



UCSJ QUARTERLY REPORT

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews • 1411 K Street, NW, Suite 402 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • (202) 393-4117

APRIL 1984

ANTI-SEMITISM: OFFICIAL POLICY OF USSR

The deliberate anti-Semitic campaign, reinforced through Soviet media, became official when Pravda issued one of its sharpest attacks on Israel and Zionism in an article published January 17. UCSJ President Lynn Singer charged that "Moscow continues to deny Western accusations of practicing anti-Semitism, yet the Soviets' official paper forcibly demonstrates their purposeful campaign and is using this latest article to 'test' Western response." The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews responded with telegrams to Ambassador Dobrynin and President Reagan, and called for the leaders of Western governments to protest this official policy of anti-Semitism.

The State Department also responded to the article, stating that it drew "sweeping connections between Zionism and Nazism. The views expressed in that piece are so outrageous and so indefensible that we are reluctant to dignify them or even to call further attention to them with a response. Nevertheless, the Soviet Union should know that no intelligent person could be swayed by the insupportable charges made in that article. . . . The Soviet authorities cannot disguise their responsibility for publication of such slander. . . ."

The following is an excerpt from an article in the January 17, 1984 issue of *Pravda*:

The voice of Israel and Western radio stations, which operate on the same anti-Soviet wave, comes out practically every day with "protests" against the . . . "anti-Semitic campaign" allegedly taking place in the USSR. . . . It is, of course, no accident that the White House has joined in this campaign, accusing the USSR of "cruelty" to the Jews. It is a question of a coordinated anti-Soviet campaign, the aim of which is to discredit the USSR's nationalities and policies and kindle hatred of socialism. Zionism is used by the most reactionary circles of imperialism as one of the strike forces in Reagan's "crusade" against communism.

If you were not familiar with the ethics of this crew, you might wonder: how can there be any question of anti-Semitism in the USSR—a country where the propaganda of racism and national enmity, including anti-Semitism—is forbidden by law? But the point is not that Israel and its patron imperialist states do not know that. They do know, but they maliciously equate anti-Semitism with the criticism of Zionism which, as stated in resolution No. 3379, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 November 1975, is "a form of racism and racial discrimination."

The equation of anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism has its roots in the theory of the chimerical "World Jewish Nation," according to which all Jews, whether they live in Israel or any other state, are regarded as "one nation." In accordance with this "theory" and in violation of the norms

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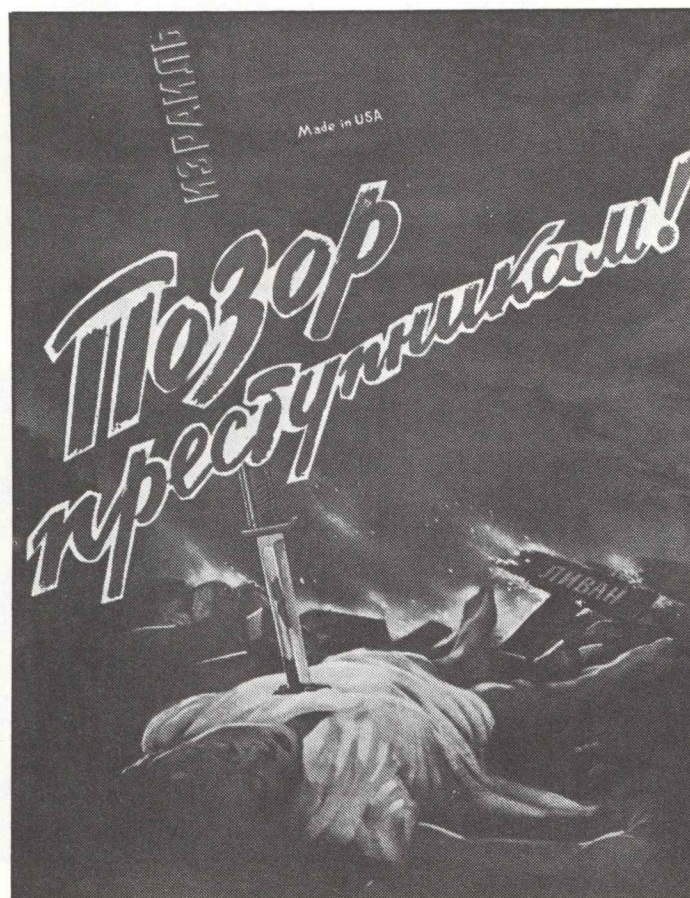
CHERNENKO: PROSPECTS FOR SOVIET JEWRY

