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PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE**VLADIMIR LIFSHITZ**

ARRESTED:	January 8, 1986
CHARGE:	Anti-Soviet Slander
DATE OF TRIAL:	March 19, 1986
SENTENCE:	3 Years Labor Camp
PRISON:	

ALEXEI MAGARIK

ARRESTED:	March 14, 1986
CHARGE:	Illegal Possession of Drugs
DATE OF TRIAL:	
SENTENCE:	
PRISON:	UCHR P. O. 123/1 Tbilisi Georgian, SSR, USSR

ALEXEI MURZHENKO

(RE)ARRESTED:	June 1, 1985 (Imprisoned 1970-1984)
CHARGE:	Parole Violations
DATE OF TRIAL:	
SENTENCE:	
PRISON:	URP IO 4, 45/183 Ulitza Parkomienko 13 Kiev 50, USSR

MARK NEPOMNIASHCHY

ARRESTED:	October 12, 1984
CHARGE:	Defaming the Soviet State
DATE OF TRIAL:	January 31, 1985
SENTENCE:	3 Years Labor Camp
PRISON:	04-8578 2/22, Simferopol 333000, Krimskaya Oblast, USSR

BETZALEL SHALOLASHVILI

ARRESTED:	March 14, 1986
CHARGE:	Evading Military Service
DATE OF TRIAL:	
SENTENCE:	
PRISON:	


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PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE**LEV SHEFER**

ARRESTED: September 1981
 CHARGE: Anti-Soviet Propaganda
 DATE OF TRIAL: April 1982
 SENTENCE: 5 Years Imprisonment, Strict Regime
 PRISON: Stansya Vsysvyatskaya 385/19, Chusovsky Rayon
 Permskaya Oblast, RSFSR, USSR

ANATOLY (NATAN) VIRSHUBSKY

ARRESTED: February 19, 1985
 CHARGE: Misappropriation of State or Public Property by Theft
 DATE OF TRIAL: May 7, 1985
 SENTENCE: 2 Years Prison
 PRISON: Unknown

LEONID (ARI) VOLVOVSKY

ARRESTED: June 25, 1985
 CHARGE: Anti-Soviet Agitation and Propaganda
 DATE OF TRIAL: October 18-22, 1985
 SENTENCE: 3 Years
 PRISON: Lensk

ALEXANDER YAKIR

ARRESTED: June 19, 1984
 CHARGE: Refusal of Military Service
 DATE OF TRIAL: August 2, 1984
 SENTENCE: 2 Years Labor Camp
 PRISON: Unknown

ROALD (ALEC) ZELICHENOK

ARRESTED: 2nd Week of June 1985
 CHARGE: Anti-Soviet Slander
 DATE OF TRIAL: August 8, 1985
 SENTENCE: 3 Years
 WIFE'S ADDRESS: Galina ZELICHENOK
 Naberezhnaya Karpouki, Apt. 56
 Leningrad 197022
 USSR



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PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

ZACHAR ZUNSHAIN

ARRESTED:	March 4, 1984
CHARGE:	Defaming the Soviet State
DATE OF TRIAL:	June 1984
SENTENCE:	3 Years Forced Labor Prison Camp
PRISON:	U Ch. 272/23 Chusovski Rayon, Poselok Oktiabrsky Irkutskaya Oblast, USSR



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April 9, 1986

FORMER PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

	<u>ARRESTED</u>	<u>RELEASED</u>
EVGENY AISENBERG	1985	1986
VIKTOR BRAILOVSKY	1980	1984
BORIS CHERNOBILSKY	1981	1982
LEV ELBERT	1983	1984
YURI FEDEROV	1970	1985
ARKADY FELDMAN	1979	1983
KIM FRIDMAN	1981	1982
GRIGORY GEISHIS	1980	1982
SEMION GLUZMAN	1972	1982
GRIGORY GOLDSHTEIN	1978	1979
YANKEL GROBERMAN	1978	1983
BORIS KANEVSKY	1982	1985
ALEXANDER KHOLMIANSKY	1984	1986
VLADIMIR KISLIK	1981	1984
FELIX KOCHIUBIEVSKY	1982	1985
EVGENY LEIN	1981	1982
OSIP LOKSHIN	1981	1984
ALEXANDER MAGIDOVICH	1980	1982
IDA NUDEL	1978	1982
MARK OCHERETYANSKY	1983	1985
ALEKSANDR PANAREV	1983	1984
ALEXANDER PARITSKY	1981	1984
VALERY PILNIKOV	1980	1984
DMITRI SHCHIGLIK	1980	1981
SIMON SHNIRMAN	1983	1986
VICTOR SHTILBANS	1970	1971
VLADIMIR SLEPAK	1978	1982
YURI TARNOPOLSKY	1983	1986
MOISEY TONKONOGY	1980	1981
VLADIMIR TSUKERMAN	1981	1984
ALEKSANDR VILIG	1979	1980
STANISLAV ZUBKO	1981	1985



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NEWSBREAK

APRIL 7, 1986
NB 05-86

CELLIST ARRESTED IN TBILISI

TBILISI -- ALEKSEY MAGARIK, a 27-year old Moscow musician and Hebrew teacher, was arrested at the airport here March 14 on suspicion of possessing drugs. He emphatically denied the charge.

Magarik was about to board a plane to Moscow when an airport official, searching his hand luggage, claimed to have found a cigarette pack containing 4 grams of hashish. Aleksey told the police he had never seen the pack before, nevertheless, he was held at the police station. A medical examination the following morning confirmed that he had not consumed any drugs. His wife, NATALIA RATNER, returned from Tbilisi last week convinced that the charge was simply an excuse to punish him for his involvement in the Aliyah movement. She told a friend that she had the clear impression that Soviet authorities were not even going through the motions of denying that the allegation was a cover-up. YULI EDELSHTEIN of Moscow was sentenced to 3 years on the same charges.

The Magariks have signed various petitions demanding repatriation of Soviet Jews to Israel. Their first application for exit visas was rejected in 1981 with this reply: "Your emigration from the USSR is not justified at the present time." Natalia, who was trained as an electrical engineer but has never worked in her field, also teaches Hebrew. They have an infant son, CHAIM.

PURIM PARTIES HELD DESPITE KGB WARNINGS

VILNIUS -- KARMELA RAIZ, an accomplished musician, was among those who entertained children at a Purim Party here. "My playing may not have been the highlight, but the Hamantashen most certainly were," she told a friend. Purim parties were held in every Jewish center. Although activists in Moscow and Leningrad were warned by the KGB not to "pillory the Soviet state in the so-called Purimshpiels," there were many traditional performances.

CHARGES AGAINST ANNA LIFSHITZ DROPPED

LENINGRAD -- Without comment, authorities have dropped charges against ANNA LIFSHITZ, who was in danger of being tried for contempt of court because she refused to testify against her husband, VLADIMIR. Vladimir was recently sentenced to three years for allegedly "defaming the Soviet state" (NEWSBREAK, March 26, 1986).

Mr. Ostrovsky, the lawyer who defended Vladimir at the Leningrad trial on March 19, claims that the prosecution failed to prove their case and is demanding that the three-year sentence be quashed.

Anna was not allowed to see Vladimir after his trial, although such visits are customary under Soviet procedure. Nearly 100 refuseniks from Leningrad and Moscow attempted to attend the trial but most were denied entrance because of the small room in which it was held. Among those not admitted were the American Deputy Consul and a representative of the Dutch Embassy.

NEWSBREAK

EDELSHTEIN'S WIFE APPEALS FOR EARLY RELEASE

ULAN UDE -- YULI EDELSHTEIN'S wife, TANYA, and his father were allowed 20 minutes to visit him at the hospital where he was transferred after an accident at Vydrino Labor Camp (NEWSBREAK, March 26, 1986). Conversation was strictly limited to Yuli's health, which is worsening in the absence of good medical care. Tanya is pressing the authorities to give Yuli an early release, although his injury is not on the official list of illnesses entitling prisoners to early release.

It has now been clarified that Yuli has a broken thigh and a ruptured urethra. While several weeks have passed, the local surgeon near the camp maintains he could not operate because the hospital had no anesthesiologist. Doctors at the Ulan Ude hospital have insisted that an infection could result from an operation. While they hope the thigh will heal itself, this may leave Yuli with a shortened leg.

ANTI-ZIONIST ARTICLES IN USSR ON THE RISE

MOSCOW -- A spate of Anti-Zionist articles in the Soviet press in recent months have all the earmarks of being orchestrated by the authorities. Pravda has published a number of them, including one from the officially sponsored Anti-Zionist Committee protesting the "anti-Libyan campaign" launched by the U.S. and Israel.

"To Fight Against Zionism" in Sovetskaya Belorussia is a commentator's reply allegedly to reader requests about the Anti-Zionist Committee and how it serves the needs of the Soviet people.

In another article, Efim Lekht, a member of the committee and Deputy Director of the Moldavian Film Studio, writing in Sovetskaya Moldavia, accused Israel of lying that they could cure his wife's cancer after she emigrated in 1977. She died 10 months later. "It proves that the Zionists will not stop at any human sacrifices. . .to lure Soviet Jews to Israel," Lekht wrote.

NOTES FROM THE USSR

● A daughter was born to IOSIF and NINA RADOMYLSKY in Leningrad March 17. She was named DINA.

● IDA NUDEL was prevented from saying good-by to her close friends, the GOLDSHTEIN BROTHERS of Tbilisi, who were expected to leave the Soviet Union last week.

● VLADIMIR FRADKIN, the 18-year-old son of Leningrad refuseniks DANIEL and SARA, received his army induction papers.

● BORIS KLOTZ, a senior mathematician and physicist from Moscow, may have been offered a promotion to withdraw his application for a visa to Israel.

● YURI TARNOPOLSKY completed his three-year sentence March 16, and is back with his family in Kharkov.

● Forty-seven Jews arrived in Vienna in March.

SCANDINAVIANS PETITION SOVIET OFFICIALS

STOCKHOLM -- Over 340 members of the Swedish, Danish, and Norwegian parliaments have sent a letter to Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, President Andrei Gromyko, and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, asking that they grant, "the legal right of the Jews to be repatriated to Israel." It would be "an effective contribution to the realizing of human rights and would be welcomed as a magnanimous act of statesmanship," they said.

NEWSBREAK

OCTOBER 28, 1985
NB 18-85

GORKY HEBREW TEACHER SENTENCED

Hebrew teacher LEONID VOLVOVSKY of Gorky was sentenced to three years imprisonment on charges of allegedly "defaming the Soviet state and social system." The sentence was handed down after a five-day trial from which his family and friends were barred.

Presented as evidence against the 43-year-old engineer was Leon Uris' Exodus, marking the second time in less than a year that this novel was cited as alleged "proof" of anti-Soviet behavior. It had also been included in evidentiary materials used in the case against Odessa Hebrew teacher YAKOV LEVIN, who was convicted of the same charge last November. A woman who testified against Volvovsky claimed that he gave her the book and asked her to distribute it.

The conviction was also based on testimony that Volvovsky "associated with Anatoly Shcharansky and Iosif Begun."

Volvovsky's wife, Ludmilla, as well as his mother, daughter and IOSIF BEGUN's son, Boris, attempted to attend the trial. Shortly after it began, however, all but Volvovsky's daughter were ordered to leave the courtroom. When his daughter protested the action, she was charged with "improper conduct" and forcibly removed from the room.

Volvovsky, who refused to accept the attorney appointed by the court, conducted his own defense. A prominent Hebrew teacher and Jewish cultural activist, Volvovsky has sought to emigrate to Israel with his family since September 1974.

NCSJ CONFERS WITH PRIME MINISTER

NCSJ officers, led by Chairman Morris B. Abram, held a private meeting with Prime Minister Shimon Peres on October 22. Peres commended the NCSJ on the "very important job" it is doing "in a very thoughtful way" and stressed that the rescue of Soviet Jews was an "issue which may be the most important in our lifetime." The Prime Minister strongly urged the NCSJ to "do what you are doing to keep the issue alive," and cited confidential developments involving Israel and other governments. Accompanying Peres were Ambassadors Meir Rosenne and Binyamin Netanyahu.

NEWS FROM THE GULAG

- In a recent letter from ZAKHAR ZUNSHAIN, his wife, TANYA, learned that he has been reassigned to work in a high-risk area at the labor camp. His work now involves shoveling sawdust from an unguarded electric saw, forcing him to stand in a watery ditch very close to high-voltage electrical wires.

- VLADIMIR BRODSKY, the 41-year-old physician who was sentenced to three years in a labor camp last August, has ended his hunger strike after being treated for 10 days in the prison hospital. Brodsky, whose appeal was denied in September, had fasted since his arrest in July.

- After a brief trial in Kiev, former POC ALEKSEI MURZHENKO was sentenced to two years in a special regime camp for allegedly "breaking curfew."

NEWSBREAK**NEWSBRIEFS**

- BORIS DEVIYATOV of Leningrad was officially threatened with arrest on charges of allegedly "defaming the Soviet state and social system."
- GRIGORY GENUSOV of Leningrad was ordered to the KGB recently, and warned that if his activities continue, he risks the same beating as recently doled out to LEONID KELBERT. Although initial reports were that Kelbert sustained few injuries, it was since learned that he was hospitalized with a concussion.
- Leningrad's LEV SHAPIRO was again the victim of libelous reports in the Soviet media, based upon his previous vilification in the 1984 Leningrad "documentary," "Hirelings and Accomplices." Meanwhile, Shapiro was recently successful in gaining official approval for his daughter, NAOMI, to attend school, after he appealed the initial refusal to admit her to the Moscow Department of Education.
- Former POC's IDA NUDEL of Bendery and FELIKS KOCHUBIEVSKY of Novosibirsk have once again been denied permission to join their relatives in Israel.
- YAKOV MESH, VALERY PEVZNER and ALEKSANDR KUSHNIR, all of Odessa, were vilified in the Odessa newspaper, Znamya Kommunizma.

**DESPITE DELAY,
NASHPITZ FAMILY
REUNITED**

Long-term refusenik MARK NASHPITZ and his family arrived in Israel on October 20. Although Nashpitz was promised an exit visa in September, he was subsequently notified that "there may be a mistake," and that additional papers needed to be filed which could delay the family's departure indefinitely.

The events caused concern that Nashpitz -- who had been refused since 1971 -- had become the victim of "bureaucratic ping-pong," especially since it is not uncommon for Soviet officials to change their minds once a visa has been issued. In Israel, Nashpitz joins his parents, Chaim and Ita, after an 11-year separation.

**PARIS RALLY
DRAWS 30,000**

In anticipation of the official visit to Paris by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, tens of thousands of Parisians filled the streets for a mass rally on behalf of Soviet Jews. Organized by the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF), the two-hour march and rally drew support from Jews and non-Jews, including members of Parliament, leading French businessmen, popular entertainers and relatives of Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience, such as AVITAL SHCHARANSKY.

Addressing the crowd, CRIF President Theo Klein urged Gorbachev to "free the tens of thousands of Jews who want to go to Israel. Let them live proudly as they wish as Jews as you live proudly as Russians." Klein and other French Jewish leaders also contacted President Francois Mitterand to encourage him to raise the Soviet Jewry issue with Gorbachev.

It is believed Mitterand, who in the past has expressed support for Soviet Jews, did in fact raise the issue with Gorbachev when the two men met, although the meeting does not appear to have produced any immediate results for Soviet Jews. In an interview given to French reporters before his arrival in Paris, Gorbachev brusquely denied the existence of religious persecution in the USSR, asserting instead that many Jews hold positions of great stature within Soviet society and that all Jews who wished to leave the Soviet Union have already done so.

A WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY?

A DECLARATION FROM THE WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

As the world looks forward with hope to the forthcoming summit meeting in Geneva between President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev we, who represent Jewish communities from the five continents, draw attention to the plight of Soviet Jewry.

The condition of Soviet Jewry has continued to deteriorate. Emigration has been brought to a virtual standstill. Harassment, arrests and the imprisonment of Jews seeking to be reunited with their people in their historic homeland, Israel, or to study Hebrew, have become increasingly frequent. There has been a dreadful upsurge of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

The world has, therefore, been left in no doubt that the U.S.S.R. is violating the Helsinki Accords of 1975 and other international obligations which they have signed and pledged to uphold. The summit meeting, thus, begins under a cloud. For humanity's prayers and expectations to be realized, that cloud must be removed.

We continue to believe that an opportunity may exist which could reverse the state of affairs. The new Soviet leadership can restore public confidence concerning future agreements. The success of talks in the Geneva meeting remains in Soviet hands.

We pray for success.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Arye L. Dulzin (Israel) Chairman, Morris B. Abram (USA), Kenneth J. Blalkin (USA), Edgar Bronfman (World Jewish Congress), Gregorio Faigon (Argentina), Arleh Handler (United Kingdom), Avraham Harman (Israel), Claude Kelman (France), Gerald Kraft (B'nai B'rith International), Isi Leibler (Australia), Akiva Levinsky (Israel), Barbara Stern (Canada).

Contact:

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY

10 East 40th Street, Suite 907, New York, N.Y. 10016
2027 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

ALERT

INFORMATION FROM THE
UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
1411 K Street, NW
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(202) 393-4117



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

Vol. XI No. 7

November 15, 1985

Fascell Receives Freedom Award

Representative Dante Fascell (D-FL), Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, was presented with the Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award at a banquet held in his honor at the UCSJ Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. on October 21.

