



*The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is a Washington-based, independent organization dedicated to the freedom of emigration and human rights for all Soviet Jews.*

Vol. X No. 7

April 27, 1984

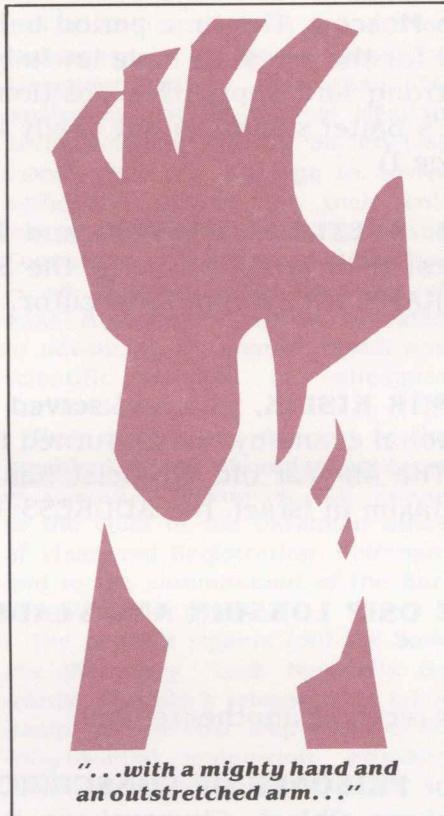
## Family of Zunshine & Balter Arrested; No Answer From Soviet Authorities

Passover 1984 in USSR:

### Anti-Semitic Bondage 'Let My People Go!'

This past month, Jews from all over the world celebrated the holiday of freedom, the holiday of Passover. A symbolic holiday, Passover is the retelling, year after year, of the story of the ancient Jews' coming out of bondage in Egypt. It is a joyous holiday, but it is also somber — for we are instructed to recall, and to teach our children, that we, the Jewish people, once were slaves.

There is no joy in Passover for the 2½ million Jews of the USSR, for they are *not* free today: *not* free to practice their religion, *not* free to study their heritage or culture, *not* free to be together with their families in Israel and the United States. For them, it is a holiday of hope, that someday they may escape the anti-Semitic bondage of the Soviet regime.



In a further attack on Zachar Zunshine — the latest Prisoner of Conscience from Riga — Soviet authorities arrested Zunshine's wife, Tatiana, Polina Balter, wife of Alexander Balter and Alexander's mother Svetlana Balter on Tuesday, April 10.

The women had stood outside the office of the Procurator General of the Latvian Republic carrying signs demanding the release of Zachar Zunshine and Alexander Balter. Although twenty-six year old Alexander Balter was recently released from prison after serving fifteen days, his wife Polina, together with his mother Svetlana and Tatiana Zunshine were arrested and charged with "hooliganism" and sentenced to 15 days, for protesting Alexander's earlier arrest, and Zachar's continued sentence.

Leningrad activist Mikhail Zinaver was present at the site but did not participate in the protest. Nevertheless, he too was arrested and sentenced to 10 days. Zachar's sister, Evgenia Lushinskaya was detained for 2-1/2 hours and finally released without charge.

On April 11, Leonid Umansky, the brother of Svetlana Balter, and her son Yevgeny Balter, demonstrated near the entrance of the Supreme Court of the Latvian Republic carrying signs which read "Liberate the innocent". The KGB crushed the signs immediately. Umansky and Balter were detained that evening and were each given 15 days in prison. Including Zachar Zunshine, there are now three men in prison — and their three women.

Leonid Umansky, who had also applied to repatriate, considers that he is "as guilty as Zachar Zunshine is". The Soviet authorities had wanted to

*Continued on page 4, Col. 1*

### A letter from 34 Kiev Jews tells their Passover story:

"The Jewish holiday of Passover is approaching. All Jewish people throughout the world will sit at special gatherings, sedarim, as though we were one family. Our common seder table stretches thousands of miles and is divided by land and water. Yet we are all united together as one.

