

INFORMATION FROM THE
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ALERT

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Law Targets Refuseniks: 'Deprivation of Freedom' for Exchanging 'Secrets'

The Soviet Union has promulgated a new law providing prison terms for anyone passing economic, scientific, technical or other "official" secrets to foreigners. The measure went into effect the first of February, according to the *New York Times*.

The law, Article 13-1 of the USSR Legal Code, was titled "Passing Information Comprising Official Secrets to Foreign Organizations", with "deprivation of freedom for up to three years or corrective work for up to two years" for noncompliance.

If the same actions "lead to major material damage to state or have other serious consequences", punishment is deprivation of freedom for up to eight years.

According to the *NY Times* account, "the measure seemed to serve largely to codify restrictions already in force". Yet the law as published did not define what is "official" nor give guidance as to what is "confidential" in a workplace.

Often refused visas to emigrate on the basis of "access to state secrets", those who wish to emigrate are particularly vulnerable to this new law.

'Demand for a Home'

Twenty Leningrad activists including Yakov Gorodetsky, Grigory Vaserman, Lev Furman, & Evgeny Lein, wrote to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet on the issue of Aliya:

"Our demand to go on Aliya to Israel is no more than a demand for a home. It is irrational to accuse us of nationalism. This quality within us is no more widespread than within any other people with a sovereign state. Our wish to go on Aliya is not only for family reunification; we hold no grudge against the USSR, but our wish to leave is intensified by publications such as that of Lev Korneyev."



David Shnirman, the father of Prisoner of Conscience Simon Shnirman, died at the age of 75 in Haifa, Israel. Send letters of condolence to Simon's wife Elizaveta at: USSR/Moldavian SSR/Kishinev 27705/Ivinopolskaya 12 'A'.

Separated Families: "A cry from the heart"

"This letter is not just a letter — it is a cry from the heart. I can no longer bear it without my mother and father. I beg of you — all of you — for our sake and for the sake of our children — help! Save us! Do everything within your power to correct an injustice in defense of man's freedom," wrote Raya Leizgold of Beersheva, Israel, last month. Leizgold emigrated to Israel with her husband and son in May of 1979. Her parents have been refused exit visas five times since December 1979 to join her in Israel. Leizgold's father, Yakov Ichilevich Volokh, born in 1920, was a lieutenant in the Soviet Army during World War II. Wounded twice in 1944 and declared an invalid, Volokh now receives a pension and lives with his wife, Tunia Aronovna.

Send letters of support to: USSR, Ukrainian SSR, Vinnitsa, Krasnoznamennoy 74/5, Volokh, Yakov & Tunia.

State Dept. on Chernenko: Prospects for Soviet Jewry

*by Judith Slovin, Associate Director
for congressional affairs*

"There is a possibility that Chernenko can be negotiated with," stated Assistant Secretary of State of Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs during an exclusive interview last week. The death of Yuri Andropov and the subsequent selection of Konstantin Chernenko coincided with the State Department's formal issuing of the "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1983", which is submitted to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations — obvious timing for an interview with Abrams. My interview follows:

Q. With the rise of Chernenko, what prospects do you see for Soviet Jewry?

"Chernenko recently wrote an article in 'Problems of Peace and Socialism' on nationalities which was favorable to minorities."

A. There is no reason to think that the situation will get worse. The rise of Andropov equaled the rise of the KGB. But Chernenko is a "party man" associated with the Brezhnev era. He is less repressive on this score. There is certainly no reason to mourn Andropov's passing. There is a possibility that Chernenko can be negotiated with. (Note: Charles Fairbanks, deputy assistant secretary to Abrams added that "regarding Chernenko's past role as head of ideology and propaganda after Suslov, Chernenko recently wrote an article in "Problems of Peace and Socialism" on nationalities which was favorable to minorities. Andropov appealed to Russian nationalism).

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NEWSBRIEFS

On February 6, Prisoner of Conscience **YOSEF BEGUN** was transferred from Vladimir Prison to Perm by the special prisoners train, Etap. The Perm Camp Complex, comprised of several forced-labor facilities, is located in the Ural mountain region where temperatures in the winter fall as low as -45°C, and the working conditions are extremely harsh. Industries in the Perm region include logging, construction, mining and mechanical engineering. The exact address for Begun is not known at this date.

MIKHAIL BEIZER, Leningrad refusenik and Jewish cultural activist, was threatened with arrest for his teaching of Jewish history and cultural and private seminars. SEND LETTERS URGING THAT BEIZER BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE, TO: Chief Leningrad OVIR, 26 Zheliabova St., Leningrad, RSFSR, USSR.

Prisoner of Conscience **VICTOR BRAILOVSKY** is due to be released on March 12. SEND TELEGRAMS IN SUPPORT OF THAT ACTION URGING THAT BRAILOVSKY BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HIS RELEASE. SEND THE TELEGRAMS TO: V. Fedorchuk, Minister of Internal Affairs, ul. Ogareva 6, Moscow 103009, RSFSR, USSR.

INNA ELBERT still does not have a job in her profession (she is a cardiologist). She was offered a job as a postman. SEND TELEGRAMS TO THE Communist Party in Kiev, V.V. Shcherbitsky, 11 Ordzhonikidze, Kiev.

