



INFORMATION FROM THE  
**UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS**  
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# ALERT

Vol. X No. 1

January 18, 1984

## Bilateral Meeting In Stockholm: "Issues Not in a Vacuum" Says UCSJ Pres.

On January 17, a conference on security- and confidence-building measures and disarmament in Europe (CDE) will be held in Stockholm. The Conference, scheduled as one of several followup meetings to the Helsinki Agreements, will serve as an occasion for a bilateral meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

While a wide range of issues encompassing US-Soviet relations will undoubtedly be discussed at the bilateral meeting, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) sources told the UCSJ that they "have encouraged Secretary Shultz to include human rights on his agenda". Most likely to be discussed: the drastic decline in emigration — 1,315 — and specific prisoner cases.

"The bilateral meeting should not be the sole place for considering hu-

man rights and Soviet Jewry in particular," asserted UCSJ President Lynn Singer. The Helsinki Agreement issues of security in Europe, economics, science and technology, and human rights "are not issues in a vacuum." Helsinki is "a total package," Singer explained, adding that "we must evaluate the Soviets' behavior in every area. Arms control cannot be discussed without being aware of the Soviets' negative behavior on human rights."

The increase in anti-semitism in the Soviet Union "must be considered under the scope of human rights issues," Singer stated, noting a recent "anti-Jewish" rather than typically "anti-Zionist" article by Yakolev in *Chelovek i Zacon* published last October.

"Any ethnic group of religious group cannot and should not be sought out to be put asunder," charged Singer. "This Administration must make known to the Soviets the heinous aversion to the increase in anti-semitism, whether it be called "anti-Zionism" or by any other name."

As the Administration expects to move ahead on other areas of Helsinki such as the January 17 meeting on arms control, we expect progress on human rights.

## Shcharansky's Letter Cost to Deliver: Two-day Hunger Strike

Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky received a 2-1/2 hour visit January 5 from his mother Ida Milgrom. Shcharansky, weakened by harsh conditions at Chistopol Prison, can barely sit and has continued chest and heart pains. Despite appeals by Milgrom and Shcharansky's wife Avital, Soviet authorities have ignored the urgent need for Shcharansky's immediate hospitalization.

Just prior to Ida Milgrom's visit, Avital received a letter, directly from Chistopol. This was the second such letter, the first letter received erev-Rosh Hashana. This letter, dated November 1st, "cost" Shcharansky a two-day hunger strike in order to secure confirmation from the Procurator that the letter "would be delivered".

"It is a disgrace that Anatoly Shcharansky must undergo a hunger strike in order to communicate with his wife in Israel," stated UCSJ President Lynn Singer. "His actions demonstrate the harsh conditions imposed by the Soviet government, not only on Shcharansky, but also on the many Jews living in the Soviet Union."

January 20 is Anatoly Shcharansky's 36th birthday. (See editorial in this issue).

## IDA NUDEL: Soviets exact Pressure

Ida Nudel of Bendery received an unofficial warning from local Soviet police that she should not leave the Moldavian province — although Soviet law provides her the right to travel. Nudel, of necessity, has been receiving medical attention from friends.

Nudel was further warned that she should not celebrate Jewish holidays nor invite refuseniks to her home. If she did not abide by these rules, the Soviet official concluded, she would receive a harsh sentence. UCSJ President Lynn Singer stated: "While the pressure exacted upon Nudel and Shcharansky attempt to cut their physical strength as well as their Jewish strength, their commitment to the Jewish people and to the State of Israel remains constant."

