

ALERT

Vol. IV, No. 7 / Nov. 16 1979 / Robert Gordon, Pres./ Davida Manon, Ed.

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

"SVOBODU GUBERMANU! -- FREEDOM FOR GUBERMAN!"

For the first time, Soviet Jewish immigrants in New York exercised their newly-won rights to publicly organize and demonstrate, as they protested on November 4 the arrest of the latest Prisoner of Conscience, Igor Guberman, at the Soviet U. N. Mission. Led by Yuli Kitaevich and David Miretsky, now of Cincinnati and New York, respectively, they had formed a Guberman Rescue Committee. The immigrant demonstrators were joined by many members of the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry.

Chanting by the demonstrators was bi-lingual, as "Svobodu Gubermanu! -- Freedom for Guberman!" and "Visa Da, Prison Nyet!" Kitaevich spoke, first in Russian, then in English, of his friendship with Guberman and the successful efforts of the Committee in the nation's capital to elicit the help of members of Congress.

Both refuseniks and Soviet Jewish emigres here and in Israel are unanimous in asking that efforts toward freeing Prisoner of Conscience Igor Guberman be given top priority. It is suggested that groups of writers in this country contact the Soviet Ministry of Culture or the Writers' Committee (in Moscow headed by Markov). Others, including lawyers, judges and political figures, could contact the investigator of the Guberman case, Galina Fyodorovna Nikitina (Moscow, telephone 185 3288) or Comrade Bolyakov, the head of the Dimitrov City Department of Internal Affairs, 9a Zagorskaya St, Dimitrov (Moscow telephone 1852194).

The following excerpt from a letter by Guberman's brother-in-law and sister-in-law in Israel gives a picture of the lack of validity of the charges against Guberman:

Early in August, 1979 Igor Guberman was called up by the militia of Dimitrov, a town not far from Moscow, and summoned to give his evidence. On the 13th of August he went to Dimitrov and was arrested. That same day he was brought home and his apartment was searched. Guberman's desk attracted Investigator G.F. Nikitina. They took his notebooks, manuscripts and letters from Israel.

When Guberman's wife, Tatyana, asked why they did not take all the icons, Investigator Nikitina answered that they were of no value, only good for the stove.

Guberman is accused, under Clause 203, part 3 of the Soviet Criminal Code, of systematically buying stolen things in order to make large profit from them. (The maximum punishment - seven years of imprisonment and five years of exile).

During the first interrogation Tatyana was asked not about the stolen icons, but about the authorship of the Jewish epigrams that were published in Israel. They also took great interest in Guberman's friends, especially among Jewish activists.

More than two months have passed since Guberman was arrested. The lawyer asked by the Guberman family to represent him was not permitted to take part in the investigation.

Igor is in prison in Zagorsk, another town not far from Moscow. They summoned his friends and acquaintances, whose names were found in his notebook. They use force and sometimes even imprisonment for several days in order to make people give false evidence against Igor Guberman, so that they may fabricate a criminal case against him.



LIFE IN THE PROVINCES: A report from Jews in the USSR (London)

Rarely do we receive information from the less accessible parts of the Soviet Union. The following is a compilation of first-hand reports from some of the less-publicized smaller towns in the provinces.

ALMA ATA, KAZAKH. SSR. - Only a few out of approximately ten thousand Jews attend the single synagogue. As elsewhere, most of them are elderly. Yet there is a craving for Jewish things, a former Alma Ata resident told us: "I remember sometime in the sixties a singer who sang in Yiddish came for a one-day concert. On the first night all the four hundred seats in the culture hall were taken and because so many had to be turned away, the singer gave two extra concerts and each night the hall was booked to capacity."

ANDIZHAN, UZBEK SSR. - The Bukharian-style synagogue is most attended by the elderly, although on high holidays many of the young join their parents. There are an estimated three to four hundred Jewish families living in Andizhan.

BAKU, AZERBIDJAN. - The synagogue has a regular minyan (ten males over the age of thirteen years). On High Holidays some of the younger Jewish residents attend special prayers. Our informant "L.P." told us that while he was still in Baku he used to receive letters from his son in Israel. Like any proud father, "L.P." would read his son's letters to friends. One day he was called to the Works Manager's Office and fired on the spot. "With the aid of your son's letters you are spreading Zionist propaganda" - he was told - "So we won't want you here."

BOBRUIISK. - Although there are approximately eighty thousand Jews, there is very little Jewish life. For the few elderly Jews who gather in a private home for prayers, official permission has first to be obtained. In June of this year a Yiddish Chamber Music touring theatre from Moscow gave seven performances of "A black bridle for a white mare" - a rock opera. The theatre of six hundred seats was fully booked for every performance. Many Jews who do not know Yiddish were also eager to see the play. "It was a place where we could meet other Jews" - one of those present reported.

