

soviet jewry report

Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews

FALL 1987

Hello, Dear Elissa and Stephanie.

I liked the letter you sent me. Дорогие ребята!
Я рад вашему письму и благодарен, что вы все
миссии дружите со мной. В этом году зима у нас
снежная. По этой снегу, а особенно с гор
на берегу Черного моря я люблю кататься
на лыжах. Кроме лыж я люблю бокс,
и хожу на шахматы. У меня есть 4 разряд по
шахматам. У нас в Одессе много интересного:
это Приморский бульвар, Театр оперы
Болота, Потёмкинская лестница, порт, в
котором бывают разные корабли.

На этом я кончаю своё письмо.

Желаю вам вам здоровья, успехов в
новом году.

Гриша.

BUT THE REFUSNIKS THINK...

From June 25 to July 12 of 1987 a friend and I travelled the Soviet Union, partially as tourists and partially to visit refusniks on behalf of the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews. While the trip, like the Soviet Union itself, was vast and many faceted, I would like to share my experience on two topics: what the refusniks think about glasnost, and what their feelings are about having visitors from the west.

First, let me relate the refusniks' opinions of glasnost, the much heralded and publicized (in the eastern and the western media) new "openness" of Soviet society. Among the quotations which stick in my mind are:

"You cannot believe the state. Pay no attention to what they say, mind only what they do."

"You cannot trust any Soviet government; it is the result of the most unnatural selection process possible. Things may change for a while, but this is a fundamentally unhealthy society."

"I pay no attention to it; politics and political trends are of no interest to me. It means nothing to me. My country, my homeland is Israel, that is where I want to go, and I have no true allegiance to any government except Israel."

Most distressing was a visit to Alik Zelichonik of Leningrad. He and his wife are not in good health, and he is facing a second two-year prison term for refusing to accept the menial job assigned him by the state. He cannot return to the position at the Academy of Sciences which he held prior to his application to emigrate. He perceived glasnost as almost diabolical.

"It means nothing; nothing has changed. It is merely a front, a window dressing to impress others. The interior of the Soviet Union where you cannot travel still has food shortages. The entire system is sick and this is a poor try to make it look well. Any changes are shams, merely window dressing."

On the other hand, and somewhat grudgingly, the refusniks were willing to admit that things had minimally improved for them in recent months. Visitors were no longer being harassed, scrutiny of their activities had lessened, and the burdens of their lives had lightened slightly. However, all of these changes were seen as temporary and superficial at best.

The caution and skepticism of the refusniks were vindicated when we asked our Intourist guide about the plight of Soviet Jews. Her response was brief, harsh and practiced:

"The Jews all lie. They say they want to go to Israel but they all go to the United States."

Secondly, the refusniks' attitude toward western visitors is easily expressed. They love them. Everywhere we went we were extended warmth and hospitality. To most western visitors Soviet society looks drab, dour, unfriendly, and almost hostile. Few people smile and everyone speaks softly, if at all. The refusniks are totally different. They are eager to get together, to drink tea (and vodka) and converse for hours, to tell their stories and to listen to ours. These conversations always seemed to get more intimate when we told them that we were not Jews, and

that one of us was a Catholic priest. They were, without exception, thoroughly delighted that we had come.

Most Soviet homes are plain by the standards of the USA, yet no expense or extravagance was spared for us visitors.

Why would the refusniks be so welcoming of virtual strangers? Certainly some of this is an authentic part of the long Jewish tradition of hospitality. Some of this is their thirst for contact with a society they see as supportive of their struggles. And some of this is the practical political reality that the more visible they are the more likely they are to be able to leave. We asked the desperate Zelichonik what we could do for him. His response was simple: "Nothing, except I welcome all letters and visits. These let the state know that I am not alone."

The single most memorable visit was when we scheduled a Friday evening visit (as only gentiles could) with two Orthodox Jewish brothers in Kiev. We were graciously invited to join the Sabbath dinner. The four of us spent the eve of the Fourth of July in prayer and eating. The simplicity and scarcity of the food was more than made up for by their nourishing friendship and their toasts to the freedoms enjoyed in the USA and which they hoped to share next year in Jerusalem. May it be so.

FATHER CHRIS HALL TRAVELLED TO THE SOVIET UNION WITH JIM MULLINS.

Please send a New Year's Card:

ZELICHONIK
NAB. REKI KARPOVKI 19, APT. 56
LENINGRAD 197022 RSFSR
USSR



ROSH HASHANAH GREETINGS

Please send the enclosed New Year's card to one of the Refuseniks included in this Newsletter. For additional cards, call the Council at 221-7134.