Your support gives us new strength to continue in our struggle for freedom. We shall read the Haggadah at the sedar table. It teaches us to celebrate Passover like our ancestors in Egypt. But the history of Exodus is not only history to us. It is a reality.

They force us to forget our national traditions; they don't allow us to come to the synagogue on the Shabbat; we cannot learn basic Hebrew language and the history of Israel. Many of us are imprisoned for our desire to go to Israel. We shall overcome our modern Egypt, like thousands of years ago, we shall overcome our enemies of today.

All Jews in the world: Shelach Et Ami! Let My People Go! L'Shanah Habaah B'Yerushalyim! Next Year in Jerusalem!"

# NEWSBRIEFS

Moscow refuseniks, **Aba Taratuta, Dr. Alexander Lerner, Lev Blitshtein, and Alexander Maryasin's wife**, expressed their best wishes for a happy Passover in telephone conversations with the UCSJ. Lerner expected 30 people to be at his Seder dinner, which would include a "4th matzah — the matzah of hope". Lerner also told the UCSJ that he will explain the story of the "extra chair" to his guests at the Seder. The extra chair fulfills the duty to let "all those who are hungry, come and eat — strangers and friends." Maryasin's wife expressed that they have one word to live by, and that is "hope".

As last reported, **ALEXANDER BALTER** was arrested on March 29 for swearing when he was picked up on March 4th in Moscow. The time period between the two dates is greater than that allowed by Soviet law for the arrest to have lawfully taken place. He has been arrested as a warning for his strong and supportive position with Zachar Zunshine. Alexander — the eldest of Svetlana's Balter's sons, is not easily intimidated or threatened into silence. (See related story on page 1)

On April 10, **POLINA BALTER, SVETLANA BALTER, and TATIANA ZUNSHINE** were arrested for "hooliganism". Protest their arrest and urge the Soviet authorities to give them visas to emigrate. SEND TELEGRAMS TO: Latvian Prosecutor, Rinis St. #9, Riga 226158, Latvian SSR, USSR.

Prisoner of Conscience **VLADIMIR KISLIK**, who had served one year in a labor camp and two years "working for the national economy" has returned to Kiev, and is reapplying for a visa and a residence permit. The 49-year old physicist has been waiting eleven years to join his wife Evgenia and son Maxim in Israel. HIS ADDRESS: USSR, Ukrainian SSR, Kiev, Rusanovsky Bulvar 10, Apt. 22.

**PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE OSIP LOKSHIN AND VLADIMIR TZUKERMAN** are due to be released in May.

Odessa refusenik **YACOV MESH** received another refusal.

The latest complete address for **PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE YOSEF BEGUN** in the Perm labor camp is: 618801 Permskaya Oblast, Chusovskaya Rayon, St. Polovinka, Uch. VS-389/37.

Wife of Prisoner of Conscience **LEV ELBERT, INA ELBERT**, is being treated for liver disease in Moscow.

Under the new appendix to the Soviet Criminal Code-209, it is possible to receive **10 years in prison**, instead of the previous maximum of two years for **anyone who earns their living on gifts received from abroad**.

New Prisoner of Conscience **MOSHE ABRAMOV** is in a small town for "new chemistry", internal exile. The town is Navoyee, near Samarkand. Moshe is without a guard, can work but must report in every night. His relatives do not want any "noise". Leningrad refuseniks received an answer from the prosecutor of Samarkan, saying: "We will see his trial more correctly and precisely". A new appeal at the justice court of the Republic of Uzbekistan has been made and awaits an answer.

## Zunshine, Balter

Continued from page 1

punish Umansky by giving him a job where he would work over 8 hours a day to "keep quiet".

