

INFORMATION FROM THE
UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
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ALERT

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BRZEZINSKI SPEAKS TO UCSJ

Former National Security Advisor ZBIGNIEW BRZEZINSKI addressed the UCSJ Executive Committee on the state of US-Soviet relations. He strongly advocated bringing the issue of Soviet human rights violations to the top of the agenda: Compromise on human rights has no place, and the linking of human rights concerns to other US negotiations with the USSR is essential.

"This (Soviet) regime is not more accommodationist than the previous leadership," Brzezinski said. Soviet President Yuri Andropov's declining health coupled with the worsening Soviet economy has created an internal atmosphere of "stalemate and paralysis." As a result, Soviet Jewish emigration has suffered and anti-Semitism has been fostered, according to Brzezinski.

In response to Soviet human rights abuses, Brzezinski charged that the Reagan administration acts "reactively" and is therefore perceived as "passive and ambivalent" by the Soviets. Asked about the effectiveness of secret diplomacy when dealing with individual refusenik cases, he said that "secret diplomacy more often than not produces results more secretive than the secret diplomacy."



Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor

At the meeting, the UCSJ announced Stuart Eizenstat, former Domestic Policy Advisor in the Carter Administration as its new legal counsel.

SHCHARANSKY VISITED BY MOTHER, BROTHER -- HEALTH IN DANGER

After 18 months of being denied visits, ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY was finally seen on July 5 by his mother, IDA MILGROM and brother, LEONID in Chistopol Prison. His health is severely worsened and endangered, they said.

He stands hunched over and has lost most of his hair. He weighs about 115 pounds now, having regained about 45 pounds since January, which he lost during his four-month long hunger strike. Mrs. Milgrom told Anatoly's wife, Avital, that he was beaten during his hunger strike and the marks from the beating are still on his body. She

reported he held his hand to his heart during the meeting because he suffers from chest pains. Shcharansky spoke to his family for about two hours through a small, glass partition.

AVITAL SHCHARANSKY was in Washington July 14 to deliver a health update on her husband, Anatoly's condition. She spoke at a Fast and Prayer Vigil at the Capitol recognizing the fifth anniversary of her husband's sentencing. Approximately 100 Congressmen participated in the event. A press conference followed. See story and photos on

NEWS BRIEFS

New POC LEV ELBERT of Kiev is in a labor camp in Pestchanka in the Ukraine, in the Vinnista region. He was relegated to "punishment cell" this week for reasons unknown, and faces the possibility of a prolonged sentence. Protest this treatment by writing to: Anatoly Dobrinin, Ambassador, Soviet Embassy, 1125 16th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

* * *

IOSIF BEGUN is having trouble reaching an understanding with his lawyer regarding the line of defense. For instance, Popov objected to Begun's observance of the sabbath when it interfered with the investigator's process. Begun tried to leave the room when the investigator began to read the file in front of Begun out loud on Saturday. He was chained by the jailors. Popov thought Begun's action might worsen the verdict.

Also Begun would like to use the testimony of two writers who are experts in the development of the culture of different nationalities in the USSR. And although their testimony could prove discrimination against the Jewish culture, Popov thinks that the judges may be annoyed.

* * *

VALERY PEVZNER of Odessa, a brilliant mechanical engineer, applied for his first visa application and was refused in 1978. In June 1982 Valery was badly beaten by four KGB men who attacked him outside of his house.

Recently Valery was called to the chief engineer in his place of employment, where he was told that if he agrees to appear publicly and denounce the entire idea of making aliyah, he will receive a good job, an increase in salary and a nice apartment in a good location. USSR/Ukr. SSR/ Odessa 270045/Per. Nechipurenko 12, Apt. 4/Pevsner, Valery.

* * *

YAKOV MESH and his wife Mavina, of Odessa, were called to the KGB on June 29. At the KGB they underwent separate investigations. Yakov was questioned about visitors to his apartment on May 4. He was told he had "better stop the silence game" and that he is the only one who can help himself.

