

ALERT

Vol. IV, No. 4/ 24 October 1979/ 3 Heshvan 5740/Robert Gordon, President

MR

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

TWELVE IN KIEV ARRESTED - AMERICAN COUPLE HARASSED

Twelve Kiev activists, including Elena Oleynik, her husband and two of her brothers, were arrested on October 11, following a sit-in at the local OVIR office. The group refused to leave the office after they spent two days waiting to see officials about their applications for visas. The twelve were sentenced to fifteen days for "malicious hooliganism."

After the arrests, another group of refuseniks congregated by the Kiev OVIR office, joined by the Bermans, tourists from Florida. The Bermans spoke with refuseniks and then started to leave the area. Suddenly, two men who identified themselves as KGB, arrested the Americans and forced them into a waiting car. Their abductors, who spoke no English, drove them outside of the city, ignoring their protest that they were American citizens. When the car turned off the road into a forest, the Bermans became desperate enough to leap out of the car. Unhurt, they appealed vainly to some picnickers for help and then fled from their abductors. They managed to get back to the road and hail a cab which returned them to Kiev.

This illegal harassment of American citizens indicates how far the Russians are willing to go to discourage supporters of the emigration movement. Protests have been lodged with Soviet authorities.

PETITION DRIVE IN MINSK ATTEMPTS TO SAVE HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL

There is only one monument in the Soviet Union that specifically mentions Jews as victims of the Nazis, and now the authorities want to destroy it, according to Gregory and Elena Khess of Minsk. In a letter they point out that the old Jewish cemetery there has already been made into a park. The Khesses have been active in collecting signatures on a petition pleading that the Minsk monument be saved. Now that the petition with thousands of signatures has been sent to the government, they have requested as much outside support as possible.

While Gregory has been so actively working on saving the monument, harassment has increased, allegedly because of his "Zionist" activities. He is still looking for a new job.

AN APPEAL ON BEHALF OF A FRIEND - By Yuli Kitaevich

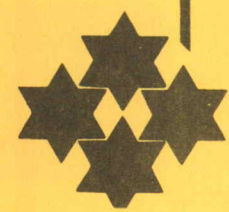
[The following appeal is printed in full because it gives a picture of the man, Igor Guberman, and the loyalty he inspires. It was written by a close friend who now spearheads the campaign to help Guberman and his family.]

There are people who become legends during their lives. No matter what their occupations --music, literature, science--they are distinguished by their cheerfulness, thirst for knowledge, ability to share their talents and insatiable desire to help others.

Such people usually are surrounded by disciples, each of whom wants to be called the best friend. It is a measure of such men and women that there are so many calling themselves "best friends" of Arkady Belinkov, Anatoly Jacobson, Alexander Ginsburg, Andrei Sakharov, and others.

Among such names should be Igor Guberman, writer, poet, journalist, whose life has been dedicated to awakening people and helping them develop a critical understanding of themselves and society.

(continued on next page)



Igor Guberman has published several popular books on science, stories and articles. He always found time from his own work to attend underground art exhibitions, scientific seminars and literary debates. His house always was open and the circle of his friends and disciples expanded constantly.

He helped the needy with money, advice, food and shelter. And it seemed he could not have enemies. But they exist and they were active. From 1960, the KGB watched him. Igor knew but continued to read verses from "Sintaksis" publicly, as well as works of his own and other friends. His work was marked by its philosophical humor and bitterness.

A lot of his poems have passed into the folklore and people repeating them have no idea about their author.

At the same time, arrests, exiles and emigration have constricted his circle of friends and made his life in the USSR agonizing and aimless. In December, 1978, Guberman and his family asked for exit visas. During Spring, 1979, Igor was summoned three times to KGB headquarters and asked to "cooperate" to get those vital exit visas. He also was told he would be charged as a criminal if he refused. The KGB can do it, but Igor refused because he never accepted such things as the KGB, the Soviet bureaucracy or Communist Party activity.

His punishment came swiftly. Igor was arrested and taken to Dmitrov, a city near Moscow which foreigners may not visit. He is far from curious eyes.

It is hard to predict what charges he will face.

Igor's pain is amplified by the knowledge he left his unemployed wife and their two children behind. She is barred from all work because of Soviet rules which penalize anyone who applies for an exit visa.

I had a chance to talk with Igor's wife, Tatiana, recently by telephone. She promised to call collect every week to keep me informed. I promised to help them as much as I can. Most important is to help them survive until Igor is free and they all can leave the Soviet Union.

To do that the Guberman Rescue Fund has been established in Cincinnati, Ohio. The address is: "Guberman Rescue Fund", 1297 Meadowbright Lane, Cincinnati, Ohio 45230.

I am appealing to everyone to contribute and I thank everyone who does so. Our commitment to the Principle of Human Rights should be linked to concrete help for persons whose essential rights are being violated.

Igor Guberman should not be left alone. Our concern and help now are vital. It is our way of helping him regain and resume a life dedicated to caring, kindness and love.

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE USSR

* Alla Drugova reports that her husband, P.O.C. YOSIF BEGUN has neither an apartment or a job at this time. She is afraid that he may be charged with "parasitism" because he has been unable to find work for one and one half months.

