Zion in the Soviet Union, and with fighters for civil liberty like Andrei Sakharov.

The signatories were from the Likud (10), Alignment (5), NRP (3), Shai (3), Tehiya (2), Aguda (2), ILP (1) and DM (1).

But there are aliya activists who believe Israeli participation could be beneficial for the cause. One, Riva Feldman, has said that "it is very desirable for Israelis to appear here and for the Israeli flag to be flown in the USSR. This will be very heartening for Russian Jews and there might be contact with us after all."

Some who favour Israel's participation say a number of veteran activists might possibly get exit visas to Israel if Israel takes part in the Games.

In Tel Aviv, the Israel Olympic Committee said it will, if necessary, wait until the May 24 deadline for submitting entries before deciding whether or not Israel participates in the summer Olympics in Moscow. In the meantime, preparations for the games are continuing as scheduled, president Yitzhak Ofek told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Soviet citizens who have applied to emigrate have been told they won't be permitted in Moscow during the summer Olympics, Western officials reported. They speculated that the action was designed to prevent demonstrations by people seeking to emigrate, many of whom are Jewish.

Wall Street Journal,
March 4, 1980

The Washington Star, Thursday, Feb. 14, 1980



Arlington couple is selling bumper stickers protesting Moscow as the site of the Summer Olympics

To Carter and the world: 'No Olympics in Moscow'

Some people, the saying goes, wear their hearts on their sleeves, but the students at the Jewish Day School wear their sentiments on their chests—as far as Soviet Jewry is concerned.

They're letting the world know they disapprove of holding the upcoming summer Olympics in Moscow by wearing "Olympics Da, Moscow Nyet," tee-shirts supplied by the Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry.

The school's Soviet Jewry committee sent one of the shirts to President Jimmy Carter with a letter supporting the U.S. boycott of the Moscow-scheduled games.

The President was reminded by Judith Zawatsky, president of the school's Soviet Jewry committee, that "the Olympics have always stood for friendship and peace." She added that "we do not think Russia deserves" the privilege of hosting the Olympics "because of their harsh treatment of our Jewish brothers and all who struggle for human rights in the USSR."

Fate of Soviet Jews Uncertain

TWO LOCAL DEFENDERS of Soviet Jewry who feel very strongly against the Moscow Olympics are Roger and Annette Keen of 178 West Ridge Dr. They are co-chairmen of a new group in the area called "Greater Hartford Action for Soviet Jewry," which had its first meeting last week. It is part of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, of which the Keens were active members when they lived in Framingham, Mass.

A year and a half ago the union of councils was "adamantly opposed to having the Olympics in Russia," said Mrs. Keen. It gathered a petition of 70,000 names, which Massachusetts congressman Robert Drinan presented to Congress on its behalf.

"Having the Olympics in Russia lends a certain level of acceptance to a country which does not even allow minimal human rights," she said.

The Moscow which will greet the Olympics, said Mrs. Keen, "will not be the 'Real

Russia.'" She is very concerned about the Moscow streets being "cleaned up" of dissidents. Through her group's communications network she has learned that refusniks in Russia are afraid to meet with American tourists, she said.

The Keens have been in touch with an adopted family in Minsk, Russia, which has been waiting for eight years for its visa to be approved. Last week they received their first letter from the Minsk family since the Afghan crisis developed.

Mrs. Keen quotes from the letter, written in self-taught English by 35-year-old Elena Hess:

"Everyone is shocked with the situation in Iran and Afghanistan. Everyone is frightened. Anything can happen with us, the refusniks. The 'door' can be closed. We suffer here during years and years, suffer such indignities

and cannot reach our goal."

Mrs. Keen considers it "a mystery" that such letters are able to leave Russia. But she believes now, more than ever before, that American Jews must write to Russian Jews. "We are even more worried about what will happen to the dissidents and refusniks," she said.

But her outlook was not totally bleak. "This is a temporary operation. Russia needs our finances, our technology and agricultural expertise. We have a wedge."

