



INFORMATION FROM THE
UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
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ALERT

VOL. VII NO. 18 DATE August 4, 1983

LEV ELBERT FACES NEW CHARGES

The urgency of LEV ELBERT's case demands immediate action. Sentenced in May to one year in prison for "evasion of draft by a reservist," Elbert is now being accused of possession of hashish. The charge brought against him, Article 229 of the Ukrainian criminal code "possession of drugs for use" carries a maximum sentence of three years.

During his transit from city prison on July 3 to prison camp the following day, authorities claim they discovered a bag of hashish sewn into his undershirt, which was already in their custody. Lev's fingerprints were not found on the bag, nor did an investigation ensue to confirm the rightful owner of the shirt. Without any further evidence, authorities threw Elbert into a punitive isolator cell with criminal homosexuals. In retaliation, he went on a five day hunger strike and threatened to commit suicide. At that point, Elbert was transferred to a regular cell and allowed a visit by his wife INNA and his father.

The investigation of these trumped-up charges closes on August 26th. Inna today declared a hunger strike until such time as the case against her husband is dropped.

IMMEDIATE ACTION IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL BEFORE LEV'S FATE IS SEALED.

Send telegrams and cables to Camp Director Colonel Rybmitsky and Chief Investigator Dekhpyr:

USSR/Ukrainian SSR/Vinnitskaya Oblast/Pescharsky Rayon/Poselok Trudovoy/Ispravitelnutudovoy/ Lager IV/302/573

Calls can be made to Inna Elbert at telephone number: 77-47-72.

Letters of support to Inna:

USSR/Ukrainian SSR/Kiev 92/
Volgodradskaya 6/Kv. 33

STATEMENT BY INNA ELBERT 7/31/83

I must decide to take the final step. Starting tomorrow, I am going on a hunger strike because I cannot stand the provocation and abuse any longer. I would like everyone around the world to know about it. The accusation is absolutely ridiculous. The man not only never took drugs, but never anything. He was in prison until July 3. On July 4, he was sent to prison camp and they told him that they discovered, sewn into his undershirt, which was already in the custody with the prison authorities, some drugs, namely hashish. They started investigation based on the fact that he uses drugs which allegedly he wanted to smuggle

into the prison camp. They started investigation without even finding out for sure whether it was his undershirt or not. They put him into a punitive isolator before they had any information, as I said before. The cell was horrible. It was filled with criminal homosexuals. He could not stay in that cell. For four days, he banged on the cell door till his palms were bleeding demanding to be transferred to another cell. When this did not help, he declared a hunger strike for five days. When that did not help, he took a broken glass to slash his wrists. Only after that, the head of the prison camp arrived and changed his cell. After that, I met with him and he told me the story.

(continued on page 4)

NEWS BRIEFS

POLINA PARITSKY last received a letter from her husband, POC ALEXANDER PARITSKY in June. In August she will learn the date of her next meeting with Alexander; she does not expect to see him before October. Polina is afraid that neighbors and acquaintances are regularly called in to the authorities to slander her and she fears reprisal. She needs your letters of support. Please write to her and to Alexander at his place of imprisonment:

USSR/Ukr. SSR/Kharkov 310019/
ul. Tonkopia 19/2/ Apt. 48/
Paritsky, Polina

USSR/671111 BURYATSKAYA ASSR/KABANSKII RAYON/
Vydreno Uchr. 94/4/2 otryad
Partisky, Alexander

IDA MILGROM, mother of POC ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY appealed again to Soviet President Andropov asking him to fulfill his promise to George Marchais, French Communist Party leader. In response to Marchais' inquiry as to Shcharansky's health in January, Andropov alluded to the possibility of a "reduced sentence" for Shcharansky.

* * *

Forty year old VICTOR TOMACHINSKY of Moscow died in a prison camp in the Northern city of Vologda on July 10 leaving a wife and two children. Camp officials informed his wife that he died of pneumonia. Tomachinsky had sent a letter to Andropov challenging the KGB to a trial because they delayed his visa request. At the trial over a year ago, the KGB accused and sentenced him to one year for parasitism. On the eve of his expected release they recharged him, held a trial in camp and resentenced him to "anti-Soviet slander". He was given two and one-half to three additional years.