## Jewish Emigration From the USSR

	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983
January	3,722	2,803	850	290	81
February	3,837	3,023	1,407	283	125
March	4,418	3,049	1,249	289	101
April	4,296	2,469	1,155	288	114
May	4,163	1,976	1,141	205	116
June	4,358	1,767	866	182	102
July	4,068	1,205	779	186	167
August	4,711	770	430	238	130
September	4,663	1,307	405	246	135
October	4,746	1,424	368	168	91
November	4,193	789	363	137	56
December	4,145	889	434	176	97
TOTAL	51,320	21,471	9,447	2,688	1,315



# NEWS/BRIEFS

**IDA NUDEL** of Bendery received an unofficial warning not to leave Bendery, celebrate Jewish holidays, nor invite refuseniks to her home. Nudel's weakened health necessitates her receiving medical attention from friends. Local Soviet police "warned" Nudel that "if she does not obey these rules, she will receive a harsh sentence". Nudel is banned from receiving mail, but LETTERS/TELEGRAMS should nevertheless be sent to show your support. SEND TO: PRESIDENT ANDROPOV, Kremlin, USSR; Minister of Interior and Ovir of MOLDSSR, Sepanov, 125 Lenin Prospect, Kishinev, Moldavian SSR, USSR; AND TO IDA NUDEL, ul. Sovetskaya 69/2, Bendery, Moldavian SSR 278100, USSR.

**REFUSENIK NADEZHDA FRADKOVA** of Leningrad, after being on a hunger strike since December 24th in protest of the Soviets' refusal to issue her an exit visa, is now in a hospital. Last April, Fradkova had been taken to a hospital and force-fed after she began a hunger strike "to emigrate or to end her life". Persistent harassment prompted Fradkova to begin this latest hunger strike. LETTERS OF PROTEST should be sent to: Hospital #9 of Petrogradsky District of Leningrad, Director, V.N. Sokolov & Asst. Director, A.P. Kozlitsky. ALSO SEND TELEGRAMS TO: Minister of Health, S. Burenkov, Rakhmanovsky Pereulok 3, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR, and to the Head of the Psychiatric Section Dr. Churkin at above address. ADDITIONAL TELEGRAMS should be sent to the Minister of Health of RSFSR, V.V. Trofimov, Vadkovsky Pereulok 18-20, 103055 Moscow, USSR.

**OLGA TARNOPOLSKY** was denied her visit with **YURI** after travelling six days to see him, on the grounds that he committed an "infraction" of the rules (his notebook was found on his pillow). Olga anticipates her next visit will be in March. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO OLGA AT: USSR, Ukrainian SSR/Kharkov per. Krasnoznamenny No. 2, Apt. 17, and LETTERS TO YURI AT: 672022 Chita, p/a ya G14/6, 5th Group.

January 20 is **ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY'S** 36th birthday. SEND LETTERS TO Chistopol Prison, Uchr. 5110/1 ue., Moscow, USSR. (See editorial in this issue).

Trained in the Moscow Synagogue, **RABBI MOSHE ABRAMOV** of Bukhara (Uzbekistan SSR) was arrested for teaching Hebrew and "malicious hooliganism". PROTEST BY SENDING TELEGRAMS TO the Minister of Interior, K.H. Yakhayev, Tashkent, Uzbek SSR, USSR.

**IOSEF RADOMYSLSKY** of Leningrad, who has been employed as a computer programmer, has been under pressure to resign from his job. He has been summoned to the army official for military duty but has not responded. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO: Kubinskaya 10/61, Leningrad, USSR.

According to his December 30 letter, **LEV ELBERT** has a new job which does not put undue strain on his eyes (he had been having trouble with his eyes). Inna Elbert expects a personal meeting with Lev on January 24.

Refusenik **BORIS FREEDMAN** of Leningrad has renounced his citizenship. His son Michael was of bar mitzvah age this year, and is a "favorite" for twinning.

**NINETY-SEVEN JEWS** left the Soviet Union in December. This brings the yearly total to 1,315 — the lowest annual figure since records have been kept on the Soviet Jewry emigration movement.

## Editorial: A Birthday & an Anniversary Shcharansky & Sakharov Share Common Plight; Goals

January 1984 marks a not so new year for Soviet Jews, their "crisis of life" having developed for many years. Anti-semitic propaganda, active discrimination in education, indifference to legalities manifested in harsh prison sentences, and cultural repression describe both the history and current status of Soviet Jewry.

