



UCSJ QUARTERLY REPORT

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews • 1411 K Street, NW, Suite 402 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 393-4117

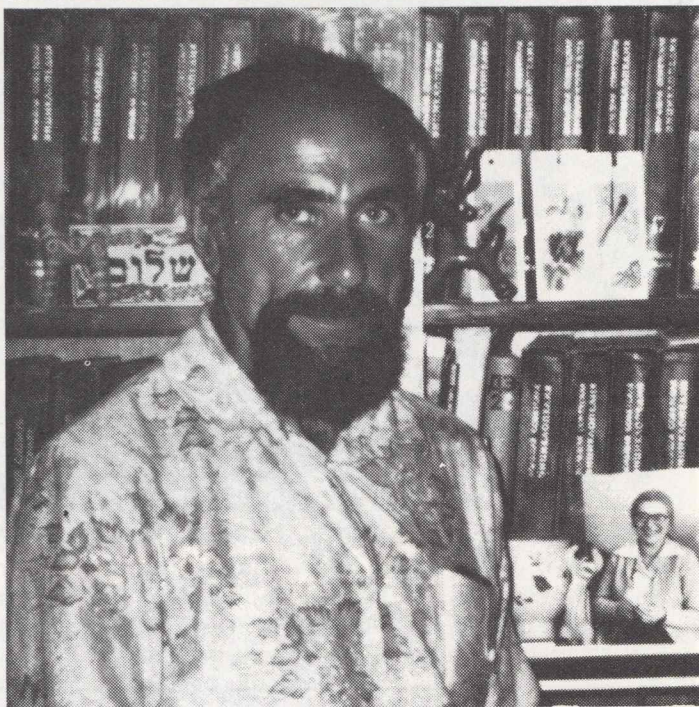
DECEMBER, 1983

UPDATE ON ELBERT: PUBLIC OUTCRY EFFECTIVE; CHARGES DROPPED

Lev Elbert, a Jewish Prisoner of Conscience from Kiev, has repeatedly been refused an exit visa for six years and was sentenced last May for "evasion of army draft duty by a reservist." In a further effort to entrap and implicate Elbert, Soviet authorities accused Elbert of "drug possession"—a charge which would add an additional five years of imprisonment to his sentence. The charge was made last August, and immediately outraged UCSJ members and councils across the country sent thousands of telegrams on behalf of Elbert to protest the Soviets' latest spurious charges. UCSJ President Lynn Singer was refused permission to hand-deliver copies of the telegrams to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., which routinely rejects accepting such telegrams to avoid any acknowledgement of injustices for Jews in the Soviet Union.

In late August when Lev was accused of drug possession, Inna Elbert began a hunger strike that lasted almost six weeks. Through the efforts of the Oklahoma Commission on Soviet Jews, a member council of the UCSJ, Lev Elbert's brother Mischa spoke with Congressman Mike Synar (R-OK). Referring to Lev's wife Inna, Mischa stated: "Inna's hunger strike (of almost six weeks) was a last resort to establish justice and to prove that even we — people on the street — can show we are innocent against the scheme to crush her and her family."

But, in these ominous times for Jews in the Soviet Union, public outcry **can** make the difference. The UCSJ recently learned that the trumped-up charges against Elbert **have been dropped**. The charges were dropped after the very careful investigation of the case by the Kiev Procurator's office, under the supervision of the Procurator's office of the USSR, which found insufficient evidence. The Assistant Procurator in Kiev told Lev's father Chaim that "there is not enough evidence;" but the Elberts await written documentation. ★



Embarking on a long, long period of torment, Hebrew teacher Iosef Begun was sentenced to seven years in Vladimir prison and five years in exile.

BEGUN TRIAL ELICITS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S OUTRAGE

On October 13, after a trial held in a prison anteroom and not in a court of law, Iosef Begun received what was obviously a pre-determined sentence: seven years in prison and five years in exile, for the 'crime' of inspiring other Soviet Jews to learn about their culture.

