

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

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March 23, 1984

March 15—

'A Lesson to the Jews of the World'

March 15 is a significant date in Jewish tradition. While calendars show the date as the Fast of Esther — a courageous Jewess of Shushan, Persia, who challenged the hat ul King Haman — we must cont nporize our calendars to remember today's "freedom fighters": our fellow Jews in the Soviet Union.

March 15 marks the seventh anniversary of Anatoly Shcharansky's arrest. Thirty-six year old Shcharansky endures conditions which have physically reduced him to "a tiny old man" according to his mother Ida Milgrom, who visited her son last January. And yet his wife Avita in Israel reported last week that a recent letter from Anatoly reflected his courage, his moral strength, and his commitment to his Jewish heritage.

Shcharansky inspired and motivated his fellow Jews in the Soviet Union to realize the importance of their Jewish heritage and to fight for that freedom. Shcharansky is the symbol of Soviet Jewry, not only to the Western world, but to his fellow Jews today—Jews like Yuri Tarnopolsky.

March 15 marks the one year anniversary of Yuri Tarnopolsky's arrest. Once a leading Soviet Jewish activist, Tarnopolsky is now one of many Prisoners of Conscience—symbols of the struggle for human dignity and religious freedom.

March 15. Is it not ironic that this significant date and fate of seven years ago for Anatoly Shcharansky should also befall Yuri Tarnopolsky? For the Soviet Union too, Shcharansky is a symbol. He is used as a visible threat to the Soviet Jewish community and as an example of the anti-Semitism which officially pervades the Soviet Union.

Arrested on March 15, 1983, 47 year-old research chemist Yuri



Mother of Anatoly Shcharansky, Ida Milgrom, with a photo of her son.

Tarnopolsky of Kharkov was sentenced to three years for "defamation of the Soviet state and social system". His "crime": a desire to emigrate to Israel and live freely as a Jew. Yet Tarnopolsky, his wife Olga and his daughter Irina were refused visas since 1976.

Although an organic chemist with over 60 published papers, Tarnopolsky learned that there are no jobs for refusenik scientists, only menial work or "parasitism". For three years, Yuri was without a job.

Prior to his arrest last year, Tarnopolsky taught chemistry in the "Jewish University" (established in 1981 by now Prisoner of Conscience Alexander Paritsky) for children of refuseniks barred from Soviet educational institutions.

The Soviets' repeated refusals to issue Tarnopolsky a visa led Yuri to a 40-day hunger strike in October 1982. At that time he wrote: "The refusal is by no means a waiting for visas. It is a slow dying, it is an agonizing tragedy . . ."

Just prior to his arrest last March, Yuri wrote: ". . . The moral holocaust, a new way to exterminate the Jews, has been devised and per-

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Refusenik Imprisoned

For "anti-Soviet" Attempts to Emigrate

The Soviet authorities continue to threaten Jews who are legally attempting to emigrate under the Soviet system. Apparently the *legal* struggle for emigration is "anti-Soviet". A recent incident demonstrates the provocations against Jews who want to leave in a legal form.

Zachar Zunshine of Riga was a "don't want to make any noise" Jewish refusenik. For Zunshine, emigration was a private matter, although Zunshine and his wife Tatiana had been refused visas to emigrate for three years.

On Sunday, March 4, Soviet Jewish refuseniks Zachar Zunshine, Tatiana Zunshine, Alexander Balter and Leonid Umansky of Riga were planning to demonstrate in Moscow. Prior to the demonstration, Umansky went to the Central OVIR in Moscow to bring all documents necessary to give up their Soviet citizenship—a first step in legally attempting to emigrate under Soviet law. Umansky was arrested en route and threatened by Soviet authorities to cancel the demonstration. Umansky did not comply. Despite Umansky's arrest, Zunshine and Balter did demonstrate in Moscow on March 4. Zunshine carried a placard reading "We Demand to Give Up Our Soviet Citizenship"; Balter carried a placard reading "Stop Tyranny!"

On March 6, Zunshine was taken by Soviet authorities to militia headquarters and told that both his apartment and Balter's were being searched for anti-Soviet literature.

