

ALERT

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

DONETSK DEATH SENTENCES REVIEWED BY SOVIET COURT

The fate of four men sentenced to death in a major economic trial in the Ukraine recently came up before the Supreme Court of the USSR. The result, as we go to press, is that two of the men have had their sentences commuted to 15 years in prison; one has had his death sentence confirmed and possibly carried out. The fate of the fourth, 49 year-old Raphael Adziashvili is unknown. According to his wife Tamara, the Supreme Court in Moscow has not responded to her request for information on her husband's status. This is likely to be an indication that they are not going to review his case and are thus allowing the death sentence to stand; however, Mrs. Adziashvili, the mother of two children, has returned home to Tbilisi, still hopeful that she will hear that her husband's sentence has been commuted.

The man whose death sentence has been confirmed is Mohamet Abasov, a Moslem from Baku. The two whose sentences were commuted to fifteen year terms in prison are Gabriel Sepiashvili and Ilya Mikhalshevili, both Jewish.

These men were all convicted in a year-long trial which took place in the Ukraine following five years of investigation. Approximately fifty people were co-defendants accused of stealing surplus textiles from a factory.

ROSENBERG GIVEN FIVE YEAR SENTENCE

Shmil Rosenberg of Tashkent was given a five year sentence by the Uzbek Supreme Court and his property was confiscated following a trial for bribery. Rosenberg admitted paying 1200 rubles to the OVIR official who extorted it from him by threatening to deny his daughter's right to emigrate. However, under Soviet law a person is not totally accountable for a bribe paid under duress. Nonetheless, Rosenberg is now imprisoned and his wife has no place to live and no means of support. One minor consolation: the OVIR official was given 10 years.

VOLVOVSKY RETURNS TO GORKI

Leonid Volgovsky, arrested last month in Kishinev, has been released and returned to Gorki. Held for three weeks in police custody, he does not yet know whether criminal charges will be brought against him. Volgovsky was accompanied home by his wife, Ludmilla, who had journeyed to Kishinev to find out his whereabouts.

REFUSENIK HARASSMENT SPREADS

Alexander Magaidovich, the only known refusenik in Tula, an industrial city approximately 110 miles from Moscow, was arrested on May 21. An electrical engineer who studies and teaches Hebrew, Magidovich has been trying to emigrate to Israel since 1974. He was refused for allegedly having access to classified information. He has not received any mail for a very long time, and so indicated in a short Hebrew note, written on a mail receipt that was received here this winter.

Aaron Moonblit, detained with Leonid Volgovsky by Kishinev militia last month, has received a second warning that he may face charges of "parasitism". The official warning stated that he will be liable to prosecution unless he finds a job. An engineer by profession, Moonblit was dismissed from work in 1976, following his application for an exit visa to Israel. Although he has worked as an unskilled laborer, most recently he supported his wife and child by teaching English. Moonblit reported his earnings from teaching to the tax authorities, asking them to assess his liabilities. Unwilling to recognize his status as a teacher, the income tax authorities refused to inform him of what taxes were due. Moonblit's teaching license was then revoked, making it



easy for authorities to label him a "parasite". His refusal to sign a receipt of the official warning was summed up in a protocol; he expects, however, to file a complaint against the Income Tax Authorities.

KIEV JEWS PROTEST MASS REFUSALS; SIX ARRESTED

Very few permissions have been granted in Kiev for eight months, paralleling situations in other cities. From an average of 1000 permissions monthly last year to last month's count of 50, the decline is clearly visible. What distinguishes Kiev, the capital city of the Ukraine, is that large groups of refuseniks - both old and new - are protesting these refusals by many varied routes. They are also paying some of the consequences.

Five Kiev Jews - Bernstein, Kanetsky, Knizhnik, Machlis and Zubko - were arrested as they met in Kanetsky's apartment to plan an appeal on mass refusals. Mr. Kanet arrest. Bernstein and Machlis were released after one day, but Knizhnik and Zubko were each sentenced to 15 day terms.

Yet another group of seventy refuseniks attempted to travel to Moscow last month by train. Plainclothesmen detained everyone who "looked Jewish", but 42 Jews and non-Jews from the group managed to get through and meet with officials at the Central Committee. On his return, one of these refuseniks was removed from a bus, arrested and charged with "malicious hooliganism". This was Valery Pilnikoff, a non-Jew with a Jewish wife who had been told "The refuseniks have one foot in Israel, and the other in prison".

Pilnikoff's wife had been arrested upon her return from Moscow. Having attempted to clear her husband with written testimony from the other bus passengers, she was picked up at Kislik's apartment along with two foreign female visitors. Their fate is not yet known.

The International Herald Tribune points out that thousands of letters of complaints have been sent to officials in Moscow and the Ukraine.

COLONEL OVSISHCHER SILENCED

Minsk Jews held their yearly memorial observance at the monument to Jewish victims of the Holocaust last month, but this year their leader, Col. Lev Ovsishcher, was absent.

On May 5, the day before the meeting normally attended by hundreds of Minsk Jews, the Colonel was called to the Gorispolkom (town hall) and given a strict warning not to speak in public. Police were outside his flat to make sure he took the warning seriously.