It's when she hears people say "it's hopeless," that her blood pressure rises," she said. Ten years ago, she said, the same people said it was hopeless dealing with the Russians, and, since then, 140,000 Jews have gotten out.

Exodus of Soviet Jews Said to Decline

By Kevin Klose
Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, March 7—Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union, which rose dramatically with the advent of detente in the early 1980s and reached its record level last year, now appears to be on a sharp decline, presumably due to a cooler international climate.

Observers here believe that the indications of a more restrictive Soviet emigration policy were linked to worsened Soviet-American relations. The reasons also may be bureaucratic and linked to increase visa demands for the upcoming Moscow Summer Olympics.

Western diplomatic sources said 6,139 Jews were granted permission to leave the Soviet Union in the first two months of 1980 compared with 8,166 for the same period last year. The decline had long been predicted by foreign sources here familiar with Soviet bureaucratic problems in processing visas for Olympic visitors and Soviet resentment at the loss of possible U.S. trade concessions in the aftermath of Moscow's invasion of Afghanistan last December.

These sources said the flow of Jewish emigres from the major Ukrainian cities of Kiev, Odessa and Kharkov has virtually ceased in recent weeks, accounting for the overall decline. They said permission to emigrate apparently have continued to be granted for Soviet Jews from Moscow, Leningrad, Riga, Minsk and other cities, at about the same level.

Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union topped 50,000 last year, a record, and was the highest number recorded since 1973, when 35,000 Jews were granted visas. Emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union, which has closed borders, has been tied in the past to apparent Soviet hopes for improved trade credits from Washington. The Jackson-Vanik amendment to the 1972 trade act tied Jewish emigration to Moscow's most favored nation trade status.

The sources said there is no apparent reason for the marked reductions in Soviet approvals for emigration by Ukrainian Jews. Jewish activists here have said in recent weeks that regional emigration offices in the

Ukraine and elsewhere have reduced working hours sharply. There is thought to be a growing backlog of unprocessed exit applications from Soviet Jews because of rising applications.

Many Moscow Jews have predicted with foreboding that emigration will be cut in connection with the Olympics. Some of these sources have said that Jews in the Byelorussian capital of Minsk have been told to apply now if they ever wish to leave.

The sense of depression has increased in the aftermath of U.S. retaliation against Moscow for the Afghan intervention. Jews here have applauded the actions of President Carter. At the same time they ruefully surmise, in the words of one activist, that "this removes any incentive" for the government to continue allowing Jews to leave at 1979 levels.

While some diplomatic sources predict that emigration in 1980 will average 2,800 to 3,000 a month in line with previous years, Soviet policy on the Jewish exodus is clouded by unknowns. The Soviets have never con-

ceded any connection between emigration and foreign pressure. It is widely believed here, however, that U.S. granting of most favored nation trade benefits to China, Moscow's archrival, ahead of the Soviet Union, can only have an adverse impact on emigration.

Jewish activists and Western sources alike have said that since last fall, Soviet officials increasingly have rejected applications from Jews seeking to reunite abroad with anyone other than immediate relatives—parents, spouses, siblings, children. In previous years, more distant relations, such as aunts, uncles, and cousins, had been considered in many cases as sufficiently close to grant exit visas under reunification provisions of various international agreements signed by the Kremlin.

There are an estimated 2.5 million to 3.0 million Jews in the Soviet Union. Together with Volga Germans and Armenians, they are about the only Soviet citizens with any hope of being permitted to emigrate.

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

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March 12, 1980

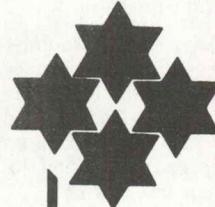
Inside Today's Alert

* Reports of the prisoners dominate page 1. Some of the news, for a change is good.

* News of the Hamburg Scientific Forum and American Scientific reaction to Soviet repression appears on pgs. 5 and 6.

* Grigory Goldstein's memoirs of prison life start at the bottom of page 6.

* While the U.S. has declared its intention to boycott the Moscow Olympics, other Western nations continue to debate the issue of their participation. Two articles reprinted on pg. 9 discuss refusenik feelings about the Olympics.



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