



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.

Vol. X, No. 9

May 31, 1984

Sakharovs' Lives in Peril; Soviets Ignore Condition "Open-Ended" Hunger Strike Reaches 28th Day

Apparently it is not enough for the Soviet government that Nobel laureate Andrei Sakharov has been in exile in Gorky since 1980. Apparently it is not enough for the Soviet government that his physical health has deteriorated, and that his wife, Elena Bonner, is rapidly going blind and requires sophisticated eye surgery.

For almost two years Dr. Sakharov has been trying to persuade the Soviet authorities to allow his wife to seek medical help abroad. His personal appeals to Andropov and Chernenko have failed to produce any positive results. The same is true of the numerous diplomatic interventions as well as public and private appeals from his Western colleagues. Apparently this has not been enough.

Bonner had been travelling to and from Gorky and Moscow where she would telephone her son Alexei Semyonov in Massachusetts on a monthly basis. Bonner was Dr. Sakharov's "only link to the outside world," according to Semyonov. On May 2, Bonner was charged with "anti-Soviet slander" and now she too is forbidden to leave Gorky because of the criminal investigation.

Also on May 2, Dr. Sakharov began an "open-ended" hunger strike—water only—to protest the Soviet government's investigation of his wife and the Soviets' refusal to allow Bonner to travel West for a critically-needed eye operation as well as treatment for a serious heart ailment. Dr. Sakharov issued an appeal, "To All Of My Friends In The World":

"I appeal to all my colleagues, to public figures and statesmen, to all who ever before have spoken out in my defense and are willing to speak now, in this tragic moment in our lives.



Elena Bonner's stepson, Alexei Semyonov, with grandmother at press conference.

I begin the hunger strike with a demand that my wife, Elena Bonner, be allowed to travel abroad for the purpose of receiving medical treatment and visiting her mother, children and grandchildren.

On April 25 of last year, she suffered a severe myocardial infarct. She has not recovered from the infarct, and in some respects, her condition has become even worse and remains threatening. For all this time she has, in fact, been denied medical help. Under present conditions, with an all-out hunt organized against her and with constant KGB interference, the medical treatment that my wife would receive in the USSR could not be effective. Moreover, I am convinced that it could even be extremely dangerous for her to be subjected to medical treatment in the Soviet Union.

I would specifically like to mention that official propaganda has been saddling my wife with the responsibility for my public statements, proclaiming her an imperialist and Zionist agent, and spreading the most monstrous slander about her far and wide.

The only possible solution now is for my wife, Elena Bonner, to seek medical treatment abroad ... My hunger strike will be open-ended — I will end it only when my wife is allowed abroad. Her death will be mine as well ... Save us!"

In 1981, Sakharov and his wife were compelled to go on a hunger-strike to obtain permission for their daughter-in-law to leave the USSR to join her husband, Alexei Semyonov. The Sakharovs fasted for 17 days and were forcibly hospitalized on the 13th day of their hunger strike. Apparently this was not enough.

Since 1981, the Sakharovs' health has deteriorated significantly, and their life is in critical danger. On May 16, Drs. Sherman Bloom and Arnold Schwartz of George Washington University Medical Center released the following statement:

"The medical problems of Drs. Elena Bonner-Sakharov and Andrei Sakharov are multiple, complex, and extremely grave. Dr. Bonner is critically ill. The fast begun by Dr. Sakharov on May 2nd and by Dr. Bonner on May 12, puts both of them in jeopardy. **Continued on page 4**

NEWSBRIEFS

TATIANA ZUNSHINE, wife of P.O.C. Zachar Zunshine of Riga, went to Moscow to meet with a foreign correspondent. She was accompanied by Alexander Balter. Zunshine & Balter were forced into a car with seven KGB agents who took them to Krasnanyamiask, a forest outside Moscow. They were threatened and taunted to leave the car, but they did not. They were eventually sent back to Riga by train.

The investigation on P.O.C. **ZACHAR ZUNSHINE** closes the week of May 21; the trial is imminent. SEND TELEGRAMS protesting the charges against Zunshine to: Chief, Latvian Prosecutor, Edward Dzenitis, Rinis Street #9, Riga 226138, Latvian SSR, USSR. ALSO SEND TELEGRAMS TO: Ministry of Internal Affairs, Drozd, Padomu Street Building #7, Riga 226000, Latvian SSR, USSR.

