

ALERT

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MR

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION: A SPECIAL REPORT FROM 13 CITIES

While we have noted that there has been a sharp increase in the number of Jews allowed to emigrate from the Soviet Union this year, perhaps bringing the total to 50,000 emigrants by December, this has been accompanied by a sharp increase in the number of refusals as well as a rise in the volume of anti-semitic literature published. Below are some of the reports recently received abroad about the situation in various cities across the USSR:

Moscow:

Although there are no lines at OVIR offices, applicants have to wait from eight to twelve months before getting replies to their applications. From conversations with OVIR employees it is understood that soon the waiting period for answers will rise to as much as eighteen months. Offices refuse to entertain letters of complaint or enquiries regarding progress of applications.

Leningrad:

The authorities refuse to accept documents from applicants whose invitations from Israel do not specify exact kinship. In many instances applicants have to write a detailed report on their relatives in Israel. In some cases the authorities are demanding proof of a continuous exchange of correspondence with the relative abroad.

No applications are accepted from institute or University graduates who have not worked the obligatory three years term in a state directed job. No applications are accepted where parents object to their children's emigration, regardless of their age. There is a considerable restriction on musical instruments; a restriction which particularly hits professional musicians. Customs officers demand a special evaluation document, proving that the instrument is worth less than 1,000 rubles. If the value is above that, the instrument must be left behind.

Kiev:

In January 1979 Kiev was divided into two administrative zones for applications. A legal advice bureau deals with filling out forms and collating relevant material. The following are common reasons given for refusal:

1. One of the applicants is not registered as a Jew.
2. Parents of the applicant decide to remain in the Soviet Union
3. Secret classification of any member of the family.

Applications are not accepted in cases of young men who have not served in the army, or have failed to produce a certificate from the military authorities.

As a rule an invitation from Israel is handed over to a would-be applicant only in the OVIR offices. If the recipient cannot name the sender sight unseen, the invitation is not considered valid.

Odessa:

Here, too the authorities are asking detailed and searching questions about relatives in Israel. Most refusals are on the grounds that the overseas relatives are not close enough to classify as genuine invitees.

As in Kiev, applicants whose parents choose to remain in the Soviet Union are being turned down; so too are couples of mixed marriage. In some instances, only part of a family is able to apply; the others must defer their applications until the first applicants have been granted visas.

Most applicants are dismissed from their jobs immediately upon making application and long before they get any reply from OVIR offices. Many are compelled to vacate their apartments before they get their visas.



Kharkov:

Children of applicants are invited to various official bodies and are being asked if they agree with their parents' decisions. The authorities are also making attempts to influence the children to resist their parents' decision, and even promise them certain rewards if they change their minds.

Applicants are obliged to give details of the relatives who sent them invitations from Israel. Since last July there has been a considerable increase in refusals based on 'insufficient kinship.' Non-Jewish parents, in cases of mixed marriage, are being pressed to dissuade the non-Jewish partner to give up his or her intention to emigrate.

Lvov:

Applicants treated well. Most refusals are on the grounds of insufficient kinship of Israeli relatives.

Chernovtsy:

Applications are accepted only once a week. Children who apply without parents are being called for special talks and pressure is being put upon them to change their minds. Parents whose sons are of military age cannot submit their applications.

On receipt of visa, only 2 weeks are given to arrange tickets, luggage, vacate apartments and produce several different certificates.

Those who apply are thrown out of their Trade Unions after public meetings where they are openly insulted and abused.

Kishinev:

The lines to receive application forms grows longer week by week. Only ten forms are given out each day and would-be applicants have to return to the OVIR offices time after time until they are able to get one. Then, only twenty applications are processed each week. Applicants need to produce proof that parents are dead, and a certificate from their housing authority to say that their apartments are in good condition.

Luggage has to be sent in special wooden cases, which must be ordered six months in advance. Luggage is inspected in Ugeny, 50 km. away, which means that special transportation has to be arranged and scores of different officials paid off.

Tiraspol:

Since July a marked increase in refusals based on insufficient kinship.

Tashkent:

Only invitations from members of the immediate family are accepted.

The emigration process here is made longer by a shortage of application forms. There are lone lines at the OVIR offices. Successful applicants complain that there are also long delays for submitting their luggage to Customs, and also that they have to vacate flats well in advance of being able to leave. For weeks they are forced to live at the expense of already overcrowded relatives or friends.

