



UCSJ QUARTERLY REPORT

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UCSJ Elects New Leadership

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is pleased to announce the election of Pamela Cohen as UCSJ president by acclamation. Ms. Cohen has been co-chair of Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry for 8 years. Other new officers elected are Hinda Cantor of Miami, June Daniels of Des Moines and David Waksberg of San Francisco, as vice presidents and Howard Cantor of Miami as treasurer. New members of the Board of Directors are Judy Balint of Seattle, and former refusenik Leonid Feldman of New York. Immediate past president Morey Schapira will be the chairman of the Advisory Board, and past president Lynn Singer was named to the Executive Committee.

During the UCSJ's 3-day Leadership Conference in September, the participants reaffirmed their commitment to the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which links Soviet Jewish emigration to Soviet-American trade. Mr. Schapira described in detail the "solid" support the amendment has among the American Jewish community and stressed that it should not be repealed while 400,000 Jews

Summit Report:

UCSJ Representatives Gather at Reykjavik

UCSJ was represented in force at the October meeting of President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev. Their presence at the hastily arranged summit in Reykjavik helped emphasize the importance of Soviet Jewish emigration as an issue at this juncture in U.S. Soviet relations.

While the summit meeting produced no new developments, aside from the issuance of several token exit visas to prominent refuseniks, the significant difference was that the Soviets for the

first time publicly agreed to discuss human rights, though they insisted on entitling it the semantically more acceptable "humanitarian issues".

Human rights and regional disputes were originally placed on the agenda, but arms control issues dominated and when negotiations on the latter produced no results, the former dissolved as well. The administration emphasized their stand that progress in all issues would be tied to arms control, though they explicitly stated there would be no firm and formal linkage between arms control and human rights improvements.

In a statement issued by the UCSJ Board of Directors who were meeting in Washington at the time the summit meeting was announced, they acknowledged the Administration's efforts to obtain exit visas for specific Soviet Jewish families, but insisted, "Now is the time to negotiate full freedom for all who wish to leave in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act, which was signed by the Soviet Union."

In Reykjavik, the UCSJ, joined by international Soviet Jewry organizations and concerned Christians, led a human rights prayer vigil dedicated to Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate. Below are excerpts from the remarks of UCSJ's President, Pamela Cohen, issued at Reykjavik:

"There are palpable benefits the USSR wishes to gain from an enhanced relationship with the United States. We urge the President to tell Secretary Gorbachev clearly that many of these benefits are only realizable after an agreement is achieved on a comprehensive solution with the following parameters:

- 1) the immediate release and emigration of all Jewish prisoners of conscience and their families;
- 2) The immediate emigration of all former

continue to be refused exit visas by the Soviet Union.

The UCSJ leaders also committed themselves to working toward the abrogation of the agreement between the American Bar Association and the Association of Soviet Lawyers. Rather than being the counterpart of the ABA, the Soviet Lawyers' organization is a bogus front created by the Soviet state, whose officers actively promote anti-Semitism in the USSR.



Newly elected UCSJ President, Pamela Cohen, presenting award for excellence in leadership to outgoing President, Morey Schapira.

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NEWSBRIEFS

The most recent episode of increasing brutality against POC's is **Alexei Magarik's** brutal beating in labor camp while confined to a block with violent prisoners. Magarik, a prominent Moscow Hebrew teacher, was arrested in March while travelling home from Tblisi. Authorities allegedly found narcotics in his luggage, which had been forcibly taken from him, then returned and searched.

In Tblisi, brothers **Edvard** and **Tenghiz Gudava** have been tried and sentenced based on the charges of "exceptional cynicism that violates the public order," and anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda, respectively. Edvard received four years in labor camp and Tenghiz received ten years — seven imprisonment and three in internal exile. The brothers, who are Christian, were active in promoting compliance with the Helsinki accords, and were prominent members of the Phantom orchestra comprised of religious believers, dissidents and former refuseniks Isai and Grigory Goldshtein.