The UCSJ delivered a "call to conscience" to the Soviet government on the death of Yuri Andropov and the succession of Konstantin Chernenko as Secretary General of the Communist Party and President of the USSR.

In a telegram hand-delivered to the Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, the UCSJ expressed the hope that this transitional time will be "an opportunity for a new and more positive direction in the Soviet Union's human rights policies by thorough respect for the Helsinki Agreements of family reunification under national repatriation."

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In the smoldering ruins of a home labeled "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.



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Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Elliot Abrams told the UCSJ that while it is unlikely the Soviet Union will undergo any significant changes in human rights policy under Chernenko, "there is no reason to see that the situation will get worse." Abrams reassured the UCSJ that Soviet Jewry is so "built into our [US-Soviet] relationship, that it has become institutionalized." Abrams cautioned however, that "there are people who would love to eliminate [Soviet Jewry] as an issue, but will be unable to do it so as long as we don't let them!" ★

SCHARANSKY NOMINATED FOR 1984 NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Anatoly Scharansky was one of four imprisoned Soviet human rights activists nominated by Congressional members of the CSCE (Committee on Security and Cooperation in Europe) for the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize. In their letter of nomination, the Commissioners noted that the nominees have been sentenced to prison by the government of the Soviet Union for peacefully and publicly advocating the human rights principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act. The nominations were signed by Representatives Dante Fascell (D-FL), Sidney Yates (D-IL), Timothy Wirth (D-CO), Edward Markey (D-MA), Don Ritter (R-PA) and Christopher Smith (R-NJ); and Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT), John Heinz (R-PA), Claiborne Pell (D-RI) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT). ★

SENATOR GRASSLEY'S "DEAR COLLEAGUE" ON SCHARANSKY RECEIVES 100% PARTICIPATION

On March 15, the seventh anniversary of Anatoly Scharansky's arrest, Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) initiated "Dear Colleague" letters to Soviet Secretary General Konstantin Chernenko and President Reagan. Both letters received 100% participation of the U.S. Senate. Never before in the history of Soviet Jewry has a "Dear Colleague" letter on behalf of a refusenik received complete participation of the Members.

Senator Grassley was overwhelmed by the response and stated, "... the complete show of solidarity for Scharansky demonstrates to the Soviets that it can only be to their benefit to release him ..." In Grassley's letter to President Reagan, the Members emphasized the importance of Scharansky's release as "... a positive step in the easing of U.S.-Soviet tensions. We urge you to raise this issue with the new Soviet leadership at every appropriate opportunity."

The complete participation of the Senate was highlighted in the March 15 editorial on Scharansky in the *Des Moines Register*. The *Register's* daily circulation is well-over 250,000. ★

NEW LAW TARGETS REFUSENIKS

The Soviet Union promulgated a new law providing prison terms for anyone passing economic, scientific, technical or other "official" secrets to foreigners. The measure, which went into effect the first of February, could lead to three years imprisonment or up to two years of corrective labor for convicted individuals. If the same actions lead to major material damage to the State or have other serious consequences, punishment could add up to eight years.

This latest law—which does not define what is "official"—further tightens the Soviets' grip on political prisoners and particularly targets refuseniks. Most often, refuseniks are denied exit visas on the basis of having had access to state secrets. And it is very likely that Soviet government officials will allege that such refuseniks passed secrets to a traveler from the West. ★

UCSJ HOLDS WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING

Experts on Soviet anti-Semitism, U.S.-Soviet trade and Soviet science and human rights addressed UCSJ activists at the UCSJ Western Regional Meeting in San Francisco on January 27-29.

