

ALERT

INFORMATION FROM THE
UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is a Washington-based, independent organization dedicated to the freedom of emigration and human rights for all Soviet Jews.

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Fascell Receives Freedom Award

Representative Dante Fascell (D-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was presented with the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award at a banquet held in his honor at the UCSJ Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. on October 21.

Fascell has long been involved in the struggle to gain freedom of emigration and human rights for refuseniks. Before becoming Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, he chaired the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) from its establishment 1976 until April, 1985. He has also chaired during his 27-year tenure on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Subcommittees on International Organizations and Movements (1961-68); Inter-American Affairs (1969-74); International Political and Military Affairs (1975-76); and International Operations (1977-84). Since February, 1984 he has also served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Arms Control, International Security and Science.

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Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award being presented to Rep. Dante Fascell (D-FL). (From l. to r.) Morey Schapira, President UCSJ, Hinda Cantor, Chairperson, South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry, Congressman Fascell and Stuart Eizenstat, UCSJ legal counsel.

Volvovsky: Three Years

On October 24, Leonid Volvovsky was sentenced to three years in a labor camp as punishment for "slandering the Soviet State." Volvovsky was arrested in June. After he was charged, the anti-Semitic messages "Death to Jews" and "Prison for all Jews" were scrawled on a wall outside the family's apartment, and his family was the subject of an anti-Semitic article in a local newspaper.

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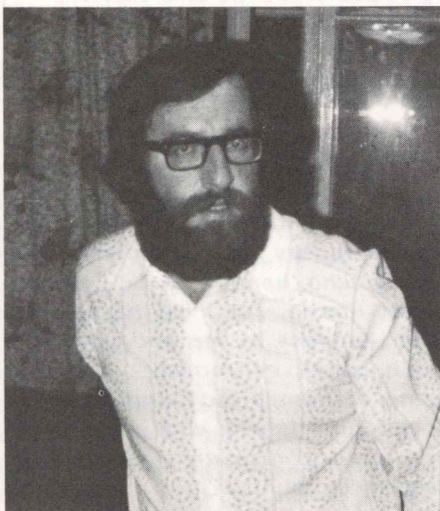
Bonner Reportedly Receives Permission

As part of the pre-summit fanfare, the Soviets have granted Dr. Yelena Bonner, Dr. Andrei Sakharov's wife, permission to leave the country on a temporary basis to seek medical care in the West.

The *Washington Post* reported that Bonner sent a telegram to a friend confirming the granting of the visa which read: "I have received permission to leave. I shall leave at the end of November. I am taking precautions for Andrei so he can survive the winter alone." News of the visa was also confirmed by Secretary of State George Shultz.

Dr. Bonner has been restricted to the city of Gorky with her husband since 1984, when she was tried and sentenced to internal exile for anti-Soviet slander. Before her sentencing, she was her husband's spokesperson for five years and would travel regularly between Gorky and Moscow.

Sakharov is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, a three-time Soviet hero, and was prominent in the Soviet human rights movement in the 1970's. Bonner's two children and mother live in Newton, Massachusetts.



POC Ari Volvovsky

NEWS/BRIEFS

ALEXEI MURZHENKO was sentenced to two years in October after being arrested in June for "parole violations". Murzhenko had just been released in 1984 after serving 14 years for his 1970 attempt, along with 14 others, to get a plane to fly it out of the Soviet Union. His wife gave birth to a baby boy recently who died soon afterwards.

LAZAR RULYOV KAGAN has been allowed to meet with his wife, Svetlana, for the first time in ten months and was transferred to a camp with better conditions. His condition has improved somewhat, although he still suffers from the physical ailments caused by deprivation of food and medical attention while in prison.

ALEC ZELICHENOK'S appeal was denied. Zelichenok, a POC from Leningrad, was sentenced to three years in August on a charge of anti-Soviet slander. Included in the evidence used against him at his trial was a letter to the Committee of Concerned Scientists.

Charges against POC **SIMON SHNIRMAN** were dropped following protests from the West. Shnirman, who is serving a three-year sentence scheduled to end in January 1986, was in danger of an extended sentence following a labor camp trial. Shnirman was accused of breaking the camp rules—washing his clothes at the wrong time.

EVGENY KOIFMAN of Dnepropetrovsk received a sentence of 2½ years working for the national economy. After he was arrested on trumped up charges of drug possession, his wife was incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital where she was drugged by authorities and signed papers of which she has no recollection.

YOSEF BERENSHTAIN of Kiev, serving a four-year sentence in labor camp, was permitted to receive a parcel of warm clothing from his wife. He had a blood test in prison to confirm his diabetic condition. Berenshtein appeared in a Kiev newspaper, the *Worker's Gazette*, which alleged that Yosef inflicted his eye injuries himself and his wife is merely seeking publicity. Berenshtein was brutally attacked by prison inmates and blinded immediately following his sentence.