Long term Moscow refusenik **David Goldfarb** and his wife Cecelia were finally permitted to emigrate and join their son Alex in New York. Goldfarb arrived ailing but happy to be reunited with his son. They are currently trying to gain permission for Alex's sister Olga, and her family to emigrate as well.

Yuli Edelshtein of Moscow continues to suffer from serious medical complications from a severe injury he received in the labor camp. Edelshtein is serving a three year sentence on false charges of possession of narcotics. Efforts are being made to secure a release for him based on his invalid status.

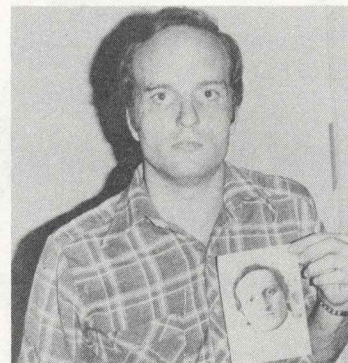
Moscow refuseniks, **Tatiana and Benjamin Bogomolny**, were permitted to leave the Soviet Union in October, after waiting for twelve and twenty years respectively. The couple had recently been the subject of stepped-up efforts to allow emigration for humanitarian reasons, in this case because Tatiana is suffering from cancer. Other cancer patients as yet unable to leave are Leah Maryasin of Riga, Inna Meiman of Moscow, Rimma Bravve of Moscow, and Benjamin Charney of Moscow.

For refusing to testify against his friend POC Vladimir Lifshitz, **Semyon Borovinsky** of Leningrad was sentenced to five months corrective labor and a 15% reduction in salary. This is the first known time a Jewish activist was convicted and sentenced because of failure to testify. Fellow refuseniks believe he is being persecuted for his active support of Galina Zelichenok, wife of POC Alec Zelichenok, also of Leningrad.

Elie Wiesel, who was awarded the Nobel peace prize this year, is a member of the UCSJ Advisory Board. Upon receiving the prize, Wiesel made a public appeal to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to permit the emigration of Andrei Sakharov and a number of prominent refuseniks and Prisoners of Conscience. Soon thereafter, he visited the Soviet Union and met with refuseniks and families of POCs. Former POC, Ida Nudel of Bendery, was forcibly dragged off a bus by ten policemen while she was en route to Kishinev to meet with Wiesel. In addition, five young religious Jews were arrested and charged with hooliganism on Simchat Torah near the Moscow Synagogue where Wiesel spoke.



POC Yuli Edelshtein, permanently disabled by an injury sustained in labor camp.



Prior to his arrest, POC Edvard Gudava holds a photo of his brother, Tenghiz, also a POC.



POC Alexei Magarik, serving a three-year term in a labor camp.

OPINION

SOVIET JEWS: DECOYS IN A GAME?

BY PAMELA COHEN

It is becoming apparent that Soviet Secretary General Mikhail Gorbachev is a skillful manipulator of American public opinion.

The Soviet Union's carefully timed release this year of a few prominent refuseniks and prisoners of conscience seems to be part of the Kremlin's effort to paint itself as humane.

Sadly, some in this country have rushed to praise Gorbachev's actions as evidence of a more liberalized Soviet attitude toward Jewish emigration. Others are less easily swayed. Natan Scharansky, Yuri Orlov, and Dr. David Goldfarb are decoys who distract the media's attention from larger problems: The Soviet Union has denied exit visas to a minimum of 30,000 refuseniks. Nearly 400,000 other Jews have taken the first steps toward emigration. Both groups are being thwarted by the Soviets' deliberately designed, obstructive policy.

Given the abysmally slow pace of current Soviet Jewish emigration, it is especially disturbing that the Reagan administration seems to be caught up in Gorbachev's case-by-case approach, continuing the agonizingly slow review of the emigration question.

The case-by-case approach is a band-aid solution to a deeper problem, a smokescreen behind which the Soviet government continues its brutal repression of its two million Jewish citizens.

Official Soviet-sponsored anti-Semitic propaganda appears with increasing frequency on radio and television, in newspapers and in periodicals. Every expression of Jewish faith and tradition is under attack. The Gorbachev government has closed Jewish schools, and prohibited the publication of Jewish books. Jews who teach Hebrew are considered guilty of anti-Soviet behavior and subjected to singularly brutal treatment.

