

ALERT

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

MENDELEVICH DENIED PRISON VISIT

Refusenik Natalia Rosenstein unsuccessfully attempted to visit P.O.C. Yosif Mendelevich, whom she and her husband have adopted. She received permission from the Central Administration of Prisons before setting out for the prison, but was refused by Chistopol Prison authorities who denied the validity of the adoption. Mendelevich has no family in the Soviet Union and is therefore denied family visits by the authorities.

While in Chistopol, Natalia spoke to the prison doctor about Yosif's diet and high blood pressure. The only response was that, as a young man, he can withstand high blood pressure.

Mendelevich has not been receiving packages. According to officials, the reason is that no one is sending them. In reality, according to Natalia, the packages are simply not being delivered. Furthermore, receipts for letters sent to Mendelevich are no longer signed by him, but rather by postal clerks.

In a phone conversation Natalia voiced her opinion that Yosif is being harassed and discriminated against because he has no family in the U.S.S.R. who can visit him and fight for his legal rights.

MINSK JEW HELD AFTER RECEIVING PERMISSION

Soviet Jewish art critic Mikhail Zaborov was arrested in Minsk on September 8, after he had received an exit visa. Earlier that day, Zaborov had argued with a notary public who had called him "Zhidovskaya Morda" (Jewish face). After the argument, he returned home where he was called by the police and detained pending criminal procedures. The family, now in Israel, says that the notary's claim that Zaborov slapped her is false.

REFUSENIK PARENTS UNABLE TO SEE SON IN ISRAEL MARRIED

Igor Tufeld, son of refuseniks Vladimir and Isolde Tufeld, is planning his wedding in Israel for October 31. Igor would love to have his parents at his wedding, but instead his father remains in a Soviet hospital, with the KGB always outside his door. Igor has appealed for letters to the authorities requesting that his parents be freed to see their son married, as well as letters and cables to his parents for moral support.

NEW PROCEDURES HINDER EMIGRATION

Telephone calls from the Soviet Union reveal that changes are being made which will hinder emigration. In Minsk, Jews who wish to apply are being assigned dates for submitting documents. Some are told to apply in August 1980. A family in Tashkent was told that only those with invitations from parents, children or siblings will be allowed to apply. This will leave out a large proportion of those planning to emigrate.

SOVIET JEWRY GROUPS IN PITTSFIELD, MASS. AND HAWAII JOIN THE UCSJ

Two new groups of Soviet Jewry activists have organized and affiliated with the Union of Councils, bringing the total number of councils in the Union to 26.

They can be contacted at the following addresses:

The Hawaii Group for Soviet Jews
841 Cooke Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Kirk Cashmere, Chairman

Pittsfield Jewish Council
Committee for Soviet Jewry
22 Marlboro Drive
Pittsfield, Mass. 02102
Naomi Schwartz, Chairperson



NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE U.S.S.R.

* LEV ULANOVSKY finally received his long-promised exit permit. He will leave the U.S.S.R. within a few weeks.

* P.O.C. BORIS KALENDAROV was visited by his mother on September 1. On the same day he was moved to another place, a camp in Kilmykya by the Caspian Sea.

* A refusenik who spoke to MARINA TIEMKINA found her eager to establish contact with her father in Israel. The young woman was separated from her father when she expressed a desire to emigrate with him a number of years ago. She was made an outpatient at a psychiatric clinic and thus had limited rights to decide her own fate.

* Refusenik GEDI KUN has just received another refusal - after five and a half years of living in Soviet limbo.

* NATALIA ROSENSTEIN signed a postal return receipt with the Hebrew words "By the waters of Babylon we wept."

CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF CONFRONTS SOVIET MINISTERS ON EMIGRATION: A Special Report

By Grayce Perl binder, Long Island Committee

Congressman Lester Wolff met recently in his Congressional offices in Washington, D.C. with a delegation of officers of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, to describe his experiences in the Soviet Union. Congressman Wolff, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, along with a group of U.S. Congressmen, visited the Soviet Union as guests of the Supreme Soviet.

