

# ALERT

Vol. IV., No. 26/July 3, 1980/ Robert Gordon - Pres./Davida Manon - Editor

## The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

### THREE MORE JEWISH PRISONERS ; POC'S NUMBER TWENTY

We have recently learned of three more refuseniks imprisoned for the desire to leave Russia for their homeland in Israel.

Issak Rubinov of Derbent was sentenced in October, 1979 and given a two-year sentence. Celebrating with his sister the receipt of their exit visas, they were taunted by drunks and a fight ensued. Despite the willingness of several non-Jewish witnesses to testify that Rubinov was not at fault, the court gave Rubinov a stiff sentence. This incident is markedly similar to one involving Arkady Feldman and his friends in Beltsy. Rubinov's sister has remained in Derbent to help with his appeal; his mother and three sisters are all in Israel. Send letters of support to: R. Rubinova, Lenina 4, kv. 24, Derbent, RSFSR, USSR.

Yuri Arkadyevich Poznansky (born 1933) is a long-time refusenik from Kharkov who was sentenced on some pretext. He is now on probation and working on a construction brigade in his city. Address letters of support to him at: Yuri Poznansky, Obschejitie SMU #3, Selo Krestischche, Kasnogradskyaion, Kharkov, Ukrainian SSR, USSR.

The third prisoner is a Soviet woman dentist being framed on charges of "smuggling antiques." Valentina Nikolaevna Sokolova, born 1925, was arrested on October 3, 1979 in Leningrad. Her daughter and son-in-law, Yeleva and Piotr Zaltsman, who had been given exit visas, were told their permissions had been revoked.

An anguished letter was sent to Amnesty by her concerned son in the West. Insistent that the few packages he had received were souvenirs, Arkady Sokolov states that the KGB is attempting to steal property with a legal base. Excerpts of his letter are printed below:

... It's worth mentioning that the present wave of emigration from Russia is extremely beneficial to the Soviets. Not only do they use emigrants as a tender in their political trade with the West, but they save alot on pensions and medical costs for the elderly, and improve substantially the situation with apartments they lack so badly. By imposing unbearable tolls and introducing severe customs restrictions, they push people out almost naked. . . But even the omnipotent KGB nowadays cannot rob people by itself: under the triumphant Leninist Principles of Socialist Legality it has to have a legal basis for such an action in the form of a court decision. The only thing left is to find the appropriate article from the code that provides confiscation of property. And here it is: smuggling. That's why "smugglers" have emerged in recent years.

... The Soviets today, as always, desperately need gold and valuable things to finance their ventures abroad and to purchase, for example, bread grain. That's why through the vast network of informers they compile lists of those who could have hoarded gold and arrest them - particularly those connected with emigration.

Before retirement my parents worked as dentists and, according to KGB deductions, they could have hoarded gold, and they surely were on the list. I always lived with my parents and I can testify that to my knowledge neither did they use gold nor were they involved in any illegal dental practice.

... They would have arrested my father also, but it was so heavy a blow that he suffered a brain hemorrhage and is now totally paralyzed. Emigration visas for my sister and her husband were revoked, for the KGB needed both of them for future interrogations. (It was during one of these that a KGB investigator shouted: "Will you tell us at last where are those millions.")

... The KGB team that arrived to search my parent's home carried away almost everything, including clothes. An act of robbery was accomplished. Now they have to legalize it. According to my sister's husband they have neither material evidence or witnesses. (Indeed it's hard to find a witness of what has not happened). They tried to make me collaborate with them too. On Nov. 23, 1979,

(continued)





at 5:15 a.m. they called me from the KGB building (The Big House) in Leningrad and a weeping voice I didn't recognize at first (supposedly my mother's) told me that I must submit to the Soviet Mission in New York enumerated items. . . All my mother ever sent me in the mail were records, books and souvenirs to remind me of home. Everything was mailed legally through the customs, with customs declarations and inspections.

But after being kept in a strict isolation cell of a KGB prison next to the Big House (on Voinov Street) on a concrete floor, after being fed with stuff containing bromides (or whatever achievement of pharmaceutical science), after being informed about her husband's illness and threatened with the fate of her children, thus bringing her to the edge of insanity, she confessed what she never did. This is the way souvenirs are transformed into antiques.