The conference included programming workshops on strategies for the '80s and a unique symposium on cultural genocide headlined by Dr. Benjamin Fain, one of the founders of the Jewish cultural movement and a former colleague of prisoner of conscience Iosef Begun. The conference concluded with a candlelight vigil at the Soviet Embassy. The vigil was held in recognition of prisoner of conscience Anatoly Scharansky's 36th birthday and the fourth anniversary of the arrest of Nobel laureate Andrei Sakharov. Over one hundred Soviet Jewry supporters attended. ★

NEW EVIDENCE PRESENTED IN POSTAL HEARINGS; UCSJ TESTIFIES

Representative Benjamin A. Gilman (R-NY), a senior member of the Post Office and Civil Service Committee and the Subcommittee on Operations, held hearings on February 3 in Chicago, Illinois, for new evidence regarding the interference with, and interruption of, international mail going into the Soviet Union. Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry, a member council of the UCSJ, testified, noting several instances of Soviet abrogations on postal matters. ★

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of international law, Tel Aviv's rulers extend Israel's jurisdiction practically worldwide. The ringleaders of international Zionism also proceed on the basis that all Jews must support Israel in every way, including materially, and must be at its first summons. The Zionists abuse all people of other nationalities who condemn such claims as "anti-Semites," and those Jews who deny the Zionists the right to control their—the Jews—destinies are called "traitors." The terminology and the approach are familiar from the Hitlerites' practice of recruiting in support of the "Vaterland" the so-called "Volksdeutsche"—Germans living in other countries. At that time many Germans—like Jews today—rebuffed attempts on their honor and loyalty to the state they lived in.

This arouses indignation and protest among all decent people, including Soviet citizens of Jewish extraction. They declare that they want nothing to do with the Zionists. Evidence of this is provided by the creation of a new public organization in our country, the Anti-Zionist Committee. Its founders gave a clear characterization of Zionism as the strike force of imperialist nations and condemned the Zionist military's savage crimes in the Near East, rightly comparing them to Nazi deeds in the occupied territories.

From the very first, Zionism, like Fascism, has been the lackey of big capital and the ruling circles of the imperialist powers, which use Zionism as an instrument for implementing their policy. Zionism in turn makes use of their support in order to implement its own, equally reactionary objectives. This is demonstrated very clearly in our day by the "strategic cooperation" between the United States and Israel, their joint brigandage in Lebanon, and their active collaboration in psychological warfare against the socialist countries. ★

LONG ISLAND COMMITTEE AND BAY AREA COUNCIL HOST FREEDOM CELEBRATIONS

The Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry held its fifth annual Freedom Dinner March 11, awarding Congressman Jack Kemp with the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award: a chanukiah representing the lights of freedom. While in Washington, D.C., UCSJ President and Executive Director of the Long Island Committee Lynn Singer met with Kemp in his Capitol Hill office. Also there was Avital Scharansky, wife of prisoner of conscience Anatoly Scharansky, who was rallying support for his release.

On the occasion of International Human Rights Day, the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry hosted "A Celebration of Freedom," dedicated to the work and memory of California Congressman Phillip Burton, whose ceaseless efforts on behalf of Soviet Jews are well known. Co-chairpersons for the event were UCSJ Advisory Board member Father Robert F. Drinan, featured speaker, and world-famous ballet dancer, Valery Panov. Noted Soviet emigre musicians, who were finally permitted to leave the USSR, performed in concert. UCSJ Advisory Board member Congresswoman Sala Burton greeted the musicians following the December 11 celebration. ★

Congressman Jack Kemp received the Anatoly Scharansky Award at the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry's annual dinner. Pictured (from left to right) are UCSJ President Lynn Singer, Congressman Jack Kemp, Avital Scharansky, Herbert J. Brauer—Dinner Honoree and Senior Vice President of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company—and Long Island Committee President Carole Ambramson.