Fascell has long been involved in the struggle to gain freedom of emigration and human rights for refuseniks. Before becoming Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, he chaired the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) from its establishment 1976 until April, 1985. He has also chaired during his 27-year tenure on the Foreign Affairs Committee, the Subcommittees on International Organizations and Movements (1961-68); Inter-American Affairs (1969-74); International Political and Military Affairs (1975-76); and International Operations (1977-84). Since February, 1984 he has also served as chairman of the Subcommittee on Arms Control, International Security and Science.

(Continued on page 11)



Anatoly Scharansky Freedom Award being presented to Rep. Dante Fascell (D-FL). (From l. to r.) Morey Schapira, President UCSJ, Hinda Cantor, Chairperson, South Florida Conference on Soviet Jewry, Congressman Fascell and Stuart Eizenstat, UCSJ legal Counsel.

Volvovsky: Three Years

On October 24, Leonid Volvovsky was sentenced to three years in a labor camp as punishment for "slandering the Soviet State." Volvovsky was arrested in June. After he was charged, the anti-Semitic messages "Death to Jews" and "Prison for all Jews" were scrawled on a wall outside the family's apartment, and his family was the subject of an anti-Semitic article in a local newspaper.

(Continued on page 10)

Bonner Reportedly Receives Permission

As part of the pre-summit fanfare, the Soviets have granted Dr. Yelena Bonner, Dr. Andrei Sakharov's wife, permission to leave the country on a temporary basis to seek medical care in the West.

The *Washington Post* reported that Bonner sent a telegram to a friend confirming the granting of the visa which read: "I have received permission to leave. I shall leave at the end of November. I am taking precautions for Andrei so he can survive the winter alone." News of the visa was also confirmed by Secretary of State George Shultz.

Dr. Bonner has been restricted to the city of Gorky with her husband since 1984, when she was tried and sentenced to internal exile for anti-Soviet slander. Before her sentencing, she was her husband's spokesperson for five years and would travel regularly between Gorky and Moscow.

Sakharov is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate, a three-time Soviet hero, and was prominent in the Soviet human rights movement in the 1970's. Bonner's two children and mother live in Newton, Massachusetts.



POC Ari Volvovsky

NEWSBRIEFS

ALEXEI MURZHENKO was sentenced to two years in October after being arrested in June for "parole violations". Murzhenko had just been released in 1984 after serving 14 years for his 1970 attempt, along with 14 others, to get a plane to fly it out of the Soviet Union. His wife gave birth to a baby boy recently who died soon afterwards.

LAZAR RULYOV KAGAN has been allowed to meet with his wife, Svetlana, for the first time in ten months and was transferred to a camp with better conditions. His condition has improved somewhat, although he still suffers from the physical ailments caused by deprivation of food and medical attention while in prison.

ALEC ZELICHENOK'S appeal was denied. Zelichenok, a POC from Leningrad, was sentenced to three years in August on a charge of anti-Soviet slander. Included in the evidence used against him at his trial was a letter to the Committee of Concerned Scientists.

Charges against POC **SIMON SHNIRMAN** were dropped following protests from the West. Shnirman, who is serving a three-year sentence scheduled to end in January 1986, was in danger of an extended sentence following a labor camp trial. Shnirman was accused of breaking the camp rules—washing his clothes at the wrong time.

EVGENY KOIFMAN of Dnepropetrovsk received a sentence of 2½ years working for the national economy. After he was arrested on trumped up charges of drug possession, his wife was incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital where she was drugged by authorities and signed papers of which she has no recollection.

YOSEF BERENSHEIN of Kiev, serving a four-year sentence in labor camp, was permitted to receive a parcel of warm clothing from his wife. He had a blood test in prison to confirm his diabetic condition. Berenshtein appeared in a Kiev newspaper, the *Worker's Gazette*, which alleged that Yosef inflicted his eye injuries himself and his wife is merely seeking publicity. Berenshtein was brutally attacked by prison inmates and blinded immediately following his sentence.

MARK NASHPITZ and his family joined his parents in Israel on October 20. A long-term refusenik, Nashpitz was given permission but was then instructed to resubmit his papers for further consideration. After several weeks of waiting in limbo, all the family members were given exit visas.

Despite escalating pressure on refuseniks, approximately 5,000 people were at the **LENIN-GRAD** Synagogue to celebrate Simchat Torah. There was a sign-up sheet for Hebrew classes.

Coretta Scott King Joins Advisory Board

UCSJ is pleased to announce that Coretta Scott King, widow of the late Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., has become its newest advisory board member.

Mrs. King, as President and Chief Executive Officer of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, has carried her husband's advocacy of

peace and justice through nonviolent action across the nation and throughout the world.

Rev. King as a staunch supporter of human rights, addressed the injustices perpetrated against Soviet Jews:

"I cannot stand idly by, even though I live in the United States and even though I happen to be an American

Negro, and not be concerned about what happens to my brothers and sisters who happen to be Jews in Soviet Russia. For what happens to them happens to me and you, and we must be concerned. . . In the name of humanity, I urge that the Soviet government end all the discriminatory measures against its Jewish community."

Peace Missionary Guilty of Psychiatric Crimes

Representatives of an official Soviet peace committee touring the U.S., confronted with accusations of widespread Soviet psychiatric abuse, denied any wrongdoing.

The group of four physicians, representatives of the Soviet Committee of Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, visited four American cities on a tour sponsored by International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW). One of the Soviet delegates, Dr. Marat Vartanyan, is a leading apologist for Soviet misuse of psychiatry for political reasons. Vartanyan's and the Soviet psychiatric association's history are well-known in the international psychiatric community—in 1983 the Soviet Union withdrew from the world psychiatric association to avoid being expelled for psychiatric abuse.

The Soviet Committee, who this year were joint winners of the Nobel Peace Prize along with IPPNW's American branch, were on a "peace mission" to address fellow physicians on ways to reduce the nuclear threat. The group however, refused to address the case of Dr. Vladimir Brodsky of Moscow, a leading member of an unofficial peace group formed in the USSR to "establish trust" between the two superpowers. Brodsky was sentenced in August to three years on a trumped up charge of malicious hooliganism. They also

did not adequately explain why Yuri Popov has been incarcerated in a psychiatric hospital since 1983 for urging nuclear disarmament in the Soviet Union. The spokesperson for the IPPNW American branch, an independent, non-government, voluntary group, readily admitted that the Soviet government selected the representatives who visited the U.S., a marked contrast to the way the American group is represented nationally and internationally. "We were not involved in the selection of who came over here," said Dr. Gary Lapid, a psychiatrist at a Stanford Medical Center and past president of the local chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility.

Despite the documented history of psychiatric abuse and the statements of Vladimir Bukovsky, a Stanford graduate student who was incarcerated in a Soviet psychiatric institution for twelve years, not one of the IPPNW members was prompted to question whether, in fact, these four representatives truly represented the peace movement in the USSR.

During the group's visit to Denver, the Colorado Committee of Concern for Soviet Jewry demonstrated in front of the hotel where a dinner was being held in the Soviet group's honor. In Palo Alto, the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews alerted the local and university communities to the pending visit and Dr. Vartan-

yan's role in the use of psychiatric means to quell dissent. In Seattle, the psychiatric issue was the subject of tough questioning by the press.

In response to IPPNW president Dr. Robert Fried's assertion that "opening doors" can create a climate to curb nuclear war, Gerson Brodie, a member of the Colorado Committee of Concern, challenged the argument on the basis that "the common people in the Soviet Union are totally helpless to express themselves about nuclear war or any other issues. Their 'public opinion' carries no weight with a government of tyranny."

Stanford Professor Louis Lerman, a co-founder and member of Scientists for Sakharov, Orlov and Schransky, stated "it is the height of irony that Physicians for Social Responsibility is including someone like this in a peace delegation."

Vartanyan, a psychiatrist, has "for many years tried to explain and defend the profession against charges of politically inspired abuse," according to Dr. Walter Reich, a research psychiatrist at the National Institute for Mental Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Reich is the author of a 1983 *New York Times Magazine* article detailing how political dissidents in the Soviet Union are "misdiagnosed" as schizophrenic and hospitalized in mental hospitals against their will.

Amnesty International Reports Continued Repression

In its 1985 *Report*, Amnesty International has charged the USSR with ill-treatment in prisons, corrective labor colonies and psychiatric institutions. The report was based on data collected in 1984. Excerpts from the report follow.

"Amnesty International has adopted as prisoners of conscience or was investigating the cases of more than 560 individuals, but believes the total number of prisoners of conscience to be much higher.

They investigated the cases of eleven Jews imprisoned on criminal charges, all of whom had a history of harassment for their attempts to leave the USSR. In addition, they referred to five persons imprisoned for associating in unofficial groups to preserve Jewish culture.

At least 132 Soviet citizens were imprisoned under laws specifically restricting freedom of religion and expression. Some individuals, previously persecuted for their exercise

of human rights, were imprisoned on criminal charges which Amnesty International believed to be false. Soviet authorities continued to use forcible psychiatric confinement as a means of punishing known dissenters. Amnesty International believed they were confined for political, rather than medical reasons, and that they had neither used nor advocated violence."

Community Activists Arrested in Continuing Campaign

The rising tide of activism on behalf of Soviet Jewry, particularly in the nation's capital, is in direct response to the worsening plight of Soviet Jews. Nationwide rallies and demonstrations will continue, culminating on November 17-18, timed to deliver a strong message of solidarity with Soviet Jewry, in conjunction with the Reagan-Gorbachev summit.

The latest in a series of demonstrations involving arrests followed UCSJ's annual meeting on October 22, where a session on "Activism from the Pulpit" by distinguished activist Rabbis moved some delegates to take part in the civil disobedience. Nine community leaders from across the country were arrested as annual meeting delegates and supporters from the Washington area looked on silently from across the street.

Dr. Konnilyn Feig, Professor of History at San Francisco State University and noted Christian holocaust scholar, speaking for the group, declared: "We gather here as Christians and Jews in front of the Soviet Embassy so that we can do our part in preventing the spiritual holocaust of our Jewish brothers and sisters in the Soviet Union. The situation of

Soviet Jews has deteriorated to the point where emigration is practically at a standstill and arrests and KGB harassments are a daily occurrence."

Sergei Broude, a former emigre and now a U.S. citizen living in Massachusetts, stated prior to his arrest that "political and moral necessity dictates that as concerned people and as leaders of the Soviet Jewry movement, we must make our concerns known, especially prior to the upcoming summit meeting. Soviet Jewry and human rights must not only be on the agenda at Geneva, but must take a prominent place in the negotiations between the two superpowers."

Since May, in five other demonstrations sponsored by the Washington Board of Rabbis, various groups of protesters were arrested for demonstrating in front of the Soviet Embassy. The first demonstration, in which 24 Rabbis and one Minister were arrested, sparked accusations that the Justice Department is guilty of selective prosecution, regularly dropping all charges against demonstrators arrested at the South African Embassy, while planning to prosecute individuals similarly arrested

at the Soviet Embassy. Both groups are guilty of violating the same law, which prohibits them from passing within 500 feet of a foreign embassy.

Since the first arrest, more Rabbis and Christian clergy, as well as community leaders, Jewish school administrators, student activists, and activists from UCSJ member councils have been arrested at the Soviet Embassy. A demonstration on the part of Christian clergy took place in September, on Yom Kippur, a day when Christian leaders traditionally stand in for Jewish protesters who are observing the holiday. This demonstration did not go according to plan — four Christians who had not intended on it were arrested, while the two Christian clergy who had prepared and committed themselves to being arrested were left standing on the sidewalk with their Bibles.

During the following demonstration in October, twenty-two students were arrested, led by a member of the B'nai B'rith Hillel National Student Secretariat, Jon Cohen. In solidarity, 200 fellow Hillel student activists looked on silently from across the street with their hands joined above their heads.

Student Campaign

The B'nai B'rith Hillel National Student Secretariat is sponsoring a long-term project whereby individual campuses adopt a refusenik student. The program is already underway on over 50 campuses across the U.S. with plans for further expansion.

At "Washington 4", an annual national Hillel public policy conference held this past October, the student secretariat presented Rutgers University with its distinguished Human Rights Award. The award is presented annually to a campus that has done outstanding work on behalf of a refusenik student.

Project OPEN (Oppose Persecution, Educate Now) was initiated by Rutgers Hillel members, who adopted Marina Shenderovich. Marina is a 26-year-old former student of biochemistry at Moscow State University. In 1979, she and her parents, Yakov

and Maya, applied for permission to leave the Soviet Union. Their request, as well as two subsequent requests, were denied. Yakov was demoted from his position as an engineer in an auto factory, and Maya was fired from her job as an English teacher. Marina was forced to leave Moscow state.

Project OPEN is trying to secure Marina's release from the Soviet Union so that she may continue her studies at Rutgers University. They have obtained from the Rutgers College governing board a full scholarship, as well as a research position for her at the prestigious Waksman Institute of Microbiology. In addition, the student group has received the full support of the entire New Jersey Congressional delegation, New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, Senator Bill Bradley (D-NJ), and Rut-

gers President Edward J. Bloustein.

Through petitions, letter writing, phone calls to the USSR, articles, letters to the editor, buttons, resolutions by student government, and even a dance-a-thon in Marina's honor, the Hillel group has raised the level of awareness of the Rutgers community. Marina only found out about the efforts on her behalf when a student visited her. The student reported that Marina had not received a single one of the hundreds of pieces of mail sent to her. She responded with "shock and tears" when the student broke the news to her of the efforts on her behalf at Rutgers. Soon afterwards, however, Marina's home was filled with friends who were invited to "celebrate the good news."

Annual Meeting Guest Speakers

Martin Gilbert



Prof. Martin Gilbert

Professor Martin Gilbert, official biographer of Winston Churchill, and Fellow at Oxford University, has made a significant contribution to the study of Jewish history. His 1983 visit to the Soviet Union was the impetus for his book, *The Jews of Hope: The Plight of Soviet Jews Today*. Prof. Gilbert shared with annual meeting attendees his thoughts and concerns on Soviet Jewry in light of his most recent visit, this past summer:

"The past twelve months in the international arena have been months of great excitement, many meetings, letters, hints, expectations, and rumors of a new dawn. Mr. Gorbachev has already been to London and to Paris, and leading Soviet figures have been here in the United States. Mr. Bronfman has been to Moscow. For many of those who study the signs, which these events portend, the signs are said to be good. But for our people, for our friends in Russia, it has been a bleak, bad year. Fourteen prisoners sentenced in the last eleven months. . .

"Dear friends, as we meet in mid-October, our friends are also deep in their October. It is colder for them not only by reason of climate. If all the things we do are letters and telegrams, if all these things do nothing else, they bring the greatest daily joy to our friends in Russia. I would

say the only daily joy, until the exit visa."

Professor Gilbert was asked by refugees to convey their sentiments to friends in the West, who "were so thrilled to discover the extent to which we were linked and intermeshed and working on their behalf. And I hope I was able to convey the sense that whatever our disagreements and their disagreements, the strength of feeling in the world today between Jews outside Russia and Jews inside Russia, constitutes one of the most remarkable facets not only in the human rights panorama of today, but in our own Jewish historical spectrum. It is something very unusual and very remarkable, and we must not be demoralized. . . For if you look at it from the moon, outside, or even from the address book of somebody in Leningrad, it's very remarkable and very comforting."

Rita Hauser

Former U.S. representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission under the Nixon Administration and Chairperson of the IPG Advisory Board, Rita Hauser, delivered the opening address at the UCSJ annual meeting. Ms. Hauser has an extensive history of public service, having served as Director of the Board for International Broadcasting, as an advisory panel member to the State Department on refugees, and International law; and in various other advisory positions dealing with communications and international relations.

Speaking of the upcoming summit, Hauser stated that "our government will without question raise the question of the Helsinki Accords, the failure to live up to the agreement, questions of emigration, and specific cases. Unfortunately, however, this is on a strictly informal basis. The Soviets have managed to keep the official summit agenda at Geneva limited essentially to arms discussions and perhaps to economic discussions."

Despite the fact that human rights will only be raised on a peripheral basis, Hauser believes that "the Russians must understand, by now, that

they cannot meet anywhere, with any responsible Western leader, on any serious issue of concern to them, without somewhere the question of human rights being raised. This seems to me to be the single most important achievement that has come out of this somewhat doleful history of Helsinki."

Concerning the Soviet standard response to human rights questions, Hauser thinks that "the interesting issue is whether the Soviets are really going to be able to repackage their response to those questions. Gorbachev's performance in Paris and his performance on television, and I presume the performance at the summit, certainly does not give us much hope to date." One possible explanation is that for all of Gorbachev's consolidation of power, it may well be that "on the questions (of human rights) he is not able to overcome the standard resistance that is presented by both the KGB for sure and the military as well."

Speaking of Gorbachev, Hauser noted that "for anybody to emerge as a leader in the Soviet Union requires a set of characteristics that are neither looked for nor expected in a Western leader. There must be some trail of blood in Gorbachev's history, and there must certainly be a history of ruthlessness that is not known to Western leadership."



