

# ALERT

Vol IV No31/Aug 28, 1980/Robert Gordon, Pres./Frieda Horwitz, Editor

## The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

### Magidovich Confined in Psychiatric Facility

Sources in Moscow have confirmed that refusenik Alexander Magidovich of Tula has been incarcerated in the Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry since his arrest in early May.

Moscow activists are particularly alarmed at this new Soviet tactic in dealing with refuseniks, following so closely upon the recent forced confinement of Vladimir Kislik in a psychiatric facility in Kiev. Jewish activists and refuseniks have generally been exempt from this dreaded Soviet means of dealing with dissidents.

Magidovich, an unmarried forty-nine year old refusenik, has tried to emigrate since 1973. Refused repeatedly since then, Magidovich was working as a postman until his arrest. He was formerly a radio engineer and was refused on grounds of secrecy.

Magidovich has no family in the USSR, his parents having emigrated to Israel. He is not being allowed any visitors, and concern mounts that he will be diagnosed as mentally incompetent, with no one to appeal his case. (A three month term is usually set for determining a diagnosis at Serbsky, after which a court has to order compulsory treatment.)

Your protests are thus urgently and immediately needed. Send telegrams of protest to Dr. A.V. Snezhnevsky, head of the Institute, and Dr. Georgy Morozov, senior psychiatrist of Section 4. Write to them at Serbsky Institute of Forensic Psychiatry, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR.

### Lone Soviet Striker to be put on Trial

Dmitri Shchiglik, on strike in Moscow for over a year, is expected to go on trial this week on charges of "parasitism". Shchiglik is a mechanical engineer who has been refused permission to emigrate on the grounds of "secrecy of his former work."

Dmitri went on strike in late April of 1979, protesting that he would not return to work until given a written explanation of his refusal at OVIR. He has been repeatedly refused due to his former work at the USSR Hydro-Meteorologic Service, where he repaired ships engaged in weather research. However, he has not been involved in this work for over eight years; he has furthermore been told by the head of the department at the Service that there were no job-related objections to his emigration.

The Soviets responded to Dmitri's protest by firing him and then arresting him prior to the Olympics. Please protest to the Procurator of the city of Moscow:

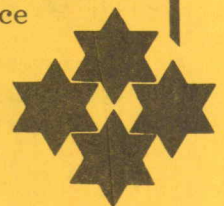
Procurator Parzdnikova, 27 Novokuznetskaya St., Moscow, RSFSR, USSR.

### News of the POC's: Begun Released

While most of the news of the Prisoners of Conscience is discouraging, we were delighted to hear that Yosef Begun was released from exile. Before leaving Siberia, Begun visited fellow-exile Vladimir Slepak and found his situation appalling. Now Begun and his wife, Alla Drugova, are relaxing in the Baltic region before confronting the thorny problem of getting a residence permit for him.

Begun, whose work as a Hebrew instructor got him in trouble with the authorities, was awarded the Samuel Rothberg Prize for teaching Hebrew in Jerusalem.

Continued





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Other news of the P.O.C.'s follows:

\* Semyon Gluzman was pressured by the KGB to sign a statement that his health is good and that he does not need medical treatment. He refused, and was "directly threatened...after a very sharp discussion with a member of the KGB". He has indicated that while reading is difficult, listening to classical music is quite pleasurable.

\* Lev Roitburd's situation in Odessa is deteriorating badly. His son Sasha has been unable to find work, and Lev, even doing double shifts, can't earn enough to support his family. The Roitburd family was the only one on Senator Kennedy's list unable to get an exit visa. (The Senator insists that he is still working on the case.)

\* Former P.O.C. Amner Zavurov has been refused permission to emigrate on the grounds of "secrecy". There are now seven former P.O.C.'s awaiting exit visas.

\* Ida Nudel's nephew and family are coming to spend one month with her in order to help her prepare for the winter months.

\* P.O.C. Vladimir Slepak, half-way through a five-year term in exile, has been evicted from his home and ordered to a dilapidated hut on the outskirts of the village of Tsogoto Khangil. Planning to protest, Vladimir told a friend, "If necessary, I shall go to Aginskoye (the district administrative center) to register my objection. We don't exactly live in luxury, but both Maria and I have spent a lot of time and energy in making the place civilized and bearable. We don't intend to give it all up without a fight."

## Letters from Refusenik Leaders

Two of the leading activists in Moscow, Dr. Alexander Lerner and Professor Yuri Golfand, have recently written letters to their friends in the West concerning the current situation. Excerpts of the two letters are written below.

"I am happy to use this opportunity to send a message to you. We know that you do your best to help us solve our problem, to realize our dreams, to unite our kith and kin with our people in our country. Unfortunately, now the situation is such that we are not very optimistic about the possibility to get permission to leave the country...

"...What is the most important thing now as I understand it? It is to keep acting. Do not stop activity. Act as much as possible and do not forget that our people are the reason for your help--that some of us are in prisons, some of us are in labor camps, some are on trial and many are in refusal; and these people are waiting for your support, for your help, for your concern, for your active work on behalf of people who dream to unite their nation."

