



UCSJ QUARTERLY REPORT

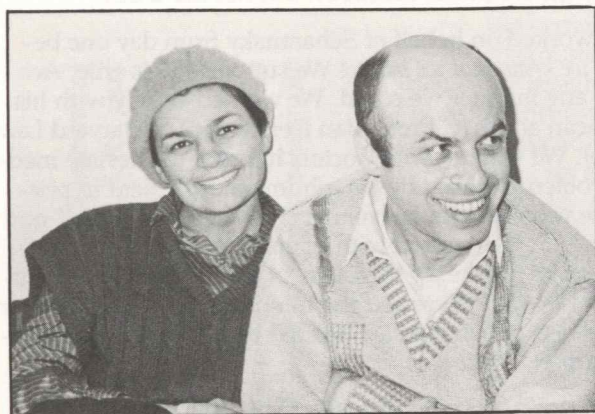
Union of Councils for Soviet Jews • 1411 K Street, NW, Suite 402 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 393-4117

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Spring 1986

SCHARANSKY IN JERUSALEM!!!

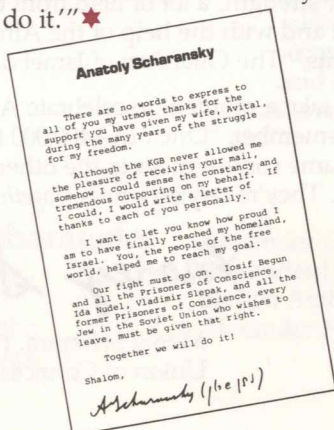
SCHARANSKY GIVES THANKS TO FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS



In an open letter from Jerusalem, newly freed Soviet Refusenik and Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Scharansky thanked the free world for its role in the struggle for his release.

Lynn Singer, Chairperson of the UCSJ Advisory Board, met with Anatoly in Jerusalem shortly after his arrival. He gave her the letter, asking that it be made available to the public.

Morey Schapira, National President of the UCSJ, stated, "We are extremely pleased to have this message of thanks, and welcome Anatoly's invitation to work with him on behalf of the other Refuseniks and Prisoners of Conscience. We encourage everyone to adopt Anatoly's spirit, and join in the struggle for their freedom. As Anatoly himself said, 'together we will do it.'"★



THE UCSJ AND ANATOLY SCHARANSKY: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

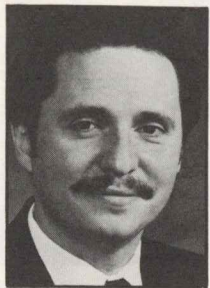
The UCSJ has been in close contact with Anatoly Scharansky since 1974, several years before his arrest. Long before he was falsely accused of espionage on behalf of the CIA, the UCSJ was the human rights organization that spoke out on his behalf and became his voice to the West and the voice for the struggle for Jewish emigration.

In December 1974, Irene Manekofsky, a past president of the UCSJ, visited the Soviet Union and had the opportunity to meet this remarkable individual. From that time on, the UCSJ was in regular contact with Anatoly through letters, phone calls and messages sent with tourists. Other UCSJ leaders who met Scharansky in Moscow include June Daniels, Bailey Barron, Judy Patkin, Robert Gordon, Shirley Goldstein, Selma Light and Regina Waldman. In January 1977, at the UCSJ's biennial briefing of Congress, UCSJ arranged to have Andrew Young, then U.N. Ambassador, and Allard Lowenstein, then U.S. representative to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, speak with Scharansky on the telephone to discuss the struggle of emigration.

The Union has long had a close association with Avital Scharansky as well, and over the years has sponsored her visits to the United States to meet with government officials and members of Congress. In addition, the UCSJ arranged for prominent individuals to join her in demonstrating at the Soviet Embassy and was proud to assist her at her last demonstration in Washington in November 1985, several days before the Geneva summit.

In July 1978, throughout the five days of Anatoly's trial, the UCSJ, through its affiliates in New York and London, was the primary conduit of information to the U.S. and to the West of news about his trial. On July 14, the final day of the trial, the UCSJ reported at a press conference that Anatoly was sentenced to 13 years—three years in prison and ten years in a labor camp. The press conference, held at Dulles Airport, was timed to coincide with Avital's arrival in the U.S. from Geneva. Heightening the drama, Avital only learned of the sentence from the UCSJ upon her arrival at Dulles.

(Turn to PERSPECTIVE, page 6)



President of UCSJ,
Morey Schapira

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

No words more accurately describe the spirit of Anatoly Scharansky than those once used by the late David Ben-Gurion:

In all the history of the world, there is no more fantastic phenomenon than this centuries-long resistance of ours. Heroism is a universal quality, and examples of it are to be found in the annals of every nation, both ancient and modern. But there is nothing in the history of mankind to compare to the power of resistance and the unshakable tenacity of our people over the course of centuries and millennia.