* VLADIMIR RAIK of Vilnius is now working as a mailman. He has sent a letter to Alexandrov protesting the fact that, as a refusenik scientist, he cannot find work in his field.

* IDA NUDEL has written a letter to the "Jerusalem Post" thanking all those who write to her. She has decided, faced with an avalanche of letters, to discontinue her silence. She is unable to answer every letter personally, and she chose to thank them through the newspaper. She complained that her illness was incorrectly diagnosed at the hospital in Tomsk. She has written to Shchelekov and asked to be examined by doctors in Moscow.

* ILYA ESSAS reported in a phone call there were more Jews at the synagogue this Yom Kippur than previously. About fifty youths attended the prayers, while about two thousand were outside.

* The MENDZHERITSKY-ROITBURD family mentioned recently that they received one hundred and one telegrams, for which they are very grateful. Good work!

* There has been a change of address for LEV FURMAN. He now lives at Pestelia 13/15, apt. 76 instead of apt. 16.

* ALEXANDER and RACHEL GENUSOV of Leningrad have a new baby girl.

P.O.C. ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY: SUFFERING IN PRISON WITH INADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE

The following is excerpted from a letter Shcharansky wrote to his mother in diary form. The letter was sent on September 9.

August 28

They gave me a pair of glasses. The thing is that I see very well without them; my eyesight was checked and it was found to be 100%, but when I look at a book it seems that nothing changed, but, I think, I strain my eyes less than before. However, when I look around in them everything seems to be blurred. The pain in the temple does not pass and neither does the burning of the eyes, the redness and the bags under the eyes, but it seems that the intensity of it has decreased somewhat...

September 7

The easing of the pain that came as a result of wearing glasses is, unfortunately, imaginary, as the pain does not disappear, but is only delayed somewhat. It is even more difficult to regulate the optimum length of reading time while wearing glasses. Already after two days of such reading (30-40 minutes with subsequent 30-40 minute long breaks) the whole collection of painful feelings that I mentioned during your visit reappeared...

September 8

...together with this letter I am sending another one to Romanov [the head of Medical Services of the Ministry of the Interior] in which I demanded to be sent to a hospital for medical examination in order that a diagnosis should be made. The local doctor does not have and cannot have any opinion of his own in this matter as, according to his own explanation, he is not a specialist in this field...

Since the check up done by an oculist on the 7th of August, which you already know about, no other tests or examination have been conducted.

* * *

The following letter was received by Ida Milgrom in reply to the letter she sent to the prison physician about Anatoly's state of health.

In regards to your letter of the 5th of September, we would like to inform you that your son has been kept under constant medical supervision. A specialists' commission was called in twice when the necessity for medical consultation arose... No deviations from the norms had been found and his general state of health is satisfactory. There is no need for an examination in a hospital at present.

APPEALS FROM MOSCOW AND JERUSALEM

* A recent letter tells of a family of refuseniks in Moscow who are in need of support, both material and emotional. Yakov Israilevich Makarovsky, born March 5, 1935, has a Phd. in Chemistry and was involved in household chemistry research. He was fired on September 3. His wife, Valentina Dubrovskaya, is unemployed due to taking care of their two year old daughter who is frequently ill. Their address: Yakov Makarovsky, Mosvokstroy 7a, Apt. 75, Moscow 109 384.

* The Makarovskys also asked especially for help for the Mikhail P. Beliakov family, who are refuseniks of long duration. Letters and telegrams would be much appreciated to this family with two children. Mikhail and Antonina Beliakov, Festivalnaya 31, Apt. 20, Moscow.

* A request for help has been received from Alla Livshitz and Louise Yoffe in Jerusalem. Their parents, Bella ('66) and Veniamin Livshitz ('71), have asked for exit visas since 1971 and have been consistently refused. Both suffer from advanced arteriosclerosis and heart ailments. Their physician recently arrived in Israel from the Soviet Union and wrote a complete statement on their medical condition (available to Medical Mobilization and adoptors). His conclusion is as follows:

"In view of their state of health the Livshitzs often need confinement to bed and consequently need constant care. As they have no one to look after, all their relations and friends living in Israel, their state of health is constantly worsening."

Their address is: Lieyklos 7, apt. 3, Vilnius, Lithuanian SSR.

* Another appeal from Jerusalem asks for help for Leah Felixovna Prestin and her husband Naum Abramovich Ackerman. (Kropotkinskaya 33/19/55, Moscow 119034, RSFSR)

Naum, a physicist, retired four years ago, and has heart trouble. His wife, the mother of Vladimir Prestin, is a former teacher and daughter of Felix Shapiro (who authored the first Hebrew-Russian dictionary published in the USSR). This couple is very active in organizing evenings of Jewish culture. Their married daughter Inna Levin, has two children and has been living in Israel for seven years.

NEW REFUSENIKS

We have received a letter from Daniel Fradkin, giving the names of two new refuseniks. Fradkin raises an important point. He states his appreciation of all the letters he has been receiving - more than one hundred regular correspondents - but says he can't keep up, while many new refuseniks are receiving no mail at all. The following refuseniks would appreciate new correspondents.