LEV ELBERT'S appeal (for his first prison sentence) was denied. Send letters on the basis of protesting the reserve duty call-up issue on the grounds that he was not eligible for reserve duty. (The authorities made a similar ruling in the Yakov Mesh case). SEND LETTERS TO the Defense Ministry in Moscow and Procurator's office in Kiev, Defense Minister Dimitri Ustinov, Moscow, 103160, Ulitsa Kirova, 37, & to Chief Procurator F.K. Glukh, 2 Kreschatik Kiev.

Former Prisoner of Conscience **GRIGORY GOLDSHTEIN**, a physicist from Tbilisi, may face a new, three to five year prison term. Accused of "taking advantage of his position" at the Central Bureau of Statistics, he was informed that his file was transferred to a local prosecutor. Goldshtein portested the move with a detailed letter to the First Secretary of the Georgian Republic's Communist Party. Send telegrams urging an end to the harassment, and request that Goldshtein and his family be allowed to emigrate there. SEND THE TELEGRAMS TO: A.E. Pakidze, Chief Procurator, Georgian SRR, Tbilisi, Georgian SSR, USSR.

LEONID KLEIMAN of Leningrad ceased his hunger strike.

OLGA MEDVEDKOVA, who faces imminent trial for her activism in Moscow's unofficial peace movement, is pregnant.

ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY received a series of injections which had a short positive effect but subsequently his condition deteriorated. His brother Leonid and his mother Ida Milgrom appealed to the President of the Supreme Soviet and to the Central Committee to release Anatoly due to his health condition.

EIGHTY-EIGHT JEWS LEFT THE SOVIET UNION IN JANUARY.

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SPOTLIGHT

The man who closed the Soviet gates

By Martin Gilbert



Yuri Andropov



Yosef Begun

THE DEATH of Yuri Andropov brings to an end 15 dismal months in the story of Soviet Jewry.

Throughout the Andropov era, short though it was, Soviet Jews suffered in ways unknown for more than a decade. There were five pointers to disaster: five severe blows.

First, the gates of emigration were slammed shut. From a peak of more than 50,000 in 1979, only 1,300 Jews were allowed to leave the Soviet Union in 1983, and only 88 in the last full month of Andropov's rule.

This closing of the gates was swift, savage, and demoralizing. Among the 1,300 allowed out were almost no refuseniks, no activists, and only a single Hebrew teacher. Andropov's message was clear: the era of mass emigration was at an end.

This message was not left to the Sovietologists and Kremlin-watchers to decipher. It was spelt out in April 1983 in a telegram sent from Moscow by a leading regime journalist, direct to a Tel Aviv newspaper. "Whether you like it or not," the telegram read, "the saga of mass Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union has reached its end."

The telegram went on to state that it was being "openly said" in Moscow that "the last train has left the station."

SHORTLY AFTER coming to power, Andropov gave clear expression to his attitude towards the Jewish cultural movement inside the Soviet Union: the private Hebrew classes, the Jewish religious seminars, and the ferment of Jewish national aspirations. He was opposed, he declared in December 1982, to the "festering sore" of false cultural demands by those whom he described as "bad elements."

"Of course," a leading refusenik commented to me in a Moscow suburb last March, "Andropov could let these 'bad elements,' us, go. But it seems that he would prefer to crush us."

If closing of emigration crushed morale, trials and sentencing crushed individuals. This was the second pointer to disaster: the second

blow. From the first month of Andropov's ascendancy, Yosef Begun, Hebrew teacher and twice already a Prisoner-of-Zion, was held in prison, incommunicado. For 11 months, the majority of Andropov's days of power, Begun was cut off from the outside world. Then, last October, he was sentenced to 13 years deprivation of liberty. Begun is now 51 years old. Under Andropov's scheme, he will be 64 at the time of his release.

Begun was not the only Jew sentenced during Andropov's term of office. In January 1983 Simon Shnirman was sentenced to three years in labour camp for the same so-called crime, draft evasion, for which he had already served two years. His daughter Yana was born a few days after her father was sent to labour camp.

In June 1983 it was the turn of a Kharkov Jew, Dr. Yuri Tarnopolsky, to be sentenced: he received three years. His "crime": to have helped organize a Jewish "university" in Kharkov, for the children of refuseniks who cannot obtain higher education. His friend, Alexander Paritzky, is already serving three years in labour camp for the same "crime."

As Tarnopolsky was held in prison, awaiting trial, his nine-year-old daughter, Irene, appealed personally to Andropov. Her reason for writing direct to the great man was the success of the American schoolgirl, Samantha Smith, in getting a reply, and an invitation to visit the Soviet Union.

Irene Tarnopolsky's appeal went unanswered. So did hundreds of telegrams from the West, on behalf of Tarnopolsky, and of a Kiev Jew, Lev Elbert, also sentenced in June, to a year in labour camp. That same summer of Andropov's rule, all 100 United States senators appealed on behalf of Yosef Begun. Their plea also went unanswered.

Only three weeks before Andropov's death, yet another Jew was imprisoned. Moshe Abramov, aged 28, was sentenced, in Samarkand, to three years in labour camp. A religious Jew, his "crime" was to have inspired other young Jews in Samarkand to some rudiments of religious practice. As Andropov is laid to rest, Abramov begins the long, hard road of a Prisoner-of-Zion.

A THIRD DISASTER under Andropov was that not one single former Prisoner-of-Zion was allowed to leave the Soviet Union. In the past, release was followed quickly by emigration. Thirteen former prisoners are refused exit visas, today.