January 20 and 22, specifically, mark a significant time: a birthday and an anniversary; a time for renewed attention and heightened action on behalf of Soviet Jewry. The birthday is Anatoly Shcharansky's. The anniversary is of Andrei Sakharov's exile in Gorky.

On January 20, Anatoly Shcharansky — the symbol of Soviet Jewry — will be thirty-six years old. As a Jew, Shcharansky understood the implications of the Helsinki Accords for his people. He became a member of the Helsinki Watch Group, directing his energies toward bringing the issues addressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Helsinki Accords to light and holding them up before the world to see. Shcharansky was the spokesperson for the Jewish community — a beloved hero.

Last March marked the sixth anniversary of his arrest. Although the Soviet charge of "treason" against Shcharansky was emphatically denied by President Carter, imprisonment and harsh conditions at Chistopol prison prevailed. Today, Shcharansky's physical energies are seriously deteriorating, yet his spiritual energies continue to expose light on the blatant human rights abuses against Soviet Jews. In spite of the punishment, in spite of his failing health, Shcharansky's commitment to Jews, to the State of Israel, and to Judaism remains constant, re-avowed by his lighting of the Chanukah candles last month.



Anatoly Shcharansky

harov's "mental state", UCSJ Advisory Board member Harry J. Lipkin, a nuclear physicist at the Weizmann Institute in Israel whose work coincidentally paralleled Sakharov's recent work, wrote in the *Washington Post*, December 11: "Soviet authorities cannot succeed in rewriting history to erase Sakharov's achievements... His efforts are now limited to those



Andrei Sakharov

Of the Helsinki Watch Group, Shcharansky was not alone in his courageous struggle for the plight of Soviet Jewry and human rights. Nobel Peace Prize winner and UCSJ Advisory Board member Andrei Sakharov, a leader of the Soviet dissident movement, shared Shcharansky's plight and goals. In Sakharov's book, "My Country and the World", Sakharov writes: "the struggle for... human rights is not only the moral duty of honest persons throughout the world but constitutes a direct defense of human rights in their own country." Earlier writings by Sakharov stated that unless people can speak freely to their fellow citizens and to the citizens of other nations, the basis is being laid for war.

Sentenced in 1980 to perpetual exile in Gorky, Sakharov was silenced; his efforts on behalf of science and humanity forcibly limited. In response to last month's remarks by a Soviet official who questioned Sak-

areas where he can make useful contributions despite his minimal contact with the outside world. Fortunately, he anticipated much of today's research years ago... 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."

We look back on 1983 as a particularly desperate year for Soviet Jews, a year culminating in the lowest annual figure for emigration (1,315) since records have been kept. The courageous efforts of both Shcharansky and Sakharov symbolized the struggle for Jewish emigration and human rights. Today, they both suffer a common plight in sharing that common goal. Clearly then, January 20 and 22 is a time for renewed attention and heightened action towards a new New Year for Soviet Jewry.



Excerpt

# Anti-Semitism in USSR: Relentless

## Is Obscenity Funny? Soviets Think So . . .

"Viewpoint" contributions express the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views and/or policies of Israel Today.—Editor

SI FRUMKIN

Last week I received an obscenity in the mail. I am not easily shocked, but this time I was. What I received was not pornographic — it was obscene. It was a cartoon.

The cartoon had been printed in the Soviet Union, specifically, in a Ukrainian humor magazine, *Peretz* (Pepper). It is not funny. It is scary. It is obscene. It is thought-provoking and, unfortunately, the thoughts it provokes are not happy thoughts.