Rita Hauser

Annual Meeting 198



UCSJ President Morey Schapira welcoming attendees to the Annual Meeting.



UCSJ General Counsel Stuart Eizenstat speaking at the banquet.

Rev. George Church in community



off. Stephen Barton, Washington Bureau Chief of The Times (London), speaking with annual meeting attendees following a workshop on press strategies.



left to right, Morey Schapira, President, UCSJ; Dr. John P. Har Soviet Economics, Library of Congress; Dr. Murray Feshbac Dr. Robert O. Freedman, Professor of Political Science and De and Robert Gordon, past President, UCSJ.



Former refusenik Alla Pratsman, speaking on the current situation of Soviet Jews. Ms. Pratsman's fellow speakers on the panel were Ed McWilliams, formerly with the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, and Dr. Konnilyn Felg, Holocaust scholar and professor at San Francisco State University.



Senator Charles Grassley (R-IA) speaking with UCSJ Executive Director Mark Epstein.



Just prior to

5 Washington, D.C.



Steinbruck of the Luther Place Memorial- Washington, D.C., leading a workshop on outreach.



left to right, Julie Davis, Comite Des Quinze, Paris; Anna Polulyaleh, mother of refusenik Yana Lerner; David Sellkowitz, Comite Des Quinze; Valentina Eydelman, sister of Yana Lerner; and Marlyse Ucko, Comite Des Quinze.



lt, Associate Director Senior Specialists and Senior Specialist in Research Professor of Demography, Georgetown Unlverslty; n of the School of Graduate Studles, Baltimore Hebrew College;



UCSJ past President and current chair of the Advisory Board Lynn Slinger (left) speaking on the future of Soviet Jews with Rita Hauser, following Ms. Hauser's opening address.



their arrest, community leaders making their plea on behalf of Soviet Jewry.



UCSJ President Morey Schapira (left) being interviewed by reporters following the Embassy demonstration.



ALERT

On Capitol Hill



Gift of Hope

The Congressional Spouses' Committee of 21 has sent bilingual Hebrew-Russian prayer books as gifts to each of their 21 "adopted" Soviet Jewish Prisoners of Conscience. At a ceremony on October 3, the prayer books, each one carefully inscribed, signed, wrapped, and addressed, were mailed from the House of Representatives Post Office.

According to Annette Lantos, founder of the Committee, "by sending the prayer books through the international mail, the Committee intends to accomplish two goals: first, to demonstrate the commitment of Americans to human rights; and second, to underscore the importance of the free flow of information and freedom from censorship of mail." Annette Lantos is the wife of Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA).

Landra Reid, wife of Congressman Harry Reid (D-NV), stated that adopting a Prisoner of Conscience has "been a great opportunity for my family to do something. I was encouraged that Gorbachev was questioned by the mayor of Paris about refuseniks, and I think that any way that we can bring this issue to the forefront can only be of help, so I'm grateful to do whatever I can."

Kathryn Porter, wife of Congressman John Porter (R-IL), noted that "this past week E. B. White died, and in reading the account of his life in the papers I ran across a phrase that he used. He said in a bad situation sometimes all you have left is hope, and when I look and listen to what is going on in terms of Soviet

(Continued on page 9)



(From l. to r.) Mark Epstein, Executive Director, UCSJ, Joseph Mendelevlch, Chairman, Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center, Annette Lantos, founder of the Congressional Spouses' Committee of 21, and Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA).

Mendelevlch Visits Washington

Joseph Mendelevlch, former Prisoner of Conscience and current chairman of the Jerusalem-based Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center paid a brief visit to Washington on October 31. Mendelevlch was in the U.S. on a tour sponsored by American Friends of the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Center. Mark Epstein, Executive Director of UCSJ, arranged a full schedule for Mendelevlch which included lunch with Mrs. Annette Lantos, Chair of the Congressional Spouses' Committee of 21, to discuss the goals of the Education and Information Center and its perspective on the summit between Reagan and Gorbachev.

Mendelevlch also spoke with the Co-chairs of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, Reps. John Porter (R-IL) and Tom Lantos (D-CA), as well as Barney Frank (D-MA); Ed Zschau (R-CA); Dan Mica (D-FL); George Wortley (R-NY); and Ed Feighan (D-OH). Feighan and Mendelevlch spoke about Feighan's recent trip to

the Soviet Union.

The next stop was Voice of America, where Mendelevlch met with members of the Russian Division and did a live interview, which was broadcast by VOA to the Soviet Union.

Finally, Mendelevlch met with Mike Hathaway and Mary Sue Hafner, Staff Director and General Counsel, respectively, of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission). The Commission staffers described the ongoing work of the Commission and Mendelevlch updated them on his work with the Knesset in Israel.

After serving eleven years of a sentence meted out during the Leningrad trials, Mendelevlch arrived in Israel in 1981 to a hero's welcome. Since then he has worked ceaselessly, through the Center, to focus world attention to the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Action ALERT

From Local Councils

Volleyball 'Da', Anti-Semitism 'Nyet'

• Members of the **Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews** aimed to enlighten the public during a U.S./USSR sports event on August 23 at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. During a volleyball game between the U.S. men's Olympic team and the Soviet men's national team, the human rights activists unfurled a large blue banner in front of the 9,000 fans: VOLLEYBALL 'DA', SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM 'NYET' it read, and "FREE JEWISH PRISONERS", written in Russian. Immediately following the game, Arthur Kalmeyer, a former Refusenik, darted onto the court and presented the Soviet team with a letter of concern from Bay Area Council President, Lillian Foreman.

"We regret that you may find the contents of this letter upsetting", wrote Foreman. "However, these are the unpleasant circumstances that govern the lives of many Soviet citizens every day. Unfortunately, the oppressive policies of a government can have an impact on a volleyball game played several thousand miles



Members of the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews displaying banner at US/USSR volleyball match.

away," Foreman went on to say, referring to the deplorable situation for Jews in the Soviet Union, magnified during the recent spate of arrests and convictions of Jewish cultural activists and Hebrew teachers.

David Waksberg, Executive Director of BACCSJ, added, "These are difficult days for Soviet Jews, indeed for all oppressed groups in the USSR. It is more important than ever that human rights supporters here in the West speak out in solidarity with those who seek their freedom in the Soviet Union."

DATA BANK

• **(Boston) Action for Soviet Jewry**, under the auspices of the UCSJ national office, is developing a refusenik databank — a computerized file which will allow instant access to information on more than 3,000 refuseniks. Vital statistics found in each refusenik's computerized file include address; birth date; educational and occupational information; other household members; the status of emigration application and refusal; languages spoken; episodes of harassment and arrests; and relatives living outside the Soviet Union. In addition, each file will include a summary of descriptive, textual information on the refusenik's situation.

Much of the baseline refusenik data has already been entered into the computer's memory. The material is currently undergoing cross-check by the Bay Area Council for Soviet Jews, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry and the London 35's, UCSJ's affiliate in Great Britain.

The refusenik databank is expected to increase the efficiency of UCSJ's record keeping and information dissemination. An introductory session on the databank was held for attendees at the UCSJ annual meeting, with printouts scheduled to become available in February 1986. Once the system comes "on-line," tapes for use with computerized systems or printouts will be distributed to UCSJ member councils and will be updated on a regular basis.

Gift of Hope, (Continued from page 8)

Jewry it occurs to me that we build on that."

The other wives present included Kate Lowery, wife of Rep. Bill Lowery (R-CA); Wren Wirth, wife of Rep. Tim Wirth (D-OR); Sheila Smith, wife of Rep. Larry Smith (D-FL); and Jane Gephardt, wife of Rep. Richard Gephardt (D-MO), and they all expressed concern on behalf of their families for their adopted POC. Congressman Vander Jagt (R-MI) and Congressman Ben Gilman (R-NY) were both present representing their wives, Carol and Rita, respectively.

Lynn Singer, Executive Director of the Long Island Committee for Soviet Jewry, which donated the books, told the Committee, "We are heartened that you, as wives of U.S. Congressmen, care enough to have taken

on this special project. The families will let the prisoners know, to the best of their ability, that these prayer books are coming in. You are a remarkable group."

She emphasized that despite the exclusively religious nature of the prayer books, which in no way could be construed as anti-Soviet, the books most likely would never reach their destination. Letters and parcels to Soviet prisoners are subject to strict quotas and prison authorities do their utmost to prevent Jewish prisoners from practicing their religious traditions.

Lantos concluded, "our purpose is to show that respect for human rights is essential in our relationship with the Soviet Union. We want to extend our support to these Prisoners of Conscience who suffer in Soviet prisons for their courage in persevering in their religious beliefs."

Haig Responds to Gorbachev

Former Secretary of State, General Alexander Haig, on a recent segment of ABC's *Nightline*, countered General Secretary Gorbachev's well-publicized statements on the situation of Jews in the USSR. On October 1, Ted Koppel broadcast portions of an interview Gorbachev held with journalists during the Soviet leader's state visit to France. Haig, speaking live from Washington, responded to a number of Gorbachev's allegations, one of which concerned the rights afforded to Jews in the Soviet Union. Incredulous reactions world-wide greeted Gorbachev's ludicrous challenge, "I defy you to name another country in the world where Jews enjoy the same kinds of social and political rights as they do in the Soviet Union."

Excerpts from both statements follow.

Mikhail Gorbachev:

"... You raised also the matter of Jews in the Soviet Union. . . . When there is a particular case of family reunification, then we allow them to leave. Why are there cases when we can't allow them to leave? This is a matter of state security. Then we make it possible for the process to take a certain period of time, and for those who have five or ten years not being given permission to leave, but if there is a necessity to leave for a family reunification, then finally, they do get out."

Gen. Alexander Haig (in response to the above):

"It is a blatant distortion of reality. . . . We know there are over 100,000 Soviet Jews who have been seeking for a long time to remove themselves from the system which they abhor. We know that this past year that less than 1,000 were permitted to leave, and the year before less than 900, from a peak of some 52,000 in 1979. Clearly, it's a political decision on the part of the Soviet leadership that has nothing to do with state security. We know that Soviet Jews cannot even study Hebrew in the Soviet Union. So to maintain that they enjoy some egalitarian position is an outrageous fabrication."

Volvovsky

(Continued from page 1)

Volvovsky could not be intimidated, however — as a form of protest, he has refused since his arrest to speak any language other than Hebrew. He was permitted neither a lawyer nor an interpreter.

The trial of this 43-year old Hebrew teacher, known as Ari by his friends, has become symbolic of the unrelenting crackdown on cultural activists, and Volvovsky's courage and determination, symbolic of the growing activist movement.

The trial confirmed, as has previously been reported, that there was a glaring lack of any evidence against Volvovsky that could even remotely be considered as slanderous. The book *Exodus* was an example of the incriminating evidence presented at his trial. Representatives of Soviet radio and television reportedly covered the trial.

Friends and relatives made the journey to Gorky to provide support and witness the proceedings. In a clear attempt by Soviet authorities to isolate him, they systematically removed Volvovsky's supporters from the courtroom. Boris Begun, Iosef Begun's son, was the first to be evicted. After him, Volvovsky's wife, Mila was asked to leave, and then his mother. When his daughter, Kira, protested, she was forced to leave and was charged with improper conduct.

"I did not know my husband was so brave," stated Mila outside the courtroom while her husband was on trial. The group stood outside singing Hebrew songs loudly enough for Volvovsky to hear.

Volvovsky has been an Aliya activist since 1970 and was first refused in 1974. Following his refusal, he started to study Hebrew and Jewish culture, about which he knew very little, but through concentrated study and deep devotion he became one of the few advanced teachers of Hebrew in Moscow. He taught some thirty to forty students, who in turn taught Hebrew to others. Volvovsky, therefore, had overall responsibility for about one thousand Hebrew pupils. As one of the leading activists of the "Cultural Group", he organized picnics in the woods outside Moscow, where friends sang, danced and celebrated the Jewish holidays.

Volvovsky has had a long history of harassment by the KGB prior to

In the Soviet Press

Rabochaya Gazeta,

July 23, 1985

The High Price of Enlightenment

"The fabrication of slander about the alleged 'breaches of human rights' in the USSR and of Soviet citizens of Jewish ethnic background in particular, is one trend in the anti-Soviet provocations of imperialist reaction and its Zionist servants. This propaganda is accompanied by calling on Soviet Jews to leave their Motherland and emigrate to Israel and the United States.

The reality met by those who believed Zionist propaganda — ruthless capitalist exploitations and a cruel daily struggle for survival — soon dissolves the rosy film of general happiness in bourgeois society.

Such is the true price of enlightenment for those who, having believed Zionist provocateurs and their imperialist patrons, left their Motherland and became small change in the hands of our ideological enemies and reactionary politicians."

his trial. A computer scientist by training, after applying to emigrate, he was dismissed from his position as a senior researcher at the Research Institute of Automation and Mechanization in the Oil and Gas Industry. In November 1976, he was held in a prison for fifteen days for taking part in a Moscow sit-in. In July 1977, he was interrogated at another prison about Anatoly Scharsky, and 1979 marked the first of a series of searches and seizures. In 1980 his permit to reside in Moscow expired and the family was, in effect, exiled to the closed city of Gorky.

Volvovsky's professional colleagues in the United States have expressed concern for his welfare and at a recent meeting of the Association for Computing Machinery, a petition was signed by Association members stating that they "suspect that Dr. Volvovsky is being harassed because of his diverse activities involving the study of Jewish culture and his longtime quest to emigrate." The petition, which was sent to the Soviet government, urged that "the charges against Volvovsky be dropped and that he be allowed to emigrate to Israel."

Budapest Cultural Forum Exposes Limits on Artistic Freedoms

As part of the Helsinki process, a cultural forum opened in Budapest on October 15. The official goal of the forum was "to discuss interrelated problems concerning creation, dissemination and cooperation, including the promotion and expansion of contacts and exchanges in the different fields of culture."

Western delegates' statements made strong reference to the lack of creative freedom in Eastern bloc nations with a number of delegates delivering thinly veiled criticisms of human rights abuses. U.S. Ambassador to the Budapest forum, Walter Stoessel, stated that in the case of radio communications, "some governments, fearful of its impact, have resorted to the practice of jamming the airwaves." He further stated, in response to the Eastern countries' premise that nuclear war remains the first and foremost issue, that "the nuclear threat must not be used as an excuse for ignoring other serious problems."

In a show of unity, Western delegates, such as Jeanne Hersch, the delegate from Switzerland, emphasized ~~the connection~~ between human rights and culture, while the Luxembourg delegate, Paul Mertz, stressed the link between creative activity and free dissemination of cultural materials, and Canadian delegate, Ghislain Hardy, condemned restrictions on the human rights of individuals.

The strongly worded text of an International Helsinki Federation press release criticized a Hungarian gov-

ernment action which, ironically, forbade the group to use public facilities that had been reserved for a "citizen cultural forum" in Budapest. The press release stated that the Hungarian government's action violated the 1975 Helsinki Accords and, further, called upon the 35 member nations to limit future inter-governmental meetings to those places where peaceful citizen meetings are welcomed rather than hampered.

Hearing on Soviet Cultural Life

In conjunction with the Budapest Cultural Forum, the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) held a hearing on Soviet cultural life on October 29.

In a statement by Oleg Vidov, a Soviet actor and director who defected to the West, the restrictions became clear. "Some subjects are taboo, such as the Stalin camps. Only a minority of the new generation even know that Stalin signed a peace pact with Hitler, that Stalin killed millions of our own people. A very good film about the Stalin camps, made by our excellent director Gregoria Chukrni, could give information, but it disappeared into the vaults of governments some 20 years ago, never to be screened again."

Another witness, Michael Scammel, who founded *Index on Censorship*, which is devoted to publishing work by writers censored by their own governments, outlined the restriction

on artists in the USSR: "No artist in the Soviet Union, not even those operating in the most non-political spheres, are free to create their works without interference and without control. Nor are they allowed to receive information unhampered from abroad, nor to travel freely to meet or see fellow artists and exchange experiences with them. The cage in which they are obliged to live and perform no longer has such solid bars as in Stalin's time, but the bars are real enough, and have very little flexibility."

Other witnesses who testified before the Commission include Maxim Shostakovich, a Soviet conductor and son of the famous composer Dmitri Shostakovich; Vasily Aksyonov, one of the most popular Soviet novelists and screenwriters; and George Jacobs, an expert on jamming who has spent all of his career battling Soviet jamming both on a technical and diplomatic level.

Freedom Award

(Continued from page 1)

In accepting the award Fascell stated, "I am overwhelmed to be associated with an award with the name of Scharansky, and would like to commend your organization for the outstanding contribution you have made on behalf of those in the Soviet Union who desperately need our help and attention." Speaking about the upcoming summit, he expressed hope that there might be some improvement in the human rights area, but warned against any blind optimism. "We have to take the long view and we have to keep from getting frustrated," he cautioned.

As for the issue of human rights being raised at the summit, Fascell said that "There's no way to have a discussion with the Soviet Union without having a discussion on human rights because their record is so atrocious. In all good conscience, if you are going to stand for anything in this world, you have to discuss the issue of human rights."