Speeches were made by three other Minsk Jewish activists, namely Simyon Gorelik, Leonid Zubarev and Ida Yakovlena, all of whom spoke of the particular contribution of Soviet Jews to the defeat of the Nazis.

According to reports reaching us, a number of ruffians who were present attempted to heckle the speeches, but there was no major disturbances and later the city officials laid five wreaths in memory of the victims.

Forty eight year old Simyon Gorelik, who teaches Hebrew at present, applied to join his wife and daughter in Israel in February 1980. His request was rejected for reasons unknown. We have no information on Leonid Zubarev or on Ida Yakovlena.

INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL DECLARES SOVIET MISCARRIAGE OF JUSTICE FOR SHCHARANSKY

An international tribunal convened in Amsterdam on May 12th to draw public attention to POC Anatoly Shcharansky's plight. A unanimous decision was reached that Shcharansky was unjustly imprisoned and the Soviet Union was called on to release him.

In a surprise development, the eleven-member panel received a personal message from Shcharansky. The statement, as memorized by his brother Leonid, during a recent prison visit, is as follows:

(continued next page).

I am happy to have the opportunity, for the first time in three years, to thank you, although I must do so in a somewhat strange way.

In the 16 months of investigation that I was isolated, away from the outside world, relatives and friends, I did not know anything about the struggle which has been going on in my behalf all over the world. But during the time that I studied the material connected with my investigation, I understood better than anyone else what a threat of death hung over the Jewish emigration movement.

During that time, the regime opened a press attack on all the different dissident groups in a new attempt to solve, once and for all, the "Jewish question" in the USSR. In the past, our people have frequently been accused of being part of a "Jewish international conspiracy". This time, the regime has raised the issue of this "conspiracy" with the claim that it is directed against the USSR.

The sword that had been hung over our movement was stopped in mid-air only because of the support given us by people all over the world--diplomats, political figures, jurists, scientists, housewives and heads of government, Jewish and non-Jewish students, religious people--everyone. If this had not happened, the defendants' bench would have been much longer, with room for many more of the Jewish emigration movement activists.

It is not by chance that several of the participants in this tribunal were accused as 'criminals' in my trial. This is because under a totalitarian regime, the desire to be free and the struggle for freedom and self-respect are crimes.

I turn to you with the plea that you will not allow your support to falter for people who know the price of freedom.

STATEMENT OF THE SHCHARANSKY TRIBUNAL

The Tribunal reviewed all the numerous documents available. The relevant provisions of domestic Soviet law were reviewed, as well as the international implements of which the Soviet Union is a signatory, insofar as they were relevant to this case. The following conclusions were arrived at unanimously:

Serious breaches of Soviet domestic law were committed in the prosecution and trial of Anatoly Shcharansky resulting in a grave miscarriage of justice. Shcharansky did not have a lawyer of his own choice, and was not allowed to call his own witnesses. The trial was essentially closed to the public and to the foreign press. Written testimony was excluded.

Some of the charges used as the basis of the prosecution against Shcharansky were excessively vague. Almost any conduct objectionable to the authorities can be classified as "anti-Soviet propaganda and agitation". This imprecision in the Soviet law made it impossible for Shcharansky to exercise the rights and freedoms accorded to him by that law. Other parts of the charges, for example those relating to freedom of expression, while in conformity with the letter of domestic Soviet law, are nevertheless contrary to both the letter and spirit of the international treaties and accords ratified by the USSR.

Every country should be free to choose its own social and political system and to protect interests which it feels are vital to its national security and survival. There are, however, questions of human rights on which the world community has a moral obligation to express its opinion. The Soviet Union has recognized this fact by its ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Helsinki Final Act, and by the provisions of its 1977 Constitution. Shcharansky was prosecuted and convicted for attempting to exercise his rights of emigration and free expression. No evidence was presented at the trial that he had committed any act which could justify this conviction and the harsh sentence.

Therefore, we call upon the Government of the Soviet Union to release Anatoly Shcharansky from imprisonment and to allow him to exercise the rights enshrined in the Helsinki Agreement and in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights - in particular, the right for Shcharansky to freely leave his country and to be reunited with his wife, or in the words of the 1977 USSR Constitution, the right to decide his own destiny.

We further call upon the other signatories of the Helsinki Final Act to use their influence at the Madrid Review Meeting in November to secure Shcharansky's release.

Finally, we call upon all who love justice to demand Anatoly Shcharansky's release.

Amsterdam May 13, 1980. Signed by:

Lord Avebury	Chairman, Parliamentary Human Rights Group, United Kingdom
Ramsey Clark	Former US Attorney General, New York
Robert F. Drinan	Member, US House of Representatives
George Fernandes	Member of Parliament of India
Charles Hanin	Vice President of Council of Europe, Former Minister of Belgium
Andre Lwoff	Nobel Prize Winner, Paris
Michel Rocard	Member of Parliament of France
Bayard Rustin	A. Philip Randolph Institute
Mario Soares	Former Prime Minister of Portugal
Joop den Uyl	Former Prime Minister of the Netherlands
Andrew Young	Former US Ambassador to the United Nations

NEWS BRIEFS

* Pavel Abramovich and Boris Gurevich were visited by militia and told "it would be best if they left Moscow during the Olympics". Natasha Khassina warned that all refusenik-activists should leave Moscow by June 1st, otherwise they would face arrest.