Emigration levels for Soviet Jews

Pamela Cohen is the national president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

have plunged. Despite the obstacles, thousands of Soviet Jews have indicated their desire to leave—30,000 of them, the refuseniks, have been repeatedly denied permission to go. Some of them have been stripped of academic opportunities and professional degrees, dismissed from their jobs and then prosecuted for parasitism. Most Soviet Jews are caught in a hellish Catch-22. They cannot leave, and are unable to live free from government abuse and harassment.

It is apparent that the Reagan administration's use of quiet diplomacy, with its case-by-case approach to the Soviet Jewish emigration question has not worked. The administration should insist upon the immediate release of all Soviet Jews who wish to leave. Such a comprehensive formula would include:

- the immediate release of all Jewish prisoners of conscience and the emigration of all who wish to leave, together with their families.
- the emigration, before the end of the year, of all long-term refusenik families (those who have sought permission to leave for at least five years).
- a scheduled program of emigration for all other families who wish to emigrate according to a mutually acceptable timetable. The process must be free of the Soviets' current coercive restrictions intended to harass and discourage would-be applicants.

The administration must make the Soviet government understand it can expect no concessions in trade, no most-favored-nation status, no access to advanced technology unless the Soviets agree to a comprehensive formula for Jewish emigration. If there is no significant progress in the matter of Jewish emigration, the administration should consider imposition of economic sanctions against the Soviet Union.

Such a broadened, tougher approach would place the question of Soviet Jewish emigration where it properly belongs: as a solution and not a problem. It would remove the issue as a significant obstacle to dramatically improved relations between the two superpowers.

Summit, continued from page 1

Jewish prisoners of conscience and their families; 3) The emigration, before the end of 1986, of all long-term refusenik families; 4) The scheduled release of all other families who have applied to emigrate; and 5) A scheduled program of emigration free of restrictions for all other families who wish to emigrate.

"The problem of Soviet Jewry is of a magnitude too great to be solved on a case-by-case basis. With nearly a half million Jews wishing to emigrate from the USSR, most would die before they ever received an exit visa under current conditions. The case-by-case snail's pace serves Soviet interests, as they can reap benefits without changing their policies. Indeed, it helps create a smokescreen behind which ever greater abuses occur. For Soviet refuseniks, it means that each exit visa granted to an individual results in a longer wait for a fellow refusenik.

"We propose that President Reagan insist on a comprehensive solution to the problem: evacuation of all Jews who wish to leave the USSR. Such a solution can be achieved if the question of Soviet Jewry is addressed in a substantive way. A solution can be found only if this problem is negotiated, as any other important bilateral concern is addressed. Symbolic "raising of the issue" is helpful in demonstrating concern but in the final analysis, a symbolic approach cannot achieve concrete results; only a concrete approach can accomplish that.

"Such a formula would place the question of emigration where it properly belongs: as a solution, not a problem. It would remove this issue once and for all as a significant obstacle to dramatically improved U.S. Soviet relations."

The full text of Cohen's statement, made in a press conference in Reykjavik was endorsed by the London-based 35's Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry, and the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center in Jerusalem.

Reprinted from
Washington Jewish Week
October 30, 1986

Action **ALERT** From Local Councils

Protest Timed In Conjunction with Summit

Chanting "Action now! Freedom now!", 55 rabbis, students and concerned individuals were arrested on October 12, as they demonstrated before the Soviet UN Mission on Manhattan's East Side. The protest, organized by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the **Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry**, was timed to coincide with the Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Iceland.

Lynn Singer, executive director of the Long Island Committee, reported that 25 year-old Dnepropetrovsk refusenik Grigory Stachenko, who had been released from punitive incarceration in a psychiatric hospital and permitted to emigrate after pressure from the West, was again arrested as he arrived at the Soviet border city of Chop. "This kind of Kremlin behavior cannot be tolerated," she declared. The new Jewish year, 5747, must be a year of freedom." Stachenko was subsequently released with no explanation for the arrest.

