



UCSJ QUARTERLY REPORT

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

FEBRUARY 1985



Twelve hundred children and adults from 35 different schools and synagogues participated in the Fifth Annual Walk-A-Thon through the streets of Great Neck, NY. The event was sponsored by the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, a member council of the UCSJ.

KGB CRACKDOWNS ON HEBREW TEACHERS

In an obvious effort to destroy the "underground" Hebrew classes in the USSR, four prominent Jewish Hebrew teachers and culture activists have been arrested in the past few months.

The authorities interrogated Moscow and Odessa Hebrew students and teachers in August and September and conducted searches of six Moscow and four Odessa homes. These actions were ostensibly related to the state's investigation of activist leader Alexander Kholmiansky, now being held in a Tallinn prison.

Kholmiansky, a 34 year old Moscow Hebrew teacher and six year refusenik, was arrested in July on a charge of hooliganism. This charge carries a sentence of up to one year.

(Turn to "Crackdowns", page 2)

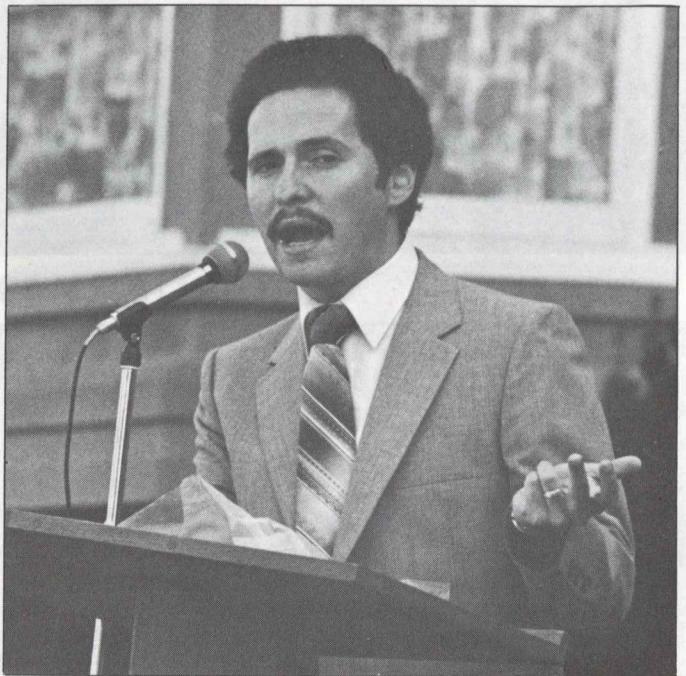
KHOLMIANSKY SPARKS INTERNATIONAL HUNGER STRIKES

Alexander Kholmiansky began a hunger strike on September 13 that has sparked solidarity hunger strikes across the Soviet Union and the United States.

Kholmiansky began his hunger strike in response to the trumped up charges against him. The KGB claimed to have found a German made pistol and bullets in an August 29th search of his apartment.

In a related incident, the KGB searched the apartment of Yuli Edelshtein and claimed to have found opium. (It was actually tobacco.)

(Turn to "Kholmiansky" page 3)



UCSJ's newly elected President, Morey Schapira

A MESSAGE FROM THE UCSJ PRESIDENT

My Dear Friends,

I've only been in office a few months and already so very much has happened in the Soviet Union.

Our friends, the refuseniks, have endured new suffering at the hands of the Soviet authorities. There are more searches, roundups and arrests than there ever have been in recent times.

When you read all of the articles in this newsletter, you will understand first-hand the scope of the KGB's abuse of human rights. It is very clear to all of us here that a pattern of increased oppression has definitely taken form.

The effort by Soviet authorities to identify use of narcotics with Jewish religious practice is intended to discredit and to quell the revival of traditional Judaism that is stirring among many young Soviet Jews today. The proposed victims are all activists in underground Jewish education—underground because the Jewish heritage cannot be transmitted openly from one generation to the next in the Soviet Union. And although the adverse impact on this particular group of Soviet Jews is likely to be especially harsh, it is probable that, over time, drug abuse will come to be associated with other Soviet Jews as well. These contemporary Soviet ritual libel charges malign the Jewish faith and people.

I think the key to the future for these Soviet Jews lies in increased involvement on all our parts. We must keep the Soviet authorities constantly aware of our concern, our anger, our intent to work ceaselessly for the freedom of the refuseniks.

That means every one of us has to make a commitment to get actively involved in the upcoming year. If each one

of us writes one postcard, one letter, one telegram each month or even each week, just think about the impact that would have on the Soviets. The flood of mail would make it very clear to them that American Jews are prepared to fight, and fight hard, for the freedom of their brothers and sisters.

At the UCSJ national office we're ready to send you all the postcards you need ... as many as you want for your friends and family.

Give us a call. We'll get them in the mail to you quickly.

Another way to extend your involvement even further is to have your synagogue or group adopt a refusenik. We can pair you with a refusenik family and give you instructions on how to write to them. Just write to the Washington office for details.

The member council in your area can also help you get this kind of program set up. Use them. Use their resources. They want the involvement of as many people as they can get. They have the capability to give you all the information you need locally. All their addresses and contact people are in this issue (see *UCSJ Member Councils List*, pages 10 & 11).

Recently we celebrated Chanukah, which like Passover, represents freedom. As we lit the candles on our lovely silver and brass menorahs, in the warmth and comfort of our homes, many of us could not help but think about Anatoly Scharansky and the menorah he fashioned in prison.

