

EXODUS

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Senate Serves Note to Russ

72 Would Block Trade Pledge



HOUSE CALL — Upset with Soviet jurisprudence in the case of activist Mark Nashpitz, three U.S. Congressmen paid a personal visit to the Soviet Embassy in Washington on August 1. Rep. Alphonzo Bell (R-Cal), flanked by Jonathan Bingham (D-NY) and Earl Landgrebe (R-Ind), attempt to meet with Ambassador Anatoly

Dobrynin to discuss Nashpitz and Soviet Jewry in general. They could not pre-empt protocol, and spoke instead with First Secretary Vladimir Bykov, who told them: "The Soviets had made a big investment in the education . . . of would-be Jewish immigrants."

Soviet Police Intimidate Jews In Simchat Torah Celebration

Simchat Torah in Moscow was a disaster. Despite the blanket of fear which is beginning to fall even over the defiant Jews in the Soviet capital, "thousands and thousands" — according to a Moscow activist — tried to reach the Moscow Synagogue on Archipova Street. Numerous police and auxiliary police blocked their path; those who reached the steps of the synagogue were driven away. Traffic was diverted onto this normally quiet side street. Jews were only permitted to congregate inside the synagogue; 2,000 jammed in but spirits were low.

On Rosh Hashanah and Rom Kippur most accesses to the Moscow Synagogue were also blocked, as they had been on Passover. On Sept. 14, after the New Year incident, 100

Moscow Jews who witnessed the scene described their feelings in an appeal to world Jewish communities.

The grounds before the Synagogue were fenced off even before the Holiday. This reduced the area of the grounds considerably. Car traffic from all adjoining streets was deliberately diverted onto Archipova Street. As a result, at the very height of the prayers, a steady stream of cars passed through the narrow lane and prevented individuals leaving services to step off the sidewalk.

The militia's (police) conduct was an affront. Manipulating their loudspeakers, they tried to deafen persons standing near the Synagogue, paying no attention to old persons and small children. For the first time in many years, the lane near the Synagogue

was cordoned off on all sides soon after services began. Numerous Jews, including elderly men who had gone to synagogue for decades without impediment, could not get in this time.

Thus, a kind of temporary ghetto for the Jews was formed. It seemed to the authorities that it was not enough that only a small fraction of the Jews had been permitted to reach the synagogue. The militia and People's Guards (auxiliary police), forming double lines, began to drive these Jews, who had come to the synagogue while services were in progress, away from the synagogue into the neighboring streets, continuing to push them fur-

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Soviets Sentence Markman

The Supreme Court of the Soviet Russian Republic has upheld the sentence of Vladimir Markman, who was given a three-year prison term last Aug. for allegedly slandering the Soviet system. The court acted Oct. 6 in a 20-minute session at which it was to consider Markman's appeal. But it did not

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The U.S. Senate has served notice that it would block passage of a Soviet-American trade agreement unless Moscow rescinds heavy exit visa fees levied on Jews and others seeking to emigrate.

Seventy-one Senators joined Sen. Henry M. Jackson (D-Wash) in introducing the amendment that could effectively bar the implementation of key elements in the proposed accord and slow the momentum for further improvement in relations between the two countries, wrote Bernard Gwertzman in The New York Times.

The Senate measure came as Administration officials said they expected Leonid I. Brezhnev, the Soviet Communist party leader, to visit the United States next spring if President Nixon is re-elected. The Brezhnev trip

would return the visit Nixon made to the Soviet Union last May.

Trade Official Expected

Another Soviet official, Nikolai S. Patolichev, the Minister of Foreign Trade, will come to the United States "in the very near future," the White House said. He will presumably sign the trade accord.

Commerce and State Department officials, led by Secretary of Commerce Peter G. Peterson, have been negotiating intensely with Soviet officials here on the trade agreement and two companion measures.

These are the settlement of Russia's postwar Lend-Lease debts and a maritime accord opening up ports in each country to the other's shipping and guaranteeing that Soviet and American ships would each have at least a third of the cargo between the two countries.

Settlement of the lend-lease question, said to involve payment of some \$500-million plus interest over 30 years, is closely tied to the trade agreement, Administration sources have said.

In return for the Lend-Lease settlement, the United States, in the trade agree-

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Pair Attest Confinement of Kuznetsov

Arkady Voloshin and Lazar Abramovich Trakhtenberg, arriving in Tel Aviv earlier this month after serving prison terms in Kishinev, confirmed that Sylva Zalmanson Kuznetsov, the 28-year-old engineer serving a ten-year term ending in June, 1980, was transferred from Potma prison two weeks ago to solitary confinement for six months for aiding another Jewish women prisoner. Convicted of complicity in a sky-jacking plot, she has long been reported in worsening health, the JTA reports.

Voloshin, 27, and Trakhtenberg, 26, went on trial in Kishinev in June, 1971. They were convicted on "anti-Soviet propaganda" and sentenced to two-year terms dating to their arrest in Aug. 1970. Arriving with a large group of Soviet emigrants, they reported that the situation of Jewish prisoners in Potma, in Soviet Mordovia, is deteriorating because of the authorities' persistent "anti-Semitism." They said "clashes with the camp's management" over adequate medical care and normal routines "are a daily occurrence."

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'Torture' of Slepak Claimed

Greville Janner, member of the British Parliament, charged Oct. 10 that Moscow activist Vladimir Slepak has been "tortured" by subjection to "callous and inhuman" treatment while serving a 15-day sentence "obstruction," as reported by the JTA.

Reporting details of a tele

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Senate Response

We are heartened by the response of the U.S. Senate to the Jackson amendment. That bill would prohibit the U.S. from trading with countries which charge more than nominal exit visa fees. It is highly encouraging that out of 100 senators, 73 have joined Sen. Henry Jackson in responding to the crisis facing Soviet Jews.

(We are, however, somewhat disappointed that more members of the House did not see fit to do the same. The Vanik amendment has no where near the necessary number of co-sponsors.)

No nation should reward ransom with special trading privileges, special credits, or other economic windfalls. In its preliminary steps, the U.S. Senate has stood up for human rights and individual freedom.

Nevertheless, we believe that the American Jewish community and the Congress have taken the proper posture — no trade with Russia unless they rescind the ransom.

Although the Congress prepares to adjourn for the remainder of the year, their job and ours is not complete. The Jackson amendment in the Senate and the Vanik amendment in the House must be heard in committees and favorably dealt with on the floor.

In order for Soviet Jews to benefit from the congressional deliberations, more senators and congressmen must be urged to co-sponsor these bills. We must have greater support after the election than we had before the election.

We feel that the Soviets can be made to rescind the ransom if we hit them where it hurts — in the pocket-book. Nothing less will do. We will not be satisfied with ineffective "quiet diplomacy." We know what that has brought in the past, and we know what it will bring us in the future. Forthright and unequivocal action is what is needed, and we will be working with our friends in the Congress to insure that this is what we get in January.

The burden, as usual, will be with you. All of us will be called upon to give 100 per cent in the effort to persuade the U.S. to stop Soviet-American economic rapprochement as long as the ransom on Soviet Jews is demanded.

Remember Them

While attention is focused on the ransom for Soviet Jews, we cannot forget those who are now in prison in Potma and other labor camps throughout the Soviet Union. We must remind ourselves that Soviet Jews have sacrificed a great deal in order to realize their dream of "Aliyah."