DALED'S ADOPTION

Suzanne Sobel's Daled Class at Adath Israel has adopted **Grigory Pevzner** of Odessa as its Soviet twin. Grigory's father is **Valery**; his mother, **Lydia**. Valery is 40 years old. He holds a doctorate in engineering. He is a talented man. He also writes poetry and composes music. The Pevznors have been refuseniks since 1978. Valery was questioned by the KGB on August 10th [1986] and was told to make a public declaration that meeting with foreigners and giving them information was a mistake. Valery and Lydia were also told by the KGB that they would be allowed to leave the country if they would make that declaration. They refused.

The class was surprised and very happy to receive the following answer from Grigory and his father to their first letter:

"I was delighted to receive a letter from you. I'm nine, and I study in the Third Grade. I enjoy playing chess, reading books. In summer, I go to swim in the Black Sea. Dear Friends, I would like with great pleasure to know what games you are fond of, to know more about your school and about your lifestyle."

Valery wrote the following poetic postscript to the letter: "It's more than an ordinary post message, it's higher than the most beautiful congratulations, it's more clear than pure tears -- to have such friends as you, our children. Thank you, and very fondly - Valery and Lydia Pevzner."

There is an empty chair in the classroom set aside for Grigory and their teacher calls Grigory's name during roll call. The class wrote a second letter to Grigory. Grigory's answer, in Russian, appears on the cover of this Newsletter; Valery's translation follows.

*Darling children! Thank you for letter
you sent to my son. With your correspondence
I have got a new job - to be your interpreter.
I do this with great pleasure. Well, I begin:
Dear friends! I'm rather glad to hear
from you & I'm grateful to all of you for
being a friend of mine.
This year winter is with much snow.
I like skiing from the hills to the bank
of the Black Sea. Beside school I go
swimming to the pool & play chess.
I have 4th grade in chess.*

*There's a lot of interest in Odessa:
Primorsky boulevard; Opera & Ballet House;
Potemkin's steps, port with many nice
ships, etc.
Well, I'll close my letter & wish
you all the best, good results in New
Year.
Grisha (+ his father Valery)*

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE USSR

Although the numbers of Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate have increased significantly since January, 1987, large numbers of Soviet Jews are also being refused permission for reasons of "State secrets," which looks like it will be the justification for cutting off emigration completely in the future. A new emigration law which took effect January 1st also has created new divided families, where portions of families are given permission and portions or individuals are refused for "secrecy." This inhuman situation results in parents separated from children, children from their parents. In the case of the Palanker family of Erevan, Armenia, the husband and two adult sons were given permission while the wife (Eugenia) was refused. As a result, VIII elected to remain with his wife while the sons went to Israel. The new emigration law promised to expedite the process for applicants. However, the newly-formed Commission which reviews cases of "security refusals" has only met once and allegedly considered only 12 cases. No one seems to know who is on this Commission except for a Mr. Demachev, the Chief. At this rate, Soviet Jews will be in the Soviet Union well into infinity.

The new emigration regulations allow for only one reason to leave the country: reunification with families and then only first degree relatives, i.e., parents, children, spouses and siblings. It would appear that Soviet organic opposition to emigration from the Motherland gives way only -- and at that only occasionally -- to the moral imperative of reuniting families.

Also crucial is a sharp rise in refusals by OVIR offices even to accept new applications or to allow reapplications. The recent practice of denying reapplications until 1993 or 1995 is a startling departure from the earlier practice of allowing Refuseniks to reapply at six months after refusal.

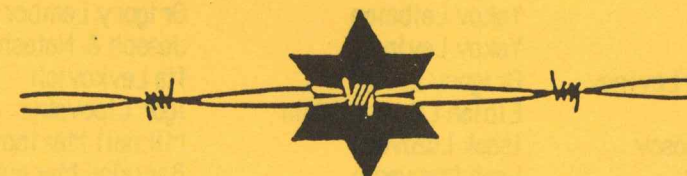
Another development to be addressed is the steady rise in refusals to sign the official and notarized financial claims release forms by relatives, many of whom fear that by such cooperation they may be accused of complicity in the request to emigrate.

The Soviets have resurrected their allegation that the United States, using U.S. Embassy personnel, has a self-serving interest in championing the cause of security Refuseniks. A June 29 TASS broadcast alleges that released security Refuseniks would be in the pay of the United States for which they are willing to "denigrate the Soviet Union."

Refuseniks were concerned when an April 3 article in *Sovetskaya Rossiya* (the official organ of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet and of the Central Committee of the Communist Party) accused the U.S. government of supporting security Refuseniks and human rights activists in order to obtain Soviet classified information, an article which brought forth a sharp rebuke from Congressman Norman Lent (R-NY) in a letter to Ambassador Yuri Dobrinin.

On the other hand, some Refuseniks at that time were inclined to view the article as a testy Soviet reaction to the increase in U.S. protests regarding unfounded secrets classifications, protests which have certainly become more and more vocal since that time.

from the UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS



AND NOW THE GOOD NEWS...