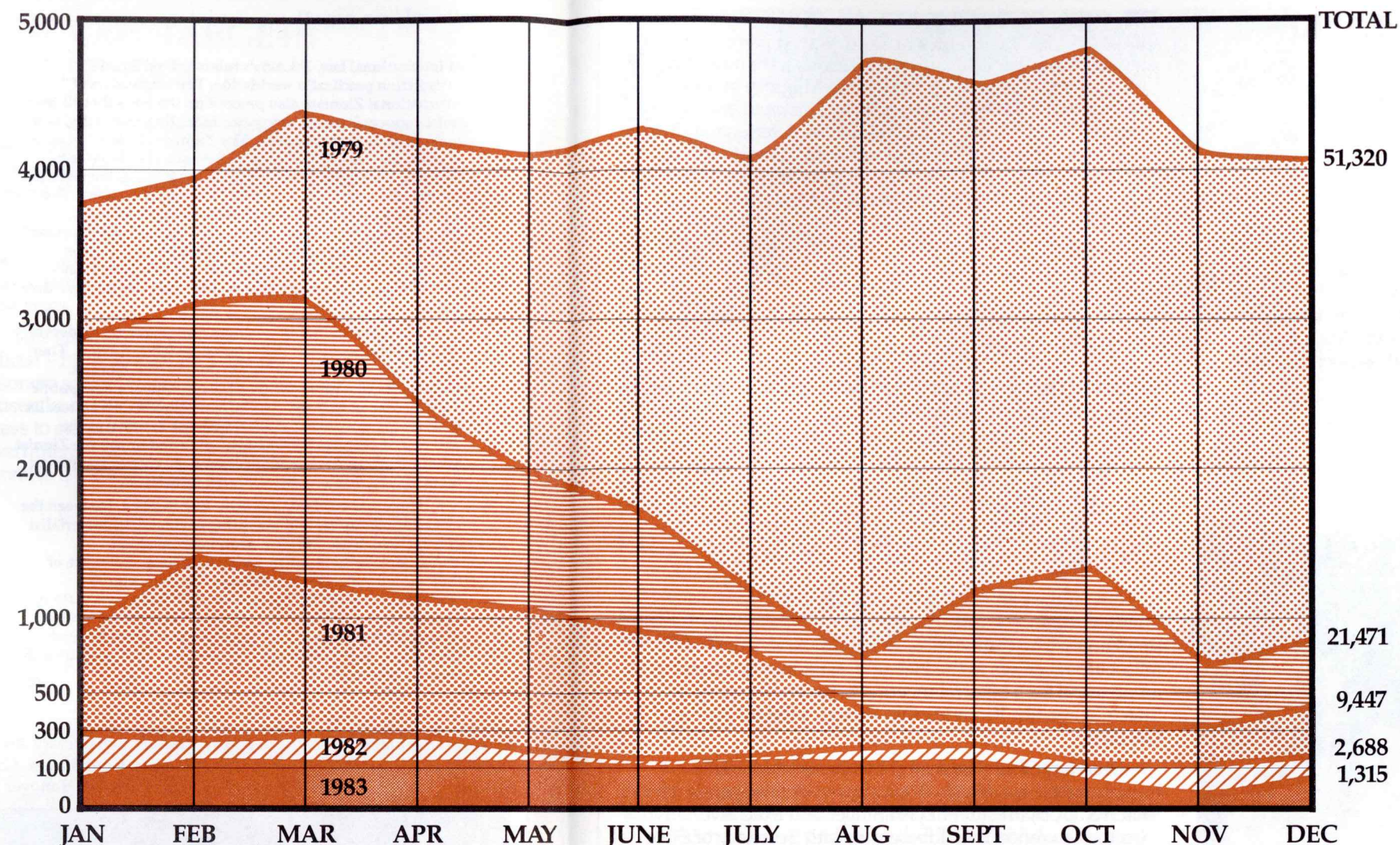
'84 CONTINUES DOWNTREND OF '83

We look back on 1983 as a particularly desperate year for Soviet Jews, a year culminating in the lowest annual figure for emigration since records have been kept: 1,315. This figure represents a 98% reduction in emigration from 1979. Anti-Semitic propaganda, active discrimination in education, indifference to legalities manifested in harsh prison sentences (such as that for Josef Begun last December) and cultural repression have in fact heightened in these last few months of this new year. January 1984 marked a not so new year for Soviet Jews.