"With all due respect to our Soviet hosts, they did not tell us the whole truth and at times even provided misinformation. Soviet officials assured us their citizens were free to practice the religion of their choice," Congressman Wolff told the LIC delegation. "Our delegation raised the question of Human Rights and freedom to worship," with Vitaly Ruben, Chairman of the Council of Nationalities; Lev Smirnov, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the USSR; Victor Paputin, First Deputy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; Army General Sergey Skhomeyev, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff; Georgi Arbatov, Director of the Institute for USA and Canada; and many others. "In each meeting, we sought to enlist the cooperation of Soviet officials in ending the harassment and repression of religious and ethnic minorities."

Congressman Wolff and the members of his Committee met with Jewish refuseniks in Moscow and Leningrad, among whom were Professor Alexander Lerner who applied for permission to emigrate seven years ago; Maria Slepak, wife of Vladimir Slepak, sentenced to five years in exile in Siberia; Mark Nashpitz, recently back from four years in exile Siberia; and Aba Taratuta, long time Leningrad refusenik. Congressman Wolff explained that the meetings held with Soviet Jews were officially sanctioned by the Soviet government and held in the open with the knowledge of Soviet officials. "Even so, the Soviet surveillance was intense," Wolff remarked.

Wolff told of being the guest of honor at a reception at the Charges d'Affaire's home. "I got into a shouting match that evening with Vitaly Ruben, who led the Soviet delegation, over the imprisonment of Anatoly Shcharansky. Ruben was visibly upset when he learned that I, and every Congressman present, was wearing a bracelet that resembles the POC bracelets that we wore during the Viet Nam War. Our bracelets were imprinted with the name, Anatoly Shcharansky. I told Ruben, if you say Shcharansky is a spy, and engaged in espionage, back it up with facts! I'll then read those facts on the floor of the United States Congress and I'll make the world aware of the facts in the case."

Congressman Wolff continually raised the subject of Human Rights with his Russian counterparts. "Soviet officials are kidding themselves when they claim that Human Rights is an internal question. I feel more strongly now than before my trip that the present practices of the Soviet government in placing arbitrary restrictions upon emigration, especially those affecting long-term refuseniks, are and will continue to be obstacles to the granting of most-favored-nation status to the Soviet Union," was Wolff's candid observation of the current trade bill which is being reviewed by the Congress, offering tax credits to the USSR and China.

The LIC delegation met also with Congressman Benjamin Gilman, who was a member of the Congressional Committee visiting the USSR. Congressman Gilman appealed to Mr. Paputin, Deputy of the International Section, while in the USSR, regarding registered mail sent to Soviet citizens over the last five years that was not received.

Congressman Gilman advised the Soviets that 2,000 registered letters per year are not being delivered, some of which are being returned, stating, "addressee unknown." A great deal of mail has been addressed to refuseniks, to dissidents and to prisoners, and remains undelivered. Congressman Gilman stated, "We had an opportunity to meet with some recently repatriated people from exile. People who I have written to and who I was amazed to find had not received any of our mail over the past few years." On September 26, the U. S. Congress passed a bill (400 to 0) concerned with interruption of mail into the Soviet Union.

Mrs. Lynn Singer, President of the LIC asked Congressman Wolff if there had been any evidence that the Soviets would release Mr. Shcharansky. Congressman Wolff answered by saying, "I hesitate to venture an opinion on that. I would say that Shcharansky's situation is cause celebre and, as such, I think that we would all be better off if the problem were solved. Now it is up to the Russians." The LIC delegation greeted Congressman Wolff's remarks with appreciation and extended congratulations to the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs for a job well done. The LIC will continue to work closely with Congressman Wolff on the Human Rights issue.

RESOLUTIONS ON JEWISH EDUCATION AND JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT PASSED BY UNION OF COUNCILS

The following resolutions were passed by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews at the Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., on September 17.

- The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews considers the protection and nurturing of Jewish educational, religious and cultural activities in the USSR to be inextricably bound to the issue of Soviet Jewish emigration. Our strong support of the process of Jewish self-education in the Soviet Union will at once increase the percentage of Soviet Jews choosing aliya and provide for the more rapid absorption of Soviet Jewish emigres into Israeli society. Therefore, the UCSJ will continue to give high priority to the dissemination of quality Jewish educational materials and information about Israel, within the USSR, by every means available.
- In view of the present situation, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews reaffirms its support for the Jackson-Vanik Amendment as it stands. The proposed Stevenson Amendment is in no way acceptable. We see no justification for the President's granting Most-Favored-Nation status to the Soviet Union, neither on the basis of their performance on emigration, nor on the grounds of received assurances.