The following families have emigrated from the Soviet Union from 1 January - 13 August 1987:

Valery Abramovich	Mikhail R. Adzhiasvili	Veniamin Adzhiasvili
Boris Agarov	Rakhil Akerman	Veniamin Aleksandrov
Georgy Amis	Yakov Applebaum	Mikhail Arbutman
Simion Ash	(without wife and son)	Pavel Astrakhan
Dina Auslender	Bella Averbukh	Mikhail Averbukh
Iosif & Mikhail Avrutsky	Viktor Bakhmutsky	Oleg Baranenko
Irina Baron	Sergei Baumshtein	Mikhail Belzer
Mariya Bekerman	Mark Belenky	Ilya Belfor
Georgi Belitsky	Vladimir & Alex Belkin	David Benyaminov
Aleksandr Berdichevsky	David Berger	Lev Blitshtein
Elena Boguslavskaya	Semyon Borovinsky	Meri Boterashvili
Ginda Boykis	Eva Brekhman	Alexander Brodsky
Aron Bronfman	Lona Broyle	Nikolai Bulis
Chaim Burshtein	Feyga Cheban	Anatoly Chechik
Yuri Chekanovsky	Evgeny Chudnovsky	Genanady Dashevsky
Marina Davarashvili	Vitaly Degtarov	Boris Deviatov
The Dinabergs	Igor Dobrich	Petr Dobrevensky
Leonid Doks	Lev Dyarlovitsky	Mikhail Dzhurinsky
Yuli & Tanya Edelshtein	Boris Elkin	Misha Elman
(ex-POC)	Aleksandr Engel	Abram Englin
Mikhail Fainberg	Lazar Feigin	Vladimir Feltzman
Elena Fikh	Solomon Flax	Elya Fleishman
Daniel Fradkin	Nadezhda Fradkova (ex-POC)	Aignessa Fridman
Mark Friedlin	Mikhail Frumker	Mikhail Fuchs-Rabinovich
Zinovi Fuks	Grigory Galperin	Veniamin Ganelin
Geishis Family	Solomon Gershson	Olga Gilbo
Gnilichenko [Murash]	Mikhail Gofman	Yakov Gofman
Efim Goldberg	Ilena Goldfarb	Arkady Goldman
Arkady Goldshteyn	Yakov Goykhman	Eugenia Greenblat
Isabella Grigorieva	Grigory Grinblat	Ioshia Grinfeld
Valery Grinspun	Vyacheslav Grinshteyn	Gennady Grubman
Gudava Family	Frans Gulko	Alexandr Gurevich
Rafail Igonnikov	Dima Ioffe	Osheris Ioffe
Olga Ioffe	Iosif Kalman	Lina Kaminskaya
Alexander Kan	Boris Kanevsky (ex-POC)	Mikhail Kara-Ivanov
Karlin Family	Izabella Kats	Mark and Irina Kats
Arkada Katsev	Fanya Keyserman	David Khakhiasvili
Nakhum Khomak	Sofiya Khvatskina	Chaim Kilov
Lev Kitrovsky	Leonid Kleinman	Boris Klots
Yevgeny Kluzhner	Mark Kogen	Dora Konstantinovskaya
Kopelman Family	Igor Kotler	Mikhail Kozak
Grigory Kulesko	Motsey Kunin	David Kvarin
Viktor Ladyzhinsky	David & Boris Laikman	Alexandr Lanis
Lev Latash	Yakov Leibman	Grigory Lemberg
Yakov Lerner	Grigory Levin	Joseph & Natasha Levin
Alexandra Lein Levinov	Elbian Likhtenshtein	Ita Levkovich
Feliks Lifshitz	Isaak Lozover	Igor Lipovsky
Mikhail Lomonosov	Leah Maryasin	Mikhail Marinov
Ivan Martynov		Bertalon Mermershteyn