Please send letters of support to the family and protests to the Leningrad authorities.

Mikhail Aronovich Zak (husband)  
Furmanov 92a  
Leningrad, RSFSR, USSR

Leningrad KGB  
4 Liteing Prospekt  
Leningrad, RSFSR, USSR

Sergei Solovyev  
Procurator General of  
Leningrad, RSFSR, USSR

### KIEV SITUATION HEATS UP; MASS REFUSALS AND COLLECTIVE PROTESTS

Ivan Olenik, arrested on March 13th for "hooliganism" and sentenced to one year of forced labor for the national economy, has been transferred from Lukyanov prison in Kiev to Volgograd. This transfer is illegal according to Soviet law; he is supposed to serve in his own city. Kiev is an Olympics city, however, and this may be the reason for his transfer.

The trial of Valery Pilnikov was postponed to June 27th. Appeals on his behalf are being drafted by his wife and other members of the Kiev community. He is being tried under Article 206/2 and could face a sentence of one to five years imprisonment.

Pilnikov's trial highlights the plight of Kiev's community of new refuseniks. There have been 3,000 refusals within the last six months, in addition to at least 2,000 given earlier! These new refuseniks are protesting their fate in groups rather than as individuals. Large-scale refusals became known late in November of 1979, and group protests began in January 1980. Groups have protested via letter and in person to the KGB, the Ministries of the Interior and the Central Committee of the Communist Party. KGB harassment has occurred, mass detentions and now Pilnikov's arrest. An open appeal to the West and an open letter to the press in the USSR have been made by these courageous groups who are in desperate need of your support. (They are reprinted in full following the next paragraph.)

As has been reported earlier, Jewish emigration in the Ukraine (especially from Kiev) has been cut drastically by 500%! A recent article in the New Statesman points out the protests of Ukrainian nationals regarding the large scale Jewish emigration, with official promises of action. We are seeing the results of that action. Letters of support to Pilnikov's wife may be sent to the following address: Olga (and Valery) Pilnikov, Vasilkovskaya 55, apt.14, Kiev 127, Ukr. SSR, USSR. (Names of other Kiev refuseniks will be printed in the next ALERT).

### To the Jewish People From Jews in Kiev - 26th April, 1980

We are appealing to the Jewish people - to Israel, to Jews living in Palestine, in the homeland of our forefathers, and to Jews living in the Diaspora in all the countries throughout the world.

Now, at this very moment, in the town of Kiev, several thousands of your brothers are seized with despair. They have in fact, been placed outside the law, and their situation seems to be hopeless. We are referring to - two thousand Jewish families who have declared their intention to leave the Soviet Union.

Half a year ago, the authorities in Kiev began a campaign which it is difficult to describe other than as a moral pogrom. Thousands of Jews who declared their intention to emigrate from the USSR were, without any legal basis, refused their right to leave the USSR. They are people who have had the epithets of "traitors" and "betrayers" thrown at them, most of them were immediately thrown out of work in connection with their submission of application to emigrate, and have been deprived of all means of existence.



It is difficult to describe the despair which overwhelms people when they know that they have been cast into limbo, that they are deprived of the possibility of leaving the Soviet Union, that they will be compelled to remain here and make up a caste of untouchables. At first, not completely believing what was happening to us, still hoping that this was tyranny on the part of the local authorities, people began to complain to government and party organs of the Ukrainian SSR and of the USSR. In the reception halls enormous long lines appeared, about twenty thousand complaints were sent by post. But it appears that the sufferings of innocent people are a matter of indifference to the Soviet Administration and violations of the law are always upheld if they are sanctioned from above. And we appear to be outside the law.

Outcast and despised, we became united in our sorrow. We appealed to the authorities with collective complaints and protests; together, in groups of 30 or 70 or sometimes even 150, we came to the reception rooms and to highly placed officials; we have been supporting to the best of our ability those who appear to be most poverty-stricken.

The situation in Kiev is unique; Kiev is the only town in the USSR where mass refusals to grant permission to emigrate, have been replied to with mass collective protests and collective actions. And therefore, it will be the first town in which massive reprisals will be undertaken against families of refuseniks.