Vilnius:

A recent increase is reported in the number of refusals on the grounds of lack of parental consent, or, as in Lvov, of insufficient kinship to 'invitee'.

Minsk:

Since January 1979, Minsk has been divided into nine administrative zones. Applications are received twice a week, and each area has a specified day on which to apply. In practice it works out that each area has one day per month on which to apply. At the end of 1978 there were 1500 waiting their turn to submit documents. On the average it takes one year from the time of receiving an invitation from Israel to the time of leaving the Soviet Union.

Riga:

On the whole here the behavior of the authorities is polite and correct. The average waiting time is only seven weeks, and three months are allowed to organize departures. However, there are several regulations which make it difficult for the applicants: parents who give their consent to their childrens' departure have to do so at their place of work and not at the notary, as was customary previously. This means that they are immediately branded as parents of 'traitors'. If the parents have retired from work, they then have to sign the papers at the housing committee where they live, which provokes similar abuse from neighbors.

If adults with their own families have parents who apply independently, the authorities combine the two, so as to limit the amount of luggage that is allowed out. If part of the family is emigrating and part is remaining in the USSR, the remaining relatives are obliged to find a smaller apartment. If such relatives have difficulties in getting a new apartment, those who already have their visas are obliged to wait until their relatives can move. Many refusals are given to young people who wish to emigrate without their parents.

WARSAW - ANOTHER OBSTACLE FOR SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRANTS

As if Jews travelling to Brest by train on their way to Israel have not suffered enough at the hands of cruel and vicious custom officials, another hardship has been added to their road of suffering and harassment.

Lately, emigrants from the USSR have found it increasingly difficult to purchase tickets on a direct train from Brest to Vienna. These emigrants have been forced to purchase tickets from Brest to Vienna and exchange trains at Warsaw. According to the rules, they have to purchase the tickets in Brest and they pay for the whole trip in Vienna. However, when they reach Warsaw, the local train employees obstruct them from finding places on the train to Vienna. The Polish attitude borders on harassment, since in addition to insults, they are practically robbing the Jewish emigrants.

Almost every family that went through Warsaw had to pay 50-70 dollars for a place on a Vienna-bound train, and that is in addition to the full train fare that they paid in advance. Usually, the personnel in Warsaw steal the last monies that the Jews have with them, and those who do not have any money have to spend a few days in the train station before they manage to get on a train. As an example, one family left Brest on July 15, after paying 158 rubles for a train trip from Brest-Vienna, without a stop in Warsaw. In Warsaw they were taken off the direct coach to Vienna and were made to seek new places. The train personnel claimed that all the places were taken - a blatant lie. Coach No. 2-360 has a capacity of 64 seats, but they were not allowed to board it and the coach left with 16 places occupied. The train guards and others demand vodka, money and the harassment continues. People who arrive in Vienna are deep in shock as a result of the Warsaw trauma.

BRAILOVSKY'S APARTMENT SEARCHED

Victor Brailovsky, one of the leading activists in the Soviet Jewish emigration movement, said that police had searched his flat on September 25 as part of an operation to silence the Samizdat journal he edits. He has repeatedly been refused a visa to emigrate.

Brailovsky said he feared the KGB were trying to implicate him in the case of Igor Guberman, a popular science writer who was arrested about one month ago on suspicion of involvement in the theft of icons. The officers who searched Brailovsky's apartment had a search warrant for icons and other religious objects. They removed some photographs of Mr. Guberman, two documents signed by his wife and a power of attorney from Maria Slepak.

Mr. Filipov, chief inspector at the Dimitrov investigation office, said that the Brailovskys are deeply involved in the matter of the icons. When asked why they had taken away Maria Slepak's power of attorney, they were told by investigator Nikitina that the matter is so complicated and confused that she could not guess who is guilty and who is not. Brailovsky was not allowed to take notes of the search.

SHKOLNIK: LIVING A KAFKESQUE EXISTENCE

Isaak Shkolnik, the former Prisoner of Conscience, is being shunted from one OVIR office to another. Two weeks ago he was told to find a job; this week an OVIR official in Vinnitsa told him that all decisions regarding emigration are made at the highest level. So Shkolnik went to the central OVIR offices in Moscow. There he was told: "No need to come to us, go to the central OVIR of the Ukrainian SSR, in Kiev". In Kiev, Isaak was given neither a "yes", nor a "no".