* POC Vladimir Slepak briefly won a suit he brought against a former employer. The court ordered Slepak rehired with partial back pay. However, Slepak's employer then fired Slepak "due to staff reductions." Slepak is now working as a watchman.

* In Kiev, the authorities have instituted some disturbing changes in the procedure of applying for emigration. As one of the first steps in the process, the prospective applicant must obtain a waiver from his employer stating that there are no outstanding debts owed. This request results in the applicant's being fired. The application cannot be made without this waiver. Unlike other cities, alternative employment is next to impossible to find in Kiev, leaving potential emigres jobless and permit-less.

* A defamatory attack has been printed in a Leningrad paper, slandering local Jewish activists. Main targets of this article are Aba Taratuta and Lev Shapiro.

* Letters of support to Mosei Tonkonogy's wife should be mailed to her at the following addresses:

L.N. Pankova	R.D. Bililik
Kvibisheva 16/29	Ul. Ukalova 45/11
Odessa, Ukrainian SSR, USSR	Odessa, Ukrainian SSR, USSR

* Several OVIR offices have announced their intention to stop accepting applications for exit visas until after the Summer Olympics. These include Zhitomir (in the Ukraine), Minsk, Novosibirsk and Vinnitsa. Minsk has been declared a closed city to all foreigners.

* Another Committee for Freeing the Paritskys has been formed in Lille, France. Lille is officially twinned with Kharkov; a municipal delegation made an official visit to Lille earlier this year. Deputy-Mayor Pierre Mauroy has agreed to serve on the committee. (The Paritsky Committee in Boston has been active for some time now.)

* Soviet Jews participated in several memoriams and celebrations in recent weeks. On May 9th, several thousand Minsk Jews held a service at the Minsk Memorial for the Jews murdered in World War II. One hundred Jews in Riga gathered at the Rumbuli cemetary and commemorated the death of hundreds in the liquidation of the ghetto by the Nazis.

On a happier note, Jews in Moscow celebrated Lab B'omer, and then Jerusalem Day on May 11. Hundreds sang, danced and participated in sports as KGB observers watched without interference.

HEBREW-ORIENTED SAMIZDAT RELEASED

The third issue of the samizdat journal Our Hebrew has been published. It seeks to promote the study of Hebrew, though it is written in Russian because of the widespread ignorance of the Jewish national language in the USSR.

The current edition is dated March and is 79 pages long. It includes a translation of Buber's article, "Why we Should Study Jewish Origins", articles by Soviet Jews, interviews with Zev Shachnovsky and Mikhail Chlenov, two "grand old men" of unofficial Hebrew teaching in the USSR, notes on a Hebrew ulpan in Israel, and anti-Jewish excerpts from the Soviet press.

The periodical is edited by long-term refusenik Pavel Abramovich and activist Dina Ziserman, both Moscovites. Abramovich presently faces official threats of a "parasitism" trial.

MAY EMIGRATION REPORT

The number of people emigrating in the month of May was 1,976, of which 38% went to Israel.

Recent Emigres:

Stanislav Galperin	Iedintsy
Boris Sandler	Tashkent
Herman Hajzler	Mukachevo
Miron Goldenshtein	Kishinev
Pavel Gerkopsky	Orgeev
Fima Adamovsky	Kishinev

Emigration of Soviet Jews Continues Its Steady Decline

By Kevin Klose

Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, May 23 — Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union continues a slow, steady decline this year from the record level of 1979 when the SALT II treaty was signed and the Kremlin still had grounds to hope for new American trade concessions.

Although there is apprehension abroad that the slackening pace of permissions may eventually bring to a halt significant emigration from the Soviet Union, knowledgeable sources here say it is simply too soon to predict overall Soviet intentions or policy on the controversial question.

In all, about 10,500 Jews left the country through the first four months of 1980. Although this indicates an average of 2,600 a month, the actual totals have dropped steadily by about 500 per month from January's 3,300 to April's 2,000.

More than 200,000 Jews left the Soviet Union in the past decade, when detente dominated Soviet relations and the United States seemed inclined to grant special trade status to the Soviet Union in return for increased Jewish emigration. More than 50,000 Jews were permitted to leave last year, but the cooler international climate and Afghanistan invasion shelved most-favored-nation trade status for Russia, although China, Moscow's archrival, gained it.

Jewish emigration from the principal Ukrainian cities of Kiev, Odessa and Kharkov has all but ceased, sources said, and they noted a sudden sharp drop in Moscow permissions last month as well. Some here think this may be a sign the Soviets intend to "save" Moscow's quota of emi-

grants for the time of the Summer Olympic Games here, when the city will be virtually closed to Soviet non-residents, making it impossible for provincial Jews to have their exit permissions fully processed.

But even that is speculation. Visa officials of the Ministry of Internal Affairs do not discuss their policies.

Meanwhile, the number of Jews refused permission to leave reportedly continues to climb. Some sources have said they believe the Soviets may be inadvertently creating a new and growing group of disgruntled citizens, since *otkazniki* ("refusedniks") normally are fired from their jobs and frequently are harassed by security police. It is thought about 300,000 Jews have received invitations to emigrate from relatives abroad, and that perhaps 100,000 are actively interested in leaving.