The KGB offered a bargain if Yakov grants an interview to the Odessa newspaper in which he publicly expresses regret about his activity and denounces Zionism, then there is a possibility that by the end of the year he will be able to meet his relatives in the West. Yakov refused the offer. The Mesh family first applied to emigrate in 1977. USSR/Ukr. SSR/ Odessa Centre/Ploschad Martinovskogo 3/4/Apt. 71 Mesh, Yakov.

* * *

The new Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee will open branches in major cities throughout the USSR. It is currently headquartered in Moscow.

The regional and provincial offices will be operated by the Committee to counter Zionist propaganda.

HELSINKI TALKS TO BE CONCLUDED

The US has decided to accept a compromise document to conclude the three-year, 35 state Madrid Review Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The agreement confirms and expands upon the original Helsinki Final Act of 1975.

New provisions deal with the rights of workers to organize, with human rights, with Helsinki monitors, religious rights, human contacts and family reunification, access to diplomatic and consular missions, information rights of journalists and measures against terrorism.

The human rights provisions include plans for an experts meeting to deal with human contacts during April 1986 in Switzerland. The new human contacts pledges made in the Madrid concluding document attempt to improve the Soviet record on the reunification of families.

These pledges are contained within an annex document in deference to the

Soviets; however, the Soviets assure the West that the promises will not be relegated to secondary status.

A human rights experts' meeting has also been scheduled to take place in Ottawa, Canada in May 1985. Its agenda focuses on the status of human rights "in their states," i.e., the participating states, so as not to broaden its scope to include other areas of the world.

Also significant were the concessions made to trade unions; the Helsinki Final Act of 1975 included no language on this issue. The Madrid document clearly states that participating states "will insure the right of workers freely to establish and join trade unions, the right of trade unions freely to exercise their activities and their rights as laid down in relative international instruments.

The timing of the final session depends on when the remaining issue, Malta's demand for a Mediterranean Security Conference, is resolved.

TASS CALLS CONGRESSMEN LIARS

The Soviet news agency Tass recently called three Congressmen liars because the Congressmen denounced statements made by the official Soviet anti-Zionist committee.

Tass reported Deputy Chairman of the Soviet Anti-Zionist Public Committee, Igor Belyayev said, "in actual fact it was the three Congressmen who were lying."

Tom Lantos, John Porter and Benjamin Gilman claimed at a June 8 Washington press conference that the Soviet Anti-Zionist Committee had told the news conference that the decline of Soviet emigration was by choice, that those who wanted to leave had gone. The Congressmen refuted this allegation.

Belyayev, calling the congressmen liars, continued to claim that "most reunifications have taken place." Belyayev has charged the western media

with slander for their allegation that Soviet authorities are restricting, or even banning emigration.

The Soviets also refuted the congressmen's contention that in 1979 about 300,000 Soviet Jews had asked their relatives abroad to send them invitations in order to emigrate. The Soviets call these unsolicited invitations a fraud and claim that the figures derive from Zionist emigration planners and not on true family reunifications.

On the whole, Russia claims, "Soviet emigration laws accord with relevant international regulations." Therefore the American Congressmen's distortion of statements by the Soviet Anti-Zionist Public Committee is but an "episode of another anti-Soviet campaign."

UCSJ SPONSORS THINK TANK, CONGRESSIONAL FAST AND PRAYER VIGIL



Stuart Eizenstat, New UCSJ Legal Counsel.



(l to r) Irwin Cotler, former President of the Canadian Jewish Congress, UCSJ President Lynn Singer and Charles Fairbanks, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights.



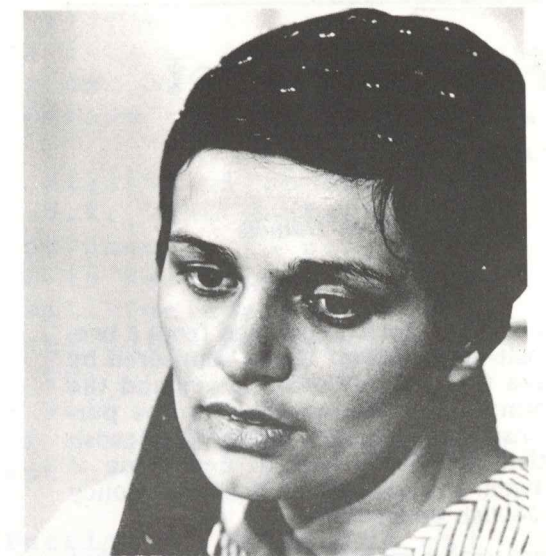
Rep. Jack Kemp (R-NY) addresses Congressional Fast and Prayer Vigil. Some participating Congressmen look on.