- Vladimir Rosental
Lermontovsky Prospect 10/53, apt. 62
Leningrad 19000B RSFSR

- Jacob & Evgenia
Upnik
Lev Tolstoy
4232/37
Odessa

- Michael Chirelson
Petra Lavrova Str 25, apt. 3
Leningrad RSFSR

- Leonid Munitz (born 1913)
16 Parkovaya 55/1/51
Moscow 105523 RSFSR

His wife, Faina Munitz, and their twelve year old son emigrated in September 1975 and are now in the U.S.A. Leonid was a director of technical science, specializing in radio electronics. Now on a pension he was refused because of "access to job secrets". He and his wife want very much to be reunited.

PENTHOUSE INTERVIEW

EDWARD KUZNETSOV

To interview Edward Kuznetsov, *Penthouse* sent Craig S. Karpel to Tel Aviv. Karpel reports:

"On the morning of his tenth day of freedom, Edward Kuznetsov was sitting in a corner of the living room, editing a Russian typescript of his writings, oblivious of my presence and that of the constant flow of visitors being fielded by his wife. Having spent 16 years of his life in crowded cells, he had learned to create a zone of privacy around himself in the modest four-and-a-half-room apartment his wife had been living in during his imprisonment. He was wearing a pair of painfully new blue jeans and a digital watch, which had been invented during his prison term. His hair, which had been shaved by his jailers, was just beginning to grow in. I was surprised to see that the muscular forearms and hands of a man whom I knew to be a sensitive writer were crudely tattooed. I learned that the more rebellious Soviet prisoners engrave their protests against the Soviet system in their flesh with ball-point ink. Such tattoos are considered an attack on the administra-

Penthouse: Your first sentence was seven years. Did you serve the entire sentence?

Kuznetsov: From bell to bell.

Penthouse: What happened after your release?

Kuznetsov: If a man has not been broken during his term, there begins for him a difficult period of life, not less difficult than in the camp. They did not allow me to live in Moscow, where my old mother was settled. They imposed on me the so-called administrative supervision. I had to work in a small town called Strunino, about 100 kilometers from Moscow, and from 9:00 P.M. until 6:00 A.M. I was not allowed to leave my home.

Penthouse: How long did you have to stay in Strunino?

Kuznetsov: One year.

Penthouse: Was it during this period that you became active in underground Zionist activities?

Kuznetsov: Once or twice a month I was able to obtain permission from the Strunino police to visit my mother in Moscow. During these trips I met with my old friends in the democratic movement and made contact with Zionist circles. But I first became an active Zionist in the camp in 1965. My father was Jewish, you see, but my mother was not. My father died when I was two years old; so I learned nothing of Jewish religion or culture. I became acquainted with Jews only in the camp.

Penthouse: Your mother is not Jewish. So, under Jewish law, you are not a Jew.

Kuznetsov: I made a decision to be a Jew. A few months before the end of my first term, I applied to the prison authorities to be registered as a Jew in the documents I would receive upon leaving. They refused. Afterwards I asked the police to change my nationality. They declined. Now I am studying with a rabbi and will formally be converted to Judaism.

Penthouse: What attracted you to Zionism?

Kuznetsov: I was disappointed with the general liberation movement. I came to understand that Russia is a country destined by its history and its fate for severe totalitarian regimes, whether that of Ivan the Terrible or Brezhnev. Democracy and Russia cannot be combined. There are no forces in Russia able to bring about democratization. The Soviet system is a religion in which the state is God. A handful of intellectual oppositionists cannot alter it. Zionism appeared to me as the only answer. The sole solution was to leave the Soviet Union. As a Jew I was fortunate: I could go to Israel.

Penthouse: What was the goal of your movement?

Kuznetsov: Our basic aim was to open the borders for a broad emigration for everybody. We Jews would be the wedge that would open the door to the others. We studied the language and the history of Israel and worked out plans to unmask the hypocrisy of Soviet emigration policy. We submitted official applications for permission to emigrate. They were denied, usually on the grounds that one did not have the required reference from his employer. The employers refused to give references without a written request from the government. The government refused to make such written requests because they said that getting the references was our problem.

Penthouse: How did the authorities respond to your activities?

Kuznetsov: They persecuted the group by all possible means. They carried out searches, confiscated our textbooks, frightened the teachers of Hebrew, dismissed people from work, invented criminal charges, egged on hostile neighbors.

Penthouse: Where did you go after you left Strunino?

Kuznetsov: I worked as a statistician at a psychiatric hospital in Riga, Latvia.

Penthouse: What made you decide to take the airplane?

tion of the prison system that is established in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and are therefore punishable under Article 77-1 of the Russian criminal code by 'confinement for a period of 8 to 15 years or by death.'

"Kuznetsov showed me that the typescript he was working on had been transcribed from photostatic blowups of manuscripts he had smuggled out of the camp using a method he had devised. He showed me the originals. He had written them on the paper side of foil inserts from cigarette boxes in a hand so microscopic that 3,000 words fit on a single 6½-by-3¼-inch sheet.

"During the interview we broke for half an hour while Kuznetsov and his wife, Sylva, whose two brothers were also imprisoned for their participation in the airplane plot, went into the next room to receive a hypnotic treatment from their doctor, trying to cleanse their minds of the effects of the bad dream from which they had just awakened. But then Kuznetsov returned, the tape began to roll, and we were back in the midst of his nightmare."