MOSCOW DISSIDENTS FLEE OLYMPIC GAMES

Many Going Voluntarily to Escape
Forcible Removal by Police—
Drunks Face Restraints

By CRAIG R. WHITNEY
Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, May 10 — Widespread rumors that the authorities will clear Moscow of dissidents and other troublemakers before the influx of foreign visitors to the Summer Olympics are quickly becoming self-fulfilling prophecies.

Most of the prominent dissidents not in jail or internal exile say they are planning to leave the city well before the July 19 opening ceremony. The others say they are coming under pressure from the authorities to do likewise.

"The superintendent of our building asked my husband and me the other day what our plans were for the summer," said Natasha Vladimov, wife of Georgi Vladimov, the dissident writer who is also head of the Soviet section of Amnesty International, the international human rights group.

"When I told him we didn't plan to go anywhere," Mrs. Vladimov said, "the superintendent told me: 'I think it would be better for both of you to leave Moscow during the Olympiade.'"

No Place for Untidy Activities

The Soviet authorities say Moscow was chosen to host the 22d Olympic Games because it is a model "Socialist city." The model clearly excludes untidy activities like dissent.

Seeing trouble ahead, many dissidents are not waiting for official warnings to make themselves scarce during the games. Aleksandr Y. Lerner, a longtime activist in the Jewish emigration movement, said he would take his wife and their Irish setter on vacation to the

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Ukraine in mid-June. Their apartment in southwest Moscow has been a place of pilgrimage for visiting supporters from the United States, Britain and Israel.

"If I didn't go by myself, I'm sure the authorities would send me away somewhere of their own choosing, and maybe I wouldn't be able to come back at all," he remarked.

Sakharov Banished to Gorky

Andrei D. Sakharov, the human rights activist, was banished last January to Gorky, an industrial city closed to foreigners. His wife, Yelena Bonner, is allowed to make visits to Moscow but has she avoided directly disobeying security police orders not to use her Moscow apartment as a gathering place for conferences and meetings with foreign supporters.

Roy A. Medvedev, a dissident historian who considers himself a Marxist, is also leaving Moscow soon for the summer, as he usually does, wishing like many other activists here to avoid Dr. Sakharov's fate.

"The climate has changed," Dr. Lerner said. "While our leaders were interested in détente with the West, public support in America and Europe for our cause helped us. Now, it only makes the Soviet authorities more determined to do as they want with us no matter what the West thinks."

Kopelevs to Leave for Summer

Lev Z. Kopelev and his wife, Raissa Orlova, writers who have incurred the wrath of the authorities for supporting Dr. Sakharov, are also leaving Moscow at the end of this month to spend the summer in the countryside near Leningrad.

Normally, their apartment is a gathering place for tourists and intellectuals from the United States and West Germany, where Mr. Kopelev is well known. This year, in the wake of Dr. Sakharov's banishment and official sanctions against them, Mr. Kopelev has applied for permission to go to West Germany in answer to a long-standing invitation to lecture and study in Darmstadt. His wife says she will join him if he gets permission.

Scores of other dissident figures here—human rights activists, religious figures, people who have applied to emigrate to Israel—have been arrested and tried in Moscow and other Soviet cities since last fall. Organized dissident activity is at a low.

Muscovites Warned About C.I.A.

The Soviet press, meanwhile, has been warning Muscovites that C.I.A. agents and anti-Soviet provocateurs may try to infiltrate as tourists during the Olympic Games, possibly to collaborate with dissidents to spoil the image the authorities wish to present to the world.

"I Don't think anybody plans to try to organize any protests or demonstrations in Moscow during the Olympics," said Dr. Lerner, who has been trying to emigrate to Israel since the early 1970's. "The people who come to enjoy the games just wouldn't understand—it wouldn't make us very popular."

Rumors abound that the police plan to sweep Moscow clean of an estimated 300,000 drunks and habitual troublemakers, though the former were still in abundance during last week's May 1 and May 9 holidays here.

Special Watch Service

The wife of a former official, now living in retirement, says that a few days ago their doorbell rang and a police auxiliary volunteer announced: "There will be a special watch service in our building during the Olympiade. We want you to volunteer for it."

"What 'watch service?' the retired official asked. "To see to it that people don't get rowdy or drunk or create a bad impression during the Olympics," the man answered.

Vladimir Voinovich, a dissident writer who has lived quietly but in official disgrace in Moscow since he was expelled from the Union of Writers in 1974, came under pressure to get out of the country last winter, and in April, he agreed to go.

"They told me they wanted me out by July 15—before the Olympics, in other words," he said recently. "I told them I couldn't leave until September, but not to worry—I'll be spending the summer far from Moscow," he said. "That's apparently all they wanted."

Vasily Aksyonov, a 47-year-old writer who quit the union last December after it expelled two younger colleagues, also decided to emigrate. Friends say he has been told he will be allowed to go.

Soviet is protested at MIT

By Leonard Bushkoff
Special to The Globe

Protest signs appeared at a sparsely attended lecture given Friday at MIT by Yuri Ershov, a prominent Soviet mathematician on the last stop on a controversial tour of five American universities.

"It's funny that they're boycotting the Olympics and inviting a guy like that," said Daniel Kleitman, chairman of the MIT mathematics department. Kleitman said that his department had no official connection with the visit, which was arranged and paid for by the Fulbright Foundation, and that he had learned of the tour's political ramifications only at the last minute.