(l to r) Rep. John Porter (R-IL) and Rep. Bob Mrazek (D-NY) with Avital Shcharansky after the Capitol Vigil.

The UCSJ held a Think Tank on July 13, 1983 to develop new strategies for approaching the Andropov regime and its successors with regard to human rights. Key decision-makers from Congress, State Department, and the human rights community participated in the all-day discussion. Topics included linkage, media access, arms control and disarmament, and Soviet internal economic and political affairs.

The next day, in solidarity with the 5th anniversary of POC Anatoly Shcharansky's sentencing and with the thousands of refuseniks, over 75 Congressmen participated in a Congressional Fast and Prayer Vigil, co-sponsored by Reps. John Porter (R-IL) and Bob Mrazek (D-NY) in conjunction with the UCSJ. Avital Shcharansky flew in especially from Israel to tell the gathering of her husband's plight.



Avital Shcharansky addresses press conference.

Statement of Avital Shcharansky

Friends,

I come from Jerusalem to join you in your day of fasting, as you identify with my husband Anatoly Shcharansky, who suffers unjustly in a Soviet prison.

Only nine days ago, Anatoly was allowed to meet with his mother and his brother for the first time in more than a year and a half. The reports were not encouraging. His physical condition had worsened. He had been beaten. During the entire meeting, he held his hand close to his heart and seemed to be suffering from pains in his chest.

Here in Washington, we fast. In the Soviet Union, my husband, Anatoly Shcharansky, suffers cruel hardships, unjustly punished for crimes he did not commit. Let each of us see himself today as Anatoly Shcharansky, physically isolated and alone, forced to suffer the brutal torments of prison guards, defenseless. Let us also share with Anatoly his confidence that he is not forgotten, that free men everywhere see his cause as their cause, his fight as their fight, let the struggle for the freedom of the Jewish people and of all peoples striving for basic human rights will not be halted at the gates of Chistopol Prison.

All of us recognize the importance of human freedom--man's God-given basic right. Today, as we identify with Anatoly Shcharansky let us try to know the importance of freedom as a prisoner sees it--not as a distant ideal, not as a formula learned from a text book, but as part of life itself, that part of life brutally taken away. It is much like an iron door closes shut on a windowless room whose ceiling is so low that it is impossible to stand on one's own two feet. This is freedom to Anatoly Shcharansky--the right to open the iron

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OPEN FORUM

The Face of Soviet Anti-Zionism

By Douglas K. Huneke

AT THE END of April, I returned from a two-week visit to the Soviet Union sponsored by the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry and the Jewish Community Relations Council. The purpose of my visit was to make contact with Jewish and Christian dissidents and to determine if there has been any change in domestic policy relating to Jewish emigration.

It was not until a month after my return that I discovered the genesis of an incident that happened to Rabbi Sheldon Lewis of Palo Alto and me. We had been arrested and temporarily detained in the Odessa, USSR, jail. Near the conclusion of our interrogation, we were instructed by the Chief of the Milita to relay a message. He said, "Tell the 'Zionists' in America that Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has been officially terminated."

The origin of this startling revelation by the Militia Chief became apparent to me when I read, here at home, that on June 6 Samuil Zivs, the First Deputy Chairman of the Anti-Zionist Committee had announced at a Moscow news conference that "Jewish emigration had effectively stopped because most Soviet Jews who wanted to leave had gone."

THE Anti-Zionist Committee is an official government apparatus composed of assimilated Jews who have been coopted to speak as if they represented an official consensus of the 3 million Jews living in the Soviet Union. The conclusions reached by Mr. Zivs are disputed by all of the Jews with whom I spoke during a five city visit to the Soviet Union.