To the sounds of the *shofars* and chants, three waves of demonstrators sat in the street in front of the Mission. Many wore prayer-shawls and carried large photos of Prisoners of Conscience. After refusing the order of the police to disperse, they were placed under arrest and charged with disorderly conduct, and must stand trial November 12th.

Among others arrested were Victor Davidov, a Jewish dissident who spent 1979-83 in the Soviet Gulag for "anti-Soviet slander".

Mayor Voices Solidarity with POC's Wife

Chicago's Mayor Harold Washington received a letter in August from the wife of Soviet Prisoner-of-Conscience, Zachar Zunshain, thanking him for his compassion and support. Tatiana spoke by phone from Riga to the mayor on May 21 at which time Washington expressed his concern for her husband's health and safety. Zachar Zunshain is currently serving a prison term in Irkutsk, Siberia. He was falsely accused, charged, and convicted of "defaming the Soviet State."

Tatiana's letter describes the two years Zunshain spent in "damp, unlit dungeons", and "the cruel beatings he has endured." She assured the Mayor, however, that despite the humiliation and injury the Soviets have inflicted on her husband, "they have not broken his will."

The letter ends with the words: "Sir, I approach you with feelings of unlimited gratitude and trust in your all-embracing help to my husband, Zachar Zunshain."

Mayor Washington was made aware of and is kept apprised of, the case of POC Zachar Zunshain by **Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry**.

Hunger Strike at Soviet Consulate

A member of the Board of Directors of the **Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews** went on a 20 day hunger strike in July to focus attention on the plight of Soviet Jews. Reuben Haller stood outside the Soviet consulate in San Francisco on each day of the strike dressed in prison garb and with a shaven head. Haller's protest highlighted the plight of two refusenik families, the Bogomolnys, who were finally permitted to emigrate in October after a 20 year wait, and the Magariks. Alexei Magarik is a 28 year old cellist serving a three year sentence in labor camp on a trumped up charge. Haller undertook his dramatic protest, explaining, "The Soviet Union is a jail for Soviet Jews, so I am dressed as a prisoner." He further described Jews trying to emigrate as living "in a state of siege." Lillian Foreman, President of the Bay Area Council, pointed out this was one of a series of demonstrations and stepped-up protests designed to spotlight the dire situation of Soviet Jews.

Helsinki Accords Topic of Miami Forum

In preparation for the November follow-up meeting of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), a forum was held at the University of Miami to discuss the U.S. position and to solicit comments from the public. Sponsored by the **South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry**, and the University of Miami, the 150 people in attendance were briefed on the rights of Soviet Jews, within the context of the Helsinki Final Act, a major agenda item for the Vienna talks.

The panelists at the public forum were Spencer Oliver, staff director of the Helsinki Commission; Robert Frowick, deputy U.S. negotiator for the CSCE; Hinda Cantor, co-chair of the South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry; Ambler H. Moss, dean of the University of Miami graduate school of International Studies; Rep. Dante Fascell (D-FL), chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and former chairman of the U.S. Helsinki Commission; Dr. Jiri Valenta, UCSJ Advisory Board Member and director of Soviet, East European and Strategic Studies, Graduate School of International Studies, University of Miami; Ambassador Warren Zimmermann, chief of the United States' CSCE delegation to Vienna; Rep. Larry Smith (D-FL); and Lynne Davidson, Helsinki Commission liaison.

Message Relayed at Sports Event

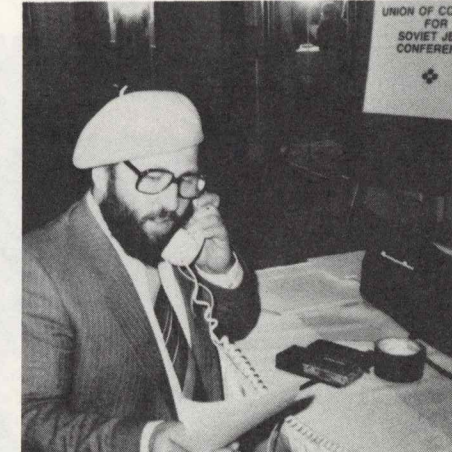
At a volleyball game between the U.S. and USSR teams held at Stanford University, activists distributed leaflets and waved banners with the single message: "It's one thing to wait in line for a sports event. But one shouldn't have to wait in line for freedom!"