Fascell said that despite the fact that the Soviets are "part and parcel

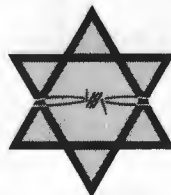
(Continued on page 12)

French Demonstrate Support

A mass rally in support of Soviet Jews drew 30,000 demonstrators in Paris on September 29. The demonstration, four days before Mikhail Gorbachev's official visit to Paris, was organized by the Representative Council of Major French Jewish Organizations (CRIF) to urge that the issue of Soviet Jews be raised by President Francois Mitterrand during his meetings with Gorbachev.

The crowd included Simone Veil, former President of the Parliament of Europe, leading French businessmen, popular entertainers and supporters and relatives of Jewish dissidents imprisoned in the USSR.

Mitterrand is outspoken in his concern for refuseniks and dissidents. Last year he invited Theo Klein, President of CRIF, to accompany him on his official visit to Moscow, a move which was widely viewed as a strong expression of solidarity with Soviet Jews by the French President.

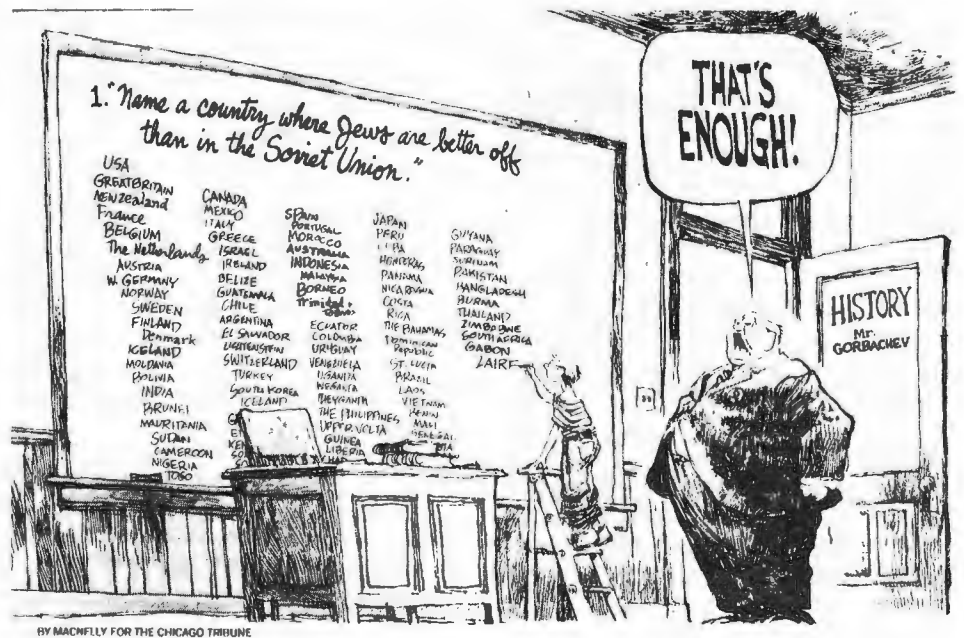


Freedom Award

(Continued from page 11)

to every international document that people should have cultural freedom, religious freedom, and freedom of emigration, we see today the worst campaign going on since the days of Stalin."

Fascell explained that he received the courage to continue the fight for Soviet Jews from two sources. The first is from the "dedication and commitment of people like you in the Union," and the second from the refuseniks themselves. Fascell's closing message was: "Don't give up, keep on plugging, there is no magic answer, but I have the sense enough to know that you don't wave a magic wand and suddenly change attitudes overnight. It takes determination, intelligence, and commitment — all the thing you can give, and you are giving. We just have to keep doing it, so I look forward to continuing our work together."



BY MACFELLY FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

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The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews is composed of 38 local councils, 3 domestic affiliates, 3 international affiliates and 55,000 individual members dedicated to helping Soviet Jews, especially those desiring to emigrate.

Editor: Nurit Erger

Staff Writer: Yosef Abramowitz

President: Morey Schapira. Vice Presidents: Hinda Cantor (Miami, FL), Pamela Cohen (Chicago, IL), June Daniels (Des Moines, IA).



Max Green
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

**93 Jews left the USSR in
Sept. and 124 in Oct.**



TEMPLE BETH AMI

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December 20, 1985

Ms. Linda Chavez
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C.

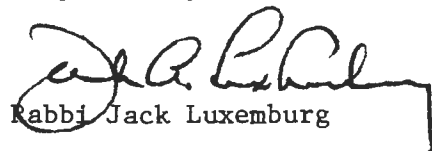
Dear Ms. Chavez,

As a member of the Washington Board of Rabbis, I thank you for accepting this letter, sent to you on behalf of my colleagues, Rabbis Leonard Cahan, David Oler, Bruce Kahn, Steven Bayer and Mark Levine who have chosen to spend fifteen days in federal prison as an expression of their concern for the plight of Soviet Jewry.

Because of your long association with the cause of human rights, and prominent position in the Reagan administration, these leaders of our local Jewish community seek your attention and consideration for this important and urgent cause. Your position and record enables you to understand the significance of their action and the anguish of the entire Jewish community for the fate of the beleaguered and harrassed Jews of the Soviet Union. It would be of inestimable value if you could convey to the appropriate persons within the administration our urging that the President and his representatives continue to take a strong stand on the issue of human rights throughout the world, and for Soviet Jewry in particular.

If, in the near future, you would deem it appropriate, the five Rabbinic leaders of the local Soviet Jewry movement mentioned above would be pleased to have the opportunity to consult with you or with another officer of the administration whom you might suggest. For the present, allow me to express on behalf of the Washington Board of Rabbis, its officers and the entire community it represents, our appreciation for your attention to this letter, your concern for the plight of Soviet Jewry, and for whatever efforts you may be able to make on behalf of this cause.

Respectfully,



Rabbi Jack Luxemburg

Rabbi
Jack A. Luxemburg
Cantor
Sue Roemer
Director of Education
Phyllis S. Greene
President
William A. Jaffe

David Oler

Why I Went To Prison

When I first arrived at the Petersburg Federal Correctional Institution, I referred to the other inmates as "the prisoners." Then it dawned on me: "That includes us." Four other rabbis and I went to jail for having demonstrated within 500 feet of the Soviet Embassy in Washington, protesting the Soviet policy of cultural genocide against the Jews, who are not permitted to emigrate or to practice their religion. The Soviet Union arrests and sends to labor camps the Hebrew and religious teachers whose only crime is trying to maintain a vestige of Jewish identity among the 2.5 million Jews forced to remain in the Soviet Union.

But how had it come about that we were imprisoned?

The U.S. attorney and the Justice Department have chosen to prosecute rabbis and others demonstrating within 500 feet of the Soviet Embassy, while not pressing charges against those detained for demonstrating at other embassies. A primary principle of the American tradition of democracy, inspired by the Bible, has thus been violated: "Proclaim liberty throughout the land to all the inhabitants thereof" (Leviticus XXV).

It was an example of selective prosecution. Further, the court put the letter of the law over intent and moral imperative, not even permitting testimony in our defense regarding the necessity to prevent a greater evil. We had no option but to reject an unjustly imposed sentence, and, as a matter of conscience, five of us went to jail to serve a 15-day sentence. Our

"By going to prison we . . . sought to experience a taste of what Soviet Jews endure, as well as to highlight their plight."

THE WASHINGTON POST

1-14-86

Soviet
Jews

protest within the forbidden 500-foot range consisted of reading from the Torah Scroll of the obligation to love God and to fulfill divinely inspired values.

By going to prison we also sought to experience a taste of what Soviet Jews endure, as well as to highlight their plight. Being in an American prison, while certainly limiting our freedom and many of our rights, still afforded us the opportunity to pray, to eat kosher food and to observe the Sabbath. Conditions in an American prison provide religious and cultural opportunities that Soviet citizens, and Jews in particular, are denied, even in the conduct of their ordinary lives.

Bishop Desmond Tutu recently said "human beings are made for freedom." Rabbi Moses Cordovera, the 16th century mystic, taught that the souls of all human beings are intertwined as one. We are morally bound to act with uncompromising courage until every single human being can live free from persecution. Thus those who protest against apartheid, persecution of Soviet Jewry, and other human rights violations all share a common moral imperative.

During World War II, our country became aware of the annihilation of European Jewry. Yet our government refused to bomb the tracks to Auschwitz. Humanitarians at that time should have conducted acts of civil disobedience to influence official policies. The victims suffered greatly from the silence of the world. We cannot and will not remain silent while the Kremlin continues a "final solution" for Soviet Jews. They have learned of our willingness to stand by them. We pray that this gives them hope and strength to persevere.

The members of our society are obsessed with "me first" rather than with justice for the oppressed. Real freedom results only from striving to provide it for others. Otherwise we are imprisoned by selfishness. The Russians are conducting an assault on Judaism and its teachings of compassion and love for all human beings. Yet there are those who want trade and cultural exchange with the Soviets regardless of human rights violations, and who are reluctant to speak out because they are afraid of making waves.

Our nation must not be intimidated in its pursuit of human rights. The Roman emperor Caligula once sought to install an idol of his own image in the Holy Temple of Judea. The historian Josephus records how 10,000 people stood in the way of his officer Petronius and said they would have to be killed before such an outrage could occur. This act of civil disobedience, in keeping with the Talmudic law to accept death rather than idolatry, so moved Petronius that he risked his life and refused to implement the Roman emperor's order.

The redemption of captives is a religious responsibility in Judaism and a moral obligation in general. The time has come to forthrightly articulate the issue in these spiritual rather than merely political terms, for we Americans need to free not only the obviously oppressed but ourselves.

The writer, rabbi at the Gaithersburg Hebrew Congregation, is chairman of the Washington Board of Rabbis Soviet Jewry Action Committee.

ANATOLY SCHARANSKY

- o At a press conference in Jerusalem on January 14, 1986 Anatoly's wife, Avital, who now lives in Jerusalem, announced that on October 14, 1985 he received a five-month sentence of isolation in a prison compound in the Chistopol labor camp. Anatoly is being punished for going on a hunger strike to protest the non-delivery of his mail by the camp authorities.
- o Last year, he spent 55 days in an isolation cell where, according to Avital, prisoners are fed once every two days.
- o Anatoly's mother, Ida Milgrom, who lives in Moscow, has not had direct word from Anatoly since the beginning of October.
- o His last letter, supposed to have been sent at the beginning of December, has not been received.
- o In October, when Gorbachev was meeting with Mitterand in Paris, Avital Scharansky demonstrated for her husband's release. Later, prior to the November summit, Avital protested in New York at the U.N. and also in Washington, D.C. at the Soviet Embassy.



UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS

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VOICES OF FREEDOM

Published by
Simon Wiesenthal Center

in honor of

1984 Simon Wiesenthal Humanitarian Laureates

DR. ANDREI SAKHAROV
and
YELENA BONNER

Compiled and Edited
by
Lydia C. Triantopoulos

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November 1984



Dateline

... Chronological Listing of Important Moments in the Public and Scientific Careers of Dr. Andrei D. Sakharov: Listed are just a few of his outstanding achievements and activities until his arrest and exile to Gorky in January 1980.

1942

Graduated from Moscow State University—sent to work as an engineer at a war plant.

1944

Wrote first scientific papers.

1945

Student at P.N. Lebedev Physical Institute of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

1948

Began research with group for development of thermonuclear weapons.

1950-1951

Formulated principles of controlled thermonuclear reaction based on magnetic thermal isolation of high temperature plasma (together with I.E. Tamm). Results published in the proceedings of the **First Geneva Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy**. Principle was basis of tokamak project, now being intensively developed in the USSR and other countries.

1953

Elected member of USSR Academy of Sciences. Awarded **Order of Lenin**, title of **Hero of Socialist Labor**, and **Stalin Prize**.

1957-1958

Began speaking out against nuclear testing; published major articles.

1961

Note to **Krushchev** at meeting of leaders and atomic scientists on necessity of keeping **moratorium on nuclear testing**. **Krushchev** replied in his speech that political decisions, including the matter of testing nuclear weapons, were the prerogative of the party and government leaders, and did not concern scientists.

1962

Awarded title **Hero of Socialist** for third time. Conflicts with ministry officials on nuclear testing. Proposal on agreement to ban nuclear testing in the atmosphere, under water and in space. (Approved by Soviet leadership and put forth in name of USSR. **Khrushchev** and **Kennedy** signed "**Moscow Agreement**" in 1963.)



1964-1966

Numerous articles, speeches, communications and appeals on nuclear testing. Telegram to the RSFSR Supreme Soviet protesting introduction of Article 190-1 ("Circulating maliciously false and slanderous fabrications defaming the Soviet state and social system") as a pretext for prosecuting people for their convictions. First participation in Pushkin Monument demonstration for human rights and against unconstitutional articles of Criminal Code.



Photo courtesy Efrem Yankelovich

Dr. Sakharov is pictured during a demonstration in 1966 on Pushkin Square, Moscow.

1967

Involvement with problem of Lake Baikal—talk with Brezhnev on subject. (Sakharov and certain other scientists actively struggling to save Lake Baikal were not invited to session at which question of building a cellulose-paper plant on the lake was decided.)

Published pioneering paper anticipating the main current of research for 10 to 12 years in field of asymmetry of universe and instability of the proton. His paper is referred to by practically everyone concerned with this question—a question of key significance in current theorizing about the evolution of the universe.



1968

Published "**Thoughts on Progress, Peaceful Coexistence, and Intellectual Freedom.**" 1968-69—overall printing of more than 18 million copies.

Sakharov was **barred from secret work** because of publication of his article. In 1968, he gave almost all of his personal savings to Red Cross and for construction of cancer hospital.

1969

Elected foreign member of **Boston Academy of Science and Arts** (and in subsequent years, **U.S. National Academy of Science and the New York Academy**, received honorary doctorates from Siena, Jerusalem, and other universities, and made honorary citizen of Florence and Turin.) In 1969 began work in the **Theoretical Physics Department of the Lebedev Physical Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences**; published numerous articles.

1970

Founding of **Human Rights Committee** (A. Sakharov, V. Chalidze, A. Tverdokhlebov, and later G. Podyapolsky and I. Shafarevich).

1971

Appeal on persons confined in psychiatric hospitals, on plight of Crimean Tatars, and to members of the Presidium of USSR Supreme Soviet on freedom of emigration and unobstructed return.

1972

Participated in **demonstration at Lebanese Embassy protesting the murder of the Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics.**

1973

Press conference on dangers of unilateral detente, talked with Malyarov, USSR Deputy General Procurator, and warning from Procurator's Office. **Soviet press launched vicious campaign against Sakharov, members of his family were subject to all kinds of harassment.**

Awarded a prize by the International League for Human Rights.

1974

Hunger Strike demanding release of political prisoners. Transmitted list of 6,000 Germans in Kazakhstan who were seeking the right to emigrate to Cancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Awarded prize by Freedom House, U.S.A.



1975

Appeal to stop genocide in Iraqi Kuridistan after making initial appeal in 1974.

Awarded Nobel Peace Prize.

First Sakharov Hearings took place in Copenhagen.

Yelena Bonner received Nobel prize at the Swedish Academy of Science on behalf of Andrei Sakharov.

1976

Elected Vice President of International League for Human Rights.

Appeal jointly with Yu. Orlov and V. Turchin to conference of leaders of the European Communist parties proposing to include human rights in the agenda.

Participated in Symposium **"Jewish Culture in the USSR."**

1977

Appeal concerning attempts to blame dissidents for explosions in the Moscow subway provoked second warning from the USSR Procurator's Office, followed by harassment of his family. Wrote article against capital punishment for Amnesty International symposium in Stockholm.

1979

Appeal to Brezhnev for unobstructed delivery of food to Cambodia.

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Mr. and Mrs. Perry Mendel
Montgomery, Alabama



1980

Andrei Sakharov was arrested on January 22 and taken to the Procurator's Office where the decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet depriving him of his government awards and prizes was read.

Taken to Gorky where he lives in isolation.



Photo courtesy UPI/Bettman Archive

Tatiana Yankelevich, husband Efrem and brother Alexei Semyonov (pictured left to right) were stunned at the news of Andrei Sakharov's arrest, January 22, 1980.

*This Page Donated By
Larry and Carol Mizel
Denver, Colorado*



Photo courtesy UPI/Bettman Archive

"I am appealing to my scientific colleagues, to public and government figures, to all those who have ever come to my defense or who are prepared to do so now at this tragic moment of our life.

I am beginning a hunger strike with the demand that my wife Yelena Bonner be allowed to travel abroad for medical treatment and for a meeting with her mother, children and grandchildren.

My hunger strike is of indefinite duration. I will end it only when my wife receives permission to go abroad. Her death will be mine as well. Once again, as I did two years ago, I ask for your help. Save us!"

*Excerpts from Andrei Sakharov's Appeal
Written in Gorky, April 6, 1984*



The last time an actual eyewitness report of the Sakharovs was received in the West was on May 6, 1984. Since that time, no one has actually reported having seen Andrei Sakharov and Yelena Bonner.