GROZNY, CHECHENO-UNGUSHKAYA, ASSR. - The seventy or so families live in a concentrated district commonly known as the Jewish suburb. Although relatively few emigrate from this town, the local newspaper Grozinsky Rabochy regularly publishes anti-Israeli articles.

KIROVOGRAD, UKR. SSR. - There are an estimated five thousand Jews, out of a population of 254,000. The elderly meet regularly in private homes for prayers.

KLAIPEDA, LIT. SSR. - There are approximately sixty Jewish families living here. Only a handful of them originate from the town, the rest are migrants from other cities. There are still remnants of Lithuanian Jews, whose pre-war tradition of Jewish life linger on, but only among the elderly.

KOROSTIN, NEAR ZHITOMIR. - Estimated thirty thousand Jews. No Jewish traditions observed.

LVOV. - "Even if some do not want to be known as Jews, they are soon reminded of it" - is what a former LVOV resident told us. "Both the Russians, and particularly the Ukrainians are extremely anti-Semitic." Jews find it difficult to be promoted, either in scientific or academic work, and often are demoted on flimsy excuses. Entrance to higher education has become almost impossible, and many are obliged to go to universities thousands of miles away in the Far East.

REFUSENIK IN HOSPITAL FOLLOWING AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT

We have received tragic news from Moscow concerning Judith Ratner Bialy. An aunt of hers had received permission to emigrate to Israel and Judith was accompanying her to the airport. The taxi was involved in a very bad accident. Judith's aunt was killed instantly and Judith herself received severe injuries. She has been operated on and we understand that she is being treated well in the hospital. Moscow refuseniks are very shocked and distressed about Judith and are taking turns to visit her and help her family. Letters of encouragement should go to the family: USSR, RSFSR, Moscow V-342, Butlorova 24, Apt. 41, BIALY, Leonid.

HEBREW SONG FESTIVAL HELD NEAR MOSCOW

On October 21, an unusual event was held at Orashki, a village some forty miles outside of Moscow. Three hundred Jews gathered for a competition of Hebrew songs.

Nearly all the competitors and the majority of the audience were young people, but five of the panel of ten judges were veteran refuseniks. They were: Vladimir Prestin, Pavel Abramovich, Ilya Essas, Yuly Kosharovsky and Mila Volvovsky.

The winner was a nineteen year old girl who sang an old Hebrew song. The runner-up was eighteen year old Misha Rosenshtein, the son of the well-known refuseniks Grigory and Natalya Rosenshtein, who composed an original melody to some verses from the Bible.

Following the announcements of the various prizewinners, the contestants joined with the audience in a festival of songs and music. The singing went on for more than three hours.

For the organizers, the occasion was much more than just a social get-together. "For those of us who are long-term refuseniks," one of them said later, "it is essential that we keep ourselves busy in a constructive way. And Vladimir Prestin added: "Perhaps the most constructive thing we can do is to let interested people hear the Hebrew language spoken and hear the beauty of it in ancient and Biblical songs."

KIEV REFUSENIKS DEMAND THEIR RIGHTS

Seven Kiev refuseniks have taken the unusual step of challenging the legitimacy of their refusals under Soviet law. Recently, they presented a petition requesting an interview with the Minister of Justice of the Ukrainian People's Republic. Three of them, each of whom has been waiting for more than six years, delivered the petition in person.

Their petition was rejected, but they did manage to submit a written statement in which they ask to be told precisely which paragraph of which Soviet law was denying them their visas.

As one of them said this week: "In all these long years, nobody has ever indicated to us exactly where in this massive tome of Soviet Law it is made legal to hand out refusals, left, right and center. We are well aware that the Minister of Justice is not directly responsible for emigration. But he is responsible for justice, and we are certainly not getting that."

The seven refuseniks included Alexander and Paulina Cherniak, Lev Elpert, Kim Friedman, Vladimir Kislik, Isaak Tsiterblit and a new refusenik called Pikevsky (about whom we have no details).

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE USSR

* Elena Oleynik and Sergei Rotshtein have been released from their recent sentences for "hooliganism." They are reported to both be very depressed, having served an extra fifteen days for "unbecoming behavior." Their father, who is a communist, was threatened with imprisonment.

* According to information recently received here, officials have cancelled the February 1980 visit scheduled for Anatoly Shcharansky from his mother Ida Milgrom. No reason was given.

* Igor Korchnoi, son of the famed chess master who defected, has been arrested by the police in Moscow. Korchnoi had not registered for the draft and had been in hiding for the last year. Grave concern exists because of the harsh treatment usually meted out to families of defectors.