Before his arrest seven years ago, Shkolnik lived and worked in Vinnitsa. As his wife and daughter are now in Israel, Isaak was staying with his father in Lvov.

ESTRANGED FATHER PREVENTS EMIGRATION OF SON AND FAMILY

The case of Alexei Bronstein, age 15, is a sad example of the way the Soviet authorities are showing their concern for young people in this, the International Year of the Child. The Bronstein family consists of Lev and Helena and their 7 year old daughter Irina and Alexei, Helena's son by a previous marriage. The boy's father, Arnold Petrov, has not lived with him since 1968, when the couple separated. Alexei considers Lev his father and is very close to his sister Irina.

The Bronstein family received permission to emigrate in 1977. However, Petrov then applied for and was granted custody of the boy in December 1977. The official reason: 'Education of the boy in the family was not in accordance with normal code of communism'. Because of the threat that the boy would be given to Petrov, the Bronsteins refused to take the exit visa. Alexei remained with his family. Since the hearing, Petrov has not made any attempt to contact his son, but the family is unable to get the court decision changed and cannot leave, therefore, without leaving Alexei behind in the USSR.

The illegality of the decision is so extraordinary that in May 1979 the Chief Justice of Leningrad, after hearing the appeal made by the family, issued a protest against the decision of the court. He made a statement that the decision to emigrate cannot be regarded as a reason for taking the boy from his mother. However, after Arnold Petrov visited Leningrad, and the intervention by the authorities, the protest was withdrawn. Lev and Helena are appealing for support in their request for Lev to be allowed to adopt Alexei to that the boy can at last relax knowing he legally belongs to the family he loves. Then, as a family, they can be given permission to unite with their relatives abroad.

Letters can be sent to:

Lev Yakovlevich Bronstein
Ul. Zelenina 13, apt. 24
Leningrad

RECOMMENDED READING

"The Future of Soviet Jewry: Emigration and Assimilation", by William Korey, in the Fall, 1979 issue of Foreign Affairs.

Yosif Begun: The Struggle for Jewish Culture in the USSR, a collection of documents published by "Tarbut," the Association for Jewish Self-Education. It is available from the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry, 4a Chissin St., Tel-Aviv, for \$2.00.

NEWS BRIEFS:

* In a phone conversation with Detroit, refusenik Boris Rivkin reported that he will be operated on for a kidney ailment. (He has only one kidney). Meanwhile, his 17 year old son, whose name is also Boris, received his pre-induction papers. This means that if he does not pass the exams which will allow him to continue in school, he will be drafted at age 18.

* Vladimir Prestin was told by OVIR that his refusal will be in effect as long as he possesses classified information. In reality, his emigration is held up by the head of the institute where he used to work, who informed Prestin that he objects to his leaving - no further reason given.

* Alexander Paritsky's teenage daughter Dorina wrote an essay about her feeling about the "motherland" in order to refute the authorities' contention that she does not desire to leave the Soviet Union with her parents. The family is now awaiting a new attack on both Alexander and Dorina. Alexander has now left his job, which took him away too frequently from his family in times of stress.

* In their on-going attempt to prevent refuseniks and prisoners from receiving valuable aid from abroad, Soviet authorities have placed new restrictions on packages sent into the country. Now hardly any items of nutritional value will be accepted by parcel services which are authorized to handle shipping into the Soviet Union.

* Two well-known refuseniks have now arrived in Israel - Larissa Vilenskaya and Lev Ulanovsky, formerly of Moscow.

MOSCOW HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP REBUKES WEST: MEIMAN CASE HIGHLIGHTED

The Moscow Helsinki Monitoring Group has rebuked the West for its weakness in dealing with Soviet violations of the Helsinki Accords. In a document dated Sept. 17, 1979, it notes that the West's "silent acceptance" of the arrests of the Soviet Monitoring Group has made it possible for the Soviets to plan a repeat performance during the year of the Olympic Games and the Madrid Conference. The following is a section of this "Document No. 101":

On September 14, a member of the Moscow Helsinki group, Prof. Naum Meiman, was called in for discussion with Chairman Sablin of the District administration. Taking part in their one hour's discussion were two other persons; one of them was the District Communist Party Chief, the other was introduced as a professor of philosophy.