Set forth on these pages is a chronological account of the disappearance of the Sakharovs, from the time Dr. Sakharov began his hunger strike to secure medical treatment for his wife, until editing for this journal:

- May 2, 1984—Andrei Sakharov begins hunger strike. Mrs. Sakharov does not arrive in Moscow by train from Gorky, as expected.
- May 4, 1984—TASS* reports that “timely measures” prevented a “ploy” by U.S. diplomats to give Mrs. Sakharov political asylum.
- May 6, 1984—Irina Kristi, a family friend, sees the Sakharovs at their apartment, and learns that Mrs. Sakharov has been charged with defaming the Soviet state and is restricted to Gorky.
- May 8, 1984—The information released by Irina Kristi appears in the Western press. Mrs. Kristi is placed under house arrest for releasing the information to the press.
- May 21, 1984—Conflicting reports on the whereabouts of the Sakharovs are received by French Communist Party leader George Marchais and the First Secretary of the French Socialist Party, Lionel Jospin. Both men received information from Soviet sources.

Soviet government paper *Izvestiya* carries a report saying Sakharov is not on a hunger strike.

- May 30, 1984—A friend of the Sakharov's from Moscow finds their Gorky apartment dark and apparently empty.

A TASS statement provides vague assurances that the Sakharovs are alive and well, but provides no information on their actual whereabouts.

*A U.S.S.R. press agency.



- June 3, 1984—The London Sunday Times says sources in Moscow have reported that *Sakharov died May 31* in a Gorky hospital.
- June 4, 1984—TASS reports the Sakharovs' good health and safety, **denying responsibility for their whereabouts**. "*We are not going to take under protection Sakharov and Bonner,*" the TASS statement said.
- June 6, 1984—USSR Mission to the UN states the Sakharovs are alive and well in Gorky.

At a Moscow press conference, Soviet Academy of Sciences Vice-president Ovchinnikov declares that Sakharov is in Gorky.

- June 20, 1984—German newspaper carries separate photographs of the Sakharovs reported to have been taken within a week of publication. Source of photographs is Viktor Louis, a Soviet journalist linked to the KGB.

In desperation, the Sakharov step-children offer a \$10,000 reward "*to the first person who supplies us with information leading to direct contact between us and Dr. and Mrs. Sakharov.*"

- June 21, 1984—Soviet spokesman Leonid Zamyatin declares that Sakharov is "alive and well and eating normally," but in spite of these assurances, when visiting **French President Mitterrand raises the issue at a state dinner at the Kremlin, he receives no information on the Sakharovs.**
- June 26, 1984—A telegram dated June 22, allegedly from Bonner and Sakharov in Gorky, arrives in Newton, Massachusetts, stating: "*Don't worry. We are alive and healthy.*"
- June 30, 1984—Letter from Soviet dissident to friend in West Germany reports **Yelena Bonner is in her Gorky apartment, and is allowed to leave only in the company of two guards.**
- July 9, 1984—Soviet spokesman Zagladin says Sakharov is well and writing a scientific article which will soon be published.

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- July 10, 1984—Unidentified source reports that Sakharov is being treated by Dr. Vladimir Rozhnov, a Soviet psychiatrist who flies from Moscow to Gorky every other day.
- July 11, 1984—Psychiatric source in Moscow confirms reports about Rozhnov, and states Sakharov is being treated with mind-altering drugs and/or hypnosis to induce him to sign a document recanting his human rights activities.
- July 26, 1984—Exiled Soviet author Lev Kopelev, during interview in Stuttgart, says reliable Moscow sources stated that Sakharov occupies a special room in the Semashko Hospital in Gorky, to which the hospital staff has no access. Kopelev confirms that Sakharov may well be hypnotized and force-fed, in view of twice-weekly visits by Rozhnov, chief of psychotherapy in a well-known Moscow Institute, and a specialist since 1955 in hypnosis and psychopharmacology. Kopelev states that Yelena Bonner is not allowed to visit her husband, and that her whereabouts are unknown.
- August 6, 1984—A report of contact made by an acquaintance with Mrs. Sakharov in Gorky was received by a friend of Sakharov in Moscow. It was reported that Sakharov had ended his hunger strike and was being held in the hospital.
- August 7, 1984—Sakharov friend questions that report, citing two letters from Mrs. Sakharov stating that she has not seen her husband since May 7th and is unaware of his condition.
- August 17, 1984—Radio Moscow states that Andrei Sakharov is alive, well, living in Gorky, and receiving not only medical care, but his full pension as well.
- August 22, 1984—Soviet authorities release film showing Sakharov eating in a hospital in Gorky, reading a July 16 issue of *Newsweek* magazine, and depicting Mrs. Bonner separately in Gorky.
- August 23, 1984—Western world views Soviet video film of Sakharov on ABC Network News program.

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Jerry Ganz
Belvedere, California



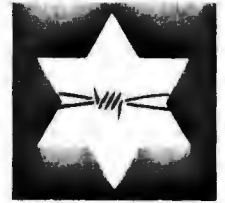
- August 24, 1984—Reagan Administration reacts to tapes, saying **they are aimed at turning attention away from report that Mrs. Bonner has been sent into internal exile for “slandering the Soviet State.”** State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said the U.S. would continue to insist that independent observers visit the couple, and that the tapes “*prove nothing about the Sakharovs’ present condition.*”

Tatiana Yankelevich said that while the narration in the film claims friends are allowed to visit her mother, a woman shown visiting Mrs. Bonner is actually Moscow defense lawyer Yelena Reznikova. “This shows that either my mother has already been tried or is awaiting trial,” Bonner’s daughter said.

- August 25, 1984—The West German newspaper *Bild* reports that Yelena Bonner has been sentenced to five years of internal exile, and quotes an unidentified government official in Moscow as saying Mrs. Sakharov “*was and is in Gorky.*” Yelena Bonner was apparently arrested on her way to seek asylum in the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, and was tried and sentenced for breaking Article 190-1 of the Soviet Penal Code that forbids “slander of the Soviet state and social system.”
- September 11, 1984—Soviet journalist Viktor Louis told West Germany’s *Bild* newspaper that Sakharov rejoined his wife in their Gorky apartment, that “considering the circumstances, he is well” and “he has resumed his private life.”
- September 13, 1984—The L.A. Times reported that Soviet officials published a new article by Sakharov in the August 28th edition of the *Soviet Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics*. Western world views this as an attempt to convince the world Sakharov is well and at work, inasmuch as the article was submitted for publication March 14, and there is no official confirmation that Sakharov submitted another article on the same topic in August.
- September 13, 1984—Soviet sources who are friends of the Sakharovs reportedly confirmed that Bonner has been tried and sentenced to five years of internal exile—the first such information from Moscow sources with close ties to the Sakharovs since reports in August that Bonner had been sentenced.

ALERT

INFORMATION FROM THE
UNION OF COUNCILS FOR SOVIET JEWS
1411 K Street, NW
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Washington, DC 20005
(202) 393-4117



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

Vol. X No. 15

December 31, 1984

Four Refuseniks Sentenced

Yuli Edelshtein

Yuli Edelshtein, a prominent Moscow Hebrew teacher, was sentenced on December 19 to three years in prison camp for the charge of "illegal drug trafficking." Edelshtein had been arrested on September 4 after the KGB allegedly found drugs in a matchbox during a search of his home. Also confiscated during that search were Hebrew books and items left by foreigners whom Soviet authorities accused of "coming and corrupting Jewish youth with medieval and mystical drug rituals."

Edelshtein, 26, had applied unsuccessfully for a visa to leave for Israel with his wife, Tatiana. He was said to have irritated officials by giving Hebrew lessons without authorization. Clandestine Hebrew classes are one way of maintaining the spirit.

Continued on page 9

Nadezhda Fradkova

On December 17, 38 year old Nadezhda Fradkova was sentenced to two years in prison for "parasitism." The charge previously carried a maximum one-year sentence, but was recently changed as part of the new laws cracking down on Refuseniks.

Fradkova's case illustrates the painful consequences Soviet Jews face when they apply to emigrate. They are often fired from their jobs and the KGB makes certain that they are unable to get other jobs in their fields. Further, menial jobs are difficult to get because the KGB advises

Fradkova's friends were at the courthouse, none were allowed inside to witness the trial. Her mother is dead and until this year, she had not seen her father in 36 years.

Continued on page 4

Reagan Attacks Soviets on Human Rights



President Reagan greeting Avital Shcharansky, wife of Soviet Refusenik Anatoly B. Shcharansky, at White House ceremony marking International Human Rights Day, December 10, 1984. Mr. Reagan said the Soviet Union was committing "brutal affronts to the human conscience" by suppressing freedom at home. See page 7 for excerpts from President Reagan's speech and Refusenik activities in the Soviet Union commemorating Human Rights Day.

Yakov Levin

On November 20th, 26 year-old unofficial Jewish teacher Yakov Levin of Odessa was sentenced to three years for "anti-Soviet slander". According to the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry, the proceedings were "an object lesson by the KGB on how they intend to try the other Jewish educators also recently jailed in this ominous new wave of oppression".

Levin was arrested on August 10th, after he refused to give false testimony against fellow unofficial teacher Yakov Mesh, and a week before his scheduled wedding to 22 year-old Yehudit Nepomniashchy, whom the SSSJ called "the soul of Jewish revival in Odessa."

The frail defendant was brought on November 15th to an Odessa courthouse in a closed car. Other

Continued on page 8

Yosef Bernstein

Forty-seven year-old design engineer, Yosef Bernstein of Kiev, has become one of the latest victims of the Gulag. On December 11, he was sentenced to four years in a labor camp for resisting arrest according to Section 182 of the Ukrainian Code. The trial room was crowded with Ukrainians who yelled in one voice, "Beat the Jew." There were no defense witnesses.

Bernstein had been arrested on November 12 during a trip to Novograd-Volensk, where his aunt and uncle reside. The town manufactures tombstones and Bernstein's aunt had recently ordered a marker to place at Yosef's mother's grave. The aunt was anonymously denounced to police as a tombstone speculator and, on November 12th, Bernstein

Continued on page 9

• International Human Rights Day, December 10, 1984

United States

... Let us always remember the critical moral distinction of our time — the clear difference between a philosophy of government that acknowledges wrongdoing and injustice and one that refuses to admit to such injustices, and even justifies its own assaults on individual liberty in the name of a Chimeric utopian vision. Such brutal affronts to the human conscience as the systematic suppression of individual liberty in the Soviet Union, and the denial of religious expression by Christians, Jews, and Muslims in that country, are tragic examples.

Today, for example, the largest remaining Jewish community in Europe, Soviet Jewry, is again being exposed to a systematic anti-Semitic campaign. Ominously, teachers of the Hebrew language have been arrested and their efforts to preserve their culture and religion treated as a crime.

Soviet authorities are continuing to threaten many "refuseniks" with confinement in psychiatric hospitals, expulsion from their jobs, and internal exile. Yet thousands of Soviet Jews have applied for permission to emigrate. We have, and shall continue to insist, that those who wish to leave must be allowed to do so.

Our heart also goes out today to an individual who has worked so hard for human rights progress in the

Soviet Union and suffered so much for his efforts — the Nobel Prize Laureate, Dr. Andrei Sakharov. Nothing more clearly illustrates the absence of what our Founding Fathers called a "decent respect to the opinions of mankind" than the cruel treatment of this great humanitarian.

The Soviet Union, itself, would do much to regain respect within the international community if it would allow academician Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, to live the rest of their lives in dignity in a place of their own choosing. We're pleased to have the Sakharovs' son-in-law here with us today.

The Sakharovs are the best-known victims of human rights violations in the Soviet Union. But thousands of other Soviet citizens, such as Uri Orlov, or Anatoly Shcharansky — whose wife, Avital, is here with us today — suffer in Soviet prisons and labor camps for the sole crimes of expressing a personal opinion, seeking to emigrate, or openly expressing their love of God . . .

... So today, we, the people of the United States, in conjunction with other freedom loving people everywhere in the world, rededicate ourselves to the cause of human rights, to the cause of democratic self-rule and human freedom. . . .

(Excerpts from President Reagan)

Soviet Union

On December 10, in commemoration of International Human Rights Day, a group of Soviet Jews delivered a petition to the Soviet parliament pressing for an official investigation into the arrests and "treatment given to Jews that applied for permit to leave the USSR for Israel, their homeland."

Several other human rights activists were promptly arrested by uniformed and plainclothed police as they gathered for an annual demonstration in Puskin Square in the center of the city.

The petition to the Supreme Soviet signed by 35 Refuseniks, demanded that a committee be organized immediately to investigate all the cases against Jews. Citing specific cases of the recently arrested Hebrew teachers, the petition accused state security agencies of "systematic harassment and unfounded criminal conviction" of Jews legally applying to repatriate to Israel.

Among those delivering the petition to the Supreme Soviet was Tatiana Zunshain, Boris Begun, Igor Kharach, Dan Shapiro, Inna Bruchina, and Dimitri Khazankin.

The following is the text of the Petition:
To the Supreme Council of the Soviet Union:

We are bringing to your attention herewith the treatment given to Jews that applied for permit to leave the USSR for Israel, their homeland:

1. Systematic harassment and unfounded criminal conviction of any Jew applying for repatriation to the State of Israel.

2. When trial cases are brought to court, they are held in closed courtrooms. No one is allowed inside even though officially every trial is supposed to be

open to the public.

3. Before and after trial, in prison and out, Jews are systematically beaten, harassed, humiliated and everything is done to break them physically and morally.

4. Jewish citizens do not have the same rights as other citizens in the Soviet Union as far as party officials, supervisors and prosecutors are concerned. They are not treated as every other citizen when it comes to protection of Jewish citizens under the law.

In view of the above, we demand that a committee be organized immediately to investigate all the cases against Jews whose only real crime is their petitioning for repatriation to the State of Israel. In this committee, we demand to cooperate our representatives and representatives of prisoners of Zion. The target of the committee should be:

1. Investigate the conditions of all Jews in prison before or after trial. From our information, their condition is very serious. This is really a matter of life and death for them.

2. Review all the cases in court and those that have already been sent to prison.

3. Demand that the Soviet procurator, the prosecution, receives all the information collected on KGB and MSB on the violation of Soviet law when prosecuting or repressing Jews; for one reason only, their petitioning for repatriation. The persons are Shcharansky, Begun, Abramov, Zunshain, Levin, Kholmiansky, Edelshtein, Mesh, Nepomniashchy, Bernshtein, Fradkova. The KGB and MSB should stand on trial for their actions, to make all this information known to the general public and to allow the committee to publicize its actions through the mass media.



Yelena Bonner relaxes on plane taking her from Moscow to Rome for medical treatment yesterday.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yelena Bonner Flies to Italy For Treatment

BONNER, From A21

human rights abuses in the Soviet Union, was sent to Gorki in 1980 after denouncing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The move was designed to keep him out of the reach of foreigners, Soviet officials have explained.

Thereafter, Bonner shuttled between Gorki and Moscow, funneling information about Sakharov to the dissident and western communities. In May 1984, Soviet authorities prevented her from traveling to Moscow, and the Soviet press accused her and Sakharov of preparing to mount an anti-Soviet campaign abroad.

In late October of this year, Soviet authorities leaked information to the western press that Bonner had received a visa to travel to the West. Western diplomats interpreted the move as a gesture to ease East-West tensions before the summit meeting of U.S. and Soviet leaders last month in Geneva.

Last week, Bonner returned to her Moscow apartment, but a round-the-clock militia guard at her apartment building barred western correspondents' access to her.

Today, Bonner appeared thinner than in photographs of her taken last year. She sat and watched as six customs officers carefully sifted through the clothes and paraphernalia she had packed into seven suitcases. The officers counted the U.S. dollars and Italian lira she had brought along, and checked the jars of caviar, children's books and Russian records in her luggage.

"You see," she said to a friend after the 25-minute search, "it was not so bad." Then she put on her brown coat and matching fur hat and disappeared through the control station.

Yelena Bonner Flies to Italy

Sakharov's Wife Seeks Treatment, Asks Understanding

By Gary Lee

Washington Post Foreign Service

MOSCOW, Dec. 2—Yelena Bonner, wife of dissident Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov, emerged here today after 19 months of internal exile in the closed city of Gorki and soon left for medical treatment in Italy and later in the United States. She declined any comment about herself or her husband.

A handful of Soviet friends kissed and hugged her farewell at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport, and later said they expected her to return in "several months."

Sakharov apparently remains in Gorki, a city off-limits to foreigners 250 miles east of here, where he was banished in 1980. When asked about Sakharov's health, which has been fragile, Bonner simply shrugged.

In a short airport statement to a crowd of reporters, Bonner, 62, said, "I made an agreement that if I would be allowed to return, I wouldn't have contact with correspondents, or give interviews or press conferences.

"Thank you for your attention and in general for your interest in our situation over the years," she said, rejecting a rush of journalists' questions. "But I want to return home and don't hinder me from that."

"She feels poorly," a friend said, motioning reporters away, "She's not well."

When Soviet authorities informed western officials four weeks ago that Bonner would be allowed to travel to the West, the unexpected move was widely greeted in the western

community here as a gesture on the part of the Soviet leadership.

After watching Soviet customs agents carefully examine the contents of her luggage, Bonner waved a bouquet of red carnations, passed through the tight security controls, and boarded an Alitalia jetliner for Rome.

[Bonner arrived in Rome accompanied by her son Alexei Semyono and son-in-law Yefrem Yankelevich, who had joined the flight at a stop in Milan. Walking out of the airport VIP section to face the cameras, Bonner said through an interpreter, "I'm very happy to be in Italy because I love Italy and the Italians . . . I beg all my friends here to excuse my silence," reported Loren Jenkins of The Washington Post.