The persecution has already begun. Representatives of Kiev refuseniks gathered together to travel to Moscow intending to appeal on the 23rd of April, 1980, to the Central Committee of the CPSU for a clarification of our position and of the intentions of the authorities in regard to the unfortunate people who have fallen into limbo. We made no special attempts to hide our journey, knowing that there was nothing contrary to law in it.

On the 21st and 22nd of April, many of the group of representatives were taken in for interrogation. On the railway platforms of the trains going to Moscow, and at the airports, massive police cordons had been drawn up. Without any explanation or reason, people of Jewish appearance were picked up and detained. Anyone who came under suspicion of belonging to the group of representatives of the Kiev refuseniks was held by the police. All were taken to special places to be searched and every scrap of paper - letters, declarations, complaints, note-pads and memo-books were confiscated.

And in spite of this, about forty people did manage to get to Moscow. On the 23rd of April, at 11 a.m. they went to the reception hall of the Central Committee. Outside the building of the Central Committee a whole squadron of armed police and large numbers of people in civilian clothing were waiting for them. Only at 3 o'clock in the afternoon did a responsible official of the Dept. of Administration of the Central Committee, A.A. Glukhovtzev, agree to listen to the representatives.

When, at the termination of their interview, the group left the reception room; the small street at the side of the Central Committee building was cordoned off by police, there were about a dozen police cars, trucks with armed police all of whom were loaded down with tear-gas cylinders; many people in civilian clothing were walking up and down the alleyway not taking their eyes for one moment off the group of refusenik representatives.

Those were terrible moments - two-score unarmed, defenceless people with an armed and punitive detachment ready to pounce on them. These moments are also as dreadful in the every-day life of the two thousand Jewish families surrounded by the machine of repression which is ready at any moment to crush them.

#### Jews of The World Help Us!

We are defenceless - we have in fact been transformed by the Soviet Union into hostages! We do not know what sort of ransom the Soviet government intends to demand for us, but we beg you - HELP US! Ransom Us - Or Free Us!

26th April, 1980 - Signed by 84 Kiev refuseniks.



Open Letter: To the Editor of the Weekly Magazine "Moscow News"

Issue #16 of your weekly, dated 20 April, 1980, published some information that was presented to your correspondent by the head of OVIR of the Ministry of the Interior of the USSR, General Konstantin Zotov, under the title "Entry Visa? - For a couple of days."

General Zotov dwelt particularly on the question of persons of Jewish nationality who have been refused permission to emigrate from the USSR. He declared that the refusals are only of a temporary character, and that the number of persons so affected is relatively small.

We, the undersigned, bear witness to the fact that General Zotov, Head of the OVIR of the Ministry of the Interior of the USSR is deliberately trying to mis-inform Soviet and world public opinion. In the Olympic town of Kiev alone, during the last half-year, OVIR gave permission to about 70 persons to emigrate and refusals to more than 3000.

Permission to emigrate from the USSR is given by OVIR only and exceptionally to persons who can present invitations from Israel from parents or children. The vast majority of refusals are based on the single ground of "insufficient" degrees of kinship. Refusals based on this ground can hardly be called "temporary". A similar situation in regard to emigration of Jews from the USSR exists in many other towns, e.g. Kharkov and Odessa. As was stated by the Head of OVIR of the Kiev Municipality, V.N. Titarenko, a similar attitude to examination of applications to emigrate from the USSR on the part of Jews, is widespread throughout the USSR.

General Konstantin Zotov cannot be unaware of the true situation in Kiev because he was personally informed about this by representatives of Kiev refuseniks as early as 19 March, 1980.

We should like to know in whose interest and for what purpose it has become necessary to mislead a wide circle of readers.

15 May, 1980 - Letter signed by 54 citizens of the USSR who have been refused permission to emigrate for the reason indicated.

COMMUNISTS ATTEMPT TO "PLACATE" WOULD-BE EMIGRANTS

Confirmed reports from Kiev and Moscow state that many would-be emigrants in these cities have had surprise visits from Communist party officials. They are being asked their reasons for leaving, and are being offered help in obtaining jobs and apartments --if the OVIR papers will be taken back and the applications cancelled.

