



# UCSJ QUARTERLY REPORT

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews • 1819 H Street, NW, Suite 410 • Washington, D.C. 20006 • (202) 393-4117

Circulation 65,000

SEPTEMBER 1986



Anatoly Scharansky speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations. (l. to r.) Morey Schapira, President of the UCSJ; Anatoly; Ken Balkin, Chairman, Conference of Presidents; the late Yehuda Hellman, formerly Executive Vice Chair, Conference of Presidents.

## UCSJ JOINS THE CONFERENCE OF PRESIDENTS OF MAJOR AMERICAN JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS

Morey Schapira, National President of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, announced that the UCSJ has joined the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

"I am very pleased and honored to be able to make this announcement," stated Schapira. "As one of the largest membership organizations (more than 55,000) in the American Jewish community, it is fitting that the UCSJ is assuming its full responsibilities in the Conference of Presidents."

Schapira continued, "Our joining the Conference at this critical time in the history of Soviet Jewry, with emigration at an all-time low, will help keep the concerns of Soviet Jews high on the agenda of the American Jewish community. It is now more important than ever before that the American Jewish community speak

in the strongest possible voice on behalf of Soviet Jews.

"I look forward to working with the Conference of Presidents in expressing the consensus of the American Jewish community on the issues affecting the security and dignity of our fellow Jews here and abroad, as well as issues concerning Jewish life in America."

Mr. Schapira expressed thanks to the Chairman of the Conference of Presidents, Kenneth Balkin, and cited especially the late executive director of the Conference, Yehuda Hellman, for the warm reception extended to the UCSJ and its members. The Conference of Presidents is composed of 40 national religious and secular Jewish bodies, representing the voice of the Jewish community in the U.S. \*

## SOVIET JEWRY ORGANIZATIONS UNITE IN SUPPORT OF JACKSON-VANIK AMENDMENT

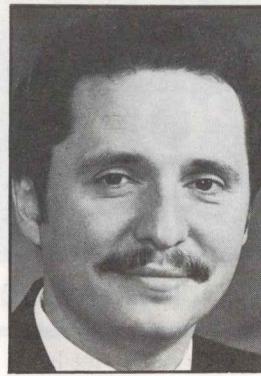
The major Soviet Jewry organizations across the country joined together under the banner of the Conference of Presidents and issued a strongly worded statement supporting the continuation of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. The statement further underscored the group's opposition to proposals for changes in the terms of the amendment until such time as the Soviets relax restrictions on emigration. The UCSJ played a leading role in helping to draft this key document.

In the statement, released on May 30, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, along with the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the Center for Russian Jewry, the Coalition to Free Soviet Jews, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and the World Jewish Congress, made the public announcement on the single most important piece of U.S. legislation affecting Soviet Jews.

The Freedom of Emigration Amendment to the Trade Reform Act of 1974, known as the Jackson-Vanik amendment, reflects the United States' commitment to the fundamental principle of free emigration, a principle on which American society was built. While it denies favorable trade status and credits to the Soviet Union if emigration is restricted, the amendment provides that its restrictions may be waived, on a year-by-year basis, if the President and Congress find there is a significant change in these restrictive policies.

The joint statement is a message of dire concern, pointing out that as emigration diminishes, persecution of religious and cultural activists increases. Despite

(Turn to JACKSON-VANIK, page 8)



## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Soviet Jews Can't Afford to Wait Until Summit II.

I would like to reflect for a moment about the events of the past year. For in order to plan our future activities, we must learn the lessons from the past.

This past year we have witnessed a great deal of activities that affected Soviet Jews. It all started with the Reagan Gorbachev Summit, followed by a number of agreements signed between the U.S. and the USSR. Trade delegations began arriving, soon followed by cultural delegations and then "peace" delegations from the USSR. The rumor mills buzzed. Israel was supposed to resume relations with the USSR, according to *Time* and *Newsweek*, and soon planeloads of Soviet Jews would start landing in Israel. Gorbachev was a liberal reformer and his pretty wife, who wore clothes by Gucci and Pucci, was very modern. The new era of detente was starting and this would bode well for Soviet Jews. Or so the pundits predicted, right? They were wrong.