[To the mob of reporters she repeated that "because I want to return to my country, I do not want to speak with the mass media." She is expected to go to the Tuscan city of Sienna Tuesday to enter an eye clinic, where she was treated twice in the 1970s.]

After treatment in Italy, Bonner is to fly to Boston for heart bypass surgery. Her daughter and son-in-law live in a Boston suburb.

Since May 1984, Soviet authorities had not allowed Bonner to leave Gorki, despite hunger strikes by Sakharov, who has pleaded with authorities to allow his wife to seek medical care abroad.

Sakharov, 64, a Noble Peace Prize laureate who campaigned with Bonner against alleged

See BONNER, A22, Col. 1

WASH. POST

Dec 3, 1985

The Truth About Sakharov

The Kremlin's masters are ruthless but not dumb. They surely knew that the truth about their mistreatment of Andrei Sakharov would emerge if his wife, Yelena Bonner, were allowed to travel to the West. Thus the ugly story of forced feeding and faked telegrams has one compensation. It signifies a calculation that Miss Bonner's journey to Italy is less harmful to Soviet interests than her cruel detention in what the couple calls "the black hole," the closed city of Gorky.

However callous, it is a calculation that ignites a spark of hope for other dissidents. The controlling truth is that the West's concern for human rights must play on the Soviet rulers' periodic desire to exploit that concern. This seems an opportune time.

Miss Bonner was finally permitted medical treatment abroad because Mikhail Gorbachev thought the gesture would improve his image at the Geneva summit conference. He was correct; it did. He should be encouraged to follow up with more such "humanitarian" deeds and unlock the doors that shame the Soviet system.

There have been a few other signs of relenting. With a seignorial flourish before the summit talks, Mr. Gorbachev ended years of separation for some Soviet subjects married to Americans. Though a new immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel remains

only a rumor, an exit visa has apparently been given to Eliahu Essas, a mathematician who first applied in 1973. This follows a plea on his behalf by Edgar Bronfman, president of the World Jewish Congress, who visited Moscow in September.

Every dissident who leaves has a dreadful tale to tell; that is the cost of opening up. Miss Bonner was allowed out for three months on condition that she grant no interviews. But her family in the United States is not bound. So it is now known that for 207 days in the last 18 months, the Nobel physicist was separated from his wife and fed forcibly to foil his hunger strike on her behalf. His jailers doctored messages and videotapes purporting to show all was well with him. Even so, Western protest surely mitigated the couple's plight and can continue to influence Soviet behavior.

In pleading the cause of human rights to Mr. Gorbachev at Geneva, President Reagan seems to have indicated that he is more interested in progress than propaganda and willing to confine his pressure to private diplomacy. That is not always the most effective approach, but it can be when the two Governments are moving toward easier relations on other fronts. If Mr. Gorbachev takes that offer to heart he will recognize the benefits of decency and open his doors wider.

N.Y. Times 12/6/85

To do:

So. Affairs

briefings - July

briefings for September

1) State & local legislation

2) Washington reports

SDI

July

1) Secretaries

~~2) State & local legislation~~

2) local legislation / CPD etc

~~3) etc~~

September 1) religious groups

2)

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(~~Ed Tiller~~

Union of Councils for Soviet Jews

1411 K St., NW, Suite 402, Washington, DC 20005 202-393-4117



SHCHARANSKY Anatoly

Prison Address

USSR RSFSR
PERMSKAYA OBLAST 618810
Tchusovskoy Rayon
Stantsiya Vneshnyatskaya
Uch. V.S. 389/35

Born: 20.1.48

Profession: Chessmaster
Mathematician
Automation Computer

Family Details:

Mother: Milgrom Ida
Brother: Shcharansky Leonid
Wife: Avital

Address:

USSR RSFSR
Lyubertsk Moscow Oblast
Ul. Moskovskaya 111d 3A Apt. 12
70/30 Rehov Ben Hakkai
Jerusalem, Israel.

Details of Arrest:

Date: 15.3.77 Moscow Date of Trial: 10th-14th July 1978

Charge: Art. 64A RSFSR Criminal Code - Espionage
Art. 70/1 Anti-Soviet Agitation

Sentence: 3 years in prison
10 years labour camp - strict regime

Due for Release: 1990

Contacts: International Committee for the Release of Anatoly
Shcharansky South London 35's Leeds 35's
Exodus Essex 35's

History of Harassment and Arrest

1971-72 Graduated from the Institute of Physics. Never worked in his profession to avoid "classified" work.
1973 April Applied for visa to Israel. Reason for refusal given as "access to classified material"
Soviet Government refused Anatoly permission to attend

Cont/.

1973 April the International Congress on Mathematics.
1974 June Detained for 15 days due to President Nixon's visit.
July 4th Released from prison and married same day to
 Avital.
July 5th Avital left for Israel, the day her visa expired.
 Shcharansky was repeatedly refused permission to
 emigrate. On several occasions his home was
 ransacked.

1975 March Dismissed from the Moscow Research Institute. The
 Finance Department of the Township of Istra where
 he lived refused to register him as a private
 teacher, allegedly because all his students were
 living in Moscow. The Moscow authorities refused
 to register him as he lived in the Moscow Oblast
 (district) and not in Moscow proper.
 During the past four years he served over 12 prison
 sentences of 10-15 days, all without charges.

1976 May He became a founder member of the Committee for the
 Implementation of the Helsinki Agreement in Moscow
 (headed by Dr. Yuri Orlov).
 Main spokesman in a TV documentary filmed in Moscow
 by Granada TV in which he said he lived in daily
 fear of arrest.

1977 January "Traders of Souls" shown on Soviet TV nationwide
 accusing Shcharansky and three other Jews of Treason.
February Attempts to sue TV organisers blocked by authorities.
March Izvestia published an "Open Letter" accusing
 Shcharansky of treason. His home was ransacked and
 every piece of paper confiscated. Shcharansky had
 a bodyguard of 8 KGB men 24 hrs. each day.
March 15th Shcharansky arrested. Held incommunicado for the
 next 16 months in violation of Soviet Law which
 stipulates 9 months as the absolute maximum that a
 prisoner may be held without trial.

May 7th Izvestia published report of a press conference at
 which Lipavsky, author of the "Open Letter" appeared
 and repeated his allegations of treason.

May 30th KGB informed Ida Milgrom that her son would be charged
 under Article 64A. She instructed lawyer Dina
 Kaminskaya to represent her son. Mrs. Kaminskaya
 was debarred and later expelled from the Soviet Union.
 Throughout the time of his detention before the trial
 the KGB interrogated at least 100 Refuseniks all
 over the USSR of whom at least 80% knew nothing about
 Shcharansky.

October 28 "Yass" broadcast in Russian and English condemning
 Shcharansky and calling him a traitor of the mother-
 land.

1978 January Investigation Department of KGB committed a Serious
 violation by appointing as Shcharansky's lawyer a
 State Appointed Lawyer.
March Ida Milgrom received a note from Shcharansky declarin

Cont/....

Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience SHCHARANSKY Anatoly Nov 1980

1978 March his categoric refusal to accept a State appointed lawyer. He delegated the choice of a lawyer to his mother and wife.

April Ida Milgrom under pressure to sign a statement stating that she cannot find a Defence Counsel.

May Ida Milgrom sent a letter to the Supreme Court and the Procurator General stating that she was applying for the nomination as Defence Counsel. This application was not considered - another violation of Soviet law by the Soviets.

July Father deprived of visit to Shcharansky.

July 10-14 (10th.) 1st day of trial held in a closed court. Leonid Shcharansky refused admission to court. All other sessions were formally open. His mother waited throughout the 5 days of his trial outside the court room, but was not allowed in. Sentenced to 3 years in prison followed by 10 years in labour camp - strict regime.

August 15th All property in the parents home confiscated - according to KGB - this belonged to Shcharansky.

September No mail received for 3 months by parents from Shcharansky.

November Moved from Vladimir to Chistopol Prison (a prison for hardened criminals). Shcharansky only received 2 of the 50 letters sent by Avital.

1979 January Visit from his mother cancelled. Shcharansky still kept in solitary confinement. (Prisoners are not allowed to lie down during the day). Shcharansky did so due to sickness and was placed in punishment cell. This was the reason for the cancellation of the family visit.

June News received of loss of weight impaired eyesight due to severe head pains.

August 6th Visit by Ida Milgrom and Leonid, Shcharansky appeared to be distraught and had difficulty in speaking coherently. His mother said he looked like a prisoner in Auschwitz.

October Shcharansky took 20 days to write a 26 page letter. He had been given different work to do which involved sewing. He could not sew (due to constant headaches) and his family's next visit due in February 1980 was cancelled.

1980 January 20 Anatoly's father died. This date was also Shcharansky's 32nd birthday.

March Moved from Chistopol prison to Perm camp.

April 10th Ida Milgrom received letter from Shcharansky stating he was in solitary confinement.

April 25th Visited by mother and brother. This should have been a 3 day visit but was reduced to 24 hours by the local commandant. Shcharansky now weighed 6 1/2 stone.

Contd/....

Soviet Jewish Prisoner of Conscience SHCHARANSKY Anatoly Nov 1980

1980 April 25th (41 kilos). Now forced to work in metal workshop.
September 5 Ida Milgrom and Leonid Shcharansky paid Shcharansky a two-hour visit. The room was divided by a glass partition. They were constantly interrupted by the guards. They were forbidden to speak about the situation in the camp. Shcharansky does not receive any letters from abroad.
September 23 Shcharansky collapsed and was taken unconscious to the prison hospital. Next visit of his family was cancelled. Soviets were reshooting the Shcharansky trial on TV, saying once more that he was a traitor and a spy and that Avital was not his wife.
November Shcharansky returned to camp from hospital but still feeling ill. Throughout the years of his imprisonment, Avital (his wife) has not received one letter from him. No-one in the West has had any replies to their numerous letters.

Refuseniks



Irina McClellan



Alexander Ioffi



Lena & Vladimir Prestin

McClellan wants to thank, remind people of those still held

By DAN SCHWANDNER
Asst. Managing Editor

Irina McClellan understands the meaning of freedom.

Married to an American professor, Irina spent 11 1/2 years trying to gain her freedom from the Soviet Union. Success finally came in January when she and her daughter Lena received visas to leave.

Rabbi Gedalyah Engel called Irina's arrival ceremony in West Lafayette today "a public celebration with a purpose." According to a prepared statement from the Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, Irina will visit the city to say "thank you" to her friends who signed petitions on her behalf over the years. She also wants to ask the community to remember the two families whose names were linked with hers in the petition drive, those of Alexander Ioffi and Vladimir Prestin.

Irina is looking forward to visiting Lafayette. "I am impatient to meet the peo-

ple of Lafayette. They are the dearest people in the world to me," she says.

Irina says her situation in the Soviet Union was peculiar. "I was an English instructor with an American name, and because of that, I could not get a job."

In her attempts to leave the Soviet Union, Irina says she wrote letters to the government asking for exit visas but received no reply.

After years of silence, Irina participated in more drastic activities, including three demonstrations. In one such event, she chained herself to the American Embassy in Moscow.

According to Irina, "It is dangerous to be outdoors in the Soviet Union. They (Soviet government officials) are even more strict since I made my demonstration in 1978.

"I remember after my demonstration at the American Embassy; I was followed for 20 days by two cars full of people. And (at)

another time during the Communist Party Congress, I was also followed by two cars full of people, who even came up to my door and told me if I didn't behave properly, I would have a lot of complications."

Irina says her condition in the Soviet Union was desperate. "I was about to lose hope and didn't know what to do. I knew I would never be accepted in public."

In the Soviet Union she had no privacy. "My friends were checked; my telephones were checked and bugged."

According to Irina, the Prestins and Ioffis (refusnik families still in the Soviet Union) must be careful there, especially since they are Jewish.

Irina says the two families are feeling the negative effects of fighting the Soviet government. "Alex (Ioffi) is working at the same institute that he was at before he applied for emigration. However, he has been demoted and has fewer hours. (Vladimir) Prestin is an electrical worker, which

is a much lower job than he is capable of doing."

Irina says Ioffi and Prestin are in a "very bad emotional condition. They are physically not imprisoned, but *mentally* they are imprisoned."

According to Irina, Ioffi and Prestin are getting older and have spent years campaigning for freedom. "There are days when they lose their hope.

"Everyone expected something to happen from the first summit (between President Ronald Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev), and nothing happened. Now everyone is expecting something from the (expected) second summit," she says.

"Movement slowly goes on. The best thing that can be done for refusniks is having their names brought before the highest officials. On the eve of the summits, they (U.S. and Soviet leaders) always have quiet meetings about these people."

Human rights committee aids in securing releases of others

By HERB COLSTON
Staff Writer

The eventual release of Irina McClellan, due to arrive in West Lafayette today, was aided in part by the Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, according to Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, spokesperson for the group.

Irina is the Russian wife of Woodford McClellan, a professor of Russian history at the University of Virginia. She had been refused an exit visa by the Russian government for the last 11 years prior to her release in January.

The Committee is an on-campus and community organization

founded in 1977. Engel has been involved with the group since its formation.

The committee began, Engel says, when a 1974 New York Times article described the Russian restrictions on the emigration of Jews. After a period when the committee's main activity was picketing, its members tried to get the Soviet government to grant exit visas to refuseniks (those denied such visas). "Our main concern is with individuals," Engel says. "Our main goal is to get our families out."

The Committee is now playing a role in securing the release of Alexander Ioffi and Vladimir Prestin, along with their families. Through the use of petitions and direct letters to the

Kremlin, the Committee hopes to keep the public aware of the plight of these people.

According to Engel, the detente period of the middle to latter '70s served as an "excellent cover-up" for Russian activities. He is concerned the so-called goodwill activities taking place now will have the same effect. "We have to draw attention to the fact that these people are not living up to their agreements," Engel says, referring to the Russians' failure to abide by the Helsinki Accords.

Over the years, Engel says, the Committee has given hope to the three families. And he says committee members will not let them disappear (in the public's mind).

SCHEDULE

IRINA AND WOODFORD MCCLELLAN'S WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Friday

3:00 p.m. — West Lafayette Mayor Sonya Margerum, and Lafayette Mayor James Riehle will present Irina with keys to the cities at West Lafayette City Hall, 609 W. Navajo St.

7:00 p.m. — Hillel Foundation, 912 West State St., West Lafayette

8:30 p.m. — Temple Israel, 620 Cumberland Avenue, West Lafayette

Saturday

11:30 a.m. — Sons of Abraham, 661 N. Seventh St., Lafayette

Sunday

10:30 a.m. — St. Thomas Aquinas Center, 535 W. State St., West Lafayette

11:30 a.m. — First Assembly of God, 105 Beck Lane, Lafayette

12:00 p.m. — Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 17 S. Seventh St., Lafayette

3:00 p.m. — Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union reception at Hillel Foundation, 912 West State St., West Lafayette.

Refusenik Salansky celebrates 9th anniversary of freedom from USSR

By GEORGE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

While the efforts to release two more Soviet refuseniks continues, a man who can certainly understand the difficulties involved will be celebrating his ninth anniversary of freedom from the Soviet Union.

Naum Salansky, 50, who is currently living in Canada and employed with the Institute of Aerospace Studies at the University of Toronto, was granted an exit visa before a Soviet court on April 19, 1977. Permission to leave the communist country was finally granted following the combined efforts of many human rights groups around the globe including the locally based Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union.

Over seven thousand signatures were collected by the local ecumenical group on behalf of Salansky and another

Soviet citizen denied an exit visa — Irina McClellan. The petition asked, then Communist Party Secretary, Leonoid Brezhnev to comply with the human rights agreement which was part of the Helsinki Accord signed by the Soviet Union in 1975. Salansky was released just two months after the petitions were forwarded to the Soviets.

Salansky stopped in Lafayette later that year to personally thank citizens for their efforts in securing his release. At that time, he was made an honorary citizen of Lafayette and was presented a key to the city by Lafayette Mayor James Riehle.

As soon as he and his family were released from the Soviet Union, Salansky began efforts to aid in the release of other Soviets who have been continually denied permission to leave the country.

In a recent letter to Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, the spokes-

man for the local Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, Salansky once again thanked those people that played such an important part in gaining his freedom and expressed a wish for people to continue their efforts to call for the release of those still held in the Soviet Union.

"In the difficult life and struggle of many Jews who remain in Russia, such a phone call (as he had received while still in Russia), letter, poem, or any indication of the fact that they aren't alone, that they do have supporters, people in the great America, makes their struggle much easier," Salansky says.

Engel says similar efforts to those that were successful in the past are currently underway to secure the release of other Soviets who wish to leave the country.

Irina makes it home to Lafayette



By Tom Campbell

WELCOME: Leah Wasburn, 11, receives a hug from Irina McClellan after presenting her with flowers on Friday. Mrs. McClellan was named an honorary citizen of both Lafayette and West Lafayette. Woodford McClellan (left) and mayor Sonya Margerum look on.

'This community is dearest to me'

To Woodford McClellan, each of the thousands of people who supported him and his wife, Irina, in their 11-year quest to be reunited is like a savior.

McClellan said Friday that people here supported them through the worst of times.