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews has created the Prisoner of Conscience Medallions, which reminds us of our brothers who have been incarcerated by the Soviet regime. It has been termed "Jewelry with a message." (See story on page 7 for description of medallion.)

We urge you to obtain Prisoner of Conscience Medallions through your local council. Wear them. Give them to relatives and friends. The idea for which Soviet Jews give of themselves should never be forgotten.

LA City Council Reacts

Legislators in Los Angeles have asserted their position in the aftermath of reaction to the Soviet Union's imposition of the education tax. The Los Angeles City Council on Sept. 13 passed the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union has long fostered a policy of harassing Jews within its borders, especially those Jews seeking to emigrate to Israel; and,

WHEREAS, on August 3, the Soviet Union announced a new and cynical form of harassment in the form of exit fees up to \$25,000, which will make it virtually impossible for educated Jews to even have hope of leaving the Soviet Union; and,

WHEREAS, while the government of the Soviet Union claims that these fees are to be repayment for education received, which was paid for by the government, the fact is that most of those wishing to leave have already spent many productive years in the country, repaying the government many times over in services rendered; and,

WHEREAS, these fees have caused an international outcry of protest against the 'selling' of Jewish brains and bodies by the Soviet Union; and,

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union has now lost all pretense of a free state, as it places a monetary value on human right "for a price"; and,

WHEREAS, the free world has unanimously moved to condemn this persecution as a return to medieval bondage, and many political figures and state and local governments have publicly protested this horrendous act;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Los Angeles condemns the Soviet Union's policy of holding Jewish intellectuals captive and charging exorbitant and blatant "ransom" for their freedom, which is a basic right guaranteed by the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council urges the Soviet Union to cease harassment of all its Jewish citizens, allowing them to live where they please and practice their religion and their ethnic customs in peace.

Presented by
Joel Wachs
Councilman, 2nd District

Seconded by
Edmund D. Edelman
Councilman, 5th District

Seconded by
Marvin Braude
Councilman, 11th District



Resolution

While Congress is not likely to act on the Jackson and Vanik bills until early in 1973, a resolution has been brought to the House by Congressman Ben Rosenthal, and 67 co-sponsors, that could come to a vote during the current session. It calls upon the President to cease trade negotiations with any country restricting emigration.

The full text of the resolution follows.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress must speak out before adjournment on the Soviet plan to require emigrants — almost entirely Soviet Jews — to pay from \$5,000 to \$35,000 before they can leave the country. The Soviets call it an educational reimbursement but a more accurate word would be ransom.

There is no doubt in the minds of Soviet Jews — or in the minds of many Members of this body — that this Soviet proposal comes in the midst of increased United States-Soviet trade activity precisely because the Soviets are convinced we will not let human rights stand in the way of making a few dollars in wheat and other deals.

I am introducing today, along with 67 of my colleagues, a House joint resolution which will make it unmistakably clear that our Congress values human freedoms, including the right of emigration, more than any amount of new export business.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot ignore the steadily increasing incidents of harassment and oppression directed toward Soviet Jewry. These people have no schools of their own any longer, their synagogues are closed, they are allowed no cultural life, they have no opportunity to emigrate and be reunited with their families in the United States, in Israel, and elsewhere in the free world.

It is inappropriate to offer trade concessions, including most favored nation status, as long as the Soviets are holding these Jewish citizens for ransom. Surely the sale of wheat cannot be more important than human lives.

This Chamber voted 360 to 2 on April 17 to ask the President to take specific steps to aid Soviet Jews and to allow their free emigration. That measure, House Concurrent Resolution 471, which I introduced, was passed with the President's pending Soviet visit in mind.

It is time to remind the Soviets, and other who may have forgotten, that human lives and human freedoms cannot be bartered for trade or political convenience. Not only is such barter immoral and rightfully repugnant to our country's best traditions, but no arrangement — whether economic or political — has any lasting value when so purchased.

The Soviet Union must be brought to realize that our country will no longer tolerate such expediency. Congress, as the spokesman of the people, must make that conviction clear.

Nixon Preference: Diplomatic Channels

President Nixon met Sept. 26 with 32 American Jewish leaders to tell them that he was working through diplomatic channels over the plight of Soviet Jews who have been denied exit visas, reported the JTA.

According to Presidential Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler, Nixon informed the Jewish leaders, all of whom have publicly identified

Leaders Hit Nixon Tactic

Two Jewish leaders criticized the Nixon administration policy on Soviet Jewry that was presented by President Nixon Sept. 26 to 32 Jewish leaders meeting with him at the Waldorf-Astoria. Rabbi Arthur J. Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress, and Harold Ostroff, president of the Workman's Circle, criticized Nixon's decision not to make the plight of Soviet Jewry an issue of public "confrontation" but to deal with it through "diplomatic channels."

"The abhorrence our government feels over the persecution of Soviet Jewry is consoling but ineffective as long as it finds no expression in practical action," Rabbi Hertzberg asserted. "We do not see it as 'confrontation' for the President to make clear both to the American people and to the Soviet leadership that the U.S. will not grant major economic benefits to the Soviet Union while that country continues to blackmail Russian Jews seeking to emigrate."

Rabbi Hertzberg, who asked Nixon not to seek most favored nation status for the USSR until it retracts its exit fees for educated Jewish emigrants, added: "There is gross immorality to placing a prohibitive price tag on human freedom. It is incumbent upon our government not to acquiesce in that injustice but to resist it in all its dealings with the USSR."

Ostroff advised Nixon in a telegram that he was "shocked" at the view that "pressures" on the Soviet Union to eliminate exit fees on Jewish citizens "constitutes unwarranted 'harsh confrontation' and that the issue is not worthy of public debate."

Voicing additional "shock" at the administration's "opposition to withholding favored nation treatment until the ransom demands are withdrawn," Ostroff wrote that "gains for Soviet Jews have surely been abetted by nonpartisan and vigorous public activities on their behalf."

themselves as his supporters for re-election, that he does not want to "politicize" or "demagogue about" the matter or "inject it into public debate" or "engage in harsh confrontation," with either the Soviet leaders or Presidential campaign rivals.

Ziegler told newsmen at a press conference at the Commodore Hotel shortly after Nixon met with the Jewish leaders at the Waldorf-Astoria that an extensive public debate on the issue of exit visas would "only serve to be counterproductive." He added, in response to a question, that he meant counterproductive to Soviet Jewish interests. Asked if diplomatic channels were in fact being used, he replied: "The Soviet Union is aware of the United States view in this matter and I don't want to go any further."

The Presidential press secretary said that the Jewish leaders "expressed concern" about the imposition of heavy exit fees on educated Soviet Jews seeking emigration, but voiced "nothing but confidence" in Nixon's handling of the matter. Ziegler reported that Nixon prefers to deal with the exit tax matter through "diplomatic channels," and the Soviet leadership has been "aware of our views for some time," Ziegler continued.

The Jewish leaders attending included, Max Fisher, Dr. William Wexler, Samuel Rothberg, Mrs. Rita Hauser, Leonard Goldfine, Lawrence Goldberg, Jacques Torczyner, Rabbi Herschel Schacter, Rabbi Seymour Siegel, Meshulem Riklis, Rabbi Gilbert Klaperman, Herman Weisman, Rabbi Ronald Greenwald, Melvin Dubinsky, and Rabbi Solomon Sharfman.