* The cultural seminar in Riga meets bi-weekly, headed by Yasha Ariev. There are two ulpanim and one legal seminar. They are also presenting three annual ceremonies, held outside the city.

* Ida Nudel is out of the hospital in Tomsk. Refusenik Yevgeny Tsirlin was able to visit her after her release.

* Permission was verbally granted to Alla Durgova and her two sons. She refused to leave without her husband, Yosef Begun, presently serving a term of exile in Siberia. The OVIR official told her about her husband, "He is a hooligan; you should leave without him. You would be better off without him." Begun is residing temporarily in the room of someone on vacation. When that person returns, Begun will be left without a place to live.

* The apartment of Yuly Kosherovsky was searched. The KGB has been circulating rumors that Kosherovsky and his friend Shakhnovsky are collaborators. Moscow refuseniks do not believe this.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

* The seventh group of thirteen Soviet Jewish "drop-out" family heads, mainly engineers, came to Israel from Rome in August for a two-week visit as guests of the Jewish Agency's Soviet Jewry Aliya Section and Tour V'Aleh. Travel costs were paid by the visitors themselves. Some signs

of a change of destination have begun to appear among the visitors. Tour V'Aleh worked out a comprehensive program including visits to institutions of higher learning medical and research institutions, as well as industrial enterprises; personal interviews with the visitors in connection with employment opportunities; visits to kibbutzim, army bases, absorption centers; meetings with new Russian immigrants, etc.

* House resolution #202, initiated by Congressman Edward Stack of Florida, was unanimously passed on November 13. The resolution, calling for freedom for Ida Nudel, is to be introduced in the Senate by Senators Harrison Williams and Charles Percy.

* Representatives of the four major parties in the Netherlands Parliament have taken the initiative of forming an Olympic Games and Human Rights Committee, whose purpose is not to boycott the 1980 Games, but rather to draw attention to the fact that these Games will be held in a country where respect for human rights is still a matter of great concern. Through a large information campaign, not only in Holland, but on an international basis, the Committee hopes to contribute to the liberation of a number of political detainees, as well as the promotion of optimum circumstances under which these Games will be held. The Committee will endeavor to cooperate as closely as possible with similar committees in other countries.

"OUR LIFE CONSISTS OF WAITING..." A Letter from Siberia

The following letter was sent by exiled Prisoner of Conscience, Vladimir Slepak and his wife Maria to a friend in Moscow:

Everything we did wasn't for nought. Now our sons are free. Our dream has come true. If it's God's will we'll see them again; if not, then. . . . We've gotten accustomed to our own permanent status here; it's as if it's normal that we never leave ourselves. After so many years, the pain has deadened. Ten years of refusals and stress have told on us both.

Here in Siberia, our daily life consists of waiting for the 5 p.m. radio news broadcast. Every morning we visit the post office; letters are our main link with the world. Our life here resembles science fiction. We are so far away, more than 6000 km from Moscow. We two are so alien to the environment here that sometimes it seems to me that we're held here as guinea pigs for either a biological, psychological or social experiment. Someone needed to place us here. Who? Perhaps God? Perhaps to test our endurance or to punish us for our sins? Which?

Time slips away. Heat, dust, stuffy air, flies, foul smells. Under our window is a gutter filled from all the 16 apartments of the house. In the winter the sewer pipe fell off, and the stuff was removed with buckets because the soil was frozen. After it thawed out, the stuff flows to a pit through the gutter.

In front of our apartment is a "public convenience", which hasn't been cleaned since last September. To the right and left are rubbish heaps where flies, dogs, pigs and cows dig in. No water. Forty-one months are left to go for us without a water supply. We'll have to carry it in buckets from a source 300 meters from our building.

We have canned meat and fish. I brought butter from Moscow. A kind man brought some meat and potato from Chita. When bread isn't available, I bake it myself. Yesterday was an event: they were selling cabbage in the shop.

Write to us about everybody. Who got permission? Who not?

Love, Masha and Volodya

ABSURD REFUSAL KEEPS LEV BLITSSTEIN IN MOSCOW - By Boris Blitshtein

In August 1974 our family applied to leave. After six months of waiting, we were refused with no specific reason given. The only argument was to my father: "You know too much about the time for storage of canned meats" and "You know how to make sausage." But OVIR, the emigration department, said we would receive permission in one year. Knowing the experience of many other refuseniks, we did not believe them. My father then asked OVIR if my mother and I could apply separately from him; this was turned down. OVIR told us that since "It is not humane to separate families, my mother and father should divorce!"

On July 8, 1975 my parents were divorced so we could receive a visa. My mother and I reapplied, received permission and left the USSR in October 1975. My sister was able to leave in January 1976. My father was refused that month. Our separation is a direct violation of the Kremlin's signature on the Helsinki agreement, which affirms the right of reunification of families.