Among those who, under Andropov, were not allowed to leave, despite having served their sentences, is Ida Nudel, who once brought comfort to so many prisoners. She is not allowed to join her sister in Israel. Nor is Vladimir Slepak allowed to join his wife's sister, also living in Israel. When Slepak, now in his 14th year of refusal asked, a month ago, when he would be allowed out, he was told: "We will let you go when it suits us."

During Andropov's 15 months, it did not "suit" the Soviet authorities to let the former prisoners go. Nor did it "suit" them to give exit visas to the hundreds of Jews who are now in their tenth or more year of refusal. That was the fourth disaster, the fourth blow.

These men and women have never been sentenced on a criminal charge. In their years of refusal, they always hoped that there would be some unspoken limit to how long the authorities would say "no."

Andropov signalled clearly, to them and to us, that he paid no attention to length of refusal. In the whole of his 15 months, only a single refusenik of ten years and more was allowed to come to Israel. That, statistically, would trap most of the others for up to 500 years.

Among these long-term refuseniks is Alexander Lerner, who celebrated his 70th birthday on the day of the signing of the Madrid declaration on human rights last September, but who is still not allowed to join his daughter Sonia in Israel.

Nor is Lev Ovshishcher, whose wife died a year ago, allowed out, after more than 12 years in refusal. He has been deprived of his officer's pension; and still this veteran of Stalingrad is kept, cruelly, in refusal.

Behind the arrests, trials,

sentences, and growing number of refusals under Andropov, has been an upsurge of anti-Zionist and anti-Semitic press articles and public cartoons. Jews who want to go to Israel are denounced as anti-Soviet, as agents of hostile forces, as tools of the American and Israeli intelligence forces. This was the fifth disaster, the fifth blow.

Since Andropov came to power, repeated newspaper stories attacked, often by name, the leaders and activists of the Jewish emigration movement. In provincial cities, like Odessa, the attacks were particularly severe.

In an odious cartoon in a Ukrainian mass-circulation magazine, a Stürmer-type Jew was seen helping the Israeli army "rebuild" Auschwitz, Majdanek and Dachau in Southern Lebanon.

ANDROPOV is now gone. The anti-Zionist committee set up last April remains. Anatoly Shcharansky is still in Chistopol prison, in his seventh year of incarceration. Begun is still at Vladimir, his appeal rejected in the last week of Andropov's life. The former prisoners are still refused their exit visas. Those in refusal remain in refusal.

As I write these words, I have in front of me a letter, received this morning from a former Prisoner-of-Zion. Six weeks ago, his daughter applied for an exit visa. On the same day of his application, she lost her job.

Andropov's successor will have many tasks. One of them is to redress the appalling record of the Andropov era in the matter of Jewish emigration.

Jews I met in Moscow called the pathetic exit figures of last year "the Andropov permissions." They could either be the new, harsh rule, or serve as a bridge, to something better.

Let us pray, and urge, that they serve only as a bridge, to the opening of the gates anew.

Martin Gilbert's new book, *The Jews of Hope: The Plight of Soviet Jewry Today*, is being published by Macmillan, London, later this month and in Hebrew by Domino, Jerusalem, early in March.

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NEWSBRIEFS Continued from page 2

Under the new October 1983 law, **VALERY SENDEROV** has been given an additional five years in labor camp. Senderov documented Soviet anti-Semitism in University entrance exams and insisted on signing his report so that the Soviet government would not call the report a "fabrication by the Zionists". Senderov is a practicing Russian Orthodox Christian, and like Ivan Martynov, was put under extreme pressure to repudiate his Jewish friends. SEND POSTCARDS TO: V.A. Senderov, 618810 Permskaya Oblast, Chusovsky Rayon, Station Sekhsvyatskaya, Uchrezhdenie VS-389/35, USSR.

YURI TARNOPOLSKY has been on a hunger strike since February 10, in protest of his being denied visits by his family. Yuri has failed to complete his quota at work; the work is too difficult for him and Yuri is ill. His wife **OLGA** appealed to officials in January to assign him more suitable work to his health condition. SEND LETTERS PROTESTING HARSH WORKING CONDITIONS TO: Director of the camp, 672022 Chita, P/A YA G 14/6, 5th group, USSR. SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO Yuri at the address above. Also SEND LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO Olga at: USSR, Ukrainian SSR. Kharkov per. Krasnoznamenny No. 2, Apt. 17.

Our Other Patients Behind The Red Curtain



by Joel S. Sandberg, M.D.

Our other patients behind the red curtain are different. We never see them. They often don't know what we are doing for them. We often don't know if what we are doing is helping. These patients need a different kind of doctor. They need someone to speak out, as a physician against torture and injustice, and not rest until such practices cease.

This year is the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Medical Mobilization for Soviet Jewry. Paul Appelbaum, M.D., then a Harvard medical student, was the guiding force in organizing "Medical Mobe" to help our other patients behind the red curtain. Around the country similar groups of health professionals concerned with the situation in the Soviet Union came together to discover what they, as members of the helping professions, could do to help.

Approaching the problem from the perspective of their profession, "Medical

Mobe" has worked on six specific medical issues: (1) health conditions in Soviet labor camps; (2) Soviet incarceration of political prisoners in psychiatric hospitals; (3) refuseniks (people refused permission to emigrate) in need of medical care; (4) the cases of doctors refused permission to emigrate and not allowed to practice medicine; (5) Soviet-American medical and scientific exchange, and (6) physicians traveling to the Soviet Union.