P.O.C. ZACHAR ZUNSHINE of Riga is apparently still on hunger-strike, refusing his 3rd parcel. There is no word on the status of his case. SEND LETTERS TO the Prosecutor General, A.M. Rekunkov, 15a Pushkinskaya Street, Moscow, to request the status of Zunshine & demand his freedom to emigrate.

Dzenitis said to **TATIANA**: "If the Court is to find Zachar innocent at the trial, he will 'make sure that they are both imprisoned anyway.'

"On the 22nd of May, I have declared a hunger strike as a sign of protest against the fact that until now, I have not received an answer regarding my husband's health. Zachar Mikhailovich Zunshine, who declared a hunger strike in the prison of Riga on April 11, 1984."—**TATIANA ZUNSHINE**.

Jewish P.O.C. YURI TARNOPOLSKY has begun his second hunger strike this year in protest against a ban on contact with his wife, Olga. In a letter from his prison camp, Tarnopolsky writes of "prisoners being held in iron cages . . . like the ones used for animals in the zoo . . ." He apparently began his hunger strike on April 25.

Former P.O.C. **VICTOR BRAILOVSKY** was told by a KGB agent that his family will be refused emigration "for many years" and that this decision holds true for "many others." The official offered to help Victor find a job in his specialty. Victor is submitting a list of institutes where he would like to work. It remains to be seen if, when he does so, the KGB officer will demand that he withdraw his application for emigration in return for professional employment. Victor and his wife Irina will continue to give top priority to their pursuit of emigration.

Last month's letter from **P.O.C. ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY** to his mother Ida Milgrom indicated that his health has deteriorated. In the mornings he shivers and sweats. The doctors determined from x-rays they took that his condition is due to the weakening of his heart from the prolonged hunger strike.

The authorities have begun to confiscate his mail again and to raise difficulties about sending his monthly letters.

Jewish refusenik **SONYA ASTRAKHAN**, wife of Pavel Astrakhan, is threatened with dismissal from her job. In addition, a recent article in the *Leningrad Pravda* vilifies Pavel's father. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO: USSR, RSFSR, Leningrad, Aprilskaya 2/81, Astrakhan, Pavel.

Tarnopolsky: 'Held in Iron Cage'

In October 1982, Tarnopolsky went on a forty-day hunger strike to protest the continuing unlawful denial of his request to emigrate. In May 1982, Tarnopolsky was one of the signers of a protest letter by Khakov refuseniks and later that same year, he composed an article describing the ordeal of the refuseniks.

On March 15, 1983, Tarnopolsky was arrested. He is now serving 3 years in a labor camp. On February 1, 1984, he began a hunger strike.

The following is an excerpt of a letter from Tarnopolsky to his wife in Kharkov, April, 1984:

... Since the beginning of the hunger-strike, i.e. from the 1st of February, I was subjected daily to psychological pressures by representatives of the administration. It consisted mainly of threats. Thus, on 8th February the director of the camp and another man who introduced himself as a procurator talked to me and the conversation ended by the director's threat that they'd organized a beating for me by the prisoners. The procurator supported the threat.

On 11th February, the seventh and last day of my stay in solitary confinement and on the eleventh day of my hunger-strike, I found out about Andropov's death. I declared that I was discontinuing my hunger-strike. I ate a piece of bread as otherwise I could not have left the cell. I had no more strength left and was lying on the floor most of the time. I was allowed to leave the punishment cell in the evening.

Prisoners did all they could for me: They helped me wash and shave (I could not do this myself), they prepared clean clothes and bed-clothes for me, they collected some food for me and even some sweets. However, the impossibility to stop the hunger-strike gradually led to my having suffered pains in the stomach, nausea and back pains for two weeks. There were also disorders in urination. On 13th February I had to go back to work.

I would like to ask that all the aforementioned is to be considered. My complaint addressed to the International Red Cross and protesting against the cruel treatment which had taken the form of depriving me of a meeting with my wife and the use of torture for the purpose of making me give up my demand for the meeting and making me stop my hunger-strike.

In my statement written to the Director prior to the hunger-strike I wrote that I protest against barbaric cruelty which expressed itself in the

fact that my wife was not allowed to see me despite the fact that she travelled 6000 kilometers in order to see me for two hours.