Meetings are being held in various institutions and work places throughout the city to discuss the "Jewish problem." Speakers have taken the floor to praise the contribution that Soviet Jews have made to the development of the country. They have then gone on to regret that so many of "our Jewish comrades have seen fit to leave over the last few years" and then - probably the keynote of the meetings - to question whether the whole policy of allowing Jewish emigration ever to start was correct.

Party officials may be attempting to stem the tide of aliyah applicants with positive inducements to remain. This is far removed from the vitriolic anti-Semitic campaign we have seen in the past.

NEW KITCHKO BOOK IN WORKS

Moscow - K.T. Citchko, a Ukrainian writer, well-known for his anti-Semitic writings, is writing a new pamphlet, "Judaism and Zionism -- Disciples of Racism." As a result of world-wide condemnation of his book, Judaism Without Embellishment, published over a decade ago, Kitchko's literary career took a deep nose-dive. His publisher publicly admitted that the publication carried a "Nazi-like tone" and took the book off the market. This new work is the first since then and the press review may be a trial balloon. This pamphlet, reviewed by "Noviye Knigi SSSR, "a book review magazine in the Soviet Union, is described as an analysis of the "criminal activities of various Zionist organizations and Zionist oriented Judaism; their methods and means of struggle



for the minds of Jewish youth." It is marked for publication in 1981 and will have a press run of 25,000 copies.

"While uncovering the activities of Zionist youth organizations, their alliance with Fascist youth organizations in the past and with anti-Soviet youth federations today, the author presents a detailed analysis of the perennial anthropophobia of Judaism, of the 'matrimony' theory and the theory of 'anti-youth racism'."

Letters of denunciation should be sent to Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin in Washington.

#### NEWS BRIEFS

\* Natasha & Gennady Khassin have a new address in Moscow. They can receive mail at: 40 Shoseenaya, kv. 74, Moscow, RSFSR.

\* Vyascheslav Bakhmin has been indicted under Article 190-1 and will be brought to trial soon.

\* Zhanna Lipmanova, a new refusenik, was recently accosted and harassed in Leningrad. While accompanying an American tourist, Zhanna was forcibly removed and held overnight in a hotel room.

Born in 1953, Zhanna (or Eugenia, as she is formally known) is a brilliant young scientist working in an Institute of Neurophysiology in Leningrad. She has not been allowed to complete her Ph.D. since she applied to emigrate and join her parents who have left the USSR. Her address is: Eugenia Lipmanova, St.10 linia 27, apt.21, Leningrad, 199178 RSFSR, USSR.

\* Kharkov presently has a refusenik population of 500 families. The activists have organized 3 seminars; one on Jewish culture, another on world Jewry and a third as a scientific meeting place. Fifteen refuseniks had originally been told their exit visas would be received by August 15, 1980. They have all been recently warned by the militia to find work or face either exile or charges of parasitism.

\* Four refuseniks in Ilyinka have been warned to begin work or face charges of "parasitism." The refuseniks are concerned, but have decided not to resume working on the Kolkhoz. Boris Chernobilsky appealed to the procurator and was told the threat was illegal.

\* Mikhail Kremen and Evgeny Liberman of Moscow were requested to sign "obligations of proper behavior" for the duration of the Olympic Games. Hanna Elinson, the wife of Saul Gorelik, was asked to leave but has not done so due to her convalescence.

\* Semyon Gluzman is reportedly quite ill in exile. Unable to speak on the phone, he suffers severe abdominal pain and is unable to receive proper medical care. A booklet about him is being prepared by an Israeli committee. (Letters to him should be typewritten as hand-written notes are difficult for him to read.)

\* The charges brought against Leonid Volvosky are being investigated further, specifically Article 209 of the RSFSR Code (vagrancy and begging). Volvosky was released on May 18th, but the investigation is being kept current.

\* According to "Sovietish Heimland", the only Soviet Yiddish monthly, Yiddish is presently being taught in three high schools in the Birobidzhan region. The region has a Jewish population of less than 8%. This is less than in several major Ukrainian cities.

This conciliatory gesture is less than token, as the Yiddish speaking population is practically non-existent. Hebrew is not at present taught in any Soviet school.

#### UCSJ BOARD DEALS WITH DETERIORATING SITUATION OF SOVIET JEWS

"The situation in Kiev is extremely grave - mass refusals have led to collective protests which are beginning to be met with serious reprisals. We must step up our activities to meet this new threat." This was the assessment made by President Robert Gordon at the board meeting of the UCSJ held June 25-26 in Chicago.

