

UCSJ QUARTERLY REPORT

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

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Testifying at House Subcommittee hearing (l to r) Morey Schapira, President, UCSJ; Herbert Kronish, then Chairman, Coalition to Free Soviet Jews; Isi Leibler, President, Executive

Council of Australian Jewry; and Morris Abram, Chairman, National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

UCSJ PRESIDENT TESTIFIES ON CAPITOL HILL

UCSJ President Morey Schapira, along with other leaders in Soviet Jewry, testified before two House Foreign Affairs Subcommittees in September.

The hearing, sponsored jointly by the Subcommittee on Europe and the Middle East and the Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations, provided an overview of the current situation of Soviet Jews. Schapira also submitted, for the record, the UCSJ statement of policy on emigration and the treatment of Soviet Jews, written with the advice and guidance of Refuseniks and activists in the Soviet Union. The policy statement is based on the "continuing substantial performance" language of the Jackson-Vanik Amendment, and sets among its priorities the release and emigration of Prisoners of Conscience, former Prisoners of Conscience and Refuseniks waiting for a long period of time. In addition, it calls for regular and fair emigration procedures.

Schapira warned that "the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union is more difficult than at any time in recent memory. Of those presently serving terms in prison for their desire to study their culture and practice their faith, 70 percent have been arrested and convicted in the last two years."

(Turn to CAPITOL HILL, page 8)

CORETTA SCOTT KING JOINS ADVISORY BOARD

The UCSJ is pleased to announce that Coretta Scott King, widow of the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., has become its newest advisory board member. Lynn Singer, chair of the UCSJ Advisory Board, made the announcement at the annual meeting banquet on October 21.

Mrs. King, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, has carried her husband's advocacy of peace and justice through nonviolent action across the nation and throughout the world.

Rev. King, a staunch supporter of human rights, addressed the injustices perpetrated against Soviet Jews.

I cannot stand idly by, even though I live in the United States and even though I happen to be an American Negro, and not be concerned about what happens to my brothers and sisters who happen to be Jews in Soviet Russia. For what happens to them happens to me and you, and we must be concerned. . . . In the name of humanity, I urge that the Soviet government end all the discriminatory measures against its Jewish community. ★



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

President of UCSJ,
Morey Schapira

The recent imprisonment of five Rabbis in a Federal Penitentiary for protesting on behalf of Soviet Jews marked a turning point in the fifteen-year history of the Soviet Jewry movement in America. As most of you know, the past eighteen months have witnessed a significant deterioration in the conditions facing Soviet Jews. Emigration has come to a virtual standstill, vilification of Jews and Judaism in the Soviets' state-controlled media has increased, the number of Jewish Prisoners of Conscience has doubled and the KGB has declared open season on the physical beatings of Jews. We realized that it was not business as usual.

Fortunately, our Rabbis recognized this also. Thus, in December 1984, two Rabbis chained themselves to the gates of the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco to protest the arrests of their fellow Hebrew teachers in the Soviet Union. They were arrested and released. Soon thereafter, a coordinated series of peaceful arrests of Rabbis and Ministers began in Washington, New York and San Francisco. The notable thing about these actions was the fact that they were coordinated and sponsored by the local boards of Rabbis. (I am proud to say that in all locations they were supported by the UCSJ and its local councils and affiliates.) These peaceful acts of civil disobedience were *unprecedented* in American Jewish history. Yes, Rabbis had certainly been arrested during the days of the Civil Rights movements and during the Vietnam War, but never in such numbers and *never* for the cause of Soviet Jewry.

Their decision to protest was not an easy one and only came after intense discussion and debate among themselves. As the leaders of our Jewish communities, the Rabbis realized that they had a responsibility to live up to the Biblical commandment, "Do not stand idly by while thy neighbor's blood is being spilled" (Leviticus 19). This Biblical injunction has inspired protests on behalf of human rights individually and collectively since ancient times.

The main action took place in Washington, D.C. where there was a series of arrests at the Soviet Embassy. One of these arrests included a group of nine, Christians as well as Jews, who had attended the Union of Councils annual meeting in Washington. They were protesting in support of the previously arrested Rabbis.

Then the trials came. The local judges in San Francisco and New York exercised wise discretion in dropping the charges. However, in Washington, the Rabbis were sent a strong political message. The U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia prosecuted our Rabbis while overlooking the arrests of *two thousand anti-apartheid demonstrators* in front of the South African embassy.

This is clearly a case of selective prosecution. Then the

judge overruled the prosecutor's recommendation and threw the book at the Rabbis—jail (suspended), a fine and unsupervised probation. It was an unduly harsh and inappropriate sentence if ever I've seen one in the U.S. Five of the Rabbis refused to accept the sentence and were shipped off to the Federal Correctional Institute in Petersburg, Virginia.