* * *

ZEV SHEKHNOVSKY and his wife, of Moscow, after many years of marriage have had a son. Send letters of congratulations to: USSR/RSFSR/Moscow/Proyezd Cherepnovich 70/Apt. 76/Shekhnovsky

* * *

Congratulations also to PINCHAS POLANSKY who had a son. Send letters to: USSR/RSFSR/Moscow 117321/ul. Profsoyuznaya 132/Korp. 4/Apt. 5/Polansky

* * *

V. S. YURICK of Moscow first applied to emigrate in 1979. The Yurick family has been refused reunification with their Israeli relatives five times in the last four years, most recently May 21, 1983. Send letters of support to: USSR/RSFSR/Moscow 125315/ul. Baltyskoye 6/Korp. 2/Apt. 135/Yurick

* * *

A new Soviet government film for export abroad, especially to the United States, links Zionism with Nazism and racism. The film, "Babi Yar: The Lessons of History" adds to the Soviet propaganda campaign sparked three and one-half months ago by the creation of the "Anti-Zionist Committee.

The film was sent to many media sources including CBS News, the Simon Weisenthal Center and private individuals involved in rooting out Nazi war criminals.

IOSEF BEGUN'S TRIAL POSTPONED

IOSEF BEGUN's trial was once again postponed from July 25, 1983 and no future date has been set at this time. Begun was arrested in November 1982 and has been incarcerated in Vladimir prison awaiting trial sever since. He faces probable charges of "anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda" which carries a maximum sentence of 12 years. Begun has already served two terms in Siberian exile on lesser charges.

He was recently punished at the prison for exercising during his daily walk in the prison yard. Begun has been denied access to his prayer book and tefilin, because according to prison Commandant Major Ogodin, "if Begun wants to pray, he can stand in front of the wall in his cell".

The upcoming trial will be conducted by the chairman of the court, Vladimir Musta Fenkov. Invitations for the witnesses are to be sent out two weeks in advance, so that the trial date should be anticipated.

FOUR MOSCOW JEWS ARRESTED

Four Moscow Jews were arrested on Friday July 15 as Soviet police broke up their Sabbath services. The police warned the gathering of about 15 Jews that they have no right to pray in groups except in a synagogue.

Those arrested were MIKHAIL ABRAMOV, 28, IGOR BRISKMAN, 24, and MIKHAIL RUDMAN, 26. The apartment's owner, MARK FELDMAN, was arrested when he went to the police station to ask about his friends.

The arresting officer, Captain Mikhail Stepanov told them, "we shall not let you do what you want to do" and "until you leave this country, you will live by the rules of this country".

Three of the four arrested men have applied to emigrate to Israel, but have been refused permission. The four will be held for 15 days.

Begun has decided not to avail himself of the services of Leonid Popov, the lawyer which his wife retained, because according to Popov, "Begun and I simply do not see eye to eye about the conducting of his defense". Begun has repeatedly refused any suggestion of plea-bargaining, under which he would plead guilty to a lesser charge and thus avoid the maximum sentence prescribed under Article 70. He holds fast to the belief that the teaching of modern Hebrew is in no way contravening Soviet law or undermining the Soviet system, charges of which he is accused.

SOVIETS REVIVE "SIGNAL CARDS"

Repression and control seem to be the catch-words of Andropov's new Soviet regime. To enforce "lawfulness" the practice of informing on one's neighbors has been revived. In a system of denunciation by mail, citizens are encouraged to inform on their neighbors by sending anonymous postcards to the police. The government has even printed a trial run of postcards--"signal cards"--asking the name and address of the person to be denounced. The informant's identity is not required.

The informer is asked to underline the most appropriate of 12 listed offenses, one of which is "committing crimes". If none of the 12 is applicable, there is a broad category called "other violations of social order and the rules of socialist society". Several Muscovites said that these "deviations" could range from loitering to living in the city without registering with the police to inviting foreigners to one's apartment.