On October 18, President Reagan strongly condemned the Soviet Union for the 12-year sentence against Iosef Begun, calling it an "illegal and inhumane act." Referring to Begun as a "courageous Jewish believer," Reagan stated: "Soviet persecution of religious and political dissidents is not new. In the case of Mr. Begun, the Soviet regime has refused for 13 years to honor his request to emigrate to Israel." Reagan concluded: "Soviet policy toward Jewish emigration and dissident movements has sunk to a new low of brutality and repression." ★



At the UCSJ Annual Meeting, October 14-17, UCSJ President Lynn Singer is flanked by international spokesmen for human rights in the Soviet Union: (From left to right) IPG co-sponsors are Michel De Guillenchmidt, National Delegate for Liberty and Human Rights (France); Lord Eric Avebury, Chairman, Human Rights Group, House of Lords (England); UCSJ President Lynn Singer; UCSJ Advisory Board member Father Robert F. Drinan; British historian and author Martin Gilbert.

INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP SETS AGENDA WITH EUROPEAN PARTICIPATION

The UCSJ held a special session during their annual meeting to highlight the recently-formed Interparliamentary Group on Human Rights in the Soviet Union (IPG). In announcing that the IPG "seeks to carry on the Western unified spirit of the Madrid Review on Human Rights," IPG Executive Director Paul Meek outlined the three major issues the IPG will focus on in Soviet human rights performance:

- 1) freedom of emigration, national repatriation, and family reunification;
- 2) religious persecution, specifically the 'cultural genocide' practiced against Jews by the Soviet Union;
- 3) free flow of information and human contacts between the West and the USSR, including non-delivery of mail, telephone and telecommunications interruptions, and radio jamming.

In a press conference following the annual meeting, Lord Eric Avebury, Chairman of the Human Rights Group in the House of the Lords, London,

England, joined IPG congressional co-sponsors Rep. Charles Grassley (R-IA), Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ), John Edward Porter (R-IL), and Tom Lantos (D-CA) in presenting their hopes for the IPG, "as a mission of great consequence to human freedom." "The fundamental issues of human rights in the Soviet Union (shall) be a movement that will spread from Norway to New Zealand," stressed Lantos.

Over 100 parliamentarians world-wide have joined the IPG. ★

EMIGRATION SINKS TO NEW LOW

Soviet emigration in 1983 has dropped dramatically. Ninety-one Jews left the Soviet Union in October, the lowest monthly figure since January. This brings the total for the year to 1,162 — less than half the number for the first ten months of 1982.