Who can better protest the abysmal health conditions in Soviet labor camps than a physician who daily treats the diseases that are ignored there? Anatoly Shcharansky, a leader of the Soviet Jewry emigration movement, has completed only half of his 13-year sentence of strict regime in Soviet prisons. He is suffering from severe headaches, weight loss, and blurred vision. I, along with other ophthalmologists around the country, wrote to the Soviet Minister of Health, the prison commandant, and Soviet political leaders. We suggested that Shcharansky might be suf-

fering from a nutritional deficiency optic nerve disease and offered to go to the Soviet Union to examine him. It was no surprise that the Soviets did not reply. Our goal was to direct public attention to the deplorable conditions in Soviet labor camps in general and focus on Shcharansky's plight in particular. We wanted to show Soviet authorities that American physicians know and care.

Who is more outraged than the psychiatrist whose profession is degraded when the Soviets use psychiatric hospitals as prisons for political dissidents? Cruel and inhuman treatments, including doses of powerful and painful drugs, are often administered to these political prisoners.

Semyon Gluzman, a Soviet psychiatrist, was imprisoned in 1972 for 10 years: seven years of hard labor and three years of Siberian exile. His crime was his refusal to serve as a psychiatrist in the Dnepropet-

ABOVE: Soviet "Refusenik" Radiologist Maria Slepak and her husband, Vladimir

Guest Columnist Soviet Jewry under Chernenko

by Dr. Shlomo Lambroza

The Soviet political machine has matured considerably since the October 1964 coup that placed Leonid Brezhnev in power. No longer does the ascendancy of a new political leader mean the discrediting of the previous regime nor even a significant change in party policies. The power structure of the Soviet Union was little affected by the short-lived tenure of Yuri Andropov. Andropov was a leader in transition as is his successor, Konstantin Chernenko. It is unlikely that under Chernenko the Soviet Union will undergo any significant change in foreign policy, internal economic development or human rights. The Soviet program has been set since December 1979; a program that bodes poorly for Soviet Jewry.

Since 1979, there has been a radical decline in emigration of Soviet Jews. The numbers are dramatic and point to a definitive crisis. In 1979, 51,320 Jews emigrated from the Soviet Union, in 1980 nearly half that number 21,471 were granted exit visas. The pattern of decline continued in the years 1981 through 1983. Each year the number of visas granted was virtually cut in half. In 1982, 2,688 Jews emigrated and in 1983, Jewish emigration totaled only 1,315 (more than 50% lower than the previous year). These numbers indicate that since 1979 Jewish emigration has been reduced by a startling 98%. The number of Jews who emigrated in 1983 is the lowest annual emigration since 1965. The nature of the crisis is clear. If this downward trend is any indication of long-term policy and should emigration proceed at this same pace, there will be virtually no further Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union by 1987.

Restrictive measures toward emigration have gone beyond merely limiting the number of exit visas. The basic principles that guide Soviet emigration policies are those of "repatriation" to a homeland and "reunification" of families. During the summer of 1979, OVIR (the Soviet agency that handles emigration) began a study to more narrowly define "reunification". OVIR officials questioned the nature of the familial relationship between Soviet Jews

who sought to emigrate and family members in Israel. OVIR, in 1979 began refusing exit visas on the grounds of insufficient family ties. Relatives in Israel who sent *vyzovs* (affidavits requesting reunification) had to be judged as "first degree" relatives in order for Soviet family members to qualify for exit visas. The issue of establishing substantive family ties or "first-degree" family ties was first introduced in the Ukrainian cities of Odessa and Kiev and has since spread to most other *oblasts*. The new restrictions were designed to reduce the flow of emigration. They created a new class of Soviet Jews who are neither given the right to emigrate nor are they refuseniks. Unable to produce *vyzovs* from "first-degree" relatives potential emigrants are barred from even submitting application for visas. *Vyzovs* holders in the Soviet Union currently number 381,700.

Those who hold *vyzovs* find themselves in a precarious position. By requesting affidavits from relatives abroad they have made their desire to emigrate known to Soviet officialdom. Those requesting and receiving *vyzovs* are considered "unreliable elements". The classification "unreliable element" makes *vyzovs* holders openly subject to a wide variety of discriminatory measures. In a sense they have become refuseniks without ever having been refused.

The plight of the refuseniks is tragic. Most suffer severe discrimination. Because many have lost their jobs and are unable to obtain gainful employment they are branded as "parasites". The case of the refuseniks underscores the increasingly restrictive policies being carried out by the U.S.S.R. In 1980, refuseniks numbered 4,741, by 1981 the number had risen to 7,040 and by 1982 it reached 8,075. The number of refuseniks has more than doubled in the three year period 1979-82.

Concurrent with the rise in refuseniks is a decline in the number of visas granted to long standing refuseniks. There are over 300 individuals who have now waited over 5 years for exit visas, 70 of these people have waited more than 10 years. Given the current trends in

Soviet policy it seems particularly unlikely that these individuals will be allowed to leave in the near future.

It should be pointed out that Soviet Jews are not the only victims of restrictive Soviet emigration policies. It has been a fundamental tenet of the Soviet Union to actively discourage any type of emigration; whether to communist or to non-communist nations. The decline in Jewish emigration goes hand in hand with the decline in Armenian and German emigration. As of May 1981 Soviet Armenians and Volga Germans have been subject to a radical cut in the number of exit visas. By 1981 the Soviets had reduced the number of Armenians and Germans allowed to emigrate by nearly 50%.