Dr. Alexander Lerner

"To my Western Colleagues:

"For more than six years, without any serious reasons, the Soviet authorities have refused to grant me permission to leave for Israel and did not allow me to work as a physicist in the USSR.

"Now, the Soviet Academy of Sciences has appointed me as a senior researcher at the Lebedev Physical Institute. Undoubtedly, this is the result of constant efforts and support from my Western colleagues. I am immensely grateful to them for it.

"However, in no way do I consider getting a job as the ultimate solution to my problem. I urge my colleagues to diminish their efforts, until my perfectly legal desire to leave for Israel will be realized too."

Professor Yuri Golfand



## Moscow Legal Seminar Threatened

The KGB has threatened to forcibly disband the Moscow legal seminar, functioning since October, 1977, according to Ilya Tsitovsky, a former member and recent emigre.

Mark Berenfield, who has headed the seminar for one year, was detained by the KGB on July 4, 1980, at his place of work, and was told during the interrogation that "the legal seminar has attracted too many Jews...This is a situation which the KGB will not tolerate any longer. If Mark does not stop holding meetings...the KGB will do it itself; but Berenfield's family will never be permitted to leave the Soviet Union."

The legal seminar meets bi-weekly and is devoted to work on legal aspects of Jewish emigration from the USSR to Israel. Its participants help people applying for exit visas with various legal issues including job dismissals, police searches of apartments, divorce problems, etc. Its findings have been published in six issues of its bulletin, Emigration to Israel - Law and Practice.

The seminar has not heretofore been harassed by the KGB and has been scrupulous to be within the boundaries of recognized Soviet and international law. But Berenfield, a charismatic young man, has evidently attracted large numbers to the seminar.

Berenfield along with his wife and son applied and were refused for security reasons in mid-1977. Mark is a mathematician, his wife a stewardess. Evgenias'a father, a retired KGB officer, has hindered their departure even though they have not seen one another for a decade. Please send letters of support to Mark Berenfield, Malaya Schukinskaya 17, Kv 50, Moscow 123098, RSFSR, USSR.

## Refuseniks Assaulted in Street

A letter from a Moscow refusenik, Evgeny Lein, tells of a street assault by two hooligans on his daughter, Sasha, which was only thwarted by the intervention of some passers-by. One of the men got away, but the other was caught by the police. However, when the identity of the victim was established and evidence taken from independent witnesses, the case was abruptly dropped.

According to Lein, this is not an isolated incident. In the last few weeks, his letter claims, no fewer than six Moscow refuseniks or their children were subjected to similar "provocations", and in no case did a prosecution follow. And this at a time when the Soviet press has announced a new campaign against hooliganism.

## Chernovtsy Jews Quizzed in Strange Questionnaire

Many Jews in the Ukrainian city of Chernovtsy have received confidential questionnaires. Three striking questions were included as follows:

What is your attitude to Jews who wish to leave the USSR?

Do you have any relatives abroad and what contact do you maintain with them?

What is your attitude to living in Birobidjan where you would be offered a good job in a large flat?

From the fact that such a questionnaire was issued one can infer that the Ukrainian authorities are planning to totally revamp their policy toward Jews. This situation bears close scrutiny. It should be recalled that it was in the Ukraine that the now-widely-applied "close kinship" regulations were first instituted. Other unusual Ukrainian developments are the collective actions by five thousand Kiev refuseniks and the protest by local Ukrainians against the special privilege of emigration being accorded Jews.



## An Appeal by ex-P.O.C.'s on Behalf of Sakharovs

Professor Andrei Sakharov, world-famous physicist, Nobel Peace Prize winner and campaigner for Human Rights, was arrested in Moscow in January 1980.

He was not charged with any crime. There has been no trial. But Andrei Sakharov has been exiled from his home and he and his wife, Elena, now live under surveillance in the closed city of Gorky.

We should not take comfort from the fact that Sakharov has not actually been imprisoned. The Soviet Union is testing Western public opinion - and response. We believe a great deal depends on Western reaction to this particular example of Soviet repression, which has effectively removed the leader of the Human Rights movement in the USSR.

The Soviet authorities know how important Sakharov is to the national movements, and to the movements for freedom and Human Rights. This brilliant and extraordinary man has been the center of activity, ideas and inspiration. He has shown tremendous courage in championing the rights of others. Without his leadership the entire Human Rights movement in the Soviet Union is weakened.

We believe that, unless there is an outcry from all sympathisers around the world, Sakharov will be in danger, and so will all his friends and supporters. The authorities will have learned that they can illegally exile and harass a world-famous personality, and get away with it. An avalanche of arrests may well follow. If we in the West are silent now, we share the responsibility for the fate of these people.

We, former Prisoners of Zion, believe that a campaign for justice for Andrei Sakharov is an act of political farsightedness. The fate of Sakharov affects us all. No one can now be indifferent to the internal and external policies of the Soviet Union. Recent events in Afghanistan serve as a warning to everyone who values freedom, independence, and the safety of his people.