MARK NASHPITZ and his family joined his parents in Israel on October 20. A long-term refusenik, Nashpitz was given permission but was then instructed to resubmit his papers for further consideration. After several weeks of waiting in limbo, all the family members were given exit visas.

Despite escalating pressure on refuseniks, approximately 5,000 people were at the **LENIN-GRAD** Synagogue to celebrate Simchat Torah. There was a sign-up sheet for Hebrew classes.

Coretta Scott King Joins Advisory Board

UCSJ is pleased to announce that Coretta Scott King, widow of the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., has become its newest advisory board member.

Mrs. King, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, has carried her husband's advocacy of

peace and justice through nonviolent action across the nation and throughout the world.

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

"I cannot stand idly by, even though I live in the United States and even though I happen to be an American

Negro, and not be concerned about what happens to my brothers and sisters who happen to be Jews in Soviet Russia. For what happens to them happens to me and you, and we must be concerned. . . In the name of humanity, I urge that the Soviet government end all the discriminatory measures against its Jewish community."

Peace Missionary Guilty of Psychiatric Crimes

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

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

The Soviet Committee, who this year were joint winners of the Nobel Peace Prize along with IPPNW's American branch, were on a "peace mission" to address fellow physicians on ways to reduce the nuclear threat. The group however, refused to address the case of Dr. Vladimir Brodsky of Moscow, a leading member of an unofficial peace group formed in the USSR to "establish trust" between the two superpowers. Brodsky was sentenced in August to three years on a trumped up charge of malicious hooliganism. They also

did not adequately explain why Yuri Popov has been incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital since 1983 for urging nuclear disarmament in the Soviet Union. The spokesperson for the IPPNW American branch, an independent, non-government, voluntary group, readily admitted that the Soviet government selected the representatives who visited the U.S., a marked contrast to the way the American group is represented nationally and internationally. "We were not involved in the selection of who came over here," said Dr. Gary Lapid, a psychiatrist at a Stanford Medical Center and past president of the local chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Despite the documented history of psychiatric abuse and the statements of Vladimir Bukovsky, a Stanford graduate student who was incarcerated in a Soviet psychiatric institution for twelve years, not one of the IPPNW members was prompted to question whether, in fact, these four representatives truly represented the peace movement in the USSR.

During the group's visit to Denver, the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry demonstrated in front of the hotel where a dinner was being held in the Soviet group's honor. In Palo Alto, the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews alerted the local and university communities to the pending visit and Dr. Vartan-

yan's role in the use of psychiatric means to quell dissent. In Seattle, the psychiatric issue was the subject of tough questioning by the press.

In response to IPPNW president Dr. Robert Fried's assertion that "opening doors" can create a climate to curb nuclear war, Gerson Brodie, a member of the Colorado Committee of Concern, challenged the argument on the basis that "the common people in the Soviet Union are totally helpless to express themselves about nuclear war or any other issues. Their 'public opinion' carries no weight with a government of tyranny."

Stanford Professor Louis Lerman, a co-founder and member of Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov and Scharsky, stated "it is the height of irony that Physicians for Social Responsibility is including someone like this in a peace delegation."

Vartanyan, a psychiatrist, has "for many years tried to explain and defend the profession against charges of politically inspired abuse," according to Dr. Walter Reich, a research psychiatrist at the National Institute for Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Reich is the author of a 1983 *New York Times Magazine* article detailing how political dissidents in the Soviet Union are "misdiagnosed" as schizophrenic and hospitalized in mental hospitals against their will.

Amnesty International Reports Continued Repression

In its 1985 Report, Amnesty International has charged the USSR with ill-treatment in prisons, corrective labor colonies and psychiatric institutions. The report was based on data collected in 1984. Excerpts from the report follow.

"Amnesty International has adopted as prisoners of conscience or was investigating the cases of more than 560 individuals, but believes the total number of prisoners of conscience to be much higher.

They investigated the cases of eleven Jews imprisoned on criminal charges, all of whom had a history of harassment for their attempts to leave the USSR. In addition, they referred to five persons imprisoned for associating in unofficial groups to preserve Jewish culture.

At least 132 Soviet citizens were imprisoned under laws specifically restricting freedom of religion and expression. Some individuals, previously persecuted for their exercise

of human rights, were imprisoned on criminal charges which Amnesty International believed to be false. Soviet authorities continued to use forcible psychiatric confinement as a means of punishing known dissenters. Amnesty International believed they were confined for political, rather than medical reasons, and that they had neither used nor advocated violence."