He made it out of dried bread he hardened. He carved small indentations in it and filled them with oil he saved from machinery. He tore pieces of his own clothing to make wicks. Iosef Begun too fashioned a menorah in prison, his out of wood.

We must secure the freedom of Iosef, Anatoly, and all the others. I've made that our goal. I'm determined that we will see the time when they will walk as free men, as free Jews. And I'm determined that it will be soon. For that I need your continued help.

Shalom,

Morey Schapira

Morey Schapira *

CRACKDOWNS (Continued from page 1)

On August 28, UCSJ learned that Kholmiansky's apartment was entered and searched, although the searchers showed no search warrant. They claimed to find a loaded gun and bullets, as well as rolls of film—one of a book written by a former prisoner and published in Israel, the other a book called *Aliyah*. In contravention to Soviet law, they did not fill out any documentation of the items confiscated.

On September 8, Mikhail, Alexander's brother, was mugged and robbed of his internal passport and other official documents.

Yuli Edelshtein, another prominent Moscow Hebrew teacher, was arrested on September 4 and is being held in Moscow's Prozna Prison. Edelshtein, 26, first applied to

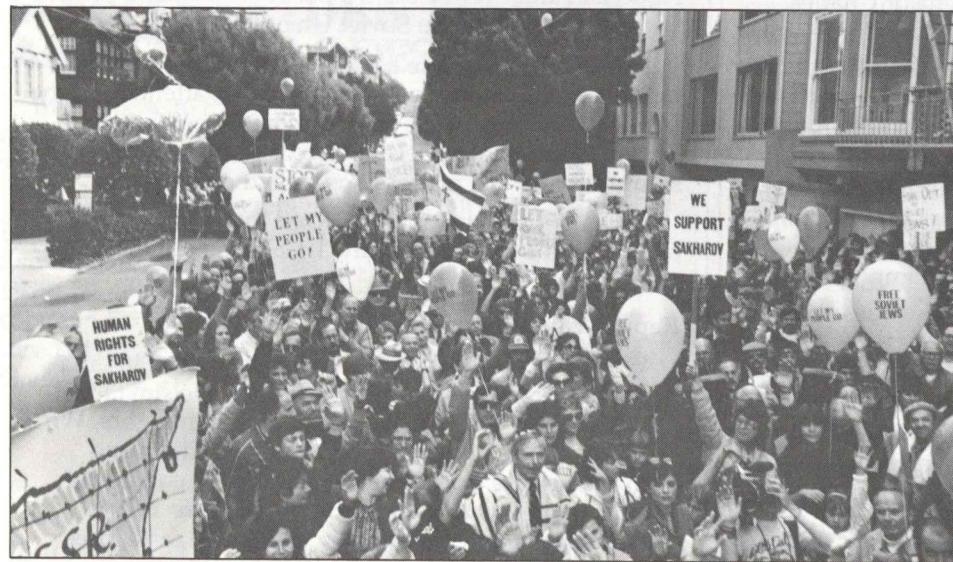
emigrate in 1979. On December 19, he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment for illegal drug trafficking.

In August, when Edelshtein's apartment was searched in conjunction with the case of Alexander Kholmiansky, all of Edelshtein's Hebrew books, with the exception of two children's books, were confiscated. The searchers also took some tobacco from his apartment. The KGB now alleges that it found drugs in a matchbox in his apartment during that search. The authorities have apparently accused "foreigners of coming and corrupting Jewish youth with medieval and mystical drug rituals." In addition, many of Edelshtein's teenaged Hebrew students were questioned and forced to sign statements that they were required to purchase Hebrew study kits for 15 rubles each. This has led the authorities to claim that Edelshtein is "corrupting youth to become illegal profiteers."

In Odessa, Yakov Levin, a Hebrew teacher and a leader of the activist community there, was arrested on August 12—five days before he was to marry refusenik Yehudit Nepomniashchy. He faces up to three years' imprisonment. On August 23, Levin's mother and Nepomniashchy went to the prison to deliver a package of food and clothing for Levin. Nepomniashchy asked that the guard also give Levin a package containing some Jewish religious items. Prison authorities refused to accept the package, saying that "this isn't a synagogue" and that Nepomniashchy is not Levin's relative, and so, is not permitted to send him packages in prison.

Leningrad refusenik Yakov Gorodetsky was arrested, tried and sentenced—all on August 3—to two months' corrective labor on the charge of "resisting the police." He was arrested after refusing to inform the KGB of his employment status. Under a corrective labor order, Gorodetsky can live with his family, but he is under constant surveillance, and 20 percent of his salary goes to the government. (See *Soviets Build Case*, page 7.)

Considered in light of Hebrew teacher Iosef Begun's harsh 12 year sentence last October, these actions indicate a major campaign to eradicate Hebrew study in the USSR. *



KHOLMIANSKY (Continued from page 1)

Inspired by Kholmiansky's leadership, over 220 activists united on behalf of these two men and began a nationwide rotational hunger strike. The hunger strike has also sparked tandem rotational hunger strikes in the United States.

Chicago Action, the Highland Park, Illinois based council, learned from Jewish activists by telephone on October 15, that Jewish refuseniks were beginning a rotational hunger strike in response to the imprisonment of Alexander Kholmiansky and the false arrest of Yuli Edelshtein (see *Ritual Religious Libel*, page 9), both Moscow Hebrew teachers.

UCSJ member councils across the country organized rotational hunger strikes. Among the councils involved in this effort were the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, Boston Action for Soviet Jewry, Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry, Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jewry, Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry, Long Island Committee for Soviet Jews, South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry and the Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry.