The growth of the Anti-Zionist committee parallels the restrictive emigration measures. Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Elliot Abrams stated recently that there are "hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews who would leave the USSR if they were free to emigrate," yet the Anti-Zionist Committee claims all of the Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate have already left. In a recent exclusive meeting, Assistant Secretary Abrams told the UCSJ that the "overall atmosphere of anti-Semitism in 1983 was as bad as it had been at any time in the past several decades."

FIRST QUARTER '84 EMIGRATION

January	88
February	90
March	51
Total	229



JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE USSR

UCSJ TESTIFIES FOR COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The UCSJ testified on February 6 before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Operations in support of a House Resolution which provides for the rotation between the House and the Senate of the chairmanship of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

A rotating chairmanship "will best serve the cause for Soviet Jewry and human rights by involving the active participation of both bodies of Congress," UCSJ Executive Director Lawrence Y. Goldberg stated. The rotation expressed in the bill lends equitability to House and Senate involvement, allows continuity of CSCE staff and provides for direction and focus of the Commission's important work.

The UCSJ, in its testimony, offered deep gratitude to CSCE Chairman Dante Fascell (D-FL) for his outstanding leadership and personal commitment to the cause of Soviet Jewry. ★

VIGIL FOR SOVIET JEWS ENTERS NINTH YEAR

The Congressional "Call to Conscience" Vigil entered its ninth year of activity under the 1984 chairmanship of Representative Lawrence Coughlin (R-PA). Coughlin, a longstanding opponent of Soviet violations of human rights, sees the vigil as "a vehicle for focusing attention on the plight of Prisoners of Conscience and the many others seeking permission to emigrate from the Soviet Union." ★

NEWEST MEMBER TO THE UNION OF COUNCILS

The UCSJ welcomes aboard our newest member council—the Soviet Jewry Task Force of the Community Relations Council, sponsored by the Jewish Federation of Palm Beach County, Florida. We look forward to working closely with their President Shirlee Blonder and Director Rabbi Alan Sherman. ★



Dr. Betsy Gidwitz, UCSJ Advisory Board member, delivered powerful and informative remarks on Soviet anti-Semitism at UCSJ's regional meeting.

ANTI-SEMITISM FOCUSES ON MEDIA & HIGHER EDUCATION

Dr. Betsy Gidwitz, UCSJ Advisory Board member, delivered powerful and informative remarks on contemporary anti-Semitism in the USSR, at the regional meeting. She noted that "the Soviet authorities have selected as primary instruments for their anti-Jewish endeavor the two components of Soviet society that are most sensitive to a highly-literate, well-educated Jewish population: media and higher education."

Stating that Soviet anti-Semitism is "sweeping in terms of its thematic embrace, and pervasive in its penetration of the broad range of media," Dr. Gidwitz catalogued several recent examples of anti-Semitic articles in Soviet literature and media, and noted that Soviet anti-Semitism may be "invoked to delegitimize the concept of (Soviet Jewish) emigration."

Gidwitz further reported that according to Soviet statistics, the number of Jews admitted to institutions of higher education declined 50% between 1969 and 1979 on a national basis, and 50% between 1971 and 1981 in Moscow. "It is likely that anti-Semitic policies in the media and universities encourage further anti-Semitism," concluded Gidwitz. ★

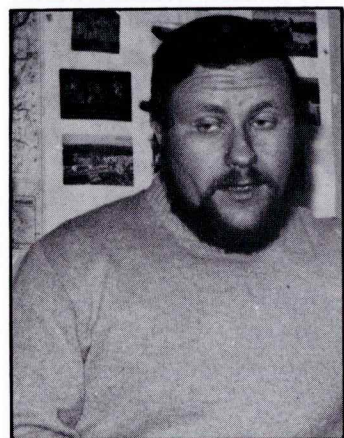
UPDATES ON REFUSENIKS

LEV ELBERT's appeal on his sentence last May (evasion of army draft duty) was denied. SEND LETTERS TO:

USSR
RSFSR
Moscow 103160
ul. Kirova 37
Defense Minister Dimitri Ustinov

INNA ELBERT, wife of prisoner of conscience LEV ELBERT, was fired from her job last December for "absenteeism." As of March, she still does not have a job in her profession as a cardiologist. Since suffering a small heart attack last December, Inna's health is poor. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:

USSR
Ukrainian SSR
Kiev
ul. Volgradskaya 6 kv. 33
Dr. Mizruchina-Elbert



Lev Elbert



Inna Elbert

IOSEF BEGUN, the Soviet Jewish activist and Hebrew teacher who was sentenced to 12 years in prison and internal exile, was transferred from Vladimir Prison, some 180 miles east of Moscow, to Perm Labor Camp on February 6. The Perm Camp Complex, comprised of several forced-labor facilities, is located in the Ural Mountain region where temperatures in the winter fall as low as -45 degrees Centigrade, and the working conditions are extremely harsh. Industries in the Perm region include logging, construction, mining and mechanical engineering. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO:

USSR
RSFSR
Permskaya Oblast
Chusovsky Rayon
ul. Polovinka
Camp 37
Iosef Begun

RABBI MOSHE ABRAMOV of Samarkand received a 3-year sentence for "malicious hooliganism" after refusing to renounce his desire to emigrate to Israel in exchange for the position of chief Rabbi of Samarkand. Rabbi Abramov studied at the Moscow Yeshiva until 1979 but was not ordained.

PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE ANATOLY SCHARANSKY continues to endure chest pains and is in urgent need of hospitalization. Injections have produced only temporary relief. His mother Ida Milgrom and his brother Leonid visited Scharansky at Chistopol in early January to find his physical condition so deteriorated that Scharansky appeared as "a tiny old man." Soviet authorities refuse to hospitalize Scharansky, despite appeals. March 15, 1984 marked the seventh anniversary of his arrest. SEND LETTERS TO:

USSR
Tatarskaya, AFSR
Chistopol 422950
UCHR, ue. 148/ST4
Anatoly Scharansky

SOVIET JEWS WHO LEFT THE USSR: Eitan Finkelstein, Valery Godyak and Mark Brodtkin. ★

UCSJ MEETS WITH SHULTZ: OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS

On January 17, a conference on Security, Confidence-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe was held in Stockholm. The Conference, scheduled as one of several follow-up meetings to the Helsinki Agreements, served as an occasion for a bilateral meeting between Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

Secretary Shultz indicated that he would include human rights, specifically Soviet Jewry, on his agenda. On March 8, UCSJ President Lynn Singer and Executive Director Lawrence Y. Goldberg met with Secretary of State Shultz to discuss the January bilateral meeting and to exchange suggestions for more effective action. The UCSJ stressed eight points as essential to effective action by the Reagan Administration in solving the difficult and dangerous situation facing Jews in the Soviet Union:

1. The Reagan Administration should work closely with our allies in maintaining unified Western support for Soviet Jews;
2. The Reagan Administration should strongly condemn the virulent anti-Semitism sanctioned by the Soviet Union;
3. The Reagan Administration should raise the Soviet Jewry issue at every bilateral negotiation with the Soviet Union;
4. The Reagan Administration should reopen negotiations to establish a U.S. consulate in Kiev;
5. The Reagan Administration should take action to mark the seventh anniversary of Anatoly Scharansky's arrest on March 15;
6. The Reagan Administration should continue to upgrade the content and technical quality of the Voice of America and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty;
7. The Reagan Administration should press the Soviets to allow family visits, correspondence and medical treatment for Soviet prisoners of conscience; and
8. The Reagan Administration should stongly condemn the recent incidents of tourist harassment in the USSR. ★



Rita Eker (left), Chairperson of the London 35's-Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry (an international affiliate of UCSJ) —and Leonid Terlitsky (right) attended UCSJ's Annual Meeting last year. Leonid emigrated to the U.S. in 1977 but left behind his brother, Mark. At the meeting, Leonid had the opportunity to discuss his brother's case with Rita.

This year's Annual Meeting provides an excellent opportunity for all UCSJ members to meet other Soviet Jewry activists and to share their concerns with the leadership of UCSJ.