MEMORIES OF LAST SUMMER - RUSSIAN-STYLE

As the weather turns cooler, summer begins to seem like a fond memory. Not so pleasant was the summer for some of the refuseniks, as their letters show. Excerpts from two of these letters start at the top of page 6.



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1. Glenn Richter, S.S.S.J., New York
2. David Selikowitz, Comite des Quinze, Paris
3. Morey Schapira, San Francisco
4. Liliya Shastlivaya, Soviet Emigre
5. John Hardt, Library of Congress
6. Spencer Oliver, Helsinki Commission
7. Natasha Simes, UCSJ Liaison on Hill, Wash. D.C.
8. Richard Perle, Aide to Senator Henry Jackson
9. Mark Schneider, Deputy Assist. Sec. State for Human Rights
10. Lil Hoffman, Denver
11. Lynn Singer, Long Island
12. Serge Davis, Comite des Quinze, Paris
13. Boris Blitstein, Soviet Emigre, Son of Lev Blitstein- Moscow
14. Margaret Rigal, "35's", London
15. Rita Eker, "
16. Rochelle Duke, "
17. Mark Talisman
18. Bob Gordon, President UCSJ, Boston
19. Joel Sandberg, Miami
20. Sister Ann Gillen, Interreligious Task Force, Chicago
21. Israel Zalmanson, Soviet Emigre, Ex P.O.C.
22. Jiri Valenta, Coord. Soviet and East European Studies, Monterey, CA
23. Dimitri Simes, Advisory Board, UCSJ, Wash., D.C.
24. Ann Polunsky, Phoenix

25. Muriel Sherbourne, London
26. Michael Sherbourne, London
27. Sascha Fish, Soviet Emigre, Son of Batsheva Yelistratov, Moscow
- 28-29. Olga and Yevgeny Kozhnevnikov, Soviet Emigre Actors
30. Alexander Samarov, Soviet Emigre, Son-in-Law of Tsilia Raitburd and Alexander Menzeritsky, Moscow
31. Jack Kemp, Congressman (R), New York
32. Alan Delman, Treasurer UCSJ, Boston
33. Jacob Javits, Senator (R), New York
34. Robert Drinan, Congressman (D) Mass.
35. Bailey Barron, Boston
36. John Glenn, Senator (D), Ohio
37. Dante Fascell, Congressman (D), Florida, Chairman Helsinki Commission
38. Dennis DeConcini, Senator (D), Arizona
39. Patricia Schroeder, Congresswoman (D), Colorado
40. Gary Hart, Senator (D), Colorado
41. Rhoda Friedman, Denver
42. Bernard Delman, Fund Raising Consultant, UCSJ, Boston
43. Margaret Heckler, Congresswoman (R), Mass.
44. Howard Metzenbaum, Senator (D), Ohio
45. Doug Cahn, Aide, Cong. Drinan
46. Jamie Drake, Montgomery, Ala.
47. Babette Wampold, Montgomery, Ala.
48. Reception at Congress for Cong. Pat Schroeder
49. Vigil opposite Soviet Embassy

Photo collage by Judy Patkin



From Victor Yelistratov, August 29, 1979:

Last week I spent in the Ukraine where I visited P.O.C. Simon Shnirman in his camp. I wish you saw that brave youth beaming with intellect and eagerness to help others even inside the horrid wire fence kept under high electric voltage. I tried to cool him down (like you and others are trying to cool me) but he answered "I can not keep idle while you are working." His mother and I were talking to him through a glass partition (over an eavesdropping intercom). The next two days his mother was to share with him a visiting room for so-called "family visits" but the administration denied him that two-day visit because he had "argued with a major". I asked Simon what he said but he did not like to be too specific.

Thus his mother had to take back all the bags of food she had prepared to feed him during the family visit. I did my best to convince Simon not to jeopardize his health, that he should keep quiet, that he had contributed enough to the common plight and is to survive the next one and a half years of his term. But I felt he was reluctant to get cooled off.

From Boris Chernobilsky, August 29, 1979:

As you know from Tzyrlin's letter, he, Rahlenko and I went to Krivosheino aiming at two purposes; to help Ida Nudel to find and buy a house which we could then equip properly. As you know, last winter Ida spent in a male hostel scarcely adequate for living. Our second purpose was to earn money as contractor-workers.