Chairman Sablin told Prof. Meiman, that he was called in because the local administration was worried that Meiman, a resident of the district, was engaging in activity harmful to the country. The Party district chief showed a pile of papers, which he said was a dossier sent in by the APN Press Agency listing all cases when and in what connection foreign radio stations mentioned the name Meiman. He began to read out and comment on what he called Meiman's anti-Soviet slanders. In a few minutes Meiman interrupted to remind these officials that he had been called in to discuss his application to emigrate to Israel. That, he said, was the only reason he had appeared. Chairman Sablin replied that he would return to the question of emigration; the dossier being read had direct bearing on it, he said.

Only a few of the broadcasts being read out had direct bearing on Meiman. These included his article on the monument at Babi Yar published in Continent magazine, and a letter he had written to Prime Minister Menachem Begin about the terrible conditions of Soviet political prisoner Semyon Gluzman. Most of the broadcasts concerned documents on statements by the Moscow Helsinki group, without mentioning those who signed them. Meiman pointed out that fact, so the officials pretended they did not know whether he was a member of the Helsinki group. They asked whether he was. When Meiman said he was, they began to show him that the activities of the group clashed with the Helsinki Agreements, since the agreements allegedly forbid activities by other countries in Soviet internal affairs.

It is not lacking of interest that when Meiman managed to steer the discussion back to the subject of his emigration to Israel, Chairman Sablin said it was unimportant that Meiman has already had no contact with classified work for more than 24 years. The Party chief added that Meiman could not be allowed out because the West could use his abilities against the USSR. The philosopher declared that Meiman was not being allowed to leave because of his activities in the Helsinki group and Jewish movement.

The whole point of the discussion was to "insistently advise" Meiman to stop his "harmful activities", in particular, to leave the Helsinki group. This was definitely both a warning and a threat, to Meiman, in particular, and to the group as a whole.

Our experience of 1977 compels us to heed these facts.

[Signed] Yelena Bonnar, Sofia Kalistratova, Malva Landa, Naum Meiman, Viktor Nekipelov, Tatyana Osipova, and Yuri Yarym-Agaye

RECENTLY RECEIVED INFORMATION ON REFUSENIKS: The Ghinis Family of Moscow

Boris Yurievich (born 1950), Irina Valentinovna (1950), Yulia (1973) and Alla (1975).

Address: Ul. Kosmodemyanskykh 9b, Kv. 22, Moscow 125130

Boris worked in a Research Institute for the Ministry of Radio Industry. He was removed from his position in November 1977. The family has been refused since January 1979.

THE NEW YORK TIMES,

Expert Paints a Gloomy Picture of U.S.-Soviet Ties

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

Special to The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1979

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16 — The Government's ranking Soviet expert said today in Congressional testimony that the United States and the Soviet Union were at loggerheads on almost every issue except their treaty limiting strategic arms and that these differences "are unlikely to be reconciled in the near future."

In what has become an annual report to Congress on Soviet-American relations, Marshall D. Shulman painted a fairly pessimistic picture of overall ties, the gloomiest he has given in his nearly three years in office.

On specific differences, Mr. Shulman

made the following points:

¶ Trade preferences will be sought for China first, with a decision on possible tariff reductions and credits for the Soviet Union delayed until after the Senate approves the arms treaty. He said the Russians would regard the failure to receive evenhanded treatment in trade as "a serious matter for them."

¶ American relations with China are "a matter of sensitivity" to the Soviet Union. The "strongest source of concern" to Moscow is whether the United States will supply China with military supplies, something the United States says it will not do, but has "not attempted to speak for our allies on this matter."

¶ Soviet-Cuban relations have burdened relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. He said con-

tinued American criticism both of Soviet logistic support for Cuban troops abroad and of the presence of Soviet troops in Cuba had "sensitized" the Russians to the American concerns.

¶ On human rights, the Soviet Union has not reversed its crackdown on dissidents but also has not maintained the charged atmosphere of the 1978 dissident trials. Little has been done to resolve hundreds of emigration cases, but the overall emigration rate for Jews is at a record annual rate of more than 50,000.

Mr. Shulman said that, despite apparent Soviet gains in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Southern Yemen, "these gains may prove as transitory as were earlier positions won and subsequently lost in the face of local nationalist resistance to the spread of Soviet control."

The following letter was sent by Representative Jack Kemp to the U.S. Olympic Committee. He was responding to a USOC demand that the Southeast Committee for International Sportsmanship in the 1980 Olympic Games, a monitoring group, "cease and desist" from using the word Olympic in its name.