Sixty-six Soviet Jews including Leningrad refuseniks wrote to the General Prosecutor and other Soviet authorities about Zachar Zunshine, noting that "he is in prison only for his legal attempt to leave the Soviet Union and for giving up his Soviet citizenship". Their letter of appeal stated their legal rights for emigration and their rights to renounce their Soviet citizenship. Their letter protested their not having received an answer to their inquiries on behalf of Zunshine. The letter was sent to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet; the General Prosecutor in Moscow; the Central Committee of the Communist Party in Moscow; the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Latvian Republic; the Prosecutor of the Latvian Republic, and the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Latvian Republic.

Not only have Soviet authorities not answered any inquiries as to Zunshine's citizenship status, they have not given an answer as to his health status. Zachar has been refusing his allocated parcel of food. The situation in Leningrad is "unbelievably tight and difficult". Zunshine's trial is "very dangerous for us all" according to Leningrad refuseniks. Of particular fear are the potential arrests of Grigory Vasserman and Yakov Gorodetsky. Vasserman has been detained six times in the past six weeks — the last time when Vasserman was with two Rabbis.

It is urgent that inquiries are made to the General Prosecutor, the Supreme Soviet, and to the Latvian Prosecutor demanding an answer on the case of Zachar Zunshine — his health status and his request to repatriate.

Write to: **Prosecutor General of the USSR**, Alexander Rekunkov, 15a Pushkinskaya Street, Moscow RSFSR, USSR; **Secretary of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR**, Moscow 103009, Prospekt Kalinina 4-22; **Latvian Prosecutor**, Rinis Street, #9, Riga 226138, Latvian SSR, USSR. **Of most importance is the prison of the Ministry of Internal Affairs**, Padomu Street, Building #7, Riga 226000, Latvian SSR, USSR.

## "We Have Been Waiting For So Long"

March 8, 1984

Dear Carolyn and Chris (Sanger)

Many thanks for both your letters of February 15 and the three photos of yours. Now when we know how you look like, we simply must show you our faces.

We'll ask (Svetlana's sister in Canada) to send you the best photos

### An Appeal For Paritsky

In a striking show of support for imprisoned acoustic physicist Alexander Paritsky, more than 450 participants at the Annual Meeting of the American Physical Society last month signed a message to Soviet authorities calling for their colleague's release, according to the Committee of Concerned Scientists — an independent organization of 4,000 American Scientists dedicated to advancing the human rights and scientific freedom of colleagues worldwide.

Their appeal was directed to the president of the Ukrainian Academy of Science, Academician B.E. Paton; to the chief of the Ukrainian office of Visas and Registration, Petrenko; and to the commandant of the Buryatskaya labor camp.

The petition signers told the Soviets that they "look hopefully towards" Paritsky's release from labor camp "as the first step towards his long-awaited emigration, enabling him to resume his scientific work."

### No Adequate Synagogue

Ida Nudel who has been living in Bendersky was warned by police against entertaining other refuseniks in her apartment. Nudel responded that "if there were an adequate synagogue for them to meet, they would not need to meet in her private home". A small wooden hut, which serves as a prayer house in the town can't accommodate the two hundred families who gather on the Jewish festivals.

What was the town's synagogue is now being used as a sports center, and Nudel is asking that it be restored to its former use.

of ours. We've also read with vivid interest about the Jewish population's life and occupation in the Washington area. Certainly I would be glad to have some clippings from the *Washington Jewish Week* (and I'm sure that you'll find the most interesting) but at the same time I'm afraid that if you enclose them into the letter then I'll get neither the letter or the clippings. Some years ago a friend of mine had sent me a newspaper satire by Art Buchwald and I got it, but sometimes his satire is translated and published in our newspapers (but I've never seen any translations from the *WJW*). (In Hebrew — "Thanks to you") everything is more or less all right here. Today the Soviet Union celebrates the International Women Day and it's an official holiday here. That is why the children do not go to school and in an hour we'll go with Clara and her (girl) friend to the country for evening. But before leaving for the country I have to finish writing this letter and to have it on the way, in the hope that it will reach you by the Purim and bring you our good wishes for the coming festival.