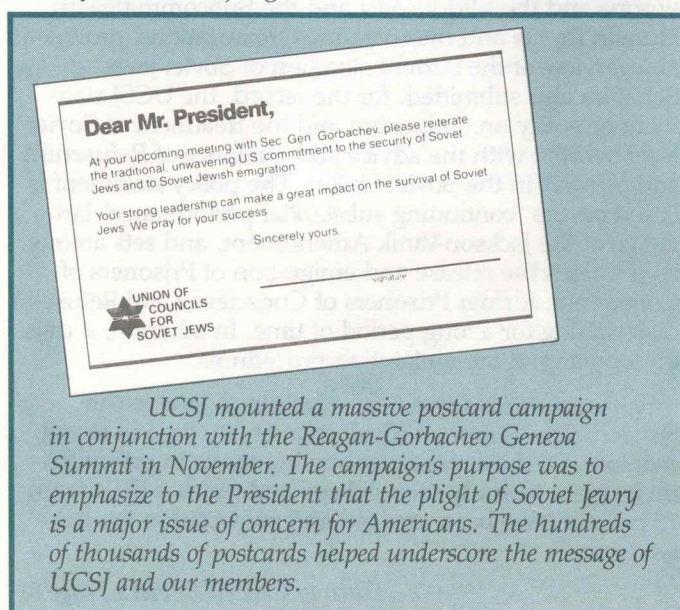
From their prison cells, the Rabbis wrote to us. In an open letter, Rabbi David Oler, chairman of the Washington Board of Rabbis Soviet Jewry Action Committee, quoted the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "... Americans will eventually have to face themselves with the question that Eichman chose to ignore; how responsible am I for the well being of my fellows? To ignore evil is to become an accomplice to it." Rabbi Oler continued, "The people of our nation must not remain silent concerning the suffering of others, while complacently pursuing their day-to-day lives. If our lives are to have meaning we must seek without reservation to ameliorate the suffering of our time wherever it is found."

Throughout their ordeal, the five Rabbis urged the media not to focus on them personally, but rather to focus on the Jewish Prisoners of Conscience who are languishing in the Soviet Union.

The Rabbis are out of prison now, but their issue remains. Will it continue to be "business as usual" in the American Jewish Community during this time of crisis for Soviet Jews? Will the American Jewish Community be lulled by the incredible Soviet misinformation/disinformation campaign which has been waged by the KGB since the Summit?

Ask *your* Rabbi how he intends to show support for the courageous efforts of these five Rabbis in Washington. Call the head of *your* Federation and ask if he's satisfied with "business as usual" on behalf of Soviet Jews. Do the same thing with the editor of your local Jewish paper.

For thousands of years, the Jewish communities of the world survived by listening to the sage counsel of their Rabbis. It is not necessary for everyone to emulate the actions of Rabbis Bayar, Cahan, Kahn, Levine and Oler. It is imperative, however, that we all listen carefully to their message. Business as usual? Someday in the future, our history books will judge.



UCSJ mounted a massive postcard campaign in conjunction with the Reagan-Gorbachev Geneva Summit in November. The campaign's purpose was to emphasize to the President that the plight of Soviet Jewry is a major issue of concern for Americans. The hundreds of thousands of postcards helped underscore the message of UCSJ and our members.

KLEZMER BAND PAYS TRIBUTE TO PHANTOM ORCHESTRA



Jeffrey

"Through our suffering we [Prisoners of Conscience] have been able to push the gates of the U.S.S.R. just slightly ajar. Through the tiny opening we have made in the Iron Curtain, Jews manage to get out of the U.S.S.R. ... But the opening is small and vulnerable, and we implore all of you in the free world to keep a close watch on the opening and not to allow the gates to be slammed shut again."

—Ida Nudel—
Refusenik and former Prisoner of Conscience

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PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE AWARDED HONORARY DEGREE

A symbolic honorary Doctor of Hebrew Letters degree, in absentia, was conferred upon Prisoner of Conscience Alexander Kholmiansky, imprisoned in a Soviet labor camp for teaching Hebrew and Jewish history. The honorary degree was awarded from Hebrew Union College and was the result of action initiated by UCSJ member council, the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews. ★

"PEACE MISSIONARY" GUILTY OF PSYCHIATRIC CRIMES

Representatives of an official Soviet peace committee touring the U.S., confronted with accusations of wide-spread Soviet psychiatric abuse, denied any wrongdoing.

The group of four physicians, representatives of the Soviet Committee of Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War, visited four American cities on a tour sponsored by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). One of the Soviet delegates, Dr. Marat Vartanyan, is a leading apologist for Soviet misuse of psychiatry for political reasons. Vartanyan's and the Soviet psychiatric association's history are well-known in the international psychiatric community. In 1983 the Soviet Union withdrew from the World Psychiatric Association to avoid being expelled on grounds of psychiatric abuse.