After the hunger-strike I sent a statement to the Procurator in which I wrote the following: In response to my hunger-strike protesting against cruelty, I have been subjected to an even more cruel treatment which could not be qualified as anything but torture. Everything that happened to me since 1979, when I submitted my application for emigration from the USSR, in accordance with Soviet and international law, completely contradicted legality, humanism and common sense and was a series of actions of increased cruelty, arbitrariness and absurdity. I also stated that this increased cruelty acquired a form that threatened my health and my life.

In view of the fact that I did not receive any replies to my statements I sent on 21st March another statement addressed to the Procurator. I wrote in it that I will resume my hunger-strike if the question of my meeting with my wife will not be resolved in the near future. I wrote that the resumption of my hunger-strike would pursue the following purpose: To clarify whether the policy of cruel repression directed against Jews wishing to leave the USSR in accordance with Soviet and international law is continuing.

I became convinced on the basis of my own experience that the cruelty of the authorities in regards to repressions against Jews has no limit. I would like my own fate to be of assistance to the world public in its understanding of this question under the conditions when there has been a change of leadership in the USSR and when new hopes have been appearing there.

I appeal to the world public with the above-mentioned statements and request that everything possible be done in order to put an end to the

shameful and barbaric refusal (of the authorities to allow us to emigrate). I appeal for assistance in my reunification with my wife and daughter. The authorities separated us, referring to the principle of reunification of families. My crime consisted solely of my having already appealed to the world public, having told the truth about the 'state of refusal' and the dangerous character of mass moral destruction which it has acquired. I appeal for preventing its turning into physical destruction.

I intend to resume my hunger-strike on 25th April

From 27th February to 12th March I was in the district prison hospital from which I was released with the diagnosis "hyper-tension of 2nd degree". My blood pressure was absolutely normal before the arrest.

I would also like to say that the prisoners in the camp are being held in iron cages covered on the top by an iron net, like the ones used for animals in a zoo. A cage is adjacent to living quarters housing some 300 men (two detachments). The cage is smaller than the living quarters and there is hardly enough space in it for standing there. The construction of this zoo for human beings started last year. Contacts between prisoners in different cages is forbidden. There are six such cages in the camp. One is not allowed to leave the cage other than go to the dining hall or to go to work. The camp has an extremely poor reputation in the district because of the harshness of its regime. I shall refrain from describing the regime and the administration. The easiness of work should not mislead anyone.

I hereby conclude the official part of my letter which can be quoted and published anywhere, both in full and in part, under my name.

His address is: 6702022 Chita, p/a ya G14/6, 5th Group.

NEWSBRIEFS

Six refuseniks from Moldavia sent Israeli Independence Day greetings to President Herzog, stating: ". . . We are those who dream of devoting all their strength to the Jewish state. We are those who have long considered themselves to be citizens of the Jewish state and who hope that one day we will know the happiness of living on its sacred land." The signators included: **ARON MUNBLIT** (Kishinev), **LEONID VAINSHTEIN** (Kishinev), **VLADIMIR ALTERMANN** (Kishinev), **VYACHESLAV ROYAK** (Bendery), **BORIS BALBARER** (Beltsy), and **ABA SHVARTSMAN** (Kishinev).

Others refuseniks who sent greetings on Israeli Independence Day included **GRIGORY & ISAI GOLSHTEIN** (Tbilisi), **ELIZAVETA BYKOVA** (Tbilisi), **IDA NUDEL** (Bendery), and **LEV FURMAN** (Leningrad).

ARON MUNBLIT of Kishinev had been fired from his job after he visited the Moscow Book Fair in September of last year. After appealing in court, he has received another job in his field.