Kuznetsov: I felt that the tendency of the Soviet regime was to open the gates of emigration a bit. But it was necessary to carry out a drastic act of self-sacrifice, with much publicity, to serve as an impulse for this tendency. In Riga there was a large group of persons who had demanded emigration permits many times. They felt that at any moment they could be arrested for nothing. They were ready to carry out an extreme action, so that if they went to prison, at least it would be for something.

Penthouse: Did you think that you had a real chance of escaping?

Kuznetsov: No. All Russia is entangled in a network of espionage—the more people, the more risk. If you do something in the Soviet Union and want to get away with it, you should do it by yourself. But we had to involve a large group of people, because that was the only way to give a knock to the Soviet system.

Penthouse: How far did you get?

Kuznetsov: We were arrested as we were entering the plane. They had eavesdropped on us, spied on us, followed us. They knew everything.

Penthouse: Where did they take you?

Kuznetsov: Into the prison of the Leningrad KGB. They held us there incommunicado for six months, interrogating us every day.

Penthouse: What was the charge?

Kuznetsov: Treason, anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda, and Article 93 of the criminal code: "Misappropriation of state or public property of especially large dimensions," to wit, one airplane.

Penthouse: You were tried again—

Kuznetsov: Another comedy.

Penthouse: And you were sentenced to be shot. But evidently they didn't shoot you.

Kuznetsov: I was under the sentence of death for less time than anybody in the history of Soviet jurisprudence—just seven days, because there was raised all

over the world such a noise that they had to call a special session of the Supreme Court to change the verdict. I was sentenced to 15 years at hard labor.

Penthouse: Where were you sent?

Kuznetsov: Back to Mordovia, but to a different camp.

Penthouse: How would you compare the severity of this camp to the one where you served your first term?

Kuznetsov: It was a "special regime" camp, much worse than the first. We lived in locked-up cells. According to the law, there should be not less than two and not more than ten men in a cell. There are never less but very often more. At different periods there were various numbers of men in a cell. At first there were 15 men in a cell. Recently, there were only five.

Penthouse: How were you treated by the prison administration?

Kuznetsov: During the first years, very harshly. There are many pretexts to persecute a prisoner. They may "drive you into a corner" for any trivial detail: you are not properly dressed, you are unshaved, you have not had your haircut in time. There are very vast opportunities.

Penthouse: Were you ever beaten by the guards?

Kuznetsov: They never dared to lay a hand on me, though there were very often threats made and many were beaten. For instance, on the seventeenth of January 1979 the priest Romaniuk finished his seven-year term. On the sixteenth of January, just on the eve of his release, they took away from him all his religious manuscripts. He started to shout at them, calling them good for nothing. They thrashed him soundly. The men who witnessed the case entered a complaint, but it was not transmitted to the superiors, because according to Soviet law a citizen may not complain about matters that do not concern him personally.

Penthouse: How did the guards handle you?

Kuznetsov: The most common form of punishment is starvation. They restrict your already meager diet. Then there were the handcuffs. They used to put handcuffs on me very often during the first two or three years.

Penthouse: Why did they put them on? Because you were physically violent?

Kuznetsov: No, they put them on for any reason—for refusal to report to a summons from the camp commander, for refusal to have one's hair cut. For example, the political prisoner Fedorov, my friend, saw a photograph of an American prisoner in a Soviet camp with his hair on. So he said, "I also shall not have my hair cut." Three sturdy wardens fell upon him and showed him the practical difference between an American citizen and a Soviet citizen. They thrashed him soundly, they plucked out clumps of his hair, and they cut his hair with a rusty razor. Fedorov complained to the administration, and on went the handcuffs. They always put them on very tight, so that the bones are

squeezed at the slightest movement. It is very painful.

Penthouse: Was there ever trouble between the criminals and the political prisoners?

Kuznetsov: There were bitter conflicts between the two groups. The criminals were often used by the administration to annihilate the politicals. They armed them with knives and abetted them. You could end up with your bowels slit open or a wire shoved up your penis. In 1976 we waged a very cruel war against the criminals. The result was that they were expelled from our camp and transferred to another camp.

Penthouse: Were there other changes during these nine years?

Kuznetsov: During the last five years the administration did not touch me. I acquired a status among the prisoners such that I could proclaim a hunger strike at any moment, and the administration preferred not to create a "situation." I was

Many of my friends
who tried to escape were
caught and shot.
It is impossible to escape
from a Soviet camp.

able to choose my cell mates. I selected for my cell men with whom I could live peacefully and—most important—study, read, and write.

Penthouse: Did your release come as a complete surprise?

Kuznetsov: For the last two years, I sensed that something was going to happen. I learned, during my visits with relatives and friends that demonstrations were taking place on my behalf abroad, inquiries being made at the government level. Sometimes news reached me through the workers of the administration, for they are also human, and they babble. I could deduce it from a shift in the attitude of the administration toward me. But in order to survive I did not admit hope into my emotions, because disappointment could cause a psychological crisis—it could kill a man. Just as, when reading books, I skipped over passages describing good food and sexual relations, so now I locked up my heart before hope.