Letter Urges Tougher Line On Soviets

Two spokesmen for American Jewry made public (Sept. 27) a letter to President Nixon demanding that the United States use its economic power to bring about changes in the Soviet Union's treatment of its Jewish citizens who wish to emigrate, as reported by the JTA.

The letter asked the President "to make known to Soviet leaders our country's inability to enter into new and close trade relationships" unless the Soviet measures against would-be emigrants "are stopped."

The letter, signed by Richard Maass, chairman of the National Conference on Soviet Jewry, and Jacob Stein, chairman of the Con-

(see page 8)



SINCHAT TORAH '71 — Jews gather in front of Moscow Synagogue during last year's Simchat Torah celebration. Across the street Soviet police keep watchful eye. During this year's Sim-

chat Torah celebration Soviet police played an even bigger role, attempting in various ways to disrupt annual holiday.

Visit to USSR

(This is the second half of an article that appeared in the October issue of EXODUS. Leonard W. Schroeter, a Seattle Attorney, was an employee of the Israeli Ministry of Justice from 1970 until earlier this year. Mr. Schroeter visited the Soviet Union to look into the status of Soviet Jewry after Presidents Nixon's trip.)

The Soviet Jewish leaders believe that the only hope of rescinding the tax is if, prior to the American elections, massive political and economic pressure can be mounted in the West. If this does not occur, they consider the chances of recession remote.

I will attempt to indicate as soberly and conservatively as possible the assessment given me of the gravity and danger of the situation facing Jews in the Soviet Union. I was advised both by American Embassy officials and serious non-Jewish students of the Soviet scene (most notably Valery Chalidze, a prominent leader of the Soviet Human Rights Committee, and to a lesser extent by Andrei Sakharov, the eminent Soviet atomic scientist and chairman of the Soviet Human Rights Committee), their belief that the Soviet climate for Jews is unusually perilous. The indication of these men to me was that the rage, frustration and distrust on the part of Soviet leadership towards Jews have become so extensive, that they cannot preclude the imminent possibility of measures far more serious than selective trials and existing repressive measures.

They feel that there is grave danger of government inspired and/or spontaneous physical attacks upon the Jewish population. When coupled with the expectation of increasing political trials, most notably of Vladimir Slepak and Viktor Polsky,

and others, the level of anxiety is extremely high. The basis of these beliefs is not only the recent intensive interrogation of Jewish leaders, but also recent newspaper articles. For example, the one in Moscow *Pravda* which, in reporting the three-year conviction of Ilya Glezer, ranked Glezer and his alleged crimes with activities of Slepak, describing both of them as being of the same character.

A view reiterated to me by Jewish leadership in all four cities was that they were presently living in the most difficult time they have faced in recent years. They attribute the difficulty of their situation to the recent visit of President Nixon. Prior to the visit there were wholesale preventive arrests and the imprisonment of Jewish leaders and the house arrest of scores of others. These men, not released until after the President's visit ended, were told that their arrests were occasioned by the President's trip. Also, the telephones of virtually the entire Jewish leadership were cut off and have not to this date been restored.

In addition, the jamming of broadcasts from foreign stations intensified massively; Radio Liberty has been heard by no one for many months; Kol Israel has been wholly jammed; and both VOA and BBC have been extremely difficult to hear. These efforts to seal off the Soviet population from any foreign contact have continued and been intensified. Widespread interrogation by the KGB, which commenced before the visit of President Nixon, has increased subsequent to it. The entire block across the street from the Moscow synagogue was razed because of the Soviet belief that the President might visit the synagogue.

In short, it is the conviction of the Soviet Jewish

Simchat Torah

(from front page)

ther along these streets. A thing like that had never been seen in Moscow — that groups of Jews should be driven along streets in full daylight, with no regard to shame, morality or respect for the most elementary principles and feelings.

"Thus, before our eyes and before the eyes of all those who have not lost the ability to see, on the eve of the 55th anniversary of the existence of a country, new methods of struggle are being tested in it, methods directed at suppressing our national feelings and dignity. It will be enough for a Russian lad to put on an armband with the inscription "People's Guard", and he will be permitted to drive Jews along the streets without feeling any shame for this."

Thousands Rally in Chicago

Nearly 6,000 persons rallied Oct. 1 in Chicago in behalf of Soviet Jewry in a torchlight parade sponsored by the Committee on Soviet Jewry of the Chicago Community Council of Jewish Organizations. The march began with 1,500 persons at the Chicago Loop Synagogue and continued to the Civic Center Plaza, where more than 4,000 others waited. This was the fourth annual such parade. Last year 3,000 attended, reports JTA.

Saul Silverstein, chairman of the Committee on Soviet Jewry, read a telegram from Sen. George McGovern (SD), the Democratic Presidential candidate, expressing "concern" for the "threat to human rights" posed by the "unconscionable ransom" levied on would-be Soviet emigrants. McGovern asked President Nixon to "end his silence" on the issue.

FROM RUSSIA WITH

By Anatole Shub

(Part two of a three part story that appeared originally in *Harpers Magazine*.)

Khrushchev's 20th Communist Party Congress in 1956 put an end to indiscriminate mass terror, and wide-ranging amnesties virtually emptied the camps of the political prisoners of Stalin's time. But the legacy of fear remained potent, and the late Fifties were fallow years for the dissidents coming out of the camps.

Vitaly Svechinsky, the KGB officer's son who had thought of escaping across the Turkish border, was released from labor camp in Kolyma in 1955 and returned home to Moscow to study architecture. But in five years there, he couldn't get accustomed to "normal" life in the Soviet capital. "There was no movement at all," he recalls, "neither in a democratic direction, nor in a Zionist direction. Just nothing." (As of 1960, only 9,000 Soviet Jews had applied to emigrate to Israel, most of them elderly people with relatives there.) In 1960, Svechinsky chose to go back to Kolyma as an architect; he thought he would feel more at home among the many ex-prisoners who had settled there.

His friend, Yefim Spivakovsky, the little economist who had disagreed with Ilya Ehrenburg in Stalin's day, was released from Kolyma in 1956 (by which time Ehrenburg was a leading "liberal"). Spivakovsky returned to Kharkov, but the difficulties of finding decent work and housing kept him "nonpolitical" for five years. It was only in 1961 that Spivakovsky began resuming contact with Zionist-minded friends in other cities, whom he had met either in the camps

(like Svechinsky) or during the wartime evacuation.

In Leningrad Sasha Gitelson, who had become a playwright, felt relatively satisfied with life "even though people were coming from the camps, people were going to the camps, and all sorts of stupid things were being said and done." Somehow, he thought, conditions were gradually improving, although he remembers being "sickened" when Khrushchev attacked the liberal intellectuals in the winter of 1962-63. "Even so, as long as I had the idea that things might get better, I could go on. By the end of the Sixties, of course, there had been such a reaction in every sphere that it all seemed senseless."

But prior to the reaction, in Krushchev's last years, there was real ferment: Yevtushenko's "Babi Yar" and Solzhenitsyn's *Ivan Denisovich*, foreign tourists coming, and foreign broadcasts no longer being jammed. These years also brought the incredible proliferation of *samizdat* or "self-published" underground literature (including, in 1963, a Russian translation of Leon Uris's *Exodus*). The last Krushchev years also witnessed the struggles in Kiev for the recognition of Babi Yar, and by Jews elsewhere for the recognition of Babi Yar, and by Jews elsewhere for the recognition of other sites of Nazi genocide — notably Rubuli outside Riga, and Punari near Vilnius.