We all can take great pride in the release of Scharansky. Victory has many fathers. I believe that any individual who wrote or picketed or raised their voice in protest on his behalf during the past nine years contributed to his ultimate release.

Anatoly embodied the spirit of the Soviet Jewry movement. He is free today because of two sources of inspiration and determination that could not be denied. The first was his own inner strength. At the moment of his conviction, facing years in the Soviet *Gulag* (prison system), he faced the court and said:

Five years ago, I applied for a visa to Israel, but now I am further than ever away from the attainment of my dream. It might appear that I must have regrets about what has happened. But this is not so.

I am happy. I am happy that I have lived honestly, in peace with my conscience, and have never betrayed my soul, even when I was threatened with death.

I am happy that I can be a witness to the redemption of the Jews in the USSR. For more than 2,000 years, the Jewish people, my people, have been dispersed. But, wherever they go, wherever Jews are found, each year they have repeated: 'Next year in Jerusalem.' Now, when I am further away from my people, from Avital, facing many arduous years of imprisonment, I say, turning to my people, my Avital, NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM.

Though his defiant words were courageous, his actions were even more so. He was punished with a long period of solitary confinement for lighting Channukah candles in the prison camp. He refused to leave the USSR, even after being told he was to be set free, unless he could bring his book of Psalms with him. He showed a religious faith that few of us could ever begin to imagine.

His faith was matched by that of his lovely wife, Avital. Day after day, month after month, year in and year out,

from private living rooms to offices of world leaders, Avital fought relentlessly to free Anatoly from the Soviet *Gulag*.

The Union of Councils and its affiliates has a special relationship with the Scharanskys. The relationship began long before he was arrested and imprisoned. Many UCSJ leaders visited with him in Moscow when he was a Refusenik and stayed in touch with him by letter and telephone. He was an honest and eloquent spokesman for the Jewish Refuseniks in Moscow.

Then came that terrible day—March 15, 1977. He was arrested and falsely accused of being an American spy. At first, many other organizations refused to take up his cause. But not the UCSJ. Some organizations wouldn't take up the cause of a "political case" like his. But not the UCSJ. Some refused to work on behalf of a "convicted spy." But not the UCSJ. Some would not work for Scharansky because of his association with Nobel Peace Prize winner Andrei Sakharov. But not the UCSJ.

We worked on behalf of Scharansky from day one because *we knew that we had to!* We supported his wife, Avital, in any manner we could. We worked closely with his American attorney, Prof. Alan Dershowitz of Harvard Law School. We worked with doctors in order to alleviate medical problems caused by his inhumane treatment in prison. We worked with lawyers in challenging his "trial" and sentencing. We worked with scientific societies and organizations to take up the cause of their colleague, Anatoly Scharansky. We created the International Committee for the Release of Scharansky, headed by the indefatigable Father Robert Drinan.

We helped make Scharansky THE SYMBOL OF THE SOVIET JEWRY MOVEMENT. His name became omnipresent. At rallies, on T-shirts, on billboards, on bumper stickers, on posters, in books, on Prisoner of Conscience bracelets, on postcards, in letters and telegrams and in meetings with Congressmen and Senators. Day in and day out, we would not relent; it was SCHARANSKY, SCHARANSKY, SCHARANSKY.

The UCSJ was not the only organization to work on his behalf, but I believe that history will show that we played a critical role in his release. *The activities presented in this Quarterly Report are only the tip of the iceberg, but they convey the spirit of what the UCSJ is all about.* I'm proud of it. You should be, too.

And so now he is out and is with Avital in Jerusalem due to their strength, a lot of help from their many friends in the West and with the help of the Almighty. As it says in the Psalms, "The Guardian of Israel does not rest!"

So let us take a moment to celebrate Anatoly's liberation and then remember, "One out—400,000 to go." Let us show the same commitment to the others whom Anatoly left behind. They're relying on us. *Together we will do it!*

Morey Schapira

Morey Schapira, President
Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

LETTER OF GRATITUDE

A leading group of former Refuseniks, living in Israel, wrote a letter to the UCSJ leadership:

Jerusalem, November 1977

We are deeply convinced that the only way to help Soviet Jews to reunite with our people in Israel and to protect activists in the USSR from even greater harassment is to maintain a wide and persistent public campaign on their behalf in the world and particularly the