September 27, 1979

F. Don Miller
United States Olympic Committee
1750 East Boulder Street
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80909

Dear Mr. Miller:

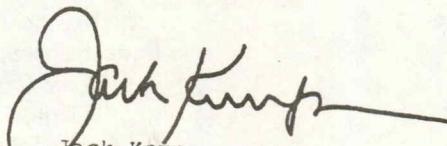
The Southeast Committee for International Sportsmanship in the 1980 Olympic Games has contacted me in deep concern over your letter to Mr. John Riley, Secretary of that organization, dated September 18. In that letter, you ask the group to "cease and desist using 'Olympic' or any variation thereof in the title of your organization."

After reviewing the legislative history of Public Law 95-606, known as the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, and after discussions with the counsel to the appropriate subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, I find this organization is perfectly within its rights in using the term Olympic Games in its masthead. Section 110 of P.L. 95-606 was intended to protect the Olympic Committee from persons who use the term Olympics or similar terms for commercial purposes or promotional athletic or theatrical events. In this particular case, the organization is a non-profit institution involved in the protection of human rights and is not using the term Olympics for the purpose of trade or to induce the sale of any goods or services, nor is it promoting any theatrical or athletic performances.

As Honorary Chairman of the International Monitoring Committee for the 1980 Olympics myself, I am extremely concerned that all who desire to participate in the summer Olympic games are permitted to do so fully and equally, without discrimination based upon religious, political, or national affiliation, or ethnic background. You may be aware that the Soviet government has passed a new citizenship law which mandates that all those born in the Soviet Union, regardless of attempted renunciation of citizenship, are still considered Soviet citizens and thus subject to Soviet law. This poses a tremendous threat to those who have left the Soviet Union, since anyone who renounces his or her citizenship is considered a traitor by the Soviets. This law will affect athletes, spectators, journalists, and other participants in the Olympics, and will undoubtedly prevent them from attending the games. I don't consider this to be in keeping with the Olympic Rules or with Baron de Coubertin's vision of the Olympic games.

I consider the concern expressed by organizations such as the Southeast Committee for International Sportsmanship in the 1980 Olympic Games and by individuals across the nation valid and important in light of past events, and hope you too will take these concerns seriously. We are not "politicizing" the Olympics; we are undertaking this effort to insure that Olympic fair play prevails over Soviet discrimination. I believe that this is in the best interests of all involved in the games, and urge you to join us in monitoring Soviet compliance with this spirit of equality of opportunity and non-discrimination.

Very sincerely,



Jack Kemp
Member of Congress

Sunday, October 7, 1979.

Struggle of Spirit

A Soviet Prisoner's Fate and Faith

By Phil McCombs

FTER HE joined the underground, Shimon Grilius practiced for prison. He slept on a hard bed without a blanket. He put margarine instead of butter on his bread.

"Why are you using margarine?" his mother asked.

He lied so she would not carry a burden.

Three years later, after he had been betrayed, he found that his preparations had not been sufficient. The horror of life in a Soviet prison was unimaginable.

Doubly so for a Jew. Grilius quickly became a very religious, Orthodox Jew. It helped him survive.

"In order to live, you don't just get up in the morning and eat. There is a spiritual dimension to life. I learned how low a person can sink if he is without religion, if he relies only on human rationalizations."

Grilius, 34, is a short man with a long red beard. He wears a black suit and a Boston Blackie hat with a black skullcap underneath.

Grilius is in Washington seeking to interest American authorities in the fate of another Jew, Josif Mendelevich, who remains in prison in Russia.

Mendelevich was convicted of crimes against the Soviet state after participating in a plan to hijack a plane and escape to Israel in 1970. He is the only Jew among those convicted not to have been released and allowed to leave Russia.

The leaders of the hijack attempt, Mark Dymshits and Eduard Kuznetsov, were freed last April with other Soviet dissidents in exchange for two Russian spies.

Two non-Jews who participated in the attempt, Alexei Murzhenko and Yuri Fiodorov, also remain in prison.

It is Mendelevich whom Grilius came to know and love in prison as a spiritual mentor. Grilius now fears that his friend remains behind and has been singled out for special torments because he is a deeply religious Jew who insists on wearing his skullcap, demands kosher food and refuses to work on the sabbath.

Just the sort of things that tend to drive prison authorities wild.