Ershov is accused by Soviet immigrants in the United States and by Soviet dissidents of using his

power to systematically reject the doctoral dissertations of Jews and dissidents, thereby denying them credentials required for careers in mathematics.

It is also alleged that Ershov has blocked the promotion of Jewish and dissident academicians, and that speaking invitations at scholarly meetings have been reserved for his followers. In September 1973, Ershov was among the earliest Soviet academicians to publicly denounce dissident Andrei Sakharov, and Ershov later was among those condemned by a Soviet mathematician for "persecuting people who do not share (his) extreme views."

Ershov, chairman of the mathematics department of Novosibirsk University and chief of a nationwide group that supervises instruction of algebra, declined to be interviewed.

Wife Attributes Jailing of Soviet Activist to His Satiric Verse

By ANTHONY AUSTIN

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, May 4 — Until nine months ago Igor Guberman was something of a figure in Moscow's intellectual circles — wit, raconteur, science buff, icon collector, social gadabout, a link between the salons of respectable freethinking and the outer darkness of dissent.

Now he is in prison, sentenced as a criminal, a target of particular animus on the part of the authorities and the latest cause célèbre in the Jewish activist movement.

The reason for his downfall, his wife and friends say, lies at least partly in the satirical political verses that he was suspected of writing. The verses were among the matters the K.G.B. asked about when they searched Mr. Guberman's apartment shortly before his arrest Aug. 13, his wife, Tatyana, said in an interview this week.

Verses Were Confiscated

"He pretended he didn't know what they were talking about," she said. "But they found some verses and confiscated them. When they weren't looking he placed his newest verses on top of a pile of papers they had discarded. I read them for the first time only after he was in prison."

Until five years ago Mr. Guberman was an engineering specialist who wrote books and articles on the side, gaining a reputation as a science-fiction writer and producing books for children and adults on bionics, psychology and the human brain.

His career came to an end in the mid-1970's when he threw in with Anatoly B. Shcharansky, the Jewish activist now serving a 13-year sentence for espionage. He made things worse by applying to emigrate to Israel in 1978. He became an editor of the typewritten journal Jews in the U.S.S.R., and, according to his wife and the journal's chief editor, Viktor Brailovsky, he twice rejected requests by the K.G.B. to turn informer against his editorial associates.

Finally Mr. Guberman was charged with trading in stolen icons. He denied knowing that the five icons he bought from two men in 1978 for 520 rubles had been stolen. Mr. Brailovsky mounted a campaign on his behalf with Western correspondents, arguing with a wealth of detail that his friend, as one of Moscow's best-known icon collectors, had been duped by the K.G.B. in an operation aimed ultimately at suppressing the unauthorized Jewish journal.

Mr. Guberman was tried in March in Dmitrov, a town 40 miles from Moscow near the site of the icon thefts, and was sentenced to five years in a labor camp. The court also ordered confiscation of his property, which meant that Mrs. Guberman and their two children, one aged 14 and the other 6, would be left with only the bare essentials — three beds, the most necessary clothes and basic kitchen utensils.

"I am sure they had it in for my husband because he wouldn't turn informer," Mrs. Guberman said. "But I am

positive the verses were a contributory cause."

The verses, circulating in Moscow for several years, have also been a choice item in Soviet émigré circles in the United States and Israel. In view of the authorities' extreme sensitivity to mockery — there are laws against discrediting the Soviet state — Mr. Guberman wrote under the pseudonym Igor Garik, admitting his authorship only to close friends.

After being held incommunicado for five months, mostly in a prison at Volokolamsk, near Moscow, Mr. Guberman was finally allowed a visit by his wife after his trial. He informed her, she reported, that the K.G.B. had told him that his sentence would be light if he agreed to testify against Mr. Brailovsky and harsh if he refused. He refused.

He also told her of being questioned again about the verses, and again remaining silent.

New Verses Snuggled Out

"But now he has changed his mind," she said. "He has decided to let his authorship be known. He has smuggled out his newest verses, written in prison. Here they are."

The verses, here translated, reflect different moods. Some fall into the calm irony that characterizes his previous writing:

*What keeps my county tirelessly moving
Is not the plan for more industrial gear
But a small office, ordinary, gloomy,
Where they manipulate the threads of fear.*

Some verses deal with the "physical measures" taken against prisoners and with his thoughts on how he would stand up to such a test.

*A man is being beaten.
We hear his screams, and yet
We're still: we haven't eaten
And we're low on cigarettes.*

Other verses mock the paradoxes of a man in his current situation:

*Russia is immune to plan — undefinable is she.
Where else must the common man
Go to prison to be free?*

*This Jew is in a mess.
I am at the end of my wits.
I have found the key to success
But I can't find the door it fits.*

On April 11 the newspaper Sovetskaya Rossiya pictured him as an unscrupulous criminal who had financed a ring of icon thieves. On April 23 Mrs. Guberman was permitted to attend a closed hearing at which her husband's appeal against the five-year sentence was heard. The lawyer retained by Mrs. Guberman spoke for an hour.