Well, it's now a year later and the dust (radioactive, at that) has settled. As far as Soviet Jews were concerned, it was much ado about nothing! There was not a single notable improvement that impacted positively on Soviet Jews. The emigration figures are at an all-time low. The number of Jewish Prisoners of Conscience (POC's) is near an all-time high. The war against the Hebrew teachers continues. In sum, the situation is worse, yet public perception does not match the hard reality. This is due in part to a well-orchestrated disinformation campaign by the KGB, reinforced by the loss of a sense of urgency in the American Jewish Community.

There are plans for a Summit II to be held in the U.S. late this year, but as of now, no date has been fixed. **SOVIET JEWS CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT UNTIL SUMMIT II.** There are many things that you can do that will make a difference between now and the end of the year. Soviet Jews are depending on us!

1. Write to President Reagan and urge him to negotiate the release of Jewish POC's and Refuseniks at the Summit. President Ronald Reagan, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500.
2. Write to the candidates in your district/state who are running for the U.S. House/Senate. Ask both the incumbent and the challenger what their positions are on our critical issue. Ask that the UCSJ policy paper on Soviet Jewish emigration be used as a basis of their policy in the issue. Send them a copy of this Quarterly Report. Urge that any future trade or cultural exchanges must be preceded by progress on behalf of Soviet Jews.

3. Plan on attending our "reception" for Mr. Gorbachev, if and when he arrives in Washington this year. We don't know the date, the time or the place, but you can be sure that we'll be there when he arrives. I hope you'll be there with us.
4. Write a letter to the new Soviet Ambassador in Washington telling him that the Soviet refusal to live up to its obligations in allowing its Jewish citizens to emigrate per the Helsinki Accords is damaging U.S.-Soviet relations. Write to Ambassador Yuri Dubinin, Soviet Embassy, One Andrei Sakharov Plaza, Washington, DC 20036.
5. Read Professor Martin Gilbert's new book, *Scharansky: A Hero of Our Time*, 1986, Viking Press; an excellent book about a great man. Read *The Abandonment of the Jews*, by Professor David Wyman, 1984, Pantheon Books; one of the most important books written in the past forty years.
6. Adopt a Refusenik. Your letter writing gives hope to our embattled people.
7. Adopt a Prisoner. Our POC's desperately need your letters. Western support is essential in preventing further brutality against them.
8. Don't get discouraged. Be persistent. Keep the faith. The release of individuals like Scharansky, Gorodetsky and the Goldshtains proves once again that your efforts can make the difference. Together we will do it.

If you have any questions about any of the above listed items, please contact our office.

See you in Washington!

Shalom,  
*Morey Schapira*

Morey Schapira



President Reagan greeting Anatoly Scharansky during Scharansky's visit to the U.S. last May.

## GORODETSKY IS FREE!

The years of faith and seemingly endless waiting have paid off for Yakov Gorodetsky and his family, who were allowed to leave the Soviet Union on February 2.

Gorodetsky, harassed by the KGB for studying Jewish history, first applied for an exit visa in 1983.

In November 1983, he was adopted by Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry. Chicago Action's adoption project included sending letters of appeal to Soviet officials and telegrams to Gorodetsky. Pam Cohen, Co-director of Chicago Action and UCSJ Vice President, kept in close contact with him. When she met Gorodetsky in Israel shortly after his arrival, he told her, "You are my best friend."



Pam Cohen, UCSJ Vice President and Co-chair of Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry, greeting long-time friend, Yakov Gorodetsky, upon his arrival in Israel.

The UCSJ also sponsored many campaigns on his behalf. Last year, for example, the Soviet military threatened to call Gorodetsky for military service. To serve would have meant that any future requests to emigrate would have been denied; to resist would have led to imprisonment. In response, UCSJ members sent thousands of postcards to the Soviet military attaché and the Soviet Defense Minister. UCSJ members have also sent birthday greetings to Gorodetsky, assuring him that he has friends in the West.

According to Gorodetsky, these efforts did not go unnoticed and may have played a major role in his release. "Maybe I'm here and wasn't put in prison because of the things done," Gorodetsky said. "It is a miracle that I wasn't imprisoned. Every time I was in danger, my friends sent telegrams to me and to the authorities in the Soviet Union. It was very, very important."

Allowed to emigrate with Gorodetsky were his wife, Polina, his four-year-old daughter, Esther, and his mother-in-law.