Mark Mezheborsky	Tatyana Mikhaylovskaya	Georgi Miller
Vladimir Mitin	Aron Moonblit	Lev Munits
Motsey Naymark	Mikhail Nekrasov	Rafael Neizvestnyy
Mark Napomniashchy	Grigory Novak	Alexander Novikov
Aleksandr Opanasenko	Sircsnfrt zpsnstyrb	Igor Patlakh
Danil Peysin	Evgeny Petrov	Abram Pichkhadze
Yefim Pitorsky	Ovshiy Pochtar	Pyotr Polansky
Mark Polonsky	Irina Priakhina	Raisa Protektor
Anatoly Raben	Nina Raben-Belenky	Channa & Ella Rabinovich
Ovshiya Rabinovich	Mark Rakovsky	Samuil Raykhei
Andrei Resnikov	Lev Rayder	Julia Roginskaya
Grigory Rosenblit	Yevgeni Rovensky	Boris Rozenshteyn
Isaak Rozentul	Mikhail Rudin	Mikhail Salman
Bentsion Salpitskis	Abram Sandomirskiy	Mark Semis
Bezalel & Isaak	Lev Shchegolov	(without wife & son)
Shalolashvili	Iosif Shchupak	Misha Shipov
Vsevolod Shipov	Simon Shnirman	Dina Sholket
Nelly Shpeizman	David Shreir	Leonid Shreir
Aleksandr Shtarkas	Alex Shukhgaller	Shupak
Grigory Shvartsband	Lev Sigalov	Arkada Skakovsky
Lev Slutsky	Valery Smelyansky	Marat Soloveichik
David Soloveychik	Yakov Spivak	Anna Tabachnik
Motsey Tabachnik	Sofiya Tamarkina	Misha Taratuta
Yuri Tarnapolsky	Mark Tarshis	Yuri Telyatnikov
Mark & Lara Teplitsky	Yakov & David Tokar	Moshe Tonkonogy
Iosif Tsatskin	Ari Tsitsiliya	Mikhail Tsivin
Vladimir Tsukerman	Shalem Tyets	Grigory Vainer
Boris Vainerman	Vladimir Vassershteyn	Nadya Vatis
Leonid Vestfriend	Gersh Veytsman	Anatoly Virshuvsky (ex-POC)
Elena Vishnayakov	Mikhail Vitaver	Yakov Volokh
Alexander & Marina Vorobev	Ilya Yakubson	Emmanuel Yashchin
Vitaly Yourik	Yudaikin	Zakuta & Udeba
Yosef Zaretsky	Lilia Zatuchnaya	Gennady Zaydel
Leonid Zeliger	Valentin Zhidkov	Irina Zissels
Mark Zolotarevsky	Marat Zorokhov	Zakhhar Zunshain

Many others have received permission but have not yet left the Soviet Union.

BUT THESE HAVE BEEN REFUSED ONCE AGAIN

M. Aliev	Leonid Amcheslavsky	Anchislavsky
Allievskaya & Igor Smirnov	Belitsky Family	Bestprovanny
Aleksandr Blinov	Viktor & Irina Brailovsky	parents of Sophia Bravve
Chaim Briskman	Andre Brusavanny	Budnyatsky
Benjamin Charney	Mark Chernobradov	A.M. Demikin
Maria Dobrusina	Lev Elbert	Levit Estir
Victor Falermark	Yuri Fedrov	Yefim Feldman
Leah Feldman	Yuri Fiskin	Fima Flomenblit
Boris Friedman	Lev Furman	Alexander Gashunin
Boris Geller	Gregory Genusov	Yevgeny Gilbo
Efim Goldberg	Evgeny Grachanovsky	Bella Gulko
Alex Ioffe	Igor Kafstan	Boris Kagan
Elena Keiss-Kuna	Genady Khassin	Natasha Khassina
Grigory Kheifetz	Alexander Kholmiansky	Vladimir Kislik
Feliks Kochubievsky	Boris Konnikov	Yuli Kosharovsky
Yevgeny Lein	Valery & Janna Lerner	Aleksandr Lerner
Arkady & Inna Levinov	Molsey Lieberman	S.I. Loshakov
Mikhail Losyev	Makushin	Lev Margulis
Edward Markov	Naum Meiman	Emanuil Mengevitsky
Ida Nudel	Yefim Ocun	Chaim Okun
Marat Osnis	Tatiana Ovsishcher	Yevgenia Palanker
Alexander Paritsky	Mikhail Rabinovich	(rest of family got
Iosif Radomyslsky	Carmella & Vladimir Raiz	permission; Yili will stay)
Yacov Rakhlenko	Simka Shafir	Lev Shapiro
Ilya Shostakovsky	Yuri Shpeizman	Lev Shubov
Ludmilla Simovsky	Valery Solfer	Julia Stolar
(husband, daughter,	Lev Sud	Alexander Sverdlov
mother permitted)	Pavel Tsimberoff	Mark Terlitsky
Boris Tonchilevich	Vladimir & Isolda Tufeld	Vladimir Turkeltaub
Igor Uspensky	Boris Vainshtok	Shlomo Veistukh
Ataril Vaytuch & sons	David Vodovoz	Alexander Volovik
Ari & Mila Volvosky	Sasha Yampolsky	Leonid Yusefovich
Alexandra Zanis	(ex-POC)	Roald Zelichenok
M. Zubrich		

UPDATE

PARITSKY

Alexander Paritsky, a long-time refusenik in Kharkov and former prisoner-of-conscience, has again been refused permission to emigrate in June. However, in a surprise move in late July, Dorina, their oldest daughter, was given permission to emigrate alone. Again the Soviet government has initiated the break-up of a family. Hopefully, Dorina's presence outside the USSR will be helpful in securing the freedom of her father, mother, and sister.