Many of these Jews have been waiting ten and twelve years for positive action on their requests to leave. For the Jews who are denied such permission the formation of the committee is yet another frighteningly dramatic escalation of anti-Jewish activities since the investiture of Yuri Andropov.

At the news conference the committee denied that there is government discrimination against Jews. For that reason we are compelled to ask about the severe sanctions regularly enforced against Jews who apply to emigrate.



PERHAPS THERE would be more requests for visas were the penalties leveled against Jews not so strict. In this regard I would invite the chairman of the committee, Colonel General David A. Dragunsky, to meet with the distinguished, patriotic, and Jewish Colonel, Lev Ovsischer, in Minsk. I would like him to explain to Colonel Ovsischer, and the rest of us, why for twelve years he has been refused permission to emigrate; why he lost his military pension when he persisted in his applications.

On this, the 80th anniversary of the publication in Russia of "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," I challenge the committee to stop employing the exhausted rhetoric that equates Zionism and racism, that rests its arguments on a non-existent Jewish conspiracy to control the world. Messrs. Zivs, Dragunsky and the others daily live with the results of Soviet anti-Semitism. They turn a blind eye to Militia raids on Purim festivals and Holocaust memorial services. They turn a deaf ear to the cries of children like Irina Tarnopolsky, whose fathers or mothers are imprisoned for teaching Hebrew or Torah.

One of the committee members, Yuri A. Kolesnikov, charged that world Jewry was "wholly in league with the Gestapo and the SS," and that there was a "sacred secret cooperation between Zionism and Nazism" during the Nazi destruction of European Jewry. This deceitful untruth has been repeatedly repudiated by survivors and historians and has no factual basis in history — except with the most hateful and ill-willed revisionists. Jews and Christians worldwide stand together opposing policies and practices that historically have led to social ostracizing and then to brutal pogroms.

IF IT IS TRUE that the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union is actually worsening then certain steps must be taken without further delay. First, officially sanctioned acts of anti-Semitism must be curtailed; Jews must be permitted to freely practice all aspects of their faith and culture; and those wishing to relocate in their homeland, Israel, must be given every reasonable opportunity to do so. Second, it is of critical importance that President Reagan meet personally with Mr. Andropov. For there to be significant advances in East/West understanding and human rights these two leaders must talk face to face. Third, business and agriculture must be willing to permit a linkage of trade agreements with human rights and emigration agreements.

I am fearful it may already be too late for these modest steps. The Jews of the Soviet Union are being isolated from one another, from Soviet society, from the world community. What is left to do to them?

Douglas K. Huneke is the pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church of Tiburon.

From San Francisco Chronicle, July 2, 1983.
Distributed by Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry.

(continued from page 5)

door, to rejoin his family, to receive the medical care he desperately needs, the right to love a wife and to build a home. There can be no other freedom as long as there is no freedom for Anatoly Shcharansky. There can be no world freedom as long as the iron door in Chistopol Prison remains shut.

In the near future we will witness the signing of an historic agreement between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R., the fruit of the Madrid Conference, an agreement whose purpose is to protect human freedom. Let our voices be heard in Washington today, in the hope that the Madrid agreement will include the release of the arrested and exiled members of the Helsinki Watch Committee. If the Madrid agreement opens the iron door, and Anatoly Shcharansky and his colleagues walk out free men, we will all be free. What is the value of a human rights agreement without human freedom? We should accept nothing less.

In this time of mourning for the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, I wish that we may be comforted by the speedy release of all prisoners of Zion and of all honest and freedom-loving men, as part of the redemption of which we are assured.

courtesy of Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry

GERMANY: 1930's, 1940's

Identification of Jews. Jews required to wear yellow stars.

USSR: 1970's and NOW!

All Soviets are required to carry an internal passport at all times with their name, address, nationality, etc. Jews, in internal passports have, as their nationality, 'Jew'. Jew immediately identifying them to employers, doctors, bureaucrats as members of the "hated race of Zionist traitors."

Anti-Semitic literature indoctrinated German citizens. Psychologically, Germans saw Jews as "traitors," "enemies," "evil influences."

German radio repeated written media in audio attack against Jews.

Jewish academicians stripped of degrees, dismissed from university posts. Sent to concentration camps.

