



INFORMATION FROM THE
UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
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ALERT

Vol. IX No. 24

December 15, 1983

NEW LAW TO EXTEND TERMS

Fate of P.O.C.'s Rests on "behavior"

To tighten their grip on political prisoners, the Soviet Government has added a new law which is expected to result in harsher, extended sentences. The law, Article 188-3 of the criminal code of the Russian republic, states that "malicious disobedience to lawful demands made by the administration of a corrective labor institution, or any other opposition to the administration in the execution of its functions" by a prisoner who has been sent to an isolation cell or transferred to prison in the preceding year can bring up to three or more years of imprisonment.

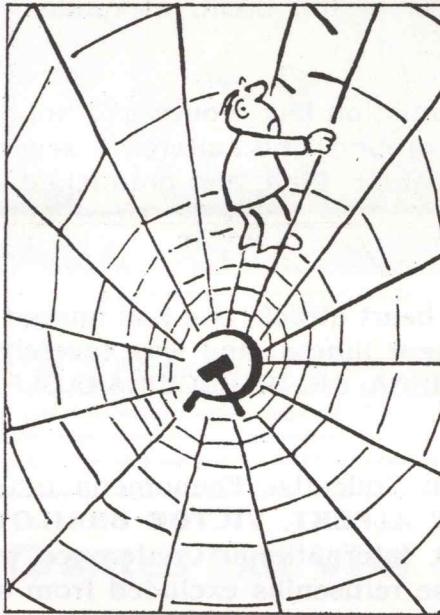
UCSJ President Lynn Singer argued: "If an autonomous decision can be made by a camp commandant, any prisoner can be held for an indeterminant amount of time." Singer noted that the Soviet Govern-

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Small Victories... Hope for Soviet Jews

"I urge all Americans to pursue an active role in freeing Soviet Jews. One way to further promote the ideals of freedom and injustice is through support for the Interparliamentary Group, an international organization being formed to act as a clearinghouse for human rights. The United States, Great Britain and France are already members, and more nations will be joining soon. While it may be impossible to change the ways of the Soviet Union, we may be able to win individual victories for the people who so desperately desire freedom to worship and live as they please."

Rep. Dan Schaefer (R-CO),
Rocky Mountain News, Nov. 28



THE WASHINGTON POST NOVEMBER 21, 1983

Emigration Figures Lowest in 20 years

Letter from Riga

UCSJ Member Receives First Response

Dear Bob and June:

"... It is very touching to realize that people of whose existence I never even suspected, are concerned about our plight and struggle and want to help in any way. Well, to help others was always a Jewish particular trait ... is one of the reasons which helped us to survive through the bitter ages of our history. Thank the Lord we didn't lose that trait nowadays, when the values of the ... are displaced ... I was a director of a large factory and was dismissed in 1972 when ... gave permission to my daughter to leave to Israel. From then on, I am not working ... I use my time mostly in regaining Jewishness both for me and my community ... If we want to remain what we are and not what someone else wants us to be, we have to work on it. . . ."

Nov. 16, 1983

Shalom Uv'racha,
Alexander (Maryasin)

DDP/ fjs
Alexander

988

NEWSBRIEFS

Jewish Refuseniks **VALERY GODYAK, OLGA YERUSALIMSKAYA-MEDVEDKOV**, and computer scientist **OLGA LUSNIKOVA**, were arrested by Soviet authorities, the UCSJ learned. A Jewish leader and activist of the Moscow unofficial peace movement (which claims many Jewish participants), Yerusalimskaya had been seriously beaten by two policemen last October, outside the trial of Oleg Radzinsky. SEND TELEGRAMS OF PROTEST ON BEHALF OF GODYAK TO: Procurator General of the USSR, Alexander Rekunkov, 15a Pushkinskaya Street, Moscow.

EDWARD ERLICH received permission last month and hopes to leave December 11th. He received permission on health grounds (he suffered a severe stroke in 1976). He will be leaving with his wife, Rosa, daughter, Olga, and grandchild, Alexander. SEND LETTERS OF CONGRATULATIONS TO: USSR/RSFSR/Leningrad/Grazhdansky, Prospect 13/Kor.1/Apt. 182/.

INNA ELBERT has had a small heart attack. She had missed several weeks of work due to her hunger strike and subsequent illness, and was severely scolded by her supervisors. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO INNA: DR. MIZRUCHINA-ELBERT, Volgradskaya Street 6, Apt. 33, Kiev, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

An International Conference on Collective Phenomena took place December 1, 2nd in Stockholm, in honor of **YAKOV ALPERT, VICTOR BRAILOVSKY, ALEXANDER LERNER** and **NAUM MEIMAN**. The first International Conference was initiated by Professor A. Voronel in 1974 to enable those refuseniks excluded from science to keep their lines of communication open to the scientific world. While previous Conferences have been held in Moscow, present circumstances made it necessary to hold this year's in Stockholm. The New York-based Committee for Concerned Scientists was the principal organizer of American participation in the successful conference.