Zunshine was accused of Article 183 of the Latvian Criminal Code (Article 190 of the Russian criminal code) for "spreading anti-Soviet information" and defamation of the Soviet State.

NEWSBRIEFS

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE ALEXANDER PARITSKY has been in an internal prison cell since January 24. The cell is kept at zero degree C and he does not have warm clothes. The authorities are apparently preparing a new trial against Alexander and are pressuring other prisoners to testify against him. The charges: unknown. Although Paritsky is due to be released in August of this year, he recently received a sentence for 6 months in a solitary prison cell. SEND TELEGRAMS TO: Camp Commandant, p/y 94/4, Station "Vidrino", Kabansky Rayon, 671111 Burytsky ASSR, USSR.

Contrary to some earlier reports, **REFUSENIK NADEZHDA FRADKOVA** is still in the hospital under watch by Soviet authorities. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO: USSR, RSFSR, Leningrad, Assistant Hospital 9 of Petrogradsky District of Leningrad.

Daughter of former **PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE EVGENY LEIN, ALEXANDRA (Sasha) LEIN** brought a law suit against the Ministry of Planning which fired her in January. She claimed that she was fired because she is a refusenik and requested that she give up her Soviet citizenship. The legal counsel stated that "those who wish to emigrate must be fired (first) in cases of staff reduction". This is the first time an official has stated this in Court.

On March 25, **ALEXANDRA (SASHA) LEIN**, is to be married.

EVGENIA UTEVSKAYA has given birth to a boy, her second son. Evgenia is one of the Leningrad leading activists who bravely defended Evgeny Lein during his trial in 1981. SEND CONGRATULATIONS TO: USSR, RSFSR, Leningrad, Morskoy Pr. 43, Apt. 94.

Kharkov **REFUSENIKS BORIS and VLADIMIR DORODNY** would like to receive registered letters from the West (they only speak Russian). Brothers, Boris and Vladimir are not in good health. Boris has a heart problem and has difficulty working as a stoker. Professionally, he has a PhD. in Engineering. Vladimir, a historian, works as an electrician and has a goiter. Boris had worked with **REFUSENIK DAVID SOLOVEICHIK**. WRITE TO Boris and Vladimir at: Pushkinskaya St.36, Apt. 56; Kharkov, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE YOSEF BEGUN is now at camp no. 37 in which only political prisoners are held. The camp is located west to the Ural mountains. The address is: Perm-skaya Oblast, Chusovsky Rayon, St. Polovinka, Uchr. VS 389/37.

Four refuseniks from Riga were arrested in Moscow for demonstrating: **ZACHAR ZUNSHINE** & his wife **TATIANA**; **ALEXANDER BALTER**, and **LEONID UMANSKY**. Zunshine could receive a sentence of up to 12 years imprisonment and exile. (See page 6).

Moscow **REFUSENIK SERGEI RUZER** was beaten up in the streets by hooligans recently. His nose and glasses were broken. Sergei's wife Alla has been ill for several years, suffering from second grad hypotension. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO: USSR, RSFSR, Moscow 113525, Dnepropetrovskaya St.13, Apt. 42.

A better address to write Prisoner of Conscience **ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY** is: Uchr., ue. 148/ST4, Gorod, Chistopol 422950, Tatarskaya, ASSR, USSR.

A new address for Prisoner of Conscience **LEV ELBERT** is: Ukr. SSR, 228371 Vinnitskaya Oblast, Peschansky Rayon, Posiolok Trudovoi, I.V. 301/59-77.

ALERT On Capitol Hill

Export Administration Act: Human Rights Amendment Fails in Senate

Five months after Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA) successfully sought passage of his human rights amendment to the Export Administration Act last October, Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) offered the clause on the Senate floor March 2. Making human rights a "higher priority than 'contract sanctity', the Dodd Amendment duplicated the language of the Berman Amendment. The Amendment failed in the Senate by a vote of 21 yeas, 65 nays. The Export Administration Act goes to Conference Committee the week of March 12.