Wife of **P.O.C. ALEXANDER PARITSKY**, Polina, went to visit her husband on May 4, but was told that their meeting had been cancelled, and that Alexander was in solitary confinement because of his refusal to work. He is expected to stay in solitary confinement until the end of his term in August. SEND LETTERS TO: p ya 94-4, Vodrino, Kabansky rayon, Buryatskaya ASSR 671111, RSFSR, USSR. SEND LETTERS TO POLINA AT: Tankopiya 19-2-48, Kharkov 310091, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

Seventy-three year-old mathematical physicist **NAUM MEIMAN** continues to seek permission to go abroad for medical treatment for his wife Inna Kitrosskaya, who is suffering from a life threatening carcinoma. After undergoing a painful operation last October for the tumor, she is in need of radiation therapy and chemotherapy which might prolong her life. Soviet authorities have yet to give consent for her to travel. SEND TELEGRAMS urging that the Meimans be allowed to travel abroad so that Mrs. Meiman can receive the necessary medical treatment, to: Sergei P. Burenko, Minister of Health, Rakhmanovsky Pereulok 3, Moscow 103051, RSFSR, USSR. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO: Naum & Inna Meiman, USSR, RSFSR, Moscow 113127, Naberezhnaya Gorkogo 4/22, Apt. 57.

Jewish refusenik **LEV SHAPIRO** and two visitors from France were called into the police station on May 11, interrogated, and eventually released.

MOISHE SOIFER died recently in Novosibirsk, leaving his wife Nina, and 19 year-old Alexander in the Soviet Union. Moishe also leaves a son and daughter in Israel. SEND LETTERS OF CONDOLENCE TO: Nina & Alexander Soifer, Zorge 15, Apt. 10, Novosibirsk 88m USSR. ALSO TO: Josef & Anna Soifer, Tabenkin 32/6, Beersheva, Israel.

The correct address of **VYACHESLAV GRINSTEIN** of Lvov is Pekarskaya 15/10, Lvov 290044, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

The families whose belongings were confiscated during the **Odessa raids** of March 20, have asked to have the items returned. They were told that all their items were handed over to the KGB according to section 112 of the Procedural Criminal Code.

Sakharovs' Lives in Peril; "Open-Ended" Hunger Strike

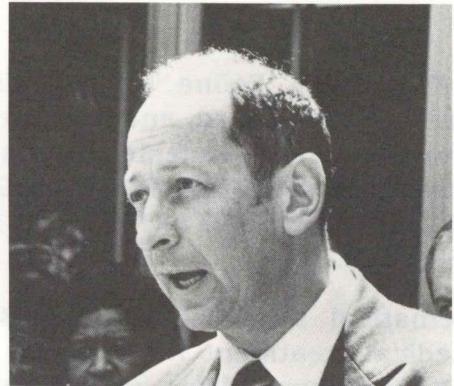
The medical facts brought to the West are troubling. Dr. Bonner is 61 years old. During WWII she sustained some injury to her eyes, subsequently resulting in an increase in the pressure of the fluid within the eye (glaucoma). This was successfully treated by surgery three times. This surgical treatment (establishment of a path for the escape of fluid) must be repeated periodically. In 1982, Dr. Bonner developed symptoms indicating the need for additional eye surgery, but was denied permission to leave Russia for treatment in Italy, where she had been previously cared for. The high fluid pressure within her eyes has resulted in injury to vital eye structures, leading to considerable loss of sight. She has a large blind spot in her left eye (a central scotoma), and the field of vision of each eye is greatly reduced. Much of her vision has been irreversibly lost and her residual eyesight is progressively deteriorating.

In April of 1983, Dr. Bonner suffered a heart attack (myocardial infarction). She subsequently experienced two additional myocardial infarcts (October, 1983 and January, 1984). While we are missing the full details of these important events, we do know something of the present condition of her heart. She has frequent episodes of substernal chest pain (angina). These episodes are brought on by trivial exertion and are relieved by nitroglycerine. She requires 20 to 30 nitroglycerine tablets each day. In addition, she has shortness of breath. These symptoms suggest that the arteries bringing blood to her heart are blocked. It is also possible that her prior heart attacks have damaged the heart muscle so severely that it is not pumping blood properly. This possibility is made more likely by the recent news that Dr. Bonner has been noted to have dark blue lips and fingernails, probably since her first myocardial infarct.

These symptoms collectively constitute a medical emergency. In the West, Dr. Bonner might be given newly developed drugs that would protect her heart from the kind of injury it is now sustaining. She might be a candidate for coronary artery bypass surgery. The nature

and extent of her heart disease and consequently the optimum treatment can not be precisely determined with the present paucity of information. We can say with some confidence, however, that given her symptoms and deteriorating state, her life is in immediate danger.

Because of the precarious state of his wife's health, Dr. Sakharov wishes her to seek medical treatment from a physician of her choice. In hopes of influencing the Soviet authorities to permit her to obtain medical treatment abroad, he began a hunger strike on May 2, taking water, but no nourishment. On May 12, Dr. Bonner joined him in this fast.