We appeal for your support:

Because Sakharov is being oppressed, and has the right to be defended;

Because the Soviets are violating even their own harsh laws in their persecution of this man;

Because we owe a personal debt of gratitude to Sakharov, who was in the front rank of those who defended the Jewish right to emigrate to Israel, and who had the courage to demand the freedom of the Prisoners of Zion.

Anatoly Altman

Hillel Butman

Mark Dynshits

Arieh Knokh

Eduard Kuznetzov

Boris Penson

Israel Zalmanson

Silva Zalmanson

Wulf Zalmanson

## Postal Information

Information from the United State Postal Service indicates that according to Soviet law, postal receipts need only be signed by a postal employee. This is true for packages as well as letters. Thus pink receipts do not guarantee delivery, or that the package was ever seen by the intended recipient. A copy of the letter from the Postal Service is available in the office.



## Scientists Continue Action Against Soviet Violations

Scientific activities by individual and organized scientists groups has mounted during the year, with a moratorium on scientific exchange still underway. A statement by Dr. Morris Pripstein, chairman of Scientists for Orlov and Shcharansky, presented at the San Francisco regional meet of the CSCE, is excerpted below.

"We believe that scientific exchange must be free of political interference and that the present lack of reciprocity in the exchange programs will no longer be tolerated. Individual scientists, acting independently of their governments, have implemented these policies by pledging to restrict their personal scientific cooperation with the Soviet Union and to oppose the transfer to that country of sophisticated technology. Our initial efforts involved only U.S. scientists and engineers. Our present campaign is now world-wide in scope, excluding only the Eastern bloc countries.

"...Thus, SOS policy reflects our conviction that it is impossible to have a meaningful scientific exchange program (Basket II) without guaranteeing the rights of scientists both as scientists and as human beings (Basket III).

"Since the Soviet Union seems genuinely interested in pursuing scientific exchange, we can use emphasis on Basket II to gain attendant U.S. objectives in both Baskets II and III...I wish to offer two recent episodes which provided some positive results:

"A) Last summer, as part of the US-USSR exchange program in physics, there was a workshop at Aspen in theoretical particle physics, with approximately ten physicists from the Soviet Union participating. The American organizers insisted that the ten scientists be chosen from their list of eighteen prominent Soviet physicists, and that no substitutes would be tolerated. The Soviets objected to this and threatened to withdraw entirely from this workshop. However, the American organizers were adamant, resulting in eventual Soviet agreement to nearly all the conditions required by the organizers. The workshop was successful for all concerned.

"B) The concerted, forceful actions by the various Western delegations at the recent Helsinki scientific forum held in Hamburg in February resulted in a concluding document which included explicit recognition of human rights as a requirement for successful scientific exchange, despite initial vigorous objections by the Soviet delegation. This type of action, properly coordinated with our Western allies by experienced professionals, can be successful again at Madrid."

## Activists Issue Appeal for Guberman

Fourteen Soviet Jewish activists have issued a public appeal for "the greatest possible attention" to the fate of Prisoner of Conscience Igor Guberman declaring that, "All the charges against Guberman, who was sentenced to five years in the Gulag, were proven false; the defense lawyer demanded a verdict of "not guilty", but the appeals court blankly confirmed his sentence.

"Why? Because Guberman participated in the publication of Jews in the USSR [a samizdat journal], and primarily because he had flatly rejected the KGB's request to become an informer and provocateur and aid them in preparing a trial against Jewish activists. Although this would have gained his personal freedom, Igor refused, even following his arrest, the constant pressure of seven months' 'investigation', and on the eve of his sentence.

"And now Igor Guberman, a Jew, poet, author, an honest and decent man deeply interested in Jewish culture and Hebrew, waiting for permission to emigrate to Israel, is in prison. Accord the greatest possible attention to his fate! Do everything possible to release him to Israel!"

Solomon Alber  
Yakov Alpert  
Abram Kogan  
Victor Brailovsky  
Irina Brailovsky  
Alexander Ioffe  
Yury Golfand

Arkady Leonov  
Grigory Freiman  
Mikhail Chlenov  
Victor Fulmakht  
Aba Taratuta  
Alexander Genusov  
Yuly Kosharovsky



# A Showdown on Human Rights

By Ernest Covine

**O**n November 11, just one week after the American presidential election, representatives of the United States, the Soviet Union and 33 other nations will meet in Madrid to review the record of compliance with the 1975 Helsinki accord.

By rights, the occasion should be a disaster for the Russians and a picnic for the United States. Unfortunately, things may not turn out that way.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, which produced what came to be known as the Helsinki Final Act five years ago, was originally Moscow's brainchild. The Russians wanted the Western powers to put their signatures on a document formally recognizing the postwar boundaries of Europe — in effect validating Soviet hegemony over Eastern Europe.

Moscow got what it wanted, but at a price.

The Final Act included language, put in at the insistence of the West, under which each signatory nation pledged to respect human rights and to lower barriers to the flow of ideas and people across national frontiers.

Under the agreement, the signatory nations also committed themselves to "pay due regard to and implement the provisions of the Final Act."