Banning Imports Made With Forced Labor: Treasury Department Decision Imminent

Section 307 of the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930 specifically bans the importation of all goods, wares, articles and merchandise mined, produced or manufactured wholly or in part in any foreign country by convict or forced labor. Many industries in the Soviet Union, especially export industries, rely heavily on forced prison labor, including the forced labor of approximately 10,000 political prisoners. Major industries are located adjacent to prisons, such as Chistopol, Vladimir and Kolyma — where Shcharansky, Begun and Paritsky are incarcerated. Yosef Begun has been recently transferred to Perm, a complex of forced labor facilities, including mining & lumber.

Enforced only once (1951) against the USSR, the Smoot-Hawley Act has seen heightened awareness, with Senator William Armstrong (R-CO) taking the lead.

Treasury Department Secretary Donald T. Regan has been receiving petitions protesting the "subsidizing" of forced labor imposed on Shcharansky, Begun, Paritsky and others, and requesting that the U.S. Customs Department (under Treasury) take a more aggressive approach towards enforcement. According to Regan's testimony at a House Appropriations hearing, Treasury would have a decision on Section 307 within 45 days (mid April). "Problems" with enforcement include:

- potential economic problems for U.S. business;
- international trade and foreign policy consequences;
- difficulty in determining exact magnitude that forced labor contributes to the total output of industries

Petitions should continue to be sent to Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 15th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20220.

Senate "Dear Colleague" on Behalf of Shcharansky: Overwhelming Participation

On the seventh anniversary of Anatoly Shcharansky's arrest, Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) received 98 signatures in the Senate on a "Dear Colleague" letter to Konstantin Chernenko and 99 signatures on a similar letter to President Reagan, calling for the immediate release of Shcharansky.

Washington Talk

On March 8, Secretary of State George Shultz held a special briefing for Jewish leaders on US-Soviet relations and Soviet Jewry. The UCSJ stressed two central themes which are "essential to effective action by the Reagan Administration" in solving the difficult and dangerous situation facing Jews in the Soviet Union:

- that Soviet Jewry should be a top priority on the agenda of US-Soviet relations, and that the Reagan Administration must convey in the strongest possible terms the American commitment to the cause of human rights for Soviet Jews as a fundamental condition of bilateral relations;
- that Western unity is critical to the effective advocacy of Soviet Jewry as a major issue in East-West relations.

Specific recommendations offered by the Union of Councils:

1) The Reagan Administration should strongly condemn the recent incidents of tourist harassment in the USSR;

2) The Reagan Administration should strongly condemn the virulent antisemitism sanctioned by the Soviet Union;

3) The Reagan Administration should raise Soviet Jewry at every bilateral negotiation with the Soviet Union;

4) The Reagan Administration should reopen negotiations to establish a US consulate in Kiev;

5) The Reagan Administration should take action to mark the eighth anniversary of Anatoly Shcharansky's arrest on March 15;

6) The Reagan Administration should continue to upgrade the content and technical quality of the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty;

7) The Reagan Administration should press the Soviets to allow family visits, correspondence and medical treatment for Soviet prisoners of conscience; and

8) The Reagan Administration should work closely with our Allies in maintaining unified Western support for Soviet Jews.

Action ALERT

From Local Councils

• The **Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews** recently helped reunite Ella Treyvus and her 18-year-old son, Yon, with her mother and sister who had emigrated to Cincinnati in 1981. Mrs. Treyvus, like thousands of other Refuseniks, had been denied the right to work in her profession (as a research chemist) and had been subject to constant surveillance as well as intense harassment from the Soviets.

• The **South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry** sponsored a "Freedom Rally '84" on Sunday, March 11, in Peacock Park, Coconut Grove. Over 1,000 people turned out to show their support for the Jews of the Soviet Union.

Guest performer at the event was Mary Travers, of Peter, Paul and Mary fame, who is deeply committed to the cause of the Soviet Refuseniks. Emphasizing the Refusenik's plea, "Save our Children", the rally also featured Israeli dancing and other performers.

• The **Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry** held a special vigil for Anatoly Shcharansky outside of the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco on March 15. The day marked the 7th anniversary of Shcharansky's arrest.