Dr. Sherman Bloom of George Washington University, explains critical condition of Sakharov at a press conference held on the 8th day of Sakharov's hunger strike.

The hunger strike will exact a heavy toll. We can assume that Dr. Sakharov has already lost 10 to 14 pounds and is considerably weakened. Persons who starve lose a considerable amount of fluid. This results in a reduction of the blood volume. Consequently when Dr. Sakharov stands up, his circulatory system can not easily readjust, so his blood pressure falls (postural hypotension). The result is dizziness or fainting. Since Dr. Sakharov has heart disease, the severity of his postural hypotension is greater. In addition, an early consequence of his starvation is progressive weakness. His hands and feet will become cold, dry and numb. If Dr. Sakharov prolongs his hunger strike he will experience persistent muscle wasting and protein loss. Vitamin deficiency will then complicate his compromised health. With time his body temperature, pulse rate, and blood

pressure will fall.

If Drs. Bonner and Sakharov were initially in excellent health, they would probably not survive through June 1984. Given their underlying ill health and self-imposed starvation, they are in immediate danger. Furthermore, if one of them dies, and this could happen any day, the stress might well prove lethal to the other."

Accompanied by his grandmother, Alexei Semyonov went to the Soviet embassy on May 14 and 15 to inquire on the status of his parents' health; the possibility of a telephone conversation with them in Gorky and whether they may have permission to travel to Gorky to see them. The meetings, according to Semyonov, were "not productive".

"There was a flat denial of any answer to our every question posed, insisting there was no evidence, no urgency to seek answers as to their health status. Second Secretary Belkin at the embassy contended that Dr. Sakharov is 'not exiled in Gorky, he just lives there,'" stated Semyonov at a press conference held May 15. According to the Soviet Constitution, in order to be "exiled", one must go through Court proceedings. There were no proceedings for Sakharov. Since 1980, Sakharov has languished in unlawful exile, instructed not to write nor receive correspondence from abroad. "The KGB has surrounded them with such tight security that not a word comes out of Gorky," wrote Semyonov in a letter dated May 17 to the Soviet embassy.

Alexei Semyonov continues to beseech the Soviets, calling on them to release information about the condition of his parents so that their medical health can be more specifically evaluated.

"Sakharov's health had been impaired a long time ago, and it has been further aggravated by the persecution he has suffered at the hands of the Soviet regime," write former prisoners Vladimir Bukovsky, Alexander Ginsberg, Petro Grigorenko, Pavel Litvinov and Vladlen Pavlenko who are now living in the West. Apparently it is still not enough.



ALERT On Capitol Hill



Legislation on Behalf of Bonner and Sakharov

On May 10th Senator Paul Tsongas (D-MA) and Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) sponsored a Press Conference, in coordination with the Union of Councils, calling on the Soviets to respond to the Sakharovs' appeal for medical treatment. A number of members of Congress spoke at the Press Conference, as well as Dr. Sherman Bloom of the George Washington University Medical Center, who spoke on the medical condition of the Sakharovs (see story, pages 00, 00); and Lynn Singer, President of UCSJ.

Congressman Frank said of the Sakharovs' plight that "concern from members of Congress on their behalf was out of humanitarian concern and was without political motivation." A Resolution passed the House on May 10th after 40 minutes of debate, expressing the sense of the Congress that Elena Bonner should be permitted to travel to the West for the medical treatment she so desperately needs. The Resolution, H-Con.Res.304, co-sponsored by Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI), Edward Feighan (D-OH), Tim Wirth (D-CO), Paul Simon (D-IL) and Steve Bartlett (R-TX).

On May 16 a similar resolution passed by the Senate. Co-sponsored by Senators Moynihan, Percy, Quayle, Bingaman, Byrd, Dodd and Cranston, S. Con Res. 113 called for the dropping of all charges against Elena Bonner, issuing her a visa for the purpose of seeking medical treatment and to allow Sakharov and Bonner to live in the country of their choice. Speaking on the Senate floor, Senator Paul Tsongas said, "This resolution is intended to show that those of us in the world community, and particularly in the U.S. Congress, stand proudly and publicly in support of the Sakharovs at a crucial time."