"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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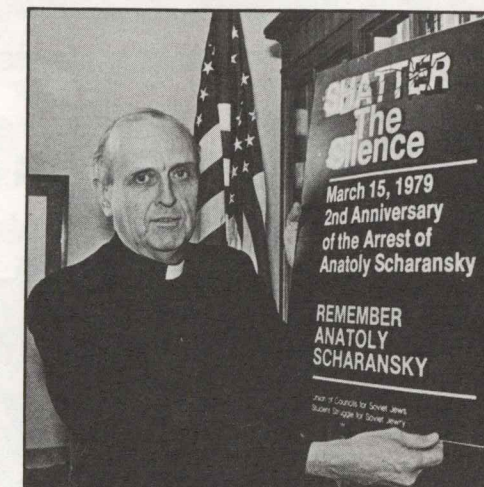
Alexander Goldfarb
Alexander Luntz
Baruch Ainfinder
Alexander Feldman

UCSJ SUPPORT FOR SCHARANSKY NOTED EARLY ON

The UCSJ has long had a clear position and an unwavering tradition of outspoken support for Anatoly Scharansky. This position was apparent to all who followed the Soviet Jewry emigration movement in the West. Below are excerpts from an article that appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, March 4, 1979, by Robert Toth. Toth served as the paper's Moscow correspondent from 1974-1977.

"... Scharansky has become a double victim: first of Soviet 'justice' and now of official Western silence ..."

"Not all Israelis or American Jews accept this strategy. The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, which is the most aggressive of various groups in the field, has adopted the slogan, 'Shatter the Silence,' for activities March 15 to mark the second anniversary of Scharansky's arrest..."

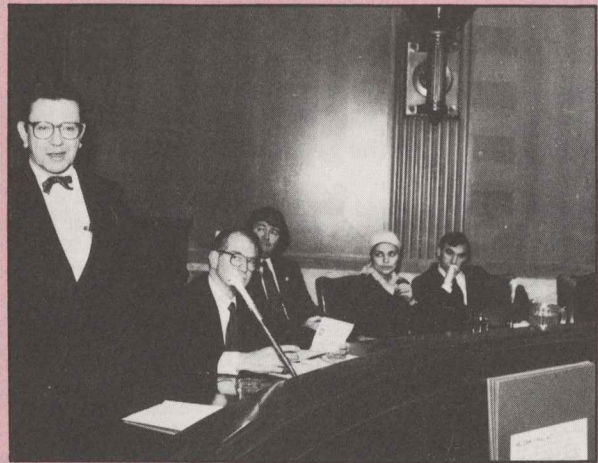


MISSION ACCOMPLISHED: INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR SCHARANSKY DISBANDED

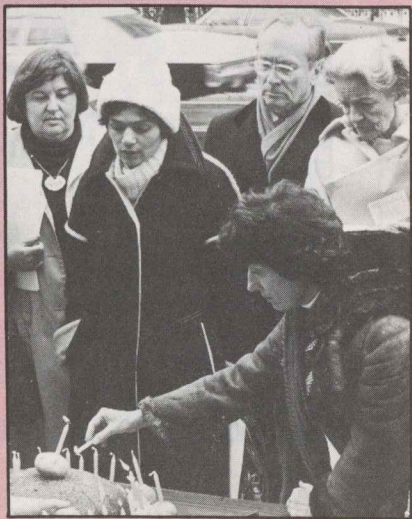
Father Robert F. Drinan, formerly chairman of the International Committee for the Release of Anatoly Scharansky, recently wrote to Anatoly and Avital, happily pointing out that this would be the last letter he would ever write on the Committee's stationery. On February 11, just prior to Anatoly's release, the UCSJ and the International Committee held a joint press conference at the National Press Building. Father Drinan stated, "The liberation of Anatoly Scharansky would not have been possible without the Union of Councils and without people throughout the U.S. working diligently. The UCSJ and their Washington Committee deserve the greatest credit—they have helped to orchestrate the daily pilgrimages that have taken place opposite the Soviet Embassy since 1970. The people in the free world, and particularly those in the U.S. who care about Soviet Jews, have brought about this great victory."*

WHEN OTHER ORGANIZATIONS WERE WARY OF TAKING UP THE CASE OF A "CONVICTED SPY" ...

Senator Paul Simon (D-IL) addressing the 1985 UCSJ Biennial Congressional Briefing which was dedicated to Anatoly Scharansky. Joining Senator Simon are other Capitol Hill leaders, Avital Scharansky, Elliott Abrams, then Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs, and Morey Schapira, National President, UCSJ.



Anatoly Scharansky's 30th birthday vigil opposite the Soviet Embassy in Washington, January 1978. (l. to r.) Irene Manekofsky, then president of the UCSJ and the Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry; Avital Scharansky; Rep. Newton Steers (R-MD); Rep. Millicent Fenwick (R-NJ); and, lighting the candles, a Washington Committee member. The "cake" was made of black bread and potatoes; following the vigil the food was donated to the poor.



Avital Scharansky speaking at a rally at Stanford University, one of the many campuses she spoke at across the country.