Refusenik **BORIS ALTSHULER** has been under interrogations and threats. Soviet authorities searched his apartment and took everything, including scientific papers and wife's tapes for English lessons. Altshuler has a PhD. in theoretical physics, but was forbidden to continue his profession after applying to emigrate. SEND TELEGRAMS DEMANDING A STOP TO THE HARASSMENT AND RESTRAINTS ON HIS PROFESSION: Director of State Security, Viktor Chebrikov, 2 Dzerzhinskogo, Moscow, USSR.

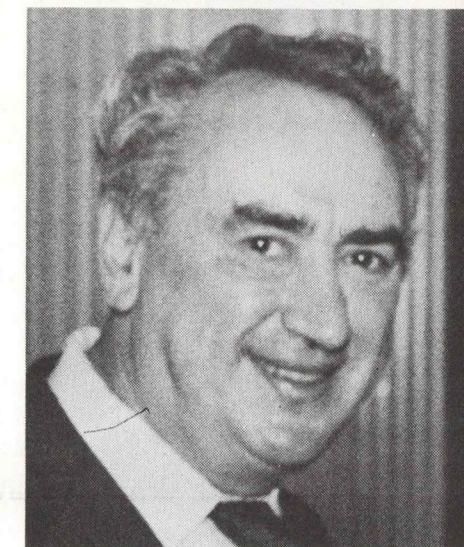
Refusenik **YURI SHPEIZMAN** of Leningrad has cancer of the blood, but due to financial reasons, he is not being treated. SEND LETTERS OF CONCERN TO HIS WIFE NELLI, AT: USSR/RSFSR/Leningrad, 192236/Prospect Slavy 64, Apt. 33/.

In a report submitted December 5 by Secretary of State George Shultz on behalf of President Reagan to Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla), chairman of the Commission On Security and Cooperation in Europe, the **Administration charged that "the drastic decline" in Jewish emigration from the USSR is the result of "deliberate Soviet policy"**, whereby the Soviets are claiming that "letters of invitation received by Soviet Jews from abroad are fraudulent, the fabrications of groups in the U.S. and Israel who wish to 'prove' that the Jewish emigration question is still current and to discredit the Soviet Union in the process."

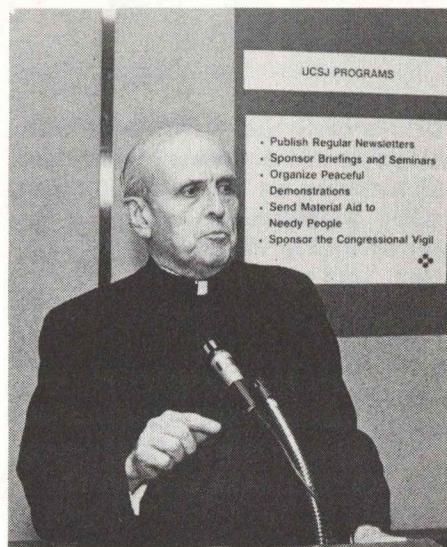
Local Council Hosts Celebration of Freedom



Emanuil Sheynkman, Internationally renowned mandolin & balalaika virtuoso.



Congressman Phillip Burton (1926-1983)



UCSJ Advisory Board member Father Robert F. Drinan, featured speaker.

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry hosted "A Celebration of Freedom" dedicated to the work and memory of California Congressman Phillip Burton, whose ceaseless efforts on behalf of Soviet Jews are well known. Co-chairpersons for the event were UCSJ Advisory Board member Father Robert F. Drinan, featured speaker, and world-famous ballet dancer, Valery Panov. Noted Soviet emigre musicians, who were finally permitted to leave the USSR performed in concert. UCSJ Advisory Board member Congresswoman Sala Burton greeted the musicians following the December 11 celebration.

Long Term Refusenik Granted Exit Visa

After over twelve years of waiting to leave the Soviet Union, Eitan Finkelstein and his family have been granted exit visas and will be leaving Vilnius for Israel in early December.

Eitan Finkelstein, a physicist and Jewish culture activist, applied to emigrate with his family in 1971 and was repeatedly denied permission to leave. Dismissed from his job after his first application to leave, Finkelstein had taken on menial jobs in order to support his family.