But the Soviets would not let Gorodetsky leave without a final harassment. Two KGB officers instructed him "not to forget" that his parents were not allowed to leave as they escorted him to the airport.

Gorodetsky has taken an activist role in the United States, traveling around the country with the message that the U.S. and Israeli governments must pressure the Soviet Union for open emigration. In an April 15 letter to Shimon Peres, Prime Minister of Israel, Gorodetsky and other activists wrote, "As we learned from Jewish history, the distance from closed doors and cultural genocide to mass murder is just one short step." \*

## THE GOLDSHTEINS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL

Avi Goldshtain, who has been a Refusenik all his life, will celebrate his upcoming bar mitzvah at the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Avi and his mother, Elizabeth Bykova; father, Isai Goldshtain; uncle, Grigory Goldshtain; grandmother and aunt came to Israel in May after waiting nearly fifteen years for permission to leave the Soviet Union.

Avi visited the U.S. in June and met several children who had "twinned" with him for their bar/bat mitzvahs at a party organized by the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry. His delight at being among Jewish children, rather than an outcast who was beaten and labeled a "traitor" by schoolmates in the USSR, was infectious. Lynn Singer, Executive Director of the Long Island Committee and Chairperson of the UCSJ advisory board, said "there wasn't a dry eye in the house."

While in the U.S., the Goldshtains visited Washington, Phoenix, New York and other cities.



Isai and Grigory Goldshtain during their recent visit to the U.S.

Isai and Grigory Goldshtain, both physicists from Tblisi, were longtime activists in the Soviet Jewry movement. As a result, they were dismissed from their jobs, their phones were disconnected, their apartments were searched, mail was confiscated and the KGB harassed and interrogated them regularly. Grigory served a one-year sentence in a labor camp in the Arctic Circle for "parasitism."

The Goldshtain brothers founded the Phantom Orchestra, a group of Refuseniks and other non-Jewish activists, organized to speak to the world of human rights abuses in the USSR through the international language of music. The group has been forced to disband due to constant harassment by the KGB.

The Goldshtains prefer that all attention be shifted from them to those who remain in the Soviet Union. Their trip to the U.S. included meetings with several U.S. officials to discuss the plight of Refuseniks.



The welfare of the Goldshtains' good friend Ida Nudel is their special concern. Ida, a longtime Refusenik and former Prisoner of Conscience, is gravely ill. The UCSJ will be intensifying efforts for her release. \*



At the gates of the Soviet Embassy, with flowers for POC Nadezhda Fradkova are Congressional spouses (l. to r.) Kathryn Porter, Annette Lantos and Jane Gephardt; wives of Rep. John Porter (R-JL), Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) and Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO).

## SOVIETS SAY "NYET" TO FLOWERS

Several Congressional wives, carrying vibrant bouquets of spring flowers, were told "nyet" by Soviet officials at the Embassy in Washington to their request to deliver flowers on behalf of women Refuseniks in the Soviet Union. A companion event at the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco was sponsored by the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews.

The flowers sent to the embassy were donated by member councils and friends of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. They were being given in celebration of International Women's Day. It is tradition in the Soviet Union to give flowers as a sign of love and friendship. The wives were attempting to deliver the flowers on behalf of Nadezhda Fradkova, a POC serving a two-year sentence in a labor camp, and Ida Nudel, a former POC, currently living in isolation in Bendersky.

Pam Cohen, UCSJ Vice President, stated, "It is essential that we lend our support to women POCs, wives of POCs and women Refuseniks. Some are in the untenable position of being targeted because they have no family support network; others have been waiting, hoping for years, to join their children, parents or other family members abroad. Still others have the grave responsibility of trying to keep their families intact despite KGB harassment, job loss, detention and imprisonment, or worse."

Members of the Congressional Spouses Committee who tried to deliver flowers included Annette Lantos, Chairwoman; Jane Gephardt (who has adopted Nadezhda Fradkova); Katie Lowery; Kathryn Porter and Nancy Siljander.