The first followup conference was held in Belgrade in 1977. The second will be the November 11 session in Madrid.

There is one school of thought that says it makes little sense for Americans to boycott the Moscow Olympics and then sit down with the Russians at Madrid. Ronald Reagan is said to have voiced sympathy with that view.

It is hard to understand, however, how U.S.

Interests would be served by boycotting Madrid.

As one participant in U.S. preparations for the conference put it, "Keeping the process alive is important in itself. But beyond that we would be extremely foolish to pass up this opportunity to hold the Russians to account for their invasion of Afghanistan and their violations of the human-rights provisions of the accord."

The Russians and all other signatories to the 1975 agreement pledged, among other things, to respect the "inviolability of frontiers" and the "self-determination of peoples."

As Senator Charles Mathias Jr., R-Md., has pointed out, these provisions of the Helsinki accord did not apply only to European nations and frontiers.

The Kremlin, meanwhile, also has treated the human-rights provisions of the Helsinki agreement's so-called Basket Three with utter contempt.

American and other foreign journalists are still subject to occasional harassment and even physical abuse. In plain violation of the accord's freedom-of-religion guarantees, Soviet Baptists and Pentacostals are being ruthlessly persecuted.

Andrei Sakharov, leader of the human-rights movement in the Soviet Union, has been banished from Moscow. Contributors to the samizdat underground publications risk exile or incarceration in mental hospitals.

The Soviet government has jailed virtually all founding members of the Helsinki Watch Committee, which, like groups in the United States and other countries, set out to monitor their government's

compliance with the 35-nation agreement.

Mathias, a leading member of the Republican Party's moderate, internationalist wing, has called on President Carter to "place the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan at the top of the agenda for the Madrid conference. Moscow," he argues, "must also be held to account for its 'savage disregard' of the Helsinki agreement's human-rights provisions."

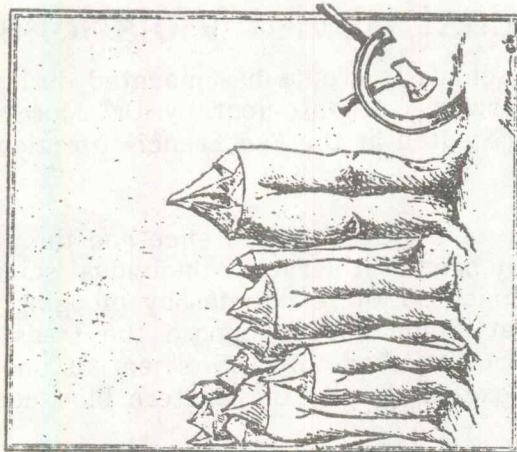
As of now, the administration intends to do just that. Unfortunately, however, it isn't that easy.

The Soviets can be expected to throw some rocks of their own — pointing out for example, that the United States has never got around to ratifying the International convention outlawing genocide.

The main Russian thrust at Madrid, however, is expected to be a peace offensive holding forth the vague but alluring prospect of new arms-control agreements — and greater peace of mind in Europe — if only the Western allies will stop carping about Afghanistan and other alleged Soviet misdeeds.

The Soviets may also suggest, implicitly or explicitly, that they will pick up their marbles and go home — with possibly unpleasant consequences to follow — if the United States and other participants insist on berating them about human rights.

The potential effectiveness of such an approach is obvious. The French and Germans already have been trying almost frantically to put some distance between themselves and the tougher American posture on Afghanistan. And the West Germans have demonstrated that they are not interested in jeopardizing the continuing repatriation of Germans from the GDR.



nist countries by worrying too much about the mistreatment of Soviet citizens by their own government.

If an American campaign to "hold the Soviet Union to account" is pressed very hard, it is easy to imagine a scenario in which we, not the Russians, become the villains of Madrid — especially if the Soviet delegates stomp ominously out of the conference.

Efforts to coordinate the allied approach to Madrid are, of course, under way. But it is not clear that the differences in approach to Afghanistan and human rights can be reconciled in time.

Los Angeles Times

## READERS' LETTERS

### THE STUDY OF HEBREW

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post

Sir, — It would be naive for your readers to derive encouragement from your report on the forthcoming conference in Warsaw that there are three Hebrew language chairs in the USSR. Studies in this subject are for academic (and political) purposes only, and it is an ironic fact that Jews are not accepted.

Soviet Jew Josef Begun, a teacher of Hebrew, was charged with parasitism and sentenced to a period in exile after trying, unsuccessfully, to register himself for tax purposes. The Soviet Government, he was informed, does not recognize Hebrew as an official language.

LEILA CUMBER

Tel Aviv (Harrow, England).

## Holding Russia

to account it isn't that easy



# Moscow vs. Rights

NYT July 31, 1980 By Jeri Laber

Five years after the signing of the Helsinki accords, with the second Helsinki review conference scheduled for November in Madrid, articles have appeared recently on the editorial pages of several leading American newspapers suggesting that the United States boycott the Madrid conference, thus abrogating its Helsinki commitments.