Expropriation of Funds

Jews beaten by uniformed police.

Jews arrested on trumped-up charges based on Nuremberg German laws.

Jews "disappear"

March, 1963. Russian children, 12 to 18 years old are now required to read "The Poison of Zionism." Over 200,000 copies have been printed, all intended for schools. In which the point is hammered away that "Zionists are arch-imperialists whose sole aim is to under mine and destroy socialist states." Anti-Semitic posters are on sale and prominently displayed in book stores.

March, 1980: A Moscow TV program announced that "Zionists have seized power everywhere: banks, newspapers, governments." "Jews speak too much about their victims during the Second World War." The words "final solution" were mentioned without a specific reference as to whom it was directed.

The following is only a partial list of Jewish academicians stripped of degrees and fired from university posts: Drs. Apekin, Skazina, Vasilevsky, Godyak, Gurinkel, Bogdaljeva, Itkin, Radin, Meiman, Drs. Senderov and Kanevsky were arrested after they authorized a treatise "Intellectual Genocide", a documentation of discrimination against Jewish applicants to mathematics departments at Soviet institutions of higher learning.

When Soviet Jews apply to emigrate, they are often fired from their jobs. The KGB makes certain that they are unable to get other jobs in their fields; and, furthermore, mental jobs are difficult to get because the KGB advises prospective employers that the Refuseniks applying are "over qualified for the job." They are thus forced to live on their savings, unable to earn a living in a country where unemployment, called "parasitism", is a punishable crime.

In the past, Jews have been beaten up by "hooligans", street ruffians doing the bidding of the KGB. The recent beating of Leningrad Refusenik, Vladimir Kizelshteyn, by uniformed militiamen reflects the "gloves off" attitude now surfacing in the militia office.

Articles in the Soviet Criminal Code pertaining to "malicious hooliganism", "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda with the intent to defame the Soviet Union", "parasitism" are but a few of the laws used as catch alls to arrest and convict Refuseniks. There has never been a case in which the Refusenik has been found innocent.

Families of arrested Refuseniks often have no knowledge as to where their loved ones are being held. It can be months before they are told. Psychiatric institutions are, despite protests from international psychiatric societies, used to incarcerate Refuseniks where they are subject to "tests" and "treatment" another form of torture.

July 1, 1983

Letters to the Editor
THE NEW YORK TIMES
229 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

To the Editor:

Edgar Bronfman's suggestion that the Jackson-Vanik amendment be waived to increase the flow of Soviet Jewish emigration (New York Times, July 1) may well be counterproductive both to the Soviet Jewry movement and the betterment of US-Soviet relations.

While there has been intensive debate in the Jewish community over Jackson-Vanik's historical effectiveness, there seems little doubt that its removal now would not significantly change the emigration situation.

At a time when the Soviet government has launched a vicious anti-Semitic propaganda campaign in its own press through the establishment of the so-called "Anti-Zionist Public Committee" and the publication of vitriolic and outrageous diatribes like Lev Korneev's The Class Essence of Zionism, it is unclear why Mr. Bronfman believes the Soviets will be more forthcoming on Soviet Jewry simply as a result of increased US-Soviet trade.

In the last four years, we have watched emigration decline by over 95%, to a level of less than 1,500 Jews in 1983. Why should we expect a government which has made a mockery of international agreements like the Helsinki Accords and the Universal Declaration

on Human Rights to suddenly become more reliable because the United States grants most-favored-nation status?

The temptation to abandon the Jewish community's firm stance in dealing with the Soviets is great when the emigration doors are closing. However, we see no sign that the Soviet government's assurances of good intentions are any more trustworthy than those of Hitler or Stalin.

A more positive contribution to saving Soviet Jews can be made by the United States in working with other concerned nations in Europe to evolve a unified Western strategy which can pressure the USSR to make human rights concessions. Making unilateral concessions will only vindicate the Soviet belief that, by waiting for pressure and frustration to build in the West, they can achieve everything they desire without paying any price for the protection of human dignity and freedom.

Sincerely,

Lynn Singer
LYNN SINGER
President

102 JEWS LEFT THE USSR IN JUNE



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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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