Paralleling the development of restrictive emigration measures is the growing anti-semitic campaign in the guise of the Anti-Zionist Committee of the Soviet Public. The Committee was founded in April 1983 in response to the successful World Conference on Soviet Jewry held in Jerusalem the previous month (March of 1983). The establishment of the Anti-Zionist Committee is a move by authorities to abrogate the right of repatriation to Israel. The Anti-Zionist Committee claims that repatriation has been completed and that remaining Soviet Jews do not wish to emigrate. Although more than 300,000 Jews hold *vyzovs* the Anti-Zionist Committee claims that this figure is "a juggling of figures by Zionist propaganda."

On the issue of family reunification the Anti-Zionist Committee re-emphasized the narrowly defined "first-degree" rule and went on to state that family reunification had already "essentially been completed." The particularly pernicious element of the Anti-Zionist Committee is that its membership includes a large number of Soviet Jews. This is not unprecedented in Soviet policy. Manning the Committee with Soviet Jews reflects an effort to legitimize the pronouncements of the Committee as well as to deflect Western critics of Soviet emigration policy.

The Anti-Zionist Committee has carried its argument to the Soviet people through articles in the press. In an April 19th and 20th issue of

State Dept. on Chernenko: Prospects for Soviet Jewry *(Continued from page 1)*

Q: Was Vice President Bush briefed on the Country Reports prior to his departure to the Soviet Union to attend Andropov's funeral?

A: Although the White House received an advance copy of the Reports, Bush wasn't briefed, to my knowledge, since he left so abruptly. However, the Soviet government is very aware of the U.S. position on the issue of human rights and Soviet Jewry. At the recent meeting between Secretary of State Shultz and Foreign Minister Gromyko, the issue was discussed. Gromyko made no acknowledgement, there was absolutely no receptivity. It was the toughest meeting in my recollection.

Q: How do the Country Reports affect policy? Who does it reach? Is it injected into foreign policy?

"It draws a picture of growing anti-Semitism as an official policy."

A: On human rights in the Soviet Union, there is no dispute (unlike in El Salvador and the Philippines. . .). It does have an effect on foreign policy because the Report is used as a resource for Congress, NGO's (non-government organizations), and especially overseas governments and organizations. It is helpful because it makes clear the increase in anti-Semitism on the part of the Soviet government, and clearly shows there has been a change. It draws a picture of growing anti-Semitism as an official policy. The concluding sentence of the Country Report reads, "The overall atmosphere of anti-Semitism in 1983 was as bad as it has been at any time in the past several decades".

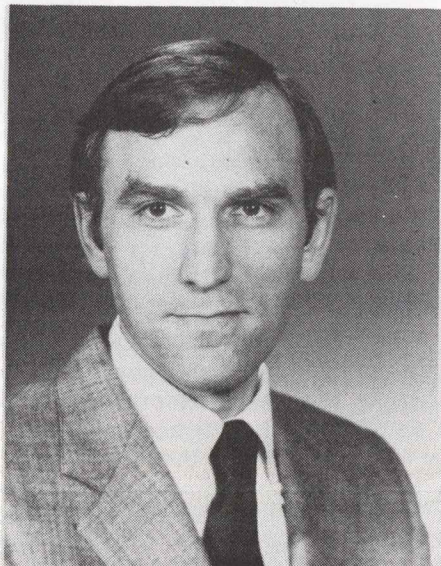
Q: Would you consider anti-Semitism as a high-level, official policy of the Soviet government?

A: It is hard to believe it is not high level when all the pieces fit together: the rate of emigration, anti-Semitism, media attacks. The two articles from the *Leningradskaya Pravda* must be officially sanctioned at the highest levels.

Q: Does this also apply to their emigration policy?

A: The Soviets understand that this (emigration) is an important policy in terms of bilateral relations with the U.S. as well as with Germany. Gromyko has a large role in this. The very character of the Soviet leadership shows an attention to the details very unlike our own leadership. Thus one can assume these decisions are at least considered by high levels of the government.

Q: With 1984 being an election year, do you think we will see any changes in Soviet human rights performance?



Assistant Secretary for Human Rights, Elliot Abrams.

Helsinki Commission Members Nominate Four Human Rights Activists for 1984 Nobel Peace Prize

Congressional members of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCS) on January 31 nominated four imprisoned Soviet human rights activists including Yuri Orlov and Anatoly Shcharansky of the Moscow Helsinki Group.

In their letter of nomination, the Commissioners noted that the nominees have been sentenced to prison by the government of the Soviet Union merely for peacefully and publicly advocating the human rights principles of the 1975 Helsinki Final Act.

The nominations were signed by Representatives Dante Fascell (D-FL); Sidney Yates (D-IL); Timothy Wirth (D-CO); Edward Markey (D-MA); Don Ritter (R-PA); and Christopher Smith (R-NJ) and Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT); John Heinz (R-PA); Claiborne Pell (D-RI) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT).

A: I doubt there will be any great gestures in an election year when they would love to get rid of Reagan and would not want to do anything that would make him look good. They might be willing to make symbolic gestures to ease the chilled atmosphere. . .

Q: Like releasing Shcharansky?