All participants in the hunger strikes expressed their outrage at the ferocity of the campaign against Jews being waged in every major city in the Soviet Union.

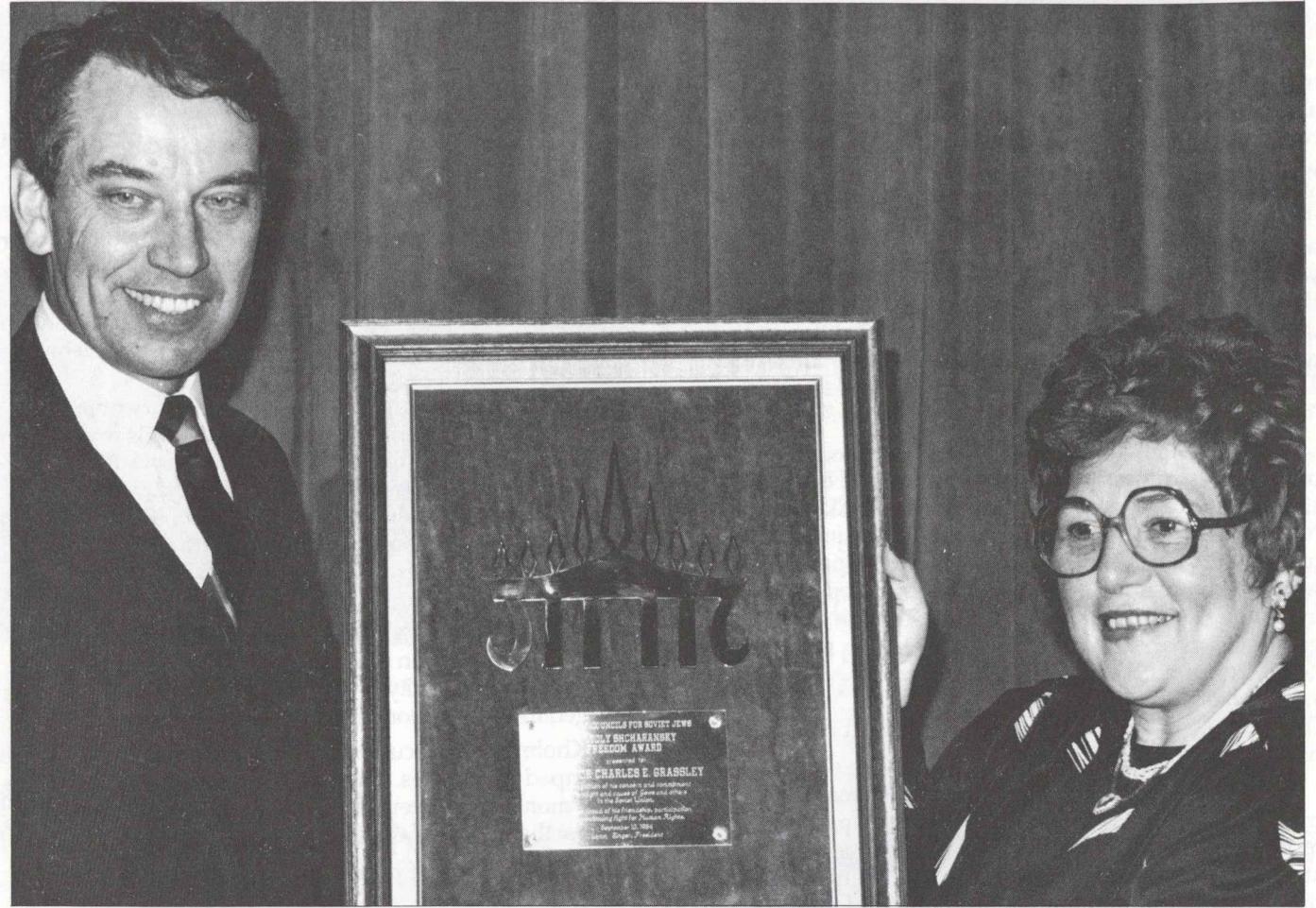
Kholmiansky is currently being held in Tallinn on these trumped up charges. The investigation was extended for one month on September 25. As of this printing, we don't know the results of the investigation.

Send your letters of protest to:

USSR
Tallinn, Estonian SSR
Mitchurina 200001
Chief Prosecutor
Kimmel, Karl

USSR
Moscow
ul. Pushkinskaya 15A
Procurator General of the USSR
Rekunkov, Alexander

Thousands of people in the Bay Area gathered in front of the Soviet Consulate on Simchat Torah to rally for the freedom of Soviet Jews. The sponsors provided all types of booths offering advice to adults and children who wanted to become more involved in the Soviet Jewry movement.



Senator Charles Grassley receives the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award from outgoing UCSJ President, Lynn Singer.

ANATOLY SCHARANSKY FREEDOM AWARD PRESENTED TO SENATOR CHARLES GRASSLEY

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews presented the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award to Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA). The UCSJ presented the award "in recognition of his dedicated efforts on behalf of the plight, cause, and freedom of Soviet Jewry."

Upon receiving the award, Grassley said, "Though we have never met, I feel close to Anatoly through my contact with Avital and many of you in this room. It is all of you who are largely responsible for my work on behalf of Scharansky and the rest of the refusenik community—work which I consider to be one of the most important aspects of my job as a United States Senator."

Grassley continued, "The Soviets hope that by isolating their Jews, by making contact extremely difficult, the West will forget this population. Well, we cannot forget, for if we do, the Jewish community will die. We must remind the world of this situation so that no one forgets."