Penthouse: How did the prison administration's attitude toward you change?

Kuznetsov: They began to treat me as a man who might soon be released and tell

the world what I am telling you now. If a man is personally hurt, he is more bitter than one who sees others being hurt. So they looked at my behavior "through the fingers," as we say. The conditions of life were not better, but while generally they badgered at any opportunity, in my case they let me alone. For example, they knew that 90 percent of all the underground letters written and sent outside in our camp were written and sent out by me. I was generally very cautious, but in one case some of my papers fell into their hands. For such a thing a decade before, one would have gotten an additional term of ten years, but in my case they just overlooked it.

Penthouse: How did they get hold of your papers?

Kuznetsov: I gave these papers to my friend Alexander Ginzburg, who was in our camp, to acquaint him with their contents. But he incautiously revealed it, and they took everything from him. They searched people of our kind with special care. One had to be very cautious not to fall into their trap.

Penthouse: What was the first indication you had that you really were going to be released?

Kuznetsov: Two months ago they transferred me to another camp, and there they let me get parcels and fed me well, so that I might look like a man. When I arrived, I could hardly stand on my feet. I asked for bread, to eat my fill. I gained there seven kilograms—about 15 pounds. Then they sent me to the KGB prison in Saransk, where I was kept for 12 days. After that I was taken to the Lefortovo KGB prison in Moscow. I knew that something was up. Usually, the KGB keep their detainees for two months—for brainwashing and enlistment of collaborators.

Penthouse: Did they give you any idea of what your final destination would be?

Kuznetsov: The last word with which the local camp commander saw me off was, "Keep quiet as much as possible and remember that the enemies of the Soviet Union sometimes die in the West." He said this when I was leaving the camp, just at the gate. I asked him where I was going, but he would not tell. By such expressions I guessed that I was going to be released. But it still seemed like an illusion to me.

Penthouse: When they came for you—days ago—what possessions did you have?

Kuznetsov: A suitcase and four sacks of books.

Penthouse: Did they give you anything?

Kuznetsov: They gave me a suit, but they took away all my notebooks. There were 4,000 pages of thoughts, reflections, memories. I wrote them in such a way that there were no reasons to confiscate them, and yet they took away all of them from me.

Penthouse: Did they normally let prisoners take notebooks out when they were released?

Kuznetsov: No. But judging from their change of attitude, I thought that if I stayed in prison until the end of my term, I might be able to take out my manuscripts. I intended to proclaim a prolonged hunger strike to achieve their permission. I hoped there was a chance.

Penthouse: Had you ever gone on a hunger strike?

Kuznetsov: Oh yes. For example, in December '77 and January '78 I was on a hunger strike for 40 days. On the thirty-first day of the strike, they fed me artificially by force. They fed me twice more, on the thirty-fifth and the thirty-eighth day.

Penthouse: And yet you were able to smuggle out some of the cigarette box-liner manuscripts you showed me?

Kuznetsov: An experienced prisoner is capable of incredible feats. When I was being released, they undressed me so that I was entirely naked. They checked my mouth, my ears—every orifice—and yet I succeeded in taking out some stories.

Penthouse: How did you do it?

Kuznetsov: I may register it as my patent. I'm afraid it can't be published, because I taught the trick to others, and they are still using it.

Penthouse: What did your fellow prisoners say when they learned that you were going to be freed?

Kuznetsov: They still do not know that I have been released. One of them will have a meeting with his family in June. Then he will know.

Penthouse: Who took you away from Lefortovo?

Kuznetsov: Two KGB men in civilian clothes.

Penthouse: Did they say where you were going?

Kuznetsov: They told me that as a state criminal, I had been deprived of Soviet citizenship and that I had to leave the country within two hours. But they did not tell me where we were going. They put me into a car, brought me to the airport. We boarded a plane, and I saw that there were four other prisoners there and 20 KGB men. On the aircraft two members of the American embassy staff approached us and told me that I was being released in exchange for Russian spies and that we were headed for New York.

Penthouse: How did you feel when you heard this?

Kuznetsov: I did not believe it very much, because the KGB men still treated me as a prisoner. When I went to the lavatory on the plane, they went in with me. Not one—both of them.

Penthouse: When you reached New York, did the KGB men say anything to you? Good-bye? Good luck? Did they smile? Did they shake your hand? Are they human, or are they machines?

Kuznetsov: They told us to leave the plane and get into the car. They tried to say good-bye, but I did not answer.

Penthouse: Where did you go from the airport?

Kuznetsov: We were driven to the United Nations Plaza Hotel. It was only then that we knew we had really been released. The management of the hotel did not know who their guests were going to be. Our release had not been announced yet. It was kept secret for several hours to let them get the spies out safely.

Penthouse: What did you think of the hotel in New York?

Kuznetsov: When we entered the room reserved for me, it was so large that we thought it was for all of us. It looked like a room for 70 people, but they told us there was such a room for each of us. It was hard to believe.

Penthouse: What was the first thing you did?

Kuznetsov: We drank a bowl of vodka to our release. It was our first taste of vodka in nine years. It was American vodka. This is the only thing, I might add, that is better in Russia.