[It has since been learned that Lev's phone has been cut off]

Address: Bolshaya Pereyslavskaya 3, corp. 2, apt. 2, Moscow, RSFSR, USSR.

MINSK: "THEY CAN TAKE THE MONUMENT AWAY, BUT THEY CAN'T TAKE OUR MEMORIES AWAY

In a letter which recently arrived from Gregory and Elena Khess of Minsk, they mentioned their concern over the scheduled removal of the Jewish memorial to the World War II martyred dead:

What about the Jewish monument? All our efforts are in vain. The authorities want us to forget about our terrible Jewish history; they want us to forget about Jewishness [totally] and try to destroy everything that reminds us about this.

Our petition with five hundred signatures to the authorities had no effect. Gregory was summoned to the high officials who let him know that the monument will be taken away and changed in the near future. Their words: "We do not make a difference between Jews and non-Jews in our brotherly family of the people of the USSR; all the Nations are equal among equals here, and we do not need to sign on it 'For Jews' or for anybody else."

Yes, they can take the monument away, but they can't take the memories away. I believe the Jews have something no other people have or can fully understand. It is something born into us that lives on and on. No matter how they try, they cannot and never will be able to take it away from us. We are a Chosen People.

UPDATED LIST OF MINSK REFUSENIKS

We would appreciate receiving any available information on these refuseniks.

OVSISHCHER, Lev Petrovitch	Yanki Kupali 17/30, apt. 112
KHESS, Grigory Yefimovitch	Prospekt Pushkina 49, apt. 45
MARKMAN, Abram Matveyevitch	ul. Gorkogo 92, apt. 11
FELDMAN, Gennadi Yakovlevitch	ul. Smoliatchkova 26, apt. 46
SOLOVEITCHIK, Marat Aronovitch	ul. Koltsova 12/4 apt. 80
LUBNER, Mark Volkovitch	ul. Koltsova 8/2
KAPLAN, Lev Maksimovitch	ul. Odoyevskogo 83/1, apt. 7
ELIASHEVITCH, Aron Isakovitch	ul. Slavinskovo 31, apt. 5
KATSNELSON, Mikhail Grorievitch	ul. Bielskogo 23, apt. 91
KAPELYAN, Yosif	Yakuba Kolasa 9, apt 32
RABINOVITCH, Moshe Vulfovitch	Gamarnika 21, apt. 60
TCHERVANIEV, Grigory	Andreyevskaya 7/1, apt. 78
VAPNIK, Arkadiy Mordukhovitch	ul. Odoyevskogo 21, apt. 10
RAIKHLIN, Arkadiy Lvovitch	ul. Golodeda 65, apt. 43
RASIN, Leonid Semyonovitch	Nadzhdinskaya 19/2, apt. 2
GRINBERG, Dmitry Mikhailovitch	ul. Kakhovskaya 36, apt. 1
KAPLINSKY, Genadiy Alexandrovitch	Krasnoznamennaya 3, apt. 42
SHAGALOV, Yefim Grorievitch	Opanskovo 4, apt. 36
RUBENCHIK, Tsilia Yevnovna	ul. Pushkina 51
OSTROVSKAYA, Hannah Sholomovna	Minskaya Oblast, gorod Stariye Dorogui, ul. Kirova 30, apt. 1
LUBOVITCH, Natalia	Minsk, Vostotchnaya 19, apt. 19
FREEDLAND, Samuil Yefimovitch	Karastoyamovoye 5, apt. 37

Bid by U.S.-Backed Radio May Spur Olympic Crisis

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1979

By JOHN VINOCUR

Special to The New York Times

MUNICH, West Germany, Nov. 7

The elements of a possible Soviet-American confrontation have come together in a request by two Washington-sponsored radio stations, broadcasting from here to the Soviet bloc, to cover the Olympic Games in Moscow next year. Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty have requested accreditation for two American journalists on their combined staff to report on the games, although the Soviet Union has repeatedly made it clear that it opposes their representation.

The accreditation requests, according to Ralph Walter, executive vice president of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, are now in the hands of the United States Olympic Committee, which is expected to turn them over, with the applications of other American new organizations, to the Moscow Organizing Committee.

Normally, the host country's committee would approve without further discussion those accreditation requests by a national committee. But in a statement in January that was reiterated three months ago, Sergei P. Pavlov, the Soviet Minister of Sports, stated: "We are categorically against the presence of even one of these stations. Everything will be done to prevent their being here. We make no secret of that."

Once Funded by the C.I.A.

The Soviet Union regards the stations as propaganda organs. They were in part covertly financed by the Central Intelligence Agency until 1971, when the United States Congress became responsible for their financial support. The stations broadcast news and analysis unavailable through the state-controlled news organizations in Eastern Europe.