The Congressional Spouses Committee of 21, formed by wives of U.S. Senators and Representatives, works regularly with UCSJ, undertaking activities on behalf of Refuseniks. At their previous meeting, they inscribed messages in English-Russian Bibles which they then sent to Soviet Jewish POCs. \*

## PRAYER AND FAST VIGIL HELD FOR SEPARATED FAMILIES

The Fourth Annual Congressional Prayer and Fast Vigil for Soviet Jews, sponsored by Congressman Bob Mrazek (D-NY), in conjunction with the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, was held in early June. The focus of this year's vigil was "separated families."

More than 100 members of Congress participated in the event on the steps of the United States Capitol. Many individuals of separated families—including Riva Feldman, Leonid Terlitsky, Boris Blitshtain and Boris Goldfarb—traveled from across the country to join the elected officials in the members' public statement of solidarity with those whose family members remain trapped in the Soviet Union.



Rep. Robert Mrazek (D-NY) addressing members of separated families and his congressional colleagues at the Fast and Prayer Vigil on the steps of the Capitol.

The vigil was especially significant this year in view of the recent announcement by the State Department that the Soviet Union has decided to resolve a number of separated family cases. The divided family members at the vigil reaffirmed their hopes and desires that they, too, would soon be reunited with their loved ones.

Stated Congressman Mrazek, "In a small way, our efforts are a demonstration of identification with hundreds of thousands of people in the Soviet Union who are forced to live through a seemingly endless night of repression. We make this gesture primarily to see if we, in a small way, can help to join the public outcry in the free world to end the separation of families in the Soviet Union and in other places in the world." \*

## REMINDER CLOSE TO HOME

The Soviet Union gets daily reminders of the concern and esteem the people of the United States have for exiled dissident physicist and Nobel Laureate Andrei Sakharov. In 1984 the U.S. Congress designated that the address of the Soviet Embassy in Washington be changed to One Andrei Sakharov Plaza. Thus, Embassy personnel and visiting dignitaries regularly pass by the street sign and the Embassy receives mail and cables with that address emblazoned on the envelope.



The street sign at the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

Mail the new Soviet Ambassador your messages of concern for specific Refuseniks and POCs pointing out that they are being deprived of their right to emigrate. Indicate what city they're from and other details of their circumstances if available.

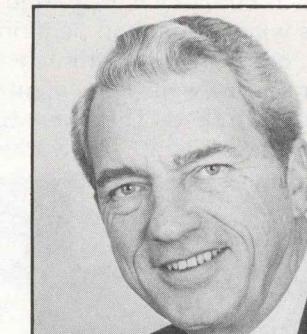
Embassador Yuri Vladimirovich Dubinin  
Embassy of the USSR  
One Andrei Sakharov Plaza  
Washington, DC 20036

## CONGRESSIONAL CALL TO CONSCIENCE CO-CHAIRS NAMED

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is pleased to announce that Senator George Mitchell (D-ME) and Congressman Tom Kindness (R-OH) were named co-chairs of UCSJ's Congressional Call to Conscience Vigil for the second session of the 99th Congress.



Senator George Mitchell  
(D-ME)



Rep. Thomas N. Kindness  
(R-OH)

Senator Mitchell was a member of the Senate delegation that visited the Soviet Union in August, 1985, where he met with several Refuseniks.

Representative Kindness played a key role in questioning the prosecution of demonstrators arrested at the Soviet Embassy, while all charges against demonstrators similarly arrested at the South African Embassy were dropped.

Morey Schapira, President of the UCSJ, stated, "We are extremely pleased that these outstanding members of the United States Congress have agreed to chair our Congressional Call to Conscience. As the second Summit approaches, it is crucial that our elected officials' voices be heard. Through the efforts of Senator Mitchell and Congressman Kindness, I am confident that the Soviet Jewry issue will be raised from Washington to Moscow."

The Call to Conscience, begun in 1976, has become one of the best mechanisms for members of Congress

to speak out on behalf of Soviet Jews seeking freedom of religion and the right to emigrate. Each week, members make statements on specific Soviet Jewry cases and insert into the Congressional Record a permanent transcript concerning that member's adopted individual Refusenik or family.

UCSJ members can play a vital role in broadening the base of the Call to Conscience by asking their U.S. Representatives and Senators to participate. For more information, contact Jesse Jacobs, Public Affairs Director, at the UCSJ national office in Washington. \*

## SCHARANSKY UNDERSCORES NEED FOR PUBLIC PROTEST OF SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES

Quiet diplomacy will never open the gates for Soviet Jews unless it is conducted "against a background of very strong public activity."