In early March over 170 House members joined Congressman Edward Feighan (D-OH) in sending an urgent appeal to President Chernenko in an effort to receive adequate medical care for Elena Bonner. At the May 10 press conference, Rep. Feighan said: "Enough is enough. The tragedy has gone on too long already."

Amendment Linking Human Rights with International Trade Law Still in Conference

An amendment to the Export Administration Act, authored by Congressman Howard Berman (D-CA), maintains presidential authority to impose trade sanctions and abrogate existing contracts under certain conditions, one of which is "gross violation of human rights." Berman said of the bill, "At stake here is whether the President will be denied the power to impose export controls for foreign policy reasons, to prevent nuclear weapons tests, to stop a wave of state-supported terrorism, or a gross violation of human rights." The Congressman expressed his appreciation to members of the world community actively concerned about Soviet Jewry for pointing out the human dimensions of this important geopolitical issue.



L to R: Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA), Congressman Barney Frank (D-MA), Senator Paul Tsongas (D-MA), Congressman Sander Levin (D-MI) and Congressman Paul Simon (D-IL) leaving the Soviet Embassy after a frustrating appeal to Soviet officials on behalf of the Sakharovs.

Gilman Proposes Soviet Mail Interruption Legislation

Rep. Ben Gilman (D-NY), who for the past has been a leader in the congressional inquiry into the interruption of international mail into the Soviet Union, introduced legislation in late April to urge the President to take up the subject with Soviet authorities.

Rep. Gilman's legislation would also call upon the U.S. delegation to the Universal Postal Union to present the issue before the 167 nations who are members of the U.P.U. The U.P.U. convention will be held in Hamburg, Germany, during June and July of this year.

Congressman Gilman's legislation is co-sponsored by 77 other Members of Congress.

UCSJ Responds:... If Sakharov, Then Who? and How?

Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Union of Councils for Soviet Jews' Advisory Board member Andrei Sakharov campaigned for the plight of Soviet Jews and human rights alongside Anatoly Shcharansky as a member of the Helsinki Watch Committee. "He stood by us then; we stand by him now," UCSJ stated in response to the latest Soviet attacks against Sakharov and his wife Yelena Bonner.

Sakharov's willingness to risk all and speak out on behalf of human rights and freedom was based on personal and moral beliefs. Then in 1980, he was sentenced to perpetual exile in Gorky — silenced and isolated from the human rights community, the scientific community, the world community.

In spite of the fact that Sakharov is not Jewish, the Soviets use his wife's Jewishness as a weapon to enflame passion against Sakharov and his wife's Jewishness as a weapon to enflame passion against Sakharov and his aggressive human rights postures. He has been attacked in the Soviet media. His physical health has deteriorated without medical attention. His wife has been denied medical treatment in the West despite a severe heart condition.

If such a 'spiritual hero', who has persisted in this mission for human rights and Soviet Jewry as well as achieve the highest honors within the scientific world community, be subjected to such increasingly harsh penalties, what must we expect for the many Jewish Prisoners of Conscience, activists, and refuseniks whose professions and talents do not reach such heights?

There are approximately 50 Jewish Prisoners of Conscience today, in the labor camps of Perm, in internal solitary confinement, in Chistopol. There are approximately 300,000 Soviet Jews who have received "refusals" to emigrate and who are suppressed into "parasites of the state"—harassed by the continual drumbeat



Andrei Sakharov
...Accused of hating his country.

of the Soviets' official anti-Jewish campaign.

Today we protest the injustices hurled upon the Sakharovs. We call for their medical needs, their freedom. We stand by them now as Sakharov did with us during Helsinki. And we also challenge all who are concerned about the plight of Soviet Jews, if Sakharov, then who? and how?

Local councils around the country have held events on behalf of Andrei Sakharov's 63rd birthday, May 21st. See June issue of ALERT for details.



Professor and noted physicist Sidney Drell of Stanford University comforts Elena Bonner's mother during press conference held on behalf of the Sakharovs. Drell recently received a research paper from Dr. Andrei Sakharov.

From Gorky to Stanford U.