ONLY A CHANGE IN SOVIET POLICY WILL ENABLE GENNADY KHASSIN TO BE FREE

The possibility of a confrontation affecting the Olympic Games was emphasized on Monday by Willi Daume, vice president of the International Olympic Committee, in an interview with a television station here.

"I don't believe the public knows what an explosive matter this is," Mr. Daume said. "It is an election year in the U.S.A. The games in Moscow take place just before the elections. In Carter's Government, human rights, the basic laws of freedom, among which is the freedom of the press, are major issues in its own ideology.

"I have proposed that one try to find a compromise on the highest political level, that is, between the two Foreign Ministers. It is also an American prority, because they also have Olympic Winter Games in Lake Placid, as well as four years later in Los Angeles. If the I.O.C. comes to a basic decision that these stations cannot be present, then this decision would also be applicable to the games in their own country."

There again, he said, it is not hard to imagine "how this would stir up American public opinion, and it could lead to problems regarding the very continuance of the Olympic Games."

Although the radio stations sent a team of 18 people to the 1976 Summer Games in Montreal without difficulty, they have had problems in the past with attempts by East European countries to exclude them from coverage.

At the Winter Games in Innsbruck in 1976, under pressure from the Soviet bloc, the International Olympic Committee asked the stations' reporters to surrender their credentials. The issue then was what Mr. Walter described as a technicality, in that the stations' accreditation applications did not carry the signature of a sponsoring nation.

Self-Censorship in 1972

The result was that the stations covered the games, but without credentials, making their reporters' contacts with athletes extremely difficult. In 1972, at the Munich Summer Games, the stations exercised self-censorship in refraining from interviewing any athletes from East European countries.

his dismissal from that position. For 2 years, he was constrained to teach at a Moscow high school. When he renewed his application for emigration, he was stripped of the right to work at all. Gennady Khassin cannot dare to apply for a third time. For no one knows what would then be his punishment.

Thus, whenever the issue of Soviet emigration policy comes up we cannot base our considerations on the percentage increase in granted visas. We have to look at the issue in all its complexity. We have to focus on the fact that a temporarily liberal emigration policy is in general closely interrelated to economic and political objectives the Soviet Union is pursuing, such as SALT II, most-favored-nation status, Export-Import Bank credit et alia. Liberal emigration policies are the exceptions, denial of basic human rights and escalating deterrence from applying for emigration the rule.

For this reason we must continue to apply pressure on the Soviet Government to redefine the basic principles of its emigration policy. It is our responsibility to constantly make the international community aware of the violations of human rights by the Soviet Union. It is our duty to give Gennady Khassin, and with him the large number of Soviet Jews and other minorities who have been waiting for the chance to emigrate, hope for a life of choice.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

October 11, 1979

HON. ANDREW MAGUIRE OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 11, 1979

• Mr. MAGUIRE. Mr. Speaker, to further the goals of the "Shatter the Silence Vigil 1979," I and many of our colleagues have put considerable efforts into obtaining freedom for the large number of Soviet dissidents. At times our efforts have met success—visas were issued, families reunited, and even some of the dissidents with the most notorious records of maltreatment were granted emigration. All of these cases required significant struggles and involved efforts at the highest official levels. Yet, at some point in time and after arduous negotiations, emigration is sometimes permitted.

This year the number of visas the Soviets issued has increased substantially. However, this important movement of people cannot be interpreted as an improvement in the plight of most Soviet dissidents. The vast majority of people who wish to emigrate have almost no hope. Worse, there is a broad range of sanctions linked to the mere expression of the desire to emigrate.

Applying for emigration is a costly, lengthy, complicated, and arbitrary process with uncertain results. It involves the risk of reprisals or which dismissal from employment if often only a first step. The Soviets justify their restrictive policies by citing economic concerns or the fear of losing highly skilled labor. But we all know that it is the political and ideological impact of giving people a choice, a kind of vote for or against the society which erodes the control of the regime, that compels that government to restrict emigration.

There are few cases which underline the emptiness of these Soviet excuses more than that of Gennady Khassin. Gennady Khassin is a highly skilled mathematician and author of numerous articles and textbooks in his field. Until he expressed his strong desire to emigrate with his wife and his two children to Israel he was teaching as Associate Professor at the most respectable universities of his country. This application for emigration, however, resulted in

I Ran for Freedom...With Victor

By SELIG GALTER

Special to the JEWISH EXPONENT

I ran in the YMCA-Inquirer Philadelphia Distance Run on Sunday, Sept. 16. I ran the 13.1 miles with my friend Victor Yelistratov. Number 5329 was pinned to my shirt along with my own number 5145. Victor is a Moscow refusenik, a Soviet Jew who has been denied permission to emigrate. It was a beautiful day for the race. I knew we would make it to the finish line.

