



SOVIET JEWRY NEWSLETTER

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No. 1 - Summer 1971

CINCINNATI SOVIET JEWRY COUNCIL MEETS - FORMATION OF SOVIET JEWRY COMMITTEES URGED

The Cincinnati Soviet Jewry Council held its second meeting last month. The 50 people who attended watched and listened to an excellent slide-lecture presentation on Russia by Dr. Arnold Schrier.

The second part of the meeting was devoted to discussion of summer programming. Louis Jacobs, Chairman of the CSJ, urged organizations to form Soviet Jewry committees during the quiet summer months so that communication and participation will be at a maximum for fall Soviet Jewry programs.

TRIALS IN KISHINEV, ODESSA

Nine more Jews were put on trial in connection with last years' hijack attempt. The trials began June 21 in Kishinev, the capital of Soviet Moldavia. The nine defendants were found guilty and sentenced to prison terms of 1-5 years. This brought the total number of Jews tried in connection with last summers' "hijack" attempt to 34.

In Odessa, Reiza Palatnik, a young librarian, was tried for disseminating anti-Soviet materials and sentenced to two years in a prison camp.

PROJECTED FALL ACTIVITIES FOR CINCINNATI

The Cincinnati Council on Soviet Jewry in cooperation with the Jewish Community Relations Council has begun to plan fall activities for the community.

Possible programs may include:

- Establishment of a "Hot Line" to deal primarily with the latest Soviet Jewry information
- TV series on Soviet Jewry
- Speakers Bureau on Soviet Jewry to reach Jewish and non-Jewish groups
- Cooperation with the Bureau of Jewish Education to provide classes, guest speakers and films on Soviet Jewry to be used in the religious schools

- Simchat Torah demonstration and prayer service - part of an international effort
- Programs highlighting cultural contributions of Russia's Jewish artists, thinkers and writers
- All-community seminar led by renown Sovietologists

CINCINNATI INTERFAITH CONFERENCE CONDEMNS TREATMENT OF JEWS IN RUSSIA

A conference of Southern Baptists and Jewish scholars held at Hebrew Union College adopted a resolution pleading for amnesty for Ruth Aleksandrovich and all "defendants of conscience" in the Soviet Union "who have been repressed." It also denounced "the forthcoming trials in Kishinev ... and Odessa of Soviet citizens who are being denied religious liberty, cultural self-determination and the right to emigrate, a right to which the Soviet Union is pledged as a signer of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

SOVIET JEWISH MOTHERS ASK SOVIET AUTHORITIES TO LET THEIR CHILDREN GO

Eleven more mothers have asked Soviet authorities to allow their children to go to Israel, even if they must stay behind. This brings the total of petitioning mothers to 33, having a total of 39 children. The second petition was submitted June 13 in Lithuania, the earlier petition in Moscow.

DEBATE CONTINUES OVER YIDDISH "VOICE OF AMERICA" BROADCASTS TO RUSSIA

Leaders of the American Jewish Congress and other Jewish organizations are continuing to demand Yiddish and Hebrew broadcasts to Russia, for Russia's 3 1/2 million Jews. Although the VOA has rejected the idea, Jewish leaders and political figures say they will continue to urge such broadcasts, which they say the Jews as a nationality group are entitled to. The US Government, while acknowledging Russia's Jews as a nationality group, has not favored such broadcasts.

COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE RIGHTS OF SOVIET JEWS HELD IN NEW YORK

A seven-man commission heard testimony in New York on the rights of Soviet Jews. The commission, chaired by Bayard Rustin, include Charles Goodell, Abraham Heschel, Hans Morgenthau, J. Brooke Mosley, Telford Taylor and George Wald.

The hearing, held last month, coincided with the opening of the "hijack" trial in Kishinev, of nine Jews arrested a year ago.

Those testifying included Mrs. Rivka Alexandrovich and political, academic and legal leaders from all over the United States. Many had just returned from trips to the USSR and told of interviews with Russian Jewish and non-Jewish academicians, scientists and citizens.

Rep. Bertram Podell (Dem.; Brooklyn) presented a letter - written by top Russian scientists - which called for an end of persecution of Jews. The letter "reveals for the first time the full extent of the support given the struggle for Jewish national rights by leaders of the non-Jewish civil rights and civil liberties movement in the USSR."

MATERIALS AVAILABLE FOR DISTRIBUTION

The JCRC office has a large variety of materials available for a nominal charge. Materials include:

- Fact sheet on Soviet Jewry - and other background materials - no charge
- Greeting cards - written in Russian, with Hebrew alphabet. (\$1 per pkg. of five cards and envelopes; addresses enclosed)
- Posters (75¢ each)
- Fliers, buttons, etc., upon request
- Postcards to Russian officials urging the end of persecution and trials (15¢ postage)

Materials and further information can be obtained by calling or writing the JCRC office, 906 Main St. Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, phone: 241-5620