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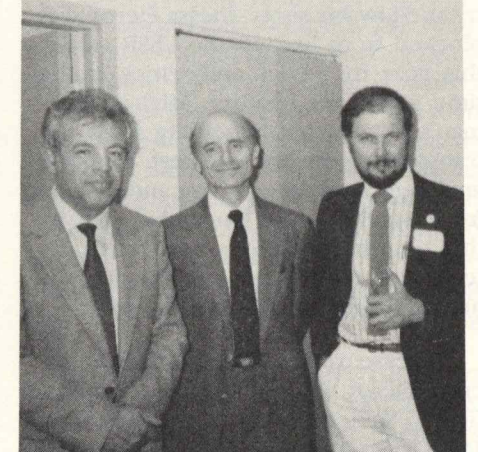
UCSJ Leadership Conference 1986



Former refusenik Vladimir Magarik, in his international campaign, urges continued support for his son, POC Alexei Magarik.



Former Leningrad refusenik, Yakov Gorodetsky, continuing his campaign for freedom of emigration for Soviet Jews, learning news of the status of fellow activists in the USSR.



Panelists speaking on "Scientific Exchanges with the Soviets" included (r. to l.), Dr. Jeff Colvin, Chairperson of the Los Alamos Committee on Soviet Anti-Semitism; prominent physicist Armen Khatcheturian; and physician Lev Goldfarb. Khatcheturian and Goldfarb, both of Moscow, were permitted to emigrate in 1986.

Local Councils, continued from page 4

Representatives of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, the majority of them from Palo Alto, handed out 2,000 leaflets to the crowd prior to the August event, which featured a volleyball game between the U.S. Men's Olympic Team and the Soviet Men's National Team.

A Soviet Jewry tee-shirt, and a three-page letter signed by Lillian Foreman, president of the **Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews**, were presented to the coach of the Soviet team. Bay Area Council representatives also unfurled a giant banner inside the pavilion during the game that said "Let My People Go! Free Soviet Jews!"

The international sports event was used as a forum to inform the public and Soviet representatives of the dramatic increase in virulent anti-Semitism in the official Soviet media, as well as the firings, ejections from institutes, KGB raids, and arrests of Soviet Jews who have applied to emigrate.

UCSJ Member Councils Commemorate Night of the Murdered Poets

On August 12, UCSJ member councils throughout the nation sponsored events to memorialize those Jewish artists, writers, musicians, actors and poets executed in Moscow on August 12, 1952. These victims were targets of Joseph Stalin's effort to completely obliterate Jewish culture in the USSR.

The theme chosen for the **Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry's** 17th annual observance of The Night of the Murdered Poets was "Youth speaks out for Soviet Jewish survival."

On the steps of the State Capitol in Denver, 200 people participated in the rally through song and dramatic readings. Campers from the Jewish Community Center and Chabad Lubavitch were out in force. Colorado elected officials represented at the rally included: Senators Gary Hart and William Armstrong; Representatives Pat Schroeder, Tim Wirth, Hank Brown, and Dan Schaefer; Governor Lamm, Mayor Pena, and State Representative Bill Owens. As members of the Congressional Advisory Board for the Colorado Committee, they all brought messages of solidarity and encouragement to continue to fight against blatant human rights violations in the Soviet Union.

The **South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry** sponsored a "Symphony of Sounds" on August 12. Local poets, artists, and musicians and dancers performed at the event, attended by over 200 people, at Temple Beth Shmuel in Miami Beach.