The first goal has been achieved - we managed to buy a house rather adequate to live in (a cottage of wooden logs with a stove and a stack of firewood) with a small lot of land around the house. The main advantage of the house - it's not far from the local hospital, post office, militia office and shops - all the enterprises which Ida has to attend. The house cost us 5000 rubles.

However, the second goal hasn't been achieved. When we signed a contract to build a section of a road with a pipe crossing under it, a sum of money to be paid to us was determined as 6600 rubles. After a month of work we were half through the work, when all of a sudden the administration informed us that we had been dismissed. We appealed to various Soviet offices which answered: "In your case, Soviet labor code has been violated," but they refused to help us practically, i.e. to interfere (evidently because the violation was committed on a KGB order). Instead of a half of the determined sum we three have been paid 139 rubles. One is tempted to realize that KGB prefers us to live on the assistance from abroad instead to let us earn our living ourselves.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AN OPEN LETTER TO LEONID BREZHNEV:

On October 9, Amnesty International issued an open letter to President Leonid Brezhnev appealing for the unconditional release of all prisoners of conscience in the Soviet Union and for an end to the abuse of psychiatry for political purposes. They also urged the Soviet Government to utilize the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the Soviet Revolution next month, as well as the Moscow Olympics, as opportunities to demonstrate its commitment to human rights.

The letter points out that in direct violation of the agreement, signed in August of 1975, Soviet authorities have arrested 19 of those attempting to monitor the Helsinki Accords and sentenced them to terms of imprisonment of up to 15 years. Five of these "Helsinki monitors" have been arrested since March 1979.

The letter also notes that Amnesty International is now working on more than 300 cases of prisoners of conscience, believed to be only a small percentage of those arrested for political or religious reasons.



A KGB AGENT (blonde man at lower right) mingles with the crowd at the Jewish book booth at the recent Moscow Book Fair. More than 10,000 Soviet Jews, hungry for information about their religion, American Jewry, and Israel, visited the fair in the course of five afternoons, knowing they were being watched by Soviet secret police. The exhibit was a joint project of three American groups — the Association of Jewish Book Publishers, the Jewish Book Council, and the American Jewish Committee.

THE JEWISH WEEK-AMERICAN EXAMINER WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1979

Hunger of Jews in Russia for identity is touching to Moscow Book Fair exhibitors

By ELENORE LESTER

Two young Russian girls turned up at the Jewish book booth at the recent international book fair in Moscow and spent the afternoon copying the notes and lyrics of Hatikvah. One man came every day and read Gershom Scholom's book on Kaballah. An elderly gentleman painstakingly compiled a list of Jewish Nobel prize winners.

The hunger of Russian Jews for contact with Jewish life and culture was responded to in some small degree at the fair, according to exhibitors. In fact the widest distribution of Jewish cultural material in the Soviet Union since World War II was made there, reported Bernard Scharfstein, president of Ktav Publishing House and a member of the executive committee of the Association of Jewish Book Publishers.

"We gave away 9,000 Russian-language catalogues that contained descriptions of Jewish holidays and a five-year calendar, and we also gave out 4,000 recordings of Yiddish, Hebrew and liturgical music." He added that he regretted that the exhibitors did not bring 50,000 recordings.

10,000 visited booth

The giveaways turned out to be the only material distributed. The Soviet government did not order a single book from more than 750 on exhibit for distribution within the country. Nevertheless people came everyday, despite chilling rains, from Moscow and outlying districts simply to look and browse. Some 10,000 visited the booth.

"People literally pleaded for any small symbol of Jewish identity — a Star of David, a Jewish calendar, a Hebrew alphabet chart," said Scharfstein. He added that people begged for books, but had to be turned away because giving or selling books from the exhibit was forbidden. Nevertheless a few books were stolen and the exhibitors were informed that copies of the records had been made.

Four books slated for display were confiscated by Soviet custom authorities. They were: *The Holocaust Years*, edited by Roselle Chartook and Jack Spencer; *To Dance*, Valery Panov; *My Country*, Abba Eban; *Modern Jewish History*, Chazen and Chechen.