Community Activists Arrested in Continuing Campaign

The rising tide of activism on behalf of Soviet Jewry, particularly in the nation's capital, is in direct response to the worsening plight of Soviet Jews. Nationwide rallies and demonstrations will continue, culminating on November 17-18, timed to deliver a strong message of solidarity with Soviet Jewry, in conjunction with the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

The latest in a series of demonstrations involving arrests followed UCSJ's annual meeting on October 22, where a session on "Activism from the Pulpit" by distinguished activist Rabbis moved some delegates to take part in the civil disobedience. Nine community leaders from across the country were arrested as annual meeting delegates and supporters from the Washington area looked on silently from across the street.

Dr. Konnilyn Feig, Professor of History at San Francisco State University and noted Christian holocaust scholar, speaking for the group, declared: "We gather here as Christians and Jews in front of the Soviet Embassy so that we can do our part in preventing the spiritual holocaust of our Jewish brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union. The situation of

Soviet Jews has deteriorated to the point where emigration is practically at a standstill and arrests and KGB harassments are a daily occurrence."

Sergei Broude, a former emigre and now a U.S. citizen living in Massachusetts, stated prior to his arrest that "political and moral necessity dictates that as concerned people and as leaders of the Soviet Jewry movement, we must make our concerns known, especially prior to the upcoming summit meeting. Soviet Jewry and human rights must not only be on the agenda at Geneva, but must take a prominent place in the negotiations between the two superpowers."

Since May, in five other demonstrations sponsored by the Washington Board of Rabbis, various groups of protesters were arrested for demonstrating in front of the Soviet Embassy. The first demonstration, in which 24 Rabbis and one Minister were arrested, sparked accusations that the Justice Department is guilty of selective prosecution, regularly dropping all charges against demonstrators arrested at the South African Embassy, while planning to prosecute individuals similarly arrested

at the Soviet Embassy. Both groups are guilty of violating the same law, which prohibits them from passing within 500 feet of a foreign embassy.

Since the first arrest, more Rabbis and Christian clergy, as well as community leaders, Jewish school administrators, student activists, and activists from UCSJ member councils have been arrested at the Soviet Embassy. A demonstration on the part of Christian clergy took place in September, on Yom Kippur, a day when Christian leaders traditionally stand in for Jewish protesters who are observing the holiday. This demonstration did not go according to plan — four Christians who had not intended on it were arrested, while the two Christian clergy who had prepared and committed themselves to being arrested were left standing on the sidewalk with their Bibles.

During the following demonstration in October, twenty-two students were arrested, led by a member of the B'nai B'rith Hillel National Student Secretariat, Jon Cohen. In solidarity, 200 fellow Hillel student activists looked on silently from across the street with their hands joined above their heads.

Student Campaign

The B'nai B'rith Hillel National Student Secretariat is sponsoring a long-term project whereby individual campuses adopt a refusenik student. The program is already underway on over 50 campuses across the U.S. with plans for further expansion.

At "Washington 4", an annual national Hillel public policy conference held this past October, the student secretariat presented Rutgers University with its distinguished Human Rights Award. The award is presented annually to a campus that has done outstanding work on behalf of a refusenik student.

Project OPEN (Oppose Persecution, Educate Now) was initiated by Rutgers Hillel members, who adopted Marina Shenderovich. Marina is a 26-year-old former student of biochemistry at Moscow State University. In 1979, she and her parents, Yakov

and Maya, applied for permission to leave the Soviet Union. Their request, as well as two subsequent requests, were denied. Yakov was demoted from his position as an engineer in an auto factory, and Maya was fired from her job as an English teacher. Marina was forced to leave Moscow state.

Project OPEN is trying to secure Marina's release from the Soviet Union so that she may continue her studies at Rutgers University. They have obtained from the Rutgers College governing board a full scholarship, as well as a research position for her at the prestigious Waksman Institute of Microbiology. In addition, the student group has received the full support of the entire New Jersey Congressional delegation, New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ), and Rut-

gers President Edward J. Bloustein.

Through petitions, letter writing, phone calls to the USSR, articles, letters to the editor, buttons, resolutions by student government, and even a dance-a-thon in Marina's honor, the Hillel group has raised the level of awareness of the Rutgers community. Marina only found out about the efforts on her behalf when a student visited her. The student reported that Marina had not received a single one of the hundreds of pieces of mail sent to her. She responded with "shock and tears" when the student broke the news to her of the efforts on her behalf at Rutgers. Soon afterwards, however, Marina's home was filled with friends who were invited to "celebrate the good news."

Annual Meeting Guest Speakers

Martin Gilbert



Prof. Martin Gilbert

Professor Martin Gilbert, official biographer of Winston Churchill, and Fellow at Oxford University, has made a significant contribution to the study of Jewish history. His 1983 visit to the Soviet Union was the impetus for his book, *The Jews of Hope: The Plight of Soviet Jews Today*. Prof. Gilbert shared with annual meeting attendees his thoughts and concerns on Soviet Jewry in light of his most recent visit, this past summer:

"The past twelve months in the international arena have been months of great excitement, many meetings, letters, hints, expectations, and rumors of a new dawn. Mr. Gorbachev has already been to London and to Paris, and leading Soviet figures have been here in the United States. Mr. Bronfman has been to Moscow. For many of those who study the signs, which these events portend, the signs are said to be good. But for our people, for our friends in Russia, it has been a bleak, bad year. Fourteen prisoners sentenced in the last eleven months. . .