Reminiscent of Stalinist days, the practice challenges the principle of privacy. Anonymous denunciations, "anomimki", are also discouraged.

(continued from page 1)

I cannot bear it any longer. To call my husband a drug user is such extreme lawlessness that it signifies that anyone can be just taken off the street and assassinated without any process of law. I am starting the hunger strike now because I have my holidays from work for about 30 days. I cannot afford to lose my job, therefore the only time I can start the hunger strike will be during my holidays. Remind everybody that Lonya's (Lev's) father is a very sick man. He has been through three German concentration camps. He absolutely supports me in my decision, and he is here with me all the time. I am begging you to tell the whole world to support us. Write, send us telegrams. I have reached a stage where I cannot lose anything and, therefore, I'm not afraid.

SPECIAL APPEAL FROM INNA

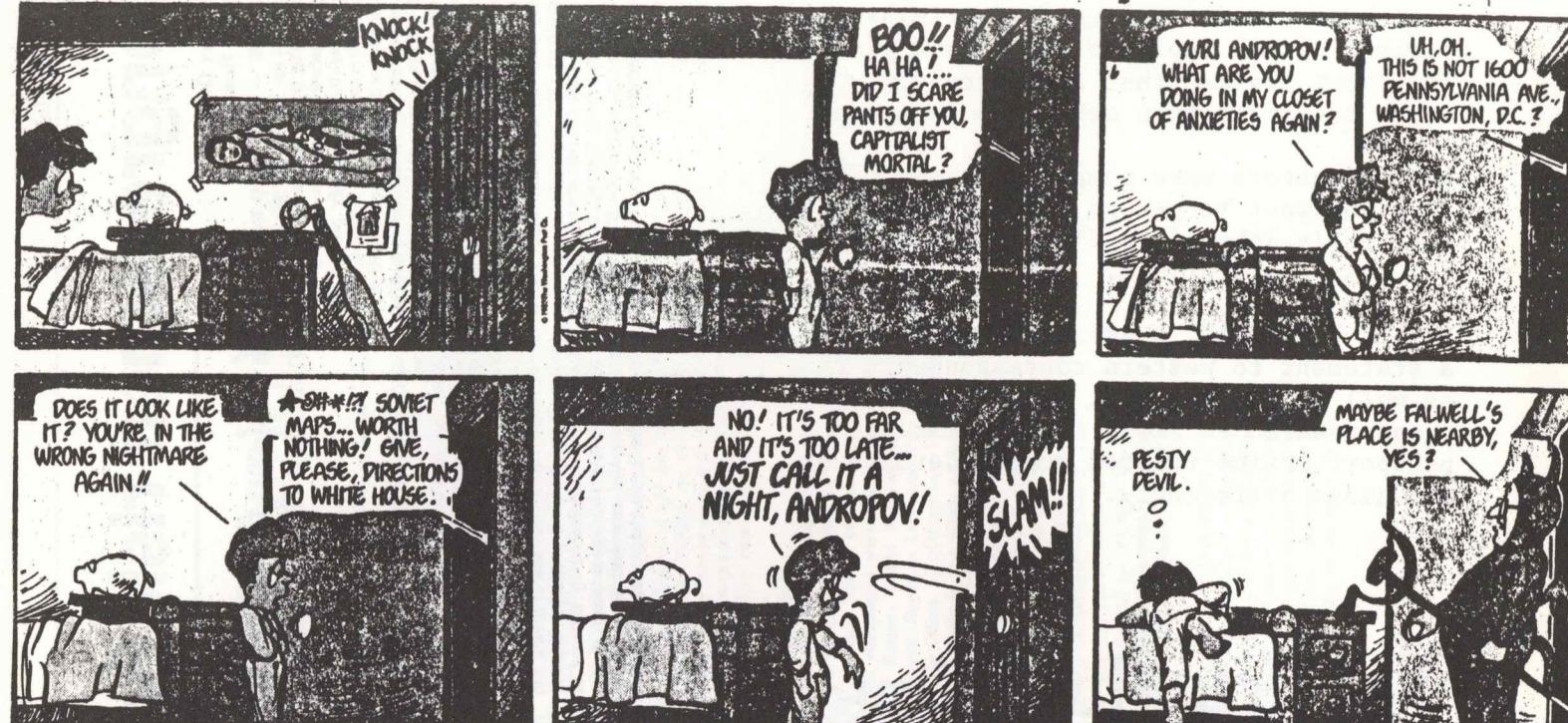
I will do everything for my husband as you know. A person must have pride, especially a Jew. I wish all people to understand that I am doing this for my husband, I am doing it not because he is only my husband, but because he is a completely honest and decent person.