In a recent conversation with Paritsky he asked that the following message be delivered to all his friends, regarding the granting of an exit visa only to Dorina:

"...but, you see, in any case, we are very thankful to you and to all our friends in your part of the world because it's great success for all of us...for all of us. You see, one of the questions [asked of me at OVIR] was 'why do Western countries raise regularly the question about your family? Are there not other questions to discuss in the Soviet Union' and so on....Even from this question I saw how big, great deal you and all our friends made in the West...Send our gratitude to all our friends...."

Cincinnati Council maintains contact with Alexander by means of regular telephone calls and registered letters. We work in concert with other Paritsky groups throughout the world to keep his case prominent. Your continued financial support helps us to do this.

PARITSKY
TANKOPIYA 19/2 APT. 48
KHARKOV UKRAINIAN SSR USSR
[please send a New Year's Card]



RABINOVICH, AN APPEAL

I am Rabinovich, Samuil, engineer. My wife, Rita, physician, and two daughters applied for exit visa during nine years to reunite with brother and aged parents of my wife.

In August, 1979, I was called for Committee of Enterprise Security where I worked formerly. The Committee declared that refusal of exit visa was provoked by my work on this enterprise before 1978 and my waiting period for exit visa had to finish in November 1985. This position was confirmed by Ministry and officials of KGB.

In 1987 the Enterprise have confirmed that now it had not any relations for visas refusal. In spite of this we received refusal every six months as it was before 1985. Managers of fleet of motor vehicles where I worked now dismissed me with sanction of Communist Party of Nevsky District for my participation in Jewish demonstration in Leningrad. They explained it by reducing the establishment of fleet.

I ask you for help in order to reunite our family. My address is:

USSR
LENINGRAD
BELGRADSKAYA 6, KORP. 1, LV. 19
RABINOVICH, SAMUIL
[please send a New Year's Card]

THOUGHTS OF A FORMER JEWISH PRISONER OF CONSCIENCE

[Editor's Note: After languishing in a Siberian labor camp for four years for slandering the Soviet state, **YURI TARNOPOLSKY** was released earlier this year and, with his family, allowed to emigrate to the United States. Yuri's steadfastness to his principles and faith while in prison brought deprivations, torture, and isolation from the authorities. Among those working on behalf of the Tarnopolskys locally were the Wise Temple Social Action Committee, CCSJ, and Rep. Tom Luken. Last April, Tarnopolsky addressed the North Shore Congregation of Chicago, where he now lives:]

"...To explain what is going on in the USSR, I wish to recall an old Jewish parable. An old Jew lived in a small room with his big family. He came to a rabbi and complained about overcrowding. "Bring a goat into your room" the rabbi advised. After some time, the Jew came back lamenting, "Yeh iz mir, now it is a real death for us with this goat." "Then take the goat away," the rabbi said. Next day the smiling Jew came to the rabbi again. "Thank you for your good advice. Now we feel like we're living in a palace!"

"In my opinion, Gorbachev has been taking away Andropov's goats of political repressions which were unprecedented since 1937. However, the small, stuffy room of Soviet life has not increased in size. There is no free emigration, no freedom of religion, no free elections, no real openness in society. I don't think there is any reason for jubilation in the West. There is no reason for lifting the Jackson-Vanik amendment which still remains a unique and powerful tool for stimulating the Jewish exodus. The released political prisoners are presented to Soviet people as pardoned criminals and not as innocent victims of repression.

"...The main principle of dealing with the USSR can be stated as follows: no credits, pay cash and pay in advance. First give us refuseniks: then we shall give something in exchange. Otherwise, the Western Jews will be deceived again. Credit is a normal way of business, but not between an honest man and a well-known crook.

"...Now the new Soviet administration allows refuseniks in Moscow to protest, to demonstrate, to keep hunger strikes, to meet with Western reporters and officials. The number of emigrants has increased significantly in comparison with close to nothing. However, I have strong doubt that all refuseniks will be freed without constant pressure or an unambiguous agreement. The very idea of free emigration contradicts one of the basic principles of the Soviet system: a slave is a slave....

"...There is also another aspect. The Soviet propaganda describes the USA as a country of riots, floods, earthquakes, poverty, accidents, dirt, unemployment, despoliation, etc. If downtrodden and intimidated Soviet Jews can prosper there, as happened with the immigrants of the 70s, it would be the end of Soviet anti-America propaganda. This is the only reason why the Soviet Union is interested in switching emigration to Israel -- it believes that Soviet Jews will be dissatisfied in Israel.