A: Shcharansky is important to them because it shows the dissident movement that 'there has never been an international campaign like the one for Shcharansky and we're not letting him out. . .'. If they do let Shcharansky out, it will present a political problem because people (including the democratic presidential candidates) will inevitably seize on this to say, 'See, they are making a gesture and we are not responding', while meanwhile the doors to emigration remain shut. It would be the responsibility of the American Jewish community to temper this and put it into perspective.

Q: Will Soviet Jewry remain an issue on the agenda of U.S.-Soviet relations?

"Soviet Jewry is almost built into our relationship; it has become institutionalized."

A: It is a high priority item on the agenda of our bilateral relations and will remain so as long as the American Jewish community remains vigilant. Soviet Jewry is almost built into our relationship; it has become institutionalized. But there are a lot of people who would love to eliminate it as an issue, but will be unable to do so as long as we don't let them!

rovsk Special Psychiatric Hospital, a facility of the Ministry of Internal Affairs said to be used for the psychiatric imprisonment of dissidents. While in prison, Gluzman co-authored with Vladimir Bukovsky a "Manual on Psychiatry for Dissenters" which advised dissidents how to avoid diagnosis of mental illness during interrogation.

Alexander Podrabinek, a young medical assistant working in a Moscow ambulance service, witnessed political dissenters forced into psychiatric hospitals and interviewed victims and their doctors. He detailed these experiences in 1977 in his book entitled, "Punitive Medicine." He was convicted of anti-Soviet slander and sentenced to five years Siberian exile.

"Medical Mobe" has worked extensively to publicize Soviet psychiatric abuses as well as the cases of the incredibly brave Semyon Gluzman and Alexander Podrabinek. Editorials in medical journals, such as the *New England Journal of Medicine* and numerous county, state, national and international medical and psychiatric societies, as well as the National Academy of Sciences, have denounced these Soviet practices. In 1983, the World Psychiatric Association (WPA) adopted a motion condemning abuse in the USSR. In February 1983, five months before the WPA was to consider expulsion or suspension of the Russians from the Association, the Soviets withdrew from the WPA.

Who could be a more effective advocate than a physician for a refusenik with a serious illness who might benefit from medical care in the West, or who simply wants to be reunited with his family in Israel?

Ilya Vaisblit, a 65-year-old former electronics engineer in Moscow, has had multiple sclerosis since 1966 and is an invalid. For ten years, he has been refused permission to emigrate to Israel to be reunited with his son on the pretext that he possesses state secrets from work. However, he has not worked since 1973 because he is completely disabled. "Medical Mobe" works on cases such as Vaisblit's by publicizing their plight and offering help and medical care. We appeal to international organizations such as the Red Cross to intervene with Soviet authorities to release ill refuseniks on humanitarian grounds.

Similarly, who could sympathize more than a physician with a Soviet colleague who has been refused permission to emigrate, is no longer allowed to practice medicine and is harassed by Soviet authorities? "Medical Mobe" received this appeal from Dr. Lev Goldfarb, a Moscow virologist:

"After applying for emigration, I was forbidden to publish or take part in professional conferences. Three years later I was fired. My wife, Inna, was fired from the same institute. We received a refusal for emigration on grounds of a lack of reason for emigration. The situation is terrible. We have been kicked out of society. Most of our letters are not delivered. Our two children have no future. Please ask your government to make arrangements with the Soviet government to release me and my family."

Dr. Inna Elbert, a refusenik cardiologist in Kiev went on her second hunger strike in September 1983 to protest the treatment of her imprisoned husband, Lev. A 34-year-old engineer, Lev was arrested because he was a leading activist and Hebrew teacher. Moscow radiologist Maria Slepak, wife of leading activist and former Prisoner of Conscience Vladimir Slepak, has been refused an emigration visa for over 10 years.

Goldfarb, Elbert and Slepak are but a few of a long list of refusenik physicians "Medical Mobe" is trying to help. Physicians write letters of support and send medical journals to their Soviet colleagues. Protest letters are sent to Soviet authorities on their behalf. United States government officials are contacted to appeal to the Soviet government to allow these people to emigrate. Invitations are sent for refuseniks to lecture on their specialty at American institutions.

Soviet-American medical and scientific meetings or exchange programs are excellent occasions for bringing up the general medical issues previously discussed and specific cases of refusenik physicians. It has been effective for American physicians attending meetings in Russia to make the point that Soviet human rights violations are a deterrent to improved Soviet-American relations and scientific exchange.

When Soviet physicians visit American medical institutions, their American hosts can quietly give them the name of a Soviet refusenik physician and ask them to use their influence to help. Several years ago, the head of a provincial Communist party brought his son to the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute for specialized eye surgery after trauma. Afterwards I wrote to this official asking his aid in obtaining an exit visa for a Soviet refusenik ophthalmologist in Novosibirsk.

Physicians travelling to the Soviet Union can be of invaluable assistance. Many of the physicians who work in the "Medical Mobe" were "turned on" to the cause by their meetings in Russia with the refuseniks. When my wife and I visited the Soviet Union in 1975 our suitcases were loaded with books, journals, vitamins, foods and medicines for the prisoners, and medicines for refuseniks unobtainable in the USSR. Our nightly meetings with refuseniks in Moscow, Kharkov and Kishinev were the highlight of our trip—an experience never to be forgotten.

Physicians travelling to the Soviet Union can meet people like Lev Goldfarb, Inna Elbert, and Semyon Gluzman. They can examine people like Ilya Vaisblit and give their medical expertise to these most deserving people. They can bring out messages and requests for assistance. "Medical Mobe" briefs physicians going to the USSR and explains how they can help.