When they are falsely accusing him, it is just the beginning. They will be doing the same to others. They are attempting to destroy everything, all the finest and the best that we possess here. They want to take away my husband from me for many, many years. We don't deserve it, because all we have ever wanted was to go to our homeland and live with our family there, just as many others here do, nothing else. This provocation is so monstrous that I lost my patience, that is why such a strong response. I never imagined that they would stoop to that.

I beg you please, please help my mother. Call her, please help me to calm her. She has not called yet. I am afraid to imagine what she felt when she found out what I am about to do. Tell her that I am taking this step consciously. Tell her I cannot live without my husband. She knows what he means to me. She must understand me. She should not worry, because Lonya's parents are here with me. She should not worry about me because they cannot do anything worse to me than what they have already done.

When they took away Lonya, they took away everything from me. Nothing worse can happen to me. Tell her that I know how much she loves my father, and that in the same situation she would have done the same that I am doing for my husband. Tell her that today I went to my father's grave. I put flowers on the grave, I told him everything. I know that he would approve and agree with what I am doing today. Tell her to be strong.

BLOOM COUNTY



US, Soviets agree on grain sales

By Michael Gelb
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The Reagan Administration yesterday announced an agreement for the sale of at least 9 million tons of US grain to the Soviet Union in each of the next five years.

Agriculture Secretary John Block, who announced the new long-term agreement at a White House briefing, said it was "a happy hour for American agriculture."

Under the agreement, which takes effect Oct. 1, the Soviet Union will buy a minimum of 9 million tons and a maximum of 12 million tons of corn and wheat each year. Additional purchases can also be negotiated.

A previous long-term accord signed in 1975 provided for minimum purchases of 6 million tons of grain and a maximum purchase of 8 million tons.

Yesterday's announcement restores stability to a trade relationship that was disrupted in 1979 when former President Jimmy Carter imposed an embargo on grain sales to the Soviet Union after Moscow's intervention in Afghanistan.

Although President Ronald Reagan denounced Carter's use of grain as a political weapon in his 1980 campaign for the White House, he later refused to enter into a new long-term grain pact in retaliation for the imposition of martial law in Poland.

When the White House announced in May that it would re-open talks for a new grain pact, US trade representative Bill Brock told reporters the refusal to talk had outlived its usefulness and was proving economically costly to the United States.

Since the Carter embargo, the US share of world grain sales to the Soviet Union has fallen from 70 percent to about 35 percent, according to Brock, who appeared with Block at the White House briefing.

"That damage has not been corrected and it's not likely to be corrected in the foreseeable future," Block said.

Moscow has replaced the lost US grain by increasing purchases from Australia, Canada, and Argentina.

Last year, the Soviet Union bought 14 million tons of US grain. That was only slightly less than the 15 million ton peak Soviet purchase before the embargo, but it was part of much larger total Soviet imports, Block said.

by Berke Breathed

Last year, for example, the Soviet Union imported about 40 million tons of grain. Had the United States retained its 70 percent market share, it would have sold Moscow about 28 million tons, Brock said.

The new pact also allows Moscow to meet the minimum purchase requirement by buying soybeans or soybean meal in lieu of grain. The purchase of 500,000 tons of soybeans will be considered equal to a million tons of grain for purposes of meeting the minimum.

The two officials said the deal would have only a small impact on grain prices. It would aid farmers by providing some firming in prices, Brock said, but nothing "traumatic" enough to affect consumers.

Block added that the current market value of the 9-million-ton minimum purchase was more than \$1.5 billion and "any time they [farmers] get another billion and a half dollars worth of income that's pretty important."