In addition, the Northern California Board of Rabbis, in conjunction with the BACSJ, held a special prayer and study session on the occasion of the Fast of Esther and expressed solidarity with today's Jewish prisoners.

• The **Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry** held a Day of Concern for Shcharansky and Tar- napsky on March 15 at the State Capital. Representatives from all of the Senatorial and Congressional offices, as well as the Governor's office, attended the observance which called attention to the anniversary of their arrests.

Lillian Hoffman, Co-Chairperson of the Colorado Committee, was interviewed by a prominent radio newscaster on the subject of Soviet anti-Semitism during her recent trip to Sydney, Australia. "It is important to meet with leaders of Jewish communities and to raise the issue of Soviet Jews when traveling to other parts of the world."

• The **Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry**, the National Capital Association of B'nai B'rith, and the Northern Virginia Council of B'nai B'rith Lodges jointly conducted a special Soviet Jewry vigil marking the 7th anniversary of Anatoly Shcharansky's arrest and the first anniversary of the World Conference III on Soviet Jewry on March 15, opposite the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C.

NEW COUNCIL

UCSJ welcomes aboard our newest member council, the Soviet Jewry Task Force of the CRC, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach Council, Florida. We look forward to working closely with their President Shirlee Blonder and Director, Rabbi Alan Sherman.

What's Happening

UCSJ BOARD MEETING

The UCSJ Executive Committee and Board of Directors will be meeting in Washington, D.C. on April 1st and 2nd, with optional meetings on the Hill scheduled for April 3rd. Agenda items should be submitted to the UCSJ office by March 30.

HOLD THE DATE!!

The annual meeting of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews will take place on September 9 - 11, at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. I hope you will mark your calendars and plan to attend this event when concerned individuals gather together to focus on the plight of Soviet Jews and efforts on their behalf.

For more information, please contact the UCSJ Washington office.

FUTURE PROGRAM IDEAS

Letters to President Ronald Reagan should be written now urging him to use this opportunity of the new Soviet leadership to improve U.S.-U.S.S.R. relations. Emphasis should be put on lifting the restrictive emigration policies against Soviet Jews, as well as freedom for POCs and an end to the cultural and religious harassment of our Soviet brothers and sisters.

It is especially appropriate to remember the plight of Soviet Jews at Passover, April 17 - 24. Activities are being planned in many communities including special seder readings, Pesach cards to Refuseniks, and religious services calling attention to the fact that as we observe this festival of freedom, we remember the plight of the Jews to learn of their Jewish past or to hand it down to their children.

Ida Nudel will turn 53 on April 27. Her birthday provides a special date to call attention to her plight and to program activities with those who have developed links with her.

Action ALERT

From Local Councils

Soviet Jewish Refusenik Zachar Zunshine Arrested: Zunshine's Wife in Riga Describes Dangerous Situation to UCSJ Local Activist

Chicago Action For Soviet Jewry, a member of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, successfully placed a telephone call March 15 to Tatiana Zunshine of Riga, USSR, whose husband Zachar awaits trial in an isolated prison cell for "spreading anti-Soviet propaganda and defamation of the Soviet State".

In a 45-minute telephone call coordinated with the Washington office of Congressman John Porter (R-Illinois), 28-year old Tatiana Zunshine stated "you are my only hope", and described to CASJ Co-Chairperson Pamela B. Cohen the circumstances leading to Zachar's arrest on March 4, and the most recent "terrible" events besetting her.

On March 13, Tatiana was accosted by Soviet authorities; all of her documents confiscated, she explained. "If I travel to Moscow, I could get 30 days," she said to Cohen. Tatiana reported that on March 11, a close friend and fellow Soviet Jewish refusenik Alexander Balter, was apprehended and warned that "if he did not stop 'working' for Zunshine, (they) would cut off his legs."

Zachar Zunshine didn't want any noise; he didn't go to international groups; he considered emigration a private matter. Yet on March 4, Zachar and Tatiana Zunshine, Alexander Balter, and Leonid Umansky — uncle of Balter — planned to travel from their homes in Riga to Moscow to demonstrate their unsuccessful attempts to give up their Soviet citizenship and emigrate to Israel.