Penthouse: When did you get to see your



6
In order to survive,
I did not admit hope into
my emotions, because
disappointment could cause
a psychological crisis—
it could kill a man.



wife?

Kuznetsov: She was in London, where the actor James Fox was giving a reading of passages from my book. When she heard on the radio that I'd been released, she flew immediately to New York.

Penthouse: When was the last time you had seen her?

Kuznetsov: In 1974. She was released in an exchange of prisoners and expelled from the country. She refused to leave unless they granted her a meeting with me. She went to Israel immediately afterwards. She is a design engineer in an industrial plant.

Penthouse: How long did you stay in New York?

Kuznetsov: Forty-eight hours. Then we flew to Israel.

Penthouse: Do you recall what you thought when you caught sight of the coastline of the country of your dreams for the very first time?

Kuznetsov: I was in a coma, a blurring of consciousness, a fog. It started during the days in New York. So many people—our Moscow friends; Jews, Russians and Ukrainians who had managed to get out; representatives of New York's Jewish

community; people from the Israeli consulate. I had to prepare a statement on behalf of our group. The people did not let me sleep for an hour. I was exhausted, and I fell into a trance. So when I first saw Israel, it did not seem real.

Penthouse: Who met the plane when you arrived?

Kuznetsov: Relatives, friends, Prime Minister Begin, and the ministers of the Israeli government.

Penthouse: What was your very first impression of Israel after you arrived at the airport?

Kuznetsov: The first impression was the enormous number of well-wishing faces from which I had been weaned such a long time ago, as opposed to the cruel, hateful faces of the wardens in the Soviet Union.

Penthouse: Let us ask you this in closing. The Soviet Union is gaining influence around the world—in Afghanistan, in southern Africa, in Angola, in Mozambique, in the Horn of Africa, in Libya, in South Yemen, in southeast Asia. Is this current trend of Russian expansionism going to continue?

Kuznetsov: The American people are asleep. The West underestimates the danger. I think that the West may win the battle only if the Communists fight among themselves.

Penthouse: The KGB will be reading this interview, needless to say. Is there something you would like to say to them at this point?

Kuznetsov: I never hid from them my views. I want to tell them that the blood of millions is upon their hands and that they should bear the responsibility. As the Nazi war criminals were judged by special tribunals, so should these bandits be judged. They killed many more people than the Hitlerite murderers. They have had more time.

Penthouse: Anything else you'd like to add to that?

Kuznetsov: You have squeezed out all the juice. There is not a single drop remaining. ☐

For information on what you can do about "prisoners of ideas" in the Soviet Union, contact any of the following organizations:

Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry
200 West Seventy-second Street,
Suite 3031
New York, N. Y. 10023

Amnesty International
304 West Fifty-eighth Street
New York, N. Y. 10019

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews
24 Crescent Street
Waltham, Mass. 02154

National Conference on
Soviet Jewry
10 East Fortieth Street
New York, N. Y. 10016

Brookline Couple Works To Free Soviet Parents

By Arlene Schreier

Nora and Alexander Samarov live in Brookline. They left the Soviet Union about two years ago, leaving behind Nora's parents, Emil Mendzheritsky and Tziilya Raitburd Mendzheritsky. They're now deeply troubled by recent events in Russia. Nora's mother has been detained and interrogated several times in the past few weeks and could possibly be charged with violation of Article 70 of the Soviet Criminal Code, the article which defines anti-Soviet propaganda.

Their story is a long one, although not unusual for Jews interested in the survival of their culture in the U.S.S.R.

Tziilya Raitburd, with a Ph.D. in physics, had worked for 20 years at the Institute of Geology in Moscow in the field of x-ray structural analysis. She had published more than 30 scientific papers, some dealing with the geological structure of the moon. In 1973, when her daughter Gallina applied for permission to emigrate to Israel, official reaction was swift. In a matter of months Tziilya was fired from her job for reasons of "staff reduction." Since that time she has been unable to find professional employment in her field and so has been unemployed.

Gallina was finally granted permission to emigrate to Israel in 1977. Then, in 1978, when Nora, with Alexander and their two children, was allowed to leave for America, her father Dr. Mendzheritsky was fired from his position. Dr. Mendzheritsky, who has a Ph.D. in chemistry, had worked for more than 25 years as the head of a research laboratory at the Institute for Electrical Sources in Moscow. He had published over 50 papers, held the patents to 20 inventions and was four times

decorated by the government in appreciation for his work. All of his work had been open to public scrutiny and had earned him great respect among his colleagues.

Further complicating the matter is the fact that in 1973 Dr. Raitburd had become active in a movement to revive Jewish culture in the Soviet Union and helped to form and publish the magazine called "Jews in the U.S.S.R." In 1976, as part of her continued cultural activities, Dr. Raitburd became involved in organizing a symposium on "The Present State and Prospects for Jewish Culture in the U.S.S.R."

The symposium did not take place as planned because the KGB (Soviet Secret Police) placed many participating families, including the Mendzheritskys, under house arrest and searched their apartments for incriminating documents.

It was not long after this incident that both of their daughters left the Soviet Union. Since the Mendzheritskys were unemployed, and seeing no future for themselves in Russia, the Dr., his wife and mother applied for exit visas.