Young people study Hebrew

In addition people wanted to know such things as: What is the state of Jewish art? How many Jews are there in Chicago? Do American Jews study Hebrew? Does Bellow really know enough Yiddish to translate Singer?

The accounts of exhibitors were given at a press conference at the American Jewish Committee. It was brought out that the Israeli book booth had its shelves wiped out.

Mrs. Septee reported that "the drive for Jewish identity, the desire for Jewish culture and the renaissance of spoken Hebrew in the Soviet Union left a strong impression on all of us." She said that the younger

people do not know Yiddish, but speak and study Hebrew and have acquired considerable mastery of it "without the aid of texts or schools."

A series of six articles is starting this week in Yiddish in *The Forward* by Joseph Mlotek, education director of the Workmen's Circle, who also attended the fair. Klotek wept as he described his encounter with the Russian Jews.

Don't trust synagogue-goers

"The young people are so beautiful," he said. "Their desire just to be close to other Jews is unbelievable. I was afraid when I saw what they do — how they gather every Saturday by the hundreds in front of the synagogues in Moscow and Leningrad. Most of them are between 18 through the 30's, but there are also older people. As a Yiddishist, I have to admit that most seemed to be speaking Hebrew. They are in this enclosed space outside the synagogue and they are watched. They came one day in a pouring rain. Some of them wear yarmulkas, but they don't go inside the synagogue because they don't trust the people there."

Exhibitors estimated that about 25 per cent of the visitors were not Jewish and seemed to be there out of curiosity. The presence of KGB men was also evident.

Intermountain Jewish News

September 21, 1979

New Year Edition

Winner



This art by Melanie Solomon was the winning entry in the contest sponsored by the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry and was used on High Holyday messages sent to Soviet Jews.

Keeping the heat on for human-rights

The Boston Globe
OCTOBER 7, 1979

By MARY McGRORY

WASHINGTON — Edouard Kuznetsov is 40 years old, but looks much older, as well he might, having spent 16 years of his life in Soviet labor camps.

He was released in a prisoner swap arranged by the United States last April and lives in Israel with his wife, Silva Zalmanson, herself a gulag survivor. They are expecting their first child.

Kuznetsov was first arrested in 1958 for the crime of reading poetry in Mayakovsky Square. One of his co-felons was Vladimir Bukovsky, author of a masterpiece of dissident literature, "To Build a Castle."

Kuznetsov, a short, sardonic man who wears blue-tinted glasses, came to Washington for the Sakharov hearings, where hundreds of Russian emigres wept and talked for four days about their sufferings and their comrades who are still behind barbed wire.

He was disappointed in the press coverage of the event.

"You are losing interest in us in the US," he said. "You think your protest does no good. I tell you it does. I would not be alive without it."

In 1970, Kuznetsov was arrested, with his wife, 14 other Jews and two Christians, for attempting to hijack a plane to fly to Israel.

On Dec. 24, he was sentenced to death.

The Soviets figured the world would not notice the day before Christmas. They were wrong. Forty-four governments protested. On New Year's Eve, Kuznetsov's sentence was commuted. He still had to serve 15 years in an "especially strict labor camp."

Kuznetsov managed, all the same, to write his story on toilet paper, and get it smuggled to the West. "Prison Diary" was published in English.

Western pressure helped end the custom of putting dissidents in mental hospitals, a practice based on the theory that anyone who did not enjoy life in the Soviet Union had to be mad.

Jailed dissidents look to the United States for hope. Although they are isolated within a closed society, word, mostly by radio, gets around. They know, Kuznetsov avers, from the looks on the guards' faces, when the West is raising its voice, or at least getting the news from the gulags.

He went on a hunger strike in January 1977, when Andre Sakharov and his wife were turned away at the gates of Sosnovka. For purposes of being allowed the annual family visit, Madame Sakharov represented herself as Kuznetsov's aunt. On the sixth day, as the Western press began printing stories, a guard came to Kuznetsov and whispered "Stay tough. They know."

If Western publicity so stings the touchy tyrants in the Kremlin, why have they failed to respond to the uproar over Anatoly Scharansky?

"They respond in other ways," Kuznetsov explains. "It is early for them to do anything about him, but 50,000 Jews are going to Israel this year because of it. You don't know how many people are not going to jail because of it. You can't show pic-

tures on television of people not going to jail. That is why you Americans have lost interest and that is why it is futile."