Soviet-American relations are worse today than they have been in several decades; the Soviet thrust into Afghanistan, the American boycott of the Moscow Olympic Games and the failure to ratify SALT II are recent reflections of that tension. Moreover, well before Afghanistan, Soviet leaders, who freely invoke the peaceful "spirit of Helsinki" when it suits their purposes, had made a mockery of the human rights provisions of the Helsinki accords.

I had a chance to see the "Helsinki spirit" in action last fall in Moscow when I met with members of the Moscow Helsinki Watch Group in Andrei D. Sakharov's apartment. The room was "bugged," of course; this was openly acknowledged. Yet the people who had assembled there to meet a Helsinki colleague from the West spoke openly and without fear about their troubles and hopes. Only one word caused them to pause and lower their voices to a whisper — that word was "Helsinki."

There were 12 of them waiting for me in the Sakharov living room on the September afternoon, a plucky but dispirited group, more women than men and most of them quite elderly. They were the survivors of a citizens' movement steadily eroded by the arrest and exile of its most dynamic members — people like Yuri F. Orlov, Anatoly B. Shcharansky, Aleksandr Ginzburg and Vladimir Slepak.

Now, less than a year later, only five of those people remain in Moscow, and they are subject to severe harassment. The rest have been dispersed in a variety of ways: the Sakharovs to the closed city of Gorky, others to prison or internal exile, still others expelled to the West. Oksana Meshko, a handsome, 75-year-old woman who survived Stalin's gulag and whose son is now a political prisoner, was recently forced into a psychiatric hospital.

Monitoring the Soviet monitors has become a tragic numbers game with a constantly rising tally: as of this writing, 43 are in prison or exile for attempting to exercise the rights that we, their American counterparts, take for granted in our imperfect United States. This figure does not include the many

Soviet Helsinki monitors who have been forced to emigrate, to say nothing of those who were so intimidated that they did not join in the first place. Nor does it include Helsinki watchers in Eastern Europe, where governments have followed the Soviet lead.

Should we, then, sit down at the conference table with Soviet leaders this fall for a discussion of Helsinki compliance among the 35 signers? Would it not be morally and politically consistent for us to boycott the review conference as we have boycotted the Olympics? Wouldn't this be the most effective way for us to show the Soviet Union that it will be held accountable for violating international agreements it has signed? So goes one set of arguments.

On the other side we find a responsible diplomat like Albert W. Sherer Jr., who was in charge of American preparations for the first review conference in Belgrade in 1977, arguing in the summer issue of *Foreign Policy* that we should not repeat the mistakes of Belgrade by "hammering away at the cause of Soviet dissidents." Mr. Sherer urges that the superpowers at Madrid "cooperate rather than confront." One wonders to what end.

If we are to go to Madrid, and I be-

## Should we go to Madrid for the Helsinki review?

lieve that we *should*, it is certainly not to mollify the Soviet Union within a Helsinki framework. The Russians will attempt to focus attention at Madrid on questions of military and economic security. They conveniently forget that the accords are unique in recognizing that a country's human rights record is an international affair intrinsically linked to military and economic stability. We must force them to remember this at Madrid. The American delegation, while freely acknowledging its own shortcomings in complying with the Helsinki accords, should enlist all the support it can get to demand that the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia release their imprisoned Helsinki monitors as well as countless others being punished for their religious or political beliefs.

There may be room for quiet negotiation as well, but only if we make our position known now — over and over again — before Madrid and at Madrid. We must take this initiative, even if — especially if — this is our last opportunity.

## Soviet Scientist

Misses U.S. Parley

The 20th International Conference on High Energy Physics held recently at the University of Wisconsin attracted some 1200 scientists from around the world. A Soviet scientist who was to have had the most prestigious place on the program, however, did not show up.

No one is certain just what happened to Lev Okun, a leading Soviet scientist from the Moscow-based Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics. But his absence is believed to be politically inspired and has fueled speculation that the 1984 conference site, which was scheduled for the Soviet Union, might be moved to another country.

Prior to the conference, Okun had received permission from the Soviet authorities to attend. He had a visa and airline and hotel reservations, and had prepared notes for a speech that was to have been given on 23 July, the last day of the 6-day conference. When the 17 other members of the Soviet delegation arrived, however, they would say only that Okun had not boarded the airplane with them in Moscow.

Okun is a friend of dissident Soviet scientist Andrei Sakharov, but does not have a reputation for agitating Soviet authorities. According to conference organizers, Okun may at the last minute have been denied permission to travel because the conference had received several papers by Sakharov, a Nobel Peace Prize winner now living in exile in Gorky. Sakharov's papers, and an apology that some of his references were not complete because he is denied access to a library, had been smuggled out of the Soviet Union by persons connected with the International Zionist movement. Okun is believed to be Jewish.

Organizers of the conference sent a telegram, signed by 800 of the attending scientists, to the president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences protesting Okun's absence. Other actions are in the offing. At the 1978 annual conference, the sponsoring International Union of Pure and Applied Physics adopted a resolution that questioned whether the 1984 conference should be held in the Soviet Union if the absence of invited Soviet speakers continued at other meetings. In light of Okun's absence, conference organizers at the University of Wisconsin said that such a boycott was now becoming a distinct possibility.