THE BOSTON GLOBE

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1983

Ten Moscow Jews along with 60 to 70 associates gathered to protest discrimination against Jewish applicants for exit visas. The group claimed that Jews received worse treatment than other ethnic groups.

The protestors were composed mainly of Jews who want to get to Israel; many had lost their jobs after filing unsuccessful visa applications.

DMITRY KHAZANKIN, a group member, said in a statement to Western correspondents that as well as cutting back on the number of visas granted to Jews, the government passport office treated ethnic Germans or Armenians differently.

The New York Times
—NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JULY 20, 1983

Briefing

An Answer, of Sorts

Members of Congress who try to penetrate the Soviet Embassy here on matters that the Russians regard as internal politics have become accustomed to failure. Representative Norman F. Lent, Republican of Nassau, for example, has been writing Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin in behalf of Soviet Jews who want to emigrate to Israel ever since he came to the House a dozen years ago, but has never received a single reply.

Until last month, that is. Earlier this year, he had sent the Embassy three letters in support of Lev Elbert, whom he described as "a Jewish refusenik from Kiev" who was sentenced to one year in prison for what the Russians described as "evasion of training courses or musters and of military registration." As usual, the Congressman got no replies, but his third letter was returned two weeks later in its original envelope, both of them stamped "Return to Sender" but otherwise unacknowledged.

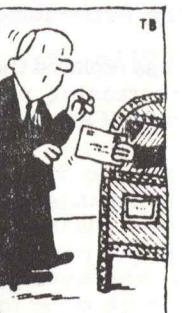
In a fine Congressional fury, Mr. Lent fired off a fourth letter to the Ambassador the same day, June 9, saying he was "shocked and appalled" that for the first time in a dozen years one of his letters had been "refused" by the Embassy. (He did not mention

that this was the closest thing to a reply he had ever received.)

On June 27, to the surprise of almost everyone concerned, the persistent Congressman received a letter from the First Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, Vadim Kuznetsov, that read in full: "With reference to your letter of June 9, 1983, I would like to advise that the Embassy does not deal with emigration questions. Your previous letter on the same subject was returned to sender because of its unacceptable character."

Endeavoring to treat a closing as an opening, Mr. Lent wrote Ambassador Dobrynin two days later that he was "deeply troubled by what appears to be a new policy."

"Apparently," he said, "a decision has been made to cut off all communication with Members of Congress pertaining to this important international issue." That was three weeks ago, and no Russian reply has been received.



Congressmen risk Soviet anger to visit fearful Jews

By Robert Gillette
Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — A torrential evening rain had just let up. The overgrown bushes that obscured the street numbers on a crumbling Moscow apartment house still dripped heavily into muddy pools along the unit pavement as Rep. Henry A. Waxman and his wife, Janet, picked their way to another nocturnal rendezvous in another bleak district of the city.

Inside, in a one-room apartment, half a dozen Soviet Jews who have been denied permission to emigrate waited for a rare chance to talk to an American congressman about their lives as outcasts in a country that neither wants them nor is willing to let them go.

Someone drew the pink chintz drapes to keep outsiders from peering in. The telephone was unplugged on the widely accepted premise that the police can bug

apartments at will through the telephone lines.

After putting out a bowl of Moroccan oranges and mugs of hot tea, the six Jews talked for the next four hours — in Hebrew, they proudly insisted, not Russian — about the challenges of keeping kosher in the Soviet Union, the risks of giving and taking illegal Hebrew-language lessons, about the fears generated by the end of emigration and the appearance of the Kremlin's strident new Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public, which equates the Soviet Union's nominal legislature, the

Israel with Nazi Germany. "Now that emigration has stopped, people are afraid they'll be here all their lives and they're more afraid to learn Hebrew," the Waxmans were told. "To be religious here is looked on as a kind of madness. To change life for the worse, no one wants."

Waxman, a Democrat from Los Angeles, is one of 21 members of Congress visiting the Soviet Union this week, 19 of them in an official delegation invited by the Soviet Union's nominal legislature, the

Supreme Soviet. This is the first such delegation to visit Moscow since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979, although it by no means marks a return to the more cordial days of detente.