With the firing of the cannon, the race started. As we ran down Market St. towards Front St. the surge of the 3,500 other runners kept us moving. My mind alternated between the streets of Philadelphia and the streets of Moscow. I wondered what Victor was doing at the time. The past few months have been difficult for Victor and his wife Batsheva. Soviet authorities had arrested and imprisoned Batsheva for 15 days.

AS I LOOKED AROUND, I SAW that we were passing Independence Hall. How appropriate. I thought how wonderful freedom is. Just last month the KGB searched Victor's apartment and took his books, tape cassettes with Israeli, American and European music and his personal letters.

Received from a German human rights organization:

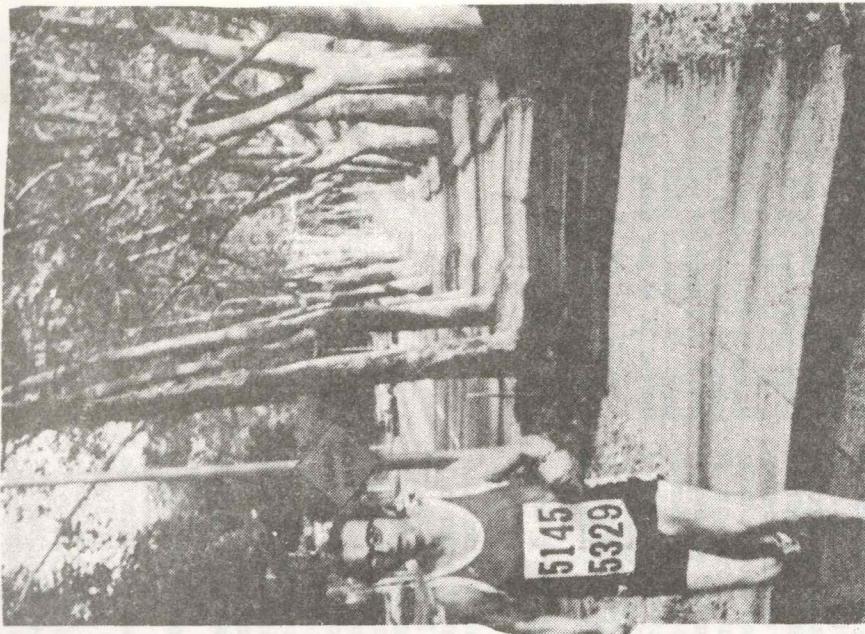
We continued on Market St. until we were running through City Hall courtyard. How many times had all of the refuseniks been to their local government office inquiring about their visas? As we continued along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, I looked at the poles from which the flags of the many countries wave. I thought of the many still waiting in the Soviet Union to be able to go to Israel and to salute their new flag. I think something inside of me increased my stride as we were passing the Soviet Union's banner.

As I reached the Art Museum, I knew we had passed a psychological checkpoint in the race. All we had to do now was run out the West River Drive, down the East River Drive and up the Parkway to 17th St. Only nine more miles. My goal was to complete the race in less than two hours. We were running at an eight-and-one-half-minute-per-mile pace. If we sustained the pace, we would make our goal with time to spare.

THE WEST RIVER DRIVE WAS an easy run. Prior to the race, I had written to Victor and had informed him that he was entered. I sent him a copy of the letter I had included with his application to the YMCA. Victor would know that I was running for him in absentia and that I would try to send to him in Moscow his finishers T-shirt and his running number. That is, he would know if the authorities permitted my letter to be delivered. The week prior to the race, I received a telegram from Victor, wishing me success.

As I crossed the East Falls Bridge, I felt it was now all downhill. We were at the eight-mile mark and still running at the same pace. The two-hour mark was looking better. As we approached Boat House Row, I thought of how long the Yelistratovs had been one of our synagogue's adopted families. The Germantown Jewish Centre has had numerous adopted families. Each family has succeeded in emigrating from the Soviet Union. When would Victor and Batsheva be as lucky as the others?