JULY	167
AUGUST	130
SEPTEMBER	135
OCTOBER	91

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews



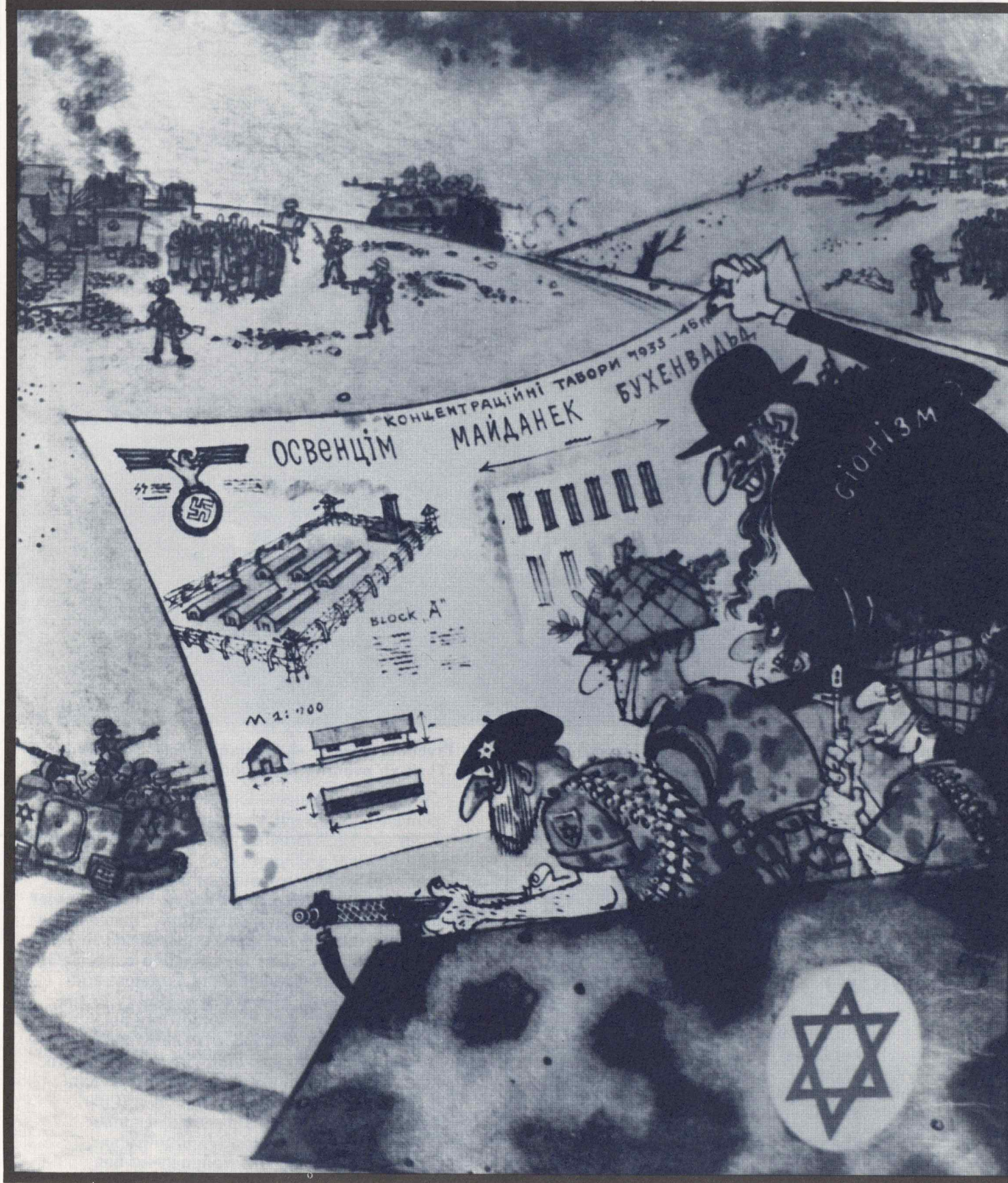
UCSJ President Lynn Singer presents the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award — a 'channukiah' representing the lights of freedom — to U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) at an evening reception during the UCSJ Annual Meeting, October 15.

UCSJ PRESENTS FREEDOM AWARD: CONNECTICUT SENATOR HONORED

We are proud to announce that Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D-CT) became the 1983 recipient of the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award "in recognition of his dedicated efforts on behalf of the plight of Soviet Jewry."

UCSJ President Lynn Singer presented the award — a 'channukiah' representing the lights of freedom — at a special evening reception on October 15. Identifying a long-term strategy with the "best chance of success," Senator Dodd delivered forthright remarks on the foundations for such strategy: "First, we have to unceasingly uncover,

publicize, and condemn instances of Soviet mistreatment of its Jewish population, and the Soviet refusal to permit voluntary emigration," stated Dodd. Noting that the UCSJ is "unparalleled in the quality and precision of its investigation research," Dodd emphasized that Members of Congress and other public officials "have a responsibility to see that such information gets the widest possible ventilation." Dodd concluded with conviction that the renewal of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment as an "effective instrument of our human rights efforts is vital." ★



Приступаєте до будівництва таборів ось за цими перевіреними зразками.
(—Let's work to build a prison camp like this example.)

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ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA INTENSIFIES

Martin Gilbert, renowned British historian and author, addressed the "activists and champions" of Soviet Jewry at the UCSJ Annual meeting in Washington, D.C., October 14-17. Presenting a gripping and sensitive history of Soviet Jewry, Gilbert related, at times first-hand, the "dangerous times" for Soviet Jews:

"... The propaganda has intensified, shot through with a crude anti-Semitism: Israeli troops directly murdered the Arabs at Sabra and Shatilla; former SS officers were training the Israeli army in preparation of the murder of women and children; Israel itself was the child of Nazism; the Zionists had worked hand in glove with the Nazis, allowing those Jews who were no use to a military state to be murdered by Hitler, and saving, with Nazi approval, those Jews who would help form a fascist nucleus in the Middle East after the war; Simon Wiesenthal protected the Nazis, and to this day, protects more than a thousand leading Nazi criminals whom he refuses to expose; Adolf Eichman was the victim of Zionist terrorism; Israel in Lebanon is rebuilding Auschwitz, Majdanek and Buchenwald.