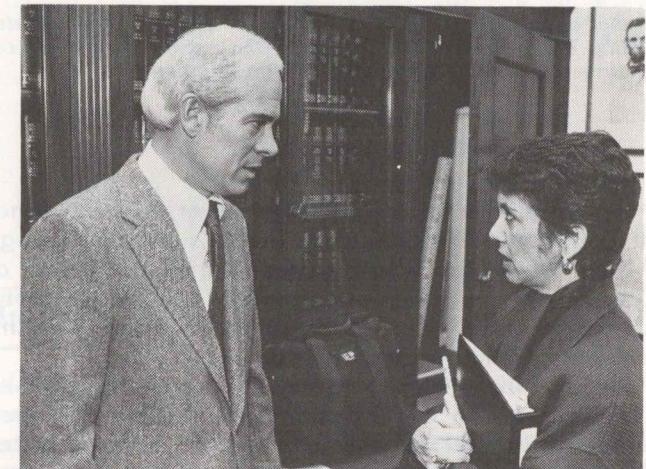
The Zunshines first applied to emigrate to Israel 3½ years ago, their last refusal in December 1982. While they have an aunt and uncle in Haifa, Israel, they were refused for "insufficient" reason. (First-degree relatives are the only "sufficient" reason). Then began the harassment of being a refusenik, explained Tatiana.

Last summer, Zachar lost his job as a physics teacher in a night school. "He lost his job because 'in cases of staff reduction, those who have applied to emigrate must be the first to go,'" Tatiana told Cohen.

Recently in Leningrad, seven prominent refuseniks were fired from their jobs. Alexandra Lein, daughter of former Prisoner of Conscience Evgeny Lein, appealed, but was told the same "official" reason: 'in cases of staff reduction . . . '.

En route to Moscow on March 4, Umansky was arrested, but the planned demonstration nevertheless took place. On Sunday afternoon, March 4, near the

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CASJ co-chairman Pamela B. Cohen relates her telephone conversation with Tatiana Zunshine of Riga to Rep. John Porter (R-IL) who is working on behalf of Tatiana's husband, Zachar Zunshine — recently arrested and charged under article 190.



In the office of Rep. John Porter (R-IL), CASJ co-chairman Pamela Cohen listens intently to Tatiana Zunshine of Riga describe the latest "horrible" harassment against herself and her husband Zachar.

Action ALERT From Local Councils

UCSJ Local Council Delivers Petitions to Soviet Embassy on Behalf of Anatoly Shcharansky

Soviet embassy press official Vladimir Mykoyan rigidly states policy of not accepting hand-delivered petitions to CASJ co-chairmen Pamela B. Cohen and Marillyn Tallman.

In recognition of the seventh anniversary of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky's arrest, Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry, a member of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, attempted to deliver petitions signed by 3,000 Chicago residents to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C. on March 15.

Soviet embassy press officer Vladimir Mykoyan spoke 15 minutes with CASJ Co-chairmen Pamela B. Cohen and Marillyn Tallman just outside the embassy gates on 16th Street, N.W.

First stating that "it is not a policy of the embassy to accept hand-delivered petitions," Mykoyan stressed that "there are no legal reasons for releasing him at the moment . . . The trial (of Shcharansky) was extensive, the investigation was very extensive, and the trial was open."

When CASJ leaders questioned the harsh conditions of Chistopol prison, Mykoyan remarked: "As to his stay in prison, it is not different as to the stay of others. You are creating an impression that he is in some kind of jeopardy".

"But he is!" CASJ leaders charged, adding that "thousands of people all over the world care about this human being", to which Mykoyan replied: "A human being? (He) is a prisoner! . . . He is a criminal!" When challenged as to whether Shcharansky was imprisoned for his desire to emigrate, Mykoyan stated that Shcharansky "was not put in prison for his willingness to leave. As you know, 260,000 people left the Soviet Union in the last decade."