Evidence Is Called Flimsy

According to her account of the lawyer's speech, he made the following arguments:

The charge of theft rested on the flimsiest evidence — a few words allegedly spoken at a meeting in November 1978, when one of the confessed thieves, Nikolai Gridin, came to Mr. Guberman's apartment with five stolen icons. According to the trial record, Mr. Gridin testified that Mr. Guberman told him he

looked tired; that he, Mr. Gridin, replied that he was up all night, engaged in robbery, and that Mr. Guberman commented, "Be careful."

The prosecution maintained that this showed that Mr. Guberman knew the icons he bought from Mr. Gridin that day were stolen. One of Mr. Gridin's confessed accomplices, Boris Yegorov, testified to having been told of this conversation by Mr. Gridin and in almost exactly the same words — a most suspicious circumstance, the defense lawyer argued, since two years had passed and Mr. Yegorov's memory of other key events was dim.

More important, the lawyer said, Soviet law required corroborative evidence from at least one other person present during the conversation, and the only other one there, a young confederate of Mr. Gridin's named Sergei Drobyshev, had failed to provide such evidence.

"He might as well have been talking to the wall," Mrs. Guberman said of the defense lawyer. "The judges didn't even try to look as though they were listening. After he was through they didn't ask a single question. They went to another room, came back and confirmed the sentence."

The sentence, she pointed out, was stiffer than that given to thieves. Mr. Guberman is to be transferred to a labor camp, which one she did not yet know.

"After it was over," she said, "the lawyer went up to one of the judges, a woman, and said how distressing it was that lawyers like him did their best to defend people but that the outcome was always decided beforehand. And the judge calmly answered, 'Yes.' "

An excerpt from the Soviet press

THE CURRENT DIGEST OF THE SOVIET PRESS

VOL. XXXII, NO. 11

GUBERMAN: RIGHTS CHAMPION OR ICON STEALER?

From the Courtroom: IT WAS NO ROLL THAT THEY STOLE. (By S. Viktorov. Sovetskaya kultura, March 21, p. 8. 700 words. Condensed text:) Sixty-four American Senators and members of the House of Representatives have issued a statement in defense of Igor Guberman — "champion of human rights in the USSR." This was reported recently by Western radio stations, showing a surprising interest in Guberman's trial, which is now under way in the city of Dmitrov, near Moscow. . . .

Possibly, the reason for this [relatively] small number [of defenders] is that the American mass news media do not adequately inform the country's legislators about life in the USSR.

April 22, 1980

JTA Daily News Bulletin

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4 ITALIAN SENATORS, INCLUDING A MEMBER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY, SIGN AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWRY

By Lisa Palmieri Billig

ROME, April 21 (JTA) -- Four members of the Italian Senate, including Umberto Terracini of the Communist Party, were the first to put their signatures today on an appeal on behalf of Soviet Jews and their right to emigrate. The other legislators are Giovanni Spadolini, Leo Valiani and Bruno Visentini. The appeal stated:

"We have learned from highly reliable sources that the already difficult situation of Jews within the Soviet Union, and in particular of those awaiting permission to emigrate, has worsened. People who were waiting to receive visas were again refused. Discrimination against students wanting to register at universities has become more severe and personal persecutions have increased. We denounce with concern the worsening of this situation which violates the elementary rights of security and personal safety"

The statement called on "those militants and heads of parties who are always sensitive to violations of the rights of man ... to make their influence felt on public opinion and on governmental authorities so that the fundamental liberties envisioned by the Universal Declaration and the Helsinki Accords may be reinstated."

ORTHODOX RABBIS SUPPORT SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION TO THE U.S.

NEW YORK, May 27 (JTA) -- The Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada demanded today that the "Israel government not interfere in America's financial support for Russian Jews who emigrate to America" after leaving the Soviet Union. A resolution adopted at the closing session of the organization's annual convention here insisted on the right of Soviet Jews to assistance wherever they choose to immigrate.

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE CRITICIZES BEGIN'S WEST BANK POLICIES

MT. POCONO, Pa., May 19 (JTA) -- The Workmen's Circle, the world's largest Jewish fraternal labor order, criticized Premier Menachem Begin's West Bank policies at its 80th jubilee national convention here.

The convention also upheld the principle of full support for any Soviet Jew who wishes to immigrate to the United States, even if he leaves the USSR on an Israeli visa.

Issue Of Soviet Jews

The resolution upholding the right of all Soviet Jews to leave the USSR if they wish to, stated that "The Workmen's Circle convention also

May 20, 1980

SAKHAROV'S SON WARNS EMIGRATION FROM USSR MUST NOT BE SOLELY JEWISH ISSUE

May 30, 1980

NEW YORK, May 29 (JTA) -- Andrei Semyonov, stepson of Soviet dissident and Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov, told the American Jewish Committee at its recent annual meeting that American Jews must support the right of people everywhere to freely emigrate.

Semyonov told the 400 people present that he and his stepfather are concerned about reports of a campaign in Israel to deny help to Soviet emigres who do not wish to go to Israel. He criticized further attempts to separate the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration from the human rights movement.

"We will never achieve truly free emigration from the USSR for the Jews," Semyonov said, "if we do not press for everyone's right to emigrate, if we do not insure the adoption and enforcement of laws guaranteeing this right to everyone." Semyonov immigrated to the U.S. a few years ago and is currently a student at Brandeis University.