"...I think that now the Soviet Union is dependent upon the West as never before. This is why Americans, as well as people of other free nations, can influence Soviet policy through their governments. The USSR needs negotiations more than the West does. Freedom of emigration must be one of the preconditions for various agreements. It is a necessary condition of trust....American Jews could be proud of their contribution to this struggle. However, they can do much more. I hope we shall gain the final victory."

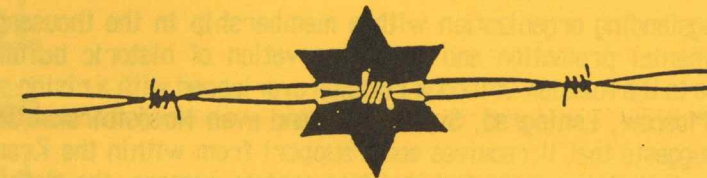
TELEGRAM BANK

Despite glasnost, thousands of Soviet Jews still anxiously await exit visas. Sometimes they need help from abroad. Through the CCSJ Telegram Bank we can help.

There are times when it is necessary to respond immediately to a desperate situation in the Soviet Union. Short of a personal visit to a Soviet or American official, a telegram demonstrates the urgency of our appeal. A telegram lets our Jewish brothers and sisters know we are supportive and are aware of their condition, be it immediate danger (e.g. arrest or harassment) or heightened anxiety (e.g. refusal of permission to emigrate).

This past year the CCSJ Telegram Bank has sent telegrams on behalf of the Tarnopolsky, Vainerman, and Elbert families. They are now free. If we had the financial ability to send more telegrams, perhaps additional Jews would be freed. This is where you can help.

Please participate in the Telegram Bank this year. Fill out the form below and indicate how many telegrams you authorize Council to send on your behalf. Telegrams cost \$14 each. This includes not only an international cablegram to the Soviet Union, but also a copy of the cable to you, an acknowledgement from the Council, and, if possible, an acknowledgement from the recipient of the telegram.



* * * * *

TELEGRAM BANK

I authorize the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews to send telegrams in my name. You may send

___1 - \$14 ___2 - \$28 ___3 - \$42 ___4 - \$56 ___5 - \$70 ___6 - \$84

telegrams during 1987-1988. Enclosed is a check for the amount indicated.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please return with a check to CCSJ, 2615 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220.

THANKS.

ISSUES OF MAJOR CONCERN TO REFUSENIKS

Aliyah: The ability to leave the Soviet Union and go to Israel.

New Emigration Law: Went into effect on January 1, 1987. It codified existing practices and for the first time spelled out who could and who could not leave the U.S.S.R.

Secrecy Restriction: Was identified as a major reason for rejection of an applicant's petition to leave the U.S.S.R. It is being applied to more and more cases as the reason for refusal of visa applications. Some people have been told they may not even apply until 1992, 3, 4 and so-on. People are being refused for "secrecy" who were never refused for that reason before. The result will be to shrink the pool of people who are "eligible" to emigrate until the Soviets can say that emigration is over. THAT IS THE FEAR OF THE REFUSENIKS.

Glasnost and Perestroika: Glasnost (Openness) and Perestroika (Democratization) have had a rather unexpected and negative side also. As a result of the new climate created by Gorbachev, a virulent, nationalistic, anti-Semitic organization has begun operating openly in the U.S.S.R. It accuses Jews and Freemasons of being enemies of the nation and advocates pogroms and violent solutions to the "Jewish problems." In small communities, the latent anti-Semitism has erupted so that Soviet Jews report that they are fearful for their families and their lives if this continues. This organization is called PAMYAT (Memory). Recently, organizers of this group were given an appointment with Boris Yeltsin, Moscow Party leader.