The meeting was attended by board members from seven cities who represent the thirty grass-roots councils nation-wide working on behalf of Soviet Jews, especially those wishing to emigrate.



Plans for the coming year include activities to assure that the problems of Soviet Jews will be on the agenda of the Helsinki Accords Review in Madrid. It was noted that, in order to be effective, a strong US stand on the subject of human rights must be supported by our European allies.

Noted too, with deep regret, was the Papal order ending the Congressional career of Representative Robert Drinan, a leading supporter of Soviet Jews and activist in other human rights areas. Plans are under way for the UCSJ to honor him, both in his home district (Massachusetts) and in Washington.

The board meeting was preceded by a demonstration, coordinated by Chicago Action for Soviet Jewry, protesting the presence of a so-called "Soviet Peace Delegation" in Chicago. Lynn Singer, UCSJ vice-president, was able to obtain a meeting with two members of the delegation. She noted that the Soviet representatives were obviously thoroughly briefed in anticipation of questions on the treatment of Soviet Jews.

#### NEWS FROM THE COUNCILS AND AFFILIATES

\* June 21 was a special Shabbat for Mendelevich in Israel. A prayer composed by Rav Goren was distributed and read in synagogues across the country.

\* A non-Jewish kibbutz in Jerusalem, B'nai Shalom, has adopted POC Yosef Mendelevich.

\* Feiga Shkolnick and her daughter will begin a hunger strike at the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem on July 5th.

\* The UCSJ affiliate in Chicago is circulating an urgent appeal on behalf of Alexander Landsman, presently in remission relative to acute leukemia.

\* The UCSJ affiliate in Boston has become heavily involved in monitoring Soviet scientific visits to this area. Several important scientists have been here lately, with effective protests organized at each meeting. Please let Judy Patkin of Action for Soviet Jewry (617/893-2331) know of any future scientific visitors to your area.

#### EMIGRES 1700 emigres - 32% going to Israel.

Iosef Kapelyan	Minsk	Valery Bekman	Minsk
Mikhail Kan	Dondiushany	Israel Gurevich	Kiev
Ruben Alaev	Dushanbe	Mariam Boltanskaya	Bendery
Miron Goldenshtein	Kishinev	Mortkho Gofman	Negrovets
Mikhail Gavrilov	Samarkand	Mikhail Katsnelson	Minsk
Yuri Margulis	Kiev		

Permission: Ruth Okuneva - Moscow

#### NEW REFUSENIKS

Andre Zubkov  
3 Michaelkovskaya Prosepect.  
corp. 20, apt. 55, Moscow

Nadia Adler (maiden name Beznogova)  
5 Smolney Prospect, apt. #17  
Leningrad

Ury Balahontsevelt  
146 Nevsky - apt. 141  
Leningrad

(Genia) & Vladimir Dragunskaya  
9 Stchastliyyaya apt. 61  
Leningrad

Boris Glinner  
Sovietskaya 7-9-4  
Leningrad 193130

Michael Labovitz Shifman  
Novecher Kassky Prospect 174, apt. 31  
Leningrad, RSFSR, USSR. (DOB 1925)



WILLIAM LEHMAN  
13TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE:  
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
FOREIGN OPERATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

- 7 -

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2440 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4211

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
2020 NE. 163D STREET  
NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA 33162  
(305) 945-7518  
PLEASE REPLY TO DISTRICT OFFICE □

June 19, 1980

Mr. Leonid I. Brezhnev  
General Secretary of the  
Communist Party of the U.S.S.R.  
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Re: Marc Pechersky

Dear Mr. Secretary,

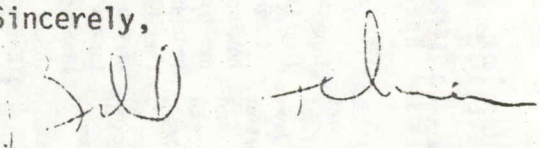
I am writing to you on behalf of Marc Pechersky who resides at 50 Let SSK, apt.32, Karkov-128, Ukraine.