The McClellans were married in Moscow May 4, 1974. The Russian history professor at the University of Virginia returned to the United States that August, thinking that his wife would soon follow. But Soviet officials would not let her out of the country and would not allow him to return.

She was released late in January in a gesture announced by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev before the U.S.-Soviet summit.

Lead by Rabbi Gedalyah Engel and the West Lafayette-based Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union beginning in 1977, thousands of people here petitioned the Soviet government for Mrs. McClellan's release.

Engel arranged telephone calls between the McClellans, always urging that they keep up the fight.

When McClellan was asked what the Lafayette community means to him, he went into an uninterrupted monologue. He ended by talking about a miracle.

"The people of this community were our saviors," he said. "Just when things were bleakest — when I didn't think I could go on anymore, when I'd just about abandoned hope — they'd step in."

"I'll tell you, this community is dearest to me. The people where I live and work were very kind. But the people of Lafayette on a sustained basis, over the long haul — well, a lesser breed of people would have given up and said this case is hopeless. But the people of Lafayette never did that, and God bless them.

"This was so anguishing. I pray nobody else ever goes through it. The thing is, there was always

that little spark of hope. The Soviets refused to categorically say they would never let us be together.

"I once asked Zbigniew Brzezinski — the former national security adviser — 'Please, whoever your Soviet channels are, go to them and say all right, no publicity. But if you have decided never to let this couple be together, at least have the decency to tell me, and I will tell the McClellans, and they can decide what they want to do with their lives.'

"He came back to me and said the Soviets refuse to give any such statement. He didn't know what to make of it. As long as they wouldn't say flatly no, we had to think, well maybe someday. But it didn't come in two years, and it didn't come in five years, and it didn't come in 10 years.

See WOODFORD, Page B2

McClellans share joy with ones who helped

By John Norberg
Journal and Courier, Saturday April 5

Just days before her husband called to tell her they would be reunited after an 11½-year separation, Irina McClellan thought all was lost.

She had gone to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow in the days before the U.S.-Soviet summit in November. And she was told there was no longer hope for people like her, separated from their American spouses.

"I went home at 10 that night, and I thought it was the end of the story," she said.

Here is the schedule for Irina and Woodford McClellan for the rest of their Lafayette visit.

All of the meetings are open to the public:
11:30 a.m. today: Sons of Abraham Synagogue, 681 N. 7th.
10:30 a.m. Sunday: St. Thomas Aquinas Center, 535 W. State St., West Lafayette
11:30 a.m. Sunday: First Assembly of God, 108 Beck Lane.
Noon Sunday: Ukrainian Unversal Fellowship, 17 S. 7th St.
3 to 5 p.m. Sunday: community wide reception at Hill Foundation, 912 W. State St. on the Purdue campus.

But that wasn't the end. Mrs. McClellan and her husband, Woodford, are in Lafayette this weekend to let everyone else share in their joy.

Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, of the Hillel Foundation at Purdue University, and the West Lafayette-based Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union took up the McClellans' cause in 1977 after Engel read a newspaper story about the case.

"I felt someone had to stand up to the Soviets and say, 'Dammit,' so that's what we did," Engel said.

During the separation, Mrs. McClellan was constantly at odds with the Soviet government. She once chained herself to the U.S. Embassy in Moscow to bring attention to her plight.

"I lived all 11½ years in fear," she said Friday.

She said she had to make some adjustments when she first came to the United States: "It was a terrible cultural shock. Everything was absolutely different. I couldn't use the washing machine or the cleaning machines. I couldn't use anything because everything was different. And this was supposed to be my home."

The McClellans live in a small town outside Charlottesville, Va.

McClellan bought the home in 1978. He put it in both their names, and they have no plans of ever leaving it.

"The house means so much to me and Woody," Mrs. McClellan said. "It's the first house he ever bought. It's the only house I've ever owned. It's wonderful. It occupies the best place in the small village. There's a pond, and you can see the mountains. It's beautiful.

"I love the sunshine. It makes me happy. And there's so much sunshine there."

The McClellans laughed often Friday, and they loved to tell their stories. They held hands throughout the drive to Lafayette from Indianapolis, where their plane landed Friday morning.

Mrs. McClellan was less happy when she talked about friends still in the Soviet Union — like Alexander Ioffi and Vladimir Prestin.

See JOY, Page B2

Joy

Continued from Page B1

She talked with them in a conference telephone call on Easter, a call arranged by Engel, who is also working for them.

"After this call, I felt so bad," she said. "I realized that my friends physically are in prison. When I speak to them, I am in freedom, but they are in prison. I couldn't find the proper words for the situation. I felt so sorry that after the call I cried for two hours.

"These people in Moscow are desperate. You can't imagine what the situation is, it's so bad." She said life in this country has been wonderful.

"I am doing what I want," she said. "I live like a normal person. I'm not afraid to speak to people. In Moscow, you had to control yourself all the time."

Her husband said they didn't expect to be separated long when he returned from Moscow to the United States.

"When Irina and I married in 1974, the longest any Soviet-American couple had been kept apart was two years," he said. "So we thought at the very worst it would be 1976. And then when Aug. 20, 1976, came and went and she didn't get out, we began to set a record every day. And that melancholy record still exists.

"We'll celebrate our 12th wedding anniversary May 4. It will be the first wedding anniversary we've spent together. We plan to be remarried in a Russian Orthodox Church in a religious ceremony the Soviets denied us in 1974.

"The people of the Lafayette area stood by us when things were worst," he said. "That's why we're back home again in Indiana."

Woodford

Continued from Page B1

"I'm sure there were people in Lafayette who thought, 'Heavens, will this ever come to an end?' But still they kept on. And then these drives came around; you signed yet another petition for this woman you'd never met. You participated in telephone conferences, and you wrote letters and offered your prayers.

"We could not have gone on without this community. How much can a man and a woman stand? We never lost our love for each other. For 11½ years, we didn't set eyes on each other. We couldn't help but grow apart. But this community pulled us up when, for us, it all seemed lost.

"We have a rocky moment now and then," McClellan said. "But for me, it will always be a honeymoon for us.

"We've been given a new life, and it's a miracle. The people of Lafayette have participated in a miracle."

—John Norberg

Reunited couple thanks Hoosiers

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A couple separated for more than 11 years after they were married in the Soviet Union came to Indiana on Friday to thank the people who helped bring about their reunion.

English teacher Irina McClellan was allowed to come to America Jan. 30 to join her husband, Woodford McClellan, a history professor at the University of Virginia.

The reunion capped a nine-year campaign on the couple's behalf by the Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, a West Lafayette-based human-rights organization that collected thousands of signatures in an effort to sway Soviet authorities.

In Indianapolis, the McClellans stopped to thank long-distance operators at a local American Telephone & Telegraph office who placed conference calls linking McClellan in Virginia and the human-rights group in Indiana with Irina McClellan.

Anne Stewart, an operator who made several of the conference calls, said telephoning the Soviet Union was sometimes an exercise in frustration.

"If we can get the connection through, it's no problem," she said. "But we may go several weeks before we can get over there."

Rabbi Gedalyah Engel, lead-



Irina McClellan, center, an English teacher from the Soviet Union; her husband, Woodford McClellan, right; and Rabbi Gedalyah

Engle, center, visit telephone operator Ann Stewart at the Indianapolis AT&T office Friday.

er of the human-rights group, said the three-way connection allowed Indiana supporters to offer encouragement to the McClellans and help spread

word of the couple's plight. "What we did was dramatize their separation by conference phone calls," he said. "All these telephone calls

meant a lot to us," Irina McClellan said. "Due to them we survived, because there were times when we were very upset and losing hope, and we didn't know what to say."

McClellan will arrive in Lafayette today

Irina McClellan arrives here today to say thank you in person.

Mrs. McClellan and her husband, Woodford, were reunited in January after more than 11 years of separation forced by the Soviet government, which would not allow her to leave Moscow.

One of her first promises after setting foot on American soil was to say she would come here to say her thank you in person.

She arrives at Indianapolis International Airport at 10:09 a.m. today, aboard U.S. Air flight 483.

The McClellans' plight was adopted by the West Lafayette-based Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, and since 1977, 50,000 signatures were gathered on Lafayette petitions asking for the McClellans' reunification.

At noon today, Mrs. McClellan will visit in Indianapolis with Indiana Bell Telephone operators who helped make telephone connections between her and the West Lafayette committee from 1977 through this year.

Her first public appearance here will be at 3 p.m. in West Lafayette City Hall.

There will be a communitywide reception for her at 3 p.m. Sunday at the Hillel Foundation, 912 W. State St., West Lafayette, on the Purdue campus.

Her other plans for today include attending religious services at the Hillel Foundation at 7 p.m. and at Temple Israel, 620 Cumberland Ave., at 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, she will be at Sons of Abraham, 661 N. 7th St., at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, in addition to the reception, she will be at St. Thomas Aquinas Center, 535 W. State St., at 10:30 a.m.; First Assembly of God, 106 Beck Lane, at 11:30 a.m.; and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 17 S. 7th St., at noon.

PAGE 4 • The Purdue Exponent • FRIDAY, APRIL 4, 1986

Calendar Today

Irina McClellan, the Soviet refusenik who was reunited with her husband, Woodford McClellan, will be presented the keys to the city by Mayors Sonya Margerum and James Riehle of West Lafayette and Lafayette, respectively, at 3 p.m. in West Lafayette City Hall, 609 W. Navajo Rd.

Irina McClellan, a Soviet refusenik, will hold a special sabbath service to thank Hillel students for nine years of moral support and petitions that aided in her reunion with her husband. The service will be held at 7 p.m. at the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation, 912 W. State St.

Yours

Journal and Courier, Tuesday, April 22, 1986

Sustain local human rights efforts

In view of the unusual display of affection and appreciation shown by Woodford and Irina McClellan to the citizens of West Lafayette and Lafayette for their assistance in Irina's release from the Soviet Union, after 11 years of separation from her husband, the West Lafayette Human Relations Commission commends all those who took part in the campaign spearheaded by Rabbi Gedalyah Engel and the Human Rights Committee.

We encourage the citizens to continue their efforts in behalf of Vladimir Preston and Alexander Ioffi and others who are being held against their will in the Soviet Union and other parts of the world.

Rev. Rudy F. Rehmer, Chairman
West Lafayette Human Relations Commission
West Lafayette

Other commission members include Ceola Baber, Dan Corbin, Rao Kadiyala, Roger Blalock, Nancy Kuo and Helen Schleman.

Professor thanks phone operators

They kept contact with Russian wife

By MARK NICHOLS
STAR STAFF WRITER

For years, University of Virginia Professor Woodford McClellan and his Russian wife, Irina, kept the phone lines busy here while talking to a West Lafayette human-rights group that was struggling to reunite them.

Friday, the couple made another person-to-person call to the downtown Indianapolis American Telephone & Telegraph office — a formal visit to thank the long-distance operators.

Those operators had kept the McClellans' spirits up and the conversations going with the human rights group when Mrs. McClellan was barred from leaving the Soviet Union to join her husband.

The McClellans also met and visited with their West Lafayette-area supporters for the



STAR STAFF PHOTO / FRANK H. FISSE

Long-distance operator Anne Stewart (left) talks with Irina and Woodford McClellan (right), thanks to a trip arranged by Rabbi Gedalyah Engel (center).

first time during their first day of their weekend stay in Indiana.

Among the supporters greeting the McClellans was Rabbi

Gedalyah Engel, leader of the West Lafayette group that was instrumental in bringing the couple together after more than

a decade of forced separation by the Soviet government.

"We're very excited about be-

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Phone

* Continued From Page 1

ing in Indiana," said Mrs. McClellan, who saw her husband for the first time since 1974 on Jan. 30, when she arrived at Baltimore-Washington International Airport. They live in Charlottesville, Va.

"The people here and in Lafayette are a very important part of my life. Without them, we know we could not have made it."

During an hourlong visit to the telephone center, the couple talked with two of the operators who "patched" calls linking West Lafayette, Charlottesville and the Soviet Union and learned how the often-tedious conference hookup was accomplished.

"These women helped us," Mrs. McClellan said. "Sometimes it took quite a while to arrange the calls but they were always very polite."

Telephone company officials presented Mrs. McClellan with flowers and a plaque during a short reception near the operators' stations.

Afterward, the McClellans drove to the Lafayette area, where they were greeted by city and community representatives and received keys to the city during a special ceremony Friday afternoon in the West Lafayette City Hall.

"We're very happy to have them here," Rabbi Engel said. "It was a very unfair situation they were living under . . . being denied the opportunity to live as husband and wife without just cause."

The rabbi said that while he was happy to have the couple

reunited, there still are many couples facing the same situation.

McClellan, a 50-year-old Russian history professor, married the 47-year-old Russian woman in a Soviet ceremony May 4, 1974, while he was visiting the country.

In August of that year, McClellan returned to the U.S. to continue his teaching career. His wife, who had taken a high school teaching position, applied for an exit visa, and expected to join him in a few weeks.

Instead, she lost her job and the Soviet government refused to grant the visa.

The couple worked quietly — and unsuccessfully — for several years to acquire the visa from the Soviet government before bringing their problem to the public.

Rabbi Engel, a spokesman for the Lafayette-area Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, read about the couple's plight in 1977 and contacted McClellan to offer help.

Eventually, the rabbi organized a publicity and letter-writing campaign which eventually pressured the Soviet government into granting visas for Mrs. McClellan and Yelena Kochetkova, her 26-year-old daughter from a previous marriage.

Mrs. McClellan said she still is adjusting to the "culture shock" of living in America, but hopes to settle down soon and begin writing a book about her experiences. She said her husband also plans to write a book.

She said the couple plans to be remarried in the U.S. in late May at the Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1986

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty" // Cor. 3:17

INDIANAPOLIS STAR

☆☆☆

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SATURDAY, APRIL 5, 1986



Russian emigre Irina McClellan and Rabbi Gedalyah Engel.

The Emigre's Indiana Connection

**Irina McClellan Meets With
Her Long-Distance Supporters**

By Kevin Klose
Washington Post Staff Writer

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind., April 4—Year after year, the improbable telephone hookups were made, linking the rabbi here, the academic in Charlottesville, Va., and the KGB suspect in Moscow.

Dozens of conference calls joined the voices of Rabbi Gedalyah Engel of the Purdue University Hillel Foundation, Prof. Woodford McClellan and Irina Astakhova McClellan.

The first was made in 1977, the last at the end of 1985. They were conversations of frustration, pain and fear—and of hope and commitment.

The hopes won out. And when Irina McClellan, the KGB suspect, at last set foot in America nine weeks ago to be reunited with her husband, the 51-year-old University of Virginia professor, the first people she thanked out loud were the people of this heartland community.

Today, she and her husband came to West Lafayette to give thanks in person.

Here in the City Council chambers, standing between an American flag and the blue-and-gold flag of Indiana, Irina McClellan, 47, said, "These people are a part of my life forever."

Clutching a key to the city that Mayor Sonya Margerum said would double as "a key to our hearts," McClellan paid tribute to Engel, who first organized the conference calls that became the emotional lifeline between the McClellans. The couple last saw each other in 1974 and were barred thereafter by Soviet authorities from reunion until Jan. 30. (The Soviet reversal was regarded as a good-will gesture connected to the November summit. Irina's daughter Elena Kochetkova, 26, was also allowed to emigrate.)

Engel first learned of the McClellans' plight early in

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BY TOMA CANNON/11

McClellans speak from the heart

By John Norberg
Journal and Courier

Woodford McClellan stood at the focal point of a semi circle of more than 24 television cameras at Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

It was Jan. 30, a Thursday night, and an army of reporters and photographers had turned out to cover his reunion with his Russian wife, Irina.

He hadn't seen his wife or his stepdaughter, Lena, 26 — who spoke very little English — in 11 1/2 years.

"There's just one more thing I want to add," McClellan told the reporters before the press conference ended.

"When Lena got off the plane today and spoke to me, I want you to know the first words she said in America.

"She said, 'Go Virginia, beat North Carolina.'"

See HEART, Page C2



By Tom Campbell

GOOD FRIENDS: Irina McClellan and Rabbi Gedalyah Engel share a tender moment during Mrs. McClellan's visit to Lafayette with her husband, Woodford, during the weekend.



Freedom flowers!

Irina and Woodford McClellan are presented with flowers Friday afternoon in West Lafayette. They came to the Lafayette area to thank the community for its support in assisting Irina's release from the Soviet Union. Lafayette area residents collected more than 50,000 signatures on Irina's behalf during her 11 year struggle to join her husband in the

United States. She was granted an exit visa in January. The McClellans were presented with flowers on behalf of the Committee for Human Rights in the Soviet Union by Leah Waaburn, who had previously written to Mikhail Gorbachev asking for McClellan's release.

Exponent photo / Brendt Hershman

McClellan thanks Lafayette community for aid, support over past 11 1/2 years

By DAN SCHWANDNER

Asst. Managing Editor

Irina McClellan, with tears in her eyes, thanked the Greater Lafayette community Friday for its efforts in gaining her release from the Soviet Union as she accepted the key to the cities from West Lafayette Mayor Sonya Margerum. Lafayette Mayor James Riehle and her husband, University of Virginia Professor Woodford McClellan, looked on.