"Dear friends, as we meet in mid-October, our friends are also deep in their October. It is colder for them not only by reason of climate. If all the things we do are letters and telegrams, if all these things do nothing else, they bring the greatest daily joy to our friends in Russia. I would

say the only daily joy, until the exit visa."

Professor Gilbert was asked by refuseniks to convey their sentiments to friends in the West, who "were so thrilled to discover the extent to which we were linked and intermeshed and working on their behalf. And I hope I was able to convey the sense that whatever our disagreements and their disagreements, the strength of feeling in the world today between Jews outside Russia and Jews inside Russia, constitutes one of the most remarkable facets not only in the human rights panorama of today, but in our own Jewish historical spectrum. It is something very unusual and very remarkable, and we must not be demoralized. . . For if you look at it from the moon, outside, or even from the address book of somebody in Lenin-grad, it's very remarkable and very comforting."

Rita Hauser

Former U.S. representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission under the Nixon Administration and Chairperson of the IPG Advisory Board, Rita Hauser, delivered the opening address at the UCSJ annual meeting. Ms. Hauser has an extensive history of public service, having served as Director of the Board for International Broadcasting, as an advisory panel member to the State Department on refugees, and international law; and in various other advisory positions dealing with communications and international relations.

Speaking of the upcoming summit, Hauser stated that "our government will without question raise the question of the Helsinki Accords, the failure to live up to the agreement, questions of emigration, and specific cases. Unfortunately, however, this is on a strictly informal basis. The Soviets have managed to keep the official summit agenda at Geneva limited essentially to arms discussions and perhaps to economic discussions."

Despite the fact that human rights will only be raised on a peripheral basis, Hauser believes that "the Russians must understand, by now, that

they cannot meet anywhere, with any responsible Western leader, on any serious issue of concern to them, without somewhere the question of human rights being raised. This seems to me to be the single most important achievement that has come out of this somewhat doleful history of Helsinki."

Concerning the Soviet standard response to human rights questions, Hauser thinks that "the interesting issue is whether the Soviets are really going to be able to repackage their response to those questions. Gorbachev's performance in Paris and his performance on television, and I presume the performance at the summit, certainly does not give us much hope to date." One possible explanation is that for all of Gorbachev's consolidation of power, it may well be that "on the questions (of human rights) he is not able to overcome the standard resistance that is presented by both the KGB for sure and the military as well."

Speaking of Gorbachev, Hauser noted that "for anybody to emerge as a leader in the Soviet Union requires a set of characteristics that are neither looked for nor expected in a Western leader. There must be some trail of blood in Gorbachev's history, and there must certainly be a history of ruthlessness that is not known to Western leadership."



Rita Hauser

Annual Meeting 1985 Washington, D.C.



UCSJ President Morey Schapira welcoming attendees to the Annual Meeting.



UCSJ General Counsel Stuart Eizenstat speaking at the banquet.



Rev. George Steinbruck of the Luther Place Memorial Church in Washington, D.C., leading a workshop on community outreach.



left to right, Julie Davis, Comite Des Quinze, Paris; Anna Polulyaleh, mother of refusenik Yana Lerner; David Selikowitz, Comite Des Quinze; Valentina Eydelman, sister of Yana Lerner; and Marlyse Ucko, Comite Des Quinze.



left, Michael Binyon, Washington Bureau Chief of The Times (London), speaking with annual meeting attendees following a workshop on press strategies.



left to right, Morey Schapira, President, UCSJ; Dr. John P. Hardt, Associate Director Senior Specialists and Senior Specialist in Soviet Economics, Library of Congress; Dr. Murray Feshbach, Research Professor of Demography, Georgetown University; Dr. Robert O. Freedman, Professor of Political Science and Dean of the School of Graduate Studies, Baltimore Hebrew College; and Robert Gordon, past President, UCSJ.



UCSJ past President and current chair of the Advisory Board Lynn Singer (left) speaking on the future of Soviet Jews with Rita Hauser, following Ms. Hauser's opening address.