Mr. Pechersky applied to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel in 1978. He was refused permission on grounds of "insufficient kinship." Mr. Pechersky suffers from "Anzefalit," a serious illness. Following the refusal of his application to leave the Soviet Union, Mr. Pechersky was denied medical treatment. Unable to work and deprived of crucially needed medical care, his condition has deteriorated rapidly. Furthermore, doctors in Israel who are experienced in this particular disease have expressed their willingness to treat Mr. Pechersky.

The Helsinki Accords' provision for the reunification of families, which the Soviet Union signed, was intended to prevent tragedies such as this. I appeal to you on humanitarian grounds to grant Marc Pechersky permission to leave the Soviet Union for Israel.

This action will be most appreciated and recognized. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

  
WILLIAM LEHMAN  
Member of Congress

WL/las

cc: Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin



# A Hub protest against Soviets

By Leonard Bushkoff  
Special to The Globe

About 125 members of the local Russian emigrant community gathered Monday to protest the presence of two Soviet scientists at the 11th International Quantum Electronics Conference, but the scientists had canceled out.

Alexander Prokhorov and Nicholai Basov, who shared the Nobel Prize in physics in 1964, have signed public statements critical of Andrei Sakharov, the Soviet dissident and scientist. But neither Basov nor Prokhorov was present at Monday's conference at the Sheraton Boston hotel, according to Diane Suiter, conference registrar.

A local Russian-speaking scientist said he was told by a member of the seven-man Soviet delegation that Basov and Prokhorov had canceled at the last moment.

The Soviet delegation kept a low profile

Monday, the first day of the conference, apparently fearful that encounters with the demonstrators might escalate. Advance announcements by the Assn. of Emigrants From the USSR apparently prompted the caution on the part of the Soviet scientific bureaucracy.

About 600 scientists from all over the world are attending the four-day conference.

"It is something quite new for the Russians here to turn out all together in order to communicate directly with the American public rather than through government channels," said Mirek Kerner, a Boston-area resident who left Czechoslovakia after the Communist takeover in 1948.

The protesters asserted that Americans do not understand the dangers of close relations with Soviet science. Viktor Stern, a computer scientist also from the Boston area, insisted that, "No one wants to sell

military weapons to the Soviet Union. But very few people understand that it is stupid to send high technology to the Soviets."

Scientific exchange, Stern said, is acceptable, but "there must be strong safeguards" to ensure that the United States is not giving up more than it was gaining.

Prof. Charles Townes of the University of California at Berkeley, who is attending the conference, took a different approach. "I think a protest is quite in order," he said, "but I don't think we should cut off all contact with them."

Soviet actions against Sakharov, who was removed from Moscow and sent into exile in Gorky, has dismayed many American scientists, Townes continued, and scientific exchange has dropped noticeably in recent months. But he said he favored a case-by-case approach, according to the merits of each situation, rather than a total embargo.

The Connecticut Committee for Soviet Jews — an affiliate of the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews — has announced the following additions to its Bar-Bat Mitzvah Twinning roster.

Miss Beth Ann Drapin and Miss Melissa Keren Drapin of Fairfield, children of Mr. and Mrs. David Drapin, twinned with Miss Irina Janovsky and Miss Alexandra Janovsky of Kiev, children of Refuseniks Mr. and Mrs. Jan Janovsky. Rabbi Jonas Goldberg of Temple Beth El, Norwalk, officiated.

Miss Heidi Perloff of West Hartford, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Perloff, twinned with Miss Natasha Klich, daughter of Refuseniks Mr. and Mrs. David Klich. Rabbi Stanley Kessler of Beth El Temple, West Hartford, officiated.

Miss Felicia Bloom of Trumbull, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Bloom, twinned with Miss Zoya Shabashov of Moscow, daughter of Refuseniks Mr. and Mrs. Leonid Shabashov. Rabbi Israel Stein, member of the CCSJ Honorary Advisory Board, officiated at Congregation Rodeph Shalom, Bridgeport.

Miss Shari Millen of North Haven, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. David Millen, twinned with Miss Rita Raikhan of Minsk, USSR, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Valery Raikhan. (Valery is in Israel.) Rabbi Mark Panoff of Temple Mishkan Israel, Hamden, officiated.