In formal daytime meetings that began Tuesday, the 13 Democrats and six Republicans have given Soviet officials their unvarnished views of arms control, human rights issues, and regional disputes ranging from Afghanistan to Central America, while hearing equally blunt Soviet views in informal support.

When the delegation arrived in the Soviet Union, stopping first in Leningrad on July 2, the congressmen and their wives have forsaken formal dinners, conferences and the ballet to visit the cramped apartments of dozens of Jewish refugees, listening to their stories, offering moral support.

By night, Waxman, Rep. Anthony C. Beilenson, also a Democrat from Los Angeles, and most of their colleagues and wives have forsaken formal dinners, conferences and the ballet to visit the cramped apartments of dozens of Jewish refugees, listening to their stories, offering moral support.

By ROBERT J. MRAZEK
"Why don't you propose a Congressional vigil on behalf of Soviet Jewry?" Rabbi Dan Fogel suggested at the meeting in June.

He had surfaced in answer to my question on how, as a new member of Congress, could make a contribution to help end the inhuman Soviet emigration policy.

"You might also ask Congressmen to participate in a sunrise to sunset fast in support of Anatoly Shcharansky," added Rabbi Myron Fenster.

Both ideas immediately struck me as important statements by Congress, particularly if we could convince a significant number of my colleagues to participate.

Regardless of the public posture that the Soviet government maintains in appearing oblivious to actions taken by this country in opposition to their treatment of Jewish dissidents, they do take notice. In fact, they are enormously sensitive to American opinion.

There was another good reason to try to mount an important Congressional demonstration. It is fair to say that the Reagan Administration has not made Soviet emigration policy an important bargaining element in ongoing treaty negotiations with the USSR. Bipartisan Congressional support for the cause of Soviet Jews could only impact positively on the State Department, and just possibly bring the whole idea to fruition. She could no longer guarantee the safety of Soviet refugees and prisoners of conscience.

One day after that meeting in June, I was back in Washington. I first professed my intention to organize the Congressional Fast and Vigil to Lynn Singer, president of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

This indefatigable woman immediately became a driving force in bringing the whole idea to fruition. She offered to arrange for Anatoly Shcharansky, the brave young wife of refusenik Anatoly Shcharansky, to fly to the U.S. to take part in the vigil. We agreed that the date of the vigil should be July 14, the 10th anniversary of Shcharansky's trial.

I then approached John Edward Roter (R-Illinois), an extraordinary young Congressman who serves as co-chairman of the House Human Rights Caucus, and asked him to join me in sponsoring the Congressional Fast and Vigil. When he agreed to do so, we sent out what is called a "Dear Colleague" letter to every

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Real Hero

Shcharansky is the kind of hero who has few real-life counterparts — he is a living embodiment of the Victor Laslo character in the classic film, "Casablanca" — someone whose life takes shape on the world stage as a symbol of man's unquenchable thirst for freedom against brutal and oppressive society. In a real sense, it is the Shcharanskys of this world who hold the power, and not members of Congress or Soviet Commissars. They remind us that freedom is to be prized above all else — that it is worth fighting for, and even dying for. It is not a freedom manifested in narrow nationalism, but rather in the fundamental ideal that all people have this basic right.

In Congress, we sometimes lose sight of the ideals that motivated us when we were young, and which are too often overtaken by cynicism and apathy as we get older. Certainly, the words of Avital at the Congressional vigil helped to restore a recognition of what we were there to do. Real action on the part of the American government can and will produce results in the future. □

LONG ISLAND JEWISH WORLD

JULY 22-28, 1983

July 14 was a typical summer day in the nation's capital — hot enough to melt asphalt and tropically humid. At 11 a.m., the first members of Congress left the air-conditioned chamber of the House, and trudged out onto the west steps of the Capitol. One of the first to arrive was 87-year-old Claude Pepper of Florida, followed by House Majority Leader Jim Wright, and Republican Conference Chairman Jack Kemp (R-N.Y.). As they stood in silence in the broiling sun, more and more members began to arrive, until the speaker's area was eventually crowded to bursting. More than 50 of them wore a simple white tag emblazoned with the Star of David, and the words, "I am fasting on behalf of . . ." — with the name of whichever refusenik they chose to adopt. Their presence was recorded by seven television camera crews (and I'm sure a contingent from the Soviet Embassy).