You have asked me about our prospects in getting that good news we have been waiting for so long. At the moment I can't do any predictions but who knows, maybe (In Hebrew "w/God's wishes"), this year will bring us some good news. In the mean time I do my mathematics (simply because I can do this better than I can do anything else) and also try not to forget my Hebrew. I read now a book about adventures entitled (In Hebrew, "Land of . . .") Though it was originally written in English the Hebrew translation is rather good (according to my poor knowledge) and reading it allows me not to forget what I've learned in the recent years.

We are sure you've enjoyed your trip to Colorado. By the way I've read in a newspaper that the last round of the Alpine Skiing Competitions for the International Cup took place in Colorado.

Love to you all  
Svetlana & Abram Kagan  
195256 USSR Leningrad K-256  
Karpinskogo 14 apt. 86

## Washington Talk

### 'Big Lie' is Soviet Tool

Elliott Abrams was appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs in 1981. A native of New York, he was graduated from Harvard College and the Harvard Law School and received a master's degree in international relations from the London School of Economics. He served in the Senate as special counsel to the late Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) and as chief of staff to Sen. Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.). He is a prolific political columnist and has frequently appeared on major television news programs including "Nightline" and "The McNeil-Lehrer Report." Following are excerpts from an exclusive **Israel Today** interview.

**Q:** How does the Soviet Union justify its defiance of the Geneva Accords in not allowing monitoring by dissidents and not permitting emigration for refuseniks who are anxious to be reunited with their families in Israel?

**ABRAMS:** Well, they justify it by lying and I think it's important to note that this is probably the single most important tool of Soviet public relations and foreign policy. They lie constantly. It makes it very difficult to negotiate with them or deal with them in any way. As an example, the new anti-Zionist committee set up last year said that every Jew who wants to leave has left. They claim that there's no such thing as keeping Jews in who would like to leave for family unification purposes. This is just an outright lie.

The State Department doesn't run the Soviet Union. The ability of the United States to affect the internal behavior of the Soviets or any other country for that matter, especially a superpower, is very limited. I know from dealing with Soviet Jewry groups the immense frustration that people feel when they cannot produce more. And sometimes it leaves people to focus their frustration and anger on Washington. We don't have the keys to that jail. The keys to that jail are in Moscow, and we are pressing as hard as we can with very limited results.

**Q:** How are you pressing?

**ABRAMS:** Two ways: The public and the private. The question of Soviet Jewry has been a subject at every discussion between Schultz and Gromyko. Secretary Schultz particularly made a point to bring up the issue at the beginning of each meeting because you run the risk — if it's at the end — that Gromyko will say, "We had our meeting and now he throws this in for domestic political purposes."

And we have made it a constant subject of our discussions with the Russians, both in Moscow and in Washington. We've talked about it endlessly in Madrid, too, at the Helsinki meeting. In addition, of course, we've made a lot of public statements and tried as hard as we can to get other governments interested in doing the same kind of thing. The U.S. probably for the last 10 years has been doing more than any other government. But some others do a fair amount, like the French and the Dutch. The more people bring up the issue the better all Soviet Jews will be.

**Q:** Under Chernenko might there be an improvement in relations between the two countries and therefore an improvement in the emigration of Jews?

**ABRAMS:** I think it's conceivable, for two reasons. The first is that this presents, certainly, an opportunity for better relations. I don't think anything's going to happen very fast because we're in an election year, and the Soviets don't want to give any gifts to President Reagan as candidate Reagan. So maybe things will have to wait until after the election. The other point is the reason for repression, and that is internal. Andropov's period of rule, which was roughly a year and a half, was a period of intense, increasing internal repression, including official anti-Semitism. I think there is at least some hope that that pressure will be reduced under Chernenko.