This was the overriding theme of Anatoly (Natan) Scharansky's message throughout his two-week visit to the U.S. in May. He unequivocally urged U.S. leaders to continue to support the Jackson-Vanik amendment. The amendment denies the Soviet Union trade credits until the President of the United States certifies that the Soviets have exhibited sufficient performance in the area of emigration. Scharansky's philosophy on the role of public protest and the Jackson-Vanik amendment closely parallels UCSJ's stance.

Some of Scharansky's activities during his visit to New York and Washington included meeting with numerous public officials, including President Reagan; giving a staggering number of press interviews; appearing before cheering crowds at New York's Solidarity Day parade; being the first non-head of state welcomed by members and congressional leaders at the Capitol Rotunda; speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations in New York; and testifying before the Helsinki Commission.

In his statements he regularly brought up the names of Refuseniks and Prisoners of Conscience who have been victims of gross violations of human rights and continuously denied permission to emigrate. Among those he named were Andrei Sakharov, Ida Nudel, Victor Brailovsky, Yuri Orlov, Vladimir Slepak and Iosif Begun. And he urged Americans to demonstrate 400,000 strong on behalf of Soviet Jewry at the upcoming Washington summit between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachev.

On his way home to Jerusalem on May 20, Scharansky made an early-morning surprise phone call to Lynn Singer, President of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry and past president of UCSJ. Scharansky told her he planned to make Long Island his last stop in the U.S. By 10:00 a.m. local groups of students, community activists and public officials rearranged their schedules and gathered to hear Anatoly Scharansky thank them at the Scharansky Freedom Grove—named in his honor by Nassau County and the historical site of numerous protests, vigils and hunger strikes on his behalf. \*

## REFUSENIK UPDATE

### Prisoner of Conscience in Deteriorating Health Continuously Denied Family Visits

**POC IOSIF BEGUN**, currently serving a 12-year sentence on charges of anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda, is in need of help from friends in the West. He was admitted to the prison hospital with pneumonia. His wife, Inna, has presented the following appeal to the Chief of the Administration of Corrective Labor Institutions:

*For 22 days, my husband, Iosif Begun, had been staying in the prison hospital because of some disease. On May 15, he was returned to the prison in Chistopol. In the prison, my husband is under harsh conditions. The indication of this is that on the arrival to the hospital, his weight was as small as 54 kilograms (119 pounds). I am deprived of the right to see my husband for an indefinite period. The last time I saw my husband was in August of last year. The last letter I received was in February of this year. I believe that the administration's will to conceal the truth about my husband's circumstances and health is the real cause for depriving us of six visits and correspondence. I insist on being given the opportunity to see my husband as soon as possible.*

Inna Begun  
June 3, 1986

Write to the Soviet authorities of your concern for Begun's health and his unjust punishment for expressing the desire to emigrate.

Minister of Internal Affairs,  
Sergei Ivanovich Kiriulov  
Dzerinskaya St. Bldg. 19  
Khazan 420111  
Tatarskaya Republic, USSR

Write to Iosif Begun in prison expressing your support:

Iosif Begun  
Chistopol Prison  
Uchrezhdnie 5110/1  
Moscow, RSFSR  
USSR

### Inna Meiman Continues Struggle For Medical Visa

**INNA KITROSSKAYA MEIMAN** of Moscow is trying to get a visa to allow her to receive medical treatment in the West. Meiman is suffering from a rare form of cancer and has had surgery four times. She has received generous invitations to receive more advanced treatment in the U.S., Israel, Sweden and France. However, she was refused permission to emigrate on the grounds that her husband had access to "state secrets." In fact, her physicist husband, Naum Meiman, left the Scientific Institute eleven years ago and while there had no exposure to secret information.

Meiman has received a great deal of support from U.S. Congressional leaders who wrote to General Secre-

tary Mikhail Gorbachev, urging him to reconsider his decision to hold Inna Meiman in the Soviet Union. Minneapolis student Lisa Paul, who met Meiman while working in Moscow, recently went on a 25-day hunger strike to call attention to Meiman's desperate situation.