Noted Physicist Receives Research From Sakharov

In December 1983, a prominent Soviet official implied at a news conference the questionable mental state of Sakharov. UCSJ Advisory Board member Harry J. Lipkin, a nuclear physicist at the Weizmann Institute in Israel, whose work has paralleled Sakharov's work in the past, responded: "Soviet authorities cannot succeed in rewriting history to erase Sakharov's achievements . . . The value of Sakharov's new works have even been acknowledged by his Soviet peers . . . It is a disgrace that a scientist of Sakharov's stature is not allowed to pursue his work for the benefit of all mankind."

And now in May, 1984, noted theoretical physicist and Stanford University Professor Sidney Drell, who has known Sakharov for ten years, recently announced his receipt of a new research paper from Dr. Sakharov. Though the paper is currently being translated, Drell indicated that the topic of the paper, cosmology, and the ideas expressed demonstrate that Sakharov is "a very active and vibrant scientist, in spite of impediments to his working condition and concerns for his wife's health." Especially difficult for a theoretical physicist, Drell added, is Sakharov's "isolation from his colleagues, his library, and access to scientific literature."

Drell announced that he had signed a statement to Chernenko expressing the "deep concern that the present crises will result in death" for the Sakharovs, and that "severe and long-lasting damage will occur with regard to scientific collaboration with the Soviet Union." The statement was signed by 13 Nobel laureates and 36 members of the National Academy of Sciences. "Cooperation between scientific communities will suffer if there is not a successful resolution of this case . . . There will be long-lasting impacts on future cooperation," added Drell.

Action ALERT

From Local Councils

Councils Respond to Soviet Clergy Visit

Rabbi Adolf Solomonovich Shaevich, Chief Rabbi of the Moscow Choral Synagogue, is part of a group of 20 church leaders from the USSR who are visiting the United States on a tour arranged by the National Council of Churches Committee on Church Relations in the U.S. and USSR.

During a small shabbas dinner in Denver, Lillian Hoffman, Co-Chairperson of the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry, presented Rabbi Shaevich with information concerning Soviet Jews and the Odessa raids. The Rabbi had never heard of the Odessa raids, did not know of Yosef Begun, and reported that he had never met Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak, or other Refusenik leaders.

He claimed that the Moscow synagogue is a complete synagogue "with everything available" to the congregants. But when asked about classes for teaching Hebrew to those who wish to learn, or a cheder for young people, he admitted "the law forbids the teaching of religious propaganda. . . our church and school are separate, which is why we cannot offer religious education.

In Seattle, three Russian Orthodox and an official of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, met with local peace activists. Judy Balint, Chairperson of Seattle Action for Soviet Jewry was among the questioners who inquired about the persecution of Christians from "unofficial" churches in the Soviet Union, Soviet emigration policies, and why only government-sponsored peace groups come to the United States. The church leaders answered evasively saying that anyone imprisoned broke Soviet laws, and Jews were doing very well.

In June, approximately 200 U.S. clergymen will be visiting the USSR in the second half of the exchange. Councils across the country will be briefing delegates prior to their trip to the Soviet Union.

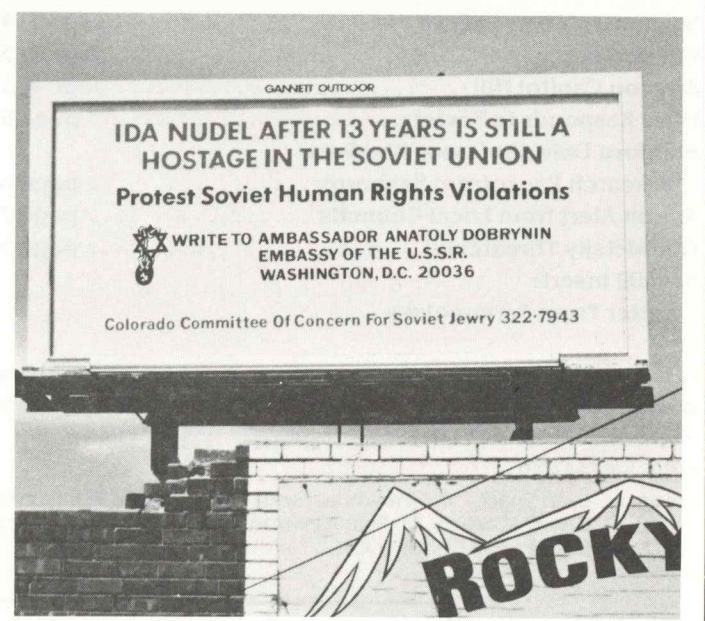
• **UCSJ ANNUAL MEETING** registration forms are now available from the national office. There is a discount for early registration so make your plans now to attend the September 9-11 meeting in Washington, D.C.