Anyone interested in twinning data and other projects of CCSJ are asked to contact CCSJ at 502 Fountain Street, New Haven, 06515, or call 387-4526.

## CCSJ Update...

### Bat Mitzvah Writes Letter on Sharing Moment With Soviet

(Special to the Ledger)

The following letter was received by the Connecticut Committee for Soviet Jews from Miss Laura Weisbart of Orange, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Bertrand Weisbart, who twinned her recent Bat Mitzvah with Miss Lina Garber of Beltsy, Moldavian SSR, USSR. The letter was sent to Sondra Katz, CCSJ chairman.

Dear Ms. Katz,

My Bat Mitzvah, as I look back at it, seems so far away. I worked hard but it was different from my friends... I think it was because I was actually preparing it for two people, me and Lina, and that made it more (of) a responsibility and in a way doubly important.

As I stood up on the Bimah, I kept thinking of how hard it is for Lina, my Russian "twin sister" to have another person do her Bat Mitzvah because she can't do it herself. I really feel very close to Lina and would like to continue to try and reach her by letters to tell her how special she is to me. Even my parents felt a responsibility to Lina and her parents and we tried to plan things so that in G-d's sight the day would really be for both of us. I am sending you a copy of

the letter I read to the congregation and then sent to Lina.

Dear Lina,

I am standing on the Bimah now and I am so nervous. All my friends and relatives are watching me and I am sure that, like me, they are thinking of you. I have been preparing for our Bat Mitzvahs for several months now. All during that time I was hoping and wishing that you would be standing here with me to share this day. It was hard work preparing for my Bat Mitzvah, but just knowing that you were there made me work even harder than before. All the presents and honors I get are because this is a day all for me, but I would just like you to know that in my heart, this is OUR day.

Just think, in a little while it will be all over. A whole seven months preparing gone in one day. But just in case you are wondering, I wouldn't have given a minute of it up for anything in the whole world. The synagogue looks so pretty today. There are beautiful flowers all over. I really wish you could be here to see everything...

Well, Lina, my sister, in the presence of my family and friends I am about to begin OUR service. I hope you will be proud of me. You are in my thoughts and in my heart and I send you my love.

Laura  
P.S. Wish you were here.



# OPINION AND COMMENTARY

## Moscow's new wave of anti-Semitism

By Alexander Lichman

There is a story — unfortunately a true one — that has recently reached the West. A boy who had attended a high school for gifted students was failed in his entrance examinations at Moscow State University because he looked Jewish to his examiners. Later he was admitted to the university after his mother brought a family tree to prove that he had no Jewish blood.

There are many other documented cases of discrimination against Jewish students at Soviet universities in recent years, and one of the worst offenders is Moscow State. Eighty-seven students from special mathematics high schools recently applied for admission there, 40 of them Jewish and 47 non-Jewish. The high school grades of all had been comparable, but when the university's entrance exam grades were released, only six of the Jewish students had passed. Forty of the non-Jewish students had. Even some students who had won prizes for math in the Olympics, the competitive national championships, were failed in mathematics entrance exams.

Andrei Sakharov, the famous nuclear physicist, wrote in an American publication, *Alert*, that Jewish students often are given extremely difficult math and physics problems to solve in such exams. He noted that he had worked out one problem given to a Jewish student but that he was able to do so only after more than an hour of thought in the quiet of his own home.

The student had been given 20 minutes, knowing that his whole future was at stake.

And all the while, an openly hostile examiner sat across from him, impatiently looking at his watch.

The anti-Semitism that exists today in the Soviet Union and especially in Soviet universities is not a new phenomenon. It goes back for many centuries in czarist Russia.

Many signs show, however, that the present wave of anti-Semitism signals the beginning of a new approach to the Jewish problem in the Soviet Union. It coincides with an anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish campaign in the press and with a crackdown on dissidents, and indicates that the Soviet leaders have decided to purge the communist paradise of Jews, dissidents, and other undesirable elements.

The campaign also is intended to breathe new life into the official Soviet ideology, the Marxist-Leninist religion which has grown stale.

As a result of harassment, thousands of Jews are leaving Russia every month. Some leave against their will. But even though the government allows them to emigrate, it continues to harass them up to the last minute, creating new obstacles at each step along the way.