CASJ leaders added that as well as a concern for Shcharansky, "we are very, very concerned about the fates of Soviet Jews in general, 400,000 of whom are attempting to leave." CASJ leaders also expressed concern about the anti-Semitism in the Soviet union, which did not elicit a response from the press officer.

"What have we achieved?" asked Mykoyan. "A dialogue," answered CASJ leaders. "For the Americans, it is enough just to speak, with no results?" the press officer questioned. "No!" charged CASJ leaders, "but a dialogue is a beginning."



Zunshine (Continued from page 5)

Karl Marx monument, Zachar Zunshine carried a placard which read, "We demand to give up our citizenship".

Both Zunshine and Balter were arrested after the demonstration and taken back to Riga. Chief investigator Grutup reported to them that their apartments, and that of Alexander's mother Svetlana, were being searched.

Zunshine was charged under Article 183 of the Latvian Criminal Code and Article 190 of the Russian Criminal Code for "spreading anti-Soviet propaganda and defamation of the Soviet State." Zachar was taken to prison with a fever of 104 degree due to influenza. Tatiana brought a legal package to the prison and requested that her husband be placed in a hospital within the prison. "The package was handed back to me," explained Tatiana to Cohen. "I was told that if I continued to bring the package, Zachar would not receive any packages. I have not seen Zachar since March 6."

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews calls on its 40 local council members, its domestic and international affiliates, and all caring individuals who are concerned with human rights, to **send telegrams** to: Institution 78/211, Riga 226009, Latvian SSR, USSR, to protest this injustice. Also send telegrams of support to: Tatiana Zunshine, Lenina 111, Apt. 22, Riga, Latvian SSR, USSR.

Guest Columnist

Days of Pride, Day of Shame



Rep. Sala Burton

March 15, has been immortalized by William Shakespeare as the "Ides of March", but it is also a day of ominous significance to Soviet Jewry. It was March 15, 1977 that Anatoly Shcharansky was arrested by the KGB and it was on March 15, 1983 that Jewish activist Yuri Tarnopolsky was wrested from his family and sent off to a prison camp for three years for dubious offenses against the state and alleged "defamation" of the Soviet Union. In fact, no greater defamation could be brought before the Soviet system than the cruel treatment of Soviet refuseniks as embodied in the shameful arrests of Shcharansky and Tarnopolsky.

Some eight years ago I joined a delegation of Members of Congress in the company of my late husband, Phillip, that made an official visit to the Soviet Union. One of the most memorable experiences on that trip was a visit to the home of Soviet refusenik Dr. Alexander Lerner, where we met with a number of other refuseniks including Anatoly Shcharansky. All of us were moved by their courage and their passionate belief in the justice and rightness of their cause.

After our return from the Soviet Union, the memory of our meeting with Shcharansky remained with me as a vivid and moving image every time the heavy hand of the Soviet government perpetrated another outrage against people whose only crime was that they wanted to live in freedom, seek liberty and the benefits of a free society.

We now mark the date upon which two brave and proud men were arrested and sent to a fate grimmer than any of us can imagine for so questionable a crime. Separated from their families, but not from hope, they bravely hold out against a mindless and cruel mentality that does not respect or recognize human rights.

Shcharansky and Tarnopolsky are brave examples of the opposition to repression of body and human spirit that exists throughout the Soviet Union. Their indomitable courage should be constantly honored by those of us who do live in a free society and should be a constant reminder that we must never falter in our support, no matter how far away we may be. Our hearts join theirs in their lonely imprisonment.

It is ironic that the date of their arrests comes at a time when we celebrate the holiday of Purim, a time of great pride. This is indeed a time of pride, and, for the Soviets a time of shame.



Tarnopolsky as he appeared at end of 40-day hunger strike last November.