The award was presented on September 10 at the UCSJ annual meeting in Washington. *

UCSJ TESTIMONY RESULTS IN NATIONAL PLATFORM PLANKS

As a result of testimony presented by former UCSJ President Lynn Singer, the Republican and Democratic National Platforms included a position statement on anti-Semitic practices in the Soviet Union.

Her testimony before both platform committees described human rights violations, called attention to the USSR's abrogation of its commitment to the United Nations Charter and Helsinki Accords, and proposed steps for obtaining concessions from the Soviets.

Both national platforms reflected many of the ideas and positions proposed by the UCSJ. The human rights planks read as follows:

Republican National Platform:

We will press for Soviet compliance with all international agreements, including the 1975 Helsinki Final Act and the U.N. Declaration on Human Rights. We will continue to protest Soviet anti-Semitism and human rights violations. We admire the courage of such people as Andrei Sakharov, his wife Yelena Bonner, Anatoly Scharansky, Ida Nudel, and Iosef

Begun, whose defiance of Soviet repression stands as a testament to the greatness of the human spirit. We will press the Soviet Union to permit free emigration of Jews, Christians, and oppressed national minorities. Finally, because the peoples of the Soviet empire share our hope for the future, we will strengthen our information channels to encourage them in their struggle for individual freedom, national self-determination, and peace.

Democratic National Platform:

The Democratic Party condemns continued Soviet persecution of dissidents and refuseniks. Their persecution of Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, may well have brought them to the verge of death and eternal exile in Gorky. We will not be silent when Soviet actions, such as the imprisonment of Anatoly Scharansky and Ida Nudel and thousands of others, demonstrate the fundamentally repressive and anti-Semitic nature of the Soviet regime.

A Democratic Administration will give priority to securing freedom of emigration for these brave men and women of conscience and to ensuring their fair treatment while awaiting permission to leave. These freedoms are guaranteed by the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Helsinki Final Act. The Soviets are signatories to these agreements and must be required to comply.

Jewish emigration reached the level of 51,000 in 1979 during the last Democratic Administration. It has virtually ended under its Republican successor and must be renewed through firm effective diplomacy. We also recognize that Jewish emigration reached its height at the same time there was an American Administration dedicated to pursuing arms control, extending mutually beneficial trade and reducing tensions with the Soviet Union. It is no contradiction to say that while pursuing an end to the arms race and reducing East/West tensions we can also advance the cause of Soviet Jewish emigration. *

SOVIETS RETURN RELIGIOUS ARTICLES IN ODESSA

In response to the enormous outcry by UCSJ members after the March 20th Odessa raids, the KGB returned several of the confiscated religious items.

Responding to this report, outgoing UCSJ President Lynn Singer said, "I was heartened that the Soviets rectified their outrageous behavior. We are very grateful to UCSJ members and the community at large for their contribution and participation in the postcard campaign directed at the United Nations Secretary General Perez de Cuellar." *



Congressman Bob Mrazek (D-NY) coordinated the Second Congressional Prayer and Fast Vigil held on June 14.

CONGRESS AND UCSJ PARTICIPATE IN SECOND CONGRESSIONAL PRAYER AND FAST VIGIL

On June 14, nearly 200 Members of Congress participated in the Second Annual Congressional Prayer and Fast Vigil on behalf of Soviet refuseniks and prisoners of conscience. Outgoing UCSJ President Lynn Singer noted, "All righteous people pray for the survival of Soviet refuseniks and prisoners of conscience with the hope that one day they will be able to join their fellow Jews in the free world."

June 15th marked the 14th anniversary of the Leningrad arrests when eleven young Soviet citizens—9 Jews and 2 non-Jews—were arrested and later sentenced to harsh prison terms for desiring to leave the Soviet Union. The last two remaining in prison, Alexei Murzhenko (who was released on schedule on June 15) is in very poor health due to the terrible conditions he has had to endure for the past 14 years. Yuri Federov, the other, is said to be blind, and his fingers have blackened with disease.

Singer said, "The UCSJ commends the United States Congress for its continued vigilance and its active participation in the fight for the human rights of Soviet Jews. We take this opportunity to say thank you." *

THATCHER SUPPORT FOR SOVIET JEWS

by Martin Gilbert
Official Biographer of Sir Winston Churchill
Member of UCSJ Advisory Board

In an unprecedented gesture, five Leningrad Jews have appealed directly to the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, for support in their struggle to leave the Soviet Union for Israel.

One of the five signatories, Evgenia Utevskaya, is the mother of two young children. Since 1982 she was repeatedly refused permission to join her parents in the Israeli town of Beersheba. (As we went to press, her request was granted and she is now in Israel.)

Another signatory, Yakov Gorodetsky, who for more than two years has been at the center of a Jewish cultural revival in Leningrad, had his first application for an exit visa refused last month. A third signatory, Grigory Vasserman, a deeply religious young Jew, has been refused an exit visa for five years.

In their letter, the five Leningrad Jews appeal to Mrs. Thatcher as "the leader of a country which in the most dangerous period of history remained faithful to the ideals of democracy and humanitarianism." Their overriding wish is to be what they describe as "repatriated" to Israel, the country which, though they have never seen it, they regard as their national home.

"Every representative of a nation," write the Leningrad five, "has a right to emigrate from a country where it comprises a minority, to its own country."

In a letter acknowledging this courageous appeal, Mrs. Thatcher wishes the five signatories to know of her "very real concern, and that of my colleagues, at the difficulties facing the Jewish community in the Soviet Union, particularly over the question of emigration."