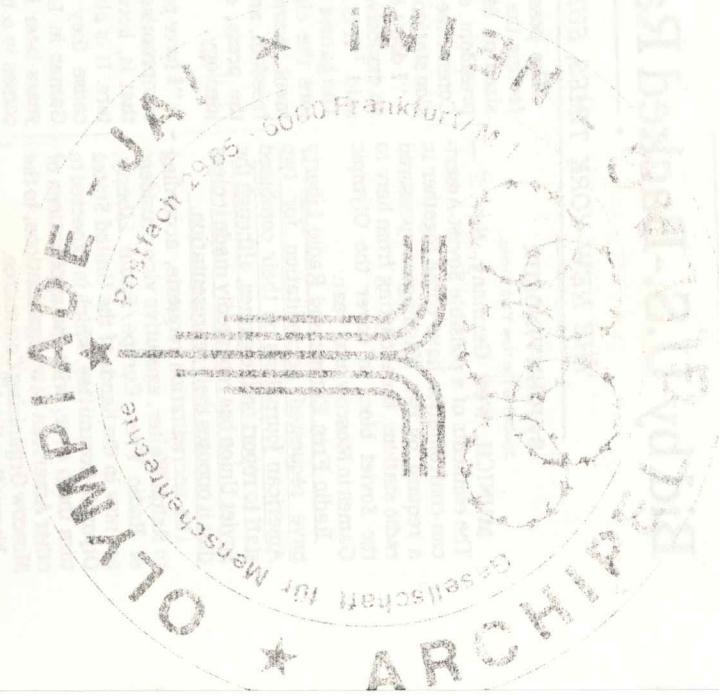
I could see the Art Museum looming ahead. It was an uphill run at this point, but we passed the 12-mile mark. RUNNING THROUGH EAKINS OVAL was a fantastic delight. I knew we were going to make it. As we ran down the Parkway and around Logan Circle, we could see the finish line and the many runners who had already com-



WEARING TWO NUMBERS — 5145 for himself and 5329 for Soviet refusenik Victor Yelistratov — Selig Galter traverses river drive during YMCA-Inquirer Philadelphia Distance Run.

pleted the race. When I crossed the finish line, the woman recording our numbers told me they had been waiting for the person who was running for the Soviet refusenik to be certain both numbers were recorded. Our time was one hour, 53 minutes, 58 seconds. Well under our goal.

I cabled out time to Victor and received a return wire thanking me for our victory. The victory I would like to know that Victor will be a free person next year.



Soviet activists fear closing of exits, telephone contact says

Soviet Jewish activists fear that all Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union will be halted after the 1980 Moscow Olympics, according to a British authority on dissidents and refuseniks in the Soviet Union.

Michael Sherbourne, a retired schoolteacher who has devoted the last ten years to maintaining telephone contact with Russian Jews, was in Washington earlier this month as part of a national tour sponsored by the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews. His visit here was sponsored by the Washington Committee for Soviet Jewry.

Sherbourne, who does not favor a boycott of the Moscow Olympics, said visitors to Moscow will have little exposure to Jewish activists because the Russians will either be under house arrest at that time, or will have been sent far away to work. He predicts that for each Olympic viewer there will be a Soviet KGB, as well as a plainsclothed Russian "civilian" to keep an eye on visitors so they wouldn't be given the opportunity to stray from Olympic activities or talk to Russians.

An alarming growth in anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union is a second factor in a current upswing in emigration, Sherbourne said. Jews, he said, are no longer admitted into Moscow University and are, in general, denied a higher education.

Sherbourne also said that the impact of the trial of Anatoly Sharansky has affected the amount of Jews allowed to leave the Soviet Union. Sherbourne was in touch with Sharansky until the day before his arrest in March, 1977.

A graduate of the School of Slavonic and Eastern European Studies at the University of London, Sherbourne began studying Russian simply as a challenge, but developed a deep love for the language, though isolating this feeling from his dislike for Russian governmental policies. Sherbourne calls the Stalin-Hitler Pact of

1939 a major turning point in his mounting anger toward the Soviets. "The 1948-52 Stalin anti-Jewish campaign, that was the final blow," said Sherbourne. After the Six-Day War, explains Sherbourne, "I really began to wake up."

The formation of the British Committee for Soviet Jewry in 1969 was the outlet for the British professor's resentment for Soviet treatment of Jews.

Though he spoke little Russian when he joined the British group, he told the directors he could speak the language well enough so that he could be in direct contact with Soviet Jewry. In 1969 he made the first phone call of what was to become a 5,000 call campaign on behalf of dissidents. These communications included dealing with Sharansky, Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak and others.

Sherbourne began talking to Nudel in 1971 and says he has telephoned her several hundred times. Nudel, whom Sherbourne describes as "full of fire," told him from the start that his calling would not create any danger for her and she begged him to talk for long periods of time, and then to telephone her again the next day.

Sherbourne said, "She talked about herself, her friends. Then, by 1972, she began speaking only about the prisoners, never about herself. She would ask me, 'What are you doing for so-and-so?'

What Sherbourne was doing, strictly on a volunteer basis, was to keep the world notified of the life inside the Soviet Union. Off the phone, Sherbourne shares his news with key Soviet Jewry groups throughout the world who disperse the information in their respective Jewish communities.