The doctors working with "Medical Mobe" are no less busy than other doctors. They aren't looking for something to do. They become involved and find this work gratifying in a much different way than their daily practice. Although these faraway cases are often filled with uncertainty, it is another way for physicians to relieve suffering.

Four years after our trip to the Soviet Union, we visited all of the families we had seen in Moscow, Kharkov and Kishinev as well as the ophthalmologist from Novosibirsk, in Israel. We were thrilled to see them living in freedom.

The people for whom we are working —our other patients behind the red curtain—are fighting with their lives for human rights and dignity in an historic emigration movement. We physicians are fortunate to be able to play a part in their struggle. If you want to become involved in the Medical Mobilization for Soviet Jewry please call 576-4000, or write to: "Medical Mobe," South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry, 4200 Biscayne Boulevard, Miami, FL 33137. □

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Continued from page 7

Leningradskaya Pravda appeared an article that accused private Hebrew teaching circles of being "subversive". The statement was the first formal pronouncement that directly stated that these practices were illegal. Jewish study groups were branded as Zionist propagandists and the teaching of the Talmud and Torah were characterized as culturally vacuous. The article went on to state that not only was Jewish heritage and tradition devoid of culture but also "exclusively political." The policy of discouraging the teaching of Jewish culture was carried one step further when Iosef Begun, a mathematician was sentenced to 7 years in a labor camp and 5 years internal exile for teaching Hebrew. His crime as defined by the Soviet judicial system was "... following instructions of foreign Zionist centers ... directed at causing a disintegration of the Soviet regime." Iosef Begun has been trying to emigrate from the Soviet Union for nearly thirteen years.

The pattern has been established since the beginning of 1980. The Soviets are not only taking a more restrictive attitude toward emigration, nor are they merely attempting to harass the Soviet Jewish community. The issues for the Soviet decision makers are much broader. As of December 1979 there has been a definitive campaign to eradicate all forms of dissent, Jewish or otherwise. It began with the arrest and exile of Sakharov in January 1980. In 1981 all the members of the Working Commission against the Use of Psychiatry for Political Purposes were arrested or exiled, the same is true of the Helsinki Watch Group. In April and May of 1980 the KGB averaged 5 to 10 arrests of dissidents weekly; including Christians, Jews, representatives of national minorities and activists who campaigned on behalf of workers' rights and political prisoners. The Soviet Union is tightening its grip. Robert Gillette writing in an August 1982 *Los Angeles Times* Article stated: "... the KGB is warning dissidents it once ignored and arresting those it once merely warned, now that virtually all the major human rights activists are in prison, labor camps or internal exile."

Given the arcane nature of Soviet decision making we can only speculate as to why they have chosen to

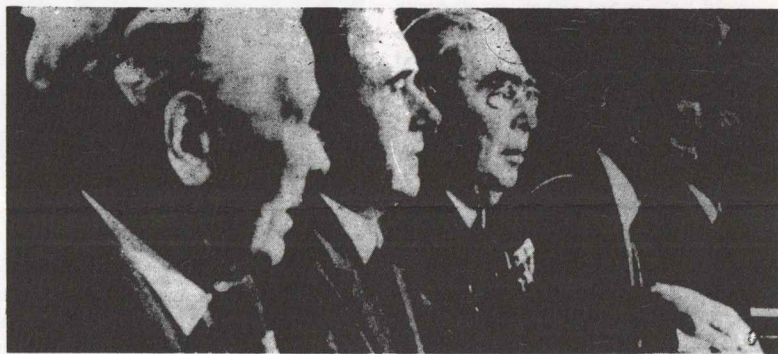
pursue policies of restrictive emigration and active discrimination. Two possible issues that suggest themselves are the crisis in Poland and the disintegration of U.S.-Soviet relations. Poland was an ominous sign for the Soviets. It was the first time since the invasion of Czechoslovakia that Soviet domination in an Eastern Bloc nation was so openly challenged. Joshua Rubinstein, regional director of Amnesty International has very acutely pointed out: "The rise of Solidarity in Poland no doubt was a lesson to the Kremlin in how far dissent could go in the Soviet Union itself if it were not thoroughly suppressed." The activities in Gdansk and world recognition of Solidarity were a grave embarrassment to the Brezhnev regime: an embarrassment that the new leader of the Soviet Union, Konstantin Chernenko, will long remember.

Compounding the problems in Poland is the deterioration of U.S.-Soviet relations. Prior to 1979 U.S.-Soviet relations had been generally cordial, since 1979 they have been just short of belligerent. Relationships between the U.S. and the Soviets are at the lowest point in twenty years. Diplomatic relations began to worsen shortly after the invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. Since then there has been the KAL

incident, the deployment of American missiles in Western Europe, U.S.-Soviet involvement in Lebanon, the Soviet walk-out on arms negotiations and at least a dozen other diplomatic confrontations between the two powers. There is no possible solution to human rights issues unless the belligerent postures of both nations are put aside in favor of negotiations. U.S.-Soviet negotiations are so poisoned by diplomatic confrontation that the Kremlin has little to lose by handling dissent and emigration in a draconian manner.

Unless relations between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. improve there is little hope that Chernenko and the Politburo will change the policies established by Leonid Brezhnev in 1980. If one seeks to ameliorate the condition of Jews, or Armenians, Christians or dissidents in the Soviet Union, the Reagan administration must propose more than empty promises, it must become committed to establishing open and meaningful negotiations with the Soviets.