Sees 'Increase Of Anti-Semitism'

He stressed that any attempts to make emigration a specifically Jewish issue will hurt Jews trying to leave the Soviet Union, not to mention those who choose to remain. "Any other approach to the Jewish problem in the USSR such as an attempt to consider the right to emigrate as an exclusively Jewish right will lead, and is already leading, to the increase of anti-Semitism," he said.

Meanwhile, he said, Sakharov has been placed under strict confinement in the Soviet Union. The only people Sakharov is allowed to talk with are "my mother and grandmother, his mother-in-law. My mother has been warned many times that the same kind of restrictions as in the case of Dr. Sakharov could be applied to her. If that happens, they will actually be totally cut off from the rest of the world." Defending Sakharov, Semyonov added, "means to be defending all persecuted people in the Soviet Union."

takes a stand against the attempts of certain Jewish leaders and political factions to attempt to limit the number of Soviet Jewish immigrants allowed to enter the U.S."

In his acceptance speech, Kugler said "For those Jews who wish to leave the USSR, we shall continue to provide succor and assistance. Despite the fact that many of them leave with Israeli visas as the only document permitting escape, most decide to settle here in the U.S. Nevertheless, these Jews must not be treated in any manner but that of open-hearted welcome and support. Furthermore, we must insist that the U.S. allocate sufficient visas for Soviet Jews to come to these shores. It is the basic right for any human being to immigrate to any place on this earth."

Letter to a bereaved mother



Anatoly Shcharansky

The following is the text of a letter sent by Anatoly Shcharansky to his mother, Ida Milgrom, after learning of his father's death. The prominent Jewish activist is in Christopol Prison, where he is serving a 13-year term for "espionage" and "anti-Soviet activities."

IT'S DIFFICULT for me to begin this letter, even though many days have gone by since the black evening I received your telegram, telling me that Father had died. It is never easy to cope with occasions like this, and for me, separated from you, even more difficult. I have lived exactly 32 years without losing any of those dearest to me. I must now get used to something that is, for me, a completely new situation...

It was a terrible shock. As it hurts to touch an open wound, so it pains me to recall my memories of Father, which span most of my life. Right from my childhood, which was so full of Father, I remember those wonderful winter days, my birthdays.

Life twists events into such painful symbols! .

...Father died on January 20, and I dream of being able to tell our children, with Avital, what he bequeathed to his sons. This is not rhetoric inspired by this difficult moment. The last three years have given me enough time for self-examination, and to realize how much I received — and, I am sure, Leonid too — from our family. There was a constant atmosphere of goodwill, of optimism, of concern for other people, of interest in everyday events and readiness for new experiences. I am glad I have come to appreciate all this, and I dream of the time I shall be able to express this new realization in our life together.

DURING the first 16 months of our separation, I kept thinking about our last meeting, at Volodia [Vladimir] Slepak's home on March 13, the evening I was arrested. Father tried to comfort you; how much he needed comforting

himself!

I could get no news of you for a whole year. I realized that that year must have been especially hard for you. I was harrowed by the fear that the meeting at Volodia's was the last one. Later, the uncertainty vanished. I saw Leonid, then you. I began to receive letters from Father. I was, of course, very worried about Father; I was worried, but I was also confident. Then came the series of meetings with you — at the trial, at Lefortovo, at Vladimir [the jails where he was imprisoned]. I thought we would have a long meeting at the camp after two months, but that never happened. As it turned out, that evening at Volodia's was indeed the last time. It's as though I spent a long time on a fragile, swaying bridge. I was almost across; I had only to stretch out my hand... But it was too late.

Mother dear, I beg you to take care of yourself. There is only one way to do that — learn not to fray your nerves and waste your mental energy, whatever the cause. Stop living from letter to letter. There will almost certainly be more interference with our correspondence. Maybe there will be no more meetings. Of course, things do not happen as quickly as we would like. I don't say we should sit back and do nothing. But it is essential to do things quietly, not to get nervy, not to grieve, not to fill yourself with fears. Look after your health, rest regularly. This is the only way we can hope for better days.

I ask you to learn this, Mother, before it is too late. Don't forget that you are "the captain of the family ship," as Father was so fond of saying, and a captain must be more than wise and strong — a captain must be quiet and serene. The fortunes and the spirit of the entire crew depend on it.

SO, MOTHER, there is no point in torturing yourself and worrying about me. I will tell you how I keep myself occupied with something that is a great help in maintaining my mental balance. In my last letter to you, I wrote about Psalm 27, a psalm of David, which I like very much. The day after I received your telegram telling me of Father's death (the 23rd), I decided, in his memory, to read and study all 150 psalms.

This is what I do from morning till evening. I stop only to eat, take walks, do eye exercises, and glance at the newspapers.

My Book of Psalms is very small, and the print is tiny. I copy out each psalm, then translate it, noting on the other side the words I don't understand. I then read it again and again until I have mastered the text

to the point where the unfamiliar words and expressions no longer hinder me. I work diligently, without hurrying. So far I have learnt 100 psalms in this way, and have stopped only to write this letter.