"I wish that these were an exaggeration of an anti-Soviet propagandist," Gilbert stated, "but I have a cartoon just published in a Kiev magazine in which Israeli soldiers, and also a sturmer-type Jew named 'Zionism' are seen studying a plan of Auschwitz,

Majdanek, and Buchenwald, as they plan to build these three concentration camps in Lebanon. . . . This cartoon should be copied and given to every Senator, every Congressman, and the head of every Jewish organization, and to every leading Jew in the United States," Gilbert charged. "It shows the brutal tone of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union today — a tone that brings fear to every Soviet Jew." (See cartoon opposite page.) ★

HUMAN RIGHTS A HIGHER PRIORITY

On October 19, an amendment to the reauthorization of the Export Administration Act passed the full House of Representatives. The amendment, authored by Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA) maintains Presidential authority to impose trade sanctions and to abrogate existing contracts under certain conditions, one of which is gross violations of human rights.

Berman told the UCSJ that "certain human rights have a higher priority than contract sanctity," and noted that while he had several countries in mind at the time he introduced the bill, the Soviet Union is "foremost."

"The bill says we are able to call to the President's attention what is going on in the world, persuade him, and give him the authority to impose trade sanctions," stated Berman, adding that he had the direct support of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews, a member of the UCSJ, on the amendment. ★



UCSJ President Lynn Singer introduces Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT) to British historian and author, Martin Gilbert, at an evening reception honoring the Connecticut Senator with the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award.

NEWS UPDATES ON PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience Alexander Paritsky, suffering from hypertrophy of the left ventricle, has been hospitalized in Nydrino Labor Camp. The prison authorities denied Polina Paritsky her right to visit her ailing husband. All correspondence between them has been confiscated. She is seeking permission to send parcels of warm clothing to the hospital.

Alexander Paritsky, a refusenik since 1978, was arrested in August of 1981. He was sentenced to serve 3 years in a labor camp because of "anti-Soviet slander." Paritsky has a history of high blood pressure, and in September 1982 suffered a heart attack. Prison authorities refuse to acknowledge his condition and repeatedly confine him to a punitive isolation cell in the labor camp.

Send telegrams supporting Polina's wish to send clothing and mail to:

USSR
MOSCOW
CENTRAL MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
OF THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR
6 OGAREV STREET

NEWS UPDATE ON MESH: The Soviets' Next Elbert?

Leading activist from Odessa, Yakov Mesh, received a call-up notice for army reserve duty on September 20 and refused to appear. Mesh was afraid he would be denied an exit visa for "security reasons" if he enlisted again. The UCSJ rushed thousands of telegrams to Soviet officials protesting the Soviet's newest tactic, and recently learned that Mesh will **not** be called for army reserve duty. His wife, Marina, fears instead that a case will be opened on her husband.

Send letters of support to:
USSR
UKRAINIAN SSR
ODESSA CENTRE
Ploschad Martinovskogo 3/4
Apt. 71
MESH Yakov & Marina

UCSJ SPONSORS CONGRESSIONAL TRIP TO SOVIET UNION

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews sponsored a congressional trip to Leningrad and Moscow, August 26-September 2, hosting Congressman Ray McGrath (R-NY) and congressional aides to Congressmen Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA) and Sander Levin (D-MI).

Their visit, made solely to aid and comfort over 30 Jewish refusenik families, was shortened by one day when news of KAL flight 007 reached American Consulate officials. The shooting was a crowning confirmation that the Soviets "live by a doctrine of control by intimidation," stated McGrath.

McGrath described the "very emotional experience" of visiting with refusenik Judith Ratner. "We all watched a recent film of her mother (who lives in Israel). To hear her say, 'my mother, she looks so old, so sick'. . . . She had not seen her mother in ten years."

McGrath also met with Soviet Jewish cardiologist Norbert Magazanik, who had applied unsuccessfully for a visa several years ago. His application cost him his career. Reflecting the emotions of his fellow refuseniks, Magazanik told McGrath with revealing strength, "I have freedom of the soul now. No matter what they do to me, I have more freedom of the soul."