During the group's visit to Denver, the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry held a demonstration in front of the hotel where a dinner was being held in the Soviet group's honor. In Palo Alto, the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews alerted the local and university communities to the pending visit and Dr. Vartanyan's role in the use of psychiatric means to quell dissent. In Seattle, the psychiatric abuse issue was the subject of tough questioning by the press. ★



Activism on behalf of Soviet Jewry increases as the situation of Jews in the USSR steadily deteriorates. A series of nationwide demonstrations culminated on November 17-19, timed to coincide with the Geneva Summit. At the Soviet Embassy in Washington on November 17, fifty Hebrew school principals and teachers, with their hands joined above their heads, protested the inhumane treatment of Jewish cultural activists and Hebrew teachers in the Soviet Union. The group was arrested and charged with violating a law that bars demonstrators from approaching within 500 feet of an embassy.

CAJE: LET OUR TEACHERS GO!

At the tenth annual meeting of the Conference on Alternatives in Jewish Education (CAJE), the UCSJ sponsored a concert in which famed folk singer Theodore Bikel, accompanied by Elliot Finkel, performed Jewish folk songs. Mark Epstein, Executive Director of UCSJ, introduced Bikel to the CAJE attendees, whose conference

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Celebrate ★ Honor ★ Commemorate with a gift to the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The contribution you make to UCSJ as a memorial gift or in honor of a special occasion will help UCSJ further its work in securing emigration and human rights for Soviet Jews.

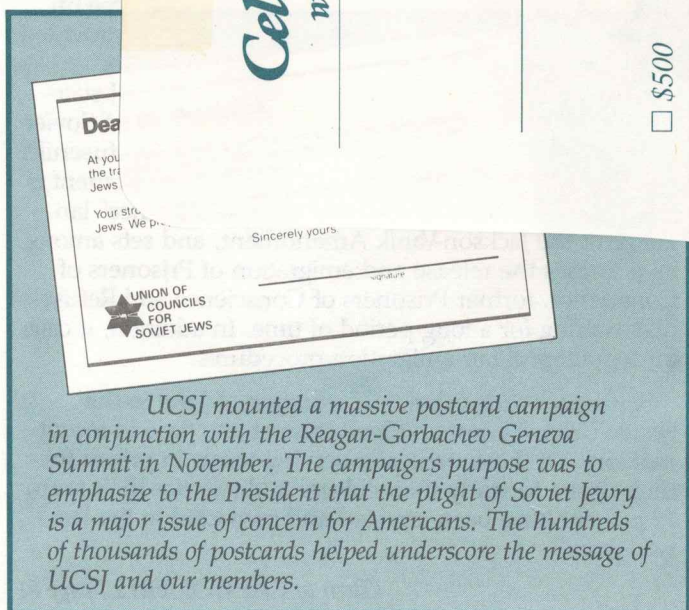
Name of Person Honored

Gift Enclosed

☐ \$500 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$36 ☐ \$18 ☐ Other: _____

UCSJ will send a personalized card acknowledging your gift to the individual or family you designate.

Make checks payable to UCSJ FREEDOM FUND • All contributions are tax deductible



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KLEZMER BAND PAYS TRIBUTE TO PHANTOM ORCHESTRA



Klezmer Musicians, (l to r), Hankus Netsky, Rosalie Gerut, Jeffrey Warschauer and Merryl Goldberg.

Musicians from the Klezmer Conservatory Band delivered a poignant message at the UCSJ annual meeting banquet. The group, expelled from the Soviet Union during their tour last spring, shared their experiences with the audience and played selections of their Eastern European music.

The highlight of the Klezmers' trip to the USSR was playing with the Phantom Orchestra, a Tblisi musical group, made up of Refuseniks and others who have been the target of officially sanctioned harassment and searches. Long term Refuseniks Isai and Grigory Goldshtein are founding members of the Phantom group. Another prominent member is Edouard Gudava, who was arrested in November on charges of hooliganism following a protest of his brother's detention by authorities.

The audience listened to a tape recording of one of the Phantom Orchestra's concerts which included classical and Western music, and ended with the Phantom group's favorite song, "Somewhere, Over the Rainbow."

The Boston based Klezmer group also entertained a Capitol Hill audience this past summer with a concert honoring the Phantom Orchestra on the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Accords. The event was co-sponsored by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission), the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and the Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry. Speakers included Senator Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY), Chairman of the Helsinki Commission; Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Co-chairman; Rep. Ben Gilman (R-NY) and Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA). ★

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At UCSJ's annual meeting in October, the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award was presented to Rep. Dante Fascell (D-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and former Chairman of the Helsinki Commission. (From l to r) Morey Schapira, President, UCSJ; Hinda Cantor, Chairperson, South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry; Rep. Fascell; and Stuart Eizenstat, UCSJ General Counsel.