Mendelevich.

He tried to grow a beard as a symbol

of his orthodox faith. The guards handcuffed his hands behind his back and hoisted him from the handcuffs until his toes swung free of the ground.

While he hung that way, they shaved him.

After he refused to work on the sabbath, Mendelevich was taken out of the flatiron plant and put to work shoveling dirt.

In poor health to begin with, he deteriorated. He was given an aspirin from time to time, no other medication.

Loads of dirt to be shoveled were scheduled to arrive just before the beginning of the sabbath. The Jews in the prison rallied to help so that Mendelevich could avoid dishonoring the holy day.

Talking in the barracks was not allowed. Outside in often freezing weather, Mendelevich taught Grilius to speak Hebrew.

Grilius recounted this tale from Mendelevich's youth in Riga, Latvia:

"During the war, the Nazis killed 20,000 Jews near Riga and buried them in a ravine. There was no marker for the mass grave."

"Surviving Jews passed on the information. Starting at age 16, Mendelevich led gatherings of Jews at the grave. They marked it. They petitioned the Soviet government for an official marker. The official marker that finally arrived said 20,000 had died there, but did not identify the dead as Jews."

"Mendelevich continued to lecture groups of Jewish youths at the grave site in Hebrew."

October 9, 1979

"Mendelevich and his family repeatedly tried to obtain exit visas to go to Israel. They were refused. Finally he was arrested in the hijack attempt."

"They knew they were being followed the morning they were arrested. They decided to go ahead anyway, as an act of leadership and faith. Mendelevich has a frail body but an extremely strong spirit. If Dymshits and Kuznetsov were the leaders, Mendelevich was the spirit and the heart of the operation."

Mendelevich was sentenced to 12 years at hard labor. He has served nine.

Grilius was released at the end of his term in 1974. He then was allowed to emigrate to Israel with his father and mother. Mendelevich's mother and sister were also allowed to go.

Mendelevich was left behind.

For six years, he has not seen his family. He has not been allowed to receive a letter for a year.

He wrote, in one of the monthly letters he is allowed to send, to his sister: "I do not believe that you have ceased to love me"

He is not allowed books.

"I can't improve my mind," he wrote in another letter. "My intelligence seems to be going down all the time. I can no longer adequately express myself because I am not allowed to study or ask questions. In this way, they are destroying me"

Not hearing from his family, he dreams of them and imagines them as they must be.

"You can suffer hunger, you can suffer a cutoff of letters, you can suffer hard work—but the fact that father died is a greater hurt to me than all the other sufferings"

He is a poet.

"In the summer it's more pleasant because it's not so cold here. Even the crows in the morning don't say, 'Caw, caw.' It seems more like, 'Ah, Ahhh'"

JTA Daily News Bulletin

AMERICAN RABBI TO LAUNCH CAMPAIGN FOR HEBREW IN THE USSR

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, Oct. 8 (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), will soon launch a campaign to allow the teaching of Hebrew in the Soviet Union, Rabbi Sholem Kowalsky, vice president of the Council, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Kowalsky, in Jerusalem for Succot, had just spent two weeks in the USSR, where he preached in synagogues during the High Holy Days.

"They want Jewish books, they are hungry for books," he said. According to Kowalsky, Soviet Jews -- particularly the younger generation -- showed remarkable knowledge of events in Israel, but were upset about their inability to study Hebrew properly.

Soviet Jewish Emigration

• I take issue with some of the statements in Wolf Blitzer's article "Jackson and Vanik Disagree on Jackson-Vanik" (June-July issue). For example, one of the factors leading to serious discussions on the Jackson-Vanik "Freedom of Emigration" Amendment is, and I quote Mr. Blitzer: "...the slight—but noticeable—easing in the harassment of [Soviet] Jews wishing to emigrate."

Quite the contrary. Since the beginning of this year, at least five more Jews were imprisoned in the Soviet Union for their wish to immigrate to Israel—more than in any similar period since the Leningrad trials.

Three prominent Jewish leaders in the Soviet Union made the following statement early last July: "Everything remains the same as before. It is important to point out that the present situation cannot be considered an improvement."

According to *The San Francisco Examiner* of June 27, new limitations on Jewish emigration are being planned by the Soviet authorities which would deny emigration to every Jew under 30 and prohibit those between 16 and 24 from even applying for exit visas.