Update on Lifshitz

Forty-two year old scientist Vladimir Lifshitz of Leningrad has stopped his protest hunger strike, and has been given an "appropriate" job, albeit at half the wages he has usually received. The deluge of telegrams from UCSJ members is credited for the cease of harassment and charges of "parasitism". Vladimir and Anna Lifshitz, after four refusals, continue to desire a visa to emigrate and join family in Israel.

Extended Sentences

Continued from page 1

ment released the law "just four days after the signing of the Madrid Agreement", adding that the lack of good faith was "obvious" from Gromyko's declaration that "the Soviet people . . . reject unsolicited lecturing as to how they should conduct their affairs . . ."

The new law, which Western diplomats only recently uncovered in a government legal journal, was adopted without any known public discussion on September 13 and took effect on October 1, according

to the *Los Angeles Times* account by Robert Gillette, November 28. The *New York Times* reported on the Soviets' measure on December 5.

The stipulation that the law is applicable to those prisoners who have been punished in the course of their term, either by spending time in isolation cells or in prison, would make most of the prominent prisoners of conscience liable to extended terms. "In spite of the seriousness," Singer stated, "we hope that through an international apparatus such as the UCSJ Interparliamentary Group on Human Rights (IPG), the gravity of such a measure can be ameliorated."

Update on Begun

Iosef Begun, the Soviet Jewish activist and Hebrew teacher who was sentenced to 12 years in prison and internal exile, is being held in solitary confinement in Vladimir Prison, some 180 miles east of Moscow. All visits have been cancelled. Begun's appeal to rescind his sentence may be thwarted by the higher court deciding to rule on Begun's appeal without granting him a hearing.

Refusenik Defies Anti-Semitism:

Korneyev Accused

Continued from page 1

Jewish studies. The Culture Club was quashed.

Dr. Martinov and Gorodetsky have now called for the trials of Vistunov and Korneyev on the basis of "anti-semitic propaganda", which is illegal according to the Soviet constitution. Last week, Martinov and Gorodetsky were told to go to the OVIR for their papers, although the signs are not encouraging: Martinov was threatened with being placed in a psychiatric institution, and Gorodetsky was threatened with imprisonment.

To call attention to the insidious sanctioned anti-semitic propaganda in the USSR, Martinov began a 10-day "preventive" hunger strike on December 1st.

"The Soviets are only trying to crush us, only trying to beat us," said Gorodetsky.

Send telegrams of support to:

USSR/Leningrad 191180

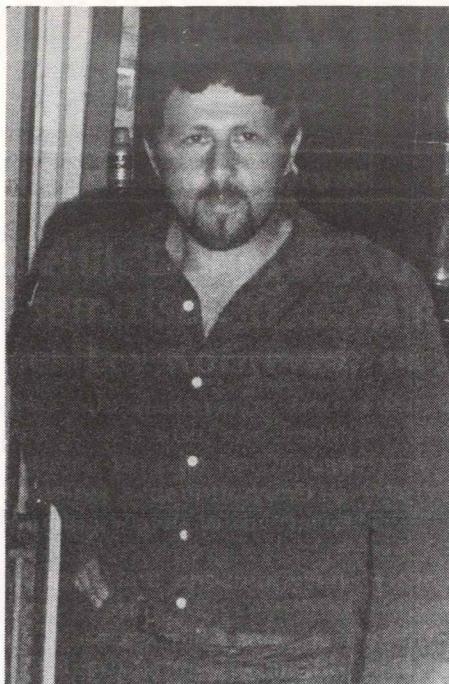
Fontanka 96, Apt. 9

Martinov, Ivan

USSR/Leningrad

Podresova 17, Apt. 8

Gorodetsky, Yakov



Yakov Gorodetsky, June 1983

Fifty-six Soviet Jews were permitted to emigrate in November — the lowest number in nearly twenty years. This brings the total to 1,218 — a decline of 99% since November 1979.

Blood Libel

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir,—News has just reached me from Leningrad of the following episode. A group of Leningrad Jews has tried to bring a criminal case against the Soviet anti-Zionist writer, Lev Korneyev. Their anger was sparked off by Korneyev's public allegation that, in a recent incident in the Lebanon, two Israeli soldiers quarrelled as to whether a certain pregnant Palestinian woman was expecting a boy or a girl. To resolve their quarrel, according to Korneyev, the soldiers killed the woman and cut upon her stomach.

Disgusted by this modern 'blood libel,' several refuseniks went direct to the Leningrad Public Prosecutor. But he refused to take any action, on the grounds that Korneyev had committed no crime. A few days later, the Jews who had tried to challenge Korneyev were summoned to the KGB and told, "drop it."

May I take up space in your columns to report this courageous action by our fellow Jews?

MARTIN GILBERT

Visiting Professor

Department of History

Hebrew University

Jerusalem



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

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