At the same time as the Scharansky clamor, number of human-rights advocates demanded a U.S. boycott of the Olympics. There was another wave of revulsion when Americans learned that the Olympic Soviet teddy bears were being made of political prisoners.

But Kuznetsov says "Nyet" to boycott.

Last week, he received a message from 11 comrades left behind in Sosnovka. It was an appeal for the West to come to Moscow in force for the games.

"We knew," they wrote, "that the Olympic Games in Moscow will serve the Soviets the way they served the Nazis in Munich in 1936. But it is time for contacts. The mass of Soviets are not dissidents, they do not even know there are political prisoners, they don't read about them in Pravda only about criminals. What if they saw peo-

It would take some doing, Kuznetsov admits. Tourists would have to get over the idea that they would be sent to Siberia if they stepped out of line. Athletes are conditioned to conformity, having seen what happened to winners who gave a black-power salute at the Mexico games.

But if enough students get tickets, he can see the unfurling of human-rights banners in the stands. Did he have anything else in mind?

"Yes," says Kuznetsov, his tired eyes brightening behind his glasses. "I can imagine an athlete winning a gold medal and holding it up and saying 'I give this to Anatoly Scharansky.'"

Kuznetsov, who has spent his life putting his name on an iron system, would do it, no question. He thinks that someone else might. People in labor camps live on a belief that the West really cares about human rights.

CIA. President Carter has denied the charges. On the back, her shirt declares: "No SALT II, No Trade, No Olympics With U.S.S.R."

While in Washington, the women will attend the annual national meeting of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews.

The nationwide group works to secure emigration for Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union, but who have been refused exit visas. A chief strategy is writing letters to the 'refuseniks' by which Americans can let Soviet officials know the refuseniks have friends in the West.

The petitions were circulated at area churches, Bible studies taught by John "Rat" Riley, on the Auburn University campus and at a rally in June for the families on the Capitol steps.

When they see the petitions, Mrs. Drake said, "We expect the Soviets to realize the people of the United States will not stand by and let SALT II be ratified and the Soviet Union be given favored trade status when they so blatantly disregard the rights of people in their own country."

City Pair Take Plea To Soviets

By LENORE REESE

Two Montgomery women are heading to the nation's capital this week end to save lives.

Mrs. Babette Wampold and Mrs. Janie Drake plan to go to the Soviet embassy in Washington Monday to personally plead for freedom for two Russian Christian families living in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow.

And they will not be alone, according to Mrs. Drake, of the Montgomery-based Society of Americans for Vaschenko Emigration (SAVE).

They will be armed with petitions bearing the signatures of more than 6,000 persons from Alabama and other states demanding safe emigration for the Peter Vaschenko and Maria Chymkhalov families.

"We are extremely concerned about the fact that the Vaschenko and Chymkhalovs have not been given exit visas," said Mrs. Wampold, president of the Alabama Council to Save Soviet Jews which supports SAVE's efforts.

The two families have been living in a basement room of the embassy since June 27, 1978, when they rushed past Soviet guards to seek help from American officials in their quest to emigrate.

They have necessary invitations from the Rev. Cecil Williamson of Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church in Selma, but Soviet officials have refused to allow them to leave.

Long persecuted for their religious beliefs, they say they face an uncertain fate if they leave the embassy. Instead, the seven have chosen to stay in their cramped quarters, praying, reading their Bibles and trying to learn English.

"We know they've been told their (emigration) papers are not in order," Mrs. Wampold said, "but they applied in a legal way and have been applying since 1962.

"It states clearly in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that anyone can leave the country. You can't even give the excuse of (their knowing) state secrets (as a reason for keeping them in the Soviet Union) — these are simple people."

Unless the Soviets show good faith in the Vaschenko situation, Mrs. Wampold says there is no reason for the United States to sign trade agreements or a SALT II treaty.

The women plan to go to the embassy with Rep. Bill Dickinson of Montgomery and possibly Reps. Richard Shelby of Tuscaloosa and John Buchanan of Birmingham.

Mrs. Wampold said they will attempt to meet with the first secretary at the embassy, an official directly under Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, and present the petitions to him.