Toward the end of 1965, a year after Krushchev's fall, Vitaly Svechinsky, out in Kolyma, "began getting the feeling that something might be starting to move." The rugged architect used to meet many Siberian scientists, and found that "the young generation was beginning to think for itself and even daring to speak up

openly—which didn't happen in our time."

But for intellectuals in the major cities, non-Jewish as well as Jewish, a chill new wind began blowing in February 1966, with the Moscow trial of the writers Andrei Sinyavsky (who is not Jewish) and Yuli Daniel (who is). The intellectuals' protests over this and subsequent trials gave birth to the so-called "Democratic Movement." Many Jews were active in that movement—but more importantly, without the democrats' pioneering, the later "Zionist" emigration movement might never have taken the forms it did.

In some ways (although it has neither a program nor an organization), the Democratic Movement most resembled the early struggles of the Reverend Martin Luther King. The Russian democrats believed in first setting a personal example, by overcoming their own fear of the KGB and showing others that protest was possible. Their strategy was "legalist": they based their protests on the Soviet Constitution, on the letter of existing Soviet law or of international charters like the U.N. Human Rights Declaration. And they sought, rather than shunned, publicity.

The democrats perfected the art of *samizdat* publication, ranging from brief protest petitions to the amazingly comprehensive *Chronicle of Current Events*, a bimonthly underground newsletter reporting arrests, trials, KGB searches, and the like from all corners of the U.S.S.R. Democrats in Moscow channeled such news to Western correspondents, who reported it abroad; foreign radio stations in turn broadcast the news to Russia

CHUTZPAH

sia at large--thereby enabling the democrats to reach millions of their fellow citizens.

Personal example, group protest, "legalist" strategy, "instant replay" through the Western press and radio—all these features of the Democratic Movement were to be emulated by the "Zionist" activists after 1969. However, it took two great shocks—the Mideast war of June 1967 and the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968—to galvanize the Jewish movement.

Out in Kolyma, Vitaly Svechinsky followed the Six Day War on Voice of America broadcasts coming in from Okinawa. He found great sympathy for Israel, and satisfaction at the Arab-Soviet defeat, among his non-Jewish colleagues. Precisely because the Soviet public was so cool to the Arabs, however, the official anti-"Zionist" campaign became ever more strident, with Brezhnev setting the tone by equating Zionism with Nazism. Predictably, Jews who had never been Zionists began turning toward Israel. At the end of 1967, Svechinsky decided that the days of waiting were over—the time had come for him to return from Kolyma to Moscow. There he helped organize a group of some two hundred Jews willing to struggle for the right to leave Russia.

In Kiev after the Six Day War, the underground *ulpan*, or Hebrew-school, movement started up. According to one man I interviewed, it began when an elderly scholar (a former political prisoner) taught the language to three young men, using a pre-1917 Hebrew Bible as his only text. Each of the three then went out to teach others, often in groups of ten.

Within a year, *ulpans* were sprouting up all over the country.

In Kharkov in mid-February 1968, Yefim Spivakovsky, who was working as an economist in an instrument factory, was suddenly summoned to the plant's iron-doored "Special Department" (or factory KGB branch). A KGB car had already come to the plant to pick up its chief engineer, accused of "subversive" activities. Spivakovsky, who had photos of Moshe Dayan as well as various *samizdat* manuscripts in his apartment, had been denounced to the KGB by a state-farm director with whom he had chatted at a seaside resort. The swoop was part of a nationwide crackdown on dissenters, in the wake of controversial trials of democrats that winter in Moscow and Leningrad.

The KGB interrogated Spivakovsky for three days at its downtown Kharkov headquarters, permitting him to go home each night. In the end, Spivakovsky struck a kind of deal. He promised to give up his "anti-Soviet"—that is, broadly oppositionist—activities, but firmly refused to renounce his "Zionist" hopes of going to Israel. The KGB interrogator accepted this distinction and closed the discussion with what Spivakovsky now believes was a hint of things to come. "We are studying your position," the KGB man said. "We will keep your desire in mind."

Here, in February 1968, was a sign that the Soviet policy on emigration to Israel might still be open to review. (A previous trickle of "family reunions" had been halted after the Mideast war.)

Family Letter

To All the Jewish Communities of Canada and America:

Dear brothers, sisters, mothers,

Thousands of kilometres of ocean and land are between us, but we know that you think about us, that our pain is your pain; our troubles are your troubles. In spite of the fact that you are far away, we always feel that you help us. We know about your existence and it is great support.

I am a Soviet Jew.. I am 45 years old. In the hard times of World War II, when the Nazis threatened to exterminate all the European Jews, at the age of 17 I was fighting with weapons in my hands against them. I have five medals from the Soviet government. And now, already for 9 months, mockery has prevailed upon me and my family, only because my wish to go to Israel, homeland of my people, to build our own national state, which has grown throughout the years, developed into an application to go there.

I was given a refusal. I did nothing against Soviet law. In the United Nations, the Soviet Union gave its acceptance to the Bill of Human Rights, to the International Convention for the liquidation of all forms of racial discrimination, and other humanitarian documents. Nobody in the USSR officially denies our right to leave for Israel, but in practice, when a Jew declares his wish to go to his historical motherland, he no longer has the protection of the law.

My family is suffering both spiritually, morally and physically. For the past five months neither my wife nor I have been

(see page 8)



APPEAL TO U.S. — Alexander Ger and his family are currently seeking help from their fellow Jews in the United States to help them emigrate to Israel. From left, are Roza Zaidman (Mrs. Ger's mother), Janna, Igor, Sofia and Alexander Ger.

'Blackmail'

Soviet Press Attacks McG

A Soviet commentator recently accused Sen. George McGovern of blackmail in supporting congressional efforts to block U.S.-Soviet trade agreements because of the new Soviet tax on emigrants, reports UPI.

M. Yevgenyev, writing in the weekly newspaper *Za Rubezhom (Abroad)*, said the Democratic presidential candidate had "clearly lost the sense of reality" and that his stand "smacks of petty politics."

The article was one of the few outright attacks made by the Soviets on McGovern.

Candidate Ignores 'Interference' Charge

Responding to an attack by a Russian newspaper that criticized his support of Congressional efforts to bar most-favored-nation status for the USSR, Senator George McGovern charged the Soviet Union with "crude interference in our American election."

"I will continue to speak out on this issue," McGovern said, "despite the objections of the men in the Kremlin — and in the White House — as long as the Soviet Union builds walls around its people, whether they are made of concrete or of rubles."

"The plight of Soviet Jewry cannot be buried under our efforts to expand trade and cultural contacts. It cannot be an afterthought to our efforts for world peace."

The criticism of Sen. McGovern came in an article by M. Yevgenyev, writing in the weekly newspaper *Za Rubezhom (Abroad)*, which accused the Democratic Presidential nominee of "blackmail" for opposing American trade concessions to the

18-Month Sentence For Khantsis

Yankel Khantsis, who went on trial Sept. 28 in Kirov on charges of "anti-Soviet slander," has been sentenced to 18 months in prison, JTA reported last week.

The report said Khantsis, who was subjected before the trial to "psychiatric treatment," had to be carried into court Sept. 30 when he began proclaiming that he wanted to die.