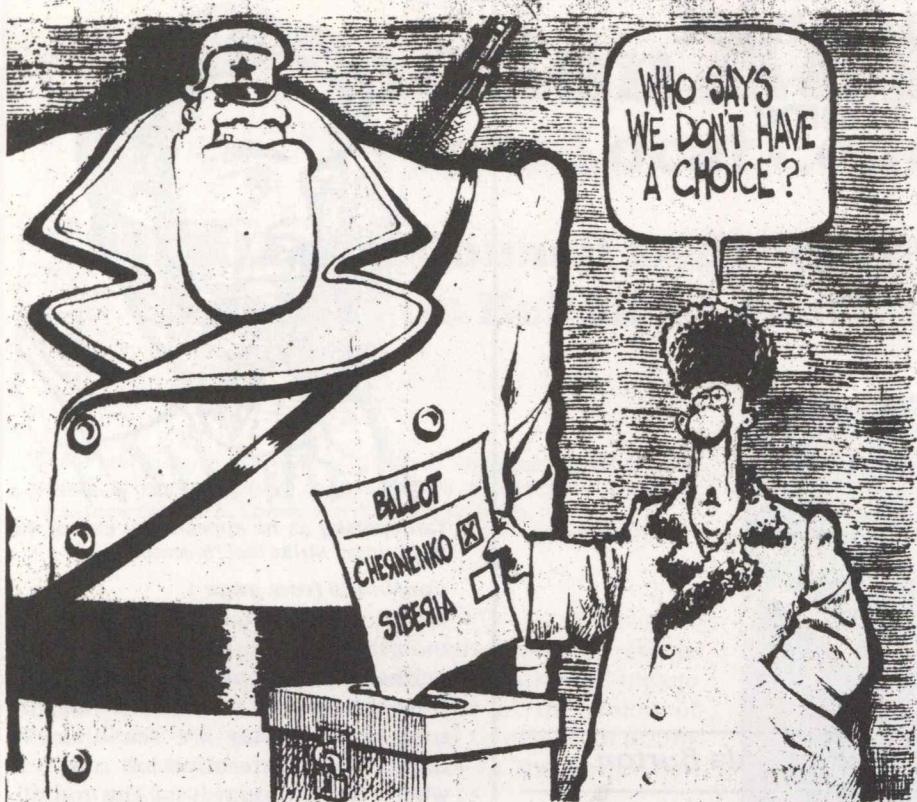
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fected. It's an extermination, well camouflaged and slow. That's why neither public opinion nor the victims themselves can see its real nature because they are sensitized to the physical extermination only . . . where are the guards of the morality, conscience and honor of our ancient people?"

The setting is not Shushan, Persia. The setting is a labor camp in Chita — 3,000 miles from Kharkov in eastern Siberia. The scene is not the fast of Esther, it is the fast of Prisoner of Conscience Yuri Tarnopolsky. Working in a mine, Tarnopolsky suffers from pain in his gall bladder and heart. The work is hard, and Yuri finds it difficult to meet his quota. His wife Olga, after travelling from their home in Kharkov is denied her visits with Yuri. His health weakened, he began a hunger strike on February 10, 1984 to protest.

The Fast of Esther and the holiday of Purim is a lesson of anti-Semitism and the averting of a small holocaust, namely the Jews of Shushan. "We, the refuseniks, myself and my family," wrote Tarnopolsky last year, "are we to be sacrificed to give again a lesson to the Jews of the world? . . . my (hunger) strike had been only so that this question can be shouted as loudly as I could."

March 15, 1984. While we recall the Fast of Esther, let us recall the fasts of Anatoly Shcharansky, and Yuri Tarnopolsky, and the many refuseniks and Prisoners of Conscience who are today's freedom fighters. And let us shout as loudly as we can.



By Branch for the San Antonio Express

Reagan's speech to Young Leadership Conference—UJA

In a speech to 2,000 attendees at the 4th National United Jewish Appeal Young Leadership Conference, President Reagan urged "support" for "Soviet Jews in their struggle for basic rights", noting the "near standstill" of emigration of Soviet Jews and the ban against learning Hebrew in the USSR. He specifically mentioned the plights of Jewish activists Anatoly Shcharansky, Lev Elbert and Iosef Begun. Reagan received a P.O.C. bracelet in honor of Begun from the Chairmen of the Young Leadership Cabinet.



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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is composed of 33 local councils, 3 domestic affiliates, 3 international affiliates and 55,000 individual members dedicated to helping Soviet Jews, especially those desiring to emigrate.

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90 Jews left the USSR in February