The following is an excerpt from an open letter written in April by a group of refuseniks from Kiev: "Current opinion has it that Soviet emigration policy is improving. . . . We Jewish refuseniks of Kiev resolutely disagree. Moreover, what we have witnessed in Kiev proves that the authorities are intensifying their repression against Jews who have expressed a desire to leave the country. . . . Some public figures in the United States and other countries would like to believe that the slight increase in the number of Jewish emigrants is evidence of a liberalization of Soviet emigration policy. However, this is not the case."

Another statement by Mr. Blitzer is cause for concern: "Jewish organizations have never endorsed any specific quota (of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union), but the current rate of 50,000 would seem to be acceptable to most."

If this is true, it means—considering the recent rate of applications for exit visas—that many Soviet Jews will have to wait ten years or longer in order to emigrate. If Mr. Blitzer is right, it means that American Jewish organizations accept the fact of Jewish refuseniks in the Soviet Union and the arbitrary limitations on their emigration. These limitations and quotas constitute an extreme form of harassment of Soviet Jews.

MICHAEL STIEGLITZ

THE WASHINGTON POST, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1979

George F. Will

Russia's Anti-Semitic Badge

The agreement was this: in exchange for two Soviet spies in U.S. custody, the Soviets would release several dissidents, including Alexander Ginzburg, and their families. Today the spies are in Russia. So is Ginzburg's wife, mother, two sons, and foster son, Sergei.

Mrs. Ginzburg will not leave Sergei, who is ill and is being persecuted. Soviet authorities say he will "never" be allowed to leave. In spite of grave medical problems, he has been drafted and assigned to northern regions.

Although Alexander Ginzburg is a convert to the Russian Orthodox faith, at age 16 he took his mother's maiden name, rather than his father's name, as a way of protesting Soviet anti-Semitism, and he declared himself Jewish, which, under Soviet law, is treated as a nationality as well as a religion. The persecution of his family is almost certainly a facet of the official anti-Semitism of the Soviet state.

Anti-Semitism is as traditional in Russia as is tyranny. Under Czar Nicholas I, 12-year-old Jewish boys were drafted for 25-year terms, presumably to teach them to be more careful next time when selecting their parents.

But anti-Semitism recently has been intensified under Brezhnev. Forty years ago, in one of the clarifying acts of modern politics, the Soviet Union and its Nazi allies were carving up Poland. Today, it is prudent to notice how the current anti-Semitic campaign clarifies our perception of the men in the Kremlin.

The current campaign rests on crude stereotypes of the sort favored by Julius Streicher, Hitler's favorite anti-Semitic publicist. Soviet publishing facilities, all of which are part of a state monopoly, churn out a muddy river of anti-Semitic propaganda recalling the "Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

The "Protocols," a fraud published in 1902 by a czarist anti-Semite, were purported to be the secret agreements of the World Zionist Congress of 1897. The "Protocols" contained the seeds of the weeds that bloomed in the Nazi mind and bloom in the minds of Brezhnev's propagandists: Jews are conspiring to control banks, the press and Freemasonic Lodges, all to achieve world domination.

A recent Soviet book criticizes Soviet television for using "heroes who look like Jews." Another describes the Torah as "a textbook unsurpassed for bloodthirstiness, hypocrisy, betrayal, perfidy and moral degeneracy."

Another book equates Zionism and Hitlerism. A book published by the Ministry of Internal Affairs goes further. It says Zionism is "one of the varieties of fascism," but is more dangerous than even the German variety. An anti-Semitic movie was shown recently on Soviet television and was repeated because of "popular demand." A recent art exhibit featured a grotesque painting of a pile of Russian corpses being gloated over by a grinning Nazi soldier and a grinning Jewish prisoner wearing a Star of David. The message: Nazis and Jews were collaborators.

The Soviet Academy of Sciences has lent its prestige, such as it is, to a book explaining that the "Jewish bourgeoisie" uses Wall Street firms such as Lazard Frères, Lehman Brothers, Kuhn Loeb, Loeb Rhoades, Bache & Co. and Goldman Sachs to pursue world domination. Another book, by a professor at Moscow's magnificently named Patrice Lumumba University, reports that Jews dominate Freemasonry and that Freemasons already dominate the world.