Write to the Soviet authorities urging them to allow Inna Meiman and her husband, Naum, to emigrate:

General Secretary  
Mikhail Gorbachev  
The Kremlin  
Moscow 103132  
USSR



Inna Meiman during videotaped interview.

### First Post-Summit Arrest and Conviction

On March 19, **VLADIMIR LIFSHITZ** was sentenced to three years on charges of anti-Soviet slander. The "evidence" used against him was found in letters he wrote, intercepted by the Soviets in violation of international postal agreements. This is the first known time that the authorities have admitted that the mail of a Refusenik was confiscated. About 100 fellow Refuseniks and representatives of the American Consulate and Dutch Embassy were barred from attending the trial. His wife, Anna, had petitioned to be his defense counsel, but instead was threatened with an investigation of her case as well. The Lifshitz family became Israeli citizens in 1984. They were first refused in 1981. Since that time, Lifshitz has worked at menial labor.



Vladimir, Anna, Boris and Maria Lifshitz in a photo taken in December 1985, just before his arrest.

Send messages of support to Anna, their son, Boris and their daughter, Masha, at:

Anna Lifshitz  
Korovsky Pr. 64, Apt. 139  
Leningrad 197022  
USSR

### Refusenik Committed in Dnepropetrovsk

**GRIGORY STACHENKO**, 24, of Dnepropetrovsk, was forcibly interned in a psychiatric prison in the continuing effort to pressure and intimidate him. He was released in early March and returned to look for work. (Stachenko was expelled from the Institute when he applied to emigrate). Upon his return, authorities disconnected his phone, explaining it was done in the interest of "state security." KGB agents continue to follow him

and threaten that he and his "friends in Leningrad will be made to answer for his actions."

Write to Stachenko to express your support:

Grigory Stachenko  
Ulitze Otto Bronzovskovo 76/4  
Krivoy Rog  
Ukraine, USSR

### Renewed Campaign for Slepaks

A nationwide effort is underway appealing to Soviet authorities for exit visas for **VLADIMIR** and **MARIA SLEPAK**. The Slepaks, founding members of the emigration movement, first attempted to leave the USSR sixteen years ago. Vladimir was summarily dismissed from his job as a radio engineer and extensive KGB harassment followed. Slepak was vilified a number of times in the Soviet press and was described as a "soldier of Zionism" in a Moscow television program entitled *Traders of Souls*.

In June 1978, the couple was arrested for displaying a protest banner which read, "Let us go to our son in Israel." Vladimir was sentenced to five years of internal exile in an Eastern Siberian village. Maria Slepak was found guilty and given a suspended sentence because of serious illness.

To appeal to Soviet authorities for visas, send letters to:



Eduard Shevardnadze  
Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Smolenskaya-Sennaya Sq. 32/34  
Moscow, USSR  
Letters of support can be sent to:  
Vladimir and Maria Slepak  
Vesnena 8/10 Apt. 51  
Moscow 121002  
RSFSR, USSR

Vladimir and Maria Slepak

### False Charges Against Hebrew Teachers Continue

**ALEXEY MAGARIK** was arrested in the Tblisi airport after drugs were found in his suitcase. It is clear that the drugs were planted in an effort to silence this activist Refusenik, who has signed many petitions demanding free emigration. Magarik is a cellist who has participated in Jewish musical groups that perform for holiday celebrations held by the Refuseniks. Both he and his wife, Natasha Ratner, are Hebrew teachers who first studied under POC Leonid Volovsky. Magarik has been detained since March 15; at his trial in June, he received a three-year sentence at a labor camp.

You may write to his wife at their home address:

Natasha Magarik  
Russakovskaya St. 27, Apt. 88  
Moscow, RSFSR  
USSR

### Chess Champions' Demonstrations Lead to Emigration

**BORIS GULKO** and **ANNA AKHSHARUMOVA**,

along with their son, seven-year-old David, were allowed to leave the Soviet Union on May 29. Both Gulko and Akhsharumova are world-renowned chess champions who had been barred from tournaments due to their activism. Gulko's campaign to emigrate included repeatedly demonstrating in front of the Soviet Chess Federation with a poster reading "Let us go to Israel," going on hunger strikes and enlisting the support of fellow chess players worldwide. Boris and Anna recently visited the United States and, with help from the UCSJ, appeared before the Congress.