What does this give me? First of all, it is quite tiring, it leaves me almost no energy for black thoughts and painful memories. Secondly, this study is very useful to me in several ways — learning the language is filling an enormous gap in my basic Jewish education. Thirdly — and this seems to be the main thing — as I read these verses, my thoughts return to Father, to you, to Avital, to the past and the future, to the fate of our close and more distant family — but in a more general, spiritual way.

Gradually, my feeling of great loss and sorrow changes to one of bright hopes. I am denied the right to visit Father's grave but when, in the future, I hear these wonderful verses, these lines that encompass the lives of all the Jews in Israel, and not only there, I shall remember Father. It will be as if I had erected a memorial stone to him in my heart, and he will be with me all the days of my life.

I HAVE JUST read over what I have written and I fear that, although I wanted to comfort you, Mother, I shall have made you worry more than ever. Forgive me, my dear. Let us look at things from another angle. We were children of your older years. You were always afraid that you would not manage to bring us up. You took out a life insurance, to ensure our livelihood in case anything happened. You kept it

up until they would no longer insure you because of your age. You succeeded in bringing us up, and in giving us what no insurance could provide. You were afraid you would not be able to educate us, but you did that too. You felt you would not see your grandchildren — in his last letter, Father told me what a wonderful boy Sashka is.

Think, Mother, how hard it would have been if Father had not lived to the summer of 1978, and had not known anything about my situation. Father lived and was respected until he was 75; he saw the fruits of his work, of his life — something not given to everyone.

I bring these lines to a close. I think this letter is shorter than my last one, but it is not my eyes that are stopping me. I simply don't have the spirit to write about unimportant things. I don't want to disengage myself from the sad frame of mind I find myself in these days.

I have not asked about my many friends, but I do remember them and am concerned about them. I hope to receive letters and news of them. I have nothing special to tell them. Give my regards to all

friends and relatives, wherever they may be.

In my telegram to you, I put "I am with you." The same day, I received a telegram from Avital in Jerusalem, in which I read, "I am with you." This is certainly not a coincidence. Yes, I know and feel that we are together constantly, everywhere — our missing family, and friends far and near — and this gives me the strength to retain my perpetual optimism, which I received as a legacy from Father.

I embrace you, my dear ones.

P.S. Yesterday, I received a letter from Mrs. Lerner [wife of Prof. Alexander Lerner; both veteran refuseniks] dated January 28. Many thanks to her. I found answers to my questions in it. Again, Mother, I wondered at your tremendous strength and courage. I am glad that Father was buried with the proper ritual. I offer my deep thanks to all who were with you during those days.

Best wishes for Purim.

Pleas resound for release of prisoners of conscience

To The Denver Post:

AS REPORTED in The Denver Post, former prisoner of conscience, Edward Kuznetsov, came to Colorado on April 15 and 16. His appearance in Denver and at the University of Colorado was sponsored by the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry for the purpose of Kuznetsov's telling his story of a commuted death sentence and of nine years in a Soviet prison, in addition to speaking on behalf of three fellow prisoners he left behind. In May 1979, Kuznetsov was freed in exchange for two Soviet spies held by the United States. How did he survive those extremely difficult years in prison? What was the mysterious reason the Soviets granted freedom to a political prisoner?

The answer is three dimensional. First, it was his own great personal courage and strength. Secondly, it was the massive publicity given in the West to

the Kuznetsov case. Thirdly, it was the constant knowledge that *you* were out there helping him which sustained him in those trying times.

You being the small dedicated group of volunteers from the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry who for nine long years never got tired of demonstrating in a freezing rain, biting wind, a driving snowstorm or in suffocating heat — fasting in sympathy with Kuznetsov who was on a four-day hunger strike in prison — or marching miles on Denver's streets carrying "Free Kuznetsov" placards.

You being every Colorado citizen who responded to this group by signing countless petitions and sending numerous letters to both U.S. and Soviet authorities for nine years urging his release.

You being Colorado legislators who passed resolutions and issued proclamations on behalf of Kuznetsov.

You being the media persons from radio, TV and newspapers who reported the above events time and again.

You are the army that helped free Kuznetsov — an army with no guns, no general, an army armed only with "pen power," faith and commitment.

The Colorado army joined with similar armies around the world in sustaining Edward Kuznetsov in his lonely pris-



on cell. It made it possible for him to be with us in Colorado last week to plead on behalf of his less fortunate fellow prisoners: Josef Mendelovich, Alexi Murzhenko and Yuri Fedorov.

We urge you to use your "pen power" for them. Write to Leonid Brezhnev, The Kremlin, Moscow, RSFSR, U.S.S.R. Send an appeal for their release — air mail, 31 cents. This power of the pen has worked before, it can work again.

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June 6, 1980

JUNE-A MONTH OF SAD ANNIVERSARIES FOR THE PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

- June 2 — Two years since the arrest of Vladimir and Masha Slepak. Vladimir must serve two more years in exile.
- June 4 — Two years since Ida Nudel was arrested. Ida has two more years of exile.
- June 15 — Ten years since the arrest of the Leningrad eleven. Three are still imprisoned: Yosef Mendelovich, two more years; Yuri Fedorov, five more years; and Alexei Murzhenko, four more years.
- Six months since the illegal exile of Andrei Sakharov.

Freedom is the consciousness that you have human rights, that you are protected from abuse and violence. In the Soviet regime you have no rights.

-Edward Kuznetsov

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