Sherbourne, whose Jewish roots date from 17th century England, said it is dangerous to make predictions about the future of Soviet emigration. He said there may appear to be a liberalization in recent

months—emigration this year is at its highest ever at 4,000 a month. This, Sherbourne said, must be considered in context, and one will see that only one-fourth of all those who apply—16,000 monthly—are granted exit visas. So the increase, he said, is perhaps an indication of the pressures of numbers, and not an easing up in Soviet policy. Sherbourne would like to see more of those who are let out go to Israel. The Soviet

government, he said, "has complete control over people's minds there. They know in advance who will go to Israel and who will not. They will choose those who will not."

Sherbourne's phone crusade from his home in London has saved and will continue to help Jews who want to leave the Soviet Union regardless of where they choose to go. "Our job, after all, is to save Jews."

MRS. SHCHARANSKY DISCUSSES PLIGHT OF SOVIET JEWISH PRISONERS

By David Friedman

NEW YORK, Nov. 6 (JTA) -- Avital Shcharansky declared last night that her husband, Anatoly, and other imprisoned Soviet Jewish refuseniks are able to endure the harsh conditions of Soviet prisons because of their belief they were fighting for the "renaissance" of the Jewish people.

Mrs. Shcharansky urged the audience to write to the Soviet Minister of Internal Affairs about why her husband is not receiving medical attention and the head of the Chistopol Prison on why he does not receive his mail. She nevertheless urged that letters be written to him and other Jewish prisoners.

Mrs. Shcharansky, who lives in Jerusalem, said that since her husband was charged with espionage and speaking on behalf of her husband and other Soviet Jewish prisoners. She noted that she has been to the United States seven times and will be back here in 10 days to promote the book she has written about her experiences. "Next year in Jerusalem." But she said she will continue because "I want my husband free."

PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION GETS U.S. FUNDS TO HELP SOVIET JEWS

PHILADELPHIA (JTA) -- A demonstration grant of \$25,000 in federal funds has been awarded to the Federation of Jewish Agencies to help acclimate Soviet Jewish newcomers, according to Kenneth S. Kaiserman, chairman of the Federation Task Force on Resettlement. The grant, effective Nov. 1, was made available through the federal government's Bloc Grant program which is administered through the Council of Jewish Federations. Kaiserman said local administration of the grant and its programs will be through Jewish Ys and centers.

Dr. Ernest Kahn, Federation allocations and planning director, said the grant would be used "in a wide variety of self-help efforts" for newly-arrived Soviet Jews, involving many community organizations, including "our agencies, fraternal lodges, women's groups, synagogues."

He said many Soviet emigres face problems of acculturation, particularly in adjusting to and understanding a Jewish community which functions on a voluntary basis. He said the American environment is new to them, culturally, religiously and ethnically "and these are the problems the grant will help us address."

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

24 Crescent St., Suite 3A, Waltham, Ma 02154

November 16, 1979

INSIDE TODAY'S ALERT

- Soviet Jewish emigrants and refuseniks alike call for help for Prisoner of Conscience, Igor Guberman. See our lead article.
- What is life like in the small towns of the Soviet Union where the tourists don't go? See a special report on page 2.
- Refusenik Victor Yelistratov recently ran in absentia in a Philadelphia marathon. See page 8.
- On page 9, Michael Sherbourne shares some of his ten years of experience in the Soviet Jewry movement.

STOP PRESS!!

P.O.C. Vladimir Slepak has been fired from his job. His wife Maria is suffering from a slipped disc.

- 10 -

INTERNATIONAL HERALD TRIBUNE,
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1979

U.S. Sets Aid For Soviet Jews Going to Israel

NEW YORK, Nov. 4 (AP) — The White House adviser for domestic affairs, Stuart Eizenstat, told Jewish labor leaders yesterday that the administration next year will begin a program of financial support for Soviet Jews emigrating to Israel.

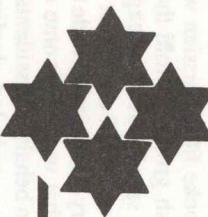
The aid is an extension of a \$20-million program that helps resettle Soviet Jews in the United States, he said. The year-old plan provides \$1,000 to each emigrating family on a matching basis with local Jewish welfare federations, according to Mr. Eizenstat.

Recently, friction has developed between Israeli and U.S. Jewish leaders who aid emigres over the increasing number of Soviet Jews who leave the Soviet Union with Israeli visas and instead settle in the United States or elsewhere.

The U.S. Jewish leaders agreed to cut back funds for these so-called dropout emigres. Israeli leaders fear that encouraging the dropouts could jeopardize the flow of further emigration from the Soviet Union.

The number of Soviet Jewish emigres has risen from 16,000 in 1976 to a rate of 52,000, half of whom are settling in the United States, according to Mr. Eizenstat.

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



JEWISH COMM. RELATIONS
105 WEST 4TH STREET
CINCINNATI, OHIO
45202

uh