On the night of August 11, outside the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco, the **Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews** and the Jewish Community Relations Council held a candlelight vigil in memory of the executed artists and poets. About 90 people attended the ceremony, which featured readings from the executed poets' works and the reciting of an original work written for the annual event by UC Berkeley instructor, poet and journalist Thomas Simmons. Also attending were San Francisco Supervisor Bill Maher, and the Rev. Emil Authalet Jr., representing the American Baptist Churches of the West.

Transplant Delayed: Success Questionable

It may be too late for a Soviet emigre suffering from leukemia to benefit from the bone marrow transplant to be contributed by his sister. Inessa Flerov was blocked from leaving the USSR earlier this year by Soviet authorities at the time when her brother, Michael Shirman's chances of benefiting from the transplant were the greatest. She was finally granted an exit visa and arrived from Israel in early November, but by that time her brother's health had deteriorated to such a point that he was unable to undergo the procedure.

The case caused an international outcry as Flerov first submitted her application to Soviet visa officials in February 1986 to go to Israel and contribute the urgently needed bone marrow to her ailing brother. After a series of application rejections and bureaucratic roadblocks, she was finally, during the summer, granted permission to leave along with her children. Her husband, however, was required to stay in the Soviet Union on the pretense that he had outstanding financial obligations to his father.

To bring attention to his case and to underscore its urgency, Shirman flew to the Reykjavik Summit and appealed to the administration to intervene on his behalf. He visited a number of U.S. cities and in October, he held a news conference in Washington co-sponsored by the UCSJ, Senator Paul Simon (D-IL), and Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA).

Testing has shown that Flerov's bone marrow is compatible, but the transplant has been delayed indefinitely until Shirman is strong enough to undergo the procedure.

Law Group Continues Activities on Behalf of Soviet Jews

The Goldshtein brothers, formerly of Tblisi, and the Goldfarb family, formerly of Moscow, were among the guests at an awards dinner honoring Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA) for his longstanding commitment to human rights. The award was presented by the Washington-based International Human Rights Law Group, established in 1978 to promote and protect international human rights by providing information



Former refusenik Mikhail Shirman on the line to Moscow at a New York news conference in late November. The news was encouraging — his sister would be permitted to leave the USSR for Israel to donate life-saving bone marrow to Shirman, who suffers from leukemia. Sadly, her departure was delayed so long that Shirman's chances of survival are minimal. Activist supporters who assisted Shirman in his fight for life are (l.) Shmuel Azarkh, Director of the Soviet Jewry Education & Information Center in Jerusalem; standing, Lynn Singer, Executive Director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry and (r.) Dr. Kenneth Prager of Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York. The news conference was co-sponsored by UCSJ member council, the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, and UCSJ affiliate, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

and legal assistance to victims of human rights violations. In addition to his involvement in a myriad of international human rights causes, the Senator was recognized at the May 13 dinner for the integral part he played in gaining freedom for the Goldshteins and Goldfarbs. The Goldshteins had been waiting 14 years to emigrate and were the victims of continuous KGB harassment including a year-long sentence in a labor camp for Grigory Goldshtein. The Goldfarbs recently left with their son and daughter, though were forced to leave their daughter-in-law and grandchild behind as they had not been granted permission to emigrate.

Begun Petition

The International Human Rights Law Group has taken a strong position on behalf of Soviet Jewish POC Iosif Begun, convicted in 1983 on charges of anti-

Soviet agitation and propaganda, and currently serving a twelve-year sentence. The Law Group convened a conference of international law experts to review the case — they concluded that Begun was convicted in a closed trial that denied him the opportunity to conduct an effective defense. Moreover, his conviction was based on insufficient evidence for the crime charged, and his sentence was disproportionate to the alleged offense.

In February 1984, the conference participants, 23 leading jurists, sent the USSR's Procurator General a memorandum listing violations of international law in Begun's trial. The conference was co-sponsored by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and was held in cooperation with the International Human Rights Committee of the American Bar Association's Section of International Law and Practice.