ISRAEL TODAY, Friday, March 30, 1984-page 11

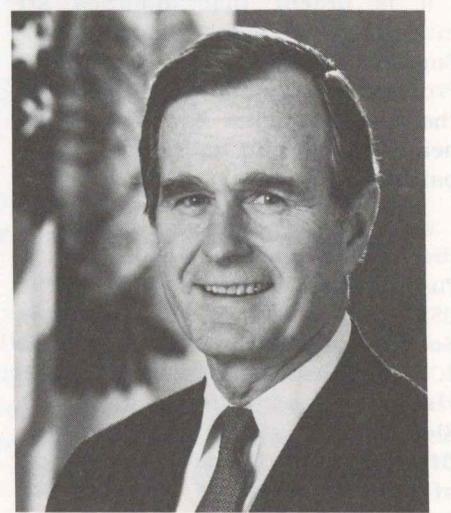
### Soviet Jewry 'On the Table'

"Only fifty synagogues remain in the entire country (of the Soviet Union), and private services are outlawed. The access of Jews to university educations has been sharply curtailed," stated Vice President George Bush at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee's 25th Annual Policy Conference held April 8-10, in Washington, D.C.

"In the Soviet Union, Jews have been unmercifully harassed. Jews like Kim Fridman, Felix Kochubievsky, Yosef Begun, and Anatoly Shcharansky are languishing in prison on specious and unfounded charges.

And I can tell you now that the Soviet leadership understands that if it wants to signal us (we hear so much about our signaling them), that if it is truly interested in a thawing of relations, this is one place where they can send a signal. And they understand as well that whenever, wherever, on whatever topic they meet with us, the issue of Soviet Jewry is on the table, and is going to be discussed with them.

We have and will continue to advocate publicly and privately and without letting up the cause of divided families and human rights. We have and will continue to care about the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union."

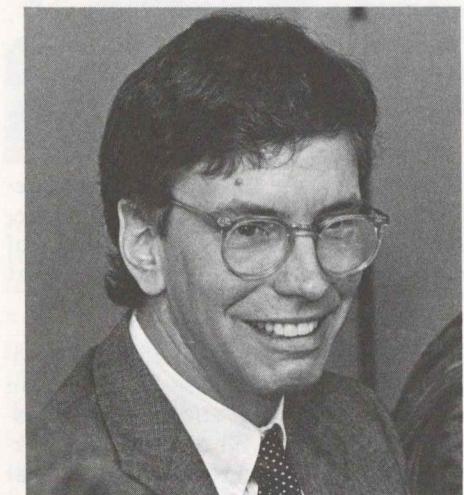


Vice President George Bush

## ALERT On Capitol Hill



### UCSJ Announces Associate Director for Congressional Affairs



The UCSJ is pleased to announce our new Associate Director for Congressional Affairs, Robert L. Arsenault. Bob brings a thorough background in human rights and extensive Capitol Hill experience as a former legislative aide to U.S. Senator Paul Tsongas (D-MA).

### Representatives Urge Ban on Soviet Slave-Labor Goods

On March 21, in reaction to the lack of enforcement of Section 307 of the 1930 Tariff Act, Representative Eldon Rudd (R-Ariz.) introduced a resolution co-sponsored by eight other representatives urging the Secretary of the Treasury "to end the delay in enforcing this provision, and to act immediately to prohibit the importation of such goods."

Section 307 of the 1930 Tariff Act (Smoot-Hawley) is a little known law which only recently has been given a great deal of attention. This law states that "All goods, wares, articles and merchandise mined, produced or manufactured wholly or in part in any foreign country by convict labor or/and forced labor or/and indentured labor under penal sanctions shall not be entitled to entry at any of the ports of the United States, and the importation thereof is hereby prohibited."