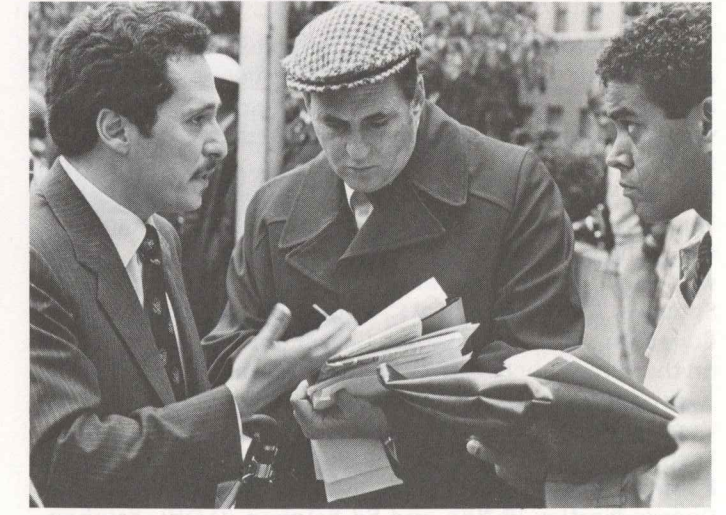
Former refusenik Alla Praisman, speaking on the current situation of Soviet Jews. Ms. Praisman's fellow speakers on the panel were Ed McWilliams, formerly with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, and Dr. Konnilyn Feig, Holocaust scholar and professor at San Francisco State University.



Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) speaking with UCSJ Executive Director Mark Epstein.



Just prior to their arrest, community leaders making their plea on behalf of Soviet Jewry.



UCSJ President Morey Schapira (left) being interviewed by reporters following the Embassy demonstration.



ALERT On Capitol Hill



Gift of Hope

The Congressional Spouses' Committee of 21 has sent bilingual Hebrew-Russian prayer books as gifts to each of their 21 "adopted" Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience. At a ceremony on October 3, the prayer books, each one carefully inscribed, signed, wrapped, and addressed, were mailed from the House of Representatives Post Office.

According to Annette Lantos, founder of the Committee, "by sending the prayer books through the international mail, the Committee intends to accomplish two goals: first, to demonstrate the commitment of Americans to human rights; and second, to underscore the importance of the free flow of information and freedom from censorship of mail." Annette Lantos is the wife of Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA).

Landra Reid, wife of Congressman Harry Reid (D-NV), stated that adopting a Prisoner of Conscience has "been a great opportunity for my family to do something. I was encouraged that Gorbachev was questioned by the mayor of Paris about refuseniks, and I think that any way that we can bring this issue to the forefront can only be of help, so I'm grateful to do whatever I can."

Kathryn Porter, wife of Congressman John Porter (R-IL), noted that "this past week E. B. White died, and in reading the account of his life in the papers I ran across a phrase that he used. He said in a bad situation sometimes all you have left is hope, and when I look and listen to what is going on in terms of Soviet

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(From l. to r.) Mark Epstein, Executive Director, UCSJ, Joseph Mendelevich, Chairman, Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center, Annette Lantos, founder of the Congressional Spouses' Committee of 21, and Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA).

Mendelevich Visits Washington

Joseph Mendelevich, former Prisoner of Conscience and current chairman of the Jerusalem-based Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center paid a brief visit to Washington on October 31. Mendelevich was in the U.S. on a tour sponsored by American Friends of the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center. Mark Epstein, Executive Director of UCSJ, arranged a full schedule for Mendelevich which included lunch with Mrs. Annette Lantos, Chair of the Congressional Spouses' Committee of 21, to discuss the goals of the Education and Information Center and its perspective on the summit between Reagan and Gorbachev.

Mendelevich also spoke with the Co-chairs of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Reps. John Porter (R-IL) and Tom Lantos (D-CA), as well as Barney Frank (D-MA); Ed Zschau (R-CA); Dan Mica (D-FL); George Wortley (R-NY); and Ed Feighan (D-OH). Feighan and Mendelevich spoke about Feighan's recent trip to

the Soviet Union.

The next stop was Voice of America, where Mendelevich met with members of the Russian Division and did a live interview, which was broadcast by VOA to the Soviet Union.

Finally, Mendelevich met with Mike Hathaway and Mary Sue Hafner, Staff Director and General Counsel, respectively, of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission). The Commission staffers described the ongoing work of the Commission and Mendelevich updated them on his work with the Knesset in Israel.

After serving eleven years of a sentence meted out during the Leningrad trials, Mendelevich arrived in Israel in 1981 to a hero's welcome. Since then he has worked ceaselessly, through the Center, to focus world attention to the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Action ALERT From Local Councils

Volleyball 'Da', Anti-Semitism 'Nyet'

Members of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews aimed to enlighten the public during a U.S./USSR sports event on August 23 at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. During a volleyball game between the U.S. men's Olympic team and the Soviet men's national team, the human rights activists unfurled a large blue banner in front of the 9,000 fans: VOLLEYBALL 'DA', SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM 'NYET' it read, and "FREE JEWISH PRISONERS", written in Russian. Immediately following the game, Arthur Kalmeyer, a former Refusenik, darted onto the court and presented the Soviet team with a letter of concern from Bay Area Council President, Lillian Foreman.