Moral Subsidies For Moscow

By Francis L. Loewenheim

A few months ago, not long before Kurt Waldheim was inaugurated President of Austria, it was suggested that, as a form of moral protest, James Levine, the renowned artistic director of the Metropolitan Opera, should cancel his scheduled appearances at this summer's Salzburg Festival, where he has performed annually for the past decade. The suggestion created something of an international stir. But Mr. Levine is not a political person, and nothing came of the idea.

Now comes a very different proposal. According to recent reports from Washington, there is talk of an exchange of opera companies between the United States and the Soviet Union. Russia would send the Bolshoi from Moscow. The United States would send the Washington Opera and the Metropolitan Opera. The visit of the American companies would coincide with an envisaged Reagan-Gorbachev summit in Moscow in May 1987.

Whoever is giving Mikhail S. Gorbachev, the Soviet leader, his cultural-political advice these days is certainly earning his salary. For years, going back to the Eisenhower 50's, Americans have been avid cultural exchangers with the Soviet Union. The movement continued to flourish in the Vietnam 60's and the Nixon-Kissinger 70's. It did nothing, significantly or permanently, to reduce East-West tensions. All it did was to give Moscow the added international respectability, legitimacy, and moral credibility it craves.

It will be said about the proposed opera exchange, as about other such visits, that music is nonpolitical, and that, if the exchange can be arranged, it should by all means proceed. No more serious misjudgment in this realm is possible.

In the Soviet Union, virtually everything is political, and culture especially so. If the White House doesn't know that by now, President Reagan should have a chat with Washington's most distinguished Soviet musical émigrés, Mstislav Rostropovich, the head of the National Symphony Orchestra, and his wife, Galina Vishnevskaya, the noted soprano. Or perhaps Mr. and Mrs. Reagan might take a little time and

Francis L. Loewenheim, a professor of history at Rice University, was a member of the Historical Division of the State Department in the Eisenhower Administration.

read Miss Vishnevskaya's memoirs, which should tell them all they need to know about Soviet musical politics, past and present.

Of course, the Soviet Union isn't the first police state to use culture and cultural exchange to attain its international objectives. No nation did it better than Hitler's Germany, which was encouraging musical state visits almost until the bombs began to fall in September 1939, and to some neutral countries after that.

No one suggests that cultural exchanges should be suspended until all important issues with the Soviet Union have been resolved. Moral self-respect, however, dictates one condition. The Soviets must stop arbitrarily deciding what Russian musicians

Let's keep our maestros at home

may perform abroad, and what musicians may not — a shameful practice that has gone on, largely unnoticed, for years.

It is not difficult to surmise what the late Arturo Toscanini would have thought about his son-in-law, Vladimir Horowitz, allowing himself to be lionized in the Soviet Union, at the same time that Mr. Horowitz's fellow pianist, the young Jewish virtuoso Vladimir Feltsman, saw his career politically destroyed solely because of his expressed desire to emigrate to Israel, which the Soviet authorities will not permit him to do.

It might be added that, in the summer of 1936, Toscanini threatened to boycott the Salzburg Festival, unless the performances of his colleague Bruno Walter, who was born a Jew and converted to Catholicism, were likewise broadcast to Germany, which had threatened to cancel the programs for racial reasons. The broadcasts went on, and so did Toscanini.

Some Americans oppose subsidized grain sales to the Soviet Union. Some of us oppose cultural exchanges that are a form of moral subsidy to the Soviet regime. The Metropolitan Opera and Maestro Levine don't need Pravda's critical approval. We already know how incomparably great they are. Let them stay home, and enrich us, until the Soviets are worthy of their presence. □

Soviet Imports Continue Unabated

A federal appeals court dismissed a lawsuit brought by 84 members of Congress seeking to bar the import of Soviet-made goods to the U.S. The members' position was that importing products made by forced labor violates a 1930 tariff law. The law states that all goods produced in a foreign country by forced or indentured labor acting under possible punishment cannot be allowed entry at any U.S. port. More than 16 Jewish Prisoners of Conscience are interned in Soviet labor camps producing goods under work conditions fitting that definition.