Mrs. Thatcher's letter continues, "We have frequently made known to the Soviet authorities our regret at their refusal to grant exit visas to many Soviet citizens wanting to emigrate in order to be reunited with their families. We have also taken every opportunity to remind the Soviet Union about its obligations under the Helsinki Final Act and Madrid Concluding Document."

In her letter, Mrs. Thatcher goes on to recall that the most recent occasion on which the British government reminded the Soviet Union about these obligations was when the British Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, visited Mr. Gromyko in Moscow in July. On that occasion, she writes, the British Foreign Secretary "mentioned particularly the case of Anatoly Scharansky as exemplifying the present plight of Soviet Jewry."

It is now more than seven years since Scharansky began a thirteen year sentence.

Mrs. Thatcher's letter continues, "We shall go on reminding the Soviet Union of its human rights obligations." She also wants the five Soviet Jews who have written to her to be assured "that we shall not let the issue raised in their letter be lost from view."

The text of Mrs. Thatcher's reply, communicated to Leningrad in the middle of October, has given enormous encouragement to those who wrote to her, as well as to many of their friends who have likewise been refused exit visas.

The British Prime Minister's letter has also served as a substantial reassurance, vital for their morale in adversity, that the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union is of continuing high-level concern, not only in the United States, but on the European side of the Atlantic. *



UCSJ members in town for the annual meeting in September, participate in the daily vigil across from the Soviet Embassy. The bus you see in the picture arrives daily at the time of the vigil and leaves after its conclusion. The bus picks no one up and drops no one off. It only serves to block the view of the Embassy from vigil participants.



Yakov Gorodetsky

SOVIETS BUILD CASE AGAINST LENINGRAD REFUSENIK

Yakov Gorodetsky, who represents moral conviction and strength of character to many of the refuseniks in Leningrad, is in grave danger.

Gorodetsky was one of the original signers of the "Repatriation Declaration" which publicly acknowledged the Soviet cutback of Jewish emigration based on reunification of families.

The Declaration stated that refuseniks have the "natural and irrefutable" right to be repatriated to their homeland. Over 250 refusenik families in Moscow, Leningrad and Riga have already signed the Declaration.

Besides his participation in the Declaration, Gorodetsky has been active and vocal in the fight for refuseniks' rights. He has consistently declared his desire to emigrate to Israel with his family and has requested the same right for all other refuseniks.

Gorodetsky is a good friend of prisoner of conscience Zachar Zunshain (see *Zunshain's Situation Worsens*, page 8) and tried to represent him at his trial. Of course, the KGB denied Gorodetsky's request. He also participated in the rotational hunger strike on behalf of Edelshtein and Khomiansky.

The KGB is aware of his strength and influence. He is watched constantly for any actions or behavior that can be used against him.

The KGB is taking its time to build a strong case. When the authorities do get him, they want to make sure that they have gathered enough "incriminating evidence" so they can put him away for a long time. They seem to feel certain that once they have him they will be able to break the will and spirit of many other refuseniks.

As of this printing Gorodetsky has not yet been taken. We strongly urge a flood of mail be sent on his behalf NOW, before he is arrested. Please contact the national office for Gorodetsky postcards or write a letter.

Your letters may be sent to:

USSR
Moscow RSFSR
The Kremlin
The Central Committee of the Communist Party

USSR
Leningrad
ul. Belinskogo 13
Leningrad City Procurator
USSR

4,000 EXPRESS HOPE AT RALLY FOR SOVIET JEWS' FREEDOM

On Simchat Torah, 4,000 people gathered in front of San Francisco's Soviet Consulate on Green Street to rally for the freedom of Soviet Jews.

The gathering was largely a festive event, but the crowd became spontaneously quiet after singing the last words of Hatikvah, "We have not lost our hope ... to be a free people in our land." These words captured the essence of the Soviet Jewry movement and, in light of the recent, systematic crackdown on Hebrew teachers throughout the Soviet Union, they had a very sobering effect on the activists.

"The Soviet authorities have begun a new anti-Semitic campaign," said Lillian Foreman, co-president of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, UCSJ member council and co-sponsor of the rally. "The KGB now says that Jews use religious objects, such as mezuzot, to sniff illegal drugs. We must expose this outrageous lie." *

DONOR CERTIFICATES NOW AVAILABLE FROM UCSJ OFFICE

In response to membership requests, certificates to acknowledge contributions made in honor of a special occasion are now available.

Please write the UCSJ Freedom Fund at the national office to receive information and special donation envelopes. *

ZUNSHAIN'S SITUATION WORSENS DRASTICALLY

Zachar Zunshain, a refusenik from Riga, is a man to whom the struggle for emigration was a very private matter. For three years he and his wife, Tatiana, attempted to secure the right to emigrate to Israel.

On Sunday, March 4, 1984, following years of frustration and fruitless attempts, Zachar and Tatiana, as well as Alexander Balter and Leonid Umansky, decided to call public attention to their desire to emigrate by demonstrating in Moscow.

On the way to the Central OVIR (Soviet Emigration Authority), Umansky was arrested. He was bringing the necessary documents to give up Soviet citizenship—the first step necessary to emigrate under Soviet law.

Despite Umansky's arrest, Balter and Zunshain carried out their planned demonstration, holding up placards which read, "We demand to give up our Soviet citizenship."

Two days later on March 6, Zunshain was arrested. He was accused of "spreading anti-Soviet information" and "defamation of the Soviet State."

June 28 he was sentenced to three years in a labor camp for "anti-Soviet slander." The only "evidence" against him at the time of his conviction were his letters to the OVIR detailing his desire to give up his Soviet citizenship.