The resolution (House Concurrent Resolution 277) stems from a September 1983 letter to Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan from Customs Commissioner William von Raab asking for approval to bar approximately three dozen items from entry into the United States because of evidence that they were made with forced labor in the Soviet Union. The Commissioner

based his recommendation on a February 1983 State Department report to the Congress on forced labor in the U.S.S.R. and an unclassified CIA list of Soviet industries and products in which forced labor is used extensively. Regan then passed von Raab's findings and recommendations to the Senior Inter-Agency Group for International Economic Policy, a body consisting of Cabinet-level members, where, according to press reports, it met with great resistance. According to a *Washington Times* article by George Archibald on March 23, the Departments of State and Commerce, as well as the U.S. Trade Representative, are the primary opponents of the Customs Commissioner's recommendation. The article went on to say that "Opponents of the ban are said to be against trade sanctions as a general principle and to fear such action might hinder efforts to soothe relations with the Soviets."

Since the Customs recommendation was first made, a number of Senators and Representatives have contacted both the Customs Commissioner and the Treasury Secretary, voicing their desire to see the law enforced. On November 9, 1983, the Helsinki Commission and the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Human Rights and International Organizations held a joint hearing on the extensive use of forced labor in the Soviet Union, and both Assistant Treasury Secretary Walker and Commissioner von Raab submitted testimony. The Customs Commissioner reaffirmed his position, stating that "it is my belief that such products are being imported into the United States," and that his recommendation to ban these products was "not frivolous by any stretch of the imagination." Assistant Secretary Walker stated that the "review is currently underway, and we are moving forward rapidly on it."

Six months have passed since von Raab recommended the ban. The lack of visible progress and press reports claiming that opponents of the ban were attempting to shelve it altogether have led many lawmakers to press for enforcement. Congressman Rudd, after noting that the House of Representatives passed House Concurrent Resolution 100, expressing the sense of the Congress that "the policies of forced labor are morally reprehensible," stated in the *Congressional Record* on March 21 that House Concurrent Resolution 277 "takes the next logical step in urging the Secretary of the Treasury to enforce our own laws so we are no longer a part of this horrible practice." The resolution is co-sponsored by Representatives Dante B. Fascell (D-Fla.), Thomas J. Bliley (R-Va.), Tom Lantos (D-Calif.), Philip M. Crane (R-Ill.), Bob Livingston (R-La.), Christopher H. Smith (R-N.J.), and Gus Yatron (D-Pa.) and states that the delay is "unacceptable to the Congress."

CSCE Digest, 4/84

# Action ALERT

## From Local Councils

• **The Annual Meeting of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews will take place at the Capital Hilton in Washington, D.C. on September 9-11.** Registration packets will be in the mail shortly; early registration is a plus! For more information, please contact the UCSJ Washington office.

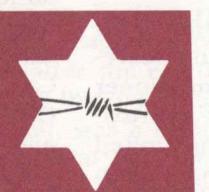
• **The Arizona Council on Soviet Jewry** held a spectacular candlelight procession for the International Day of Concern for Soviet Jewry. The public was invited to participate in a program which featured an address by former refusenik Dr. Benjamin Fain.

• **Chicago Action For Soviet Jewry** prepared a special Soviet Haggadah supplement for use at Passover Seders. As we commemorated this festival of freedom and the exodus of Jews from bondage, we were reminded of the Jews in the Soviet Union, for whom the exodus has not yet become a reality.

• **The Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry** protested the film "Backstage at the Kirov" by hand-delivering a letter to the Director and his Soviet emigre wife at the April 26 premier. The letter, calling attention to human rights violations in the Soviet Union, was distributed to the press, stressing the inappropriateness of a lavish reception of Soviet brands of caviar and vodka while Soviet Jewish prisoners of conscience receive substandard diets.

On April 27 — the birthday of former prisoner of conscience Ida Nudel, the CCCSJ distributed 500 balloons in downtown Denver, which read "Free Ida Nudel; Send this message to Ambassador Dobrynin!"