Anonymous phone calls then warned the couple to stop all Jewish activities lest the situation worsen for them. Shortly thereafter the Mendzheritskys' phone service was discontinued.

A few months later Tziilya Raitburd was beaten by a group of persons who took papers and a substantial amount of money from her purse. The police refused to investigate the incident.

In April, 1979 the family was denied permission to emigrate because of the "secret" nature of Dr. Mendzheritsky's work.

Two months after this visa denial, Dr. Mendzheritsky was given official warning by the police that he would be charged with parasitism if he didn't obtain work within one month. Since he could not find professional employment, he accepted a job as a janitor—a position he's had since mid-June. The charge

of parasitism is a well known harassment technique which has been used many times against dissidents, and which is no reflection of a person's economic situation.

The most recent developments in the Mendzheritsky case began in August, when another search was made of their apartment. Once again literature was taken as part of a campaign against the journal "Jews in the U.S.S.R."

On September 14, Tziilya was arrested, detained and interrogated for three days. She was told that the police were investigating her in an effort to charge her with violation of Article 70. They interrogated her about documents which they did not find in her home. To protest these illegal tactics, Tziilya went on a hunger strike. She was released on:

September 18 and was told she would be called again for interrogation.

"It's hard for us to contact them to find out what the latest events are," says Samarov. "We'd have to call their friends but we wouldn't want harm to come to them."

Through the years, the Mendzheritsky home has welcomed Jews from all over the Soviet Union who have come to them for advice and help arranging for exit visas. "It's the most valuable part of their Jewish activities," says Alexander. "So many people want to emigrate but are afraid to apply because of the harassment, oppression and possible prosecution which might result. But Tziilya has helped so many of them and has encouraged them to emigrate. Tziilya even convinced me to leave."

The Samarovs are now trying to contact scientists in Dr. Mendzheritsky's field of electro-chemistry. They hope that letters from responsible colleagues abroad, sent to the director of the institute which employed the doctor for so long, will bring enough pressure to bear to remove the "secret" label from Mendzheritsky's work.

The Samarovs have also contacted Congressman Drinan and Senator Kennedy in an effort to have them intercede on their parents' behalf. The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews has looked into the case as well, and has published information about the family.

"We want to bring this to the attention of as many people as possible," says Alexander Samarov. "The Mendzheritskys are an average family. They're not heroes, they're scientists. They just want their grandchildren to identify themselves as Jews."

Alexander and Nora Samarov encourage people to write to refuseniks. As Alexander says, "It's most important for them to know that there are people who are aware of their problems and are trying to help them." Since the censors open and read all the mail a barrage of encouraging mail to refuseniks might also serve to impress authorities with foreign opinion. You can write to the Mendzheritskys at this address: Emil and Tziilya Raitburd Mendzheritsky, 8 Usstevicha St., Apt. 89, Moscow, U.S.S.R.

WHAT THE RUSSIANS ARE SAYING

(Taken from The Current Digest of the Soviet Press - October 3, 1979)

MYTHS OF THE 'PROMISED LAND.'

Abstract

Zionism Yesterday and Today. (By Col. Gen. of Armor D. Dragunsky, Twice Hero of the Soviet Union, director of the Vystrel [Shot] Advanced Officer Training Courses. Pravda, Sept. 5, p. 3. 1,900 words. Abstract:) Yury Kolesnikov's new novel, "The Raised Curtain" [Zanaves pripodnyat], which was recently published by Voenizdat [Military Literature Publishing House], is one of the first works of Soviet fiction devoted to the exposure of Zionism. The novel is set in Europe and the Middle East on the eve and at the beginning of World War II. It presents the behind-the-scenes intrigues of the Hitlerite government and international Zionism in this complicated international situation. It exposes the activities of the Zionist leaders and various legal and covert Zionist organizations, and their connections with the Nazis.

Relying on documentary evidence, Kolesnikov profoundly and thoroughly discloses the antipopular essence of Zionism, which has always served imperialism. The further one reads in the book, the more clearly one realizes the many similarities that exist between fascism and Zionism. The Nazis' emphasis on racial exclusiveness and superiority is paralleled by the Zionists' similar emphasis. Little do the Zionists care that these racist theories resulted in the deaths of 6 million Jews.

It is known that Zionist circles collaborated with both Hitler and Mussolini. None other than M. Begin, Israel's present leader, once proclaimed: "We are looking for a Jewish Mussolini. Help us find him." Following World War II, Zionist leaders adopted the fascists' methods of destroying people. Begin's cutthroats in the Middle East killed old people and children and engaged in robbery and rape.

Though the novel is set in the past, the events of "The Raised Curtain" point forward to the sinister deeds of present-day Zionism and the state of Israel, where terrorism has been elevated to a state policy. The disillusionment experienced by the novel's protagonist Chaim Wolditer is similar to that experienced today by Soviet Jews whom Zionist propaganda lures to Israel with promises of "earthly paradise." Wolditer finds that the "promised land" is a realm of class inequality, cruel exploitation, savage religious intolerance and discrimination among Jews themselves.