SCIENCE, VOL. 209, 22 AUGUST 1980

Jeri Laber is executive director of Helsinki Watch, an American citizens' committee.



# 'Jewish Soul' in Soviet jail

The Jerusalem Post  
June 15, 1980  
by Sarah Honig

*"It is not always possible for me to turn my face towards Jerusalem when I pray, or at least pray near an open window. But without fail I always have Mount Moriah on my mind, and how sweet is the prayer which brings tears to one's eyes."*

— from a letter by prisoner of Zion Yosef Mendelevich, sent to Israel through friends in Moscow two months ago.

THERE HAS BEEN light and shadow in the saga of Soviet Jewry over the past decade. The heavy gates have been slightly pushed ajar, and thousands of Jews managed to squeeze through the crack, many seeking a better life in the West and in Israel, some arriving here brimming with idealism and fervent dreams like the Lovers of Zion a century ago.

Yet not even all of the Jews who leave the Soviet Union these days remember those who made the exodus possible, who opened the way for the exodus, some of them are still paying for the freedom of others.

In 1970, a desperate group in Leningrad planned to steal a Soviet plane and fly it to freedom. They never managed to carry out their scheme. Doomed to operational failure from the outset, it succeeded in attracting world attention to the plight of Soviet Jews.

The Leningrad trial which followed and which began exactly 10 years ago, are seen today as the turning point in the history of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The conspirators received heavy sentences. Some were sent away for 15 years of hard labour. The women in the group — Mary Khnokh and Sylva Zalmanson — were the first to be freed. Then Israel Zalmanson followed them to Israel. Seven more were released last year in a spy exchange deal with the Americans — group leaders Edouard Kuznetsov and Mark Dymshitz, Ze'ev Zalmanson, Arye Khnokh, Hillel Butman, Boris Penson and Anatoly Altman.

BUT THE KREMLIN works in mysterious ways. Three of the Leningrad trial defendants are still imprisoned, doing hard labour. Two, Alexei Murzhenko and Yuri Feodorov are non-Jews. The third is Yosef Mendelevich, regarded by his friends as "the Jewish Soul" of their group. On June 15 he will have spent ten of his 33 years behind bars; in two more years his sentence is up.

Mendelevich's ordeal is complicated by the fact that he has become devoutly religious. This does not endear him to his wardens, nor does the fact that he's been caught running underground *ulpanim* in the prison camps. He once spent a full five months in solitary confinement in a punishment cell for refusing to work on the Sabbath, although he had filled his seven days hard labour quota in six.

But worst of all, he keeps strictly kosher, which means that he gets even fewer calories than other undernourished and overworked inmates. In 10 years he had not eaten any cooked food; his diet is mostly bread and water. This has severely affected his health. He recently was hospitalized for three months due to malnutrition, which left him unable to sit or stand unaided.

Much of the mail sent him is confiscated and in the past seven years he has not been permitted a single visit, in open contravention of Soviet law.

WHAT KEEPS Yosef going? Perhaps excerpts from his letters, collected over the past decade, can furnish a clue.

It is not faith alone, he writes, because "faith is a gift from heaven. It is the test of faith under critical situations which counts."

In another letter, in which he complains of not having had any mail for a year and a half, he speaks of "a sort of suffering which one just accepts because it is ordained from above. To accept suffering in this manner is the right way."

Yet even when deprived of the contact afforded by letters, Mendelevich thinks of others. Addressing "all those who wrote him letters he did not receive, he apologized in 1975 for having "made people toil in vain. But all the goodness of your deeds accumulates somewhere and such a vast store of good deeds is bound to help some one, somewhere, someday, so do not regret your wasted effort."

Concern for others does not even let him fully enjoy the *matza* he receives from friends for Pessah. He once expressed joy over the fact that "the *matza* had arrived in once place and did not break. But I felt ill at ease because I would have liked my non-observant friends in camp to share in food that has more caloric value for them. I felt badly for having asked to be sent something which ultimately only I

would enjoy. I begged my friends' pardon."

Pressed flowers he once received from Israel enabled him to "smell the very soil of the homeland, although the petals were all dry. Wild stirrings of joy surged through me and moved me to cry without shedding tears and to scream without uttering a sound. I believe the energy unleashed in me could have heated many a solar energy device on the roofs of Jerusalem."

MENDELEVICH also follows events in Israel as closely as he can. Sadat's visit here brought him to warn that Israel must not lose sight of the fact that "there is no one in the world on whom we can rely and on whose help we can count. We must stand firm to maintain our morale and self-respect. If we follow the road of concession, we will find that it is interminable... and what about Jerusalem? I fear surprises are being prepared for us."

On his 26th birthday, Mendelevich wrote that, "Wherever one exists, even in prison, life goes on — as long as a man is free to distinguish between good and evil, he is not a slave but master of his soul."