Avital and Anatoly relax and reflect with UCSJ leaders during UCSJ's annual conference in Israel. (l. to r.) Avital, UCSJ VP June Daniels, Anatoly, Ron Daniels and UCSJ VP David Waksberg.



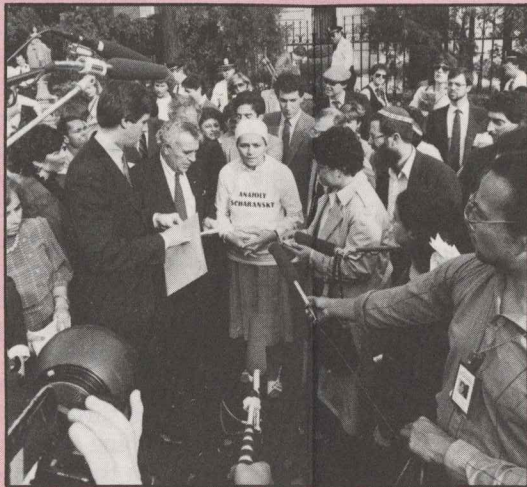
President Reagan greeting Avital Scharansky on International Human Rights Day, December 10, 1984, at a ceremony attended by UCSJ President, Morey Schapira.



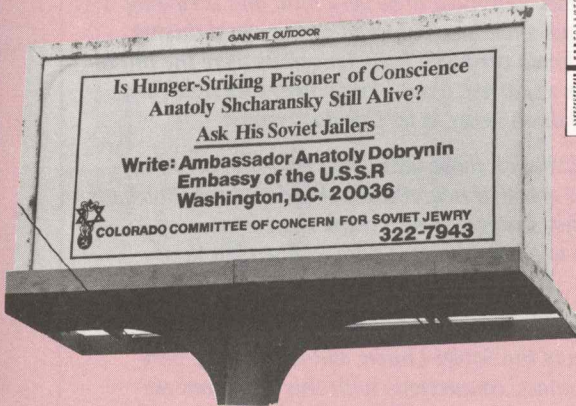
Poster advertising a rally in support of Anatoly Scharansky, sponsored by the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews.



Avital Scharansky speaking to attendees of the UCSJ Annual Conference in Israel, March 1986.

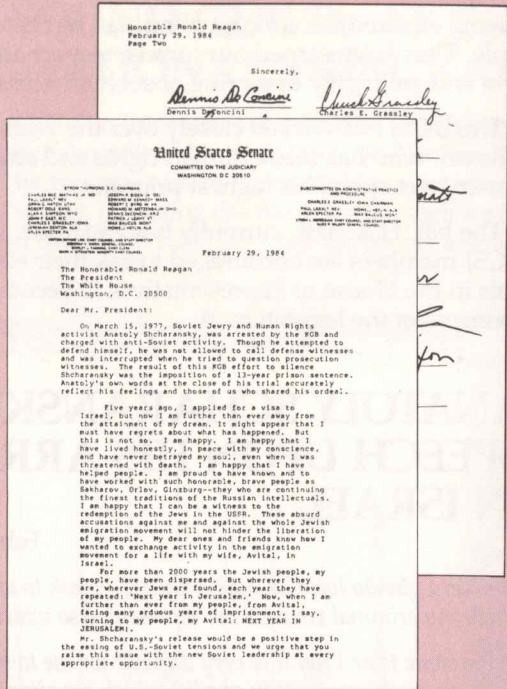


At Avital Scharansky's last vigil at the Soviet Embassy in Washington, November 1985. Standing to the left of Avital are Rep. Ben Gilman (R-NY) and Senator John Kerry (D-MA).