Papers must be filled out by one's parents, one's employers, and nearly a dozen other sources, even before it is possible to apply for a visa. Even my 60-year-old mother had to have written permission from her father before her emigration papers could be processed.

From the moment a Soviet Jew decides to go, he lives under the shadow of fear. Always

there are bureaucratic delays. Often there are threats of arrest and, perhaps, imprisonment.

At the time I applied for a visa to leave the Soviet Union, the government had imposed a higher education tax that would have required emigrants to pay huge sums in return for their education. My wife and I would have had to pay about \$40,000. After half a year, they stopped enforcing that tax because of economic pressures from the United States in response to Soviet emigration policies.

Americans, reluctant to meddle in Soviet affairs, may soon have to take a stand again on the worsening situation of Jews and other minorities there. Before the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, there was talk in the United States of abandoning the Jackson-Vanik amendment, which keeps the Soviets from attaining most-favored-nation trade status. The US also was making other overtures toward extending trade with the Soviets.

But, as long as mistreatment of Jews, dissidents, and other minority groups within the Soviet Union continues, Americans should maintain and even extend trade restrictions. Furthermore, a statement of harassment of minorities should be included in the Olympics boycott.

It will never be easy to stop Soviet human rights abuses, but it is becoming equally difficult to ignore them.

Alexander Lichman is visiting associate professor of mathematics at the Pennsylvania State University. Since emigrating from the Soviet Union in 1973, he has been living in Israel.



## MOSCOW VISAS FOR ISRAELIS CANCELLED

TEL AVIV, June 16 (JTA) -- Soviet authori-

ties have cancelled all of the entry visas they previously granted Israelis who paid \$400 in advance to attend the Olympic Games in Moscow this summer. Their act was seen as a reprisal for Israel's decision last month to join the U.S. and other countries boycotting the games because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Although Israel will not send its athletes to Moscow, about 170 Israeli nationals applied for visas and paid in U.S. dollars for hotel accommodations and admission tickets to the various events. Two days ago, 80 of them were notified that their visas were granted. They planned to leave for Vienna tomorrow to collect the visas and proceed to Moscow.

But the Soviet Embassy in Vienna advised the Israeli travel company, Peltours, yesterday that all of the visas have been withdrawn and the passports of the applicants were on their way back to Israel. Peltours had made the travel and hotel arrangements in conjunction with Intourist, the Soviet travel agency, which collected the \$400 from each applicant. Intourist has given no indication when or how it will refund the money. (By Yitzhak Shargil)

## Soviet Ousts a Professor Who Wrote About Bias

Special to The New York Times

MOSCOW, June 19 — Prof. Grigori Freiman, a mathematician who has accused the Soviet mathematics establishment of discriminating against Jews, said today that he had been dismissed from his teaching post at the university in Kalinin, northwest of Moscow.

"They told me I was dismissed as of July 1 as part of a reduction in staff," the 34-year-old professor of algebra and geometry said.

Two years ago, Mr. Freiman wrote a 20,000-word article for an underground journal, *Jews in the U.S.S.R.*, charging that a pattern of anti-Jewish discrimination in mathematics.

Excerpts from Professor Freiman's report appeared in the fall of 1979 in *The New York Times Magazine* and several scientific publications in the United States.

Mr. Freiman said he would appeal the dismissal on the ground that it violated a Soviet law insuring a professorship for five years after periodic reviews of qualifications.

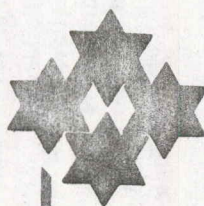
Mr. Freiman said that he had applied for visa to emigrate to Israel, feeling he had no future in the Soviet Union.

UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS  
24 Crescent Street — Suite 3A  
Waltham, MA 02154  
(617) 893-4780

July 3, 1980

### INSIDE THIS WEEK'S ALERT

- Collective action mounted by Kiev refuseniks. See page 2.
- Communists change party line on Soviet Jews? See page 4.
- UCSJ board members meet in Chicago. See page 5.
- Soviet Nobel laureates faced with protest action in Boston. See page 8.



First-Class Mail  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
WALTHAM, MA  
PERMIT NO. 57814

JEWISH COMM. RELATIONS  
105 WEST 4TH STREET  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

45202