In his latest letter, received here last April, he reveals that he offers "prayers of thanksgiving for the good that befalls me and for the bad alike. A man must regard himself as a chance creation, whose life or death are inconsequential in themselves. Instead, it is important that one live up to the commandments of Judaism, because the life of our nation is not incidental and its value is beyond estimate."

THE FREED Leningrad prisoners recall that it was Mendelevich who authored their last will and testament 10 years ago. It was written in case they should perish in their escape attempt and is addressed to the Jews of the world, whose "duty it is to build our Jewish home in Eretz Yisrael. They must come in our stead to the place we desire to reach with all our being. We are motivated by the will to live in our homeland and be partners to its fate."

The freed Leningrad prisoners cannot understand why three of their number have still not been released. In an open letter on the 10th anniversary of their historic trial, they say that their "freedom and joy of liberation cannot be full until the others are free, too. We were let out because of the immense pressure put on the USSR. We now ask all people of good will to help us free Yuri and Alexei, and bring Yosef back home."



August 8, 1980

Omaha The Jewish Press

A Council Bluffs physician has returned from the Olympics in Moscow with a variety of comments — direct from the people of Russia.

Having returned only a few days ago, Dr. Kanchan Lodia, a practicing anesthesiologist, recaptured for the Jewish Press the sights and feelings of the Russian people.

I sat sipping Russian tea in the Lodia sun-filled family room, overlooking the rolling hills of Council Bluffs and discussed his observations and understanding of Russia.

Dr. Lodia who resided in Fiji Islands for many years, moved to America, where he studied Russian at the University of California.

Having a long time desire to visit Russia, the 1980 Olympics proved a perfect opportunity to fulfill that dream.

Wanting to meet the Russian people, he tried to find someone who might know a family living there. Feeling frustrated, he almost gave up, as it seemed no one, either in America or among his friends abroad, knew of any Russians whom he could contact on his upcoming trip. Not until he was given Mrs. Shirley Goldstein's name.

Being an active supporter of Soviet Jewry she was most helpful, said Dr. Lodia. Providing Dr. Lodia with many ideas of places to explore, he was glad to take gifts and supplies to some Russian Jews living as Refuseniks.

Refuseniks are simply those people who have applied for exit visas, but for some reason have been refused and thus remain in Russia, said Dr. Lodia.

He went on to explain that this is not merely the case of the Jews who want out, but any person who applies and who is refused exit. The loss of one's job isn't unusual for those who have applied Dr. Lodia said.

One of the families Dr. Lodia contacted were two brothers named Goldstein, who reside together in Tbilisi, Georgia, (a Republic of the Soviet Union).

He presented the gifts which Mrs. Goldstein had given him and said his visit was quite an experience.

He explained how impressed he was with how well read these two brothers were and shared a story of how one of the brothers had been jailed for a year in Russia, charged with being a parasite.

"A parasite is simply one who isn't adding to the productivity of the country, being unemployed for example," Dr. Lodia explained.

"It seems like everybody lives in huge apartment complexes with exceptionally poor construction, as was the case of the Goldstein brothers' apartment," Dr. Lodia said.

"The apartment was stark, simply Spartan as you can ever imagine."

The only thing that really stuck out in Dr. Lodia's observation was a piano which he felt must have been their only luxury.

Dr. Lodia contrasted the amount of money spent by the government on space programs and the poorly constructed buildings.

Dr. Lodia exclaimed, I've been to some third world countries and I mean some very poor countries and I've seen better work there."

He said the reason for such poor construction is because of the lack of ambition on the part of the Russian people.

"There is no push to excell, the push is not excell in quality, but rather in quantity, with bonuses as reward for an increase in productivity.

That is not to say that the accommodations provided for the tourists were of the same poor workmanship, but Dr. Lodia didn't feel their hotels were up to American standards.

The Russians were expecting some 10,000 Americans but only 2,000 came to observe the 1980 Olympics in Russia.

Dr. Lodia said spirits were down among the Americans, yet he sensed no bitterness either from the Russians or from fellow Americans.

"We heard that a lot of people in Russian had been sent out of Moscow and other cities to thin the towns out a bit to make accommodations for foreigners."

The tourists might find it easier to travel on the trollies and buses with less Russians in the cities, said Dr. Lodia.

"In Russia, of course being a totalitarian government you can do that, you can say, get, and it works." Those who are not that vitally industrious in the city can leave and since the majority of Russians are entitled to a month's vacation, that is the time when many of them took vacation, added Dr. Lodia.

"The Russian people believe everything they hear," said Dr. Lodia.

"Take the Afghanistan situation, for instance, the tour guide of the bus I rode in interpreted his understanding of the Russian presence as an aid to the people of Afghanistan."

Dr. Lodia also said that when the story of the deaths of the 12 illegally-entering Mexicans hit the Russian press, it was told in a way to convey the American imperialistic attitude toward cheap labor and that America was encouraging such illegal entrance.

"The Russian government keeps telling you the new constitution guarantees the freedom of religion without interference and it also stresses the point that anyone interfering with the right to practice religion can be punished by law," said Dr. Lodia.