Dr. Shlomo Lambroza is an assistant professor at Georgetown University's Russian Area Studies program. Dr. Lambroza has twice received research/travel grants in the Soviet Union and has published several articles on Soviet Jewry.



ALWAYS NEAR THE TOP — Konstantin Chernenko, who lost a power struggle 15 months ago to Yuri Andropov, was elected to succeed his former rival as Soviet leader. In this June, 1979, photo, Chernenko (left), Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko (center) and then President Leonid Brezhnev attend Salt II treaty talks with the U.S.



TIME FOR A BIER — Leaders of the Communist Party and the Soviet state carry the coffin with the body of Yuri Andropov towards the Kremlin wall in the Red Square. Center is General Secretary of the CPSU CC Konstantin Chernenko, behind him Nikolai Tikhonov, Dmitri Ustinov (military cap), Andrei Gromyko.

New Soviet Leadership: Will It Affect Soviet Jewry?

METRO

EDITOR: JAMES P. DELANEY, 369-1003

THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1984

Emigrants Fear Unstable Times In Soviet Union

BY KATHLEEN McCLAIN
Enquirer Reporter

Soviet emigrants who have found freedom in Cincinnati greeted news of the death of Yuri Andropov with a mixture of hope and fear.

Word spread quickly through the small community of families—many of them Jewish—who left the Soviet Union for the opportunity to live and worship as they please.

The news is that a change of leadership is taking place in the Kremlin.

how Andropov's death will affect Jewish emigration, but I doubt that it is on the top of (the Soviet government's) priority list."

The steady decline in emigration has been accompanied by tougher measures to discourage Jews from applying for visas or maintaining contact with relatives in the West, Mrs. Spinner said. "The Russian-language newspaper in New York is reporting a new law that would leave Soviet citizens."

JTA February 15, 1984

SPECIAL ANALYSIS
THE KREMLIN TRANSITION:
WILL IT AFFECT SOVIET JEWRY?
By Dr. William Korey

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA) — The death of Yuri Andropov and the accession of Konstantin Chernenko as the top leader of the Soviet Communist Party is unlikely to bring any basic change for the immediate future in policy toward the Soviet Jewish community.

Like Brezhnev, too, the new General Secretary will have to denounce a "human rights" work, to denounce a "liberalistic aberration."

Metro The Cincinnati Post
Saturday, February 11, 1984

EDITORIAL

WASHINGTON JEWISH WEEK • 18 • FEBRUARY 23, 1984

WHOLE NEW BALL GAME

The new man in the Kremlin is a cypher than his fellow Politburo members. He served his old friend Brezhnev devotedly. He sat through dinners and stood through receptions in silence. He endured Yuri Andropov's as though they had never been rivals. Now, at 72, Konstantin Chernenko has a chance to make a difference.

His mentor, Brezhnev, pursued detente, and went forth on dissent, bargaining relentlessly and zestfully. Andropov, of a sterner consistency, signal of good will. Chernenko's convictions remain a mystery.

By Janet Walsh
Post Staff Reporter

Their friends in Moscow had no love for Yuri Andropov. But now that he is dead, the Russians are fearful and uncertain. For no matter how bad life may be under the next Soviet leader, it will be better than the next, believe Vladimir and Tanya Gartshtein of Finneytown, who emigrated from the Soviet Union to Cincinnati 2 1/2 years ago.

"I can imagine now people feel fear. What will happen? Nobody knows," said Mrs. Gartshtein. "In such a moment, people can only fear."

stay alive, because, it could happen worse—it happened. We got Andropov. So the same now, stay alive, because, it could happen worse—it happened. We got Andropov. So the same now,

Shamir pleads to Chernenko
Prime Minister Shamir last week, on two occasions, urged Russia's new leader, Konstantin Chernenko, to re-examine Soviet policy towards the Middle East and Soviet Jewry. Shamir urged the Kremlin to show "greater understanding" for Israel's national Jewish appeal.

Open Letter to First Secretary Konstantin Chernenko

WHEREAS you are a protege of Leonid Brezhnev, who participated as a signator to the Helsinki Final Act providing for a declaration of human rights including the reunification of families under repatriation;

WHEREAS the Soviet Constitution formally provides for internationally recognized human rights and guarantees the right to education, medical care and work;

YET, Soviet Jews are continually harassed, threatened with their jobs and lives, imprisoned simply for observing their religious heritage, denied equal access to centers of higher learning, and are unable to obtain adequate medical care;

WHEREAS more than 400,000 Soviet Jews wish to emigrate to their homeland Israel in order to leave the harassment and repression they suffer living in the Soviet Union;

WHEREAS you have written that 'to work patiently so as to create a *climate of trust and accord on earth* is what my country is calling on other nations to do';

MR. CHERNENKO, if your foreign policy 'attaches top priority to safeguarding and strengthening peace', listen to your own country's Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov who asserted to the world community that unless people have the freedom and dignity of human rights, the basis is laid for war;

MR. CHERNENKO, we appeal to you, in your new position as First Secretary General, to comply with the international standards for human rights and permit the release of Prisoner of Conscience Anatoly Shcharansky, stem the wave of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, and re-open the gates of emigration as a move for building a *climate of trust and accord on earth*.



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
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The **Alert** is published by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, an organization dedicated to helping the Jews of the Soviet Union, especially those desiring to leave.

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