The defendant, who is in his 40s, was exiled for a time several years ago for "hooliganism" in connection with his attempt to enter the Dutch Embassy.

The newspaper said McGovern "says more or less that until the existing state regulation is changed by the Soviet Union — meaning the formalities regulating the order of emigration from the country — the United States should take steps against development of commercial and economical ties with the Soviet Union."

Blackmail doesn't cease to be blackmail even if it is employed not by street hooligans but by someone claiming to be a solid and respected politician who clearly has lost the sense of reality."

Soviets because of a new Soviet tax on emigrants.

In reply, Sen. McGovern declared: "The article's implication that my support of unrestricted immigration to Israel is politically motivated is an insult both to myself and the 71 U.S. Senators who stood with me on this issue."

"My support of Israel in the Congress goes back to 1957 — my first year of service. It has been consistent and will remain so."

In his statement, Sen. McGovern was sharply critical of President Nixon, who he said had "publicly urged us to be silent" on the issue of U.S. trade concessions to the Soviet Union.

"We learned in this century the danger of remaining silent while a totalitarian regime oppresses a religious minority," he declared, adding: "The Soviet Union's policy of imposing a tax on Jews seeking to emigrate, based on educational attainment and amounting to thousands of dollars per person, violates every standard of international morality."

"It is regrettable that President Nixon has not joined in opposing it."

Sen. McGovern noted that "the Soviet ransom charge violates the USSR's own solemn international commitments," as contained in three United Nations treaties which it signed guaranteeing the right of emigration.

"I have welcomed the recent steps toward detente and increased cooperation with the USSR. But if the Soviet Union is genuinely interested in promoting improved relations with the U.S., it will fulfill its treaty obligations by lifting the restrictions against Jews who seek to emigrate."

"And it will restore the cultural and religious rights, now denied to Soviet Jews,

(see page 8)



MOCK CEREMONY — Regina Bublil stands in for Judy (Silver) Shapiro during mock ceremony held this summer in San Francisco. Judy, who was unable to enter the Soviet Union to marry Gavriel in a civil ceremony (the only kind

recognized in the USSR), has been touring the U.S. telling of her plight. She has been continually denied entry into Russia to visit Gavriel, who has been detained — and imprisoned — by police on various charges.

World Reacts to Soviet Education Tax for Emigres

From the first public announcement of the Soviet education tax, reaction came swift. The following are just a few of those responses:

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11 — B'nai B'rith reported it has asked that Presidential advisor Henry Kissinger "vigorously protest" the Soviet Union's "exorbitant exit tax" against educated Soviet citizens seeking to emigrate. In a wire to President Nixon, David M. Blumberg, president of B'nai B'rith, proposed that Dr. Kissinger's consultations in Moscow be used to convey the United States' distress over the tactic of taxing a would-be emigre as much as \$30,000 depending on the extent of his "free education" in the Soviet Union.

LONDON, Sept. 4 — Over 50 leaders of world Jewry meeting here denounced Soviet imposition of an education levy on Jews seeking to leave Russia, and determined not to give in to this blackmail.

An official statement issued by the delegates declared that: "The leadership of Jewish communities throughout the world unequivocally condemns the newly imposed ransom. We reject any acceptance of this evil action and pledge ourselves to support Soviet Jews in their attempt to emigrate freely."

COPENHAGEN, Sept. 13 — French Socialist Party leader Francois Mitterrand told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he planned to go to the Soviet Union even

though his presence was unwanted there because of his support for Soviet Jews seeking emigration visas. Mitterrand, who is visiting Denmark for Common Market talks with Premier Gens Otto Krag, addressed a press conference here. He refused to comment further on his position regarding the exorbitant visa fees Soviet authorities demand from educated Jews seeking to emigrate.

NEW YORK, Sept. 24 — Fourteen Nobel Laureates have denounced the Soviet decree imposing a head tax on educated Jewish citizens who seek the right to leave the USSR, according to the Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry. The committee, which claims a membership of 6000 academicians representing 200 campuses in this country, reported that the Nobel Laureates signed a statement which condemned "the massive violation of human rights" implicit in the head tax policy "and its burdensome consequences for the scores of thousands of people who have openly expressed their desire to leave the USSR."

ISRAEL, Aug. 22 — The Organization for Newly Arrived Soviet Professionals in Israel sent cables to U.S. President Richard Nixon and to the Democratic candidate for the presidency, Senator George McGovern, urging their "immediate intervention" in the Soviet Government's imposition of "cruel financial restrictions" on Soviet Jewish profes-

sionals wishing to leave for Israel.

A copy of the cable to Sen. McGovern was also sent to Sen. Fred Harris. It was signed by Dr. Miron Sheskin, chairman of the organization.

The text of the cables was nearly identical, and declared that the sums demanded of Soviet professional people — up to 19,000 rubles allegedly to refund the state for their free academic education — amount to their salaries for a total of 10 years. In effect, the cables said, this means closing the gates to emigration by professionals, who form a considerable number of all Soviet Jews coming to Israel.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 22 — Rep. Abner J. Mikva (D-Ill.) and more than 30 other members of the U.S. House of Representatives have issued a formal protest to the Soviet Union for its treatment of Soviet Jews.

In a letter, delivered to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, the Congressmen urged the Soviet government to stop the harassment of Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to Israel and, they said, "Allow these people and their families to leave the Soviet Union in peace."

The Congressmen cited 24 specific cases of harassment involving Soviet Jews, ranging from imprisonment to disconnecting their telephones so they could not talk to friends outside the Soviet Union.

Writer Cites Tax 'Stories'

Moscow Journalist Victor Perelman, who has been persisting in efforts to settle in Israel despite official refusals and extreme harassment, wrote the following story recently under the headline: "A Cruel Choice," as reported in *Jews in the USSR*.

In this hour no single person who wishes to live in peace with his conscience can remain indifferent. There has come into force a law that confronts Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate to Israel with a tragic choice: to renounce their right to live with their own people or, agreeing to being placed in the position of mediaeval slaves, to wait passively for the hour when they will be ransomed. I am not discussing the legal aspect of this statute; its juridical absurdity is obvious. I am not concerned here with the moral aspect of this statute either; what can be more immoral than trade in living human beings? I simply want to state some facts in order to try to show the effect of the new law.

One of the first families to be affected by it was that of the Moscow artist, Lev Syrkin. By the will of fate he, his wife and their three children found themselves cut off from his parents and his only brother, who went to Israel a year ago. After he received an exit permit and sold all his property, he was summoned to the OVIR and told to pay another 14,000 roubles as payment for the higher edu-

cation which he and his wife had received many years ago.

It is doubtful if anyone could more graphically describe the situation created than Syrkin himself, who applied to the USSR Ministry of Finance with a request that his family be released from this tax. Syrkin said: "I do not have the money that you demand from me. But some property still remains in my house. Take the keys of my apartment, I won't go into it. Just bring my children out, give me a thermos with milk for the baby so that there should be food to give him until we get to the steps of the plane, and I shall go today, immediately. What sense is there in your keeping us back? Anyhow, I have nothing else." This request was turned down.