"You (the people of Lafayette) mean everything to me. To our life, to our family, thank you all," Irina said at a reception held at Hillel Foundation, 912 W. State St., Sunday. "Lafayette is my second home. I have many more friends here than in Charlottesville.

"You spent your time, heart and energy, without knowing us. I am impressed by Lafayette," she said.

Irina, talking about her new home with Woody just outside of Charlottesville, Va., said, "The house means so much to me and Woody. It's the first house he ever bought. It's the only house I've ever owned. It's wonderful. It occupies the best place in a small village. There's a pond, and you can see the mountains. It's beautiful."

Husband Woody McClellan called the people of Lafayette "our saviors. They have sustained her (Irina) and me. This proves that a small community can make a difference. They have given us our family and our lives, God bless them."

Irina talked about her friends Alexander Ioffi and Vladimir Prestin, who are still awaiting release from the Soviet Union.

"These people in Moscow are desperate. You can't imagine what the situation is, it's so bad."

To show their continuing dedication to get others released from the Soviet Union, Woody and Irina will hand deliver the letters and signatures collected on petitions this weekend to the Soviet Embassy in Washington on Tuesday.

Irina spent 11 1/2 years in the Soviet Union while her husband and several groups, including the local committee on human rights in the Soviet Union, petitioned for the release of

Freedom of Movement

Irina McClellan was in the Greater Lafayette area last week to thank the community for its efforts in obtaining her release from the Soviet Union in January.

After living 11½ years in fear in the Soviet Union, Irina can both understand and define the meaning of freedom.

As Americans, we find it hard to comprehend exactly what freedom of movement means. It is something we have always had, and it is something we have always taken for granted.

In the Soviet Union, it is dangerous to do anything outdoors (or indoors, for that matter) which shows dissatisfaction with the government. However, during her 11½ years in the Soviet Union, Irina petitioned the government many times, asking for visas and receiving no reply.

Irina participated in more drastic measures in an attempt to gain her freedom, including chaining herself to the American Embassy in Moscow.

After all those years of being followed by the Soviet police, having her telephone bugged, being rejected by society, threatened by the government and losing hope that she would ever join her husband in the United States, the Soviets finally gave her and her daughter the visas for which she had fought so long.

However, for Vladimir Prestin and Alexander Ioffi, the struggle for freedom continues. The Soviets have continued to refuse these and other refuseniks visas for more than 11½ years.

They have been placed in jobs that are menial compared to what they are qualified to do. According to Irina, "They are physically not imprisoned, but mentally they are imprisoned."

It would seem that after so many years, the leaders of the Soviet government could find the compassion in their hearts to allow these people to return to their families.

The Soviet government has exhibited cruel and inhuman punishment to these people long enough. Irina and Woody McClellan will hand deliver signed petitions to the Soviet Embassy in Washington today, which will hopefully be forwarded to General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow.

Irina is free today because many groups and communities such as Lafayette and West Lafayette have raised their voices. However, one victory does not mean the fight is over. We must continue to bring the cases of others such as Ioffi and Prestin to the highest officials and continue to fight for the release of others in the name of freedom of movement and human rights.

Written by Dan Schwandner as a majority opinion of the Exponent Editorial Board



A LABOR OF LOVE — Rabbi Gedalyah Engel of Purdue's Hillel Foundation, admiringly watches and listens as Irina McClellan thanks citizens of the Greater Lafayette community at a reception Friday in West Lafayette City Hall for the community's support and efforts in helping gain her release from the Soviet Union. Rabbi Engel spearheaded the nine-year campaign of petitions to the Soviet rulers and telephone calls to Irina to allow Mrs. McClellan to join her American husband. (Photo by Tam Wilensky)

Irina says thanks

By Tam Wilensky

Irina McClellan and her husband, Woodford, departed Sunday for their home in Charlottesville, Va., after a whirlwind three-day visit to Lafayette to thank the many who had a part in helping to get her release from the Soviet Union.

Mrs. McClellan was allowed to leave Russia in January to join her American husband whom she had married in Russia in 1974. Her release was a victory for Rabbi Gedalyah Engel's nine year campaign of petitions, telephone calls and letters from area churches, Temple Israel and Sons of Abraham Synagogue.

Over 50,000 signatures were collected locally.

"Even being so happy now, I understand that I have to help those who are in the Soviet Union and aren't with us, the rest of my life," Mrs. McClellan said. "I'm always going to be a member of your community and of your fight for other people."

"You have given us our family. You have given us our lives," said her husband.

The McClellans returned to their home with 2,000 signatures on petitions signed here asking for the release of Vladimir Prestin and Alexander Ioffi, two more people being held in the Soviet Union against their wills.

NEWS

HILLEL DIDN'T FORGET IRINA

January 30, 1986, was a day of celebration and triumph for University of Virginia professor Woodford McClellan and his Russian-born wife, Irina. After 11 years of separation, Irina McClellan, accompanied by her daughter, Lena, was allowed to leave Moscow to join her husband at his home in Virginia.

It was a day of triumph, too, for students at Purdue University's B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, and for their director, Rabbi Gedalyah Engel.

For nine years, Rabbi Engel worked with dozens of Purdue Hillel students in behalf of Irina McClellan. Engel helped bring her plight to the attention of then Senator Birch Bayh and Congressman Floyd Fithian of Indiana, and organized a network of students to maintain communication with Irina through letters and phone calls.

"After a flurry of American media attention in the mid-1970s, many people forgot about me," Irina McClellan told *The Jewish Monthly* from her new home in Charlottesville, Va. "Rabbi Engel and the Purdue students wouldn't let me be forgotten. Many times during the years in Moscow, I almost lost hope. At my lowest moments, Rabbi Engel and the students would call or write me, offering encouragement. When I would hear Rabbi Engel's voice on the telephone, I would burst into tears of joy, knowing that he and the students were working for me. Their help sustained me through the years of a protracted nightmare."

Rabbi Engel's involvement with the McClellan case began in 1977. According to Engel, "Woody had gone public with the case, in *The New York Times* and on national television, hoping for support from the American public because three years of his private pleas had gone unanswered by



UNIVERSITY JOURNAL PHOTO BY MAIT KINGSLEY

Irina and Woodford McClellan, reunited at last. For 11 years, the Soviet Union had refused to let Irina join her American husband.

Soviet officials. McClellan, a professor of Russian literature at the University of Virginia, had met and married Irina in 1974 while he was an exchange scholar in the Soviet Union, but Irina was refused permission to leave Moscow with her husband.

After meeting McClellan in New York, Engel returned to the Purdue campus determined to organize an effort to help Irina McClellan. "I felt persistent personal contact and diplomacy were most appropriate," Engel said. "I presented the situation to the Purdue Hillel students and they responded with great enthusiasm. They began writing letters to Irina and calling her in Moscow." In addition to working for Irina, who is not Jewish, the students "adopted" two Jewish refuseniks as well.

Floyd Fithian noted, "Woody has told me how heartwarming it was for him to know that Rabbi Engel and those Hillel kids were with him. It made [their separation] almost bearable." Engel added that the phone conversations with Irina "gave the students — and all of us — a more vivid emotional experience. Irina was more than a cause for these Hillel kids. She became a real person."

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NEWS

Continued from page 38

Engel's efforts for Irina McClellan included much more than just letters and phone calls. Working with Catholic and Protestant clergymen on the Purdue campus, Engel helped establish the Greater Lafayette Committee on Human Rights. On two occasions representatives of the Committee came to the Soviet Embassy in Washington, D.C., to present petitions in behalf of Irina. "We continued with the calls and the efforts for public attention because we wanted to make Irina's case a point of embarrassment to the Soviet government, and make her so important that Soviet police would not dare put her in a gulag," Engel explained. "Irina chained herself to the American Embassy in Moscow during Cyrus Vance's visit in 1978. The Soviet officials warned her not to do anything like that again, but because we had made her case a matter of national concern, they could not put her in prison."

The breakthrough in the McClellan case came shortly before the Reagan-Gorbachev summit, when Illinois Senator Paul Simon and Floyd Fithian, who serves as Simon's administrative assistant, met with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in Moscow. According to Fithian, "Gorbachev assured the Senator that he would release Irina right after the summit. The Soviets kept their word."

John Rosenberg

Human Rights Week

Concern for the plight of three Refusenik families will be expressed during Human Rights Week in Greater Lafayette on October 12-18. A special proclamation by the mayors designated Oct. 12 and 13, as Human Rights Sabbath.

Petitions on behalf of these three families, addressed to Mikhail Gorbachev, General Secretary of the Communist Party in the USSR, were collected at houses of worship and student religious foundations throughout the week. In addition, students will obtain signatures under the mural in Stewart Center from October 14-18. APO has taken this as a special service project.

Beth Winebrenner, chairman of the Committee on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, said the November meeting between President Regan and Gorbachev

provides a special opportunity to help Irina McClellan, Vladimir Prestin and Alexander Ioffi gain permission to leave the USSR for family reunification.

Attention was focused on the three families when freedom balloons bearing their names were released at a Friday morning rally on the Purdue campus.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, at noon, the petitions gathered in Greater Lafayette will be presented to Washington, D.C. representatives of the community at Hillel Foundation. The panel discussion, which will be held at noon and is open to the public, will deal with Star Wars, Arms Control, and Human Rights. The moderator, Professor Louis Beres, is an international authority who will moderate a discussion of two physicists who differ as to how to best end war and increase human freedom.



To: Mr Green
From: J. Pratt

*I thought you might find this
of interest
with
the Compliments of the
Embassy of Israel
at Washington*

J. Pratt
Sr.

*Sancti
Jura*

To: The Preparatory Committee of the 27th Congress of the CPSU
From: Ida Nadel, Citizen of the USSR, I.D. IUOM515668,
issued on 23 March 1982 by Dept. of the Interior, Krivosheino.
Citizen of Israel, I.D. 624, issued on 12 June
1972 by the Israeli Knesset.
Presently residing at 69 Sovetskaya St.,
Bendery 278100, Moldavskaya SSR.

Nadel

Since 1971, I have been asking for an exit permit to leave for Israel, where my sister Ilana Fridman lives, and which is, to me, a national homeland.

I do not intend to describe the pain which this separation for over 14 years has caused my sister and me to suffer. I would just like to draw your attention to the fact that of our family, which was once very large, only my sister in Israel, my cousin in Moscow and myself have remained. All the rest of our family either fell at the front defending Russia or were exterminated in the gas chambers, as the Fascists annihilated all the Jews, including our mothers. And so, two sisters have to turn to the whole world, pleading and begging for help, in order that they might meet again and live together.

When I was refused an exit visa by the Moscow OVIR office on December 15, 1971, I was told the following:

- Reason for refusal: state interests;
- Validity of refusal: till January 1977;
- Grounds for refusal: "You do not know confidential information, but you may have heard something."

Fourteen years have passed since then. Is there anybody among sane and educated people, who could believe that rumours which I may or may not have heard, or things said could still be "matters of state interest"?!

I am absolutely convinced that no technically educated person can accept the official version, that I supposedly knew some

"terrible secret", as was stated by Soviet delegates at the meeting between President Mitterand and Mr. Gorbachev in October 1985 in Paris.

A more absurd account was presented by delegates at the meeting between President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev in November 1985 in Geneva. In reaction to the American delegates' request for an exit permit for me to leave for Israel, the Russian answer was: "It is true that she knows no secrets, but she may have heard something." And this was said while all the sides involved were aware of the fact that I was dismissed from my job in January 1972.

So then "what is all this about?", a normal person would ask. "What is at the bottom of all this?" At the bottom lies the primitive revenge of the KGB against my struggle to have the refusal cancelled, a struggle which is an active one. My conscience has always been clear; I have never known any secrets nor have I ever occupied myself with eavesdropping or spying.

The stand I have taken in defending my rights and those of other Jews wishing to emigrate to Israel has aroused the hatred of the KGB and induced them to carry out all kinds of vengeful acts. These included a trumped-up accusation of my disturbing the peace, a sentence of four years in exile on a trumped-up charge, illegal refusal to grant me a Moscow residence permit after my return from exile, the expulsion from my own private co-operative apartment and its confiscation, which was done in contradiction to Soviet law and, possibly, even in violation of it.

There is no sense in writing here about the above-mentioned acts of persecution nor about the many others that were carried out. World public opinion has already created around my personality the image of a woman persecuted because of her fight for her rights. As a result, Russia suffers moral damage and creates bitterness and a sense of disgrace in the simple people. Political figures cannot understand why they are tormenting me. No meeting with Russian representatives, in any country, can take place without pictures of me being displayed in the vicinity, no rights or cultural

event with Russian participation can go on without a great crowd shouting my name.

Who needs all this and why? Why does Russia need all these cries and calls for help? Who needs those horrible mental associations which arise when one thinks about the history of my family? What benefit does Russia have from my suffering? Only disadvantage, because any real danger of revealing state secrets is a fabrication and libel devised as revenge.

Every story similar to mine may at a first glance seem to be insignificant in relation to state interests. The truth is, however, that simple people and political leaders in the West see such a story as being typical of Russia, a sad illustration of the negative characteristics of Soviet procedures.

Whether you like it or not, in our day and age information about dramatic and tragic events rapidly becomes the property of world-wide public opinion. This must be considered if the USSR is interested in being accepted as a civilized modern state.

I ask the Preparatory Committee of the 27th Congress of the CPSU to consider my problem attentively and to give instructions to the OVIR office of the Moldavian SSR to correct the error of many years and to give me a visa for Israel, without delay.

I assure all the members of the Congress that exactly one week after I leave, the world will forget my name and my story, for new tragedies and dramas develop every day all over the world.

Is it possible that such a powerful country can put the urge for revenge of a small number of people above the honour of the whole country? I cannot believe this. The events will tell.

I hope that this problem will be solved to the benefit of both sides.

Respectfully yours,

January 1986

Ella Rudel

TRANSLATED from Russian

To: The XXVII Congress of the CPSU

We, a group of Jews who have fought for many years for the right to emigrate to Israel, declare a hunger strike for the duration of the Congress.

According to a statement made by the Secretary General of the Central Committee of the CPSU, Mikhail Gorbachev, in his interview with French television, the Soviet authorities can keep persons in possession of classified information from leaving the country for a period of five to ten years. There are people among us who are not familiar with any secrets at all, as well as people who have been kept here for many more years than the period mentioned by Gorbachev after their access to secrets was discontinued.

We declare a hunger-strike of protest because we have given up all hope of being allowed by the authorities of the Ministry of the Interior to realise our legal right to emigrate to Israel, a right envisaged by Soviet and international law.

We call on the XVII Congress of the CPSU to consider this matter and to enable us to leave for Israel.

Natasha Bekhman, Moscow.
David and Dora Vodovoz,
Moscow.
Boris Gulko, Moscow.
Vera Kats, Moscow.
Inna Levinova, Moscow.
Liliya and Grigory Liberman,
Kishinev.
Anna Liberman, Bendery.
Elena and Natalia Khasina,
Moscow.
V. Tsukerman, Kishinev.
Simon Shnirman, Kishinev.
Liza Ladyzhensky, Kishinev.
Itsik Edelboim, Moscow

19 February 1986

AN APPEAL

We appeal to all heads of state, party leaders, leaders of political and social organizations and to all people independently of their political views, race or religion.

For many years we have heard from various Soviet leaders that there was no Jewish question in the USSR and that all the Jews wishing to go to Israel have been allowed to do so. Lately we have heard the same statement made by the Secretary General M. Gorbachev. He declared before the whole world that only those who have had access to state secrets are being denied exit visas and even in those cases the issue of exit visas is delayed for five to ten years only. However, year after year the Soviet Union has been issuing an ever-decreasing number of exit visas to go to Israel, justifying this by lack of persons wishing to leave the USSR.

We are some of those who have been fighting for many years for the right to leave for Israel. Here, in the USSR, we are living proof of the falsity of the statements made by Soviet leaders about the non-existence of the problem of Jewish emigration to Israel.

You are all well aware of the fact that tens of thousands of Jews are prevented from leaving the USSR, in violation of international agreements and conventions. This violation of international law cannot and should not remain an internal affair of the USSR.

In view of the complete lawlessness and arbitrariness which prevail in the field of Jewish emigration from the USSR to Israel, we have lost all hope of realizing our right to emigrate by our own means. We, therefore, appeal to the world public to urge the XXVII Congress of the CPSU that law and order be introduced in the question of Jewish emigration and thus, all the Jews wishing to leave the USSR would be able to do so.

We appeal to leaders of Communist parties: When you, representatives of countries with different political and social systems, come to the Soviet Union to attend the party congress,

you will, of course, have no problem in obtaining exit visas from your countries. Please, think of those who have been deprived of this right to move freely from one country to another.

During the XVII Congress of the CPSU we shall be holding a hunger-strike to protest against the status of slaves to which we have been reduced.

Natalia Bekhman, Moscow
David and Dora Vodovoz, Kishinev
Boris Gulko, Moscow
Vera Kats, Moscow
Inna Levinova, Moscow
Liliya and Grigory Liberman, Kishinev
Anya Liberman, Bendery
Elena Khasina, Moscow
Natalia Khasina, Moscow
Vladimir Tsukerman, Kishinev
Simon Shnirman, Kishinev
Liza Ladyzhenskaya, Kishinev
Itsik Edelboim, Moscow

19 February 1986