## BRUTALITY AGAINST POCs INTENSIFIES

Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience are increasingly becoming victims of physical brutality perpetrated in labor camps and while awaiting trial. The beginning of this disturbing trend can be traced to 1984—the frequency of injuries intentionally inflicted on POCs has escalated dramatically since then.

In marked contrast to the sentencing of previous POCs, a number of these Hebrew teachers and cultural activists are interned in holding cells and camps with criminal offenders, rather than with political prisoners. The extent and severity of the injuries to the POCs are not as easily documented as brutality sustained by Refuseniks. The POCs cannot get independent diagnoses and, in most cases, cannot even be seen by members of their own families.

The instances of injury described are the result of outright physical brutality. Other pervasive physical and mental punishments used to torment POCs include pressure to admit guilt; solitary confinement; deprivation of food, exercise and communication with family members and a myriad of other pressures.

In February, POC Yuli Edelshtein, a Moscow Hebrew teacher, was diagnosed with a crushed femur and broken pelvis. While the exact cause of the injury is unknown, the injury is viewed as suspicious. Edelshtein is expected to be non-ambulatory for six months. To prevent permanent disability, he requires surgery and physical therapy. Since the beginning of his stay in this camp, Edelshtein was brutally beaten several times, in an attempt to beat his religious beliefs out of him.

POC Vladimir Lifshitz of Leningrad, arrested in January, was beaten soon after he was placed in the Investigation Prison to await his trial. He spent ten days in the hospital due to the severity of his concussion.

In December 1984, the day after Yosef Berenshtein of Kiev was sentenced to four years for "resisting the police," he was attacked in his cell. He received permanent eye injuries and will remain almost totally blind for life. Authorities asserted to his wife, Fanya, that he had intentionally blinded himself.

POC Zachar Zunshain of Riga was arrested in March 1984 and charged with disseminating anti-Soviet slander. Zunshain is in a camp housing only criminal prisoners. He was severely beaten when he refused to take part in a "political re-education" program. He has been the victim of bodily assaults on numerous occasions. The first beating, when he initially arrived in the camp, resulted in broken ribs and kidney injuries. \*

## CHICAGO ACTION—VOICE OF THE REFUSENIKS

Since 1983, Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry has published four books based on documentary evidence obtained from Refuseniks in the Soviet Union describing in detail the plight of Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate.

In 1983, they produced an autobiographical sketch of Prisoner of Conscience Vladimir Brodsky, who was active in the unofficial Soviet peace movement in the USSR until his arrest in 1985. This document was delivered to all foreign embassies in Washington.

Also in 1983, they produced "Documentary Evidence of Anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union Today." This was excerpted from documents by historian Ivan Martynov, who is not Jewish but who, for exposing the pervasiveness of anti-Semitism in the USSR, has been dismissed from the Soviet Academy of Sciences and has become the victim of Soviet psychiatric abuse.

In 1985, Chicago Action produced "The Zunshain Papers: Persecution and Jewish Resistance." This moving document, composed of biographical data and correspondence of POC Zachar Zunshain, was circulated to all members of the United States Congress.

Finally, in honor of International Women's Day, Chicago Action produced a chilling account of the psychiatric abuses of Nadezhda Fradkova, the only female Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience. The UCSJ and its member councils remembered Nadezhda Fradkova this year on International Women's Day by sending flowers to the Soviet Embassy in her honor.

Copies of the above booklets can be obtained by writing to Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry, 1724 First Street, Highland Park, Illinois 60035 or calling (312) 433-0144. \*

(JACKSON-VANIK, *continued from page 1*)

some well-publicized cases of late, there has been no sign of any positive changes in the Soviet Union's policy on would-be emigrants.

The statement emphasizes the flexibility built into the amendment in that it imposes no ceiling on Soviet trade while ensuring continued incentive for the Soviets to grant emigration rights. Summed up, the "amendment permits U.S. trade concessions to grow, so long as the emigrants flow." \*

Copies of the statement are available from the UCSJ Office.

## WE'RE MOVING!

As of September 15, 1986  
our new address will be:

1819 H Street, N.W. Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20006

Please send future correspondence  
to this address.

## UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS 1819 H STREET, N.W., SUITE 410 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20006

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED  
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
UCSJ