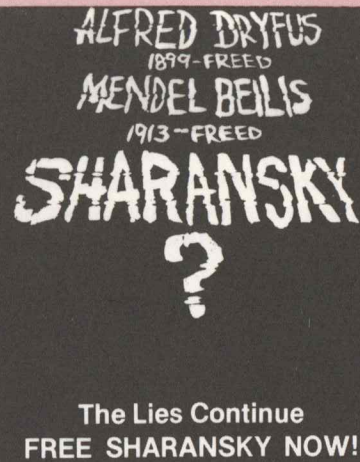
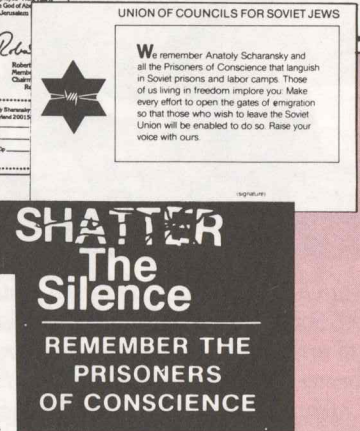
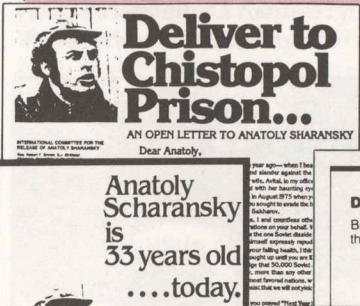
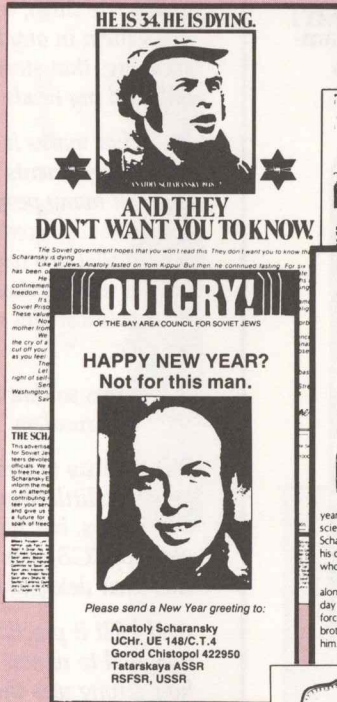


Many councils ran full-size billboards on behalf of Anatoly Scharansky. Here, one fine example by the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry.

Commitment can begin at a very young age—Five year old Daniel Kurtz demonstrating on behalf of Scharansky at a rally in California.



Led by Senators Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ) and Charles Grassley (R-IA), the entire U.S. Senate sent a letter to President Reagan in February 1984 urging that he raise the topic of Anatoly Scharansky's release with the Soviet leadership. This UCSJ-initiated letter represented the first time that all 100 Senators signed onto a letter related to the Soviet Jewry movement.



In 1977, Anatoly Scharansky's name was added to other well-known Jewish historical figures victimized in show trials precisely because they were Jewish. The poster above was created by a UCSJ member council, the Washington Committee on Soviet Jewry, and was distributed nationally by the UCSJ.

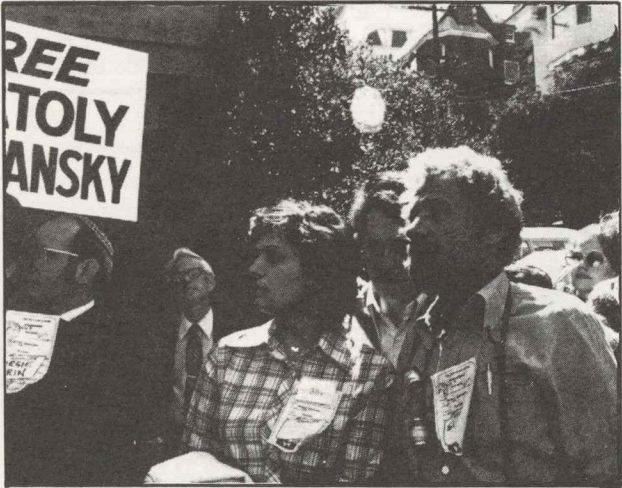
The UCSJ maintained a nine-year effort to ensure that Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Scharansky was not forgotten as the symbol of the Soviet Jewry emigration movement. One major nationwide campaign entailed flooding the offices of the President and Secretary of State with postcards urging that the issue be placed high on the Administration's agenda. In addition, the UCSJ and the International Committee for the Release of Anatoly Scharansky placed major advertisements in the New York Times and Washington Post to call to the attention of the public Scharansky's continued incarceration.

...THE UCSJ STEPPED FORWARD.

To focus nationwide public attention on the cases, the UCSJ arranged interviews for Avital with national and international press as well as meetings with prominent officials, some of which included: David Brinkley; MacNeil Lehrer Report; Time magazine; Canadian Broadcasting Company; Vice President Mondale; Father Robert Drinan, International Committee for the Release of Anatoly Scharansky; Helsinki Commission; Senator Abraham Ribicoff; Rep. Dante Fascell; Ambassador Simcha Dinitz; House Committee on Science and Technology; National Institute of Health; Panorama Talk Show and others.

Since that time, the UCSJ has sponsored letter-writing campaigns, press conferences, vigils before the Soviet Embassy in Washington, the Soviet Mission in New York and the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco, and worked closely with congressional and government officials to gain freedom for Anatoly Scharansky.