"If you are active in your church, an active Jew or active Moslem, you are not as free to progress in your field of work."

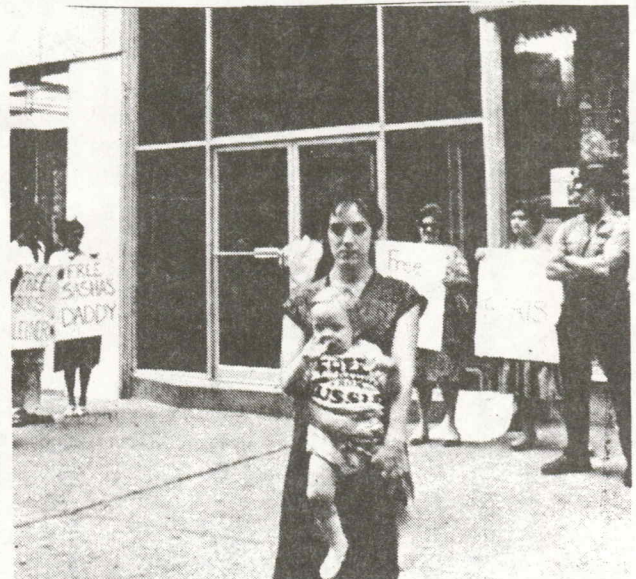
Dr. Lodia continued, "If you keep your nose clean, if you become a good Communist and of course if you are a good Communist you denounce religion, the nature of Communism being Anti-religion, anti-God."

Yet there is a small upsurging of religious interest among the Russian people, said Dr. Lodia.

"Interestingly enough, you see a lot of people wearing crosses, but this is not because there are a lot of practicing Christians, but rather it's a fashion."

It is also extremely fashionable to wear American items, particularly blue jeans, which may sell for as much as \$50, Dr. Lodia said.

Dr. Lodia has returned from Russian with a variety of comments and a collage of mixed feelings: empathy, sympathy, pity, warmth, love, and caring — and a better understanding of the problems of Soviet Jewry.



## Sasha Wants His Daddy

Wearing a "Free My Daddy From the USSR" t-shirt, 11 month-old Sasha Aleiner is held by his 24 year-old Philadelphian mother Lisa as they join members of their family demonstrating at Aeroflot Russian Airlines' Fifth Avenue offices in New York City for an exit visa for Lisa's husband Boris, a Leningrad refusenik. According to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, Lisa met Boris while on a 1976 visit to Russia. Romance blossomed, and they were able to persuade the authorities to permit them to marry in 1978. Lisa stayed in Leningrad eleven months until she was pregnant with Sasha. Boris has never seen his son, except in snapshots.



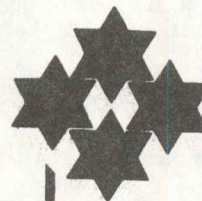
Rubenstein, Joshua  
SOVIET DISSIDENTS:  
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for \$11.00. Highly recommended.

The stream of "dissidents" making its way through the newspapers or across Soviet borders continues at a steady flow. Amnesty International New England coordinator Rubenstein's survey is a useful navigational tool for anyone who wants to figure out what's gone by and what's still to come. Beginning with the last years of the Stalin regime, Rubenstein traces the origins of organized dissent as it developed in literary and student circles. Some of the individuals whose stories he picks up are famous—like Pasternak, Ginsburg, or Terz—and some are relatively unknown: like 19-year-old Victor Krasin, jailed for participating in discussions of art and philosophy in 1949, and later a leader of the samizdat movement. So the narrative builds with Rubenstein gradually adding names and groups as the movement toward dissent spread and diversified. Much of this material concerns writers and artists who simply wanted the freedom to work, but distinct political strands eventually emerge. Today, there are at least three main currents, represented by Solzhenitsyn (the anti-western, anti-Soviet Slavophiles), Sakharov (the "westernizers" seeking legal rights), and Roy Medvedev (communist reformers). Clearly hostile to the Slavophiles, Rubenstein is most comfortable with the westernizers, who are in accord with his own legalistic leanings. Rubenstein also clarifies the two main currents among Jewish dissidents—"Zionists and democrats"—while arguing that emigration is not a solution to the problems of the USSR's three million Jews and other minorities. Barring a return to Stalinism or an unlikely transformation of Soviet society, either of which would end the dissident movement, Rubenstein sees the continued support of western civil rights activists as crucial to the continuation of Russian dissent. But arguments aside, this chronicle is comprehensive without resort to horror stories or sentimentality, and a welcome accounting of where Soviet dissidents stand today.

Kirkus Reviews

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- Moscow sources confirm that Alexander Magidovich is interned in a Soviet mental institute. See page 1.
- Yosef Begun's first action on release from exile was to visit P.O.C. Slepak. News of the prisoners appears on pages 1 and 2.
- A Moscow Jewish legal seminar - operating fully within the law - is threatened by the KGB. See page 3.
- Two thoughtful articles on human rights and the upcoming Madrid meeting are reprinted on pages 6 and 7.

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