• **The Detroit Committee for Soviet Jewry** held its third Annual Freedom Concert For Soviet Jewry in memory of Al M. Rosenberg, on March 28, at Adat Olam synagogue. The concert featured Anachnu Khan — an ensemble of 90 musicians, dancers and singers who began their careers in the Soviet Union and galvanized the Jewish liberation movement with their performances.



### Kislik Released



VLADIMIR KISLIK

### Soviet delegation visiting Israel: "True Picture" concerning Soviet Jewry

By Roy Isacowitz  
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV — There is no such thing as a "Jewish question" in the Soviet Union; progress in solving the Israeli-Arab conflict depends entirely on Israeli concessions; Soviet policy in the Chernenko era will remain exactly as it has been in the past.

That is the message of a four-member Soviet delegation that has spent a week in Israel as guests of a public committee of representatives of Israeli peace movements. The delegation is due to return to the Soviet Union today.

Delegation leader Yuri Barabash chief editor of the *Sovetskaya Kultura* (Soviet Culture) newspaper and president of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity and Friendship with the Palestinian People, told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday that, while in Israel, the group had tried to give the "true picture" concerning Soviet Jewry. That picture, he said, is that the Jews in the Soviet Union have no specific problems. The problem is caused by people who do not have accurate information on the subject, or by those with an anti-Soviet bias.

Barabash was not troubled by the small demonstration for Soviet Jewry by the 35s Group outside the headquarters of the Israel-Soviet Friendship League.

Barabash said that the delegation had encountered a lot of good will during its visit and had found a desire to better understand Soviet policy. He said that, in his opinion, peace sentiment in Israel was growing, and a considerable majority of the Israeli public disagreed with the "aggressive political trend" in the country.

But he was not optimistic that there would be a thaw in the diplomatic freeze between the two countries soon. The resumption of diplomatic relations depended on a fundamental modification of the political trend in Israel and the renunciation by Israel of "anti-Sovietism," he said. He refused to say whether he believed the PLO would recognise Israel. Israel should first recognise the PLO as a negotiating partner and then maybe it would get an answer, he said.

Asked whether any change could

be expected in Soviet policy during the Chernenko era, Barabash replied that the Soviet Union does not identify specific eras. Chernenko and other party members have underlined the continuity of Soviet policies.

Delegation member Yuri Drosdov, director of the Africa-Middle East department of the Soviet Peace Committee, said that Soviet suffering since early in this century had made the Soviet people especially sensitive to peace. However, he did not believe that Jewish suffering had done the same for Israelis. Whereas the Soviets had become internationalist, Israelis had become isolationist, he said.