The cartoon shows a landscape. In the distance a number of armed figures, guns pointing, are rounding up groups of people, most of them women and children. Bodies are littering the landscape. An armored vehicle is visible on the horizon, its guns pointing at the rubble of a house where we see a figure of a woman, arms held up to the sky, despairing. Another armored vehicle, bristling with guns, is approaching from lower left. In the foreground, three cartoon characters, in another armored vehicle, are holding a large map. The vehicle has a large Star of David on its side. Two of the occupants of the tank are soldiers. They are armed, bearded, very ugly. Their uniforms also bear the Star of David. The third occupant is a civilian. He has a large hooked nose, a long cur beard, wild eyes and is dressed in a black frock coat and a black bowler hat — similar to the traditional Hassidic garb. The map they are holding is a plan of a concentration camp. The lettering on top of the map says: "Concentration camps 1933-1945." On the left side of the map there is large reproduction of the Nazi symbol with the swastika, and the map is entitled, "Auschwitz-Maidanek-Buchenwald." The map itself shows barracks, fences and the notations "Block 'A'."

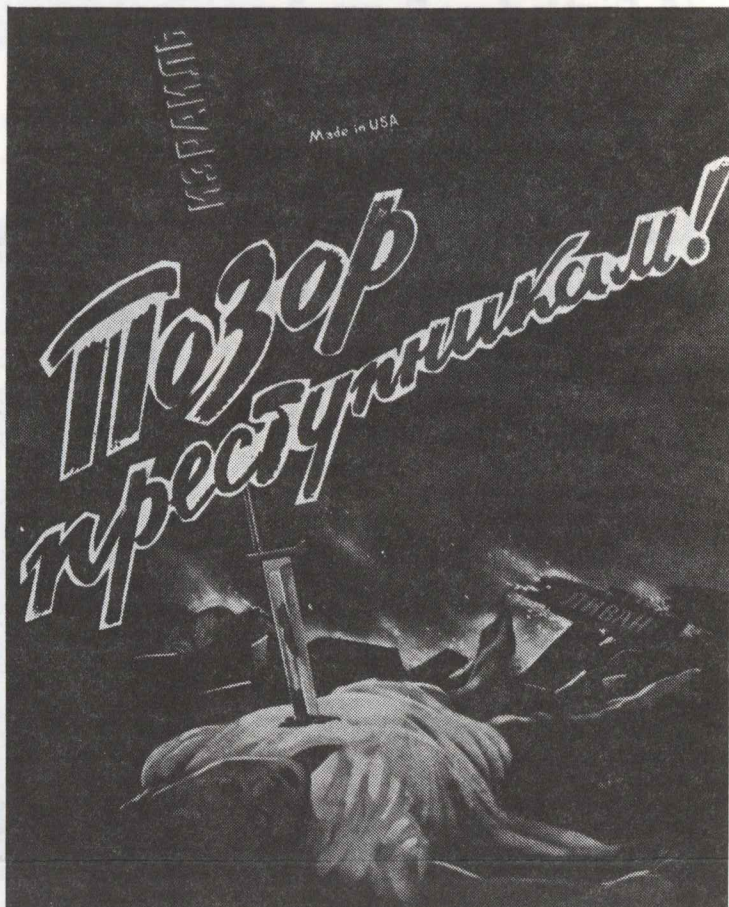
The caption to this humorous piece of art reads: "Why try anything new? Let us stick with the designs that have worked in the past."

As I said, I am not easily shocked. This cartoon shocked me. You see, I am an alumnus of Dachau myself.

It isn't that I have not seen anti-Semitic art produced in the Soviet Union before. The Soviets have been going all out for the last several years in trying to convince their population that Jews cooperated with the Nazis and were instrumental in the Holocaust. The Jews, according to Soviet media, are responsible for everything, from World War II to the Cold War to nuclear proliferation, to the invasion of Grenada, ad infinitum and ad nauseum. I guess that one picture is indeed worth a thousand words; the cartoon shocked me more than anything I have read.