Tatiana had been granted permission to act as his defense attorney at the trial by the Office of the Chief Latvian Prosecutor. However, she was denied that right when the trial actually took place. Yakov Gorodetsky, a fellow refusenik from Leningrad (see *Soviets Build Case*, page 7), was also denied the right to represent Zunshain.

As a result of the trial, conviction, and denial of representation by his wife and Gorodetsky, Zunshain began a hunger strike. A slender man by nature, he began losing weight rapidly.

An appeal trial took place on July 24 at which neither Zunshain nor his lawyer appeared. There were three Supreme Court justices and the prosecutor of the Latvian SSR, Miklin, a Jew. It was certainly no accident that a Jew was chosen to be the prosecutor.

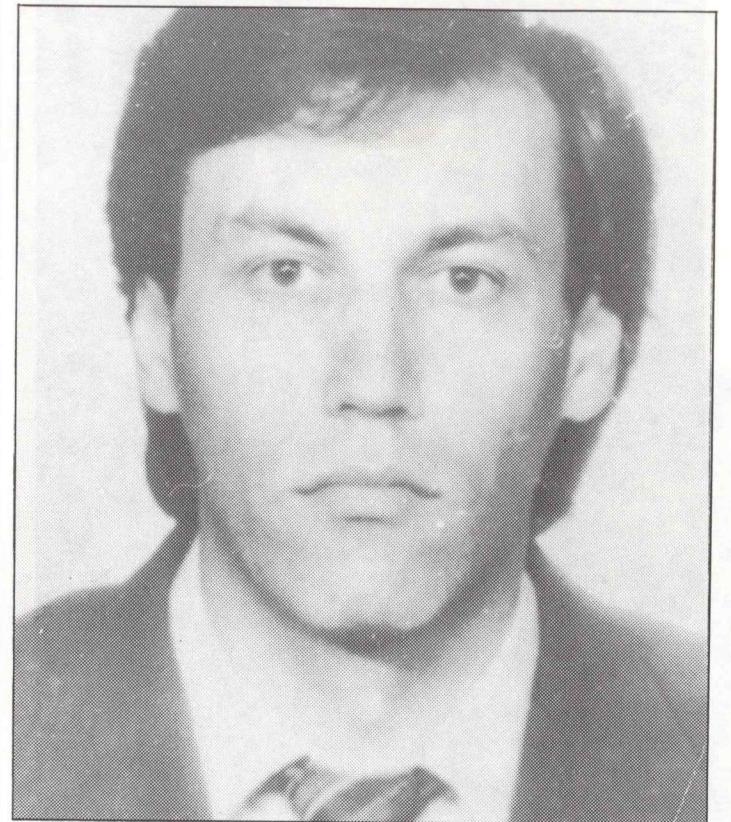
The entire appeal lasted nine minutes and Miklin spoke the entire time. He said that the accusations against Zunshain had to be true because he had demonstrated himself to be a "bad man in many aspects of his behavior."

He was pronounced guilty and the three year sentence was upheld.

Zunshain left the Riga Prison on July 27, following 58 days in solitary confinement.

The trip to the camp in Irkutsk took close to three months because he was detained at every prison along the way. During that entire time there was no communication at all from, or about, Zunshain. His family and the Western world had no idea where he was at any given time, nor even if he was alive or dead.

UCSJ now knows, as of this printing, that Zachar Zunshain is, in fact, in the prison camp. His fellow prisoners are all hardened criminals. 10-15 of them beat Zachar severely.



Prisoner of Conscience Zachar Zunshain

He was then taken to the Chief Officer of the entire camp who tried to force Zachar to sign a statement in which he agreed to modify his behavior. He refused to do so.

The Chief of the Men's Section at the camp then told Zachar's father that his son had gone "mad" as a result of the attempts to change his behavior. Zachar's father went home and told his wife, who immediately suffered a fatal heart attack.

Zunshain has been told of his mother's death. At the same time, the KGB is also trying to get to Zunshain by intimidating and harassing his wife, Tatiana.

Tatiana has been told that her husband will never leave the camp alive if he does not cooperate with the officials, something he never intends to do.

It is known that Zachar believes he will have the moral strength to resist the psychological and physical attacks on him if the world is aware of his struggle.

We urge you to send postcards to:

USSR
E. K. 272/40
Psiolok Bozoy
Erkhyrit Blagatsky Rayon
666111 Irkutskaya Oblast
Zunshain, Zachar

Your letters and postcards of support to Tatiana may be mailed to:

USSR
Riga, Latvian SSR
ul. Kakhovky 4, Apt 4
Zunshain, Tatiana



Nadia Fradkova

UPDATES ON REFUSENIKS

LEV ELBERT was recently warned by the KGB that he must apply for a permit to celebrate Shabbat.

He returned home to his family in Kiev this past July after serving his one year sentence for evasion of army draft duty by a reservist. Lev has been unable to find a job as an engineer.

Last spring, Carmi (Inna and Lev's son) was hit in the back of the head with a lead pipe while at school and suffered a concussion. This fall Carmi was allowed to attend a different school. He still has some difficulty with his eyesight.

The Elberts greatly appreciate the support members of UCSJ gave them this summer when Lev was released. They asked us to let you know they hope to be able to thank you personally one day. Until then, UCSJ hopes you will continue to support the Elberts.

Send letters of support to:

USSR
Ukrainian SSR Kiev
ul. Volgradskaya 6 kv. 33
Elbert, Lev

NADIA FRADKOVA is still believed to be incarcerated in Psychiatric Hospital #5 in Leningrad.