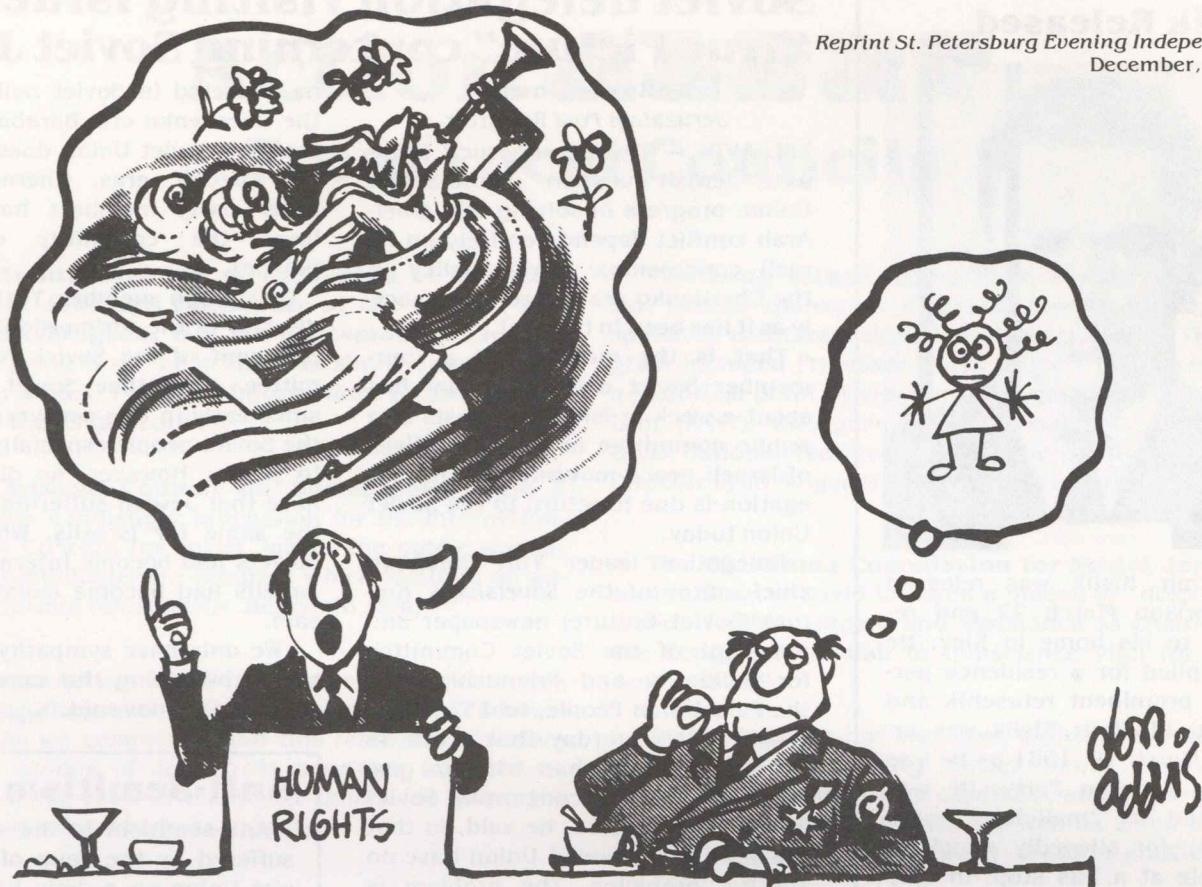
"We only have sympathy for those who think along the same lines as we do," Drosdov said. March 23, 1984

### Anti-Semitism

Anti-semitism is the affliction suffered by the Jews of the Soviet Union on a daily basis. The USSR is the only government since the times of Hitler to officially sanction anti-semitic policies. Jews who seek to emigrate can be the victims of harassment, firings from their jobs, and discrimination in higher education — even prison. Their courage and steadfast efforts to leave the Soviet Union are a stimulus to all of us in the free world to redouble our efforts and help them in their struggle.

### Jewish survival

Soviet Jews are the largest endangered Jewish population in the world. At this time, they face a cultural and religious genocide. To exist as Jews they must leave the confinement of the Soviet Union and live in the freedom of Israel and the Jewish community. We need their strength and their numbers, which only a reunion with their brothers and sisters in the free world can provide.



**UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS**  
1411 K STREET, NW, SUITE 402  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

### Inside Today's Alert

Arrests: Zunshines & Balters .....	p. 1, 3
Passover 1984 .....	p. 1
Newsbriefs .....	p. 2
Kagan: "We Have Been Waiting For So Long" .....	p. 3
Washington Talk .....	p. 4
Alert on Capitol Hill .....	p. 5
Action Alert From Local Councils .....	p. 6
Kislik Released .....	p. 7

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is composed of 33 local councils, 3 domestic affiliates, 3 international affiliates and 55,000 individual members dedicated to helping Soviet Jews, especially those desiring to emigrate.

Editor: Claudia Zorn.

President: Lynn Singer. Vice Presidents: Hinda Cantor, Pam Cohen, Ruth Newman, Morey Schapira.

**51 Jews left Soviet Union in March**