Today, as during the period in which the book is set, Zionist leaders need Jewish immigrants in order to carry out their strategic military designs. Yury Kolesnikov's novel lifts the curtain on Zionism's sinister secrets and summons people to vigilance and a readiness to rebuff the Zionist intrigues of our time.

KGB Accused In Deaths

Sheldon Benjamin, chairman of the Council for Soviet Jews, accused the KGB (Soviet secret police) in the deaths of two prominent Jewish refuseniks from the Siberian city of Novosibirsk.

The two, Dr. Victoria Poltinnikova, a radiologist, and her mother Dr. Irma Bernstein Poltinnikova, a cardiologist, died last month after an eight year struggle for permission to emigrate to Israel. The elder Dr. Poltinnikova succumbed Aug. 6 to starvation. Her daughter, Victoria, took her own life Aug. 22.

Victoria's father, ophthalmologist Isaac Poltinnikova emigrated to Israel several months ago, alone, unable to convince his wife and daughter that after all the years of harassment, arrests, and intimidation, the visas were real. Since

his reunification with his younger daughter, Eleanor, in Israel, Dr. Poltinnikova had been attempting to convince his family that the permission was real and that they must leave while they can.

Eleanora stated, "It is clear that my mother and sister were sick and obsessed. But even so, they were faithful to the cause of the Jewish emigration movement. In their sickness, they believed that their death would do more good to Israel than their arrival there, and they let themselves die because they believed so."

Her voice breaking into sobs, Eleanora concluded, "All my father and I now have left in Russia are graves. We have no family there to erect a monument. But our monument will be our memory of them. We want everybody in the West who worked for them, wrote to them and visited them, even when they were sick, to have good memories of them and remember them as

people who gave their lives to our cause."

The Poltinnikov family was very dear to two Cincinnatians in particular, Sheldon Benjamin, and Mrs. Nathan Silver. From 1972 to the present they frequently had corresponded with the family and often spoke on the telephone.

"In all of my conversations with the Poltinnikovs, they insisted on discussing how others were being harassed," said Mr. Benjamin. "Seldom could they be induced to give news of their own difficult situation. Before the KGB succeeded to driving them to desperation and paranoia, they were among the most prominent of Soviet Jewish refuseniks in a far away city where tremendous courage was needed to stand up to the Kremlin.

"We will miss them greatly. With the deaths of the two Poltinnikovs, one of the most tragic chapters in the movement for Soviet Jewish freedom has come to a bitter end," Mr. Benjamin added.

Crackdown on Jews reported

MOSCOW — A recent sharp increase in the number of Jews refused permission to emigrate represents an effort by the Kremlin to put a cap on emigration rather than cut it down, Western diplomats sources say. The sources, close to the Jewish movement, suggested that the latest refusals may have been prompted by "an administrative, bureaucratic, and political bottleneck" that has developed due to an unprecedented number of Jews trying to leave the country.

AMERICAN ISRAELITE
Published in Cincinnati, Ohio
Thursday, September 20, 1979

Soviet Jewry Legal Advocacy Center

415 South Street, Waltham MA 02254

Announcement of Formation

Board of Trustees

Joan Honig Daniel Levinson
Leon Jick Kenneth Sweder

General Counsel

Donna Arzt
Harvard Law School '79
Brandeis University '76

Board of Advisors (in formation)

Burton Caine Alan Dershowitz
Irwin Cotler Hon. Robert Drinan
William Korey

George Fletcher
Telford Taylor

Purposes: to monitor legal practice under Soviet and international law in the cases of Soviet Jewish refuseniks, prisoners and activists; to document violations and present legal petitions and appeals in individual cases; to gather and disseminate information on human rights under Soviet law for interested attorneys, Jewish community organizations and government offices.

Funding: by foundation and agency grants and private donations.

SJLAC is an independent charitable trust. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Approach: substantive legal research and administration of projects by Center staff, in cooperation with volunteer law students, private attorneys, Russian emigres and law professors with expertise in Soviet and international law; publicity of the Center's cases and of general legal issues in the lay and legal press and through a regular Center newsletter; presentation of legal appeals through law faculties, bar associations and Congressional offices; coordination of other lawyers committees for Soviet Jewry across the country through service as a resource center for legal and factual information.

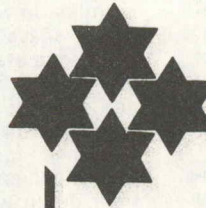
Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

24 Crescent St., Suite 3A, Waltham, Ma 02154
617/893-4780

October 24, 1979

INSIDE TODAY'S ALERT

- In Kiev, twelve activists were arrested and an American couple harassed. See our lead article.
- A Soviet Jewish emigre has taken the lead in the struggle to free his friend, cultural activist Igor Guberman. His appeal starts at the bottom of page 1.
- A letter from Anatoly Shcharansky about prison medical care directly contradicts a letter the authorities sent his mother. Excerpts from both letters appear on page 3.
- Edward Kuznetsov described his years of nightmare to a Penthouse reporter. Excerpts of this fascinating interview start on page 5.



First-Class Mail
U S POSTAGE
PAID
WALTHAM MA
PERMIT NO 57814

JEWISH COMM. RELATIONS
105 WEST 4TH STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO
45202