Powerful Words

The words that were spoken at this vigil have been spoken before. There is really nothing new to be said. That doesn't diminish the power of the words, however, and eloquent statements were delivered by Morris Abram, Lynn Singer, Rabbi Marvin Bash, the Rev. David Steinbruck, Seymour Lachman, Carol Abramson and Sister Ann Gillen. All of them have been active for more than a decade in the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Certainly, the most moving and dramatic message was delivered by Avital Shcharansky, a diminutive woman with huge, soulful eyes. The personal torment she undergoes daily has become an almost tangible thing. Married to Anatoly Shcharansky on July 3, 1974, she has not seen her husband since the day after their marriage. Yet, this heartache has not stopped her from crisscrossing the planet, month after month, year after year, with an indomitable will to succeed in freeing her husband.

As Avital recounted the most recent details of her husband's condition in Chistopol Prison — the hunger strike, the beatings, the closeness to death, his ultimate loss of seventy pounds — those of us who were "fasting" for the day glanced at one another in mutual recognition of the punitiveness of our contribution. But there was also a mutual resolve to do more in the future.



Avital Shcharansky, wife of imprisoned refusenik Anatoly Shcharansky, joined the Congressional Fast and Vigil sponsored by Rep. Robert J. Mrazek on July 14, the fifth anniversary of Shcharansky's trial. By ROBERT J. MRAZEK

As soon as the letter went out of the office, horrible doubts began to set in. What if, only ten or fifteen members decided to participate? It would not only be a slap in the face to Anatoly Shcharansky, but it would also be interpreted by the Soviet Government as an indication that aside from the New York delegation, Congress wasn't motivated by the issue.

I started thinking about the eating habits of most Congressmen that I've had the chance to observe. The idea of a fast suddenly seemed ludicrous. To foreign personal sacrifice they could have been asked to make (short of giving blood).

As the day approached, my fears turned out to be groundless. More than 100 of my colleagues from every part of the country volunteered to help commemorate the cause of Soviet Jewry in this small but symbolic way. Avital Shcharansky also agreed to participate, as did a significant number of clergymen representing the three major faiths.

What was Anatoly Shcharansky's "crime against the state?" Simply, the courage to work against the unbridled anti-Semitic that characterizes Soviet domestic policy.

Shcharansky is the kind of hero who has few real-life counterparts — he is a living embodiment of the Victor Laslo character in the classic film, "Casablanca" — someone whose life takes shape on the world stage as a symbol of man's unquenchable thirst for freedom against brutal and oppressive society.

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LONG ISLAND JEWISH WORLD

JULY 22-28, 1983

Anti-Semitic Echoes Are Sounded in the U.S.S.R.

By CHARLES H. FAIRBANKS JR.

In a closed society, the meaning of anything said or done is amplified by what it might mean beneath the surface. Thus the often-echoed Soviet phrase about conciliatory or vague reminders of the past, "It is not accidental." One reminder of the past that must have been startling to Soviet citizens was the recent formation of a Soviet committee Against Zionism, made up of prominent Jews.

The committee has begun to function, holding a press conference to deny that Soviet Jews have any need or desire to depart the country. Thus committee may evoke, for some, memories of two earlier panels. One was the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee, also composed of prominent Jews and formed during World War II to encourage support for the Soviet war effort among Jews in the West. Most of its members were shot in various campaigns against "Jewish cosmopolitanism" and "Zionism" after the war. Some were charged with receiving instructions from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the British Secret Service through their contacts with Jewish philanthropic organizations.

The other echo goes back to the group of prominent Soviet Jews being organized (according to widespread reports) just before Stalin's death to sign an appeal that Soviet Jews accept deportation to remote areas of the U.S.S.R. It was then—November 1952—that "Zionists" began to be used in the Soviet press as a codeword for PLO, among other groups.