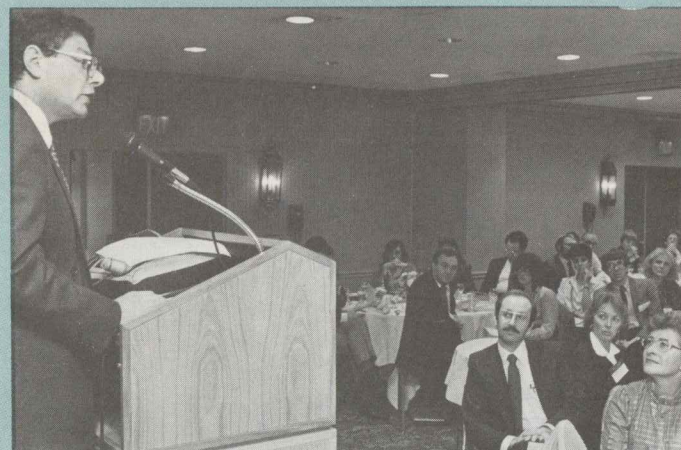
Rita Hauser, former representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, delivering the opening address to annual meeting attendees.



"Activism from the Pulpit" was the topic discussed by panelists (r to l) Rabbi Alan Meyerowitz, Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbi David Oler, Washington Board of Rabbis; Rabbi Ira Korinow, (Boston) Action for Soviet Jewry; and Rabbi Simcha Freedman, Miami, Florida.



Following the UCSJ annual meeting, demonstrators converged on the Soviet Embassy. Nine were arrested during the protest. (l to r) Sergei Broude (partially hidden) and Rabbi Ira Korinow, both of Boston, Rusty Frank of San Francisco, June Daniels of Des Moines, Dr. Konnilyn Feig of San Francisco and Yosef Abramowitz of Boston.



Professor Martin Gilbert, Oxford University Fellow and advisory Board member, sharing with attendees of the UCSJ Annual meeting his findings following his recent trip to the Soviet Union. Prof. Gilbert is the author of *The Jews of Hope: The Plight of Soviet Jews Today*.

(l to r) Morey Schapira, President, UCSJ, standing with panelists Dr. John P. Hardt of the Library of Congress, Dr. Murray Feshbach of Georgetown University and Dr. Robert O. Freedman of Baltimore Hebrew College. The topic of the panel discussion was "Soviet Politics, Domestic and Foreign."



A panel discussion on the "Current Situation of Soviet Jews" was introduced by Pam Cohen, Co-chairperson, Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry (l) and featured Dr. Konnilyn Feig, San Francisco State University (center) and Ed McWilliams, Department of State (r). Former Refusenik Alla Praisman was also a panelist.



UCSJ Executive Director Mark Epstein (r) speaking with Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA). Senator Grassley was the recipient of the 1984 Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award.

UCSJ ANNUAL MEETING

October 1985
Washington, D.C.

GRASS ROOTS INTERFAITH SUPPORT FOR SOVIET JEWS



Sister Ann Gillen, Executive Director of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry and UCSJ Advisory Board Member.

Nebraskans were urged to become "pioneers for human rights" by Sister Ann Gillen, Executive Director of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry. Sister Ann made the appeal during a visit to Omaha. The trip was part of a continuing campaign for active interfaith support for Soviet Jews, the cause for which the Chicago-based group was formed.

Sister Ann's visit was sponsored by UCSJ member council, the Omaha Committee for Soviet Jewry, as well as the National Council of Jewish Women, the Jewish Federation of Omaha and the Anti-Defamation League. Among those to whom she spoke were members of the clergy and leaders of interfaith organizations at a breakfast at the Jewish Community Center. ★



VOLLEYBALL 'DA, ANTI-SEMITISM 'NYET'

UCSJ member council, the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, aimed to enlighten the public during a U.S./USSR sports event that took place in San Francisco. During a volleyball game between the U.S. men's Olympic team and the Soviet men's national team, the human rights activists unfurled a large blue banner in front of the 9,000 fans which read: "VOLLEYBALL 'DA, SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM 'NYET'" and "FREE JEWISH PRISONERS," written in Russian. ★



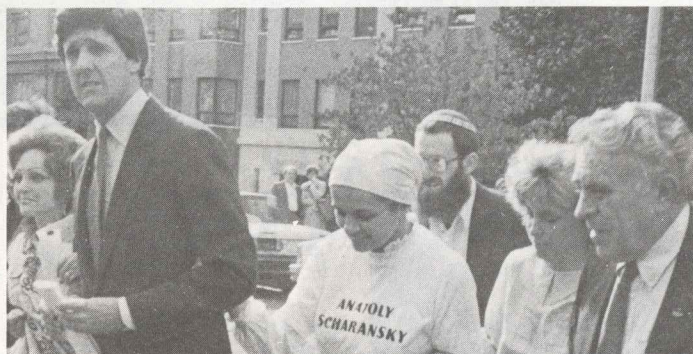
The Jews of Riga conducting a Yahrzeit (memorial) service at Rumbuli on the anniversary of the destruction of the Riga Ghetto. The photo was taken in the Spring of 1985.

REFUSENIK DATABANK

(Boston) Action for Soviet Jewry, under the auspices of the UCSJ national office, is developing a Refusenik databank—a computerized file which will allow instant access to information on more than 3,000 Refuseniks. Vital statistics found in each Refusenik's computerized file includes address, birth date, educational and occupational information, other household members, the status of emigration application and refusal, languages spoken, episodes of harassment and arrests, and relatives living outside the Soviet Union. In addition, each file will include a summary of descriptive, textual information on the Refusenik's situation.