"We regret that you may find the contents of this letter upsetting", wrote Foreman. "However, these are the unpleasant circumstances that govern the lives of many Soviet citizens every day. Unfortunately, the oppressive policies of a government can have an impact on a volleyball game played several thousand miles



Members of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews displaying banner at US/USSR volleyball match.

away." Foreman went on to say, referring to the deplorable situation for Jews in the Soviet Union, magnified during the recent spate of arrests and convictions of Jewish cultural activists and Hebrew teachers.

David Waksberg, Executive Director of BACSJ, added, "These are difficult days for Soviet Jews, indeed for all oppressed groups in the USSR. It is more important than ever that human rights supporters here in the West speak out in solidarity with those who seek their freedom in the Soviet Union."

DATA BANK

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

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

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

Gift of Hope, (Continued from page 8)

Jewry it occurs to me that we build on that."

The other wives present included Kate Lowery, wife of Rep. Bill Lowery (R-CA); Wren Wirth, wife of Rep. Tim Wirth (D-OR); Sheila Smith, wife of Rep. Larry Smith (D-FL); and Jane Gephardt, wife of Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO), and they all expressed concern on behalf of their families for their adopted POC. Congressman Vander Jagt (R-MI) and Congressman Ben Gilman (R-NY) were both present representing their wives, Carol and Rita, respectively.

Lynn Singer, Executive Director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, which donated the books, told the Committee, "We are heartened that you, as wives of U.S. Congressmen, care enough to have taken

on this special project. The families will let the prisoners know, to the best of their ability, that these prayer books are coming in. You are a remarkable group."

She emphasized that despite the exclusively religious nature of the prayer books, which in no way could be construed as anti-Soviet, the books most likely would never reach their destination. Letters and parcels to Soviet prisoners are subject to strict quotas and prison authorities do their utmost to prevent Jewish prisoners from practicing their religious traditions.

Lantos concluded, "our purpose is to show that respect for human rights is essential in our relationship with the Soviet Union. We want to extend our support to these Prisoners of Conscience who suffer in Soviet prisons for their courage in persevering in their religious beliefs."

Haig Responds to Gorbachev

Former Secretary of State, General Alexander Haig, on a recent segment of ABC's *Nightline*, countered General Secretary Gorbachev's well-publicized statements on the situation of Jews in the USSR. On October 1, Ted Koppel broadcast portions of an interview Gorbachev held with journalists during the Soviet leader's state visit to France. Haig, speaking live from Washington, responded to a number of Gorbachev's allegations, one of which concerned the rights afforded to Jews in the Soviet Union. Incredulous reactions world-wide greeted Gorbachev's ludicrous challenge. "I defy you to name another country in the world where Jews enjoy the same kinds of social and political rights as they do in the Soviet Union."

Excerpts from both statements follow.

Mikhail Gorbachev:

"... You raised also the matter of Jews in the Soviet Union. . . . When there is a particular case of family reunification, then we allow them to leave. Why are there cases when we can't allow them to leave? This is a matter of state security. Then we make it possible for the process to take a certain period of time, and for those who have five or ten years not being given permission to leave, but if there is a necessity to leave for a family reunification, then finally, they do get out."

Gen. Alexander Haig (in response to the above):

"It is a blatant distortion of reality. . . . We know there are over 100,000 Soviet Jews who have been seeking for a long time to remove themselves from the system which they abhor. We know that this past year that less than 1,000 were permitted to leave, and the year before less than 900, from a peak of some 52,000 in 1979. Clearly, it's a political decision on the part of the Soviet leadership that has nothing to do with state security. We know that Soviet Jews cannot even study Hebrew in the Soviet Union. So to maintain that they enjoy some egalitarian position is an outrageous fabrication."

Volvovsky (Continued from page 1)

Volvovsky could not be intimidated, however — as a form of protest, he has refused since his arrest to speak any language other than Hebrew. He was permitted neither a lawyer nor an interpreter.

The trial of this 43-year old Hebrew teacher, known as Ari by his friends, has become symbolic of the unrelenting crackdown on cultural activists, and Volvovsky's courage and determination, symbolic of the growing activist movement.

The trial confirmed, as has previously been reported, that there was a glaring lack of any evidence against Volvovsky that could even remotely be considered as slanderous. The book *Exodus* was an example of the incriminating evidence presented at his trial. Representatives of Soviet radio and television reportedly covered the trial.

Friends and relatives made the journey to Gorky to provide support and witness the proceedings. In a clear attempt by Soviet authorities to isolate him, they systematically removed Volvovsky's supporters from the courtroom. Boris Begun, Josef Begun's son, was the first to be evicted. After him, Volvovsky's wife, Mila was asked to leave, and then his mother. When his daughter, Kira, protested, she was forced to leave and was charged with improper conduct.