To graphically illustrate her feelings on the matter, Mrs. Drake plans to wear a T-shirt bearing a color photograph of the families taken in the embassy and emblazoned with the message: "U.S.S.R.: Give us the Vaschenkos, Chymkhalovs and Scharansky." The latter refers to Anatoly Scharansky, a well-known Soviet human rights dissident serving a 13-year sentence for working with the

Alabama Journal

Friday, September 14, 1979

Meetings in Moscow

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1979

Prompted by bitter memories of the propaganda bonanza Hitler received from the 1936 Berlin Olympics, Western Europe has been debating the proprieties of holding the 1980 Olympics in Moscow. The issue isn't as lively in the United States, yet Americans have already sampled the dilemma in other international meetings held earlier this year in Moscow. The danger has been very real that in accepting the ground rules for this totalitarian location, Western participants not only give them some legitimacy but compromise their own moral values as well.

This dilemma was acute for Western publishers exhibiting in Moscow's International Book Fair in September. Shortly before the fair, the Soviet Union abruptly denied visas to two American publishers and made trouble for others from Europe. More than 15 titles were banned from American and Jewish book booths. Yet the publishers decided not to withdraw in protest, and we think they were right.

In spite of the censorship, thousands of Muscovites gained access, however briefly, to a wide range of Western publications, and the fair gave rise to one event that Soviet dissidents take as a symbol that their efforts are not entirely wasted. Even though one of the would-be hosts was denied a visa, American publishers went ahead with a dinner in honor of the Soviet dissident authors they published without government approval. To Moscow intellectuals it was an astounding change from just over a decade ago when two writers were sent to prison camps for the sole crime of publishing in the West without official permission.

It's hard to find such redeeming moments, however, in this year's world congress of the International Political Science Association, also held in Moscow. Supporters of this location for this triennial meeting say that the Soviets did allow some of their blacklisted academics to attend and accepted delegations from countries with which they have no diplomatic relations. But book exhibits were censored, distribution of conference papers was limited, and one Canadian participant was expelled outright.

Furthermore, as the Chronicle of Higher Education put it, speakers "made obvious efforts . . . to recognize Soviet sensibilities on controversial subjects." Along with the self-censorship, Western participants conferred tacit legitimacy to the Soviet interpretation of political science. As the general secretary of the Soviet Political Science Association told the Chronicle, in socialist hands this discipline "is a means of administering society along scientific lines and in the

interests of working people," whereas under capitalism, "it usually serves as an instrument for manipulating the minds of the masses."

Although the assembled political scientists declared the meeting a success, it's hard to see how their professional integrity emerged unblemished. Unlike the publishers, they seem to have been caught in the trap of dealing with the Soviets within the Soviet system of values. It's a trap, we suspect, that not many will find easy to avoid.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1979

Brezhnev's Human Rights Policy

An impressive array of Soviet dissidents in exile has gathered in Washington, D.C. for the Third International Sakharov Hearings on human rights in the Soviet Union. They provide a disturbing reminder to the Carter administration that the only world leader who currently pursues a coherent policy on human rights is Leonid Brezhnev.

Mr. Brezhnev, of course, is against it, in any meaningful sense of the term. He has decimated his country's unofficial Human Rights Movement by jailings and deportations, sometimes in a kind of reverse linkage to soften American attitudes toward the SALT treaty. It's a result of these exiles that so many talented ex-Soviet citizens are available to tell the Sakharov hearings about working conditions, legal processes, etc., in the U.S.S.R. and incidentally, to restore talk of human rights in a Washington that has been noticeably silent on the subject for some time now.

The American reticence, after so much earlier vociferousness, can be attributed to the administration's desire not to roil the SALT ratification. But the silence has gone well beyond reasonable bounds. At the Vienna summit in June, President Carter and his aides agreed to a joint communique that threw away whatever verbal gains our diplomats had made on human rights at the Helsinki and Belgrade conferences. Hard-headed professional diplomats still don't understand what happened.

But this studied neglect still hasn't saved the administration trouble. East-West relations chilled sharply during the three-day stalemate at Kennedy International Airport over whether or not ballerina Ludmilla Vlasova really wanted to return home. This messy affair was just the end result of a long series of blunders, starting with the State Department's inept response to the request for asylum by her husband, ballet star Alexander Godunov. When Mr. Godunov decided to jump, he had to go through private intermediaries for two crucial days to get the State Department's attention. State was so befuddled by apparent lack of guidelines and mid-August vacations of key personnel that by the time it turned to the question of Godunov's wife she was well out of reach in Soviet hands.

