



# UCSJ QUARTERLY REPORT

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Pamela B. Cohen explains UCSJ policy and procedures to a wide representation of Jewish Refuseniks and activists in Refusenik Vladimir Kislik's Moscow apartment.

## THE MOSCOW SUMMIT: UCSJ KEEPS HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE AGENDA

President Reagan's fourth and possibly final Summit meeting with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev presented an important opportunity for the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews to ensure that human rights – and specifically Jewish emigration – were kept high on the official agenda.

Prior to the Summit, UCSJ National President Pamela B. Cohen and National Director Micah H. Naftalin were invited, by the White House, to prepare a written statement of their human rights goals for Summit IV. In a report entitled "Verification of Soviet Agreements in Human Rights," the two UCSJ leaders outlined the critical elements of a human rights verification policy negotiation. Additionally, they urged the President and Secretary of

State to reaffirm their unwavering support of the Helsinki Final Act and Jackson-Vanik Amendment, and to seek areas of linkage, especially in the fields of trade and finance, to offer opportunities for increased leverage in the area of human rights and Jewish emigration.

### "Helsinki Action to Free Soviet Jews"

To coincide with President Reagan's stopover in Helsinki, Finland – the site of the 1975 human rights accords – a delegation from UCSJ and the New York-based Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry (SSJ) travelled to Helsinki to highlight the human rights component of the President's mission.

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Representatives from "Helsinki Action to Free Soviet Jews" demonstrate at a cage in front of the Lutheran Cathedral in Helsinki. Dressed in striped prisoner garb, they represented Jews trapped inside the USSR. (From left: SSSJ Representative Martin Koenig; Pamela B. Cohen; Rabbi Avi Weiss; SSSJ National Coordinator Glenn Richter).

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Under the banner "Helsinki Action to Free Soviet Jews," and led by Pamela B. Cohen and SSSJ National Chairman Rabbi Avi Weiss, the activist coalition marched, demonstrated, held vigils and prayed in the streets of Helsinki. Meanwhile, the local and international press questioned, photographed, and quoted.

#### UCSJ Activist Summit Meeting in USSR

On the same day that President Reagan arrived in Moscow, UCSJ's Pamela B. Cohen and Micah Naftalin – granted Soviet visas only at the last moment – flew to Leningrad. For the next 10 days, Refusenik leaders in Moscow and Leningrad organized dozens of group briefings and private leadership meetings for them in one of the most comprehensive and unprecedented strategic summit meetings of Soviet Jewry activist leaders held inside the Soviet Union.

During their visit, three major Refusenik groups – the "Poor Relatives," "Jewish Women for Emigration and Survival in Refusal," and the Moscow Refusenik "Scientific Seminar" each voted to affiliate formally with the UCSJ and continue their struggle together.

**As of September 6,  
our suite number has changed to #230.  
Our street address remains the same.**

#### UCSJ ANNUAL MEETING October 15-17, 1988 at the Washington Hilton Hotel

The UCSJ annual meeting will take place on October 15-17, 1988 at the Washington Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C. This year's theme is "Building the Movement: Strategies for Council and Leadership Development," and includes an exciting agenda of speakers, workshops, seminars and other activities.

The annual meeting itself is preceded by a Soviet Jewry "Shabbaton" on October 15, to which the public will also be invited. The October 16 and 17 sessions will focus on the current situation in the Soviet Union, the development of the grassroots local councils, and priorities for the new administration.

UCSJ hopes that all our members will make every effort to attend this year's meeting. We welcome the opportunity to bring you into our family of activists. For registration and information, contact the UCSJ office in Washington.



(From left) Sandy Spinner, UCSJ Board Member and Director of the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews; former Refusenik Evgeny Yakir; Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ); former Refusenik Rima Yakir, and Rabbi Abe Ingberg pose for a photo during a meeting on Capitol Hill to commemorate the Yakirs' freedom.

## UCSJ AND THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

#### Refuseniks Thank the Congress

After 15 years of refusal – and an intensive campaign on their behalf by numerous Members of Congress – former Moscow Refuseniks Evgeny and Rima Yakir were finally permitted to personally thank those who had assisted in their release. Accompanied by Sandy Spinner and UCSJ Congressional Liaison Robyn Lieberman, the Yakirs were received by Senators Dole and Simon, among others who had been active in their case.

#### Pamela B. Cohen Testifies Before Foreign Affairs Subcommittee

On May 11, 1988, UCSJ National President Pamela B. Cohen testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations.

Her statement included a summary of the current status of Soviet Jews; an acknowledgment of the recent modest progress in Jewish emigration; and an outline of the agenda the UCSJ proposed for the June summit and thereafter. In particular, she stressed the need for "linkage," the bargaining on behalf of Jewish emigration for the advantages, mostly economic, that the Soviets need to finance their program of "perestroika."

#### Human Rights Amendment to INF Treaty Is Passed

Persistence by UCSJ and local councils paid off during the first week of June when the Senate passed a human rights amendment to the INF Treaty. The legislation calls for a continued emphasis on human rights issues in negotiations with the Soviets. UCSJ applauds the efforts of Senator Dennis DeConcini (D-AZ) and amendment co-sponsors Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA), Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) and Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY).

## AFTER 3 YEARS OF UCSJ OPPOSITION, ABA-ASL AGREEMENT FINALLY ABROGATED

After three years of intensive pressure by the UCSJ, its member councils, and the Independent Task Force on ABA-Soviet Relations, the ABA voted not to renew its official agreement with the Association of Soviet Lawyers.

Thanks to the dauntless opposition to the agreement by activists such as Lillian Hoffman, Co-Chair of the Col-

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orado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry; David Waksberg, UCSJ Vice-President and Executive Director of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews; UCSJ Board Member Donna Arzt; and Patience Huntwork and Bill Wolf of the Task Force, and to wide exposure in the national press, the ABA was forced to concede that their "mutual pledge to advance the rule of law in the world" with the Soviets should be abrogated.

The ABA issue represents one of UCSJ's finest hours. We took on an overwhelming major foe and won a signal fight for our basic principles — an example of what we can accomplish when our national network works together in a united way.

## PAMELA B. COHEN HONORED BY ALMA MATER

Pamela B. Cohen was the recipient of the 1988 Edward J. Sparling Alumni Award from Roosevelt University in Chicago, Illinois for her valuable contributions to society and unselfish devotion to community and civic affairs.

During the award presentation and dinner, Ruth Benton, director of alumni relations at Roosevelt University, stated: "The award is given to the alumnus who has contributed to our society by giving unselfishly of time and resources to civic and cultural activities. We could think of no one who deserves the award more than Pamela B. Cohen. There was really no contest."



Micah H. Naftalin exchanges greetings with President Ronald Reagan during a meeting in the Oval Office on April 25, 1988.

## UCSJ AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Micah Naftalin was one of four national leaders invited to the White House to present President Reagan with a petition for the Soviets, signed by more than 250 people, calling for increased religious freedoms in the Soviet Union on the millennium anniversary of Christianity in Russia.

The following week, he and Pamela B. Cohen attended a White House seminar on religious rights in the Soviet Union. Former Prisoner of Conscience Josef Begun and his wife, Inna, were also present at the pre-Summit event, which was attended by over 200 human rights and religious leaders.

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