• The **Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews** participated in the 8th annual Jewish Folk Festival, the largest such event in the tri-state area. Manning a booth at the May 20 event, CCSJ was able to educate and activate the hundreds who attended on the continuing plight of Soviet Jews.

The CCSJ has also been working with the Social Action Committee of the Hebrew Union College to set up a series of workshops for students who have part-time congregations in small communities around the country. Workshop topics will include "How to set up a Twinning Program in Young Congregations" and "How to set up Adopt-a-Family and Action Programs in Young Congregations."

• The **Southern California Council for Soviet Jews** sponsored a tribute honoring Andrei Sakharov on the occasion of his 63rd birthday. Other groups participating in the May 21 event included the Cal. Tech. Hillel, Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov, and Shcharansky, and the Committee of Concerned Scientists.

The SCCSJ will also be coordinating a month-long hunger strike from June 17 - July 17 in solidarity with Soviet Refuseniks. Individuals are asked to fast for one day at the Simon Wiesenthal Center and to attend teach-ins there on June 17 and 24.



This billboard regarding former P.O.C. Ida Nudel was donated to the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry by Gannett Outdoor Advertising Company and has been on display at a prominent intersection in Denver.

Gorodetsky Threatened

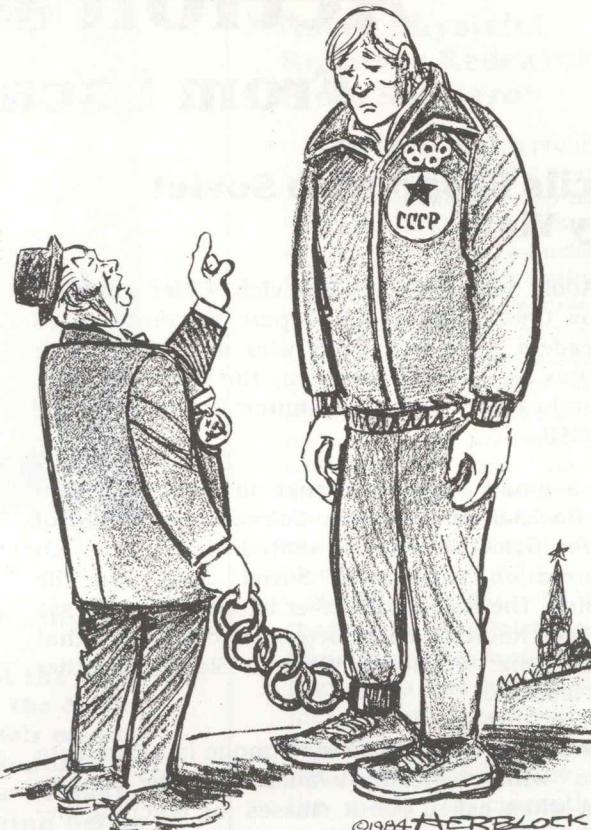
On May 15, while at the post office awaiting a telephone call from a friend in the West, Yakov Gorodetsky was forcibly taken by KGB Captain Orlov for interrogation.

Two young women, obviously "planted" to provoke, told Orlov that they "overheard Gorodetsky saying things he should not be saying." The women may not even have spoken nor understood English, which Gorodetsky does. The statement was a prevarication.

When held for questioning, Gorodetsky refused to sign any statements, but he did submit a statement of complaint for the ongoing harassment.

Gorodetsky is threatened. Clearly he is being intimidated into a silence and/or a case is being built against him. **Send letters of support to Gorodetsky at: Podrezova #17, apt. 8, Leningrad 197136.**

**"BUT YOU CAN STILL TAKE PART IN THE
CONTINUING SPECIAL EVENTS IN
AFGHANISTAN"**



Washington Post, Wed. May 9, 1984



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
1411 K STREET, NW, SUITE 402
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is composed of 34 local councils, 3 domestic affiliates, 3 international affiliates and 55,000 individual members dedicated to helping Soviet Jews, especially those desiring to emigrate.

Editor: Claudia Zorn

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74 Jews left Soviet Union in April