Much of the baseline Refusenik data has already been entered into the computer's memory. The material is currently undergoing a cross-check by the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the London 35s, UCSJ's affiliate in Great Britain.

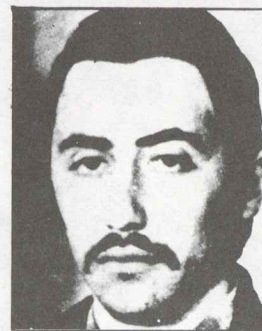
The Refusenik databank is expected to increase the efficiency of UCSJ's record keeping and information dissemination. An introductory session on the databank was held for attendees of the UCSJ annual meeting. The first printouts are scheduled to become available in February, 1986. Once the system comes "on-line," tapes for use with computerized systems or printouts will be distributed to UCSJ member councils and will be updated on a regular basis. ★



Linking arms in a solidarity walk to the Soviet Embassy are (r to l) Rep. Ben Gilman (R-NY); Pamela Kostmayer, wife to Rep. Peter Kostmayer (D-PA); Avital Scharansky; Senator John Kerry (D-MA); Annette Lantos, wife of Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA); and Katie Lowery (partially hidden), wife of Rep. Bill Lowery (R-CA). Mrs. Scharansky attempted to deliver to Soviet authorities a letter signed by 99 Senators, asking for the release of her husband, Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Scharansky. After her visit to Washington, Mrs. Scharansky flew to Geneva for the Summit, where she was arrested by Swiss police as she held a silent vigil down the street from the Soviet Mission.

REFUSENIK UPDATE

SIMON SHNIRMAN had charges against him dropped following vigorous protests from the West. Shnirman, who is serving a three-year sentence scheduled to end in January 1986, was in danger of an extended sentence following accusations of non-obedience to the administration—washing his clothes at the wrong time. His wife refuted the charges in a written statement in which she stated he was being punished simply for wanting to go to Israel. She also stated that he stopped washing his clothes immediately when he was informed that the action was against camp rules. For his "crime," he was placed in an isolation cell for five days.



Simon Shnirman



Alexei Murzhenko's daughters, Anna and Victoria, before Murzhenko's recent conviction.

ALEXEI MURZHENKO was sentenced to two years' imprisonment at his trial in October after being arrested in June for "parole violations." He had been convicted in the 1970 Leningrad trials for attempting, along with fourteen others, to get a plane and fly it out of the Soviet Union. Murzhenko was released in 1984, after serving a fourteen-year sentence. Write to his wife, Liuba, at:

USSR
Ukrainian SSR
Kiev
Zakrevskogo 36
Apt. 181
MURZHENKO, Liuba

EVGENY KOIFMAN of Dnepropetrovsk, received a sentence of 2-1/2 years working for the national economy in "chemistry." The investigator in his case has interrogated Evgeny's wife, who was being held in a psychiatric hospital. She was questioned after a doctor injected her with drugs, and she does not recall anything she said while under the influence of those drugs. The investigator ignored everything she told him after the drug had worn off. He then told her that Evgeny confessed and pleaded guilty. Evgeny had been arrested on the false charge of drug possession.

ALBERT BURSHTSTEIN was arrested on November 6 while at work. The People's Court of the Szerzhinsky Region of Leningrad sentenced him to fifteen days' imprisonment for "stubbornly demanding his exit to Israel." He was on a hunger strike from November 6th to 13th. Below is a copy of a letter from Alina Burshtein, Albert's 13-year-old sister.

To: The Honorable Mr. Gromyko

For a few years, my family has been trying to repatriate to Israel. In the summer of 1983, I, along with some other

children of our summer camp, met the American girl Samantha Smith. During the whole meeting, I tried to go to Samantha to talk to her but all my attempts were in vain. I want to understand why the girl from one of the most powerful states could criticize the policy of that state and didn't endanger herself and family for that? Why could she travel to the Soviet Union and back?

We have been attempting to leave Russia for five years. All five years we have been refused our essential rights. Then, my seriously ill brother decided to take a desperate step. He wrote you a letter asking to let us go to Israel, our

Occasion

☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah ☐ New Baby ☐ Get Well

☐ Wedding ☐ Memorial ☐ Thank You

☐ Anniversary ☐ Yahrzeit ☐ Birthday

☐ Holiday: _____ ☐ Other: _____

PLEASE SEND CARD TO:

Street _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____

NAME OF CONTRIBUTOR:

Street _____ Zip _____

City _____ State _____

☐ I am a UCSJ member.

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews • 1411 K Street, N.W. • Suite 402 • Washington, DC 20005 (202) 393-4117

Dzerzhninskogo 12
Health Minister at the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Communications should include Roald Zelichenok's name and should state he is from Leningrad.