A prestigious Soviet publishing organization has produced a book that says "Zionists" in the Soviet Union (meaning Jews who would rather live elsewhere) are linked to the CIA. The government newspaper, *Izvestia*, hailed this book as "a humane publication, a contribution to the implementation of the Helsinki accords." This idea about what constitutes "a contribution to the implementation of the Helsinki accords" should interest U.S. senators as they consider the many problems of defining, construing and verifying compliance with the terms of SALT II.

The Helsinki accords were signed four years ago; they were syrup on the sundae of détente. They commit the signatories to many things, such as facilitating the reunification of families, like the Ginzburg family. The Soviets show for that commitment the same kind of contempt they show for the agreement that was the basis of the deal that sent the two spies back to Russia.

I could exhaust you, patient reader, and the space in this newspaper with additional examples of official Soviet anti-Semitism. I won't. But do remember this deeply stupid stuff, about Freemasonry and all the rest, when next you hear someone arguing that the men in the Soviet ruling class are really "regular politicians" and are "just like us."

From Russia with life

ISRAEL ZALMANSON went jogging around Lake Merced yesterday morning.

He's used to jogging. It helped keep him alive. But the setting was much different than the terrain that became so familiar over eight long years — the yards at Soviet labor camps and prisons.

In 1970, when he was only 21, Israel Zalmanson was the youngest defendant in the first Leningrad Trial. He, several members of his family and a group of friends had tried to emigrate legally from the Soviet Union to Israel. But no Jews emigrated legally from the Soviet Union to anywhere in those days.

"So we decided to attempt to seize a plane and fly to Sweden," he says, "but we never even got as far as the airport. The KGB arrested us."

THE JEWISH PRISONERS in Soviet jails weren't permitted to read anything in Hebrew. "We could get English books but we had to smuggle in Hebrew books," he says.

Zalmanson was tenacious enough — and successful enough — to be able to learn both English and Hebrew while he was imprisoned.

"When I arrived in Israel," he says, "I held a press conference in both languages. That was my first revenge."

Zalmanson is on a speaking tour of the United States now, delivering addresses mostly at synagogues and at other audiences of American Jews. Sponsored by the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry, he's been in San Francisco for almost a week.

There was always the danger, too, of solitary confinement, which came in two forms: 15 days and six months.

"I received the half-year punishment once, for planning a hunger strike on behalf of my sister. You were expected to work for your subsistence there. I made steering wheels and frames for Volga cars, shoveled snow, loaded and unloaded coal trucks, sewed mittens, even polished cuckoo clocks for export. If you didn't fulfill the work norm, you'd get only half a piece of bread the next day."

Zalmanson's travails have not been in vain. The Leningrad Trials and subsequent events have focused world attention on the plight of Soviet Jews. "Since our arrests," he says, "more than 200,000 Jews have left Russia. That has been possible only because of pressure from the West. The fear remains, but there is also the chance that Jews can get out now."

At least some of them. Three Leningrad Trial prisoners, Yosef Mendelovich, Yuri Federov and Eleksei Murzhenko (the latter two non-Jews), remain in Soviet prisons. And Israel Zalmanson's twin brother, Shmuel, was arrested in 1976 and is serving a 10-year sentence.

Zalmanson is talking about them on his tour and about Anatoly Shcharansky and all the "Prisoners of Conscience" who are still losing the battle for human rights. Zalmanson's father, Joseph, remains in the Soviet Union, in Latvia. "He is," Israel Zalmanson says, "a very cautious man."

Israel Zalmanson visited his father, and stepmother, in Riga after his release from prison and had first decent meal in eight years. "Chicken, potatoes, green salad, strawberries and champagne," he says. "My stepmother would push more food at me, and I'd push it back. She'd say, 'You must recover,' and I'd say, 'I have a lot of time to recover.'"

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

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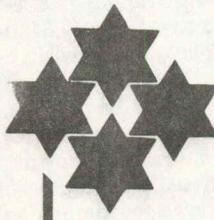
October 17, 1979

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S ALERT

- Our lead article: a survey of the emigration situation in 13 Soviet cities.
- Rep. Jack Kemp defends the rights of Olympics monitoring groups. See page 7.
- Washington Post article on Yosif Mendelevich. See page 8.

STOP PRESS:

KIEV, Oct. 11-- Twelve activists were arrested for "malicious hooliganism". Among the 12 was Elena Oleynik, who was recently arrested and incarcerated for 15 days. (See Alert, Oct. 10, 1979) Elena, her husband, two brothers and the 8 others were all sentenced to 15 days in prison.



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