A similar request was made to the Ministry of Finance of the USSR by an inhabitant of Riga, Genri Iosifovich Finberg. On June 22, 1941, when he was the chief accountant of the Latvian Office of the State Bank, he took out from besieged Riga valuables for many millions, paying for this with the life of his mother and his sister, whom he did not manage to save. To this very day in the archives there is the German leaflet reading 'The black Yid Finberg transmitted to the Soviet Authorities riches belonging to the Latvian people.' Now that he has reached the age of 73, af-

(see page 8)



PURGE REMEMBERED — Several hundred attended the Night of the Murdered Poets at Congregation Beth Sholom in San Francisco in October. Officiating were, from left Mark Linenthal, Leonard Wolf, Rabbi Saul White, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Sholom; Laurence

Goldberg, chairman of Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco; and Joseph Witkower, who read from the words of the martyred poets who were killed 20 years ago during the Stalin purges.

Memorial Held For Purged Jews

A crowd of 400 attended a program in memory of the execution of the 24 Jewish poets, writers and intellectual public figures in the Soviet Union 20 years ago at Congregation Beth Sholom in San Francisco, as reported in the San Francisco Jewish Bulletin.

The Night of the Murdered Poets was sponsored by the Northern California Board of Rabbis and the Jewish Com-

munity Relations Council of San Francisco, Marin and the Peninsula and was held on the holiday Simchat Torah.

The introduction was given by Rabbi Saul White of Beth Sholom and was followed by readings from the works of the martyred poets in English by Mark Linenthal, director of the poetry center at California State University of San Francisco and in Yiddish by Joseph Witkower.

A Hebrew melody was rendered by David Schneider on the violin, accompanied by Claire Friedling on the piano.

Dirge, a poem written by Leonard Wolf, a professor in the English Department at Cal State was read by him, followed by the singing of "Tell Me Where Can I Go," by vocalist Linda Reich.

El Mole Rachamim was chanted by Cantor Barry Reich.

Underground Tie-Line

Belau Committed

Activist Ilya Belau has been committed to what Moscow Jews call "the first suburban madhouse." They have also reported that the militia has been told to send activists to insane asylums even before court rulings.

Lithuania's Only Shochet Dies

The only shochet (kosher slaughterer) in Soviet Lithuania died a few days before Rosh Hashana. There is nobody to replace him. He is identified as "Reb Yaacov."

KGB Threatens Four

Four young Jews in Odessa, who sent a telegram of protest against the arrest of eleven Jews at a memorial ceremony in Babi Yar, have been summoned by the KGB. The KGB offi-

(see page 7)

UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWRY

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Union of Councils Addresses

Western Region

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Harold B. Light, chairman, Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry, 625 Chener St., San Francisco, Calif. 94131 (415) 585-1400

Si Frumkin, chairman, Southern California Council for Soviet Jews 8640 W. 3rd St., Los Angeles, Calif. 90048 (213) 275-1879 or 747-3708

Zev Yaroslavsky, chairman, California Students for Soviet Jews 900 Hilgard Ave., Los Angeles Calif. 90024 (213) 474-1531 or 879-2100

Dr. Samuel I. Ginsberg, chairman, San Diego Council for Soviet Jewry, 4079 54th Street, San Diego, Calif. 92105

Kenneth Levin, chairman, Orange County Commission on Soviet Jews, 11412 Stanford Ave, Garden Grove, Calif. 92540

Central Region

Dr. Lewis Rosenblum, chairman, Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism, 14308 Triskett Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44111 (216) 234-3755

Lee Horvitz, chairman, Pittsburgh Voice for Soviet Jewry, 315 S. Bellefield, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213

Esther Rabinovitz, coordinator, Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, 220 State St., Chicago, Ill. 60604 (312) 939-6427 or 764-3259

Student Council for Soviet Jews, Jewish Student Federation, York University 4700 Keele St., Downsview 463, Ontario CANADA

Barry Silver, chairman, Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jewry, 6109 Ridgeacres Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45237 (513) 351-1801

Kenneth Levin, chairman, Orange County Commission on Soviet Jews, 11412 Stanford Ave, Garden Grove, Calif. 92540

Eastern Region

Moshe Brodetsky, chairman, Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry, 2850 Quebec, N.W.

Arthur W. Burke, chairman, Niagara Frontier Council for Soviet Jewry, 210 Voorhees Ave., Buffalo, N.Y. 14214

Len Shuster, chairman, Greater Philadelphia Council for Soviet Jews, P.O. Box 12486, Philadelphia, Pa. 19104

Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, 3460 Stanley Street, Montreal 112, Quebec CANADA

Inez Weissman, chairwoman, Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, 144 N. Franklin Street, Hempstead, New York 11550

Underground Tie-Line

(from page 6)

cial, Krasnov, warned them that their telegram was "slanderous." He threatened them with the prospect of receiving from three to ten years imprisonment.

Shapiro Begins Job

Gavriel Shapiro began his new job on Oct. 3. Previously an engineer, he now works carrying between 100-200 lbs. of car parts in a Moscow auto-parts plant.

Babi Yar

On Sept. 27 a group of Kiev Jews delivered a message to the city council asking permission to place wreaths on the graves at Babi Yar on Friday, Sept. 29. A municipal official who gave his name as Zarnetzki summoned the signatories of the letter to his office. They were informed that they could place the wreaths provided the word Jew did not appear on them and the colors blue and white were not used on the ribbon. He also insisted that there must be no speeches at the memorial meeting. By 7 p.m. on Friday about 2,000 Jews had gathered at Babi Yar. The car which contained the wreaths was stopped by the police and the ribbons torn off. The ceremony then continued, but as soon as the wreaths had been laid the police dispersed the crowd. The two men who had been in the car, Alexander Feldman from Kiev and Lazar Abatovski from Kishinev, were detained for a few hours and warned that if they continued with "such behaviour" they would have to face the consequences.

Mathematician Looses Job

Boris Rubinshtein of Leningrad, a Candidate of Physio-Mathematics who has published more than 20 scientific works, was dismissed from his work in December last year when he expressed a desire to go to Israel. Rubinshtein sustained injuries in 1942 while fighting with the Russian army against the Germans. Married, with two children, the 47-year-old mathematician made a formal application for an exit permit in May this year. The following month, June, his application was turned down.

Chemist Still Awaits Visa Answer

Benyamin Shapira of Frunze, a Candidate of Chemistry, has been struggling for a long time to get to Israel. At the beginning of September he was received by the director of OVIR in Moscow. He was not given an outright rejection of his application for an exit permit. It was intimated that perhaps he might be given a definite answer within a few weeks.

Bolivian Government Protests

On Sept. 5 the Bolivian Government issued a statement of "great concern. . . in connection with the new attempt against the rights of man in regard to Jews residing in the USSR."

The statement designated charges imposed on Soviet Jews seeking to leave the USSR as "reminiscent of the times when slavery was the source of huge profits. . . The payment, demanded from Jews for the right to leave Soviet territory and to begin a new life in their historical Homeland in Israel, cannot be accepted by a world that is proud of its spiritual and scientific achievements. This 'slave tax,' which is a clear violation of paragraph 13 of the General Declaration of the Rights of Man, must arouse a natural protest in the consciousness of the world."

The Government of Bolivia expressed its hope "that international organizations will exert all their influence so that the USSR should, as soon as possible, put an end to this law. The Government of Bolivia will also transmit appropriate instructions to its diplomatic representation in Moscow in order to state its wish that Soviet Jews should be permitted free emigration in strict accordance with solemnly signed international agreements."

The statement concluded by stressing the purely humanitarian considerations guiding the Bolivian Government in raising the matter and urged the USSR not to enact the law and thus "earn the gratitude of the civilized world."