LEONID VOLVOVSKY of Gorky was tried in October on a charge of anti-Soviet propaganda and was sentenced to three years in a labor camp. The evidence against him consisted of religious articles confiscated in a search and seizure at his home. His wife, Mila, was brought before the Gorky prosecutor and given a formal warning because of her three letters to internal authorities protesting the unjust treatment of her husband and the

anti-Semitism expressed in messages scrawled outside her apartment. One of the messages was signed by the KKK, and two others read, "Death to Jews" and "Prison for all Jews."

Friends and relatives, who made the journey to Gorky to attend the trial, were systematically removed from the courtroom. After they were ejected, they stood outside and sang Hebrew songs, loudly enough for the people remaining in the courtroom to hear.

Volvovsky has had a long history of harassment by the KGB. In 1980, his family's permit to reside in Moscow expired, forcing them, in effect, to live in exile.

Write to Ludmilla, Volvovsky's wife, and Kira, his daughter, at:

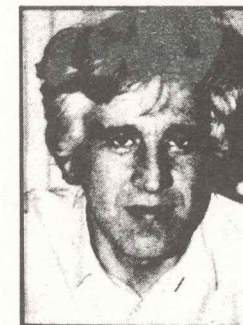
USSR
RSFSR
Gorky
Kriloova St. 14A, Apt. 115
VOLVOVSKY, Ludmilla

VLADIMIR BRODSKY, a physician and peace activist from Moscow, was tried on August 15 and sentenced to three years' imprisonment for "malicious hooliganism." Initially, he was placed in solitary confinement, and then transferred to the Krasnojvardeiske Prison. His wife, Dina, said that the prosecutor did nothing within the confines of Soviet law. The trial proceedings were held not in a courtroom but in a workmen's hall in a remote section of Moscow. In a tactical move by the authorities, Dina was asked to be a witness. (Witnesses cannot sit as observers.) She was never called upon to testify, however. Brodsky's sentence was appealed on September 5, but his original sentence of three years was upheld. He was on a hunger strike from July 15 until late September.

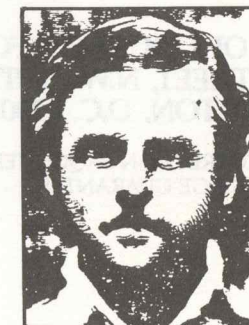
Brodsky has long been a target of the KGB for his membership in the unofficial peace group, "The Group to Establish Trust between the U.S. and the USSR."

Write to his wife, Dina at:

USSR
RSFSR
Moscow 117602
ul Aroshina 38/2, kv.343
ZISSERMAN, Dina



Vladimir Brodsky



Lazar Rulyov Kagan

LAZAR RULYOV KAGAN has been transferred within his labor camp and was permitted a visit with his wife, Svetlana. It was their first meeting in ten months. Although his health remains poor from injuries received while imprisoned, the improvement in the treatment he has received is seen as a direct result of Western pressure. ★



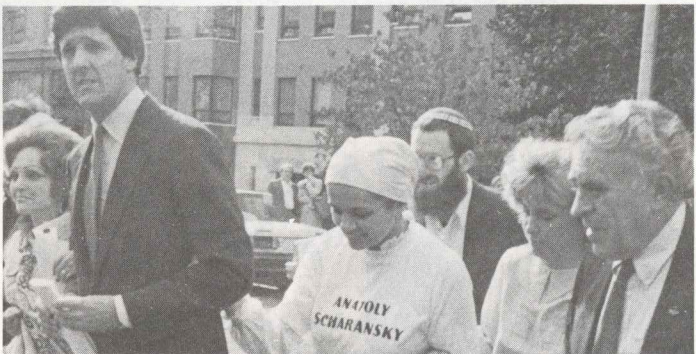
The Jews of Riga conducting a Yahrzeit (memorial) service at Rumbuli on the anniversary of the destruction of the Riga Ghetto. The photo was taken in the Spring of 1985.

REFUSENIK DATABANK

(Boston) Action for Soviet Jewry, under the auspices of the UCSJ national office, is developing a Refusenik databank—a computerized file which will allow instant access to information on more than 3,000 Refuseniks. Vital statistics found in each Refusenik's computerized file includes address, birth date, educational and occupational information, other household members, the status of emigration application and refusal, languages spoken, episodes of harassment and arrests, and relatives living outside the Soviet Union. In addition, each file will include a summary of descriptive, textual information on the Refusenik's situation.

Much of the baseline Refusenik data has already been entered into the computer's memory. The material is currently undergoing a cross-check by the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the London 35s, UCSJ's affiliate in Great Britain.

The Refusenik databank is expected to increase the efficiency of UCSJ's record keeping and information dissemination. An introductory session on the databank was held for attendees of the UCSJ annual meeting. The first printouts are scheduled to become available in February, 1986. Once the system comes "on-line," tapes for use with computerized systems or printouts will be distributed to UCSJ member councils and will be updated on a regular basis. ★



Linking arms in a solidarity walk to the Soviet Embassy are (r to l) Rep. Ben Gilman (R-NY); Pamela Kostmayer, wife to Rep. Peter Kostmayer (D-PA); Avital Scharansky; Senator John Kerry (D-MA); Annette Lantos, wife of Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA); and Katie Lowery (partially hidden), wife of Rep. Bill Lowery (R-CA). Mrs. Scharansky attempted to deliver to Soviet authorities a letter signed by 99 Senators, asking for the release of her husband, Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Scharansky. After her visit to Washington, Mrs. Scharansky flew to Geneva for the Summit, where she was arrested by Swiss police as she held a silent vigil down the street from the Soviet Mission.