I don't remember where I read lately that a society can be judged by the way it treats its Jews. It is a parochial attitude, but if one is to look through history, it may well be true. Rome was doing quite well until it started picking on a Judaic sect, the followers of the Jew, Jesus of Nazareth. Spain was a mighty empire until the Inquisition reared its ugly head and the Jews were expelled. Germany is no longer a world power after an attempt at a "final solution." There are exceptions, of course, but it just might be that the Jews within a society are sort of a litmus paper, a test of a society's tolerance for difference, for deviation, for ability to accommodate those who are vulnerable because they are somewhat different. A society that insists that it has a hold on the ultimate truth, a society that is intolerant, a society that is controlled and punishes any deviation, is a society that is stagnant. It cannot change, it cannot improve, it cannot accommodate itself to change and to progress, and it is, ultimately, doomed.

The Soviet Union is a society that does not tolerate dissent or difference. It is a society that is ruled by a handful of elderly gangsters who achieved their positions not by ability or intellect, but by ruthlessness in the struggle for power against all the others who strove for the positions at the top. The Soviet junta maintains its power by the bayonets of the army and the apparatus of the KGB. It knows that its dissatisfied, hungry, oppressed, deprived subjects need something to take their minds off the reality of their lives. This something is supplied: Vodka, and, traditionally, anti-Semitism. Vodka works well; alcoholism is rampant, it affects productivity, it is responsible for absenteeism, but it promotes stupor and indifference. A citizen who is drunk is not likely to question the bleakness and the poverty of his life, the reason for the sealed coffins that arrive daily from Afghanistan, the corruption and cynicism of his



In the smoldering ruins of a home labelled "Lebanon", an Arab child lies dead; the bayonet piercing his heart is emblazoned "Israel" and "Made in USA". The poster, entitled "Shame on the Criminals!" is but one in an anti-Zionist series widely available in the USSR which seeks to inflame anti-semitic hate.

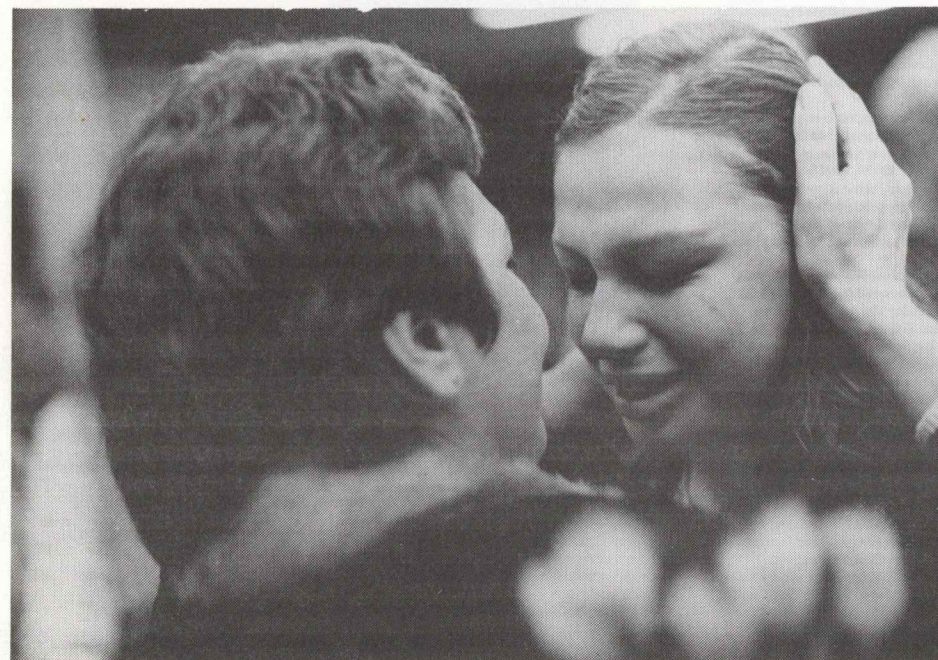
(Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry).