It is vital that we maintain our pressure on the Soviet Minister of Health in regard to this flagrant abuse of psychiatry. If you have a means to circulate more postcards on behalf of Nadia to concerned friends, synagogue members and community groups, please write to the UCSJ national office. They will be happy to send you as many as you can distribute.

ANATOLY SCHARANSKY has been moved to a labor camp in Perm but at this time we do not know his exact location. He continues to suffer from bone and spinal dis-

ease. He also suffers from headaches which doctors here say may indicate an optic disorder that might result in blindness.

In June, prison officials imposed three severe restrictions on Anatoly's prison life: he can no longer receive parcels; he may write only one letter every two months (instead of one letter a month); and his rations have been cut to half.

Members of UCSJ know that Anatoly cannot survive on half-rations. He is already an old man at the age of 36.

JOSEF BEGUN was sentenced to six months in solitary confinement last April at the labor camp in Perm. His crime was discussing Yom Hashoah, the Day of Remembrance for the Holocaust, with fellow inmates. Begun is serving his seven year labor camp sentence there for "anti-Soviet propaganda."

Fears have been voiced by his wife, Inna, that Josef's fate is following the same path as that of Anatoly Scharansky. According to Inna, they have not been permitted to exchange letters since last April and their recent scheduled visit was cancelled without notice.

The 52 year old Begun is one of the most well-known activists. He has been a refusenik for over 13 years. Please send your letters of support to his wife:

USSR
Moscow 129243
Raketny Blvd. 11-1-15
Begun, Inna

Also, you can obtain postcards for you and your friends to send to President Reagan on behalf of Josef by writing to the UCSJ national office. *

RITUAL RELIGIOUS LIBEL ACCUSATIONS RAISED AGAIN

The case of Hebrew teacher Yuli Edelshtein, who has been falsely accused of possession of narcotics, raises yet again the ugly specter of ritual libel accusations. The KGB falsely accused Yuli and his friends of using drugs in religious rituals.

The case chillingly recalls that of Mendel Beilis, whose trial took place on September 25, 1913, exactly 71 years to the day of Alexander Kholmiansky's provocation. (On September 25, 1984 the investigation of trumped-up weapons possession charges against Kholmiansky was extended for one month. This provoked him to begin a hunger strike the same day.)

In 1913 Mendel Beilis was arrested and charged with the ritual murder of a 12 year old boy. He was accused of planning to use the child's blood to prepare matzah. There was a storm of world-wide protest at the time, and as a result, the jury was subsequently forced to find Beilis not guilty.

Friends of Yuli Edelshtein have been forced by the KGB to answer questions about him. They have adamantly denied that Edelshtein has ever used drugs or that Jews use drugs in religious rituals.

We are calling upon all people of conscience to publicly condemn these vicious, false accusations. *

EMIGRATION FIGURES FOR 1984

January	88
February	90
March	51
April	74
May	109
June	72
July	85
August	83
September	69
October	29
November	55
December	91
TOTAL	896

UCSJ ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The UCSJ elected new officers at the annual meeting held in Washington, DC, September 9-11. The new President is Morey Schapira, former President of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews and a fourteen year Soviet Jewry activist.

Lynn Singer, who stepped down after serving three years as President, was appointed Chairperson of the Advisory Board.

Elected as Vice Presidents were Hinda Cantor (Miami), Pam Cohen (Chicago) and June Daniels (Des Moines).

Elections were also held for the Board of Directors. The new members are: Carole Abramson (Long Island), Harvey Barnett (Chicago), Bailey Barron (Boston), Jeff Colvin (Los Alamos), Betsy Gidwitz (Boston), Shirley Goldstein (Omaha), Lillian Hoffman (Denver), Judy Patkin (Boston), Joel Sandberg (Miami), Sandy Spinner (Cincinnati), Marillyn Tallman (Chicago), David Waksberg (San Francisco), and Babette Wampold (Montgomery). *

ACTION FOR SOVIET JEWRY

Voice your protests

Before you put down this newsletter, take a minute to write a letter to a Soviet official protesting the harassment of Soviet Jews.

Here is a list of addresses for cases reported in this issue of the *Quarterly Report*.

You can also write your national senators and representatives to intervene on behalf of specific cases.

USSR
Moscow, RSFSR

The Kremlin
Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet
Chernenko, Konstantin

USSR
Moscow, RSFSR
ul. Pushkinskaya 15a
Procurator General
Rekunkov, Alexander

USSR
Moscow, RSFSR
3 Rakhrmanovsky Pereulok
Minister of Health
Burenkov, Sergei

AMBASSADOR ANATOLY DOBRYNIN
Embassy of the USSR
1 Andrei Sakharov Plaza
Washington, DC 20036

The Honorable (your senator's first and last name)
The United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable (your congressman's first and last name)
The United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

TRAVELLING TO THE USSR?

Many UCSJ members travel around the world. If you are planning a trip to the USSR in the near future and would like to become more involved in the Soviet Jewry movement, please give us a call. *

A one ounce letter to the Soviet Union
requires 40¢ postage; a postcard 28¢.