There is one major difference: The earlier talk emanated from parts of a society, but not directly from a central government that controls armies, universities and border guards. Leningradskaya Pravda is the organ of the Leningrad Province Committee

of the Soviet Communist Party, one of the three most powerful regional political organizations in the U.S.S.R. Responsibility for the periodical's contents rests with the province committee and its first secretary, Grigori Romanov, a politician important enough to have just been promoted to the Secretariat, the inner executive body of the Communist Party. Tass, of course, does not announce a committee against Zionism without decision to support it at a high level. Interestingly, the chairman, David Dragnitsky, is also the head of a military school that trains officers for the PLO, among other groups.

Anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union is often regarded as an ineradicable survival of old Russian attitudes. Influenced by them it may be, but this misses the point that officially expressed anti-Semitism, from the time of the postwar campaigns against cosmopolitanism and Zionism, has always tended to be highly political. It is not a matter of mere attitudes or tastes; but of public policy, like the rest of the Soviet "nationalities policy"—a conception of the political and cultural role of the non-Russian peoples.

The background for the new committee is given in two articles in Leningradskaya Pravda that haven't received enough scrutiny in the West. They analyze the Zionists' "national arrogance and their national selfishness." The "national prejudices" that Zionists appeal to in Soviet Jews belong to a traditional repertoire: "We have Philistines, money-grubbers, consumers who strive to enrich themselves by any means." Soviet Jews emigrate to Israel to gain "a money-happy paradise."

It is maintained that there is such an entity as "international Zionism," which has "plans" and "tentacles" and carries out "creeping cultural infiltration into the countries of socialism." Supported by the American "Zionist" newspapers, "The articles supporting the anti-Zionist committee even use images drawn from the biological obsession that characterized German National Socialism as opposed to Communism and even to Italian Fascism: Zionism's unbreded militant chauvinism is dangerous and infectious, just like any kind of infection, like leprosy, like the plague."

The echo here is faint, but still menac-

ing. Mr. Fairbanks is deputy assistant secretary of state for human rights.

tion, no indication that the drop meant the end of emigration. First Deputy Chairman of the anti-Zionist committee, speaking at a news conference in Moscow, has just provided an interpretation of the drop meaning: "The absolute majority of those wishing to leave have taken the opportunity and left the country"—a statement tantamount to telling the Jews still in the U.S.S.R. that they do not wish to emigrate and had better not try. It seems to say that even if East-West relations improved, increased emigration wouldn't follow.

3. Possible Trials. When the articles justifying the new committee tell the Soviet public that British editor William Frankel "transmitted" to Jewish dissident G.I. Vasserman "certain instructions," they lay the groundwork for charges more serious than have recently been used— even that of working for foreign intelligence agencies against the Soviet state. The echo here is faint, but still menac-

ing.

The new committee, its statements and the articles justifying it are likely to have definite practical consequences for Soviet Jews. A whole range of such decisions become easier now that there is a committee to call for them. They may affect three areas.

1. Hebrew Teaching.

"Let's be frank. The appeal to Hebrew . . . is far from cul-

ture,

but is strictly political. . . . How does Zionism extend to females? . . . First of all, with the aid of religion. Hebrew . . ."

The assertion that the study of Hebrew is aimed against the Soviet state is

relatively new. In accord with it, it seems

that trials for the illegal teaching of Hebrew are being stepped up.

2. Emigration. The anti-Zionist articles argue that the function of Hebrew classes in the Soviet Union is to train "mercenaryiles," perhaps for the Israeli army who

"hacked with their bayonets at the storm-

acts of pregnant women."

Thus the re-

striction of emigration gains a new justifi-

cation. Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has been cut since 1973 almost to

nothing, but there was no formal explana-



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Inside Today's Alert

Elbert Faces New Charges.....	Pg. 1
News Briefs.....	Pg. 2
Begins Trial Postponed.....	Pg. 3
Four Moscow Jews Arrested.....	Pg. 3
Soviets Revive "Signal Cards".....	Pg. 3

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