On December 19, Leningrad Russian academic Dr. Ivan Martinov, who renounced his degree to protest the official anti-semitism, launched an open letter to the Soviet Party attacking the anti-semitic articles in the Soviet press. The letter was co-signed by 43 Jewish supporters including Yakov Gorodetsky and Aba Taratuta. Subsequently, the Leningrad paper *Smina* published an article denying that anti-semitic articles appear in the Soviet press, asserting that such anti-Soviet propaganda is from foreign "Zionists". Both Gorodetsky and Martinov have been threatened for their outspoken discussion of Jewish rights. Their fate hangs in the balance.

rulers. The Jews are another matter; they served the Czar well — anytime the Empire felt that it was in trouble, the cry of "Kill the Kikes and Save Russia" resounded through the land. Under the Communists, there was an equality of suffering, until the latter years of Stalin's regime; proportionately there were just as many Jews as non-Jews in the Gulag Archipelago. Now it seems that the Kremlin clique needs a scapegoat once again. Radio, television, newspapers, books, trumpet the anti-Jewish theme, and the obscene cartoon that came to me, the cartoon that equates Jews with Nazis, the cartoon that states that Jews were the builders of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, and that Jews are now perpetrating a holocaust in the Middle East is only one example of the desperation of the Kremlin gangsters.

SI Frumkin is Chairperson of the Southern California Council for Soviet Jews, a member of the UCSJ.

## Freedom and A Reunion: Local Councils Aid Former Refuseniks



Zoya and her daughter reunited after nine-year separation.

After a lengthy separation, former refusenik Zoya Leybin, who had been fired from her position as Concert Master of the Riga Chamber Orchestra after applying for an exit visa, was finally united with her eldest daughter Ivetta on December 13.

After much harassment from Soviet officials, Zoya received her visa nine years ago, and emigrated with her youngest daughter Emma. Unable to leave the Soviet Union with Ivetta, Zoya has been pleading for

her eldest daughter's freedom ever since.

Greeting her daughter at the San Francisco Airport, Zoya commended the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, a member of the UCSJ for the "enormous help" in conducting a massive letter-writing campaign.

I only wish that everyone who is not free and separated from their loved ones could know the joy that Ivetta and I feel right now," said Zoya.

20/XI 1983, Karmiel, Israel

Dear Babette,

My name is Mark Brodtkin. Dr. Boris Schein from Fayetteville, Arkansas, wrote me that you know about me. I, my wife and our three children were allowed to leave the Soviet Union after three years of refusals. On October 18, we arrived in Israel, where my parents, brother and other relatives waited for us.

Boris wrote me how much you and your organization made for us. During all these years of our ordeal we felt an invisible support of people like you. You cannot imagine how much this support means for Soviet Jews. Thank you.

Cordially,  
Mark Brodtkin,

(Recent letter sent from Mark Brodtkin of Saratov, now of Karmiel, Israel to Babette Wampold, Chairperson of the Alabama Council to Save Soviet Jews, a member of the UCSJ).

## UCSJ Regional Mtg. Symposium on Cultural Genocide

The Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry, a member of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, will host the Western Regional Conference in San Francisco, January 27-29, at the Fairmont Hotel. This month's meeting in San Francisco is the first such conference in Northern California since 1979.

Dr. Benjamin Fain, one of the founders of the Jewish cultural movement in the Soviet Union, and Dr. Betsy Gidwitz, a leading expert on Soviet anti-Semitism, will be among the participants at the conference.

The conference will consist primarily of educational workshops and panels on a variety of topics, including: US-Soviet Trade; Political Action; Ecumenical Action, Human Rights and Soviet science; and other discussions of new strategies to save Soviet Jews. In addition, a panel of experts will discuss the future of Soviet Jews, human rights and US-Soviet relations in a panel entitled "USSR: 1984 and beyond". The final session of the conference will be a symposium on the Soviet campaign to destroy Jewish culture in the USSR.

Dr. Fain, a leader of the Soviet Jewish emigration movement during the early 1970s, has been acknowledged as a leading proponent of Jewish cultural activity in the USSR, along with Soviet Jewish prisoner Dr. Joseph Begun. In 1976, the two scientists were arrested by Soviet authorities after organizing a symposium on Jewish culture. A year later, Dr. Fain and his wife were permitted to emigrate to Israel, after a four year wait. Today, he is a professor of physics at Tel Aviv University, and remains a leading authority on Jewish culture in the USSR.