UCSJ MEMBER COUNCILS

Alabama Council to Save Soviet Jewry

3113 Jasmine Rd.; Montgomery, AL 36111
(205) 264-3101

Chairperson Babette Wampold

Arizona Council on Soviet Jews

421 East La Mar Rd.; Phoenix, AZ 85012
(602) 264-2325

Chairperson Jerry Beck

Baltimore Council for Soviet Jewry

6503 Park Heights Ave., Apt. 1-C; Baltimore, MD 21215
(301) 764-7242

Co-Chairpersons Alvin and Elaine Mintzes

Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews

106 Baden St., San Francisco, CA 94131
(415) 585-1400

Co-Chairpersons Lil Foreman and Norm Schlossberg
Executive Director David Waksberg

(Boston) Action for Soviet Jewry

24 Crescent St., Suite 3B; Waltham, MA 02154
(617) 893-2331

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Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry

1724 First Street; Highland Park, IL 60035
(312) 433-0144

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Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jewry

2615 Clifton Ave.; Cincinnati, OH 45220
(513) 221-7134

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Executive Director Sandra Spinner

Cleveland Council on Soviet Anti-Semitism

6325 Aldenham Dr.; Cleveland, OH 44143
(216) 449-3662

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Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry

22 S. Jersey St.; Denver, CO 80224
(303) 377-7859

Co-Chairpersons Lillian Hoffman and Rhoda Friedman

Connecticut Committee for Soviet Jews

502 Fountain St., #3A; New Haven, CT 06515
(203) 387-4526

Chairperson Sondra Levy

Des Moines Action Committee for Soviet Jewry

705 41st St.; West Des Moines, IA 50265
(515) 223-1247 or (515) 255-5551

Co-Chairpersons Steve Rovner and June Daniels

Detroit Soviet Jewry Committee of the JCC

163 Madison Avenue; Detroit, MI 58226
(313) 962-1880

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Associate Chairperson Jerry Rogers

Greensboro Action for Soviet Jewry

222 Mistletoe Drive; Greensboro, NC 27403
(919) 282-1710

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3560 Green Street; Harrisburg, PA 17110
(717) 238-5673

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(713) 665-6753

President Judy Goldman

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5812 W. 100th St.; Overland Park, KS 66207
(913) 649-0290

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7113 Cheshire Dr.; Knoxville, TN 37919
(615) 584-6042

Chairperson Genevieve Kramer

Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry

One Old Country Road, Suite 393; Carle Place, NY 11514
(516) 294-8181

President Carole Abramson
Executive Director Lynn Singer

Los Alamos Committee on Soviet Anti-Semitism

9 Village Pl.; White Rock Village, Los Alamos, NM 87544
(505) 672-3783

Chairperson Jeff Colvin

Minnesota-Dakotas Action Committee for Soviet Jewry (JCRC, ADL)

15 South 9th St.; Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 338-7816

Co-Chairpersons Harriet and Steven Swartz

Newport News Soviet Jewry Committee United Jewish Federation

317 Lynchburg Drive; Newport News, VA 23606
(804) 599-5546

Co-Chairpersons Mark and Marilyn Nataupsky

Soviet Jewry Committee of the North Shore

1000 Loring Avenue, #C91; Salem, MA 01970

(617) 745-5453

Chairperson Linda Lanes

Oceanfront Council for Soviet Jewry

4089 Ocean Ave.; Brooklyn, NY 11235

(212) 891-9685

Co-Chairpersons Ira and Pauline Bilus

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President Shirley Golan

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22 Marlboro Dr.; Pittsfield, MA 01201

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Chairperson Naomi Schwartz

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PO. Box 2778; Sarasota, FL 33578

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Chairperson Susan Rosenthal

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1105 N. Ironwood Dr.; South Bend, IN 46615

(219) 234-3829

Chairperson Dorothy Jaffe

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2719 Hollywood Boulevard; Hollywood, FL 33020

(305) 921-8810

Chairperson Beverly Hollander

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4200 Biscayne Blvd.; Miami, FL 33137

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Chairperson Hinda Cantor

Assistant Director Judy Gilbert

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P.O. Box 113, 8621 Wilshire Blvd.; Beverly Hills, CA 90211

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Co-Chairpersons Marilyn Rowan and Al Himelson

Vancouver Soviet Jewry Action Committee

950 West 41st Avenue; Vancouver, B.C. V5Z 2N7

(604) 261-8101

Chairperson Rita Cohn

Waco Council of Concern on Soviet Jewry

5501 Fairview Dr.; Waco, TX 76710

(817) 772-892

PRESIDENT REAGAN PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR UCSJ GOALS

On the advent of the UCSJ annual meeting, we were pleased to receive the following letter from President Reagan. His promise of action and praise for our efforts are encouraging to us all.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 10, 1984

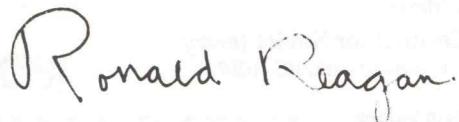
I want to extend my personal greetings to the members of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews on the occasion of your annual meeting here in Washington, and to reaffirm my Administration's deep commitment to the cause of Soviet Jewry.

As we are all too well aware, this is a tragic time for Jews in the Soviet Union. Thousands have been denied the right to emigrate and in many cases have been forcibly prevented from preserving their culture and practicing their beliefs. This is an intolerable situation and one which we will never accept.

We also deplore the Soviet campaign of harassment which has sought to prevent free and open communication between Soviet Jews and their concerned friends and relatives who live abroad.

I want to promise you that my Administration will continue to do everything possible to reopen these contacts, and to assist the emigration of Jews and others who wish to leave the Soviet Union. We will hold before the eyes of the world the Soviet government's continued refusal to grant its citizens the basic human rights to which men and women everywhere justly aspire.

The road ahead will not be an easy one, but I am convinced that with the help of genuinely caring organizations such as yours we will one day succeed. Your commitment to this great humanitarian cause and your support is crucial to our efforts. Please accept my thanks and good wishes.



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