IPG UPDATE

IPG Executive Director Paul W. Meek recently returned from Europe, where he reports that interest in IPG and its activities has grown substantially. The organization now has over 300 members worldwide. IPG has established an office in Paris and will shortly begin publication of a newsletter and Issue Briefs for its members and the general public. IPG will hold a preparatory conference in Paris on May 26-27.

At a briefing for American Congressional leaders of IPG, Executive Director Paul W. Meek said, "The International Parliamentary Group for Human Rights in the Soviet Union is now poised to make a significant and effective contribution to the cause of human rights in the Soviet Union. IPG Conferences and coordinated parliamentary activities will be instrumental in promoting a unified Western advocacy of these concerns and strengthening the momentum of Western commitment established by the Helsinki process."

Bruce Kiernan has joined the IPG Washington office as a development consultant. Mr. Kiernan has wide experience in the international human rights community. He represented Helsinki Watch at the Madrid Review Conference and worked for the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Human Rights Internet. ★

UCSJ ANNUAL MEETING

September 9-11, 1984
Capitol Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.
Hold the date!

ANTI-SEMITIC CAMPAIGN INTENSIFIES:

Prominent Soviet Jewish Refuseniks Fired from Jobs

The Soviets' intensified anti-Semitic campaign gained momentum when seven prominent Soviet Jewish refuseniks were fired from their jobs in early January. These Leningrad refuseniks are now labeled "parasites of the Soviet state." The UCSJ confirmed that the persecution was not in response to any particular actions on the refuseniks' part. Those fired included Sasha Lein (daughter of former prisoner of conscience Eugeny Lein), Grigory Vasserman and Yakov Gorodetsky. On appealing her case, Sasha Lein was told by the Counsel that "those who wish to emigrate must be fired (first) in cases of staff reduction." This was the first time that an official has made such a statement in Court. Sasha is presently preparing another appeal. Please send telegrams on behalf of Sasha to:

USSR
RSFSR
Leningrad
Dzherzinsky Rayon
ul. Vostaniya 38
Judge Zapevalov

The UCSJ urges you to send telegrams on behalf of the other Leningrad refuseniks to:

USSR
RSFSR
Leningrad 116749
ul. Zheliabova 26
Leningrad OVIR

UCSJ ANNOUNCES STAFF APPOINTMENTS

New Executive Director and Associate Director for Programming

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews announces the appointment of Lawrence Y. Goldberg as our new Executive Director.

Mr. Goldberg has a lengthy background in the national activities of the Jewish community and has been involved in the Soviet Jewry cause since the late 1960s, when the efforts of Soviet Jews to seek emigration took on added impetus. He was a delegate to the 1971 World Conference of Jewish Communities on Soviet Jewry in Brussels.

Mr. Goldberg has been a member of the Executive Committee of AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee) and of NJCRAC (National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council). He has also served on the National UJA Young Leadership Cabinet and as a National Commissioner of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. He was also a member of the Board of H.I.A.S. and a Vice President of the Jewish Federation of Rhode Island, his home community, as well as the first Chairman of the Jewish Community Relations Council in that area.

Mr. Goldberg is a lawyer and consultant in Washington. His most recent major project was as Director of the historic

American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors last Spring.

Mr. Goldberg has also served in the White House and was Assistant Director of the Community Services Administration for Congressional Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. Advisory Commission on International Education and Cultural Affairs and has been a Vice President of Brandeis University.

"I have been a long time admirer of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews for their activism, their creativity and their determination to help free Soviet Jews. I am particularly pleased to join them at a period when the emigration is so low and we all must pull together to redouble our collective efforts to persuade the Soviet government to alter its policies of restricted emigration. The Union of Councils is expanding its role at a time of need and I want to assist in the vital work," stated Goldberg.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews also welcomes Marilyn Kalusin. As Associate Director for Programming, Ms. Kalusin continues the liaison work she was known for with the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington. Ms. Kalusin will emphasize the role of activists throughout the UCSJ community, and will travel to local councils across the country to share ideas and materials for national programming. ★

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