Since 1981, the Union has presented annually the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award to individuals who have been strong advocates on behalf of Soviet Jews and, in particular, Anatoly Scharansky. This award has been presented to Scott Cohen, then Staff Director of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Ambassador Max Kampelman; Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT); Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Congressman Dante Fascell (D-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. ★



March 1977. Avital Scharansky protesting with activists at the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco shortly after the illegal arrest of Anatoly. She is standing next to Si Frumkin, former chairman and now advisor to UCSJ Southern California Council for Soviet Jews. Standing behind them is Morey Schapira, currently national president of UCSJ.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED TO HONOR ANATOLY, AVITAL

Congressman Ben Gilman (R-NY) has introduced legislation which would award both Anatoly and Avital Scharansky with a congressional gold medal in recognition of their dedication to human rights. Speaking to the House of Representatives as he introduced this legislation, Congressman Gilman stated, "They have made a contribution to the entire world through their words and deeds,

having elevated the concept of human rights to a global scale. They have earned our utmost respect and admiration and are highly deserving of such an honor."

The UCSJ has worked closely over the years with Rep. Gilman, who has made human rights and emigration for Soviet Jews one of his highest priorities.

The bill, H.R. 4186, currently has 75 House sponsors. UCSJ members are encouraged to ask their elected officials in the House of Representatives to become co-sponsors of the legislation. ★

ANATOLY SCHARANSKY'S SPEECH UPON HIS ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL

February 11, 1986

I am very glad to have an opportunity to speak to an audience in which my criminal contacts are represented so widely.

At the same time I feel it is very difficult for me to speak now. There are such moments in our life which are simply impossible to describe them, and feelings which are simply impossible to express them in any language. But I will say just that, frankly speaking, that storm of compliments which were poured on Avital's and my heads now do not make the task to speak easier.

But what makes it really easier is understanding the fact that all these compliments we must share between all the people of Israel, between many people all over the world, among Jews in the Soviet Union who continue the struggle for their rights. And the congratulations which we hear now concern not only the two of us, but also all those people, Jews and non-Jews, people from the high political and grassroots level whose struggle made this day possible.

It happens so that 12 years ago I said to Avital, "See you very soon in Jerusalem."

But the way to Israel continued to be very hard and very long. I know too little about what has happened in the world during these years, but I know very well how dangerous were the initial plans of KGB after my arrest. And I know very well how firm was their determination never to let this day come.

And I felt it practically all those years, and from the very fact they had to retreat and that nevertheless this day came shows me how strong was this struggle. And I think there is no need to repeat my gratitude to all these people who took part in this struggle.

Of course, there is absolutely no plot among Jewish activists against the system of the Soviet Union, but we do have very strong spiritual contact, connections with this land, and no persecutions can break this connection.

On this happiest of days of our lives, I am not going to forget those who I left in the camps, in the prisons, who are still in exile or who still continue their struggle for their right to emigrate, for their human rights. And I hope that that enthusiasm, that energy, that joy which fills our hearts today, Avital's and mine, will help us to continue the struggle for the freedom and the rights of our brothers in Russia. ★

USSR FOUND GUILTY AT 1983 INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL

In January 1983, an International Tribunal Investigating Crimes Against Anatoly Scharansky was held in San Francisco. The tribunal was co-sponsored by a number of local organizations including the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews and the UCSJ. Excerpts from the report follow:

Hearing

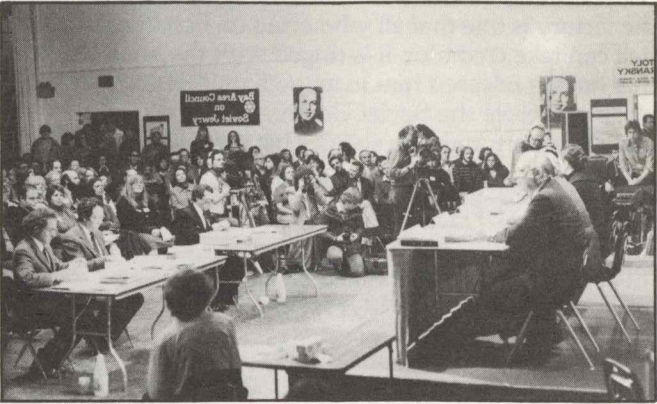
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No Show

The official representative of the Soviet government in San Francisco, the Soviet Consul General, was presented with a summons to appear two weeks prior to the tribunal. Although the Soviet Consul ignored the order to appear, the court appointed an attorney to defend the interests of the Soviet government.



The Verdict

The judgment of the tribunal was four-fold: First, the judges ruled that Scharansky did not receive a fair trial. Second, it was determined that Scharansky has been cruelly mistreated in prison. In light of these two facts, the tribunal urged the Soviet Union to release Scharansky on humanitarian grounds. Finally, it was decided that if Scharansky is not released in a short period of time to be determined by the tribunal, the court will send a representative to the Soviet Union to attempt to meet with Scharansky and gain additional facts about his treatment in prison. ★



LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD: SCHARANSKY'S U.S. ATTORNEY

Professor Alan Dershowitz, distinguished legal expert, Harvard Law School professor, member of the UCSJ Advisory Board and Anatoly Scharansky's U.S. attorney, stated in February, "Anatoly Scharansky's release comes nine years too late! There is no way that the past nine years of his life can be given back to him.