"I did not know my husband was so brave," stated Mila outside the courtroom while her husband was on trial. The group stood outside singing Hebrew songs loudly enough for Volvovsky to hear.

Volvovsky has been an Aliya activist since 1970 and was first refused in 1974. Following his refusal, he started to study Hebrew and Jewish culture, about which he knew very little, but through concentrated study and deep devotion he became one of the few advanced teachers of Hebrew in Moscow. He taught some thirty to forty students, who in turn taught Hebrew to others. Volvovsky, therefore, had overall responsibility for about one thousand Hebrew pupils. As one of the leading activists of the "Cultural Group", he organized picnics in the woods outside Moscow, where friends sang, danced and celebrated the Jewish holidays.

Volvovsky has had a long history of harassment by the KGB prior to

In the Soviet Press

Rabochaya Gazeta,

July 23, 1985

The High Price of Enlightenment

"The fabrication of slander about the alleged 'breaches of human rights' in the USSR and of Soviet citizens of Jewish ethnic background in particular, is one trend in the anti-Soviet provocations of imperialist reaction and its Zionist servants. This propaganda is accompanied by calling on Soviet Jews to leave their Motherland and emigrate to Israel and the United States.

The reality met by those who believed Zionist propaganda — ruthless capitalist exploitations and a cruel daily struggle for survival — soon dissolves the rosy film of general happiness in bourgeois society.

Such is the true price of enlightenment for those who, having believed Zionist provocateurs and their imperialist patrons, left their Motherland and became small change in the hands of our ideological enemies and reactionary politicians."

his trial. A computer scientist by training, after applying to emigrate, he was dismissed from his position as a senior researcher at the Research Institute of Automation and Mechanization in the Oil and Gas Industry. In November 1976, he was held in a prison for fifteen days for taking part in a Moscow sit-in. In July 1977, he was interrogated at another prison about Anatoly Scharansky, and 1979 marked the first of a series of searches and seizures. In 1980 his permit to reside in Moscow expired and the family was, in effect, exiled to the closed city of Gorky.

Volvovsky's professional colleagues in the United States have expressed concern for his welfare and at a recent meeting of the Association for Computing Machinery, a petition was signed by Association members stating that they "suspect that Dr. Volvovsky is being harassed because of his diverse activities involving the study of Jewish culture and his longtime quest to emigrate." The petition, which was sent to the Soviet government, urged that "the charges against Volvovsky be dropped and that he be allowed to emigrate to Israel."

Budapest Cultural Forum Exposes Limits on Artistic Freedoms

As part of the Helsinki process, a cultural forum opened in Budapest on October 15. The official goal of the forum was "to discuss interrelated problems concerning creation, dissemination and cooperation, including the promotion and expansion of contacts and exchanges in the different fields of culture."

Western delegates' statements made strong reference to the lack of creative freedom in Eastern bloc nations with a number of delegates delivering thinly veiled criticisms of human rights abuses. U.S. Ambassador to the Budapest forum, Walter Stoessel, stated that in the case of radio communications, "some governments, fearful of its impact, have resorted to the practice of jamming the airwaves." He further stated, in response to the Eastern countries' premise that nuclear war remains the first and foremost issue, that "the nuclear threat must not be used as an excuse for ignoring other serious problems."

In a show of unity, Western delegates, such as Jeanne Hersch, the delegate from Switzerland, emphasized the connection between human rights and culture, while the Luxembourg delegate, Paul Mertz, stressed the link between creative activity and free dissemination of cultural materials, and Canadian delegate, Ghislain Hardy, condemned restrictions on the human rights of individuals.

The strongly worded text of an International Helsinki Federation press release criticized a Hungarian gov-

ernment action which, ironically, forbade the group to use public facilities that had been reserved for a "citizen cultural forum" in Budapest. The press release stated that the Hungarian government's action violated the 1975 Helsinki Accords and, further, called upon the 35 member nations to limit future inter-governmental meetings to those places where peaceful citizen meetings are welcomed rather than hampered.

Hearing on Soviet Cultural Life

In conjunction with the Budapest Cultural Forum, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) held a hearing on Soviet cultural life on October 29.

In a statement by Oleg Vidov, a Soviet actor and director who defected to the West, the restrictions became clear. "Some subjects are taboo, such as the Stalin camps. Only a minority of the new generation even know that Stalin signed a peace pact with Hitler, that Stalin killed millions of our own people. A very good film about the Stalin camps, made by our excellent director Gregoria Chukrni, could give information, but it disappeared into the vaults of governments some 20 years ago, never to be screened again."

Another witness, Michael Scammel, who founded *Index on Censorship*, which is devoted to publishing work by writers censored by their own governments, outlined the restriction

on artists in the USSR: "No artist in the Soviet Union, not even those operating in the most non-political spheres, are free to create their works without interference and without control. Nor are they allowed to receive information unhampered from abroad, nor to travel freely to meet or see fellow artists and exchange experiences with them. The cage in which they are obliged to live and perform no longer has such solid bars as in Stalin's time, but the bars are real enough, and have very little flexibility."