REFUSENIK UPDATE

SIMON SHNIRMAN had charges against him dropped following vigorous protests from the West. Shnirman, who is serving a three-year sentence scheduled to end in January 1986, was in danger of an extended sentence following accusations of non-obedience to the administration—washing his clothes at the wrong time. His wife refuted the charges in a written statement in which she stated he was being punished simply for wanting to go washing that the was plac

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ALEX imprisoned in June the 1970s, then other Union. I fourteen

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Kiev
Zakre
Apt. 1
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fessed and pleaded guilty. Evgeny had been arrested on the false charge of drug possession.

ALBERT BURSHTAIN was arrested on November 6 while at work. The People's Court of the Szerzhinsky Region of Leningrad sentenced him to fifteen days' imprisonment for "stubbornly demanding his exit to Israel." He was on a hunger strike from November 6th to 13th. Below is a copy of a letter from Alina Burshtein, Albert's 13-year-old sister.

To: The Honorable Mr. Gromyko

For a few years, my family has been trying to repatriate to Israel. In the summer of 1983, I, along with some other

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children of our summer camp, met the American girl Samantha Smith. During the whole meeting, I tried to go to Samantha to talk to her but all my attempts were in vain. I want to understand why the girl from one of the most powerful states could criticize the policy of that state and didn't endanger herself and family for that? Why could she travel to the Soviet Union and back?

We have been attempting to leave Russia for five years. All five years we have been refused our essential rights. Then, my seriously ill brother decided to take a desperate step. He wrote you a letter asking to let us go to Israel, our homeland. He wrote that after receiving no clear reply he would, on November 7, embark on a work strike.

My brother, Albert, was arrested and imprisoned the day before the strike. But even in prison, he continues to struggle against unjustified physical arrest. He began a hunger strike to protest against illegal persecution by Leningrad militia.

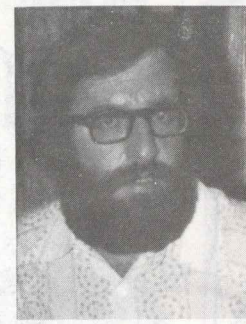
The illegal nature of the arrest is clear from the fact that the head of the District Court, Mr. Pulikof, has refused to show us the sentence.

I appeal to you, Mr. Gromyko, to help my brother and to help us to get permission to leave the USSR for Israel.

Signed: Alina Burshtein, November 7, 1985



Alec Zelichenok



Leonid Volvovsky

ROALD (ALEC) ZELICHENOK has been sent to a labor camp in the Komi Republic in the North. In June, Zelichenok was convicted of defaming the Soviet State and Social System and was sentenced to three years in a labor camp. He is in exceedingly poor health, yet is not permitted to receive any medication. The KGB is attempting to isolate Galia, his wife, by warning all those who have contact with her that Zelichenok's same fate awaits them.

Protests should be sent to:

USSR
RSFSR
Moscow
Dzerzhinskogo 12
Health Minister at the Ministry of Internal Affairs

Communications should include Roald Zelichenok's name and should state he is from Leningrad.

LEONID VOLVOVSKY of Gorky was tried in October on a charge of anti-Soviet propaganda and was sentenced to three years in a labor camp. The evidence against him consisted of religious articles confiscated in a search and seizure at his home. His wife, Mila, was brought before the Gorky prosecutor and given a formal warning because of her three letters to internal authorities protesting the unjust treatment of her husband and the

anti-Semitism expressed in messages scrawled outside her apartment. One of the messages was signed by the KKK, and two others read, "Death to Jews" and "Prison for all Jews."

Friends and relatives, who made the journey to Gorky to attend the trial, were systematically removed from the courtroom. After they were ejected, they stood outside and sang Hebrew songs, loudly enough for the people remaining in the courtroom to hear.

Volvovsky has had a long history of harassment by the KGB. In 1980, his family's permit to reside in Moscow expired, forcing them, in effect, to live in exile.

Write to Ludmilla, Volvovsky's wife, and Kira, his daughter, at:

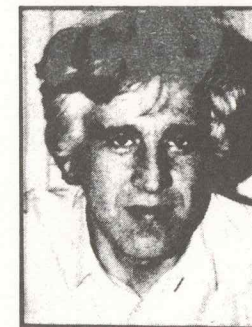
USSR
RSFSR
Gorky
Krilova St. 14A, Apt. 115
VOLVOVSKY, Ludmilla

VLADIMIR BRODSKY, a physician and peace activist from Moscow, was tried on August 15 and sentenced to three years' imprisonment for "malicious hooliganism." Initially, he was placed in solitary confinement, and then transferred to the Krasnojvardeiske Prison. His wife, Dina, said that the prosecutor did nothing within the confines of Soviet law. The trial proceedings were held not in a courtroom but in a workmen's hall in a remote section of Moscow. In a tactical move by the authorities, Dina was asked to be a witness. (Witnesses cannot sit as observers.) She was never called upon to testify, however. Brodsky's sentence was appealed on September 5, but his original sentence of three years was upheld. He was on a hunger strike from July 15 until late September.