McGrath related that the mood of Moscow refuseniks was "more resigned"; some of them have been refused sixteen to eighteen, even twenty times. McGrath's conversations with refusenik Aba Taratuta, Volodya Feldman, Professor Alexander Ioffe and others left a lasting impact. Noting that this was his first visit to the Soviet Union, McGrath stated with resolve: "You **have** to change after visiting the Soviet Union. You sit with these people, empathize with them, listen to their problems. Speaking with these refuseniks maintains a level of commitment. You have a hard time understanding their situation until you talk to them and see how they carry on . . . under the gun."

McGrath told the UCSJ: "Whatever you are doing, don't stop doing it just because times are grim. Now is the time to pour it on." ★

UCSJ WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING IN JANUARY

The UCSJ will hold a Western regional conference in San Francisco, California, on January 27-29 at the Fairmont Hotel. The weekend will include programmatic workshops, special speakers on Soviet Jewry, strategy planning, and special seminars. Put the dates on your calendar. Contact the Union of Councils' office for more specific information.



At the UCSJ Jackson Tribute program held October 16, Mark Talisman (seated) is applauded for his sensitive remarks on the Jackson years. (Standing from left to right): Tina Silber, former staff aid to the late Senator; UCSJ Advisory Board member Ben Wattenberg, long-time associate of Jackson; and former UCSJ presidents Irene Manekofsky and Lou Rosenblum.

UCSJ MEMORIALIZES JACKSON WITH NATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews paid tribute to the late Senator Henry M. Jackson with a program on October 16, highlighting his commitment to human rights.

The Jackson Tribute brought together those who were closest to the late Senator: Mark Talisman, current Washington Director for the Council of Jewish Federations; Tina Silber, former staff aid to Jackson; Irene Manekofsky and Lou Rosenblum, former UCSJ presidents, and UCSJ Advisory Board member Ben Wattenberg.

"With Jackson's legacy in mind," the UCSJ announced the first national award program honoring the late Senator. The Capitol Hill Fellowships, funded by the UCSJ, will be selected competitively on a yearly basis. Fellows who are selected will serve in Congressional offices and with the Union of Councils' national headquarters in Washington, D.C. during the fellowship period.

"Whatever we are doing now for Soviet Jewry must be the true memorial to the person we wish to honor today . . . and whatever we are doing is not enough," emphasized Talisman. ★

UCSJ TESTIFIES AT POSTAL HEARINGS

In an effort to document and outline specific charges against the Soviet Union concerning its deliberate undertaking to impede, intercept, and otherwise interrupt the flow of mail from individuals and organizations to citizens in the Soviet Union, the UCSJ testified before the Post Office and Civil Service Subcommittee and Operations.

Referring to the hundreds of exhibits provided by the UCSJ which demonstrated Soviet interference with registered mail to Soviet Jews, UCSJ Vice-President Ruth Newman stated at the October 4 hearings: "In recent times the practice of interruption and non-delivery of mail has grown ominously as authorities seek to further isolate Soviet Jews from their friends and relatives in the West." The UCSJ also provided testimony on the frequent breakdown of telephone communications, specifically the growing difficulty in placing and completing telephone calls to the USSR. ★

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews recently learned that Vladimir and Anna Livshits of Leningrad have gone on a hunger strike "to let the world know about their plight as Jews in the Soviet Union."

Frustrated by several refusals since 1981 to emigrate to Israel and join family there, the Livshits insist they will remain on their hunger strike "until death if necessary." Vladimir, a scientist of applied mathematics and economics, and Anna, an engineer, both lost their jobs after their first refusal. UCSJ President Lynn Singer stated: "While we are deeply concerned with the repercussions associated with the Livshits' decision, we understand their frustrations. Vladimir and Anna are not anti-Soviets; they only wish to live in freedom and emigrate to Israel to join their family."

Upon hearing their decision, the UCSJ rushed hundreds of telegrams to the Soviet Union, urging authorities to allow the Livshits family to emigrate. "We must unceasingly work for the Livshits family until their visa to emigrate to Israel is secure."

Send telegrams to:

**Leningrad OVIR
USSR**

Zheliabova St., 26

Vorotyntsev Vyacheslav Michailovich

Also send letters to:

**Secretary General of the Communist Party
and President of the USSR**

Yuri Andropov

Kremlin, Moscow, RSFSR

Show your support by sending telegrams/letters to:

Vladimir and Anna Livshits

Kirovsky Prospect 64-3-139

Leningrad 197022

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**UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
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WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005**

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