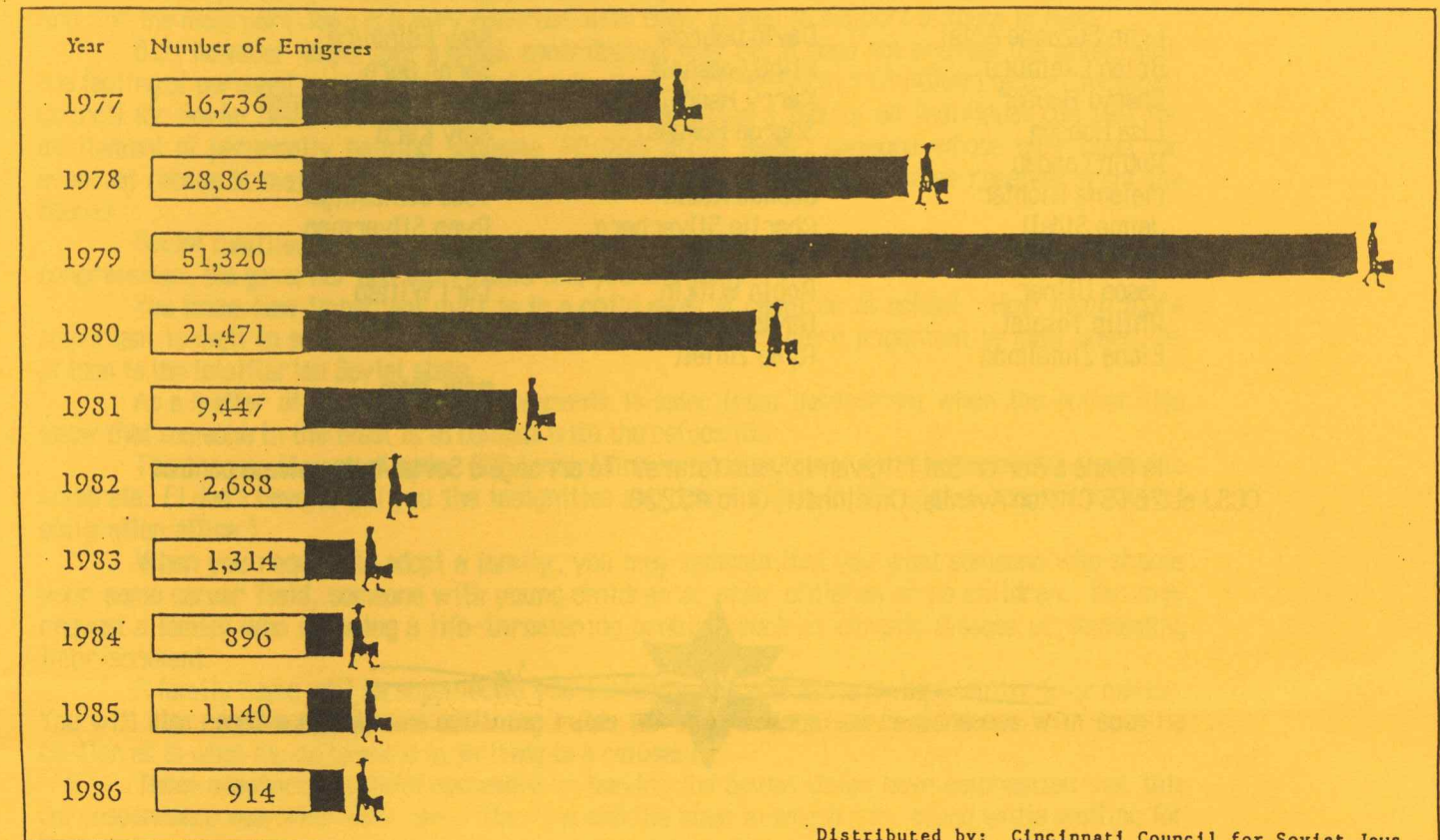
Pamyat: A longstanding organization with a membership in the thousands and a history of espousing environmental protection and the preservation of historic buildings. It calls for increased adherence to the Russian Orthodox religion overlapped with a rising sense of patriotism. Branches exist in Moscow, Leningrad, Sverdlovsk, and even Novosibirsk. Official treatment of this organization suggests that it receives some support from within the Kremlin. For example, the meeting with Boris Yeltsin and the fact that "for certain reasons, the district party committee was forced into giving Pamyat [an unofficial] group, 'premises' to hold meetings." This was reported by Komsomol Pravda. The group has been granted the right to public demonstrations.

Jewish Identity: Many Soviet Jews, both those who want to leave and those who don't want to, identify Jewishly. They cannot learn about their culture, heritage or religion because the teaching of Hebrew is still forbidden. Hebrew is viewed as the language of an unfriendly nation: Israel. Books and classes on these subjects are not permitted. Other nationalities in the U.S.S.R. are permitted the opportunity to learn about their ethnic roots. Jews are not. Many cultural activists point out that in this respect, Glasnost and Perestroika have not yet reached them.

Human Rights Conference: The Soviet Union would very much like to host a Human Rights Conference in the future. Many refuseniks and activists are fearful that this conference will be agreed to without any substantive movement by the Soviets on the issue of human rights: repatriation, reunification of families and increases in human contacts. The refuseniks point out that the Conference should be open to everyone and that they as well as their friends and supporters from the West be invited to attend. They are fearful that they will be arrested, harassed and threatened so that they will not be present during the Conference and not able to contact participants.



Emigration of Jews from the USSR 1977-Present



Distributed by: Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews

EMIGRATION FIGURES 1987

January	98
February	146
March	470
April	717
May	871
June	790
July	819

BAR AND BAT MITZVAH TWINNINGS

During 1987 CCSJ, in conjunction with ORT, has sponsored a record number of Bar and Bat Mitzvah twinnings. Thanks to the following Bnai Mitzvot who have demonstrated their concern by sharing this special occasion with a youngster who does not have the opportunity to become Bar or Bat Mitzvah.