"Anatoly was merely a chip in an international poker game and he will always be remembered in history as one of the bravest and noblest victims of the Soviet Union's human rights abuse. This marks the beginning of our renewed struggle on behalf of the other Prisoners of Conscience. We must take no more than one moment to celebrate and then get back to the struggle." ★

Occasion

- ☐ Bar/Bat Mitzvah
- ☐ Wedding
- ☐ Anniversary
- ☐ Holiday
- ☐ Get Well
- ☐ Thank You
- ☐ Birthday
- ☐ New Baby
- ☐ Memorial
- ☐ Yahrzeit
- ☐ Other:

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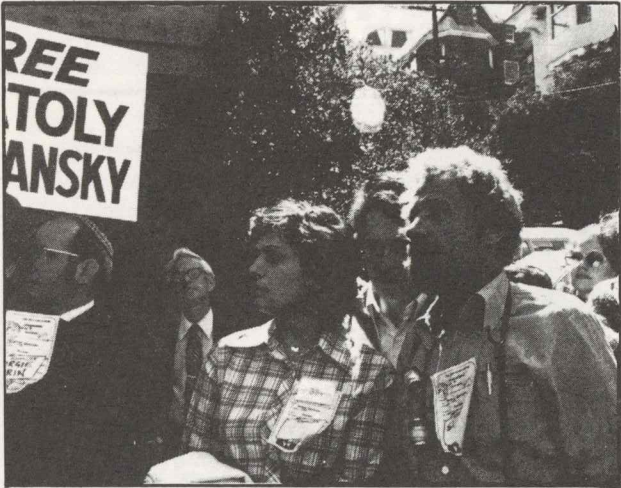
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The cast of witnesses was equally impressive. Professor Alan Pollack, the Tel Aviv University historian and expert on Soviet and Jewish history ... Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) ... Selma Light, honorary president and co-founder of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry ... and Sister Ann Gillen, executive director of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry ... the witness who spent the most time on the stand was Avital Scharansky.

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UCSJ Freedom Fund
Union of Councils for Soviet Jews
1411 K Street, NW, Suite 402
Washington, DC 20005

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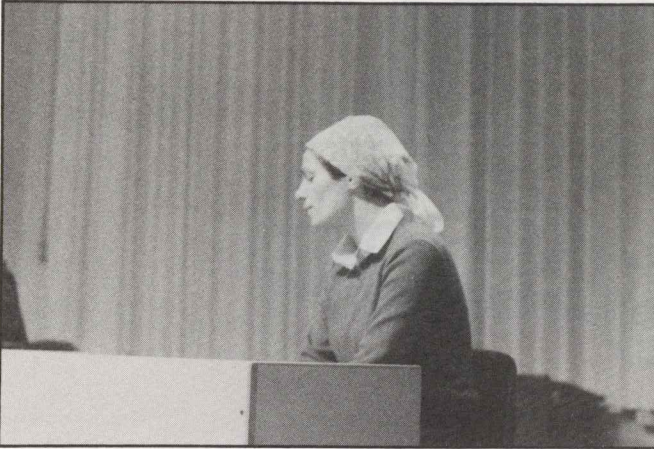
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Hearing

The tribunal was scheduled in conjunction with Scharansky's 35th birthday, his sixth behind Soviet prison bars. No one had seen him in over a year, there had been no mail contact since 1981, and he had been engaged in a desperate four-month hunger strike in an attempt to re-establish contact with his family.

It was an unprecedented event. . . . In this trial, the Soviet Union was the defendant, standing trial for its crimes against Scharansky and against its own constitution. Scharansky's legal representatives were there as well, only they were arguing for the prosecution, not the defense. For the first time, the tables were turned and the Soviet government was being held accountable for its actions against Scharansky.



Witnesses for the Prosecution

. . . three of California's most prominent jurists, including two justices from the California Supreme Court, heard legal arguments and testimony regarding nine charges outlining violations of Soviet law in the trial and imprisonment of Anatoly Scharansky.

The prosecution team consisted of two of the world's most prominent human rights attorneys: Professor Alan Dershowitz of Harvard University Law School, and Professor Irwin Cotler, of McGill University Law School in Canada.

The cast of witnesses was equally impressive. Professor Alan Pollack, the Tel Aviv University historian and expert on Soviet and Jewish history . . . Congressman Tom Lantos (D-CA) . . . Selma Light, honorary president and co-founder of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry . . . and Sister Ann Gillen, executive director of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry . . . the witness who spent the most time on the stand was Avital Scharansky.