Other witnesses who testified before the Commission include Maxim Shostakovich, a Soviet conductor and son of the famous composer Dmitri Shostakovich; Vasily Aksyonov, one of the most popular Soviet novelists and screenwriters; and George Jacobs, an expert on jamming who has spent all of his career battling Soviet jamming both on a technical and diplomatic level.

Freedom Award

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In accepting the award Fascell stated, "I am overwhelmed to be associated with an award with the name of Scharansky, and would like to commend your organization for the outstanding contribution you have made on behalf of those in the Soviet Union who desperately need our help and attention." Speaking about the upcoming summit, he expressed hope that there might be some improvement in the human rights area, but warned against any blind optimism. "We have to take the long view and we have to keep from getting frustrated," he cautioned.

As for the issue of human rights being raised at the summit, Fascell said that "There's no way to have a discussion with the Soviet Union without having a discussion on human rights because their record is so atrocious. In all good conscience, if you are going to stand for anything in this world, you have to discuss the issue of human rights."

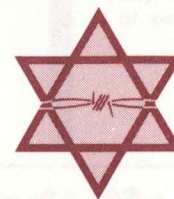
Fascell said that despite the fact that the Soviets are "part and parcel

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French Demonstrate Support

A mass rally in support of Soviet Jews drew 30,000 demonstrators in Paris on September 29. The demonstration, four days before Mikhail Gorbachev's official visit to Paris, was organized by the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) to urge that the issue of Soviet Jews be raised by President Francois Mitterrand during his meetings with Gorbachev.

The crowd included Simone Veil, former President of the Parliament of Europe, leading French businessmen, popular entertainers and supporters and relatives of Jewish dissidents imprisoned in the USSR.

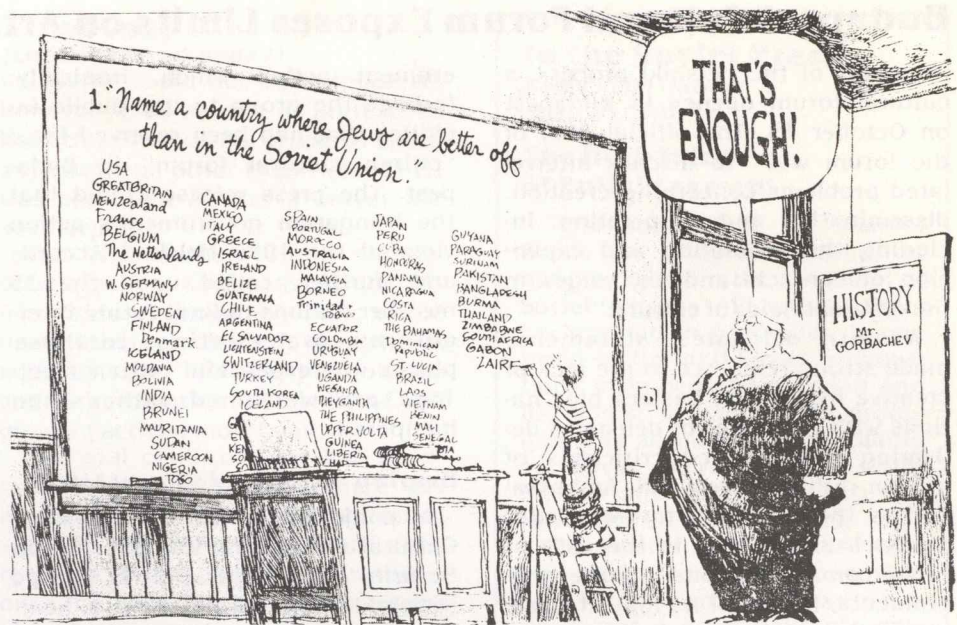


Freedom Award

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to every international document that people should have cultural freedom, religious freedom, and freedom of emigration, we see today the worst campaign going on since the days of Stalin."

Fascell explained that he received the courage to continue the fight for Soviet Jews from two sources. The first is from the "dedication and commitment of people like you in the Union," and the second from the refuseniks themselves. Fascell's closing message was: "Don't give up, keep on plugging, there is no magic answer, but I have the sense enough to know that you don't wave a magic wand and suddenly change attitudes overnight. It takes determination, intelligence, and commitment — all the thing you can give, and you are giving. We just have to keep doing it, so I look forward to continuing our work together."



BY MACNELLY FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE



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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is composed of 38 local councils, 3 domestic affiliates, 3 international affiliates and 55,000 individual members dedicated to helping Soviet Jews, especially those desiring to emigrate.

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**93 Jews left the USSR in
Sept. and 124 in Oct.**