A subsequent defection in Los Angeles seems to have gone more smoothly, so perhaps some elements of the federal bureaucracy have straightened out their procedures. But we would be very interested to see what internal reports at the State and Justice Departments have concluded on the shortcomings in the Godunov-Vlasova affair. We will also watch closely how official Washington reacts to the Sakharov hearings. All those former Soviet citizens who are speaking each day in the Dirksen Senate Office Building bear witness to the extent the government has let fall an issue it once so properly raised.

Soviets reportedly refusing visas to Jews from Ukraine

By Dan Fisher
Los Angeles Times

MOSCOW — Soviet emigration authorities, in a sudden and dramatic turnaround, have in recent months refused permission for thousands of Ukrainian Jews to leave the country, Jewish activists said here yesterday.

If the pattern spreads, they added, it could mean that by next year, the rate of Jewish emigration will drop substantially from the current record level. More than one-third of the Soviet Union's approximately two million Jews live in the Ukraine.

So far, the actions affect mostly Jews who have applied to leave from three Ukrainian cities — Odessa, Kharkov and Chernovtsy — the activists told Western newsmen. While it may be that the new wave of refusals is a local phenomenon, they noted, the pattern is similar to events here in 1974 that presaged a drop in Jewish emigration from nearly 35,000 that year to less than one-third as many two years later.

Western diplomatic sources in Moscow said they are aware of the sudden change in the Ukrainian emigration picture, but added that they are unsure what it may mean.

The developments occur at a time when US policymakers are considering ways to grant the Soviet Union new trade concessions in light of the record 50,000 more Jews who are expected to emigrate this year.

Such concessions are blocked by the so-called Jackson-Vanik amendment to the Trade Act of 1974, which ties more favorable trade arrangements for the Soviet Union to liberalization of the Kremlin's emigration policies. However, the Carter Administration, many US legislators, and some Jewish groups have said they consider the current high levels of Soviet emigration as sufficient assurance of liberalization to qualify for a lowering of US trade barriers.

The Carter Administration has postponed any action on the trade question until the end of this year. The reports of a wave of new refusals here could thus seriously complicate movement on one of the most sensitive issues involved in the Soviet-American relationship.

The reports come from a dozen Jews who gathered yesterday from various Soviet cities in the apartment of Viktor Yelistratov, a prominent Moscow activist.

Natalia Khasina, an activist who spent the summer in Odessa, said that after refusing a relatively small percentage of those applying to emigrate in previous months, local authorities suddenly began to issue "massive refusals" during the summer. "Positive answers are now an exception," she said. She estimated that some 1000 families from the Black Sea city have been refused permission to emigrate during the last six months, including 90 percent of those who have gotten an official answer since early last summer.

Alexander Baritsky, a 42-year-old "refusednik" from Kharkov, said that more than 300 families were refused permission to emigrate from that city since last July 1. Local authorities have begun to challenge the legitimacy of the Israeli documents that Jews must show before being allowed to apply to leave, Baritsky said. Officials are dismissing the documents as "Zionist propaganda," Baritsky said.

There has also been an increase in the number of families refused because their invitations allegedly come from relatives who are too distant to qualify for "family reunification" — the only grounds officially recognized here for emigration.

The activists said similar problems have arisen in Chernovtsy, although they said they had no figures for that city.

The Boston Globe Tuesday, October 9, 1979

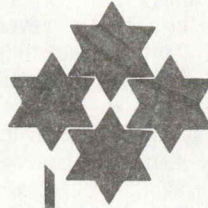
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INSIDE TODAY'S ALERT

- Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry has given us a special report on Rep. Lester Wolff's meetings with Soviet leaders in Moscow. See page 2.
- A photo collage on pages 4 and 5 captures memories of the UCSJ Annual Meeting in Washington last month.
- Soviet Jews flocked to see the Jewish and Israeli books at the Moscow Book Fair. The story from the Jewish Week is reprinted on page 7.
- Former P.O.C. Edouard Kuznetsov fears that Americans are losing interest in the struggle for human rights in the Soviet Union. An article by Mary McGrory appears on page 8.



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