Panelists will discuss the unfulfilled promises of "cultural autonomy" in the Soviet constitution, the reality of institutionalized anti-Semitic measures, and the remarkable rebirth of a Jewish cultural movement in the USSR.

Join Soviet Jewry activists and supporters in attending the conference. Contact the Bay Area Council for further information.



# our view Her spirit will never be imprisoned

ISSUE: Hanukkah 1983.

For Ida Nudel, Hanukkah is not just an eight-day Jewish festival symbolizing steadfast hope amid life's turmoil. For her, it is the reason for her life and, maybe even today, her death.

In her prison camp, she has none of the instruments of her worship. Denied a dreidel, she will be fortunate to light one candle smuggled to her, instead of the eight that will grace free Jews' menorahs by the end of the Hanukkah observance.

She is one of about 14.7-million Jews worldwide who will ascribe to the Hanukkah holiday its special meaning. But, as one of 3-million Jews in the Soviet Union, she will do so amid fierce persecution.

It's not news that she is in prison. Nudel has spent many of her years in various jails, ministering to Jewish prisoners of conscience, consoling and encouraging them. But five years ago, she hung a banner outside her meager flat urging that the Soviet KGB give her a visa so she could emigrate to Jerusalem.

That year she had reason to hope she might

be able to travel to her holy land. In the presidencies of Nixon, Ford and Carter about 250,000 Jews were allowed to leave the USSR. (The peak came the next year when 51,320 came out. This year, fewer than 1,000 have come out.)

But the KGB tore down the banner. Then Nudel did a foolish thing in a state committed to atheism and intimidation of the religious. She hung out a star of David. . . .

For this she was arrested, convicted and imprisoned on a charge of "malicious hooliganism."

Soviet authorities cast her into camp for misfits — alcoholics, drug addicts and sex offenders. She is the only woman in her barracks.

She sleeps at night with a knife in her bed, prepared, she has said, to use it on herself. Because of the international outcry at her treatment — a steady stream of letters of protest — her bed has been partitioned off from the rest of the barracks.

Letters . . . the power of them to affect the lives of persons persecuted for their religious beliefs . . . That's why The Lifeline Letters project was born. You can learn more about it on the next page. But as you do, and as you consider today's beginning of Hanukkah's religious observance, ponder anew the power of belief.

Ida Nudel will. The gift of memory will enable her, right there in a disgusting prison camp, to recall the victory of Judas Maccabeus, a Jewish leader who in the second century overcame unbelievable odds to strike quickly and gain a great triumph for his people besieged by Syrians.

Her frail, small body may be wracked with malnutrition. But her spirit will soar in strength. Her captors will shake their heads at the religious foolishness. But her heart will be linked with 14-million other Jews the world over, and with all those who cling to faith in God.

She once wrote her sister in Israel: "No



matter how I am tormented, how weak I am, how lonely or senseless my present life, I do not regret or renounce my actions. We believe our suffering is not for nothing, and this belief keeps us from despair.

"I believe that some day I will walk up the stairs of an El-Al aircraft and my suffering and my tears will remain in my memory only, and my heart will be full of triumph. I grant that it will happen soon."

Ida Nudel's indomitable personality is a challenge to all humanity, an unwavering

defiance to tyrants, a source of encouragement to kindred spirits.

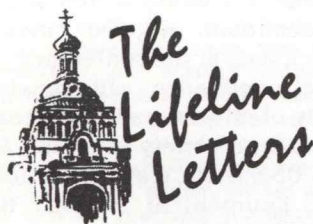
Her life personifies the spirit of Hanukkah and the value of letters as lifelines of hope.

## Evening Independent

With The Famous Sunshine Offer

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Thursday, December 1, 1983



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The **Alert** is published by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, an organization dedicated to helping the Jews of the Soviet Union, especially those desiring to leave.

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