Simchat Torah Rally In N.Y.

An estimated 3,000 students and adults danced, sang and listened to a number of speakers in a Simchat Torah "Festival of Defiance" for Soviet Jews in Manhattan's Central Park Sept. 27, according to reports from the JTA.

Despite a heavy rain, few participants left, said spokesmen for the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

The SSSJ and the Young

Israel Intercollegiate Council, in cooperation with the Greater New York Conference on Soviet Jewry, staged the event as part of a continuing campaign to force the U.S. government to cancel a pending \$750 million wheat sale and other planned steps toward American-Soviet trade expansion, unless the USSR cancels its heavy exit fees for university-educated Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate.

Schroeter Journey

(from page 3)

leadership that the President's visit was a disaster for them. They expressed the opinion that the United States seemed more interested in selling corn than in protecting human rights and individual freedom.

It is their view that it is within the power of the President of the United States to indicate in the sharpest possible terms to Soviet leadership, the view that Soviet behavior has seriously jeopardized amicable American-Russian relations; and that the new tax imposition, is both embarrassing to the President and destructive of any hope of detente.

The Jewish community of the Soviet Union urgently requests that economic boycott be imposed by the business communities of the West against the Soviet Union in the belief that this will demonstrate more clearly than any pronouncements that the imposition of the educational levy is economically counterproductive for the Soviet Union. They point to the experience of Czechoslovakia as an example of the indifference of Soviet leadership to a high moral tone. They hold that a policy of economic retaliation is far more significant than political pronouncements.

Education Tax Applied

Soviet Jewish sources reported that Prof. Herman Branover of Riga, the prominent Orthodox Jewish scientist, has been granted an exit visa after several rejections, but has been assessed 30,000 rubles (\$37,500) for it under the new fee plan. Another Riga activist, Mikhail Ulinman, whose family is already in Israel, has been billed 8000 rubles (\$10,000).

(In New York, sources said Simon and Yevgenia Bernstein of Kiev have been assessed 16,000 rubles (\$20,000) each for visas. Upon payment they will be allowed to go to Israel with Mrs. Bernstein's 10-year-old daughter by a former marriage, Irena. The child's father, David Bat, had sued the Bernsteins to prevent Irena from being taken out of the USSR. There was no explanation of why the Bernsteins have been allowed to leave before settlement of the case.

(New York sources also reported that, according to Kiev Jews, there has been "absolutely no letup" in the imposition of the new exit fees, despite some reports to that effect. The sources added that a number of Soviet Jews have been refused visas in recent days.)

Waldheim Angers Russ

for "self-determination through repatriation to the State of Israel."

In updating the appeal, the new signers said the imposition of heavy emigration fees had put Soviet Jews in "a tragic situation" in that "they have no money for the payment of the fantastic sums imposed on them" Calling the decree "inhumane and unjustly extortionist," the petitioners asked Waldheim to put the issue on the Assembly's agenda and to "raise the voice of protest." A United Nations spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency: "He (Waldheim) has already put a special item (terrorism) on the agenda and I doubt that he would put another one on."

Visa Witheld

The exit visa of a young Riga Jew was taken from him by the government two days before he was to leave the Soviet Union and after he had purchased his airplane ticket out.

Rafael Rabiner, reports the Toronto Student Council for Soviet Jews, received his exit visa with the stipulation that he leave the USSR by Sept. 14. After he paid his 900 rubles (for exit permission and renunciation of his Soviet citizenship) and arranged all the required documents, he went to Moscow to buy his airplane ticket. There he received a ticket for Sept. 16, two days after his permission would have been expired. He was told there were no tickets for earlier flights. He bought the ticket and went to the visa office to extend his permission two days. In this office all his documents were taken away, including his exit visa. One hour later he was told that they wouldn't be returned and that his exit visa was cancelled "on account of your education."

Afterwards he was called to the KGB and there was told that since he had no passport or other documents, the authorities could do what they wanted with him, even to exile him to Kazakhstan. They advised him to go to the militia office and ask for his Soviet passport back, but he refused because such an act would be interpreted as a renunciation of his desire to go to Israel.

It is probable that Rabiner's treatment is connected with the fact that a few days ago a Jew was arrested in the center of Riga, and on him was found a letter of protest against the new academic tax. The protest letter also included Rabiner's signature. Rabiner's sister, Julia Libman, came to Israel with her family a few months ago, after a prolonged struggle.

Youth Gets 'Medallion'

B'nai Israel Congregation (Wash., D.C.) presented its first Prisoner of Conscience Medallion to a bar mitzvah, Steven Holtz, at a service on Oct. 8. The medallion, a gold Star of David with "Let My People Go" inscribed in English and Hebrew on the front and "Prisoner of Conscience, Hillel Butman" inscribed on its back was presented to the bar mitzvah by Rabbi Henry Segal as a gift from the synagogue's Soviet Jewry Committee. Similar medallions will be presented to each B'nai Israel bar and bat mitzvah throughout the year.

In presenting the medallion, Rabbi Segal reminded the bar mitzvah that the Congregation had adopted Hillel Butman as its prisoner, had dedicated an empty chair in his honor and had sent letters and packages to Butman and his wife.

College Sets 'Simulcast'

The voices of Soviet Jews will be included in a radio "simulcast" to be broadcast nationally on Nov. 30, the first night of Chanukah.

The pre-recorded program is being handled by Modi'in Productions, a non-profit organization of Brandeis University students working "to promote awareness throughout the United States on the plight of Soviet Jewry."

"We will commemorate the world's first struggle for religious freedom by re-dedicating ourselves to that struggle which Jews are again waging on behalf of all religions today in the Soviet Union. With the impact of a nationwide broadcast we hope to say with renewed meaning 'a great miracle happened here'."

Emigration Flow Remains Static

The Soviet visa education tax has altered the character of immigration but not affected its volume, reports a Jewish agency official. Yehuda Dominitz, deputy director of the Agency's immigration department, said that 55,000 newcomers are expected in Israel by the end of this year, the highest number since 1963. He said the increase was due largely to the influx of Soviet Jews whose numbers are expected to be double last year's.

Jewish Agency Treasurer Leon Dultzin told members of the United Jewish Appeal Study Mission in Tel Aviv that the Soviet visa fees affected no more than 20 percent of the potential emigrants. "We expect some 50,000 Russian Jews to come

Tougher Line

(from page 3)

ference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, was made public following an "emergency meeting" at B'nai B'rith headquarters at which the deteriorating situation of Jews in the Soviet Union was discussed. It followed hard on statements made in New York by Presidential press secretary Ronald Ziegler that President Nixon told a group of Jewish leaders that he was working through "diplomatic channels" to help Soviet Jews.

The letter to Nixon urged the President "to make known to us, to all American people and to the Soviet leadership your determination not to recommend most favored nation treatment for the Soviet Union nor to qualify the Soviet Union for large-scale loans or credits so long as it continues its unconscionable demands upon a defenseless minority." The letter stated that the situation of Soviet Jewry had "worsened" since the President's summit visit to Moscow last May.