No Show

The official representative of the Soviet government in San Francisco, the Soviet Consul General, was presented with a summons to appear two weeks prior to the tribunal. Although the Soviet Consul ignored the order to appear, the court appointed an attorney to defend the interests of the Soviet government.



The Verdict

The judgment of the tribunal was four-fold: First, the judges ruled that Scharansky did not receive a fair trial. Second, it was determined that Scharansky has been cruelly mistreated in prison. In light of these two facts, the tribunal urged the Soviet Union to release Scharansky on humanitarian grounds. Finally, it was decided that if Scharansky is not released in a short period of time to be determined by the tribunal, the court will send a representative to the Soviet Union to attempt to meet with Scharansky and gain additional facts about his treatment in prison. ★



LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD: SCHARANSKY'S U.S. ATTORNEY

Professor Alan Dershowitz, distinguished legal expert, Harvard Law School professor, member of the UCSJ Advisory Board and Anatoly Scharansky's U.S. attorney, stated in February, "Anatoly Scharansky's release comes nine years too late! There is no way that the past nine years of his life can be given back to him.

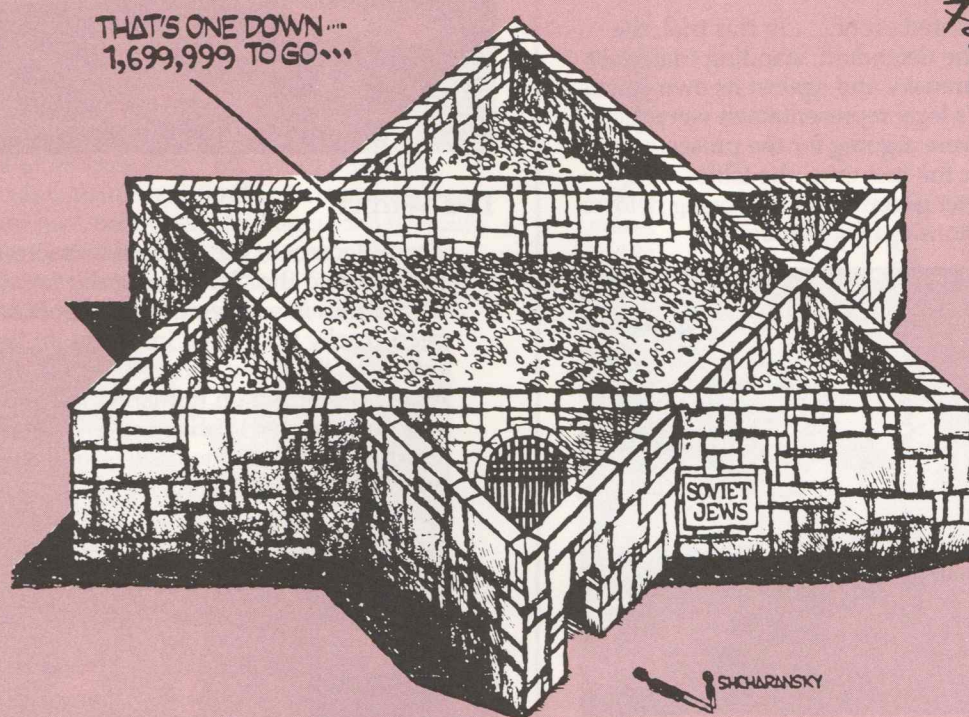
"Anatoly was merely a chip in an international poker game and he will always be remembered in history as one of the bravest and noblest victims of the Soviet Union's human rights abuse. This marks the beginning of our renewed struggle on behalf of the other Prisoners of Conscience. We must take no more than one moment to celebrate and then get back to the struggle." ★

STRUGGLE CONTINUES FOR THOSE WHO REMAIN

Anatoly Scharansky's release in February made headlines around the world. No doubt it will emerge in history as a testament to the truth that many voices raised in concern can and do help Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience and Refuseniks who are trying to emigrate. While the victory is one that all who acted on Scharansky's behalf can take credit for, it is tinged with the knowledge that having released him in an exchange of spies was a parting shot for the Soviet Union, who would take any and all opportunities to slander his good name.

More important for the future, however, are the hundreds of thousands of Soviets who remain in the Soviet Union, many of whom have been trying desperately to emigrate. Emigration levels remain at a consistently low level; an average of 1,000 Soviet Jews have emigrated annually since 1983. This is a drastic decline from the peak figure of 51,000 in 1979.

There are more than 23 other Jews imprisoned in various Soviet penal institutions, all of whom are serving time for having pursued the Hebrew language, Jewish culture and religion in the Soviet Union. The combined total of their sentences comes to over 70 years of confinement. ★



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