Lynn Suzanne Apfel
Brian Exelburd
Cheryl Hauser
Lisa Hobson
Robin Landau
Melanie Richter
Jaime Sidell
Emily Simon
Jason Ullner
Philip Yosafat
Elana Zimelman

David Dobrow
Elihu Godshalk
Kerry Hendel
Sharon Hordes
Bradley Levin
Joshua Rudin
Charlie Silverberg
Karen Simon
Robin Witkin
David Young
Ryan Zollett

Amy Edinburg
Sarah Gore
Stephanie Hertzman
Amy Karp
Abby Peck
Todd Schlesinger
Ryan Silverman
Randy Socol
Lori Witten
David Zakem

מזל טוב

Is there a Bar or Bat Mitzvah in your future? To arrange a Soviet twin, please contact CCSJ at 2615 Clifton Avenue, Cincinnati, Ohio 45220.



NEW OFFICERS

Paul R. Ostand has been elected President of CCSJ for 1987-1988. Serving as Vice Presidents are Rabbi Alan D. Fuchs and Dr. Benny Kraut. Robert Mermelstein is Secretary. Edie Solomon serves as Treasurer. Assistant Treasurer is Dr. Karen Barnes.

New Trustees are:

Rabbi Judith A. Bluestein
Gail Gepsman
Dr. Stan Goodman
Rabbi Marc Goldman
Frank Harkavy

Sheila Schneeman
Rabbi Pesach Sobel
Suzanne Sobel
Alan Solomon

Ray Solomon
Joanne Sudman
Ray Warren
Rita Zimmerman

Dr. Jonathan Sarna will chair an Advisory Board consisting of:

Rabbi Gershon Barnard
John Cobey
Rabbi David Indich
Rabbi Abie Ingber

Rabbi Margie Meyer
Joshua Minkove
Rabbi Shaya Sackett
Dr. Jonathan Sarna

Art Shriberg
Phyllis Singer
Rabbi Gerry Walter
Dr. Colin Zadikoff

DO YOURSELF A MITZVAH

It is important, indeed an obligation according to Jewish law, to give to charitable causes. And, for the most part Jews are very generous with their money in support of those in need.

But, however important a check contribution may be, it does not provide the giver with the feeling of personal involvement. That is why the ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROGRAM of the Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews has been so successful. By adopting a family an individual can feel the excitement of personally helping someone 10,000 miles away, someone whose only hope for eventual rescue is maintained by the letters and phone calls that the adoptee receives from the adopter.

Soviet families have been adopted by schools, classes, organizations, synagogues, temples, congressmen, the governor and individuals like you and me.

You know how important mail is to a child away at camp or at school. How much more important is mail to someone in prison! And, how very much more important is mail when the prison is the totalitarian Soviet state.

As a matter of fact, the Soviet refusenik is safer from harassment when the authorities know that someone in the West is in contact with the refusenik.

The process is very simple. CCSJ maintains an updated file of families who have applied to emigrate. (I don't have to tell you the indignities and dangers that follow such a request to Soviet emigration office.)

When you request to adopt a family, you may indicate that you want someone who shares your same career field, someone with young children or older children or no children. You may request a family who is facing a life-threatening problem such as chronic disease or impending imprisonment.

A family name will be supplied to you including the address and vital family information. You will also receive a brochure outlining rules for international correspondence with specific caution as to what topics to avoid in writing to a refusenik.

Those adoptees who have succeeded in leaving the Soviet Union have emphasized that this correspondence was often their only life-line and the hope to which they clung while waiting for their deliverance.

To participate in Adopt-A-Family contact Ray Solomon at 891-3372.



YAKIR

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

I/We wish to start 5748 off right by renewing my/our membership in CCSJ. Enclosed is a tax-deductible contribution of:

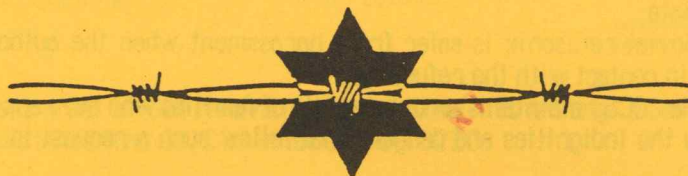
() Other _____ () \$100 () \$50 () \$25

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

_____ Zip _____

SEND TO: CINCINNATI COUNCIL FOR SOVIET JEWS, 2615 CLIFTON AVENUE, CINCINNATI, OHIO 45220



Cincinnati Council for Soviet Jews
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Cincinnati, Ohio 45220

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