Kuznetsov

(from front page)

Trakhtenberg and Voloshin told how they and two other Jewish prisoners conducted a Hebrew ulpan without books in that language, as the five books allowed each of them contained no Hebrew. They said the ulpan was conducted from memory. They stated that Soviet Jews' desire for aliyah had reached massive proportions, commenting: "Since our release we have visited some friends and seen in the various cities long queues near the Ovir (visa) offices of Jews desiring to come to Israel." Among those welcoming the two ex-inmates were Trakhtenberg's wife and Voloshin's fiance; the latter came to Israel only a few months ago.

to Israel," he said, adding that the absorption cost of each family would amount to about \$35,000.

Dominitz said that a total of 41,000 immigrants arrived in Israel between Jan.-Sept. of this year. He said that if anything, the visa fees spurred the departure of Jews from the USSR. People not subjected to the fees for holders of academic degrees are advancing their departures for fear that if they delay, the fees might be extended to them, the official said.

Dominitz reported that immigration from North America has not picked up as was anticipated. The peak year was 1970 when 9,472 immigrants arrived from North America. That figure has not been matched since, he said. The North American olim numbered 8,122 last year and a similar number is expected this year, he said.

Dominitz said the biggest decline was from France. He said 5,000 immigrants arrived from there in 1970, 3,300 last year and barely 2,500 are expected this year. Immigration from Asia and Africa has reached a new low — 7,000 last year and a probable 6,000 this year, he said.

Perelman

(from page 6)

ter 48 years of work, it transpires that the Jew Finberg is still in debt to the Soviet authorities for no less than the sum of 17,000 roubles, which he must somehow acquire in order to pay for the departure of his family.

And finally here is another fact which surely cannot fail to shock the world. A 79-year-old inhabitant of the Israeli town of Arad, Efim Samoilovich Linkin, applied to one of the clinics for transplantation of inner organs offering to sell his kidney in order to raise the 11,500 roubles demanded to ransom his son and his son's family from Moscow.

It may be asked: "Why then are you idle when your brethren are in trouble? Is it possible that we, the Jews, cannot collect several tens of thousands of roubles to help these doomed people?" But reason obliges me to restrain myself; reason calls for remaining cool; not only because the ransoming out of a few sufferers may become the tragedy of thousands for whom money will no longer be available but also out of entirely different considerations. The pragmatic world adapts itself much too quickly to evil to permit us to abet it. After paying the ransom for one person, we risk finding ourselves in the captivity of events with the danger that trade in human beings will become a customary practice in the 20th century If today the world remains silent, tomorrow it may already be too late.

New Block For Emigres

Jewish activists in Moscow say that Soviet authorities have devised means by which they can implicate relatives of emigration applicants in "anti-Soviet conspiracy," it was reported by Dr. David Korn, chairman of the Soviet Jewry Committee of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. Under the new procedures applicants now need statements from parents or closest relatives giving "permission" for emigration, Dr. Korn said.

The new rule causes parents and relatives to "also be considered undesirables" subject to loss of jobs, apartments or education, thus seeming to "place more hardship on those who remain than on those who apply to leave, so as to stop Jewish emigration completely," Dr. Korn said.

Slepak

(from front page)

phone conversation with Slepak, Janner said he would seek the aid of Foreign Secretary Sir Alec Douglas-Home, the International Red Cross, the United Nations Human Rights Commission and Amnesty International "in the hope that when the nature of this sort of torture is revealed to the world, Soviet authorities will be shamed into discontinuing its use."

Slepak, who was arrested Sept. 19 during a hunger strike to protest the new emigration fees, said he was first kept in a cell at the police station for three days without bed or blanket, Janner reported. Then, he said, the activist was taken to Metroshka Yeshena prison and kept in an enclosure where, according to Slepak, "there was no room to sit down, let alone lie down" and he "could not even lean against the wall because the walls were covered with spikes and nails protruding from the cement."

Slepak described this enclosure as "a box of one meter by half a meter," which is only 3.3 feet by 1.6 feet. The activist said further that during four subsequent days in an unheated windowless cell during "zero" weather, "my family were not permitted to bring warm clothing." He spent eight days in another cell, he said, received hot food "only every other day."

Markman

(from front page)

permit Markman to present his appeal and allowed no one to attend the session apart from Markman's wife, Henrietta Kisina. The court, however, did dismiss a minor charge of "hooliganism" against Markman.

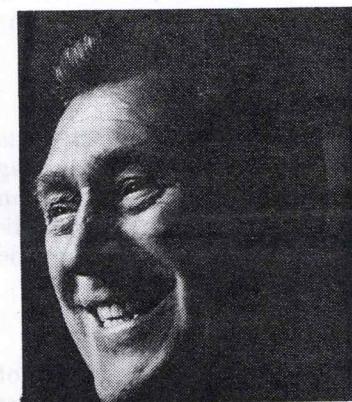
Senate Serves Note

(from front page) ment, would extend credits and credit guarantees through the Export-Import Bank and would pledge to seek Congressional approval for most-favored-nation treatment of Soviet goods. This would allow Soviet products to be imported into the United States at the lowest possible tariff rates.

But the trade agreement itself would have to be approved by Congress. The extension of most-favored-nation treatment also requires Congressional approval.

The amendment, offered by the 72 Senators, nearly three-fourths of the Senate, would bar the extension of credits, credit guarantees or most-favored-nation treatment, so long as Moscow barred emigration of its citizens or imposed more than a "nominal tax" on those allowed to leave.

Senator Jackson, in a news conference announcing the amendment, made it clear that it was a direct result of the so-called "diploma tax" introduced two months ago by which educated Soviet Jews have had to pay as much as \$25,000 to go to Israel.



SEN. HENRY JACKSON

Magnuson, Democrat of Washington, which would liberalize East-West trade. Neither the Magnuson bill, nor the Jackson amendment, nor the trade agreement itself is to be taken up by Congress before next year.

The proposed amendment would not affect the \$1.2-billion purchases of grain by the Soviet Union this year, nor the \$500 million in credits extended by the Commodity



Credit Corporation in July for Soviet purchases over the next three years.

But an aide to Senator Jackson said that, if enacted, the amendment would deny further credits of any kind to the Russians.

Publicly, both the White House and the State Department have opposed Congressional efforts to link the Jewish question to the trade agreement. But Jackson said that he understood that the Administration would not oppose his measure.

Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers have told Jewish groups that they thought "quiet diplomacy" would be more effective in seeking the end to the "diploma tax" than public polemics.

McGovern

(from page 5)

which are guaranteed by the Soviet Constitution.

"Such action by the responsible authorities of the USSR will remove a major obstacle to the improvement of relations between our two countries."

Ger Family Plea

(from page 4)

allowed to work, and we have two little children. For eight months we have knocked on every door, fighting for permission for my family to go to Israel. I get refusals under fictional pretences, saying that I have some kind of "secrets" unknown even to the KGB. I had a job as an engineer of communications in the post offices to which every Soviet citizen and foreigner has access. The telegraph machines that I took care of are described in all the text books on communication. The place of work gave me an official document in which is written that I never had any secrets. In spite of this, the KGB says that I know some "secrets," but these "secrets," which are unknown to me, are kept secret.

But I think that these "secrets" are known. If, for example, I would apply to go to Bulgaria, they wouldn't take such provocative action against me and my family. During these endless nine months, my family had to suffer illegal searches of our apartment, open watching of us, and even investigations of our little daughter.

Now, I appeal to you in the name of my suffering family, in the name of my brother Jews who suffer like us — DON'T BE SILENT! Every hour and every minute, in trouble and in joy, remember us and fight for us and with us. We need your help.

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