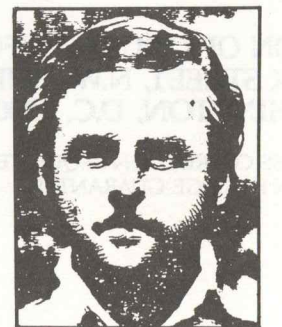
Brodsky has long been a target of the KGB for his membership in the unofficial peace group, "The Group to Establish Trust between the U.S. and the USSR."

Write to his wife, Dina at:

USSR
RSFSR
Moscow 117602
ul Aroshina 38/2, kv.343
ZISSERMAN, Dina



Vladimir Brodsky



Lazar Rulyov Kagan

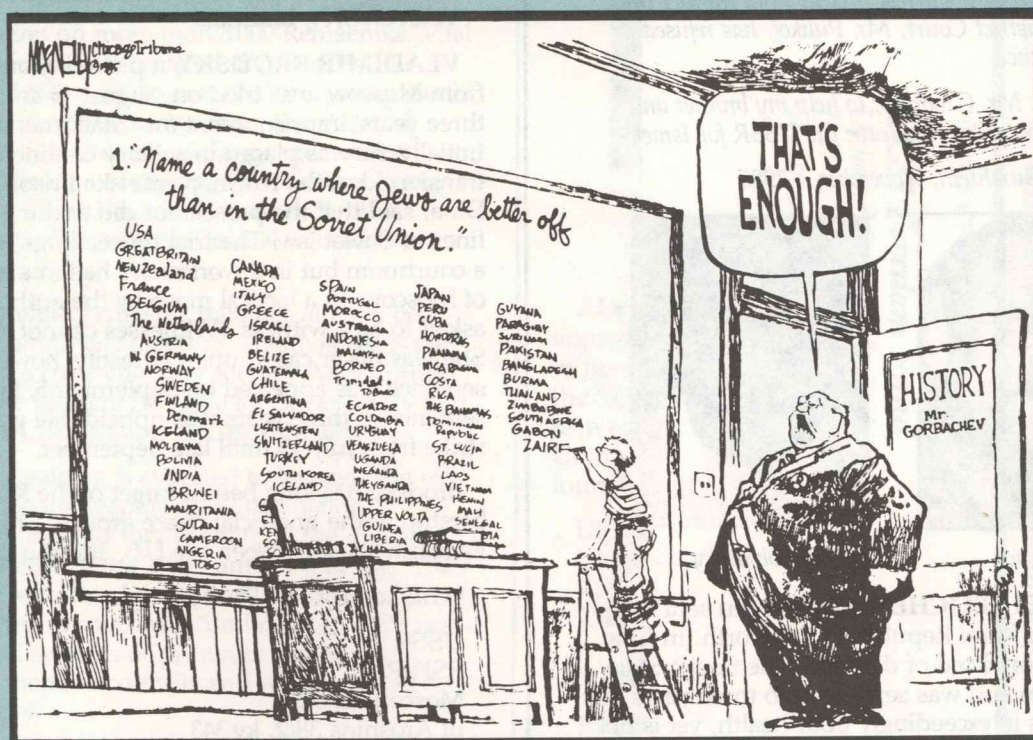
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was being held at the Northern Illinois University campus in DeKalb. The conference also marked the launching of a new nationwide program by which Hebrew schools and Jewish education classes "adopt" (regularly correspond with) a Refusenik. An enthusiastic round of applause greeted Epstein's announcement that the concert was being beamed, live, to the Soviet Union via "Voice of America."

Stuart Kelman, Chairman of CAJE, in greeting the 2,000 Jewish educators from North America, Europe, Israel, Australia and Africa, noted that "there is at least one group of Jewish teachers who cannot come here and learn and teach and celebrate. To them, the Jewish teachers of the Soviet Union, we dedicate this conference."★

Testimony was also delivered by congressional representatives and the members of the Spouses' Committee of 21, made up of spouses of Members of Congress who are committed to the cause of Soviet Jewry. The most moving testimony, however, came from Leonid Feldman, a former Refusenik who is now studying to be a Conservative Rabbi.

Ten years ago I was a teacher of scientific atheism, proving to Soviet children that there is no God. I was forced to begin each day of my life with the same words: 'Glory to the Communist Party! Long Live Lenin! The future of humanity is a Glorious Communist Paradise!' Today I am a religious Jew studying to be a Rabbi. Now, I begin every day of my life by thanking God for America and democracy. I am an example of what your work is all about. There are no words to express my gratitude to you.★



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