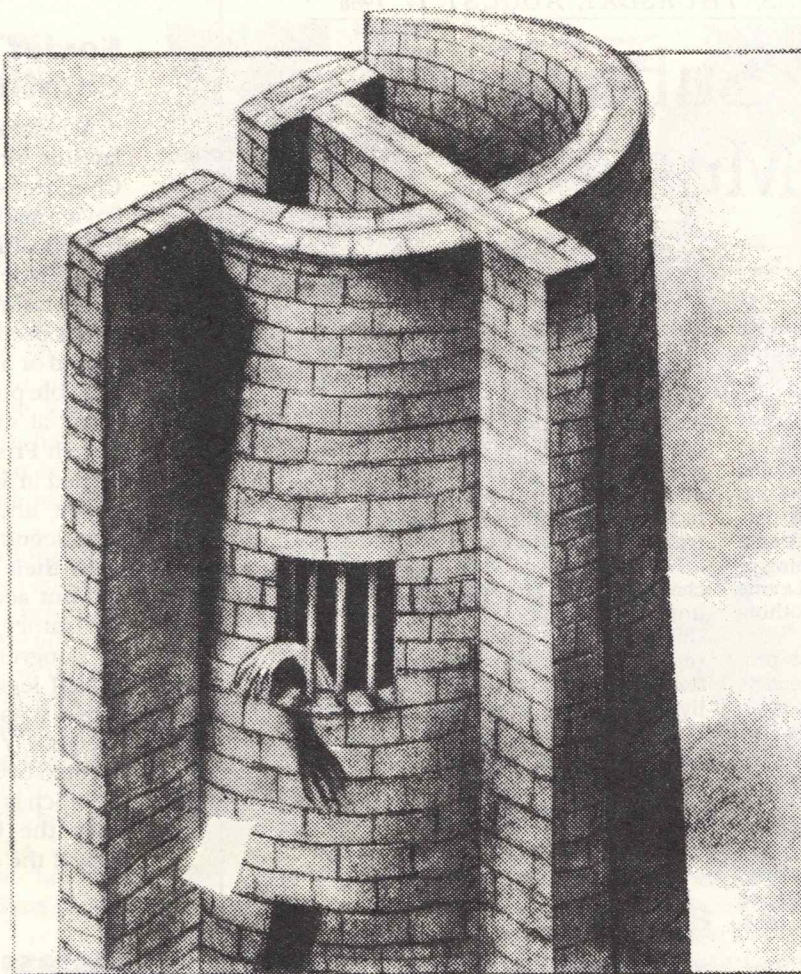
In their August decision, the court did not address the merits of the case, but rather, argued that the members of Congress who leveled the charges lacked legal standing. In other words, those who brought the case did not adequately show they were directly harmed by the Soviet imports, evidence of which is necessary to bar the product from the U.S. The members plan to appeal the decision.

Harassment of Refusenik Gets Progressively Worse

Stepped up harassment against refusenik-activist Natasha Khassina of Moscow is seen as cause for alarm. The authorities may be preparing a case against the woman whom Ida Nudel designated to keep the world apprised of the fate of Prisoners of Conscience when Ida was arrested and sent to Siberia.

In September, a Moscow newspaper published an attack on the Khassin family and a U.S. Senator's gestures of moral support. This recent incident is the culmination of six years of KGB harassment including apartment searches and seizures, being called in for "questioning," overt threats, and previous news reports attacking her activities.

Khassina, 44, and her husband Gennady Khassin, 49, have been denied exit visas since 1977. She was instrumental in establishing and operating Moscow's Jewish kindergarten — a play group for the children of refuseniks, in which they were taught Hebrew language, and Jewish culture and history. Gennady is one of Moscow's most prominent Hebrew teachers.



Kim Drew

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is composed of 35 local councils, 4 domestic affiliates, 3 international affiliates and 55,000 individual members dedicated to helping Soviet Jews, especially those desiring to emigrate.

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President: Pamela Cohen. Vice Presidents: Hinda Cantor (Miami, FL), June Daniels (Des Moines, IA), David Waksberg (San Francisco, CA).

AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVE
NEARPRINT

102 Jews left the Soviet Union in November